



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

June 2002

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

From the President

I'd like to congratulate our friends and associates at The Carter House for receiving the Civil War Preservation Trust's "Discovery Trail of the Year" Award. This award is presented for outstanding commitment to preserving and promoting America's Civil War heritage. The Carter House and its staff have done a superb job over the years interpreting the Battle of Franklin and carrying the standard for Battlefield preservation.

Once again, Franklin has been given national recognition. "We are engaged in a struggle to save America's Civil War legacy," remarked CWPT President James Lighthizer. "Without the kind of commitment displayed by...[The Carter House], many Civil War-related sites will be little more than a memory within a few years." We applaud the Civil War Preservation Trust's choice of The Carter House for its first Discovery Trail Award, and The Carter House staff for being a standard bearer for Saving the Franklin Battlefield.

Finally, mark your calendars for August 25th, to attend the second STFB tour for 2002, "First Blood: The War Comes Home." Look for more information on this in your next newsletter!

Joe Smyth

COLLINS FARM MORTGAGE STATUS

The campaign to pay down the indebtedness on the Collins Farm property marches on. This 3.22 acre portion of the east end of the main battle line at Franklin was purchased by STFB in June 2001 for \$227,000. One year later, we have paid off \$46,856 of the loan, leaving an outstanding mortgage balance at the bank of \$180,144. Additionally, the STFB Land Fund has \$5,501 which is held as part of a bank-required escrow reserve of \$10,250. That means that we need to yet raise another \$174,643 to pay off the entire mortgage.

The Collins Farm house has been rented from the day STFB purchased it and we have had several others ask to be kept on the list of future renters. It seems there are many STFB supporters who would like to one day live, if just for a little while, on a battlefield that has 'the feel' - and Collins Farm does have that special 'feel'.

The dug well on the south side of the house is no longer used, but after the November 30 battle it was the water supply for a Confederate hospital on Collins Farm. There are several written accounts of wounded coming to the well to try to slake the ever-present thirst that haunts the wounded.

Historian David Fraley has information that several Confederate dead were buried east of the house. Some died at the hospital and some were brought in from where they fell on the battlefield. These bodies were re-interred during the removal of all Confederate and Federal dead at Franklin in the spring of 1866. But when

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News In Review by Sam Gant

Heritage Foundation celebrates 35 years at annual meeting – *The Review Appeal* – 5/24/02 FRANKLIN –

Members of the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County gathered Sunday evening at The Factory at Franklin for their annual meeting and to celebrate national Historic Preservation Week. The annual meeting celebrated 35 years of preservation efforts in Williamson County. Century Farm owners were presented with the Preservation Awards for 2002. Tennessee Historic Commission Executive Director Herbert Harper Commissioner Caroline Cross presented certificates of merit for house restorations. Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc., received a preservation certificate for its recent purchase of Collins' Farm.

Vacant Lotz – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A. M." – 6/13/02 FRANKLIN – A prominent piece of battlefield property is on the market just months after the Franklin battlefield was named one of America's most endangered Civil War battlefields. The 144-year-old house at 1111 Columbia Ave., which Albert Lotz purchased from Fountain Carter in 1858 for \$1,000, was put on the market Friday for \$450,000. The property is zoned commercial and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1976. "Between the Carter house front steps and Lotz House was high tide (in the battle)," said Thomas Cartwright, director of The Carter House.

Battlefield development unites city and county – *The Review Appeal* – 6/15/02 FRANKLIN –

Mudpuppy and Waterdog, Inc., a historic preservation firm from Versailles, KY, developed a three-phased plan dealing with how to best incorporate the county's Civil War sites. "We told them to include Winstead Hill, The Carter House, and the grounds around the (future) library," County Executive Clint Callicott said. The next step is to organize meetings between the firm, city, county and other interested parties, such as existing historic sites like Carnton Plantation and The Carter House.

Franklin Battlefield wins Ben Stein's Money – Civil War Preservation Trust: *Hallowed*

***Ground*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Summer 2002, p. 3.** In Mid-March, actor, writer, television personality and CWPT member Ben Stein journeyed to Franklin, Tennessee to tour the famous battlefield, the Carter House Museum and other related sites. Stein, a self-described Civil War buff, had read about the plight of Franklin battlefield in CWPT's annual *American's Most Endangered Battlefields Report*. To underscore his own commitment to the battlefield, Stein offered to donate \$2,000 of "Ben Stein's Money" to help preserve the battlefield. Joining Stein on the tour, which was set up by CWPT to focus public attention on the plight of Franklin battlefield, were Tennessee House Minority Leader Steve McDaniel, Williamson County Executive Clint Callicott, and members of the Save the Franklin Battle field group and the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County.

