

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 2006

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

As I sit here writing this, the STFB board and dedicated volunteers are making our last minute preparations for our Thompson's Station Festival booth and battlefield tour. The clock is ticking for the Thompson's Station battlefield, as Franklin's relentless growth pushes south and Spring Hill's out of control development rushes north. Add to this the arrival of State Route 840—Nashville's answer to Atlanta's "outer loop,"—and our mission to raise awareness of the need to preserve this battlefield takes on a decidedly desperate tone.

My thoughts go back to the night, not so very long ago, when the commissioners of Williamson County made the final vote to plant their new library on the Columbia Pike, a stone's throw from the Carter House and the epicenter of the battlefield. We left that meeting feeling beaten and bloodied, and unsure if the hope of saving the Franklin Battlefield was a lost cause.

And yet, tonight I sat in the clubhouse of the former golf course, next to our Mayor and in front of three aldermen, surrounded by the preservation and historical community, the media and the general public, and listened to a group of preservation planners, landscape architects, civil engineers and architects talk about the visioning process for developing a master plan for the battlefield park that will become a reality on the 110-acre Eastern Flank property.

All this is to say, it's not really over until it's over. By raising awareness and money, almost anything (it seems tonight) is truly possible. I hope that wherever you are reading this, you feel the same—because your awareness, concern, and gifts have made possibilities real here at Franklin.

Joe Smyth

New & Renewing Members April, 2006

Oscar Bird III
Robert Brandt
Betty Cannon
Ed & Pam Dopke
Karen Emerson-McPeak
Robert & Yvonne Foster
W A Harris
John Henderson
John T Herbert
Carlton J Houghton
Eric Jacobson
Frank & Debbie Kendrick
Bill Kennedy
Janet Krompart
David G Lee
Spyros & Mavy Lezimis
T Vance Little
Emily Magid
Ronny Mangrum
Sana Mason
Mel Maurer
Jim McCanless
Joseph Moore
Spence & Susan Morgan
David W Myers
Elizabeth Neilson
Todd Neldon Family
Steven D Nelson
Curtis Older
Lynn & Linda Owens
James H Padfield
Marcus Pearson
Richard Rupp
Dick & Janice Shepler
Billy Lou Smith
Ed & Paula Snyder
Court & Janet Stahr
Bonnie Steadman
Tom Stone
Phil Walker
Kristopher Wence
Kimberly Willis

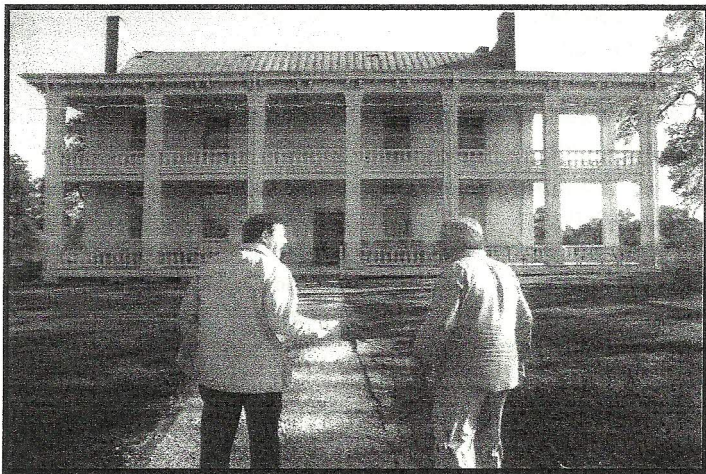
Mountain Park GA
Nashville TN
Ashland City TN
Wauconda IL
College Grove TN
Brentwood TN
Lewisburg TN
Nashville TN
Brentwood TN
Essex Junction VT
Spring Hill TN
Santa Barbara CA
Columbia TN
Rochester Hills MI
Marietta GA
Chicago IL
Brentwood TN
Franklin TN
Franklin TN
APO AE
Westlake OH
Nolensville TN
Berlin MD
Mt Juliet TN
Columbus IN
Franklin TN
Franklin TN
Franklin TN
Gastonia NC
Livermore CA
Springfield TN
Holly Springs NC
North Kingstown RI
Columbia TN
Franklin TN
Franklin TN
West Union IA
Alpharetta GA
Mt Airy MD
Nashville TN
Franklin TN
Dickson TN

Collins Farm Yard Work and Guests ...

