Benjamin F. Vankannon,[1] Private, Co B, 3 MO Battalion Cavalry, CS

1845   (abt) Benjamin Franklin Vankannon was born in Mississippi to John and Eliza Brooks Vankannon.

1850   September 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Marshall County, MS showed five-year-old B. Franklin living with his parents and three brothers. His father was enumerated as a "Millwright."

1860   September 25: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Lafayette County, MS showed fifteen-year-old Franklin living with his parents and siblings. His father was a mechanic.

1862   December 9: Vankannon enlisted in the C.S. Army and mustered in as a private to Co. B of the 3rd Battalion MO Cavalry. His enlistment age was listed as eighteen years old, but he was most likely only seventeen. He was listed as being a farmerfromMarshall County, MS.

1863   January & February: Company Muster Roll. Present.

        March to October: Company Muster Rolls. Absent. Remarks "Left sick at Port Gibson 29 Apr 1863."

1864   May 12: Vankannon's brother Henry was killed in the Battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia.

        November 30: Vankannon was killed in action at the Battle of Franklin.

1865   August: T.W. Parks, a newspaper correspondent, visited the battlefield in Franklin, TN. He took the time to document the Missouri dead and report the names of each marked grave to be published for family in Missouri. He not only described the position of the graves, he described how information was recorded on each plank of wood (with lead pencils and knives.) B.F. Vankannon was noted as being buried in grave #23 of the second row along road the Columbia pike, within a few feet of the U.S. entrenchments.[2] Parks also noted that the surname was very "indistinct." Eight months later when the Cuppet's moved the soldiers to the McGavock Confederate Cemetery the surname had become illegible.

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[1] Vankannon, Vunkannon, Vonkannon,
[2] Daily Missouri Republican, St. Louis, MO, Thursday, 10 Aug 1865,, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

Benjamin Franklin Vankannon was simply listed in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery book as "B.F._____."