



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

October 2003

[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

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

Dear STFB member—

I have only just returned from running the registration tables at the Western Independent Grays' "Advance Guard" tactical event. It was heartening and encouraging to visit with almost 300 reenactors from Boston to Tucson, Minnesota to Louisiana, and North Carolina to California, many of whom "get it"—that is, understand the need for Battlefield Preservation, Heritage Tourism, and the direct relationship between the two.

If only our elected officials, our aldermen and commissioners, also could "get it"—then the need for our organization would pass thankfully into dust and memory. Until then, I am energized by these reenactors to continue, with your help, to 'bang the drum' for Saving The Franklin Battlefield.

Sincerely yours,

## Reenactors' March For Collins Farm "40 For Franklin"

Well, the "Forty for Franklin-2003" march is just a couple of weeks away! I wanted to apprise you all of a little change in our march route. This year, we will commence our march from Zion Presbyterian Church on Zion Road, in Mount Pleasant. We'll be leaving the church at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, November 7th, 2003. From there, we'll be marching to Highway 43, and briefly resting at St. John's Episcopal Church (where the 3 of the 6 generals who lost their lives at the Battle of Franklin were briefly interred in the cemetery there); from St. John's, we'll be marching into the City of Columbia, along Highway 43, where we hope to arrive at the town square precisely at noon, and where we'll be greeted by the Mayor of Columbia; from there, we'll march northward up Highway 31 to Rippavilla Plantation in Spring Hill, where we'll bivouac for the night; the following morning, at 7:00 a.m., Saturday, November 8th, 2003, we're off on our final leg of the journey, marching to Saturn Parkway, just north of Rippavilla, to Kedron Road, where we'll turn north-northwest; there we will be marching by the Spring Hill Battlefield (and this 2 mile leg of the journey is open to the public, so please come and join us!); where Kedron Road ends at Highway 31, we'll again turn northward, and continue on that course, up Highway 31, until we reach Winstead Hill; at this point, our march is once again open to the public, until we reach the Carter House at 1140 Columbia Ave. (Again, please come out to join us, and follow in the very tracks of those who made this same journey on November 30, 1864 into the Battle of Franklin!); and thus will end the 2003 "Forty for Franklin" march.

Please join our marchers, if you can, along the public portions of this endeavor, and by all means, please pray and hope for favorable weather! Also, it is certainly not too late to pledge your support of a marcher or marchers!

Even after the march has been completed, I encourage you to send in your financial support of this most worthy cause! Folks, we truly need your help in reclaiming this hallowed battlefield!

Many thanks!  
David Fraley



## News In Review by Sam Gant

Old house tells the story of ordinary people – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 9/19/03 FRANKLIN – On September 20, the Carter House celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the building as a historic site, a feat not much easier to accomplish in the 1950s than it would be today – although considerably less expensive. Back then, the State of Tennessee paid \$20,000 for the house and spent nearly as much renovating it. But the money was well spent, birthing what has become a priceless center for history and research. There are some things about the Carter House that leaves one with a deeper understanding about the reality of war. There was great heroism on both sides of the barricades that day in 1864, but the Carter House speaks of how the fighting affected ordinary people, not heroes.

Future of the old BGA campus still uncertain – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 9/21/03 FRANKLIN – Now that the library is almost finished, county leaders are gearing up to figure out what to do with the rest of the old Battle Ground Academy campus. County Mayor Rogers Anderson said he hopes a committee can get started this year on creating a master plan for the 20-acre campus, which was the site of intense fighting during the Civil War Battle of Franklin in 1864. County leaders have received the first phase of a Civil War battlefield interpretation plan that calls for battlefield preservation on the site. But some lawmakers have criticized the plan for not focusing enough on other kinds of uses. County Parks and Recreation Director Doug Hood says he's opposed to devoting the entire campus to the Civil War. He's already using the old BGA gym for youth volleyball and says the county needs the football fields for athletic events as well. He's also interested in building a community theater there.

