



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 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—

Once again we're riding the roller coaster of battlefield preservation here at Franklin. The latest threat to the Franklin Battlefield is a Williamson County plan to move a high school facility onto some of the remaining battlefield just south of where they callously planted their County Library just three years ago.

This latest incursion is doubly stupefying as it is basically across the street from the infamous Pizza Hut, which has been purchased to great acclaim by the City of Franklin. It is truly amazing that by simply crossing the yellow line running down Columbia Pike, by merely moving from City to County land, the concern for battlefield preservation could be so completely opposite. It's like moving from the Enlightenment back into the Dark Ages.

With the commitment in dollars, and not just words, of the Civil War Preservation Trust, the National Parks Service's American Battlefield Preservation Program, the city government of Franklin, numerous state and local preservation organizations, and the local citizens and business community, it is unbelievable that the County government would be moving in the opposite direction. But they are.

Please read further in this newsletter for more information on this threat to the Franklin Battlefield, and how you can help.

Joe Smyth

## School Board Intends to Build on Old BGA Campus We Need Your Help

As we noted in last month's newsletter, the Williamson County School Board needs a location to house the Middle College High School and intends to build on the old BGA Campus. Middle College is a special school program for about 140 at-risk kids who otherwise might not finish high school, or do not fit in with normal high school life. Currently, the Middle College is located at Nashville State Tech in Nashville but must move out in January 2006. After moving back to Franklin from Nashville, the school's enrollment will probably increase.

As with the Library that the County Administration built on the BGA Campus in 2003, we find no fault with the need for this special education program. Our objection is in placing new construction on the battlefield that will beget even more new construction in the future. School Superintendent Becky

Sharber says Peoples Hall on the BGA Campus is the place Middle College should call home once the building is 'renovated' by replacing the roof and redoing the interior.

The needed Peoples Hall renovations were discussed at a May meeting attended by STFB Treasurer Sam Huffman. At that meeting, school and commission officials said the floor loading of Peoples Hall does not meet current City building codes – all load-bearing walls and floors have to be replaced – plus all heating, ventilation, and A/C systems plus all electrical, plus an elevator plus a new roof structure and roofing. That is not a renovation. That is a NEW steel girder building located inside the masonry veneer of the old Peoples Hall – and it will stand as an intrusion on the battlefield for 100-150 years. Once there, it will provide a convenient argument for adding new county offices and parking and buildings on the battlefield.

### *We Need Your Help*

We need you to help us tell the School Board and County Administration that they should put the Middle College High School program somewhere else and keep the BGA Campus for battlefield preservation in the future. This newsletter and our web site include contact directories of both organizations.

### *Things You Should Know Before Writing*

A Washington firm did a poll for the CWPT (available at our web site) last February of 400 Franklin voters. Seventy-eight percent thought the City had a responsibility to protect the battlefield. Seventy-one percent said they would support public officials who advocate preservation of Franklin's history. We think this public opinion also applies to our county officials as well, but to be heard, we obviously need to turn up the volume a bit.

The project to reclaim 112 acres of the eastern end of the Franklin Battlefield is turning into a huge success. Franklin's Charge is working with the City of Franklin on the golf course purchase. It is a splendid, nationally recognized success by the Franklins Charge coalition of several local non-profits that includes STFB. All of us cheered Mayor Tom Miller's administration, Franklins Charge leadership, and the national preservation groups for pulling this \$5 million purchase together. Last March, 400 attended a 7:00 AM breakfast at The Factory to kick-off the fund raising campaign to raise the private \$2.5 million. It was exciting just to be there that morning. Franklins Charge still needs to raise money for closing costs and interest carry, so work still needs to be done and we can't let up just yet. We are very pleased to say that Williamson County also financially joined in this effort. Reclaiming the golf course is not the end of the job. STFB published a report (see our web site) two years ago listing 30-odd battle-



field parcels in Williamson County that might qualify for partial Federal funding. That report was input for a comprehensive plan developed by a consultant. We need to work on some of those parcels if and when they ever become available.

Mayor Tom Miller led the effort to add the Pizza Hut site to the city's park holdings. The Heritage Foundation owns the Carter Cotton Gin site nearby. There are other parcels in the Carter House area held by private parties, or the city, that might one day be combined into a park on the heart of the Franklin Battlefield. The old BGA Campus would be a crucial part of that park. One day down the road, we will get that deal put together.

