



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

September 2008

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

A Call to Arms

Working to preserve our nation's hallowed ground can be exciting, energizing and fascinating. Through the activities of STFB over the years I have had the opportunity to meet national preservation leaders such as Ed Bearss (former chief historian of the National Park Service), Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and James Lighthizer of the Civil War Preservation Trust. And we have the privilege to work with local preservation leaders such as Robert Hicks, Eric Jacobson and Rick Warwick. But our local roles also involve a lot of ground level work. Organizing public events such as tours to raise the profile of endangered ground, holding government officials accountable, and stuffing newsletters is where the rubber meets the road.

We have plenty of opportunities for you to serve. We have many ideas and goals, but we need folks who wish to volunteer regularly. It may not be exciting, it may not be glamorous, but it works. The recent joint successes enjoyed in Williamson County are as much a result of behind the scene educating, fund raising, and persistence as the high profile dinner events. So roll up your sleeves and come work with us. This isn't about us, it is about those before us who bought our freedom with their blood. They deserve to be remembered.

Give me a call and let's talk about how you can help.
Gregory Wade 473 3034

New & Renewing Members August 2008

John M Bigham	Columbia, SC
Dave Bond	Beavercreek, OH
John Chabala	Franklin, TN
Col Robt & Ann Dennison	Franklin, TN
Sara Edwards	Huntsville, AL
Dennis Faught	Columbia, TN
John G Henderson	Nashville, TN
Dahk & Jan Knox	Mosheim, TN
John Moloski	Shawnee, KS
Curtis Older	Gastonia, NC
Donald Orth	Johnson City, TN
Bob & Karen Pease	Franklin, TN
Glenn Rieuf Jr	Franklin, TN
Carol Signett	Ferndale, WA
Dr Samuel Smith	Brentwood, TN
Jerry & Ruth Swedeen	Franklin, TN

Ben Nance Joins The STFB Advisory Board

STFB is proud to welcome Tennessee Historical Archeologist, Ben Nance to the STFB Advisory Board. Ben has assisted STFB with past events, and has worked in state archeological evaluations of Roper's Knob. He will again lead the STFB tour of this important Franklin site in October. Ben is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University, and received his MS at MTSU. He has written extensively on Tennessee military sites and co-authored "A survey of Civil War Military Sites In Middle Tennessee," with another STFB advisory board member, Fred Prouty. We congratulate Ben and welcome him to our Advisory Board.

STFB Tour of Ropers Knob Set for Saturday, October 25

The STFB Board has scheduled a tour of Ropers Knob for Saturday morning on October 25. The tour will be led by Tennessee State Archeologist Ben Nance. Ben was the project supervisor for archeological evaluation of the site. He also authored the 2001 report on the team's findings. The report was revised in 2005, and Ben will have a few copies for visitors.

Ropers Knob is the prominent hill in the north east corner of Mack Hatcher Parkway at Franklin. During the war, it was a fortified signal station built and used by the Federal forces as part of the Fort Granger installation. Its signals reportedly could be read from Triune and Brentwood for relay to Murfreesboro and Nashville. The summit had a signal tower, a blockhouse, rifle pits, and trenches. Remnants of these features still exist. The State of Tennessee owns the 22 acre summit containing the earthworks, and the south face of the hill is a Franklin City Park.

We will meet and park on the street near the north end of Hillhaven Lane. Hillhaven runs north from Liberty Pike just west of Mack Hatcher Parkway. We hope most of the leaves will be off by late October so you can get a good sense of what the soldiers could see from this denuded hilltop.

The tour hours are 10 AM to noon, and the tour is free to the public. Please plan to arrive 30 minutes early for registration and orientation. This is a through-the-woods and up-the-hill tour, so please wear appropriate shoes/boots and clothing.

STFB will provide water for your comfort. We will also ask for a couple of volunteer teams to gather the incidental small litter from the summit, and along the trail as we hike up and back. We will provide the plastic bags.

Sign up now to Volunteer for the Battle of Franklin Commemorative Illumination

Your help is needed for the 2008 Battle of Franklin Commemorative Illumination on Sunday November

30th. The event will take place in front of the Carter House on Columbia Avenue, and will feature the lighting of approximately 10,000 luminaries to represent the total battle casualties - killed, wounded, captured or missing. The ceremony will begin at 4:45PM and will include comments by author Eric Jacobson and period music performed by Olde Town Brass.

