





SECTION VI

State of Tennessee



A History of Tennessee

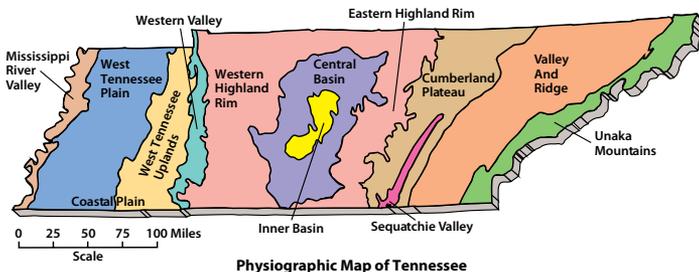
The Land and Native People

Tennessee's great diversity in land, climate, rivers, and plant and animal life is mirrored by a rich and colorful past. Until the last 200 years of the approximately 12,000 years that this country has been inhabited, the story of Tennessee is the story of its native peoples. The fact that Tennessee and many of the places in it still carry Indian names serves as a lasting reminder of the significance of its native inhabitants. Since much of Tennessee's appeal for settlers lay with the richness and beauty of the land, it seems fitting to begin by considering some of the state's generous natural gifts.

Tennessee divides naturally into three "grand divisions"—upland, often mountainous, East Tennessee; Middle Tennessee, with its foothills and basin; and the low plain of West Tennessee. Travelers coming to the state from the east encounter first the lofty Unaka and Smoky Mountains, flanked on their western slope by the Great Valley of East Tennessee. Moving across the Valley floor, they next face the Cumberland Plateau, which historically attracted little settlement and presented a barrier to westward migration. West of the Plateau, they descend into the Central Basin of Middle Tennessee—a rolling, fertile countryside that drew hunters and settlers alike. The Central Basin is surrounded

on all sides by the Highland Rim, the western ridge of which drops into the Tennessee River Valley. Across the river begin the low hills and alluvial plain of West Tennessee. These geographical "grand divisions" correspond to the distinctive political and economic cultures of the state's three regions.

Tennessee possesses an advantageous climate for people and agriculture, with abundant rainfall and a long, temperate growing season. The area is generally free from the long droughts and freezes of more extreme climates. The three major rivers that flow around and across Tennessee—the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland rivers—have created watersheds that cover most of the state. The Tennessee River forms near Knoxville, flows in a southwesterly direction into Alabama, then loops back north to the Kentucky border. The Cumberland River drains northern Middle Tennessee, while West Tennessee is covered by a network of sluggish streams, swamps, and lakes that flow directly into the Mississippi River. These rivers and their tributary streams have played a significant role from the earliest times by yielding fish and mussels, by serving as major transportation routes, and by creating the fertile bottom soils that attracted farmers.



Fossil-laden rocks found across Tennessee attest to the fact that warm, shallow seas covered the state in the distant past. Coal-bearing strata of the Pennsylvanian period are present throughout the Cumberland Plateau. Plant and dinosaur fossils of the Cretaceous epoch occur in the sandstones of West Tennessee. Remains of extinct mammoths, mastodons, and giant sloths—driven south by the advancing glaciers of the Ice Age—can be found in the Pleistocene deposits of West and Middle Tennessee.



Early man hunted mastodon that roamed during the last Ice Age.

The story of man in Tennessee begins with the last retreat of the Ice Age glaciers, when a colder climate and forests of spruce and fir prevailed in the region. Late Ice Age hunters probably followed animal herds into this area some 12,000–15,000 years ago. These nomadic Paleo-Indians camped in caves and rock shelters and left behind their distinctive arrowheads and spear points. They may have used such Paleolithic tools to hunt the mastodon and caribou that ranged across eastern Tennessee. About 12,000 years ago, the region's climate began to warm, and the predominant vegetation changed from conifer to our modern deciduous forest. Abundant acorns, hickory nuts, chestnuts, and beech mast attracted large numbers of deer and elk. A warmer climate, the extinction of the large Ice Age mammals, and the spread

of deciduous forests worked together to transform Indian society.

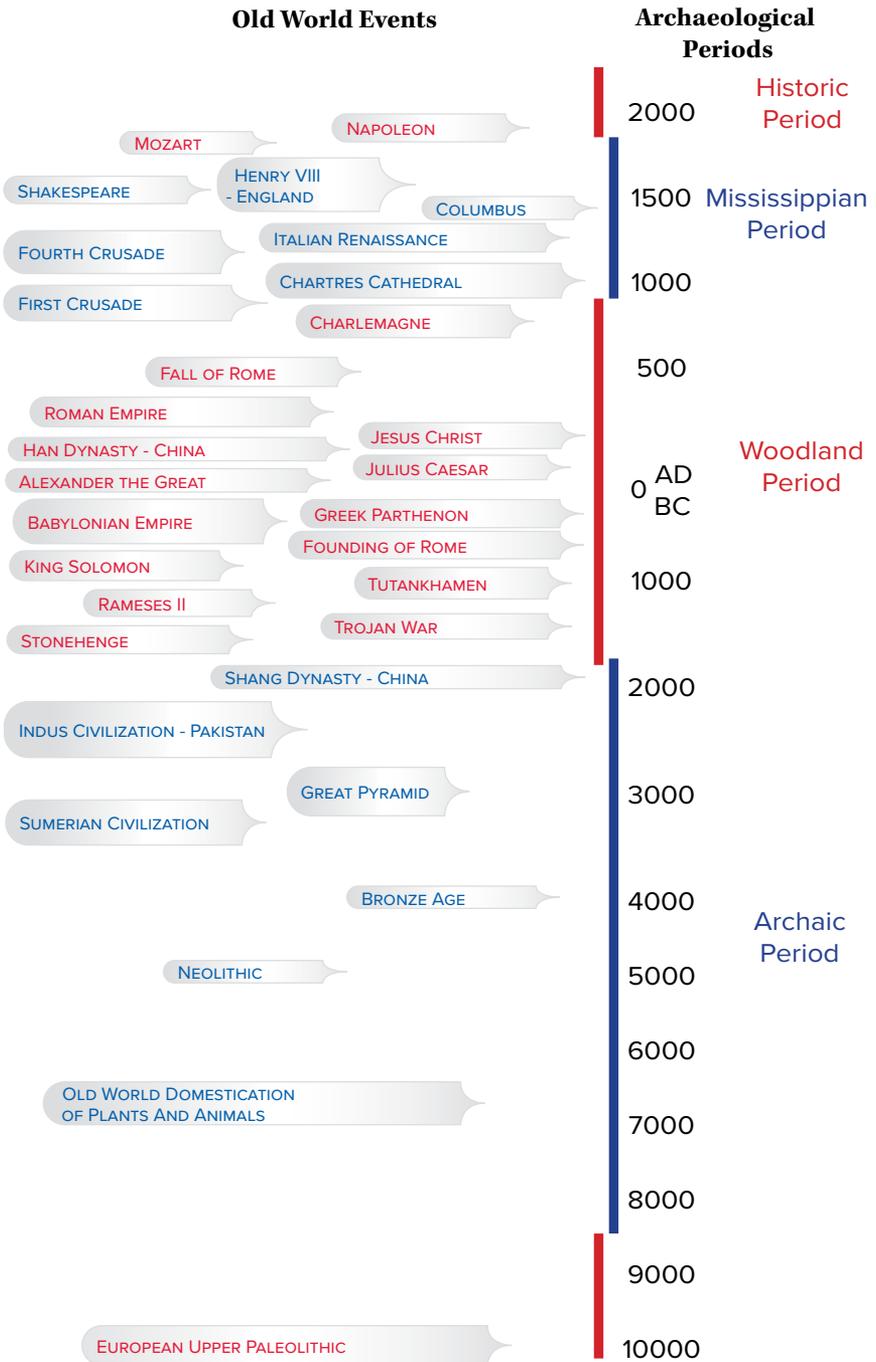
During what is known as the Archaic period, descendants of the Paleo-Indians began to settle on river terraces, where they gathered wild plant food and shellfish in addition to hunting game. Sometime between 3000 and 900 BC, natives took the crucial step of cultivating edible plants such as squash and gourds—the first glimmerings of agriculture. Archaic Indians thereby ensured a dependable food supply and freed themselves from seasonal shortages of wild plant foods and game. With a more secure food supply, populations expanded rapidly, and scattered bands combined to form larger villages.

The next major stage of Tennessee pre-history lasted almost 2,000 years and is known as the Woodland period. This era saw the introduction of pottery, the beginnings of settled farming communities, the construction of burial mounds, and the growing stratification of Indian society. Native Americans in Tennessee made the transition from societies of hunters and gatherers to well-organized tribal, agricultural societies dwelling in large, permanent towns.

It is the fate of preliterate cultures—those that did not record their accomplishments in writing—to be forgotten or known mostly from accounts written by their conquerors. This is true of the native inhabitants of Tennessee. There is little known about these impressive people not tinged by their often



Woodland Indians first developed farming in Tennessee.



disastrous encounters with European Americans. Pathogens, warfare, and the European fur trade had transformed Indian society long before white settlement reached the Tennessee country.

The Cherokee of historic times were by no means the first inhabitants of East Tennessee, and the region may have been more heavily populated in prehistoric times than it was later. The stream valleys and terraces of East Tennessee bear plentiful evidence of densely populated native communities prior to European contact. The adoption of maize agriculture around 800–1000 AD made possible a great expansion in the numbers of people living in towns and villages. The pinnacle of prehistoric cultural development in Tennessee occurred during the Mississippian period. It was marked by the emergence of organized chiefdoms in population centers such as Mound Bottom in Middle Tennessee and Toqua and Citico in East Tennessee.

In 1540–1542, when Hernando DeSoto led his entourage of 600 men—the largest and best-equipped army of conquistadores ever organized in Spanish America—through the mountains into East Tennessee, he encountered the remnants of this great native civilization. Unlike the French and English who came later, DeSoto found a world that was anything but uninhabited wilderness.

Spanish entradas, or exploratory expeditions, led successively by DeSoto, Tristan de Luna, and Juan Pardo, came through the region between 1540 and 1567.

One hundred and fifty years later, by the time of the first French and English incursions, the densely populated valleys and towns that DeSoto had found were gone or deserted. What happened to these early inhabitants? During this interregnum, about which we know very little, the late Mississippian chiefdoms and their densely populated towns mostly disappeared. Lacking immunity to the smallpox, measles, and venereal disease carried by these explorers and their livestock, they were in all likelihood wiped out by contagion. Waves of Spanish-borne contagion, for which Southeastern natives had no immunity, probably caused cyclical depopulation of this region.

Some of the indigenous peoples, such as the Yuchi, remained, but were driven out in the early eighteenth century by the Cherokee, who apparently migrated into the region to fill the void left by disease. There is evidence of a large-scale massacre at the Yuchi town of Chestowee in 1714. Cherokee hostility probably caused the Yuchi to abandon eastern Tennessee and settle further south in Georgia. The Yuchi people, known to us mainly from their enemies, were one of the precursor



Stone pipe from Roane County (left) and engraved shell gorget (right), both from the Mississippian period

tribes of eastern Tennessee. Tanasi, which gave its name to the state, may have originally been a Yuchi word, as was “Hogohegee,” the name given to the Tennessee River on many eighteenth-century maps.

The penetration of the overmountain Tennessee country by representatives of a Virginia trading house, along with French explorations further to the west, signaled a renewed interest of European powers in this remote forested region. Like the Spanish incursions, these forays had commercial intent, and they marked the beginning of the end of Tennessee’s native culture. For the next hundred years, the trade in deer and beaver pelts defined the relationship and formed the main connection between Euro-Americans and Native Americans.

Struggle for the Frontier

During the 150 years following DeSoto’s visit, new tribes moved into the Tennessee region. The powerful Cherokee built their towns and villages along the Hiwassee and Little Tennessee rivers, while the Chickasaw Nation held sway over the territory west of the Tennessee River. The Shawnee, a large Ohio Valley tribe, moved south into the Cumberland River country, but by 1715 the last Shawnee had been driven out by Chickasaw and Cherokee attacks. Henceforth, the game-filled woods of Middle Tennessee would be home to no Indian towns, although various tribes used it as a common hunting ground.

Europeans resumed their exploration of the area in 1673, when both the British and the French came from opposite directions to lay claim to the region. James Needham and Gabriel Arthur, English traders from Charles Town (later Charleston), South Carolina, crossed the Appalachians hoping to establish trade contacts among the Cherokee. Far to the west, Father Jacques Marquette and

From the western reaches of Virginia and the Carolinas into what would be known as Tennessee, the Cherokee held sway, having earlier driven out the Creek, Yuchi, and Shawnee from the region. They were the last native group to actually live in part of Tennessee. The colonial fur trade was an extractive industry that forever changed the Cherokee way of life. The system fostered a dependency on European trade goods and led to the overexploitation of game and natural resources. At the same time, trade greatly increased intertribal warfare. It entangled the Cherokee as proxies in European imperial wars that engulfed the tribe at the end of the eighteenth century. Land would soon replace deerskins as the chief commodity to be wrung from the Indians.

fur trader Louis Joliet came down the Mississippi River and claimed its entire valley in the name of the King of France. In time, Britain and France would build forts and trading posts, trying to reinforce their rival claims to unspoiled lands beyond the mountains.

The early fur traders—colorful characters like Alexander Cummings, James Adair, and Martin Chartier—lived among the Indians and became the crucial link between tribesmen, colonial governments, and international markets. They employed Indian hunters to supply them with beaver skins and deer pelts, which they then carried on pack trains to Charles Town or shipped down river to New Orleans. South Carolina merchants dominated the early Tennessee fur trade, exporting more than 160,000 skins worth \$250,000 in 1748 alone. The fur trade was profitable for the traders, but it wiped out much of Tennessee’s native animal life. The competition for the Indian trade sharpened Anglo-French rivalry,

and the Indians were drawn into a global power struggle.

In 1754, the contest between the French and British for control of a New World empire burst forth in the French and Indian War, in which native alliances became the objects of European military strategy. English soldiers built Fort Loudoun near present-day Vonore in an effort to keep the divided Cherokee loyal. The plan backfired, as Cherokee warriors laid siege to the fort and starved out its garrison, most of whom were massacred on their march to captivity. Despite the English disaster at Fort Loudoun, the outcome of the war was the defeat of the French and the decline of their influence in North America. France ceded all her claims to land east of the Mississippi River to the British, whose Proclamation of 1763 prohibited all westward settlement beyond the Appalachians. Although still a force to be reckoned with, the Cherokee faced an uncertain future. Not only had their inde-

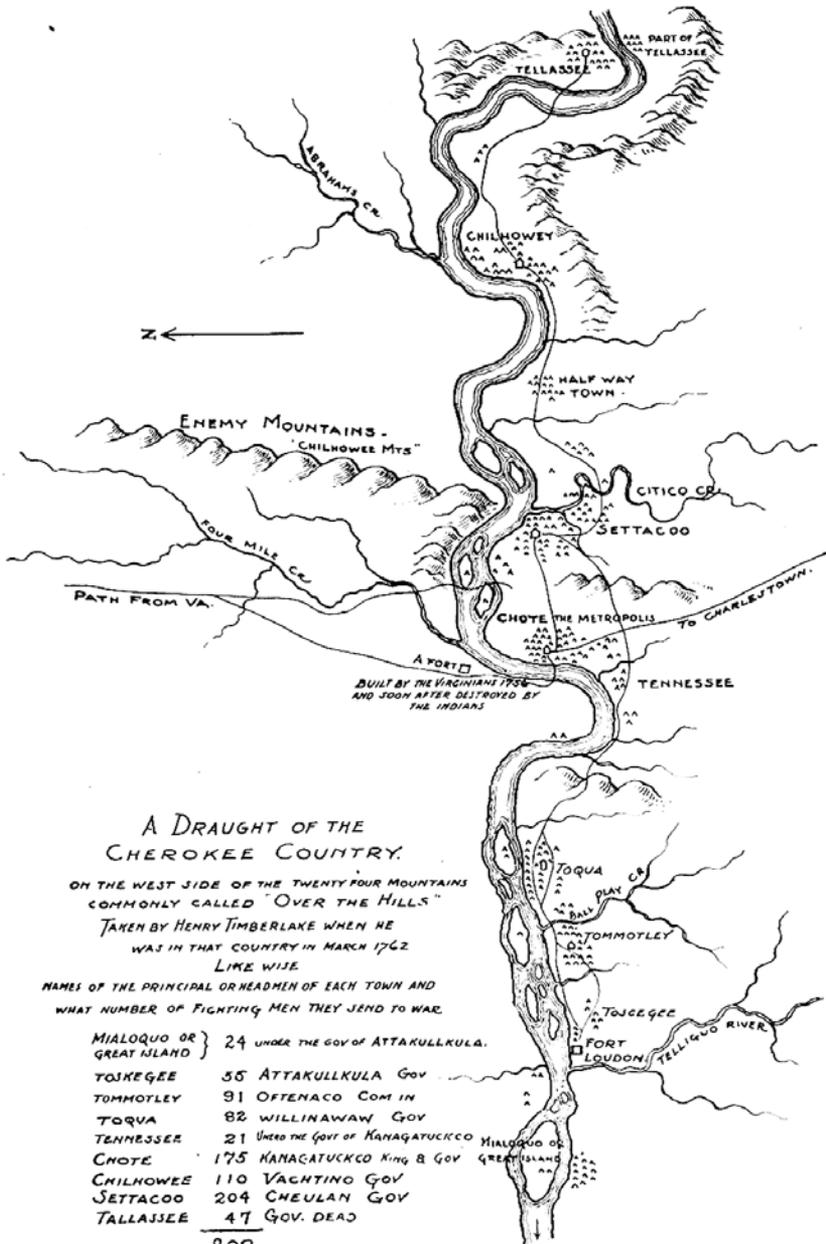
pendence been compromised by mixing in European affairs, but the land they occupied lay squarely in the path of migration across the mountains.

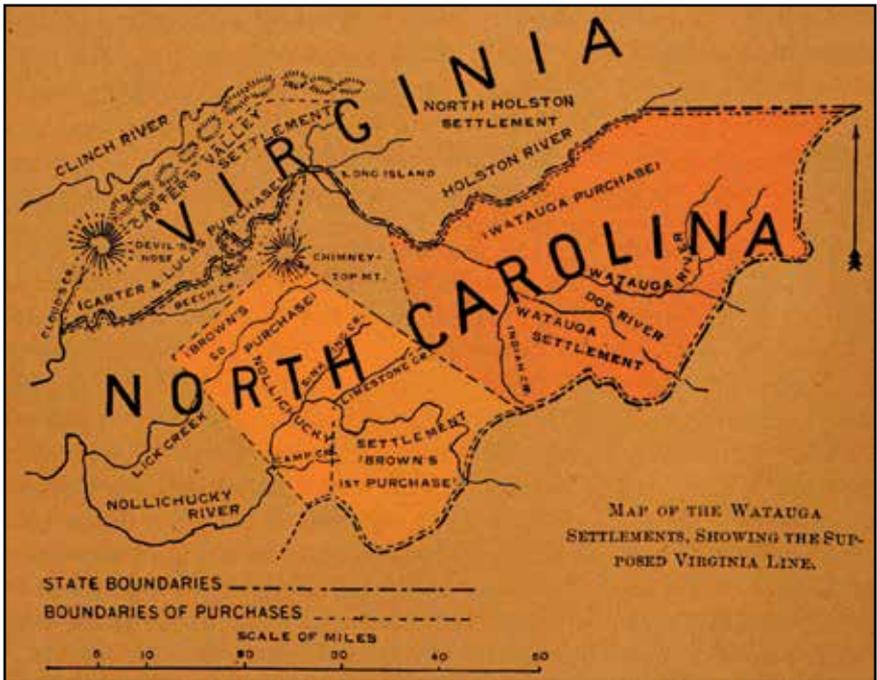
The end of the French and Indian War brought a new presence to the Tennessee wilderness, as restless back-country Virginians and North Carolinians began moving across the mountains into the valleys of East Tennessee, ignoring the British prohibition against settling on Indian lands. By the early 1770s, four different communities had been established in northeastern Tennessee—on the Watauga River, the North Holston, the Nolichucky, and in Carter's Valley. With the founding of these tiny settlements, frontier diplomacy entered a new phase: the possession of land, not trading privileges, now became the white man's goal. When an extended survey of the North Carolina–Virginia boundary line showed most whites to be squatting illegally on Indian land, the settlers negotiated leases for their farms from the Cherokee.

A race to grab western lands developed between North Carolina and Virginia land speculators, who hoped to obtain cheap land from the Indians and resell it at a profit to incoming settlers. Richard Henderson of Hillsborough, North Carolina, settled the issue by boldly arranging a private “treaty” with the Cherokee for the purchase of a vast tract that included most of Kentucky and Middle Tennessee. Henderson was the most ambitious speculator to take advantage of the Indians' willingness to trade land for money and goods, exchanging some twenty million acres for six wagon loads of goods worth about 10,000 English pounds. Dragging Canoe, a young Cherokee chief opposed to selling ancestral hunting grounds, warned the whites that they were purchasing a “dark and bloody ground.” With other disaffected warriors, Dragging Canoe retreated south to establish the warlike Chickamauga tribe, which plagued



Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to encounter native Tennesseans.





the Tennessee settlements for the next twenty years.

The men and women who ventured over the mountains to clear trees, plant fields, and build houses in Tennessee were a highly independent, self-sufficient breed. Their desire for land brought them into conflict with the Indians, and their insistence on freedom from arbitrary and remote government put them on a collision course with Great Britain. This independent spirit was expressed in the writing of the Watauga Compact, a new model of self-government for people who had migrated beyond the reach of organized government. However, their persistence in settling on Indian land brought hostility from most of the natives, who would align themselves with the British in their conflict with the colonists.

In July 1776, the Cherokee launched well-orchestrated attacks on the East Tennessee settlements. The Wataugans, led by their popular and soon-to-be-famous Indian-fighter, John Sevier,

repulsed the onslaught and swiftly counterattacked. With the help of militia from North Carolina and Virginia, they invaded the heartland of the Cherokee and put their towns to the torch. Siding with the British during the American Revolution proved disastrous for the Cherokee, as it gave the Americans a pretext to reduce the tribe's military power and to encroach further on their land.

The high-water mark of Tennessee's part in the Revolution came in the autumn of 1780. With American fortunes



This painting by Peggy Harvill depicts a flatboat voyage of the Donelson party to Nashville, 1780.

lagging after a series of military defeats, a motley force of backwoodsmen and farmers destroyed a British and Tory army at Kings Mountain, South Carolina. This key victory, in which Tennessee militia played an important part, saved the Patriot cause in the region and set in motion the chain of events that ended one year later with Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown.

The Revolution gave settlers an opening to push the frontier westward to the Cumberland River. Intrepid "long hunters" had been traveling to the Cumberland region since the 1760s. Men such as James Robertson, Kasper Mansker, Thomas Sharpe Spencer, Anthony and Abraham Bledsoe, and John Rains hunted and trapped through Middle Tennessee and spoke of its richness to their neighbors at home. On the heels of his vast Transylvania land purchase, Henderson hired Robertson and others to go there and survey the prospects for settlement. In the winter

and spring of 1779, 300 pioneers—both black and white—made the difficult trek to the French Lick, the future site of Nashville. Most of the men came overland under Robertson's leadership, while John Donelson led a flotilla with the women and children on a hazardous voyage down the Tennessee and up the Cumberland River.

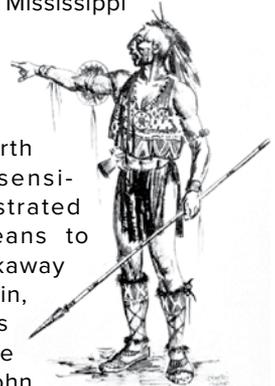
This first band of settlers established a number of fortified stations and spread across the Central Basin in search of good farmland. They withstood fourteen years of brutal attacks by Creek and Chickamauga warriors from the Tennessee River towns. Nearly all of the early families lost someone in the fighting, but the Cumberland folk survived and planted the seeds of future communities. More settlers came and, in time, the Indian threat faded. Treasure seekers, traders, hunters, and land speculators had found the Tennessee country, but it would take the farmers to hold what they had found.

From Territory to Statehood

In the days before statehood, Tennesseans struggled to gain a political voice and suffered for lack of the protection afforded by organized government. Six counties—Washington, Sullivan, and Greene in East Tennessee, and Davidson, Sumner, and Tennessee in the Middle District—had been formed as western counties of North Carolina between 1777 and 1788. After the Revolution, however, North Carolina did not want the trouble and expense of maintaining such distant settlements, embroiled as they were with hostile tribesmen and needing roads, forts, and open waterways. Nor could the far-flung settlers look to the national government, for under the weak, loosely constituted Articles of Confederation, it was a government in name only. The westerners' two main demands—protection from the Indians and the right

to navigate the Mississippi River—went largely unheeded during the 1780s.

In 1784, North Carolina's insensitivity led frustrated East Tennesseans to form the breakaway State of Franklin, also known as "Frankland." The ever-popular John Sevier was named governor, and the fledgling state began operating as an independent but unrecognized government. At the same time, leaders of the Cumberland settlements made overtures for an alliance with Spain, which



Dragging Canoe



Overmountain men muster at Sycamore Shoals before the Battle of Kings Mountain in this painting by Lloyd Branson, courtesy of the Tennessee State Museum.

controlled the lower Mississippi River and was held responsible for inciting the Indian raids. In drawing up the Watauga and Cumberland Compacts, early Tennesseans had already exercised some of the rights of self-government and were prepared to take political matters into their own hands. Such stirrings of independence caught the attention of North Carolina, which quietly began to reassert control over its western counties. These policies and internal divisions among East Tennesseans doomed the short-lived State of Franklin, which passed out of existence in 1788.

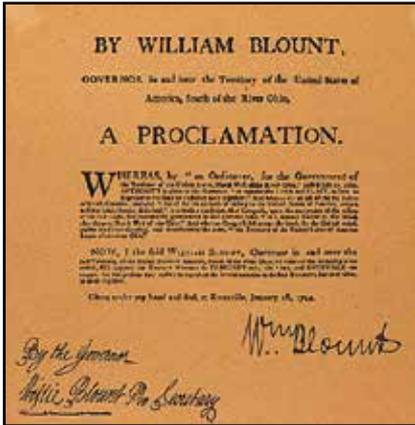
When North Carolina finally ratified the new Constitution of the United States in 1789, it also ceded its western lands, the Tennessee country, to the Federal government. North Carolina had used these lands as a means of rewarding its Revolutionary soldiers, and, in the Cession Act of 1789, it reserved the right to satisfy further land claims in Tennessee. Congress now designated the area as the Territory of the United States, South of the River Ohio, more commonly known as the Southwest Territory. The Territory was divided into three districts—two for East Tennessee and the Mero District

on the Cumberland—each with its own courts, militia, and officeholders.

President George Washington appointed as territorial governor William Blount, a prominent North Carolina politician with extensive holdings in western lands. Land grant acts passed in North Carolina created a booming market in Tennessee land before actual settlers had ever arrived. Land speculation was based upon cheaply amassing large amounts of western land, or claims to it, in hopes that increased immigration would raise the price of these lands. Most of Tennessee's early political leaders—Blount, Sevier, Henderson, and Andrew Jackson, among others—were



Attack on Fort Nashborough, 1781



Governor Blount summons Tennessee's first territorial Legislature.

involved in land speculation, making it difficult sometimes to tell where public responsibility left off and private business began. The sale of public land was closely linked to Indian affairs, because settlers would not travel to the new land until it was safe and could not legally settle on lands until Indian title was extinguished. The business of the territorial government, therefore, centered on land and Indian relations.

Despite the government's prohibition, settlers continually squatted on Indian land, which only increased the natives' hostility. Indian warfare flared up in 1792, as Cherokee and Creek warriors bent on holding back the tide of white migration launched frequent attacks. The Cumberland settlements in particular were dangerously remote and exposed to Creek raiding parties, and by 1794, it seemed questionable whether these communities could withstand the Indian onslaught. Exasperated by the unwillingness of the Federal government to protect them, the Cumberland militia took matters into their own hands. James Robertson organized a strike force that invaded the Chickamauga country, burned the renegade

Lower Towns, and eliminated the threat from that quarter. The Nickajack Expedition and threats of similar action against the Creeks finally brought a halt to raids on the Cumberland settlements.

With frontier warfare subsiding, the way seemed clear for peaceful growth and the possible creation of a state for the people of the Southwest Territory. In 1795, a territorial census revealed a sufficient population for statehood, and a referendum showed a three-to-one majority in favor of joining the Union. Governor Blount called for a constitutional convention to meet in Knoxville, where delegates from all the counties drew up a model state constitution and democratic bill of rights. The voters chose Sevier as governor, and the newly elected Legislature voted for Blount and William Cocke as senators and Andrew Jackson as representative. Tennessee leaders thereby converted the territory into a new state, with organized government and a constitution, before applying to Congress for admission. Since the Southwest Territory was the first Federal territory to present itself for admission to the Union, there was some uncertainty about how to proceed, and Congress divided on the issue along party lines. Nonetheless, in a close vote on June 1, 1796, Congress approved the admission of Tennessee as the sixteenth state of the Union.



Indian warriors lying in ambush



Tennessee circa 1796; note the separation of East and Middle Tennessee by Indian territory.

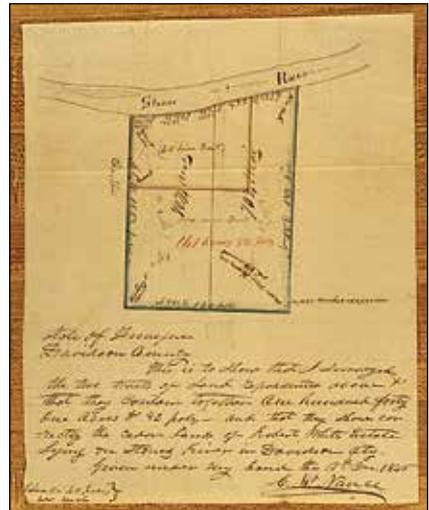
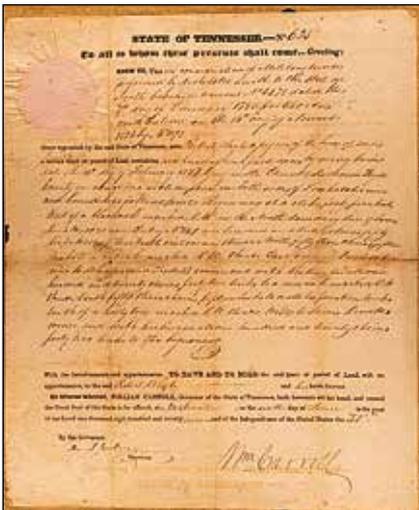
Tennessee's Coming of Age



Cheap public land and the circulation of so many old claims had the desired effect of attracting settlers from the East. Even more favorable for immigration were the various cessions of Indian land negotiated between 1798 and 1806. Treaties signed with the Cherokee and Chickasaw during that period resulted in the acquisition of much of south-central Tennessee and most of the Cumberland Plateau, finally removing the Indian barrier between the eastern counties and the Cumberland settlements. Tennessee now had jurisdiction over contiguous territory from east to west, which made it easier for westward travelers to reach Middle Tennessee.

Once the threat of Indian warfare had subsided, the pace of settlement and growth in Tennessee quickened. A brisk business in public lands arose from the continued issue of North Carolina military warrants, which Tennessee agreed to honor with grants within its boundaries. After 1806, the state also began to dispose of its public domain by selling off unclaimed land for a nominal fee.

With so much fresh land—some of it quite fertile—opening for settlement, the state experienced a very rapid rate of population growth. Between 1790 and 1830, Tennessee's growth rate exceeded that of the nation, as each successive Indian treaty opened up a new frontier. Between 1790 and 1800, the state's populace tripled. It grew 250 percent from the years 1800 to 1810, increasing from

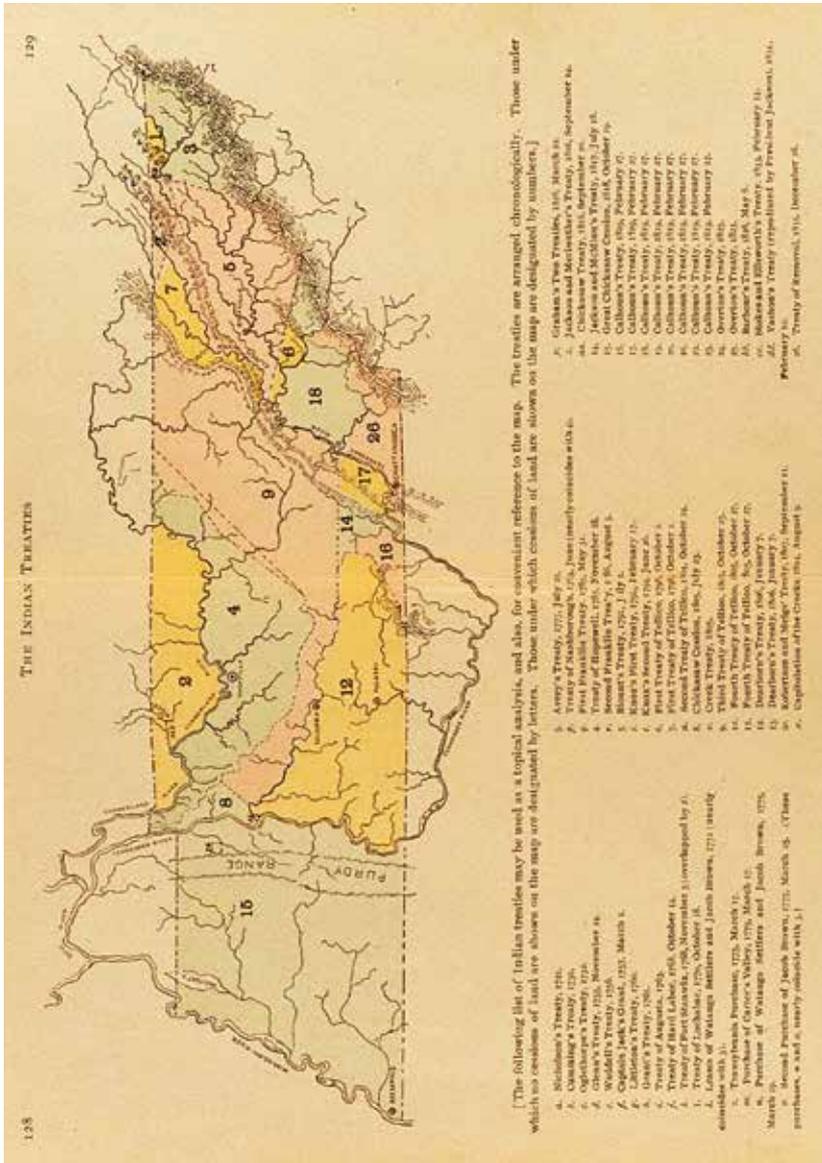


An 1827 land grant with plat showing the metes and bounds of the tract

We the People of the Territory
 of the United States South of the River
 Ohio having the right of admission into the
 General Government as a member State thereof,
 consistent with the Constitution of the United
 States and the act of Cession of the State of
 North Carolina, recognizing the Ordinance
 for the Government of the Territory of the United
 States Northwest of the River Ohio, do ordain
 and establish the following Constitution or form
 of Government and do mutually agree with
 each other to form ourselves into a free and
 Independent State, by the name of the State
 of Tennessee.

Article 1st

Section 1st The Legislative Authority of
 this State shall be vested in a General Assembly
 which shall consist of a Senate and House
 of Representatives both dependent on the People.

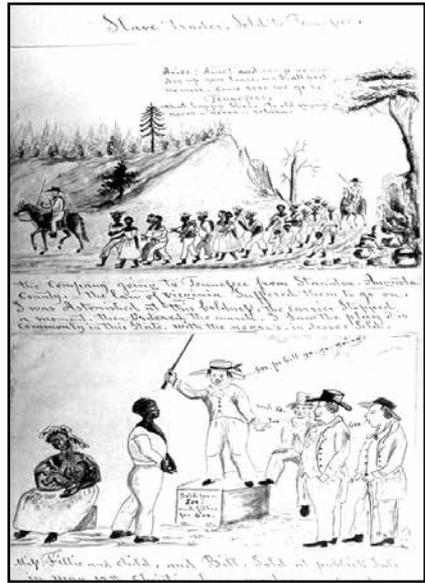


Map of Indian Treaties, 1770—1835

85,000 to 250,000 during the first fourteen years of statehood alone. By 1810, Middle Tennessee had moved ahead of the eastern section in population. This demographic shift caused a shift in the balance of political power, as leadership in the Governor's Office and the General Assembly passed from the older region of East Tennessee to the middle section, particularly the up-and-coming town of Nashville. The state capital was Knoxville from 1796 to September 1807, when the capital was Kingston for a day. The capital was relocated back to Knoxville until 1812, moved to Nashville from 1812 to 1817, then returned briefly to Knoxville. From 1818 to 1826, the General Assembly met in Murfreesboro, and in 1826, the capital moved to its permanent site in Nashville. After the fall of Fort Donelson, the General Assembly met in Memphis for one month and did not convene again until 1865 in Nashville.

Slavery played a major role in Tennessee's rapid expansion. The territorial census of 1791 showed a black population of 3,417—ten percent of the general population; by 1800, it had jumped to 13,584 (12.8 percent), and by 1810, African Americans constituted more than twenty percent of Tennessee's people. More black slaves were brought to the state following the invention of the cotton gin and the subsequent rise of commercial cotton farming. Slavery, because it depended on the cultivation of labor-intensive crops such as tobacco and cotton, was always sectional in its distribution, and it quickly became more prevalent in Middle Tennessee than in the mountainous East. By 1830, there were seven times as many slaves west of the Cumberland Plateau as in East Tennessee.

In addition to blacks brought involuntarily into the state, a sizeable number of free blacks lived in early Tennessee. The 1796 Constitution had granted suffrage and relative social equality to free blacks



Slave traders taking slaves to Tennessee to be sold at auction

and made it easy for owners to manumit, or free, their slaves. With the growing commercial success of slavery, however, laws were passed that made it difficult for an owner to free his slaves, and the position of free blacks in Tennessee became more precarious. A reaction against the expansion of slavery developed with the emancipation movement, making early headway in the eastern section. In 1819, Elihu Embree established at Jonesborough the first newspaper in the United States devoted



The typical Tennessee farm was a self-sufficient enterprise.



entirely to freeing slaves, the *Manumission Intelligencer* (later called the *Emancipator*). By the 1820s, East Tennessee had become a center of abolitionism—a staging ground for the issue that would divide not only the state but the nation.

With the opening of former Indian lands and the heavy migration into the state, the period from 1806 to 1819 was one of prosperity and rapid development in Tennessee. Thirty-six of Tennessee's ninety-five counties were formed between 1796 and 1819. Raw, isolated settlements developed quickly into busy county seats, and the formerly beleaguered outpost of Nashville grew into one of the leading cities of the Upper South.



Flatboats and steamboats allowed farmers to send their crops to market.

Still, with eighty percent of its people engaged in agriculture, Tennessee retained an overwhelmingly rural character. Although most farmers worked simply to supply the food needs of their families, income could be made from selling certain “cash crops.” Cotton and tobacco were commercial crops from the beginning. They were profitable, easily transported, and could be worked on large farms, or plantations, with slave labor. Tennessee farmers also converted corn, the state's most important crop, into



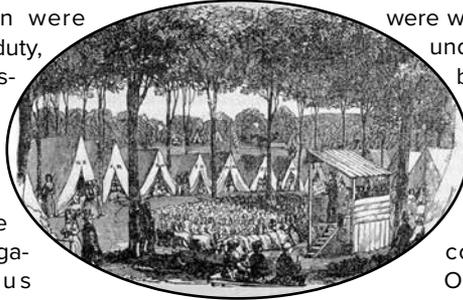
Great Western furnace in Stewart County, a typical early ironworks

meal, whiskey, or (by feeding it to hogs) cured pork and shipped it by keelboat or flatboat to Natchez and New Orleans. Land-locked as they were and plagued by poor roads, early Tennesseans relied mainly on rivers to move their crops to market.

Most types of manufacturing, like spinning cloth, making soap, and forging tools, were done in the farm household. Even larger enterprises like gristmills, sawmills, tanneries, and distilleries centered on the processing of farm products. The one true industry in early Tennessee was ironmaking. Frontier ironworks were erected in upper East Tennessee by men who had brought knowledge of the craft from Pennsylvania. Beginning with James Robertson's Cumberland Furnace in 1796, Middle Tennessee ironmasters built numerous furnaces and forges to capitalize on the abundant iron ores of the western Highland Rim region. These were complicated enterprises employing hundreds of men (slave and free) to dig the ore, cut the wood for charcoal, and operate the furnace. The early Tennessee iron industry supplied blacksmiths, mill owners, and farmers with the metal they needed and laid the groundwork for future industrial development.

As nearly all farm work was performed by hand and much of the settlers' time was devoted to raising or making the goods necessary to survive, little time remained for cultural diversions. All

able-bodied men were subject to militia duty, and the militia musters served as festive social occasions for the whole county. There was little opportunity for organized religious practices in the early days and few ministers to preach.



A Methodist camp meeting

In the absence of formal churches, camp meetings—conducted by itinerant and self-taught ministers—served as the main arena for frontier religion. These revivals were the chief means by which the Methodist and Baptist faiths gained new converts. Presbyterianism was much in evidence because of the prevalence of Scots-Irish settlers in early Tennessee. Presbyterianism, unlike the other two denominations, insisted on an educated clergy, accounting for much of the early development of schools in Tennessee. Ministers such as Reverend Samuel Doak in East Tennessee and Reverend Thomas Craighead in Middle Tennessee founded academies in the 1790s that became the seeds of future educational institutions. Academies chartered by the state were supposed to receive part of the proceeds from the sale of state lands, but this rarely happened. While state support for education languished, ministers and private teachers took the lead in setting up schools across the state.

Relations between whites and Native Americans were relatively peaceful after 1794, although trespassing on Indian land was rampant and life continued to be hazardous for settlers in outlying areas. As Tennesseans pushed west and south toward the Tennessee River, however, they began to press upon Creek territory, and hostilities resumed. The Creeks were the most formidable tribe on the Tennessee borders, and they

were widely believed to be under the influence of belligerent British and Spanish agents. Moreover, in 1812, ominous rumors reached the frontier of a warlike confederacy of the Ohio Valley tribes led by Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet.

Tecumseh had visited the Creek Nation the year before to urge the southern tribesmen to join his warrior crusade to roll back white settlement. His prophecy



The Creek War was a civil war among the Creek Nation, in which many chiefs, including McIntosh (left) and Yoholo-Micco (right), fought with the Americans against the Red Sticks.

that the earth would tremble as a sign of the impending struggle was seemingly confirmed by a series of massive earthquakes that convulsed western Tennessee and created Reelfoot Lake.



Tecumseh (left) and his brother, the Prophet, leaders of the last great Indian confederacy in the East

Anti-British sentiment ran high in Tennessee, and Tennesseans were easily disposed to link the Indian threat with British outrages on the high seas. Led by Felix Grundy of Nashville, the state's representatives were prominent among the "War Hawks" in Congress, who clamored for war with Great Britain. When war was declared in June 1812 (with the unanimous assent of Tennessee's delegation), Tennesseans saw an opportunity to rid their borders once and for all of Indians. Their chance came soon enough.

News reached Nashville in August 1813 of the massacre of some 250 men, women, and children at Fort Mims, Alabama. Tecumseh's message had taken hold, and the Creek Nation was split by civil war. The Fort Mims attack was carried out by the war faction, called Red Sticks, under their chief, William Weatherford. Governor Willie Blount immediately called out 2,500 volunteers and placed them under the command of Andrew Jackson. Jackson's 1813–1814 campaign against Weatherford's warriors, known as the Creek War, really constituted the Southern phase of the War of 1812. Despite a chronic shortage of supplies, lack of support from the War Department, and mutiny, Jackson's militia army prevailed in a series of lopsided victories over the Red Sticks. His victory at the Battle of Tohopeka (Horseshoe Bend) utterly destroyed Creek military power and propelled not only Jackson, but also his lieutenants, William Carroll



Map from Andrew Jackson's report on the Battle of Horseshoe Bend

and Sam Houston, to national prominence.

On the heels of his success against the Indians, Andrew Jackson was appointed major general in the U.S. Army and given command of the Southern military district just in time to meet an impending British invasion of the Gulf Coast. Having secured Mobile and driven the British out of Pensacola, Jackson hurriedly marched his troops to New Orleans to rendezvous with other Tennessee units converging to defend the city. On January 8, 1815, Jackson's ragtag troops inflicted a crushing defeat on a veteran British army under Sir Edward Pakenham, who was killed along with hundreds of his soldiers. The Americans suffered twenty-three casualties. Despite having occurred fifteen days after the signing of the peace treaty with Great Britain, the Battle of New Orleans was a brilliant victory and one of the few unequivocal American successes of the war. This triumph launched Andrew Jackson on the road to the presidency. Three years later, he led yet another force composed largely of Tennesseans into Florida—an action supposedly directed against the Seminoles, but one that convinced Spain to cede Florida to the United States.



Creek Chief Weatherford surrenders to Jackson.

For Tennessee, these military campaigns resulted in the clearing of Indian claims to nearly all of the state. The Chickasaw Treaty of 1818, negotiated by Jackson and Governor Isaac Shelby of Kentucky, extended Tennessee's western boundary to the Mississippi River and opened up a rich, new agricultural region for settlement. Instead of the two-thirds to three-fourths of the state occupied or claimed by Indians during the first year of statehood, the only Indians remaining in Tennessee by 1820 were squeezed into the southeast corner of the state. The heavy influx of settlers and a booming land market in West Tennessee fueled a frantic period of business prosperity, which ended abruptly with the Panic of 1819. This brief but violent economic depression ruined most banks and

many individuals. The state's economy



An 1818 Tennessee State bank note

bounced back quickly, however, as West Tennessee became one of the centers of the South's new cotton boom. Having gained stature by their recent martial successes, Tennesseans could look back on their first quarter century of statehood as a period of growth and prosperity comparable to that of any state in the young nation.

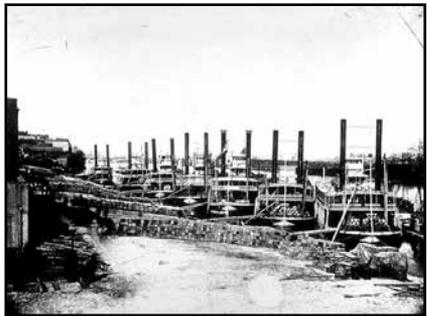
The Age of Jackson

The rapid settlement of West Tennessee ended the frontier phase of Tennessee's history. Thereafter, the state served more as a seedbed for migration to other states than as a destination for emigrants. Forever restless and searching for fresh land, Tennesseans were

Transportation needs loomed large as Tennessee sought to widen its traffic with the rest of the United States. By 1820, the first steamboats had reached Nashville, providing the mid-state region with quicker, more reliable service to downriver markets. Goods



Memphis waterfront



Nashville wharf

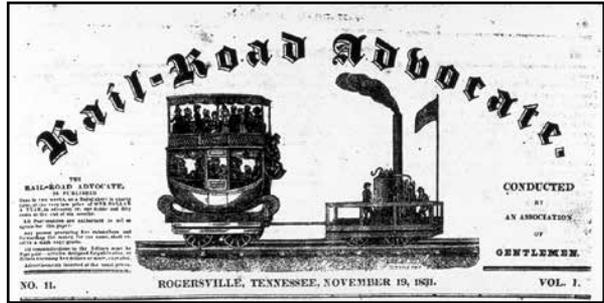
frequently in the vanguard of westward migration. They were prominent among the pioneer settlers of Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Mississippi, and Alabama and joined enthusiastically in the California gold rush.

often arrived at Nashville by steamboat and were then transported overland on roads that radiated from the city like the spokes of a wheel. The most famous of these roads, the Natchez Trace, connected Middle Tennessee directly with

the lower Mississippi River. Memphis was established in the southwestern corner of the state after the Chickasaw Treaty and quickly developed into a thriving river port on the strength of its steamboat traffic. Cotton bales from delta

plantations were carted into Memphis to be loaded onto boats and shipped to New Orleans.

More difficult was the situation of landlocked East Tennessee, which, because of Muscle Shoals and other obstructions on the Tennessee River, lacked a ready outlet to the western waters. Although the steamboat *Atlas* managed the first upstream navigation as far as Knoxville in 1828, East Tennesseans saw their future in better roads and other improvements to connect them with cities on the eastern seaboard. As early as the 1830s, businessmen in that section began asking for state assistance in building railroads. Generally averse to government spending and with a capital city already served by fine waterways, Tennessee got a late start in railroad construction. The state had no railroad mileage in 1850, but by 1860, 1,200 miles of track had been laid, most of it in East Tennessee. So meager were the commercial ties between the middle and eastern sections that no line connected Knoxville directly with Nashville. East Tennessee began to develop coal mines and industries that, together with its east-



ward railway connections, caused the section to diverge even further from the rest of the state.

