

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

April 2006

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

What a glorious day we spent in the afternoon sun touring the Federal earthworks at Triune. In the peaceful quiet of the sparse woods, it was hard to picture 30,000 men assembling there to step off on the Tullahoma Campaign of 1863. It was amazing to see the remains of the stone powder magazine and other piled stone, and to think that the last hands to touch them were those of a Civil War soldier some 143 years ago.

STFB will be there as the efforts to protect this important site come together. And I know you'll be there with us.

By the time you read this, we will have held a "rock clearing" at Collins' Farm, and tours of Fort Granger during Franklin's Arbor Day festivities.

All of these events are part of our ongoing campaign to publicize all our Civil War sites here in Williamson County that need to be preserved, and to be good stewards of the sites that have been preserved. Thanks for being such a part of these efforts. I hope to see many of you on May 13th at Thompson's Station!

Joe Smyth

Thompson's Station Festival and Tour

On Saturday, May 13th, Save The Franklin Battlefield will run an informational table at the annual Thompson's Station Festival. As part of the event, we will give short tours of the Battle of Thompson's Station from the train depot at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

On March 4, 1863, a strong Federal force of 1,500 troops had left Franklin to reconnoiter and forage for food toward Columbia. The next day, at the Battle of Thompson's Station, they encountered and were surrounded by General Van Dorn's cavalry under W. H. Jackson and Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Federal cavalry escaped, but infantry with a battery of artillery was forced to surrender.

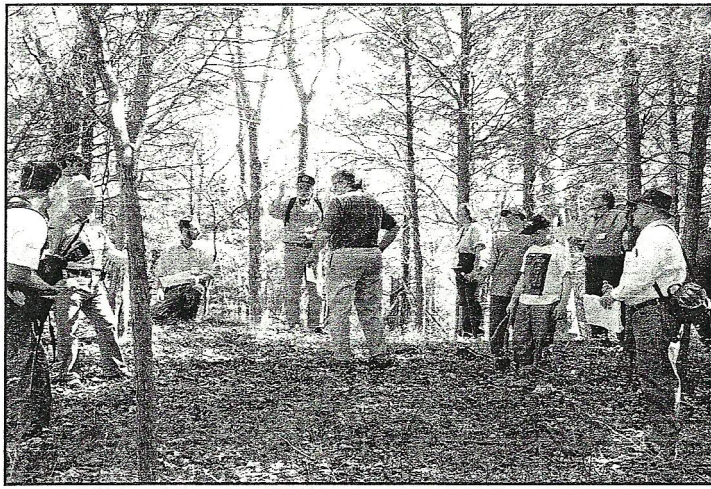
The view from the reconstructed railroad station is essentially the same as Whitfield's Texans saw on

March 5, 1863 as they watched the men of the 33rd and 85th Indiana cross the field towards them. Today, these same fields are in great danger of disappearing under unprecedented growth. Unfortunately, there is not currently a "Friends of the Thompson's Station Battlefield" organization in place to defend against this attack.

Please join us on May 13th to raise awareness of and make a stand for the Thompson's Station battlefield. We hope to see you there!

New & Renewing Members March 2006

Phil Allen	South Bend IN
James W Barrow	Miami FL
Jack & Wanda Bartlett	Sherman TX
LTC(R) John & Linda Brewer	Fairview TN
Dr Michael Brown	Chattanooga TN
Steve Dixon	Charlotte NC
John Duffer	Nashville TN
Misty Hollow Enterprises	Carrilton TX
Wayne & Dee Hammons	Franklin TN
Robert Hicks	Franklin TN
Bruce & Bonnie Hohler	Thompsons Station TN
Robert J Irvin	Warrior AL
Robert D Jenkins Sr	Dalton GA
Lawrence Kasten	Cape Girardeau MO
David Kibittlewski	Round Lake IL
Patricia Knapp	Nashville TN
Ken Knouf	Madison IN
Bob Lessel	Bartlett TN
Ross Massey	Nashville TN
Corey Miller	Sullivan MO
Dan & Linda Mora	Franklin TN
Jason Moritz	Clarksville TN
Gale & Lyn Pewitt	Naperville IL
Rochelle Ramga	Auburn AL
Jerry & Debbie Raymer	Nashville TN
John Riopelle	Delmar NY
Richard & Ellen Rust	Franklin TN
Dick Staley	Diamond Bar CA
Gilbert M Sullivan	Birmingham AL
J T & Susan Thompson	Nashville TN
James K Turner	Franklin TN
Gary Waddey	Nashville TN
Greg Wade	Franklin TN
Walter Wallace	Franklin TN
Craig & Patricia Young	Franklin TN



Collins' Farm—2006

Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of many STFB members and a big boost from Mother Nature, Collins' Farm is slowly returning to its 19th-century appearance and the grounds are beginning to look more like a battlefield park.

