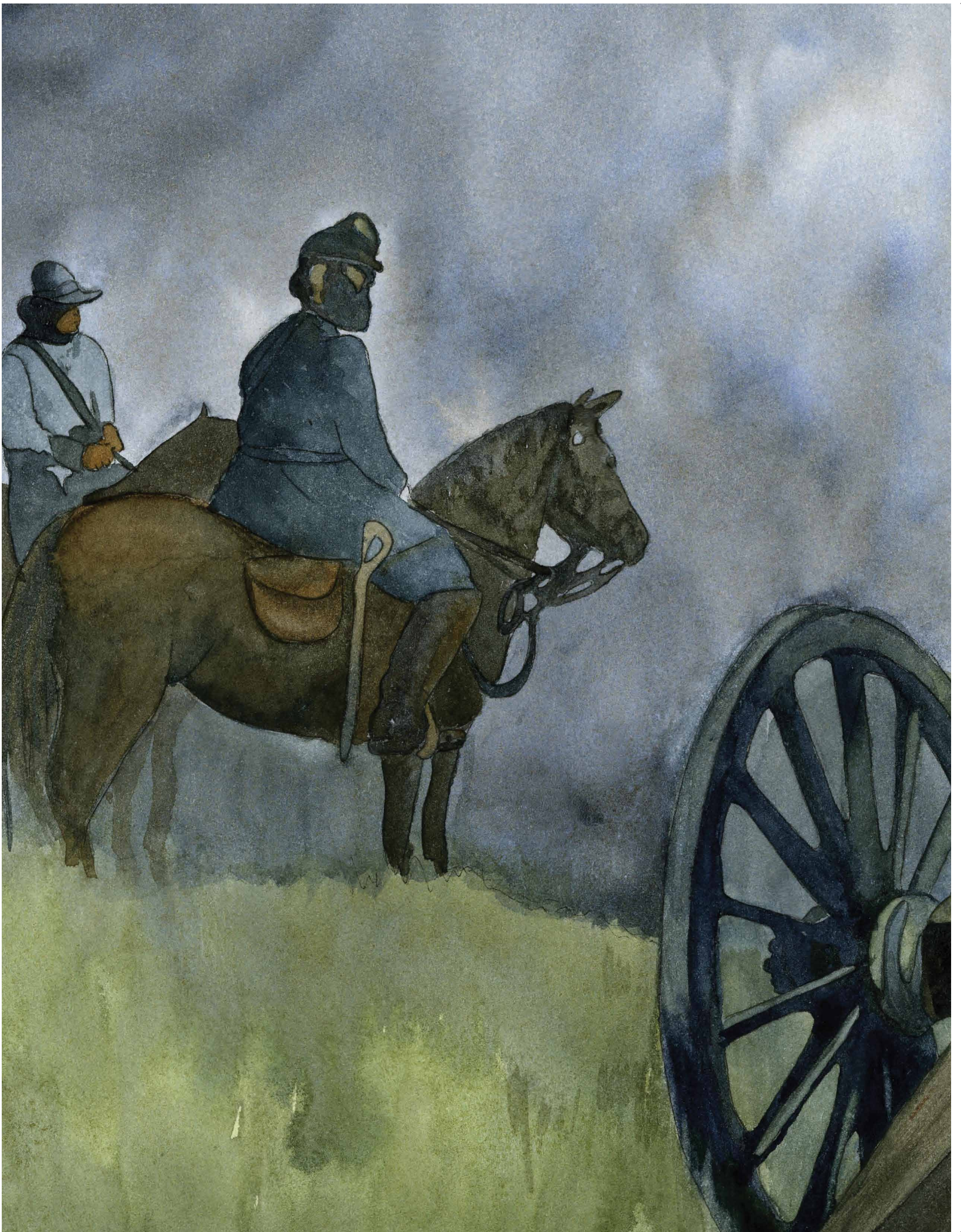


When the War Between the States began in 1861, Professor Jackson left Lexington with cadets from the military institute to join the Confederate Army. He said goodbye to his Sunday school scholars. Many of them shed tears. Though they would miss him, Professor Jackson would miss them just as much.



During the war, his troops won several battles. The professor proved himself such a great army leader that he became known as "Stonewall Jackson." General Jackson and his horse, Little Sorrel, were known and loved throughout the South.



