

Ferdinand G. Hoover (1833-1863) of Darke Co. Ohio Union Soldier killed in the American Civil War

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Revised April 2026



*Chickamauga, Georgia, September 18-20, 1863
Ink wash drawing on brown paper, Alfred Waud (1828-1891) PD*

On October 7, 1861, Ferdinand G. Hoover of Greenville Township in Darke County, Ohio was mustered into the service of the Union Army. Over the next two years, the twenty-eight-year-old emigrant from Germany would serve as a corporal in Company G, 40th Infantry Regiment of Ohio. On September 20, 1863, he gave his all, dying in the fierce fighting at Chickamauga in northern Georgia.

The Battle of Chickamauga was fought between September 18 and 20, 1863, and was one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Chickamauga, Georgia is located about fifteen miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee. At stake was Chattanooga's railway center, which provided a gateway to the Confederate South. Some 58,000 Union soldiers, under the direction of General William Rosecrans, clashed with the Confederate army of General Braxton Bragg, numbering 66,000 troops. On September 18, 1863, General Bragg ordered his troops to set up a defensive position at Chickamauga Creek to thwart the Union army's drive to control Chattanooga.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive ink on aged paper. The signature reads "F. G. Hoover" on the top line and "Corpl comp G 40th R." on the bottom line.

F. G. Hoover
Corporal, Company G 40th Regiment
Signature on letter from camp,
dated February 21, 1863

Combat began in the early hours of September 19 at Jay's Mill and spread south for four miles. Fighting was brutal, often involving hand-to-hand combat. Fighting continued through September 20 when, at the end of two days of battle, Federal troops were forced to retreat. Counting both sides, there were some 34,000 dead or wounded, making it one of the more costly battles of the war. It was a short-lived victory for the Confederates. By the end of November 1863, reinforced Union troops were able to break through Confederate lines to control Chattanooga and nearly all of Tennessee. In the spring of 1864, General Sherman used Chattanooga as his base and starting point for his famous march to Atlanta and to the sea. The Chickamauga Battlefield was the scene of the last major Confederate victory of the Civil War. In 1890, the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was created to preserve and commemorate these battlefields. This was the nation's first military park.

Ferdinand wrote frequently to his wife from camp. Some fifty letters have survived. While Ferdinand clearly missed family and home, he was committed to serving his country. In a letter written from Camp Chase, dated November 1, 1861, he wrote *"I am in a good caus [cause] and if it is God's will that I die on the field of battle, you must tell our children that it was for their future good."*

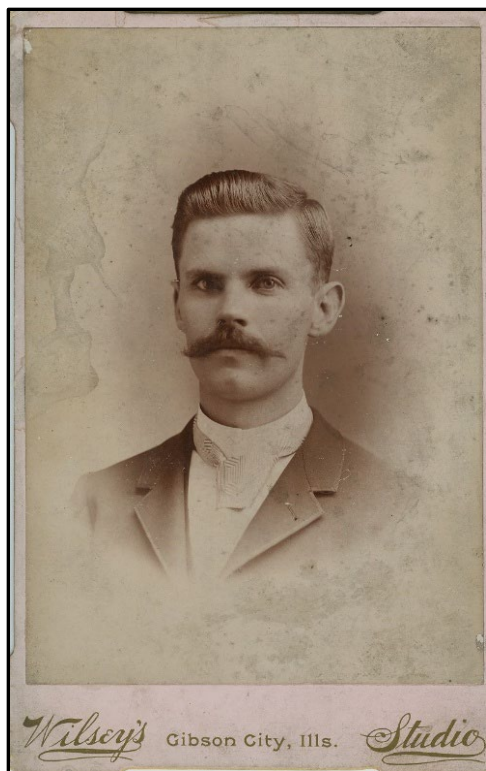
Ferdinand G., the oldest child of Johann Friedrich Huber and Eva Dorothea Latterle, was born on October 27, 1833, in Stuttgart, Württemberg, Germany. He immigrated with his family to the United States sometime between 1847 and 1850. In the U.S. census of 1850 for Darke County, Ohio, Ferdinand is listed as a 15-year-old "manufacturer" living in the household of the Akins family in Greenville Township. His large extended family, all recent immigrants, lived in the same township.

Ferdinand Hoover was also the grandson of Gottlieb Ferdinand Huber (born January 1, 1780) and his wife Christina Katharina Schaechinger (born about 1784). Ferdinand's grandparents had emigrated from the town of Nagold, Württemberg, Germany to Darke County, Ohio with five adult sons and their families in the mid-late 1840s. In addition to Ferdinand's father, Johann Friedrich, the other sons were Johann George, Gottlieb Ferdinand, Jacob Frederick, and Johann Theodore Andrew (Capt. J.T.A. Hoover). All established themselves on farms in Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, and appear there in the U.S. Census of 1850. Two of Ferdinand's uncles, Capt. John T. A. Hoover and Jacob Frederick, later moved to Louisville, Cass Co., Nebraska and are found in the 1870 census of that city.

