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# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

January 2008

[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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## Ft. Negley Visitor Center opens

Two years after the reopening of one of the largest Civil War structures in the nation, the city of Nashville has opened the Fort Negley Visitor's Center. Built at a cost of one million dollars and part of the city's park system, the stone structure blends in well with the surrounding historical topography. Battle maps, touch screens, computers with all types of civil war information and little seen old photos are available for the public to study the time when the fort was in its heyday.

Fort Negley is part of a series of works and structures around the city that once make Nashville among the most fortified in the nation. Virtually all of these forts have been lost over the years to development with the exception of Negley, city owned since 1928. 600 feet long and 300 feet wide, it is the largest of those works and was built in the classical French star design. When the war ended local citizens only saw it as a symbol of Federal occupation and it was abandoned. In the depression year of 1937 the Works Progress Administration rebuilt much of the fort with its massive stone walls. But as World War II peaked, interest in the fort again declined and it was closed in 1945.

Efforts to bring the site back to life took place in the 1980's and 90's and it became a focal point of local preservationists. In 2004 the city provided funds for it to be restored again and on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Nashville, December 2004, it was reopened. The Fort is located near downtown but its unique location on a hill surrounded by trees does not make it very visible. "Negley will become a hub, a beginning

point of Civil War activity for all of Middle Tennessee, says Jim Kay, President of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (BONPS). "BONPS was involved from the start in the effort to restore the fort itself and the construction of the visitors center. Along with the other sites here in Middle Tennessee, the impact on tourism will be significant," Kay said.

Save the Franklin Battlefield congratulates BONPS, the city of Nashville, and the local preservation community for its work in saving this valuable Civil War resource. For more information see: [www.bonps.org](http://www.bonps.org)

## John Bell Hood Society Conference & Tours May 9-11, 2008 in Franklin

The John Bell Hood Historical Society will hold its 2008 conference on the weekend of May 9-11, 2008 at the beautiful new Hyatt Place hotel in the Cool Springs section of Franklin. There will be a Saturday tour of the Spring Hill and Franklin battlefields, and a Sunday tour of the Battle of Nashville and Hood's retreat.

The tour guides will be Carnton Plantation Military Historian Eric Jacobson, and David Fraley, Military Historian at the Carter House. See [www.jbhhs.org](http://www.jbhhs.org) for agenda and registration info.

(Editor's note): This will be an opportunity to see the Tennessee Campaign and Gen. Hood in a different light, one that perhaps you are not familiar. I cannot urge you enough to try and attend.

## Landmark Bookstore Civil War Group

On the second Sundays of every month at Landmark Bookstore in Franklin, discussions are led by local authors, historians and authorities about the War in Williamson County. This past month we noted 25 little known “battle” sites in the county and how deeply affected this area was impacted the entire war, not just during the well known 1864 battle. Our February group will be led by noted local author and historian, Rick Warwick. The March discussion will feature Ross Massey, author and historian who has focused on Nashville, Fort Negley and other important sites. All members of STFB are invited to attend.

## New & Renewing Members December 2007

Sandra Abramson	Antioch, TN
Paul & Nancy Anderson	Franklin, TN
Bob Barry	Brentwood, TN
Bob Beck	Franklin, TN
David Broemel	Nashville, TN
Joe E Brooks	Brentwood, TN
Scott Campbell	Harvest, AL
Dorothy Carter	Nolensville, TN
Cameron & Kristine Close	Newark, OH
Don & Sarah Duncan	Murray, KY
Scott Felix	Alum Bank, PA
Donald & Nancy Garrison	Franklin, TN
Kevin Gray	Florence, AL
John Halliday	Benicia, CA
Bobby T Hargrove	Franklin, TN
Robert Hearin	New Orleans, LA
Michael & Deborah Jeanette	Franklin, TN
Bob & Kathy Lawson	Franklin, TN
Carroll & Jane Moore	Brentwood, TN
Andrew & Nancy Ramsay	Ashburn, VA
Bob Ray	Franklin, TN
Peter Schofield	Cleveland, OH
Joseph & Elaine Smyth Jr	Cumberland, ME
Dick Staley	Diamond Bar, CA
Greg Starbuck	Lynchburg, VA
John Summers	Nashville, TN
Mr & Mrs Timothy Traver	Clay Center, OH
Sean Von Loh	Greeley, CO
William & Candace Wade	Columbia, TN
Tom Yearby	Shreveport, LA

## Civil War Sesquicentennial License Plate Underway



The Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial License Plate has been approved by the Tennessee State Legislature. Every year, \$15.62 of your \$35 plate registration fee will go to fund statewide Battlefield Preservation here in Tennessee. This could be a huge financial assist to battlefield preservation.

