



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

FEB
January 2003

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

Many of you may have seen last week's announcement by the Civil War Preservation Trust of their 2003 Most Endangered Battlefields Report. This year the Nashville battlefield made the Top Ten, as did Franklin last year, and Stones River/Murfreesboro the year before. Franklin was included in the CWPT's list of 25 Most Endangered battlefields. You can read more about this elsewhere in this newsletter. We congratulate our good friends at the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society for their efforts to raise awareness in preserving the battlefield at Nashville.

On February 27, STFB will co-sponsor along with the Heritage Foundation and five other historic preservation organizations a lecture entitled, "Our Sacred Trust: Interpreting the Battle of Franklin." This will be a great example of how the historic preservation community in Franklin can work shoulder to shoulder towards our common goals. I hope many of you can attend this excellent opportunity to show our support for a battlefield park at Franklin.

Finally, we are planning a tour of the Battle of Brentwood as our first tour event for 2003 in April. With all the interest over the development of the Cal Turner property in the heart of Brentwood, and the very heart of the Brentwood battlefield, this will be a wonderful opportunity to again tell the tale of March 24, 1863. I hope you can come out and join us on this tour.

As always, thanks so much for your support in our collective efforts to Save The Franklin Battlefield.

Joe Smyth

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST UNVEILS MOST ENDANGERED BATTLEFIELDS REPORT

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) unveiled its annual report on the status of the nation's historic battlegrounds this week in Washington, D.C. The report, entitled America's Most Endangered Battlefields, identifies the most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to rescue them. "We cannot forget the sacrifices made by the soldiers who fought on these hallowed fields," warned CWPT President James Lighthizer during the news conference. "When a battleground is lost, a unique piece of America's heritage is lost as well."

The report was announced in conjunction with the world premiere of *Gods and Generals*, a Ted Turner Pictures major motion picture release. *Gods and Generals* is an epic tale of the first half of the American Civil War, and features two of the battlefields identified in this year's Most Endangered Battlefields report. Joining Lighthizer at the news conference was Ronald F. Maxwell, the film's producer and director; Stephen Lang, who portrays Stonewall Jackson in the movie; and author Jeff Shaara, whose best selling novel inspired the motion picture. "In the 1860s a generation of Americans defended this ground with their blood," Maxwell noted. "Those who cannot understand or appreciate the awesome importance of sacred or hallowed places should not be allowed to forever destroy these treasures and to deprive them from those who do, the living and the yet unborn."

The Most Endangered Battlefields report is composed of two parts: the first section cites the 10 most endangered battlefields in the nation, with a brief description of their history and preservation status; the second section lists 15 additional "at risk" sites that round out the top 25 endangered battlefields in the country.

This year's top ten include the Nashville Battlefield. It has of-

(Continued on page 2)

News In Review by Sam Gant

(Continued from page 1)

ten been said that the Battle of Franklin began at Spring Hill and ended in Nashville. We commend our friends at the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, who have been working tirelessly to preserve and reclaim key parts of the historic battleground. In the past few years, the Society has saved land at Kelley's Point, Shy's Hill and Redoubt #1. In addition, the city of Nashville has earmarked \$1 million to help restore Fort Negley, one of the most significant Civil War sites within the city limits.

The Franklin Battlefield is included in the CWPT's 2003 top 25 endangered battlefields. The report states, "The Battle of Franklin was one of the bloodiest conflicts of the entire Civil War. Today, the battlefield is all but gone, the victim of sprawl and shortsighted government policy. Recent opportunities to preserve key parts of the battlefield have been passed over." We applaud the CWPT for their continued interest in the call for preservation of the Franklin Battlefield.

"These battlefields are the last tangible reminders of the valor of those who donned the blue and gray," Lighthizer stated. "They must be preserved." With 43,000 members, CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds.

