



As shells burst above her, Miss Clark enters Glen Leven. —Staff Artist Jim Young

Yankee Bullets Didn't Scare Miss Clark and Her Mule

S. A. Cunningham was a day late when he wrote his first account of an anniversary tour of the Nashville battlefield, 75 years ago. He went over the ground on Dec. 17, 1889, and his report appeared two days later in The Nashville American. Cunningham was later to become the editor of The Confederate Veteran.

"Fortune favored the occasion," Cunningham wrote, "by attention from Mr. John M. Thompson and Col. John Overton, who were there at the time, and remembered vividly and much in detail what occurred." Since Cunningham himself had fought in the battle as a Confederate soldier, the field was thus being inspected by a trio of veterans.

As the party drove westward across the battlefield, John Thompson told the story of a young lady teacher who, on the first day of the battle, was teaching her school where Caldwell Lane now enters Franklin Road, a site later occupied by the Woolwine school. This teacher, a Miss Clark, was staying at the Thompson residence, Glen Leven, at the time of the battle.

As the young teacher started home that afternoon she was riding in a buggy behind a slow mule — perhaps because horses had been confiscated by the Federal Army. As she drove her buggy homeward, the battle had well begun —

and she was driving through the "no-man's-land" between the two armies. Bullets whined overhead and snickered the branches of trees. Port Negley cannon hurled shells toward Confederate lines.

In No Hurry

Miss Clark's mule was not to be hurried, however. The battle was none of his business, and he wasn't concerned with it. In due time he arrived at Glen Leven, and the young teacher showed she was no more frightened than her mule. She took her time, got deliberately out of her buggy and walked — not ran — into the house.

The battlefield tourists, riding behind one of John Thompson's thoroughbreds, drove over across the Granny White Pike to Compton's Hill, later called Shy's Hill. "We went to the old breastworks," Cunningham wrote, "and certain stones that projected . . . were amazingly familiar."

As he traveled over that field memories came back to Cunningham. "This was a sad, sad day," he wrote. "The writer was almost treading the tracks of a company officer when the upper part of his head was shot off. In speaking of this terrible day Mrs. Overton, whose memory is acute, said: 'The Judgment Day could hardly be worse.'"

The Stone Fence

Eastward from the pike the buggy riders followed the carriage road by the old stone fence which marked the northern boundary of Lealand. Cunningham noted that "We followed the fence for nearly a mile which was used for our breastworks, but much of it

was then knocked entirely down, while many of the trees now standing were scarred by bullet and shell. The line was continued by earthworks across the Franklin Pike where the Hermitage stud stables is located and in which there are \$100,000 worth of fine horses." A part of this property is now (1964) owned by Col. Gilbert Dorland.

One hundred years later the stone wall used as a "breastwork" in 1864 is still standing, perhaps in better shape than it was in 1889. The old carriage road, now a bridge path, can be followed from Sewanee Road, near Granny White Pike, east across Lealand Lane and southeast to Tyne boulevard.

The men talked and reminisced of the battle. One remarked that General Hood, at the end of the first day's fighting, said he expected to "take Nashville." Cunningham, having fought in the battle, thought this a strange remark.

'Dare Not Tarry'

"True we did effective work on the first day," he recalled, "but the writer was sent that night to our right wing to order a removal of infirmaries and wagons which were exposed, and returning in the night stopped at Flat Rock, the home of Mr. Wesley Greenfield, and lay down before a fire to rest. But realizing there was no protection against the enemy, he explained his conviction of the danger, and felt that he dare not tarry."

"Colonel Overton's house was the headquarters of the Confederate Army all the while it confronted Nashville. During that time Col. Overton was much with Hood and sums up his character in these words: 'A brave, good man but hard-headed as a brick.' Agreeing referring to the Confederate defeat he said: Poor Hood! He was a gallant fellow, but the fight at Franklin ruined his army."

Writing of Hood's army, Cunningham then noted that "many who were barefooted in the snow did not participate in the battle," and if this is correct Hood's available effective strength may have been cut considerably.

Old Confederate

"The most conspicuous old Confederate in the country," wrote Cunningham of Col. John Overton, who was "becoming venerable" in 1889. "True," our reporter added, "he did not carry a gun often, and he never claimed the private's pay of \$11 a month, but he struggled and suffered with the Confederates and won't go back on them; cost what it may."

Overton told Cunningham the only thing he ever did he was ashamed of was to go to Gov. Andrew Johnson for amnesty. He was under the "\$20,000 clause" and his property was being confiscated. When he told Johnson what he was there for the governor abused him as a "damned aristocrat."

Dr. J. A. Lyon, a Presbyterian preacher from Mississippi was standing near by. Lyon told the governor he was dead wrong about Overton. It would be news in Alabama or Mississippi to say that man was an aristocrat, he asserted, for although the colonel was a wealthy man, he was far from being an aristocrat.

Weary of War

Old soldier Cunningham, thinking of his experiences of 25 years before, ended his report with a telling comment on the battle. He concluded:

"Ah what an awful day in the country south of Nashville 25 years ago! Tennesseans who had waded in blood and snow to maintain possession of their homes were driven away never to return but as paroled prisoners. The Battle of Nashville fought against pitiable odds and under circumstances so depressing as to almost destroy manhood, was the last of much consequence during the war. Those who witnessed it and wanted the end to come, whichever way it might, wanted the Federal commanding officers cashiered for not doing more effective service, for not capturing Hood's entire army."

