



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

April 2012

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

The next time you are at a Civil War symposium, roundtable, or tour, take a look around at the others attending and, if the crowd is typical I believe you will observe a majority is of the "grayhead set" with few younger folks in attendance. At STFB, we feel a responsibility to pass on to future generations not only preserved battlefield land but also a knowledge and appreciation for the sacrifice of the American soldiers who struggled and fell there. If we fail at this challenge, our preserved battlefields will be empty and meaningless to the next generation rather than a place for learning and reflection.

This is one reason why I look forward each spring to Arbor Day at Pinkerton Park in Franklin, held this past weekend. The event brings in young and not-so-young from the general public and so is a great opportunity for outreach to those who may be totally unfamiliar with our local Civil War heritage and to our preserved battlefield parcels available to visit and enjoy. This year, STFB had a booth at the park and also a group of reenactors at nearby Fort Granger. See the recap in this Newsletter.

As always, we thank you for your membership and continued support of Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc. You are making a difference.

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Arbor Day At Pinkerton Park Saturday April 21

Rain threatened all morning long on Arbor Day this year right up to starting time. The rain finally relented and we stayed dry. Then the temperature started lower and that was no idle threat.

Franklins Parks Department and the city arborist hosted the event. Middle Tennessee Electric Cooperative had a stand passing out trees and their world famous hotdogs which were much appreciated. Several Public Service groups had booths where they passed out literature and described their events and activities.

STFB passed out our usual promotional bookmarks and calendars to visitors, and STFB

Vice President Bobby Hargrove organized a small reenactor group at Fort Granger to host and answer questions for visitors to the Fort.

Despite the cold weather, everyone was in good spirits and enjoyed our chance to meet the public. We all look forward to a warmer Arbor Day in 2013.

Park Day at Fort Granger March 31, 2012

In cooperation with the Civil War Trust's nationwide program, Franklin's Parks Dept organized a volunteer day to clean up and improve Fort Granger Park.



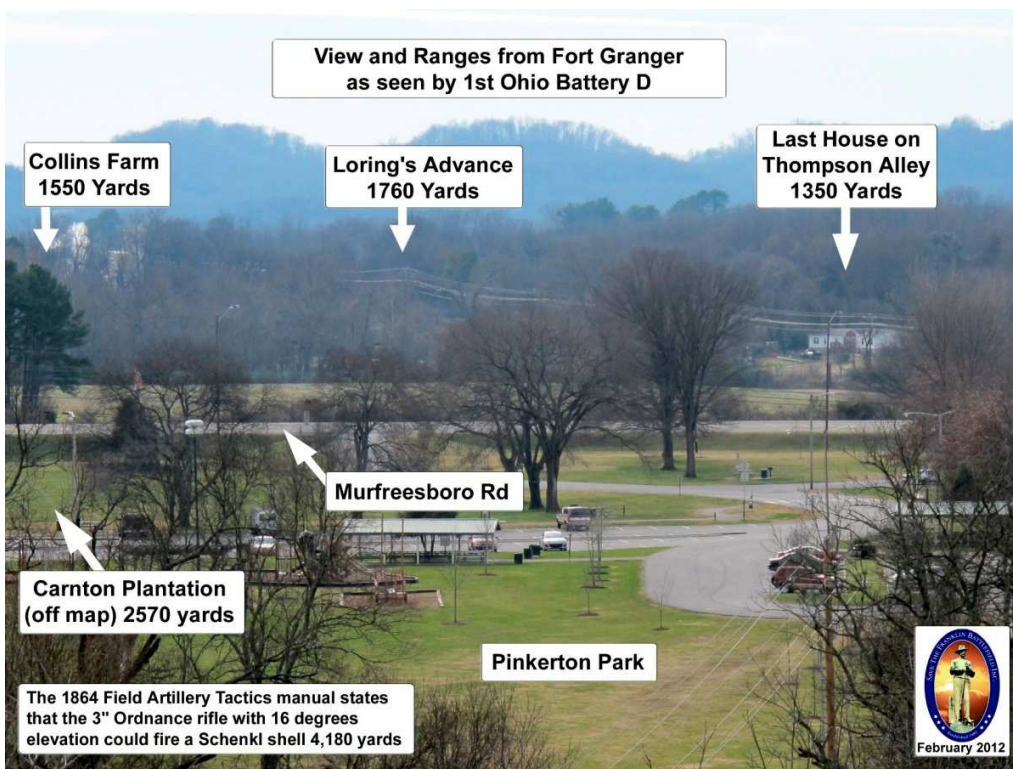
The mulching crew poses in the Fort Granger trenches for a picture for the Parks Day Event

Roughly 45 people volunteered to mulch more than half of the trenches, stain the spindles of the very long boardwalk and overlook deck, & clear away invasive plants, mostly honeysuckle, from the earthworks. The work accomplished in the landscape area alone was the equivalent of about 4 weeks worth of work for the Parks Dept staff. The mulch and staining volunteers probably saved another 4 weeks for Parks.

