

Franklin Battlefield Preservation General Timeline

This document is a work-in-progress. See www.franklin-stfb.org for the latest revision.

- 1866** John McGavock donates two acres near Carnton Plantation for a Confederate Cemetery. Nearly 1,500 Confederate dead are recovered from the battlefield & buried there
- 1899** The Confederate Soldier Monument dedicated on Franklin Square. Tenny Pinkerton Dozier aided the fundraising. She was also instrumental in organizing the United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter #14 and in petitioning Congress to establish a Battlefield Park at Franklin. Sadly, nothing came of it.
- 1913** UDC Chapter #14 forms the Franklin National Park Committee chaired by Mrs N B Dozier. They asked Tennessee's Senators to sponsor a bill to buy battlefield property for a National Park. Congress did not appropriate the funds. See STFB newsletter Jan 1997.
- 1948** Winstead Hill Ridge donated to UDC Chapter #14 by Walter Roberts.
1982 UDC sells the property to the Sons of Confederate Veterans who interpret and maintain this site where Gen. Hood's Headquarters overlooked the battlefield.
1997 City of Franklin buys 63 acres north and west of Winstead Hill as a City Park
- 1951** Carter House purchased by Tennessee Historic Commission as a State Historic Site
1994 The Carter House Association is formed to interpret and maintain the site
- 1971** City buys Fort Granger 14.5 acres
2007 City acquires adjacent 3.43 acre 4-H property in land swap with Williamson County
2014 The property is improved & opened as the new entrance to Fort Granger City Park
- 1974** "Fort Granger (Franklin,TN) : A Study of Its Past and a Proposal for Its Future" is published by Ty L. Dilliplane with a grant from the National Parks Service
- 1978** Dr W D Suggs donates Carnton Plantation and 38 acres to Carnton Association 501©(3) to preserve, restore, and interpret this historic plantation house
1983 Carnton Plantation Association sells 38 acres to State of Tennessee
- 1989** Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc is founded to organize and sponsor the 125th Battle Reenactment northeast of the Franklin Road and Mack Hatcher Pkwy intersection. (weather was brilliant sunshine and 10 degrees)
- 1992** STFB begins monthly newsletter and sends to membership, local governments, State Representatives and Congressmen, libraries, the CWT and APCWS. STFB begins series of public battlefield tours of Fort Granger, Ropers Knob, Confederate Cemetery, Battle of Thompsons Station and lesser know battlefields in the county
- 1992** STFB acquires 1 acre artillery lunette south of Ropers Knob near the intersection of Mack Hatcher Pkwy and Liberty Pike. The lunette is part of the original Fort Granger complex but is now landlocked.
- 1992-1993-1994-1995** The Heritage Foundation and Williamson County Convention Center and Franklin Alderwoman Gale Haddock arranges Annual Preservation Conferences in Franklin with representatives of all local preservation groups, state historical groups, University staff, National Parks Service and ABPP, APCWS and the Civil War Trust. The purpose is to establish contacts and conversation among the local, state and national proponents for reclaiming some part of the Franklin Battlefield. It worked. *A recurring theme of these conferences was that 1) local governments are powerless to assist battlefield preservation unless there is*

broad public support to do so and 2) local groups should stage tours and events to attract and coalesce public support.

