

Davidson Ferry Naval Engagement

**tennessee
civil war
preservation
association**

NARRATIVE

As part of the battle of New Johnsonville in early November, 1864, the Federal gunboats, USS Key West and USS Tarwah, attacked the captured gunboat, Undine, and the transports, Cheesemen and Venus, at Davidson's Ferry on the Tennessee River. Both the Undine and Venus had been previously captured by the Confederate cavalry of Maj. Gen. Venus, from Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest. Forrest had been sailing up the Tennessee River towards Johnsonville but was forced to retire to the safety of the Confederate batteries near Fort Henry.

COUNTY:

Humphreys

DATE:

11/02-03/1864

GEO COORDINATES:

36.0265° N,
87.9839° W

PRESERVATION

OPPORTUNITY INDEX:

LOW

HISTORICAL THEMES

Controlling Resources, Transformation in Warfare, Enslaved People

CONFEDERATE UNITS:

Nathan Bedford
Forrest Cavalry

EXPLANATION OF ATTACHMENTS/VIDEO:

Current map showing approximate location of USS gunboat Undine

UNION UNITS:

USS Gunboat Undine

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Johnsonville Battle Facts and Summary | American Battlefield Trust \(battlefields.org\)](https://battlefields.org/johnsonville-battle-facts-and-summary)



LEGEND OF TERMS:

Historical themes: Topics and subject matter that characterize the battlefield including Control of Tennessee's Resources, Crucible for Leadership, Guerilla Warfare, Transformation in Warfare, Enslaved People, and Influence on Campaign. Sites are identified that exhibit themes at moderate to high levels, and some sites may contain one or more Historical Themes.

Preservation Opportunity Index (POI): A rating assigned for each battlefield to indicate relative opportunity and potential for successful site preservation. The Index is generated by a model that evaluates ratings assigned for site significance, condition, risk of loss, protection potential, and opportunities for interpretation. Based upon the POI values for each region in Tennessee (West, Middle, East), sites are indicated as having High, Medium, or Low opportunity.

Geo Coordinates: General/central location of the battlefield area per latitude and longitude coordinates utilized in Google Earth

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION ON A BATTLE SITE?

Please email us at info@tcwpa.org and we will reach out to you soon. If you have copies of documents or photos to share, you can include those. If you want to discuss by phone, we will schedule that too.

HELP US COLLECT INFORMATION TO PRESERVE THESE BATTLEFIELDS

TCWPA's Statewide Preservation Plan team captains are recruiting volunteers to help gather information about many of the lesser-known sites with hopes of verifying the condition of each site and identifying opportunities for preservation and interpretation.

If you are interested in helping, please contact TCWPA at info@tcwpa.org.

TCWPA will not publish nor release any confidential information, or the name of the contributor, unless you request to be recognized.

Thank you!

The logo for the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) is displayed in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. It is positioned in the lower-left corner of a dark blue banner that features a background image of a Civil War-era cannon.

tcwpa

Have Information on a Civil
War Battlesite?

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