



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 2006

www.franklin-stfb.org

Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection, and Promotion of Civil War Sites in Williamson County, Tennessee

Dear STFB member—

Spring has sprung here in middle Tennessee! As Nature renews itself, so too is STFB renewing our efforts to “publicize, promote, and preserve” Civil War sites here in Williamson County. In the next two months we have events scheduled at the Triune earthworks, Fort Granger, and Thompson’s Station. These sites, like many others across the county, are either desperately endangered, or currently available for preservation.

For instance, the magnificent Triune earthworks (more elsewhere in this newsletter) are privately owned by seven different landowners, who might decide to develop their land at any time, especially now that State Route 840 has come to town.

For Granger, owned by the city of Franklin, has several out-parcels integral to the fort, which may come, onto the market in the near future. Finally, Thompson’s Station is experiencing the tsunami wave of development, which has washed over the neighboring city of Spring Hill. The Thompson’s Station battlefield has not substantially changed since 1863, but it may quickly disappear with the unprecedented growth underway there.

These are just three of the many sites that will be preserved or compromised on our watch. We will not pass the decision on to our children. We must publicize, promote, and preserve these sites while they still exist—and the clock is ticking.

I know we’ll do our honest best to make this happen, and I know you’ll be there to help—and for that I’m truly grateful.

See you at our upcoming events!

Joe Smyth

Tour of Triune Earthworks April 1st

On April 1st, from 1-3 p.m., STFB will give a tour of the Federal earthworks at Triune, Tennessee. The tour will be led by Tennessee Wars Commission Director of Programs Fred Prouty. The Commission is attached to the Tennessee Historical Commission. Previously, Mr. Prouty worked with the Tennessee Department of Archeology.

The earthworks at Triune are near pristine examples of military engineering. They represent what the outer earthworks at Nashville and Franklin would have looked like had they survived the ensuing 143 years. These works, the centerpiece of the southern perimeter of defenses around Nashville, were built in 1863 by the same engineering team that built Forts Granger and Roper’s Knob, Rosecrans in Murfreesboro, and Negley in Nashville.

Following the Battle of Stones River on Dec. 30-31, 1863 the Confederate Army of Tennessee took up defensive positions on a line from Shelbyville to Spring Hill. During the first six months of 1863, the Federal Army of the Cumberland fortified a line of defenses from Murfreesboro to Franklin.

The fortifications at Triune, in place by March 8th, were constructed on three hilltops just north of Triune. Redoubts, artillery positions, and powder magazines were connected by trenches and rifle pits. The post was part of the signal link between Franklin and Murfreesboro. Due to the size of the garrison, the site saw numerous skirmishes from March through June of 1863. It was a major staging area for 10,000 of the troops that moved against the Confederates as part of the Tullahoma Campaign beginning in late June.

For the remainder of 1863 and 1864 the fortifications were garrisoned by Federal troops. With the approach of the Confederate army back into middle Tenn. in Nov. 1864, the post was evacuated. Following the Battle of Nashville, the fort was reoccupied by Federal troops and garrisoned until the end of the war, when it was abandoned.

Those attending the tour should meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Triune Methodist Church, one mile north of the Hwy 96 intersection on Nolensville Road (S.R. 31/41) the group will caravan to the site for a 1:00 p.m. start. Please wear appropriate walking footwear. Be prepared for mildly strenuous walking, although a portion of the earthworks can be viewed without much walking.

The tour is open to the public and free for STFB members. Non-members are being asked for a donation, or better yet, to join up as members. For more information, please call the STFB office at (615) 500-6612.

Mark Your Calendars!!

On Saturday, May 13th, Save The Franklin Battlefield will run an informational table at the annual Thompson's Station Festival. STFB has been a part of the festival for the past several years. As part of the event, we will give presentations on the Battle of Thompson's Station at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The view from the reconstructed railroad station is essentially the same as Whitfield's Texans saw as they watched the men of the 33rd and 85th Indiana cross the field towards them. Today, these same fields are in great danger of disappearing under unprecedented growth. Unfortunately, there is not currently a "Friends of the Thompson's Station Battlefield" organization in place to defend against this attack.

