

Tennessee Civil War GIS Survey: User's Guide

The **Tennessee Civil War GIS Survey**, funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service, is a project of the Tennessee State Library & Archives (TSLA) with assistance from the Geosciences Lab of Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and the State of Tennessee Office of Information Resources, GIS Division.

It creates a web application with hundreds of identifiable Civil War battles, engagements, skirmishes, and military actions in Tennessee from *Dyer's Compendium* (1908) and links these points with contemporary and narrative information about the events. It draws on the "Tennessee Civil War Sourcebook," which compiles original material from the *Official Records of the War of Rebellion* (1880-1901) for narrative accounts of the engagements. Among other datasets, there is searchable access to Tennessee regimental histories from *Tennesseans in the Civil War* (1964), and primary sources from the map, manuscript, and image collections of TSLA.

This application makes available contemporary statewide GIS map layers—aerial photography, topography, road system, land ownership parcels, flood zones, and land use classification—and serves it on the Web in the context of a base map showing points of Civil War action in Tennessee. A county-based **Search** tab yields 1860 census data for that county, 1860 county boundaries, narrative histories for the units mustered in from that county, and links to engagements, local Civil War historical markers, and digitized items collected by the Looking Back at the Civil War project in that county. The **Details** tab will link with original documents, maps, and narrative resources from TSLA that give information about a particular engagement, unit histories linked to county of origin, and Civil War sites that are open for tourism.

With the **Layers** tab, you can turn on and off (by clicking in the box) a variety of additional features. You can activate on the map in their location the following features: Tennessee Historical Commission and other historical markers & monuments for the Civil War in Tennessee, visitable Civil War sites from the *Path Divided* (Wars Commission) publication, *Civil War Trails* markers, Civil war sites that appear on USGS topo maps (i.e. cemeteries, forts, and batteries), Tennessee's railroad network as it existed in 1865, the state's 1860 county boundaries, the National Park Service's mapping of TN's 38 priority battlefields (core boundaries, study areas, & National Register potential boundaries), geo-referenced Civil War maps showing the landscape as it appeared to soldiers and commanders, and the legend for the land use classification.

There are 5 different map layers that can be overlaid on a given Civil War point: **Aerial Photography, Street Map, FEMA Flood Map, USGS Topo[graphical maps], Property Tracts, and Land Use**. These buttons appear above the map itself. Some are only activated as you zoom in. Using the hand-shaped "ID" tool at top right, you can place the cursor over any

tract in the **Property** layer and go to a link for the State of Tennessee Comptroller's ownership data.

DISCLAIMER: The **Tennessee Civil War GIS Survey** is an interactive, free service provided by the Tennessee State Library & Archives for the use of preservationists, students, tourists, and the public at large. It includes both public and non-public sites. While the public ones are often state and national parks or historic sites that encourage visitors, other non-public sites may be on private land and are not open for visitation. We also do not wish this site to be a guide for relic-hunting. With that in mind, we have built in an uncertainty factor to 'fudge' the exact location of these places. Furthermore, the narrative information on which these points were bases is by its nature approximate. The points in the **Survey** representing Civil War actions, while they are in the vicinity of where the actual events occurred, are not precise locations.

Interesting features to explore through the interactive website

1. Civil War Tennessee Unit Histories
2. TSLA *Looking Back at the Civil War* Collections
3. 1860 County-by-county Census Stats for Free & Slave Populations
4. 1860 County Boundaries
5. 1865 Railroads
6. National Park Service boundaries
7. Interchangeable base maps
 - a. Aerial Photography
 - b. Street Map
 - c. USGS Topo Maps
8. Site specific layers
 - a. Battle of Nashville
9. To see interesting attached documents
 - a. Johnsonville (list of African Americans impressed to work on railroad)
 - b. Battle of Nashville (maps, lithograph)
 - c. Ft. Pillow (diary)
10. To see historic maps over the current landscape
 - a. Fort Donelson
 - b. Franklin
 - c. Ft. Sanders
11. To see crowd sourced data
 - a. Historical Civil War markers

12. Tourist locations

- a. *Civil War Trails* Markers
- b. Historical markers
- c. *Path Divided* brochure sites
- d. Battlefields / Forts

Tools for planners

1. Overlay the floodzone
2. Turn on the NPS boundaries
3. Interchangeable Base Maps
4. Property tract boundaries
5. Comptroller's tax data for property tracts