Preservation Award Winners – Civil War Preservation Trust: *Hallowed Ground*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Summer 2002, p. 8. The Civil War Discovery Trail Site of the Year Award was presented to the Carter House of Franklin, Tennessee, for its outstanding commitment to preserving and promoting America's Civil War heritage. The Civil War Discovery Trail is one of sixteen national millennium trails in the U.S.

Thousands Participate in CWPT's Park Day – Civil War Preservation Trust: *Hallowed Ground*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Summer 2002, p. 24.

CWPT's 2002 PARK DAY was a huge success. Over 90 sites participated, in 23 states. About 3,000 volunteers of all ages picked up trash, painted fences, landscaped, and spruced up Civil War sites from Maine to Texas. The History Channel generously sponsored the event, allowing all volunteers to receive a colorful t-shirt with the Park Day motto, "Our Parks. Our Pride. Our Past." The local businesses which donated products or services to Save the Franklin Battlefield/Collins Farm were: Harpeth True Value Home Center, Huskey Building Supply, John M. Carlson, Ltd., Mid-South Mulch Company, Moody's Tire and Auto Service, RSC-Rental Service Corporation, Sears, Roebuck, and Company, and Volunteer Welding Supply, Inc.

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you come visit Collins Farm and walk its ground, you will see for yourself that it too has 'the feel' that touches all of us when we visit the places of great deeds and great sacrifice like the Carter House, the Bloody Pond at Shiloh, Chickamauga, Spotsylvania, and the hundreds of other preserved battlefield parcels of the Civil War.

The Collins Farm rent income provides sufficient funds to pay the carrying costs on the property - interest, insurance, taxes, and repairs - with a bit left over to go into the Land Fund. A portion of the 3.22 acres, but not the buildings, lies in a flood plain and STFB is lender-required to carry flood insurance as long as the mortgage exists.

Our very simple goal is to get rid of that mortgage - and we still need your help to do so. STFB has several fund raising events planned for the next year including a second re-enactors march this fall - details to follow.

But by far, our largest source of funds is in direct donations by supporters to the STFB Land Fund. To this end, we ask that you remember to include STFB as you plan your giving for this tax year and next.

Also, please remember to use your employer's matching grant program if it is offered - most companies of any size have such a program. Many companies donate annually to non-profit groups and they rely on their employees, through their Matching Grant Program, to help them select deserving recipients. You see, when you use your Matching Grant Program, you are helping your employer make informed donations, as well as helping STFB by multiplying the size and effect of your gift. Before you send your gift, talk to your HR department to get the necessary forms and instructions to use your Matching Grants Program.

If you would like to donate appreciated securities to STFB, contact STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman 615-370-3842 (sam@jsp.net) for a how-to brochure. As a general procedure, you simply send an authorizing letter, along with the STFB brochure, to your broker listing the shares to be transferred to STFB. The actual transfer is done electronically directly from your broker to STFB's broker. In general, donating appreciated

stocks allows you to claim the appreciated value of the stocks as a tax deduction without having to ever claim the stock's gain as income. Of course, you need to consult your tax advisor to see if such a gift strategy applies to your tax situation.

All donations to STFB are tax deductible as allowed by IRS code for 501(c)(3) organizations. All donations receive a thank you letter that serves as documentation for tax deduction purposes. If you or your employer require a copy of STFB's tax exemption letter from the IRS, please write to:

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc
Sam Huffman - Treasurer
PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

or email Sam@jsp.net with your postal address.

For additional information, please call STFB President Joe Smyth III at 615-794-6812.

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2002 PRESERVATION AWARDS

(Washington, D.C.) - At its annual conference in April, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) announced the winners of its 2002 Preservation Awards. The awards were created to honor individuals and organizations for their exemplary dedication to the cause of Civil War preservation.

"We are engaged in a struggle to save America's Civil War legacy," remarked CWPT President James Lighthizer. "Without the kind of commitment displayed by this year's recipients, many Civil War-related sites will be little more than a memory within a few years."

The 16 Preservation Awards were presented during a banquet at the beautiful Chattanooga Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee. During the ceremony, Lighthizer stressed the need for cooperation among preservationists, and stated that he was proud to recognize a few of CWPT's many partners with these awards.

June 3, 2002 edition— In Civil War town, it's battlefield versus books—A Tennessee hamlet wrestles with whether a new library should sit on historic grounds.

