

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 2007

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB Member,

STFB Signs Letter of Intent To Sell Collins Farm

It's been a month of momentous events since we last visited. The City of Franklin has approached STFB and voted to purchase the Collins' Farm and fold it into their growing battlefield parklands. This is the culmination of years of work by folks like you, who raised the money, the local and national awareness of its importance, and donated the sweat equity to keep the property in shape.

Our long range goal was to have the Collins' Farm open to the public and interpreted as part of a larger battlefield park. Now that goal has been reached. We are currently working with the City's Battlefield Task Force on interpretive plans for the site. Please read more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

In other news, Franklin's Charge has offered a special rate to STFB members to attend next month's Battle of Franklin symposium, "Why Franklin Matters." You won't want to miss this very special event.

Finally, we are saddened on the loss of Herbert Harper, STFB board member emeritus, this past week. We shall miss him greatly.

Until next month then,

Joe Smyth

STFB has signed a letter of intent to sell Collins Farm to the City of Franklin for \$45,000 with the actual sales terms yet to be negotiated. The number-one condition of sale is a city funded conservation easement that precludes all development or use other than as an open battlefield park. When the deal is completed, Collins Farm will be part of the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park and the easement will be similar to the golf course property. Also, Collins Farm will be included in the eventual overall interpretive program for the park. The city has approved the funds for the purchase, the conservation easement is now in process, and we anticipate closing the sale in early July.

As an aside, this property was originally part of the Carnton Plantation. Local Carnton lore dated the house around 1830 and the home of the plantation overseer, William Collins. Examinations by experts in February 2005 date the materials and methods used in the house construction at 1866-67. The land was deeded to William Collins in 1867. This house was not there at the time of the 1864 battle.

The STFB Board has discussed the future of Collins Farm several times over the years, and we always reaffirmed that it was to be part of a larger Battlefield Park, somehow. We now think that if we can set up and close the proper sale to the city, that goal has been reached.

We began fund raising in 2000 for the purchase when the property came on the market. Rick Warwick and David Fraley immediately did some intense research to learn the scale of battle actions that took place on this very important part of the Franklin Battlefield. David soon reported to the STFB Board that the property was a critical portion of the east side of the battlefield.

Rob Hodge had earlier done a Preservation 2000 fund raising march in Virginia and the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust held those funds. With Rob's sponsorship, a \$21,850 challenge grant was made to STFB, and by June 2001 STFB supporters had met the challenge, a deal was crafted, and the purchase closed for \$227,000.

As we started fund raising for the project, our intent was to save battlefield dirt that one day would be donated as part of a Franklin Battlefield Park. The golf course purchase was still 4-5 years into the future, so our aspirations at the very outset were a huge leap of enormous faith for STFB and for STFB supporters. It eventually all worked out, even though we at first could not foresee the future with any clarity.

As a rental property for the first four years, many expensive upgrades were made to the sewer, plumbing, heating, and electrical systems. Then a 2005 storm demolished newer parts of the house, and repairing it to rental condition was financially out of the question. By making stabilizing repairs only the main historic house and removing the rest, we were able to pay off the mortgage by using our reserve funds and the insurance proceeds.

Our focus then by necessity shifted to preserving and/or maintaining the storm-damaged house to stop its gradual deterioration. It is an historic house but was not a battle witness. Once structural repairs and a new roof made it watertight, we felt our job was now finished – and the property was ready to be donated as part of the Franklin Battlefield Park now underway.

However, STFB members and donors had willingly provided funds trusting that STFB would use them to buy Franklin battlefield land. By operating and improving a rental property, and then stabilizing a damaged historic house, STFB had used roughly \$45,000 for purposes other than directly buying battlefield dirt. So in order to keep faith with our steadfast supporters, the STFB Board felt that we should ask \$45,000 for our donated battlefield

parcel of 3.22 acres. All parties thought this was a fair arrangement for adding this battlefield land to the Franklin Battlefield Park.

So the very important STFB chapter on Collins Farm will soon close. STFB supporters all across America, plus Australia, Canada and the UK have generously supported the STFB Board and local volunteers as they faced many adventures and travails in this chapter. Those supporters and volunteers should take great satisfaction in their accomplishments. It was a good piece of work. Now, we all need to focus on a new project.

New and Renewing Members

April 2007

Robert Briggs	Fairview TN
Betty Cannon	Pleasantview TN
W A Harris	Lewisburg TN
John T Herbert	Brentwood TN
Carlton Houghton	Essex Junction VT
Bernie Hughes	Nashville IL
Frank & Debbie Kendrick	Santa Barbara CA
Janet Krompart	Rochester Hills MI
Justin Lane	Greer SC
David G Lee	Marietta GA
Bob Lessel	Bartlette TN
Spyros Lezimis	Chicago IL
Kevin Mason	APO AE
Ross Massey	Nashville TN
Mel Maurer	Westlake OH
Marcus Pearson	Holly Springs NC
E Gale Pewitt	Naperville IL
Harold & Mary Jo Pratt	Franklin TN
Timothy Shea	Worcester MA
Billy Lou Smith	Franklin TN
Thomas Stone	Mt Airy MD
Gary & Paula Waddey	Nashville TN
Greg Wade	Franklin TN
Phil Walker	Nashville TN

Special STFB Symposium Rate

Franklin's charge has announced that STFB members will receive a special rate to attend their Battle of Franklin symposium, "Why Franklin Matters: Exploring the Preservation and Interpretation of Franklin's Civil War Story." Members need only to mention STFB to receive \$100 off the registration price.

