



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

October 2021

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

President's Message

To say the least, the last two years have been a challenge. Not just in the Preservation Community, but for the entire world in general. Covid-19 interrupted every aspect of our lives... for 18 months, very little went on in our country. Activities were suspended. Meetings were cancelled or relegated to online "Zoom type" formats. To the few who have asked if Save The Franklin Battlefield was still active, I am pleased to report that the Board of Directors is still intact and have not missed a single monthly Board Meeting through all of this. To those that have commented that they haven't received a Newsletter lately, for the better part of a year:

1. There was very little preservation activity to report on.
2. The pandemic interrupted the Board Member's lives, as it did everyone's.
3. The facility where we assemble the Newsletter was closed to the public, making it impossible (if not ill-advised) for the Board to gather physically and put a Newsletter together.
4. Several Board Members, including myself, have had non-Pandemic illnesses to deal with.
5. Our Board member that is primarily responsible for putting the Newsletter together and getting it out, is totally consumed with the care of a close family member that is in declining health .
6. The data list of our membership suffered a catastrophic computer error that caused us to spend countless hours researching and repairing the database.

Without trying to make excuses, we are doing our best to get our Newsletter publication back on track. And finally, with this Newsletter, we are hopefully on our way to accomplishing this task!

We appreciate our members who have always been there to help us in our stated mission of "Buying Dirt" to reclaim the once nearly lost, Battlefield at Franklin Tennessee!

Chip Huffman - President

Lotz House Ghost Tours

To kick off the Halloween season, the Lotz House is offering evening ghost tours of the house on Friday and Saturday nights beginning Friday, Sept. 17 through mid-November.

Guests will have the chance to experience the Civil War spirits and other unexplained phenomena that are said to haunt the historic home. The Lotz House has been featured on the Travel Channel's "Haunted Live" as well as "The Most Terrifying Places in America."

"Since the house opened to the public in 2008, the staff, volunteers and visitors have experienced so many unexplainable sightings, actions and paranormal activity in the house," Lotz House Executive Director Thomas Cartwright said. "Visitors find the recounts intriguing, and it's an experience they can't get anywhere else. We have many local residents return time and again to hear the latest unexplained activities."

At ground zero of the Battle of Franklin, the Lotz House witnessed untold bloodshed. The traumatic past and the unexplained phenomena seen by many of its visitors led the home to be dubbed the "Second-Most Terrifying Place in

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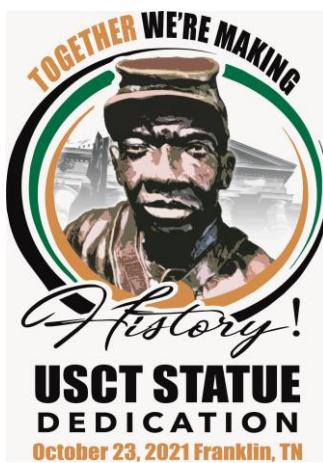
“America” by the Travel Channel. These strange happenings include a woman crying out for a loved one, a little girl staring out the window and ordinary items that just won’t stay put.

The guided 90-minute ghost tour will begin at 6 p.m. every Friday and Saturday night through mid-November, including Halloween on Sunday, Oct. 31. Visitors may also make reservations for other nights. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 7-13. To purchase tickets, call 615-790-7190.



Franklin USCT Statue Dedication

On Saturday, October 23, 2021, the new Statue honoring the 186,000 men who served in the USCT (United States Colored Troops) was unveiled on the square in downtown Franklin. The statue is part of the “Fuller Story”, inclusive of the Battle of Franklin, the “Chip” statue in the Downtown Square, the Slave Auction Block site, and all aspects that were part of the Civil War in Franklin, TN. Besides the many battle related sites in and around Franklin, the Town Square now has Statues, Cannon, and interpretive signs that give visitors plenty to do!



