



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 2008

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

The stories of Franklin area preservation successes are well documented. Many of you participated in a variety of ways and have celebrated with us over the years. Donations, letters of support, suggestions and help from our membership community nationwide (indeed, worldwide) have inspired us to continue. But what about remaining opportunities? Yet, we have many significant sites still facing a wide range of threats from development, neglect and simple lack of awareness.

The Triune site, just southeast of Franklin, has some of the best remaining earthworks of the Civil War era in the country. Acres of redoubts and trenches are hidden under a forest canopy just a cannon shot from a new interstate highway. Thompson's Station, a sleepy hamlet a few years ago now caught up in the areas growth, is facing pressure for retail and residential development. Various "retreat" battlegrounds such as Holly Tree gap, West Harpeth and the Harlinsdale area present some remaining opportunity for historical preservation.

Unfortunately, the survival time for these sites is running out. It is our hope you will contact our local officials. Encourage them to continue seeking innovative ways to bring the development and preservation communities together with "win win" solutions. Let them know the positive support we have received from those bodies in the past isn't forgotten. Find our county and city representatives at www.WilliamsonCounty-Tn.gov and www.Franklin-gov.com. And come out to our Harlinsdale on site lecture Sept 20th!

Gregory Wade

New & Renewing Members July 2008

David Berry	Jacksonville, FL
Tommy & Lynn Burnett	Brentwood, TN
Dennis Buttacavolli	Hasbrouk Heights, NJ
Bryan & Aimee Hansen	Thompsons Station, TN
Thomas Herbert	Nashville, TN
Stanley & Rebekah Hime	Brentwood, TN
Robert Humphrey	Franklin, TN
Bill & Ruth Lamb	Franklin, TN
Bill McMeans	Austin, TX
Thomas Postema	Rolling Meadows, IL
Alice R Richardson	Central Point, OR
Kathleen L Sauseda	Franklin, TN
John Simpson	Kelso, WA
Gail Sorensen	Franklin, TN

Harlinsdale Farm Tour Saturday, September 20

STFB will host a lecture on site at what is now known as Harlinsdale Farms City Park just north of Franklin on Franklin Pike. Carter House Director David Fraley will speak about the many Civil War activities and actions that took place on these pastoral grounds. While relatively unknown, some of these compelling actions played a major role in Franklin's history. The lecture and Q&A runs 10:00 AM until noon. Parking will be available at the Franklin Church of Christ about ½ mile north of the Factory. Please plan to arrive at the church by 9:45 am. The public is invited and the event is free.

Civil War Trails Arrives in Franklin September 17

Finding your way between sites on your next visit to Franklin will soon be much less confusing and more rewarding. The very first Civil War Trails markers in Tennessee will be installed in Franklin in September. A dedication ceremony featuring the Franklin gateway marker for Franklin will take place at 9AM on September 17th at the Courthouse on the square in Franklin. Coming soon will be a Civil War Trails tour map, additional Civil War Trails signs, and Franklin's inclusion on the Civil War Trails website www.civilwartrails.org

The Civil War Trails program creates driving tours of both the great campaigns and lesser-known Civil War sites. General Hood's Middle Tennessee campaign will be the centerpiece of the program in Tennessee. The program features distinctive "directional trailblazer" signs that greatly ease the difficulty and confusion for visitors finding their way between unfamiliar sites. Additionally, the visitor's experience is enhanced at the site by the use of standardized four-color interpretive markers with maps, illustrations, and text.

The Civil War Trails program has installed nearly 800 interpretive markers in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina and is now expanding into Tennessee, and West Virginia. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has identified the Civil War Trails program as one of the most successful and sustainable heritage tourism programs in the nation.



News in Review July 2008

Property Acquisition Brings Franklin's Charge One Step Closer to Civil War Battlefield Park — *Franklin Life* — July 2008 — FRANKLIN —

On June 19, Franklin's Charge, Inc., announced plans to purchase one acre of property located at 1219 Columbia Avenue. Formerly the home of the Kenneth Holt Construction Company, the property is across the street from the historic Carter House and adjacent to the Carter Cotton Gin property, now owned by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. The site is considered by many to be "ground zero" of the Battle of Franklin.

