



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

December 2006

www.franklin-stfb.org

Dedicated to the preservation, protection, and promotion of
Civil War sites in Williamson County, Tennessee

Dear STFB Member,

I hope this newsletter finds each and every one of you safe, warm, and ready for the Holidays.

Even with the bustle of the season approaching, Franklin has been abuzz with Civil War events since late last month. First we had the preparations leading up to the Battle of Franklin Anniversary Memorial, the Memorial itself, the “Two Flags Over Tennessee” events, The Carter House Candlelight tour, and the Nashville Civil War Show—all within one week!

Our STFB board and volunteers truly went above and beyond on supporting these events with their time, and their Herculean efforts. Two special volunteers lighting luminaries in the Franklin Square were Bob and Nell Harvey, in from California to participate and help with the Anniversary Memorial. A ‘tip of the kepi’ to all our STFB workers.

And finally, another ‘tip of the kepi’ and special thanks go out to all of you, our general membership, who year after year make a difference here in Franklin with your membership and your gifts. Your support makes all we do possible, and together we can continue to Save The Franklin Battlefield.

Have a wonderful and meaningful Holiday Season!

Joe Smyth

Mark Your Calendars!

On June 22 and 23, 2007 Franklin’s Charge will be sponsoring a Battle of Franklin Symposium Weekend. The event will include battlefield tours, lectures by prominent historians, Civil War era entertainment, banquets, luncheons, and other special opportunities.

If you can make it to Franklin for just one weekend next year, make it this one! Watch this newsletter for future updates on this very special event.

Franklin Memorial Highlights Battle Casualties

On November 30, the Battle of Franklin's 142nd anniversary, STFB volunteers and many others worked with one eye on the weather while placing 10,000 candle luminaries around the town square in honor of the dead, wounded, and missing resulting from the 1864 carnage. Wind, cold, and rain were forecasted, but Franklin residents were determined the event would take place regardless.

A large group of STFB volunteers came together on the Tuesday night previous to assemble 2,500 luminaries, fully one quarter of the total, and ready them for deployment into the square at noon on the 30th. The weather held and after a Herculean effort by all involved, the square was filled with the 10,000 glowing luminaries

After opening comments by Franklin Mayor Tom Miller, Confederate and Union bands marched into the city center from the north and the south, accompanied by respective color guards, and assembled at the base of the monument. The two bands alternated playing Northern and Southern tunes such as the "Red, White and Blue", the "Bonnie Blue Flag," and "Stonewall Jackson's Way". The two bands finally formed a "reconciliation" band to play "Home Sweet Home", the "Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful."

After the bands finished, church bells began tolling in the gathering dusk. "These luminaries represent 10,000 husbands, brothers and sons," Mayor Miller noted in his remarks to the crowd, "I hope we can do this every year."



November 30th ceremony showing the color guards and the Confederate monument

Carter House acquires 1864 garden site

The Carter House Association has acquired part of the F. B. Carter garden site. This half-acre area was the scene of some of the most intense fighting along the breastworks in the vicinity of the Carter House.

Thomas Cartwright, Executive Director of the Carter House, stated that they had long wished to have this area to better interpret the part of the battle which

raged around the Carter House. But with the board privacy fence screening the area and the two structures located there, they had largely ignored this part of the interpretation.

Having the garden area will also greatly help in developing the restoration plans for the Carter House grounds. This restoration to the 1864 appearance will allow interpretation of much more of the Carter House property. The plans tentatively include restoring the contour of the ground, reconstructing of some of Carter's outbuildings, acknowledging the location of a small dwelling on the north side of the grounds, reconstructing the earthworks on the southwestern part of the property, relocating parking, removing the current visitor center, and renovating the old high school gymnasium for a new visitor center.

Wide Awake Films Donates \$2,500

Rob Hodge was one of several hundred attending the November 30 commemorative event in Franklin. He was there to be part of the event, but also as a representative of Wide Awake Films who taped the 140th Battle of Franklin re-enactment and produced a DVD entitled "The Battle of Franklin: Five Hours in the Valley of Death." Wide Awake Films had pledged a portion of the DVD sales as a donation to STFB for battlefield preservation projects in Franklin.

