

Breaking Barriers in History
2020 National History Day Theme
Tennessee History Topics

Topic and Year(s)	Barrier	Barrier Broken	Barrier	Barrier Broken
Knoxville Sit-Ins (1960)	Before 1960, Knoxville's downtown department stores and other amenities were legally segregated.	Inspired by the Greensboro Sit-Ins, students from Knoxville College, an historically black college established after the Civil War, expressed their intentions to sit-in at downtown lunch counters if city merchants did not desegregate.	The city and its merchants agreed to do so, however, they waited for students to go home for summer break as a stalling tactic to avoid desegregation.	Students stayed in Knoxville and conducted sit-ins which ultimately forced an end to segregation in the shops and restaurants.
Memphis Sit-Ins (1960)	Before 1960, Memphis' downtown department stores and other amenities were legally segregated.	Inspired by the Nashville and Greensboro Sit-Ins, black students from LeMoyne College and Owen Junior College organized sit ins at the main library and downtown department stores to desegregate the city.	The Memphis police arrested more than 300 demonstrators on loitering charges.	The secretary of the local NAACP chapter, Maxine Smith, joined the struggle and as a result of her and the NAACP's efforts, the city desegregated public buses and parks.

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<p>Tennessee's Interstate System (Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways) (1955–85)</p>	<p>With the rise of the automobile as the preeminent means of transportation, a network of roads became a pressing need.</p>	<p>In 1955, President Eisenhower authorized the construction of a national interstate network for easy transportation for military needs and social interconnectivity.</p>		
<p>Memphis Sanitation Strike (1968)</p>	<p>Prior to 1968, Memphis's sanitation department supervisors treated black employees poorly. They faced poor working conditions and low pay, and the city refused to allow them to join unions that might otherwise help them to improve their working conditions and pay.</p>	<p>After two Black workers were crushed in a garbage compactor, African American workers in Memphis sanitation industry went on strike.</p>		<p>After the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., national labor leaders, Pres. Lyndon Johnson, and TN Governor Buford Ellington pressured the city of Memphis to recognize the local union and allow deduction of union dues from workers' paychecks.</p>

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Chattanooga Sit-Ins (1960)	Before 1960, downtown lunch counters were legally segregated in the city of Chattanooga.	Inspired by the Nashville Sit-Ins, students from Howard High School organized sit-ins at lunch counters to force an end to segregation, resulting in a successful negotiation between local NAACP leader James Mapp and the city.		
<i>Kelley v. Board of Education: The Desegregation of Nashville Schools</i> (1955)	In the 1950s, Nashville's public school system was segregated by race. Black school students were given used text books and supplies discarded by white schools, and they were forbidden to attend the better-funded white schools.	In 1955, prominent black Nashville and NAACP attorneys Z. Alexander Looby and Avon Williams filed a federal case against Nashville public schools to bring the city into compliance with the <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> decision. In 1957, Judge William E. Miller ordered the Nashville School Board to desegregate its public schools.	White resisters protested the integration of Nashville public schools, which included bombing a school and enrolling their children in private institutions.	As a result of white opposition, <i>Kelley v. Board of Education</i> became Tennessee's longest running school desegregation case, which was not settled until the 21 st century.

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<p>Ratification of the 19th Amendment in Tennessee (1920)</p>	<p>Prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, women were not allowed to vote in Tennessee.</p>	<p>Majority-white Tennessee women organized themselves to campaign for female suffrage.</p>	<p>As a result of suffrage efforts, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a bill in April 1918 which granted partial suffrage to women. Despite fierce opposition, women's suffrage organizations continued the battle.</p>	<p>The Tennessee General Assembly ratified the Nineteenth Amendment in August 1920.</p>
<p>The Coal Creek War (1891–92)</p>	<p>Before the Coal Creek War, Tennessee state government allowed the use of convict labor by private companies to undermine wage labor.</p>	<p>Coal Creek miners revolted against coal mine owners and the state government militia.</p>	<p>Hundreds of coal miners were arrested for their involvement.</p>	<p>The publicity of the event forced the Tennessee General Assembly to later refuse to renew convict labor contracts with private businesses in 1896.</p>

