



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

April 1998

[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

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

## SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

As part of our new Educational Program, under the leadership of Board member Bobby Hargrove, we will tour Fort Granger on **Sunday, April 26, 1998**. We will repeat the tour three times during the afternoon at 2, 3 and 4 o'clock. The tours will leave from the parking lot in the back of Pinkerton Park which is located off Murfreesboro Road (Hwy 96) just before you cross the Harpeth River going into downtown Franklin.

This will be a walking tour so dress accordingly!

There is no charge for this tour, we will however, accept donations.

The battle of Franklin, Tennessee  
November 30, 1864

Throughout this newsletter are quotes from the men who were there. We would like to thank Board member David Fraley for compiling these quotes for us. Be sure to look for them in this and upcoming newsletters!

## *From Your President*

Report to Membership on our tour of Sunday, March 29, 1998 of the Battle of Thompson's Station, Battle of Brentwood, and 1st Battle of Franklin. It was reported we made \$340 plus dollars and gained 18 new members. It was a beautiful day. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the tour.

My personal thanks to all who worked on the tour, David Fraley, Joe Smyth, Peter Schofield, and Sam Huffman. Also a big Thank You to Stuart Moore of the Civil War Tours who came with his bus and was kind enough to invite any who would like to ride his bus on the tour.

A Thank You to Thompson's Station Mayor Cherry Jackson who is always so nice to welcome us into the community.

For those who did not get to come, you missed meeting Mrs. William Darby, owner with her husband Dr. Darby, of Homestead Manor, who came to be with us for our Thompson's Station visit. She brought copies of photographs of Dr. Thompson and his daughter Miss Alice Thompson. You will have to join us next year for our tour to find out more about Dr. Thompson and Miss Alice.

As we grow in numbers, our voice gets stronger.

*E. J. Neeley*

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*"Nothing like it was ever before witnessed. God grant nothing like it may ever be witnessed again!"*  
(The Battle of Franklin, R.W. Banks, 29th Alabama Inf., C.S.A. page 87)

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# *The News In Review by Peter Schofield*

*Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community*

**Franklin Civil War battlefield improvement projects in motion - Bids awarded for Winstead Hill passive park, Columbia Avenue - area study - The Tennessean - 4/10/98-** A new passive park on Winstead Hill got the final go-ahead this week from city officials, as did a belated plan for a federally funded study of the Franklin Civil War battlefield. The city had budgeted \$350,000 for a parking lot, rest room building, split rail fencing and interpretative signs on the 50-acre site the city has owned since 1991. Winstead Hill, the imposing rise on the Southwestern corner of Mach Hatcher Bypass and Columbia Pike, was the gathering spot for Confederate troops preparing for a series of desperate charges against Federal troops during the November 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin. John Bell Hood, the Confederate commander, had his headquarters on the slope, overlooking the site of the battle below. The area where Hood's troops met their fate in the bloody five-hour battle came under scrutiny recently as plans for a long-delayed study of the battlefield were put in high gear.

**Carnton seeks intern to help create children's booklet - The Tennessean - 3/9/98 -** The historic house museum has received a \$6,000 grant from the Frist Foundation to produce a children's history booklet, and is looking for an editor to put the program together. The booklet will use the antebellum mansion as a setting to teach children in the fourth and fifth-grade age range about plantation life in the 19th century Middle Tennessee, the Civil War and the Battle of Franklin. It will employ historic photographs, hands-on activities and games of the 19th century. "It's potentially a great project - a great product for kids that

can really enhance what we can offer the public, and a wonderful learning project for the student who takes it on," says Carnton education director Lauren Batte. "Think what a wonderful addition to your portfolio this would be." Interested candidates were to send a letter of application to Batte at Historic Carnton Plantation by March 16.

**Franklin board OKs buffers around land on historic register - The Tennessean - 3/13/98 -** Franklin's board of mayor and aldermen have unanimously approved on final reading an ordinance that requires buffers around land, on or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places. Preservationists say the measure is necessary to protect the land around local historical landmarks. It includes not only homes, but the open land around "or across the street" from them. They point to such sites as Cool Springs House, Collins House and Aspen Grove, which have been removed from the national register in the past several years, after renovation destroyed significant historical features. Preservationists also say that encroachment by development on Rebel's Rest and Riverside historic homes are examples of what the new law would prevent. The new ordinance also would require landscape buffering instead of manmade berms, traditional street grids to replace contemporary cul-de-sacs and non-through streets, and architecture to complement historic properties. (Ed note: **Hearty congratulations to Mary Pearce and her team!**)

**Got spring fever? Get on the roof at McLemore - The Tennessean - 4/1/98 -** Volunteers (gathered recently) to help strip off layers of old roofing on the McLemore House so a new roof can be installed, the first major project in the restoration of the historic home. "It's a wonderful opportunity for local citizens to get involved in a worthwhile project," said Mary Pearce, executive director of the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. Built in the late 1800s by Harvey McLemore, the home is thought to be the first built by a former slave in the Hard Bargain area of Franklin. The house stayed in the McLemore's family through five generations until it was acquired in June 1997 through a joint effort by the African American Heritage Society and the Heritage Foundation. The groups are soliciting funds and in-kind contributions to restore the house and turn it into a museum and community gathering place. Pearce estimates that in addition to volunteer help and donated materials, the project will cost \$67,000. Call the Heritage Foundation at (615) 591-8500 for more information.

