



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

January 2002

[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

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

## *From the President*

Dear STFB Member--

I hope you are staying warm and "near the fire" through these winter months. We are busy as always here in Franklin--too busy, I'm afraid, for much time near the fire!

We continue to research and learn more about Collins' Farm and the events of the eastern portion of the Battle of Franklin. Bob Jenkins (our November Annual Membership Meeting speaker) and STFB board member David Fraley, have brought much new information to light and continue to do so daily. We cannot thank Bob enough for increasing our knowledge, and proposing new and exciting theories on the events at Collins' Farm on November 30, 1864.

Our fundraising for the property continues with our handsome Generals Prints and Commemorative Coffee Mugs. We are indebted to Franklin artist and STFB member Jody Thompson for sharing his mighty talents. Also thanks go to the 45<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry re-enactors for their nicely designed mugs. Please consider these wonderful items--and know that 100% of their price (not just profit) goes towards saving the Franklin Battlefield.

Thank you so much,

*Joe Smyth*

PS--Watch and listen for some very important news concerning the Franklin Battlefield this next month!!

## *BGA Petition Drive Continues*

STFB supporters continue to visit the STFB web site to download the BGA Petition that asks the Williamson County Commissioners to not build the new county library on the recently purchased Battle Ground Academy Campus on the Franklin Battlefield near the Carter House.

To date, Petitions with 1,689 signatures have been sent to the Williamson County Executive Clint Callicott with copies to STFB and to Franklin's hometown newspaper, the Review Appeal. We are certain that any local petition drive that garners 1,689 signatures is a newsworthy story but it hasn't been covered thus far.

Of the 1,689 petitioners, 1,560 (92%) live outside Williamson County while 754 (45%) have visited Franklin one or more times. This result shows that those Americans who feel strongly that Williamson County must embrace this one last chance to save this last open parcel of the Franklin Battlefield, are the same Americans who have and will come visit Franklin on a regular basis when we have a battlefield park. Many of the petitioners are financial supporters of major battlefield preservation efforts at the national and local level and are perplexed at the county's willingness to build on its battlefields.

In a parallel, but unrelated effort, the Tennessee Historical Commission has coordinated the production of a 28 minute video tape "Hallowed Ground: Saving Tennessee's Battlefields" that explains why we must preserve what remains of our Civil War Battlefields. It is a quality production and uses many local sites and local historians to make its points. STFB sent a copy of this tape with a summary of the Petition Drive to all 24 County Commissioners, the County Executive, the Chair of the Library Committee, Franklin Mayor Jerry Sharber, the Review Appeal and the Tennessean newspaper.

As a review, at its October meeting, the Commission

*(Continued on page 4)*

## News In Review by Sam Gant

**County executive offers options for battlefield park – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 1/2/02 FRANKLIN** – A war memorial park that could become a large part of the county's tourism offerings and include portions of land near the War Memorial Library may be one of the next big items up for consideration by county officials in the new year. The park could be created near the library already in the works and could perhaps satisfy some community members who wanted to move the library from the proposed Columbia Avenue site to downtown Franklin in order to preserve the battlefield site as much as possible. "From a historical point of view, it should be preserved," County Executive Clint Callicott. Moreover, Callicott sees an economic benefit to creating a battlefield park that could bring in lots of tourism dollars.

**Historical Mystery Solved – Williamson County Historical Society Newsletter, Spring 2002 FRANKLIN** – In 1998 Rick Warwick presented a short article in the WCHS journal entitled "Who Was Marcellus Cuppet?" the young man who died while assisting in the reinterment of the Confederate soldiers at Carnton. For many years local legend maintained that Marcellus was a slave of Col. John McGavock and he had died suddenly while preparing the graves at the Confederate cemetery. The myth began to unravel when Warwick discovered an article in the Williamson County News of November 30, 1899, referring to George Cuppet, "who superintended the reintering of the Confederate soldiers," as being in town for the unveiling of the Confederate Monument. In searching the Williamson County Archives, Warwick discovered that George Cuppet and his brothers, Marcellus and Polk, came from Virginia in 1861 and were working for Col. McGavock at Carnton. George married Malvina Collins in 1866. The George Cuppet family is buried in Rest Haven Cemetery. Recently, a great-great niece of the Cuppets visited Franklin and brought a letter from George Cuppet in which he had requested Marcellus's age so that he could put up his tombstone while he was engaged in reintering the Confederate soldiers.

**Cartwright to speak Sunday at Historical Society meeting – *The Review Appeal* – 1/18/02 FRANKLIN** – Carter House Director and nationally recognized Civil War Speaker Thomas Cartwright will speak Sunday, January 20, at the Williamson County Historical Society meeting on the 48<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Regiment of Quarle's Brigade, Walthall's Division, Stew-

art's Corps, Army of Tennessee C.S.A. His topic was chosen to correspond with a newly reprinted book, *A History of the Civil War*, by J.C.J. Howell, a corporal in the 48<sup>th</sup>. In 1910, Howell, a Kingfield resident, wrote and published the 16-page booklet. The newly reprinted booklet is available through the Williamson County Historical Society.

