

Exploring Tennessee



The Story of Tennessee

by Ray and Charlene Notgrass

For our parents



*Charles and Evelyn Boyd, Charlene's parents
Charles and Evelyn were born in Tennessee and lived here all their lives.*

and



*Wesley and Joan Notgrass, Ray's parents
Wesley was born in Tennessee and lived here all his life except during World War II.
Joan became a Tennessean after marrying Wesley in her native England during World War II.*

Exploring Tennessee: The Story of Tennessee
by Ray and Charlene Notgrass

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ISBN 978-1-60999-996-4

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Special thanks to Bethany and Mary Evelyn Notgrass for proofreading, checking the handwork sheets, and cooking and mowing the grass and doing all those other jobs you took on while we wrote *Exploring Tennessee*.

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Exploring Tennessee

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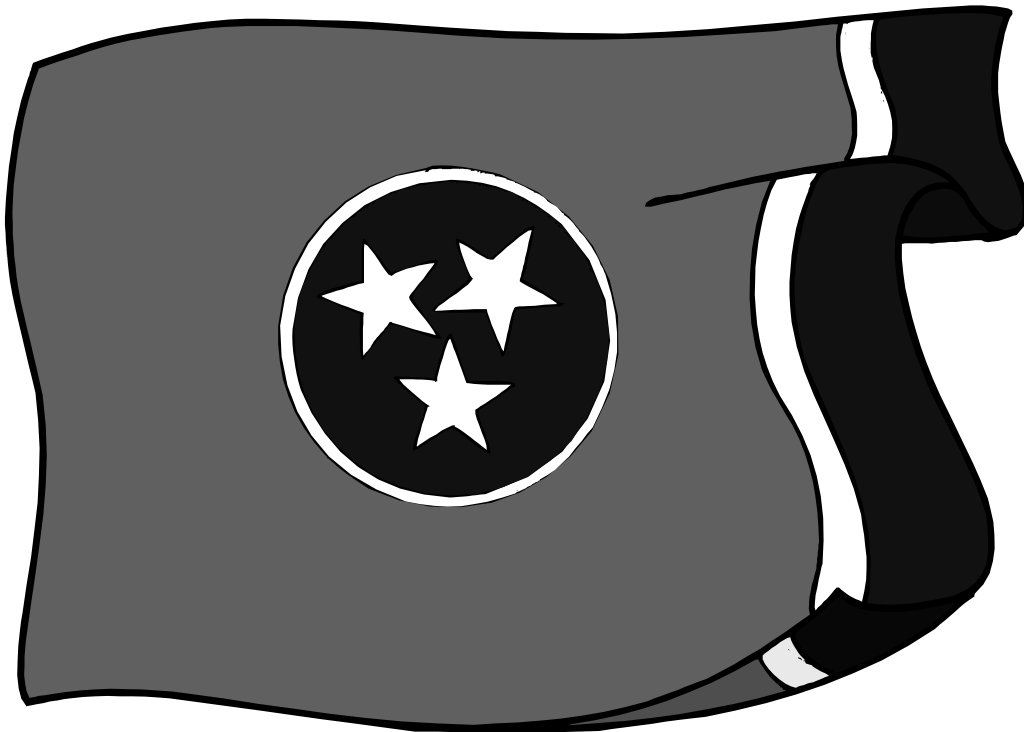
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Exploring Tennessee

Unit 4: European Explorers and Settlers in Tennessee

Lesson 16

Spanish and French Explorers

European Expansion

Christopher Columbus' unintentional discovery of the Western Hemisphere in 1492 expanded the European exploration that had been going on for some time, especially by Portugal and Spain. His discovery led to yet another people movement, this one by Western Europeans into North America.

The story of European settlement in the American continents is one of expansion: expanding the land area that European cultures and peoples controlled, expansion of the Christian faith to the new continent, and the development of new ways of life. The sad side of this expansion was that Native Nations and black Africans suffered at the hands of the Europeans.

Spanish Explorers in Tennessee

Hernando de Soto Expedition

The first Europeans known to come to Tennessee were a group led by the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in 1540. They passed through the region as they traveled from Florida and South Carolina to Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and the Mississippi River. De Soto and his expedition crossed the Appalachian Mountains at Swannanoa Gap on May 25, 1540. He traveled on to Chiaha, near present-day Dandridge, Tennessee, where a small Native Nation lived. There is some evidence that these were Yuchi. The town was on Zimmerman's Island in the French Broad River. The Chiaha welcomed the Spaniards. They gave the visitors

food, and they played and swam with them in the river. The Spanish, however, were unkind to the Chiahans. When the visitors left, they took some of the people to help them carry supplies.

The Spaniards traveled on through other villages. While they were in East Tennessee, De Soto and his men stole food from the Coste people who lived near the mouth of the Little Tennessee River. The Spaniards left East Tennessee on July 15, 1540.

In the winter of 1540-1541, de Soto and his men met the Chickasaw. They tried to make the Chickasaw help them look for gold. The Chickasaw strongly resisted. Hernando de Soto and his party also entered Tennessee near Memphis. After traveling west of the Mississippi, de Soto came back to the River and died there from a fever. Hernando de Soto is known as the first European to discover the Mississippi River.



Hernando de Soto

Tristán de Luna Expedition

Another Spanish expedition visited Tennessee near present-day Chattanooga in August of 1560. Tristán de Luna led the expedition. Luna did not make the trip into Tennessee. He sent Mateo del Sauz, two priests, a translator, and 140 soldiers north in search of food. Sauz and his men joined the Coosa Nation in an attack against the Napochie Nation near Chattanooga.

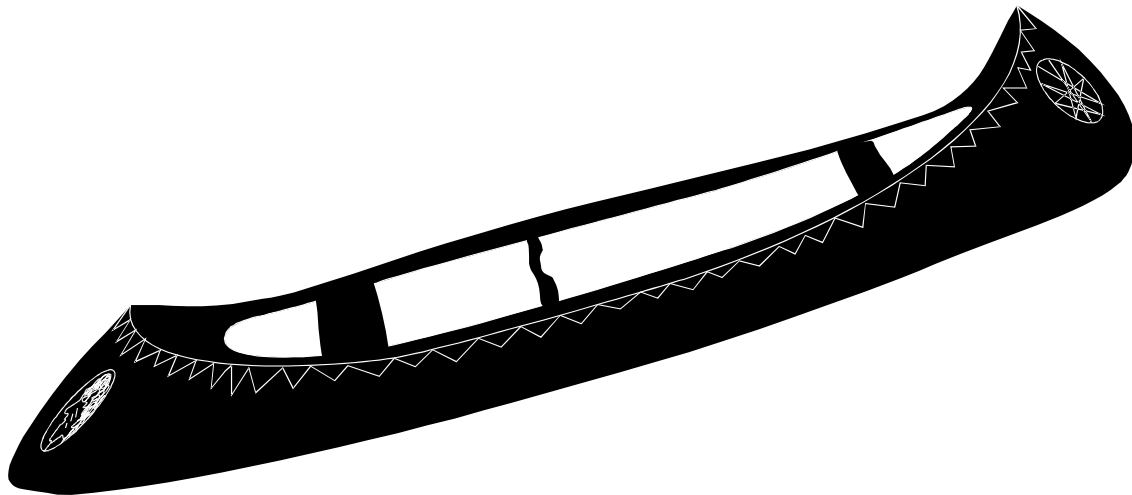
Juan Pardo Expedition

The next Spanish expedition into Tennessee was in 1566 and 1567. Juan Pardo brought two hundred soldiers to Santa Elena, a Spanish colony in South Carolina. They explored East Tennessee and visited Chiaha, as De Soto had done 27 years before. Juan Pardo established five small forts in the Appalachian Mountains. Two of these may have been in Tennessee, one near Dandridge and the other near Chattanooga.

French Explorers in Tennessee

Marquette and Joliet Expedition

In 1673, Frenchmen Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit missionary, and Louis Joliet, a fur trader, led an expedition down the Mississippi River. They stopped near Memphis at Chickasaw Bluffs.



René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle Expedition

In February 1682, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, along with 23 Frenchmen, 28 Native Americans (18 men and 10 women), and 3 children, set out from his fort near present-day Peoria, Illinois, to explore the Mississippi River. They traveled in canoes. Arriving in Tennessee, they stopped to hunt and lost one of their men, Pierre Prudhomme. La Salle had a stockade built south of the Hatchie River on the second Chickasaw Bluff. He named it Fort Prudhomme, after his lost comrade. Ten days later, Prudhomme came back. The expedition continued to the mouth of the Mississippi River and La Salle claimed the whole Mississippi Valley in the name of the King of France.

French Posts along the Cumberland River

French Lick (also known as Big Salt Springs) on the Cumberland River drew wild game into the area near present-day Nashville. It was an important hunting area for Native Nations and attracted fur traders. French traders established trading posts along the Cumberland River by 1692. By 1710 Jean du Charville from New Orleans established a post at French Lick. He turned a deserted Shawnee fort into a warehouse.

