



# TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 14

Spring 2015

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WE LOVE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

TSLA welcomes interns and volunteers who would like to be involved in aspects of library and archival work.

All interested candidates should be detail-oriented and have some background in history or library work.

[For available opportunities  
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## Dear TSLAFriends,

2015 promises to unveil new and exciting events at our Tennessee State Library and Archives for everyone's participation both with on-site visitation as well as from TSLA's website and ours.



The TSLAFriends and Secretary of State, Tre Hargett, hosted a Legislative Reception at TSLA the afternoon of January 14 which was very well attended by members of the Legislature and Speakers of both the Senate and House. Friends and staff members discussed critical issues of space and other topics that usage of our 62 year old building has, conducted "Behind the Scenes" tours for those unfamiliar with TSLA, and explained displays and the current lobby exhibit. The architect for the new building was present with a model of the proposed new library on Bicentennial Mall which was viewed and admired by all. He also explained the new robotic retrieval system that is planned for the new facility. Let's hope the new structure becomes a reality soon in order to continue housing Tennessee's precious heritage and present easy access to all researchers now and in the future.

The TSLA/TSLAF workshops are being planned with our first one Saturday, January 24th, featuring Dr. Michael Birdwell, professor of history at Tennessee Tech University, on WWI, Alvin York, & Tennessee's Service in "The Great War" and how he used documents housed at TSLA in his research. Mark your calendars for Saturdays March 28, May 30, August 1, September 26 and November 28 for future presentations. These workshops will eventually be accessible to all from the TSLA website for a designated period of time after which they will be on the Friends "Members Only" tab on our website.

In addition to the workshops, Friends members and TSLA staff are offering lectures pertinent to TSLA collections such as one on TSLA maps & their availability on the TSLA website, webinars on genealogical topics which

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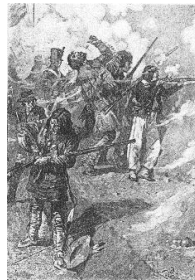
*Current TSLA  
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The Tennessee  
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can require research at TSLA and new documentaries about TSLA & other topics are "in the works." Others are offering genealogical workshops/classes that utilize TSLA vast holdings including records from other states, particularly Tennessee's parent states, North Carolina and Virginia. You might be surprised to find records on some northern states at TSLA such as Pennsylvania so you need to explore what is available there. There are continuing changing exhibits in the lobby on various historical events pertinent to Tennessee and Tennesseans that all visitors can enjoy and learn from.

I invite you to join us and help preserve Tennessee's valuable holdings for the future. Drop in often - to the physical structure as well as to TSLA's website at [www.tennessee.gov/tsla](http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla).

**Virginia Gooch Watson**  
President, TSLAFriends



*New TSLA Exhibit Explores  
Tennessee's Role in the  
War of 1812*

The War of 1812 represents a pivotal period in Tennessee's history. Congressional leaders like Felix Grundy made the nation aware of "western" interests and concerns. Andrew Jackson provided overwhelming victories in the Creek War, and the astonishing triumph at New Orleans propelled him to national acclaim and the presidency. The legacy of the War of 1812 remains strong within the state - nearly one-third of the counties are named for men who were connected to the war. The nickname, "Volunteer State," had its roots in the volunteer spirit displayed by the thousands of Tennesseans who participated in the war.

Military campaigns of this war led directly to treaties with southern Native American tribes that ceded native territory, including the rich lands of West Tennessee. The war catapulted Tennessee and its leaders to a position of unprecedented influence on the national stage. The legacy of the War of 1812 in Tennessee is mixed with pride and controversy, providing lessons for future generations in understanding the state's rich history.

A new free exhibit, "Answering the Call: Tennesseans in the War of 1812," opened January 6 at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. With 16 panels full of images and information on this fascinating period in our history, the exhibit explores the political and military actions of Tennesseans in the War of 1812. The public is invited to come explore the

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role Tennessee played in the War of 1812. The exhibit will remain open until mid-April.

The State Library and Archives is located at 403 Seventh Avenue North, just west of the State Capitol building in downtown Nashville. The exhibit, free and open to all visitors, is located in the building's lobby directly behind the main entrance.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., with the exception of state holidays. Parking is available in front, behind and beside the building.



## *Historic Maps of Tennessee and Beyond*

*January 27, 2014*

*11:00am*

"I need to look at a map to understand it." How many times have you said that? Tennessee's largest collection of historical maps is ready to be explored at The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA). Maps are invaluable components of historical and genealogical research, and documentary records often cannot be fully understood without referring to maps. In an effort to increase use of this tremendous research resource, TSLA is digitizing original maps and making them available in the Tennessee Virtual Archive (TeVA). An initial collection of more than 100 maps has just been released, and TSLA will continue adding its maps to this digital online collection to bring more of them to a wider public.

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the Nashville Public Library will host a presentation on the collection, "Historic Maps of Tennessee and Beyond: Digital Maps at the Tennessee State Library and Archives," by Dr. Wayne Moore, Assistant State Archivist.

The presentation is free and open to the public and will begin at 11:00 am in the auditorium of the Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street.



## *Reluctant Warrior Alvin York TSLA Workshop*

*January 24, 2014*

*9:30am - 11:00am*

He was a reluctant warrior who was denied conscientious objector status and agreed to combat duty only after a commander convinced him that doing so wouldn't conflict with his religious beliefs. He later helped lead one of the key offensives during World War I, earning a Medal of Honor and numerous other commendations for his efforts.

Alvin C. York is one of Tennessee's most celebrated war heroes - and he'll be one of the main subjects of the next workshop sponsored by the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA).

The workshop, titled "World War I and Alvin York: Tennessee's Service in the 'Great War,'" will be held in TSLA's auditorium from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Jan. 24. Dr. Michael Birdwell, a history professor at Tennessee Tech University, will lead the free session on World War I documents and photographs available at TSLA. Dr. Birdwell is curator of the Alvin C. York papers in Pall Mall and is considered an expert on World War I and York. Although the workshop is free and open to the public, reservations are necessary due to limited seating in the auditorium. To make a reservation, email [workshop.tsla@tn.gov](mailto:workshop.tsla@tn.gov) or call (615) 741-2764.

The State Library and Archives building is located at 403 Seventh Ave. North, directly west of the State Capitol building in downtown Nashville.



## *TSLA Historical Map Collection*

The Tennessee State Library and Archives has expanded its services with their latest digital collection, the TSLA Historical Map Collection. TSLA holds the largest and most significant collection of historical maps in Tennessee and the Historical Map collection includes over 100 of some of the Library and Archive's most treasured maps.

Maps are invaluable components of historical and genealogical research, and documentary records often cannot be fully understood without referring to maps. In an effort to increase use of this tremendous research resource, TSLA is digitizing original maps and making them available in the Tennessee Virtual Archive (TeVA) and they ready to be explored at The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA). TSLA will continue adding its maps to this digital online collection to make more of them available to a wider public. Stop by the Library and Archives to have a look at some of their maps or browse the digital collection now at <http://tn.gov/tsla/TeVAsites/MapCollection/index.htm>.