

## Truth or Fiction?

Are you interested in knowing what's TRUTH and what's FICTION in *With This Pledge*? Then you've come to the right place! But be forewarned . . .

**\*\* SPOILERS ABOUND \*\***

Reading this document will reveal several of the twists and turns—and surprises—in the novel. So if you haven't read *With This Pledge* yet, you may not want to read what's truth and what's fiction.

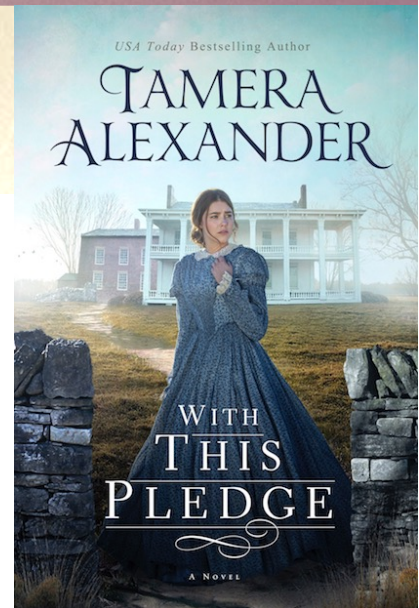
Unless, of course, you're one of *those* people! : )

Enjoy!

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Dear friend,

Thanks for taking a journey with me to historic **Carnton** in Franklin, Tennessee in *With This Pledge*, a Carnton Novel—**Captain Roland Ward Jones** and **Elizabeth (Lizzie) Clouston's** love story set against the real history surrounding the Battle of Franklin (November 30, 1864).



This novel—my 16th—is unlike any I’ve written before. Because *both* of the two main characters are based on real people who truly lived. **Captain Roland Jones**, a Mississippi sharpshooter, and **Lizzie Clouston**, the governess at the Carnton home, met on November 30, 1864 following the Battle of Franklin—the night that brought the Confederacy to its knees.

This novel was intimidating to write. But God, who is always faithful, was with me very step of the way and directed me to the people I needed to connect with in order to write this **true love story**. Namely, David Doty, the *great-great-great grandson* of Captain Jones, the *real* Civil soldier who is the hero in this novel.

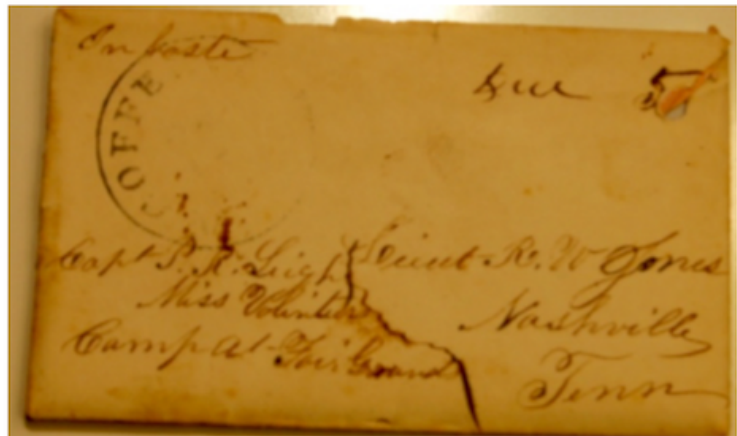
David shared the love letters between Roland and Lizzie with me, along with the family history (as have the wonderful folks at Carnton), and this rich wealth of resources and intimate insights made the writing journey for *With This Pledge* a wonderful one.



19th century letters —Captain Roland Ward Jones

But it hasn’t been without its challenges. Weaving real history with fiction can be tricky. Add to that a cast of characters which is largely based on real people...and the challenges multiply!

As you now know, this story is true.



[www.TameraAlexander.com](http://www.TameraAlexander.com)

The depictions of the aftermath from battle that unfolded within the walls of Carnton are real. And to honor the memories of the thousands of men who died or were wounded that night, I wrote this novel as authentically as I could. Because we must never forget what our freedom cost so many.



CARNTON, Franklin, Tennessee  
(front side of the home)

### Questions readers have asked about *With This Pledge*:

*Q: Are the letters in the novel all written by real people?*

*A:* With only two exceptions (entries from Towny and Levi, as indicated in the Author Note at the back of the novel), every document and letter in this novel is authentic. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to weave history into the fabric of my stories, but doing so in *With This Pledge* was especially meaningful.

