

# SOLDIERS' STORIES AT CARTER HOUSE

## *Lesson Plan*

Read the excerpts from soldiers' letters, journals, and articles about the Battle of Franklin. Then, figure out the location of the soldier on the map.

### Federal Army Entering Franklin

1. Captain James Andrew Sexton, 72nd Illinois, US Army

"We marched all night, arriving at Franklin next morning about daylight. After a short rest and some refreshments – including a ration of whiskey – we went to work with a will, digging rifle pits and **entrenchments**, and were thus engaged when we could distinguishing **skirmish** firing in the distance. . ."

### Federal Army Arriving at the Carter House

2. Brigadier General Jacob D. Cox, Third Division Commander, 23rd Corps, US Army  
"The house at which I had stopped belonged to Mr. F.B. Carter, an aged man, who occupied it with several grown children and near relatives. A son was a Confederate officer, who had been taken prisoner, and was now at home on parole. The house was of brick. . .but not very high, as it was built of one lofty and airy story, with attics above. . . opposite the **ell**, two smaller buildings stood. The one nearest the road was of wood, and was used as an office; the other was a brick smoke-house, and the passage between the two was ten or a dozen feet wide."

### Confederates Marching Into Battle

3. Lieutenant Edwin H. Rennolds, 5th Tennessee, CS Army  
"The long lines of infantry moved steadily and grandly forward through the open fields. . .The bad of the 5th struck up 'Dixie,' and one of Cleburne's the 'Bonnie Blue Flag,' and for once, and only once, we went into battle cheered by the sound of **martial** music. It was the grandest sight I ever beheld."

Confederate Account of the Fighting  
4. Chaplain James McNeilly, Quarles' Brigade, CS Army

"As our men charged up to the **gin house**, the slaughter was dreadful. A Federal brigade stationed there was armed with **repeating rifles**. Our men told me that as they rushed on the storm of bullets was so heavy that they **involuntarily** pulled their hats over their faces, as if to shield them from a storm of hail."

### Federal Troops Entering the Battle

5. A. J. Jones, 24th Wisconsin, US Army  
"When our little company came up to the **works**, we found ourselves in the rear of the Carter house. As we filed around the house, the captain, seeing that the works were full, ordered us into the house, telling us to shoot out the windows, of which there were two on the side next to the enemy. The house was nearly full before our company filed in. . . Every few moments someone would be hit, and carried to the rear of the house. The room soon filled with powder smoke to the extent that it was difficult to breathe."

### *Glossary*

Entrenchments	a series of long deep holes called trenches that are dug for defense by soldiers in war
Skirmish	irregular or unpremeditated fighting, especially between small or outlying parts of army
Ell	an addition onto a house
Martial	of or appropriate to war
Gin house	a building where the seeds are removed from the cotton fibers
Repeating rifles	rifles that can fire more than one shot after a reload
Involuntary Works	done without conscious will or earthworks, a large man-made pile of dirt used to protect soldiers