Fort Assumption

In 1739 Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville organized an army to fight the Chickasaw. He built an elaborate fort in present-day Memphis on the fourth Chickasaw Bluff. It was finished on August 15, 1739, and was named Fort Assumption. The army was plagued with desertion, disease, drunkenness, and harsh weather. Le Moyne's army held the fort until March 31, 1740, and then abandoned it. The French continued to claim the bluff for 80 years, but only occupied it for those few months.

“Am I a God who is near,” declares the LORD,
“And not a God far off? Can a man hide himself
in hiding places, so I do not see him?”
declares the LORD.
“Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?”
declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 NASB

Activities

- ◆ With your family, go on a drive or a walk into an area that you have never explored. Take notes of what you see and hear. Pretend that you are the first European to be in this area. Would you have liked to be an explorer like one of the ones in our lesson today?
- ◆ With your family, discuss the rights and wrongs that were mentioned in today's lesson. Discuss your feelings about how the explorers treated the Native Nations.
- ◆ Find these geographical locations so that you will better understand this lesson. Look back in the lesson to see why each of these places is important.
 1. Find these European countries that were interested in exploring on a globe or world map: Spain, Portugal, and France.
 2. Find the Appalachian Mountains on a U.S. map.
 3. Find these places on a Tennessee map: Dandridge, Chattanooga, Memphis, and Nashville.
 4. Find these rivers on a Tennessee map: the French Broad, the Little Tennessee, the Mississippi, and the Cumberland.



Exploring Tennessee

Unit 4: European Explorers and Settlers in Tennessee

Lesson 17

British Explorers

England, France, Spain, and the Netherlands built colonies in North America in the 1500s and 1600s. Each country wanted to control at least some of the North American continent. Spain was the first to build a permanent colony. It was St. Augustine in Florida. They began in 1565. When the English Navy defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588, Spain lost power. The Spanish continued to have settlements in Florida, Mexico, and what would later become the southwestern United States; but it lost its power in other parts of North America. The Dutch (Dutch is another name for people from the Netherlands) colonies along the Hudson River did not grow beyond that area. In 1664 their city of New Amsterdam was taken over by the English, who renamed it New York. Now the struggle for control of North America was in the hands of England and France.

British Explorers from Virginia and South Carolina

In 1673 English explorations began in East Tennessee. That was the same year that Frenchmen Marquette and Joliet entered what is now West Tennessee. In 1673 Englishmen James Needham and Gabriel Arthur came into Tennessee from the Virginia colony to begin trade relations with the Cherokee. The Cherokee killed Needham soon after he got here. Arthur stayed with them for more than a year and began working out a trade relationship with the nation.

The English colony of South Carolina also began to send traders into Tennessee. One of these was James Adair. He was a good observer. His observations about the Cherokee culture helped people understand what they were like. Today his work still helps us understand the life of the Cherokee before they began to change and become more like the Europeans.

Both colonies sent many traders to Tennessee in the early 1700s. One early explorer, Dr. Thomas Walker, came in 1749. He worked for the Loyal Land Company, who wanted him to find and claim lands for English settlements. Walker and six others entered Tennessee through the Cumberland Gap (known then as Cave Gap). They crossed the Cumberland Plateau and the Cumberland River. Walker named the Gap, Plateau, and River for the Duke of Cumberland. Eleven years later he explored the valleys of the Clinch and Powell Rivers.

The French and Indian War

The English and French had a great interest in animal skins and furs, which the Native Nations were skilled in collecting. The English and French provided the Native Nations with firearms, tools, and cloth. Native Nations sometimes fought each other over hunting rights to supply furs to their European trading partners.

Settlers from each country developed loyalties with certain nations. The French and Indian War broke out in 1754 between England and their loyal Native Nations on one side and the French and the nations loyal to them on the other. The Tennessee Creek fought on the French side. The Tennessee Cherokee and Chickasaw fought with England. This war was actually part of the Seven Years War which France and England fought on three continents: Asia, Europe, and North America.

The British Build Fort Loudoun near Knoxville

One reason the French and Indian War occurred is because England and France both wanted to control the area west of the Appalachian Mountains. The British built Fort Loudoun in East Tennessee on the southern side of the Little Tennessee River (south of present-day Knoxville). They built it in 1756-1757 as an outpost and as a way to show friendship to the Cherokee. The outside wall of the fort was a large log palisade. Inside were barracks, a blacksmith shop, a guardroom, two corn houses, a gunpowder supply, and storehouses. The fort depended on the Overhill Cherokee for food. Cherokee women traded berries, fish, and other food for English goods. The Cherokee enjoyed coming to Fort Loudoun to visit with soldiers.

Relations between the English and Cherokee became strained during the French and Indian War. In March the Cherokee cut off the fort's supplies. By August the soldiers were suffering so badly from the heat and lack of food that some began to desert. Finally the officers surrendered. On August 9, 1760, the remaining 180 men along with 60 women and children left to go to South Carolina. The next day, about 700 Cherokee attacked them. They killed 23 soldiers and three women and captured the rest. A few of the captured were killed, but most were held to make the Virginia or South Carolina colonies pay the Cherokee to get them back..

Victory for England

Despite the British disaster at Fort Loudoun, the English defeated the French in 1763. England took unquestioned control over almost all of North America, including the area that became Tennessee.

Tennesseans Who Served in the French and Indian War

Daniel Boone

Daniel Boone was a young soldier during the French and Indian War. He later blazed the trail for English settlers moving into Tennessee and Kentucky.

William Bowen

William Bowen fought against Cornstalk, a powerful Shawnee chief during the French and Indian War. Bowen moved his family to Mansker's Station in 1784. First he built a double log cabin, and three years later his two-story Federal style brick home was built near Mansker's Creek. Bowen's daughter, Celia, married Barton W. Stone, an early and influential leader of the Restoration Movement from which came the Churches of Christ, Christian Church, and Disciples of Christ. The home, now called the Bowen-Campbell House, is in Goodlettsville near Nashville and is open to the public. The house is named for Bowen and his grandson, Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, who was born in the house. Campbell later served as governor of Tennessee.



Arthur Campbell

Arthur Campbell was born in 1743. He was eleven years old when the French and Indian War began. During the war in 1758, members of the Wyandotte Nation captured the fifteen-year-old Campbell and took him to the Detroit area. He lived with them two years before escaping and joining English troops in the area. He served as a guide for the English for the rest of the war. After the war, he returned to his native Virginia. Campbell later lived in the area that became Washington County, Tennessee. He led the local militia and served as justice of the peace. Campbell and other residents of Tennessee worked to come into the United States as the State of Franklin in the 1780s. Because of Campbell's efforts, the State of North Carolina charged him with treason but later dropped the charges. In the early 1790s, President George Washington appointed Campbell as an Indian agent. Campbell was buried at Cumberland Gap.

Oconastota

Oconastota, an Overhill Cherokee, lived at Chota. By the 1740's, when he was about thirty years old, he was called the Great Warrior of Chota. In 1759, during the French and Indian War, the British took Oconastota hostage because of some misunderstandings. When the British released him, he killed a British officer. The British retaliated by killing 28 captured Cherokee. Oconastota and the Cherokee retaliated by attacking Fort Loudoun. The British retaliated by destroying Lower Cherokee Towns. Later, Oconastota became the Headman at Chota and by 1768 was leader of the Cherokee Nation.

Henry Timberlake

Henry Timberlake was a member of the Virginia military during the French and Indian War. He was part of a regiment that was supposed to seek revenge on the Cherokee after the defeat of Fort Loudoun. The two sides negotiated peace before the attack took place. Timberlake volunteered to go to the Overhill Cherokee villages on the Little Tennessee River to explain the treaty. He arrived in the area in December of 1761 and visited Tomotly, Chota, Citico, and Chilhowee, remaining in the area until March of 1762.

Henry Timberlake helped six Cherokee visit London in 1762 and 1764.

Henry Timberlake kept a journal of his visits with the Overhill Cherokee. He made a map of their villages on the Little Tennessee River. His journal was published in 1765, the year Timberlake died in London. It is entitled, "Memoirs," and includes a detailed description of Cherokee life, village sizes, population, and leaders.

Thomas Walker

Thomas Walker was a relative of George Washington by marriage and was the guardian of young Thomas Jefferson. He served in the French and Indian War with Virginia troops. Walker, Colonel George Washington, and young Daniel Boone were present when the English were defeated in a battle at Fort Duquesne in 1755. It was Walker who explored Tennessee and named the Cumberland Gap, River, and Plateau. See the picture of Cumberland Gap on the next page.

Come, behold the works of the LORD,
Who has wrought desolations in the earth.
He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariots with fire.
“Cease striving and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”
Psalm 46:8-10 NASB

Activities

- ◆ Find these geographical locations so that you will better understand this lesson. Look back in the lesson to see why each of these places is important.
 1. Locate these places on a world map or globe: England, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Mexico, and North America.
 2. Locate these places on a map of the United States: St. Augustine, Florida; the Southwestern States of the U.S.; the Hudson River; New York, Virginia, and South Carolina.
 3. Locate these places on a Tennessee map: Cumberland Gap, the Cumberland River, the Cumberland Plateau, the Clinch River, the Powell River, the Little Tennessee River, and Knoxville.
- ◆ Visit Fort Loudoun State Historic Area.
- ◆ Read about the Seven Years War.



