

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

September 2007

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB Member,

A very important event, with great import for Franklin's preservation future, is looming large before us. On October 23, Franklin voters will go to the polls to choose a mayor and 4 at-large aldermen who will represent a majority of the policy-making Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Early voting begins October 3 and runs through Oct 18.

In the 2003 and 2005 elections, Franklin voters endorsed candidates who supported preserving our battlefields and open spaces. During their terms, the City of Franklin acquired Harlinsdale Farm (scene of fierce fighting during the retreat from Nashville), the Eastern Flank property, the former Pizza Hut site, Collins Farm, and county 4-H property adjacent to Fort Granger. These important preservation successes were the result of the City's joint efforts to work with local, state and national organizations.

It is important for STFB members to help choose Franklin leaders in this election who will continue these preservation efforts. Thirteen candidates are vying for four at-large spots. Some have backgrounds in or connections to preservation, and some are running specifically to slow preservation efforts or stop them altogether. If you are a Franklin resident, find out about these candidates, ask questions, and vote! The top four vote-getters will carry the day, and every vote will count on Election Day and for the next four years.

Although this information is directed to those STFB members who live in the City of Franklin, the election will be vitally important to those everywhere who are

dedicated to saving the Franklin Battlefield.

We are all counting on you!

Joe Smyth

New & Renewing Members August 2007

Wayne Anderson	Raymond, MS
Paul Arch	Corapolis, PA
Dave Bond	Beavercreek, OH
Justin M Cates	Brentwood, TN
Byron Davis Jr	Lebanon, TN
Sara E Edwards	Huntsville, AL
Tom Herbert	Nashville, TN
Don & Debbie Jurgensen	China Spring, TX
Lawrence Kasten	Cape Girardeau, MO
Drs Dahk & Jan Knox	Mosheim, TN
Bill & Sandra Mahaney	Xenia, OH
Jim McCanless Jr	Brentwood, TN
Michael A Morrow	Athens, AL
Elizabeth Neilson	Franklin, TN
Curtis L Older	Gastonia, NC
Mr & Mrs David R Shaw	Columbus, OH
Jerry & Ruth Swedeen	Franklin, TN
Brett & Amy Taster	Franklin, TN
Thonas Warren	Dearborn Heights, MI
Kimberly Willis	Dickson, TN

Mark Your Calendars For Triune Redux!

On Saturday, November 3, Save The Franklin Battlefield will give an encore tour of the Federal earthworks at Triune, Tennessee. The tour will be led again this year by Tennessee Wars Commission Director of Programs Fred Prouty. Those of you who attended last year with Fred know that he does a fine job, and is very passionate about this site and the need to preserve it. This year we will visit more extensive sections we did not visit last year.

The Federal earthworks at Triune are near pristine examples of military engineering. They represent what the outer earthworks at Nashville and Franklin would have looked like had they survived the ensuing 143 years. These works, the centerpiece of the southern perimeter of defenses around Nashville, were built in 1863 by the same engineering team that built Forts Granger and Roper's Knob, Rosecrans in Murfreesboro, and Negley in Nashville.

Following the Battle of Stones River on December 30-31, 1863 the Confederate Army of Tennessee took up defensive positions on a line from Shelbyville to Spring Hill. During the first six months of 1863, the Federal Army of the Cumberland fortified a line of defenses from Murfreesboro to Franklin.

The fortifications at Triune, in place by March 8th, were constructed on three hilltops just north of Triune. Redoubts, artillery positions, and powder magazines were connected by trenches and rifle pits. The post was part of the signal link between Franklin and Murfreesboro.

Because of the crossroad at Triune's importance and the size of the garrison, the site saw numerous skirmishes from March through June of 1863. It was a major staging area for 10,000 of the troops that moved against the Confederates as part of the Tullahoma Campaign beginning in late June.

For the remainder of 1863 and 1864 the fortifications were garrisoned by Federal troops. With the approach of the Confederate army back into middle Tennessee in November 1864, the post was evacuated. Following the Battle of Nashville, the fort was reoccupied by Federal troops and garrisoned until the end of the war, when it was abandoned.

Those attending the tour should meet at 10 a.m. at the

Triune Methodist Church, one mile north of the Highway 96 intersection on Nolensville Road (S.R. 31/41) The group will caravan to the site for a 10:30 a.m. start. Please wear hiking appropriate footwear, a day pack with water, snacks, or a light lunch, and be prepared for mildly strenuous hiking, although a small portion of the earthworks can be viewed without much walking.

