

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 2007

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB Member,

Spring is blooming out here in Middle Tennessee, and the perennial promise of nature is reflected in the hopes of a new year in battlefield preservation.

I am encouraged and excited about the developments in Thompson's Station, which you can read about in this newsletter, and at the provided web links. Several STFB board members have been working hard behind the scenes to help make the Thompson's Station battlefield a reality.

In addition, Mike Walker, another tireless board member, has been attending public meetings concerning the development pressures in Triune, with an eye to what STFB can do to help build momentum to preserve the magnificent Triune earthworks.

Other board members have been busy attending to the roof repair at Collins' Farm, redesigning our web site, and representing STFB on other local and state battlefield preservation boards.

As you can see, our STFB board and dedicated volunteers work hard to represent your interests, and carry forward your intent to preserve, protect, and promote the many Civil War sites in Williamson County.

We thank you for being such an important part of the work being done here.

Joe Smyth

New and Renewing Members February 2007

David, Terri, Laura Adams	Pine Bluff AR
Michael Bradley	Tullahoma TN
Ed Butler	Cookeville TN
Mr & Mrs Henry H Chase	Huntsville AL
Tony Cichantk	Wood Dale IL
Craig & Karen Cole	Thompson Station TN
Dennis Garoutte	Bloomington MN
Gale B Haddock	Chapel Hill TN
Bruce P Johnson	Riverwoods IL
Jo Ann R Kenimer	Dothan AL
Pat Knapp	Nashville TN
Calvin Lehew	Franklin TN
David W Little	Bloomington IN
James Loftin	Crossville TN
Daniel E McCarthy	Western Springs IL
Kevin & Kelle McLemore	Clarksville TN
Tom Potter & Family	Murfreesboro TN
Richard & Ellen Rust	Franklin TN
Ann T Rutherford	Franklin TN
Brian Ruxton	Elmhurst IL
Wes Shofner	Nashville TN
John P Shoptaw	Russelville AR
Joe Smyth III	Franklin TN
Thomas Tarp	Brentwood TN
Doug & Marilyn Thompson	Tallahassee FL
John Vaughn III	Boca Raton FL
Michael & Barbara Walker	Franklin TN
Mark & Kathy Davis Wells	Franklin TN
Charles Willians Family	Deerfield IL
Phyllis Pardue Wilson	Gray TN

Franklin Symposium Update

Time to Register!

The seminar "Why Franklin Matters: Exploring the Preservation and Interpretation of Franklin's Civil War Story," sponsored in part by STFB (as part of Franklin's Charge), is being called, "... This summer's most exciting and comprehensive Civil War heritage event."

Roundtable discussions led by noted Civil War scholars will explore the battle's impact on the Army of Tennessee and the Army of the Cumberland, and its impact on the Confederate high command. Other experts will address the war's impact on the home front, the challenges of occupation, and the importance of emancipation.

In addition to comprehensive guided tours of the many historic buildings and battlefield landscapes in Franklin, preservation and heritage tourism professionals will discuss how to make battlefield preservation work in your community and how Franklin serves as a national model of why battlefield preservation makes dollars and sense.

It's time to make plans now to come to Franklin and participate in this first-ever event. The full schedule of activities and a registration form is available at www.franklinscharge.com or by calling (615) 595-0636.

Battlefield Faces New Development

A new office building development is being promoted for the 70 acre open space known as the Werthan property located on the west side of Columbia Avenue about 1/4 of a mile south of the advanced Federal trench line on the Franklin Battlefield. STFB submitted this letter to the City of Franklin:

February 2, 2007

Ms. Pam Lewis – Alderman, City of Franklin

Ms. Shanon Wasielewski – Preservation Planner, City of Franklin

Dear Ms. Lewis and Ms. Wasielewski,

The Board of Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc encourages you and your organizations to make every effort to preserve the Werthan property on Columbia Pike as open space.

Several preservation studies during the last twenty years have identified this seventy-acre parcel as part of the Franklin battlefield and worthy of protection, either as part of the battlefield or as open space. This ground was the scene of fighting in the hours leading up to the November 30, 1864 battle.

As you know, the cluster of trees on the rise of ground along Columbia Pike was near the Merrill farmstead. That area was used first as a Federal advanced artillery position and then later as a Confederate headquarters during the battle. The stone fence along the north property boundary was also very likely a silent witness to the actual battle. Both terrain features are very important touchstones that magnify our understanding of the history of the war years. They simply must be kept.

New office parks can be placed almost anywhere. Our battlefields and their terrain features that connect us to our past cannot be moved. They exist only where the historic events actually happened, nowhere else. Thus, today's generation has a solemn responsibility to keep these battlefield features intact for the education and reflection of our coming generations.

Anything you can do to maintain the battlefield appearance of the Werthan property is important to all of the preservation groups here in Middle Tennessee, and will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sam Huffman - Treasurer
Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.