One day, Reverend White, a Presbyterian pastor in Lexington, received a letter from General Jackson. A great crowd gathered around him, all of them eager for news of the war and General Jackson's victories. As he opened the letter, he said, "Now we shall know the facts about the war." The letter stated:

My Dear Pastor:

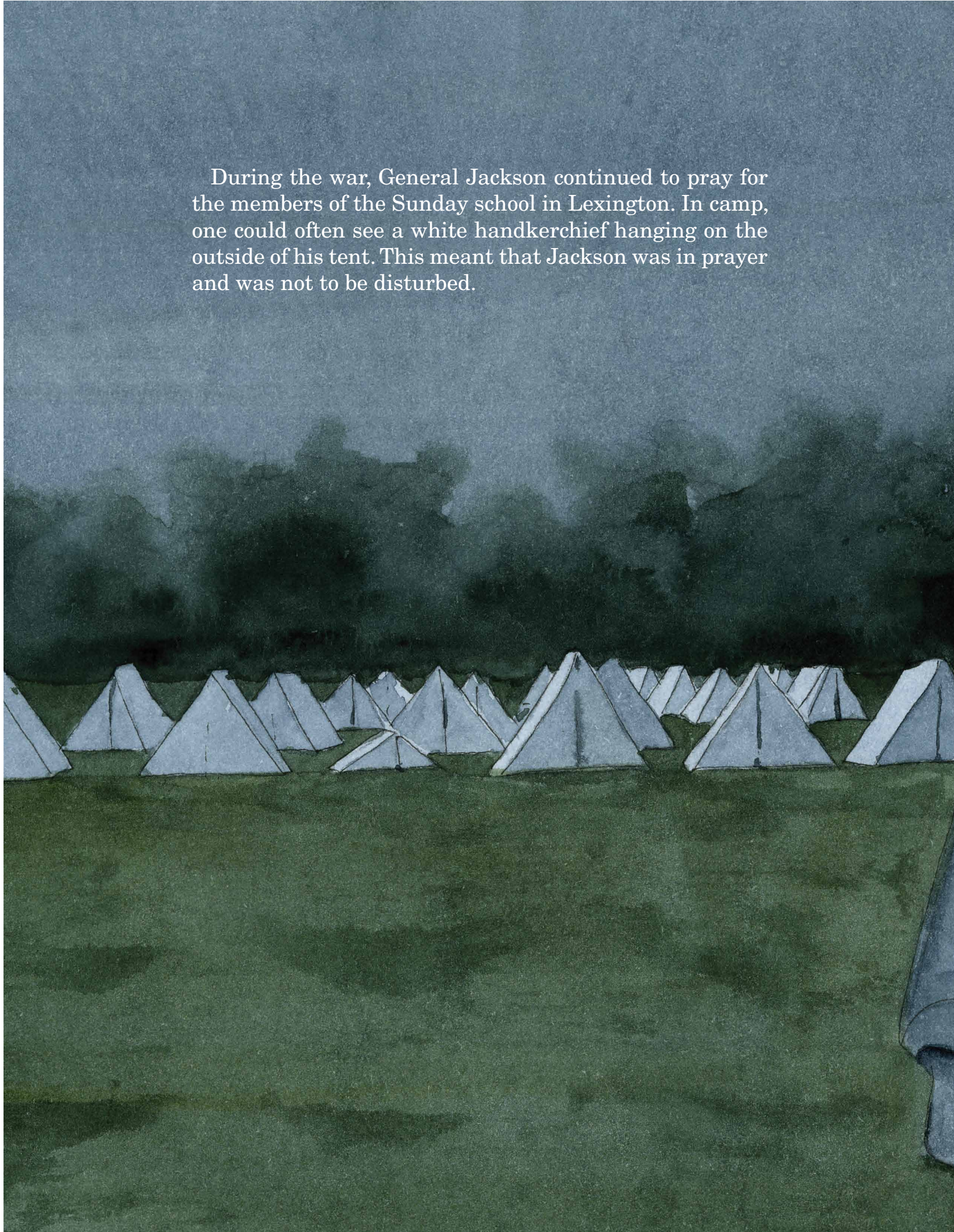
In my tent last night, I remembered that I had failed to send you my contribution for our colored Sunday school. Enclosed you will find my check for fifty dollars.

