



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

January 2015 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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We hope you and yours had a safe and happy holiday season and are looking forward to a wonderful 2015.

We at Save the Franklin Battlefield look at 2015 as an opportunity to continue to make a difference with Battlefield preservation here in Franklin and Williamson County.

Many of you are aware that the Domino's property is almost completely cleared in preparation of converting the land to a passive civil war park.

What some of you may not be aware of is that since the "Blue House" was moved several months ago, Dr. Larry McKee has been conducting an excavation on the property in an attempt to locate the exact location of the trench line and the Carter Cotton Gin that once stood on that property. His work has provided some very interesting information and you will see that in an article within this newsletter.

We would like to remind you to consider Save the Franklin Battlefield, a 501(c) 3, a not for profit organization for your charitable giving. Any gifts to STFB are tax deductible and will be used for future land acquisitions.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support. Follow us via our web page and on Facebook.

Dan Mora – President

New & Renewing Members December 2014

Erich J Altenkirch	Palm City, FL
James B Atkinson, M.D.	Brentwood, TN
Lorena Bestor	Kansas City, MO
Nelson Boren	Nashville, TN
Thomas & Rebecca Bowers	Dahlonega, GA
Scott C Campbell	Harvest, AL
Mrs David Cofrin	Gainesville, FL
Valley Corps Confederate Vols	Durand, IL
John Cox	Franklin, TN
Jim Creecy	Nashville, TN
Brandywine Valley CWRT	Paoli, PA
Orange County CWRT	Garden Grove, CA
Donald Garrison	Franklin, TN
Kelly Gilfillan	Brentwood, TN
Jeff Gillis	Spring Hill, TN
Michael & Donna Grainger	Franklin, TN
Francis Hall	Plant City, FL
John Halliday	Benicia, CA
James Lighthizer	Washington, DC
Brett Herndon	Little Rock, AR
Robert Hicks	Franklin, TN
Mike & Debbie Jeanette	Franklin, TN
Maxine Laura	Franklin, TN
Sherry Male	Nashville, TN
David Martin	Whites Creek, TN
Carroll & Jane Moore	Brentwood, TN
Anthony Morreale Family	Franklin, TN
William D Moseley	Franklin, TN
Nancy & Bob Neighbors	Conway, AR
Fred Prouty	Old Hickory, TN
Gloria Ramsaur	St Simons Island, GA
Damian Shiels	Midleton, Ireland
Tom & Beryl Shive	Aston, PA
Sean Von Loh	Greeley, CO
Ridley Wills	Nashville, TN
Billy Lou Wright	Nolensville, TN

Effort To Purchase Lovell Property Progresses

Franklins Charge signed a purchase contract last year to buy the Lovell property just south of the Carter House for \$2.8 million. This commercial property actually has two lots totaling about 1.7 acres. The large house is now a Florist & Gift Shop and the house to its south is commercially rented. Together, they extend from the Carter House outbuildings to Strahl Street, and from Columbia Avenue west to the Carter garden parcel purchased in 2008 by the CWT.



Rendering of Future Carter Hill Park

The Lovell property is pictured above as the restored Carter Garden just west of Columbia Avenue. The main Federal trench line was near the southern boundary of the property and the second, retrenchment line was across the northern edge.

The purchase deal is still being assembled but has this general structure: The funds for the Lovell purchase will come from donors, the Civil War Trust, the National Parks Service American Battlefield Protection Program, the local preservation groups that make up Franklins Charge, and bank loans.

In addition to, but just as important as, local preservation groups and the CWT have purchased and currently own several individual parcels of the Franklin battlefield acquired over the last 12-15 years. These battlefield parcels would be donated free and clear to be combined with the Lovell properties, and offered to the City at a greatly discounted price. Including the Lovell property, the total purchase prices paid for all of the battlefield properties is roughly \$6.8 million

This consolidated Carter Hill Park of about 20 acres would then be maintained by the Franklin City Parks

Department. These donated parcels would not include the Carter House, Carnton Plantation, or the Lotz House. However, as other adjoining battlefield parcels were purchased in the future, they would be added to the City Parks as well.

If the details of such an overall plan can be nailed down, the City would not use sales tax or property tax revenues. Instead, they would direct a portion of the Hotel/Motel tax revenues over several years to help pay down the Lovell property loans, and the consolidated Carter Hill Park would be transferred to the City.

As additional donated components to the plan, the National Heritage Area Office at MTSU has offered to fund the interpretative signage for the consolidated Carter Hill Park, and a private donor has offered to fund the bigger part of reconstructing the Carter Cotton Gin.

There would still be a need to raise about \$300,000 to complete the purchase, remove the buildings, do archeological digs, and restore the landscape. We do need donors to step up to that task.

