



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

September 2005

[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--

The cooler nights here in Middle Tennessee let us know that the fall season is about to begin. I am always excited and energized by our annual fall activities.

On Saturday, October 22, we will dovetail two very important events to the life and livelihood of Save The Franklin Battlefield. The day begins with our annual Reenactors March for Preservation. This is our largest fund raising event each year, and allows us to continue funding our battlefield preservation efforts. This year in addition to asking for your donations, we are inviting you and others to join us in securing pledges and marching the final two miles from Winstead Hill to Collins' Farm along with us. Please consider joining us in either or both of these. You—our membership—are key to our efforts and successes.

Speaking of successes, the second event of the day will be a "Mortgage Burning" celebration at the Collins' Farm. At 3:00 p.m., upon the arrival of our marchers, we will celebrate the mortgage pay-off and note burning for Collins' Farm. We want all of our members to come and celebrate with us. You have made this purchase and preservation of core Franklin battlefield possible, and we want to share our thanks, and the thanks of the community, with you. There will be several guest speakers, light food, refreshments,

and a chance to walk the grounds, enjoy the day, and visit with preservation minded folks like yourself.

We want to extend our heartfelt invitation to you to participate in both events, and know that if distance precludes you from attending in person, you will be with us in spirit.

Most sincerely,

Joe Smyth

## 2005 Reenactors Preservation March for Franklin Approaches

Well, the time is nearly upon us! It is coming down to the wire for our Saturday, October 22, 2005 "Fifteen For Franklin" Preservation March. Can we count on you to pledge your kind support once again as we 'trudge' for history? Please send in your pledges and the state for which you are pledging as soon as possible, but know also that donations can be made after this march.

This event is our major fundraiser for the year, and we need your support now more than ever. We have a great

victory to celebrate this year in paying off the Collins Farm mortgage, and your generous donations have made that happen. There remain many battles to fight, however. This year's march will go towards stabilizing Collins' Farm and to rebuilding a "war chest" for saving and reclaiming more of the hallowed Franklin Battlefield.

This year we are inviting STFB members and the general public to come out and join us in the final two-mile leg of the journey. Please join our marchers at Winstead Hill, just south of Franklin on Columbia Ave./U.S. Highway 31 and behind the Tractor Supply store. We'll gather at 1:30 p.m. and prepare to make the final march. STFB representatives will be on hand to collect your cash or check donations. Please bring your family, co-workers, church friends, and neighbors, and put on your comfortable shoes and join us in marching for preservation. At 2:00 p.m., we'll step off for Collins' Farm, where refreshments will be available and everyone can join in the burning of our mortgage.

Given the tragedies of this hurricane season, please also consider bringing along three (3) canned goods to donate to Graceworks Ministries, who are helping out the displaced from Hurricane Katrina currently sheltered here in Franklin. Graceworks representatives will be on hand to collect your canned goods.

This will be a great day to help save and remember our nation's sacred yet endangered battlefields, as well as lend a hand to our unfortunate fellow Americans displaced from the recent storms. Please come and join with us!

David Fraley, marching for Tennessee (CS)

## *Why are we marching...?*

*"To resolutely walk the path that caused brother to reflect on brother...all they were taught to mean to each other. Their very sense of each other was challenged on that fateful day. They thought, I think, 'I will fight and I may die, but there's something I love, something that will last longer than I ever could...the chance to be the man I am.' I march for men who were many ages on that momentous day, but who became at once men of men."*

*-- Pastor Leonard Adams, marching for Confederate Louisiana*

*(with a houseful of New Orleans family)*



## Mortgage Note Burning at Collins' Farm

On October 22, 2005, STFB celebrates an important milestone in our efforts to save the Franklin Battlefield—debt-free preservation of the Collins' Farm site, an important section of the Eastern Flank. A special invitation is extended to STFB members, their families and friends to the mortgage note burning celebration at Collins' Farm. Every STFB member has had a part in helping purchase this important site of the Battle of Franklin and many have made generous contributions. Our very name, Save The Franklin Battlefield, describes our combined efforts over the past sixteen years to make the public aware of Franklin Battlefield sites, to place markers identifying significant events in the Battle, to assist and promote Franklin's Charge and other Battlefield preservation organizations, and to purchase the important Collins' Farm Battle site.

Beginning about 3 p.m., events of the day at Collins' Farm will include informal tours of the Collins' Farm Battle site, lectures on both the Battle events on the site and the civilian history of the Farm, an address by Franklin City Mayor, Tom Miller, a welcoming to David Fraley and the Preservation Marchers as they complete their march from Spring Hill, civilian reenactors greeting the marchers, a Civil War reenactors' encampment, and the Note Burning. Refreshments will be served.