Cumberland Gap



Exploring Tennessee

Unit 4: European Explorers and Settlers in Tennessee

Lesson 18

Who Are the Melungeons?

Early Encounters with the Melungeons

In 1673 James Needham and Gabriel Arthur explored in Tennessee. Needham and Arthur were employed by Abraham Wood, who owned a trading business in Virginia. That same year Abraham Wood wrote a letter to a John Richard in London to tell him about what his scouts had found in the Tennessee wilderness (Needham was killed on this journey, so perhaps only Arthur met them.)

Wood wrote that there were people living in Tennessee who were “white,” had long beards, and wore clothes. He said the people had a bell over six feet high that they rang morning and evening. When John Sevier traveled in the area 111 years later in 1784, he met “white” men in the same area. The people said that they had been living there for some time.

Melungeon Homelands in America

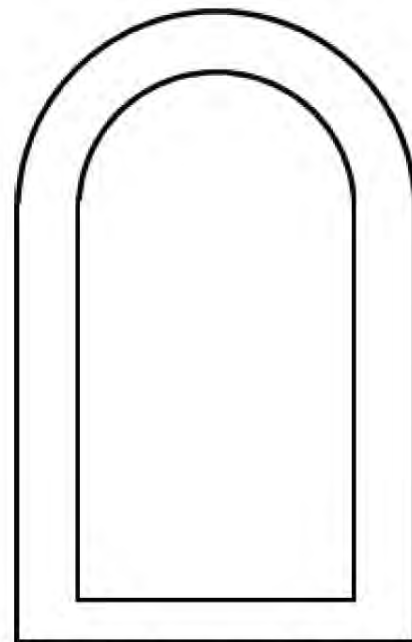
Over time many English and Scots-Irish encountered these mountain-dwelling people. Groups of them were found in what are now Hancock, Hamblin, Grainger, Claiborne, Hawkins, and Rhea counties in East Tennessee. Early settlers also found them in several counties in southwestern Virginia and western North Carolina.

Origins of the Melungeons

Wherever pioneers met these mountain dwellers, they called themselves “Portyghee” or sometimes Turkish or Spanish. Some claimed to be descended from Portuguese who had either shipwrecked or been abandoned on the Atlantic coast of North America. These mysterious people soon began to be called Melungeons (pronounced *mul-LUHN-juhns*).

Culture of the Melungeons

These “Portyghee” spoke a broken Elizabethan English like that spoken in England in the 1500’s. Their last names were also English. They practiced Christianity. When they buried their dead, they followed a southern European custom and built cupolas to put over the graves. They were olive- or copper-skinned with European features, blue or brown eyes, and dark hair.



Typical window shape in Melungeon log cabins.

The Melungeons Face Racial Prejudice

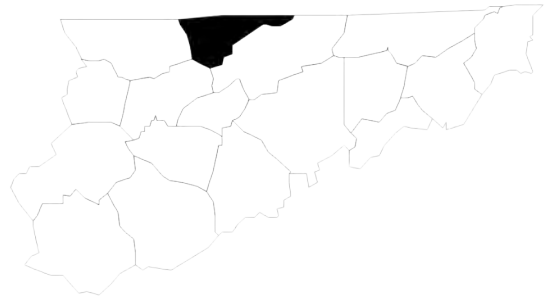
The English and Scots-Irish who came to settle in the Appalachian Mountains expected to find red-skinned Native Nations. They did not expect to find other Europeans. The Scots-Irish and English wanted land. Gradually they forced many Native Nations off their land. They began to force the Melungeons farther up the mountains and indeed forced some of the Melungeons west when the Cherokee left during the Trail of Tears (You will learn about the Trail of Tears in a future lesson). Despite the fact that the Melungeons claimed European ancestry, the Scots-Irish settlers labeled them “free persons of color” and took away their rights. They were mistreated like the African Americans and Native Nations. By 1834 most of their rights of citizenship were denied in Tennessee and North Carolina.

The Melungeons have often faced racial prejudice from other Americans. Well into the Twentieth Century people were often lumped into the categories of “white” or “black.” This has erased the cultural heritage of many in our “melting pot.” This lesson is included to give honor to one of America’s forgotten people.

Melungeons in 1999

In 1969 genetic studies were performed on 177 persons of Melungeon descent from Hancock County, Tennessee, and Lee County, Virginia. They were found to be similar genetically to persons from the Galician Mountains of Spain and Portugal, Libya and Morocco in North Africa, Northern Iraq and Iran in the Middle East, and the Mediterranean countries of Greece, Syria, and Turkey.

Melungeons today are spread across the country, but many still reside in Hancock County, Tennessee, and other Appalachian locations.



Hancock County, Tennessee

Common Melungeon Surnames

Adams	Burton	Collins	Evans	Hammond	Miner	Powers	Swindall
Adkins	Byrd	Collinsworth	Fields	Hendricks	Minor	Pruitt	Tolliver
Barker	Campbell	Colyer	Freeman	Hendrix	Mizer	Ramey	Turner
Barnes	Carrico	Counts	French	Hill	Moore	Rasnick	Vanover
Beckler	Carter	Cox	Gann	Hillman	Morley	Reaves	Watts
Bell	Casteel	Coxe	Garland	Hopkins	Mullins	Reeves	White
Bennett	Caudill	Crow	Gibson	Jackson	Nash	Roberson	Whited
Berry	Chavis	Cumba	Gipson	Keith	Niccans	Robertson	Williams
Biggs	Clark	Cumbo	Goins	Kennedy	Noel	Robinson	Willis
Bolen	Coal	Cumbow	Goings	Kiser	Orr	Sexton	Wright
Bowlin	Coffey	Curry	Gorvens	Lawson	Osborn	Shephard	Wyatt
Bowling	Cole	Davis	Gowan	Lopes	Osborne	Short	
Bownman	Coleman	Denham	Gowen	Lucas	Perry	Sizemore	
Branham	Coles	Dorton	Graham	Maggard	Phelps	Stallard	
Brogan	Colley	Dye	Gwinn	Maloney	Phipps	Stanley	
Bullion	Collier	Ely	Hall	Martin	Polly	Steel	

Having these last names does not guarantee Melungeon ancestry, since they are also English, Scottish, and Irish. However, if any of these names are in your ancestry, you might like to find out if you are descended from this interesting ethnic group.

List of names from **The Melungeons: The Resurrection of a Proud People** by N. Brent Kennedy. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, p. 148.

We love because he first loved us.
 If anyone says, "I love God,"
 yet hates his brother he is a liar.
 For anyone who does not love his brother,
 whom he has seen,
 cannot love God, whom he has not seen.
 I John 4:19-20 NIV

Activities

- ◆ The Melungeons have been known for their skill in silversmithing. Examine some pieces of silver at home or at a store. Appreciate the skill needed to create these. Read about this craft.
- ◆ Look up "prejudice" in a dictionary. Discuss with your family some prejudices you may have now or have had in the past. What has caused these prejudices?
- ◆ Find the Galician Mountains on a map of Spain and Portugal; Libya and Morocco on a map of Africa; Greece on a map of Europe; and Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey on a map of Asia.



Exploring Tennessee

Unit 4: European Explorers and Settlers in Tennessee

Lesson 19

Long Hunters

Long hunters were working in Tennessee by the 1750's. Long hunters were men who left home for a "long" time, sometimes months or years, to hunt. The long hunters came alone or in groups to get furs. These men had a different purpose than the fur traders who had come before them. Their purpose was not trading with Native Nations. They came to hunt and trap. Native Nations saw the long hunters as trespassers and thieves, since they gave nothing in return for the furs they took. At times, they would take the long hunters' furs and equipment.

Land speculators would sometimes finance the long hunters' trips. In return the long hunters would get information about land. The long hunters helped set the stage for Tennessee settlement by finding the best routes, surveying land, finding salt licks and springs, and finding good land for farms.

Long Hunter State Park

This Tennessee State Park is located on the shore of Percy Priest Lake in Rutherford and Davidson Counties. In the 1760's and 1770's, long hunters hunted in the area.

Daniel Boone

Perhaps the most famous of the long hunters was Daniel Boone. He began exploring East Tennessee in 1757. In 1760 he carved his famous inscription, "Cilled a Bar" on a tree in present-day Washington County, Tennessee. He passed through Cumberland Gap around 1770 and moved his family to the Watauga settlements in upper East Tennessee around that time. In September 1773, Boone attempted to lead a group through the Cumberland Gap to settle in Kentucky. His son, James, was killed by Native Americans in Powell's Valley, Tennessee; and the trip was canceled.

Boone helped negotiate the Transylvania Purchase in which the Cherokees sold a huge tract of land including land in Middle Tennessee and Kentucky to a land speculator, Richard Henderson. Part of the agreement included rights for settlers to build a road. Boone helped build that road. In April 1775, the Wilderness Road was finished.

The Tipton-Haynes Historic Site in Johnson City includes a cave and spring that Daniel Boone visited while exploring in Tennessee. William Cobb, owner of Rocky Mount near Johnson City, Tennessee, entertained Daniel Boone at his home. The home is now part of a living history museum at Rocky Mount State Historic Site.