When STFB purchased this Civil War site, it was quite thoroughly overgrown. The overgrowth was so bad that a former state agricultural official predicted that years in the future our grandchildren would still be clearing the site. Japanese Honeysuckle and Privet Hedge had encroached upon the entire site. The field near the railroad where in 1864 the wounded soldiers had lain as cannon shot rained around them was nearly covered with bushes. The railroad itself was obscured behind scrub trees and Privet. Similar growth in what once had been a beautifully landscaped area behind the house made mowing and upkeep nearly impossible. Now most of this overgrowth has been removed along with the stumps, rocks, and piles of trash which were scattered across the grounds. In a few days, the ground will be graded, smoothed, and seeded in preparation for mowing.

Through the hard work of an Eagle Scout candidate, his assistant Scout Master, other members of the troop, and a dedicated friend, the old well now has a sturdy rock curb. A well house still needs to be constructed.

The farmhouse sits on its original footprint, free of its 20th Century appurtenances. The once-open front porch, however, remains clad in glass, and windows from a seventy- or seventy-five-year-old renovation appear throughout the house. For the time being, the south wing still remains on site as a free-standing unit, but in the future all or part of the wing will be moved or demolished. With some generous donations and help, some day in the future the historic house will be returned to its original appearance. This is another volunteer project for STFB members to scrape, prime, and paint the house. Perhaps the historic house could be painted in Victorian colors as another step in returning it to its original appearance.

We give a big "Thank You" to the STFB members who over the past years have put in the countless hours to bring the Collins' Farm Battle of Franklin Civil War site to its present condition. And we also wish to thank those who have contributed the funds essential for materials, supplies, and certain work. But we also ask you and many other STFB members and friends to continue working on the "Farm" and giving the funds to complete the Collins' Farm restoration. Come join us in a Collins' Farm workday or in contributing to Collins' Farm restoration.

Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission, Fred Prouty explains the significance of the Triune Earthworks during the tour on Saturday April 1, 2006

Tour of Triune Earthworks

April 1 in Triune, Tennessee saw 50 brave souls tramping the low ridge north-east of the town's crossroad. They were following and listening to Fred Prouty, Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission explain the construction and Civil War events related to these extensive earthworks.

The Triune earthworks, long hidden beneath forest, are said to be some of most extensive remaining works in the South. Even the oldtimers were impressed with the tour. "I had never seen these before. And I had no idea of the extent and condition of these fortifications," said Bobby Hargrove, himself a native of nearby Franklin and STFB Board Member.

STFB made some new friends, sold a few books and maps, but most importantly had six new members sign up to join our future efforts. Many attendees made it a point to thank Fred for the excellent tour, and for STFB arranging it. The earthworks are on private land and tours can only be arranged every few years. A huge STFB thank you goes to Fred Prouty for helping us schedule the tour and arranging perfect weather.

Two of Our Good Ones Are Gone

Sadly, we learned in March that two of our long time members and most ardent and faithful supporters passed away recently. John Carlson of Saint Paul, MN died last December, and Ethel Baxter of North Hills, CA in January 2006. John visited Franklin several times and funded the STFB historical marker near the Carter House on Columbia Avenue, and the Collins Farm marker on Lewisburg Pike. Ethel was Life member of the Carter House and The Battle of Franklin Descendant group. Both felt a strong tie to Franklin and were frequent visitors to, and good friends of, the Franklin Battlefield

New Book on Franklin & Spring Hill

STFB member, volunteer, and new Williamson County resident Eric Jacobson has written *For Cause & For Country*, an exhaustive study of the battles of Spring Hill and Franklin. Rather than focusing on the entire Tennessee Campaign, the book details the genesis of the campaign and what unfolded at Spring Hill and Franklin.

"Omitting what happened at Nashville and the subsequent Confederate retreat allows the reader, I believe, to understand more fully what occurred in November 1864," says Jacobson. "I believe Spring Hill and Franklin deserve to be studied independently of Nashville. This is the only book ever written that covers just the November 29 and 30 battles and is footnoted, including a bibliography."

