



Austin Powers Foster

Counties of Tennessee
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COUNTIES OF TENNESSEE
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Politically, Tennessee is divided into three Grand Divisions-East Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, and West Tennessee.

The counties of East Tennessee are: Anderson, Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Polk, Rhea, Roane, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, Washington .

The counties of Middle Tennessee are: Bedford, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Coffee, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Fentress, Jackson, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, White, Williamson, Wilson .

The counties of West Tennessee are: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, Weakley.

DEKALB COUNTY was erected in 1837 out of parts of White, Warren, Cannon, Wilson, and Jackson Counties and was named for Baron DeKalb, an officer in the Revolutionary War who had fallen at Camden, New Jersey. The act creating this county provided that the first court should be held at the house of Bernard Richardson, near Smithville, which was chosen for the county seat and named for John Smith Bryan, who was commonly called "Smith." The committee appointed to select the county seat was: Thomas Durham, Joseph Banks, Thomas Allen, Watson Cantrell, and Joseph Clark.

Bernard Richardson gave to the county fifty acres for the county seat, a part of which was laid out in lots which were sold at public sale.

On March 5, 1838, the county was organized with the following-named magistrates in attendance: Lemuel Moore, chairman, Reuben Evans, Joseph Turney, Thomas Simpson, John Martin, Watson Cantrell, David Fisher, William Scott, Samuel Strong, Henry Burton, Martin Phillips, John Frazier, Joel Cheatham, Jonathan Fuston, Peter Reynolds, and James Batey.

A. J. Marchbanks was the first circuit judge and B. L. Ridley the first chancellor.

The first settlement in DeKalb County was made in 1797 by Adam Dale, who came from Maryland and located on Smith's Fork Creek near Liberty and erected there the first mill

in the county.

Other early settlers were: Thomas Whaley, Josiah Duncan, Henry Burton, Thomas West, William and John Dale, James and William Bratton, William and George Givan, the Walkers, the Pruitts, Jacob and Abraham Overall, Robin Forester, Reuben Evan, Matthew Sellers, Benjamin Blades, Nicholas Smith, Benjamin Garrison, Jesse Allen, Martin Phillips, Brition Johnson, Giles Driver, Levi Bozarth, David Taylor, P. G. Magness, Zachariah Lefever, John Wooldridge, Bernard Richardson, William Adcock, Wm. Floyd, John Vantrease, Jonathan and Stewart Doss, E. Turner, James Goodner, Edmund Turner, William Grandstaff, Thomas Simpson, and William Wright.

Statistics of DeKalb County: population, 1920, 15,370. Assessed valuation of taxable property, 1921, \$7,497,060. Area, 310 square miles. Number of farms, 2, 792. Railway mileage, none. Drained by the Caney Fork River. Surface is hilly in part and well covered with timber. The soil is fertile and the stable products are corn, wheat, and live stock. Splendid fruit-growing section. Has some deposits of zinc and clay. Smithville, the county seat, has a population of 687, good schools and churches, a weekly newspaper, bank, flourishing stores, flour mill, and spoke and handle factory. Alexandria has a population of 510, has good schools and churches, bank and prosperous business establishments. Liberty is another thriving town in DeKalb County. Scholastic population of county, 4,728; high schools, 5; elementary schools, 71.

JACKSON COUNTY was erected in 1801 from a part of Smith County and was named in honor of Andrew Jackson, who, at that time, was a judge of the Superior Court of Law and Equity, having, since 1796, resigned both as a member of the House of Representatives and as a member of the Senate of the United States.

Early settlers came in soon after the establishment of Nashville; and as the Indians were a menace a fort, named Fort Blount after Gov. William Blount, was erected in this county on the Cumberland River as a protection for the settlers and travelers.

Gainesboro, the county seat of Jackson County, named for Gen. Edmund Pendleton Gaines, was established in 1817 and incorporated in 1820.

Statistics of Jackson County: population, 1920, 14,955. Assessed valuation of taxable property, 1921, \$5,981,662. Area, 280 square miles. Number of farms, 2,403. Railway mileage, none. Drained by Cumberland River and tributaries. Surface is hilly and well covered with timber. Soil along the river and in the valleys is very fertile. Staple products are corn, wheat, tobacco, grass, and live stock. Splendid county for fruit-growing. Gainesboro, the county seat, has a population of 351 and is near the Cumberland River. It has good schools and churches, one bank, a weekly newspaper, and flourishing stores. Granville is another flourishing town in the county. Scholastic population of county, 6,022; high schools, 4; elementary schools, 60.

