



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

August 1998

www.franklin-stfb.org

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

THE CIVIL WAR IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY DAY BY DAY 1999 STFB CALENDAR

For those who missed the announcement of the soon-to-be-famous 1999 STFB Calendar that was announced in last month's newsletter, we are repeating the article this month in its entirety on the front page.

The calendar project is well underway according to Board member Joe Smyth who is coordinating the effort. The calendar will have notes that describe day-to-day events in Williamson County, Tennessee. Smyth added that each month will also feature a large picture of a historical place in Williamson County with descriptive notes. STFB plans to annually revise and print the Day-by-Day calendar as an on-going fund raising project.

"This calendar will be an excellent educational piece for local residents and visitors who are interested in the Civil War era in the county," predicted Smyth. "For much of the war years, both sides conducted campaigns, patrols and raids in the Middle Tennessee area that resulted in many encounters and skirmishes here."

From mid-1862 to mid-1863, Union commanders concentrated forces here for an advance toward Atlanta, and again in late 1864, Hood's Army of Tennessee invaded middle Tennessee as part of a last great Confederate effort to win the war. During these times, there were huge battles at Murfreesboro, Nashville and Franklin. "Plus," continued Smyth "there were other serious fights at Thompson's Station, Brentwood, Franklin (3 more times), Triune, Spring Hill and elsewhere. All of these events, plus many more, will be

chronicled in the STFB Day-to-Day Calendar."

"The calendar will be a top quality, professional piece. It will go to the printer September 1 and be available October 1," said STFB Treasurer, Sam Huffman. "Except for deciding on the 13 pictures, Joe's team has gathered all of the necessary day-by-day materials, and during August we will cull and edit the materials into something that will actually fit in the calendar." David Fraley and Ronnie Mangrum at the Lotz House Museum have worked hard to help Joe Smyth with the research.

"Between now and October", said Huffman "we will be soliciting pre-sales of the calendar to raise funds for the printing costs. The planned retail price is \$11.99 plus shipping and handling costs. For those who order and pay \$12 for calendars now, STFB will deliver or ship for free. We are counting on funds from pre-sales to cover the printing costs." See the **Calendar Order Insert** that is included with your newsletter.

NEXT BOARD MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on September 14 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!

The News In Review by Peter Schofield

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

Links in a greenbelt – The Tennessean – 7/10/98 – Downtown Franklin soon will be connected to Pinkerton Park by a pedestrian bridge over the Harpeth River, thanks to a grant from the federal government. Mayor Jerry Sharber, speaking recently before a small group of city officials, employees, and community leaders said he was contacted by Gov. Don Sundquist's office and told that Franklin's bridge application, made last summer, was accepted. "The pedestrian bridge is a needed link to the community, commercial, and historic land uses," he said. "It will enhance the community. We're very excited about this project." The project will cost \$455,000 and will be paid mostly with funds managed by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. As part of the grant stipulation, the city must foot \$8,500 of the bill. The suspension bridge will be about 400 feet long with five piers and connect the jogging/walking path located at Pinkerton Park with 1st Avenue/South Margin Street downtown. Planned amenities include interpretive markers at both approaches to the bridge, solar lighting and a bicycle locker on the west side. Construction could begin soon. An April opening is expected.

Heritage park will commemorate City's bicentennial – The Tennessean – 7/10/98 – Most people who drive down Hillsboro Road to Franklin recognize the patch of land at the corner of

Fourth Avenue as "the farmers market." The hill across the street they've come to know as a parking lot for city-owned heavy equipment – and a lot of ugly brush and weeds. But by the city's bicentennial in 1999, one of Franklin's most unappealing patches of ground may be a showplace. On the drawing board are plans to transform the area known as Sharpe's Branch into green space in honor of the city's 200th birthday. "What we have in mind is a park that will showcase the spirit of a community that strives to beautify itself and protect its historical heritage," says Danny Anderson, who presented the initial project in April along with members of his Leadership Franklin team. Plans for the passive, landscaped green space along the Harpeth River have a \$100,000 line on the city's budget for 1998-99, and could eventually turn into a \$400,000-\$900,000 project to improve the oldest gateway to the city. Mayor Jerry Sharber said the \$100,000 budgeted for the project will be used in large part for architectural design, land acquisition and perhaps some engineering work. "We would like to achieve the architectural work in '98 and open the park in '99 or 2000. It would be neat to have it completed by next year."

Harpeth River cleanup in Franklin – The Tennessean – 7/10/98 – The Harpeth bisects Williamson County, from the

Rutherford County line at the southeast corner to Davidson County near Old Hickory Boulevard and Highway 100. Seven months ago the Williamson County Young Republicans organized a river cleanup in Franklin. In three hours eight canoes were filled with everything from old tires to aluminum cans and wood. Recently another river cleanup was planned for the Franklin area. "So many organizations like the Historical Society focus on historical homes and nobody really focused on the river," said Kenny Young. "We need to bring some light to the river. . . . It took 150 years to get to where it is now. It will take a little while to get it cleaned up, but every little bit helps." Young said people can also walk along the banks to pick up litter. "We're hoping to make it an annual event," he said.

