



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 2004

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—

Here in Franklin, we live in exciting times, indeed! Mayor of Franklin Tom Miller has just this week announced the City's intent to buy the Columbia Pike corner property known as "the Pizza Hut." He has announced that the City would also look at preserving additional properties in the Columbia Pike and Carter House area.

At the same time, Mayor Miller has expressed interest in a public/private effort to purchase the Franklin Country Club property on Lewisburg Pike, for the establishment of the Eastern Flank of the battlefield and a Battle of Franklin interpretive center. We at STFB applaud Mayor Tom Miller for his vision and efforts to reclaim and preserve these most important pieces of the Franklin Battlefield.

Additionally, the Coalition for the Preservation of Historic Open Space, of which STFB is a part, has just held the kickoff event for "Franklin's Charge: A Vision and Campaign for the Preservation of Historic Open Space," which is the private sector fundraising drive to purchase the country club property.

Through the Herculean efforts of Mayor Miller, our Coalition of representatives from all of the existing preservation and conservation organizations in Williamson County leading "Franklin's Charge," and a host of concerned citizens like yourself, the star of battlefield preservation appears to be on the rise here at Franklin. Thank you for being a part of this momentous effort to Save the Franklin Battlefield.

Joe Smyth

Mayor's National Battlefield Park Proposal

Mayor Tom Miller met with the Franklin-based Coalition for the Preservation of Historic Open Space, a gathering of all preservation organizations in Williamson County to issue a challenge to raise half the money necessary to acquire the Country Club of Franklin property and to help fund any other development costs in the creation of a Franklin National Battlefield Park. Miller said if preservationists and Civil War buffs can raise \$2.5 million to help buy land for a battlefield park, then the city board should match that to buy the golf course. If half can't be raised privately, then the city board should move on to other business.

Miller outlined for Franklin's aldermen a way to create a national battlefield park here including donation of city and privately held properties as well as public-private acquisition of the golf course on Lewisburg Pike. "The creation of a national battlefield park in Franklin is a possibility, but not without a great deal of time and effort on everyone's part," Miller said. "The approximately 100 acres of the Country Club of Franklin ... would have to be an integral part of such a plan." Franklin could donate Winstead Hill and Fort Granger, and privately held parts of the battlefield could also be donated, Miller said. Although he was not specific, an example may be Collins' Farm on Lewisburg Pike near the country club.

While in Washington, D.C., recently, Miller met with Rod and Kay Heller about their ownership of the golf course property, and with legislative aides for U.S. Sens. Bill Frist and Lamar Alexander, and U.S. Reps. Marsha Blackburn, Lincoln Davis and Zack Wamp. Miller and City Administrator Jay Johnson also met with officials of the National Park Service's American Battlefield Preservation Program, who are familiar with Franklin and welcome the chance to provide technical assistance, Johnson said.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED, MARKED YOUR CALENDER, AND PURCHASED YOUR TICKETS FOR THE CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT EVENT OF THE YEAR... IF NOT... PLEASE SEE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Franklin's Charge Kicks off at the Carnton Plantation

By Gregory L. Wade

Franklin's Charge, a coalition of Franklin, Tennessee area preservation and historical groups, held its official kickoff this past August 20th at the Carnton Plantation. The group is acting upon an unprecedented opportunity to initiate a major battlefield park on 110 acres of Franklin's yet undeveloped battlefield land. Local and state leaders along with Nashville entertainers Amy Grant and Vince Gill attended the event attended by about 150 invited guests.

Spurring this effort toward battlefield preservation is Rod Heller's purchase of the Country Club of Franklin. Heller, a descendant of Carnton's original McGavock family, is offering the land to preservationists for a price tag of \$5 million dollars. This tract, now a golf course and club, makes up the eastern side of the November 30th, 1864 battlefield and runs along the Lewisburg Pike and Harpeth River. Confederate infantry and cavalry endured Federal fire as they worked their way north over these rolling plains during the Army of Tennessee's fateful charge.

A key event in the process has been Franklin Mayor Tom Miller's offer of two and a half million dollars of city funds to challenge the local coalition to a \$2.5 million match. The mayor is "cautiously optimistic" Franklin's governing board will approve the matching funds. The vision is to tie other significant local landmarks with the golf course land while beginning the stages of the establishment of a national park. Mayor Miller has held discussions with the National Park service and believes the dream of a Federal park could become a reality. In the late 19th century efforts to create a national park in Franklin were curtailed by budget cuts. Since that time many of the other major portions of the battlefield have been covered with housing and commercial interests.

Amy Grant and Vince Gill began the kickoff with Gill saying "this is really something about who we are today, our history." After singing Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi" with lyrics about "paving paradise," Grant told the gathering, "the unrealized potential on land not built upon but putted upon is incredible."

