

BATTLE OF
FRANKLIN
 TRUST

Battlefield Dispatch

The Carter House and Carnton Plantation October 2011

Descendant's Reunion

The Battle of Franklin Trust hosted the 8th annual Descendants Reunion Friday, September 30–Sunday, October 2, 2011. The experience allowed descendants of soldiers who fought in the Battle of Franklin, as well as those descended from families who lived in Franklin during the Civil War, to gather together and experience the history of their ancestors.



Descendants brought documents and artifacts relating to their ancestors to share with the Battle of Franklin Trust. Curator Joanna Stephens and Elizabeth Atkinson read and scan documents to add to the archives.



Above: Eric Jacobson and Thomas Cartwright led a specialized battlefield tour for attendees of the Battle of Franklin Descendants Reunion, highlighting areas of the battlefield where individual ancestors would have fought.



Eric Jacobson addresses descendants in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery



Left: Alan Corry leads the memorial service in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery.

ANNIVERSARY REENACTMENT SET FOR OCTOBER 15-16

The Battle of Franklin 147th Anniversary Reenactment, formerly known as Civil War Days, is set for Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16 at the Park at Harlinsdale Farm. Visitors will get a glimpse into the life of a soldier during the Battle of Franklin, which was fought on November 30, 1864. This year's event is twice the size of last year with a larger battlefield and double the number of reenactors, which is estimated at approximately 700.

Federal and Confederate reenactment units will be camping throughout the weekend at the Park at Harlinsdale Farm. Guests are welcome

to visit the encampments and learn more about what life was like for ordinary soldiers. Rifle and cannon displays, as well as artillery, cavalry and infantry demonstrations, will give an up-close look at the implements of 19th century warfare and the order and execution of battle plans. Period sutlers will be on hand offering food and provisions of the era.

Large-scale reenactments of the battle will be held on Saturday beginning at 2:00pm and Sunday beginning at 1:30pm. Spectators can view the action from the hillside surrounding the battlefield and are encouraged to

bring lawn chairs and blankets. Visitors will get a sense of the scope of the combat, with Confederates making repeated frontal assaults against the well-fortified Federal lines. Simulated cannon fire and cavalry displays of horsemanship will help illustrate the drama of the battle.

Please allow ample time for parking, purchasing admission, and walking to the battle reenactment viewing area.

This event is great for everyone—children to adults, Civil War scholars to families enjoying a beautiful October weekend among the rolling hills of Harlinsdale Farm.

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CARNTON BOOK RECEIVES 'BEST IN SOUTHEAST' AWARD

McQuiddy Classic Printing, The Battle of Franklin Trust, and Brian Meneguzzi were recently honored when *Carnton* received award: "Best in Category" for Case Bound Books in 2011 in the Southeast. The award was presented to Brian Meneguzzi by the Printing Industry Association of the South at their 37th annual convention. The award plaque will be displayed at Carnton Plantation.

The Battle of Franklin Trust and Carnton Plantation Association released *Carnton* in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. The hardbound book features the photographs of Bruce Wolf with a foreword written by New York Times Best Selling author Robert Hicks. *Carnton* is considered to be the most in-depth distinguished photographic journey ever taken through the historic plantation.

The Printing Industry Association of the



South (PIAS) is a non-profit trade association dedicated to assisting the entire industry to continue to expand in the region and help the industry prosper. Across the seven-state region; Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and West Virginia, the 520 member companies range in size and gross income, but all share the same needs and desires.



Eric Conway, Ed Underwood, Gene McNeil, J.T. Thompson, Thomas Flagel

GENE MCNEIL RETIRES FROM BOARD

The Battle of Franklin Trust said farewell to a marvelous old friend this year following the retirement of Gene McNeil. Serving on The Carter House Board of Directors for 26 years, Gene was instrumental in acquiring the cannons and erecting numerous plaques that are displayed on The Carter House grounds. At his final meeting, Gene commented, "The Battle of Franklin Trust is the best thing that ever happened to The Carter House." We all wish Gene the best and thank him for the tremendous contribution he's made to The Carter House during his service on the board.

Letter from the Chairman

Something about Fall always makes me slow down and appreciate things a little more. There is something about the cool, fall breeze and beautiful colors that helps me relax. This is also my favorite time to be a part of the Trust. When walking through the fields of Carnton Plantation on a day in late October, I can't help but become overwhelmed thinking of all the history that has taken place right where I stand. I suppose the craziest part to me is that this sacred ground, which brings us so much joy, once was the site of such a gruesome occurrence. Remembering the extreme sacrifices made by the McGavocks, Carters and so many other families makes everything we do seem so much more worthwhile.



