



City of Franklin

Mailing Address:
109 3rd Ave S
Franklin, TN 37064
(615) 791-3217

Meeting Agenda

Civil War Historical Commission

Thursday, January 8, 2026

8:00 AM

Eastern Flank Event Facility

Eastern Flank Event Facility

1368 Eastern Flank Circle
Franklin, TN 37064

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, the Commission shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the Planning Director/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Comments on agenda items may be made in person or by emailing PlanningIntake@FranklinTN.gov before noon the day before the meeting. Emailed comments will be provided to the Commission and included in the minutes, but not read aloud in their entirety during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes

OFFICERS

2. Consideration Of 2026 Commission Chair and Vice Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OTHER BUSINESS

3. Discussion Of A Commission Update To The Board Of Mayor And Aldermen.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

4. Historic Parks Audio Tour

5. U.S. Line Marker

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

Anyone needing accommodations due to disabilities please contact the ADA Coordinator at 615-791-3277 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.



Meeting Minutes
Civil War Historical
Commission

Thursday, November 13, 2025

8:00 AM

Eastern Flank Event Facility

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Simms called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and took an official roll call.

Board Members Present: Mary Pearce, Kelly Kautzman, Alan Simms, Colbi Layne Hogan, Eddie DeGarmo, Marlene Holmes, Alma McLemore, Sean Aiello, Bill Macon, Tony Morreale, Tina Jones, Sam Huffman, Eric Jacobson

Staff Present: Emily Huffer, Elizabeth Bulay, Kelly Dannenfelser, Brian Walker, Lisa Clayton

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, the Commission shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the Planning Director/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Chair Simms opened the floor for citizen comments.

Mr. Carter Gentry stated he was interested in dry-stacked stone wall restorations and noted a couple of people he had been involved with over a two-year period, with help from the Heritage Foundation.

Comments on agenda items may be made in person at the meeting location or by emailing planningintake@franklintn.gov before noon the day before of the meeting. Comments will be submitted for the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes

Sponsors:

Commissioner Hogan moved to approve the September 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Morreale seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 11-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Huffer stated there would be two meetings next week coming up for the Preservation Plan Update at Harlinsdale Barn. Ms. Huffer stated Tuesday's meeting will be centered on historic preservation and Wednesday meeting would be centered on civil war and battlefields. Ms. Huffer stated both meetings are from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Ms. Huffer stated that in January 2026 the chair and vice chair will be elected so everyone needs to think about who they would like to elect for these positions.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Consideration Of An Update To The Historic Parks Audio Tour.

Sponsors:

Chair Simms stated they needed a motion to approve continuing with the project and send it to BOMA.

Ms. Huffer presented the updated audio tour on the new website platform and the bi-annual presentation to BOMA in January. Ms. Huffer stated she welcomed any feedback.

Commissioner Baggett questioned the size of the sign and suggested it be tested.

Commissioner Baggett suggested to reduce a phrase by using the word "at" and it would reduce four words.

Commissioner Jones questioned if there would be a brochure or rack cards.

Ms. Huffer stated that there were previous rack cards and that new ones could be printed.

Discussion ensued on having stickers on signage with QR code.

Commissioner Macon made a motion for a positive recommendation for the Historic Parks Audio Tour Subcommittee Signage to continue moving forward with the work as presented today. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion, and the motion carried 15-0.

Ms. Huffer continued with the presentation showing maps of the proposed signs with the 24 locations. Ms. Huffer stated there have been 8 markers placed out of 20 so we are almost halfway there.

Commissioner Jacobson requested Ms. Huffer to go back to location number 13 (for the audio tour signs) on the map and stated it conflicts with Carter Hill Park.

Ms. Huffer stated there are 3 markers that will go there.

Commissioner Jacobson stated they should go to Carter Hill Park, Lotz House, Carter House, and remove the assault on the Cotton Gin.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Baggett stated it should be put in there we will proactively answer that there is a process this commission will seek new additions and promote quarterly.

3. Discussion Of A Commission Update To The Board Of Mayor And Aldermen.

Sponsors:

This was discussed with item 2.

4. Discussion Of A Completed Cemetery Restoration Project.

Sponsors:

Mr. Walker stated that a digital copy had been sent to everyone about this and that he wanted to go over a little bit of it. Mr. Walker stated that last May/June, they contacted Richard Grubb and Associates, which provides cemetery restoration, and the work they performed included cleaning the stones, raising some stones, resetting some stones, and repairing some broken stones. Mr. Walker explained the complicated work they did and presented a presentation with slides. Mr. Walker stated he created a grid pattern of Resthaven and pointed out that you could see what had been done. Mr. Walker stated there is a tremendous amount of work left to be done.

OTHER BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**5. Historic Parks Audio Tour.****Sponsors:**

Commissioner Hogan stated she didn't have anything to add to what had already been discussed.

6. U.S. Line Marker.**Sponsors:**

Ms. Huffer stated they are in the process of getting the funds in line so we can go ahead and make an order.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Pearce stated we all needed to remember the Civil War consultants are in town for next Tuesday and Wednesday. Commissioner Pearce stated that at 264 Natchez, they were moving forward.

Commissioner Baggett stated Franklin's Charge and partners have put a contract on a piece of property on Columbia Avenue north of the Waggoner line, adjacent to Water's Funeral home.

Commissioner Macon stated he gave a personal tour to some friends, and they were so fascinated with Carter Hill that they spent most of the time there.

Commissioner Kautzman stated on November 30th, there will be a Battlefield Walking Tour at 10 or 10:30 am.

Commissioner Huffman stated there will be a Civil War show on December 6th & 7th at Williamson County Agriculture Center.

Mr. Walker stated that at Fort Granger, they have removed the invasive species of foliage so you can have a good viewshed.

Commissioner Jacobson stated he met with members from the Parks Department, Kevin Lindsey and Brian Walker, to talk about trees, historic fencing running down Columbia, and Interpretative signage at properties of Spivey, Williams, and Depriest. Commissioner Jacobson stated they are about to receive a deed from the developers who are building homes around the earthworks, and they are donating 14 acres that will be placed in a conservation easement. Commissioner Jacobson stated there are discounted tours on November 28, 29 & 30, and the Visitor Center will open May 1st.

Commissioner Jones stated on Monday, the 24th, there will be porch talks at the Public Library.

Commissioner McLemore stated there will be a Christmas Open House on December 14th from 3 pm to 5 pm at the McLemore House.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Chair

Date

City of Franklin Annual Report to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen

Civil War Historical Commission

January 27, 2026

Alan Simms, Chair
Tony Morreale, Vice Chair
Sean Aiello
Patrick Baggett, Alderman
Eddie DeGarmo
Heather Doleshel
Ray Eldridge
Rachael Finch
Colbi Layne Hogan
Marlene Holmes
Sam Huffman
Eric Jacobson
Tina Jones
Kelly Kautzman
Pam Lewis
William Macon
Alma McLemore
Mary Pearce

MEMBERS

MEETINGS

Second Thursday of
every other month at
8:00 AM

HISTORIC WAYFINDING PLAN



Goal:

Create a wayfinding program for branded, directional signage to historic sites across the city.

Progress:

Completed as of late 2024 and early 2025.

U.S. LINE MARKERS

Goal:

Demarcate the U.S. Army defense line that was present during the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864.



THE U.S. ARMY LINE DURING THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN



U.S. LINE MARKERS

Progress:

Eight of the twenty-two program markers have been installed so far. The completed locations are shown in red on the map.

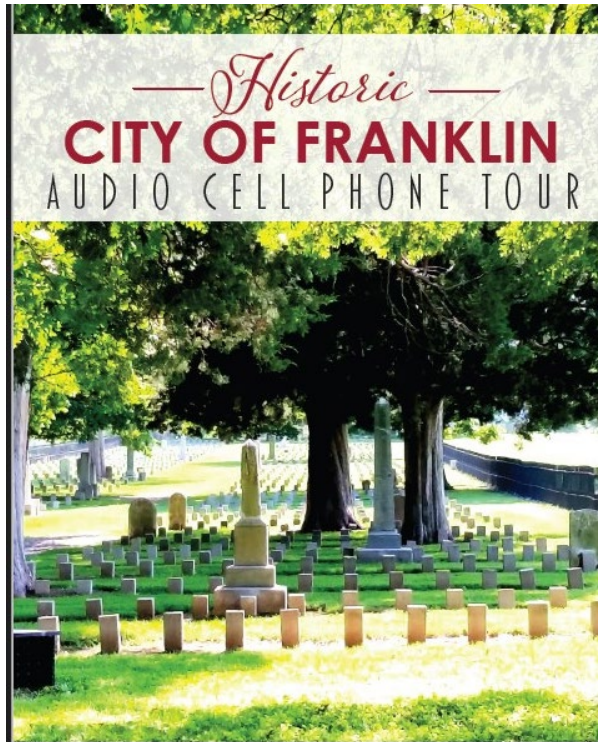
HISTORIC PARKS AUDIO TOUR

Goal:

Update and expand the audio tour stops within the historic parks and sites.

Progress:

The subcommittee is 85% done with the text of the tour stops. The group is now looking at signage and the signage locations as a component of the project.





Proposed Signage

The proposed signs will be 12" in diameter.

Audio Tour Signage Locations

- ◇ 26 Stops
- ◇ 28 Signs
- ◇ New Signs to be co-located with existing Historical Markers when possible.

Sign Locations

	STOP	LOCATION
1.	Overview of Audio Tour	400 Main St. (Visitors Center)
2.	Historical Overview of Battle of Franklin	400 Main St. (Visitors Center)
3.	Antebellum Churches: Franklin Presbyterian Church	435 Main St.
4.	Antebellum Churches: St. Paul's Episcopal Church	510 W. Main St.
5.	Antebellum Churches: Franklin First United Methodist Church	148 5 th Ave. S.
6.	Antebellum Churches: Wiley Methodist Episcopal Church	109 3 rd Ave. S.
7.	Business on Main St	The Square
8.	ANC Williams	418 Main St.
9.	The Square	The Square
10.	Franklin Masonic Hall	115 2 nd Ave. S.
11.	Lillie Mills	131 1 st Ave. S.
12.	Bucket of Blood Neighborhood	202 Church St.
13.	Carter Hill, Lotz House, Carter House (3 Signs, 1 at each location)	1111, 1140, & 1221 Columbia Ave.
14.	Rest Haven Cemetery	325 4 th Ave. N.
15.	City Cemetery	4 th & N. Margin St.
16.	Fort Granger	113 Fort Granger Dr.
17.	Ropers Knob	Mack Hatcher Pwky.
18.	Winstead Hill	4023 Columbia Ave.
19.	Collins Farm	418 Lewisburg Ave.
20.	Eastern Flank Battlefield Park and Carnton	1345 Eastern Flank Cir.
21.	McGavock Cemetery	1368 Eastern Flank Cir.
22.	Hard Bargain Neighborhood	446 11 th Ave. N.
23.	McLemore House	446 11 th Ave. N.
24.	Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery	Del Rio Pike
25.	Natchez Street Neighborhood	111 Natchez St.
26.	Harlinsdale	239 Franklin Rd.

Preservation Plan Update

- ◆ The CWHC has been actively participating in the Preservation Plan update. The plan will update the City's 2001 Preservation Plan and the 2004 Battlefield Preservation Plan.
- ◆ Several special-called Civil War Historical Commission meetings have been held with the plan update so far to get input from the Commissioners on aspects of the plan and to provide their input.



The Commission will continue to work collaboratively with the City staff to advance current initiatives.

RESOURCES



Questions?

Overview of the Battle of Franklin

By [Heather Doleshel](#)

Welcome to the Battlefields and Beyond Tour, a project created by Leadership Franklin, City of Franklin, and the Civil War Historical Commission.

Whether you're a resident or a visitor, this audio tour invites you to explore the people, places, and events that shaped Franklin's complex history—from the Civil War to Reconstruction, and into the generations that followed.

You'll hear stories of community, resilience, and change, from battlefields and cemeteries to neighborhoods built in the aftermath of war. These are stories of loss, rebuilding, and legacies that still shape the city today.

This tour is part of an ongoing effort to preserve the past while connecting it to the present. To dive deeper, guided tours, historic homes, and additional self-guided experiences are available throughout the area. For more information, visit the Visitor Center in downtown Franklin or go to [VisitFranklin.com](#). You can also access this full audio tour at [Insert Audio Tour Website].

Now, take your time to listen, reflect, and let the landscape around you speak. History happened here—and it still echoes today. What will you take with you?

Metadata

CITATION INFO

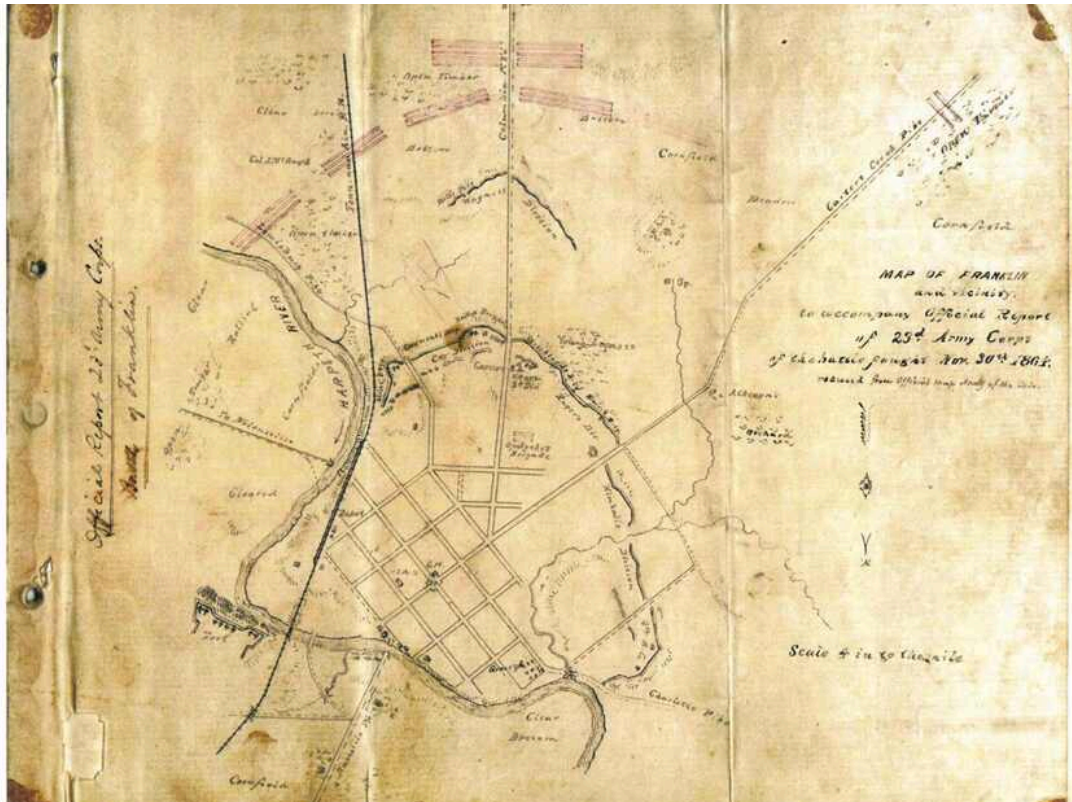
Heather Doleshel, "Overview of the Battle of Franklin," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/19>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Historical Overview of the Battle of Franklin

By Edited by Alan Simms



[Ruger's Map of Franklin](#)

Before you begin your tour, a little background is needed to understand the significance of the Battle of Franklin and its impact on this region.

After the fall of Atlanta, Lieutenant General John Bell Hood marched the Confederate Army of Tennessee, which numbered just over 30,000 men,

north from Alabama toward Nashville with the aim to retake the capital city now occupied by Federal forces. Major General John M. Schofield commanded the Federal army of about 27,000 men sent from Georgia to catch Hood and slow his troops' advance. Schofield's army evaded Hood in a nighttime march at Spring Hill, TN, 13 miles south of Franklin. The Federal troops continued northward on Columbia Pike and were the first to arrive at Franklin where they entrenched around the town.

The next morning Hood moved on to Franklin where the two armies met on November 30th, 1864.

With clear skies and a temperature of nearly 60 degrees, many described the day itself as a beautiful summer afternoon. However, as the armies engaged around 4pm the mood of the day changed drastically.

