



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 1998

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

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

## STFB First Driving Tour of 1998

### FIRST BLOOD – THE WAR COMES HOME

*Confederate Cavalry Raids in Williamson County, Spring of 1863*

Save The Franklin Battlefield Inc will lead a tour of the Battles of Thompson's Station, First Franklin, and Brentwood, on Sunday March 29 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

On March 5, 1863 at the Battle of Thompson's Station, a strong Union force of 1,500 troops had left Franklin to reconnoiter and forage for food toward Columbia. They encountered and were surrounded by General Van Dorn's cavalry under W. H. Jackson and Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Federal cavalry escaped, but the infantry with a battery of artillery was forced to surrender.

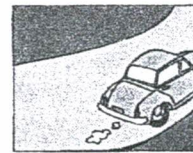
The March 25, 1863 Battle of Brentwood occurred when Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederate cavalry raided and captured the Union garrison at Brentwood, and then attacked the Union stockade at the railroad bridge just north of Concord Road. A large Federal force from Franklin then marched to Brentwood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

The First Battle of Franklin occurred April 10, 1863 when cavalry forces from Spring Hill under Confederate General Van Dorn charged into downtown Franklin "almost up to the muzzles of the guns of Fort Granger." After fighting their way through town and freeing some previously captured prisoners, the daring riders left more rapidly than they had entered.

To learn about these battles that swept through our very backyards, meet us at the old train depot in Thompson's Station at 2 PM March 27. The tour will be led

by STFB members who will give an overview of the three battles. We will travel by auto caravan to several sites from Thompson's Station to Brentwood to discuss the various actions of the engagements.

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.



## From Your President

As we continue in our mission to educate in order to help with preservation, protection and promotion of Civil War Sites in Williamson County, we are making plans for our tours of battle sites in Williamson County. We will have new information and new sites to be included in the tours this year.

Hope you can join us!

*E. J. Neeley*



# *The News In Review by Peter Schofield*

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

## **Oldest veteran to be identified - The Williamson Leader - 2/5/98 -**

A plan to identify the oldest living war veteran in Williamson County was announced by County Executive Robert Ring. Sam Tyson will lead local participation. He may be reached at 615/790-5623 by those with appropriate information.

## **Modernizing - The Williamson Leader - 2/5/98 -**

Franklin's historic Carnton Plantation board president Ernie Bacon has announced a new heating and air conditioning system for the Civil War mansion. Lee Co. of Franklin will install the \$85,000 system which will not be seen from the outside to maintain the historic integrity of the home.

## **Book traces history of doctors - The Williamson Leader - 2/5/98 -**

Williamson County is named for a physician who was one of its founders and the county has rich medical history which has been cataloged in a new book *Physicians of Williamson County*. Local writer Hudson Alexander authored the book which was underwritten by Williamson Medical Center. The project was conceived by Dr. Robert Hollister of Franklin and county archivist Louise Lynch more than ten years ago. Bob Canaday restored and compiled the photographs for the book which will retail for \$20 and is on sale at Franklin Booksellers, the Williamson County Archives and the gift shop at the hospital. Proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Williamson County Archives and

the hospital's volunteer auxiliary.

## **Design detectives return Carnton to days of yore - The Tennessean - 2/12/98/ -**

Choosing wall paper requires nerves of steel, as most homeowners know. But to decorate a museum room with historically accurate wallpaper you need something else, the staff at historic Carnton can tell you. In the case of this 1826 Greek Revival house built by Randal McGavock, discovering the original resident's tastes was a challenge. Interior design specialist Gail Winkler from Philadelphia studied the few remaining traces of wallpaper and dating each. Under Winkler's direction, the civil-war-era paper was painstakingly recreated by an artist, then silk-screened by the Twigs Company in San Francisco to recreate the look of the original roller-painted paper, matching modern technology with traditional historic design. Accuracy, unfortunately, doesn't come cheap. Wallpaper was costly even in the Civil War era, but custom wallpaper today verges on the breathtaking. A single pattern with three colors could cost up to \$10,000 for a room. Hand-painted scenic mural papers, like the French Zuber paper in the dining room at Carnton can run as much as \$30,000 per room because of the number of wood blocks - up to 1500 - used to print it.

## **Will Underground Railroad fade? - The Tennessean - 2/21/98**

- A bill to create and preserve a national network of Underground Railroad historic locations that used to move slaves to freedom is stalled in Congress and some supporters now fear it could get derailed. The national Underground Railroad was a clandestine operation that began during Colonial times and used a vast network of paths, roads, tunnels, barns, houses, churches and waterways to move and shelter enslaved people traveling to freedom. The bill directs the U. S. National Park Service to identify, preserve and commemorate the Underground Railroad and educate the public about its significance in U. S. history. Underground Railroad sites exist in 29 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. "This is an overlooked part of our history," said Vincent DeForest, special assistant for the Park Service's Underground Railroad initiative. "It's an opportunity to understand a social and humanitarian movement that is one of the most important in world history."

