

Mapping the Civil War in Tennessee: A Spatial Humanities Initiative

Zada Law

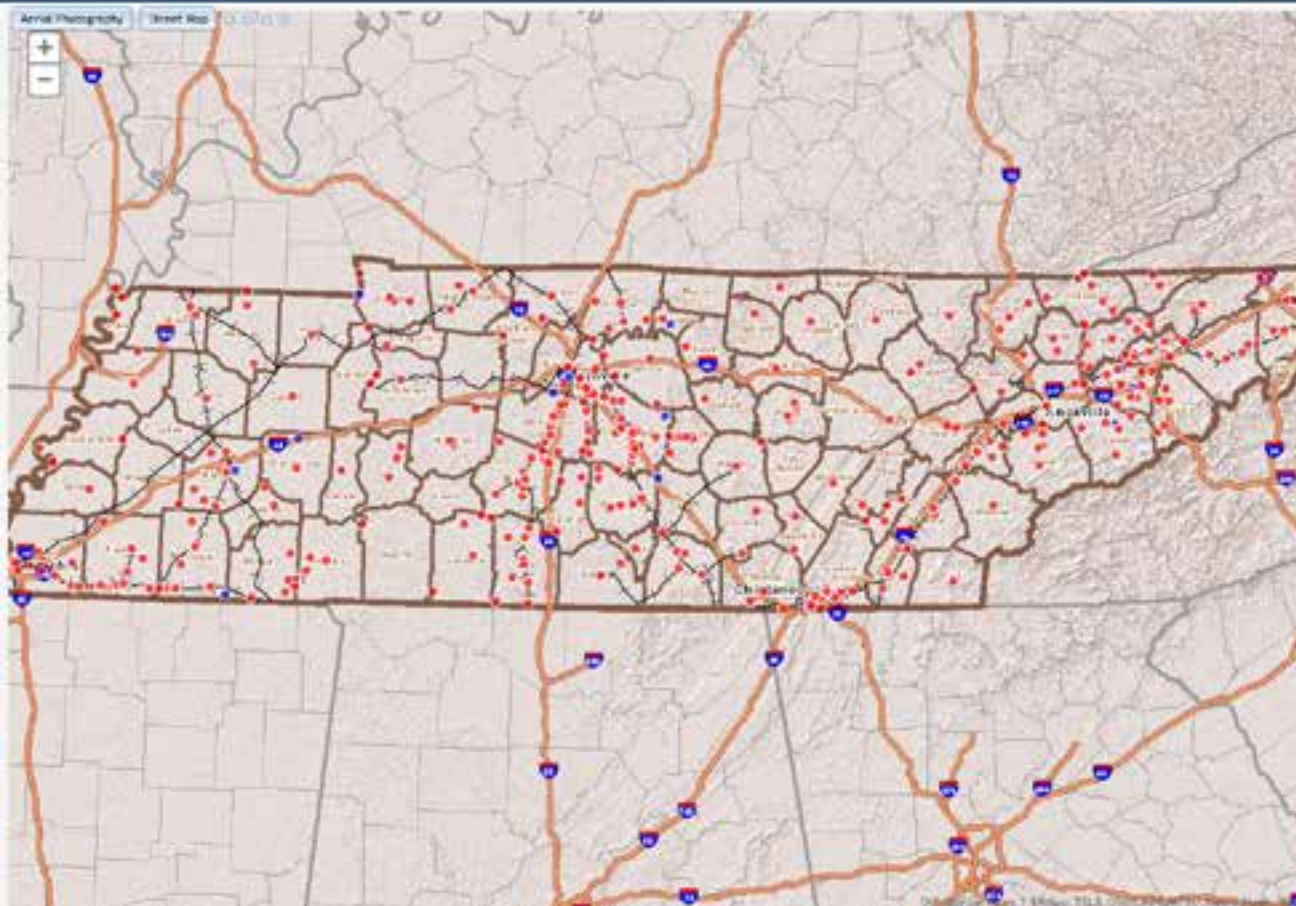
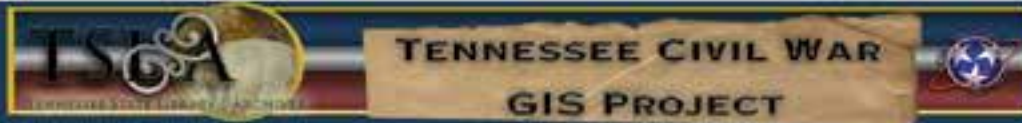
Ralph O. Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology
Geospatial Research Center | Department of Geosciences