MAURY COUNTY was erected November 24, 1807, from a part of Williamson County and was named in honor of Major Abram P. Maury. It is one of the best counties in the

state. From an agricultural point of view no county in the state is superior to it.

The first county court was held at the house of Col. Joseph Brown, about three miles south of Columbia. He was licensed to keep an "ordinary" and gave bond to furnish "good, wholesome, and clean lodging and diet for travelers, stabling with hay, oats, corn, fodder, and pasturage, as the season of the year may require, and not to suffer or permit gambling, nor on the Sabbath day permit any person to tipple to drink more than necessary."

The magistrates of this first court were: John Dickey, John Miller, William Gilchrist, William Frierson, Isaac Roberts, John Spencer, John Lindsey, and Joseph Brown. They selected Columbia, which was incorporated in 1817. The first physicians were: Drs. O'Reilly and Estes. Later physicians were: Drs. DePriest, McNeil, Sansom, McJimsey, and Graves.

The first paper, The Western Chronicle, was founded in 1811 by James Walker, who married a sister of President Polk in 1813.

The early settlers in Maury County came from North Carolina and Virginia. Attention to this county was brought early and particularly because of the location there of the 25,000 acres given Gen. Nathaniel Greene because of his services in the Revolutionary War.

One of the earliest colonies, however, came from South Carolina in 1807 and in 1808, led by John Dickey and settled in the Zion Church neighborhood. Besides Dickey, prominent settlers were: Moses Frierson, James Blakely, William Frierson, Eli Frierson, James Armstrong, Thomas Stephenson, Nathaniel Stephenson, "Old Davy" Matthews, Samuel Witherspoon, John Stephenson, James Frierson, P. Fulton, Alexander Dobbins, Moses Freeman, the Flemings and Mayes. They built a church, which served also as a schoolhouse in which the minister, Rev. Henderson, was a teacher. At one time James K. Polk was one of his pupils.

Not far from Mt. Zion was the Polk settlement. From the first settlers, in 1807, William Dever and his sister, William Polk bought their 5,000-acre grant. He divide the estate among his four sons: Bishop Leonidas Polk, Lucius P. Polk, George N. Polk, and Rufus K. Polk. This became known as the "Polk Neighborhood." Near it was the home of Gen. Gideon J. Pillow.

Another prominent settlement was the Spring Hill community which was started about 1808-1810 by Abraham Hammond, Colonel Russell, Nathaniel Cheairs, James Black and others. James Black was the grandfather of Col. Henry Watterson and father-in-law of Judge Stanley Matthews of the United States Supreme Court.

Few counties have been so prolific in prominent, noted, and great men. Among them were: President James K. Polk, Gen. Felix K. Zollicoffer, Gen. Ewell Stanley Matthews, Matthew Fontaine Maury, Henry F. Cooper, A. P. Nicholson, William Fields,* (*The compiler of the famous Scrapbook), Bishop Leonidas Polk, Bishop Otey, Gideon J.

Pillow, Terry H. Cahal, William Polk, Thomas Wrenne, Maj. James Holland, Dr. Samuel Mayes, James Armstrong, a member of Lee's Legion, David Matthews, who served under Gen. Francis Marion, Gen. Richard Winn, Edward ward Carmack, and many others.

Statistics of Maury County: population, 1920, 35,403. Assessed valuation of taxable property, 1921, \$29,694,070. Area, 596 square miles. Number of farms, 3,728. Railway mileage, 102. Drained by Duck River. Land is very fertile and is one of the richest agricultural counties in the state. Staple products are corn, wheat, oats, hay, fruits, and live stock. The dairying industry is extensive, the county having some of the finest herds in the state. There are immense phosphate deposits in the county which have been worked for years. Columbia, the county seat, has a population of 5,526, is on the Duck River, and has two railroads. It is the seat of Columbia Institute for Girls and Columbia Military Academy and has a fine system of public schools, splendid churches, daily and weekly newspapers, four banks, several manufacturing establishments, mills, etc. it is one of the largest mule markets in the country. Mount Pleasant, the center of the phosphate mining industry, has a population of 2,093 and has good schools and churches, two banks, a weekly newspaper, cotton mill, two creameries and prosperous manufacturing and mercantile establishments. Other prosperous towns are Culleoka and Spring Hill. The latter place has excellent private schools. Scholastic population of county, 11,352; high schools, 13, elementary schools, 100.

