



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

September 2010

[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://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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On the eve of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, increasing interest and attention are focused on this turbulent and crucial period of our history than in many years.

With the increased exposure, the next few years will provide the best and perhaps last opportunity to save our few remaining Civil War sites which here in Williamson County are increasingly threatened with development.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to add more acres of saved battlefield. In this Newsletter, read about several exciting opportunities as well as the continuing threat to one of our most cherished sites – Roper's Knob.

Finally, a touch of Fall is in the air in Franklin and many here are busy preparing for the exciting upcoming Civil War events in our area. Read more in this newsletter and see our website for a full listing and latest details.

Mike Walker - President

## New & Renewing Members August 2010

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Wayne B Anderson                        | Raymond, MS        |
| Karen Arnsdorf                          | Chippewa, Falls WI |
| Gerald Bartig                           | Huntsville, AL     |
| Thomas Beal & Family                    | Glenn Dale, MD     |
| Dave Bond                               | Beavercreek, OH    |
| Michael R Bradley                       | Tullahoma, TN      |
| Tommy & Lynn Burnett                    | Brentwood, TN      |
| The Carter House                        | Franklin, TN       |
| Firelands CWRT                          | Norwalk, OH        |
| Fort Negley Visitors Center             | Nashville, TN      |
| Sara Edwards                            | Huntsville, AL     |
| Dennis Faught                           | Columbia, MO       |
| Travis Faust                            | Germantown, WI     |
| Lotz House Foundation                   | Franklin, TN       |
| Joseph Grosson                          | Brentwood, TN      |
| Thomas Herbert                          | Nashville, TN      |
| Dot Kelly                               | Knoxville, TN      |
| Jan & Dahk Knox                         | Mosheim, TN        |
| Ben Nance                               | Nashville, TN      |
| Curtis L Older                          | Gastonia, NC       |
| Jeffrey Plummer                         | Rehoboth Beach, DE |
| Dr Samuel A Smith                       | Brentwood, TN      |
| Joe Smyth III                           | Franklin, TN       |
| Jerry & Ruth Swedeen                    | Franklin, TN       |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Virginia Volunteer Inf | Monroe Twp, NJ     |
| Sean Von Loh                            | Greeley, CO        |
| Kimberly Willis                         | Dickson, TN        |

## CWPT and ABPP Purchase Spring Hill Battlefield Property

At Rippavilla Plantation, with a large audience present on September 24, Jim Lighthizer, Civil War Preservation Trust president, announced the acquisition of 84 acres of Spring Hill battlefield land adjacent to Rippavilla. The site is where thousands

of Confederate troops camped following the Battle of Spring Hill on Nov. 29, 1864, as Union forces crept by them in the night just yards away, setting the stage for the bloody and decisive Battle of Franklin the next day.

Civil War Preservation Trust now has a \$2 million contract to buy the land from its owners at General Motors. Zoned for possible commercial development, the land was appraised for about \$4 million. Trust President Jim Lighthizer said that a \$1.9 million federal grant through the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program would help provide \$20 for every \$1 donated to CWPT to enable the deal to happen. Lighthizer will turn to the group's 55,000 members to raise the \$100,000 needed to close the sale by Nov. 29.

For years, Spring Hill's battlefield has been listed by the CWPT as an "endangered battlefield" because of its attractiveness to developers. It would be the Trust's second land purchase in Spring Hill after a purchase of about 110 acres along Kedron Road several years ago.

### **Roper's Knob Land is for Sale**

Last year, developer Charles Mitchell was granted permission to build an access road from Mack Hatcher Parkway onto his land adjoining the north side of Roper's Knob. As we shared with you then, this road would open much of the land around the base of Roper's Knob to development. Currently the road has been cut in but is unpaved. See our website for detailed news and photos.

Now, Mitchell is seeking to sell his property as two separate parcels – a 151 acre parcel along Franklin Road and a 40 acre parcel off Mack Hatcher which is being marketed as the possible site for a corporate headquarters, a hotel or retail or other similar space. This use would require rezoning by the city.

Any such use would jeopardize the fragile terrain and slopes of Roper's Knob as well as ruin the view shed from this crucial Federal Signal Station used for communication between Nashville, Murfreesboro and Triune. The summit and south face are owned by the city and state and still has Civil War earthworks. We will continue to watch events unfold and keep you informed.

### **STFB Newsletter by Email**

For several months now, we have been emailing the STFB newsletter to every member for whom we have an

email address. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email rather than hardcopy, send a note to [nopaper@franklin-stfb.org](mailto:nopaper@franklin-stfb.org) and we update our records to put you on the email-only distribution list. When membership renewal time comes around, we will still send you the hardcopy newsletter and a renewal card just as we do now.

Some members have not provided us an email address in the past and we will continue to send them a paper newsletter as always. Those members can also sign up for the email edition by sending a note to that same *nopaper* email address.

### **Register Now and Attend the 146<sup>th</sup> Battle of Franklin October 16 – 17, 2010**

The 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin & Reenactment, scheduled for 16 and 17 October is shaping up very well. The event will include battles at 1:30PM both Saturday and Sunday. Also there will be period sutlers and band, presentations and a pass in review.

