



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

Fall 2024

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

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Important business

At this time, we have two important business items that need your attention – see below. Thank you!

STFB Membership Dues

A reminder that STFB membership dues due date is January 31st of each year for all members. Thank you to those who have made their payment.

You can pay your dues of \$30 per year by paypal or credit card at

<https://www.franklin-stfb.org/index.php/our-mission/>

Otherwise, you can print and mail the Renewal / Order form on last page of this Newsletter.

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View our refreshed website!

We are pleased to announce that our website has undergone a complete refresh and update. A new modernized look and layout includes optimization for different platforms including mobile. Easier access to content is provided, including especially the 'Resources and Events page' on which we feature interesting and important papers and resources. Also, STFB Newsletters back to 1993 provide a timeline and insight into the preservation of the Franklin battlefield over the past 30+ years. We hope you'll visit and enjoy!

<https://www.franklin-stfb.org/>



STRATEGY How We Do It

For over 35 years, STFB has worked to educate, raise awareness, and build support for the need to save significant battlefield sites in Franklin and Williamson County. Our approach is three-fold:

Preservation

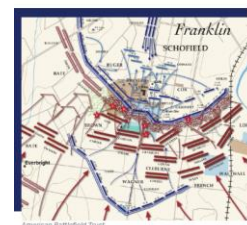
We work to identify target battlefield pieces and partner with other local, state and national historical preservation organizations for purchase

Protection

We keep a watchful eye and warn of threatened encroachment onto the battlefield. We conduct historical research and educate to inform on battlefield location and actions.

Promotion

We empower the public through immersive education and active engagement with hopes to inspire a deep pride and reverence for Franklin's Civil War history.



PROTECTING A PART OF TENNESSEE HISTORY

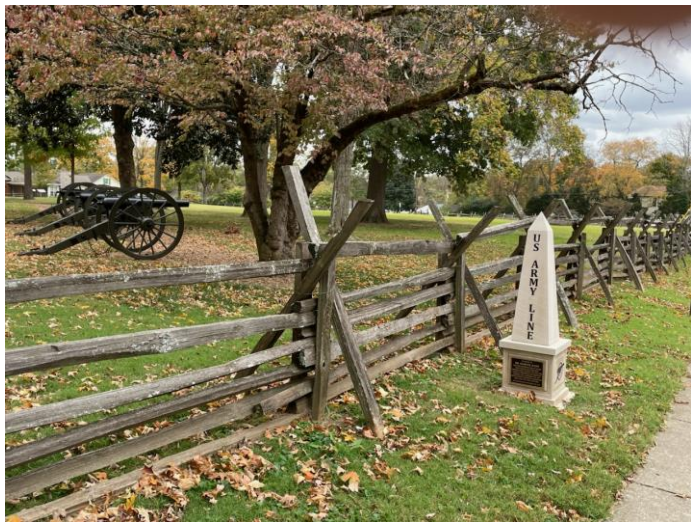
The Battle of Franklin

On November 30, 1864, 100 regiments of the South's best soldiers, 20,000 men in all, deployed along a two-mile-wide front and began a spectacular converging assault upon 17,000 Federals strongly entrenched on the southern edge of the small town of Franklin, Tennessee. What occurred over the next five hours at Franklin was one of the great cataclysmic tragedies of the American Civil War. For the size of the forces engaged and the short duration of the fighting, the Battle of Franklin ranks among the great blood baths of the Civil War, or of any other American war. This horrific battering of the Confederate Army of Tennessee at Franklin and its near-disintegration two weeks later after the Battle of Nashville essentially ended the war in the Western Theater.

Trench Line Markers Underway

There is much good news about progress on the Trench Line Marker program. The project will erect a marker on both sides of the modern day Franklin streets where the street crosses the U.S. Army trench line from the Battle of Franklin. The markers will be a daily reminder to Franklin residents, and our visitors, of where the battle was fought, although most of the battlefield is now covered by the city itself.

In November 2023, two markers were installed on Columbia Pike near the Carter House. These were purchased by Save The Franklin Battlefield and Battle of Franklin Trust. They were intended as demonstration units so City Fathers, the property owners where the markers would go, and the general public could all see and understand any concerns about visual intrusiveness. The November 10, 2023 Dedication Ceremony for the demonstration markers was publicized in newspaper and TV news, and the City posted a YouTube video of the event. The public response to the project was overwhelmingly positive.



One of the demonstration markers located at Carter Hill Battlefield Park. They are 5 foot limestone obelisks. A bronze plaque honoring Dr Samuel Gant was recently installed on this one.

The plan calls for nineteen markers to be installed, including the demo units. The City of Franklin approved funding over the next two budget years for their portion. Six markers were promptly ordered and are expected soon.

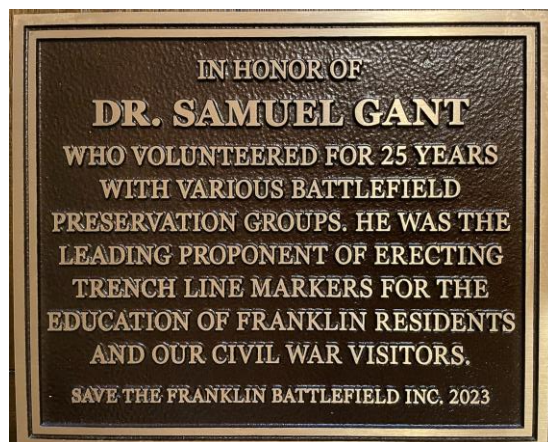
The next step was 1) to determine exactly where the markers should be located, and 2) obtain all of the permissions from the landowners, City of Franklin and the Tennessee Dept of Transportation for those locations. Local historians got busy on the first task, and the City Department of Planning, Streets and

Engineering took the lead on the much more complex second task.