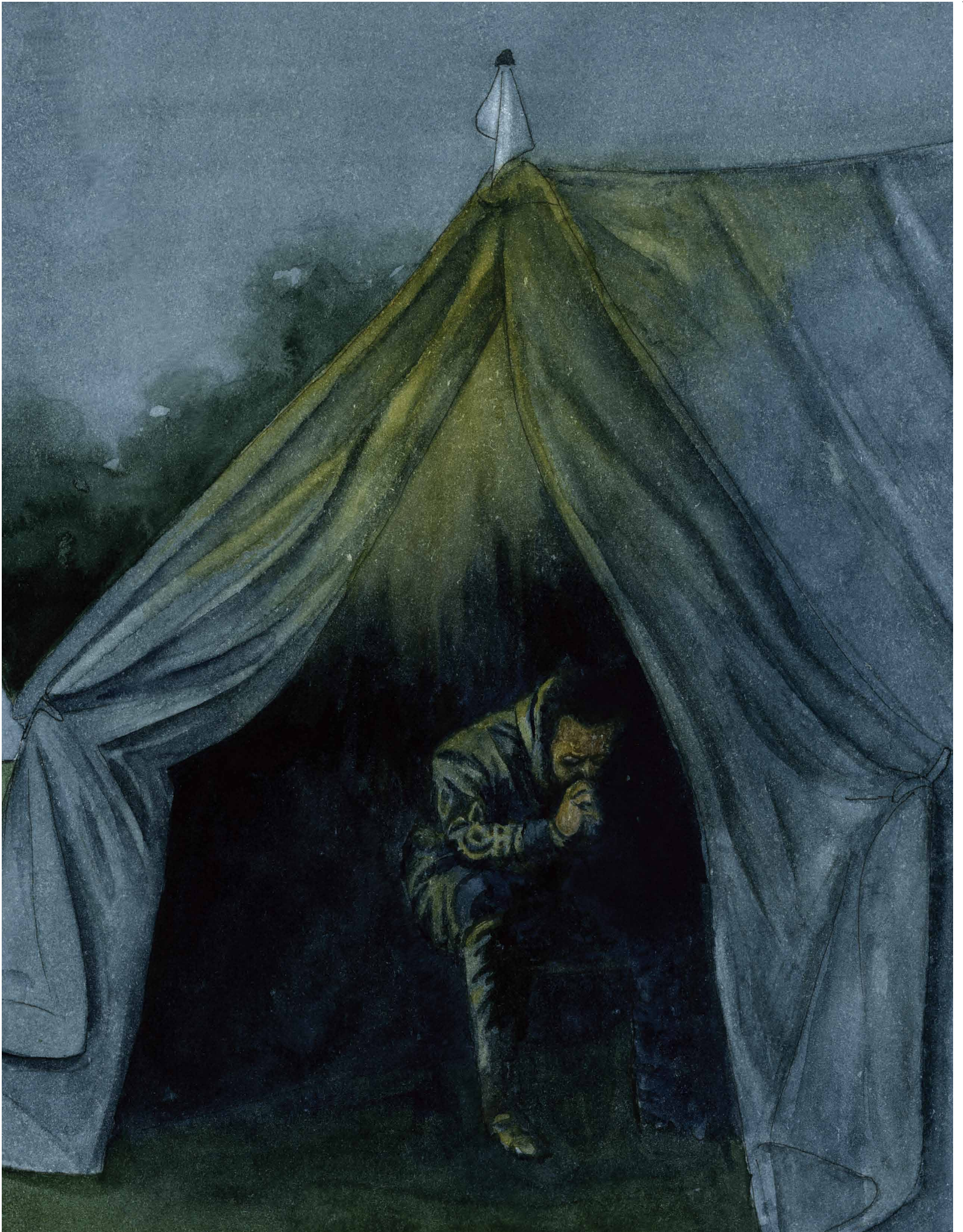
Yours faithfully,
T. J. Jackson

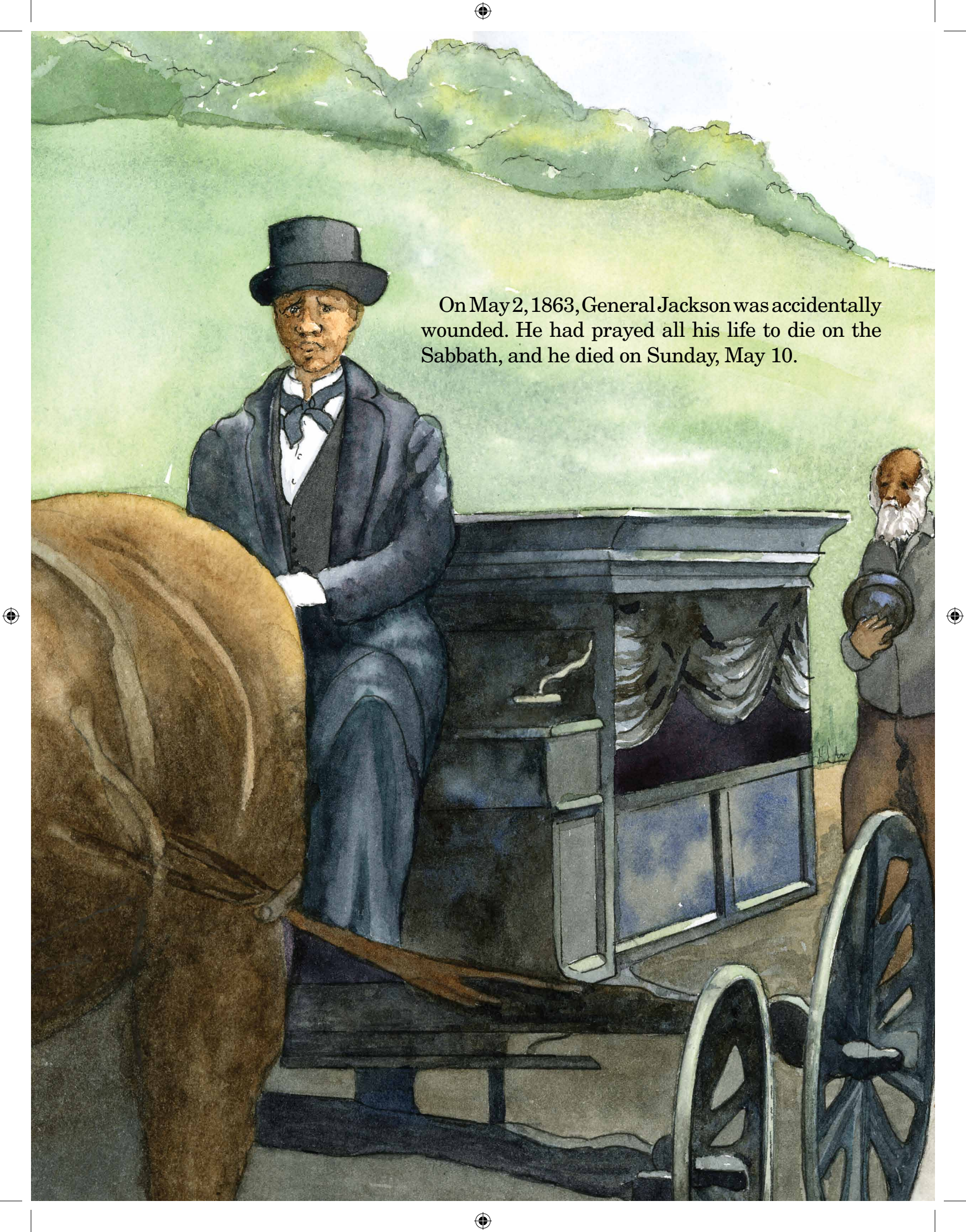




During the war, General Jackson continued to pray for the members of the Sunday school in Lexington. In camp, one could often see a white handkerchief hanging on the outside of his tent. This meant that Jackson was in prayer and was not to be disturbed.





A watercolor illustration of General Jackson in a carriage. General Jackson is seated in the driver's seat of a dark-colored carriage, wearing a dark top hat, a dark suit, and a white shirt with a dark bow tie. He is looking towards the viewer with a serious expression. The carriage is pulled by a brown horse, whose head and neck are visible on the left. To the right of the carriage, an older man with a long white beard, wearing a grey coat and brown trousers, stands holding a dark hat. The background consists of a green hillside under a light blue sky. The text is positioned in the upper right area of the illustration.

