



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 1997

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

BATTLE OF THOMPSON'S STATION TOUR DRAWS LARGE CROWD

The STFB tour of the Battle of Thompson's Station on Saturday, March 8 was a huge success. A crowd of about 65 gathered on a perfect Tennessee spring afternoon to learn about the March 5, 1863 Battle of Thompson's Station.

The tour began at the train depot where STFB President E J Neeley presented the events leading up to the battle. The group then walked a short distance to a church site to continue the presentation.

Throughout the tour, eight reenactors, representing soldiers of both armies and civilians, gave readings from the diaries and recollections of actual participants of the battle.

The STFB tour was free to all STFB members. Non-members were asked to donate \$10 per person. Twenty one individuals and families decided on the spot to become our newest 1997 members.

Channel 5 TV News covered the event on their 10:00 O'Clock news, and the Williamson AM section of the Tennessean had a short article with photo.

The STFB Board of Directors was very pleased with the high level of public interest and support shown by the group.

ABOUT STFB BATTLEFIELD TOURS

As a public education project and to promote the need to save Civil War sites in Williamson

County, Save the Franklin Battlefield conducts tours each year of the lesser known battlefields throughout the county. The tours are free to STFB members and we charge a small fee for non-members (most decide on-the-spot to become members). Still to come in 1997, STFB plans to conduct tours of:

- o First Battle of Franklin
- o Battle of Brentwood
(Battle of the Barricades)
- o Retreat From Nashville

We travel by private cars and do some small amount of walking. STFB members and local historians lead the tours - any and all questions are always welcome. Watch this newsletter, the STFB web site, and local newspapers for dates and times of these events.

FIRST BATTLE OF FRANKLIN TOUR SATURDAY, APRIL 19

STFB will lead a tour of the First Battle of Franklin on Saturday April 19, 1997. This April 10, 1863 battle occurred about a month after the Battle of Thompson's Station as Confederate forces probed toward Franklin to measure the location and strength of Federal forces in the area.

Fort Granger and the trenches near the Carter House were then under early construction but not yet complete nor strongly manned. Nineteen months later, these fortifications would be the scene of the bloody Battle of Franklin.

The tour will begin promptly at 1:00 pm at Pinkerton Park on Hwy 96 just east of downtown Franklin, and will conclude by 3:00

pm. We will do some small amount of walking, and will travel to other nearby locations by private car caravan.

The tour is free to all STFB members. Non-members are asked to donate \$10 per person (or become members). For more information call 591-1774 or see our web site at www.franklin-stfb.org

CONFEDERATE CEMETERY ILLUMINATION SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1997

On Saturday, May 24 STFB will conduct an evening illumination tour of the McGavock Confederate Cemetery at Carnton Plantation. The tour will be repeated several times between 5:30 pm and 9:00 pm.

The proceeds of this event will be donated to Franklin Chapter #14 - The United Daughters of the Confederacy - for their perpetual upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery. Look for more information in future newsletters, the STFB web site, and local newspapers.

THE NEWS IN REVIEW

*Highlights from print media articles of interest
to the battlefield community*

As an often requested service for STFB members from out of town, and as a memory refresher for local members, the STFB newsletter will now include a summary of local print media articles each month.

Franklin Acquires Historic Land - (Nashville Banner) -- A historically valuable portion of Williamson County's rapidly shrinking green space has been saved from developers thanks to a deal worked out by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. The Foundation agreed to pay \$438,500 for Roper's Knob, a 40 acre site of historical value for its use during the Civil War as a signal post by Union troops. Earthworks built by the soldiers are still intact and will be an attraction for

people who visit Franklin for its Civil War history. The Heritage Foundation hopes to enlist "A Thousand Friends of Roper's Knob," each of whom will donate \$100 to help retire the remaining debt on this purchase. (For more information, see the Heritage Foundation web page at www.franklin-stfb.org/heritage.htm)

Franklin Bicentennial Celebration Continues

- (Williamson Leader) - Beginning back last October and culminating with the official bicentennial celebrations in October, 1999, the City of Franklin will celebrate every period of its history. The public events committee has recommended a different focus for each of the four years, moving back from the present day to the city's founding in 1799. Anyone having ideas for these celebrations should write Bob Holladay, City of Franklin Bicentennial Ideas, P.O.Box 305, Franklin, TN 37065.

