



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

April 2019

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

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The public discussion continues about placing new markers on the Square. The markers will tell the ‘Fuller Story’ about Franklin’s Civil War including slavery, the Reconstruction era, and the role US Colored Troops from Williamson County.

The City’s administrative suit to determine the ownership of the Public Square has been delayed, but still proceeds. The number of markers planned for the Square has increased from four to five. The language of the fifth marker is being drafted and started through the approval process. It will primarily have an overview of the Battle of Franklin.

Three markers and a life-size USCT soldier statue will be placed near the Old County Courthouse, and two markers will now be placed on the island. The island markers will be installed just outside the landscaping shrubbery at the inside edge of the sidewalk that surrounds the island.

You might want to Google ‘Franklin Square’ to look at their aerial and street level photographs. Better yet, come visit Franklin and see for yourself.

One more thing – while going through old storage boxes, we found a few dozen 125th Reenactment 3” Belt Buckles from 1989. Our next issue will have photos and details (see photo pg 4 for now). Also, we now provide FREE shipping on the books and the 1989 Belt Buckle.

New & Renewing Members March 2019

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Franklin Confederate statue, African-American markers controversy: What to know

By Emily West and Jeremy Hensley, Nashville Tennessean Published 8:33 a.m. CT Feb. 13, 2019 | Updated 8:46 a.m. CT Feb. 13, 2019 (reprinted with permission)

A decision at a work session for Franklin aldermen on Tuesday night could clear the way for historical markers depicting the history of African-Americans in Franklin to be placed in the town square.

After concern over placement, Franklin aldermen

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agreed on a plan to place two African-American history markers in the downtown circle on the sidewalk near the Confederate monument. They will vote on this plan later this month.

The remaining three markers and U.S. Colored Troops statue would go on the public square near the historic courthouse.

Here's what to know about the controversy: The markers would address 'difficult' past in Franklin

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 Reconstruction and the Battle of Franklin in Williamson County.

The Confederate monument has stood in the square since 1899

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. The Confederate monument in the middle of Franklin's Public Square was dedicated on Nov. 30, 1899. It is 37 feet, 8 inches of Vermont granite shaft and a 6 foot Carrar marble statue.

Why there is a lawsuit

Back in September, the Daughters of the Confederacy threatened to file suit against the city if any markers were placed in the public square. Through their attorney Doug Jones, the group claimed it owned all of the public square, not just the monument.

In response, the city filed a judgment suit, asking a chancery judge to decide who owns the land. Since then,

the Daughters of the Confederacy have continued to assert their ownership, basing their facts on 1899 Williamson County quarterly court minutes and a documented history written in 1910 about the Franklin chapter.

The city has also offered a settlement to the group, which would have included a deed to the property the monument sits on and 1,000 square feet around it. The group never responded to the offer.

Daughters of Confederacy: claim purchases prove they own property

An attorney representing the United Daughters of the Confederacy has asserted that nothing has changed 120 years of ownership of the Confederate monument nor the area around it.

The attorney also claimed the UDC bought property in 1899 and 1907 through two of its members. He also submitted affidavits from the current and past UDC presidents and its chairman. In their affidavits, the three women claimed that they were unaware of the city ownership of the monument.

Those claims have yet to be proven, as there is no deed for the property. The two purchases asserted in court filings also weren't recorded in the Williamson County Register of Deeds office.

Some leaders have supported markers next to the Confederate monument

"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."

In the fall, other organizations also wrote letters to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, asking for the markers. Those groups included the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, Williamson, Inc., and the Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Reach Emily West at erwest@tennessean

Final approval: African-American history markers will go in Franklin's square

**Emily West, Nashville Tennessean Published
9:07 p.m. CT Feb. 26, 2019**

(reprinted with permission)

Kevin Riggs walked out of the board room to arms full of hugs. During Tuesday's meeting, Franklin aldermen voted unanimously for the Fuller Story, an initiative by local pastors and a local historian to place markers about African-American history in downtown Franklin.

More: 'The war is over!' Franklin moves forward with location for African-American markers

After concern over placement, Franklin aldermen agreed on a plan to place two African-American history markers in the downtown circle on the sidewalk near the Confederate monument. The remaining three markers and U.S. Colored Troops statue would go on the public square near the historic courthouse.

Language for four of the five markers has already gone through the city's battlefield commission. One more marker about the Battle of Franklin will need its language approved.

"It feels wonderful," Riggs said. "Now we are onto the implementation of the language and fundraising for the sculpture."

What the markers will depict - Originally at four, the group will now place five markers around the public square.

Two will go near the roundabout, where they will tell the story of the market house that sold slaves and explain the Battle of Franklin. Those markers will stand on the concrete portion of the downtown's center.

"This is part of the whole story," Battle of Franklin Trust CEO and historian Eric Jacobson said. "The truth is they won't go to the battlefield, but they will go downtown. White, black, Confederate, Union: these markers will show the mess that it was. Here's what these people did. Knowledge is always a good thing."

The remaining three will stand on the portion of the

square near the historic courthouse. Those markers will talk about reconstruction, U.S. Colored Troops and the riot of 1867.

Pastors and historians suggested those locations because of their prominence to where events on the markers took place.

News In Review April 2019

Franklin or United Daughters of the Confederacy: Public square ownership case delayed — Williamson—The Tennessean — 2/25/19 —

Franklin — Though originally scheduled to go before a Williamson judge, the ruling as to who owns the Franklin downtown square has been delayed. The case was to go before Judge James Martin on March 26, but it won't be heard until the summer, according to City of Franklin officials. Spokesperson Milissa Reiersen said Martin wanted to hear motions from both parties at the same time rather than separately. A judgment suit over the square happened as a result of the UDC threatening to sue the city if any markers from the Fuller Story initiative were put on property it claimed to own. Franklin aldermen approved in February that two of the markers could go in the square.

Donations sought for Carnton springhouse reconstruction — Williamson Herald — 4/6/19 —

Franklin — The Battle of Franklin Trust is seeking donors to help support the final phase of reconstruction work on the Carnton springhouse. The first two phases of the project are now complete after the damaged roof was removed and additional masonry work was completed. The final phase includes constructing a new roof.



3" Brass buckle from 1989 125th Franklin reenactment - only a few left

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

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