



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 1998

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

CARTER HOUSE DESCENDANTS REUNION

Don't forget to enroll early for the 1998 Battle of Franklin Descendants Reunion sponsored by the Carter House. This years reunion is scheduled Friday through Sunday, October 9, 10, & 11. The 1996 reunion was a huge success with nearly 200 guests from 28 states. As the schedule is confirmed, more information will be available in direct mailings from the Carter House and at their web site www.carter-house.org

For an enrollment packet or more information, call 615-790-1861.

ANNUAL CIVIL WAR RELIC SHOW & SALE

This event is becoming one of the major relic shows in the neighborhood. It is scheduled Saturday and Sunday June 6 & 7 at the Town Center - 110 East Sam Ridley Pkwy - in Smyrna, TN - just off I-24.

Saturday hours are 9-5 and on Sunday 9-3. Admission is \$5 with proceeds to benefit The Historic Sam Davis Home. More info at 1-888-750-9524.

NEXT BOARD MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 9

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on June 9 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!

REDEDICATION SET FOR BATTLE OF NASHVILLE MONUMENT

The rededication of the restored Battle of Nashville monument is set for Saturday, November 7, 1998. Sculptor Colley Coleman plans to finish his work by end of summer, and install the surviving bronze work upon the new base and obelisk at its new location on the battlefield at Granny White and Battlefield Drive.

The statue, owned by the Tennessee Historical Commission, was severely damaged by a tornado in 1974. Commission chairman Ward DeWitt and Executive Director Herbert Harper are in charge of rededication program planning. They welcome your suggestions and can be reached at 615-532-1550.

As part of this celebration, the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society is sponsoring a two day seminar November 5 & 6 on the Battle of Nashville, the history and lore of the monument, plus many related topics. Jim Summerville has volunteered as symposium project director and solicits your help - logistics, chauffeur for out of town guests, facilities preparation etc. Jim has a long list of to-do's and needs our help. You can reach him at 615-322-8473 during the day.

The seminar is supported in part by a grant from the Tennessee Humanities Council. The location is planned for the auditorium (Room 108) of the Axel Swang Administration Bldg on the campus of David Lipscomb University. Additional schedule information will be kept current on the organization's web site at www.bonps.org

The News In Review by Peter Schofield

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

Civil War driving trail will have 25 markers - The Tennessean -- 4/11/98 Tennessee's Backroads Heritage, a multi-county tourism organization, plans to put up signs at 25 historical sites to raise visibility and help tour-goers along the 130 mile Tullahoma Campaign Civil War Driving Trail. "This is the first step in making the trail concrete and visible," said Cherry Condra, the organization's director. "Our first priority will be to place the signs at Confederate cemeteries." The trail, which starts in neighboring Bedford County at the Beech Grove Confederate Cemetery, also winds its way through Coffee and Franklin counties and ends at the University of the South campus in Sewanee, TN. It features two battlefield sites, numerous Confederate cemeteries and sites of other Civil War-era skirmishes. The signs will be specific to each site, Condra said, and the organization is seeking partners who will sponsor the project, with each sign costing \$25. "We intend to keep the decorum of the cemeteries," Condra said of the sign project. "Private cemeteries shouldn't be a problem. Most of the owners understand that getting information about the sites to the public is a positive. We hope to see the project in fruition before the end of May," she said.

Man, woman born in '13 oldest vets found so far - The Tennessean - 5/15/98 - A man and a woman born in May, 1913, who both were members of the Armed Forces in World War II so far are the oldest living veterans known to be in Williamson County, according to the county Veterans Service office. The two were identified as part of a statewide search for the oldest living veteran in the state by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs. The

search was to end April 30. The Williamson County Commission will pay recognition to both the oldest living female and male veteran and old veterans will be honored in a special Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11, in honor of the 80th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I.

