

# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

October 1997

[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

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

## RIDLEY WILLS TO SPEAK AT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Sunday, November 16 we will have our annual membership meeting at Otey Hall, located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm.

Ridley Wills will be our featured speaker. He will give a talk on his new book "*Too Young to Die.*" He always gives an excellent presentation.

Once again there will be light refreshments served and door prizes. Please make plans to attend this important meeting!

### NEW FEATURE IN STFB NEWSLETTER

The STFB newsletter now has a new column each month titled '**Letters From Franklin**'. The column will feature one or two letters written shortly after the Battle of Franklin by the soldiers and residents who were there. Historical notes may be added to help frame the letter's context, and to clarify the writer's references.

The letters will also be indexed and added to the STFB web site - [franklin-stfb.org](http://franklin-stfb.org) - each month so that over time we will have an extensive collection of letters for your study.

If you or your family have 'Letters From Franklin' that you feel should be published here, drop us a note or email

[historian@franklin-stfb.org](mailto:historian@franklin-stfb.org)

## *Report from Your President*

### *Members:*

Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc. held the third in our 1997 tour series on Sunday afternoon, October 5, 1997. We had 24 to take part, five of which became new members.

I wish to thank Peter Schofield for the great press releases, Sam Huffman who mans our membership table for these tours, Joe Smyth and David Fraley who came with driving maps and order of battle along with a reading list to help "you read more about it." David was our guide and did a great job. These tours are truly a joint effort by your Board.

We have one more tour for 1997, that will cover Hood's Retreat after Nashville included in the tour will be stops in Williamson County.

You may not realize these tours are free to our membership so please come and join us, Sunday, November 23.

In order to save battlefield sites, you have to know where they are. That is one of the purposes of these tours.

E. J. Neeley  
President, STFB

# The News In Review by Peter Schofield

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

**Eyewitness stories of 1864 battle available again - The Tennessean - 9/25/97 -** *Homespun Tales: The Battle of Franklin*, is once again in print and available through the Pioneers Corner Association. The book is a collection of eyewitness accounts of people in Franklin for the Battle on Nov. 30, 1864. The collection was assembled in 1930 when Nancy Amelia Greer interviewed Franklin residents over 75 years old who had witnessed the battle as part of her Master's thesis program at George Peabody College in Nashville. The book was never published other than the copies prepared for the thesis. The Board of Directors of Pioneer's Corner Association, a historic organization in Franklin, decided to make a limited edition available. The book is available for \$19 including tax and handling from the association, Box 542, Franklin, TN 37065. (Ed. Go Sue!!!)

**Conference Center wins final approvals - The Williamson Leader - 10/2/97 -** The Cool Springs Conference Center is a go. The Williamson County Commissioners approved an inter-local agreement with the City of Franklin for the joint ownership of the \$12 million center and agreements with Atlanta-based developer, Stormont-Trice, for the operations and management of the conference facility. The Governor's annual conference on tourism has already booked the center for its 1999 conference which attracts nearly 1,500 attendees.

**130-mile driving tour to link Civil War sites - The Tennessean - 10/5/97 -** Tennessee's Backroads Heritage, a multi-county tourism or-

ganization, has partnered with local citizens to design and develop a Civil War driving trail based on the Tullahoma campaign. The 130-mile trail will start in Bedford County at the Beech Grove Confederate Cemetery and end at the University of the South campus in Sewanee. The trail will be made up of two battlefield sites, numerous Confederate Cemeteries and sites of other skirmishes. Campaign trail brochures are now available at the Harton House Welcome center in Tullahoma. The Tullahoma campaign will be included in all the Civil War Trust's promotional materials featuring sanctioned trails.

**Award-winning photographer's book showcases Williamson County - The Tennessean -** It's no accident that 18 of the 100 photos in *The Tennesseans: A people Revisited* are of Williamson County. "Williamson County is represented in this book because it is close to home and my heart," said Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Robin Hood of Franklin. "Tennessee is the most scenic state in the country and Williamson County is the showcase." The book includes images across the state, along with six evocative essays written by Barry Parker. Williamson County photographs include several shots of downtown Franklin, Carter House, cowboys in Leiper's Fork, hunters along the Shoal Branch, and others. Hood expects local residents to be taken with the images. (Ed. I bought it. It's GREAT!)

**War memorial getting new angel, home - The Tennessean - 10/7/97 -** The Angel of Peace (on the Battle of Nashville monument) once

smiled down from a 40-foot obelisk on Franklin Road, a memorial to the countrymen who fought each other in the Civil War and then united under one flag to do battle in World War I. The angel is expected to return to her pedestal next spring or summer. An artist has been commissioned to recreate the angel of the Battle of Nashville statue, which was destroyed by a tornado in 1974. Once the work is completed, the angel and the base of the statue - which still stands - will be moved to a park at Granny White Pike and Battlefield Drive, said Jim Summerville, a historian who has volunteered to work on the project. There are plans for a park to surround the statue with exhibits to explain its symbolism. These have been designed by architect Gary Hawkins of Hawkins Partners, Inc. Organizers, which include the Tennessee Historical Commission, will have to raise an estimated \$400,000 to \$500,000 to fund the park, Hawkins said. (Ed. Let's do it!!!)

