



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

December 2001

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

From the President

I hope you have had a safe and meaningful Holiday Season. We are beginning to plan our STFB events and activities for 2002. We will again be giving several tours spotlighting Williamson County's rich Civil War history. We will continue to publicize and promote our goal of a Franklin Battlefield park locally, and at the state and national levels. In addition to all this, we will continue to raise funds and reduce the debt on the Collins' Farm property.

If any of you have ideas or energies to help us with these 2002 "resolutions," please let me know. We greatly appreciate you as members, and would be honored to have you aboard as part of our working team to help Save The Franklin Battlefield.

Happy New Year!

Joe Smyth

A Call for Volunteers for Collins' Farm Cleanup

The STFB ownership of Collins' Farm offers great opportunities to honor those brave soldiers who traversed its grounds, but it also presents challenges in maintenance and in restoration. Brush, over-grown shrubs, dead trees, scrub trees, and other misplaced vegetation continue to obscure much of the beauty of this hallowed ground. Sam Huffman, the STFB treasurer, laid his ledger aside nearly every week during the summer season to make his lawn tractor entries on grass in the Collins' Farm field. Meanwhile, David Fraley pushed his mower through the yard. But the out-of-control undergrowth makes mowing more difficult, as do other obstructions throughout the property.

In mid-November, a group of STFB volunteers spent a day beginning to clean up Collins' Farm. Many such days will be necessary if Collins' Farm is to attain the beauty and dignity which it so well deserves. STFB members Dean Carr, Sam Gant, Carroll Moore, Dan Mora, and Harold Pratt brought their chain saws, mattocks, pruners, axes, and gloves and spent the day cutting down scrub trees, clearing brush, pulling unwanted shrubs, opening up an area toward the railroad tracks, clearing around the trees, and removing some of the obstructions to mowing. This single day's work made a difference, but it will take more volunteers and more days' work to make Collins' Farm a memorial park to be proud of.

If you are willing to help clean up Collins' Farm, please call 794-3896 and let us know when you can work. Most of the cleanup requires only a willingness to work; however, we do need a little carpentry done and some grading. If you have a BobCat or a small dozer and would be willing to donate two or three hours to Collins' Farm cleanup, it will tremendously reduce our manual labor.

News In Review by Sam Gant

Sugg family donates 200 acres--Land Trust to preserve farmland – *The Tennessean* – 12/3/01 WILIAMSON – In the Sugg family of Williamson County, public service has been important for generations. Yeas ago Dr. W.D. Sugg bought the Carnton Mansion and donated the historical Civil War battle site for preservation's sake. More than 100 years ago, Dr. John T. Sugg was a country doctor who bought a 200-acre farm in Beech Creek Valley and delivered babies in that area for decades. In keeping with the family tradition of service, Mary Ann Sugg and her brother, Dr. John Sugg III, have given The Land Trust of Tennessee a conservation easement on their 200-acre family farm to prevent it from ever being developed. This donation takes to 2,008 the amount of Middle Tennessee acreage held by The Land Trust—1,600 of it in Williamson County.

1830s school still has lessons – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 12/13/01 BRENTWOOD – Merrill Osborne recently discovered two signatures dating to 1904 at the old Boiling Springs Academy. Osbourne's personal curiosity has sparked the interest of city leaders, who are discussing the possibility of holding a reunion of sorts within the next year or so for family members or descendants of students who attended the school. The academy was chartered by the state as a private school in 1830 and erected on the land of Jabez Owen. At some point after the Civil War, the academy became a Williamson County public school and continued as such until some time in the early 1900s. Brentwood city officials are in the process of acquiring the structure from the Williamson County school system as well as 29 acres surrounding the building. The land will act as a buffer between Moores Lane and the future development on the Primm property.

Architects unveil new design for Williamson County library – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 12/20/01 FRANKLIN – The planned two-story, 50,225-square-foot library is set to go adjacent to the existing 5.3-acre Battle Ground Academy campus off Columbia Avenue in Franklin. Before commissioners approved that site, however, the new library had been planned for property on Second Avenue close to Franklin City Hall and the county courthouse. But County Executive Clint Callicott introduced a plan late last year to purchase the BGA campus and accompanying buildings as a home for the new library, performing arts center, county archives and other cultural attractions.

Christmas 1864

"This is Christmas 1864. Where were we last Christmas. If we choose to go back to Arkansas Post 1862 we will find ourselves there comfortably situated in our winter quarters. If we had counted noses then, and again today the missing would outnumber the present.

"Then we were anxious to get into a fight with the Yanks; and even feared that the war would end and we never get to see one. Now we have seen too many of them, as is evidenced by our number present today—Then we were called feathered bed soldiers—now we are war veterans; but Yankee bullets will kill one as quick as the other. Then Hood was in command of the Brigade in Va. Now his is in command of the remnant of the Army of Tenn. after having butchered 10,000 of them around Atlanta Ga, and many more in Tenn. at Franklin and Nashville, where he betrayed his whole Army - He might command a Brigade—and even a division but command the Army, hi is not the man.

"But after all, this is Christmas and (as the Irishman would say) "a wee drop" makes an old soldier forget his troubles and hardships for the present, make merry as much as is our power to do. Everyone seems to know that today is Christmas, and so to make the best of it."

From Capt. Samuel T Foster of the 24th Texas Cavalry Dismounted, diary relating the events of Christmas Eve. He showed considerable bitterness for Hood's generalship and was wishing for the peaceful assignment of 1862.. He had fought with General Cleburne's division at Franklin. Capt. Foster had been wounded in the leg, but refused to be left behind with the hundreds of other wounded Confederates the doctors would not move.

From "We Were Marching on Christmas Day" A History and Chronicle of Christmas During the Civil War by Kevin Rawlings, p. 124.

Save The Franklin Battlefield Membership/Renewal/Order Form

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Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

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May the new year bring peace and joy to the world!

**Wishing You and Yours the
very best in the new year!**

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