



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

APRIL 2005

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

The public dialog on battlefield preservation is increasing each month here in Franklin. We had a featured spot in a National Geographic article on America's Civil War battlefields and the need to preserve them. Dick Moe, president of the National Historic Trust, spoke at a fundraising dinner for Franklin's charge and the acquisition of the Eastern flank acreage, and again the next morning at a fundraising breakfast attended by more than 300 citizens and leaders of the community. Our good friend Paul Hawke, director of the American Battlefield Preservation Program, came to town to speak on battlefield preservation for the Franklin Tomorrow lecture series. He also met with city and county planners and members of the business community.

Along with this dialog, we need dollars! The City of Franklin has voted overwhelmingly to approve \$2.5 million for the Eastern Flank property, which will match the \$2.5 million we are currently raising in the private sector. We are well on our way—but we are not there yet.

The end of our purchase window is rapidly approaching. If you, your company, or your local Civil War Roundtable has any desire to or thoughts of donating to create a Franklin Battlefield park, now is the time! Simply send your check to STFB and designate it "Franklin's Charge." You may also pledge over a five-year period. Please contact us for further information on making a gift.

I cannot thank you enough for what you have already done. There is much more to do, but the creation of a field—a field to walk and get a sense of place and time and events—is within our grasp.

Let's reach out together and grasp it.

TCWPA Plans Annual Meeting in Franklin

On Saturday, May 21st, STFB and Franklin's Charge will host the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association's annual Meeting and Battlefield Tour. There will be a business meeting from 1-2 p.m. at the Historic Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin, followed by a tour of Collin's Farm and the Eastern Flank of the battlefield. For more information, please contact STFB at (615) 500-6612.

Preservationist Leader addresses Franklin Coalition

By Gregory L. Wade

FRANKLIN, Tennessee—Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, spoke on March 29th to a breakfast crowd of over 400 gathered in Franklin, Tennessee to help energize the Franklin's Charge coalition efforts to raise 2.5 million by July first of this year. These funds will be used to match a city grant of \$2.5 to purchase 110 acres of right flank battlefield now occupied by the Country Club of Franklin. Franklin's Charge is made up of several preservation and historical groups in Franklin united in battlefield restoration.

The National Trust has been involved since 1949 in saving endangered battlefield lands and now has a membership of over 250,000 people. Moe, is considered one of the key figures in national preservation efforts. Citing battlefield visits he conducted many years ago while writing a book on a Minnesota regiment, he told the crowd how battlegrounds can "change your life." Emotionally moved when walking these lands he was also alarmed by the neglect and destruction of these properties to development. "You can read any number of books about the Civil War, but when you visit a battlefield, you can do more than read about history. You can see it and touch it and walk through it," he noted.

While discussing the critical need for immediate action he cited several examples of lost or soon to be lost grounds including parts of Brandy Station, Virginia, sections of the Vicksburg campaign and Morris Island near Charleston, South Carolina, site of the battle depicted in the movie *Glory*. But he also talked about triumphs that have inspired preservationists across the country. In the 1990's the Walt Disney Company proposed a development just four miles from Manassas battlefield. "Disney wanted to create a new city with 2 million square feet of commercial space, 2,300 homes, 1,300 hotel rooms, two golf courses, a campground, a waterpark and more—including an 'American history' theme park that was expected to draw 30,000 visitors a day." The irony of the history park was not lost on the audience. Moe said what would have occurred would be unhindered growth and sprawl.

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NATIONAL PARK DAY AT FT. GRANGER APRIL 2nd, 2005

In conjunction with CWPT's National Park Day nation wide, a living history day was held at Ft. Granger Park in Franklin. The event was sponsored by the City of Franklin Parks Department, and co-hosted by uniformed participation of the 20th Tennessee Infantry from Franklin and the 5th Kentucky Infantry from Louisville, Kentucky. These two groups hold re-enactments, ceremonies, living history days, school day programs, and encampments throughout the south.

The day began at 6:00 a.m. with roll call, cooking breakfast, and orders of the day. At 9:00 a.m. the camp was opened to the public for visiting, asking questions, and a first hand look at what a day was like for garrison soldiers of the period. The company drilled for the spectators. This included proper loading and firing techniques of muskets used from the period.

Although the day started out cool and with a few sprinkles of snow, the morning warmed up nicely.

