

West Tennessee Historical Society

Serving the 21 counties of West Tennessee

The West Tennessee Historical Society (WTHS) is one of the best kept cultural secrets in the entire Mid-South. WTHS is the umbrella heritage organization for the twenty-one county Western Grand Division of Tennessee. Through its antecedent organizations, it dates back to 1857 when local residents organized "The Old Folks of Shelby County" and began to hold regular programs. In 1935, the Memphis Historical Society, a descendant organization of the Old Folks, expanded its scope to include the other twenty Tennessee counties between the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. Reflecting West Tennessee's population distribution, however, at least half of the society's emphasis has remained focused on the history of Memphis and Shelby County. Consequently, there are no separate historical societies for Memphis or Shelby County. Most of the other West Tennessee counties generally do have their own county and/or municipal historical or genealogical societies.

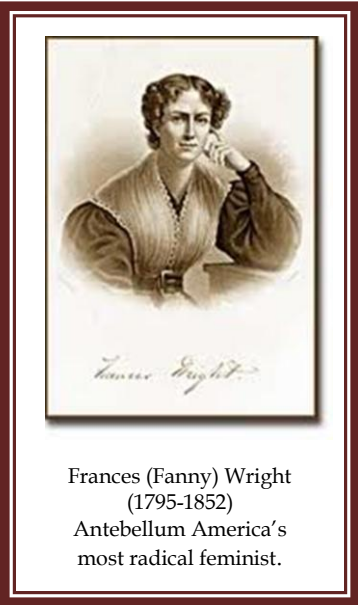


From its inception, WTHS has hosted frequent history programs. Over recent decades, the society has generally met nine times each year, most frequently on the first Monday evening of given months and at Memphis University School at 6191 Park Ave. Annual November and March meetings are lunch gatherings held on Saturdays in the Martin and Jackson, Tennessee areas, respectively. Since 1947, WTHS has published an annual anthology of formal history papers, notes and documents, and book reviews about West Tennessee topics. The society's other major functions include: sanctioning and erecting historical markers, preserving historic structures and sites, sponsoring and/or publishing books and reprints related to the area's history, and collecting and preserving documents and rare books bearing on the area's past. These "treasures" are permanently housed in the Special Collections Department of the University of Memphis Libraries. The society also serves as a network and clearinghouse for publicizing various West Tennessee historical organizations' activities and events.

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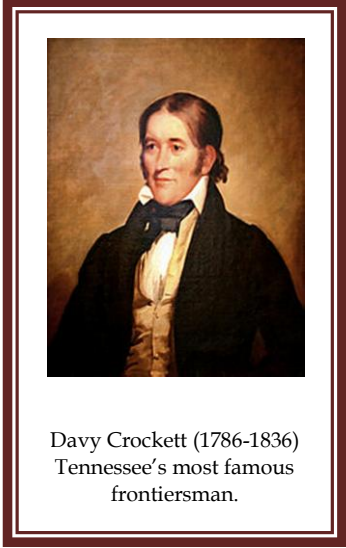
To learn more about WTHS, please visit our website at www.wths-tn.org or call 901.260.1346 or 901.678.8248

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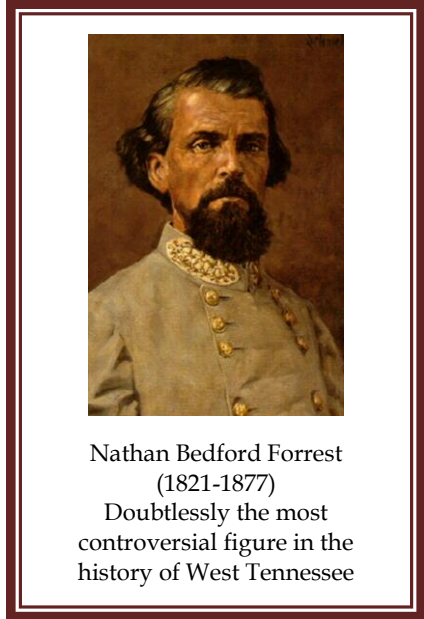


Frances (Fanny) Wright
(1795-1852)
Antebellum America's most radical feminist.

**Visit us on Facebook –
West Tennessee Historical Society**



Davy Crockett (1786-1836)
Tennessee's most famous frontiersman.



Nathan Bedford Forrest
(1821-1877)
Doubtlessly the most controversial figure in the history of West Tennessee

Categories of Memberships

- Library Subscription.....\$25.00
- Individual..... \$25.00
- Family/Couple\$35.00
- Sustaining.....\$50.00
- Patron\$100.00
- Benefactor\$250.00
- Life Member \$500.00
- Advocate (annually).....\$500.00

Crockett & Forrest (annually).....\$1,000.00

To access back issues of the WTHS' journal online, visit www.register.shelby.tn.us . Click: Archives, Exhibits



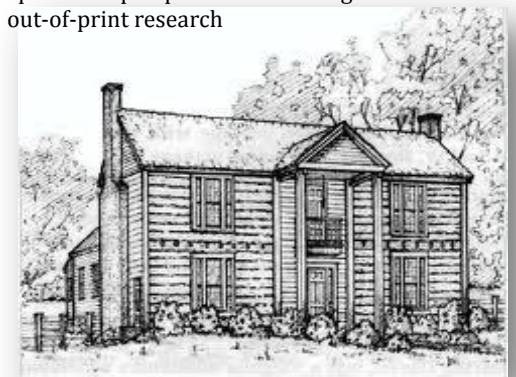
Become a member of the West Tennessee Historical Society

Membership Benefits:

- full voting rights in the affairs of WTHS
- newsletter and/or E Newsletter
- a copy of the annual *WTHS Papers*
- a forum for publishing and/or presenting research
- assistance with projects, grants, publications and publicity
- use of the Society's historical collections

Activities:

Regular meetings featuring historical programs, special projects and workshops, historical field trips, collection and preservation of historical materials, historical markers program, publication of newsletter and *WTHS Papers* sponsorship of publication of original and out-of-print research



Davies Manor Plantation

Benton, 1836, Camden
Carroll, 1821, Huntingdon
Chester, 1879, Henderson
Crockett, 1871, Alamo
Decatur, 1845, Decaturville
Dyer, 1823, Dyersburg
Fayette, 1824, Somerville
Gibson, 1823, Trenton
Hardeman, 1823, Bolivar
Hardin, 1819, Savannah

The 21 Historic Counties of West Tennessee Founding Date & County Seat

Haywood, 1823, Brownsville
Henderson, 1821, Lexington
Henry, 1821, Paris
Lake, 1870, Tiptonville
Lauderdale, 1835, Ripley
McNairy, 1823, Selmer
Madison, 1821, Jackson
Obion, 1823, Union City
Shelby, 1819, Memphis
Tipton, 1823, Covington
Weakley, 1823, Dresden

Visit our website at
www.wths-tn.org
for links to information on
West Tennessee History

WTHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - Why not join us today?

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____ Type of Membership _____

Amount enclosed _____ Email (To receive our E Newsletter) _____

Mail to: The West Tennessee Historical Society, P.O. Box 111046, Memphis, TN 38111