

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

October 2006

www.franklin-stfb.org

**Dedicated to the preservation, protection, and promotion of
Civil War sites in Williamson County, Tennessee**

Dear STFB Member:

I'm truly excited about our upcoming events in November. For all of you who have attended our annual meeting in past years, I think this year's event will definitely raise the bar. We have a wonderful dinner planned in a very historic house at the southern edge of Williamson County, with a tremendous speaker certain to inform and entertain you.

Our Battle of Franklin Anniversary Memorial is also shaping up to be an historic event in its own right. Not since 1864 has there been such a memorial gathering in Franklin's City Square.

Please mark November 14 and 30 on your calendars and plan now to attend. You can read more about both events in this newsletter. I hope to see you at one or both of these in November.

Thanks you for all you do!

Joe Smyth

19th Virginia Volunteer Infantry, Co. K Joins The Fight In Franklin

Nick Dorrell of the 19th Virginia, Co. K in Monroe Twp, New Jersey contacted STFB recently to offer their group's assistance in saving the Franklin Battlefield. The

group had Nick enclose a \$500 check for battlefield purchase here in Franklin. Nick also wrote that "the 19th thanks you for the work you do, and we hope this helps in some small way. Battlefield preservation is a constant fight and we must never let our vigilance slip, or tire. We appreciate your efforts."

We greatly appreciate the generosity of our new friends from New Jersey, and we thank them mightily for their kind and encouraging words. We hope to see them in Franklin one day soon.

New & Renewing Members September 2006

Wayne B Anderson
Stuart Andrews
Jeanne & Larry Arnold
Karen Arnsdorf
Dean & Rita Carr
Dianne Dean
Gregg & Sigrid Hanson
Lee Krompart
Ladies of the GAR
Kevin Miller
Harris Riley
Bonnie Steadman
Sean Von Loh
Tom Yearby

Raymond, MS
Bryn Mawr, PA
Columbia, TN
Chippawa Falls, WI
Brentwood, TN
Nolensville, TN
Nevada, IA
Chicago, IL
Pomroy, OH
Austin, TX
Nashville, TN
Alpharetta, GA
Greeley, CO
Shreveport, LA

STFB Annual Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting of Save The Franklin Battlefield will be held Tuesday, November 14, at historic White Hall in Spring Hill, Tennessee. White Hall was a prominent and significant home in Williamson County during the Civil War years, and played a part several times during the war. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., with a short business meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Eric Jacobson, author of *For Cause & for Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill and the Battle of Franklin*, will present a program entitled, "The Affair at Spring Hill." Eric is a native of Minnesota and has owned his own business in Phoenix, Arizona for a number of years. In 2005, his long-standing fascination with the Battle of Franklin led him to move with his family to Williamson County. He is currently military curator at Historic Carnton Plantation, and is working on his second book, due out this fall, about the McGavock Confederate Cemetery in Franklin. Eric is an extremely engaging speaker, and a welcome addition to the fine group of Franklin historians.

The evening event is open to both STFB members and non-members alike. Dinner is \$30 per person, and tickets are available in advance only. Seating is limited to 45 persons, and reservations can be made by calling STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman at (615) 370-3842. Checks can be made payable to Save The Franklin Battlefield and may be mailed to STFB, PO Box 851, Franklin, TN 37065.

Historic White Hall is located at 2536 Duplex Road in Spring Hill, Tennessee. From Franklin, take U.S. 31 to Spring Hill, then turn left (east) onto Duplex Road (Route 247).

Please make your plans to attend this annual event. It will be an interesting, informative, and fun evening, and a chance to meet and visit with other STFB members. See you there!

Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn Killed!! On May 7, the renowned Confederate commander was struck down!

So could have read May 1863 headlines across the South. Van Dorn was killed, not in the honorable pursuit of victory in battle, but at the hands of Dr. George Peters, the irate husband of the vivacious Jessie McKissack Peters.

Not long after the dashing Gen. Van Dorn had set up his Spring Hill, Tennessee, headquarters at White Hall, the home of Dr. and Mrs. Aaron White, Jessie Peters came to call upon the general. Sweeping by Mrs. White, Jessie went up to Van Dorn's room where she spent the next hour. Mrs. White was horrified by this scandalous conduct and demanded that Van Dorn move his headquarters. The general moved to the Martin Cheairs house. Meanwhile, amidst the gossip about his wife, Dr. Peters returned from his year-long absence. After feigning another trip, Peters found the general and Jessie in a most compromising situation. He warned Van Dorn. Soon after, the doctor was seen riding away from Cheairs' house, and, a few minutes later, a daughter of the house ran out crying that Peters had shot Van Dorn.

But to learn the details of this affair, attend the STFB Annual Meeting and Dinner at White Hall where Joe Ed Gaddes, the current owner of White Hall, will fill in these details in his own inimitable manner. Eric Jacobson, the author of the recently-published *For Cause & for Country*, will be the Annual Meeting keynote speaker telling of some newly-uncovered information about the Battle of Spring Hill.

Battle of Franklin Anniversary Events

On Thursday, November 30th, the 142nd anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, there will be numerous events for local residents and visitors alike.