With that in mind, we have another spectacular season awaiting us here at the Battle of Franklin Trust. These coming months will be filled with entertaining and educational experiences for visitors of every age. Coming up this October we will have one of our biggest events of the entire year as we invite hundreds of Civil War reenactors to stage a performance of The Battle of Franklin. This event is being held in conjunction with the 147th anniversary of the battle, and should prove to be another successful and awe-inspiring display.

Another one of my favorite events is coming up on November 19 at Carnton Plantation—Hands on History. This is an excellent way to engage the children of our community in a fun way to learn about their past and the history, which has taken place right here in their community. With actors, games, food and interactive displays, the children are able to experience the history in a way that will inspire them to remember it and desire more knowledge.

Finally, as we approach the Christmas season, we also approach another year for the Carter House Candlelight Tour! Highlighting beautiful historic homes here in Franklin, this event is a perfect chance to get out of the house, relax and really get into the holiday spirit. The only thing which can make homes like The Carter House, Carnton Plantation and the Lotz House more beautiful, is showering them in classical holiday décor.

Clearly we have a busy couple of months coming up, and things here at the Trust only keep getting better and better. Please join us as we work to achieve our goals by becoming a member. Your generosity is the fuel that helps keep our historical fire burning.

Sincerely,
Marianne Schroer



Artists Thalia Kahl and Judith Jackson



Mary Lankford Benson and Kevin Benson



Artist Sandra Harris and Jim Harris



Robert Hicks, Ashlyn Hines and Eric Jacobson

The Chestnut Group Art Show

The Battle of Franklin Trust partnered with The Chestnut Group to present “Captured: History On Canvas,” an art sale at Carnton Plantation on July 15-17. Artist members of The Chestnut Group painted historic sites in “plein air” with significance to the Battle of Franklin including Carnton Plantation, The Carter House, the Confederate Cemetery, Lotz House, Homestead Manor, Harrison House and the Confederate Monument in Downtown Franklin’s Square. The show was held at the Fleming Center at Historic Carnton Plantation. A generous portion of the proceeds were given to benefit the Battle of Franklin Trust.

The Chestnut Group is a non-profit alliance of plein air artists dedicated to the conservation and preservation of vanishing landscapes and historic structures in Middle Tennessee. The artistic discipline of painting “en plein air” exemplifies the passion the artists have for painting from life. This method of work is in itself historic, and gave rise to the iconic impressionistic style primarily birthed during the mid-19th century.

Bootlegger’s Bash



Rebecca Robinson, Elizabeth Atkinson and Angell Wallace



Gail Johnson, Lyndsay and Kevin Botts



Mike Murphy, Stacey Watson and John Schroer



Engaged couple Grace Anne Vanderpool and Braiton Hargrove



Ed Underwood with Gilda and Jody Bowman



Brandy and Emma Blanton



Robert Hicks, Margaret and Jim Roberts



Cadets learn to handle arms at the Civil War camp.

CALICOS AND CADETS SUMMER CAMP DISPATCH

Where do Civil War buffs come from? Carnton Plantation and The Carter House have been grooming them for years at the annual museum summer camps! History lovers ages 8-12 attended a new and improved Civil War camp this year called Calicos and Cadets. "In the past, each site had their own camp and format, but this year we combined the two for an even better experience," said Tara Danley, Education and Group Coordinator. This summer the same camp was offered twice to better accommodate those attending other camps and summer vacations. The June camp had 16 attendees and July had 39! Many were new, but some were veterans who have attended for several years, rising in the ranks.

Each camp consisted of three days. Two were spent at Carnton Plantation, and one

at The Carter House. Little soldiers and belles in training learned to milk goats, make butter, create battle flags, preform the manual of arms, and of course, tour the historic homes. Special guests who contributed to the camp's success: Julia Jarvis, herbalist specializing in goat milk products, Thomas Cartwright, historian and drill expert, Patrick Landrum, reenactor, and Butter Cup the milking cow.

One of the best endorsements came in an email from a camper herself "i loved everything about this camp and don't think you need to change anything! Kayla". Danley noted, "We plan to continue the fun next summer with some new activities to keep the repeats on their toes, but also include a few classic favorites as well."

—By Tara Danley

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"Hoofbeats in the Heartland" exhibit

Beginning Saturday, November 5, 2011, a traveling exhibit from the Tennessee State Museum, "Hoofbeats in the Heartland: Civil War Cavalry in Tennessee," will be featured in Franklin. Carnton Plantation's visitors' center will host the traveling display for its stop in Williamson County. The display focuses on Tennessee's strategic location during the Civil War and the effect of cavalry activity on nearly every community throughout the state.