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Oak Ridge school desegregation (1955)	Like other Tennessee public schools in Tennessee Robertsville Junior High School and Oak Ridge High School remained segregated after World War II, despite the 1954 <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> decision. Since Oak Ridge was technically a “government town” due to its connection to the nearby nuclear facility, the school was subject to Federal rules, even though it tried to adhere to local custom.	After the brown decision, the Atomic Energy Commission issued an order to desegregate the school. In 1955 the two schools admitted a large number of African Americans, making the schools the first public schools in the south to desegregate, just before the nearby Clinton High School.	Even so, elementary schools in Oak Ridge remained segregated another 12 years.	
The Harriman Hosiery Mill Strike (1933–34)	Workers at the Harriman Hosiery Mill experienced poor working conditions which they had limited options legally redress.	Textile workers at Harriman Hosiery Mill in Harriman initiated a strike over the poor working conditions.	Federal officials intervened and negotiated a compromise that failed to benefit the workers.	

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<p>The Elizabethton Rayon Plant Strike (1929)</p>	<p>Workers at the Elizabethton Rayon Plant experienced very low wages, unfair promotion practices, and petty regulation that applied only to women with few options to legally redress such discrimination.</p>	<p>Elizabethton rayon plant workers struck over the conditions. President of rayon plant, Arthur Mothwurf, and labor representatives negotiated a compromise to increase wages, protect strikers against discrimination, lift injunctions, and recognize an in-plant grievance committee.</p>	<p>Mothwurf and management refused to implement the demands. In response, workers initiated a series of subsequent strikes.</p>	
<p>Tent City (1959)</p>	<p>African American sharecroppers in Fayette and Henderson counties built a makeshift community known as Tent City after their white employers fired and evicted them for attempting to register to vote.</p>	<p>US Department of Justice filed several suits against landowners, merchants, and one financial institution for violating African American voting and civil rights.</p>		

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Nashville Sit-Ins (1960)	In 1959, downtown Nashville lunch counters and other amenities were segregated by custom.	Nashville college students launched a series of sit-ins at local lunch counters to challenge Jim Crow segregation.	Although a compromise solution was attempted, it failed. White protestors harassed and attacked protestors, and in April 1960, Black attorney Z. Alexander Looby's house was bombed by segregationists.	After the bombing, a silent march was organized by the protestors ending in a moral dialog with Mayor Ben West. Not long afterwards, city officials and local businesses negotiated an agreement to desegregate lunch counters.
DeFord Bailey (1899–1982)	DeFord Bailey was stricken with polio as a child.	He overcame his disability which made it difficult for him to do manual labor by playing the harmonica, an instrument at which he excelled.	The WSM Barn Dance-Grand Ole Opry was a show containing previously only hosting white country music performers.	Bailey became a beloved star after he became the first African American performer on the show.
Tennessee Implements Segregation	Tennessee ratified the 13th and 14th Amendments in order to be readmitted into the Union in 1866.	Democrats and white vigilantes challenged the new social, political, and economic rights of black Tennesseans.	The Democrat-controlled Tennessee General Assembly passed a series of legislation to disfranchise African Americans and poor white people.	

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<p>Clinton Desegregation Crisis (1947–58)</p>	<p>In the early 1950s, public schools in Tennessee were segregated by race. Clinton did not have a high school for black people, so African American high school students were bussed to Knoxville in order to adhere to the terms of the <i>Plessy v Ferguson</i> decision (1896).</p>	<p>After successfully pressing Clinton to improve African American school facilities, local African Americans, with the support of the NAACP, filed a lawsuit to desegregate the public school system.</p>	<p>Clinton made several attempts to curb full integration of public schools, but in 1956, Federal Judge Robert L. Taylor ordered the school board to end segregation by the fall term of 1956.</p>	<p>In August, twelve African American students desegregated Clinton High School. Despite state intervention, members of the local White Citizens Council and other outside agitators launched a verbally and physically violent campaign against school integration. Not until 1965 would the city's primary schools be desegregated.</p>
<p>Adolpho A. Birch, Jr. (1932–2011)</p>	<p>Nashville was a segregated city when Burch moved there to practice law.</p>	<p>He successfully defended Sit-In protestors and eventually became the first African American to serve as Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court.</p>		