## **Vet monument plans unveiled - The Williamson Leader - 2/26/98 -**

An effort is underway to fund and build a permanent memorial to Williamson county residents who have served in the armed forces. County veterans affairs officer and county commissioner Stan Tyson, a retired Army officer,

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## CARTER HOUSE REUNION

The Carter House Descendant's Reunion is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, October 9, 10, and 11, 1998. Carter House Executive Director, Thomas Cartwright, says that the agenda for this special weekend is coming together nicely but is not complete. The problem, according to Cartwright, is that there are more lectures, events and tours being considered than can possibly be crowded into the three days.

The 1996 Descendants Reunion, the first since 1914, drew nearly 200 attendees mostly from outside Tennessee. Tentative plans for this year include a reception dinner Friday evening, lectures on the Battle of Franklin, and if it can be arranged, a tour of the Battle of Spring Hill. This engagement occurred the day before the November 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin.

For those up to the 2 mile walk, a march from Winstead Hill to the Carter House will retrace the ground of the Confederate assault into the Federal breastworks. Also, a special guided tour is planned for the Confederate Cemetery at Carnation Plantation, where 1481 of Franklin's dead now lie. Time and arrangements will be made for those who wish to plant commemorative trees or bulbs on the Carter House grounds.

For information on these and other planned activities as is becomes available, check the Carter House web site at [www.carter-house.org](http://www.carter-house.org)

Registration materials will be mailed in mid summer. Enrollment will be limited to 200 attendees. The registration fee is \$100 and includes all lectures, maps and class materials, events, planned meal functions, and tours. To get on the registration mailing list, call 615-791-1861, Email [julep19@mail.idt.net](mailto:julep19@mail.idt.net) or write The Carter House Museum, 1140 Columbia Ave, Franklin, TN 37065.



## STATUS OF NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Carter House Board members and Williamson County officials are continuing their efforts to find an alternative location for the county's new Community Center. Currently, the structure is planned to be built on the county's property at Columbia Avenue and Fowlkes Street which is the site of the old Franklin High School, and is adjacent to the north boundary of the Carter House property. The school's gymnasium still stands and is now being used by the Boys and Girls Club and other community service programs.

The new 34,800 s ft structure will house these programs and several others that are now resident in the county's crowded administrative center on West Main Street. All parties are striving to arrange some sort of land swap that would allow the county to build the much needed community center in the general neighborhood, and at the same time would protect and enhance the historic and landscape integrity of the Carter House property.

On March 2, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Marius Rush hosted a tour of the gym for a group that included representatives of the Carter House, the County Commissioners, Battle Ground Academy, Tennessee Historical Commission, Heritage Foundation, STFB and the Williamson County Historical Society. Rush pointed out the facilities of the building and the renovations that have been made in recent years. He also explained the how the facility is currently used for community programs.

At the tour's conclusion, the Carter House and County officials discussed concerns and issues that are attendant to any sort of mutually beneficial arrangement. The exchange of ideas was very productive and helpful. One of the follow-up actions is for Scott Wilson, landscape architect and Carter House board member, to work with Dwight Kiser of LDI Design to prepare

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Dear Readers,

March is a month that has two birthdays in it that are eternally connected to the bloody Battle of Franklin. One is a native born Franklinites and the other is from the land of Erin. Unfortunately, both shared a similar fate at the battle here on November 30, 1864.



Our first profile is Theodrick Carter who was born on March 24, 1840 to Fountain Branch and Mary Carter, the residents of the famous Carter House. Tod is credited with helping raise the first Confederate flag that was flown over Franklin when our State seceded at a home that is located on Third Avenue North. Soon after this Tod joined Co. H, 20<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment in 1861, which had his older brother as a Captain.

One of the interesting things Tod did during his service was write articles for newspapers on Army life. He used the pseudonym Mint Julep for these hilarious stories and I highly recommend that y'all read them.

Tod eventually became a Captain in the 20<sup>th</sup> Tennessee and was literally fighting for his home when the Army of Tennessee launched it's attack at Franklin on that fateful Indian Summer day. In the early morning of December 1, a soldier came to the Carter House and told the family where they could find the mortally wounded Tod. He was within 200 yards of the home he had not seen in 3 years, when he was struck by a volley which killed his horse and hit him 9 times. He lingered on in the family home tended by his sisters until he crossed over the river on December 2 never having regained consciousness.