Mayor Tom Miller's administration is helping preservation as they can. We need our county leaders to likewise join our preservation efforts rather than repeatedly give the appearance they intend to thwart us at every turn and opportunity.

Some county officials argue that the Peoples Hall construction is the most economical way to meet Middle College needs. We don't think so – not by a mile. We understand that the \$1.7 million renovation or rebuild of Peoples Hall won't be ready until fall 2006 at the earliest. In the meantime, Middle College High School will be housed in portable classrooms located at the new Franklin High; which is also close to the Columbia State campus on Claude Yates Drive. There is a college component to the Middle College program that could be provided at Columbia State. Columbia State presently has 1,300 students on its 8-acre campus, and sees an enrollment of 2,600 by the year 2010. This growth at the Community College will require a move to a new 25-acre campus. Columbia State President Rebecca Hawkins has been publicly quoted as saying that they have always planned on having room to house Middle College at their new campus.

We think the most attractive and responsible option is for Middle College to stay at Franklin High for the interim, focus on its education partnership with nearby Columbia State, and then move onto the new Columbia State campus when it is available; and NOT spend \$1.7 million to put a permanent building on the battlefield.

As we get feedback from others who oppose new buildings on the BGA Campus, we will post that material to our web site [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org). It might give you new ideas to include in your notes.

There are also links on the web site to the N/A directories, the county web site, the Feb 2005 CWPT Opinion Survey, the list of savable CW site in Williamson County, and a Petition to our County Officials that you can print, circulate, and mail in.

STFB tries mightily in our public communications to disagree with our public officials without being disagreeable. We have found that the best letters and emails are just 150-300 words long and only make 1 or 2 points. You can always write to them again, and we encourage you to do just that.

## 2005 Preservation March for Franklin and Collins' Farm Celebration

On October 22, Confederate and Federal reenactors will again "March for Franklin" to help Save The Franklin Battle-

field. The uniformed reenactors will be marching to raise funds to help stabilize and improve the house and grounds of Collins' Farm in Franklin.

The reenactors will once again march representing the Union and Confederate states that had regiments engaged at the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. The Confederate states represented are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. The Federal states represented are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. STFB is encouraging groups and individuals to sponsor a reenactor in the name of a state of their choice. The donations are completely tax-deductible and can be sent to: STFB, PO Box 851, Franklin, TN 37065-0851 Please note which states you are supporting in the memo line of your check or visit our website at [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org).

Our dedicated group of reenactors, coming from across the Midwest and Mid-South, will march 15 miles, departing from Rippavilla Plantation in Maury County on Saturday morning, and arrive at Collins' Farm later that afternoon.

For this year's march, our major fundraising event for 2005, STFB is inviting the general public to join in with the reenactors as they march the final 2 miles from Winstead Hill to Collins' Farm on Lewisburg Pike. STFB is asking the public to support our cause by collecting and bringing donations in hand.

At the conclusion of the march, the public is invited to remain at Collins' Farm for a celebration. The Collins' Farm mortgage was recently paid off in full, and STFB will hold a mortgage "note burning." The reenactors will encamp on the grounds, and tours of the property and its significance during the Battle of Franklin will be given throughout the afternoon.

As many of you have given generously to Collins' Farm in the past, and continue to do so, we invite all of you to participate in this year's Reenactors' March, and especially to share in the pay-off celebration at the farm. For more information, please call us at (615) 500-6612.

## New & Renewing Members July 2005

Bobby Allen Jr	Cadiz KY
Michelle Batte	Chapel Hill TN
Derek & Christina	Brown Danville AL
Dennis Buttacavoli	Hasbrouck Hghts NJ
Dean & Rota Carr	Brentwood TN
Frank Caruso	Franklin TN
George A Dawes	Tomball TX
Stanley & Rebekah Hime	Brentwood TN
Tom & Jackie Jensen	Nelson NE
Dahk & Jan Knox	Mosheim TN
William Lamb & Family	Franklin TN
Duncan L LaVigne	Brentwood TN
Jerry & Ruth Swedeen	Franklin TN
Brett & Amy Tarter	Franklin TN
Chris & Jessica Utley	Franklin TN
Sean Von Loh	Greeley CO
Rick Warwick	Franklin TN