City-County conference center interiors debut - The Tennessean - 4/21/98 - The shell of the \$48 million Cool Springs Conference Center is beginning to take its place as part of the skyline of the growing area east of I-65. City and county officials have had their first look at the interior design plans for the center, which will include a Marriott Hotel and two office buildings. The \$12 million conference center, jointly owned by the City of Franklin and Williamson County, will be located on 12 acres in the northeast quadrant of the Carothers Parkway and Cool Springs Boulevard near Interstate 65.

Historic Carnton Plantation open for tours - The Williamson Leader - 4/23/98 - After being closed for nearly two months for the installation of a heating and air conditioning system, Historic Carnton Plantation in Franklin has reopened to the delight of tourists from around the country. The plantation, which was used as a field hospital after the Battle of Franklin, was built in 1826 by Randall McGavock. The house operates now as a museum and is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for children. For information, call 794-0903.

A deed for a dollar - The Tennessean - 5/1/98 - Williamson County's African American Heritage Society became official owners of a fledgling museum of black history recently, paying \$1 for the deed to the historic McLemore House. The transfer of title from the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County marked the AAHS's new status as an official nonprofit organization. It will now head up efforts to transform the 1880s house, among the first in the area built by a former slave, into a museum documenting the local black community in the 19th and 20th centuries. The house is at the corner of 11th Avenue North and Glass Street. The group has so far raised about \$10,000 and hopes to raise another \$80,000 to restore the house. For information call Mary Mills, President, Williamson County African American Heritage Society president at 794-2270.

Downtown Franklin Association, Heritage Foundation to merge - The Tennessean - 5/13/98 - Originally part of the Heritage Foundation, the Downtown Franklin Association became a separate organization 15 years ago, and has lead the city's ambitious revitalization of its once-shabby historic downtown. It has been responsible for launching a series of highly successful public festivals, a National Trust award-winning Main Street program, and a Streetscape program that has improved landscaping and infrastructure through much of the downtown historic district. The merger, approved recently by the DFA, was unanimously accepted by the Heritage Foundation's general membership at its annual meeting May 12. The new Heritage Founda-

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Letter From Franklin

Letter from 1st Sgt. William H. Reynolds, Co. E. 29th Georgia Infantry to his sister, Anna M. Dickey.

Dear Sister:

Tupelo, Mississippi

Jan. 15th, 1865

I expect you have been looking for a letter from me for sometime. But I have had no opportunity of writing. You have doubtless heard of the defeat of our army in Tennessee which compelled us to leave the state.

We fought several battles in Tennessee the first was fought on the 30th of November at Franklin. It was one of the bloodiest battles of the war. We drove the enemy from two strong lines of breastworks, but we can hardly claim a victory for we lost five times as many as the enemy did. Tyler Browning¹ was killed here within a few yard of the last line of works. No braver has fallen during the war. John Harvin² was severely wounded in the thigh. Tell his family not to be at all uneasy about him, for he is doing well, and will certainly recover. We left him at Franklin on the 17th of December. Hew as then doing well and the Surgeon told me that there is no doubt but what he would soon be well.

We fought the enemy at Murfreesboro on the 4th of Dec. & again on the 7th. We were repulsed each time.

On the 15th Dec. the enemy being heavily reinforced attacked our line in front of Nashville. They were repulsed in front of our Crops. But succeeded in driving Stewart & Lee several miles capturing most of their artillery and a good many prisoners. On the 16th they made several attempts to break our lines, but were repulsed each time until three o'clock in the evening when a portion of our line gave way and soon the whole army was flying in great confusion. Our army was completely routed. We lost nearly all of our artillery and a great many prisoners.³ Col. Mitchell⁴ was captured. Capt. Spencer⁵ was mortally wounded & captured. Not more than five of the regiment escaped from the lines. We went into Tennessee with 432 men and came out with 76.

Our army was badly whipped and it seems that they are not going to get over it soon, especially if Gen. Hood remains in command of the army.⁶ We hear very bad rumors from Georgia to effect that citizens are all whipped & want to go into the union again. But I hope that is not the sentiment of many. It is true that the people have some cause to be despondent but we have men enough to win the fight yet if they will do their duty. Too many brave men have already fallen in this war for me to think of giving up the fight. If we would give up the fight now and go back into the Union we are not worthy of our freedom and no punishment would be too severe for us.

