



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

October 2008

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

As we approach the 130th anniversary of Franklin's most famous battle, perhaps we should remember that Williamson County was a "battleground" well before November 30, 1864. Numerous skirmishes and major battles that took place include Thompson's Station, Van Dorn's 1863 raid into Franklin, and heavy fighting around Triune, Brentwood and Wilson's Pike. In fact, there were almost 100 actual fights in Williamson County where wounds were received or men lost their lives. Someone once said it "isn't a skirmish if you're in it, it's a battle!" Williamson County was further traumatized in late 1864 after the Army of Tennessee fell at Nashville with retreat battles raging all the way back to the Alabama line.

That is why our mission is so important. We cannot forget the price paid by those on both sides during the terrible years of the War, civilian and soldier. These little known battlegrounds contain the blood of sons, husbands, brothers and fathers of local citizens as well as loved ones from the Midwest or the Deep South. Become an active member of STFB and help us remember all who fought over the ground where we live. Your annual dues are important and appreciated, your active *participation is vital* for us to make sure our ancestor's sacrifices are not forgotten.

Gregory L Wade
473 3034

STFB Tour of Ropers Knob Saturday October 25

On Saturday morning October 25, Tennessee State Archeologist Ben Nance will lead a two-hour tour of Roper's Knob. Ben was the project supervisor for the archeological evaluation of the site, and 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.

We will meet at 9:30 AM on Hillhaven Lane which runs north from Liberty Pike just west of Mack Hatcher Parkway. The tour is free to the public.

Roper's 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 reportedly 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.

Nashville Civil War Show December 6 and 7

STFB will have our display tables at the annual Nashville Civil War Show at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. See www.mikekentshows.net for additional details. Please stop by and visit. You'll meet a great group of people who are, like you, very passionate about saving the Franklin battlefield.

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.

We will gather at 6:00 PM with dinner at 6:30PM – to be followed by a short business meeting and our speaker, noted author Robert Hicks. He is working on a new book about General John Bell Hood. The dinner is \$30 per person and must be prepaid by November 7. The group will be limited to 50 seats, so please remit your check as early as possible to STFB, PO Box 851, Franklin, TN 37065.

Michael Skinner named to STFB Advisory Board

Franklin Alderman Michael Skinner has joined the STFB Advisory Board. Skinner, a native of Memphis and retired from Shelby County government, moved to Middle Tennessee in 2004 after his wife, Jena accepted a job at Vanderbilt Hospital as a nurse. Being a retiree, “I had more time to participate in local public issues,” he noted. A graduate of the University of Memphis, he has a strong interest in many of the local initiatives to preserve our local heritage. He is a proud grandparent of his first granddaughter and the father of Chris, Justin and Isabel. His interest and enthusiasm in improving the quality of Middle Tennessee life makes him a welcome addition to the STFB Advisory Board.

Battle of Franklin Illumination November 30th

Your help is needed for the 2008 Battle of Franklin Commemorative Illumination which will take place on Columbia Avenue in front of the Carter House, and will feature the lighting of approximately 10,000 luminaries to represent the total battle casualties - killed, wounded, captured or missing. This will be the first-ever Illumination at the epicenter of the Battle.

Illumination Volunteer Opportunities

- Nov 24th, 25th evenings - **Luminary assembly** using bags, sand, and candles.
- Nov 30th afternoon - **Placement & lighting** of luminaries will begin about noon.
- 4:45 PM – **Illumination Ceremony** featuring comments by Carnton historian Eric Jacobson and period music performed by Olde Town Brass.
- **Luminary pickup** to follow ceremony.

We need for you to **organize a group of volunteers** and **sign-up today** at the City of Franklin Web site:

www.franklin-gov.com/2008BattleOfFranklinCommemorative.html

email historicpreservation@franklin-gov.com or call 615-550-6737.

Dick Simpson Continues His Fall Campaign

In September, our good friend Dick Simpson continued to tell the Franklin story to historical groups over east. After his visit to Franklin a few years ago, Dick developed a slide presentation “The Forgotten Battle of Franklin, Tennessee” that he regularly shares with all who will listen. He recently carried the Franklin story to the CWRT of Merrimack in Salsbury, Massachusetts, and to the Joshua L Chamberlain CWRT of Brunswick, Maine. He finished the month with another presentation to the CWRT of New Hampshire in Epping. His efforts resulted in combined donations of \$350 to the preservation efforts here in Franklin. A big STFB “thank you” goes to Dick Simpson for his untiring work on Franklin’s behalf.