With several STFB Board members watching from the Franklin Courthouse steps, Rob presented the \$2,500 check to STFB President Joe Smyth. STFB thanks Rob and Wide Awake Films for being part of the 140th Battle of Franklin Re-enactment two years ago, and for this significant gift to battlefield purchases here in Franklin. The DVD is still available from STFB, Carter House, and Carnton Plantation for \$25.

New & Renewing Members November 2006

J T Addicott
Bob Beck
Cathy Bickerstaff
John Mills Bigham
Betty Callis
Scott C Campbell
Mrs Mary Ann Cofrin
Rob Dean

Rice, MN
Franklin, TN
Bartlett, TN
Columbia, SC
Hendersonville, TN
Harvest, AL
Gainesville, FL
Franklin, TN

Mike Evans	Flagler Baech, FL
Elizabeth Gerber	San Francisco, CA
James Hackett	Brentwood, TN
Jackie Hardy	Brentwood, TN
Bobby Hargrove	Franklin, TN
Michael & Debbie Jeannette	Franklin, TN
Nick Kaup	Northbrook, IL
Dr & Mrs Robert Kriebel	Franklin, TN
Kathleen & Joseph Mizzi	White Lake, MI
Bill Nolan	Niles, OH
Scott & Kathy Speedy	Thompson's Station, TN
Lillian & Bo Stewart	Franklin, TN
Thomas D Vaughan, Jr.	Pell City, AL

Historian Dick Simpson Raises \$500 for Franklin

Long time STFB member Dick Simpson recently wrote to convey a \$500 donation to help buy battlefield land in Franklin. He raised the funds by presenting his lecture "The Forgotten Battle of Franklin" to the Civil War Round Table of Harrisburg, PA and to the Nassau Civil War Round Table in Old Westbury, Long Island, NY. This is just one of many donations Dick has made these past three years by carrying his lecture to any and all who will listen. He also closely watches Franklin events in order to update his notes with new material, especially the collective preservation successes the last two years.

Dick lives in Orleans, VT in summer and winters in Lancaster, PA. He visited Franklin in 2002 with the Lancaster CWRT which toured Shiloh, Spring Hill, and Franklin. In May 2003, Dick returned to Middle Tennessee for three days gathering materials on our local Civil War history. He used this trip to get photographs for a slide program he specifically planned to carry to Round Tables in New England, New York, and eastern Pennsylvania.

Dick informs us that he has another CWRT program yet scheduled for 2006 in New Jersey, and has booked three more CWRT's for 2007. In every program, Dick's goal is to inspire his audiences to join the effort to save and interpret Middle Tennessee's Civil War history, especially Franklin. And to persuade his listeners to visit Franklin on their next trip 'out west'.

STFB is delighted to have Dick's help. He is a talented and welcome addition to the long list of STFB supporters who are determined to do their part in their part of the world to raise funds and to raise interest in having a battlefield park at Franklin. When new folks ask what they

can do to help the Franklin battlefield, we tell the Dick Simpson story. We wish him the best of luck and will do all in our power to make his "Forgotten Battle of Franklin" program a continuing success.

TCPWA Flag Ceremony

On the 142nd anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCPWA), a statewide organization dedicated to battlefield preservation, came to town with their "Two Flags Over Tennessee: Reclaiming Our Civil War Heritage," program, a two-year statewide plan to fly two Civil War-era flags: an 1861 version of the U.S. "Stars and Stripes" featuring 34 stars, and the 11-star, 1861 Confederate "First National" flag, over all of Tennessee's most significant Civil War battlefields.

The Confederate banner was flown at the latest addition to the City of Franklin park system, "The Assault on the Cotton Gin," formerly the Pizza Hut location. The Federal flag was also flown on the Carter House grounds. The group has already flown the two flags at Ft. Donelson, Memphis, Chattanooga and numerous other Tennessee battlefields.

