



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 1999

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 23

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

JUNE 26

THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE MONUMENT WILL BE FORMALLY REDEDICATED AT ITS NEW LOCATION ON SATURDAY, JUNE 26. A CEREMONY BEGINNING AT 10 A.M. WILL FEATURE A KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MR. WILBUR F. CREIGHTON, JR., WHO SERVES ON THE METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION. REENACTMENTS, FLAGS, BALLOONS WILL ALSO BE PART OF THE FESTIVITIES.

FROM 2-5 P.M. THAT DAY, THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY WILL SPONSOR A FREE PUBLIC CONCERT AT THE MONUMENT.

JULY 15

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEETING 7PM
SPEAKER DAVID FRALEY ON
HOOD'S RETREAT AT THE
SUGAR TREE CLUBHOUSE OFF
WOODMONT BLVD
RESCHEDULED FROM MAY 20

OCTOBER 15-17, 1999

SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE
NOVEMBER 29, 1864
DESTINY OR DISASTER?
HOSTED BY THE CARTER HOUSE
AND RIPPAVILLA

NOVEMBER 14, 1999

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOVEMBER 27

ILLUMINATION TOUR OF
MCGAVOCK CEMETERY

From Your President

In last month's newsletter, Board Vice President Joe Smyth submitted an article about "A Symposium on the True History of Confederate flags." Your president attended the symposium and found the information given by Deveraux Cannon, Ms. Sheila Greene, and Gregory Biggs most enlightening. This was \$10.00 well spent.

We are well represented at Civil War Shows, Festivals and Military Collectors' Show, with a big thank you to Sam Huffman and Sam Gant. If any of STFB members would like to "man" a table at these events, please call the office 591-1774. They could use the help.

We are still selling our calendars, but at a reduced price - \$8.00. You don't want to miss owning this one.

Plans are well on the way for our next tour to be held on Sunday, May 23, 1999 from 2 pm - 5 pm. Bobby Hargrove of your Board is Chairman. Remember these tours are free to STFB members. I hope to see you at Winstead Hill to tour sites of First Battle of Franklin fought April 10, 1863.

E. J. Neeley

FIRST BATTLE OF FRANKLIN TOUR Sunday, May 23 by Sam Huffman

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc will lead a tour of the First Battle of Franklin on Sunday, May 23 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

This April 10, 1863 battle occurred when Confederate forces encamped at Spring Hill probed into Franklin to measure the location and strength of Federal forces in the area. Fort Granger and the trenches near the Carter House were then under early construction by the Federals but not yet complete nor strongly manned. However, nineteen months later, these fortifications would be the scene of the bloody Battle of Franklin.

In early March 1863, Federal forces from Brentwood had met disaster at Thompson's Station when they moved with incomplete intelligence on the Confederates

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The News in Review by Kim Hoover

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

Three Historical Markers placed - The Tennessean - April 30, 1999
Three new historical markers in SE Williamson County will be dedicated on May 2 according to the Williamson County Historical Society.

A marker will be placed at the college Grove Methodist Church, an 1888 structure for a church that was first organized in 1860 as College Grove Methodist Episcopal Church South with a seminary for young ladies.

Another marker will be placed at the Ogilvie Farm, one of the county's oldest homesteads settled by William and Mary Harris Ogilvie in the late 190's. The marker will be dedicated to the memory of Beatrice Ogilvie wife of Sam Rucker Ogilvie.

The third marker will be on Owen Hill Road toward Arno at the 1826 Rucker Cemetery. Rucker family members who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, and the Civil War are among those buried there.

Can growth and Civil War sites mix?

Grant to help provide zoning answers - The Tennessean - May 3, 1999 - Preservationists' dreams of a revamped, rezoned Highway 31, that pays homage to the road's historic importance have come a step closer, thanks to a \$20,000 federal grant. The federal grant was received through the Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program.

The grant, announced at the end of April, will be used to implement the second phase of the foundation's "U.S. Highway 31 Battlefield Corridor Protection Plan" initially financed by a \$20,000 Park Service grant in 1996. The new grant will pick up from there to develop policy and zoning recommendations.

"It is a growth roadway, but there are things that can be done to keep key parcels. You can redevelop to make twhat's there more in keeping wit the corirdo, and new projects can be built in keeping with its visual quality," said Mary Pearce.

Remembrances of the Past BGA museum houses impressive collection -

The Review Appeal - May 5, 1999 - The Dr. HA Laws Memorial Museum at BGA is an impressive collection of military artifacts from different eras of American history but the most extensive collection of relics is from the time of the Civil War.

We feel like this is an excellent collection. We are so fortunate to have received so many donations, said Doug Langston, History Dept head at BGA.

Probably the most impressive item in the exhibit is a rare Polk's Corps Battle Flag. The flag is one of only three in existence. One is at the University of the South, and the other is at the Chicago Historical Society.

Support from the Williamson County Bicentennial Committee, the Carter House, and the Lotz Museums and the BGA Annual Fund in addition to the efforts from BGA Director of Development Jimmy French made it possible for this rare piece of history to be saved.

Langston said the exhibit is open to the public during regular school hours. He said, "we wanted to make this available to the students and the Williamson County community."

Battle of Nashville Monument Update by Jim Summerville

A six-foot granite angel will soar to the apex of the Battle of Nashville Monument next Thursday, May 20, crowning with success a long drive to restore this, the Nashville's finest outdoor sculpture.