Volunteers are needed for two separate chores: Luminary Assembly and Placement/Pickup. You can volunteer for both. Assembly involves preparing the luminaries using bags, sand, and candles. It happens over several days in the week before the event. Placement/pickup of the luminaries takes place on November 30th, before and after the ceremony. For this, the goal is "100 for 100", that is 100 groups or individuals volunteering to place, light and pick up 100 of the luminaries. Please sign up now to volunteer for either or both of these tasks. To volunteer, contact historicpreservation@franklin-gov.com Also, you will soon be able to sign up at the City of Franklin web site www.franklin-tn.gov

The Commemorative Illumination has become a special way to remember the sacrifices by all those who fought. This year will be even more special since it is the first-ever Illumination at the epicenter of the Battle.

Franklin Civil War Roundtable Meets October 12

STFB member, author, and Carnton historian Eric Jacobson, will be speaking at the October meeting of the Franklin Civil War Roundtable. Eric is currently researching a new book on Ohio and Missouri Union troops who fought in the cotton gin area during the Battle of Franklin. You will find Eric's talk riveting with facts uncovered during his meticulous research. Please attend this event, Sunday October 12th at the Williamson County Library. We start at 3:00 and there is no admission fee.

News in Review September 2008

Woman wages solo effort to save protected Rippavilla — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson

A.M.” — 8/19/08 — SPRING HILL — “No retail. No homes,” Jan Binkley hopes her one-woman protest from the side road near the entrance to historic Rippavilla Plantation will catch on and sway city leaders against an expected request to rezone the former plantation’s roughly 500 acres for development that would include neighborhoods and businesses. Late last month, General Motors announced that it has a buyer for the 513.75 acres that encompasses the Civil War-era property.

Historical Society meeting — *Williamson Herald* — 8/21/08 — FRANKLIN — The Williamson County Historical Society will begin its 42nd season Aug. 24 with its annual meeting. Produced under direction of publications chairman Rick Warwick, the Society’s new journal, *Williamson County: The Civil War As Seen Through The Female Experience*, will be presented. The journal contains period letters, diaries and articles related to ladies in Franklin “caught up in the conflict of war on the home front.”

Visitors bureau thirsts for more travelers— *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 8/21/08 — FRANKLIN — Tourists, conventioners and out-of-town guests pump more than \$233 million into Williamson County’s economy each year, according to the Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Money spent on hotels, meals and souvenirs saves local households \$329 in taxes each year. Bureau officials just unveiled a new marketing plan. They want to improve the visitors center in downtown Franklin, offer marketing grants to tourism-related businesses, revamp the bureau’s web site and conduct a study to identify who come here and why.

Plans presented for changing club into battlefield park— *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 8/28/08 — FRANKLIN — The city of Franklin, which acquired the former Country Club of Franklin in 2006, has submitted a site plan for the 110-acre tract. The plan includes tearing up most concrete structures such as bridges, cart paths and tennis courts, re-creating the road that led

to Carnton Plantation and the addition of about 200 trees. Approval of the plan would signify the start of what Franklin Parks Director Lisa Clayton calls a “transformation.” But don’t expect a rapid transformation. Clayton said it could take 15 years before the site resembles what it might have looked like in 1864.

Stepping back in time — *Williamson Herald* — 9/4/08 — FRANKLIN — During the Civil War’s Battle of Franklin, Johann Albert Lotz and his family sought refuge in the cellar of the Carter House just 110 steps across Columbia Avenue from their house. Now a local history buff and certified antiques appraiser plans to open the Lotz House in late October as a Civil War House museum, but also a collection of antiques and decorative arts.

Third annual commemorative illumination moves to Columbia Avenue — *Williamson Herald* — 9/4/08 — FRANKLIN — The City of Franklin Battlefield Task Force of Franklin announced the Battle of Franklin Commemorative Illumination will be held on at 4:45, Sunday, Nov.30, the anniversary of the Battle of Franklin in 1864, along Columbia Avenue in front of the Carter House. In addition to the commemorative illumination, throughout the month many activities related to the anniversary of the battle are planned at local historic sites.

County to receive state’s first Civil War Trails marker — *Williamson Herald* — 9/11/08 — FRANKLIN — The Franklin Gateway Marker will be first in the ground for Tennessee’s Civil War Trails program and will be unveiled Sept. 17 in a 9 a.m. ceremony in front of the Williamson County Historic Courthouse on the Square. The gateway marker acts as a map to other Civil War sites in the Franklin/Williamson County area, which highlight Hood’s 1864 Campaign, Williamson County will have 13 markers as part of the program.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



September 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: 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 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	
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	SHIPPING & HANDLING (Items only) ~ Under \$25.00 - or -	\$3.95	
	\$25.00 and up	\$4.95	
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STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.