



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

September 2012

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

I am excited that we are sharing in this newsletter some new research by long time STFB board member Dr. Sam Gant on a little known action at a site near Nolensville in the eastern part of Williamson County.

While the larger battles receive most of the public's attention, often overlooked are the scores of smaller actions which were much more the norm in Williamson County throughout the war as Federals and Confederates clashed often accidentally while probing the other's whereabouts, transporting supplies, or foraging south of Federally occupied Nashville.

Many soldiers on both sides were wounded or lost their lives in these small and obscure engagements, at often forgotten sites with no historical markers or annual memorials. Yes, every Civil War soldier does deserve to be remembered and have his story told.

And read about The Tennessee State Library & Archives project to map comprehensive Civil War history onto the existing Geographic Information Systems data that our local governments use to record their official land boundaries and ownership information. It's a great tool.

Thank you for your support as we work to recognize and preserve the sites of actions large and small in Williamson County where these American soldiers fought and died.

Mike Walker – President

New & Renewing Members August 2012

Karen Arnsdorf	Chippawah Falls, WI
Mark & Mary Aulman	Woodland, CA
Gerald Bartig	Huntsville, AL
Thomas H Beal Family	Glenn Dale, MD
Brian Beathard	Franklin, TN
Dave Bond	Beavercreek, OH
The Carter House	Franklin, TN
Firelands CWRT	Norwalk, OH
Dennis Faught	Columbia, MO
Ft Negley Visitor Center	Nashville, TN
Dot Kelley	Knoxville, TN
Drs Dahk & Jan Knox	Mosheim, TN
Sana Mason	Waynesville, MO
Martin McGirt	Franklin, TN
Ben Nance	Nashville, TN
Mark Perreault	Norfolk, VA
Jeffrey Plummer	Rehoboth Beach, DE
Thomas Potter	Allhardt, TN
Jerry & Ruth Swedeen	Franklin, TN
19 th Virginia Vol Inf	Monroe Twp, NJ
Kimberly Willis	Dickson, TN

Battle of Franklin 148th Anniversary Friday & Saturday – Nov 2-3, 2012 Confederate and Union Soldiers Wanted

This year's event will be sponsored by the Battle of Franklin Trust and will be held on the grounds of the Carnton Plantation on Friday and Saturday November 2 & 3. Camping is available on the Carter House grounds Thursday through Saturday nights. Camp set up begins Thursday noon to 4:30 PM. The camps are open to the public 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday and 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM Saturday.

A Battle of Franklin reenactment is planned for Saturday at 12:00 NOON on the grounds of Carnton Plantation. This is a non-cavalry event and artillery is limited – so call for details. There is NO REGISTRATION FEE but you must register -- firewood and restroom facilities are provided.

Please sign up by October 1, 2012 with Bobby Hargrove bthargrove123@aol.com phone 615-794-6179 or Robert Huff rghuff123@aol.com

Blue and Gray Days Friday-Saturday Nov 2 – 3

The annual Blue and Gray Days events will be held the same weekend as the Battle of Franklin Reenactment. Many living history events are planned including tours of the Carter House and Carnton Plantation.

Reenactor Dennis Boggs will portray Abraham Lincoln, the Princely Players will perform slave spirituals, and Dr Naima Johnson will also present slave spirituals. Friday until 12:30pm is reserved for local school group tours. After that, the general public is invited to tour both historic homes and interact with the military and craft reenactors. Saturday hours are 8:00am to 2:00pm. For questions contact Megan at 615-794-0903 or megan@battleoffranklintrust.org

Concord Church Federal Campsite By Dr. Sam Gant

From the latter part of November, 1862, just before the Battle of Stones River, through June, 1863, the beginning of the Tullahoma Campaign, eastern Williamson County was a hotbed of action.

Nolensville Pike and connecting roads as well as much of the countryside from College Grove to north of Nolensville witnessed raids, picketing, foraging, scouting and skirmishing almost every day and often at night.

Especially early in the period, the Concord Church, located at the Liberty Pike (now Concord Road) crossing of Mill Creek at Nolensville Pike and near the road from LaVergne, was a key position for the Federal drive to secure the area.

On Nov. 27., 1862, Federal Gen. Phillip Sheridan reported that two Federal regiments had confronted about 2,000 Confederate cavalry near Concord Church

and had driven them back to Nolensville. Apparently a few days after this, Federal Gen. James Steedman established a camp at Concord Church which remained there until the end of February, 1863.

On Dec. 10, Confederate Gen John Wharton attacked the Federal camp firing solid shot into it. He stated that the Federals called for reinforcements, but “showed no disposition to follow.” Other action continued at or near this position.

In February, 1863, Lt. Col. James Brownlow and his regiment, 1st Tennessee Cavalry, U.S., were assigned to the Concord Church camp with Gen. Steedman’s brigade as the only cavalry. This meant that they had the arduous duty of challenging every threat from Gen. Joe Wheeler’s Confederate cavalry. Sgt. W.R. Carter of the 1st TN said that they were in the saddle night and day.

