

June 2000

Save The Franklin Battlefield
PO Box 851
Franklin, TN 37065-851
615-500-6612
www.franklin-stfb.org

From the President

Dear STFB Member—

Summer has come to Middle Tennessee in a big way! Our Battle of Franklin Hospitals Tour was a huge, if sweltering, success. Our deepest appreciation and thanks go to board member and BOF historian extraordinaire David Fraley for all his efforts and time into the research and organization of it. Thanks also to all the civilian and military re-enactors who helped with their first-person impressions.

We hope you enjoy our new newsletter format. Board member Kim Hoover is most responsible for assembling our monthly newsletter and getting it to the printer and to the Post Office in a timely manner—thank you, Kim!

Finally, we have not had any response from our call for sponsors for our 2001 STFB Day-By Day Calendar. The prospects of it becoming a reality are dimming as the days go by. I know that it will be missed by those of you who have purchased and enjoyed them over the last two years.

I hope each and every one of you has a safe and wonderful summer with your families and friends. Come to Franklin and visit us!

Joe Smyth

Upcoming Events

JUNE 27
FRIENDS OF STONES RIVER ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND PROGRAM, 7:00 PM AT THE BATTLEFIELD VISITORS CENTER. RANGER JIM LEWIS WILL PRESENT A PROGRAM "A TRAIL THROUGH HELL" WHICH DISCUSSES THE CRUCIAL EVENTS IN THE AREA LEADING UP TO DECEMBER 31, 1862.

JULY 10
STFB BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM AT THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY LIBRARY.

JULY 13
MIDDLE TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR

ROUNDTABLE MEETS AT 7PM AT THE BRENTWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT JOE COOK AT JCOOKJR@BELL.SOUTH.NET.

JULY 20
BATTLE OF NASHVILLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT MURPHY ROAD SHONEY'S IN NASHVILLE. SPEAKER WILL BE COLONEL HARDEN, A MEMBER OF THE 1964 CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

STFB Efforts Featured In E-Magazine

Free lance writer, and STFB member, Kim Caudell has been published in an on-line E-Magazine. She has done an article on STFB and the collective efforts here at Franklin to one day have a battlefield park. You can find the article at www.neighborhoodamerica.com.

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and responsibility and I received no orders from the beginning of the battle until its close - when the Generals congratulated me "for saving the army." I have written Henry (Henry Opdycke, Emerson's brother) and sent him a little map, that I made of it. He will be with you soon, I presume, and I would like you to read and see it.

Our fighting at Nashville was easy - my brigade stormed enemy works— took 3 cannon, 1 battle flag and over 300 prisoners. The enemy never recovered from the bloody battle of Franklin and never will. The news of the fall of Fort Fisher has just reached us, and we all rejoice over the first great triumph of our Arms in 1865. We feel that this year must put a period to the bloody strife.

Our Corps is here in splended winter quarters - my brigade has the finest I ever saw - so says the Corps Commander.

(several paragraphs omitted)

We are all well getting ready for future operations. Had a letter from (brother) Henry yesterday of Dec 30th. He was all right, expecting soon to be a citizen. Good night.

Your own son,

[E. Opdycke]

STFB First Battle of Franklin Hospital Tour

The first ever S.T.F.B.-sponsored "Battle of Franklin Field Hospital tour" was held on Sunday, June 11th, in downtown Franklin. Despite a temperature in the high eighties and a lot of humidity, somewhere around 60 guests came out to learn a bit about the tragic role that the city of Franklin and it's citizens played in the aftermath of the battle of Franklin, November 30th, 1864. Reenactors, military and civilian alike, were posted at most of the seven stops on the tour and did first-person accounts of actual men and women who lived in Franklin after the battle and who opened their homes as impromptu hospitals. Their powerful portrayals put tears in the eyes of a couple of folks at one point.

Heart-felt "thank you"s go out to Tiana Ardrey (of The Carter House Museum), Heath Mathews (of the Carter House Museum), Suzanne Burns (S.T.F.B. board member), E.J. Neeley (S.T.F.B. board member), Kim Hoover (S.T.F.B. board member), Sam Huffman (S.T.F.B. board member), Omar Alkaluti, Van Hudson & Evan Hudson (reenactors with "*The Maury Greys*", Co. H, 1st Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A.), Rick Hoover, Mike Hoover, Ricky Hoover, and Danny Hoover (reenactors with "*The Williamson Greys*", Co. D, 1st Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A.) and to all of our kind guests who braved the heat to remember our city's historic past. I think this tour was a success and certainly look forward to developing similar tours in the future. God bless'

David Fraley
S.T.F.B. board member



Tiana Ardery (center), as Fannie Courtney, tells the story of the Courney Family in front of the Historic Presbyterian Church.



