



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 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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The board of Save the Franklin Battlefield is constantly seeking opportunities to add to the "saved" portions of the Franklin battlefield even as development pressures increase and threaten to swallow up all that is left of this hallowed ground. With your past support, STFB was able to purchase and save Collins Farm, a very significant 3.22 Acre tract on the Eastern Flank of the Franklin Battlefield. This site is now perpetually preserved with a conservation easement in place.

In this Newsletter, the STFB board has some exciting news to share with you concerning our current efforts to save some additional parcels of the Franklin Battlefield. Please see the accompanying article to learn more about these new opportunities and how you can help add to the "saved" portions of the Franklin Battlefield.

With this month's historic flooding here in Middle Tennessee, we hope that you and your families have been spared from personal injury and major property damage, and that recovery will be swift.

Mike Walker - President

STFB Board Plans Land Acquisition

Save The Franklin Battlefield officers have been in discussion with the owners of a 5 acre parcel of the Franklin Battlefield that is now for sale. This tract is located near the eastern end of the trench line and in the vicinity of Collins Farm.

We believe this is a truly unique opportunity to purchase an undeveloped parcel of this size so near the Federal line. Additionally, we believe the site contains significant terrain features that will add to the interpretation and understanding of this portion of the battlefield. We are now in contact with the national preservation organizations that could possibly become partners in the purchase of these 5 important acres of open battlefield. Land appraisals are planned as the next step in the process.

As this project has taken shape, another 6 acre battlefield parcel has become available. It also is open ground in the general area of Collins Farm. We have begun work to evaluate the possibilities of structuring a deal to buy both parcels, but most likely the 5 acre project will go forward first, and the 6 acres would be purchased sometime later. Neither parcel has buildings or structures to be preserved. Both are pure Franklin battlefield land.

Both parcels are ground that Loring's division traversed under heavy canister and musket fire as they assaulted the eastern end of the Federal line, and where Adam's brigade shifted to the west before charging into the enemy's trenches. As with Collins Farm, our long term goal would be to place these important battlefield parcels under conservation easement insuring their perpetual

preservation, and eventually include them in the City of Franklin Battlefield Parks system.

Our rough estimate is that, with participation of the national preservation groups, and state and local groups, STFB would have to raise slightly more than \$100,000 of new money to do both deals. We will not begin the actual fund raising until the deals are firm and the projects are incorporated into the plans of the national preservation groups.

We need your help:

Our next step is to identify those supporters and groups **who will be able to substantially help us** when the time comes – either late 2010 or early 2011. We are asking for pledges of financial support now so that we can include pledged donations as part of our funding plan to the national preservation groups. To date, our pledges of new money total \$7,500

To make your pledge, send an email with N/A & phone number to treasurer@franklin-stfb.org or postal mail a note to:

STFB Treasurer
Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

Once the deal for one or both parcels is defined, we will pass that information to you privately so that you can evaluate your pledge and adjust its amount and timing before making a firm commitment. If you would like to see and walk the properties, email treasurer@franklin-stfb.org and we will be happy to arrange it.

These are exciting times as the sesquicentennial years approach. We look forward to working with all of you to bring these two parcels into the 'saved' column before the 150th anniversary of the battle.

146th Battle of Franklin October 15 – 17, 2010 Registration is now open

Military and civilian re-enactors can now register for the 146th Reenactment of the Battle of Franklin. The registration fee is \$5 per person and includes firewood and straw. A registration link at www.franklin-stfb.org will get you started. You can pay by credit card, PayPal, or by check with a mail-in form. You can register multiple participants at one time. A \$125 bounty will be paid for the first 8 artillery units. Re-enactments are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 PM.

Check the STFB web site www.franklin-stfb.org for the latest information on events scheduled for that weekend. For questions, email bthargrove123@aol.com or rghuff123@aol.com

New & Renewing Members April 2010

Nancy Bassett	Collierville, TN
Julian Bibb	Franklin, TN
Brian & Laurie Boulden	Franklin, TN
Jerry Bruning	Evansville, IN
Walter C Corey	Lenoir City, TN
Ann Arbor CWRT	Ann Arbor, MI
San Diego CWRT	San Diego, CA
Rosie Flite	Franklin, TN
John Fraser	Franklin, TN
Roy M Freudenthal	Tulsa, OK
Betty Herbert	Brentwood, TN
Kirk Hinman	Lakewood, OH
Archie Lintz	Huntington, IN
Kevin & Kelle McLemore	Clarksville, TN
Marcus Pearson	Holly Springs, NC
Gale & Evelyn Pewitt	Naperville, IL
Richard Simpson	Lancaster, PA
Tom Sladek	Brentwood, TN
Ann Stover	Glendale, AZ
Robert Street	Columbia, TN

Eastern Flank Loop Road Ranked Top priority

In last month's newsletter, we reported that the City of Franklin Aldermen were in the process of ranking a list of "small projects" (under \$500K), one of which was the much needed Eastern Flank Battlefield Park Loop Road. We are happy to report that the loop road was chosen as the aldermen's top small project priority. This is great news and again shows support and commitment from the mayor and aldermen for the city's battlefield parks.