## Williamson County School Board

The following contact information for school board members is available online at:

<http://www.wcs.edu/district/sbmembers.htm>

Mailing address for all: School Board  
1320 West Main Street  
Franklin, TN 37064

Director of Schools	Rebecca Sharber	615-472-4000	Email <a href="mailto:BeckyS@wcs.edu">BeckyS@wcs.edu</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> District	D'Wayne Greer	615-799-7720	Email <a href="mailto:DwayneG@wcs.edu">DwayneG@wcs.edu</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Janice Mills		Email <a href="mailto:JaniceM@wcs.edu">JaniceM@wcs.edu</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Ralph Ringstaff	615-368-2490	Email <a href="mailto:RalphR@wcs.edu">RalphR@wcs.edu</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> District	Ed Bailey	615-790-1683	Email <a href="mailto:EdwardB@wcs.edu">EdwardB@wcs.edu</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> District, Chairman	Gary Anderson	615-776-2942	Email <a href="mailto:GaryA@wcs.edu">GaryA@wcs.edu</a>
6 <sup>th</sup> District	Mari Weller	615-371-1164	Email <a href="mailto:MariW@wcs.edu">MariW@wcs.edu</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> District	Sina Miller	615-373-1042	Email <a href="mailto:SinaM@wcs.edu">SinaM@wcs.edu</a>
8 <sup>th</sup> District	Pat Anderson	615-377-8562	Email <a href="mailto:PatA1@wcs.edu">PatA1@wcs.edu</a>
10 <sup>th</sup> District	Bill Peach	615-794-6430	Email <a href="mailto:BillP@wcs.edu">BillP@wcs.edu</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> District	Mark Gregory	615-791-8882	Email <a href="mailto:MarkG@wcs.edu">MarkG@wcs.edu</a>
12 <sup>th</sup> District	James Bond	615-794-4894	Email <a href="mailto:JamesB1@wcs.edu">JamesB1@wcs.edu</a>

## Williamson County Commissioners

The following contact information for school board members is available online at:

[http://66.236.228.2/williamson/live/info.asp?page\\_m=1500&page\\_s=1514](http://66.236.228.2/williamson/live/info.asp?page_m=1500&page_s=1514)

Mailing address for all: Williamson County Mayor & Commissioners  
1320 West Main Street  
Franklin, TN 37064

