



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

October 2014

[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

The Battle of Franklin Sesquicentennial month of November is now upon us with many activities and events. Great effort has been made to coordinate and publicize the event schedules so that our visitors are best served while here. It starts with a special Nov 2 showing of the **Battle of Franklin** documentary at Franklin Theater and ends with Commemorative events November 30.

**The 2014 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event: "The Last Campaign in Tennessee"** events are detailed at [www.tncivilwar150.com](http://www.tncivilwar150.com) It opens with a K-12 educators session Nov 13, and a Nov 13/14 session at Williamson County Archives titled **Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee.**

The **Williamson County Visitors Bureau** is maintaining a local events schedule at [www.franklin150.com](http://www.franklin150.com) If your group is planning a historical event, contact them to get it posted.

And the City of Franklin Communications Department has posted a **"Countdown to the Sesquicentennial of the Battle of Franklin Show"** at:

<http://youtu.be/BnKaoortTNw> It was published on Oct 16, 2014 and features Mayor Ken Moore and Parks Director Lisa Clayton as they talk to notable guests discussing the local events surrounding the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

Dan Mora – President

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## New & Renewing Members September 2014

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Land Trust for Tennessee	Nashville, TN
The Watchdog	Warren, MI
Colonel(Ret) Sam Whitson	Franklin, TN
Greg Yackel	West St Paul, MN
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## Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner November 20, 2014 Sign Up Now

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. will hold its Annual Membership Meeting and dinner on Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 PM at Otey Hall in the Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Franklin, 510 West Main Street. There will be a full dinner

buffet followed by a short business meeting and our guest speaker Eric Jacobson.

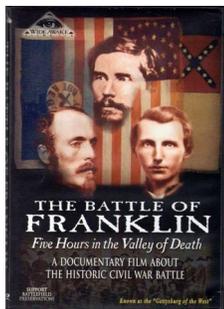
Eric is the CEO and Executive Director of the Battle of Franklin Trust. He has authored several books on the Battle of Franklin including “*for Cause, for Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill and the Battle of Franklin*” and “*Baptism of Fire: The 44<sup>th</sup> Missouri, 175<sup>th</sup> Ohio and the 183<sup>rd</sup> Ohio at the Battle of Franklin*”. Eric’s comments will address “Franklin’s Place in History”.

The dinner is \$25 per person in advance and seating is limited to 50. Please send payment by November 17 to: STFB, PO Box 851, Franklin, TN 37065. For questions, call 615-480-9539

### **Cannon Carriages Update**

The Cannons on the Square Committee expects to have the new cannon carriages installed by the end of October. Franklin Streets Dept has worked diligently to pour the necessary concrete pads, update the landscaping on the Square, and install new floodlights for the Confederate Soldier Statue. The Franklin Public Square with the new carriages and our four authentic Civil War 6-pounders will look spectacular. A brief **Carriages Dedication Ceremony** will be held Veterans Day, November 11 immediately after the Veterans Day Parade that steps off at 11:00 am at Five Points. Be there. It will be a special day.

### **Emmy award winning film “The Battle of Franklin” At Franklin Theater Sunday, November 2nd at 3:30pm**



Tickets are \$15.00 and are available at the box office or online at [www.franklintheatre.com](http://www.franklintheatre.com) with one third of the proceeds going to help protect the Franklin battlefield.

The film’s director and producer Robert Lee Hodge, of Hodge Films, said that it is the first time the film has ever been shown in Franklin on the big screen. The

Washington DC filmmaker, who recently moved to Nashville, wanted to finally debut his Emmy award-winning project in the town where the story takes place. “I thought it would be a great way to kick-off the month-long list of memorial events that Franklin has in store for the 150th anniversary of this epic battle,” said Hodge.

A review in Booklist stated that Hodge’s film is, “. . . an exceptional program for both students and Civil War buffs, worthy to be alongside filmmaker Ken Burns’ acclaimed “The Civil War.”

Hodge just wasn’t into creating a film on Franklin, he has also played an active role in preservation of the battlefield. In 2001 he gave Save the Franklin Battlefield (STFB) \$22,000 that helped kick-off preservation efforts in Franklin. “This is the battlefield I have been drawn to since I first saw it in 1978. As a child I did not understand why there were not green fields with monuments you often see on a major battlefield like Shiloh or Gettysburg. To now see the reclamation of parts the battlefield from commercial sprawl is fantastic,” Hodge said.

The Battle of Franklin movie struck a chord in many historians also. Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, Ed Bearss, said, “One of the best, if not the best, documentaries I have seen on a Civil War battle. Not since Ken Burns’ monumental PBS production, The Civil War, have I seen better.”

“In my opinion, The Battle of Franklin: Five Hours in the Valley of Death, remains one of the best and most balanced visual depictions of the Battle of Franklin ever made,” historian Eric Jacobson said. “It is a timeless representation of this important event in our history, and never fails to evoke a multitude of emotions. From the musical score, to the re-enactment footage, to the careful way in which accounts of the battle are interwoven, the film never lags. The opening scenes are exceptionally powerful and the conclusion is near perfection.”

