

# HISTORY OF NASHVILLE

CFMA Scholarship Dinner  
(Construction Financial Management Association, Middle Tennessee Chapter)  
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Richland Country Club  
Presented by Ridley Wills III

GOOD EVENING, MY NAME IS RIDLEY WILLS. THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE TONIGHT. JUST HUMOR ME FOR A FEW SECONDS. BY A SHOW OF HANDS, HOW MANY OF YOU ARE NATIVE OR AT LEAST GREW UP IN NASHVILLE OR GREATER NASHVILLE AREA? ..... OK, SO THAT HELPS ME KNOW WHOM TO WATCH OUT FOR, AS I HAVE THE HONOR OF RELATING TO YOU THE HISTORY OF **NASHVILLE**. SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CORRECT ME IF YOU FIND SOMETHING AMISS.

ONE REASON WHY I MAY HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO RELATE THIS STORY TO YOU TONIGHT IS THAT I AM ..... WHAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT CALL ..... A NATIVE NASHVILLIAN. MY FAMILY HAS BEEN IN THIS REGION FOR .....WELL ..... MANY GENERATIONS. HOWEVER, I AM HERE TO TELL YOU THAT THERE REALLY IS NO SUCH A PERSON AS A (QUOTE, UNQUOTE) NATIVE NASHVILLIAN. ALTHOUGH IT MAY CURRENTLY SEEM THAT IMMIGRATION IS A NEW ISSUE FOR MIDDLE TENNESSEE, IT IS ULTIMATELY AND LITERALLY HOW EACH OF US GOT HERE.

OK, OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD. THAT'S WHEN WE HAVE **THE EARLIEST EVIDENCE** OF HUMAN HABITATION IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE WITH THE MOUND BUILDERS WHO IMMIGRATED TO OUR AREA ... AT THE VERY LATEST ... BY ABOUT 1000 A.D. FAR MORE POPULOUS THAN LATER NATIVE AMERICANS IN OUR AREA, THESE PEOPLE CONSTRUCTED THEIR **HALLMARK MOUNDS**, VESTIGES OF

WHICH ARE READILY VISIBLE TODAY THROUGHOUT OUR REGION, PARTICULARLY ALONG THE HARPETH RIVER. ONE OF, IF NOT THE, LARGEST, VILLAGES FROM THIS PERIOD IN DAVIDSON COUNTY WAS LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF PRESENT DAY HILLSBORO ROAD AND OLD HICKORY BOULEVARD. KNOWN AS KELLYTOWN, THIS SITE HAS REVEALED ARTIFACTS FROM AS EARLY AS 3500 BC, BUT ITS PALISADES AND HOUSE FOUNDATIONS PRIMARILY DATE FROM THE EARLY 1400'S. BY THE 1600'S HOWEVER, THIS ANCIENT CULTURE HAD BASICALLY VANISHED.

YOU SEE, BY THIS POINT, MIDDLE TENNESSEE WAS NO LONGER A HOME, BUT RATHER A HUNTING GROUND SHARED BY THE CHEROKEE WHO LIVED IN S.E. TENNESSEE AND NORTH GEORGIA, THE CREEK FROM NORTHERN ALABAMA AND THE CHICKASAW FROM NORTH MISSISSIPPI. THE REASON WHY THERE WAS PLENTIFUL GAME HERE WAS BECAUSE OF NATURAL SULPHUR SPRINGS WHICH CREATED A SALT LICK IN THE FLAT LANDS WHERE THE BICENTENNIAL MALL IS NOW LOCATED. THE ONLY REMNANTS OF THIS IMPORTANT RAISON D'ETRA FOR OUR CITY ARE A COUPLE OF CAPPED OFF PIPES IN THE SIDEWALK JUST EAST OF ROLPH AND DAUGHTERS RESTAURANT ON TAYLOR STREET. THERE IS NOT EVEN AN HISTORIC MARKER TO INDICATE THE SPOT!

AS EARLY AS 1698, **LONGHUNTERS** WERE HUNTING AND EXPLORING THE NASHVILLE BASIN, **DANIEL BOONE** WAS PROBABLY THE MOST FAMOUS OF THEM ALL. THE OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED DEMONBREUM STREET, STONE'S RIVER WHICH NOW FORMS PERCY PRIEST LAKE, STATION CAMP CREEK IN HENDERSONVILLE AND MANSKER'S STATION IN GOODLETTSVILLE ARE

JUST SOME OF THE PRESENT-DAY PLACE NAMES THAT STEM FROM THIS PERIOD.

IN LATE NOVEMBER OF 1779, **JAMES ROBERTSON** LED A PARTY OF MEN AND OLDER BOYS WITH SOME CATTLE FROM THE WATUAGA SETTLEMENTS IN UPPER EAST TENNESSEE NEAR PRESENT DAY JOHNSON CITY THROUGH THE **CUMBERLAND GAP** TO SETTLE HERE. TRADITION HAS IT THAT THEY ARRIVED ON CHRISTMAS DAY TO A FROZEN CUMBERLAND RIVER.

THE MEN HASTILY BUILT CABINS AND A **SMALL STOCKADE** ALONG THE RIVER'S BLUFF BY A SPRING. ROBERTSON NAMED HIS NEW SETTLEMENT NASHBOROUGH IN HONOR OF HIS FRIEND, FRANCIS NASH, WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN KILLED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

**MEANWHILE**, IN 30 OR SO FLATBOATS AND CANOES, JOHN DONELSON LED HIS PARTY ON A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT, NEARLY THOUSAND MILE VOYAGE. SLOWED BY LOW WATER, ICE, SMALLPOX AND EVEN DEADLY **ATTACKS BY THE CHEROKEE** NEAR PRESENT-DAY CHATTANOOGA, THEY MADE IT TO FORT NASHBOROUGH ON APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>, 1780.