Statewide Preservation Conference Coming to Franklin

Franklin will host the Tennessee Preservation Trust's 2007 Statewide Preservation Conference and Main Street Summit on March 29-31. The weekend will feature numerous experts in the field, tours, workshops, receptions, luncheon and dinner events, and their 2007 Statewide Preservation Awards. Governor Phil Bredesen will speak on conservation and preservation issues at the second annual "Preservation Leadership Luncheon," sponsored by the City of Franklin.

Schedule info and a registration form for this first-class event is available at www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org or by calling (615) 963-1255.

Thompson's Station Battlefield News

A first volley was fired last month in the battle to preserve a portion of the Thompson's Station battlefield. Jay and Marcia Franks announced they have put their antebellum home, Homestead Manor, and its 47 acres under a conservation easement with The Land Trust for Tennessee.

The 19th century home and its 47 acres was a central part of the March 5, 1863 Battle of Thompson's Station. The house served as refuge for the Thompson family and other during the battle and it was afterwards used as a field hospital. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and the easement will permanently protect this important site from development.

Carole Robinson of The Williamson Herald may have said it best, in writing, "By putting the property into the Land Trust, Marcia and Jay Franks added another step in the creation of a corridor of protected properties that are key to the Williamson County battlefield park vision of the Save the Franklin Battlefield group that will add an actual destination for tourists to the county looking for a battlefield."

Simpson Strikes Again

Our good friend, Dick Simpson, continues his educational program "The Forgotten Battle of Franklin Tennessee" for CWRTs and historical groups in Pennsylvania and points east. This time he teamed with the Central Pennsylvania CWRT to raise \$200 for the preservation of the Franklin battlefield. We are very happy to have these new friends joining forces with us. Dick also reports that he has two more events scheduled before June.

Collins' Farm P&TLC Day Saturday, March 31

The Collins' Farmhouse and grounds are in need of some **P&TLC**—that's **Paint & Tough, Laborious Cleanup!**

Come and join in the hands-on, **P&TLC** experience of preserving a battlefield site. Painting and site cleanup is a real part of battlefield preservation. We hope that many STFB members and friends from Franklin, Williamson County, Nashville, and other nearby places will come to help in preserving the Collins' Farm, Battle of Franklin site.

For that day, painting the new wood on the roof overhang and trim will be first priority. However, there is plenty of cleanup to be done on the grounds. Please come to help paint, clear away overgrowth, shrubs, rocks, and other things that are unsightly or impede mowing.

Wear clothing which a bit (or a lot) of paint won't hurt, bring paintbrushes, cleanup supplies, ladders, etc., for painting. Others will need leather gloves, extension cords, shop vacuums, leaf blowers, chainsaws, tree saws, pruners, mattocks, shovels, spades, rakes, and other types of useful yard cleanup equipment.

We'll begin at 9:00 a.m. and try to be finished by noon or 1:00 p.m.

Fort Granger Tour Scheduled

Mark your calendars for April 21 to attend STFB's Fort Granger tour, as part of the city's Arbor Day event at Pinkerton Park in Franklin.

Fort Granger is located on a 40-foot high bluff above the Harpeth River overlooking Franklin. Named for General Gordon Granger, Union commander in Franklin in 1863, the fort was constructed in March through May of that year. The fort is an earthwork 781 feet long and 346 feet wide, encompassing almost 12 acres.

As part of the Union occupation of Franklin, Fort Granger held two 24-pound siege guns, 18 field guns, and a garrison of 5,194 infantry and 2,728 cavalry. During the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, the fort served for a time as General John M. Schofield's headquarters, and was garrisoned with 8,500 troops and 24 guns, which pummeled the eastern flank of the battlefield.

The tour, running twice at 11:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m., will assemble and begin from the overlook at the fort. STFB will also have a table at the Arbor Day event, signing up new members and distributing literature. For more information, call the STFB office at (615) 500-6612.

Worth A Thousand Words

The photo shown on the next page, taken by Chris Cuomo, documents most of the crowd of 185 gathered for the Eastern Flank Tour on August 19, 2006 sponsored by STFB. Before the tour and by show of hands, roughly half of the crowd indicated they were from outside Williamson County, and half of those were from outside Tennessee. We had visitors from Cleveland OH, Columbus OH, Madison AL, Huntsville AL, Plant City FL, Dalton GA, and all the surrounding states and counties.

Our tour guides were Eric Jacobson of Carnton Plantation, Thomas Cartwright and David Fraley of the Carter House, and Heritage Foundation historian Rick Warwick. Carnton staff and volunteers managed the book sales and signings by Robert Hicks, *The Widow of The South*, Eric A. Jacobson, *For Cause and For Country*, and Rick Warwick, *Williamson County – The Civil War Years Revealed Through Letters, Diaries, and Memoirs*.

It was a very warm morning, but plenty of cold drinks were iced down thanks to a dozen STFB volunteers. At least 20 visitors volunteered their appreciation after the tour to how much they appreciated the tour, and the collective preservation efforts here in Franklin. Their comments also reflected how impressed they were with our four tour guides

All in all a very successful first ever tour of the Eastern Flank battlefield. This picture will soon be available on the STFB web site.



More Great News

As it turns out, a new central office for Williamson County Schools won't be going inside old buildings at the former Battle Ground Academy campus.

