



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

March 2003

[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—

We are encouraged with the initial meetings of our consortium of historical and preservation groups here in Franklin. Our group met with Williamson County Executive Rogers Anderson this past month, to discuss possible site plans and their implementation for the BGA property and the additional property slated to be purchased adjoining it. STFB will continue to stay involved in this ongoing process, and we will report back to you, our membership, and the project unfolds.

I hope you will be able to join us on our first STFB tour of the year, "Aftermath of Horror: The Hospitals of Franklin, November 1864—June 1865." New information comes to light almost weekly concerning the makeshift hospitals following the bloody Battle of Franklin. As always, STFB tours are free to our members. Please mark your calendars to attend this most interesting and enlightening event—I hope to see you there!

## FIRST STFB TOUR PLANNED FOR APRIL 13

Please join the Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. on Sunday, April 13 at 2:00p.m., for their second "Battle of Franklin Downtown Hospital Walking Tour." This will be a walking tour of various sites in the downtown area that served as field hospitals sites following the bloody Battle of Franklin, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1864. Also included in this tour will be a stop at Rest Haven Cemetery on Fourth Ave., where Dr. Fielding Pope Sloan, of the 50<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, C.S.A. is buried. This Confederate Surgeon was twice wounded in the battle, November 30, 1864, and did not die from those wounds until June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865! Please join us, and be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. Drinks will be available for purchase on the tour. The tour will not be entering any structures, but rather you will be hearing about the significance of the hospitals from the outside, along the public sidewalks. Military and civilian reenactors will be offering portrayals of actual stories from that terrible period following the battle, when the city of Franklin was turned, largely, into one big hospital. The non-member cost for this tour is \$5.00, but is free for members. Membership in the Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. is \$20.00 for single and \$35.00 for families.

*Joe Smyth*

## Reenactment of the Battle of Franklin to Commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is Planned

Save the Franklin Battlefield and the Civil War Courier have joined forces to began planning for a Reenactment of the Battle of Franklin to commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the November 30, 1864. The reenactment is scheduled for early October 2004. Planning is underway to make this the largest reenactment in the southeastern part of the United States and will hopefully draw reenactors from throughout the South, Northeast and the Midwest.

Save the Franklin Battlefield will be providing additional information as soon as plans are firmed up. Volunteers from within the organization and from the local community will be needed to make this event a success destined to draw national attention. Look here for more information in the coming months.

*Dan Mora*



## News In Review by Sam Gant

**Archivist portrays Civil War Soldier – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 2/18/03 BRENT-WOOD** – Travelers Rest Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met Jan. 9 in the Brentwood Library. The speaker was Bob Duncan, director of the Maury County Archives, who played the part of Civil War soldier James Madison "Matt" Sparkman. As the Maury County soldier, Duncan acted the part of Sparkman in 1893, who reminisced about his experiences in the Civil War at Ft. Donelson, Ft. Hudson, La., and on the Mississippi River.

**Mayor adds \$1M to Fort Negley restoration – *The Tennessean* – 2/18/03 – NASHVILLE** – Mayor Bill Purcell pledged an additional \$1 million yesterday to help restore Fort Negley, the long-closed Civil War era fortification near Greer Stadium that local officials hope will become a tourism magnet for history buffs when it opens next year. Purcell's announcement came just a week after Fort Negley and other sites in the Battle of Nashville were placed on a list of the 10 most endangered battlefields in the country by the Civil War Preservation Trust. The new pledge by Purcell, coupled with \$1 million the city pledged last year, will help to restore the star-shaped stone fort, create an interpretive walking path and add a visitors' center. Purcell said he hopes and believes the restored site will attract tourists to Nashville.

**The tragedy and significance of the Battle of Franklin – *The Heritage Newsletter* – February 2003 – FRANKLIN** – Preservation experts estimate it could take up to 50 years to restore a meaningful portion of the Battle of Franklin battlefield, but interpreting what culminated here on Nov. 30, 1864, is something that can and should be done today. The public is invited to the first in the Heritage Foundation's 2003 lecture series, "Interpreting the Battle of Franklin," Public history consultant Joe Brent will speak, with introduction by Fred Prouty, Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission. In addition to the Heritage Foundation, this informative discussion is co-sponsored by Historic Carnton Plantation, Carter House Association, Save the Franklin Battlefield, Williamson County Historical Society,

African-American Heritage Society and A Place Called Natchez. Brent is a partner in the firm Mudpuppy and Waterdog, which is preparing the battlefield plan for Williamson County on the Columbia Avenue BGA property.