"Our goal is to raise awareness, curiosity and the desire to preserve hallowed ground where ever we go," said Mary Ann Peckham, Executive Director of TCPWA. "Through education more people will become interested in saving Civil War sites," she added. "In 2006 we gave out preservation grants to Davis Bridge, Shy's Hill (Battle of Nashville) and Franklin's Charge and in 2007 to the Friends of Shiloh and Franklin's Charge."

At the "Two Flags" event Franklin's Mayor Tom Miller noted, "It was this time last year, at this very spot, when we started the demolition of the Pizza Hut. Now we have another piece of land preserved as part of our battlefield parks here." Noting the evolution of a true battlefield park of note at Franklin, he added, "I can't wait to see what we are celebrating this time next year."

The U.S. flag will fly over Union battle positions and the First National flag over Confederate battle positions at as many as 50 sites across Tennessee. The two-year journey crisscrossing the state is being documented in two large scrapbooks collecting and preserving photographs, letters, and news articles from activities and events at each location.

On November 29 the group flew the flags at Spring Hill on that battle's 142nd anniversary, which set up the Battle of Franklin on November 30. The next stop for the flags

will be Stone's River Battlefield in Murfreesboro on December 30.

The Battle of Franklin Self-Guided Driving Tour

For those with an interest in the Battle of Franklin, a newly updated self-guided driving tour is now available of the sites important in the Battle. The brochure details 26 stops which include some lesser-known places and a narrative overview that covers from what led up to the Civil War battle to the Reconstruction time period.

Sites in the driving tour not only include sites on the Battlefield, Rest Haven Cemetery and Winstead Hill, but also some lesser-known places such as the Mosley House and the Old Factory Store, which both served as hospitals post-battle.

The narrative of events relevant to the Battle is introduced with the statement, "The battle of Franklin fought November 30, 1864, was the most destructive of human life, in proportion to the number engaged, of any battle in the four years war."

Research was compiled by historian Rick Warwick, Carter House Executive Director Thomas Cartwright, Sam Huffman and Sam Gant of Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc., and Carroll Van West, director of the Center of Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University.

Nashville Civil War Show December 2-3

STFB had a very successful booth at this year's Civil War Show sponsored by Mike Kent. Each year Mike provides table space for STFB to sell and hand out educational materials about Franklin's history and current preservation projects. Many friends of STFB make a point of stopping by to catch the latest news of the Franklin Battlefield Park on the eastern flank. The big new news this year was the Carter House purchase of a parcel along its southern boundary.

We sold a few books and maps, signed up 7 new members, passed out several hundred of the new Franklin Driving Tour Map, and made many new friends.

A big thanks to STFB Board members Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Chris Cuomo, Mike Walker, Suzanne Burns, Tommy Burnett and Joe Smyth, and to STFB volunteer Chris Mills for their many hours at the STFB booth.

News in Review

Re-enactors taking over Rippavilla *Franklin Review Appeal* - 11/22/06

To commemorate the anniversary of the fateful day, Nov 29, 1864, when Union forces marched past the Rebel campsites in Spring Hill to reach Franklin, on Nov 29, 200 re-enactors will camp at Rippavilla, showing off their uniforms and Civil War soldiers' way of life. Cannons will be on site, along with 20 or more cavalymen and their horses.

Preservation too extreme for voters *Franklin Review Appeal* - 11/22/06

Despite the opposition apparent in roadside signs and in person at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting last week, the historic zoning overlay passed for the area on Franklin Road. The overlay is the latest effort of a board that tilts heavily toward historic preservation. The board swept into office in 2003. Many at the time said the mandate of the new board came from a feeling in Franklin that the previous administration was too pro-growth.

Controversies amplify lore of Gen. Forrest *The Tennessean* - 11/24/06

Nearly 130 years after his death, Nathan Bedford Forrest remains under fire. Middle Tennessee State University's Student Government Association has passed a resolution asking the university to remove Forrest's name from the campus' Army ROTC building. The college had already changed its mascot to get rid of a reference to Forrest.