This event, as part of Franklin's Civil War Days is being held at The Harlinsdale Park just north of downtown Franklin. Check the STFB web site [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org) for the latest information and for reenactor registration. For questions, email the overall Commander, Colonel Joe Grosson at [Joseph.grosson@comcast.net](mailto:Joseph.grosson@comcast.net).

Reenactor participation is going well and expected to continually grow up until the start of the event. By September 1<sup>st</sup>, there were over 200 pre-registrations that included almost 20 mounted cavalry and 13 artillery pieces manned by eight different batteries.

A preliminary order of battle and the organizations that are preregistered as provided for information below. Reenacting organizations that a principally support the event are: Cleburne's Division, The First Federal Division, Tennessee Valley Battalion, Huckabee's Division as well as representative from other independent organizations.

Overall Commander: Col. Joe Grosson (Cleburne's)  
Confederate Commander: Gen. Joe Way (Cleburne's)  
Federal Commander: Col. Terry Crowder (First Federal)

Division)  
Command Provost: LCOL Mark Way  
Chief of Artillery: Col. Robert Beams  
Federal Artillery Commander: LCOL Robert Krantz

Artillery: Commander:  
Whites Battery  
White's Battery  
White's Battery  
Baxter's Battery (at least two crews)  
Freeman's Battery, Forrest Artillery  
Schoolfields/Baxter's Battery  
Rutledge's Battery

Federal:  
28th Alabama Co D:  
6th MO Company D:  
48th Tennessee, First Federal Division  
5th KY, Co. B  
1st TN,

Confederate:  
26th Al, Cleburne's  
31st TN Co D, Cleburne's  
38th TN, Cleburne's  
46th TN, Stafford  
48th TENNESSEE, Huckabee's  
2nd GA Battalion  
Independent

Confederate Cav:  
1st Al. Cav  
15th cav.

Federal Cav:  
10TH MO Cavalry US Campaign Division Cavalry 1st Tennessee  
Division Cavalry Brigade

**Franklin Cemeteries may earn historic status — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/25/10 — FRANKLIN** — Franklin wants national historic designations for two of its oldest cemeteries — Rest Haven Cemetery and City Cemetery — in the hopes of drawing federal money to help restore them one day. Franklin planners want to pursue a Federal Preservation Grant to pay for nominating the 19th-century cemeteries to the National Register of Historic Places. Nominating the two cemeteries to the Register would cost an estimated \$4,000-\$5,000. If Franklin received the grant, the city would pay only \$1,600-\$2,000.

**\$492,000 will pay down debt for land on Columbia Ave. — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/20/10 — FRANKLIN** — Another piece of land on Columbia Avenue is closer to becoming part of a proposed Battle of Franklin battlefield park. The National Park Service confirmed this week its award of \$492,000 to the city of Franklin for use in helping Franklin's Charge complete the purchase of the one-acre Holt House property off Columbia Avenue. The house

and land sit at the epicenter of the Battle of Franklin, which was fought on Nov. 30, 1864, where a cotton gin once stood. The award is part of \$977,500 given from the National Park Service this week to local governments in Franklin, Richmond, Ky., and Bentonville, N.C.

**Developer toils in Texas as local project sits on hold — *The Tennessean* — 8/20/10 — THOMPSON'S STATION** — Former Thompson's Station Mayor Leon Heron, developer of the mixed-use Roderick Place project, is planning to invest millions of dollars into developing a former naval base near Corpus Christi, Texas. Heron has not yet submitted a final plat to the town for the Roderick Place project, which was approved in 2006. Heron said he is exploring the possibility of working with some equity partners so that the commercial component of Roderick Place can come to fruition. This portion includes a wellness center, a 60-bed boutique inn, a restaurant and some potential retail shops.

**Things to do: Blue, gray to set up camp at Harlinsdale — *Williamson Herald* — 9/1/10 — FRANKLIN** — The Park at Harlinsdale Farm gets its first tryout as a Civil War re-enactment site next month. An estimated 1,500 attendees and Civil War e-enactors are expected to use the 200-acre park Oct. 16-17 to commemorate the Battle of Franklin as part of a Civil War Days event. Visitors will be able to witness a re-enactment of the Battle of Franklin, numerous infantry camps, at least 20 mounted horses and the firing of artillery pieces, among other activities.

**From tearoom to tea tent — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 9/5/10 — THOMPSON'S STATION** — The first Sweet Tea Festival staged on the grounds of historic Homestead Manor — which includes a tearoom — drew over 5,000 attendees to Thompson's Station. There was something for everyone: Civil War era re-enactors, antique cars, food vendors, artisans, live music, a beauty pageant — and of course, plenty of tea. This family friendly event was a smashing success. Proceeds benefited nonprofit organizations including Outdoor Encounter and Thompson's Station Battlefield Park.

# Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## September 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: <b>Marker Fund</b> ~ <b>Land Purchase</b> (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               |               |
|     | <b>SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING (Items only) ~ Under \$25.00 - or -</b>                  | <b>\$3.95</b>         |               |
|     |   | <b>\$25.00 and up</b> | <b>\$4.95</b> |
|     | <b>ORDER TOTAL</b>  |                       |               |

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