

A FULLER STORY

PURPOSE: *To increase unity in our city by providing a more complete telling of our Civil War history.*

United States Colored Troops:

Around 300 Williamson County residents, who were either freed slaves or escaped slaves, served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Their story is just now being told. Their story needs to be heard.

1867 Riot: On July 6, 1867, after a delayed July 4th parade and political speeches, a race riot broke out on the square injuring several people and killing one person.



Courthouse & Market House:

Throughout the 1800s, a “market house” stood close to the courthouse.” For nearly 50 years, human beings were sold and traded at this “market house.” This slave market included the sale of women and children.

Reconstruction & Jim Crow: Following the Civil War the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were passed and ratified. In 1877 Reconstruction ended and the Jim Crow Era soon began. It was during this time that separate restrooms and separate water fountains were in Franklin.

The ultimate goal of a “Fuller Story” is to erect a statue of a USCT Soldier.
The goal is for this soldier to be placed inside the City Limits.
The exact location has yet to be determined.

Why a “Fuller Story”

After the tragic events in Charlottesville, VA last August, conversations started happening in Franklin about how our city would (or would not) react if something similar happened here. In a lot of ways our city is like Charlottesville. These discussions led to the thought that it would be better to be “*actionary*” instead of “*reactionary*.” The result of these conversations led to the idea that instead of taking down historical markers, what if we added to them and told a “*fuller story*.” Further, it was believed that the CHURCH in Franklin should lead this effort.

Over the course of this past year we have initiated further dialogue between...

- ...pastors and church leaders.
- ...the historical community in Franklin and Williamson County.
- ...the city administrator, city mayor and county mayor.
- ...the downtown business community.
- ...and a host of individuals.

Timeline

Phase 1 (four historical markers around the downtown square) – A dedication of these markers on Monday, January 14, 2019 during the CHURCHES’ annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration. The four markers are:

- United States Colored Troops
- 1867 Downtown Riot
- Courthouse and Market House
- Reconstruction and Jim Crow

Phase 2 – Erect a statue of a United States Colored Troop soldier at a yet to be determined location inside the city limits of Franklin. A dedication of this statue on Monday, January 13, 2020 during the CHURCHES’ annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration.

- _____ Present “Fuller Story” at BOMA Workshop on Tuesday, August 14, 2018.
- _____ Present “Fuller Story” to County Commissioners on Monday, September 10, 2018.
- _____ Announce fundraiser for the USCT statue September / October 2018.
- _____ A fall “revival” with the CHURCHES in Franklin / Williamson County.

The Ask

We are asking you, the city leaders, to lend your support behind our efforts and to help us with the locations of the markers and the statue. We are not asking the city for any money. All funds will be raised through private donations.