



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

January 2017

www. franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

Much is happening in the Franklin preservation world these days. The Carter Hill Battlefield Park is slowly becoming a reality with the removal of the flower shop buildings, plus signage and cannons will soon be added. And the trench line markers will happen this year. All is well.

But many here are feeling a shift in the preservation tectonic plates, maybe even a troubling disturbance in the Force. You see longtime Heritage Foundation Executive Director Mary Pearce recently announced she plans to retire at the end of April. Many of us are unsure what to do or say.

Mary came to Franklin 30 years ago and immediately started work to improve the appearance of downtown Franklin and then added streetscape initiatives elsewhere. She began organizing and promoting theme street festivals to encourage tourism.

She was a founding Board member of STFB in 1989, and later the City's Battlefield Task Force and Franklins Charge too. She stayed on these Boards and guided the teams until they could remove the training wheels. She led the effort to open and promote Fort Granger and the Heritage Foundation purchase of the Cotton Gin site – the seeding kernel of the Carter Hill Battlefield Park. (see STFB newsletter [June 1997](#)). She promises to stay in Franklin and check our training wheels when needed. Let's hope so. Thank you Mary, for your wise leadership.

Dan Mora – President

New & Renewing Members December 2016

James Atkinson	Brentwood, TN
Thomas & Rebecca Bowers	Dahlonega, GA
Scott Campbell	Harvest, AL
Dorothy Carter	Nolensville, TN
Mrs David Cofrin	Gainsville, FL
Valley Corps Confederate Vols	Durand, IL
Jim Creecy	Nashville, TN
Orange County CWRT	Garden Grove, CA
Catherine Dougherty	Ovilla, TX
James Lighthizer CWT	Washington, DC
Beverly Eckley	Livermore, CA
Roger & Margaret Futrell	Frankfor,t KY
Donald Garrison	Franklin, TN
Michael Grainger	Franklin, TN
John Halliday	Benicia, CA
Kirk Hinman	Lakewood, OH
Matthew Hooks	Leechburg, PA
Albert Lind	Poland, OH
Fred Prouty	Old Hickory, TN
Paula McCord	Franklin, TN
Jeff Mann & John Ross	Pulaski, TN
Carroll & Jane Moore	Brentwood, TN
Tony & Sheila Morreale	Franklin, TN
Stan & Suzanne Pierre	Franklin, TN
John & Teresa Rutledge	Franklin, TN
Ridley Wills	Nashville, TN

Franklin Trench Line Markers On the Way

During the November 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin, Federal troops had dug and barricaded a trench line arcing around the southern edge of Franklin. The trench line had been laid out and partially constructed when Federal forces occupied

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Franklin in the spring of 1863. The breastwork was to defend against the attacking Confederates who stormed this formidable barrier. The trench was anchored on the Harpeth River to the east of the town and stretched for about a mile to the Harpeth River to the northwest of downtown Franklin. The line crossed today's major streets at the 200 Block of Lewisburg Ave., to the south side of the Carter Cotton Gin at Columbia Ave., the 1000 Block of W. Main St., the 200 Block of New 96W, and through what is now Mt. Hope Cemetery.

The City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission has an active project to acquire markers for all current streets that cross the 1864 trench. The markers are four-and-a-half foot concrete obelisks, and are marked with the words FEDERAL LINE.

The markers will first be installed on the Franklin City streets, and then later on the State and Federal Highways once all of the more stringent right-of-way arrangements are met.



The 4-foot concrete trench markers are made to easily break-away if struck by a vehicle

Once installed, the markers will be a daily visual reminder to both Franklin residents and our visitors alike that they are driving on a Civil War battlefield. With all of the buildings and trees that have risen on the battlefield over the years, it is very difficult for today's visitors to understand exactly where the battle is located. The plan is for the markers on Franklin City streets to be in place before year-end 2017.

