



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

August 2013

[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

Summer vacations are over, school is back in session, and the crowds visiting our historical sites are still in full swing. As such, we continue to promote preservation of Civil War sites in Franklin and Williamson County. Our Facebook site is now up and will continue to let you know what threats arise to our battlefield parcels.

The Planning Commission temporarily stayed one possible threat to the battlefield but the matter is still on the table. More elsewhere in the newsletter. Please continue to support the effort to halt the rezoning of the Car Wash property. Also, new construction is in the works for the old BGA property. As the county plans are formed, we will keep you informed.

With the end of summer, it can only mean that commemorations of historical Civil War events are not far off. Blue-Gray day activities are scheduled to take place 8-9 November near Carnton Plantation. STFB is planning a tour of one of our battlefield sites - stay tuned for the actual date to be announced soon.

Alderman Mike Skinner is proposing a historic overlay for the city. Let's support him in his efforts to ensure that historic sites are considered in future growth plans.

Thanks to all of you for your loyal and continued support.

Dan Mora – President

## New & Renewing Members July 2013

Karen Arnsdorf	Chippewa Falls, WI
Mark & Mary Aulman	Woodland, CA
Gerald Bartig	Huntsville, TN
Cathy Bickerstaff	Bartlett, TN
Dave Bond	Beavercreek, OH
The Carter House	Franklin, TN
Andy & Mike Cullison	Celina, TN
The Firelands CWRT	Norwalk, OH
Ft Negley Visit Center	Nashville, TN
William & Robbin Holland	Franklin, TN
David Hontz	Fort Wayne, IN
Charlene Jones	Smyrna, TN
Dot Kelly	Knoxville, TN
Drs Dahk & Jan Knox	Mosheim, TN
Martin & Julia McGirt	Franklin, TN
Kevin & Kelle McLemore	Clarksville, TN
William & Lisa Morgan	Franklin, TN
Ben Nance	Nashville, TN
William Terry	Poughkeepsie, NY
19 <sup>th</sup> Virginia Vol Inf	Monroe Twp, NJ

## STFB Facebook Page

We have had a successful launch of the STFB Facebook page. You can find us at [www.facebook.com/Battle.1864](http://www.facebook.com/Battle.1864)

We have had significant interest and we feel that it is a good medium to let you know more about the Battle of Franklin, upcoming STFB events and share information about upcoming community events. Visit us and tell your friends. We are trying to ensure that we can reach as many people as possible to get your support in our preservation efforts. Let us hear from you.

### Board of Directors

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## Planning Commission Denies Rezoning Request – for Now

On July 25, the Franklin Planning Commission heard a request by developer Daniel Woods to rezone the Power Spray Car Wash at 1416 Columbia Avenue. Woods' rezoning request asks to build 7 two-story townhouses on the .39 acres. This property is on the corner of Fairground Street and is the site of the Federal Advanced Line where the Confederate assault made first contact. A historical marker placed by STFB and the Salt Creek CWRT of Chicago some ten years ago identifies this as a historic place.

STFB, the Civil War Trust, Franklin's Charge, the Franklin Battlefield Trust, the Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission, and the Heritage Foundation, all wrote letters to the Planning Commissioners in opposition to the rezoning. Representatives of the Battlefield Commission and the Heritage Foundation spoke briefly at the July 25 meeting. The Planning Department staff had earlier recommended that the project be approved. The Planning Commission then voted unanimously to deny the rezoning request.

However, that does not finish the matter. Because the Planning Department staff had recommended for approval of the rezoning request, the developer has the option to now place the rezoning request on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen agenda for consideration. BOMA would then consider the request during three readings of the request at three regularly scheduled BOMA Meetings. The Board of Aldermen would then have final vote on the request.

BOMA meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month. At this writing, the agenda is not known for the August 27<sup>th</sup> BOMA meeting. In any event, we ask Franklin residents to contact your Alderman and ask them to not approve the rezoning of the Car Wash property when the item comes before BOMA. We will email reports on developing events when the BOMA schedule is known.

The STFB web site <http://www.franklin-stfb.org/preservation.htm> has two documents you might use. **A 2005 Survey of 400 Franklin Voters** sponsored by the Civil War Trust reported that three-fourths of those surveyed wanted the City and its agencies to directly support Civil War Battlefield Preservation. **Blue, Gray & Green: The Economic**

**and Tourism Benefits of Battlefield Preservation** is another very important recent study by the CWT that documents the beneficial impact that battlefield tourism brings to local business, employment, and tax collections. These two documents have great talking points that you can use.

## Proposed Battlefield Overlay Plan

Franklin city officials and preservationists want to explore creating a new structure for approving future uses of property where fighting took place during the Battle of Franklin. The "battlefield overlay" would be similar to the current historic overlay guidelines, but would better address battlefield recovery and preservation.

Alderman Mike Skinner, who represents that part of town, presented the battlefield overlay idea to the members of the city's 18-person Battlefield Preservation Commission where he received the Commission's endorsement to develop a plan.

