



Save The Franklin Battlefield

August 1997

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

UPCOMING 1997 STFB EVENTS

The STFB events for the remainder of 1997 have been scheduled for the following dates:

Oct 5

Battle of Brentwood Tour

Nov 16

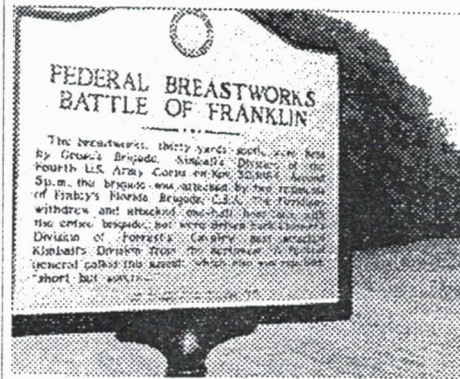
STFB Membership Meeting

Oct 23

Retreat From Nashville Tour

The annual membership meeting will be held in Otey Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Franklin. Watch future newsletters and the STFB web site for details on these events.

The battlefield tours are free to all STFB members but we do ask visitors to donate \$10 per person (it's cheaper to become a member).



"In 1996, STFB placed a marker near West Highway 96 and 11th Avenue identifying the only portion of the original trench line remaining from the Battle of Franklin."

A Note From The President

We are not saving the Franklin Battlefield as Northerners or Southerners, we are saving this battlefield as Americans for this is part of our country's history.

It is my hope that the members of Save The Franklin Battlefield continue to support the organization. I would ask that each member bring in at least one new member by the Annual meeting to help us grow.

We are already a voice in the community, and as a larger group we can have a stronger voice!

HISTORIC MARKER DONATIONS

STFB plans to place an additional historical marker yet this year - perhaps near the cotton gin site. If you would like to make a special donation to this project, memo your check "marker" and send it to our PO box address. All gifts to the marker project are tax deductible.

In 1996, STFB placed a marker near West Hwy 96 and 11th Avenue that identifies the only portion of the original trench line remaining from the Battle of Franklin. This important marker was made possible by a special gift from businesswoman and former STFB officer Pam Lewis of PLA Associates.

The placement and content of all STFB markers are coordinated with other local historical groups and the Williamson County Historical Association in order to ensure a uniform style and appearance with existing markers

THE NEWS IN REVIEW

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

Course renamed for Roper's Knob - The Williamson Leader - July 10 - When golfers tee off on the south course at the Legends Club, their ball rises against the backdrop of historic Roper's Knob in the distance. The south course has now been renamed for the imposing hill. It was from the wooded crest of Roper's Knob that Union signalmen in 1864 sent messages as far as Nashville and Murfreesboro alerting those garrisons to the advance of Confederate troops on Franklin. The breastworks built by Union soldiers remain in tact on the hill's summit. Author Francis Kennedy was in Franklin in late July to assist the Heritage Foundation with its continuing fund raising effort to retire the debt on its 1996 purchase of Roper's Knob. The Civil War Trust has pledged \$10,000 in a matching grant if the Heritage Foundation can raise \$20,000. (You can help - call Mary Pearce at 615/591-8500, today!)

Franklin to seek link to park - The Tennessean - July 11 - A downtown pedestrian walkway along the Harpeth River may take a step closer to reality if the city wins a state grant to build a foot bridge linking Margin Street with Pinkerton Park. The suspension-type bridge is designed to provide pedestrian access to the popular park's recreational facilities and historic Fort Granger. It is also expected to spur improvement of the lower east side of downtown Franklin

and help ease traffic flow, especially during the city's annual festivals. Mary Pearce, executive director of the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, welcomed the proposal.

Web page debuts for county - The Tennessean - July 21 - Williamson County's Internet home page has made its official debut at <http://Williamson-tn.org>. On the menu for browsers are the zoning ordinance, planning commission agendas and minutes, location and voting district maps, list of county departments and department heads, county library and schools listing, and e-mail to county officials. "We're trying to make it useful," said David Thomas, director of the County's Geographic Information System. "Hopefully, its not just another pretty face, like a lot of web sites are. I foresee that a lot of information people have to look up in our offices, they will be able to find themselves."

Row, row, row your boat. . . - The Tennessean - July 29 - Though it might not match the splendor of a day in Oxford, England, punting down the Thames and stopping for a pub picnic at the Victoria Arms, a canoe trip on the Harpeth River through the middle of Franklin can provide a full afternoon of family fun. Brentwood resident Hugh DuPree finally realized a 10-year old desire to start a canoe rental business along the Harpeth for

Williamson Countians. "It's just so much fun, you see all kinds of wildlife," DuPree said as he helped members of a local church group load their canoes in the water. The trip costs \$35 per couple and includes a canoe, life jackets, paddles, return transportation and taxes. DuPree said his ramps are available at no charge to those who own a canoe. Mid-week and group rates are available by calling 300-4844.

