



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

April 2015

www. franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

On April 22, a crowd approaching 200 gathered in the Dominos parking lot for a pizza party that celebrated the last pizza served on the battlefield. Brief comments were made by Mayor Ken Moore, CWT Chairman Mike Grainger, local businessman Calvin Lehew, Alderman Mike Skinner and several other preservation leaders.



After the pizza party, Ron Crutcher begins the removal of the Dominos building from the Franklin Battlefield

Of note, Patrick McIntyre, executive director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, reminded the crowd that the first battlefield preservation milestone was the THC purchase of the Carter House in 1951. He also announced a \$10,000 grant to complete the archeological study on the gin site and support for the \$500,000 Legislative bill to remove the gymnasium on the Carter House site. Franklin Parks Director Lisa Clayton remarked that, as the Carter Hill Park evolves, the next big need is to connect our battlefield parcels with walking trails. Both announcements received big cheers.

Dan Mora – President

New & Renewing Members March 2015

James Addicott	Rice, MN
Julian Bibb	Franklin, TN
Terry Coats	Goodlettsville, TN
Walter Corey	Lenoir City, TN
Ann Arbor CWRT	Ann Arbor, MI
San Diego CWRT	San Diego, CA
Fred Ehlert	Riverdale, IL
Robert & Yvonne Foster	Brentwood, TN
Denise Fraelich	Brentwood, TN
Leigh Lori & JayJay Franklin	Glendale Heights, IL
Michael Green	Tulare, CA
Bettye Harper	Franklin, TN
Bob & Nell Harvey	Pittsburg, CA
Kirk Hinman	Lakewood, OH
Bob Jenkins	Dalton, GA
Ken Knouf	Madison, IN
Calvin & Marilyn Lehew	Franklin, TN
Patrick McIntyre	Nashville, TN
Emily Magid	Franklin, TN
Gale & Lyn Pewitt	Franklin, TN
Thomas Potter & Family	Jamestown, TN
Richard Rust	Franklin, TN
Richard Simpson	Lancaster, PA
Gary & Paula Waddey	Nashville, TN
Jerry Wildenhaus	Dayton, OH

BOMA Studies Budget Request For Lovell Purchase

On March 24, the leaders of Franklins Charge, the Battle of Franklin Trust and the Civil War Trust met with the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen in a work session to discuss the proposed budget for the purchase of the Lovell property just south of the Carter House for \$2.8

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million. This work session is part of the normal City budgeting process for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The Lovell property actually has two lots totaling about 1.7 acres. The large house is now a Florist & Gift Shop and the house to its south is commercially rented.

Together, they extend from the Carter House outbuildings to Strahl Street and from Columbia Avenue west to the Carter garden parcel purchased in 2008 by the Civil War Trust. The main Federal trench line was near the southern boundary of the property and the second, retrenchment line was across the northern edge. This purchase will complete the roughly 20 acres planned for the Carter Hill Park surrounding the Carter House, including the Carter cotton gin site.

City staff and the Franklins Parks Dept, who will be responsible for the Carter Hill Park, helped develop the budget numbers. The major components of the plan are that; the City will pay \$1.5 million over 7 years; the Civil War Trust will arrange a \$1.28 million grant from the National Parks Service American Battlefield Protection Program; and Franklins Charge will cover the remainder of the purchase price. Since the City's payments in years 2 through 7 will need to be bank financed, Franklins Charge will pay those carrying costs. Franklins Charge will also pay for the removal of the Lovell buildings and the Dominos building across Columbia Avenue.

The budget request also includes \$116,000 for the Parks Dept to improve the assembled Carter Hill Park properties. This will fund landscaping, walking trails, parking areas and cedar fences as well as other amenities necessary to meet Franklin City Parks standards.

Local preservation groups and the Civil War Trust have purchased and currently own several individual parcels of the Franklin battlefield acquired over the last 18 years. As part of the deal, these battlefield parcels will be donated free and clear to the City to be combined with the Lovell properties. The total purchase price paid for all of these battlefield parcels is roughly \$7 million. These donated parcels would not include the Carter House, Carnton Plantation, or the Lotz House. However, if other adjoining battlefield parcels are purchased in the future, they very likely would be added to the Carter Hill Park as well.

As additional donated components to the plan, the National Heritage Area Office at MTSU has offered to

fund the interpretative signage for the consolidated Carter Hill Park, and Calvin and Marilyn Lebew have offered to have a replica of the Carter Cotton Gin built on its original site.

