



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

JUNE
May 2003

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

Although the Franklin Board of Mayor and Alderman once again voted to rezone the property north of Winstead Hill, we have another chance to defeat this on July 8th. If you haven't written or emailed the City of Franklin Aldermen, please do so, and if you have--write again!

Additionally, I hope you continue to remain positive in the face of adversity and apathy. Never believe that "this" or "that" is the last parcel of battlefield left, that the Franklin Battlefield is "lost," or that the hope for a Franklin Battlefield is a misguided "dream." The Franklin Battlefield will be "saved" the same way it was "lost"--piece by piece. We are in the land "reclamation" business, folks... and when our message and mission reaches critical mass with the general public and our elected officials, things like pizza parlours (and yes, even county libraries) will simply become markers for that reclamation.

Keep up the good fight!

Joe Smyth

Shopping Center Clears Second Reading

At their June 10 meeting, the Franklin Board of Aldermen passed 5-2 the second reading of a zoning change request that would allow a shopping center at Parkway Commons, at the northwest corner of Columbia Avenue and Mack Hatcher Parkway. Voting for passage were Tom Miller, Tom Feuerborn, Steve Smith, Chuck Edmondson, and Clyde Barnhill - against, Ernie Bacon and Dan Klatt, with Dana McLendon absent. The third reading is scheduled for July 8, 2003.

The Parkway Commons site is just west of Columbia Avenue and just north of Franklin's Winstead Hill Park that includes an overlook from which visitors can view Franklin and the Carter Farm where the heaviest fighting occurred during the Battle of Franklin.

The second reading includes public comments before the aldermen discuss and vote on the matter. Ed Owens of Gresham-Smith presented a diagram of the proposed project and described the plans to have Kroger and Target stores that would eliminate the need for local residents to travel across town to shop. He presented other advantages of the project. He closed with a discussion on the location of the battlefield. He commented that although Hood's troops stepped off from this location, no fighting occurred here and an archeological survey of the Parkway Commons site found no historical artifacts and concluded that no further study was needed. Another spokesman reviewed traffic studies that said a traffic light would be added on Columbia, and concluded that traffic on Columbia and Mack Hatcher would not be a problem.

Two other citizens spoke in favor of having a shopping center and traffic light on Columbia Avenue.

Some 8 or 10 people spoke in favor of denying the rezoning request. STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman presented two studies funded by the National Parks Service that plainly conclude that the Parkway Commons site is Civil War Battlefield. As many of you are aware, sharp fighting occurred there about noon on Nov 30 as Wagner's division retreated from their blocking position atop the Winstead Hill ridge. In fact, the first Federal deaths at the Battle of Franklin happened in this area. Later during Hood's retreat on Dec 17, an even larger fight flared on the same area as the blocking force atop Winstead Hill Ridge, this time from Hood's army, fired into Wilson's pursuing Federal cavalry that were mostly road-bound due to a recent thaw and heavy rains.

A 1993 NPS funded study "Profiles of America's Most Threatened Civil War Battlefields" set out to define the geographic boundaries and condition of threatened battlefields. Franklin was one of the study sites. One of

(Continued on page 4)

News In Review by Sam Gant

Tennesseeana' has a friend in Hicks – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/25/03 LEIPER'S FORK, TN – To colleagues and friends, Robert Hicks is a man of vision. In some ways, Hicks is also a study in contradictions. He is a private person, and yet a very public face for Carnton. An art lover with sophisticated taste. One of Hicks' strongest commitments is to Carnton, the antebellum plantation where hundreds of wounded and dying were taken after the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin. Hicks has been a volunteer there since 1987, and is regarded not only as its strongest fund-raiser but someone who has guided the plantations's restoration. Hicks calls Carnton restoration and preservation a passion, and said he hopes his legacy there will be put the plantation home and Confederate cemetery on the map.

Carnton celebrates rescue of antebellum plantation – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/25/03 FRANKLIN – When the Historic Carnton Plantation Association was formed in the late '70s, Carnton had goats in the parlor, hay bales in the bedrooms and bees swarming around the front columns. A makeshift apartment with knotty-pine paneling was crammed into the dining room, motorcycle parts littered the floor and chickens were frequent visitors. Now, board members and staff are getting ready to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the group that brought Carnton back to its mid-19th-century grandeur. Historic Carnton Plantation will hold the 25th anniversary celebration and patrons' party June 27. Guests at the celebration and fund-raiser will be invited to tour the house and see recent improvements.

Civil War Living History Encampment coming to Mount Pleasant – *The Review Appeal* – 5/25/03 MT. PLEASANT, TN – Mount Pleasant Main Street invites all to experience the Civil War Living History Encampment on Saturday, June 7. The encampment will show the sights and smells of camp life and present the words of studied historians to improve public understanding of the unique American heritage of Mount Pleasant. Included will be exhibitions about mounted Federal and Confederate Cavalrymen, mounted guerrillas, Federal infantry and civilians.

