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# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 2009

[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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## President's Message

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We have much news from Franklin to share in this month's newsletter - some good news, some bad, and some that offers new opportunities. As always we will keep you up to date with the latest.

See the Cotton Gin Campaign update for progress on the effort to raise funds to meet a mortgage payment due on the Holt House. Please consider a contribution; any and all are greatly appreciated and welcome.

The news we have to share in the Ropers Knob Update is disappointing but only serves to make us redouble our efforts and continue the fight to protect battlefield to another day.

Looking to the future, the upcoming funeral and re-interment of the Unknown Soldier from Franklin is a unique opportunity to focus national attention on the Franklin Battlefield and the service and sacrifice of those who fought and died here.

Finally, an update on plans for the Civil War Days event in November will help you make plans to be here and participate in expanded activities surrounding the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

As always, we thank you for ongoing interest and continued support.

Mike Walker - President

## New & Renewing Members July 2009

Thomas Beal & Family	Glenn Dale, MD
Tommy & Lynn Burnett	Brentwood, TN
Jim Campi	North Springfield, VA
Clarksville CWRT	Clarksville, TN
UK CWRT	Shaftsbury, UK
Del Horton	Michie, TN
Richard & Julia Moe	Washington, DC
Jody & Patricia Thompson	Franklin, TN
Vernon McDannald	Humboldt, AZ
JT Thompson	Nashville, TN
Sean Von Loh	Greeley, CO

## Unknown Soldier from The Franklin Battlefield

The team of archeologists and the forensic anthropologist who studied the human remains found on the Franklin battlefield have concluded that this was a Civil War soldier who died as a casualty of action at Franklin. The remains were discovered by a construction crew along the west side of Columbia Pike about 500 yards north of Winstead Hill.

Nine Union buttons found in the grave led them to state that this was probably a Federal soldier. He was a white male between the ages of 18 and 30. A deformed bullet was found with the remains, but because of the damage done to the skeleton at the time of discovery, it was not possible to determine that this was the cause of death.

Three theories have been advanced about how this soldier might have died. The first is that he

was part of the advance line pursuing Hood's army on the retreat from Nashville. The second is that he was wounded when the Confederates overran the Federal forward line and was carried back as a prisoner, where he died. The third is that he was a Confederate soldier wearing a Union coat, and thus could have been a casualty either of the Battle of Franklin or of the retreat from Nashville.

Because no definitive conclusion can be reached on whether he was a Union or a Confederate soldier, he will be buried in Franklin's Historic Rest Haven Cemetery as an "Unknown Soldier from the Franklin Battlefield." A funeral at St. Paul's Church and procession to Historic Rest Haven Cemetery is scheduled for October 10. Both Confederate and Union reenactors are invited to take part in this historic event. Watch the STFB web site and future newsletters for more details.

### **Cotton Gin Campaign Update**

The campaign to reclaim the Carter Cotton Gin site and create a battlefield park at the very epicenter of the Battle of Franklin is off to a great start. As we told you last month, there is an urgent need to reduce the debt on the Holt House property, in order to refinance into a more favorable bank loan. The Holt House, which was purchased by Franklins Charge in 2008, is the most recent parcel acquired on the site of the original Cotton Gin and main trenches. To learn more about plans for the Cotton Gin Park including a map and photos, visit [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

We are truly grateful to all who have contributed to the campaign so far and are still trying to raise as much as possible at the very outset during August. All gifts to STFB for the "Holt House" or "Cotton Gin" will be combined with other gifts and immediately forwarded in their entirety to Franklins Charge. The gifts are 100% tax deductible and STFB will send you the appropriate letter of acknowledgment.

We don't have a formal pledge scheme, but as we did before, you can send us a note with your gift plan. If you have questions, you can contact STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman directly at 615-480-9539 or [sam@jsp.net](mailto:sam@jsp.net).

Pay to/mail to: STFB  
PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065

### **Volunteer Woodworkers To Make Candle Blocks**

The Franklin Battlefield Task Force is well along in planning the annual 10,000 candle Illumination to commemorate the 10,000 casualties of both sides at the Battle of Franklin. This year it will be staged adjacent to the Confederate Cemetery in Franklin.

