



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

February 2002

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Georgia Historian Researches And Walks Franklin Battlefield.

Dear STFB Member--

Franklin and Williamson County are humming like a tuning fork. The City and County governments have approved monies for interpretation and perhaps a walking trail of the Franklin Battlefield--all the while moving ahead with the erection of a new County library on some of the last open Battlefield land. One hand giveth while the other taketh away.

The "Historic Preservation Plan for Franklin," funded in part by the City, is finished and has been publicly unveiled. The city-paid consultant admits the study "doesn't give the battlefield front-row treatment." She continues, "The battlefield was... probably the most important day in history here, but it wasn't the only day. Our charge wasn't to develop a plan for preservation of the battlefield...." And so it goes.

One thing is for certain. More words, comments, thoughts, and ideas concerning the Franklin Battlefield have come forward in the past 15 months than in the last 50 years--and that is a good thing. Save The Franklin Battlefield will continue to put our message out there--hoping the City and County elected officials will make enlightened and important decisions about the future of the Franklin Battlefield, and--perhaps most importantly--to make effective decisions.

Thank you for your support!

Joe Smyth

The Franklin Battlefield has been the subject of many visits by historians and authors. The first weekend in February was no exception as Robert D. Jenkins, a Georgia attorney and historian, spent the weekend accompanied by local historians David Fraley and Tim Burgess, walking and studying the Federal Left and Confederate Right of the battle line of that fateful day of November 30, 1864.

Although it was heavily contested, and accounted for a significant number of the casualties that occurred that day, some historians have superficially treated this section of the battlefield, which encompasses the Collins Farm owned by Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc. Many of these dead are buried in the nearby McGavock Confederate Cemetery. Jenkins became interested in this significant section of the battlefield, in part, because of the lack of information available documenting it. But he also had another connection to this portion of the Battle of Franklin.

Jenkins' Great-Great Grand Father, Caradine T. Jenkins was a native Georgian and a veteran of the Mexican War. While living in Choctaw County Mississippi as a 32-year-old man he enlisted as a soldier in Company "E" of the 31st Mississippi Infantry. In November 1864, the unit fought as part of Featherston's Brigade, Loring's Division of Stewart's Corp, as it made the terrible attack at Franklin on the right of the Confederate line. The 31st Mississippi, along with its sister units, deployed into battle formation on the grounds of the McGavock Plantation. They moved forward

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News In Review by Sam Gant

A Reason to Cheer – Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, Newsletter, January 2002 NASHVILLE – Just a little over 137 years ago, on a small knoll called Compton Hill, the final outcome of the Battle of Nashville unfolded. The Confederate Army of Tennessee's left flank was effectively turned, and the rout began. The number of men killed there is unknown. It is estimated that some 1600 were captured. It is known that one man had a gun put to his head and someone in a blue uniform pulled the trigger. Colonel Shy, of Franklin, Tennessee, died instantly on that hill which now bears his name. The good news in all of this is that a small portion of Shy's Hill at the very top has been saved forever by the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (BONPS).

Land Trust partnership helping protect Williamson County landscape – Heritage Newsletter, January 2002 FRANKLIN – Our community continues to reap the benefits of the successful partnership of the Land Trust of Tennessee with the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. In 2001, The Land Trust protected more than 898 acres in Williamson County and protects a total of 1,847 acres in the county. The following properties have been protected in Williamson County: Aubrey Preston Farm – 114 acres; Cora Preston Farm – 143 acres; Historic Moss House – 14+/- acres; Holly Hill Farm 510 acres; Henry Denmark Bell – 72 acres; Sugg Family Land – 200 acres; Osburn Farm – 112 acres; Elizabeth Crunk Farm – 230 acres; Menden Hall – 5 acres.

McLemore House declared restored; celebration starts – The Review Appeal – 2/1/02 FRANKLIN – Chartered April 12, 1995, the African American Heritage Society today is realizing the seven years it has taken to restore a house is not long—not by restoration standards. The McLemore House is recognized as the first home built by a freed slave in Williamson County. The house served as home for Harvey McLemore and his descendants for 117 years. The Society bought the house from Habitat for Humanity. "The house represents the stability of a family, a family that was enslaved," said Mary Mills, Heritage Society Chairwoman. "And the house is to develop an appreciation of what we have done."