A new U.S. flag purchased by the Tennessee and Kentucky units was unfurled and presented to their members by Franklin's Honorable Mayor Tom Miller. The flag was then raised on a pole and flew over Ft. Granger for the day. Highlighting the events was a full-scale 3" ordinance cannon and caisson.

Mayor Miller fired the first round from the actual positions that the union troops used during the November 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin.

Of honorable mention was the second round was fired by Alderman Tom Furebourn. At 1:00 p.m. Aldermen Dennis Phillips and Pam Lewis did the honors of firing the cannon. At 3:00 p.m. re-enactors Bob Hargrove of Franklin and Robert Huff of Spring Hill fired the last two rounds.

The event was well received by all the visiting public. They were very appreciative, thanking the troops for being there, and for taking time to give a glimpse of the soldiers' life during the four years of strife our country endured during the Civil War.

STFB wishes to thank Lisa Clayton and Anna Shuford from the Parks Department for all the hard work they put into making this event a success. Special thanks go out to Pam Lewis, who opened her home, the historic Harrison house, for the re-enactors to visit and view.

Pennsylvania Helps Franklin

Scott Macbeth, Treasurer of the Lancaster County Civil War Living History Association, recently wrote to pass along \$200 that his group had raised for the preservation of the Franklin Battlefield. He also included many kind words of appreciation and encouragement for the local groups working here in Franklin. A big STFB thank you to Scott and his group. We hope to one day meet you at the Battlefield Park in Franklin.



FRANKLIN MAYOR, TOM MILLER PREPARES TO FIRE THE FIRST ROUND DURING THE REINACTMENT AT FORT GRANGER.



MEMBERS OF THE 20TH. TENNESSEE INFANTRY FROM FRANKLIN, AND THE 5TH. KENTUCKY INFANTRY FROM LOUISVILLE KY. DEMONSTRATE TACTICAL MANUEVERS DURING THR REINACTMENT.

Corporate Matching Grants

The SPX Corporation of Charlotte, NC and the IBM Corporation of Armonk, NY have recently donated \$200 and \$500 respectively the Save The Franklin Battlefield for battlefield purchase. STFB greatly appreciates the support of these corporate friends, and of their employees who took advantage of their employer's Matching Grant Programs.

Many companies donate regularly to non-profit groups like STFB. However, identifying qualified groups who will actually make good use of the donated funds can be an expensive and time consuming task for corporations. They instead rely on their employees to help them find potential candidates. When you use your company's Matching Grant Program, you are helping STFB, and you are contributing to the effectiveness of your company's corporate giving programs.

Thompson's Station Tour conducted by Save the Franklin Battlefield

By Gregory L. Wade

Thompson's Station, TN-On a cloudless April day, Save the Franklin Battlefield (STFB) presented an on-site seminar about the Battle of Thompson's Station to a group of about 30 Civil War enthusiasts. Standing on the grounds where much of the fighting occurred, STFB speakers detailed events leading to the March 1863 battle, facts about the actual fighting, and stories about some of the individual combatants and their post battle experiences.

Thompson's Station is a small village about forty miles south of Nashville located between Franklin and Spring Hill. While much of the field has been lost to development, a significant portion of the ground still exists in a fairly rural state. Confederate cavalry, made up mostly of Tennesseans and Texans led by Major General Earl Van Dorn, approached on a scouting mission on March 4th moving north along the main road known as the Columbia Pike.

At about the same time, Union Colonel John Coburn led his infantry and cavalry regiments of Midwestern farm boys while heading south from Franklin on a similar mission. North of Thompson's Station the two commands ran into each other in what became a running skirmish until nightfall. Early on March 5th Coburn placed his command along a ridge that is cut in two by the Pike. Van Dorn placed his brigades, led by Brigadier General Red Jackson, along the western and eastern sides of the road. Jackson's brigades were led by Brigadier Generals Nathan Bedford Forrest and Frank Armstrong. Colonel John Whitfield headed the Texas regiments.

Coburn's right flank manned by mostly Indianans, held the line against repeated attacks by Jackson's dismounted cavalry. But when Coburn's artillery under Captain Charles Aleshire and cavalry led by Colonel Thomas Jordan fled the field against orders, the remainder of the the command, now mostly infantry, was doomed.

Within hours Van Dorn ordered General Forrest to attack the Union left. Doing just that, Forrest and his men charged to Coburn's rear. In the process Forrest lost his horse Roderick to mortal wounds. Coburn, showing good judgment, had no choice but to surrender his infantry that had fought so stubbornly.

