



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

July 2003

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

In the wake of the third and final vote to develop the property north of Winstead Hill, we once again pause to re-assess our position and place here in Franklin and Williamson County. Hard questions come up. Do we loudly oppose or quietly oppose each and every threat to the greater battlefield? Or, do we “pick and choose” our battles, based on the priority or importance of the land threatened?

My personal feeling is that we need to fight “hammer and tong” *each* and every threat to develop and re-develop the Franklin Battlefield. Our mission and our very name points us to this. We are not an organization charged to preserve historic homes, fields and streams, or the Harpeth River (although we align ourselves with those that do). We must oppose every threat, while continuing to educate the local populace and our elected officials on the need to preserve the Franklin Battlefield. The time will come, I sincerely hope, when we reach “critical mass” and the people of Franklin and Williamson County will elect officials with the desire to implement our mission.

Until then, we will stay the course. We will pursue our mission and we will represent our membership, both local and long distance, whose express desire is to Save The Franklin Battlefield. Thank you for your time, your letters, calls, and emails, and your gifts to help make this happen.

Joe Smyth

Parkways Commons Shopping Center Approved by Franklin Aldermen

At their July 8 meeting, The Franklin Board of Aldermen passed by a vote of 5-3 the zoning change request that would permit a shopping center at the northwest corner of Columbia Avenue and Mack Hatcher Parkway. Voting for passage were Tom Miller, Tom Feuerborn, Steve Smith, Chuck Edmondson, and Clyde Barnhill - against, Ernie Bacon, Dan Klatt, and Dana McLendon. The third reading protocol does not permit comments by the public. Dana McLendon summarized most of the reasons for approving the rezoning, although he voted against it.

We believe that public opinion, local and out-of-town, was very heavily against this rezoning. McLendon and others made the point that rezoning cannot be driven by public opinion.

The Parkway Commons site is just north of Franklin's Winstead Hill Park that includes an overlook from which visitors can view Franklin and the Carter Farm where the heaviest fighting occurred. The Parkway Commons site was identified as a Priority Protection site in the 1996 study titled "US Highway 31 Battlefield Corridor Protection Plan".

That plan, funded by the National Parks Service and sponsored by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, set out to define the historic resources, battlefield and otherwise, along US 31

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News In Review by Sam Gant

Battlefield protection; front and center – *The Review Appeal* – 6/22/03 **FRANKLIN** – Face lifts for Franklin were recommended recently by a citizens panel in City Hall where the discussion ranged from passenger train stations to battlefield protections and scenic views of horse pasture. While discussion offered a wide view of what may be in Franklin's future, battlefield protection was seen as a legitimate and important issue for the panel, according to a consensus of the group after wrestling with various other issues. So, now's the time, and the committee is the place to participate in the basic decisions, City Planning Department Director Bob Martin said.

Franklin Tomorrow prepares surveys for Columbia Avenue – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 6/24/03 **FRANKLIN** – Franklin Tomorrow officials will hit Columbia Avenue next month to survey business owners along the corridor about their thoughts on change, business and redevelopment. Surveys are expected to go out to businesses between Five Points and the new county library, which is under construction on the old Battle Ground Academy campus. John Schroer, a Franklin Tomorrow leader who sits on the task force, says the task force sees the new county library as an anchor to the development area and he'd like to see infill from there to the downtown area, to help make the corridor more attractive.

Carter House celebrates 50 years – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 6/26/03 **FRANKLIN** – The Carter House will have a special meeting of members and nonmembers to celebrate 50 years of a listed historic property. Live entertainment and refreshments are part of the meeting. Rewards and recognition of Master Gardeners will be part of the program as well as a portrayal of Civil War veteran Sam Watkins, the author of *Co. Aytch*, by a Carter House staff member after the meeting. A larger 50-year celebration is planned for September.

More than 100 come home to Carnton for 'Decoration Day' – *The Review Appeal* – 6/29/03

FRANKLIN – It was a coming home for people and things on Friday night under a tent on the grounds of Historic Carnton Plantation, as the nonprofit association celebrated 25 years of preservation and looked to the future. Called "Decoration Day," the event drew more than 100 people, including descendants of Carnton's builder, Randal McGavock, as well as the Historic Carnton Plantation Association's first president, Dr. Joe Willoughby. Among the people returning for the celebration were the Heller brothers – Winder, Hanes and Rod – accompanied by his wife, Kay. "Carnton is family," Hanes Heller said.

Rezoning approved for Target/Kroger – *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." – 7/10/03

FRANKLIN – Franklin city leaders approved the third and final reading Tuesday night on rezoning request that will make way for Parkway Commons, a Target- and Kroger-anchored commercial development proposed for the northwest quadrant of Hillview Lane and Columbia Pike. Opponents of the project have said the property played an integral part in the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin, arguing that the project would cause extra traffic tie-ups and declared that development would be a lost opportunity for tourism. Getting a park on the property isn't out of the picture, though, according to Alderman Tom Miller. Miller told his colleagues that pending approval, the developer was prepared to donate unused land as a park. That land could be used for trails and bikeways, which might include information about the 1864 battle, Miller said.