Skinner stated: "I think in this part of town we really need to decide what's important, is it battlefield recovery or preservation? Is it a program that would spur more building and those kinds of things?"

A Battlefield Overlay Plan would give the battlefield commission a chance to weigh in on developments much like the planning commission makes recommendations to city aldermen, who have the final say. "If the Battlefield Preservation Commission is a full commission and has the authority to recommend to (Board of Mayor and Aldermen) and the administration, then somewhere there ought to be some input from the Commission," Skinner said.

## Cenotaph and Battlefield Photos

Do you have photos of the monument below? If so, you have Franklin Battlefield pictures taken between roughly 1889 and 1903. All of us have pictures of unknown people and places that we have accumulated over the years as distant family and relatives pass along photographs they no longer recognize. We are asking you to check to see if you have photo(s), either known or unknown, that look like this one and contact us if you do.

This is the Cleburne Cenotaph that was placed on the Franklin Battlefield near the Carter Cotton Gin site. After the war, the cotton gin was removed from the

northeast corner of Columbia Avenue and Cleburne Street and the property used for the Wall and Mooney Boarding School – later to become Battle Ground Academy. The school was built in 1887 and soon thereafter, the student body raised funds to place this Cenotaph on the school grounds. It honors Major General Patrick Cleburne who was killed at Franklin and is buried in Arkansas. Some insist it marked the exact place where Cleburne fell, while others believe Cleburne fell some few yards to the south.



Major General Patrick Cleburne's Cenotaph

The monument was in place only a few years. The school burned in 1902 and the new school was built across Columbia Avenue between Granbury Street and Everbright Avenue. The old school site was sold and the developer removed the cenotaph in about 1903. Recently, a Historical Society in Dayton, Ohio notified Eric Jacobson that they had a photo collection that included a picture of this monument, and several other views of the Franklin Battlefield. A Dayton visitor made the photos using a bellows plate camera, the standard, bulky equipment of that day.

As many of the old soldiers came back to Franklin, they too may have brought a camera. By the 1890's, 25 to 30 years had passed and many of the old soldiers were sufficiently established to travel back to their battlefields.

The Kodak box camera was introduced in 1888 and was the first "box" camera to become widely adopted by the public. About half the size of a shoebox, it used flexible roll film that made the camera light and portable. Each box camera was pre-loaded with film and the customer returned the entire camera and its exposed film to Kodak for processing. The factory reloaded the camera with fresh film, and returned it to the customer along with the prints.

If any of the returning soldiers were early-adopters of the Kodak camera and visited the Carter House area between 1887 and 1903, they surely would have

photographed the cenotaph. It was eye-catching, as it stood alone near the site of the cotton gin.

If you have such photos, we ask that you contact Sam Gant [gant92ovi@yahoo.com](mailto:gant92ovi@yahoo.com) and send him scans if you can.

## News In Review August 2013

**Thompson's Station purchases land for green space vision — Williamson Herald — 7/17/13 — FRANKLIN** — The Town of Thompson's Station has closed on the purchase of 104 acres of open space to be preserved for public purposes in the heart of the community. The property is located north of Town Hall, comprising much of the scenic vista north of the landmark red caboose. Mayor Corey Napier described the tract as "a passive park for an active community. "The land lends itself to connectivity through pedestrian and bicycle trails, preservation of historic and natural assets—including a portion of the Civil War battlefield—equine and agricultural uses, and various other passive recreation opportunities," Town Administrator Greg Langeliers said.

**Plans for 'boutique hotel' presented to overflow crowd at Franklin Theatre — Williamson Herald— 7/16/13 — FRANKLIN** — Visionaries and investors Roderick Heller and Jay Franks of Harpeth Associates, LLC revealed the preliminary plans for a 100-room boutique hotel, upscale apartments and/or converted condos and retail space, plus about 500 private parking spaces. They envision an upscale development that captures Franklin's rich historical character and the ambience of downtown, while also looking ahead to future growth. The construction of a river walk – with trails, benches and an overlook – along the property in downtown could eventually connect some historical sites such as Carnton Plantation and Fort Granger.

**Old campus could see new projects — The Tennessean—Williamson A.M. — 7/19/13 — FRANKLIN** — Williamson County is resurrecting a project to build a new senior citizen center and 300-seat theater at Academy Park that sits on the old BGA campus which it purchased more than a decade ago. The plans call for building a senior center on a vacant lot at the park and renovating an old library building to convert it into a new Community Theater for plays and activities. More later.

# Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## August 2013

### 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	
	<b>"Heading Back Home" DVD</b> the story of Franklin's Unknown Soldier Burial	\$25.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Perryville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Franklin" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Shiloh" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Ft. Donelson" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Stones River" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Nashville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	<b>SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING (Items only) ~ Under \$25.00 - or -</b>	<b>\$4.95</b>	
	<b>\$25.00 and up</b>	<b>\$5.95</b>	
	ORDER TOTAL		

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STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.