Our next subject is the Irish born Patrick Ronayne Cleburne who came into this world on St. Patrick's day in 1828 at Bride Park cottage in County Cork. The home he was born in still stands today along with his second home and the family church.

Cleburne came to America in the 1850's and eventually settled in Helena, Arkansas where he worked in a pharmacy. When the war broke out Cleburne cast his lot for the South's independence and helped form the "Yell Rifles". He was elected as their first Captain.

His military career is too lengthy to cover here, but he was a Major-General when the Army of Tennessee began it's Tennessee Campaign. Patrick was killed leading his men in a charge at Franklin just behind the Dominos pizza place on Columbia Avenue, just South of the STFB offices in the Lotz House.

One of the more pathetic things to have occurred here in Franklin since the war relates to Cleburne's monument. You've not heard of the Cleburne monument you say? There is a good reason. It was taken down in the early part of this century and used as the foundation in a nearby house. Hopefully, we will put this back when the Heritage Foundation retires the loan on the Carter Cotton Gin property on Cleburne Street in the near future.



One thing that always amazed me about the Irish Rebel was a comment he made while passing St. John's Episcopal church in Mt. Pleasant. He said "It would be worth dying to be buried in such a beautiful spot." Unfortunately, this came to be true as Cleburne was buried here within a week. The part that I was fascinated with is the fact that I went to his home in Ireland a few years ago and saw the church that he attended as a boy. It looks exactly like the St. John's church with the exception of being built out of stone instead of bricks. I feel that Patrick was longing for Ireland, or at least reminiscing, when he saw the tall brick structure in Maury County.

Happy Birthday gentlemen and Teachaiigh Ar La'

Ronny Mangrum



## Letters from Franklin



December the 10th. 64

Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Mother.

I seat myself this morning to answer your letter (that) I recieved last evening, dated Dec. the 3rd. which gives me great satisfaction to hear that you are all well. This letter leaves me well and I hope these few lines will find you the same. I told you (in) the other letter about Pap getting wounded, but don't know whether you got the letter or not. He was wounded ( ) ( ). I havent heard from him. I packed him off the field. It was in the night. I could not tell how bad he was wounded. I don't think it went to the holer. (?) I wanted to stay but I could not get to stay, but I think he will get well. The Rebs is payrolling (paroling) all the wounded fast as they (can) get so they an travel. I got his money and started you one hundred dollars by William Marcum and I will send you some more as soon as I get the chance. I don't know when I will get to come home, but I will come as soon as I can. You do the best you can till I get to come, and get some body to get wood for you. So I will close for this time, but remain your son till death.

From Willis Hansford

To Mary Hansford

Write soon.

(Thomas Hansford [ "Pap" ] was mortally wounded at the Battle of Franklin. His son, "Willis" never saw him again and his burial place has never been determined. Both Thomas's and Willis's enlistment was up on November 29th, 1864, the day before Thomas was mortally wounded. Both men served in the 12th Kentucky Infantry Regt., U.S. - This letter has been edited for clarity, and is printed here through the courtesy of The Carter House Museum)

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drawings of possible locations and views of alternative plans.

If you would like to contact your county commissioners to encourage them to support a land swap arrangement, the STFB January and February newsletters listed their names, addresses and phone numbers. That information, plus a map that shows each commissioner's district, is available on the County's web site at [www.williamson-tn.org](http://www.williamson-tn.org)

## TOUR OF HOMES MAY 2 & 3

The annual Town and Country Tour of Historic Private Homes is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday May 2 & 3, 1998. The homes are listed on the National Register of Private Homes. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour. For information, call 1-800-356-3445.

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said the effort is in its formative stages, but what is envisioned is an eternal flame to be tentatively built on the grounds of the historic Williamson County Courthouse. The catalyst for the permanent memorial to veterans is a grassroots effort by Tyson, retired Franklin businessman Chuck Eades, county archivist Louise Lynch and others to honor Williamson County's only Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Sgt. George Jordan, an African-American born into slavery in the county in 1847. Jordan received his Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for bravery in battle, for two New Mexico actions at Fort Tularosa in May 1880 and at Carrizo Canyon in Aug. 1881. Jordan died in 1904 and is buried at Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, Nebraska.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**March 28**

Living History Rippavilla

**March 29**

First STFB Driving Tour

**April 13**

STFB Board Meeting

**May 2-3**

Town and Country Homes Tour

**Oct 9-11**

Carter House Descendants Reunion

**NEXT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 13**

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on April 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!

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 Commemorative Belt Buckle	\$12.00	
	1989 Commemorative Paperweight	\$12.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$2.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		<b>Order Total</b>	