



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

February 2016

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

Great day for Preservation and the City of Franklin. Earlier this week a key parcel of land has been acquired and will be preserved for posterity. This property is a significant acquisition that will form part of the Carter Hill Park in the center of the City of Franklin. Local entities, state agencies and the Civil War Trust have made this possible. See more in this newsletter.

This acquisition was possible through the special relationship that exists between the public and private sectors of this community. Such a relationship is rare and we in Franklin are very lucky that City Government shares our vision and is extremely supportive of these efforts. In 2014, tourism had a significant \$407 million impact on the local economy, and resulted in tax savings of \$475 per county household. We continue to make plans for future tours of properties that played a key role in the Battle of Franklin and the subsequent Retreat from Nashville. Keep looking for future dates for these tours.

Early voting has begun here in Williamson County. We need to insure that we continue to get the necessary support for preservation from our elected officials; so be sure that you exercise your right to vote.

Visit our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Battle.1864>), please continue to support our webpage and follow us on Facebook.

Dan Mora – President

New & Renewing Members January 2016

Ernie & Nell Bacon	Franklin, TN
Scott Campbell	Harvest, AL
Dorothy Carter	Nolensville, TN
Karen Stein Daniel	Albuquerque, NM
Thomas & Judy Dickerson	Montgomery, AL
Scott & Gudrun Dunt	Hudson, IL
Dennis & Kathleen Garoutte	Bloomington, MN
Bobby Hargrove	Franklin, TN
Bob & Nell Harvey	Pittsburg, CA
Matthew Hooks	Leechburg, PA
Nick Kaup	Northbrook, IL
Don & Roni King	Brentwood, TN
Hal Litchford	Orlando, FL
Sherry Male	Nashville, TN
Carroll and Jane Moore	Brentwood, TN
Dan & Linda Mora	Franklin, TN
William D Mosley	Franklin, TN
Sharon Murray	Martinsburg, WV
Nick Romer	Franklin, TN
Dave & Carolyn Rousculp	Marietta, GA
Scott & Kathy Speedy	Franklin, TN
Janice Spillman	Brentwood, TN
Staley Family Trust	Diamond Bar, CA
Bo & Lillian Stewart	Franklin, TN
Earnest Wade	Loganville, GA
Mike Walker	Franklin, TN
Barry Wasser	Leesburg, VA
Jerry Wildenhaus	Dayton, OH

Purchase of Lovell Property Closes: Carter Hill Battlefield Park now Under Construction

On February 10, the City of Franklin and its local and national preservation partners met at City Hall

to sign the legal papers necessary to buy the two Lovell properties just south of the Carter House. Just as important, the agreements also transferred six parcels, currently owned by various non-profit groups, to the City Parks department. The Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen had unanimously approved the purchase at their regular February 9 meeting the prior evening.

Once the buildings and utilities are moved/removed from the Eley and Lovell properties, they too will be transferred to Franklin City Parks. The Pizza Hut site at Columbia and Cleburne was purchased by the City of Franklin in 2005 and is already included in the Carter Hill Battlefield Park.

The actual legal closing was held Wednesday Feb 10 with just the required principals in attendance. A Ceremonial closing was repeated on Thursday Feb 11 so that many members of the local 'preservation choir' who have long-labored in the many volunteer groups could be part of the proceedings.



As the closing agent, Franklins Charge Founder Julian Bibb explains each step of the procedure to the many closing participants



Reid and Brenda Lovell sign documents as Chuck Isaacs of Farmer's and Merchant's Bank looks on

After the formal signing proceedings, Julian asked several in attendance for their comments about the soon-to-be Carter Hill Battlefield Park. As you might expect, a few of the speakers had to pause briefly as they spoke, and there were many damp eyes in the room. All expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the years of effort by the national, state and local preservation groups, and for the willingness of the City of Franklin to find a way to have such a park at long last.