*Q: The amount of factual history in this novel is immense. What sources did you use as you wrote With This Pledge?*

*A:* I pored over countless texts, diaries, journal entries, and historical documents while writing *With This Pledge* and they're too numerous to mention here. But to say I'm grateful for the many historians who have written about this tumultuous time in American's history is an understatement. If you're interested in learning more about the Battle of Franklin, here's a list of recommended reading. They're musts for any history lover!

- *For Cause and Country* by Eric Jacobsen, CEO of Battle of Franklin Trust
- *Shrouds of Glory* by Winston Groom
- *Gangrene and Glory* by Frank R. Freeman
- *Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Franklin*, compiled and edited by David R. Logsdon
- *The Battlefield Dispatch* from The Battle of Franklin Trust

Q: *What are the themes in this novel? And how do they relate to current day?*

A: Freedom. Choices. Promises. These three themes run with vivid undercurrent through this story, just as they continue to run through our still too-divided United States. Far too many struggles of the late nineteenth century continue to plague the headlines of newspapers today, and only through the power of Christ can we overcome these obstacles and break down barriers and become one. The ground at the foot of the cross is level. We are each created in the image of Almighty God, and therefore are image bearers for his glory. It is my continued prayer that we'll strive with ever increasing fervor to see one another through this eternal lens.

We can't address freedom without addressing slavery. Transatlantic slavery was an abhorrent evil, and as President Lincoln professed, this country had to bear a price for that wickedness. Yet there is more slavery in the world *today* than in the 19th century. If you would like to know more about fighting to combat this evil in our world—and in your backyard—visit [www.inourbackyard.org](http://www.inourbackyard.org).

Q: *Are there really blood stains on the floor from the night of the Battle of Franklin?*

A: Yes, and each time I see them is a sobering experience. Especially knowing the details of what happened that night and in the days following. See the image below where you can still make out the outline of a surgeon's boots where he stood (in Winder's bedroom by the window as portrayed in the novel) as he operated on soldier after soldier that night.

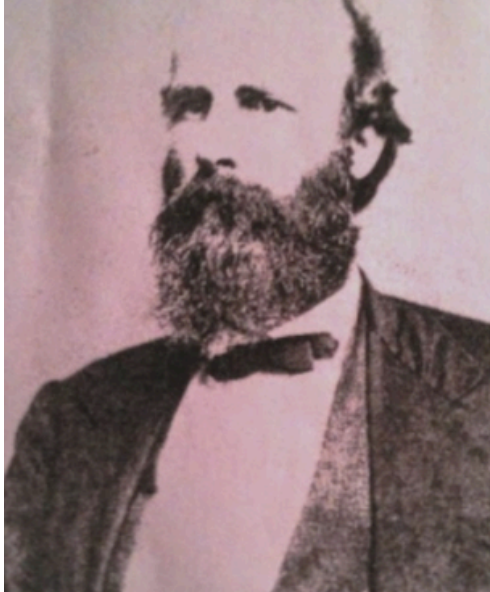


Q: Who are the characters in the novel who are based on real people? And do you have pictures of them?

A: Among the "real" characters in the novel (based on people who truly lived) are: Captain Roland Ward Jones, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Clouston, John and Carrie McGavock and their children Hattie and Winder, Tempy, Dr. Phillips, George (Roland's slave), Captain Pleasant Hope, James Shuler, E.M. Bounds, General Hood, General Schofield, the four generals who were laid on Carnton's back porch gallery following the battle, and many of the officers in the Confederate and Federal armies.

Here are some images of these people. Sadly, to date, history does not currently offer us an image of Tempy, George, or Captain Pleasant Hope. And only recently (as in early 2019) did we unearth an image that we are almost certain is of Lizzie Clouston (due to the dates and where the photograph was found). You can imagine how excited we were!

