



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

December 1996

Dedicated To The Preservation, Protection and Promotion Of Civil War Sites In Williamson County, Tennessee

STFB IS ON THE WEB

Sometime before the end of December the Web Site for Save The Franklin Battlefield will go live at www.franklin-stfb.org

Every Internet user in the world will now be able to easily access the STFB web site and learn about the Battle of Franklin - and of the efforts now underway by local civic and government organizations to save some of this important Civil War Battlefield. And of course, we will invite all of our new site visitors to support and join with us in those efforts.

The STFB site will have links to all Franklin area historic, civic and government web sites. This will demonstrate to our web visitors that Franklin is a major Civil War tourist destination. And we'll make it clear that we'd love to have them come see us.

Much of the site content will be devoted to Franklin's Civil War history, and current efforts to preserve battlefield parcels. Where possible the STFB site will also have links to other Civil War sites that maintain reference materials and histories (rosters, casualty lists, etc) of all of the Federal and Confederate units that fought at Franklin.

We hope to someday web publish a short photo history of the Franklin area during the war years and the period shortly thereafter. As you might surmise, we will need your help on this ambitious project.

We will be adding to the site content and design over the coming months and years. We need volunteers with web site authoring skills to give us a hand. If you have ideas, text materials or scanned images to add to the STFB site content, we need your active involvement. We don't yet have access to a scanner for capturing photos and document images. Can you help?

If you can assist with this very important project, call Lynne at 591-1774 or Sam Huffman at 370-3842.

YOU DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER?

Don't despair if you are not yet on the internet. When you learn that a friend or associate has internet access, ask them to show you www.franklin-stfb.org --- they'll be glad you asked.

Or call the computer and/or history teacher at your local high school -- they most likely have access to the net and can do a one-time demo for you. And don't overlook our public libraries. Most of them are now on the web and can access the STFB site. Just don't wear out your welcome.

1997 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Listed below are the STFB Officers and Board Members for 1997. Also, our custom is to invite past officers to serve as STFB Advisors. Please contact them if you need information, or if you would like to get involved with STFB activities.

President	E J Neeley
Exec Dir	Lynne Pope
Vice Pres	Ronny Mangrum
Vice Pres	Peter Schofield
Secretary	Sam Gant
Treasurer	Sam Huffman
Board Member	Herbert Harper
Board Member	David Fraley
Board Member	Bobby T Hargrove
Board Member	Joe Smyth

1997 Advisors	Thomas Cartwright
	Mary Pearce
	Pam Lewis
	Tom Van Dyke
	Chuck Isaacs

THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN IN MEMORIAM

On November 30, at 4:00 p.m., following a brief memorial service, two dozen men dressed in Confederate grey stepped off from Winstead Hill to retrace the two mile march taken by the Army of Tennessee 132 years ago to the day. As they neared the Carter House, the re-enactors broke into a spirited charge and, upon arriving at the site of perhaps the fiercest and bloodiest fighting in the Civil War, they reassembled and fired three volleys in memory of the battle and its participants. The charge to the Carter House culminated a 28 mile march by the re-enactors which began the day before in Columbia.

The ceremonies continued with the dedication of a bronze marker commemorating Brown's Division and a presentation on the back porch of the Carter House by Ms. Edith Elizabeth Pollitz, of Tallahassee, Florida, David Fraley and Thomas Cartwright. The three speakers took turns describing the lives and deaths of the Confederate generals killed at the Battle of Franklin. Thomas Cartwright summed up the moment by challenging anyone to name another moment in history where so many generals on one side had fallen in a single battle.

A large crowd of spectators attended the services at Winstead Hill and roughly two dozen joined the march through the steady rain. Others followed the entourage by auto caravan. After the ceremonies at the Carter House, the attendees were invited to visit the Lotz House where they viewed the exhibits and enjoyed refreshments provided by their host, Ronny Mangrum.

Save the Franklin Battlefield is grateful for the many men and women who remain dedicated to preserving the memory of the brave men who fought and died in the Battle of Franklin.

1997 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

One of the STFB goals for 1996 was to double our membership during the year. In late 1995 IBM gave us a computer so we could automate our membership records and begin to publish our newsletter regularly. Our membership roll then stood very roughly at 115 - and to be honest, we

hadn't heard from many of them for two or three years - or longer.

Today we have 210 dues paying members across the country. A few haven't yet re-upped for 1997 but we expect their checks any day now. If you have already paid for 1997, please pass on (or copy) your newsletter to a friend or associate -- they care just as much as you do.

