



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

April 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

APRIL 23

A SYMPOSIUM ON THE TRUE HISTORY OF CONFEDERATE FLAGS, AND THE ROLE OF THOSE FLAGS AT THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN,

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 1 & 2

HERITAGE FOUNDATION TOWN & COUNTRY TOUR OF HOMES

MAY 8

THOMPSON STATION FESTIVAL
8:30 - 6:00 PM

MAY 20

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEETING 7PM
SPEAKER DAVID FRALEY ON HOOD'S RETREAT AT THE SUGAR TREE CLUBHOUSE OFF WOODMONT BLVD

MAY 23

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

JUNE 26

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE MONUMENT REDEDICATION
10:00 AM

From Your President

Happy Spring!

Your President has had a busy one already. On March 30, I attended the Middle Tennessee session of a series of public meetings to help develop a statewide Civil War Preservation plan. We met at Stones River National Battlefield with over 80 in attendance. Fred Prouty, director of the Tennessee Wars Commission, a division of the Tennessee Historical Commission states "every year we lose a little more (civil war sites) because 97% of them are on private property and there's no control over what happens there. Ant there's

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The First Battle of Franklin Cavalry fight on April 10, 1862 overlooked.

by Ronny Mangrum

Most of y'all are aware of the heroic struggle between the Army of Tennessee, led by Gen. John Bell Hood, and his old class mate Gen. John M. Schofield, commander of the Army of the Cumberland, on November 30, 1864. Did you know there was another battle of Franklin, long before the bloody fight that basically eliminated one of the main Confederate armies?

The Army of Tennessee's cavalry was commanded by a dashing young Major General, named Earl Van Dorn, at this point in the war. Both armies had endured a long a brutal winter and were eager to resume the art of war in the spring of 1862. Franklin was a part of the defense of Nashville and was under the command of Union Gen. Gordon Granger, whom had the local fort named for him that can be

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The News in Review by Kim Hoover

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

Civil War sites lost bit by bit - State preservationists say landowners need help - Tennessean - March 23, 1999 - Tennessee is rich in Civil War history, clashes occurred nearly 1500 times within it's borders. Only Virginia can claim more. Development, vandalism and neglect, not to mention the extremes of nature, have taken their toll on the Volunteer State.

"Every year we lose a little more because 97% of them are on private property and there's not control over what happens there. Sometimes people don't even realize what they have," said Fred Prouty of the Tennessee Wars Commission, a division of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Many Tennessee Civil War sites are privately owned and often receive little protection. "But there's no way the state can buy every piece of land that has a war history to it. No one could afford it," Prouty added.

Preservationists like himself believe the best way to maintain the state's Civil War sites lies in thoughtful planning and landowner education. To that end, the Commission has initiated a Statewide Civil War Preservation Plan and will sponsor a series of public meetings beginning March 29 to hear input from citizens. At the meetings, state officials also will update the public on the recently designated Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area, a federal initiative that could procure up to \$1 million annually for 10 years.

The Middle Tennessee session was held at Stones River on March 30. Other sessions were held in Jackson, March 29, Knoxville March 31, and Chattanooga April 1.

Exhibit honors 1st Tenn. Infantry, The Review Appeal - March 24, 1999 - The 1st Tennessee Infantry will be remembered at an exhibit at the Lotz House Museum that will be displayed until May 1. The exhibit is called "Remembering the 1st Tennessee Infantry, CSA" will include

photographs, letters, ribbons, and even a painting.

"The 1st Tennessee was made up of men from around this area. That company suffered through some of the worst fights in the Civil War. This exhibit is well worth seeing," said David Fraley, research historian at the Lotz House.

Sam Watkins, a private in the regiment, wrote his memoirs of the war in a book titled "Co. Aytch." "I'm so impressed by the book and the moral and ethical standards it set. War made a lot of people bitter, and it could have made Sam Watkins bitter, but it didn't. As a matter of fact, one of his famous quotes was, 'There is no North, South, East, or West. We're one and undivided.' Said Fraley.

Admission to the exhibit is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and \$1.50 for children. For more information about the exhibit call the Lotz House Museum at 791-6533.

Tools of the Time Carnton exhibits surgical tools - The Review Appeal - April 16, 1999 - Thanks to recent donations Historic Carnton Plantation has developed a field hospital display in one of the bedrooms of the house to correspond with the numerous bloodstains.

Two contributions led to the creation of this display. The first was donated by long-time Carnton volunteers and members of the Randal McGavock Society, Robert & Holly Ross, who purchased an original general operation and amputation kit at the Nashville Civil War show and sale last December.

The second donation came from a civilian reenactment group that were participants in last year's Carnton's Southern Folk life Festival.

"The General Surgeon's kit has all the instruments needed to do amputations and surgical procedures," said Hayden

Roberts education director at Carnton.

To view the display, visitors may come and take a regular tour through the mansion. For more information call 794-0903.

