



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 2004

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

Save The Franklin Battlefield once again applauds the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) for naming the Franklin Battlefield one of the ten most threatened Civil War sites in America today. Nation attention is once again focused upon Franklin.

The Williamson County Commission and the City of Franklin have the opportunities to take the preservation steps that should have been made long ago. The remaining Battle Ground Academy acreage occupies the heartland of the Franklin Battlefield, where hundreds of brave Americans, both North and South, fell and died. A precious opportunity exists to preserve this as an open battlefield park, and to expand this very part core by adding other parcels to the park as they come available.

Save The Franklin Battlefield hopes that the Civil War Preservation Trust report will continue to raise public and our elected officials' awareness, both locally and nationally, of the final plight of the Franklin Battlefield. Seven generations after November 30, 1864, this battlefield is one of the few tangible links remaining to our tumultuous past.

Joe Smyth

140th Anniversary Battle Reenactment of *Franklin*

October 1-2-3, 2004

Battles of Spring Hill - Franklin -
Nashville

National premier reenactment for 2004
on original battlefield at Spring Hill, TN

Buy tickets soon online at www.franklinstfb.org
Ticket sales to benefit battlefield preservation
through

Save The Franklin Battlefield. Inc.

CWPT NAMES FRANKLIN ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED BATTLEFIELDS

Save The Franklin Battlefield applauds the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) for naming the Franklin Battlefield one of the ten most threatened Civil War sites in America today. The (CWPT) unveiled its annual report on the status of the nation's historic battlefields last month from the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The report, entitled "America's Most Endangered Battlefields -2004," identifies the most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to rescue them. "Our Civil War battlefields are vanishing at an alarming pace," warned CWPT President James Lighthizer during the news conference. "Once lost, these links to America's past can never be replaced." The Franklin Battlefield first made the top ten in 2002, followed by a top twenty-five listing in 2003.

With 50,000 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. Over the years, the CWPT has helped preserve more than 60 sites in 19 states totaling over 18,000 acres.

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. The sites mentioned in the report range from the famous to the nearly forgotten. However, all have a critical feature in common — each one or part of one is in danger of being lost forever. The battlefields were chosen based on geographic location, military significance, and the immediacy of current threats. "These battlefields are the last tangible reminders of the valor of those who donned the blue and gray," Lighthizer stated. "They must be preserved."

Save The Franklin Battlefield applauds the CWPT for their continued interest in the call for preservation of the Franklin Battlefield. "The eyes of the national Civil War preservation community and their financial backers are very much on Franklin," said Joe Smyth, STFB president. "The Civil War Preservation Trust is very interested in working with us here in Williamson County. They use Federal, state, local, and private funds, mostly in matching situations, such as 5-1, 7-1, even 11-1, to purchase land. Jim Lighthizer, the current president of CWPT, has visited Williamson County several times to meet with the preservation community, our Civil War site directors, and County Mayor Anderson. Rod Heller, who has just put up \$5 million for the purchase of the Franklin Country Club at Carnton, was the founding chairman of the Civil War Preservation Trust. We need only for our elected officials and planners to let them help us."

Harlinsdale Farm Update

Local government leaders have until the end of July to come to terms on the purchase of Harlinsdale Farm and present a plan for the property's use.

Franklin Mayor Tom Miller and County Mayor Rogers Anderson have announced a city/county partnership to determine the feasibility of jointly purchasing and operating the historic 200-acre horse farm as a community park. They have executed a "letter of interest" on the property, which gives government leaders exclusive negotiation rights with the Harlin family until July 31.

Anderson said the Harlins would like sell the property, which is located at 239 Franklin Road, before the end of the year.

"The task that we have before us is for the city and county to jointly acquire Harlinsdale Farm," Miller said before a crowd gathered in front of the farm's barn. "It will be a difficult task, but not too difficult, I hope. Involved in this process will be getting approval from our respective legislative organizations."

Miller then pointed out the Franklin aldermen who attended the press conference. "I'm not trying to put you on the spot," he joked. Anderson also took a moment to recognize the county commissioners who will be voting on the purchase.

City and county officials will have to obtain property appraisals, develop a site-use plan, examine transaction options, collect input from the community and, most important, find a way to fund the purchase.

"I am extremely confident this is going to happen," Miller said. "All of the difficult decisions and questions will be worked out by July 31, and we'll be back here to announce the transfer from the Harlins to the joint venture between the city and the county."

Brothers Bill and Tom Harlin, who own the farm with other family members, said they've been approached by several developers during the past decade. "But it was never the right fit," Bill Harlin said. "Our family had a vision of what we thought we'd like the property to become." That vision didn't include housing developments or shopping centers.