You can be a real difference maker for STFB if you promote our web site at www.franklin-stfb.org each and every day. Tell those same friends and associates about the STFB web site. Some of you belong to other historic groups, round-tables or associations. Get a plug for the STFB web site into their magazine, newsletter, newsgroup or web site. They want to help us, and they will just as soon as they know we're here. (see following letters)

LETTERS

STFB frequently receives letters from ordinary Americans who want to know what they can do to help Save The Franklin Battlefield. From time to time, we will publish some of these letters so you can see first hand that many others care about saving some part of the battlefield - just like you do.

Sept 17, 1996

Dear STFB,

Having grown up two hours from the Gettysburg Battlefield, for several years I was under the impression that the only real battles of the Civil War were fought in the East.

A few years ago my attitude began to change. That was when I read Wiley Sword's "Embrace An Angry Wind". Reading of Hood's '64 campaign, and especially the Battle of Franklin, made me realize that gallantry, duty and honor were not found only in the East.

Now when I hear people speak of Pickett's charge (which is often) I find myself saying "Yes that was impressive.. but have you ever heard of Franklin?" And I am glad to say that more people have. Perhaps it is because of the efforts of your group and the episode on Franklin on 'Civil War Journal'.

It has been my pleasure to visit

Franklin three times in the past year. The first was last October when on a seminar/tour of Hood's '64 Campaign. I also visited on my own after the tour - and I stopped in Franklin on my way back from a Shiloh seminar in the spring of this year.

My first impression of the Franklin Battlefield was somewhat discouraging as there was no wide open plain that the troops advanced across, no cotton gin, etc. But this is still hallowed ground *and you can feel it.*

I think that it is great that there is an organization that is protecting and preserving what remains of the field. I would like to help, even though it may be in a small way. Thank you.

Scott Felix - Alum Bank, PA

Dec 2, 1996

Dear STFB,

I am extremely interested in what your organization has done, is doing, and plans to do to preserve the Franklin battlefield. I have long been a student of the battle, and I had my first chance to visit the sites last week. I was very impressed by the Carter House, and struck by how little of the battlefield remains.

As a descendant of a soldier who fought there, I want to make a difference in the preservation struggle. That said, I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me some materials describing what your organization does - and its plans for the future -as well as membership information. Thank you.

Michael Keefer - Columbia, MD

THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN FURTHER AFTERMATH

It was 5 pm Friday October 4, 1996. "Ready on the left!" came the command, but people on the left lines were talking.... "Ready on the right!", echoed out, but people on the right lines were talking also. In fact, it seemed everyone was talking. But the lines were straight; straight as an arrow. And they were ready! No doubt about it!

But look! Isn't that Schofield chatting with Hood? Or

maybe that's a couple of Hoods? I mean, isn't that Peter Schofield talking with Rhodes Hood from Vandalia, IL and his sister Nancy Hood Stone from Minneapolis, MN? And there's T. Patton Adams from Columbia, SC talking with Herbert Broadfoot II from Atlanta, GA. Wonder what their great great granddaddys would say about that! This is incredible! What's going on here? Everyone is buzzing! What's wrong with this picture?

Yes, the lines were long and deep (they were actually lines of tables, by the way) and they were beautifully prepared for a wonderful opening supper at the Williamson County Recreation Center. And they were straight and they were filled with exuberant descendants of those who fought on both sides in the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Not since November 30, 1914, long before this bunch of descendants were around, had such a gathering taken place. And what a wonderful weekend of education, entertainment and camaraderie followed.

For most of us, the reunion idea first hit when we received a letter dated March 21, 1996 from Carter House executives Thomas Cartwright and Tracie Thurmond which stated in part, "We are interested in planning a descendants' reunion later this year and would like your opinion about the reunion and its tentative plans....".

Enclosed in the letter was a proposed schedule of events, and mention of the \$75 registration fee to cover expenses of the meeting and guest speakers. Reportedly, Tracie and Thomas were hoping to cobble together upwards of 100 interested descendants in order to be able to move ahead with further planning. Well, when over 160 folks from across the United States said, in effect, "Do it and we will come!" our friends at the Carter House proceeded on the quick!

Following are excerpts from a report of the reunion that appeared in Nashville's "The Tennessean" on Monday, October 7, 1996:

"Directors of the Carter House welcomed 160 direct descendants of Civil War veterans from 23 states to Franklin for an event that has been three years in the making."

" 'This really was a team effort by everyone at the Carter House,' said Thomas Cartwright, the museum's military curator and historian. 'The last reunion was in 1914 - and then you got people who actually fought here,' he said."

