



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

November 2004 www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

Our annual meeting earlier this month was a fabulous success. It was great to see both familiar and new faces there. We gave special recognition to our two retiring board members, Lynn Dorris and Dan Mora. Lynn and Dan have given generously of their time and talents over the years, and I know they will continue to stay involved as their time allows.

We welcome our two new board members, Mike Walker and Greg Wade, who were elected at the annual meeting. Mike has been ever-present at our Collins' Farm workdays, putting in long hours to keep the place looking great. His interest in and knowledge of local Civil War history will be welcomed.

Greg Wade has written numerous articles for the *Civil War News*, the *Civil War Courier*, the *North-South Trader*, and *Blue and Grey Magazine*. He is a member of both the Carter House and Carnton Plantation Associations, and his talents will be a great asset to our organization.

As we move into the busy holiday season, consider making an end of year donation to STFB for Collins' Farm or "Franklin's Charge." Great things are happening here in Franklin, but we continue to need your help. Through the application of hard work and money, the dream of a battlefield park is becoming reality. And this month, more than any other, what better way to honor and remember those two mighty armies slashed in the late autumn dusk one hundred and forty years ago?

Joe Smyth

***Happy Holidays
to you and yours!***

From all of us at STFB

Fort Negley Dedication

At noon on December 10, a public ceremony will mark the re-opening of Fort Negley as a City Park on the south side of Downtown Nashville. You are invited to attend. The Civil War fort was a main strong point in the earthwork defenses of Nashville during the war years. The fort was reconstructed as a WPA project before WW II, but was closed 58 years ago after falling into disrepair.

Fort Negley is the second Civil War site to be opened as a Nashville Metro Park in 2004. A Civil War Museum is planned as a second phase of the Fort Negley project.

New & Renewing Members For October 2004

James Addicott	Rice, MN
Kurt & Donna Amacher	Vesuvius, VA
Robert Boyda	Lyndhurst, OH
Betty Calles	Hendersonville, TN
John Chaballa	Franklin, TN
Walter Corey	Knoxville, TN
David R Deatrick Jr	Prospect, KY
Nicholas DiGiovanni	Marlboro, MA
Steve & Susan Doughty	Brentwood, TN
James Galloway	Nashville, TN
Dee Hooker	Madison, WI
Robert Hooper	Sunny Isles, FL
Dave Humphreys	Hoboken, NJ
Robert & Kathleen Lawson	Franklin, TN
Barbara Lovell	Fort Garland, CO
Daniel E McCarthy	Western Springs, IL
Kathleen McNamee	Wauwatosa, WI
Ken & Nancy Noller	Riverside, CA
Mary Ann Peckham	Reliance, TN
Jeff Rector	Columbia, TN
John Shoptaw	Russellville, AR
Pam & Herschel Smith III	Celebration, FL
Thomas Vaughan	LaBelle, FL
Mary Watts	Clinton, SC
Tim Webb	Nashville, TN
Johnnie & Carolyn Williams	Greenbrier, TN
Joseph Williamson Jr	Castalian Springs, TN
Greg Yackel West	St Paul, MN

Coalition Leader Provides Update

By Gregory L. Wade

Robert Hicks, leader of the "Franklin's Charge," spoke recently at Save the Franklin Battlefield's annual membership meeting. Hicks has been active for many years in various roles at Historic Carnton Plantation, one of Franklin's leading Civil War landmarks. Made up of Franklin's various preservation groups including STFB, "Franklin's Charge" is dedicated to raising 2.5 million dollars which will be matched by the City of Franklin to purchase 112 acres of the bloody November 1864 battle. This land, now occupied by the Country Club of Franklin, would likely be eventually developed into residential home sites if the effort fails. Located on the Confederate right flank, there is still a good opportunity to save relatively unspoiled battleground.

Williamson County and Franklin, situated in the rolling farmlands of Middle Tennessee, is now a thriving bedroom community south of Nashville. Consequently, development pressures have wiped out much of the acreage making up the Franklin battlefield. It was here the Army of Tennessee was effectively destroyed, never to fully recover again.