Restoration Efforts Commence for Fleming Hall — *Franklin Life* — July 2008 — FRANKLIN —

Fleming Hall on the old Battleground Academy campus is being "dried-in" so that it can be ready for restoration. In early spring, the Williamson County Commission considered demolishing Fleming Hall. Preservationists asked the county to reconsider and were granted two months to make a case for saving the building. The reprieve was given on March 10. Since that time, the County Commission voted not to demolish the building, but to restore it and use it for county purposes instead.

General Motors has buyer for land near Rippavilla — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/1/08 — SPRING HILL —

A Canadian corporation is buying more than 500 acres, including historic Rippavilla mansion, a General Motors spokeswoman confirmed Thursday. GM announced it would sell the land as surplus and deed about 100 acres next to the mansion to nonprofit Rippavilla, Inc. The 100 acres spans from Rippavilla's frontage straight back from Highway 31 and includes a farm museum and mule barn. GM also committed to donation \$1 million during the next 10 years for the maintenance of Rippavilla.

Local residents honored by state Historical Commission — Franklin *Review Appeal* — 7/30/08 — FRANKLIN —

Two Franklin residents were honored by the Tennessee Historical Commission with Certificate of Merit Awards. Julian Bibb was recognized for his long-standing contributions to preservation. He has been part of the effort of Franklin's Charge to acquire the Eastern Flank of the Battle of Franklin Park. Thomas Cartwright was recognized for leading the successful effort to purchase a half-acre tract adjacent to the Carter House State Historic Site. The land, once the Carter family's garden, was the site of some of the bloodiest fighting during the Civil War.

**Historical Society meets
August 24**

August 24th, the monthly meeting of the Williamson County Historical Society will meet at the historic "Meeting of the Waters" mansion on Del Rio Pike just outside Franklin. The public is invited to a great opportunity to see this ante bellum home. Annual membership is only \$25 and you will receive a copy of historian Rick Warwick's latest book about Franklin women during the Civil War! The event starts at 3:00 PM.

**Franklin Civil War Roundtable
Meets September 14**

The September meeting of Franklin's Civil War Roundtable will meet September 14th at the Williamson County Library. This month's topic will be the "Battle of the West Harpeth." This "retreat" fight just south of Franklin, was the Union's last major attempt at completely destroying the Army of Tennessee after the Battle of Nashville. Come hear about the bravery and drama of this fight and some of the key figures in the battle. The Round Table is open to the public and starts at 3:00 PM.

**STFB Tour of Ropers Knob
Set for October 25**

The STFB Board has made tentative plans for a Saturday morning tour of Ropers Knob on October 25. Tennessee State Archeologist Ben Nance will again lead the tour. Ben was the project supervisor for archeological evaluation of the site. He also authored the 2001 report on the team's findings. The report was revised in 2005, and Ben will have a few copies for visitors.

Ropers Knob is the prominent hill in the north east corner of Mack Hatcher Parkway at Franklin. It was a fortified signal station built and used by the Federal forces as part of the Fort Granger installation. Its signals could be read from Triune and Brentwood. The summit had a blockhouse, rifle pits, and trenches, and remnants of these features still exist.

The State of Tennessee owns the summit, and the south face of the hill is a Franklin City Park. This promises to be one of the premier STFB tours of the year.

**STFB Annual Membership
Meeting At Harrison House
November 13**

The STFB Annual Membership Meeting will be hosted by Pam Lewis at the Harrison House on Thursday, November 13. The Harrison House was the site of the November 30, 1864 pre-battle conference of General J B Hood and his commanders. Pam will give us a tour of Harrison House during our visit.

The current plans are for us to gather at 6:00 PM with dinner at 6:30PM – to be followed by a short business meeting and a speaker. The group will be limited to 50 seats, so when prices and reservations instructions are announced, you must respond quickly.

Author Robert Hicks will be our speaker. He is working on a new book about General John Bell Hood

Watch future STFB newsletters for reservation details and final plans.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



August 2008

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

Name (s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

QTY	Item	Price	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	
	"Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Perryville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Franklin" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Shiloh" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Ft. Donelson" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Stones River" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Nashville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	SHIPPING & HANDLING (Items only) ~ Under \$25.00 - or -	\$3.95	
	\$25.00 and up	\$4.95	
	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.