PUTNAM COUNTY was erected on February 1, 1842, from parts of White, Overton, Jackson, Smith, and DeKalb Counties and was named in honor of Gen. Israel Putnam of the Revolutionary War.

In accordance with the provisions of the act creating this county, the county and circuit courts were established and their officers were elected and functioned until 1844 when an injunction restraining the officers from performing their duties of their offices was applied for and was granted. February 11, 1854, however, Putnam County was re-established largely through the efforts of Major Cooke, after whom Cookeville, the county seat was named. He was one of the most prominent citizens of the county and, at the time, was an influential member of the State Senate. The way for the re-establishment of the county was facilitated by the decision of the State Supreme Court that after the organization of the county was complete and the original commissioners had performed their duty, it was not within the jurisdiction of the courts of justice to enjoin the civil officers from proceeding in their official duties.

The commissioners named in the reorganization act located the county seat and laid off the town which was named Cookeville. Monticello was a competitor for this honor. This commission was composed of Joshua R. Stone and Dr. Green H. Baker, of White County; Austin Morgan and Maj. John Brown, of Jackson County; William Davis and Isaiah Warthon, of Overton County; William B. Stokes and Bird S. Rhea, of DeKaib County; Benjamin A. Vaden and Nathan Ward, of Smith County.

Putnam County furnished many gallant officers in the War between the States. Among them were: Sidney S. Stanton, John B. Vance, Harvey H. Dillard, Holland Denton, Walton Smith, S. H. McDearmon, John H. Quarles, W. B. Carten, S. J. Johnson, Rison Robinson, C. J. Davis, S. G. Slaughter, William Ensor, Abraham Hord. Gen Alvin C. Gillem, one of the three general officers furnished the Union Army from Tennessee, was a Putnam Countian.

Monterey (called in the early days Standing Stone) and Bloomington Springs are noted summer resorts. There are important deposits of coal, phosphate, lithograph stone, sandstone, and petroleum.

Statistics of Putnam County: population, 1920, 22,231. Assessed valuation of taxable property, 1921, \$9,784,713. Area, 430 square miles. Number of farms, 2,983. Railway mileage, 49. Drained by tributaries of the Caney Fork and the Cumberland Rivers. Its surface is undulating and partly covered with fine timber. County is well adapted to stock-raising and fruit-growing. Staple products are corn, grass, and live stock. Fine coal deposits are found in the mountain section of the county. The Tennessee Central Railway traverses the county. Cookeville, the county seat, has a population of 2,395 and has fine churches and schools. It is the seat of the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. It has a fine electric light plant, water system, weekly newspaper, two banks, several manufacturing establishments, prosperous stores, and is the jobbing center for a considerable territory. Monterey, on top of a mountain, has a population of 1,445 and is the center of the spoke and handle and stave industry for that section. It has good schools and churches and prosperous business establishments. Algood and Baxter are other towns in the county. Scholastic population of county, 7,739; high schools, 5; elementary schools, 70.

SMITH COUNTY was erected in 1799 from a part of Sumner County and was named in honor of Gen. Daniel Smith, a pioneer, surveyor, Secretary of the Southwest Territory and, United States Senator, succeeding Andrew Jackson.

The early settlers were mostly from North Carolina and Virginia, some of them via East Tennessee. They raised cotton, corn, tobacco, and hemp. William Walton was the first settler, having located, probably in 1787, on what was afterwards the site of Carthage. Other early settlers were: Daniel Burford, Richard Alexander, Peter Turney, William Saunders, Tilman Dixon, Micajah Duke, William McDonald, William Goodall, Armstead Piippin, James Hodges, George T. Wright, Arthur S. Hogan, the Gordons, Smiths, and Fites.

On December 16, 1799, the first session of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions was held at the house of Tilman Dixon on the site of Dixon Springs. The following-named magistrates were present and qualified: Garrett Fitzgerald, chairman, William Alexander, James Gwinn, Tilman Dixon, Thos. Harrison, James Hibbetts, William Walton, and Peter Turney. The last named was the father of Hopkins L. Turney and grandfather of Governor Peter Turney. The oath was administered by Moses Fisk, who was appointed clerk, pro tern. Amos Lacy was chosen constable. During its first year this court had its meetings sometimes at the house of Maj. Dixon and sometimes at William Saunders',

then at Fort Blount, then at Colonel Walton's. But in 1804, the county site was established at the place where Carthage now stands, which was laid out on the land of Co. William Walton, who built the road, called after him, the Walton Road, from the junction of the Caney Fork and the Cumberland across the mountain, along which road he erected houses for the entertainment of travelers. The courthouse was completed in 1805, and in March, 1806, the court was held in it.