Included with the exhibit are educational and interactive components, as well as Civil War cavalry saddles and jackets from the State Museum. Join us to learn about the role of mounted warfare in Tennessee: spies, scouts, the cavalry horse, the occupied homefront, and the battles.

The exhibit will remain at Carnton from November 5 through December 31, 2011.

—By Joanna Stephens

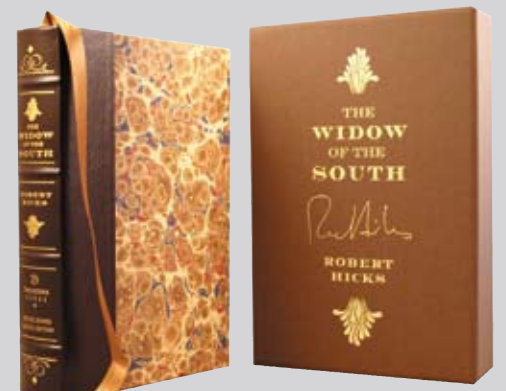
Carnton Concert Series



The crowd enjoys one of the bands at the Carnton Summer Concert Series.

The Widow of the South limited edition available Nov. 1

Robert Hicks' *A Separate Country* as well as his *New York Times* best-seller *The Widow of the South* are being re-released in special leather bound limited edition by Bentontown Press. The Battle of Franklin Trust will be hosting an event to launch the new releases at Carnton Plantation on November 1. More information about the event will be available online at www.battleoffranklintrust.org.

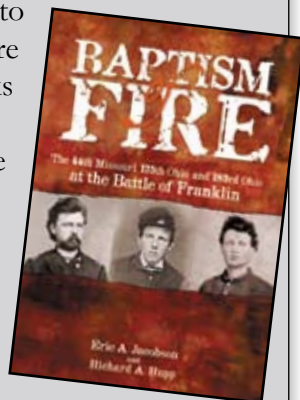




Baptism of Fire released

Eric A. Jacobson and Richard A. Rupp are pleased to announce the release of their non-fiction work, *Baptism of Fire*. The book details the story of three Civil War Federal regiments that were engaged at the historic Battle of Franklin. In conjunction with the release, Jacobson hosted a book signing at The Carter House on Saturday, Sept. 17. Jacobson spoke to an excellent turnout before signing each of the books purchased on site.

The book focuses on the 44th Missouri, 175th Ohio, and 183rd Ohio, not only because they had never been in combat prior to Franklin, but because they played such key roles in the battle.



The book follows the units from their organization in the late summer and fall of 1864 until they went home in the summer of 1865, but the real focus is a detailed account of how they helped to turn the tide of the Battle of Franklin in favor of the Federal army. The long held belief that Col. Emerson Opdycke's Brigade almost singlehandedly turned back the Confederate breakthrough is shattered by this book. A reader will see that these new units had as much to do with saving John Schofield's army as any Federal troops on the field.

Civil War Trust President James Lighthizer said, "One learns not only a great deal about a controversial part of that savage event but more interestingly to me, one sees it through the perspectives of the actual soldiers and their, up till then, largely untested units."



GARDEN UPDATE

I am thrilled to announce The Garden at Carnton Plantation received a \$1,700 grant, thanks to the combined efforts of Olivia Stelter and Joanna Stephens.

The grant was awarded by the Community Garden Grant Program—a partnership between the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Marketing Division's Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) and the Tennessee Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (TNFAITC). The gift was presented by our local Farm Bureau. This program was designed to educate the local community about the importance of vegetable gardening while also increasing public awareness of our food sources.

This grant is especially appropriate for the Garden at Carnton as one of our major goals is to educate the public on mid-nineteenth century varieties of vegetables and the old fashioned ways of staking and cultivating. Over the years, our garden has featured many heirloom fruits and vegetables including: asparagus, beans, cabbage, carrots, cardoons, cucumbers, eggplant, gourds, grapes, lettuce, onions, okra, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, rhubarb, squash, strawberries and zucchini.

After countless hours of work, volunteers, led by the Williamson County Master Gardeners, specifically Bill, Denny and Duke, have sown, planted and harvested our garden through another bountiful vegetable season. If you have a passion for gardening and are interested in volunteering to help, please do not hesitate to contact me. There are still many projects to be implemented. With your help and support



we will continue to move forward with our progress.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to all of the volunteers who came to help us on Saturday, September 10. Together we installed a 'rabbit' brick barrier under the south picket fence and performed a major weed removal. It was a beautiful day and much was accomplished.

