



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

December 2004 www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

The post-November 30th period of the Holidays through the winter is historically a season to recharge our "batteries" and to contemplate and plan our goals and activities for the coming year.

This year there is no indication we'll get this down time, with the meetings and momentum of "Franklin's Charge" still at full speed. 2004 has been an amazing year here in Franklin, with events unfolding that no one could have predicted even two years ago. 2005 will be equally astonishing, I'm sure.

Please consider a gift to STFB, for either Collins' Farm or "Franklin's Charge" before this year ends. Give yourself the gift of knowing you've help save actual dirt that valiant Americans fought over, and secured it for future generations of Americans to stand and contemplate upon.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Joe Smyth

Fort Negley Dedication Ceremony

Nashville: On December 10th, the re opening of Nashville's Fort Negley was witnessed by an excited crowd of about 300 government officials and Civil War enthusiasts. The fort, located within a cannon shot of the city's downtown high rises, has been closed to the general public since 1945. Negley's original construction was completed in 1862 after the Union occupation of the area. Federals anticipating an eventual Confederate assault, built a ring of defense works around Nashville's southern perimeter. A significant portion of the labor was done by "impressed" blacks who did much of the stonework that makes the fort so unique. The largest stone fort at that time in the Western theater, the inner grounds covered four acres. While never directly attacked, its cannon did fire at Confederate positions during the December 1864 Battle of Nashville. To recognize the participation of the African American community in the forts construction as well as their participation in the later battle, members of the 13th US Colored Troops Memorial Regiment presented the colors at the opening ceremony.

At the Wars conclusion, the mood of the city was to move forward and put the hard times of occupation behind. After the Union abandoned the fort in 1867, there was

little desire to save any of the defense lines around Nashville. Except for Negley, development has taken most of the works under the bulldozer's blade. Only the city's acquisition of Fort Negley in the 1920's kept it from having a similar fate. "It is amazing to me how lucky we are these works survived," says Sam Huffman of STFB, who attended the ceremony. "This is simply a great day for Middle TN. and for our history," he added.

Standing totally neglected for several decades, the fort was restored by the WPA in 1937. While much of the original stonework was hidden below restoration efforts, the fort did come back to life, if only for a short while. Because of safety concerns resulting from poor maintenance and general lack of interest, it was closed again in 1945.

Little happened with the works, other than more decay and overgrowth until it received a boost in the mid 70's by being designated a national historic site. For the most part, however, the crowds at nearby Greer Stadium (minor league baseball) never knew the national treasure that was just a short walk away. Preservationists, led by the efforts of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (BNPS) began in the 1980's raising awareness of Negley and other local sites not yet destroyed by development. Wes Schofner, one of the early presidents of BNPS said at the ceremony, "We worked hard just to keep Negley alive for many years." The real break came when current mayor Bill Purcell recognized the importance of the site and a move began to fund the two million dollar restoration.

David Fraley, board member of STFB shared his recent experience walking the new interpretative trails at the Fort. "It is incredible how well done this is. This will be a great boost for all the other sites in Middle TN. When people get behind something, things get done," he noted.

Speakers at the dedication included Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, Vice Mayor Howard Gentry, Norm Hill of the Tennessee Historical Commission and Doug Jones, current BNPS president. Kix Brooks of the country music duo Brooks and Dunn told the crowd how he "discovered the fort by accident" just out of curiosity. With humor he admitted to trespassing when he told how "I saw it and jumped the chains." This discovery impacted Brooks who took an active role in the preservation efforts.

The future looks bright for Fort Negley as it has gone from a hidden treasure to a crown jewel in Nashville's well-known park system. There are plans for a phase two to include an interpretative center. This time around, Negley appears to be set to welcome visitors for a very long time.

Franklin's Charge" Update

As the end of 2004 rapidly approaches, consider making a gift or pledge to "Franklin's Charge." The group's fundraising drive to purchase 112 acres of the Eastern Flank of the Franklin Battlefield has already raised almost \$1.7 million of the \$2.5 million needed to match an equal amount committed by the City of Franklin.