Go ahead, make my day – The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." – 2/4/02 FRANKLIN – The Carter House has been grappling with the question of what happened to J.W. West, a captain in the 35th Alabama, after dropping his pistol during the Battle of Franklin. West served in Gen. T.M. Scott's Alabama Brigade of Gen. W.W. Loring's Division which took part in fierce fighting at Franklin near the railroad tracks by Collins' Farm. The pistol is dated 1858 and inscribed on the lockplate: "J.W. West, Capt. Co. G, 35 Ala. Reg." Robert Smallwood of Columbus, Ohio, a descendant of the family that found the gun, donated it to Carter House in memory of his mother, Mary DeGraffenreid Voorhees Smallwood, a former Franklin resident. Thomas Cartwright, executive director of the Carter House, said, "It is very, very rare to have an object that has that kind of historic informa-

tion with it, where you know the regiment. It brings a lot to life."

Alderman answers call for park study – The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." – 2/4/02 FRANKLIN – Aldermen this week will begin considering a request from the county to help fund \$17,500 toward a study on developing a comprehensive battlefield preservation park for all battlefield segments in Franklin and in the county. The project would include turning part of the county's Battle Ground Academy property – where the new War Memorial Library is proposed – into a memorial park for the Battle of Franklin.

Georgia historian researches, walks Franklin Battlefield – The Review Appeal – 2/9/02 FRANKLIN – Robert D. Jenkins, a Georgia attorney and historian, spent the weekend accompanied by local historians David Fraley and Tim Burgess, walking and studying the Federal Left and Confederate Right of the battle line of that fateful day of Nov. 30, 1864. Although it was heavily contested and accounted for a significant number of the casualties that occurred, some historians have superficially treated this section of the battlefield, which encompasses the Collins' Farm owned by Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc.

Battlefield park study passes without a fight – The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." – 2/13/02 FRANKLIN – County commissioners are fully behind funding part of a study for battlefield. They voted Monday night to pay for half of a study that will lay out a plan of interpretation for all of the battlefield segments in Williamson County and Franklin. Franklin's Board of Mayor and Aldermen is expected to consider funding the other half of the study as part of a request from county officials that the two governments form a partnership of sorts.

Retailing, battlefield concerns aired over city preservation plan – The Review Appeal – 2/13/02 FRANKLIN – Some wanted to hear more about a battlefield park in the presentation of the *Historic Preservation Plan for Franklin*. "It's not just about the battlefield," Mary Means, the city-paid Preservation Plan consultant, replied to David Fraley who challenged Means to incorporate the "significance of this incredible battle" into the plan. Means acknowledged the preservation plan "doesn't give the battle front-row treatment." Carter House curator Thomas Cartwright asked if the plan adequately addressed the battlefield, and Means replied, "The battle was. . . probably the most important day in history here, but it wasn't the only day. Our charge wasn't to develop a plan for preservation of the battlefield" and clearing land to restore the Civil War scene is "hard in these days of property rights."

Historical Commission members tour Franklin – The Review Appeal – 2/15/02 FRANKLIN – Members of the Tennessee Historical Commission toured museums, cemeteries, and homes that are the centerpiece attractions for thousands of visitors to Williamson County each year. By acquainting the commission with the county's historic attractions, groups who work to preserve the county's history and promote tourism hope the Commission's visit will en-

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Collins' Farm Clean Up

Collins' Farm is slowly emerging from years of neglect as clean-up crews of Save The Franklin Battlefield members tackle the rather daunting task of removing undergrowth, trimming back overgrown shrubs, removing dying and unwanted trees, and removing unwanted stuff left over from previous owners. Rick and Mike Hoover cut down the large, dying Alder tree in the middle of the field. On Saturday, February 9, Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Matt Inman, Trent Johnson, Dan and Linda Mora, Harold Pratt, Herschel Smith, and Mike Walker met at Collins' Farm to begin a day of clean up. The crew worked on the back portion of the property to cut back the drastically over-grown hedge row and the large numbers of scrub bushes encroaching into the area where the parking lot will be re-located. As a result of the tree and brush removal, large piles of brush lined Lewisburg Pike awaiting Franklin City brush removal. The broken-down boat shelter has been removed, the beehives have been donated to the Nashville Beekeepers Assoc., the greenhouse and potting tables have been donated to Carnton, and some leftover materials have been donated to other local groups.

Much work has been done, but much more is left to do. Please volunteer to help in the restoration, for it will take more volunteers and more days' work to make Collins' Farm a memorial park to be proud of.

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courage more state support and appreciation of the county's abundant heritage.