**Civil War Researchers go on line this month - The Tennessean - 4/2/98 -** The Civil War Research Center will go on-line this month at Motlow State Community College, Tullahoma, TN. The center will electronically store documents, letters, diaries and other materials related to the Civil War era in Middle Tennessee and northern Alabama, and will disseminate the information via the Internet. "I'm quite pleased with the project's progress," said Dr. Michael Bradley, director of the center and professor of

*(Continued on page 3)*



## STATUS OF NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Carter House Board members and Williamson County officials are continuing their efforts to find an alternative location for the county's new Community Center. Currently, the structure is planned to be built on the county's property at Columbia Avenue and Fowlkes Street which is the site of the old Franklin High School, and is adjacent to the north boundary of the Carter House property. The school's gymnasium still stands and is now being used by the Boys and Girls Club and other community service programs.

The new 34,800 s ft structure will house these programs and several others that are now resident in the county's crowded administrative center on West Main Street. All parties are striving to arrange some sort of land exchange that would allow the county to build the much needed community center in the general neighborhood, and at the same time would protect and enhance the historic and landscape integrity of the Carter House property.

If you would like to contact your county commissioners to encourage them to support a land exchange arrangement, the STFB January and February newsletters listed their names, addresses and phone numbers. That information, plus a map that shows each commissioner's district, is available on the County's web site at [www.williamson-tn.org](http://www.williamson-tn.org)

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*"These Rebel Boys were ordered to advance and were led upon a death as certain and sure to be met with, as there was a God in Heaven . . . Franklin, Tennessee . . . a name that will haunt me the rest of my days and nights."*

(Letter from Adam J. Weaver, 104th Ohio Infantry, U.S.A., to his wife Charlotte Weaver)

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*"I saw the Yankees charge Col. Heiman's Brigade at Ft. Donelson, and stood upon the breastworks after the charge and looked at the piles of the dead, . . . I was . . . in the battle of Raymond, Mississippi, . . . I was at Chickamauga, . . . and charged across Dyer Field . . . I stood on Missionary Ridge and saw the Federals climb the rocky hillside and threw stones at them, . . . I was at "The Dead Angle", . . . I was in that hard battle of Atlanta, . . . but a more resolute and determined charge was never made by an army than that which was made on that ever-memorable evening of 30th of November, 1864 . . . The battle of Franklin was most disastrous, and in casualties over a limited area stands without parallel in the annals of history, while the loss of general officers exceeded any two battles of the War. . . Boys, I have written this because we are getting scarce, and the few of us who are left will have to talk often and very fast of we will not get into history. Many personal things should be told, that the future generations may know what we endured."*

(Confederate Veteran Magazine, Vol. XV (1907), #11 (Nov.), page 508, article by H.K. Nelson, 7th Texas Infantry (?), C.S.A.)

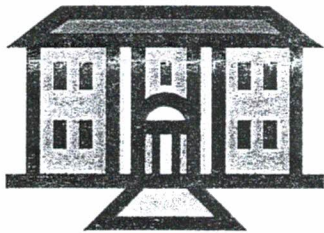
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social science at Motlow. People tapping into the site this month will be able to see such items as an account of a prisoner of war's experience, a woman's diary describing daily life during the war, several letters and a photograph of George Singleton, a black Union soldier from Fairfield, he said. "We'll be adding to that as soon as more items are copied." The project, which will receive no state money, is being funded by designated donations to the Motlow College Foundation. The center seeks information about the period that can be electronically copied, such as church records and business letters. The center can be reached at <http://mscc.cc.tn.us>.

**TOUR OF HOMES  
MAY 2 & 3**

The annual Town and Country Tour of Historic Private Homes is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday May 2 & 3, 1998. The Ten homes are listed on the National Register of Private Homes. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour. For information, call 1-800-356-3445.



**NEXT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 11**

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on May 11 at the Williamson County Library meeting room at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are open to all members, prospective members and everyone interested in protecting and preserving the Civil War Sites in Williamson County. We hope to see you there!

*"In proportion to the numbers engaged, I believe the Confederate losses in killed and wounded in the battle of Franklin, November 30th, 1864, were heavier than were suffered in any other battle of the Civil War. . . I estimate the loss in the 49th (Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A) to be at 85% . . . "*

(Confederate Veteran Magazine, Vol. XX (1912), #4 (April), article by Rev. J.H. McNeilly, 49th Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A.)

**Save The Franklin Battlefield Membership/Renewal/Order Form**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield~P.O. Box 851~Franklin, TN 37065-0851

**Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.**

Quantity	Description Annual Membership (Choose One)	Price Each	Total
	-Individual	\$12.00	
	-Family	\$15.00	
	-Corporate	\$25.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint	\$20.00	
	1989 Commerative Belt Buckle	\$12.00	
	1989 Commerative Paperweight	\$12.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$2.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		<b>Order Total</b>	