Carnton struggles to repair storm, fire damage – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/27/03

FRANKLIN – Carnton Plantation officials are hoping to boost the historic site's emergency fund to handle damage from recent storms, a small fire and drop in tourism this year. A massive 19th-century pecan tree and some 30 feet of board fencing were toppled in Carnton's garden when tornados whipped through Williamson County on Mother's Day. The powerful May 5 storm cracked some of the home's fragile 19th-century glass when hail pelted the windows. The storms hit in the aftermath of a decline in tourism, as well as a fire that destroyed a garden shed and scorched the visitor center on April 30. Rippavilla Plantation in Spring Hill and Travellers Rest Historic House Museum in south Nashville reported only limb damage from recent storms. The Natchez Place community center and McLemore House African-American history museum were also spared. At Carter House, however, the focal point of the Battle of Franklin, one wooden railing was broken and a chain saw had to be purchased to dispose of large limbs that came down.

Natchez Street seeks Historic District status – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/29/03

FRANKLIN – Preservationists asked the Tennessee Historical Commission yesterday to have the Natchez Street community in downtown Franklin considered for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Carroll Van West, director of MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation, called it a very worthy project. "Here is where the black community of Franklin grew from the Civil War to the time of the Civil Rights movement," West said. The proposed district consists of 81 properties and comprises the entire length of Natchez Street, as well as several streets that run perpendicular to it.

Direct mail campaign defeating battlefield? – *The Review Appeal* – 6/1/03 FRANKLIN – A direct mail campaign by a Brentwood-based businessman who wants to build a shipping center in Franklin appears to have eclipsed vocal opponents

(Continued on page 3)

at City Hall meeting. Developer Phil Warren has sent nearly 4,000 letters and e-mails to Franklin residents since the Memorial Day holiday to describe Parkway Commons and drum up support for a city board vote on whether the 48 acres should be rezoned from a light industrial classification to a general commercial zone. Opposition to Warren's plan with a Kroger grocery, a Target store, fueling pumps and a host of undisclosed stores and restaurants has been from preservationists and Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc.

Students hear and taste history – *The Tennessean* – 6/3/03 SPRING HILL – Middle school student got an up-close and personal look at the Mexican War as part of Polk Academy, a week-long camp that focuses on life in the 1840s, during James K. Polk's presidency. Joe Smyth of Franklin, clad as an army sergeant during the Mexican War, showed off his uniform and shared stories of the first war in which American soldiers fought on foreign soil.

Famous McGavocks had humble origins in Ireland – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 6/3/03 FRANKLIN – When James McGavock, a poor Scotch-Irish farmer, left County Antrim, Ireland, for the American Colonies in the mid-1750s, he paved the way for a family that would find great wealth and for several generations, make Middle Tennessee history. Her, the prolific McGavocks – at his death in 1812, patriarch James had 72 grandchildren – would become mayors, war heroes, settlers and plantation owners and public servants, marrying into other prominent families such as the Grundys and Harding and Lindsleys and Overtons.

Coalition opposes shopping center – *The Review Appeal* – 6/6/03 FRANKLIN – The group includes The Carter House, Carnton Plantation, the Heritage Foundation, A Place Called Natchez, the McLemore House and Save The Franklin Battlefield. Members of the coalition say they will testify to the city board. "No matter what other people may tell you," Sam Huffman, treasurer of Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc., said, "this property is officially a Civil War battlefield." A

National Parks Service-funded study – Profiles of America's Most Threatened Civil War Battlefields – "clearly labeled the Parkway Commons property as core Franklin battlefield."

Franklin votes to delay removal of 'Green House' – *The Review Appeal* – 6/11/03 FRANKLIN – Plans for more police parking were tabled Monday by historic zoning commissioners who support preservation of what reportedly was a rooming house for railroad porters when races were segregated. Pearl Bransford, director of Natchez Place, an organization dedicated to preserving African-American structures, was relieved with the delay. She pointed to records showing the property had been bought shortly after the Civil War by church trustees and A.N.C. Williams, an African-American grocer who owned the land and operated his store on Main Street that was patronized by both races.

Historic Rippavilla gets another interim director – *The Tennessean* – 6/12/03 SPRING HILL – In the midst of controversy over where historic Rippavilla plantation get its funds, historic preservationist Alice Algood was named interim director of the non-profit organization yesterday. The move came after Mike Bennett announced his resignation as interim director and president of the board of Rippavilla, Inc.

