



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

April 2017

www. franklin-stfb.org

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

## President's Message

April 22, 2015 was the date of the last Pizza Party on the old Dominos property, located just east of Columbia Pike and just west of the recently discovered Foundation of the Carter Cotton Gin.

The Cotton Gin was the focal point for all of the Confederates storming the formidable Federal trench line. Countless men from both sides of the conflict were killed, maimed, or wounded on this ground. And yet for decades, the only tribute to these men, were a couple of pizza places.

For those of us on the Save The Franklin Battlefield Board and all of the other preservation groups present, that may have been the best piece of pizza we've ever eaten, as we watched the crew begin to demolish the brick Dominos structure.

When I see the progress that has been made in the last two years as the Carter Hill Battlefield Park gradually comes to fruition, I'm reminded that the wheels of Preservation turn slowly, and we must keep our collective shoulders to those wheels to keep them turning.

Thanks to each and every one of you who help us.

Chip Huffman – President

## New & Renewing Members March 2017

James Addicott	Rice, MN
Mary Ann Avola	Piscataway, NJ
Lorena Bestor	Kansas City, MO
Walter Corey	Lenoir City, TN
Mary Craig	Murfreesboro, TN
Rockland CWRT	Pearl River, NY
Thomas & Judy Dickerson	Montgomery, AL
Phillip Duer	Brentwood, TN
Fred Ehler	Riverdale, IL
David & Pamela Fay	Franklin, TN
Leigh Lori & JayJay Franklin	Glendale Heights, IL
Peggy & Robin Hood	Franklin, TN
Hal Litchford	Orlando, FL
Emily Magid	Franklin, TN
Joan Markel	Knoxville, TN
Tom Potter Family	Allard, TN
Timothy Shea	Worcester, MA
Jack & Betty Stephens	Pryor, OK
Gilbert Sullivan	Birmingham, AL
Tom Tarpy	Brentwood, TN

## Dick Simpson & SUV Camp 15 Donate to Franklin

Our old friend Dick Simpson recently wrote to report that he has once again been campaigning in central Pennsylvania telling the Franklin story. He just turned 83 and says he mostly campaigns close to home in Lancaster, PA these days.

As a long-time STFB member, Dick visited Franklin in 2004 and again in 2010 with his wife Deborah. His mission was to gather presentation materials and photos of the battle sites and to catch up on the most recent preservation efforts.

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The resulting “Forgotten Battle of Franklin” lecture was added to his portfolio of five other programs that he does for CWRTs and other history groups out east.

On March 19, Dick presented his Franklin program for the Maj Gen John Hartranft Camp 15 SUV at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA.. Camp Commander Jeff Smith and Treasurer David Demmy presented Dick with a \$100 donation for the Franklin Battlefield, which will be used to ‘buy dirt’. A big STFB “Thank You” goes to the Camp 15 boys and to Dick Simpson for his steadfast commitment to helping the Franklin Battlefield all these years.

## Lorings Advance Battlefield Parcel Transferred to BoFT

The Civil War Trust recently transferred the 5-acre Lorings Advance battlefield parcel to the Battle of Franklin Trust for future care and interpretation. This open area land is mostly unknown to Civil War students, even the locals, because it has been landlocked from public access until just recently. The BoFT has already led two well-attended public tours of the property with more to come.

This parcel is just west of the railroad about 300 yards south of the of the Federal trench line. Collins Farm is across the tracks and a few yards north of Lorings Advance. When STFB purchased Collins Farm in 2001, five families who bordered the landlocked 5-acres formed a partnership and purchased it to hold it off the market until a preservation group could buy it. In 2001, the Civil War Trust with its donors and grant writers had not yet arrived in Franklin. So a summary of affairs was that the Heritage Foundation owned the cotton gin site (blue house) at 109 Cleburne St, STFB owned Collins Farm and a huge mortgage, and the Lorings Advance LLC held an isolated 5-acre chunk of the Franklin Battlefield. The LA leaders often met with STFB officers over the years to explore possible ways to buy their property with a conservation easement.

The five acres are in the middle of a great killing field between Columbia Pike and the river. Historian Eric Jacobson estimates that two-thirds of all Confederate killed, wounded and missing were in this area.

The Federal gunners could hardly miss the advancing formations. An estimated 11,500 confederates attacked

this part of the Federal line. If you could line up those soldiers at the trench line from Columbia Pike to the river, one yard per man, the formation would be fourteen ranks deep. Jacobson estimates that Federal guns poured 1,150 rounds into this mass of men as they doggedly advanced. This is hallowed ground.



