



# Battle of Franklin Trust Welcomes Jennifer Esler as Newly Appointed CEO

March 1st the Trust welcomed Jennifer Esler, former executive director of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV) in Winchester, Virginia, as the newly appointed CEO of the Battle of Franklin Trust.

Marianne Schroer said, "Since the formation of the Battle of Franklin Trust, the board of directors has worked diligently on a national search to fill this pivotal position. While we were impressed with many of the candidates, Jenny stood out as the ideal candidate to lead us in our aggressive efforts to further enhance the visitor's experience of the historic Battle of Franklin and the sites related to the Battle."

Esler resigned from MSV February 28, ending her 12-year career with the museum. Hired in 1997 by the Glass-Glen Burnie Museum, Inc., Esler oversaw development of the private



**Battle of Franklin Trust's new Executive Director Jenny Esler (left) is welcomed by BOFT Vice Chair Ed Underwood and Chairman Marianne Schroer.**

Glen Burnie Historic House and Gardens into a public museum. During the subsequent years, she oversaw its growth from a seasonally-open historic site to a full-time, regional museum complex. The site's development during this time included the planning,

construction, and opening of the \$20 million dollar Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, which opened on the historic grounds in 2005. Since that time, the MSV complex has witnessed extraordinary success, and today offers a wide range of educational programs

and changing exhibitions, has more than 1,000 members, and attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually.

In her new position as the CEO of The Battle of Franklin Trust, Esler will once again be called upon to exercise her skills and experience with developing museum sites. At the Trust, she is directing the merger and management of Franklin's two most significant Civil War sites including Carnton Plantation and The Carter House. Esler will also guide the Trust in the planning, development, and construction of a newly planned Carter House Interpretive Center & Museum related to the Battle of Franklin held November 30, 1864.

Esler said, "I am excited and pleased to accept this tremendous opportunity in Franklin where there is such enthusiasm for preserving

**ESLER:** *Continued on Page 6*

## Carter Garden Opens April 17th

In November 2006, The Carter House Association purchased a vital plot of land: a piece of the Carter garden. The half-acre of hallowed ground came at a hefty price of \$210,000. In the months that followed the kind and generous donations that poured in from members and friends of The Carter House was nothing short of unbelievable. It was former Executive Director Thomas Cartwright's letter to Jim Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust, which also set off a nationwide call for donations

to pay off the debt. On December 19, 2007, the debt was paid in full.

Now, three and a half years after the original acquisition of the Carter garden, it is nearly ready to be open to the public! Restoration included the removal of a house, trailer, and in-ground pool, as well as a detailed archeological excavation that revealed a portion of the original Federal trench line. It is with great excitement that we look forward to interpreting the Carter garden as part of the Franklin battlefield.

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# Bringing life to the story

## MEMBERSHIP FACTS



### What is the Battle of Franklin Trust?

The Battle of Franklin Trust is a 501 (c) (3) management corporation acting on behalf of Franklin's battlefield sights to contribute to a greater understanding and enrich the visitor experience of the November 30, 1864 battle. The Trust manages the operations of The Carter House and Carnton Plantation. It's organized for the charitable and educational purposes of preserving, restoring, maintaining and interpreting the properties, artifacts and documents related to the battle so as to preserve an important part of the nation's history. Learn more at [www.battleoffranklintrust.org](http://www.battleoffranklintrust.org).

### What is the mission of the Battle of Franklin Trust?

"The Battle of Franklin Trust is dedicated to a better understanding of the five bloodiest hours of the American Civil War."

### What is membership in the Battle of Franklin Trust?

Membership in the Battle of Franklin Trust provides a means for you to be part of both The Carter House and Carnton Plantation. If you have previously been a member of either organization (or separate memberships in both organizations), this Battle of Franklin Trust membership provides you with the value of being a supporter with privileges at both houses. If your annual membership is still in effect, it will remain valid through your annual membership anniversary date. Should you choose to renew, your membership would be with the Battle of Franklin Trust and will be valid for both properties. If you choose to remain a member in only one organization, you are welcome to do that. Lifetime memberships at both organizations will be honored as originally intended.