Spring is here in Middle Tennessee and that means it's yard work time again.

Since STFB purchased the Collins Farm property several years ago, members have cleared away many years' growth of brush and undergrowth. Last year's tree fall which damaged some modern additions to the house and the subsequent demolition and tree removal left areas of the yard bare and difficult to maintain. On a recent Saturday morning, STFB members joined to pull rocks from the yard in preparation for smoothing and grass planting.

As we finished at Collins Farm and loaded our tools, two visitors walked up the drive. They were Karen Arnsdorf of Chippewa Falls, WI and Greg Yackel of West St. Paul, MN – both long time members of STFB. They were visiting all the sites in Franklin and stopped to read the Collins Farm marker along Lewisberg Pike. Over the years, they had seen dozens of STFB newsletter articles about protecting Collins Farm and wondered if those sweaty old guys up there were STFB volunteers. We were. None of us had ever met, but it was obvious that we immediately were old and fast friends. Welcome to Franklin, Karen and Greg!! We hope you come visit us again and again.



Robert Hearin and STFB's Sam Huffman walking the grounds at Carnton Plantation.

Robert Hearin and Mort Swaim ... of New Orleans, LA and Foley, MS visited us the last week of April. We walked the grounds of Carter House and Carnton Plantation, Collins Farm, and Winstead Hill. We covered the battle actions of these locations and talked of the preservation initiatives that local groups are making. We had time for lunch at Dodson's but Robert and Mort were scheduled for a tour of Chattanooga and Chickamauga the following day so the Carter House and Carnton house tours will have to wait until their next visit to Franklin. Robert observed that the pristine Chickamauga battlefield made him think how nice the east flank of the Franklin battle-

field will soon be! After walking the grounds of the Carter House, Robert bought a copy of 'For Cause and For Country', and in his note to us mentioned that the Franklin place names that we walked now vividly come to mind. Robert is a longtime STFB member and arranged the funding for the new STFB marker scheduled for the railroad underpass on Old Liberty Pike.



Andrew and Nancy Ramsay at Collins Farm under the Osage orange trees near the railroad. The tree is probably a descendant of the Osage orange used as barriers during the battle.

Andrew and Nancy Ramsay ... of Ashburn VA visited us on April 23. We had just time to walk most of the Franklin battlefield sites with Andrew and Nancy. They were also very pleased with the tour they took on the following day through Carnton. Andrew had three GGs at Franklin in Featherston's Brigade, 3rd Mississippi Regiment that assaulted over the golf course and Collins Farm. He said it was a moving experience to walk in the footsteps of his ancestors who fought, died, were wounded at Franklin. One of them acted as a nurse at Carnton and was taken prisoner and sent to Camp Chase Ohio. Finding the grave of Daniel H. Ramsay at Carnton Cemetery was also a very moving experience. He commended STFB and the other Franklin groups for the fine job all are doing in preserving what needs to be saved to tell historical story. Andrew and Nancy have been solid backers of STFB projects, and offered that we can count on them for continued support.

Both Andrew and Nancy said they definitely will be back to Franklin to spend more than the day. They felt it

June 11 – Civil War Bookclub at Landmark Books (114 East Main Street, Franklin; 791-6400) at 3PM. For more information email GregLWade@yahoo.com.

June 12 – STFB Board Meeting at the Heritage Foundation Office located in the rear of the US Post Office at Five Points in Franklin at 6:30PM.

For more information, visit the website <http://www.franklin-stfb.org/calendar.htm>

News In Review

Progress for Franklin Parks — *Franklin Life* — April 2006 — FRANKLIN — The City of Franklin recently voted in favor of Ordinance 2005-68 to add an Historic Preservation (HP) Overlay District to the Harlinsdale Farm Property on Franklin Road. Parks Director Lisa Clayton stated, "As soon as this ordinance was accepted, it began protecting this park for the future. The land and the original architecture of the structures remaining on the property will be preserved." The HP Overlay District will prevent any development from encroaching onto the park. Construction of ball fields or other active park amenities will be prevented as well.

