



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

September 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—

Like most of you, I sat riveted in front of the television watching the horrible events of September 11th unfold. I was somewhat surprised to hear the on-air newscasters and political commentators reaching back to the Civil War, the War of 1812, and the Revolution for comparable examples of the attack, casualties, and resolve that we now share. I wondered, as I often do, about how we as a nation lose, or perhaps better, 'forget,' our history and its heroes. As we once again beat our plowshares into swords and gird ourselves for battle, I hope we can rediscover our history and our heroes, and draw strength and support from them.

Joe Smyth

REENACTORS' MARCH FOR COLLINS' FARM

On November 16, 17, and 18, 2001, Civil War reenactors will be marching to help Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. The twenty-one uniformed reenactors will be marching 30 miles over three days to raise funds to help retire the debt on Collins' Farm in Franklin.

Collins' Farm is 3.22 acres of core battlefield Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. (STFB) purchased in June 2001, preventing it from possible commercial development. The land is on the extreme Confederate right/Federal left of the Franklin battlefield and was the ground General W. W. Loring's Division passed over as they climbed the railroad embankment and got entangled in the osage orange abatis in front of the Federal trenches. It was this ground of which Lieutenant William H. Berryhill of the 43rd Mississippi lamented, "I cannot see how any human being could live two moments in such a place."

Each of the twenty-one reenactors will portray and represent one of the 17 Union and Confederate states that had regiments engaged in the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee had troops fighting in the battle on both sides, hence the number twenty-one. Other states represented will be Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

The reenactors will march 30 miles from a point along the Natchez Trace, encamping along the way, and

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News In Review by Sam Gant

Land use plan to preserve heritage wanted by public – *The Review Appeal* – 9/2/01

FRANKLIN – Franklin area residents want a comprehensive land use plan for their city's urban growth area to preserve its history and small town character, according to a tabulation of opinions express July 27-28 at a Vision Fair. Those results and others were reported to the Franklin Tomorrow Board of Directors and the non-profit organization's Steering Committee.

Battlefield protection may change – *The Tennessean* – 9/6/01

MURFREESBORO – Stones River ruling delayed by planners. City planning commissioners want more details about what developers want to build before they remove special protections from land the city owns near the Stones River National Battlefield. City official asked the commission to remove more than 200 acres from the battlefield protection zone and more than double the height minimum for buildings around the battlefield. The planning commission voted to defer the change last night, but city officials can still ask the City Council to make the change. The protection area was established in 1994 to keep big buildings and tall signs away from the national park, site of one of the Civil War's most important battles.

Franklin works to preserve its soul and its charm – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 9/14/01

FRANKLIN – Historic resources catalogued, recommendations made to foster planning and preservation consistency. Safeguarding the city's most prized historic sites and landmarks is the point of a Preservation Plan being drafted by city consultants. Since April, the plan's consultant, Mary Means of Arlington, Va., has studied the city's historic and current development, land use and transportation patterns, and threats to historic properties. The Preservation Plan also will include an accurate count of all pre-1950's buildings in the city and potential National Register properties/districts.

FSSD hears Heritage Foundation plea for Preserving prominent site – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 9/14/01

FRANKLIN – The Heritage Foundation asked the Franklin Special School District Board of Education to be sensitive to historic preservation in regard to land it owns at the corner of Mack Hatcher Parkway and Franklin Road. The board decided last month to declare the 20 acres surplus property so it can be sold. Tree Diffendal, a representative of the foundation, spoke to the board Monday and said the land is

"inextricably linked" to the gateway into Franklin and the city's historic character. "This property is located on Tennessee's official Antebellum Trail and a nationally recognized Heritage Trail," she said. "It across the street from two National Register sites – Creekside and Roper's Knob. Therefore, the sensitive development of this land is key to the preservation of our small-town character."

County will fund up to \$8 million for library on old BGA site – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 9/14/01 **FRANKLIN** – The Williamson County Commission said this week it's willing to fund money for construction of a new library at the Battle Ground Academy site. The intent-to-fund for the county library approval comes weeks after Commissioner Chuck Eades fought to stop plans for building on the site, saying the county shouldn't build on Civil War battlefields. Commissioner Lewis Green defended the library's site to Eades and the commission this week. "We are building a War Memorial Library on a battlefield," Green said.

Carnton buys portrait with \$20,000 bequest – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 9/18/01

FRANKLIN – McGavock family history adds depth to Civil War field hospital. Historic Carnton Plantation officials have used a \$20,000 gift to purchase the portrait of a nephew of Randal McGavock, who built the mansion in 1826. The portrait is of Jacob McGavock (1790-1878) who served as an aide to Andrew Jackson during the Creek War. In private life, he served as clerk to the county, circuit and U.S. courts. Angela Calhoun, executive director of Carnton, described Jacob McGavock as "one of the oldest and wealthiest citizens of Nashville in the 19th century" Money from the \$20,000 bequest will also be used to help fund a 19th-century-style arbor being constructed in the Carnton garden..

