



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

March 2017

[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 is my first message to the membership as President of Save The Franklin Battlefield. I first want to thank my fellow board members for the faith they have placed in me. I have been honored to serve as a Board Member for many years, and I am proud to follow in the footsteps of so many Civil War Preservations who have served on this Board. For 25 years this great organization has led the way in the preservation of a portion of the Franklin Battlefield.

The Franklin area and, for that matter, all of Middle Tennessee, was struck by severe thunderstorms and tornadoes on March 1st of this year. As I watched the clean up from the devastation go on day after day, I was reminded of what it must have been like in Franklin after the Battle on November 30, 1864. The devastation in property and lives was enormous.

The storm cleanup is a reminder that the grief and turmoil of the battle didn't end when the Federal army crossed the Harpeth and retreated to Nashville. It is the memory of those horrible days and the lessons they teach that we strive to preserve.

Thank you all for supporting Save The Franklin Battlefield all these many years.

Chip Huffman – President

## New & Renewing Members February 2017

Nancy Conway	Franklin, TN
Robert E Lee CWRT	Newton, NJ
John & Tracey Guimelli	Queensland, Australia
Ken Knouf	Madison, IN
Linda Logsdon	Lyles, TN
Venvert Martin	Dahlonega, GA
Gary Matthews	Galloway, OH
Dan Morrow	Franklin, TN
Mike Walker	Franklin, TN
Stewart White	Gainesville, FL
Craig & Patricia Young	Franklin, TN

## Carter Hill Battlefield Park Update



**It has been over 100 years since this south side view of the Carter House and outbuildings has been seen. This is roughly what the soldiers of both sides witnessed.**

The two houses and all of the outbuildings have now been removed from the two Lovell properties just south of the Carter House. The utilities and asphalt paving have also been removed. The next step, according to Battle of Franklin Trust CEO

Web site



Facebook



Eric Jacobson, is to have an archeology study done to locate the main trench across the property. That should be accomplished in the next few months.

The BoFT and Franklins Charge currently hold title to the property and will transfer it to the City of Franklin Parks Department as part of the Carter Hill Battlefield Park once the archeology study finishes.

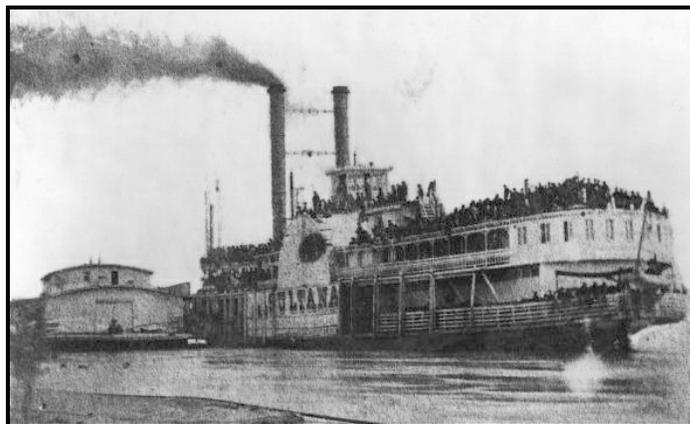
Other big news – State Representative Charles Sargent has announced that Governor Bill Haslam’s budget for 2017-2018 includes funds for a new Visitor Center at the Carter House State Historic Site. Sargent commented that the \$3.2 million allocation would fund the center and also renovate the Carter House to its wartime appearance. Jacobson added that the Site now hosts 40,000 visitors each year and the current visitor center can no longer accommodate the increasing tourist traffic. Sargent also thanked Governor Haslam for supporting the project that will help tourism in Middle Tennessee and throughout the state.

### **Sultana Reunion in Franklin April 21–22, 2017**

The winter of 1864–65 bore witness to the death of hundreds of Americans in the prison camps of both North and South. Even before the war ended, the two governments agreed to reinstate and accelerate the parole and exchange of most of the prisoners held. The Federal prisoners at Andersonville, GA and Cahaba (near Selma), AL were transported and/or marched to a parole camp near Vicksburg, MS where they could clean up, get new uniforms, receive medical care and regular meals while they waited to be exchanged.

The men’s spirits soared at their good fortune at long last. They had survived Civil War battles and the squalor and pestilence and hopelessness of prison camps, and now they were regaining their health and were going home at last. Praise God Almighty!!

The very last group of Federal prisoners at Vicksburg was loaded onto the side-wheeler steamboat Sultana, for the trip back to their families. Certified for 376 passengers, the boat was crammed with over 2,400 souls, almost all ex-prisoners. Many had been captured here at Franklin. After stops at Helena for coal, and at Memphis to off-load cargo, the heavily overloaded vessel remained low in the water as it labored mightily against the Mississippi at spring-flood.



**The Sultana takes on coal at Helena, AR the day before the disaster. The upper decks are completely filled with joyous Federal ex-prisoners.**

At 2am April 27, and seven miles above Memphis, the boilers exploded and the splintered timbers soon caught fire forcing everyone into the water. Current estimates claim 1,800 of those aboard were killed outright, or soon drowned in the dark river, or later died of burns from scalding steam. This cruel calamity was America’s greatest maritime disaster – much greater than the Titanic sinking. Amazingly, few students of the Civil War know of the Sultana disaster. National news of this terrible catastrophe was lost amid the flood of news covering war’s end, the assassination of Lincoln, and the search to find his killer and co-conspirators. The Sultana was mostly forgotten.

