



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

December 2016

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

The mission statement of STFB is to Preserve, Protect and Promote Civil War Sites in Williamson County Tennessee. But today I want to acknowledge the successes of our sister organization in Davidson County, the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society – BONPS.

They have labored along with Metro Parks and other historical and preservation groups to save and interpret some of their Civil War sites and heritage locations. Like Franklin, their collective efforts have slowly developed a list of Battle of Nashville sites you can visit.

Shy's Hill
Redoubt No. 1
Fort Negley
Battle of Nashville Monument
Redoubt No. 3
Redoubt No. 4
Gransbury's Lunette
Kelley's Battery
Glen Leven Estate
Travellers Rest
Historic Markers

The **BONPS.ORG** web site provides summaries of each site and lists several guide books that are available for self guided touring. The crown jewel of the list is Fort Negley where Metro Parks Dept has been making incremental improvements over the last ten years. Check out their web site and plan a visit soon. You will be pleased with their results to date.

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A Comment on Membership Accounting

About a quarter of our membership has elected to receive their monthly newsletter by email only. This saves us about 75 cents per newsletter that we don't mail each month. We greatly appreciate you for signing up for the 'email only' list and reducing our administrative costs.

Now, some of you send us a note from time to time saying that you still get paper newsletters although you earlier stipulated email only. Well, if you are a dues-paying member, we send a paper newsletter when it is time for you to renew your membership. We also include the renewal form and a return envelope for your use.

We send the renewal notice 1 or 2 months in advance of your expiration date – and FWIW each renewal notice costs about 85 cents to produce and mail. The newsletter label reveals if you are on our ‘Email only’ list – or ‘Postal mail’ list. There is a **big E** at the upper right corner of your mailing label for ‘email only’ members – a **big M** for postal mail members.

Just so you’ll know, we also send the email newsletter to many folks who are not members. They had visited our web site and asked to be on the E-list. That E-list of members and non-members is now over 700.

Carter Hill Battlefield Park Update

Last month we reported that the ‘Flower Shop’ Lovell house just south of the Carter House site on Columbia Avenue would be dismantled and removed during December. Some pavement and trees were removed but, alas, the structure still stands.



The Lovell house (flower shop) will be dismantled and removed in January. The Carter House is beyond the white fence in the background to the right.

The contractor now estimates that the work will get done in January. This land is roughly the site of the Carter garden. The main trench line is roughly where the cameraman is standing, and the retrenchment line is just this side of the white fence.

Fort Negley Tree Cutting Questioned

In November, the Metro Parks Dept removed almost all trees and undergrowth from the Fort Negley fortifications on the south side of downtown. Their action was part of a 2007 comprehensive plan to improve and repair Fort Negley. One of the plan’s elements was to restore the Civil War era appearance of the historic fort built in late 1862.



Present-day Fort Negley summit as it appears after the tree removal as seen from the Visitors Center

Metro Horticulturist Jennifer Smith was not aware of the plan to remove the trees and undergrowth and advocated for a plan to replace the trees – some in the fort, but most into the surrounding neighborhoods. To help steer this vegetation plan, parks officials have committed to involving groups such as the Metro Tree Advisory Committee, the Nashville Tree Foundation and the Cumberland River Compact. New plantings will protect the view shed, and will not cause future damage to the Fort.



Post-tree view of Fort Negley looking east from across I-65. The Fort can now be plainly seen by drivers on I-65 north at about Wedgewood Blvd

Restoring the Civil War appearance of the Fort was not the only goal of the tree removal. Volunteer trees and undergrowth are the greatest danger to masonry excepting earthquake, and their removal greatly reduces that danger.

The now-visible fort will become its own best salesman. Drivers on I-65 north can now plainly see the Fort Negley fortification where before it was just a forested hill. Visitor Center staff have already reported that some visitors have said they stopped in because they saw the fort from I-65.

The 2007 Comprehensive plan also called for walking trails around the fort and planked walkways inside the fortification. These have been mostly completed and done in a way that discourages dirt bikes and climbing on the earthworks.

Look for Fort Negley the next time you drive I-65 – you will be pleased.

House Removed from Turnpike Fort In Franklin

This just in - City officials report that a request to remove the house on the old Turnpike Fort site was approved and the house is gone. No development plan was submitted. This hill is just north of the Factory on the east side of Franklin Road. It was the northwest corner of the Fort Granger installation built by the Federal Army in spring 1863. During Hood's Retreat from Nashville on Dec 17, 1864, two Confederate guns were placed in this fort to hold Wilson's Federal cavalry at bay.



Looking east from Harlensdale Farm to the Turnpike Fort hill just beyond Franklin Road



Looking west from turnpike Fort out over Harlensdale Farm. On Dec 17, Confederate gunners saw thousands of Wilson's cavalry coming across this ground



Looking east from the turnpike fort along the hills on the north boundary of the Ft Granger complex. Roper's Knob is in the distant center and the white water tank midway.

We plan to talk with the property owner to see if there is a way to save the history and view shed of this fort as part of any development plan

News In Review December 2016

152nd Battle of Franklin Anniversary Illumination — Williamson Herald — 12/1/16 — FRANKLIN

— An illumination ceremony to commemorate the 152nd anniversary of the Battle of Franklin was held Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016, in Franklin. City parks director Lisa Clayton and city administrator Eric Stuckey spoke at Carter Hill, while Mayor Ken Moore and Eric Jacobson spoke across the street at the Carter House, signifying the importance of both sites. Luminaries lined the boundary between the two historical sites marking the boundary of the Federal line, while officials read the names of the fallen and injured during the battle.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2016

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)		
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