



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

September 1997

www.franklin-stfb.org

Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection, and Promotion of Civil War Sites in Williamson County, Tennessee

BATTLE OF BRENTWOOD TOUR SUNDAY, OCT 5

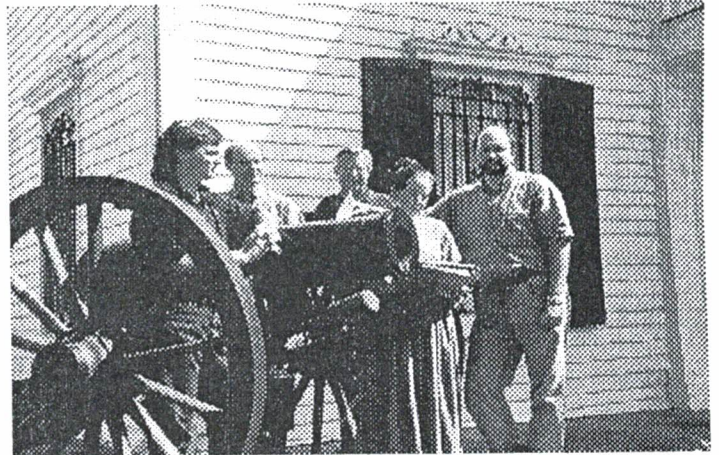
Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc will lead a tour of the Battle of Brentwood on Sunday, October 5 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

This March 25, 1863 battle occurred when Forrest's Confederate Cavalry raided and captured the Union garrison at Brentwood, and then attacked the Union stockade at the railroad bridge just north of Concord Road. A large Federal force from Franklin then marched to Brentwood to pursue the Rebels escaping to the west with their prisoners. Heavy fighting erupted as the Federals crashed into the retreating Confederates.

To learn all about this Civil War battle that swept through our very back yards, meet us at the parking lot west of The Ramparts Building in Brentwood at 2:00 PM October 5. The tour will be led by STFB members and local historians who will lead the discussions and answer all questions.

After initial orientation, we will travel by auto caravan to several sites in the Brentwood area to discuss the various actions of the battle. We suggest that we all double up on rides to reduce the traffic and congestion at the tour stops.

The tour is free to STFB members. Others are asked to donate \$10 per person, or better yet, become a member - Individuals \$12 - Families \$15. Please remember that this is a driving tour, and not a battle re-enactment.



STFB Board Members gathered at the Eotz House Museum to plan the upcoming Battle of Brentwood Tour.

(L-R) Ronny Mangrum, Peter Schofield, Sam Huffman, President EJ Neeley, and David Fraley.

UPCOMING 1997 STFB EVENTS

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

Nov 16 - STFB Membership Meeting
Nov 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).

The News In Review by Peter Schofield

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

Roper's Knob paid off - The Tennessean - August 25 - Four hundred eighty party-goers turned out recently to help the Heritage Foundation burn its mortgage on Roper's Knob, a 57 acre Union Army signal station that will become a public park. The ceremony capped several years of effort to raise state money, private donations and funds from national preservation groups to pay for the \$450,000 site purchased by the Foundation in February 1996. Foremost on many Foundation members' minds, though, was their next project, the reclamation of commercial land around the Carter House on Columbia Avenue and construction of another park on the site of the 1864 Battle of Franklin. "This year we're burning the note on Roper's Knob," said Heritage Foundation executive director Mary Pearce as she held the flaming mortgage papers up for an enthusiastic audience. "Next let's burn the notes on the Domino's Pizza and Pizza Hut sites." The crowd in attendance was jubilant about the foundation's success, particularly a last-minute burst of donations that netted \$10,000 in matching funds from the Civil War Trust.

Back in Time - Sunday - August 3 - If you listen closely you can almost hear the history dripping from the trees in Middle Tennessee. The Volunteer State has been the site of some mighty

interesting events throughout its years, including some fierce battles during the War Between the States. Wartrace is among the places that found its way into that history. So what better place for a store that specializes in Civil War items? Well, that's what Jerry, Connie and Phillip Smith think. They own the Blockade Runner Store, a retail shop in the heart of Wartrace specializing in Civil War-era clothing and equipment. "You could say we're the Wal-Mart of the 1860s," laughs Connie, standing behind a counter displaying buttons, pins and jewelry. "Everything we carry is a reproduction of what was carried in the 1860s." Those interested in finding clothing or books related to the Civil War might want to give the Smith's a call at 615/389-9294 or stop by the store which is right off Highway 64 West. From the Nashville area take Interstate 24 east to exit 97, go right at the bottom of the exit ramp and follow the signs about 10 miles into Wartrace. As soon as you cross the railroad tracks look for the three-story brick building on the left. You've gone back in time.