District	Name	Address	Phone (615)	Email
1	Joe M. Hughes	7441 Les Hughes Rd Fairview 37062 TN	799-0052	
1	Ricky D. Jones	7231 Northwest Hwy Fairview 37062 TN	799-8766	<a href="mailto:fhjacket@bellsouth.net">fhjacket@bellsouth.net</a>
2	Peggy Lee Romano	4064 Carters Creek Pike Franklin 37064 TN	794-1143	<a href="mailto:peggyr@williamson-tn.org">peggyr@williamson-tn.org</a>
2	John Hancock	2208 Bowman Road Franklin 37064 TN	794-4058	
3	Clyde Lynch	6435 Covington-Eudailey Rd. College Grove 37046 TN	368-7870	
3	Judy Hayes	1775 Pope's Chapel Rd Thompson's Station 37179 TN	794-5380	
4	Tom Moon	6251 Meeks Road Franklin 37064 TN	368-7872	<a href="mailto:tommfarm@aol.com">tommfarm@aol.com</a>
4	Cheryl Wilson	1907 Green Hills Blvd. Franklin 37067 TN	771-3567	<a href="mailto:cwilson@wilsonpc.com">cwilson@wilsonpc.com</a>
5	Lewis W Green Jr.	1016 Waller Rd. Brentwood 37027 TN	776-2816	<a href="mailto:lw.green@mindspring.com">lw.green@mindspring.com</a>
5	Newt McCord	7263 Nolensville Rd Nolensville 37135 TN	776-2550	
6	Arlene Cooke	1090 Wilshire Way Brentwood 37027 TN	377-1347	
6	Jeff Ford	9250 Chevoit Drive Brentwood 37027 TN	376-8814	<a href="mailto:jefff@williamson-tn.org">jefff@williamson-tn.org</a>
7	Bert Chalfant	6206 Bridlewood Lane Brentwood 37027 TN	3851950	
7	Brandon Hulette	843 Brentwood Pointe II Brentwood 37027 TN	376-8844	<a href="mailto:bhulette@williamson-tn.org">bhulette@williamson-tn.org</a>
8	Greg Davis	492 Sadler Way Franklin 37069 TN	591-8444	<a href="mailto:gregd@williamson-tn.org">gregd@williamson-tn.org</a>
8	Jack Walton	2058 Hunterwood Dr Brentwood 37027 TN	373-3346	<a href="mailto:jack@jackwalton.com">jack@jackwalton.com</a>
9	Mary Brockmam	1407 Old Hillsboro Road Franklin 37069 TN	794-5177	<a href="mailto:marymcgaw@aol.com">marymcgaw@aol.com</a>
9	Ernie Williams	106 Kiln Hill Court Franklin 37069 TN	794-9749	
10	Bob Barnwell	241 Pebble Glen Drive Franklin 37064 TN	591-7823	<a href="mailto:bobb@williamson-tn.org">bobb@williamson-tn.org</a>
10	Houston Naron Jr.	Regency Square 609 Boyd Mill Ave., Suite 11 Franklin 37064 TN	591-0538	<a href="mailto:houstonn@williamson-tn.org">houstonn@williamson-tn.org</a>
11	Mary Mills	1777 West Main St Franklin 37064 TN	794-2270	
11	Russell S. Little	P.O. Box 826 Franklin 37065 TN	794-4696	<a href="mailto:russl@williamson-tn.org">russl@williamson-tn.org</a>
12	Steve Smith	628 Watson Branch Drive Franklin 37064 TN	794-9515	
12	Doug Langston	708 Sugar Tree Lane Franklin 37064 TN	790-0729	<a href="mailto:dougl@williamson-tn.org">dougl@williamson-tn.org</a>
	Rogers Anderson	County Mayor	790-5700	<a href="mailto:countymayor@williamson-tn.org">countymayor@williamson-tn.org</a>

# A Petition to Save the Battlefield at BGA

In Williamson County, Tennessee

To County Mayor Rogers Anderson and the Williamson County Commission  
and to

Director of Schools Rebecca Sharber and the Williamson County Board of  
Education

We, the undersigned, request that the Williamson County Government and the Williamson County Board of Education build no new buildings or parking areas on the county-owned Battle Ground Academy property just south of the Historic Carter House, and in the heart of the Franklin Battlefield.

We further request that our Williamson County government publicly and actively join with local preservation groups, the City of Franklin, and national preservation groups to preserve the few Civil War Battlefield parcels remaining in Williamson County, including the Battle Ground Academy property.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Phone/Email</u>	<u>I have visited Williamson Co.</u>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
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To print additional copies and for more information to go to: [www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

Mail to: Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc  
PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## 140<sup>th</sup> Battle of Franklin DVD Available

We now have available the "Battle of Franklin – Five Hours in the Valley of Death" DVD made during the 140<sup>th</sup> Battle of Franklin Reenactment last Oct 1-2-3, 2004 at Rippavilla in Spring Hill. The main program is 65 minutes with 12 chapters. Speciality footage, after-dark action, and scenes taped on the Franklin battlefield around the Carter House add realism and authenticity to this first class production of Wide Awake Films.

Three added bonus segments include battle vistas of all three reenactment days including candid crowd shots on the midway, a short update on preservation activities at Franklin, and a narration by our own Thomas Cartwright who is Director at the Carter House and a frequent guest historian on the History Channel.

**Order at STFB**

**PO Box 851**

**Franklin, TN 37065-0851**

**Price is \$25 each DVD plus \$4 S&H for the order.**

## News In Review

**'Battle for Nashville' gives history, poignant battle stories — *The Tennessean* — 7/18/05 — NASHVILLE** — The hour-long documentary, *The Battle For Nashville*, tells more than the story of the two-day battle. It sets the war against a framework of politics and economics, from the early 1850s to the disintegration of the Confederate Army of Tennessee near Tupelo, Mississippi. The DVD is now available at historic-site gift shops, Stones River National Battlefield and at Davis-Kidd Booksellers.

