

# 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.

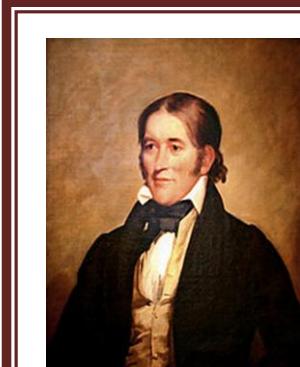
Annual November and March meetings are lunch gatherings held on Saturdays in the Martin and Jackson, Tennessee areas, respectively. Since 1947, WTHS has published an annual anthology of formal history papers, notes and documents, and book reviews about West Tennessee topics. The society's other major 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.



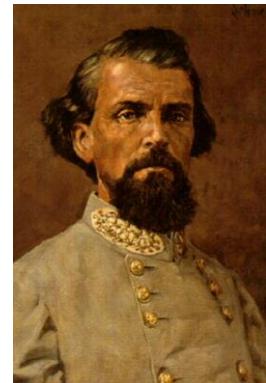
Frances (Fanny) Wright  
(1795-1852)  
Antebellum America's  
most radical feminist.

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

To access back issues of the WTHS' journal online,  
visit [www.register.shelby.tn.us](http://www.register.shelby.tn.us). Click: Archives, Exhibits



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**

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

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_

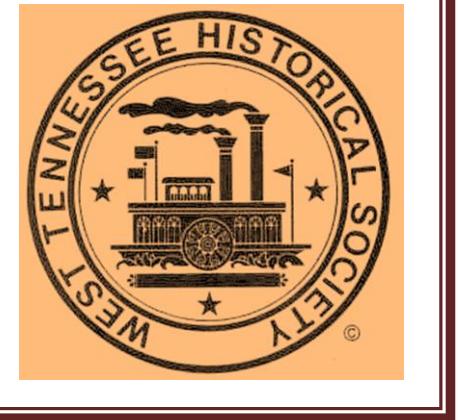
**Benton**, 1836, Camden  
**Carroll**, 1821, Huntingdon  
**Chester**, 1879, Henderson  
**Crockett**, 1871, Alamo  
**Decatur**, 1845, Decaturville  
**Dyer**, 1823, Dyersburg  
**Fayette**, 1824, Somerville  
**Gibson**, 1823, Trenton  
**Hardeman**, 1823, Bolivar  
**Hardin**, 1819, Savannah



**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](http://www.wths-tn.org)

for links to information on  
West Tennessee History



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

