



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 2001

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 10
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BATTLE OF FRANKLIN (1863)

APRIL 21-22
STFB BOOTH AT THE BRENTWOOD PEARFEST

MAY 5-6
HERITAGE FOUNDATION TOUR OF HOMES, FEATURING DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN AND NOLENSVILLE.

MAY 12
STFB BOOTH AT THE THOMPSON'S STATION ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

From the President

March was a very busy month for Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. The Opdycke marker was erected and dedicated with great fanfare. In addition, we gave our tour of the Battle of Thompson's Station. It was our first tour of the year and was also a smashing success. You can read more about both events elsewhere in this newsletter. My personal thanks go out to everyone on our board who helped make them happen.

We continue to press forward with our fundraising for the Hyssop Hill project. STFB hopes to have more to report on this in the near future. We are also planning to mount a major membership campaign very soon.

Thank you for your continued support of Save The Franklin Battlefield through your time, membership, and generous contributions. We look forward to seeing you at our next STFB event!

Joe Smyth

Opdycke Marker Dedication—March 17, 2001

The marker was dedicated at 4:00 p.m. as part of special St. Patrick's Day activities planned by the Carter House. A living history encampment by the 45th Alabama Infantry Regiment and reenactors from the 125th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment ("Opdycke's Tigers") were in attendance. Two descendants of Emerson Opdycke were in attendance. Special thanks go again to John M. Carlson of John M. Carlson, Ltd., St. Paul, Minnesota for funding the marker, Thomas Cartwright, executive director of the Carter House for his research and authorship of the inscription, the Carter House Association for allowing the marker to be placed, and Rick Warwick and Ridley Wills II for their guidance on the project.



Left: Sam Huffman, STFB Treasurer, leads the dedication ceremonies.

Right: Mr. Henry Peltz (left) great grandson of Col. Emerson Opdycke, and his son came for the festivities.

News In Review Submitted by Sam Gant

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

(Ed Note: We are excited to bring back our monthly news in review that we used to run in our newsletter that was compiled by Peter Schofield. STFB secretary, Sam Gant, has graciously volunteered to compile news of interest in our area for our newsletter. Thanks Sam!)

Preservationists protest building new schools close to historic sites - The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." - 2/21/01 FRANKLIN - One-by-one county school board members were bombarded Monday night with emotional preservationists who say the board's proposed building sites for two new southern schools would ruin the "view shed" of nearby historic properties. Pamela Lewis, who owns Harrison House, across from the land the board wants to condemn for the site of a new elementary school, spoke against the proposed location. "I've done everything in my power to preserve what I can. This is economically stupid and foolish, what I am doing," she said. "I just want to preserve this historic site." Harrison House was touched by the Civil War when on Sept. 2, 1864, the mortally wounded Brig. Gen. John H. Kelley, CSA, was brought to the house, and again when Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood used the house for a staff conference the morning before committing his army to the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864. A mortally wounded Brig. Gen. John C. Carter was brought to Harrison House after the battle. Board members listened patiently to the preservationists, but defended the need for new southern schools.

Historic log house wins stay - The Tennessean - 3/3/01 LEWISBURG, Tenn. -- A historic but rundown home that can boast Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest slept there may have won a reprieve from destruction, thanks to some vocal Marshall County residents. Lillard's Mill, a log home built in 1840 by Abraham Forrest Lillard for his bride, will be the subject of a meeting in Marshall County Executive Terry Wallace's office. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency years ago bought the home in the Milltown community and the land around it to try to save an endangered species of mussel in the nearby Duck River. Abraham Forrest Lillard was a member of the Tennessee General Assembly 1867-1869. He was also a postmaster at Caney Springs and Lillard's Mill for about 25 years. Lillard was a cousin of Forrest, who often stayed at the home during the Civil War. Allen Gebhardt, assistant director with TWRA, and state Rep. Joe Fowlkes hope a non-profit organization will express interest in maintaining the home, possibly through a 100-year, no cost lease. "It's footprints of the past," local artist Melanie Gordon said. "It's a legacy we need to try to preserve."



March is Women's History Month

A Special First Lady

The 11th President, James K. Polk's wife Sarah Childress Polk, had served Tennessee as "its" first lady 1839-1843 then the United States first lady 1844-1849.

