



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

January 2005

[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

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

## Dear STFB member—

Happy New Year! We are busy planning our new year here in Franklin. STFB will be once again sponsoring several tours of battlefields here in Williamson County. In addition, we will once again sponsor our Reenactors' March in the fall. Watch this newsletter for these events as the dates are confirmed.

We are excited about the upcoming unveiling of Franklin's latest battlefield plan later this month. The American Battlefield Protection Program funded, Heritage Foundation sponsored plan will be released on Tuesday January 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall.

STFB made many suggestions to the planners on land parcels worthy of preservation here in Williamson County. Our entire "Compendium of Civil War Sites in Williamson County for Possible Battlefield Parks" is available on our web site at [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

I hope to see you at one of our many battlefield events in Franklin in 2005. Until then, my very best wishes to you in this New Year.

Joe Smyth

## STFB Tours & Events For 2005

The STFB Board and Officers are planning a full schedule of tours and events for 2005. The schedule and sequence is not final just yet, but STFB plans to conduct tours of:

- the Battle of Thompson's Station
- Collins Farm
- the Battle of the West Harpeth River
- the Retreat to Franklin

The last two battles both occurred December 17, 1864 during Hood's retreat from Nashville with fighting lasting all day from Brentwood to Thompson's Station. The Retreat to Franklin will cover just the actions along Franklin Road from Mack Hatcher to the Harpeth River.

In October 2005, STFB will once again sponsor a fundraising re-enactors march. It probably will be a one day event, and will be less than the 40 miles that we have done in earlier marches. The planning for this event is just now beginning and we will pass along the details as they develop.

The first tour is tentatively scheduled for April so watch the newsletter for dates and times. This will be a busy year for STFB and we will need lots of member volunteers to come and get involved with these important projects.

## Upcoming 2005 Events

On February 4<sup>th</sup> Franklin's African-American Society will hold their annual "Black Tie Event" at the Cool Springs Embassy Suites. This year's theme is, "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: The African-American Civil War Experience." Tickets are \$50 per person. For more information, or to reserve a spot at the STFB table, please call the STFB office a.s.a.p. at (615) 500-6612. This event is a fun-filled night of food, music, and entertainment that we know you will enjoy.

On February 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) will hold an evening reception at the Tennessee State Museum, in conjunction with the Museum and the Tennessee Press Association. The reception will include showing of current Civil War displays, and the opportunity to see items from the collection that have been rarely, or never before displayed. This event will focus on battle-scarred regimental flags, personal, headquarters, and other flags, and many other Civil War artifacts. Personal gear, equipment, and weaponry from many well-known Tennesseans, will also be showcased. The event is \$75 per person and by invitation only. The event will raise funds for Tennessee battlefield preservation. The TCWPA will grant these funds on a matching basis to battlefield preservation organizations across Tennessee. If you are interested in supporting this effort and this (dare we say "once in a lifetime") opportunity, please contact STFB a.s.a.p. at (615) 500-6612 to reserve a spot on the guest list.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM EVERYONE  
AT STFB**



## New Battle of Franklin Map Now Available

STFB is excited to announce the availability of our new Battle of Franklin map. The full-color map is pre-folded and laminated for years of use in all weather. It was designed and printed by Steve Stanley of Colonial Type and Graphics in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For those of you who are Civil War Preservation Trust members, Steve designs all the maps in the CWPT mailings and their "Hallowed Ground" magazine.

The map shows the positions and movements of Federal and Confederate troops from about 4:00 P.M. as Wagner's forward Federal line is attacked through the night attacks on the western flank of the battlefield. It contains the most detailed positioning of both Federal and Confederate artillery batteries to date, with some batteries placed which have never appeared on any map before.

This is a must-have item for any student of the Battle of Franklin. For visitors to Franklin, the period and modern-day roads appear on it, making it a useful tool to explore the battlefield by car or bicycle.

STFB's Battle of Franklin map is \$6 plus shipping and handling, and is only available by mail or through our web site at [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org). Get yours while they last!