This was a close and brutal battle, and casualties mounted quickly. It was completely dark shortly after 5pm but the battle continued. Late in the evening, the Federal army began to withdraw northward to Nashville. About 10,000 American soldiers became casualties at Franklin – about 2,300 men died at Franklin, about 7,000 were wounded, and roughly 1,000 were taken prisoner. Three-fourths of that number were Confederates, and six Confederate generals were killed or mortally wounded.

Franklin was the last major attack ever conducted by the Confederacy and one of the largest and deadliest frontal assaults of the entire conflict. Nearly the same number of American soldiers died here as were killed at Normandy on D-Day in June 1944.

The Battle of Franklin was also one of the last major battles of the Civil War, and it, coupled with the Battle of Nashville two weeks later, effectively ended the war in the Western Theater.

As you tour the area, keep in mind that Franklin was relatively small back then and most of the surrounding countryside consisted of open fields and pasture lands during the Civil War. The town's population was less than a

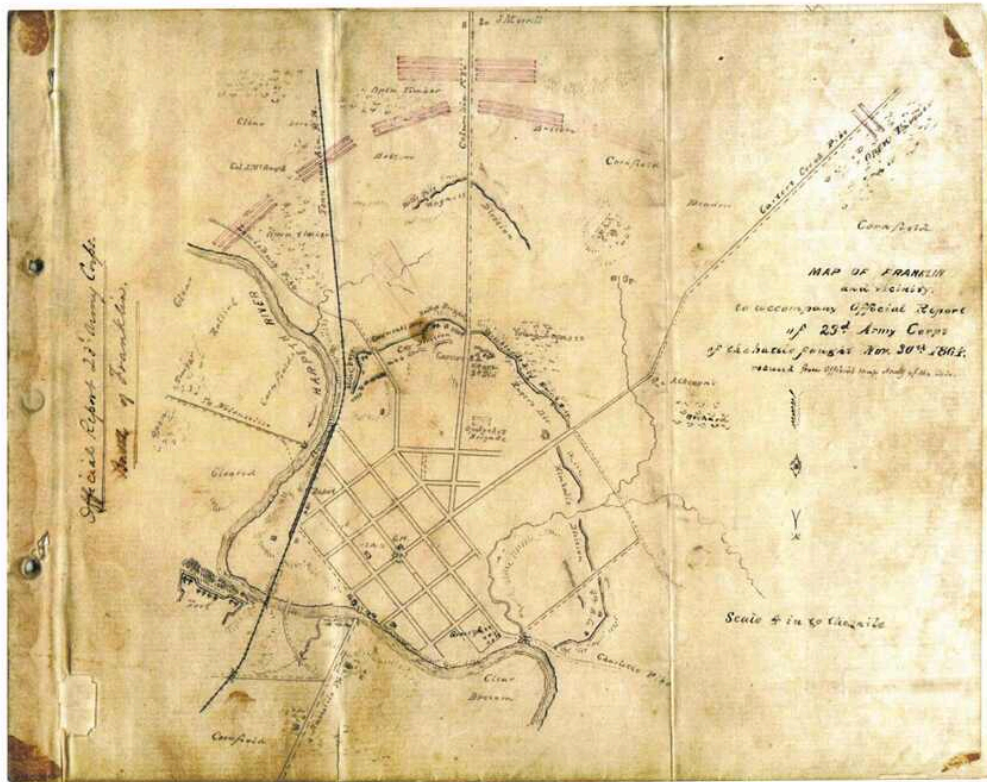
thousand people. When you go through downtown, you will cross Margin Street several times. This street was so named because it marked the outside edge of the town itself.

The war was not kind to Franklin. Since 1862, both the Federal and Confederate armies fought bitterly to hold the city because it stood on the key highway and railroad that led to Nashville - one of the largest transportation, manufacturing, and supply centers in the whole South. As a result, Tennessee saw more action than any other state except Virginia. Williamson County alone witnessed over 200 military engagements large and small. Foraging and fighting caused widespread destruction and Franklin itself changed hands several times.

Scot Butler, a 33rd Indiana soldier with the U.S. Signal Corps was stationed in Franklin, and he wrote:

“...The station which I am on is situated on a hill near Franklin... From here we command one of the most beautiful landscape views I ever beheld. This is called the ‘Garden Spot’ of America. Away off to the north stretches a valley of unrivaled beauty. Alternate patches of meadow and woodland, its dashing streams, shining through the mist of morning like threads of silver, and the hills, ranged on each side, clothed with towering trees and stand like eternal sentinels over this scene of seeming quiet beauty and content. What a beautiful place was Franklin & its surroundings of elegant country mansions and extensive plantations... Franklin is war worn. The shattered glass in her churches and school houses, her lonely streets and the closed shutters of her store houses, the battered doors and ruined machinery of her manufactories, and above all that deathlike, breathless silence, that absence of all sound, that can be felt no where but at the desolate hearthstone, here reigns supreme.”

Because of its historical importance, the city of Franklin and several preservation groups have reclaimed and protected the sites that you will see today.



[Ruger's Map of Franklin](#) | A map of a Franklin created after the Battle.

Metadata

CITATION INFO

Edited by Alan Simms , “Historical Overview of the Battle of Franklin,” *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/10>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Antebellum Churches: Franklin First United Methodist Church

By Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan



Untitled

A brief history of the Franklin First United Methodist Church during the Civil War and Reconstruction

Franklin's oldest congregation, Franklin First United Methodist Church, was founded on October 26, 1799, the same day as our City and Williamson County. Franklin's founder, Abram Maury, granted a small lot for a

Methodist Meeting House near the corner of 1st Avenue South and Church Street, adjacent to the old Lillie Flour Mill silos.

Around 1830, the congregation built a two-story church at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Church Street. The congregation had no pastor under appointment during the Civil War years since the Tennessee Conference was unable to meet during that interval. Like nearly every other public building and many of Franklin's private residences, the Methodist Church was used as a hospital during the Battle of Franklin. During that time, its historic records were lost.

After a Methodist revival in the late 1860s, the congregation grew, and a new church building was constructed out of bricks made from mud from the Harpeth River. The historic sanctuary, located one block from Main Street at 145 5th Avenue South, opened in 1871 and is still in use today. After many additions to its downtown building, Franklin First United Methodist Church opened a new main campus at 120 Aldersgate Way off Mack Hatcher Memorial Parkway on December 6, 2015.

During Reconstruction, Northern Methodists built Wiley Methodist Episcopal Church, located on 2nd Avenue, as a house of worship for formerly enslaved people. Today, that building houses the Pull-Tight Players Theatre. *[To learn more about Wiley ME Church and Pull-Tight, visit Stop #7 on the Audio Tour.](#)*

Since their inceptions, Franklin's antebellum churches have provided services to residents and local groups via their outreach programs. Their impact throughout the community continues to grow as each of the historic congregations expands their partnerships with non-profit organizations and maintains their commitment to Franklin. To learn more about the other

antebellum churches in Franklin, **visit Stop X Franklin First United Methodist Church and Stop X Presbyterian...**



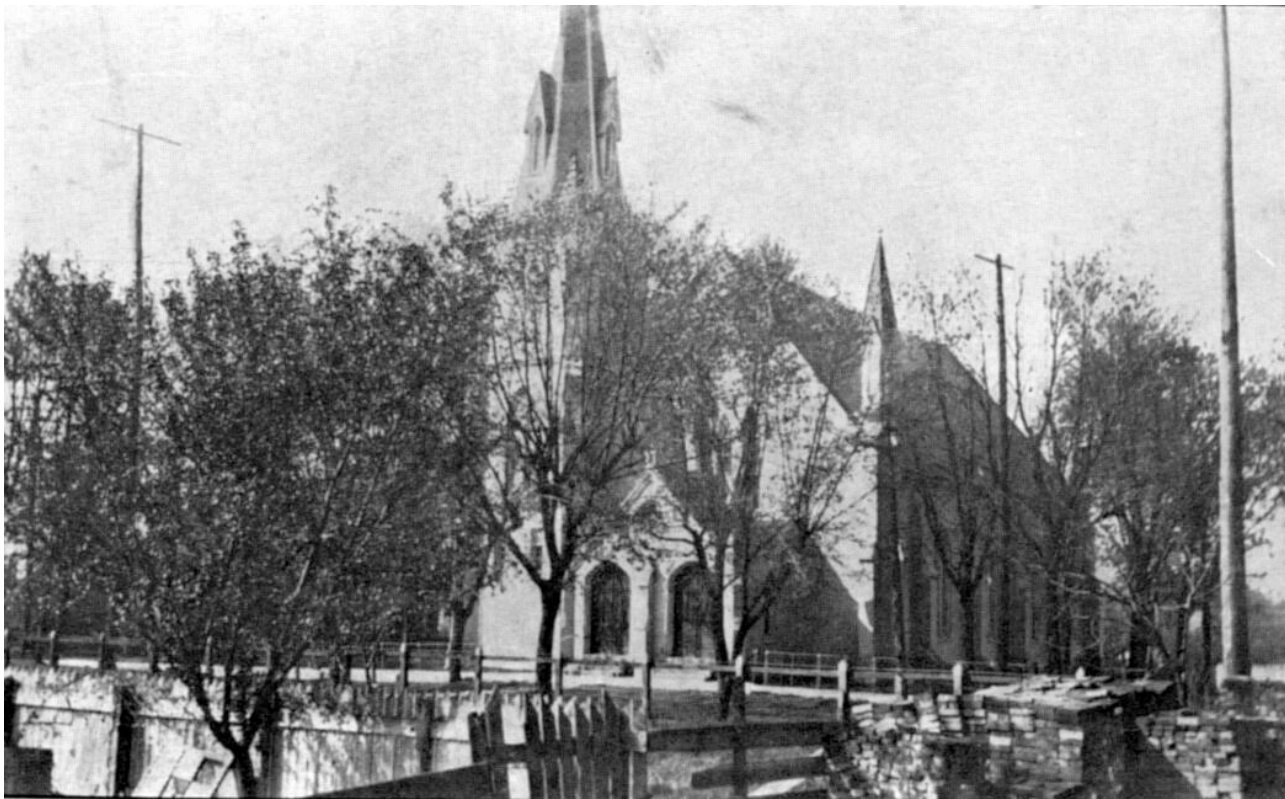
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CITATION INFO

Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan, "Antebellum Churches: Franklin First United Methodist Church," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/18>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Antebellum Churches: Franklin Presbyterian Church

By Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan



Untitled

Many of Franklin's first settlers were Presbyterians. Led by Reverend Dr. Gideon Blackburn, a former missionary to the Cherokee, forty-six members organized a church on June 8, 1811. They met near the City Cemetery. In 1842, the congregation moved to 435 Main Street. Like the Methodist church, the Presbyterian church building was also damaged after being used as a Federal hospital during the Battle of Franklin. In 1888,

the congregation constructed a new Romanesque Revival style building but, sadly in 1905, the church burned. It was rebuilt three years later and included many historical items recovered after the fire, including the pews, which are still in use today. In 1994, approximately 500 members from the first Presbyterian congregation outgrew the building and moved to its present location at Legends Club Lane. The 1908 building at 5 Points was sold to the Historic Franklin Presbyterian congregation who still utilize the building today.

Since their inceptions, Franklin's antebellum churches have provided services to residents and local groups via their outreach programs. Their impact throughout the community continues to grow as each of the historic congregations expands their partnerships with non-profit organizations and maintains their commitment to Franklin.



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OFFICIAL WEBSITE

<https://historicfranklinpc.org/>

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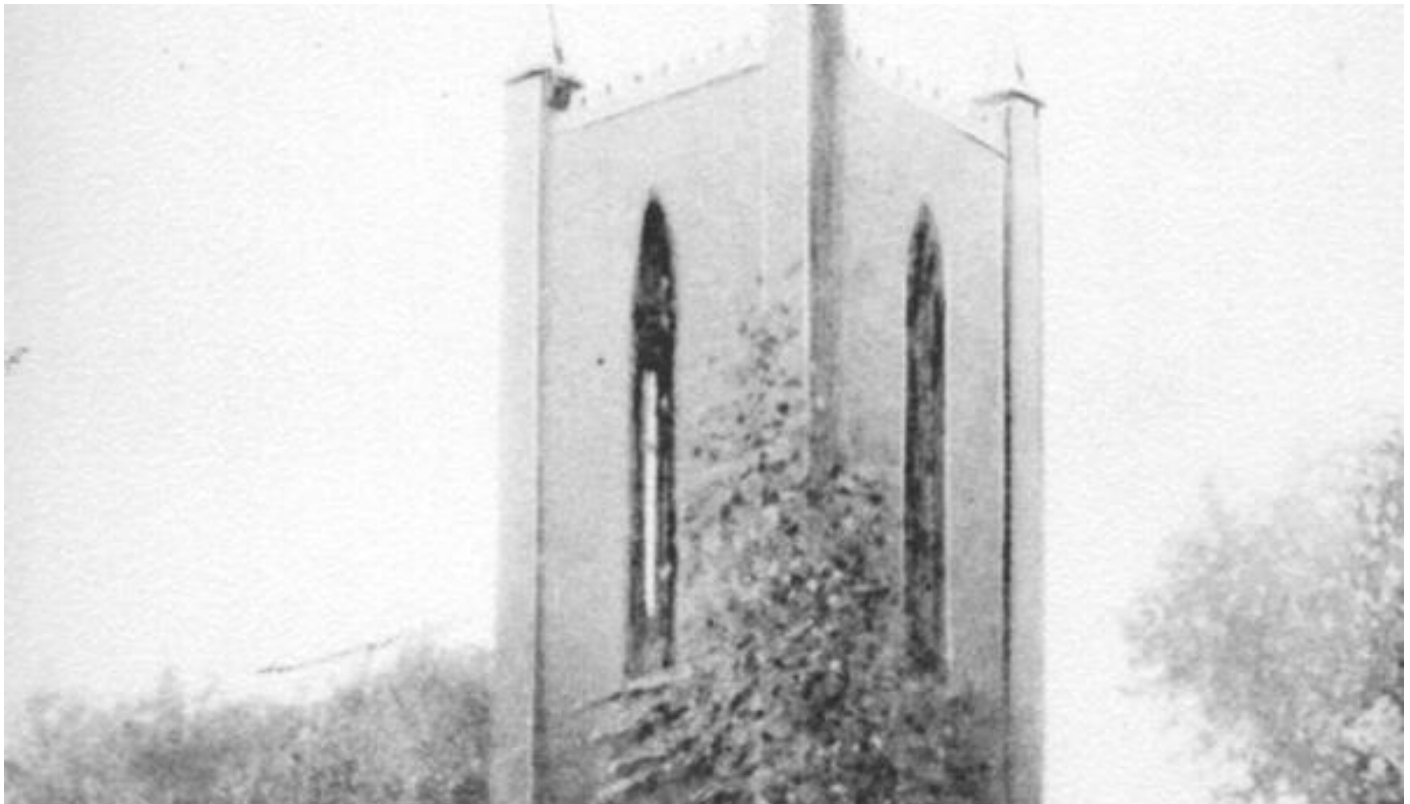
Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan, "Antebellum Churches: Franklin Presbyterian Church," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/20>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Antebellum Churches: St. Paul's Episcopal Church

By [Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan](#)



