



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

June 2005

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

It seems that here in Franklin there aren't any "down" months anymore. With Collins' Farm fundraising, repairs and maintenance, the approaching July deadline for purchasing the 112 acres of core battlefield on Lewisburg Pike, considering other parcels and projects, and trying to "look over the horizon" for the next development encroachment, it is a "full-time" job for our part-time, all-volunteer organization.

There is much exciting news in this month's newsletter. I hope you share in the excitement and the satisfaction when you read it, for you deserve much of the credit.

I must take a moment and thank two of our board members, without whom Collins' Farm and many other successes would not have been possible. Our "two guys named Sam," Sam Huffman and Sam Gant, give of their time, efforts, and resources on a daily basis, and have done so for years now. When you see them at a tour or event, give them a well-deserved pat on the back.

Now on to our news!

Joe Smyth

Breaking News: Collins' Farm – We Now Own It!

Exciting news – STFB has paid off the Collins' Farm mortgage!. As you know from past newsletters, STFB members and supporters have labored mightily the past four years to buy these 3.22 acres of the Franklin Battlefield, including a historic house and two outbuildings.

STFB members from all across the nation have sponsored fund-raising projects to support this purchase, and local STFB sponsored projects have included Reenactors' Marches, our world famous Civil War in Middle Tennessee Day-by-Day Calendar, and a zillion booth setups at Civil War shows and other events. The broad and steadfast support of the STFB membership, heritage groups, reenacting units, and Civil War Roundtables nationwide cannot be overstated. These stout and loyal supporters of the Franklin Battlefield have placed Collins' Farm in the 'Saved' column once and for all.

Purchased for \$227,000 in June 2001, the property is located at Lewisburg Pike and the CSX railroad. This is near the east end of the main trench line and is the ground that Loring's Division crossed to attack into the Osage orange abatis in front of the Federal trenches. All during this final approach of this massed assault across the golf course and Collins' Farm, Loring's men were under heavy fire from Federal rifled artillery located in Fort Granger and along the low ridge east of the fort.

The original house was built in 1866/67 we think, and had rooms added several times in the 1920's and 1940's. There may have been a pre-war house on the foundation that was destroyed before or during the Battle of Franklin. We believe the dug well on the south side of the house was there during the battle, and is referred to by wounded Confederate soldiers.

This past February, a severe storm cast a huge 90' pecan tree onto the west end of the house utterly destroying the add-on kitchen, all utility connections, and also damaging the main house itself. The house had been rented to help pay the ongoing carrying costs of the purchase, but the damage

rendered the entire house unusable. We thank the Lord no one was injured by the storm.

These past four months have been consumed with talks and tours with insurance agents, historic renovation experts, contractors, city codes people, and concerned STFB members trying to determine the best way to proceed. At last, and with much input from friends of the battlefield, a plan of action has come together and been adopted by the STFB Board.

With our current focus of raising funds for the golf course purchase, the STFB Board decided to use the insurance settlement to retire the mortgage on Collins' Farm and do only minimal repairs until the golf course deal is sealed. This minimizes the financial drain of ongoing carrying costs of a mortgage without a renter. The net STFB financial position is that we own Collins' Farm outright, and the bulk of our new donations go to the golf course purchase. This seemed the best use of our very precious donations.

So for now, we will remove the damaged 'modern' portions of the house and do the repairs necessary to stabilize and weatherproof the historic 'footprint'. Sometime in the future, we will have to raise funds necessary to restore the exterior appearance of the original house. That's the part we want to keep, if at all possible. We will decide sometime in the future what we should do with the undamaged 'modern' structures.

After the golf course is purchased, and after Collins' Farm is cleared of the storm damage, we plan to have a mortgage burning celebration on the property – probably in September. We will be sure to let you know the exact date because we want each and every STFB member and supporter to be there. You deserve it!!!

Big Thank You Goes To

The Sam Davis Camp of the SCV for their donation of \$650 for the purchase of the golf course in Franklin as a Battlefield Park. Located in Brentwood, and with more than 130 members, this Camp also owns and maintains the park on Winstead Hill, from where Hood watched as his troops

assaulted the Federal line in Franklin.

