



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

June 2019

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Original 125th Reenactment Commemorative Belt Buckles Available from STFB

As noted in a recent newsletter, we found a few dozen brass belt buckles from the 125th Franklin Reenactment in old storage boxes. The event was sponsored by Save The Franklin Battlefield with much assistance from the City of Franklin. The battlefield was the northeast corner of Mack Hatcher and Franklin Road. Today, that area is home to a golf course and a church.

The event was staged on Saturday, December 2, 1989. It was a large reenactment with an estimated 6,000 participants. It was a kick-off event of a campaign to promote the need to save the battlefield at Franklin. It also was the first 'big' event for many neophyte reenactors just getting started in the hobby.

However, the most oft-mentioned memory of the weekend was that it was brutally cold - ten degrees at noon. Fortunately, there was very little breeze and so the cold was bearable.

The buckles are 3" diameter and slightly concave. The names of the five Confederate generals killed during the Battle of Franklin are shown around the periphery of the design.



The back side of the buckle

It will fit belts up to 1-3/4" in width. Each highly detailed buckle is still in its original plastic wrapper. We have about 5 dozen buckles available. The price is \$25 each which includes shipping and handling. The buckle will be shipped in a padded envelope

The raised letters and figures have well defined detail. What appears to be a blemish under the

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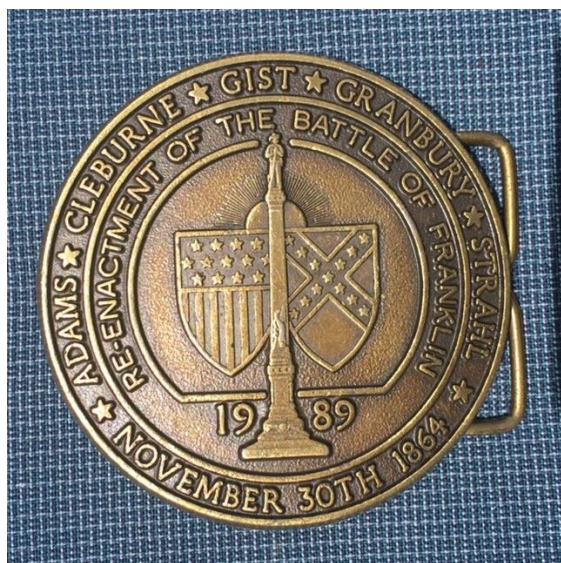


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These are original commemorative buckles from
the 1989 125th Franklin reenactment.

words 'Franklin' and 'Strahl' are just reflections of the bottoms of the raised letters from the low-angle light from the right. The buckles are very nicely done and in new condition.

The vendor who had these made also made a companion paperweight. It was the same design except it was flat with a felt backing. After the event, the vendor donated the remaining buckles and paperweights to Save The Franklin Battlefield and the Heritage Foundation of Franklin to use as fundraising items. We quickly sold out of paperweights. But not to worry, the buckles work perfectly as paperweights.

Please order the 125th Franklin Reenactment Commemorative buckles using the order form on pg 4.

Greer Stadium (now on Fort Negley) Is Being Demolished

Save The Franklin Battlefield is not directly involved in the fight to save property at the Fort Negley site in Nashville. But since The Battle of Nashville is so closely tied with the Battle of Franklin, we feel a unique kinship. We include a short review and update on what's going on with the Greer Stadium Property at Fort Negley.

The City of Nashville bought the Fort Negley site in 1928. The fort masonry was "restored" in 1936 through a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project and the fort was reopened to the public in 1938.



After the Sounds baseball team moved to their new downtown stadium, Greer Stadium sat abandoned for five years

In 1978, The City of Nashville leased a large portion of Fort Negley Park to a group of private investors who built Greer Stadium for the Semi-Pro Nashville Sounds baseball team. When the Sounds moved to a new

downtown stadium in 2014, the future of the Greer Stadium portion of Fort Negley Park became an issue of debate.

In January of 2017, then Mayor Meghan Barry announced plans to lease the property to private investors with plans for a retail and residential development. Reaction from many fronts, including the Preservation Community, was swift and furious. By January 2018, the developers withdrew their offer after archeological studies confirmed the probable presence of African American graves (most likely including laborers who had built the fort) underneath the stadium and the adjoining parking lots.



Demolition equipment begins removing the seating area behind first base line

Incoming Mayor David Briley immediately decided that the Greer Stadium property would be restored to its original and rightful place as a part of Fort Negley Park. The Mayor also pledged funds for demolition of the now dilapidated Greer Stadium.



The left field scoreboard now stands by itself.

We are proud to report that the demolition is now almost complete. The next step will be to determine exactly how the park property will be configured to help future generations of Americans learn about the the American Civil War.

For more information, see the Friends of Fort Negley web site at www.fortnegleypark.org A map is posted at Fort-Negley-Visitor-Map-2015.pdf

Lotz House Releases Hatch Show Print Commemorating 155th Anniversary Of The Battle Of Franklin

FRANKLIN, Tenn. — Lotz House released a limited-edition Hatch Show Print to commemorate the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin held November 30, 1864. The image features “Chip” the unknown soldier statue residing in the center of Five Points in downtown Franklin, Tenn.

Lotz House Executive Director J.T. Thompson said, “Our mission at the Lotz House is to protect, preserve and educate people on the history and culture of the historic Civil War Battle of Franklin. This pictorial image is designed to bring light to that historic day nearly 155 years ago that changed our lives in Franklin forever. This limited-edition custom print demonstrates why our history matters.”

The poster reads “Chip On The Old Block” along with a quote from Colonel Virgil S. Murphey, 17th Alabama Infantry, “The Battle of Franklin will live in history...it is a monument, as enduring as time...”

According to Lotz House Historian Thomas Y. Cartwright, “The statue is in honor of the Confederate soldiers who died on the battlefield of Franklin on November 30, 1864 and this limited edition print is also in honor of the gallant Americans who died here on that tragic day.”

The print is available at the Lotz House Gift Shop, on the Lotz House website www.LotzHouse.com and other museums and fine retail stores across Middle Tennessee.

Thompson added, “This is a limited edition print and once they are gone, there won’t be any more available.”

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin in 2014, the Lotz House released a series

of four sesquicentennial posters designed by Hatch Show Print. This poster continues to tell the story of the historic battle.

The Lotz House is located at 1111 Columbia Ave., Franklin, Tenn. For more information call 615-790-7190.



News in Review June 2019

Franklin's Robert Hicks honored with American Battlefield Trust award — Williamson Herald — 5/31/19 — Franklin — During the annual gathering of its members in Lexington, Kentucky, American Battlefield Trust President James Lighthizer recognized outstanding battlefield preservation advocates with the organization’s preservation awards. The 2019 Edwin C. Bearss Lifetime Achievement Award went to Robert Hicks of Franklin. Hicks re-enlivened the community’s spirit of preservation in 2005 through co-founding Franklin’s Charge and has helped the Trust reclaim and restore nearly 200 acres of hallowed ground to date.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851

Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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June 2019

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)		
	Donations: Marker Fund		
	Land Purchase Fund		
	“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	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Shiloh” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
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	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Stones River” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Nashville” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	New - 125 th Franklin Reenactment Belt Buckle – only a few left	\$25.00	
	FREE Shipping	FREE	
	ORDER TOTAL		

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065-0851
STFB Membership is annual. Dues and donations are tax deductible.