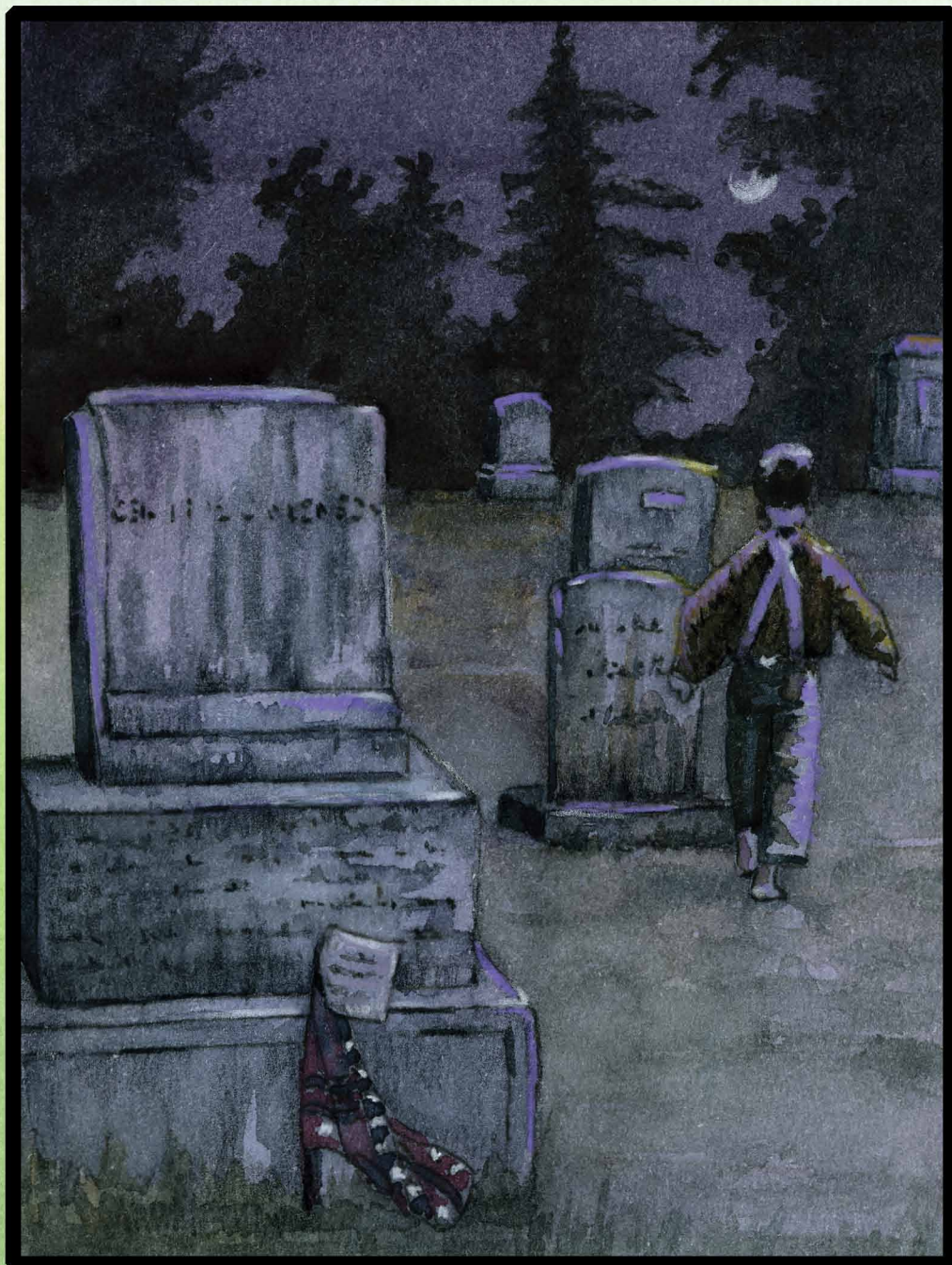
On May 2, 1863, General Jackson was accidentally wounded. He had prayed all his life to die on the Sabbath, and he died on Sunday, May 10.