In Hicks' address to STFB members, he discussed how the preservation picture had been very bleak until a major breakthrough occurred. "A couple of years ago, I was brainstorming and it occurred to me all was not lost. It seemed to me if we could somehow obtain the golf course property it would serve as a catalyst in piecing still surviving plots of land into a cohesive park. It was during a visit to Washington DC to visit my friends Rod and Kay Heller that the first big break took place." Heller, founder of the Civil War Trust, is also a direct descendant of the McGavock family who owned Carnton at the time of the battle, which today adjoins the golf course property. Heller purchased the country club and challenged Hicks to find a way for preservation groups to buy the property for the proposed battlefield park for a total of five million dollars. It was from this opportunity that "Franklin's Charge" was born.

Hicks says there are two big reasons why past efforts to establish a park in Franklin failed, especially in 1891, when it appeared there was enough Federal support to make it a reality. "There were over 9,000 casualties that a town of 2,000 had to deal with. In those days there were no therapists to treat the shock. It was simply overwhelming and something the residents of Franklin wanted to put behind them as soon as possible. The other reason was the sense that the Southern cause was dealt so severe a blow. It was not something people wanted to spend time reflecting on."

Hicks went on to cite the positives of a major battlefield preservation success in Franklin. "In 2003 about 37,000 people visited Franklin battle sites. That same year almost 200,000 visited nearby Stones River (national battlefield park). People want to see the battlefield, not just markers and small plots. It is obvious what a true battlefield park in Franklin would do for tourism in the area." Hicks noted this is the last great chance to create a substantial monument to

the battle.

The "Franklin's Charge" coalition is evidence of the seriousness of the efforts among Williamson County preservation groups. Hicks said, "This is not just about a few people or one or two groups. This is a widespread grass roots effort. The work will be lengthy, but we will be successful. We will be successful because of the efforts of STFB, Carnton Plantation, The Carter House and of the many other groups and individuals involved." Hicks noted the golf course purchase will be one of the biggest land reclamation projects of this type in American history. "It will be the prototype for similar actions across the country," he said.

The effort to raise \$2.5 million dollars is well on its way to fruition with about one million already collected. The Civil War Preservation Trust has pledged \$250,000 of that total raised so far. "We owe it to our ancestors to make this happen. A tribute to the thousands who made the ultimate sacrifice in Franklin will be a part of our landscape for generations who follow. It will happen," Hicks stated.



"Eyewitnesses at The Battle of Nashville" Now Available

Local author David Logsdon just notified us that his latest book, "Eyewitnesses at The Battle of Nashville", just arrived on his receiving dock and will be delivered to STFB tomorrow. Earlier books in this series covered the battles of Franklin, Stones River, Shiloh, and Fort Donelson. Each book is a collection of roughly 100 eyewitness accounts by both sides and civilians, that Logsdon interweaves by time and place on the battlefield to tell his story. STFB has never had a complaint from anyone who bought these books - that's how good they are!

The Nashville book is \$12 just like the others in the series. S&H charges can be found on the Order Form on the back cover.

News In Review

Sparing Continues at Franklin – Civil War Preservation – Fall 2004 – One of the most encouraging battlefield preservation events of the past year was the purchase of the country club adjacent to Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee by Rod and Kay Heller of Washington, D.C. The purchase of the country club provides the preservation community with an unprecedented opportunity to reclaim a key portion of the historic Franklin battlefield. Unfortunately, a small but vocal group of country club members have begun a campaign to discredit efforts to protect the property. The principal reason for the opposition is that current country club members want to keep the golf course located on the property. However, the reality is that, if not for the Hellers' intervention, the property would have been sold for development.