The event speakers will include Dr. Keith Bohannon, expert on General John Bell Hood; Thomas Cartwright, frequent contributor to the History Channel and director of The Carter House; Sam Elliott, biographer of General A. P. Stewart; Robert Hicks, author of *The Widow of the South*; Eric Jacobson, author of *For Cause & For Country*; Mauriel Joslyn, expert on General Cleburne; Dr. Chris Losson, expert on General Cox; Dr. Tim Smith, Civil War scholar; Dr. Caroll Van West, historian and author of *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes*; and Rick Warwick, author and historian for Williamson County.

A schedule of activities and a registration form is available at www.franklinscharge.com or by calling (615) 595-0636.

A Sad Passing...

It is with heavy hearts we report the passing of Mr. Herbert Harper, founding board member of STFB, and our sole board member emeritus.

Mr. Harper was with the Tennessee Historical Commission for 37 years. During his career he oversaw the erection of more than 1,400 historical markers, almost 2,000 additions to the National Registry, and oversaw the review of 60,000 federal undertakings concerning Tennessee's rich historical resources.

Thomas Cartwright, director of The Carter House, where Mr. Harper served on the board for over 40 years, said, "In my opinion, he accomplished more for preservation and said less about it than anyone I know."

Rick Warwick, author and historian for the Heritage Foundation, said in summation, "With his death, Tennessee really lost a great friend across the State." Mr. Harper's energy, passion, and love for Tennessee, its history, and the Franklin battlefield will be greatly missed.

News In Review

Let's rally together and adopt a soldier or two *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 4/25/07

On April 15, the Williamson County Historical Society met to dedicate a road marker at the historic Triune Cemetery on Nolensville Road. About 50 folks gathered to hear Rick Warwick honor John U. Wilson, cemetery benefactor, and the Confederate veterans interred in the cemetery. The marker was commissioned by the Triune Cemetery Perpetual Care Association.

Commercial spaces likely for Werthan property *The Tennessean* 4/29/07

Plans are moving forward to change the landscape of a tract where the Battle of Franklin was fought. Franklin planning commissioners voted unanimously Thursday to approve a preliminary plat to develop 53 acres of the Werthan property into 26 lots that eventually could become retail spaces. The Werthan property consists of 70 acres off Columbia Avenue where Confederate soldiers, marching north toward Union soldiers just south of the Carter House, took fire early on Nov. 30, 1864, in the Battle of Franklin. No buyers for the land have been announced yet, so it is still possible for a nonprofit organization to buy the property and preserve it.

Carter House belle greeted tourists for 25 years *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 5/1/07

Elouise North worked in The Carter House gift shop for 25 years and led tours for a generation of kids. On May 3, the public is invited to hear a special proclamation reading by Williamson county Mayor Rogers Anderson and Franklin Mayor Tom Miller. The Williamson County Chamber of Commerce is also planning to honor North with a lifetime achievement award.

Carnton officials plan to restore Civil War-era journal *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 5/6/07

One hundred and forty-one years after Carrie McGavock first listed the names and regiments of soldiers killed at the Franklin inside the book, her journal is deteriorating, and preservationists say they need \$13,000 to protect it from further wear. A paper conservator will clean the book of any oils, dirt and accumulated residue. After that, it will be kept in a special low-humidity display case.

Alderman Pam Lewis won't seek reelection *Williamson Herald* 5/10/07

Alderman Pam Lewis announced that she does not plan to be a candidate for a second term. Lewis, owner of PLA Media Group in Nashville, said she has thought and prayed over the matter and feels it is the right decision. "I am honored to have served with so many fine people on the board and city of Franklin," she said. "I think the city is in good hands and hoping people who share my views will step up and run."

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

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

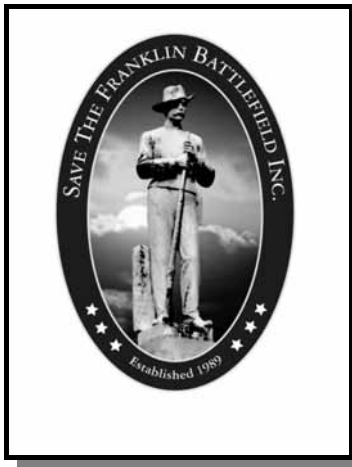
QTY	ITEM	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase (circle one)		
	1999 & 2000 Day By Day Civil War Calendar Set	\$5.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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