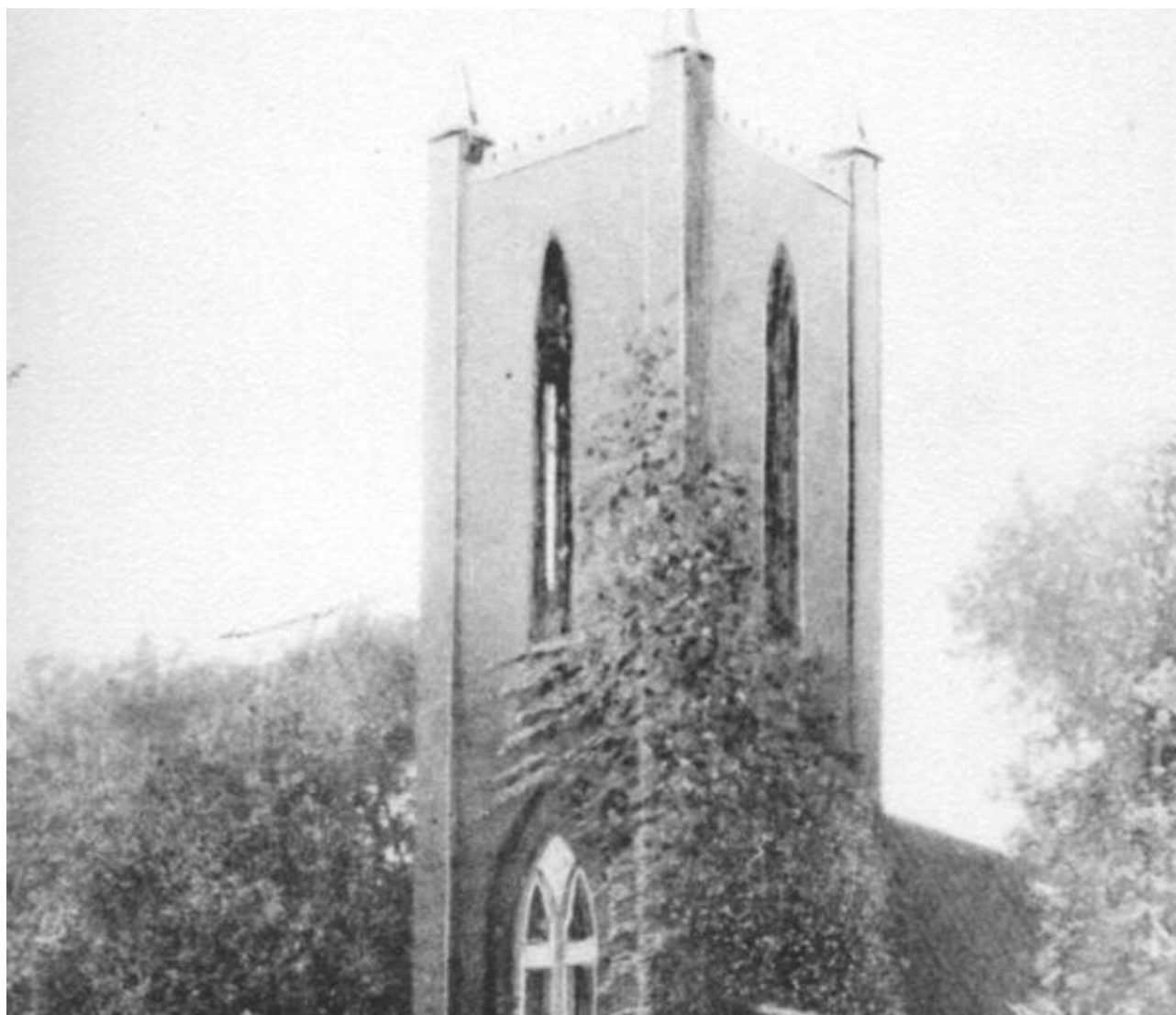
[Untitled](#)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 510 West Main Street. On August 25, 1827, St. Paul's was founded by Reverend James Hervey Otey at the 2nd Avenue Masonic Hall, where the congregation met until construction of its current building was completed in 1834. The oldest Episcopal Church west of the Appalachian Mountains, St. Paul's is known as the "Mother Church of the Diocese of Tennessee." As expected, the church and congregation were

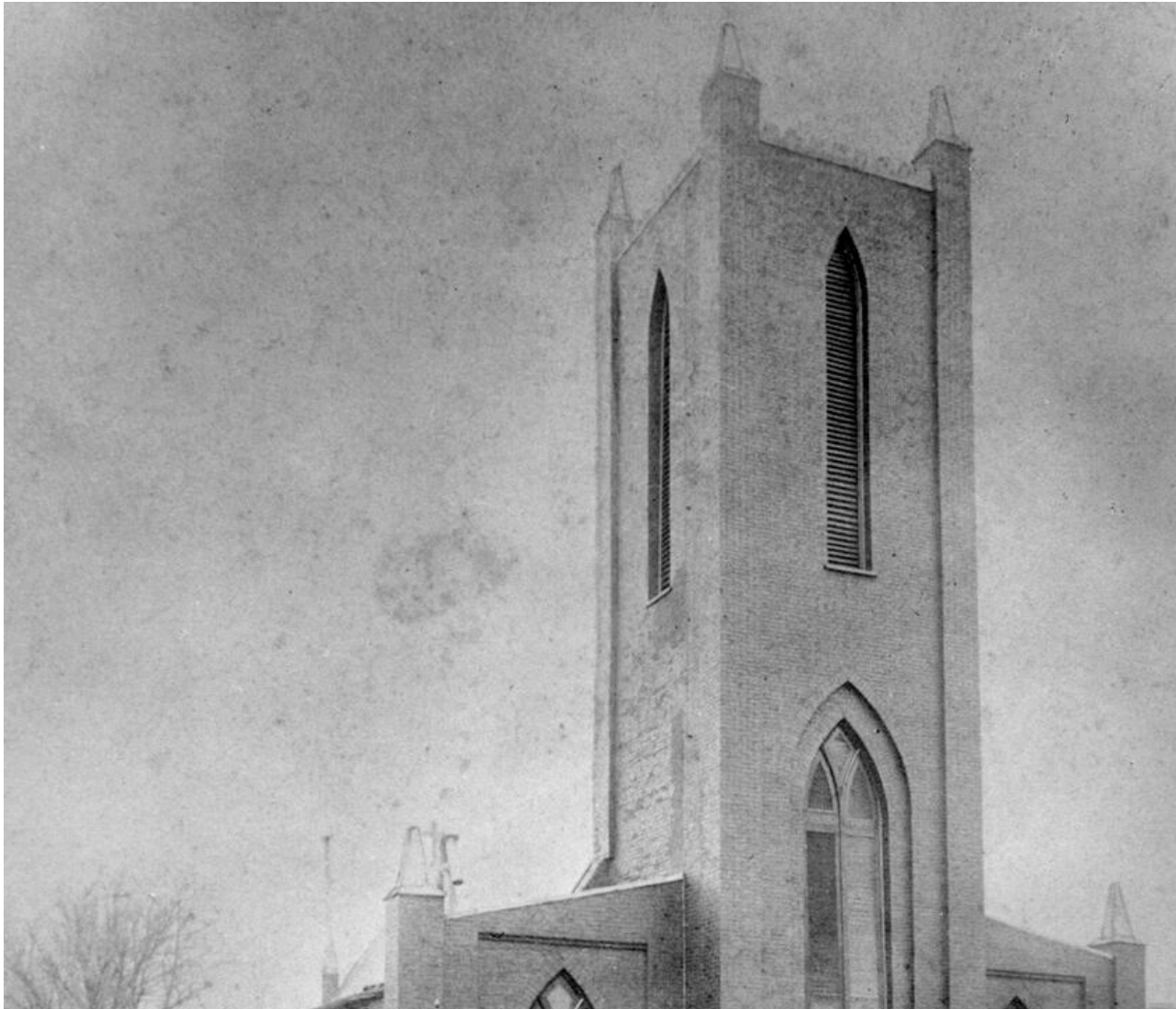
greatly affected by the Civil War. During the 1862 Federal occupation of Franklin, St. Paul's was used as a barracks, and later, a hospital. During Reconstruction, it became a carpenter's shop and a horse stable. However, efforts led by Reverend Edward Bradley, who held services at the Masonic Hall, led to St. Paul's reconsecration in 1871.

As one of three antebellum churches in Franklin,...

Since their inceptions, Franklin's antebellum churches have provided services to residents and local groups via their outreach programs. Their impact throughout the community continues to grow as each of the historic congregations expands their partnerships with non-profit organizations and maintains their commitment to Franklin.



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CITATION INFO

Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan , “Antebellum Churches: St. Paul's Episcopal Church,” *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/21>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Antebellum Churches: Wiley Methodist Episcopal Church

By Ray Eldridge and Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan



Untitled

the southern half to formerly enslaved A.N.C. Williams, and the northern half for the construction of the Wiley Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church as a mission church for formerly enslaved people.

Wiley Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church closed in 1945 and became Fiveash Grocery, then Maple Fox Antiques and Maple Fox Restaurant. The

building experienced a cyclone in 1927 , which took off the roof resulting in its current one-story configuration.

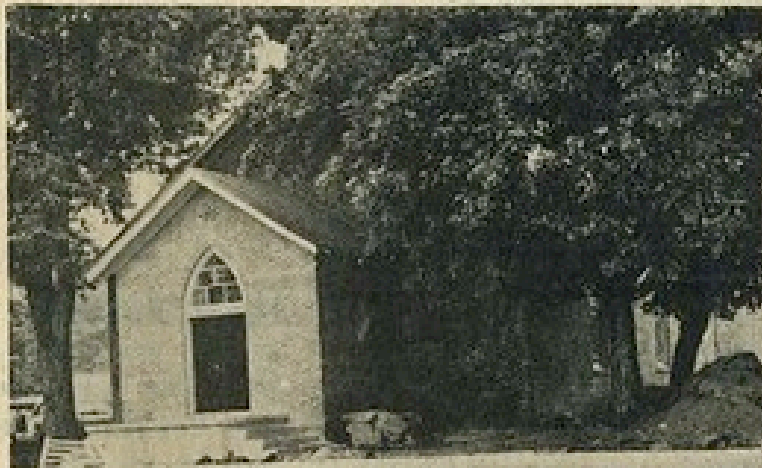
The building still exists and the inscription on the cornerstone reads “Wiley Memorial M.E. Church”. It is currently the Pull-Tight Players Theatre where the Pull-Tight Players have provided community theater for over 50 years.

To learn more about the Pull Tight Players Theatre and more history about the site please visit



[Untitled](#)

FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37064, THURSDAY, SEPT



WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ERY—AN ANTIQUE SHOP—The two pictures
information of the grocery store on Second
g to be used as the Maple Fox, an antique
own after the small sheds were removed but

before the brick was pointed up and work do
John Sloan of Brentwood and Mrs. Wesley Dy
shop which is expected to open in late Oct
contractors for the work. The building was orig

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CITATION INFO

Ray Eldridge and Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan , “Antebellum Churches: Wiley Methodist Episcopal Church,” *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/22>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Collin's Farm

Collin's Farm

By Joseph Ricci



Collin's Farm 1900s

Introductory Paragraph

During the Civil War, this tract of land made up a significant portion of what was once the northeastern parcel of John McGavock's farm at Carnton. As the Battle of Franklin raged on November 30, 1864, Confederate troops of General William Loring's Division advanced across

the ground before you. Regiments from Brigadier General Thomas M. Scott and Brigadier General Winfield Scott Featherston's Brigades came under heavy artillery fire as they stumbled across this broken ground toward the Nashville and Decatur Railroad tracks. With that obstacle traversed, the Confederates encountered dense thickets of Osage Orange hedges and makeshift abatis placed in front of the Federal earthworks. From their vantage point behind the breastworks, Federal infantrymen of Col. Israel Stiles' Brigade fired volley after volley into the ranks of Loring's Division.

The Confederates pushed on in the face of withering rifle fire that mowed down their ranks. Robert Webb Banks of the 37th Mississippi, remembered the devastation wrought by the Federal line to the Rebel advance, "with muzzles pointing downward across the parapet, and thus fired, striving to inflict the greatest damage." Exposed to a hail of shot, shell, and canister rounds fired by the guns of Battery G, 1st Ohio and Battery M, 4th U.S. Artillery, Banks and his comrades clamored to the ditch in front of the earthworks. He later recollected the ground was thick with "the dead and wounded in the ditch there, it became a sort of out-door 'chamber of horrors.'"

As night wore on and the sounds of battle waned, out of the darkness the cries of the wounded and dying filled the air. Word came for the Federal troops to withdraw across the Harpeth River, and as they prepared to file out of their defenses, a soldier told Colonel Stiles that the army "ought to remain here and wipe the hell out of 'em." Stiles responded, "There is no hell left in them. Don't you hear them praying?" Loring's Division, like much of the Army of Tennessee, was in shambles.

The next morning, the dead were buried, and the wounded were tended to at field hospitals like Carnton. After two days of reorganization and rest, the Confederate Army marched north to Nashville only to meet defeat two weeks later. The war in the Western Theater quickly spiraled to its end. By

1866, the Confederate and U.S. Army dead were relocated from the fields south of Franklin to their final resting places at McGavock Confederate Cemetery and Stones River National Military Cemetery, respectively. No longer a hastily established graveyard, fields like this one returned to their pre-war use as farmland.

In 1867, William Collins purchased this three-and-a-half-acre plot of land from John McGavock. The farmhouse which stands today was built by Collins, and he resided here with his family as the war faded into the past.

This portion of the battlefield was saved by local preservationists in 2001 and became part of the City of Franklin's Parks Department in 2007. It is cared for and maintained by the city and by the Old Glory Daughters of the American Revolution.

i Collin's Farm is owned and cared for by the City of Franklin Parks Department and the Old Glory Daughters of the American Revolution.



[Collin's Farm 1900s](#) | Image of the Collin's Farmhouse ca. 1900s



[Collin's Farmhouse ca. 1912](#) | Image of the farmhouse ca. 1912 looking South.



View from Henderson House (Collins's Farm) | Image looking out from the farmhouse, date unknown.

Metadata

RELATED RESOURCES

Robert Webb Banks, *The Battle of Franklin November 30, 1864: The Bloodiest Engagement of the War Between the States*, (Neale Publishing Company, New York, 1908), 86-87; Thomas E. Milchrist, "Reflections of a Subaltern on the Hood-Thomas Campaign in Tennessee," *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*, Illinois, Vol. 4, 461.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[Collin's Farm](#)

CITATION INFO

Joseph Ricci , "Collin's Farm," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/8>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Carter Hill

Lotz House, Carter House, and the Assault on the Cotton Gin

By Experience Franklin TN



Untitled

A brief introductory section

Hello, This is Of the Lotz House.

In the predawn morning of November 30, 1864, the Federal Army led by Major General John Schofield arrived at Franklin after a nighttime forced march from Spring Hill, TN, 12 miles to the south. The Federals hastily built formidable entrenchments for their 1.5-mile long main line. Their line formed a semicircle just outside the town with both flanks anchored on the Harpeth River. The center of this line ran across the hill where you are currently standing, east to west. The Carter Cotton Gin once stood here.

If you look to your west, you will see the brick home of the Fountain Branch Carter family. Just to the north of here on the east side of Columbia Avenue, is the wood home of the Johann Albert Lotz family.

About a half mile south of here was the Federal advance line under the command of Brigadier General George Wagner. When Lieutenant General John Bell Hood's Confederate army began their advance from Winstead Hill at approximately 4:00 that afternoon, General Wagner's men were overrun, with about 700 of his troops captured. Other Federals in the forward line stampeded down Columbia Pike (now Avenue) to reach their main line that had a gap through which they ran. Some advancing Confederates became intermingled with the retreating Federals. The Federals at this part of the main line did not fire for fear of shooting their own men.

Elsewhere, Confederates attacking the center of the Federal main line came under brutal fire. Confederate Brigadier General George W. Gordon described this action: "Within a hundred paces of their main line ... hell itself had exploded in our faces. Men fell right and left, fast and thick. ... Such a storm of shot and shell, canister and musketry."

By 4:30 pm, the Federal main line along Columbia Pike between the Cotton Gin and the Carter House collapsed as Confederate soldiers charged through this weakened position. Federal soldier J.K. Merrifield, of the 88th

Illinois in Colonel Emerson Opdyke's brigade, which had been held in reserve behind the main line, observed: "We had our guns stacked and were ready to make coffee when, like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, on looking up we saw the line breaking in front of us." Opdyke's men then charged forward to fill the breach through which the Confederates had penetrated about 50 yards north of the opponents' main line.

Intense fighting ensued in darkness, often hand-to-hand, with sabers, bayonets, rifle butts, entrenchment tools, and fists used as weapons. Surviving Confederate Sergeant Major Cunningham of the 41st Tennessee stated: "The greater part of the battle was fought after nightfall, and once in the midst of it, with but the light of the flashing guns, I could see only what passed directly under my own eyes. True, the moon was shining; but the dense smoke and dust (were) ... like a heavy fog before the rising of the sun."