Endangered Battlefield Nominations – *Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association* – September 2001

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) has announced that it is receiving nominations for its Most Endangered Battlefields Report for 2002. CWPT President James Lighthizer states that the report serves as "a rallying cry to the nation that our hallowed battlefields are in imminent danger." Individuals or groups may fill out the nomination form which may be found online at Nominations must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2001. The 2002 list will be released next February.

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into Franklin, ending up at the Collins' Farm property on Lewisburg Pike. STFB is encouraging our membership, other groups, and the general public to sponsor the reenactor representing the state of their choice on a "per mile" basis. The pledge is completely tax-deductible and can be sent to:

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.
418 Lewisburg Ave.
Franklin, TN 37064
attn: Fraley / Fundraising March.

Collins' Farm Receives Grant

STFB is pleased to announce receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Order of The Southern Cross. This grant money will be used to help retire the debt on the Collins' Farm property.

The Order of The Southern Cross is an honorary society of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, founded in 1863 by Lt. General Leonidas Polk, Major General Patrick R. Cleburne, and Reverend Charles T. Quintard, Chaplain of the 1st Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A.

Save The Franklin Battlefield wishes to thank Commander-in-Chief James E. B. Stuart, IV of Virginia, and especially Lt. Commander William "Wes" Shofner and Richard "Dick" Knight, Jr. of Nashville for their support and generosity.

Dinner to Benefit Collins Farm

The third annual Patrick Cleburne Society Dinner will be held on November 30, 2001 at 6:30 p.m., at the Ramada Inn in Franklin. All proceeds from this event will go towards retiring the debt on the Collins Farm property. The Ramada Inn is conveniently located just off I-65 (Exit 65) on Highway 96. Bob Funk, of Jonesboro, Tennessee, will portray Sam Watkins of Co. Aytch fame in a one man play entitled, *Memoirs of a Confederate Soldier*. Tickets are \$35 for Society and STFB members and their guests, and \$45 for non-members, and are available in Franklin at The Carter House, (615) 791-1861, and the Heritage Foundation office, (615) 591-8500. Tickets may be purchased through the mail by calling the STFB office at (615) 500-6612. Other weekend events over the Battle of Franklin anniversary include the Nashville Civil War Show at the fairgrounds, and a Civil War encampment at Historic Carnton Plantation in Franklin.



Preservation Dinner

On November 3, 2001, the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table invites all STFB members to attend their preservation dinner at the Marriott-Cool Springs in Franklin at 7:00 p.m. The dinner will be part of a three day tour by the Wheaton, Illinois based group of the battles of Franklin and Spring Hill. The Salt Creek CWRT has had an on-going "partnership in preservation" with STFB for nearly a year, and are funding an historical battlefield marker to Wagner's Forward Position on the Columbia Pike.

Dinner is \$25 per person, with cocktail (a cash bar) at 6:30 p.m. Carter House historian and STFB board member David Fraley will speak on "The Battle of Franklin, What If..." Tickets can be purchased by calling Joe Smyth at (615) 500-6612, and are available until October 28. We hope to see many of you there!

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR ENDANGERED BATTLEFIELDS REPORT

Annual study identifies the ten most threatened Civil War battlefields in the United States The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), the nation's largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization, is once again accepting nominations for its yearly America's Most Endangered Battlefields Report. The report identifies the ten most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to save these precious links to our nation's past. The report also mentions another fifteen "at risk" battlefields. Last year the Franklin Battlefield made this second list of at risk battlefields. "The most effective preservation tool in our arsenal is public awareness," notes CWPT President James Lighthizer. "The Most Endangered Battlefields Report is a rallying cry to the nation that our hallowed battlefields are in imminent danger." The 2002 Most Endangered Battlefields Report is scheduled to be released this coming February at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Any Civil War battlefield is eligible to be nominated. The ten sites to be highlighted in the study will be selected based on geographic location, military significance, and the immediacy of current threats. We encourage STFB members to nominate the Franklin Battlefield by filling out the nomination form available online at <http://www.civilwar.org/topten/nominationform.pdf>. We have also included an application in this newsletter. Please mention the recent threats to the Franklin Battlefield, such as the County School site across from the historic Harrison House, the planned expansion of the rock quarry along Columbia Pike, and the new County Library site at the BGA campus. Nominations must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2001.