The speakers discussed the battles aftermath and the tribulations Coburn's men went through as prisoners of war. Several battle participants had interesting lives later on. Van Dorn was killed by a jealous husband a few weeks later in an infamous Spring Hill affair. General Jackson became a well known horse breeder and died in 1903. Sgt. Newton Cannon, serving under Forrest, was wounded but survived the War to become a future governor of Tennessee. Colonel Coburn would serve four terms in the US Congress and help put together the *Official Records of the Civil War*. General Forrest would go on to become perhaps the most renowned 3 cavalry leader of the War and died in 1877.

While not a major engagement strategically, the Battle of Thompson's Station forced the Union to tie up many thousands of troops in Middle Tennessee. While killed, wounded, and missing was about equal for both sides at roughly 400, the 1,200 men Union captured presented a significant negative impact to the northern psyche at that time of the War.

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To stop the Disney development he talked about a preservation group that was formed called Protect Historic America. "Well known historians such as David McCullough and James McPherson gave weeks of their time to help lead the fight, and they were joined by hundreds of their colleagues from all parts of the country." The Disney organization abandoned its plans due to the strong mobilization of historians and their opposition to the project.

Moe cited three fundamental lessons in land preservation. "Some places are just too important to be treated with anything less than the greatest respect." He added that to allow construction such as large retail stores, restaurants, schools etc does not create the proper context of the battle. The second lesson was not to repeat the same mistakes. "With vision, common sense and persistence, we can take action to help set things right again." The third lesson was the need of individual activism and strong partnerships, both of which are now at work in Franklin, he observed.

Challenging the audience to respond to the current effort to raise Franklin's battlefield funds Moe said, "Saving historic places like the Franklin battlefield is what historic preservation has always been about, but it's never been more important than now."

Thomas Cartwright, curator of the Carter House Museum in Franklin, then read an open letter to the "Editor, Mayor, Board of Aldermen and the Community of Franklin" rebutting those who argue no meaningful action took place on the land to be purchased. The letter was signed by 14 authors and historians who have written about the War and particularly Middle Tennessee. Cartwright quoted Ed Bearss, National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus, "Let me underscore the importance this place that now serves as a golf course played that fateful day on the right wing of the attack. It is not enough to say that it served as a significant part for the eastern flank of the battle, for, in so doing, it held a crucial role in the entire Battle of Franklin."

The session ended with comments by Robert Hicks, leader of Franklin's Charge asking for attendees to complete the pledge cards to help insure, "that we get this done." Noting the importance to future citizens Hicks said, "Generations will remember what we have done here. They will walk the fields and remember."

Early returns indicate the breakfast raised about "\$40,000 so far with contributions still coming in," according to Joe Smyth of Franklin's Charge and Save the Franklin Battlefield.

Symbol of Battlefield Destruction May be Purchased

By Gregory L. Wade

FRANKLIN, TN—A Franklin Pizza Hut located in the heart of Franklin's 1864 battlefield, may be purchased by the city, according to a recent *Nashville Tennessean* article. The restaurant, now a tenant of the current site, has plans to relocate leaving the door open for a possible purchase from the current owners of the land and building. The Franklin city government has submitted a bid of \$300,000 to buy the property. Mayor Tom Miller has often expressed his desire to purchase key sites around the Carter House which is considered by many to be "ground zero" in the battle. "This is the first piece of commercial property that's become available," Mayor Miller said.

During the November 1864 Battle, the Federal trench works ran just a few feet from the site and the location was part of the most intense fighting. It was on this property where highly respected Confederate General Patrick Cleburne was said to have been killed. The restaurant was recently made even more infamous, at least to historians, in the April 2005 issue of *National Geographic Magazine* which has an article about battlefield preservation across America. A full page photo of the site is an example of how not to treat battle properties, according to battle authorities.

Ironically, the Pizza Hut is planning to move to a new strip center called Parkway Commons. Parkway Commons is a recent retail development itself controversial due to its location just north of Winsted Hill. It was here Confederate commander John B. Hood watched his troops begin their ill fated attack.

In a recent interview, Joe Smyth, President of Save the Franklin Battlefield, (STFB), said, "the Pizza Hut has always been the lightning rod and ugly poster child for battlefield preservation in Franklin." STFB itself purchased three acres on the right flank of the battle to preserve it from development. "We always knew it (Pizza Hut site) would be purchased but the question is when," Smyth added.

