



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

January 1999

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

San Diego CWRT & Salt Creek CWRT Name STFB as Preservation Projects

Chuck Rothlauf of the Civil War Round Table of San Diego has informed Save The Franklin Battlefield officers that STFB has been chosen as the group's Preservation Project for 1999 and 2000. According to the CWRT's treasurer, Carla Schwartz, the amount of the donation for the two years will depend in part on the final success of planned fund raising projects of the Round Table.

And a bit further along in their 1999 Preservation Plans, The Salt Creek CWRT of Wheaton, IL has donated \$500 to the STFB Land Acquisition Fund. Both gifts were complete, but very welcome, surprises to the STFB Board.

The gifts will be combined with other donations to the STFB Land Acquisition Fund, and with STFB calendar sales, to join with other local preservation groups to assist in the purchase of additional parcels, or the reduction of debt on existing battlefield projects.

STFB President EJ Neely commented that there is a huge additional encouragement to STFB beyond the actual gift of the much appreciated funds. "These donations and designations show that there truly are dedicated people all across the country who are learning about the Battle of Franklin, and care about reclaiming some of the Franklin battlefield just as we do" she said, "and our education and promotion programs are beginning to make them aware of our efforts."

From Your President

Your Board met on Monday evening, January 11, 1999 to work on plans for 1999. I believe we are going to have a busy year and a most successful one.

Our tour schedule will be announced next month and I look forward to seeing our membership take part in these tours. It is part of our mission statement "to promote Civil War sites in Williamson County." It is also a way to educate the many newcomers on the county's history. Please join us and I remind you the tours are free to our members.

While on the subject of membership, keep an eye on your newsletter label as to when your membership comes due. In our drive to increase membership, we don't want to lose anyone.

Thank you for your continued support.

NEXT BOARD MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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

The News In Review by Kim Hoover

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

History Goes Up Against Progress - The Tennessean - December 11, 1998 - For Stones River National Battlefield, the next - and probably last - skirmish will be on the fields and forest glens to its south. Expanding south is the park's last chance to add significantly to its 500 acres and give visitors a better sense of the original 4,000 acre battleground.

If the park loses its chance to buy 700 acres of undeveloped fields, farmland, and forests to its south, this area will no doubtedly look like the areas to the north, east, and west as strip malls, schools, neighborhoods, and gas stations cover the land. Developers have been eyeing the same 700 acres. This area borders I-24, busy Old Fort Parkway, and Thompson Lane. This area is booming with commercial development.

Caught in the middle of this are the landowners on which the battle was fought. Steve Lane who is a property owner worries that the government will try to condemn his farmland, or otherwise tie it up.

Acquiring land is a lengthy process for the National Park Service. It requires an act of Congress to expand the boundaries and another act to pay for it. It took nearly a decade for the park to purchase the Miller property at the eastern edge of the park. After going to court, the government is going to pay \$3.6 million. The Park Service has announced that the land is theirs and the Millers would be relocating with a month and a half at the governments expense. This lengthy process scares the landowners like Lane, who could see the family land to a developer in a fraction of the time if they wanted to.

The Park Service has talked about partnering with private groups who would buy the land and hold it until the government can pay for it.

Mary Ann Peckham, Park Superinten-

dent said, "In preserving historical site, that site becomes a window to understanding who we are today. Actually experiencing that history is the best way to do it. "It is much easier to connect when you can touch, feel, see that resource."

Sign marks historic Carter Cotton Gin site - The Review Appeal - December 27, 1998. On Sunday December 20, representatives from several local historical groups gathered at the Carter Cotton Gin site at 109 Cleburne Street in Franklin to dedicate the new roadside historical marker.

Several onlookers joined the representatives of STFB, Heritage Foundation, Carter House, Williamson County Historical Society, and Stones River National Battlefield Park to unveil the new marker after a short dedication ceremony.

The house on the gin site was purchased in 1997 by the Heritage Foundation. The long range goal is to incorporate this site into a battlefield park.

Thomas Cartwright, spoke of the battle's events near the gin house site. He also named regiments of both sides that fought in the vicinity of the gin house and it's new marker. He said, "It has been a long time coming, but it is very, very gratifying to finally see a marker on this important place on the battlefield."

Stones River National Battlefield Park Superintendent Mary Ann Peckham praised the cooperative working arrangements of the many historical groups in Williamson County.. "As we try to deal with further encroachment on Stones River Park in Murfreesboro, we need to emulate the working environment that you have created among these organizations."

Johnson's wreath attracts media - The Tennessean - December 30, 1998. A wreath from President Clinton was laid yesterday on the grave of Andrew Johnson to mark the 190th birthday of the only other president to be impeached.

Presidents have been sending flowers to mark the birthdays of their deceased predecessors since Lyndon Johnson began the practice in 1967.

