



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 2010

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

Board of Directors

Mike Walker
President
Bobby Hargrove
Vice Pres
Sam Gant
Secretary
Sam Huffman
Treasurer
Tommy Burnett
Robert Huff
Dave Hundt
Dan Mora

Advisory Board

Suzanne Burns
Ben Nance
Fred Prouty
Mike Skinner

I want to thank you all for the great response to our appeal in last month's STFB Newsletter to contact your alderman in support of the Eastern Flank Loop Road.

The city is currently considering funding for this project which is urgently needed to improve access to the park. STFB members' response in support of the road was outstanding but the project is still under discussions by the City government officials. If you haven't done so, we ask that you again contact your aldermen in support of Eastern Flank Battlefield Park Roadway Option 2. You can access email addresses at www.franklin-stfb.org. Thanks again!

This issue also has reviews of two lesser known books that I think you will find fascinating. We include them because they provide great insight into local non-military history during the war years.

Also, please read about our upcoming Earth Day booth and Fort Granger Tour on April 17th. This is always a great family event at Pinkerton Park and chance to herald the approach of spring. If you can attend, stop by the STFB booth and say hello. I hope to see you there.

Mike Walker – President

New & Renewing Members February 2010

Ellen & Jerry Allen	Cary, IL
Phillip Allen	South Bend, IN
Shelley Andrews	Chattanooga, TN
Charles & Nancy Brantley	Greenville, TX
Nancy Conway	Franklin, TN
Robt E Lee CWRT	Colonia, NJ
Thomas & Judy Derickson	Montgomery, AL
Dan W Duggan	Brandon, MS
Bettye Harper	Franklin, TN
Ann Herbert Floyd	Franklin, TN
Matthew Hooks	Oakmont, PA
Jim & Carmen Hudgins	Monticello, AR
Robert D Jenkins	Dalton, GA
James D Kay Jr	Nashville, TN
Ken Knouf	Madison, IN
M/M Calvin Lahew	Franklin, TN
Jim Lesch	Brentwood, TN
David Logsdon	Nashville, TN
Michael Loftin	Brentwood, TN
Ronny Mangrum	Franklin, TN
John Moloski	Harrisonville, MO
Dan & Linda Mora	Franklin, TN
Sharon A Murray	Boise, ID
Nick Romer	Franklin, TN
Richard Rust	Franklin, TN
Len Rydell	Danville, VA
Kathleen Seroteck	Canton, OH
Damien Shiels	Co. Cork, Ireland
Scott & Kathy Speedy	Franklin, TN
Thomas D Thiessen	Pleasant Dale, NE
Willis Thomas	Staffordsville, KY
Marilyn & Doug Thompson	Tallahassee, FL
James K Turner	Franklin, TN
Ernest Wade	Loganville, GA
Mike & Barbara Walker	Franklin, TN
Mark & Kathy Davis Wells	Franklin, TN

Earth Day – Fort Granger Tour 10 AM – 2 PM, April 17

STFB will conduct a tour of Fort Granger as an activity of the City of Franklin's Earth Day. The tour will leave from Pinkerton Park at 1:00 to walk to the **Federal fort on the bluff** above the river.

From its construction, beginning in March 1863, through the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin, the Fort Granger Garrison played a significant role both in repelling two strong attacks during 1863 as well as in the better-known, bloody Battle of Franklin. The imposing fort with the Federal troops garrisoned there made a major impact on the citizens of the occupied town of Franklin.

The Federal Garrison centered on the earthworks fortification on Figuers' Bluff. Detached works included Gen Granger's headquarters at a smaller works some 700 yards east at Ralston Lane, gun emplacement on Liberty Pike east of Ralston Lane, Roper's Knob observation post, small earthen fort near the Harpeth River west of the railroad, and gun emplacement on Franklin Pike across from present-day Harlinsdale Farm. By April 1863, 7,922 Federal troops were stationed at Fort Granger including 2,728 cavalry. Campsites, drill fields, sentry posts, stables, and storage facilities occupied the area from Murfreesboro Pike to fields west of Franklin Pike. Warehouses and corrals along with guard posts were situated near the well-guarded railroad, the site of present-day Jamison Station.

Park Day Scheduled For April 10

The Civil War Preservation Trust and the History Channel have designated Saturday, April 10 as **Park Day**. This is an opportunity for volunteers coast-to-coast to help clean up and restore our nation's battlefields. The Carter House 615-791-1861 and Carnton Plantation 615-794-0903 plan to have projects scheduled to start at 9:00 AM. Call to get the details, and to see what hand tools and yard equipment you might need to bring.

STFB is planning an event to have 8-10 volunteers clean up a small privately owned parcel of the battlefield. We need to get the necessary permissions before we announce the location. If all can be arranged, we will start at 9:00 AM on April 10. Watch the STFB web site for details.

The Great Panic Being Incidents Connected with Two Weeks of the War in Tennessee By an Eyewitness

In February 1962, the surrender of Fort Donelson and the impending Federal occupation of Nashville caused a high level of apprehension among the city's citizens. This was fueled by wild rumors circulating throughout Nashville. There were rumors of a coming battle on the very outskirts of Nashville resulting with a bombardment of the city. This fear was further enflamed by threats from retreating Texas Rangers to burn the city so that it would be of no value to the Federal army. The frantic evacuation of Nashville by many of the leading citizens and the removal of the state government to Memphis added further to the anxiety of the citizenry. During much of this time, the mayor and other city officials did little to allay the "panic."

