



Frederick H. Hackeman CAMP 85 February 2020

Camp Communicator

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

Commander's Ramblings

Brothers,

We're into the next year's meetings and activities so we should be ready to start getting some things accomplished. What we have on our schedule for the upcoming months are:

(1) Placement of the grave marker for the Last Union Soldier in Berrien County at the Crystal Springs Cemetery on Napier in Benton Harbor.

(2) Working on doing cemetery walk-downs and capturing the headstone information of Union soldiers in the cemetery for filling out needed data for the national SUVCW registry

(3) Continue to plan for non-meeting outings, i.e., Museum visit to La Porte IN with Camp 8; a possible family pot-luck picnic in May, June, or July.

(4) Three Oaks Flag Day parade. Unfortunately, I will be out of town from the 13th to the 20th and not with you at the parade. So we will need to make arrangements at a meeting for the who the coordinator will



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Next Camp Meeting

MARCH 12, 2020 - 6 p.m.

Location - Lincoln Twp Library, 2099 W John Beers Rd, Stevensville



Ft Donelson

Battle for Fort Donelson

The Battle of Fort Donelson was fought from February 11–16, 1862, in the Western Theater of the American Civil War. The Union capture of the Confederate fort near the Tennessee–Kentucky border opened the Cumberland River, an important avenue for the invasion of the South. The Union’s success also elevated Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant from an obscure and largely unproven leader to the rank of major general, and earned him the nickname of “Unconditional Surrender” Grant.

Grant moved his army 12 miles (19 km) overland to Fort Donelson from February 11 to 13 and conducted several small probing attacks. (Although the name was not yet in use, the troops serving under Grant were the nucleus of the Union’s Army of the Tennessee.) On February 14, Union gunboats under Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote attempted to reduce the fort with gunfire, but were forced to withdraw after sustaining heavy damage from Fort Donelson’s water batteries.

On February 15, with the fort surrounded, the Confederates, commanded by Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd, launched a surprise attack against the right flank of Grant’s army in an attempt to open an escape route to Nashville, Tennessee. Grant, who was away from the battlefield at the start of the attack, arrived to rally his men and counterattack. Despite achieving partial success and opening the way for a retreat, Brig. Gen. Gideon Johnson Pillow, Floyd’s second-in-command who commanded the troops in the attack, lost his nerve and ordered his men back to the fort. The following morning, Floyd and Pillow escaped with a small detachment of troops, relinquishing command to Brig. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, who accepted Grant’s terms of unconditional surrender later that day.

Military situation

The battle of Fort Donelson, which began on February 12, took place shortly after the surrender of Fort Henry, Tennessee, on February 6, 1862. Fort Henry had been a key position in the center of a line defending Tennessee, and the capture of the fort now opened the Tennessee River to Union troop and supply movements. About 2,500 of Fort Henry’s Confederate defenders escaped before its surrender by marching the 12 miles (19 km) east to Fort Donelson. In the days following the surrender at Fort Henry, Union troops cut the railroad lines south of the fort, restricting the Confederates’ lateral mobility to move reinforcements into the area to defend against the larger Union forces.

With the surrender of Fort Henry, the Confederates faced some difficult choices. Grant’s army now divided Confederate Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston’s two main forces: P.G.T. Beau-



Officers 2020 - 2021

Camp Commander:

Steven Williams

SVC: Rex Dillman

JVC: Charles L Pfauth Sr

Secretary :Ray Truhn

Treasurer : Ray Truhn

Council 1: Charles L Pfauth Jr

Council 2: Keith Chapman

Council 3: Charles L Pfauth Sr

Patriotic Instructor:

Ted Chamberlain

Chaplain : Steven Williams

Graves & Memorials:

Rex Dillman

Historian: Rex Dillman

Signals Officer:

Steven Williams

Guide: Jeff Chubb

Guard: Jeff Chubb

Color Bearer: Rex Dillman

JROTC contact: Unassigned

Editor

Steve Williams

sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

regard at Columbus, Kentucky, with 12,000 men, and William J. Hardee at Bowling Green, Kentucky, with 22,000 men. Fort Donelson had only about 5,000 men. Union forces might attack Columbus; they might attack Fort Donelson and thereby threaten Nashville, Tennessee; or Grant and Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell, who was quartered in Louisville with 45,000 men, might attack Johnston head-on, with Grant following behind Buell. Johnston was apprehensive about the ease with which Union gunboats defeated Fort Henry (not comprehending that the rising waters of the Tennessee River played a crucial role by inundating the fort). He was more concerned about the threat from Buell than he was from Grant, and suspected the river operations might simply be a diversion.

Johnston decided upon a course of action that forfeited the initiative across most of his defensive line, tacitly admitting that the Confederate defensive strategy for Tennessee was a sham. On February 7, at a council of war held in the Covington Hotel at Bowling Green, he decided to abandon western Kentucky by withdrawing Beauregard from Columbus, evacuating Bowling Green, and moving his forces south of the Cumberland River at Nashville. Despite his misgivings about its defensibility, Johnston agreed to Beauregard's advice that he should reinforce Fort Donelson with another 12,000 men, knowing that a defeat there would mean the inevitable loss of Middle Tennessee and the vital manufacturing and arsenal city of Nashville.

Johnston wanted to give command of Fort Donelson to Beauregard, who had performed ably at Bull Run, but the latter declined because of a throat ailment. Instead, the responsibility went to Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd, who had just arrived following an unsuccessful assignment under Robert E. Lee in western Virginia. Floyd was a wanted man in the North for alleged graft and secessionist activities when he was Secretary of War in the James Buchanan administration. Floyd's background was political, not military, but he was nevertheless the senior brigadier general on the Cumberland River.

On the Union side, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, Grant's superior as commander of the Department of the Missouri, was also apprehensive. Halleck had authorized Grant to capture Fort Henry, but now he felt that continuing to Fort Donelson was risky. Despite Grant's success to date, Halleck had little confidence in him, considering Grant to be reckless. Halleck attempted to convince his own rival, Don Carlos Buell, to take command of the campaign to get his additional forces engaged. Despite Johnston's high regard for Buell, the Union general was as passive as Grant was aggressive. Grant never suspected his superiors were considering relieving him, but he was well aware that any delay or reversal might be an opportunity for Halleck to lose his nerve and cancel the operation.

On February 6, Grant wired Halleck: "Fort Henry is ours. ... I shall take and destroy Fort Donelson on the 8th and return to Fort Henry." This self-imposed deadline was overly optimistic due to three factors: miserable road conditions on the twelve-mile march to Donelson, the need for troops to carry supplies away from the rising flood waters (by February 8, Fort Henry was completely submerged), and the damage that had been sustained by Foote's Western Gunboat Flotilla in the artillery duel at Fort Henry. If Grant had been able to move quickly, he might have taken Fort Donelson on February 8. Early in the morning of February 11, Grant held a council of war in which all of his generals supported his plans for an attack on Fort Donelson,

with the exception of Brig. Gen. John A. McClernand, who had some reservations. This council in early 1862 was the last one that Grant held for the remainder of the Civil War.