### What are my benefits for being a member of the Battle of Franklin Trust?

Your benefits are in effect for a one-year period from date of membership.

#### TOD CARTER SOCIETY BENEFITS:

- Member and nine guests receive a private after-hours tour including The Carter House, Carnton Plantation and the Confederate Cemetery by your choice of Robert Hicks, Eric Jacobson or David Fraley.
- Member to receive 8 discounted tickets to the Annual Battle of Franklin Summer Symposium
- Member and three guests are invited to attend the private Randal McGavock Dinner held at Carnton Plantation with special recognition
- Member may bring up to 10 guests for a guided tour on each visit to both houses
- Receives 30% off discount in the gift shops of both houses.
- Receives newsletters
- Receives invitations to all scheduled events at both houses

#### CARRIE MCGAVOCK SOCIETY BENEFITS:

- Member and a guest are invited to attend the private Randal McGavock Dinner held at Carnton Plantation with special recognition
- Member to receive 6 discounted tickets to the Annual Battle of Franklin Summer Symposium
- Member may bring up to 9 guests for a guided tour on each visit to both houses
- Receives 25% off discount in the gift shops of both houses
- Receives newsletters
- Receives invitations to all scheduled events at both houses

#### JOHN BELL HOOD SOCIETY BENEFITS:

- Member and a guest are invited to attend the private Randal McGavock Dinner held at Carnton Plantation with special recognition
- Member to receive 4 discounted tickets to the Annual Battle of Franklin Summer Symposium
- Member may bring up to 8 guests for a guided tour on each visit to both houses
- Receives 20% off discount in the gift shops of both houses
- Receives newsletters
- Receives invitations to all scheduled events at both houses

#### JOHN MCALLISTER SCHOFIELD SOCIETY BENEFITS:

- Member and a guest are invited to attend the private Randal McGavock Dinner held at Carnton Plantation with special recognition
- Member to receive 2 discounted tickets to the Annual Battle of Franklin Summer Symposium
- Member may bring up to 7 guests for a guided tour on each visit to both houses
- Receives 15% off discount in the gift shops of both houses
- Receives newsletters
- Receives invitations to all scheduled events at both houses

#### RANDAL MCGAVOCK SOCIETY BENEFITS:

- Member and a guest are invited to attend the private Randal McGavock Dinner held at Carnton Plantation with special recognition
- Member may bring up to 6 guests for a guided tour on each visit to both houses
- Receives 10% off discount in the gift shops of both houses
- Receives newsletters
- Receives invitations to all scheduled events at both houses

#### FOUNTAIN BRANCH CARTER SOCIETY BENEFITS:

- Member may bring up to 5 guests for a guided tour on each visit to both houses
- Receives 5% off discount in the gift shops of both houses
- Receives newsletters
- Receives invitations to all scheduled events at both houses

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Member may bring up to 3 guests for a guided tour on each visit to both houses
- Receives newsletters
- Receives invitations to all scheduled events at both houses

#### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Member may bring a guest for a guided tour on each visit to both houses
- Receives newsletters
- Receives invitations to all scheduled events at both houses

### Is my membership tax deductible?

Yes, the Battle of Franklin Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization and your membership is tax deductible. The amount that is not deductible is the value of the Randal McGavock dinner.

Your support is important to the mission of the Battle of Franklin Trust in continuing the charitable and educational purposes of preserving, restoring, maintaining and interpreting the properties, artifacts and documents related to the battle so as to preserve an important part of the nation's history. Thank you for your consideration. For more information or questions please call Membership Coordinator Elizabeth Stout at 615-786-1864.

## Letter from the Chairman

The BOFT is honored to have Jenny Esler at the helm as CEO. Jenny brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job and we believe that she will be instrumental in taking this organization to the next level. I hope everyone will have an opportunity to meet Jenny and welcome her to Franklin.

This year's illumination was the most spectacular I have ever seen (of course I say that every year). The open field at Carnton was a fitting location to celebrate and commemorate the sacrifices of the 10,000 brave Americans who fought and died in Franklin on November 30, 1864. Carnton also hosted "Blue & Gray Days" the same weekend which made for a full weekend of activities and commemoration.

