



Save The Franklin Battlefield

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

January 2000

www.franklin-stfb.org

From the President

Dear STFB Members--

The Year 2000 is finally here, and it is shaping up to be a very busy and productive one. As Franklin and Williamson County continue to grow at break-neck speed, a call is coming from many sources for preservation. Individuals, organizations, and "grassroots" groups are calling for natural, agricultural, and historic preservation. STFB supports the network of organizations working towards historic preservation with money, time, and volunteers. We realize, above all, that we all work for a common cause.

STFB is completing work on a new Franklin battlefield historical marker--more on this in the near future. We have scheduled three educational battlefield tours for you the members, and the general public. Look for more details on these as the year progresses.

Again, thank you for your membership and your support. Sell a STFB Civil War Calendar to a friend, neighbor, or relative if you can! You are helping to Save The Franklin Battlefield.

Happy New Year!

Joe Smyth

Marker Fund Update

GOOD NEWS - The STFB marker fund balance now stands at \$2,100 due in large part to several year-end donations and to a special sponsor who stepped forward in December—more about this in the February newsletter.

One of the STFB goals for 1999 was to place a marker on the Old Franklin High School property. That 2.4 acre battlefield parcel adjoins the Carter House property's north boundary and is now part of the Carter House holdings. It was where the Federal formations began the counter-charge that swarmed around the Carter farm buildings to stem the Confederate breakthrough of the Union line during the Battle of Franklin.

The high school burned in 1956 and Williamson County continued to use the surviving gymnasium over the years for several community service programs. The Carter House and State of Tennessee Agencies redrew their shared property boundaries in

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Upcoming Events

JANUARY 20
BATTLE OF NASHVILLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEETING AT 7:00 PM SHONEY'S, MURPHY ROAD. GUESTS ARE WELCOME. WWW.BONPS.ORG

FEBRUARY 8
MIDDLE TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE 7:00 PM BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY. SPEAKER IS SAM DAVIS ELLIOTT, AUTHOR OF *SOLDIER OF TENNESSEE—GENERAL ALEXANDER P. STEWART AND THE CIVIL WAR IN THE WEST*.

MARCH 19
BRENTWOOD DRIVING TOUR 2-4 PM. LOOK FOR FURTHER DETAILS IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

STFB Web Site Update

More good news - the STFB web site at

www.franklin-stfb.org



can now accept and process Visa and Mastercard payments for STFB membership dues and purchases of STFB educational materials. We have had many requests for this web site facility, but until now we could not the function to the web site on a cost effective basis. We still cannot accept payment from outside the USA - maybe later.

This feature not only simplifies the processing of our sales and dues payments, but we can now also automatically send you an email acknowledgment for all credit card payments. Plus, we will also email you a shipping notice when your order is processed and physically put in the mail.

Soon we will be able to accept credit card payments for tax deductible donations to STFB projects as well. But please be aware that STFB does pay a 3% processing fee for the card processing service, so if you plan to make a significant donation to STFB, you may still want to do that directly by check so that our preservation efforts get the full benefit of your generosity.

Sam Huffman

News In Review

The Path to Upstairs Franklin—Roper's Knob to open as city park this spring as developers make plans below—Williamson AM—January 7, 2000—The highest point in the city, Roper's Knob has remained one of Williamson county's hidden treasures. Used as a Union Army signal station during the civil War, the hilltop at cool Springs Blvd and Mack Hatcher Parkway has withstood time and encroaching development though barely. The Heritage Foundation purchased the historic site about 4 years ago saving it from development. A passive park with a network of minimal-impact walking trails similar to those maintained at Fort Granger and Winstead Hill is planned for the 57 acre site which is now protected for generations to come. "This will be an outdoor classroom where future generations can learn about civil War in Tennessee," said Mary Pearce, executive director of the Heritage Foundation. Roper's Knob is expected to be open to the public this spring as a city park, will be preserved through conservation easement restrictions. Jim Mahurin, a consultant is spearheading the design and construction of the trail system, would like to one day see the other two hilltops included in the park plan, but only time will tell if development occurs before preservation can safeguard the area. Plans for a development are expected to be submitted to the city's planning department this month for the 150+ acres of land around Roper's Knob. "In a perfect world, we would purchase that land," said Mary Pearce. For more information on how to volunteer to help cut trails, contact Jim Mahurin at 790-0083.

Kim Hoover

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1999 to add this ground to the Carter House.