**Heritage Foundation's gala to benefit museum, land trust - The Tennessean - 10/8/97 -** More than 400 guests are expected at Lowe's Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel on Nov. 1 for "The 1920s: A Decadent Decade," the theme for this year's ball. The 24th annual black-tie gala will help provide roofing material for the Mc Lemoire House on 11th Avenue North, site of the future African-American History museum; an updating of the foundation's popular "Where You Live" slide presentation, widely used in county schools to educate fourth and seventh graders about local his-

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## Letters from Franklin

Letter from Pvt James A. McCord of Co G, 30th Georgia Infantry to his brother Capt William McCord who commanded Company G until wounded at Jonesboro, Georgia August 31, 1864. Capt McCord was recuperating at his home in Jackson, Georgia when this letter was written. (From Special Collections of the Woodruff Library of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia)

Franklin Tenn  
Decr. 3rd 1864  
Dear Brother

After a long and very hard march, we arrived at this place, the 30th day of Novr. about 4 oclk when we went immediately into a fight and every one says that it was the hardest fought battle that has been fought during the war. There is no telling what our loss is. We lost ten Genls killed & wounded. Genls Cleburne Granburry, Gist, Adams, Strahl, & one more I forgotten were killed and four that were wounded. Granburry's celebrated brigade left this place yesterday morning with 137 Guns all told. Hall & Jno Tom Gillispie(1) was both killed dead on the field, and nearly every one of the company fared the same fate. The larger portion of Genl Bates Div acted very cowardly in the first of the fight. Tyler's & Finley's and Jackson's left would not charge the works.

I was skirmishing in front of Tyler & Finley and they run three times and left me on the hill begging them to come back when one of old Abes boys plugged me in the right foot, making it a severe wound, tho not a serious one I hope. I am well cared for. I do not know any place where I could fare as I do here. The people are the kindest in the world especially the Ladies. The world does not know their superior and I doubt that their equal can be found.

Lt McKibbin(2) wounded in left fore arm. Troy Saunders(3) slightly in arm (gone back to Co.) Mo Mays(4) & Ben Deason(5) were wounded but not dangerous I believe. I do not know how your company suffered (but little I believe). No Country knows a braver man than Genl Bates. I am proud to say that there was no one between me and the Yankees when I was wounded. You will have to excuse this short letter as my foot pains me a great deal & I do not know when I will get a chance to send of though I believe I will put it in the P.O. Give my love to all.

Truly yours  
Jas A McCord(6)

P.S. This fight lasted eleven hours.

### Notes:

(1) Cpl William Hall Gillespie, Co B, 7th Texas Infantry was mortally wounded and died at Franklin, Tennessee. He is buried in McGavock Confederate Cemetery, Texas Section 3, Grave 39. His brother, Pvt John Thomas Gillespie Jr. was in the same company and was also killed at Franklin. He is buried in Texas Section 2, Grave 26.

(2) Lt Martin Van Buren McKibben enlisted as 5th Sgt, Co I, 30th Georgia Infantry on September 25, 1861. He was appointed 1st Sgt May 13, 1862. Promoted to Jr 2nd Lt on July 16, 1863 and 2nd Lt in 1864. He was severely wounded at Franklin on November 30, 1864. He was listed in Saint Mary's Hospital at West Point, Mississippi on January 13, 1865.

(3) Pvt Troy S. Saunders enlisted in Co I, 30th Georgia Infantry on June 30, 1863. He was wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia on September 19, 1863. He was listed in Direction Hospital at Griffin, Georgia on December 22, 1863. No further record.

(4) Pvt Robert W. Mays enlisted in Co I, 30th Georgia Infantry on September 25, 1861. Roll for December 31, 1862, last on file, shows him 'present'. Pension records show he was wounded in the right breast at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia on September 19, 1863. Born 1842, he died in Butts County, Georgia on December 8, 1918.

(5) Pvt Benjamin T. Deason enlisted in Co I, 30th Georgia Infantry on September 25, 1861. He was wounded at the Battle of Franklin and captured in one of the Confederate hospitals there on December 17, 1864. He was released from Camp Chase, Ohio Prison on June 13, 1865.

(6) Pvt James A. McCord enlisted on November 1, 1862. In January 1864, he was on detail duty as a clerk at the General Hospital in Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi due to a disability. He was wounded at the Battle of Franklin and captured in one of the Confederate hospitals there on December 17, 1864. He was released from Camp Chase, Ohio Prison in June, 1865.



