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A LASTING MEMORIAL TO
THE CITIZENS OF TENNESSEE
WHO SERVED IN
1854
STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
1952

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 Cherokees. 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 12 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 re-election 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.

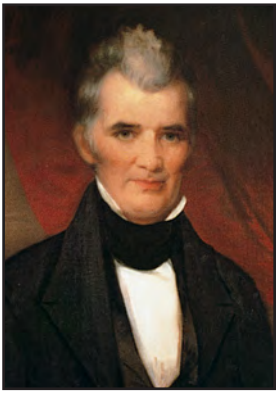
Joseph McMinn

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 Cherokees. He died in 1824.

William Carroll

1821-1827; 1829-1835, Democrat



Born in Pennsylvania in 1788, Carroll came to Tennessee at the age of 18. 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 12 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, the establishment of chancery courts, and the adoption of the new constitution in 1834. He died in 1844.

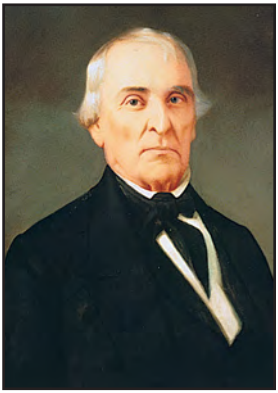
Sam Houston

1827-1829, Democrat

Houston was born in Virginia in 1793 and came to Tennessee at age 15. For a while he clerked in a store, then ran off to live with the Cherokees, 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 Cherokees. 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

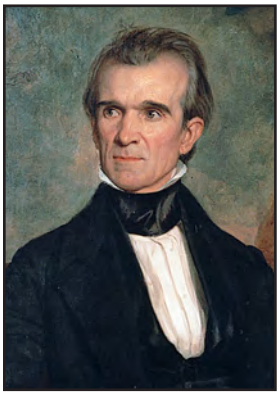


Hall was born in 1775 in North Carolina, coming to Tennessee as a young man and early becoming involved in politics. A prosperous farmer, he was elected to the state House in 1797, after having served as brigadier general in the Creek War. After six years in the House, he was elected to the Senate. It 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

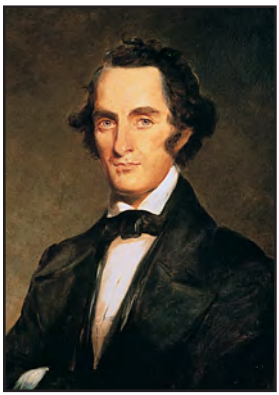
Born in North Carolina in 1781, Cannon worked as a saddler, merchant, and surveyor before studying law and being elected to the legislature in 1811. He joined the volunteers and went to fight in the Creek War, serving as colonel. After the war, he was elected to Congress, succeeding Felix Grundy. An 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 which 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 re-election 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 re-election, 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, "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 re-elected, 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.

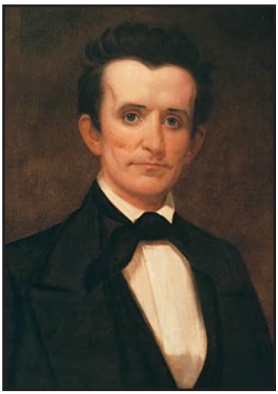
Aaron Venable Brown

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 re-election 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

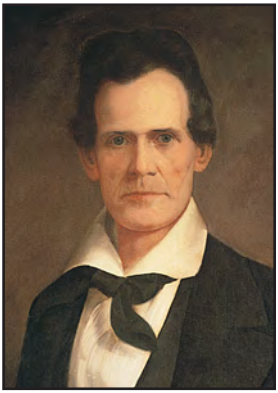
1847-1849, Whig



Of Scot-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 re-election, 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

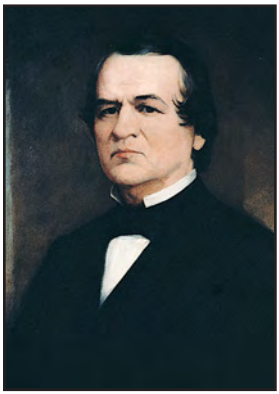


Trousdale was born in North Carolina in 1790 and came to Tennessee at age six. He was of Scot-Irish descent and was known as "War Horse of Sumner County," fighting under Jackson in the Creek War. He served as brigadier general in the U.S. Army in the War with Mexico as well. After serving in the state 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); 1862-1865 (military), Democrat

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.

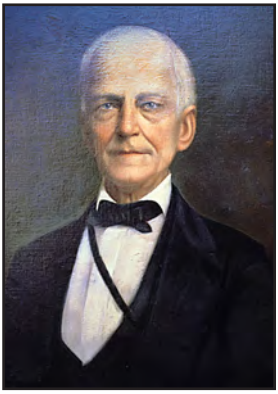
Isham Green Harris

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 re-elected 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 20 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 elected 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

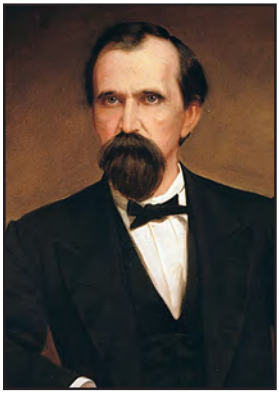
1865-1869, Republican

Brownlow was born in Virginia in 1805 and orphaned at age 11. 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* at Elizabethton. This pro-Union paper was continued at Jonesborough and at 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 re-elected 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 1834 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 18. 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 re-election. He resumed his law practice at Winchester and died in 1891.