The circuit court held its first session, it is thought, in 1810, with Judge N. W. Williams presiding. The chancery court held its first term in May, 1825, and was presided over by Judge John Catron, Chief Justice of the state, 1831-1835, and then member of the United States Supreme Court. Among the prominent members of its bar were: Robert L. Caruthers, elected governor in 1863, and his brother, Abraham Caruthers, William B. Campbell, governor, 1851-1853, William Cullom, Samuel M. Fite, James B. Moore, Jordan Stokes, John D. Goodall, Andrew McClain, A. A. Swope, E. L. Gardenhire, and Sam Turney.

Smith County furnished for the War of 1812 two companies whose captains were, respectively, Robertson and James Walton; four companies for the War with Mexico, commanded by Captains William Walton, L. P. McMurry, Don Allison, and John D. Goodall; and twelve companies to the Confederate Army.

Pioneer ministers were: David P. Timberlake, David Halliburton, John Page, Jesse Moreland, and John Maffit.

Important educational institutions were the Geneva Academy and the Female Academy.

Statistics of Smith County: population of 1920, 17,134. Assessed valuation of taxable property, 1923, \$13,652,578. Area, 368 square miles. Number of farms, 2,908. Railway mileage, 27.

Drained by the Cumberland and its tributary, the Caney Fork. Surface is hilly and well covered with timber. Staple products are corn, wheat, oats, tobacco, and hay. It is one of the best live stock counties in the state. Carthage, the county seat, is on the Cumberland River and the terminus of a branch of the Tennessee Central Railway. It has a population of 920, has good schools and churches, a weekly newspaper, one bank, manufacturing and mercantile establishments. Large shipments of tobacco are made from Carthage. Dixon Springs is another prosperous town in the county. Scholastic population of county, 6,832; high schools, 2; elementary schools, 72.

SUMNER COUNTY was erected on November 17, 1786, by act of the Legislature of North Carolina. It was formed from a part of Davidson County and was named in honor of Gen. Jethro Sumner, a gallant officer in the Revolutionary War. It was the second county formed in Middle Tennessee.

Cisco says, "The curtain of history arises on Sumner County in the year 1779, when a settlement of a dozen families was formed near Bledsoe's Lick," now Castalian Springs.

Before this day, however, Thomas Sharp Spencer and others had come into the Cumberland country and in 1777 had built a number of cabins about one-half mile west of Bledsoe's Lick, and in 1778 had planted some corn. This was the first agricultural effort made by men of the Anglo-Saxon race in Middle Tennessee.

Col. Isaac Bledsoe built a fort or station about a quarter of a mile west of Bledsoe's Lick; and his brother, Col. Anthony Bledsoe, built a fort two and one-half miles north of the Lick and called it "Greenfield." Asher and others built a fort a little southeast of Gallatin. Forts were also built by John Morgan, Maj. James White, Colonel Sanders, Jacob Zigler, Capt. Jos. Wilson, ancestor of Judge S. F. Wilson, of the State Court of Chancery Appeals, Kasper Mansker, Hamilton, and others.

Among the early settlers were: Col. Isaac Bledsoe, Col. Anthony Bledsoe, Robert Desha, Jordon Gibson, Henry Loving, William Morrison, John Morgan, John Sawyer, Robert Steele, Jacob Zeigler, Henry Ramsey, William Hall, Hugh Rogan, David Shelby, George D. Blackmore, James and George Winchester, Robert Peyton, Jos. Wilson, Michael Shafer, James Hayes, Charles Morgan, Gabriel Black, John Carr, Robert Brigham, Charles Campbell, William Crawford, Edward and Elmore Douglass, James Franklin, Richard Hogan, Robert and David Looney, George Mansker, Benjamin Kuykendall, Thomas Sharp Spencer, John Peyton, James Mc- Cain, Benjamin Porter, John Withers, John Hamilton, John Latham, William Snoddy, James Cartwright, James McCann, John and Joseph Byrns, James Trousdale, Benjamin Williams, John Edwards, Samuel Wilson, John Hall, William Montgomery, Edward Hagan, Gen. Daniel Smith, William Frazier, Benjamin Sheppard, and Redmond D. Berry, who introduced Kentucky bluegrass and brought from North Carolina his blooded horse, Gray Metley.