Officials have ruled it out as an option after some study with assistance from the firm Everton Oglesby Architects and Land Design. The school district looked at possibly using Fleming Hall on the campus after the success a few years ago in remodeling space inside Peoples Hall for a new home for Middle College High School.

The school district is looking for a new home for its central office because of crowding inside the county administrative complex, which the county government allows the school district to use. The school district's five-year plan includes a new home along with nine new schools. In the plan, an estimated \$8 million would be needed for a new central office.

Schools Director Becky Sharber told county school board members at their work session this month that the old BGA is no longer an option. In a report from the facilities department, the study was used to determine if 45,000-50,000 of square feet could be used for office and storage space inside Fleming Hall's footprint. The study also looked at whether or not property could be configured for 350 parking spaces to serve the central office staff and the high school.

The site has enough space for the school district's needs, but every bit of land would be needed for building, parking and stormwater detention. It would also mean using space that's now an athletic field west of Cloverdale Hall and property southwest of the site at the corner of Everbright Avenue and Academy Street.

Also a problem, the central office building would need to be three stories high in order to accommodate the district's needs. The city's height restrictions would necessitate using basement space, which isn't desirable, the study notes.

There would be no room for further expansion and the cost of restoring Fleming Hall would far exceed what the school district anticipated spending. The building has been empty for years and is infested with mold and mildew. There's water damage and apparent cracks in the foundation.

News In Review

GM to sell 500 acres of Spring Hill land

The Tennessean 2/24/07

General Motors wants to sell about 500 acres of its Spring Hill manufacturing plant property near historic Rippavilla Plantation to developers according to city officials. GM has turned over control of Rippavilla, an 1855 mansion, and 47 surrounding acres to Rippavilla, Inc., a nonprofit corporation.

Spring Hill Historic Commission resurrected

Williamson Herald - 2/27/07

A petition signed by four Spring Hill aldermen and Mayor Danny Leverette will put an ordinance to approve a Historic Commission back on the table. Spring Hill's BOMA will meet again March 19, and can expect the ordinance for forming a Historic Commission to be on the agenda for the evening.

Free event marks battle anniversary

The Tennessean, "Williamson A. M." - 3/1/07

A Civil War history program is coming to Thompson's Station on Monday to mark the 144th anniversary of the battle of Thompson's Station. Officials with the Civil War Preservation Association will be at the Thompson's Station train depot at 4 p.m. to sponsor the Two Flags Over Tennessee: Our Civil War Heritage program.

School system still considering Academy Park site

The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." - 3/4/07

Last March, Williamson County Director of Schools Becky Sharber was talking with the county's budget committee about possibly moving the school system's central office to the old BGA campus, but it's been almost a year and not much has changed. The school system did move its Middle College High School to the old BGA campus now known as Academy Park. Kevin Fortney, facilities director for the school system, said they're close to a decision and the old campus is still a possible destination for the central office.

Preservation key to state 'summit'

The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." - 3/5/07

The Tennessee Preservation Trust will hold its statewide preservation conference and "Main Street summit" March 29-31 in Franklin. The conference, which will be held at several notable Franklin locations, is entitled "Keeping the Place in Place: How Heritage Enriches Our Communities" and features a number of tours and events at locales in Franklin.

City's Civil War battlefield earns spot on nation's most endangered list

Williamson Herald - 3/13/07

At a news conference Tuesday morning, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) unveiled its annual report on the status of the nation's historic battlegrounds and placed Spring Hill on the list of the nation's most endangered battlefields.

Williamson County Tourism Task Force Makes Recommendations

Franklin Life - March 2007

Executive Director of the Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau, John Whisenant gave an overview of tourism in the county. Whisenant reviewed statistics that show the substantial economic impact of tourism in Williamson County. Within the past 10 years, dollars spent by visitors to Williamson County increased 111 percent. "More than \$1.6 billion have been generated by tourism over the past ten years. . . . They are clean dollars that do not come with the expenses of infrastructure development as property tax dollars do."

Waiting for Sounds, Metro proceeds with Fort Negley

nashvillecitypaper.com - 3/13/07

Metro is proceeding with plans to build a visitors center for the Fort Negley park atop a portion of Greer Stadium's parking lot. Design of the visitors center is complete. Meanwhile, the construction contract for the center was awarded in November to the Powell Building Group of Goodlettsville, according to Metro. The contract calls for the building to include exhibit space, a small theater, a meeting room, public restrooms and an outdoor plaza.

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

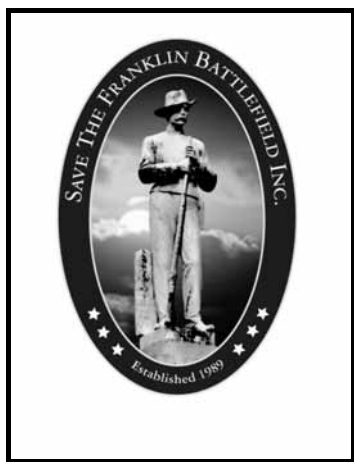
Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

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