



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

April 1997

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

FIRST BATTLE OF FRANKLIN TOUR HELD APRIL 19

Last Saturday's STFB tour of the 1st Battle of Franklin was a big success. This April 10, 1863 battle occurred about a month after the Battle of Thompson's Station as Confederate cavalry forces from Spring Hill continued their probes toward Franklin to measure the location and strength of Federal forces in the area.

The day began at Pinkerton Park with introductory comments by tour guide E J Neeley (see picture). The tour then moved to Fort Granger on the north edge of the park. From the Granger overlook, the group had a panoramic view of Franklin and received an overview of the battle.

Fort Granger and the trenches near the Carter House were then under early construction but were not yet completed nor strongly manned. Nineteen months later in the fall of 1864, these fortifications would be quickly improved, with deadly effect, in the hours before the bloody Battle of Franklin.

The group then visited the south side of the Carter House property where the Federal 40th Ohio Infantry was stationed that spring. After a short presentation, the en-

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With my thanks to members of the STFB Board who meet each month, ~~help with our tours, and~~ give a Sunday afternoon each month to help get this newsletter into your hands.

We are meeting our goal on our tours. We are gaining new members and educating the public on what happened in Williamson County during the War Years.

We are planning two more battlefield tours this year. We hope to see you there.

Again 'Thank You Board Members' for all you do to help us attain our goals.



tourage then followed the route of Forrest's withdrawal out the Lewisburg Pike. The last tour stop was at Henpeck lane where the tour concluded.

STFB battlefield tours are free to STFB members. Visitors are asked to donate \$10 per person. On Saturday, three individuals and families decided on the spot to become our newest 1997 members.

STFB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

If your mailing label still has a '96 on it, that means we have not received your 1997 dues just yet. The membership period is Jan-Dec for each year regardless of the month you join.

Our membership has grown to the point where keeping up with the mailing list and annual dues renewal is a big task (a good problem to have - we're not complaining).

Please help us simplify that task by checking your mailing label right now and sending a check if you still have a '96.

E. J. Neeley welcomes tour group at Pinkerton Park. Fort Granger is in the far background.

THE NEWS IN REVIEW

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

As a service to STFB members from outside the Franklin area, as well as a refresher for local members, STFB newsletters include a summary of local print media articles.

Downtown Franklin on World Wide - (The Williamson Leader) -

Leave it to the city of Franklin to carry the past into the future. The town's site on the World Wide Web puts the history-rich community right at the fingertips of computer-age travelers. Fresh, green and framed with an "I remember when"-style fade-a-way photo, the page captures the essence of entering the Williamson County town. The site (<http://www.phoenix.wl.com/franklin>) on the World Wide Web spools open with a photo of the city square.

Murfreesboro, TN battlefield seeks funds - (Nashville Banner) - Stones River National Battlefield will grow by 13 acres if Congress appropriates \$300,000 to make the purchase. The money, which would be part of the Interior Department's Land and Water Conservation Fund, would be used to purchase threatened land adjacent to the park. The land in this area was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the battle which took place December 31, 1862 through January 2, 1863.

Forrest's hometown dedicated wall in his honor - (Nashville Banner) - Tennessee's most famous Civil War cavalry commander was born 175 years ago last summer and his hometown has dedicated a memorial wall in his honor. Chapel Hill was a small frontier settlement when Nathan Bedford For-

est was born there in 1821. He was born in one of the original settlement homes where the little commercial district is in Chapel Hill today. That home is no longer standing. The people of Chapel Hill donated the bricks for the memorial wall. A brick mason in the town donated his time to erect the wall which is about 13 feet long.

Lotz House on Web - (The Tennessean) - Internet users, searching for information about the Civil War, now can tour - in a virtual sense - the Lotz House Museum in Franklin. The museum has a web page with photographs, maps, a descriptive tour of the museum and exhibited artifacts, and details of a genealogical research service offered at the museum. The web page can be reached by typing <http://www.phoenix.wl.com/lotz>.

A renewed Hermitage - (The Tennessean) - One of Nashville's most treasured institutions, the Hermitage, has been spiffed up, giving Middle Tennessee even more reason to be proud of this historic landmark. The home of Tennessee's most celebrated president, Andrew Jackson, has welcomed visitors for decades. But the \$2.5 million renovation, designed to give an accurate restoration of the home and property, is a tribute to 10 years of hard work, from fund-raising to material improvements. The restoration is a good reason for Middle Tennesseans who have never seen the Hermitage to do so, and for others to pay it an overdue call again.

Battle of Franklin Park under study - (The Tennessean) - Leadership Franklin committee is studying the feasibility of redeveloping Battle of Franklin sites along Columbia Avenue to create a battlefield park and new multi-purpose community center. If the committee's vision proves workable, the

largest coalition of community, business, government and historic groups on Franklin's history would come together to change the face of an area vital to the county's past, while giving an economic and civic shot in the arm to area residents. "What we want to do is look at the feasibility of developing and improving a several block area that runs from Five Points to Jennings Street," Stephen Biggers, a member of the Leadership Franklin group undertaking the study, said.

A Historian says Tennessee deserves Civil War Credit - (The Tennessean) - "Too many people are of the opinion that the Civil War did not extend further than the Blue Ridge Mountains or the Shenandoah valley," Edwin C. Bearss said in a speech recently. "For too long the attention has not been focused enough on Middle Tennessee or Stones River or the war in the west," said Bearss, historian emeritus of the National Park Service. "Within the last 30 or 40 years, that has been rapidly changing, and I think more and more serious scholars are of the opinion that the war was decided in the west." Bearss has written numerous books on the Civil war and has appeared on the PBS series The Civil War and A&E's Civil War Digest.