Kasper Mansker

Kasper Mansker was a long hunter who later settled in what is now Goodlettsville, near Nashville, in Middle Tennessee. He was born on an immigrant ship headed for America around 1750. He and his wife moved to the Holston River area in East Tennessee. He had begun long hunting by June 1769. He visited Middle Tennessee in 1772 and built Mansker's Station in 1780 near a salt lick and Mansker's Creek. Members of Native Nations attacked the area. The settlers abandoned the fort that same winter and the Native Americans burned it. Mansker rebuilt the fort in 1782 and 1783 and lived at Mansker's Station the rest of his life. Mansker's Station was important to the earliest settlers of Nashville. The fort has been reconstructed and is located in Moss-Wright Park in Goodlettsville.

Thomas Sharp “Bigfoot” Spencer

Thomas Spencer made a long hunt in the Middle Tennessee area from 1776 to 1779. While there, he planted a crop and built cabins. Because of this, he is often considered the first white settler in Middle Tennessee. During the winter of 1778-1779, he lived at Bledsoe’s Lick in a giant hollow sycamore tree. He became part of the first permanent settlement in Nashville the following year.

Spencer was known for his strength. People said he was as strong as a lion or as strong as two ordinary men or the most stout man they ever saw. Spencer himself said that he was afraid to hit a person in anger, because he was afraid he would kill him.

Spencer Hill in Van Buren County and the county seat of Spencer are named for “Bigfoot” Spencer. Crab Orchard in Cumberland County once had a Spencer’s Mountain, named for Thomas Sharp Spencer. The mountainside was destroyed to build Interstate 40. During the Civil War, Union and Confederate soldiers often visited Wynnewood, a log inn in Castalian Springs which was built in 1828 for people traveling between Nashville and Knoxville. Some of the soldiers stopped to see a stump of a hollow sycamore tree. It was the famous tree which had housed Thomas Sharp “Bigfoot” Spencer in the winter of 1778-79.

Other Tennessee Long Hunters

- ◆ As early as 1766, long hunter Colonel James Smith used an old Native Nation trail called Tollunteskee’s Trail to pass from East to Middle Tennessee.
- ◆ Stones River was named for long hunter Uriah Stone.
- ◆ The Obey River was named for long hunter Obediah Spencer.
- ◆ A minor stream off the Cumberland River is named Tumbler, after the dog of long hunter Ambrose Powell. The dog was killed by an elk at the edge of the stream.
- ◆ John Baker and James Knox were long hunters in the Middle Tennessee area.

Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs,
Rather than a fool in his folly.
Proverbs 17:12 NASB

Activities

- ◆ Pretend you are drawing pictures for a fur catalog. Draw the appropriate animal skin in each space.
- ◆ Pretend you are a long hunter who has been gone for five months. Pretend you are keeping a journal of your adventures, your hunts, the people you meet, and how you feel. Write five days’ worth of journal entries.
- ◆ Try to take a family trip to a natural spring in your area. Perhaps some older people you know will know where one is.
- ◆ Thomas Sharp “Bigfoot” Spencer was a very strong man. Read about another very strong man: Samson in Judges 13-16.



Exploring Tennessee

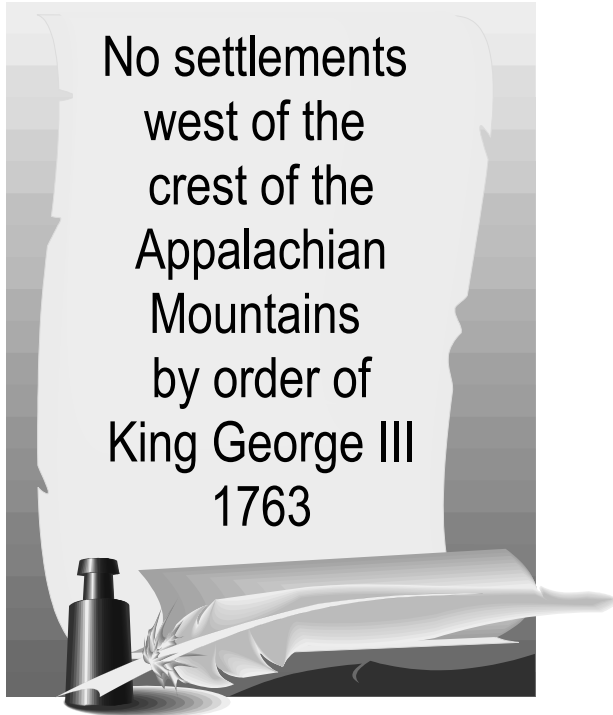
Unit 4: European Explorers and Settlers in Tennessee

Lesson 20

Watauga Settlements

At the close of the French and Indian War in 1763, King George III of England made a proclamation. He said that no one could settle west of the crest of the Appalachian Mountains. This meant they could not settle in Tennessee. The edict was impossible to enforce. Hunters and explorers continued to roam through the area of Tennessee and soon they built

No settlements
west of the
crest of the
Appalachian
Mountains
by order of
King George III
1763



settlements. This continuation of the people movement begun by the English at Jamestown and Plymouth brought settlers into conflict with Native Nations, since they lived on the land that the settlers wanted. The conflict, however, did not stop people moving west. The edict that brought the first settlers to the coast of America continued the movement of settlers from the English colonies along the Atlantic further into the continent, including the area that would, within a generation, become the state of Tennessee.

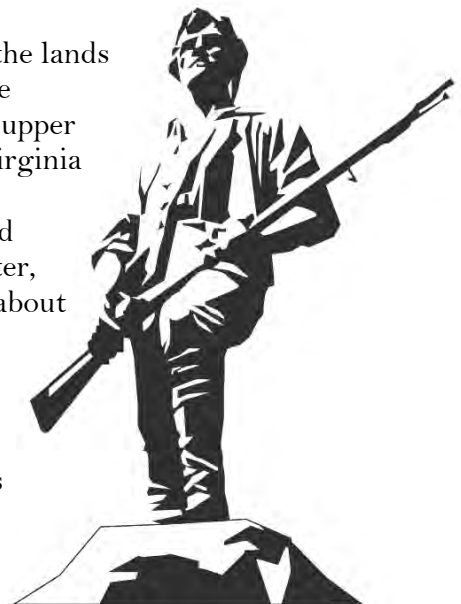
The people who wanted to push further inland to settle on new areas west of the Appalachian Mountains had various reasons for doing this. Some wanted to start over in a new location. Others felt hemmed in by the growing colonial population. Still others saw opportunities for building wealth through farming.

First Settlers in the Watauga Area

The first permanent settlement of British people in the lands of Tennessee was begun on the Watauga River in 1769. The Watauga River is in present-day Carter County in extreme upper East Tennessee. The people who settled there came from Virginia and North Carolina.

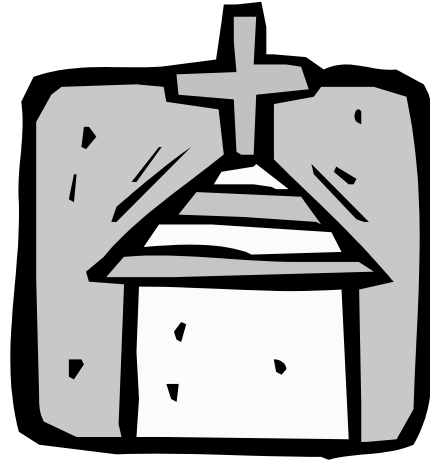
Early settlers in the "Overmountain" region included William Bean (1769), James Robertson (1770), Landon Carter, Valentine Sevier, Sr. (father of John Sevier), Daniel Boone (about 1771), and Samuel Doak (1778).

Landon Carter began a plantation in the Watauga area perhaps as early as 1770. By 1772 the Watauga River area was home to about 70 farms and homesteads. Soon North Holston, Nolichucky, and Carter's Valley settlements were built nearby.



Samuel Doak

Samuel Doak, Presbyterian minister and graduate of the Presbyterian College of New Jersey at Princeton, moved to the Watauga settlements in 1778. He founded several Presbyterian churches in East Tennessee and the earliest schools in that part of the state. He is remembered for his stirring sermon at Sycamore Shoals, when the Overmountain Men set off to fight at King's Mountain during the Revolutionary War.



William Bean

William Bean was perhaps the earliest permanent English settler in Tennessee. Bean and his wife Lidia moved from Virginia into the Watauga area in 1769. They built their farm on Boone's Creek, eight miles west of the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River. Bean's great-grandson, James Baxter Bean became a pioneer in dental surgery during the Civil War. He invented a treatment that helped soldiers who had received face and jaw injuries.

This movement of people over the mountains meant that European immigrants again came into conflict with Native Nations. It had happened with the founding of the seacoast colonies and it would happen again on the Great Plains. When the Wataugans in upper East Tennessee found that their new villages were actually on Cherokee land, they negotiated a ten-year lease of the lands from the Cherokee.

The Watauga Association

The Watauga Association was the first non-Native Nation government in Tennessee. Neither Virginia nor North Carolina governed the area, so the settlers in the Watauga and Nolichucky areas formed their own government, the Watauga Association, established in 1772. Because the Watauga Association was formed before American independence and was not under British rule, it is recognized as the first American government based on democracy and the rule of the majority.