Donations can be sent to:

STFB
PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065

..and designate the portion of the gift for the Lovell purchase. Gifts can also be sent to

Franklins Charge
604 West Main Street
Franklin, TN 37065

Julian Bibb at Franklins Charge says that the non-profit groups that currently own the battlefield parcels have all agreed in principal to donate their parcels to a consolidated park, and bankers are standing ready to fund the deal. He further estimates that the details of a workable, overall plan for a consolidated Carter Hill Park will be finalized and formally accepted by all parties by March/April. Don't forget to send money.

Major Archeological Excavation Locates Trench Line at Cotton Gin

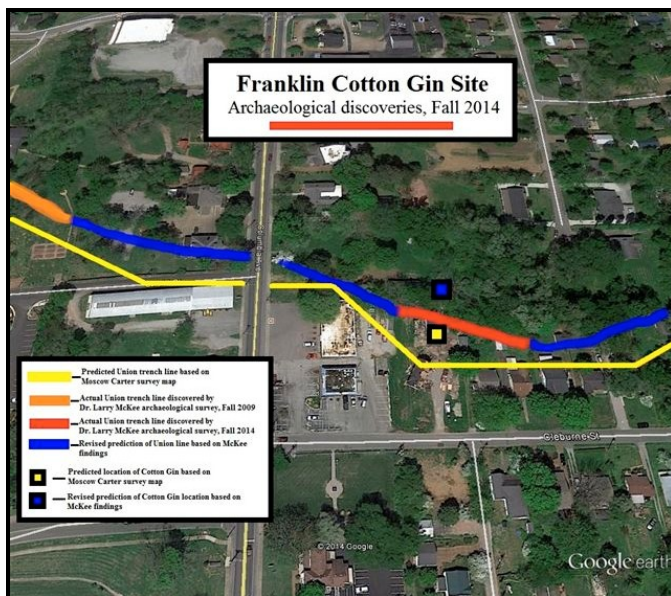
Dr Larry McKee has released a graphic that indicates

where the Federal trench line was laid out in the cotton gin area. He has not completed the dig and has not released a complete report, but he did want all interested parties to have the news of the discovery of the Federal trench line location.



Dr Larry McKee and his team find the Federal trench line on the cotton gin site – reader is looking just south of east

Sometime after the war, Moscow Carter drew a map of the trench line that has been used in many books and reference materials. Since Moscow was a surveyor, his map has always been accepted as gospel – until now. Dr McKee’s graphic below shows Moscow’s trench as the angular light colored (yellow) line with straight segments.



Preliminary findings of McKee’s dig at the cotton gin site

The new trench line discovery is the segment near the two squares. The squares are the predicted gin location based on Moscow’s map and McKee’s dig. At the photo’s left edge is McKee’s 2009 discovery of a trench line segment. Dr McKee has drawn in a ‘predicted’ location of the remaining line based on

these two known segments. Moscow’s map seems to be off by 10 to 20 yards in some places. More work needs to be done and must not be rushed. More later.

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At your first logon, you will be asked to select the charitable organization of your choice. Search for and select Save The Franklin Battlefield. From then on, if you always use **smile.amazon.com**, you will be helping Save The Franklin Battlefield in a big way. Many thanks for taking the time & fuss to help us.

**News In Review
January 2015**

Franklin, Tenn., Commemorates 150th Battle Anniversary — The Civil War News — Jan 2015 — FRANKLIN— The Battle of Franklin’s 150th anniversary was remembered with a wide variety of events. Country and bluegrass artists performed new music some of which is related to Franklin’s role in the war. Franklin Civil War Round Table featured National Park Service Chief Historian, *emeritus*, Ed Bearss. He spoke to sold out dinners and led two bus tours of the battlefield. Finally, on the night of the 150th anniversary, reenactors marched from Winstead Hill to the Carter House with hundreds of onlookers lining the closed streets and candles lighting the way.

Year in Review — Williamson Herald 1/2/15 — FRANKLIN — The commemoration of the Battle of Franklin sparked a strong desire among many to get involved, but particularly battlefield preservationists who have begun a campaign to acquire developed property with a future plan to create an interpretative passive park surrounding The Carter House, along Columbia Avenue. The Carter’s Hill project was announced mid-year as a vision for what could become the country’s largest urban battlefield reclamation project. But it was the unified orchestration of the 150th, or sesquicentennial, of the Battle of Franklin that brought national and state attention to Franklin

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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January 2015

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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	
	"Heading Back Home" DVD the story of Franklin's Unknown Soldier Burial	\$25.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Perryville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	"Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Franklin" ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
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STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.