STFB Board Member Greg Wade visited the group in May and spoke of the ongoing efforts by STFB, Franklins Charge, and other preservation groups in Franklin. The group formally voted to make the donation, and several members and officers expressed their heartfelt support for the battlefield preservation efforts in Franklin. Another thank you goes to Greg Wade who generously gives his time to 'carry the Franklin message' to other preservation and historical groups.

Another Big Thank You goes to the Kendall Berry Charitable Trust. Trustee Alan Berry, who helps manage the Trust, had seen several newspaper articles about STFB and Franklin's Charge and called last month to learn more about the two organizations and their preservation projects. He said that the Trust is always searching for candidate projects that have a lasting effect beyond the initial gift and thought battlefield preservation was a worthy idea to consider. After a wonderful phone conversation, Trustee Berry offered, and sent, a donation of \$1,000 to STFB for the purchase of the golf course as a Battlefield Park.

Collins' Farm TLC-DAY Sat. July 9

The Collins' Farm grounds are badly in need of some TLC—that's Tough, Laborious Cleanup!

Come and join in the hands-on, TLC experience of preserving a battlefield site. Site cleanup is a real part of battlefield preservation. We hope that many STFB members and friends from Franklin, Williamson County, Nashville, and other nearby places will come to help in preserving the Collins' Farm, Battle of Franklin site.

Perhaps by TLC-DAY, the debris will be cleared from around the house; however, the cleanup will concentrate on the grounds, front and back, and around the back wings of the house. Please come help clear away overgrowth, shrubs, rocks, and other things that impede mowing.

Bring leather gloves, weed eaters, chainsaws, tree saws, pruners, mattocks, shovels, spades, rakes, wheelbarrows, and any other type of cleanup equipment that you may think will be useful.

Franklin Battlefield makes Tennessee Endangered site list.

By Gregory L. Wade

NASHVILLE, Tennessee-The Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT) announced it's 2005 endangered list of the top ten Tennessee historical sites at a recent Nashville press conference. Included in this list of ten are the Battle of Franklin sites located about twenty miles south of Nashville. Patrick McIntyre, Executive Director of the TPT, says the primary threat is lack of "formal protection." However, he is optimistic about the future with the work now being done on the eastern flank and the local efforts to save 110 acres now used as a golf course. Noting the potential value of tourism a preserved battlefield may bring, McIntyre said, "We must take the long term view in the importance of this type of industry. There is no expiration date for heritage tourism. On the other hand, a shopping center is only good for a few years." He cited other critical pieces of property in the Franklin area that are destined for development if not protected in the next few years.

Another threatened site with indirect ties to the Civil War is Mount Olivet Cemetery. The 1850s era Gothic style cemetery office and chapel, designed by Hugh C. Thompson who built other significant Nashville structures such as the Grand Ole Opry's Ryman Auditorium, is in very poor condition and may be demolished. Those interred in the cemetery include about 1500 Confederate soldiers as well as seven Confederate Generals and other well known state leaders..

In attendance at the press conference were civic leaders from across the state as well as preservationists and historians interested in saving Tennessee's historic treasures. This is the fifth year the organization has released its top ten endangered locations. While homes are often noted, there **are** a wide variety of structures including old mining sites, a 1920's era school named after Medal of Honor winner Alvin York and a vacant former Sears store in Memphis with its Art Deco construction.

"Our goal as an organization is to bring state wide awareness to inspire local efforts. Some of these sites have organized preservation initiatives while

others have positive potential. There is no point in listing a location if there is no potential of saving it," McIntyre stated. The list is selected by an anonymous committee made up of a cross section of the preservation community. Nominations to be considered are submitted by public and private groups interested in historical preservation.

The TPT is an independent, **non** profit organization based in Nashville and works closely with various state and local organizations. It is the Statewide Partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The group currently claims over 500 members.

For more on the Tennessee Preservation Trust, check out their website at: www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org

New & Renewing Members May 2005

David & Kassie Berry	Jacksonville, FL
John Bigham	Columbia, SC
Mr & Mrs James Coomer	Franklin, TN
Christopher Cuomo	Thompsons Station, TN
David N Evans	Nashville, TN
Rosie Flite	Franklin, TN
Bobby & Yvonne Foster	Brentwood, TN
John Fristoe	Xenia, OH
Larry Edward Fugate	Millersville, TN
Dan Kolifrath	Nashville, TN
Spyros & Mavy Lezimis	Chicago, IL
John Moloski	Harrisonville, MO
Carroll & Jane Moore	Brentwood, TN
William & Cindy Morelli	Brentwood, TN
Spence & Susan Morgan	Mt Juliet, TN
Corey & Robynne Napier	Thompsons Station, TN
James Padfield	Springfield, TN
Rochelle Ramga	Auburn, AL
Margie & Mark Thessin	Franklin, TN
Stephen Tosterud	Bush, LA
Briant Wade Signal	Mountain, TN
Peter Wulfin	Centennial, CO

