The Tennessee Rifleman

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PO BOX 3685 Knoxville, TN 37927-3685

Senator Hiram Revels 1870

Heavenly Father Your children of color stand before you today, grateful for the breath of life and the light of freedom.. They are mindful of their ancestors' struggles and triumphs, who, in hardship, clung to faith and fought for justice. Their whispered prayers in hidden places and songs of sorrow and hope carried them through the darkest nights.

This prayer is for this nation, a land of promise and paradox. It acknowledges the lingering shadows of racism and injustice that continue to divide. May eyes be opened to the subtle ways prejudice still permeates society and hearts. May there be courage to confront these realities, both within and in communities.

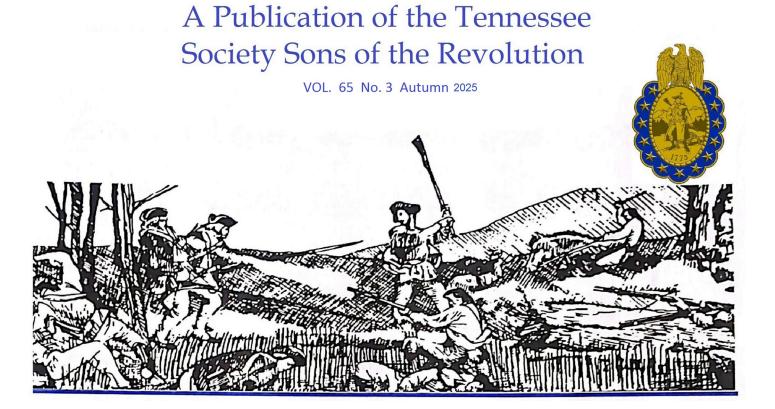
The prayer asks for a spirit of reconciliation to mend the brokenness of the past and present. May it inspire the building of bridges, not walls, between people of all races and backgrounds. May they see your divine image and likeness in every person, celebrating the rich diversity that reflects your own multifaceted light.

Guide leaders to make decisions that prioritize justice and equality for all, particularly for the marginalized and oppressed. Empower everyone to work towards a future where every individual can flourish, free from fear, discrimination, and economic hardship.

May this nation become a beacon of hope and a testament to your love, where justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream . Strengthen the resolve to live out your commandment to love one another, transforming hearts and minds through your grace.

This prayer is offered in faith, trusting in your unwavering love and the promise of a more just and peaceful tomorrow. Amen.

THE TENNESSEE RIFLEMAN



Society Sons of the Revolution

The Sons of the Revolution was founded in 1876 by members of the Society of the Cincinnati wishing to broaden participation in preserving American Heritage on the eve of this country's centennial. Its mission is to promote knowledge and appreciation of the achievement of American Independence and to foster fellowship among its members. The Sons opened its membership to all sons of enlisted men, as well as officers and all descendants of other qualifying patriots, who risked their lives during the Revolution.

The General Society Sons of the Revolution was formed by the New York, Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Societies at a meeting on April 19, 1890, in Washington, DC, following conferences held in 1888 to devise an organizational structure that would provide a satisfactory continuation of local autonomy and national unity to the several State Societies.

DUES NOTICE

Society membership dues are paid annually. Dues notices are sent annually. Dues must be received on or before January 1st. All dues are 100% tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please call the Society office for details on life membership at (865) 386-7272

To renew membership please see our website at **tnsr1776.org** Administrative fees apply to online transactions.