Replica Cannons Planned At Carter Hill Battlefield Park

The 501(c)(3) Franklins Charge preservation group has organized the Cannons on the Battlefield Committee and authorized it to raise funds for six guns to be placed at the Carter Hill Battlefield Park. The initial effort will be to acquire four replica 3" ordnance rifles to be placed at the main trench line just east of Columbia Pike. Once the interpretive plan for the cotton gin site is decided upon, two 12-pound Napoleons will be acquired and placed near that location to depict the Federal guns at that part of the line.



The gray gravel (near tree) marks the main Federal trench line east of Columbia Pike where the four ordnance rifles of the 1st Kentucky light artillery were positioned facing south, away from the reader.

The 1st Kentucky fired over Wagner's advanced line into the Confederate formations near the Merrill Farm – about a mile distant. Shortly thereafter, the mixed stampede of Confederates and Wagner's men overran the battery. The Confederates tried to turn and fire the guns into the Federal troops but their plans were thwarted by the Kentucky boys who carried away all the friction primers, just as they were trained to do in that situation.

The general plan is to have a 3-point concrete foundation for each gun and to have replica carriages exactly like those on the Franklin Square. Those concrete foundations and carriages were installed in 2014 to mount the four model 1841 6-pounders that are on permanent loan to Franklin from the U.S. War Department. All who see them comment on their authentic appearance (actually, the tubes are pre-war) and how the Square now clearly announces that

Franklin has a major Civil War history to share. The 3" ordnance rifles on the Carter Hill Battlefield Park will have the same authentic appearance.

The Committee's detailed plans are still being formed, but they hope to install the first ordnance rifle this summer if fund-raising continues to be successful, and to add one per year thereafter. Each gun with carriage costs \$20,000. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

Cannons on the Battlefield
Attn: Frances Regan
604 West Main Street
Franklin, TN 37064

Individuals and groups who would like to sponsor an entire gun and carriage should contact Committee Member and STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman 615-480-9539 sam@capp.org

The Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission and the Franklin Parks Dept are currently drafting a policy to govern the donation of all equipment and signage for the Franklin Battlefield parks. All donations to the parks, including these cannons, will have to conform to that policy when published.



A 3" ordnance rifle example. This wrought iron gun was a favorite with artillerymen in both armies - lightweight, safe from bursting, and extremely accurate at long range. The 1st Kentucky battery had 4 of these guns at Franklin.

Flower Shop Dismantling Underway

Work began in mid-January to dismantle and remove the flower shop just south of the Carter House. The outbuildings seen to the rear of the flower shop will also be moved or demolished as part of this project. A second house just south of the flower shop was moved in late 2016 to a farm west of Franklin. When the buildings are gone, the utilities and paved parking areas around the flower shop will be the next to go. An archeological survey of the entire property will be done before the lot is graded and seeded.

When that work is finished, Franklins Charge and the Civil War Trust will deed the land to the City of Franklin for inclusion in the Carter Hill Battlefield Park.



The contractor has begun dismantling the Flower Shop just south of the Carter House outbuildings.

News in Review January 2017

Jacobson receives special award for Battle of Franklin preservation efforts — *Williamson Herald* — 12/22/16 — FRANKLIN — Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric Jacobson recently received the Tennie Pinkerton Dozier award from the Save the Franklin Battlefield organization. Each year, the organization presents this award to an individual who has made a long-term, compelling commitment to battlefield preservation efforts in Williamson County.

Heritage Foundation's Pearce, driving force for preservation, announces retirement — *Williamson Herald* — 10/13/16 — FRANKLIN — Mary Pearce, longtime executive director of The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, has advised the board she is retiring effective at the end of April 2017 after serving the organization for 30 years. Pearce is known to many as the "driving force" and "visionary" of historic preservation imbued with relentless dedication that has changed the face of the community she has cherished for three decades in her position. Some of Pearce's accomplishments include saving Roper's Knob, championing Streetscape, the purchase and renovation of the Franklin Theatre and the Old, Old, Jail, the recent purchase of the Maury-Darby building on the Public Square, and the organization being recognized nationally as a leader in preservation.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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January 2017

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