The settlers used the Association as a means of governing themselves and as a way to make agreements with the Cherokee. The Association had five magistrates that were elected. These magistrates held court and conducted government business. Their "constitution" authorized a clerk to record court decisions and a sheriff to carry out what the court decided. The association used the Virginia code of laws. The court took care of Watauga business with the British, Native Nations, and the colonial governments of Virginia and North Carolina. The court created a militia to provide for the defense of the settlement. When the 13 colonies declared their independence from England, they became states rather than colonies. The Watauga Association dissolved in 1778 after the area became part of the State of North Carolina.

Historic Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River

The Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River is a significant landmark in the history of the American frontier. A shoal is a shallow place in a river. The Transylvania Purchase was negotiated at Sycamore Shoals. In this agreement, the Cherokee sold 20 million acres including part of Middle Tennessee to Richard Henderson, a land speculator. It is reported that 1200

Cherokee attended the signing. Daniel Boone helped land speculator Richard Henderson make this agreement in 1775. A famous Cherokee, Dragging Canoe, was strongly opposed to this agreement.

When the American Revolutionary War began, Wataugans were afraid the British would stir up Cherokee attacks against them. They built several forts in the area. They named the one at the Watauga settlements Fort Caswell, after the governor of North Carolina. The fort, also known as Fort Watauga, protected Wataugans from a Cherokee attack led by Old Abram.

When Tennessee Overmountain men gathered in 1780 to help the American cause in the Battle of King's Mountain of the American Revolutionary War, they gathered at Sycamore Shoals.

Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area

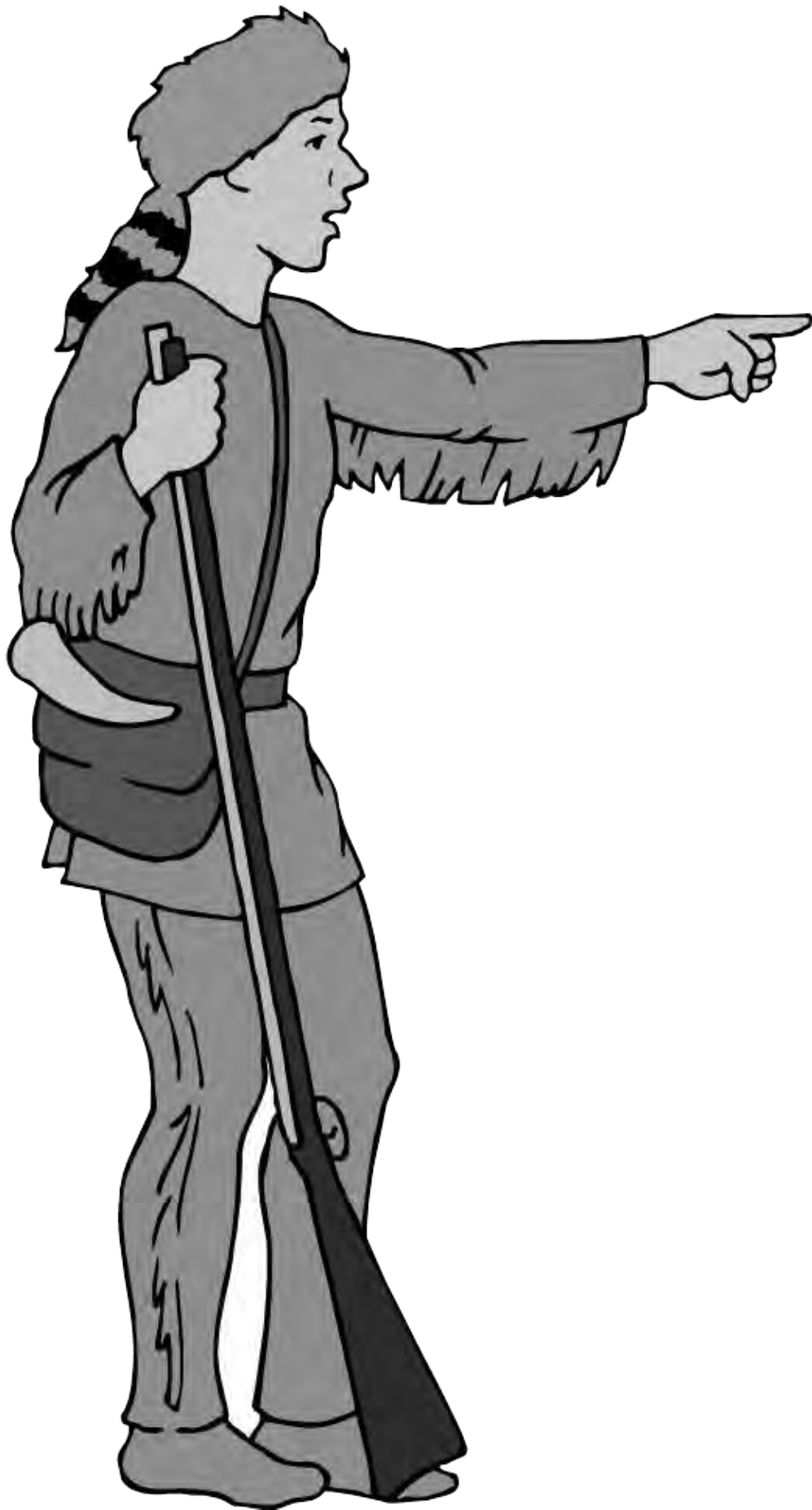
The State of Tennessee maintains this historic area which preserves and explains important events that happened on the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River. Here you can visit the muster ground where the Overmountain Men gathered and a reconstruction of Fort Watauga. Each September people gather there to reenact the Overmountain Victory Trail. The John and Landon Carter Mansion in nearby Elizabethton is also managed by the Sycamore Shoals park rangers.

Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
Romans 13:1 NASB

Activities

- ◆ Imagine that your family has moved to the Tennessee frontier. Write a letter to a friend in your former hometown in North Carolina describing your life and expressing your hopes and fears.
- ◆ The Wataugans needed a government to make things run smoothly. Make a “family constitution.” Write down some rules that would help your family run more smoothly. Get other family members to do the same. Put your ideas together and make a “family constitution.”







Exploring Tennessee

Unit 17: The End of a Century

Lesson 81

Economic Development in Tennessee

Tennessee and the rest of the nation continued to recover from the Civil War and to develop a new way of life during the last part of the nineteenth century. From 1860 to 1900, the American population grew from 31.4 million to 76.2 million. Tennessee's population during the same period increased from 1.1 million to just over 2 million. Tennessee's agriculture increased its postwar recovery, and its industry grew significantly.

Agriculture and Industry

Many plantations were divided up and sold. This meant that Tennessee had more farms but they were smaller in size. Thousands of black and white Tennesseans were involved in tenant farming and sharecropping. As the century closed, farming recovered the sales figures that it had enjoyed before the war. From 1860 to 1900, cotton production doubled and tobacco output increased fifteen times.

In 1890 manufacturing made more money in Tennessee than farming for the first time. The main manufacturing businesses were flour and grist mills, iron production, and lumber products. Chattanooga became the iron center of the South by the mid-1880s. Knoxville built one hundred new factories in the 1880s. The state grew in producing textiles, but it was still behind the national average.



Mining

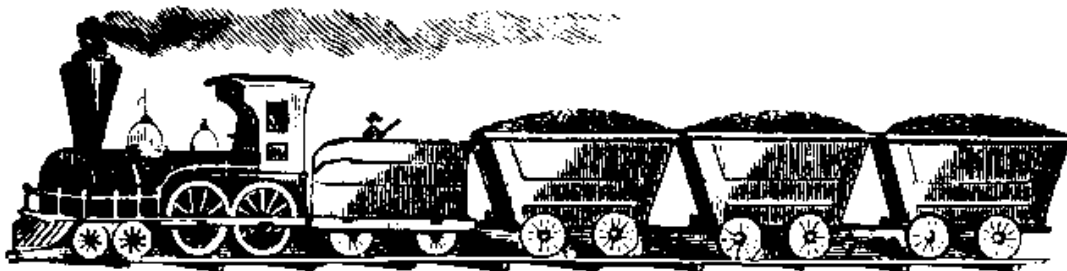
Copper mining began in Polk County in southeast Tennessee in 1847. Tennessee was the only major producer of copper in the South. The Burra Burra Copper Mining Company was formed in 1860 by putting together several smaller companies. The company was named for a famous mine in Australia at the time.

All of the copper that was produced in Polk County before the Civil War went to Northern companies. The Confederates operated the mines during the first two years of the Civil War. After the mines reopened in 1866, output decreased for the rest of the century. By 1900, the mining operations, tree-cutting for smelting fires, and environmentally harmful emissions into the atmosphere had stripped 32,000 acres of land. The land surface in that part of Polk County looked more like the moon than Tennessee. Some of the land has since been restored.

Iron mining also decreased in Tennessee. By 1870 only six companies were producing ore. The ore that was left was too deep in the earth to mine easily.

