Profile of War
Johann Albert Lotz

1. Where did Johann Lotz live before moving to Tennessee?

2. Why did he move to Williamson County, TN?

3. How did Lotz make a living for himself before the Civil War?

4. What happened to Lotz’s house during the war?

5. How did the war affect Lotz’s business?

6. Do you think he was able to practice his trade as much after the war? Why or why not?
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Answer Key

1. Where did Johann Lotz live before moving to Tennessee?
Answer: Germany

2. Why did he move to Williamson County, TN?
Answer: Most likely because it was a prosperous section of the state and he hoped to find patrons for his work as a house carpenter.

3. How did Lotz make a living for himself before the Civil War?
Answer: He did decorative architectural carving and built houses, including a substantial frame house for his family, on Main Street in Franklin, Tennessee.

4. What happened to his house during the war?
Answer: Lotz and his family hid in the brick home of the Carter family across the street from their home as the Battle of Franklin raged all around, not knowing if their house would be spared. Miraculously, it survived the battle unharmed.

5. How did the war affect Lotz’s business?
Answer: The post-war economy did not afford many people the luxury of building new houses, so Lotz turned to tuning and repairing pianos to make ends meet.

6. Do you think he was able to practice his trade as much after the war? Why or why not?
Answer: Apparently there was not enough demand for piano tuners either, so the multi-talented Lotz moved his family to California and became a carriage maker.