



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 2004

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB Member--

The excitement mounts here in Franklin as the city nears appropriating \$2.5 million towards repaying Rod and Kay Heller's \$5 million purchase of the Franklin Country Club acreage. The Civil War Preservation Trust has also announced that they will be partnering with the City of Franklin in reclaiming this, the eastern flank of the Franklin Battlefield.

Ever since our year 2001 purchase of the Collins' Farm, itself on the eastern flank, Save The Franklin Battlefield has worked long and hard to research the events of November 30, 1864 on this end of the battlefield. Much information has been gleaned from the Official Records, diaries, and post-war accounts. Some of this has never before been published, and more information comes to light every day.

We invite you to attend our "Collins' Farm and the Eastern Flank" Tour on May 23. It was here that the great waves of butternut first crashed against the Federal earthworks. It is a story of great bravery and desperation; I hope you'll join us for it.

Joe Smyth

Roper's Knob May Be Leased To City In Conservation Deal

The City of Franklin is considering leasing from the Heritage Foundation 35 acres of Roper's Knob. During the Civil War Roper's Knob was used as a Civil War signal station. It is currently being considered as a conservation easement, and the City of Franklin and the City's Budget Advisory Committee unanimously recommended approval as of May 04, 2004.

The Heritage Foundation and Williamson County could rent to The City of Franklin, the forested hill for a public park and city overview; so stated the City Administrator Jay Johnson. "It would never be more than \$1 a year," said Mary Pearce, executive director of the Heritage Foundation Board. Although the board has not yet made a decision, the item has been discussed that at some point in time the land may be given to the City.

"We're at the point where everybody says it's a good idea," Jay Johnson said of the City's overview of the land. Also, under the current "conservation easement," formed by current Gov. Phil Bredesen before his election, which is managed by The Land Trust for Tennessee; conservation easements are contracts restricting development of property for historic, ecological and

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ABPP & CWPT Conference In Nashville April 19-24, 2004

The American Battlefield Protection Program, a part of the National Parks System, and the Civil War Preservation Trust held their annual meetings in downtown Nashville in April. Their schedules overlapped two days and several ABPP attendees were speakers at CWPT sessions. The CWPT conducted tours to several Middle Tennessee battlefields, in addition to a field trip to Nashville's Fort Negley, which is currently being prepared for public visitors later this year.

STFB had a very successful week with a booth at both conferences. We had tables with displays, aerial photos, handouts of info, and our world-famous Day-by-Day calendars that we passed out to our many visitors. The old calendars are still a big draw for us - and we sold two dozen of our books - and signed-up three new members - a very successful week by our measure.

But the greatest benefit for STFB and our local battlefields, we decided, was the STFB exposure to the conference attendees. We spent several days in the same room with the ABPP and CWPT staffs from Washington DC, and attended a number of events (dinners, receptions, and lunches) with them and the conferees. Also attending within 'elbow room' were our state legislators, state preservation persons, and members of several "Friends of" organizations throughout the state and nation. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with these important players, and to tell the world about our efforts in Franklin and Williamson County.

On Friday STFB attended a "Tennessee Partnerships in Preservation" roundtable, in participation with the NPS Superintendents of Chickamauga, Stones River, Shiloh, and Fort Donelson, and others. This was followed by a 5-hour seminar entitled "The Path to Preservation: Battlefield Basics," hosted by the ABPP staff.

All this allowed us to put a face with the STFB name and logo. Our time was very well spent, and we will reap many future benefits from the new contacts and new ideas we developed. Huge kudos and handshakes go to Joe Smyth, Sam Huffman, Dan Mora, Tommy & Lynn Burnett, Bobby Hargrove, and Lynn Dorris for their volunteering spirit and teamwork throughout the week. They made it all happen!

"Collins' Farm And ... The Eastern Flank " Tour MAY 23, 2004 AT 2:00 P.M.

On Sunday, May 23, at 2:00 p.m., Save The Franklin Battlefield will present "Collins' Farm and the Eastern Flank," a public tour of the Collins' Farm and its significance in the events on the eastern flank during the Battle of Franklin.

On the afternoon of November 30, 1864, after bypassing Winstead and Breezy Hills by marching down present day Henpeck Lane, General W.W. Loring's Division formed into lines of battle on the Lewisburg Pike with their right guided by the Harpeth River. As they moved forward and the river pushed them to the left, the lines began to overlap until the division became a formation of brigade columns. They came on at a quickstep, with trailing arms. To the left of the division, (west of Lewisburg Pike) the artillery galloped forward, unlimbered, and fired until their lines passed to the front, where they then rushed forward again to repeat the maneuver.