**Maryland preservationist tries to get locals fired up – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 2/24/03 – FRANKLIN** – James Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust, met with local preservationists at the Carter House Friday, urging them to get better organized and take strong political action to save Battle of Franklin land. "Get into politics or get out of Preservation," Lighthizer said bluntly to representatives of Carter House, Carnton Plantation, the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County and others. Lighthizer emphasized that Williamson County needs a committee of five or six people to oversee local preservation efforts and target politicians who will support that cause. "Form a coalition and have a specific plan, like what parcel (of battlefield) land you want and what to do with them," he said.

**Mudpuppy and Waterdog partner to discuss Battle of Franklin – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 2/26/03 – FRANKLIN** – Last year, the Civil War Preservation Trust listed Battle of Franklin land as one of the most endangered battlefields in America. But what actually happened there on Nov. 30, 1864? The significance of the battle, which has been described as some of the bloodiest hours of the Civil War, was discussed in a lecture on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2003, at St. Paul's church. The talk was the first in a series of lectures being presented this year by the Heritage Foundation and Franklin and Williamson County. Public history consultant Joe Brent, who recently designed a proposed walking trail on battlefield land off Columbia Avenue near the county's new library, told the story of what happened during the Battle of Franklin and why.

**Preservationists follow advice to unite for impact – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 3/05/03 – FRANKLIN** – An alliance of Franklin

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## The "40 For Franklin" March Finishes Successfully

Finally..... all the "in the mail" checks, donations, and Matching Grants have been received and deposited. The final total went over the 16K goal as expected and totaled \$16,303. Every penny of these sponsor donations are earmarked to pay down the debt on Collins Farm. The total donations by state are at [www.franklin-stfb.org/march02.htm](http://www.franklin-stfb.org/march02.htm)

The Confederate Marchers have tallied \$7,506 in actual donations received, and the Federal Marchers' total is \$8,797.

Amount	State	Re-enactor
885	Alabama	Shane Smith
445	Arkansas	Brett Hardin
190	Florida	Evan Hudson
306	Georgia	Shane Smith
290	Kentucky	Jim Lawrence
240	Louisiana	Jim Lawrence
265	Mississippi	William Long
680	Missouri	Evan Hudson
1,075	South Carolina	William Carraway
2,820	Tennessee	David Fraley
310	Texas	David Fraley
1,060	Illinois	Brad Stansbury
1,361	Indiana	Ron Wilkins
185	Iowa	Ron Wilkins
290	Kentucky	Trent Golden
502	Michigan	Louis Varnell
660	Missouri	Jerry Layton
2,894	Ohio	Chris Lane
525	Pennsylvania	Louis Varnell
640	Tennessee	Trent Golden
680	Wisconsin	Brian Maddox

Many thanks to David Fraley and the others who put this project together, and to those who sacrificed a week-end 'make the march' on November 15-16, 2002. If you see any of the "40 For Franklin" marchers, be sure to pat them on the back and give them our thanks. The rain and cold during the 40 mile march made their task much more difficult than anyone could have predicted. They persevered it out and made the project a success. We should all show them our gratitude and admiration whenever we meet them - they more than deserve it.

*Sam Huffman*

## Jim Lighthizer: Civil War Preservation Trust Address to Franklin Preservationists Carter House, February 21, 2003

The key to preservation groups' successes lies in their involvement in politics. The Battle of Nashville Association became involved in politics through a councilman whom they supported which led to their receiving the \$2,000,000 fund for Ft. Negley. Nashville is a model that Franklin preservationists could emulate. Support those who support preservation and work hard to "knock out" those who oppose. The planning commission is an important area for preservationists to become involved in and to seek a place on this board where all plans for development will first be presented. It is important that representatives of the preservation community attend every city and county planning committee meeting, city alderman meeting, and county commission meeting. The developers are there and the preservationists must be if they are to know when a development plan is first presented. If a preservationist loses, he loses out for good; if a developer loses, he just comes back again. The preservationist has "to work smart and work tough." The vast majority of citizens want preservation and do not want excessive development.

Preservationists must make plans and let the planning board and the elected officials know what these plans are. Make a plan which is doable and communicate the plan to the public early. Have press conferences to unveil the plans. Determine what we are and publicize it. Preservationists need victories and then we must celebrate the victories. When we save a piece of property, have a celebration. "If it doesn't make the newspapers, it didn't happen." There are opportunities for greenways which attract bikers, walkers, and naturalists.

