



The Carter House and Carnton Plantation

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Battle of Franklin Trust donates \$5,000 to McGavock Confederate Cemetery Restoration

The Battle of Franklin Trust recently donated \$5,000 to The McGavock Confederate Cemetery Corporation for the cleaning and restoration of graves and monuments of the nearly 1,500 Confederate soldiers buried in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery that lies adjacent to Carnton Plantation. The corporation's goal to complete the restoration of the largest privately owned military cemetery in the nation is \$50,000.

The soldiers were re-interred to the burial ground in the spring of 1866 on land donated by John and Carrie McGavock. In 1911, Mrs. Winder McGavock and new Carnton owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shelton, presented the trustees of the newly chartered McGavock Confederate Cemetery Corporation the deed to the cemetery and the right-of-way from Lewisburg Pike. Trustees continue to serve today and are comprised of elected Daughters of the Confederacy, Franklin Chapter #14. In 1989, a major restoration was undertaken repairing many of the damaged markers and iron fence. Now, almost 25 years later, the trustees recognize the need for cleaning, repairing, remarking and sealing the stones and monuments.

Battle of Franklin Trust Chief Operating Officer Eric Jacobson said, "The McGavock Confederate Cemetery is a lasting memorial honoring those fallen soldiers during the Battle of Franklin. We're honored to help preserve this great treasure adjacent to Carnton Plantation and the Eastern Flank."

Nancy Bassett, chairman of the corporation, joins with Jacobson in recognizing the importance of preserving the historical site: "The trustees are dedicated to this final resting place for men that died in the Battle of Franklin and who honor our city to this day with their silent presence among us. Ongoing expenses of maintenance and repairs continue and we depend on donations from the many visitors and from those in the community."

A goal of \$50,000 is set to ensure the necessary work and the ongoing expenses of insurance, flags, flagpoles, and repair to the fence. Chuck Isaacs and Thomas Y. Cartwright are serving as fundraising co-chairs for the organization. All donations are tax exempt for the private, non-profit, 501(c) (3) corporation. Donations may be sent to: First Farmers Bank, 1536 W. McEwen Drive, Franklin, TN 37067, with checks made payable to McGavock Confederate Cemetery.

The Battle of Franklin Trust is a 501 (c) (3) management corporation acting on behalf of Franklin's battlefield sites to contribute to a greater understanding and enrich the visitor experience of the November 30, 1864 battle. It was 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.

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