

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD INC.

*Dedicated to the Protection, Preservation, and Promotion of
Civil War sites within Williamson County
Editor, Susan E. Church
Po Box 851, Franklin, Tn. 37065-0851
794-6540*

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Welcome to all our new members. Our membership continues to grow by leaps and bounds.....We had 33 new members join us during the successful Franklin Battlefield Conference. Our membership now totals 102 active members. Thank you everyone...Only by growing in membership and becoming one strong voice will we be heard.....

If you missed our Annual Meeting held at the historic Harrison House on Sunday the 24th of October the following officers were elected for the coming year.....Chuck Isaacs, President; Tom Van Dyke, Vice President; Sheri Tigie, Secretary; and Tom Tigie, Treasurer. Congratulations to all our new officers.....

It's beginning to be a very busy season here in historic Williamson County--- In November, The Carter House, will be presenting two historic workshops for children in grades 2-6. These workshops will cover period ornaments and presents on November 13, and christmas decorations on November 20. The cost is only \$15 per child but space is limited.....so don't waitmake reservations now. The instructor for these two fun workshops will be one of our talented members, Lynne Pope.



ALSO.....on Sunday, November 28,

at 3 pm there will be the unveiling of a statue of Patrick Claiborne on Winstead Hill and then the annual march to The Carter House will follow. We would like all members and any neighbors, friends, acquaintances, etc. to join us for the march so that we may be strong in number. The walk will again take place on the 30th- the Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin but since this is a weekday we know that not everyone can make this walk. We'd like everyone to try and make one of these walks, if possible. For more information, please contact Thomas Cartwright at The Carter House.....

Carnton Plantation will host A Children's Celebration on December 4, from 2-4 pm at the Plantation. Geared for the entertainment of children but also appealing to adults - the event will include a musical performance by children from the Suzuki Music School of Franklin; a puppet show by Creative Characters and a special visit from Father Christmas. Refreshments will be served and a selection of home-baked cookies in decorative gift-giving boxes will be available for purchase. Tickets for the events are \$4 for adults, and \$3.50 for children. Reservations will be limited to 100 participants. Call 615-794-0903 for more information or reservations.....

AND on that same weekend of December 4-5, the Annual Candlelight Tour will be held. Tickets and or information can be obtained by calling The Carter House at 791-1861.

Editors Note: We will try with each publication to include articles with a little different slant to the War/and or how people survived during this time.....

Schofield's Coat-1864

by E. J. Neeley

When Schofield left Franklin-following the Battle of Franklin-he left more than just the dead and wounded behind.....

he left behind his overcoat, gloves, and dispatches from General George (Pap) Thomas.....

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Bonpart Cliffe had General John M. Schofield and General David S. Stanley staying in their home on that fateful Wednesday, November 30, 1864. Arriving in Franklin in time for breakfast, Schofield, making the Cliffe home his headquarters, retired to a bedroom for some well needed sleep. (Stanley and Dr. Cliffe had attended school together in Wayne County, Ohio.) This may have had something to do with Dr. Cliffe's house being used as Schofield's headquarters.

During the day Cox, had also come and gone from this house. General Jacob Cox had been told by Schofield that Hood would not attack the breastworks. This belief held as Schofield and Stanley waited for Mrs. Cliffe to prepare the evening meal. When the firing began Schofield and Stanley had already left Dr. Cliffe's house. In his haste Schofield left his overcoat, gloves, and a package containing his personal dispatches from General Thomas in the bedroom in which he rested. Believing Cliffe would not be safe at home, they asked him to join them on their ride to Nashville but he declined.

As Stanley approached the front his horse was shot out from under him.

As Stanley got to his feet a bullet cut across his neck---wounded he remained at the front until the fight was over. This left General Cox as the senior General on the battlefield. Stanley was the only Union General wounded during the Battle of Franklin.

Mrs. Cliffe took care of the overcoat by wearing it herself..... Could she have been wearing this coat, days later, when given permission to take a spring wagon along with a driver, and pass through the Union lines to go to the home of Felix Compton near Nashville. She was to bring back to Franklin the body of Lt. Col. William Mabry Shy, 26, who was killed during the Battle of Nashville, on the afternoon of Friday, December 16, 1864, by a minie ball to the brain. He was defending his position at the top of Compton's Hill.....this hill would later be renamed Shy's Hill by the Federals who witnessed Shy's bravery..... Was Mrs. Cliffe wearing the overcoat when she returned to Franklin with Shy's body for Dr. Cliffe to embalm?And what of the papers in Schofield's coat? We may never know the answer to this question.....

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE

April 9, 1994, has been chosen as the date for the Cemetery Illuminary sponsored by us at the McGavock Cemetery in Franklin. Okay, all you new and old members---we need your help---call Chuck Isaacs at 794-6540 and let him know your interested in helping him in this endeavor.....

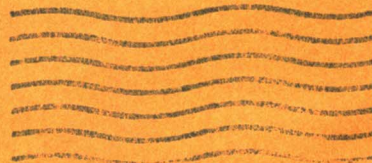
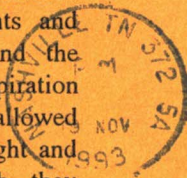
A P A R T I N G T H O U G H T.....

only 3% of our nations's most important Civil War battlefields are substantially protected in our National Parks.....the unique battlefields, camps, prisons, hospitals and other historic sites of the Civil War are indeed places to ponder and dream. Those of you who have visited the now-quiet woods and fields that resonated with the sights and sounds of the war understand the profound sense of awe and inspiration that emanates from the hallowed ground where Americans fought and died for a cause in which they believed. Ground that is living testimony to the single most important episode in American History. Like no other event before or since, this war shaped our country's history, defined our entire concept of government and transformed a collection of states into a nation of free men and women. It

left a legacy of courage and heroism for every American to treasure and honor for generations.

"In great deeds something abides..On great fields something stays..and reverent men and women from generations that know us not and that we know not of...shall come to these deathless fields, to ponder and dream."

*Gen. Joshua Chamberlain
(Hero of Little Round Top
at Gettysburg)*



Sam Gant
580 Jordan Rd.
Franklin, Tn. 37064