



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

March 2019

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

In This Issue

This issue reprints a Williamson Herald article that is a good summary of the issues and discussion around placing new markers on the Public Square to tell the Fuller Story of Franklin's Civil War era. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen has devoted much of their meeting time to study these issues and their findings are included in the article.

Some of you have sent questions and comments about the markers that will be placed on the Square.



The markers will be of this type of Civil War Trail markers that are currently being used in all Franklin Battlefield Parks.

They are about waist high, very sturdy and the printed inserts can be revised and replaced as new information is developed.

The marker on the Square island will be just inside the sidewalk around the island and very near the actual site of the early slave auction. It will be very unobtrusive.

If you have been pleased with the overall battlefield reclamation here in Franklin, come visit the Square and the Fuller Story. You will be pleased with that as well.

New & Renewing Members February 2019

Paul & Nancy Anderson	Franklin, TN
Robert E Lee CWRT	Newton, NJ
Karen Daniel	Albuquerque, NM
Thomas & Judith Derickson	Montgomery, AL
Philip W Duer	Brentwood, TN
Don Duncan	Murray, KY
Michael Duncan	Brentwood, TN
David & Pamela Fay	Franklin, TN
Betsy Hester	Franklin, TN
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Carroll D Moore	Brentwood, TN
Sharon Murray	Martinsburg, WV
Nick Romer	Franklin, TN
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Len Rydell	Danville, VA
Peter Schwartz	Auburn, AL
Tom Sladek	Franklin, TN
Scott & Kathy Speedy	Franklin, TN
Gilbert M Sullivan	Hoover, AL
Thomas Tarpy	Brentwood, TN
Paul Timmerman	Diver, NH
Ernest Wade	Loganville, GA
Mike Walker	Franklin, TN
Craig & Patricia Young	Franklin, TN

UK Civil War Roundtable Donates to STFB for a Cannon

Brendan Meehan recently wrote to us from

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London, England to make a \$500 donation. These funds were raised by the UK American CWRT and are to be used to help buy Federal display cannon for Franklin. This CWRT has sponsored five (we think) tour groups to Franklin in the past 15 years or so and STFB hosted them. Many are on the STFB email list and closely follow all of our preservation projects.

We thank our UK ACWRT friends and will keep them apprised of our progress in acquiring another gun.

Approval of marker placements solidifies African-Americans' place in Franklin history

**By Kerri Bartlett
Managing Editor, Williamson Herald
Feb 27, 2019**

With little discussion and a straight-to-the point vote, the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen on Tuesday unanimously approved the proposed placement of historic markers to tell the “Fuller Story” at Public Square.

The three pastors and a historian, who devised the Fuller Story initiative, were all smiles as they filed into the lobby of City Hall after the vote, followed by over a dozen supporters in celebration. Since last summer, each time BOMA has voted on an aspect of the Fuller Story, supporters of the initiative have packed the board room, wearing T-shirts labeled, “It’s the right thing to do.”

“It took a village. It took a lot of people coming together with like minds and like hearts,” Alderman Pearl Bransford said before the vote. “I am glad we are here tonight to solidify our decision on such an important piece of history for our community,” Alderman Brandy Blanton said.

Last summer, Pastors Kevin Riggs, Hewitt Sawyers and Chris Williamson and Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric Jacobson devised the Fuller Story initiative as a way to deal with Franklin’s past, including its Civil War statue of a Confederate soldier standing in the middle of Public Square.

After the tragedy in Charlottesville, North Carolina, the pastors wanted to act proactively to prevent any future unrest in Franklin.

The four markers

In order to do that and to honor African-American history during the Civil War, the men devised the Fuller Story, which includes the installation of four historic markers around Public Square depicting the

African- American experience during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The four markers will depict historical moments in Franklin, including when United States Colored Troops fought in the Civil War; a riot that took place on the square near what is now Mellow Mushroom, which took the life of one person; information about a slave “Market House” on the old courthouse steps; and the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras, when separate restrooms and water fountains were in Franklin.

The placement of the markers

Also, a life-sized U.S. Colored Troops soldier statue will be erected on a grassy square patch in front of the old courthouse (adjacent to the Mellow Mushroom side patio).

Two markers will be placed around the USCT soldier, one telling about the USCT and another telling about the Reconstruction era. The statue will stand in the place of the existing Civil War Trails “generic” marker, which will be transferred to Carnton Plantation while the USCT statue takes its place, according to Jacobson.

The marker telling the story of the riot in Franklin that took one life, which happened at the site of what is now Mellow Mushroom, will be placed near where it happened.