In February, we celebrated Black History Month with lectures, a theatrical representation of slave life and a moving performance of slave spirituals. We have several upcoming events that you won't want to miss. March brings the Seventh Tennessee Cavalry Demonstrations.

We are very anxious for spring and the opening of the gardens at Carnton and The Carter House. For those of you who haven't seen it, the Carnton garden is spectacular thanks to Justin Stelter and all the wonderful volunteers who work diligently to keep it that way.

Now, after much diligent work, we are opening The Carter House garden for the first time on April 17th. This garden represents such an important piece of history as a significant part of the battle happened there. I hope you will join us for that opening in April.

I want to offer a special welcome to the new board members Carl Haley, Susan Whitaker, David Snowden, and Mike Plumley, each of whom are putting their unique mark on the BOFT. I am honored to serve with them.

I know it is early, but mark your calendars for the December 2010 Candlelight Tour. Next year's tour will be held in conjunction with the Heritage Foundation's Dickens of a Christmas. We have eight houses committed on West Main and Fair Streets and believe it is going to be the best tour ever!

Join us in all that is happening at CH and Carnton by becoming a member! Member levels are included in this newsletter. It won't be the same without you.

Best regards,  
Marianne Schroer



SCHROER

# Blue and Gray Days Bring History to Life



**The Illumination held at Carnton Plantation burned 10,000 candles at dusk and served as a fitting close for the two-day remembrance of the Battle of Franklin.**



**Reenactors perform dramatic artillery demonstration at Carnton during Blue and Gray Days held November 28 - 30.**

The thousands of brave men who fought at the Battle of Franklin November 30, one hundred and forty-five years ago, in 1864, are not forgotten. Their sacrifice was commemorated November 28 - 30 by hundreds of children and adults at Carnton Plantation's third annual Blue and Gray Days.

This year's Blue and Gray Days featured dozens of Confederate reenactors who braved the weather and camped on Carnton's grounds as soldiers would have done in 1864. Also featured were artisans creating crafts and performing trades of the time period as well as live music and reenactors. Some returning artisans included Tamla Boone, expert soap and candle maker; blacksmith Steve Marshall; and Dennis Boggs who brilliantly portrayed President Abraham Lincoln. Also featured

were weavers, artillery demonstrations, sutlers and a Civil War medical expert.

A special addition was Wendel Decker who created authentic tintype photos of guests who arrived in period dress as well as those who tried on dresses and uniforms from Decker's personal collection.

The Battle of Franklin illumination was staged just beyond the line of the Confederate Cemetery and served as a beautiful, yet tragic, reminder of all of those who lost their lives in one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

The illumination spectacle served as a fitting close to this two-day remembrance of war and loss. And in conjunction with it, Blue and Gray Days truly brought history to life, not only for young students who attended with their teachers, but also for multiple generations.



**Many volunteers labored hours to plan, set up and tear down the luminaries that represented the 10,000 soldiers who died, were wounded or missing as a result of the Battle.**

## *Program Celebrates Black History Month*

In honor of Black History Month, the Battle of Franklin Trust hosted "Living History" Saturday, February 27 and Sunday, February 28.

Many visitors attended a lecture at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Carnton Plantation and at 1 p.m. Sunday at The Carter House, which included a performance of Slave Spirituals and discussion of their origins led by Dr. Naima Tonya Johnston who utilizes her artistic gifts to educate, entertain and encourage audiences across the nation.

The founder of Broken Box Ministries, Dr. Johnston works with emerging Christian artists in assisting them in the development of their music ministries. She has written and produced her independent debut album entitled Everything and is currently working on her second CD, This Place, slated for release later this year.

Dr. Johnston is also author of several books including "Called to Sing: 13 Mistakes To Avoid When Starting In Music Ministry," and "Dr.

Nay's Dream Development Guide."

In addition, at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Carnton Plantation hosted actor and theatre teacher Bakari King who gave a glimpse into slave life. His presentation was made in the slave quarters at Carnton and he sang several spirituals.