Tennessee Civil War GIS Project

- **Functionality**
- **Spatial research process**
- **Uses**
- **Next steps**
- **Collaborative effort**

Searchable

<http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/>

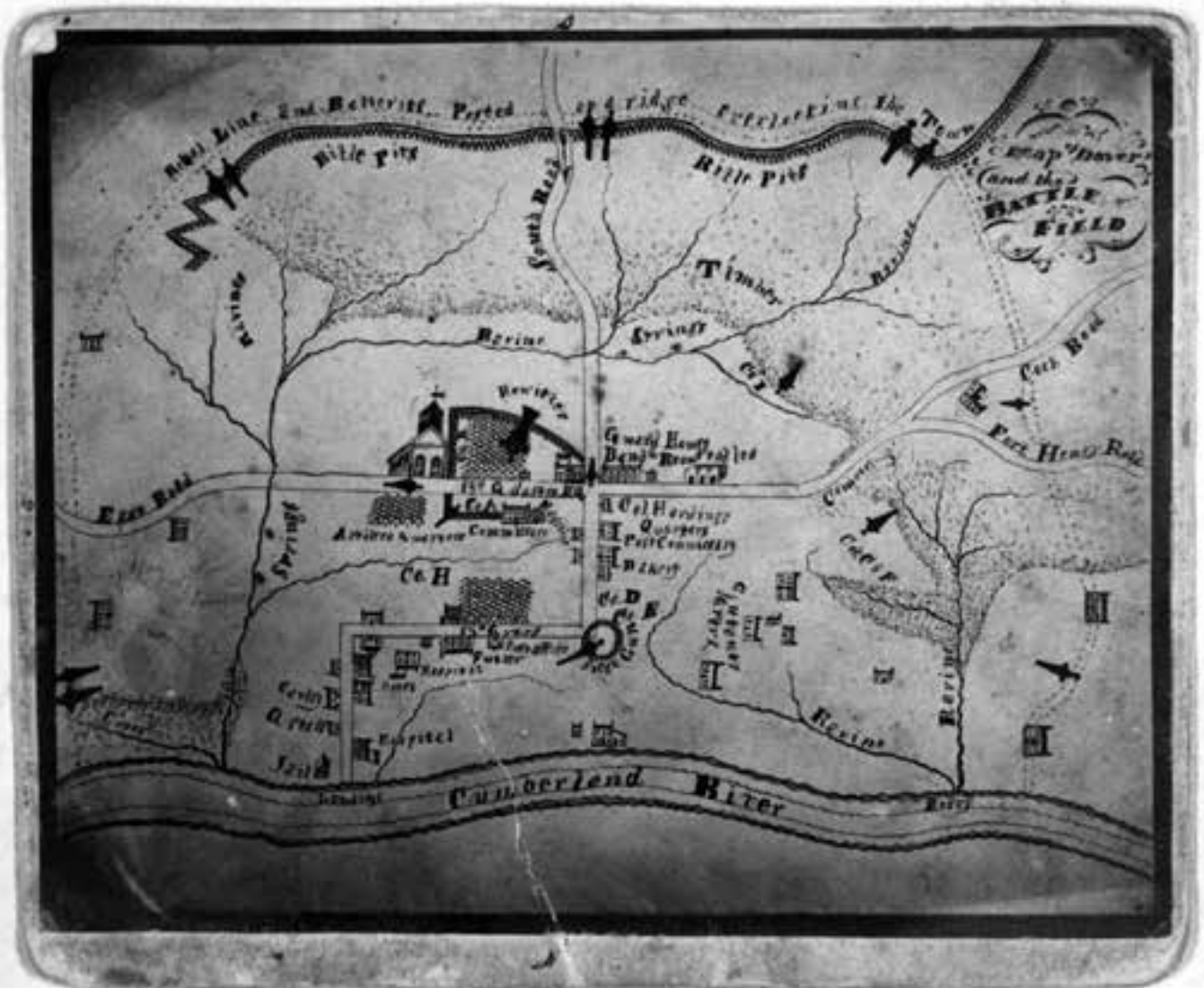


The web application interface for searching battle locations. It includes a search bar, a dropdown menu for 'County Data (1850 Census and Civil War Unit Histories)', a 'Zoom To Engagement' dropdown, a 'Zoom To Battlefields' dropdown, and a 'Select By Date' section with 'Start Date Range' and 'End Date Range' dropdowns. A 'Search' button is located below the date range section. The interface also shows 'Results' and 'Details' sections at the bottom.

January 15, 1867 - February 1

On January 15, 1867, the Federal Army of the Cumberland, led by General James B. Fry, decisively defeated the Confederate Army of the Tennessee, led by General Braxton Bragg, at the Battle of Nashville. The battle was the last major battle of the Civil War in the Western Theater. It resulted in the capture of Nashville, Tennessee, and the destruction of the Confederate army in the region. The battle was a decisive victory for the Union, and it marked the end of the Confederate presence in the Western Theater.

Note 1: Because this campaign was so important, it is described in both Vols. 1 and 2. Nevertheless, the descriptions in





January 15, 1862 - February 1

On January 15, 1862, the Federal Army of the Ohio, under the command of Major General Ulysses S. Grant, and the Confederate Army of the Tennessee, under the command of General Braxton Bragg, fought the Battle of Fort Donelson. The battle was a decisive Union victory that opened the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers to Union control. After a four-day siege, the fort's 12,000-man garrison surrendered unconditionally to Grant on February 16, 1862.

Note 1: Because the campaign was so short, it is not covered in most histories. However, it was a decisive Union victory that opened the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers to Union control.



[ABPP Home](#)

[Battles by State](#)

[Battles by Campaign](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CWSAC Battle Summaries

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)

Fort Donelson

Other Names: None

Location: Stewart County

Campaigns: Federal Penetration up the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers (1862)

Date(s): February 11-16, 1862

Principal Commanders: Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and flag-officer A.H. Foote [US]; Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd, Brig. Gen. Gideon Pillow, and Brig. Gen. Simon B. Buckner [CS]

Forces Engaged: Army in the Field [US]; Fort Donelson Garrison [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 17,398 total (US 2,331; CS 15,067)

Description: After capturing Fort Henry on February 6, 1862, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced cross-country to invest Fort Donelson. On February 15, 1862, after the failure of their all-out attack aimed at breaking through Grant's investment lines, the fort's 12,000-man garrison surrendered unconditionally. This was a major victory for Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and a catastrophe for the South. It ensured that Kentucky would stay in the Union and opened up Tennessee for a Northern advance along the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Grant received a promotion to major general for his victory and attained stature in the Western Theater, earning the nom de guerre "Unconditional Surrender."