Battle

Preliminary movements and attacks (February 12-13)

On February 12, most of the Union troops departed Fort Henry, where they were waiting for the return of Union gunboats and the arrival of additional troops that would increase the Union forces to about 25,000 men. The Union forces proceeded about 5 miles (8 km) on the two main roads leading between the two forts. They were delayed most of the day by a cavalry screen commanded by Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest's troops, sent out by Buckner, spotted a detachment from McClernand's division and opened fire against them. A brief skirmish ensued until orders from Buckner arrived to fall back within the entrenchments. After this withdrawal of Forrest's cavalry, the Union troops moved closer to the Confederate defense line while trying to cover any possible Confederate escape routes. McClernand's division made up the right of Grant's army with C.F. Smith's division forming the left. USS Carondelet was the first gunboat to arrive up the river, and she promptly fired numerous shells into the fort, testing its defenses before retiring. Grant arrived on February 12 and established his headquarters near the left side of the front of the line, at the Widow Crisp's house.

On February 11, Buckner relayed orders to Pillow from Floyd to release Floyd's and Buckner's troops to operate south of the river, near Cumberland City, where they would be able to attack the Union supply lines while keeping a clear path back to Nashville. However, this would leave the Confederate forces at Fort Donelson heavily outnumbered. Pillow left early on the morning of February 12 to argue these orders with General Floyd himself leaving Buckner in charge of the fort. After hearing sounds of artillery fire, Pillow returned to Fort Donelson to resume command. After the events of the day, Buckner remained at Fort Donelson to command the Confederate right. With the arrival of Grant's army, General Johnston ordered Floyd to take any troops remaining in Clarksville to aid in the defense of Fort Donelson.

On February 13, several small probing attacks were carried out against the Confederate defenses, essentially ignoring orders from Grant that no general engagement be provoked. On the Union left, C. F. Smith sent two of his four brigades (under Cols. Jacob Lauman and John Cook) to test the defenses along his front. The attack suffered light casualties and made no gains, but Smith was able to keep up a harassing fire throughout the night. On the right, McClernand also ordered an unauthorized attack. Two regiments of Col. William R. Morrison's brigade, along with one regiment, the 48th Illinois, from Col. W.H.L. Wallace's brigade, were ordered to seize a battery ("Redan Number 2") that had been plaguing their position. Isham N. Haynie, colonel of the 48th Illinois, was senior in rank to Colonel Morrison. Although rightfully in command of two of the three regiments, Morrison volunteered to turn over command once the attack was under way; however, when the attack began, Morrison was wounded, eliminating any leadership ambiguity. For un-

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CAMP TRAINING AIDS

As located on the Department of Michigan web site. It is recommended that Camp members visit these URLs and familiarize themselves with the information contained within these documents.

Handbook of Instruction for the Department Patriotic Instructor
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Department%20PI%20Handbook.pdf>

Handbook of Instruction for the Camp Patriotic Instructor
Missing link

Handbook of Instruction for the Civil War Memorials Officer
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Michigan%20CWM%20Handbook.pdf>

Department Membership Initiative
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/DeptMemInitiative.pdf>

Department of Michigan Member Recruitment & Retention Report
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Dept%20of%20Michigan%20Member%20Recruitment%20&%20Retention.pdf>

National Chaplain's Handbook
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Dept%20of%20Michigan%20Member%20Recruitment%20&%20Retention.pdf>

Recommended Education & Additional Department Officer Duties
<https://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/Department%20Orders/Series%202017-18/Recommended%20Ed%20&%20Add%20Dept%20Officer%20Duties.pdf>

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Company A, 14th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, SVR

Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry is a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) and is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) in Michigan. Our Unit is also known as the IRISH RIFLE as it is derived from the original Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry. Most of our members are also members of the SUVCW Department of Michigan. We perform a variety of ceremonial services such as head stone dedications and memorial services throughout the state in support of the many Camps within the Department.

We also participate in a number of events outside the state such as the annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois and the annual Remembrance Day parade and services at Gettysburg. Co. A, 14th Michigan is a well-respected and highly decorated SVR unit having been awarded two coveted Union Citations. The 14th Michigan is a member of the 3rd Military District.

How to Join Us

Membership in the Sons of Veterans Reserve is open to any Member (Hereditary), Junior (Hereditary), or Associate (Non-hereditary) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. To be in the SVR you must be a Member or Associate in the SUVCW.

To become a member of Company A, 14th Michigan Company A, you will need to download and complete a membership application. Follow the simple instructions on the application and mail it to: Captain Dean Lamphere 1062 Four Seasons Blvd, Aurora, Illinois 60504. Please include \$5.00 payment.

Our annual dues are minimal and are currently \$5.00.

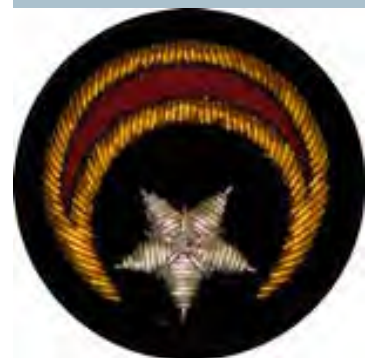


Meeting Schedule

Our meeting schedule is Alternate months between September through April meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month except as noted. At 6:00 PM.

Location -

Currently -
Lincoln Twp
Public Library



7th corps Kepi patch



SVR Dates to Note

April

- 2020 Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday,

we should be resting on this accomplishment. While as important as this growth is, it still is short of where this camp can be and should be in size. I would hope that in the next 2 years we would be around 35 to 40 Brothers. A camp that size would mean that we would have several Brothers in uniform for the Three Oaks parades, the Three Oaks Civil War Days events, presenting Certificates to Eagle Scout Courts of Honor, attending the many local area celebrations (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veterans Day). We all know someone who would likely be a prospective member. It's just a matter of working the SUVCW, its mission and our camp's activities into a conversation.

These are the three things that need to be brought out;

- (1) We strive to document and preserve Graves, Monuments, and memorials honoring Union heroes.
- (2) Civil War Education - Educating youth about the legacy of the Civil War, and providing tools for teachers, is central to our mission.
- (3) Last Soldier Project - The purpose of the project is to locate and appropriately mark the final resting place of the last Civil War Soldier buried in each county/parish and in each state of the great country.

Donations to SUVCW

Can you write off donations to a 501 C 4?



Contributions to civic leagues or other section 501(c)(4) organizations generally are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. They may be deductible as trade or business expenses, if ordinary and

necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's business.

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be.

(5) The Three Oaks Civil War Days event. This another activity that brings us into the public for recruiting opportunities and educating the Public about the SUVCW and our camp. Last year several Brothers attended that Sunday morning and helped out. Anyone who would have an 'outfit' by that time is encouraged to come along and sit with me at our 'campsite'. Perhaps Rex will be able to pitch his dog tent again. If you **do** attend and stay/sleep over, you will get a free breakfast Saturday morning and a Saturday evening meal.

So a good time can be experienced by all.

Another activity that we all need to continue working on as mentioned above is recruiting. We have grown in the past 2 years and doubled the size of the camp. This doesn't mean that

I am currently waiting on the signed application form and dues for another applicant, Christopher Douglas. In the last meeting I gave the update on Chris' Application and after the meeting I received the final documents for the application. If you remember, Chris recently graduated from college and is of the generation that we need to engage, recruit, and induct into the SUVCW. Grayheads like us need to bring in more young men like Jeff Grubb, Steve Chapman, and Chris to help carry on the mission of the SUVCW.

With the 2 Associates on the roster the camp sits at 17 members. Per the rules, we can have up to 5 Associates. To remind everyone, Associates are those gentlemen that can't document an Ancestor who fought as a Union Soldier, Sailor or Marine but who wants to support the SUVCW and take part in camp activities. They can hold certain positions within the camp.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty
Steve Williams,
Frederick H. Hackeman, Camp 85 Commander



Upcoming Events

National

Stay tuned for information about the 2020 National Encampment being hosted by our Brothers in the Department of Georgia and South Carolina.

