



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

October 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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All who attended the funeral of Franklin's Unknown Soldier will agree it was a truly memorable and dignified tribute to a fallen American soldier - one man who represents all those who lost their lives in the Battle of Franklin.

The joining of those wearing blue and gray for this event was evidence of our reunification as a nation and common respect for those of both sides. And the thousands of townspeople and visitors who traveled from across the country proves the public interest and desire to "connect" with our history.

On your next visit to Franklin, be sure to visit the Unknown Soldier's Grave and Monument at Rest Haven Cemetery - a location sure to be a focal point for future memorials and tributes. The monument was designed by Franklin's own Robin Hood and is sure to become a must see site for all Franklin visitors.

In this Newsletter, read about the next in this Fall's upcoming events including our Thompson's Station battlefield tour, STFB Annual Meeting, and Franklin's Civil War Days with the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

I look forward to seeing all of you you in Franklin this fall!

Mike Walker - President

STFB Annual Meeting And Dinner November 19, 2009

The STFB Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, November 19 at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 510 West Main Street, Franklin TN

We will gather at 6:00 PM with a full dinner buffet at 6:30 PM. A short business meeting will begin at 7:30 PM followed by our speaker Dr Benjamin Nance, Historical Archaeologist, State of Tennessee who will present "Archaeology of Civil War Sites in Franklin".

The cost of dinner is \$20 per person with payment in advance by November 12 at the very latest. Our seating is limited to 50 so get your check in early to STFB, PO Box 851, Franklin, TN 37065.

New & Renewing Members September 2009

Karen Arnsdorf	Chippewa Falls, WI
Gerald Bartig	Huntsville, AL
Bert Chapman	Estido Beach, SC
James Childress	Brentwood, TN
Naples CWRT	Naples, FL
Lynda Duke	College Grove, TN
May Dean Eberling	Nashville, TN
Sam Huffman	Brentwood, TN
Susan James	Brentwood, TN
Mike Kent	Monroe, GA
William D Morgan	Franklin, TN
Jean Nelson	Nashville, TN
Timothy Shea	Worcester, MA
Carol Signet	Ferndale, WA
Dr John A Simpson	Kelso, WA
Mike Woods	Palmdale, CA
The Watchdog	Warren, MI

Dan Mora Rejoins STFB Board

Dan Mora has rejoined the STFB Board after a three year absence. Mora, a retired Army Officer and part-time contractor for Northrop Grumman, felt he should leave the board due to the heavy travel requirements of his job that kept him out-of-country and away from Franklin for extended periods.

Mora is part of a team responsible for training military commanders and their staff in war fighting skills. All army units, to include the National Guard and Reserves, are required to participate in an extensive training exercise prior to their deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan. Mora's assignments took him to Korea, Europe, the Middle East, and several military posts in the US. With the US planning to leave Iraq in 2010, it appears that the training requirements and the job demands on his time will lessen and we can have him back.

Mora was instrumental in the STFB fund raising and management of Collins Farm several years ago and is a welcome old friend back on the STFB Board.

Battle of Thompsons Station Tour Saturday, November 7

STFB is sponsoring a Tour of the Thompson Station Battlefield on Saturday November 7. We will gather near Homestead Manor at 9:30 AM. The tour will start promptly at 10 AM and end by noon including a Q&A period. The incomparable Thomas Cartwright will be our tour guide and will describe the events that engulfed and swept over Homestead Manor on that fateful March 5, 1863. The tour is free to STFB members and their guests. The general public is also invited and may want to become STFB members

Homestead Manor has been the home of Jay and Marcia Franks for many years but Marcia is now transforming it into a Tea Room. Watch her web site www.homesteadmanor.com for the latest news of her project.

We have asked Jay to give us the latest news on the preservation easements on his and neighboring properties that may eventually become a Thompsons Station battlefield park. You also may want to stay after the tour and be among Marcia's first customers.

To reach Homestead Manor, take I-65 to TN-840 West. At US 31, go south 1.9 miles.

Update on Construction at Ropers Knob

If you have driven through the busy Mack Hatcher – Cool Springs Blvd intersection in the past weeks, you have seen the frenzied pace of construction of Charles "Mickey" Mitchell's new road to the base of Roper's Knob. The limestone bedrock is being drilled, blasted and leveled so that Cool Springs Blvd can be extended to open Mr. Mitchell's property for development. For late updates and photos of the destruction, visit www.franklin-stfb.org

23rd Middle Tennessee Civil War Show At Fairgrounds December 5-6, 2009

STFB will be there!! Stop by and see us. For information on the show, contact Mike Kent mlkshows@yahoo.com 770-267-0989

Civil War Days Schedule November 28, 29, 30

The Battlefield Task Force, in cooperation with Carnton Plantation and Historic Carter House, has planned a series of events for the weekend after Thanksgiving. Carnton and Carter House will have a series of living history and educational events.

