November 22, 2019

The Honorable Kimberly Bassett, Co-Chair (DC)
The Honorable Al Jaeger, Co-Chair (ND)
Standing Committee on Awards
National Association of Secretaries of State
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 401
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: NASS IDEAS Award nomination, Patriot Paths, Tennessee's Revolutionary War Veterans

Dear Co-Chairs Bassett and Jaeger,

The Tennessee State Library and Archives is leading the way with a new and innovative initiative that leverages archives and GIS technology. It is my pleasure to present for your consideration, “Patriot Paths, Tennessee’s Revolutionary War Veterans.”

You will find this program to not only be creative in its use of technology, but also interesting and informative with benefits for historians, researchers and genealogists. The program allows the user to visually track key movements of individual patriots with Tennessee connections, both before and after the war by using data culled from pension records.

Our hope is this will be a model for other states to create similar aids by utilizing their archival records in conjunction with modern GIS technology.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State
State Office: Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett

Contact: Jonathan Rummel, Chief of Staff: 615-741-2819; Jonathan.Rummel@tn.gov

Title of Program: Patriot Paths

Project Lead: Chuck Sherrill

Description of the Program: Patriot Paths is a research project that uses Revolutionary War pension records to map the paths that soldiers took before and after their service. Staff and interns at the Library & Archives have pored over pension files to find the dates and places where the soldiers were born, married, enlisted and died. About 2,000 pension files exist for soldiers who came to Tennessee. Historians and genealogists can use the tools to search for veterans and study the patterns of migration. https://tnmap.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=32a9be43e2b44e00a67edfc5ac2b7227

Category: State Heritage
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(Maximum: 5 PAGES)

Please include a summary of the project/program, describing the following:

- **History (including length of time in operation)** – Describe the factors that led to the development of the program, including program goals and problems it sought to address.

The intent of the project was to merge historical records of Revolutionary War soldiers with GIS technology in order to create a visual map of the migration patterns of these pioneer settlers of Tennessee. The resulting web site enables researchers not only to study an ancestor’s migration but to look for commonalities among families who came from a certain place in the east or settled in a certain Tennessee county. By examining these commonalities researchers can see patterns in migration, learn about the settlement of the state, and discover new information about early Tennessee history. Students and researchers introduced to this data in a visual way are encouraged to dig deeper into primary source materials in the Library & Archives to learn more.

The project began three years ago in early 2017 when an intern was tasked with reading and creating an abstract of data from Revolutionary War pension application files submitted by Tennessee residents from about 1818 to 1850. The intern worked with a sample group to extract information about 100 soldiers and widows. Using this sample, we developed a database format and plan for abstracting data on the approximately 2,400 remaining Tennesseans found in the pension records.

![Patriot Paths](image)
Significance – Discuss how the program exemplifies best practices in state government, including its unique, innovative or cost-effective aspects. Please consider how it supports the public policy goals of your office and assists your state office in executing its responsibilities.

Core values of the Tennessee department of state promote the idea that exceptionalism, our highest core value, is a direct result of the values of collaboration, integrity and stewardship. When considering our core values working in concert with our mission statement, this program embodies much of what we seek to achieve for the citizens of Tennessee.

*To exceed the expectations of our customers, the taxpayers, by operating at the highest levels of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and accountability in a customer-centered environment.*

There are things we do as a department because they are statutorily required. There are other things we do to add value to the people we serve. This, of course, is an example of the latter.

Through the Patriot Paths project, we were able to utilize interns in a substantive way to enhance their research skills and expand their interest in the value and practical uses of archives. This program included a partnership with Middle Tennessee State University. Students majoring in Public History were exposed to primary source documents working in the professional environment of the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA).

Additionally, the project required collaboration with GIS specialists in the strategic technology services (STS) division of the department of finance and administration. The combined expertise of the GIS specialists and their knowledge of technology combined with the historical research skills of archivists at the library and archives produced this unique use of records and data.

The result has been another resource available to teachers and scholars alike to promote the study of Tennessee history and the use of the TSLA collections by people of all ages. Not the least of this includes exposing school children to conducting research in primary sources and thereby strengthening their ability to find and use reliable information.

