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# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

February 2007

[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

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

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## Dear STFB Member,

## New and Renewing Members January 2007

When I consider my friends and the people I look up to, a common shared trait is that they are all perennial students - lifelong learners, if you will.

As I look at the upcoming events reported in this newsletter, I am amazed and gratified by the number of opportunities to learn more about Civil War history, preservation, and heritage tourism. It doesn't take a long trip back in time to remember when this was not so.

I'm proud of the fact that so many STFB members I meet at events, receive a letter from, or speak with by phone or email, are all actively learning more about the Battle of Franklin and Williamson County's varied Civil War history. They are firm preservationists and, of course, they are themselves the "heritage tourists" that Franklin is hoping to attract.

Please never forget how important you are to all of us here in Franklin. Take advantage of these fine opportunities, and never stop learning!

All my best,

**Joe Smyth**

Jerry & Ellen Allen	Buffalo Grove IL
Dr James B. Atkinson	Brentwood TN
Charles & Nancy Brantley	Greenville TX
Joe E. Brooks	Brentwood TN
Jim Creecy	Nashville TN
Don & Sarah Duncan	Murray KY
Fred Ehlert	Riverdale IL
John D Fraser	Franklin TN
Jeffrey & Alisyn Friedrich	Duluth MN
Mrs H. E. Hamm	Huntsville AL
Dr Echols Hansbarger	Charleston WV
Shelly & Marshall Harrell II	San Antonio TX
Marva Hartman	Rose City MI
George M. Hodak	St Louis MO
Matthew Hooks	Oakmont PA
Jack & Linda Leebron	Franklin TN
Michael Loftin	Franklin TN
Ben McDonald	Louisville KY
Jeff McEver	Nashville TN
William Darrell Moseley	Franklin TN
Tim & Angela Prince	Nashville TN
Neal Pulley	Columbia TN
Mr & Mrs Timothy Traver	Clay Center OH
Ernest Wade	Loganville GA
Col Samuel A. Whitson	Franklin TN

## **Franklin Symposium Update**

“Why Franklin Matters: Exploring the Preservation and Interpretation of Franklin’s Civil War Story” will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 22 and 23. Registration will open on Thursday evening and an optional tour of the Stones river battlefield will be offered on Sunday. The event is slated to be held at the Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin.

The event will include an extensive battlefield tour, several “Scholars Roundtable Discussions,” and sessions on battlefield preservation and heritage tourism. Lunches, an evening reception, and a dinner event will also be part of the weekend.

Watch this newsletter and the STFB website ([www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)) for more information and announcements of the national, state and local historians and preservationists who will take part in this amazing, first-ever weekend.

STFB is actively involved in the planning and presentation of this event, and we hope many of you will make your plans now to attend. See you in June!

## **Franklin's Eastern Flank Park Moves Forward**

At a public meeting last month, consultants from Pennsylvania-based John Milner and Associates presented detailed plans for the Eastern Flank battlefield park. They described three major options complete with road diagrams, location of facilities and comments about signage and types of memorials on the grounds. Preservation planner Peter Benton of Milner and Associates said, “Our goal is to restore the topography to the time of the Civil War.” Included are plans to eventually replant in period grasses and restore a well documented wooded area and orchard.

The Parks Committee meeting included a public comment period which centered on residents anxious over impact to adjoining neighborhoods and historians concerned with accuracy in details. The City aldermen sitting on the committee had some concerns over the cost of the process as well as the details on the proposed interpretative center.

## **Carter House announces new facilities**

The Carter House has recently unveiled plans for a new “Museum and Interpretative Center.” The building itself is not new but is actually a gymnasium now used by the local Boys and Girls club. Located just steps away from the Carter House itself, it was part of the old Franklin High School that survived a fire in 1956 which burned most of the rest of the structure. “That is one of the neat things about this project,” says Cartwright. “A lot of people are excited we are keeping part of the old high school in the community.”

The current Carter House facility is too small to display even a small portion of the artifacts and documents in the collection, and the increase in exhibit space and research facilities in the new project is evident. “For example, our current museum has 750 square feet,” says Thomas Cartwright, Executive Director of The Carter House. “We could have more than 5,000 square feet in the new facility [dedicated] just for the museum space alone. And we could have special exhibits like civilians during the battle.” Also included will be meeting facilities for seminars, lectures and special events.

The location of the gym adjacent to the Carter House property on the north side along Columbia Pike was the scene of some very high drama during the battle. Col. Emerson Opdycke's brigade was in reserve behind the main lines near the grounds of the present-day building when his troops recognized the breach in the Federal lines. In gathering darkness the brigade plugged the gap saving the battle for the Union. Plans are to rework the grounds around the remodeled facility to give a more war time appearance.

