



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

January 2018

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

Good news on Fort Negley! On January 13, Nashville Mayor Megan Berry announced that the Cloud Hill developer has withdrawn their proposal to place a new development that threatened the Greer Stadium site, located on the Fort Negley Park. The news was announced in the January 13 Tennessean page 1 headline above-the-fold. The mayor and preservation groups said they would work together to create a plan to historically interpret this site in an appropriate manner.

As an review of what the controversy entailed - local preservation groups have labored to save parts of the Fort Negley Park that had been given to the Triple A Baseball Team, The Nashville Sounds, to build Greer Stadium in 1977. The Sounds moved to a new stadium recently, and Greer Stadium has been sitting abandon and decaying for the last couple of years.

In an effort to revitalize this Park Property, the City of Nashville cut a deal with Private Developers to build a mixed use Retail and Residential project called the Cloud Hill Project, named after the adjacent hill where Federal Forces began building Fort Negley in 1862. Preservation Groups, including Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc, objected. You can follow events at <https://savenashvilleparks.org/>

Doesn't it feel really good to win this one?

Chip Huffman – President

New & Renewing Members December 2017

James Atkinson M.D.	Brentwood, TN
Dave Bond	Beavercreek, OH
Dr Michael Brown	Chattanooga, TN
Scott Campbell	Harvest, AL
Valley Corps Confederate Vol	Durand, IL
Jim Creecy	Nashville, TN
Orange County CWRT	Garden Grove, CA
Jay & Marsha Franks	Franklin, TN
Dennis & Kathleen Garoutte	Bloomington, MN
Donald & Nancy Garrison	Franklin, TN
Michael & Donna Grainger	Franklin, TN
John Halliday	Benicia, CA
Kirk Hinman	Lakewood, OH
Matthew Hooks	Leechburg, PA
Mike & Debbie Jeannette	Thompson Station, TN
James Lighthizer	Washington, DC
Magnolia Building Services	Franklin, TN
Sherry Male	Nashville, TN
Paula McCord	Franklin, TN
Carroll & Jane Moore	Brentwood, TN
William D Morgan	Franklin, TN
Anthony & Sheila Morreale	Franklin, TN
William D Moseley	Franklin, TN
Mary Pearce	Franklin, TN
Fred Prouty	Old Hickory, TN
Glenn Rieuf	Franklin, TN
Dave & Carolyn Rousculp	Marietta, GA
Carol Signett	Ferndale, WA
Scott & Kathy Speedy	Franklin, TN
Stan & Suzanne St Pierre	Franklin, TN
Paul Timmerman	Dover, NH
Rick Warwick	Franklin, TN
Ridley Wills II	Nashville, TN

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VISIT THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

The Civil War Trust Announces A Grand Review at Franklin October 13 – 14, 2018

The speakers list and behind-the-scene tour events are coming together for this special CWT event held for their donors. This is an invitation-only event for Brigade Level Color Bearers (\$2,500+/yr). But you still have time to visit civilwar.org and become a Brigade Color Bearer. That way you will be included in the Roll Call for the 2018 Grand Review.

The CWT came to Franklin in 2002 with their donors and grant writers, and was the financial horsepower that made Franklin possible. There is a [Franklin Preservation Timeline](#) compiled from STFB newsletters and newspaper clippings that heralds CWT efforts. With the CWT at the Franklin table, the City of Franklin and Tennessee State agencies were much more willing to partner with preservation efforts. It worked.

Williamson County Archives Offers U.S. Flag Retirement

If you are like most of us, you have several frayed and faded U.S. Flags neatly folded and stored in a drawer at home. We all have kept our old flags because we didn't know the proper and respectful method to dispose of them. Well, help is now at hand.



The red, white and blue box at County Archives is available 24/7 for you to drop off your U.S. flags to be retired

American Legion Post 215 and Boy Scout Troop 137 placed a box at the [County Archives 611 W Main Street](#). Post 215 gathers the flags and properly disposes of them. Troop 137 has 3 other drop-off sites that are open during business hours. They are listed at the [Williamson County Recycling web site](#). (US flags only)

News In Review January 2018

Warwick to discuss the Freedmen's Bureau at January round table — Williamson Herald — 12/14/17 — Franklin — Rick Warwick, Williamson County Historian, of Franklin's Heritage Foundation, will speak on the Freedmen's Bureau at the Franklin Civil War Round Table. The Bureau was intended to provide food, housing, medical help, schools and legal assistance to those, mostly in the South, impacted by the turmoil of the war.

Nathan Bedford Forrest Statue painted pink — The Tennessean — 12/28/17 — Nashville — The owner of a contentious statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest along Interstate 65 says he will leave a coat of pink paint applied by vandals in order to draw more attention to the sculpture.

