



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

December 2009

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

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Looking back on the 2009 collective preservation efforts in Franklin as the year draws to a close, two events illustrate the old adage that progress is often measured by two steps forward, one step back.

The re-interment ceremony last October for Franklin's Unknown Soldier drew thousands of visitors from across the region while bringing national attention to the Battle of Franklin and preservation efforts here. From afar, many pointed to Franklin saying that at least there they understand the value of preservation and heritage tourism to a community.

However encouraged we were by these events, we could only shake our heads as the City of Franklin approved the request of a developer to build a road to Roper's Knob north slopes, which will bring development that threatens its heights and impair the area's view shed.

The need to inform the public on the value of battlefield preservation and to speak out against threats continues. We appreciate your support and enlist your active participation as we face the challenges and opportunities of a new year.

Happy Holidays.

Mike Walker - President

145th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin November 27th -- 30th, 2009

On Friday November 27th, the Union army began arriving at the Carter House on Columbia Pike in Franklin. Taking possession of the Carter's home and farm, the army set up camp, posted sentinels, and began cooking supper. Members of the 5th and 9th Kentucky Infantry, 1st Tennessee and 17th Missouri Infantry were present.

At the Carnton Plantation, the Confederate Army were making camp also. Members of the army were 1st Tennessee and 46th Tennessee Infantry, along with 26th Alabama Infantry.

The battle began at 2:30 on November 28th when the Confederate Artillery opened fire on the Union Infantry as they rushed to make earthworks north of the Carnton Plantation. Three artillery pieces were in place on the Union line and returned fire for several minutes. Under the leadership of Captain Greg Zelinske, the 17th Missouri and 1st Tennessee Infantry deployed and returned fire. The second company under the leadership of 1st Sergeant David Hosch, second sergeant Bill Sanders also deployed to the left to face the Confederate advance. Thanks to the 7th Tennessee Dismounted Cavalry, with repeating arms, the day was saved from the Confederates taking the victory.

The Confederate advance under the leadership of Colonel Joe Grosman, along with support from Captain Dave Belcher, 46th Tennessee and Captain Tod Richardson, 26th Alabama Infantry, the charge toward the Union line was spectacular. The battle lasted about an hour with plenty of artillery support from both sides.

The Sunday battle was also well presented with infantry charges and artillery support lasting about one hour. A special thanks and mention goes to the artillery batteries that helped make the re-enactment a success. Freeman's Battery, Muscle Shoals, Ala. Buckner's Battery, Louisville, Ky., Porter's Battery, Clarksville and Tennessee Ridge, TN, Greg Calloway's Battery, Nashville, TN. Also, to the number of men that joined these companies without designated regiments. Also, a special thanks to 1st Tennessee Infantry for portraying both U.S. and C.S troops.

The event organizers were the Carter House, Carnton, Save the Franklin Battlefield Inc, the Franklin Battlefield Task Force, and the Franklin City Parks Dept. These groups fully understand and appreciate the considerable effort and expense borne by these reenactors and volunteers in order to make this 145th Anniversary event a great success here in Franklin.

On November 30th, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., the annual march from Winstead Hill to the Carter House was conducted in memory of the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. Approximately 30 re-enactors and 40 Civilians participated. It was the final act in a very full and meaningful weekend for all.

Submitted by Bobby T Hargrove, Save the Franklin Battlefield

New & Renewing Members November 2009

Lorings Advance LLC	Franklin, TN
Paul Arch	Coraopolis, PA
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James & Patricia Swan	Nashville, TN
Thomas D Thiessen	Pleasant Dale, NE



Battle of Franklin Illumination November 28, 2009

A ten thousand candle Illumination was staged near the Confederate Cemetery to commemorate the nearly 10,000 casualties suffered by both sides during the Battle of Franklin November 30, 1864. This is the fourth year that this commemorative event has been held, and it was held during the Blue & Gray Days weekend program sponsored by the Carter House and Carnton Plantation.

A short commemorative program near the Cemetery featured Thomas Flagel and Eric Jacobson recounting the horrific battle and its terrible aftermath. The 8th Regimental Georgia Brass Band then performed a concert of northern and southern songs and closed with several songs of reconciliation. A crowd of nearly 1,000 attended this very moving program.

