



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

November 2005

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

On the heels of our Collins' Farm mortgage burning, we will celebrate again this month with the demolition of the Pizza Hut and the purchase of 112 acres of core battlefield on the Eastern Flank, on November 30th, the anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

The celebrations are a chance to “pat ourselves on the back” for the years of determined work educating, raising awareness, and tolling the bell for the need to preserve the Franklin Battlefield. They are also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to continue our efforts to identify, purchase, and reclaim other parcels of this battlefield, and the other battlefields of Williamson County—Brentwood, Thompson's Station, and West Harpeth.

The support you have shown, through your membership, donations, and participation, has been the key to the successes we celebrate this month.

Future generations of Americans who come to Franklin will have hallowed ground to stand upon and contemplate the momentous events of November 30, 1864... and I know they will marvel in wonder over the committed people who made it so.

Joe Smyth

BOF Anniversary Events...

On November 30th, the 141st anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, there will be events throughout the day to celebrate the great and historic strides being made in preserving the battlefield.

At 11 a.m., the City of Franklin and Mayor Tom Miller will hold a ceremony and begin demo-

lition of the infamous Pizza Hut on Columbia Pike. As you all know, the Pizza hut has long been a lightning rod nationally for the need to preserve the Franklin Battlefield. No longer will it grace the pages of National Geographic.

At 4 p.m. the City of Franklin will hold a closing ceremony for the 112-acre Eastern Flank property. This property has been purchased with your donations, matching those of other private citizens, Franklin's Charge, the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, and the American Battlefield Preservation Program, and many others. The event will be held on the former golf course on Lewisburg Pike.

Also at 4 p.m., Thomas Cartwright, eminent historian at The Carter House, will hold his annual memorial march from Winstead hill to The Carter House. This is a very moving experience, as those of you who have participated in previous years know.

Finally, the esteemed Ed Bearss and Jim Lighthizer, President of the Civil War Preservation Trust, will be in town and speaking at Historic Carnton Plantation.

All these events are free and open to the public. For last minute schedule updates and questions, please call the STFB office at (615) 500-6612.

These victories have come through long years of raising awareness for the need to preserve the Franklin Battlefield. As members of STFB, you have been instrumental in creating these successes, and we hope you can come to Franklin and enjoy your celebration

Everyone here at STFB would like to wish you and yours the Happiest of Holiday wishes.



Marchers descend the hill on their way to Collin's Farm.

2005 Preservation March Update

In the predawn darkness of Saturday Oct 22, a small group of dedicated volunteer re-enactors huddled around a truck tailgate for donuts and hot coffee in preparation for the 15 mile march to Franklin. Each represented a state that had troops at Franklin on one side or the other. Each marcher had found per-mile sponsors for their march miles as they retraced the route of both armies just prior to the terrible Battle of Franklin on Nov 30, 1864.

This was the fourth time STFB has sponsored a Preservation March for Franklin. The money raised in prior years was used to pay down the mortgage on Collins Farm that STFB bought in 2001. Since the property was paid off last June (HOORAY), the funds raised in the 2005 march will be used to make repairs the Collins Farm House which was damage during a storm last February.

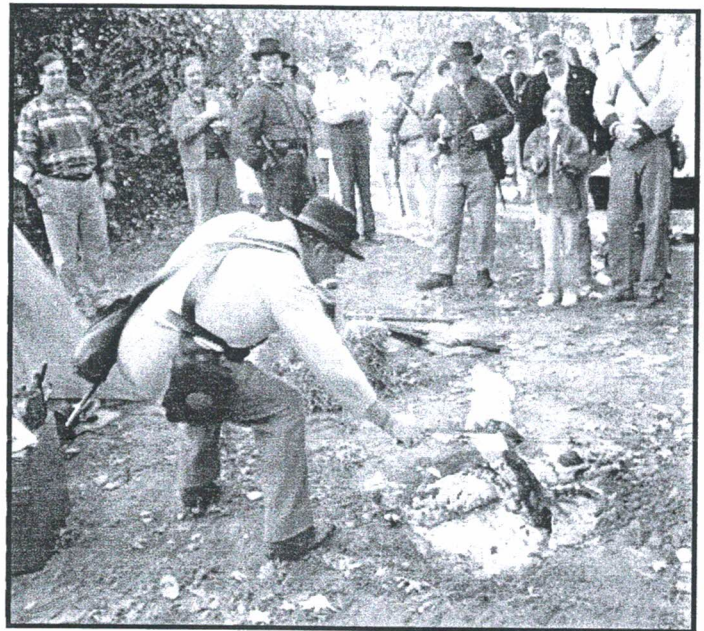
We have tallied the sponsor donations as of November 9, 2005 and the Preservation Marcher have raised:

Confederate Marchers	\$3,751
Federal Marchers	\$4,059
 Total	 \$7,810

We expect additional sponsor donations over the next month or so, and will additionally receive

\$3,000 in matching grants from companies that match employee donations to non-profit groups such as STFB. For the current march totals by state, or if you still need to get your sponsor donation to us, see www.franklin-stfb.org/march05.htm

The March ended at Collins Farm, where the Marchers were greeted by Franklin's Mayor Tom Miller, STFB Officers, the visiting public, and an encampment of re-enactors. After refreshments and brief congratulatory comments by the Mayor and others, the Collins Farm mortgage was bayoneted by STFB Board Member Bobby Hargrove and

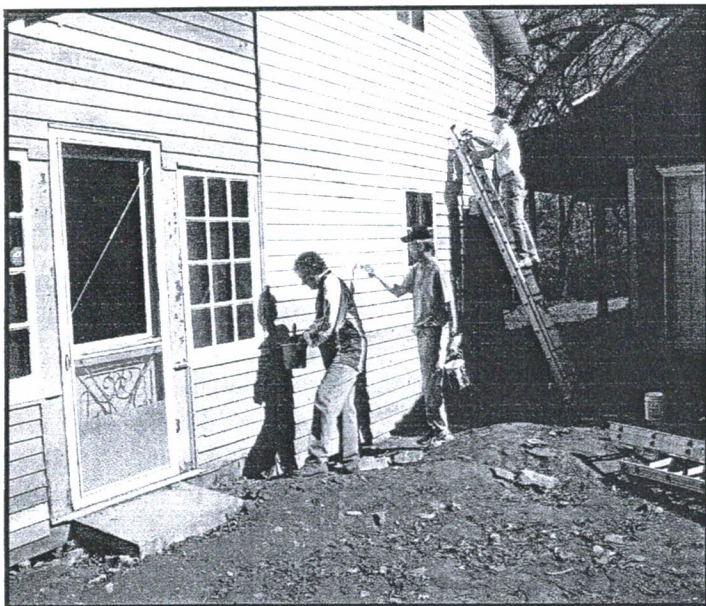


The celebrated event "The mortgage burning"

Peninsula CWRT Buys Chunk of Golf Course

Long-time STFB member Gary Yee of San Francisco wrote last month to pass along good news. The Peninsula CWRT has made a donation to the Civil War Preservation Trust sufficient to buy ¼ acre of the Franklin golf course for a battlefield park. He further reports that CWRT member Jack Leathers had proposed the idea to the group, and that the motion passed with nary a nay.

STFB's battlefield projects have been favored often by Gary and the Peninsula CWRT over the years. We hope Gary and other CWRT members can be here for the November 30 celebration of the purchase of the golf course.



Winterizing has begun on the Collin's Farm-house. Loyal STFB members don the paint brushes and caulking guns.



STFB Inc., 2005 Annual Meeting

On November 13, 2005, Joe Smyth, STFB President, called to order the Annual Membership Meeting of Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.

Sam Huffman, STFB Treasurer, reported on the 2005 activities. These included the February 21 Collins' Farm destruction, Franklin's Charge breakfast, Arbor Day Federal encampment at Pinkerton

Park-Ft. Granger, Carnton/Franklin's Charge celebration, the October 21 Preservation March, Collins' Farm winterization, monthly Newsletter publication, an average of one group workday per month with many individuals working additional days, and the November 30 Piazza Hut and Country Club transfer.

Sam Gant, STFB Secretary, conducted the election of the Board of Directors. After Briefly discussing the October 10, 2005, Amended By-Laws noting that officers of the organization now are to be elected by their fellow Board members, he placed for approval by the assembled membership a slate of current Board members. Board members Suzanne Burns, Harold McMurtry, Joe Smyth and Mike Walker whose terms expire in 2005 have consented to nomination for another three-year term on the STFB Board of Directors, the term ending in 2008, Their names were placed in nomination. They were approved by acclamation.

Joe Smyth acknowledged the service of STFB Board member David Fraley who has served as long-time Board member and in recent years as vice president. At the November Board meeting, David announced his resignation from the Board effective November 13, 2005, citing his commitment to an extremely heavy workload as necessitating his resignation.

Joe Smyth introduced Rick Warwick, Williamson County historian and newly-appointed member of the Tennessee Historical Commission as the keynote speaker for the 2005 STFB Annual Membership Meeting.

Rick Warwick discussed and presented maps on the Civil War era topography of Carnton Plantation's McGavock's Grove (Country Club of Franklin site) and gave information about the September 15, 1892, Confederate Reunion. This reunion took place at McGavock's Grove "where the battle was fought—the trees still bearing scars of the battle." He also gave a great deal of information related to the restoration of the battlefield park. At the end of the discussion, Joe Smyth expressed appreciation to Rick Warwick for his presentation and presented him with a token of this appreciation.

Joe Smyth thanked the audience for attending the Annual Meeting and invited STFB members to attend monthly STFB Board meetings. He then adjourned the meeting.

News In Review

Your Voices: Much to be preserved in WILLIAMSON COUNTY — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 10/16/05 — FRANKLIN — Local preservation efforts have tended to be Franklin-oriented, but Williamson County has other history beyond its county seat. Are there things and places in other parts of the county that should receive the same type of attention that the Franklin battlefield and Harlinsdale Farm have received? Should they receive the same attention from preservation groups and municipalities? What would you recommend for consideration for preservation?

Franklin signs contract to by country club land — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 10/16/05 — FRANKLIN — A contract for the sale of the Country Club of Franklin to the city for eventual use as a Civil War Battle field park was approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen last week. The contract is set to be signed on Nov. 30, the 141st anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. The property is considered the Eastern Flank of the battle.

Renovations to Peoples Hall to begin immediately — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 10/20/05 — FRANKLIN — Renovations to Peoples Hall on the former Battle Ground Academy campus will start immediately to make room for about 150 Middle College High School students in April. The project includes update to 11 classrooms and the basement, a new roof, a new heating and air-conditioning system. Sidewalks will be updated to make them wheelchair accessible. The building's exterior will not change, short of replacing some windows, Kevin Fortney, Williamson County Schools facilities and operations director, said. There also will be no need to add parking.

Old BGA will likely revert o a school again — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 10/28/05 — FRANKLIN — Rather than turn the site into a memorial for the soldiers who died there at the 1864 Battle of Franklin, as had been pushed by Civil War activists and preservationists, members of the county Property Committee recommended a use more in line with recent history—as a school. Property Committee members worked from the draft of a resolution by Commissioner Tom Moon to come up with a plan that would convert the old school's gymnasiums for use by the county's Parks & Recreation Department. The abandoned educational buildings would be retained for use by the county school dis-

trict. In a separate resolution, committee members also approved the sale of the five historic Everbright houses near the old BGA campus as surplus county property to be sold at auction.

Country Club of Franklin closes today — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 10/30/05 — FRANKLIN — After months of discussion, the club's management contract expires tomorrow and was not renewed by its owner, Washington, D.C., businessman Rod Heller. On Nov. 30, the 141st anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, a ceremony will be held where the deed to the land will be turned over to the city.

Pizza Hut destruction will commemorate battle — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 11/1/05 — FRANKLIN — Mayor Tom Miller wants a spectacle on Nov. 30 to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. “I want it dramatic,” Miller said. “I want a bulldozer up there and run it into the building. That is also the easiest way to do it.” Doing that culminates months of work and money, namely the \$300,000 the city spent to buy the property earlier this year and would effectively rid the city of a symbol that local and national preservationists viewed as a disgrace.

Stoic oak finally succumbs on West Main — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 11/11/05 — FRANKLIN — A large, storied red oak believed to be 400 years old crashed to the ground Wednesday in its West Min Street yard. The tree, which stood in the yard of Bertha Maye Gathmann and her daughter, Rita Gathmann, is said to have been used as a Union outpost during the 1864 Battle of Franklin. Local lore has it that Hardin Figuers, 15, watched the battle from the tree.

Deadline arrives for half the battlefield money — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 11/15/05 — FRANKLIN — On the day half the \$5 million needed for the city's purchase of the Country Club of Franklin comes due, negotiations are still ongoing between city officials and land owner Rod Heller about terms of the deal. A closing date of Nov. 30, which is the 141st anniversary of the bloody Battle of Franklin, is still the date that Heller's attorney Brad Reed said his client wants. However, Reed said it's “not a magic date.” Heller, who is a Washington, D. C., Businessman, remains “optimistic” about closing on Nov. 30 and added that he knew of “no major issues” surrounding the deal.

Ancient Battlefield Tree Demise

By Gregory L. Wade

Franklin, TN-A red oak tree, estimated to be over 400 years old, finally gave in to age and gravity in Franklin, Tennessee. The giant tree, located just yards away from the location of the Union lines during the November 1864 battle, recently fell barely missing the pre War home, known as Boxmere, it stood in front of. Boxmere had served as the headquarters of Union General William Grose of Kimball's Division during the Battle.

According to an article by Hardin P. Figuers in the January 1915 issue of the *Confederate Veteran*, the tree became a convenient lookout post for Figuers, then a youth, to observe the battle. According to Thomas Cartwright of the Carter House Museum in Franklin, this would have been a great place to observe the Confederate left in it's ill fated attack on the Union lines. "The tree, known locally as the Figuers tree, was only a few hundred feet from the Union lines. Hardin would have had a great view of not only that area but most of the battlefield."

In the article Figuers gives a vivid account of the battle. "I spent the entire afternoon upon the top of the barn, a woodshed, in a tree top, and other high places, seeing all that could be seen." Figuers writes that "the bullets were flying and whizzing around everywhere... I concluded I was as liable to be hit as a soldier, and I retreated to the cellar."

Cartwright said, "As far as I know it is the oldest tree on the battlefield. It was already old when the Battle took place." He noted, "Most of the big trees had been cut down by Union troops to use as firewood so this tree was very unusual." He added the tree had been causing city officials concern for some time due to its poor condition. Fortunately for the Boxmere house and local residents, it caused no damage or injuries when it fell.

NPS To Study Battlefields in Williamson County

The 11/18/05 Tennessean reports that the National Park Service may examine local battlefield sites. Congress has approved unspecified funds for a three-year park feasibility study. The STFB web site has a link to the full article

New & Renewing Members October 2005

James Addicott	Rice MN
Kurt & Donna Amacher	Vesuvius VA
Kathy Bickerstaff	Bartlett TN
Robert Boyda	Lyndhurst OH
John Chaballa	Franklin TN
Terry Coats	Goodlettsville TN
Chad Comer	Gamaliel KY
Jim & Ellen Coulter	Pittsfield MA
Alan Davis	San Francisco CA
James Galloway	Nashville TN
Elizabeth Gerber	San Francisco CA
Dee Hooker	Madison WI
Sam Huffman	Brentwood TN
Hal Joerin	Southfield MI
Nick Kaup	Wilmette IL
Jack Leebron	Franklin TN
Kyle Maxwell	Thompsons Station TN
Don & Annie Miller	New Castle IN
Bill Nolen	Niles OH
Ken & Nancy Noller	Riverside CA
Mary Ann Peckham	Reliance TN
Joel Powers	Elizabeth NJ
Jeff Rector	Columbia TN
Herschel & Pam Smith	Celebration FL
Thomas M Thomson	Montgomery AL
Johnnie & Carolyn Williams	Greenbrier TN
Greg Yackel	West Saint Paul MN
Mark Zimmerman	Antioch TN

STFB Support of Franklins Charge Grows

For the past year, STFB members have been raising and donating funds to STFB for the purchase of the Franklin Country Club Golf. These funds go toward the \$2.5 million from private sources needed to meet the \$2.5 million committed by the City of Franklin for the purchase of this future Battlefield Park.

To date, STFB members have donated a total of \$22,900 to STFB for the purchase. This money has been transferred to Franklins Charge which is coordinating the fund-raising of all 8 member organizations of Franklins Charge. These include Carter House, Carnton Plantation, Heritage Foundation, Williamson County Historical, the African American Museum, and several others. Another \$5,000+ has been pledged to STFB..

National fund-raising by the Civil War Preservation Trust, a few major donors, and grants by the American Battlefield Protection Program are also providing major portions of the \$2.5 million match.

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	
	NEW!! ~ "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	
	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.

NOVEMBER 2005

www.franklin-stfb.org

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