



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

August 2018

[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 issue of our newsletter reprints two recent newspaper articles reporting on the public discussion about the Confederate Soldier Monument on the Public Square. Both reporters are professional journalists and dutifully report all sides of the issue. We suggest you read them in detail.

As reported in our last issue, one of our stalwart members has offered to place the second and last Napoleon 12 Pdr Cannon on Carter Hill Battlefield Park near the cotton gin. This replica gun will complete the 6<sup>th</sup> OH Battery display. These are the guns that delivered terrible canister fire on the attacking Confederate formations and later on those pinned down on the battlefield who could neither advance nor retreat.

There are also the three 3" Ordnance Rifles near Columbia Pike representing the 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Battery. Carter Hill Battlefield Park now looks much like it did on that fateful day of November 30, 1864.

We now have a new project to place four 3" Ordnance Rifles at Fort Granger to represent the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Battery D that poured such devastating fire into the right flank of attacking Confederate formations. High quality guns and carriages with authentic stampings on the muzzle, breach and trunnions cost \$20k each, including a donor recognition plaque. If you or your group would like to sponsor a gun, please contact Treasurer Sam Huffman at: [sam@capp.org](mailto:sam@capp.org) or (615) 480-9539.

Chip Huffman – President

## New & Renewing Members July 2018

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Karen Arnsdorf             | Chippewa Falls, WI |
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| Jim Campi                  | Burke, VA          |
| Clarksville CWRT           | Clarksville, TN    |
| George W Lee CWRT          | Brighton, MI       |
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| United Kingdom CWRT        | Margate, Kent UK   |
| Mark Day                   | Lynchburg, VA      |
| Dennis Faught              | Columbia, TN       |
| Bob Gentry                 | Franklin, TN       |
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| Michael Hoover             | Grand Terrace, CA  |
| Del Horton                 | Michie, TN         |
| Patric Parker              | Lincolnton, GA     |
| Mark & Karen Perreault     | Norfolk, VA        |
| Christopher Sears          | Nashville, TN      |
| Amanda Sinclair            | Brentwood, TN      |
| Dr Samuel Smith & Family   | Brentwood, TN      |
| Jody & Pat Thompson        | Franklin, TN       |
| M/M Timothy Travor         | Clay Center, OH    |
| Steve Varner               | Ft Wayne, IN       |

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**"Three preachers and a historian tell  
'fuller story' by proposing Civil War  
monument, markers"**

*(Reprinted with permission)*

By **Kerri Bartlett** - Managing Editor Aug 14, 2018  
**Williamson Herald**

With a desire to quell any onset of mounting racial tensions following the Charlottesville tragedy and to understand how Civil War monuments impact a community, four men — a white historian, two African-American preachers and one white preacher — started a

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year-long conversation accompanied by “a lot of coffee.”

The outcome of the conversation resulted in a plan, presented by the four men to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen Tuesday, titled “The Fuller Story.”

Pastors Kevin Riggs of Franklin Community Church, Hewitt Sawyers, a preacher of 35 years at West Harpeth Primitive Baptist Church, Chris Williamson of Strong Tower Bible Church and Eric Jacobson, chief executive officer of the Battle of Franklin Trust and historian, presented the proposal to BOMA.

“Although Franklin is a historical city and everything about it is a Civil War town, we feel only a portion of what transpired is being told and that a more complete story needs to be told,” Sawyers explained to the Herald this week.

Sawyers, 70, is a native of Williamson County. He graduated from Natchez High School in 1965, just two years before desegregation, following the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka*.

“By telling the full story, I think our town will appreciate it and our visitors will also appreciate it,” Sawyers said.

At the BOMA meeting, Sawyers said the wound of the Civil War is still felt by many.

“A lack of healing has caused unrest for some 150 years,” he said. “We don’t want those things happening in Franklin. We wanted to get out in front of the fear and be proactive, tell about our history and bridge the gap and be one nation under God.”

### **Almost a year to the day**

Last year, almost to the day, Riggs held a prayer vigil at Franklin’s Public Square, attended by citizens and members of the clergy, to remember a life lost in Charlottesville during a protest, following a white supremacist gathering around a Robert E. Lee statue. Riggs made the comment that maybe Franklin should think about removing the Civil War soldier statue located on Public Square, referred to as “Chip.”

After his comment, citizens responded with strong emotion, some adamantly in opposition, stirring up a “hornet’s nest,” Riggs said. “It was never my intention to cause ill feelings, but only to talk as a community about what we can do.”

Jacobson attended the vigil and called Riggs the next day. Since, the two started a conversation along with pastors Sawyers and Williamson that has been ongoing for a year, resulting in the best solution they could find in “The Fuller Story” proposal.

“We didn’t want anything like Charlottesville to happen in Franklin,” Jacobson said. “We knew the

subject would keep coming up over the next 10 years, 15 years. ... I felt a great responsibility to get out in front of whatever it was.”

Riggs and a few other area pastors also believed that the church should lead the conversation. “The churches wanted to be the drivers of this in the community — to be the conscience of the community,” Riggs said. “When tragedy happens, the first thing people do is come to religious leaders. We wanted to be proactive rather than reactionary. When something negative happens, why can’t churches be a part of something positive happening?” “We want to unite instead of divide,” he added.

So the four men began the conversation, ultimately reaching a proposal they believe will benefit Franklin by telling the fuller story of the experiences of African American slaves and soldiers during the Civil War.

### **The proposal: ‘The Fuller Story’ in four parts**

The proposal includes the installation of four historic markers around the statue of a Civil War soldier located on Public Square, referred to as “Chip,” due to a chip on the marble figure’s hat, which happened by accident as he was being erected on the square on Nov. 30, 1899.

