



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

June 1997

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

HERITAGE FOUNDATION BUYS COTTON GIN SITE

The Heritage Foundation has purchased the former site of the Carter cotton gin at 109 Cleburne Street for \$160,000. Said Heritage Foundation Executive Director Mary Pearce, "The Foundation's Land Trust is working to reclaim key battlefield sites along Columbia Avenue. This is an exciting first step."

Lotz House Museum manager, Ronny Mangrum presented Pearce with a \$1,000 check to apply to the purchase. The Heritage Foundation plans to lease the property until the mortgage is retired. See 'News In Review'



Officers of the Heritage Foundation, Carter House Museum, Lotz House Museum, Save The Franklin Battlefield Inc and the Historical Society of Williamson County witness the purchase of the house now standing on the site of the Carter Cotton Gin. Former owner, Roy Barker, is seated 3rd from left.



STFB President EJ Neeley, Exec Director Lynne Pope, and board member Peter Schofield present a \$500 check to Heritage Foundation officer, Craig Brent, for the purchase of Roper's Knob.

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE CONCERT TO RAISE PRESERVATION FUNDS

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society is sponsoring a "Battlefield Benefit" Wednesday July 30, 1997 at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. The concert will feature **The Kentucky Headhunters, Rhett Akins, Highway 101 and Ronna Reeves.**

Net proceeds of the Battlefield Benefit will be used to preserve remaining sites of the December 1864 Battle of Nashville, including Shy's Hill and Redoubt #1.

Tickets are \$17.50 and can be mail ordered before July 15 at:

Battle of Nashville Preservation
P. O. Box 121796
Nashville, TN 37212
Attn: Ryman Concert

Tickets can also be purchased beforehand at the Ryman 8:30am-4:00pm or via Ticketmaster at 615-255-9600. Both organizations add a processing fee.

For additional information, call Jean Byasse 615-376-1317, Wes Shofner 615-242-2441, or visit the Society's web site at www.bonps.org

A Note from the President

This is an exciting time for the STFB over the last few weeks. The Heritage Foundation has completed its second purchase of a Civil War site in Franklin and it is the second purchase that I find most exciting. The house, located at 109 Cleburne Street, was the site of the Carter Cotton Gin. I thought this would never happen in my lifetime.

The City of Franklin unveiled five new interpretive markers in Fort Granger on Saturday, June 7. The signs explain the construction and purpose of the fort. I have been told there will be a few additional ones placed later.

We are very lucky to have all the preservation groups and the City of Franklin working together for one goal - **To Save The Franklin Battlefield!**

Ahead for us for 1997 - to hold two more battlefield tours, to hold our Annual Membership Meeting and to remember the 133rd Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

E. J. Neeley

THE NEWS IN REVIEW

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

Tour attendance disappoints, but Civil War Trust will help - The Tennessean, 5/7/97 - Despite lagging attendance at the recent historic home tour, the Heritage Foundation hopes to wind up fund-raising for its Roper's Knob campaign soon with the help of two national preservation organizations. The Civil War Trust has offered a matching grant of up to \$10,000 and The Conservation Fund will aid in contacting local businesses and civic leaders for contributions to help finish the Roper's Knob campaign. Both organizations are based in Arlington, VA. The Civil War Trust supports battlefield preservation and other historic preservation and education efforts. The Conservation Fund helped negotiate the Heritage Foundation's purchase of Roper's Knob in 1995.

Civil War Trust president keynotes Heritage Foundation annual meeting - The Tennessean, 5/8/97 - Edgar M. (Matt) Andrews, president of the Civil War Trust, the country's largest battlefield preservation group recently keynoted the Heritage Foundation's annual meeting. In spite of the size of his organization - more than 28,000 members - it owns but two pieces of land, which Andrews says, "we're desperately trying to give away." "We believe very strongly in community based acquisitions of historic sites and community-based maintenance,"

he says, part of what has made for a good match between the Trust and efforts by local preservationists to buy Roper's Knob and preserve it as an educational resource and green space. "It was as very expensive purchase, and certainly worth doing," says Andrews. "We will put up a third of the money needed to retire the remaining debt, and challenge the Heritage Foundation's friends and local residents to come up with the rest. We want to give an excellent fund-raising effort one last little kick to get it over the edge."

