



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 1996

## DEDICATION OF HISTORIC MARKER AT FRANKLIN BREASTWORKS

Earlier this summer, **Save the Franklin Battlefield (STFB)** announced the placement and dedication of a historic marker on new State Highway 96-West between 9th and 11th Avenues North in Franklin at the location of some of the last remaining breastworks used during the Battle of Franklin. The dedication took place at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, June 30.

In making the announcement, **STFB** President Tom Van Dyke explained that these breastworks represent the last / best remaining examples of such structures behind which Federal forces sought protection from the advancing Confederate Army. "Breastworks are entrenchments fashioned from earth and logs with a ditch in the front and the rear," Van Dyke explained. "Earth was dug to form trenches on either side of the breastworks and the dirt was piled on both sides and on top of this structure. Finally, heavy logs were laid atop the structure below which a narrow space was cleared for infantrymen to fire through. In many cases the earthen parapets were five feet high and perhaps four or more feet thick with wide ditches two or three feet deep on either side," Van Dyke went on to say.

Thomas Cartwright, Military History Curator of Franklin's historic Carter House and Advisor to **STFB**, explained that on November 30, 1864, these breastworks were held by Grose's Brigade, Kimball's Division of the Fourth Corps, U. S. Army. "Commencing at around 5 p.m. the Brigade was twice attacked by two regiments of Finley's Florida Brigade, Confederate States Army, but they were driven back both times. Then, Chalmers' Division of Forrest's Cavalry made a final assault from the Northwest against the United States' forces. A Federal General called this assault, which was also repulsed, 'short but severe'," Cartwright said.

Ronny Mangrum, Director of the historic Lotz House Museum in Franklin and a member of the Board of Directors of **Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc.** stated that this is the first historic marker erected by the group. "This marker, and others similar to it that have been erected around the County by historical organizations including the Heritage Foundation, Williamson County Historical Society, Brentwood Historical Commission, Sons of Confederate Veterans and others, play an

important role in helping our citizens understand the life and times of the brave soldiers who fought on both sides in this most unfortunate war," Mangrum said.

In their prepared remarks at the dedication, speakers recalled the events of the battle, particularly the fighting that took place in and around these breastworks which were hastily constructed only hours prior to the fateful confrontation of November 30, 1864. Particular tributes were paid to Ms. Pam Lewis of PLA Media for her special gift that made the purchase of this marker possible; to Thomas Cartwright of Franklin's historic Carter House for his research and authorship of the inscription placed on the marker; and to James W. Hickman and his family for recognizing the historic significance of these breastworks and for preserving them for future generations. Appreciation was also extended to Rick Warwick and Ridley Wills of the Williamson County Historical Society for their partnership on this project.

**Save the Franklin Battlefield** is honored to be able to add this marker to the growing number of historical venues across Williamson County and our group plans to erect one or two additional markers as soon as sufficient funds are raised," stated Ronny Mangrum.

## IMPORTANT BOOK OFFERING

It was November, 1864 and Generals Hood and Schofield were fighting to outsmart one another along a line which is pretty well represented by today's U.S. Route 31, from Pulaski to Nashville. Neither Walter Winchel, Chet Huntley nor Peter Jennings were there to report on the action . . . but another reporter by the name of Levi T. Scofield, late Captain and Engineer Officer, 23rd Army Corps, was at the front.

This Scofield-of-a-different-spelling (than General John M. Schofield) recorded the sights and sounds of the action for posterity in his book entitled, *The Retreat From Pulaski to Nashville, Tenn.* Over the years this excellent first person account of the 1864 campaign in Middle Tennessee, has all but disappeared. But, not to worry! Ronny Mangrum, director of the Historic Lotz House Museum and a member of the **STFB** Board has located a copy of this rare work and has spearheaded its reprinting. It's a high quality reprint which

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## 1997 STFB MEMBERSHIP / UPDATE FORM

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(check one) ☐ \$12 / yr. Individual ☐ \$15 / yr. Family ☐ \$25 / yr. Corporate  
Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

**Save the Franklin Battlefield**  
PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

Does your mailing label have a 97 on it ??  
If not, help us get a jump on our next  
membership drive by sending 1997 dues to  
Lynn



includes all the photographs and sketches contained in the original publication and, since it focuses so much on the Battle of Franklin, it's a must-have for students of this battle," Mangrum emphasized.

As a special fund-raising project STFB is making a reprint of the book available to one and all. To order your copies of *Retreat From Pulaski To Nashville* send the enclosed order form along with your check in the amount of \$20 (includes shipping and handling) to the address shown. We expect this to be a best seller, so order now while the limited supply lasts.

### BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Did you know there was a Battle of Thompson's Station?

One of the prominent figures in the battle was General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Do you know what personal loss Forrest suffered as the result of this action?

Come join **Save the Franklin Battlefield** officers and members for a tour of this 1863 battlefield and learn the answers to these questions and many more on the Battle of Thompson's Station.

The tour will start at The Depot in Thompson's Station on Saturday August 24, 1996 at 3:00 p.m. The tour is free to all active STFB members, and all who would like to become members. Thompson's Station is on Thompson Station Road just west of highway 31 between Franklin and Spring Hill.

### DESCENDANTS' REUNION

The Carter House will host the first Battle of Franklin descendants' reunion since November 30, 1914. This grand event is set to take place October 4, 5, and 6, 1996. For more information contact Thomas Cartwright at The Carter House, (615) 791-1861, or write to:

The Carter House, Attn: Reunion  
PO Box 555  
Franklin, TN 37065

### STFB WEB SITE

**Save The Franklin Battlefield** is in the early planning stages for developing its own home page on the Internet. As details evolve, we will need ideas and page designs from Web experienced STFB members to add to our site pages. Look for more info in our next newsletter.

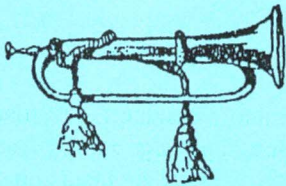
### RECALLING WHO WE ARE

**Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc.** is a tax exempt not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to identify, preserve, maintain and recognize sites of Civil War battles, skirmishes, encampments, troop movements and other places having war-related significance located within Williamson County in order to protect and maintain a portion of the County's irreplaceable historic wealth for this and future generations. **STFB** publishes a self-guided driving tour brochure of the Battle of Franklin and provides other educational opportunities for citizens interested in learning about the conduct of the Civil War in Williamson County.

The programs of **Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc.** are intended to complement the joint and considerable preservation efforts of the City of Franklin, and the other dedicated historical groups in Williamson County.

All citizens, throughout America, are encouraged to join and help support this worthwhile organization. **Members and prospective members are encouraged to attend the Board of Directors meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Williamson County Library in Franklin, TN.** For more information call (615) 591-1774, or write or visit the **STFB** office located in the historic Lotz House Museum at:

The Lotz House Museum  
1111 Columbia Avenue  
Franklin, TN. 37064,



### BOOK ORDER FORM:

### *Retreat From Pulaski To Nashville, Tenn*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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