Trust Board Chairman Marianne Schroer said, "We are honored to have Dr. Johnston and Bakari King join us in celebration of Black History Month at both Carnton Plantation and The



**Dr. Naima Johnston sings during her lecture on The Negro Spiritual in honor of Black History Month.**

Carter House. It was an ideal way to educate and reflect on our history and the role played by African Americans during the Battle of Franklin and throughout the Civil War."

# New Board Members Welcomed

The Battle of Franklin Trust has recently added four new board members including Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development Susan Whitaker; Director of Schools for the Franklin Special School District David Snowden; former owner of AIM Healthcare Services Carl Haley and independent consultant and investor Mike Plumley.

In making the announcement, Schroer said, "The Battle of Franklin Trust is proud to have the addition of these distinguished community leaders serving on our Board. The Trust is embarking on a significant effort to raise the awareness not only the Carter House and Carnton Plantation, but all of the battlefield sites to enhance the experience for visitors to Franklin. Susan, David, Carl and Mike all bring a wealth of knowledge and passion to our board as we work to implement our strategic plan."

Susan Whitaker, a veteran tourism marketing industry executive, was reappointed in January 2007 to Governor Phil Bredesen's cabinet as Commissioner of Tourist Development. In this role, Whitaker is responsible for marketing Tennessee's tourism industry domestically and internationally. Tourism is one of Tennessee's largest industries employing more than 182,300 Tennesseans and providing a \$14.4 billion direct economic impact.

As Tennessee's Tourism Commissioner, Whitaker serves on the Policy Council and Board of Directors for the US Travel Association; the Travel South USA Board of Directors, the Executive Committee of the National Council of State Travel Directors, and the University of Tennessee's Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Management Advisory Board. She serves as the co-chair of Tennessee's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and is a member of the Governor's Jobs Cabinet and the Smoky Mountains Park Commission. Whitaker is a Chicago native and a direct descendent of Tennessee's first Governor, John Sevier.

David Snowden, PhD is serving his ninth year as Director of Schools for the Franklin Special School District. He is Executive Vice-chairman for the Williamson County Chamber



**HALEY**



**PLUMLEY**



**SNOWDEN**



**WHITAKER**

of Commerce and is a board member of the Franklin Boys and Girls Club and Franklin Tomorrow. He serves as Emeritus board member for the United Way of Williamson County, is a 2004 graduate of Leadership Franklin and a member of the Franklin Noon Rotary Club.

Snowden serves on the steering committee and is the treasurer of Youth Leadership Franklin. David was recently selected as the 2009-10 Mid-Cumberland Region Superintendent of

the Year. He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, a M.Ed. from Mississippi State and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi. He currently lives in Franklin with his wife Kathy.

A native of Louisiana, Carl Haley served a vice president of AIM Healthcare Services Inc. when he and his partners sold the company this year. He has retired with his bride, Connie, to their hunting preserve, part of which was the old county poor farm, better known to another generation of Middle Tennesseans as the Nelson Elam Estate. Turning the property into a premier hunting preserve has proved to be a near full-time job as both he and his wife refocus much of their energy with a vision for community service.

Mike Plumley is an independent consultant/investor and also operates Cool Springs Thoroughbreds, a horse racing business. Mike has served in a variety of corporate, industry association, and not-for-profit board capacities throughout his 40-year career. He was the Executive of the Year in the Global Rubber Parts Manufacturing Industry in 1991. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution-Lt. Andrew Crockett Chapter (Chairs the Veterans Service Committee), Society of the War of 1812-Tennessee Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans-Sam Davis Camp, and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Ft. Donelson Camp. Mike is a graduate of the Owen School at Vanderbilt (1984) and the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program (1998). He and his wife, Jane, have resided in Franklin for the past 10 years.

## *Seventh Tennessee Calvary, CO.D Demonstrations March 26-28*

In the tradition of Civil War cavalry training, approximately 40 men of The Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, Co. D will participate in a camp of instruction at Carnton Plantation the weekend of March 26-28. The camp of instruction prepares the men and their horses for large-scale reenactments such as the Battle of Shiloh.

Mark Bridges of the 7th Tennessee Cavalry said, "We not only train ourselves in drill formations and battle tactics, but it's also important to familiarize the horses with the sounds of firing right next to their ears. You don't want to get them in the middle of a full-scale battle reenactment never having had that experience."

