



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

October 2004 www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

Well, the "140th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Reenactment" has finally come and gone. A year of plans and preparations, meetings, and hard work had culminated in an extraordinary fine event, by everyone's admission. Detailed "thank you's" are offered elsewhere in this newsletter, but I must take this opportunity to thank each and every STFB board member for all the many hours of hard work they spent in support of this event. I must also thank all our membership who volunteered their time and efforts, and those members who attended—your involvement was crucial to our collective success.

In other news, the City of Franklin's Budget Committee has voted to recommend a \$2.5 million city offer to match dollar for dollar funds raised from the private preservation sector ("Franklin's Charge"). The City of Franklin's Board of Mayor & Aldermen then voted 5-3 to approve committing this money towards purchasing the land currently occupied by the Country Club of Franklin, and owned by Rod and Kay Heller of Washington, D.C. The issue will need to pass two more votes before the Eastern Flank of the Franklin Battlefield can begin to become reality. Please continue to email and write our local officials with your request of their support on this.

Finally, please consider attending our annual membership meeting on November 7th here in Franklin. We'd love to have you join us.

Thanks, as always, for your continued support!

Joe Smyth

Chicago CWRT Donates To STFB

Mary Munsell Abroe, Battlefield Preservation Committee Chair for the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, recently wrote to Thomas Cartwright asking him to present their \$1,000 check to Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. Cartwright, Executive Director of the Carter House and frequent guest commentator for The History Channel, was one of the founding officers of STFB. The gift is in recognition of the preservation activism of the historical groups here in Williamson County. The gift will be used to payoff the debt on Collins Farm.

The Chicago CWRT, and its individual members, have financially assisted our preservation efforts many times during the last ten years. They are frequent visitors to Franklin and have actively supported the Carter House Descendants Reunion over the years. Our local preservation projects are possible only because of the steadfast help that the Chicago and other CWRTs have provided.

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Save The Franklin Battlefield will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, November 7th, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., in Otey Hall at the historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Franklin. Robert Hicks, our featured speaker, will present "Franklin's Charge & The Eastern Flank of the Franklin Battlefield." Robert has long been involved in historic preservation, serving on the boards, advisory boards, and executive committees of the Tennessee State Museum, the Williamson County Historical Society, the Tennessee Valley Preservation Alliance, and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts. He has spent the last year working with "Franklin's Charge: a Vision and Campaign for the Preservation of Historic Open Space" in the fight to secure and preserve both battlefield and other historic open space in Williamson County.

Mark your calendars for November 7th, and we'll see you there!

The Watchdog Donates to STFB

The publisher, editors and subscribers of The Watchdog were pleased to support a raffle of a "defarbed" Armi Sport P-53 Enfield Rifle-musket with all the proceeds going to the STFB. Associate Editor Craig Barry made a number modifications to the stock, barrel, lock plate and hardware of the musket to make its appearance more accurate.

Tickets sales during the 140th Franklin were capped at two hundred. Just before the start of Sunday battle there were 108 tickets sold. The winning ticket was drawn by Mary Ann Peckham, Executive Director of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association. The winner was Gilbert Johnson of Crossville, Tennessee.

Shortly before the end of the Franklin event a check for \$1080 was presented to the STFB by Associate Editor Jomarie Soszynski in memory of her husband, Dennis, who had passed away in early August. Dennis was the Technical Managing Editor of The Watchdog and a longtime member of the Civil War enacting community.

The publisher paid for the cost of the rifle so that all funds of the raffle would be available for the donation. Editor Barry also "defarbed" a second Enfield, which was given to the Cedar Creek (Virginia) battlefield preservation organization as a fund raiser. Publisher Christen plans to have at least two other muskets available for 2005 preservation causes.



Scenes from the reenactment include The Confederate Calvary

The 140th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Reenactment

The 140th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Reenactment was the "reenactment of the decade," according to Robb Hodges of Wide-Awake Films, the official film producer for the 140th. Viewers of the Comcast production of the 140th expressed this same sentiment.

