



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 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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Last Thursday, the grave and partial remains of a Federal soldier were unearthed at a construction site along Columbia Pike that is converting Through The Green golf course to commercial uses. Work was stopped and further excavation by archeologists found most of the entire body and remnants of his wooden coffin. The uniform buttons found are marked with "T" which should help historians determine his regiment and approximate time of death.

This discovery will hopefully permit a respectful reburial for this Civil War soldier that is not under asphalt. After being forgotten for 145 years, he deserves better than that from all of us. Also, this event should serve as a wake-up call to our City leaders and planning boards that the Columbia Pike Corridor from Nashville to Spring Hill is a very long battlefield where elements of the armies traveled, collided and fought many times during the war years.

We encourage local STFB members to contact their Alderman and the Mayor's office to voice support for the reburial of this soldier in a local Franklin Cemetery.

This newsletter also has the updated information on the June 18-20 Franklins Charge Symposium. We'll see you there.

Mike Walker - President

Remains of Federal Soldier Discovered at Franklin

On May 14, a worker at a construction site on Columbia Pike unearthed human bones located in a shallow, unmarked grave just a few yards from the road. The police were called, and upon their examining the bones and the buttons accompanying them it was determined that this was the remains of a Civil War soldier.

Among the items initially recovered from this grave were pieces of skull, a jawbone with teeth missing, a single tooth, an arm bone, numerous other bone fragments, five buttons and a Minie ball. This blunted Minie ball was presumably the one that took the young man's life. Later excavation uncovered much of the rest of the skeleton. This body of a tall man, clad in a long coat, evidently had been buried in a wooden coffin.

The police called in a state archeologist and Civil War experts from Franklin's Civil War sites. David Fraley and Bobby Hargrove from the Carter House, J.T. Thompson from the Lotz House, and Eric Jacobson from Carnton Plantation examined the artifacts and identified the time-worn buttons marked with an "I," as the type worn by Union soldiers during the Civil War. They concluded that in all likelihood this soldier was killed on December 17, 1864, as the Union soldiers battled with the rear guard of Hood's army in their retreat from the Battle of Nashville. This area, a few hundred yards north of Winstead Hill, witnessed a skirmish that carried on down Columbia Pike to the West Harpeth toward Spring Hill.

The City of Franklin placed a work stoppage order on the construction project until further archeological work could be done. The archeological team searched over a large area around the grave site but found no other evidence of burials nor did they uncover any other Civil War era artifacts. The Franklin Police Department took the bones to photograph and record in their report. The bones will then be returned to the State archeologist who will turn them over to a forensic anthropologist for evaluation before their being re-interred.

The State archeologist stated that the preferred option for re-interring the soldier is to return the contents of his grave to the original burial site. For this to take place, the landowner must set aside a small plot around the grave. The second option is for the landowner to obtain a court order for grave removal. Should the landowner chose this option, the soldier's remains would likely be turned over to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Fort Donelson Camp # 62, headquartered in Franklin, to arrange for a proper burial. More later.

New & Renewing Members April 2009

Nancy W Bassett	Collierville, TN
Louise Batey	Franklin, TN
Julian Bibb	Franklin, TN
Jerry J Bruning	Evansville, IN
Suzanne Burns	Brentwood, TN
Betty Cannon	Pleasant View, TN
Elizabeth Coker	Rockvale, TN
Walter Corey	Lenoir City, TN
Ann Arbor CWRT	Ann Arbor, TN
San Diego CWRT	San Diego, CA
Rosie Flite	Franklin, TN
John D Fraser	Franklin, TN
Roy Freudenthal	Tulsa, AL
Kimberly A Harrison	Thompsons Station, TN
Robert Hicks	Franklin, TN
Kirk Hinman	Lakewood, OH
Frank Kendrick	Santa Barbara, CA
Bob Lessel	Bartlet, TN
Spyros Lezimis Family	Chicago, IL
Mr & Mrs Ronald S Ligon	Franklin, TN
Archie Lintz	Huntington, IN
Ross Massey	Nashville, TN
Mel Maurer	Westlake, OH
Ben McDonald	Louisville, KY

Patrick McIntyre	Nashville, TN
Marcus & Chrissy Pearson	Holly Springs, NC
Gale & Lyn Pewitt	Naperville, IL
Harold & Mary Jo Pratt	Franklin, TN
David & Helara Shaw	Columbus, OH
Richard Simpson	Lancaster, PA
Richard Shepler	Duck River, TN
Tom & Amy Stone	Mt Airy, MD
Thomas Worms	Chicago, IL

Central Franklin Area Plan Update Underway

Last fall, the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to update the 2004 Central Franklin Area Plan to incorporate community changes since its adoption, and to include changes that have resulted since the adoption of the new Zoning Ordinance in 2008

A design team has been selected to lead the effort and work is well underway. The update process will include steering committee meetings, stakeholder interviews, and community meetings to gather public input. The latest community update and public input session was held April 30. Several more public meetings are planned. Your participation is welcome.