While copper and iron production were decreasing, coal mining was increasing. The area between East and Middle Tennessee was found to have rich deposits of coal to help supply America's growing industries. Better railroads helped get the coal to where it was needed. Most of the mines were owned by Northern companies.

Tennessee workers in agriculture, mining, and industry were relatively poor; but life was slowly getting better.



Railroads

Tennessee had about 1,200 miles of railroad track in 1860. Much of that was damaged or destroyed during the Civil War. The railroads recovered well, however, so that by 1900 the state had over 3,100 miles of track. Tracks were improved and made the same size, and better rail cars were developed.

The Louisville and Nashville (L & N) railroad had all the rail traffic through Nashville. Jere Baxter attempted to break their monopoly by developing the Tennessee Central Railroad. He hoped to connect Knoxville with Nashville and eventually with Memphis. Baxter used prisoners to build a line through the Upper Cumberland region to connect Knoxville with Nashville and Clarksville. The L&N, however, refused to allow Tennessee Central trains to use its Union Station in Nashville. Baxter did not complete his line to Memphis, but he helped open trade in the Upper Cumberland. A town in Putnam County is named Baxter in his honor.

The most famous railroading story of the era was that of Jonathan Luther "Casey" Jones.

The most famous railroading story of the era was that of Jonathan Luther "Casey" Jones. When Jones was 15 years old, he left home to work on the railroad. His company transferred him to Jackson, Tennessee. As an engineer, he became known for always being on time. On April 30, 1900, Jones was running his second shift for the day on a passenger line from Memphis to New Orleans. The train was an hour and a half behind schedule when it left Memphis, and Jones was determined to make it up. Near the end of the run, Jones was only two minutes behind schedule. A freight train was on the track and unable to move. Jones told the fireman to jump off, and he did so with only minor injuries. Jones stayed on his post to apply the brakes. No passenger died when the train hit the caboose of the freight train, but Jones gave his life saving them.

A black railroad worker who was a friend of Jones composed a song about the incident, and it was performed around the country. The song was rewritten in 1909 and became even more famous. The songs may not have all the facts exactly correct, but they do honor the heroism of American railroaders. The Casey Jones Home and Museum in Jackson help the story live on.

What Was Happening in the Rest of the World?



- 1876 – Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
- 1877 – Thomas Edison invented the phonograph.
- 1879 – Thomas Edison invented the incandescent electric bulb.
- 1885 – One of the first automobiles was invented by Karl Benz in Germany.
- 1886 – Coca-Cola was developed in Atlanta as a drink at restaurants. It was first bottled in Chattanooga in 1899.
- 1886 – The Statue of Liberty was unveiled in New York Harbor as a gift from France to the United States.
- 1888 – Motion pictures began to be produced.
- 1889 – The World Building opened in New York. Its sixteen stories made the skyscraper the world's tallest building.
- 1889 – The Eiffel Tower in France was completed, reaching 984 feet and becoming the tallest structure in the world.
- 1892 – James Naismith published rules for his new game of basketball.
- 1892 – Ellis Island opened in New York harbor to process immigrants coming to the United States from other countries.
- 1893 – George Ferris invented the Ferris wheel for the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.
- 1896 – The modern Olympic games began in Athens, Greece.
- 1897 – The world's first movie theater opened in Paris, France.

I will instruct you and teach you
in the way which you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.
Do not be as the horse or
as the mule which have no understanding,
Whose trappings include bit and bridle
to hold them in check,
Otherwise they will not come near to you.
Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
But he who trusts in the LORD,
lovingkindness shall surround him.

Psalm 32:8-10 NASB

Activities

- ◆ Try to find an area around your home that has been damaged by industry or mining. Discuss with your family how you feel society ought to deal with environmental issues.
- ◆ Read about railroads in Europe and Japan. Discuss with your family what you learn. Do you think the United States should offer more public transportation?
- ◆ Listen to the song, "Casey Jones, the Brave Engineer."



Exploring Tennessee

Unit 17: The End of a Century

Lesson 82

Postwar Society in Tennessee

Riots in Memphis

Tennessee's largest city suffered serious problems in the last part of the nineteenth century. A serious riot erupted in Memphis in 1866. Reports circulated that black soldiers killed a white policeman who was arresting another soldier. White mobs formed quickly and attacked freedmen's camps and neighborhoods for two days. Forty-six African-Americans and two white persons were killed, several black persons were attacked or beaten, and much property was destroyed. Hundreds of black persons were arrested and many more fled from the city.

The riot against black persons was probably mostly the result of white anger and frustration over the Southern loss in the Civil War, the large numbers of black persons in the city wanting help, and the changing nature of Southern society. One result of the disturbance was the hardening of Radical Republicans in Congress against any mild plan for reconstructing the southern states.

Yellow Fever Outbreaks in Memphis

A few years later, Memphis endured a series of serious outbreaks of yellow fever. The disease was carried by mosquitoes, probably brought to the area by ships coming up the Mississippi River from the Caribbean or West Africa. The cause of the disease was not known, however, until 1900. The disease caused chills, fever, bleeding, a black vomit, and sometimes jaundiced or yellowed skin, which gave the disease its name. Only the first frost would stop the disease.

Memphis had endured some yellow fever cases earlier in the century, but the first serious outbreak came in 1873 when 2,000 people died. The disease struck again in 1878. Over 5,100 people died and 25,000 left the city (when the population was less than 100,000). Unfortunately, the disease spread to nearby towns when infected people went there to get away from Memphis. A smaller outbreak occurred in 1879. The fewer number of deaths then probably came from having a cleaner city and from people becoming immune to the disease.

The city recovered remarkably well from the yellow fever epidemics. The population was just over 100,000 in 1900.

The War of the Roses

The Civil War literally divided the nation and pitted brother against brother. Republicans and Democrats had many sharp political battles on the national and state levels in the last part of the nineteenth century. Republicans won all but two of the Presidential races between 1868 and 1900. In Tennessee Democrats won most of the Governor's races during the same period.

In the 1886 election for governor, two brothers, Robert and Alfred Taylor, opposed each other as candidates. They came from a politically active East Tennessee family. Their father was a farmer and Methodist minister who served two terms as a U.S. Congressman from East Tennessee.

Alfred Alexander Taylor was born in Happy Valley in Carter County in 1848. He served in the Tennessee legislature from 1875 to 1879. He married in 1881, and he and his wife had ten children. Robert Love Taylor was born in Happy Valley in 1850. He was elected to Congress in 1878 after his brother Alf lost the Republican primary for the same position. After losing his re-election bid and an 1881 run for the U.S. Senate, Bob ran a newspaper in Johnson City.

In 1886 Bob was nominated for governor by the Democrats, and Alf was nominated by the Republicans. The campaign came to be called the War of the Roses. In 15th century England, two related families fought each other for the throne in what was called the War of the Roses. The symbol for the York family was a white rose and the symbol for the Lancaster family was a red rose. Supporters for the two candidates for governor, as well as Bob and Alf themselves, started wearing roses. Democrats wore white and Republicans wore red.

Although the campaign was called the War of the Roses, it was a kind campaign and far from a war. The Taylor brothers toured the state together. The brothers appeared on the same platform forty-one times, playing their fiddles and giving good-natured speeches. Their gentle campaign was a welcome relief from the bitter feelings of the postwar era.



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Reeks of Ashland City once ran against each other in a local election! I knew Mr. and Mrs. Reeks well from the time I was a young child. My mother did the alterations for their men's clothing store. When Ray was working on this lesson for *Exploring Tennessee*, he remembered a story of an Ashland City couple who ran against each other in an election. (He had read about their appearing on the national television show, "What's My Line?") He researched the matter and found out it was Mr. and Mrs. Reeks. Boy, was I surprised!
Charlene Notgrass

Democrat Bob won the 1886 election. He was re-elected two years later and won a third term in 1896. Bob was defeated in an attempt to win a U.S. Senate seat in 1893. He finally achieved his dream of serving in the U.S. Senate when the General Assembly chose him for the office in 1906. He died before the end of his term in 1912.

Republican Alf was elected to his father's seat in Congress for three terms beginning in 1888. He eventually won a single two-year term as Governor in 1920. When he was inaugurated as Governor he was 72 years old, making him Tennessee's oldest Governor.

In the 1890's, the Taylor brothers toured the country with their fiddling, speech-making, and story-telling. Their speeches were entitled "Yankee Doodle" and "Dixie." They became well-known for their appearances. Their tour tried to bring healing to the country as a whole the way their election campaign had done in Tennessee. The Taylors showed that brothers can differ politically and still be brothers. This was a lesson that the country needed to hear.

Bob and Alf Taylor are buried in Johnson City.

Spanish-American War of 1898

The U.S. fought the Spanish-American War to liberate Cuba and the Philippines from Spain. Commander Washburn Maynard, a native of Knoxville, is credited with firing the first shot of the war on April 22, 1898, from the gunboat *Nashville*. Alfred Ray of Jonesborough, a black soldier, planted the first American flag on San Juan Hill in Cuba after American troops charged up it in the attack led by Theodore Roosevelt.

Over 4,100 volunteers from Tennessee formed four units. Two units never left the United States. One unit was involved in the occupation of Cuba after the fighting ended, but suffered more from disease than from battle. One unit was sent to the Philippines. It was involved in combat with Philippine forces in 1899. Tennessee soldiers helped to insure United States control of the Philippines before they returned home. The U.S. also gained control of Guam and Puerto Rico after the War.