Lotz House hosts book signing - (Williamson Leader) - The historic Lotz House recently hosted a signing with Howard Bahr, author of "The Black Flower," a novel of the Civil War set during the battle of Franklin. In the book Bahr tells a powerful story of a young rifleman's agony during the Battle of Franklin in 1864. The "black flower" is an image used to describe the rifleman's sense of doom in the midst of Union cannons firing upon John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee.

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).

To date we have toured the 1863 Battle of Thompson's Station and the 1st Battle of Franklin (1863). Still to come in 1997, STFB plans to conduct tours of:

- Battle of Brentwood
(Battle of the Barriades)
- 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.

E. J. Neeley (in the hat on the left) leads a tour group through Fort Granger as part of the recent First Battle of Franklin tour.



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.

STFB WEB SITE UPDATE

Material is being added weekly to the STFB Web Site at **franklin-stfb.org**. The site now has a new link list to many other Civil War sites - check it out.

STFB members Kim Hoover and Jerry Daoust are helping with scans of pictures and graphics for the web site and the newsletter. A big thanks to this dynamic duo for all their professional help.

Also, STFB member Mark Mayhew is maintaining a **Battle of Franklin** web page that we point to rather than writing one of our own.

You see, when more members work on various pieces and sub-pages, we rapidly increase the power and reach of the STFB web site - and lessen the load on all of our volunteers.

If you would like to assume authorship of one of the STFB pages - Fort Granger - Triune earth-works - etc. - contact:

webmaster@franklin-stfb.org

THE CARTER HOUSE IS ON THE WEB

The Carter House now has its own web site at **www.carter-house.org**

New material and an expanded format will be added to the site over the next few weeks. If you can help with this project, call Susan Church at 791-1861 or send a note to **webmaster@carter-house.org**

THE CARTER HOUSE WEEK END SEMINAR

On May 16-18, The Carter House will sponsor a three-day seminar on Nathan Bedford Forrest and his Middle Tennessee Campaigns.

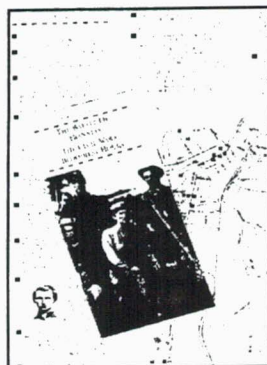
~~This special event begins Friday, May 16 at 6:00 pm with~~ three background lectures followed by a private viewing of Forrest artifacts at the Lotz House Museum.

Starting at 8:30am, all of Saturday is devoted to bus tours of the 1863 & 1864 battlefields at Spring Hill, Thompson's Station and Franklin. A box lunch and tour of the Carter House is included.

The seminar will conclude Sunday morning with a Memorial Service at McGavock Confederate Cemetery at Carnton.

The seminar costs \$50 per person and registration will close May 1. The fee includes all lectures, admissions, bus tours and box lunch. For additional information, call the Carter House at 791-1861 or visit their web site at

carter-house.org



Driving Tour Maps are available through the STFB for \$2.00. This is just one of the items available through the STFB.

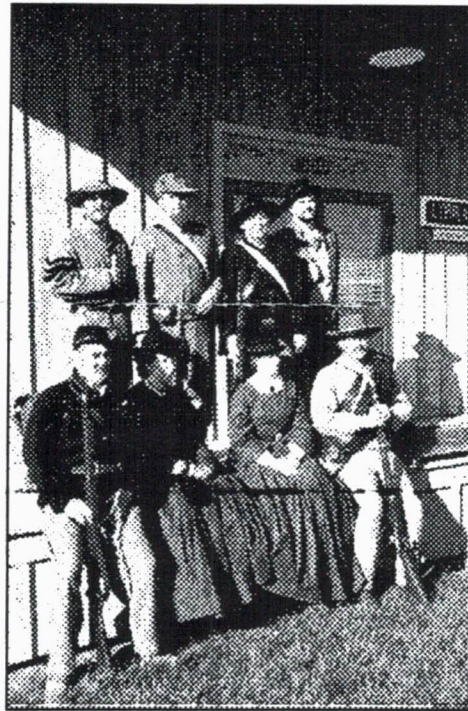
STFB NEWSLETTER NOW HAS NEW LOOK

Have you noticed yet? Can you see it? Right you are - starting with this issue, the STFB newsletter has a new look.

Thanks to Kim Hoover (and hubby), the STFB newsletter is getting a major facelift. Pictures and graphics can now be added directly to newsletter articles and the entire layout now has a professional appearance - Thanks Kim.

If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, call Lynne at 591-1774 or email

editor@franklin-stfb.org



A special thanks to all of our reenactors who made the Battle of Thompson's Station Tour that much better!

NEXT STFB BOARD MEETING Monday, May 12

The next monthly STFB Board Meeting will be held on May 12, 1997 at the Williamson County Library Meeting Room at 6:30pm. 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.

FUND RAISING ITEMS FOR SALE

Don't forget to order your copy(s) of our reprint of **Retreat From Pulaski To Nashville, Tennessee** 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 Book-sellers - 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 generals killed at the Battle of Franklin. They are \$5 each and make great gifts and keepsakes.

Our new Membership/Order Form will let you order your book(s) and other items PLUS renew your membership all on one form. We'll deliver or mail your things for free.

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

1997 Save The Franklin Battlefield Membership/Order Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ His Phone _____ Her Phone _____

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065

Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

Quantity	Description	Price Each	Total
	Annual Membership (Choose One)		
	- Individual	\$12.00	
	-Family	\$15.00	
	-Corporate	\$25.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint	\$20.00	
	1989 Commerative Paperweight	\$5.00	
	1989 Commerative Belt Buckle	\$5.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$2.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		Order Total	