



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

January 2010

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 first decade of the 21st century, we can't help but be encouraged by the successful efforts to save and recover the Franklin battlefield made through the combined efforts of preservation groups in Franklin.

Once considered a lost and forgotten battlefield, Franklin is now a case story for what can be done. Among the "wins" in the past decade, we count the former "Pizza Hut" site, Eastern Flank Battlefield Park, Collins Farm, the Carter House Garden, and most recently the Holt House property.

However, we recall the major "losses" as well, notably the Williamson County Library built on the former Battleground Academy property, current Meryl property development, and threat to Roper's Knob.

Still, some question the need for continued preservation efforts. In this Newsletter, see "Is Preservation over in Franklin?" written by STFB board member Dan Mora for our response to those who would bring to a halt or reverse the gains made.

What will the new decade bring for preservation in Franklin? I hope you will consider this as you read on.

Mike Walker - President

Is Preservation Over In Franklin?

By Dan Mora

That question was recently asked by a local reporter of one of the Save the Franklin Battlefield (STFB) board members. His reply, "No way - battlefield preservation is not a destination, it is a journey."

We at STFB feel that battlefield preservation should never end. As long as there is an opportunity to preserve a piece of land that saw the sacrifice of men from both side of the issue fighting for what they believed, we think that their sacrifice should be memorialized for generations to come. It is never too late to recover a piece of property. Although the property may have been used as something else over the years, if it becomes available and can be added to existing park or private battlefield holdings, the effort should be made to preserve it.

Recent acquisitions on behalf of the Gettysburg National Park are an example of land that had another use before being recovered and added to the national park system. Recently, the train station where President Abraham Lincoln arrived to deliver his Gettysburg Address was added to Gettysburg National Park. This was made possible through the involvement of city (borough in the case of Pennsylvania) government who chose to remain involved in preservation rather than detach itself from heritage preservation. The Borough is cognizant of the significant monetary contributions that heritage tourism brings not only to the borough but to the state. The Borough could have sold the property for commercial development, but

chose instead to sell it to the National Park Service at a fraction of its commercial value. Though there has been support from the city here in Franklin in the past, that support is still essential.

A property, in private holdings, once lost to incompatible development can destroy park views, undermine a visitor's experience and often adversely impact the areas environment. There is significant battlefield property in private hands today.

Such property is not considered lost. If it were to become available in the future, it could added to existing battlefield land that is currently preserved. Land in private hand does not have to be sold or lost by its current owners. That property can be preserved through use of a conversation easement. A conservation easement can protect the parcel of land from future development and will preserve the historical integrity for generations to come. Such actions were recently undertaken by two resident of Thompson's Station when they placed an easement on approximately 150 acres of land that were ground zero for the Battle of Thompson Station in 1863. They are to be commended for their actions, and hopefully serve as an example to others in the area.

STFB, Franklins Charge and the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson Counties are the preservation organizations in the Franklin and Williamson County area that are actively engaged in preservation, both heritage preservation and historic preservation. There have been successes that could be attributed individually to each organization, however this is not about individual efforts rather it is about joint efforts to preserve our history and heritage in Franklin and Williamson County. Looking specifically at battlefield preservation the following was recently authored by David Fraley, a local historian and preservationist:

"Our battlefields are disappearing quickly, and with them go our history. This does not have to happen! Planned development and historic preservation can co-exist, but only when civic duty and patriotism become more compelling than greed and personal gain."

Preservation is not over in Franklin and Williamson County. As long as there is an opportunity to preserve battlefield land, those of us in the pursuit of preserving our heritage will continue to do so. In order to be successful in this endeavor, we will need the continued support of like minded individuals throughout the city, county, state and these glorious

United States who like us believe the paraphrased words of the immortal Yogi Berra: "It ain't over 'til its over."