Franklin Main Street Recognized - (Williamson

Leader) - "If you're really smart you'll take the time to go south to Franklin," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (and STFB member) to more than 1,000 representatives of small towns from across the nation at an annual meeting of the National Main Street Program at Nashville recently. "Franklin is one of the great small towns of America," Moe said to the assembled delegates. At last year's meeting, Franklin was presented a Great American Main Street Award, the first year of a national competition.

Mended Civil War Flag Returned Home -

(Nashville Banner) - The soiled battle flag Mount Pleasant, TN women made in 1861 was restored as a Bicentennial project and has been formally returned to the city. Over 135 years ago the 10-by-6-foot banner was presented to the Bigby Greys, made up of about 100 area men who enlisted for service in the Confederate army. Before restoration as a \$7,500 Bicentennial project, the red, white and blue flag had been kept folded in a glass case for decades in the Mount Pleasant library. Of the one hundred in the Greys when they received the flag in 1861, 41 were killed or died in service and 26 were wounded.

Battlefield Grant Gets Preliminary OK - (The Tennessean) - The third time has proven to be a charm in Franklin's bid for a special grant from the National Parks Service to study reclamation of the Franklin Civil War battlefield. The American Battlefield Protection Program of the Parks Service has given preliminary approval to an \$11,500 grant that the city applied for in December. The grant had been turned down twice before. The money will allow the city to hire a professional battlefield consultant to evaluate the area around The Carter House, the center of the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Much of the area around the house on Columbia Avenue is now commercially developed, a concern of local historic preservation groups who wish to see the site reclaimed. When the grant is finalized, consultants will be solicited, interviewed and hired according to grant guidelines, and the study itself should be completed by early fall this year. "This is a natural next step for the city to take," said Heritage Foundation executive director Mary Pearce.

THE ONLY ONE

We often read of the Confederate Generals killed and wounded during the Battle of Franklin. But what of the only Union General wounded November 30, 1864 - Brigadier General David Sloane Stanley?

Stanley was born in Ohio on June 1, 1828. At the age of 20 he received an appointment to West Point, graduating in the class of 1852. He spent time in the West, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and took part in the Missouri campaign seeing action at the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

He was appointed brigadier general of Volunteers on September 28, 1861. After Shiloh, luka, Corinth, Murfreesboro and Tullahoma, he advanced to the rank of major general.

On November 30, 1864, as commander of the

Forth Corps, Stanley, was meeting with the commander of the Twenty-third Corps, Gen. John M. Schofield, at the home of Dr. Daniel Cliffe in Franklin, when they realized the Confederates were attacking at the Carter House. Stanley quickly rode to the front.

In his words, "I arrived at the scene of disorder..." As he was helping to rally the men his horse was killed. He later reported "no sooner had I regained my feet than I received a musket-ball through the back of my neck." He returned to his quarters for surgical help and it is reported that he remained in camp, near Nashville, until the end of the war.

At his retirement from service in 1892, he held the rank of brigadier general, U.S. Army, Department of Texas. He died March 13, 1902 and was buried in the cemetery of the Soldiers' Home in Washington, DC where he had been governor from 1893 to 1898.

STFB WEB SITE UPDATE

The STFB Web Site is now live, at www.franklin-stfb.org - check it out. A map showing the Union trench lines overlaid on a modern Franklin City map has recently been added. A page on Fort Granger will also soon be added, including photos of the recent improvements made by the City of Franklin.

BOOK SIGNING AT LOTZ HOUSE

Author Howard Bahr will be at **The Lotz House**, 1111 Columbia Ave, Franklin on April 12, 1997 to sign his new book, **The Black Flower**. Through the eyes of Bushrod Carter, the historic novel tells the story of the Battle of Franklin, and details the deadly Confederate charge against the Federal entrenchments.

Bahr teaches English at Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma, TN. Copies will be for sale at The Lotz House gift shop.

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 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 buy it at Dad's Old Books and Elder's Book Store - and in Lexington, Kentucky, at Old Army Books.

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.

When you order your book(s), include a note ordering the extra items. We'll deliver or mail your things for free.

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

NEXT STFB BOARD MEETING Monday, April 14

The next monthly STFB BOARD MEETING will be held on April 14, 1997 at the Williamson County Library Meeting Room at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings are open to all members, prospective members and everyone interested in protecting and preserving the Civil War Sites in Williamson County. We hope to see you there.

BOOK ORDER FORM:

Retreat From Pulaski To Nashville, Tenn

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

No. of Copies (\$20 each) _____
includes shipping & handling

Amount Enclosed _____

Checks Payable To: **Save The Franklin Battlefield**

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield
PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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
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■ Lynne