



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

January 2016

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

As we enter this New Year, we look forward to making additional preservation gains. We also hope to be able to showcase some of the success we have had over the years. We plan to do battlefield tours throughout the year so you can see some of the properties that are not on the beaten path. Watch this space for details.

We have recently learned that Thompson Station's planned growth and development is not on US 31 and will not adversely impact the West Harpeth Battlefield as we feared. Hopefully the gateway to the city will serve to showcase the events that transpired on those hallowed grounds. Let them know that you would support recognition of the events that occurred on these hallowed grounds.

Our city, county, state and national representatives are key to our continued preservation success. Be sure to support candidates who support battlefield preservation in Williamson County. Your vote counts so take your responsibility seriously.

As always we thank you for your continued support toward our preservation efforts. Visit our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Battle.1864>), please continue to support our web page and follow us on Facebook.

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New & Renewing Members December 2015

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Valley Corps Confederate Vols	Durand, IL
Orange County CWRT	Garden Grove, CA
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Mike Grainger	Franklin, TN
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Thomas Tarp	Brentwood, TN
Thomas Vaughn	Pell City, AL
Ridley Wills	Nashville, TN
Billy Lou Wright	Nolensville, TN

20th Maine, Company F Helps Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

Recently, Paul Timmerman wrote to say that the 20th Maine, Company F of Snoqualmie, WA (near Seattle) had awarded Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc their annual Color Bearer Award for 2015.

Paul is a Captain in Company F and a long-time member and supporter of STFB. The Citation, in part, reads “This organization, among others, is instrumental in not only supporting Franklin Battlefield Preservation, but actually reclaiming battlefield land.” Paul added that he, Rich, Bob, and Chris were all in Franklin last fall for the 150th Battle Anniversary events, and are proud to say they are among the very last folks to ever see the Dominos Pizza shop on the battlefield. The Award comes with a \$100 donation, and the STFB Board assures the 20th Maine that their gift will be used to “buy dirt” on the Franklin Battlefield. A big STFB Thank You goes to our good friends in Snoqualmie.

Update on the Lovell Property Purchase

The purchase of the two Lovell properties just south of the Carter House for \$2.8 million is slowly coming to completion. The American Battlefield Protection Program grant has been received by the City of Franklin, and the final details of bank loans and City funds will be added to the paperwork for approval by the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

This commercial 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 CWT.



The two Lovell houses are located just south of the Carter House (red brick house on right)

During the last 15-20 years, local preservation groups and the CWT have purchased and currently own seven individual parcels of the Franklin battlefield near the

Carter House. As part of the Lovell purchase, all of these parcels will be donated free and clear to the City Parks Dept. When the structures and utilities are moved or removed from the Lovell properties, they too will transfer to the City. Including the Lovell property, the total purchase prices paid for all of these battlefield properties is roughly \$6.8 million

To get this \$6.8 million in parkland, the City will pay \$1.5 million over seven years. These payments will not use sales tax or property tax revenues. Instead, they would come from a portion of the Hotel/Motel tax revenues paid by our visitors.

The Franklin City Parks Department would then maintain this consolidated Carter Hill Battlefield Park of about 20 acres. The donated parcels would not include the Carter House, Carnton Plantation, or the Lotz House. However, if and when other adjoining battlefield parcels were purchased in the future, they would be added to the City Parks as well.



Rendering of Future Carter Hill Park

The Lovell property is pictured above as part of the restored Carter Garden just west of Columbia Avenue. The main Federal trench line was near the southern boundary of the garden and the second, retrenchment line was across the northern edge.

As additional donated component to the plan, the National Heritage Area Office at MTSU has funded the interpretative signage for the consolidated Carter Hill Park. Much of that work has been done and will be installed when the parcels transfer to the City. Also, the Parks Dept has guided the grading and seeding of the Park area and marked the trees to be trimmed or removed. Again, once those parcels transfer to the City, that landscaping work will begin.

A very generous donor has offered to rebuild the

cotton gin on the original site. But now that actual planning has begun, experienced preservation planners are suggesting that the original cotton gin foundation be kept as a relic – and that a steel girder outline be built over the foundation that shows the size and location of the original cotton gin. Nothing is decided yet.



A January 2015 view of the Carter Hill Battlefield Park looking just east of north. The Pizza Hut, Dominos and Blue House are now missing. The cotton gin foundation is at tree line near the house at right.

A firm closing date has not been set, but may be scheduled as early as February or March.

A True Relic Returns to Franklin Capt. Tod Carter's Pass

As Capt. Tod Carter cautiously approached his family home on the morning of November 30, 1864, he was motioned away by a family member, is the story told by grandniece, Rosalie Carter. A day or two earlier, when nearing Spring Hill, Capt. Carter had requested a pass to visit his home in Franklin, a short distance away.

A few days ago, the Battle of Franklin Trust CEO, Eric Jacobson, excitedly announced that the organization has uncovered the original pass given to Carter to visit his home.

On Nov. 28, 1864, Capt. Tod Carter received written permission in the form of a pass signed by Brigadier Gen. Thomas Benton Smith to go ahead of the regiment and visit his family in Franklin. The Battle of Franklin broke out on Nov. 30, soon after Carter had rejoined his unit. He was shot and mortally wounded about 525 feet from his home to which he

was carried, dying two days later.

“This story has such a critical historic significance,” Jacobson said. “This pass is deeply connected to The Carter Family and further tells their story.”

News In Review January 2016

Military veteran Sam Whitson of Franklin plans to challenge Durham for 65th House seat — Williamson Herald — 1/5/16 — FRANKLIN —

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Sam Whitson of Franklin confirmed that he plans to run for the Tennessee House of Representatives, 65th District, seat in the August Republican Primary and the November Williamson County General Election. The Whitson's civic endeavors in Franklin and across Williamson County include Franklin battlefield and historic preservation efforts. He currently serves as chairman of the city of Franklin's Battlefield Preservation Commission and was past chairman of the Carter House State Historic Site. Whitson led and organized a 2014 campaign to remount the four Civil War era cannons on Franklin's Public Square. Whitson also is helping to create the Carter Hill Battlefield Park on Columbia Avenue as secretary of Franklin's Charge, a volunteer battlefield reclamation group.

Franklin's Charge receives \$1,500 donation for preservation efforts — Williamson Herald — 1/8/16 — FRANKLIN —

Robert Lee Hodge, leading Civil War re-enactor and filmmaker, presented Franklin's Charge with a \$1,500 donation at the Franklin Theater where his film Emmy Award-winning documentary, “The Battle of Franklin” has been shown multiple times. He is the catalyst for reviving battlefield reclamation in Franklin 15 years ago when he donated \$22,000 to Save the Franklin Battlefield for the down payment on Lot 1 on Lewisburg Pike, what is now known as Collins Farm.

The Battle of Franklin Trust announces new board of directors — Williamson Herald — 1/8/16 — FRANKLIN —

The Battle of Franklin Trust has announced a new board of directors for 2016, following several months of work to merge three organizations into one. Previously, there was a board of directors for Carnton Plantation, The Carter House and The Battle of Franklin Trust. There is now a single board of directors for The Battle of Franklin Trust. The new board includes five members from each of the pre-existing boards.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



January 2016

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

Name (s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

QTY	Item	Price	Total
	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	
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STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.