Captain Roland Ward Jones



Elizabeth "Lizzie" Clouston



Second Lieutenant  
James Shuler (and  
his brother  
Thomas—this is  
picture Lizzie has  
in the novel)



Dr. George Phillips



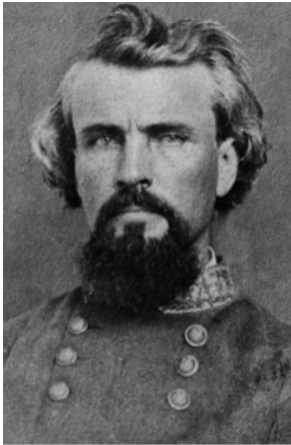
Hattie & Winder  
McGavock  
(circa 1864)



Colonel John  
McGavock



Carrie McGavock



General Nathan  
Bedford Forrest



General John  
Bell Hood

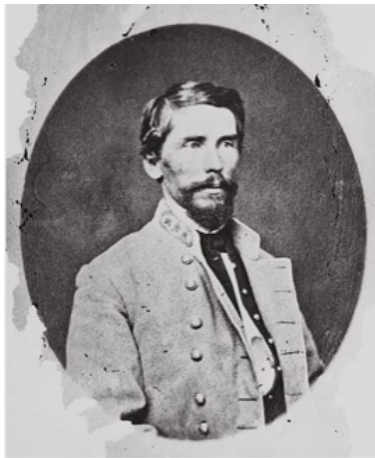


General John M.  
Schofield



The two-story gallery porch on the back of Carnton (where the deceased generals in the novel—and real life—were laid following the Battle of Franklin)

The following images are pictures of the generals whose bodies were laid on the back gallery porch at Carnton after they died in the Battle of Franklin.



Major General  
Patrick Cleburne



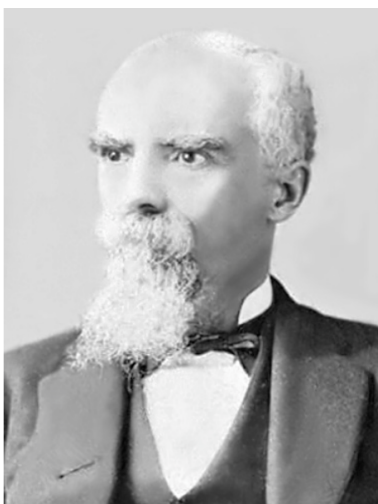
Brigadier  
General John  
Adams



Brigadier  
General Hiram  
B. Granbury



Brigadier  
General Otho  
French Strahl



Preacher E.M.  
Bounds

E.M. Bounds (Edward McKendree Bounds) was an extraordinary man and faithful follower and servant of Jesus Christ. His ministry impacted countless lives and his writings on prayers are well worth the read.

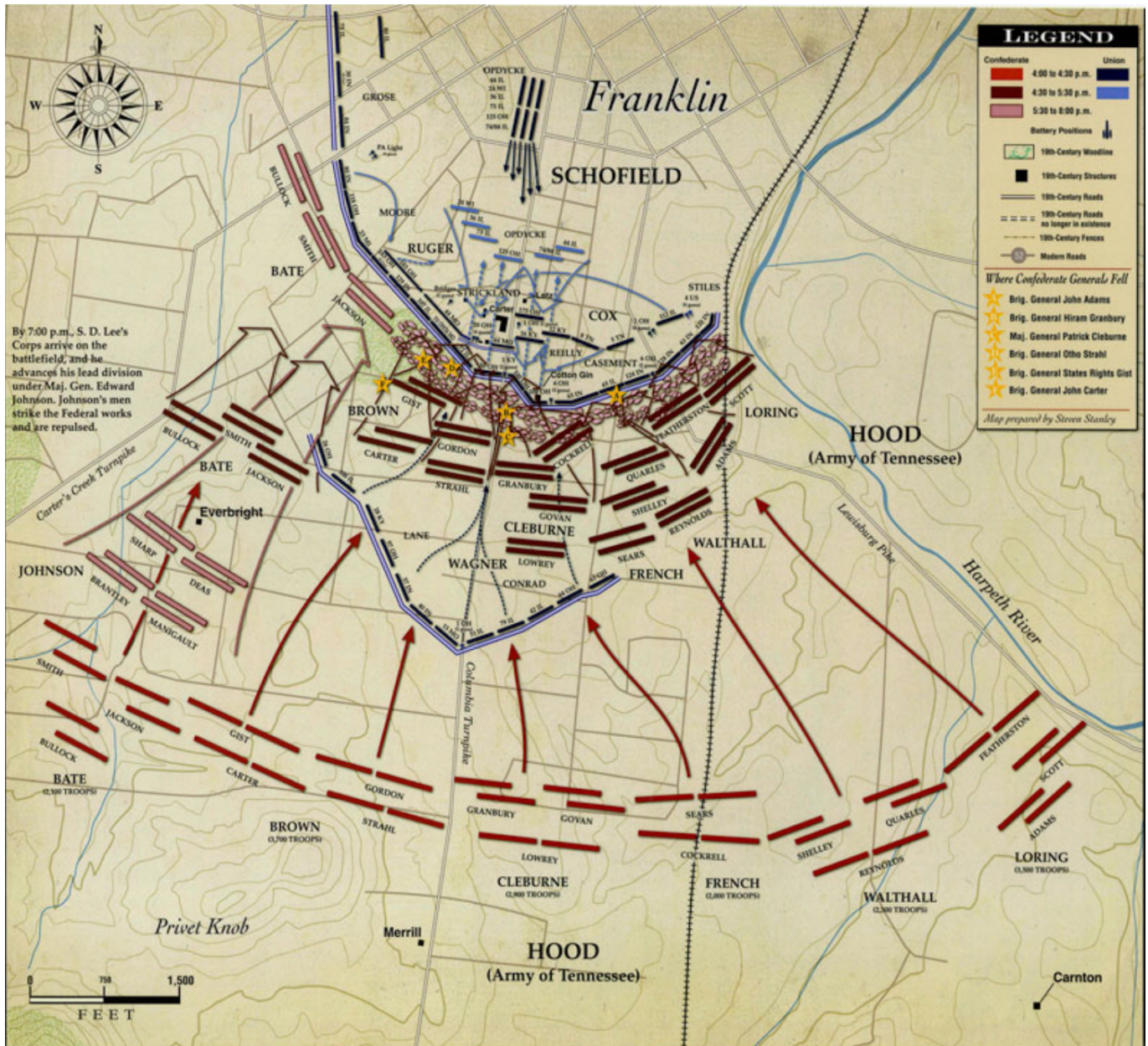
Bounds served on the front lines of the Confederate Army during the Civil War—as depicted in *With This Pledge*, a Carnton novel—and is best known for his remarkable devotional classic *Power Through Prayer*. More on that book [here](#).