The City will not use property and sales taxes for the Lovell purchase or the Carter Hill Park improvements, but rather will use part of the Hotel/Motel taxes over several years.

The City budgeting process will continue for the next month or so. Julian Bibb at Franklins Charge says that the non-profit groups that currently own the in-play battlefield parcels have all agreed in principal to donate their parcels to a consolidated park, and bankers are standing ready to finance the deal. Cross your fingers.

Long-time STFB Members Tour Franklin Battlefield

Dick and Anjeannette Staley, STFB members since April 1999, visited Franklin March 23. He is the historian and genealogist for the Timothe DeMontbrun Society, which is based in Nashville. They traveled from their home in Diamond Bar, California for a Society meeting at the State Archives, and their daughter, Lisa, who had never visited Nashville, joined them for a mini-reunion.



Anjeannette & Dick Staley, daughter Lisa Wilcox and STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman pause for a picture on Franklin Public Square

Dick and Anjeannette have supported local Franklin preservation over the years through STFB and also through the Civil War Trust. They last visited Franklin in September 2000 and wanted a first-hand inspection of the combined preservation successes of all the local groups. Of special interest to Dick was any property acquisitions that may occur in the next few years.

We started with the Carter House program and then toured the battlefield from Winstead Hill to Fort Granger, with special interest on the work-in-progress for the Carter Hill Park. He was especially interested in those projects where local volunteer groups joined with the Civil War Trust and the City of Franklin.

After a full morning and lunch on the Square, we imposed on another visitor to take a group picture for posterity. The Staleys promised they will visit again and take time to see the Main Street shops.

Last Tour Group to see Dominos

An important photo op occurred April 15 as Sam Huffman was getting some last minute photos of the Dominos building, before its scheduled demolition on April 22. Local historian Thomas Cartwright just happened to be leading a battlefield tour from the Lotz House and the group agreed to be photographed as the semi-official ‘**Last Tour Group to see Dominos**’ on the battlefield



Thomas Cartwright (second from left) leads the last tour groups to see Dominos on the battlefield

Well yes, there may be another group or two to tour the battlefield before Dominos disappears. If so, we’ll do another article. This group hailed from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio and the gentleman on the far left is William Lotz from Minnesota, a direct descendant of Franklin’s Lotz family.

News In Review April 2015

Money sought to demolish old gym — The Tennessean — 3/25/15 — FRANKLIN —

Franklin preservationists hope that an old gym, which they say sits on a key battlefield near the historic Carter House, will finally be leveled this summer to make way for a planned Civil War park. The demolition, preservationists say, will need a jolt of state funding but the move will push forward a project that’s been stalled for years.

McGavock Confederate Cemetery fund raiser planned — Williamson Herald 3/25/15 —

FRANKLIN — The Battle of Franklin Trust is hosting a fund-raiser for the McGavock Confederate Cemetery on June 18. “This very special event will commemorate the history of this important place and those who helped create and protect it,” said Eric Jacobson, CEO, Battle of Franklin Trust, and event speaker. The event is 5:30-7:30 at the Fleming Center at Carnton Plantation.

BOMA considers expanding battlefield park footprint — Williamson Herald 3/26/15 —

FRANKLIN — Aldermen will be considering a proposal to work closely with Franklin’s Charge and the Battle of Franklin Trust to secure additional funding for the proposed Carter’s Hill Battlefield Park. City Administrator Eric Stuckey told alderman the project requires a \$1.5 million commitment over seven years.

“Collectively, this would recreate a 20-acre area,” he explained of the Carter Hill proposal. “The parcels altogether include acquisition costs totaling just over \$7 million [made by various entities.] We would also become the operator of that park.”

‘Lincoln’ showing at Franklin Theatre on April 15 — Williamson Herald 4/2/15 — FRANKLIN —

On April 15, the 150th anniversary of the death of President Jacobson, chief executive officer of the Battle of Franklin Trust.

Franklin preservationist pitches Civil War museum — The Tennessean — 4/10/15 — FRANKLIN —

As plans for a new Franklin Civil War battlefield park move forward, Robert Hicks, author of *Widow of the South* and a major voice in the city's preservation community, announced a push to make the city home to "the best Civil War museum in America." Hicks’ talk, which fell on the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, was focused on the relevance of history for the future Abraham Lincoln, the Franklin Theatre hosted a special viewing of the movie *Lincoln* starring Daniel Day Lewis. Following the movie there was a question and answer session with Eric

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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April 2015

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