Tennessee agriculture achieved great success during this period. In 1840, the state was the largest corn producer in the nation, and in 1850, it raised more hogs than any other state. This success was due as much to the ready access to markets enjoyed by Tennessee farmers as it was to the natural fertility of their land. Tennessee's corn and hog farms contributed a large share of the foodstuffs going downriver to supply Deep South plantations. Diversification was also a strength. While much of the South was caught up in the cotton mania and devoted so much land to the cash crop that food had to be imported, Tennessee developed a varied farm economy. Farmers in different parts of the state raised mules and livestock and produced vegetables and fruits, hemp and tobacco, and various grains in abundance. Tennessee served as a breadbasket to the Cotton South, thus both tying it to its sister southern states and setting it apart from them.

Another sign of Tennessee's emergence from the frontier stage was the rapid development of cultural and intellectual life. Nashville became an early center of the arts and education in the South. Music publishing gained a foothold in the city as early as 1824, making possible the preservation of many traditional American tunes. By the 1850s,



the University of Nashville had grown into one of the nation's foremost medical schools, training many of the physicians who practiced in the trans-Appalachian West.

The noted Philadelphia architect William Strickland came to Nashville in 1845 to design and build the new state capitol, one of the finest examples of Greek revival architecture in the country. Strickland, Nathan Vaught, and the Prussian-born architect Adolphus Heiman also designed a number of ornate churches and residences in Middle Tennessee. The patronage of businessmen in the towns and wealthy planters in the countryside gave employment to a considerable number of silversmiths, engravers, furniture makers, stencil cutters, printers, and music teachers. Early Tennessee portrait painters, most notably Ralph E. W. Earl, Washington B. Cooper, and Samuel Shaver, turned out a large volume of technically competent, direct likenesses that were well-suited to the sober Presbyterian character of their subjects. Antebellum Tennessee sup-

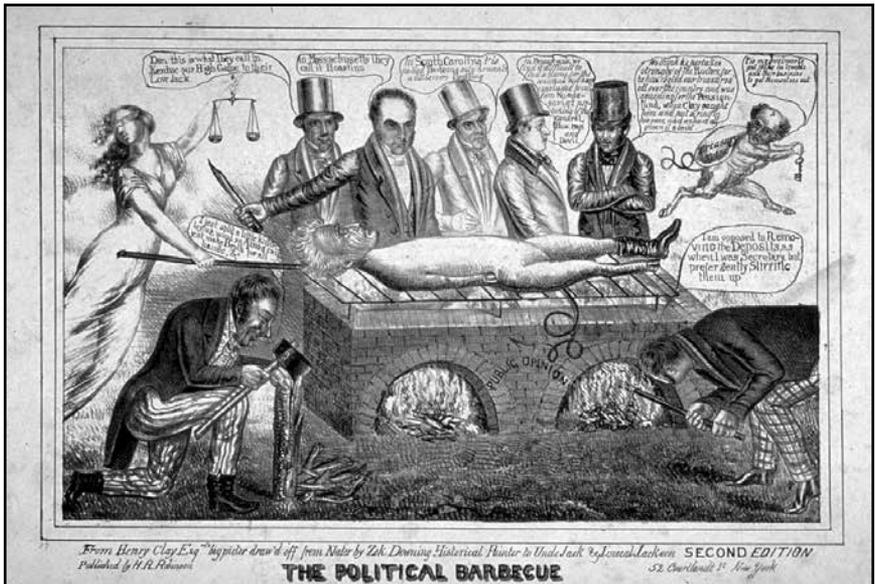
ported a sizeable community of indigenous craftsmen and artists who, nonetheless, always had to compete against imported goods brought from



Depicted here muzzling the chief, Henry Clay was Jackson's great rival.

Eastern cities.

The period from 1820–1850 was a golden age for Tennessee politics—a time when the state's political leaders wielded considerable influence in the affairs of the nation. None had more of



"The Political Barbecue" shows how Jackson was a force for political passions.

State of Tennessee



The Trail of Tears by Robert Lindneux, courtesy of the Woolaroc Museum

an impact than Andrew Jackson, whose campaigns revolutionized American electoral politics. Jackson was unsuccessful in his first bid for the presidency in 1824, although he received more of the popular and electoral vote than any other candidate. His election by landslide majorities in 1828 and 1832 brought huge numbers of new voters into the system and ushered in the triumph of western democracy. Gone were the old Virginia and New England aristocrats who had dominated the White House. With Jackson, the torch passed to the heroes of the common man. His image-conscious campaigns made it difficult for anyone to be elected president who could not identify himself with the workers and farmers of the country. Well after his second term expired, Jackson continued to cast a long shadow over Tennessee and national politics, with politicians generally defining themselves according to where they stood on Jackson and his policies.

The headstrong chief executive weathered several crises during his eight-year presidency. His veto of a major internal improvements bill, his war against the Second Bank of the United States,

and his clash with the South Carolina nullifiers, led by John C. Calhoun, were significant marks of Jackson's administration—political victories that nonetheless cost the president a good deal of support.

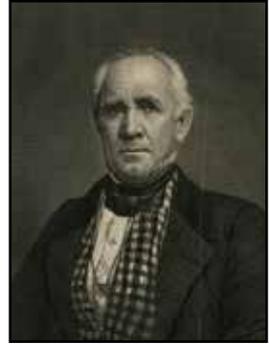
Most significant for Tennessee, however, was Jackson's Indian removal policy. The effort to remove the remnants of the Southern tribes to land beyond the Mississippi River grew out of Georgia's attempts to take over Cherokee land and property in that state. The Cherokee in North Georgia and Southeast Tennessee had long since adopted much of the white man's civilization—some were slaveholders and prosperous farmers; they had their own newspaper and constitution; and many were more literate than their white neighbors. Georgia was allowed to proceed with its grasping evictions because President Jackson refused to enforce the Supreme Court decision protecting Cherokee autonomy. Instead, he actually ordered the Army to begin preparations to remove—forcibly, if necessary—the Cherokee from their ancestral land. With the power of the Federal government arrayed against them, a handful of tribal members gave

in and signed the removal treaty in 1835, but most steadfastly opposed giving up their land. Many Cherokee were still on their land in 1838 when the U.S. Army was dispatched to evict them and send them on a woeful trek to Indian Territory—the “Trail of Tears.” A small band of Cherokee who refused to comply with forced removal escaped into the Smoky Mountains, where their descendants still live. These final lands taken from the once-powerful Cherokee were quickly sold by the state to settlers, who soon turned Chief John Ross’s Landing into the town of Chattanooga.

Among other leading politicians of Tennessee’s golden age, ironically, were several who developed their careers in opposition to Jackson and his party. William Carroll served six terms as governor, from 1821 through 1835, despite a conspicuous lack of support from Jackson. David Crockett, Hugh Lawson White, Ephraim Foster, James C. Jones, Newton Cannon, and John Bell made their political fortunes as part of the opposition to the Democrats. While some businessmen resented Jackson’s war on the national bank, others felt excluded by Jackson’s tight circle of political handlers. More significantly, many Tennesseans, particularly in the Eastern Division, favored internal improvements and government aid to industry—measures generally at odds with Jacksonian economic policy.

As a result, Andrew Jackson’s home state became a birthplace of the anti-Jackson Whig Party and a battleground for two evenly matched political parties. Whig candidates for governor won six out of nine contests between 1836 and 1852; all of the races were extremely close, with none of the victorious candidates receiving as much as fifty-two percent of the vote. Whigs also carried Tennessee in six consecutive presidential elections. The state went so far as to vote against native Democrat James K. Polk for president in

1844. The ebb and flow of the Democrat and Whig rivalry marked the high point of electoral politics in Tennessee. Voter participation rates reached all-time highs due to the fierce competitiveness of the two parties, plentiful political talent, the mass appeal of stump speeches and barbecues for rural voters, and the wide readership of partisan newspapers.



Sam Houston

During this period, Tennessee earned the nickname “Volunteer State” for its role in America’s wars of expansion. The list of Tennesseans who figured prominently in the War of 1812, the Texas Revolution, the Seminole Wars, and the Mexican War is impressive. Jackson and his troops saved the Gulf Coast from British and Spanish claims and forced Native American tribes to give up major portions of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Jackson’s expedition into Florida in 1818 first brought that territory into the American fold. In 1836, Tennesseans David Crockett and Sam Houston led the fight for Texan independence at the Alamo and San Jacinto. That same year, William Lauderdale took a militia



David Crockett

force into central Florida to subdue the Seminoles. Tennesseans volunteered in large numbers for the war with Mexico and bore the brunt of fighting in



James K. Polk

several key battles. Perhaps the ultimate military adventurer was Nashvilleian William Walker, who, during the 1850s, led several freebooting expeditions to carve out inde-

pendent, slaveholding republics in Lower California and Central America.

Tennessee supplied political as well as military leadership for an aggressive young nation seeking to expand its borders. Felix Grundy declared in 1811 that he was “anxious not only to add the Floridas to the South, but the Canadas to the North of this empire.” Tennessee’s congressional representatives were leading “War Hawks” in 1812 and throughout the conflict with Mexico. Having already removed the Southern tribes from millions of acres of land, Jackson’s final act as president was to recognize the Lone Star Republic. When James K. Polk of Maury County was elected president in 1844, his first act was to annex Texas.

The Mexican War was primarily a war of Southern expansion, and when it was over, the Polk administration had added California, Oregon, and the New Mexico territory to the country—nearly as much land as was acquired with the Louisiana Purchase. Tennessee’s political golden age thus overlapped with an era when vast domains were added to the nation, in part through the military and political exploits of Tennesseans.

Having supplied much of the manpower for the war with Mexico, most Tennesseans resented when anti-slavery Northerners chose the moment of their triumph to raise the issue of banning slavery in the newly won territories. The Wilmot Proviso, which sought to do just that, was introduced in Congress in 1848, setting a match to the political powder keg of slavery.

Tennessee’s slave population had increased at a faster rate than the general populace, growing from 22.1 percent of the state’s inhabitants in 1840 to 24.8 percent in 1860. Ownership of slaves was concentrated in relatively few hands: 4.5 percent of the state’s white populace (37,000 out of 827,000) were



Storming of Chapultepec: Heavy enlistment for the Mexican War earned Tennessee the name “Volunteer State.”



Slaves picking cotton

slaveholders in 1860. As the world cotton market and the plantation economy that supplied it geared up, the value of slaves (and, hence, their importance to slave owners) rose. Nashville and Memphis were renowned centers of the slave trade. The profitability of cotton and slave labor made planters determined to resist Northern attacks on their “peculiar institution.”

In the early 1830s, two events signaled a hardening of Tennessee’s position on slavery. The Virginia slave uprising led by Nat Turner badly frightened slave owners, prompting whites in Tennessee to step up “patrols” for runaways and tighten the codes regulating slave conduct, assembly, and movement. Amendment of the state Constitution in 1834 to prohibit free blacks from voting reflected whites’ growing apprehension over African Americans living in their midst. Free blacks were pressured to leave the state, and rumors of planned slave insurrections kept tensions high. Tennessee had earlier been home to a peaceful emancipation movement but,

by the 1850s, had become sharply polarized between anti-slavery advocates in East Tennessee and diehard defenders of slavery in West Tennessee.

From 1848 onward, slavery became a national issue and overshadowed state issues in the political arena. Political parties and church denominations broke apart over slavery. Newspapers waged a vicious war of words over abolitionism and the fate of the Union. Angry over Northern interference with slavery, delegates from across the South met in 1850 at the Southern Convention in Nashville to express their defiance. With strong economic ties and even stronger social and cultural bonds to the Lower South, Tennessee supported the pro-slavery movement but not, generally speaking, secessionism. Tennessee was home to a powerful nationalist tradition, forged



through decades of “volunteer” duty, and most of its citizens were loath to follow Deep South “fire-eaters” in breaking up the Union. The rest of the country stood poised on the brink of disaster in 1860.

The Time of Troubles

Unaffected by the strident political rhetoric of the 1850s, commerce and farm wealth had climbed to unprecedented heights. To some Tennesseans, the prosperity of the decade only confirmed the superiority of the Southern agrarian system—slavery and all. With

more capital than ever invested in slaves, planters did not intend to willingly suffer the loss of that property or even to have restrictions put on its use. They viewed the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency and the elevation of his anti-slavery Republican Party to national



Lucy Pickens, born in Fayette County, was pictured on this Confederate bank note.

power in 1860 as a disaster. Lincoln had so little support in Tennessee that his name was not even on the ballot. Though relatively small in numbers, slaveholders exerted great influence over the political affairs of Middle and West Tennessee, and they were convinced that the time had come for a break with the North. They had a staunch ally, moreover, in Governor Isham Harris, who was ardently pro-secession and worked hard to align Tennessee with the ten states that had already left the Union.

Most Tennesseans initially showed little enthusiasm for breaking away from a nation whose struggles it had shared for so long. In 1860, they had voted by a slim margin for the Constitutional Unionist John Bell, a native-son moderate who continued to search for a way out of the crisis. In February 1861, fifty-four percent of the state's voters voted against sending delegates to a secession convention. With the firing on Fort Sumter in April, followed by Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to coerce the seceded states back into line, public sentiment turned dramatically against the



Johnson's Island in Ohio, where Confederate officers captured at Fort Donelson were imprisoned

Union. Governor Harris began military

mobilization, submitted an ordinance of secession to the General Assembly, and made direct overtures to the Confederate government. In a June 8 referendum, East Tennessee held firm against separation, while West Tennessee returned an equally heavy majority in favor. The big shift came in Middle Tennessee, which went from fifty-one percent against secession in February to eighty-eight percent in favor in June. Having ratified by popular vote its support for the fledgling Confederacy, Tennessee became the last state to withdraw from the Union. The die was cast for war.

Much is made of the glory and great deeds that occurred during the next four years. Without diminishing in any measure the heroism of both soldiers and civilians, of women as well as men, the fact



Brothers in arms: Raford and Benjamin Ammons, Tennessee Confederates

remains that this was the worst of times for Tennessee and its people. The trauma of war brought out greatness in some, but the worst in many more. Hardship visited households from one end of the state to the other, and few families were spared suffering and loss during the conflict. Great battles were fought in Tennessee as much as in any theater of the war, and the men who fought them deserve the respect of posterity for their sacrifices. For most Tennesseans, however, the period from 1861–1865 was a



Governor Harris led Tennessee into the Confederacy.

grim, brutish time when death and ruin ruled the land.

Tennessee was one of the border states that sent large numbers of men to fight on both sides of the Civil War. A sizeable part of the male population—187,000 Confederate and 51,000 Federal soldiers—mustered in from Tennessee. In no state more than this one, loyalties divided regions, towns, and even families: on Gay Street in Knoxville, rival recruiters signed up Confederate and Federal soldiers just a few blocks from each other. Rebels enlisted from mostly Unionist East Tennessee, while pockets of Federal support could be found in the predominantly Confederate middle and western sections.

The provisional troops that Governor Harris turned over to the Confederate government became the nucleus of the Confederacy's main western army, the Army of Tennessee. While a few Tennessee Confederates were sent east to Lee's army, most of the state's enlistees, like the Virginians with Lee, had the distinction of fighting on their home soil to contest the invasion of their state. Being in part a homegrown force, the Confederate Army of Tennessee fought tenaciously against a foe that was generally better-armed and more numerous.

Geography dictated a central role for Tennessee in the coming conflict: its rivers and its position as a border state between North and South made Tennessee a natural thoroughfare for invading Federal armies. The

Confederate commander in the West, Albert Sidney Johnston, set up a line of positions across Kentucky and Tennessee to defend the Confederacy from the Appalachians to the Mississippi River. It was a porous defensive line whose weakest points were two forts in Tennessee—Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and, twelve miles away, Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. The Union high command was quick to recognize the strategic advantage of controlling these two rivers, flowing as they did through the heartland of the Upper South and holding the key to Nashville.

In late January 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant and Commodore Andrew Foote steamed up the Tennessee River with seven gunboats and 15,000 troops to attack Fort Henry. Union gunboats quickly subdued the half-flooded fort, and, while Foote's flotilla came back around to the Cumberland River, Grant marched his army overland to lay siege to Fort Donelson.



General Ulysses S. Grant

The Confederate batteries there were more than a match for Yankee gunboats, however, and the infantry battled back and forth around the fort's perimeter.

Despite fair prospects for the garrison's escape, a trio of Confederate generals—John Floyd, Gideon Pillow, and Simon Buckner—decided on the night of February 15 to surrender their forces. Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest refused to surrender and, in the first of many brilliant exploits, managed to lead some troops out of the entrapment. Approximately 10,000 Confederate soldiers, many



The lower water battery at Fort Donelson

of whom had enlisted only a few months earlier, were surrendered and packed off to Northern prison camps.

The loss of Fort Donelson was the first real catastrophe to befall the Confederacy. In order to demonstrate who now controlled the waterways, Foote sent two gunboats steaming unmolested up the Tennessee River into Alabama. The rivers that had been such an asset to Tennessee before the war now became avenues by which Federal invaders captured the region's towns and cities. Nashville, which had been left undefended except for the two shaky forts, fell to Yankee troops on February 24, 1862, as panic-stricken refugees streamed southward out of the city. With the fall of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, the South lost one of its chief manufacturing centers, tons of badly needed supplies, the western Highland Rim iron industry, and one of its richest farm regions. Nashville remained in Union hands until the end of the war, sparing it the physical destruction suffered by other Southern cities. The city would, in fact, serve as the headquarters,

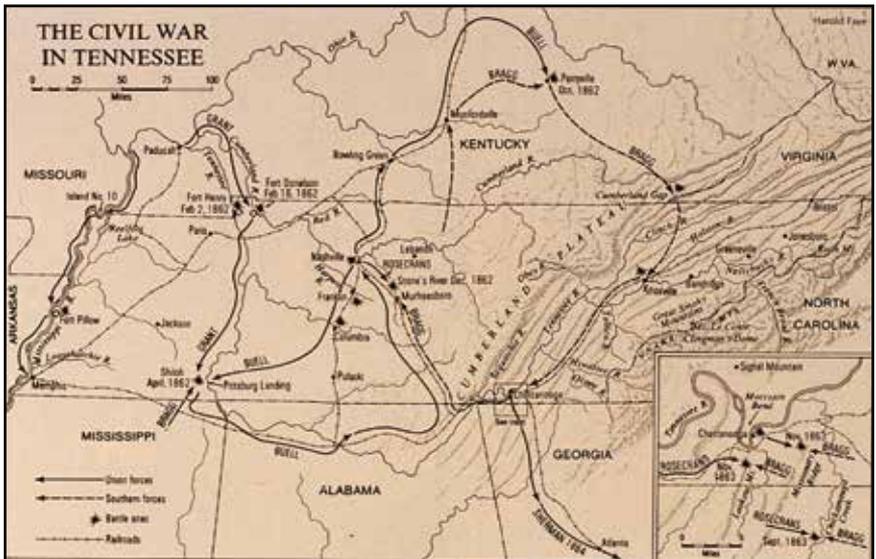
supply depot, and hospital center of the Union command in the West.

The retreat of Confederate forces to Mississippi left much of Tennessee occupied by enemy troops, a harsh condition that soon stirred up resistance from civilians. Guerrilla warfare was the Confederacy's answer to having lost control of its rivers: Federals might secure the towns and waterways, but they could not always control a hostile countryside. Vicious behind-the-lines warfare between Confederate partisans and Federal troops, and between bushwhackers of both stripes



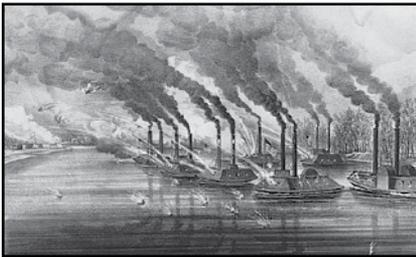
Nathan Bedford Forrest

and ordinary citizens, afflicted much of the state. Military rule in Confederate-controlled East Tennessee was equally onerous, and fighting there was widespread between Unionists and Confederate sympathizers. Military occupation offered many opportunities



for settling blood feuds, vendettas, and scores of all sorts. Ambushes of Union soldiers in Middle Tennessee brought reprisal in the form of lynchings, house-burnings, and even the razing of courthouses and churches. With most of the fighting-age men away, bands of armed men—little more than bandits—roamed the country, leaving in their wake the breakdown of civil order.

In April 1862, near tiny Shiloh Chapel in Hardin County, General Johnston had his chance for revenge on Grant and the Federals. On a Sunday morning, his army of about 40,000 collided in the woods with an encamped Union force of roughly equal size. By dusk that evening, the Confederates had come close to driving Grant into the river, but they did not deliver the knockout blow. Their attempts cost the lives of many men, among them Johnston himself. During the night, 25,000 fresh Union troops reinforced Grant's battered brigades, allowing him to mount a strong counterattack the next day. The weary Confederates, now under the command of General P.G.T. Beauregard, were not pursued as they withdrew from the field that evening. Shiloh was a bloody wake-up call—more men were lost in that one battle than in all of America's previous wars—and both sides began to realize that the war would be neither brief nor cheaply won.



Union gunboats shelling Fort Henry

West Tennessee now lay open to Federal rule, and the Union flag was raised over Memphis after a brief naval

fight on June 6, 1862. Ironically, only pro-Union East Tennessee remained in Confederate hands. Governor Harris and the state government, which had moved to Memphis after Nashville's fall, were forced to flee the state altogether.

The secessionist regime that had led Tennessee into the Confederacy lasted less than a year and spent the rest of the war as a government-in-exile. In its place, President Lincoln appointed former Governor Andrew Johnson to be military governor. A staunch Greeneville Unionist, he had kept his seat in the U.S. Senate despite Tennessee's secession. Johnson introduced a new political order to Federal-occupied Tennessee, aiming to return the state to the Union as soon as possible by favoring the Unionist minority and suppressing the pro-Confederate crowd. Johnson was unpopular and often heavy-handed, requiring the support of the Federal military presence.

Confederate hopes were raised in late summer of 1862, when brilliant cavalry raids by Forrest and John Hunt Morgan thwarted the Federals' advance on Chattanooga and returned control of lower Middle Tennessee to the Confederates. The Army of Tennessee, now commanded by the irascible Braxton Bragg and emboldened by recent successes, advanced into Kentucky. Following the inconclusive Battle of Perryville, Bragg's army withdrew to winter quarters near Murfreesboro to await the Federals' next move. In late December, an army of 50,000 under William Rosecrans moved out from Nashville to confront the Confederates thirty miles to the southeast. Once



John Hunt Morgan



Braxton Bragg

again, after successfully driving back the Union flank on the first day of battle, December 31, the Confederate advance faltered and wore itself down battering against strong defensive positions. On January 2, Bragg launched a disastrous infantry assault in which the Southerners were decimated by massed Federal artillery. The next day, when the bone-cold Army of Tennessee trudged away from Murfreesboro, it left behind one of the bloodiest battlefields of the war. One of every four men who fought at Stone's River was killed, wounded, or missing.

The Army of Tennessee stayed in a defensive line along Duck River until late July 1863, when Rosecrans bloodlessly maneuvered Bragg's Confederate army out of Tennessee altogether. Having relinquished the vital rail center of Chattanooga without firing a shot, Bragg then awaited the Federal advance into North Georgia. Overconfident from the ease with which he had pushed the Confederates so far, Rosecrans stumbled into Bragg's army drawn up along Chickamauga Creek. On September 19 and 20, the two armies grappled savagely in the woods—a battle that one general likened to "guerrilla warfare on a grand scale." On the second day, part of Bragg's left wing poured through a gap in the Union line and touched off a near-rout of the Federal army.



William S. Rosecrans

With two-thirds of the Union army in full flight back to Chattanooga, a total collapse was averted by the stand of George Thomas's corps on Snodgrass Hill, which covered the escape of the rest of Rosecrans's army. The Army of Tennessee won a great tactical victory at Chickamauga but at a frightful cost (21,000 casualties out of 50,000 troops), and Bragg again failed to follow up his success. The Federals dug in around Chattanooga, while the Confederates occupied the heights above the town. Grant hastened to Chattanooga to take charge of the situation, and, on November 25, his troops drove Bragg's army off Missionary Ridge and back into Georgia. It would be nearly a year before the Confederate army returned to Tennessee.

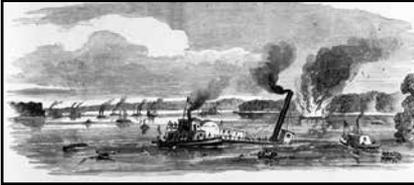
At the same time that Bragg abandoned Chattanooga, a Union force under Ambrose Burnside captured Knoxville and restored East Tennessee to the



Shiloh Chapel in Hardin County

nationalist fold. The whole state was now in Federal hands, and the grip of military occupation began to tighten. With constant requisitions of food, grain, and livestock, soldiers became a greater burden on local citizens. Adding to the problem was the indiscriminate stealing and foraging by undisciplined troops. Anything of value that could be eaten or carried off was taken by soldiers of both sides. Tennessee's unfortunate position as the breadbasket for two different armies, especially the vast Federal forces quartered here, brought more destruction

and loss of property than was caused by actual combat.



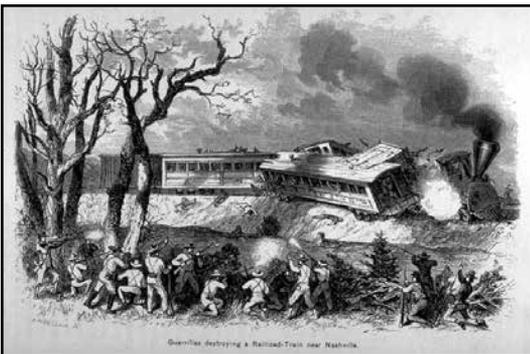
Naval battle at Memphis: Confederates were no match for Union gunboats on the western rivers.

The war brought a sudden end to slavery, making the times even more turbulent for African Americans than for other Tennesseans. The system of plantation discipline and slave patrols began to break down early in the war, particularly in Union-occupied areas. Northern commanders organized “contraband” camps to accommodate the large numbers of fugitive slaves who flocked to Federal army encampments. Black laborers from these camps built much of the Federal military infrastructure—railroads, bridges, and forts—in Tennessee. In these camps, too, missionaries and sympathetic Union officers provided education, solemnized marriages, and arranged for some ex-slaves to work for wages on military projects. This wartime conversion of blacks from unpaid forced labor to paid employees of the U.S. government was an important element in the transformation of “contraband” to freedmen. In late 1863, the Union army

started mustering in “colored regiments,” some of which eventually saw combat duty in their home state. Tennessee furnished one of the largest contingents of black troops during the Civil War: 20,133 served in Federal units, comprising forty percent of all Tennessee Union recruits. African Americans in Tennessee, partly because of their experience with military duty, secured citizenship and suffrage earlier than most black Southerners.

After the long Atlanta campaign and the capture of that city by William T. Sherman’s army, the new commander of the Army of Tennessee, John Bell Hood, decided on an aggressive plan of action. He would leave Georgia to Sherman and strike back north into Tennessee, threaten Nashville, and draw Union pressure away from threatened areas of the Deep South. It was an idealistic plan with little chance of success, but the Confederacy’s situation was desperate, and Hood was desperate for glory. The Tennessee troops were in high spirits as they crossed into their home state. When they and their comrades reached Franklin on the afternoon of November 30, 1864, the Army of Tennessee stood on the verge of its finest performance of the war, as well as a blow from which it would never recover. On Hood’s orders, nearly 20,000 infantry, including a large contingent of Tennesseans, made a

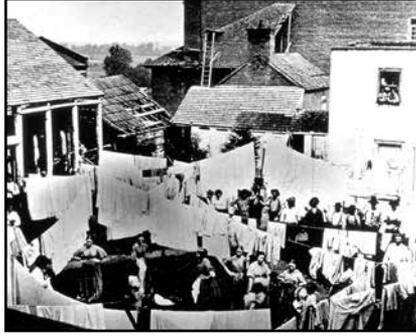
grand, near-suicidal charge across an open field against an entrenched Federal army. As regiment after regiment hurled itself against the Union breastworks for five ferocious hours, 1,750 Confederate soldiers were killed. When the carnage was over, Hood’s recklessness had destroyed the Army of Tennessee. It would go on to fight a two-day battle outside Nashville in the sleet and mud, but its



Railroad tracks and trains were frequent targets of Confederate raiders.

defeat there was a foregone conclusion. As the tattered remnants of the western Confederate army hastily retreated across the state line, the military struggle for Tennessee ended, although the war would continue for another four months.

The devastation of the war in Tennessee was profound. A substantial portion of a generation of young men was lost or maimed, resulting in an unusually high percentage of unmarried women in the years to come. Planting and harvesting were extremely difficult during the war, and foraging consumed what little was produced between 1862 and 1865. With the slaves gone, husbands and sons dead or captive, and



During wartime, there were twenty-four military hospitals such as this one in Nashville. Pictured is the hospital's laundry yard, July 1863.

farms neglected, many large plantations and small farms alike reverted to wasteland. The economic gains of the 1850s were erased, and farm production and property values in Tennessee would not reach their 1860 levels again until 1900. On the

other hand, the 275,000 Tennesseans who had been enslaved four years earlier were no longer anyone's property. They were free at last. Others who benefited from the Civil War were the behind-the-lines profiteers who siphoned off some of the Federal capital that flowed into Tennessee's occupied towns. Veterans of both sides lived with the wounds and memories of the war for the rest of their lives, and the chief reward for most was a place of honor in their communities.

Reconstruction and Rebuilding

Tennessee's ordeal did not cease with the end of military hostilities, but continued during the postwar period known as Reconstruction. The war's legacy of political bitterness endured for years after the surrender of Confederate armies. Civil conflict split Tennessee society into rival and vindictive camps, with each side seeking to use politics to punish its enemies and bar them from participating in the system. This political warfare was only slightly less violent than the just-concluded military struggle.

President Lincoln's formula for reconstructing the Southern states required that only ten percent of a state's voters

take the oath of allegiance and form a loyal government before that state could apply for readmission. In January 1865, after Andrew Johnson departed for Washington to become Lincoln's vice president, a largely self-appointed convention of Tennessee Unionists met in Nashville to begin the process of restoring the state to the nation. They nominated William G. "Parson" Brownlow of

Knoxville for governor, repudiated the act of secession, and submitted for referendum a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. A small turnout of voters, about 25,000, approved the amendment and elected Brownlow



President Andrew Johnson of Greenville, Tennessee

as governor, essentially meeting the requirements of Lincoln's plan. Tennessee thereby became the only seceded state to abolish slavery by its own act.

Lincoln's assassination in April catapulted Johnson into the presidency and signaled a drastic shift in the course of Reconstruction. The Radical Republicans were gaining power in Congress, and they wanted a more punitive approach to the South than either Lincoln or Johnson had envisioned. Never a very skillful negotiator, the new president soon found himself out of step with the pace of political change in Washington. Congress refused to seat Tennessee's congressional delegation, claiming that Johnson's amnesty plan was too lenient. It decreed that only states that ratified the proposed Fourteenth Amendment, extending citizenship and legal protection to freedmen and denying the franchise to former Confederates, would be readmitted.



Scene from Memphis race riots, 1866

Just as the Radicals' star rose in Congress, so did that of the most radical Unionists—Brownlow's faction—in Tennessee. Opposition to the Fourteenth Amendment developed quickly, particularly to the liabilities it placed on ex-Confederates, and extraordinary exertions were required on Governor Brownlow's part to force the General Assembly to ratify the measure. This it did on July 18, 1866, paving the way for Tennessee's early readmission to the Union. Tennessee became the third state to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment,

doing so before any other Southern state and earlier than most Northern states. Brownlow's regime—noxious as it was to many of the state's citizens—ensured that Tennessee rejoined the nation sooner than any other seceded state. More importantly, it meant that Tennessee would be the only Southern state to escape the harsh military rule inflicted by the Radical Congress.

Governor Brownlow's administration acted in concert with the

Governor William G. Brownlow

Radical Republicans in Congress, but not with the majority of the people in its own state. Even with a hand-picked Legislature and the exclusion of most conservative voters, Brownlow faced considerable opposition from other Unionists who resented his despotic methods. He decided, therefore, to give the vote to freedmen in order to bolster his support at the polls. Accordingly, in February 1867, the Tennessee General Assembly endorsed black suffrage—a full two years before Congress did likewise by passing the Fifteenth Amendment. With the aid of a solid black vote, Brownlow and his slate of candidates swept to victory in the 1867 elections.



Contraband camp in Memphis, 1867

Brownlow's unpopular and undemocratic regime caused its own downfall. Driven underground by the governor and his state militia, the conservative opposition assumed bizarre and secretive forms. The Ku

Klux Klan emerged in the summer of 1867, one of several shadowy vigilante groups opposed to Brownlow and freedmen's rights. These groups were made up largely of ex-Confederates whose aim was to intimidate the black voters who supported Brownlow. As a political organization, the Klan flourished because of the Radicals' near-total exclusion of men



Ku Klux Klan

who had served the Confederacy from the normal channels of political activity. Consequently, when Brownlow left Tennessee in 1869 to become a U.S. Senator, the Klan formally disbanded. Brownlow's departure for Washington was the opening for which conservatives had been waiting. The man who succeeded him as governor, DeWitt Senter, had impeccable Radical credentials, but once in office, he used his power to permit the registration of ex-Confederate voters, thereby ensuring his victory in the 1869 gubernatorial race. Seven times as many Tennesseans voted in that election as in Brownlow's rigged election of 1867.

In order to codify the changes wrought during the past decade, delegates from across the state met in 1870 to rewrite the Constitution. This convention, although it was dominated by conservatives, walked a middle road in an effort to avoid the threat of Federal military occupation.



Fisk University was established in army barracks.

Delegates ratified the abolition of slavery and voting rights for freedmen but limited voter participation by enacting a poll tax. Political reconstruction effectively ended in Tennessee with the rewriting of the Constitution, but the struggle over the civil and economic rights of black freedmen had just begun.

African Americans were in a more destitute and unsettled condition after the war than most other Tennesseans. Having left the plantations and rural communities in large numbers, black refugees poured into Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and a host of smaller towns. Urban areas experienced a large increase in their black populations, as more freedmen fled the countryside to escape the violence of groups like the Klan. These newcomers settled near the contraband camps or military forts where black troops were stationed, forming the nuclei of such major black communities as North Nashville and South Memphis. In time, urbanization grew the black professional and business class and laid the foundation for economic self-sufficiency among freedmen.

One institution created specifically to aid former slaves was the Freedmen's Bureau, which had its greatest impact in the field of education. In conjunction with Northern missionaries and John Eaton, the reformer whom Brownlow had appointed as the state's first school superintendent, the Freedmen's Bureau set up hundreds of black public schools. Freedmen responded enthusiastically to the new schools, and a number of



S. A. McElwee

black colleges—Fisk, Tennessee Central, LeMoyne, Roger Williams, Lane, and Knoxville—were soon founded to meet the demand for higher education. The Bureau, on the other hand, was not generally successful in helping blacks achieve land ownership, and the overwhelming majority of rural blacks continued to farm as tenants or laborers. The influence of the Freedmen's Bureau dwindled rapidly after 1866, the same year the Federal army departed. Henceforth, Tennessee freedmen had to rely on themselves and their own leaders to advance their goals.

Black Tennesseans were politically active and exercised their newfound legal rights even after the ouster of the Radicals in 1869. They brought suits in the county courts, filed wills, and ran for local elected offices, particularly in the cities where they commanded strong voting blocs. Beginning with Sampson Keeble of Nashville in 1872, thirteen black legislators were elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives. Much of their legislative work consisted of fighting actions to preserve some of the hard-won gains of Reconstruction. S. A. McElwee, Styles Hutchins, and Monroe Gooden, elected in 1887, would be the last black lawmakers to serve in Tennessee until the 1960s.

With the restoration of Democrat Party rule, a reaction set in against the moves that had been made toward racial equality. Lynchings, beatings, and arson had been used to enforce white supremacy during the Klan era. Beginning in the 1870s, this system was refined to include the legal enforcement of second-class citizenship for blacks—statutory discrimination commonly referred to as “Jim

Crow” laws. By the 1880s, the Legislature mandated separate facilities for whites and blacks in public accommodations and on railroads. One young woman, Ida B. Wells, challenged the “separate but equal” law on the railroads in an 1883 court case and spent much of her later life drawing the nation's attention to the use of lynching as a means of terrorism against blacks. Nashvillian Benjamin Singleton also attacked the practice of lynching and urged his fellow freedmen to leave the South altogether to homestead in Kansas—in the “Exo-duster” movement. The allegiance of black vot-



Ida B. Wells

ers to the Republican Party made them ready targets for Democrat politicians, and “Jim Crow” laws gradually whittled down the participation of African Americans in the political system.

One response to the labor shortage and property losses caused by the war was the campaign to rebuild a “New South” based on industry, skilled labor, and outside capital. Promoters and state officials worked hard to attract skilled foreign immigrants to make up for the shortfall of labor caused by blacks' exodus to the cities. With the exception of a few isolated German and Swiss colonies, such as Gruetli in Grundy County, the state never succeeded in attracting a large number of immigrants. As late as 1880, the foreign-born part of Tennessee's population was still only one percent,



Benjamin Singleton

compared with a national average of fifteen percent.

“New South” advocates backed the educational reform act of 1873, which tried to establish regular school terms and reduce the state’s high illiteracy rate. A statewide administrative structure and general school fund were put in place, but the Legislature failed to appropriate sufficient funds to operate full-term schools. Better progress was made during the 1870s in the field of higher education: Vanderbilt University was chartered; East Tennessee College was converted to the University of Tennessee; Meharry Medical College, the first and, for many years, the leading black medical school in the nation, was founded; and the University of Nashville became the Peabody State Normal School, one of the earliest Southern colleges devoted exclusively to training teachers.

The “New South” promoters also met with some success in attracting outside capital to Tennessee. Northern businessmen, many of whom had served in Tennessee during the war, relocated here to take advantage of cheap labor and abundant natural resources. Perhaps the most prominent of these “carpetbag” capitalists was General John Wilder, who built a major ironworks at Rockwood in Roane County. Chattanooga’s iron and steel industry benefited greatly from the infusion of Northern capital, and the city grew rapidly into one of the South’s premier industrial cities. By 1890, the value of manufactured goods produced in Tennessee reached \$72 million, a far cry from the \$700,000 worth that had been produced at the height of the antebellum economy.

Tennessee had incurred a debt of \$43 million, the second-highest state debt in the nation, as a result of underwriting railroad construction before the war and during the Brownlow administration. The state eventually repudiated part of this debt, but the question of how to pay it

dominated state politics well into the 1880s. Generating revenue to deal with this indebtedness was one reason for the adoption of the infamous convict lease system.

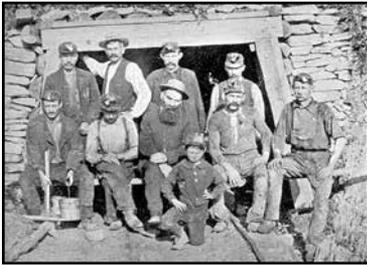
In addition to putting money in the state’s coffers, leasing convicts to private business was seen by legislators as a way of saving the state the expense of building a new central prison. In 1871, to relieve overcrowding at the old main prison, the General Assembly established branch penitentiaries in the East Tennessee coal fields and leased the prisoners for work in the mines. In the rich coal seams of the Cumberland Plateau, the largest mine operator was the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company (TCI). In 1884, TCI signed an exclusive lease with the state for the use of convicts in its mines. In addition to keeping labor costs low, convict lease labor was one means of overcoming strikes. According to A. S. Colyar, TCI’s president, “the company found this an effective club to hold over the heads of free laborers.”



Rockwood Iron Works

Trouble erupted in 1891 at mines in Anderson and Grundy counties, when TCI used convicts as strikebreakers against striking coal miners. Miners began releasing convicts and burning down the stockades where they were housed. Violence in the coal fields peaked during the summer of 1892, when state militia were dispatched to the Coal Creek area by Governor John Buchanan. The militia

fought pitched battles with armed miners, arresting more than 500 of them and killing twenty-seven. The miner uprisings prodded the General Assembly to end convict leasing in 1895 when the TCI contract expired, making Tennessee one of the first Southern states to get rid of the system. The state also built two new prisons at Nashville and Brushy Mountain in Morgan County, using prisoners at the latter site to mine coal in state-owned mines.



Coal Creek miners

Late nineteenth-century Tennessee was still predominantly agricultural, although the economic position of farmers became more precarious with each passing decade. The state's once-diversified farm economy had been lost in the war, and farmers increasingly concentrated on growing cash crops such as cotton, tobacco, and peanuts. The Depression of 1873, falling farm prices, excessive railroad rates, and the burdens of tenancy all worked against farmers. Sharecropping, one form of tenant farming, grew rapidly and spread across areas where cash crops were cultivated. Sharecroppers were nearly always in debt at high interest rates for land, tools, and supplies, and they were typically the poorest class of farmers.

Conscious of their declining status, Tennessee farmers in the 1880s began to organize in a series of political movements. The first evidence of the growing clout of agrarian voters came in the gubernatorial election of 1886, when the farmer-supported candidate Robert

Taylor defeated his brother Alfred in the famous "War of the Roses" campaign. Three years later, a farmers' organization called the Agricultural Wheel signed up 78,000 members in Tennessee, more than in any other state. That same year, the Wheel merged with a growing cooperative association called the Farmers' Alliance to create a strong grassroots agrarian movement.

In 1890, Alliancemen dominated the Democratic nominating convention and put their candidate, John Buchanan, in the Governor's Office. Buchanan's farmer-dominated Legislature passed the first pension act for Confederate veterans, but his popularity suffered as a result of his handling of the Coal Creek uprising. The Tennessee Alliance affiliated with the newly formed Populist Party, which looked for a time as if it might mount a serious challenge to the traditional two-party system. Democrats, however, circulated rumors of a Populist-Republican deal and denounced the alliances for admitting black members, undermining the Populists' credibility among white farmers. By 1896, the Populists and Farmers' Alliance had virtually disappeared in Tennessee, another victim of the dismal racial politics of the period.

The state continued its martial tradition. Following the outbreak of war with Spain in 1898, four regiments of Tennesseans were mustered into the volunteer United States Army. The Second, Third, and Fourth regiments were sent

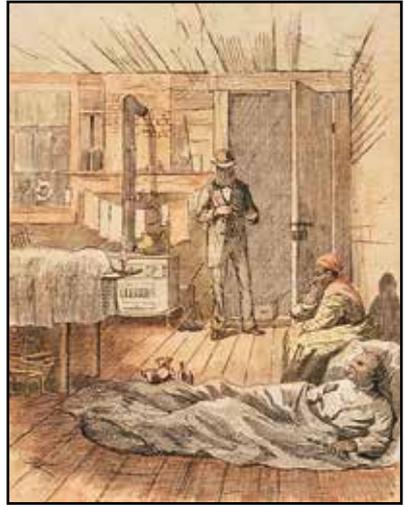


Newspaper of the Tennessee Farmers' Alliance

to Cuba, where they suffered from heat and disease but saw little action. The First Tennessee Infantry, however, was dispatched to San Francisco and then by troopship to Manila in the Philippines. There, these troops aided in the suppression of the Filipino nationalist movement, returning to Nashville late in 1899.

Late nineteenth-century Tennessee has been called a “social and economic laboratory” because of the variety of experimental communities established here. The state was a haven for utopian colonies, land company settlements, and recreation spas—due in part to the availability of cheap land in remote natural surroundings.

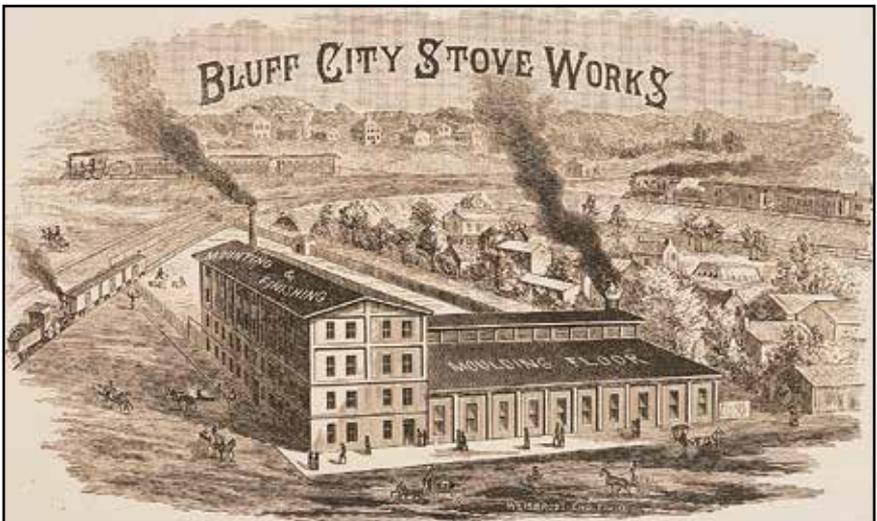
In 1880, some absentee landowners sold English author Thomas Hughes a large tract of land in Morgan County, on which he established the Rugby colony. For the next twenty years, English and American adventurers settled here to partake of Rugby’s intellectual and vocational opportunities in the bracing solitude of the Tennessee hills. Another experimental colony was Ruskin, founded in 1894 by the famous socialist publicist Julius Wayland. Located on several hundred acres in rural Dickson



Yellow fever scene from Memphis

County, Ruskin was a cooperative community in which wealth was held in common and members were paid for their work in paper scrip based on units of labor. Both Rugby and Ruskin had passed from the scene by 1900.

Turn-of-the-century Tennessee presented an improved appearance over the devastated landscape of three decades earlier. Sixteen percent of the state’s two million people lived in cities



in 1900, with the largest city, Memphis, having a population of 102,300. The “Bluff City” represented quite a success story, having weathered three separate outbreaks of deadly yellow fever during the 1870s. The epidemics killed 7,750 people; many more fled in panic; and Memphis almost ceased to exist as a functioning city. A new state board of health helped the river city to overhaul its health and sanitation system, and people and business flocked to Memphis in the ensuing decades.

Nashville, too, was proud of its post-war civic development. As if to advertise itself to the rest of the country, Nashville

staged a huge centennial celebration in 1897 in honor of the state’s 100th birthday. The Tennessee Centennial Exposition was the ultimate expression of the Gilded Age in the Upper South—a showcase of industrial technology and exotic papier-mâché versions of the world’s wonders. During its six-month run at Centennial Park, the Exposition drew nearly two million visitors to see its dazzling monuments to the South’s recovery. Governor Robert Taylor observed, “Some of them who saw our ruined country thirty years ago will certainly appreciate the fact that we have wrought miracles.”

Early Twentieth Century

As the new century began, Tennessee was troubled by conflicts between the values of its traditional, agrarian culture and the demands of a modern, increasingly urban world. Having lost its position of national leadership during the Civil War, the state had become somewhat isolated from the changes taking place in metropolitan centers. Tremendous intellectual, scientific, and technological innovations were sweeping America early in the twentieth century, and Tennessee became a major battleground where these forces clashed with older rural folkways. Issues such as prohibition, Women’s Suffrage, religion, and education came to the forefront of political debate, replacing the economic issues

that had dominated late nineteenth-century politics.

By 1900, Temperance, the movement to limit the consumption of alcohol, had become a moral and political crusade to prohibit liquor altogether. Distilling whiskey and other spirits was an old and accomplished craft in Tennessee, one that had continued despite the efforts of Federal agents and local sheriffs to stamp it out. In 1877, Temperance advocates in the General Assembly had managed to pass a “Four Mile Law,” prohibiting the sale of alcohol within a four-mile radius of a public school. Thirty years later, the liquor issue dominated the gubernatorial race between Senator Edward Carmack, the “dry” candidate, and Malcolm Patterson, who opposed prohibition and eventually won by a slender margin. Through his newspaper, the *Tennessean*, the defeated Carmack waged a vicious war of words against Governor Patterson and his supporters. On November 9, 1908, the squabble culminated in a gun battle on the Nashville streets that left Carmack dead and two of the governor’s closest advisors charged with murder.



