

Civil War Soldiers Who Died in West Point, Kentucky

As of 2015, research concludes that 48 Civil War Soldiers died while here at West Point which includes: (39) 9th Michigan Infantry; (3) 1st Wisconsin Infantry; (2) 1st Ohio Infantry; (1) 37th Indiana Infantry; (1) Battery F, 1st Michigan Light Artillery; (1) 28th Kentucky Infantry and (1) 9th Kentucky Infantry U.S. Most died from diseases and a few from accidents.

31 Civil War Soldiers were disinterred from the West Point area in 1868 and of those 31, 29 were disinterred from the "Michigan Cemetery" on the adjacent hill southwest of the fort. Another Soldier was disinterred from outside of James Young Family Cemetery and the other was disinterred from Mrs. Young's meadow near a beech tree about a mile from town. All 31 were reinterred in plots A 174-205, Soldier's Cemetery, New Albany, Indiana. [Presently know as the New Albany National Cemetery]

Records also show that (10) 9th Michigan, (2) 1st Wisconsin and (1) 37th Indiana were sent home for burial. No records have been found about the burials of the remaining Soldiers.

More information on the Soldiers who died here can be found online:
<http://fortduffield.com/memorial.htm>

Additional information may be sent to Fort Duffield Heritage Committee:
info@fortduffield.com

Regardless of the actual burial location of these Soldiers, it is important that

"THEY SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN."

Join Friends of Fort Duffield

Friends of Fort Duffield is a volunteer support group dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and maintenance of Civil War Fort Duffield under the supervision of the Fort Duffield Heritage Committee, City of West Point, Kentucky.

Members assist with fund raising, educational programs, special events, tours, maintenance and the very future of Fort Duffield.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Friends of Fort Duffield membership is effective January 1 of year joined.
Support is renewable January 1 each year.

- \$10.00 - Individual
- \$15.00 - Family
- \$20.00 - Organization
- \$25.00 - Business

Please indicate areas of interest:

- Special Events
- Living History
- Educational Programs
- Fund Raising
- Maintenance and Restoration

Name(s) _____

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Make check payable to and mail to:
Friends of Fort Duffield
16706 Abbott's Beach Rd
West Point KY 40177

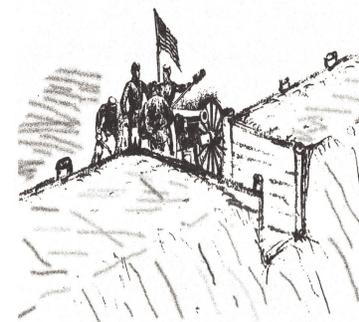
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Visit Fort Duffield Online: fortduffield.com
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CIVIL WAR U.S. FORT DUFFIELD

Union Fortification at the Mouth of Salt River

November 1861



**U.S. 31 W & Salt River Road
West Point, Kentucky**

**Native son of Kentucky,
President Abraham Lincoln said,
"I think to Lose Kentucky is nearly
the same as to lose the whole game."**

**FORT DUFFIELD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
City of West Point
West Point, Hardin County, Kentucky**

U.S. CIVIL WAR

FORT DUFFIELD

West Point, Hardin County, Kentucky

Fort Duffield, the largest Civil War earthwork fortification in Kentucky, overlooks West Point, at the border of Hardin Co. and Jefferson Co. (home of Louisville) at the confluence of the Salt and Ohio Rivers. This particular spot was important in the early days of the Civil War for a number of reasons:

- First, it commanded the L&N Turnpike, which was a potential invasion route for attacking Confederate armies. With the L&N Railroad to the East of West Point being disrupted by Confederate attacks, it was crucial that the L&N Turnpike remain open.
- Second, West Point, which was blessed with active river traffic, was a major supply depot for the Union army, which needed protection. Goods would arrive by river to West Point and then go by wagons south to the Union Army.
- Third, the Salt River was the last natural barrier to anyone trying to attack Louisville from the south via the L&N Turnpike.

Thus, a fort over West Point was a high priority. Maj. Robert Anderson, a native of Jefferson Co., Ky. and the Union commander who surrendered Fort Sumter to Confederate Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard in Apr. 1861, was promoted to Brig.-Gen. and sent to command the Union forces in the Louisville area. He ordered the construction of fortifications around West Point in Sept. 1861. Anderson had to step down due to poor health, and was replaced by Brig.-Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman as commander of the Dept. of the Cumberland. Gen. Sherman ordered the

construction of the earthwork that became known as Fort Duffield.

Construction began on Nov. 3, 1861, with most of the work being done by the men of the 9th Mich. Vol. Infantry commanded by Col. William Duffield who named Fort Duffield in honor of his father, George Duffield, a Mich. clergyman. All trees were cleared for a one-mile radius around the fort, leaving a clear field of fire for the garrison and its artillery. The fort was a 1,000 foot long earthen wall with 10 angles of fire. By Jan. 1, 1862, the fort was finished and eight companies of the 9th Mich. moved further south in Hardin Co..

On Feb. 24, 1862, Maj. D. M. Fox of the 9th Mich., received orders to build a bridge across the Salt River. Two days later the bridge was completed and a government wagon train passed over it.

On Mar. 9, 1862, orders were read from Gen. Buell that a 23rd Brigade had been formed consisting of the 9th Mich., 3rd Minn. and 8th and 23rd Ky. regiments with Col. William W. Duffield as commander. On Mar. 11, the 9th Mich. left Elizabethtown to return to West Point to depart with the 23rd Brigade for Nashville, Tenn. On Mar. 19, the 9th Mich. boarded the Steamboat Jacob Strader. Around midnight they left with the remaining regiments of the 23rd Brigade on 6 boats in all.

In Sept. of 1862, Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army invaded Kentucky moving up the L&N Turnpike before turning east to Bardstown. There were undoubtedly many reasons why he took the route he did, but the fact remains that Fort Duffield played its part and did its job.

By Dec. of 1862, the war moved south and away from Louisville. Co. C, 28th Ky. Vol. Infantry (U.S.) garrisoned the fort from July to the second week of Dec. in 1862 when the fort was evacuated. The guns (cannon), small arms and ammunitions and everything that belonged to

the Government was turned over to the proper departments in Louisville, Ky.

In July of 1864, Confederate guerrillas burned a number of the huts the Union soldiers had built during the winter of 1861-62.

Like all things, the fort had a cost. 48 men who were at Fort Duffield or who came through West Point, primarily members of the 9th Mich. Vol. Infantry, died of either disease or by accident. Today, a beautiful memorial cemetery is located on the adjacent hill southwest the fort in tribute.

In 1895, the Grand Army of the Republic had its 29th National Encampment in Louisville, and Fort Duffield lived again as the Union Veterans from the G.A.R. took special trains to West Point and revisited old haunts.

After World War I, the U.S. Army purchased the property on which the fort lies as part of what was to become Fort Knox. Fort Duffield sat, protected from intrusion, until 1978 when the United States Government declared the land surplus and deeded it to the City of West Point for public recreation use through the Federal Lands to Parks Program. In 1992, a group of volunteers began the laborious task of reclaiming Fort Duffield from nature and the results are visible for all to see today. Restoration and research is ongoing.

Fort Duffield is a tremendous, albeit little-known, treasure for both West Point in Hardin Co. and the Louisville area--a pristine fortress which brings one right back to those terrible days in 1861 when anything was possible, be it raids or invasion. It is a wonderful spot for reenactors, especially during annual living history weekends. Visitors to Fort Duffield enjoy an intimate experience of our Civil War heritage as well as the bounties of nature throughout the park.

(Rev. 9-1-15)