The Sultana survivors organized an annual reunion to recall their good fortune and to keep alive the memory of those lost. That organization waxed and waned over the years but for the past 30 years has gathered as the Sultana Reunion of the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends.

**If you would like to register and attend this year’s Reunion in Franklin** and learn more about the Sultana, you should contact Norm Shaw 865-705-1127 [shawclan4@bellsouth.net](mailto:shawclan4@bellsouth.net) for details. The event will be held at Best Western Inn on Hwy 96. The cost is \$78 for all tours and meal functions.

#### **Activities Schedule**

**Friday 6:30 – 8:30 pm** – Introductions – Local speakers outline the Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin and battlefield preservation and archeology efforts over the years.

**9:00 pm – 10:30 pm** (optional) showing of “**Remember the Sultana**” documentary (DVD copies available for purchase)

### **Saturday 8:00 am**

**Bus Tour included** (cars will follow if needed)

- Carter House & grounds – 8:30 – 10:00 am included
- Cotton Gin site 10:15 – 11:00 am
- Lunch at Winstead Hill 11:15 am – 12:15 included
- Fort Granger 12:30 – 1:30 pm
- Carnton Plantation tour 2:00 – 4:00 pm included  
and Confederate Cemetery
- Return to Best Western

**Saturday 7:00 p.m.** Saturday evening Dinner included  
Sultana author Gene Salecker will be our featured speaker. Expect Gene to include some new findings in his talk.

Pam Newhouse will conclude the evening with the always-memorable candle lighting ceremony to remember each attendee's Sultana ancestor, and to close the annual reunion.

## **What Time Was The Battle of Franklin**

### **Local Time and Astronomical Data:**

According to the US Naval Observatory (USNO), the escape of Schofield's Federal Army at Spring Hill on November 29, 1864 was accomplished in complete darkness. The sun set (top of the Sun's disk at a level horizon) at 4:35 p.m. in today's Central Standard Time and there was no moonlight at all - November 29, 1864 was a new moon and after twilight, it was absolutely dark.

At Franklin November 30th, the sun set at 4:34 p.m. in today's Central Standard Time. Moscow Carter reports that the sun set at 4:51 p.m. local sun time which is 17 minutes ahead of today's Central Standard Time. The sliver crescent moon (3% of the Moon's visible disk illuminated) provided negligible light and set at 6:08pm CST (6:25 p.m. local sun time). Except for muzzle flashes, it was again pitch dark after twilight.

The USNO calculates noon at 11:37 CST, which is 23 minutes behind Moscow's local sun time. As not to quibble, let's agree to use Moscow's 17-minute delta instead. So if you want to walk or drive the battlefield on November 30 in the sunlight that the soldiers saw, the generally accepted time is that the Confederate assault stepped off at 4:00 p.m. (3:43p.m. CST) and the trench line finally fell quiet about 9:00 pm (8:43pm CST). The Franklin battlefield after sunset was in total

darkness without moonlight.

## **News In Review March 2017**

**Lotz House and Living History Corps — Williamson Herald — 2/23/16 — FRANKLIN —**  
The Living History Corps produced the Lotz House's first-ever living history exhibit. The live event focused on the Tennessee Campaign of 1864 and the Army of the Cumberland, one of the principal Union armies. Historians from the History Corps portrayed and reenacted various branches of service including infantry, medical staff and United States Colored Troops.

**Williamson Memorial's Presidents Day program examines Abraham Lincoln — Williamson Herald — 2/23/16 — FRANKLIN —**  
A lecture about Abraham Lincoln's assassination and death was presented during a Presidents Day program hosted by Williamson Memorial Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Todd Van Beck, director of continuing education at John A. Gupton College in Nashville, was the keynote speaker. "April of 1865 had to be one of the most monumental months in American history," Van Beck said. From his appearance to his personality, every aspect of Lincoln was meticulously covered by Van Beck, who detailed the assassination time line, the conspirators involved, and the journey Lincoln's body made before he was laid to rest. Lincoln's family was also covered, including the impact his death had on his children and wife.

**Calicos and Cadets Summer Camp — Williamson Herald — 3/6/16 — FRANKLIN —**  
The Battle of Franklin Trust will once again provide a hands-on, 1860s-style summer camp experience for children ages 8 to 12. The Calicos and Cadets program will be offered in two unique sessions, "Life in the 1800s," Tuesday, June 20 through Thursday, June 22 and "Soldier Life," Tuesday, July 11 through Thursday, July 13.

**At Lotz House, battle is just the beginning of the story — Williamson Herald — 3/15/16 — FRANKLIN —**  
The youngest member of the family, Matilda, adds depth and character to a story so many people otherwise thought they knew. The depth and complexity of the story takes place post-Civil War. Matilda grows up to have a remarkable life as a renowned oil painter.

# Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## March 2017

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

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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	
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