



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 1999

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOW THRU MAY 1

1ST TENNESSEE EXHIBIT AT THE  
LOTZ HOUSE

### MARCH 28

BATTLE OF THOMPSON STATION  
DRIVING TOUR 2 - 5 PM  
\$10 NON-MEMBERS  
FREE TO STFB MEMBERS

### APRIL 17

ROSE HILL CEMETERY  
ILLUMINATION TOUR, COLUMBIA  
6:00 PM - \$5 ADULTS  
\$3 STUDENTS AND SENIORS

### APRIL 30, MAY 1 & 2

LADIES SOLDIERS FRIEND SOCIETY, INC WILL HOST LADIES' DAYS AT RIPPAVILLA IN SPRING HILL. CAMP WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DURING THEIR REGULAR HOURS ON MAY 1 AND 2. CALL RIPPAVILLA 931-486-9037 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### MAY 23 FIRST BATTLE OF FRANKLIN

DRIVING TOUR  
2 - 5 PM  
\$10 NON-MEMBERS  
FREE TO STFB MEMBERS

### TO BE ANNOUNCED

ILLUMINATION TOUR OF  
MCGAVOCK CEMETERY

### JUNE 26

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE  
MONUMENT REDEDICATION  
TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

## *From Your President*

Your board met Monday evening, March 8, 1999. We are happy to announce that Joe Smyth will serve on your board as one of our Vice Presidents. We look forward to working with Joe!

Your Board set the dates for our March tour of Thompson's Station. We will meet at the Depot in Thompson's Station on Sunday, March 28, 1999 at 2:00 pm.

Our second tour for 1999 will be First Battle of Franklin to be held Sunday, May 23, 1999.

Mark your calendars. As always, new info and stops will be added for these tours.

Hope to see you there!

*E. J. Neeley*

## *STFB Featured Book for March & April*

*by Sam Huffman*

The featured book at the STFB website for March & April is "*One Day of the Civil War: America in Conflict April 10, 1863*" by Robert L Willett Jr. It is an excellent rendering of journals, letters, and official reports into a one day time-slice of the Civil War that recounts activities in all theaters and branches of service of both sides for April 10, 1863.

The largest action of the war that day was the First Battle of Franklin, a Confederate cavalry raid from Spring Hill into Franklin, that probed the strength of the recent Federal troop build-up and their earthworks then under construction - Fort Granger and the trench line at the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *In This Month's Newsletter*

<i>News In Review</i>	2
<i>Frances Courtney</i>	3
<i>Order Form</i>	4

## The News in Review by Kim Hoover

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

**Historic fountain returns to spout on Polk Home grounds - Tennessee - February 8, 1999** - The 1820 fountain in the gardens of the James K. Polk Home has just been returned from an extensive restoration. It was originally on the grounds of President Polk's Nashville home, Polk Place, it was removed when Mrs. Polk died in 1891 and the house was torn down. It's whereabouts were unknown for several decades when it was found on the grounds of the Nashville Fairgrounds in 1958. The Polk Memorial Association went to fair-ground management and got them to return the fountain and the group promised to replace the fountain with something else.

It was then taken back to the Polk's ancestral home in Columbia and placed in the side garden. In the mid 1970's a huge tree limb fell on it and destroyed the top tier. "We got used to it doing nothing, and for a long time, it was just piled up on the ground," said Dot Sowell, president of the Polk Memorial Assoc. An anonymous donor who knew something about fountains paid for the fountain to be restored.

Curators of the Polk Home and members of the Polk Memorial Association are thrilled with the restoration. It has been placed in the center of the courtyard garden and a rededication of the fountain and the gardens is planned in April.

**Franklin Battlefield effort receives funds from two groups - The**

**Review Appeal - February 19, 1999** - Two Civil War Round Table groups have express interest in STFB. Mr. Chuck Rothlauf notified STFB that it was chosen for the Civil War Round Table of San Diego's Preservation Project for 1999 and 2000. Ms. Carla Schwartz, treasurer for the group said the amount of the donation will depend on the success of the fundraising projects of the Round Table. STFB has also received a \$500 donation from the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table in Wheaton, Illinois. The money is to be put toward STFB's Land Acquisition Fund.

"Both of the groups had speeches and book reviews on the Battle of Franklin and had some interest in Franklin," said Sam Huffman, treasurer of STFB. "Each of them have a preservation project and they picked Franklin."

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

Huffman said on the history of roundtables. "Roundtables started in the late 1940's all over the world. The American Civil War is a tremendously interesting topic to people. They are a first class history education." He estimated that there are between 200 - 300 roundtable groups today.