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<p>Archie W. Willis, Jr. (1925–1988)</p>	<p>Willis’s city, Memphis, was a segregated city.</p>	<p>Willis started the first integrated law firm in Memphis. He became the predominant NAACP lawyer in Memphis during the early Civil Rights Movement. He was the first Black to be elected to the Tennessee General Assembly since Reconstruction.</p>		
<p>WDIA (1947)</p>	<p>Prior to WDIA radio station, there were no all-black format radio stations in the United States.</p>	<p>WDIA, which had white owners, devised the first all-black format show in the US. The success of the show encouraged them to change the station’s format completely, making WIDA the first all-black format station in the US.</p>		
<p>Battle of Athens (1946)</p>	<p>Before the end of World War II, the local government of McMinn County was known for political corruption and voter suppression.</p>	<p>World War II veterans led a rebellion against the local government push for reform. The veteran-led GI Non-Partisan League overthrew the government and began legislating reforms to combat political corruption in the county.</p>		

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Bobby Cain (1940–present)	Before <i>Brown v Board of Education</i> (1954) schools in Tennessee were segregated. Clinton High School was one such school. Black people were bussed to Knoxville instead because they didn't have a black high school and this was the typical plan used to circumvent the <i>Plessy v Fergusson</i> decision.	Cain was one of the first of 12 students (known as the "Clinton 12") to enroll in Clinton High School when the school system decided to comply with <i>Brown</i> . He became the first African American to graduate from a public high school in Tennessee.	Agitators came to Clinton to stir up resistance to desegregation of the school, and the activity was covered by the national press.	Some white students and other locals resolved to protect the students. Order was restored when Frank Clement sent in the National Guard to Clinton. Bobby Cain became the first African American student to graduate from a public formally segregated white high school in Tennessee in 1956.
Scopes Trial (1925)	Substitute school teacher John Scopes was charged with violating Tennessee's Butler Act, which prohibited the teaching of human evolution in public schools. The trial publicized the Fundamentalist-Modernist debate.	The court found Scopes guilty and fined him \$100, but the verdict was later overturned on a technicality. The case was considered a win for Fundamentalists.		

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<p>Lucie Eddie Campbell-Williams (1885–1963)</p>	<p>During the Jim Crow Era, black Tennesseans faced persistent discrimination by white people. This made living difficult for many black families. Even gospel music was segregated, although the influences intertwined.</p>	<p>Campbell became an educator in Memphis. She also began writing the first of many African American gospel songs, being the first woman to do so. These songs were meant to raise the spirits of less fortunate individuals and families. Her songs reached white people as well, changing the sound of music for future generations.</p>		
<p>Robert R. Church, Jr. (1885–1952)</p>	<p>Between 1880 and 1920, Jim Crow was the rule in Tennessee. However, because E. H. Crump's political machine desired to retain power, many African Americans were given voting leeway as long as they voted for Crump.</p>	<p>Robert R. Church, Jr., son of one of the nation's first black millionaires, founded the Republican Lincoln League to increase black voter participation and interest in law. The League was a formidable political force during its time.</p>	<p>The Great Depression seriously curtailed the effectiveness of the Lincoln League as Black voters began switching to the Democratic party. Church was run out of town by the Crump Machine.</p>	<p>Because of the continued interest of African Americans in the political system and the unusual number of black voters in Memphis, African American voter participation played a key role in breaking the effects of Jim Crow during the Civil Rights Era</p>

