

Problems, Problems – Teacher Aid

Lesson: The Battle of Franklin, TN

Almost every time civilians found themselves in the path of large numbers of Civil War soldiers there were serious consequences to the local population.

What problems would civilians who lived in Franklin have faced during and after the battle? What did they do in response?

Here is an incomplete list to accompany your classroom discussion on the Battle of Franklin, TN.

Caring for the Wounded -	All available buildings were used as hospitals and recovery wards. One home was packed with over 300 soldiers. Private citizens nursed wounded men for months. They used all of their cloth for bandages – including articles of clothing. A huge amount of food was necessary as well.
Experiencing Shortages -	Food and clothing would have been in short supply – so much was needed by the wounded. This meant “doing without”.
Burying the Dead -	Soldiers often took the task of burying the dead, but sometimes civilians did this too. There were mass graves and unidentifiable people. Graves might be shallow. Men were re-interred at families’ requests. Private citizens gave land to be used as cemeteries.
Coping with Property Damage -	Bullets and artillery fire scarred anything close to the battle. Private homes were also damaged by blood – blood stained floors and blood soaked carpets.
Living with Emotional Trauma -	Civilians – who were unused to seeing blood and mangled bodies – needed to process the memories of dead men lying in piles and completely covering the ground in places. They were terrified because the battle was so close that they were in immediate danger. Their homes were invaded by soldiers trying to escape the battle – as well as the dead and wounded.

In other areas, crops were destroyed, livestock was confiscated for food, fences were destroyed, homes were burned, people became homeless and diseases were introduced.