Jonnie Wolridge Winstead, 104, was 'best window' to 19th century – The Tennessean – 7/24/98 – With the passing of Johnnie Wolridge Winstead, a link to old Franklin, local historians will have to rely on their memories of the congenial 104-year-old's takes of life at the turn of the century. Mrs. Winstead died recently in Claiborne and Hughes Nursing Home – in the same building that housed Franklin Training School where she attended school until the seventh grade. "She was quite possibly the oldest native Williamson Countian," said Rick Warwick, a

local historian. "So much of her memories are tied with the historians of Franklin," agreed African-American historian Thelma Battle. Born in 1894 to John Wolridge, a well-respected cook, and Bessie Otey Wolridge, a laundress, she grew up in Hard Bargain in a two-bedroom house, which still stands today on Ninth Avenue North and Glass Street. Her days were spent listening to her great-grandmother, Mariah Reddick, speak of the old days as one of 44 slaves to John McGavock, owner of Carnton Plantation. A portrait of Reddick still hangs on the wall at present-day Carnton. She was known as the oldest member of Shorter Chapel A.M.E. Church as well as the oldest living alumni of the Franklin Training School.

In modern-day Gettysburg, history and commerce collide – The Tennessean – 8/16/98 – Many consider the grounds at Gettysburg National Military Park sacred. But the grounds around the memorial to the Civil War's most famous battle have been turned into what some claim to be the worst of today's fast-food American culture. This year marks the 135th anniversary of the battle and preservationists and historians are poised to reclaim the solemn history of this hallowed place. Gettysburg is the crown jewel of U. S. military parks and has grown to nearly 6,000 acres. There are 26 miles of park roads and more than 1,600 monuments, markers and memorials. Gettysburg today offers experiences that range from the sublime to the worst in kitsch. Over the past three years, telephone poles have been removed from the Emmitsburg Road. This historic road through the battlefield crosses fields where Confederate Gen. George Pickett led his doomed assault on the third day of the battle. Stand today at "the Angle," a 90-degree junction of stone fences that was the focal point of the fighting that day, and you can look due west to the unobstructed panorama that held the horror of drama of Pickett's Charge. From the same spot, gaze to the northwest, and you see the golden arches of a McDonald's restaurant and a sign inviting you to "General Pickett's Buffet." You can enjoy an "all you can eat" meal on the spot where the left flank of Pickett's line of underfed rebels was chopped to pieces by rifle and artillery fire. Turn around and face the northeast and you

can't miss the 307-foot eyesore called the National Tower. This privately owned monstrosity has loomed over the battlefield since 1974. As if the out-of-place observation tower weren't bad enough, giant speakers bleat period music and saccharine, sentimental songs that can be heard over much of the battlefield. It's visual and auditory pollution, if not desecration, within a few yards of Park's border. In the town there are enough waxed soldiers, generals, presidents and first ladies to make a candle the size of Trump Tower. You can find all the T-shirts, paperweights, posters and bric-a-brac you could ever want. But the real experience and purpose for being in Gettysburg awaits you on the battlefield. The battlefield seems to have truly found a friend in John Latschar, the (new) park superintendent. (*Ed Note: Reason 894 why individuals and organizations with Civil War-related interests should get actively involved in the formation and operation of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, Inc., recently founded by the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Tennessee Wars Commission. Today we have a problem with two pizza joints in Franklin and a whole lot of other stuff in Franklin. What tomorrow? Is anyone out there? We wish John Latschar our best!*)

From Your President

We are busy this summer. Your Board is moving forward with the plans for our Calendar, Carter Cotton Gin Plaque and our annual meeting.

Thank you for your help and support on all these projects.

Your Board is also awaiting your letter to inform us of the committee you would like to serve on or with. Volunteer spirit is good for any organization!

E. J. Neeley

THE BICENTENNIAL MALL

Not all the membership of STFB may be aware of a State Park in downtown Nashville, Tennessee called the Bicentennial Capitol Mall. It is a 19 acre urbane park that you can walk through Tennessee History.

All the counties in our state have time capsules buried on the Mall grounds. The top of Williamson County's cap has information on the Battle of Franklin.

On August 8, 1998 your President attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pathway of Volunteers along which are bricks with the names or organizations, businesses, clubs, families and individuals. There is a brick on the pathway with Save The Franklin Battlefield's name so as visitors to this park walk the pathway thwy will see in Williamson County, in the 1990's, battlefield preservation was important.

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	\$3.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
		Order Total	