Federal soldier S.B. Miller of the 100th Ohio recounted: "I saw three Confederates standing within our lines, as if they had dropped down unseen from the sky. They stood there for an instant, guns in hand, neither offering to shoot nor surrender – dazed as in a dream. I raised my gun, but instinctively I felt as if about to commit murder – they were helpless, and I turned my face to the foe trying to clamber over our abatis. When I looked again the three were down – apparently dead; whether shot by their own men or ours, who could tell?"

Nineteen-year-old Major Arthur MacArthur, a member of Opdyke's brigade and the future father of General Douglas MacArthur of World War II and Korean War fame, had his horse shot out from under him in the Carter House yard and suffered three gunshot wounds while still managing to run-through a Confederate flag bearer with his sword. Opdyke's troops were instrumental in halting the Confederate advance here and reforming the center of the Federal main line.

Coordinated Confederate attacks also occurred across all the Federal main line but became disjointed as the evening wore on. The fiercest fighting was over by 7:00 pm and gave way to only sporadic gunfire by 9:00 pm.

Bystanders to this brutal fighting were the Lotz and Carter families and several enslaved workers who sought shelter in the Carter House cellar just before the battle commenced. All they could do was wait for the battle to end. The children huddled around their mothers and cried because they were scared. One child was Matilda Lotz who had just turned 6 years old the day before. She would become a famous artist in her adult years.

The following morning when the carnage could be fully assessed, a mortally wounded Confederate soldier was found nearby, Theodrick "Tod" Carter, whose childhood home was the Carter House. He was taken back there where he died of his wounds surrounded by family. In addition to this tragedy, the Carter and Lotz families discovered their homes had sustained significant battle damage. Both houses became field hospitals.



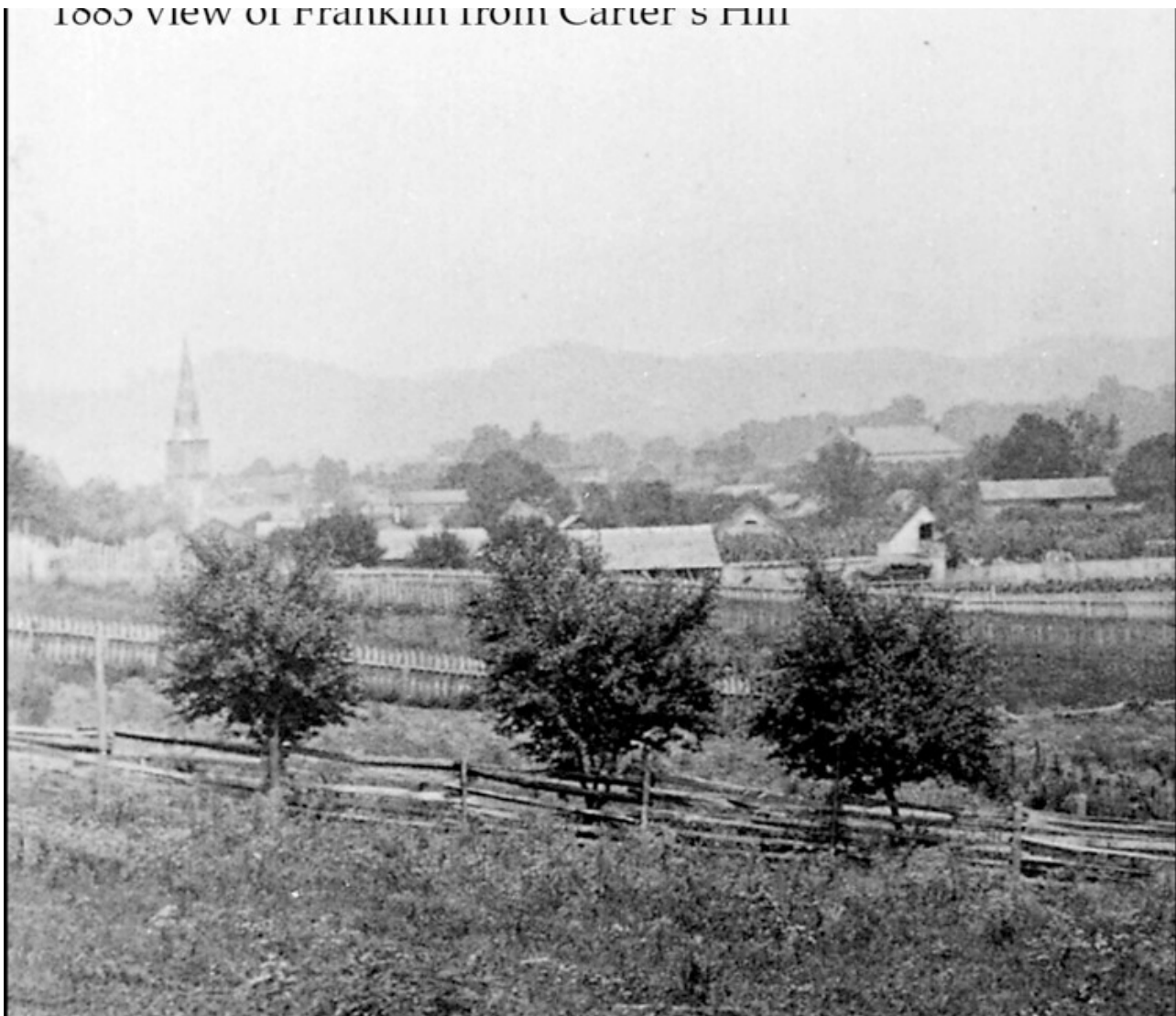
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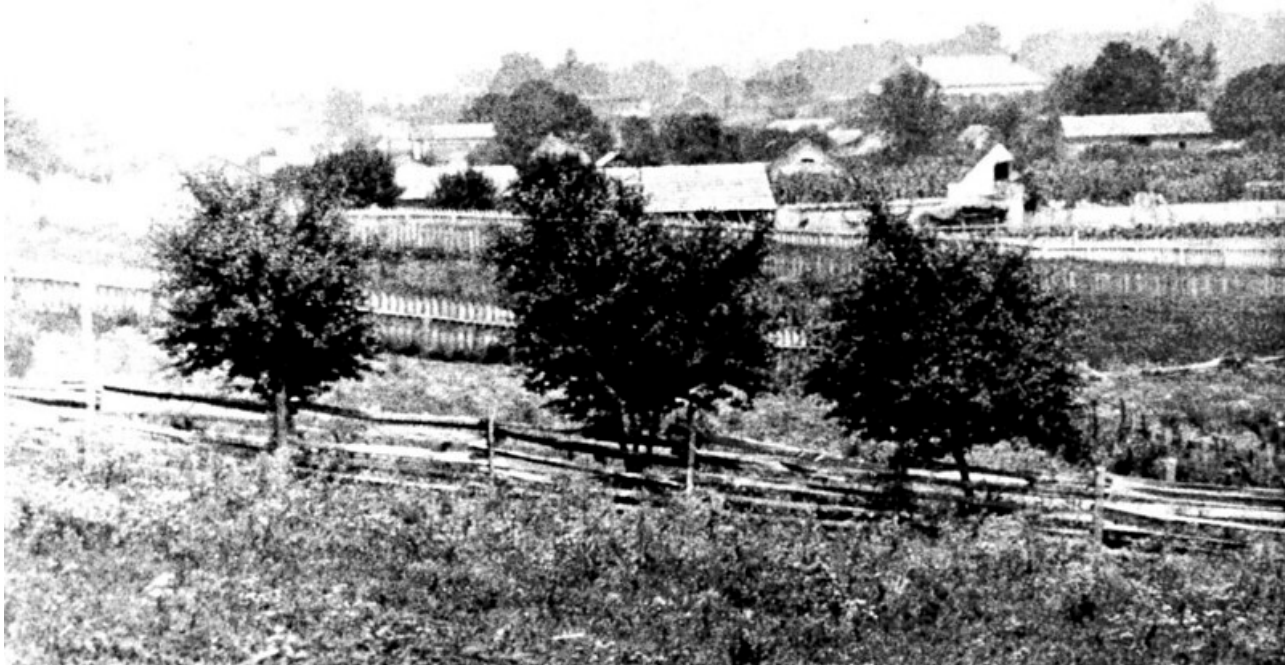
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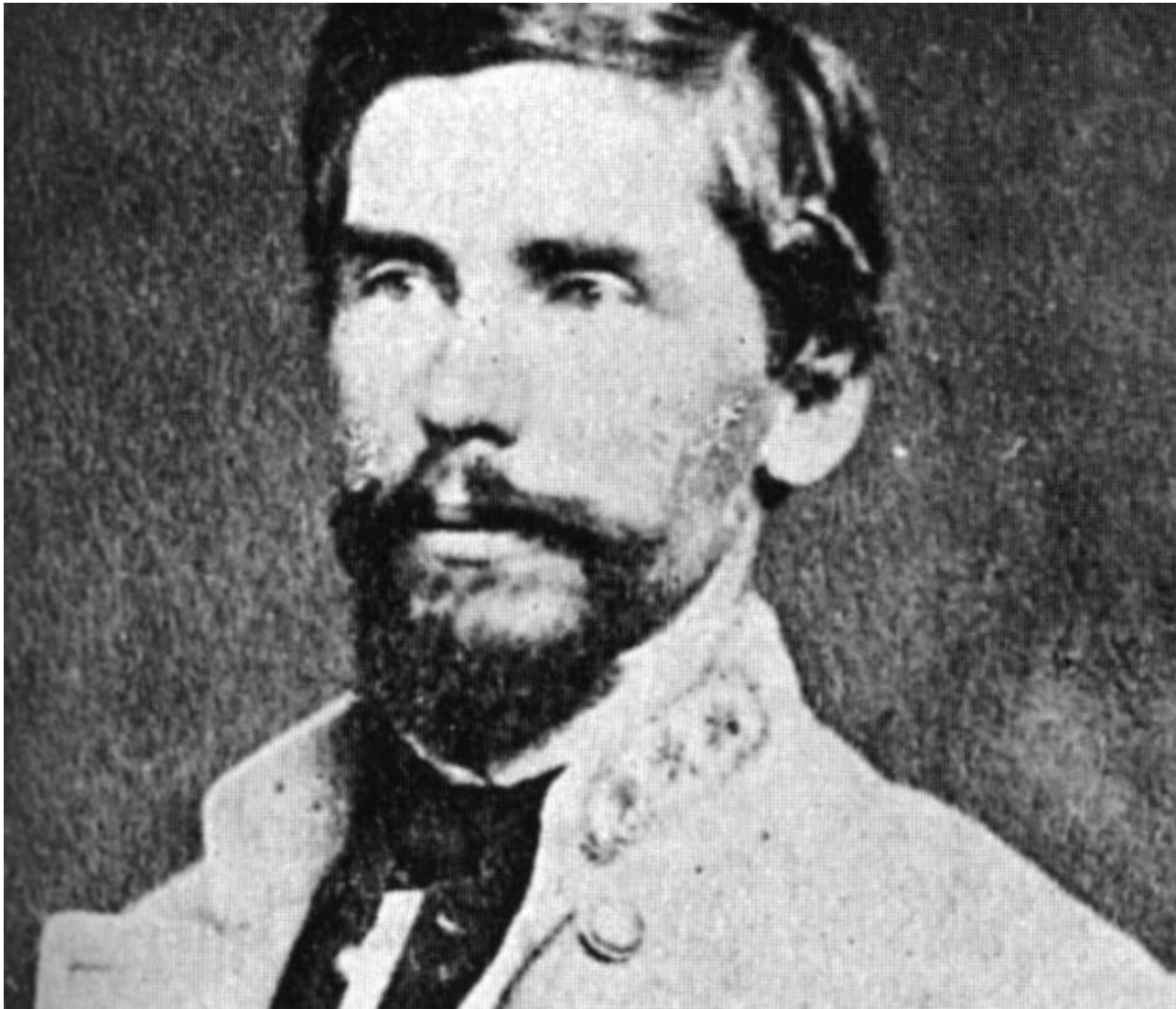
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Aerial View of Cotton Gin Site in 2013

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Metadata

CITATION INFO

“Carter Hill,” *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025,
<https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/17>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Carnton and the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park

The Battle of Franklin at Carnton

By Joseph Ricci & Eric Jacobson



Carnton

As the war unfolds, the McGavock house is commandeered and death arrives on the doorstep.

Behind you is Carnton, the residence of John and Carrie McGavock and their family. Originally built around 1826, the Federal style home was surrounded by farmland and maintained through slave labor. By 1860, the Slave Schedule enumerated forty-four enslaved men, women, and children at Carnton. The home became a hospital on November 30, 1864, during the Battle of Franklin. Just before the Confederate assault began, a chaplain commandeered the house for use as a field hospital for General William Loring's Division. At 4:00 PM, General John Bell Hood ordered the Army of Tennessee forward to attack the Federal position almost a mile from here. Loring's Division, comprised of three brigades of men from Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, formed to the south of Carnton and advanced across the field in your viewshed.

Exposed to artillery fire as they moved across what was farmland and cattle pasture, Loring's men suffered grievous casualties from explosive shells and percussion shot before they entered the range of small arms fire. They, along with the division of General Edward Walthall, flung themselves toward the Federal earthworks while a "hurricane of combustibles" tore through their ranks. The intense fire poured out by Col. Israel Stiles and Col. John Casement's Federal Brigades forced the Confederates to shelter in the ditch below their fortifications. While toward the Carter Farm the Rebel attack broke through a portion of the U.S. Army's defensive line, along the eastern portion of the line few Confederates made it over the earthworks. Those who succeeded did so only to become prisoners. The casualties mounted by the minute as the guns of Battery G, 1st Ohio and Battery M, 4th U.S. Light Artillery fired 1,260 rounds into the advancing Confederates. Wounded men of the brigades commanded by Generals Thomas M. Scott, Winfield Scott Featherston, and John Adams were removed from the field and brought back to Carnton.

Hundreds of men sought treatment at Carnton, and as the remains of Loring's Division stumbled back toward the house, the suffering only grew

more intense. John and Carrie, their seven-year-old son, Winder, and nine-year-old daughter, Hattie, provided whatever comforts possible to the wounded Confederates. Every room in the house was filled, and the air was thick with the acrid smell of smoke and blood. In the distance, the boom of cannons and the firing of small arms grew faint. The heaviest fighting ended around 9:00 PM, and the Confederate attack at Franklin failed.

As dawn broke over the field, sunlight revealed an ocean of suffering to the south of town. Dead and wounded men covered the ground in every direction. Still more wounded men made their way to Carnton, and the bodies of Confederate Generals Patrick Cleburne, Hiram Granbury, Otho Strahl, and John Adams were laid on the back porch to await their burials. The house swelled with wounded. A Louisiana veteran later recalled how the McGavocks were “assisted by an old colored woman” who was tasked with “cooking and washing for the wounded men.” Two days later, the Confederate Army marched north to Nashville and left behind many of their wounded in the care of Franklin’s residents. At Carnton, the wounded and dying occupied every available space for days, weeks, and months after the battle. Among those left behind was Colonel Mike Farrell of the 15th Mississippi. His comrade, John L. Collins, later remembered:

“Col. Mike Farrell...lay in one of the upper rooms of the mansion, both of his legs having been amputated...I was greeted with a radiant and complacent smile which I hardly expected, for I had learned that he could never recover. Then came the great burden of his ambition in these words: ‘John, you’re not going to let Colonel Lowry beat me for brigadier general, are you?’ After a moment’s reflection, I replied: ‘Colonel, you know that it is not within my province to control such a matter. I only wish it were, for you justly deserve promotion, which you know I would cheerfully grant.’

Thus I bade my old drillmaster a pathetic good-by...”

Col. Mike Farrell died on Christmas Day and is buried in grave number one of the Mississippi Section in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery.

i Carnton and the Eastern Flank Battlefield are included in the Franklin Battlefield National Historic Landmark Listing.

i In 2006 the City of Franklin, in cooperation with the American Battlefield Trust took ownership of the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park. The Eastern Flank Battlefield Park was previously a Golf Course and Country Club.



[Carnton](#) | Carnton was built in 1826 by Randal McGavock.



