



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

October 2002

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

It is hard to believe that another year has passed bringing us again to November and the anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

We have just hosted a wonderful group of descendants of the Battle of Franklin at Collins' Farm during The Carter House's 4th Descendants' Reunion. Thomas Cartwright and his staff did an amazing job giving 100+ folks from around the US a very meaningful and emotional weekend of activities. If you have an opportunity to attend in the future, I encourage you to do so.

Also this past month, STFB went on public record before the Williamson County Commission to encourage them to purchase 6.5 additional acres of the Battle Ground Academy campus in 5 parcels, and to leave them as open battlefield land. Newly elected County Executive Rogers Anderson spoke of nearby parcels already coming available for County purchase, and the desire to work together with the City of Franklin to purchase additional acreage. More about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our "Forty for Franklin" March for Preservation is rapidly approaching. This is our major fundraiser for the year to help pay off the Collins' Farm property. You should have recently received information and a pledge card—please consider making a gift. We need your help to make this a success!

We invite you to attend our Annual Membership Meeting on November 24th. We are excited and honored to have Representative Steve McDaniel as our featured speaker. Steve is a

(Continued on page 3)

Reenactors' March For Collins Farm

"40 For Franklin"

November 15th - 16th, 2002

On November 15th & 16th, 2002, Civil War reenactors will be marching "Forty for Franklin" to help Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. The twenty-one uniformed reenactors will be marching 40 miles over two days to raise funds to help retire the debt on Collins Farm in Franklin.

Collins Farm is an important 3.22 acres of the Franklin battlefield that STFB purchased in June 2001. The land is on the extreme east end of the main trench line where the river and railroad converge. This ground was traversed by General W W Loring's Division as they climbed the railroad embankment and got entangled in the osage orange abatis in front of the Federal trenches. It was this ground of which Lieutenant William H. Berryhill of the 43rd Mississippi lamented, "I cannot see how any human being could live two moments in such a place."

Each of the twenty-one reenactors will portray and represent one of the 18 Union and Confederate states that had regiments engaged at the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee had troops fighting in the battle on both sides, hence the number twenty-one. Other states represented will be Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

The reenactors will march 40 miles from Mt. Pleasant to Columbia along Highway 43, and from Columbia along Highway 31, encamping along the way, and into Franklin, ending up at the Collins Farm property on Lewisburg Pike.

STFB is encouraging groups and the general public to sponsor the reenactor representing the state of their choice on a "per mile" basis using the **"40 For Franklin" Sponsor Form**. Your donation is completely tax-deductible to the full extent of the IRS rules, and can be sent to and made payable to:

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.

PO Box 851

Franklin, TN 37065-0851

The fall 2001 march was the first march of this type that STFB has done. It required much help and effort by several dedicated reenactors who had past experience in such projects. Even though there were lots of blisters and sore muscles at the finish line, STFB was greatly pleased with the \$12,700 that was

(Continued on page 3)

News In Review by Sam Gant

TCWPA tours Collins Farm Newsletter: Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association September 2002

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association held its annual meeting in Franklin, TN in order to show support for the preservation efforts going on at this historic site. In spite of the loss in the nation-wide effort to relocate the site for the new library, the Civil War preservation community can claim one victory at Franklin: the Collins Farm. On November 15 & 16, 2002, in the "Forty for Franklin" March, twenty-one reenactors will march 40 miles to help retire the debt on the Collins Farm.

Committee OKs \$1M for BGA land *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 10/2/02 FRANKLIN County leaders are eyeing more property on Columbia Avenues Battle Ground Academy campus for a battlefield preservation park. With 12.7 acres under the county's belt, officials are considering buying between six and seven acres BGA plans to vacate next year. The county is building a new library on the site now and has commissioned a battlefield park study that could help leaders figure out what to do with the rest of the property.

Re-enactors to march for historic preservation *The Review Appeal* 10/4/02 FRANKLIN On Nov. 15 and 16, Civil War re-enactors will be marching Forty for Franklin to help Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. The 21 uniformed re-enactors will be marching 40 miles over two days to raise funds to help retire the debt on Collins Farm in Franklin. Each of the 21 re-enactors will portray and represent one of the 17 Union and Confederate states that had regiments engaged at the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864. Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee had troops fighting in the battle on both sides, hence the number 21.

Descendants of blue, gray come to table together *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 10/10/02 FRANKLIN This weekend, descendants of soldiers who wore both blue and gray in the Nov. 30, 1864, battle will meet for a three-day Descendants Reunion to honor their ancestors who fought that day. More than 130 descendants have signed up for the weekend, which includes: opening ceremonies; tours of McGavock Cemetery and the Spring Hill and Franklin battlefields Saturday afternoon; and a dinner at Harrison House. On Sunday, descendants from Maine to Oregon will gather for a service at Collins Farm, located on Lewisburg Pike, a hot spot of fighting during the battle.

