



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

July 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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I have often heard the statement "What can I do that will make a difference?"

In this month's Newsletter we are sharing two important opportunities for you to join forces and have a big impact towards reclaiming and preserving the Franklin Battlefield. As you read, please note the time critical nature of these matters.

First, see the challenge to help reclaim the Carter Cotton Gin Site, the very epicenter of the Battle of Franklin. Funds are urgently needed to meet a mortgage payment.

Second, read the latest on the threat to Roper's Knob and how you can make your voice heard to stop the proposed development.

Finally, read about the saving of Collins Farm - a preservation success story that shows what can be accomplished when we stand together.

I ask that you do what you can to help.

Mike Walker - President

STFB Joins Franklins Charge For Cotton Gin Campaign

Save The Franklin Battlefield has joined forces with Franklins Charge to raise funds to reduce the debt on the Holt House. The property, which Franklins Charge purchased in 2008, is located across Columbia Avenue and slightly south of the Carter House. Its rear lot line partially joins with another lot at 109 Cleburne Avenue that is currently owned by the Heritage Foundation.

The long-term vision is to buy the Holt House, and other adjoining properties as they become available, in order to have a Civil War Park where the Carter cotton gin and main trenches were located. This park would also include the Pizza Hut site purchased by the City of Franklin during Mayor Tom Miller's administration. Together with the land parcels around the Carter House, these hallowed grounds are the very epicenter of the Battle of Franklin.

As you can see, the Holt House purchase is the beginning step of a Cotton Gin Park that we all have dreamed of for many, many years. Now, our chance is finally here and the hard work of making it a reality has begun.

The outstanding Holt House debt is \$850,000 and we need to quickly reduce it in order to refinance into a more favorable bank loan. We are canvassing all of our STFB members to join with us in this important fund-raising project.

We are asking for donations of all sizes. As we did with the purchase of the golf course that began in 2005, all gifts to STFB for the Holt House (or

Cotton Gin) will be combined with other gifts and immediately forwarded in their entirety to Franklins Charge. The gifts are 100% tax deductible and STFB will send you the appropriate letter of acknowledgment.

Even though it is short notice, we are trying to raise as much as possible at the very outset during August. We don't have a formal pledge scheme, but as we did before, you can send us a note with you gift plan. If you have questions, you can contact STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman directly at 615-480-9539 or sam@jsp.net

Pay to/mail to: STFB
PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065

New & Renewing Members June 2009

Dan Andrews	Nashville TN
Oscar N Bird III	Mountain Park GA
Robert Brandt	Nashville TN
Dr Michael Brown	Chattanooga TN
Angela Calhoun	Franklin TN
C Pat Cates	Woodstock GA
Chicago CWRT	Wilmette IL
Tri-Valley CWRT	Dublin CA
Heidi L DeForest	Cambridge WI
Howard Foshee	Spanish Fort AL
Stanley and Rebekah Hime	Brentwood TN
Bruce & Bonnie Hohler	Thompson Station TN
Gary & Barbara Holbrook	Franklin TN
Sam Hood	Huntington WV
Carlton Houghton	Essex Junction VT
Robert Humphrey	Franklin TN
Nick Kaup	Northbrook IL
Vann & Melody Martin	Franklin TN
R Martin McGirt	Franklin TN
Bryan Mitchell	Washington DC
Mark & Karen Perreault	Norkolk VA
Alice Richardson	Central Point OR
Tom & Dorothy Rivett	Lincoln NE
Ed & Paula Snyder	Franklin TN
Bonnie Steadman	Alpharetta GA
Ben Stein	Beverly Hills CA
Paul Timmerman	Traverse City MI
Joe Williamson Jr	Castalian Springs TN
Peter Wulfig	Centennial CO

Collins Farm Marker Dedication July 11, 2009

Recently, a new replacement historical marker was dedicated at Collins Farm. The original marker was

funded in 2002 by our late good friend John Carlson of St Paul, MN, and the new marker retains this same attribution.

Collins Farm is located on the Eastern Flank of the Franklin Battlefield. Until recently, that area of the battlefield had received little attention from researchers. In fact, many of our visitors were certain that all of the heavy fighting took place along Columbia Avenue.

However, research by then board member David Fraley and others revealed the intensity of the fighting at Collins Farm as Loring's division crossed the site and took heavy casualties during their charge into the east end of the Federal trenches.