The mortgage note burning is the culmination of several years of effort on the part of STFB members, a significant setback, and an unexpected stroke of Nature. Several years ago, a three-acre tract of land, then called "Hyssop Hill," came on the real estate market. David Fraley researched Battle of Franklin action and found that significant troop movements and cannon and small arms fire had caused many casualties on that site, the northeastern part of Carnton Plantation. The house on the site is very old and believed to have stood during the Battle or rebuilt immediately after the War. In 1867, William Collins, the war-time manager of Carnton Plantation, purchased this part of the Plantation where he was thought to have lived there during the War — thus the name, "Collins' Farm." The STFB Board began negotiations to purchase the Battle site. After some months of negotiations, a generous benefactor and STFB member, Rob Hodges of Wide Awake Films, offered the proceeds from a sponsored march as a major part of the down payment. STFB became a heavily indebted landowner.

Through the years, STFB members, Civil War roundtables, reenacting groups, and other organizations contributed to pay down the mortgage. The house was also rented to bring in other monies. The co-sponsorship of the 140<sup>th</sup> Battle of Franklin Reenactment was supposed to bring in a sizeable amount, possibly enough to have paid off the mortgage, but the big bucks didn't materialize. For several years, David Fraley organized a "Forty for Franklin" reenactors' march, the large STFB fundraiser each year. By the end of 2004, STFB had paid down the mortgage to one half the original price. On February 21, 2005, disaster struck. In an early morning storm, a ninety-foot-tall pecan tree blew down crushing a wing of the house and heavily damaging the historic main part. The house was unlivable and thus not rentable. The city's codes department recommended demolishing the house. The insurance settlement was not sufficient to

*(Continued on page 3)*

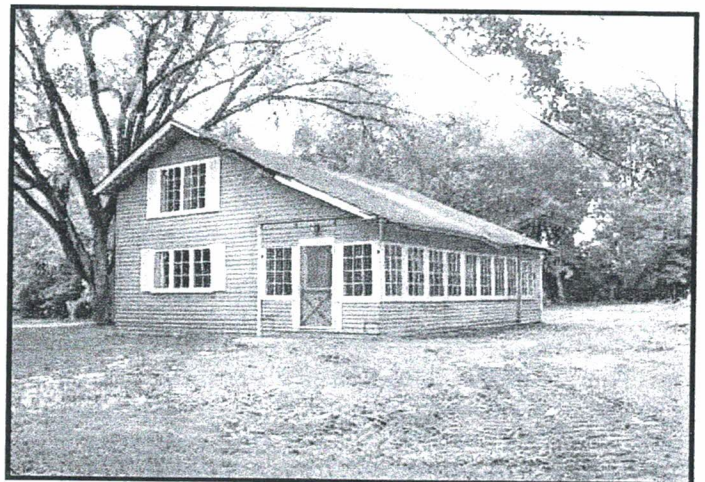
### *A chronology of events at the Collins' Farm ...*



*Before the storm....*



*After the storm...*



*Where we are now... Closer to the original layout of the Farmhouse... The plans for the future to be featured in next month's issue.*



(Continued from page 2)

rebuild—but it was enough to haul off the debris, to stabilize the historic part of the house and to allow us to pay off the mortgage—hence this Note Burning. The disaster has turned into a blessing.

STFB fundraising challenges on the Collins' Farm site now are to fund stabilization and restoration of the historic Collins' Farmhouse (note photos) and the old log shed as well as to continue bringing the grounds back to 1864 appearance. STFB will also continue to assist in the purchase of other Battle of Franklin sites as they become available, so donations from STFB members and other groups will continue to be used to preserve the hallowed ground on which so many suffered and died. Please continue to give as you are able, and please come and be our honored guest at this historic celebration!

[For more information, please call the STFB office at (615) 500-6612.]

### Mark Your Calendars!!!

Save The Franklin Battlefield will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the Historic Presbyterian Church at 435 Main Street in downtown Franklin.

Mark your calendars for November 13<sup>th</sup>, and we'll see you there!