For now, the gym will continue to be used for community programs while a new Community Center is constructed. During that interim, the new marker will educate the visiting public that the site is a very important part of the Franklin Battlefield - and that is now a protected historical site. Two local historians have volunteered to draft the marker text. One side will describe the battle events that occurred nearby, and the other side will present a short history of the site itself. The Williamson County Historical Society will order the marker cast once the final text is approved.

Although we didn't attain this goal in 1999 as planned, it now appears it will happen in late this spring. Check the February STFB newsletter for additional details on this project including a date for the marker dedication.

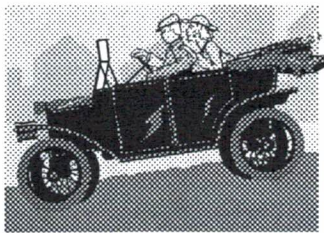
For more information about this important battlefield site and the Old Franklin High School, see the August picture and side-bar text in the STFB 2000 Day-by-Day Calendar.

Sam Huffman

STFB 2000 Driving Tours

STFB will be giving three major educational battle-field tours this year. On Saturday, March 19th, a Battle of Brentwood Tour is scheduled from 2-5pm. This tour will be presented in co-operation with the Brentwood Historical Society. We look forward to meeting and working with their membership on this one.

On May 7th, a Hospitals of the Battle of Franklin Tour is being planned. This will be a new tour for STFB, and the first time such a tour has been given in Franklin. Don't miss this one!



Finally, in the Fall, STFB will hold a Cemetery Illumination Tour at McGavock Confederate Cemetery. This was such a success last year that we have decided to make it an annual event. It is a fun and very meaningful event for the entire family.

Please plan to join us this year at one or all of our tours. As always, STFB members receive free admission, and a small fee is charged for non-members.

Most decide to become members on the spot! See you there!

Joe Smyth

Hood After He Resigns

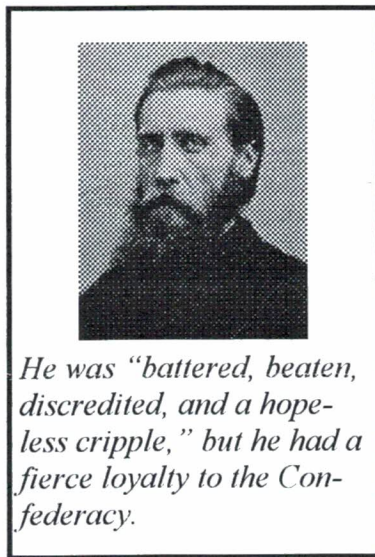
On January 13, 1865, General John Bell Hood resigns as commander of the Army of Tennessee in Tupelo, Mississippi.

He had replaced General Joseph E. Johnston on July 17, 1864. Hood received the telegram around eleven o'clock in the evening. He found he was surprised by this, "totally unexpected order."

After Atlanta, he marched his men into Tennessee believing he could retake the city of Nashville. Along the way, he lost officers and enlisted men. He was "battered, beaten, discredited and a hopeless cripple," but he had a fierce loyalty to the Confederacy.

Many today have a strong opinion about John Bell Hood. But the fact that it was his men who raised money for a wooden leg that he had at the time of the battle of Franklin that has to say something for the man.

Moving to New Orleans, a business man, married and father of eleven children — three sets of twins and five singles.



He was "battered, beaten, discredited, and a hopeless cripple," but he had a fierce loyalty to the Confederacy.

In 1879, yellow fever came to the Hood household, on August 24 Mrs. Anna Maria Hennen Hood was the "first victim," a few days later their ten year old daughter Lydia died. She was followed by her father, 48 year old, John Bell, leaving ten children without a mother or father. Hood's Texas Brigade Association at first were "prepared to buy a house and hire a house mother to care for them . . . but it was decided they should have individual homes." It was announced and soon offers to adopt them "flooded in from all parts of the country and they were placed in good homes."

In his military career he may have not make the right choices, he was "a man of emotion rather than intellect." But in the end his men were loyal.

E. J. Neeley

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
	2000 STFB Day by Day in Middle Tenn. Calendar	\$13.00	
	1999 STFB Day by Day Bicentennial Calendar Special STFB Member Price	\$5.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint Special STFB Member Price until 12/31/99	\$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	
	Commemorative Postcard	\$5.00	
	Donation for Marker Fund		
		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	

Please note that the commemorative items listed above for sale can be viewed on the STFB website at:

www.franklin-stfb.org/saleitem.htm