



# TSLA Friends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

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## TSLA Friends

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## Dear TSLA Friends,

As a young student of history in elementary school, my first encounter into a published Tennessee history was the "Blue Book" published by the state of Tennessee. Recently, I had the opportunity to review a copy of the 1890 Bluebook and thought I would share the history of Tennessee government in honor of the 221st Anniversary of our state.

The first organized government in Tennessee was the "Watauga Association," formed by the people of Carter's Valley (now Rogersville), Brown's Settlement (or Nolichucky,) and the Watauga settlements. In the year 1772 the people in convention selected five persons as a general court or committee. They were John Carter, Charles and James Robertson, Zach. Isbell, and John Sevier, all afterwards illustrious in the history of the State. Wm. Tatham, Felix Walker, Thos. Gourley, and John Sevier served at different times as clerks of the association. In 1776 these settlements were annexed to North Carolina, and called the "District of Washington" being named after General Washington. This became Washington County, North Carolina, in 1777, and embraced the whole State of Tennessee, having the Mississippi River as its western boundary and taken out of the counties of Burke and Wilkes in North Carolina.

In 1780 eight stations or forts and settlements in Middle Tennessee, along the Cumberland River, formed the "Cumberland Compact of Government," composed of a court or committee of "Twelve Notables" or General Arbitrators, with three being electing from Nashborough (Nashville), one from Bledsoe (Castalian), one from Freeland's Station, two from Gasper's (Mansker's Lick), one from Fort Union (Haysborough), one from Asher's (Station Camp Creek, Sumner County), and two from Eaton's (east side of the Cumberland river). General James Robertson was chosen as Chairman. This Cumberland Compact lasted until 1783, when Davidson County was setup and established by the Legislature of North Carolina.

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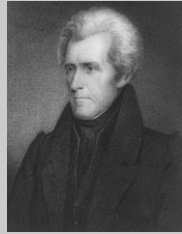
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North Carolina governed until December, 1789, when the State ceded to the United States the territory now included in Tennessee, which cession was accepted on April 2, 1790. By act of Congress May 26, 1790, the "Territory South of the Ohio" was established. This included what is today, Tennessee. William Blount, of North Carolina, was appointed Governor, and



*Andrew Jackson not only served as President of the United States, he suggested the name Tennessee, taken from Tennessee County, for the name of the new State.*

took charge October 10, 1790, holding his first court, with David Campbell and Joseph Anderson judges, at the house of William Cobb, in the fork of the Holston and the Watauga Rivers near "Watauga Old Fields," now known as Elizabethton in Carter county. Daniel Smith was appointed Secretary of the Territory, and Andrew Jackson elected District Attorney of the Territory. Knoxville was established as the capital of the Territory in 1792. On November 28, 1795, the Territory voted 6,504 yeas, 2,562 nays to form a State. The census then showed a population of 77,262, including 10,613 slaves.

Daniel Smith, the Secretary of the Territory, was born in Stafford County, Virginia, October 24, 1748, was educated at William and Mary College, and, like George Washington, became a surveyor. Smith soon identified himself with the western settlements of Virginia, and in 1773 was appointed deputy surveyor of Augusta County.

The outbreak of Lord Dunmore's War found him, together with Colonel William Preston, actively engaged in the preparation for the defense of the frontier. In 1774 he prepared a map of the headwaters of the tributaries of the Tennessee River, or, as it was then called, the Holston, which is of great service in locating the creeks and rivers of the border land between southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee.



*Daniel Smith, one of the first surveyors of this territory, prepared this map in 1774. He helped survey the northern border of Tennessee.*

Within a few years Daniel Smith removed to the Cumberland region, with which he was thenceforth definitely associated. In 1788 he was appointed Brigadier-General of Mero District, and after filling several offices or positions of trust, in 1790 he received the important appointment of



*Rock Castle, (a state owned property) located in Hendersonville was*



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.

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*the home of Daniel Smith.*

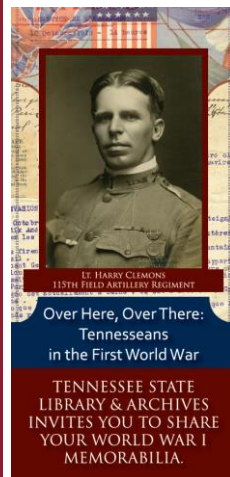
Secretary of the Territory South of the Ohio. Much of his correspondence of this period, with Governor Blount, and with the Secretary of War and the Secretary of State, has been preserved.

In 1794 he built Rock Castle, a notable dwelling, which still exists. On December 18 and 19th in the year 1795, delegates were elected to a Constitutional Convention, which met at Knoxville beginning on January 11, 1796, and formed the first Constitution of the State. In 1796 Daniel Smith served as a member of the constitutional convention of Tennessee. General Andrew Jackson, then a delegate from Davidson County, suggested the name "Tennessee" for the State. The Territory had eleven (11) counties, to wit: Washington, Sullivan, Greene, Davidson, Sumner, Hawkins, Tennessee, Jefferson, Knox, Blount, and Sevier. On June 1, 1796, Tennessee was admitted into the Union as the sixteenth State and Tennessee county, North Carolina was divided into Montgomery and Robertson counties, Tennessee. Daniel Smith served as a Senator of the United States from Tennessee in 1798 and again in 1805. He died in 1818.

As a native of Tennessee, and a member of the Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, I'm honored that our State Library and Archives takes an active role and recording the history and events of our great state. Come visit soon and help celebrate our birthday. Happy 221st Tennessee.

*J. Mark Lowe,*

President, TSLAFriends



## *Over Here, Over There: Tennesseans in the First World War*

**A Tennessee State Library & Archives project to digitize, preserve and present the World War I memorabilia of Tennessee families.**

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of WW I (1914-1918), the Tennessee State Library & Archives will send a team of professional archivists and conservators to communities across Tennessee. You may schedule an appointment, and we will digitally copy and help you preserve your World War I era manuscripts, artifacts, and photographs. You keep the originals.

Digital copies of these items will become part of a virtual exhibit commemorating the centenary of the war and its impact on Tennessee.

Items eligible for digitization include:

- All items pertaining to the War: military, civilian, foreign or domestic.
- Letters, photographs, diaries, weapons (firearms, knives, etc.), military records and discharges, maps and sketches, and uniforms.
- All items must be original (no photocopies or reproductions) and owned by the person bringing them for digitization.

Participants will receive:

- Basic conservation tips for their items
- Digital copies of the images
- The opportunity to have their WWI memorabilia preserved, digitized, and shared online for future generations.