



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

December 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*

## Report on Annual Membership Meeting

We met Sunday, November 16, 1997, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Otey Hall.

Mr. Ridley Wills, long time Franklin resident, local historian and author, was our keynote speaker. His subject was his recent book "Old Enough to Die." This is the story of his wife's family, the Bosticks, drawn from a large collection of correspondence from the Bostick men during their service to the cause of the Confederacy. It was even more enjoyable because of the number of slides to put faces on the people of which he spoke.

STFB presented Mrs. Gale Haddock the 1997 Tennie Pinkerton Dozier Award in recognition of her service to Battlefield preservation. She was the force behind the Battlefield conferences held in 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995. She was among the first to realize the importance of Saving the Franklin Battlefield and its impact on the community. I feel that it was during her term as alderwoman and Vice Mayor of Franklin that historic groups began to realize they would get more accomplished if they worked together.

The business conducted during the annual meeting was the following. The by-laws were amended to have 10 board members instead of 9. Kim Hoover was elected to fill the new board position. She has volunteered many hours working on our newsletter. The terms of Sam Huffman, Sam Gant, Ronny Mangrum, Herbert Harper and E.J. Neeley extended for one year. The following is your executive board for 1998:

President	E.J. Neeley
Co Vice President	Peter Scholfield
Co Vice President	Ronny Mangrum
Secretary	Sam Gant
Treasurer	Sam Huffman

Ronny Mangrum had volunteered to gather door prizes for our meeting. He had a large number of great prizes. Lynne Pope had charge of refreshments and those on

her committee Carol Huffman and Kim Hoover did a great job.

I look forward to a busy year, and if your Board can be of service to you, please call me 368-7246.



## President's Report to Membership

What a great year this has been! We have met all our goals for 1997 but one. We have increased our membership. We had our four Battlefield Tours. The Illumination Tour of the McGavock Confederate Cemetery raised \$1013.05 toward the upkeep of the cemetery. The money raised was donated to Franklin Chapter #14 of the UDC who hold title to the site.

STFB helped with a donation toward the purchase of Roper's Knob, which by the way is now paid for. We gave a \$500.00 donation toward the purchase of the Carter Cotton Gin property, where so much of the fighting November 30, 1864, took place.

In October, STFB planted a magnolia tree in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery. The tree was planted to honor the Ladies of Franklin Chapter #14 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who were our Tennie Pinkerton Dozier award winner for 1996.

I am sorry that all of you have not had the pleasure of working with your board on a regular basis. My personal thanks to Peter Schofield and Ronny Mangrum our vice-presidents. Peter has served as our Press Relations person extraordinaire. Sam Gant, our Secretary, who kept up with all our discussions during our board meetings. Sam Huffman, our Treasurer, has kept our books balanced and has been the guiding force in getting our web page up and running. He has also helped our friends in other historic organizations get their web pages set up. Joe Smyth, David Fraley, and Bobby Hargrove who have been so help-

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# The News In Review by Peter Schofield

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

**Tennessee's 2nd Infantry here - The Williamson Leader - 11/13/97**  
The 2nd Infantry, Cleburne's Brigade, hosted a living history at Fort Granger recently. Members of the Middle Tennessee-based 2nd Tennessee Infantry portrayed the common soldier of the Confederate Army of Tennessee at Fort Granger, the site of the living history demonstrations, located behind Pinkerton Park on Third Avenue. The men of Cleburne's were camped inside the historical fort. There were company maneuvering drills and firing demonstrations. The public walked through the camp and could see how the common soldier of the Confederate army lived, slept and ate.

**History Channel illustrates the past with seven tours - USA Today - 11/14/97** - First they hooked viewers with travel documentaries. Now they want to lead the trip. Starting in March the History Channel is branching out into the tour business offering couch potatoes a chance to see the historic places featured each night on TV. Initially the network will offer seven itineraries on broad themes such as the American Revolution, examined in an eight-day voyage of mostly well-trod sites such as Pennsylvania's Valley Forge, Philadelphia's Independence Hall and Williamsburg, Va. History Channel historians will accompany the bus tours. Prices for the seven or eight-night trips are \$1,269 to \$1,989 per person, including most meals, hotels and bus transportation. For information call, 888-397-8687.



