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# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

December 2008

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

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

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## Triune Fortification/ Land Trust Meeting

In November, the Triune community hosted a presentation by Thomason & Associates and The Land Trust for Tennessee on the significance of the Triune Fortifications. The group presented information on how a conservation easement could both benefit landowners and preserve these Civil War earthworks for posterity.

Phil Thomason stated that the fortifications constructed there remain one of the most intact and unaltered set of Civil War earthworks in Tennessee. The National Park Service has listed the Triune Fortifications in the National Register of Historic Places for their historic and archeological significance.

Andra Ladd of the Land Trust pointed out how a conservation easement could protect the character of land, maintain landowners' rights to sell their land, farm or manage timber, transfer land to their heirs and restrict public access while giving the landowners a number of financial benefits. The Triune Fortifications could be protected by such a conservation easement.

Several landowners whose properties have been placed under a Land Trust conservation easement spoke of their own satisfaction with a conservation easement and the protection that their land has received from the easement.

## New & Renewing Members November 2008

Paul Arch	Coraopolis, PA
Cathy Bickerstaff	Bartlett, TN
Rob Dean	Franklin, TN
Miles Ezell	Nashville, TN
Jeffery & Alisyn Friederich	Dyersburg, TN
James S Hackett	Brentwood, TN
Shelly & Marshall Harrell	San Antonio, TX
Kirk Hinman	Lakewood, OH
Mike & Debbie Jeannette	Franklin, TN
Mac Mellor	Nashville, TN
Kathy & Joe Mizzi	White Lake, MI
Bill Nolan	Niles, OH
Joel Powers	Elizabeth, NJ
Peter Schofield	Cleveland, OH
Paula & Raymond Uhler	Brentwood, TN
Jenece Waid	Spring Hill, TN
Jerry Wildenhaus	Dayton, OH

## Nashville Civil War Show

The STFB booth at this year's Civil War Show on December 6 & 7 was busy as usual. Show producer Mike Kent had our table at our regular location and many STFB members stopped by to get the latest news from Franklin.

Our traffic was about the same as previous years, and we signed up new & renewing members, sold a few books, passed out our free literature, and made many new friends. A big thanks goes to Board members Tommy Burnett, Sam Gant, Mike Walker, and Sam Huffman for staffing the booth. We will see you all at next year's show. Google 'Mike Kent Shows' to locate a Civil War Show in your area

## 2008 Illumination is Spectacular

November 30 saw the largest Illumination project in recent Franklin history. The 10,000 luminaries were a commemoration of the roughly 10,000 American casualties at Franklin. Each luminary represented an American soldier killed, wounded, captured, or missing during the battle. Three-fourths of the battle casualties were Confederate, the remainder Federal. Most of those casualties occurred in the first three hours of the battle. Also represented by each luminary was a family back home devastated with concern and grief when they learned the news from Franklin.

The November 30 Illuminations of 2006 & 2007 were very impressive to see, we all agree. But they fell slightly short of the full 10,000 luminaries due to various production difficulties. The 2008 Illumination was set up by 2:22 PM and completely lighted by 3:00PM thanks to a small army of hard-working volunteers. The luminaries surrounded the Carter House and filled Columbia Avenue from Fowlkes Street to Granbury Street. The display provided a vivid visual statement that underscored the human cost at the Battle of Franklin.

The event was sponsored and led by Franklin's Preservation Planning Department under the guidance of Shanon Wasielewski, Amanda Hall, and Steve Valley. The Franklin Battlefield Task Force organized the volunteers and planned the materials and work sessions needed for this massive project – 10,000 luminaries. Newspaper articles, e-blasts, and newsletter promotions by Preservation Planning, Save the Franklin Battlefield, Heritage Foundation, Franklins Charge, Carnton Plantation, and private companies got the word out to the community

The Carter House organized an all Confederate march from Winstead Hill to the Carter House stepping off at 4 PM. The Old Towne Brass Band from Huntsville was on hand to provide authentic music during the short ceremony at the Carter House. Half of the band, dressed as Confederates, led the marchers to the ceremony. The remainder of the band, dressed as Federals, approached the Carter House from the north. With their authentic instruments and music arrangements, the bands in turn played tunes of the North and South.

Franklin Mayor John Schroer commented briefly on the importance of Franklin's Civil War history and Eric Jacobson delivered a short telling of the battle events and a Memorial tribute.

The two bands then joined as one to play music of reconciliation and our national anthem.

If you missed the Illumination this year, be sure to join us for 2009. It is a moving experience you will not forget.

