

# The Battle of Franklin

## Ongoing projects:

- publishing a monthly newsletter
- staging public education events
- conducting public tours of the main battlefield and of the fields of lesser known engagements in Williamson County
- erecting historical markers at significant locations on the battlefield
- joining financially with other non-profit groups to buy battlefield parcels

## Recent Success: Battlefield parcel saved !

STFB has purchased 3.3 acres of core battlefield at Franklin, known today as Collins Farm which was in danger of being lost to development. On November 30, 1864, the extreme Confederate right advanced under artillery fire through Collins Farm across the Nashville and Decatur Railroad tracks to face Osage Orange abatis and entrenched Union forces equipped with repeating rifles. The troops made the final 60 yards with fixed bayonets to face withering rifle fire that "swept our ranks like hail". To escape the enfilading rifles, survivors fell back to the ravine on Collins Farm still under artillery fire. STFB plans to interpret the Collins Farm site with signage and to open the grounds to the public. Although the mortgage has been paid off, much work remains to preserve and restore the Collins Farm property and farmhouse to its original appearance.

## Williamson County Civil War Battles:

- Battle of Thompson's Station, March 4-5, 1863
- Battle of Brentwood, March 25, 1863
- First Battle of Franklin, April 10, 1863
- Second Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864
- Retreat from Nashville, December 16-17, 1864

For a listing of saved and endangered Williamson County Civil War Sites, visit our web site [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

Save The Franklin Battlefield , Inc.  
PO Box 851  
Franklin TN 37065-0851



On November 30, 1864, 100 regiments of the South's best soldiers, 20,000 men in all, deployed along a two-mile-wide front and began a spectacular converging assault upon 17,000 Federals strongly entrenched on the southern edge of the small town of Franklin, Tennessee.

What occurred over the next five hours at Franklin was one the great cataclysmic tragedies of the American Civil War. For the size of the forces engaged and the short duration of the fighting, the Battle of Franklin ranks among the great blood baths of the Civil War, or of any other American war. This horrific battering of the Confederate Army of Tennessee at Franklin and its near-disintegration two weeks later after the Battle of Nashville essentially ended the war in the Western Theater.

Yet despite its significance in our American history, almost all of the Franklin Battlefield has become suburban neighborhoods and small business establishments. The few parcels which remain are fast being lost to development. As you read this, the fate of this precious ground on which so many Americans fought and died is still very much in doubt.

*Who will ensure that these sites will not be trampled under the relentless march of economic development here in Williamson County??*

# Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc.



is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization consisting entirely of volunteers, with members nationwide and from several foreign countries, dedicated to the preservation, protection, and promotion of Civil War sites in Williamson County, Tennessee.

Since 1989, STFB has worked in close cooperation with local governments and local, state and national historical preservation organizations to raise awareness, educate, and build support for the need to save this and other significant sites.

As a result, recent polls of Williamson County voters now show strong support for public funding of a Civil War Battlefield Park in the County. Additionally, through the generous contributions of STFB members, several parcels of the Franklin Battlefield have been purchased and are now protected.

### Time is of the Essence

While there have been some recent successes, there is much left to be done. Franklin and all of Williamson County currently face intense pressures for development of the few remaining undeveloped Civil War sites. We need your support to prevent the loss of what remains.

Together we can preserve these sites for our children and future generations of Americans.

Please join with us!

### For More Information

If you would like additional information on helping to save the Franklin Battlefield:

Please visit our web site at:

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

Or contact us:

[info@franklin-stfb.org](mailto:info@franklin-stfb.org)

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(615) 500-6612

*"Battles great for conception or political results, ought to be studied; but those that save should be commemorated and celebrated. We owe admiration to the first; gratitude to the others.*

*Franklin was essentially a battle that saved, and as such must be classified as second only to Gettysburg in importance during the entire war."*

--Maj. Arthur MacArthur, Jr.  
(wounded at Franklin -- the father of Gen. Douglas MacArthur)

## Save the Franklin Battlefield Inc Membership Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$20    Family \$30    Corporate \$50

Pay to / Mail to:

Membership \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

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All Donations are Tax Deductible  
Thanks for your Support!