What Franklin leaders want to preserve in 2018 — Williamson Tennessean — 1/16/18 — Franklin — Already looking ahead, three of Franklin's key leaders have started looking at what they want to save or enhance in 2018. Among the desire to save historic school houses, preservation groups will start work on a new visitor's center, reclaimed battlefield property and restoration work on historic structures.

TripAdvisor names Nashville, Franklin among top 30 cities to visit in 2018 — Williamson The Tennessean — 1/10/18 — Nashville — The travel website cited the vast tourist and entertainment opportunities available in both cities, including Franklin's vibrant Main Street, art crawls, brewery tours and live music. (Editor's Note: No mention of the Civil War history)

New Signage for Carter Hill Battlefield Park

Below are photos of two of the new interpretative signage at Carter Hill Battlefield Park. Of course, there are markers describing the battle events and the battle's aftermath. But there are additional signs covering the business of cotton production and harvesting, the rebuilding of southern agriculture and infrastructure, and the incorporation of freed slaves into the labor economy. Come see for yourself.

We will post better quality photos of all the new signs on the [STFB website](#)

Emancipation created a novel problem for cash-poor white Southern farmers as well as for the newly freed slaves, or freedmen. Land was abundant, but the labor force was largely dispersed, and there was little money to hire available black or white workers. The freedmen, like poor whites, had labor to offer but little or no land to farm.



Fleming family, Williamson County sharecroppers
Courtesy Rick Wurust

Sharecropping proved to be an effective if unsatisfactory solution. It was similar to renting land, but freedmen and poor whites lacked the cash to pay rent. Instead, they tilled, planted, cultivated, and harvested crops, and then gave the landowner as much as half of the harvest as rent. The landowner and laborers thus "shared the crop," an arrangement theoretically beneficial for all.

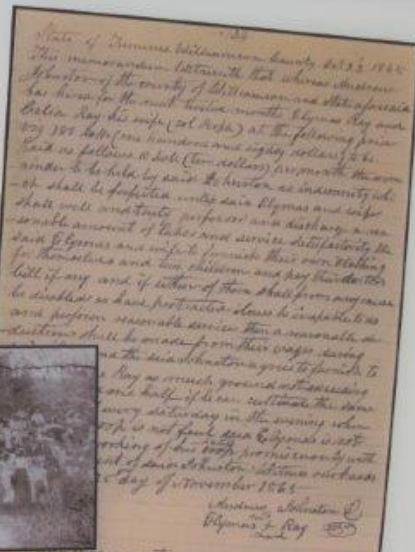
The landowner wrote contracts with strict guidelines for payment, including percentages of

the profit distribution and interest rates. These contracts were notorious for being unfair, however, especially in regard to freedmen, many of whom were uneducated and unable to comprehend the guidelines to which they agreed. Congress created the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865 to provide assistance, but it had limited success and Congress abandoned it in 1872.

Landowners often provided clothing, housing, seed, and farm implements to laborers at a cost taken from the sharecropper's part of the harvest. If a laborer could furnish his own plow or mule, for instance, his share would be larger. Otherwise, his meager profits often vanished before they were ever received. For many freedmen, sharecropping created a system of dependency not dissimilar to slavery.



Baptizing in the river,
May 27, 1864
Courtesy Rick Wurust



Freedman's labor contract
Courtesy Williamson County Archives

THE CARTER FARM

Of the more than 12,000 enslaved people who lived in Williamson County in 1860, Fountain Branch Carter owned 28. Carter family records contain many of their names: Prescyyt, Harriet, Jack, Calphurnia, Petrenella, Clara, Charlie, Frank, Susie, Oscar, Dilsey, Nancy, Caroline, Eliza, Allen, Rachel, Horace, Mary, Sarah, Sophia, Abow, and Tom. These people, with personalities, talents, and skills, lived and worked on the farm and helped it to prosper. They, their parents, and grandparents had been born into the bonds of slavery, but suddenly, as a result of the Civil War, they were free. Freedom was but the first step in the long-fought struggle for equality.

Almost 300 African American men from Williamson County enlisted in the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) and fought for their own freedom. USCT's did not fight at Franklin, but those who fought at the Battle of Nashville in mid-December 1864 were commended for their valor.



Battle of Nashville - Courtesy Library of Congress



USCT soldier and family - Courtesy Library of Congress



Shorter Chapel, African Methodist Episcopal Church - Courtesy Rick Wurust

Men and women who had once been enslaved created a new society in a world turned upside down after the war. They learned the value of their skills and labor, learned to make contracts, and established their own family and community structures. They created schools, built churches, and made progress. African American neighborhoods that flourished in Franklin included the Natchez Street community near the Carter House and nearby Hard Bargain. From the backyard of his Natchez Street home, freedman Oscar Carter cooked and sold barbeque on the weekends. Proverbial survivors like him lived long lives and helped build the town's African American community.



Nancy Vestal
Courtesy Rick Wurust

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851

Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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January 2018

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