Atlanta Marriot Buckhead Hotel and Convention Center
3405 Lenox Road North East, Atlanta, GA 30326
Dates: August 13 – 16, 202

Department

February 2020

- 5 February GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5
- 12 February GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5
- 12 February, Wednesday - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday.
- 22 February, Saturday - George Washington's Birthday.

March 2020

- 01 March, Sunday - Deadline for submissions to Michigan's Messenger. Articles should be forwarded by email to editor@sucvwm.org.
- 4 March GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5
- 11 March GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5
- 14 March GAR Museum Eaton Rapids 7pm; Museum Seminar - The Soldier's Clothing and Personal Equipment (Speaker: Rob Stone)

April 2020

- 01 April GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5
- 04 April GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5; 154th Annual G.A.R. Commemoration
- 06 April, Monday - Founding of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1866.
- 08 April GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5
- 15 April, Wednesday - Lincoln Death Day.
- 21 April GAR Museum Eaton Rapids Tri River Historical Network Meeting
- 27 April, Saturday - 135th Annual Department Encampment - Okemos.

May 2020

- 06 May GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5
- 13 May GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5
- 19 May GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5; Museum Seminar - Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne (Speaker: Tom Berlucchi)
- 24 May, Sunday - Memorial Sunday; GAR Museum (11 AM)-Observed Memorial Day Parade and G.A.R. Island Program
- 25 May, Monday - Federal Holiday - Memorial Day.
- 30 May, Saturday - Traditional Memorial Day; GAR Museum Eaton Rapids open 10 to 5

June 2020

- 6 June, Saturday - 135th Annual Department Encampment - Okemos Conference Center, Okemos.

Camp

- **February 13, 2020** Berrien County in the Civil War, Lincoln Twp Library 6:30-7:30
- **March 12, 2020** Camp meeting
- **March/April TBD 2020** Last Soldier Ceremony for Oscar Mott, Crystal Springs Cemetery, Benton Harbor
- **March/April TBD 2020** Camp members and family Tour LaPorte museum with Dept Indiana Camp 8
- **May 14, 2020** Camp meeting



The SVR roots date back to 1881 with the "Cadet Corps" of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – the largest Union Veterans organization which formed in 1866 after the Civil War. The members of the GAR encouraged the formation of their sons as the SUVCW in 1881. These units eventually became known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve, when the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War moved toward a more patriotic and educational organization in design.

Many of the Sons of Union Veterans Camps (local organizations) formed reserve military units which volunteered their services during the Spanish – American War, World War I, and with the National Guard. Just prior to World War I, over 5,000 men wore the blue uniform of the SVR. As late as the 1930's, several states regarded their local SVR units as a military training component. Since World War II, the SVR has evolved into a ceremonial and commemorative organization. In 1962, the National Military Department was created by the SUVCW and consolidated the SVR units under national regulations and command. Since 1962, there have been five SUVCW Brothers that have held the SVR rank of Brigadier General and have had the honor to serve as the Commanding Officer of the SVR.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of **Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85** of activities and events related to the mission of the SUCVW and its interests.

If you wish to place a civil war article or SUCVW item please submit to the Editor at sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to censor and/or edit all material submitted for publication to the Camp Communicator newsletter without notice to the submitter.

Camp Website

Be sure and visit our Camp Website at <http://www.sucvwm.org/camps/camp85.php>.

Sutler Links

Link to list of vendors for any items to fill out your uniform and re-enactor accessories.

<http://www.fighting69th.org/sutler.html>

<http://www.ccsutlery.com/>

<http://www.crescentcitysutler.com/index.html>

<http://www.regqm.com/>

<http://www.cjdaley.com/research.htm>

<http://www.fcsutler.com/>

<https://www.militaryuniformsupply.com/civil-war-reenactment-clothing-gear>

Department of Michigan Officers

Commander -	Robert R. Payne, PCC
Senior VC -	Terry McKinch, PCC
Junior VC -	Nathan Smith, CC
Members of the Council -	Charles Worley, PDC Steven S Martin, CC David V Ramsey
Secretary -	Dick Denney, CC
Treasurer -	Bruce S.A. Gosling
Chief of Staff	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., PDC
Counselor -	Paul T Davis, PDC
Chaplain -	Rev. Charles Buckhahn, PCC
Patriotic Instructor -	David Kimble, CC
Color Bearer -	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
Signals Officer -	David F. Wallace, PDC
Editor, "Michigan's Messenger" -	Richard E. Danes, PCC
Historian -	Keith G Harrison, PCinC
Guide -	Nathan Tingley
Guard -	Steven S Martin, CC
Graves Registration Officer-	Richard E. Danes, PCC
GAR Records Officer-	Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Civil War Memorials Officer-	John H. McGill
Eagle Scout Coordinator -	Nathan Tingley
Camp-At-Large Coordinator -	Nathan Tingley
Camp Organizer	James B. Pahl, PCinC
Military Affairs Officer -	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Civil War Time line: February in the Civil War

1861 - **Feb 1** Texas Convention votes for Secession. **Feb 4** Convention of Seceded states meets in Montgomery Alabama. Electoral vote for President was: Abraham Lincoln - 180, John C Breckinridge - 72, John Bell - 39, Stephen A Douglas - 12. **Feb 8** Confederate Constitution Adopted. **Feb 9** Jefferson Davis elected as Provisional President of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens named Vice-President. **Feb 13** Results of election made official - Lincoln elected. **Feb 18** Jefferson Davis Inaugurated President of Confederacy. **Feb 23** President-elect Lincoln arrives in Washington.



1862 - Various Skirmishes throughout the month **Feb 3**. President Lincoln declined the offer of War Elephants from the King of Siam. **Feb 6** Surrender of Ft Henry, Tennessee. **Feb 8** Battle of Roanoke Isl., NC. **Feb 13-16** Attack on eventual surrender of Ft Donelson on Tennessee river. Victory by US Grant. **Feb 20** Willie Lincoln Dies. **Feb 21** Engagement at Valverde, NM. **Feb 22** Jefferson Davis Inaugurated President of Confederate States of America. **Feb 25** Union troops under Gen Don Carlos Buell occupy Nashville.



1863 - **Feb 2-13** Union gunboats prepare for Vicksburg campaign. **Feb 16** U.S. Senate passed the Conscription Act. **Feb 22** At Sacramento CA Ground broken for Central Pacific railroad. **Feb 24** Arizona Territory organized out of New Mexico Territory. **Feb 26** The Cherokee Indian National Council repealed its ordinance of secession, abolished slavery, and vigorously proclaimed for the Union.



1864 - **Feb 1** President Lincoln under the conscription act ordered the draft of 500,000 men on March 10 for 3 years or duration of war. **Feb 3** Sherman's Meridian MS campaign begins. **Feb 7** Jacksonville FL occupied by Maj Gen Gilmore. **Feb 9** The largest escape of the war was accomplished by 109 Federal Officers (59 reached Federal lines, 48 recap-



Libby Prison -
Richmond VA

tured and 2 drowned) from Libby Prison in Richmond VA. Led by Col Thomas E Rose of PA. **Feb 14** Federals capture Meridian MS. **Feb 17** Confederate Submarine sinks *U.S.S. Housatonic* off Charleston SC. **Feb 20** Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond FL. **Feb 22** Federals defeated by Forrest at Okolona MS. **Feb 24** Gen Braxton Bragg named chief of staff for Armies of the Confederacy despite his conflicts with other generals. **Feb 27** Federal prisoners begin arriving at camp near Americus GA - Later known as Andersonville. **Feb 29** Lincoln approved the congressional act reviving the grade of Lt. General - With Grant in mind.