Soon after clearing the woods on the McGavock property, at about 1000 yards (in the middle of the present day Franklin Country Club), Loring's troops came under devastating fire from the long-range guns of Fort Granger. At 200 yards the Federal batteries on McNutt's Hill (present day O'Moore School) opened up with grapeshot and canister. At 100 yards the Confederate assault crossed the railroad tracks in front of Collins' Farm. Federal batteries set up to fire down the railroad cut began a withering enfilade (sideways firing into the lines). Now, as the firepower from three separate Federal positions intensified, Giubor's Confederate battery was emplaced on the high ground near the farmhouse, attempting to return this fire.

At 50 to 75 yards the Federals rose up in a single line of blue and fired the first volley into Loring's men. They could stand it no longer, and began to charge into the earthworks. At 50 yards they were stopped by an Osage Orange hedge, cut off at chest height, the ends sharpened and the tops weaved into it, making an almost impenetrable obstacle. The men desperately attempted to cut their way through the hedge, all the while within the killing zone of the Federals firing from behind the headlogs of their works. Huge gaps were torn in Loring's lines as soldiers toppled down the embankment or fell back across the tracks

General Loring ordered his second line forward into the maelstrom. The massed fire was so intense that men were climbing towards the Federal earthworks on their hands and knees. Some in this second assault broke through the Osage hedge, and climbed the parapets and planted their flag, only to be shot or captured. A soldier in the 65th Indiana counted 7 more charges in this sector of the battlefield, all within the first hour of the battle.

During the next four hours of darkness, wounded and dying men were pinned down, clinging to the outer side of

the works and laying behind the hedge. Others that were able, stumbled back into the hollow of Collins Farm, and sought the waters of the farm well and the creeks that drain across the present day golf course.

About midnight, the Federal forces abandoned the earthworks across Lewisburg Pike, although it was dawn before the Confederate forces would come to know this. For those on the eastern flank, the battle was over. For the 876 aggregate casualties reported by General Loring, the war was over.

STFB board members will describe the part Collins' Farm played in the bloody assault of the Federal earthworks during the Battle of Franklin. Participants will get to walk the grounds and hear about future improvements and plans for the property. The tour may also include a short walk or drive to several nearby sites relating to the action on the eastern flank of the battlefield. The tour group will meet and park adjacent to the Collins Farm property, at Huskey Lumber, 424 Lewisburg Pike. As always, the tour is free to all STFB members and their guests. Admission for the general public is \$5, of which 100% will go to paying down the Collins' Farm debt.

We hope to see you there!

New & Renewing Members For April 2004

Carol Brown	Gettysburg, PA
Suzanne Burns	Brentwood, TN
Thomas Carothers	St Helen, MI
Jim & Colleen Coomer	Franklin, TN
Bob Dennison	Brentwood, TN
Rosie Flite	Franklin, TN
Larry Fugate	Millersville, TN
James & Judith Hackett	Brentwood, TN
Bruce Hevelin	Union City, CA
Barbara Hinshaw	Brentwood, TN
Carlton Houghton	Essex Junction, VT
Robert J Irwin	Warrior, AL
The Kasten Family	Cape Girardeau, MO
Emily Magid	Franklin, TN
Ross Massey	Nashville, TN
Martin & Julia McGirt	Franklin, TN
William Memmer	Lakewood, OH
M/M William D Morgan	Franklin, TN
Lynn & Linda Lou Owens	Livermore, CA
Marcus B Pearson	Holly Springs, NC
John & Carol Petty	Wartrace, TN
Gale & Lyn Pewitt	Naperville, IL
Richard Rupp	Wickford, RI
Richard & Janice Shepler	Duck River, TN
Robbie Smith	Vicksburg, MS
Tom Stone	Whitestone, NY
Mark & Margie Thessin	Franklin, TN
Greg & Mary Wade	Franklin, TN
Roger Wood	Summerville, SC
Dennis York	Arlington, TX

News In Review

Repair shop OK'd over preservationists' objections – *The Review Appeal* – 4/18/04 – FRANKLIN – Facing objections from preservationists asking for delay and protection of the Franklin Battlefield, Planning Commissioners split 5-4 Thursday, for the repair shop construction across from a gift wrap factory on Columbia Avenue. Davis won site plan approval for a 21,000-square-foot building on eight acres at 1780 Columbia Ave., where he wants to relocate his business. Columbia Avenue was a corridor for Union and Confederate troops fighting during the Civil War. Lillian Stewart told commissioners Thursday that Heritage tourism should be further developed in Franklin. Similar written comments came from Thomas Cartwright, Director of the Carter House Museum and Historical site which is located at 1140 Columbia Ave., Mary Pearce, Executive Director of the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County and Joe Smyth III, President of Save the Franklin Battlefield Inc.

Study could indicate closing Plus Mark plant – *The Review Appeal* – 4/21/04 – FRANKLIN – The end result of an "efficiency analysis" of the Plus Mark plants in Franklin and Greenville, Tenn., could lead to the closing of one, both or none of the facilities, according to officials. In a short press release issued Tuesday, American Greetings Corp., parent company of Plus Mark, announced the initiation of the study, which officials expect to be completed by fall 2004. Plus Mark, formerly Chicago Printed String (CPS) Co., first came to Franklin in the early 1960s. It is located on Columbia Avenue.

