



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 2009

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

During the current economic slowdown, many are having a difficult time making ends meet. So I am especially grateful for your continued support of STFB through your membership, donations, and encouraging calls and letters. One of my greatest pleasures is the opportunity to meet our members at the various tours, shows, and meetings over the years. It is always encouraging to see how passionate our members are about the Franklin battlefield. You should know that your steadfast support is important to us and deeply appreciated.

All of us with STFB are volunteers who contribute our time and efforts towards preserving and promoting the battlefield. Currently, several STFB board members are heavily involved with the city's Battlefield Task Force Committee planning for this year's 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. Others are involved in planning for other upcoming events. Stay tuned for announcements and updates on what we have been up to.

Finally, as you plan your vacation this year, consider a visit to Franklin's Civil War sites. If it's been some years since your last visit, you will find much new to see. Call or email us for a copy of the Driving Tour map before you come visit. We will mail you one straightaway. You can also preview the Driving Tour map online at www.franklin-stfb.org

We look forward to seeing you in Franklin.

Mike Walker - President

New & Renewing Members February 2009

Shelly	Andrews	Chattanooga, TN
James	Barrow	Miami, FL
Charles & Nancy	Brantley	Greenville, TX
Dan	Brown	Nashville, TN
Terry	Coats	Goodlettsville, TN
South Bay	CWRT	Mountain View, CA
Matthew	Hooks	Oakmont, PA
Robert D	Jenkins	Dalton, GA
Tom & Jackie	Jensen	Nelson, NE
Christopher	Kolakowski	Perryville, KY
Kevin & Kelle	McLamore	Clarksville, TN
Dan & Linda	Mora	Franklin, TN
H Bryon	Mitchell	Washington, DC
Sharon A	Murray	Boise, ID
Jim	McCanless	Brentwood, TN
John	Riopelle	Delmar, NY
Nick	Romer	Franklin, TN
Damien	Shiels	Co. Cork, Ireland
Jack & Betty	Stephens	Pryor, OK
Robert G	Street Jr	Columbia, TN
James K	Turner	Franklin, TN
Mike & Barbabra	Walker	Franklin, TN
The	Watchdog	Warren, MI
Kathy & Mark	Wells	Franklin, TN
Dr Van	West	Murfreesboro, TN

STFB 2009 Officers Elected

The STFB Board of Directors has elected officers for 2009

Mike Walker	President
Bobby Hargrove	Vice President
Sam Gant	Secretary
Sam Huffman	Treasurer

Spring Hill Battlefield Again Named Among Most Endangered

Oscar-winning Richard Dreyfuss recently visited Washington DC to assist the Civil War Preservation Trust in announcing their Ten Most Endangered Battlefields. On the list for the fifth time in as many years is the Spring Hill Battlefield.

This battle occurred November 29, 1864 when forces under Confederate Gen John Bell Hood failed to deny the Federal forces an escape route into Franklin. The Federal army slipped away by marching throughout the night. Hood caught them on the 30th at Franklin, and attacked without delay.

For the complete list of Endangered Battlefields, see the CWPT web site at www.civilwar.org

Spring Hill Battlefield Update by Dan Brown

(editor's note: Dan Brown is the Executive Director of the Tennessee Preservation Trust. He has long worked with government and business leaders to preserve the land surrounding Rippavilla Plantation and the Battlefield at Spring Hill. We have asked him to give us all a status update on his organization's efforts)

For those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting please allow me to introduce myself. I am the executive director of the Tennessee Preservation Trust. We're the statewide partner for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Our offices are based in Nashville. We have been working to save the Spring Hill Battlefield for the past year and a half.

As many of you are aware there have been two failed attempts by developers in the past year to buy the property from General Motors and develop it with housing, apartments, a big box retailer, office buildings, and other commercial development. The most recent proposal also called for two 80' wide roadways criss-crossing the Rippavilla property providing access to the developments.

The GM agreement calls for the preservation of 100 acres around Rippavilla, but as they recently discovered, their contract with GM allows for unfettered access to all developments around Rippavilla however they may ultimately impact or cross the Rippavilla property.

The effect of this access plan on Rippavilla would be devastating, impacting numerous archaeological sites and the main house itself. The only good news concerning our current economic downturn in the U.S. is that it has temporarily stopped the destruction of many historic sites. It is up to us to take advantage of this environment and save the battlefield.