Military Order of
the Loyal Legion
of the
United States

Hereditary membership in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) is open to men who are descendants (e.g., great great grandson, great grand nephew, etc.) of commissioned officers of the Union forces during the Civil War. Web site - <http://suvcw.org/mollus/mbrfrm.htm>

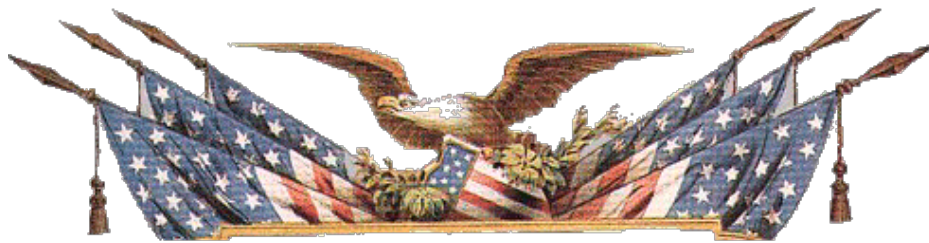
Please Note: Non-hereditary membership (Associate Companion) may be available in some (but not all) of the Commanderies. Associate affiliation is based on a percentage of the number of hereditary members in each Commandery. Consequently, movement to elect Associates may be delayed until such time as there are enough hereditary Companions present in the particular Commandery.

1865 - **Feb 1** Carolina Campaign in full Operation/Sherman begins march into SC. **Feb 3** Hampton Roads Conference between Lincoln and Seward/Alexander Stephens, John Campbell, R M Hunter. **Feb 5 - 7** Battle of Hatcher's Run VA. **Feb 6** Lee named Commander of Confederate Armies. **Feb 17** Federals capture Columbia SC, city in Flames, Charleston SC evacuated by Confederates. **Feb 22** Fall of Wilmington NC; Joseph Johnston restored to command. **Feb 27** Sheridan begins Shenandoah Valley campaign.



Hatcher's Run - Confederate Battery

Source: *The Civil War Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865*, E B Long, 1971, Doubleday.



Ancestor Biographies Needed

Whatever you may have on your ancestor's life story submit for inclusion of future issues. It can be short or long as it takes to tell us about your ancestor's life, i.e., what he did before the war, where he served, and if he survived, what he did after the war - farmer, merchant, politician, etc. And if your family history has a photograph submit that, too.



Jeremiah Chamberlain

How Jeremiah Chamberlain (found a “southern girl” from a slave-holding Georgia family to bring home to Ohio after the Civil War is a huge family mystery! Granted, his 176th Ohio Volunteer Infantry unit was in the South at the end of the fighting, but it was never near Henry County, Georgia.



Sarah Brisondine had been born in that county just south of Atlanta in 1845 so was only twenty-one when Jeremiah married her in 1866 in Hardin County, Ohio. How did she get to Ohio? No one seems to know!



Jeremiah was the youngest child of David M. Chamberlain, who had been born in Massachusetts in 1782. Massachusetts had been the family home since the early 1600s when William Chamberlain and Rebecca Shelley lived in or near Boston with their family of thirteen children. David had migrated with his father (also David, 1746-1821), a soldier in the American Revolution, and his mother, Chloe Conant (a

descendant of Mayflower passengers, James Chilton and his daughter, Mary), to Monroe County, New York. After their father died in 1821, David M and his brothers, John and Jer-

emiah, had moved further west to Lorraine County, Ohio.

Leaving his brothers near Cleveland, it appears that David went on alone to Hardin County, Ohio with his wife, Hannah Bridge. There they produced at least ten children, the last of whom was Jeremiah, born 13 September, 1837. Jeremiah first married Rebecca Eckert who bore him three sons, but who died in 1865, apparently in childbirth and while her husband was off to war.

For some reason, Jeremiah (age 27) and his older brother, Cornelius (age 39, born in 1825), decided to join the 176th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (Colonel Edwin Cooley Mason, commanding) at Camp Chase, in Columbus, on 21 September 1864 for a one year term of enlistment. From Camp Chase they traveled to Nashville, but never to Atlanta. They fought Confederate General John Bell Hood’s Army of the Tennessee under Major General George Thomas in his Army of the Cumberland, but only when Hood attacked Nashville. In any case, he mustered out on 18 June, 1865, returned from the South and married Sarah. She gave him seven more children, including the youngest, Harry Earl, my grandfather who was born in 1888.

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G.A. R. Museum in Eaton Rapids

A History of the James B. Brainerd Post #111 Building

Property History

The original property owner for this land parcel was Amos Spicer who received the patent on the property in 1835. It changed hands numerous times over the years, and in November of 1890 the property was sold to the Eaton Rapids Building Company for \$600.00. The Eaton Rapids Grange, an agricultural ad-



vocacy group formed after the Civil War, purchased the building in March, 1918, and held onto it until 1947. The property went into an



MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER

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Current Spring Issue is at

https://www.suvcwmi.org/messenger/2019/V28_N2.pdf



National Officers

Commander-in-Chief Edward .Norris, PDC CinC@suvcw.org
Senior Vice CinC Brian C. Pierson, PDC SVCinC@suvcw.org
Junior Vice CinC Michael A. Paquette, PDC JVCinC@suvcw.org
National Secretary Jonathan C. Davis, PDC secretary@suvcw.org
National Treasurer D. Michael Beard, PDC treasurer@suvcw.org
National Quartermaster James L. Lyon qm@suvcw.org

Council of Administration

Council of Admin (20) Kevin P. Tucker, PDC CofA6@suvcw.org
Council of Admin (21) Bruce D. Frail, PDC CofA4@suvcw.org
Council of Admin (21) Peter J. Hritsko, Jr, PDC CofA2@suvcw.org
Council of Admin (22) Harry W.Reineke IV, PDC CofA3@suvcw.org
Council of Admin (22) Kevin L. Martin, PDC CofA5@suvcw.org
Council of Admin Donald W. Shaw, PCinC CofA1@suvcw.org

Non-voting

Banner Editor James B. Pahl, PCinC banner@suvcw.org
National Signals Officer James P. McGuire, PDC signalsofficer@suvcw.org



estate until 1967, when it was purchased by Robert and Marceil Warren for a dance studio. In 2004 Harold and Lisa Hovey purchased the building. In 2013 Don Limpert purchased the building, and deeded it over to the GAR Museum Board of Directors, the current owners.

Property Occupancy

The G.A.R. occupied the site through 1922, and the Post was disbanded in 1929. The building sat unoccupied for a number of years, and then from 1944 through 1947 the Hansen Packaging Co., a dairy, was utilizing the site. Munger Hardware used both 224 and 226 S. Main Street in 1951. By 1954, the Grange Hall was occupying the site, and stayed there through 1972.

In 1973, two dancing schools were at this address, with the Brenda Hampton Dancing School on the ground level, and the Marceil School of Dancing on the second floor. The Marceil School of Dancing became the only inhabitant of the site after 1976, which later became Island City Dance Centre. In 2013 it became the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Michigan, James B. Brainerd Post 111, Memorial Hall & Museum, Inc

Building Features

The building measures 99 feet long and 22 feet wide. The building has two floors, the upstairs which was used for GAR and the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC) meetings, and the lower level which was rented out to merchants, including the G.A.R. Drug Store and Boice's Bazaar. At one time there was a bowling alley downstairs. The 60' x 20' auditorium and the door directly at the top of the stairs were used by the men for their meetings, with the smaller ladies parlor or ante-room towards the front of the building and the door to the right were reserved for the ladies of the WRC. The building originally had a balcony across the front for parade and street viewing. Some of the metal fasteners for the balcony still remain attached to the building. There is a recessed area in the bricks on the upper front of the building where the painted letters "G A R" can still very faintly be seen. There is no inside entrance to the upstairs Memorial Hall; it is accessed only through the doorway outside, to the left of the downstairs entrance, more than likely due to the commercial businesses being downstairs.

