



# TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 22

Spring 2017

## In This Issue

[President's Letter](#)



### MEMBERSHIP DUES: It is renewal time!

It's "that time of year again" as the 2017 dues are now due and payable either by check or by PayPal from the TSLAF website. Select a category from our "Membership" tab on our website and help the Friends to support TSLA and all its many projects that will benefit us all. [Click here to go there now>>](#)

## TSLAFriends

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## Dear TSLAFriends,

As the weather around me seems like Spring, I am reminded that it is still February and the weather might change. The average February snow fall is about two inches, but I still remember the February 2015 ice and snow storm. Power outages were common throughout the state, as freezing rain glazed the trees, power lines, and roads.

We only have to mention a bad winter, when everyone starts with remember the snowstorm of 2011 or the blizzard on 1996. I grew up on the stories of the winter of '51 or that '06 (ought six) or even that major storm in '92. The history of our families and communities has always depended upon the recording of events, including weather. As a college student, I enjoyed reviewing the bulletins of the Agricultural Experiment Stations and their experience over the years with weather, rain, and more. I soon learned that additional reports of Agricultural and weather catastrophes were included in the state agencies that reported in their annual reports to the Governor.

I'm hoping that this winter can be reported as mild, but the season has not yet submitted the last report. If we do get a major snowfall, why not read about one of my favorite records at the Tennessee State Library & Archives, then take a look at the wide variety of records available to you from home. Enjoy learning with your pink fuzzy slippers, while reclining in your favorite chair. You still get gold stars for learning something new.

Then take a moment to go view one of the new Public Service Announcement with former Tennessee Titan Kevin Dyson discussing the Archives. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZzBydjHB2M>

I've also attached the [report of items recently purchased at auction](#) with assistance from the Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Virginia Gooch Watson,  
Past President

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#### Quick Links

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[Tennessee State Library &  
Archives](#)

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Library \(TEL\)](#)

[Tennessee Virtual Archives  
\(TeVA\)](#)

You will continue to see more details as they are processed into the collection.

Since we are into a new year, consider inviting a friend to become a FRIEND. <https://tslafriends.org/>

*J. Mark Lowe,*

President, TSLAFriends

## My TSLA Favorite

### J. Mark Lowe, President of the Friends of the Tennessee State Library & Archives

Some of my favorite records are those that tell parts of a family story. The Confederate Pension Records are full of stories that will keep you reading and searching for more.

The index by name and counties are located on the Tennessee State Library & Archives website: <http://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/tennessee-confederate-pension-applications-soldiers-widows>

You may view the documents on microfilm at the Archives, or use the images available at FamilySearch.org using the application number of the Soldier, Widow, Colored Troops or a Miscellaneous collection. <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1874474>

Let's look at the answers on the application of William Henry Ford

Current TSLA  
Newsfeed -  
Time to get  
Social!

The Tennessee State Library and Archives provide updates on all the current programs and events on the Facebook page and the Blog.

Click here to view and subscribe:  
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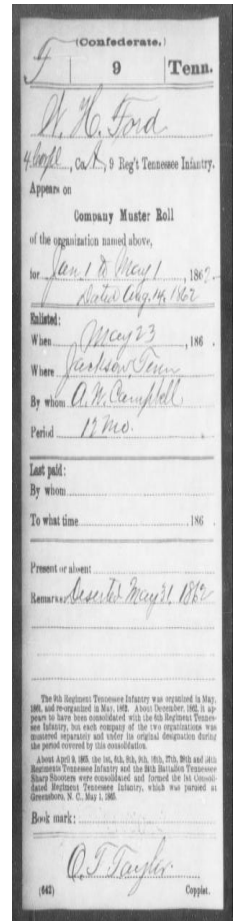


TSLA welcomes interns and volunteers who would like to be involved in aspects of library and archival work.

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

[For available opportunities click here >>>](#)

