



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

August 2016

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

There are several events on tap for the coming months that are of significance to the preservation community. Look for them in our next newsletter and on our Facebook page.

I have mentioned before that interest in Civil War history and preservation here in Franklin is worldwide. Next month we are hosting a visitor from the UK Civil War Roundtable who will be visiting the US and will be extending his stay in order to visit Franklin. He is an associate of our good friend Peter Lockwood who has led tours to Franklin over the years. 2002 was the first year we helped host his UK group.

Progress continues on the Carter Hill Park as the cedar cross-rail fencing has been completed and other activities are ongoing. The area is beginning to look like a Civil War Battlefield park – so hard to believe after all these years. See additional news in this newsletter.

Please continue to follow us on Facebook and on our webpage, and as always we appreciate your continued support.

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19 th Va Vol Inf Hq, K Co	Monroe Twp, NJ

Ed Bearss Helps Celebrate 100th Anniversary of National Parks Service

On August 21, Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the NPS. Bearss, a World War II

Marine who is one of America's preeminent Civil War historians, began working with NPS as Chief Historian in 1966 and helped develop the National Register for Historic Places program. He was in Nashville for a screening of a new film about his life by filmmaker David Currey. He has visited various national battlefields throughout the week. National Park Service presented "The History of the National Park Service," at Timberland Park on the Natchez Trace Parkway. This site was one of a series of presentations by Bearss.

Update On Transforming The Lovell Properties to Battlefield Park

Many of you often ask do we know when the Lovell property will be cleared and the land added to the Carter Hill Park. Franklins Charge President Bibb in a recent Board Meeting presented the current best estimate of scheduled events.



These two Lovell houses just south of the Carter House are slated for removal during 2016

The City of Franklin, Civil War Trust and Franklins Charge purchased the two houses, several outbuildings and 1.7 acres earlier this year. Once the property is cleared and utilities removed, the property will transfer to Franklin City Parks as part of the Carter Hill Battlefield Park.

The Casa house on the extreme left will be moved to a farm in South Hall, Tennessee. The new foundation there is under construction and the move is expected to complete by Sept 30.

The Flower Shop has no satisfactory bids for moving it and will be torn down – the final permission check-offs have been met and will complete by mid Sept.

Removal of the flower shop will not begin until the Casa house is moved.

Demo bids for the flower shop are being requested but not yet let. There are large paved areas between and around both houses that must remain until the Casa house is gone. The flower shop demo estimates will allow some of the pavement debris to be buried in the Casa house basement, which will reduce hauling costs. Plus the Flower shop is located within a few feet of the Carter outbuildings, so during the demolition great care will be necessary to prevent any damage to those priceless structures.

Historians believe much of the pavement was installed before relic-hunting gear was vary advanced, and thus expect the newly uncovered battlefield areas to yield new information. A structured examination of the uncovered ground is being discussed. Free-lance relic hunting will not be allowed, but we're certain our supporters will understand.

When the Lovell property is cleared and seeded, it will transfer to the City, and be included in the interpretive plan that is underway at the cotton gin area of the Carter Hill Battlefield Park.

We are including several pictures in this newsletter depicting the progressive change in the appearance at the Carter Hill Battlefield Park, and the Carter House Historic Site. The pathways will be installed by a paving contractor but the dressing of the landscaping finish work, tree removals and sign installations will be done by City employees.



The fence cuts where the walking paths will connect the two CHBP parcels on the east side of Columbia Avenue

A fence cut has also been made on the Columbia Ave

side of the cotton gin area. The pathways have been planned and will, in general, parallel the trench line marked with gray heavy gravel. The intent is to dissuade visitors from walking on the trench line segments that were found and excavated in 2015 and earlier

Interpretive signage has been developed with much assistance from the National Heritage Area staff at MTSU and is ready for manufacture and installation at the City Park. The interpretive signage for the Carter Hill Battlefield Park and the Carter House State Historic Site is planned to be consistent in tone and appearance.



The walking path from Columbia Avenue will parallel the trench line (gray gravel near center of picture) southeast to the Cotton Gin Foundation

Work at the Old Franklin High School gymnasium is still ongoing. This is part of the State Historic site and contractors are doing all of the work. Topsoil has been delivered to the site and the best guess is for seeding to be completed by Sept 30.



The terrain at the Old Gym site has been leveled to remove the driveways and parking areas. View looking east along the Carter House boundary.



Looking south from the Old Gym site to the Carter House grounds. Soon this will all be Carter House grounds.

The chain link fence will be removed from the Carter House boundary, and a few additional trees may have to be removed. When you next visit, you will be very pleased with what has been done so far.

In 2015, the State of Tennessee published a conceptual interpretive plan for the newly configured Carter House Historic Site. It attempts to show the greatly enlarged open areas around the Carter House. It also depicts a new interpretive Visitor Center placed into the hillside just north of the current Visitor Center, with the current structure removed. The plan does not detail the size and features of the new center.

The area under and around the current center was fill dirt built on top of the trench line when the center was originally constructed. The general idea of the conceptual plan is to remove the building, return the terrain to near battlefield topography, and maybe someday locating the actual trench line.

Watch this space.

Special Note:

Members have asked what's up with the square QR codes on the first page of the newsletter each month. Those codes are readable with your Smart phone provided you have the proper App installed

You can get a QR reader by searching **MixerBox QR reader** at the App store for your phone. This App is FREE and there are other Apps that work just as well. Try it.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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August 2016

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