Anderson and Miller said they want to turn the farm into a "passive park" with walking and bike trails, space to ride horses and plenty of picnic areas. Miller said the city owns 54 acres next to the north side of the farm and said that land also could become part of the park.

"This is one of the happiest days in Franklin," said Mary Pearce, director of The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. "This is a beloved landmark. There isn't a kid in Franklin who hasn't ridden down (Franklin Road) and looked at these horses."

Touring the barn after the announcement, several county commissioners said Harlinsdale Farm is worth saving and that turning it into a park was a "high prior-

ity." Many said it will be worth the headache of coming up with the funds to pay for the purchase.

"The people of this community have said they want these types of things," Commissioner Jeff Bivins said.

"We could make it a revenue-neutral project," Commissioner Bob Barnwell said. "There are still a lot of unanswered questions."

Several commissioners and city aldermen said they would look into getting money from the federal government. Others said the citizens of Franklin and county residents may be asked to help with funding.

Franklin Alderman Dan Klatt has suggested the idea of creating a land bank, where the city would hit residents with a one-time tax to build up money to purchase important plots of land. With a land bank, the city could respond to market- and development-driven land acquisition that impacts the public realm.

"A referendum on the ballot would give our citizens the opportunity to vote their willingness to make a contribution to such an initiative through a one-time property tax increase," Klatt said.

Commissioner Jeff Ford said the county's Property Committee will begin examining property the county government owns to determine value and usage. He said the county should also look at purchasing and preserving other historic farms.

"Like Cal Turner's land in Brentwood," Ford said. "We have to continue to work on preserving these historic farms."

Owned by the Harlin family since 1932, Harlinsdale Farm is known as the birthplace of the walking horse industry in Tennessee. It was home to Midnight Sun, a black stallion that was named World Grand Champion in 1945 and 1946. Since 1949, four world champions have been linked to the bloodline of Midnight Sun, who is buried near the main barn.

"There may be some structures on this land, but there'll never be another house on this property," Miller said. "Some communities may lose their cows, but Franklin will never lose its horses."

STFB Releases List of Possible Civil War Parks

At the STFB web site www.franklin-stfb.org you can now download a 21 page report on Williamson County Civil War sites that we feel are good candidates for Battlefield Parks. A brief summary of battle actions is provided for each site. The list was compiled by several STFB volunteers during the last two years. The list was submitted last August to the Battlefield Subcommittee of the Central Franklin Planning project. The list does not include every Civil War site in Williamson County, but rather those along US Highways that could qualify for matching funds through federal, state, and national preservation programs.

The 140th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Reenactment

In a few weeks, the roar of cannons will resound from the hills along Kedron Road as the blue and gray-clad soldiers clash amidst the rattle of musketry on the original battlefield at Spring Hill. From this battle the Federal troops will retreat to earthworks in front of a reconstructed Carter House and Ginhouse near Denning Road to further fortify the trenches. After posting an advance guard on a small rise a hundred or so yards in front, they await an attack. At about 4 o'clock on this autumn afternoon, they will sight an awesome array of Confederates, led by the martial notes from a band, marching for more than a mile toward them across a long, slightly rolling field. The battle will rage for about two hours, in front of the buildings but spilling over and swirling around the house for a time before being pushed back to the earthworks. After about an hour's lull in the fighting, it will resume in the darkness, softened by moonlight, with the flash of musket fire cutting through the darkness.

These are the plans for The 140th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Reenactment which were laid out by Mike Moore, Commanding General, 1st Division Confederate Reenactors, and his staff officers. In the latter part of February, at a meeting on the reenactment site, Rick Hoover led a tour of the officers over the 1200-acre Spring Hill site in order to firm up the plans for the battles. It was the consensus of these officers that, with the land available, this would be the best reenactment ever for the Civil War Western Theatre and one of the best ever held.

Sam Gant's News In Review

Natchez gains national eminence with historical designation – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 2/26/04 – FRANKLIN – The Natchez Street Historic District, a traditionally African-American neighborhood downtown, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. "And that recognition has to do with Reconstruction," states Natchez Place Director Pearl Bransford. The Natchez Street Historic District became a prominent and economically and socially diverse African-American neighborhood in Franklin following the Civil War.

Pinkerton Park, Fort Granger defended by committeeman – *The Review Appeal* – 3/2/04 – FRANKLIN – Protection for Pinkerton Park and Fort Granger should be in the parks master plan being finalized by Franklin's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, a committeeman explained this week. Peter Jordan defended the refuge-like qualities of the Civil War fort next to Pinkerton. "There's talk about cutting the vegetation away from the knob," he said, "and the way the path goes around, suggesting that it should be wider. A rough, narrow path keeps the rustic nature of the park." Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Chairwoman Pam Lewis said access to Fort Granger

from Eddy Lane might be improved and committee members considered the boardwalk over the earthen fortress walls as similar to those at Fortress Rosecrans in Murfreesboro where privet hedge was cleared to reveal the shape of the land left since that Union fort was built.