Alternatively, you may write a check to Sons of the Revolution in the State of Tennessee. and mail it to our P.O. Box 3685 Knoxville TN 37927

Dues are \$ 50.00 - (\$35 goes to the general society)

PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS SLIP IF YOU PAY BY CHECK

WE ARE TRYING TO UPDATE OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST PLEASE HELP US BY FILLING IN THE FOLLOWING (THIS CAN ALSO BE DONE ONLINE):

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS
YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
YOUR PHONE NUMBER
I would like to be an active member of a chapter
I would like to help start a chapter (or support) in my County
I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO A PROJECT
Col. Robert McFarland Cemetery Restoration Project
David Hall Cabin Restoration Project
Blount Mansion / TNSR Office and Library
I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO A SOCIETY OFFICER ABOUT A PROJECT
I THINK NEEDS DONE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Lydia (Kay) Irwin, age 83 of Knoxville, passed away at The Oaks at Alpharetta, GA on February 27, 2025. Long time **Piper for Tennessee Society Sons of the Revolution**

Kay was born at home in Maryville, attended the Maryville City Schools, graduated from Maryville High School, and as a Registered Nurse from the University of Tennessee Hospital School of Nursing. Loyalty among her high school and nursing graduates continued with annual holiday and other gatherings with her high school friends and monthly luncheons with her nursing class. Kay's nursing career included the University of Tennessee



Medical Center, Coffee County Hospital, where she was Director of Nursing, and Blount Memorial Hospital. She was also a certified Red Cross Water Safety Instructor and Lifeguard.

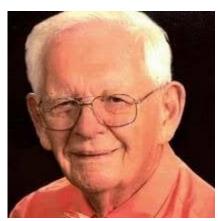
In retirement Kay was an accomplished bagpiper playing weddings, funerals, college and university graduations, athletic contests, church services, and many other occasions throughout the region. She also successfully competed in Eastern United States Pipe Band Association contests and was a member of the Knoxville Pipes and Drums. A member of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Knoxville, she was well known for her bagpiping and support of the music program.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clark Pierce Gordon and Carrie Fonde Gordon, brother, Pierce Fonde Gordon, and survived by her sister Patricia Cooper of San Clemente, CA, and brother Donald Gordon of Lynchburg, VA. Survivors also include her husband Dr. Frank Gordon Irwin, daughter Katherine Thomas, her husband Dr. Russell Thomas, and their children Lucy and Annabelle Thomas of Alpharetta, GA, and Step-Daugher Dr. Aimee Dukes and her husband Steve Dukes and their children Tucker and Gracyn Dukes of Nashville.



Hugh Whisman Niceley SR # 876 passed peacefully into the Kingdom of Heaven on February 9, 2025. He was born November 13, 1937 to Dr. Park and Virginia Niceley, he and his sister grew up on Fourth Creek. His first job was picking watercress from the creek and taking it to Market. He lived on the property for the rest of his life. Whisman started his career at Johnson and Gaylon, a company his Grandfather founded. Later, when his father retired from his medical practice, he joined him in the forward thinking business of long-term health care. Whisman was a devoted son, a faithful employer, uncle and brother. He had an interesting mind and was an example of how

we all have our own path home. He simply liked what he liked and he will be missed. Whisman is preceded by his parents, Dr. Park Eugene and Virginia Whisman Niceley. He is survived by his sister, Lucie Niceley Mays; nephews, Park Niceley Mays and James Julian Mays Jr. (Adele); great nephews, James Julian Mays III, John Fletcher Mays and Jefferson Grey Mays. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Vickie and Jean Baird for 30 years of service to Whisman, also to the John Niceley family and First Presbyterian Church. Please consider a donation to The Ramsey House or First Presbyterian Church in Whisman's honor.



James (Jim) Benton Stewart, Jr. SR#1113 of Lexington, TN peacefully entered into his Heavenly Home on Sunday, February 16, 2025 at his home, surrounded by family & friends, as his pastor, Brother Kenny Scott, of Rock Hill Baptist Church played and sang songs, effectively bringing Jim's entire church family to him. Jim was born in Knoxville, TN, August 2, 1928. Though he was born with hearing disabilities, he never let it stop him from achieving the "high" goals he set for himself. He was especially proud of being a Boy Scout with Troop Five in Knoxville. He not only achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 1945 but he also earned three Eagle Palm Pins.

