



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

January 2013

www. franklin-stfb.org

Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection, and Promotion of
Civil War Sites in Williamson County, Tennessee

President's Message

This spring will bring the Sesquicentennial of three significant Williamson County battles and engagements.

- March 5, 1863 - Battle of Thompson's Station
- March 25, 1863 - Battle of Brentwood
- April 10, 1863 - First Battle of Franklin

These battles came about as Federal forces, attempting to consolidate their foothold in Middle Tennessee, contended with Confederates across Williamson County during the turbulent year of 1863. Details for the planned Thompsons Station event follow in this issue. In past years, STFB has conducted public tours on all three battlefields and we will share battle summaries in upcoming newsletters.

Save the date April 6th for the Civil War Trust sponsored 'Park Day' in Franklin that will focus on new plantings at Fort Granger. Your help is needed as the Franklin Parks Department prepares Fort Granger Park for the Battle of Franklin Sesquicentennial. The city plans to expand the interpretation to showcase the Fort's role in the Battle of Franklin. We will share more details as we get closer to the date.

I hope your New Year is off to a great start.

Mike Walker – President

New & Renewing Members December 2012

Paul Anderson	Franklin, TN
Paul Arch	Coraopolis, PA
Bob Beck	Franklin, TN
Lorena Bestor	Kansas City, MO
Dorothy Carter	Nolensville, TN
Jim Creecy	Nashville, TN
Barbara and Judy Deignan	Seattle, WA
Harold Donaldson	Ooltewah, TN
Miles Ezell	Nashville, TN
Don & Nancy Garrison	Franklin, TN
Mike Grainger	Franklin, TN
Brett Herndon	Little Rock, AR
Kirk Hinman	Lakewood, TN
Robert Huff	Franklin, TN
Dennis & Teresa Keesece	Westerville, OH
Ray Kevorkian	Swampscott, MA
Stanley Killian	Beaumont, TX
James Lighthizer CWT	Washington, DC
Shirley Lovelace	Germantown, TN
Sherri Miller	Allentown, PA
Carroll & Jane Moore	Brentwood, TN
William D Moseley	Franklin, TN
Gloria Ramsaur	St Simons Island, GA
Bob & Judy Ray	Crossville, TN
David Rousculp	Marietta, GA
Henry Simpson	Birmingham, AL
Tom Sladek	Brentwood, TN
Jack & Betty Stephens	Pryor, OK
James K Turner	Franklin, TN
Billy Lou Wright	Nolensville, TN
Mrs Peter Wulfig	Centennial, CO

We need for each reader out there to renew their membership and for new folks to join up. Come join in. You are still needed.

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The Domino's Deal Has Closed

In December, the Civil War Trust (CWT) purchased the small strip mall near the Carter House on Columbia Avenue in Franklin to preserve a crucial parcel of land where some of the bloodiest fighting in the Battle of Franklin occurred. The "Domino's Strip", named for the pizza shop located there, was purchased for \$1.85 million from local businessmen Donnie and Tim Cameron. This CWT purchase was made through a partnership with Franklin's Charge and with generous private donors. The parcel will be combined with several other adjoining parcels with plans for restoration to its Civil War era appearance. Potential plans for these contiguous properties include rebuilding the Carter cotton gin on its original location. The joint fundraising for this project is still active.



A rendering of the future Carter Cotton Gin park at Columbia Pike and Cleburne Street. The southeast corner is currently a city park on the site of the former Pizza Hut.

Purchasing the Domino's property is the culmination of many years of effort to acquire contiguous parcels for a park. In 1998, the Heritage Foundation purchased an adjoining property at 109 Cleburne St. Then in 2005, the City purchased the Pizza Hut site. Franklin's Charge purchased the adjoining Holt house in 2009. Since that time, the CWT has acquired two other Cleburne St. properties that will greatly enhance the interpretation of the fighting near the gin. Separately, the CWT bought a Columbia Ave. site near the Federal Advanced Line, and in partnership with STFB bought the 5-acre Loring's Advance property in 2011. By working together, we are making progress.

148th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Illumination (continued) November 30, 2012

The December issue of the STFB Newsletter had a report on the Illumination on the Carter House

grounds but we had no room for pictures. The annual event commemorates the Battle of Franklin and invites visitors to reflect on the men of both armies – the Americans – who fought and died on these very grounds 148 years ago.