The “Market House” marker, which raised some questions a few weeks ago at BOMA, will now be installed on the sidewalk of the periphery of center Public Square facing Main Street.

A long journey leads to victory

“Knowing that you worked so hard for something that you know is right from the beginning and see it come to fruition, I’m just happy,” Sawyers said. “Franklin is going to be better off because of this.”

Riggs said Tuesday was a long time coming, but he is also happy. “I feel wonderful,” he said. “It’s been a long journey. Now, the implementation starts. We appreciate the unanimous vote, which says a lot.”

After a yearlong conversation, the men first introduced the proposal last August, and since a lawsuit has ensued between the City and the United Daughters of the Confederacy over which entity owns the square’s center, or the ground on which “Chip,” the Civil War Confederate soldier statue, stands.

The UDC claims they own the grassy small park surrounding Chip, which they bought and erected over 120 years ago. The case is ongoing in Williamson County court, awaiting a judge’s declarative judgment

about ownership.

The city has stayed steadfast in its claim that it is the owner of center square after decades of upkeep and the initial construction of the grassy small public park with sidewalks, installed as part of the streetscape project in the 1980s.

The four co-creators of the Fuller Story originally proposed the “Market House” marker be placed on the grassy area at the base of the Civil War statue. However, some members of BOMA questioned the placement of the marker at the Jan. 22 BOMA meeting due to various reasons, such as sight obstruction. Alderman Dana McLendon said he thought only markers having to do with the war specifically should be placed there.

However, at the following meeting, the aldermen had changed their minds, and McLendon apologized, saying, “I was wrong,” in his perspective. He then went on to fully support the placement of the markers.

However, in the meantime, the co-creators devised a compromise by proposing that the “Market House” marker be placed at the base of center Public Square on the circular sidewalk facing Main Street. It was approved by BOMA Tuesday.

City Administrator Eric Stuckey said although the court case is ongoing, the placement of the marker is on the sidewalk and not the grassy area near the statue. “I cannot speak to the court case, but BOMA voted on what we think needs to be done,” Stuckey said.

Meanwhile, the pastors congregated in the lobby of City Hall, shaking hands, giving hugs and beaming with pride as the city moves forward to fulfill their vision of telling the fuller story of the African-American experience. After a conversation that started more than a year ago, the men have solidified African-Americans’ place in history in Franklin.

Ropers Knob Tour April 27, 2019

Join archaeologists with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology on a hike to Roper's Knob in Franklin, TN, which was the site of a Union fortification and signal station during the Civil War. We will traverse some steep terrain as we work our way to the top of a steep hill where the fortification sits, so be ready for some strenuous hiking. Along the way, we will also stop at the historic Roper's homestead. Both the history and archaeology of the Roper's homestead

and Civil War fortification will be discussed. We will be rewarded at the end with sweeping views of Franklin, TN. This site is owned and managed by the State of Tennessee and the property is not accessible without a state escort.

This tour is open to people of all ages and abilities, just be ready for a short, but steep climb. Please wear appropriate hiking shoes as the trail can be muddy and bring any additional supplies you may need like water, snacks, bug spray, sunscreen, and appropriate clothing.

The tour usually takes around 2 hours to complete. Reservations are required and we can only take 20 people per tour. The cost is \$15 a person and children under 12 are free. Click the [Ticket Link](#) to make your reservation.

We will meet at the end of Reveille Court in Franklin at 9:45 on the morning of April 27th. The cross street is Arsenal drive.

If you have any questions, please contact the tour organizer, Sarah Levithol Eckhardt, at 615-687-4783 or <mailto:sarah.a.levithol@tn.gov>

News in Review March 2019

Final approval: African-American history markers will go in Franklin's square — Williamson—The Tennessean — 2/25/19 — Franklin — Franklin aldermen voted unanimously for the Fuller Story, an initiative to place markers about African-American history in downtown Franklin. The aldermen agreed on a plan to place two African-American history markers in the downtown circle on the sidewalk near the Confederate monument. The remaining three markers and U.S. Colored Troops statue would go on the public square near the historic courthouse.

Preservation grants will add to Civil War battlefield land in five counties — Brentwood Home Page — 2/28/19 — Nashville — The Tennessee Historical Commission and Tennessee Wars Commission announced that they have awarded nearly \$2.5 million dollars in grant funding to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve more than 180 acres of Civil War battlefield land. Funding will match American Battlefield Protection Program funding and will help preserve land associated with the battles of Stones River, Jackson, Chattanooga, Franklin, and Shiloh. The Franklin grant will add land to areas previously preserved, including \$40,000 for a 1.5 acre tract along Lewisburg Pike in Franklin adjacent to the historic Collins Farm.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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March 2019

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