Harlinsdale panels convene on horse farm funding, use – *The Review Appeal* – 4/22/04 – FRANKLIN – Thirty leaders of Franklin and Williamson County are gathering today in City Hall to start their discussions on acquiring, funding and setting public uses of Harlinsdale Farm. An administrative steering committee and task forces on finances and property uses will meet at 4 p.m. to: evaluate a survey, appraisal and potential agreements; identify financing alternatives and legal issues; and identify public uses. Franklin's board has started a bond sale valued up to \$10 million with \$2 million of that reserved for purchase of the Country Club of Franklin to preserve the eastern flank of the Battle of Franklin.

County may refurbish old BGA gyms – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 4/28/04 – FRANKLIN – County officials have come up with a plan that would give the Boys & Girls Club and the basketball league another place to play when the last remaining portion of the old Franklin High School building on Columbia Avenue is demolished. County Commissioner John Hancock has filed a resolution to renovate a pair of gymnasiums at the old Battle Ground Academy campus, which the county owns. County Mayor Rogers Anderson said more than 12 groups have expressed interest in using the 20-acre BGA property. One group has suggested clearing the land to create a Civil War park. Other proposed uses range from using existing buildings as office space to building a museum and adding athletic fields.

Work is on to expand Carnton beyond war site – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/4/04 – FRANKLIN – Some \$650,000 has been raised to recreate the original building at Carnton, and construction is expected to begin by the end of the year, said Angela Calhoun, Carnton's executive director. The building believed to have been a kitchen, was destroyed in a 1909 storm. "It will be a historic skin on a very modern, adaptable space," said Robert Hicks, co-chair of the fund-raising campaign.

County's intent to purchase resolution for Harlinsdale not expected to be approved – *The Review Appeal* – 5/5/04 – FRANKLIN – Until an appraisal of the Harlinsdale Farm property is made public or a concept plan for the some 200 acres there is developed, county commissioners will likely not approve entering into an \$8 million partnership with the city of Franklin to buy the property, officials say. A resolution stating the county's intent to fund half—or \$4 million—of the Harlinsdale purchase along with Franklin died due to a lack of a motion before the county's Budget Committee on Monday. Last week, the county's Property Committee voted to defer the matter until more information was available.

Wal-Mart eyes Columbia Avenue location – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/10/04 – FRANKLIN – Columbia Avenue could be one step closer to becoming Franklin's new retail center. Just as Parkway Commons starts to move dirt on its 232,000-square-foot Target- and Kroger-anchored retail center, the city of Franklin planning department has confirmed that Wal-Mart has submitted an informal plan for the adjoining property now occupied by Through The Green.

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other preservation purposes. The property may be considered for designation as a park to be used by the general public for education, passive recreation, picnicking, hiking, nature study and bird watching.

The Heritage Foundation purchased the 56.7 acres of Roper's Knob in two tracts: one in December 1995 and another in early 1996. In September of 1996, it conveyed to the state of Tennessee a little over 22 acres, which included the historical earthworks at the top of the hill.

The three entities involved – The Heritage Foundation, The City of Franklin, and The Land Trust for Tennessee will have to decide the future of the property. The City of Franklin has acted to accept the property with a conservation easement. The conservation easement has been written as a quitclaim deed, which is a way to grant ownership privileges. Brian Echols who represents Sites & Harbison, the firm that has prepared the conservation easement stated: "The ultimate objective is to preserve a gateway into Franklin and to cooperate with the state... in preserving the historical aspects of the sites."

We will continue to update you on this developing story.

Country Club Members Oppose Battlefield Restoration

Members of the Country Club of Franklin told city leaders they oppose a city plan for purchase of their golf course as part of a plan for restoration of the eastern flank of the Civil War battlefield. "We don't think the real interest is preservation of battlefield," the group spokesman said during the city board's period for public comment. "We think it's the preservation of land in front of Carnton (Plantation). If Heller wants to do this with his money or with private money, that's one thing. When you talk about using public money, it changes." He pointed to a copy of an 1864 map from the Library of Congress and said the battlefield wasn't as close to Carnton to justify a battlefield park. Robert Hicks, a past Carnton Association president, disagreed and read a statement on the preservation of the eastern flank provided by Ed Bearss, retired chief historian for the National Park Service.

Speaking in favor of the City's possible intention to purchase the property, Robert Hicks stated, "The ground embraced by the Country Club of Franklin played a crucial role in the Battle of Franklin. It is one of the very few large pieces of the battlefield... that retains the integrity of the time and place of the moment in American history."



A view from The Carnton Cemetery that borders the Country Club of Franklin

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