Jim graduated from Knoxville High School in 1948 where he played football. Till the day he died he exercised his "bragging rights" about his team being state champions for several years. He went on to graduate from Memphis State University with an Industrial Engineer (Draftsman) Degree. After graduating he worked at the US Naval Air Station in Millington and later transferred to Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) in Tullahoma, TN. He often told stories of the early years in helping our government develop the "Wind Tunnels" at AEDC used for testing aerodynamics of aircraft and weapons systems.

Jim went to Chattanooga, TN in 1957 to work for Combustion Nuclear Engineering Department, where he retired in 1985. He lived and raised his family in Chattanooga until he was 90 years old. His later years were spent on the farm in Lexington, TN.

He was very proud to be an American, and always flew the USA flag everywhere he lived. He was a member of the Sons of Revolution for over fifty years and held the office of President for the Chattanooga Chapter for several years.

Though he was an accomplished golfer and loved to hunt, he was most proud to be a Christian. He loved Christ as his Savior and his family at Rock Hill Baptist Church in Lexington, TN, more than anything.

Jim is preceded in death by his first wife of 25 years, Martha Ann Raby; his second wife Letitia Jo Bridges, also of 25 years; his parents James Benton Stewart, Sr. and Willia McLemore Stewart, a daughter Lee Ann Bridges, and a grandson, Andrew R. Bridges.

Jim is survived by his wife Peggy Burroughs Stewart, and one son, James (Jay) B. Stewart, III and his wife Debbie of Clinton, TN, three grandchildren: John Robert Bridges III, Jaimi Martha Winningham (husband Daniel), and Matthew Benton Stewart (wife Britney), two great-grandchildren: Piper Nicole Winningham and Roman James Stewart. Jim is also survived by several step-children, step-grandchildren, and step-great-grandchildren.

William David Beal TNSR #861 of Moorestown, NJ passed away peacefully at his residence in Woodbury on Wednesday February 15,



2025. He is survived by his two children Christy Ann Beal Engel (John) and David Thomas Beal (Sierra) and three grandchildren Niobe Engel, Cassiopeia Beal, and Orion Beal. David is predeceased by his wife of 54 years Mary Ann Mercer Beal, his brother Thomas Beal and sister Peggy Whitlock and his parents Paul Beal and Doris Brown Beal.

David was born in Knoxville, TN in 1935. He went to High School in Powell TN graduating top of his class. He went on to study at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, earning a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He was hired by Rohm and Haas as manager for industrial chemicals in Knoxville and transferred to Philadelphia to head the division of organic and inorganic chemicals and enzymes.

Through mutual friends he met the love of his life, Mary Ann. Married in 1969, they honeymooned in San Francisco and initially settled in Chicago. David was transferred to several different cities over the years including several years in Brea, California, eventually taking a new position in Philadelphia in 1979. Settling in Moorestown, NJ David raised his own two children and delighted in welcoming no fewer than 10 exchange students into his home while maintaining complex gardens in his beloved yard. David was a fixture in his gardens, mowing, mulching and 'resting his eyes' nearly every day of the week and his gardens were a fixture in the neighborhood.

David was delighted to retire at 55. He used his time traveling to visit family and friends in the US and Europe, learning French, photography, stained glass and becoming a NJ Master Gardener. He passionately designed and maintained the gardens at the Mt. Laurel Friends meeting. He gifted loaves of his famous bread to friends and neighbors every Christmas and in the warmer months, he shared seedlings of the massive Dawn Redwoods on the corner of his property.

Once his grandchildren arrived David became a passionate grandfather dividing time between Niobe in NJ and Cassiopeia and Orion in Oregon.



Descendants of Valley Forge to Celebrate 50 years

In 1974 Donald Cronan of Manhasset, NY visited Valley Forge State Park. He was disappointed that there was no marker or obelisk that listed those who died during the Valley Forge encampment.

Visiting the park headquarters, he found there was no list of what he called "the honored dead." Cronan's ancestor Azor Curtiss was one of the dead and he was disappointed that his ancestor as the other estimated 2-3000 were not remembered.