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association - 501(c)(3) - is collecting 1,000 license plate orders so that production of the actual plate can begin. They need to have the 1,000 orders in hand by April 30 so please act now. Your check will not be deposited until the required 1,000 orders have been collected. We are all counting on Tennessee's Civil War community to quickly put this very important project over the top. With your help in getting the word out, we can do just that.

See [www.tcwpa.org](http://www.tcwpa.org) for ordering instructions. Please pass the word.



Ft. Negley Visitor Center

## News In Review

### **Carter House Unveils Plans for New Interpretive Center and Museum**

*Franklin Life* - Dec. 2007

On Friday, Nov. 30, the Carter House hosted a ceremony to unveil plans for a new interpretive center and museum. The event commemorated the 143<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. The new center will have 11,000 square feet of space initially with room to expand to 30,000 square feet in the future. A new theater will accommodate as many as 125 people.

### **Bikers Raise Funds For 20<sup>th</sup> Tenn. Flag**

*Civil War News* - Dec. 2007

The 20<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Flag now housed at the Tennessee State Museum is in desperate need of repair. Helping to raise the \$30,000 needed for repair, some 300 motorcyclists and enthusiasts recently toured Middle Tennessee historical stops. The ride ended at the house where Captain Patrick Smithson of Co. E, 20<sup>th</sup> Tenn. CSA once lived. This is now the home of Ronnie Mangrum. The day raised \$8,700 for the flag project.

### **Carter House, Carnton keep soldiers' tales fresh**

*The Tennessean* - Dec. 16, 2007

A son of the South, Thomas Cartwright, and a son of the north, Eric Jacobson, live the Battle of Franklin every day. Cartwright, executive director of the Carter House, and Jacobson, military historian at Carnton Mansion, interpret history for those who are curious to learn about the fight nicknamed "the bloodiest hours of the Civil War."

### **Descendant fulfills Rebel soldier's wish**

*The Tennessean* - Dec. 26, 2007

More than a 100 years after the death of Sam R. Watkins, his great-granddaughter, Ruth Hill Fulton McAllister has completed her ancestor's work. McAllister is the editor of a new version of *Co. Aytch*, the frank Civil War memoir that is considered a classic in the genre. Watkins originally published *Co. Aytch* in 1882, and by 1892 he completed a new version of his manuscript but was never able to publish it. Editing the new version took McAllister three years to complete.

The book is available for purchase online through Amazon.com or at [www.providencehouse.com](http://www.providencehouse.com).

### **Costs still mount for battle and farm areas**

*Franklin Review Appeal* - Dec. 26, 2007

Years after their purchase, the city's Battle of Franklin eastern flank and Harlinsdale Farm park projects are each separately turning up new challenges and costs on their way to completion. A team of archaeologists has approval to dig through a portion of the 110-acre battlefield park after aldermen approved spending \$46,184 to conduct a search for any historic artifacts and remains that might be found. Work is expected to begin in January. Civil War buffs and historians shouldn't expect the survey to turn up much, though. In the meantime, the main barn at Harlinsdale Farm needs a new roof which might cost as much as \$150,000.

### **Anniversary of Civil War battle draws tourists, dollars to Rutherford County**

*The Tennessean* - Dec. 30, 2007

This year marks the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. Gib Backlund, chief of operations at Stones River National Battle field, said it's important that Civil War battles are remembered each year. The celebration is a big boost to the county's economy. The park is Rutherford's top tourist attraction. It joins other Civil War landmarks, such as Oaklands Historic House Museum, the County Courthouse, and the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna.

### **Preservation board still wants input of ex-mayor**

*Franklin Review Appeal* - Jan. 9, 2008

In September, former Franklin Mayor Tom Miller got the news: President Bush asked him to fill a slot as mayor on the board of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. After Miller's defeat, council Chairman John Nau III stepped in and asked Miller to stay on as a nonvoting adviser. While Miller's influence will be limited since he can't vote on board matters, he may be asked to give his opinions on matters and could serve as an advocate on issues. Among them may be weighing in on an ongoing study by the National Park Service to create a national park that would encompass all of Williamson County's historic sites.

## 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	
	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 Perryville ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	Eyewitness to the Battle of Nashville ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	<b>SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING (items only) ~ under 10.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	
	\$10 to 24.99	<b>\$3.95</b>	
	\$25 and up	<b>\$4.50</b>	
	<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>		

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

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PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851  
[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

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**January 2008**