Mapping the Civil War in Tennessee: A Spatial Humanities Initiative

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1861-1865
Tennessee Civil War GIS Project

- Functionality
- Spatial research process
- Uses
- Next steps
- Collaborative effort
Information

http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/
January 18, 1862 - February 25, 1862 - Fort Donelson Campaign

On January 19-20, 1862, January, Union troops under Gen George H. Thomas decisively defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Mill Springs [a.k.a. Fishing Creek], KY. In this battle Tennessee Brigadier-General Felix K. Zollicoffer was killed. A flanking movement by Union forces began in February when Brigadier-General Ulysses S. Grant, in combination with a U.S. Navy gunboat Scilla under Commodore A. H. Foote, moved against Confederate positions on the Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. A joint attack captured Ft. Henry on the Tennessee River on February 6, 1862, but most of the Confederate garrison retreated to Fort Donelson on the Cumberland. Ft. Donelson was regarded by Confederate General Albert S. Johnston as the principal bulwark protecting Nashville and so all of Middle Tennessee. Another large Confederate force at Bowling Green, KY, threatened by Gen. Don Carlos Buell from the north and by Grant from the south, retreated toward Tennessee to join the defense of Nashville and Ft. Donelson. After a four day siege, Ft. Donelson and its garrison of about 14,000 men were surrendered unconditionally by Generals Gideon J. Pillow and E.L. Floyd to U.S. Grant. Pillow and Floyd withdrew rapidly to Nashville, abandoning their command. Johnston would be forced to retreat from Kentucky and to evacuate Nashville, which would fall on February 25, 1862. The fall of Fort Donelson was a disaster and the first of four major defeats for the Confederacy in Tennessee in 1862.

Note 1: Because the fall of Fort Donelson falls into the category of a major campaign it will not be annotated here. There are books and accounts enough to reference should the reader wish to know more. The reader may also wish to seek out the OR, Ser. I, Vols. 7 and 32; Ser. III, Vol. 1, Ser. IV, Vols. 1-2 and the Atlas for primary source material for this campaign. Nevertheless, the importance of the Fort Donelson campaign requires some description.
On January 15, 1862, Federals besieged Fort Henry, but most of Confederate Gen. Donelson's army retreated too late. After a four-hour battle, the Confederates surrendered Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. Gen. Donelson's army was a disaster to the Tennessee state and the Union army.

Note 1: Because of the campaign, enough stores were not supplied. Vols. 1-3: Neverth less, descron...
Fort Donelson

Other Names: None

Location: Stewart County

Campaign: Federal Penetration up the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers (1862)

Date(s): February 11-15, 1862


Forces Engaged: Army in the field [US]; Fort Donelson Garrison [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 17,396 total (US 2,331; CS 15,065)

Description: After capturing Fort Henry on February 5, 1862, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced cross-country to invest Fort Donelson. On February 16, 1862, after the failure of their all-out attack aimed at breaking through Grant's investment lines, the fort's 12,000-man garrison surrendered unconditionally. This was a major victory for Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and a catastrophe for the South. It ensured that Kentucky would stay in the Union and opened up Tennessee for a Northern advance along the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Grant received a promotion to major general for his victory and attained stature in the Western Theater, earning the nom de guerre "Unconditional Surrender."

Result(s): Union victory

CWSAC Reference #: TN002

Preservation Priority: 1.1 (Class A)

National Park Unit: Fort Donelson NPS
Layers

http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/
History “in your own backyard”
What was mapped?

Union Army’s military engagements
Used official records and interviews
1400+ military events in Tennessee
MTSU mapped 1310 events

A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion
Compiled and Arranged from Official Records of the Federal and Confederate Armies Reports of the Adjutant Generals of the Several States, the Army Registers and Other Reliable Documents and Sources
By Frederick H. Dyer, 1849 - 1917
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 11</td>
<td>Scout to Lexington</td>
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<td>Jan. 11-12</td>
<td>Expedition from Maysville up Little Tennessee River</td>
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<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Skirmish near Mossy Creek</td>
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<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Skirmish near Colliersville</td>
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<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Skirmish, Seviersville</td>
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<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Skirmish, Schulz's Mill, Cosby Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Scout from Colliersville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Skirmish, Middletown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Skirmish, Morristown Road</td>
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<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Skirmish, White County</td>
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<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Skirmish, Kimbrough's Cross Roads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 16-17</td>
<td>Operations about Dandridge</td>
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</tbody>
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**TENNESSEE**—7th Cavalry.  
**INDIANA**—3d Cavalry.  
**INDIANA**—2d and 4th Cavalry (Detachments).  
**TENNESSEE**—2d and 3d Cavalry (Detachments).  
**WISCONSIN**—1st Cavalry (Detachment).  
**ILLINOIS**—9th Cavalry (Detachment).  
(No Reports.)  
**OHIO**—10th Cavalry (Detachment).  
**PENNSYLVANIA**—15th Cavalry (Detachment).  
**ILLINOIS**—9th Cavalry.  
**IOWA**—35th Infantry. Union loss, 4 missing.  
<dy 870>  
**INDIANA**—5th Cavalry.  
**MISSOURI**—23d Infantry.  
**ILLINOIS**—14th Cavalry; Colvin's Indpt. Battery Light Arty.  
**INDIANA**—5th Cavalry; 65th Mounted Infantry.  
**MICHIGAN**—9th Cavalry.  
**OHIO**—7th and 9th (1st Battalion) Cavalry. Loss included in Bend of Chucky, Jan. 16.  
**ILLINOIS**—14th Cavalry; Colvin's Indpt. Battery Light Arty.; 27th, 42d, 51st, 112th (Mounted) Infantry.  
**INDIANA**—2d, 4th and 5th Cavalry; 18th Indpt. Battery Light Arty.; 40th, 57th, 65th (Mounted) and 68th Infantry.  
**KENTUCKY**—1st.
Workflow

• One set of primary sources
• Standard mapping protocol
• Documentation in geodatabase
  • Primary sources
  • How location was identified
  • Certainty of mapped location
  • Recorded when no information found
Community Uses

- Civil War enthusiasts
- Education
- Community development & planning
- Heritage tourism
- Historical research
- Preservation
- Archaeology
  - Cultural resource management
  - Looting?
University Benefits

Students
• Geospatial research
• GIS data development
• Work with state & federal agencies

Faculty
• GIS & Digital humanities research
• Community visibility & collaboration
African American Civil War Geography
African American Civil War Geography
Collaboration = Results

Funding Partners
- Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association
- Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area
- Tennessee Wars Commission
- American Battlefield Protection Program

Research & Data Partners
- Tennessee State Library and Archives
- Tennessee Office for Information Resources
- TNMap: Tennessee’s Enterprise GIS Portal

Users
- Teachers, students, Civil War enthusiasts, researchers, historians, preservationists…

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