Both Historic Carnton Plantation and The Carter House will be holding special anniversary tours of their houses and grounds. The Carter house will also hold their annual march from Winsted Hill. Please contact Carnton at 615-794-0903 and The Carter House at 615-791-1861 for their schedule of activities.

At 4:00 P.M. the Franklin Battlefield Task Force and associated organizations, including STFB, will hold a Battle of Franklin Anniversary Memorial on the Franklin City Square. The City of Franklin Board of mayor and Alderman have voted \$5000 to underwrite this historic event.

10,000 candles will be lit to represent the soldiers who became casualties (killed, wounded, or missing) during the 5 hours of fighting on November 30th, 1864. Civilian and military reenactors will be in attendance. Two period military bands will march into the square, the Federal from the north and the Confederate from the south. They will alternate playing songs popular with their respective army before joining together to play songs dear to the men of both sides. The memorial will conclude with church bells

tolling from the steeples of the downtown Franklin churches for 30 minutes.

This will be the largest memorial ever held for the brave Americans, both North and South, who fought, bled, and died here for their beliefs. Please make every effort to spend the battle anniversary in with us in Franklin.

Upcoming Events...

October 12 - Civil War Bookclub at Landmark Books (114 East Main Street, Franklin; 791-6400) at 3 p.m. For more information email GregLWade@yahoo.com.

November 14 - 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.

December 2-3 - Civil War Show at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. For information contact Mike Kent at 770-267-0989.

Volunteers Needed!!!!

Join the STFB Preservation Team
for a hands-on experience
taking care of a Civil War site.
Call 615-500-6612.

News in Review October 2006

Inaugural Tour Highlights Franklin's New Eastern Flank Park *The Civil War News* October 2006

Some 175 historians, preservationists, government officials and tourists recently took the first official tour of the Battle of Franklin's Eastern Flank. Some people came from as far away as Michigan and Ohio. Others came out of curiosity just to walk the green space and envision how the park will look.

Group seeks \$5,000 for commemoration of Civil War battle *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 9/20/06

Plans to commemorate the 142nd anniversary of the Battle of Franklin this year include 10,000 votive candles in the Franklin Square, separate bands of Civil War re-enactors and a finale of downtown church bells chiming

in unison. Organizers are seeking an estimated \$5,000 from the city in time for the battle's Nov. 30 anniversary.

Rebel flag, guns not wanted at battle event *The Tennessean* 10/4/06

Top Franklin officials contend that the Confederate flag and re-enactors' rifles, each fraught with modern symbolism and conflicts, should not be present during a Nov. 30 ceremony to commemorate those killed during the 1864 Battle of Franklin. Mayor Tom Miller is urging that a color guard planned for the event not fly the Confederate flag. Police Chief Jackie Moore wants re-enactors to keep their rifles away from the ceremony.

This land for your land *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 10/5/06

In exchange for giving the county more than 280 acres of mostly wooded land near Leiper's Fork, the city would get the post office building at Five Points, two old jails on Bridge Street and a field on Eddy Lane. The piece of land on Eddy Lane, which has been used by 4-H groups, could be developed into an entrance and parking area for Fort Granger, a city-owned Civil War site near Pinkerton Park.

Confederate flag of some sort will fly at ceremony *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 10/12/06

The city of Franklin will chip in \$5,000 and close the streets around the Town Square for what has become a contentious Nov. 30 Civil War commemoration. The event will honor the soldiers killed on that date during the Battle of Franklin in 1864 and will include a Confederate flag of some sort.

And then from a few years back.....

In the November 30, 1899 edition of the *The Weekly Review*, the predecessor to the *Franklin Review Appeal*, was published the details of the unveiling of the Confederate Monument in the town square and various articles about the Battle of Franklin. Much credit was given to local women who for ten years had worked to get the monument erected. The United Daughters of the Confederacy were recognized as were the McGavocks for their efforts involving the Confederate Cemetery.

A parade formed at the depot at 9:30 a.m. and the unveiling took place at 10:30 a.m. Some of the songs played that day were Maryland, My Maryland, the Bonnie Blue Flag, and, of course, Dixie. The main oration was delivered by former Brig. Gen. George W. Gordon, who had led a brigade at Franklin and was captured near the Carter cotton gin. It was a day not soon forgotten in Franklin.

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

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

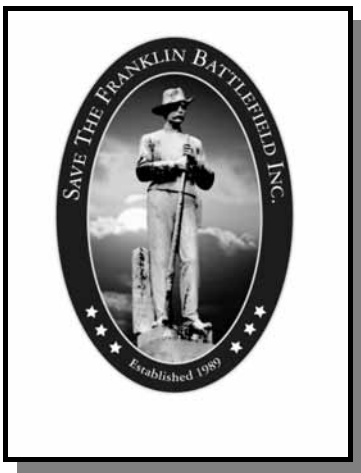
QTY	ITEM	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase (circle one)		
	1999 & 2000 Day By Day Civil War Calendar Set	\$5.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$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. 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	
	<i>Cleburne</i> or <i>Forrest</i> Prints, signed by the artist (circle one ~ or both for \$30)	\$20.00	
	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.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
 Franklin, TN 37065-0851
www.franklin-stfb.org



October 2006