Battlefield advocate questions need for BGA lots *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 10/11/02 FRANK-

LIN When Civil War tourists head to Franklin to visit the future battlefield park, they won't find it on core fighting land if the county plants the park on certain Battle Ground Academy property. So says Hershel Smith, who says he's speaking for other local preservationists who've caught wind of the county's proposal to buy five tracts of BGA property on Columbia Avenue. Local preservationists would like to focus on buying land closer to the fighting's core, and say that's the spot where the most effective battlefield park can be built.

COUNTY SCOREBOARD: . . . battlefield land *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 10/14/02 FRANKLIN □ The Williamson County Commissioners agreed to spend \$1 million to buy six-plus acres of land at the Battle Ground Academy property on Columbia Avenue. The purchase will add to 12.7 acres the county already owns and is expected to be used for a battlefield preservation park.

Crossroads of the Civil War *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." 10/25/02 FRANKLIN As of this month, those looking for an overview of what happened during the Civil War on the ground now covered by roads, offices and residences have a new book to turn to, *Brentwood, Tennessee: A Crossroads of the American Civil War*. The 17-page, illustrated book was written by Joe Lassus, who happens to be Brentwood's planning and codes director as well as a student of history and a Civil War reenactor.

Victorian's Secrets *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M. Real Estate" 10/25/02 FRANKLIN The proud, 115-year-old Victorian home at 211 Lewisburg Avenue is for sale. The Osage orange tree line that borders the gravel drive dates back to the Civil War when it was used as fencing on the Eastern edge of the Franklin battle line.

Historical happening: Grave of Pvt. James Allen Jackson marked by descendants 113 years after his death *The Review Appeal* 10/25/02 BRENTWOOD Many Jackson descendants gathered for the dedication of a graver marker finally put into place 113 years after the death of James Allen Jackson, Sr., Confederate soldier, farmer and active member of Owen Chapel Church of Christ. James Allen Jackson, Sr.'s initial enlistment ended with his being captured and sent to a Yankee prison where he escaped and then rejoined to serve in Duckworth's 7th Tennessee Calvary unit, one of the escort units for Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest.

(Continued from page 1)

raised for the Collins Farm purchase. We are eternally grateful to the volunteers who made the march and their sponsors who raised the funds.

If you would like to represent one of the 21 states for this year's march, contact David Fraley for information, march logistics, and schedule.

MARCH FUND RAISING TO-DATE

As of October 27, the "40 For Franklin" March totals raised by State are:

State—Marcher—Amount Raised

Alabama—Shane Smith \$125
 Arkansas—Brett Hardin \$50
 Florida—Evan Hudson \$40
 Georgia—Steve Massey \$180
 Kentucky—Jim Lawrence \$60
 Louisiana \$0
 Mississippi—William Long \$125
 Missouri - \$40
 South Carolina—William Carraway \$575
 Tennessee—David Fraley \$1370
 Texas—Justin Scherrer \$290

\$2,855 Total Confederate Marchers

Illinois—Brad Stansbury \$620
 Indiana—Ron Wilkins \$22
 Iowa—\$40
 Kentucky - \$20
 Michigan—Pat Mitchell \$150
 Missouri—Jerry Layton \$100
 Ohio—Brandon Niemeyer \$1506
 Pennsylvania—Lewis Varnell \$265
 Tennessee—Trent Golden \$130
 Wisconsin—Brian Maddox \$35

\$2,888 Total Federal Marchers

\$5,743 March Total (10/27/2002)

County Buys Additional BGA Parcels

At its October 14 meeting, the Williamson County Commission approved the purchase of five additional parcels, totaling nearly eight acres, from the Battle Ground Academy. Three of the parcels are open spaces today and the other two have older homes that were at one time used for faculty residences and for student housing when BGA was a boarding school. The five properties border the west and south boundaries of the main BGA Campus on Columbia Avenue that is current owned by the county and is the site of the new Williamson County Library now under construction.

The county has no definite plans for the new parcels. Most of the commission discussion centered on perhaps using the ground to expand the open areas of the main campus or for a battlefield park.

In his pre-meeting remarks, STFB President Joe Smyth stated STFB support for the county's purchase and asked that new parcels be kept as open battlefield park. He reviewed the common preservation strategy of the many local groups that to-date have created six 'islands' of saved battlefield over the past 50 years - Winstead Hill park, Carnton Plantation, Collins Farm, Carter House, Fort Granger, and Ropers Knob. He stated that these individual 'islands' interpret various areas of the battlefield even though they were assembled over time from adjoining parcels owned by several different non-profit or government agencies.

