



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 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*

Dear STFB Member—

As many of you now know, the Williamson County Board of Commissioners voted against further consideration of moving the new War Memorial (sic) County Library site away from the Columbia Pike corridor. This is yet another setback for saving the Franklin Battlefield—but, like the Army of Tennessee itself, we will pick ourselves up, march on, and make the fight another day. Read elsewhere in this newsletter for more concerning this.

In more positive news, I just attended one of a series of meetings at the State Capital this week of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), Tennessee State legislators, and local organizations. CWPT President Jim Lighthizer, Battlefield Preservation Coordinator Scott Palumbo, Tennessee State Representatives Steve McDaniel, Bobby Sands, and Charles Sargent, yours truly, and several others discussed the dynamics of battlefield preservation in Tennessee, federal funds allotted to Tennessee, and future directions here in the Volunteer State. Tennessee, although second only to Virginia in number of battles and engagements, is not known as being a hotbed of Civil War battlefield preservation. We trilaterally agreed there is much to be done, and vowed to redouble our efforts in the future.

I want to thank all of you who sent letters via post and email supporting the relocation of the County library. Although ultimately unsuccessful, the letters have carried more weight than you know in raising local awareness to Save The Franklin Battlefield. Together we shall persevere.

*Joe Smyth*

## *STFB Reassesses Position*

In the wake of the failed attempt to get the Williamson County Commissioners to move the new “War Memorial” County library site away from the Columbia Pike corridor, Save The Franklin Battlefield has re-assessed our position in respect to the County government.

Since the County has stated in their own words (and publicly) that they did not purchase the Battle Ground Academy (BGA) property in any way for a battlefield park, we feel that they should not be allowed to take credit for “saving the battlefield” by building a library on top of it. This Orwellian concept is akin to shooting the last Carrier pigeon, mounting it, and displaying it in a museum—while claiming to have “saved it” from extinction.

STFB will press for the County to buy the additional acreage around the library site, to which they have often referred. Specifically, an 8-acre tract has been repeatedly referred to as being considered to add to the “battlefield park.” We will also encourage the County to follow through on their promises to fund a County archives and museum on the BGA site—hopefully in existing campus buildings. It is the sincere hope of STFB that these items have not just been “feel-good” carrots dangled in front of the county citizens.

STFB will continue to promote the concept (evidently somewhat foreign to the County government) of Heritage Tourism, and that *it matters*. This is especially true in the face of probable cuts in state funding of all facets at the City and County levels.

Save The Franklin Battlefield feels strongly that Williamson County and the City of Franklin must be responsible for long range battlefield planning. They hold the purse strings and therefore the planning strings. Just as they have Long Range Plans for road building, school building, industrial growth, and the like, the County and City must take the lead in a long range plan for preserving and restoring the Franklin Battlefield.

Finally, STFB will continue to raise awareness of other battlefield parcels in Franklin, and work towards their purchase. We will attempt to work with the County on whatever future plans they may have on land purchase, and site planning and interpretation.



## News In Review by Sam Gant

**Library site shift could cost \$500,000 – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 4/19/02**

**FRANKLIN** – Moving the new county library off its proposed site could cost the county nearly half a million dollars and push the project's time frame back seven months. So says County Executive Clint Callicott, who received numbers from the project's architect and construction manager.

**Carter House is first Discovery Trail award winner – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 4/25/02**

**FRANKLIN** – The Carter House, focal point of the 1864 Battle of Franklin, will receive the first Civil War Discovery Trail of the Year award this Saturday. The award will be presented to Carter House Director Thomas Cartwright during the national convention of the Civil War Preservation Trust in Chattanooga. "The Carter House is receiving the award because of its outstanding commitment to promoting Civil War history, as well as its ability to attract tourism to the Franklin battlefield," said Jim Campi, CWPT director of policy and communications.

**Treasures uncovered at Carnton – *The Review Appeal* – 4/26/02**

**FRANKLIN** – An archaeological dig in the kitchen area at Carnton Plantation was started three weeks ago and much has been uncovered, though at this time it's more of a puzzle than anything else. There have been a steady stream of volunteers working, often pressing soil through a screen to uncover the treasures or explain to visitors just what's happening. The work on the kitchen area should continue for the next two weeks.

**Battlefield advocates flank library board – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 4/30/02**

**FRANKLIN** – Preservationists plan to make a case for building the new county library on the football field instead of the tennis courts at BGA, off Columbia Avenue, in order to save space for future Civil War battlefield park. The property was the scene of some of the most intense fighting during the Civil War Battle of Franklin, Nov. 30, 1864.

**Library to break ground as site battle ends – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/2/02**

**FRANKLIN** – County officials plan to break

ground on a new War Memorial Public Library this morning two days after rejecting a plan to build the library on a different part of the Battle Ground Academy campus.

**Library ground broken at BGA tennis courts – *The Review Appeal* – 5/3/02**

**FRANKLIN** – Moments after county officials broke ground yesterday for a new county library on the historic campus of Battle Ground Academy, a construction crew began to trim branches near the site. Actual site preparation on the 50,225-square-foot, L-shaped building may begin Monday and the \$9.5 million facility could open next June, county Property Manager Al Ritter said. Yesterday's ceremonies came more than three years after the library board began a controversial search for a new site and within 36 hours of a Tuesday night county commission vote to not delay work and move the building to the Old BGA football stadium. The commission voted 19-2-1 on a proposed site change.

**Dig raises more questions, reveals small artifacts – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 5/10/02**

**FRANKLIN** – Archaeologists digging at the site of Carnton Plantation's original building since April 2 have uncovered as many mysteries as artifacts. Now, the dig to discover more information may well be extended. "We have found stone foundations for the early building and we've found a root cellar that had some pretty interesting things in it," said Carnton Executive Director Angela Calhoun. "But we've also uncovered some mysteries about how that building connected to the building that's still standing. The dig has concentrated on the remains of an original Carnton building, destroyed in a 1909 storm. A white plaster shadow on one of Carnton's outside walls is all that's left to mark the existence of the early-1800s building, believed to have been the kitchen.

**National Historic Preservation Week to end with Heritage Foundation meeting – *The Review Appeal* – 5/17/02**

**FRANKLIN** – The annual meeting celebrates 35 years of preservation efforts in Williamson County with special awards. Getting recognitions this year will be Century Farm owners. The recent purchase of Collins' Farm by Save the Franklin Battlefield will receive recognition for battlefield preservation.

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	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	
	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	
	Nathan Bedford Forrest Print	\$30.00	
	Patrick Cleburne Print	\$30.00	
	Patrick Cleburne/Carter House Mug shipping is \$4.95 each	\$16.95	
		<b>Order Sub-Total</b>	
		Shipping/Handling 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		
	3	<b>Order Total</b>	



**STFB AWARDED CERTIFICATE  
OF MERIT FROM  
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County nominated Save The Franklin Battlefield for it's hard work in purchasing Collins Farm to the Tennessee Historical Commission. The Tennessee Historical Commission presents certificates of merit each year during National Historic Preservation week. The award was presented at the Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting on May 19.



*Mary Pearce, Executive Director of the Heritage Foundation looks on as Joe Smyth receives the certificate of merit from Commissioner Caroline Cross. Herbert Harper, Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission made the announcement at the podium.*

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