### New & Renewing Members December, 2004

Paul & Nancy Anderson	Franklin, TN
Gene Andrews	Nashville, TN
Bob Barry	Brentwood, TN
Louise Batey	Franklin, TN
Bob Beck	Franklin, TN
Steven Cone	Mt Juliet, TN
Rob Dean	Franklin, TN
Don & Sarah Duncan	Murray, KY
Herb Edwards	Marietta, GA
Dr C B Gantt	Sanford, NC
John Halliday	Benicia, CA
Mrs H E Hamm	Huntsville, AL
Jackie Hardy	Brentwood, TN
Robert Hicks	Franklin, TN
Del Horton	Corinth, MS
M/M Michael Jeannette	Franklin, TN
Sherry Male	Nashville, TN
Ronny Mangrum	Franklin, TN
Kevin Mason	AP0, AE
William Darrell Moseley	Franklin, TN
Delbert Norton	Scottsdale, AZ
Christian Puryear	Nashville, TN
Peter Schofield	East Cleveland, OH
Joe Smyth Jr & Elaine	Cumberland Center,
ME Court & Janet Stahr	West Union, IA
Ted J Strickland	Marietta, OH
Craig & Marylou Symonds	Annapolis,
MD James K Turner	Nashville, TN
Thomas D Vaughan	Pell City, AL
Gary & Paula Waddey	Nashville, TN

## News In Review

Christmas was Franklin's 'bleak midwinter' in 1864 – Franklin Review Appeal – 12/23/04 – FRANKLIN – There was little Christmas cheer in Franklin after back-to-back battles in the winter of 1864. By Christmastime, many wounded soldiers remained hospitalized in Franklin's homes and public buildings, where they had been taken after the Nov. 30 Battle of Franklin. And following the Battle of Nashville on Dec. 17, when the Federals had regained control of Franklin, wounded Confederates were loaded into open boxcars in the cold and snow, and sent north to prison camps. At places like Carter House, where fighting had been heavy in November, cleanup was still a grim necessity.

Horse park is people park, too – Franklin Review Appeal – 12/29/04 – FRANKLIN – Expect to be called upon for input in Franklin's newest park in a couple of months. Franklin park leaders plan to hold a week of charette sessions at the historic Harlinsdale horse farm to gather input from everyone about what should go in a new park the city is planning there. City Parks Director Lisa Clayton says she'll be looking for input from preservationists and historians, those in the horse industry, business owners, and even those who live around the park.

Milestones of 2005: Preservation deadline approaches at Country Club of Franklin – The Tennessean, "Williamson A.M." – 12/31/04 FRANKLIN – July is the deadline for the preservation community to raise its share of funding for the purchase of the Country Club of Franklin off Lewisburg Pike near downtown Franklin. If the public can raise the money, the city of Franklin has committed to come up with matching funds. The resolution the city passed 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.

Heart of Triune to become park soon – Franklin Review Appeal – 1/6/05 – TRIUNE COMMUNITY – Imagine a 19<sup>th</sup>-century schoolyard filled with children at play. That scene should repeat itself when Williamson County takes ownership of acreage just adjacent to the old Bostick Female Academy and turns it into a park someday. The Bostick Female Academy building is now a private home, but after 111 years the elegant Victorian building is still at the heart of Triune. The academy was constructed in the 1890s, due to the generosity of wealthy Triune resident Dr. Jonathan Bostick, who left money to have the school built after Union troops destroyed the Porter Female Academy in 1863.

### Harper' Pictorial History of the Civil War The Battle of Franklin, November 1864

Schofield ought to have been cut off at least from the direct road to Franklin. His main army did not leave Duck River, where it had been fighting Lee, until after dark, and passed Spring Hill about midnight. It certainly had a



narrow escape. General Wagner's division of Stanley's corps held on to its position at Spring Hill until near daylight. Notwithstanding the superior number of the enemy, the only disturbances suffered in the retreat was from a slight attack made north of Thompson's by Forrest's cavalry, causing the loss of a few wagons. General Cooper, who had been left to guard the crossing at Duck River, was cut off from the direct road to Franklin, and proceeded to Nashville.

When Schofield reached Franklin he found no wagon bridge across the Harpeth River, and the fords in a bad condition. The railroad bridge was rapidly repaired and a foot-bridge was constructed, which was also available for the use of wagons. He sent his train across, and intended to cross with his army. But the enemy was in too close proximity. As the Federal troops arrived they were placed in position on the south side of the river, the Twenty-third Corps, under General Cox, on the left and centre, covering the approaches from Columbia and Lewisburg, and Kimball's division of Stanley's corps on the right; both flanks of the army resting on the river. Wood's division of Stanley's corps was sent to the north side of the river to cover the flanks, in the event of Hood's crossing above or below. Two brigades of Wagner's division—the last to reach Franklin—were left in front, to retard the advance of the enemy.

