



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 2002

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 am excited about our upcoming tour August 25th, entitled "First Blood: The War Comes Home." From the vantagepoint of Fort Granger, we will be considering the early events of the War here in Franklin and Williamson County. The six-month period from January through June 1863 is 'bookended' by the Battle of Stones River and the start of the Tullahoma Campaign. It is a time rich with reconnaissance, maneuvers, skirmishes, and battles, but often eclipsed by the shadow of November 30, 1864.

We are looking forward to telling the story of those six months' events, the brave American soldiers both North and South, and the citizens of Franklin and Williamson County who were swept along in the tides of War.

We hope to see you there!

Joe Smyth

FIRST BLOOD - THE WAR COMES HOME

Save The Franklin Battlefield will lead our second tour of the year on Sunday, August 25th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 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.

From December 1862 through June 1863 Franklin was garrisoned and steadily and increasingly reinforced with Federal troops, to offset and guard against escalating threats and attacks from Confederate forces encamped on a line from Triune to Spring Hill. It was during these months that Fort Granger was built on a bluff above the Harpeth River, by Union troops working 24 hours a day in two 12-hour shifts.

On March 5, 1863 at the Battle of Thompson's Station, a strong Union force of 1,500 troops left Franklin to reconnoiter and forage for food toward Columbia. They encountered and were surrounded by General Van Dorn's cavalry under W. H. Jackson and Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Federal cavalry escaped, but the infantry with a battery of artillery was forced to surrender.

The March 25, 1863 Battle of Brentwood occurred when Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederate cavalry raided and captured the Union garrison at Brentwood, and then attacked the Union stockade at the railroad bridge just north of Concord Road. A large Federal force from Franklin then marched to Brentwood to pursue the Rebels escaping to the west with their spoils and prisoners. Heavy fighting erupted as the Federals crashed into the retreating Confederates.

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NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE, Vol. 8, #32,
August 8, 2002
by Bruce Craig

National Coordinating Committee for the
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: BILLS INTRODUCED

Authorization for Battlefields Program:

On July 15, 2002 Rep. Gary Miller (R-CA) and five colleagues introduced legislation (H.R. 5125) the "American Battlefields Protection Program Act of 2002" authorizing funding to preserve Civil War battlefields in the United States.

The legislation creates the first authorization for comprehensive battlefield preservation in the United States. Although Congress has a history of providing funding for the program, in the past it was accomplished through an earmark.

Under the legislative proposal, funds would be available to nonprofit organizations, local governments, and states which seek to preserve battlefields and can provide a dollar-for-dollar match. Should the bill be enacted, it would eliminate the need for special annual earmarks of funds. The legislation was referred to the House Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands for action.

PLEASE write your Member of Congress (c/o House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515) and tell her/him that you support HR 5125--the American Battlefields Protection Program for 2002--and hope that she/he will do their part to assist in its passage. YOUR letter CAN make a difference!

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The First Battle of Franklin occurred April 10, 1863 when cavalry forces from Spring Hill under Confederate General Van Dorn charged into downtown Franklin "almost up to the muzzles of the guns of Fort Granger." After fighting their way through town and freeing some previously captured prisoners, the daring riders left more rapidly than they had entered.

On June 4th an artillery diversion on Carters' Creek Pike allowed General Forrest's brigades under Armstrong and Starnes to attack Franklin along the Lewisburg and Columbia Pikes. The fighting became street to street and house to house, with many Federals finally retreating to the safety of Fort Granger. Forrest freed a number of 'political prisoners' and rode south out of town.

Finally, on June 9th, two Confederate officers dressed as Federals, and for mysterious purposes still up to conjecture today, were captured and hanged as spies outside Fort Granger, on modern-day Liberty Pike.

To learn about these events and battles that swept through our very backyards, meet at Fort Granger in Franklin, Sunday the 25th at 2:00 P.M. From Eddy Lane, turn in next to Crosslin Lumber and follow the signs. The tour will be led by STFB members who will give an overview of the six months' events of December 1862 to June 1863.

The tour is free as always to STFB members and their guests. Others are asked to donate \$5 per person, or better yet, become a member - Individuals \$20 - Families \$30. For more information please call the STFB office at (615) 500-6612.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Our newsletter editor is retiring at the end of the year. If you would be interested in taking over the newsletter, please contact Joe Smyth at 615-500-6612, or email at smyth@vol.com.

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	
		Order Sub-Total	
		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		
		Order Total	

CWPT Purchase of Battlefield Property in Tennessee

The Civil War Preservation Trust has contracted for the fee simple purchase of 83 acres at the site of the 1862 Battle of Davis Bridge in Hardeman County, Tennessee, and should close on the property in the next few months. It is the desire of the CWPT that the Tennessee Wars Commission work with state and federal agencies to obtain matching funds so as to repay the Trust for their land acquisition efforts. During this time of the Tennessee state budget crisis, many of the traditional sources for matching funds through the state had been eliminated in favor of reopening our state parks to the public. It is hoped that the budget can be restored and we will once again be able to seek matching funds through our own state agencies. The Davis Bridge Battlefield is an important and pristine battlefield property located within the National Historic Landmark boundary and is contiguous with 110 acres of state-owned battlefield land (secured through the efforts of Representative Steve McDaniel, Herbert Wood of the Davis Bridge Memorial Foundation, Mike Baumstark of the Tennessee Department of Space Management, and the Tennessee Wars Commission.)

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