The 519-page book, a 10-year undertaking, cites more than 325 individual sources. It also contains a number of black and white and color photographs. Thomas Cartwright calls the book "...a thought provoking, moving, and unbiased account of both Spring Hill and Franklin and the commanders involved. You can almost hear the roar of artillery and small arms fire in the Valley of Death that was Franklin."

The book, Jacobson's first, is available in both hard cover and paperback, at The Carter House and Historic Carnton Plantation's gift shops.

News In Review

Group's proposal seeks to make battlefield site a reflective place — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 3/19/06 — FRANKLIN — a cannonball pyramid, cedar-rail fencing and daffodil beds are some of the features spelled out in a proposal for a battle field park along Columbia Avenue that's now commonly known as the Pizza Hut property. The biggest change? City leaders want folks to stop calling it the Pizza Hut property. Instead, they hope people will refer to the park as the Cleburne site or something similar to that.

Reconfigured BGA — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 3/31/06 — FRANKLIN — Students at Middle College High School now have a place of their own at Academy Park. The roughly 150 teens will return from spring break Monday and see the newly renovated classrooms inside Peoples Hall at the former battle Ground Academy campus.

Historic Triune earthworks stirs imagination of preservationists — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 4/4/06 — FRANKLIN — On Saturday, Joe Smyth, president of Save The Franklin Battlefield, was part of a group of 50 people who toured the Federal earthworks which were built on three hilltops just north of Triune. These earthworks were built in 1863 and were the

major staging area for 10,000 Federal troops who fought against the Confederate army. Redoubts, artillery positions and powder magazines were connected by trenches and rifle pits. Smyth hopes to raise awareness and see this land preserved for future generations.

Twenty-five communities get preservation grants — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 4/7/06 — FRANKLIN — Gov. Phil Bredesen along with the Tennessee Historical Commission recently announced a total of 25 communities receiving grants that will go to programs and activities that support the preservation of historical and archeological sites, districts and structures. In Williamson County, the city of Franklin will receive \$7,500 to produce a public education resource guide and sponsor technical public education sessions by invited experts.

'The Widow of the South' attracts international guests to Carnton — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 4/7/06 — FRANKLIN — Rudi and Rita Schneider, German journalists, learned about the novel and the real-life story it's based on from a foreign representative for the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development at an international tourist fair in Berlin. From that introduction, the Schneiders decided to book a flight to Tennessee and meet with Hicks. Earlier this week, Hicks met with French journalists from magazines including *Elle* and *Marie Claire*. Reporters from other countries may continue to flood into Franklin in the coming months as Italian, Turkish, and Chinese translations are published throughout the year.

Group to honor Confederate veterans — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 4/7/06 — FRANKLIN — Capt. Ed Baxter, Camp 2034 Sons of Confederate Veterans of Fairview, will place military stones on the graves of area Confederate veterans, Pvt. William Hartwell Hayes of Co. C, 11th Tenn. Inf. Reg. and Pvt. John Sutton of Co. I, 11th Tenn. Inf. Reg. A 21-gun salute by Confederate re-enactors will be part of the memorial service.

Upcoming Events...

April 22 — STFB Arbor Day Table and Fort Granger Tour at Pinkerton Park in Franklin from 10AM to 2PM.

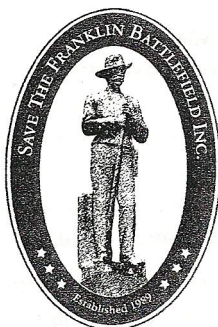
May 8 — STFB Board Meeting at the Heritage Foundation Office located in the rear of the US Post Office at Five Points in Franklin at 6:30PM.

May 13 — STFB Thompson's Station Festival Table & Battlefield Tour from 9AM-6PM.

May 14 — Civil War Bookclub at Landmark Books (114 East Main Street, Franklin; 791-6400) at 3PM. For more information email GregLWade@yahoo.com.

For more information, visit the website <http://www.franklin-stfb.org/calendar.htm>

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APRIL 2006



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

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	
	NEW!! ~ "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. Donelson" ~ 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	
	Cleburne or Forrest Prints, signed by the artist (circle one ~ or both for \$30)	\$20.00	
	ORDER SUBTOTAL		
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	\$10 to 24.99	\$2.95	
	\$25 and up	\$4.50	
	ORDER TOTAL		

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