- 1994** STFB becomes a 501©(3) tax exempt and begins developing member donors to fund preservation projects. Early projects include Williamson County Historical Markers at the Highway 96 trench line, Cotton Gin Site, the Advanced Line, Opdyck's countercharge, Collins Farm and others.
- 1996** Ropers Knob purchased by Tennessee Wars Commission (22 acre summit) & Heritage Foundation (south flank 43 acres) and by many Friends of Ropers Knob (\$100 each). The south flank is now a City Park.
- 1997** Heritage Foundation buys Cotton Gin (Blue House 109 Cleburne St) ***CHBP**
See June 1997 Newsletter
- 1999** State of Tennessee acquires old Franklin High School gym site adjacent to Carter House in a land swap with Williamson County. The much needed County Community Center is now located in the bottom below the Carter House, and the gym site is added to the Carter House State Historic Site.
- 1999** The Civil War Preservation Trust (**CWPT**) is formed by the unanimously-approved merger of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (**APCWS** - founded 1987) and the Civil War Trust (**CWT** -founded 1991)
- 2011 The name was shortened to the Civil War Trust (**CWT**) and a new logo adopted
- 2000-2001** STFB joins with Heritage Foundation and Harrison House owner to object to new elementary school across from Harrison House. Letter writing, petitions and county commission meetings. CWPT leaders come to help raise profile.
- 2001-2002** STFB joins with Heritage Foundation to object to county plans to place Library on Old BGA campus just south of Carter House. Organized letter writing and petition campaign and many sessions before the county commission. Delivered 2,700 signatures on petitions.
- 2001** STFB buys 3.22 acre Collins Farm and raises funds to pay it off by 2005
- 2007 The Collins Farm site is transferred to City of Franklin and becomes a City Park
- 2001** Lorings Advance LLC formed by nearby local neighbors to purchase an open 5 acre Lorings Advance parcel surrounded by their properties. This parcel is southwest across the RR tracks from Collins Farm
- 2011 Civil War Preservation Trust w/STFB buys the 5 acre Lorings Advance parcel and places a conservation easement on the property
- 2014 Save The Franklin Battlefield Inc acquires a narrow parcel that connects Lorings Advance to Meadowlawn Drive for a maintenance access
- 2002** Lotz House purchased, restored and opened as a Historic House Museum in 2008
- 2002** **Civil War Preservation Trust Press conference in Franklin with The Heritage Foundation and Save The Franklin Battlefield. Jim Lighthizer announces that the CWPT is coming to Tennessee – A Big Day for all of us – the tide that lifted all boats**
CWPT President Jim Lighthizer also encouraged preservations to get involved in politics.
- 2002** Former Franklin Mayor Lillian Stewart recruited 14 preservation candidates to run in the 24 County Commissioner races, and 4 preservation candidates for the 4 at-large City

Alderman seats. *Pam Lewis, Ernie Bacon, Dennis Phillips and Robert Kreibel ran and won all 4 seats. Two years later, Tom Miller was elected Franklin's Mayor. BOMA was now more favorable to preservation projects. Mary Brockman and Peggy Ramano won County Commissioner seats*

2003 STFB publishes Compendium of Civil War Sites for Possible Battlefield Parks

2003 Franklins Charge 501©(3) non-profit is founded. Board has representatives from all local preservation groups and constituencies in order to raise private donations for the \$5 million purchase of the 110 acre Franklin Country Club Golf Course north of Carnton. A Guardian Angel buys & holds golf course until a purchase deal is crafted.

2005 City of Franklin, Civil War Trust, and Franklins Charge buy 110-acre Eastern flank golf course as a City Park

2005 CWPT funds a formal survey of 400 Franklin registered voters. 75% say City of Franklin should do more to preserve battlefield

2005 City of Franklin buys Pizza Hut site at Cleburne & Columbia as a City Park *CHBP

2007 Mayor Tom Miller forms the Battlefield Task Force with volunteers from the various preservation constituencies

2010 The Board of Mayor and Aldermen create the Battlefield Preservation Commission

2009 Remains of Civil War soldier found near Columbia Ave north of Winstead Hill After forensic study, he is buried in Rest Haven as Franklin's Unknown Soldier

2009 Battle of Franklin Trust non-profit corporation is organized to manage and interpret the Carter House and Carnton Plantation sites. The goal is to have a uniform and consistent interpretative program and to share management and staff as needed.

2010-2014 Other CWT deals

Carter Garden – 1 acre connecting Carter House property to Strahl St *CHBP

Holt House – north of Dominos mall bought by CWT & Franklins Charge *CHBP

Fudge House – east of Blue House is purchased and removed *CHBP

Neal House – east of Pizza House is purchased and moved *CHBP

Eley House – east of Neal House to be removed and salvaged *CHBP

Dooley property – three doors north of Advanced line purchased by CWT

Dominos Strip Mall – purchased by CWT, Franklins Charge and other fundraising groups - to be demolished. *CHBP

2013 Car Wash at Advanced Federal Line on Columbia Ave is bought and held off the market by a private LLC

2014 After a one-year public-private fundraising campaign organized by the Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission, Franklin's four pre-war 6-pounders are remounted on replica #1 field carriages on the Public Square

2015 Tennessee Legislature approves funds for Carter House State Historic site to remove old Franklin High gym, build new visitor center and rebuild the parkland around the Carter House

2016 After three years of fundraising, negotiations, and hoop-jumping, the City of Franklin, CWT, Franklins Charge & Battle of Franklin Trust buy the two Lovell properties south of the Carter House *CHBP

2017 All structures and utilities removed from the Lovell properties in preparation for an archeological dig of the main trench line, and transfer to the City Parks Dept

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Last revised – April 6, 2017

***CHBP** – this parcel donated to City of Franklin for Carter Hill Battlefield Park