## Collins Farm March Results

The final results are in and The March For Collins Farm raised a total of \$12,699. STFB was very pleased with the results for our first-ever sponsored reenactor march. The breakdown by state looks like this:

ALABAMA 505  
 ARKANSAS 460  
 FLORIDA 200  
 GEORGIA 730  
 ILLINOIS 1,000  
 INDIANA 510  
 IOWA 197  
 KENTUCKY CS 140  
 KENTUCKY US 145  
 LOUISIANA 215  
 MICHIGAN 415  
 MISSISSIPPI 525  
 MISSOURI CS 230  
 MISSOURI US 125  
 OHIO 1,968  
 PENNSYLVANIA 520  
 SOUTH CAROLINA 390  
 TENNESSEE CS 3,435  
 TENNESSEE US 219  
 TEXAS 450  
 WISCONSIN 320

**TOTAL MARCH FOR COLLINS FARM 12,699**

**Thanks to all of you who supported us!**

## *Ed Bearss to Speak in Nashville For Battle of Nashville Preservation Society*

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society Annual Dinner is scheduled for Thursday February 21st at Hillwood Country Club in West Nashville, 6201 Hickory Valley Road, 37205. Mr. **Edwin Bearss** will be the featured speaker following the dinner. Mr. Bearss, who is a highly decorated World War II Marine veteran, is widely recognized as the greatest living Civil War historian today. Mr. Bearss is probably best known, along with Shelby Foote, as the stars of **Ken Burn's 1990 documentary, The Civil War**, which program is the most popular show ever broadcast on PBS. Mr. Bearss is also a regular on the **Arts & Entertainment** channel program, **Civil War Journal**. Ed will discuss the Battle of Nashville.

Cost is \$35 per person for members and their immediate family, and \$45 for non-members (\$40 & \$50 the day of the dinner.) Social hour will start at 6:30 pm (cash bar.) Dinner: 7:00 pm. Dinner will include salad or soup du jour, fresh vegetables and starch, assorted dinner rolls, coffee and ice tea. The main dinner entree will be Stuffed Chicken Breast Florentine - Fresh chicken breast stuffed with layers of roasted red bell peppers, spinach and artichokes served with fire roasted red bell pepper coulis.

Battle of Nashville Presentation: 7:45 pm to 8:45 pm  
*Reservations must be paid in advance:* Mail to BONPS  
PO Box 50890, Nashville, TN 37205 make payable to the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society.

## *Brentwood Historical Society Founder's Celebration Saturday February 2, 2002*

The Brentwood Historical Society celebrates its 5th year as an organization dedicated to the preservation and education of Brentwood's history.

The festivities will be held at the Marriott—Cool Springs. Doors will open at 5:30 pm and the buffet will begin at 6:00 pm.

After dinner, the program will begin which will include awards and presentations to Brentwood residents who diligently help maintain the historic appeal of our community. Jim Crutchfield, author, will present a topic of special interest to our guests. Following the presentation the band Paul Ross and the Kadillacs will entertain.

Make reservations by mailing your check to :

Suzanne Burns  
6042 Wellesley Way  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Members cost is \$30.00, non-members is \$40.00 per person. For more information please call Suzanne at 615-373-1614. Deadline is January 28.

## *Williamson County Historical Society Raises Money for It's Marker Fund*

In 1910 Kingfield resident Cpl J.C.J. Howell, a veteran of the 48th Tennessee Infantry wrote and published a booklet of 16 pages entitled A History of the Civil War. Cpl. Howell's book has been loaned to the Historical Society for reprinting. It will be available after January 20 at a cost of \$5.00 with the proceeds going to the Historic Marker Fund. To order copies, please send a check to:

Williamson County Historical Society  
PO Box 71  
Franklin, TN 37065

Markers are still needed for Arno, Peytonsville, and Mjr. Anthony Sharpe in Franklin.

## STFB Funding Raising Projects

STFB currently has fund raising projects underway and is planning a third. Prints of Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne and Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest are currently on sale. The prints by local Franklin artist Jody Thompson, printed by Vaughn Publishing were donated to STFB at no cost to us. The prints measure 16x20 and are signed and numbered by the artist. One hundred percent of the funds made from the sale of the prints will be used to pay off the debt on Collins farm. This is an excellent opportunity for you or your family and friends to help pay off a piece of Hallowed Ground where men from both side gave their lives for what they believed.