African-American museum chronicles life of community - The Tennessean - August 28 - As historian Thelma Battle sees it, Franklin's African-

American history museum will be much more than just a warehouse for historic artifacts and dusty documents. It will tell a story that belongs to the whole community. Fund-raising for the restoration of the McLemore House, built by a former slave in the 1800s and now slated to become the area's only black heritage museum has started in earnest. Unlike more formal museums, as a "house museum" the McLemore House will tell the story of everyday life in Hard Bargain, a community many people know little about, Battle says. Mary Mills, president of the African-American Heritage Society hopes for donations of artifacts, furniture and memorabilia from African-American families. "We're not sure just what it will look like just yet, but I envision something like Alex Haley's home where each room tells a story. We want a place where school children can come and we can tell them African-American stories."

Carving a controversy - The Tennessean - August 30 - At an age when others might be content to putter about the garden, Jack Kershaw, 83, grabs the controls of his cherry-picker crane and sends himself soaring 22 feet high on a lurching ride that follows artistic muse, lure of the Civil War and the contours of the giant horse he's sculpting.

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Atop the two-story-tall horse will sit a huge, saber-flashing, silver-leafed Nathan Bedford Forrest - the Confederate general who still inspires affection and disgust. Whether seen as a brave fighter and Southern defender or as a slave trader and Klan leader, Forrest will be impossible to miss when the 25-foot-tall statue of him goes on display in the Confederate flag park at the end of the year. The private park on Interstate 65 in South Davidson County has itself sparked conflicting emotions since opening this summer along a busy stretch between Harding Place and Old Hickory Boulevard. But putting a controversy inside a controversy delights Kershaw. He's been walking his own path for decades, mixing art, politics and Southern hospitality - all with fearless glee. And through it all, he somehow keeps rising above the frays he makes. Leaning out of the cherry-picker basket he continues cutting and shaping the horse, moving a clump of mane here and the angle of an ear there. And, all while smiling as he carves out another controversy.

Preservation chief quits in Franklin - The Tennessean -September 3 - Rudy Jordan, the force behind the City's nationally famous Main Street rehabilitation effort, resigned recently as executive director of the Downtown Franklin Association to pursue a career as an independent preservation consultant. "This is a happy move for me," Jordan said. "Things are looking good for downtown Franklin. There's never a perfect time when everything you set out to do is achieved, but I've been working in local preservation for 20 years, and it's time to look for other opportunities." DFA's efforts netted it one of the first Great American Main Street awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1995.

Courthouse plan awaits parking vote - The Tennessean -September 4 - The county commission's Property Committee refused recently to decide whether to move the cramped county courthouse until Franklin officials vote on fi-

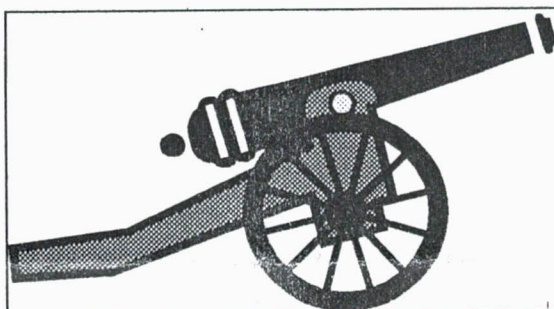
nancing part of a new downtown parking facility that could make the move unnecessary. City and county officials and local merchants have discussed a multi-story parking building that would include office or commercial space. Franklin City Administrator Jay Johnson has told the committee that city officials were receptive to discussions on a jointly developed parking garage with the county. "I have no objection to staying downtown." commissioner Stan Tyson said recently. "However, I cannot vote for anything until the city makes a commitment (on) something specific." The committee has been debating for 22 months about what to do with the crowded 36,000-square-foot historic downtown courthouse, built in 1858. Consultants estimate that the county will need at least 100,000 square feet of space in the next 20 years. Meanwhile the committee unanimously voted to eliminate two potential sites for a courts building (both of which were contiguous to the Franklin battlefield and were the subject of a letter from STFB President Neeley to Courthouse Property Committee Chairman William Mott calling for their elimination from the list of potential sites.)