WHAT NOW FRANKLIN?-Last Year – The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." – 11/7/04 – FRANKLIN – Here's a look at what's happened in a year: **Purchase of Harlinsdale Farm—Sidewalk dining ordinance—Goose Creek annexation—Parking fines raised—Hotel/motel tax raised—Battlefield park plan**—Mayor Tom Miller and U.S. Rep. Lincoln Davis toured the city's historic Civil War sites by helicopter in September. Davis said that he will introduce legislation calling for a federal feasibility study into the possibility of creating a National Battlefield Park here. Miller has said the park could include the Country Club of Franklin and adjacent Carnton Plantation, Battle Ground Academy, Collins' Farm, Winstead Hill, the Carter House and non residential property around it, Fort Granger and Roper's Knob. Miller has proposed that the city partake in the purchase of the country club.

Other cities admire Franklin's new toys – The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." – 11/11/04 – FRANKLIN – While cities like Spring Hill, Nolensville and Fairview are budgeting for meat and potatoes, Franklin is dipping into the caviar. The city of Franklin recently purchased a 200-acre horse farm for \$8 million, and could spend millions more to acquire pieces of the Civil War battlefield. During his State of the City in May, Franklin Mayor Tom Miller said battlefield preservation and keeping the city from looking like "Generica" would be top city priorities.

County refrained from buying into Harlinsdale – The Review Appeal – 11/17/04 – FRANKLIN – Thirteen percent of the people surveyed about priorities for county recreational facilities listed equestrian facilities as a high priority. Conversely, 66% said it was a low priority. The same survey found 26% of the people listing a park commemorating Civil War battles as a high priority, with 31% saying it's a medium priority and 43% saying it's a low priority. The surveys and public meetings on county recreational services were conducted last spring.

10-year plan for county parks nearly \$116M – The Review Appeal – 11/17/04 – FRANKLIN – Nature trails, theater, new rec center and renovations are among the survey's suggestions. Renovating buildings at the old Battle

Ground Academy on Columbian Avenue is a suggestion. That was estimated at \$4.2 million. It would include a theater. Renovating the old BGA stadium and moving Parks & Recreation Department offices to the old BGA campus are suggested.

Williamson County Historical Society – Newsletter – November 2004 – WCHS member Dennis Lampley of Fairview is heading up a project to locate the burial sites of as many Williamson County Confederate veterans buried in and outside the county. Presently, he states that he has located over 2,000 soldiers. The Capt. Ed Baxter Camp 2034 of the SCV is sponsoring this project. Dennis would appreciate any help from those who know of burial sites not listed in the three volumes of the WCHS Cemetery books or possibly veterans buried in another county or state. Dennis can be contacted at 615-799-0916 or lampley@comcast.net

The 20th Tennessee Infantry held their reunion in McGavock's Grove near the Confederate Cemetery on October 18, 1877. What exciting times we are living in to possibly have an Interpretation Center on the Eastern Flank of the Franklin Battlefield in the near future. The Franklin Board and Mayor have set in motion their commitment of \$2.5 million for the purchase of the golf course and country club. It now becomes time for the private sector to step up to the plate.

Year End Gift Planning

As you complete your year-end gift planning, please keep STFB on the list. STFB is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation so your contributions are fully deductible from taxable income to the full extent of the IRS code. You can give to the STFB Marker Fund, The Land Fund, or the STFB General Fund. It all counts and it's all deductible.

Also, STFB is able to accept donations of appreciated securities. Your tax advisor can help you discover the advantages of such an arrangement. Contact STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman 615-370-3842 or sam@jsp.net for instructions, or for any questions you may have. STFB can provide copies of our IRS tax ruling letter or other information that your employer may need.

And finally, remember to look into your employer's Matching Grant Program. Most companies of any size will match your tax-deductible contribution to STFB. Some employers (even if you're retired) match a portion of your gift, others match 1 for 1, and still others will make an even greater match of your donation. These companies count on their employees to identify worthy recipients for their corporate giving initiatives. Call your Benefits or Human Resources department right away. They have the forms and instructions you will need. It is easy to do and multiplies the financial impact of your gift.

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	
	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		

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

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