But this volunteer effort was more than just a cleanup day. In 2008, Franklin's then Mayor Tom Miller led an effort to swap some city land for the county's 4-H property adjacent to Fort Granger. The Parks Dept



The 4-H property is just east of Fort Granger, has a loop driveway, and will provide a park entrance from Eddy Lane



STFB took this leaves-off photo from the Fort Granger overlook. Except for today's trees, this is what the gunners of Battery D 1st Ohio Light Artillery saw during the battle. Two modern landmarks are clearly in view – the industrial plant on the south side of Collins Farm, and the last house on Thompson Alley.

Thompson Alley runs north along the RR tracks from Lewisburg Pike at Collins Farm. The house sits just below (east of) the RR and above the river. Some of Featherston's and Scott's men from this house to Collins Farm would have been in the clear view of Battery D, and they would have taken Granger fire from their **right-rear**.

has drawn up plans to improve the park and open all of it to the public before the November 2014 sesquicentennial. They plan to remove the old 4-H show barn and wovenwire fences so the two parcels can be connected into one Fort Granger Park. The plan calls for driveways and a parking area, walkways to access the property, new landscaping, and some interpretive signage. The Park Day volunteers provided a first step to getting this plan underway. More on Fort Granger improvements in later issues.

Some researchers (STFB) believe the 4-H property was the approximate location of the four 3" ordnance rifles of Battery D that put such a killing fire into the river bank and RR embankment along Lewisburg Pike. They argue that when the old soldiers recounted that Battery D was placed 'in Fort Granger', they actually were saying in *the Fort Granger installation they built and were familiar with which encompassed all of the Liberty Creek valley and the ridges on its north and south including the 4-H property*. Other researchers insist on the literal interpretation that *'in Fort Granger' means actually inside the earthwork that modern scholars know and understand*.

More about this topic when we learn more.

Video of STFB Lorings Advance Tour

Long-time STFB member Bob Henderson of Nashville taped most of the March 17 STFB tour of Lorings Advance in Franklin and edited it into a 20 minute video passage.

In the video, Eric Jacobson recounts some of the battle events across Lorings Advance as the attackers suffered under the overpowering fire from the Federal trench line and Fort Granger. You can see the video at www.vimeo.com/40538037 There is also a link to it from the STFB web site.

David Logsdon Web Site Now Has Eyewitnesses Source Material Posted

The author of the 'Eyewitnesses at the Battle of' series of books – Franklin, Nashville, Shiloh, Stones River, Fort Donelson, and Peryville – has posted all of his transcription of first-person accounts on his web site www.midneyewitnesses.com It is available to the general public. This section welcomes additional first-person accounts.

A second section of the web site called 'Still Standing' tells the Civil War stories of Middle Tennessee antebellum homes that can be seen or visited today.

News In Review

April 2012

Civil War project gets momentum, criticisms — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 3/21/12 — FRANKLIN — Unveiled in 2007, a Battle of Franklin interpretive center/museum next door to the Carter House has gone nowhere in four years' time. Now, supporters say a proposal to transfer ownership of the state-owned gym property to the private, nonprofit Battle of Franklin Trust could be the piece of the puzzle needed to actually start construction. Possible transference of the gymnasium land to the trust's control has drawn criticism from inside the Carter House organization itself.

Nolensville: Historian seeks stories of area's Civil War action — *The Tennessean* – Franklin Review Appeal — 3/21/12 — NOLENSVILLE — The Civil War touched many parts of Williamson County, including our neck of the woods, though we don't often hear much about in popular history. Sam Gant has found records showing about 18 skirmishes and fighting action in and around Nolensville, from Concord Road down to College Grove. "Our purpose is to locate these battles and record them. We'll document whatever it was, then turn it over to the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Assoc," Gant said.

High-profile Roper's Knob land back on market — *The Tennessean* — 3/23/12 — FRANKLIN — Developer and Franklin resident Mickey Mitchell wants to sell his nearly 200-acre tract near Roper's Knob that stretches from the intersection of Cool Springs Boulevard and Mack Hatcher Parkway down to Franklin Road. Mitchell's Cool Springs Overlook property is near the Roper's Knob hill, which is owned by the city and the state of Tennessee and was a Union Army signal post during the Civil War. But homes could be built on the property since it is zoned for estate residential. Changing the zoning to get a higher density use would require approval by city aldermen.

Franklin on Foot adds bicycle tour action — *The Tennessean* – Franklin Review Appeal — 4/2/12 — FRANKLIN — Franklin on Foot launched Franklin Bike Tours & Rentals this week, offering small, guide-led bicycle groups and short rentals. The Scenic Franklin option will pass through the town's most historic neighborhoods and coast along the Harpeth River-hugging bike path. The Civil War tour will peddle to historic destinations such as Fort Granger, the Collins Farm and Rest Haven Cemetery. It also will include tours of the Lotz House and Carter House Civil War museums.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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	Donation: Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase (circle one)		
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