



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 2001

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

From the President

Dear STFB Member—

Our Hyssop Hill property and project has a new name—Collins' Farm. This name better reflects the 1860's era of the property. More about this elsewhere in the newsletter.

The fundraising projects are taking shape, and you will be hearing more about them in the near future. If you have an idea for a fundraising event, please call me at (615) 500-6612, or email me at smyth@vol.com.

The development and re-development on the Franklin battlefield continues parcel by parcel. We continue to lend our efforts to raising local awareness and to impressing to the city and county officials their culpability in the development. I strongly feel your voices--through calls, letters, and emails to those officials and the local media--have lent and will lend weight to helping to save the Franklin Battlefield.

Thanks for all you do!

Joe Smyth

REENACTORS' MARCH FOR COLLINS' FARM

On November 16, 17 & 18, 2001, twenty-one reenactors will be marching 30 miles over three days to help Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. raise funds to help pay off the \$200,000 bank loan on Collins' Farm. Each of the twenty-one reenactors will be representing one of the 17 states that had regiments engaged in the battle of Franklin on November 30th, 1864. The reenactors will be representing both Federal and Confederate states. (Missouri, Kentucky & Tennessee had troops fighting in the battle on both sides, hence the 21 reenactors.)

Please consider sponsoring the reenactor representing the state of your choice in this march. Remember that your pledge is "per mile" for a total of 30 miles, and is completely tax-deductible. We greatly appreciate your help in this most worthy cause! Please send your check or money order, and the name of the state you'd like to support in the march, to:

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.
P.O. Box 851
Franklin, Tennessee 37065

Attn: Reenactors' March

News In Review by Sam Gant

County crews to salvage stone from razed wall – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 7/31/01 FRANKLIN – State contractors may have knocked it down, but county workers will be out cleaning up some rock from a nearly 2000-foot stacked stone wall that was knocked down along Hillsboro Road at Berry's Chapel. Historian Rick Warwick estimates that the structure destroyed was 150 years old. TDOT officials say their historian didn't think it held enough historical significance to protect.

Camp puts personal touch on Franklin's darkest day – *The Review Appeal* – 8/1/01 FRANKLIN – For two days every summer, young people flock to the Carter House and "Carter Camp" to learn more about the Civil War and the soldiers who fought for certain beliefs. Thomas Cartwright, director of the Carter House, acts as their guide, providing an education that focuses less on the strategy of the war and more on the men and women behind it. Carter Camp was started 11 years ago to give younger children a deeper understanding of the stories behind the War Between the States. Both Confederate and Yankee soldiers are highlighted during the two days. The camp has become so popular that participants travel from as far as Hermitage and Nashville, many of them returning year after year.

Commissioner wants to defend 'real' battlefield – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 8/7/01

FRANKLIN – Eades says it isn't too late to back down from building library at old BGA. County Commissioner Chuck Eades has spent the past several days calling for support and developing a resolution that would stop plans for construction on what he calls the "real battlefield." Eades would like to turn the BGA property on Columbia Avenue into a battlefield memorial park and use existing buildings as museums. The county shouldn't further compromise the site by building on it, he says.

A brush with history – *The Tennessean*, Williamson A.M." – 8/14/01 FRANKLIN – The last casualty of the Battle of Franklin was Confederate Henry H. Harmeyer, a German who was shot in the eye with a minie ball in Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864, and died from complications 48 years later. Today, Harmeyer's countryman, Oliver Alers, is helping to preserve the Carter House site where the German rebel received his mortal wound. The state is paying Alers for some of the work, but he's donating the rest and has made a commitment to come back every year and spruce up the property for free.

Masonic lodge boasts Civil War-era graffiti – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 8/23/01 FRANKLIN – One hundred and thirty-eight years ago today, a Union soldier left his calling card in Franklin by writing his name and the date on a wall of the Masonic Temple in downtown Franklin. The graffiti, which reads "Sgt. John G. Cottrell, Co.G, 12th Michigan Infantry, Franklin, Tennessee, August 23, 1863," is still legible today in the historic building. The temple on Third Avenue South, home of Hiram Lodge No. 7, was built in 1823—the first three-story building constructed west of the Allegheny Mountains. During the Civil

War, Confederate troops took advantage of its towering height to check out the activity of Union troops at nearby Fort Granger. The building later was used by Union troops and served as an observation post and hospital during the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864.