We may go into winter quarters here but the probability is that we will go farther South.

Write soon.

Your Affectionate Brother

W.H. Reynolds

"Dickey Family Papers (Microfilm) Drawer 49, Box 78, Georgia State Archives". Copied by Keith Bohannon, December, 1997.

Notes:

William H. Reynolds enlisted as 2nd Cpl. in Co. B of the 29th Georgia Infantry on July 27, 1861. He was appointed 1st Cpl. on March 25, 1862, 4th Sgt. on July 1, 1861 and 1st Sgt. on March 5, 1863. He surrendered at Greensboro, North Carolina on April 26, 1865. He was born in 1843. "Roster of Georgia Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865, by Lillian Henderson.

¹ John Tyler Browning enlisted on July 27, 1861. He was sick at Savannah, Georgia hospital in June, 1862. He was appointed 4th Cpl. on November 14, 1852. No further record on file. "Ibid."

¹ Unknown, but could be Sgt. John T. Harvin of Co. A 4th Georgia Battalion sharpshooters.

² Confederate Casualties were reported as "approximately" 1500 killed and wounded and 4,462 men captured. This included Reynold's brigade commander Brig. Gen. Henry R. Jackson. "The Civil War Dictionary," p 582, by Mark Boatner.

² William Dixon Mitchell was elected Captain of Co. H, 29th Georgia Infantry on October 1, 1861. He was elected Lt. Colonel on May 10, 1862. He was wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia on September 19, 1863. He was elected Colonel on January 19, 1864. He was captured in action at the Battle of Nashville, Tennessee on December 15, 1864. Sent to Johnson's Island Prison he was released on July 25, 1865. "Ibid."

³ William W. Spencer, Jr. was elected 2nd Lt. in Co. E 29th Georgia upon enlistment on July 27, 1861. He was elected Captain on May 10, 1862. He was listed absent sick on December 30, 1862. No further record available "Ibid".

³ General John Bell Hood was relieved from command of the Army of Tennessee at his own request on January 23, 1865. "Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War, pp./ 369, "edited by Patricia L. Faust.

Typed and annotated by Tim Burgess, January, 1998.

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tion will consist of three divisions - Downtown Franklin, Preservation and Finance. The combined membership of the new organization will be about 800. Nancy Williams will continue to serve as director of the Main Street Program while Mary Pearce will remain as executive director of the entire Heritage Foundation.

Bicentennial Fest will highlight Franklin's Civil War role - The Tennessean - 5/16/98 - Franklin's "Years of Glory, Years of Conflict" - the Civil War era - will be the focus of the city's third annual Bicentennial Fest October 24. The years from 1845-1894 will be celebrated with exhibits, play performances and public gatherings in Franklin's city square, highlighting what city officials hope will be a month-long observance of one of the most important periods in local history. The festival will be the latest in a series leading to the city's 200th birthday in 1999. "It was a period of prosperity, devastation from war and then rebuilding, probably the most eventful period in

Franklin's history," says Bob Holladay, city public information officer. The celebration will be from 2 - 8 p.m. and will feature two presentations of a play written by Holladay several years ago, *Incident at Fort Granger*. Based on the true story of the hanging of two Confederate spies in Franklin and the consequences for the Federal commander who ordered the executions, the play will be presented by the Pull-Tight Players at 4 and 7 p.m. Holladay hopes those with Civil War period artifacts and family memorabilia of the era will display them as part of the celebration. Of particular interest are articles relating to the history of Franklin's black community. "This was a period very pivotal for African Americans, who moved from slavery to a degree of prosperity. The contributions of African Americans to 19th century Franklin is under appreciated, and we hope for displays and information to help rectify that," Holladay said. Those who wish to display items or volunteer to help should call Holladay at 791-3232. (Ed note: Be sure to see a performance of *An Incident at Fort Granger*. It's *dynamite!*)

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	\$12.00	
	1989 Commerative Paperweight	\$12.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$2.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		Order Total	