Result(s): Union victory

CWSAC Reference #: TN002

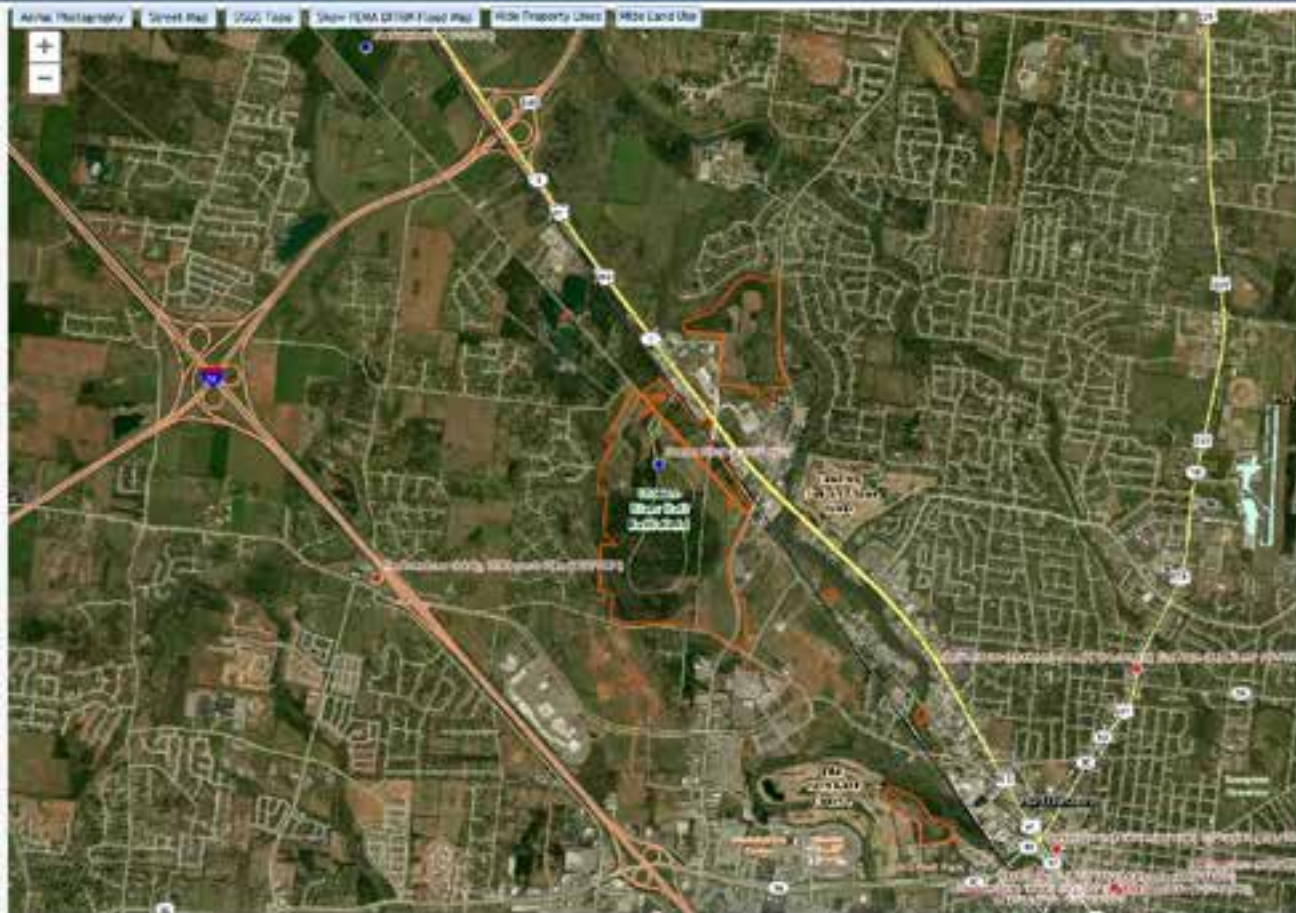
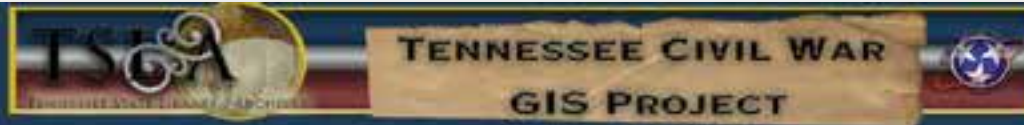
Preservation Priority: I.1 (Class A)

National Park Unit: [Fort Donelson NB](#)



Layers

<http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/>



Layers

Click a check box to turn object on and off.

- Civil War Events
 - Battle
 - Site
- Historic Markers
- Park District
- Civil War Trail Markers
- USGS Civil War Sites
- Railroads - 1865
- County Boundaries - 1840

Battle Of Nashville

- Parks
- Fortifications
- Road Lines

Battlefields

- Battlefields
 - Core Battlefield Areas
 - Potential National Register Boundaries
 - Study Areas