THE REASON ROBERTSON AND DONELSON SETTLED HERE WAS BECAUSE OF THE **CUMBERLAND RIVER**. WE COULD EFFECTIVELY TRANSPORT OUR COTTON AND TOBACCO BY BOAT TO NEW ORLEANS, RETURNING BY FOOT OR HORSE UP THE **NATCHEZ TRACE**. YOU SEE, NASHVILLE IS AT THE HEAD OF THIS 440 MILE LONG PATH WHICH IS NOW, A SCENIC PARKWAY. USED FOR CENTURIES

BY NATIVE AMERICANS, THIS TRAIL LINKED OUR AREA WITH THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEAR PRESENT DAY, NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI.

ONE YEAR LATER, ON APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, 1781, TWO NATIVE AMERICANS ARRIVED AT OUR SETTLEMENT AND ENTICED OUT 21 OF THESE PIONEERS, INCLUDING ROBERTSON. SUDDENLY, OVER 300 MORE WARRIORS APPEARED BLOCKING THEM OFF FROM THE FORT'S PROTECTION. **CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON**, HOWEVER, HAD THE PRESENCE OF MIND TO LET LOOSE THE SETTLEMENT'S PACK OF DOGS; AND, IN THE END, ONLY SEVEN OF THE SETTLERS WERE KILLED. THIS IS NOW CALLED THE **BATTLE OF THE BLUFF**.

IN 1784, FORT NASHBOROUGH'S NAME WAS OFFICIALLY CHANGED TO NASHVILLE IN REACTION TO ANTI-ENGLISH SENTIMENT OVER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. BY 1787, OUR TINY FRONTIER TOWN HAD 6 FRAME HOUSES AND 30 LOG CABINS.

THE MAJORITY OF THE EARLY, WHITE SETTLERS OF NASHVILLE WERE OF SCOT-IRISH DESCENT AND PRESBYTERIAN BACKGROUND. THE REST OF THE CHURCHGOERS WERE EITHER METHODIST OR BAPTISTS. THE STORY GOES THAT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PRESBYTERIANS AND THE BAPTISTS THAT THE FORMER WOULD ESTABLISH CHURCHES IN THE TOWNS AND THE LATTER IN THE COUNTRY. THE FACT THAT IT TOOK UNTIL 1820 FOR THE BAPTISTS TO ERECT **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** IN NASHVILLE PROPER GIVES CREDENDCE TO THIS TALE.

ALL THIS BEING SAID, HOWEVER, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT FEW PEOPLE IN THE 1780'S & 90'S IN NASHVILLE HAD FORMAL RELIGIOUS

AFFILIATION. IN FACT, THE 1796 CENSUS REVEALED THAT FEWER THAN 6% OF TENNESSEE'S POPULATION EVEN HELD CHURCH MEMBERSHIPS.

IN THE 1788, MY 6TH GREAT UNCLE, JOHN MCNAIRY, MOVED TO NASHVILLE AS THE JUDGE FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S WESTERNMOST DISTRICT; AND ONE OF HIS FIRST ACTS WAS TO APPOINT HIS YOUNG FRIEND, **ANDREW JACKSON**, AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT. JACKSON TOOK UP LODGING AT THE WIDOW DONELSON'S HOUSE WITH AN EQUALLY YOUNG JOHN OVERTON, WHO LATER BUILT **TRAVELLER'S REST PLANTATION**. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT ANDREW MET AND FELL IN LOVE WITH **RACHEL**. SHE WAS THE DONELSON DAUGHTER, WHO HAD RETURNED HOME HAVING SUFFERED AN UNHAPPY, FIRST MARRIAGE TO A LOUIS ROBARDS.

IN 1791, RACHEL DONELSON AND ANDREW JACKSON TIED THE KNOT UNDER THE MISTAKEN ASSUMPTION THAT RACHEL'S DIVORCE HAD GONE THROUGH. THREE YEARS LATER, REALIZING THEIR MISTAKE, THEY MARRIED AGAIN, THIS TIME LEGALLY.

FIGHTING WITH THE NATIVE AMERICANS CONTINUED UNABATED FOR UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 1794, WHEN 275 MEN FROM NASHVILLE TREKED OVER TO THE **CHEROKEE TOWNS** OF NICKAJACK AND RUNNING WATER AND KILLED SOME 50 NATIVE AMERICANS. ONLY 3 PIONEERS WERE EVEN WOUNDED IN THAT BATTLE. THIS PUT AN END TO ANY FURTHER NATIVE AMERICAN INCURSIONS INTO MIDDLE TENNESSEE. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT, AT THIS TIME, NASHVILLE WAS THE FARMOST WESTERN POINT IN ENGLISH AMERICA.

IN JUNE OF 1796, PRESIDENT WASHINGTON SIGNED THE DOCUMENTS MAKING TENNESSEE OUR COUNTRY'S 16<sup>TH</sup> STATE, DIVIDING NORTH CAROLINA IN HALF.

BY 1804, ANDREW AND RACHEL JACKSON PURCHASED A 425-ACRE, COTTON FARM WHERE THEY CONVERTED A **GROUP OF LOG STRUCTURES** INTO THEIR HOME. IT WAS TO THIS HUMBLE ABODE THAT JACKSON RETURNED TO NASHVILLE AS A NATIONAL HERO FROM THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS. TODAY, YOU CAN VISIT THESE VERY SAME BUILDINGS AT THE REAR OF **THE HERMITAGE PLANTATION**, THE MAGNIFICENT HOME HE LATER HAD BUILT.