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<p>Fisk University (founded 1865)</p>	<p>Prior to the Civil War, the majority of enslaved African Americans were legally refused access to formal education.</p>	<p>In 1865, leaders of the American Missionary Association founded Fisk Free Colored School for the education of freed people in Nashville and surrounding counties.</p>		
<p>Ernest Withers (1922–2007)</p>	<p>In the 1950s, the mainstream press was not interested in photographs taken by African Americans.</p>	<p>Withers snapped thousands of photographs of black life in Memphis at a time when such documentation was rare. During the Southern Civil Rights Movement, Ernest Withers was able to take countless photographs of the movement when other white photographers did not. His photographs became extremely important in documenting the movement, breaking barriers for African American photographers in the national press.</p>		

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<p>Anne Dallas Dudley (1876–1955)</p>	<p>Prior to 1920, women in Tennessee were unable to vote in local and national elections.</p>	<p>In the early 1910s, Dudley joined women’s suffrage organizations in Tennessee and helped successfully petition the Tennessee State Legislature to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment</p>		
<p>Alex Haley and <i>Roots</i></p>	<p>Prior to the Civil Rights Movement, most white Americans showed little interest in African American history.</p>	<p>Alex Haley’s Pulitzer Prize winning work <i>Roots</i> was instrumental in broadening the awareness of Americans about African American struggles from the earliest days of slavery to the present. It also helped increase interest in genealogy among African Americans.</p>		

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Fisk Jubilee Singers (1871–present)	In the early days of the Nashville HBCU, Fisk University, the institution struggled financially. Being instrumental in the education of former enslaved African Americans, it was deemed crucial for it to survive.	The Fisk Jubilee Singers were formed to raise money. The group toured to raise money and were instrumental in bringing black spiritual music to the world. The money raise was enough to construct the University's notable building, Jubilee Hall.		
Diane Nash (1938–present)	Throughout the early-20 th century, Nashville was a segregated Southern city.	Fisk student Diane Nash, along with several other black college students from surrounding schools, organizing the Nashville Sit-In movement which successfully desegregated downtown lunch counters.		

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<p>John and Viola McFerrin (1960–62)</p>	<p>African Americans were kept from registering to vote in Fayette and Haywood counties by white administrators. This meant that black people were not adequately represented, keeping them from enjoying full citizenship.</p>	<p>Inspired by political campaigns involving black candidates in Memphis in 1959, John and Viola McFerrin began an organization to encourage local Black residents to register to vote in Fayette and Haywood counties.</p>	<p>Black people were illegally kept from registering, and many were fired as sharecroppers, leaving them nowhere to go. The McFerrins helped organize Tent Cities, where the expelled residents could live. This attracted press attention.</p>	<p>Although residents had to live in the Tent Cities until 1962, they were rewarded when the Federal government intervened on their behalf. These voter registration drives laid the groundwork for the better-known Mississippi voter registration drives that came later.</p>
<p>Wilma Rudolph, Ed Temple, and the Tigerbelles (1956–58)</p>	<p>Wilma Rudolph's early years were plagued by challenges and illnesses including polio which cause her to have to wear leg braces.</p>	<p>Rudolph, noticed by Tennessee A & I coach Ed Temple, became a Tigerbell winning three gold medals at the 1956 Olympics. As result, she was recognized as the United States' first female star athlete. Afterward, she continued to make important social contributions.</p>		

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<p>Memphis State Eight (1959)</p>	<p>Prior to the 1959 academic year, Memphis State University did not accept African American students.</p>	<p>Hoping to see the school desegregated, Memphis NAACP leader Jesse Turner recruited 8 African American students with high academic records to enroll in the school that year. The school permitted them to enroll making them the first African Americans to do so.</p>	<p>They faced harassment and special rules made just for them by the school.</p>	<p>Nevertheless, they all obtained college degrees from the University.</p>
<p>Theotis Robinson, Jr. (1960)</p>	<p>Prior to 1960, segregation was the norm throughout Knoxville.</p>	<p>Robinson participated in the Knoxville Sit-Ins, which saw some success, but many entities in Knoxville remained segregated, including the University of Tennessee.</p>	<p>Before 1961, the University of Tennessee did not accept African American students as undergraduates, even though NAACP lawyers had fought successfully to force the school to accept black people as graduate students earlier in the decade.</p>	<p>Emboldened by the success of the Knoxville Sit-Ins, Robinson applied to become the first black undergraduate student at the university. Despite initially being rejected, he was permitted to attend by the Tennessee Board of Regents.</p>