Moonshiners, Sequatchie County

Carmack's killing gave the prohibition movement a martyr (in part because the man who shot him was pardoned by the governor) and created the momentum to pass legislation extending the Four Mile Law. The new law banned liquor over virtually the entire state. Prohibitionists gained control of the Republican Party, and their candidate, Ben Hooper, won



Edward Ward Carmack

election as governor in 1910 and 1912. Tennessee remained nominally "dry" from 1909 until the repeal of national prohibition in 1933, although the law met with considerable resistance from, among others, the mayors

of Nashville and Memphis, whose political machines functioned to some extent through saloons. Statewide prohibition was never effectively enforced, yet the issue continues today in the form of "local option" ordinances against liquor.

Tennessee became the focus of national attention during the campaign for women's voting rights. Women's Suffrage, like Temperance, was an issue with its roots in middle-class reform efforts of the late 1800s. The organized movement came of age with the founding of the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association in 1906. Despite a determined (and largely female) opposition, Tennessee suffragists were moderate in their tactics and gained limited voting rights before the national question arose. In 1920, Governor Albert Roberts called a special session of the Legislature to consider ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Leaders of the rival groups flooded into Nashville to lobby the General Assembly. In a close House vote, the suffrage amendment won passage when an East Tennessee legislator, Harry Burn, switched sides after receiving a telegram from his mother encouraging

him to support ratification. Tennessee thereby became the pivotal state that put the Nineteenth Amendment over the top. Women immediately made their presence felt by swinging Tennessee to Warren Harding in the 1920 presidential election—the first time the state had voted for a Republican presidential candidate since 1868.

Further national attention—not necessarily praiseworthy—came Tennessee's way during the celebrated trial of John T. Scopes, the so-called "Monkey Trial." In 1925, the Legislature, as part of a general education bill, passed a law that forbade the teaching of evolution in public schools. Some local boosters in Dayton concocted a scheme to have Scopes, a high school biology teacher, violate the law and stand trial as a way of drawing publicity and visitors to the town. Their plan worked all too well, as the Rhea County courthouse was turned into a circus of national and even international media coverage. Thousands flocked to Dayton to witness the high-powered legal counsel (William Jennings Bryan for the prosecution and Clarence Darrow for the defense, among others) argue their case.

Tennessee was ridiculed in the Northern press as the "Monkey State," even as a wave of revivals defending religious fundamentalism swept the state. The legal outcome of the trial was inconsequential: Scopes was convicted and fined \$100, a penalty later rescinded by the state court of appeals. The law itself remained on the books until 1967. More important was the law's symbolic importance: an expression of the anxiety felt by Tennessee's rural people over the threat to their traditional religious culture posed by modern science. This issue, too, is still being contested in Tennessee.

Another clash between community practices and the forces of modernity took place in 1908 at Reelfoot Lake in the northwest corner of the state. The

lake, an exceptionally rich fishery and game habitat, had for many years supported local fishermen and hunters who supplied West Tennessee hotels and restaurants with fish, turtles, swans, and ducks. Outside businessmen and their lawyers began buying up the lake and shoreline in order to develop it as a private resort. In the process, they denied access to the lake to local citizens who had long made their livelihoods from it. Some of these people, having failed to stop the developers in court, resorted to the old custom of vigilante acts or night-riding to stop them.



Night riders, Gibson County, 1908

Dressed in masks and cloaked in darkness, the night riders terrorized county officials, kidnapped two land company lawyers, and lynched one of them in the autumn of 1908. Governor Patterson called out the state militia to quell the violence; eight night riders were brought to trial, but all eventually went free. Fearing further outbreaks of violence over the private development of



Fisherman with trap on Reelfoot Lake

the lake, the state began to acquire the lake property as a public resource. In 1925, Reelfoot Lake was established as a state game and fish preserve, marking a first step toward the conservation of Tennessee's natural resources.



Appalachian string trio

Ironically, at the very time that Tennessee's rural culture was under attack by city critics, its music found a national audience. In 1925, WSM, a powerful Nashville radio station, began broadcasting a weekly program of live music that was soon dubbed the *Grand Ole Opry*. The music came in diverse forms: banjo-and-fiddle string bands of Appalachia, family gospel-singing groups, and country vaudeville acts like that of Murfreesboro native Uncle Dave Macon. One of the most popular stars of the early Opry was a black performer, Deford Bailey. Still the longest-running radio program in American history, the Opry used the new technology of radio to tap into a huge market for "old time" or "hillbilly" music. Two years after the Opry's opening, in a series of landmark sessions at Bristol, Tennessee, field scouts of the Victor Company recorded

Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family to produce the first nationally popular rural records. Tennessee thus emerged as the heartland of traditional country music—home to many of the performers as well as the place from which it was broadcast to the nation.

Just as Tennessee was fertile ground for the music enjoyed by white audiences, so was it a center for the blues music popular with African Americans. Both

had their roots in the dances, harvest festivals, work songs, and camp meetings of rural communities. Memphis, strategically located at the top of the Mississippi River Delta where the blues sound originated, was already a center for this music by the 1920s. The city became a magnet that drew performers from cotton farms to the clubs of Beale Street, the Upper South's premier black main street. Lacking the radio exposure that benefited white country music, Beale Street nonetheless offered a rich musical setting where one could hear everything from W. C. Handy's dance band to the jazz-accompanied blues of Ma Rainey or Chattanooga-born Bessie Smith. Delta blues spread across the country as better highways and the lure of wartime jobs brought greater numbers of rural blacks into the cities.

Though far removed from the European fields of World War I, Tennesseans contributed their usual full complement to America's war effort. Around 100,000 of the state's young men volunteered or were drafted into the armed services, and a large proportion of those actually served with the American Expeditionary Force in Europe. More than 17,000 of the 61,000 Tennessee conscripts were African Americans, although black units were still segregated and commanded by white officers. Four thousand Tennesseans were killed in combat or perished in the

influenza epidemic that swept through the crowded troop camps at war's end. Tennessee provided the most celebrated American soldier of the First World War: Alvin C. York of Fentress County, a former conscientious objector who, in October of 1918, subdued an entire German machine gun regiment in the Argonne Forest. Besides receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor and assorted French decorations, York became a powerful symbol of patriotism in the press and Hollywood film.

State politics and government were transformed following World War I. Austin Peay of Clarksville served as the first three-term

governor since William Carroll, due in large part to the backing of rural and small-town voters. Governor Peay streamlined government agencies and



Alvin C. York, left

reduced the state property tax while imposing an excise tax on corporate profits. When his administration began, the state had only 250 miles of paved roads, but Peay undertook a massive road-building program with the revenue generated by Tennessee's first gasoline tax. He criss-crossed the state with thousands of miles of hard-surface highways, making him very popular among voters in once-remote rural areas.

Another achievement of the Peay administration was the part it played in overhauling public education. At the beginning of the century, Tennessee had no state-supported high schools, and fewer than half its eligible



Beale Street club scene

children attended school. Teachers' salaries were abysmal, and there was only one public university (which received no state funding). In 1909, the Legislature allotted twenty-five percent of state revenues to



Austin Peay

education, and, in 1913, that share was increased to one-third. A compulsory school attendance law was passed, county high schools were established, normal schools for teachers were

built (including Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial Normal School, a segregated black college), and the University of Tennessee finally received state support. Building on this base, Governor Peay's 1925 education law gave funding for an eight-month school term and inaugurated the modern system of school administration. The 1925 act also supplemented teacher salaries, standardized teacher certification, and turned the normal schools into four-year teacher colleges. Although some of these reforms did not survive the thirties, Tennessee nevertheless had dramatically improved its public school system.

The stock market crash of October 1929 is usually considered the start of that decade of hardship known as the Great Depression. In Tennessee, the hard times had started earlier, particularly for farmers. World War I had raised agricultural prices and brought flush times, but with the coming of peace, the export markets dried up and prices plummeted. The longest and most devastating drought on record added to stagnant farm markets. Low returns on farming drove many of the poorest class of farmers completely off the land,

as the old system of tenancy, landlord stores, and scrip money began to collapse. Tractors and mechanical cotton pickers were also reducing the number of hands needed to farm, and the 1920s witnessed a sustained exodus of black and white sharecroppers to the cities. The black population of Tennessee actually declined during this period because of the heavy migration to northern industrial centers like Chicago.

Some of these displaced country people found jobs at Tennessee factories, such as the DuPont plant in Old Hickory, the rayon plants in Elizabethton, Eastman Kodak in Kingsport, and the Aluminum Company of America Works plant in Blount County. These large enterprises had replaced the earlier "rough" manufacturing—textiles, timber, and flour and mill products—as the state's leading industries. The Alcoa plant was built specifically to take advantage of East Tennessee's fast-falling rivers in order to generate electricity. Private hydroelectric dams were constructed in the state as early as 1910, and the prospect of harnessing rivers to produce power would eventually prove a strong attraction for industry. Tennessee was still a predominantly agricultural state, but it now had a growing industrial workforce and, in East Tennessee, the beginnings of an organized labor movement. Strikes, while less common than in northern states, were becoming more prevalent. This emerging



Smoky Mountain school room

industrial economy, however, was soon hobbled by the shutdowns and high unemployment of the thirties.

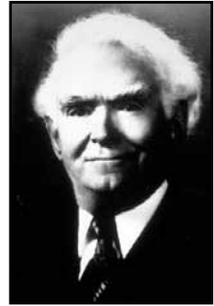


Eastman Kodak plant, Kingsport

The Depression made everyone's lot worse: farmers produced more and made less in return; young people left the farms only to be laid off in the cities; merchants could not sell their goods; doctors had patients who could not pay; and teachers were paid in heavily discounted scrip instead of U.S. currency. In the countryside, people dug ginseng or sold walnuts to make a little extra income, while city dwellers lined up for "relief" or went back to the farms where, at least, they could survive. Local governments were unable to collect taxes, and hundreds of businesses failed (578 in 1932 alone). In 1930, the failure of three major banking institutions, including one of the South's premier firms, Caldwell and Company, brought most financial business in the state to a grinding halt. The demise of the financial empire of Nashvillian Rogers Caldwell not only liquidated the savings of thousands of depositors and \$7 mil-

lion in state funds, it nearly caused the impeachment of newly elected Governor Henry Horton. Governor Horton had close ties with Caldwell and his political ally, Luke Lea, a newspaper publisher who was ultimately convicted of fraud and sent to prison.

Leading the outcry for the governor's impeachment was former Memphis Mayor Edward H. Crump, who quickly assumed the role as "boss" of state politics and Shelby County. Between 1932 and 1948, anyone who wished to be governor or senator had to have Crump's blessing, although some of his proteges defied the "boss" once they were in office. A two-dollar poll tax kept voter turnout low during these years, and heavy majorities from Shelby County (which the Crump organization routinely achieved by paying the tax for compliant voters) could easily swing a statewide Democratic primary. In 1936, for example, Gordon Browning won



Edward H. Crump

election as governor with the help of 60,218 votes from Shelby County to only 861 for his opponent. Crump was the most powerful politician in Tennessee

during most of the thirties and forties, by virtue of being able to deliver a vast bloc of votes to whichever candidate he chose.

Part of the success of urban political machines, like Crump's and that of Nashville Mayor Hilary Howse, was due to the support they received from black political organizations. Robert Church, Jr., was the political leader of the Memphis black community, major Republican power broker, and dispenser of hundreds of Federal



Depression-era children

patronage jobs. In Nashville, James C. Napier held much the same position as a political spokesman for middle-class African Americans. While these leaders followed a moderate course, avoiding confrontation and accepting the “half loaf” offered by white politicians like Crump, other African Americans were willing to attack “Jim Crow” laws more directly. In 1905, R. H. Boyd and other Nashville entrepreneurs followed a successful boycott of segregated streetcars by organizing a competing, black-owned streetcar company. Twenty years later in Chattanooga, black workingmen organized to defeat a resurgent Ku Klux Klan at the polls and responded to black nationalist leader Marcus Garvey’s visit to the city by forming a local chapter of his Universal Negro Improvement Association. By taking industrial jobs at higher wages, serving in the military, or simply by leaving the landlord’s farm, black Tennesseans achieved a degree of independence that made them less willing to tolerate second-class citizenship.

Tennessee, which had been out of the political spotlight since Reconstruction, returned to national prominence in the 1920s. Joseph W. Byrns of Robertson County was Speaker of the United States House of Representatives during the crucial early years of the New Deal. Senator Kenneth D. McKellar of Memphis, who worked closely with the Crump organization, served six consecutive terms, from 1916 to 1952. As chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, he steered a considerable amount of military spending and industry Tennessee’s way during World War II. Cordell Hull of Celina, who was in Congress continuously from 1907 to 1933 (except for two years as Democratic National Chairman), authored the 1913 Federal Income Tax bill and guided American foreign policy for twelve years as Secretary of State.

Tennesseans, like most Americans, gave a resounding majority to Franklin

D. Roosevelt in the 1932 presidential election, and, over the next twelve years, his New Deal programs would have as great an impact in Tennessee as anywhere in the nation. One

hundred thousand farmers statewide participated in the crop reduction program of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), while 55,250 young men enlisted in one of the thirty-five Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in the state. The road building projects and public works of the Public Works Administration (PWA) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) put thousands of unemployed Tennesseans to work. New Deal agencies spent large sums of tax dollars in Tennessee (\$350 million in 1933–1935 alone) in an effort to stimulate the region’s economy through public employment and investment.

By far the greatest expenditure of Federal dollars in Tennessee was made through the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). In one way or another, TVA had an impact on the lives of nearly all Tennesseans. The agency was created in 1933—largely through the persistence of U.S. Senator George Norris of Nebraska—and headquartered in Knoxville. It was charged with the task of planning the total development of the Tennessee River Valley. TVA sought to do this primarily by building hydroelectric dams (twenty between 1933 and 1951) and several coal-fired power plants to produce electricity. Inexpensive and abundant electrical power was the main benefit that TVA brought to Tennessee, particularly to rural areas that previously did not have electrical service. TVA electrified some 60,000 farm households



Robert Church, Jr., left, and associates

across the state. By 1945, TVA was the largest electrical utility in the nation, a supplier of vast amounts of power whose presence in Tennessee attracted large industries to relocate near one of its dams or steam plants.

One group of Tennessee-based intellectuals achieved national prominence by questioning the desirability of such industrialization for the South. The “Agrarians” at Vanderbilt University celebrated the region’s agricultural heritage and challenged the wisdom of moving rural people aside to make room for modern development. Donald Davidson, in particular, objected to massive government land acquisitions that displaced communities and flooded some of the best farmland in the Valley. TVA, for example, purchased or condemned 1.1 million acres of land, flooded 300,000 acres, and moved the homes of 14,000 families in order to build its first sixteen dams. On a slightly smaller scale, 420,000 acres of forested, mountainous land along the crest of the Appalachian range was set aside during the 1930s for a national park. Although much of this land belonged to timber companies, creation of the hugely popular Great Smoky Mountains National Park displaced some



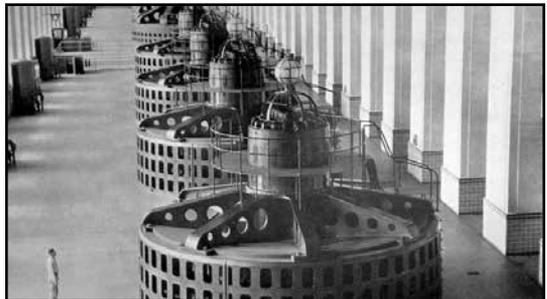
Nashville's Berry Field, circa 1945

4,000 mountain people, including long-standing communities like Cades Cove. The price of progress was often highest for those citizens most directly affected by such projects.

Despite the millions of dollars that TVA and the Federal government pumped into Tennessee, the Depression ended with only the economic stimulus that came from going to war. World War II brought relief mainly by employing ten percent of the state’s populace (308,199 men and women) in the armed services. Most of those who remained on farms and in cities worked in war-related production, as Tennessee received war orders amounting to \$1.25 billion. From the giant shell-loading plant in Milan to the Vultee Aircraft works in Nashville and the TVA projects in East Tennessee, war-based industries hummed with the labor of a greatly enlarged workforce. Approximately thirty-three percent of the state’s workers were female by the end of the war. Tennessee military personnel served with distinction from Pearl



The early TVA dam system



Wilson Dam generators



Cornelia Fort, early Tennessee aviator present at the attack on Pearl Harbor

Harbor to the final, bloody assaults at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and 7,000 died in combat during the war. In 1942–1943, Middle Tennessee residents played host to twenty-eight Army divisions that swarmed over the countryside on maneuvers preparing for the D-Day invasion.

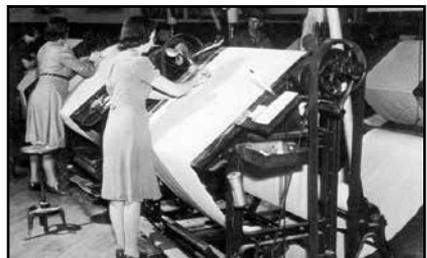
Tennesseans participated in all phases of the war—from combat to civilian administration and military research. Cordell Hull served twelve years as President Roosevelt’s Secretary of State and became one of the chief architects of the United Nations, for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Even

ordinary citizens experienced the war’s deprivation through the rationing of food and gasoline and the planting of victory gardens. Especially significant for the war effort was Tennessee’s role in the Manhattan Project, the military’s top secret project to build an atomic weapon. Research and production work for the first A-bombs were conducted at the huge scientific-industrial installation at Oak Ridge in Anderson County. The Oak Ridge community was entirely a creation of the war: it mushroomed from empty woods in 1941 to Tennessee’s fifth largest city, with a population of 70,000, four years later. Twice in 1945, city streets and courthouse squares erupted with celebrations as the news of victory in Europe and the Pacific reached the state. For Tennessee, World War II constituted a radical break with the past. TVA had transformed the physical landscape of the state, and wartime industrialism had irreversibly changed the economy. Soldiers who had been overseas and women who had worked in factories returned home with new expectations for the future.

Modern Tennessee

The pace of change accelerated dramatically for Tennesseans after 1945, especially for the majority who were farmers. This group, more than any other, experienced a head-spinning lifestyle transformation. Ex-servicemen who had earned regular paychecks—many of them for the first time in their lives—and seen other parts of the world simply were not willing to return to the back-breaking, mule-powered farm labor of the old days. Less risky, better-paying jobs were now available. Mechanization came late to Tennessee farms, but once it began, the changeover was rapid. The number of tractors in the state doubled during

the war and increased almost tenfold between 1940 and 1960. Soybeans, dairy cattle, and burley tobacco replaced the old regime of cotton, corn, and hogs in the agricultural economy of Tennessee.



Women in textile mill

Technological change was sweeping the countryside, bringing higher productivity but raising the cost of farming. New livestock breeds, fertilizers, better seed, chemical pesticides and herbicides, electricity, and machinery all combined to increase output—at the cost of pricing many small producers out of farming. The trickle of people leaving the farms had, by the 1950s, become a flood, and many local Tennessee papers ran regular news columns from places like Detroit and Chicago. From a farm population that stood at 1.2 million in 1930, only 317,000 remained on farms in 1970. By 1980, fewer than six percent of Tennesseans earned their main income from farming, a fact that reflected the downsizing of agriculture that began sixty years earlier.

As rural livelihoods became more precarious, Tennessee's urban landscape continued to encroach on the countryside. In 1960, for the first time, the state had more urban than rural dwellers, as the baby boom boosted growth in Tennessee's four major cities. The demands of military production had brought several large industries to Tennessee, some of which, like the Atomic Energy Commission facilities at Oak Ridge and the Arnold Engineering Center at Tullahoma, remained in operation after the war. Chemicals and apparel led manufacturing growth between 1955 and 1965, a decade in which Tennessee made greater industrial gains than any other state. Inexpensive TVA power, abundant resources, and a workforce no

longer tied to the land encouraged rapid industrialization. By 1963, Tennessee ranked as the sixteenth-largest industrial state—a remarkable transformation for a state that, not so long ago, had been overwhelmingly agricultural.

The Tennessee Valley Authority loomed large in the state's postwar development. Heightened international tensions during the Cold War expanded TVA's role as a power supplier for military projects. By the time of the Korean War, TVA essentially had become the Federal power utility in the South, providing over half its electricity to the government's uranium enrichment facilities at Oak Ridge. To meet these growing power demands, TVA built eleven coal-fired, steam-generating plants between 1950 and 1970, including several of the largest of these structures in the world. Feeding these huge plants turned TVA into the nation's foremost consumer of strip-mined coal, forced a series of electrical rate hikes, and made the agency the target of numerous lawsuits over air pollution. Compounding TVA's environmental troubles was its expensive foray into nuclear power. By 1975, TVA had become the non-communist world's largest producer of nuclear power. Cost overruns and safety problems, however, closed down eleven of TVA's reactors and turned the bulk of the nuclear program into a costly write-off. Although it continues to serve as the Tennessee Valley's unique public utility, TVA has



The switch from mules to machine-powered farming



Despite this day-after headline, no one was killed in the Battle of Athens.

reduced both the size and the scope of its mission.

Returning servicemen and women helped bring about a change of the old political order in Tennessee. On primary election day in Athens on August 1, 1946, a pitched battle occurred between former soldiers and the supporters of the entrenched political machine in McMinn County. For more than six hours, the streets of Athens blazed with gunfire as armed veterans laid siege to the jail where the sheriff and fifty “deputies” were holed up with the ballot boxes. The so-called “Battle of Athens” actually represented the beginning of a statewide political cleanup, in which a reform-minded opposition challenged local bosses and machine politics. The veterans’ victory demonstrated to Congressman Estes Kefauver and other up-and-coming politicians that the old strategies of boss control in Tennessee had finally become vulnerable.

In the 1948 elections, with the help of the veterans’ vote, Kefauver won a U.S. Senate seat, and former Governor Gordon Browning returned as Tennessee’s chief executive, both defeating hand-picked candidates of Memphis Mayor Ed Crump. The Kefauver and Browning victories spelled the end of “Boss” Crump’s twenty-year domination of state politics. Although Crump continued to exert a powerful influence in the affairs of the Shelby County Democratic Party, he never again called the shots

in statewide elections. The 1953 limited constitutional convention dealt a further blow to machine politics by repealing the state poll tax, a key element in politicians’ ability to limit and manipulate the vote.

Round two of the changing of the political guard came in 1952, when Albert Gore, Sr., defeated eighty-five-year-old Kenneth D. McKellar for the Senate seat that McKellar had held for thirty-six years. That same year, Governor Browning himself was unseated by a rising young political star from Dickson County, Frank Goad Clement. The constitutional revision had changed the governor’s term from two to four years, and for most of



Senator Estes Kefauver (left) with LBJ at the latter’s ranch

the next two decades, either Clement or his friend and campaign manager, Buford Ellington, would occupy the governor’s mansion. Clement, Gore, and Kefauver represented a moderate wing of the Southern Democrats (Kefauver and Gore, for example, refused to sign the segregationist Southern Manifesto of 1956), and all three made bids for national office. In 1956, Governor Clement delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention, the same convention that named Kefauver as the party’s vice presidential candidate.

While veterans in Athens were helping overthrow the old political order, newly returned black veterans in Columbia helped inaugurate a new day in race relations. A fight in a downtown Columbia department store in February 1946

touched off a rampage by whites through the black business district. African American veterans were determined to defend their community and themselves against the racial attacks and lynchings that had occurred in the past. Although the State Guardsmen prevented widespread riots, highway patrolmen ransacked homes and businesses, and two black men taken into custody were killed. Twenty-five black defendants accused of inciting the violence were acquitted in the legal proceedings that followed, due in part to the efforts of Nashville attorney Z. Alexander Looby and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) counsel Thurgood Marshall. More importantly, the Columbia riot focused national attention on violence against black citizens and elicited at least a verbal commitment from the Federal government to protect the civil rights of all Southerners. The aftermath of the Columbia events created a precedent for organizations like the NAACP to push for further government protection of civil rights during the following decade.

The growing assertiveness of African Americans after 1945 was not an accidental development. The sacrifices of black soldiers during World War II had made discrimination back home less tolerable. Favorable Supreme Court rulings and President Roosevelt's overtures toward black leaders had encouraged government protection of civil rights. By 1960, two-thirds of Tennessee's blacks lived in towns or cities, creating the proximity and numbers necessary for collective action. Organization and discipline, crucial assets of the early movement, were nurtured in places like the Highlander Folk School in Grundy County. Founded by Myles Horton and Don West, Highlander became an important training center for community activists and civil rights leaders during the 1950s. The school was shut down by state officials at the height

of the desegregation crisis, but it soon reopened to continue its work. Governor Clement, although he was no integrationist, was less strident than other Southern governors in his opposition to the 1954 Supreme Court's decision on *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ordered an end to segregated schools. He did not use his office to "block the schoolhouse door," and he pledged to abide by the law of the land with regard to civil rights.



National Guardsmen patrol Clinton streets, 1956.

In 1950, four years before the landmark *Brown* decision, black parents in Clinton filed suit in Federal district court to give their children the right to attend the local high school instead of being bused to Knoxville to an all-black school. Early in 1956, Judge Robert Taylor ordered Clinton to desegregate its schools based on orders from the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to rule in accordance with the *Brown* decision. Twelve black students registered for classes that fall, and matters proceeded smoothly until agitators John Kasper of New Jersey and Asa Carter of the Birmingham White Citizens' Council arrived in Clinton to organize resistance to integration. Governor Clement had to call out 600 National Guardsmen a few days after school opened to defuse the violent atmosphere. The black teenagers courageously endured months of taunts and threats while attending the school. In May of 1957, Bobby Cain became the

first African American to graduate from an integrated public high school in the South. A year and a half later, three bomb blasts ripped apart the Clinton High School building.

In the fall of 1957, Kasper was back in the spotlight, this time in Nashville where the school board—again in response to suits brought by black parents—agreed to integrate first grade. Thirteen black students registered at five formerly all-white schools, while as many as fifty percent of the white students stayed home. On September 9, Hattie Cotton School, where one black child was enrolled, was dynamited and partially destroyed. Two years later, the Supreme Court approved Nashville's grade-a-year integration plan. Memphis and many smaller towns, meanwhile, adopted an even slower pace in desegregating their schools. By 1960, only 169 of Tennessee's 146,700 school-aged black children attended integrated schools.

From 1960 to 1963, a series of demonstrations took place in Nashville that would have a national impact on the civil rights movement. Nashville's African

American community was uniquely situated to host these historic events due to the concentration of local black universities, strong churches and politically active ministers, and black doctors and lawyers lending considerable support to the demonstrators. Kelly Miller Smith of the First Baptist Church, along with C.T. Vivian and James Lawson, who had studied Gandhi's tactics of non-violent resistance, provided leadership and training for young activists who were determined to confront segregation in downtown facilities.

The first Nashville sit-in took place on February 13, 1960, as students from Fisk University, Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State University, and the American Baptist Theological Seminary attempted, in peaceful fashion, to be served at whites-only downtown luncheon counters. Two months went by, hundreds of students were arrested, and some were beaten, but still they kept taking their places at the segregated counters. A black consumer boycott of downtown stores spread through the community and put additional pressure



Young student carried away from downtown Nashville protests, May 10, 1963



Bombed out Clinton High School, October 1957

on merchants. Finally, on April 19, in the wake of an early-morning bombing that destroyed Alexander Looby's home, several thousand protesters silently marched to the courthouse to confront city officials. The next day, as public opinion recoiled from the violent tactics of the extreme segregationists, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke to a large audience at Fisk. On May 10, 1960, a handful of downtown stores opened their lunch counters on an integrated basis as Nashville became the first major city in the South to begin desegregating its public facilities. The Nashville sit-in movement and the students' disciplined use of non-violent tactics served as a model for future action against segregation.

Activists in several Tennessee cities kept the pressure on restaurants, hotels, and transportation facilities that refused to drop the color barrier. High school and college students in Nashville were instrumental in organizing the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee,

which trained many civil rights leaders during the 1960s. Tennesseans participated in the Freedom Rides, in which groups of black and white passengers tried to integrate bus terminals across the South.



Student activists (including Diane Nash, second from left) finally being served at Nashville lunch counter, May 1960

In 1965, A. W. Willis, Jr., of Memphis became the first African American representative elected to the General Assembly in sixty-five years. From 1959 to 1963, the struggle for voting rights centered on rural Fayette County, where 700 black tenant families were forced off the land when they tried to register to vote. Community activists, such as Viola and John McFerren, helped organize a "tent city" where evicted tenants were fed and sheltered despite harassment and a trade ban by local white merchants. In 1968, Memphis sanitation workers broad-

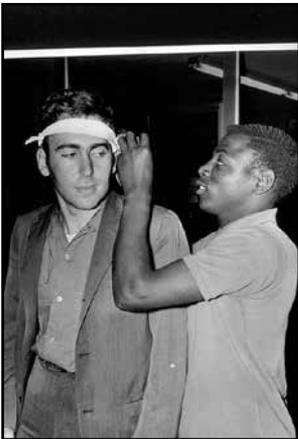
ened the struggle by going on strike against discriminatory pay and work rules. In support of the strike, Dr. King came to Memphis, and on April 4, he was assassinated by a sniper as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. The 1960s thus ended on an ominous note, with historic strides having been made in race relations, but with much yet to be done.

The end of the Clement-Ellington era saw the demise



MLK speaking at Fisk

of single-party domination in Tennessee politics. Beginning in 1966 with Howard Baker's election to the U.S. Senate, Tennesseans turned increasingly toward the Republican Party. Between 1968 and 1972, Tennessee voted for Richard Nixon twice and elected Winfield Dunn—the first Republican governor since 1921—and two Republican senators, Baker and William Brock. Watergate put a dent in GOP fortunes in the mid-1970s, as Democrat Ray Blanton defeated Maryville attorney Lamar Alexander for governor, James Sasser won a Republican-held Senate seat, and Jimmy Carter carried the state's vote for President. Howard Baker, meanwhile, became a leader in the Senate and was eventually named White House Chief of Staff in the Reagan White House. In 1978, Alexander turned the tables by winning the governor's race; he then took office early because of questionable acts by the outgoing Blanton administration.



A beaten civil rights worker is helped by a colleague, Somerville, 1965.

State government services had grown by leaps and bounds since the New Deal and World War II, but particularly since the passage of the first sales tax in 1947. Governor McCord's two percent tax, initially targeted for schools and teachers, was raised to three percent in 1955.

By the late 1950s, sales tax revenue had become the chief means of financing state government. In order to fund Governor Alexander's school reform package in 1985, the Legislature raised the state sales tax to 5.5 percent, which, with local options, became one of the highest in the nation.

In the late twentieth century, Tennessee carried on its long tradition of military service. From 1950 to 1953, more than 10,500 Tennesseans served in the Korean War, with 843 losing their lives in combat. The long Vietnam War of the 1960s and early 1970s cost 1,289 Tennessee lives and caused student unrest on campuses across the state. One outstanding participant was Navy Captain (and later Vice Admiral) William P. Lawrence of Nashville, who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. During his six-year captivity as a prisoner of war (POW)—part of it in solitary confinement—Captain Lawrence's reflections on his native state produced what the Legislature adopted as the state's official poem shortly after his return. The Persian Gulf War of 1990–1991 generated considerable excitement and support, as Tennesseans rallied around the twenty-four units mobilized for Operation Desert Storm at the Fort Campbell Army Base. More recently, Tennesseans have made major contributions to the Global War on Terror. In addition to thousands of regular army personnel, more than 14,000 Tennessee soldiers, sailors, and airmen (more than eighty-four percent of the entire Tennessee National Guard) have deployed to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, Tennessee has enjoyed a period of business expansion and growth particularly in the automotive industry. In 1980, Nissan Corporation of Tokyo announced plans to build the largest truck assembly plant in the world in Smyrna. Nissan's American

corporate headquarters is now located in Williamson County. By 1994, sixty-nine Japanese manufacturers with investments in excess of \$4 billion and more than 27,000 employees had established operations in Tennessee, making it a prime market for foreign investment. Tennessee also landed the General Motors plant; construction on the \$2.1 billion facility near Spring Hill was completed in 1987. Volkswagen announced in 2008 that it was building a major automobile production facility in Chattanooga, and the first automobiles rolled out of the factory in 2011. In January of 2019, Volkswagen announced that it was investing \$800 million to build a new assembly line at its Chattanooga plant to build electric SUVs. The project is expected to create up to 1,000 new jobs at the plant and the first electric vehicles are expected to be produced in 2022. In April of 2021, Ultium Cells LLC, a joint venture of LG Energy Solution and General Motors, announced that they would invest \$2.3 billion to build a battery cell manufacturing plant in the Spring Hill area.

In addition to the automotive industry, Tennessee has seen the growth of many local businesses that have become national and international brands. As a result of the ready availability of corn, wheat, and rye, whiskey making has been closely associated with Tennessee for many years. Whiskey brands such as Jack Daniel's based in Lynchburg, Tennessee, and George Dickel in Coffee County have become popular iconic products that are recognized worldwide. Dairy farming has created another industry for Tennesseans. Companies such as Purity Dairies in Nashville and Mayfield Dairies in Athens have become prominent names in the milk and ice cream markets. Other companies such as McKee Foods located in Collegedale and Bush's Baked Beans in Dandridge continue to thrive in the competitive food

market. Other large corporations headquartered in the state such as AutoZone and FedEx in Memphis, Cracker Barrel in Lebanon, and HCA Healthcare in Nashville have also become notable national brands and major Tennessee employers.

Tennessee's lack of a tax on earned income continues to attract many individuals and businesses looking to relocate and expand. Tennesseans rank among the lowest-taxed citizens in the United States and enjoy an average per capita income of \$50,732, as of 2020. Since the 1960s, the state economy has been strengthened by its increasing diversity, making it less vulnerable to recessions than single-industry states. Tourism and entertainment, a burgeoning medical and hospital industry, and banking and insurance have combined with a strong agribusiness and manufacturing base to turn Tennessee into a major player in the nation's economy.

Over the years, Tennesseans have made significant contributions to science. Two members of the Vanderbilt University faculty, Earl Sutherland in 1971 and Stanley Cohen in 1987, won Nobel Prizes for their pioneering medical research. In 1985, Dr. Margaret Rhea



Supporter at "Desert Storm" rally, Nashville, 1991

Seddon became the first Tennessean in space, eventually flying on three Space Shuttle missions. Edgar Bright Wilson, Jr., who was born in Gallatin, received the National Medal of Science in 1975 for his contributions to a field of chemistry called molecular spectroscopy. In 1997, the American Chemical Society created an annual award named in Wilson's honor called the "E. Bright Wilson Award in Spectroscopy." Astronaut William Shepherd from Oak Ridge, served as Commander of Expedition 1, the first crew on the International Space Station. As a result of his service as an astronaut, Shepherd received the Congressional Space Medal of Honor in 2003. In 2008, former vice president Albert Gore, Jr., was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on global warming.

Tennessee has also produced a number of distinguished figures in literature. Robert Penn Warren, who lived in Clarksville and attended Vanderbilt University, received the 1947 Pulitzer Prize for his novel *All the King's Men*. Warren also won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1958 and 1979. James Agee, an American novelist and poet, won the 1958 Pulitzer Prize for his autobiographical novel, *A Death in the Family*. In 1977, Alex Haley of Henning was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Roots*, the most successful book ever penned by a Tennessean and one largely responsible for reviving popular interest in family history. Author Shelby Foote from Memphis wrote a three-volume history of the American Civil War and received national recognition by appearing on Ken Burns's PBS documentary, *The Civil War*, in 1990. Novelist Cormac McCarthy, who lived in Knoxville, won the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1992 for *All the Pretty Horses*. McCarthy's honors continued when his 2005 novel, *No Country for Old Men*, was adapted as a 2007 film that eventually won four Academy Awards

including Best Picture. During that same year, McCarthy also won the Pulitzer Prize for his work entitled *The Road*.

While Tennessee has had many notable writers, the state has also had many actors that have achieved acclaim on stage and screen. Patricia Neal, who grew up in Knoxville, won a Tony Award in 1947 for the play *Another Part of the Forest* and in 1963 she received the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in the film *Hud*. Kathy Bates from Memphis won an Academy Award for Best Actress in 1990 for the horror film *Misery*. In 2005, Memphian Morgan Freeman earned an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor with the film *Million Dollar Baby*. Nashvillian Reese Witherspoon garnered critical acclaim and won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of June Carter Cash in the biographical musical film *Walk the Line*. The state's smaller cities have also produced several notable award-winning actors. In 1990, Michael Jeter, who was born in Lawrenceburg, won a Tony Award for Best Actor in a Feature Role in the Broadway musical *Grand Hotel*. Cherry Jones, a native of Paris, won two Tony Awards for Best Leading Actress in a Play (for *The Heiress* in 1995 and for *Doubt* in 2005). In 2009, Jones received an Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress for her role in the television series *24*.

Tennessee has also been an important place for producing a variety of music and performers. Few Americans have ever matched the personal popularity of Memphian Elvis Presley, the "King of Rock 'n' Roll," whose recordings for Memphis's Sun Records Studio in the mid-1950s launched a new era in popular music. The classic rock 'n' roll music of Elvis and his fellow performers at Sun Records, as well as the rhythm-and-blues "Memphis sound" represented by Stax Records, have achieved worldwide renown. Elvis's home, Graceland, is the



Memphis

most visited celebrity museum in the country.

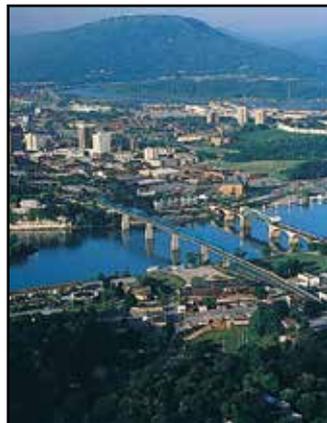
Similarly, Dolly Parton from Sevier County has become an icon in popular culture. As a country music performer, Dolly has earned nine Grammy Awards, ten Country Music Association Awards, and seven Academy of Country Music Awards. In 2005, Dolly was honored with the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor given by the U.S. government for excellence in the arts. One year later, in 2006, Dolly received the Kennedy Center Honor for her contributions to the arts.

Emmy Award-winning television host. Chester “Chet” Atkins, who was born in Luttrell, won fourteen Grammy Awards and nine Country Music Association awards for Instrumentalist of the Year during his lifetime. He was also inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Musicians Hall of Fame, and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Songwriter and musician Isaac Hayes, who was born in Covington, was one of the creative forces behind the Southern Soul music label Stax Records that was based in Memphis. In 1972, Hayes received two Grammys, a Golden Globe Award, and an Academy Award for Best Original Song for “Theme from *Shaft*.” As a songwriter and record producer, Hayes wrote many scores of



Knoxville

While Dolly Parton has had a major impact on the music industry, other Tennesseans have also made significant contributions. Dinah Shore, who was born in Winchester, was the top-charting female vocalist in the 1940s. After her success with music, Shore appeared in movies and achieved success as an



Chattanooga

songs and was recognized for his music contributions by being inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2005. Singer and songwriter Tina Turner, from Nutbush, has won twelve Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1991. She was also a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honor in 2005. Memphis native Justin Timberlake has had many chart-topping songs, and has won ten Grammy Awards and nine Billboard Music Awards.



Country Music Hall of Fame

In addition to Tennessee's many successful musicians, country music has also played an important part in the state's economy. In Nashville, the country music industry is a multi-billion-dollar business that employs a large community of professional songwriters, producers, and engineers, in addition to musicians and singers. Country music attractions such as the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, are important to Tennessee's \$20 billion-a-year tourism industry. Music festivals such as the Country Music Association (CMA) Festival in Nashville continue to make Tennessee a popular destination for national and international visitors each summer.

A new generation of Tennessee public servants rose to prominence during the 1980s and 1990s. Women carved out a more prominent role, with Jane Eskind becoming the first woman to

be elected to statewide political office as Public Service Commissioner in 1986, and Martha Craig Daughtrey rising through the judicial ranks to win appointment as the first woman on the Tennessee Supreme Court. Albert Gore, Jr.'s, 1976 election to the U.S. House of Representatives began a political career that would carry him to the vice presidency of the United States in 1992 and a run for the presidency in 2000. Gore lost that election by a handful of electoral votes and failed to carry his home state. In 1982, Lamar Alexander won his second term as governor, becoming the first executive to serve consecutive four-year terms. His "Better Schools" program was one of the earliest and most significant attempts at fundamental school reform in the country, and on the strength of his reputation as an innovator, Alexander was appointed by President Bush as Secretary of Education in 1990. He was succeeded as governor by Ned Ray McWherter of Dresden.

The past two decades have witnessed the strong ascendancy of the Republican Party in Tennessee. In 1994, William Frist defeated three-term U.S. Senator James Sasser, and Fred Thompson won election to the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Albert Gore, Jr., as Republicans swept both Senate seats. Don Sundquist won the battle for the governorship over Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen. The 2002 election confirmed Tennessee's place in the Republican column, with Lamar Alexander succeeding Senator Thompson. Senator Frist was tapped in 2003 to serve as the Republican Majority Leader of the Senate. In 2006, Bob Corker of Chattanooga won the election to take Dr. Frist's place in the Senate, defeating Harold Ford, Jr., the first African American candidate for statewide office in Tennessee history.

At the state level in 2007, State Senator Ron Ramsey was elected the

first Republican Lieutenant Governor in 140 years, defeating Democrat John Wilder, who had held the post for a record thirty-six years. Speaker Ramsey would become the longest-serving Republican Lieutenant Governor in Tennessee history. In November 2008, for the first time in the state's history, voters gave the Republican Party a majority in both houses of the General Assembly. Because of the Republican majority from the 2008 elections, Republican constitutional officers were appointed by joint vote of the General Assembly for the first time since Reconstruction. Tre Hargett was elected Secretary of State; Justin P. Wilson was elected Comptroller of the Treasury; and David H. Lillard, Jr., was elected State Treasurer. Two years later, Nashvillian Beth Harwell became the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives. Republican majorities in both houses were further strengthened in the 2014 elections.

During McWherter's eight-year administration, the state saw an increase in education standards as well as equalization of education funding through his 21st Century Schools reform program. McWherter's TennCare plan replaced the Medicaid program and provided health care to the poor, complementing national health care reforms. As the McWherter administration drew to a close, Tennesseans chose Republican Don Sundquist of Germantown as the forty-seventh governor of the state. Governor Sundquist's first year in office was marked by the passage of a comprehensive anti-crime package, focusing on victims' rights and restoration of the death penalty.

After being reelected by a landslide victory in 1998, Governor Sundquist will be remembered for his attempt to change Tennessee's tax structure by reducing the reliance on a sales tax and introducing an income-based levy. The

effort to pass a state income tax proved unsuccessful in a tumultuous summer session of the 102nd General Assembly, and the deadlocked Legislature ended up adding another penny to the state's sales tax. The battle to defeat the proposed income tax ultimately proved to be a watershed in Tennessee political history; it played a significant role in the state Legislature changing from a Democratic majority to Republican control. In November 2002, Tennesseans elected former Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen as governor, leaving him to grapple with a seemingly chronic budget shortfall and TennCare, the state Medicaid plan that was losing hundreds of millions of dollars. Having enacted a sweeping reform of TennCare and signed into law the Tennessee Lottery and lottery-funded scholarships, Governor Bredesen was reelected by a wide margin in 2006.



Former Governor Bill Haslam signs the Tennessee Promise bill at Tutco Inc. in Cookeville on May 13, 2014.

Four years later, William "Bill" Haslam of Knoxville won the Governor's Office in a landslide victory. His administration teamed with Republican majorities in both chambers of the General Assembly to enact changes in tort liability reform, teacher tenure laws, and teacher collective bargaining rights. Bill Haslam was reelected to his second term as Tennessee's governor with the largest margin of victory in modern Tennessee history. During his time in office,

Haslam was committed to education and launched the Tennessee Promise Program, giving graduating high school seniors a chance to earn a certificate or degree beyond high school free of charge and the FOCUS Act, reorganizing postsecondary education. He also focused on making Tennessee the number one location in the Southeast for high-quality jobs by championing the Rural Economic Opportunity Act to encourage economic growth in rural communities, as well as implementing the Select Tennessee Certified Sites Program to elevate Tennessee's level of preparedness for corporate investment. During Haslam's administration, Tennessee experienced historically low unemployment rates.

In November of 2018, Tennesseans witnessed a notable election for the contested United States Senate seat vacated by Bob Corker. Marsha Blackburn defeated former Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen. As a result of winning the election, Blackburn became the first woman from Tennessee to be elected to the United States Senate. She and Lamar Alexander served as the two United States Senators from Tennessee from 2018–2020. The November 2018 election was also notable for electing businessman William “Bill” Byron Lee from Williamson County as the fiftieth governor of Tennessee. Lee easily defeated former Nashville mayor Karl Dean for the position.

As a result of the retirement of U.S. Senator Alexander, the position became available during the November elections of 2020. William “Bill” Hagerty won the Republican primary and handily defeated Democratic nominee Marquita Bradshaw in the general election. Prior to being elected as a U.S. Senator, Hagerty had served as the thirtieth United States Ambassador to Japan.

Sports have long been popular entertainment and a source of pride for Tennesseans. The University of Tennessee's Lady Vols, under Coach Pat Head Summitt, set the standard of excellence for women's collegiate basketball by winning eight national championships between 1987 and 2008. The football team of the University of Tennessee reached the pinnacle of college football in 1998 by going undefeated and being crowned National Champions. In 2014 and 2019, Vanderbilt University's men's baseball team won the NCAA Championship.

Professional sports have come to Tennessee in a big way, with the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, the NHL's Nashville Predators, and the NFL's Tennessee Titans. The Titans went to the Super Bowl and two AFC Championships between 1998 and 2003, during which time they were the winningest team in the NFL. In April of 2019, Nashville was in the national spotlight as host of the eighty-fourth annual meeting of the NFL Draft where franchises selected newly eligible football players. More than 600,000 people attended the draft in downtown Nashville and 47 million viewers watched on television. The Nashville Predators are also notable playoff contenders in the NHL. In 2017, the hockey team made headlines with a historic run through the Stanley Cup Playoffs before being edged out in the finals. The Predators continued their success in 2018 when they clinched the first division



2019 NFL Draft in Nashville



Tennessee State Library & Archives

title in team history. They also acquired their first Presidents' Trophy in 2018. This award is presented by the NHL to the team that finishes with the best record during the regular season.

Tennessee gained another major professional sports team in 2020 with an expansion team from Major League Soccer (MLS) known as the Nashville Soccer Club. The inaugural MLS match occurred on February 29, 2020, with the club hosting Atlanta United FC at Nissan Stadium. The game was played in front of 59,069 people, becoming the highest-attended soccer event in Tennessee history. A new 30,000-seat stadium specifically for the soccer team is being constructed at the Nashville Fairgrounds with a planned move-in date of 2022.

Tennessee has continued to experience strong economic growth and record-low unemployment. This is particularly so in Nashville, which has become a booming real estate market and nationally recognized travel destination. Growth, based in part on low taxes and a welcoming business climate, has resulted in a significant revenue surplus and continued stellar AAA bond rating for Tennessee's finances. Politically, the state is even more firmly in the Republican column,

with the GOP holding super-majorities in both houses of the General Assembly.

In recent years, Tennessee has seen the construction of new cultural institutions to preserve and promote its treasured history. In October of 2018, a new Tennessee State Museum opened in Nashville near Bicentennial State Park. The 137,000-square-foot facility chronicles the state's history by showcasing significant artifacts from Tennessee's past. In addition to a new State Museum, the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville held its grand opening on January 18, 2021. The museum's mission is to showcase the musical genres inspired, created, or influenced by African Americans. Another cultural institution that had a new building constructed recently was the Tennessee State Library & Archives in



Tennessee State Museum

Nashville. After being located on Capitol Hill for more than fifty years, the need for a larger facility to house collections and improve climate control became necessary. After several years of planning and construction, the new Tennessee State Library & Archives (TSLA) opened on April 13, 2021. The new 165,000-square-foot facility includes a climate-controlled chamber for storing historic books and manuscripts with a space-saving robotic retrieval system.

One of the most dominant news headlines during the year of 2020 was the global pandemic caused by a respiratory virus known as COVID-19. The highly contagious virus swept the globe and impacted the lives of people worldwide. To prevent the spread of the virus, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) provided safety guidelines such as recommending people wear masks, social distance at least six feet from one another, avoid large crowds, and wash their hands. In Tennessee and throughout the world, many schools and universities turned to virtual learning, while some businesses and other institutions began to work remotely. The pandemic forced many restaurants, businesses, theaters, tourist sites, and sports venues to close temporarily. Many Tennesseans as well as other Americans contracted the virus. As a result, many had medical complications and some died. According to the Tennessee Department of Health, there have been 1,115,345 COVID-19 cases in Tennessee and 13,804 deaths resulting from those cases as of September 2021.