Robert Hicks, co chairman of the coalition, created quite a stir in the crowd when he announced that of the \$2.5 million to be raised, the group already has almost \$900,000 on hand. Hicks reminded the audience this is the last great opportunity to preserve land where more casualties occurred in "five hours than any year of Vietnam with the exception of 1968."

The most vocal opposition to the buy comes from a group at the Country Club of Franklin who do not wish to see their club done away with. Ironically this group chose to sell the club rather than make major investments for improvements. Those opposed have claimed no actual fighting took place on the country club land so the property is not critical in terms of preservation. They say they have 800 signatures against city participation in the purchase of the property. However, local historian Thomas Cartwright, speaker and lecturer from the Carter House in Franklin, says numerous infantry and cavalry units accompanied Loring's Division as they crossed what today are golf course fairways and greens. Shells and fragments found on the grounds are hard evidence of the horror the Confederate soldiers faced as they struggled toward the Union lines. There are also many written accounts of the trials these soldiers faced on this land.

Mayor Miller indicated opposition to the plan comes mostly from a few of the country club members with great overall community support. The Mayor believes by including as much of the community as possible, the goals of a national battlefield park can be achieved. "The greatest challenge is to include all the community. Not everyone shares this goal but all will benefit."

Groups making up the coalition are the Heritage Foundation of Franklin, Historic Carnton, The Carter House, The African American Heritage Society, The McLemore House, Natchez Place, Save The Franklin Battlefield and the Williamson County Historical Society. Also in attendance was Douglas Brouder of the Civil War Preservation Trust, one of the nation's largest historical land preservation groups which recently contributed \$250,000 to the Franklin effort.

"Disappointment" is what travelers must face now as they come through Franklin expecting to see a major battlefield interpretative area, said Grant. "What we are doing here is creating an environment where the story can be told and re-told."

140th Anniversary Battle Reenactment of *Franklin*

October 1-2-3, 2004

Battles of Spring Hill – Franklin – Nashville
National premier reenactment for 2004
on original battlefield at Spring Hill, TN

Buy tickets at the following locations:

Franklin: The Carter House, Carnton Plantation,
Heritage Foundation, W'mson County Tourism-City Hall,
McPhail Tourism Office-Main Street
Rippavilla: Maury County Tourism
Columbia: Mid-Tenn Visitors Bureau

Buy online at www.franklin-stfb.org or by mail at
STFB, P.O. Box 851, Franklin, TN 37065

Ticket sales to benefit battlefield preservation through
Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.

Advance Ticket Prices: 1 Day \$10, 2 Days \$13, 3 Days \$15
(+\$1 postage and handling charge per order)

From the Editor,

Please pay special attention to next month's newsletter. It will be entirely dedicated to the 140th Anniversary Battle Reenactment, taking place the first weekend in Oct.

Thank you for your continued support, we could not do it without you.

News In Review

Descendants gather at Carter House – *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” – 7/13/04 – FRANKLIN – The Carter use will hold a descendants’ reunion Oct. 15-17 at the House off Columbia Avenue. Anyone who is a descendant of a soldier who fought in the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin is welcome to attend. Participants can register now by calling 615-791-1861. Cost is \$125, but special group rates are available.

Historical Commission showing off new home today – *The Tennessean* – 7/27/04 – NASHVILLE – The refurbished Sunnyside Mansion in Sevier Park is the new home of the Metro Historical Commission. The house was completed in 1853 by Mary Childress Benton who was the widow of Jesse Benton, known for engaging in a brawl with Andrew Jackson

Collection of more than 400 Civil War Letters to be auctioned – *The Review Appeal* – 8/1/04 – COLUMBIA, S.C. – A letter signed by Gen. Robert E. Lee is one of three from him in a rare collection of letters from the Civil War. Held by a Charleston family for decades, the letters will be made available to collectors when they are auctioned off Aug. 7. The letters—more than 440 in all—detail life in South Carolina between 1861 and 1863. May are correspondence between generals or the Confederate government and Govs. Pickens and Milledge Luke Bonham. Other letters are from residents asking for help defending their communities or for the return of their slaves who were taken from plantations to help build fortifications. Some detail the gory realities of war.

Mayor: City should buy maligned battlefield Pizza Hut – *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” – 8/17/04 – FRANKLIN – Buying the Pizza Hut on Columbia Avenue could be the first step in creating a Civil War battlefield park, says Franklin Mayor Tom Miller. The city has issued a letter of intent to purchase the Pizza Hut property, believed to be the exact spot where Confederate Gen. Patrick Cleburne took his last breath during the 1864 Battle of Franklin. Miller said he would also like to acquire Domino’s Pizza, which sits adjacent to Pizza Hut, as well as a neighboring shopping center and any other commercial properties near the Carter House that become available.