## GEN JOHN ADAMS EXHIBIT AT THE LOTZ HOUSE MUSEUM

From now until December 18, the Lotz House Museum presents its Fall Exhibit '**Gen. John Adams and the Battle of Franklin**'. The exhibit focuses on the famous last ride of Gen. Adams at the November 30, 1864 battle. Included in the display is a uniform coat worn by Adams, the saddle he was riding when mortally wounded, and his unique brigade flag.

Adams, one of six Confederate generals killed at Franklin, was born July 1, 1825 in Nashville of Irish immigrants. After graduating from West Point, he served in the Mexican War and was promoted for gallantry. He resigned from the US Army in 1861 and quickly rose through Confederate ranks to Brigadier General in command of six regiments of Mississippi infantry at Franklin.

During the battle, his brigade's advance was hindered by a line of osage orange shrubs. After guiding part of his command to the left of the obstacle, Adams then led a charge against a portion of the Union trenches held by the 65th Illinois Infantry. Riding at the front, Adams attempted to jump his horse "Old Charlie" over the earthworks when he and his mount were riddled with bullets. Union soldiers carried the mortally wounded

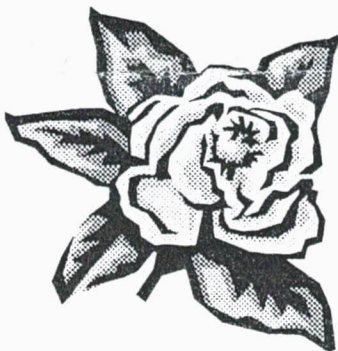
Adams behind their lines toward the Carter cotton gin that stood nearby. Federal soldiers removed the saddle as a War Trophy for their general, Jack Casement. He kept the saddle for many years, but felt compelled to then return it to Adams' widow.

The Lotz House Exhibit is the very first time all three Adams artifacts have been displayed together. "It is important to recognize all of the men who fought in the Battle of Franklin," says Patrick Craddock, curator of the Lotz House Museum, "but we at the museum are taking this special opportunity to recognize General John Adams whose life was brought to an end just 150 yards from this museum." The saddle and flag were each pierced with bullets during the battle. The saddle has two such holes and the flag is dotted with eight or nine bullet holes.

A landmark on the field during the Battle of Franklin, the Lotz House Museum is located at 1111 Columbia Avenue, Franklin, Tennessee (615)791-6533. The museum is indebted to the Tennessee State Museum for the loan of these artifacts.

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### Tree Planting at McGavock Cemetery



On Wednesday, October 1, 1997 at 10:30 a.m., I had the honor of presenting a Magnolia tree to Franklin Chapter #14 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to be planted in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery. They were the recipient of the Tennie Pinkerton Dozier award for 1996, announced at our Annual Meeting. They had requested the tree be planted during their regular October meeting. A marker will be ordered to be placed at the base of the tree.

My thanks to Ronny Mangrum of the STFB Board, and Mark Willoughby of the Tod Carter Chapter of the SCV, for planting the tree. Following the meeting, your President served refreshments to the group.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on November 10 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!

Mark your calendars for the following events:

- Next Board Meeting - Nov. 10
- Annual Membership Meeting - Nov. 16
- Retreat from Nashville Tour - Nov. 23

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tory; and the Heritage Foundation Land Trust, which purchases significant historic properties, such as the site of the Carter cotton gin on Columbia Avenue. To receive an invitation, available to non-members on a first-come, first-served basis, call the foundation at 615/591-8500.

**Confederate general's items on display together 1st time - The Tennessean - 10/17/97** - The bullet-riddled saddle, brigade flag and uniform coat of Confederate Gen. John Adams, who was killed in the 1864 Battle of Franklin, are on display together for the first time at the Lotz House Museum. The artifacts are the focal point of an exhibit on Adams, a graduate of West Point and once a rising star in the U. S. Army before the Civil War. The Nashville-born son of Irish immigrants, Adams, who was decorated for gallantry in combat during the Mexican War, resigned from the U. S. Army in 1861 to serve as a captain of cavalry in the Confederate army. He was shot to death astride his horse while trying to jump Union earthworks not far from the Lotz House, which is located at 1111 Columbia Ave. in Franklin. For more information call the museum at 615/791-6533.

**FIGHT FOR NASHVILLE  
OCTOBER 24 - 26**

The 1864 Tennessee Campaign event organizers are sponsoring •The Fight for Nashville!• It will be held on the same property as the Spring Hill, Franklin & Nashville Battles in October 1995.

In 1995, they raised \$90,000 for historic preservation. They hope to raise even more in 1997!

For more information on the event, visit their website at:

<http://www.hsv.tis.net/~mdw/ffn.html>

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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 Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		Order Total	