



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

September 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

## President's Message

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This Fall promises to be a busy time in Franklin with many upcoming events filling the calendar. In this month's Newsletter, we bring you the latest on just a few of the first in line.

Of course, the Unknown Soldier Funeral (Oct 8-10) will be a uniquely memorable event that I hope you will not miss. Many are working tirelessly to ensure a dignified and fitting tribute to this Unknown Soldier who represents all those who gave their lives in the war.

See our update on the ongoing Cotton Gin Campaign which continues to make great strides towards creating a Cotton Gin Park at the epicenter of the Battle of Franklin. We sincerely thank those who have contributed and ask you to keep this cause in mind in the coming weeks and months.

Despite the encouraging news, threats to battlefield remain. Read about the new construction at Roper's Knob in the latest update. We remain vigilant on this and other fronts and will keep you informed.

Mike Walker - President

## New & Renewing Members August 2009

Wayne B Anderson Sr	Raymond, MS
David Berry	Jacksonville, FL
David Bond	Beavercreek, OH
Dan Brown	Nashville, TN
Carter House	Franklin, TN
Firelands CWRT	Norwalk, OH
Col & Mrs Robt J Dennison	Franklin, TN
Sara Edwards	Huntsville, AL
Mary Fauchaux	Saint Rose, LA
Dennis Faught	Columbia, TN
Travis G Faust	Germantown, WI
Fort Negley Center	Nashville, TN
Thomas Herbert	Knoxville, TN
Dot Kelly	Knoxville, TN
Bill Kennedy	Columbia, TN
Jan & Dahk Knox	Mosheim, TN
Sana M Mason	APO AE, NY
Kevin & Haley Miller	Austin, TX
Ben Nance	Nashville, TN
Curtis Older	Gastonia, NC
Donald Orth	Johnson City, TN
Jeffrey Plummer	Rehoboth Beach, DE
Kathleen Sauseda	Franklin, TN
Dr Samuel Smith	Brentwood, TN
Jerry & Ruth Swedeen	Franklin, TN
John Thomsen	Franklin, TN
19 <sup>th</sup> VVI K Co	Monroe Twp, NJ
Kimberly Willis	Dickson, TN

## Roper's Knob Update

Developer Charles "Mickey" Mitchell has wasted no time to start construction on the road approved last month by the Franklin Board of Mayor and Alderman. The road will open land

at the base of Roper's Knob to development. Less than one month after approval, construction is underway with blasting and heavy equipment being used to remove the large amount of limestone bedrock fronting the road access along Mack Hatcher Parkway. Fragile slopes of the knob are endangered by the heavy construction. The approved zoning for the property is estate residential, but more than likely other zoning will be requested for part of the property in the foreseeable future. For background and for the **latest current news and pictures** of Roper's Knob, visit [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org).

### Funeral for Franklin's Unknown Soldier

Beginning on Thursday, October 8, the streets of Franklin begin to take on a somber air as flags throughout the city are lowered to half staff. Here and there, a soldier/reenactor can be seen in a blue, a gray, or a butternut uniform of the Civil War.

Funeral wreaths hang on the doors of St. Paul's Church where Confederate soldiers had worshipped and where Federal soldiers had their barracks. Outside stands a blue- or gray-clad guard; inside, before the altar, sits the simple, pine coffin of the Unknown Soldier, draped with the 35-star American flag and the National C.S.A. flag. Another guard stands behind the coffin as townspeople pass by viewing the coffin.

As Saturday morning, Oct. 10, dawns, Franklin is teeming with men in uniform. Near 10 a.m., soldiers are milling around in Veterans' Park and on West Main Street when a six-horse caisson pulls up in front of St. Paul's. Soldiers now begin entering the Church along with several people in 1860's apparel and others in contemporary dress. Because of the limited seating in the Church, all who enter are admitted by Provosts' Passes.

Melodious organ music accented by brass sounds forth from historic St. Paul's Church as the memorial service begins for this Unknown Soldier who fell on the battlefield at Franklin. A Confederate chaplain and a Union chaplain conduct the service. The poem, "A Letter from a Soldier," is dedicated to this soldier.

When the church service ends, the pallbearers place the flag-draped coffin on the caisson, the soldiers and the civilians in period dress fall in behind the caisson, and the procession begins. The solemn procession

marches up Main Street, winds around the statue of the Confederate soldier on the Square, turns down Third Avenue to Margin Street on to Fourth Avenue and by about 11:30 comes to Historic Rest Haven Cemetery.

At Historic Rest Haven Cemetery, the pallbearers place the flag-draped coffin of the Unknown Soldier over the open grave. The grave site is marked by a magnificent Civil War-era pillar from the Tennessee State Capitol. The ceremony at the cemetery includes the Confederate and the Union chaplains offering scripture readings and prayers. A historian gives a brief perspective of an unknown soldier, the flags are folded, the honor guard fires a 21-gun salute, wreaths are placed at the pillar, taps are sounded, and the coffin is lowered into the grave. Finally, before the grave is closed, uniformed representatives of each state whose sons fought at the Battle of Franklin deposit a handful of dust from their respective states into the grave.