Round two: Parkway Commons prevails again – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 6/12/03 FRANKLIN – Developer Phil Warren got one step closer to his \$20 million Parkway Commons development becoming a reality Tuesday night as the Board of Mayor and Alderman voted on second reading to approve the rezoning of the land at the corner of Columbia Avenue and Hillview Lane. After a lengthy public hearing where some 20 people spoke both for and against the project in sometimes passionate pleas for historic preservation, Mayor Jerry Sharber reminded the crowd that the issue at hand was not about the validity of specific businesses, or about turning the land into a battlefield park, but about simply rezoning a parcel of land.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

City of Franklin to receive Historical Preservation Grant – *The Review Appeal* – 6/14/03 FRANKLIN – The city of Franklin will receive a \$12,000 Historical Preservation Grant from the federal government for mapping historic properties in Williamson County, the local state legislative delegation has announced. State Reps. Charles Sargent and Glen Casada and state Sen. Jim Bryson said the grant was one of only a handful of requests approved by the Tennessee Historical Commission for federal funding from the U.S. Department of Interior. The grants are a result of the federal National Historic Preservation Act, which allocates federal dollars to worthy projects based on a number of strict criteria.

(Continued from page 1)

the study's work products was a map showing the study area considered, and the defined "core" battlefield area. There's no doubt, Parkway Commons is in the core battlefield area.

A second NPS funded study, this time through the American Battlefield Protection Program in 1996, was sponsored by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. Titled "US Highway 31 Battlefield Corridor Protection Plan", it set out to define the historic resources, battlefield and otherwise, along US 31 from Nashville to Columbia. The Parkway Commons site is clearly designated as one of the Priority Protection Properties listed in the study's maps. Copies of the studies' cover sheets and maps were presented to the Board of Aldermen.

One of the Corridor Study's original purposes in 1996 was to answer the oft-heard complaint against preservationists that they fight one battle at a time, and should instead make a list of important sites so that development can be planned to accommodate them.

Other speakers against the rezoning included downtown merchants, Gloria Barnett and Lynn Dorris, who thought the city should do more to encourage heritage tourism. Hillview Lane resident Emily Magid, and another resident of Polk Place sub-

division, expressed concerns about the increase in traffic that the shopping center would create. Several other speakers presented historical background and asked that the zoning request be denied.

Several aldermen stated publicly, before and during the meeting, that the 200 or so emails and letters they were receiving were running heavily in favor of the zoning request. The few against were primarily from out of state, Alabama and California. One alderman said his phone calls were running 50-50.

During his brief comments, Sam Huffman cited the 40 emails and letters to aldermen that STFB had been copied on, and presented the aldermen with petitions with 450 additional signatures gathered in Franklin from residents and visitors, mostly residents. He commented that the visitors were not just out-of-towners but rather our customers, and as good marketeers, we should listen to them.

What you can do:

If you are a resident of Franklin, or if you have ever visited Franklin, we need for you to contact our City Aldermen and

(Continued on page 6)



PRESERVATION COALITION MEETS AT WINSTEAD HILL

A group consisting of STFB, Heritage Foundation, Carnton, Tennessee Preservation Trust, Natchez Place, Carter House, and Citizens for Good Growth Management met June 5 for a press conference for News Channel 5, the Review Appeal, and the Williamson AM regarding the development at Parkway Commons.

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 May 2003

William Adkins Jr
Steve Barba
Mike Bond
Charlie & Jeanne Brock
Thomas A Doerr
Miles Ezell
Dr Echols Hansbarger
Gregg & Sigrid Hansen
Bill Kennedy
Bill Morelli
Don A Nall
EJ & Doyle Neeley
John & Carol Petty
Harold & Mary Jo Pratt
Jonathan & Nancy Schwartz
Margie Thessin
Stan Vaught Family
Col(Ret) Sam Whitson

Akron OH
Menlo Park CA
Franklin TN
Franklin TN
Franklin TN
Nashville TN
Charleston WV
New Hampton IA
Columbia TN
Brentwood TN
Little Rock AR
College Grove TN
Wartrace TN
Brentwood TN
Nashville TN
Franklin TN
Milton TN
Franklin TN

(Continued from page 4)

tell

them you oppose this rezoning request. See the STFB web site www.franklin-stfb.org to have the email addresses automatically generated for you.

Dana McLendon <danamclendon@bellsouth.net>, Chuck Edmondson <cbe@bellsouth.net>, Clyde Barnhill <clyde.barnhill@amgreetings.com>, Col. Tom Feurborn <coltomf@comcast.net>, Dan Klatt <klattman@comcast.net>, Ernie Bacon <ebacon224@aol.com>, Tom Miller <tom@theparksgroupcommercial.com>, Steve Smith <stirss@aol.com>, Mindy Tate <mindy@reviewappeal.com>, Laura Hill <lhill@tennessean.com>, STFB copy David Fraley <maurygreys@aol.com>

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