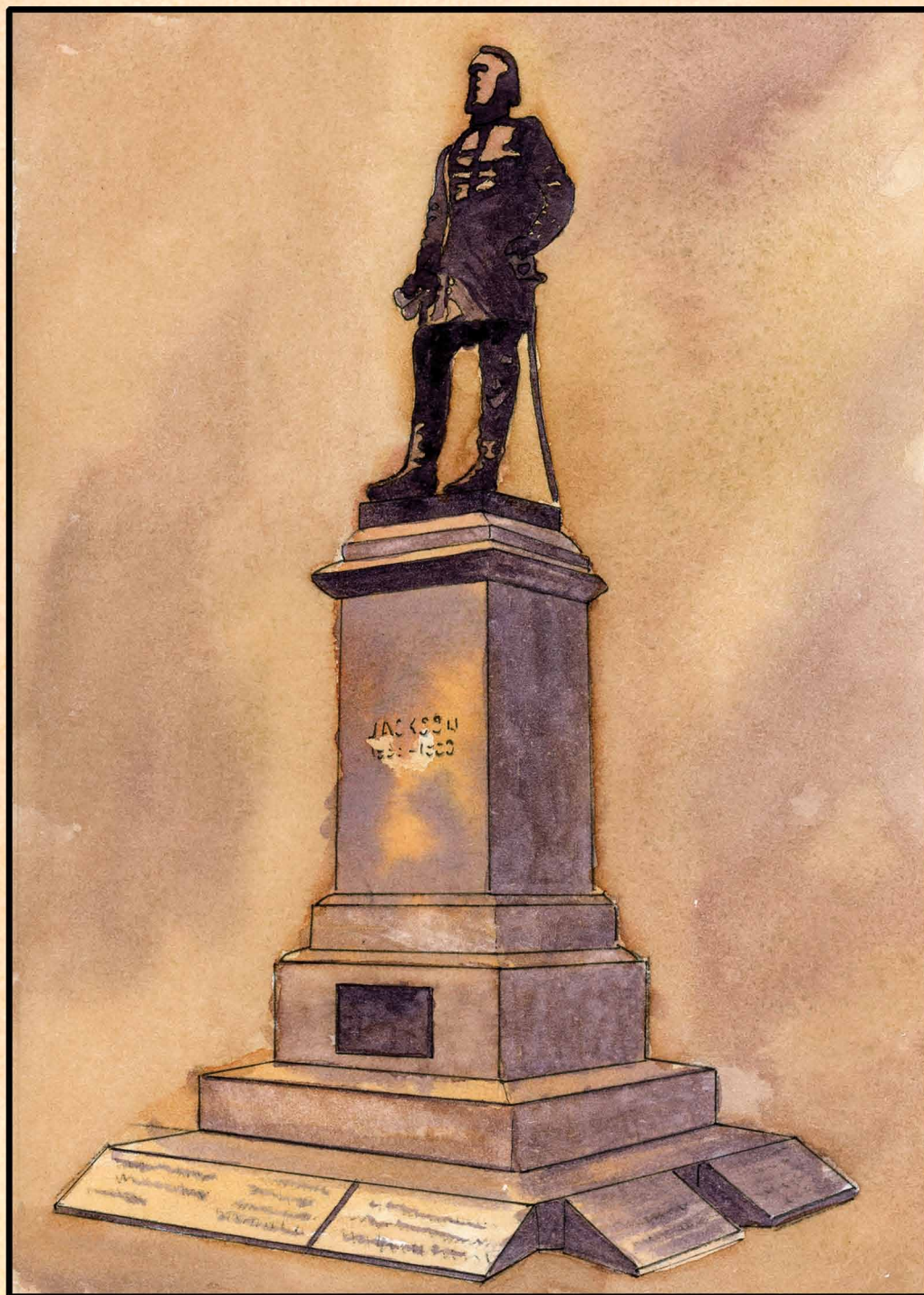
Special funeral services were held to honor him in Richmond. Afterwards, his coffin was taken to Lexington, where he was buried in the Presbyterian church's cemetery on May 15. Jim Lewis, General Jackson's personal servant, was given the honor of leading the riderless Little Sorrel in both funerals. Everyone in Lexington was saddened by the news of Jackson's death.