The photo shows workmen erecting the monument at the final resting place of Franklin's Unknown Soldier in the city's Rest Haven Cemetery. The monument is constructed of segments from the original 1856 columns of the Tennessee State Capitol, which have been resting in a reliquary behind the old Tennessee State Prison.



## Cotton Gin Campaign Update

In 2008, Franklins Charge purchased the Holt House site on Columbia Avenue. This parcel is part of the grounds around the Carter cotton gin where heavy fighting occurred during the Battle of Franklin.

A major payment was scheduled in September and much help was needed to raise the needed funds. STFB members quickly responded to an urgent call in August and donated \$3,805 by the end of the month. The STFB Board voted to add \$5,000 from our general fund to that amount and presented the check to Franklins Charge on August 31. Fund raising will continue and additional funds will be forwarded to Franklins Charge as they are received.

STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman presents a check for the Holt House purchase to Stacey Watson at the Franklins Charge office.



## News in Review

### Upcoming Exhibit at Carnton Features Personal Effects of General John Bell Hood — *Columns: Historic Carnton Plantation Newsletter* — September 2009 — FRANKLIN

— The exhibit entitled “Hood’s Legacy” will showcase a variety of artifacts that once belonged to Hood. These items, including his coat, hat, saddle, sword, and writing kit, will be on display at Carnton in the new Fleming Center from Labor Day, Sept. 7, through Dec. 1. Accompanying the exhibit will be a panel discussion about Hood. This discussion will be held in two sessions: Friday, Nov. 6, and Saturday, Nov. 7.

### Blood-dipped Civil War Handkerchief on Display — *Columns: Historic Carnton Plantation Newsletter* — September 2009 — FRANKLIN

— Col. William McGavock, 10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Regiment, was a great-nephew of Carnton’s builder, Randal McGavock. When Col. McGavock was killed in combat in May of 1863, Capt. Pat Griffen, “Observing a custom of the day, . . . took his colonel’s handkerchief from the left hip pocket and dipped the white linen in McGavock’s still warm blood.” The handkerchief, still stained with McGavock’s blood, will be displayed in the Fleming Center’s exhibit area, along with photos and the description of his death in the words of McGavock’s biographer.

### Personal battle led to idea for battlefield park — *The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.”* — 8/14/09 —

**FRANKLIN** — Six years ago this month, Marcia Franks was diagnosed with cancer. She underwent surgery the next month and bounded back by buying Homestead Manor in October. Marcia soon plans to open a tearoom at Homestead Manor for weekday service and for weddings and other special occasions. Beyond that the greater plans of creating a battlefield park may take a few years to achieve. The home was a centerpiece during the Battle of Thompson’s Station, when there were roughly 1,400 Federal casualties and an additional 400 or so injured Confederates—many of whom were treated inside the house. Many also were buried out on the property, Marcia speculates.

### Cool Springs Boulevard extension gets green light — *The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.”* — 8/26/09 —

**FRANKLIN** — Despite objections from Franklin leaders and others, Cool Springs Boulevard can now be extended past its intersection with Mack Hatcher Parkway toward historic Roper’s Knob. This new public road, which will be built by landowner Charlie “Mickey” Mitchell, provides first-time access to 32 acres Mitchell owns on the other side of the intersection. That might mean more development one day on his property, which is now vacant. But the road’s potential impact on an already-busy intersection as well as on Roper’s Knob has left a bad taste for many, including the people who approved it.

### Plans OK’ed for reburial of ‘Unknown Soldier’ Oct. 10 — *Franklin Review Appeal* — 8/27/09 —

**FRANKLIN** — Franklin’s unknown Civil War-era soldier will have a final resting place in the city-owned Rest Haven Cemetery as part of a plan approved by the city’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The Oct. 10 burial will be the final event in a three-day ceremony being planned by the city’s Battlefield Task Force and a sub-committee created for ensuring the proper reburial of the remains, discovered May 14 on a construction site on Columbia Avenue.

### Franklin needs more time to develop battlefield park — *The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.”* — 8/27/09 —

**FRANKLIN** — The Civil War park that drew national attention to Franklin’s battlefield reclamation needs more time and a commitment of money before its next phase can begin. City Parks Director Lisa Clayton stated, “If the project does not make the funding list this year, then it will definitely will be within the (capital improvement project) list for future projects as to whenever funding becomes available.”

### Unknown soldier may draw crowds — *The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.”* — 8/28/09 —

**FRANKLIN** — When the bones of a Civil War soldier were found at a construction site on Columbia Avenue back in May, the discovery brought out small groups of onlookers, archaeologists and news crews. But the soldier’s reburial in October will likely be a different story. Thousands of visitors, including groups of Civil War reenactors from throughout the U.S., are expected to participate in the soldier’s reburial on Oct. 10.

# Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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## September 2009

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

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

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

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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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	<b>\$25.00 and up</b>	<b>\$4.95</b>	
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