GM request leaves Rippavilla hanging – *The Tennessean* – 9/27/03 SPRING HILL – Rippavilla Plantation's interim director, Alice Algood, has lots of big ideas for the historic site—but cannot do anything until it is clear what will become of the property. Last week, General Motors asked the Maury County Industrial Development Board to release 1,200 acres – half of Saturn Corp.'s property – from an in-lieu-of-tax agreement between the automaker and the county in exchange for Saturn's donation of land for a county sports complex. General Motors leases Rippavilla mansion and 65 acres to Maury County for tourism purposes. In exchange, the county provides maintenance and upkeep on the 1855 mansion. It is the development of the 500 acres next to Rippavilla that is Algood's main concern. "Rippavilla has to have enough property to go with it," she said. "If you just have the house and 35 acres, it's not going to survive. We need 300 to 400 acres."

Land bank could help city buy significant property – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 9/30/03 FRANKLIN – Alderman Dan Klatt is proposing a city referendum to set up a land bank where the city would hit residents with a one-time tax to build up money for important plots of land around the city. "If we want to conserve land, we need to buy it," Klatt said. If voters decide they can handle the one-time tax, Klatt said the city might be able to recover some battlefield properties, create passive parks and even partner with developers for common space.

Homecoming dance – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 10/3/03 FRANKLIN – Once a year, historic preservation in Williamson County is transformed from political warfare in the trenches to candlelight, satin gowns and tuxedos. In 2003 alone, battle lines were drawn over an interpretation plan for Civil War land, and preservationists held an emergency press conference to stop Target from building close to Winstead Hill, a Confederate observation post. Skirmishes took place over saving downtown Franklin's oldest African-American residence, Rippavilla's frustrated interim director resigned after months of wrangling about the future of the antebellum homestead in Spring Hill, and an alliance of nonprofits joined forces, determined to take stronger political action to save Battle of Franklin land. On Oct. 18, the smoke will clear as hundreds of guests converge to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Heritage Ball, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Historic Carnton Plantation Association—and 30 years of local preservation projects.

Civil War re-enactment in Spring Hill next weekend – *The Review Appeal* – 10/15/03 FRANKLIN – History will spring to life on the grounds of Rippavilla Plantation the weekend of Oct. 25 and 26 as more than 1,300 North/South re-enactors stage events depicting the 1863 Battle of Murfreesboro. The public will be treated to vivid, living snapshots of both civilian and military actions throughout the two-day event. Featured will be four skirmishes from the battle, including an unusual dawn engagement on Sunday morning. Military re-enactors representing infantry, artillery and cavalry will also drill and demonstrate life on the battlefield. Civilian re-enactors and sutlers will provide glimpses into the day-to-day activities during this tumultuous period.



## TAG Event Raises \$7,116 for Collins Farm

During Oct 16-19, a tactical event sponsored by Pat Craddock and Joe Smotherman of the Western Independent Garys brought re-enactors to the Clarksville area from all over the country - and England. The event was very realistic in all aspects of uniforms, equipment, and living conditions as infantry and cavalry operated over a 1,200 acre site looking to surprise and attack the each other. An estimated 270 participants took part in the event.

As part of the event's fee structure, each reenactor brought at least a \$20 donation designated for STFB and its battlefield preservation projects. Several participants staged their own pre-event fund-raising projects and raised donations from \$50 or \$100 - up to \$220, \$500, and a \$625 donation. It all totaled to \$7,116. A huge thank you goes to WIG and AoP!

Participants came from California, Washington, Arizona, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania—plus from the UK. All of the STFB volunteers were very impressed with the effort and commitment that ALL of the participants made in order to attend the event.

Pat Craddock and Joe Smotherman presented their fund-raising vision for this preservation event and for the Franklin Battlefield when they made a proposal to the STFB Board last winter. They asked only that STFB provide the event registration and site security over the event's four days. We gladly accepted their offer. Their precise organization and thorough pre-event registration made our job during the event very straight-forward. When you see Pat and Joe, shake their hand for us, and pat their backs - they planned and executed a first class Tactical event. And they have personally given the Franklin Battlefield a big boost - both financially, and by educating people who count about the Battle of Franklin and our efforts to preserve it.