IN MARCH OF 1819, WITH THE ARRIVAL FROM NEW ORLEANS OF THE **FIRST STEAMBOAT, GENERAL JACKSON**. NASHVILLE WAS QUICKLY ELEVATED FROM AN OUTPOST TOWN TO A TOP RANKING CITY IN THE SOUTHWEST. KNOXVILLE, WHICH HAD BEEN A LARGER CENTER OF TRADE, SOON YIELDED HER ADVANTAGE BECAUSE THE **MUSCLE SHOALS** IN NORTH ALABAMA BLOCKED STEAMBOAT TRAFFIC ON THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

IN 1824, THE NATION'S PRESIDENTIAL RACE WAS AMAZINGLY SIMILAR TO THE 2000 ELECTION. BOTH ANDREW JACKSON AND AL GORE HAD BEEN TENNESSEE SENATORS; THEIR RESPECTIVE OPPONENTS, **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS** AND GEORGE W. BUSH, WERE INCUMBENTS AND SONS OF FORMER PRESIDENTS; BOTH JACKSON AND GORE WON A MAJORITY OF THE POPULAR VOTE; BUT NEITHER WON THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE TO BECOME PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, JACKSON SUCCESSFULLY RE-CHALLENGED ADAMS IN THE ELECTION OF 1828.

DESPITE WHAT WE MAY THINK OF OUR CURRENT PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS, THIS SECOND ATTEMPT AT THE WHITE HOUSE IS STILL CONSIDERED THE MEANEST OF ALL AMERICAN, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS . . . . . WHICH IS CERTAINLY SAYING SOMETHING!

THE PERSON WHO SUFFERED THE MOST FROM THE MUDSLINGING WAS **RACHEL**. COMPLICATIONS REGARDING RACHEL'S FIRST MARRIAGE WERE DRAGGED OUT AND TWISTED INTO TALES OF IMMORALITY. SHE WAS ALSO CRITIZED FOR HER RELIGIOUS PIETY, FOR HAVING GROWN FAT, FOR SMOKING A PIPE, FOR LACKING REFINEMENT AND EVEN FOR ILLITERACY. **JACKSON** GOT HIS VINDICATION WITH AN OVEWHELMING, ELECTORAL WIN!

THIS TRIUMPH WAS QUICKLY TO LOSE NEARLY ALL OF ITS PERSONAL MEANING SIX WEEKS LATER WHEN RACHEL SUFFERED WHAT SEEMS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN A HEART ATTACK AND **DIED** FIVE DAYS LATER. CAUGHT COMPLETELY OFFGUARD, ANDREW WAS DEVASTATED. ON THE CHRISTMAS EVE, ALL THE CHURCH BELLS TOLLED FOR ONE HOUR BEFORE THE 2 P.M.FUNERAL.

OUR GOVERNOR, **SAM HOUSTON** (YES, THE VERY SAME MAN WHO LATER BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY OF TEXAS) LED THE PALLBEARERS, FOLLOWED BY JACKSON, A GREAT TRAIN OF DONELSON RELATIVES, AND FINALLY **HANNAH** AND THE OTHER ENSLAVED HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS BRINGING UP THE REAR.

JACKSON SOON HAD TO LEAVE FOR THE LONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON, NOW WITH HIS 21 YEAR OLD NEICE, **EMILY DONELSON**, TO SERVE

AS HIS SURROGATE FIRST LADY AT THE WHITE HOUSE. AT THE TIME, THEIR COMMUTE TOOK BETWEEN 3 AND 4 WEEKS!

IN 1825, 29 YEAR OLD **JIMMY POLK**, A JACKSON PROTEGEE, WAS ELECTED TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AS ONE OF ITS YOUNGEST MEMBERS.

IN 1826, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE MOVED TO NASHVILLE FROM MURFREESBORO BECAUSE THEIR CITY OFFICIALS HAD REFUSED TO BUILD A LARGE, PERMANENT, CAPITAL BUILDING.

ONE FACT OF JACKSON'S PRESIDENCY THAT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED IS HIS SUPPORT FOR WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE **TRAIL OF TEARS**. IN 1828, THE MONTH BEFORE JACKSON BECAME PRESIDENT, GOLD WAS DISCOVERED ON CHEROKEE LANDS OF NORTH GEORGIA. OVER THE NEXT DECADE, THE CHEROKEE WERE HARRASSED AND THEN FORCIBLY RELOCATED. SO IT WAS THAT JUST AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY, 1838, A PORTION OF THE APPROX. 13,000 CHEROKEE MEN, MEN AND CHILDREN WERE FORCIBLY WALKED THROUGH NASHVILLE ON THEIR WAY TO NEW LANDS WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI. AS MANY AS 4000 OF THEM WOULD DIE EITHER IN THE DETENTION CAMPS PRIOR TO OR ON THAT JOURNEY.

**JAMES K. POLK** REMAINED A CONGRESSMAN UNTIL 1839 WHEN HE WITHDREW TO RUN SUCCESSFULLY FOR GOVERNOR. IT WAS DURING THAT TENURE WHEN NASHVILLE FINALLY BECAME THE OFFICIAL CAPITAL OF OUR STATE, HAVING BEEN UNOFFICIALLY SO FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS.

IN 1844, POLK WON THE PRESIDENCY AS A “DARK HORSE” CANDIDATE DEFEATING JACKSON'S OLD NEMESIS, **HENRY CLAY**, WHO CAME FROM LEXINGTON, KY. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT POLK DID NOT WIN TENNESSEE AND REMAINS, TO THIS DAY, THE ONLY PRESIDENT NOT TO WIN HIS HOME STATE.

ANDREW JACKSON DIED IN 1845, BUT MANY OF HIS UNFREED SLAVES OUTLIVED HIM, INCLUDING HANNAH AND **THE FAMOUS ALFRED** WHOSE CABIN CAN STILL BE SEEN TODAY DIRECTLY BEHIND THE HERMITAGE. IN FACT, HE IS THE ONLY, FORMERLY ENSLAVED PERSON TO BE BURIED NEXT TO A U.S. PRESIDENT.

JAMES K. POLK'S PROMISE TO ANNEX TEXAS HELPED TO PRECIPITATE THE **MEXICAN AMERICAN WAR** IN 1846. FOR THAT WAR EFFORT, TENNESSEE'S GOVERNOR REQUESTED 2800 VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS; AND OVER 30,000 MEN SIGNED UP. IT WAS THIS OVERWHELMING RESPONSE THAT SOLIDIFIED TENNESSEE'S NICKNAME AS THE VOLUNTEER STATE.

