

Fort Donelson National Battlefield

Cultural Resources – Christian Fox Headstone



Christian Fox died in 1863 during the American Civil War. His resting place is located at Fort Donelson National Cemetery at grave site 79. The headstone marking his internment site for over a century was quite unique compared with the styles of other headstones within this National Cemetery. As with all other headstones in the National Cemetery, the Christian Fox marker has been annually cleaned and straightened under the supervision of National Park Service staff.

Unfortunately, with the passing of so many decades, this visibly striking stone has suffered degrading fractures to an extent that continued exposure to the elements would likely result in the stone's complete structural failure and subsequent destruction. Further, areas of the headstone's text have deteriorated to the point that sections are no longer legible. To prevent the loss of this historically significant part of Fort Donelson National Cemetery, the Christian Fox headstone has been carefully removed from the ground, and replaced by the current standard issue stone for Civil War veterans.

The original stone has been transported by facility maintenance and resource staff to the park's climate controlled collections storage building for cleaning and subsequent cataloging as a permanent artifact of Fort Donelson National Battlefield. Future plans for the headstone include the conservation, preservation, and eventual public display of the marker inside a historic structure at the National Cemetery. Once on display, the public will be provided interpretive information on Christian Fox, the unit in which he served, and the historical marker that identified his grave site since the 1800s.



Historic headstone of Christian Fox showing the extent of deterioration and fracturing. (2011)



The new headstone as seen just after placement at the location of interment on February 7, 2012.