Impacts/Results – Explain how this program has contributed to the improved functioning of state government (you may highlight both financial and administrative/pragmatic impacts), including its benefits to citizens and other stakeholders, including other government agencies/units.

In addition to what has already been covered in the prior response, this project is now serving as a model for other states. State of Arkansas has already expressed an interest and others are likely to follow. This includes groups such as the national Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) who have expressed interest in using this as a model for a similar project of national scope.
SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Program materials, including brochures, flyers, or media clippings may be included for review as part of your application, as long as they are digitized (no hard copies, please). If you have multiple types of supporting materials that you want to share, please submit them in a single digital file of reasonable size, so that members can easily access and review them.

Online: https://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/patriot-paths

Addendum I. About the Data and Search Instructions
Addendum II. PowerPoint slides
Addendum III. Student Exercise
Patriot Paths
Tennessee’s Revolutionary War Veterans

About [internal hyperlink]
Search Instructions [internal hyperlink]
About this Data

The Revolutionary War had a huge impact on the area that would become the state of Tennessee. Although settlement of the eastern part of the state had begun in earnest in the 1770s, it was the military land grants issued by the State of North Carolina that encouraged Revolutionary War veterans and their families to brave the new western frontier.

North Carolina designated a “Military District” of 100 square miles as land to give soldiers in lieu of payment for their services in the Revolution. Today, Nashville stands at the center of this district. Although many soldiers sold their rights to land speculators, others moved to the area in the years following the Revolution. As these settlers gained a foothold, the value of land in Tennessee grew, and speculators were able to sell their vast acreage to more emigrants. By 1850, over one million people lived in Tennessee.

Many Revolutionary War veterans came to Tennessee. Most came from Virginia and North Carolina, but by no means all. This project only tracks those veterans who applied for a pension from the federal government. Pensions were first available in 1818, but only for those who had served in the Continental Line (George Washington’s army). In 1832 the pension laws were changed so that men who fought in state militia could apply. In 1836, widows of veterans could apply.

By searching lists created for Congress, the 1840 census of pensioners and other sources we identified just over 1,200 Revolutionary veterans who received a pension while living in Tennessee. Because the pension applications were written out longhand, not confined to a printed form, they include many interesting details and comments. Beginning in 1832, veterans were asked to provide the dates and places of their birth and enlistment. They were also asked to list all the places they had lived since the war.

Reading through their pension application papers (available through the Fold3 and Heritage Quest online databases) we entered these various dates and places into a spreadsheet. Of course not every file was complete. Some lacked dates, some lacked locations, some were general such as “I enlisted in Virginia” instead of giving a specific place.

This data was then matched to latitude and longitude points and displayed on a map. Where soldiers gave a state but not a county, the point was mapped to the center of the state. Where they gave a county but not a town (which was most common) the point was mapped to the center of the county.

Displaying these points graphically enables the user to see the general migration paths of Tennessee patriots. We can see where most of the men came from, which counties provided the greatest number of emigrants to Tennessee, and where in Tennessee they settled. It is our hope that by using this data scholars and genealogists will discover new facts about this generation of pioneers.
Search Instructions

There are five tabs at the top of the Patriot Paths web site, providing five different ways of searching.

Toolbar

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Magnifier" /></td>
<td>Magnifier – zoom in or out on a map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Bookmark" /></td>
<td>Bookmark – change extent of map on screen (ie., view only one state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Legend" /></td>
<td>Legend – key to map points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Layers" /></td>
<td>Layers – turn boundaries off and on (availability varies with zoom level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Base Map" /></td>
<td>Base Map – change map background</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hold down your left mouse button and drag to re-center the map.
You can also use your mouse scroll bar to zoom in and out.

Patriot Selector -- Identify the path of a single soldier.

1. Type the soldier’s surname in the search box. His path will appear as an orange line.

2. Points on the line will show a date for the each known event in the soldier’s life.
3. Click on the point to see details. Use arrows at the top of the notes box to see additional information.

