



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

December 2005

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

Dear STFB member—

What an exciting two months it has been. Our Preservation March; the Collins' Farm payoff celebration; the final negotiations and fundraising for the Eastern Flank property; the Pizza Hut demolition; the anniversary of the battle; the annual Civil War show in Nashville; and now the commitment of federal dollars to study civil war sites in Williamson County—wow! We've been pinching ourselves and each other just to make sure we've not been dreaming.

In the music business (with which I'm well acquainted), you work hard for years to one day wake up as an "overnight sensation." Similarly, folks like you have worked long and hard for years to make Franklin into an "overnight" success story. Enjoy the well-deserved applause.

STFB and Franklin's Charge are forging ahead in the final days of 2005 with a goal of raising \$100,000, which will be effectively matched one-to-one by both the CWPT and Rod Heller, the seller of the country club property. For those of you who still want to make an end-of-year gift, you still have time to do it! Send your donation to STFB and earmark it for "Franklin's Charge." Remember that every dollar is tripled in these final days of 2005.

Finally, I hope you and yours have a safe, warm, and meaningful Holiday Season, and very best of New Years. See you in 2006!

Joe Smyth

The 141st Anniversary Battle of Franklin March from Winstead Hill

Each year I, along with many others from this

area, look forward to the annual historic march from Winstead Hill on November 30th. As everyone who is familiar with the Battle of Franklin knows, this was the date in 1864 (in late afternoon) that the Army of Tennessee under General John B. Hood marched into a "Valley of Death." Hood would lose approximately 8,000 men from his command. Also, the greatest number of Confederate generals would be lost in this 5-hour battle.

This November 30th was a great day of victory for preservation. The Pizza Hut was demolished; the signing of the purchase for the 112-acre tract at Carnton took place; the parade was one of the best attended. Mr. Ed Bearss chief historian, emeritus, for the National Park Service led the parade. Close to 100 people attended, which included about 20 in Confederate and Union uniforms. We all celebrated the wonderful afternoon walk that ended in the Carter House yard at dusk, 141 years after the battle. People from several states were there, and a great number of young people attended.

Thanks to everyone who came, participated, and witnessed the events of the day. Thanks to Thomas Cartwright for his continued support and for organizing the parade.

Breaking News...

On December 1st, President Bush signed into law legislation that will begin a study of Civil War sites in Williamson County, Tennessee, and the feasibility of incorporating them into the National Parks System. The legislation was sponsored and introduced by Representatives Marsha Blackburn and Lincoln Davis. The bill passed by unanimous consent in both the House and Senate before going to the president for his approval.



Mayor Miller among many esteemed guests starts the demolition with a hand tool,...next, maneuvers the track-hoe to remove the roof... Approx. 200 elated onlōokers from across the nation attended the event

The Pizza Hut is Gone

At 10:30 Wednesday morning, November 30, 2005, Franklin Mayor Tom Miller hosted a special event to demolish the Pizza Hut on Columbia Avenue in Franklin near the Carter House. The City had recently purchased the corner lot for \$300,000 which is near the main Federal trench line and near the place where Patrick Cleburne fell during the 1864 battle.

A large and jubilant crowd estimated at 200 heard comments by Mayor Miller, National Park Service Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss, Carter House Executive Director Thomas Cartwright, Congressman Lincoln Davis, and CWPT President Jim Lighthizer before the demolition began. The crowd included representatives from the state legislature, the Tennessee Historic Commission, and all of the state and local preservation groups – and STFB members Nell Harvey of Sacramento, CA and Betty Stephens of Pryor, OK who had made a special effort to be in Franklin for this event. We had notes beforehand from STFB members in Illinois, Alabama, and Indiana who planned to be here as well but in the rush and clamor we didn't get to meet them.

The morning was crisp and sunny, not unlike the day of the battle 141 years ago, as Mayor Miller hefted the 10 pound sledgehammer to strike the brick veneer. After he and others took their symbolic turns, without notable effect, Thomas Cartwright stepped forward. With a powerful John-Henry-like stroke witnessed by the cheering crowd, Thomas smote the brick wall a mighty blow sufficient to punch a hole completely through it. More loud cheers and applause. Thomas was not the only attendee with misy eyes.

Mayor Miller then climbed into the drivers seat of a tracked backhoe-like machine and made several destructive swipes that began the actual demolition of the building. By sunset, the building was essentially down and removed.



Franklin Plans for Harlinsdale

The City of Franklin has completed planning for use of the 200 Acre Harlinsdale Farm which the city purchased for use as a passive park. While many know of Harlinsdale as the birthplace of the Tennessee Walking Horse, the property was also the site of intense fighting during the "Third Battle of Franklin" on December 17, 1864 during Hood's retreat after the Battle of Nashville. Located north of downtown Franklin and between Franklin Road and the Harpeth River, here a desperate rear-guard defense was mounted to prevent destruction of the fleeing Confederate Army by the rapidly advancing Federals.

Plans for the property include maintaining it as green space, with a museum commemorating its history of horse breeding. A conservation easement is planned to assure future preservation of the property. During the city's planning process, STFB, Inc. has been active in researching and presenting the Civil War significance of the property and is currently engaged in designing appropriate signage to be placed on site.

Many accounts of the action which give an idea of the ferocity of the fighting:

"To describe a real cavalry charge, however, where sabers are crossed and skulls are cleaved, as was the case at Franklin on the 17th inst., and do it justice, is impossible..." - NINTH CAVALRY: One Hundred and Twenty-first Regiment Indiana Volunteers, essay by former Captain O.B. Hayden, Company D, 1890

"We were formed across the pike about one mile north of Franklin to await the arrival of the enemy, and we had not long to wait until three regiments of (Hammond's) Brigade of Indianians came in sight. As we were so inferior in point of numbers, they did not deem it necessary to form line of battle; but came at us with drawn sabers by fours and sections of eight, one column keeping the pike and one regiment on either side, about fifty yards apart." - article titled "Gallant Col. William F. Taylor", by Capt. W. A. Polk, Corsicana, Texas, as published in "Confederate Veteran" magazine, Volume XVI [1908], #3 [March], page 124-125

"I was again placed in position in an earthwork 1,000 yards from Harpeth River [north], and before any instructions reached me our cavalry stampeded. The enemy, 5,000 strong, charged in three columns, with squadrons covering the intervening ground and connecting them - one in front, one in rear upon the left flank, and one in rear upon the right flank." - Official Report of Brig. Gen. Randall L. Gibson, C.S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations December 15 - 17, 1864, Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Volume XLV, Part I



Mayor Tom Miller and Country Club of Franklin property owner Rod Heller shake hands after signing the contract to sell the property to the City of Franklin on Nov. 30th 2005.

But More Good News

On November 22, Franklins Charge officers signed the financing contracts with our sponsoring banks for the 112 acre golf course purchase as a City Park. The National Parks Service and the Civil War Preservation Trust each provided \$500,000 as part of the \$2.5 million match to the City's \$2.5 million. The bank loan covers the donor pledges that Franklins Charge that will receive as donations in future years.

As November 30 approached, it appeared the contract between the seller and the City of Franklin was bogged in details and wordsmithing that might delay the signing until late December. But early Wednesday morning, prior to the Pizza Hut celebration, Rod Heller, the seller from Washington DC, and the city officials got all the final contract details settled, after much hard work, and both parties signed the contract in the presence of the Pizza Hut crowd. What a stunning surprise... truly unbelievable.

At the close of his comments, Mayor Tom Miller said that this day marked just the beginning of battlefield reclamation efforts in Franklin. He gave no details - but stay tuned - watch this space.

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Much of the crowd gathered at 6:30 Wednesday evening at Carnton Plantation for a candlelight reception to thank and recognize Rod Heller, the many private donors, CWPT guests, and city officials. Carnton Plantation Executive Director Angela Calhoun, Jim Lighthizer, Ed Bearss, and 'Widow of the South' author Robert Hicks all spoke briefly with their observations of the day's events, and the hard work leading to this day. It was truly a day to remember. Everyone there understood that we weren't just preserving history, together we were making preservation history.

News In Review

Old BGA site will keep campus status — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 11/17/05 — FRANKLIN — After years of discussion and inactivity, Williamson County leaders took two steps forward this week toward establishing the future of the old Battle Ground Academy campus. First, commissioners approved selling five historic houses on Everbright Avenue as surplus. Also, the site's future use will remain tied to education, as commissioners approved a schematic plan calling for such.

National Park service may examine local battle sites — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 11/18/05 — FRANKLIN — The creation of a Williamson County national battlefield park moved closer to becoming a reality yesterday with the unanimous congressional approval of a three-year feasibility study by the National Park Service. Though Franklin has garnered most of the attention for its recent battlefield reclamation efforts, the study would also include sites relating to the Battle of Franklin located throughout the county ranging from Brentwood, Spring Hill, Thompson's Station and Triune.

Good guys, bad guys — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 11/27/05 — FRANKLIN — As the profile of the 1864 Battle of Franklin rises with efforts to establish a battlefield park and preserve important sites, family conversations about who were the good guys and who were the bad guys could become more prevalent across the county. It used to be that everyone in Franklin

was from Franklin, but that's changed, in turn changing the way local schoolchildren relate to the Civil War.

Country club ceremony is off, but old Pizza Hut will fall — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 11/27/05 — FRANKLIN — The sale of the Country Club of Franklin to the city for future use as a battlefield park won't get a ceremony on the 141st anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. But preservationists can cheer as Mayor Tom Miller says he personally plans to drive a bulldozer into the former Pizza Hut at 1259 Columbia Ave. as part of a public celebration of the purchase of the site.

Group reaches goal for battlefield purchase — *The Tennessean*, "Williamson A.M." — 11/27/05 — FRANKLIN — Franklin's Charge, a coalition of nonprofit historic fundraising groups, announced last week that it had officially completed arrangements to fund \$2.5 million toward the city's purchase of the Country Club of Franklin. Part of that funding come from an additional \$100,000 above the \$400,000 initially pledged by the Civil War Preservation Trust, a Washington, D.C.-based Civil War group, toward the project. All told, the group secured \$1 million in combined commitments from both the Civil War Preservation Trust and the American Battlefield Protection Program, which is a program of the National Park Service.

Franklin reclaims part of battlefield — *The Tennessean* — 12/1/05 — FRANKLIN — When the metal arm of the trackhoe driven by Franklin Mayor Tom Miller plunged through the roof of what had long been a Pizza Hut yesterday, it scattered roofing shingles, lumber and bricks to loud approval from a crowd of about 200. The land where the pizza restaurant once stood earlier this year, will be converted to a park to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died there during the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin. The occasion served as a display of political might on the part of preservationists on Franklin's Board of Mayor and Aldermen. For some, including many in the national preservationist community, the gesture serves as a sign that Franklin is changing its image as a city that

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had forsaken its Civil War heritage.

Pizza Hut land not end of effort — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 12/1/05 — FRANKLIN — The destruction of the former Pizza Hut on Columbia Avenue, where some of the fiercest fighting during the Battle of Franklin occurred, is not the last battlefield reclamation work ahead for the city, Franklin Mayor Tom Miller said yesterday. But when that happens and how much it will cost still remains to be seen. “Everything along Columbia Avenue would be considered core battlefield. It’s something we have an interest in,” Miller said later in an interview. “But when the

Yellow flags denote buildings used as field hospitals — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 12/1/05 — FRANKLIN — “During the Battle of Franklin there were over 10,000 casualties, according to the congressional report,” said Mary Pearce, executive director of the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. “There were about 3,600 people living in Franklin during the time of the battle, and every building pretty much standing of any size was used as a field hospital.” On Wednesday, the yellow and green flags went up again outside the 39 buildings still standing that were once used as makeshift hospitals during the battle.

Preservationists work to pay off Nashville battle site — *The Tennessean* — 12/1/05 — NASHVILLE — This December, members of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society hope to be one step closer in preserving Shy’s Hill which sits untouched by commercial or residential development amid one of the most prosperous areas of Nashville. Money raised in the December funds drive will go toward paying off the \$55,000 debt and improvements and preservation of Shy’s Hill. The society wants to improve the trails, install monuments at the top, install viewing sheds and a platform that could hold 30 to 50 people.

Battlefield park conservation plan under review — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 12/12/05 — FRANKLIN — After weeks of work, the conservation easement crafted by attorneys for the city of Franklin and Rod Heller, Country Club of Franklin and Rod Heller, Country

Club of Franklin owner, is finished and an initial draft is under review by officials at the state Historical Commission, who must ultimately approve it. The easement calls for a number of things, including: -A historic restoration plan -Land restored to “resemble the condition” at the time of the battle -“Archeologically significant” finds must be left undisturbed -Roadways no wider than two lanes -Limited crop production.

New contract for country club purchase passed — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 12/15/05 — FRANKLIN — Mayor Tom Miller got a 6-1 vote from Board of Mayor and Aldermen members of approval Tuesday on the new contract and the conservation easement that protects that land. The board officially signed off on a contract in October calling for the sale of the 110-acre property for use by the city as a battlefield park to commemorate the Battle of Franklin.

*May we always remember those past,
present and future... that have the courage
to fight for what they believe in....
for those that have sacrificed their lives
for a better life for all... and for all that
believe what we can dare to dream, can
become reality.*

New & Renewing Members Nov. 2005

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Betty Callis | Hendersonville TN |
| Cameron & Kristine Close | Newark OH |
| Kathy Davis | Eules TX |
| Miles Ezell | Nashville TN |
| Scott Felix | Alum Bank PA |
| Bobby Hargrove | Franklin TN |
| Katy & Bob Lawson | Franklin TN |
| David Little | Bloomington IN |
| Kathleen Mizzi | White Lake MI |
| Nick Norwood | Minor Hill TN |
| Joe Red | Antioch TN |
| John & Teresa Rutledge | Franklin TN |
| Joseph & Elaine Smyth Jr | Cumberland ME |
| Dick Staley | Diamond Bar CA |
| Greg Starbuck | Lynchburg VA |
| Jack & Betty Stephens | Pryor OK |

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 | |
| | <i>Cleburne or Forrest</i> 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.

DECEMBER 2005

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



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