WHILE PRESIDENT, **SARAH POLK** STARTED A TRADITION FOR HER HUSBAND. SLIGHT OF STATURE AT 5'8", POLK WOULD OFTEN BE UNNOTICED DESPITE HIS EXALTED POSITION. TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, SARAH ORDERED THE MILITARY BAND TO PLAY “HAIL TO THE CHIEF” WHENEVER HE ENTERED A ROOM IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. IT HAS BEEN A TRADITION EVER SINCE!

IN THE EARLY 1850'S, OUR JEWISH POPULATION HAD GROWN SUFFICIENTLY ENOUGH TO FORM CONGREGATION KAHL KODESH MOGEN AND TO BRING IN OUR FIRST RABBI.

IN 1851, THE **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, WHERE I GREW UP ATTENDING, WAS COMPLETED. THIS IS THE THIRD CHURCH ERECTED ON THE CORNER OF 5<sup>TH</sup> AND CHURCH STREETS, THE PREVIOUS TWO HAVING BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRES. IT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. THIS BUILDING WAS DESIGNED BY WILLIAM STRICKLAND IN THE UNUSUAL, BUT HIGHLY FASHIONABLE, **EGYPTIAN REVIVAL TASTE**. IN FACT, IT IS THE LARGEST STRUCTURE OF ITS STYLE REMAINING ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD TODAY; AND IT IS ARGUABLY THE MOST ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDING IN OUR CITY.

IN 1855, NASHVILLE'S FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL, **HUME SCHOOL**, OPENED. IT STILL STANDS ON BROADWAY AND IS NOW KNOWN AS **HUME-FOGG MAGNET SCHOOL**,

IN 1858, THE **SOUTHERN METHODIST CHURCH ESTABLISHED ITS PUBLISHING HOUSE** HERE IN NASHVILLE. THIS PUBLISHING ENTERPRISE SURVIVES TODAY AS THE UNITED METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.

IN 1859, OUR **CAPITAL BUILDING** WAS COMPLETED AFTER A 14 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION. IT WAS DESIGNED BY THE REKNOWN PHILADELPHIA ARCHITECT, **WILLIAM STRICKLAND**, WHO IN FACT DIED HERE REMAINS BURIED IN ITS WALLS, TODAY!

IN 1860, **THE DOMINICAN ORDER OF ST. CECELIA** WAS ESTABLISHED HERE BY 4 NUNS. THIS FULL HABIT WEARING ORDER IS

ONE OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING CONVENTS, OPERATING 41 ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGES AROUND THE WORLD.

BY 1860, ON THE EVE OF WAR, **NASHVILLE** HAD A POPULATION OF 17,000 WITH AN ADDITIONAL 2000 MORE LIVING JUST ACROSS THE RIVER IN EDGEFIELD.

I THINK THAT THIS IS A REALLY NEAT SLIDE AS IT IS, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THE EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTOGRAPH WE HAVE OF NASHVILLE, TAKEN AROUND 1856 ON THE PUBLIC SQUARE WHICH WOULD BE JUST IN FRONT OF WHERE THE DAVIDSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE NOW STANDS. WE WERE THE 5<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST CITY IN THE MOSTLY RURAL SOUTH. .... BEAR IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT WE WERE ABOUT THE SIZE OF MODERN DAY TULLAHOMA.

IN JANUARY OF 1861, TENNESSEANS VOTED TO STAY WITH THE UNION; HOWEVER, ON APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> OF THAT SAME YEAR, WHEN PRESIDENT LINCOLN CALLED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PUT DOWN THE SOUTH CAROLINA REBELLION, TENNESSEE DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE. IN NASHVILLE, THE VOTE WAS OVERWHELMINGLY PRO-SECESSION BY A VOTE OF 3,029 TO 250. .... HOWEVER, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT ONLY WHITE MEN OVER THE AGE OF 21 WHO OWNED PROPERTY COULD VOTE.

IN FEBRUARY 1862, THE YANKEES ACHIEVED THEIR FIRST MAJOR VICTORY WHEN A THEN OBSCURE **BRIGADIER GENERAL, ULYSSES S. GRANT**, CAPTURED FORT HENRY ON THE TENNESSEE AND **FORT DONELSON ON THE CUMBERLAND**. CONFEDERATE COMMANDERS EVACUATED OUR CITY WITHOUT A FIGHT, AND MANY NASHVILLIANS FLED SOUTH BEFORE THE UNION

ARMY MATERIALIZED ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>, **OUR CITY OFFICIALLY SURRENDERED** ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup>.

NASHVILLE WAS THE FIRST SOUTHERN CAPITAL TO FALL AND WOULD REMAIN IN FEDERAL HANDS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WAR. PRESIDENT LINCOLN APPOINTED FORMER TENNESSEE GOVERNOR AND STAUNCH UNIONIST **ANDREW JOHNSON** TO BE OUR NEW, MILITARY GOVERNOR. HE QUICKLY REPLACED OUR MAYOR AND COUNCILMEN AND GAINED CONTROL OVER OUR NEWSPAPERS.

CONFEDERATES, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO ROAM ACROSS THE MIDSTATE, THREATENING NASHVILLE. SO, JOHNSON ORDERED A RING OF FORTS TO BE BUILT SOUTH OF THE CITY. IN THE SUMMER OF 1862, GENERAL JAMES NEGLEY, WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF OCCUPIED FORCES IN NASHVILLE, **IMPRESSED, WITHOUT PAY, THE LOCAL AND, AS YET UN-FREED, AFRICAN AMERICANS** TO BUILD THESE STRUCTURES. A METHOD OF SUCH FORCED RECRUITMENT BY THESE SUPPOSED LIBERATORS WAS TO ROUND UP THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN ON SUNDAY MORNINGS WHEN THEY CAME OUT OF SUNDAY WORSHIP.