A friend loves at all times,
And a brother is born for adversity.
Proverbs 17:17 NASB

Activities

- ◆ Find Cuba and Puerto Rico on a map of the Caribbean. Find the Philippines and Guam on a map of the Pacific Ocean.



Exploring Tennessee

Unit 17: The End of a Century

Lesson 83

Religion in Tennessee After the War

Churches suffered in many ways during the Civil War. Armies took over church buildings to use as hospitals or barracks, and some church buildings were burned. Some congregations stopped meeting and never reorganized. Baptist and Methodist churches in Tennessee lost about one-third of their memberships as a result of the war from death, discouragement, and people moving away.

Rebuilding and Change

After the war ended, many churches rebuilt their buildings and began to reach out and serve again. Religious publications that had ceased during the war were published again. The publishing house of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was located in Nashville; and denominational offices soon moved there too. The Southern Baptist Convention headquarters and publishing house were also established in Nashville.

Before the war, many black Southerners had been members of white congregations, even though they sat separately in services. Now, social segregation was reflected in the fact that many black congregations were organized. Many of these churches became part of Northern black denominations that had been organized before the war, such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church (formed in 1816) and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Zion (1820). Black Baptist and Methodist churches accounted for 85 percent of Tennessee's black church membership. Unlike many other churches, the Methodist Episcopal Church actively sought black members. The National Baptist Convention was founded by African-Americans in Nashville in 1886. Black Baptists underwent other regroupings and had various denominational names over the next several years; but the largest single group, the National Baptist Convention of the U.S.A., still has its headquarters in Nashville.

Sunday Schools and Youth Ministries

Sunday Schools became very important, especially among Baptists, as a means of teaching the Bible. The Baptist Sunday School Board established its headquarters in Nashville in 1891. Youth ministries developed in many churches and denominations, taking the form of such groups as the Epworth League and the Methodist Young People's Organization. Women's church organizations also became popular.

Temperance and Prohibition

A major battle during this period involved whether people should drink or sell alcohol. Church leaders became involved in Anti-Saloon Leagues and other groups. The Tennessee legislature passed the Four Mile Law in 1877. It prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages within four miles of a school. The Prohibition political party nominated Gallatin minister David Kelley to run for Governor in 1890. Prohibition became a state law in 1909, ten years before the a Constitutional amendment on prohibition was ratified. The temperance issue caused many churches to use grape juice instead of wine in communion.

Temperance means drinking alcohol in moderation or not at all and not getting drunk. Prohibition means making laws which keep anyone from making or selling alcohol.

Sam Jones and Tom Ryman



Ryman Auditorium

Sam Jones was one of the South's best-known evangelists in the late 1800s. He first preached in Nashville in 1885. He condemned the liquor businesses in the city. During one of Jones' sermons in Nashville, well-known riverboat captain Tom Ryman had a complete change of heart and became a devout follower of Jesus. The change in his life was dramatic and genuine. Captain Ryman owned several riverboats that traveled the Cumberland River. Riverboats were known for their alcohol and gambling. Ryman decided that he never wanted to be the source of temptation for those riding his riverboats.

Ryman began a mission for steamboat workers next door to his office near the river. He hired a minister to preach there every night. He also began a night school for steamboat workers and their families. He built a "Gospel Wagon" to carry the gospel to Nashville neighborhoods that did not have churches.

Ryman began raising money for a Union Gospel Tabernacle in downtown Nashville and oversaw its construction. Sam Jones held revival meetings there even before it was completed. Ryman also wanted the building to house events that would promote morality and "elevation of humanity to a higher plane and more usefulness." In addition to evangelists, the building hosted world famous musicians and speakers. It could hold 4,000 people. Ryman insisted that those who spoke and performed there be people who respected God's love. During the last years of Ryman's life, business leaders in Nashville suggested changing the name of the building to Ryman Auditorium. Ryman always opposed the idea.

After a long illness, Ryman became extremely ill in December of 1904. Newspapers across Tennessee had stories about his condition on their front pages. Ryman passed away on December 23. The tabernacle was packed when Sam Jones preached his funeral on Christmas Day. Jones called Ryman a "gentle man of child-like faith." He said: "A purer, stronger, nobler man, truer to God than he, I have never met." Jones asked the attendees to vote on renaming the tabernacle the Ryman Auditorium. All 4,000 people in the audience rose to vote yes.

The Ryman Auditorium continues to host events today where people sit in the original pews.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
John 1:1-2 NASB

Activities

- ◆ Draw a church building in your county that was built near the end of the 19th century or the beginning of the 20th century.



Exploring Tennessee

Unit 17: The End of a Century

Lesson 84

Utopian Communities in Tennessee

Many times in history, individuals and groups have attempted to turn away from the typical ways of society to establish a different kind of life. Most of these have been started for religious purposes, such as the communities begun by Shakers. Others have been attempts to create a better society in worldly terms, such as Robert Owen's experiments with planned industrial communities in New Lanark, Scotland, and New Harmony, Indiana.

Such experiments are often called utopian communities. The term comes from Sir Thomas More's 1516 novel, *Utopia*, about life on an imaginary, ideal island where all individual interests are sacrificed for the community. The name is a little joke because the word *utopia* means "no place." No place on earth is perfect, and attempts to make a perfect place on earth always fail because people are sinners and are not perfect.

Utopian communities often reflect a desire by many in society to create a better world. In the early 1800's, the material progress in America led many to believe that a perfect world was possible. Many had similar dreams in the late 1800's, when people wanted to leave the Civil War behind and move forward in society. The era of much talk about peace and love in the 1960's and early 1970's was another such time.

Several communal experiments were tried in Tennessee in the late 1800's. One reason the state had so many of them was that land in rural settings was available at low cost. The following are the better-known attempts at utopian communities in Tennessee throughout its history.

Nashoba -- 1826

Frances Wright was the wealthy, well-educated daughter of a Scottish merchant and an English aristocrat. She was a friend of the Marquis de Lafayette, Thomas Jefferson, Henry Clay, and other well-known people. She was also an associate of Robert Owen and the utopian community he founded in New Harmony, Indiana. She wanted to find a way to end slavery that would work financially. As mentioned in an earlier lesson, she proposed an experiment that called for progressive white people and free black people living and working together. With the help of Andrew Jackson, she located 2,000 acres in present-day Germantown, Tennessee, and began the colony of Nashoba. The community began with 15 formerly enslaved persons whose freedom she had purchased and a small group of white people. The colony failed and in 1830 she arranged for all 31 black residents to immigrate to Haiti. Wright became an outspoken social critic and reformer, advocating boarding schools for children from age two, radical feminism, and other controversial ideas.

Rugby -- 1880

A group of British and American developers incorporated the Board of Aid to Land Ownership and, with the aid of famous English author Thomas Hughes, attempted to build a model community made up of young Americans and aristocratic Britons. The majority of the community was made up of Americans from the North and South, including the Tennessee hills, young Englishmen of high social standing, and men and women from France and Germany. The community was never able to support itself through the shared work of its members. It still exists as a small community, and several historic buildings are open to the public.



Harriman -- 1890

Northern industrialists who were committed to prohibition established Harriman in 1890. Their company, the East Tennessee Land Company held a "Great Land Sale" in February 1890. Every contract or deed on the property included a provision that forbade using, making, storing, or selling intoxicating beverages. The town became known as the "Utopia of Temperance."

Ruskin Cooperative Association -- 1894

Ruskin was a non-religious colony founded in Dickson County in August 1894. It was first located in Tennessee City and soon moved near the cave (now called Ruskin Cave) on Yellow Creek. The main founder was Julius Wayland who stayed only one year. The colony was named for British social critic John Ruskin. It dissolved in 1899 because of internal disagreements.

The Farm -- 1971

New Age religious leader Stephen Gaskin and his followers founded this New Age religious commune in southeastern Lewis County near Summertown in 1971. The community grew to 1,500 residents by 1979. In 1983 the community changed from being a commune to having a cooperative system. In 1999 it had a population of about 200.

"These things I have spoken to you,
so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation,
but take courage; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33 NASB

Activities

- ◆ Think about what you would want in a new town if you could plan it from the beginning and make it any way you wanted. Discuss this with your family.
- ◆ Read about the early Christians sharing in Acts 2:36-47. Discuss this with your family.
- ◆ Plan a visit to a utopian community. In addition to Rugby near Jamestown, Tennessee, other utopian communities close to Tennessee are Shakertown near Lexington, Kentucky, and New Harmony near Mt. Vernon in the extreme southwestern corner of Indiana.



Exploring Tennessee

Unit 17: The End of a Century

Lesson 85

Tennessee Centennial Exposition

Tennessee Is 100 Years Old

As the century drew to a close, Americans wanted to celebrate their past and, even more, their future. The 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago (also known as the Chicago World's Fair) became the standard that many other cities followed in creating industrial expositions. The Chicago Exposition showed how far that city had come since the devastating fire in 1871 that destroyed a third of the city. It also displayed the technological marvels of the age and encouraged people to dream about what might come in the new century ahead. The people of Tennessee believed that they had also come a long way after the devastation of the Civil War. They wanted to display their progress to the nation and the world.