Rebel sons gather to aid battlefield - The Tennessean - July 31 - The sons of Confederate Veterans organization returned to the Ryman Auditorium recently to attend a fund-raiser, 100 years after member's forefathers convened there for a United Confederate Veterans Reunion. The SCV began its weeklong convention by attending the fund-raiser for the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society. "We think the battlefield is important just to keep the history of our country fresh in our minds, but we also think it's important from a tourist and commercial standpoint, too," said Dick Knight, a preservation society member and co-chairman of the SVC convention. Shortly before 1897, the UVC raised money for an addition to Ryman Auditorium so there would be enough room for the group's reunion. Capt. Thomas Ryman named the new balcony "The Confederate Gallery."

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Move the courthouse to your house - The Tennessean - July 31 - Want to make a very small scale investment in downtown real estate? The Downtown Franklin Association has a deal for you, a kind of model development proposal, in fact. Up for sale are the county's historic courthouse, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Christ Community Church, each of which you can have for a cool 45 - dollars that is, not millions. The pint-size versions of historic Franklin buildings are the first in a series of collectible china miniatures the DFA is selling to raise funds for its Streetscape beautification program. Unavailable in stores, the buildings must be ordered in advance. The first three buildings will be distributed to buyers in September. Call the DFA's office in City Hall Mall, (615/790-7094) for more information.

Roper's Knob closer to retiring debt - The Tennessean - August 6 - Residents of toney Wyndchase at Aspen Grove apartments enjoy a spectacular view of Roper's Knob from their balconies - and property manager Donna Nolan wants to make sure it stays that way. Inspired by a recent \$1000 donation from Legends Club of Tennessee, Wyndchase has given \$1000 to the Heritage Foundation to help retire its debt on the pristine, 57-acre Civil War site. And in an innovative twist, Nolan has issued a challenge to other county apartment complexes to match Wyndchase's grant. Heritage Foundation director Mary Pearce

says the Wyndchase gift brings fund raising efforts for Ropers Knob very close to their final \$10,000 goal.

From pizza joint to battlefield park - The Tennessean - August 11 - For most kids, a visit with Dad to Fort Granger or the Carter House is a fun field trip. But Clint Genoble's childhood brushes with history changed his life. A graduate student in landscape architecture at Louisiana State University, Genoble has nurtured a passion for Civil War history since he was 5. He even plans a career in historic preservation. This summer Genoble brought his design talents and historical interests home, with an innovative plan for the Battle of Franklin park preservationists' hope to build on Columbia Avenue. "I think the battlefield is as important as our town square," says the life-long Franklin resident. "I became a Civil War buff because of going to the Carter House when I was little and I feel passionate about bringing the area back. It's a shame when people have to say about the Battle of Franklin, 'The worst of the fighting took place over there where the Pizza Hut is.'" As a summer employee of White Taylor Walker, a Brentwood civil engineering firm, he was able to tap

in to landscape architect Paul Lebovitz's expertise and to use the firm's state-of-the-art computers and complex software program which allowed him to combine historic and contemporary maps of the area with his own drawings. The result is a sophisticated but user-friendly historical site that serves as a quite green space and public gathering area, while vividly illustrating military history and 19th century Franklin farm life. Commenting on the plan, Mary Pearce of the Heritage Foundation said, "It may be that we'll do Clint's plan exactly when we do the park, or maybe we'll use just parts of it. But as anyone who works on a project can tell you, if you have a starting point, you're more than halfway there. This helps a lot."

McLEMORE HOUSE. CLOSING

The Heritage Foundation and the African American Heritage Society invite all to the Purchase and Public Closing of the McLemore House on the corner of 11th Avenue and Glass Street Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 9:00 am. Once restored, tentative plans call for this house, built by ex-slave Harvey McLemore, to be used as an African American Museum.

NEXT STFB BOARD MEETING Monday, September 8

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on September 8, 1997 at the Williamson County Library meeting room at 6:30 pm. 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!

Confederate Cemetery Memories

by Ronny Mangrum

While attending this months Save the Franklin Battlefield board meeting, (I was late again), I agreed to write a historical article for our newsletter. I thought, "Sure! No problem. I have access to the voluminous accounts of the bloody battle of Franklin at the Lotz House library, my personal files, along with David Fraley's huge, (Though often cluttered), files too."

The evening before the newsletter deadline David and I were mowing the McGavock Confederate cemetery so that it would look nice for the "Southern Folk Life Festival" that was being held at Carnton on the 16th and 17th. After meeting some people visiting the cemetery that evening I decided to forgo the historical article and share my experiences instead.