Reid Lovell reminded all that he grew up in Franklin, lived near the Advanced Federal line, and attended the Battle Ground Academy next door. When he and Brenda acquired the flower shop years ago, they knew they somehow had to find a way for the property to be incorporated into a battlefield park.

Parks Director Lisa Clayton said that her department had already done some preliminary work on the Park, especially the grading and identifying the vegetation to be removed. She hopes to have preliminary design of walkways and the parking area in the near future for public review.

State Historian and Executive Director of the National Heritage Area program at MTSU Dr Van West reported that his staff has the interpretive materials for the Carter Hill Battlefield Park in near final form, and is prepared to immediately begin work with the Parks Dept. The NHA has offered to fund the interpretive signage as their contribution to this historic preservation project. They will also provide new signage for Fort Granger as well.



To commemorate the new park, Julian Bibb presents City Manager Eric Stuckey and Parks Director Lisa Clayton with cannon balls

CWT Chairman Emeritus Mike Grainger said that Franklin was the shining example of how cities and local groups can work with the CWT in a joint effort to

reclaim battlefields. The Trust has generous donors who can assist local projects, and staff who can find National Parks Service Grants for up to half the price of qualifying battlefield parcels. In fact, Mike & Donna were the leaders among donors for the Lovell purchase.



Civil War Trust Chairman Emeritus Mike Grainger addresses the attendees after the closing ceremonies

In his comments, Mike reminded the group that heritage tourism is good for local business, local employment and brings tax revenue to Franklin. "That is all good," he said, "but it is not the reason we save battlefields. No, we save battlefields because our collective grandfathers on both sides performed great acts of courage and selflessness on this very land, and they suffered mightily. We must keep these places forever in order to tell their story to the generations to come."



All the paperwork is done and the Carter Hill Battlefield Park is finally here.

Editor's note:

The Lovell parcel is actually just the most recent land purchase for the Carter Hill Battlefield Park. The very first closing reported in this newsletter was the "Blue House" at 109 Cleburne Street (cotton gin site).

It was purchased in 1997 by the Heritage Foundation. **And 19 years later**, it was transferred to City Parks as part of today's package. See June 1997 STFB newsletter at

<http://franklin-stfb.org/STFB1997-06.pdf>

Reported in June 1997.:

Said Heritage Foundation Executive Director **Mary Pearce**, "The Foundation's Land Trust is working to reclaim key battlefield sites along Columbia Avenue. This is an exciting first step."

Also reported at that time:

"We hope this will be the first step of a major project, a way to begin the process by which the entire battlefield park acquisition becomes a reality," said **Julian Bibb**, outgoing President of the Heritage Foundation and one of a group of civic leaders spearheading the project. "This is the first piece of property that's become available to buy, and it's a particularly important one. This site was in the thick of the fighting, and has a strong relationship to the Carter House."

News In Review February 2016

Franklin's Natchez area featured at February Civil War Round Table — Williamson Herald — 1/20/16 — FRANKLIN — The Franklin Civil War Round Table's February presentation highlighted an often overlooked area of the Battle of Franklin, the Natchez area plain west of The Carter House. On Sunday, Feb. 14, Franklin alderman and preservation activist Pearl Bransford led the discussion, along with local author and historian, Thelma Battle. Williamson County historian Rick Warwick assisted in the presentation with his unique knowledge of Franklin's rich and diverse communities.

Closing documents signed to acquire Carter Hill Battlefield Park property — Williamson Herald — 2/11/16 — FRANKLIN — Franklin's Charge and The Battle of Franklin Trust signed closing documents to purchase property along Columbia Avenue that's historically significant in the Battle of Franklin's role in the Civil War. The signing came on the heels of the Franklin Board of Mayor Aldermen's approval of the city's contribution of \$1.5 million over seven years as part of the funding for the project. The properties acquired total an investment of \$6.8 million and include the "Blue" house, the Holt property, Carter Garden property, the Fudge property, the Neil property, and the Cameron property.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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February 2016

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	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase (circle one)		
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	"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	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Ft. Donelson" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Stones River" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
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