Omar Alkaluti and David Fraley listen as Heath Mathews tells a soldier's story at the Cambellite Church (Fourth Ave. Church of Christ)

A Letter From Franklin



A letter from Col Emerson Opdycke, who commanded the Union Brigade that stemmed the Confederate break-through at the Carter farm buildings, to his father some 2 months after the Battle of Franklin

Huntsville, Alabama
January 20th 1865

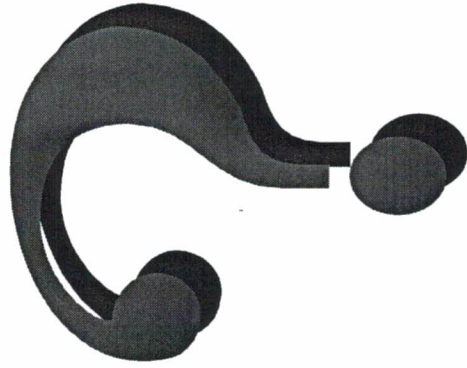
My dear Father,

In the great whirl of military affairs, battles and victories, I have almost forgotten the debt and credit of our correspondence. But if I owe you, this will pay it; and if you owe me, then this will add to that debt.

I have not heard from you for a very long time, longer than, I hope you will permit to intervene again. You have seen by the paper that we have fought Hood three days - one at Franklin and two at Nashville. He was awfully whipped each day. I never saw such utter rout and demoralization. The paper accounts are not exaggerations. My brigade had the honor of saving the day at Franklin - this was asserted by Cox, Wagner, Stanley, Schofield and the immortal Thomas.

The paper accounts of it in relation to me were all incorrect. I made that fortunate charge without orders from anyone, and purely on my own judgment

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Check your label!

Is it highlighted with blue or yellow?

If it is your membership has expired or
is about to expire!

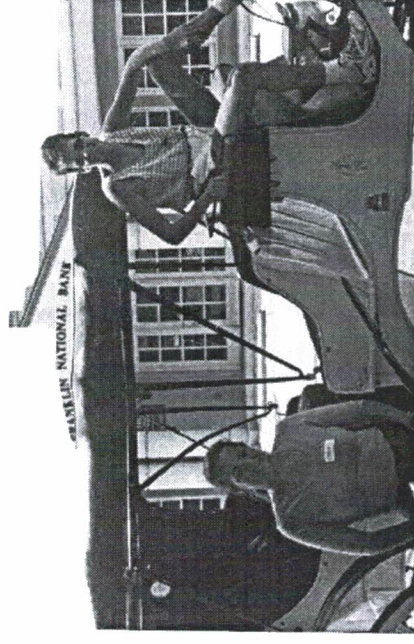
Please use the order form on page 6 to
send us your dues!

STFB Hospital Tour Enrolls New Members

Four new families became STFB members during the STFB Hospital Tour Sunday, June 11. One of those new families is Ed and Sheryl Camacho and their son, Eddie, from Saipan, a US Territory in the Marianas Islands in the western Pacific Ocean. They were in Tennessee for a wedding and stopped in to visit Franklin and our Hospital Tour.

And like so many of our STFB members, they volunteered to jump in and help right away. Ed took pictures of the tour for us including the ones for this newsletter. They said they had a wonderful time on the tour, and we certainly are very glad they came to learn about Franklin. We hope they can come back to visit again.

The June 1944 invasion and capture of Saipan by US forces was the first of the BIG WW II Pacific battles. Guam, Peleliu, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa were yet to come in the last year of that war.



New member Sheryl Camacho with board member Lynn Dorris at the Hospital tour.

Save The Franklin Battlefield Membership/Renewal/Order Form

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Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

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

Phone Number: 615-500-6612

Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

Quantity	Description Annual Membership (Choose One)	Price Each	Total
	2000 STFB Day by Day in Middle Tenn. Calendar	\$10.00	
	1999 STFB Day by Day Bicentennial Calendar Special STFB Member Price	\$5.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint Special STFB Member Price until 12/31/99	\$20.00	
	1989 Commemorative Belt Buckle	\$10.00	
	1989 Commemorative Paperweight	\$10.00	
	1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map	\$3.00	
	Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker	\$1.50	
	Commemorative Postcard	\$5.00	
	Donation for Marker Fund		
		Order Sub-Total	
		Shipping/Handling under \$10 \$0.75 \$10 - \$24.99 \$2.95 \$25 and up \$4.50	
	-Individual	\$12.00	
	-Family	\$15.00	
	-Corporate	\$25.00	
		Order Total	

Please note that the commemorative items listed above for sale can be viewed on the STFB website at:

www.franklin-stfb.org/saleitem.htm

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