By Patrik Jonsson

In one antebellum abode here, an errant Civil War cannonball is now a doorstep where it came to rest, half buried in floorboards.

Under another antique house, a family keen to renovate found an unexpected hand-me-down: the remains of a Confederate colonel, buried below inches of dirt.

Up on Third Avenue, pockmarks in stately brick homes memorialize muzzle-loads that zinged through the streets on Nov. 30, 1864. The result was the deadliest five hours of the Civil War, when 8,600 troops —mostly Rebs — fell in and around this embattled town.

All this is a reminder that the bloody battle of Franklin will never leave the communal memory of this picturesque town on the lush bluffs south of Nashville. Yet a recent decision to build a new library on the only piece of open battlefield left in town has sparked new questions about the town's commitment to safeguard its legacy.

Indeed, the debate over how to preserve hallowed acres of battlegrounds is nowhere as intense as in small Southern communities such as Franklin.

Here, as elsewhere, the sprawl of BBQ stands, furniture discounters, and town houses has become de rigeur in the commerce of the New South, where the emphasis is not always as much on heritage and pride as on development and profits. But many in Franklin say it's gone too far: There's a Pizza Hut where General Patrick Cleland, the "Stonewall Jackson of the West," fell. A car wash and an animal hospital operate where five other Confederate generals met their ends that day.

"It seems like this commission is ready to pave very inch of ground," says Billy Adair, an advertising writer who grew up in Franklin.

Fact is, it's harder than ever for local politicians to protect old battlegrounds from becoming lucrative — and taxable — real estate. And in many parts of the South, there's also resistance to scraping up old memories.

The local government's decision to build on the last piece of battleground in the city isn't unusual in the na-

tional effort to preserve historic properties as "green space." The new Williamston County library will become a Civil War "learning center," surrounded by open battleground. But preservationists see the new library as a major setback. Yet others aren't so convinced that history has to be preserved to the letter.

What's more, town officials, not businesses, were first to build there, creating the Battleground Academy, a private boys' school, 20 years after the war.

Town officials point out that the battle is still in the city's fiber, and acres have been saved. There are two forts, signalling stations, and a plantation house that served as a Confederate hospital, with a well-kept Rebel graveyard.

It's still possible to conjure a battle reverie from Winstead Hill, where Confederate General John Hood looked across the valley to the Union's forces.

County commission chairman Rogers Anderson, one of the 21 elected commissioners who voted to build the library, says the structure is an appropriate memorial. And it would cost another \$300,000 to "re-site" the library.

"There's still a lot of scars ... all over this nation of what happened in the Civil War that none of us like to be reminded of," says Anderson. "Is that any reason not to preserve? No. But ... a lot has been done, and a lot more has been done in this town than in other places."

For Civil War buffs, simply naming a new road Battlefield Drive or a development Confederate Acres isn't quite the same thing as preserving the battlefield.

Up in Fort Granger, a Union earthworks dug on a bluff, visitor George Gigante understands the impulse to save every bit of battlefield. But he also understands that a growing city can't afford to maintain every corner how it was.

"Time marches on," Mr. Gigante says.

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Save The Franklin Battlefield Membership/Renewal/Order Form

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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
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	1999 STFB Day by Day Bicentennial Calendar	\$5.00	
	Both Calendars 1999 and 2000—different pictures in each!	\$10.00	
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	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Franklin by D. Logsdon	\$12.00	
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**The following article was published in the
April 13, 1905 issue of
"The National Tribune" newspaper
in Washington, D.C.**

FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

Editor National Tribune: I have been wondering during my stay at Franklin, Tennessee, this Winter, if many of the soldiers who fought in that terrible battle know how things look at the present time. When I came down here last Fall I supposed it looked pretty much looked as it did 17 years ago, but was very much mistaken. A great deal of the ground has been divided into small lots and built upon. Some of the houses are small, others are good size cottages. The Carter House has been sold. The present owners has filled up the cannon-ball holes, and has painted it a bright red; but holes are still to be seen in the building in the rear. Just below where the Cotton Gin stood an Academy was built and called The Battle Ground Academy. While the ground for the foundation was being broken the skeleton of a soldier was found, whether Union or Confederate could not be determined. The Academy burned, and has been rebuilt on the opposite side of the pike – or street, now. The past Winter has been colder than usual in this part of the South; snow lay on the ground three weeks in succession, and made these great hills look rather bleak. Mrs. Eleanor J. Townsend.

Save The Franklin Battlefield
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