In past years, large teams of volunteers spent two evenings filling 10,000 bags with sand, and then worked an afternoon adding candles and setting them out before lighting. The plan this year is to bypass filling the bags with sand and instead do the complete assembly on-site using a wooden block to hold the candle in the paper bag. The candle blocks will be recovered during cleanup for use in future years.

The Task Force currently has all the needed materials and containers for the project. Now we **need 15-20 volunteers** to help make the blocks. If you live in the Franklin area and have a miter saw and drill press, we need for you to contact 615-550-6737 or email [candleblocks@gmail.com](mailto:candleblocks@gmail.com) with your name and phone number.

We will send you a Volunteer Instruction Sheet with details on how to sign up. We plan to have all the blocks made by October 17, so sign up now.

### **Roper's Knob Update**

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to approve the request by developer Charles Mitchell to build an access road onto his land from Mack Hatcher Parkway as an extension of Cool Springs Blvd.

As we have shared with you over the past several months, this road will open the land around the base of Roper's Knob to development. Aldermen Klatt, Skinner, and Petersen voted against approving the road while Burger, McLendon, Barnhill, Bransford, and Moore voted for approval.

Thanks to those of you who voiced your opposition to city officials. It is always worthwhile to speak up against encroachment on battlefield, so that our leaders know the public is vigilant. STFB will continue to watch the situation and speak out when development plans are presented and rezoning is requested.

### **Hold These Dates**

**November 7** - STFB plans to host a **Battle of Thompsons Station Tour** on the morning of Saturday, **November 7**. The tour will include the latest news on preservation plans for portions of the battlefield

**November 19** – The **STFB Annual Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Nov 19 with dinner and a speaker. More later.

#### **November 27-30 – Civil War Days Event**

The Franklin Battlefield Task Force, local historical sites, and preservation groups are planning a coordinated series of events for the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend. This will include encampments and living history events and a skirmish demonstration. The battle anniversary is on Monday.

Watch future newsletters and the STFB web site for details as the dates approach.

### **News in Review August 2009**

**Carnton's new visitors center loaded with modern amenities — Franklin Review Appeal — 7/29/09 — FRANKLIN** — The new, \$1.2 Million Fleming center opened its doors July 29 for a soft opening that Carnton supporters have been hoping would come for years. At 7,000 square feet, the new visitors' center offers ample event and exhibit space, as well as new restrooms, water fountains and office space for staff. The upgrade will improve visitors' trips to the museum and will mean more guests can use Carnton for events like weddings and receptions, said Margie Thessin, Plantation interim executive director.

#### **Park at Harlinsdale Farm opens for public use — Franklin Review Appeal — 7/29/09 — FRANKLIN**

— The new Park at Harlinsdale Farm got its official public opening with a ribbon-cutting by Franklin Mayor John Schroer and other officials. The park, at 239 Franklin Road, is open to the public daily from dawn until dusk. Built in 1935, the 200-acre farm was owned by the Harlin family and was instrumental in the creation of the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry. (Editor's note: During the Civil War, the farm was part of the Fort Granger garrison and in the Retreat from Nashville the site of a large cavalry battle.)

#### **Mansion owners dream of battlefield park — The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." — 7/30/09 — THOMPSON'S STATION**

— Historic Homestead Manor owners, Marcia and Jay Franks, are seeking approval from the town to create a Battle of Thompson's Station Battlefield Park. The Franks' vision is to create an interpretive experience that will include trails and signage on the battlefield, special events, Civil War seminars, Civil War day camps for children, and a video presentation of the battle. There were 1,400 casualties March 5, 1863, on the property.

#### **Battle flag could cost \$48,000 to restore — The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." — 8/4/09 — FRANKLIN**

— Money collected from admission to Ronny Mangrum's fourth annual Confederate Flag Benefit on August 8 will all go to the preservation of a huge 6-by-9-foot silk First National Confederate flag of the 20<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, which consisted of young men and boys from all over Williamson County and formed in 1861. The flag was retired in 1863 and is stored by the Tennessee State Museum.

# Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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## August 2009

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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	
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STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.