I don't know how many of you have spent time at the cemetery, but it is a very humbling and peaceful place. (Of course, it is more enjoyable if you are not pushing a lawn mower.) It usually takes us two to four hours to manicure this hallowed piece of earth. (That depends on how many people *don't* show up.) I have assisted the Tod Carter camp #854, Sons of Confederate Veter-

ans, care for the cemetery three years now. I have yet to spend time there when no one was visiting the final resting place of the 1,481 Rebels.

We are especially happy to answer questions from the many visitors and are always interested in stories they share of an ancestor that is buried there. Many visitors bring flowers and flags to leave at the grave stones. We see many other momentos that have been left by previous visitors, such as hand written notes promising to "never forget you". We see flags from other countries. like Ireland, Scotland, and Germany. One of the more odd things I have seen was the stack of pennies on grave # 185 in the South Carolina section. When we have first time visitors you can see the sentiment on their faces as they view our beautiful cemetery and see the small square stone of a nearly forgotten family member for the first time.

This evening I had the privilege of meeting a gentleman from Kentucky who pulled from his shirt pocket a yellowed newspaper clipping while informing me his name is Robert Shy. I immediately recognized the faded photo-

graph as Franklin's Col. William M. Shy who is buried behind his childhood home on Del Rio Pike. (Actually, he was buried there twice but, that is another story in itself.) Mr. Shy had just learned that he was related to our ill fated Colonel and had just arrived in our fair city. He was in search of Shy's burial site and any other information that might be available. I, of course, informed him that the Colonel was not buried here and promised to take him to the grave of the brave Tennessean who was found after the battle of Nashville with "a cruel hole over his brow."

After restarting my mower it was not long before another group of people began filing through the old iron gate to walk down the center of our historic and consistently visited cemetery. We exchanged smiles as I continued to pace back and forth between the rows of stones trying to finish before dark. To give you an example of how many people walk threw our cemetery, we hardly ever have to mow the center path. It is kept shorter than the rest because of the consistent traffic. (Now, if we could

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the rest of the cemetery.)

It was getting near dusk as three gentlemen entered the front gate and began looking at the huge state markers that are on either end of the state sections. I ask which they are looking for and they emphatically said "Texas!". As I lead them to the object of their long journey it is obvious that one man is blind. (His name is George.) While walking up, he begins to tell me all about his great-great-grandfather's service in the Confederate cavalry and all the battles he had fought in. He then states that he was killed in one of the many charges made at Franklin on November 30, 1864. As we reached the Texas marker it was very moving experience watching George feel of the weathered letters and shapes of the marker. He then gently touch his forehead to the stone and mutter a few words. Next I lead George to the marker of Lt. Thompson where he gently embraced the marker, placed a Texas flag by the stone, and with a quivering voice thanked his company for bringing him to his ancestors final resting place.

These are but a few of the many heartfelt and poignant experiences that have unfolded at the Confederate cemetery from people from all over the world. This is another reason why we need to mark and reclaim the

REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LABEL

Your newsletter mailing label now shows the month and year that your STFB membership expires. Until recently, 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 and renew your membership if your expiration date has passed.

Franklin battlefield. There are thousands of people out there that are emotionally connected to our little hamlet because of the battle 133 years ago. It would have been nice if I could have lead George to the place on the battlefield where his ancestor had been killed while leading a charge against the Union earthworks. We could honor both the Blue and the Grey even more by putting up markers to assist our tourist in understanding more about the five tragic hours when they visit us.

We have accomplished many great things recently with the purchase of the Winstead Hill property, Ropers Knob, and the Cotton Gin site. There is plenty more to do and I would like to urge you to get involved by recruiting new members, help raise funds for historic markers, or attending our monthly board meetings to help guide our ever growing organization.

If any of you would like to

experience some of the heart rending events at the cemetery, please feel free to come by anytime after 5:30 p.m. I'll bring the mower.

WEB SITE UPDATE

The STFB web page now has an Electronic Book Store where you can find books about the Civil War in Tennessee including the Battle of Franklin. STFB is now partnered with AMAZON.COM who sells millions of book titles on the internet. Book purchases that you make at the STFB Electronic Book Store are actually entered, shipped and billed by AMAZON.COM - but STFB receives a small percentage of the purchase price as a referral fee.

If there is a book you can't get at the Lotz House, Carter House of one of the local book stores, or if you live out of town, check out the STFB web page at franklin-stfb.org to see if it is available at the STFB Electronic Book Store.

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD
P.O. Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

1997 Save The Franklin Battlefield Membership/Renewal/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	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$2.00	
		Order Total	