Carnton Slave Cabin during restoration in 1990



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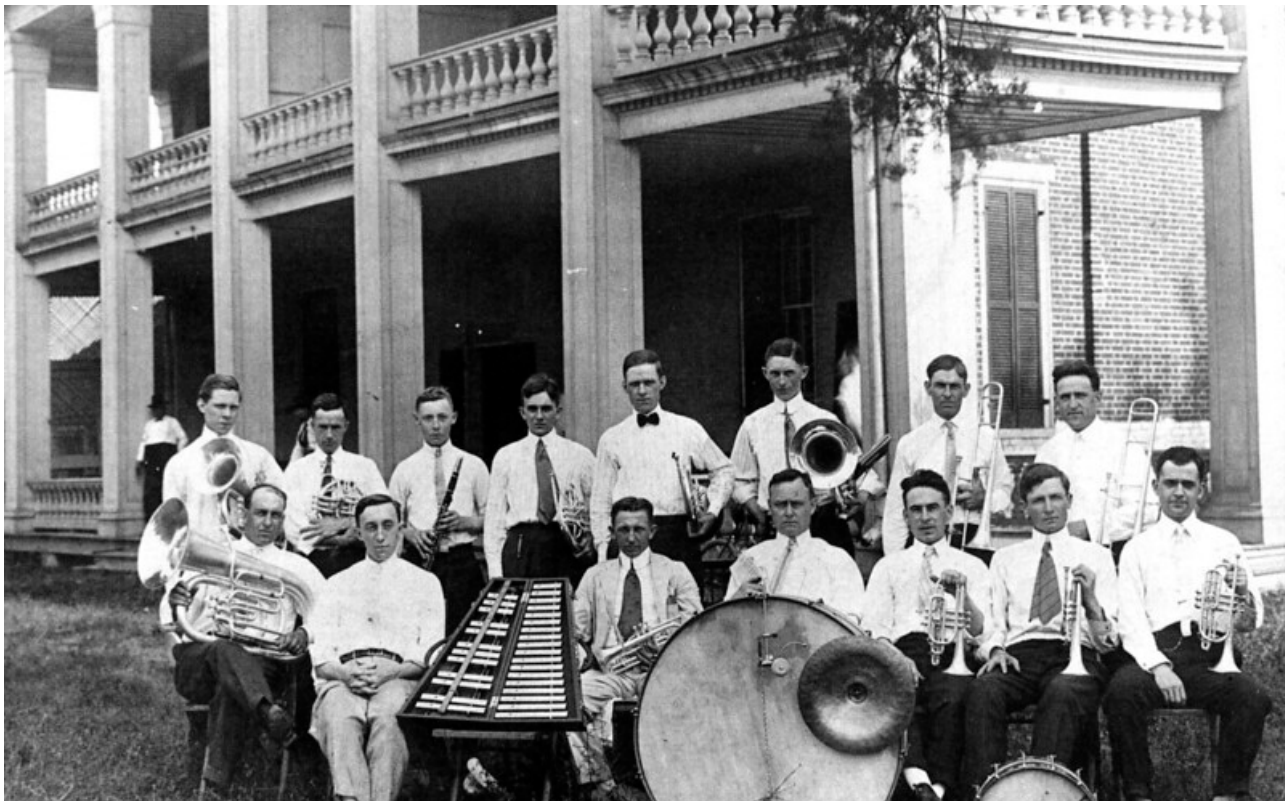


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OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[Official Website for Carnton](#)

[City of Franklin Parks](#)

CITATION INFO

Joseph Ricci and Eric Jacobson, "Carnton and the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/7>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

McGavock Confederate Cemetery

By Marlene Holmes



Untitled

This is one of the largest privately-owned Confederate cemeteries containing 1,481 deceased from the Battle of Franklin.

After the November 30, 1864 battle, Confederate General John Bell Hood left a burial detail in Franklin for two days. The soldiers were quickly buried where they fell. Graves were marked with a wooden headboard - with their name, company and regiment. As winter wore on, many of these headboards disappeared or faded.

By the end of the war, fallen Union soldiers were reinterred to National Cemeteries, but the burial and care for the Confederate dead was left to local citizens.

Seeing this great need, John McGavock and family donated two acres of land adjoining their plantation and family cemetery. In the spring of 1866, citizens of Franklin formed a committee and began raising funds to accomplish the reinterment of each soldier. George Cuppet, along with his brothers, bid the project for \$5.00 per body and were selected for the task. A few weeks after the project began, his brother, Marcellus, became ill and died. Marcellus Cuppet is the only civilian buried in the cemetery.

Each soldier was laid to rest by state. The large number of "Unknown" represented those whose original headboards were gone or had become illegible. Each known name was registered in the Book of the Dead and later kept by John McGavock's wife, Carrie. The original Book of the Dead still exists and is on display at Carnton .

Each soldier had a personal story and made the ultimate sacrifice. Most were far from home and their loved ones.

Ensign William A. Martin left his wife and five children when he enlisted in May of 1862. His regiment, the 65th Georgia Infantry, had a beautiful banner which was made from the silk wedding dress of a proud and patriotic lady from Georgia. They had kept that flag throughout the War and many a color-bearer had forfeited his life carrying the flag into battle. When the Color-Sergeant did not want this position at Franklin, Ensign Martin stepped forward...he would carry the flag. He died on the battlefield. He is buried in Georgia: Section 80, Grave #53.

In 1867, when Mary Gay visited the grave of her half-brother, Lieutenant Thomas Jefferson Stokes, she felt the existing makeshift fence would not protect the graves from farmland and stray animals. She began raising


thousands of dollars and speaking to crowds in Southern States. The historic iron fence you see today was ordered and installed at a cost of \$7,000. There is a small plaque of tribute to her at the entrance gate. Mary's half-brother lies in Texas: Section 4, Grave #59.

The McEwen Bivouac of Veterans assisted in maintaining the graves for many years and in 1890 raised funds to replace the wooden headboards with the limestone markers you see today.

In 1911, the deed to the cemetery and right-of-way from Lewisburg Pike was presented to the newly chartered McGavock Confederate Cemetery Corporation. Today, that organization continues to own and maintain the cemetery. The trustees are members of Franklin Chapter 14 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

May these men rest in peace...

i An annual Memorial Service, on the first Sunday in June, is held to remember the fallen soldiers. Visitors are welcome to attend.

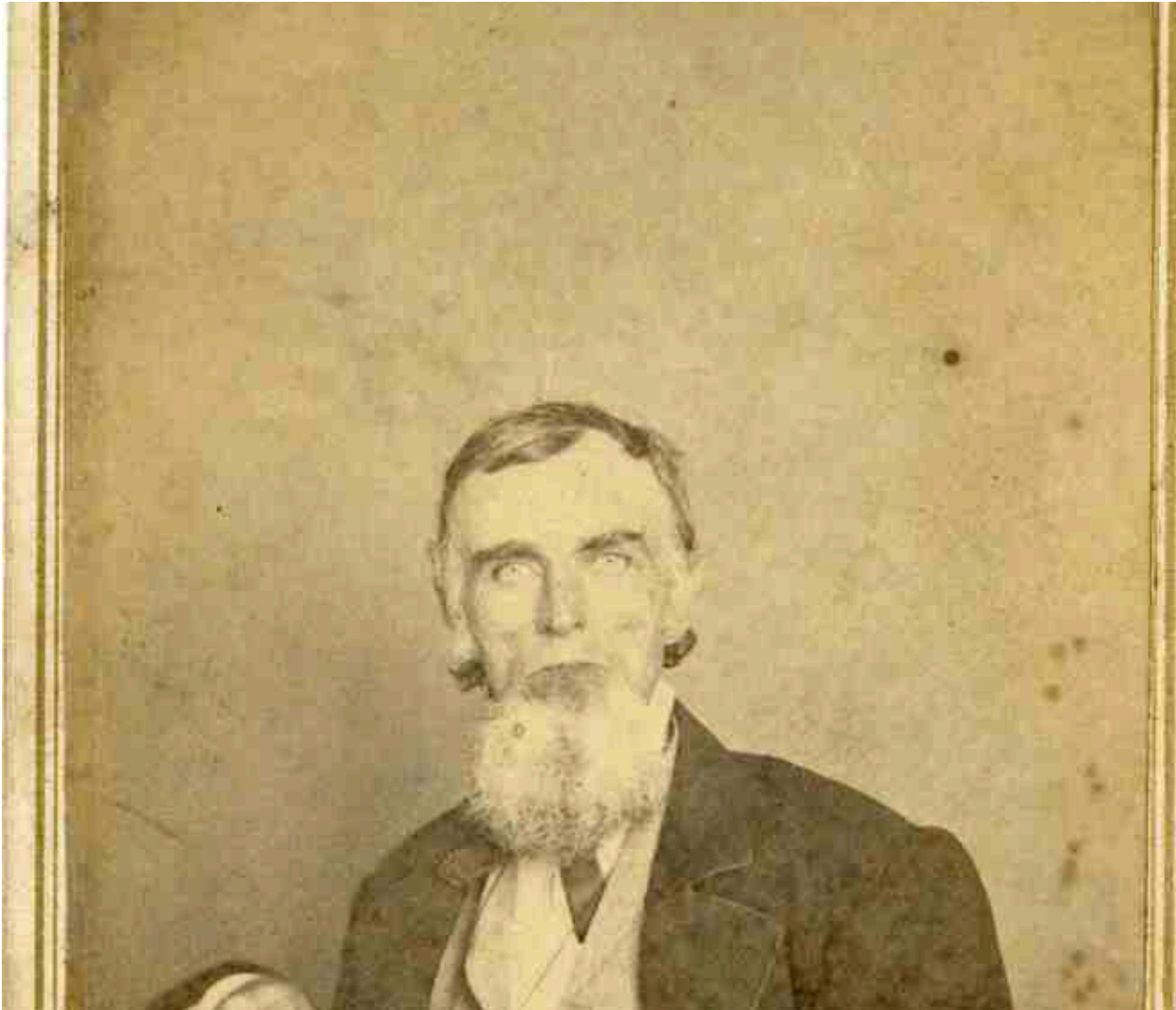
Tennessee 230		Texas 89
		Missouri 130
Alabama 129	East 	Arkansas 104
Georgia 169		
So. Carolina 51		
Louisiana 18		

Untitled

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I G. Callahan of Co. L. 1st
 Regiment Louisiana Infantry
 Battle of Perry on the 1st
 of August 1862. The old
 battle ground after more
 than twenty years absence
 is called to my mind his thank
 for kindness shown to
 me and my comrades
 on that day. His
 name is now
 on the
 roll of his Co.
 at Perry
 La. his Oct 6th 1862

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OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[McGavock Confederate Cemetery](#)

CITATION INFO

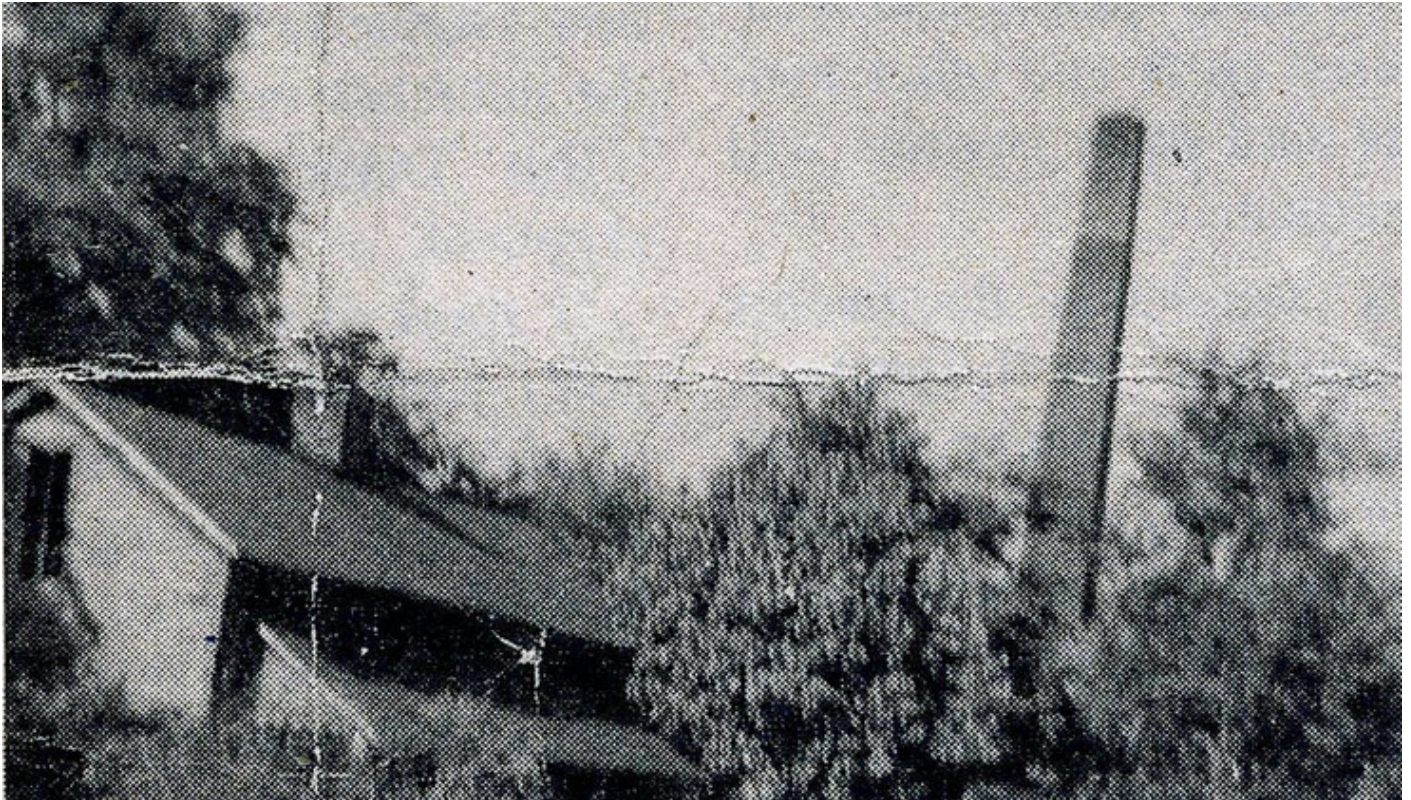
Marlene Holmes , “McGavock Confederate Cemetery,” *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 11, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/13>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

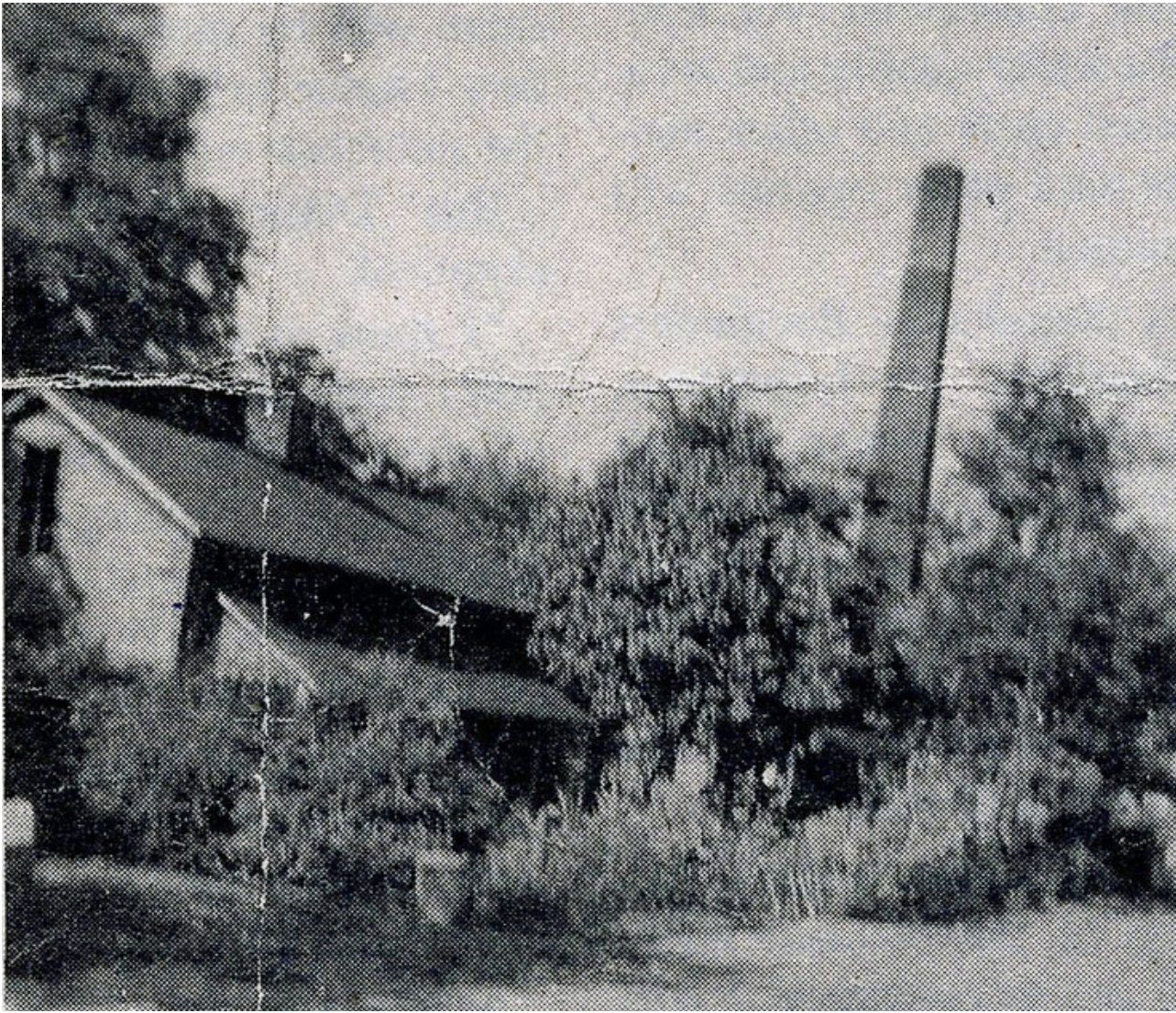
Bucket of Blood Neighborhood

By Ray Eldridge



Untitled

In 1869, Joshua B. Lillie established the Franklin Flouring Mill (Lillie Mill) on this site that was once the Franklin Cotton Factory and Foundry on 1st Avenue. By 1910 black laborers working at Lillie Mills were living in factory-owned houses at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Church Street and known as the "Bucket of Blood" Neighborhood. According to local legend, this colorful name resulted from a knife fight in Pig Hodge's poolroom, in which the victim bled a bucketful of blood. Neighborhood landowners also included several Black Union Civil War veterans.



