



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

September 2018

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

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President's Message

In this month's newsletter, you will find the latest public newspaper articles on the current discussion over telling the "fuller story" about the slave trade that was conducted on the Franklin Square, and the role of the roughly 300 USCT (United States Colored Troops) who were from Franklin and Williamson County. It's quite an interesting and provocative discussion and deserves your attention.

Make sure to keep the November 15 date open to attend the STFB Annual Meeting. This year we will present our Tennie Pinkerton Dozier Preservation Award to two recipients with long pedigrees of preservation initiatives.

Tennie was the daughter of a Confederate veteran, married a Confederate Veteran and was key to organizing the UDC Chapter in Franklin. She worked tirelessly in the 1890-1925 era to establish a Battlefield Park in Franklin, organizing a Battlefield Committee and petitioning her Congressmen for assistance. She did not establish a park, but she did leave us a baton of tough persistence that each preservation group after her picked up and advanced as far as they could, before passing the baton to the next group in the long relay. She was an inspiration.

In Nashville, at Fort Negley Park, the city continues to move toward tearing down the old Greer Stadium and returning the land to the Fort Negley Park. Really good news.

Chip Huffman – President

New and Renewing Members August 2018

Wayne Anderson	Raymond, MS
Ed Bearss	Arlington, VA
David Berry	Jacksonville, FL
Angela Calhoun	Franklin, TN
The Carter House	Franklin, TN
Brandywine Valley CWRT	West Chester, PA
Cape May County CWRT	Del Haven, NJ
Hoosier Blue & Gray CWRT	Connersville, IN
Salt Creek CWRT	Glen Ellen, IL
Jim Danley	Germantown, TN
Col Bob Dennison	Brentwood, TN
Fort Negley Visitor Cntr	Nashville, TN
Michael Green	Tulare, CA
Nell & Bob Harvey	Pittsburg, CA
Tom & Jackie Jensen	Nelson, NE
Dot Kelly	Knoxville, TN
Drs Dahk & Jan Knox	Mosheim, TN
Ben Nance	Nashville, TN
Billie Ruth Nanney	Clarksville, TN
Mary Ann Peckham	Reliance, TN
Stephanie Phelan	Ocala, FL
Howard Reich	Laguna Woods, CA
Don Sawyer	Rochester, NY
19 th Virginia Vol Inf	Monroe Twp, NJ
Barry Wasser	Leesburg, VA
Sam & Pam Whitson	Franklin, TN
Jerry Wildenhaus	Dayton, OH

**Save The Date
STFB Annual Meeting
November 15, 2018**

We are putting final touches on the STFB Annual Meeting and dinner arrangements. The meeting will be in Otey Hall at Saint Paul's Episcopal

Church in Franklin. Other details and registration instructions will be available in October. Our after dinner speaker will be Tina Cahalan Jones who has done much recent research on local USCT lineage. Registration details to follow. See you there.

Year-End Gift Planning Reminder

As you plan your year-end giving, please keep STFB in mind. We still have plans to buy additional battlefield parcels and we will most likely be responsible for their upkeep and maintenance. There is still much to do and we need your help.

Salt Creek CWRT Marker at Forward Line Damaged and Repaired



The cast aluminum marker at the Union forward line was donated to the battlefield in 2001 by the Salt Creek CWRT (Wheaton, Illinois near Chicago).

A concerned citizen called us August 23 to say our marker at the Federal Forward Line on Columbia Pike was broken off and on the ground. STFB Board Member Mike Skinner was dispatched to assess the situation and circulate photos. A quick call to Williamson County Historian Rick Warwick, who supervises the marker program, set the repair action afoot. Rick had seen damaged markers before and asked the Williamson County Highway Department to see if they could help. They could and did. Their repair shop can weld cast aluminum – not all shops can do that. They had the marker repaired and re-installed by August 31 – a BIG STFB thank-you to all !!

This marker was funded by the Salt Creek CWRT in [November 2001](#). This was not the first time the CWRT aided STFB. In [January 1999](#), the group named Franklin as their Preservation Project for 1999 and 2000. They raised money to help purchase Collins Farm and scheduled tours and events in Franklin. You can

read more about the Salt Creek CWRT efforts in STFB newsletters [August 2000](#) [January 2001](#) [September 2001](#) [October 2001](#)

Editor's Note: You can search the [STFB newsletter archive on our web site](#) with Ctrl-F. A search box will pop up and you can use the up-down arrows to search-again. We are missing a few newsletter issues. Let us know if you have the MIA newsletters.