Franklin's revitalization hailed in new book - The Tennessean, 5/14/97

The city's "ride down the revitalization road" is hailed in a new book just published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center. *Main Street Success Stories: How Community Leaders Have Used the Main Street Approach to Turn Their Downtowns* Around spotlights 44 towns around the United States, among them Franklin. Towns were selected for the book because their local Main Street programs were "well-rounded, volunteer-driven revitalization initiatives employing the basic principles of the Main Street Approach and achieving long-term success and stability," said Doug Loescher of the National Main Street Center. For a copy of the book call the Downtown Franklin Association office at 615/790-7094 or Franklin Booksellers at 615/790-1349.

Carter House area reclamation now foundation's No.1 priority - The Tennessean, 5/14/97

Efforts by local preservationists to establish a Battle of Franklin memorial park may land them in the national spotlight in coming months. At its annual meeting recently, the Heritage Foundation set as its first priority the reclamation of the area around the historic Carter House on Columbia Avenue. The project, which will involve buying and demolishing several existing buildings, is as ambitious as the group's efforts to preserve Roper's Knob, said keynote speaker Matt Andrews of the Civil War Trust. "Its an ambitious undertaking, one we're going to watch carefully, and hopefully be involved with," said Andrews. "You all have done a fantastic job with Roper's Knob. When you came to us four years ago we thought you were pushing a big rock up a very steep hill. We now applaud and congratulate you."

Study preserves historic route - The Williamson Leader, 5/15/97

Setbacks, landscaping, signage. These are the chief ingredients recommended for protecting the historic Columbia Pike corridor contained in a recent study by RM Plan Group of Nashville, commissioned by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. The release of the Heritage Foundation study coincides with an \$11,500 federal grant approved for the City of Franklin by the National Park Service. The grant will study

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comprehensive priorities for preserving the area of Columbia Avenue near the Carter House Civil War Museum where the bloody Battle of Franklin was fought in Nov. 1864. The Columbia Pike corridor has already been designated an antebellum trail. Mary Pearce, Heritage Foundation executive director, calls it, "the spine of the tourism industry in middle Tennessee."

Carter cotton gin site may be first reclaimed - The Tennessean, 5/16/97 - The site of the bloodiest fighting of the Battle of Franklin soon may become the cornerstone of a battlefield memorial park along Columbia Avenue. Once the location of the Carter House cotton gin, the lot and empty house at the corner of Columbia Avenue and Cleburne street is on the market. Spokesmen for the Heritage Foundation say they hope to acquire the property. "We hope this will be the first step of a major project, a way to begin the process by which the entire battlefield park acquisition becomes a reality," said Julian Bibb, outgoing president of the Heritage Foundation and one of a group of civic leaders spearheading the project. "This is the first piece of property that's become available to buy, and it's a particularly important one. This site was in the thick of the fighting, and has a strong relationship to the Carter House." The commercially zoned property is listed at \$169,900.

Deal made for black heritage museum site - The Tennessean, 5/30/97 - Franklin's Hard Bargain

neighborhood will get the best deal it's had in a long time when a condemned house - perhaps the first built here by a former slave - becomes the county's African American history museum. The McLemore House, at the corner of Glass Street and 11th Avenue North, has been sold to Habitat for Humanity by McLemore heirs for \$35,000. In an innovative partnership, Habitat will sell the historic house at the front of the property to the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. Brentwood Academy students and parents will build a Habitat home next month on the rear of the property. The African American Heritage Society plans a major fund-raising effort for the museum

Events mark unveiling of Fort Granger historical markers - The Tennessean, 6/5/97 - Historic markers to explain the significance of Fort Granger's outer works, cavalier, powder magazine and other areas and designed with a map of the fort with downtown Franklin as a background to the text were unveiled recently. They were placed at the fort by the City of Franklin and give visitors a detailed look at construction of the Civil War fort as well as its uses as a federal garrison. The markers were partially funded by a grant from the State of Tennessee, said City Administrator Jay Johnson. "The city has owned Fort Granger for several years," Johnson said. "This is another phase in our attempts to turn it into an attractive, historic spot for both visitors and residents of Franklin. We have already completed a vegetation

management plan and it is really something you should visit."