Grant earmarked for 31S corridor, The Review Appeal - April 21, 1998 - A \$20,000 federal grant announced on Tuesday will allow the Heritage Foundation to continue with the third phase of a planning and zoning project along Highway 31 South corridor towards Columbia and Spring Hill. "I think we're incredibly lucky they've hung with us on the three steps of the project," said Mary Pearce, Heritage Foundation Executive Director. This grant is a part of \$590,833 grant package from the National Park Service.

The third phase of Heritage Foundation's project will address the rural segment of Highway 31 South (Columbia Pike) which stretches from Mack Hatcher Parkway south to the county line. "In 1996, the Heritage Foundation was awarded a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Society that enabled us to look at Hwy 31 South corridor to identify all the historic resources, identify the scenic landscapes and meet with property owners along the corridor to work toward enhancing it as a Heritage Tourism corridor because that is General John Bell Hood's campaign corridor. That's the road that connects us to the town of Columbia, which is also a Main Street town, to the Spring Hill battlefield, to the Carter House, to the new Winstead Park, so it's an important corridor for us with an abundance of historical resources," said Pearce. She also said, "when all of this is done, we hope to have a really nice comprehensive zoning plan that hopefully will gain acceptance with local planning officials and property owners.



Roper's Knob Tour Held on April 10 by Sam Huffman

On Saturday, April 10, a group of interested citizens toured Roper's Knob to learn about plans for developing this forested hill into a passive park that will be open to the public. The tour was led by James Mahurin who is co-ordinating the task force working on the park plans.

Twenty-two acres atop the site is currently owned by the state of Tennessee, and another 50+ surrounding acres are owned by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin & Williamson County. The state's acreage contains Civil War fortifications that were part of the Fort Granger encampment, and will now be preserved in accordance with the US Department of Interior standards for archeological standards.

The Heritage Foundation was recently awarded a grant of \$1,500 to develop the park plan by the National Trust for Historical Preservation. The task force worked with landscape architect, Gary Hawkins, to work up a first phase of the park development and trail design. A soils assessment indicated that much of the site is susceptible to severe erosion and should be kept in a near-natural condition as a passive park - HOORAY !!!!!

The planned trails will tunnel through the vegetation as a two foot pathway with two feet cleared on either side. The low-incline trail will start toward the saddle west of the knob, then angle gently upward across the south face, continue upward around the east face of the hill, and arrive upon the flat table that circles the entire hill roughly 30 feet below the pinnacle.

When the final trail design is established, the task force plans to enlist the substantial help of volunteer groups to



Atop Roper's Knob at last, the winded group listens to tour guide James Mahurin lead a group discussion on the Civil War fortifications still there, and the plan to establish a passive park around the site.

clear assigned sections of the trails. To sign-up, call the Heritage Foundation at 615-591-8500.

FYI, during the spring of 1863, the Federals built-up large forces, and fortifications, at Franklin, Triune and Murfreesboro prior to the planned advance toward Tullahoma, and eventually Chattanooga and Atlanta. A strong earthen fort, Fort Granger (now preserved as a city park), was constructed along the railroad near the southwest corner of a roughly rectangular fortified Union encampment. Measuring about .6 miles by 1.3 miles, the encampment ran along Liberty Pike from today's US 31 east to Mack Hatcher between two east-west ridge lines.

Roper's Knob, the tallest hill for miles around, was the north-east corner of the encampment and was constructed with a block house, a redoubt for 4 heavy guns, a ring of protecting rifle pits, and a signal station. Additional fortifications were built around the encampment's perimeter. Additional Federal forces were also encamped outside the fortified area.

STFB now owns an acre plot atop Cedar Hill near Liberty Pike at Mack Hatcher that still has an artillery lunette - part of the defenses of the south-east corner - (more on Fort Granger in future newsletters).

The Heritage Foundation plans to eventually turn their portion of the Roper's Knob site over to the City of Franklin for a park, but intends to get the all of the walking trails in place first.



Seventeen sturdy souls ascend the steep south face of Roper's Knob on one of the existing foot trails planned to be replaced

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seen today. Granger's forces were on the north side of the Harpeth River centering on the fort that overlooked the city. At dawn, on the 10th, Van Dorn led his 3,100 horsemen on a reconnaissance in force with Nathan Bedford Forrest leading one division and William H. (Red) Jackson leading the other. They traveled to Franklin along the Columbia Pike until just south of the city when Forrest men went east to enter the city on the Lewisburg Pike. The two divisions were escorted by Capt. Samuel Freeman's Tennessee battery.