The men set up camp in authentic Civil War style and will be available to answer questions about camp life. They don period-correct uniforms and accoutrements and many own and fire actual Civil War era weapons.

"We intend for our demonstrations to be a visual instruction to help people learn about what it was like during the Civil War," said Bridges.

Hundreds of men were treated at Carnton, the largest Confederate field hospital during the November 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin, where blood from the wounded soldiers still stains the floors. The bodies of four of the six Confederate generals killed in the battle were gathered from the battlefield and transported to the back porch of Carnton to lie in state.

"The opportunity to see this slice of history presented in such an engaging way should not be missed by anyone interested in the Civil War," said Eric Jacobson, director of operations for the Battle of Franklin Trust. "Events like this really make history come alive."

Demonstrations will take place at 9:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 and on Sunday, March 28 at noon. The demonstrations are included in the regular admission prices of \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65+, and \$5 for children 6-12. To view the demonstration without the house tour, the cost is \$5 per person.

# 2010 CARNTON GARDEN PREVIEW



**Carnton gardens will be more glorious than ever this year and the new beds of asparagus will be cut in the spring and sold by volunteers.**



The 2010 garden is going to be glorious. Our big stars from last year will be back - Snow on the Mountain, Joseph's Coat and Cockscomb were the most talked about plants by our 2009 garden visitors. The new beds of French White Asparagus should have cutting spears this year. Following the tradition of plants doing double duty, the asparagus will be cut in the spring and sold by volunteers, then the plants will be allowed to produce ferns that will frame the entrance to the wedding area.

We started a number of new plants in 2009 that will bloom in the 2010 garden such as Golden Marguerite, Monkshood, Foxglove, Tennessee Coneflower, Purple Coneflower, Balloon Flower, and Pyrethrum.. The spring blooming Larkspur in purple, white, pink, and blue will return from natural reseeding and supplemental fall reseeding. Sweet William, White Yarrow, and Speedwell will be planted in the spring from plants started last year. More native plants will be added such as Columbine, Red Lobelia, and Butterfly Weed that will contribute their outstanding colors as well as bringing in many butterflies and hummingbirds.

A collection of lilies will be the focus of our garden this year. We started planning for this in 2008 by planting seeds of Madonna Lily (*Lilium candidum*) in the greenhouse. They grew from seeds into small bulbs and were planted along with purchased large bulbs last fall so the display will begin this year and increase for years to come. We will also be planting bulbs of the Gold Band Lily (*Lilium auratum*), Tiger Lily (*Lilium lancifolium*), Rubrum (*Lilium speciosum rubrum*), Coral Lily (*Lilium pumilium*), and Turk's Cap Lily (*Lilium superbum*) this spring and should see blooms this summer. Other lily varieties will be started from seed for future planting. These varieties are Michigan Lily and Prairie Lily – both native to Tennessee - and Panther Lily. They will take several years till bloom but are an economical way to increase the lily collection and will be well worth the wait.

There is much to look forward to this year. Please come and see what's blooming as often as possible. The garden tours are by appointment and can be scheduled by calling the office.

## April Living History to feature items from Battle of Franklin

The Independent Rifles are hosting a moving Living History at Carnton April 16 - 18. This event is set up as a mobile living history and while it will be totally devoid of modern intrusions, it will be very heavy with historical discussions from local historians, re-enactors and a chance to view original items from the Battle of Franklin.

This is a Federal and Confederate Living History which includes a haversack, uniform and equipment inspection to ensure every participant

is up to standards for this event. Re-enactors will be camping at Carnton April 16. Saturday morning on the 17 at 10 a.m., they will conduct battlefield communications with demonstrations showing how many commanders made contact with their troops on the field. This will be a firing demonstration using the bugle.

At 11 a.m. there will be a firing demonstration entitled "Yankee Ingenuity" showing the difference between the repeating rifle technology of the Federal

Army at Franklin compared to the rifled muskets carried by the Confederates.

Visitors are welcome to tour both camps and see the differences between the diet of the two armies as they present "An Army Moves on its Stomach," at noon.