Loring's and Walthall's divisions attached along the river and Lewisburg Pike into the deadly fire of ten guns on McKnutt hill behind the trench line and four guns at Ft Granger



### Loring's Advance Battle of Franklin Site



Federal trench line could be seen from Columbia Pike to the railroad

View to northwest from the entrance of Lorings Advance showing the cotton gin location. The tree line is in a ravine where Gen Adams may have led his men west to attack near the cotton gin.

In 2002, the CWT did come to Franklin and greatly aided the City and the preservation groups with the purchase of the Eastern Flank Battlefield (golf course). In following years, the slow work began to buy individual parcels along Cleburne Street and Columbia Avenue around the cotton gin and the Carter House.

By 2007, Collins Farm was paid off and stabilized. STFB transferred the property to the Franklin Parks Dept, and in 2010 revived the talks with the Lorings Advance leaders. With a donation of \$50,000 from

STFB, the CWT found donors and ABPP grants to fund the 2011 CWT purchase and preservation easement of Lorings Advance.

STFB assumed the task and costs of maintaining the property and clearing undergrowth and privet thickets from the fence line and ravine. In 2014, STFB gained title to a narrow parcel on the south LA boundary that exits to Meadowlawn Dr as a maintenance access.

### **The Battle of Franklin Trust Presents Calicos & Cadets Day Camp June 20-22 and July 11-13**

Each summer, The Battle of Franklin Trust hosts **Calicos & Cadets** day camps at Historic Carnton Plantation. Boys and girls ages 8 - 12 are invited to come explore 19th century soldier and civilian life through activities, games, and re-enactor demonstrations.

June 20-22 and July 11-13, 2017

9:00 am - 4:30 pm each day

\$125.00 per camper

The programs for the two dates are different

#### **June Camp: "Life in the 1800s"**

Come take a step back in time and encounter life in the 1800s! Students will have the opportunity to churn butter and snack on treats from the past, dig for artifacts, play period games, and engage in other Victorian activities to discover nineteenth century America. This camp provides a fun, hands-on experience for kids to dive into history.

#### **July Camp: "Soldier Life"**

Learn what life was like for both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. Through activities like marching, drilling, and enlisting, the Civil War becomes alive. Women also played a vital role for both sides – learn about the home front and nurses, as students participate in an authentic field hospital. The camp provides an engaging learning experience for boys and girls ages 8-12

Visit [boft.org/calicos-cadets](http://boft.org/calicos-cadets) for more information and to register

For questions or more information, please contact Sarah Falck at (615) 794-0903 or [sarah@boft.org](mailto:sarah@boft.org)

## **News in Review**

**April 2017**

### **City to begin management of Rippavilla Plantation — CWT Hallowed Ground — Spring 2017 —**

**Spring Hill** — The City of Spring Hill, Tenn., voted unanimously in January to accept the ownership of historic Rippavilla Plantation and 98 adjacent historic acres, continuing to operate them as a park, museum and event venue.

**Tennessee leads the way — CWT Hallowed Ground — Spring 2017 — Nashville** — Through the Civil War or War Between the States Site Preservation Sites Fund, Tennessee has become the first state to set aside dedicated and recurring funding for the protection of battlefield land. The Fund ensures two annually recurring funding sources: a \$250,000 allocation from the Tennessee State Lands Acquisition Fund and a portion of the year-to-year revenue growth from the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax. For fiscal year 2017-18, this will translate to more than \$1.2 million in funding, with any unspent balance set aside for use in future years.

**Masonic Hall using state funding for first phase of historic preservation — Williamson Herald — 3/28/17 — FRANKLIN** — Last October, \$50,000 was appropriated by the state to fund renovations to the aging 190-year-old Masonic Hall. The state funding will go toward the first phase of the project, which involves preserving the gothic architectural style wall that faces west on the Masonic Hall. The members of the Masonic hall are currently working with a firm to develop plans and drawings for the wall to be preserved. The project is moving and progressing forward. Additional funding will be needed to further preserve the Masonic Hall.

**McLemore House Museum to debut Civil War Exhibit — The Tennessean: Williamson — 4/9/17 — FRANKLIN** — The African American-Heritage Society and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area have partnered for a new exhibit on Harvey McLemore, a Franklin man who, once emancipated, played a large part in the area's post-war reconstruction. The exhibit is on display at the McLemore House Museum, 446 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, Franklin. A ribbon cutting was held at the museum on April 19. The museum is open for tours on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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April 2017

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

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	Item	Price	Total
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: <b>Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase</b> (circle one)		
	“Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville” ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	“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	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Shiloh” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
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	<b>SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING (Items only) ~ Under \$25.00 - or -</b>	<b>\$4.95</b>	
	<b>\$25.00 and up</b>	<b>\$5.95</b>	
	ORDER TOTAL		

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STFB Membership is annual. Dues and donations are tax deductible.