Group seeks help caring for rare Civil War Monument – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 3/2/04 – NASHVILLE – A Nashville preservation group wants to raise awareness about a rare Civil War monument they say needs more care and attention. The Friends of the Battle of Nashville Monument say the memorial at Granny White Pike and Battlefield Drive sends a message of unity, peace and healing of two sides of the conflict. It's home to one of the only monuments to both Union and Confederate soldiers in the country, said Jim Summerville, president of the group. He said the group plans to create a new web site devoted to the monument and park and will seek a federal grant to clean two bronze horses that are a part of the monument.

Civil War relic hunters race pavers – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 3/3/04 – FRANKLIN – War relic hunters, a large tract of bulldozed land in Franklin is the latest piece of American history on the verge of being paved and sealed in concrete. Dozens of relic hunters have descended upon the For Civil property, finding historic artifacts with metal detectors. Digging through the flattened dirt, they have exhumed relics such as cracked Union belt buckles and corroded Confederate bullets. The property on Columbia Avenue is the future home of a Kroger and Target shopping center. Local preservationists fought to have the land preserved as a historic site. Some people have argued that the property was not part of the battle, and the fact that relic hunters are finding Civil War artifacts proves the preservationists' view that the land is historically important, said Thomas Cartwright, director of the Carter House in Franklin.

Pull Tight Players Present "Incident at Fort Granger"

Pull-Tight actors will perform Bob Holladay's Civil War drama, "Incident at Fort Granger", on the Pull-Tight stage. The play is a retelling of a true story which began at Franklin's Fort Granger in June, 1863, about the capture and hanging of two Confederate soldiers posing as Union officers. Spies? Maybe. After performing the play five times, even the cast is not sure.

The drama will be presented Saturday, March 20, at 8:00 p.m., and again on Sunday, March 21, at 2:00 p.m., in the Pull-Tight Theatre on Second Avenue South in Franklin. Both performances are fundraisers, with proceeds to be equally distributed among four local charities – Mercy Children's Clinic, the Williamson County Child Advocacy Center, Graceworks Ministries, Inc., and Williamson County Foster Care Association.

Admission is \$14 for adults and \$10 for students 17 and under. Advance tickets can be purchased by phoning Peggy Macpherson at 794-8518, with payment by check or credit card.

New & Renewing Members For February 2004

Phil Allen	South Bend, IN
LTC(R)&Mrs John F Brewer III	Fairview, TN
Martin Frost	Lebanon, TN
Tom Griggs	Lawrenceburg, TN
Bruce & Bonnie Hohler	Thompsons Station, TN
Richard & Jan Iliff	Franklin, TN
Ronald Kumnick	Elmhurst, IL
Rory McIntyre	Columbus, OH
Curtis Older	Gastonia, NC
Bertille Owen	Bon Aqua, TN
Brian Ruxton	Elmhurst, IL
John R Sheets	Valparaiso, IN
Patrick Small	San Antonio, TX
J T Thompson	Nashville, TN



Ben Nance speaks to crowd during Roper's Knob tour

STFB and Friends Tour Ropers Knob

Eighty-three members and visitors, including some fifteen, from as far away as Huntsville, toured Ropers Knob last Saturday in perfect weather. Twenty-two acres on the summit are state property, and the Heritage Foundation owns 657 acres of the south face of the hill. The property is not open to the public so this was a special tour for our special guests.

This year's tour was led by Tennessee State Archeologist, and Franklin resident, Ben Nance who has recently conducted formal digs on the hill. Ben has also done research on the sites use and ownership prior to the war. He had developed much new information that he provided as a hand-out to the group. Several visitors commented on how pleased they were with Ben's presentation.

As another STFB plus, we passed out STFB newsletters and our 1999/2000 Day-by-Day calendars, and signed up 5 new and renewing members. Our great thanks to Ben Nance for his thorough and professional job.

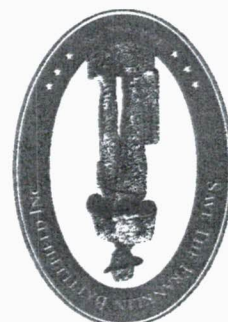
Collins Farm Rental

There is a possible opportunity for rental at Collins Farm in Franklin. It is located on the east end of the Battlefield, in the Lewisburg Historic District. For more information and details, please call David Fraley at (615) 790-6498, or email him at maurygreys@aol.com.

MARCH 2004

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