Upon his return to New York he shared his disappointment

with his fellow Sons of the Revolution members. They suggested with the bicentennial coming up he should look into doing something to make it right.

The Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge was formed as a Congressionally registered Bicentennial project in March 1976. That July 4th US President Gerald Ford came to Valley Forge to officially accept Valley Forge as a national park.

Cronan's dream of the roll of the honored dead continues to be a part of the society's mission. The society also plays a big part in the compilation of the Valley Forge muster rolls.

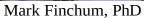
The society holds an annual "encampment" in June at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. It also has a quarterly magazine, "The Encampment." Membership is open to anyone who can document an ancestor who served during the Valley Forge encampment December 19, 1777-June 19, 1778.

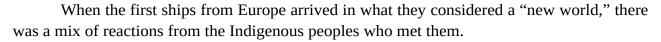
For membership and addition information go to www.valleyforgesociety.com.

Red and White vs the Red, White and Blue

Tsiyu Gansini, Attakullakulla and Nanyehi







Some coastal tribes came forward with an overture of hospitality and goodwill. Some developed significant trading alliances, seeking European steel, guns, blankets, and beads, in exchange for deer and beaver hides. Others formed alliances as a way of gaining an upper hand against other tribes they considered their enemies.

All of the encounters were complex, with the coming together of cultural beliefs, systems of government, languages, and religions. It was common for there to be disputes among members of a given Indigenous nation as to how to relate to these newcomers.



Once the Europeans, particularly the British, crossed the Appalachian Mountains in disregard of the Proclamation of 1763, the Ani-yunwiya (Cherokee) were increasingly faced with the same concern: how do we deal with this encroachment into our ancestral lands?

The Aniyunwiya government was divided into two units: a

white government that maintained control over domestic affairs, headed by a Peace Chief and including a number of advisors; and the red government that was headed by the War Chief and his advisors.

This red government took preeminence in times of war.

As the British made inroads into what would become East Tennessee, establishing a settlement along the Watauga River near present-day Elizabethton, several Aniyunwiya leaders rose to prominence – representing both the red (war) and white (peace) perspectives. One of the most famous was Tsiyu Gansini (Dragging Canoe). As the



story goes, as a young boy, he was told that he could not join a war party unless he could carry his own canoe. Determined not to be left behind, he began dragging his canoe. The other warriors cheered him on. From that day forward, he was known as Tsiyu Gansini.

As a war chief, Tsiyu Gansini was opposed to the Watauga settlers moving into his ancestral lands and spoke vehemently against their taking much of those lands (most of modern-day Middle Tennessee and Kentucky) through the signing of the Transylvania Purchase which took place at the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River. He saw this purchase as a land grab that would not be fair to his people and predicted that the settlement would be difficult. He reportedly said the new land would be a "dark and bloody ground."

Tsiyu Gansini was concerned that agreeing to the purchase would be an open invitation for more settlers to encroach on Indigenous lands and the ultimate result would be the extinction of his people.

However, his father, Attakullakulla, saw things differently. He believed in diplomacy and peaceful resolution of conflicts. He was known for his diplomatic skills. It has been said that he could bring two sides together the way a master carpenter could join the two walls of a log cabin.

Known as "Little Carpenter" by the whites, Attakullakulla was invited to North Carolina to inspect trade goods worth about ten thousand pounds sterling that the Transylvania Land Company was offering in exchange for the lands to be purchased. Shortages of trade goods among his people made the deal appealing.

Attakullakulla approved of the deal and soon as many as 1,200 Aniyunwiya came to the treaty negotiations at Sycamore Shoals. Some 600 white settlers gathered there as well.

It was in front of his father, a peace chief, that Tsiyu Gansini made his impassioned speech in opposition to the land transaction. The "red" and "white" worldviews of the Aniyunwiya were on full display for all to see. His speech basically rebuked everything his father stood for.