Battlefield Preservation Commission votes to support 'The Fuller Story' concept

By **Kerri Bartlett** • Managing Editor Williamson
Herald Sept 14, 2018
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The architects of a plan to erect historic markers to tell "The Fuller Story" on the plight of African American slaves and the bravery of U.S. Colored Troops in Franklin got one more vote of support Thursday.

The Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission voted unanimously in support of the proposed Fuller Story "concept" plan.

At-large battlefield commissioner Clay Perry made a motion for the commission to support the Fuller Story "concept" plan, which would include the installation of four historic markers somewhere on Franklin's Public Square, as well as a USCT statue somewhere in Franklin.

"I am really excited about this project and am thankful for this group coming together to lead it," Perry said.

"We do live in a great place, a great community with great people, and there is certainly a richer, fuller story to tell coming out now after a lot of effort ... All of us in this community are a part of this history. Thank you for leading that charge and running with it with passion."

Three Franklin pastors Kevin Riggs, Chris Williamson, Hewitt Sawyers and historian Eric Jacobson, who also serves on the Battlefield Commission, spent a year conversing and devising a plan to present a more thorough history of slavery in Franklin.

City files lawsuit to determine ownership of Public Square

Following the four men's proposal at a Franklin Board

of Mayor and Aldermen meeting last month, controversy arose between the city and the United Daughters of the Confederacy over who owns the land on Franklin's Public Square where the markers would be placed.

In a move to determine ownership once and for all, the city filed a complaint for declaratory judgment Aug. 31 in Williamson County Chancery Court, requesting a judge to determine ownership.

The UDC erected the statue nicknamed "Chip" Nov. 30, 1899, paying \$2,450 for the Vermont granite shaft and marble statue. The UDC claims that they also own the grassy area surrounding the statue where the markers would be placed. Although the organization supports the proposal, it opposes the markers being installed around the statue. The organization threatened legal action through an attorney if any markers are installed on the land.

Location, Location: Commissioners share insights

Conversations about where exactly the markers will be placed on the Square have halted, pending the litigation.

Nashville attorney of 42 years Doug Jones, representing the UDC, suggested that the proposed markers be placed at other locations on the Square such as near the old courthouse where the market place once took place, for example.

However, the four architects of the proposal prefer for the markers to provide context for the Civil War statue by being placed on the grassy or concrete area surrounding the statue.

Although no decisions have been made on the placement of the markers, the four men and battlefield commissioners agreed that location is important.

"Of the comments I've heard, it's about location of the [markers] not as much about the [markers] themselves. I really believe a lot of that is about education and explaining to people why it's important that they are on the square," said battlefield commissioner Rick Buckner.

Franklin Preservation Planner Amanda Rose agreed.

"It's difficult to maintain the attention span of the average person and provide that information to them in a meaningful way in order to digest it ... You have to put those in places where people are going to be," Rose said, following a conversation about the placement of the markers and the limited words (a little over 200 words) that can be used on the historic marker.

"We have to put that information not only where the people will be but where those incidences occurred."

Battlefield commissioner Alma McLemore said she hopes Franklin can set a positive example for the rest of the country in how it approached this project.

"People look to Williamson County and Franklin for so many things," battlefield commissioner Alma McLemore said. "We are on the top ten lists of so many good things every time you look around. We can be that for this effort. We want to do it, and we definitely want to do it right so that the whole country can look at us and say they did it right."

McLemore, who also serves the Franklin African American Heritage Society, said the organization fully supports the proposal.

"This is one of the most important meetings I have ever been at since I've been on the commission," Chairman Pam Lewis said.

The four men made a presentation to the commission at the start of the meeting when Jacobson initially explained the importance of the placement of the markers.

"I firmly support this effort and placement does matter," Jacobson said.

"On the ground where the monument stands for [decades] men, women and children were bought and sold in the market house on the courthouse steps in and on the Square. It's a fact, just like it's a fact that Williamson County men served the confederacy. They are absolutely inherently tied to one another. And 300 men plus perhaps served in the United States Colored regiments. My God, what a story. They couldn't even vote, weren't legally free and still wanted to serve."

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will discuss the proposal again at an upcoming meeting after previously voting to delay a decision on the proposal last month.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851

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September 2018

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