Historian Thomas Cartwright stated, “This Emmy award-winning DVD truly does justice to Franklin. The scenes depicted herein are as close as anyone will ever wish to be to that vortex of hell.”

Reserved tickets will be on sale at the Franklin Theater web site [www.franklintheatre.com](http://www.franklintheatre.com) or call (615) 538-2075. For more information contact Robert Hodge at [rlh@robertleehodge.com](mailto:rlh@robertleehodge.com)

## **Incident at Fort Granger Presented At Eastern Flank Park**

Franklin's Pull-Tight Players are working with the Franklin City Parks Department to present a special free one-day-only performance of "Incident at Fort Granger," on November 8, at 3:00 p.m., at the Eastern Flank Events Facility next to Carnton Plantation. The play will be performed on the back porch. Attendees should bring folding chairs or blankets to sit on, and they are advised to dress warmly. It is recommended for adults and children age 10 and older.

The play is about an hour and a half long, without an intermission. It will end shortly before sunset. In the event of inclement weather, the play will be performed inside the building. The play is being done as one of the town's Sesquicentennial events commemorating the Battle of Franklin.

The incident, well known to historians and Franklin natives, occurred on June 8, 1863, shortly after the Union fort was built. Two Confederates, disguised as Union officers, came to Fort Granger for a reason still being debated, but were discovered and tried as spies.

The play, written by former Franklin resident Bob Holladay, is well researched and much dialogue was taken from newspapers and official records of the trial. Directed by Peggy Macpherson, the cast features Vince Cusomato, Jeanne Drone, Ron Geagan and Nelson Bryan as the four Watchers. Union soldiers are played by Jim Anderson, John Fraser, Jerry Sharber, Stan Ferguson, Jake Cannon, Jonathan Wilson, Hanes Sparkman, Mike Foster, Bill Jones and Mark Hyssong. The two visitors to the fort are played by Preston Crook and Hunter Mason.

The play has been performed many times by the Pull-Tight Players since 1998, when it was first staged on the Public Square during Franklin's Bicentennial. Most of the cast have performed in it multiple times — sometimes in different roles. It has been done on the Pull-Tight stage, outdoors at Carnton, in Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church, and, by special invitation, on the lawn of Tudor Place in Georgetown, Washington DC (the ancestral home of one of the two Confederates). Last year, on the 150th anniversary of the incident, the play was performed on the grounds of Fort Granger. For more information, see [www.franklin150.com](http://www.franklin150.com)

## **News In Review October 2014**

### **Archeological dig hopes to uncover historic cotton gin — Williamson Herald 9/23/14 —**

**FRANKLIN** — For years Civil War historians have been working to reclaim the land and this week the dig began with the goal of locating remnants of the cotton gin. The cotton gin was known as the epicenter of the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864. Larry McKee, program manager for archaeology at TRC Companies, Inc., is overseeing the project. "There's been a lot of work to try and reestablish some sense of the battle ground," he said. "The main focus here is to try and find out if there is anything left of the cotton gin that used to stand here."

### **Lotz House creates 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin collectibles — Williamson Herald 9/18/14 —**

**FRANKLIN** — The Lotz House has created a series of collectible items licensed by the Franklin 150 committee to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin held November 30, 1864. The series of commemorative items including t-shirts, coffee mugs, pewter belt buckles, paper weights, ball caps, Christmas ornaments, coins, ribbons and tins of mints, are now on sale at the Civil War house museum located at 1111 Columbia Avenue across from The Carter House.

### **Battle of Franklin Trust seeks to secure Lovell property — Williamson Herald 9/24/14 —**

**FRANKLIN** — On a single night, October 16, The Battle of Franklin Trust will attempt to secure \$150,000 toward the purchase of the Lovell property, adjacent to The Carter House and once part of the Carter family garden. The Lovell property was caught in the midst of some of the most furious fighting during the Battle of Franklin. The property is perhaps the most important piece of Civil War battlefield in American that has yet to be preserved. It is also a crucial component of the Carter's Hill Park that is emerging along Columbia Pike.

### **Battle of Franklin sesquicentennial events set to unfold — The Tennessean — 10/15/14 —**

**FRANKLIN** — With less than two months to go before the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, several events will welcome thousands of history lovers from across Tennessee and the nation to Franklin to mark the battle's sesquicentennial. Here's a review of the Civil War related activities ahead leading up to the anniversary: Nov. 2, "BoF: 5 Hours in the Valley of Death," Nov. 8, "Incident at Fort Granger," Nov. 13-16, "The Last Campaign in Tennessee," Nov. 14-15, Blue & Gray Days Nov 15-16 BoF Reenactment

# Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## October 2014

### Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

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QTY	Item	Price	Total
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: <b>Marker Fund ~ 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	
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	"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>\$5.00</b>	
	<b>\$25.00 and up</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>	
	ORDER TOTAL		

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