Grant, Gill to speak in favor of reclaiming golf course – *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” – 8/18/04 – FRANKLIN – At a private party at Historic Carnton Plantation Friday night, Amy Grant and Vince Gill are expected to deliver a strong statement in support of reclaiming the Country Club of Franklin land for a battlefield park. Friday will be the formal launch of the national Franklin’s Charge campaign to raise money for projects aimed at “preserving open space and maintaining and preserving quality of life for generations to come, here in Williamson County and in other locales in our nation,” said Robert Hick, co-chair of the Coalition for the Preservation of Historic Open Space.

Subdivisions or Battlefield Park? – *Heritage* – August 2004 – FRANKLIN – Creation of a Civil War battlefield park on land now used as the Country Club of Franklin is the top priority of a draft battlefield plan now under consideration by the National Park Service. “This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity can be the one glaring void in Franklin’s heritage tourism package: a bona fide Civil War battlefield,” says an executive summary of the draft report generated by a team of preservation consultants. “It entails the transformation of the existing Country Club of

Franklin back to its original appearance as a historic landscape.” It would be the nation’s largest Civil War battlefield reclamation.

Before there were golfers. . . – *Heritage* – August 2004 – FRANKLIN – Three Confederate Brigades – some 3,415 men strong amassed on the field of what today is the Country Club of Franklin – embarked on what would be part one of the battle of Franklin, the bloodiest hours of the Civil War. Union troops were gathered about one-third of a mile away, near the railroad tracks near an area that today stretches from O’More College of Design to the vicinity of Country Charm Mall, Collins Farm, and Husky Lumber Co. Battle of Franklin historian Thomas Y. Cartwright says the area comprising today’s golf course, on the eastern portion of the battlefield, played a “critical” role in the Battle. “On this hallowed ground, between the Lewisburg Pike and the Carnton Mansion, Confederate troops consisting of Scott’s Alabama and Louisiana Brigade with Featherston’s and Adams’ Mississippi Brigades of Loring’s Division, Stewart’s Army Corps, formed and advanced under a shower of rifle and artillery fire.

Franklin’s Charge takes off – *The Review Appeal* – 8/22/04 – FRANKLIN – Nearly \$875,000 in pledges were announced Friday night by Franklin’s Charge, a coalition of preservation groups working toward meeting a \$2.5 million goal to match money Franklin Mayor Tom Miller hopes to obtain from the city board. If successful, the public-private partnership would purchase more than 100 acres operated by the Country Club of Franklin from Washington, D.C., residents Rod and Kay Heller, who bought the property for \$5 million to stop a housing development planned there. Franklin residents Robert Hicks and Julian Bibb co-chair the coalition. Nashville recording artists Amy Grant and Vince Gill hosted the event at Historic Carnton Plantation.

New & Renewing Members June & July, 2004

Joe Bailey	Dickson TN
Kirk Bednar	Brentwood TN
Nancy Brantley	Greenville TX
Tom & Lynn Burnett	Brentwood TN
James Byars	Elko NV
Terry L Coats	Goodlettsville TN
Ron & Marilyn Duel	Spring Hill TN
Maj Bradley T Gericke PhD	Alexandria VA
Tom Herbert	Nashville TN
Stanley & Rebekah Hine	Brentwood TN
Robert Humphrey	Franklin TN
Don & Deborah Jurgensen	Easton PA
Lee Krompart	Chicago IL
Duncan Lavigne	Brentwood TN
Rick Simmons Family	Franklin TN
M/M Jerry Swedeen	Franklin TN
Breet & Amy Tarter	Franklin TN
Paul Timmerman	Issaquah WA
Chris & Jessica Utley	Franklin TN
Billy & Ola Vaughn	Brentwood TN

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Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065-0851
STFB Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

QTY	ITEM	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase (circle one)		
	1999 & 2000 Day By Day Civil War Calendar Set	\$5.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	Commemorative Belt Buckle ~ Commemorative Paperweight (circle one)	\$10.00	
	Battle of Franklin Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$3.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Franklin" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Shiloh" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Ft. Donaldson" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Stones River" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	Nathan Bedford Forrest ~ Jody Thompson, signed by the artist	\$30.00	
	Patrick Cleburne ~ Jody Thompson, signed by the artist	\$30.00	
	ORDER SUBTOTAL		
	SHIPPING & HANDLING (items only) ~ under 10.00	\$0.75	
	\$10 to 24.99	\$2.95	
	\$25 and up	\$4.50	
	ORDER TOTAL		

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

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