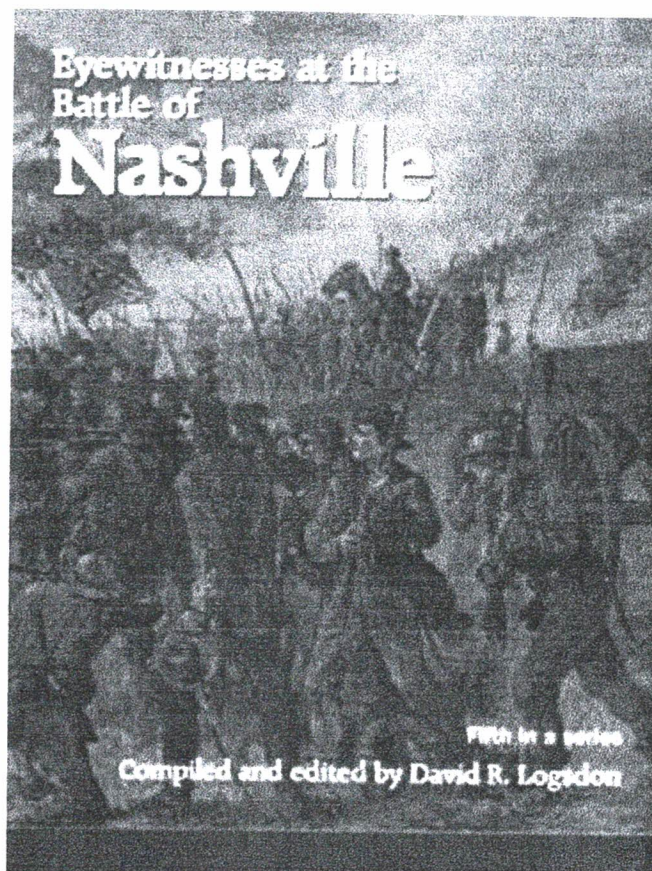
The organization, a consortium of preservation groups, including the Heritage Foundation, the Williamson County Historical Society, the African-American Society, Historic Carnton Plantation, The Carter House, and STFB, has recently added the Harpeth River Watershed Association to its ranks. "Franklin's Charge" has begun a print media campaign to further raise public awareness on the need to save the Franklin Battlefield. They are also exploring securing options on additional properties between the golf course and Collins' Farm.

"Franklin's Charge" is just finishing their paperwork and will become a fully non-profit 501 (c) 3 registered in the State of Tennessee. Two STFB officers (Joe Smyth and Sam Huffman) sit on the charter board.

Remember, every dollar you donate to "Franklin's Charge" will be doubled by the City's matching funds. Writing your check before the end of the year to "STFB-Franklin's Charge" will insure your gift is 100% tax-deductible. This makes your donation to Save the Franklin Battlefield mean even more!

New & Renewing Members For Oct. 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



STFB Booth at Civil War Show Dec 4-5

STFB had a booth again this year at Mike Kent's Civil War show at the Nashville Fairgrounds Sat-Sun Dec 4-5. As in prior years, Mike showed his support for STFB by donating a table to our group. He has been very good to STFB over the years. This year's show was a huge event with booths in 4 fairground buildings, plus in separate buildings a Guitar show and a Gun & Knife show were held concurrently - a big crowd.

STFB staffers Tommy & Lynn Burnett, Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Joe Smyth, Greg & Mary Jane Wade, and Mike & Barbara Walker swapped off booth duties to meet and greet the sizable crowd - particularly on Saturday. We took in \$597 with the usual mix of books, buckles, and maps - and signed up 5 new members.

Our biggest seller by far was David Logsdon's new book - "Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Nashville" - hot off the presses in October. Prior books in this series include Franklin, Shiloh, Stones River, and Fort Donelson. All told we sold 29 Eyewitness books and 20 of these were Nashville. STFB members can order these books at \$12 each using the order form on the back of the newsletter.

News In Review

The Fight Over The Battlefield – Southern Exposure Magazine – Holiday Anniversary Issue 2004 – In the years following the Battle of Franklin, the overwhelming defeat of the Army of Tennessee was not a regular topic of conversation among locals. In fact, it almost seems that Franklin chose deliberately to forget or at least to suppress its memories of the battle. Consider these facts: On two separate occasions, in 1899 and 1925, there were small preservation movements by different segments of the population (including Civil War veterans and children of veterans). But in each case, the town showed no real support to help designate land as a national battlefield. Instead, over the next 140 years as the town grew in size from 2,500 citizens to more than 46,000, Franklin's was parceled out in various real estate developments—both commercial and residential. The fight over the Country Club of Franklin continues.