Although not at the treaty negotiations, another voice for peace was Nanyehi, who became known as Nancy Ward after her marriage to Bryant Ward, a white trader among her people. During this period of great tension between the Aniyunwiya and the colonial settlers, Nanyehi advocated for peaceful relations. She believed that the best path forward was for her people to find a way to peacefully coexist with the encroaching white settlers.

Earlier in her life, as the teenage wife of Kingfisher, she accompanied him to the Battle of Taliwa where the Aniyunwiya were fighting their traditional enemies, the Muscogee (Creek). When Kingfisher was killed and the Aniyunwiya were losing, she picked up her husband's rifle and led the warriors to victory. She was soon named a Ghigau (Beloved Woman).

As a Beloved Woman, Nanyehi represented the "white" or "peace" government, as did her uncle, Attakullakulla. On several occasions, Nanyehi warned settlers of impending attacks, thereby saving many lives on both sides, lives that would have been lost through endless retaliations.

The Treaty of Sycamore Shoals was signed but later nullified by the Virginia legislature which claimed the lands of Kentucky as a westward extension of Virginia's territory. The state of North Carolina also nullified the purchase of Middle Tennessee, again a westward extension of its own land.

Tsiyu Gansini' opposition to the purchase would indeed lead to a bloody period for the Wataugans and the other settlers who moved into East Tennessee. When other Aniyunwiya leaders argued against further fighting, Tsiyu Gansini refused to give in. He and others who followed him, moved south and established new towns on Chickamauga Creek, becoming known as the

Chickamauagas. It was here the famous war chief died.

In 1776, a year after the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals, a strong military force from Virginia burned many Aniyunwiya towns, convincing Attakullakulla, along with other Aniyunwiya leaders, to visit Williamsburg, VA, and accept a negotiated peace. They agreed to concede some lands but refused to join the fight against the British. This was Attakullakulla's final act as a statesman for his people. His death came a few years later.

A decade after the Transylvania Purchase, Nanyehi was one of the Aniyunwiya leaders who met an American delegation prior to the Hopewell Treaty. There were no women among the white negotiators, who were likely surprised to find themselves seated across from a woman in such an important diplomatic role.

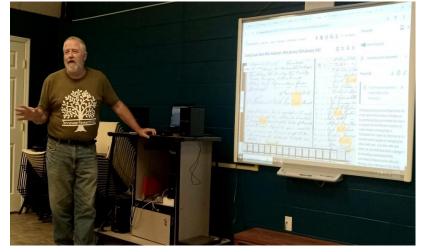


their people.

In her speech, Nanyehi reportedly said, "You know that women are always looked upon as nothing; but we are your mothers; you are our sons. Our cry is all for peace; let it continue. This peace must last forever. Let your women's sons be ours; our sons be yours. Let your women hear our words."

Nanyehi died in 1822 and is buried in Benton, Tennessee.

Since those first Europeans arrived on the shores of what they considered a "new world," stereotypes of Indigenous peoples have muddied today's understanding of Native people. The men are often condemned as bloodthirsty savages; the women praised for helping the whites. Maybe a better view would be to consider them, not solely in the context of how they interacted with the whites, but more about how they fought for

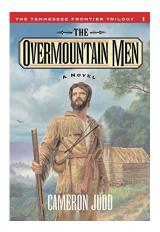


Sam Maner, member of Anderson County Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution and registrar for the Tennessee State Sons of the Revolution was the guest speaker for the Anderson County Historical Society on Thursday, August 28th. Mr. Maner shared many useful resources when tracing your family lineage and also shared his expertise in using Family Search as a research tool. It was a very informative and fun evening!

(Submitted by Lisa Brock, President of Anderson Co. Historical Society)

BOOK REVIEW

The Overmountain Men (Tennessee Frontier)



WRITTEN BY <u>CAMERON JUDD</u> REVIEW BY STEVE LEWIS

Based in Nashville, Tennessee, Cumberland House is republishing Judd's fictional history of the early days of that state in three handsome trade paperbacks. Others in the series are The Border

Men [1778-1783] and The Canebrake Men [1785-1800], first published in mass market paperback by

Bantam nearly ten years ago. Chronicled in this first book are the adventures of Joshua Colter, from the time he was boy of ten, creeping into a camp of Cherokees to avenge the deaths of his parents, to grown manhood, in a land on the verge of fighting for its independence from the British.