**FORT NEGLEY**, THE MAIN FORT TO BE BUILT, WAS SET ATOP ST. CLOUD HILL WHICH IS BETWEEN THE ADVENTURE SCIENCE CENTER AND GREER STADIUM. NASHVILLE, LITERALLY, BECAME ONE OF THE MOST HEAVILY FORTIFIED CITIES IN OUR COUNTRY.

WITH OUR CITY SWOLLEN IN SIZE BY FEDERAL SOLDIERS, ESCAPED SLAVES AND ARMY PROVISIONERS, WOOD BECAME INCREASINGLY SCARCE NOT ONLY TO FUEL FIRES BUT TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THE

WOOD-BURNING STEAMBOATS. IN FACT, BY 1864, MOST OF THE TREES IN NASHVILLE HAD BEEN LITERALLY **CUT DOWN**.

IT IS ALSO SURPRISING TO NOTE THAT DURING THIS WARTIME PERIOD, NASHVILLE BECAME THE FIRST CITY IN AMERICA TO LEGALIZE **PROSTITUTION**. WITH THE HUGE INFLUX OF YOUNG SOLDIERS, PROSTITUTES LITERALLY CAME TO NASHVILLE BY THE BOATLOAD. THE FEDERAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF OUR CITY GAVE UP AND ENACTED A \$10 LICENSE FEE FOR PROSTITUTES, WHICH IF NOT OBTAINED RESULTED IN A 1 YEAR JAIL TERM FOR THE OFFENDER.

ON NOVEMBER 30, 1864, THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE MARCHED NORTH FROM SPRING HILL AND ENGAGED UNION FORCES IN THE **BATTLE OF FRANKLIN**. IN ONLY 5 HOURS OF LITERAL, HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT, MORE THAN 7,000 MEN LOST THEIR LIVES .....MORE THAN IN ALL OF D-DAY! THERE WERE ONLY 900 RESIDENTS IN FRANKLIN AT THAT TIME.

ALTHOUGH GENERAL **JOHN BELL HOOD** AND HIS ARMY OF TENNESSEE WERE SOUNDLY DEFEATED, ON DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, HE RECKLESSLY DECIDED TO MAKE ONE LAST, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO RE-TAKE OUR CITY, NOW KNOWN AS THE **BATTLE OF NASHVILLE**. IN JUST TWO SHORT DAYS, A SUCCESSFUL ASSAULT BY THE YANKEES ON SHY'S HILL ENDED THE CONFEDERATES' HOPES. THIS ALL OCCURRED JUST SOUTH OF **GREEN HILLS**. I ESPECIALLY LIKE THIS PRINT OF THE BATTLE BECAUSE WE KNOW EXACTLY FROM WHERE IT IS VIEWED. LOOKING SOUTH ON HILLSBORO PIKE JUST

BEFORE ENTERING GREEN HILLS TODAY. THE STARBUCKS IS NOW RIGHT THERE ON THE LEFT!

BY THE SPRING OF 1865, THE CORPSES WERE LITERALLY COMING OUT OF THE GROUND IN FRANKLIN. THE UNION SOLDIERS HAD BEEN PLACED BY TWOS IN SHALLOW GRAVES IN LONG ROWS BY THEIR COMRADES WITHOUT MARKING THEIR IDENTITIES. THE GRISLEY TASK OF REINTERING THEM FELL TO THE **111<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES COLORED INFANTRY** WHO RELOCATED MANY OF THESE UNION DEAD TO STONE RIVER NATIONAL CEMETERY, OUTSIDE MURFREESBORO, SOME 37 MILES AWAY BY HORSE DRAWN CART!

FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR, ONE PERSON SO STANDS OUT THAT SHE BEARS SPECIAL NOTE – **ADELICIA HAYES FRANKLIN**

**ACKLEN CHEATHAM**. IN 1839, THE 22 YEAR OLD ADELELICIA HAYES HAD MARRIED A 50 YEAR OLD, WEALTHY PLANTER AND FORMER SLAVE TRADER, **ISAAC FRANKLIN**. THEY LIVED AT ONE OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE'S GREATEST PLANTATIONS, **FAIRVUE**, NEAR GALLATIN. IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, THIS PLANTATION AND THAT OF THE HARDINGS, AT **BELLE MEADE** WERE THE TWO GREAT STUDS (OR HORSE BREEDING OPERATIONS) OF TENNESSEE.

AFTER A FEW SHORT YEARS OF MARRIAGE, HOWEVER, FRANKLIN WAS DEAD; AND IN 1849, ADELICIA HAYES FRANKLIN MARRIED **JOSEPH ACKLEN**, WHOSE FAMILY FOUNDED HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

TOGETHER THEY BUILT THEIR HOME, **BELMONT**, ON A 170 ACRE ESTATE, WHICH IS NOW THE CENTERPIECE OF BELMONT UNIVERSITY.

UNFORTUNATELY, JOSEPH ACKLEN DIED DURING THE CIVIL WAR OVERSEEING THEIR PLANTATIONS, ONE OF WHICH BECAME THE INFAMOUS ANGOLA STATE PRISON. **ADELICIA** WAS UNDAUNTED. DURING THE WAR, SHE AMAZINGLY MANAGED TO CONVINCED, AT VARIOUS POINTS, BOTH THE UNION AND THE CONFEDERATE ARMIES INTO LETTING HER TRANSPORT COTTON TO LONDON. ONCE THERE, SHE SOLD IT TO THE ROTHSCHILDS FOR NEARLY \$1,000,000, MAKING THIS ALREADY WEALTHY LADY INTO ONE OF AMERICA'S RICHEST WOMEN.