STFB Board Member Profile

This is the first installment of a series of interview profiles on the people who make up the STFB board of Directors.

Our first profile is Kim Hoover. Kim is our tireless newsletter editor, setting deadlines, chasing down submissions and articles, and folding, stapling, stamping, and mailing each monthly newsletter in a very timely fashion. Kim is also chairperson of the STFB Membership Committee, and serves as the chairperson of the annual McGavock Confederate Cemetery Illumination Tour.

Where were you born? I was born in Detroit, Michigan. I have lived in Tennessee for 11 years, and in Franklin for 9 years.

What was your schooling? I have an associate degree in accounting from Macomb County Community College.

What work experiences have you had, and what is your present position? Do you have a family? I have been married 19 years and have four children, three boys and one girl.

What are your hobbies and interests? I enjoy reading books on women during the civil war in my spare time and sewing when I have the chance. My family and I have also done civil war reenacting for 4 years.

How long have you been a member of STFB? I have been a member of STFB for 5 years, and a board member for the past four years.

How and when did you get interested in battlefield preservation? I got interested in battlefield preservation when I moved to Franklin. We took a tour of the Carter House when we first moved here given by Thomas Cartwright. It was awesome. He really got through to my son Mike as well. We started touring the different battlefields in Tennessee. We started realizing how much of our battlefield is lost. A friend invited me to one of the STFB annual meetings and we became members in 1996.

What can you share with our STFB members about the work to be done in Franklin? The work that needs to be done in Franklin in my opinion is to get the city and county officials to understand that there isn't much of our battlefield left. They need to better plan to preserve the precious little historic resources that we have left

STFB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The County Commission, with the current administration, has the opportunity to preserve a larger and very significant site on the battlefield. The BGA site is where the advancing Confederate force became entangled with the retreating Union brigade resulting in the capture of hundreds of Union soldiers and leading to the Confederate breakthrough at the Carter House.

Admittedly, the BGA site is compromised. However, much of the site is still open, especially along the "Pike" where many of the Union soldiers were captured and in the area nearer the trenches where the most intense action took place. The existing BGA buildings could well be used as museums, both for a county museum and a Civil War museum, and, perhaps, for other functions within the park system.

On this page is the names of Williamson County Commissioners, Williamson County Library Board.

We need these men and women to know that we would like the library built on another site in downtown Franklin, and for the present BGA site to be made into a Battlefield Park. We would like them to get as many letters as possible before they meet on October 8.

Thank you for your help and we will keep you updated on this issue in future newsletters.

County Commissioners

Mrs. Peggy Romano
4064 Carters Creek Pike
Franklin, Tennessee 37064

Mrs. Judy Hayes
1775 Pope's Chapel Road
Thompson's Station, Tn.
37179

Mr. R. Glen Casada
5056 Wilson Pike
Arrington, Tn. 37014

Mr. Lewis W. Green, Jr.
1016 Walter Road
Brentwood, Tn. 37027

Mr. Stan Tyson
410 Cotton Lane
Franklin, Tn. 37009

Mr. Rogers Anderson
815 Hillsboro Road
Franklin, Tn. 37064

Mr Houston Naron
100 Hamlet Drive
Franklin, Tn. 37064

Mrs. Mary Mills
1777 W. Main Street
Franklin, Tn. 37064

Mr David Baker
4283 Carothers Road
Franklin, Tn. 37064

Mr. Clyde Pewitt
1094 Old Hillsboro Road
Franklin, Tn. 37064

Mr. Clyde Lynch
6435 Covington-Eudailey
Road
College Grove, Tn. 37046

Mr. Russell Little
P.O. Box 826
Franklin, Tn. 37065-0826

Mr. Chuck Eades
121 Yorktown Road
Franklin, Tn. 37064
charles.eades@nashville.
com

