

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 2007

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB Member,

The sale of our Collins' farm property has been completed, bringing to a close a six-year endeavor by a large group of people dedicated to saving the Franklin Battlefield. I'd like to take this space to recognize them.

First and foremost, former STFB vice-president David Fraley brought the property and its significance to our attention. David did much original research on the property's importance during the battle. He also organized and executed three "Reenactors' Marches," which were a major fund-raising source for the purchase of the land.

Second, Sam Huffman and Sam Gant, respectively our treasurer and secretary, worked tirelessly on the finances and the many physical details of owning a 19th century set of buildings.

Third, our current and past board members were the "A" team for our fund-raising efforts and for the many hours of maintenance, repair, and restoration at the Farm.

The board was ably assisted by many local STFB members, who spent many Saturday mornings volunteering as part of our Collins' Farm work days.

Finally, our general members, both across the county and the world, were key to our efforts with their generous support—the dollars and cents that preserved this hallowed ground for generations to come.

I can't thank these folks and you enough, and I have been

blessed to get to work shoulder to shoulder with you.

We continue to work closely with the City of Franklin Battlefield Taskforce and the city's Parks Department on the site and interpretive plans for the property. We'll keep you posted as the Collins' Farm transitions into the battlefield park we always hoped it would become.

Joe Smyth

New & Renewing Members July 2007

William Adkins Jr	Akron, OH
Ken & Beverly Burger	Franklin, TN
Terry M Burnett	Nashville, TN
Tom & Lynn Burnett	Brentwood, TN
Col Robert J Dennison	Franklin, TN
Robert Ewing	Brentwood, TN
Everett & Ann Floyd	Franklin, TN
Stanley & Rebekah Hime	Brentwood, TN
Don & Debbie Jurgensen	China Springs, TX
Bill & Ruth Lamb	Franklin, TN
Doug Lewter	Madison, AL
T Vance Little	Brentwood, TN
Lisa & William Morgan	Franklin, TN
Donald Orth	Johnson City, TN
Kim Skoda	Ft Worth, TX
Samuel Smith MD	Brentwood, TN
J T & Susan Thompson	Nashville, TN
Chris & Jessica Utley	Franklin, TN
Eileen & Joseph White	Cos Cob, CT

Collins Farm Sale Is Finalized

On July 26, STFB officers met with representatives of the City of Franklin, and The Land Trust of Tennessee officials, to close the sale and transfer of Collins Farm to the City of Franklin. The completed sale included a conservation easement now held by the Tennessee Land Trust. This permanent easement prevents all future development on the Collins Farm 3.22 acres of eastern flank battlefield. The parcel will now be part of the Franklin Battlefield Park managed by the City of Franklin Parks Department. STFB purchased the property in 2001 with major fund raising campaigns during the years 2000 to 2005. The Central Virginia Battlefield Trust issued a challenge grant to STFB in 2000 as a kick-off for our fund raising. The STFB membership and donors responded generously over the years to fund this purchase without any real assurances that a battlefield park would be established for certain. Their faith has been rewarded. With the inclusion of Collins Farm in the city's Battlefield Park, STFB will turn its efforts to other important and exciting opportunities. STFB board members have agreed to continue as advisors to the Parks Department for the maintenance of the property.

Mark Your Calendars

STFB Annual Meeting November 15

Join fellow STFB members for the Annual Meeting and a delicious dinner at Ferguson Hall, a majestic plantation home in Spring Hill, Tennessee. Eric A. Jacobson, author of *For Cause & For Country*, an account of the battles of Spring Hill and Franklin, will speak on his latest book, *The McGavock Confederate Cemetery*.

In 1863, Confederate General Earl Van Dorn established his Middle Tennessee headquarters in the Spring Hill home of Martin Cheairs, now called Ferguson Hall. Here, a Dr. Peters confronted Van Dorn over his involvement with Peters' wife. Peters shot and killed Van Dorn. His bloodstains can still be seen on the dining room floor.

Carter House Descendant's Reunion October 19 - 21, 2007

The 6th Carter House Descendant's Reunion since 1998 is officially announced for Friday, Oct. 19 through Sunday morning, Oct. 21. The registration fee is \$125 per person and includes dinner Friday and Saturday evenings plus lunch on Saturday. The event schedule is still in flux but

begins with a Friday dinner program 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Call the Carter House at 615-791-1861 for additional information and registration materials. Everyone is welcome to register and attend all events even if your descendant was not at Franklin. You will be greatly entertained, and you will learn much about the common soldiers who fought at the Battle of Franklin, and about their present-day descendants.