ADELICIA THEN, IN 1867, MARRIED A THIRD AND FINAL TIME TO MY 3<sup>RD</sup> GREAT GRANDFATHER, **DR. WILLIAM ARCHER CHEATHAM**. IT IS INTERESTING TO THINK THAT THE REAL LIFE, RHETT BUTLER, IN MANY WAYS, WAS A WOMAN FROM RIGHT HERE IN NASHVILLE!

IN OCTOBER 1865, THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK FOUNDED JAMES' WILLIAMS' FISK UNIVERSITY. IT WAS NAMED FOR THE WHITE, UNION **GENERAL CLINTON FISK** WHO WAS COMMISSIONER OF THE NASHVILLE BRANCH OF THE BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS.

ALSO IN 1866, **CENTRAL TENNESSEE COLLEGE** WAS CHARTERED, ALSO FOR THE EDUCATION OF FREEDMEN.

BY 1870, FISK UNIVERSITY NEEDED A MORE PERMANENT BUILDING. SO, GEORGE WHITE, THE TREASURER AND MUSIC TEACHER GOT THE IDEA TO TAKE A **COMPANY OF STUDENT-SINGERS** UP NORTH TO SING AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUALS; AND, IT WAS A BIG HIT! BY MAY OF 1872, FISK'S **JUBILEE SINGERS** HAD NETTED \$20,000 AND, A

YEARLONG TRIP TO ENGLAND, WHICH INCLUDED A PERFORMANCE FOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA. IT WAS WITH THESE FUNDS THAT, THE NEXT YEAR, GROUND WAS BROKEN FOR **JUBILEE HALL** WHICH STILL STANDS AS A BEACON OFF JEFFERSON STREET. IT IS THE FIRST PERMANENT BUILDING ERECTED IN AMERICA FOR THE PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS.

ALSO IN 1872, THOMAS KERCHEVAL, A REPUBLICAN, BECAME MAYOR. HE SUCCESSFULLY MOBILIZED THE POOR & ILLITERATE VOTE, PARTICULARLY THE NEWLY FREED, AFRICAN AMERICANS WHICH REPRESENTED 38% OF OUR ELECTORATE. (CURRENTLY, OUR AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION IS JUST SHY OF 17%.) AT THE TIME, A BALLOT FOR KERCHEVAL COULD SIMPLY BEAR THE IMPRESS OF A RED ROOSTER, WHICH WAS KERCHEVAL'S NICKNAME. IN OTHER WORDS, VOTERS DID NOT HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SPELL OR READ THE NAMES ON THE TICKET.

CASTING VOTES IN FULL VIEW, REPUBLICAN VOTERS WOULD BE REWARDED WITH A BUCKET OF COAL OR A DRINK OF WHISKEY. IN RESPONSE TO THIS VOTER PAYOFF, DEMOCRATS WENT TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND ENACTED LAWS DESIGNED TO LIMIT THE BLACK VOTE. ONE SUCH LEGISLATION CREATED THE **POLL TAX** WHICH REQUIRED VOTERS TO PAY \$1 TO \$2 JUST FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF VOTING, AN AMOUNT AT THE TIME EQUAL TO A DAY'S PAY FOR A WORKING MAN. THE POLL TAX RECEIPT YOU SEE HERE WAS PAID BY MY FRIEND, DAVID EWING'S GREAT, GREAT GRANDFATHER - **PRINCE ALBERT EWING** - WHO WAS ONE OF OUR CITY'S FIRST, AFRICAN AMERICAN ATTORNEYS.

THE DEMOCRATS ALSO ENACTED LAWS LIMITING THE PRIMARIES TO WHITE VOTERS ONLY, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR CANDIDATES EVEN TO HAVE TO COMPETE FOR THE REMAINING BLACK VOTE. THE END RESULT WAS DEVASTATING NOT JUST TO AFRICAN AMERICANS BUT ALSO TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY THAT HAS, IN EFFECT, NOT WON THE MAYORAL SEAT SINCE.

AND LASTLY IN 1872, MY 3<sup>RD</sup> GREAT GRANDFATHER, WILLIAM GILES HARDING BOUGHT THE STALLION (OR STUD HORSE) **BONNIE SCOTLAND**. AT BELLE MEADE, THIS 19 YEAR OLD SIRE PROVED A GRAND SUCCESS WITH FAMOUS DESCENDANTS SUCH AS SECRETARIAT, SEABISCUIT AND BARBARO. IN FACT, SINCE THE 1990'S, EVERY HORSE THAT HAS RUN THE KENTUCKY DERBY HAS BEEN A BLOOD DESCENDANT FROM THE HORSE STOCK AT BELLE MEADE STUD.

IN 1873, **VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**, WAS BORN OUT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH. WHEN A FUND-RAISING DRIVE FAILED, BISHOP HOLLAND MCTYEIRE PAID A VISIT TO HIS COUSIN, WHO JUST HAPPENED TO BE NONE OTHER THAN **COMMODORE CORNELIUS VANDERBILT**. THE COMMODORE, WITHOUT EVER HAVING EVEN SEEN NASHVILLE, OFFERED THE HALF MILLION DOLLARS NEEDED TO ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY; AND CLASSES BEGAN IN OCTOBER OF 1875.

ALSO IN 1875, **DR. BERRIEN LINDSLEY** HELPED TO FOUND THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL ALONG WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE AND A \$9,000 GRANT FROM THE GEORGE PEOBODY EDUCATION FUND.