The Illumination was sponsored and organized by the Franklin Battlefield Task Force with much assistance from the Franklin Parks Department. The Task Force has members from STFB, Carter House, Carnton, Heritage Foundation and other local groups and volunteers, and relies on them for planning and conducting the display.

A few hundred of the 10,000 luminaries were given to the hospital sites around town where their owners arranged street-side illuminations to coincide with the main event at the Confederate Cemetery.

The display covered nearly four acres of the battlefield south of the cemetery and featured a design of a large outline star in the center. The visual effect of the rank-and-file arrangement of the luminaries was spectacular. Aerial photos of the display were made by **Snap Roll Aerial Photography** and can be seen at their web site at snaproll.showitsite.com

This year, the event's organizers used wooden candle blocks in the bags in place of sand. This innovation reduced the volunteer hours needed to assemble and place the display by more than half. The blocks were kept for use in future years.

The ceremony attracted many visitors who just happened to be in town. In future years, the event may become a regular annual project to commemorate and honor those who suffered here, and to educate our visiting public

News In Review December 2009

The Battle of Franklin Trust formed to manage operation of The Carter House and the Historic Carnton Plantation — Battle of Franklin Trust, *Battlefield Dispatch* — November 2009 — FRANKLIN — The board of directors of The Carter House and The Historic Carnton Plantation recently entered into a joint venture to manage the operation of Franklin's two key Civil War sites in an effort to better coordinate heritage tourism. The Battle of Franklin Trust is the new nonprofit whose board is comprised of five board members from each joint venture partner plus a addition director without affiliation to either.

County's hallowed ground becomes swallowed ground — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 11/29/09 — FRANKLIN — The discovery, which occurred in May, is a reminder that remnants of Nov. 30, 1864, — Franklin's bloodiest day — still lay buried just below the surface. The unknown soldier's bones give new fuel to those who say developers should tread lightly on battlefield land and that valuable pieces of the past are scattered throughout the city. Members of groups such as Save the Franklin Battlefield say they will never stop pushing for battlefield preservation and reclamation.

Archeologists, relic hunters don't see eye to eye — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 11/29/09 — FRANKLIN — Archeologist Larry McKee is especially not fond of the folks who use metal detectors strictly to make a profit while at the same time removing evidence that might help expand our understanding of what happened during the Battle of Franklin. While McKee doesn't like the hunters who are driven by profit, he notes that relations between relic hunters and archaeologist have improved when they work together.

Blue & Gray — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 12/7/09 — FRANKLIN — Carnton Mansion's three-day Blue & Gray Days event punctuated a weekend memorial for the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. Hundreds of visitors flocked to the former plantation and the city's Eastern Flank of the Battle of Franklin Park to watch as reenactors recreated scenes of fighting from the battle and to listen to living historians and learn about the Civil War. While period bands played musical tribute to the fallen soldiers, volunteers assembled 10,000 luminaries—paper lanterns with candles—in tribute to the 10,000 casualties recorded in the day's fighting.

Reenactors converge at Carnton to mark battle's 145th anniversary — *Williamson Herald* — 12/3/09 — FRANKLIN — The City of Franklin's Battlefield Task Force held its annual Illumination Ceremony which commemorates the nearly 10,000 casualties that resulted from the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864. The 145th Anniversary ceremony was held in the McGavock Cemetery at Carnton on Saturday, Nov. 28, with 10,000 luminaries—paper lanterns with candles—period bands representing the North and the South, hundreds of reenactors and remarks from noted historians Thomas Flagel and Eric Jacobson.

Professor will sign "History Buffs" series — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 12/7/09 — FRANKLIN — Thomas Flagel, a history instructor at Columbia State Community College and author of *The History Buffs Guide* books series will sign his best-selling books on Dec. 14. The books in the series so far are *The History Buff's Guide to the Civil*, *The History Buff's Guide to World War II*, *The History Buff's Guide to Gettysburg*, and *The History Buff's Guide to the Presidents*. To learn more about the author or the series, visit www.thomasflagel.com.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

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December 2009

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QTY	Item	Price	Total
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