Tennesseans draw great strength from their heritage, not only of great deeds and events, but of the more enduring legacy of community ties and respect for tradition. One does not have to look hard to see Tennessee's significance in American history. The state played a key role in winning the first frontier west of the Appalachian Mountains and pro-

vided the young nation with much of its political and military leadership, including the dominant figure of Andrew Jackson. Divided in loyalties and occupied for much of the Civil War, Tennessee was the main battleground in the western theater of that conflict. The early twentieth century witnessed clashes over cultural issues such as prohibition, women's suffrage, and school reform. World War II accelerated the change-over from an agricultural to an industrial and predominantly urban state. As older cultural byways fade, Tennessee has become home to some of the most advanced sectors of American business and technology. Our state's mix of forward-looking innovation, great natural beauty, and a people solidly grounded in tradition and community has proven an irresistible allure for the rest of the country.

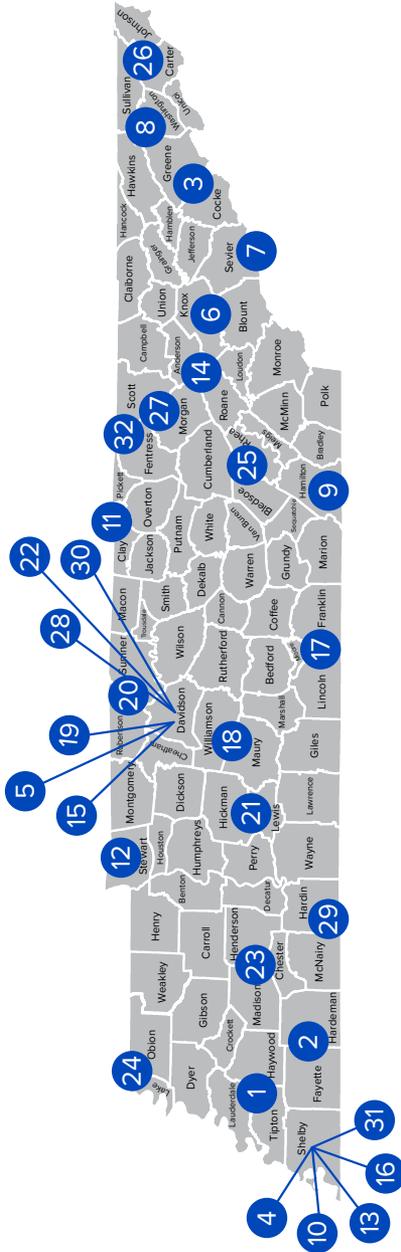
As the *2021–2022 Tennessee Blue Book* was preparing to go to press, Governor Lee announced the largest corporate investment in state history from Ford Motor Company. The company is investing \$5.6 billion to build a 3,600-acre campus on the Memphis Regional Megasite called Blue Oval City. This campus is the largest investment in Ford's history, and it will create 27,000 new jobs, both directly and indirectly, as Tennesseans lead the future of the automotive industry.

Acknowledgments

The History of Tennessee chapter was predominantly written by Dr. Wayne C. Moore of the Tennessee State Library & Archives (TSLA). Updates for this edition were made by Dr. Kevin Cason of the Tennessee State Library & Archives. Unless noted, images in the History section were provided by the Library & Archives.

Map of Selected Tennessee Historic Sites

Photographs and brief descriptions are on the following pages.



1. Alex Haley Home and Museum, Henning
2. Ames Plantation, Grand Junction
3. Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, Greeneville
4. Beale Street Historic District, Memphis
5. Belle Meade Plantation, Nashville
6. Blount Mansion, Knoxville
7. Cades Cove, Gatlinburg
8. Chester Inn, Jonesborough
9. Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Chattanooga
10. Chucalissa Prehistoric Indian Village, Memphis
11. Cordell Hull Birthplace and Museum, Byrdstown
12. Fort Donelson National Battlefield, Dover
13. Graceland, Memphis
14. The Graphite Reactor (X-10) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge
15. The Hermitage, Hermitage
16. Hurt Phelan House, Memphis
17. Jack Daniel's Distillery, Lynchburg
18. James K. Polk Ancestral Home, Columbia
19. Jubilee Hall of Fisk University, Nashville
20. Mansker's Station & Bowen Plantation House, Goodlettsville
21. Natchez Trace Parkway, Hohenwald
22. Parthenon, Nashville
23. Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park, Pinson
24. Reelfoot Lake, Tiptonville
25. Rhea County Courthouse, Dayton
26. Rocky Mount, Piney Flats
27. Rugby
28. Ryman Auditorium, Nashville
29. Shiloh National Military Park, Shiloh
30. Tennessee State Capitol, Nashville
31. Victorian Village, Memphis
32. York Grist Mill/Home of Alvin C. York, Pall Mall

Historic Sites

Locations

1. Alex Haley Home and Museum

535 Haley Avenue

Henning, TN 38041

(731) 738-2240

alexhaleymuseum.org

This house, home of Pulitzer Prize winner Alex Haley, was built in 1918–1919 by his grandfather, Will Palmer, a Henning businessman. Haley lived here from 1921–1929 and spent summers here in later years. It was on the porch of this house that Haley heard from his grandmother the family stories that inspired him to write *Roots*, retelling tales of his African ancestors who were brought to America as slaves. The work won him the 1976 Pulitzer Prize, and the book was presented in an eight-part television adaptation in 1977. *Roots* has been translated into more than thirty languages and has inspired millions to search for their own roots. Haley's boyhood home is the first state-owned historical site devoted to African Americans in Tennessee. Haley died in 1992.



The boyhood home of Pulitzer Prize winner Alex Haley, author of *Roots*

2. Ames Plantation

4275 Buford Ellington Road

Grand Junction, TN 38039

(901) 878-1067

amesplantation.org

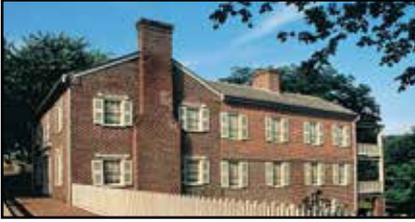
The 18,430-acre Ames Plantation is the site of several nineteenth-century cotton plantations. The Wiley B. Jones House, home of the Jones family from 1835–1846, and the Ames Manor House, built in 1847 for John W. Jones, have been restored. The plantation also includes the Mount Comfort Store, Andrews Chapel Methodist Church, and the town site of Pattersonville. The plantation was developed by Hobart Ames, an industrialist. At his death in 1945, the Hobart Ames Foundation was established, and the facilities of the plantation were made available to the University of Tennessee College of Agriculture for a demonstration farm featuring forestry and farm management projects. In 1987, the Ames History Project was begun in order to document the houses, grist mills, cemeteries, cotton gins, and roads that made this a thriving farming community before the Civil War brought an end to the plantation tradition in the South. The plantation is the site of the National Field Trial Championship for bird dogs every February, an internationally known competition.



A scene from a National Field Trial Championship at the Ames Plantation

3. Andrew Johnson National Historic Site

101 North College Street
Greeneville, TN 37743
(423) 638-3551
nps.gov/anjo



One of the homes where Andrew Johnson, 17th President of the United States, lived

The Andrew Johnson National Historic Site includes the tailor shop where Johnson worked in the 1830s and two of his homes, both restored, one containing many of his personal belongings. He is buried in the National Cemetery at the site. Johnson (1808–1875)—tailor, alderman, military governor of Tennessee, Congressman, and United States Senator—was Vice President under Lincoln. Upon Lincoln’s death, he became the 17th President of the United States; the only one never to have had formal education and the only Tennessean to have been returned to Congress after serving as President. During his presidency, he was impeached by the radical Congress for his lenient Reconstruction policies and escaped conviction by only one vote.

4. Beale Street Historic District

Beale Street
Memphis, TN 38103
bealestreet.com



A night on Beale Street, the heart of blues country

It was here in the early 1900s that W.C. Handy first popularized and published the blues, a unique African American contribution to American music. Handy (1873–1958) was the son of an Alabama Methodist minister. He came here as a young man and played at Pee Wee’s Saloon, while another blues pioneer, Bessie Smith, was singing at area night-spots. In 1909, mayoral candidate E. H. Crump hired Handy and his band for his campaign, and Handy’s song “Mr. Crump” made him famous overnight when Crump won the election. Handy later changed the title to “Memphis Blues,” the first blues song ever published. It was followed by “Beale Street Blues” and “St. Louis Blues.”

5. Belle Meade Plantation

5025 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 356-0501

bellemeadeplantation.com

Known as the “Queen of Tennessee Plantations,” the Harding family’s Belle Meade Plantation, once more than 5,300 acres, was world-renowned as a thoroughbred stud farm in the 19th century. It was the home of Iroquois—until 1954, the only American-bred winner of the English Derby, which he won in 1881. John Harding bought Dunham’s Station and the tract of land around it in 1807 and built a brick house on the site. William Giles Harding, John’s son, extensively remodeled and enlarged the house after a fire in 1853. Confederate General James R. Chalmers had temporary headquarters here while some of the fighting of the Battle of Nashville raged on the front lawn. The site includes the original Dunham Station log cabin, the mansion restored to the 1850s, stables and carriage house, and other outbuildings. Costumed interpreters give guided tours of the Greek Revival house, the grounds, and the outbuildings.



Belle Meade Mansion, a Tennessee plantation home

6. Blount Mansion

200 West Hill Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37902
(865) 525-2375

blountmansion.org

In 1792, the four-room Blount Mansion became the talk of the town. Knoxvilleans were amazed as materials and furnishings were brought in over the mountains for the home of William Blount, an influential politician and businessman who signed the U.S. Constitution, drafted Tennessee’s Constitution, and was the Governor of the Southwest Territory. Watching the arrival of window glass from Virginia and sawn lumber from North Carolina excited Knoxville’s residents, most of whom crafted their own cabins and homes with local logs. But William Blount’s wife, Mary, had insisted on a proper wooden home. The mansion featured a main room for family activities, a parlor for more formal activities, a hall, and a single sleeping chamber upstairs. Later, wings were added to the east and west sides. The Governor’s Office was built on a corner of the property. By 1925, the mansion had deteriorated seriously and faced demolition to make way for a hotel parking lot, but local residents spearheaded efforts to preserve and restore the mansion, which opened for tours in 1930. Now, Blount Mansion is the only National Historic Landmark in Knoxville and Knox County. The historic site includes the mansion, the Governor’s Office, a recreation of an 18th-century kitchen that sits where the original detached kitchen was, and a cooling shed which was uncovered during an archeological dig in the 1950s. The mansion is open to the public, and tours are offered.



Blount Mansion

7. Cades Cove at Great Smoky Mountains National Park

107 Park Headquarters Road

Gatlinburg, TN 37738

(865) 436-1200

nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/cadescove.htm

nps.gov/grsm



Cades Cove

Cades Cove is one of several special communities in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park exhibiting reconstructions of the pioneer way of life. John Oliver, the first permanent settler to the area, arrived in 1818. Rugged mountains surrounded the little settlement, and the people and the area became self-sufficient, isolated from the development taking place in the outside world. The 20th century brought automobile roads that provided easier

access to Cades Cove. Now the town is part of the 500,000-acre national reserve set aside in the 1930s, providing campgrounds, horseback riding, fishing, and 800 miles of hiking trails, including the Appalachian Trail. Cades Cove is an exception to the “naturalness” of the park itself; it is an outdoor museum of southern Appalachian life featuring reconstructed log cabins, churches, and mills. Permanent exhibits, a self-guided driving tour, and demonstrations of pioneer crafts are offered. Residents, many the descendants of early settlers, have special permits to keep more than 2,000 acres in farmland.

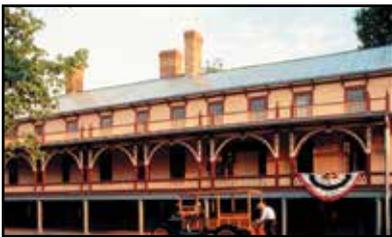
8. Chester Inn

116 West Main Street

Jonesborough, TN 37659

(423) 753-4580

jonesborough.com/locations/chester-inn-museum



Chester Inn

The Chester Inn, built in 1797 by Dr. William P. Chester of Berlin, Pennsylvania, has earned a reputation as the first boarding house in eastern Tennessee. As the stage-coach line developed, the inn was enlarged. The porch and front facade were rebuilt in 1883 in the Italianate style, and the structure has been continuously occupied as an inn, a hotel, and an apartment building. Many famous people have stayed at the inn,

including United States Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson; and John Sevier, Governor of the state of Franklin and Tennessee’s first Governor. President Jackson held a reception for his friends on the porch of the inn during the summer of 1832, the year he was elected President for a second term. In recent years, the inn has undergone an extensive rehabilitation and houses the National Storytelling Association. The association boasts a library of more than 200 hours of audio and video recordings of storytelling material and every October hosts the annual Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, the first town to be chartered in Tennessee.

9. Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

3370 LaFayette Road
 Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742
 (706) 866-9241
nps.gov/chch

In the fall of 1863, Union and Confederate forces met at Chickamauga Creek in one of the bloodiest battles in American history. The two armies fought for control of Chattanooga, strategic railroad center and gateway to the heart of the Confederacy. More than 48,000 casualties resulted from the battles. The grounds are now the site of the oldest, most visited national military park in the nation. In the fighting on September 19, 1863, victorious Confederates drove the Federal troops back into Chattanooga and laid siege to the city. In November, Federal reinforcements under Grant moved on Lookout Mountain, and the Confederates evacuated to keep from being cut off from the main lines at Missionary Ridge. The battle on November 25th forced the Confederates to retreat into Georgia, opening the way to Atlanta and Sherman's "march to the sea." The site includes the battlefields, the Fuller Gun collection, a multimedia presentation on the battles, the National Cemetery, and monuments to units on both sides.



Scene at Chickamauga and Chattanooga Park, where the "Battle Above the Clouds" raged

10. Chucalissa Prehistoric Indian Village

1987 Indian Village Drive
 T. O. Fuller State Park
 Memphis, TN 38109
 (901) 785-3160
<https://www.memphis.edu/chucalissa>

Hundreds of years before Europeans came to America, Indians flourished along the eastern shore of the Mississippi River. These ancient peoples hunted; made tools of bone, stone, and wood; were capable farmers; and lived in thatch-roofed homes. They built earthworks and worshipped the sun. Chucalissa is a working reconstruction of a 1,000-year-old Indian village that flourished here, with grass thatched huts, a temple, and a ceremonial burial ground. A museum at the site helps visitors understand its history. The name means "house abandoned" or "deserted town" and was chosen for the site by its rebuilders. The original people were encountered by DeSoto in 1541, but they had deserted the town by 1673 when the French arrived. Today, Choctaw Indians live on the site and demonstrate Indian crafts. The rebuilt village is operated by the University of Memphis.



Thatch-roofed structure at Chucalissa Prehistoric Indian Village

11. Cordell Hull Birthplace and Museum

1300 Cordell Hull Memorial Drive
Byrdstown, TN 38549
(931) 864-3247
tstateparks.com/parks/cordell-hull-birthplace



Rebuilt boyhood home of statesman Cordell Hull

This is the log cabin boyhood home of Cordell Hull, Secretary of State under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose work toward the establishment of the United Nations won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1945. Born in 1871, Hull received his law degree from Cumberland University in Lebanon in 1891. As a member of Congress, he is best known as the author of the income tax law (1913). In 1933, he became Secretary of State and served

longer than any other man in U.S. history. He was the author of the Good Neighbor Policy toward Latin America. He retired in 1944, after holding office for twelve years and died in 1955 at the age of 83. This site includes the cabin with many personal items, pictures, letters, and books belonging to Hull. The cabin was dismantled and rebuilt in 1957, using most of the original logs.

12. Fort Donelson National Battlefield

174 National Cemetery Drive
Dover, TN 37058
(931) 232-5706
nps.gov/fodo



Dover Hotel (Surrender House)

This 558-acre battlefield off U.S. Highway 79 in Stewart County was the site of the North's first major victory of the Civil War, ultimately opening the gate for Union invasion into the Confederate heartland. On February 14, 1862, soldiers were embroiled in fierce fighting as Union gunboats arrived and began exchanging "iron valentines" with the Confederate heavy artillery ensconced along the Cumberland River's west bank. It was a bloody ninety-minute duel that left the

gunboat decks slippery with blood and forced the Union to retreat, but only temporarily. At daybreak the next day, Southern forces launched a vigorous attack but failed to escape General Ulysses S. Grant's Union army. Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner was compelled to accept Grant's ultimatum, "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted," on February 16. Congress established Fort Donelson as a national military park on March 26, 1928 and as a national battlefield on August 16, 1985. About twenty percent of the core battlefield is contained within the park, including the earthen Confederate fort, river batteries, the outer rifle pits, and the Dover Hotel (Surrender House), where Generals Buckner and Grant met to work out the details of surrender.

13. Graceland

3734 Elvis Presley Blvd.
 Memphis, TN 38116
 (901) 332-3322
 (800) 238-2000
graceland.com

Home of world-famous singer and movie star Elvis Presley, Graceland was built circa 1940 by the former Ruth Fraser Brown and her husband, Dr. Thomas David Moore. The twenty-room mansion was named Graceland after Mrs. Moore's aunt, Grace Toof, whose family had built a cottage on the site earlier. Elvis bought the house in 1957, ten years after he moved to Memphis. During the 1950s, the "King" became a national and international hero of young people as rock 'n' roll's biggest star. Eventually, he sold more than 500 million records, had more gold records (twenty-eight) than anyone before him, and also made thirty-three movies. Guided tours of the home—featuring the trophy room, Hall of Gold, automobile collection, touring bus, and Conair jet (the "Lisa Marie")—also include the Meditation Garden where Elvis and his parents are buried. Elvis Presley died in 1977, but his fame lives after him as thousands visit his home each year.



Graceland, home of Elvis Presley

14. The Graphite Reactor (X-10) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

1 Bethel Valley Road
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830
 (865) 576-7658
ornl.gov/content/graphite-reactor

In 1939, German scientists succeeded in splitting atoms of uranium, resulting in an energy source capable of producing a bomb more destructive than anyone had ever imagined. American scientists, concerned that Hitler would produce and use such a bomb, urged the development of American nuclear programs. By 1942, American research had ensured the feasibility of a nuclear bomb, and the Manhattan Engineer District was born. Remote eastern Tennessee, with water, cheap land, and the Tennessee Valley Authority's hydroelectric plants nearby, was chosen as a production site. In just three short years, Oak Ridge (the "City Behind a Fence") became the fifth-largest city in Tennessee. The secret "Manhattan Project" resulted in the world's first use of atomic energy as a weapon at Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945. The Graphite Reactor, a National Historic Landmark, is located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The reactor was used as a pilot plant for producing the first measurable quantities of the man-made element plutonium. Visitors can see the control room, radioisotopes, and experiment rooms. The laboratory also features interactive videos and an exhibit area.



The Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the world's oldest nuclear reactor to operate at power

15. The Hermitage

4580 Rachel's Lane
Hermitage, TN 37076
(615) 889-2941
thehermitage.com



Andrew Jackson's Hermitage

When Andrew Jackson died in this house in 1845, he left it to his adopted son with instructions that if he should need to sell it to offer it first to the state of Tennessee. In 1856, the state bought the home and 500 acres for \$48,000. In 1889, the Ladies' Hermitage Association was formed to preserve it as a memorial to Jackson, 7th President of the United States and hero of the Battle of New Orleans. In his public life, Jackson is best known for his fight to defeat the Second Bank of the United States and for the controversial removal of the Indians from the

southeastern United States to Oklahoma. The site includes the mansion and formal gardens, tombs of Jackson and his wife, Rachel, original log cabins, a smokehouse, spring house, old Hermitage Church, Tulip Grove Mansion, and a visitors center. The Greek Revival mansion—built in 1819, enlarged in 1831, and rebuilt after an 1834 fire—is furnished largely with pieces owned by Jackson.

16. Hunt Phelan House

533 Beale Street
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 525-8225
memphisheritage.org/hunt-phelan-house



The Hunt Phelan House, once "a treasure trove" of 19th-century magnificence

This sixteen-room, reddish-brick house in the Federal style was built in two stages, the first in 1830 by George H. Wyatt. The second stage, circa 1851, added a two-story kitchen and service wing and a two-story porch. In the early months of the Civil War, the house served as headquarters for Confederate General Leonidas Polk. After the Battle of Shiloh, Union General Ulysses S. Grant used the house, planning the siege of Vicksburg in the parlor. The mansion also served as a

Union hospital from 1863–1865. Although unlikely, it has been rumored that a tunnel under the house was part of the underground railroad through which slaves escaped and boarded boats for Illinois. At one time, a schoolhouse was located behind the mansion for the Phelan children and the family's slave children and was the first school known to have educated blacks in Memphis. In later years, the house was occupied by Northern teachers sent to the South to educate newly freed slaves.

17. Jack Daniel's Distillery

133 Lynchburg Highway
 Lynchburg, TN 37352
 (931) 759-6357
jackdaniels.com

Founded in 1866, Jack Daniel's is the oldest registered distillery in the nation, famous for its sour mash whiskey. The charcoal mellowing process has been in use here for more than 100 years. Although the details of his birth remain obscure, it is believed that Jack Daniel was born five miles from what is now Jack Daniel's Hollow around 1848. At a very young age, he began working for Dan Call, who ran a distillery at Louse Creek. A few years later, he became Call's full partner, soon buying him out and making his own whiskey. Jack Daniel wanted the bottles square because he was known as a "square shooter." The charcoal mellowing process takes the "corn" taste out of the liquor and makes it true "Tennessee Whiskey," never called bourbon. Guided tours of the distillery begin every fifteen minutes.



Jack Daniel's Distillery

18. James K. Polk Ancestral Home

301 West Seventh Street
 Columbia, TN 38401
 (931) 388-2354
jameskpolk.com

This house was built by Samuel Polk in 1816, when his son James K. Polk was twenty-one years old. It was here that James K. Polk began his legal and political career, living in this house until he was inaugurated 11th President of the United States in 1845. He was the first "dark horse" candidate for President, and, during his term, the territory of the United States was extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. Having served in the state Legislature, in Congress, as Governor of Tennessee, and as President of the United States, Polk died of cholera in 1849. The house is built in the Federal style and is furnished with relics from the Polk White House. Nearby is the home of Polk's sisters. Tours of the homes include the family gardens and exhibits of Mrs. Polk's ball gown and jewels, Polk's inaugural Bible, and Mexican War memorabilia.



James K. Polk Ancestral Home

19. Jubilee Hall of Fisk University

1000 17th Avenue North
 Nashville, TN 37208
 (615) 329-8500
fisk.edu



Jubilee Hall of Fisk University

Fisk University was founded by the American Missionary Association and the Western Freedman's Aid Commission in 1866 as Fisk School, a free school for blacks in Nashville. Jubilee Hall, an example of the High Victorian Gothic style, was completed in 1875 and was the first permanent building erected for the higher education of African Americans in the United States. Money for the building was raised by the Fisk Jubilee Singers, whose worldwide singing tours saved the school from financial collapse in the 1870s. During that time, Nashville

became a center for black religious music. A portrait of the original Jubilee Singers—painted by Queen Victoria's court painter—hangs in Jubilee Hall, now a university residence hall.

20. Mansker's Station & Bowen Plantation House

Moss-Wright Park
 705 Caldwell Drive
 Goodlettsville, TN 37072
 (615) 859-3678
cityofgoodlettsville.org



The Bowen Plantation House

These adjoining sites illustrate the early phase of Middle Tennessee exploration and settlement. Mansker's Station is the reconstructed 1779 frontier fort established by long hunter and explorer Kaspar Mansker. The fortified station is a living-history museum presenting scenes of pioneer life in the early Cumberland River settlements. William Bowen, Revolutionary War veteran and Indian fighter, brought his family here in 1785. Shortly thereafter, he built the brick house that still stands today, a two-story structure in the Federal style and one of the

earliest examples of brick hall-and-parlor construction in Tennessee. The house is furnished in the fashion of the 1790s, and interpreters dressed in period-style clothing guide visitors. The plantation grew around Bowen's original 640-acre grant to eventually encompass 4,000 acres. William Bowen Campbell—Mexican War leader, Congressman, and Governor of Tennessee from 1851 to 1853—was born here in 1807. The house was restored and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

21. Natchez Trace Parkway

(800) 305-7417

nps.gov/natr

Before the arrival of Europeans, Native Americans established a network of trails or “traces” through the wilderness. Early hunters, settlers, and soldiers used these traces, the most famous of which was the Natchez Trace connecting Nashville and Natchez, Mississippi. In 1809, Meriwether Lewis of the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition met a mysterious death at Grinder’s Stand on the trace. His grave is marked by a monument, one of many historic sites on the trace. The Parkway provides a landscaped recreational roadway that winds its way past old iron industry villages, railroad towns, tollhouses, and the German-Swiss immigrant community of Hohenwald.



Natchez Trace

22. Parthenon

Centennial Park, 2500 West End Avenue

Nashville, TN 37203

(615) 862-8431

nashville.gov/departments/parks/parthenon

Nashville’s Parthenon is the only full-sized reproduction of the original Parthenon, a temple built by the Greeks in Athens during the 5th century B.C. It houses the tallest indoor sculpture in the western world, a statue of Athena, ancient goddess of wisdom and learning, the deity for whom the original Parthenon was erected. Originally built for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897, the building became unsafe and was rebuilt in 1929. It is an exact replica



Nashville’s Parthenon, center of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897, reconstructed in 1929

of the Greek temple: its architecture does not include a single straight line; no two columns are the same size, nor are they placed the same distance apart; no two steps are the same size; and the floor is not square or level. A proud symbol of Tennessee’s capital city—the “Athens of the South”—the Parthenon houses the city’s permanent art collection, plaster casts of the Elgin Marbles, a gift shop, and a visitors center.

23. Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park

460 Ozier Road

Pinson, TN 38366

(731) 988-5614

tnstateparks.com/parks/pinson-mounds



One of the Pinson Mounds

Pinson Mounds is one of the most significant Native American archaeological sites in Tennessee. The mounds were constructed during the Middle Woodland period (circa A.D. 1–500). The Woodland Indians were the first farmers in West Tennessee, having introduced the cultivation of corn and squash into the region. The Pinson Mounds site illustrates the transition of the Woodland Indians from hunting and gathering to a more settled,

agricultural existence. This National Historic Landmark, which has been maintained as a state park since 1974, contains at least fifteen mounds, most of which seem to have been used for ceremonial purposes. The seventy-two-foot-tall Saul's Mound is the largest, while the Ozier Mound is one of the oldest known ceremonial mounds of its type in the country. The museum offers exhibits on the ongoing archaeological work at Pinson Mounds.

24. Reelfoot Lake

Reelfoot Lake State Park

Tiptonville, TN 38079

(731) 253-9652

tnstateparks.com/parks/reelfoot-lake



Sunset on beautiful Reelfoot Lake

Tennessee's only large naturally formed lake, Reelfoot was created by the violent New Madrid earthquakes in 1811. Tremors lasted for more than a year and were felt from New Orleans to the Great Lakes. The area is steeped in the legend of Kalopin—or Reelfoot—a Chickasaw prince born with a deformed foot that caused him to walk with a rolling gait. Against the wishes of the Great Spirit, Reelfoot captured a Choctaw princess, Laughing Eyes, for his wife. In anger, the Great Spirit stomped his foot, creating a giant crater into which

rushed the backwaters of the Mississippi River, flooding the Chickasaw hunting grounds and destroying Kalopin's people. The 14,000-acre lake is twenty miles long and up to seven miles wide. Early in the twentieth century, controversy arose over the private development of the lakeshore, and angry residents resorted to masks, robes, and vigilante terrorism to defend their customary hunting and fishing rights. Troops were called out to suppress these Night Riders, and several were brought to trial and convicted. Today, the area is a peaceful preserve and features year-round hunting and fishing.

25. Rhea County Courthouse

1475 Market Street
Dayton, TN 37321
(423) 775-6171

In 1925, the Rhea County Courthouse was the scene of the famous Scopes Evolution Trial, in which John Thomas Scopes—a Dayton high school teacher—was tried for teaching that human beings evolved from a lower order of animals. The trial (July 10–July 21, 1925) was covered by H. L. Mencken, a world-famous journalist, and was reported in newspapers all over the country. William Jennings Bryan, a fundamentalist, served as prosecutor, and Clarence Darrow, a well-known agnostic, served for the defense. Scopes was convicted and fined \$100. On appeal, the decision was reversed by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1927. The trial raised issues debated for many years: the right of taxpayers to control curriculum, separation of church and state, academic freedom, and the relationship between science and religion. Built in the 1890s, the courthouse has been restored to its 1925 appearance and houses the Scopes Trial Museum.



Courthouse at Dayton, site of the famous “Monkey Trial”

26. Rocky Mount

200 Hyder Hill Road
Piney Flats, TN 37686
(423) 538-7396
rockymountmuseum.com

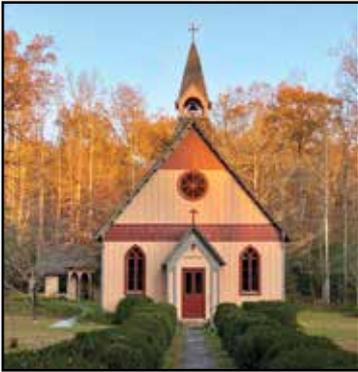
This frontier home, built circa 1770, was the Capitol of the Territory South of the River Ohio (the area that is now Tennessee) from 1790–1792. It was here that the pioneer Tennesseans known as “Overmountain Men” stopped en route to Sycamore Shoals to rendezvous for the Battle of Kings Mountain, the “turning point of the Revolutionary War.” Selected in 1790 as his headquarters by Territorial Governor William Blount, this house was the capitol of the first recognized government west of the Allegheny Mountains. It is the oldest original territorial capitol still standing in the United States. Costumed interpreters give tours of the original main house, a reconstructed kitchen, and other outbuildings. The building also houses the Museum of Overmountain History.



Rocky Mount, monument to Tennessee's frontier heritage

27. Rugby

1331 Rugby Parkway
Rugby, TN 37733
(423) 628-2441
historicrugby.org



Christ Church at Rugby

Rugby, a rural English colony founded by Thomas Hughes in the 1880s, was established to provide homes and livelihood in the United States for the younger sons of English gentry. Hughes was a liberal member of Parliament, Queen's Counsel, author, and supporter of trade unionism in England before it was legal. He established Rugby so that younger sons of the gentry could enter manual trades without disgrace. A testing ground for Hughes' progressive ideas, he called Rugby a "cooperative colony," but private ownership soon won out. At one time 450 colonists lived here, but an 1881 typhoid epidemic and an 1884 fire proved the downfall of the colony. Rugby was the last organized English colony in the United States. Surviving are seventeen original Victorian buildings, including the Hughes Public Library, with more than 7,000 original volumes, and Christ Church, where services have been held since 1887. Restaurants and accommodations are nearby.

28. Ryman Auditorium

116 Rep. John Lewis Way North
Nashville, TN 37219
(615) 889-3060
ryman.com



Nashville's Ryman Auditorium

Known as the "Mother Church of Country Music," Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, designed by architect H.C. Thompson, was originally built as a religious meeting hall and was called the Union Gospel Tabernacle. It was the realized dream of steamboat Captain Thomas Green Ryman, after his conversion at an 1885 revival preached by Sam Jones. Rev. Jones preached several revivals that raised money for the Tabernacle, including one in 1890 that drew 10,000 people a day. For that revival, the first meeting in the new

but incomplete Tabernacle, a canvas was stretched across its six-foot-high walls to protect those gathered from inclement weather. The Ryman became the home of the Grand Ole Opry, the famous country and western music show, in 1943 and served as such until March 1974. After being closed for many years and undergoing an extensive renovation, the building was reopened in June 1994.

29. Shiloh National Military Park

1055 Pittsburgh Landing Road
 Shiloh, TN 38376
 (731) 689-5696
nps.gov/shil

This battlefield is the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, where Union and Confederate casualties totaled 23,746. Fighting began April 6, 1862, when Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston attacked Grant's forces at Shiloh Church. During the heat of the battle, Johnston bled to death after a rifle ball severed an artery in his leg. The demoralized Confederates, staggered by Grant's massing artillery, ceased the attack. That night, General Buell reinforced Grant, and

the Union soldiers attacked the following morning. The thin line of Confederates under General P.G.T. Beauregard broke and retreated toward Corinth, Mississippi. The battle was an important step in Grant's campaign to control the Mississippi River. The 3,972-acre park includes the battlefield, National Cemetery, picnic areas, a museum, a movie telling the story of the battle, and a 9.5-mile driving tour of the area.



Shiloh's Bloody Pond as it looks today

30. Tennessee State Capitol

600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd.
 Nashville, TN 37243
 (615) 741-2692
tnmuseum.org/state-capitol

A masterpiece of Greek Revival architecture, the Tennessee Capitol was completed in 1859 and is one of the oldest working capitols in the United States. The architect, William Strickland of Philadelphia, died before the work was completed and was, at his request, buried within the Capitol walls. His son Francis and State Building Commission Chairman Samuel D. Morgan supervised the completion of the structure. The building is constructed of Tennessee marble and the

labor of erecting it was performed by convicts and slaves. The building, although unfinished at the time, was first occupied by the General Assembly on October 3, 1853. In 1953, the General Assembly appropriated funds for exterior renovation, and, in 1957, for interior restoration. On the grounds are the tombs of President James K. Polk and his wife, Sarah Childress Polk, and statues of Alvin C. York, Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Sam Davis, and Edward Ward Carmack.



Tennessee's majestic Capitol building

31. Victorian Village

Memphis, TN 38103

(901) 523-0235

victorianvillageinc.org



Woodruff-Fontaine House, 1870

In the area of Adams Avenue in Memphis, a number of landmark nineteenth-century homes have been saved from destruction by interested citizens. The Boyd-Massey-Maydwell House likely is the oldest of those pictured below. A neo-classic cottage at 664 Adams, it is owned by the City of Memphis and used by the City Beautiful Commission. The Harsson-Goyer-Lee House at 690 Adams was originally a small four-square cottage built by William Harsson, a lath mill operator. It was expanded in 1855 by his son-in-law, Charles Wesley Goyer, who added the present three-story front in 1871. The house was sold in 1890 to steamboat empire owner James Lee, Jr., whose daughter later began the James Lee Memorial Academy of Art, which flourished there until the City of Memphis relocated

the school to Overton Park. Currently owned by the City of Memphis, the Mallory-Neely House at 652 Adams, a Tuscan villa, was first owned by Isaac Kirtland and

later by Benjamin Babb, who added the second story and sold to James Columbus Neely in 1883. The French Victorian Woodruff-Fontaine House at 680 Adams was built by architects Edward Cullriott Jones of Charleston and Mathias Baldwin of Memphis, for Amos Woodruff, who, in 1883, sold to Noland Fontaine, the third-wealthiest cotton



Boyd-Massey-Maydwell House, 1817-1849

factor in the country. The house was later part of the James Lee Academy of Art and is currently open to the public for tours. The Victorian Mollie Fontaine Taylor House was built by Noland Fontaine as a wedding gift for his daughter at 679 Adams (directly across the street from the Woodruff-Fontaine). The Elias Lowenstein House is located at Jefferson and Manassas Streets.



Mallory-Neely House,
1854-1883



Mollie Fontaine
Taylor House, 1886



Elias Lowenstein
House, 1890



Harsson-Goyer-Lee
House, 1848-1873

32. York Grist Mill at Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park

2609 North York Highway
Pall Mall, TN 38577
(931) 879-6456

tnstateparks.com/parks/sgt-alvin-c-york

In this old grist mill, built on the Wolf River in 1887, and in the house across the road, World War I hero Alvin C. York spent his last years. Having been born and raised in the mountains of Tennessee, York said he wanted to be buried within sight of the Wolf River. He is buried near the mill, which he operated for twenty years after he bought it in 1943. In 1917, York enlisted in the All-American Division and became famous for single-handedly capturing 132 German soldiers and killing twenty-five in the Argonne Forest on October 8, 1918. For this accomplishment, he was awarded

the Congressional Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre. The Tennessee General Assembly awarded him the Tennessee Medal for Valor. Later, he established the Alvin C. York Institute for the education of mountain children. He died in 1964 at age 77.



The grist mill where Alvin C. York worked in his last years



Past Governors and Constitutional Officers of Tennessee

Past Governors

William Blount

1790–1795, Democratic-Republican (territorial governor)

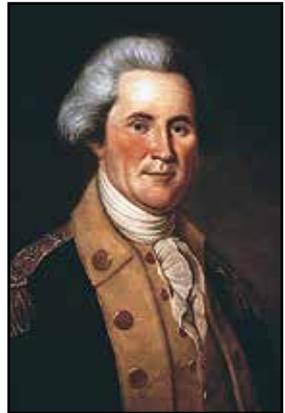
Born in North Carolina in 1749, Blount served in the Continental Congress 1782–1783 and 1786–1787. In 1790, President Washington appointed him governor of the newly formed Territory South of the River Ohio, formerly part of North Carolina. While governor, Blount was also Indian affairs superintendent and negotiated, among others, the Treaty of the Holston with the Cherokee. His new government faced formidable problems, intensified by conflicts created by European/Indian contact. In 1795, Blount called a constitutional convention to organize the state, and Tennessee entered the Union the next year. Blount represented the new state in the U.S. Senate, and, after expulsion from that body on a conspiracy charge, served in the state Senate. He died in 1800.



John Sevier

1796–1801; 1803–1809, Democratic-Republican

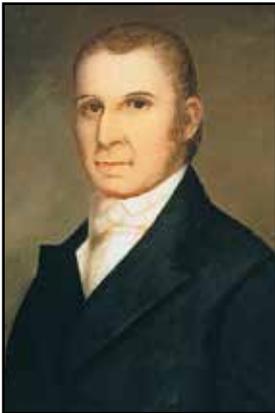
Born in Virginia in 1745, Sevier as a young man was a successful merchant. Coming to a new settlement on the Holston River in 1773, he was one of the first white settlers of Tennessee. He was elected governor of the state of Franklin at the end of the Revolutionary War and as such became the first governor in what would be Tennessee. When statehood was attained in 1796, Sevier was elected its first governor. He served six terms totaling twelve years. While governor, he negotiated with the Indian tribes to secure additional lands for the new state and opened new roads into the area to encourage settlement. At the close of his sixth term, he was elected to the state Senate and then to Congress. Sevier died while on a congressional mission to Creek Indian country in 1815.



**Archibald Roane**

1801–1803, Democratic-Republican

Born in Pennsylvania in 1760, Roane attended college and was considered a very well-educated man for his day. He served in the Revolutionary War under George Washington, then settled in Tennessee and worked as a lawyer, helping to write the state's first constitution in 1796. After John Sevier had served the maximum of three consecutive terms as governor, Roane ran for the office and was elected. During his term, the state was divided into three congressional districts because population was increasing rapidly. Roane was defeated for reelection by former Governor Sevier. In later years, Roane taught and helped promote the development of colleges in Tennessee and served as superior court judge. He died in 1819.

**Willie Blount**

1809–1815, Democratic-Republican

Born in North Carolina in 1768, Willie Blount was the half-brother of Territorial Governor William Blount. He studied at Princeton and Columbia colleges and became a lawyer in North Carolina. In 1790, he moved to the Southwest Territory, serving as William Blount's private secretary. In 1796, he was elected judge in the new state, and, in 1807, he was elected to the Legislature. He then ran for governor and was elected in 1809. When war was declared on Britain in 1812, Blount supported General Andrew Jackson with funds and troops. Blount served three terms. In 1827, he ran for governor again, but was defeated by Sam Houston. He served as a member of the state's Constitutional Convention of 1834 and died in 1835.

**Joseph McMinn**

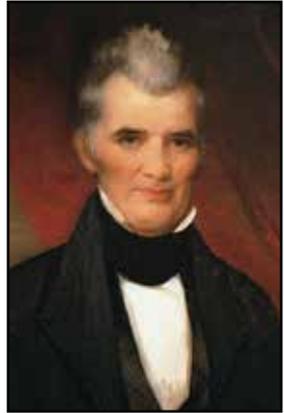
1815–1821, Democratic-Republican

Born in Pennsylvania in 1758, McMinn was a Quaker and moved to the Tennessee country in 1787. He was elected to the territorial Legislature in 1794 and, in 1796, helped frame the first constitution of Tennessee. He served in the state Senate 1807–1809. Becoming governor in 1815, he established amiable relations with Indians, negotiating for land and expanding white settlements. The most important event in his administration was the peaceful settlement of West Tennessee following the Chickasaw Purchase Treaty. Fourteen new counties were carved out of the land during his terms. After three terms, he served as agent for the Cherokee. He died in 1824.

William Carroll

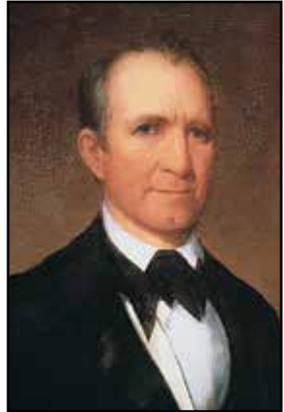
1821–1827, Democratic-Republican; 1829–1835, Democrat

Born in Pennsylvania in 1788, Carroll came to Tennessee at the age of eighteen. He had a natural knack for business and took a job with a merchant who encouraged him. He operated the state's first nail store, located in Nashville. He gave up his business in 1812 to join Andrew Jackson's militia, proving his extraordinary skill as a soldier in the War of 1812. During his twelve years as governor, Tennessee progressed from a frontier society to one in which towns and cities were developing quickly, and schools, churches, and courthouses were being built. Carroll, called Tennessee's "Reform Governor," is remembered for internal improvements, reform of penal laws, establishment of chancery courts, and the adoption of the new constitution in 1834. He died in 1844.

**Sam Houston**

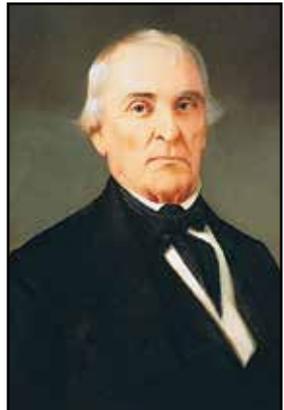
1827–1829, Democrat

Houston was born in Virginia in 1793 and came to Tennessee at age fifteen. For a while, he clerked in a store, then ran off to live with the Cherokee, beginning a lifetime association with them. Having run up debts, he taught school for a while to pay them off. Joining the 39th Infantry, he was severely wounded at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. He opened a law office in Lebanon and, in 1823, was elected to Congress, where he served two terms. With Jackson's backing, he was elected governor in 1827. Shortly thereafter, his wife, Eliza, left him, and, before his term was up, he left again to live with the Cherokee. William Hall, speaker of the Senate, finished his term. Leaving his Cherokee wife to join in the fight for Texas independence, he led his troops to victory and became president of the Republic of Texas. He died in 1863.

**William Hall**

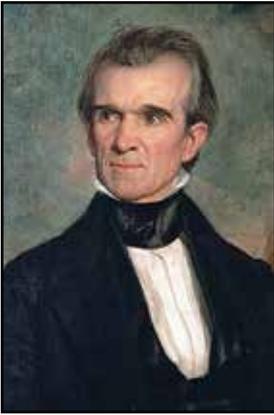
April–October 1829, Democrat

Hall was born in 1775 in North Carolina, coming to Tennessee as a young man and early becoming involved in politics. A prosperous farmer, he was elected to the state House in 1797, after having served as brigadier general in the Creek War. After six years in the House, he was elected to the Senate. It was from this office, where he served as speaker, that he became governor when Sam Houston left office. His term as governor was so short he had little time to accomplish much, but he did carry out many of Carroll's plans—penal code revision, establishment of the penitentiary, and strengthening of the educational program. Like Carroll and Houston before him, Hall was a Jackson supporter and was elected to Congress in 1831. He retired from public life in 1833 and died in 1856.

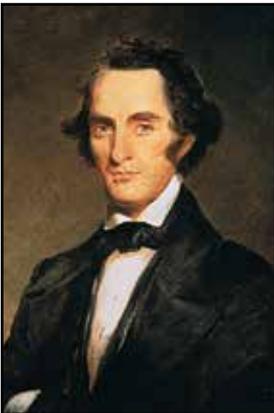


**Newton Cannon***1835–1839, Whig*

Born in North Carolina in 1781, Cannon worked as a saddler, merchant, and surveyor before studying law and being elected to the Legislature in 1811. He joined the volunteers and went to fight in the Creek War, serving as colonel. After the war, he was elected to Congress, succeeding Felix Grundy. An anti-Jacksonite, Cannon was the first Whig governor of Tennessee, the party having been formed in opposition to Jackson's policies. Elected in 1835, Cannon is remembered for reforms in state government that accompanied the adoption of the new state constitution in 1834, the Seminole War in Florida in 1836, and the capture and imprisonment of the notorious land and river pirates headed by John A. Murrell. Cannon died in 1841.

**James Knox Polk***1839–1841, Democrat*

Polk, born into a well-to-do family in North Carolina in 1795, came to Tennessee as a youth and studied at Murfreesboro College and the University of North Carolina. He graduated in 1818 with academic honors, the first college graduate to serve as governor of Tennessee. Polk studied law with Felix Grundy and set up a law office in Columbia. A skilled orator and a friend of Jackson, he was dubbed "Young Hickory." Having served in the state Legislature, Polk was elected to Congress in 1825 and served seven terms. He beat Newton Cannon in his bid for reelection in 1839 and was elected governor. Polk believed strongly in education as a fundamental need for a truly free people and advocated land sales to fund education. He lost two bids for reelection, but in 1845 was elected President of the United States. He died of cholera in 1849.

**James Chamberlain Jones***1841–1845, Whig*

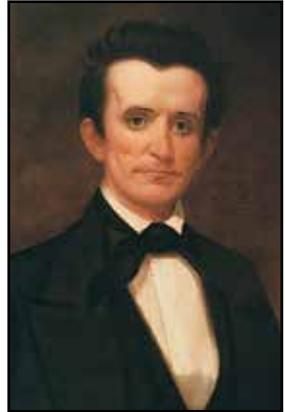
Born in Davidson County, near Nashville, James "Lean Jimmy" Jones became Tennessee's first native-born governor. Educated as a lawyer, he became a farmer in Wilson County and was elected to the Legislature in 1839. His 1841 gubernatorial campaign against James K. Polk is remembered as the origin of modern "stump" speaking. He was reelected, defeating Polk a second time. During his administrations, Nashville was selected as the permanent state capital, and the cornerstone of the state capitol building was laid. At the end of his second term, Jones became president of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. He died in 1859, after serving in Congress from 1851–1857.

Aaron Venable Brown*1845–1847, Democrat*

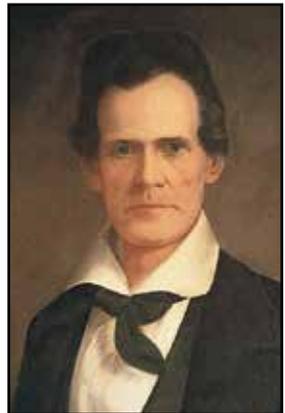
Born in Virginia in 1795, Brown graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1814 as valedictorian of his class. He read law and began his practice with James K. Polk. He served in the state Senate from 1821–1827 and the state House from 1831–1835. He served in Congress from 1839–1845 and was elected governor in 1845, serving one term. When war broke out with Mexico, Brown's call for 2,600 volunteers resulted in 30,000 Tennesseans responding. Defeated for reelection in 1847, Brown was a member of the Southern Convention, which met at Nashville in 1850 to formulate policies on the slavery question. He served as postmaster general until his death in 1859.

**Neill Smith Brown***1847–1849, Whig*

Of Scots-Irish descent, Brown was born in Giles County in 1810. He studied on his own and taught school in Giles County to finance his college education. He was admitted to the Bar in 1834. He enlisted in the 1st Tennessee Mounted Volunteers in the Seminole War. His excellent rhetoric contributed to Whig campaigns in the 1840s. He served in the state Legislature for six years and was elected governor in 1847. His administration was a time of change, seeing the advent of the telegraph and a law to provide for public schools. The law proved ineffective, as implementation was left to local governments and nothing came of the effort. Brown lost his bid for reelection but did not retire from public life. He served as minister to Russia, as a member of the Legislature, and as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1870. He died in 1886.

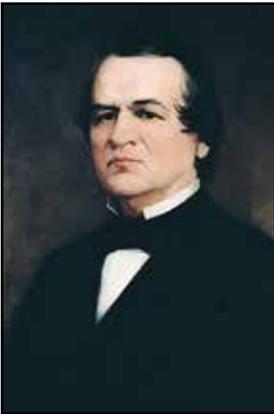
**William Trousdale***1849–1851, Democrat*

Trousdale was born in North Carolina in 1790 and came to Tennessee at age six. He was of Scots-Irish descent and was known as the "War Horse of Sumner County," fighting under Jackson in the Creek War. He served as brigadier general in the U.S. Army in the War with Mexico, as well. After serving in the state Legislature, Trousdale was elected governor in 1849. The most important event during his administration was the Southern Convention in Nashville in 1850. The convention's purpose was to discuss the issues of the slavery controversy resulting from the Wilmot Proviso, which excluded slavery in newly acquired territory. The convention resulted in the Compromise of 1850. Trousdale became minister to Brazil in 1852 and died in 1872.