New & Renewing for January 2003

Thomas Dodson McDonough GA
 Jason Goodrich
 Mr & Mrs Timothy Traver Clay City OH
 Harold McMurtry Brentwood TN
 Don & Sarah Duncan Murry KY
 Bobby Allen Cadiz KY
 Mr & Mrs William D Morgan Franklin TN
 Dr John A Simpson Kelso WA
 Richard & Janice Shepler Duck River TN
 Michael & Barbara Walker Brentwood TN
 Union Veterans Union Inc Sacramento CA
 Jacky Hardy Brentwood TN
 Glenn Rieuf Franklin TN
 Donald Garrison Franklin TN
 Martin Frost Lebanon TN
 John & Tracey Guimelli Australia
 Bertille Owen Bon Aqua TN
 Ben McDonald Louisville KY
 Dr C B & Carol Gantt Sanford NC
 Jim G Creezy Nashville TN
 Ken Knouf Madison IN
 Michael Keefer Columbia MD

Genealogy searches reunite kin split by slavery - *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." - 2/6/03 FRANKLIN - Genealogical research can be challenging, especially when the trail of information leading to your ancestors comes to a dead-end at the days of slavery. Williamson County resident Thelma Battle has encountered that frustration for the past several years while investigating the origins of Williamson County African-American families. Her determination has paid off, however, in volumes of photographs and now a cache of information on several "pioneer families." Two of those families - the Lees and Smiths - will be honored tomorrow night at the second annual Black Tie Affair at Embassy Suites, a fund-raiser for McLemore House Museum. The house, on Franklin's 11th avenue North, is an 1880's era refurbished home that opened as an African-American museum last February. The Pioneer Families project, sponsored by the Williamson County Public Library, was begun by Kathy Ossi in 1999, and Dorris Douglass, the genealogy department librarian, "has really helped to pull it off," Battles said. Families must have lived in Williamson County before 1850.

Franklin's Civil War sites move down endangered list - *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." - 2/10/03 FRANKLIN - A national preservation group is expected to name Battle of Nashville land to its list of top 10 nationally endangered Civil War sites tomorrow. The Washington, D.C.-based Civil War Preservation Trust named Franklin to its top 10 list last year, but local preservationists predict that Franklin will drop down into the top 25 sites considered to be in danger of succumbing to neglect, growth and development. Nashville was classified 10 years ago as a "too late to save" battlefield, meaning that the city was too developed to make its battle sites worth saving. Since then, however, members of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society have lobbied CWPT with at least 10 key reasons why the site is important and distinctive, including Fort Negley, Kelley's Pointe Battle Field, Redoubt No. 1 and Shy's Hill.

Battle of Nashville site joins endangered list - *The Tennessean* - 2/12/03 NASHVILLE- The widespread site of the Battle of Nashville was named one of America's 10 most endangered battlefields yesterday by a national historic preservation group. Nashville was selected because of recent efforts to reclaim parts of the battlefield and plans to restore Fort Negley, which could be a "jewel on the Nashville driving tour," said Jim Campi, spokesman for the Civil War Preservation Trust. The fort, built by Union troops on a high hill near the present-day site of Greer Stadium, was where the opening guns of the main battle for the city were fired on Dec. 15, 1864. Trust officials plan to visit Fort Negley at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, to discuss including Nashville on the top-10 list and boosting fund-raising for the restoration of the site - the largest stone fortification built inland during the war.

Lecture "Interpreting The Battle of Franklin"
February 27, 2003

Preservation experts estimate it could take up to 50 years to restore a meaningful portion of the Battle of Franklin battlefield, but interpreting what culminated here on Nov. 30, 1864, is something that can and should be done today.

The public is invited to the first in the Heritage Foundation's 2003 lecture series, "Interpreting the Battle of Franklin." Public history consultant Joe Brent will speak, with introduction by Fred Prouty, Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission. The free lecture is offered Thursday, Feb. 22 in the sanctuary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 510 W. Main St. In addition to the Heritage Foundation, this informative discussion is co-sponsored by Historic Carnton Plantation, Carter House Association, Save the Franklin Battlefield, Williamson County Historical Society, African American Heritage Society and A Place Called Natchez.