Surrounding Chip, the four markers would tell the story of African American soldiers and slaves, including (1) the experience of the United States Colored Troops in Franklin; (2) a riot on July 4, 1867, which took place on the Square where Mellow Mushroom now sits after a community parade, resulting in one death; (3) the story of the “Market House” where slaves were sold that stood close to the old courthouse on the square; (4) and the Reconstruction and Jim Crow era when separate restrooms and water fountains were in Franklin.

Finally, the proposal also includes erecting a United States Colored Troops (USCT) soldier at an undecided location in Franklin to honor those soldiers who fought for their freedom. According to Jacobson, about 300 USCT from Franklin fought in the Civil War, while three of those soldiers died in the Battle of Nashville.

“Instead of taking something away, we can add to it,” Jacobson said. “And I think you have to consider the context. We are in a much different situation with the Civil War statue, which is an unnamed statue of the typical soldier who fought in the Civil War. We don’t have a Forrest or a Lee in Franklin.”

The plan is to erect the four markers on Martin Luther King Day 2019, with the erection of the statue the following year.

### **Reactions from aldermen**

Franklin aldermen responded warmly to the proposal and Dana McLendon, 2nd Ward, even suggested moving the project finish date up to as soon as possible.

“If you want to wait until Martin Luther King Day, fine, but let’s get it up,” McLendon said. McLendon also said he wanted to make sure that the city found a spot of

"equivalent rank" for the USCT soldier statue as Chip's prominence on the square.

Alderman at Large Pearl Bransford said she is proud of the group.

"I applaud your work," Bransford said. "It is to be commended [to be proactive]. I will support this. It is time this story be told."

Alderman Bev Burger, 1st Ward, followed Bransford's statement with, "Amen, I feel like I've been to church. On the square it's to honor the dead, not really politics or ideologies but people."

Franklin native Alderman at Large Brandy Blanton, who grew up seeing the statue Chip in the square, said she agreed that the other side of the story should be told.

"I am so encouraged in the way this is being handled," Blanton said. "We inherited Chip. ... My generation accepted this as the way things are but how great is it to give that heritage as well to others."

### **A yearlong conversation leads to friendship**

Of the conversations, the men said they learned a lot from each other. "We had a lot of meetings and a lot of coffee," Jacobson said.

"You have to be respectful of people and not go in with judgment," Sawyers said. "If you go in and judge without knowing them, you already have a problem. "We became friends. We tried to understand each other. ... You have to listen."

"One of the major things that I realized is that no matter what my father went through, he was never judged by the color of his skin," Jacobson said. "He never had to go the back of a store or establishment to order an ice cream."

As the four men were walking away from the Franklin BOMA work session Tuesday, they said, "I  
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### **Franklin faith leaders want markers next to Confederate monument**

*(Reprinted with permission)*

By **Emily R. West** Nashville **Tennessean**  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE  
Sunday, August 19

Franklin faith leaders want to add four historical markers on the public square to tell the full story of the Civil War in Williamson County.

Four different local pastors presented their ideas to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen on Tuesday. They and other historians want to place the markers in downtown Franklin. The markers will go in the same space as "Chip," a Confederate monument placed by the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1899.

A year ago, those same faith leaders stood on the Franklin square at a vigil demonstration for the victims of violence in Charlottesville, Va., a white nationalist rally in 2017 that turned deadly. After the vigil, Franklin residents

also argued through petitions and letters to aldermen about removing or keeping the Confederate statue in the square.

"The thought came: we are a lot like Charlottesville," Franklin Community Church pastor Kevin Riggs said. "We are taking steps to prevent that from happening. If something bad like that did happen here, one of the first thing is the pastors and churches would be asked to help. Instead of waiting, we thought we could do something positive and maybe not let that happen."

Markers will address the Williamson County Courthouse and Market House, where African Americans were sold as slaves. Prior to the war, around 12,000 slaves resided in the county.

They will also include the Franklin riot of 1867, where political groups clashed and one man was killed and at least 27 members of the members of the Colored League were wounded. The last of the markers will address the Jim Crow Era and Reconstruction in Williamson County.

The markers will be next to the steps onto the public square. "The markers might be difficult to absorb, but they are history," Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric Jacobson said. The Battle of Franklin Trust maintains Carnton and Carter House, two historical houses open for public tours.

"We shouldn't hide from our history," Jacobson said. "Healing begins when we talk to each other. These markers are statement of facts. People were bought and sold in this community for a long time. There was a riot in cities like Memphis and New Orleans. Franklin didn't suffer that chaos, but there was a riot here."

The group would also like to add a Union troop statue, which would recognize the U.S. Colored Troops from Williamson County. A location for that statue hasn't been identified.

### **About Slaves to Soldiers**

Slaves to Soldiers was started by Tina Jones, who is an African American Heritage Society of Williamson County board member. She launched the paver program on Veterans Day in 2017.

Eventually, Jones would like to place a brick paver for every U.S. Colored Troop soldier from Williamson County at Veterans' Park, located outside of the county archives building at 611 W. Main St. in Franklin.

It costs \$65 to sponsor a paver, Jones said. The park is operated by the Veterans Service Office of Williamson County.

### **About the Confederate monument**

The Daughters of the Confederacy placed the Confederate soldier statue on the square to remember those who died in the Battle of Franklin.

Around Franklin, the statue's nickname is Chip, after a chunk of the soldier's hat disappeared during his installation.

"In legend and lay, our heroes in gray shall ever live over again for us," part of the inscription reads.

The Daughters of Confederacy spent nearly \$2,700 to erect the monument.

Reach **Emily West** at [erwest@tennessean.com](mailto:erwest@tennessean.com); at 615-613-1380; or on Twitter at [@emwest22](https://twitter.com/emwest22).

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.  
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August 2018

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