



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 2003

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

We are staring into summer and its inevitable heat here in Middle Tennessee. It is heating up here in other ways as well!

The rezoning of land along Columbia Pike was narrowly approved this week, but the real fight has just begun. Read elsewhere in this newsletter to learn how you can help us. Our coalition group of historic and preservation organizations continues to meet on a monthly basis. We are continuing to watch developments in the BGA property and the County's plans for its future. The Collins Farm Garden day was a wonderful event, planned and executed largely by our own Kim Hoover and a cadre of volunteers. Thank you all!

Finally, we are planning a "Midsummer's Night Tour of Collins Farm" for a warm weeknight sometime in July or August. Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

Please consider writing a letter to help us defeat the rezoning on Columbia Pike, and to help Save The Franklin Battlefield.

Joe Smyth

A Call to Arms...

On May 13th the City of Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen narrowly approved 5-3 the rezoning of the 48-acre parcel south of Winstead Hill (and across from the funeral home and cemetery), from "Light Industrial" to "Commercial." There will be two more readings at their monthly meetings, the first on June 10th, with an opportunity for public comment. Of the 5 aldermen who voted for the rezoning, 3 (Dana McLendon, Chuck Edmondson, and Clyde Barnhill) prefaced their vote with their desire to hear the public speak out with their thoughts and feelings.

As you remember from last month's newsletter, a Brentwood based developer is pursuing a large commercial development of 48,000 feet of retail space to include a Target, a Kroger, a gas kiosk, and several other buildings on the Franklin Battlefield. The zoning must be changed from "Light Industrial" to "Commercial" before building can be approved.

The overwhelming comments against this project by the Commissioners and the City Engineering staff concerned three things...traffic, traffic, and traffic. The City rates the traffic quality for this section of Columbia Pike today as a "D." This development will increase the traffic by 20,000 trips more per day—7,000 of these will be by Hillview Lane, a designated "Historic Lane." The traffic "flow" is being questioned also, concerning the use of double left hand turn lanes (as such never before seen in Franklin), entrance cuts and traffic lights. The developer has said that a single (rather than multiple) entrance would be a "deal breaker" for the project.

This re-zoning approval can be defeated. The three aldermen named above can cast the swing votes need to defeat this rezoning. If you are a resident of Franklin, please call them with your concerns. If not, I encourage you, as an STFB member, to write to them.

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News In Review by Sam Gant

Collins' Farm suffers some damage but fund-raiser still scheduled for May 17 – *The Review Appeal* – 5/9/03 **FRANKLIN** – After this week's severe winds, Collins' Farm suffered the loss of two large trees, according to Kim Hoover, organizer of A Day in the Garden at Collins' Farm. The event is sponsored by Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc., and is an opportunity for members and others to see the work of the Williamson County Master Gardeners and members of STFB who have joined in the efforts to reclaim the gardens at the farm. The Master Gardeners have an interest in preserving the gardens and working toward their volunteer hours needed to be a Master Gardener. Keep Williamson Beautiful is also part of the event in an effort to clean up and beautify the county and members of STFB will have the opportunity to raise funds to pay down the debt on Collins' Farm.

At 96, she's last living widow of a Civil War veteran – *The Review Appeal* – 5/11/03 **ENTERPRISE, AL** – Alberta Martin was a sharecropper's daughter with a young baby and no job when, in 1927, she married a man 60 years her senior. Former Confederate soldier William Jasper Martin's \$50-a-month pension as a Civil War veteran ensured there would be food on the table and – many years later – fame. Her role became even more significant when Gertrude Janeway, the last widow of a Union veteran, died in January in Tennessee at age 93. "Miz Alberta," as everyone calls her, is 96 now, in a wheelchair, and a resident of an Enterprise nursing home.

Battle starts for land near Winstead Hill – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/13/03 **FRANKLIN** – A 48-acre tract of land just north of Winstead Hill is either hallowed Civil War ground or an ideal site for a new Target shopping center. Citizens for Good Growth Management has been asking people to sign a petition to oppose rezoning an area that the group considers to be hallowed ground where Confederate soldiers assembled before the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin. Parkway Commons developer Phillip Warren of Warren Commercial Real Estate Inc., in Brentwood, however, contends that the tract is

not on Battle of Franklin land.

Lotz house owners seek "appropriate" business tenant – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/13/03 **FRANKLIN** – The 145-year-old Lotz house, a prominent piece of battlefield property that was sold to new owners in April 2002, is looking for a new tenant. The house will become a Civil War museum someday, but for now the plan is to lease the commercially-zoned building "to a business appropriate to the property," said co-owner J.T. Thompson. "We're rapidly approaching the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and before that happens, before a shadow of a doubt, we'll be open as a first-rate house museum." A representative of the leasing company stated, "It is a one-of-a-kind beautiful space, and our goal is to seek someone who could contribute to that wonderful niche market that is becoming downtown retail, like an antique gallery or very upscale jewelry accessories store."

A Day in the Garden at Collins Farm

Our turn out wasn't what we had hoped, but it probably turned out to be a blessing in disguise. After about 45 minutes, the skies opened up and we had to move to a room in the house. We wouldn't have been able to have done this without the help of Pat & Jody Thompson for use of their studio room. Several STFB members were in attendance, Herschel and Pam Smith, Emily Magid, Rosie Flite, and Linda Mora. We really appreciate the support!

Thanks to STFB board members, David Fraley for giving the history of the property, and to Brett Hardin for getting a sound system donated for the day. Suzanne Burns was helpful with the registrations.

