

July 2000

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

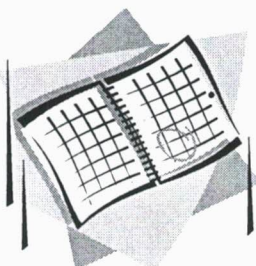
From the President

Dear STFB Member—

The heat and dryness of the summer has descended upon Middle Tennessee. In addition to mopping our collective brow and seeking a shady spot, we are planning and looking forward to our fall activities—the unveiling of the Opdyke marker, our Illumination tour of McGavock Confederate Cemetery, and our annual meeting. Representatives of STFB have recently met with the Heritage Foundation to reaffirm our mission of battlefield preservation in Franklin and Williamson County.

Thanks go to you, the membership, for your interest in and support for saving the Franklin battlefield. We need everyone's help in raising the awareness of the politicians, developers, and the general public, both local and throughout the land. We appreciate your concern.

Joe Smyth



Upcoming Events

AUGUST 10

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR
ROUNDTABLE MEETS AT 7PM AT
THE BRENTWOOD CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE. FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT JOE COOK AT JC00KJR@BELL SOUTH.
NET.

AUGUST 14

STFB BOARD MEETING, 6:30 PM AT THE WILLIAM-
SON COUNTY LIBRARY.

AUGUST 19-20

7TH TENNESSEE CAVALARY, CSA PROGRAMS AT
STONES RIVER NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD. CALL
615-893-9501 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SEPTEMBER 9 AND 20

ENCAMPMENT AND PROGRAMS AT FORTRESS
ROSECRANS IN MURFREESBORO. CALL 615-893-
9501 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SEPTEMBER 21

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

STFB Web Site Now Accepts American Express

Earlier this year STFB's web site began accepting Visa and Mastercard as payment for annual dues, and for purchases of STFB merchandise. As of August, we now have the ability to also accept American Express cards for payment through the web site at www.franklin-stfb.org

As always when you pay with any credit card, STFB does not charge your account until your ordered items have been actually shipped. Also, STFB does not permit ANY other persons or organizations to use ANY of your personal information for ANY purposes - period.

You're Not Lost Just Confused

The Lotz House Museum at 1111 Columbia Avenue in Franklin has changed its name to The Franklin Civil War Museum. Also, the museum is in the process of significantly expanding the number and types of historical materials on permanent exhibit.

That means that the entire back upstairs storage room at the Lotz House where STFB has had a snug 'desk and phone' office-in-a-corner for the past four years, will now be used for additional FCWM exhibits. Soooo, STFB is once again looking for a new home. If you can help us find a new 'gratis' corner for the STFB desk and two file cabinets, call STFB President Joe Smyth at 794-6812.

Matching Grant Programs Multiplies Your Gifts

As you plan your year-end giving to STFB and other tax exempt organizations, make sure to check with your employer to see if they have a Matching Grant Program that will match some or all of your donations. Check with your Human Resources or Benefits department to get the required forms and procedures.

Usually this means that you deliver your check, made out to STFB, to your benefits people and fill out a form, and they then mail both checks to STFB. STFB will then supply both you and your employer the required statement attesting to the tax deductibility of the donations. For those employers who require it, STFB can also supply a copy of our 501(c)(3) IRS tax exempt letter.

No matter the procedural hoops you have to jump through, when you take the time to use your matching Grant Program at work, you multiply the effect of your gift many times over - and help Save The Franklin Battlefield..

A tragic tale of a child casualty at the battle of Franklin

By David Fraley

The 96th Illinois Infantry Regiment must have collectively thought itself lucky at the battle of Franklin, at least early on. The regiment (and it's parent brigade & division) was far from the front lines of the battle. Sometime during the afternoon on November 30, 1864, as the units of the Federal 23rd Corps were positioned from the Harpeth River to the Columbia Pike, and the Federal 4th Corps was positioned from the Columbia Pike all the way back around to the river near the Hillsboro Pike, the 96th Illinois fell in as almost the last regiment in the Federal line. As one of the men in the 96th recalled, "...the regiment found itself crowded out of the front line, and bivouacked on a little hill near the cemetery close beside the river, and not far from the ford. Here the men rested, most of them cooking, a few sleeping, and others speculating as to what the coming hours would bring." Little could anyone have known at that time what was to come.

It is often the duty of a soldier to place himself into harm's way, and perhaps become wounded or even killed. And as sad as that may be, it is clearly even to this day accepted as the necessary nature of warfare. But recently a tale has come to light that is perhaps the saddest of all regarding the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. It is told from a member of the 96th Illinois Infantry who apparently watched it unfold from a top a small hill:

(Continued on page 5)

San Diego Civil War Round Table makes Donation to STFB for the Second Year

For the second time in as many years, the San Diego Civil War Round Table has chosen the Franklin battlefield as its preservation project. According to the group's Preservation Chairperson, Carla Schwartz, several fund-raising projects have held to raise \$600 for preservation efforts here in Franklin.

In receiving the check, STFB President Joe Smyth said, "It is always heartening and encouraging to be reminded in this way that many people from all over share the dream of one day having a battlefield park at Franklin. We not only thank the San Diego CWRT for the financial support, but we also thank them for the long-distance pat-on-the-back. We are not alone in our efforts." No decision has been made for the use of the gift as yet. It will be combined with other funds in STFB preservation projects later this year according to Smyth.

Thank You!

Ropers Knob Tours Coming Soon

We quite often get member inquiries asking when the Ropers Knob trails will be finished, when the park will open, and when tours will be available. The trails are nearly complete but there is no opening date in the works just yet according to the Heritage Foundation who owns the property. The property will remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

However, STFB has received special permission from the Heritage Foundation to lead one or more tours up to Ropers Knob when the hot weather abates. The first one will be in September, and Saturday mornings seem the best time. We plan to do later tours after the leaves are off. Watch the STFB web site and newsletter for the schedule announcements. We will also send an e-notice to those STFB members who have given us their email addresses.

But we are asked to remind you that no motor powered vehicles of any kind are allowed in the park areas, and the use of metal detectors on Ropers Knob is strictly forbidden.

(Continued from page 4)

"A crowd of fugitives, mainly citizens', white and black, ran back from the town when the battle opened, many crossing the ford near the cemetery. Among the number were two gentlemen, in a buggy, with a little girl between them. They had reached the middle of the stream when a dull, sickening thud was heard and the innocent child sunk down, doubtless killed outright. Apparently the bullet which struck her came from where the main charge was taking place, almost a mile away. Other casualties occurred momentarily, but none seemed so terrible as the one by which that little child was struck down."

The name of this innocent child and further circumstances regarding her death are lost to history. It is believed that this story is published here for the first time since it was originally recalled in the history of the 96th Illinois Infantry, written in 1887.

(Source: The History of the Ninety-Sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, by Charles A. Partridge)

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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