I just recently returned from the Southern Garden History Society biennium conference in Old Salem, NC. As I drove home I couldn't stop thinking about how far we have come and the growing national reputation of the McGavock's garden here at Carnton. It really is a beautiful place. —By Justin Stelter

SOLDIERS REMEMBERED NOV. 30

The 147th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin will be remembered on Wednesday evening, November 30th starting with the annual march from Winstead Hill to The Carter House beginning at 4 p.m. Reenactors lead the group and anyone is welcome to join. Once the march reaches The Carter House around 4:45 p.m., an informal ceremony will be held on the grounds in honor of the men who fought on that fateful day in 1864. At 6 p.m., The Carter House will open for the 39th Annual Candlelight Tour with living historians portraying a poignant war scene. The Lotz House and Carnton Plantation will also open from 6-8 p.m. for the opening night of the Candlelight Tour, with each home revealing the personal histories of the families that occupied them and what they endured during the Battle of Franklin. —By Elizabeth Atkinson

ELOUISE COLE NORTH • 1923-2011

We lost a loved and cherished friend on June 27, 2011. Elouise Cole North, better known as “Miss E,” greeted thousands of visitors with her warm smile in her 25 years at The Carter House. She brought warmth and spirit to tours recounting the Carter’s struggle during the Battle of Franklin. When she was not leading guests through the home, Miss E managed the museum store. During the children’s summer camps, you would often see Miss E educating and entertaining with her accordion. She was the epitome of a southern lady and guests still today remember her kind disposition and passion for the story of the Carter family and the Battle of Franklin. We all miss her dearly.



CARTER HOUSE QUILTS FEATURED AT SAM DAVIS HOME QUILT SHOW

From September 15th-18th, eighteen quilts from The Carter House collection were showcased at the annual Sam Davis Home Quilt Show. Covering the entire home, several outbuildings, and the museum, over 200 quilts were included for the 2011 show.

“The Battle of Franklin Trust was privileged to work with the Sam Davis Home on this project,” says Joanna Stephens, curator. “Anita Teague, Sam Davis Home executive director, and Lorraine Karl, Sam Davis Home Board member and show coordinator, worked with us to ensure the quilts were safely and accurately displayed for the guests.”

The show featured quilts and needle arts spanning more than 200 years. The majority of the show’s entries was from Middle Tennessee and included a variety of Civil



Over 200 quilts were included for the 2011 show.

War Era pieces.

Certified quilt appraiser, Lisa Erlandson was attended the show to offer quilt appraisals for exhibitors and patrons. An anonymous donation of two quilt appraisals was made to The Battle of Franklin Trust. Members of the Trust send sincere thanks to the donor, and look forward to receiving the appraisals.

“Many of The Carter House quilts were seen by the public for the first time at this event. Allowing the public to enjoy and study the quilts in our collection is a wonderful way to connect to the community around us,” said Stephens. If you have any questions or interest in studying the quilts in The Carter House collection, please contact 794-0903.

— By Joanna Stephens

Royal tournament

The Trust received some very exciting news this year when Robert Hicks was cordially invited to attend the 2011 British Military Tournament this December for a reenactment of The Battle of Franklin. Held in Earls Court Arena in the heart of London, this event will be seen by over 50,000 people over three days—the largest display of military theatre anywhere in the world.

The ‘Southern Skirmish Association’ is the group of English reenactors who will be performing the battle. They are the only performers in the entire show who are not currently serving in the armed forces. They will perform alongside hundreds of service men and women, some of which only just returned from a tour in Afghanistan.

Graham Darby, a leader in the reenactor group, said, “Franklin has been chosen as an example of incredible courage in the face of fearful odds, and we will directly follow a portrayal of the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava.” He continued, “So much of our interest over here for the Battle of Franklin was born out of the popularity of *The Widow of the South*.”

The 2011 performance is scheduled to feature an array of exciting new displays and traditional, breathtaking crowd favorites. All the profits from the event will go to the Army Benevolent Fund, which gives lifetime support to serving and retired soldiers and their families in their time of need. For information, go to www.britishmilitarytournament.com.

Blue and Gray Days Nov 12-14

Blue and Gray Days is an annual living history event, which features reenactors and artisans performing their crafts to show the public what life was like during the Civil War. The event began as a Carnton Plantation tradition, but has grown and is now held at both Carnton Plantation and The Carter House.

Both locations will have artillery demonstrations. Reenactors will be on site to answer questions about soldier life, Civil War flags, and slave life. Carnton Plantation will also feature Abe Lincoln, musicians, and a period cooking demonstration.

New this year, you will not want to miss a representation of a period ambulance corps or the immense knowledge of Myers Brown, cavalry expert and Curator at the Tennessee State Museum.