Breaking News from The Battle of Franklin Trust – Rippavilla

On May 17, 2021, the Spring Hill Tennessee Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to enter into a contract with the Battle of Franklin Trust to manage Rippavilla. The Rippavilla Plantation was integral to the Battle of Spring Hill on November 29, 1864, which led directly to the Battle of Franklin the next afternoon. Rippavilla is alongside Columbia Pike, adjacent to the site where Federal Troops slipped past John B. Hood’s Confederate Army of Tennessee. Rippavilla is where Hood met with his Generals on the morning of November 30th and decided to head off on the ill-fated march to Franklin. Adding Rippavilla to the properties already managed by The Battle of Franklin Trust, the Carter House, and the Carnton Plantation in Franklin, completes a trilogy of properties that tell the story of Tennessee Campaign. To that end, a Tennessee Campaign Ticket, with a 60 minute tour of each house is available for the discounted price of \$40.00.

Click on: [Visit — The Battle of Franklin Trust \(boft.org\)](http://Visit — The Battle of Franklin Trust (boft.org)) for more information and to pre-order tickets.



Rippavilla Unveils Historic Marker

On Wednesday, Sept. 1st, the Battle of Franklin Trust unveiled a historic marker sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust recognizing the enslaved at Rippavilla who joined the United States Colored Troops in 1863 and 1864.

“The ability to tell meaningful stories on the ground where they happened is a central tenet of the battlefield preservation mission,” American Battlefield Trust President David N. Duncan said. “This narrative highlights aspects of our nation’s story that all Americans should know and appreciate. The act of preserving and interpreting the sites that speak to moments in history that remain relevant to modern audiences serves to elevate stories that have gone

untold for too long. The American Battlefield Trust is honored to work alongside outstanding partners like the Battle of Franklin Trust as we seek to share our full, complex and dynamic history.”

Williamson County Seal Change

In the summer of 2020, an online petition to remove the Confederate flag from the county seal, which now has over 11,500 signatures, along with a flood of emails from county residents directed the county commission’s attention to the matter. After establishing a nine-member task force to determine whether there was “substantial need” to alter the seal, the county commission voted 16-7 to request that the Tennessee Historical Commission approve the seal’s alteration.

The final hearing at the Tennessee Historical Commission has been delayed a second time to the state commission’s February meeting.

Now, Tennessee Historical Commission will determine in February whether the county can alter its seal. While the commission typically would not have jurisdiction over a county seal, according to the county attorney, the Confederate flag in the upper-left quadrant of the seal is considered a public “memorial” that requires state approval for alteration. And that flag is at the center of this request for alteration.

This delay comes at the request of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Major Nathaniel Cheairs Camp 2138, which has petitioned to intervene in the matter before the commission. The group claimed that it needed more time for discovery before the commission’s October meeting due to a planned medical procedure for its attorney.



Williamson County Visitor Spending Down During Pandemic

According to newly released economic impact data from U.S. Travel Association and Tourism Economics, Williamson County (Franklin, TN) recorded a 31% decrease from the 2019 record-high of \$1.12 billion. According to data, the county welcomed 1.23 million visitors in 2020, a 31.9% decrease from 2019’s record 1.81 million. The decline in revenue and visitation marks the end of a 10-year streak where the number of visitors and their economic impact on the county had increased year-over-year.

Williamson County remained No. 6 of Tennessee’s 95 counties based on the economic impact of tourism and was one of 10 counties across the state to suffer a decline of at least 30% in 2020.

Despite the effects of COVID-19, efforts to promote outdoor travel and expanded domestic road trip opportunities helped Williamson County, and Tennessee, outperform the national average decline of 42%.

News in Review November 2021

New Carnton Tour teaches guests about Reconstruction — Williamson Herald —

8/18/2021 — Franklin. “Reconstruction and the Aftermath of War” is the Battle of Franklin Trust’s newest addition to the tours at Carnton. The 90-minute tour focuses on the policies and measures enacted to secure a fragile nation and secure a fragile nation and some of the families and people who experienced and influenced what, at the time, were radical changes.

U.S Colored Troops statue unveiled Oct. 23 — Williamson Herald — 10/18/2021 — Franklin. The bronze U.S. Colored Troops soldier statue entitled, March to Freedom, and sculpted by Joe F. Howard, took place in front of the historic Williamson County Courthouse on the Square in downtown Franklin on Oct. 23. This special event closed a three-day ceremony by the Fuller Story initiative, “Three Landmark Days.”

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October 2021

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