



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

May 2001

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

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

## *From the President*

Dear STFB member--

Summer has come to Middle Tennessee but it will not be a lazy summer. We continue to push ever forward with our Hyssop Hill battlefield acquisition. On June 24th we will be giving our second STFB tour of the year, a tour of many of the sites used as field hospitals during and after the Battle of Franklin.

Several STFB board members attended a meeting in May on the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and its partnership program for providing matching funding to organizations such as STFB.

Exciting things are going on in Middle Tennessee and here in Franklin, and we are so glad and appreciative that you are a part of it!

*Joe Smyth*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 21

Next BONPS meeting will be June 21st at Belmont Mansion. There will probably be a tour of the mansion. The meeting starts at 6:30. For more information visit the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society website at [www.bonps.org](http://www.bonps.org).

June 24

Second annual hospital tour of downtown Franklin. See page 3 for more details!

July 20-22, 2001

A Civil War-era Civilian Exhibit will be on display at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield July 20-22, 2001, featuring more than 100 items of civilian clothing (men's, women's, and children's), shoes, bonnets, parasols, mourning jewelry, political "tickets", publications, Northern and Southern currency, photographs, and original newspaper articles concerning Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. For more information, call (931) 232-5706.

# *Late Breaking News!!!*

STFB has negotiated and contracted to buy the Hyssop Hill property, consisting of 3.3 acres of core battlefield at the east end of the main trench line of the Franklin Battlefield. We will close on the property by June 15. Thanks to all our members who have pledged and donated to make the purchase possible! STFB will now need to raise \$200,000 to pay the property off. More information will follow in the next newsletter.



## News In Review by Sam Gant

**Old times there are not forgotten - *The Review Appeal*, 4/27/01**

**Franklin** - Activities commemorate Confederate history month - April has been proclaimed Confederate History Month in Tennessee by Gov. Don Sundquist. In conjunction with the proclamation, the Sam Davis Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Civil War Preservation Trust is sponsoring a work day. This is the fifth annual Park Day at Winstead Hill, which was Confederate General John Bell Hood's headquarters during the Battle of Franklin in November 1864. The program starts with a dedication of the restoration of the stone overlook and an unveiling of the plaque honoring those groups and individuals who donated to this project.

**'Spirits restless' at Harrison House - Williamson A.M., *The Tennessean*, 5/1/01**

**Franklin** - With new school on the way, home's owner tries cleansing, candles. Harrison House, which was used as a command post and makeshift hospital during the Battle of Franklin, was "cleansed" yesterday by sprinkling holy water, whispering prayers and lighting blue candles to make the ghosts calm down. But Pam Lewis, the owner, says she'll understand if the exorcism doesn't take. Ghosts can be adversarial. "It's like if you walked into the room and nobody noticed you—that's how they feel," she said. Lewis knows. She feels the same way. She has done everything in her power to stop the board from building a school on the battlefield where Gen. John Bell Hood sent his troops during the Battle of Franklin. But Lewis said if the school is built, and the ghosts continue the uprising, she hopes they'll figure out that she's not the one to blame.

**Site for high school could shift again — Proposal for tree line nixed - *The Review Appeal*, 5/9/01** **Franklin** - Members of the county school board's Facilities and Transportation Committee rejected a plan to shield the historic Harrison House from a new elementary school being built just across Columbia Pike. Committee members also changed their minds for the third time and

will recommend building a new southern high school in the shadow of another historic home on Critz Lane. An offer by The Heritage Foundation to purchase 10 additional acres behind the southern elementary site on Columbia Avenue and build the school behind a natural tree line shield was rebuffed by the committee.

**Preservation pioneers to be honored by Heritage Foundation - *The Review Appeal*, 5/16/01**

**Franklin** - Two longtime residents of Williamson County, Sue Douglas Berry and Ruth McDowell Kinnard, who have made countless contributions to this area, will be honored at the Heritage Foundation's 34<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Berry was a founding member of The Heritage Foundation and is considered the founder of Pioneer's Corner and United Church Women of Franklin. She has served on The Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, and she chaired the first Heritage Ball. She also played an active roll in preserving Carnation Plantation and is a past recipient of The Heritage Foundation's Patrons Award. Also a founding member of The Heritage Foundation, Kinnard has served as president of the organization three times. During her terms as president of The Heritage Foundation, the organization nominated more than 100 properties to the National Register of Historic Places and successfully nominated Lewisburg Avenue as a National

**Tradition, preservation, restoration - Williamson A.M., *The Tennessean*, May 18, 2001**

**Franklin** - Sue Douglas Berry devoted most of her life the historic preservation in Franklin because of a great love for her hometown. Businessman William Powell works in preservation because of a passion for restoration architecture, and Avalyn Berry Swain revels in the joy of bringing old buildings back to life. All three received 2001 preservation awards last night from the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County. Ruth McDowell Kinnard, a retired lawyer, judge and former two-term president of the Heritage Foundation, also was to have been honored by the Tennessee Historical Commission last night, but died yesterday of cancer.