**Filmmakers give Franklin an audition - The Tennessean - 11/19/97**  
The Southern charm, historic flavor and neatly framed downtown area have attracted a small crew of independent filmmakers to Franklin. An Indiana-based production company was in town recently shooting scenes of downtown Franklin and nearby fields. The clips were to be reviewed in Hollywood to audition the town as a film location. If the meeting with the producers in Hollywood goes well, crews could begin filming in Franklin within one to three years, it has been reported.

**Franklin may expand historic zone - The Tennessean - 11/20/97**  
- Expanding the historic preservation zone boundaries in downtown Franklin is a good idea, planning commissioners decided recently. Downtown Franklin has had historic preservation zoning for seven years. The zoning is on top, or "overlays," other types of zoning in the area like residential or commercial. "It's just one extra step," said Mary Pearce of the Heritage Foundation. Advocates of historic preservation say it's really just one more review process for projects that require a building permit and will be seen from the property's main street. It's a necessary measure if downtown Franklin is to maintain its charm and continue to be a tourist attraction.

**Winstead Hill dedication set - The Williamson Leader - 11/26/97** - Sunday (November 30) marked the 133rd anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. In commemoration of this event, a memorial, "Brigadier's Walk on Winstead Hill," was dedi-

cated. Winstead Hill is located at the intersection of Mack Hatcher Parkway and Highway 31 South just outside of Franklin. Honored with granite monuments are Generals Adams, Carter, Strahl and Granbury. On November 30, 1864 these generals who commanded brigades in the Army of Tennessee during the War Between the States, were faced with certain death as they faced a triple line of entrenched Union forces. Shortly after this battle, on December 16, 1864, General Hood was defeated at the Battle of Nashville and the Army of Tennessee abandoned the Western Theater to U. S. Forces. Less than four months later, General Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

**Restoration begins on potential African American history Museum - The Tennessean - 11/27/97** - Initial work has begun to preserve the McLemore House in the Mt. Hope neighborhood that preservationists hope will become the home of an African American history museum. Volunteers began stripping worn out roofing materials off the house recently. About 1,800 square feet of pre-painted metal roofing will be needed to protect the structure from the weather so that restoration can begin in earnest. The house was purchased for \$17,500 from Habitat for Humanity by Franklin's African American Heritage Society and the Heritage Foundation. The two groups are trying to raise an additional \$50,000 to repair and restore the late-1880s house to house the museum and serve as a community gathering spot.

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# Letters from Franklin



Tupelo Station, Miss.

January 15, 1865

Mr. A. Critz-Sir:

It is with much regret that I seat myself this afternoon to announce to you the death of your son, Peter L. Critz. He was killed at Franklin, Tennessee, while charging the enemy's works. We had taken one line of works and were fighting with bayonets the second line, and Peter was on top of the works when he was shot. He had in his pocket a very fine pipe with his name engraved on it which he said he was saving for his Father. He was shot through the pipe, through the heart, and through the neck, and never did a more gallant officer fall by the ruthless hand of the invader.

Peter was in command of our company when killed. We lost all of our company there except myself and James Reynolds. Reynolds lost his right arm, and I was wounded in the left leg with two balls. I am now almost well. We all feel at a loss without Peter. We had elected him Captain of our company. He has left a great many warm friends in the regiment to mourn (his) loss. None of his things were saved on account of none of his company being there to see it. One of the infirmary corps told me that he buried Peter and Mrs. Koemegay's son together and that they were buried decently. We lost a great many good men there. Our brigade now numbers only one hundred and fifteen men. We went into the fight with five hundred men.