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Metadata

CITATION INFO

Ray Eldridge, "Bucket of Blood Neighborhood," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/28>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Lillie Mills

By Ray Eldridge



Untitled

The Franklin Cotton Factory and Foundry, a manufacturing operation to produce cotton and woolen goods, was built on these 3.5 acres in 1825. The first steam powered loom in the state was housed in a three-story building and contained a 50-horsepower steam engine. By 1850 the business employed 30 men and 17 women. The adjacent iron foundry had the capacity to make castings for ploughs, stoves, gin and mill machinery. It is believed the fluted columns at the courthouse were molded here in 1857. In 1862, the factory and foundry were destroyed by U.S. troops under

Brigadier General David Stanley to prevent it from supplying the Confederates.

In 1869, Joshua B. Lillie established the Franklin Flouring Mill on this site. By 1910 black laborers working at Lillie Mills were living in factory-owned houses at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Church Street and known as the "Bucket of Blood" Neighborhood. According to local legend, this colorful name resulted from a knife fight in Pig Hodge's poolroom, in which the victim bled a bucketful of blood. Neighborhood landowners also included several Black Union Civil War veterans.

In 1869, Joshua B. Lillie established the Franklin Flouring Mill on this site and it flourished for decades. In 1924, over 70,000 barrels of flour were produced and distributed primarily in southern markets. Lillie Mills was famous for several popular brand names of flour. Some of these included: Franklin Lady, Silver Leaf, White Silk and Tulip. By 1926 several improvements were made, including the construction of large concrete grain elevators at a cost of \$60,000 with a storage capacity of over 250,000 bushels of grain. This was the second largest such facility in the state.

The five-story mill burned in 1958. It was reported that within minutes the flames were leaping 150 feet into the sky and were visible as far away as Brentwood. The Franklin Fire Chief was forced to seek help from several neighboring fire stations to include Nashville. Today, the only reminder of that once-flourishing mill is the large concrete grain elevators, which rise to a height of about 100 feet each.

 The silos are remaining from the Lillie Mills and can be seen along 1st Avenue South.



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CITATION INFO

Ray Eldridge, "Lillie Mills," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025,
<https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/27>.

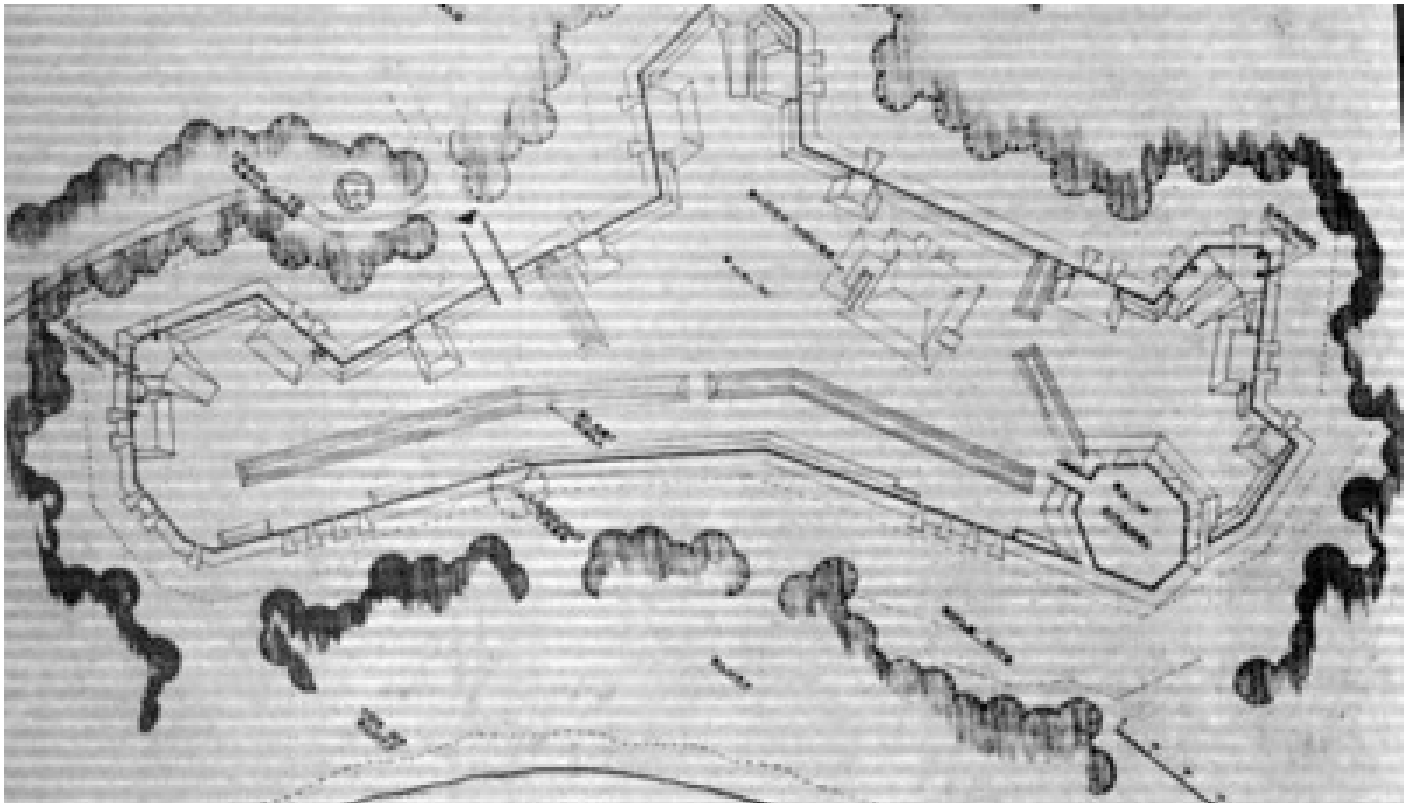
RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Fort Granger

An important fortification
to the North of Franklin

By Revised by Alan Simms



Untitled

A strategic position on the North of Franklin for Federal troops.

Because of its strategic position in the heart of Middle Tennessee and to its vital railroad that led to Nashville, Franklin was a major objective for both

the Union and the Confederacy.

In the spring of 1863, after taking permanent possession of the town, the Federal army began to build a series of fortifications in the area.

Construction began in March of 1863, and Fort Granger would be the largest of these fortifications.

Fort Granger was named for the Federal commander in this region at that time, Major General Gordon Granger. On June 19, 1865, Granger issued General Order No. 3, which informed the people of Texas that all enslaved people were now free. This day has come to be known as Juneteenth, a combination of June and 19th. It is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

Positioned high atop Figuers Bluff, the fort provided a commanding view of the town and the surrounding countryside. Crews also chopped down surrounding trees, groves, orchards and forest as far away as one mile in every direction to provide clear fields of fire. At one point, two large siege guns along with smaller artillery defended the ramparts.

Fort Granger did not see a lot of action during the war – mostly, the gunners engaged in target practice, firing into open fields to the south of town. And, at least twice in the spring of 1863, the fort actually fired upon Confederate raiding parties. However, later in 1863, Fort Granger fell into disrepair as the Federal forces began to move further south. Only a small garrison remained behind as General U.S. Grant advanced towards Vicksburg and General William S. Rosecrans pushed toward Chattanooga.

During the Battle of Franklin, the fort was revived to serve as US Major General John M. Schofield's command post. Also, several Federal troop batteries and infantry regiments were stationed around the fort. It has been reported that an Ohio battery armed with three-inch ordinance

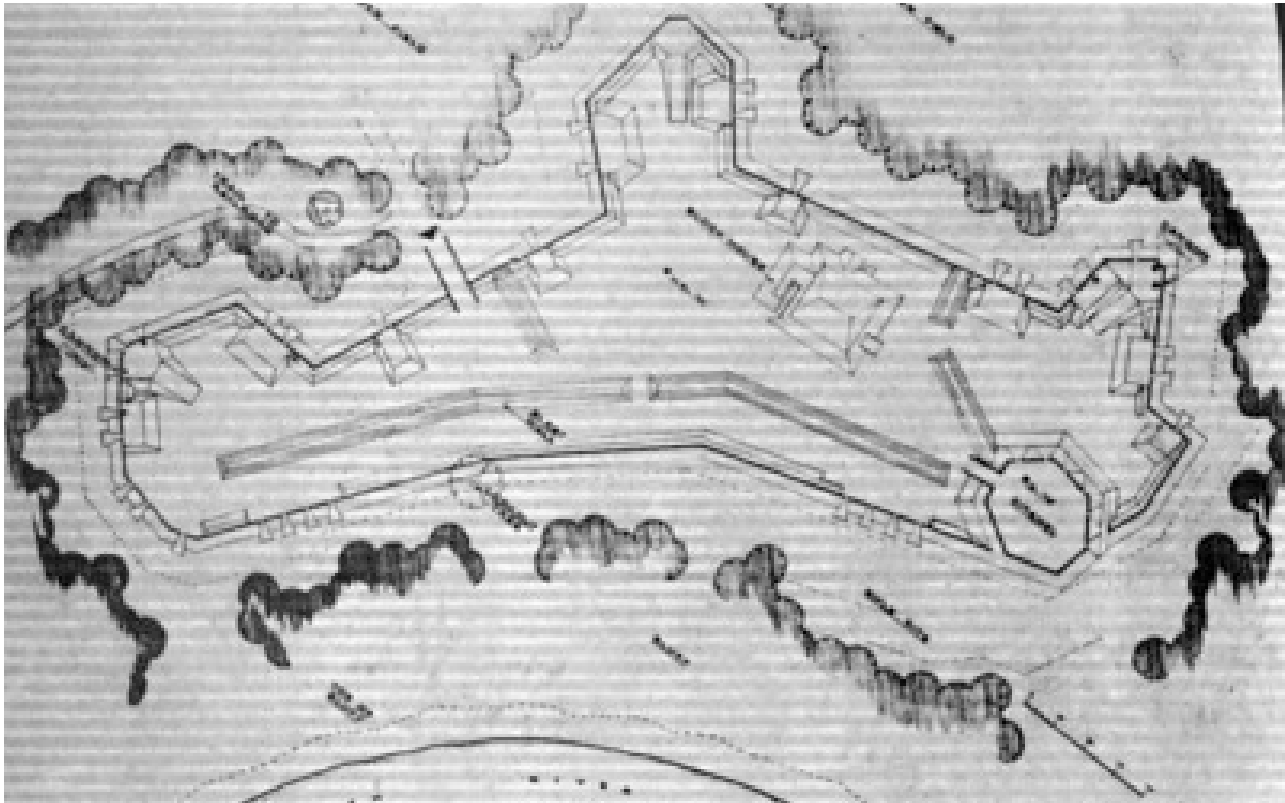
artillery lobbed over a hundred and sixty rounds into the advancing Confederates from this fortress.

About a mile to the northeast is Roper's Knob, is a large hill that rises more than 900 feet above sea level.

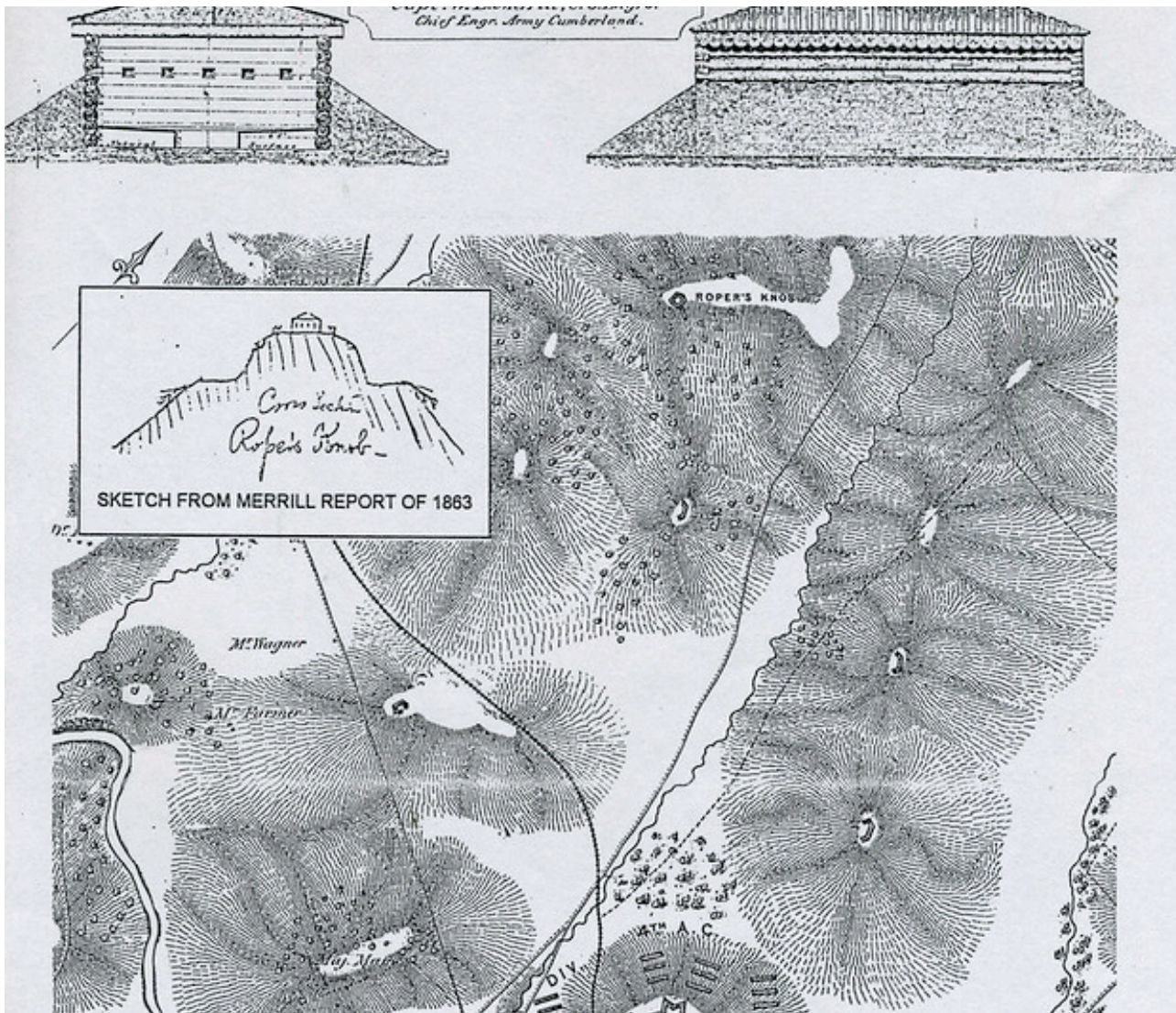
Although Roper's Knob was not occupied at the time of the Battle of Franklin, it played a very important role in the Civil War. Located centrally, Roper's Knob was consistently used as a signal station and observation post by Federal troops throughout the war and was a key communications link between Nashville to the north and Murfreesboro to the southeast. Communications were conducted by "wig wag" flags by day and colored torches by night. [Learn more about Roper's Knob here.](#)

The Knob, along with nearby Fort Granger, helped guard both the Nashville Turnpike and the vital Nashville and Decatur railroad that passed through the heart of Middle Tennessee.

