



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

July 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*

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## *From the President*

Dear STFB member—

The long, hot, and humid days of summer have arrived here in Middle Tennessee. Save The Franklin Battlefield has not slowed down our pace, however.

We continue our fundraising efforts for Collins' Farm, including planning for this years reenactors' march, "Forty for Franklin." We are crafting a long range conservation and interpretive plan for the Collins' Farm property. We are working on a new Franklin battlefield map. And a new driving tour map. We are identifying and compiling prospective battlefield parcels for future acquisition. Needless to say, we also continue to monitor City and County projects and policies, and their impact on the Franklin battlefield.

Finally, we are organizing our August 25<sup>th</sup> tour, "First Blood: The War Comes Home—Military Actions in Franklin and Williamson County, December 1862—June 1863."

Thank you, as a member, for helping support and encourage our activities. If you would like to take on an even more active role in Save-ing the Franklin Battlefield, please let us know...we have a myriad of possibilities to choose from!

*Joe Smyth*

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## News In Review by Sam Gant

### One stone at a time: Workshops teaching ancient craft benefit historic downtown cemetery

□ **Heritage** □ **June 2002** Professional stonemasons working side-by-side with Franklin city employees and volunteers who are interested in learning the ancient craft of building dry stack stonewalls are creating a beautiful stretch of wall surrounding the historic Rest Haven Cemetery in Downtown Franklin. At the end of the series of workshops, we will have our historic downtown cemeteries completely enclosed in authentic dry stack stonewalls.

**Parks director boasts a grand vision for Franklin** □ *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." □ **6/25/02 FRANKLIN** □ Franklin Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Clayton has been on the job for only two months, and already she has a slew of ideas and plans for the city's seven parks, and ultimately the entire county's park systems. Clayton wants to see ever park, county-wide connected by alternate paths, meaning you can get from one park to the next or a park to a shopping center or restaurant without taking the car out of the garage. "I'd like to take the reenactments here to the next level by not only demonstrating, but teaching the public about what happened here, Clayton said.

### State budget issue could affect local historians

□ *The Review Appeal* □ **6/26/02 FRANKLIN** □ Closing the Tennessee Historical Commission would be devastating to historic preservation efforts in Williamson County, according the Heritage Foundation Executive Director Mary Pearce. Since 1976, the commission has given counties more than half a billion dollars for historical renovation projects. Reduced staffing would make it nearly impossible for any Tennessee counties to get funding from the National Park Service, which distributes federal grants through state historical commissions, Pearce said.

### Park planned at Civil War site on Charlotte Pike

□ *The Tennessean* □ **6/28/02 NASHVILLE** □ A new Metro park featuring a Civil War battle site is being developed on 15 acres near the Wal-Mart Supercenter and Lowe's on Charlotte Pike. Bill Troupe, assistant greenways director for Metro Parks, said that in the first phase of Brook-

meade Park at Kelley's Point Battlefield workers would extend the trail from the pedestrian bridge along the soccer field. A second phase would expand the trail to the Civil War battle site along the Cumberland River. For two weeks before the December 1864 battle, six artillery pieces under the command of Confederate Lt. Col. D.C. Kelley effectively blockaded the Cumberland River against seven heavily armed U.S. Navy gunboats.

**State land lease offers space for Carnton visitors center** □ *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." □ **7/12/02 FRANKLIN** □ Historic Carnton Plantation will begin making plans for a new visitors center now that officials have been able to lease prime property surrounding the site from the state. Carnton board members and government officials met at Carnton yesterday to celebrate the recent lease of 38 acres □ a field to the right of the main drive as visitors approach the house, and land in the vicinity of where the temporary visitors center and offices stand now.





***Editorial: Why Should I Vote by Dan Mora***

The next few weeks will be very important in the lives of every American, as we will be able to exercise our right to vote. The United States is one of the very few countries where we can express our choice at the ballot box without the fear of threat, retribution, injury or death. We hear a lot about voter apathy or that "my vote will not mean anything so why should I vote."

Save the Franklin Battlefield would not attempt to influence your vote in any way, because we respect the fact that a vote is an individual choice. However, we would like to encourage you to exercise your right to vote. As you do this, you should keep some of the following points in mind.

Franklin and Williamson County's population has doubled in the last ten years, the result of growth in both our urban and rural areas. However, did you know that residential developments in and of themselves do not pay for the infrastructure needed to build out that development? We the taxpayers throughout the county have to supplement the cost of every development that is built.

Williamson county has a debt of about \$500 million. That is about \$3500 for every man woman and child in this county. This debt was incurred on your behalf by our County Commissioners, but have they done this with your permission or concurrence? If you did not vote (and even if you did), they took it upon themselves to make a decision on how to spend your money.

The House and the Senate have spent the last two years trying to enact an Income Tax or some type of meaningful Tax Reform. This is significant because without some type of tax reform, the Tennessee Historical Commission, along with some state owned battlefield parks may be closed. Are you satisfied with this type of fiscal responsibility on the part of our state representatives and senators? If you choose not to vote, you are in essence satisfied with their actions to date and what they may decide in the future.

There will likely be some decisions on the national level that will impact all of us in one way or another. In this age of corporate irresponsibility, an anemic defense budget, and the high cost of medical care, we need to insure that our elected representatives act on our behalf.