Group forms to protect battlefield – *The Review Appeal* – 7/13/03 **FRANKLIN** – Steps were taken last week toward preservation of the Civil War battlefield in Franklin and redevelopment of areas in or near downtown which have not specifically been identified. Discussions Thursday night and a month earlier offer a wide view of what may be in Franklin's future. Following up on the discussion in June when battlefield protection was seen as a legitimate and important issue for the panel, Bibb created a subcommittee on battlefield protection. Tree Diffendal, vice president

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of public preservation for the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County; Mary Pearce, executive director of the Foundation; Sam Huffman, treasurer of Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.; and Lillian Stewart, a leader of Citizens for Good Growth Management, were appointed by Bibb to serve on the Battlefield Protection Subcommittee led by Bob Martin, city Planning Department Director.

Future of Antebellum Trail in question as finances lag – *The Tennessean* – 7/16/03 COLUMBIA – The Tennessee Antebellum Trail, which markets a 90-mile loop of historic homes between Nashville and Columbia as tourist draws, is facing an uncertain future. Citing a sagging economy and lagging tourism, three of the trail's seven historic homes say they will not pay their annual dues to the 11-year-old trail association. Add to that Rattle and Snap Plantation's and The Hermitage's dropping out of the association several months ago. Executive directors from each of the homes on the trail – the Belle Meade Plantation, Belmont Mansion, Travellers Rest, Cornton Plantation, Rippavilla Plantation, the Athenaeum Rectory and the James K. Polk Home – will meet Friday at Travellers Rest to decide on the future of the organization.

from Nashville to Columbia. It also included copies of the Master Plans for Fort Granger and Winstead Hill Park, designed in 1995 by Hawkins Partners, Landscape Architects, that were subsequently implemented by the City of Franklin. That 1996 plan also recommended standards for signage, landscaping, pathways, pull-offs, interpretative markers, etc for the entire Battlefield Corridor. However, once Granger and Winstead Hill were interpreted and made part of the City Parks system, the report seems to have been laid aside and not considered during the planning for new development since then.

Preservation groups, including STFB, have frequently been criticized by government officials and developers, for waiting until it is too late to object to projects that destroy battlefield parcels. Those objections have typically begun when the development projects first appear in the newspapers. Before then, there seems to be no day-to-day planning process that examines new projects in light of the Battlefield Protection plan that was done in 1996, and a follow-on Preservation and Interpretation Plan Summary done in 2000 by the Tennessee Wars Commission. That needs to change.

The STFB Board of Directors and Officers are greatly thankful to area residents, and our out-of-town visitors, who took the time to communicate their opposition to this rezoning to city officials. As stated earlier, these public communications were heavily against the rezoning. This public reaction to the City approving a shopping center on the Franklin Battlefield adjacent to Winstead Hill Park has had another effect that may promote preservation in Franklin. The campaigning has begun for this fall's election of Franklin's Mayor and Alderman, and one of the issues already being discussed by some candidates is the preservation and protection of our local heritage assets. More to come in future newsletters.

Submitted by Sam Huffman

COLLINS FARM MORTGAGE STATUS

With the ongoing help of our STFB members and supporters, we continue to make progress in paying down the debt on Collins Farm. Purchased in June 2001 for \$227,000, we have paid off \$74,000 of the loan, leaving an outstanding mortgage balance at the bank of \$153,000.

We could have paid a touch more on the debt except for the recent expense of a new riding mower and needed repairs to one of the outbuildings where the mower will be garaged and secured.

In addition, the STFB Land Fund currently totals \$8,929, some of which is a bank-required escrow reserve. If we were free to apply the entire reserve to the Collins Farm debt, the net mortgage amount would be \$144,071.

Subcommittee Formed To Protect Battlefields

Several committees of Franklin city officials, downtown business owners, developers, and residents have been meeting to discuss plans for the redevelopment in different geographical areas of

Franklin. The result of the several committee's efforts will be used to eventually revise the City of Franklin Land Use Plan.

The Central Franklin Area Plan Steering Committee has announced the establishment of a Battlefield Protection subcommittee, chaired by Franklin's Planning Department Director Bob Martin, that will include representatives of several local preservation groups, including STFB. The group's first meeting is August 14 at 4:00 PM in the city hall boardroom. Look for more in coming issues.

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	
		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	

New & Renewing June 2003

Dennis & Nancy Buttacavoli	Hasbrouck Heights NJ
R Alan Thompson Jr	Prairie Grove AR
Tommy & Lynn Burnett	Brentwood TN
Peter F Wulfin	Littleton CO
Peter Schwartz	Auburn AL
Charles & Nancy Brantley	Greenville TX
Anthony W Hodge	Spring Hill TN
Don & Debbie Jurgensen	Easton PA
Patrick Boyd	Franklin TN
John H Kelley	Littleton CO

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