The aerial photos are provided by CHOPPERSHOTS, % of Spencer Valdez [spencervaldez@hotmail.com](mailto:spencervaldez@hotmail.com) (931)-215-7465 [www.csaerials.com](http://www.csaerials.com) (pictures at STFB web site)

## Dick Simpson Closes 2008 Campaign

Our good friend and long-time STFB Member Dick Simpson has been speaking to CWRTs in the northeast to aid preservation efforts here in Franklin. He gets many requests for his slide show "The Forgotten Battle of Franklin Tennessee" and he parlays those presentations into fund raising projects. Earlier this fall, Dick presented his program to the Pipe Creek CWRT in Westminster Maryland. They held a fund raising raffle and donated \$100 for battlefield preservation in Franklin.

Just recently he spoke to the CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania at Allentown. They helped Dick raise \$250 for the battlefield preservation here. Inspired by Dick's knowledge and passion for helping Franklin, the Civil War American Charitable Trust in Garnet Valley, Pennsylvania and the members of the Union Library CWRT of Hatboro, Pennsylvania sent a \$200 land purchase gift to STFB in recognition of Dick's ongoing commitment to preservation.

Dick informs us that he is closing out his Fall Campaign for 2008 and will begin anew next spring. In the interim, he and his wife hope to visit Franklin again to update his presentation and get the latest preservation news. We hope he visits soon.

## News in Review

### **Huge housing, retail project may threaten Rippavilla Plantation — *The Tennessean* — 11/28/08 — SPRING HILL**

A 19<sup>th</sup>-century Tennessee plantation home is being threatened by plans for a massive development that could bring jobs and tax money into the Spring Hill community. Opponents say the 514 acres around Rippavilla Plantation contain ancient oaks, hand-stacked rock wall built generations ago, a family cemetery, a slave house, a pioneer trail and a portion of a Civil War battlefield. The developer, North American Development Group, wants to purchase the land from General Motors, which has a plant nearby, for millions and build retail shops, office space, town homes and apartments.

### **Rippavilla, GM deal faces delays — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 12/11/08 — SPRING HILL**

It could be early next year before General Motors finalizes its sale of roughly 500 acres, including Rippavilla Plantation. An attorney for the buyer, SLF Acquisitions, asked to pull five items related to the matter for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen’s upcoming agenda.

### **Civil War Trails Program Comes to Middle Tennessee— *COLUMNS* – Historic Carnton Plantation Newsletter— November 2008 — FRANKLIN**

On September 17, the first marker for the new Civil War Trails program was unveiled in front of the Old Williamson County Courthouse. This was the first marker for the entire state of Tennessee and officials from the Tourism and Transportation Dept. as well as representatives from the Civil War Preservation Trust were on hand for the event. There are 13 different markers installed in Williamson County and others are currently being prepared for Maury and Giles Counties.

### **Creek restored to Civil War-era condition — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 11/24/08 — FRANKLIN**

The flooded creek banks found for years on what is now the

Eastern Flank of the Battle of Franklin park property have become a thing of the past after a year of work and \$450,000 in state funds. Yet the city’s task of converting the former 110-acre golf course into a Civil War park — a top priority in recent years — will slow to a crawl in 2009 as city officials turn their attention to city infrastructure upgrades and away from open-space projects.

### **Eastern Flank park project to be visited — *Williamson Herald* — 11/20/08 — FRANKLIN**

Commissioner Jim Fyke of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation joined Mayor John Schroer and Mayor Rogers Anderson to celebrate the Stream Restoration Project at the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park. The project included the successful channel restorations and stream buffer installations for Carnton and McGavock Creeks and the Franklin Battlefield project.

### **Board again stymies Hood’s Retreat — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 11/20/08 — SPRING HILL**

Despite a judge’s suggestion, city leaders stuck with their original decision Monday by turning down a settlement option that would have allowed a subdivision to be built across from Oaklawn Plantation. The former plantation home is where, on Nov. 29, 1864, Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood slept as Union forces slipped past and marched north on their way to the Battle of Franklin the next day.

### **Battlefield Promotion — *Business TN* — November/December 2008 — FRANKLIN**

A coalition leads the charge to reclaim Franklin’s Civil War heritage and capture tourism dollars— From a preservation standpoint, Jim Lighthizer, president of the CWPT, calls Franklin’s fund-raising achievements “the largest and most successful public/private partnership in the history of Civil War battlefield preservation efforts.” And from a tourism and economic development standpoint, it’s just plain smart, since the city, along with Williamson County and the state, stands to benefit tremendously.

# Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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## December 2008

### Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	Item	Price	Total
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: <b>Marker Fund</b> ~ <b>Land Purchase</b> (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 Perryville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"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	
	<b>SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING (Items only) ~ Under \$25.00 - or -</b>	<b>\$3.95</b>	
		<b>\$25.00 and up</b>	<b>\$4.95</b>
	<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>		

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