Armed with this knowledge, STFB immediately began raising funds and signed the contract in June 2001. The \$227,000 purchase was made possible with contributions from the STFB membership across the country as well as Round Tables and other groups. In particular, the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, through the efforts of Rob Hodge, made a matching grant challenge of \$22,500 to STFB donors. With this grant and many STFB fund-raising projects, the debt was paid off in 2006.

The house was storm-damaged in February 2005 when a huge pecan tree fell on it, and onto the more modern additions to the house. This damage allowed experts to examine the internal materials and methods used in the Collins house and learned that it was built in 1866-67 and not before the war as our original marker stated.

Our long-term vision always was for the property to somehow become part of a larger Franklin battlefield park. That way, its history could be better interpreted in context with the rest of the battlefield. In 2007, Collins Farm was deeded to the City of Franklin with a conservation easement so that it would be forever preserved as part of the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park. Since that time, the city has done a magnificent job maintaining and improving the property including adding a beautiful split rail cedar fence along the road.

After almost being lost to development, Collins Farm is now preserved as a battlefield park. Everyone involved with acquisition and preservation should be very proud of the results.

You can read the text of the new marker at www.franklin-stfb.org/DT23_collinsfarm.htm

Roper's Knob Threat Update

Last month we told you about the threat to Roper's Knob by a local developer Charles Mitchell, who owns about 210 acres around Roper's Knob. He has a deed allowing him to build a new road extending Cool Springs Blvd beyond the point where it intersects with Mack Hatcher Pkwy.

Creating the new road would mean demolishing a rocky portion of the bluff near it and opening Mitchell's property for new development. Roper's Knob was a Union Army signal station during the Civil War and still has earthworks onsite. The city and the state own a portion of the Roper's Knob hill. Mitchell's property extends almost to the summit of the Civil War site.

We have kept you posted with the latest developments on our website. Most recently, the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to delay a decision on approving the road until their August 11 meeting at 7:00 PM.

What you can do

It is very important that you voice your opposition to the road approval and the negative visual impact that new development would have on Ropers Knob and the adjoining hill. You can write or call the Mayor and Alderman and attend the August 11 BOMA meeting. For phone numbers, addresses, and for the latest news, see our website www.franklin-stfb.org

News in Review

New historical markers link Hermitage to Civil War Trail — *The Tennessean* — 6/15/09 — NASHVILLE — A home for poor and disabled Confederate soldiers and the cemetery they were buried in at The Hermitage have become part of the Civil War Trails program. Historical markers were installed last week at the home of President Andrew Jackson and at the site of its Confederate Soldiers Home and Cemetery. The trails program is designed to raise awareness of the state's role in the war by creating driving tours of both the great campaigns and lesser-known Civil War sites.

Soldier buried with his boots on — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 6/16/09 — FRANKLIN— Using shovels, brushes and dirt sifters, the partial skeleton of an unknown Civil War soldier was exhumed Monday from his longtime burial plot along Columbia Avenue by a team of archaeologists. The newly exhumed remains, which included bones from both of the man's legs as well as burial artifacts, will be kept by state environmental officials until a final burial site can be determined.

Back to the battlefield — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 7/14/09 — FRANKLIN— A year after resigning as executive director of the Carter House, Thomas Cartwright now is conducting tours at the Historic Lotz House. Cartwright is teaming up with J.T. Thompson, executive director of the Lotz House, to share the knowledge and passion for the Civil War and the Battle of Franklin. These tours are conducted on Thursday and Saturday every week.

Civil War soldier may be reburied — *Franklin Review Appeal* — 7/15/09 — FRANKLIN — The bones of an unknown Civil War soldier found along Columbia Avenue could lie at rest in Rest Haven Cemetery, Franklin, by fall. Historians, archaeologists and local leaders are now taking the final steps needed to rebury the human remains first discovered along Columbia Avenue. Unlike his burial in the wake of the Battle of Franklin, the soldier will have a small monument installed over his grave to mark his sacrifice, though no one knows his name.

Archaeologist scrubs Confederate markers — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 7/17/09 — FRANKLIN— Archaeologist Dan Allen with Cumberland Research Group recently spent nine days cleaning close to 1,600 cemetery monuments which mark the graves of Confederate soldiers who died in the 1864 Battle of Franklin and were reburied in McGavock Confederate Cemetery. The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Chapter 14, funded the cleaning through a grant from Middle Tennessee Electric Customers Care, Inc. The chapter also recently placed a new marker at the cemetery entrance.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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July 2009

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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	
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STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.