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Bessie Smith (1894–1937)	Chattanooga’s Bessie Smith, one of six children, was orphaned by the age of nine. She had to survive playing music with her brother on the streets.	She auditioned for and was hired by the Moses Stokes Company where she was influenced by “Mother of the Blues” Ma Rainey. She began her own act and became extremely popular throughout the south. She was signed by Columbia Records, a move which helped her reach worldwide fame.		
Avon Rollins (1941–2016)	Like most Southern cities, Knoxville, TN, was legally segregated.	Knoxville-born Avon Rollins joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in 1963 to challenge the city’s segregation laws. From there, he travelled throughout the South organizing against local and national segregation laws.		

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<p>Ida B Wells-Barnett (1862–1931)</p>	<p>In 1883, a white train conductor forcibly removed Ida B. Wells from a ladies' train car for refusing to move to the segregated "colored" car.</p>	<p>In 1884, she sued the Chesapeake, Ohio, and Southwestern Railroad Company for damages, and the judge decided in her favor.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, the Tennessee Supreme Court overturned the verdict in 1885 in accordance with legal segregation by private companies.</p>	
<p>Tennessee Valley Authority (1933)</p>	<p>Prior to the 1930s, rural communities throughout the Tennessee Valley had little to no access to electricity and other modern energy sources.</p>	<p>In 1933, Congress created the TVA to provide electricity to the region in order to modernize the region's economy and society.</p>		

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<p>Maxine Atkins Smith (1929—13)</p>	<p>Prior to the 1960s, the Memphis City School System, like other Southern school systems, were resistant to segregation even after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.</p>	<p>In 1969, Smith co-organized Black Mondays, a series of school boycotts which successfully forced Memphis City Schools to fully integrate the city public school system</p>		
<p>Kitty Wells (1919–12)</p>	<p>Country music in the early and mid-20th century was a male-dominated industry.</p>	<p>In 1952, Wells' single "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky-Tonk Angels" became the number one country hit recorded by a female vocalist.</p>		

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<p>Clarence Saunders and Piggly Wiggly (1916)</p>	<p>Prior to 1900s, customers at grocery stores waited on store clerks to select their items for purchase.</p>	<p>In 1916, Saunders opened the first Piggly Wiggly Store in Memphis, one of the first self-service stores, which revolutionized how shoppers selected their produce.</p>		
<p>Frederick W. Smith and FedEx (1973)</p>	<p>Prior to the 1970s, overnight delivery systems were largely unreliable.</p>	<p>In 1973, Smith began Federal Express (FedEx) which revolutionized overnight delivery both nationally and internationally.</p>		

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<p>General Education Bill of 1909</p>	<p>Before the turn of the century, there existed few standardized programs for training public school teachers in Tennessee</p>	<p>In 1909, the Tennessee General Assembly established three normal, or teacher-training institutions, one for each of the grand divisions.</p>		
<p>Jere Baxter and Tennessee Central Railroad (1893–1968)</p>	<p>In the late-19th century, the Louisville and Nashville (L&R) Railroad Company had a monopoly over rail connections to Nashville and therefore, Nashville commerce.</p>	<p>In 1893, Baxter formed the Tennessee Central Railroad Company (TC) to break the L&R monopoly and later, petitioned the state Senate to force L&N to open Union Station to TC traffic.</p>	<p>Unfortunately for Baxter, the L&R-supported Senate defeated his bill.</p>	