Thanks also to our period dressed volunteers Mrs. EJ Neeley, former president of STFB who did watercolor in the garden under a tent in the rain, and to Kim and Paul Caudell for their musical entertainment during lunch and on breaks. Sally Swor also toughed out the rain with her soap making impression. Artist Roger Brown did several wonderful plein air paintings of Collins Farm, and I think one of them sold. If it did, we'll get a commission from the sale.

It was a lot of fun, a lot of work, and we'll probably do it again! Anyone know where we can get a good riding lawn mower - cheap?? ☺

Kim Hoover



Collins Farm Damage From the May 5 Storm

"Two Douglas Fir trees near the front door of the Collins Farm are no more. (And they were substantial) Thankfully, they fell to the east, and away from the house. One snapped near it's base; the other literally broke a few feet up from the ground. These trees are effectively blocking the front door at this time, but are no where close to any electric lines. Based on the shape of the shrubs in the yard and the grass in the yard itself, I'd say either a funnel cloud, straight-line winds or a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter passed very low over Collins Farm.....Overall, folks, I'd say we were fortunate. It could have been MUCH worse at Collins Farm."—*David Fraley*



Clean Up Day May 10, 2003

Pictured from Left To Right: Suzanne Burns, Ricky Hoover, Michelle Seals, Linda Mora, Dan Mora, Sam Gant, and Rick Hoover.

Historian Plans CWRT Presentations

In early May, STFB member Dick Simpson (left-photo below) and Ken Santilli spent 3 days in Middle Tennessee gathering materials on our Civil War history. The Carter House hosted them one morning and STFB Board Member, Lynn Dorris, showed them Fort Granger, Winstead Hill, Carnton, and Collins Farm in the afternoon. The second day they again toured Collins Farm, downtown Franklin, with a special showing of Fort Negley in Nashville. The Nashville trip also included a lunch stop at one of the famous 'meat & 3' restaurants - a new experience for visitors from the Granite State.

They are from Orleans, VT (near the Canadian border) and were here on a mission. Dick had visited Franklin over a year ago with the Lancaster Civil War Roundtable which toured Shiloh, Spring Hill and Franklin. Dick also does history programs for the many Civil War Roundtables in his neck of the (Vermont) woods. Dick used this trip to get photographs for a slide program he will develop and present to Civil War Roundtables in New England, New York, and eastern Pennsylvania.

The program will be titled "The Forgotten Battle of Franklin". For Dick and other eastern Civil War students, the battles of Nashville and Franklin are only remotely known. Their primary focus is on Civil War history 'east of the mountains'. Dick's goal is to inspire his audiences to join the effort to save and interpret Middle Tennessee's Civil War history, especially Franklin. And to get his listeners to visit Franklin on their next trips 'out west'.

STFB is delighted to have Dick's help. He is a talented and welcome addition to the long list of STFB supporters who are determined to do their part in their part of the world to raise funds and to raise interest in having a battlefield park at Franklin. We wish him the best of luck and will do all in our power to make his "Forgotten Battle of Franklin" program a success.

Sam Huffman



(Continued from page 1)

Remember...since (sadly) only some folks in this world are concerned with battlefield preservation, but every-one is concerned with traffic problems, I propose that we hit the traffic issuer first, and the battlefield issue second. If you live in Franklin, or if you travel to Franklin as a tourist or on business (and identify this in your letter), let them know that you are firstly concerned that a commercial development of this size at this location will have a huge impact on traffic, and a negative impact on your quality of life (as a resident), or your ability to enjoy the historic sites of Franklin as a tourist, etc., etc.

Secondly, you have concerns over the impact from the development to historic Winstead Hill (on the National Historic Registry), the City of Franklin Winstead Hill Park, the Antebellum Trail, the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Trail, the historic Harrison House, and the southern gateway to the City and the Franklin Battlefield. Explain that as a member of STFB, you are concerned about developing land that was marched and fought across by brave Americans on November 30, 1864.

Send you letter to:

Dana McLendon
Chuck Edmondson
Clyde Barnhill

Board of Mayor and Aldermen
City of Franklin
109 3rd Ave. South
Franklin, TN 37064

Please send STFB a copy of your letter for our use to:

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.
PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065

Thanks so very much for your efforts!

Joe Smyth
414-6641
smyth@vol.com

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	

New & Renewing April 2003

Bob Lessel	Bartlett TN	Kyle Maxwell	Thompson Station TN
Betty Cannon	Ashland City TN	Kenn Staggs	Lawrenceburg TN
Mel Maurer	Westlake OH	Ross Massey	Nashville TN
Janet Krompart	Rochester Hills MI	Gary Battistoni	Cherry Hill NJ
John Moloski	Harrisonville MO	Dave & Kassie Berry	Jacksonville FL
Larry Fugate	Millersville TN	Sean Von Loh	Greeley CO
M/M Brian La Touche	Franklin TN	Joe Red	Antioch TN
Marcus Pearson	Holly Springs NC	Lawerence Kasten Family	Cape Girardeau MO
Thomas Stone	Whitestone NY	Daniel Kolifrath	Nashville TN
Suzanne Burns	Brentwood TN	Barbara Henshaw	Brentwood TN
Stephen Dixon	Charlotte NC	Jim & Colleen Coomer	Franklin TN
Robert J Irvin	Warrior AL	Gale & Lyn Pewitt	Naperville IL
Col Robert J Dennison	Brentwood TN	Dennis Todd	Richardson TX
Jerry & Debbie Raymer	Nashville TN	Emily Magid	Franklin TN
John Herbert	Franklin TN	Gilbert M Sullivan	Birmingham AL
Oscar Bird III	Mountain Park GA	John F Wakefield	Florence AL
Craig & Patty Young	Franklin TN	Richard Rupp	Wickford RI
David Gould Family	Nashville TN		
Steven Cone	Mt Juliet TN		

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