All of the quotes that Roland recalls Pastor Bounds telling him are true-to-life quotes from the preacher himself.

Read more about E.M. Bounds in Darrel D. King's excellent book "E.M. Bounds" published by Bethany House Publishers. More on that book [here](#).



The following is a low resolution map of the Battle of Franklin (used with permission) that can be purchased in the Carnton and Carter House gift shops. This will give you a general idea of where Carnton and Carter House are in relation to the battle. Contact Carnton today to schedule your Battlefield Walking Tour. Highly recommended!



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Do you have more questions about what's TRUTH or FICTION from *With This Pledge*? Or about Carnton in Franklin, TN?

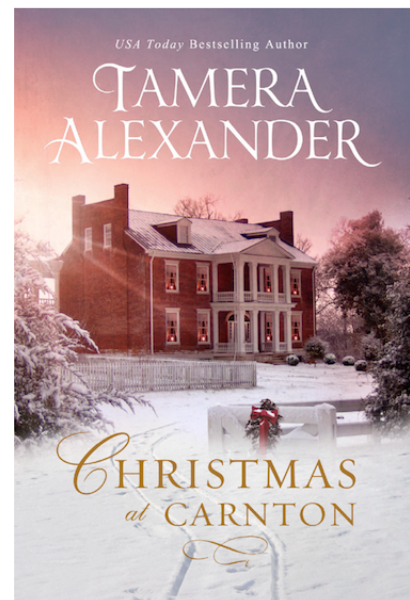
Please send your questions to me [here](#), and I'll get them answered and added to this page.

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If you haven't read *Christmas at Carnton* yet, you might want to! *Christmas at Carnton* is the novella that launched the Carnton series. More about that novella [here](#). *Colors of Truth*, Carnton book 2, is coming July 2020.

When you're next in Nashville, I hope you'll make time to visit Carnton. Click [here](#) to plan your visit. And be sure to tell them you've read the novels.

If you're part of a book club reading one of my books, I'd love to join your meeting via Skype for a twenty- to thirty-minute call. [VISIT THE BONUS FEATURES PAGE ON MY WEBSITE AND CLICK "FOR BOOK CLUBS" FOR MORE DETAILS.](#)



Finally, each month I offer [EXCLUSIVE GIVEAWAYS](#) to my eUpdate friends. So be sure to sign up for that when you're visiting my website. I love staying connected with you!

Until next time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tamera'.