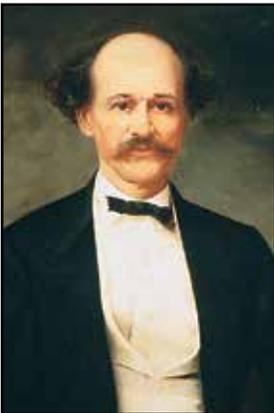


**William Bowen Campbell***1851–1853, Whig*

Born in Sumner County in 1807, Campbell studied law in Virginia, returning to Tennessee to establish a law practice in Carthage around 1829. He served as attorney general, then, in 1835, was elected to the Legislature. When the Seminole War erupted, he resigned to serve. In 1837, he was elected to Congress and served three terms. As Colonel of the “Bloody First” Tennessee, he led his troops against Monterey in the Mexican War. His famous command “Boys, follow me!” became the slogan of the waning Whig party when they successfully ran him in 1851. He declined to run a second time but was elected to Congress in 1865. During the heated impeachment proceedings against President Andrew Johnson, Campbell defended the president and served as his advisor throughout the trial. He died in 1867.

**Andrew Johnson***1853–1857 (civil), Democrat; 1862–1865 (military)*

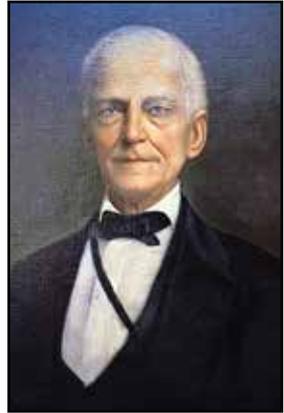
Born into poverty in North Carolina in 1808, Johnson had no formal education. He taught himself to read and learned the tailor’s trade. He came to Tennessee in 1826 and set up a tailor’s shop. He served as alderman, mayor, member of the state House, member of the state Senate, member of Congress, vice president under Abraham Lincoln, president upon Lincoln’s death, and member of the U.S. Senate. As military governor, he paved the way for Tennessee to rejoin the Union after the Civil War and pushed for the first tax for public education. As president of the United States, he was impeached for his lenient Reconstruction policies and escaped conviction by one vote. He died in 1875.

**Isham Green Harris***1857–1862, Democrat*

Harris was born near Tullahoma in 1818. He clerked in a store and later opened his own business. He studied law and, in 1847, was elected to the state Senate. After serving that term and two in the state House, he was elected governor in 1857, then reelected in 1859 and 1861. Under his administration, Tennessee seceded from the Union, the last state to do so. When President Abraham Lincoln asked for soldiers to force the Confederate states back into the Union, Harris refused. When Lincoln appointed Andrew Johnson military governor in 1862, Harris, still nominally governor, served on the staffs of Confederate Generals Albert Sidney Johnston and Joseph E. Johnston. After the war, he fled to Mexico, then England, returning to serve in Congress for twenty years. He died in 1897.

Robert Looney Caruthers*1863, Democrat*

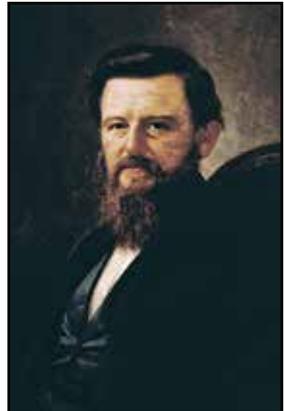
Caruthers, born in Smith County in 1800, was elected governor in 1863 but was never inaugurated, as Andrew Johnson had been appointed military governor. Caruthers was educated at Washington College. He studied law and served as attorney general from 1827–1832. In 1835, he was elected first to the Legislature, then to Congress in 1841. Governor Campbell appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1853. He was a member of the Peace Congress in 1861. An advocate of moral reforms and education, he and his brother Abraham were co-founders of Cumberland University Law School. He died in 1882.

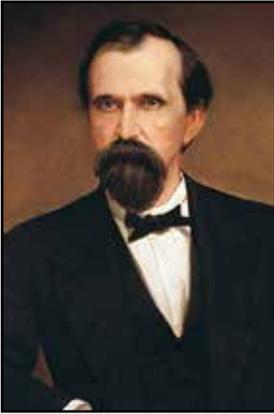
**William Gannaway Brownlow***1865–1869, Republican*

Brownlow was born in Virginia in 1805 and orphaned at age eleven. He learned carpentry, studying on his own at night, and later became a preacher, journalist, author, and statesman. “Parson” Brownlow, licensed to preach in 1826, came to Tennessee in 1828 and, in 1838, started publishing *The Whig* in Elizabethton. This pro-Union paper was continued in Jonesborough and in Knoxville. Brownlow, Tennessee’s Reconstruction governor, was elected in 1865. An intense Unionist but an advocate of slavery, he returned the state to the Union on July 2, 1866. Tennessee was the first state to return. Brownlow was responsible for legislation providing for separate schools for blacks at state expense. He was reelected in 1867 but resigned to take his seat in the U.S. Senate. He died in 1877.

**Dewitt Clinton Senter***1869–1871, Republican*

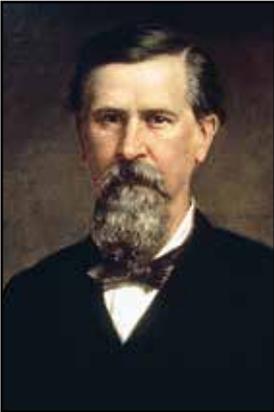
Son of a Methodist minister, Senter was born in 1830 in McMinn County. He read law on his own and was elected to the Legislature in 1857. As speaker of the Senate, he became governor when Brownlow left office to go to Congress. He won the election later that year by an overwhelming majority. He took office at a time when many citizens could not participate in the governmental process because of their involvement with the Confederate cause. His administration faced the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and its terrorism. The most important event of Senter’s administration was the Constitutional Convention of 1870, resulting in the constitution now in use. Black suffrage was achieved but along with it a poll tax that would keep many blacks from voting for years. Senter retired when his term was up, and he died in 1898.



**John Calvin Brown**

1871–1875, Democrat

Younger brother of Neill Brown, John Calvin was born in Giles County in 1827. He was well-educated and established a law practice in 1848. Though opposed to secession, he went along with Tennessee when she seceded. He enlisted as a private in the infantry and ended up in charge of a brigade, taking part in battles at Perryville, Missionary Ridge, and Franklin. Elected to the Legislature in 1869, he served as president of the Constitutional Convention of 1870. He was elected governor in 1871 and again in 1873. The two major issues he had to deal with were the state debt and the weak educational system. He halved the debt while in office and sponsored legislation providing for state, county, and city school superintendents, levying taxes to pay for the school system. He died in 1889.

**James Davis Porter**

1875–1879, Democrat

Son of a physician, Porter was born in Paris in 1828. He graduated from the University of Nashville at age eighteen. A lawyer, he was elected to the Legislature in 1859. When war broke out, he joined the Southern cause and helped organize the Provisional Army of Tennessee. He served as circuit judge and, from that office, was elected governor. The state debt was the major issue during his administration. He fought for education, and, during his term, the first black medical school, Meharry Medical College, was founded. Temperance legislation known as the “Four Mile Law” was enacted. Porter served two terms, later serving as minister to Chile. He died in 1912.

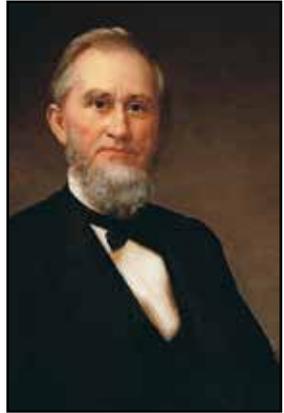
**Albert Smith Marks**

1879–1881, Democrat

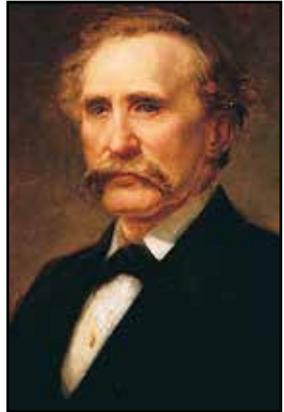
Marks was born in Kentucky in 1836. He came to Tennessee in 1856 and was admitted to the Bar in 1859. Although a Union man, he went with Tennessee when the state seceded and joined the Confederate army. He achieved the rank of colonel with the 17th Tennessee Infantry and lost a leg in the fighting at Murfreesboro. He served as chancellor of the Fourth Chancery Division and, from that office, was elected governor for the 1879 term. His attempts to deal with the state debt were unsuccessful, and he did not seek reelection. He resumed his law practice at Winchester and died in 1891.

Alvin Hawkins*1881–1883, Republican*

Hawkins was born in Kentucky in 1821 and came to Tennessee at age four. He was admitted to the Bar and opened a law practice in 1843. He was a Unionist and was elected to Congress in 1862 but was denied his seat because of the chaotic political situation. During the war, he served as U.S. Attorney for West Tennessee and later as Supreme Court justice. Like Marks, Porter, and Brown before him, Hawkins struggled with the state debt but was unsuccessful in resolving the problem. His party recommended him for a second term, but partly because of the new Greenback Party (which was organized to deal with the money situation), both Hawkins and the Greenback candidate were beaten by the Democratic candidate William Bate. Hawkins died in 1905.

**William Brimage Bate***1883–1887, Democrat*

Bate was born in 1826 near Castalian Springs. He joined the volunteers when the Mexican War began and was said to have been one of the first Tennesseans to reach the front. After the war, he established a newspaper, the *Tenth Legion*, and, in 1849, was elected to the Legislature. When the Civil War erupted, he joined the Confederate army and ended up a brigadier general, narrowly escaping the loss of a leg from a wound he received at Shiloh. The Democratic Legislature, anxious to settle the debt question, supported its governor and the matter was resolved, resulting in Bate's reelection in 1885. He served in the United States Senate until his death in 1905.

**Robert Love Taylor***1887–1891; 1897–1899, Democrat*

Taylor was born in Happy Valley in Carter County in 1850. He began his law practice and was elected to Congress in the same year, 1878. In 1886, the Democrats nominated him for governor, while his brother, Alfred, was nominated for the same office by the Republicans. Known as Tennessee's War of the Roses (the theme taken from England's Yorks and Lancasters), the campaign was a great show of oratory, with supporters sporting boutonnieres—white for the Democrats and red for the Republicans. During Taylor's terms, the prohibition law was repealed, and election laws were reformed. Another law strengthened the poll tax law created by the 1870 constitution. Taylor died in 1912 while serving in the U.S. Senate.



**John Price Buchanan**

1891–1893, Farmer-Labor

Of pioneer stock, Buchanan was born in 1847 in Williamson County. He was a farmer and a moving spirit in the Farmers' Alliance, whose support won him the governor's seat in 1890. Farmers hoped his election would ensure relief for their problems, but his administration was consumed with the insurrection of eastern Tennessee coal miners reacting to being put out of work by the convict lease system. The violence was brought under control by the state guard and led to the abandonment of the system. Buchanan established secondary schools and the Confederate pension program. He had served two terms in the Legislature and one as governor before returning to farming. He died in 1930.

**Peter Turney**

1893–1897, Democrat

Turney, son of a prominent lawyer and politician, was born in Jasper in 1827. He studied law and established a practice with his father in Winchester. A staunch secessionist, he raised the first regiment of infantry from Tennessee, "Turney's First," and was commissioned its colonel during the Civil War. After the war, he was elected to the Supreme Court, becoming chief justice in 1886. He inherited the convict lease system and prison riot problems that Buchanan had faced in his term. He was reelected in the first contested gubernatorial election in Tennessee. During his term, the prison system was reformed, and improvements were made in public education. Turney died in 1903.

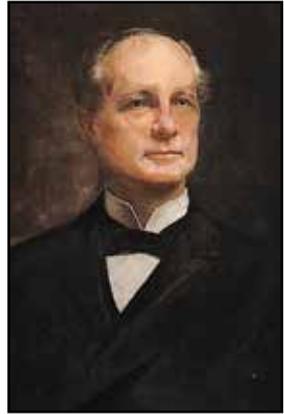
**Benton McMillin**

1899–1903, Democrat

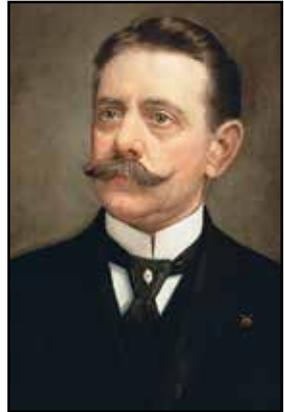
Born in Kentucky in 1845, McMillin attended the Kentucky Agricultural and Mechanical College. He read law and opened a practice in 1871. He served in the state Legislature from 1875–1877. He was elected to Congress in 1879 and served until 1898, when he was elected governor. During his two terms, the long boundary line dispute between Virginia and Tennessee was settled. Working with the Legislature, McMillin was responsible for the adoption of uniform textbooks in the schools and for a tax to support high schools. After completing his second term, he entered the insurance business. He served as minister to Peru from 1913–1919 and minister to Guatemala from 1919–1922. McMillin died in 1933.

James Beriah Frazier*1903–1905, Democrat*

The son of a judge, Frazier was born in Bledsoe County in 1856. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at age twenty-one, was admitted to the Bar in 1881, and opened a practice in Chattanooga. Elected governor in 1902, he served during a time of prosperity, made great strides in the educational system, and worked with the Legislature to pass laws to regulate mining in order to make it a safer enterprise. He resigned in 1905 to take the seat of Senator William Bate, who had died in office. John Isaac Cox, speaker of the Senate, finished his term. Frazier served in the U.S. Senate until 1911 and died in 1937.

**John Isaac Cox***1905–1907, Democrat*

The son of a Confederate soldier, Cox was born in Sullivan County in 1855. Working his way through Blountville Academy, he studied law and opened a practice in 1885. He served as county judge and as district attorney before being elected to the state House for the 1893–1895 term. In 1900, he was elected to the state Senate. As speaker, Cox became governor when Frazier resigned in 1905. His term saw prison riots and a renewed fight against yellow fever. The official state flag, designed by LeRoy Reeves, was adopted in 1905. Cox served in the state Senate from 1907–1911 and in the state House from 1913–1915. From 1914–1922 he was postmaster at Bristol. He died in 1946.

**Malcolm Rice Patterson***1907–1911, Democrat*

Born in 1861 in Alabama, Patterson was the son of a Confederate cavalry commander. He read law, opened a practice, and served as attorney general and as a representative in Congress before becoming governor in 1907. When a dispute over fishing rights at Reelfoot Lake erupted into violence, Patterson called out the state guard to expel the “Night Riders” from West Tennessee. Patterson’s veto of prohibition was overridden in 1909. During a time of intense political excitement, he withdrew from the campaign for a third term. He returned to his law practice, eventually becoming a spokesman for prohibition. He died in 1935, after serving as circuit court judge for eleven years.

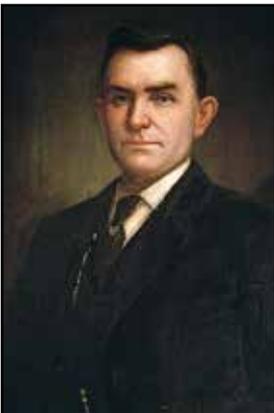


**Ben Walter Hooper***1911–1915, Republican*

Born in Newport in 1870, Hooper was orphaned early. He read law and opened a practice in 1894. Later, he served in the Legislature and as captain of the Company D, U.S. Volunteers in the Spanish-American War before being elected governor in 1910. Prohibition had split the Democratic party, and Hooper's election was helped by those "Independent Democrats" who also endorsed him. His was a turbulent administration, with political feeling so high that armed guards were required in the Legislature. Even so, Hooper's term saw child labor laws and compulsory school laws passed, as well as a change in the death penalty law to provide for electrocution. Hooper continued in public service until near the time of his death in 1957.

**Thomas Clarke Rye***1915–1919, Democrat*

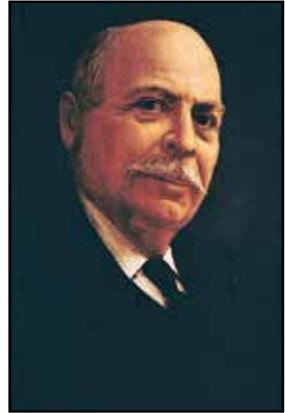
Born in a Camden log cabin in 1863, Rye read law and, at age twenty-one, set up a practice. A prohibitionist, as attorney general he acquired a reputation as a man who upheld the law. As governor during the First World War, he saw 80,000 Tennesseans enter the forces to fight Germany. He promoted the "Ouster Law," which unseated powerful Memphis Mayor Edward H. Crump for failing to enforce prohibition laws, although the mayor's influence continued to be felt for years. Rye's administration saw major revisions in state government, with the creation of a highway department and boards of charitable institutions and education. Rye returned to his law practice after serving as governor and died in 1953.

**Albert Houston Roberts***1919–1921, Democrat*

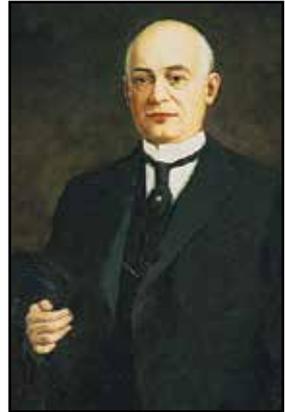
Born in Overton County in 1868, Roberts graduated from Hiwassee College in 1889. He taught school and served as county superintendent before opening a law practice. It was from the office of chancellor of the Fourth Division that he was elected governor. During his term, prohibition became law by ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment, Tennessee tax reform and workmen's compensation laws were passed, and the War Memorial Building was erected in Nashville as a monument to Tennesseans who served in World War I. In 1920, Roberts called a special session of the Legislature to vote on the Women's Suffrage amendment, and Tennessee's ratification made it the law of the land. Roberts died in 1946.

Alfred Alexander Taylor*1921–1923, Republican*

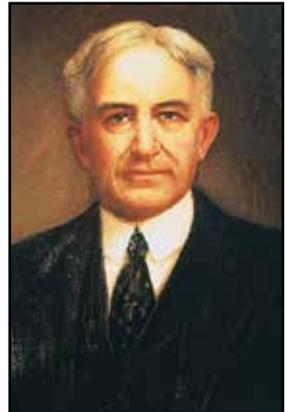
Born in Happy Valley in Carter County in 1848, Taylor went on to study law and was admitted to the Bar in 1870. He served in the Legislature from 1875–1879 and three terms in Congress from 1889–1895. In 1886 in Tennessee's War of the Roses, he was beaten by his brother, Robert, in the race for governor. When he was inaugurated governor in 1921, he was the oldest person to hold the high office. Women's Suffrage, although the law of the land, was still controversial when he took the chair. Taylor was successful in tax reform and other areas and was instrumental in persuading Congress to convert a wartime nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals into a power plant for the Tennessee Valley Authority. He lost his bid for reelection to Austin Peay and died in 1931.

**Austin Peay***1923–1927, Democrat*

Peay was born in 1876 in Kentucky. He studied law and came to Tennessee as a young man, starting his law practice in 1896. He served in the state House from 1901–1905. Urging honest government and justice for all citizens, he was elected governor in 1922. He carried out a major governmental reorganization in 1923. His administration strengthened education and created, through legislation, the Department of Highways and Public Works, by whose authority miles of paved roads came into existence. During Peay's term, the law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in public schools was passed, resulting in the Scopes Evolution Trial in Dayton in 1925. He was elected to a third term but died in 1927, the first governor to die in office.

**Henry Hollis Horton***1927–1933, Democrat*

The son of a Baptist minister, Horton was born in Alabama in 1866. After graduation from Winchester College in 1888, he taught school for six years and was admitted to the Bar in 1894. He served in the state House and later in the Senate, where he was elected speaker. It was from this office that he became governor when Austin Peay died. Successfully elected in his own right in 1929, his involvement with the Lea-Caldwell banks in the Depression years cost him his credibility, and he came close to being found guilty of fraud. He abolished the state land tax, created an aeronautics division in state government, and developed a secondary road system. Horton did not seek reelection, and he died in 1934.



**Hill McAlister***1933–1937, Democrat*

Coming from a long line of governors (William Blount, Willie Blount, and Aaron Brown), McAlister was born in Nashville in 1875. He was a Vanderbilt law school graduate and served as city attorney in Nashville. After serving in the state Senate, he served eight years as state treasurer. Losing the race for governor twice, he finally won the nomination in 1932, becoming Tennessee's Depression governor. He cut government expenses to the bone and was reelected in 1934. He was a strong supporter of the TVA, a friend to labor concerns, and a supporter of unemployment compensation. He did not seek reelection in 1936, having come into conflict with Memphis Mayor Edward H. Crump's giant political machine. McAlister died in 1959.

**Gordon Weaver Browning***1937–1939; 1949–1953, Democrat*

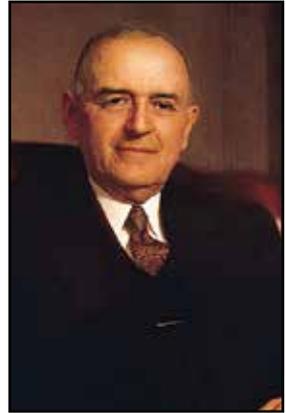
Browning was born in Carroll County in 1889. He worked his way through school and opened a law practice in 1915, then enlisted in the National Guard when World War I broke out. He served six straight terms in Congress and, with the backing of the Crump organization, was elected governor in 1936. Later, the two men parted ways, and Crump helped defeat Browning in 1938. With support from Estes Kefauver, Browning was again elected governor in 1948, and Crump's era of influence ended. Browning supported the TVA; opposed Roosevelt's recovery policies; pushed education, roads, tax reform, and further governmental reorganizations; favored a balanced budget; and repealed the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting. Browning died in 1976.

**William Prentice Cooper***1939–1945, Democrat*

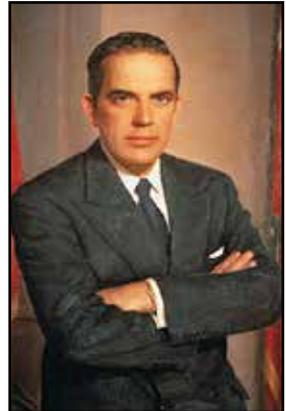
Born in Bedford County in 1895, Cooper went to Vanderbilt, Princeton, and Harvard. He served in World War I then opened a law practice in 1921. He served in the state House for one term in 1923 and was then elected district attorney. In 1936, he went to the state Senate and, in 1938, was elected governor. Much of his time in office was consumed with the transition from peacetime to wartime status, but he still accomplished a major state debt reduction, increased funding for education, and founded a statewide tuberculosis hospital system. Later he served as ambassador to Peru and as a member of the 1953 Constitutional Convention. He died in 1969.

Jim Nance McCord*1945–1949, Democrat*

McCord was born in Tennessee in 1879. A self-taught man and editor of the *Marshall County Gazette*, he served thirteen terms as mayor of Lewisburg and one term in Congress from 1943–1945 before he was elected governor. Taking on Memphis Mayor Edward H. Crump's powerful political machine, McCord successfully pushed the first state sales tax, using the funds to improve the educational system and provide retirement for teachers. Despite its benefits, the unpopularity of the tax and McCord's "open shop" labor policies lost him his bid for reelection to a third term. McCord served as a member of the 1953 Constitutional Convention and as conservation commissioner under Frank Clement. He died in 1968.

**Frank Goad Clement***1953–1959; 1963–1967, Democrat*

Clement was born in 1920 in Tennessee. He began his law practice in 1941, received a second lieutenant's commission in World War II, and served the Army again as an instructor at Fort Gordon, Ga., from 1950–1951. A powerful orator, he was elected governor in 1952 and reelected for the state's first four-year term in 1954. During his administration, the first changes in the constitution since 1870 were made, the State Library and Archives building opened, and legislation provided for free textbooks in all public schools. His administration faced the tumultuous changes that accompanied the national civil rights movement. Clement was instrumental in health care for the poor, in youth and alcoholism programs, and in highway development. He died in 1969.

**Earl Buford Ellington***1959–1963; 1967–1971, Democrat*

Born in Mississippi in 1907, Ellington became a farmer and merchant, serving as agriculture commissioner for six years under Frank Clement and as a member of the Legislature before he was elected governor in 1958. He and Clement led the Democratic party and alternated the executive chair for eighteen years. Initially a segregationist, Ellington later reversed his position. Peaceful, successful, nonviolent sit-ins in Nashville were among the earliest and best organized in the nation. His terms saw constitutional changes, reorganization and reduction of state government, liberalization of liquor laws, and repeal of the anti-evolution law. He died in 1972.

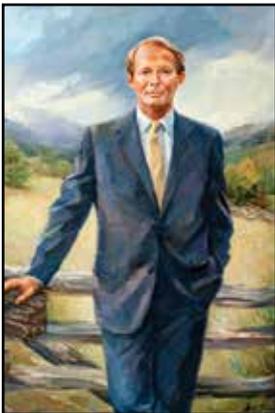


**Bryant Winfield Culberson Dunn***1971–1975, Republican*

Born in Mississippi in 1927, Dunn was seventeen when he volunteered for service in World War II. Later, he earned degrees in finance and in dental surgery from the University of Mississippi and the University of Tennessee at Memphis. Over the years, he was active in many local, state, and national campaigns. A practicing dentist, he was the first Republican governor in fifty years and served at a time of increased urbanization, industrial growth, and strides in civil rights. Dunn instituted a kindergarten program for Tennessee children, further reorganized state government, and developed highway construction plans and health programs.

**Leonard Ray Blanton***1975–1979, Democrat*

Born in Hardin County in 1930, Blanton grew up on a farm, worked his way through the University of Tennessee, and went into the construction business. Elected to the Legislature in 1964, he also served in Congress from 1969–1973. In 1974, he was elected governor. Blanton's administration emphasized equality for women and blacks, economic development and international trade, tax relief for older and fixed-income citizens, and penal reform. Blanton created the Department of Tourism, making Tennessee the first state to have a Cabinet-level department for tourism. His administration recruited Tennessee-based industry from Germany and Japan. He died in 1996.

**Andrew Lamar Alexander***1979–1987, Republican*

The son of two teachers, Alexander was born in Blount County in 1940. He went to Vanderbilt University and New York University Law School. He spent many years in Washington, serving as assistant to Senator Howard Baker, and managed campaigns for several office holders. In 1978, he was nominated to run for governor and, during his campaign, walked 1,022 miles across Tennessee to talk and listen to citizens. His administration had education as its top priority, and Alexander's Better Schools Program and the career ladder pay plan for teachers drew national attention. After his two terms, he served as president of the University of Tennessee and as the U.S. Secretary of Education. He served three terms as a U.S. Senator from 2003 until 2021.

Ned Ray McWherter*1987–1995, Democrat*

Born in Palmersville in 1930, McWherter was a farmer, businessman, and retired captain in the National Guard after twenty-one years of service. He was elected to the state House in 1968, serving as speaker for seven terms, a record at that time. In the House, he sponsored the campaign financial disclosure law and open meetings legislation. He was elected governor in 1986. His 21st Century Schools reform program provided for equalization of funding and high-performance standards. His TennCare plan replaced the Medicaid program and provided health care to the poor, complementing national health care reforms. McWherter's administrations recruited new industry from other nations and provided for economic development in depressed areas. He died in 2011.

**Donald Kenneth Sundquist***1995–2003, Republican*

Born in Illinois in 1936, Sundquist graduated from Augustana College and served two years in the U.S. Navy. After working for a scholastic products company, he struck out on his own and became president and partner of a printing and advertising firm. He was first elected to U.S. Congress in 1982 and served six terms until he was elected governor in 1995. During his administration, Sundquist initiated Families First, a statewide welfare reform program offering job training and assistance with transportation and daycare needs. Through Sundquist's environmental interest, the state added twenty-five new state natural areas to the state park system and improved Tennessee's air, water, and land record to the cleanest they had been in twenty-five years.

**Philip Norman Bredesen***2003–2011, Democrat*

Born in 1943, Bredesen grew up in rural Shortsville, New York. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Harvard University. Bredesen and his family moved to Nashville in 1975 and founded the HealthAmerica Corporation in 1980. He served two terms as mayor of Nashville from 1991–1999. In his first term as governor, Bredesen worked with the General Assembly to manage the state through a fiscal crisis without raising taxes or cutting funding for education. He also took control of TennCare, preserving full enrollment for children and pursuing innovative care and disease-management initiatives. Reelected to a second term, he reportedly became the first governor in more than a century to win all of Tennessee's ninety-five counties. This strong voter mandate stemmed in part from his commitment to accountability and open government.



**William Edward Haslam***2011–2019, Republican*

Born in 1958 in Knoxville, Haslam was raised in Knox County and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history from Emory University. He returned to Tennessee after college and, following a successful career in business, was elected to two terms as mayor of Knoxville in 2003 and 2007. First elected Tennessee's governor in 2010, Haslam was reelected in 2014 with the largest margin of victory in modern Tennessee history. Under his leadership, Tennessee K–12 students became the fastest improving in the country in academic achievement. He also launched the Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect programs, making Tennessee the first state in the nation to offer high school graduates and adults two years of free community or technical college. During Haslam's two terms in office, some 450,000 new private sector jobs were created, and he worked with the General Assembly to pass the largest tax cut in state history.



Historical Listings of Constitutional Officers

In this section, an attempt has been made to present as accurate a record as possible of the persons who have filled constitutional offices in Tennessee. In some cases, however, it has not been possible to obtain complete information.

Governors

Name	Year of Birth	State of Birth	Year of Death	Date Inaugurated	Occupation	Politics
William Blount*	1749	NC	1800	Sept. 20, 1790	Soldier	D-R
John Sevier	1745	VA	1815	March 30, 1796	Soldier, Pioneer	D-R
Archibald Roane	1760	PA	1819	Sept. 23, 1801	Lawyer	D-R
John Sevier	1745	VA	1815	Sept. 23, 1803	Soldier, Pioneer	D-R
Willie Blount	1768	NC	1835	Sept. 20, 1809	Lawyer, Planter	D-R
Joseph McMinn	1758	PA	1824	Sept. 27, 1815	Merchant	D-R
William Carroll	1788	PA	1844	Oct. 1, 1821	Merchant, Soldier	D-R
Sam Houston	1793	VA	1863	Oct. 1, 1827	Lawyer	D
William Hall	1775	NC	1856	April 16, 1829	Planter, Soldier	D
William Carroll	1788	PA	1844	Oct. 1, 1829	Merchant, Soldier	D
Newton Cannon	1781	NC	1841	Oct. 12, 1835	Planter	W
James K. Polk	1795	NC	1849	Oct. 14, 1839	Lawyer	D
James C. Jones	1809	TN	1859	Oct. 15, 1841	Lawyer	W
Aaron V. Brown	1795	VA	1859	Oct. 14, 1845	Lawyer	D
Neill S. Brown	1810	TN	1886	Oct. 17, 1847	Lawyer	W
William Trousdale	1790	NC	1872	Oct. 16, 1849	Lawyer	D
William B. Campbell	1807	TN	1867	Oct. 16, 1851	Lawyer	W
Andrew Johnson	1808	NC	1875	Oct. 17, 1853	Tailor, President	D
Isham G. Harris	1818	TN	1897	Nov. 3, 1857	Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
Andrew Johnson**	1808	NC	1875	1862	Tailor, President	D
William G. Brownlow	1805	VA	1877	April 5, 1865	Editor, Preacher	R
DeWitt C. Senter	1830	TN	1898	Feb. 25, 1869	Lawyer	R
John C. Brown	1827	TN	1889	Oct. 10, 1871	Lawyer	D
James D. Porter	1828	TN	1912	Jan. 18, 1875	Lawyer, Educator	D
Albert S. Marks	1836	KY	1891	Feb. 16, 1879	Lawyer, Chancellor	D
Alvin Hawkins	1821	KY	1905	Jan. 17, 1881	Lawyer, Judge	R
William B. Bate	1826	TN	1905	Jan. 15, 1883	Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
Robert Love Taylor	1850	TN	1912	Jan. 17, 1887	Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
John P. Buchanan	1847	TN	1930	Jan. 19, 1891	Farmer	F-L
Peter Turney	1827	TN	1903	Jan. 16, 1893	Lawyer, Judge	D
Robert Love Taylor	1850	TN	1912	Jan. 21, 1897	Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
Benton McMillin	1845	KY	1933	Jan. 16, 1899	Lawyer, Diplomat	D
James B. Frazier	1856	TN	1937	Jan. 19, 1903	Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
John I. Cox	1855	TN	1946	March 21, 1905	Lawyer	D
Malcolm R. Patterson	1861	AL	1935	Jan. 17, 1907	Lawyer, Judge	D
Ben W. Hooper	1870	TN	1957	Jan. 26, 1911	Lawyer	R
Tom C. Rye	1863	TN	1953	Jan. 17, 1915	Lawyer, Judge	D
A.H. Roberts	1868	TN	1946	Jan. 15, 1919	Lawyer, Judge	D

Alfred A. Taylor	1848	TN	1931	Jan. 15, 1921	Lawyer	R
Austin Peay	1876	KY	1927	Jan. 16, 1923	Lawyer	D
Henry H. Horton	1866	AL	1934	Oct. 3, 1927	Lawyer, Farmer	D
Hill McAlister	1875	TN	1959	Jan. 17, 1933	Lawyer	D
Gordon Browning	1889	TN	1976	Jan. 15, 1937	Lawyer, Judge	D
Prentice Cooper	1895	TN	1969	Jan. 16, 1939	Lawyer	D
Jim McCord	1879	TN	1968	Jan. 16, 1945	Editor	D
Gordon Browning	1895	TN	1976	Jan. 16, 1949	Lawyer, Judge	D
Frank G. Clement	1920	TN	1969	Jan. 15, 1953	Lawyer	D
Buford Ellington	1907	MS	1972	Jan. 19, 1959	Farmer	D
Frank G. Clement	1920	TN	1969	Jan. 15, 1963	Lawyer	D
Buford Ellington	1907	MS	1972	Jan. 16, 1967	Farmer	D
Winfield Dunn	1927	MS	Living	Jan. 16, 1971	Dentist	R
Ray Blanton	1930	TN	1996	Jan. 18, 1975	Farmer, Businessman	D
Lamar Alexander	1940	TN	Living	Jan. 17, 1979	Lawyer	R
Ned McWherter	1930	TN	2011	Jan. 17, 1987	Businessman	D
Don Sundquist	1936	IL	Living	Jan. 21, 1995	Businessman	R
Phil Bredesen	1943	NY	Living	Jan. 18, 2003	Businessman	D
Bill Haslam	1958	TN	Living	Jan. 15, 2011	Businessman	R
Bill Lee	1959	TN	Living	Jan. 19, 2019	Businessman	R

D-R/Democratic Republican, */Territorial, **/Military, D/Democrat, R/Republican, W/Whig, F-L/Farmer-Labor

Speakers of the Senate

Territory South of the River Ohio, 1790–1796

Griffith Rutherford, President of Legislative Council 1794–1796

State of Tennessee

James Winchester, 1796–97; James White, 1797–98; William Blount, 1798–99; Alexander Outlaw, 1799–1801; James White, 1801–05; Joseph McMinn, 1805–11; Thomas Henderson, 1811–13; Robert C. Foster, 1813–15; Edward Ward, 1815–19; Robert Weakley, 1819–21; Sterling Brewer, 1821–23; Robert Weakley, 1823–25; Robert C. Foster, 1825–27; William Hall, 1827–29; Joel Walker, 1829–31; Burchet Douglas, 1831–33; David Burford, 1833–35; Jonathan Webster, 1835–37; Terry H. Cahal, 1837–39; Thomas Love, 1839; L.H. Coe, 1839–41; Samuel Turney, 1841–43; Josiah M. Anderson, 1843–45; Harvey M. Watterson, 1845–47; Josiah M. Anderson, 1847–49; John F. Henry, 1849–51; M.R. Hill, 1851–53; Edwin Polk, 1853–55; Edward S. Cheatham, 1855–57; John C. Burch, 1857–59; Tazewell W. Newman, 1859–61; B.L. Stovall, 1861; Edward S. Cheatham, 1861–62*; Samuel R. Rodgers, 1865; Joshua B. Frierson, 1865–67; DeWitt C. Senter, 1867–69; P.P.C. Nelson, 1869; Dorsey B. Thomas, 1869–71; John C. Vaughn, 1871–73; A.T. Lacey, 1873–75; Thomas H. Paine, 1875–77; Hugh M. McAdoo, 1877–79; John R. Neal, 1879–81; George H. Morgan, 1881–83; Benjamin F. Alexander, 1883–85; C.R. Barry, 1885–87; Z.W. Ewing, 1887–89; Benjamin J. Lea, 1889–91; William C. Dismukes, 1891–95; Ernest Pillow, 1895–97; John Thompson, 1897–99; Seid Waddell, 1899–1901; Newton H. White, 1901–03; E.T. Seay, 1903–05; John I. Cox, 1905; Ernest Rice, 1905–07; E.G. Tollett, 1907–09;

William Kinney, 1909–11; Nathaniel Baxter, Jr., 1911–13; Newton H. White, 1913–15; Hugh C. Anderson, 1915; Albert E. Hill, 1915–17; W.R. Crabtree, 1917–19; Andrew L. Todd, 1919–21; W.W. Bond, 1921–23; Eugene J. Bryan, 1923–25; L.D. Hill, 1925–27; Henry H. Horton, 1927; Sam R. Bratton, 1929–31; Scott Fitzhugh, 1931; A.B. Broadbent, 1931–33; A.F. Officer, 1933–35; William P. Moss, 1935–36; Bryan Pope, 1936–39; Blain R. Maxwell, 1939–43; J.H. Ballew, 1943–45; Larry Morgan, 1945–47; George Oliver Benton, 1947–49; Walter M. Haynes, 1949–53; Jared Maddux, 1953–59; Wm. D. Baird, 1959–62; James L. Bomar, 1963–65; Jared Maddux, 1966–67; Frank Gorrell, 1967–71; John S. Wilder, 1971–2007; Ron Ramsey, 2007–2017; Randy McNally, 2017–present.

* Upon the fall of Fort Donelson, the Legislature recessed to meet in Memphis on February 20, 1862, where it continued in session for one month. Thereafter, no sessions of the Legislature were held until April 3, 1865.

Speakers of the House of Representatives

Territory South of the River Ohio, 1790–1796

David Wilson 1794–1795

Joseph Hardin 1795–1796

State of Tennessee

James Stuart, 1796–99; William Dickson, 1799–1803; James Stuart, 1803–05; Robert C. Foster, 1805–07; John Tipton, 1807–09; Joseph Dickson, 1809–11; John Cocke, 1811–13; Thomas Claiborne, 1813–15; James Fentress, 1815–17; Thomas Williamson, 1817–19; James Fentress, 1819–25; William Brady, 1825–27; John H. Camp, 1827–29; Ephraim H. Foster, 1829–31; Frederick W. Huling, 1831–35; Ephraim H. Foster, 1835–37; John Cocke, 1837–39; Jonas E. Thomas, 1839–41; Burchett Douglass, 1841–42; Franklin Buchanan, 1842–43; Daniel L. Barringer, 1843–45; Brookins Campbell, 1845–47; Franklin Buchanan, 1847–49; Landon C. Haynes, 1849–51; Jordan Stokes, 1851–53; William H. Wisener, 1853–55; Neill S. Brown, 1855–57; Daniel S. Donelson, 1857–59; W.C. Whitthorne, 1859–61; Edwin A. Keeble, 1861–62; William Heiskell, 1865–67; F.S. Richards, 1867–69; William O'Neil Perkins, 1869–71; James D. Richardson, 1871–73; W.S. McGaughey, 1873–75; Lewis Bond, 1875–77; Edwin T. Taliaferro, 1877–79; Henry P. Fowlkes, 1879–81; H.B. Ramsey, 1881–83; W.L. Ledgerwood, 1883–85; James A. Manson, 1885–87; W.L. Clapp, 1887–91; Thomas R. Myers, 1891–93; Ralph Davis, 1893; J.A. Trousdale, 1893–95; John A. Tipton, 1895–97; Morgan C. Fitzpatrick, 1897–99; Joseph W. Byrns, 1899–1901; E.B. Wilson, 1901–03; Lawrence Davis Tyson, 1903–05; Will Kendall Abernathy, 1905–07; John T. Cunningham, Jr., 1907–09; M. Hillsman Taylor, 1909–11; A.M. Leach, 1911–13; W.M. Stanton, 1913–15; William P. Cooper, 1915–17; Clyde Shropshire, 1917–19; Seth M. Walker, 1919–21; Andrew L. Todd, 1921–23; Frank S. Hall, 1923–25; W.F. Barry, Jr., 1925–27; Selden Maiden, 1927–29; Charles H. Love, 1929–31; Walter M. Haynes, 1931–33; Frank W. Moore, 1933–35; Walter M. Haynes, 1935–39; John Ed O'Dell, 1939–43; James J. Broome, 1943–45; George Woods, 1945–47; W. Buford Lewallen, 1947–49; McAllen Foutch, 1949–53; James L. Bomar, 1953–63; William L. Barry, 1963–67; James Cummings, 1967–69; William L. Jenkins, 1969–71; James McKinney, 1971–73; Ned R. McWherter, 1973–87; Ed Murray, 1987–91; James O. Naifeh, 1991–2009; Kent Williams, 2009–2011; Beth Harwell, 2011–2018; Glen Casada, 2019; Bill Dunn, 2019; Cameron Sexton, 2019–present.

Secretaries of State

Territory South of the River Ohio, 1790–1796

Daniel Smith, Territorial Secretary 1792–1796

State of Tennessee

William Maclin, 1796–1807; Robert Houston, 1807–11; W.G. Blount, 1811–15; William Alexander, 1815–18; Daniel Graham, 1818–30; Thomas H. Fletcher, 1830–31; Samuel G. Smith, 1831–35; Luke Lea, 1835–39; John S. Young, 1839–47; W.B.A. Ramsey, 1847–55; F.N.W. Burton, 1855–59; J.E.R. Ray, 1859–62; Edward H. East, 1862–65*; A.J. Fletcher, 1865–70; T.H. Butler, 1870–73; Charles N. Gibbs, 1873–81; David A. Nunn, 1881–85; John Allison, 1885–89; Charles A. Miller, 1889–93; William S. Morgan, 1893–1901; John W. Morton, 1901–09; Hallum W. Goodloe, 1909–13; R.R. Sneed, 1913–17; Ike B. Stevens, 1917–21; Ernest N. Haston, 1921–37; A.B. Broadbent, 1937–41; Joe C. Carr, 1941–44; Mrs. Joe C. Carr, 1944–45; Joe C. Carr, 1945–49; James H. Cummings, 1949–53; G. Edward Friar, 1953–57; Joe C. Carr, 1957–77; Gentry Crowell, 1977–89; Milton P. Rice, 1989–90; Bryant Millsaps, 1990–93; Riley C. Darnell, 1993–2009; Tre Hargett, 2009–present.

* Edward H. East was appointed by Andrew Johnson, military governor of Tennessee.

Comptrollers of the Treasury

Daniel Graham, 1836–43; Felix K. Zollicoffer, 1843–49; B.H. Sheppard, 1849–51; Arthur R. Crozier, 1851–55; James C. Luttrell, 1855–57; James T. Dunlap, 1857–61; Joseph S. Fowler, 1862–65;* S.E. Hackett, 1865–66; G.W. Blackburn, 1866–70; E.R. Pennebaker, 1870–73; W.W. Hobbs, January–May 1873; John C. Burch, 1873–75; James L. Gaines, 1875–81; James N. Nolan, 1881–83; P.P. Pickard, 1883–89; J.W. Allen, 1889–93; James A. Harris, 1893–99; Theo F. King, 1899–1904; Frank Dibrell, 1904–13; George P. Woollen, 1913–15; J. B. Thompson, 1915–23; Edgar J. Graham, 1923–31; Roy C. Wallace, 1931–37; John W. Britton, 1937–38; Marshall F. Priest, 1938–39; Robert W. Lowe, 1939–45; Jared Maddux, January–April 1945; Sam K. Carson, April 1945–46; Jared Maddux, 1946–49; Cedric Hunt, 1949–53; Jeanne S. Bodfish, 1953–55; William R. Snodgrass, 1955–99; John G. Morgan, 1999–2009; Justin P. Wilson, 2009–2021; Jason E. Mumpower, 2021–present.

* J.R. Dillon was elected April 25, 1865, but, being a member of the General Assembly, he could not serve.

Territorial and State District Treasurers

Daniel Smith, Secretary of the Territory acted as Territorial Treasurer, 1792–1794

Howell Tatum, Territorial Treasurer of Mero District, 1794–1796

Landon Carter, Territorial Treasurer of Washington and Hamilton Districts, 1794–1796

Washington and Hamilton Districts: Landon Carter, 1796–1800; John Maclin, 1800–03; Thomas McCorry, 1803–13; **Mero District:** William Black, 1796–97; Robert Searcy, 1797–1803; Miller Francis, 1803–13; **East Tennessee:** Thomas McCorry, 1813–15; Matthew Nelson, 1815–27; Miller Francis, 1827–36; **West Tennessee:** Thomas Crutcher, 1813–36; **Western District:** James Caruthers, 1827–36.

Statewide Treasurers

Miller Francis, 1836–43; Matthew Nelson, 1843–45; Robert B. Turner, 1845–47; Anthony Dibrell, 1847–55; G.C. Torbett, 1855–57; W.F. McGregor, 1857–63; Joel Battle, 1863–65; R.L. Stanford, 1865–66; John R. Henry, 1866–68; W.H. Stillwell, 1868–69; J.E. Rust, 1869–71; William Morrow, 1871–77; M.T. Polk, 1877–83; Atha Thomas, 1883–85; J.W. Thomas, 1885–86; Atha Thomas, 1886–89; M.F. House, 1889–93; E.B. Craig, 1893–1901; Reau Folk, 1901–11; G.T. Taylor, 1911–13; W.P. Hickerson, 1913–15; Porter Dunlap, 1915–19; Hill McAlister, 1919–27; John F. Nolan, 1927–31; Hill McAlister, 1931–33; James J. Bean, 1933–37; Grover Keaton, 1937–39; John W. Harton, 1939–45; Cecil C. Wallace, 1945–48; J. Floyd Murrey, 1948–49; W.N. Estes, 1949–53; J.B. Walker, Sr., 1953–55; J.B. Walker, Jr., (Additional Treasurer) January–July 1953; Ramon Davis, 1955–63; James H. Alexander, 1963–64; Nobel Caudill, June–October 1964; James H. Alexander, 1964–67; Charlie Worley, 1967–71; Thomas A. Wiseman, 1971–74; Harlan Mathews, 1974–87; Steve Adams, 1987–2003; Dale Sims, 2003–09; David H. Lillard, Jr., 2009–present.