Most of this first volume also tells the story of the early settlers in Tennessee, coming across the mountains from Virginia and the Carolinas. Life was not easy for them, as the Cherokees generally were not pleased with the influx of the white intruders, who insisted on their way of life and rule of law, and then ignored both when it was to their favor and advantage. There are lots of deaths in the wars and skirmishes that follow, and rape, torture and mutilation, not to mention horrible accidents in the untamed wilderness. On page 244, young Colter wonders why "life sometimes handed out too many blows to bear."

Judd is a natural storyteller, but his stories are often brutally dark and shuddersome, and this is no exception. It's an honest version of history, however, painstakingly put together, and in the end, very much affirmative of the human spirit. Recommended, but even though it's the story of both a young frontiersman and a new country about to be born, perhaps not for younger children.

This Book is available for Loan from our SR Library Email Sam at sr1776@yahoo.com to request the loan of the book!



NEW MEMBERS

Number	Name	Ancestor	
2972	Raj Yogesh Patel	Capt William Patrick	
2973	David Bales Gallagher	Lt Col. Robert McFarland II	
2974	Kenny Ray Maner Sr	Major Hugh Henry	
2975	Hugh L. Tate, Jr	Captain William Tate	
2976	Jeffrey Randolph Gibson	Nicholas Gibbs	
2977	Zackariah Charles Cook	PVT James Lovin	
2978	James K. Alexander	John Cowenhoven Van Cleve	
2979	McClernand Butler Crawford	Col. Alexander Brush	
2981	Joel Anthony Davenport	George Davenport	
2982	John Kevin Witherell	Lt. Col. Stephen Kimball	
2983	Charles Franklin Cook	Nimrod Newman	
2984	William Franklin Claibough	Pvt John Claiborne	
2985	Robert Gregory Modrall	Pvt David Tucker	
2986	Wesley Darren Chamberlin	Ninian Chamberlin	
2987	Montgomery Trafton Koons	Captain James Ewing	
2988	Ray Maxwell Smith	Pvt Ali Smith	
2989	Stephen Eugene Anderson	Lt. Elisha Cottingham	
2990	Fred Randolph Gibson	Nicholas Gibbs	
2991	Roy Marcum	Non Com Officer William Cross	

Reinstatement

2609 Stanley Warren Dalton Reuben J. Dalton

2392 Michael Lee Beck Thomas Brooks

Supplement

2605 S5 David Lindsey Whaley Sergeant Daniel McKinney

2241 S1 Joseph McLean Taylor Pvt David Rogers

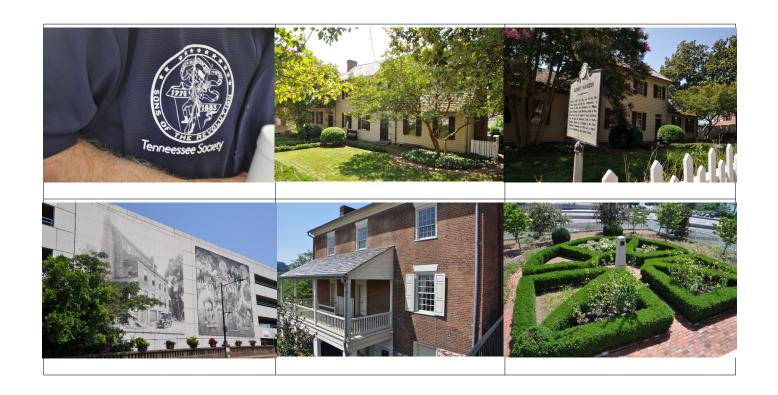
CHAPTER MEETINGS					
Chapter	Location	Day	Time		
Anderson County	David Hall Cabi	n 4 th Tues	5:30 PM		
Roane County	Flea World Rest	. 1 st Fri	5:00PM		
Robert McFarland	l Long Street HQ	3 rd Thur	6:00 PM		
Nashville Chapter	TO BE ANNO	UNCED			
Knox County	TO BE ANNO	UNCED			
Sevier County	TO BE ANNO	UNCED			
Greene County	TO BE ANNO	UNCED			
Loudon County	TO BE ANNO	UNCED			
West TN Chapter	TO BE ANNO	UNCED			
Chattanooga Chapter TO BE ANNOUNCED					