The wreath ceremony at Johnson's grave normally passes with little fanfare. Not this year. The dozen or so spectators who climbed a up to the Johnson grave to pay tribute were joined by a larger number of reporters.

Andrew Johnson became the 17th president after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln was impeached by the House for firing his Secretary of War over the wishes of Congress. The deeper issue was the Republican opposition to Johnson's efforts to ease the South back into the Union after the Civil War. The Senate failed by one vote to driver him from office after a two month trial in 1868.

Glenn Heins, resident of Greeneville, said Andrew Johnson was impeached as a matter of principle, and Clinton is being impeached for the lack of principle.

Etta Pettijohn who lives nearby the cemetery was taking a morning walk the day the House impeached Clinton. "I walked up here and sat down and said, 'Well Andy what do you think?'" And the wind started whipping and the trees starting moving. I am serious., It was wild.

She didn't know what to make of it, but her husband Wayne said, " He was crying from his grave."

Sometimes Forgotten General by E. J. Neeley

George Washington Gordon was born on October 5, 1836 in Giles County, Tennessee. He was the son of Andrew and Eliza K. Gordon. He graduated from the Western Military Institute at Nashville.

From 1859 to 1861, he served as a civil engineer. When war came and Tennessee seceded from the Union, he enlisted in the Confederate service and was made drillmaster of the Eleventh Tennessee Infantry. He later served as captain, lieutenant colonel, colonel, and in 1864 brigadier general. He was captured at Franklin, November 30, 1864.

After the war, he studied law and was elected attorney general of Shelby County. He would later serve in the Department of the Interior, in charge of an Indian agency in Arizona and Nevada. When his term ended, he returned to Memphis and served as Superintendent of Memphis City Schools until 1907, when he was elected, "by overwhelming majority" to Congress for two terms.

Serving as a member of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, he heard "some citizens from Tennessee wanted a battlefield park at Franklin." The other members of the committee were able to hear about the battle from one of their own who had been there.

In a letter written to Mrs. N. B. Dozier of Franklin in 1910, Gordon state "that her efforts met with his heartiest sympathy . . . the committee . . . was not favorably disposed toward granting the \$100,000 request."

To Be Continued Next Month!



Sam Huffman and STFB Executive Director Lynne Pope work on a large calendar mailing at the new STFB warehouse.

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE MONUMENT UPDATE

Dear friends,

The crew from McCord Crane Service raised the obelisk to the base of the Battle of Nashville Monument yesterday. The final segment will be the capstone / Angel of Peace, taking the statue another 15' higher. Coley Coleman, the sculptor, is projecting a completion date of mid-February for the angel. "Tennessee Crossroads" did a segment with him yesterday, showing what an arduous job it is. It will air after the Angel is installed.

The subcontractor for the Wall of Peace has made rapid progress, and blocks for it were delivered yesterday. They have an attractive facing. Hopefully within the next few weeks, we'll be starting the fundraising drive to complete the rest of the park.

Best regards,
Jim

James.Summerville@vanderbilt.edu

The STFB Warehouse

The Lotz House Museum has been very generous to STFB the last three years by donating office space that houses the STFB desk, computer, phone and filing cabinet. More importantly, working at the Lotz House keeps STFB volunteers in touch with the research and preservation activities of the Lotz House and the Carter House Museum across the street.

Dozens of researchers and historians visit the staffs of both museums every month. The new research and writing projects and the ongoing discovery of new sources, photos, and artifacts generates a continual level of excitement that encourages everyone who visits.

But as the STFB 1999 calendar project accelerated, the accumulation of inventory, packing materials, and STFB volunteers has become far more than can fit in our allotted space. "We had to carry in just the calendars and packing materials for the orders we had in hand" said STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman, "and when finished for the day, we had to carry out most of the leftovers. It was becoming a very inefficient way to work. So we moved the inventories and order assembly operations to a storage facility not far away."

Our office will remain at the Lotz House Museum" said Lynne Pope, "it's just the mess and clutter that we carried off."

The new climate controlled facility costs about \$100 per month. If a generous STFB member or patron could donate about 10 by 10 of floor space to the STFB group, that would free \$1,200 more each year that would go into land acquisition. Possible donors should call Sam Huffman at 370-3842.

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

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
	1999 STFB Day by Day Bicentennial Calendar	\$12.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint	\$20.00	
	1989 Commerative Belt Buckle	\$10.00	
	1989 Commerative Paperweight	\$10.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$3.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		Order Sub-Total	
		Shipping/Handling under \$10 \$0.75 \$10 - \$24.99 \$2.95 \$25 and up \$4.50	
	-Individual	\$12.00	
	-Family	\$15.00	
	-Corporate	\$25.00	
		Order Total	