



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

November 2008

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

I write this the day after the annual STFB dinner at the historic White Hall in Spring Hill. This home was quarters for Confederate General Earl Van Dorn while he served in the area. It is also known for encounters with Mrs. Jessie Peters that eventually led to the general's death at the hands of her jealous husband.

I am grateful there was enough foresight in Spring Hill to save this home so those stories can be shared with us today. Same can be said for the Carter House, Carnton, Rippavilla and other local historic sites now lovingly cared for by some many over the years. And as I surveyed the crowd at the dinner, I realize how many people were there who have been instrumental in many ways to preserve and honor our history and heritage. There were members of state and local preservation groups, the local civil war roundtable, Confederate and Union societies, government sponsored preservation groups and on. All of these folks have put aside their differences to maintain many of our wonderful historic sites.

Now as we work thru tougher economic times it may be harder to simply ask for donations for the expenses of preservation. We must be creative in recruiting and including a variety of diverse talents that ultimately will go further than those important financial donations. Keeping an open mind and leading with vision will be more important than ever.

Perhaps at the next annual STFB dinner we can look back and be surprised at some of the amazing things we will accomplish together in 2009. Thanks for all you do.

Greg Wade

Illumination Reminder

Volunteer opportunities:

- Nov 24th, 25th 4 pm to 7 pm – 2nd Ave parking garage - **Luminary assembly** using bags, sand, and candles.
- Nov 30th noon to 4 pm - **Placement & lighting** of luminaries at Carter House
- cleanup immediately after event

**BRING A CREW
WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!**

New & Renewing Members October 2008

James Addicott	Rice, MN
Betty Corbitt Callis	Hendersonville, TN
Camp #93 SCV	Savannah, GA
Jim & Ellen Coulter	Pittsfield, MA
Sam & Norma Gant	Franklin, TN
James Garner	Harvest, AL
Hal Joerin	Southfield, MI
Donald Kerns	Garden Grove, CA
Thomas Lott	Spring Hill, TN
Ronny Mangrum	Franklin, TN
Stephanie Phelan	Ocala, FL
Dennis & Larinda Pompa	Spring Hill, TN
Gloria Ramsaur St	Simons Island, GA
Jeff Rector	Columbia, TN
John & Becky Shoptaw	Mena, AR
James & Patricia Swan	Nashville, TN
Mark Zimmerman	Nashville, TN

Nashville Civil War Show

On December 6th and 7th, STFB will be manning our STFB tables at the annual Nashville Civil War Show at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Please stop by and visit. This is arguably the largest Civil War Show in the country. It is produced by Mike Kent who does many shows of this type. Google 'Mike Kent Shows' to locate one in your area

Stark County CWRT Helps STFB

Kathleen Serotek recently wrote on behalf of the Stark County (Ohio) CWRT to convey the groups best wishes and a \$50 gift for battlefield preservation in Franklin. On October 16, longtime STFB member Bob Boyda of Lyndhurst, OH, spoke to the CWRT and asked that his honorarium be sent to STFB. Our many thanks to Kathleen and Bob for keeping Franklin alive in the minds of the greater preservation community.

STFB contributes to Carter House purchase

STFB recently presented Carter House Board member Ed Underwood and Carter House Director David Fraley with a \$5,000 donation. The money will be used in the renovation of the recently purchased garden area of the house. "We are very appreciative of this gift and it will be used wisely," said board chairman Shannon Wasielewski.

Franklin Civil War Round Table

The FCWRT meets the second Sunday of the month at the Williamson County Library. An overflow crowd heard Rick Warwick and his discussion of Franklin women during the War in our November meeting. Come December 14 to hear Ruth Hill McAllister talk about her revision of *Company Aytch*. Ruth is author Sam Watkins great granddaughter and has a great story about finding additional notes the author left behind as a basis for her work. Everyone is invited.

STFB Tour of Harlinsdale Farm

On September 20, David Fraley led an STFB tour of Harlinsdale Farm. He addressed a crowd of 28 interested spectators and very effectively discussed events that had occurred on this site 144 years ago. He pointed out and discussed the campsites and the battle events that took place on Harlinsdale. David also discussed the importance of an archeological study of the area in order to identify specific locations of Civil War events on Harlinsdale

Harlinsdale Farm was the scene of much Civil War activity from early 1863 through December 1864. When the some 10,000 Federal troops were deployed in Franklin in 1863, the Harlinsdale area became a massive campsite and, most probably, the site of corrals and a drill field. Later that year, the force in Franklin was reduced with the remaining soldiers more concentrated near the railroad. During and following the Battle of Franklin, Federal soldiers and then Confederate troops marched across Harlinsdale toward Nashville. On December 17, 1864, Harlinsdale to the Harpeth River became the scene of the Third Battle of Franklin.

