



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

May 2015

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

You noticed in our last newsletter that the Dominos building was finally demolished. I recently updated our photos on Facebook to show you what the property looks like without the building in place. The preservation community continues to work toward continued preservation in Franklin.

We are not alone in these. I recently met with Keith Chapman, Secretary, for the Southwest Michigan Civil War Round Table (SMCWRT) who was visiting Franklin. He wanted to acquaint himself with preservation efforts by STFB and the other preservation organizations in Franklin. It is support from the SMCWRT and all the other similar organizations throughout the US that we have been able to make the strides we have over the years.

Finally, I recently returned from a trip to Latin America. While there, I met a young man, also traveling, who told me that he was familiar with Franklin, the Battle of Franklin and our preservation efforts. As you can see, word of what Franklin is doing and will continue to do reaches far beyond the borders of Williamson County and Tennessee. You are a part of this history-making journey. Keep up the good work.

Continue to follow us on Facebook and our webpage. Thanks for your continued support.

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New & Renewing Members April 2015

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Amanda Sinclair	Brentwood, TN
Tom & Amy Stone	Mt Airy, MD
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Staley Family Trust	Diamond Bar, CA

Big News in Franklin Cotton Gin Foundation Located

The archeology team conducting the dig at the Carter Hill Battlefield Park has found the foundation of the Carter cotton gin. . All four foundation walls are intact. The dig is being done by TRC Solutions and the team is led by Dr Larry McKee. The actual gin location is about 20 yards north and east of the long-accepted site based on a map by Moscow Carter. Historian Eric Jacobson believes the actual gin site is better represented by a map in a report by Federal field commander Jacob Cox. The dig also unearthed two additional sections of the Federal trench line.

Please note, all of the comments here are based on very preliminary findings and much more will be known when the dig completes later in May and Dr McKee submits his subsequent report.



The east wall of the Carter cotton gin

The cotton gin was replaced in 1889 by the Wall & Mooney School, the forerunner of today's Battle Ground Academy. Local lore advocated that the school foundation was built on the gin foundation. It now appears that is not so. A portion of the school foundation was found a few yards west of the gin site.

Enough of the local preservation activists visited the dig site asking questions of McKee's team, that finally a two-hour session was scheduled on May 20 so everyone could visit and get a quick summary of preliminary findings – and not come back, please. We know the dig findings, after 150 years of not knowing, are immensely important to all of us, but Larry's time is limited, he has to finish by next week, and he wants to get as much done as humanly possible. Please help him by permitting him to focus on the task at hand.



Eric Jacobson describes some of the Henry casings and Colt rifle cartridges that locate some of the Federal regiments near the trench

An earlier dig at this site by McKee located a trench section just south and west of the gin. This dig adds two more trench sections between the earlier dig and

Columbia Pike - although none of the three are connected. They generally follow McKee's map published in the STFB January 2015 newsletter available on the STFB web site.



The newly found trench west of the gin reveals its artifacts

Before they depart, McKee's team will cover and mark the trench line. Additional excavations will be done on the Lovell properties if and when they are purchased.

Lovell Purchase Update

Franklins Charge has signed a contract to buy the two Lovell houses just south of the Carter House.



A view of the envisioned Carter Hill Park. The garden south of the Carter House will replace the two Lovell houses

The City of Franklin will provide some of the funds as will the Civil War Trust and the American Battlefield

Protection Program. When the purchase is completed, all of the adjoining properties held by the CWT, the Heritage foundation and Franklins Charge will be donated to the City as part of the Carter Hill Battlefield Park. The Carter House is a State Historic Site and will not be included in the swap.

The budgeting and approval processes of the City and of the ABPP are underway and all looks favorable – but not guaranteed just yet. Delays may yet occur, but after 150 years, a little delay isn't all that bad.

An Evening for the McGavock Confederate Cemetery

On Thursday, June 18, The Battle of Franklin Trust will host a fundraiser for the McGavock Confederate Cemetery from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fleming Center at Carnton Plantation.

Limited tickets will be available for this special evening, which includes dinner, discussion and a special evening tour of the cemetery. All proceeds will benefit the McGavock Confederate Cemetery Corporation for maintenance and restoration of the historical landmark.



The funds raised at the event will help with the maintenance and restoration of the Confederate Cemetery

“This very special event will commemorate the history of this important place, and of those who helped to create it and protect it. It is memorial to those who lost their lives during the Battle of Franklin, and testament to the dedicated groups who have watched over it for almost 150 years,” said The Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric A. Jacobson.

“Several years ago the Battle of Franklin Trust contributed \$5,000 toward work on the cemetery headstones and we are honored to continue supporting the ongoing preservation of the cemetery.”

The event's program will feature a short talk by Rod Heller, a lawyer, business investor and descendant of the McGavock family. In recent years, Mr. and Mrs. Heller's preservation efforts have helped save much of the land around Carnton Plantation from future development. A brief talk will also be made by Jacobson with additional comments by Nancy Bassett, chairman of The McGavock Confederate Cemetery Corporation.

To conclude the evening attendees will be treated to a tour of the cemetery by Jacobson.

Tickets are \$75 per person. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets over the phone, contact Morgan Harris at (615) 794-0903.

News In Review May 2015

Homestead Manor to hold job fair — Williamson Herald 4/21/15 — FRANKLIN — On the heels of earning a spot on the 2014 Inc. 5000 list of America's fastest growing companies, A. Marshall Family Foods Inc. announced the purchase of the ca. 1819 Homestead Manor in Thompson's Station and intentions to enrich the 50-acre property steeped in local history. Plans include an event barn, a fresh farm-to-table restaurant concept, a farmer's market and educational opportunities involving Homestead's onsite orchard, greenhouse and working farm, with a spring 2015 timeline set for opening.

Critical battlefield barrier removed for 20-acre park — Williamson Herald 4/23/15 — FRANKLIN — The much-anticipated demolition of the former Domino's Pizza Wednesday advanced Franklin's battlefield reclamation plan another critical step toward realizing the vision to establish the 20-acre Carter Hill Battlefield Park. The former site of the Domino's and other retail shops is where the Carter family operated a Cotton Gin business before the Battle of Franklin. Parcel by parcel, preservationists in partnership with the city of Franklin have purchased and cleared seven tracts that comprise core battlefield.

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Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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May 2015

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