Today, the Concord Church, which was in use until the May 2010 floods, lies abandoned. The old, solid brick building, however, is of post-Civil War construction. The original building was dismantled by Federal soldiers to build flues for their winter camp.

The old Mill Creek bridge abutments stand a few yards downstream from the church building with the old roadbed still visible. A few acres of undeveloped land, all in flood plain, remain at the site.

The site should be considered for possible preservation and interpretation. Its Civil War story would cover the attacks to the camp, the skirmishes nearby, and the role of the camp as a staging area during December through February. Since Gen. James Brownlow is buried in Williamson County, his role in this drive may also be of much interest.

Tennessee Civil War GIS Project

The Tennessee State Library & Archives is undertaking a project to map comprehensive Civil War history onto the existing Geographic Information Systems data that our local governments use to record their official land boundaries and ownership information.

Both public and private utility companies also use the GIS system to record their above and below ground lines, poles, towers etc. Cities map their roads and streets, land use plans and a myriad of other information onto this one official record of land

boundary and ownership data base. Each entity adds its information to the system as a unique information layer that can be selectively turned on and off. The counties' boundary and ownership data is refreshed to the TSLA files on a monthly schedule.

There were an estimated 2,600 engagements of some type in Tennessee during the war. A few hundred have been added to the Civil War GIS to date but the work continues. All of this information is available to historians and students online.

The TSLA web site is at tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/. The site is constantly being expanded but already features many original maps, documents, diaries and photographs from the TSLA historic collections. Hundreds of engagements and battles are pinpointed with aerial and modern map layers. The site provides 1860 county census data and unit histories for every Tennessee regiment from *Tennesseans in the Civil War*.

The system also layers *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War* maps onto modern maps, and provides links to narrative information from the *Official Records* and the *Tennessee Civil War Sourcebook*. This is a powerful tool for battlefield preservationists.

Special Announcement Civil War License Plate



Our good friends at TCWPA are working diligently to get 1,000 Tennesseans signed up for the official **Civil War Sesquicentennial** license plate so it can go into production.

Due to cancellations over the last three years, the 1,000 is still just out of reach. However, a very good friend of Tennessee's Battlefields, **Insurors of Tennessee**, has offered to pay the \$35 fee for enough plates to put the campaign over the top and into production.

TCWPA offered these free plates a month ago, but amazingly only a few folks signed up. Maybe all the others thought they would be shut out in the rush to get in line. Not so. You can still apply for **one or**

more Donated Plates using a form at their web site www.tcwpa.org or www.franklin-stfb.org. Print the application, fill it out and send it in. The Application has a field in the upper right corner asking for your Sponsor – use **STFB** as your Sponsor. You will be notified **if you are selected** to receive a Donated Plate.

When the Civil War plate goes into actual production, **you won't have to wait** until your current tag expires. You can turn in your current tag at your county office, pay your standard 1 year registration fee **minus** the unused portion of your current tag. That's it. The \$35 specialty fee will be paid for you. A year from now if you keep your Civil War tag, you will pay your standard registration fee plus \$35.

Even if you don't plan to keep the plate beyond the free first year (but we hope you do), TCWPA strongly encourages you to sign up anyway. It helps us get over the top, plus having it on your car and on the road will advertise it to other Tennesseans who don't yet know about the Civil War plate.

News in Review September 2012

Civil War Trust taps Eric Jacobson for Battle of Spring Hill markers — Battle of Franklin Trust *Battlefield Dispatch* — September 2012 — FRANKLIN — Earlier this month, the Civil War Trust, the nation's largest battlefield preservation organization, unveiled its latest interpretive walking trail, a half-mile loop that connect to the grounds of Rippavilla Plantation. The new trail details some important element of the Battle of Spring Hill and the resulting escape of Federal forces on Nov. 29, 1864. Battle of Franklin Trust Chief Operating Officer, Eric A. Jacobson, was chosen to write the text for the markers placed along this new trail.

Franklin seeks Battle stamp — Franklin *Review Appeal* — 9/12/12 — FRANKLIN — On the heels of a proposal this summer to ask the U.S. Postal Service to make the Battle of Franklin one of its next Civil War postage stamps, stamp backers hope to rally more local and national support in the weeks leading up to an October meeting of decision-makers. The postal service's 12-member Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee is set to meet next month, when they could decide if the Battle of Franklin will be one of the souvenir stamp designs sold to commemorate the Civil War's 150th anniversary.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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September 2012

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

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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	
	“Heading Back Home” DVD the story of Franklin’s Unknown Soldier Burial	\$25.00	
	“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	
	“Eyewitness to the Battle of Ft. Donelson” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	“Eyewitness to the Battle of Stones River” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	“Eyewitness to the Battle of Nashville” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	SHIPPING & HANDLING (Items only) ~ Under \$25.00 - or -	\$4.95	
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