On May 1, 1856, at the age of twenty-two, Ferdinand married Mary Cole Wintermute, the twenty-year-old daughter of Leonard Wintermute, Jr. and Jane Cole. The couple settled on a

farm and had three boys over the span of five years. Two died as young children. John Henry the eldest, was born about 1857 and died October 28, 1866. Leonard, the second child, was born about 1859 and died March 2, 1861, just months before his father joined the Union Army. After Ferdinand's death, Mary C. Hoover applied for and received a widow's pension of \$8 per month. She stayed on the farm, with her mother and grandfather also in the household.

On September 13, 1866, three years after her first husband's death, Mary wed Ferdinand's brother, John C. Hoover. He had served as a corporal with Company G, 40th Infantry Regiment of Ohio, the same company and regiment as Ferdinand, and had been wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga. John and Mary had two children: Charles George, born in March of 1867, and John Louis, born March 18, 1869. Unfortunately, John and Mary's life together was short. John C. Hoover died two years later, on the day before Christmas of 1868, perhaps of wounds sustained in battle. Mary was again a bereaved widow with three children under the age of eight to raise.



William A. Hoover was the only child of Ferdinand to survive childhood.

William A. Hoover, born on January 7, 1861, was the only child of Ferdinand to survive. William became a dentist and married Laura Ellen Howver from Mansfield, Illinois in 1888. She was the daughter of George Howver, a Confederate soldier from Singers Glen, Virginia, who had moved north with his wife Sarah Paulsel and their children after the war. William, generally known as Doc Hoover, and Laura Ellen settled in Gibson City, Ford County, Illinois.

Putting together this family has been challenging because of the various names used on census records and other public documents. The men alternated between Huber and the English version Hoover for their surname. The families appear to have followed traditional German naming patterns. Most had two Christian names: sometimes they used one name, sometimes the other. Sometimes they used the English versions of their German names: John, instead of Johann, for example. Or they simply used initials. Compounding the difficulties, the men often used the same Christian names in naming their children.

SOURCE CITATIONS

Sources of information for Ferdinand Hoover: *Roster of Ohio Troops, Fortieth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry* (p154); U.S. Census records of 1850 and 1860 for Greenville Township, Darke Co., OH; Marriage record, Darke Co. Courthouse; Pension application and obituary for Mary Cole Wintermute (Ferdinand's wife); Passport application for William Hoover (Ferdinand's son); Unpublished letters written by Ferdinand to his wife Mary during his service as a Union soldier (some fifty letters generously shared by Julie Owens, another descendant of Ferdinand Hoover).

As noted above, Ferdinand, his parents, grandparents and other family members came from Nagold, Württemberg, Germany. The baptism and marriage records of these individuals were found in the indexed collection, " Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500-1971," downloaded from FamilySearch.org, April 2026. Records extracted and images digitized by Ancestry.com. German Lutheran Collection, various parishes, Germany.

Information on Ferdinand's grandfather comes from the biographical sketch of Ferdinand's uncle, Capt. John T. A. Hoover included in the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Otoe and Cass Counties, Nebraska* (Chicago: Chapman Brothers. 1889). It is this source that broke through the proverbial brick wall and provided information that linked the family members to Darke County, Ohio and to their roots in Nagold, Württemberg, Germany.

U.S. Census records, accessed through FamilySearch.org. in April 2026.

Sources for the Battle of Chickamauga: The American Civil War. Web. 10 July 2007; Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. National Park Service Web. 10 July 2007.

Adjutant General's Office,

Washington, D. C.

December 24th 1864

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your Office of application for Pension No. 67310, and to return it herewith, with such information as is furnished by the files of this Office.

It appears from the Rolls on file in this Office, that Ferdinand S. Harvey was enrolled on the 7th day of Oct., 1861, at Camp Chase, Ohio in Co. I, 48th Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, to serve Three years, or during the war, and mustered into service as a Corporal on the 7th day of Oct., 1861, at Camp Chase, Ohio, in Co. I, 48th Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, to serve Three years, or during the war. On the Muster Roll of Co. I of that Regiment, for the months of Nov. & Dec., 1862, he is reported Killed at the battle of Chickamauga Ga. Sept. 20th 1863.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. Beck

Assistant Adjutant General.

The Commissioner of Pensions,
Washington, D. C.

(2.)

Memoranda

Name of applicant

J. L. Address