**WCHS helps county celebrate 200 years of history - The Review Appeal - February 20, 1999** - During 1999, the Williamson County Historical Society (WCHS) is "celebrating 200 years of county history," and the organization is looking to attract new people to its programs and projects. "You don't have to be a native to be interested in local history. It's about making a connection to where you are," said Rick Warwick, who serves on the society's executive committee.

Many members join to learn more about the history of the land on which they live. To help county residents learn more about the local history, WCHS has overseen the placement of ninety historical markers since 1991. It has plans to erect 20 more. They will be publishing a handbook this summer containing the text of all the markers along with period photographs of the places and people they are representing.

"In a county this rich in history, people need an opportunity to join with others who share an interest in the preservation and interpretation of history," said Andrew Miller, president of the WCHS and Providence House Publisher, which produces the society's historical journal. The 30<sup>th</sup> edition is mailed to all members should be available in March. Mr. Warwick compiles and edits the journal.

They usually dedicate the journal to

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

at the Carter farm. Fighting erupted on the Carter farm, along Lewisburg Pike, throughout downtown Franklin, near the train depot, and at Douglas Church near Henpeck Lane.

Other April 10 Tennessee actions recounted in the book include Antioch, Waverly, and Neeleys Bend. Appendix A tabulates the April 10, 1863 war dead of

both sides in all theaters.

The STFB featured book for Jan & February, "A Meteor Shining Brightly: Essays on Confederate General Patrick R Cleburne", is still available in the STFB Electronic Bookstore on the website. Your book purchases at the STFB web site through Amazon.com return a portion of the purchase price to STFB.

## *Frances Courtney by E. J. Neeley*

March is Women's History month so I offer this short article. Some of the information I found was contained in the pages of *Homespun Tales* printed by Pioneer's Corner Association in 1989 in time for the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

The article had been written in March 1865 and was published in a paper by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, April 1865.

Frances Courtney and her mother were loyal to the Union. She states that she was able to speak with the Federal forces as they came into Franklin during the day of November 30, 1864. They told her they believed only that they would "skirmish with the Rebels."

Fannie tells of sitting at her dinner table and hearing the artillery, and taking shelter in the basement of her house. The firing ceased around 10 o'clock in the evening and Federal officers were in her "sitting room." She goes on to tell of a Federal soldier lying wounded in her backyard. Later wounded Federals were brought into her "cellar," and both she and her mother cared for their wounds.

The next morning, she went to the battlefield and she tells of the dreadful sight. Of all the many dead and wounded, it was more than she could look upon. The care of the wounded was her concern. Her count totals forty-four hospitals in town with only three for the care of the Federals.

There were one hundred and twenty men under the care of Fannie and her mother, and they were in the Presbyterian Church. The women fed them at least twice a day. Bandages were made from their own under garments.

Fannie, her mother, her invalid sister and her twelve-year-old brother were the witness to the aftermath of the thirteen charges the Confederates made against the breastworks around the Carter House and Gin.

Both Fannie and her sister married Union officers. Her house still stands today at Fifth and Church in downtown Franklin.

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*Frances  
Courtney heard  
the fighting, felt  
the ground  
vibrate from the  
artillery fire and  
witnessed first  
hand the dead  
and wounded on  
the battlefield.*

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a preservationist. "This year, we highlight the most distinguished persons from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries," said Warwick.

**Battlefield site attracts grant - The Tennessean - March 5, 1999 -**  
The Spring Hill Battlefield has been awarded a \$300,000 federal grant that will be used to help preserve the historic site.

Dave Stieghan, Maury County historic sites director said, "We are quite excited about this. The Spring Hill Battlefield site is gaining quite a lot of recognition from historians outside the area who are reading about it in Civil War magazines. This can only help." The money will be used to help pay off the note on the land.

The battlefield is located on Kedron Road, just off Saturn Parkway. It was purchased three years ago for \$880,000 by the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, The Civil War Trust, and Maury County.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next monthly STFB board meeting will be held on April 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
	1999 STFB Day by Day Bicentennial Calendar <i>Special STFB Member Price</i>	\$8.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint	\$20.00	
	1989 Commemorative Belt Buckle	\$10.00	
	1989 Commemorative Paperweight	\$10.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$3.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		<b>Order Sub-Total</b>	
		<b>Shipping/Handling</b> under \$10 \$0.75 \$10 - \$24.99 \$2.95 \$25 and up \$4.50	
	-Individual	\$12.00	
	-Family	\$15.00	
	-Corporate	\$25.00	
		<b>Order Total</b>	