The first court of Sumner County was held on the first Monday in March, 1787, at the house of John Hamilton, at Station Camp Creek, about five miles from Gallatin. The members of that court were: Gen. Daniel Smith, Maj. David Wilson, Maj. George Winchester, Isaac Lindsey, William Hall, John Hardin, Joseph Kuykendall, Col. Edward Douglass, and Col. Isaac Bledsoe. David Shelby, son-in-law of Col. Anthony Bledsoe, was appointed clerk. John Hardin, Jr., was appointed sheriff, and Isaac Lindsey, ranger.

On April 20, 1796, the Legislature of Tennessee passed an act appointing commissioners to select a site for the seat of government. Those commissioners were: William Bowen, John Wilson, Isaac Walton, George D. Blackmore, and Hugh Crawford. The act also appointed the following trustees to purchase the land selected by the commissioners: Henry Bradford, David Shelby, and Edward Douglas. Section 3 of this act provided that the town should be called "Ca Ira," which name was corrupted into "Cairo," and it was so incorporated on November 5, 1815. On October 2, 1797, this act was repealed and another act passed appointing another commission to select the county site, to buy land, erect a courthouse, prison, and stocks.

This act also was repealed on October 26, 1799, and Sumner County was reduced to its constitutional limits. On November 6, 1804, an act was passed by the Legislature to pro-

vide for county seat and buildings and that the town should be called Gallatin, in honor of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

In February, 1802, the site of Gallatin was purchased from James Trousdale. The courthouse was completed in 1803.

The circuit court was established in 1810, and the chancery court in 1836. The sessions of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions were held in the homes of various citizens until the courthouse was erected. The first session of the court after Tennessee was admitted into the Union was held in the house of Ezekiel Douglas in July, 1796. It was composed of the following members appointed by Governor Sevier: William Cage, Stephen Cantrell, James Douglass, Edward Douglass, James Gwyn, Wetheral Lattimore, Thomas Masten, Thomas Donald, James Pearce, David Wilson, James Winchester, and Isaac Walton. Probably from eighty to one hundred persons in Sumner County were killed by the Indians. An academy for girls was incorporated November 3, 1837. It was succeeded by the Howard Female Institute in 1856. Joseph S. Fowler was a teacher in this school. After the war he became a Senator of the United States from Tennessee. It was his vote which saved Andrew Johnson from being convicted when impeached.

Early ministers from the county were: John Gwynn, James McGhee, Bishop McKendree, John Page, Methodists; John Wiseman, Baptist; William McGhee, Presbyterian.

Statistics of Sumner County: population, 1920, 27,708. Assessed valuation of taxable property, 1921, \$21,557,328. Area, 536 square miles. Number of farms, 4,585. Railway mileage, 62.

Sumner County is one of the finest stock-raising and agricultural section in the state and is intersected by the L. & N. Railroad, borders on Kentucky, and is bounded on the south by the Cumberland River. Portions of it are well timbered and it is a fine county for fruit-growing. Phosphate deposits are found in the county. It has a good system of highways. Staple products are corn, wheat, tobacco, hay, and live stock. Gallatin, the county seat, is on the L. & N. Railroad and is 30 miles from Nashville and has fine schools and churches, two weekly newspapers, two banks, and prosperous population of 2, 757. Portland is another prosperous town. Scholastic population of county, 9, 672; high schools, 13; elementary schools, 83.

WHITE COUNTY was erected on September 11, 1806, from a part of Smith County and was named for John White, one of the first settlers in this county. The first settlements were made in the valley of the Calf Killer River, so named for an Indian Chief. Among the early settlers were: John White, Elijah Camerson, William Phillips, John Knowles, Archibald Overton, Aaron England, William Scarborough, Isaac Taylor, Alexander Lowery, George W. Gibbs, John Hancock, T. B. Rice, Joseph Terry, Anthony Dibrell, Jacob A. Lane, Thomas Simpson, William Anderson, Matthais Anderson, Benjamin Lampton, Lewis Fletcher, Thomas Bounds, Jesse Lincoln, William Glenn, William Burton, Joseph Collins,. Montgomery Carrick.

The first court was held at the house of Joseph Terry, on the present site of Rock Island,

in Warren County, on October 15, 1806.