Second, Save the Franklin Battlefield Commemorative Mugs are a project of the 45<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry. The 45<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, a reenactor organization has adopted Save the Franklin Battlefield as their fund raising project for 2002. Proceeds generated from the sale of the mugs will benefit the STFB land fund. The mug design features a picture of the Carter House on one side, a likeness of Brig Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne on the opposite side, and a battle casualties summary opposite the handle. The Mugs are \$12 each plus \$4.95 S&H each to cover the special packing materials. If you plan to order several mugs from STFB on one order, contact Sam Huffman (sam@jps.net) with the quantity you plan to order, and we will quote a combined shipping cost. You can also order directly from Shane Smith of the 45<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry at (770) 834-5417.

Third, STFB will soon be offering you an opportunity to commemorate the participation of your ancestor in the Battle of Franklin with the purchase of a commemorative Brick or Paver that will be inscribed with the name of your ancestor, his unit and date of service. The brick or paver will be placed in the courtyard area of Collins Farm along with historical signage describing the events of 30 November 1864, that took place at Collins Farm. You will also be able to remember your ancestor whether or not he participated in the Battle of Franklin in an adjacent section reserved for any soldier who participated in the Civil War. Look for details that will soon be made available to you and your friends.

For further information on any of the items mentioned above, please contact Dan Mora at (615) 599-4415 (stfb@troamail.org), any member of STFB or ask for information via our web site at stfb.org.

(Continued from page 1)

funded the purchase of the first part of the 12 acre BGA Campus for the library, with an Intent to Fund the purchase of the rest. The \$8 million funding to actually build the library was approved at the Commission's November meeting. There was no December commission meeting but the Commission's Library Committee did meet in December to approve the library design.

We had fully expected that a Resolution to Approve the Library Design would be submitted at the January 14 Commission meeting, but it wasn't for some reason. We will keep you advised as events progress.

On a much brighter note, the discussions at all of the commission meetings, and in county press releases, have also included three very good preservation ideas. First, the county archives would be expanded and moved into the existing BGA buildings. This is desperately needed and would greatly improve the effectiveness of the archives and the dedicated archives staff that endures the current constricted facility. Second, the existing buildings would also be used for some combination of a visitors center - a Civil War Museum - a county museum with a Civil War wing - a county-wide interpretive program. All of these options, whatever combination eventuates, would be a wonderful coordinated addition to the programs of Carnton Plantation, the Carter House, Williamson County Historical Commission, the Heritage Foundation, STFB etc.

The third idea is to establish some sort of Battlefield Commission of city/county/private participants to guide the protection and interpretation of our county's Civil War Lands as part of a coordinated plan. Again, this is a much needed guiding hand that could possibly translate future preservation plans into definable, fundable projects for the city, county, and state governments. All three concepts are just in the talking stage as of now without any commitment of funds, but it is a new and encouraging turn of events.

As a final note, Civil War preservation consultant Joe Brent of Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc has submitted a 3-option proposal to the county for interpretation of the county's Civil War Battlefields. County officials are meeting with City of Franklin principals to see if joint funding for the proposed study is feasible. More to come in future newsletters.

Save The Franklin Battlefield Membership/Renewal/Order Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield~P.O. Box 851~Franklin, TN 37065-0851  
**Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.**

Quantity	Description Annual Membership (Choose One)	Price Each	Total
	2000 STFB Day by Day in Middle Tenn. Calendar	\$5.00	
	1999 STFB Day by Day Bicentennial Calendar	\$5.00	
	Both Calendars 1999 and 2000—different pictures in each!	\$10.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint	\$20.00	
	1989 Commemorative Belt Buckle	\$10.00	
	1989 Commemorative Paperweight	\$10.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$3.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Franklin by D. Logsdon	\$12.00	
	Eyewitness to the Battle of Shiloh by D. Logsdon	\$12.00	
	Eyewitness to the Battle of Ft. Donelson by D. Logsdon	\$12.00	
		<b>Order Sub-Total</b>	
		<b>Shipping/Handling</b> under \$10 \$0.75 \$10 - \$24.99 \$2.95 \$25 and up \$4.50	
	-Individual	\$20.00	
	-Family	\$30.00	
	-Corporate	\$50.00	
	Donation—Marker Fund		
	Donation—Land Purchase		
		<b>Order Total</b>	

*First STFB Tour of 2002:  
Collins Farm Tour - March 3*

On Sunday, March 3, at 2:00 p.m., Save The Franklin Battlefield will conduct its first-ever public tour of the Collins' Farm property. STFB board members will describe the part Collins' Farm played in the bloody assault of the Federal trenchworks during the Battle of Franklin. Participants will get to walk the grounds and hear about future improvements and plans for the property. The tour may also include a short walk or drive to several nearby sites relating to the action on the eastern end of the battlefield.

As always, the tour is free to all STFB members and their guests. Admission for the general public is \$5, of which 100% will go to paying down the Collins' Farm debt.

We hope to see you there!

Save The Franklin Battlefield  
PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851  
615-500-6612  
[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)