Following the Battle of Nashville, retreating remnants of Hood's Confederate army streamed across Harlinsdale pursued by the Federal cavalry. With the Confederate rear guard forming a battle line and their cannons pouring canister into the Federal troops, a pitched battle took place across Harlinsdale through the area where Federal tents had stood little more than a year earlier. What is now modern-day Harlinsdale Farm was the scene of a horrendous battle.

Roper's Knob Tour Recap

On October 25, a group of approximately 45 intrepid STFB members and guests gathered to scale Roper's Knob on a tour led by Tennessee State Archeologist Ben Nance. Ben was the project supervisor for the archeological evaluation of the site, and also authored the 2001 report on the team's findings.

After a welcome by STFB Vice-president Chis Cuomo, we were off following a path cleared for us by the City of Franklin Parks Department on a tract recently transferred to the City by the Heritage

Foundation. We paused at a level area on the southeast side of the upper knob called the Platform and followed the flat Terrace, about 80 feet below the summit of the hill where it is likely that troops camped. We then faced a challenging climb up the steep earthen Ramp which Federal troops used to haul heavy artillery up to the level of the redoubt. At the summit, Ben described the redoubt, blockhouse and other features which were present on the site. The commanding view of the countryside made it easy to understand why the site was useful as a signal station to Triune and Brentwood. The tour concluded with a return to the terrace to the site of the Roper house. The house predates the fortifications and its stone foundation was likely dismantled and its materials used in the construction of the fortifications on the summit.

Thanks to Ben for leading an informative and enjoyable tour and for sharing his knowledge of Roper's Knob with us. We all left with a renewed interest and appreciation for the value of preserving this important site.

Lotz House reopens to public — Franklin Review Appeal — 10/29/08 — FRANKLIN — Beginning Friday, Nov. 1, the Lotz House—the Columbian Avenue two-story home that was in the midst of the Battle of Franklin fighting in 1864—will reopen for public visitors. Not only will the structure tell the story of the men from the Union and Confederate forces who died on that spot 144 years ago, but it will also serve as a showcase for an extensive collection of period antiques.

Tourism spending hits record level — Williamson Herald — 10/30/08 — FRANKLIN — According to the Tennessee Dept. of Tourist Development, the impact of travel on Williamson County charted record numbers, reaching \$251.08 million in travel related spending for 2007. “The bottom line is tourism in Williamson County saves every household more that \$325 in taxes each year,” according to Mark Shore, Executive Director for the Williamson County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Franklin Donation — Civil War News — November 2008 — FRANKLIN — Save the Franklin Battlefield recently gave \$5000 to the Carter House which witnessed the Nov. 30, 1864, battle. STFB President Greg Wade presented the donation to David Fraley, acting director of the Carter House,

and Ed Underwood, member of the Carter House Board, to be used in renovating the Carter House gardens.

Haunted history— The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.” — 11/3/08 — FRANKLIN — Actors became the living embodiment of Franklin's most famous ghost stories at Carnton Plantations' Haunted Halloween event on Oct. 25. Carrie McGavock herself, portrayed by Anna Evans of Franklin, told the story of Carnton as she stood in front of her portrait.

Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.” — 11/10/08 — FRANKLIN — Phil Thomason, of Thomason and Associates, gave a presentation and slide show about the historic features of Triune. The National Park Service listed the Triune Fortifications in the National Register of Historic Places for their historic and archaeological significance. The meeting was held at the Triune Community Center.

Leaks aggravate problems in 1910 school building — The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.” — 11/3/08 — FRANKLIN — County officials plan to cover a portion of the roof over Fleming Hall on the old BGA campus with a tarp to prevent further damage to the 98-year-old building. What happens after that isn't clear. County Commissioner Mary Brockman said it's going to take two things to convince other commissioners the building should be saved: private donations and figuring out what it would be used for.

Carnton plans Civil War commemoration Nov. 22 — Williamson Herald — 11/13/08 — FRANKLIN — On Friday, Nov. 21 hundreds of school children will descend on Historic Carnton Plantation to see firsthand demonstrations by blacksmiths, rifle makers, musicians and Civil War re-enactors. On Saturday, Nov. 22, the day includes guided house tours with an emphasis on what would have been happening on November 30, 1864, around the historic house and in the adjacent fields as thousands of Confederate troops passed over the plantation. Throughout the day, Eric A. Jacobson, author and Carnton Civil War military historian, will lead tours.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



November 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	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Perryville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"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	
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	\$25.00 and up	\$4.95	
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