Public events include skirmish demonstrations Saturday and Sunday, a 10,000 candle Illumination near the Confederate Cemetery, and the annual march from Winstead Hill to the Carter House.

Friday – Nov 27 – Noon – Camps open for registration of re-enactors at Carnton (CS) and Carter House (US)

Saturday – Nov 28 – Carnton & Carter House open at 9AM – camps open at 10AM. Skirmish from 2:20PM to 3:30PM – Illumination ceremony at dusk

Sunday – Nov 29 - Carnton opens at noon - Carter House opens at 1PM – camps open at noon. Skirmish from 2:30PM to 3:30PM

Monday – Nov 30 - the 145th anniversary of the November 30, 1864 battle. Annual march from Winstead Hill to Carter House 4:00 PM

The detailed and revised schedule can be seen at the STFB web site www.franklin-stfb.org

Both skirmishes and the Illumination will be held at the Eastern Battlefield Park near Carnton

For additional information and re-enactor registration, contact bthargrove123@aol.com 615-519-1537 or rghuff123@aol.com 615-500-8211

October News In Review

Signs show bloody battle's lines— Franklin Review Appeal — 9/23/09 — FRANKLIN — Eight new “Entering the Battlefield of Franklin” street signs planted along the city’s main roadway entrances spell out where Union and Confederate forces clashed and show modern traveler just how big the battle was. Those signs are the latest tool history buffs and others are using to capitalize on public interest in Franklin’s history and its draw as a tourist destination. The signs were paid for by Franklin on Foot owner Margie Thessin and former City alderman, Pam Lewis.

Sand trap yields cannonball — The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.” — 10/1/09 — FRANKLIN — A second archaeological survey of the Eastern Flank of the Battle of Franklin park has yielded more ties to the city’s Civil War past. A six-pound iron cannonball, a portion of an artillery shell, pottery or dish shards, two axe head and other items were found by volunteers during excavation of the sand traps at the former golf club this summer. These are the latest finds to be scooped out of the 110-acre former golf course in the past two years.

Preservationists target second pizza place — The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.” — 10/15/09 — FRANKLIN — Franklin’s reclamation of its battle field land could take another leap forward in time for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

Organizers of local non-profit Franklin’s Charge are negotiating to buy the Domino’s Pizza restaurant and Four Star Market at the corner of Cleburne St. and Columbia Ave. and convert them into a new park, where a replica of a cotton gin that once stood there would be built.

Unknown Soldier burial draws thousands to watch history be made — Williamson Herald — 10/10/09 —

FRANKLIN — The burial of Franklin's Unknown Civil War Soldier drew thousands of people to the streets, but for three offspring of Civil War veterans, the ceremony gave honor to their fallen fathers.

Harold Becker, 93, of Grand Rapids, Mich., is the son of a Union veteran Charles Conrad Becker, who fought at the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1863 with the 128th Indiana Infantry. His Confederate counterpart was James Brown Sr., 97, of Knoxville, Tenn., whose father, James H.H. Brown of the 8th Georgia Infantry, saw his regiment cut in half at Gettysburg.

Also attending Saturday was Corinne Davenport, whose father, Henry Clay Smith, fought with the 4th Tennessee Regiment and with Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Franklin resident Frank Andrews read his poem "A Letter from a Soldier" to the 250 or so people lucky enough to make it into St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where the locally handcrafted coffin housing the remains found on May 14 on a south Franklin construction site had been placed for visitation. Hundreds of others watched in overflow areas at the church.

Visitors from more than 29 states and four countries -- Australia, Ireland, Brazil and United States -- filed past the coffin over the two-day visitation period and officials estimate the visitation drew more than 1,000 people.

by Mindy Tate
Editor, *Williamson Herald*

Editor’s note:

The *Williamson Herald* has produced an 8-page commemorative edition from the Unknown Soldier event. Copies are available at the *Williamson Herald* office, 1117 Columbia Ave., Franklin, TN, or they will mail. For information, telephone: 615-790-6465, ext. 237

**Join us in Franklin for 2009 Civil War Days
&
Thompson Station Battlefield Tour Nov 7**

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



October 2009

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

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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	
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STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.