New & Renewing Members December 2009

Sandra M Abramson	Antioch, TN
James Addicott	Rice, MN
Loring's Advance	Franklin, TN
Paul & Nancy Anderson	Franklin, TN
Cathy Bickerstaff	Bartlett, TN
John Chaballa	Franklin, TN
Jim Creecy	Nashville, TN
Civil War Preservation Trust	Washington, DC
Orange County CWRT	Garden Grove, CA
David R Deatrck Jr	Prospect, KY
Don and Andy Garrison	Franklin, TN
Michael/Donna Grainger	Franklin, TN
Kevin Gray	Florence, AL
John Halliday	Benicia, CA
Mike & Debbie Jeanette	Franklin, TN
Bruce Johnson	Riverwoods, IL
William D Moseley	Franklin, TN
Fred Prouty	Old Hickory, TN
Peter Schofield	Cleveland, OH
Margie Thessin	Franklin, TN
Timothy Traver	Clay Center, OH
John M Vaughn	Boca Raton, FL
Valley Corps Volunteers	Salem, WI
William Warren	Salem, OR
Jerry Wildenhaus	Dayton, OH

E-MAIL Address Update

STFB will soon be sending you an e-mail to update our address database. It is our goal to have as many of our members readily accessible, via e-mail, as possible. In the past it has been important for us to notify you about endangered battleground or other urgent preservation issues that will come to a vote within the county or the city.

So we need your help to refresh and update our entire email list ASAP. Your address will not be shared with anyone outside STFB.

If you do not receive an e-mail from STFB by mid February, that means we don't have your current and working email on file. So contact us at addmyemail@franklin-stfb.org

THANK YOU !!!

STFB Annual Membership Meeting

(editors note: the December newsletter lacked space for this report, so we include it now)

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc., held the 2009 Annual Membership Meeting on November 19, 2009, at Otey Hall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Before STFB President, Mike Walker, opened the meeting, the STFB members and guests were treated to a delicious dinner prepared by the St. Paul ladies. Sam Huffman then reviewed STFB activities of 2009 and paid tribute to the late Harold J. McMurtry, past STFB Board member and former mayor of Brentwood.

New and renewing STFB Board members were placed in nomination and approved by acclamation. For the 2009-2011 term, new members Robert Huff and David Hundt were elected. For the 2010- 2012 term, returning member Dan Mora was elected, and renewing members Sam Gant and Bobby Hargrove were re-elected.

The Tenny Pinkerton Dozier Award was presented to Robin Hood, Chairman of the Franklin Mayor's Battlefield Task Force. The plaque has the following inscription: The Tenny Pinkerton Dozier Award Presented to Robin Hood For His Dedication to Preservation of the Franklin Battlefield and Outstanding Leadership in Honoring Franklin's Unknown Soldier.

Dr. Benjamin Nance, State Archaeologist and STFB Advisory Board Member, was the Keynote Speaker for the evening. Dr. Nance presented a series of slides and spoke on "Archaeology of Civil War Sites in Franklin." He discussed the Civil War sites at Franklin and archaeological finds, principally at the Carter House and on Roper's Knob.

STFB 2010 Officers Elected

The STFB Bylaws provide that the Board of Directors members are elected by the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting. Board members serve for three years in staggered terms. The STFB officers are then elected by the Board rather than the general membership.

This arrangement allows STFB to choose officers who are willing to serve and are able to devote the time

necessary to perform their duties for the coming year.

The STFB Board is a working Board and our monthly meetings are working meetings where project status is discussed and tasks are then assigned to board members and the officers.

As you might imagine, the duties of the officers require many extra hours and extra meetings to carry out STFB programs.

At its January meeting, the STFB Board of Directors elected 2010 officers. They are:

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

January 2009 News In Review

Battle trust hires leader— *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 12/24/09 — FRANKLIN — Jennifer Esler has been named the first chief executive officer of the Battle of Franklin Trust, the organization that oversees the Carter House and Carnton Plantation. She will start work in Franklin on March 1. For years, she has been the executive director of the \$20 million Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, VA.

Battle trust hires leader— *The Tennessean*, "Franklin Review Appeal" — 12/30/09 — FRANKLIN — Franklin's past again came to the forefront in 2009, though it was present day issues that presented city officials with their biggest challenges of the year. Franklin officials, residents and historians reveled in national media attention that came from the city's connection to the Civil War and the reburial of an unknown soldier.

2009: Now that it is over, what were the top stories of the year? — *Williamson Herald* — 1/7/10 — FRANKLIN — The reinterment of Franklin's Unknown Civil War Soldier was one of the county's top stories in 2009, but also a lot of time was spent on politics, business and other matters.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

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January 2010

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.