A fitting event was the one hundredth anniversary of Tennessee's statehood in 1896. However, internal planning conflicts and the national economic depression of 1893 delayed the celebration until 1897. Railroad companies were deeply involved in planning the event. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad provided major funding, while two executives of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad headed the organization in charge of the exposition. Their involvement may have been an effort to win support from citizens who disliked the power of railroad companies.

The exposition opened on May 1, 1897, for a six-month run. It was set in Centennial Park on Nashville's west side. The grounds for the event were carefully planned and copied from the Chicago Exposition. The park featured curved roads, a man-made lake, and extensive landscaping. "Centennial City" was given the powers of a separate city, and it enforced strict regulations on liquor and gambling.

Industry and Technology

The event was a showcase for industrial and technological advances. Many exhibits contrasted old-fashioned machines with the latest inventions that replaced them. For instance, a spinning wheel was placed next to a textile machine powered by electricity. Visitors could marvel at telephones, gasoline engines, and electric lights. These displays showed how the New South was making real progress. Considerable emphasis was given to such areas as transportation, commerce, agriculture, and machinery.

Special Interest Displays

Displays featured the "new woman" and the "new Negro." Woman's role in society was changing, and the exposition highlighted this. Domestic arts and home economics were featured in the Women's Building. In addition, Jane Addams presented lectures on her new work at Hull House in Chicago. Hull House was one of the first efforts at helping people in city slums. Adams encouraged women to make a difference in the cities in which they lived. The exposition had a Negro Building that featured achievements of black Americans and several "Negro Days" that honored black persons. Nevertheless, racial segregation was maintained at the exposition. A Children's Building displayed artwork by children and hosted discussions on how to improve schools.

Historic Exhibits

The Tennessee Historical Commission displayed artifacts from the state's past. The Confederate Memorial Association, a women's group that raised money for memorials honoring the Confederate cause, prepared an exhibit on the war. The Grand Army of the Republic, a Northern veteran's group, showed their side of the conflict; but the overall theme was that of reconciliation, not bringing up old conflicts. Confederate Veterans' Day drew 16,000 former Rebel soldiers, honored their service, and emphasized the unity of the nation.

Fine Arts and Ancient History

Another major exhibit was devoted to art. The Fine Arts Building was an exact replica of the Parthenon in ancient Athens, Greece. The structure was suggested by exposition director Eugene Lewis in keeping with Nashville's reputation as the "Athens of the South." The Parthenon became the exposition's most popular site. Replicas of other wonders of the ancient



The Modern Parthenon

world were built for the exposition as well. The Memphis building, for instance, was in the shape of a pyramid. These replicas were made of plaster and wood just for the event. The Parthenon was left standing until the 1920s, however, when a permanent version made of concrete replaced it. Wilbur Creighton designed the permanent structure. His father had designed the temporary Parthenon for the exposition.

The exposition featured a Colorado gold mine and a Chinese village. It also had rides and shows. Victor Herbert's orchestra from New York presented a concert.

A Successful Exposition

When the Tennessee Centennial Exposition closed, it had welcomed about 1.8 million visitors. It met the organizers' goal of showing how the state had made progress in the thirty years since the Civil War. Governor Bob Taylor marveled at the miracles that had been accomplished over the ruins of war during the previous three decades. The fair also drew attention to the potential for economic development in the state. It was the largest of the southern industrial expositions held during the era.

The exposition grounds became Centennial Park and encouraged growth in that area of Nashville. People who wanted change in government and city beautification were encouraged by the event and continued to work for their causes long after the exposition ended. The Tennessee Centennial Exposition fit the Progressive Era's mindset and encouraged further progress through education, technology, and a sense of community and statewide spirit.

Who has put wisdom in the innermost being
Or given understanding to the mind?
Job 38:36 NASB

Activities

- ◆ If you were planning an exposition to show what Tennessee is like today, what would you include? Make a list.



Exploring Tennessee

Sources and Resources

Bibliography

Tennessee has been the subject of much good research and writing. When you visit the library or the "Local Interest" section of a bookstore, you will find many books that you will enjoy. In this section, we highlight resources that have been especially helpful to us and that we recommend to you.

We cannot say enough good things about **The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture**, Carroll Van West Editor-in-Chief (Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press and Tennessee Historical Society, 1998; ISBN 1558535993). It is a great book. The 1,500-plus articles in the 1,100-plus page Encyclopedia give information about each Tennessee county, famous Tennesseans, historical events and trends, and many, many other topics. It is by the kind permission of Rutledge Hill Press that we were able to use the Tennessee Encyclopedia (Copyright © 1998 by the Tennessee Historical Society) as a resource for general information. This encyclopedia is available on-line: tennesseeencyclopedia.net

Another valuable resource is the **Tennessee Blue Book**. It is available on-line (notgrass.com/etlinks), and you may be able to obtain a printed copy. We used the printed 1999-2000 Millennium Edition in developing the first edition of **Exploring Tennessee**. The Blue Book explains the branches of Tennessee government, tells how to get in touch with legislators and cabinet departments, and includes historical information about the state. It is by the kind permission of the Secretary of State that we were able to use portions of the Millennium Edition of the Tennessee Blue Book (Copyright © 1999 by the Tennessee Secretary of State) as a resource for this curriculum.

We have also made use of the following resources for general information:

- ◆ Lois Barnes Binkley, **The Deserted Sycamore Village of Cheatham County** (published by Josten's, copyright Lois Barnes Binkley, 1980).
- ◆ Wilma Dykeman, **Tennessee: A Bicentennial History** (New York: Norton, 1975).
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- ◆ Harry M. Joiner, **Tennessee Then and Now** (Athens, AL: Southern Textbook Publishers, 1983).
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- ◆ Daisy King with James A. Crutchfield and Winette Sparkman, **Miss Daisy Celebrates Tennessee** (Franklin: Hillsboro Press, 1995). It is by the kind permission of Providence House Publishers that we were able to use this book in the preparation of lessons on Tennessee foods and Tennessee grocery stores.
- ◆ Thomas E. Mails, **The Cherokee People: The Story of the Cherokees from Earliest Origins to Contemporary Times** (Tulsa: Council Oaks Books, 1992).

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- ◆ George Brown Tindall and David E. Shi, **America: A Narrative History**, Fourth Edition, two volumes (New York: Norton, 1996).
- ◆ Robert H. White, **Tennessee: Its Growth and Progress** (Nashville: Robert H. White, 1947).
- ◆ **The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2000** (Mahwah, New Jersey: World Almanac Books, an imprint of Primedia Reference Inc., 1999). The World Almanac provided much of the statistical information for this curriculum.

Sources that are quoted or cited for a particular lesson are noted in the text.

Other Resources

Faithful Volunteers: The History of Religion in Tennessee by Stephen Mansfield and George Grant (Nashville: Cumberland House, 1997; ISBN 1888952148) offers just what the title says. It tells the story of religion in Tennessee, beginning with an extensive and fascinating survey of Indian faith systems. You see the importance of religion in Tennessee from the frontier through the Civil Rights movement of the twentieth century. The stories of the remarkable faith of individuals are especially inspiring. It is a good book to consult as you work through the history in this curriculum.

The University of Tennessee Press has published two standard college-level textbooks on Tennessee. **Tennessee: A Short History** by Robert Corlew (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2nd edition 1990) is a classic survey that emphasizes the political history of the state but gives good coverage to all aspects of Tennessee life. **Tennesseans and Their History** by Paul Bergeron, Stephen Ash, and Jeanette Keith (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1999) leans in the other direction. It emphasizes social history over the political. Don't hand it to your children for them to read. It has a few risque references (such as to the lyrics of an earthy jazz singer's song); but generally it is an excellent source.

You will find many tour guide books on Tennessee in libraries and bookstores that provide you with basic tourism and vacation information. Your local library probably has some of them if you want to check them out before buying. Two that you might consider as starting points are **Tennessee Handbook** by Jeff Bradley (Chico, California: Moon Publications, second edition 1999; ISBN 1566911478) and **Tennessee Family Adventure Guide** by Tim O'Brien (Old Saybrook, Connecticut: The Globe Pequot Press, 1995; ISBN 1564407454). Both are parts of travel handbook series by the respective publishers. They provide accommodation and restaurant information as well as references to historical and other sites.

Another treasure is **Tennessee's Historic Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide** by Carroll Van West (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1995). Dr. Van West and his son spent many days and weekends touring the state, and this 500-page book is organized by travel routes. For example, it tells what you can visit by following Interstate 40 or U.S. 70, or what you will see in specific sections of Tennessee. In other words, it helps you find things by following the way we usually travel. He describes many out-of-the-way places and their charm. It is a book written by a lover of history, Tennessee, and travel, sentiments which our family shares with him.

We believe that you will find exploring Tennessee to be fun and fascinating. Sometimes those who are closest to a treasure don't appreciate its true value (it's like a prophet having no honor in his hometown). Learn to appreciate what the Volunteer State has to offer as we enjoy **Exploring Tennessee**.