Resurvey of battlefield may lead to funds — *Williamson Herald* — 4/20/06 — FRANKLIN — Franklin's ranking among battlefields worthy of preservation and federal funding may improve later this year after a recent resurvey of the remaining battlefield for the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. Joe Brent spent several days in Franklin and Williamson County recently updating a 1993 survey of battlefield which remains undeveloped or available. While most attention focuses on the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin, Brent also spent time looking at battle or skirmish sites in Brentwood, Thompson's Station and an 1863 Franklin battle.

5th Kentucky Infantry encamps at Carter House — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 4/21/06 — FRANKLIN — Members from the 5th Kentucky Infantry will demonstrate how Confederate soldiers lived during the 1860s. The group will offer marching, drilling and firing demonstrations as part of the Carter House's commitment to host living history days throughout the year. The 5th Kentucky Infantry, C.S.A., would be available to answer questions about battles, rations, uniforms and army life during the Civil War.

Fateful night in Spring Hill more than 'mishap', says author — *Franklin Review Appeal* — 4/26/06 — Spring Hill — In his new book, *For Cause & For Country*, Eric Jacobson cites 325 sources in piecing together the puzzle of "the mystery" at Spring Hill — that fateful Nov. 29, 1864, evening that preceded the Battle of Franklin. Much has been written about the "mishap" at Spring Hill, in which Union troops slipped by Gen. John Bell Hood's sleeping soldiers. "What Spring Hill boils down to is not laudatum but overconfidence on the part of the Confederates and a lot of confusion," Jacobson said. He researched nearly 45 years worth of the *National Tribune* military newspaper among his 325 informational sources. He said, "My whole goal was to get the story

our."

Fading letters show battle fought where development now reigns — *Franklin Review Appeal* — 4/26/06 — Spring Hill — Gwynne Evans, a Spring Hill resident, has an extensive collection of Civil War newspapers, soldiers' letters and artifacts that testify to the fighting that took place in Spring Hill. In a letter from J.H. Watson of the 57th Indiana Infantry, the soldier has drawn a map of the Spring Hill battle. Evans, pointing to the hand-drawn map, says, "There's the skirmish line, and you can still see it today. The battlefield is right where they're fixing to put Target."

Way back when: Hood's other retreat — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 5/4/06 — FRANKLIN — Isola Bella, a home on Franklin Road in Brentwood, was built about 1840 by James and Narcissa Merritt Johnston. During the Civil War, the home was headquarters for Gen. John B. Hood before the Battle of Nashville. It served as a hospital after that ill-fated battle on Dec. 15-16, 1864.

Abram Maury cemetery gets historic marker — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 5/5/06 — FRANKLIN — A ceremony to commemorate the Abram Maury slave cemetery will be held Sunday, May 6. The cemetery is located between 502 and 503 Antebellum Court in the Founders Pointe development off Highway 96 West. The ceremony will include the placing of a historic marker from the Williamson County Historical Society. Until recently the location and verification of the slave cemetery had not been documented and marked.

Franklin's Charge Update

Fundraising continues to reduce the remaining \$1 million debt on the 110 acre golf course purchase. Franklin's Charge planned to receive pledges of roughly \$100,000 during 2006, but now is raising that goal to \$300,000 in early pledge fulfillment, plus new money. Franklin's Charge officers are asking each donor to pay off their pledge as soon as possible and asking current and new donors to make an even greater effort if at all possible.

The increasing market interest rates make it all the more advantageous to pay down the debt as early as possible. And the sooner this debt is retired, the sooner we can start on the next acquisition project. Of the 400 gifts and pledges made to Franklin's Charge in 2005, only one was not honored. This is solid testimony to the level of commitment that our supporters have in preserving Franklin's battlefield. Many thanks to all who have contributed to date — you have been magnificent.

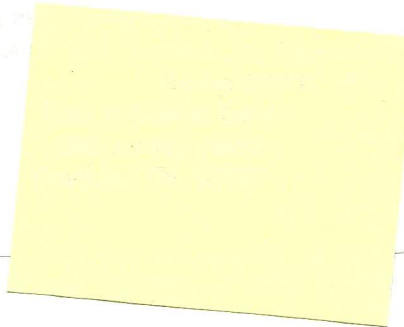
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Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065-0851
STFB Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

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. Donelson" ~ 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	
	Cleburne or Forrest 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		

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Address _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____
City _____

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form