The McCord Crane Company is donating its services to lift the angel to the top of the obelisk now in place. The flight of the Angel is set for 1:00 PM at the Monument park, Granny White Pike at Battlefield Drive.

The Battle of Nashville Monument, commemorating one of the decisive battles of the Civil War, was originally created in 1927 by Giuseppe Moretti and erected on Franklin Road. In 1974 a tornado toppled the obelisk and shattered the angel. Interstate construction during the 1980s isolated the remnant behind a chain-link fence on an inaccessible bluff.

The Tennessee Historical Commission, which owns the statue, chose the new home for it in 1992. State and federal money, as well as generous private contributions, made possible the

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at Spring Hill. And again in late March, Forrest's cavalry had captured the entire Federal garrison in a surprise raid at Brentwood. The First Battle of Franklin was the next phase of this back-and-forth probing conducted by both sides.

The tour will begin promptly at 2:00 pm at Winstead Hill Park on Columbia Avenue just south of Mack Hatcher Blvd - behind the Tractor Supply Store - and will conclude by 5:00 PM. We will do a small amount of walking, and will travel to other nearby Franklin locations by private car caravan. The tour will officially end at Fort Granger.

If you have not seen Winstead Hill or Fort Granger since they became city parks, now's your chance. The City of Franklin, with the support of our historical groups, has done a good job. We think you will be very pleased.

The tour is free to all STFB members. Non-members are asked to donate \$10 per person (or become members, \$12 for individuals, \$15 per family - get it?). For information call 615-591-1774 or see our web site at www.franklin-stfb.org

The Third Battle of Franklin? by Ronny Mangrum

Hollywood arranges for Battle to be staged in 1923 for movie entitled, *The Human Mill*.

Most people are aware of the bloody struggle for the South's freedom in the small town of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Several know of the first battle of Franklin just South of the city on April 10, 1862. But, I bet few of y'all knew of the third battle of Franklin just north of Winstead Hill and south of the city in 1923.

The movie industry was in it's infancy and had not yet been plagued with the politically correctness that it suffers from today. Metro Pictures was shooting a new historical film based on Nashvillean, John Trotwood Moore's new novel "The Bishop of Cotton Town." The crews began arriving in Franklin on September 19 with three train car loads of props and equipment. There was an ironic connection to the man in the leading role of the film, Henry B. Walthall. His father, Gen. Edward C. Walthall participated in the battle 59 years previous and had two horses shot under him.

Ronny Mangrum, STFB Vice President and manager of the Lotz House Museum in Franklin, was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident on May 7, was admitted to Vanderbilt Hospital and was released May 14. We know that you all join the STFB Board in wishing him well during his recovery. For those of you who would like to send him a card, please send it to his home address:

*Ronny Mangrum
4762 Peytonsville Road
Franklin, TN 37064*

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers or gifts, please send tax deductible donations to the Lotz House Museum for the "Casey Sisco Memorial Scholarship Fund". That address is:

*Lotz House Museum
1111 Columbia Ave
Franklin, TN 37064.*

The battlefield was prepared with prop buildings, trenches, head logs, and powder charges placed all over the field for realism. Dirt over the charges was sifted so as not to create dirt clod missiles during the filming.

The soldiers for the movie were made up of an odd collection of participants from all over middle Tennessee. Franklin High School, Battle Ground Academy, along with the two nearby military schools from Maury county were invited to participate in the dramatic charge. Added to this group were veterans of WWI along with some Confederate soldiers who had made the charge the first time. A problem soon arose in the prop department when it was realized by the German movie costumer, Captain Koch, that no one wanted to wear the Federal uniforms. One venerable United Confederate Veterans member waited patiently as his grandson got an outfit to play a role in the movie. When he saw the youngster clad in blue the old vet yelled, "Go take those damned rags off!" Soon the mob was yelling, "Give us Confederate uniforms!" Capt. Koch, the red-faced veteran of the Imperial German Army, began shouting in his thick accent. "Gentlemen, please! How vill de picture be made if no vun vill be a Yankee?"

The shooting was to begin at 10:00 am September 27 on part of the original battlefield. When the director was making last minute checks he thought the Union battery were made up of men that were too young. He was soon informed that every man at the guns had served at Chateau-Thierry and Argonne several years earlier. Director Allen Holubar shook his head, grinned, and continued his last minute inspection.

Finally the battle began around noon with the exploding of smoke bombs to make the scene look real. Geysers of fine earth was sent to the heavens as the mines were exploded amongst the gray clad attackers. One could hear the shouts and thrills of the approximately 12,000 spectators that turned out to witness the event each time a charge was made or bombs exploded. The simulated battle raged on as Confederate colors fell and soon rose again and again. The realism of the fight got the best of one onlooker who was a Confederate Veteran He struggled past one of the deputies, keeping the spectators at a proper distance, shouting, "Let me at 'em boy! I fit 'em in 64 and I ain't afeered to fit 'em now!"

Director Holubar would never see his project completed as he died soon after returning to Hollywood. If that wasn't tragic enough the 400 feet of film, that had been shot that day, was lost forever in a warehouse fire after being seen by only a few people in charge of the film. The movie became one of Hollywood's unfinished epics and it is unfortunate for us today that this film was lost to posterity.

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restoration.

Nashville sculptor Coley Coleman has faithfully replicated Moretti's original angel, and he will oversee its placement. Mr. Coleman has been at work on the figure for the past eight months.

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	