I would have written sooner, but this is the first opportunity I have had of getting a letter off. I will now close.

Yours most respectfully,

R. G. Phillips.

Co. B, 24th Mississippi Regt.

Brantley's Brigade

(From: "Confederate Veteran Magazine", February, 1920)

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ful with our Battlefield Tours. Mr. Herbert Harper, who has been a very important advisor to the Board. Lynne Pope, our Executive Director and a Volunteer beyond her paid duties, and to Kim Hoover who has helped to get us organized in order to get a newsletter to the membership each month.

Thank you, the membership, for the trust you placed in me by asking me to serve as your President 1996-1997. I have tried to serve by example. Some things we started I was not sure we could finish but we did. I guess that shows we can reach our goals if we work together.

And remember the battlefield has not yet been saved, we must continue to work together!

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Civil War tourism receives boost from national heritage designation - The Tennessean - 11/30/97 - Tennessee's Civil War tourism is getting a boost from Washington. Congress has named the state one of only eight National Heritage Areas in the country, giving Tennessee a portion of more than \$5 million set aside for the project. The Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University will take the lead in developing Civil War sites in Tennessee. Public-private partnerships will be set up to identify areas of historic significance. Thirty-eight sites in Tennessee have been identified by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission as having special significance in Civil War history.



## BRIGADIER'S WALK DEDICATION CEREMONY

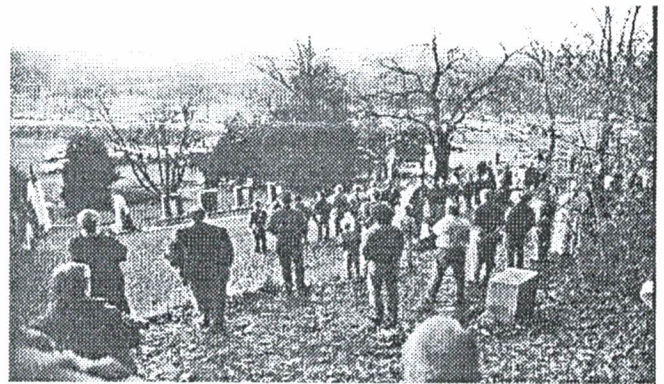
November 30, 1997 dawned overcast, cloudy and cold on Winstead Hill. By 11:30 am, much as it was 133 years ago, the sun broke through and it promised to be an Indian Summer type day. They started arriving about 11:45 am in small bunches from all across the Mid-South Region. By the time the ceremony started there would be over 50 strong including a group that followed the route of Cleburne's Division up from Rippa Villa. by noon Franklin's finest was on hand to provide security and they were needed as 250 people (not counting late arrivals) made their way to "The Hill" to remember the 5 Brigadier Generals killed at the Battle of Franklin. According to STFB Vice President Ronny Mangrum it was the "Largest gathering on Winstead Hill to commemorate Franklin" that he could remember.

Among the dignitaries present were E. J. Neeley, President STFB, Wes Shofner, President Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, James Turner TN Division Commander sons of Confederate Veterans, noted Tallahassee, FL attorney & Gist Historian Emeritus Edith Elizabeth Pollitz, prominent Nashville Businessman Sir William Dorris and Bill & Candace Wade from San Francisco, CA.

One of the highlights of the day was the arrival of direct line descendant Vera Strahl and her brother and sister. She came from northern Michigan to meet with her siblings in Ohio and drove in Saturday night to Franklin. They of course are related to Brig. General Otho F. Strahl. Also our own direct line descendant STFB Vice President Peter Schofield of Federal commander John Schofield lineage was on hand as well as the lovely Linda Carroll Forrest of the Nathan Bedford Forrest line.