Not So Sorry

Another Nashvillian, Lt. James L. Cooper, also indicated in his journal that people were tired of the war, and happy to see the end. Cooper was at Eatonton, Georgia when the end came, and he wrote:

"Crowds of men from Lee's and Johnston's armies now filled up the village of Eatonton and one would have thought from the mirth and gaiety that prevailed that our armies had been successful . . . All went as happily as you please."

"At our house all felt very blue at the turn our affairs were taking, but with all our sorrow there was a feeling of relief that the war was at last over, and that we were at liberty to go home once more. I am afraid if the truth were known that we were not so sorry as we should have been."

In Commemoration

Concert Dec. 11 To Launch Battle Centennial Program

THE commemoration program for the centennial of the Battle of Nashville will start at 8 p.m. Dec. 11 with a Civil War concert at the Nashville Municipal Auditorium. Admission will be 50 cents.

Program chairman for the opening concert is Jack DeWitt, president of radio station WSM, with Robert Evans Cooper as his assistant. Music will be by the United States Continental Air Command band, commanded by Capt. Loren Johnson. Also featured will be songs by Win Stracke, folk singer, and dramatic monologues from the speeches of Lee and Lincoln.

On Dec. 12 and 13 a relics display of firearms, edged weapons, ammunition and accoutrements will be held at the Parthenon under the direction of M. Hume Parks. Letters, diaries and books also will be displayed. Admission is free.

At 10 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 12, a Civil War parade will be held in Centennial Park. Parade marshal will be Maj. Gen. Van D. Nunnally, adjutant general of Tennessee, and assistant parade marshal will be Lt. Col. Harrell E. Webb, of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Protocol officer will be Col. Campbell Brown, U.S.A. (Ret.)

Parade units will include re-activated Confederate and Union units of various branches of the service, descendants of soldiers who fought in the Battle of Nashville and modern military units.

On Saturday afternoon Dec. 12, at 2 o'clock, a re-enactment of the battle will be held in the steeplechase area at Percy Warner Park on Old Hickory boulevard. The re-enactment, showing four phases of the battle, will be directed and co-ordinated by Hal R. Swann Jr.

On Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. the Battle of Nashville monument at Franklin road and Thompson Lane will be rededicated. The rededication is sponsored by affiliated chapters of the Nashville UDC, with Mrs. Ray B. Scarborough as chairman of the rededication committee.

Address by Clement

The program will include an address by Gov. Frank Clement, the placing of a wreath at the foot of the monument by the UDC and music by the band of the 30th Armored Division.

On Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock a memorial service for Confederate dead will be held at Mount Olivet Cemetery on Lebanon road, sponsored by Gen. Joseph E. Johnston Camp No. 28, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Finner D. Whitman, commanding. A memorial address will be delivered by John May, national commander, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

On Shy's Hill

On Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. a memorial service for Union dead will be held at the National Cemetery on Gallatin road under the sponsorship of Nashville Post No. 5, American Legion, with John E. Bosworth as chairman of the program committee. A memorial address will be delivered by Hugh Walker.

Members of the Davidson

County Civil War Centennial Committee are: Sam Davis Bell, chairman; Col. G. M. Dorland, chairman, steering committee; Dr. John Lee Farringer Jr., assistant to chairman, Davidson County committee; James A. Hardin, executive director; Lytton Clark, treasurer; Mrs. Charles B. Jordan, office secretary; Mrs. Ray Scarborough, secretary; Mrs. Robert D. Hatcher, secretary.

Paul H. Beasley, chairman, program committee; Richard Leon Cornwell, parade co-ordinator; Jack DeWitt, chairman musical program; Malcolm H. Parks, chairman displays committee; Hal R. Swann Jr., chairman and director of re-enactment; Russell Nichol, chairman housing; James L. Bailey, Judge Allen Cornelius Sr., chairman educational program; Reynold Dorris, C. Buford Gatto, Tom Mayhew, George H. McMurry, James W. Perkins Sr., George Spence, Hugh Walker, Finner D. Whitman.

Ex-officio members are Mayor Beverly Briley, Stanley F. Horn, state centennial chairman; J. P. Lawrence, state centennial vice chairman; Col. Campbell H. Brown,

state centennial executive director.

Members of the steering committee include Dorland, Bell, Farringer, Hardin and DeWitt, members of the county committee listed above, and the following: R. W. Weesner, vice chairman; H. C. Daniels, public relations; Maj. Gen. Van D. Nunnally Jr., parade marshal; James H. Armistead, Andrew Benedict Jr., John E. Bosworth, Dr. Richard O. Cannon, John W. Clay, Bush Cole, Joseph T. Dickinson, Maj. Gen. William R. Douglas, William F. Earhman Jr., Bert Elmore, Gayle Gupton, Fred Harvey Jr., Edward Jones, Lt. Col. Mitchell A. Marshall, Ralph McGee, Dr. Oscar Noel, George Nordhaus, Alfred Sharp Jr., John Sloan, James P. Wilson and W. W. Young.



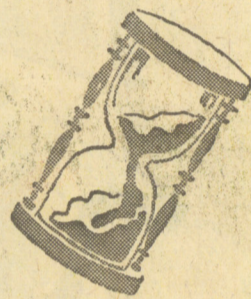
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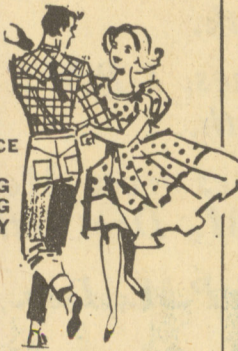
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