



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

Winter 2023

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

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Important business

At this time we have three important business items that need your attention – see below. Thank you!

STFB Membership Dues

As a reminder, we have changed the STFB membership dues due date to January 31st of each year for all members. Thank you to those who have made their payment.

Annual Membership:
Individual \$20
Family \$30
Corporate \$50.

You can pay by paypal or credit card at <http://www.franklin-stfb.org/>

Otherwise, you can print and mail the Renewal / Order form on last page of this Newsletter.

Board Election

Please cast your vote yes/no on the following slate of candidates to be reelected for a 3 Year Term: Dean Carr, Sam Huffman, Mike Skinner.

It only takes a moment to cast your vote. Click [Election ballot](#), then enter your Email address, click yes/no, and click 'Submit'.

Update your contact information

We are working to make sure we have correct contact information for everyone. If you receive the newsletter by Email, you can check or update your contact information online by clicking on the 'manage your preferences' link at the bottom of your Email. Otherwise, click this [link](#) and enter your Email address and contact information.

Trench Line Marker Update

One history project that has been discussed for many years in Franklin preservation groups is to show where the 1864 Federal trench line is located on a modern street map of Franklin. The primary reason to do this is so that Franklin residents and our visitors can visualize where battle events occurred. Another reason is that the markers will be a constant reminder to local residents during their daily drive around Franklin that they are on a major Civil War battlefield.

After the City created the Franklin Historical Commission a few years ago, the project took form and serious planning started. The general idea was to place a 4 ½ foot obelisk on either side of the nine current-day street that cross the 1864 trench line. The markers would be cast concrete and be vertically engraved with **FEDERAL LINE**. Quotes were received that included a substantial up-front cost for the necessary molds.

Other challenges arose. No one knew precisely where the markers should be placed, so local historians began studying the old maps. Also, some of today's streets are state routes and any roadside structures must meet TDOT specifications. The remaining streets are city streets and the marker placement must conform to city regulations. The street-side property owners may have to give permission to place the marker outside the right-of-way. Whether permission is needed or not, street-side owners must be in agreement with the project in general. It is very difficult to satisfy all of the restrictions before starting any work.

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To jump start the project, STFB volunteered to raise funds to buy the concrete mold and the first two markers. They would be placed in Carter Hill Battlefield Park, which is City property. The exact trench location was confirmed a few years ago by the archeological dig that located the cotton gin site and the main trench line on both sides of Columbia Pike. STFB applied for, and received approval for, two grants from the Sons of Union Veterans.

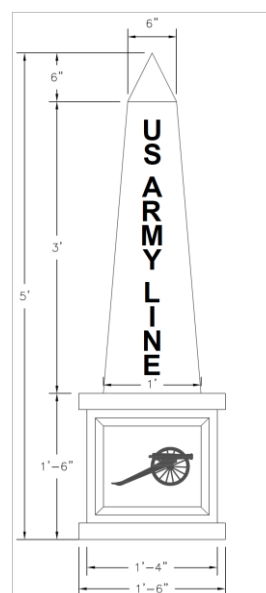
The two demonstration makers would serve to educate the property owners, our future donors, and local government on the appearance and impact of the markers. But before initial orders could be placed, a hurricane destroyed the potential vendor's shop and his recovery would take considerable time.

With the delays, the commission had time to rethink and review the project, and improvements have been made to the plan. The obelisks will now be 5 feet tall with a slightly larger base and be made from limestone. They will be vertically engraved with **US ARMY LINE** on two sides. The new dimensions are aesthetically better, the lettering will be less crowded, and the limestone brighter and more durable than concrete. It turns out that the complications and delays have served to produce a better outcome.

This has always been planned as a public-private undertaking. STFB is still volunteering to place the two demonstration markers so we will reapply for the SUV grants and begin a fundraising effort soon. As soon as the cost estimates are finalized, the Historical Commission as well as other local/state historical groups will provide funding. Project updates will be included in future newsletters.