Franklin Civil War Roundtable

Franklin Civil War Roundtable presents speakers the second Sunday of every month at the Williamson County Library. These events are open to the public and admission is free. In November, come hear Rick Warwick discuss his latest book on Williamson County Women and the Civil War. We begin at 3:00 and go about an hour.

New & Renewing Members September 2008

Wayne B Anderson, Sr	Raymond, MS
Karen Arnsdorf	Chippewa Falls, WI
Gerald Bartig	Huntsville, AL
Larry Boyd	Franklin, TN
Justin Cates	Brentwood, TN
Chad & Amy Comer	Gamaliel, KY
Byron Davis Jr	Lebanon, TN
Robert Ewing	Brentwood, TN
Travis Faust	Germantown, WI
Doug & Mary Hood	Franklin, TN
Sam Huffman	Brentwood, TN
Doug Lewter	Madison, AL
Mrs Laurie McRee	Jackson, MS
Don & Annie Miller	New Castle, IN
Kevin & Hayley Miller	Austin, TX
Mr. & Mrs William Morgan	Franklin, TN
Dora Palmer	Franklin, TN
Mary Ann Peckham	Reliance, TN
Patrick Reardon	London, England
John & Nancy Schwartz	Nashville TN
Dick Sipmson	Lancaster, PA
Tom Sladek	Brentwood, TN
Herschel & Pam Smith III	Celebration, FL
Thomas Warren	Dearborn Heights, MI
Eileen & Joe White	Cos Cob, CT
Kimberly Willis	Dickson, TN
Greg Yackel	W Saint Paul, MN

News in Review October 2008

Rippavilla plan goes before board— *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 9/15/08 — FRANKLIN — A request for annexation by the City of Columbia of the 500 acres of GM property including historic Rippavilla Plantation goes today to the city Board of Mayor and aldermen for the first of two readings. The purchaser, SLF Acquisitions, intends to honor a stipulation GM set to donate the nearly 100 acres around the plantation home to Rippavilla, Inc. GM will continue to pay the nonprofit entity \$1 million over the next 10 years. The company plans to build a mix of commercial and residential properties outside the 100-acre buffer for Rippavilla.

Civil War Trails program expected to boost tourism — *Williamson Herald* — 9/18/08 — FRANKLIN — State tourism and transportation officials unveiled the first marker in the state’s new Tennessee Civil War Trails program in front of the Williamson County Courthouse. Franklin’s gateway marker acts as a map to other Civil War sites in the Franklin/Williamson County area, which highlight Hood’s 1864 campaign. Williamson County will have 13 markers as part of the program and installation in Maury and Giles Counties, as well as throughout West Tennessee, will continue throughout the fall.

Cannonball, and its story, comes with the house — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 9/19/08 — FRANKLIN — On display in the back hallway of Fred and Linda Reynolds’ historic Franklin home is a 12-pound non-exploding cannonball from the Battle of Franklin. It was fired from a Napoleon cannon. The Civil War artifact has been part of the 203-year-old house since 1864, when it battered a brick wall at its south end.

City planner leaves for job in San Antonio — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 10/14/08 — FRANKLIN — Interim planning director Shanon Wasielewski has been hired as the preservation officer for the city of San Antonio. Her last day is Nov. 7. Only the second preservation officer in city history, Wasielewski was involved in the creation of two new, major parks—the Eastern Flank of the Battle of Franklin park and the Harlinsdale Farm park—as well as the installation of historic zoning overlays on neighborhoods in Franklin

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Check www.franklin-stfb.org for latest info

- October 25 STFB Tour of Roper’s Knob
- November 9 Franklin Civil War Roundtable
- November 10 STFB Board meeting
- November 13 STFB Annual Dinner Meeting
- November 30 Battle of Franklin Luminary
- December 6-7 Civil War Show Fairgrounds

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



October 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	
	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.