Grand Army of the Republic Usage

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was a fraternal veterans group formed after the Civil War, similar to the VFW or AMVETS today. Membership at that time was limited to "honorable discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or the Revenue Cutter Services who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865." An active group, they had meetings, officers, and annual encampments, both local and national. There was also a women's auxiliary, the W.R.C. (Woman's Relief Corps).

The post was organized March 14th, 1883 and named in the memory of Lieut. James B. Brainerd, 6th Michigan Heavy Artillery. James was one of three Brainerd sons who enlisted, and the only one who didn't return home. In 1864, Brainerd died of typhoid pneumonia in New Orleans. He was only 23, unmarried and had no children.

In 1908, the G.A.R. requested of the City that the Island be used for the annual encampment of the Eaton County Battalion of the G.A.R. Before this the encampments would have been rotated around Eaton County. This request was granted, and the battalion erected a tent city on the Island for one week every August until 1929 when their advancing ages forced them to discontinue the encamp-

ments. These veterans were the ones responsible for bringing the two Civil War cannons, known as Parrott rifles, to the Island.

Commanders of the Post: John H. Hamlin, William Bierbower, Samuel M. Wilkins, Joseph Rolph, John J. Holmes, William D. Brainerd, H. J. Milbourn, George W. Norton, William Spicer, James Umbarger, Henry B. Olmstead, Gorham B. Blair, Charles B. Fowler, Luman A. Fowler, Eli Cook, Frank M. Brainerd, Denois M. Beman, Roswell West, Alonzo Cheney, George B. Noble, Nathan J. DeBar, William D. Fuller, John C. Thompson, Lucian W. Ramsay, Loren D. Chapman, John M. Putnam

It also served as the headquarters of the Eaton County Battalion, which was composed of the following posts James B. Brainerd Post #111 Eaton Rapids, Alpheus S. Williams Post #40 Charlotte, Tim Lewis Post #107 Dimondale, Earl Halbert Post #108 Grand Ledge, John Cryderman Post #112 Mulliken, Austin Blair Post #163 Vermontville, James Lewis Clark Post #275 Olivet, Samuel M. Grinnell Post #283 Sunfield, Orlando B. Jackson

Post #326 Potterville, George A. Walker Post #256 Partello (Calhoun Co)



The 55 Charter Members of the James Brainerd Post #111: H. J. Milbourn, J. H. Hamlin, Liberty Bell Hicks, Frank M. Brainerd, W. M. Toles, G. L. Wilcox, James Williams, John Rank, A. H. Wheat, L. A. Bentley, Elijah Dunbar, A. Markham, William Summermix, William

Decker, S. L. Bentley, George W. Norton, H. F. Hoyt, William Spicer, M. H. Sprinkle, Uriah Miller, William M. Gleason, G. W. Dewey, T. J. Milbourn, A. M. Nelson, J. V. Stowell, V. Smith, N. A. Merritt, P. M. Hale, H. C. Norton, Phineas Disbro, H. A. Swift, G. E. Griffen, Edwin P. Knight, A. K. Stone, Wm. Gilman, George B. Meseroll, Henry Shattuck, George Jessup, S. Porter, C. H. Preston, Alva Snyder, George Hazelton, Parker Orr, C. S. Dunbar, C. M. Loree, Josiah Milbourn, B. E. Shaw, I. W. Bottomley, Lee Henderson, Lacey Disbrow, Hiram Grant, James McAllister, William D. Brainerd, Samuel D. Webber, M. Cronan.

There were 416 members of the Brainerd Post, and the building was used for social gatherings, musical events, and dances until about 1922. As

the number of the members decreased over the years, they started meeting at the local VFW and American Legion Halls, until the post was disbanded in 1929; The last surviving member of the post was John Henderson; Henderson passed away in 1936.

Fredrick H. Hackeman, CAMP 85, Dept. of Michigan, SUVCW MINUTES OF MEETING DATE: 09 January 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT (X)

- (X) THEODORE J. CHAMBERLAIN (Patr Instr)
- () KEITH CHAPMAN (Camp Conl)
- () STEVEN J. CHAPMAN (Member)
- (X) JEFFERY L. CHUBB (Guide / Guard)
- (X) HAROLD L. CRAY (Member)
- (X) REX DILLMAN (Sr. Vice Comdr, Histrn, Colr Br)
- () RICHARD GORSKE (Member)
- () RODNEY S. KRIEGER (Member)
- (X) GLEN PALEN (Member)
- (X) CHARLES L. PFAUTH JR. (Camp Consular)
- (X) CHARLES L. PFAUTH S. (Jr VCmndr, Cp Conl)
- () GREGORY M. SCYGIEL - associate member
- (X) RAY L. TRUHN (Sec., Tres.)
- () ARNOLD D. WARD - associate member
- () MATHEW C. WILLIAMS (Member)
- (X) STEVEN A. WILLIAMS (Comnder, Chapln)

Guests: none

Call to order - time: 6:00 PM by Commander Steve Williams

Patriotic Instructor - station color (Red) by pro-tem Charles Pfauth Jr.

Sr Vice Commander - station color (White) by Rex Dillman

Jr Vice Commander - station color (Blue) by Charles Pfauth Sr.

Chaplin Prayer by Steve Williams

Treasury Report: Beginning balance: 636.19

Received: 330

Spent: none

Ending balance: 966.19

Minutes:

1. Meeting was opened in regular form including Color Stations and Pledge to the Flag
2. Update on Brother Richard's well being.
3. Continue to discuss possible places to put on programs for donations. Keep looking.
4. Continue to discuss what CW items can be brought in to the Library meeting location. No Guns. Civil War Swords are OK as are most other items for programs.
5. Additional review of Case County Last CW Sol-

dier program.

6. Introduction of Harold L. Cray, followed by induction as our newest member. Harold's Gr. Uncle, George W. Bassett, served as a Private in the 54th Regular Ohio Infantry. Welcome to Fredrick H. Hackeman Camp 85, Harold.

7. Continued discussion of presenting a suggestion to Department and National on using "God" in place of "Jesus Christ" in the SUVCW opening Prayer. Many soldiers were Jewish, Chinese, Indian, and other non-Christians. All should feel welcome to SUVCW.

8. Up coming events: Flag Day Parade in Three Oaks, Civil War Days in Three Oaks, Department Encampment (06 June 2020), National Encampment in Marietta, Ga. Proposed visit to the LaPorte Museum with neighboring Indiana Camp. Proposed picnic with families and guests. Dates to be decided.

9. Requests for members to write up stories of their CW ancestors to use in the Newsletter. Send stories and pictures to Commander Steve Williams.

10. Reminder of up coming Civil War Roundtable, February 11th, downstairs in the First Congregational Church, 2001 Niles Ave., St. Joseph, Mi. Doors open at 6:00 PM. Program starts at 6:30. Faye and Ted Chamberlain will be presenting the Program. This program is geared towards the ladies so be sure to bring your wives, daughters, girlfriend/s or friends.