Mr. Joe M. Hughes
7441 Les Hughes Road
Fairview, Tn. 37062

Mr. Ricky D. Jones
7231 Northwest Highway
P.O.Box 909
Fairview, Tn. 37062

Mr. Joe Herbert
4165 Clovercroft Road
Franklin, Tn. 37067

Mr Newt McCord
7263 Nolensville Road
Nolensville, Tn. 37135

Mrs. Arlene Cooke
1090 Wilshire Way
Brentwood, Tn. 37027

Mr. Garland Teague
1602 Gordon Petty Drive
Brentwood, Tn. 37027

Mr. Bert Chalfant
116 Wilson Pike, Suit 100
Brentwood, Tn. 37027

Mr. William Mott
7082 Willowick Dr.
Brentwood, Tn. 37027
wamott@aol.com

Mr. David McKenzie
411 Brickenhall Court
Franklin, Tn. 37089
615-370-0408

Mr. Jack Walton
2058 Hunterwood Drive
Brentwood, Tn. 37027

Mrs. Nancy J. Williams
106 Kiln Hill Court
Franklin, Tn. 37069

Board of Trustees Williamson County (TN) Public Library System

James W. Cross IV,
Chairman
621 Bradley Ct.
Franklin, TN 37064

Doris H. McMillan,
Secretary
1005 Del Rio pike
Franklin, TN 37069

Michael Denney
5711 Old Harding Rd.,
Suite 7
Nashville, TN 37205

Lewis Green, Jr.,
Vice-Chair
1016 Waller Rd.
Brentwood, TN 37027

Kaye Gibbs
4570 Columbia Pike
Thompson Station, TN
37179

Gayle Moyer Harris
PO Box 757
Franklin, TN 37065
Fax: 615-370-8597

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Clint Callicott
1320 West Main St.
Franklin, TN 37064

The Collins's Farm

"Williamson County, Tenn., January 31st 1867.

In consideration of the sum of Five Hundred and Twenty five Dollars (\$525) paid to me by William Collins of the County of Williamson, I herein convey to the said William Collins a lot of land known as Lot No.1 in the Plan of Carnton. . . . And I herein warrant the title of said lot of land to said Collins forever." (s) Jno. McGavock

In searching through information about the William Collins who purchased this corner of Carnton Plantation at the corner of Lewisburg Pike and the railroad tracks, we find that William C. Collins (1823-1895) was married to Lucy Ellen Burch (1824-1909) and they had five children, John J., Malvina, Ellen, Mary, and Josephine. William is listed in the 1860 Census with the occupation of "Overseer," doubtlessly the overseer of Carnton Plantation. The 1867 purchase of the three-and-a-half acre lot from the Carnton Plantation gave him ownership of the overseer's house and the acreage surrounding it where evidently he and his family had been living. Recognizing the state of the post-war economy and the fact that at John McGavock's death in 1893 he left his widow an estate valued at barely 20 percent of its pre-war value, it leads to a question whether the transaction was actually a cash purchase or if this lot and buildings were conveyed to Collins in lieu of wages for his services on the plantation. In the 1870 Census, William Collins was listed as a "Farmer."

Another tie to Carnton is the November 29, 1866, marriage of the Collins' daughter, Malvina, to George W. Cuppet who had supervised the re-interment of the soldiers in the McGavock Cemetery. John McGavock bonded the marriage. The 1870 Census lists George Cuppet as a "Tenant farmer for John McGavock."

In 1909, following the death of William's widow, some of the heirs proposed subdividing the property into four parcels in settlement of the estate, but this resulted in a lawsuit from other heirs. The court rejected the requested subdivision, and the three and one-half acres passed intact into the hands of another family. This plot of ground where General William Loring's troops advanced to face heavy fire from the Federal troops entrenched just beyond the railroad tracks remains with house standing and the terrain virtually unchanged from that bloody evening in 1864.

Submitted by Sam Gant

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 Bumpers'icker	\$1.50	
	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Franklin by D. Logsdon	\$12.00	
	Eyewitness to the Battle of Shiloh by D. Logsdon	\$12.00	
	Eyewitness to the Battle of Ft. Donelson by D. 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	

Upcoming Events:

November 16-17-18

Reenactors March for Collins' Farm, see page one.

November 17

McGavock Cemetery Tour 5 pm, watch for further information in next month's newsletter

November 18

Annual Meeting of STFB, further details next month.

Save The Franklin Battlefield
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Franklin, TN 37065-0851
615-500-6612
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