President Polk died at their home Polk Place, in downtown Nashville, on June 15, 1849 at the age of 54. Mrs. Polk would wear black for the rest of her life. They had no children, however, their niece Miss Sallie Polk married George William Fall and a daughter was born Saidee Polk who filled the house with gladness.

When it was realized that the Federal Army was approaching to take possession of Nashville, which it did February 25, 1862 some of Mrs. Polk's relatives in Murfreesboro wanted her to go south. She told them she was at home and intended to stay. "If her house should be blown up or burned, she would pitch a tent on the lawn beside Mr. Polk's tomb and stay there."

The officers stationed in the city treated the former first lady with respect. Her callers included Generals Thomas, Grant, and Sherman. General Buell, as commander in chief of the Federal army called with friends to pay their respects.

All along, in her home for safe keeping, were valuables of Mrs. J. A. S. (Adelicia) Acklen, of Belmont, large numbers of portraits, other fine paintings, boxes of silver, jewelry, and furniture. The Tennessee Historical Society made Mrs. Polk custodian of some of it's collection.

The original Ladies Soldiers' Friend Society was formed on April 22, 1861. It was the first group of women to organize in Nashville after the war started. Mrs. Polk was president, members made clothing etc for soldiers.

She died at Polk Place on August 14, 1891. Written of her, "She was a great woman, and few have lived like her; for she passed unscathed through an ordeal that few women or men, living or dead, could have passed, and left a bright record behind them." She is buried next to her husband on the grounds of the state capitol.

Submitted by E. J. Neeley

Volunteers Needed!

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. is looking for volunteers to staff our booth at the annual Pearfest in Brentwood, Tennessee on the weekend of April 21-22. We will be passing out brochures, signing up new members, and selling our books and calendars. It's always a lot of fun and a great opportunity to meet nice folks and to get our message out.

For more information, and to volunteer, please call Sam Huffman at (615) 370-3842.

STFB's Tour of Thompsons Station

"...they bore down with Forrest's (brigade) and Armstrong's brigade on our left. The dismounted cavalry on the hills to our left fell back, and the rebels planted two pieces of artillery in this position; it's fire enfiladed the Nineteenth Michigan, which was directed to change front to the left. This was followed by a furious assault of dismounted men on our whole left. They were repulsed and the attack repeated. The Nineteenth Michigan fell back to the rear of the Twenty-second Wisconsin. The rebels were again repulsed. They then charged up the road to gain the space between the Thirty-third Indiana and Twenty-second Wisconsin. The two companies on the extreme right were brought over, and drove back the enemy from the left of the Thirty-third Indiana. The Nineteenth Michigan was ordered across the road and placed to their left."

(Official Report of Colonel John Coburn, Thirty-third Indiana Infantry, commanding First Brigade [page 85])



STFB president Joe Smyth, III reads and account of a Texas soldier at the Battle of Thompson Station.

There were 50 people attending STFB's tour of Thompson's Station on Sunday, March 25. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon, although the temperatures were on the chilly side. The tour was lead by STFB board member and Carter House Historian David Fraley. There were also period military and civilian reenactors relating first person accounts of the battle.

Thanks to all that came out for our first tour this year!



STFB member from Maine, Joe Smyth, Jr (left) listens as STFB board member Bob Hargrove reads an account from a soldier from the 19th Michigan.



The tour group listens to an account of the death of Forrest's favorite horse Roderick who died at this battle from STFB board member Lynn Dorris.

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	\$5.00	
	1999 STFB Day by Day Bicentennial Calendar	\$5.00	
	Both Calendars 1999 and 2000—different pictures in each!	\$10.00	
	“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	
	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Shiloh by David Logsdon	\$12.00	
	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Fort Donelson by David Logsdon	\$12.00	
	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Franklin by David Logsdon	\$12.00	
		Order Sub-Total	
		Shipping/Handling under \$10 \$0.75 \$10 - \$24.99 \$2.95 \$25 and up \$4.50	
	-Individual	\$20.00	
	-Family	\$30.00	
	-Corporate	\$50.00	
	Donation—Marker Fund		
	Donation—Land Purchase		
		Order Total	

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STFB has added to it's list of books that it's selling. Two more books by David Logsdon, Eyewitness to the Battle of Shiloh and Eyewitness to Fort Donelson. Each sells for \$12, as does the Eyewitness to the Battle of Franklin. Please notate on the order from which of these books by David Logsdon you would like to order.