Brent is a partner in the firm Mudpuppy and Waterdog, which is preparing the battlefield plan for Williamson County on the Columbia Avenue BGA property. He explains the project as follows:

"Since 1864 much has changed along the Columbia Pike in Williamson County. Industry and commerce have replaced the open fields where those men fought and died. Neighborhoods occupy the fields where crops once grew. Downtown Franklin has grown from a village of 600 to a city of over 38,000 and the battlefield has all but disappeared. Yet the story of those soldiers who fought each other so desperately over 130 years ago should be remembered and told. Although the landscape has changed it can be at least partially restored. Interpretation of the events of the Battle of Franklin will help visitors understand what happened here and why."

The Battle of Franklin is described as the bloodiest hours of the Civil War, leaving 8,587 killed or wounded, more than 6,000 Confederates. The 600 residents of the then-small town of Franklin were left to deal with the aftermath of the battle that raged over and around the downtown area. Battlefield interpretation includes the effect on the townspeople, as well as the three-year occupation of Franklin by Union forces that preceded the battle.

"This first lecture in our 2003 series gives the public an opportunity to learn more about this important project headed up by Williamson County government and supported by the City of Franklin," Heritage Foundation president Julian Bibb says. "It is important to remember that the casualties of the Battle of Franklin were similar in numbers to the lives lost at the World Trade Center, and what effect that must have had on such a small. We owe it to the former citizens of Franklin to remember what happened here."

The location of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is an appropriate setting as the building still has scars from the battle and from its use as a battlefield hospital. Repairs to the church, including removal of the slave's balcony which was no longer needed, were paid by the federal government

as war reparations decades after the battle

Reservations are not necessary to attend the free lecture at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27, but for more information call the Heritage Foundation at 615-591-8500.

*Nancy Williams
Heritage Foundation*

Preservation Strategy

The preservation strategy of the several non-profit groups and government agencies - active here in Franklin over the last 50 years, has been to acquire and protect 'islands' of the Franklin battlefield as opportunities have arisen. So far, seven of these islands have been assembled. And as new opportunities arose, additional parcels were added to these islands - sometimes even by a different group.

In addition, private citizens have protected and restored homes with Civil War significance - Harrison House and its acreage being one of the more known sites.

We all realize that these preservation islands may never be joined together, or at least not in any of our lifetimes, nor ever perhaps be owned by one authority. Nonetheless, by working together, or at least by coordinated effort, we have started on the road toward an interpretation plan that allows these seven islands to tell the Civil War history of Franklin in an effective way, and to be a major attraction for heritage tourism visitors.

Island #1 -- Years ago, acreage on Winstead Hill south of Franklin was bought by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Working with the local SCV camps, an overlook with interpretative signs was developed, and more recently, the City of Franklin bought surrounding acreage. The result is a passive park that is a perfect point for our visitors to view and perspective of the Franklin Battlefield.

Island #2 -- In the last 25 years, a private Foundation has restored Carnton Plantation, just south of the McGavock Confederate Cemetery, which is owned and maintained by the UDC. The house was a post-battle hospital for Confederate wounded. Today, it has an extensive collection of Civil War medicine artifacts. Just recently, Carnton signed a long-term lease with the State of Tennessee for 20 adjoining acres that

Collins' Farm Begins National Register Process

Two of our board members, Suzanne Burns and Kim Hoover have had two meetings with the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area program at MTSU. They are going to help us try and get Collins' Farm on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Carroll Van West and Mike Gavin at MTSU are working with us on this project. We met with them at MTSU in January and they came out to Collins' Farm on February 5 to walk the property with us and make their recommendations. They have all the deeds and documentation that we have on Collins Farm and will begin work on the nomination this spring with hopes for completing the work by August. The nomination process will then take approximately 90 days to hear back from the National Park service to find out if you made the register or not. We'll hope for an announcement at the Annual Meeting!