The State of Tennessee has allocated over \$1.25 million for the design and enhancement of the facility, which will likely not be completed until late 2008. Sources of additional funds, if needed, have not yet been finalized. The Carter House has been a state historic site since the mid 1950's and is one of the most visited of all Tennessee State historic sites. “This will be one of the premier structures of its type anywhere in the country,” said Cartwright. “We are very fortunate and appreciative of our good fortune.”

## **New STFB Marker** **At CSX Liberty Pike Underpass**

In late January, STFB officers braved the chill to install the sixth and latest historical marker at an important location in Franklin's Civil War history. The new marker was donated by a member of the Greater New Orleans Civil War Round Table, who is also a long time STFB member and good friend of the Franklin battlefield. A big STFB thank you goes out to this special friend. We hope to see him again in Franklin very soon.

As with other STFB markers, one side describes the place history and the other side gives a brief battle action of the location. The marker is temporarily placed southeast of the underpass, and will be moved to its permanent location when the small park area is ready on the northeast quadrant of the underpass area.

The two sides of the marker read:

### **Fort Granger Complex**

The Fort Granger complex was centered on the earthworks fortification on Figuers' Bluff. Detached works included Gen Gordon Granger's headquarters at a smaller works some 700 yards east at Ralston Lane, a gun emplacement on Liberty Pike just east of Ralston Lane, Roper's Knob observation post, a small earthen fort near the Harpeth River west of the railroad, and a gun emplacement on Franklin Pike across from present-day Harlinsdale Farm. By April 1863, 536 officers and 9320 enlisted men were stationed at Fort Granger including nearly 3000 cavalry. Their camp sites, drill fields, sentry posts, stables, and storage facilities occupied the area from Murfreesboro Pike to fields west of Franklin Pike. Warehouses and corrals along with guard posts were situated near the well-guarded railroad, the site of present-day Jamison Station.

### **Action at the Nashville & Decatur Railroad Underpass**

On Dec. 17, 1864, perhaps the largest cavalry engagement on American soil took place along Franklin Pike and the Nashville & Decatur Railroad sweeping across what is now Harlinsdale Farm. Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson's U.S. Cavalry Corps pursued Hood's retreating rearguard of Brig. Gen. Abraham Buford's Confederate Cavalry Division. Their retreat was covered by Confederate Brig.

Gen. Randall Gibson's 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry, E. W. Pettus' Brigade, and, posted along Franklin's Front Street, H. M. Bledsoe's Artillery Battery. On the Eastern flank, Federal Brig. Gen. John H. Hammond's 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade U. S. Cavalry, of Brig. Gen. Joseph Knipe's 7<sup>th</sup> U. S. Division, advanced under heavy fire across Liberty Pike near the railroad. Capt. Volney Hobson, Co. F, 9<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry, was reportedly killed at the Liberty Pike railroad underpass.

## **News In Review**

### **New Building on the Books for Carnton Plantation**

*Franklin Life - January 2007*

About two years ago, a group of supporters under the leadership of Valerie Fleming, Robert Hicks and Lipscomb "Buzz" Davis began a fund-raising drive. The group raised enough funds to build The Fleming Center in honor of Valerie Fleming's late husband, Sam Fleming, a long-time resident of Williamson County and avid historical supporter. The Fleming Center will house the Carnton visitors' center and administrative offices. Construction on the Center could begin this Spring.

### **Plan for battlefield park interpretive center gains ground**

*The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." 2/1/07*

A plan that locates a new Battle of Franklin interpretative center on state-owned property won a 2-1 initial backing from city aldermen. But the park's uncertain cost, long-rang creation and potential complications involving state agencies have given aldermen and residents much to ponder as this high-profile project moves closer to becoming a reality.

### **National park status possible for county's Civil War sites**

*The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." 2/2/07*

National Park Service officials could soon begin a study to determine whether Williamson County's Civil War sites are deserving of national park status. The study, which won congressional support in late 2005, would include all of Williamson County's Civil War sites including those found in Brentwood, Spring Hill, Thompson's Station and Triune.

## Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

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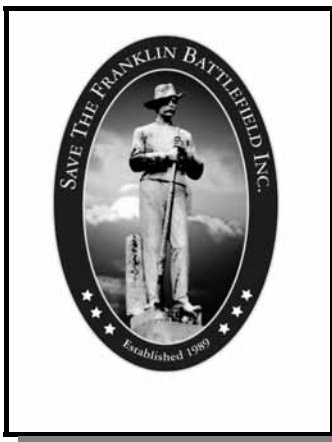
QTY	ITEM	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
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	1999 & 2000 Day By Day Civil War Calendar Set	\$5.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	Commemorative Belt Buckle	\$10.00	
	NEW!! ~ Battle of Franklin Map ~ laminated & in full color	\$6.00	
	NEW!! ~ "Battle of Franklin - Five Hours in the Valley of Death" DVD	\$25.00	
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 STFB Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

## Save The Franklin Battlefield

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 Franklin, TN 37065-0851  
[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

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**February 2007**