John Miller McKee, commercial and city editor of the 1862 Nashville *Union and American*, compiled this only extant eyewitness chronicle from newspaper accounts, his observations, and public proclamations issued by military and city officials. The two-week interval spans the fall of Fort Donelson on February 16, 1862 and the 'capture' of Nashville by six Federal troopers and their captain. The author is clearly a unionist and unsympathetic to the ensuing panic that gripped the city during this time.

Throughout the narrative, McKee blames much of the cause of panic on what he considers as shortcomings of civil and military officials in not keeping the citizens properly informed and reassured. After showing the state of mind and actions of the Nashville citizens, he describes the arrival of the first Federal troops as low-keyed and non-threatening. He also minimizes the threatening appearance of the Federal gunboat with its cannons pointed at the city.

In his conclusion, McKee quotes in full the order issued by Union Commanding General Don Carlos Buell. He thus summarized the idea that the "panic" had little basis in fact. McKee almost seems pleased at the concern caused by the complete turn of Confederate fortunes after the fall of Fort Donelson, and he has little sympathy for those caught up in the grips of the "Great Panic."

The Great Panic is a 36 page facsimile reprint of the original pamphlet. A 20 page appendix of contemporary illustrations and photos has been added. It is hardcover with a dust jacket and may be purchased at Elder's Book Store, 2115 Elliston Place, Nashville, TN 615-327-1867

A review of Williamson County: The Civil War As Seen Through The Female Experience

Rick Warwick, Editor.

Williamson County: The Civil War As Seen Through The Female Experience, the Williamson County Historical Society 2008 journal edited by Rick Warwick, publications chairman for the Society, focuses on local women's perspective of the Civil War. This perspective came from their experiences with the hardships of Federal occupation, the loneliness and anxiety of having loved ones away in war and the fear as battle raged around them. For some, however, their perspective came from their loyalty to the Union or their desire for freedom.

While the names of many of the ladies whose memoirs and reminiscences are recorded in this journal may be recognized by those familiar with the history of Franklin, a number of others are less familiar or appear for the first time. To mention some of the ladies, we find Sallie McEwen, Adelia German, Fannie Courtney, Sallie McNutt, Mary Pearre, Pamela Carothers, Martha Perkins, Sally Royce, Mary Scruggs, Anna Toon, Martha Harrison, Alice Thompson, America Carter, Sarah Gaut, and Elizabeth Clouston.

The Female Experience presents a perspective of the Civil War different from those found in better known books on the Battle of Franklin. In drawing from the memoirs and reminiscences of these ladies and without distracting from their individual points of view, Rick Warwick does a masterful job of allowing the reader to empathize with those suffering under the Federal occupation. However, with material from and about the ladies who remained loyal to the Union and those who were slaves or who opposed slavery, the reader may see the "rest of the story."

The Civil War As Seen Through The Female Experience may be purchased for \$20.00 from The Heritage Foundation, 510 Columbia Ave., Franklin, TN 37064, Tel.: 615-591-8500. When you become a member of the Williamson County Historical Society, you will receive a WCHS journal at no additional charge.

**News in Review
March, 2010**

Battle of Franklin Trust Welcomes Jennifer Esler as Newly Appointed CEO— Battle of Franklin Trust: *Battlefield Dispatch*, March 2010 —

FRANKLIN — March 1st the Trust welcomed Jennifer Esler, former executive director of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, Virginia as the newly appointed CEO of the Battle of Franklin Trust. In her new position as the CEO of The Battle of Franklin Trust, Esler is directing the merger and management of Franklin's two most significant Civil War sites including Carnton Plantation and the Carter House. Esler will also guide the Trust in the planning, development, and construction of a newly planned Carter House Interpretive Center & museum related to the Battle of Franklin held Nov. 30, 1864.

Carter Garden Opens April 17th — Battle of Franklin Trust: *Battlefield Dispatch*, March 2010 —

FRANKLIN — In November 2006, The Carter House Association purchased a vital plot of land: a piece of the Carter garden. Now, three and a half years after the original acquisition of the Carter garden, it is nearly ready to be opened to the public! Restoration included the removal of a house, trailer, an in-ground pool, as well as a detailed archeological excavation that revealed a portion of the original Federal trench line.

Parks grow faster than funding— *The Tennessean*, "Franklin Review Appeal" —

3/10/10 — FRANKLIN — City Parks Director Lisa Clayton is exploring creating Franklin's first private foundation dedicated solely to collecting donations to pay for finishing and upgrading City parks. The foundation would be a private entity overseen by Franklin, where tax-deductible contributions could be made. Currently, these park upgrades and other projects have stalled because of flattened tax revenues.

'Small' capital projects carry big price tags — *Williamson Herald* — 3/11/10 — FRANKLIN —

The City of Franklin has set aside \$500,000 annually to handle these 'small' projects. By scoring the top 10 projects from the list of 36 road and park projects, aldermen arrived at their top five – the Eastern Flank Battle field Park loop road – coming in at both No. 3 (Option 3, two-lane, half of loop) and No. 5 (Option 2, full loop). Ranking at the top of the list was a signalization project at Mallory Station Road and General George Patton Drive.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



March 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		

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065-0851
STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.