The re-enactors will march from Carnton to The Carter House at 1 p.m. and stop at Collin's Farm site for discussions. The troops arrive at The Carter House at 2 p.m. with drill and firing demonstrations at 3:00

p.m., followed by camping on the grounds of The Carter House.

"This event helps our visitors get a taste for what life would have been like for the soldiers and a greater appreciation as well," says Tara Danley, Education and Group Coordinator.

The demonstrations are included in the regular admission prices of \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65+, and \$5 for children 6-12. To view the demonstration without the house tour, the cost is \$5 per person.

## EVENT COVERAGE

### 37th Annual Carter House Candlelight Tour Shined

Serving as the first fundraiser for the Battle of Franklin Trust, the 37th Annual Carter House Candlelight Tour kicked off the Christmas season for 2009. For the first time in nearly a decade, Carnton Plantation was featured on the tour, along with several other historic structures in Franklin. Both Carnton Plantation and The Carter House portrayed historic Christmases in 1859 and 1861, respectively.

The two premier historic sites were beautifully adorned with live greenery, Christmas trees with handmade ornaments, and table settings fit for such an occasion – all as though the McGavocks and Carters themselves had decorated. Guests who visited historic Christ Community Chapel were greeted with carols from a Christmas choir. As they entered into St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a hospital scene reminded them of Franklin's pivotal Civil War story. Abbey Leix Mansion and Creekside portrayed a rich Christmas scene complementing the gorgeous architecture of each home.

The tour as a whole was a chance for guests to relive history in our magnificent city. We look forward to our 38th Annual Carter

### 38th Annual Carter House Candlelight Tour set December 11-12

Plans are in full swing for the 38th Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes. This year's tour will be held the second weekend of December to coincide with another Franklin tradition: Dickens of a Christmas. The Battle of Franklin Trust has teamed up with the Heritage Foundation to create a weekend of events to kick off the holiday season. On the evenings of Saturday, December 11, and Sunday, December 12, guests will be invited to view as many as ten historic homes in Franklin decorated for Christmas as well as the antebellum Carter House. The houses chosen for this year's tour are private homes all within walking distance of each other. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars now as this will be an event not to miss!

House Candlelight Tour, in which we will again capture the magic of the season, but offer guests a whole new palate of historic homes.

## Esler

*Continued from Page 1*

the rich history. The opportunity so perfectly suits my experience, skills, and interests as we work together to create an unforgettable visitor experience in positioning Franklin as a strong leader in battlefield site preservation.”

In the five-hour battle, nearly 10,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or went missing, earning the conflict its description as “the bloodiest hours of the American Civil War.” Nearly 1,500 Confederate soldiers who died in the battle are buried at the nearby Carnton site, making it the country's largest privately-owned Confederate burial ground.

The Battle of Franklin Trust position not only offers Esler an opportunity to use her experience, talents, and interests in developing a museum site, but will also allow her to end the challenging, long-

distance commute of the past year. In November of last year, her husband, Howard Kittell, accepted the position as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson in Nashville. Throughout the past year, the couple has been living separately during the week in order to manage their respective museum responsibilities and have been commuting between Nashville and Winchester on weekends as possible.

According to MSV President of the Board Kit Molden, the Museum is saddened by but supportive and understanding of Esler's decision. “Jenny has directed this Museum extremely well during the years she has been with us,” he says, “and she deserves immense credit for what the MSV has become today. We hate to see her go, but also understand and support her decision.”

We hope you take the opportunity to meet Jenny and welcome her to Franklin.

# 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MARCH

**7TH TENNESSEE CAVALRY**  
**March 26 – 28**

## APRIL

**PARK DAY**  
**April 10**

**LIVING HISTORY**  
**April 16-18**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 16**  
Camp at Carnton

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17**  
Battlefield Demonstrations  
March to The Carter House  
Drill & Firing Demonstrations  
Camp at The Carter House

**CARTER HOUSE GARDENS OPEN**  
**April 17**

## JUNE-AUGUST

**RANDAL MCGAVOCK DINNER**  
**June 18**

**CARNTON SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**  
**June 27, July 25 & August 29**

## NOVEMBER

**BLUE & GRAY DAYS AT CARNTON**  
**November 19-21**

**ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BATTLE ILLUMINATION**  
**November 20**

## DECEMBER

**DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS**  
**December 11**

**THE CARTER HOUSE  
CANDLELIGHT TOUR**  
**December 11-12**

# Battle of Franklin Trust Announces Joint Admission Ticket for The Carter House and Carnton Plantation

Battle of Franklin Trust Chairman Marianne Schroer has announced the Trust has developed a commemorative joint admission ticket which is now available for both The Carter House and Carnton Plantation.