Transportation Maps

- Ft. Davidson 1840
- Ft. Davidson/Guise 1842
- Friends 1874
- Ft. Sanders 1843

Land Use Codes

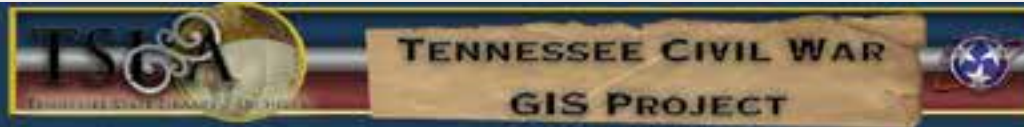
- 06 - Single Family Residential (1 to 4 units)
- 07 - Single Family Residential (5+ units)
- 08 - Medium Density Residential
- 09 - Multifamily (2 or more units)
- 10 - Public House (2-4)
- 11 - Public House (5 or more)
- 12 - Recreational
- 13 - Unimproved (improvements <\$50,000)
- 14 - Unimproved (improvements >=\$50,000)

Search

Results

Details

History “in your own backyard”

A screenshot of a web-based GIS application. The main map area shows an aerial photograph of a residential area with various overlays. A large green shaded area is prominent in the center. A red outline highlights a specific region within the green area. A yellow line runs through the map. The interface includes a top navigation bar with options like 'Aerial Photography', 'Street Map', '1862 Topo', 'Show TENA CIVIL War Floor Map', 'Hide Property Lines', and 'Hide Land Use'. On the right side, there is a 'Layers' panel with a list of map layers and their status (checked or unchecked). Below the layers panel, there are sections for 'Battle Of Nashville', 'Battlefields', 'Core Battlefield Areas', 'Transparent Maps', and 'Land Use Codes'. The 'Layers' panel includes:

- Civil War Events
 - mvcAA
 - public
- Historic Markers
- Path Divided
- Civil War Study Memory
- USGS Civil War Sites
- Railroads - 1865
- County Boundaries - 1960

The 'Battle Of Nashville' section includes:

- Parks
- Fortifications
- Pocket Lines

The 'Battlefields' section includes:

- Battlefields

The 'Core Battlefield Areas' section includes:

- Potential National Register Boundaries
- Study Areas

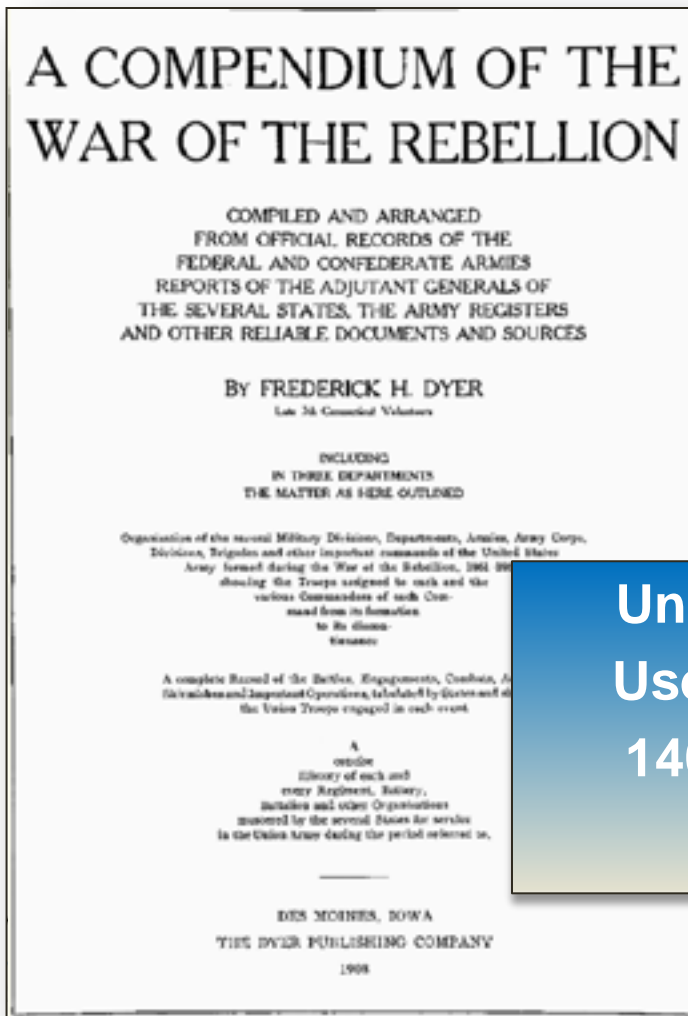
The 'Transparent Maps' section includes:

- Ft. Davidson 1862
- Ft. Davidson (Over 1862)
- Franklin 1874
- Ft. Sanders 1863

The 'Land Use Codes' section includes:

- 01 - Single-Family Residence < 1 acre
- 02 - Single-Family Residence > 1 acre
- 03 - Duplex (2 units)
- 04 - Multi-family (3 or more units)
- 05 - Mobile Home (1-4)
- 06 - Mobile Home Park (5 or more)
- 07 - Vacant/Undeveloped
- 08 - Industrial/Commercial/Office/Institution

What was mapped?



Frederick H. Dyer, 1849 – 1917

Union Army's military engagements
Used official records and interviews
1400+ military events in Tennessee
MTSU mapped 1310 events

Frederick Dyer, *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (1908)

Jan. 11	Scout to Lexington.	TENNESSEE--7th Cavalry.
Jan. 11-12	Expedition from <u>Maysville</u> up Little Tennessee River	INDIANA--3d Cavalry.
Jan. 12	Skirmish near <u>Mossy Creek</u>	INDIANA--2d and 4th Cavalry (Detachments). TENNESSEE--2d and 3d Cavalry (Detachments). WISCONSIN--1st Cavalry (Detachment).
Jan. 13	Skirmish near Colliersville	ILLINOIS--9th Cavalry (Detachment).
Jan. 13	Skirmish, Sevierville	(No Reports.)
Jan. 14	Skirmish, <u>Schulz's Mill, Cosby Creek</u>	OHIO--10th Cavalry (Detachment). PENNSYLVANIA--15th Cavalry (Detachment).
Jan. 14	Scout from Colliersville	ILLINOIS--9th Cavalry.
Jan. 14	Skirmish, <u>Middletown</u>	IOWA--35th Infantry. Union loss, 4 missing. <dy 870>
1864.		
Jan. 16	Skirmish, <u>Morristown Road</u>	INDIANA--5th Cavalry.
Jan. 16	Skirmish, White County	MISSOURI--23d Infantry.
Jan. 16	Skirmish, Kimbrough's Cross Roads	ILLINOIS--14th Cavalry; Colvin's Indpt. Battery Light Arty. INDIANA--5th Cavalry; 65th Mounted Infantry. MICHIGAN--9th Cavalry. OHIO--7th and 9th (1st Battalion) Cavalry. Loss included in Bend of Chucky, Jan. 16.
Jan. 16-17	Operations about Dandridge	ILLINOIS--14th Cavalry; Colvin's Indpt. Battery Light Arty.; 27th, 42d, 51st, 112th (Mounted) Infantry. INDIANA--2d, 4th and 5th Cavalry; 18th Indpt. Battery Light Arty.; 40th, 57th, 65th (Mounted) and 68th Infantry. KENTUCKY--1st

Spatial Data Mining in Primary Sources



Tennessee Civil War Sourcebook Edited by James B. Jones, Jr.
http://www.tennessee-civilwar-sourcebook.com

July 13, 1862 - Action at and surrender of Murfreesborough ^{Note 1}

commanding Army of the Ohio,
Army, commanding at
sylvania Cavalry,
Kentucky Light Artillery,
diana Infantry
Michigan Infantry,
Michigan Infantry,
ots Infantry,
Indiana Infantry,
Army,
Army,
Army, commanding Army of the Ohio,
from Murfreesborough was that
that Col. Lettice's regiment and
confident of being able to hold out
Nashville. It appears that before they
the same day. I have no particulars,
that appears to be a most disgraceful
siderably. I have been busy to
of the Chattanooga road, which was
to place some twelve regiments on
ished. We will go to work again.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., July 19, 1862

History & Spatial
Detectives

Workflow

- **One set of primary sources**
- **Standard mapping protocol**
- **Documentation in geodatabase**
 - Primary sources
 - How location was identified
 - Certainty of mapped location
 - Recorded when no information found

Community Uses

- Civil War enthusiasts
- Education
- Community development & planning
- Heritage tourism
- Historical research
- Preservation
- Archaeology
 - Cultural resource management
 - Looting?