LASTLY IN 1875, THE FIVE, WHITE **MEHARRY BROTHERS** GIFTED TO CENTRAL TENNESSEE COLLEGE ENOUGH FUNDS TO ESTABLISH THEIR MEDICAL DEPARTMENT. THEY DID THIS BECAUSE, 9 YEARS EARLIER, WHILE TRAVELLING THROUGH RURAL OHIO, THEIR WAGON HAD BROKEN DOWN AND THEY WERE RESCUED BY AN AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY. THE GRATEFUL BROTHERS PROMISED THAT IF THEY EVER COULD AFFORD IT, THEY WOULD DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY. THAT ACT OF KINDNESS AND RESULTING PEDGE RESULTED IN WHAT WOULD EVENTUALLY EVOLVE INTO MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE. UNTIL INTEGRATION OF THE 1960'S, THE VAST MAJORITY OF BLACK DOCTORS AND DENTISTS IN THIS COUNTRY WERE TRAINED EITHER RIGHT HERE AT MEHARRY OR AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

**THE 1870'S** WERE INDEED A PERIOD OF GROWTH FOR NASHVILLE. STEAMBOATS WERE COMPETING ON THE RIVER WITH ENORMOUS **RAFTS OF LOGS** FROM THE UPPER CUMBERLAND AND ITS TRIBUTARIES. NASHVILLE BECAME THE HARDWOOD CAPITAL OF THE WORLD WITH 70 MILLION BOARD FEET SAWN AND PROCESSED IN OUR **LUMBER MILLS** IN THE YEAR 1870 ALONE.

DURING THE 1870'S AND 80'S, THE CHURN OF THE STEAMBOAT GAVE WAY TO THE **ROAR OF THE RAILROAD**. THE NC&STL (NASHVILLE, CHATTANOOGA AND SAINT LOUIS) AND THE L&N (LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE) SYSTEMS EACH OPERATED THREE LINES OUT OF OUR CITY.

THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GLORIOUS **VINE STREET TEMPLE** WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1876 ON WHAT IS NOW 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE

NORTH, BETWEEN CHURCH AND COMMERCE. SADLY, STRUCK BY LIGHTING IN 1954, IT WAS TORN DOWN; THE PARKING GARAGE FOR THE DOWNTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY IS THERE NOW. THIS REFORM CONGREGATION NOW WORSHIPS AT TEMPLE O-HA-BAI SHALOM, LOCATED OUT HARDING PIKE BY BELLE MEADE PLANTATION.

BY THE LATE 1880'S, A NOTED GEORGIA PREACHER, **SAM JONES**, WAS HOLDING WILDLY SUCCESSFUL TENT REVIVALS IN NASHVILLE. A RIVERBOAT CAPTAIN NAMED **TOM RYMAN** WAS CONVERTED AT JUST SUCH A GATHERING. IN APPRECIATION, HE RAISED THE MONEY TO BULD A HALL LARGE ENOUGH FOR REV. JONES AND MINISTERS LIKE HIM TO PREACH THE GOSPEL. IT OPENED IN 1892 AS THE **UNION GOSPEL TABERNACLE**. THIS BUILDING, ON THE CAPTAIN'S DEATH IN 1904, WOULD BE RENAMED THE RYMAN AUDITORIUM.

TWO DIRECT EFFECTS OF SAM JONES'S WORK WERE A 75% DECREASE IN GAMBLING ARRESTS AND AN INVIGORATED PUSH FOR THE PROHIBITION OF ALCOHAL. AS AN ASIDE, IT WAS THIS SAME SPIRITUAL REVIVAL MOVEMENT IN OUR STATE THAT EVENTUALLY OUTLAWED BETTING ON HORSE RACING AND, IN EFFECT, SEALED KENTUCKY'S PREEMINENCE IN THAT INDUSTRY.

IN 1891, NASHVILLE BIBLE SCHOOL (NOW **DAVID LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY**) WAS FOUNDED BY DAVID LIPSCOMB AND JAMES HARDING. IT IS AN INSTITUTION OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST.

PROSPERITY CONTINUED UNTIL IT WAS SEVERELY INTERRUPTED BY THE **ECONOMIC PANIC OF 1893** THAT WAS SO SEVERE THAT TWO OF NASHVILLE'S BANKS FAILED. ONLY EXTREME MEASURES BY

THE REMAINING BANKS RESTORED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THEIR SOLVENCY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK, THE FORERUNNER OF REGIONS BANK, ACTUALLY PLACED ON DISPLAY IN ITS WINDOWS NUMEROUS STACKS OF CASH.

IN 1896, RICHARD HENRY BOYD, RECOGNIZING THE UNMET NEEDS OF BLACK CONGREGATIONS, FORMED THE **NATIONAL BAPTIST PUBLISHING BOARD** WHICH BECAME THE NATION'S LARGEST, AFRICAN AMERICAN OWNED, PUBLISHING COMPANY. THIS BUSINESS IS ALSO STILL OPERATING TODAY AND IS STILL OWNED BY THE BOYD FAMILY!

THE HARD TIMES THAT FOLLOWED WERE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR A ONE YEAR DELAY IN THE GRAND OPENING OF TENNESSEE'S **100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** IN 1897. THE CENTENNIAL, AS IT WAS CALLED, WAS EASILY NASHVILLE'S OUTSTANDING EVENT OF THE DECADE LASTING SIX MONTHS AND DRAWING NEARLY 2 MILLION PEOPLE. SUSAN B. ANTHONY, PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY AND BOOKER T. WASHINGTON WERE AMONG THE ATTENDEES.

TWO OF THOSE IN **THIS PHOTOGRAPH ARE OF MY GREAT AND GREAT, GREAT GRANDMOTHERS**, RESPECTIVELY. WITH THE FULL SCALE REPLICA OF THE PARTHENON AMONG THE MANY CLASSICAL REPRODUCTION SITES AND WITH THE PROLIFERATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, NASHVILLE WAS BECOMING KNOWN AS THE ATHENS OF THE SOUTH.

BY THE LATE 1800'S, THE L&N HAD TAKEN OVER THE NC&STL AND HAD A MONOPOLY ON NASHVILLE'S TRADE. IN 1900, THEY BUILT THEIR GLORIOUS **UNION STATION**.