In making the announcement, Schroer said, "The Battle of Franklin Trust was formed to contribute to a greater understanding and enrich the visitor experience of the November 30, 1864 battle. By offering visitors at The Carter House and Carnton Plantation a value to visit both sites, we're creating a tremendous benefit for the visitor as well as a savings. In addition, this creates a strong bond between the two sites and will serve as a way to educate the visitor about multiple, complimentary historic sites in Franklin."

Adult admission tickets for a guided tour at The Carter House are \$12, and the same amount is charged at Carnton Plantation. The Battle of Franklin Trust is now offering adult visitors a \$20 admission ticket which



**A new joint admission ticket is available for both The Carter House and Carnton Plantation.**

includes a guided tour at both historic homes. This is a \$4 savings to the visitor. The ticket also provides the ticket holder \$2 off regular adult admission at the Lotz House, a Civil War House Museum located across the street from The Carter House.

Williamson County Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Director Mark Shore said, "The development of this joint admission

ticket demonstrates the strength of one organization managing two of Franklin's most visited historic homes.

We're always looking for ways to enhance the visitor experience and this not only elevates their experience, but provides an enticing value and encourages our visitors to stay longer."

The ticket serves as a memento of

their visit and includes stubs that can be used at either The Carter House or Carnton Plantation. Photos of the homes appear on the ticket as well as a pictorial design featuring "Our Country Inseparable" which appeared on the masthead for the Pictorial War Record in 1882, a weekly publication from New York which chronicled the battles of the Civil War.

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## HISTORICAL TOURISM

*Blog captures great memorable moments in Franklin*

The remainder of our Nashville trip was filled with convention business, German food, and more cold weather, but really, the entire trip was overshadowed by the presence of one man..ROB, the rockin' historian.

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We met Rob during an attempt to add an instructional component to our trip. We decided to drive into Franklin, TN-a bedroom community about 20 minutes outside of Nashville. I had been aching to see some Civil War sites and, where better to do that than the location of the famous Battle of Franklin. We drive to downtown Franklin and immediately have the pants charmed right off us. (Figuratively, mind you)

We walked into the main office to purchase tickets and it was there, at the desk, that we met the world's greatest Civil War historian/tour guide EVER....Rob. Or, "Rockin' Rob" as he has come to be known among The Frost Four. Rob had a charming accent and was a bundle of historian energy. I think I speak for all of us when I say that we were praying that Rob would be OUR guide.

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Rockin' Rob wraps up the fascinating tour with an passionate speech about life and reminds us all not to take anything or anyone for granted. We sure weren't taking Rob for granted...we wanted to take him home with us.



**The Frost Family with The Carter House's "Rockin' Rob" who met them at Carnton Plantation to complete their "Battle of Franklin Trust" tour. To read their entire blog, visit [www.battleoffranklintrust.org](http://www.battleoffranklintrust.org) under "comments."**

## C.W.P.T. PARK DAY

Saturday, April 10th is Park Day! For those who are not familiar, Park Day is a nationwide event sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust and The History Channel to clean-up and preserve Civil War battlefields. Volunteers assist with light yard work, trash-pickup, and other outdoor projects during the day.

The Carter House has participated in Park Day for several years and we are thrilled to involve more of the Franklin battlefield this year with Carnton Plantation and the Eastern Flank. Volunteers receive a complimentary T-shirt, while supplies last, for their efforts keeping this battlefield clean. For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Angell Wallace at (615) 791-1861 or [angell@carterhouse1864.com](mailto:angell@carterhouse1864.com).

# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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