### New & Renewing Members Aug. 2005

Steve Blume	Brentwood TN
Dave Bond	Beavercreek OH
Thomas Chance	Gadsden AL
Sara Edwards	Huntsville AL
Robert Ewing	Brentwood TN
Dennis Faught	Columbia MO
Julie Fleetly	Nashville TN
Brad Garicke	Alexandria VA
Gregg & Sigrid Hanson	Nevada IA
Herbert Harper	Franklin TN
Joseph L Hart	Anaheim Hills CA
The Marlin Family	Columbia TN
William Morgan	Franklin TN
Don & Judy Nall	Little Rock AR
Donald Orth	Gray TN
Jon & Nancy Schwartz	Nashville TN
Samuel A Smith, MD	Brentwood TN
The Sorensen Family	Franklin TN

### News In Review

**Future of former BGA campus can accommodate more than one idea — *Franklin Review Appeal* — 8/17/05 — FRANKLIN** — Editorial: Two measures are headed to the Williamson County Board of Commissioners in September regarding the future of the former Battle Ground Academy campus. One resolution is from the Williamson County Board of Education, which wants to spend \$1.7 million from its budget to renovate Peoples Hall on the former campus as a new home for Middle College High School. The other resolution will come from the County Commission's Property Committee to develop a plan for use of the entire former BGA site, which is located on Columbia Avenue near the Carter House on land which saw intense fighting during the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864. The resolutions seem to be at odds, but in fact, county commis-

sioners should OK both, but allow no other action on the site until a master plan is developed.

**Parks recommended for historic overlay — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/18/05 — FRANKLIN** — Members of Franklin's Historic Zoning Commission recommended this week at their monthly meeting that the city's park properties at Roper's Knob and Winstead Hill be included as part of the city's historic zoning overlay district. That recommendation now goes to the city's Planning Commission for approval.

**National battlefield park idea first birthed by Daughters — *Franklin Review Appeal* — 8/20/05 — FRANKLIN** — The effort by Franklin's Charge to raise \$5 million for the purchase of land to create a battlefield park in Franklin to commemorate the Nov. 30, 1864, Civil War battle is not the first such effort to create such a facility. In early 1866, Col. John McGavock and his wife, Carrie, donated two acres of land for a Confederate cemetery near their family cemetery at Carnton. The next great effort to commemorate the battle was the erection of the Confederate Monument on the town's Public Square by Chapter 14 of the UDC to coincide with the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle on Nov. 30, 1899. The first real effort to create a national battlefield park happened when, in 1909, Mrs. Tennie Pinkerton Dozier, president of Chapter 14, UDC, headed a special National Parks Committee of the UDC to persuade Congress to create a park. In 1925, another effort was launched for a battlefield park, but, according to Rick Warwick, it was not endorsed locally and did not advance very far in congressional circles. The next effort came in the late 1930's as a "final, futile attempt" for the Franklin battlefield.

**Middle College takes next step toward old BGA site — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/25/05 — FRANKLIN** — The County Commission's Education Committee unanimously passed a \$1.7 million budget resolution to remodel the Peoples Building on the former BGA campus into a space for Middle College High School. The resolution now goes to the full commission next month for final approval before actual construction work can begin on the interior of the building.

**Gill, Grant, Michahart concert described as 'last surge' for Franklin's Charge — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/26/05 — FRANKLIN** — Organizers of an expansion of the third of the four-part Westhaven Sunset Concert series on the lawn at Historic Carnton Plantation describe the event as the "last surge" in the effort by Franklin's Charge to reclaim a portion of the 1864 Battle of Franklin site. \$2.5 million has been pledged to purchase the battlefield park. This event will be a part of Franklin's Charge's last push to raise another \$400,000 to seal the purchase. Those funds must be acquired by November.

**Your Voices: The Battle of Franklin goes nationwide — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/28/05 — FRANKLIN** — *The Widow of the South*, a major novel centered around the Battle of Franklin, is taking the story of the city's 1864 tragedy to a popular audience nationwide. The book's release coincides with a major effort to reclaim and preserve battlefield land that surrounds the book's main setting. All these things are coming together at the same time. Are there some things the county and the city should do to capitalize on this synchronization of events? Should efforts be done more rapidly to avoid missing something? What about the private sector? Are there projects private developers or companies could do in the interest of preservation that would help?

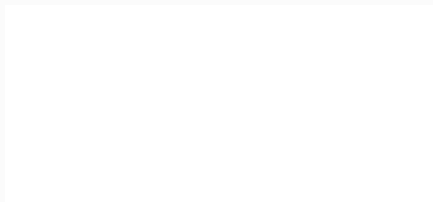


# Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

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	
	<b>NEW!!</b> ~ Battle of Franklin Map ~ laminated & in full color	\$6.00	
	<b>NEW!!</b> ~ "Battle of Franklin – Five Hours in the Valley of Death" DVD	\$25.00	
	"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	
	<b>NEW!!</b> ~ "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.



SEPTEMBER 2005

www.franklin-stfb.org

PO Box 851  
 Franklin, TN 37065-0851



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD