



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

June 2012

www.franklin-stfb.org

Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection, and Promotion of
Civil War sites in Williamson County, Tennessee

President's Message

It is great news that Franklin's Charge has met their fundraising goal for the land purchase that completes the cotton gin site and ultimately creating a Cotton Gin Interpretive Park. It has long been a dream of many here to reclaim the site of this iconic feature of the Franklin battlefield that so many survivors remembered, whether they were Federals in the trenches, or Southern soldiers who could see the Gin house from the time they began their march across the farm fields of Franklin.

A Cotton Gin Interpretive Park will be a great addition and centerpiece to the other preserved battlefield parcels here in Franklin which have been acquired over the years through the cooperative efforts of local and national preservation organizations.

Linking and interpreting these parcels in a uniform manner will provide a comprehensive telling of the Battle of Franklin. Imagine yourself walking in the footsteps of the Southern Soldier past Carnton and the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park, over Collins Farm and across the Railroad tracks onto the Loring's Advance parcel, with the reconstructed Gin house constantly in sight. Then making your way to the Federal line and the Carter House beyond. Just like they did. Just think of it.

Thank you for being a part of this historic reclamation effort!

Mike Walker – President

New & Renewing Members May 2012

Dan B Andrews	Nashville, TN
James W Barrow MD	Miami, FL
Nancy Bassett	Collierville, TN
Dan Brown	Nashville, TN
Suzanne Burns	Brentwood, TN
Terry Coats	Goodlettsville, TN
Andy & Mike Cullison	Oklahoma City, OK
Austin CWRT	Austin, TX
South Bay CWRT	Mountain View, CA
Will & Katy Dodson	Franklin, TN
Rosie Flite	Franklin, TN
Rob Hodge	Sterling, VA
Bill Kennedy	Columbia, TN
Jonathan Land	Dunlap, TN
Spyros & Mavy Lezimis	Chicago, IL
Ronald & Marty Ligon	Franklin, TN
Karen McPeak	College Grove, TN
Arthur M Mellor	Franklin, TN
Bill & Cindy Morelli	Franklin, TN
Michael A Morrow	Athens, AL
John & Carol Petty	Wartrace, TN
John Riopelle	Delmar, NY
Richard Shepler	Duck River, TN
Damian Shiels	Cork, Ireland
Michael Skinner	Franklin, TN
Janice Spillman	Brentwood, TN
William E Terry	Poughkeepsie, NY
Greg Wade	Franklin, TN
Phil Walker	Nashville, TN

**"Incident at Fort Granger"
At the Pull-Tight Theatre
Sunday, June 24 2:30 PM**

"Incident at Fort Granger" will be performed at the Pull-Tight Theatre, 112 Second Avenue South,

Franklin, Sunday, June 24 at 2:30 PM by the Pull-Tight Players. The play presents the June 1863 true story of two Confederate officers captured while spying on Federal activities at the fort. The play, written by former Franklin resident Bob Holladay and directed by Peggy Macpherson, has been performed many times since its first major production on the Public Square in 1998 as part of Franklin's Bicentennial.

Tickets for this one-time-only performance are \$15. This production is a fundraiser; proceeds to be used for theatre renovation this summer. Tickets go on sale June 11, and may be purchased at www.pull-tight.com.

Carter Cotton Gin Goal Met

Since 2007, the not-for-profit battlefield reclamation organization Franklin's Charge has been working to acquire key parcels that would comprise the Carter Cotton Gin Interpretive Park. Today, Franklin's Charge announced that it has met its short-term goal – meeting the match the Civil War Trust (CWT) proposed as a challenge in December. These funds have been raised to go toward the purchase of the \$1.85 million strip center anchored by a Domino's Pizza on Columbia Avenue, ground zero for the Battle of Franklin.



Franklin's Charge Board members celebrate reaching the cotton gin goal. (center) Mary Pearce and Julian Bibb. (far left) Mike Grainger, Vice Chair of the Civil War Trust

Hundreds of people have supported the project with gifts large and small since the CWT announced a \$500,000 matching gift that would make the Domino's purchase possible. The Tennessee Historical Commission also secured a \$960,000 Federal Grant for the purchase that is still in process. The only catch was a deadline of May 30 for the CWT match.

The Cotton Gin Park is a \$3+ million project, and

comprises several parcels. The Heritage Foundation purchased a house and lot at 109 Cleburne Street in 1996 – that house currently sits on the site of the Carter's original cotton gin – and Franklin's Charge purchased a second parcel north of the strip mall in 2008. The Civil War Trust has purchased a third park parcel just east of 109, and the City of Franklin purchased the Pizza Hut at the southeast corner of Cleburne and Columbia in November 2005.

“We've gone from being known as one of America's most threatened battlefields to a national model for battlefield preservation in less than a decade, thanks to the help of some incredible partners and supporters,” said Julian Bibb, a local attorney with Stites & Harbison and founding board member of Franklin's Charge. “This project will be the centerpiece of a greatly enhanced Civil War offering when we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin in 2014.

The multi-acre site will include a replicated cotton gin and interpretive earthworks that will offer visitors the chance to visualize what happened in Franklin on November 30, 1864, as the Army of Tennessee made a fateful charge toward the well-fortified Federal line. Six Southern generals were killed or mortally wounded, in what is considered to be one of the last gasps of the Confederacy. The property is located across Columbia Pike from the Carter House, where the Carter family hid in the basement while the battle raged across their farm. Capt. Tod Carter, who had fought throughout the war, was mortally wounded during the Battle of Franklin just a short distance from the family home.