In 1809 the Legislature passed an act for the establishment of Sparta, the county seat, and the following commissioners were elected to lay it off: Thomas Bounds, Benjamin Weaver, Aaron England, Turner Lane, James Fulkerson Alexander Lowry, and Nicholas Gillentine.

The first courthouse was built of logs in 1810 and stood until 1815 when a brick building was erected, which was used until 1894, when a new building was constructed.

For several years the superior court met in White County, at first at Rock Island, and later at Sparta.

Among the early lawyers were: Alexander Lane, David Ames, Nathaniel Hoggard, Richard Nelson, John H. Anderson, Hopkins L. Turney, Sam Turney, John Catron, and George W. Gibbs.

The first representative in Congress from White County was Thomas K. Harris. He was killed in a duel with Col. John W. Simpson at Shell's Ford on Caney Fork River. Prior to this unfortunate occurrence, Col. Simpson had distinguished himself at the battle of New Orleans as had Captain Gibbs, also of White County.

White County also furnished troops for the Creek War, the War with Mexico, and the War between the States.

About 1815 a turnpike road built from Nashville to Knoxville passed through Sparta. The mineral wealth of White County, especially coal, is remarkable. In 1882 the Bon Air Coal, Land & Lumber Company was organized by Gen. George G. Dibrell and his associates, ex-Governor John C. Brown, Col. John F. House, Gen. J. D. Adkins, Gen. W. C. Whitthorne, Hon. Benton McMillin, then a member of Congress, Dr. W. M. Morrow, D. W. Dinges, Samuel G. Jones, and W. C. Dibrell.

Statistics of White County: population, 1920, 15,701. Assessed valuation of taxable property, 1921, \$7,845,005. Area, 390 square miles. Number of farms, 2,024. Railway mileage, 36.

Drained by the Caney Fork River. The surface is uneven and extensively covered with timber. The soil is fertile. The staple products are corn, wheat, oats, and live stock. Good fruit-growing section. The Bon Air Coal Mines are located in this county. A branch of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway extends into the county. Sparta, the county seat, with a population of 1,517, is on the railroad and is a town of good schools and churches, a weekly newspaper, two banks, and manufacturing and commercial establishments, electric light and power plant. Scholastic population of county, 5,869; high schools, 3; elementary schools, 56.

About the Author **Austin Powers Foster**

Austin Powers Foster of Nashville, well known in editorial and literary circles, his writings covering many phases of historic interest in Tennessee, was born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, June 9, 1859. When a lad of five years Austin Powers Foster was taken by his parents to South Abington, now Whitman, Massachusetts, where his early education was acquired in the public schools, while later he attended the schools of Providence, Rhode Island, being graduated from the high school of that city on the completion of the classical course in 1878. In the same year he entered Brown University from which he was graduated in 1882.

In 1885 Mr. Foster accepted the position of principal of the Temple Emmanuel School of Dallas, Texas, with which he was thus connected for a year, at the end of which time he turned his attention to the book business under the name of A. P. Foster & Company, profitably conducting the enterprise for ten years, in connection with which he was also depository for Ginn & Company, with whom he became regularly connected in charge of the sales tax in the state of Texas and with whom he remained until 1897, when he resigned to take charge of the subscription department of the Texas Farm & Ranch. In 1900 he bought a magazine entitled "Illustrated Youth & Age," published at Nashville, Tennessee, and removed to that city. This venture did not prove profitable, however, and a year later he disposed of the periodical and became a member of the faculty of Ward Seminary. In the same year he also became editor of the Nashville Daily News, which position he filled until 1904, when he was appointed superintendent of horticulture for Tennessee at the St. Louis World's Fair, at which time he wrote a book entitled "Manufactures and Commerce of Tennessee" that was distributed as a souvenir to visitors at the World's Fair.

From 1905 until 1911 Mr. Foster was manager of the Taylor-Trotwood Magazine which was started as Bob Taylor's Magazine. From 1911 until 1917 he was secretary of the Nashville Industrial Bureau, in connection with which he produced twenty-seven different pieces of literature, covering all phases of the history, activities, and attractive features of Nashville. From 1917 until 1921 he was active in establishing two school book publishing companies, namely, the Southeast Publishing Company, afterward the A. C. Webb & Company, and the National Book Company. In 1921 he was appointed assistant secretary of the Tennessee Historical Committee. While holding this position he wrote the History of the Department of Library, Archives and History of the State of Tennessee; Historic Spots and Places in Tennessee; and has also written a large part of the work entitled "Tennessee: The Volunteer State."

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