4. To view a different soldier, type a new name in the search box.

**Patriot List – View paths of multiple soldiers.**

1. Select a soldier from the list at the left of the page. His path will appear.

2. Points work in the same way as in Patriot Selector.

3. Select an additional soldier from the list. His path will appear along with your first selection.
4. Select as many additional soldiers as you like.

1832 Tennessee Map

1. Left side of page is 1832 map, right side is modern map

2. Zoom or scroll on either map and the other map will change at the same time

3. Operates same as Patriot List, but showing only Tennessee locations. (new?)

Patriot Locations

1. Map reflects number of all soldier points (birth, enlistment, etc.) in each county.

2. Darker areas have a higher number of points.

3. Points are shown at center of county. Select a point to bring up a list of soldiers.

4. The example below shows that there are 5 points in Bradley County.

5. Use the arrow at the top of the box to see additional soldiers.

Density Maps

1. Works same as Patriot Locations, but allows user to select a specific type of point (births, enlistments, etc.)
THE ROAD TO TENNESSEE

MIGRATION TRAILS FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSIONS

- Early pension acts, 1770s-1810
- Act of 1818
  Continental Line Soldiers & Navy
  - 9 months service
  - No disability requirement
  - Had to be needy
  - Re-applied in 1820 proving need
REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSIONS

• Act of 1832
  State Militia Soldiers
  • 2 years’ service
  • Half-pay for 6 months service
  • No requirement of need
REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSIONS

• Act of 1836
Widow’s Pensions
  • Qualified based on 1832 Act
  • Married prior to end of service
    • 1838 – married prior to 1794
    • 1848 – married prior to 1800
    • 1853 – any marriage date
TENNESSEE SETTLEMENT

The Cumberland Gap
TENNESSEE SETTLEMENT

The Cumberland Gap
TENNESSEE SETTLEMENT

Tennessee in 1783

TNGenWeb Project
Maps by AniMap
TENNESSEE SETTLEMENT

Claiborne County Tenn. ca. 2830
TENNESSEE SETTLEMENT

Maps at the Library & Archives
Digitized images of some of the thousands of rare and historical maps held at the Library & Archives.

sos.tn.gov/tsla
## BUILDING THE DATABASE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soldier Last Name</th>
<th>Soldier First Name</th>
<th>EventOrder</th>
<th>EventType</th>
<th>EventCommunity</th>
<th>EventCountry</th>
<th>EventDate</th>
<th>EventBeginDate</th>
<th>EventEndDate</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
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<td>1815</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Surname spelling: Abbot and Abbot throughout the records. Article: His name the latter. Different spelling of surname: Acoc most frequently used. Hoy: Abbot appear.

In the May 1818 declaration the applicant stated that he was discharged near West Point.

In the May 1818 the applicant stated that he was 58 years old.

In 1818 declaration the applicant signed his name as Corvela. However, in the 1822 declaration the applicant signed his name as J. Acoc.

The 1818 declaration stated that the applicant was discharged.

The 1822 declaration stated that the applicant was discharged in 1818.

The applicant states that he was discharged a few weeks after the Corvela.

The applicant's wife was called Father.

The applicant's wife stated that her husband died in 1866. Her contemporary record stated that the applicant died in 1840. The 1840 century government issued also stated that the applicant died.

In the February 1870 declaration the applicant stated that he was 78 years old, therefore, he was in either 1793 or 1791.
### BUILDING THE DATABASE

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Annual Allowance</th>
<th>Description of Service</th>
<th>When placed on pension roll</th>
<th>Commencement of Pension</th>
<th>Laws under which they were enrolled, increased and reduced, and remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Smith</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>96.00</td>
<td>Reg. mounted gun</td>
<td>Dec. 29, 1820</td>
<td>Apr. 21, 1816</td>
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<td>James Brown</td>
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<td>Apr. 21, 1816</td>
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<td>Apr. 21, 1817</td>
<td>Apr. 24, 1817</td>
<td>Acted military establishment. Trans'd from Virginia.</td>
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*Statement showing the Names, Rank, &c. of Invalid Pensioners residing in Anderson county, in the State of Tennessee.*
State of Tennessee, Franklin County.
In the 27 day of September 1832, personally appearing before the Worshipful the County Court of the County and State aforesaid, Burwell Thompson a resident of said county aforesaid, aged twenty-three years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make this following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the same law, made by the Act of Congress of June 30, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, to wit, as private in the service of said United States, as his brother William Thompson, was drafted in Franklin County, Tennessee.
Burwell Thompson’s “Points”