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

QTY	ITEM	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase (circle one)		
	1999 & 2000 Day By Day Civil War Calendar Set	\$5.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	Commemorative Belt Buckle	\$10.00	
	NEW!! ~ Battle of Franklin Map ~ laminated & in full color	\$6.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Franklin" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Shiloh" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Ft. Donalson" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Stones River" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	NEW!! ~ "Eyewitness to the Battle of Nashville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	<i>Cleburne or Forrest</i> Prints, signed by the artist (circle one ~ or both for \$30)	\$20.00	
	ORDER SUBTOTAL		
	SHIPPING & HANDLING (items only) ~ under 10.00	\$1.00	
	\$10 to 24.99	\$2.95	
	\$25 and up	\$4.50	
	ORDER TOTAL		

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065-0851
STFB Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

June 2005



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Urgent Notice !!!

Dear Save The Franklin Battlefield Member—

We need your help! You may have given to help Save The Franklin Battlefield in the past, or you may be considering doing so in the future. In either case we need your help today.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, as part of the Franklin Charge coalition of preservation groups, has spent the past year raising funds to purchase 112 acres of *core battlefield* along the Lewisburg Pike.

This land is the killing zone Maj. General W.W. Loring's Confederate division crossed under fire from multiple Union batteries and advanced infantry on the final approach to the Federal works on the fateful afternoon of November 30, 1864.

Of this ground Private Joseph Nicholas Thompson of the 35th Alabama Infantry remembered, "We had not gone far before the artillery opened on us.... I remember casting my eyes down the regiment and seeing almost the entire right bow to it, after they had found the range, and almost every shot left a gap in our lines." Captain Alonzo D. Harvey, commanding the 15th Indiana Battery, part of the Federal batteries raining down death onto Featherston's, Scott's and Adams brigades, observed, "As Fort Granger was on a high hill, we had the most beautiful sight of the bloodiest battle that has been fought since gunpowder has been invented – the battle of Franklin."

Brig. General Jacob Cox of the 23rd Federal Corps remembered, "...the sharp, continuous, grinding rattle of the musketry combined with the cannon roar.... The fight here was bitter and stubborn."

With your help, this land will be preserved and restored, and we will finally have a field at Franklin for you and future generations of Americans to walk upon and contemplate the sacrifices of brave Americans both North and South.

Along with historic Carnton Plantation, Collins' Farm (purchased and secured from development by us four years ago), and future additions, this property will constitute essentially the Eastern Flank of the Franklin battlefield. An on-site building will most likely become a Battle of Franklin interpretive center.

Save The Franklin Battlefield and Franklin's Charge have secured a commitment from the City of Franklin to match half of the \$5 million purchase price, provided we raise the other \$2.5 million by July. We have amazingly raised \$2 million so far, but time is running out. Your gift today or a pledge over the next five years, will be doubled by the City, and will help create a "field" for the Franklin Battlefield. Please remember also that your donation is fully tax-deductible, as Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) all-volunteer organization.

Time is of the essence. Please consider helping us in any way that you can by returning the completed bottom portion of this page with your most generous possible donation or pledge as soon as you can. Thank you very much!

Respectfully yours,

Joseph Smyth III
President
Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

YOU'RE INVITED!!!

On Thursday, June 30th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Franklin's Charge is hosting a reception at Historic Carnton Plantation to thank those who have contributed to this fundraising effort. Please come and be our guest if you have already made a gift or pledge, or bring the form below with you if you are making one. We look forward to seeing you there!!

(Please detach and return the portion below with your generous donation)

BATTLEFIELD ALERT REPLY FORM

Yes! I want to help Save The Franklin Battlefield save this *priceless* portion of the Franklin Battlefield. Here is my contribution of:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	Other amount:\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to pledge \$_____ over the next ____ years.		

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc
PO Box 851
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For more information call: 615-500-6612
Please visit our website at: www.franklin-stfb.org