11. Dues received at the meeting was \$330.

Camp 85 meeting closed at 7:10 followed by fellowship. Next meeting 12 March, 2020.

Donelson

known reasons Haynie never fully took control and the attack was repulsed. Some wounded men

caught between the lines burned to death in grass fires ignited by the artillery.

General Grant had Commander Henry Walke bring the Carondelet up the Cumberland River to create a diversion by opening fire on the fort. The Confederates responded with shots from their long-range guns and eventually hit the gunboat. Walke retreated several miles below the fort, but soon returned and continued shelling the water batteries. General McClernand, in the meantime, had been attempting to stretch his men toward the river but ran into difficulties with a Confederate battery of guns. McClernand ultimately decided that he did not have enough men to stretch all the way to the river, so Grant decided to call on more troops. He sent orders to General Wallace, who had been left behind at Fort Henry, to bring his men to Fort Donelson.

With Floyd's arrival to take command of Fort Donelson, Pillow took over leading the Confederate left. Feeling overwhelmed, Floyd left most of the actual command to Pillow and Buckner. At the end of the day, there had been several skirmishes, but the positions of each side were essentially the same. The

night progressed with both sides fighting the cold weather.

Although the weather had been mostly rainy up to this point in the campaign, a snow storm arrived the night of February 13, with strong winds that brought temperatures down to 10–12 °F (–12 °C) and deposited 3 inches (8 cm) of snow by morning. Guns and wagons were frozen to the earth. Because of the proximity of the enemy lines and the active sharpshooters, the soldiers could not light campfires for warmth or cooking, and both sides were miserable that night, many having arrived without blankets or overcoats.

Reinforcements and naval battle (February 14)

At 1:00 a.m. on February 14, Floyd held a council of war in his headquarters at the Dover Hotel. There was general agreement that Fort Donelson was probably untenable. General Pillow was designated to lead a breakout attempt, evacuate the fort, and march to Nashville. Troops were moved behind the lines and the assault readied, but at the last minute a Union sharpshooter killed one of Pillow's aides. Pillow, normally quite aggressive in battle, was unnerved and announced that since their movement had been detected, the breakout had to be postponed. Floyd was furious at this change of plans, but by then it was too late in the day to proceed.

On February 14, General Lew Wallace's brigade arrived from Fort Henry around noon, and Foote's flotilla arrived on the Cumberland River in mid-afternoon, bringing six gunboats and another 10,000 Union reinforcements on twelve transport ships. Wallace assembled these new troops into a third division of two brigades, under Cols. John M. Thayer and Charles Cruft, and occupied the center of the line facing the Confederate trenches. This provided sufficient troops to extend McClernand's right flank to be anchored on Lick Creek, by moving Col. John McArthur's brigade of Smith's division from the reserve to a position from which they intended to plug the 400 yards (370 m) gap at dawn the next morning.



As soon as Foote arrived, Grant urged him to attack the fort's river batteries. Although Foote was reluctant to proceed before adequate reconnaissance, he moved his gunboats close to the shore by 3:00 p.m. and opened fire, just as he had done at Fort

Henry. Confederate gunners waited until the gunboats were within 400 yards (370 m) to return fire. The Confederate artillery pummeled the fleet and the assault was over by 4:30 p.m. Foote was wounded (coincidentally in his foot). The wheelhouse of his flagship, USS St. Louis, was carried away, and she floated helplessly downriver. USS Louisville was also disabled and the Pittsburg began to take on water. The damage to the fleet was significant and it retreated downriver. Of the 500 Confederate shots fired, St. Louis was hit 59 times, Carondelet 54, Louisville 36, and Pittsburg 20 times. Foote had miscalculated the assault. Historian Kendall Gott suggested that it would have been

more prudent to stay as far downriver as possible, and use the fleet's longer-range guns to reduce the fort. An alternative might have been to overrun the batteries, probably at night as would be done successfully in the 1863 Vicksburg Campaign. Once past the fixed river batteries, Fort Donelson would have been defenseless.

Eight Union sailors were killed and 44 were wounded while the Confederates lost none. (Captain Joseph Dixon of the river batteries had been killed the previous day during Carondelet's bombardment.) On land the well-armed Union soldiers surrounded the Confederates, while the Union boats, although damaged, still controlled the river. Grant realized that any success at Fort Donelson would have to be carried by the army without strong naval support, and he wired Halleck that he might have to resort to a siege.

Breakout attempt (February 15)

Despite their unexpected naval success, the Confederate generals were still skeptical about their chances in the fort and held another late-night council of war, where they decided to retry their aborted escape plan. At dawn on February 15, the Confederates launched an assault led by Pillow against McClernand's division on the unprotected right flank of the Union line. The Union troops, unable to sleep in the cold weather, were not caught entirely by surprise, but Grant was. Not expecting a land assault from the Confederates, he was up before dawn and had headed off to visit Flag Officer Foote on his flagship downriver. Grant left orders that none of his generals was to initiate an engagement and no one was designated as second-in-command during his absence.



The Confederate plan was for Pillow to push McClernand away and take control of Wynn's Ferry and Forge Roads, the main routes to Nashville. Buckner was to move his division across Wynn's Ferry Road and act as rear guard for the remainder of the army as it withdrew from Fort Donelson and moved east. A lone regiment from Buckner's division—the 30th Tennessee—was designated to stay in the trenches and prevent a Federal pursuit. The attack started well, and after two hours of heavy fighting, Pillow's men pushed McClernand's line back and opened the escape route. It was in this attack that Union troops in the West first heard the famous, unnerving rebel yell.

The attack was initially successful because of the inexperience and poor positioning of McClernand's troops and a flanking attack from the Confederate cavalry under Forrest. The Union brigades of Cols. Richard Oglesby and John McArthur were hit hardest; they withdrew in a generally orderly manner to the rear for regrouping and resupply. Around 8:00 a.m. McClernand sent a message requesting assistance from Lew Wallace, but Wallace had no orders from Grant, who was still absent, to respond to an attack on a fellow officer and declined the initial request. Wallace, who was hesitant to disobey orders, sent an aide to Grant's headquarters for further

instructions. In the meantime, McClernand's ammunition was running out, but his withdrawal was not yet a rout. (The army of former quartermaster Ulysses S. Grant had not yet learned to organize reserve ammunition and supplies near the frontline brigades.) A second messenger arrived at Wallace's camp in tears, crying, "Our right flank is turned! ... The whole army is in danger!" This time Wallace sent a brigade, under Col. Charles Cruft, to aid McClernand. Cruft's brigade was sent in to replace Oglesby's and McArthur's brigades, but when they realized they had run into Pillow's Confederates and were being flanked, they too began to fall back.

Not everything was going well with the Confederate advance. By 9:30 a.m., as the lead Union brigades were falling back, Nathan Bedford Forrest urged Bushrod Johnson to launch an all-out attack on the disorganized troops. Johnson was too cautious to approve of a general assault, but he did agree to keep the infantry moving slowly forward. Two hours into the battle, Gen. Pillow realized that Buckner's wing was not attacking alongside his. After a confrontation between the two generals, Buckner's troops moved out and, combined with the right flank of Pillow's wing, hit W. H. L. Wallace's brigade. The Confederates took control of Forge Road and a key section of Wynn's Ferry Road, opening a route to Nashville, but Buckner's delay provided time for Lew Wallace's men to reinforce McClernand's retreating forces before they were completely routed. Despite Grant's earlier orders, Wallace's units moved to the right with Thayer's brigade, giving McClernand's men time to regroup and gather ammunition from Wallace's supplies. The 68th Ohio was left behind to protect the rear.