Summer Luncheon Photos By: Tim Massey

For more information on chapter meetings, times, and

locations contact our office 865-386-7272 or email

sr1776@yahoo.com

















L to R James McClain Tommy Thompson, Rose Steele



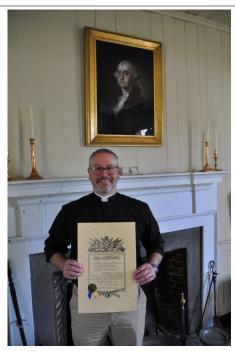














Dakota B. Carmichael is a 31 year old native Tennessean. He is a member of the Tennessee Society, Sons of the Revolution (member TNSR #2959). Dakota grew up in a family of story tellers and people that loved history.

His grandfather, Fred E. Carmichael, was a Master Sergeant in the USAF with over 28 years of service, including in Operation Desert Storm. His grandfather had a metal detecting club, was a civil war historian, and was very well versed on Tennessee history. Dakota's dad, Fred Blane Carmichael, is a veteran of the USN. His dad is a WWII historian and knows every battle. Dakota had the privilege of having history sewn into his veins from an early age because of these men. In school, he was privileged with several great teachers over the years. These teachers made history fun for him and made him want to learn more.

In 2016, Dakota started a YouTube channel under the name "The Old History Project" because he grew tired of not being able to find information about certain houses or events online. He began with a video about a house in Morristown called the Riggs house. From there it only got more interesting as he developed more questions. Dakota got to meet some incredible people over the years, some of whom are no longer with us.

He has been privileged enough to document, up close and in person, some of Tennessee's most historic places. Dakota has been to Rural Mount, home of Col. Alexander Outlaw, one of Tennessee's most famous unheard of figures. He has visited Pressmen's Home, once the largest union in the country, now a large and very abandoned area. Dakota served on the board of directors for Hayslope, the second oldest house in Hamblen county, with ties to Col. James Roddye. As a board member until it disbanded, Dakota was responsible for restoring the site for multiple years. While these are just a few of the many places he has documented, his channel has vast coverage of historical sites and happenings. Dakota has earned four awards from the East Tennessee Historical Society, of which he is a member and affiliate.

Dakota's journey as a historian will continue, as he is stepping up to become president of the Col. Robert McFarland chapter of TNSR and is assisting with the restoration of Rural Mount. His YouTube channel has reached people as far as Germany and has grown to over 5,000 subscribers. His Facebook page has similarly grown to over 10,000 followers. Dakota hopes to continue growing his projects to help people learn of Appalachia's rich history.

Dakota B Carmichael

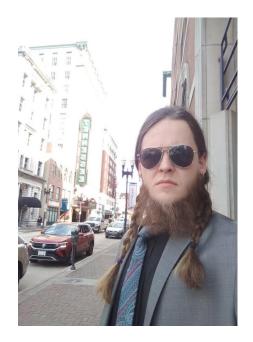
Ph. 423-200-9136

Member & Affiliate of the East Tennessee Historical Society

<u>Creator of</u> The Old History Project - Facebook Page

<u>Creator of The Old History Project - YouTube Channel</u>

Chairman, Grave marking and Cemetery Preservation committee TNSR



CHECK OUT THE OLD HISTORY PROJECT