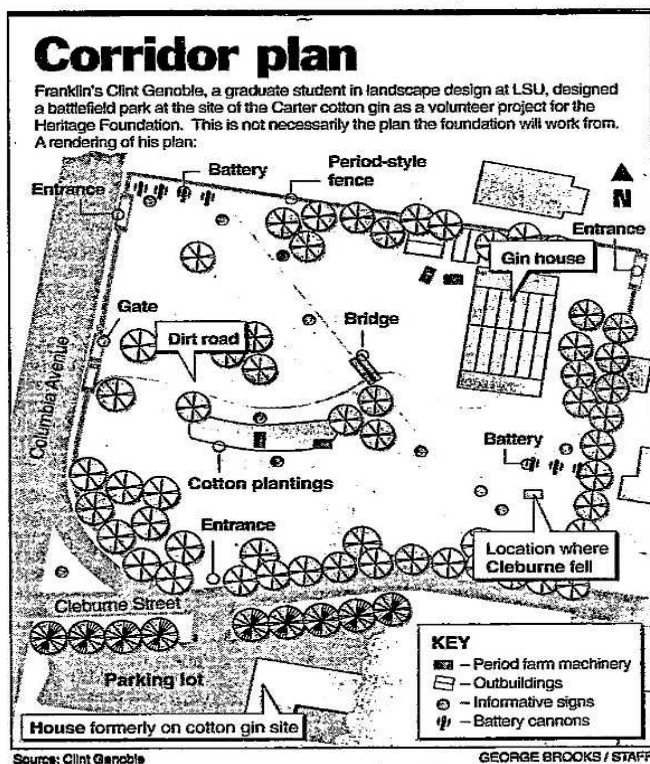
Prior Efforts....

The dream to reclaim and rebuild the Carter cotton gin has been alive for many years in the local preservation community. The biggest challenge has always been to find the large sums of money needed, and the building of local political consensus that would allow local government to financially participate.

Mary Pearce of the Heritage Foundation organized a series of Preservation Conferences in 1992, 1993, and 1994 that brought together representatives of state, local and national preservation groups along with local tourism and business council representatives. The results of the conferences was a plan that included the opening of Fort Granger, owned by the City since the mid-70s, the purchase of Ropers Knob by the State Historical Commission and the Heritage Foundation, the purchase of land for a City Park at Winstead Hill,

and the purchase of the 109 Cleburne St gin site location by the Heritage Foundation. The National Parks Service through its American Battlefield Protection Program provided grant money to do studies and plans, but only provided money for buying battlefield if it was pristine – there isn't much of that at Franklin anymore.

The ABBP funded another Heritage Foundation study of the US 31 Corridor that identified and assessed the historic sites from Brentwood to Thompsons Station, and suggested possible uses for them. The August 11, 1997 Tennessean reported on the Heritage Foundation summer intern, Clint Genoble, who worked on several projects including a possible Corridor design for a Carter Cotton Gin Park that included removal of both pizza shops, and rebuilding the gin house.



The biggest problem with this plan was how to get the money to do it.

The Turning Point...

... came when the Civil War Trust held a February 2002 joint press conference in Franklin with the Heritage Foundation, Carter House, and STFB to announce that the CWT was coming to Tennessee, and to Franklin. CWT President Jim Lighthizer immediately called on several Tennessee state legislators and addressed the joint Legislature to enlist their participation. Shortly thereafter, Franklin's

Charge was formed and teamed with the City, the Civil War Trust, National Parks Service and many donors to buy the Eastern Flank Battlefield. The City bought the Pizza Hut site. The CWT and their grant-writing gurus then helped local groups buy the Holt House, the Carter garden parcel, Loring's Advance 5-acre parcel, and now the Domino's strip mall. We are on our way.

News In Review June 2012

Franklin recognized for historic preservation—*Williamson Herald*— 6/7/12 — FRANKLIN — Livability.Com names Franklin fourth in country for historic preservation. "This is great news for our city to be recognized for historic preservation," said Mayor, Dr. Ken Moore. "We are dedicated to preserving our city's history and this designation by Livability.com will let the entire country know we are setting the bar high in Franklin."

Thomas Cartwright, Michael Holloway collaborate to bring Sam Watkins' stories to life — *Williamson Herald*— 6/7/12 — FRANKLIN — *Sam Watkins – Co. Aytch, Recollections of a Private Confederate Soldier*, new CD recording, has been produced by Thomas Cartwright and Michael Holloway. Watkins chronicled his recollected experiences as a common soldier who fought in the Civil War. The CD is available for purchase locally from the Lotz House gift shop, 1111 Columbia Ave., Franklin, TN 37064 or online at www.lotzhouse.com for \$24.99.

African-American Heritage Society to hold Juneteenth Celebration — *Williamson Herald*— 6/15/12 — FRANKLIN — The African American Heritage Society hosted its eighth Annual Juneteenth Celebration Saturday, June 16, at the McLemore House Museum. Juneteenth is a celebration from slavery to freedom that began in Galveston, Texas and though it is almost 150 years later, The African American Heritage Society wants to continue to celebrate and remember this significant event and how it changed lives in America and in Williamson County. "Juneteenth at the McLemore House" began with the raising of the American flag by American Legion Post 215. Following the opening ceremony, there were various activities throughout the day. This year's event was sponsored by Hard Bargain Association. (Editor's Note: Gen. Gordon Granger, for whom Franklin's Fort Granger is named, carried the message of emancipation to Texas.)

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



June 2012

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QTY	Item	Price	Total
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	Donation: Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase (circle one)		
	“Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville” ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
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	“Eyewitness to the Battle of Perryville” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	“Eyewitness to the Battle of Franklin” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	“Eyewitness to the Battle of Shiloh” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
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