*Visibly shaken
Forrest said in a
trembling voice,
"Brave man;
none braver!"*

The action began at noon when Jackson's scouts clashed with the 40th Ohio pickets near the river. The Union troops held the rebel cavalry back while they slowly backed through the town and across the river to the safety of the fort. The first Confederates to enter the town were men of the 1st Mississippi and the 4th Tennessee Cavalry. Granger soon devised a plan to trap the Rebs by using a small force that he had south of the city led by Gen. David Stanley. They would attack the Forrest's men from the rear while Absolom Baird's division crossed the Harpeth and attacked Van Dorn. The fighting moved from east of the town to the West, which caused Gen. Stanley to decide to move across the river towards the sounds of firing guns. Stanley's men ran strait into Freeman's battery that was moving at a leisurely pace away from Franklin in the midst of Forrest's strung out force. Freeman ordered his battery to unlimber, load, and fire at the 4th U.S. cavalry that was a mere 100 yards away and closing in. The 4th were on the Southern artillery men before they had time to fire any of their guns. Capt. Freeman, along with 36 of his men and four guns were captured in this brief contest. The capture of these guns were only a temporary victory for the Yankee soldiers as Gen. J. W. Starnes brigade immediately reversed his march and galloped to the battery's defense. Starnes' men renewed the attack and soon drove the Union troopers across the river. Starnes' had a horse killed under him and lost an engraved sword given to him by Forrest. The Union troops soon discovered that they were going to lose their trophies and proceeded to destroy the four guns by cutting the spokes and spiking the tubes. They abandoned the guns and were forcing their prisoners to run with the captors to the safety of the fort. The elderly Freeman and another man, Dr. Skelton, could not keep the pace and were requesting the regulars to let them rest. Sgt. Strickland of the 4th U. S. Cavalry, rode up to the exhausted men and shot Freeman in the face killing him and shot Dr. Skelton through the arm as he tried to protect himself. Forrest came upon the body of Freeman dismounted and checked to see if the Captain was dead. Visibly shaken Forrest said in a trembling voice, "Brave man; none braver!"

Union casualties at this brief battle were 14 killed, 19 wounded, and 26 captured. A report by Forrest stated he had lost 9 killed, 28 wounded, and 33 captured. Jackson's division suffered 16 killed, 12 wounded, and 13 captured. The senseless killing of Capt. Freeman exemplified the pointlessness of the whole engagement of the First Battle of Franklin. Unfortunately, it would set a deadly precedent that would follow a little over 2 1/2 years later when Gen. Hood bashed the gallant Army of Tennessee against the formidable Union earth works at Franklin near the end of the war.

E-Note About Roper's Knob Tour?

by Sam Huffman

Did you receive an e-mail inviting you to the Roper's Knob Tour conducted April 10th? If not, STFB does not have your correct e-mail address.

Many STFB members have asked over the years if it were possible to visit Roper's Knob, which is not yet open to the public. We didn't learn of the tour in time for the STFB March newsletter, so we deemed it a perfect time to try our STFB e-list. We successfully e-reached about 100 members out of 300 or so, and many of them were out-of-state/USA.

STFB has been accumulating members e-mail addresses for two years now, but we don't have them for all members who choose to be on the STFB e-mail list. Also, some folks have changed their e-address, and we possibly mis-typed a few into our files.

Whatever the mix-up, if you didn't get an e-notice about the Roper's Tour - and you want to be on the STFB e-list, send a note to:

sgtbilko@franklin-stfb.org

Be SURE to include your NAME in your note - and we'll be sure to keep you aware of any short notice events that may come up.



STAINLESS BANNERS submitted by Joe Smyth

A Symposium on the True History of Confederate flags, and the Role of those flags at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864

You are invited to attend an educational symposium that will deal with the historical origins of the various flags of the Confederate States of America, as well as a focus on the Confederate flags that were carried into the battle of Franklin, Tennessee on November 30, 1864. The evening program will feature Deveraux Cannon, noted author and authority on flags of the world, Sheila Greene, fabrics specialist and flags curator at the Tennessee State Museum,

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no way the state can buy every piece of land that has a war history to it." Mr. Prouty believes "thoughtful planning and landowner education is the best way to maintain the state's war sites. I hope when the final plan is prepared I can pass the information on to our membership.

The reason STFB conducts battlefield tours is to educate the local community as to what happened on their land. Our tour last month of Thompson's Station action on March 5, 1863 was well attended about 34 and from this number STFB has twelve new members.

Our voice is getting stronger. And as always if I can be of help to you, please call.

E. J. Neeley

Attention Our Tennessee Members!

The Tennessee Senate and House have approved and passed a bill to create a Tennessee Civil War Sites Historical Preservation license plate. The funds derived from the sale of the vanity plates will be placed in a special bank account to be used by the Tennessee Wars Commission exclusively for the purpose of making grants available to municipalities, counties, and nonprofit organizations. The funds will help preserve and interpret Tennessee's rich cultural heritage from the War Between the States.

Call the Tennessee Wars Commission for an application 615-532-1550.

Tim Burgess, research-historian of the battle of Franklin, and Gregory Biggs, who has no less than three books on battle flags in the writing. Do not miss this!

Admission:

\$10.00 Individual, \$15.00 Couple, \$ 5.00 Student

April 23rd, 1999 7:00 P.M.

Cleburne Room Shoney's Inn

1307 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin, Tennessee

Contact: 615-791-6533

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	
		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	