National Geographic: On Battlefield Preservation

The April issue of National Geographic magazine has a major article on "Saving the Landscapes of America's Deadliest War" on page 62. The piece covers the challenges faced by communities and preservation groups across the nation. The Civil War Preservation Trust contributed much material and many leads for the piece. The local efforts of groups in Franklin are noted and a picture of the Pizza Hut near the Carter House is featured.

Copies of the April National Geographic magazine are available at most bookstores. The issue includes a beautiful map titled "Battles of the Civil War" that summarizes the strategy, campaigns, and major battles of the war.

The City of Franklin has recently made an offer to purchase the Pizza Hut, and has announced its intention to buy additional commercial properties around the Carter House as they become available.

New & Renewing Members March, 2005

Phil Allen
Mark & Mary Aulman
James Barrow
Jack & Wanda Bartlett
Oscar N Bird III
Robert Brandt
Mrs John Brewer III
Dr Michael Brown
James Buente
Betty Cannon
Byron Davis Jr Family
Ed & Pam Dopke
Mr & Mrs Earl Fitz
David GladdingVanderipe
Tom Griggs
Dr E A Hansbarger Jr
Robert Irwin
Michael F Johnson
David Kibitlewski
Ken Knouf
Janet Krompart
Ronald Kumnick
Bob Lessel
James B Lewis
Doug Lewter
Gary Lima
Emily Magid
Mel Maurer
Mark & Karen Perreault
Donald Pontious
Harold & Mary Jo Pratt
Jerry & Debbie Raymer
Nick Romer
Richard & Ellen Rust Jr
Billy Lou Smith
Bonnie Steadman
Gilbert Sullivan
J T Thompson
Howard Williamson
Kimberly Willis
Craig & Patricia Young

South Bend, IN
Woodland, CA
Miami, FL
Sherman, TX
Mountain Park, GA
Nashville, TN
Fairview, TN
Chattanooga, TN
Franklin, TN
Ashland City, TN
Lebanon, TN
Wauconda, IL
Brentwood, TN
Fort Wayne, IN
Larwenceburg, TN
Charleston, WV
Warrior, AL
Franklin, TN
Round Lake Beach, IL
Madison, IN
Rochester Hills, MI
Elmhurst, IL
Bartlett, TN
Murfreesboro, TN
Madison, AL
College Grove, TN
Franklin, TN
Westlake, OH
Norfolk, VA
Columbus, OH
Brentwood, TN
Nashville, TN
Franklin, TN
Franklin, TN
Franklin, TN
Alphreta, GA
Birmingham, AL
Nashville, TN
Cullman, AL
Dickson, TN
Franklin, TN

\$1,535 for Franklin's Charge

Through March 2005, STFB members have donated \$1,535 to STFB designated for the purchase of the golf course on Lewisburg Pike as a battlefield park. Those funds have already been transferred to Franklin's Charge, a non-profit group raising \$2.5 million that will be matched by the City of Franklin for the purchase. Eight local non-profit groups, including STFB, joined together as Franklin's Charge for this fundraising purpose.

Please find it in your heart to give as much as you can and please tell a friend of our challenge and ask them to tell a friend...and so on... and thank you as always for your support.

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County Property Committee Strategy for Old BGA Property

The Williamson County Property Committee met on March 23rd to discuss possible options for the old BGA property on Columbia Ave. One of their focuses is the ability to manage the property properly.

Among prior discussions that the property could be used for an Amphitheater, a Welcome center or a Battlefield Park, there may be new possibility for the campus.

Middle Tennessee College/High School will be leaving its current campus located in Nashville at the end of this fiscal year. The Middle Tennessee College/ High School is a Williamson County school that is for advanced students of Williamson County and offers college courses to the high school students, and allows them a huge head start when the enter college. The current count of students is in the 150 range, but will be growing in the near future to around 250 students.

The Property Committee discussed and is considering renovating the current buildings to accommodate the students. County Mayor Rogers Anderson has committed to funding a study to see the feasibility and cost of the project.

As many of you know, this property is on ground zero of the Battle of Franklin. We will keep you posted on the process.

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	\$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	
	Cleburne or Forrest Prints, signed by the artist (circle one ~ or both for \$30)	\$20.00	
	ORDER SUBTOTAL		
	SHIPPING & HANDLING (items only) ~ under 10.00	\$1.00	
	\$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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