University Benefits

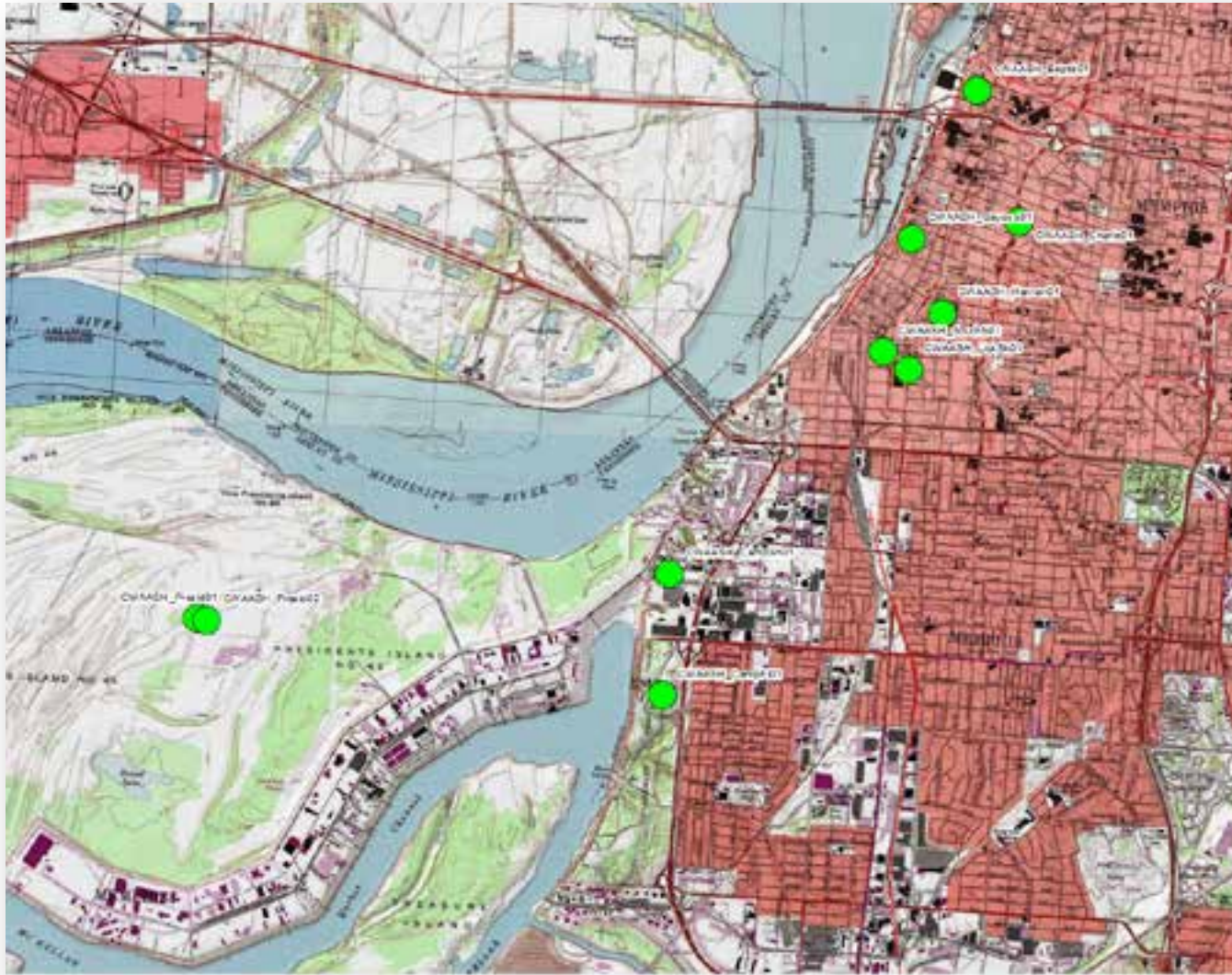
Students

- Geospatial research
- GIS data development
- Work with state & federal agencies