• Born in Granville County NC in 1759
• Enlisted in Spartanburg SC in 1777
• Moved to Madison County KY in 1795
• Moved to Franklin County TN in 1808
### BUILDING THE DATABASE

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## BUILDING THE DATABASE

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<td>Williamson</td>
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<td>TN_Willi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maury</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
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<td>TN_Maury</td>
<td>1832</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maury</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TN_Maury</td>
<td>1836</td>
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**BUILDING THE DATABASE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the August 1836 declaration the applicant stated that he was 74 years old, therefore, he was born in either 1761 or 1762. Place of birth unknown.</td>
<td>36.078963</td>
<td>-79.789659</td>
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<tr>
<td>The applicant served for 3 months, therefore, he could have been discharged in either 1779 or 1780. The applicant was discharged either in Charleston or just outside of Charleston.</td>
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<td>The applicant stated he engaged in the Battle of Hanging Rock.</td>
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<td>-87.081975</td>
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CREATING THE MAP
CREATING THE MAP

Philip Shackler

- Born Wittenburg Germany
- Enlisted at Cape Fear NC
- Moved to Sumner County TN in 1818
- Moved to Bedford County TN in 1820
CREATING THE MAP

- Moved to Sumner County TN in 1818
- Moved to Bedford County TN in 1820
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

https://arcg.is/0HTuym
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Patriot Selector View

[Image of the Patriot Selector View interface showing a map of the eastern United States with marked paths]

Tennessee State Library and Archives
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Patriot Selector View

Patriot Paths

Patriot Selector View
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Patriot Selector View

Soldier Location: John Abbott

- Pension: S39925_Abbott
- Event: Residence
- Community
- County: Grainger
- State: Tennessee
- Country
- Year: 1825
- Notes
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Patriot List View
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Patriot List View
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

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USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Density Map
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Density Map
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Density Map

Soldier Locations: Robert McCormick

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pension:</td>
<td>S4198_McCormick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event Type</td>
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<td>Event Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event County</td>
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<td>Event Date</td>
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</table>
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Density Map

Soldier Locations: William Hedrick

- Pension: S4355_Hedrick
- Event Type: Enlistment
- Event Community: 
- Event County: Lancaster
- Event State: Pennsylvania
- Event Country: 
- Event Date: 1775
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Density Map with 1832 Rhea Map
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE
USING THE PATRIOT PATHS WEB SITE

Patriot Locations
Addendum III

Patriot Paths
Application Instructions

1. In which years were pension applications expanded and for whom?
   Hint: Open Introduction tab. Read through text box to find answers.

2. In which county did William Key enlist?
   Hint: Open Patriot Selector tab. Select soldier William Key by typing in
   his last name “Key” in the drop down box and click on his name. Click the red
   point indicating Enlistment. County of Enlistment should appear in popup box.

3. In which county were both Michael and Daniel Broyles born?
   Hint: Open Patriot List tab. Scroll down through the list of soldiers to
   select both Michael Broyles and Daniel Broyles. Click first point for both and read
   the popup box.

4. In which county was Fort Nash located in 1832?
   Hint: Open 1832/Density Maps tab. Click the bookmarks icon and select
   “Old Fort Nash” from the drop-down box.

5. Which three veterans listed Shelby County, Tennessee, as their
   residence?
   Hint: Open Patriot Locations tab. Click on the point within Shelby County,
   Tennessee. Click through the records displayed in the popup box to see each
   soldier.

6. How many veterans enlisted in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania?
   Hint: Open Enlistments tab. In the Enlistments Search Box, type
   “Lancaster”. Click on Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Enlistments should appear
   in popup box.

October 17, 2019