The Battle of Franklin Trust pulled up all their after-action maps and invited other members of the Franklin Civil War Historical Commission to help determine the marker locations. An archeological dig several years ago located the Federal trench at the Carter House. The demo marker locations were based on that dig and are in the correct spots. The study group felt confident that the other 17 marker locations are within a few feet or yards of the actual trench line.

Most of the streets are City thoroughfares, but the State and Federal street locations require TDOT approval. Some markers will be installed in the right-of-way and some on private property. All property owners were invited to educational meetings to explain the project, answer their questions and get their approval and cooperation. The result of all their good work is that all of the marker locations have been approved by the State and City and property owners. We are on our way to having 19 trench markers on the Franklin Battlefield.

Important: The STFB demonstration marker cost \$7,500 which we paid from the STFB General Fund. Now we need a few donors to step up as part of their year-end giving to help us cover that expense. STFB PO Box 851 Franklin, TN 37065.



The text of the bronze plaque honoring Dr. Samuel Gant and his long service to Franklin preservation.

Editors note: Dr Samuel C Gant was a farm-boy from Ohio but called Tennessee home for over 50 years. He was Secretary of Save The Franklin Battlefield Inc for more than 25 years and served on several other Boards including the Franklin Civil War Historical Commission. In 2008, then Mayor Tom Miller formed the Battlefield Task Force with Sam as a member. That group immediately proposed we erect trench line markers and Sam thought we should install a demonstration 'floor model' to help sell the project to the larger community. Over the years, the Task Force

morphed into the Civil War Historical Commission and Sam continued as a constant voice for a trench line markers project. Sadly, he died a few weeks before we ordered the first demonstration marker.

News in Review

Roper's Knob, new land uses on docket during joint session - By Kelly Mayo, Staff Writer for the Williamson Herald Oct 1, 2024 Updated Oct 22, 2024

The Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Franklin Municipal Planning Commission discussed possible development around Roper's Knob, a Federal signal station during the Civil War, and proposed new land use types in the city during a joint conceptual workshop on Sept. 26. The Civil War site was purchased by the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County in 1994, listed on the National Register in 2000, and is currently co-owned by the city of Franklin and the state of Tennessee.

Members of both bodies shared opinions on a request to change the surrounding land's design concept in preparation for some form of residential and commercial construction near the historic site.

Construction to begin on new Carter House visitor center in 2025 - By Kelly Mayo, Staff Writer for the Williamson Herald Oct 28, 2024 Updated Oct 28, 2024

The Carter House has finalized a contract with a Nashville construction firm to begin building a new visitor center and museum in January, said Eric Jacobson, chief executive officer of the Battle of Franklin Trust.

Baron Construction will construct the 9,600-square-foot center for just under \$7 million, replacing the current 2,500-square-foot visitor center, which was built in the early 1980s.

The Tennessee Historical Commission provided the funding, he said, while Battle of Franklin Trust partnered with State of Tennessee Real Estate Asset Management, or STREAM, to create a master plan for the project.

The new museum's theme will be "All Men Are Created Equal," with a timeline from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War and beyond, which will be even more meaningful with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, Jacobson said on Tuesday.

Jacobson added that the new visitor center will provide a lasting boost to the 100,000 annual visitors to Carter House, Carnton and Rippa Villa. "It will have a huge economic impact," he said. "We hope it will take us into the 200th anniversary of the Battle of

Franklin."

Mary Pearce Honored for Preservation Work - By Sarah White • Staff Reporter, Williamson Herald Nov 14, 2024 Updated Nov 14, 2024

The City of Franklin and Williamson County and the state of their history have improved substantially in the last four and a half decades "largely because of the work done by Mary Pearce and her supporters." In November, her life and work were celebrated at the Turner Theater.

"Franklin residents, Williamson Countians and Tennesseans will benefit from your work for many years to come" said State Senator Jack Johnson. Attorney and preservationist Julian Bibb told the audience "There's one person who has changed the ethic of preservation in this community for our children, our grandchildren, and future generations, and that is Mary Pearce."

Purchase of Sedberry Building by Franklin's Charge Will Enhance Carter Hill Battlefield Park - Herald Reports Nov 25, 2024 Updated Nov 25, 2024

On Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, Franklin's Charge, Inc., completed one of several recent acquisitions with the purchase of the site of the Sedberry Building at 1200 Columbia Ave. It is located near the Carter House State Historic Site and was identified by Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric Jacobson as the location of some of the most ferocious fighting during the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin. The Sedberry Building will be demolished to return the property to its 1864 condition before transferring it to the city of Franklin for incorporation into the Carter Hill Battlefield Park along with two office building sites at 1224 Columbia Ave.

Historians, Public Mark Battle of Franklin Anniversary - By Kelly Mayo • Staff Writer, Williamson Herald, Dec 3, 2024 Updated Dec 3, 2024

The 160th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War occurred on Nov. 30, 2024. Illuminations, speeches and tours to commemorate the event were held at the Lotz House, the Carter House and the Carnton plantation. Speakers described what happened among the soldiers and civilians and the lasting aftereffects of the battle.

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851

Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Fall 2024

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

Name (s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

QTY	Item	Price	Total
	Annual Membership: \$30 Calendar Year		
	Donations: Marker Fund		
	Land Purchase Fund		
	“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	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Shiloh” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Ft. Donelson” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Stones River” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Nashville” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	New - 125 th Franklin Reenactment Belt Buckle – only a few left	\$25.00	
	FREE Shipping	FREE	
	ORDER TOTAL		

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STFB Membership is annual. Dues and donations are tax deductible.