Promptly at 1:00 pm spectators were escorted to the observation point and walk way to view the proceedings and it was here that, like 133

years ago, the weather took a radical turn for the worst. It began to sprinkle rain as Stars & Bars Consulting's Skip Earle (STFB member) introduced Master of Ceremonies Mark Choate, commander of the Sam Davis Camp SCV who own Winstead Hill. After a short opening address, Mr. Choate turned proceedings to Chaplain David Jones of the League of the South who led the opening prayer. By now it had begun to rain and this turned to golf ball sized hail as the temperature dropped dramatically. James Turner dedicated the plaque of distinguished service to James Herbert of the Sam Davis Camp and the plaque opening Brigadier's Walk. By now the thunder and lightning accompanying the hail were quite violent and the Commander David Stegians's request (Director Rippa Villa Plantation & Commander Sharpshooter Battalion & Color Guard) a 7 volley salute was fired backed by 4 volleys of light artillery fire and "The Hill" was safely and promptly cleared save the 20 or so folks in the observation post. With no let-up in sight after about 25 minutes the 5 granite monuments were unveiled and the hard work of Stars & Bars consulting and the Sam Davis SCV Camp justly rewarded as the stones are



*Ceremonies on Winstead Hill are about to begin before the skies would open up and dump rain and hail on the crowd.*

now "Standing Tall" on Winstead Hill.

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A remarkable feat, considering the weather and scheduling of overlapping events, 250 people were at the opening remarks. There were 50 uniformed re-enactors, 10 Southern Belles and children in period dress (this doesn't count the dozen or so folks that showed up afterwards) and 200 spectators. They came from as far north as Michigan, as far west as California, as far east as Maryland and as far south as Florida. there were also 12 SCV camps represented, 2 UDC Chapters (led by Nashville's Carolyn Kent) and 1 SUV Camp there.

It was truly a banner day for the Franklin Preservation Community.



*Several reenactors walk through the hail at the conclusion of the ceremonies.*

Skip Earle

## Battle Anniversary Ceremonies Sponsored by Carter House

A coordinated schedule of events were also sponsored on November 30 by The Carter House to commemorate the 133rd Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. The timetables of all events were carefully scheduled so that attendees could participate in both programs.

The Carter House program began mid-day with Memorial service at the Carnton Confederate Cemetery led by Ronny Mangrum and David Fraley. The memorial message was delivered by a special guest, Father Dennis Patalovich, from Chicago, Illinois.

Later at the Carter House, the program continued with a special presentation and tree planting. Mike and Sharon Whittaker donated a first printing copy of Merrill's map of the Battle of Franklin to the Carter House Museum. The donation was made in honor of Eloise North who has been an long time supporter, employee, volunteer and gentle guiding hand at the Carter House for the last 17 years.

Merrill was the Union Engineering officer who led the official post war effort to map and document the battlefields of the Civil War. This particular map is more detailed, and informative, than the common maps published in most books.

Cedar trees were then planted at the Carter House to commemorate the six generals killed or mortally wounded at Franklin. These plantings were added to the two honey locust trees donated some time ago by Stewart Moore in memory of all Union and Confederate dead at Franklin. A sycamore tree has also been planted in memory of Dr. Stanley Karhl, professor of history at Ohio State University and Union re-enactor, who died at the 1989 re-enactment of the Battle of Franklin.

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A cedar tree was planted two years ago in memory of General Gist, and during the ceremonies, Edith Pollitz recounted the life and service of Gist. Vera Strahl spoke on the life and times of her ancestor, General Otho F. Strahl, and STFB President E Neeley recounted the life and tragic death of General Carter. Thomas Cartwright then gave a short address on the other generals killed at Franklin - Cleburne, Granbury and Adams.

Although rain cancelled the planned bonfire, the Carter House conducted an open house with many visitors throughout this special and moving day. Likewise, The Lotz House Museum hosted a reception and open house for the day's participants. The group then retired to the Bunganut Pig where a special Sunday opening provided a wonderful evening of food and companionship.



## NEXT BOARD MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 12

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on January 12 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!

### 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 Belt Buckle	\$5.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$2.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		Order Total	