## National Heritage Area on the Civil War in Tennessee

On May 17th, several STFB board members attended a meeting concerning the National Heritage Area on the Civil War in Tennessee at historic Cloverbottom Mansion, the headquarters and offices of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

The National Heritage Area on the Civil War in Tennessee (NHACWTn) is a statewide partnership project that focuses on the Civil War, Reconstruction, and its legacy. On November 12, 1996, Congress passed legislation that created the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area. The stated purposes of the proposed area were "(1) to preserve, conserve, and interpret the legacy of the Civil War in Tennessee; (2) to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key Civil War battles, campaigns, and engagements in Tennessee; (3) to recognize and interpret the effects of the Civil War on the civilian population of Tennessee during the war and postwar reconstruction period; and (4) to create partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and their regional entities and the private sector to preserve, conserve, enhance, and interpret the battlefields and associated sites related to the Civil War in Tennessee."

In August 1998, Governor Don Sundquist directed the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University to forge a partnership to implement the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area. The Center, working with the Tennessee Historical Commission, has put together a partnership in the Heritage Area including persons representing the state's Civil War related National Parks, the Tennessee Historical Commission, several state agencies, the National Park Service, the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, and others to meet the stated purposes of the congressional act.

Over the next ten years, federal funds are scheduled to be available for a variety of projects that can be matched by state, local, and private monies. The NHACWTn anticipates funds will be available to be awarded on a competitive basis after September 1, 2001. Save The Franklin Battlefield will be applying for a partnership grant and hopes to be a part of this exciting project for the future of Tennessee's rich Civil War heritage and legacy.

## Our Second-Ever Battle of Franklin Hospital Tour! June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001

On Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001, between 2:00 & 5:00 p.m., the S.T.F.B. will be hosting our second ever Battle of Franklin Hospital Walking Tour. Please join us for a fascinating tour of some of the various buildings in the downtown area which were used following the terrible battle of November 30, 1864 as field hospitals. We will meet at the Williamson County Courthouse (on the town square) at 2:00 p.m., and be walking throughout downtown, where military and civilian reenactors will be posted, bringing to life some stories of the aftermath of one of our country's bloodiest battles. Remember to wear comfortable shoes, as we will be walking several blocks. And please note also that we will not be entering any of the buildings on the tour, but rather discussing them from the outside sidewalks. The tour should wrap up between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m.(at the very latest); is free to S.T.F.B. members; and is \$5.00 for non-members. Please join us!



## The History Channel Save Our History: Civil War Battlefields

The world premiere of the History Channel's "Save Our History: Civil War Battlefields" airs Saturday, June 23, at 8:00 p.m. ET/PT. This program will explore several specific sites that are in danger of partial or total destruction and it will tell the stories of successful, failed, and ongoing preservation missions. These will include Stones River Battlefield, Nashville (Fort Negley), and Franklin (The Carter House).

Save Our History is The History Channel's national campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education. Working with such distinguished organizations as the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Park Foundation, The History Channel presents four programs each year designed to "bring the compelling stories of America's rich historical past into American homes and classrooms.

The History Channel reaches more than 71 million homes, and Save The Franklin Battlefield is very aware that their coverage of the Battle of Franklin has and will increase the battlefield's visibility with millions of Americans. Our thanks go out to them along with Thomas Cartwright of The Carter House for that.

## Franklin Battlefield Status Upgraded

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), the largest national private organization of its kind and based in Washington, D.C., has recently published a booklet entitled "America's Most Endangered Battlefields: A Guide to the Ten Most Endangered Civil War Sites in the United States." Their list of top ten most endangered Civil War Battlefields includes Stones River Battlefield in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. They also put forth a list of "Other Sites at Risk" which includes the Franklin Battlefield. This is great news and an important step forward in recognizing the Franklin Battlefield, as Franklin has been listed in the "lost" or "unsavable" category in the past. We applaud the judgment of the CWPT and look forward to working with them in the future to Save The Franklin Battlefield.

Got Something for the Newsletter? We'd love to hear from you!

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## 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
	2000 STFB Day by Day in Middle Tenn. Calendar	\$5.00	
	1999 STFB Day by Day Bicentennial Calendar	\$5.00	
	Both Calendars 1999 and 2000—different pictures in each!	\$10.00	
	"Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint	\$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	
	Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Franklin by David Logsdon	\$12.00	
		<b>Order Sub-Total</b>	
		<b>Shipping/Handling</b> under \$10    \$0.75 \$10 - \$24.99    \$2.95 \$25 and up    \$4.50	
	-Individual	\$20.00	
	-Family	\$30.00	
	-Corporate	\$50.00	
	Donation—Marker Fund		
	Donation—Land Purchase		
		<b>Order Total</b>	

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

Save The Franklin Battlefield  
PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851  
615-500-6612  
[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

Second Battle of Franklin Hospital Tour  
Sunday June 24  
Mark your calendars!