Some of the advantages to being on the National Register are:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the Nation, the State, or the community
- Consideration in the planning for Federal or federally assisted projects
- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits
- Qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available

To read more about this process, please go to their site on the web. The address is

www.cr.nps.gov/nr/results.htm

The web address for the National Heritage Area on the Civil War in Tennessee is

<http://161.45.238.200/tncivwar/index.html>

Kim Hoover

(Continued from page 3)

greatly enhances the historical integrity of Carnton.

#3 - The State of Tennessee bought The Carter House 50 years ago. Since then, parcels have been added or exchanged and with the help of county officials. The result was to add the old Franklin High School site to the Carter House property that protects the streetscape of the Carter House. Independently, the Heritage Foundation has purchased the nearby Carter Cotton Gin site, and private investors have bought and restored the nearby Lotz House.

#4 - The State and the Heritage Foundation have joined together to buy 60+ acres of Ropers Knob northeast of downtown. Additionally, Save The Franklin Battlefield owns an acre plot just south of Ropers Knob. Both sites have original Civil War earthworks. Neither are open to the public or have been interpreted. However, a parcel or two might someday be added to these properties and an interpretation plan begun, that adds this island to the storytelling chain.

Island #5 - For years, the City of Franklin has owned Fort Granger just northeast of downtown that is a part of Pinkerton Park. In recent years, the city placed signs and some walkways to protect the earthworks, but visitor access is still limited. If a way could be found to add the County's old 4-H stockpen site located on the east side of Fort Granger, the Fort would then have easy public access and some much need parking. The 3.4 acres 4-H site is also battlefield land where several Federal field batteries heavily shelled Confederates in the area of Collins Farm less than a mile south.....

#6 ... which is the sixth island. With the help of our many donors, STFB purchased this 3.22 acre site nearly two years ago. It is not open to the public or interpreted as yet, but we have added one roadside historical sign and have conducted 4 tours of the property for interested historical groups. We don't know if it will be one year or ten years, but one day this will be an interpretive site for the East end of the Franklin Battlefield. Also, additional nearby parcels may one day become available to STFB or as City Park land along the river.

Finally, #7 - The latest 'island' is the BGA Campus. We feel there is wide public support to use an existing BGA building to someday house a visitor reception center, and/or a museum with a Civil War section. Such a facility would serve as a starting point for visi-

(Continued on page 6)

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	
	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Stones River	\$12.00	
	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	
	Print of Nathan Bedford Forrest by Jody Thompson	\$30.00	
	Print of Patrick Cleburne by Jody Thompson	\$30.00	
		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	

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tors before they go to visit these other six islands.

Williamson County has just purchased additional battlefield parcels of about 8 acres on the west and south sides of the BGA Campus. These were owned by BGA as faculty and student housing in the days when BGA was primarily a boarding school. Some of these are open building lots, and others have homes on them.

Although there may be no firm plans for the use of these parcels at this time, we suggest that they eventually be kept as open Battlefield land. We would also ask that, as plans for the use and interpretation of the BGA property unfold, that our group, and our other local historical preservation groups, be included in the formation of interpretive plans.

We feel that the signs and interpretation for all seven local sites should be carefully planned as part of telling one story to our visitors. Of course, cost has to be considered, but we feel that eventually, as new signs are added and old signs replaced over the years, that the interpretation of all seven sites, (and perhaps additional ones) could be consistent in appearance, tone, and presentation as much as possible.

Actually, a broader view for interpreting the Civil War history of the area must also include Nashville, Brentwood, Thompsons Station, Spring Hill and Columbia and all along the Nashville and Alabama railroad. A second combined heritage area extends from Nashville through Murfreesboro to Chattanooga.

With the announcement of the increased Federal matching funds available to local governments for the purchase of battlefield parcels, we would like to see the parks departments of these counties and municipalities coordinate their preservation efforts.

Sam Huffman

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