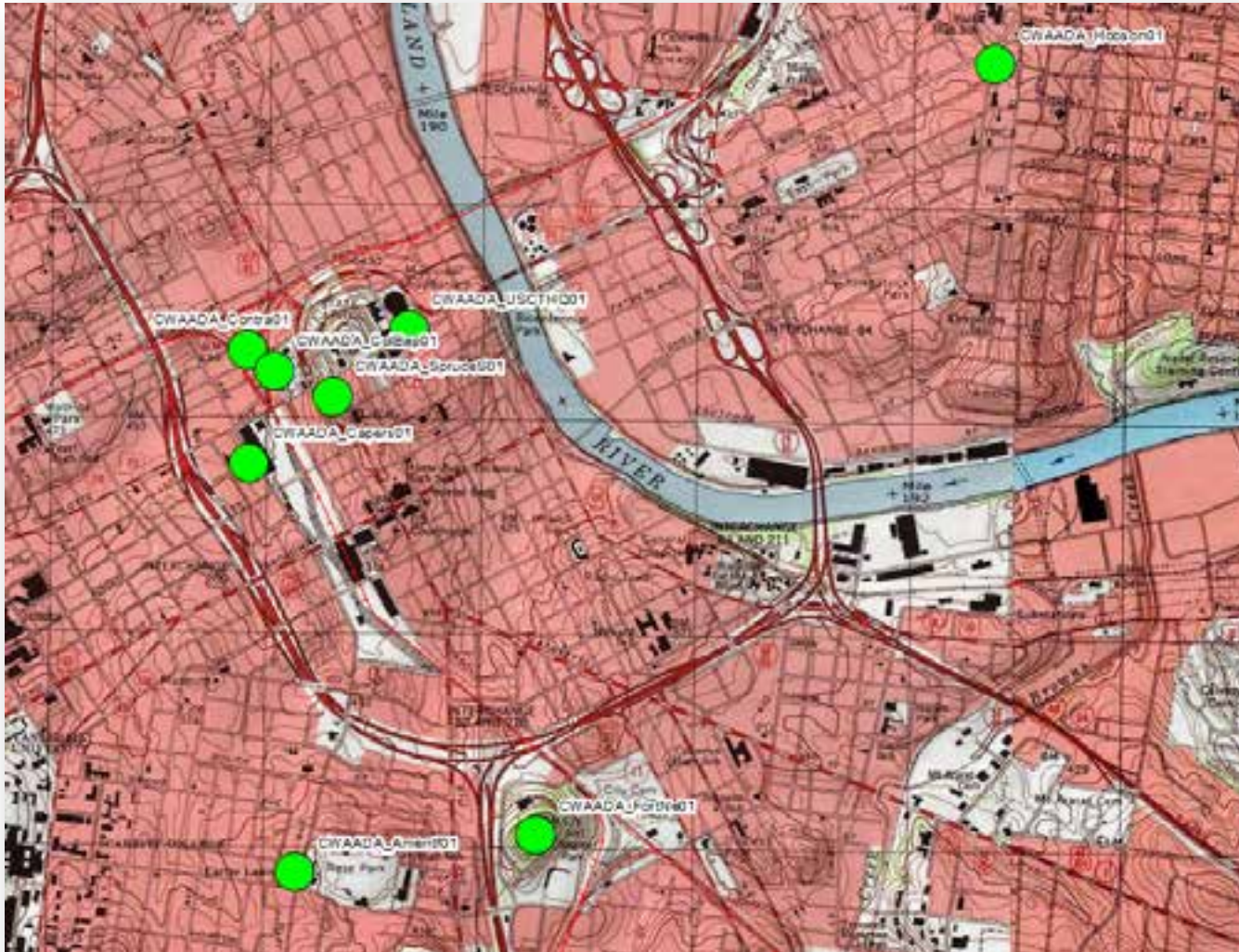
Faculty

- GIS & Digital humanities research
- Community visibility & collaboration

African American Civil War Geography



African American Civil War Geography



Collaboration = Results

Funding Partners

- Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association
- Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area
- Tennessee Wars Commission
- American Battlefield Protection Program

Research & Data Partners

- Tennessee State Library and Archives
- Tennessee Office for Information Resources
- *TNMap*: Tennessee's Enterprise GIS Portal

Users

- Teachers, students, Civil War enthusiasts, researchers, historians, preservationists...