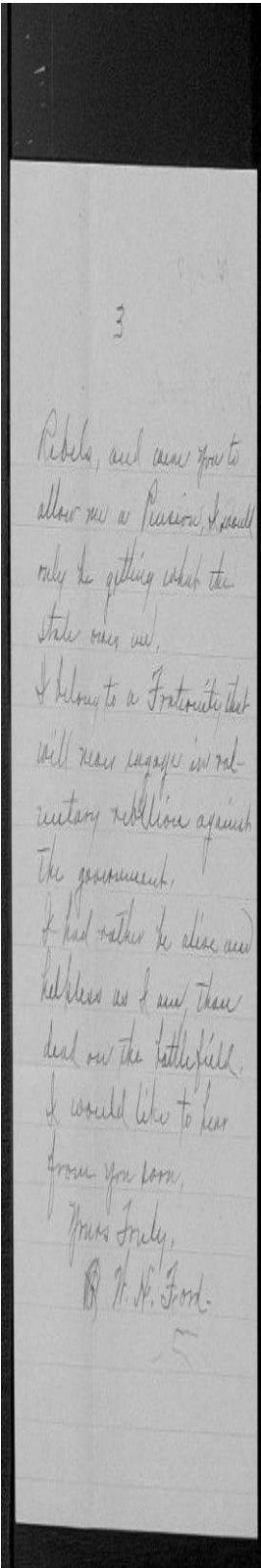
- Born: Madison County, State of Virginia, 21st August 1831
- Enlisted: H.L. Douglas was Colonel; Lieut. Col Hunt; Major White; Adjutant Robert Thomas; 1st Captain was H.L. Douglas, who was elected Colonel. G. W Parrot was second, Captain W.N. Wilkerson of Memphis. I enlisted under call of Isham G. Harris for 75,000 Troops to protect the State of Tennessee. (I enlisted at beginning of the War.)
- Battles: I was at the Battle of Shiloh. I had my eyes damaged by dirt from cannon balls, damaged so that I could not keep them open.
- Were you ever in prison? I was arrested by turned loose here in Dancyville, was never in prison.
- Did you take the Oath of Allegiance to the US Government: I did.
- Under what circumstances?: 1863, at home, was ordered to do so, and afraid not to obey.
- I am married, have three sons and two daughters. I have house and lot, valued by assessor at one hundred and ten dollars. I received five dollars for rent of lot for pasture.
- I have been a resident of Tennessee since December 25th 1847. [signed 27 Nov 1913]
- Dr. James S. Rawlins stated - chronic ulcers upon his legs, absolutely deaf and general disability - the result of old age.



With the submission of the application the examiners send Mr. Ford a letter in 1914:

"In your application for pension you say, "I served my time out. Time expired at Corinth, Miss." The rolls of you Company show you enlisted May 23, 1861, and they also show you deserted May 31, 1862. I suppose you claim that you had a right to leave at the expiration of 12 months from your enlistment, but you overlook the fact that just before your enlistment expired the Confederate Congress passed an act called Conscript Law, which made every man between the ages of 18 and 35 a soldier. Those already in the Army were taken in, and those who were unfit for service were discharged."

The War Department in checking his records confirm the roll "Deserted May 31, 1862." They indicated no later record of him has been found. In 1916, Mr. Ford wrote a letter to John P. Hickman, secretary of the Board of Pensioner Examiners.



"I claim that I had the right to quit the army as the contract had been violated by the Governor. I volunteered to serve 12 months in the state of Tennessee and was to be paid a non-commissioned officers wages monthly, which was never done. I had a wife and two small children at home dependent upon my wages they had no other means of support. The state owed me when I left, I have a small amount of the State's war money on hand now, which has been repudiated.

The bill was passed exempting men of Military duty who owned or controlled negroes. I never had a conscript notice served on me until after I got home. I voted against the alliance of Harris with the Rebels, and were you to allow me a Pension, I would only be getting what the state owes me. I belong to a Fraternity that will never engage in voluntary rebellion against the government. I had rather be alive and helpless as I am, than dead on the battlefield."

His wife was Anne Elizabeth Cherry, who died in Nashville in 1922. The undertaker was David Raines & Co., she was buried in Stanton. Their children included Laura A., George R. Nancy Addie [Kilby], Julia M. [Taylor], James A., and Robert W. Ford. A further explanation of the family is found on the Dancyville community history page, edited by Mary Katherine Dancy Smith and James Karl Dancy.

<http://www.dancyville.net/profiles/otherpr/cherryw.htm>

W.H. Ford was mentioned in the U.S. Congress when Representative John S. Tanner recognized the St. John Missionary Baptist Church on the recent dedication in 2009 of its rebuilt church, restored following a fire that

tragically destroyed the building shortly after the church's 100th anniversary celebration in January of 2006.

On November 16 1904, papers were drawn up to purchase 33 acres of land from W. H. Ford approximately one and a half miles from Dancyville, Tennessee. The deed was filed on January 20, 1906, with the church paying \$425 for the land. [Congressional Record, Volume 155 Issue 102 (Thursday, July 9, 2009)]