For additional information regarding treasurers, view the *History of Tennessee State Treasurers* project at: treasury.tn.gov/Explore-Your-TN-Treasury/Meet-Treasurer-Lillard/History-of-TN-Treasurers

Adjutants General

James C. Maclin, 1797–1802; William Maclin IV, 1802–07; George Wilson, 1807–11; John Williams, 1811–14; Anew Hynes (resigned), 1814–16; Rufus Morgan, 1816–19; Samuel Houston, 1819–22; George Gibbs, 1822–27; John McGregor, 1827–31; George W. Terrell, 1831–33; Gideon J. Pillow, 1833–35; Thomas J. Porter, 1835–37; Richard G. Dunlap (acting AG pro tem.), May–July 1836; William W. Woodfolk, 1837–39; William Moore, 1840–41; Felix K. Zollicoffer, 1841–43; Neill S. Brown, 1843–45; Robert B. Turner, 1845–47; George W. Gordon, 1847–49; Edward W. Hickman, 1849–51; Lucius J. Polk, 1851–53; Granville P. Smith, 1853–55; Samuel P. Allison, 1855–58; Hunter Nicholson, 1858–60; James W. McHenry, 1860–61; W.C. Whitthorne (followed Harris government), 1861–62; Alvin C. Gillem (under military governor), 1862–65; James P. Brownlow, 1865–67; Samuel Hunt, July–October 1867; Daniel T. Boynton, 1867–69; Frank Hyberger, 1869–71; John S. Wilkes, 1871–75; W.R. Hamby, 1875–77; Charles D. Porter, 1877–79; Walter W. Estill, 1879–81; Earnest Hawkins, 1881–83; R.W. Cantrell, 1883–87; James P. Taylor (resigned), 1887–88; Laps D. McCord (resigned), 1888–91; M.M. Hope, January 14–18, 1891; H.H. Norman, 1891–93; John A. Fite, 1893–95; Charles Sykes, 1895–99; Horton C. Lamb (resigned), 1899–1900; W.M. Brandon, 1900–03; Harvey H. Hannah, 1903–07; Harvey C. Alexander, 1907; Tully Brown, 1907–11; Frank Maloney, 1911–15; Charles B. Rogan (resigned), 1915–17; Allison G. Buckner, 1917–19; E.B. Sweeney, 1919–21; P.I. Brumit, 1921–23; William Caswell Boyd, 1923–33; Wirt Courtney (resigned), January 7–27, 1933; H.H. Ballew, 1933–37; Raymond O. Smith, 1937–39; Thomas A. Frazier, 1939–45; George Hilton Butler (acting), May–June 1945; Rufus E. Fort, Jr. (resigned), June–December 1945; George Hilton Butler, 1946–49; Carl A. Anderson (resigned), 1949–50; Sam T. Wallace, 1950–53; Joe W. Henry, Jr., 1953–59; George Hilton Butler, 1959–61; Van D. Nunally, Jr., 1961–67; Robert W. Akin, Jr., 1967–68; Hugh B. Mott, 1968–71; William C. Smith, 1971–75; Carl D. Wallace, 1975–91; Jerry R. Wyatt, 1991–93; William B. Jones, 1993–95;

Jackie D. Wood, 1995–2002; Gus L. Hargett, 2002–2009; Terry M. “Max” Haston, 2010–2018; Jeffrey H. Holmes, 2019–present.

Attorneys General and Reporters

George S. Yerger, 1831–39; Return J. Meigs, 1839; West H. Humphreys, 1839–51; W.G. Swan, 1851–54; John L.T. Sneed, 1854–59; John W. Head, 1859–62;* Thomas M. Coldwell, 1865–70; Joseph B. Heiskell, 1870–78; Benjamin J. Lea, 1878–86; George W. Pickle, 1886–1902; Charles T. Cates, Jr., 1902–13; Frank M. Thompson, 1913–26 (Frank M. Thompson died in 1926, and Charles L. Cornelius was appointed to finish the unexpired term of approximately three months); L.D. Smith, 1926–32; Roy H. Beeler, 1932–54; George F. McCanless, 1954–September 1969; David M. Pack, September 1969–May 1974; Milton P. Rice, May–September 1974; R.A. Ashley, Jr., September 1974–October 1976; Brooks McLemore, October 1976–July 1978; William M. Leech, Jr., July 1978–July 1984; W.J. Michael Cody, July 1984–September 1988; Charles W. Burson, October 1988–February 1997; John Knox Walkup, February 1997–January 1999; Paul G. Summers, January 1999–2006; Robert E. Cooper, Jr., 2006–2014; Herbert H. Slatery III, 2014–present.

* During the War between the States, civil government was suspended in Tennessee, and the office was vacant.



About Tennessee

Tennessee Symbols and Honors

Seal of the State

Even before Tennessee achieved statehood, efforts were made by local governmental organizations to procure official seals. Reliable historians have assumed that as early as 1772 the Articles of the Agreement of the Watauga Association authorized the use of a seal. The Legislature of the state of Franklin, by an official act, provided “for procuring a Great Seal for this State,” and there is also evidence that a seal was intended for the Territory South of the River Ohio. The secretary of that territory requested the assistance of Thomas Jefferson in March 1792 in “suggesting a proper device” for a seal. There is no direct evidence, however, that a seal was ever made for any of these predecessors of Tennessee.

When Tennessee became a state, the Constitution of 1796 made provision for the preparation of a seal. Each subsequent constitution made similar provisions and always in the same words as the first. This provision is (Constitution of 1796, Article II, Section 15; Constitution of 1835, Article III, Section 15; Constitution of 1870, Article III, Section 15) as follows:

“There shall be a Seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him officially, and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee.”

In spite of the provision of the Constitution of 1796, apparently no action was taken until September 25, 1801. On that date, committees made up of members from both the Senate and the House of Representatives were appointed. One of these committees was to “prepare a device and motto” for a seal, while the other was to contract with a suitable person to cut a seal and press for the use of the state.



Original State Seal



Official State Seal

The committee appointed to prepare a design for the state seal recommended that:

...the said seal shall be a circle, two inches and a quarter in diameter, that the circumference of the circle contain the words THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that in the lower part of said

circumference be inserted Feb. 6th, 1796, the date of the Constitution of this state; that in the inside of the upper part of said circle, be set in numerical letters XVI, the number of the state in chronological order; that under the base of the upper semicircle, there be the word AGRICULTURE; that above said base, there be the figure of a plough, sheaf of wheat and cotton plant; that in the lower part of the lower semicircle, there be the word COMMERCE, and said lower semicircle shall also contain the figure of a boat and boatman.

The other committee reported that it had contracted with William and Matthew Atkinson to make the seal and press.

The seal and press were delivered to Governor Archibald Roane in April 1802 and were used for the first time on April 24, 1802, on a document ordering payment for them. Before this time, both John Sevier and Archibald Roane had used their personal seal on official documents. This seal continued in use under seven governors until 1829, with Governor William Hall being the last governor to use it. Then, during the second series of administrations of Governor William Carroll, a different seal came into use, though there is no record of its authorization. This second seal was only one and three-quarters inches wide and the date “Feb. 6th,” was omitted. The boat, differing greatly in design from the original, was pointed in the opposite direction. The seal was at variance with the original in other respects, as well. It remained in use from 1829 until the administrations of William Brownlow from 1865 to 1869.

A close examination of official documents bearing the Great Seal, particularly those from between 1855 and 1875, indicates that the seal now being used was introduced during the administration of Governor William Brownlow. Only one document, dated 1865, was found containing the seal attributed to the Brownlow administration. Instead, examination of Brownlow documents of 1866 and 1867 revealed the use of two seals, evidently used simultaneously. One seal appears to be the same as that affixed to documents signed by Governors Brownlow, Senter, Porter, and Hawkins.

Evidently, the so-called “Brownlow Seal” was used only in 1865, after which it was replaced by two other seals that were only slightly different from each other. The seal now used was the larger of the two and appears to have been the only one used since the last year of Brownlow’s administration. The current seal was officially adopted in 1987 by the 95th General Assembly, Public Chapter 402.

State Flags

Flag of the State of Tennessee

On April 17, 1905, the Tennessee General Assembly adopted a flag for the state of Tennessee. A few years earlier the Volunteer State had adopted a state flag for use in the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, but its design was not popular, and the flag was not often used. A Johnson City lawyer and military man decided that Tennessee could do better.

LeRoy Reeves was born in Johnson City in June of 1876 and died in Washington, D.C., on May 25, 1960. In June 1903, he organized Company F, 3rd Tennessee Infantry of the Tennessee National Guard and served as its first captain. Two years later, he

drew up a legislative bill providing that a flag of his design be made the official flag of Tennessee.

Captain Reeves designed a flag having a blue disc bearing three white stars, centered on a field of crimson. He explained the design as follows:



Flag of Tennessee

The three stars are of pure white, representing the three grand divisions of the state. They are bound together by the endless circle of the blue field, the symbol being three bound together in one—an indissoluble trinity. The large field is crimson. The final blue bar relieves the sameness of the crimson field and prevents the flag from showing too much crimson when hanging limp. The white edgings contrast more strongly the other colors.

Those familiar with Tennessee's geography and politics have no trouble identifying the meaning of the three stars. Culturally and historically, East, Middle, and West Tennessee are as different as any three states could be. The one flaw with the flag may be that there is no clear top or bottom, so the flag sometimes gets hoisted upside down.

The Tennessee flag law specifies:

The arrangement of the three (3) stars shall be such that the centers of no two (2) stars shall be in a line parallel to either the side or end of the flag, but intermediate between same; and the highest star shall be the one nearest the upper confined corner of the flag.

The flag was first flown over the East Tennessee State Normal School (now East Tennessee State University) in Reeves's hometown of Johnson City. The first of the new flags was presented to Captain Reeves and remained in his possession until his death. At that time he bequeathed it to the State Museum, where it is now on display. This flag was adopted as the official flag of the state of Tennessee by an act of the General Assembly passed and approved April 17, 1905. The design of the flag was described in Tennessee Code Annotated § 4-1-301:

An oblong flag or banner in length one and two-thirds (1⅔) times its width, the principal field of same to be of color red, but the flag or banner ending at its free or outer end in a perpendicular bar of blue, of uniform width, running from side to side, that is to say, from top to bottom of the flag or banner, and separated from the red field by a narrow margin or stripe of white of uniform width; the width of the white stripe to be one-fifth (1/5) that of the blue bar; and the total

width of the bar and stripe together to be equal to one-eighth ($\frac{1}{8}$) of the width of the flag. In the center of the red field shall be a smaller circular field of blue, separated from the surrounding red field by a circular margin or stripe of white of uniform width and of the same width as the straight margin or stripe first mentioned. The breadth or diameter of the circular blue field, exclusive of the white margin, shall be equal to one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the width of the flag. Inside the circular blue field shall be three (3) five-pointed stars of white distributed at equal intervals around a point, the center of the blue field, and of such size and arrangement that one (1) point of each star shall approach as closely as practicable without actually touching one (1) point of each of the other two (2) around the center point of the field; and the two (2) outer points of each star shall approach as nearly as practicable without actually touching the periphery of the blue field. The arrangement of the three (3) stars shall be such that the centers of no two (2) stars shall be in a line parallel to either the side or end of the flag, but intermediate between same; and the highest star shall be the one nearest the upper confined corner of the flag.

Flag of the General Assembly



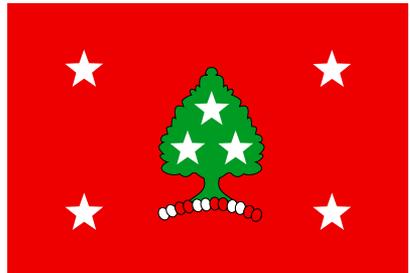
Flag of the General Assembly

The flag of the General Assembly was adopted in 1978 by the 90th General Assembly (House Joint Resolution 531) and officially codified by the 98th General Assembly in 1993 (Public Chapter 497). The banner was designed by art and design student Sheila Adkins, a student at Knoxville's Fulton High School. Her design was chosen from among those submitted by numerous students from across the state. The designer chose the colors white for purity, blue to denote respect

for Tennessee, and red as the traditional color for America; stars to symbolize the state's three Grand Divisions; wheat for agricultural heritage; and the gavel for the power of the people vested in the state's legislative body.

Flag of the Governor

No act has been passed by the General Assembly establishing an official flag for the governor, but in 1939, at the request of the Adjutant General, one was designed by the U.S. War Department. The central design on the flag is the crest of the National Guard of Tennessee, which is described in a letter from the Secretary of War, dated May 28, 1923, as:



Flag of the Governor

...on a wreath argent and gules, upon amount vert a hickory tree properly charged with three mullets one and two argent...

The state of Andrew Jackson, or “Old Hickory,” Tennessee was the sixteenth state admitted to the Union—the original thirteen colonies plus three states—and, consequently, the flag bears three white stars. The predominant original white population within the state was of English origin, and the twists of the wreath are accordingly white and red. This design was placed upon a red background, in each corner of which is placed a five-pointed star representing the fact that the governor of the state, by virtue of his office, automatically becomes commander in chief of the National Guard of that state.

The passage quoted above describes a wreath of silver (or white) and red under a green hill, upon which is a hickory tree bearing three five-pointed stars, each one separated from the other two, and all three silver (or white).

State Historian

The office of state historian was created in 1955 by the 79th General Assembly. Dr. Robert H. White, the first appointed state historian, served in that capacity from 1955 until his death in 1970. During his appointment, he compiled the eight-volume series *Messages of the Governors*, a record of Tennessee’s governmental affairs from 1796–1907, which was published by the Tennessee Historical Commission. Dr. Dan H. Robison served as state historian from 1970–1972, Stanley F. Horn from 1972 until his death in 1980, Wilma Dykeman from 1981–2002, and Walter Durham from 2002–2013.

This position, an honorary one, is now held by Dr. Carroll Van West, appointed by Governor Bill Haslam in 2013. It is the responsibility of the state historian to prepare for publication and to disseminate Tennessee historical data, as well as to conduct negotiations for historical publications.

Dr. Carroll Van West

State Historian

Dr. Carroll Van West is the director of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, where he is also a professor of history. In July 2013, Governor Bill Haslam appointed West as state historian, a position he continues under current Governor Bill Lee. West is also the chair of the Tennessee 250th Commission, director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and member of the National Historic Landmarks committee of the National Park Service. He served as the senior editor of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* from 1993–2010 and section editor for “Architecture” in the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (University of Tennessee Press). His research interests lie in nineteenth- and twentieth-century southern and western history as well as architecture and material culture. He continues as the editor-in-chief of the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture website (University of Tennessee Press) and compiled the anthology *Tennessee and the Civil War* (Tennessee Historical Society, 2011). Some of his earlier books include *Nashville Architecture: A Guide to the City* (University of Tennessee Press, 2015); *A History of Tennessee Arts:*



Creating Traditions and Expanding Horizons (University of Tennessee Press, 2004); an edited anthology, *Trial and Triumph: Readings in Tennessee's African American Past* (University of Tennessee Press, 2002), the first such textbook on Tennessee's African American history in more than twenty years; and *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape* (University of Tennessee Press, 2001). West serves on the board of advisors for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Teaching with Primary Sources program of the Library of Congress. He has worked with museum/preservation projects in many states, most recently in Alabama, Montana, and New Mexico, as well as hundreds of historic preservation projects across Tennessee. A native of Murfreesboro, West holds a B.A. from MTSU, a master's degree in history from the University of Tennessee, and a Ph.D. in history from the College of William & Mary. He is married to Mary Sara Hoffschwelle, and they have two children, Owen and Sara.

State Slogan

In 1965, the 84th General Assembly adopted as the state's official slogan, "Tennessee—America at Its Best." (Public Chapter 33, Section 1, 1965).

State Motto

The state of Tennessee's motto is "Agriculture and Commerce," taken from the wording used on the state seal. The motto was officially adopted in 1987 by Public Chapter 402 of the 95th General Assembly.

State Nicknames

Tennessee has had several nicknames, but the most popular is "The Volunteer State." The nickname originated during the War of 1812, when thousands of Tennesseans enlisted in response to Governor Willie Blount's call for volunteers. This state nickname was officially adopted in 2020 by Public Chapter 516 of the 111th General Assembly.

Other nicknames include the "Big Bend State," which refers to the Indian name of the Tennessee River—"The River with the Big Bend"; the "Hog and Hominy State," now obsolete but formerly applied because "the corn and pork products of Tennessee were in such great proportions between 1830 and 1840"; and "The Mother of Southwestern Statesmen," because Tennessee furnished the United States with three presidents and a number of other leaders who served with distinction in high government office.

Tennesseans are sometimes referred to as "Volunteers," "Big Benders," and "Butternuts." The first two are derived from the nicknames of the state, while the tag of "Butternuts" was first applied to Tennessee soldiers during the War Between the States because of the tan color of their uniforms. Later, it was occasionally applied to people across the entire state.

Tennessee's First Peoples

Public Chapter 58 of the 112th General Assembly recognizes the cultural groups of the Algonquian (including the Shawnee and Lenape), the Chickamaugan, the Iroquoian (including the Cherokee), the Muskogean (including the Alabama, Coosa, Chickasaw, Natchez, Koasati, Tuskegee, and Taliwa), the Siouan (including the Quapaw and Mosopelea), and the Yuchean (including the Chisca, Yuchi, Taougalé, Tongeria, and Tamahita) as Tennessee's first peoples.

State Tartan

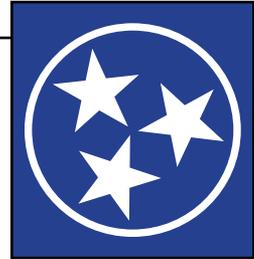
Scottish ancestry is widely celebrated throughout the Volunteer State. One of the most salient images of Scottish culture is the tartan, a traditional cloth pattern of stripes in different colors and widths that cross each other to form squares. In acknowledgment of Tennessee's Scottish heritage, Public Chapter 82 of the 101st General Assembly in 1999 designated the state of Tennessee's official state tartan as the design adopted by the Heart of Tennessee Scottish Celebration in conjunction with all the other Scottish Societies in Tennessee. The design is a symmetrical tartan set, using the following colors: natural white, dark green, purple, red, and dark blue.



State Symbol

Public Chapter 534 of the 109th General Assembly designated the circular tristar design from the state flag to be the state symbol. This public chapter amended the Tennessee Code Annotated by adding the following text:

The official state symbol shall be the circular feature of the state flag, adopted by Chapter 498 of the Acts of 1905, and shall be of the following design: a circular field of blue surrounded by a circular stripe of white that is one-twentieth ($\frac{1}{20}$) the diameter of the circular field of blue. Inside the circular field of blue shall be three (3) five-pointed stars of white distributed at equal intervals around a point, the center of the blue field, and of such size and arrangement that one (1) point of each star shall approach as closely as practicable without actually touching one (1) point of each of the other two (2) around the center point of the blue field; and the two (2) outer points of each star shall approach as nearly as practicable without actually touching the periphery of the blue field. The arrangement of the three (3) stars shall be such that the centers of no two (2) stars shall align horizontally or vertically, but intermediate between same; and the highest star shall be the one located in the upper left of the blue field.



Legal Holidays of Tennessee

All days have been appointed by the Governor of this state, or by the President of the United States, as days of fasting or thanksgiving; when any of the days listed below falls on Sunday, then the following Monday shall be substituted, and when any of these days falls on Saturday, then the preceding Friday shall be substituted (Tennessee Code Annotated § 15-1-101).

Name	Date
New Year’s Day	January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Third Monday in January
Washington Day	Third Monday in February
Good Friday	Friday before Easter
Memorial or Decoration Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
Veterans’ Day	November 11
Thanksgiving	Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas	December 25

Observed Days of Tennessee

Pursuant to the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4 and Title 15, Chapter 2, Part 1, each year it shall be the duty of the Governor to proclaim the following as days of special observance:

Name	Date
Robert E. Lee Day	January 19
Franklin D. Roosevelt Day	January 30
State Constitution Day	February 6
Abraham Lincoln Day	February 12
Tennessee Songwriters Week	Last full week of February
Volunteer Firefighters Week	First full week in March
Tennessee National Guard Day	March 3
Tennessee Missing Children’s Day	March 4
Harriet Tubman Day	March 10
Andrew Jackson Day	March 15
Vietnam Veterans Day	March 29
Barber, Beauty, and Health Month	April
Minority Health Awareness Month	April
Tennessee Craft Beer and Cider Month	April
Autism Awareness Recognition Day	Day in April to be determined by the Governor
Financial Literacy Week	Week of the first Sunday in April
Patriots’ Day	April 19
Workers’ Memorial Day	April 28
Dale Earnhardt Day	April 29
Tennessee’s Day of Prayer	First Thursday of May

Mothers' Day	Second Sunday in May
Police Memorial Day	May 11
Lifelong Learning Week	Third week in May
Rescue Squad Week	Third full week in May
Rescue Squad Day	Third Monday in May
Tennessee Aviation Maintenance Technicians Day	May 24
Bluegrass Day	Fourth Saturday in May
African-American Music Appreciation Month	June
Statehood Day	June 1
Memorial or Confederate Decoration Day	June 3
Transverse Myelitis Awareness Day	June 6
Women's Veterans Day	June 12
Lymphedema Awareness Week	Third week of June
Juneteenth	June 19
John Sevier Day	June 23
Wilma Rudolph Day	June 23
Scottish, Scots-Irish Heritage Day	June 24
Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day	June 27
Tennessee Genealogy Month	July
Nathan Bedford Forrest Day	July 13
Lifelong Learning Month	August
Women in STEM Month	August
Day of School Prayer Walking	First Sunday in August
Tennessee's Weekend of Prayer Over Students	First weekend in August
Emancipation Day	August 8
Febb Burn Day	August 18
Women's Suffrage Day	August 18
Family Day	Last Sunday in August
Tennessee Archaeology Awareness Month	September
Star-Spangled Banner Day	September 14
Tennessee and United States Constitutions Day	September 17
Carbon Monoxide Awareness Day	September 18
Tennessee P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Week	Third Friday to following Thursday of September
Towing and Recovery Week	Week of the third Saturday in September
American Indian Day	Fourth Monday in September
Gold Star Mother's Day	Last Sunday in September
Native American Indian Month	October
Tennessee Rural Mayor's Day	First Monday of October
Tennessee Manufacturing Day	First Friday in October
Firefighters' Memorial Day	October 9
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day	October 24
Character Counts Week	Week of the third Sunday in October
Lung Cancer Awareness Month	November
Veterans' Day	November 11
Agriculture Literacy Week	Week of the third Thursday in November
Mrs. Rosa L. Parks Day	December 1
Safe Driver Awareness Weeks	Weeks immediately preceding Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Day

State Flora and Fauna

The state has adopted, through various means, flora and fauna that are representative of Tennessee.



State Tree

The tulip poplar was designated the official state tree of Tennessee by Public Chapter 204 of the Acts of the 75th General Assembly in 1947. The tulip poplar was chosen “because it grows from one end of the state to the other” and “was extensively used by the pioneers of the state to construct houses, barns, and other necessary farm buildings.”

The following description of the tulip poplar is taken from *The Complete Guide to North American Trees*:

Perhaps the most stately tree of our range, it sometimes reaches a height of 200 feet with a stem as regular as though turned on a lathe, and frequently showing 50 to 100 feet of trunk without a branch. The twigs are smooth, brownish gray, becoming cracked into a regular network of shallow, firm ridges; an old trunk broken into deep, rough ridges. Its leaves are very smooth and shining with a broad notch at the tip, usually four-lobed, 2 to 8 inches long. Its flowers are tulip-like, green orange, 1 to 3 inches deep. The fruit is cone-like, hanging on through the year, and is 2 to 3 inches long.



State Evergreen Tree

The eastern red cedar was designated the official state evergreen tree by the 107th General Assembly in Public Chapter 567 of the Acts of 2012. The tree is indigenous to the entire state and is a sacred tree of the Cherokee people.

It was one of the first landscape trees used by early pioneers, including Andrew Jackson at the Hermitage. The tree was central to one of the earliest forest industries in Tennessee, the cedar pencil industry. It is an integral part of an ecological niche called cedar glades. Interestingly, Cedar Knob was the original name of the land upon which the state Capitol was built in Nashville. Cedar Street was also the name of the street at the foot of the state Capitol when it was constructed. That street is now Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Boulevard.

State Flowers

In 1919, the General Assembly, by Senate Joint Resolution 13, provided that a state flower be chosen by the schoolchildren of Tennessee. Accordingly, a vote was taken, and the passion flower was chosen. In 1933, however, the Legislature adopted Senate Joint Resolution 53 designating the iris as the “State Flower of Tennessee,” but failed to formally rescind the designation of the passion flower as the state flower. To eliminate this confusion, in 1973, the 88th General Assembly, by Public Chapter 16, designated the passion flower the state wildflower and the iris the state cultivated flower. In 2012, the 107th General Assembly added Tennessee Echinacea as an official state wildflower (Public Chapter 829).

Passion Flower

The passion flower grows wild in the southern part of the United States and in South America. It is also commonly known as the maypop, the wild apricot, and the ocoee. The last is the Indian name given to the flower, a name that has also been applied to the Ocoee River and valley. The Indians prized the ocoee as the most abundant and beautiful of all their flowers. The passion flower is so named because of the early Christian missionaries to South America who saw symbols of the Crucifixion—the three crosses, the crown of thorns, nails, and cords—in the various parts of the curiously constructed flower.



Tennessee Echinacea

Tennessee Echinacea, also known as the Tennessee coneflower or Tennessee purple coneflower, is one of the few plants that thrive only in the limestone and cedar glades of Middle Tennessee. It was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in the late 1960s. Due to conservancy efforts, land was purchased to protect the flower, and the species recovered. The flower features a daisy-like coneflower with rose-purple petals and a spiny copper-colored center and generally blooms from mid-spring until mid-autumn.



Iris

The iris was designated the official state cultivated flower in 1973 by the 88th General Assembly (Public Chapter 16). The iris is an herbaceous perennial of which there are about 170 species, the most common of which is the Blue Flag. While there are several different colors of iris, the act naming the iris as the state flower did not name a particular color. By common acceptance, the purple iris is considered the state cultivated flower.





State Botanical Garden

In 2013, the 108th General Assembly designated the University of Tennessee's botanical gardens as the state's official botanical garden (Public Chapter 152). In addition to their beauty, the gardens also offer research, educational, and outreach programs. Yearly, more than 100,000 visitors and hundreds of school groups view thousands of native and cultivated plants, including trees, shrubs, roses, wildflowers, annuals, perennials, herbs, ornamental grasses, groundcovers, vines, aquatic plants, and turf. The garden was created in 1983 on ten acres of land that is part of the Institute of Agriculture campus. Additional satellite gardens have been established in Jackson and Crossville. The gardens serve as an interdisciplinary resource center for faculty, students, researchers, and industry professionals in horticulture, natural sciences, landscape design and architecture, communications, and the arts.



State Fruit

The tomato was designated Tennessee's official state fruit in 2003 by the 103rd General Assembly (Public Chapter 154). While commonly considered and functioning as a vegetable, the tomato is, botanically speaking, a fruit. In the culinary world, fruits are sweet and usually served as a dessert or snack, while vegetables are less sweet and often served with a main dish. However, the scientific distinction between fruit and vegetable is based on the part of the plant where the food happens to be. A fruit develops from the fertilized ovary of a flower and contains seeds, while a vegetable is any edible part of the plant other than the fruit (i.e. leaf, root, bulb, stem, and flower).



State Beverage

Milk was designated the official state beverage of Tennessee by Public Chapter 31 of the Acts of the 106th General Assembly in 2009. The act stated that milk is an essential component to building strong muscles and bones in children, as well as mending injured muscles and bones in adults. Other benefits cited include milk's role in building strong and healthy teeth, hair, skin, and nails.

State Sport Fish

Tennessee's official sport fish is the smallmouth bass, as designated in 2005 by Public Chapter 277 of the Acts of the 104th General Assembly.

The smallmouth bass replaced the largemouth bass as the official sport fish in 2005, due to its popularity and the fact that three of the largest smallmouth bass ever caught came from Tennessee.

The smallmouth bass, often referred to as "bronzeback," will fight ounce for ounce harder than any other species of sport fish in Tennessee. The current state record, which is also the world record of 11 pounds, 15 ounces, was caught by D.L. Hayes at Dale Hollow Lake on July 9, 1955. The smallmouth bass may be found in most streams and lakes in the state, with the exception of West Tennessee.



State Commercial Fish

The state commercial fish is the channel catfish which was designated in 1988 by Public Chapter 489 as enacted by the 95th General Assembly. The channel catfish, sometimes known as "spotted cat" or "fiddler," is widely stocked and reared in farm ponds. It may be found in most Tennessee streams and many lakes. The channel catfish is a bottom-feeder and current-feeder, generally taken by still fishing.



State Bird

According to the *Nashville Banner* of April 16, 1933, the mockingbird was selected on April 11, 1933, as the state bird of Tennessee in an election conducted by the Tennessee Ornithological Society. The choice was confirmed by Senate Joint Resolution 51, adopted by the 68th General Assembly in 1933.

The mockingbird is akin to the brown thrasher and the catbird. It is ashen gray above, with darker, white-edged wings and whitish underside; its length, inclusive of the long tail, is about ten inches. One of the finest singers among North American birds, it possesses a melodious song of its own and is especially noted for its skill in mimicking the songs of other birds.





State Game Bird

The bobwhite quail was designated the official state game bird in 1988 by Public Chapter 775 of the Acts of the 95th General Assembly. The bobwhite, also known as the partridge, is considered one of the finest game birds in the world. It is a short-tailed, chunky brown bird, usually eight to ten inches long. The male has a white throat and a white stripe above the eye, while the female has a buffy throat and eye stripe. In spring, the male's clearly whistled "bob white" is answered by the female's four-syllable whistle. This game bird lays from ten to twenty pure white eggs, more than almost any other bird.



State Wild Animal

By House Joint Resolution 156, the 87th General Assembly adopted the raccoon as Tennessee's wild animal in 1971. The raccoon is a furry animal that has a bushy, ringed tail and a band of black hair around its eyes that looks like a mask. Raccoons, often called coons, eat fish and frogs that they catch in rivers and streams. Raccoons living in Tennessee measure from thirty to thirty-eight inches long, including their tails. They weigh from twelve to twenty-five pounds. Most males are larger than females. Raccoons walk like bears, with all four feet on the ground, and are good swimmers.



State Horse

The Tennessee Walking Horse was named the official state horse by Public Chapter 596 of the 101st General Assembly in 2000.

The Tennessee Walking Horse is bred mainly from Standardbred, Morgan, Thoroughbred, and American Saddlebred stock. The three, easy-riding gaits of this breed—the flat-foot walk, the running walk, and the canter—are all natural, inherited characteristics, making this breed one of the smoothest riding horses in the world.

This breed was a practical utility horse in the beginning and evolved into a pleasure horse due to its gentle ride. Tennessee Walking Horses generally range from 14.3 to 17 hands and weigh 900 to 1,200 pounds.

State Dog

The Bluetick Coonhound was designated the official state dog by Public Chapter 7 of the 111th General Assembly in 2019. These hounds were used by early Tennessee settlers for hunting and protection. Today, these dogs are used for raccoon hunting (still popular statewide), bear hunting, and for showing in field trials, where they are judged for speed, agility, barking, treeing, and tracking abilities.

**State Pet**

In 2014, the 108th General Assembly designated any dog or cat adopted from a Tennessee animal shelter or rescue as the official state pet (Public Chapter 821). According to the Humane Society of the United States, sixty-five percent of U.S. households have a pet; the majority of these pets were acquired from animal shelters or rescues, and the percentage of families who adopt pets from shelters or rescues has been on the rise. Even so, with six to eight million cats and dogs entering shelters and rescues each year, there is still a great need for loving families to give these animals a home.

State Insects

The official state insects were designated by Public Chapter 292 of the Acts of the 89th General Assembly in 1975. They are the well-known firefly and the lady beetle.



Firefly

The firefly, or lightning bug beetle, is the popular name of the luminescent insects of the *Lampyridae* family. In Tennessee, it is the most familiar species. Their extraordinary light is generated in special organs; this light is most often white, yellow, orange, greenish-blue, or reddish.

Rather small, fireflies are blackish, brown, yellow, or reddish in color. In certain species, the females remain in the larvae state and are called glowworms.

Most fireflies produce short rhythmic flashes that provide a signaling system to bring the sexes together, as well as a protective mechanism to repel predators.



Ladybug

The ladybird beetle, more commonly known as the ladybug, was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and called “Beetle of Our Lady.” They are approximately four-tenths of an inch long, brightly colored, and round, with the popular ladybug having four black spots on each wing.

Ladybugs are sold to farmers to control insect pests because they are important aphid predators. The life cycle is about four weeks, as the ladybug larvae passes through four growth stages, feeding on insects and insect eggs.

In folk medicine, ladybugs were used to cure various diseases, including colic and the measles.



State Agricultural Insect

The official state agricultural insect is the honeybee, designated by Public Chapter 725 of the Acts of the 96th General Assembly in 1990.

The honeybee is a social, honey-producing insect that plays a fundamental role in the production of all crops. It is also very popular for its production of honey and beeswax.

The honeybee plays a vital economic role in Tennessee through its pollination of various crops, trees, and grasses. The honeybee is the only insect that is moved for the express purpose of pollination.

State Butterfly

The Zebra Swallowtail was designated Tennessee's official butterfly by Public Chapter 896 of the 99th General Assembly in 1995. This beautiful, winged insect has black and white stripes that run the length of its body and red and blue spots on its lower back. The swallowtail grows from a tiny egg into a caterpillar that eventually molts into its pupal stage and is transformed into this striking butterfly, which can be found throughout most of the United States.



State Amphibian

The Tennessee Cave Salamander was named the official state amphibian by Public Chapter 367 of the 99th General Assembly in 1995. This large, cave-dwelling salamander has three red external gills, a broad, flat head with small eyes, and a tail fin. It is most often found in limestone caves that contain streams in central and southeast Tennessee.



State Reptile

The Eastern Box Turtle was designated the official state reptile by Public Chapter 367 of the 99th General Assembly in 1995. This peaceful creature usually reaches a length of less than six inches and has a shell of black or brown with spots of yellow, orange, and red. This reptile usually lives between thirty to sixty years and never ventures far from its place of birth.



State Arts and Crafts

Songwriting

Senate Joint Resolution 121, adopted in 2003 by the 103rd General Assembly, designated songwriting as one of Tennessee's official art forms and applauded individuals who are or who have been skillful masters of this art form.

State Songs

My Homeland, Tennessee

In 1925, House Joint Resolution 36 of the 64th General Assembly designated "My Homeland, Tennessee" as an official state song. The words of this song were written by Nell Grayson Taylor and the music by Roy Lamont Smith.

First Verse

*O Tennessee, that gave us birth,
To thee our hearts bow down.
For thee our love and loyalty
Shall weave a fadeless crown.
Thy purple hills our cradle was;
Thy fields our mother breast
Beneath thy sunny bended skies,
Our childhood days were blessed.*

Second Verse

*'Twas long ago our fathers came,
A free and noble band,
Across the mountain's frowning heights
To seek a promised land.
And here before their raptured eyes;
In beauteous majesty:
Outspread the smiling valleys
Of the winding Tennessee.*

Third Verse

*Could we forget our heritage
Of heroes strong and brave?
Could we do aught but cherish it,
Un sullied to the grave?
Ah no! the State where Jackson sleeps,
Shall ever peerless be.
We glory in thy majesty;
Our homeland, Tennessee.*

Chorus

*O Tennessee: Fair Tennessee:
Our love for thee can never die:
Dear homeland, Tennessee.*

When It's Iris Time In Tennessee

In 1935, "When It's Iris Time in Tennessee" by Willa Waid Newman also became an official state song. This song was adopted by the 69th General Assembly in Public Chapter 154.

First Verse

*Sweetness of Spring memories bring
Of a place I long to be.
Land of Sunshine calls this old heart of mine,
Come back to Tennessee.*

Second Verse

*Rocks and the rills deep tinted hills,
There's no spot so dear to me.
Where'er I roam
Still it's my Home Sweet Home,
My own, my Tennessee.*

Chorus

*When it's Iris time down in Tennessee,
I'll be coming back to stay
Where the mockingbird sings
At the break of day
A lilting love song gay.
Where the Iris grows,*

*Where the Harpeth flows,
That is where I long to be.
There's a picture there that lives in memory
When it's Iris time in Tennessee.*

My Tennessee

"My Tennessee" by Frances Hannah Tranum was adopted as the official public school song in 1955. It was adopted by Senate Joint Resolution 35 of the 79th General Assembly.

First Verse

*Beloved state, oh state of mine,
In all the world I could not find,
Where God has strewn with lavish hand,
More natural beauty o'er the land.
From ev'ry stream and valley green
His wond'rous art is ever seen.
Ah, let my heart beat true to thee,
And swell with pride for Tennessee.*

Second Verse

*Thy rocks and rills, and wooded hills,
My mem'ry keeps the childhood thrills
You gave to me, that I might know
The joys supreme, you could bestow.
The song of birds, the whisp'ring trees,
The low of herds, the hum of bees,
It all comes back so dear to me,
My childhood home in Tennessee.*

Third Verse

*Your battles fought, and vict'ries won,
Your freedom bought and duty done,
With daughters fair, and sons so brave,
To do and dare, their deeds they gave.
Courageously, without a fear,
And won the name of volunteer.
In sacred trust, let those who will,
By being just, preserve it still.*

Chorus

*Oh, Tennessee, My Tennessee,
Thy hills and vales are fair to see,
With mountains grand, and fertile lands
There is no state more dear to me.
Thro' other climes tho I may roam,
There will be times I'll long for home,
In Tennessee, Fair Tennessee,
The land of my nativity.*

The Tennessee Waltz

In 1965, "The Tennessee Waltz" by Redd Stewart and Pee Wee King became an official song of the state. It was adopted by Senate Joint Resolution 9 of the 84th General Assembly.

*I was waltzing with my darlin' to the Tennessee Waltz
When an old friend I happened to see
Introduced him to my loved one and while they were waltzing
My friend stole my sweetheart from me.*

*I remember the night and the Tennessee Waltz
Now I know just how much I have lost
Yes I lost my little darlin' the night they were playing
The beautiful Tennessee Waltz.*

Rocky Top

“Rocky Top,” by Boudleaux and Felice Bryant, was adopted as an official song of Tennessee by Public Chapter 545 of the 92nd General Assembly in 1982.

First Verse

*Wish that I was on ol' Rocky Top,
Down in the Tennessee hills;
Ain't no smoggy smoke on Rocky Top;
Ain't no telephone bills;
Once I had a girl on Rocky Top;
Half bear, other half cat;
Wild as a mink, but sweet as soda pop,
I still dream about that;*

Third Verse

*I've had years of cramped-up city life
Trapped like a duck in a pen;
All I know is it's a pity life
Can't be simple again.*

Second Verse

*Once two strangers climbed ol' Rocky Top,
Lookin' for a moonshine still;
Strangers ain't come down from Rocky Top;
Reckon they never will;
Corn won't grow at all on Rocky Top;
Dirt's too rocky by far;
That's why all the folks on Rocky Top
Get their corn from a jar;*

Chorus

*Rocky Top, you'll always be
Home sweet home to me;
Good ol' Rocky Top;
Rocky Top, Tennessee;
Rocky Top, Tennessee.*

Tennessee

“Tennessee” by Vivian Rorie was adopted as an official song of Tennessee in 1992. It was adopted by House Joint Resolution 744 of the 97th General Assembly.

*I do not know of another state
Where I had rather be
Than this great state I'm living in
And that is Tennessee.*

*I love the stars dearly
And there are surely three
That show the Grand Division
Of my home-land, Tennessee.*

*Where could you find a meadow
With grass so vividly green?
Where could you find the mountains
With such majestic scene?*

*You will never find so bright a moon
To shine down from above
You will also see the robin,
The wren, and the turtle dove.*

*And don't forget the rivers
Where visitors long to stay.
And many have voiced in parting,
'I'm sure glad I passed this way.'*

*You will see the cattle grazing
Beside a cotton field;
And there's the Grand Ole Opry
And a feeling it's all God's will.*

*I have lived here all my life
It's where I'm going to be
Although I've traveled quite a bit,
I'll still take Tennessee!*

*Oh, I sure love the state I'm in:
The great State of Tennessee!*

The Pride of Tennessee

“The Pride of Tennessee,” by Fred Congdon, Thomas Vaughn, and Carol Elliot, was adopted as an official song of Tennessee in 1996. It was adopted by House Joint Resolution 221 of the 99th General Assembly.

*From the Smokie Mountain Mornings to the Mississippi shores
Let's take time to remember those who went before
Whose lives made a difference in the world for you and me
Their courage, faith, and vision are the Pride of Tennessee
Sequoyah was a Cherokee, the chief of all his tribe
His people learned to read and write with the alphabet he scribed
When Tennessee became a State its Governor was clear
There was no better leader than the gallant John Sevier
From the backwoods to the Congress to his stand at the Alamo
Davy Crockett gave his life for the country he loved so*

*Three Presidents from Tennessee made impressions on this land
Jackson, Polk, and Johnson were men who took a stand
Ida Wells Barnett fought bravely for the rights of men
When they were killed by prejudice for the color of their skin
He was drafted in the first world war though he did not want to go
His shooting skills made Alvin York a national hero*

*When women of Tennessee believed they had the right to vote
Ann Dallas Dudley led the fight and gave them hope
Cordell Hull had a vision for peace around the world
The United Nations where all countries' flags unfurl
From Beale Street down in Memphis to New York front page news
W.C. Handy's music made him father of the blues*

Yes Courage, Faith, and Vision are the Pride of Tennessee

Smoky Mountain Rain

“Smoky Mountain Rain,” written by Nashville songwriters Kye Fleming and Dennis Morgan and performed by Ronnie Milsap, was adopted as an official song of Tennessee in 2010. It was adopted by Senate Joint Resolution 966 of the 106th General Assembly.

First Verse

*I thumbed my way from L.A. back to Knoxville
I found out those bright lights
Ain't where I belong
From a phone booth in the rain
I called to tell her
I've had a change of dreams I'm comin' home
But tears filled my eyes
When I found out she was gone*

Second Verse

*I waved a diesel down outside a café
He said that he was goin' as far as Gatlinburg
I climbed up in the cab
All wet and cold and lonely
I wiped my eyes and told him about her
I've got to find her!
Can you make these big wheels burn?*

Third Verse

*I can't blame her for lettin' go
A woman needs someone warm to hold
I feel the rain runnin' down my face
I'll find her no matter what it takes!*

Chorus

*Smoky Mountain rain keeps on fallin'
I keep callin' her name
Smoky Mountain rain I'll keep on searchin'
I can't go on hurtin' this way
She's somewhere in the Smoky Mountain rain*

Tennessee

“Tennessee,” written by John R. Bean of Knoxville, was adopted as an official song of Tennessee in 2011. It was adopted by Public Chapter 242 of the 107th General Assembly.

*Oh Tennessee, I long to come back home.
I guess your dew has settled on my soul,
Every day I stayed away,
You called my heart back, home to stay.
Oh Tennessee, I long to come back home.*

*Oh Tennessee, I've spent more than I've earned,
But I'm much richer now for what I've learned...
Money won't buy peace of mind,
And peace of mind is what I'll find...
Oh Tennessee, you treated me so kind.*

*Oh Tennessee, I'm missing you too soon.
Silver skies and lazy afternoons...
Silver clouds and golden moon,
You're Mother Nature's Tender Womb...
Oh Tennessee, I'm missing you too soon.*

*Welcome home,
Welcome home.*

*Your days, have such gentle ways,
Aimless thoughts and windblown rhymes,
Your nights sing such peaceful songs
To a tired and weary mind.*

Amazing Grace

“Amazing Grace,” written by John Newton was adopted as an official state song of Tennessee in 2021. It was adopted by Public Chapter 296 of the 112th General Assembly. The below lyrics are from *Olney Hymns in Three Books* by John Newton and William Cowper in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress.

*Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)
That sav'd a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears reliev'd;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believ'd!
Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promis'd good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.
Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who call'd me here below,
Will be for ever mine.*

State Poet Laureate of Christian Country Music in Tennessee

Colonel Hugh X. Lewis of Nashville was designated as the Poet Laureate of Christian Country Music in Tennessee by the 104th General Assembly. Senate Joint Resolution 527, adopted May 8, 2006, describes Colonel Lewis as “an inspirational poet and one of the most distinguished singer-songwriters in the nation.” A BMI award-winning country music songwriter and exciting performer, Lewis penned more than 250 country and Christian country songs that have been recorded by such artists as Grand Ole Opry stars Charlie Pride, Little Jimmy Dickens, Del Reeves, Jim Ed Brown, Stonewall Jackson, Carl Smith, and Kitty Wells. He enjoyed an accomplished and prosperous career in the country music and Christian country music recording industries for fifty years.

State Poet Laureate

Margaret “Maggi” Britton Vaughn was first designated Tennessee’s Poet Laureate in 1995 by House Joint Resolution 133 of the 99th General Assembly. This has been renewed through various acts over the years, and in 2015, she was once again designated Tennessee’s Poet Laureate by Senate Joint Resolution 241 of the 109th General Assembly. Vaughn, a native of Murfreesboro, had her first critically acclaimed book, *Fifty Years of Saturday Nights*, published in 1975. Some of Vaughn’s other works include *Grand Ole Saturday Night*, *The Light in the Kitchen Window*, and the play, *I Wonder If Eleanor Roosevelt Ever Made a Quilt*.

State Poems

Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee

The poem titled “Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee” by Naval Vice Admiral William Lawrence was designated and adopted as an official state poem in 1973 by Public Chapter 111 of the 88th General Assembly. Lawrence composed this poem while enduring a period of sixty days of solitary confinement in a North Vietnamese prisoner of war camp. Lawrence, who spent six years as a POW during the Vietnam War, was a Nashville native.

*Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee
What Love and Pride I Feel for Thee.
You Proud Ole State, the Volunteer,
Your Proud Traditions I Hold Dear.*

*I Revere Your Heroes
Who Bravely Fought our Country’s Foes.
Renowned Statesmen, so Wise and Strong,
Who Served our Country Well and Long.*

*I Thrill at Thought of Mountains Grand;
Rolling Green Hills and Fertile Farm Land;
Earth Rich with Stone, Mineral and Ore;
Forests Dense and Wild Flowers Galore;*

*Powerful Rivers that Bring us Light;
Deep Lakes with Fish and Fowl in Flight;
Thriving Cities and Industries;
Fine Schools and Universities;
Strong Folks of Pioneer Descent,
Simple, Honest, and Reverent.*

*Beauty and Hospitality
Are the Hallmarks of Tennessee.*

*And O’er the World as I May Roam,
No Place Exceeds my Boyhood Home.
And Oh How Much I Long to See
My Native Land, My Tennessee.*

My Tennessee

The poem titled “My Tennessee” by Michael McDonald, was designated as an official Tennessee state poem in 2019 by Public Chapter 215 of the 111th General Assembly.

*Cowboy boots, pickup trucks,
White-faced bulls, and lespedeza hay,
Cottontails runnin’, beagle dogs singin’
Huntin’ with Grandpa, on a gray, frosty day.*

*Sunday mornin’ preachin, hell-fire and brimstone,
Country ham for dinner, banana puddin’ and ice tea,
Pitchin’ them horse-shoes, watermelon cuttin’,
Friends and kinfolk underneath the old oak tree.*

*Tennessee, you’re a raging river,
A Lookout Mountain, seeing as far as you can see,
Bloody Shiloh, brother against brother,
General Grant and Robert E. Lee,*

*Sittin’ on a feed sack, pickin’ my guitar,
Writin’ them songs, in a country kinda way,
Whittlin’ on a cedar stick, spittin’ tobacco juice,
Spinnin’ them yarns, about by-gone days.*

*Andrew Jackson and ol’ Davy Crockett
Always were heroes to me.
Buckskin britches, black-powder rifles,
Dreamin’ ’bout freedom and the days that used to be.*

*Tennessee I’ll never leave you,
You’re the heart and soul of me,
Mighty Mississippi, Great Smoky Mountains,
You’re all these things, and more to me.*

*Matched-pair of sorrel mules, Tennessee walkers,
Munchin’ on a moon pie and an R.O.C.;
Duck-head overalls, wish I had a Goo Goo;
All rared back listenin’ to the Grand Ole Opry.*

*Tennessee I’ll never leave you,
You’re the heart and soul of me,
Mighty Mississippi, Great Smoky Mountains,
All these things, my Tennessee.*

My Beloved Tennessee

The poem titled “My Beloved Tennessee” by Marlene Tidwell was designated and adopted as an official state poem in 2021 by Public Chapter 118 of the 112th General Assembly.

*My thoughts wander on your path again
Captivated by the beauty of rolling hills
That rise above a road that bends,
As dusk spreads mist across the fields.
I heard the piping of the morning lay
And gazed on scenes from yesteryears,
When open come the gates of May,
And in purple ruffles the Iris appears.
Cherished memories thou doth hold,
Sweet home in Tennessee, to you I hope
To come before the winds grow cold.*

*Nestled in vales, quaint barns of old
Stood in wait for the gathering harvest
Scattered across autumn fields of gold,
And chapels adorned with steeples fair
Rang bells against the morning cold
Calling the pleasant and faithful there
To come and nourish thirsting souls.
Your faith has kept your pillars strong,
My heritage from days of old,
How blessed am I to call you home.*

*Your vaulted domes, in blue mist crowned,
Listen to babbling brooks shower chambers
Beneath, rich treasures there are found.
From afar they come to see your sights,
And hear your song, from Memphis to
Bristol, your cities shine bright.
For in distant lands your light has shown,
Oh Valiant Volunteer, you gave hope
To those you had never known.
Come to me in my dreams tonight
Oh beloved home in Tennessee,
When I wake with morning's light,
May I again be near to thee.*

Tennessee's State Veterans Poems

Jasper N. Bailey's poignant "Home to Stay" was designated Tennessee's state veterans poem by House Joint Resolution 641 of the 108th General Assembly in 2014. Bailey, a native of Cookeville, was a highly decorated veteran of World War II, having served valiantly in the European and the China-Burma-India theaters.