The scene unfolded that cool, October Saturday as blue-clad soldiers dug into trenches around Fontain Branch Carter's house and Carter's partially dismantled cotton gin house. They hastily deepened the trenches and further fortified their positions with planks from the gin house. In the distance could be seen soldiers in butternut lining up to begin their march. Near Carter's house, a band struck up a tune, and far away could be heard the faint strains of "Dixie" from another band as they marched ahead of troops now in motion. Thousands of men were coming, appearing and then disappearing as they marched across the rolling fields, while cavalry skirted the field. As they came nearer, sporadic rifle fire split the air. Suddenly the roar of cannons echoed across the hills—smoke obscured the landscape—incessant rifle fire rattled along the trenches as the armies clashed—the reenactment of the Battle of Franklin was on.

On the day before, spectators were able to watch a reenactment of the fight from Columbia to Spring Hill. Then Saturday morning the reenactors staged the Battle of Spring Hill on the very ground where the Federal and the Confederate armies had clashed on November 29, 1864. This reenactment was closed to the public.

The reenacted Battle of Nashville closed out the program on Sunday. This scene was staged on a more hilly part of the reenactment site in order to depict the battle for Shy's Hill. A spectacular scene of hundreds of cavalry galloped past the spectators climaxed the Battle of Nashville and the 140th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Reenactment.

The 140th Reenactment was held on a 1200-acre site in Spring Hill, Tennessee. This site was chosen because there was no large site available nearer Franklin nor anywhere in Williamson County. More than 8,700 reenactors faced off in lines of battle during the reenactments. There were between 800 and 900 horses to mount the cavalry, to pull the supply wagons, and to handle the cannons. Of the thirty cannons, several were horse drawn. An estimated crowd of some 70,000 – 80,000 spectators came to observe during the three-day-event.

Thank You!

The 140th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Reenactment was a smashing success. Without the generous and expert assistance and cooperation of a number of organizations and groups and, in no small measure, of our volunteers, this success could never have been achieved.

The Board of Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc., wishes to thank the following organizations and groups for their dedicated participation in the planning, sponsorship and participation in the Franklin 140th Reenactment:

Some 8500 reenactors who devoted their time and efforts to make the Franklin 140th a most memorable event

The Civil War Courier management and staff—The North-South Alliance—GM Manufacturing-Spring Hill—Comcast—Masonic Lodge-Spring Hill—Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau—Middle Tennessee Visitors Bureau—Maury County Sheriff's Dept and Emergency Services—Tennessee State Guard—Tennessee State Highway Patrol—Concord Road Church of Christ

The STFB volunteers were all invaluable in putting on this huge event. They served as guides in the Rippavilla School Days program, which in itself was a great success, worked in the dusty parking area on Saturday helping get thousands of cars into orderly rows, and helped to present the STFB story to this multitude of people who are interested in the historic event of 1864. Some served double duty working both with School Days and during the Event itself.

Dwayne Stubblefield volunteered Troop 137, BSA, for parking duties. He and his troop worked in the stirring dust on Saturday morning parking the thousands of cars pouring into the Event site.

Bob Jenkins of Dalton Georgia was a tremendous help at one critical point in the event. Five minutes before the STFB presentation was scheduled, Bob graciously agreed to speak. He gave an excellent presentation on events leading up to the Battle of Franklin and on many lesser-known incidents which occurred on the eastern flank of the Battle (including the Country Club and Collins' Farm). Later, Bob assisted at the STFB booth.

Nell Harvey was an extraordinary volunteer. She flew in from California just to help STFB. As the School Days program began, she was assigned as director for the sutler area. She then was instrumental in making a map and alternating the activities for the School Days program, not to mention that she commandeered a cannon for the Friday and Saturday programs. In reality, she made the program work. Her next role was as STFB greeter at the entrance gate. She and Harold McMurtry begin soliciting members for STFB and requesting donations. They decided to request a donation for a calendar. The donations rolled in.

Rick Hoover was indispensable as site coordinator. First, he had the major role in securing the 1200-acre reenactment site. He set about to clear fence rows, dig the trenches, prepare camp sites, put in roads, construct structures, obtain wood and hay, put in water lines, arrange for supply distribution, arrange for cleanup, and a myriad of other tasks. His role was not just supervising, but hands on, digging, grubbing, chainsaw and equipment operation for long work weeks. Beyond site preparation, he coordinated arranging for the safety and emergency services essential to this event. Rick's work underlay all of the logistics of the Reenactment.

News In Review

Heritage Foundation deeds hilltops to city – *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.”– 9/20/04 – FRANKLIN – Thirty-four acres of prime Franklin real estate were transferred to the city of Franklin last week, on their way to becoming a passive park. The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County has handed over the deed to its share of protected Roper’s Knob, which was used as a Union signaling station during the Civil War. The property is protected with a conservation easement held by The Land Trust of Tennessee, which was considered an important precursor to transferring the property. The easement ensures it will be protected even if future city leaders want to develop it.