"The weekend, which included visits to historical sites and lectures by Cartwright (and several other experts on the Battle of Franklin) was meant to offer participants clues into their own family history, while bringing together descendants of century-old allies and opponents."

"Adams said he was impressed with the knowledge of the Carter House staff, noting the careful attention Cartwright paid to the guest list by finding a historical 'tidbit' about every family that was represented. 'I think it's important that we stay together,' he said in hopes of using the group's influence to preserve Civil War sites in Franklin."

"The event, which had nearly equal participation from Confederate and Union families, was one of a kind, though many would like to see another in the coming years, said Susan Church, president of the Carter House's board of directors."

To Susan's comment we can only add a loud 'rebel yell' (I gotta learn how to do that) of approval and encouragement! The reunion was a wonderful historical moment for everyone who attended and should be repeated again soon. Perhaps next time we can help dedicate the new Franklin/Williamson County Conference Center and open the gathering to "descendants of all description" (direct, indirect, thinkiams, wannabes, friends, and fellow travelers).

It ought to be quite an affair and it might even help raise enough money to build that office space so desperately needed by the wonderful staff at the Carter House, and accomplish other financial objectives of the organization at the same time.... Let's do it! It's guaranteed to be fun, informative, and extremely worthwhile in the furtherance of Franklin battlefield preservation.

by Peter Schofield

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE

On November 30, the 132nd anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, I had the honor of meeting Mrs. Alberta Martin of Alba, Alabama, the last living widow of a Confederate soldier.

The Lotz House celebrated her 90th birthday with invited guests. Mrs. Martin is quite a remarkable lady. She married William Jasper Martin of Company K, 4th Alabama Infantry, in December 1927. She was 21 and he was 81. She was his third wife. They had a son, William Oren Martin who is now 68, and a bona fide 'Son of a Confederate

Veteran'.

In talking with her I asked was there something she wanted to do that she had not done. Her answer, "go to the Grand Ole Opry." I understand tickets were not available for the evening of November 30.

I feel sure you all join me in wishing her many more special birthdays.

by E J Neeley

A BIG THANK YOU

With thanks to those who served on the 1996 Board. We now greet 1997 and hope to accomplish a great deal.

Plans are already underway for guided battlefield tours, fund raising, and recruiting new members; erecting additional markers; annual membership meeting and more.

We want you to be a part of this great 1997 year. You are always welcome to attend Board meetings and share your ideas and goals for Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc.

E J Neeley - President

Wishing for You and Yours the best of Holiday Seasons and A Very Happy New Year

Your STFB Board of Directors

FUND RAISING ITEMS FOR SALE

Don't forget to order your copy(s) of our reprint of *Retreat From Pulaski To Nashville, Tenn* by Levi T Scofield. They are selling briskly and the 1,000 numbered copies will probably be sold out by March. We feel our web site will vastly increase our sales of this excellent eye witness account of Hood's middle Tennessee campaign in the autumn of '64.

The book is carried by the Lotz House Museum, Carter House Museum, Carnton and Franklin Booksellers - all in Franklin.

In Nashville you can get it at Dad's Old Books and Elder's Book Store.

We still have a few commemorative paper weights (with felt backing) and belt buckles that were made for the 125th Anniversary re-enactment in 1989. Made of antiqued brass, they are 3 inches across. The design shows the Monument circled with the names of the five Confederate Generals killed at Franklin - see our web site for a picture. They are \$5 each and make great gifts and keepsakes.

We also have a few baseball caps and T-shirts left from previous events. The imprint on both is **I'm Helping SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD**. The caps are one-size-fits-all and sell for \$5. The T-shirts are all XL and sell for \$10.

When you order your book(s), include a note ordering the extra items. There is no sales tax and we'll deliver or mail your things for free.

Remember, every penny of your purchases go to STFB projects.

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 28-29 and Jan 1 - Battle of Stones River Anniversary Events. Call Stones River National Battlefield 615-893-9501 for details and times.

NEXT STFB BOARD MEETING Monday, Jan, 13

The next monthly STFB BOARD MEETING will be held on January 13, 1997 at the Williamson County Library Meeting Room at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings are open to members, prospective members and everyone interested in protecting and preserving the Civil War Sites in Williamson County.

1997 STFB MEMBERSHIP / UPDATE FORM

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

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HOME Ph: _____ HIS Ph: _____ HER Ph: _____

(check one) \$12 / yr. Individual \$15 / yr. Family \$25 / yr. Corporate
Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Save the Franklin Battlefield
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Does your mailing label have a 97 ??
If not, help our membership drive by sending 1997 dues to
Lynne

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