



Save The Franklin Battlefield

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

April 2000

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851
(615) 500-6612
www.franklin-stfb.org

From the President

Dear Members—

We were finally blessed with beautiful weather for our Battle of Brentwood Tour this past weekend. Everyone attending enjoyed themselves, new members were signed up, and it was a pleasure visiting with the participating Brentwood Historical Society members. We now set our sights and energies on the upcoming Battle of Franklin Hospitals Tour. We also continue to move forward on our series of historical markers for battlefield sites. In addition, we are entering the spring and summer season of festivals and events where we run our STFB booth. Our booth is a major outreach avenue to the general public, and we are always in need of volunteers to help staff it. It is great fun, and a chance to spread the word on our mission to Save The Franklin Battlefield.

I thank you so very much for your time and efforts.

Happy Easter!

Joe Smyth

Brentwood Battlefield Tour

April 9th was a much prettier day than the original date for the Battle of Brentwood Tour. co-sponsored by the Brentwood Historical Society, STFB picked up a few new members from their ranks. Approximately 36 people turned up to hear costumed interpreters from STFB and the Brentwood Historical Society explain the five different sites.

Many thanks to all the people who assisted with the tour, especially the following people: Joe Smyth, Sam Huffman, Jim Hackett, Ronnie Mangrum, E. J. Neeley, Lynn Dorris, Kim Hoover, David Fraley, Greg Smith, Wendell Edison and Suzanne Burns.



From left to right: EJ Neeley, Lynn Dorris, Greg Smith, Suzanne Burns, Kim Hoover, and Joe Smyth. Photo taken by David Fraley.

Upcoming Events

APRIL 17-23
NATIONAL PARK WEEK, WITH
NATIONAL PARK DAY ON APRIL
22 AT STONES RIVER NA-
TIONAL BATTLEFIELD.

MAY 8
BOARD MEETING, 6:30 AT THE
WILLIAMSON COUNTY LIBRARY
AT FIVE POINTS.

MAY 27
SCOUTS DECORATE STONES
RIVER NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
CEMETERY WITH FLAGS AT 10.
A MEMORIAL SERVICE IS
PLANNED AT 1:30 PM.

JUNE 11
DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN WALK-
ING TOUR OF HOSPITALS.

Letter from Franklin



(Confederate Veteran Magazine, Vol. XVI, (1908), #11, (Nov.), page 554, article by J. K. Merrifield, 88th Illinois Infantry, USA & Medal of Honor Recipient for actions at the Battle of Franklin, TN.)

"The battle of Franklin, in my opinion, was one of the most desperate of the Civil War . . . I have talked this battle over with . . . F. M. Cockrill. Of Missouri, who was a (Confederate) Brigade Commander there and was wounded. He agrees with thousands of others that Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864, was the worst 'Slaughter Pen' and most bitterly contested of all our battles with more loss of life on the Confederate side for the number engaged than any battle of the war."

News In Review

Students offer support for stone walls—Williamson AM-
Two Williamson County women have enlisted the aid of their students at Walnut Grove Elementary School to have the area's historic stone walls protected by legislation pending before the State Legislature. Laura Turner and Debbie Layman are working to get House Resolution 492 thorough the Legislature's committee system before a vote by the State Senate.

The bill asks the Tennessee Historical Commission to document "stone walls worthy of preservation and to develop criteria for their protection and preservation, including standards for moving and rebuilding such walls when other alternatives are not available."

"I first became aware of the need to somehow protect the walls and roads in our area when the widening of Old Natchez Trace initiated three years ago. I was amazed to learn that there was

no protection of any kind that could assist in the preservation of the historic road and surrounding walls and hedgerows," said Ms. Layman.

By working together and talking to officials, the women learned that other states had enacted legislation supporting the stone walls and their preservation. In Kentucky, legislation was enacted which now requires the moving and rebuilding of stone walls threatened by development. One county in Kentucky lost 25 percent of the stone walls around it's horse and family farms between 1967 and 1990.

Debbie Layman also asks that anyone who has a dry stone wall on their property or who knows of a wall which should be included on Williamson County's list, to call The Heritage Foundation at 591-8500.

A Call for Volunteers!



Once again, we will be running our STFB booth at a variety of Spring-Summer festivals and activities. We are looking for members who can volunteer to help staff the booth. It is always fun, and a great chance to help get our message out to the general public. If you can help, please call with your availability. Many thanks in advance!

April 21-23 Shiloh Reenactment
Paris Landing,

April 29-30 Main Street Festival
Franklin

May 5-7 Morgan's Raids Reenactment
Lebanon

May 6-7 Pearfest
Brentwood

May 7 STFB BOF Hospitals Tour
Franklin

May 12-13 Thompsons Station Festival
Thompsons Station

May 20-21 Civil War Show TN State Fair
grounds-Nashville

June 9-11 Parker's Crossroads Reenactment
I-40, Exit 108

A Land Without Ruins

A land without ruins is a land without memories; a land without memories is a land without history.

Yes, give me the land where the ruins are spread,
And the living tread light on the hearts of the dead;

Yes, give me a land that is blest by the dust,
And bright with the deeds of the down-trodden just.

Yes, give me the land where the battle's red blast

Has flashed to the future the fame of the past;
Yes, give me the land that hath legends and lays,
That tell of the memories of long vanished days;
Yes, give me the land that hat story and song!
Enshrine the strife of the right with the wrong!
Yes, give me a land with a grave in each spot,
And the names on the graves that shall ne'er be



Fr. Abram Ryan

forgot.

Yes, give me the land of the wreck and the tomb.

There is grandeur in graves,

There is glory in gloom;

For out of the gloom, future brightness is born,

As after the night comes the sunrise of morn;

And the graves of the dead with the grass over grown,

May yet form the footstool of liberty's throne;

And each single wreck in the war path of might,
Shall yet be a rock in the in the temple of right.

Fr. Abram Ryan

Submitted by EJ Neeley

STFB 2001 Calendar Looking Iffy

STFB Board meetings for March and April, the board reviewed the possibility to again publish the STFB Day-by-Day calendar for the year 2001. The calendars list several hundred daily events that occurred in Middle Tennessee during the war years. Each month also features a picture of a local Civil War location or preservation theme with descriptive sidebar text.

The past two calendars have been excellent public education and promotional pieces for STFB's efforts, and most of the text material can be used from one year to the next with some revision plus all new pictures. In order to have the finished calendars by September, the print materials and the financing have to be completed by June 1, 2000.

The 1999 and 2000 calendars were on average break-even propositions and represented a large workload for the all-volunteer staff.

Even though the calendars are out-of date, they do continue to sell well at STFB booths at local festivals and historical gatherings. This is because of they are actually picture history books, rather than just calendars.... and the computer enhanced pictures are spectacular.

For the 2001 calendar, we had hoped for businesses to help sponsor the \$15,000 printing cost in exchange for advertising space on the back cover. To date, STFB has not received sponsor commitments, and thus may have to forego producing a calendar for 2001.

If you know of potential sponsors for next year's Civil War Day-by-Day calendar, please call President Joe Smyth at 615-794-6812 or Treasurer Sam Huffman at 615-370-3842.

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

Phone Number: 615-500-6612

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	\$10.00	
	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