Lotz House Museum gets not-for-profit status - The Williamson Leader - September 4 - The Lotz House Museum which was previously privately owned has been reclassified as a not-for-profit museum. "There are a lot of expenses incurred by running a museum including staffing, the addition and upkeep of artifacts and the need to keep involved in the community," said Rhone Mangrum, director of the Museum. "The new status will allow the community to show its support of the museum and allow us to continue to provide (support) to the community as well as to those traveling from around the world to see our outstanding collection," he added. The Lotz house museum is an historic house and an exhibitor of rare and identified artifacts. Open daily to the public, the museum offers special tours for school children, preservation societies and civic organizations. If you are interested in supporting this historic site by making a tax deductible donation call 615/791-6533 for information.

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County moved quickly to beat developers to state land - The Tennessean - September 5 - Houses, instead of a park with hiking and nature trails, could have been in the cards for an 80-acre tract of land adjoining the Natchez Trace Parkway. The state held onto the land until this year, when the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation declared it surplus, advertised its sale, and began accepting bids. But several county organizations concerned about the eventual development of the land pushed for acquiring the property for development as a nature park. District 3 County Commissioner Judy Hayes, who also serves as chairwoman of Williamson County Tourism, said she envisions the park having low-impact hiking and nature trails and to be a center of attraction for tourists as well as local residents and bikers on the Natchez Trace. Architects will soon begin drawing up a master plan, and Williamson County Parks and Recreation has agreed to assist in that process. In addition to Williamson County Tourism, the Williamson County-Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Tennessee Natchez Trace Corridor Association were instrumental in convincing the state to let the county plan the park.



**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.

IBM DONATES NEW COMPUTER TO STFB

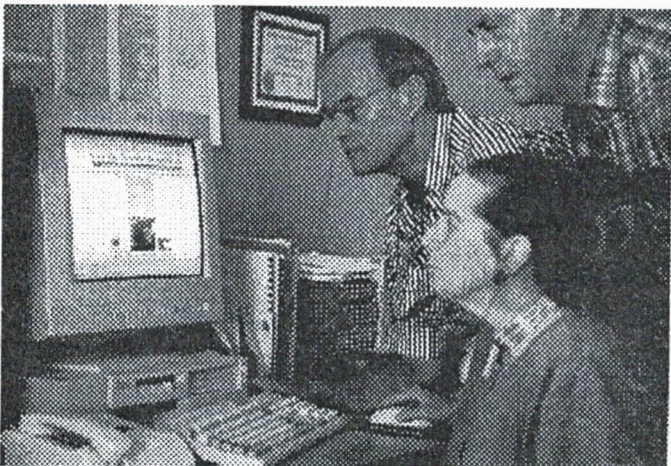
The IBM Company has recently gifted Save The Franklin Battle with a new top-of-the line personal computer. "This new system and its latest software will allow us to maintain and upload our web page without having to impose on our members to do it for us " said STFB President EJ Neeley.

"The new machine and software we allow us to still use our existing laser printer and software to produce our monthly newsletter," said Kim Hoover, STFB member and resident computer consultant. "And the new machine also has a fast CD ROM drive that will allow us to add more extensive graphics to our newsletter," she added.

The donation was made through IBM's Funds For Community Services, a program that supports IBM employees and retirees who actively participate in non-profit organizations. The nomination was submitted by IBM retiree and STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman. "The system has a large 17 inch monitor and a Pentium 166 processor", said Huffman, "it makes working on our web page a breeze."

"Today, more and more Civil War research material is being distributed on CD ROM media," said STFB Board member and Lotz House historian David Fraley. "For example", he added, "our new machine will allow us to quickly search the entire Official Records of the Rebellion by topic or key word."

Originally published in the two decades after the Civil War in over 100 volumes, the OR is now available on one CD ROM disk.



SLIGHTLY USED COMPUTER FOR SALE

Believe it or not, our old computer is now for sale for \$400. It is an IBM 486DX2 66mhz with a 1.44 diskette, 32meg memory, and a 1.6 gigabyte hard drive. The price includes an IBM 15" SVGA monitor, a 101 US keyboard, and a mouse. The system is preloaded with OS/2, Windows 3.11 and DOS.

The system is clean and undamaged - all books and manuals are included. It was used mostly on Sunday afternoons by fairly inexperienced people. Interested parties should call STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman at 370-3842.



NEXT STFB BOARD MEETING Monday, October 13

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on October 13 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!

Board Members Peter Schofield and Sam Gant, along with STFB President E J Neeley check out the STFB web page on the new computer donated by IBM.

**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 _____ Phone _____

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield~P.O. Box 851~Franklin, TN 37065-0851

Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

Quantity	Description Annual Membership (Choose One)	Price Each	Total
	-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 Bumper sticker	\$1.50	
		Order Total	