Please join us on May 13th to raise awareness of and make a stand for the Thompson's Station battlefield. We hope to see you there!

New & Renewing Members February 2006

Tony Cichantk	Wood Dale IL
Martin & Ann Frost	Lebanon TN
Dennis Garoutte	Minneapolis MN
Robert Hearin	New Orleans LA
Matthew Hooks	Oakmont PA
Marty & Ronald Ligon	Franklin TN
Rory McIntyre	Columbus OH
Bertille Owen	Bon Aqua TN
Thomas & Dorothy Rivett	Lincoln NE
Nick Romer	Franklin TN
Brian Ruxton	Elmhurst IL
Doug & Marilyn Thompson	Tallahassee FL
Col Sam Whitson	Franklin TN

Franklin Receives Preservation Award

by Gregory L. Wade

WASHINGTON,DC-Franklin, Tennessee, known for years as a lost cause for Civil War preservation, recently was awarded the Preserve America award by First Lady Laura Bush in a Washington DC ceremony. The award, sponsored by the National Park Service, is designed to provide encouragement and support for communities efforts to save and preserve their cultural heritage. Franklin Mayor Tom Miller, Preservation Planner Shannon Wasielewski and City Administrator Jay Johnson recently traveled to Washington to receive the award. Along with the recognition for it's efforts the city received a \$20,000 grant for preservation purposes. This years grants went to 28 different governmental entities across the country.

Franklin, long known for not preserving much of it's Civil War landscape, saw a dramatic reversal in 2005.

Over one hundred acres of the Battle of Franklin ground was saved thru a coalition of local preservation and historical groups. And the infamous battlefield Pizza Hut, made more visible by a 2005 National Geographic article, has been leveled and removed after the city bought the property. It is hoped this land will be part of a growing battlefield park movement in Franklin.

Mayor Tom Miller, elected in October of 2003, has led a more preservation friendly board of aldermen in their efforts to make Franklin a heritage destination for tourism. The Preserve America award's last Tennessee recipient was Jonesborough, the state's oldest town known for it's colonial preservation efforts. Some other Southern cities to receive the award this year include Augusta, Georgia, Horse Cave, Kentucky, Abilene, Texas and Natchitoches, Louisiana. States can also be awarded grants for various preservation efforts. Applicants are reviewed and a new selection takes place on an annual basis.

The Preserve America Award was established by executive order signed by President Bush in March of 2003. During the recent ceremony Mrs. Bush noted the importance of historic preservation saying, "Historic preservation has an important place in America. Preserve America promotes education, historic preservation and economic development while encouraging a greater appreciation of our national treasures..... President Bush and I want every American, especially our children, to discover and learn about our nation's heritage."

Wasielewski cited the support of the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus behind the effort. "There are about 100 members of the House in the preservation caucus and the co chairs hosted the awards presentation." Adding that the cumulative efforts in Franklin were part of the recognition she said it is likely the city will apply again for the next years grants and award. "Preservation work is a continuing effort," she said.

More can be found on the Preserve America program at www.PreserveAmerica.gov.

Valley Corps Confederate Volunteers Donates To STFB

Tony Seiberlich of the Valley Corps Confederate Volunteers, 2nd Virginia Co F wrote to us recently. He is Treasurer of the group and included their check for \$150 for the preservation and continuation of the Franklin Battlefield. This is the fourth consecutive year that Tony's group has provided financial support to our collective efforts here in Franklin. They have been especially good friends and we greatly appreciate their steady support.

A Note On Giving

In March, STFB will receive \$3,000 from companies whose employees made gifts to STFB last year. This is because many larger employers have a Matching Grants Program whereby they add to donations made by their employees to worthy causes. The matching amount usually ranges from ½ of the employee's gift all the way up to a two-to-one match.