- i** The City of Franklin has acquired the land to the South of Roper's Knob. The State owns the land on top of Roper's Knob. With the acquired land, the City is now envisioning a future for the site!



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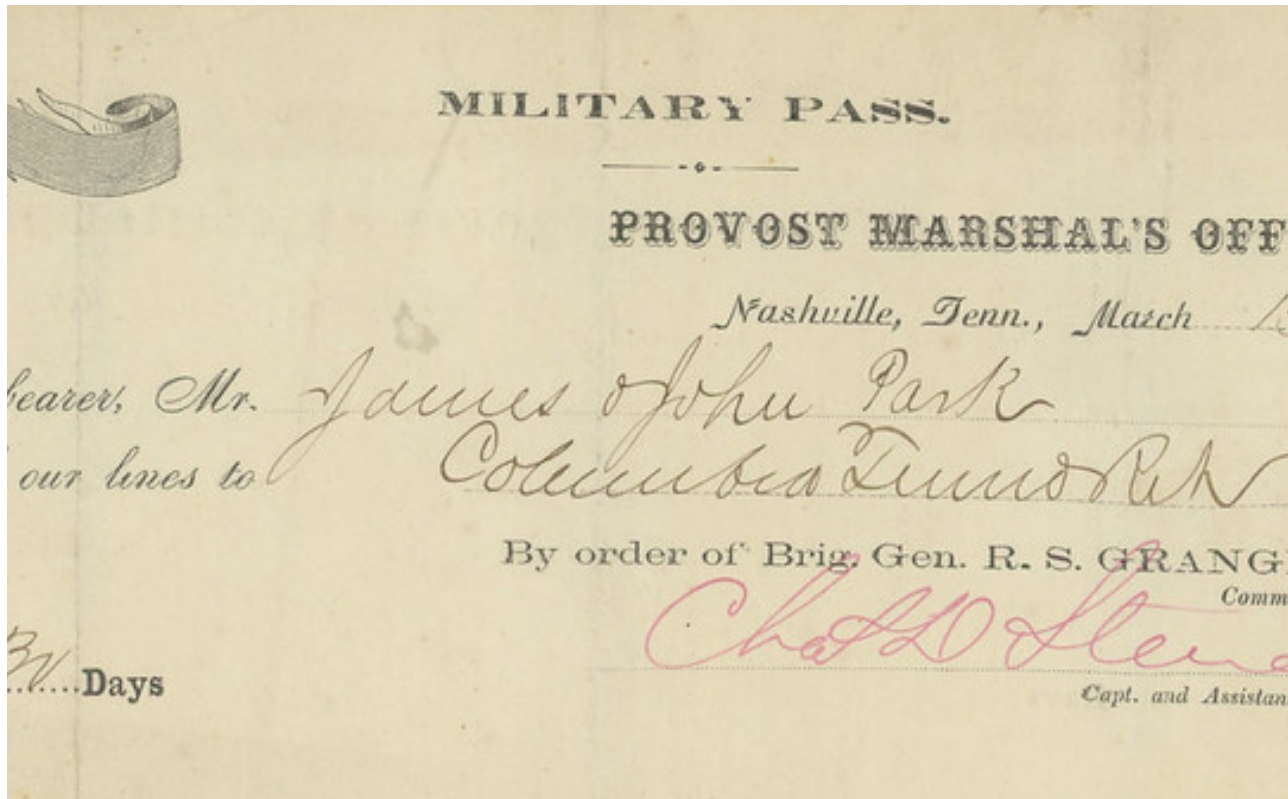
[Battlefield Map](#) | Map of the Battlefield North of Franklin



[General Granger](#) | Image of General Grander, of Fort Granger.



1917 View from Ft. Granger | A view from atop Fort Granger in 1917.



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Metadata

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[Fort Granger Park](#)

CITATION INFO

Revised by Alan Simms , “Fort Granger,” *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/12>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

City Cemetery

By William Macon



City Cemetery

The town's people and their final resting places.


City Cemetery is Franklin's first city-owned cemetery dating back to 1811 when plantation owner Joel Parrish deeded 2 acres to the town commissioners for \$100. This cemetery served everyone. The front section is the oldest and has many cracked and crumbling limestone headstones because the area is in the floodplain and has been underwater at times and because of the practice years ago to burn all the grass. The middle section,

with its massive pecan tree, has enclosed family plots and a cluster of graves belonging to Irish Catholic immigrants. The back section was reserved for the enslaved, free Blacks and the poor, and despite the lack of grave markings, is completely full. The last burial in City Cemetery was in 1936.

Among the early settlers buried here are Ewen and Mary Cameron, who built Franklin's first house in 1798 after their covered wagon broke down in the area while en route to Fort Nashborough. Dr. Daniel McPhail (office built in 1817 and located at 209 E. Main St.), the first physician in Tennessee to successfully anesthetize a patient, is also interred here. He was an original Tennessee volunteer who died in the Mexican War in 1846. His body was apparently misplaced in New Orleans for 3 years, and legend has it that it was eventually returned to Franklin in a whiskey barrel. Fountain Branch Carter and his wife Mary, whose farmhouse was in the epicenter of the Battle of Franklin, are buried beside each other in the middle-left portion of the cemetery. In the back of the cemetery are the graves of Jesse and Anarchy Cowles. Jesse was a freed slave who later purchased the freedom of his wife and children.

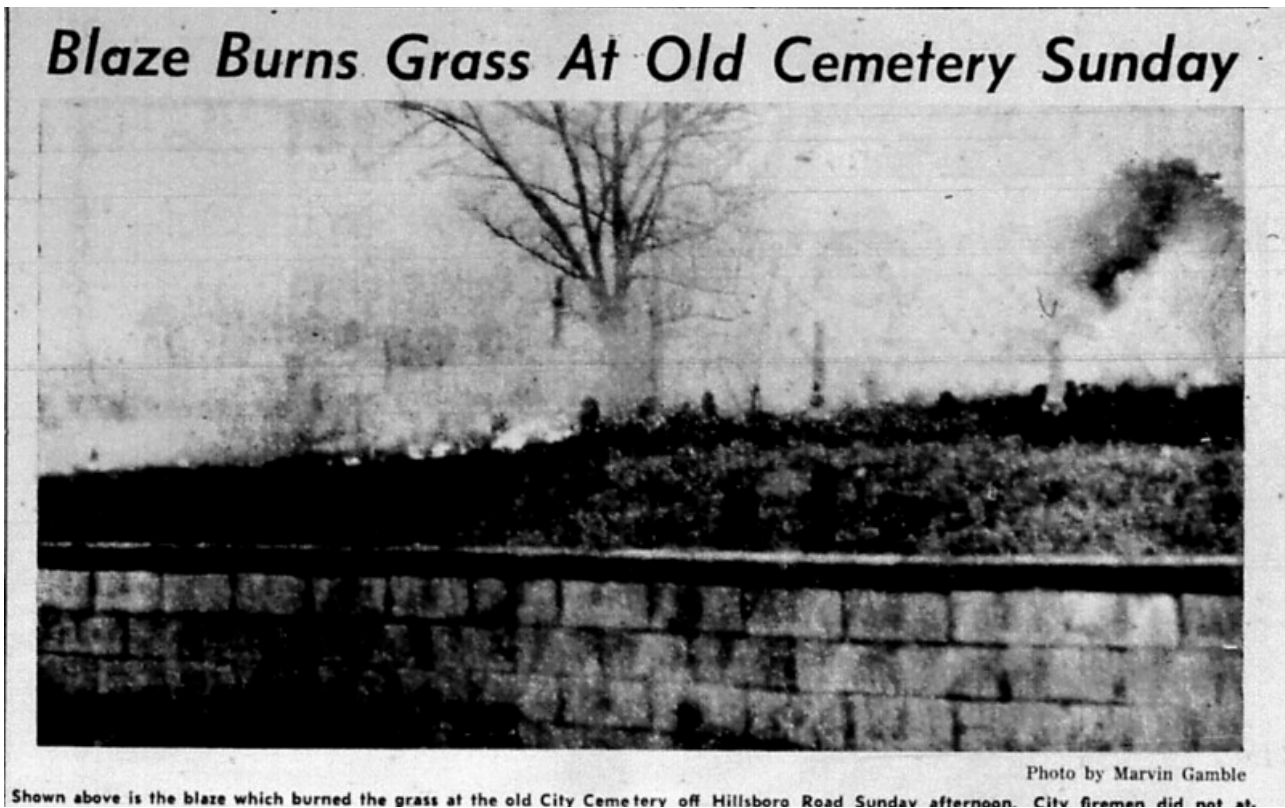
Of note, 4 Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in City Cemetery: Colonel Guilford Dudley, Sr., David Squier, Miles Priest and Moses Priest. The stone gates at the front entry to City Cemetery were erected by the Old Glory Chapter of the D.A.R. in 1916 "in honor of the pioneer men and women buried here."

Across 4th Avenue North is the Rest Haven Cemetery, a 7-acre plot of land given to the city in 1855 by local lawyer and judge John Marshall because City Cemetery was reaching capacity. Unlike City Cemetery, this was a "whites-only" cemetery. [Learn more about Resthaven Cemetery here.](#)

 Restoration efforts for both cemeteries are on going.



[City Cemetery](#) | Aerial image of City Cemetery, date unknown.



[Newspaper Clipping 1966](#) | A newspaper clipping about a fire at the City Cemetery

in 1966.



Untitled

Metadata

CITATION INFO

William Macon, "City Cemetery," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/11>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Rest Haven Cemetery

By Revisions by Dr. William Macon



Untitled

Rest Haven Cemetery is, a 7-acre plot of land given to the city in 1855 by local lawyer and judge John Marshall because City Cemetery, the older cemetery across 4th Avenue was reaching capacity. Unlike City Cemetery, this was a “whites-only” cemetery.

Among those buried at Rest Haven are several U.S. Army (Federal) soldiers and at least 60 Confederate soldiers. Additionally, members of some of the most prominent historic families of Franklin are buried here, including John B. McEwen, Franklin’s Civil War era mayor who surrendered the town

to the Federal Army in 1862 when it occupied Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Also interred here is Dr. Daniel Cliffe, who served briefly as a Confederate surgeon but switched his allegiance to the Union and returned to his medical practice in Franklin where he tended to the wounded of both sides after the Battle of Franklin. The Cliffe family plot tells an interesting story of union and disunion. Dr. Cliffe's daughter, Belle, married brevet Brigadier General James Brownlow of Knoxville, TN, the commander of the 1st Tennessee (Federal) Volunteer Cavalry and son of the post-war military governor of Tennessee. Dr. Cliffe's son, James Rudder Cliffe, a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Tennessee (Federal) Cavalry, married Cornelia Stith Nichols, an ardent champion of the Confederate cause from girlhood who allegedly burned the Nashville Bridge over the Harpeth River to keep Federal troops out of Franklin.

On the North side of the cemetery is the gravesite of Confederate Captain Theodrick "Tod" Carter, son of Fountain and Mary Carter, who was mortally wounded in the Battle of Franklin about 500 yards from his family's house. He died 2 days later in the house where he was born. Also buried here is Lieutenant Colonel George Grummond, a Federal officer who married a Franklin woman named Fanny Courtney. After the Civil War, she accompanied him to the Wyoming territory where he was killed in the Fetterman massacre in 1866 during the Indian Wars.

At the center of the cemetery is the final resting place of an unknown soldier of the Civil War. In 2009, a construction crew found his remains, 6 U.S. Army tunic buttons and a Minié ball along Columbia Avenue about 2 miles south of here. Forensic examination could not conclusively determine if he was Federal or Confederate. Nevertheless, in October 2009, thousands of people attended a ceremony to place him to rest. Soil from the 18 states represented at the Battle of Franklin was poured upon the grave. The pillar that marks his grave, part of the original columns from

the Capitol Building in Nashville, stands in remembrance of all unknown soldiers of the American Civil War.

[Learn more about City Cemetery here.](#)



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Metadata

RELATED RESOURCES

To view the original Leadership Franklin Audio Recordings, please use the following link to listen.

CITATION INFO

Revisions by Dr. William Macon, "Rest Haven Cemetery," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/50>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Winstead Hill

Winstead Hill and the Harrison House

By Experience Franklin TN



Untitled

Winstead Hill is important southern outlook about two miles south of Franklin, which provided an observation outpost of the unfolding battle for Confederate General John Bell Hood.

Confederate Lieutenant General John Bell Hood's troops formed on Winstead Hill along Columbia Pike before their great charge at the Battle of

Franklin on November 30, 1864. Named after the land's deceased owner and slave holder, Samuel Winstead, the hill rises approximately 200-feet above the city of Franklin, two miles to its north. At that time, the landscape beneath the hill to the city consisted of open meadows with gentle swells, stands of Eastern Red Cedar trees, and thin soil through which the limestone bedrock was exposed. The weather on the day of the battle was described as bright, clear, and unseasonably mild.

Winstead Hill served as Hood's command post during the battle. Below the hill, Major General Benjamin F. Cheatham's Corps formed alongside Brigadier General Alexander P. Stewart's Corps for the frontal assault on the entrenched Federal Forces of Major General John M. Schofield's 4th and 23rd U.S. Army Corps comprised of approximately 27,000 men supported by well-positioned artillery. Of note, Confederate Lieutenant General Stephen D. Lee's Corps, with most of Hood's artillery, was still on the road from Spring Hill, TN and had yet to arrive on the scene.

One of the most impressive spectacles of the war unfolded below just before sunset as 18 Confederate brigades comprised of 100 regiments marched in a nearly two-mile wide line through the open fields to the west of and along Columbia Pike over to Lewisburg Pike to the east. With their battle flags waving and bands playing, this advance was likened to Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, but with an even more disastrous result.

Approximately 20,000 Confederates were engaged, and they had little artillery cover. They suffered greater than 6,000 casualties (killed, wounded and missing/captured), including 14 generals and 55 regimental commanders. Hood later made the following statements: "The line advanced at 4 p.m. with orders to drive the enemy into or across the Big Harpeth River Never did troops fight more gallantly."

Today, Winstead Hill Park (National Landmark) commands a view of the Franklin Battlefield terrain. A Battle of Franklin topographical map is

mounted in the overlook shelter. Along the “General’s Walk” are monuments to the six Confederate generals who died at the Battle of Franklin. There are also memorials to the Confederate soldiers from six of the Southern states whose men fought in the battle.