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<p>Perry Wallace and Godfrey Dillard (1966)</p>	<p>Prior to the 1960s, African American college athletes were not allowed to play in the segregated Southeastern Conference (SEC).</p>	<p>In 1966, the Vanderbilt University basketball team recruited Wallace and Dillard, making them the first black athletes to play in the newly-desegregated SEC.</p>		
<p>Cornelia Fort (1919–43)</p>	<p>Prior to World War II, air-piloting was a largely male-dominated profession.</p>	<p>Fort was the second woman in Tennessee to get her commercial flying license and the first woman in the state to get her instructor's license. She would later use her skills as a member of the World War II-era Women's Auxiliary Service Pilots. Fort. Fort became one of the first witnesses to the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into World War II.</p>		

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<p>Frances W. Preston (1928—2012)</p>	<p>Prior to the 1960s, country music in Tennessee was a male-dominated industry.</p>	<p>In 1965, Preston became Tennessee’s first female cooperate executive for Broadcast Music, Inc., a music performing rights organization, and paved the way for women in Nashville’s music industry.</p>		
<p>Oak Ridge “Secret City” (1942—present)</p>	<p>The technological advances of the Axis Powers during World War II made US officials realize the lack of comparable technological sophistication in their warfare armaments.</p>	<p>US officials procured land in East Tennessee out of which they built Oak Ridge, a city which housed secret government facilities for manufacturing atomic weaponry and advancing technological research.</p>		

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Robert E. Clay (1875—1961)	In the late-19 th and early 20 th centuries, few African American children in the rural South had access to segregated public-school facilities.	Beginning in 1917, Clay worked with several organizations, including the Julius Rosenwald Fund, to build schools and educational programs for African American children in the South.		
Sequoyah (c. 1770–1843)	Prior to the 1820s, there existed no written Native American language translatable to English.	In 1821, Sequoyah created a syllabary for the Cherokee language which made possible the writing and reading of Cherokee, the first written language of native North America.		

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<p>Sergeant Alvin Cullum York (1887–1964)</p>	<p>During World War 1, German forces occupied several sections of France, including Meuse-Argonne to which York and several other US soldiers were dispatched.</p>	<p>During a mission to take control of the Deauville railroad in October 1918, York and sixteen other US soldiers mistakenly wound up behind enemy lines and successfully defeated the German unit.</p>	<p>Upon his return to civilian life, York attempted to expand education opportunities for youth in the Upper Cumberland.</p>	
<p>Elihu Embree, the Manumission Society of Tennessee, the <i>Manumission Intelligencer</i>, and the <i>Emancipator</i> (1819–20)</p>	<p>In pre-Civil War Tennessee and other Southern states, the legal institution of slavery physically and spiritually oppressed several thousand Africans and African Americans.</p>	<p>In 1819 and 1820, respectively, the Quaker and member of the Manumission Society of Tennessee, Elihu Embree published <i>The Manumission intelligencer</i> and <i>The Emancipator</i>, the first newspapers in the United States devoted to abolishing slavery gradually and recolonizing the formerly enslaved.</p>		

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<p>Captain Thomas Green Ryman (1841–1904)</p>	<p>For most of the 19th century, transportation on the Cumberland River in Nashville was underdeveloped.</p>	<p>Beginning in 1864, Ryman created a riverboat business which rapidly expanded transportation capabilities on the Cumberland River.</p>		
<p>Acuff-Rose (1942–1985)</p>	<p>Prior to the 1940s, country music was a largely folk-based genre with little popular acclaim nationally or internationally.</p>	<p>Roy Acuff and Fred Rose formed Acuff-Rose music publish company in 1942 which transformed country music from a folk-based music to a popular commercial music.</p>		

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Estes Kefauver (1903–63)	Since the late-19 th century, South Democrats were largely segregationists and opposed black civil rights.	During his tenure as US House Representative to Tennessee (1939-1949) and US Senator (1950-1963), Kefauver broke with Southern Democrats to support civil liberties, school desegregation, equal employment, and anti-crime syndicates.		
P.V.H. Weems (1889–1979)	In the early 1900s, air navigation research was in its infancy.	During the late 1920s and early 1930s, Weems perfected an air navigation system which received wide acclaim.		