The 1,500 luminaries covered the entire grounds from the Carter House outbuildings to the visitor center in rank-and-file precision. Mayor Ken Moore welcomed the crowd that gathered around the back porch, and introduced the program and the speaker Eric Jacobson, the Chief Operating Officer of the Battlefield Trust. Jacobson spoke on "Franklin: Its Place in History," relating how ordinary Americans, each fighting for the cause he championed, engaged in a savage battle that made its lasting mark on history. As he spoke in the gathering darkness, the light from the luminaries grew in a brightness that focused attention on the casualties of the Battle of Franklin. The annual event also renews our memories of the citizens of Franklin who 148 years ago cared for the wounded and helped bury the dead.

The highlight of the program was the vocal presentations by the children of the Bravo Creative Arts Center Choral Group singing, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Dixie," and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again." They were simply spectacular and the crowd enthusiastically showed their appreciation. The program concluded with "Taps" from the bugle of Chad Gray. We hope they come back in future years.

The Illumination was made possible by the efforts of the many volunteers, including members of the Choral Group, who assisted in the preparation and takedown of the display.



Just a few of the volunteers who assembled, placed and lighted the Illumination display on the Carter House grounds. The STFB web site has a folio of pictures for all of the Illuminations from 2006 to 2012.



The commemorative ceremony was presented from the Carter House back porch – here the Bravo Creative Arts Center Choral Group sings one of their numbers



Event visitors move among the 1,500 luminaries as they reflect on the magnitude of the sacrifice made by the nearly 10,000 casualties of this battle.

News In Review January 2013

Anniversary of Civil War battle nears 150 years — *The Tennessean*–Franklin Review Appeal — 1/9/13 — Thompson’s Station — Saturday March 9, has been set aside for a commemorative event at Homestead Manor in Thompson’s Station recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Thompson’s Station. Proceedings will include living and walking history, cannon fire demonstrations, demonstration of period weapons, a cavalry show, period music, a tour of Homestead Manor and grounds, and a night-time dance. Look for details on the STFB web site.

Turn of the century historical photos of Franklin battlefield discovered — *Williamson Herald*— 12/20/12 — FRANKLIN — The Battle of Franklin Trust Chief Operating Officer Eric A. Jacobson announced recently the findings of turn of the

century photographs of the Franklin battlefield, the Carter House, and the Confederate Cemetery. These photos provide a never before seen view of the historic area. Most were taken in June 1904, but several were taken in 1899. Photographer Albert Kern apparently made two trips to Franklin where he photographed the battlefield in 1899 and again in 1904.

A few images have been posted on the Carter House Facebook page, and the Battle of Franklin Trust is planning to conduct a public forum that will allow interested parties to view the photos in early 2013.

The Lotz House welcomes home sixth Matilda Lotz painting — *Williamson Herald*— 12/18/12 — FRANKLIN — The Historic Lotz House museum in Franklin Tenn. has been gifted another painting by the late artist, Matilda Lotz, who grew up in the historic home. After being open for only four years, this is the sixth painting acquired in the house collection. The painting, titled “Black Sheep,” was completed by Lotz at the age of 18 in 1876. The talented young artist painted a flock of sheep in green rolling hills with two very dominant black sheep.

Franklin cemeteries added to Historic Places Register — *The Tennessean*–Williamson A.M. — 1/4/13 — FRANKLIN — A pair of cemeteries in downtown Franklin will be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, officially designating the sites for preservation. Franklin City Cemetery and Rest Haven Cemetery, located across North Margin Street from one another, both date back to the early 1800s. The National Register of Historic Places is the country’s official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation, according to a statement from the Tennessee Historical Commission. It is this statewide body that administers the program here.

Photos of Civil War memorabilia wanted for 150th anniversary exhibit — *The Tennessean*- Review Appeal — 1/16/13 — NASHVILLE — The “Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee” event will take place 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26. Archivists and curators from the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the Tennessee State Museum will scan or digitally photograph original Civil War memorabilia owned by local residents for this new exhibit. Some of the items will be featured in the exhibit. The archivists will not actually take possession of the items from their owners. Individuals may call 615-741-1883 or e-mail civilwar.tsla@tn.gov to schedule a reservation with the archivists. Reservation forms and available times may be found at tn.gov/tsla/cwtn/events.htm

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



January 2013

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