*O Tennessee, my Tennessee, the fairest land of all.
Throughout the years, I've journeyed far
but ever heard your call,
To come back to the place I love
and never more to roam,
and settle in that promised land,
the state I call my home,
So now I'm back and here to stay
with no more wars to fight.
These peaceful hills will usher in
a season of delight.
For God has blessed me, this I know
but why I cannot say.
Unless His grace has kept me safe
to celebrate this day.
And He will call me sometime soon
to place me where I'll be.
I hope it's like the fair, fair, land
in sunny Tennessee.*

Sergeant First Class Ernest E. Sharp's "Echoes from a Soldier's Grave" was designated an official veterans poem of the state of Tennessee by House Joint Resolution 248 of the 109th General Assembly in 2016.

*You said go and away I went
I didn't know where I'd be sent
But I left my home just for you
And vowed to serve the red, white, and blue
Now there you are safe and sound
See I didn't let you down
I died to keep you free
Why don't you remember me?*

*Your big football game will soon begin
Now you're gonna hear our song again
As the band plays loud and clear
"Star Spangled Banner" is what you hear
Now look around at all you hold dear
You know you have no need to fear
'Cause I died you're safe and free
Why can't you remember me?*

*It's Christmas time the family's all there
 Holiday music filled the air
 No need to worry about danger at all
 'Cause somewhere soldiers are standing tall
 They gave your freedom whatever the price
 Some will make the supreme sacrifice
 I am one that died to keep you free
 Why can't you remember me?*

*Another year will soon end
 But for you a new one will begin
 Don't let my death bring you sorrow
 Let it bring hope for tomorrow
 For I am not asking you to cry
 I just lie here and wonder why
 I died to keep you free
 Why can't you remember me?*

State Declamation

In 1987, House Joint Resolution 171 of the 95th General Assembly included a commendation of Major Hooper Penuel for writing the declamation "I Am Tennessee," which was read at the inauguration of Governor Ned R. McWherter. The General Assembly concluded their commendation by stating, "Whereas, this General Assembly is pleased to honor and recognize Major Penuel, a lifelong resident of Middle-Tennessee, a man who serves his state every day in every way, who was able to express so touchingly what most of us can only feel; now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate concurring, that the following text, which is 'I Am Tennessee' by Major Hooper Penuel, is hereby designated as the official state declamation of Tennessee, to wit:"

I Am Tennessee

My name came from Tanasi, the name of an Indian Cherokee village in the region. Early explorers once passed over and through my mountains and forests. Europeans fought to decide who should own me.

I Am Tennessee

Pioneers from the east crossed my mountains to settle in the wilderness. They formed their own governments in my region before any other independent governments existed in North America.

I Am Tennessee

Those pioneers brought with them the spirit of independence and daring that has become part of my history. I gained statehood on June 1, 1796. President George Washington signed the bill that made me the sixteenth state of the union. John Sevier was my first Governor. My first United States Senators were William Blount and William Cocke. At this time my only seat in the House of Representatives was held by Andrew Jackson.

I Am Tennessee

My boundaries range from the mountains of North Carolina to Arkansas in the west. I link the north with the south. I was the last state to leave the union, and the first to return. I touch eight states, more than any other state in the union.

I Am Tennessee

Tennesseans like John Sevier in the Revolutionary War, Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812, and Alvin C. York in World War I established a military tradition of honor and bravery that continues to this day.

I Am Tennessee

I felt more battles on my soil than any other state except Virginia, my neighbor to the east. I have produced three Presidents: Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson. All distinguished themselves in the true Tennessee tradition.

I Am Tennessee

Two of my early residents—Davy Crockett and Sam Houston—became heroes of the Texas Revolution. Each carried the true Tennessee Volunteer spirit. I'm known worldwide as the Volunteer State. John Sevier called for 100 good men. 200 answered the call. For this I will always be grateful.

I Am Tennessee

Today, we have 19,000 Guard men and women serving as volunteers in the Tennessee National Guard, once known as the Militia. Each one is ready to answer the call of the Governor or the President to defend this great land.

I Am Tennessee

My land is rich with mountains and thick forests in the eastern and central region. It produces excellent recreation for hunters, campers, and sightseers. The majestic beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains attracts 6 million visitors every year. My lakes and rivers provide excellent boating and fishing or just for relaxing.

I Am Tennessee

My fertile soil, thick forests, temperate climate, water supply, and an abundance in minerals makes my state rich in natural resources. Manufacturing, agriculture, and mining are all important parts of my makeup. TVA generates my electricity. Early in my history, between 1800 and 1860, private companies built turnpikes and collected tolls to keep them up. In 1913 my leaders passed legislation to construct major highways. Today I have over 8,000 miles of highways and roads. I have about 125 airports, almost 6,000 miles of track for trains, and barges float my major rivers, The Cumberland, The Mississippi, and The Tennessee.

I Am Tennessee

My music is heard around the world. Blues, soul and rock and roll from the Memphis Delta, Country from Nashville, and the unique sound of the dulcimer from Appalachia. Yes, my history is a proud one. From my early beginnings as an unsettled territory until today as a leader and a state that looks toward the future.

I Am Tennessee

Memphis, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and the Capital City of Nashville are my largest cities, but I couldn't survive without the 3,000 communities and the 95 counties in-between. From the delta river banks of Memphis to Bristol, and from Frog Mountain near Copperhill to the Reelfoot Lake near Tiptonville, 4.6 million residents keep me going.

I Am Tennessee

For almost two centuries I have held my own. My future looks bright. I am a great place to live. I am a Volunteer.

I Am Tennessee

State Artist

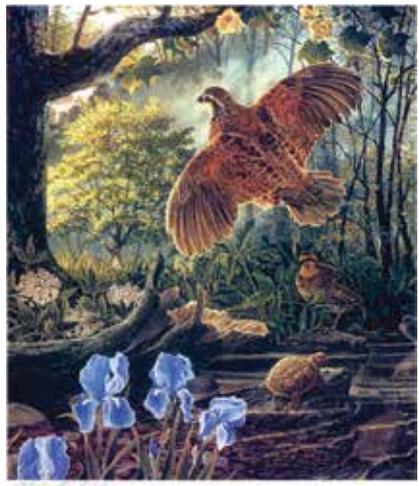
H. R. Lovell was designated Tennessee's official artist-in-residence by House Joint Resolution 435 of the 101st General Assembly in 2000. The resolution stated that the official artist-in-residence will express the spirit and assets of Tennessee through his works.

State Paintings

The paintings *Tennessee Treasures* and *Tennessee Treasures Too*, by Tennessee artist Michael Sloan, were designated as official paintings of Tennessee by Senate Joint Resolution 57 of the 100th General Assembly in 1997 and by Senate Joint Resolution 82 of the 105th General Assembly in 2007, respectively.



Tennessee Treasures



Tennessee Treasures Too

Tennessee Treasures features Tennessee's ten most recognizable symbols—raccoon, mockingbird, iris, passion flower, tulip poplar, Tennessee River pearl, ladybug, zebra swallowtail, largemouth bass, and limestone—as well as images of the state flag, the actual geographic layout of the state, a gold-embossed seal of the state, and the signature of Tennessee's first governor, John Sevier. *Tennessee Treasures Too*, a follow-up work, also contains imagery of the tulip poplar, passion flower, and iris; however, in addition, it depicts the yellowwood tree (the Tennessee Bicentennial Tree), honeybee, firefly, bobwhite quail, agate, box turtle, and channel catfish.

State Theatre

The historic and opulent Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville is the official state theatre of Tennessee, as designated by the 101st General Assembly in 1999 (Public Chapter 166). When the Tennessee Theatre opened its doors in 1928, its Spanish-Moorish interior and cosmopolitan features (from French and Italian to Asian influences) persuaded patrons to deem it the “South’s most beautiful theatre.”

State Outdoor Drama

Liberty! was designated Tennessee’s official outdoor drama by House Joint Resolution 286 of the 106th General Assembly in 2009. The resolution stated that *Liberty!* was the longest-running drama of any kind in the state. *Liberty!* tells the story of Tennessee’s frontier beginnings, as well as that of the westward expansion.

State Fife and Drum Corps

In 2014, Public Chapter 549 of the 108th General Assembly designated the Watauga Valley Fife and Drum Corps as the official state fife and drum corps. The Corps is a Revolutionary War era reenactment group based in East Tennessee. This living history organization is committed to education and public outreach, striving to further public awareness of the culture and music of the settlers and natives living in the Watauga Valley during the eighteenth century.

State Folk Dance

Public Chapter 829 of the Acts of the 91st General Assembly designated the square dance as the official state folk dance stating, “Among the traditions (of our ancestors) that have survived intact is the Square Dance, a uniquely attractive art form that remains a vibrant and entertaining part of Tennessee folklore.”

State Jamboree and Crafts Festival

The Smithville Fiddlers’ Jamboree and Crafts Festival was adopted in 1997 by House Joint Resolution 24 of the 100th General Assembly as the official jamboree and crafts festival.

State Beef Festival

In 2018, the Here’s the Beef Festival in Giles County was designated as the official state beef festival by Public Chapter 603 of the 111th General Assembly.

Buck Dancing Competition

In 2019, the Robert Spicer Memorial Buck Dance Championship was designated as the official buck dancing competition by Public Chapter 2 of the 111th General Assembly.



State Community Theater

The Oak Ridge Playhouse was designated an official state community theater by Public Chapter 101 of the 110th General Assembly in 2017. The “Oak Ridge Playhouse is one of the most thriving community theaters in Tennessee and one of the oldest in the Southeastern United States. In continuous operation since 1943, the Playhouse offers a diverse season of musicals, comedies, dramas, and children’s plays serving audiences from Anderson, Knox, Roane, Blount, Sevier, Morgan, Scott, and Cumberland counties.”



State Railroad Museums

A testament to the importance of the railroad in the state of Tennessee, there are two official state railroad museums. The first, located in Hamilton County, is the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, designated an official state railroad museum by the 90th General Assembly in 1978 (Public Chapter 547). The second official state railroad museum is the Cowan Railroad Museum, located in Franklin County, designated by the 105th General Assembly in 2007 (Public Chapter 193).

State Railroad Library

The A.C. Kalmbach Memorial Library, located in Chattanooga, is an official railroad library of the state of Tennessee. Designated as such in 2004 by the 103rd General Assembly (Public Chapter 628), the A.C. Kalmbach Memorial Library is one of the finest institutions of its kind in the country and is the research library of the National Model Railroad Association.

State Aviation Hall of Fame

The Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame, located at the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport in Sevier County, was designated the official state aviation hall of fame by Public Chapter 78 of the 102nd General Assembly in 2001. The Hall of Fame was founded for the purpose of honoring aviation pioneers and leaders in Tennessee. In 2003, by Public Chapter 158 of the 103rd General Assembly, the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame and affiliated Tennessee Museum of Aviation were designated as the official state repository and archive for aviation history.

Other State Facts

Salutes to the Tennessee Flag

There are two official salutes to the Tennessee flag, both of which were adopted by Public Chapter 841 of the 104th General Assembly in 2006. The first salute, written by Lucy Steele Harrison, is as follows:

*Three white stars on a field of blue
God keep them strong and ever true
It is with pride and love that we
Salute the Flag of Tennessee.*

The second salute to the state flag was written by Miss John Bostick, to wit:

*Flag of Tennessee, I salute thee
To thee I pledge my allegiance with
My affection, my service and my life.*

State Distinguished Service Medal

The “Tennessee Distinguished Service Medal” was created in May 1979 by House Joint Resolution 239 of the 91st General Assembly. The medal was presented in a special ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and placed on display in the Memorial Amphitheater. The display case is framed with wood from the tulip poplar, Tennessee’s state tree. The following citation appears on the display:

“This medal is hereby posthumously dedicated to the memory of all veterans of Tennessee who have given their lives in the defense of our nation and the Volunteer State.”

State Symbol of Remembrance to Honor Fallen Military Service Members

The Honor and Remember Flag was adopted as the official state symbol of remembrance to honor fallen military service members in 2014 by the 108th General Assembly (Public Chapter 539). This flag was so designated to evince “of our state’s concern and commitment to honoring and remembering the lives of all members of the United States armed forces who have lost their lives while serving, or as a result of service, and their families.”



The Honor and Remember Flag

The flag’s field of red represents the blood of those brave servicemen who sacrificed their lives for freedom, while the white banner found at the bottom of the flag represents the purity of that sacrifice. The gold star at the center of the flag symbolizes the warriors who did not return home from war, and the star’s blue border

is meant to represent active duty service in military conflict dating back to WWI. The folded flag just beneath the star invokes the final tribute paid to the fallen. To symbolize the eternal spirit of the departed, a flame appears at the center of this same gold star.



State Gem

The pearl, taken from mussels in the freshwater rivers of the state, is the official state gem, as designated by Public Chapter 192 of the 91st General Assembly in 1979. Between the years 1882 and 1914, beautiful pearls were taken from many of the state's streams and rivers, from the Pigeon and Holston in the east to the Forked Deer and Obion in the west. The Caney Fork in Middle Tennessee was noted for its pearl-bearing mussels, and "pearling" was a favorite sport for young people on Sunday afternoons at the turn of the century.

Tennessee river pearls are of all colors and they are "natural," as the mussel made them—all pearl, all the way through. They have been found in various shapes—spherical, pear-shaped, and baroque or irregular.

After World War I, dams were built on many of the rivers, and the mussels lost their swift and shallow shoals. Also, the waters became more toxic, and pearling became unprofitable. Today, pearling exists as a by-product of shell harvests, which supply the cultivated pearl industry of Japan.

Tennessee river pearls are among the most beautiful and durable in the world. At Camden in West Tennessee, these river pearls are collected and crafted into rings, cufflinks, stick pins, and other jewelry. The historic Tennessee River Freshwater Pearl Farm and Museum located in Camden, Benton County, is the official site of freshwater pearl culturing in the state, as designated by Public Chapter 506 of the 103rd General Assembly in 2004.



State Rock

Limestone, a sedimentary rock found throughout Tennessee, was designated the official state rock by Public Chapter 42 of the 91st General Assembly in 1979. Particularly abundant in the middle section of the state, limestone Tennessee marble, as the metamorphic version of limestone is known, is widely used in public and private buildings. Tennessee limestone may appear off-white, pink, or dark red in color.

State Mineral

Agate is the official state mineral, as designated by Public Chapter 30 of the 106th General Assembly in 2009. Agate, a semiprecious gemstone, is a waxy, cryptocrystalline variety of mineral quartz in which the colors are present in bands, clouds, or distinct groups. On March 5, 1969, the 86th General Assembly, in adopting House Joint Resolution 42, declared agate the official state rock. However, the designation was changed by the General Assembly in 2009 to state mineral because stone, rock, and mineral were used interchangeably in the original resolution, and the Legislature wanted to correct this discrepancy.



State Fossil

Pterotrigonia (Scabrotrigonia) thoracica is the official state fossil, as designated by House Joint Resolution 552 of the 100th General Assembly in 1998. Tennessee was the thirty-eighth state to designate a state fossil.

Pterotrigonia (Scabrotrigonia) thoracica (nicknamed Ptero) was a Cretaceous bivalve found in the Coon Creek Formation of West Tennessee. It was a wedge-shaped, shallow-burrowing suspension feeder that inhabited the marine clayey-sand ocean floor that was West Tennessee seventy million years ago. Shells of Ptero are preserved unaltered in great abundance and are easily recognized by collectors. The associated ocean floor inhabitants were diverse and included other bivalves, snails, squid-like animals, worms, sponges, corals, crustaceans, sharks, fish, turtles, and marine reptiles. Ptero is now extinct. In fact, the extinction event that was responsible for the demise of the dinosaurs sixty-five million years ago may have contributed to the demise of Ptero. Only the genus *Neotrigonia*, with five species, has survived to the present and is found only in the Pacific Ocean, most commonly near New Zealand.



State Artifact

“Sandy,” the ancient stone statue discovered in 1939 on Sellars Farm in Wilson County, was designated the official state artifact in 2014 by the 108th General Assembly (Public Chapter 571). This prehistoric Native American statue is made of sandstone and depicts a kneeling male figure. It is a “prime example of the Tennessee-Cumberland Style of Mississippian stone statuary crafted and used during the Mississippian Period, A.D. 800–1500.”





State Airplane

The Memphis Belle, a Boeing B-17F Flying Fortress, was designated the official state airplane in 2017 by Public Chapter 33 of the Acts of the 110th General Assembly.

The Memphis Belle was one of the first Air Corps heavy bombers of World War II to complete twenty-five missions with only minor damage and without the loss of any crew member. The airplane was named for pilot Robert K. Morgan's sweetheart, Memphis native Margaret Polk. The famous "Petty Girl" nose art on the plane was painted by the group artist of the 91st to depict Ms. Polk as the "Memphis Belle."



State Rifle

The Barrett Model M82/M107 was designated the official state rifle of Tennessee by House Joint Resolution 231 of the 109th General Assembly in 2016. The resolution states that it is a rifle born from sketches hand-drawn at a dining room table by its then twenty-seven-year-old designer, who was born, raised, and educated in Tennessee. It has been continuously manufactured in Tennessee since its inception in 1982. The M82/M107 was the first successful .50 caliber semi-automatic rifle to be widely fielded in active military service.

Origins of Tennessee County Names

As Indian treaties opened up the land that is now Tennessee for settlement, settlers rushed in to clear farms and establish communities. The new inhabitants sought protection for life and property and other benefits of government—courts of law, militia organizations, and legal title to newly acquired land. Counties were quickly organized once migration into the frontier region had begun. Access to the seat of government was a main difficulty for the pioneers, since it was necessary to travel to the county seat to conduct legal business or to present oneself to the court. Over time, residents in areas remote from the county seat would petition the General Assembly for a new county centered closer to their homes. Twenty-two new counties were formed between 1806 and 1819, and twenty-five between 1820 and 1840. This process of carving counties out of the land began in the 1780s and ended a century later. Counties were named for military heroes, American statesmen, physical features, European noblemen, and Indian tribes and settlements, and one was named for a woman. Some counties were authorized but never organized, some organized and then abolished. At present, Tennessee has ninety-five counties, each with its own unique story to tell.

Anderson County

Created 1801 from Knox and Grainger counties; named in honor of Joseph Anderson (1757–1847), U.S. senator, judge of the Superior Court of the Territory South of the River Ohio (later Tennessee), and U.S. comptroller of the treasury.

Bedford County

Created 1807 from Rutherford County and Indian lands; named in honor of Thomas Bedford, Jr. (d. 1804), Revolutionary War officer, Middle Tennessee landowner of Jefferson Springs in Rutherford County who contributed to the development of that area.

Benton County

Created 1835 from Humphreys County; named in honor of David Benton (1779–1860), member of the Third Regiment, Tennessee Militia in the Creek wars, early settler, and farmer who was instrumental in establishing the county.

Bledsoe County

Created 1807 from Roane County and Indian lands; named in honor of Anthony Bledsoe (1733–1788), colonial and Revolutionary War soldier, surveyor, Tennessee militia colonel, and early settler of Sumner County who was killed by Indians.

Blount County

Created 1795 from Knox County; named in honor of William Blount (1749–1800), member of the Continental Congress, governor of the Territory South of the River Ohio (later Tennessee), founder of Knoxville, U.S. senator, and speaker of the state senate.

Bradley County

Created 1836 from Indian lands; named in honor of Edward Bradley (d. 1829), Tennessee militia officer, colonel of First Regiment, Tennessee Infantry in the War of 1812, and member of the Tennessee state house and the Shelby County Court.

Campbell County

Created 1806 from Anderson and Claiborne counties; named (reportedly) in honor of Arthur Campbell (1743–1811), member of Virginia House of Burgesses, Revolutionary and Indian wars officer, and commissioner for negotiation of Indian treaties.

Cannon County

Created 1836 from Rutherford, Smith, and Warren counties; named in honor of Newton Cannon (1781–1841), Creek War and War of 1812 soldier, Tennessee state senator, U.S. congressman, and first Whig governor of Tennessee.

Carroll County

Created 1821 from Indian lands; named in honor of William Carroll (1788–1844), colonel and major-general in the War of 1812, governor of Tennessee for six terms, known as Tennessee’s “reform governor.”

Carter County

Created 1796 from Washington County; named in honor of Landon Carter (1760–1800), treasurer of Washington and Hamilton districts of North Carolina, speaker of the State of Franklin senate and its secretary of state, and militia officer.

Cheatham County

Created 1856 from Davidson, Dickson, Montgomery, and Robertson counties; named in honor of Edward Cheatham (1818–1878), member of Tennessee state house, member and speaker of the state senate, businessman, and railroad president.

Chester County

Created 1879 from Hardeman, Henderson, McNairy, and Madison counties; named in honor of Robert I. Chester (1793–1892), quartermaster in the War of 1812, colonel in the Texas war for independence, U.S. marshal, and state legislator.

Claiborne County

Created 1801 from Grainger and Hawkins counties; named in honor of William C. C. Claiborne (1775–1817), judge of the superior court of Tennessee, U.S. congressman and senator, governor of the Mississippi Territory and of Louisiana.

Clay County

Created 1870 from Jackson and Overton counties; named in honor of Henry Clay (1777–1852), member of the Kentucky state house and senate, U.S. congressman and senator, secretary of state, and commissioner for treaty with Great Britain in 1815.

Cocke County

Created 1797 from Jefferson County; named in honor of William Cocke (1748–1828), Revolutionary War and War of 1812 soldier; member of Legislatures of Virginia, North Carolina, State of Franklin, Territory South of the River Ohio, Tennessee, and Mississippi; and Chickasaw Indian agent.

Coffee County

Created 1836 from Bedford, Warren, and Franklin counties; named in honor of John Coffee (1772–1833), Creek War and War of 1812 cavalry commander, frontiersman, congressionally appointed surveyor-general, land dealer, and prosperous planter.

Crockett County

Created 1871 from Haywood, Madison, Dyer, and Gibson counties; named in honor of David Crockett (1786–1836), frontier humorist, author, soldier, state legislator, U.S. congressman, and a defender and casualty of the Alamo in the Texas war for independence.

Cumberland County

Created 1855 from White, Bledsoe, Rhea, Morgan, Fentress, and Putnam counties; named in honor of the Cumberland Mountains, which Thomas Walker may have named for the Duke of Cumberland, then prime minister of England, circa 1748.

Davidson County

Created 1783 by Act of North Carolina; named in honor of William Lee Davidson (circa 1746–1781), Revolutionary War officer in the North Carolina Third, Fourth, and Fifth Regiments, who was killed in action at the Cowan's Ford Battle in North Carolina.

Decatur County

Created 1845 from Perry County; named in honor of Stephen Decatur (1779–1820), American naval officer who won fame in the War with Tripoli in 1804, the War of 1812, and the Algerine War in 1815 for his daring exploits.

DeKalb County

Created 1837 from Franklin, Cannon, Jackson, and White counties; named in honor of Johann DeKalb (1721–1780), German baron who came with Lafayette to America in 1777, became a Revolutionary army officer, and was killed in action at Camden.

Dickson County

Created 1803 from Montgomery and Robertson counties; named in honor of William Dickson (1770–1816), Nashville physician, member and speaker of the state house, U.S. congressman, and trustee of the University of Nashville.

Dyer County

Created 1823 from Indian lands; named in honor of Robert Henry Dyer (circa 1774–1826), Creek War and War of 1812 officer, cavalry colonel in the 1818 Seminole War, state senator, and instrumental figure in formation of Dyer and Madison counties.

Fayette County

Created 1824 from Indian lands; named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette (1757–1834), French nobleman, statesman, and soldier who entered American service in the Revolutionary War and was commissioned major-general.

Fentress County

Created 1823 from Morgan, Overton, and White counties; named in honor of James Fentress (1763–1843), speaker of the state house, chairman of Montgomery County Court, and commissioner to select seats for Haywood, Carroll, Gibson, and Weakley counties.

Franklin County

Created 1807 from Rutherford County and Indian lands; named in honor of Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790), American printer, diplomat, author, philosopher, scientist, statesman, and member of the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence.

Gibson County

Created 1823 from Indian lands; named in honor of John H. Gibson (d. 1823), who served with distinction under Andrew Jackson in the Natchez Expedition (1812–1813) and in the Creek War.

Giles County

Created 1809 from Indian lands; named in honor of William B. Giles (1762–1830), Virginia state legislator, U.S. congressman and senator from Virginia who advocated admission of Tennessee into the Union in 1796, and governor of Virginia.

Grainger County

Created 1796 from Hawkins and Knox counties; named in honor of Mary Grainger (d. 1802), daughter of Kaleb Grainger of North Carolina, who married William Blount and became first lady of the Territory South of the River Ohio (later Tennessee).

Greene County

Created 1783 from Washington County; named in honor of Nathanael Greene (1742–1786), Revolutionary War commander at Trenton who succeeded Horatio Gates in command of the Army of the South and forced the British out of Georgia and the Carolinas.

Grundy County

Created 1844 from Coffee, Warren, and Franklin counties; named in honor of Felix Grundy (1777–1840), chief justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, U.S. congressman and senator from Tennessee, and U.S. attorney general under President Van Buren.

Hamblen County

Created 1870 from Jefferson, Grainger, and Greene counties; named in honor of Hezekiah Hamblen (1775–1854), early settler, landowner, attorney, and member of the Hawkins Circuit and County Courts for many years.

Hamilton County

Created 1819 from Rhea County and Indian lands; named in honor of Alexander Hamilton (1757–1804), American statesman, Revolutionary War soldier, member of the Continental Congress, and secretary of the U.S. treasury under President Washington.

Hancock County

Created 1844 from Hawkins and Claiborne counties; named in honor of John Hancock (1737–1793), president of the Continental Congress, first signer of the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War militia officer, and governor of Massachusetts.

Hardeman County

Created 1823 from Hardin County and Indian lands; named in honor of Thomas Jones Hardeman (1788–1854), Creek War and War of 1812 soldier, prominent figure in the fight for Texas independence, and Republic of Texas congressman.

Hardin County

Created 1819 from Indian lands; named in honor of Joseph Hardin (1734–1801), Revolutionary War soldier, speaker of the State of Franklin Legislature, and member and speaker of the territorial Legislature whose sons settled Hardin County.

Hawkins County

Created 1786 from Sullivan County; named in honor of Benjamin Hawkins (1754–1818), member of the North Carolina Legislature and the Continental Congress, U.S. senator, and agent for the Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Choctaw.

Haywood County

Created 1823 from Indian lands; named in honor of John Haywood (1762–1826), North Carolina Superior Court and Tennessee Supreme Court judge, author of *Civil & Political History of Tennessee*, and “Father of Tennessee History.”

Henderson County

Created 1821 from Indian lands; named in honor of James Henderson (fl. 1815), commander of Tennessee troops preceding the Battle of New Orleans, and staff officer to Andrew Jackson in the Creek and Natchez campaigns.

Henry County

Created 1821 from Indian lands; named in honor of Patrick Henry (1736–1799), Virginia statesman, patriot and Revolutionary leader, member of the Virginia colonial and state Legislatures and the Continental Congress, and governor of Virginia.

Hickman County

Created 1807 from Dickson County; named in honor of Edwin Hickman (d. 1791), longhunter who, while on a mission to survey land on the Piney River, was killed by Indians near the present site of Centerville.

Houston County

Created 1871 from Dickson, Humphreys, Montgomery, and Stewart counties; named in honor of Sam Houston (1793–1863), U.S. congressman from and governor of Tennessee, commander in the Texas war for independence, president of the Texas Republic, and U.S. senator from Texas.

Humphreys County

Created 1809 from Stewart County; named in honor of Parry Wayne Humphreys (1778–1839), judge of the Superior Court of Tennessee, U.S. representative from Tennessee, and longtime judge of the state judicial district.

Jackson County

Created 1801 from Smith County and Indian lands; named in honor of Andrew Jackson (1767–1845), U.S. congressman and senator, Tennessee Supreme Court judge, troop commander at the Battle of New Orleans, and seventh U.S. president.

Jefferson County

Created 1792 from Greene and Hawkins counties; named in honor of Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and the Continental Congress, governor of Virginia, U.S. secretary of state, and third U.S. president.

Johnson County

Created 1836 from Carter County; named in honor of Thomas Johnson (circa 1836), early settler of Carter County on the Doe River, prominent citizen, and one of the first magistrates of Johnson County.

Knox County

Created 1792 from Greene and Hawkins counties; named in honor of Henry Knox (1750–1806), American Revolutionary War artillery commander, one of the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati, and first U.S. secretary of war.

Lake County

Created 1870 from Obion County; named for Reelfoot Lake, formed by a series of earthquakes in 1811 that dammed the Reelfoot River and altered the course of the Mississippi River, an area now part of the state park system.

Lauderdale County

Created in 1835 from Haywood, Dyer, and Tipton counties; named in honor of James Lauderdale (d. 1814), Indian War and War of 1812 officer who fell leading troops against the British in 1814, a few days before the Battle of New Orleans.

Lawrence County

Created 1817 from Hickman County and Indian lands; named in honor of James Lawrence (1781–1813), American naval officer who died commanding the *Chesapeake* against the British frigate *Shannon*, known for his dying words, “Don’t give up the ship!”

Lewis County

Created 1843 from Hickman, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne counties; named in honor of Meriwether Lewis (1774–1809), appointee of President Jefferson to explore the Louisiana Purchase in 1804 who died violently on the Natchez Trace.

Lincoln County

Created 1809 from Bedford County; named in honor of Benjamin Lincoln (1733–1810), American Revolutionary officer, U.S. secretary of war, commander of forces that suppressed Shay's Rebellion in 1787, and lieutenant governor of Massachusetts.

Loudon County

Created 1870 from Roane, Monroe, Blount, and McMinn counties; named for Fort Loudoun, erected 1756 by the British and named in honor of the Earl of Loudoun, commander-in-chief of British and American forces in the French and Indian War.

Macon County

Created 1842 from Smith and Sumner counties; named in honor of Nathaniel Macon (1757–1837), Revolutionary War soldier, North Carolina legislator, congressman and senator, and president of the 1835 North Carolina Constitutional Convention.

Madison County

Created 1821 from Indian lands; named in honor of James Madison (1751–1836), member of the Continental Congress, the 1787 Constitutional Convention, and the U.S. Congress; U.S. secretary of state; and fourth U.S. president.

Marion County

Created 1817 from Indian lands; named in honor of Francis Marion (1732–1795), continental and Revolutionary War officer whose guerilla tactics in the Revolutionary War won him the title "Swamp Fox."

Marshall County

Created 1836 from Giles, Bedford, Lincoln, and Maury counties; named in honor of John Marshall (1755–1835), Revolutionary War soldier and Federalist leader, U.S. congressman, secretary of state, and chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Maury County

Created 1807 from Williamson County and Indian lands; named in honor of Abram Poindexter Maury, Sr. (1766–1825), pioneer, farmer, lawyer, civil engineer who laid out the town of Franklin in the late 1790s, commissioner of the town, and state senator.

McMinn County

Created 1819 from Indian lands; named in honor of Joseph McMinn (1758–1824), militia commander, member of territorial Legislature, speaker of the state senate, governor of Tennessee, and superintendent of the Cherokee Agency.

McNairy County

Created 1823 from Hardin County; named in honor of John McNairy (1762–1837), North Carolina Superior Court judge for Mero District, 1796 Constitutional Convention delegate, U.S. district judge for Tennessee, and Davidson Academy trustee.

Meigs County

Created 1836 from Rhea County; named in honor of Return Jonathan Meigs (1740–1823), Tennessee country pioneer, American Revolutionary officer who distinguished himself at Sag Harbor and Stony Point, and longtime Indian agent.

Monroe County

Created 1819 from Indian lands; named in honor of James Monroe (1758–1831), American Revolutionary War soldier, member of the Continental Congress and the U.S. Senate, governor of Virginia, U.S. secretary of state, U.S. secretary of war, and fifth U.S. president.

Montgomery County

Created 1796 from Tennessee County; named in honor of John Montgomery (d. 1794), explorer, Revolutionary War officer, signer of the Cumberland Compact, founder of Clarksville, and Nickajack Expedition commander who was killed by Indians in Kentucky.

Moore County

Created 1871 from Bedford, Lincoln, and Franklin counties; named in honor of William Moore (1786–1871), early settler, Lincoln County justice of the peace, War of 1812 officer, turnpike company president, and state legislator.

Morgan County

Created 1817 from Anderson and Roane counties; named in honor of Daniel Morgan (1736–1802), American Revolutionary War officer who commanded the troops that defeated the British at Cowpens, and U.S. congressman from Virginia.

Obion County

Created 1823 from Indian lands; named for the Obion River, chief watercourse of the area, the origin of the name of which is obscure: possibly an Indian word meaning “many prongs” or the name of a French-Irish explorer.

Overton County

Created 1806 from Jackson County and Indian lands; named in honor of John Overton (1766–1833), pioneer attorney, supporter of Andrew Jackson, Tennessee Supreme Court judge, and co-founder (with Jackson and James Winchester) of Memphis.

Perry County

Created 1819 from Humphreys and Hickman counties; named in honor of Oliver Hazard Perry (1785–1819), American War of 1812 naval officer who, after his flagship *Lawrence* was damaged, continued the fight from the *Niagara*, forcing the surrender of the British fleet.

Pickett County

Created 1879 from Fentress and Overton counties; named in honor of Howell L. Pickett (1847–circa 1909), attorney and member of the Tennessee state house from Wilson County who moved to Arizona and continued his career in law and politics.

Polk County

Created 1839 from McMinn and Bradley counties; named in honor of James Knox Polk (1795–1849), clerk of the state senate, member of the state house, member and speaker of the U.S. House, governor of Tennessee, and eleventh U.S. president.

Putnam County

Created 1854 from Fentress, Jackson, Smith, White, and Overton counties; named in honor of Israel Putnam (1718–1790), French and Indian War soldier, and commander at the Revolutionary War battles of Bunker Hill and Long Island.

Rhea County

Created 1807 from Roane County; named in honor of John Rhea (1753–1832), Revolutionary War soldier, member of North Carolina and Tennessee state houses, member of U.S. Congress, and U.S. commissioner to treat with the Choctaws.

Roane County

Created 1801 from Knox County and Indian lands; named in honor of Archibald Roane (1760–1819), 1796 Constitutional Convention delegate, Superior Court of Law and Equity judge, Supreme Court judge, and governor of Tennessee.

Robertson County

Created 1796 from Tennessee and Sumner counties; named in honor of James Robertson (1742–1814), pioneer, surveyor, soldier, founder of the Watauga Settlements and of Nashville, and state senator, known as the “Father of Tennessee.”

Rutherford County

Created 1803 from Davidson, Williamson, and Wilson counties; named in honor of Griffith Rutherford (1721–1805), North Carolina legislator, Indian War soldier, and chairman of the Legislature of the Territory South of the River Ohio (later Tennessee).

Scott County

Created 1849 from Anderson, Campbell, Fentress, and Morgan counties; named in honor of Winfield Scott (1786–1866), War of 1812 soldier and commander of U.S. troops at Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, and Molino del Rey in the Mexican War.

Sequatchie County

Created 1857 from Hamilton, Marion, and Warren counties; name linked with a Cherokee word “sequachee,” probably meaning “opossum, he grins or runs,” also the name of a Cherokee chief for whom the Sequatchie Valley is named.

Sevier County

Created 1794 from Jefferson County; named in honor of John Sevier (1745–1815), governor of the State of Franklin, territorial militia officer, U.S. congressman from North Carolina and Tennessee, state senator, and first governor of Tennessee.

Shelby County

Created 1819 from Indian lands; named in honor of Isaac Shelby (1750–1826), Revolutionary War troop commander at Kings Mountain, first governor of Kentucky, and negotiator for the purchase of the western district from the Chickasaws.

Smith County

Created 1799 from Sumner County and Indian lands; named in honor of Daniel Smith (1748–1818), surveyor, Revolutionary War officer, secretary of the Territory South of the River Ohio (later Tennessee), maker of the first map of the state, and U.S. senator.

Stewart County

Created 1803 from Montgomery County; named in honor of Duncan Stewart (1752–1815), member of the North Carolina Legislature, early settler, Tennessee state senator, surveyor-general, and lieutenant governor of the Mississippi Territory.

Sullivan County

Created 1779 from Washington County; named in honor of John Sullivan (1740–1795), Revolutionary War officer, member of the Continental Congress, attorney general, legislator, U.S. district judge, and governor of New Hampshire.

Sumner County

Created 1786 from Davidson County; named in honor of Jethro Sumner (1733–1785), French and Indian War soldier, and Revolutionary War commander at Charleston, Brandywine, and Germantown who defended North Carolina against Cornwallis in 1780.

Tipton County

Created 1823 from Indian lands; named in honor of Jacob Tipton (d. 1791), organizer for the defense of the Northwest Territory against hostile Indians, who was killed leading an attack in 1791.

Trousdale County

Created 1870 from Wilson, Macon, Smith, and Sumner counties; named in honor of William Trousdale (1790–1872), “War Horse of Sumner County,” Creek and Mexican War soldier and officer, state senator and governor of Tennessee, and U.S. minister to Brazil.

Unicoi County

Created 1875 from Washington and Carter counties; the name, shared with the Southern Appalachian Mountains in the area, probably derives from an Indian word “u’nika” meaning white, foglike, or fog-draped.

Union County

Created 1850 from Grainger, Claiborne, Campbell, Anderson, and Knox counties; named possibly for the “union” of fragments of five counties, or for the strong feelings in eastern Tennessee for the preservation of the Federal Union.

Van Buren County

Created 1840 from Warren and White counties; named in honor of Martin Van Buren (1782–1862), attorney general and governor of New York, U.S. senator from New York, U.S. secretary of state, and eighth U.S. president.

Warren County

Created 1807 from White, Jackson, and Smith counties, as well as Indian lands; named in honor of Joseph Warren (1741–1775), Revolutionary War officer who sent Paul Revere on his famous midnight ride to Lexington in 1775, and who was killed at Bunker Hill.

Washington County

Created 1777 by Act of North Carolina; named in honor of George Washington (1732–1799), member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and the Continental Congress, and Revolutionary War commander unanimously elected first U.S. president.

Wayne County

Created 1817 from Hickman County; named in honor of daring “Mad Anthony” Wayne (1745–1796), American statesman and officer in the Revolutionary War, who later led troops against hostile Indians.

Weakley County

Created 1823 from Indian lands; named in honor of Robert Weakley (1764–1845), Revolutionary War soldier, state legislator, U.S. congressman, U.S. commissioner to treat with the Chickasaws, and 1834 Tennessee Constitutional Convention delegate.

White County

Created 1806 from Jackson and Smith counties; named in honor of John White (1751–1846), Revolutionary War soldier who saw action at Brandywine, Germantown, and Stony Point, and who was the first white settler of White County.

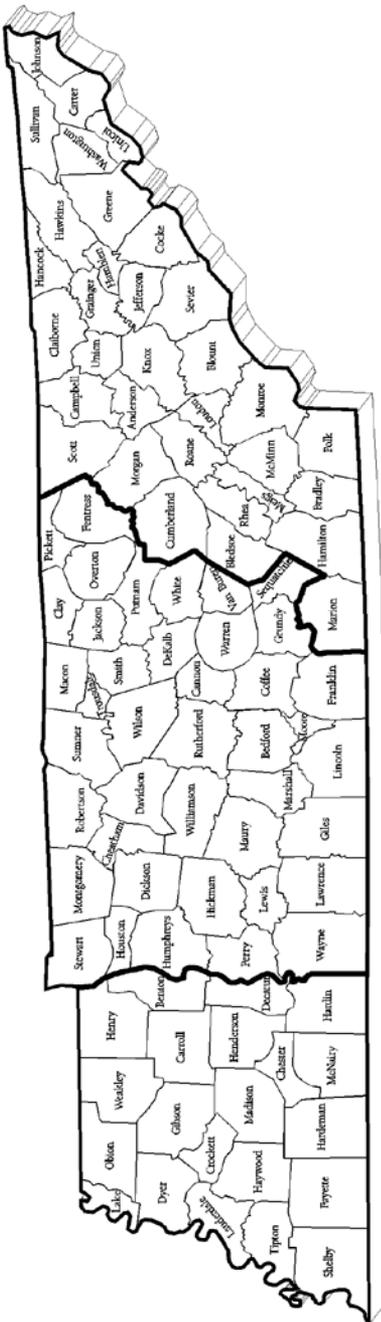
Williamson County

Created 1799 from Davidson County; named in honor of Hugh Williamson (1735–1819), surgeon-general of North Carolina troops in the American Revolution, North Carolina legislator, and member of the Continental and U.S. Congresses.

Wilson County

Created 1799 from Sumner County; named in honor of David Wilson (1752–circa 1804), Revolutionary War soldier and member of the North Carolina Legislature and the Legislature of the Territory South of the River Ohio (later Tennessee).

Tennessee Counties



The Three Grand Divisions

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 2

The following counties comprise the western division: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, and Weakley.

The following counties comprise the middle division: Bedford, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Coffee, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Fentress, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Sequatchie, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, White, Williamson, and Wilson.

The following counties comprise the eastern division: Anderson, Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Polk, Rhea, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, and Washington.





Tennessee Founding Documents

Constitution of the State of Tennessee

The first Constitution of the state of Tennessee was written in Knoxville during the winter of 1796, the year the state was created from the geographic area known as the Southwest Territory. The first constitution was not put to a vote of the citizens of the new state for ratification, but was approved by Congress. It gave almost complete control of state government to the legislative branch, thus abrogating the fundamental “balance of power” principle. This fact, among others, led to the calling of a new constitutional convention.

The second convention met in Nashville during the Spring of 1834. A new constitution was approved by the people in March 1835.

The 1835 document stood until 1870, five years after the ending of the War Between the States. Delegates elected in December 1869, met in Nashville on January 10, 1870, wrote a new constitution, and adjourned on February 23, 1870. The new constitution was ratified by the people on the fourth Saturday in March 1870.

The 1870 constitution stood unchanged until 1953, when it was first amended. Further amendments followed in 1960, 1966, 1972, 1978, 1982, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014.

Preamble and Declaration of Rights

Whereas, The people of the territory of the United States south of the river Ohio, having the right of admission into the General Government as a member State thereof, consistent with the Constitution of the United States, and the act of Cession of the State of North Carolina, recognizing the ordinance for the government of the territory—of the United States north west of the Ohio River, by their Delegates and Representatives in Convention assembled, did on the sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, ordain and establish a Constitution, or form of government, and mutually agreed with each other to form themselves into a free and independent State by the name of the State of Tennessee, and,

Whereas, The General Assembly of the said State of Tennessee, (pursuant to the third section of the tenth article of the Constitution,) by an act passed on the Twenty-seventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, entitled, “An Act” to provide for the calling of a Convention, passed in obedience to the declared will of the voters of the State, as expressed at the general election of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, did authorize and provide for the election by the people of delegates and representatives, to meet at Nashville, in Davidson County, on the third Monday in May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, for the purpose of revising and amending, or changing, the Constitution, and said Convention did accordingly meet and form a Constitution, which was submitted to the people, and was ratified by them, on the first Friday in March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, and,

Whereas, The General Assembly of said State of Tennessee, under and in virtue of the first section of the first article of the Declaration of Rights, contained in and forming a part of the existing Constitution of the State, by an act passed on the fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, did provide for the calling of a convention by the people of the state, to meet at Nashville, on the second Monday in January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and for the election of delegates for the purpose of amending or revising the present Constitution, or forming and making a new Constitution; and,

Whereas, The people of the state, in the mode provided by said Act, have called said convention, and elected delegates to represent them therein; now therefore,

We, the Delegates and Representatives of the people of the State of Tennessee, duly elected, and in Convention assembled, in pursuance of said Act of Assembly, have ordained and established the following Constitution and form of government for this State, which we recommend to the people of Tennessee for their ratification: That is to say

Article I.

Declaration of Rights.

Section 1. That all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; for the advancement of those ends they have at all times, an unalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper.

Section 2. That government being instituted for the common benefit, the doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

Section 3. That all men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience; that no man can of right be compelled to attend, erect, or support any place of worship, or to maintain any minister against his consent; that no human authority can, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience; and that no preference shall ever be given, by law, to any religious establishment or mode of worship.

Section 4. That no political or religious test, other than an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under this State.

Section 5. The elections shall be free and equal, and the right of suffrage, as hereinafter declared, shall never be denied to any person entitled thereto, except upon a conviction by a jury of some infamous crime, previously ascertained and declared by law, and judgment thereon by court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 6. That the right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, and no religious or political test shall ever be required as a qualification for jurors.

Section 7. That the people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions, from unreasonable searches and seizures; and that general warrants, whereby an officer may be commanded to search suspected places, without evidence of the fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, whose

offences are not particularly described and supported by evidence, are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be granted.

Section 8. That no man shall be taken or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed or deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land.

Section 9. That in all criminal prosecutions, the accused hath the right to be heard by himself and his counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, and to have a copy thereof, to meet the witnesses face to face, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and in prosecutions by indictment or presentment, a speedy public trial, by an impartial jury of the County in which the crime shall have been committed, and shall not be compelled to give evidence against himself.

Section 10. That no person shall, for the same offence, be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.

Section 11. That laws made for the punishment of acts committed previous to the existence of such laws, and by them only declared criminal, are contrary to the principles of a free Government; wherefore no Ex post facto law shall be made.

Section 12. That no conviction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate. The estate of such persons as shall destroy their own lives shall descend or vest as in case of natural death. If any person be killed by casualty, there shall be no forfeiture in consequence thereof.

Section 13. That no person arrested and confined in jail shall be treated with unnecessary rigor.

Section 14. That no person shall be put to answer any criminal charge but by presentment, indictment or impeachment.

Section 15. That all prisoners shall beailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offences, when the proof is evident, or the presumption great. And the privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in case of rebellion or invasion, the General Assembly shall declare the public safety requires it.

Section 16. That excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 17. That all courts shall be open; and every man, for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered without sale, denial, or delay. Suits may be brought against the State in such manner and in such courts as the Legislature may by law direct.

Section 18. The Legislature shall pass no law authorizing imprisonment for debt in civil cases.

Section 19. That the printing press shall be free to every person to examine the proceedings of the Legislature; or of any branch or officer of the government, and no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thoughts and opinions, is one of the invaluable rights of man and every citizen may freely speak, write, and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. But in prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct of officers, or men in public capacity, the truth thereof may be given in evidence; and in all indictments for libel, the jury shall have a right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the court, as in other criminal cases.

Section 20. That no retrospective law, or law impairing the obligations of contracts, shall be made.

Section 21. That no man's particular services shall be demanded, or property taken, or applied to public use, without the consent of his representatives, or without just compensation being made therefore.

Section 22. That perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free State, and shall not be allowed.

Section 23. That the citizens have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, to instruct their representatives, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances, or other proper purposes, by address or remonstrance.

Section 24. That the sure and certain defense of a free people, is a well regulated militia; and, as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to freedom, they ought to be avoided as far as the circumstances and safety of the community will admit; and that in all cases the military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil authority.

Section 25. That no citizen of this State, except such as are employed in the army of the United States, or militia in actual service, shall be subjected to punishment under the martial or military law. That martial law, in the sense of the unrestricted power of military officers, or others, to dispose of the persons, liberties or property of the citizen, is inconsistent with the principles of free government, and is not confided to any department of the government of this State.

Section 26. That the citizens of this State have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defense; but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms with a view to prevent crime.

Section 27. That no soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner; nor in time of war, but in a manner prescribed by law.

Section 28. That no citizen of this State shall be compelled to bear arms, provided he will pay an equivalent, to be ascertained by law.

Section 29. That an equal participation in the free navigation of the Mississippi, is one of the inherent rights of the citizens of this State; it cannot, therefore, be conceded to any prince, potentate, power, person or persons whatever.

Section 30. That no hereditary emoluments, privileges, or honors, shall ever be granted or conferred in this State.