In order to accommodate changes made to the Williamson County School schedule, Blue and Gray Days is being held early in November this year as opposed to years past. The event and tours of the homes will be open to the public on Saturday, November 12 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 13 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday, November 14 will be reserved for the nearly 650 school children visiting the sites from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. — By Tara Danley

RUTH G. MITCHELL DONATES SHAVING STAND

Recently, a long-time member and friend of Historic Carnton Plantation and, now, the Battle of Franklin Trust; Ruth G. Mitchell gave a handsome, c.1855, Rococo-Revival shaving stand to the Trust in honor of Sam Fleming.

For many years, Ruth Mitchell was a part of the Third National Bank family. Like so many who worked with Sam, her loyalty to both the bank and his leadership formed a life-long bond. Ruth has been considering a gift in honor of her former boss for several years and decided that the shaving

stand would fit the bill. The Trust is grateful to be the beneficiary of the shaving stand, which turns out to be an important addition to the collections.

Ruth has now joined a group of men and women, like the late Sam Fleming, his beloved wife, Valerie, the Fleming family and so many others, starting with Dr Sugg's original gift of Carnton, who have built our collection through their generosity and commitment to the sites. If you are interested in joining the team with a gift in honor of someone you love, know that while we have come a long way, there is much to do and many needs at Carnton, The Carter House and the Garden at Carnton before we rest. For more information on how you can honor someone with a gift, please call the office of the Trust.

—By Robert Hicks



Donor Ruth G. Mitchell stands with the gentleman's shaving stand in the master bedroom of Carnton. Ms. Mitchell donated the stand to the Battle of Franklin Trust earlier this year.

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 14

Debut of "Heading Back Home" at Franklin Theatre

OCTOBER 14-16

147th Reenactment (formerly Civil War Days)

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER

Exhibit: "Hoofbeats in the Heartland" - Carnton

NOVEMBER 1

The Widow of the South & A Separate Country limited edition launch at Carnton

NOVEMBER 12-13

Blue & Gray Days and Illumination

NOVEMBER 19

Hands on History - Carnton

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 3

Carter House Candlelight Tour

NOVEMBER 30

Columbia Ave/Carter House march followed by the Illumination at Rest Haven Cemetery

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 17

Hands on History - Carnton

DECEMBER 2-3

Civil War Show

Carter House Candlelight Tour dates announced

We are pleased to announce the 39th Annual Carter House Candlelight Tour presented by First Farmers and Merchants Bank. This tour will showcase historic Franklin homes over the course of four nights, November 30 through December 3, from 6-8 p.m.

The Carter House, Carnton Plantation and Lotz House will open on Nov. 30, offering a historic scene on the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. Both The Carter House and Carnton Plantation will host costumed reenactors representing historic figures such as the McGavock and Carter families. On Dec. 1, the three homes will be transformed

with 19th century traditional holiday decoration for the remainder of the Candlelight Tour.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cummins House and Clouston Hall will join our tour Friday Dec. 2 and Saturday Dec. 3. Featuring living historians, St. Paul's Church will be celebrating its 22nd year on the Candlelight Tour. The two pre-war homes, Cummins House and Clouston Hall will be decorated for the holiday season.

Advance tickets may be purchased at The Carter House, Carnton Plantation and online at www.battleoffranklintrust.org.

—By Elizabeth Atkinson

Sesquicentennial update

2011 has been an amazing first year for the Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration in Tennessee. Signature events, living history, re-enactments, and fascinating presentations are just a few of the many events going on here in Franklin and across the state.

A recent highlight was the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial 2011 signature event, graciously hosted by Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville on September 6-7. "Civil War in the Borderland" kicked off with renowned Civil War scholar and speaker Dr. Gary Gallagher of the University of Virginia, who engaged and enlightened a packed auditorium. Speakers including country music sensation Kix Brooks spoke eloquently about the Civil War's impact across the South. Filled with scholarly presentations, musical events and living history, this event showed

how powerfully the Civil War changed our state and continues to have an effect in the twenty-first century.

The Tennessee Sesquicentennial Commission also continues to work on several exciting projects. The Tennessee Civil War Trails marketing and signage program now has over 200 markers across the state, including 14 in Williamson County. An exciting boost for the Trails program recently came from TDOT Commissioner and former Mayor of Franklin John Schroer, who presented the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development with a check for over \$800,000 to complete this incredibly successful project.

To learn more about the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial's upcoming events, programs, and services, visit www.tncivilwar150.com.

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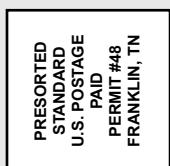
The Carter House and Carnton Plantation
"Bringing Life to the Story"

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