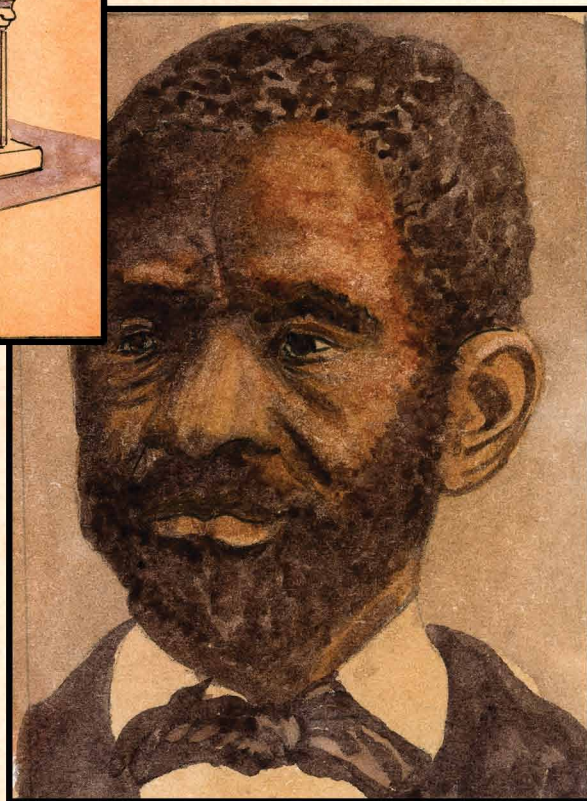
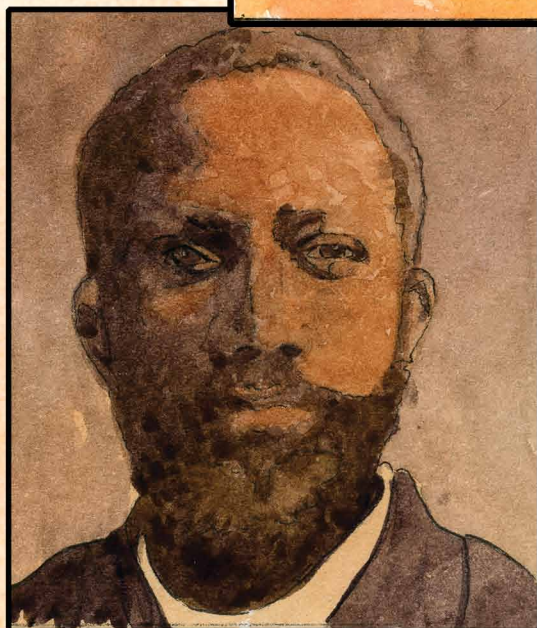
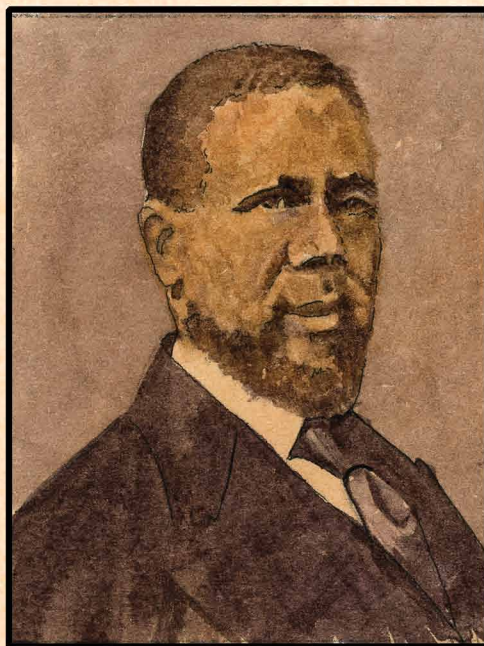
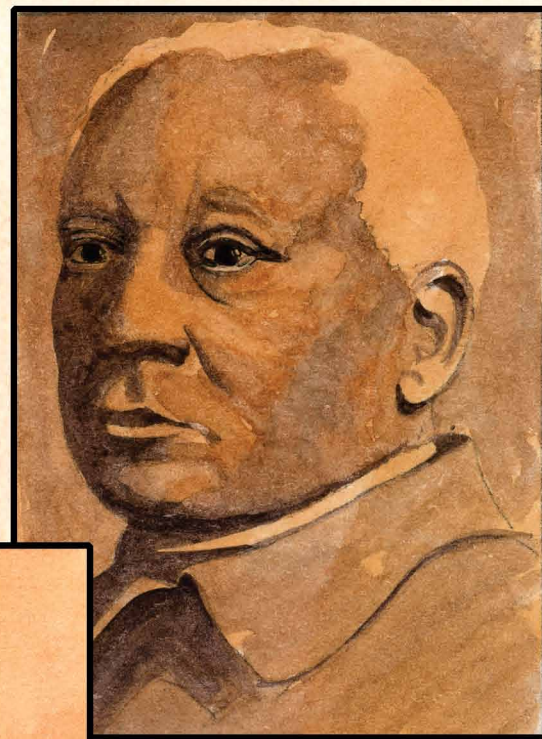
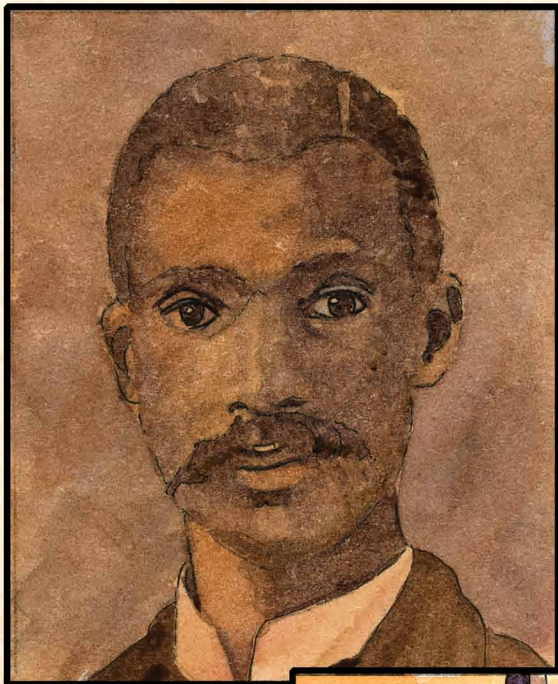