Franklin moves up on 'endangered battlefields' list – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 2/19/02 **FRANKLIN** – The Franklin battlefield will likely be on a national top-10 endangered list when the Civil War Preservation Trust issues a report on the status of American's Civil War Battlefields later this month. "We got a considerable number of applications for Franklin from around the country because it's recognized that Franklin is constantly under threat," said Jim Campi, CWPT communications director. Of the Battle of Franklin, he said, "I think it's the saddest moment in Confederate military history. It was such a waste of human life, and now it's almost obscene how it's been neglected."

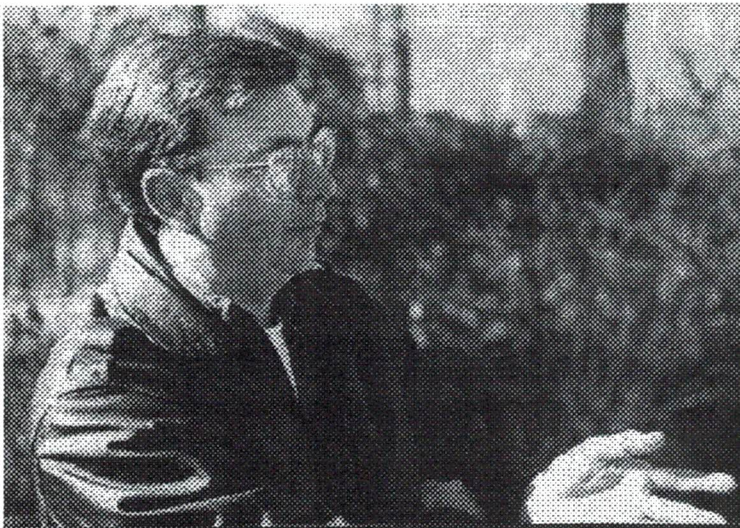
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across Collins Farm on the Lewisburg Pike, and an adjacent property know today as Loring's Advance and preserved by five local families, to attack the Federal trench lines west of the railroad.

As the units approached the Federal trench line they received heavy artillery fire from Fort Granger, a mile to the north. The units of Featherston's Brigade further met strong resistance in the area of what today is Adams Street, at the intersection with Stewart and Cleburne Streets. Jenkins has gleaned much from various diaries, letters, courthouse records, maps and reports-among them, those of Col. M.D.L. Stephens, Commander of the 31st Mississippi. The 31st Mississippi went into battle with 250 men and of those that fought that day, 45 fell dead on the field and another 100 were wounded. According to Tim Burgess, who has done extensive research on casualties in the Tennessee Campaign, 41 of the members of the 31st Mississippi are today buried in the McGavock Confederate Cemetery. There are more members of the 31st Mississippi buried there than any other regiment.

It is this rich history of this portion of the Franklin Battlefield that has prompted Jenkins to study and to prepare to publish his findings. This trip was Jenkins' third visit to Franklin, and he plans to return to continue his research with Fraley, Burgess, and Thomas Cartwright, of the Carter House. It is through visits like this past weekend that historians are able to discover and correctly interpret historical information for future generations. As a result of his research and visits to Franklin, Jenkins has concluded, "Franklin was a great and terrible tragedy that should not have happened. Many men and families across the North and South paid a clear price for it. I think we owe it to these men and to history to remember them, to preserve and memorialize what we can, and to get it right-that is, to get the story documented and recorded as accurately as we can."

Submitted by Dan Mora



Robert D. Jenkins, a Georgia attorney and historian visits Collins' Farm.

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	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	
	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	
	Nathan Bedford Forrest Print	\$30.00	
	Patrick Cleburne Print	\$30.00	
	Patrick Cleburne/Carter House Mug shipping is \$4.95 each	\$16.95	
		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	

*First STFB Tour of 2002:
Collins Farm Tour - March 3*

On Sunday, March 3, at 2:00 p.m., Save The Franklin Battlefield will conduct its first-ever public tour of the Collins' Farm property. STFB board members will describe the part Collins' Farm played in the bloody assault of the Federal trenchworks during the Battle of Franklin. Participants will get to walk the grounds and hear about future improvements and plans for the property. The tour may also include a short walk or drive to several nearby sites relating to the action on the eastern end of the battlefield.

As always, the tour is free to all STFB members and their guests. Admission for the general public is \$5, of which 100% will go to paying down the Collins' Farm debt.

We hope to see you there!

Save The Franklin Battlefield
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