As always, this tour is open to the public and free for STFB members. Non-members are being asked for a donation, or better yet, to join up as members. For more information, please call the STFB office at (615) 500-6612.

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 (Ferguson Hall).

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, November 8, at Ferguson Hall where Van Dorn's bloodstains are still evident on the dining room floor. Eric A. Jacobson,

author of *For Cause & For Country*, an account of the battles of Spring Hill and Franklin, will speak on his latest book, *The McGavock Confederate Cemetery*.

New Friends In Sumter, SC Aid Franklin's Battlefield

Roseanne Christie is President of the Palmetto Soldiers Relief Society in Sumter, SC and recently wrote to STFB to make a gift to our land purchase fund. She included a check drawn by Treasurer Nita Keisler for \$372 to help preserve the hallowed grounds of the Franklin Battlefield. The group is a War Between the States reenacting organization, and is very interested in preserving the history and heritage of the South. It is always heartening to STFB, and the other local preservation groups in Franklin, to see new out-of-state folks join with our efforts. A big STFB thank you goes out to our new friends, the Ladies of the Palmetto Soldiers Relief Society.

STFB Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 8

6:30 Dinner - 7:30 Meeting & Speaker

\$30 per person - (Limited to 50)

Reservation and payment in advance only

Due by November 2 to:

STFB

P.O. Box 851

Franklin TN 37065-0851

For questions call 615-480-9539

Monthly Discussion Group

Did you know there were several Medal of Honor recipients from the Battle of Franklin? How did Carnton Cemetery get its' start? Do you wonder what it was like to be a woman in Franklin during the War? What role did the clergy play in the Army of Tennessee? These and many other questions are explored at the monthly Civil War Discussion group held at Landmark Bookstore the second Sunday of every month. Local authors and historians lead talks on a wide variety of topics about Middle Tennessee during the War. Hear facts not often found in the history books! Have a cup of coffee and enjoy the casual atmosphere at Landmark. For more information contact GLWade@Travelers.com or go to www.Landmarkbooksellers.com.

News in Review

Roper's Knob: A high point in Franklin's history

Heritage Foundation - Fall 2007

Roper's Knob was a signal station signaling by wig-wag by day and by colored fire balls by night to Nashville and a line of stations to Murfreesboro. In addition to Roper's Knob, the Federals had three other forts here. Fort Granger, looking down on Franklin right at its east boundary, was in fact a fortress. There was smaller fort within 1,000 yards of Granger and another on the Nashville Pike south of Spencer's Creek. The Heritage Foundation purchased the Knob for preservation, placed a preservation easement on the property and donated it to the City of Franklin.

Motorcycle ride to benefit flag preservation

The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." - 9/7/07

Motorcycles, music and history will be a part of a September 8 effort to save a Civil War battle flag. The Confederate Flag Poker Run & Concert is one step in securing the \$29,000 it will take to preserve the 20th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry's flag. The state museum has possession of the banner but has agreed to allow it to be displayed in the Carter House's new visitor center when it opens in another year or two.

County's Antebellum Courthouse to Undergo Renovations

Franklin Life - September 2007

"The historic nature of the old courtroom will be protected. The exterior of the building and outside façade will not be touched or impacted in any way," stated Houston Naron, Chairman of the Williamson County Board of County Commissioners and Chairman of the Special Courthouse Committee. According to the Williamson County Historical marker for the site, this is the third Williamson County Courthouse, having been completed in 1858. The courthouse was used as Federal headquarters during the Civil War and served as a hospital after the Battle of 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)		
	'Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	'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	
	'Eyewitness to the Battle of Nashville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	ORDER SUBTOTAL		
	SHIPPING & HANDLING (items only) ~ under 10.00	\$1.00	
	\$10 to 24.99	\$2.95	
	\$25 and up	\$4.50	
	ORDER TOTAL		

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

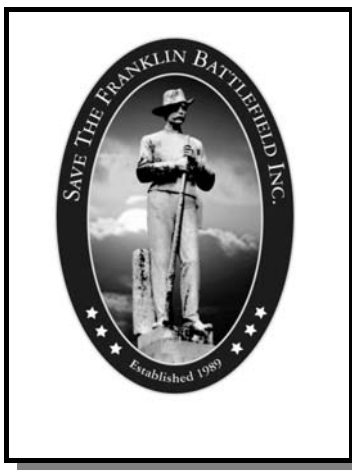
Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851

Franklin, TN 37065-0851

www.franklin-stfb.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



September 2007