History lesson – FRANKLIN Review Appeal – 11/20/04 – **FRANKLIN** – Ed Bearss, Historian emeritus for the National Park Service, recently visited Middle Tennessee, carving out time to visit Franklin and the site of a proposed battlefield park. Accompanied by Carter House Director Thomas Cartwright, Bearss visited the McGavock Confederate Cemetery and Carnton as well as discussed the historic nature of the land adjacent to Carnton, which historians label the eastern flank of the Battle of Franklin. "With the acquisition of the country club's 112 acres, visitors to Franklin will finally be able to walk a field that will give them a true sense of time and place. This sense of time and place is not currently available, and may never be available on the Columbia Avenue corridor, but it will be available here, on this, the largest undeveloped section of the Franklin battlefield, Bearss said.

Carter House steps up battle interpretation efforts – FRANKLIN Review Appeal – 11/24/04 – **FRANKLIN** – The "Forty for Franklin" march, in which Civil War reenactors would trek from Mount Pleasant to Franklin to raise money for Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc., has been replaced this year by a shorter march for the Carter House. Reenactors will tramp 15 miles Saturday from Spring Hill to the Carter House along U.S. 31. The march is meant to commemorate the journey Confederate soldiers took before the Battle of Franklin and, through mile-by-mile pledges, raise money for Carter House improvements.

Epicenter of battle became preservation focus – FRANKLIN Review Appeal – 11/25/04 – **FRANKLIN** – The Carter House, one of Franklin's landmark historic sites, has a demanding week ahead. On Satur-

day, the Carter House sponsors a 15-mile march from Spring Hill, and next Tuesday, staff members commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Franklin with a ceremony, special talks and a three-mile walk. Then, on Dec. 4 and 5, is the site's big fund-raiser, the Christmas Candlelight Tour. During October's reenactment of the Battle of Franklin, the Carter House drew some 1,500 visitors from around the world.

Hospital flags will suggest toll of 1864 battle on town – The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." – 11/29/04 – **FRANKLIN** – A new flag will proclaim the 140th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Franklin tomorrow. For the first time on a Battle of Franklin anniversary, a yellow-and-green flag will be unfurled on one of the buildings used as a hospital after the savage Nov. 30, 1864, clash between Confederate and Union forces. The flag — yellow with a green "H" in block-letter style — is a reproduction of the hospital flag design adopted by the U.S. Army in January 1864. The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County hopes to eventually place flags on all local buildings used to shelter wounded soldiers after the savage battle, distinctive for its night combat, inordinate amount of hand-to-hand fighting and a Confederate attack often called Pickett's Charge of the West.

Once-forgotten fort is reborn – The Tennessean – 11/29/04 – **NASHVILLE** – Fort Negley, in south Nashville, opens to the public for the first time in six decades. City officials and others hope it will serve as centerpiece to attract people from all over the world interested in Civil War history. The opening of an interpretive boardwalk trail coincides this month with the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville on Dec. 15-16, 1864. The first phase will be the \$1 million interpretative trail and boardwalk that opens Friday in a noon ceremony. A \$1 million visitor center that will tell more of the fort's story is expected to open in 2006.

Re-enactor sees purpose in telling Negley story – The Tennessean – 11/29/04 – **NASHVILLE** – Friday, as a nippy wind bit the bare noses and fingers of a couple of hundred spectators, Bill Radcliffe — a Metro firefighter by trade — carried the colors of the 13th United States Colored Troops Memorial Regiment. He led the mayor up the hill. Mr. Lincoln saluted. Fort Negley was built atop St. Cloud Hill in October 1862 by the Union Army, which was intent on keeping control of Nashville because it was such an important transportation center with its river and rails. African-American conscript workers — some slaves and some free blacks — built the massive fort of stone, logs, earth and railway iron.

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	
	NEW!! ~ Battle of Franklin Map ~ laminated & in full color	\$6.00	
	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	
	NEW!! ~ "Eyewitness to the Battle of Nashville" ~ David Logsdon, paperback	\$12.00	
	<i>Cleburne or Forrest</i> ~ Jody Thompson, signed by the artist (circle one)	\$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.

Dec. 2004



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