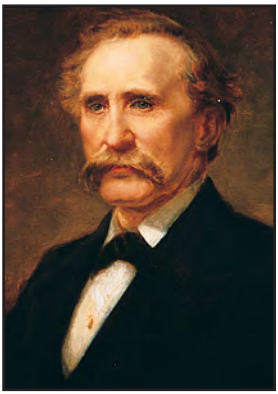
Alvin Hawkins

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 judge. 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, 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

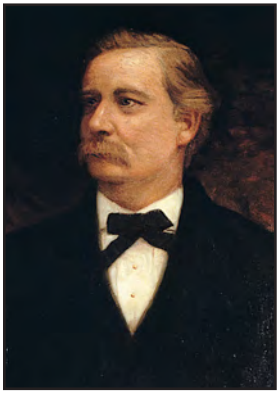


Bate was born in 1826 near Castalian Springs. He joined the volunteers when the Mexican War began and was said to have been one of the first Tennesseans to reach the front. After the war, he established a newspaper, the *Tenth Legion*, and in 1849 was elected to the legislature. When the Civil War erupted, 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 re-election 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. The Democrats nominated him for governor in 1886, the same year 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, Farm-Labor

Of pioneer stock, Buchanan was born in 1847 in Williamson County. He was a farmer and a moving spirit in the Farmers' Alliance, the support of which 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 re-elected 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 was educated in Kentucky schools. 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 1857. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at age 21, was admitted to the Bar in 1881, and opened a practice at 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 1857. 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, 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 11 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, 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 21 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 was 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.

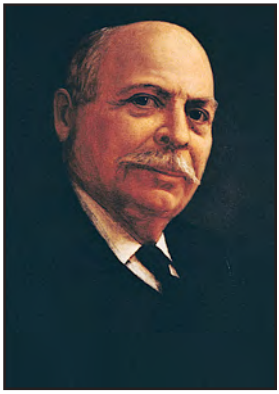
Albert Houston Roberts

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. Roberts called a special session of the legislature to vote on the Women's Suffrage amendment; 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. He lost his bid for re-election 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 re-election and died in 1934.

Hill McAlister

1933-1937, Democrat

From the family of 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 re-elected in 1934. He was a strong supporter of TVA, a friend to labor concerns, and a supporter of unemployment compensation. He did not seek re-election 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 1895. 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 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.

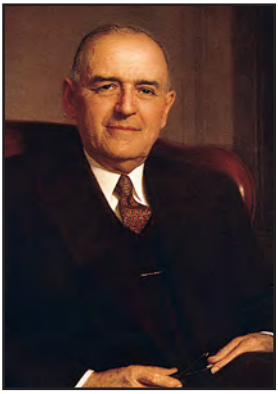
William Prentice Cooper

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 serving as ambassador to Peru and as a member of the 1953 Constitutional Convention, he died in 1969.

Jim Nance McCord

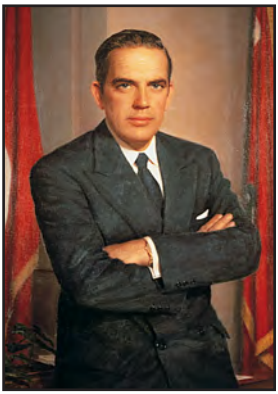
1945-1949, Democrat



McCord was born in Tennessee in 1879. A self-taught man and editor of the *Marshall County Gazette*, he served 13 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 for retirement for teachers. Despite its benefits, the unpopularity of the tax and McCord's "open shop" labor policies lost him his bid for re-election 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 re-elected 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, also 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 18 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 at age 17 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 50 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 the U.S. Secretary of Education. He currently serves as the senior U.S. Senator from Tennessee.

Ned Ray McWherter

1987-1995, Democrat

Born in Palmersville in 1930, McWherter was a farmer, businessman, and retired captain in the National Guard after 21 years of service. He was elected to the state House in 1968, serving a record seven terms as speaker. 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 25 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 25 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 Nashville-based HealthAmerica Corp. 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. Re-elected to a second term in a landslide victory, he reportedly became the first governor in more than a century to win all of Tennessee's 95 counties. This strong voter mandate stemmed in part from his commitment to accountability and open government.

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 a complete list.

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	1759	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
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	1857	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	1960	Jan. 17, 1933	Lawyer	D
Gordon Browning	1895	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

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; Jonathon 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 W.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; Hu 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; Blan 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-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; Ephriam H. Foster, 1829-31; Frederick W. Huling, 1831-35; Ephriam H. Foster, 1835-37; John Cocke, 1837-39; Jonas E. Thomas, 1839-41; Burchet Douglas, 1841-42; Franklin Buchanan, 1842-43; Daniel L. Barringer, 1843-45; Brookings Campbell, 1845-47; Franklin Buchanon, 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. Bryns, 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-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, 1830-32; 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.F.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-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, 1796-00; John Maclin, 1800-03; Thomas McCorry, 1803-13; **Mero District:** William Black, 1796-97; Robert Searcy, 1797-03; 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.Z. McGregor, 1857-59; Joel Battle, 1862-65; R.L. Standford, 1865-66; John R. Henry, 1866-68; W.H. Stilwell, 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, 1987-03; 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/TreasHist/history.html

Adjutants General

James C. Maclin, 1797-02; 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-present.

Attorneys General and Reporters

George T. 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-present.

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