As the process unfolds, you can follow the planning updates at the City of Franklin web site. The [Central Franklin Area and Historic District Design Review Guidelines](#) can be found at www.franklintn.gov/planning. From the left menu, select **Long Range Planning**. By then clicking through the several topics, you can see the maps and guidelines now under development.

The original 2004 **Central Franklin Area Plan** in PDF format can be located by selecting **Regulations and Maps** from the left menu, and then selecting **Central Franklin Area Plan**. The Battlefield Preservation Priorities in the 2004 plan are described on pages 35-42.

The time you invest in this homework assignment will keep you abreast of future meetings and events as the plan develops.

FRANKLIN TO NASHVILLE THE LAST DAYS OF THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE

Franklin's Charge is hosting its third annual Symposium on the Battle of Franklin. The Symposium takes place June 18 – 20, and will focus on the last days of the army of Tennessee. The Symposium follows General John Bell Hood's footsteps into Franklin and onward to Nashville.

Supported by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, the Symposium features expert guides and faculty who will provide tours and lectures addressing such themes as the military campaigns, the costs of occupation and the promise of emancipation. This year, the Symposium is expanding to include the Battle of Nashville.

The newly implemented Civil War Trails program will be used as a tool for educating attendees about the Battle of Franklin. This is the first opportunity for battlefield enthusiasts to use the program through the Symposium outlet. Williamson County has 14 markers in the area, and Franklin's Charge is proud to be associated with the program, which also exists in Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland.

Area educators are encouraged to attend. This Symposium includes a special workshop for educators only, June 18. During this workshop, teachers will receive teaching tools about the Civil War and the Battle of Franklin to use in the classroom. The workshop will be taught by staff from the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Teachers are encouraged to attend the Symposium. Scholars are available and may be requested by contacting Stacey Watson at (615) 595-0636 or info@franklinscharge.com.

Building on the momentum of last year's event, the 2009 Symposium promises to provide an engaging exploration of the Civil War story in middle Tennessee. This program will enhance attendees' understanding of the significance of the fighting in middle Tennessee.

This Symposium features noted authors and historians: Thomas Cartwright, Jim Hoobler, Eric Jacobson, Chris Losson, Fred Prouty, Wiley Sword and Ridley Wills. The event will heighten awareness of the historical resources that are being preserved in Franklin, Tenn. The Symposium also serves to encourage tourism into the Franklin and Williamson County area.

Once again, Franklins Charge is working with a great Chamber partner, the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. The Marriott is the host hotel for the conference. Make room reservations by calling (888) 236-2427. Mention the Franklin Battlefield Symposium and receive a room rate of \$119 per night. The deadline for hotel reservations is May 29, 2009.

Symposium registrations can be made online by going to the newly enhanced Franklin's Charge Web site at www.franklinscharge.com or by calling (615) 595.0636.

Franklin's Charge, Inc., in cooperation with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, the Franklin-Williamson County Chamber of Commerce, Historic Carnton Plantation, The Carter House, the African American Heritage Association, The Heritage Foundation, the Williamson County Visitors Bureau, Save the Franklin Battlefield, Civil War Preservation Trust, and the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society are working together to present this Symposium.

SUVCW Flag Day Ceremony June 13

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Fort Donelson Camp # 62, will hold a Flag Day ceremony, 10:30 a.m., June 13, at Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery, Franklin, TN, honoring three Civil War veterans of the United States Colored Infantry (U.S.C.I.). The ceremony will include a speaker from the African-American Heritage Society, color guards from the 13th U.S.C.T and the 10th TN Inf US SVR, and the Fort Donelson Camp will place flags on the veterans graves.

Franklin Civil War Roundtable

The Franklin CWRT will meet Sunday June 14 at 3:00 p.m. Williamson County Library, 1314 Columbia Avenue in Franklin.

Thomas Flagel, Columbia State Community College professor and the author of *The History Buff's Guide to the Civil War*, will speak on "Messengers of Death: The Press and the Battle of Franklin."

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
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May 2009

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