

# WILLIAMSON A.M.

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## Trust prepares to buy Loring's Advance Tract from residents



Sam Huffman, treasurer of Save the Franklin Battlefield, describes the action that occurred in 1864 on a 5-acre piece of property known as the Loring Advance Tract in Franklin. JEANNE REASONOVER / THE TENNESSEAN

# Desire for tranquility saved battlefield land

By Kevin Walters  
The Tennessean

**FRANKLIN** — Traffic prevention, not historic preservation, was what spurred a group of Adams Street neighbors to buy a grassy 5-acre field off their street nearly a decade ago.

Fearing more homes and more cars would come here one day if the land was ever bought by developers, Jim Roberts and a few of his neighbors pooled their money and in 2001 bought the land themselves from singer-songwriter Nanci Griffith to keep their neighborhood's relative peace and quiet.

"We didn't want any more development back there," said Roberts, a longtime Adams Street resident. "We felt like it was going to be congested. We were very

## UNKNOWN SOLDIER GETS MARKER

The opening day of the Civil War Sesquicentennial was marked Tuesday at the grave of an unknown soldier. **On Page 3W**

concerned about it."

In the decade since they bought the land, a push to preserve Franklin's "core battlefield land" — places where Confederate and Union troops clashed and died in the Battle of Franklin — garnered more local and national backing.

As it happens, the 5-acre plot was the scene of bloody conflict on Nov. 30, 1864, when Confederate troops met their deaths when they stormed into the Union troops' guns that day.

With plans for a proposed Co-

## TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about Save the Franklin Battlefield, visit [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

lumbia Avenue Battle of Franklin Civil War park being firmed up, the Save the Franklin Battlefield preservation group and the Washington, D.C.-based Civil War Trust are moving forward on buying the property from Roberts and other homeowners.

The land, known as the Loring's Advance Tract, might be the best-kept secret in Franklin preservation.

"We bring folks over here from the state Historic Commission and the local groups around (here) and they say, 'Lord

» LORING, 3W

# Desire for peace saved battlefield land

» LORING FROM 1W

amighty, I never knew this was here," said Save the Franklin Battlefield Treasurer Sam Huffman.

## City to help deal

Huffman and the Civil War Trust this week saw more progress in their efforts as city aldermen approved an agreement that allows the city of Franklin to act as a "pass-through entity" by the Civil War Trust, the nation's largest battlefield preservation group. The city has served as such in the past, most recently obtaining federal money used to help Franklin's Charge, another historic preservation group, buy two houses on the site of the proposed Columbia Avenue park.

Though the land is key to Franklin's history, no city funding will be used to purchase the property. Earlier land acquisitions, such as the purchase of the former Pizza Hut site off Columbia Avenue and the eastern flank of the Battle of Franklin parks did re-



**A map shows the Loring Advance Tract and other sites where troops fought.** JEANNE REASONOVER / THE TENNESSEAN

quire a financial commitment from the city.

Instead, this deal would be a partnership between the Civil War Trust, Save the Franklin Battlefield and the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. The park service would provide \$200,000 while Huffman said Save the Franklin Battlefield group would raise \$50,000. Records show the Adams Street neighbors paid \$240,000 for the parcel 2001.

Uncertainties sur-

rounding the federal budget have left questions about a sale date.

"(American Battlefield Protection Program) has yet to receive its land acquisition grant allocation," said Jim Campi, spokesman for the Civil War Trust. "So although we intend to apply for that money, we do not know when that money will become available."

## Fire was heavy

Confederate Gen. William Loring's division

swept across the Collins Farm before charging on Nov. 30, 1864, crossing railroad tracks to attack Federal trenches that stood where the homes off Adams Street stand today. Adams Street, as it happens, is named for Confederate Brig. Gen. John Adams, who was killed at the battle.

"Guys coming across that field were under heavy, heavy infantry fire," said Eric Jacobson, chief operating officer of the Battle of Franklin Trust. "It is core battlefield."

Preservationists see the property fitting into a larger plan that's been gaining momentum, that being attracting tourists who are expected to come to Franklin during the Civil War sesquicentennial. This week marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

For neighbors the trust's purchase of the land would mean it's never developed, even as they get older or move way.

Contact Kevin Walters at 615-771-5472 or [kewalters@tennes-](mailto:kewalters@tennes-)