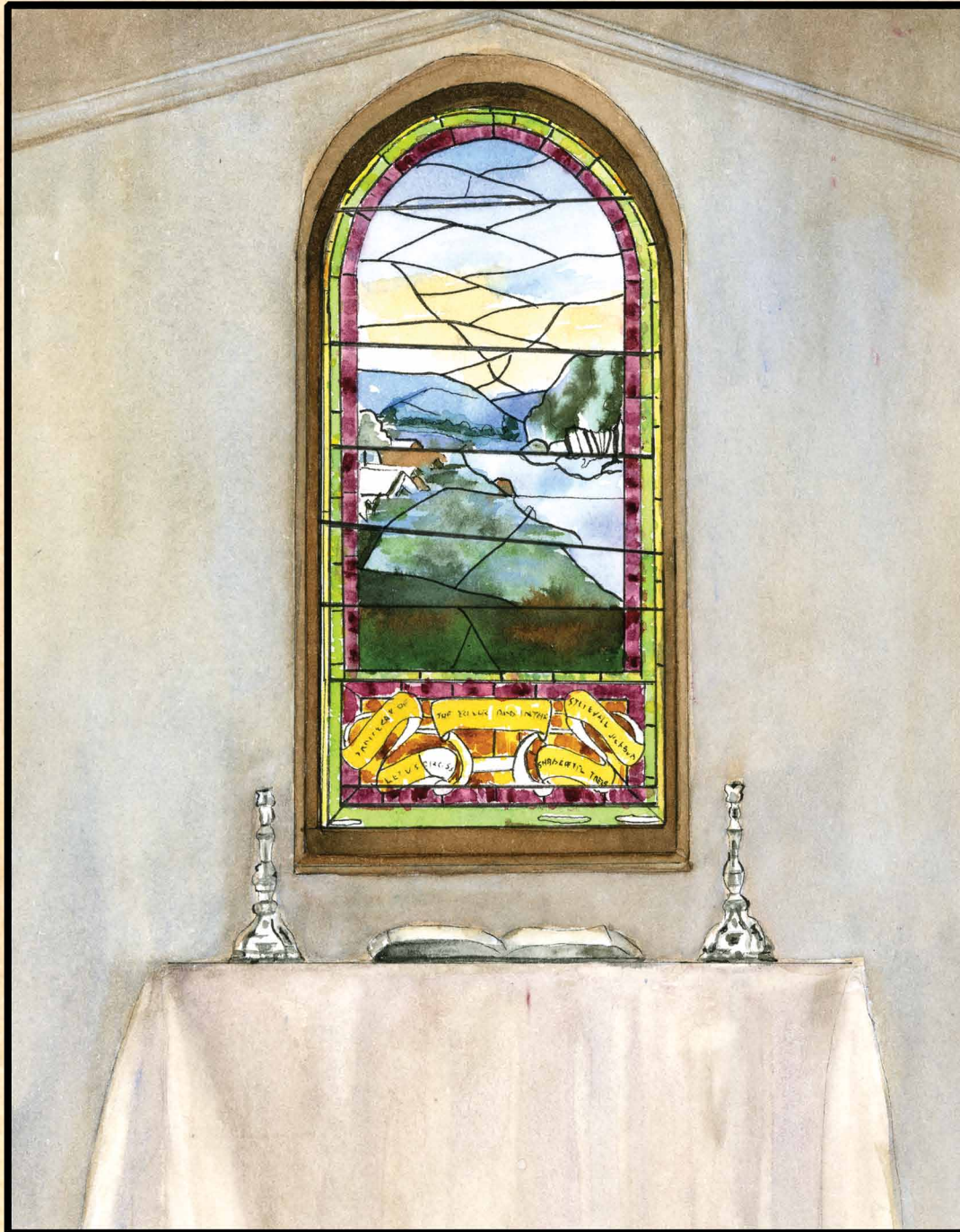
Those who attended the Sunday school in Lexington would never forget Professor Jackson. After the Federal Army occupied Lexington at the end of the war, visitors to the church's cemetery found a small Confederate flag on Jackson's grave. The flag had a gospel hymn pinned to it. A young boy who had attended Jackson's Sunday school had placed the small memorial on his grave during the night.





Because of Professor Jackson's work at the Sunday school, three black churches were created in Lexington, and a good number of Professor Jackson's students became members of those churches. Many of his students and their children would later become important community leaders, ministers, and educators. They contributed liberally to the statue that was erected at Professor Jackson's grave.





One of these leaders was Lylburn Liggins Downing, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, Virginia. His parents had attended Jackson's Sunday school. Downing was determined to honor Professor Jackson, so he designed and raised money for a beautiful stained-glass window in honor of Jackson. Many Americans travel to this church every year to see the window and hear the story of Professor Jackson's Sunday school. Jackson's last words are inscribed at the bottom of the window:

"Let us cross over the river and rest in the shade of the trees."