

*The Blue, The Gray and The Red*

*Franklin*

*A once quiet village  
now crowded with Blue  
escaping the Gray.  
Franklin, Tennessee.  
Encircled by the Harpeth  
and Blue breastworks -  
ready for a Gray assault.  
Echoing sounds of  
marching bands precede  
explosion, smoke and Red  
of all too near conflict.  
Its people become nurses,  
homes, churches - hospitals,  
treating all men.  
Special people - special place.  
Main street, town square,  
monument to fallen fathers.  
American history -  
all American town.*

*Mel Maurer  
July, 1993*

*The Blue, The Gray and The Red*

*The Carter House*

*A peaceful farm,  
near a quiet village.  
The Carters, and  
the Blue, at home -  
waiting for the Gray,  
and the Red, to call.  
Exploding shells,  
Rebel yells -  
War in their yard.  
The family sheltered  
beneath their house.  
All, but one, safe  
and that one,  
a gray son, will die.  
The Blue, the Gray,  
their bloody battle,  
now - sad history.  
Memories of  
a war torn country,  
a war torn family  
remain, in residence,  
at the Carter House.*

*Mel Maurer  
June, 1993*

*The Blue, The Gray and The Red*

*Carnton*

*Through  
Carnton's fields,  
past its mansion  
and their way of life  
the Gray marched -  
towards Franklin,  
the Blue, the Red  
and for many...  
the end of their lives.  
Carnton -  
their last plantation.  
To her care  
many would return.  
First the wounded  
and then - the dead.  
Embracing them then,  
holding them now.  
Carnton -  
a memorial  
to the old south  
and those who gave  
their lives to save it.*

*Mel Maurer  
June, 1993*

*The Blue, The Gray and The Red*

*The Battle of Franklin*

*They were the Blue.  
They were the Gray.  
When, in Franklin,  
they met - they were,  
the Blue, the Gray  
and the Red.  
The Gray - to attack  
and breakthrough.  
The Blue - to resist  
and repulse.  
The Red - to flow  
and to dedicate:  
To all the Blue men,  
To all the Gray men,  
To their country and  
To their cause - the  
place of their courage,  
the site of their battle,  
that sad November day.*

*Mel Maurer  
April, 1993*

*The Blue, The Gray and The Red*

*Fort Granger*

*Quiet now,  
it rests beneath  
the trees atop  
Figuers Hill -  
Fort Granger.  
Once proud guardian  
of the Harpeth river  
at Franklin.  
Earthen then,  
Earthen now.  
Combatants, cannon,  
shouts, explosions,  
smoke, fire  
and blood -  
long gone.  
It's purpose now,  
to protect  
the memory of  
men who served,  
men who bled and  
men who died -  
The Blue,  
and The Gray.*

*Mel Maurer  
May, 1993*

*The Blue, The Gray and The Red*

*The Battle of Thompson's Station*

*Today...  
only memories stop  
at this railroad station.  
Of Blue men, Gray men  
and the battle they fought  
in March of sixty three.  
Blue descending south  
towards railroad tracks -  
dividing the land.  
Gray, and their fate,  
waiting - at the station.  
Colors and causes  
in conflict.  
The Blue to lose.  
The Gray to win.  
The Red to run, again.  
For all her sons -  
a nation mourns:  
Remembering...  
Sacrifices made and  
Destinies denied  
at Thompson's Station.*

*Mel Maurer  
June, 1993*