Our fine cadre of volunteers--Sam Huffman, Sam Gant,

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## Sponsorship To-Date "40 For Franklin - 2003" November 7 - 8

We have enclosed another "Forty For Franklin" March Sponsorship card for your use in case you misplaced the earlier one. If you don't need this card, you can help us by passing it on to another Franklin supporter. We will continue to receive donations after the march and into early 2004 because some donors use their company's Matching Grant Program to supplement their personal donation, and those matches are sometimes not paid until after year-end. Also, some supporters have organized their own fund-raising project for the Marchers, and won't have all their funds in-hand until later in the year.

All of the marchers below will march 40 miles from Columbia, Tennessee to Franklin over two days to raise funds for Collins Farm debt reduction. They all need your support on a per-mile basis to make their efforts worthwhile. Listed with the marchers' names are the total funds raised by state for 2003 to-date. In 2001, the marchers raised \$12,700 for Collins Farm, and for 2002 they increased that total to \$16,303. The marchers hope to do even better this year but need many sponsors to help them along. You can follow the donation totals by state at:

[www.franklin-stfb.org/march03.htm](http://www.franklin-stfb.org/march03.htm)

### Confederate Marchers To-Date

2003	State	Marcher
795	Alabama	Shane Smith
65	Arkansas	Lee White
		Leonard Adams
80	Florida	Evan Hudson
80	Georgia	Richard Russell
100	Kentucky	Jim Lawrence
0	Louisiana	Matt McGill
160	Mississippi	William Long
40	Missouri	Evan Kutzler
310	South Carolina	William Carraway
1155	Tennessee	David Fraley

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## Mark Your Calendars!!!

Save The Franklin Battlefield will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the historic Hiram Lodge in downtown Franklin.

Patrick McIntyre, the executive director of the Tennessee Preservation Trust will be our featured speaker. Patrick is first director of this nonprofit historic preservation advocacy organization, and has helped to expand its membership base and implement new programs to raise the level of support for the preservation of Tennessee's heritage at the local, state, and national levels. He has worked long and hard to preserve endangered properties from Alabama to San Paulo, Brazil.

Mark your calendars for November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and we'll see you there!

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Joe Smyth, Lynn Dorris, Beth Adams, Karel Biggs, and Tommy Burnett -- kept the registration moving along Thursday and Friday with only a few glitches. All registrants received the STFB world-famous 1999 & 2000 Day-by-Day calendars plus our current newsletter, and those who made larger donations could choose extra gifts - STFB membership, Cleburne and Forrest prints by Jody Thompson, or the 'Retreat' book that STFB has reprinted. All of those materials help educate our visitors about the Battle of Franklin.

Extra special thanks go to the Tod Carter SCV Camp for the use of their brand new camp wall tent and fly - plus to Rick Hoover, Donny Berry, and Ted Mobley for their eleventh-hour fabrication of poles, stakes, and ropes for us to use. Early event arrivals came in Thursday evening amid a persistent gentle rain and the tent and fly kept us all dry. Friday was overcast without rain - and Saturday and Sunday were big, blue-sky Tennessee autumn days - just perfect for sponsors and participants alike.

As they left mid-day Sunday, many of the participants made it a point to tell us how much they had enjoyed the week-end, and to ask how much money the event raised for the Franklin Battlefield. Both participants and sponsors were very pleased with the conduct and results of the Tactical. Maybe we can do it again sometime down the road.

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160	Texas	Justin Scherrer
		O C Hood
2945	Total Confederate Marchers	

### Federal Marchers

#### To-Date

2003	State	Marcher
60	Illinois	Allen McClelland
90	Indiana	Ron Wilkins
120	Iowa	Shane Smith
70	Kentucky	Chris Cox
0	Michigan	Louis Varnell
60	Missouri	Jerry Layton
1215	Ohio	Chris Lane
		Bill Radcliffe
310	Pennsylvania	Mark Grant
110	Tennessee	Trent Golden
170	Wisconsin	Brian Maddox
2205	Total Federal Marchers	
5150	March Total as of 10/21/03	