Larger companies regularly donate to non-profits and charities, and rather than have a paid staff to select the recipients and to allocate the funds, they simply rely on their employee's good judgement as to where the money should go. You can check with your payroll or human resources departments to see if you have a Matching Grants program, and to get the procedures and proper forms to send with your gift. The recipient (STFB) then completes and returns the form to the company after providing the necessary certification documentation. Then sometime later, a few months or after year-end, the employer sends their matching gift to STFB. It's pretty simple to do. You'll be glad you

News In Review

Old Glory returns here for eight-month stay at Tennessee State Museum — *The Tennessean* — 2/14/06 — NASHVILLE — The celebrated U.S. flag known as Old Glory has been around the world atop an early 19th-century ship; concealed inside a quilt in Nashville during the Civil War; and finally donated to the Smithsonian Institution. In mid-March, Old Glory returns to Nashville for a special eight-month showing at Tennessee State Museum downtown.

Simple marker sought to top former Pizza Hut site — *Franklin Review Appeal* — 2/15/06 — Franklin — Battlefield Preservation Task Force members say they want a marker that respectfully commemorates where some of the bloodiest fighting of the Nov. 30, 1864 Civil War battle took place and connects this "new" site to other, long-established battlefield sites in Franklin. Discussions about how to mark the Columbia Avenue site haven't formally begun among task force members, but they are thinking about what might go there one day. In interviews, most said they preferred something simple rather than ornate, given the small size of the land, and they hope the site will be a place of reflection.

Face of the week: Harold McMurtry — *Franklin Review Appeal* — 2/15/06 — Franklin — Harold McMurtry is a former Brentwood city commissioner who served eight years on the city board and owns Volunteer Welding Supply in Nashville. In early February, he attended the celebration of the sale of the Country Club of Franklin to the city. **Are you a Civil War buff?** We're members of Save the Franklin Battle field. We have an investment here. **Do you support the city of Franklin's purchase of the country club?**

Definitely. **What do you make of people who have criticized the purchase and say the land isn't historically important?** I say it's crazy. It's a thing of great importance. When we leave our heritage, we've lost everything and there's a lot of it in this county. (Editor's Note: McMurtry is a member of the STFB Board of Directors)

Valor for Union had many hues — *The Tennessean* — 2/18/06 — NASHVILLE — Today, a bronze statue of an African-American Union infantryman will be unveiled at the Nashville Military Cemetery, near the resting place of the black soldiers who wore blue. The life-size statue by Middle Tennessee native Roy Butler is one of only a few memorials in the United States to pay homage to black Union soldiers and is believed to be one of two such tributes in the deep South.

New (old) campus ready for Middle College — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 3/3/06 — FRANKLIN — Workers are finishing renovations to Peoples Hall along Columbia Avenue, on the old Battle Ground Academy campus. Students are expected to move in after spring break. The renovated Peoples Hall looks a lot like a new school, with science labs in place, dry erase boards on the walls and new tile in the building.

Heartland Brigade set to battle this weekend — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 3/10/06 — FRANKLIN — About 250 Civil War enthusiasts are expected to participate in a living history demonstration for the public on the grounds of Rippavilla Plantation on March 11 and 12. "Unlike normal re-enactments, with this event the people have the time to talk to the spectators and show them their weapons and explain what's happening," stated Rick Hoover, a member of the Rippavilla board of directors and the Heartland Brigade.

Beavers spur roadside ruckus — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 3/16/06 — FRANKLIN — Even as the beavers create hazards for motorists and jokes for talk radio, the animals will figure into discussions about the future of the former country club property, which city leaders envision turning into a battle field park to commemorate the 1864 Battle of Franklin. The city's Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved Tuesday spending \$110,000 to hire Westchester, PA-based John Milner Associates, Inc., to create a concept plan for the conversion of the 110-acre former golf club into a battlefield park. The company specializes in historic preservation. City officials and others have touted the park as a way to increase tourism.