Photoshop example of the proposed Trench Marker on east side of Columbia Avenue at Carter Hill Battlefield Park



General dimensions and appearance of Trench Marker being considered by the Franklin Historical Commission

The Spring Hill Crossings

The Spring Hill, TN Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) recently approved a 213 Acre Development planned to be built on the Battlefield at Spring Hill. The Development, known as the Spring Hill Crossings, includes approximately 1,600 residential dwelling units, 600 hotel rooms, 535,000 square feet of commercial development, as well as 136,000 square feet designated for a U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) facility, and 17.37 acres of recreational space and will stretch from near Rippavilla on to the Battlefield.

The Battle of Spring Hill, although not technically a part of the Battle of Franklin, took place on November 29, 1864, one day before Confederate Troops assaulted the Union Army south of Franklin. The events that took place in Spring Hill were directly responsible for the carnage that took place the following day in Franklin. Indeed, no history of the Battle of Franklin is complete without an understanding of General John B. Hood's Tennessee Campaign in the fall of 1864. The march from Alabama, the standoff at Columbia, the fiasco that was Spring Hill, the horrific Battle of Franklin, the rout at the Battle of Nashville, and the Confederate retreat to Alabama hounded by Union Cavalry, are all part of one huge story.

The Development will cover a large part of the ground

where Confederate troops swept from Rallye Hill Pike (present day Kedron Rd.) toward the Columbia Pike near Rippavilla. Even Bradley Hill, from where the Confederates received flanking fire from General Bradley's Union Troops and wheeled left to drive them back into the city of Spring Hill is part of the proposed development.

This Development, if allowed to come to fruition, will forever alter the landscape of the Battlefield at Spring Hill. As we learned in Franklin, once development is allowed to take place on a treasured battlefield, the effort to reclaim it is a monumental task!

The Passing of Board Member Samuel C. Gant, Ph.D



Long time STFB board member Dr. Samuel Gant passed away on January 19, 2023.

Sam helped start Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc. and was heavily involved in its work of acquiring historic property such as Collins' Farm and Loring's Advance. He was the 2017 recipient of the STFB Tennie Pinkerton Dozier Award for excellence in Franklin Battlefield preservation.

Beyond his STFB work, he was a member of the Franklin, Tn. Mayor's Battlefield Task Force (BTF), later known as the Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission (BPC). That work included organizing an annual commemorative illumination ceremony with 10,000 candles representing battle casualties. When remains of a Civil War soldier were found on battlefield property and needed to be reinterred in a historic cemetery, Sam served as the chairman of both the BTF Unknown Soldier Sub-Committee and the Burial Committee. The ceremony received national press and media coverage with more than 6,000 attendees.

A member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sam was, at various times, Camp Commander, Department Commander, and Camp Chaplain. He was a member of the National SUVCW policy committee preparing a statement supporting preservation of Confederate monuments. Sam participated in various activities to remember and honor Union soldiers.

Other activities included placing historic markers, presentations, lectures and tours on historic subjects to numerous organizations and dignitaries, articles in historic publications, YouTube video, and portrayals of Civil War era persons of interest.

Sam's funeral was a celebration of a life well lived. His preservation passion was just one facet of his life. There was his Air Force service, his career as an educator (head of the English department at a local college), his leadership in his church, and his personal life - a friend to all. Would that we had more like him.

Fort Negley News

Krista Castillo, Fort Negley Museum Coordinator and Site Manager, has resigned her post after fourteen years of exceptionally devoted service to the Fort Negley site and Metro Parks. She will be sorely missed as she moves on to new opportunities.

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Even though the labor involved in mailing the Newsletter is donated by members of your board, we still spend several hundred dollars every year on postage, printing, paper, labels, etc. That is several hundred dollars that would be better spent in our stated goal of "Buying Dirt"!

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Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851

Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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Winter 2023

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QTY	Item	Price	Total
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	Donations: Marker Fund		
	Land Purchase Fund		
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	ORDER TOTAL		

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STFB Membership is annual. Dues and donations are tax deductible.