Battle site tour is on the road again *The Tennessean, Williamson A.M.* - 11/28/06

For those with an interest in history, a newly updated self-guided driving tour is now available of the sites important in the Battle of Franklin. The brochure details 26 stops which include some lesser-known places and a narrative overview that covers from what led up to the Civil War battle to the Reconstruction time period.

Fighting on the fringes
Franklin Review Appeal - 11/29/06

Throughout Williamson County in the years during the Civil War, cavalry soldiers swooped through remote parts of towns, performing hit-and-run attacks on Federal forces. "There were several," Rick Warwick, a Williamson County historian, said of the attacks. "There was a raid on Brentwood by Nathan Bedford Forrest. There was one in Nolensville. There were several at Triune."

Soldiers fought to death as the drums played on
The Tennessean, Williamson A.M. - 11/30/06

Before the scream of bullets, brackish smoke and thundering cannon fire filled the air during the Battle of Franklin 142 years ago today, music played. The battle's horrible toll and its musical heritage will be remembered today on the Franklin Square in the first public candlelit tribute of its kind ever held here. And, like 142 years ago, there'll be music representing both sides of the war, only now it's the courtesy of one band. The Huntsville, Ala.-based Olde Towne Brass band will be at the center of today's commemoration.

Franklin remembers its defining battle
The Tennessean - 12/1/06

The brief ceremony, held in the public square filled with thousands of luminaries, drew about 500 people who listened to Civil War-era music while re-enactors held flags of that era in somber reflection. Mayor Tom Miller focused on how the battle eventually led to the U.S. being reunited. "The real message was reconciliation," Miller said. "The country started to heal at Franklin."

A matter of history or a matter of hate?
The Tennessean - 12/3/06

Last week, dozens of Civil War re-enactors crowded into Franklin's Public Square and flew flags as part of the 142nd anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. The Confederate battle flag's legacy of history and hate are intertwined in the minds of many. If the Confederate battle flag as a symbol can be — or ought to be — freed from its past, both sides must confront harsh realities about the flag and the nation's own tortured history.

Organizers say celebrities would have taken focus off battle commemoration
The Tennessean, Williamson A.M. - 12/4/06

Tennessee Sons of Confederate Veterans officials claim that they rebuffed offers from celebrities, ranging from country music to professional sports figures, to appear and march with veterans during the Nov 30th Battle of Franklin ceremony. Michael Bradley, commander for the Tennessee division of the veterans group, said he wanted to keep the event's focus on the men wounded or killed in the battle rather than on famous faces peeking out from behind a flag.

Forrest name to remain at MTSU
The Tennessean - 12/5/06

The debate over Nathan Bedford Forrest continues at MTSU as the student Senate has changed its mind that the Confederate general's name be removed from a campus building. The vote to rescind the vote for the name change came when a petition was presented with 1350 names requesting retention of the name of Forrest Hall.

Celebrity snub was 'short-sighted,' SCV official says
The Tennessean, Williamson A.M. - 12/8/06

Celebrity volunteers should not have been shut out by state Sons of Confederate Veterans officials from participating in the Nov 30th Battle of Franklin ceremony, the group's national commander says. Christopher Sullivan, the SCV's commander-in-chief, called the decision to bar celebrities by state SCV leaders "short-sighted." He said further, "... having these folks stand up and be counted would have been a tremendous public relations boost."

Vandals deface Civil War statue
The Tennessean - 12/12/06

Vandals struck the city's Battle of Nashville statue during the weekend, splashing graffiti on three sides of its base. Other spray-painted graffiti was discovered on a concrete wall near Granny White Pike as well. Metro police believe the vandalism is the handiwork of local teenagers and not organized gangs.

Battle tribute may be held again, but elsewhere
Franklin Review Appeal - 12/13/06

While generally pleased with the city's first-ever candlelight ceremony to mark the Battle of Franklin, city and downtown officials are hoping the event will be moved outside of downtown for the 143rd anniversary event. Aside from the location, supporters and officials alike raise a host of questions they plan on answering before next year's event takes off.

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	
	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	
	<i>Cleburne</i> or <i>Forrest</i> Prints, signed by the artist (circle one ~ or both for \$30)	\$20.00	
	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.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

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