Preservationists: Franklin Battlefield a Hopeful Sign — *Franklin Life* — March 2006 — Washington, D. C. — A Civil War preservation group on Tuesday, February 28th, pointed to recovery efforts at the Franklin Battlefield as hopeful sign that 10 other "endangered" sites could also be protected. The Tennessee battlefield "is a singular and unique success story," said James Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust. "What we see in Franklin and in all these battlefields is courage," said Ben Stein, an actor and Civil War enthusiast. "We need that courage now more than ever."

Baseball park may become Nashville Civil War Museum

By Gregory L. Wade

NASHVILLE, TN- Where home runs were hit and cannons once roared, may soon become the sight of a major Civil War Museum in Nashville, Tennessee. Nashville's triple A baseball franchise, the Sounds, will be moving to a new state of the art stadium on the Cumberland River in downtown Nashville, tentatively slated to open in time for the 2008 season. The team currently plays in Greer Stadium and will for at least one more season while the new facility is being constructed. It happens that the ball park is adjacent to Fort Negley, a Union strongpoint used as part of a chain of works surrounding Nashville. Just last year Negley was reopened after extensive preservation work done by the city and various Civil War preservation groups.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Negley was the largest inland stone fortification built during the War and Nashville the most fortified inland city. When the fighting ended, it was neglected as a reminder of hard times and selective memories until the city bought the land in 1928. In the late 30's restoration efforts by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) restored most of the major parts of the fort and it reopened as a park in 1940. Only four years later, the facility was again closed and had remained so until it was restored again and reopened to the public in 2005. The extensive preservation work was completed by Nashville's parks department and various Civil War preservation groups. When an active fort, the Federal camps spread from the hilltop site in all directions which included the land now occupied by Greer Stadium. Much of the impressive stone work was done by black slave labor. During the 1864 Battle of Nashville, Negley's guns opened up on Confederate positions south of the city.

According to Doug Jones of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (BONPS), there are already plans to build a \$1,000,000 interpretive center on the Fort Negley site. "We see this as a hub for future historical preservation in Nashville," Jones said. There is a great interest from outsiders in Nashville, especially from the Midwest, he noted. "The Governor of Minnesota declared December 16

Shy's Hill Day (major focal point of the 1864 Battle) where Minnesota troops led the charge against Confederates on Shy's Hill. . There were more Minnesota casualties in the Battle of Nashville than all of World War II." Getting those midwesterners to visit Nashville and its Civil War history is certainly part of the plan.

Some city council members have expressed an interest in moving a possible museum and interpretative center to the ball park site. As reported in the Nashville City Paper, Councilman Ronnie Greer (no relation to the stadium) says the land has already been designated to "complement the area surrounding Fort Negley." Jones adds that there are other interests who may wish to use or buy the stadium land but says the Metro (Nashville) Parks Department is "squarely behind a Civil War use idea."

Council Randy Foster believes a park and interpretative center at the base of Fort Negley hill, could be an "important part of a family oriented tourist industry affordable to all." He adds that nothing "official" has been done yet to move the city in the direction of using the old park as part of the Fort Negley complex. However, Foster says it could be an important "asset" in the desire to build a greater interest in Nashville's Civil War history.

Nashville has a rich Civil War history but much of its tangible battle landscape has been lost to development. Even though many events have been hosted by the BONPS to increase awareness, there is still much to be done. "Many native Nashvillians know little about what took place here during that War," says Foster. "If our own people don't know what happened here, certainly the world will not know." Jones added, "this is a tremendous opportunity for this city to build a Civil War center that would put us on the map for tourists interested in that time."

When the Sounds move downtown, Jones says there is strong interest in making the idea of a larger Negley complex complete with museum and interpretative center a reality. "Our Society (BONPS) is vitally interested in seeing the city's plans for a visitor center and museum center carried out. The stadium land just introduces new opportunities for us to possibly take advantage of," he added.