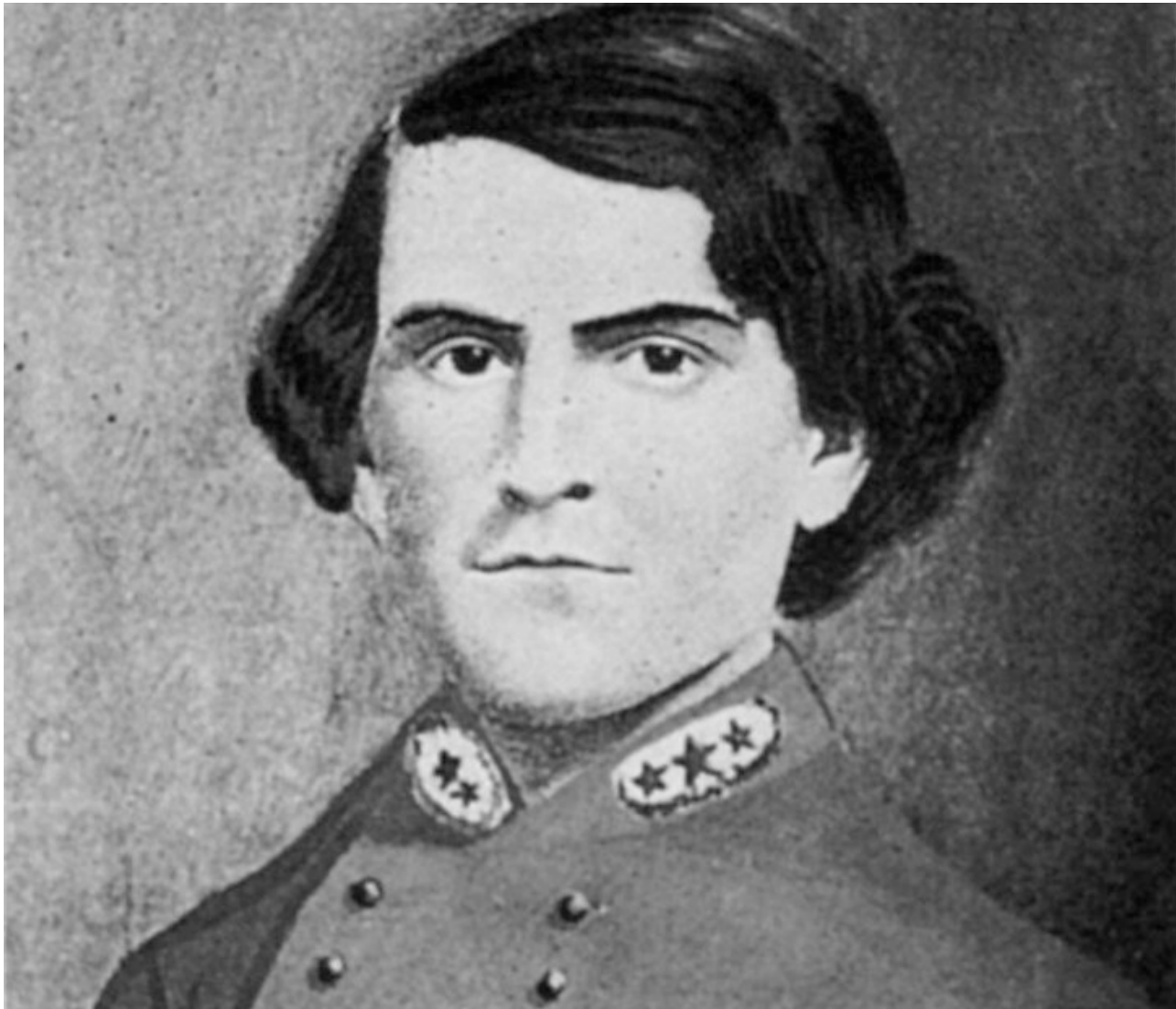
Just south of Winstead Hill Park is a marker about the Harrison House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and is now a private residence. The brick home was built in 1826 and is Federal and Antebellum in architectural design. The home saw much of the events of the battle unfold in 1864. It was commandeered by General Hood as his headquarters and staging area for the Battle of Franklin. The home served as one of 44 field hospitals throughout Franklin as well as Confederate spy headquarters for Annie Briggs Harrison. Two mortally wounded Confederate generals died in the Harrison House following the battle, one of whom was temporarily buried in the garden before being relocated.



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CITATION INFO

“Winstead Hill,” *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025,
<https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/16>.

RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Roper's Knob

An important signal station to the north of Franklin.

By [Alan Simms](#)



[Untitled](#)

In the spring of 1863, after taking permanent possession of the town, the Federal army began to build a series of fortifications in the area. One of these fortifications was on Roper's Knob, which rises more than 900 feet above sea level. The 78th Illinois Infantry was used significantly to construct fortifications on Roper's Knob. They also built entrenchments

and an octagonal log block house capable of holding 60 troops on top of Roper's Knob. A sophisticated pulley system helped lift artillery to the summit.

Around the blockhouse stood an earthen redoubt, with four artillery platforms and two water cisterns. Nearly halfway down, rifle pits and a wide crown of abates (felled trees with sharpened branches) ringed the entire hill. To provide a clear line of fire, Federals also deforested the hill and much of the surrounding area, allowing gunners to see for miles. The defensive works were so formidable, a Union engineer reported "50 men could hold it against 5,000." As it turned out, Confederates never challenged this position, and the Federals abandoned the hill by the time of the Battle of Franklin.

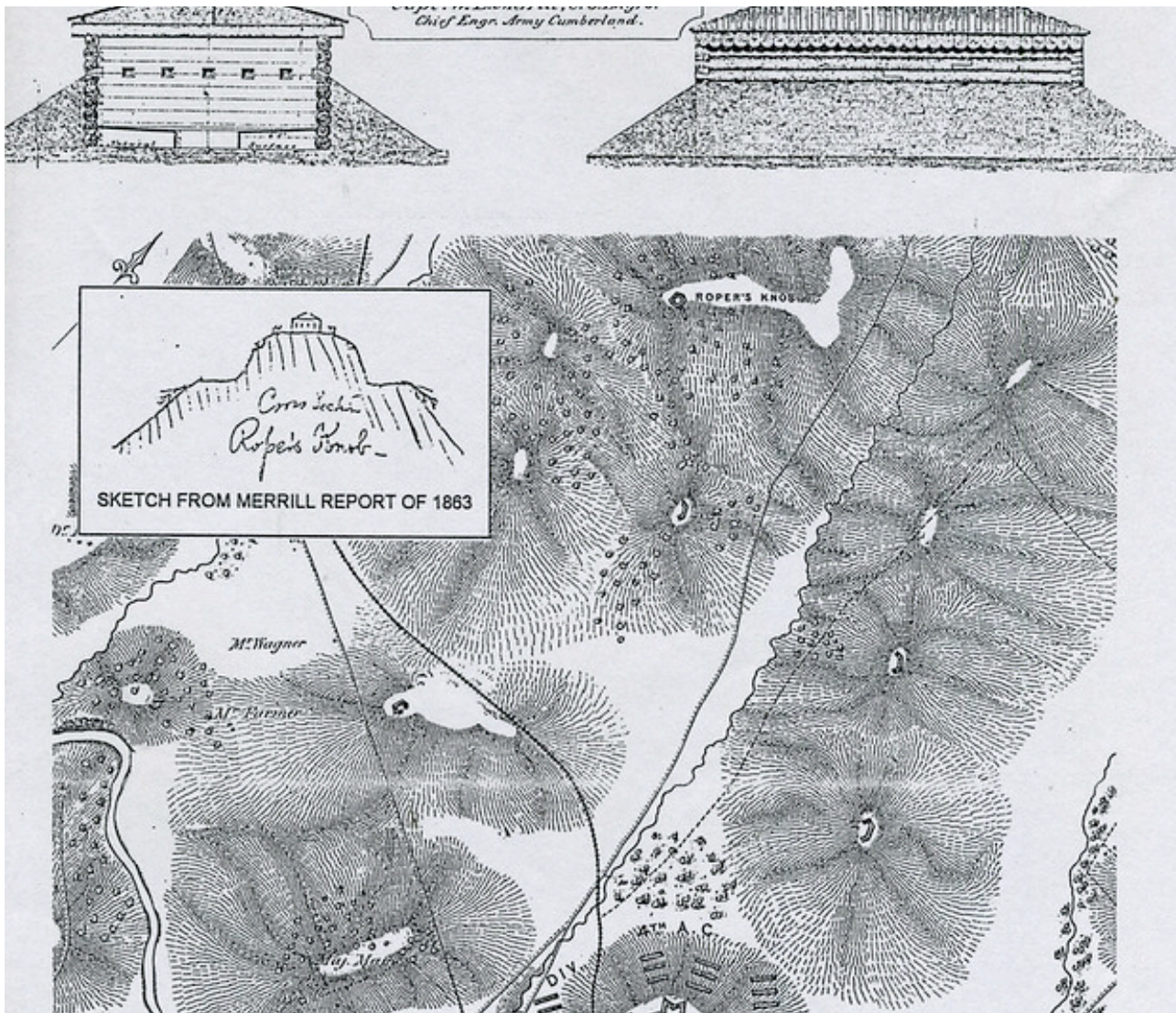
Although Roper's Knob was not occupied at the time of the Battle of Franklin, it played a very important role in the Civil War. Located centrally, Roper's Knob was consistently used as a signal station and observation post by Federal troops throughout the war and was a key communications link between Nashville to the north and Murfreesboro to the southeast. Communications were conducted by "wig wag" flags by day and colored torches by night.

The Knob, along with Fort Granger located a mile to the southwest, helped guard both the Nashville Turnpike and the vital Nashville and Decatur railroad that passed through the heart of Middle Tennessee. Learn more about Ft. Granger [here](#).

i Roper's Knob was recently acquired by the City of Franklin in partnership with Franklin's Charge and



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CITATION INFO

Alan Simms, "Roper's Knob," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025,
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RELATED TOURS

[BATTLEFIELD AND BEYOND \(SEPARATED LOCATIONS\)](#)

Harlinsdale Farm

Civil War History

By William Macon



1950s Aerial Image

The retreat along Franklin Road and what is now Harlinsdale Farm.

Welcome to the Park at Harlinsdale Farm, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As described by Abbi Witt in a July 2020 blog post, it consists of “rolling farmland, old trees, a picturesque pond, room to

run around, and a stately barn.” It has been a cornerstone of Franklin’s culture for nearly a century and represents the rich history of Tennessee’s agricultural roots.

Prior to the development of the farm and shortly after the Battle of Franklin, the Federal and Confederate armies proceeded northward to Nashville. On December 15, 1864, the Federal troops under Major General George H. Thomas launched a major offensive against Lieutenant General John Bell Hood’s Confederate Army of Tennessee to their south.

After 2 days of fighting in the Battle of Nashville, the Confederates were routed and sent in full retreat toward Franklin with Federal cavalry and infantry close behind. Lieutenant General Stephen D. Lee's Corps and Brigadier General James R. Chalmer's Cavalry Division covered the Confederate withdrawal, fighting continuously for 21 miles.

Late on the morning of December 17, as a hard cold rain began to fall, the Confederates passed along these fields. Hard on their heels was the Federal cavalry of Brigadier General James H. Wilson, which had gathered that morning near Spencer Creek. As many as 3,000 troopers charged forward on both sides of Franklin Pike to try to smash the Confederate rearguard. Confederate cavalymen and artillery firing from the riverbank slowed the Federal attack and enabled Hood’s men to escape across the Harpeth River on a narrow pontoon bridge. The Federal cavalry charge, much of it over what is today known as Harlinsdale Farm, was among the largest in the Civil War.

As the day progressed, fighting continued through and south of Franklin. Nightfall and exhaustion finally ended Wilson's cavalry attacks, and the Confederates bivouacked near Spring Hill on the night of December 17. Hood's retreat over roads covered by "bayonet-sharp" ice proceeded for over 100 miles under constant harassment by Wilson's Cavalry. By now, the Confederate retreat was covered by Major General Nathan Bedford

Forrest's Cavalry until the battered Confederate Army crossed the Tennessee River near Florence, AL on December 29, 1864. Hood's retreat ended in Tupelo, MS, and he resigned his command on January 13, 1865.

- i** Harlinsdale Farm was an operational farm until 2004. The City purchased the property with a vision. The property is now a public park, continues to host equestrian events, and is the site of the Pilgrimage Music Festival.

- i** The Hayes House and Main Barn recently underwent rehabilitation projects to restore the structures.



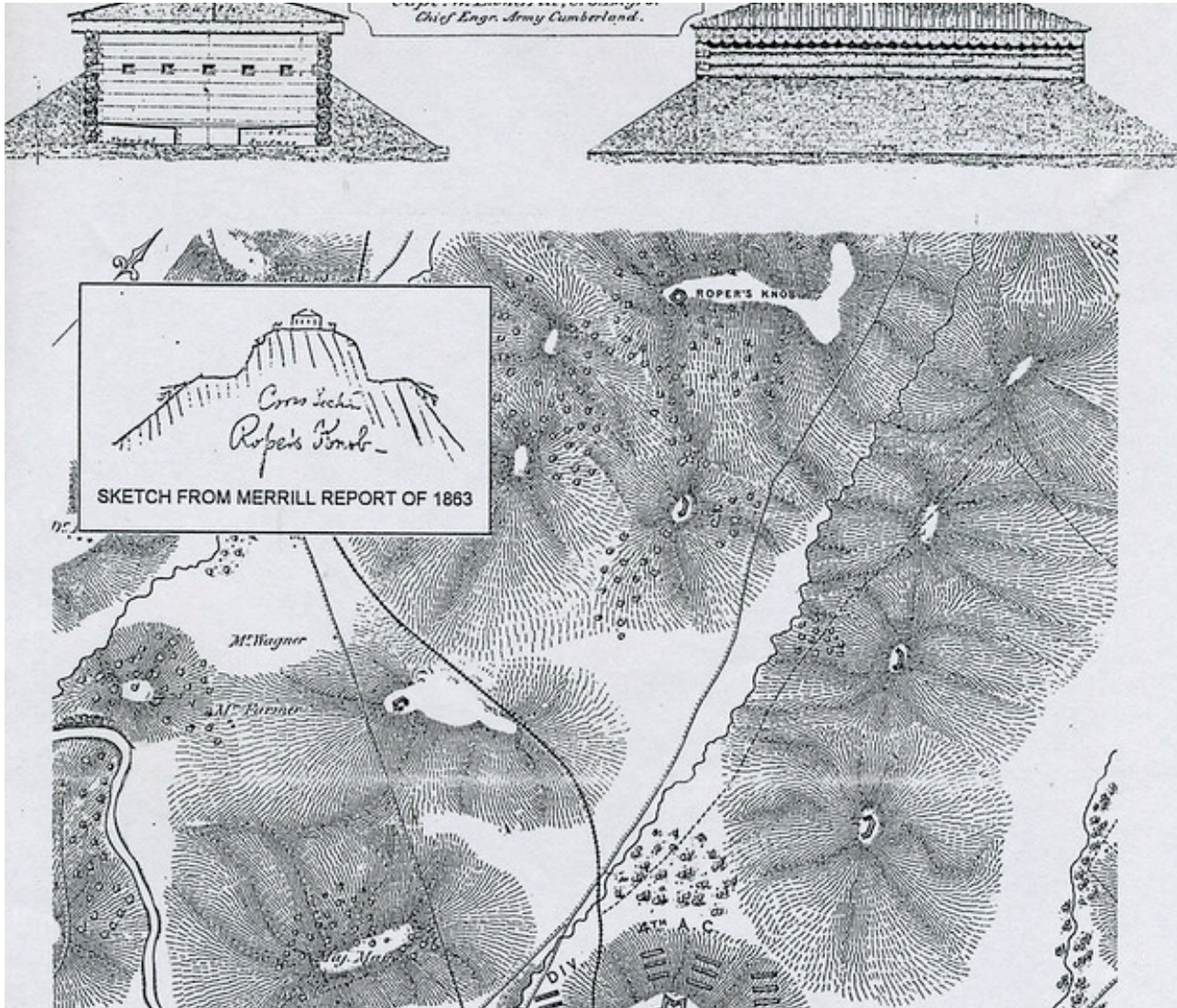
[1950s Aerial Image](#) | Aerial view of Myles Manor, Harlinsdale Farm, and the Magic Chef Factory



Horses in front of Main Barn | Image of horses in the field in front of the Main Barn at Harlinsdale.



[1950s Aerial Image from Downtown Franklin](#) | Aerial image showing Harlinsdale in the distance along Franklin Road from above Downtown Franklin.



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OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[The Park At Harlinsdale Farm](#)

CITATION INFO

William Macon, "Harlinsdale Farm," *Experience Franklin TN*, accessed November 10, 2025, <https://experience.franklintn.gov/items/show/14>.

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