The Confederate offensive ended around 12:30 p.m., when Wallace's and Thayer's Union troops formed a defensive line on a ridge astride Wynn's Ferry Road. The Confederates assaulted them three times, but were unsuccessful and withdrew to a ridge 0.5 miles (0.80 km) away. Nevertheless, they had had a good morning. The Confederates had pushed the Union defenders back one to two miles (2–3 km) and had opened their escape route.

Grant, who was apparently unaware of the battle, was notified by an aide and returned to his troops in the early afternoon. Grant first visited C. F. Smith on the Union left, where Grant ordered the 8th Missouri and the 11th Indiana to the Union right, then rode 7 miles (11 km) over icy roads to find McClernand and Wallace. Grant was dismayed at the confusion and a lack of organized leadership. McClernand grumbled "This army wants a head." Grant replied, "It seems so. Gentlemen, the position on the right must be retaken."

True to his nature, Grant did not panic at the Confederate assault. As Grant rode back from the river, he heard the sounds of guns and sent word to Foote to begin a demonstration of naval gunfire, assuming that his troops would be demoralized and could use the encouragement. Grant observed that some of the Confederates (Buckner's) were fighting with knapsacks filled with three days of rations, which implied to him that they were attempting to escape, not pressing for a combat victory. He told an aide, "The one who attacks first now will be victorious. The enemy will have to be in a hurry if he gets ahead of me."

Despite the successful morning attack, access to an open escape route, and to the amazement of Floyd and Buckner, Pillow ordered his men back to their trenches by 1:30 p.m. Buckner confronted Pillow, and Floyd intended to countermand the order, but Pillow argued that his men needed to regroup and resupply before evacuating the fort. Pillow won the argument. Floyd also believed that C. F. Smith's division was being heavily reinforced, so the entire Confederate force was ordered back inside the lines of Fort Donelson, giving up the ground they gained earlier that day.

1897 drawing of Grant's attack, depicting C.F. Smith on horseback leading his troops

Grant moved quickly to exploit the opening and told Smith, "All has failed on our right—you must take Fort Donelson." Smith replied, "I will do it." Smith formed his two remaining brigades to make an attack. Lauman's brigade would be the main attack, spearheaded by Col. James Tuttle's 2nd Iowa Infantry. Cook's brigade would be in support to the right and rear and act as a feint to draw fire away from Lauman's brigade. Smith's two-brigade attack quickly seized the outer line of entrenchments on the Confederate right from the 30th Tennessee, commanded by Col. John W. Head, who had been left behind from Buckner's division. Despite two hours of repeated counterattacks, the Confederates could not repel Smith from the captured earthworks. The Union was now poised to seize Fort Donelson and its river batteries when light returned the next morning. In the meantime, on the Union right, Lew Wallace formed an attacking column with three brigades—one from his own division, one from McClernand's, and one from Smith's—to try to regain control of ground lost in the battle that morning. Wallace's old brigade (11th Indiana and 8th Missouri), now commanded by Col. Morgan. Wall L. Smith, and others from McClernand's and Wallace's divisions were chosen to lead the attack. The brigades of Cruft (Wallace's Division) and Leonard F. Ross (McClernand's Division) were placed in support on the flanks. Wallace ordered the attack forward. Smith, the 8th Missouri, and the 11th Indiana advanced a short distance up the hill using Zouave tactics, where the men repeatedly rushed and then fell to the ground in a prone position.[43] By 5:30 p.m. Wallace's troops had succeeded in retaking the ground lost that morning, and by nightfall, the Confederate troops had been driven back to their original positions. Grant began plans to resume his assault in the morning, although neglecting to close the escape route that Pillow had opened.

John A. Logan was gravely injured on February 15. Soon after

the victory at Donelson, he was promoted to brigadier general in the volunteers.

Surrender (February 16)

Nearly 1,000 soldiers on both sides had been killed, with about 3,000 wounded still on the field; some froze to death in the snowstorm, many Union soldiers having thrown away their blankets and coats.

Inexplicably, generals Floyd and Pillow were upbeat about the day's performance and wired General Johnston at Nashville that they had won a great victory. The General Simon Bolivar Buckner, however, argued that they were in a desperate position that was getting worse with the arrival of Union reinforcements. At their final council of war in the Dover Hotel at 1:30 a.m. on February 16, Buckner stated that if C.F. Smith attacked again, he could only hold for thirty minutes, and he estimated that the cost of defending the fort would be as high as a seventy-five percent casualty rate. Buckner's position finally carried the meeting. Any large-scale

escape would be difficult. Most of the river transports were currently transporting wounded men to Nashville and would not return in time to evacuate the command.

Floyd, who believed if he was captured, he would be indicted for corruption during his service as Secretary of War in President James Buchanan's cabinet before the war, promptly turned over his command to Pillow, who also feared Northern reprisals. In turn, Pillow passed the command to Buckner, who agreed

to remain behind and surrender the army. During the night, Pillow escaped by small boat across the Cumberland. Floyd left the next morning on the only steamer available, taking his two regiments of Virginia infantry. Disgusted at the show of cowardice, a furious Nathan Bedford Forrest announced, "I did not come here to surrender my command." He stormed out of the meeting and led about seven hundred of his cavalymen on their escape from the fort. Forrest's horsemen rode toward Nashville through the shallow, icy waters of Lick Creek, encountering no enemy and confirming that many more could have escaped by the same route, if Buckner had not posted guards to prevent any such attempts.

On the morning of February 16, Buckner sent a note to Grant requesting a truce and asking for terms of surrender. The note first reached General Smith, who exclaimed, "No terms to the damned Rebels!" When the note reached Grant, Smith urged him to offer no terms. Buckner had hoped that Grant would offer generous terms because of their earlier friendship. (In 1854 Grant was removed from command at a U.S. Army post in California, allegedly because of alcoholism. Buckner,



a fellow U.S. Army officer at that time, loaned Grant money to return home to Illinois after Grant had been forced to resign his commission.) To Buckner's dismay, Grant showed no mercy towards men he considered to be rebelling against the federal government. Grant's brusque reply became one of the most famous quotes of the war, earning him the nickname of "Unconditional Surrender":

Sir: Yours of this date proposing Armistice, and appointment of Commissioners, to settle terms of Capitulation is just received. No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted.

I propose to move immediately upon your works.

I am Sir: very respectfully

***Your obt. servt.
U.S. Grant
Brig. Gen.***

Grant was not bluffing. Smith was now in a good position to move on the fort, having captured the outer lines of its fortifications, and was under orders to launch an attack with the support of other divisions the following day. Grant believed his position allowed him to forego a planned siege and successfully storm the fort.

SIR:—The distribution of the forces under my command, incident to an unexpected change of commanders, and the overwhelming force under your command, compel me, notwithstanding the brilliant success of the Confederate arms yesterday, to accept the ungenerous and unchivalrous terms which you propose.

Grant, who was courteous to Buckner following the surrender, offered to loan him money to see him through his impending imprisonment, but Buckner declined. The surrender was a personal humiliation for Buckner and a strategic defeat for the Confederacy, which lost more than 12,000 men, 48 artillery pieces, much of their equipment, and control of the Cumberland River, which led to the evacuation of Nashville. This was the first of three Confederate armies that Grant would capture during the war. (The second was John C. Pemberton's at the Siege of Vicksburg and the third Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox). Buckner also turned over considerable military equipment and provisions, which Grant's troops badly needed. More than 7,000 Confederate prisoners of war were eventually transported from Fort Donelson to Camp Douglas in Chicago, Camp Morton in Indianapolis,[54] and other prison camps elsewhere in the North. Buckner was held as a prisoner at Fort Warren in Boston until he was exchanged in August 1862.