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<p>Lawrence Tyson and the 30th Infantry Division US in WWI (1918)</p>	<p>During World War I, the Hindenburg Line was a German defensive position in France.</p>	<p>In 1917, Tyson became the first and only Tennessee WWI general of the 59th Brigade of the 30th National Guard Division. In September 1918, Tyson and the Brigade were supposedly the first unit to cross and break the Hindenburg Line at its strongest point.</p>		
<p>Josephine Amanda Groves Holloway (1898–1988)</p>	<p>Girl Scout Troops in the early-20th century remained segregated based on race with few accredited black girl scout troops.</p>	<p>After unsuccessfully petitioning the Nashville Girl Scout Council to create a troop for black girls, Holloway stated her own unofficial troop which gained official recognition in 1942.</p>		

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<p>Almira S. Steele and the Steele Home for Needy Children (1884–1925)</p>	<p>Prior to the 1880s, no orphanage existed for African American children in the South due in large part to institutional racism.</p>	<p>In 1884, teacher and missionary Almira Steele founded the Steel home for Needy Children, the South’s first African American orphanage.</p>		
<p>Pat Summitt (1952–16)</p>	<p>In her first year as head coach of the women’s basketball team at the University of Tennessee in 1974, she and her players suffered financial strains because women’s basketball was not yet NCAA-sanctioned.</p>	<p>Despite their strains, Summitt coached her players to several victories, including the first women’s basketball SEC tournament.</p>		

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The Streetcar Era (late 1870s)	Prior to the 1870s, Tennesseans relied on walking and animal-drawn buggies for transportation within cities.	Beginning in the late 1870s, city-controlled private companies began manufacturing interurban railways in major Tennessee cities, which increased the availability of transportation within city limits, and eventually, to suburban areas for middle- and working-class families.		
Dolly Parton (1946–present)	Prior to the 1960s, country music was a male-dominated industry where Parton often found herself marginalized and uncredited.	In 1966, Dolly Parton’s hit single “Dumb Blond” became a top-ten hit and earned her local and eventually, national and international acclaim.		

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<p>US Army Corps of Engineers in Tennessee</p>	<p>Environmental barriers often prevented US military forces from performing military maneuvers and surveillance during war and peacetime.</p>	<p>In each era of war, the US Army Corps provided topographic reconnaissance and mapping, fortification design and construction, and related services across Tennessee.</p>		
<p>Admiral David Glasgow Farragut (1801–70)</p>	<p>Prior to the Civil War, there existed no permanent US military.</p>	<p>Farragut became the first admiral of the US Navy in recognition of his leadership in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was the highest ranking Tennessean during the Civil War.</p>		

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Tennessee Ferries (late 1770s–1880)	The lack of roads prior to the late-19 th century prevented easy travel across and between communities in Tennessee.	Companies began constructing ferry boats for commercial enterprises and common Tennesseans to travel more easily across the state.		
W. C. Handy (1873–1958)	Outside of black communities, blues as a music genre had little national acclaim in the early-20 th century.	W. C. Hardy of Memphis, Tennessee was the first African American to publish music in the blues form, propelling it to national and international popularity		

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<p>Jewish Immigration into Tennessee (1830s, 1880s, 1930s)</p>	<p>The rise of Nazism and Fascism in Europe led to the persecution of Jews and other marginalized religio-ethnic minorities on the continent.</p>	<p>Nashville businessman Mortimer May used May Hosiery Mill to extract Jews from Eastern Europe in the 1930s. He rescued between 230 to 280 people.</p>		
<p>James Morris Lawson Jr. (1928—present)</p>	<p>Before 1960, Nashville department stores and eateries were racially segregated.</p>	<p>In 1960, Vanderbilt University Divinity School student James Lawson trained Fisk University and Tennessee State University students in the principles of nonviolent direct action to successfully challenge Nashville’s desegregation laws.</p>	<p>For his efforts, the Vanderbilt University Board of Trustees expelled Lawson from the Divinity School.</p>	