AND THEN IT HAPPENED:

Reclaiming history, one piece at a time - The Tennessean, 6/5/97 - An ambitious dream took one giant step closer to reality yesterday, as historic preservationists reclaimed the first piece of land needed to restore the Civil War battlefield that gave Franklin its place in history. The site of the long-gone Carter cotton gin, where much of the heaviest fighting of the 1864 Battle of Franklin took place, officially became the property of the Heritage Foundation yesterday during a brief closing ceremony. The lot at 109 Cleburne Street, behind the Columbia Avenue Domino's Pizza, becomes the first of several properties that the organization hopes to acquire for a battlefield park. "The bloodiest hours of the Civil War were not at Antietam or Manassas, but right here where we are standing," Heritage Foundation executive director Mary Pearce told representatives from several preservation organizations. "Our next step is to ask the Civil War Trust for help in starting a national campaign to build a battlefield park." The property was sold to the Foundation for \$160,000.

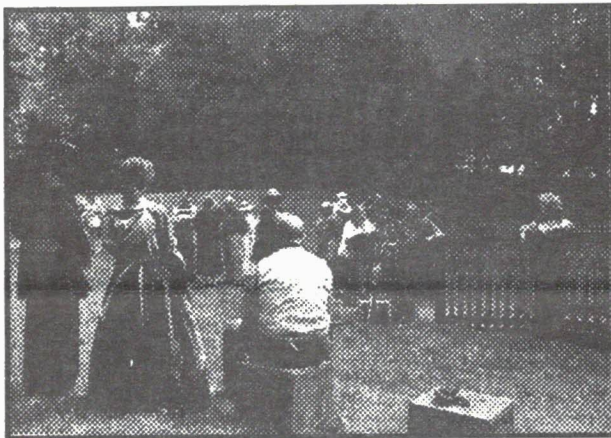
THREE CHEERS TO MARY PEARCE AND HER BAND!

INFORMATION MARKERS DEDICATED AT FORT GRANGER

On Wednesday, June 4 some forty interested citizens faced down threatening rain to attend the dedication of five new signs at Fort Granger. Carter House historian Thomas Cartwright and City Administrator Jay Johnson made introductory and background comments. In prepared remarks, Alderman Gale Haddock said "Today, in the current time of great change, when the long familiar landscapes are daily altered beyond retrieval, it is crucial that we remember what has happened before and that we retain some of the physical sites symbolic of our past". (See News In Review).

Members of the Pull Tight Theater Company performed a reading of Act One of **Incident at Fort Granger**, a new play written by Bob Holliday.

The City of Franklin had earlier completed foot paths and an overlook platform designed to protect the grounds from damage by foot traffic. Three additional signs are planned for installation in the near future. Fort Granger is open to the public and has a pedestrian access from the north side of Pinkerton Park on highway 96.



Pull Tight Players prepare to perform as part of the dedication of the new Information Markers at Fort Granger.

New STFB Membership Method

Your newsletter mailing label now shows the expiration month as well as the year of your STFB membership. Until now, the membership period was annual no matter when you joined up, and was renewable in January.

This new method will spread the workload of membership accounting throughout the year. Please check your label to see the month that your membership expires.

Book Signing at the Lotz House

On Saturday June 28, 1997 from noon to 3:00pm, The Lotz House Museum will host a book signing of ***The Sultana Tragedy - America's Greatest Maritime Disaster***. Author Jerry D. Potter will be on hand to autograph and discuss his book. The book is highly documented with passenger lists, personal accounts and a detailed examination of the official inquiries conducted afterward.

MC GAVOCK CONFEDERATE CEMETERY TOUR A GREAT SUCCESS

The United Daughters of the Confederacy Franklin Chapter #14 are charged with the upkeep of the Confederate Cemetery. The funds raised from past tours were divided among several local groups. This year, all the money raised went to Chapter #14 to be used exclusively for the Cemetery.

Mrs. Francis Hall, President, reported 19 cemetery books sold, at \$5 per copy totaling \$95. They received \$55 in donations and \$863 on ticket sales. Total for the evening was \$1013. **A big SUCCESS!**

There have been some suggestions for next year's tour and the STFB Board will take those into consideration.