Guest Editorial from One of Our Members

I was inspired by Joe Smyth's Letter to the Editor of 2 September suggesting preservation of the Battle Ground Academy campus and have decided to become personally involved. Joe thought our fellow members would like to know about my progress. I have been working independently for 2 weeks and have tried to keep STFB and the Heritage Foundation informed.

After gathering data and maps, I have designed a passive Battlefield Park that would stretch from the old BGA campus to the Carter House, approximately 200 yards wide on either side of Columbia Ave and 600 yards long. The 8 acres of property between acquired over time to establish the park with a goal of completion by the 150th anniversary of the battle of Franklin.

Two problems exist. The most pressing is the proposed site of the new Williamson County library. The proposed library location is within sight of where Generals Strahl, Gist, Granbury, and Cleburne died along with the majority of casualties. After talking to numerous County Commissioners, I think moving the library from the BGA campus is hopeless but I believe the Commissioners can be persuaded to move the site to the far west side of the 4 acre lot so a consistent 200 yard wide park is available down Columbia Ave. If the library is built on the open land where it is now proposed, the park will be reduced in size by 40%. I oppose building on the site at all but realistically believe a compromise is our best chance to sway the vote.

The second issue is to get the County Commissioners to declare a Battlefield Park Zone covering the 30 acres I have proposed. They should declare that any private property that goes on sale would be first offered to a government or preservation entity. Also there must be no new construction within the zone. Acquisition of these 15 parcels would be a long-term project but central to our mission.

I have met with the library board to ask for their help in moving the site to no avail. I have also met with the executive committee of the Heritage Foundation to get their support. Please call your County Commission or County Executive and tell him or her that you support this effort. Call your friends and neighbors and ask them to get involved. The next County Commissioners meeting is Monday October 8, at 7 pm at the Administrative Complex auditorium (old Hospital) and your presence is needed. The decision that night will be the most important battlefield preservation issue we will face. I need your help!

Herschel Smith
Carnton Lane
Franklin, TN

Editor's Note: Here's who to contact:

Clint Callicott
Williamson County Executive
1320 West Main Street
Franklin, TN 37064
615-790-5700

Commissioner Lew Green
Library Board of Trustees
1016 Waller Road
Brentwood, TN 37027
615-776-2816

Tennessean - Williamson AM
320 Premier Court #202
Franklin, TN 37064
willam@tennessean.com

James Cross IV, Chairman
Library Board of Trustees
621 Bradley Court
Franklin, TN 37064

The Review Appeal
PO Box 681988
Franklin, TN 37068-1988
review@edge.net

To write or call your own commissioners, look up addresses and phone numbers at www.williamson-tn.org

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

America's Most Endangered Battlefields 2002 Battlefield Nomination Form

The Civil War Preservation Trust, a 35,000-member nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Civil War Battlefields, is seeking nominations for its 2002 *America's Most Endangered Battlefields* Report. Ten battlefields will be considered for inclusion in the report. An additional fifteen will be included as "at risk" sites.

Any Civil War battlefield is eligible to be nominated. The battlefields included in the study will be selected based on geographic location, military significance, and the immediacy of current threats. To nominate a site, fill out the questionnaire below. If your responses require additional space, feel free to attach them as addenda to this form.

Endangered Battlefield Information

Name(s) of Battlefield: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Estimated Acreage: _____

Contact Information

Name of individual/group nominating site: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Fax/E-mail: _____

Background Information

Describe the battlefield: _____

When did the battle(s) occur? _____

What is its history? _____

Describe the threat to the battlefield: _____

How significant is the threat? _____

Who supports preserving the site? _____

Who opposes preserving the site? _____

Please also include at least three photographs of the battlefield as well as any recent press clippings about current threats to the site. Nominations must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2001. Send your nominations to:

Civil War Preservation Trust
Attn: *America's Most Endangered Battlefields*
1331 H Street NW
Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20005

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 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:

Saturday, November 17

STFB McGavock Cemetery Illumination Tour. d Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc. (STFB) will conduct an evening illumination tour of the McGavock Confederate Cemetery at Carnton Plantation on Saturday, November 17. The tour will run continuously between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tour guides will lead small groups of visitors to various locations in the cemetery, where military and civilian re-enactors will present biographical sketches of the soldiers buried there.

Sunday, November 18

STFB Annual Membership Meeting. The annual membership meeting of Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. will be held Sunday, November 18, at the Ramada Inn of Franklin from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bob Jenkins, author of an upcoming book on the 31st Mississippi Infantry and Featherstons Brigade, will speak on the actions and events at Collins Farm during the Battle of Franklin. . In addition to reviewing the past years activities and discussing plans for 2002, we will elect officers for the ensuing year.

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Save The Franklin Battlefield
PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851
615-500-6612
www.franklin-stfb.org