



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 2000

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 9

STFB Tour of Ropers Knob. See Related story on page 2.

SEPTEMBER 11

STFB Board Meeting, 6:30 pm at the Williamson County Library.

SEPTEMBER 14

Middle Tennessee Civil War Roundtable, 6:30 pm in the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce offices. Contact Joe Cook for more information at [jcookjr@bellsouth.net](mailto:jcookjr@bellsouth.net)

SEPTEMBER 21

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (BONPS) is sponsoring a tour of Fort Negley on Thursday, September 21. The group will meet at 6 P.M. in the Nashville Science Museum parking lot.

OCTOBER 14

Tour of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville beginning at 4:30. Funds raised to benefit upkeep of graves in the Confederate Circle.

OCTOBER 27

STFB tour of McGavock Cemetery. Funds raised to go to the Franklin UDC for the upkeep of the cemetery.

## *From the President*

Dear STFB Member--

Interest in and knowledge of the Battle of Franklin is growing steadily across the country and the world. With the help of The Carter House staff, Carnton Plantation, various local groups, and our very own STFB web site, folks from far a field are beginning to understand the importance of the Battle.

Along with this knowledge has come the beginnings of a broad geographic support for reclaiming the Franklin Battlefield. This "out-of-town" support adds weight to the call for city and county officials and residents to join the cause.

Our STFB membership is stepping up to the plate--good things are coming from that!

*Joe Smyth*

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# Ropers Knob Tour

## Saturday, Sept 9

STFB will lead an informal tour to the summit of Ropers Knob on Saturday, September 9 at 10:00 AM. This tour is only for members of STFB, the Heritage Foundation, and their guests. Please call 615-591-8500 or 615-500-6612 to make a reservation.

The walk up to Ropers Knob and back down takes about 90 minutes including a few rest stops. If the weather continues warm, you may want to bring bottled water. Long pants are strongly recommended since the dry weather has produced an abundance of chiggers and a few ticks.

The Heritage Foundation owns 45 acres on the south and east faces of the hill, and the State of Tennessee owns an additional 22 acres on the summit which may still have original earthworks. The state has recently surveyed the summit into grids in preparation for formal archeological digs that will define the summit features.

The general long-term plan is to eventually have a 67 acre passive park open to the public but the property will remain closed for the foreseeable future. STFB has special permission to lead this tour although the trails are only roughly laid out and need some use to make them more visible. Hopefully, this tour will help to establish the trails. We will need to be careful to not disturb the survey stakes or marking tape.

In early 1863, the Federals built up forces and fortifications in Franklin, Triune, and Murfreesboro in preparation for a general offensive toward Chattanooga and Atlanta. The strong point of the Federal encampment was Fort Granger on Figuers Bluff overlooking the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad bridge across the Little Harpeth river. Ropers Knob was the northeast corner of the encampment's fortifications, and was used as a signalling station as well as a fortified blockhouse with guns and surrounding rifle pits. Over time, additional strong points were built on the low ridge running east of Fort Granger, and onto the hill masses west of Ropers Knob.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Mack Hatcher go west on Liberty Pike about 50 yds and turn north onto Hillhaven Lane. At bottom of dip turn left onto Arsenal Drive which dead-ends into Reveille Court. Turn right to end of street. There is not much parking space so doubling up on rides would be a big, big help. Extra cars can be parked along Hillhaven.

Also, we are asked to remind you that no motor powered vehicles of any kind are allowed in the park areas, and the use of metal detectors is strictly forbidden. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

*Contributed by Sam Huffman*

## Salt Creek CWRT Contributes To Marker Fund

Janet Linhart, President of the Salt Creek CWRT in Wheaton, IL, has informed us that their group has once again adopted the Franklin Battlefield as their preservation project for this year. They have pledged \$500 to the STFB Marker Fund and hope to raise additional funds sufficient to pay for an entire marker. Last year this stalwart group donated \$500 to the STFB Land Purchase Fund that was combined with other donations to help pay down the debt on the Carter Cotton Gin site.

One of the group's activities this year will be to print and sell T-shirts that feature the working preservation partnership between the CWRT and STFB. The CWRT is located in western suburban Chicago and has about 110 members. Recently a delegation of the CWRT visited Fort Negley in Nashville to see the stabilization and restoration underway there.

"We truly appreciate this financial help that the Salt Creek CWRT brings to the Franklin Battlefield," said STFB President Joe Smyth. "And this gift once more demonstrates that there are many people across America who feel there should be a Battlefield Park at Franklin." □

*Contributed by Sam Huffman*

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## The Opdycke Marker

With the acquisition of the Old Franklin High School site, a significant segment of the Franklin Battlefield became part of the Carter House holdings. This area is here the Federal troops of Colonel Opdycke's Brigade were in formation when the Confederate forces broke through the center of the Federal line. The Brigade responded without orders and engaged the Confederates in fighting that raged around the Carter farm buildings and forced the Confederates back through the Federal forward line. To commemorate the decisive part that Colonel Opdycke's Brigade played in the Union defense of the area around the Carter House, STFB accepted the opportunity to place a marker on the site, and Thomas Cartwright, of the Carter House, provided the text. John M. Carlson, Ltd., of St. Paul, Minnesota, has graciously contributed the funds to underwrite the marker.

The marker is currently on order from the foundry at Marietta, Ohio, and STFB expects to receive it within a few weeks. Plans are to have a dedication ceremony during the Carter House Descendants Reunion in October.

*Contributed by Sam Gant*

## *Battle of Nashville Sponsors Tour of Ft. Negley For Their Members*

The next Battle of Nashville Preservation Society membership meeting will consist of a field trip to Ft. Negley conducted by a staff member of the Metro Nashville Parks Department.

Fort Negley is the Civil War landmark on a hill near Greer Stadium is within two months of being complete. The fort has a distinctive star-shaped outline of stone wall. It's the result of two years of rebuilding walls, reconstructing tunnels and clearing decades of underbrush and trees. The fort has been closed to the public for decades. Metro Parks has been stabilizing the areas that were in danger of falling and then rebuilding the walls.

The fort is a long way from fulfilling Nashville's \$3 million master plan for it: to anchor a regional interpretive center that would attract Civil War enthusiasts from all over. It could serve as a starting point for tourists who want to continue down a civil war corridor either southeast to Chattanooga or southwest to Shiloh.

"Because a city like Nashville has a lot of needs, Fort Negley has to stand in line with lots of other projects. We do think this could be a very attractive tourism destination", said Ann Roberts, Metro Historical Commission Director.

Since the fort is closed to the general public, the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society is offering a great opportunity to its membership and to those that join that evening. BONPS members will meet at 6 pm sharp at the parking lot of the Children's Museum (Theater) at 724 Second Ave South before traveling to the fort.

Don't miss this great opportunity to tour one of Nashville's Civil War landmarks, the Union fort whose guns opened the Battle of Nashville! For more information check out BONPS website at

[www.bonps.org](http://www.bonps.org)

*Submitted by Kim Hoover*

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

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 <i>Special STFB Member Price</i>	\$3.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint <i>Special STFB Member Price until 12/31/99</i>	\$13.00	
	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	
	Donation for Marker Fund		
		<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>	

Please note that the commemorative items listed above for sale can be viewed on the STFB website at:  
[www.franklin-stfb.org/saleitem.htm](http://www.franklin-stfb.org/saleitem.htm)

Save The Franklin Battlefield  
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