At daylight Hood had commenced the pursuit, which was pushed with great vigor. Stewart was in the advance, Cheatham following, while Lee, with the trains, brought up the rear from Columbia. Hood determined to make a direct attack with Stewart's and Cheatham's corps without waiting for Lee. No flank movement which he could now make would prevent Schofield from reaching Nashville.\* Stewart advanced on the right, Cheatham on the left, with the cavalry on either flank, the main body of the latter, under Forrest, moving to the right. Johnson's division of Lee's corps arrived during the engagement, and went in on the left.

Fortunately for Schofield, Hood's attack was delayed until 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the 30<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime the Federal troops were constructing breastworks and protecting them by a slight abatis on the left. To them, with the river in their rear, and with the roads, by which alone retreat was possible, crowded with the wagon trains, defeat would have been a terrible disaster, affecting the safety of Nashville. On both sides the decisive nature of the contest was fully appreciated. It was a brief battle, for at this season of the year 4 p.m. was the verge of twilight.\*\* Wagner's men, holding the outposts, "imprudently brave," reports Schofield, maintained the conflict outside of the entrenchments longer than was necessary, suffering heavy loss. When they fell back it was at a full run, and this movement swept back a portion of the first line in the works, allowing the enemy to enter in large numbers. In this attempt to fight a battle with outposts, Wagner lost over a thousand men. The enemy had gained an advantage, which, if pressed, might have resulted in success.

Victory seemed almost within his grasp. The Federal line had been broken in the centre; two batteries of four guns each had been captured. But at this moment Opdyke, commanding the remaining brigade of Wagner's division, which had been held in reserve inside the works, leading his men on, shouting "Forward to the lines!" rushed forward, recovered the lost batteries, and captured 400 prisoners. The gap had been closed; but the enemy, though disappointed, was not disheartened. He charged the works, making four distinct attacks, and each time hurled back with heavy loss. "So vigorous and fierce were these assaults that the enemy reached the exterior slope of the rude entrenchments, and hand-to-hand encounters occurred between the enraged combatants across the works."\*\*\* Between the assaults, the enemy, covered by the undulations of the ground, pressed his sharp-shooters close to the works, and kept up a galling fire.

The Confederates persistently assailed Schofield's line until after dark, continuing the attack at intervals until near midnight, but were repulsed in every attempt to carry the works. The Confederate loss was between 4500 and 6000 men. Schofield lost 2326, which number of casualties 1241 occurred in Wagner's division.\*\*\*\* On the Federal side, General Stanley was severely wounded in the neck. The Confederate loss in general officers was very great, including among them Major General Pat. Cleburne, and Brigadier Generals Gist, John Adams, Strahl, and Granbury; Brigadier Generals Carter, Mnigault, Quarles, Cockrell, and Scott were wounded, and Brigadier General Gordon was captured. At midnight Schofield withdrew from the trenches which he had held against the repeated assaults of far superior numbers, and fell back to Nashville.

Hood's orders to his corps commanders to drive Schofield into the river, and for Forrest to advance and capture the trains, had failed of execution. General Thomas's position was now secure.

\* "I learned from dispatches captured at Spring Hill, from Thomas to Schofield, that the latter was instructed to hold that place till the position at Franklin could be made secure, indicating the intention of Thomas to hold Franklin and his strong works at Murfreesborough. This I knew that it was all-important to attack Schofield before he could make himself strong, and, if he should escape at Franklin, he would gain his works about Nashville. The nature of the position was such as to render it inexpedient to attempt any farther flank movement, and I therefore determined to attack him in front, and without delay." —Hood's Report

\*\*On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 1864, the sun set at 4:39. Schofield's report makes the battle to have commenced at 3:30 p.m.

\*\*\* General T.J. Wood's Report.

\*\*\*\* Hood reports his own loss as 4500. Schofield, from information obtained afterward, makes the enemy's loss "1750 buried upon the field, 3800 disabled and 702 prisoners." Hood claims that he captured 1000 prisoners. This tallies well with Schofield's report, in which he admits 1104 missing, 670 of whom were from Wagner's division.

# 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	
	<b>NEW!!</b> ~ 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	
	<b>NEW!!</b> ~ "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.

January 2005

www.franklin-stfb.org  
 Franklin, TN 37065-0851  
 PO Box 851



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD