



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

OCTOBER 1995

Lotz House *War between the States and Old West Museum*

The Lotz House was completed in 1858 by Albert Lotz who along with his wife, Margaretha, were German immigrants. Mr. Lotz was a furniture and piano maker. His handy work can be seen throughout the house in the decorative woodwork above the windows, columns, and doorways. You can also see some beautiful woodwork on the newel and banister along with the fireplace mantels. The property that the house sits on was purchased from Fountain Branch Carter in 1856.

During the bloody Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, the Lotz's, with their three children, sought refuge in the basement of the Carter House with the Carter family. As the battle raged, the Confederate soldiers broke through the Union line of defense where Columbia Pike passed through. There was fierce hand to hand combat all along this point. When Union Col. Emerson Opdyke saw the breach in the Union lines, he and his men charged up the pike to stop the Confederate charge. Col. Opdyke and his men were held in reserve just north of the Carter House all around the Lotz House. Col. Opdyke and his men are credited with saving the Union Army by this act.

After the battle nearly every home in Franklin was used as a hospital; because of the huge numbers of wounded and dying men, we assume the Lotz house was used as one also. Unlike the Carter house, the Lotz house does not have any visible battle scars. We suppose this is because the owner was a wood worker and repaired the damage soon after the battle.

After the war, the economy was suffering and there was not much call for a furniture or piano maker around Franklin. During the hard reconstruction times the Lotz family sold their house and possessions and moved to California in 1870. The house has passed through several owners since the Lotz's owned it. It was used for a long time as a home for boarders until it was vacated in the late 1970s. And for several years the home was used by the Jaycees for a haunted house to raise money for their organization. In 1983 the home was renovated and used as office space until it was bought by Dan Clark in 1994.

The home has been renovated and includes two rooms upstairs that will be a period bedroom and parlor that features furnishings of the period along with civilian artifacts and images. Downstairs are two rooms that will be filled with War Between The States relics. Another room features Old West memorabilia including items from the Outlaws, Peace Keepers, and a huge collection of Indian War relics. There is also a gift shop.

The museum is open Monday to Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$1.50 for children 12 and under, and \$4.00 for senior citizens. You can call 615-791-6533 for further information on our collections.

Fighting On Our Land; "The Williamson Grays"

Across two miles of open land, south of the city of Franklin, Tennessee, on that now famous Indian Summer afternoon, November 30, 1864, marched what was the hope for the South, The Army of Tennessee.

Brown's division was on the left of Columbia Pike, Cleburne on the right. With Brown was "The Williamson Grays." These divisions were to be the first to come into action. They met Wagner's brigades and forced Wagner's men back to the Federal works at the home of Fountain Branch Carter. Brown's division was successful in over running the main works but was soon pushed back. Major General John Calvin Brown was wounded but lived to become, in 1871, Democratic Governor of Tennessee. Lost were all four of his brigade commanders. Killed were Gist and Strahl; Gordon was taken prisoner and Brigadier General John C. Carter was wounded and would die at the Harrison House 10 days later.

Brown's charge was the most successful but with a high rate of casualties. Again and again, the Army of Tennessee charged but was, because of the angle of the earthworks, caught in the crossfire. Hood would report, "Never did troops fight more gallantly" than at Franklin.

After their losses they marched toward Nashville. Brown's division was now under the leadership of Colonel Hume R. Field. The Confederate Army was about 23,000 and marching to face 70,000 plus Federal troops. They would fight on December 15 and 16 and the Federals would capture over 4,000 men.

"The Williamson Grays" was organized May 9, 1861, with 1,200 men on the roll of the 1st Tennessee. In April 1865 they were formed into the 1st Consolidated Regiment of Tennessee Infantry under General Joseph E. Johnston and numbered 125 officers and men at the surrender near Durham, NC on April 26. They were paroled at Greensboro, NC on May 1, 1865. They reached their state capital of Nashville, May 21, 1865 and would soon return to their loved ones and homes.

They had fought at Cheat Mountain, VA, Perryville, KY, Murfreesboro, TN, Chickamauga, GA, Missionary Ridge, TN, Kennesaw Mountain, GA, Franklin, TN, Nashville, TN and Bentonville, NC. Now they would face their last fight -- rebuilding their lives. Those who had fought under Forrest and Johnston now had a political war.

They were denied the right to vote, to serve in public office, or to participate in making laws by which they were governed. Titles to lands, which they owned, were in danger of being confiscated. Radicals in the legislature felt that all Confederate supporters were guilty of treason and should be punished harshly. Laws were passed that men recently discharged from the Union Army could carry fire-arms while ex-Confederates could not carry weapons to protect themselves.

Now their fight was to regain their rights. [E.J. Neeley]

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRANKLIN AREA

October 12, 1995 - 7:00 p.m.

Middle TN Civil War Round Table
at Choices Restaurant--Bennett Room
Guest Speaker: Dr. Bob Womack
Topic: "The Human Side of the Civil War in TN"
Call Steve Hardwick at 834-1126 for info.

October 26-27, 1995

Battlefield Conference; Franklin, Williamson
County Chamber of Commerce; Call 794-1225
or 1-800-356-3445 for details

FRANKLIN AREA

October 27-29, 1995

1864 Tennessee Campaign Re-enactment of the
Battles of Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville at
Spring Hill, TN. For information write to:
PO Box 159070, Nashville, TN 37215-9070

November 12, 1995 - 3:00 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church, Otey Hall, 510 West Main St.,
Franklin. Dr. Michael Bradley, guest speaker

Volunteer Opportunities -

There will be a table at the 1864 Tennessee Campaign reenactment to promote Save the Franklin Battlefield. Ten to twelve people are needed to volunteer to man the table for 2 hour shifts on Saturday, Oct. 28. Please call Lynne at 591-1774 or Sam Huffman at 370-3842, if interested.

In the event of rain, or other things falling from the sky, we could use a tent to go along with our table. If you have a period wall tent or large A-frame that we could use, please let us know.

We need someone to head up and serve on the refreshment committee for the Annual Membership Meeting. Again, call Lynne if you are interested at 591-1774.

Announcements and Additional Information

Two signed and numbered prints and several books have been given to STFB to pass on to our members. There will be a drawing for these items at the Annual Membership Meeting. To be eligible, you must have paid your 1996 dues. Why not take a few minutes now to mail in your 1996 renewal and be sure to get in on a chance for these wonderful items. Remember, memberships and donations are tax deductible.

Dr. Michael Bradley will be guest speaker at the Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, November 12. Mr. Bradley was born in 1940. His boyhood home on the Alabama-Tennessee state line area was filled with talkative old folks, and he grew up listening to their stories. He has recorded some of these stories in his books. He teaches history at Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma, TN and is a Presbyterian minister and writer. For an educational and enjoyable afternoon come to the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, November 12. We will meet at 3:00 p.m. in Otey Hall.

The 1864 Tennessee Campaign - The Battles of Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville

Plan now to attend the October 28 & 29, 1995 campaign to see history come alive!!

Cavalry battles will commence at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. The Battle of Franklin will start at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and The Battle of Nashville will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Period camps will open to the public at 9:00 a.m. each day. The events will also include period musicians and period church services Sunday morning. There will be artillery, cavalry, and infantry demonstrations, lectures and an authentic civilian refugee camp. The Carter House, Cotton Gin and Farm Office have been reproduced for the Battle of Franklin.

Tickets are \$8.00 per day and are available at the gate. Children under 12 are \$4.00 and under 6 years are free. No coolers, alcoholic beverages or pets are allowed. No refunds or rain checks. All proceeds will go to historic preservation efforts in the area.

DIRECTIONS: From I-65 take Exit #53, Saturn Parkway. Go west on Saturn Pkwy to Hwy 31 South (towards Columbia). Just 200 yds. or so down Hwy 31 on the left you will see a large period home. This is Rippavilla and the entrance to the site.

For more information and updates, call the "Battle Line" at 615-486-9037