**Historic group opposes moving school to old campus — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 7/18/05 — FRANKLIN** — A battlefield preservation group opposes plans by Williamson Co. Schools to renovate Peoples Hall on the former BGA site because they fear the work would essentially construct a new building on what is considered core battlefield ground. "The thing we keep forgetting is that's the heart of the Franklin battlefield," said Sam Huffman, treasurer of Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc. "The citizens of Williamson Co. own it. The citizens should be consulted by the county to see if they want to have it destroyed and have a county campus put on it."

**Franklin's Charge account sufficient to buy land — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 7/19/05 — FRANKLIN** — A new \$150,000 grant from the Washington, DC-based Civil War Preservation Trust will give local preservationist group Franklin's Charge enough money to meet its \$2.5 million fundraising goal for helping purchase the Country Club of Franklin. This money would be paired with an additional \$2.5 million in public funds city leaders have recently finalized in allocating to buy the roughly 110-acre golf course for \$5 million from Washington businessman Rod Heller.

**New tourism director to promote county from 'Brentwood to Burwood' — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 7/28/05 — FRANKLIN** — Seeking to capitalize on the county's historic sites, the Williamson Co. Convention & Visitors Bureau has created a position dedicated solely to selling local history to visitors. Deborah Warnick has been named to the part-time heritage tourism position. Her job will

be to promote the county's historic and cultural offerings, giving visitors a better reason to extend their stay through different themed tours.

**Franklin wants City Hall in antebellum courthouse — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 7/29/05 — FRANKLIN** — Franklin's Mayor Tom Miller sent County Mayor Rogers Anderson a letter specifically outlining the city's interest in leasing the historic courthouse building as well as proposing the exchange of several other properties. Miller outlined the city's interest in transferring ownership of the Franklin Springs property to the county. The idea would be that the city would receive from the county ownership of the Five Points Post Office, the jail properties between First and Second avenues on Bridge Street and the former 4-H barn on Eddy Lane. The former 4-H barn is adjacent to Fort Granger, and use of that property could provide better access to that park, City Administrator Jay Johnson said.

**Future of old BGA campus could be left to public — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 7/29/05 — FRANKLIN** — A group of county leaders would like a professional facilitator to work with the public on determining future uses for the old BGA campus on Columbia Avenue. Members of the county's Property Committee hope a facilitator would take information from the public about possible uses for the site, then distill that into recommendations about what's best for the abandoned, county-owned buildings. While county school officials plan to convert People's Hall into space for Middle College classes, the STFB preservation group now opposes that plan, saying the renovation would essentially create a new building on the battlefield. The school's site is on core battlefield land along Columbia Ave. where the Battle of Franklin was waged Nov. 30, 1864.

**Former BGA building up for debate again — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/9/05 — FRANKLIN** — Williamson Co. Schools will officially submit a budget resolution to fund the renovation of Peoples Hall on the old BGA campus into a space for Middle College High School to the County Commission in September once the school board votes on the resolution next week. If approved, the resolution would pay for the \$1.7 million renovation entirely from the system's budget, allowing Middle College—the county's non-traditional high school—to be moved from its current location on the campus of Nashville State Community College to Franklin. That would conceivably happen even as the county's Property Committee seeks help to develop a plan for the entire historic BGA campus and as a battlefield preservation group apparently prepares to fight the Peoples Hall project.

**Civil War-era shell found in Stonehenge garden — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 8/12/05 — BRENTWOOD** — A Stonehenge homeowner, who was digging in the garden, hit a metal object and unearthed an unexploded Civil War-era Hotchkiss round. Exactly how the shell got into someone's backyard garden is anybody's guess. But both the Confederate and Union armies used Franklin Road as a route between Franklin and Nashville. There were also quite a few skirmishes in the area. One such skirmish happened in December 1862 near where Stonehenge is today. Several rounds of cannon fire were exchanged between Union forces on Franklin road and the Confederates near Holly Tree Gap.



# 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	
	<b>NEW!!</b> ~ Battle of Franklin Map ~ laminated & in full color	\$6.00	
	<b>NEW!!</b> ~ "Battle of Franklin - Five Hours in the Valley of Death" DVD	\$25.00	
	"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	
	Cleburne or Forrest Prints, signed by the artist (circle one ~ or <b>both for \$30</b> )	\$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.

August 2005

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



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