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society web site is: www.BONPS.org

Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp takes over Battle Site

by Gregory L. Wade

LEBANON, TN-The Hartsville (Tennessee) Battlefield Preservation (HBPS) has agreed to relinquish control and supervision of the Hartsville battleground park to the Lebanon, Tennessee Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) Camp in nearby Lebanon, Tennessee. General Robert Hatton Camp 723 recently voted to take on the responsibility of maintenance and control of the battleground, according to Byron Davis, Camp commander. The action was taken to assist the small Society and their concerns about the future of the land.

On December 7, 1862 Confederate about 1,300 troops under Colonel John Hunt Morgan began crossing the Cumberland River in Northern Middle Tennessee to initiate a surprise attack on about 2,400 Federals camped there. Morgan was successful in the surprise and soon had the Union troops surrounded and captured most of the contingent. The effort was done with great haste as Morgan knew Federal reinforcements were on the way from nearby Gallatin and Castalian Springs. Quickly, in sleet and ice, the Confederates recrossed the river laden with prisoners and supplies taken in the fight. The Battle of Hartsville added to Colonel Morgan's rising reputation as a rising commander and he was promoted to brigadier general just two days later by President Jefferson Davis. Not slowing down, Morgan's men arrived in Murfreesboro a few days later laden with captured supplies and equipment. While there the widower married seventeen year old Mattie Ready, daughter of a former U.S. Congressman, seven days after the Battle. The ceremony was conducted by Confederate Lt. General Leonidas Polk.

The current park made up of two acres is privately held by a local landowner who has allowed the HBPS to install signage and walkways and owns about 100 acres surrounding the site. "They needed help and approached us about taking over these duties. They have become somewhat of a "sub entity" of our camp," according to Davis. While still a fairly remote area, the Hatton

Camp would like to officially acquire the land and additional acreage if it becomes available. "With the growth coming up from Nashville, sooner is better than later," said Davis. The Society has already installed signage and directional markers and there is a 17 stop driving tour of the battle areas in Hartsville.

The main 100 acres of battlefield is where most of the Union camps were located and some of the "hottest" fighting," says Dave Simpson, Lt Commander of the Lebanon camp. He added that the park was in the heart of the battleground. John Timothy Heath, author of Morgan's Daring Raid called it the fastest and "most daring" cavalry battle of the entire War," Simpson said. Total Union casualties were 2,096 while Confederate losses totaled 139. The battleground is about 45 minutes northeast of Nashville.

The site has been designated a national historic location since 1998. With the involvement of the SCV camp there will be sufficient manpower and financial backing to put "us in a good position to protect the battlefield for the foreseeable future," Davis added.

The Robert Hatton camp website is: www.Tennessee-scv.org/camp/723/. Donations for the Hartsville park can be made to the Camp.

Upcoming Events...

April 1—Triune Earthworks Tour

April 22—STFB Arbor Day Table and Fort Granger Tour

May 13—STFB Thompson's Station Festival Table and Battlefield Tour

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

QTY	ITEM	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase (circle one)		
	1999 & 2000 Day By Day Civil War Calendar Set	\$5.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	Commemorative Belt Buckle	\$10.00	
	NEW!! ~ Battle of Franklin Map ~ laminated & in full color	\$6.00	
	NEW!! ~ "Battle of Franklin – Five Hours in the Valley of Death" DVD	\$25.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Franklin" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Shiloh" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Ft. Donalson" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Stones River" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	NEW!! ~ "Eyewitness to the Battle of Nashville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	<i>Cleburne or Forrest</i> Prints, signed by the artist (circle one ~ or both for \$30)	\$20.00	
	ORDER SUBTOTAL		
	SHIPPING & HANDLING (items only) ~ under 10.00	\$1.00	
	\$10 to 24.99	\$2.95	
	\$25 and up	\$4.50	
	ORDER TOTAL		

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065-0851
 STFB Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

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