Aftermath

The casualties at Fort Donelson were heavy, primarily because of the large Confederate surrender. Union losses were

2,691 (507 killed, 1,976 wounded, 208 captured/missing), Confederate 13,846 (327 killed, 1,127 wounded, 12,392 captured/missing).

Cannons were fired and church bells rung throughout the North at the news. The Chicago Tribune wrote that "Chi-

Headquarters Army in the Field
Camp near Fort Donelson, February 16, 1862

Sir: Yours of this date, proposing armistice and appointment of commissioners to settle terms of capitulation, is just received. No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works.

I am very very respectfully, your obedient servant

U.S. Grant
Brigadier General, Commanding

General G. B. Buckner,
Confederate Army.

Copied by me, 11/21/1864

cago reeled mad with joy." The capture of Forts Henry and Donelson were the first significant Union victories in the war and opened two great rivers to invasion in the heartland of the South. Grant was promoted to major general of volunteers, second in seniority only to Henry W. Halleck in the West. After newspapers reported that Grant had won the battle with a cigar clamped in his teeth,

he was inundated with cigars sent from his many admirers. Close to a third of all of Albert Sidney Johnston's forces were now prisoners. Grant had captured more soldiers than all previous American generals combined, and Johnston was thereby deprived of more than twelve thousand soldiers who might have provided a decisive advantage at the impending Battle of Shiloh in less than two months time. The rest of Johnston's forces were 200 miles (320 km) apart, between Nashville and Columbus, with Grant's army between them. Grant's forces also controlled nearby rivers and railroads. General Buell's army threatened Nashville, while John Pope's troops threatened Columbus. Johnston evacuated Nashville on February 23, surrendering this important industrial center to the Union and making it the first Confederate state capital to fall. Columbus was evacuated on March 2. Most of Tennessee fell under Union control, as did all of Kentucky, although both were subject to invasion and periodic Confederate raiding.

Opposing forces

Union

Grant's Union Army of the Tennessee of the District of Cairo consisted of three divisions, commanded by Brig. Gens. McClernand, C.F. Smith, and Lew Wallace. (At the start of the attack on Fort Donelson, Wallace was a brigade commander in reserve at Fort Henry, but was summoned on February 14 and charged with assembling a new division that included reinforcements arriving by steamship, including Charles Cruft's brigade on loan from Buell.) Two regiments of cavalry and eight batteries of artillery supported the infantry divisions. Altogether, the Union forces numbered nearly 25,000 men, although at the start of the battle, only 15,000 were available.

The Western Gunboat Flotilla under Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote consisted of four ironclad gunboats (flagship USS St. Louis, USS Carondelet, USS Louisville, and USS Pittsburg) and three timberclad (wooden) gunboats (USS Cones-

toga, USS Tyler, and USS Lexington). USS Essex and USS Cincinnati had been damaged at Fort Henry and were being repaired.

Confederate

Floyd's Confederate force of approximately 17,000 men consisted of three divisions (Army of Central Kentucky), garrison troops, and attached cavalry. The three divisions were commanded by Floyd (replaced by Colonel Gabriel C. Wharton when Floyd took command of the entire force) and Brig. Gens. Bushrod Johnson and Simon Bolivar Buckner. During the battle, Johnson, the engineering officer who briefly commanded Fort Donelson in late January, was effectively superseded by Brig. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow (Grant's opponent at his first battle at Belmont). Pillow, who arrived at Fort Donelson on February 9, was displaced from overall command of the fort when the more-senior Floyd arrived. The garrison troops were commanded by Col. John W. Head and the cavalry by Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Fort Donelson was named for Brig. Gen. Daniel S. Donelson, who selected its site and began construction in 1861. It was considerably more formidable than Fort Henry. Fort Donelson rose about 100 feet (30 m) on approximately 100 acres of dry ground above the Cumberland River, which allowed for plunging fire against attacking gunboats, an advantage Fort Henry did not enjoy. The river batteries included twelve guns: ten 32-pounder smoothbore cannons, two 9-pounder smoothbore cannons, an 8-inch howitzer, a 6.5-inch rifle (128-pounder), and a 10-inch Columbiad. There were three miles (5 km) of trenches in a semicircle around the fort and the small town of Dover. The outer works were bounded by Hickman Creek to the west, Lick Creek to the east, and the Cumberland River to the north. These trenches, located on a commanding ridge and fronted by a dense abatis of cut trees and limbs stuck into the ground and pointing outward, were backed up by artillery and manned by Buckner and his Bowling Green troops on the right (with his flank anchored on Hickman Creek), and Johnson/Pillow on the left (with his flank near the Cumberland River). Facing the Confederates, from left to right, were Smith, Lew Wallace (who arrived on February 14), and McClernand. McClernand's right flank, which faced Pillow, had insufficient men to reach overflowing Lick Creek, so it was left unanchored. Through the center of the Confederate line ran the marshy Indian Creek, this point defended primarily by artillery overlooking it on each side.

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Brig Gen Grant



Brig Gen Charles F Smith



Brig Gen Lew Wallace



Gen Albert Sidney Johnston



Brig Gen Gideon J Pillow



Lt. Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest

We are always looking for content suggestions, comments, Book Reports, Family Civil War stories, advice.

Send your contributions to the Editor at sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

Member Ancestors

Compiled from current and past member information.

Red Text indicates publication of a biography in the *Camp Communicator*

Current Members		Ancestor		Unit
Theodore J	Chamberlain	Chamberlain	Jeremiah M	Pvt, Co B 176 th OH Vol Inf
Keith Alan	Chapman	Stillman	Samuel	Pvt, Co B 94 th IL Inf
Steven	Chapman	Stillman	Samuel	Pvt, Co B 94 th IL Inf
Jeffrey L	Chubb	Brownell	(William) Henry	Pvt., Merrill's Horse, MO
Harold L	Cray	Bassett	George W	Pvt., Co F 54th Reg Ohio Inf
Rex	Dillman	Yaw	Benjamin Franklin	Pvt, Co G 26 th MI Inf Reg,
Richard	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Rodney Samuel	Krieger	Jacob	Krieger	Pvt, Co I, 19th MI Inf
Glenn	Palen	Palen	Charles	Pvt Co E 128 th IN Inf
Charles L	Pfauth Jr	Shopbach	Henry	Pvt, Co F 52 nd PA Vol Inf
Charles L	Pfauth Sr	Shopbach	Henry	Pvt, Co F 52 nd PA Vol Inf
Ray	Truhn	Goodenough	Alonzo	Pvt, Co A 2 nd VT Inf
Steven Allen	Williams	Carter Mountjoy/ Munjoy Wetmore	Oren George W Abiather Joy	Pvt, Co B 186 th NY Vol Inf Pvt, 11 th MI Vol Cavalry & 1st MI Sharpshooters Pvt 66 th IL Inf
Matthew Carter	Williams	Carter	Oren	Pvt, Co B 186 th NY Vol Inf
Past Members		Ancestor		Unit
Roger C	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Kenneth A	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Dennis L	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Michael	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Irving	Hackeman	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Richard	Horton	Horton, Jr	William	
Virlin	Dillmam	Mason	Daniel W	
Daniel	Stice	Pegg	Henry Riley	Co E 17 IN
Amasa	Stice	Pegg	Henry Riley	Co E 17 IN

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A February Happy Birthday to Brothers

Charles L Pfauth Jr - 2 February

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