The SULTANA Remembered

On April 26, STFB Board Members David Fraley and Sam Huffman journeyed to Knoxville. Their purpose was to set up a STFB membership booth at a very special gathering at the Mount Olive Baptist Church. By 10:00 AM, 100 people assembled at this country church to remember those aboard the river steamboat Sultana that had exploded and burned near Memphis 132 years earlier.

Of the nearly 2,300 aboard when the ship exploded in the early morning of April 27, 1865, nearly 1,900 perished. Many were killed in the initial blast and resulting fire. Other were scalded by steam or crushed by collapsing decks. Hundreds of others escaped the boat only to drown amid the churning, savage chaos in the muddy waters around the burning boat. Still another 200 died of their injuries after their rescue.

Of the souls aboard on that terrible night, some 2,200 were Union soldiers who had recently been released from prisons at Andersonville, GA and Cahaba, AL - near Selma. They were mostly from Ohio, East Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky. They had survived the war and prison and now were on their way home. Many of them had been captured here at the Battle of Franklin the November before.

After the war, the fortunate few formed a Sultana Survivors' Association and met each year to marvel at their good fortune, to mourn their less fortunate comrades, and to retell their stories.

Because of travel distances, one group met at various churches near Knoxville; a second group met in northern Ohio, usually in Sandusky just east of Toledo. On July 4, 1912, the East Tennessee group placed a Sultana Monument at the Mount Olive Baptist Church Cemetery engraved with the names of those aboard the Sultana.

The 1930 reunion had but one attendee, Pleasant Keeble, and he died the following March 5th. Though a handful of Survivors still lived, the Sultana Association had ceased to exist. The very last of this special few, Albert Norris - 76th Ohio Infantry, died at home in Granville, Ohio on January 9, 1936.

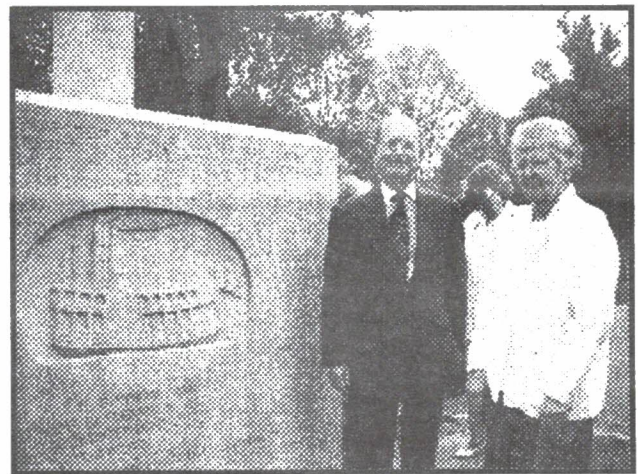
Ten years ago, Knoxville attorney Norm Shaw, an

ardent student of the Civil War, placed a newspaper article. He asked descendants of the Sultana Survivors to meet at the Sultana Monument in the Cemetery. Amazingly, 50 people responded, and the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends was born.

The Sultana Association meets each April in Knoxville, publishes a quarterly newsletter, and is developing a web site at www.sultana.org. The group keeps alive the flame of Sultana memories, and hopes to one day have a Sultana museum or park on the Mississippi near Memphis.

Two special guests attended this year's reunion - Glenna Jenkins Green of Bakewell, TN and Robert C. Warner of San Angelo, TX. Their fathers both had survived the war, survived the prisons, and survived the Sultana Disaster. Glenna's dad was Samuel W Jenkins, Company L 3rd TN Cav, and Robert's father, William Carter Warner, rode with Company B 9th IND Cav. The old troopers both died in 1933.

There are two excellent books on the Sultana Disaster - *The Sultana Tragedy - America's Greatest Maritime Disaster* by Memphis attorney Jerry Potter, and *Disaster on the Mississippi* by Chicago policeman Gene Eric Salecker. Both are available at the Carter House and Lotz House Museums.



Robert Warner of San Angelo, TX and Glenna Jenkins Green of Bakewell, TN were special guests at the recent Sultana Association reunion. Their fathers were Civil War veterans, and both survived the Sultana Disaster.

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/Renewal/Order Form			
Name(s) _____			
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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 Commemorative Paperweight	\$5.00	
	1989 Commemorative Belt Buckle	\$5.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$2.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		Order Total	