Get the people together who wish to save battlefield land. The various preservation groups in Franklin and Williamson County need to set up a coordinating committee which is made up of a representative from each local organization. This committee for saving battlefield land must be

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tightly focused and aggressive. An agenda must be set with monthly meetings. Determine and publicize what we are and what we are for. "Stop at nothing!"

The four national Civil War parks in Tennessee bring in 1,800,000 tourists a year. If Tennessee gets a Civil War trail and interprets it in the right way, the 1,800,000 will become 3,600,000.

Sam Gant

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and Williamson County preservationists representing non-profit groups will meet with County Executive Rogers Anderson tomorrow to discuss preserving historic land in the county. No agenda has been set for the meeting but representatives of the seven groups want to "step up the dialogue with county representatives and ourselves, and be a continuing part of the process," said Historic Carnton Plantation Director Angela Calhoun. Groups represented are: the African American Heritage Society, Carnton, The Carter House, the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, Save The Franklin Battlefield and the Williamson County Historical Society.

**New soldier search program brings families together – Columns: Historic Carnton Plantation Newsletter – Spring 2003 – FRANKLIN** – "This has been one of the most interesting and effective tools we've ever had to connect our visitors to the Civil War," reported Carnton Executive Director, Angela Calhoun, speaking of a computer program installed at Carnton. "Not a day goes by that someone isn't connected to a relative in the Civil War or in the McGavock cemetery." The only one available outside a national park, the program from Broadfoot Publishing allows visitors to access and order copies of the military records of Confederate and Union soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

## New & Renewing for February 2003

Tim Prince Nashville TN  
 Paul Arch Coraopolis PA  
 Rochelle Ramga Springfield OH  
 T. Vance Little Brentwood TN  
 Nick Kaup Wilmette IL  
 James H Padfield Springfield TN  
 Gail & Dick Sphar Franklin TN  
 Dick Roberts Iowa City IA  
 Dr Michael Brown Chattanooga TN  
 C. Pat Cates Woodstock GA  
 Lynne Rhodes Diamond Bar CA  
 Lee Krompart Chicago IL  
 DLM Consulting Inc Franklin TN  
 Jack & Linda Skoda Fort Worth TX  
 LTC(R) John & Linda Brewer Fairview TN  
 James & Susan Rossen Manchester TN  
 Jack & Betty Stephens Pryor OK  
 Rick Warwick Franklin TN  
 Ronald Kunnick Elmhurst IL  
 Howard Foshee Spanish Fort AL  
 Chad Comer Gamaliel KY  
 James Barrow Miami FL  
 Brian Paxton Elmhurst IL  
 C & M Management, Inc Brentwood TN  
 Scott & Kathy Speedy Thompsons Station TN  
 Dr & Mrs Robert Kriebel Franklin TN

## Mark the Date!

On Saturday, May 17 from 9 – 3 we are planning "A Day in the Garden at Collins Farm." We've got four confirmed guest speakers to talk on a variety of gardening topics. Margie Hunter author of the book *"Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place"* has agreed to come. Lark Foster and Walter Glen, authors of the book *The Tennessee Gardener's Guide: The What, Where, When, How & Why of Gardening in Tennessee* have also agreed to speak. Cindy Shapton, former owner of Hyssop Hill and president of the Master Gardener Association in Williamson County will also speak. At press time we are working with another speaker. We also have some garden related vendors coming to sell their items, along with some people to do civil war period activities in the garden. The cost for this event is \$20, which will include lunch. The funds raised will go to grounds upkeep and garden restoration - this year they are earmarked for a riding lawn mower for Collins Farm that we are in desperate need of. We are planning for this to be an annual event. Look for more details in next month's newsletter – and be sure to **mark the date!**

Kim Hoover

## 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	
	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Stones River	\$12.00	
	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>	



## COLLINS FARM MORTGAGE STATUS

The campaign to pay down the debt on Collins Farm keeps making progress. Purchased in June 2001 for \$227,000, we have paid off \$63,000 of the loan, leaving an outstanding mortgage balance at the bank of \$164,000. In Addition, the STFB Land Fund currently totals \$21,598, some of which is a bank-required escrow reserve. If we were free to apply the entire land fund reserve to the debt, we could then pay off the remaining net mortgage with another \$142,402 in donations. We are making steady progress thanks to all of you.

*Sam Huffman*

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