Smyth also suggested to the commissioners that one of the existing BGA buildings should be used for a much-needed Williamson County Museum, the current county archives, and a visitor orientation center. Smyth envisioned that the museum would have a significant Civil War section. With this use, the BGA Campus would become the seventh battlefield 'island' as the starting point for coordinated visit of the other six.

He further suggested that a common interpretation scheme for all seven 'islands' be developed so that eventually the appearance, tone, and style of interpretive materials for all seven locations would be more nearly uniform. He conceded that with so many different organizations, and budgets, involved with such a plan that the implementation would have to be gradual.

(Continued from page 1)

champion of battlefield preservation here in Tennessee, and is becoming increasingly successful in securing federal and state monies to preserve Tennessee's endangered battlefield lands. I look forward to seeing and visiting with many of you there.

Finally, please take some time on November 30th to remember the brave Americans, both Northern and Southern, who gave their all here at Franklin. We must understand our past in order to contemplate our future. That has never been more important than it is today.

Joe Smyth

Battle of Franklin Reenactment—November 15—17

On November 15 – 17, more than 500 Civil War re-enactors will encamp at Historic Carnton Plantation in Franklin to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. The weekend schedule of events will include 19th century civilian and military living history interpretations. Also to be featured are candlelight tours of the historic house, lantern tours of the McGavock Confederate cemetery, mock battles, medical reenactments, and military drilling and camp life demonstrations. A simultaneous cannon volley from Winstead Hill, Carnton Plantation, and Fort Granger will create a dramatic sound not heard by the citizens of Franklin since November of 1864. This event, the largest ever planned at Carnton, is being co-sponsored by the Tod Carter Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Three Confederate battle flags, including a rare Hardee pattern flag carried at Franklin by the 1st & 15th Arkansas Infantry, will be on exhibit during the weekend. Authors Wiley Sword and Howard Bahr will be attending to sign copies of their books. Numerous sutlers will set up their tents on the grounds of the plantation all weekend offering foods and reproduction items that would have been available during the Civil War. The 5th Alabama Infantry Regimental Band, a 30-piece band in uniform dress will perform throughout the event and will play for a dance on Saturday evening. Re-enactors in military and civilian period dress will enjoy dancing to the War-era music. The public is invited to attend and can receive instruction in period dance steps. Dress is formal for the dance.

Daily admission for the event is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 – 12, and under 6 are admitted free. Admission for the period dance on Saturday evening is \$5 per person. The grounds will open to the public at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and will close at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. The dance will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Saturday. For more information call the Carnton office at 615-794-0903, email at carnton@mindspring.com, or visit the Carnton web-site at www.carnton.org.

Save The Franklin Battlefield will have a table in the Sutler tent, signing up new members, taking donations and pledges towards our “Forty for Franklin” March, and selling our various books and sundries. If you would like to volunteer to help us (and receive a free admission), 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.

We appreciate all the out of state offers, but we really think the person should be from the Middle Tennessee/Franklin area.

New & Renewing Members

Elizabeth Gerber
Michael Fort
Hal Joerin
Cherie Berry
Joseph Hart
Dr. Michael Loftin
James Buente
Gloria Ramsaur
Herbert Harper
Doug Fought
Shirley Bolich

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 | |

STFB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual membership meeting of Save The Franklin Battlefield will be held Sunday, November 24, at the historic Hiram Lodge in downtown Franklin from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to reviewing the past year's activities and discussing plans for 2003, we will elect officers for the ensuing year. The meeting is free and the general public is invited. Refreshments will be served following the program. The historic Hiram Masonic Lodge is located in downtown Franklin at 115 2nd Avenue South.

Tennessee State Representative Steve McDaniel will be our featured speaker. McDaniel has been a Representative to the State House for 14 years, three terms as the House minority leader. He is a graduate of the University of Memphis, and a past president of the Henderson County Historical Society. Rep. McDaniel was the prime sponsor of legislation that enacted the Tennessee Wars Commission. He has been instrumental in establishing the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Association, which has successfully funded and saved a great portion of the Parker's Crossroads battlefield in West Tennessee. He is a tireless worker for Civil War preservation at the state level, and has recently received the Civil War Preservation Trust's Preservation 2002 "State Leadership Award" for outstanding leadership in Tennessee.

Please make your plans to attend this annual event. It is always an interesting, informative, and fun afternoon, and a chance to meet and visit with other STFB members. See you there!

Save The Franklin Battlefield
PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-0851
615-500-6612
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