As your organization is well aware, the Spring Hill battlefield is a class 1a battlefield as defined by the federal government and one of the official top 38 battlefield sites in Tennessee related to the Civil War. The opportunity to acquire a battlefield site of this level of importance anywhere in the U.S. is nearly impossible, which makes this acquisition all the more important.

We are currently working with a number of preservation organizations across the state to appeal to Senator Alexander to intervene with General Motors and hopefully encourage them to negotiate directly with the preservation community in Tennessee to acquire and preserve the land. Senator Alexander was instrumental in getting this parcel of land set aside as a buffer around the GM plant decades ago.

State Representative Steve McDaniel is appealing to Senator Alexander and Jeanne Nelson, executive director of the Land Trust for Tennessee is also in the process of contacting the Senator. TPT is developing a letter that will be signed by numerous organizations across the state and nation appealing to Senator Alexander to intervene and facilitate the saving of the battlefield. The letter will go out in the next few weeks and we will call on all of the interested organizations to follow-up with a letter and email campaign to save the battlefield.

I don't believe any of us are opposed to any development per se, but we cannot allow an historic site and conservation area of this level of importance to be developed, especially when there are so many other opportunities for development elsewhere in the area.

I sincerely appreciate all of your support and your memberships that allow the Tennessee Preservation Trust to survive and continue its work.

We are currently conducting a membership campaign to allow us to survive the economic downturn and would welcome your participation.

If you have any questions concerning the Spring Hill Battlefield or supporting us with the effort, please contact me at tnprestr@bellsouth.net and our website is tennesseepreservationtrust.org. Working together we truly have an opportunity to save this battlefield.

Park Day – April 4 Your Chance to Volunteer

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, history buffs and preservationists from around the country will team up with the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) to help clean and restore America's priceless battlefields, cemeteries and shrines. The nationwide effort – dubbed Park Day – is underwritten with a grant from History (formerly The History Channel). Park Day is also presented in partnership with Take Pride in America, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Participants gather at sites to help with activities that range from trash removal to window cleaning. In exchange for their hard work, volunteers receive t-shirts and have an opportunity to hear a local historian discuss the significance of the site.

The Carter House and the Lotz House are two of the sites that will benefit from Park Day related activities. Come help us. For information and volunteer signup, call:

Carter House 615-791-1861
1140 Columbia Avenue
Lotz House 615-790-7190
1111 Columbia Avenue

Bring your gloves and yard tools

News in Review

**Fleming Center Will Be Ready for Summer—
COLUMNS: Historic Carnton Plantation
Newsletter — February 2009 — FRANKLIN**
— The long-awaited Fleming Center is well underway with an expected completion in late June. Located north of the current visitor center, the 3,500-square-foot structure includes meeting

and event space and a bridal changing room, with expanded gift shop, exhibit and restroom areas, as well as staff offices.

Cartwright to speak at conference — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 2/23/09 —FRANKLIN— Thomas Cartwright, former director of the Carter House in Franklin, on March 27-28 will lead a discussion during *Civil War in the Heartland: The Cavalry*, A Conference on Mounted Warfare at Nashville Belle Meade Plantation. The conference will examine the importance of cavalry and mounted warfare action that occurred in Tennessee during the Civil War and evaluate the cavalry leadership of the Union and the Confederacy.

Sons of Union Veterans hold annual encampment— *Williamson Herald* — 3/5/09 — SPRING HILL — On Jan. 31 The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Department of Tennessee/Alabama, held their 2009 annual encampment at historic Ferguson Hall, in Spring Hill, the last headquarters of Confederate Gen. Earl Van Dorn. The SUVCW is an organization of descendants of Union Civil War veterans and other men interested in preserving the memory of the soldiers and sailors of the Grand army of the Republic. The Middle Tennessee camp, Fort Donelson Camp # 62, is headquartered in Franklin. Information on the camp may be found at the web site www.tnsuvcw.org

Tribute honors Civil War soldier— *The Tennessean* — 3/9/09 — NASHVILLE — Laid to rest and long forgotten in an unmarked grave, a Nashville Confederate veteran, Capt. Marmaduke Norfleet Cox, finally received the headstone and military honors he was due. Cox was one of Morgan's Raiders, an elite guerrilla strike force under Gen. John Hunt Morgan, who led a series of raids into Union territory. In 1863, Morgan led his cavalry into Ohio where outnumbered raiders were surrounded and captured. Cox was sent to Johnson's Island, a prisoner of war camp on Lake Erie. He died four months into his captivity. His body was shipped home to be buried in relative anonymity.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



March 2009

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		

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STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.