Following the rankings, the city conducted a public forum to take input on surfacing options and whether a full or half loop road should be built. The results of a poll taken at this meeting will be submitted to the city's Battlefield Task Force which will make a recommendation to BOMA.

It is important to point out that funding has not been approved for the loop road and in tight

economic times, remains uncertain. However, we remain optimistic that in the near future the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park will have a loop road as envisioned in the Master plan, providing safe and full access for visitors to this important Civil War site.

Hold On, There Collins Farm House May Be Pre-War After All

Local lore for years said that the Collins Farm house was part of Carnton Plantation and was the pre-war home of William Collins, overseer for the plantation. When the huge pecan tree badly damaged the house and attached improvements in February 2005, STFB had experts examine the house to see if it was pre-war and thus should be preserved.

An examination of the materials and methods used in the house construction were both pre and post war. The general consensus was that the house was probably built in 1866-67.

STFB Secretary Sam Gant has talked with historian Rick Warwick who was recently given a collection of letters of Captain Tom Henderson, longtime owner and occupant of Collins Farm and WW I veteran who was a primary participant in the "let's capture Kaiser Bill" misadventure after the 1918 Armistice.

Most are Tom's wartime letters home to family but one seems to document the repairs and improvements to the house while he owned it. Tom claimed the house was pre-war. Hopefully, Sam and Rick can study the letters and give us a report on their findings in the next newsletter

News In Review May 2010

Get sneak peek at film on Civil War soldier reburial — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 4/21/10 — FRANKLIN — The sight of thousands of people lining Franklin's streets for the reburial of a Civil War soldier's bones is one of the more striking images in Franklin's recent history. The scene is the centerpiece of a documentary film shot last year by Franklin resident and Outdoor Channel TV host Brian Speciale. On April 20, the three-minute trailer for

Heading Back Home: The Story of Franklin's Unknown Soldier and the Five Bloodiest Hours of the Civil War premiered at Mayor John Schroer's State of the City speech.

History is Booming — *Southern Exposure Magazine* — APR/MAY 2010 — FRANKLIN

— Recently, the Franklin community has received national attention for unprecedented success in battlefield reclamation; and heritage tourism has become an economic and cultural boon. The Battle of Franklin Trust was formed in late 2009 to merge The Carter House and Carnton Plantation, in an effort to tell the entire story of the battle and, in turn, enhance the visitor experience for the thousands who come seeking to understand it. Preservation organizations in Franklin have been working for years to refine the vision of an extraordinary visitor experience, and the pieces are falling into place.

Re-enactors gather for garden party — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 4/26/10

— **FRANKLIN** — Living history interpreters in Confederate and Union uniforms, as well as a few in hoop skirts, wandered the grounds of The Carter House in Franklin on April 17. The encampment allowed visitors a chance to ask re-enactors questions about life during the Civil War. In addition to the living history event, the Battle of Franklin Trust Board of Directors dedicated a reclaimed piece of land that once served as the garden at The Carter House.

Civil War soldiers' gear on display— *The Tennessean*, "Franklin Review Appeal" — 5/5/10 — FRANKLIN

— The Brothers in Arms exhibit opens May 7 and explores the making of the common Civil War soldier. The exhibition includes the gear of typical soldiers—rifles, sabers, uniform jackets, canteens, caps and personal items. The exhibition is included with the purchase of admission to Carnton Plantation.

Triune Earthworks a community treasure— *The Tennessean*, "Franklin Review Appeal" — 5/5/10 — TRIUNE

— The Triune Earthworks, constructed by Federal soldiers, was the communication link between Murfreesboro and Franklin. The earthworks are near-pristine examples of military engineering, according to Fred Prouty, Program Director of the Tennessee Wars Commission. They represent what the outer earthworks at Nashville and Franklin might have looked like had they survived progress.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



May 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	
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	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.