Memorial service set at Confederate Cemetery – *The Review Appeal* – 9/29/04 – FRANKLIN – At 2 p.m., September 30, the Tod Carter Camp #854, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, in conjunction with the Tennessee Division, SCV, will hold a Confederate Memorial Service at the McGavock Confederate Cemetery in Franklin. This event will coincide with the “140th Anniversary Battle Reenactment of Franklin” on Oct. 1-3, 2004.

Tourists may clog the weekend, but they are paying their way – *The Review Appeal* – 9/30/04 – FRANKLIN – According to figures released this week by the Williamson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the impact of tourism on our local economy is making life in Williamson County better—and perhaps cheaper—for us all. Middle Tennessee—and especially Williamson County—will be Mecca t

o thousands of tourists to this weekend from across the country. With all the events here throughout the year, in 2003, travel-related expenditures in Williamson County totaled \$180.6 millions. This reflects an 8.97% increase over 2002 and a \$1.3 billion increase in the past 10 years. More than 2,000 travel-related jobs exist in Williamson County, generating a payroll of \$35.3 million, according to WCCVB figures.

140 years later, battles not forgotten – *The Tennessean* – 10/1/04 – SPRING HILL – About 8,000 reenactors—men and a few women who dress, camp and act like 19th-century soldiers from the North and the South—are expected to attend the 140th Battle of Franklin Reenactment. Organizers said reenactors will represent every state except Hawaii. Approximately 100,000 spectators are expected to watch the Civil War erupt all over again.

Great grandsons are battle ready – *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.”– 10/1/04 – FRANKLIN – When Daniel Beard takes the field tomorrow as part of the 1st Tennessee’s Company D in the Battle of Franklin reenactment, he’ll be following in the footsteps of his ancestors. Beard and his friends Daniel Hensley and Bill Steenbergen of Columbia—all members of the Tennessee Valley Battalion of the Heartland Brigade, 1st Tennessee, Company D—are just three of some 10,000 reenactors expected to re-create the battle of Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville this weekend. “To the reenactment community, this is a really important national event,” said organizer Dan Mora of Save The Franklin Battlefield.

Battle for Preservation – *FRANKLIN Review Appeal* – 10/6/04 – FRANKLIN – After a tour with Franklin Mayor Tom Miller, U.S. Rep. Lincoln Davis agreed to introduce legislation calling for a federal feasibility study for creating the park, which

Miller had earlier mentioned as a possibility for the city. The idea is to use Franklin’s many historic sites with strong Civil War ties to compile a national battlefield park—which would be maintained by the National Park Service.

Committee recommends \$2.5 million match for country club land – *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.”– 10/7/04 – FRANKLIN – Franklin city budget committee recommend to go ahead and commit up to \$2.5 million in matching funds to help buy the Country Club of Franklin property along Lewisburg Avenue. The preservation community is working now to raise another \$2.5 million to buy the land.

Carter House to reunite battle descendants – *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.”– 10/12/04 – FRANKLIN – The Carter House will hold a descendants’ reunion Oct. 15-17 at the house. Anyone who is a descendant of a soldier who fought in the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin is welcome to attend. The Carter House staff is hoping that family members will come and share their stories with others. Events will include a dinner, entertainment and tours of the Spring Hill and Franklin battlefields, as well as the McGavock Family Cemetery adjacent to Carnton Plantation, and Fort Granger.

Match play: Franklin leaders to commit \$2.5 million for country club land – *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.”– 10/14/04 – FRANKLIN – Franklin city board members agreed this week to commit to spend up to \$2.5 million in matching funds to buy the Country Club of Franklin off Lewisburg Avenue. The property is adjacent to the Carnton Plantation—which served as a field hospital during the Civil War. The resolution approved this week says the city intends to match up to \$2.5 million raised by individuals or an organization in the private sector before July 1, given the property purchase price doesn’t exceed \$5 million and the purchase occurs before Nov. 30, 2005.