Section 31. That the limits and boundaries of this State be ascertained, it is declared they are as hereafter mentioned, that is to say: Beginning on the extreme height of the Stone Mountain, at the place where the line of Virginia intersects it, in latitude thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north; running thence along the extreme height of the said mountain, to the place where Watauga river breaks through it; thence a direct course to the top of the Yellow Mountain, where Bright's road crosses the same; thence along the ridge of said mountain, between the waters of Doe river and the waters of Rock creek, to the place where the road crosses the Iron Mountain; from thence along the extreme height of said mountain, to the place where Nolichucky river runs through the same; thence to the top of the Bald Mountain; thence along the extreme height of said mountain to the Painted Rock on French Broad river; thence along the highest ridge of said mountain, to the place where it is called the Great Iron or Smoky Mountain; thence along the extreme height of said mountain to the place where it is called Unicoi or Unaka Mountain, between the Indian towns of Cowee and Old Chota; thence along the main ridge of the said mountain to the southern boundary of this state, as described in the act of cession of North Carolina to the United States of America; and that all the territory, lands and waters lying west of said line, as before mentioned, and contained within the chartered limits of the

state of North Carolina, are within the boundaries and limits of this state, over which the people have the right of exercising sovereignty, and the right of soil, so far as is consistent with the Constitution of the United States, recognizing the Articles of Confederation, the Bill of Rights and Constitution of North Carolina, the cession act of the said State, and the ordinance of Congress for the government of the territory north west of Ohio; Provided, nothing herein contained shall extend to affect the claim or claims of individuals to any part of the soil which is recognized to them by the aforesaid cession act; And provided also, that the limits and jurisdiction of this State shall extend to any other land and territory now acquired, or that may hereafter be acquired, by compact or agreement with other States, or otherwise, although such land and territory are not included within the boundaries herein before designated.

Section 32. That the erection of safe prisons, the inspection of prisons, and the humane treatment of prisoners, shall be provided for.

Section 33. That slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, are forever prohibited in this State.

Section 34. The General Assembly shall make no law recognizing the right of property in man.

Section 35. To preserve and protect the rights of victims of crime to justice and due process, victims shall be entitled to the following basic rights:

1. The right to confer with the prosecution.

2. The right to be free from intimidation, harassment and abuse throughout the criminal justice system.

3. The right to be present at all proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present.

4. The right to be heard, when relevant, at all critical stages of the criminal justice process as defined by the General Assembly.

5. The right to be informed of all proceedings, and of the release, transfer or escape of the accused or convicted person.

6. The right to a speedy trial or disposition and a prompt and final conclusion of the case after the conviction or sentence.

7. The right to restitution from the offender.

8. The right to be informed of each of the rights established for victims.

The General Assembly has the authority to enact substantive and procedural laws to define, implement, preserve and protect the rights guaranteed to victims by this section.

Section 36. Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion. The people retain the right through their elected state representatives and state senators to enact, amend, or repeal statutes regarding abortion, including, but not limited to, circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest or when necessary to save the life of the mother.

Article II.

Distribution of Powers.

Section 1. The powers of the Government shall be divided into three distinct departments: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

Section 2. No person or persons belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any of the powers properly belonging to either of the others, except in the cases herein directed or permitted.

Legislative Department.

Section 3. The Legislative authority of this State shall be vested in a General Assembly, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives, both dependent on the people. Representatives shall hold office for two years and Senators for four years from the day of the general election, except that the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each shall hold his office as Speaker for two years or until his successor is elected and qualified, provided however, that in the first general election after adoption of this amendment Senators elected in districts designated by even numbers shall be elected for four years and those elected in districts designated by odd numbers shall be elected for two years. In a county having more than one senatorial district, the districts shall be numbered consecutively.

Section 4. The apportionment of Senators and Representatives shall be substantially according to population. After each decennial census made by the Bureau of Census of the United States is available the General Assembly shall establish senatorial and representative districts. Nothing in this Section nor in this Article II shall deny to the General Assembly the right at any time to apportion one House of the General Assembly using geography, political subdivisions, substantially equal population and other criteria as factors; provided such apportionment when effective shall comply with the Constitution of the United States as then amended or authoritatively interpreted. If the Constitution of the United States shall require that Legislative apportionment not based entirely on population be approved by vote of the electorate, the General Assembly shall provide for such vote in the apportionment act.

Section 5. The number of Representatives shall be ninety-nine and shall be apportioned by the General Assembly among the several counties or districts as shall be provided by law. Counties having two or more Representatives shall be divided into separate districts. In a district composed of two or more counties, each county shall adjoin at least one other county of such district; and no county shall be divided in forming such a district.

Section 5a. Each district shall be represented by a qualified voter of that district.

Section 6. The number of Senators shall be apportioned by the General Assembly among the several counties or districts substantially according to population, and shall not exceed one-third the number of Representatives. Counties having two or more Senators shall be divided into separate districts. In a district composed of two or more counties, each county shall adjoin at least one other county of such district; and no county shall be divided in forming such a district.

Section 6a. Each district shall be represented by a qualified voter of that district.

Section 7. The first election for Senators and Representatives shall be held on the second Tuesday in November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy; and forever thereafter, elections for members of the General Assembly shall be held once in two years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Said elections shall terminate the same day.

Section 8. Legislative Sessions—Governor's Inauguration—The General Assembly shall meet in organizational session on the second Tuesday in January next

succeeding the election of the members of the House of Representatives, at which session, if in order, the Governor shall be inaugurated. The General Assembly shall remain in session for organizational purposes not longer than fifteen consecutive calendar days, during which session no legislation shall be passed on third and final consideration. Thereafter, the General Assembly shall meet on the first Tuesday next following the conclusion of the organizational session unless the General Assembly by joint resolution of both houses sets an earlier date.

The General Assembly may by joint resolution recess or adjourn until such time or times as it shall determine. It shall be convened at other times by the Governor as provided in Article III, Section 9, or by the presiding officers of both Houses at the written request of two-thirds of the members of each House.

Section 9. No person shall be a Representative unless he shall be a citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, and shall have been a citizen of this State for three years, and a resident in the county he represents one year, immediately preceding the election.

Section 10. No person shall be a Senator unless he shall be a citizen of the United States, of the age of thirty years, and shall have resided three years in this State, and one year in the county or district, immediately preceding the election. No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be eligible to any office or place of trust, the appointment to which is vested in the Executive or the General Assembly, except to the office of trustee of a literary institution.

Section 11. The Senate and House of Representatives, when assembled, shall each choose a speaker and its other officers; be judges of the qualifications and election of its members, and sit upon its own adjournments from day to day. Not less than two-thirds of all the members to which each house shall be entitled shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized, by law, to compel the attendance of absent members.

Section 12. Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member, but not a second time for the same offence; and shall have all other powers necessary for a branch of the Legislature of a free State.

Section 13. Senators and representatives shall, in all cases, except treason, felony, or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during the session of the General Assembly, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

Section 14. Each House may punish, by imprisonment, during its session, any person not a member, who shall be guilty of disrespect to the House, by any disorderly or any contemptuous behavior in its presence.

Section 15. Vacancies. When the seat of any member of either House becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled as follows:

(a) When twelve months or more remain prior to the next general election for legislators, a successor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the district represented, and such successor shall serve the remainder of the original term. The election shall be held within such time as provided by law. The legislative body of the replaced legislator's county of residence at the time of his or her election may elect an interim successor to serve until the election.

(b) When less than twelve months remain prior to the next general election for legislators, a successor shall be elected by the legislative body of the replaced legislator's county of residence at the time of his or her election. The term of any

Senator so elected shall expire at the next general election for legislators, at which election a successor shall be elected.

(c) Only a qualified voter of the district represented shall be eligible to succeed to the vacant seat.

Section 16. Neither House shall, during its session, adjourn without the consent of the other for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 17. Bills may originate in either House; but may be amended, altered or rejected by the other. No bill shall become a law which embraces more than one subject, that subject to be expressed in the title. All acts which repeal, revive or amend former laws, shall recite in their caption, or otherwise, the title or substance of the law repealed, revived or amended.

Section 18. A bill shall become law when it has been considered and passed on three different days in each House and on third and final consideration has received the assent of a majority of all the members to which each House is entitled under this Constitution, when the respective speakers have signed the bill with the date of such signing appearing in the Journal, and when the bill has been approved by the Governor or otherwise passed under the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 19. After a bill has been rejected, no bill containing the same substance shall be passed into a law during the same session.

Section 20. The style of the laws of this state shall be, "Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee." No law of a general nature shall take effect until forty days after its passage unless the same or the caption thereof shall state that the public welfare requires that it should take effect sooner.

Section 21. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish it, except such parts as the welfare of the state may require to be kept secret; the ayes and noes shall be taken in each House upon the final passage of every bill of a general character, and bills making appropriations of public moneys; and the ayes and noes of the members on any question, shall, at the request of any five of them, be entered on the journal.

Section 22. The doors of each House and of committees of the whole shall be kept open, unless when the business shall be such as ought to be kept secret.

Section 23. Each member of the General Assembly shall receive an annual salary of \$1,800.00 per year payable in equal monthly installments from the date of his election, and in addition, such other allowances for expenses in attending sessions or committee meetings as may be provided by law. The Senators, when sitting as a Court of Impeachment, shall receive the same allowances for expenses as have been provided by law for the members of the General Assembly. The compensation and expenses of the members of the General Assembly may from time to time be reduced or increased by laws enacted by the General Assembly; however, no increase or decrease in the amount thereof shall take effect until the next general election for Representatives to the General Assembly. Provided, further, that the first General Assembly meeting after adoption of this amendment shall be allowed to set its own expenses. However, no member shall be paid expenses, nor travel allowances for more than ninety Legislative days of a regular session, excluding the organization session, nor for more than thirty Legislative days of any extraordinary session.

This amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption so that any member of the General Assembly elected at a general election wherein this amendment is approved shall be entitled to the compensation set herein.

Section 24. Appropriation of public moneys. No public money shall be expended except pursuant to appropriations made by law. Expenditures for any fiscal year shall not exceed the state's revenues and reserves, including the proceeds of any debt obligation, for that year. No debt obligation, except as shall be repaid within the fiscal year of issuance, shall be authorized for the current operation of any state service or program, nor shall the proceeds of any debt obligation be expended for a purpose other than that for which it was authorized.

In no year shall the rate of growth of appropriations from state tax revenues exceed the estimated rate of growth of the state's economy as determined by law. No appropriation in excess of this limitation shall be made unless the General Assembly shall, by law containing no other subject matter, set forth the dollar amount and the rate by which the limit will be exceeded.

Any law requiring the expenditure of state funds shall be null and void unless, during the session in which the act receives final passage, an appropriation is made for the estimated first year's funding.

No law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.

An accurate financial statement of the state's fiscal condition shall be published annually.

Section 25. No person who heretofore hath been, or may hereafter be, a collector or holder of Public Moneys, shall have a seat in either House of the General Assembly, or hold any other office under the State Government, until such person shall have accounted for, and paid into the Treasury, all sums for which he may be accountable or liable.

Section 26. No Judge of any Court of law or equity, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Register, Clerk of any court of Record, or person holding any office under the authority of the United States, shall have a seat in the General Assembly; nor shall any person in this State hold more than one lucrative office at the same time; provided, that no appointment in the Militia, or to the Office of Justice of the Peace, shall be considered a lucrative office, or operative as a disqualification to a seat in either House of the General Assembly.

Section 27. Any member of either House of the General Assembly shall have liberty to dissent from and protest against, any act or resolve which he may think injurious to the Public or to any individual, and to have the reasons for his dissent entered on the journals.

Section 28. In accordance with the following provisions, all property real, personal or mixed shall be subject to taxation, but the Legislature may except such as may be held by the State, by Counties, Cities or Towns, and used exclusively for public or corporation purposes, and such as may be held and used for purposes purely religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational, and shall except the direct product of the soil in the hands of the producer, and his immediate vendee, and the entire amount of money deposited in an individual's personal or family checking or savings accounts. For purposes of taxation, property shall be classified into three classes, to wit: Real Property, Tangible Personal Property and Intangible Personal Property.

Real property shall be classified into four (4) subclassifications and assessed as follows:

- (a) Public Utility Property, to be assessed at fifty-five (55%) per cent of its value;

(b) Industrial and Commercial Property, to be assessed at forty (40%) per cent of its value;

(c) Residential Property, to be assessed at twenty-five (25%) per cent of its value, provided that residential property containing two (2) or more rental units is hereby defined as industrial and commercial property; and

(d) Farm Property, to be assessed at twenty-five (25%) per cent of its value.

House trailers, mobile homes, and all other similar movable structures used for commercial, industrial, or residential purposes shall be assessed as Real Property as an improvement to the land where located.

The Legislature shall provide, in such a manner as it deems appropriate, tax relief to elderly low-income taxpayers through payments by the State to reimburse all or part of the taxes paid by such persons on owner-occupied residential property, but such reimbursement shall not be an obligation imposed, directly or indirectly, upon Counties, Cities, or Towns.

By general law, the Legislature may authorize the following program of tax relief:

(a) The legislative body of any county or municipality may provide by resolution or ordinance that:

(1) Any taxpayer who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and who owns residential property as the taxpayer's principal place of residence shall pay taxes on such property in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount of tax on such property imposed at the time the ordinance or resolution is adopted;

(2) Any taxpayer who reaches the age of sixty-five (65) after the time the ordinance or resolution is adopted, who owns residential property as the taxpayer's principal place of residence shall thereafter pay taxes on such property in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount of tax on such property imposed in the tax year in which such taxpayer reaches age sixty-five (65); and

(3) Any taxpayer who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older who purchases residential property as the taxpayer's principal place of residence after the taxpayer's sixty-fifth birthday shall pay taxes in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount of tax imposed on such property in the tax year in which such property is purchased.

(b) Whenever the full market value of such property is increased as a result of improvements to such property after the time the ordinance or resolution is adopted, then the assessed value of such property shall be adjusted to include such increased value and the taxes shall also be increased proportionally with the value.

(c) Any taxpayer or taxpayers who own residential property as their principal place of residence whose total or combined annual income, or wealth exceeds an amount to be determined by the General Assembly shall not be eligible to receive the tax relief provided in subsection (a) or (b).

The Legislature may provide tax relief to home owners totally and permanently disabled, irrespective of age, as provided herein for the elderly.

Tangible Personal Property shall be classified into three (3) subclassifications and assessed as follows:

(a) Public Utility Property, to be assessed at fifty-five (55%) per cent of its value;

(b) Industrial and Commercial Property, to be assessed at thirty (30%) per cent of its value; and

(c) All other Tangible Personal Property, to be assessed at five (5%) per cent of its value; provided, however, that the Legislature shall exempt Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$7,500) Dollars worth of such Tangible Personal Property which shall cover

personal household goods and furnishings, wearing apparel and other such tangible property in the hands of a taxpayer.

The Legislature shall have power to classify Intangible Personal Property into subclassifications and to establish a ratio of assessment to value in each class or subclass, and shall provide fair and equitable methods of apportionment of the value of same to this state for purposes of taxation. Banks, Insurance Companies, Loan and Investment Companies, Savings and Loan Associations, and all similar financial institutions, shall be assessed and taxed in such manner as the Legislature shall direct; provided that for the year 1973, or until such time as the Legislature may provide otherwise, the ratio of assessment to value of property presently taxed shall remain the same as provided by law for the year 1972; provided further that the taxes imposed upon such financial institutions, and paid by them, shall be in lieu of all taxes on the redeemable or cash value of all of their outstanding shares of capital stock, policies of insurance, customer savings and checking accounts, certificates of deposit, and certificates of investment, by whatever name called, including other intangible corporate property of such financial institutions.

The ratio of assessment to value of property in each class or subclass shall be equal and uniform throughout the State, the value and definition of property in each class or subclass to be ascertained in such manner as the Legislature shall direct. Each respective taxing authority shall apply the same tax rate to all property within its jurisdiction.

The Legislature shall have power to tax merchants, peddlers, and privileges, in such manner as they may from time to time direct, and the Legislature may levy a gross receipts tax on merchants and businesses in lieu of ad valorem taxes on the inventories of merchandise held by such merchants and businesses for sale or exchange. The portion of a Merchant's Capital used in the purchase of merchandise sold by him to non-residents and sent beyond the State, shall not be taxed at a rate higher than the ad valorem tax on property. The Legislature shall have power to levy a tax upon incomes derived from stocks and bonds that are not taxed ad valorem.

Notwithstanding the authority to tax privileges or any other authority set forth in this Constitution, the Legislature shall not levy, authorize or otherwise permit any state or local tax upon payroll or earned personal income or any state or local tax measured by payroll or earned personal income; however, nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting any tax in effect on January 1, 2011, or adjustment of the rate of such tax.

This amendment shall take effect on the first day of January, 1973.

Section 29. The General Assembly shall have power to authorize the several Counties and incorporated towns in this State, to impose taxes for County and Corporation purposes respectively, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law; and all property shall be taxed according to its value, upon the principles established in regard to state taxation. But the credit of no County, City or Town shall be given or loaned to or in aid of any person, company, association or corporation, except upon an election to be first held by the qualified voters of such county, city or town, and the assent of three-fourths of the votes cast at said election. Nor shall any county, city or town become a stockholder with others in any company, association or corporation except upon a like election, and the assent of a like majority. But the counties of Grainger, Hawkins, Hancock, Union, Campbell, Scott, Morgan, Grundy, Sumner, Smith, Fentress, Van Buren, and the new county herein authorized to be established out of fractions of Sumner, Macon and Smith Counties, White, Putnam, Overton, Jackson,

Cumberland, Anderson, Henderson, Wayne, Cocke, Coffee, Macon, Marshall, and Roane shall be excepted out of the provisions of this Section so far that the assent of a majority of the qualified voters of either of said counties voting on the question shall be sufficient when the credit of such county is given or loaned to any person, association or corporation; Provided, that the exception of the counties above named shall not be in force beyond the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty; and after that period they shall be subject to the three-fourths majority applicable to the other counties of the State.

Section 30. No article, manufactured of the produce of this State, shall be taxed otherwise than to pay inspection fees.

Section 31. The credit of this state shall not be hereafter loaned or given to or in aid of any person, association, company, corporation or municipality: nor shall the State become the owner in whole or in part of any bank or a stockholder with others in any association, company, corporation or municipality.

Section 32. No Convention or General Assembly of this State shall act upon any amendment of the Constitution of the United States proposed by Congress to the several States; unless such Convention or General Assembly shall have been elected after such amendment is submitted.

Section 33. No bonds of the State shall be issued to any Rail Road Company which at the time of its application for the same shall be in default in paying the interest upon the State bonds previously loaned to it or that shall hereafter and before such application sell or absolutely dispose of any State bonds loaned to it for less than par.

Article III.

Executive Department.

Section 1. The Supreme Executive power of this State shall be vested in a Governor.

Section 2. The Governor shall be chosen by the electors of the members of the General Assembly, at the time and places where they shall respectively vote for the members thereof. The returns of every election for Governor shall be sealed up, and transmitted to the seat of Government, by the returning officers, directed to the Speaker of the Senate, who shall open and publish them in the presence of a majority of the members of each House of the General Assembly. The person having the highest number of votes shall be Governor; but if two or more shall be equal and highest in votes, one of them shall be chosen Governor by joint vote of both Houses of the General Assembly. Contested elections for governor shall be determined by both Houses of the General Assembly, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

Section 3. He shall be at least thirty years of age, shall be a citizen of the United States, and shall have been a citizen of this State seven years next before his election.

Section 4. The Governor shall be elected to hold office for four years and until a successor is elected and qualified. A person may be eligible to succeed in office for additional four-year terms, provided that no person presently serving or elected hereafter shall be eligible for election to more than two terms consecutively, including an election to a partial term.

One succeeding to the office vacated during the first eighteen calendar months of the term shall hold office until a successor is elected for the remainder of the term at the next election of members of the General Assembly and qualified pursuant to this

Constitution. One succeeding to the office vacated after the first eighteen calendar months of the term shall continue to hold office for the remainder of the full term.

Section 5. He shall be commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of this state, and of the Militia, except when they shall be called into the service of the United States; But the Militia shall not be called into service except in case of rebellion or invasion, and then only when the General Assembly shall declare, by law, that the public safety requires it.

Section 6. He shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons, after conviction, except in cases of impeachment.

Section 7. He shall, at stated times, receive a compensation for his services, which shall not be increased or diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected.

Section 8. He may require information in writing, from the officers in the executive department, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

Section 9. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the General Assembly by proclamation, in which he shall state specifically the purposes for which they are to convene; but they shall enter on no legislative business except that for which they were specifically called together.

Section 10. He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

Section 11. He shall, from time to time, give to the General Assembly information of the state of the government, and recommend for their consideration such measures as he shall judge expedient.

Section 12. In case of the removal of the Governor from office, or of his death, or resignation, the powers and duties of the office shall devolve on the Speaker of the Senate; and in case of the death, removal from office, or resignation of the Speaker of the Senate, the powers and duties of the office shall devolve on the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 13. No member of Congress, or person holding any office under the United States, or this State, shall execute the office of Governor.

Section 14. When any officer, the right of whose appointment is by this Constitution vested in the General Assembly, shall, during the recess, die, or the office, by the expiration of the term, or by other means, become vacant, the Governor shall have the power to fill such vacancy by granting a temporary commission, which shall expire at the end of the next session of the Legislature.

Section 15. There shall be a Seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him officially, and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee.

Section 16. All grants and commissions shall be in the name and by the authority of the State of Tennessee, be sealed with the State Seal, and signed by the Governor.

Section 17. A Secretary of State shall be appointed by joint vote of the General Assembly, and commissioned during the term of four years; he shall keep a fair register of all the official acts and proceedings of the Governor; and shall, when required lay the same, and all papers, minutes and vouchers relative thereto, before the General Assembly; and shall perform such other duties as shall be enjoined by law.

Section 18. Every bill which may pass both Houses of the General Assembly shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Governor for his signature. If he approve, he shall sign it, and the same shall become a law; but if he refuse to sign it, he shall return it with his objections thereto, in writing, to the house in which it originated; and said House shall cause said objections to be entered at large upon

its journal, and proceed to reconsider the Bill. If after such reconsideration, a majority of all the members elected to that House shall agree to pass the Bill, notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, it shall be sent, with said objections, to the other House, by which it shall be likewise reconsidered. If approved by a majority of the whole number elected to that House, it shall become a law. The votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of all the members voting for or against the Bill shall be entered upon the journals of their respective Houses.

If the Governor shall fail to return any bill with his objections in writing within ten calendar days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall become a law without his signature. If the General Assembly by its adjournment prevents the return of any bill within said ten-day period, the bill shall become a law, unless disapproved by the Governor and filed by him with his objections in writing in the office of the Secretary of State within said ten-day period.

Every Joint Resolution or order (except on question of adjournment and proposals of specific amendments to the Constitution) shall likewise be presented to the Governor for his signature; and on being disapproved by him shall, in like manner, be returned with his objections; and the same, before it shall take effect, shall be repassed by a majority of all the members elected to both Houses in the manner and according to the rules prescribed in case of a Bill.

The Governor may reduce or disapprove the sum of money appropriated by any one or more items or parts of items in any bill appropriating money, while approving other portions of the bill. The portions so approved shall become law, and the items or parts of items disapproved or reduced shall be void to the extent that they have been disapproved or reduced unless repassed as hereinafter provided. The Governor, within ten calendar days (Sundays excepted) after the bill shall have been presented to him, shall report the items or parts of items disapproved or reduced with his objections in writing to the House in which the bill originated, or if the General Assembly shall have adjourned, to the office of the Secretary of State. Any such items or parts of items so disapproved or reduced shall be restored to the bill in the original amount and become law if repassed by the General Assembly according to the rules and limitations prescribed for the passage of other bills over the executive veto.

Article IV.

Elections.

Section 1. Every person, being eighteen years of age, being a citizen of the United States, being a resident of the State for a period of time as prescribed by the General Assembly, and being duly registered in the county of residence for a period of time prior to the day of any election as prescribed by the General Assembly, shall be entitled to vote in all federal, state, and local elections held in the county or district in which such person resides. All such requirements shall be equal and uniform across the state, and there shall be no other qualification attached to the right of suffrage.

The General Assembly shall have power to enact laws requiring voters to vote in the election precincts in which they may reside, and laws to secure the freedom of elections and the purity of the ballot box.

All male citizens of this State shall be subject to the performance of military duty, as may be prescribed by law.

Section 2. Laws may be passed excluding from the right of suffrage persons who may be convicted of infamous crimes.

Section 3. Electors shall, in all cases, except treason, felony, or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest or summons, during their attendance at elections, and in going to and returning from them.

Section 4. In all elections to be made by the General Assembly, the members thereof shall vote viva voce, and their votes shall be entered on the journal. All other elections shall be by ballot.

Article V.

Impeachments.

Section 1. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Section 2. All impeachments shall be tried by the Senate. When sitting for that purpose the Senators shall be upon oath or affirmation, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or if he be on trial, the Senior Associate Judge, shall preside over them. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators sworn to try the officer impeached.

Section 3. The House of Representatives shall elect from their own body three members, whose duty it shall be to prosecute impeachments. No impeachment shall be tried until the Legislature shall have adjourned *sine die*, when the Senate shall proceed to try such impeachment.

Section 4. The Governor, Judges of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Inferior Courts, Chancellors, Attorneys for the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, and Secretary of State, shall be liable to impeachment, whenever they may, in the opinion of the House of Representatives, commit any crime in their official capacity which may require disqualification; but judgment shall only extend to removal from office, and disqualification to fill any office thereafter. The party shall, nevertheless, be liable to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment according to law. The Legislature now has, and shall continue to have, power to relieve from the penalties imposed, any person disqualified from holding office by the judgment of a Court of Impeachment.

Section 5. Justices of the Peace, and other civil officers, not hereinbefore mentioned, for crimes or misdemeanors in office, shall be liable to indictment in such courts as the Legislature may direct; and upon conviction, shall be removed from office by said court, as if found guilty on impeachment; and shall be subject to such other punishment as may be prescribed by law.

Article VI.

Judicial Department.

Section 1. The judicial power of this State shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such Circuit, Chancery and other inferior Courts as the Legislature shall from time to time, ordain and establish; in the Judges thereof, and in Justices of the Peace. The Legislature may also vest such jurisdiction in Corporation Courts as may be deemed necessary. Courts to be holden by Justices of the Peace may also be established.

Section 2. The Supreme Court shall consist of five Judges, of whom not more than two shall reside in any one of the grand divisions of the State. The Judges shall designate one of their own number who shall preside as Chief Justice. The concurrence of three of the Judges shall in every case be necessary to a decision. The jurisdiction of this Court shall be appellate only, under such restrictions and regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by law; but it may possess such other jurisdiction as is now conferred by law on the present Supreme Court. Said Court shall be held at Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson.

Section 3. Judges of the Supreme Court or any intermediate appellate court shall be appointed for a full term or to fill a vacancy by and at the discretion of the governor; shall be confirmed by the Legislature; and thereafter, shall be elected in a retention election by the qualified voters of the state. Confirmation by default occurs if the Legislature fails to reject an appointee within sixty calendar days of either the date of appointment, if made during the annual legislative session, or the convening date of the next annual legislative session, if made out of session. The Legislature is authorized to prescribe such provisions as may be necessary to carry out Sections two and three of this article. Every judge of the Supreme Court shall be thirty-five years of age, and shall before his election have been a resident of the state for five years. His term of service shall be eight years.

Section 4. The Judges of the Circuit and Chancery Courts, and of other inferior Courts, shall be elected by the qualified voters of the district or circuit to which they are to be assigned. Every Judge of such Courts shall be thirty years of age, and shall before his election, have been a resident of the State for five years, and of the circuit or district one year. His term of service shall be eight years.

Section 5. An Attorney General and Reporter for the State, shall be appointed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and shall hold his office for a term of eight years. An Attorney for the State for any circuit or district, for which a Judge having criminal jurisdiction shall be provided by law, shall be elected by the qualified voters of such circuit or district, and shall hold his office for a term of eight years, and shall have been a resident of the State five years, and of the circuit or district one year. In all cases where the Attorney for any district fails or refuses to attend and prosecute according to law, the Court shall have power to appoint an Attorney pro tempore.

Section 6. Judges and Attorneys for the State may be removed from office by a concurrent vote of both Houses of the General Assembly, each House voting separately; but two-thirds of the members to which each House may be entitled must concur in such vote. The vote shall be determined by ayes and noes, and the names of the members voting for or against the Judge or Attorney for the State together with the cause or causes of removal, shall be entered on the Journals of each House respectively. The Judge or Attorney for the State, against whom the Legislature may be about to proceed, shall receive notice thereof accompanied with a copy of the causes alleged for his removal, at least ten days before the day on which either House of the General Assembly shall act thereupon.

Section 7. The Judges of the Supreme or Inferior Courts, shall, at stated times, receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, which shall not be increased or diminished during the time for which they are elected. They shall not be allowed any fees or perquisites of office nor hold any other office of trust or profit under this State or the United States.

Section 8. The jurisdiction of the Circuit, Chancery and other Inferior Courts, shall be as now established by law, until changed by the Legislature.

Section 9. The Judges shall not charge juries with respect to matters of fact, but may state the testimony and declare the law.

Section 10. The Judges or Justices of the Inferior Courts of Law and Equity, shall have power in all civil cases, to issue writs of certiorari to remove any cause or the transcript of the record thereof, from any inferior jurisdiction, into such court of law, on sufficient cause, supported by oath or affirmation.

Section 11. No Judge of the Supreme or Inferior Courts shall preside on the trial of any cause in the event of which he may be interested, or where either of the parties shall be connected with him by affinity of consanguinity, within such degrees as may be prescribed by law, or in which he may have been of counsel, or in which he may have presided in any inferior Court, except by consent of all the parties. In case all or any of the Judges of the Supreme Court shall thus be disqualified from presiding on the trial of any cause or causes, the Court, or the Judges thereof, shall certify the same to the Governor of the State, and he shall forthwith specially commission the requisite number of men, of law knowledge, for the trial and determination thereof. The Legislature may by general laws make provision that special Judges may be appointed, to hold any Courts the Judge of which shall be unable or fail to attend or sit; or to hear any cause in which the Judge may be incompetent.

Section 12. All writs and other process shall run in the name of the State of Tennessee and bear test and be signed by the respective clerks. Indictments shall conclude, “against the peace and dignity of the State.”

Section 13. Judges of the Supreme Court shall appoint their clerks who shall hold their offices for six years. Chancellors shall appoint their clerks and masters, who shall hold their offices for six years. Clerks of the Inferior Courts holden in the respective Counties or Districts, shall be elected by the qualified voters thereof for the term of four years. Any Clerk may be removed from office for malfeasance, incompetency or neglect of duty, in such manner as may be prescribed by law.

Section 14. No fine shall be laid on any citizen of this State that shall exceed fifty dollars, unless it shall be assessed by a jury of his peers, who shall assess the fine at the time they find the fact, if they think the fine should be more than fifty dollars.

Article VII.

State and County Officers.

Section 1. The qualified voters of each county shall elect for terms of four years a legislative body, a county executive, a Sheriff, a Trustee, a Register, a County Clerk and an Assessor of Property. Their qualifications and duties shall be prescribed by the General Assembly. Any officer shall be removed from malfeasance or neglect of duty as prescribed by the General Assembly.

The legislative body shall be composed of representatives from districts in the county as drawn by the county legislative body pursuant to statutes enacted by the General Assembly. Districts shall be reapportioned at least every ten years based upon the most recent federal census. The legislative body shall not exceed twenty-five members, and no more than three representatives shall be elected from a district. Any county organized under the consolidated government provisions of Article XI, Section 9, of this Constitution shall be exempt from having a county executive and a county legislative body as described in this paragraph.

The General Assembly may provide alternate forms of county government including the right to charter and the manner by which a referendum may be called. The new form of government shall replace the existing form if approved by a majority of the voters in the referendum.

No officeholder's current term shall be diminished by the ratification of this article.

Section 2. Vacancies in county offices shall be filled by the county legislative body, and any person so appointed shall serve until a successor is elected at the next election occurring after the vacancy and is qualified.

Section 3. There shall be a treasurer or Treasurers and a Comptroller of the Treasury appointed for the State, by the joint vote of both houses of the General Assembly, who shall hold their offices for two years.

Section 4. The election of all officers, and the filling of all vacancies not otherwise directed or provided by this Constitution, shall be made in such manner as the Legislature shall direct.

Section 5. Elections for Judicial and other civil officers shall be held on the first Thursday in August, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and forever thereafter on the first Thursday in August next preceding the expiration of their respective terms of service. The term of each officer so elected shall be computed from the first day of September next succeeding his election. The term of office of the Governor and other executive officers shall be computed from the fifteenth of January next after the election of the Governor. No appointment or election to fill a vacancy shall be made for a period extending beyond the unexpired term. Every officer shall hold his office until his successor is elected or appointed, and qualified. No special election shall be held to fill a vacancy in the office of Judge or District Attorney, but at the time herein fixed for the biennial election of civil officers, and such vacancy shall be filled at the next Biennial election recurring more than thirty days after the vacancy occurs.

Article VIII.

Militia.

Section 1. All militia officers shall be elected by persons subject to military duty, within the bounds of their several companies, battalions, regiments, brigades and divisions, under such rules and regulations as the Legislature may from time to time direct and establish.

Section 2. The Governor shall appoint the Adjutant-General and his other staff officers; the Major-Generals, Brigadier-Generals, and commanding officers of regiments, shall respectively appoint their staff officers.

Section 3. The Legislature shall pass laws exempting citizens belonging to any sect or denomination of religion, the tenets of which are known to be opposed to the bearing of arms, from attending private and general musters.

Article IX.

Disqualifications.

Section 1. Whereas Ministers of the Gospel are by their profession, dedicated to God and the care of souls, and ought not to be diverted from the great duties of

their functions; therefore, no Minister of the Gospel, or priest of any denomination whatever, shall be eligible to a seat in either House of the Legislature.

Section 2. No person who denies the being of God, or a future state of rewards and punishments, shall hold any office in the civil department of this State.

Section 3. Any person who shall, after the adoption of this Constitution, fight a duel, or knowingly be the bearer of a challenge to fight a duel, or send or accept a challenge for that purpose, or be an aider or abettor in fighting a duel, shall be deprived of the right to hold any office of honor or profit in this State, and shall be punished otherwise, in such manner as the Legislature may prescribe.

Article X.

Oaths, Bribery of Electors, New Counties.

Section 1. Every person who shall be chosen or appointed to any office of trust or profit under this Constitution, or any law made in pursuance thereof, shall, before entering on the duties thereof, take an oath to support the Constitution of this State, and of the United States, and an oath of office.

Section 2. Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, shall before they proceed to business take an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of this State, and of the United States and also the following oath: I _____ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that as a member of this General Assembly, I will, in all appointments, vote without favor, affection, partiality, or prejudice; and that I will not propose or assent to any bill, vote or resolution, which shall appear to me injurious to the people, or consent to any act or thing, whatever, that shall have a tendency to lessen or abridge their rights and privileges, as declared by the Constitution of this State.

Section 3. Any elector who shall receive any gift or reward for his vote, in meat, drink, money or otherwise, shall suffer such punishment as the laws shall direct. And any person who shall directly or indirectly give, promise or bestow any such reward to be elected, shall thereby be rendered incapable, for six years, to serve in the office for which he was elected, and be subject to such further punishment as the Legislature shall direct.

Section 4. New Counties may be established by the Legislature to consist of not less than two hundred and seventy-five square miles, and which shall contain a population of seven hundred qualified voters; no line of such County shall approach the Court House of any old County from which it may be taken nearer than eleven miles, nor shall such old County be reduced to less than five hundred square miles. But the following exceptions are made to the foregoing provisions viz: New Counties may be established by the present or any succeeding Legislature out of the following Territory to wit: Out of that portion of Obion County which lies west of the low water mark of Reel Foot Lake: Out of fractions of Sumner, Macon and Smith Counties; but no line of such new County shall approach the Court House of Sumner or of Smith Counties nearer than ten miles, nor include any part of Macon County lying within nine and a half miles of the Court House of said County nor shall more than twenty square miles of Macon County nor any part of Sumner County lying due west of the western boundary of Macon County, be taken in the formation of said new County: Out of fractions of Grainger and Jefferson Counties but no line of such new County shall include any part of Grainger County north of the Holston River; nor shall any

line thereof approach the Court House of Jefferson County nearer than eleven miles. Such new County may include any other Territory which is not excluded by any general provision of this Constitution: Out of fractions of Jackson and Overton Counties but no line of such new County shall approach the Court House of Jackson or Overton Counties nearer than ten miles, nor shall such County contain less than four hundred qualified voters, nor shall the area of either of the old Counties be reduced below four hundred and fifty square miles: Out of fractions of Roane, Monroe, and Blount Counties, around the town of Loudon; but no line of such new County shall ever approach the towns of Maryville, Kingston, or Madisonville, nearer than eleven miles, except that on the south side of the Tennessee River, said lines may approach as near as ten miles to the Court House of Roane County.

The Counties of Lewis, Cheatham, and Sequatchie, as now established by Legislative enactments are hereby declared to be Constitutional Counties. No part of Bledsoe County shall be taken to form a new County or a part thereof or be attached to any adjoining County. That portion of Marion County included within the following boundaries, beginning on the Grundy and Marion County line at the Nickajack trace and running about six hundred yards west of Ben Poseys, to where the Tennessee Coal Rail Road crosses the line, running thence south east through the Pocket near William Summers crossing the Battle Creek Gulf at the corner of Thomas Wootons field, thence running across the Little Gizzard Gulf at Raven Point, thence in a direct line to the Bridge crossing the Big Fiery Gizzard, thence in a direct line to the mouth of Holy Water Creek, thence up said Creek to the Grundy County line, and thence with said line to the beginning; is hereby detached from Marion County, and attached to the County of Grundy. No part of a County shall be taken off to form a new County or a part thereof without the consent of two-thirds of the qualified voters in such part taken off; and where an old County is reduced for the purpose of forming a new one, the Seat of Justice in said old County shall not be removed without the concurrence of two-thirds in both branches of the Legislature, nor shall the seat of Justice of any County be removed without the concurrence of two-thirds of the qualified voters of the County. But the foregoing provision requiring a two-thirds majority of the voters of a County to remove its County seat shall not apply to the Counties of Obion and Cocke. The fractions taken from old Counties to form new Counties or taken from one County and added to another shall continue liable for their pro rata of all debts contracted by their respective Counties prior to the separation, and be entitled to their proportion of any stocks or credits belonging to such old Counties.

Section 5. The citizens who may be included in any new County shall vote with the County or Counties from which they may have been stricken off, for members of Congress, for Governor and for members of the General Assembly until the next apportionment of members to the General Assembly after the establishment of such new County.

Article XI.

Miscellaneous Provisions.

Section 1. All laws and ordinances now in force and use in this State, not inconsistent with this Constitution, shall continue in force and use until they shall expire, be altered or repealed by the Legislature; but ordinances contained in any former Constitution or schedule thereto are hereby abrogated.

Section 2. Nothing contained in this Constitution shall impair the validity of any debts or contracts, or affect any rights of property or any suits, actions, rights of action or other proceedings in Courts of Justice.

Section 3. Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the Senate or House of Representatives, and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of all the members elected to each of the two Houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their Journals with the yeas and nays thereon, and referred to the General Assembly then next to be chosen; and shall be published six months previous to the time of making such choice; and if in the General Assembly then next chosen as aforesaid, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be agreed to by two-thirds of all the members elected to each House, then it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to submit such proposed amendment or amendments to the people, at the next general election in which a Governor is to be chosen. And if the people shall approve and ratify such amendment or amendments by a majority of all the citizens of the State voting for Governor, voting in their favor, such amendment or amendments shall become a part of this Constitution. When any amendment or amendments to the Constitution shall be proposed in pursuance of the foregoing provisions the same shall at each of said sessions be read three times on three several days in each House.

The Legislature shall have the right by law to submit to the people, at any general election, the question of calling a convention to alter, reform, or abolish this Constitution, or to alter, reform or abolish any specified part or parts of it; and when, upon such submission, a majority of all the voters voting upon the proposal submitted shall approve the proposal to call a convention, the delegates to such convention shall be chosen at the next general election and the convention shall assemble for the consideration of such proposals as shall have received a favorable vote in said election, in such mode and manner as shall be prescribed. No change in, or amendment to, this Constitution proposed by such convention shall become effective, unless within the limitations of the call of the convention, and unless approved and ratified by a majority of the qualified voters voting separately on such change or amendment at an election to be held in such manner and on such date as may be fixed by the convention. No such convention shall be held oftener than once in six years.

Section 4. The Legislature shall have no power to grant divorces; but may authorize the Courts of Justice to grant them for such causes as may be specified by law; but such laws shall be general and uniform in their operation throughout the State.

Section 5. The Legislature shall have no power to authorize lotteries for any purpose, and shall pass laws to prohibit the sale of lottery tickets in this state, except that the Legislature may authorize a state lottery if the net proceeds of the lottery's revenues are allocated to provide financial assistance to citizens of this state to enable such citizens to attend post-secondary educational institutions located within this state. The excess after such allocations from such net proceeds from the lottery would be appropriated to:

- (1) Capital outlay projects for K-12 educational facilities; and
- (2) Early learning programs and after school programs.

Such appropriation of funds to support improvements and enhancements for educational programs and purposes and such net proceeds shall be used to supplement, not supplant, non-lottery educational resources for education programs and purposes.

All other forms of lottery not authorized herein are expressly prohibited unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of all members elected to each house of the general assembly for an annual event operated for the benefit of a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(19) organization, as defined by the 2000 United States Tax Code, located in this state.

A state lottery means a lottery of the type such as in operation in Georgia, Kentucky and Virginia in 2000, and the amendment to Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee provided for herein does not authorize games of chance associated with casinos, including, but not limited to, slot machines, roulette wheels, and the like.

The state lottery authorized in this section shall be implemented and administered uniformly throughout the state in such manner as the Legislature, by general law, deems appropriate.

Section 6. The Legislature shall have no power to change the names of persons, or to pass acts adopting or legitimatizing persons; but shall, by general laws, confer this power on the Courts.

Section 7. The General Assembly shall define and regulate interest, and set maximum effective rates thereof.

If no applicable statute is hereafter enacted, the effective rate of interest collected shall not exceed ten percent (10%) per annum.

All provisions of existing statutes regulating rates of interest and other charges on loans shall remain in full force and effect until July 1, 1980, unless earlier amended or repealed.

Section 8. The Legislature shall have no power to suspend any general law for the benefit of any particular individual, nor to pass any law for the benefit of individuals inconsistent with the general laws of the land; nor to pass any law granting to any individual or individuals, rights, privileges, immunities, [immunities] or exemptions other than such as may be, by the same law extended to any member of the community, who may be able to bring himself within the provisions of such law. No corporation shall be created or its powers increased or diminished by special laws but the General Assembly shall provide by general laws for the organization of all corporations, hereafter created, which laws may, at any time, be altered or repealed, and no such alteration or repeal shall interfere with or divest rights which have become vested.

Section 9. The Legislature shall have the right to vest such powers in the Courts of Justice, with regard to private and local affairs, as may be expedient.

The General Assembly shall have no power to pass a special, local or private act having the effect of removing the incumbent from any municipal or county office or abridging the term or altering the salary prior to the end of the term for which such public officer was selected, and any act of the General Assembly private or local in form or effect applicable to a particular county or municipality either in its governmental or its proprietary capacity shall be void and of no effect unless the act by its terms either requires the approval of a two-thirds vote of the local legislative body of the municipality or county, or requires approval in an election by a majority of those voting in said election in the municipality or county affected.

Any municipality may by ordinance submit to its qualified voters in a general or special election the question: "Shall this municipality adopt home rule?"

In the event of an affirmative vote by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon, and until the repeal thereof by the same procedure, such municipality shall be a home rule municipality, and the General Assembly shall act with respect to such home rule municipality only by laws which are general in terms and effect.

Any municipality after adopting home rule may continue to operate under its existing charter, or amend the same, or adopt and thereafter amend a new charter to provide for its governmental and proprietary powers, duties and functions, and for the form, structure, personnel and organization of its government, provided that no charter provision except with respect to compensation of municipal personnel shall be effective if inconsistent with any general act of the General Assembly and provided further that the power of taxation of such municipality shall not be enlarged or increased except by general act of the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall by general law provide the exclusive methods by which municipalities may be created, merged, consolidated and dissolved and by which municipal boundaries may be altered.

A charter or amendment may be proposed by ordinance of any home rule municipality, by a charter commission provided for by act of the General Assembly and elected by the qualified voters of a home rule municipality voting thereon or, in the absence of such act of the General Assembly, by a charter commission of seven (7) members, chosen at large not more often than once in two (2) years, in a municipal election pursuant to petition for such election signed by qualified voters of a home rule municipality not less in number than ten (10%) percent of those voting in the then most recent general municipal election.

It shall be the duty of the legislative body of such municipality to publish any proposal so made and to submit the same to its qualified voters at the first general state election which shall be held at least sixty (60) days after such publication and such proposal shall become effective sixty (60) days after approval by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon.

The General Assembly shall not authorize any municipality to tax incomes, estates, or inheritances, or to impose any other tax not authorized by Sections 28 or 29 of Article II of this Constitution. Nothing herein shall be construed as invalidating the provisions of any municipal charter in existence at the time of the adoption of this amendment.

The General Assembly may provide for the consolidation of any or all of the governmental and corporate functions now or hereafter vested in municipal corporations with the governmental and corporate functions now or hereafter vested in the counties in which such municipal corporations are located; provided, such consolidations shall not become effective until submitted to the qualified voters residing within the municipal corporation and in the county outside thereof, and approved by a majority of those voting within the municipal corporation and by a majority of those voting in the county outside the municipal corporation.

Section 10. A well regulated system of internal improvement is calculated to develop the resources of the State, and promote the happiness and prosperity of her citizens; therefore it ought to be encouraged by the General Assembly.

Section 11. There shall be a homestead exemption from execution in an amount of five thousand dollars or such greater amount as the General Assembly may establish. The General Assembly shall also establish personal property exemptions. The definition and application of the homestead and personal property exemptions and the manner in which they may be waived shall be as prescribed by law.

Section 12. The State of Tennessee recognizes the inherent value of education and encourages its support. The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools. The General

Assembly may establish and support such postsecondary educational institutions, including public institutions of higher learning, as it determines.

Section 13. The General Assembly shall have power to enact laws for the protection and preservation of game and fish, within the state, and such laws may be enacted for and applied and enforced in particular counties or geographical districts, designated by the General Assembly.

The citizens of this state shall have the personal right to hunt and fish, subject to reasonable regulations and restrictions prescribed by law. The recognition of this right does not abrogate any private or public property rights, nor does it limit the state's power to regulate commercial activity. Traditional manners and means may be used to take non-threatened species.

Section 14. [Repealed.]

Section 15. No person shall in time of peace be required to perform any service to the public on any day set apart by his religion as a day of rest.

Section 16. The declaration of rights hereto prefixed is declared to be a part of the Constitution of this State, and shall never be violated on any pretense whatever. And to guard against transgression of the high powers we have delegated, we declare that every thing in the bill of rights contained, is excepted out of the General powers of government, and shall forever remain inviolate.

Section 17. No county office created by the Legislature shall be filled otherwise than by the people or the County Court.

Section 18. The historical institution and legal contract solemnizing the relationship of one (1) man and one (1) woman shall be the only legally recognized marital contract in this state. Any policy or law or judicial interpretation, purporting to define marriage as anything other than the historical institution and legal contract between one (1) man and one (1) woman, is contrary to the public policy of this state and shall be void and unenforceable in Tennessee. If another state or foreign jurisdiction issues a license for persons to marry and if such marriage is prohibited in this state by the provisions of this section, then the marriage shall be void and unenforceable in this state.

Schedule.

Section 1. That no inconvenience may arise from a change of the Constitution, it is declared that the Governor of the State, the members of the General Assembly and all officers elected at or after the general election of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy, shall hold their offices for the terms prescribed in this Constitution.

Officers appointed by the courts shall be filled by appointment, to be made and to take effect during the first term of the court held by Judges elected under this Constitution.

All other officers shall vacate their places thirty days after the day fixed for the election of their successors under this Constitution.

The Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer shall hold their offices until the first session of the present General Assembly occurring after the ratification of this Constitution and until their successors are elected and qualified.

The officers then elected shall hold their offices until the fifteenth day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

Section 2. At the first election of Judges under this Constitution there shall be elected six Judges of the Supreme Court, two from each grand division of the State who shall hold their offices for the term herein prescribed.

In the event any vacancy shall occur in the office of either of said Judges at any time after the first day of January one thousand eight hundred seventy-three; it shall remain unfilled and the Court shall from that time be constituted of five Judges. While the Court shall consist of six Judges they may sit in two sections, and may hear and determine causes in each at the same time, but not in different grand divisions at the same time.

When so sitting the concurrence of two Judges shall be necessary to a decision.

The Attorney General and Reporter for the State shall be appointed after the election and qualification of the Judges of the Supreme Court herein provided for.

Section 3. Every Judge and every officer of the executive department of this State, and every Sheriff holding over under this Constitution, shall, within twenty days after the ratification of this Constitution is proclaimed, take an oath to support the same, and the failure of any officer to take such oath shall vacate his office.

Section 4. The time which has elapsed from the sixth day of May one thousand eight hundred and sixty one until the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and sixty seven shall not be computed, in any cases affected by the statutes of limitation, nor shall any writ of error be affected by such lapse of time.