Closer to home, we need to insure that our elected officials are cognizant of our desires for fiscal responsibility, preservation of historical properties, heritage tourism (to offset or negate a need for an increase in property taxes), and that our officials respond to our families' educational needs.

Early voting for the statewide primary and the County General Election is July 12 through July 27. Statewide primary elections and the County General Election is August 1. Take the time to learn about your candidates and make sure that you vote. Better still, when you go to the polls to vote, take a neighbor or friend along with you so that they too can exercise their right to vote. As we have seen recently, we can make every vote count.

**References to the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Battle**  
**Flag at the**  
**battle of Franklin, Tennessee, Nov. 30, 1864**

"...the flag of the 36<sup>th</sup>, ever in the front, was first borne by Sergeant William R. Toll, of Company C, who fell severely wounded before attaining half the distance. Sergeant Christian Zimmer, of Company B, snatching the flag from the grasp of his wounded comrade, rushed forward with it to the trenches; but while passing over the bullet-scathed interval, the staff was splintered three times, while its precious folds were rent in tatters by scores of hissing missiles. Zimmer was among the first to reach the works with the flag, and in the brief hand-to-hand encounter and carnage that succeeded, held it proudly aloft, waving defiance to the foe. Observing the imminent danger which threatened the left of the line from the Rebel force still holding a portion of the works, Zimmer sprang forward, shouting, "Hurrah, boys; follow the flag to the left!" The inspiring words were scarcely uttered, when three bold Rebel soldiers were observed upon the ramparts, aiming at the color-bearer-the muzzles of their pieces nearly touching him as he hurried by. There was a crash-a blinding sheet of fire, and Zimmer fell, his bones shattered and blood pouring from the gaping wounds. He was immediately taken to the rear and place in an ambulance, and it was by his side that Col. Olson breathed his last. Charles Sears, of Company B, was the next custodian of the battle-scarred relic, and right gallantly defended his sacred trust, never allowing it to go down before the storm fiercely beating against it. Where the lines pressed the hardest; where bullets flew the thickest, there the regimental flag flaunted defiance to the foe. At last the staff was shot away, but seizing the shattered stump, in a moment more the red, white and blue was waving over the ramparts. A burly Rebel, reaching over the works, seized the splintered staff, and endeavored to wrench it from the hands of the bearer. "No you don't!" said Sears "unless you take me with it", and a brief contest ensued. A shot from the other parties came to Charlie's aid, and he retained possession of the flag. Then cutting the remaining fragments from the staff, he placed them in his bosom, and running the gauntlet of fire, for some distance on his hands and knees, brought what remained of the sacred emblem from the field."

(Source: History of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, during the War of the Rebellion, By L.G. Bennett & Wm. M. Haigh)

*Submitted by David Fraley*



## A NOTE ABOUT YOUR DATA PRIVACY



From time-to-time, new or renewing members will note on their correspondence that they want their phone numbers and email addresses to be kept private and not shared with others. As a general response to that concern, and for general membership information, we will describe how we use your phone number and email addresses.

We do not share the STFB phone list with anyone or any organizations.. PERIOD. We use phone numbers only if we have questions concerning a mail order, membership details, planned visits to Franklin, or other questions from members.

We do not share the STFB email list with anyone or any organizations.. PERIOD. When we do broadcast an email to the STFB e-list, the recipient addresses are not shown so that recipients cannot see the email addresses of others on the distribution list. We use the list to send short lead time notifications and reminders to STFB members on upcoming events, and for general information about STFB activities. If other local organizations have upcoming events that we think may be of interest to the STFB membership, we redraft the announcement and independently send it to the STFB e-list.

In general, commercial enterprises that request STFB to help sell/promote/refer their offerings to the STFB membership are refused. We do sometimes add a link on the STFB web site that points to the web site of that enterprise so that our web site visitors can decide for themselves whether or not they find such offerings of interest.

STFB authors and maintains an independently hosted web site that is accessed through STFB's own registered internet domain name - [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

- \* We do not permit 'pop-up ads' that so annoy all of us
- \* STFB does not 'harvest' or collect the email addresses of visitors to the STFB web site
- \* Our web site does not download applets or any executable code onto a visitors system
- \* Our web site does not play music on our visitors' systems

However, be aware that if you follow a link from STFB's web site to another site that belongs to someone else, that site may harvest addresses, place pop-up ads, etc.

Also, about once a year, STFB prints ten complete copies of the active/inactive STFB membership that does include phone numbers and email addresses. Copies are marked STFB CONFIDENTIAL and are given only to STFB Board Members for purposes of contacting past members as part of a STFB membership drive.

If you have questions about the privacy of you personal data that you have provided to STFB, please contact Sam Huffman at 615-370-3842 or [sam@jsp.net](mailto:sam@jsp.net)

## 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	
	Print of Nathan Bedford Forrest by Jody Thompson	\$30.00	
	Print of Patrick Cleburne by Jody Thompson	\$30.00	
		<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>	

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Save The Franklin Battlefield will lead our second tour of the year on Sunday, August 25th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Entitled "FIRST BLOOD -THE WAR COMES HOME: Military Actions in Williamson County, December 1862--June 1863," the tour will be an overview of the events of the six month period, and given from the vantage point of Fort Granger in Franklin. Mark your calendars--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)