Preservation’s past successes contribute to strong future – *FRANKLIN Review Appeal* – 10/16/04 – FRANKLIN – Thanks to the hard work of the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, more than 150 properties are on the National Register, more than in any other Tennessee county; more, in fact, than any place outside of Virginia. Recent actions by the Heritage Foundation have led to the purchase of historic properties such as the Cotton Gin house and Roper’s Knob. The organization has worked, in most instances, from a standpoint of acknowledging that while growth will

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More scenes from the reenactment as Union Forces advance

(continued from page 3)

occur, the importance of preserving a sense of place and historic, geographic and cultural resources is maintained.

Historic Opinions: Readers sound off on the price of preservation in Franklin – The Tennessean, “Williamson A.M.”– 10/17/04 –

FRANKLIN – Franklin’s buried treasure The past is always a part of our future. There are millions of people who treasure visiting battlefields every year and we finally have an administration that seems to understand this. — **Plan takes jobs** The preservations are right to try to preserve battlefields and promote tourism. The preservationists are wrong to use taxpayers’ money to do it. — **Tourists are ready to spend** A part of living in this beautiful area is to appreciate not only the advantages of Franklin as a bustling vibrant city but to be a part of the history that helped to make Franklin what it is today. — **A missed opportunity** It seems to me that Williamson County is missing out on a marvelous tool for marketing itself and drawing visitors (and their dollars)—our Civil War battlefield. — **Preservation or recreation** Preservation in Franklin has been a benchmark project that many other small communities in America look to as an example. However, there is a difference between preservation and recreation. There is a price to pay for turning Franklin’s heritage into a theme park for Civil War enthusiasts. — **Giving past a perspective** We finally have another chance, probably the last chance to acquire a large tract of undeveloped land for a battlefield park. If we don’t act now, the Carnton Country Club property will become just another faceless subdivision development. — **A strong draw** The Franklin 140th reenactment clearly demonstrates the drawing power that heritage tourism can have for all of Middle Tennessee. Let’s all hope that the preservation initiatives now under way in Franklin and elsewhere continue on to successful conclusions. — **A step in the right direction** Franklin should move forward to create a battlefield park, both to preserve an important part of our history and to continue to improve the economic base of our community. — **A hope for the future** The city of Franklin should be commended for what they’ve done for historic tourism, but there is more to be done! And please—no more commercial business on battlefield land!

5th Carter House Descendants Reunion a Success!

On October 15, 16 & 17th, the Carter House Museum held its 5th Battle of Franklin Descendants Reunion, drawing guests from as far away as California and the Pacific north-west. Events included lectures, battlefield tours, musical, and a lot of “comparing notes” with other descendants. The entertainment by Billy Ray Reynolds, Paul & Kim Caudell and Bill & Carla Coleman weather cooperated wonderfully throughout the weekend, making the entire event a success. Support for the event was also gratefully received from STFB members like Sam Huffman, Bobby Hargrove, Nell Harvey, Jack & Betty Stephens and many others.

Dale Fishel, descendant of Wesley and Warren Fishel, 125th Ohio Infantry, said of the event: “Another descendants reunion! – my second, and every bit as memorable as my first; new friendships, information for my intellect (thanks Thomas Carwright, David Fraley and Jamie Gil-lum); music and drama for my soul (thanks Billy Ray, Paul & Kim and Bill & Carla!); color for my visual enjoyment (thanks reenactors of the 125th Ohio Infantry & 1st Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A.!) – ‘can’t wait for ’06!’”

New & Renewing Members For September, 2004

Wayne Anderson	Raymond, MS
Karen Arnsdorf	Chippawa Falls, WI
Lonnie Belt	Baltimore, MD
Chad Comer	Gamaliel, KY
Dennis Faught	Columbia, MO
Elizabeth Gerber	San Francisco, CA
Bobby Hargrove	Franklin, TN
Herbert Harper	Franklin, TN
Harold Joerin	Southfield, MI
Victoria Kennedy	Falls Church, VA
David Little	Bloomington, IN
Sid Mathis	Franklin, TN
Don & Annie Miller	New Castle, IN
Kevin Dean Miller	Austin, TX
William Nolan	Niles, OH
Gloria Ramsaur	St Simons Island, GA
Dick Simpson	Lancaster, PA
Dennis Todd	Richardson, TX
Alfred Toennies	Brentwood, TN
William & Candace Wade	Columbia, TN
Mark Zimmerman	Antioch, TN

“At four o’ clock, a living wall of men and glistening steel was seen marching rapidly down the hillsides – filling the valley and sweeping across the fields. Close behind the first were other lines of troops; the whole pouring tumultuously onward, like the swift current of a river – bearing its burden of seething waters resistless to the sea. At first the confused murmur of voices and martial music, like sighing breezes, filled the air, and as the tide flowed onward the swelling cadences gathered strength and volume. At the near approach of the crowding host, the earth grew tremulous beneath the tread of many feet, and sounded like the low, hollow rumble of distant thunder.” (*History of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteers, during the War of the Rebellion*, page 650, by L.G. Bennett and William M. Haigh, formerly of that regiment, 1876)

We Need Your Help!