STFB Website Redesign

Visit the STFB website www.franklin-stfb.org to see our new look! The site has been redesigned to help keep you informed on all the latest STFB and local battlefield preservation news. The Upcoming Events page provides the latest on future STFB events as well as other local Civil War and historical events. On the Recent Events page, you can review and see photos of recent STFB Events such as the 142nd Battle of Franklin Anniversary Ceremony and the first ever Eastern Flank Battlefield Tour conducted by STFB last August. Feel free to add www.franklin-stfb.org to your Favorites list and come back often to see the frequent updates and for more exciting additions in the coming weeks.

News In Review.....

Tourism: Franklin battlefield park should bring in more

The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." - 7/22/07

"Heritage tourism is the hot niche market these days," said Kellye Murphy, interim direction of the recently formed Williamson County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The county offers not only Carnton and Robert Hicks' book drawing worldwide attention to Franklin, but also the Carter House, and sometime in the future it will have a battlefield park commemorating the Battle of Franklin. These are big heritage-tourism draws.

Battlefield park could cost up to \$11M

The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." - 7/24/07

Creating the city's Eastern Flank of the battle of Franklin Park could cost as much as \$11.8 million, according to initial city estimates. The project will be designed and constructed in phases and could take 15 years or even longer to fund, according to city Parks Director Lisa Clayton.

Former golf course land could add to city's affordable housing

***The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." - 7/24/07**

The empty, grassy acres sandwiched between retail along Columbia Avenue once served as a golf training center, but the tract could soon be one step closer to becoming a community of affordable town homes. Developers say the community would have interconnectivity to Parkway Commons so that resident could easily walk to Target or Kroger next door.

Land swap leads to new park opportunity

***The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." - 7/26/07**

The more than 500-acre Franklin Springs property, once the source for the city's water, could become a county park. In exchange for the Franklin Springs property, the city received the Post Office building at Five Points, two old jails, and six acres on Eddy Lane adjoining Fort Granger (Editor's Note: the Eddy Lane property was the probable location of Capt. Cockerill's Battery D, 1st Ohio Light Artillery during the Battle of Franklin).

U. S. House OKs \$1 million for work at Stones River Battlefield

***The Tennessean* - 7/29/07**

Stones River national Battlefield needs at least \$5 million to build a new Thompson Lane entrance and expand its outdated driving tour, so a proposed \$1 million federal grant could help, Stuart Johnson, the park superintendent said. The U. S. House of Representatives approved a transportation appropriation last week that includes \$1 million for the battlefield project. The Senate must also approve the bill before the legislation can be presented to President Bush for signature.

Story of Baxter's Battery lives on in new book

***The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." - 8/14/07**

Dennis Lampley has written a book, *Captain Ed Baxter & His Tennessee Artillerymen, CSA*, the details the experiences of the men in Baxter's unit, their battle stories and local history. Baxter was a young lawyer when war broke out. In the fall of 1862, Baxter, then 24 years old, recruited a company of artillerymen mostly from the area around Dickson, Williamson, Cheatham and Hickman counties. Baxter's Battery fought in the Battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge as well as during the siege of Atlanta.

Latest vote further propels Franklin parks projects

***The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." - 8/16/07**

Aldermen agreed 5-2 to back an \$11.8 million design budget for the city's proposed Civil War park and accepted a conservation agreement for Harlinsdale Park that leaves the door open to create a so-called land bank that would allow landowners to buy and sell development credits on property. Both projects have been the target of criticism in the past. Tuesday's approval gives city Parks Director Lisa Clayton the go-ahead to start work on crucial infrastructure, including plans for a new road off Lewisburg Pike. She expects the work to begin later this year.



The above photo was taken on the day the sale of the Collins' Farm was finalized. Shown in the photo are (left to right): Mary Brockman, Land Trust Board Member; Sam Gant, STFB Secretary; Doug Berry, Franklin City Attorney; Emily Parrish, Land Trust Land Protection Manager; and Sam Huffman, STFB Treasurer.

How about that??

A news article from 1903 recently found by Rick Warwick, Williamson County historian, said a tree limb cut near Carnton in December of that year for firewood was brought into the house and a section put into the fireplace. Suddenly a tremendous explosion was heard and soon several beds were aflame. A Union artillery shell, embedded in the tree and unexploded from the Battle of Franklin nearly 40 years prior, caused all the ruckus. Luckily Carrie McGavock, as well as several family members, escaped injury.

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)		
	'Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	'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	
	'Eyewitness to the Battle of Nashville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	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 and donations are tax deductible.

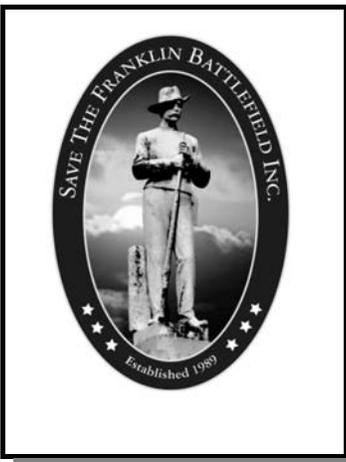
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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