As you know from our monthly newsletters, a broad coalition of preservation groups and civic organizations, including Save The Franklin Battlefield, have joined forces to reclaim an important part of Franklin Battlefield. They are working with sympathetic local officials to raise the \$5 million to save the property, located adjacent to Historic Carnton Plantation and along Lewisburg Pike, near Collins Farm.

The key to the deal is a \$2.5 million matching grant currently being considered by the city government for the purchase of the property.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Franklin City Budget Committee has recommended approval of the \$2.5 million matching grant. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen has passed a resolution to do just that. It must pass two more readings.

THE BAD NEWS: Unfortunately, a small but vocal group of country club members, who sold the property off years ago to a developer, are now trying to derail preservation efforts through a campaign of disinformation and distortion.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP: We need concerned citizens and STFB members throughout the country to let Franklin officials know that they should continue to support the \$2.5 million grant. Let them know that now that their investment in the battlefield will be repaid many times over by the thousand of visitors (like you) who will trek to the new battlefield park. And tell them not to be dissuaded by those country club members who put their own interests before those of the entire community, and the nation.

Please write or email the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen as soon as possible at:

Board of Mayor & Aldermen
City Hall
109 3rd Ave. South
Franklin, TN 37064

Or...

Tom Feuerborn, 1st Ward Alderman coltomf@comcast.net
Dana McLendon, 2nd Ward Alderman danamclendon@bellsouth.net
Chuck Edmondson, 3rd Ward Alderman cbe@bellsouth.net
Dan Klatt, 4th Ward Alderman klattman@comcast.net
Ernie Bacon, Alderman at Large erniebacon@franklin-gov.com
Robert Kriebel, Alderman at Large robertkriebel@franklin-gov.com
Pam Lewis, Alderman at Large pam.lewis@plamedia.com
Dennis Phillips, Alderman at Large dennisphillips@franklin-gov.com
Tom Miller mayor@franklin-gov.com

Thank you in advance for your efforts!

Note from the Editor:

Please feel free to use the below sample letter as your final letter, or as a reference for your personal letter.

Over the past 2 years of my involvement in City and County Politics, the targeted officials would much rather hear in your own words your feelings and concerns regarding the issues, versus a paste and cut of someone else's words. I have heard time and time again, if someone really cares about an issue, won't they take the time to write something from their heart, whether it be a sentence or two, or a paragraph or two.

A sample letter:

I am writing you to ask for your continued support for the \$2.5 million matching grant to buy the Country Club of Franklin site along Lewisburg Pike. This site, located adjacent to the historic Carnton Plantation, played an important role in the most tumultuous day in Franklin history.

By purchasing this property from the hands of a developer, entrepreneur Roderick Heller, III has given Franklin City an unprecedented opportunity -- an opportunity to turn back time and reclaim a critical part of Franklin Battlefield.

I have read with pleasure that the Franklin City Budget Committee and Board of Mayor & Aldermen have recommended approval of the \$2.5 million matching grant. They recognize, as I do, that this grant is an investment in Franklin's future. The battlefield park, once opened to the public, will attract thousands of tourists eager to spend their money in the city.

After years of neglect, Franklin has been given a second chance to save part of its unique heritage. I urge you to vote, and continue to vote for the \$2.5 million matching grant and give Franklin the battlefield park that it deserves.

For the time it lasted, and the number of men engaged, the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, can be well recorded in history as one of the bloodiest battles of the war of the rebellion." (*In the 50th Ohio Serving Uncle Sam*, page 126, by Erastus Winters, formerly of that regiment)

Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

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. Donalson" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	"Eyewitness to the Battle of Stones River" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	<i>Nathan Bedford Forrest</i> ~ Jody Thompson, signed by the artist	\$30.00	
	<i>Patrick Cleburne</i> ~ 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		

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

October 2004



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