FLOUR WAS OUR #1 EXPORT AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. BECAUSE NASHVILLE WAS THE HUB OF THE L&N RAILROAD, IT WAS PROFITABLE FOR MIDWESTERN FLOUR TO BE SHIPPED TO OUR CITY FOR MILLING AND PACKAGING BEFORE BEING SENT OUT TO THE REST OF THE SOUTH. **MARTHA WHITE FLOUR**, THE LONGEST RUNNING SPONSOR OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY (SINCE 1948), IS BUT ONE LEGACY OF THAT ERA.

**WERTHAN INDUSTRIES** IS ONE OF THE COMPANIES THAT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS MILLING BUSINESS IN OUR CITY BY MAKING FLOUR BAGS. STARTED IN 1868 AS A RAG BUSINESS, THIS 5 GENERATION, FAMILY OWNED COMPANY IS STILL PROFITABLE TODAY, AS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST PET FOOD BAG PRODUCERS. THEIR MILL REMAINS IN GERMANTOWN AND NOW HOUSES THE WERTHAN LOFTS AND ROLFE AND DAUGHTERS RESTAURANT. AN INTERESTING NOTE IS THAT THE PLAY AND MOVIE, ***DRIVING MISS DAISY***, IS LOOSELY BASED ON ROSE WERTHAN, A MATRIARCH OF THIS FAMILY.

THE **INSURANCE INDUSTRY** IN OUR CITY BEGINS IN 1900 WITH THE START OF TWO COMPANIES THAT PLAYED MAJOR CIVIC ROLES: LIFE AND CASUALTY AND THEIR RIVAL NATIONAL LIFE & ACCIDENT FOUNDED BY, AMONG OTHERS, MY GREAT GRANDFATHER – RIDLEY WILLS, SR.

ALSO IN 1904, EIGHT, FORMERLY ENSLAVED AND SELF TAUGHT MEN STARTED THE ONE-CENT SAVINGS BANK: AMONG THEM **RICHARD HENRY BOYD**. NOW KNOWN AS **CITIZENS BANK**, IT REMAINS THE OLDEST, CONTINUOUSLY OPERATED, AFRICAN AMERICAN OWNED BANK IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN 1904, A NASHVILLE DENTIST - WILLIAM MORRISON - AND A NASHVILLE CANDYMAKER - JOHN WHARTON - INTRODUCED **FAIRY FLOSS** TO THE WORLD AT THE ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR. WE NOW KNOW THIS CONFECTION AS COTTON CANDY! THEY SOLD 68,655 BOXES AT 25 CENTS EACH, HALF THE COST OF THE FAIR'S ADMISSION PRICE.

ON OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 1907, **PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT** VISITED OUR CITY AND PRESIDENT JACKSON'S HOME IN PARTICULAR. THERE, HE WAS SERVED A CUP OF MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE, WHICH WAS A LOCAL COFFEE BRAND THEN OWNED BY THE CHEEK-NEAL COFFEE COMPANY AND NAMED FOR OUR CITY'S FINE **MAXWELL HOUSE HOTEL**. AT THAT VISIT, ROOSEVELT SUPPOSEDLY COINED THE PHRASE "GOOD TO THE LAST DROP". AT LEAST THAT'S THE WAY THE CHEEK-NEAL P.R. TEAM SUCCESSFULLY SPUN IT!

IN 1907, **SOUTHERN MOTOR WORKS** COMES TO NORTH NASHVILLE WHERE MARATHON VILLAGE IS NOW LOCATED AND BEGINS MANUFACTURING THE MARATHON AUTOMOBILE. IT IS THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE PLANT IN THE SOUTH. THE MARATHON WAS SHORT LIVED, HOWEVER, AND WENT BANKRUPT IN 1918.

ON JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 1912, THE VERY FIRST **PUBLIC PARK** FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES WAS OPENED RIGHT HERE IN NASHVILLE AT JEFFERSON AND 28<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NORTH.

JUST DOWN THE ROAD, THE **TENNESSEE AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL NORMAL SCHOOL** BEGAN CLASSES WITH 247 STUDENTS IN JUNE OF 1912. WE NOW KNOW THIS ORIGINAL LAND GRANT SCHOOL AS TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERISTY, OR T.S.U.

ALSO IN 1912, THE STANDARD CANDY COMPANY INVENTS THE WORLD'S FIRST EVER **AMALGAMATED CANDY BAR** WHEREBY MULTIPLE INGREDIENTS ARE COMBINED TO FORM ONE PIECE OF CANDY. WITH CARAMEL, MARSHMALLOW, PEANUTS AND MILK CHOCOLATE, THE GOO GOO CLUSTER HAS BEEN A SOUTHERN FAVORITE FOR GENERATIONS.

AND LASTLY IN 1912, **JAMES E. CALDWELL** SOLD HIS CUMBERLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY. I BET THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE CHIEF RIVAL TO **AT&T**, AT ONEPOINT, WAS RIGHT HERE IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

IN 1914, THE DODGE BROTHERS OPENED **CUMBERLAND DODGE** IN NASHVILLE AS THEIR FIRST RETAIL OPERATION ANYWHERE. LOCATED ON BROADWAY, THIS BUILDING REMAINS ACTUALLY BURIED WITHIN THE STRUCTURE WHERE BEAMAN AUTOMOTIVE NOW OPERATES.

IN 1918, BACKED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, **E. I. DUPONT** BUILT A NEW \$85 MILLION DOLLAR MUNITIONS PLANT IN OLD HICKORY,

EMPLOYING 24,000 PERSONS AT ITS PEAK. THAT'S ABOUT 3000 MORE PEOPLE THAN WORK AT VANDERBILT, OUR CURRENT LARGEST EMPLOYER.

JUST AFTER 7 AM, ON JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 1918, A TRAIN CARRYING MOSTLY AFRICAN AMERICAN WORKERS FROM MEMPHIS TO FIND JOBS AT THE PLANT COLLIDED HEAD ON WITH A ONE THAT HAD JUST LEFT UNION STATION. THE **CRASH** OCCURRED AT DUTCHMAN'S CURVE, JUST BEHIND THE PUBLIX GROCERY NEAR THE CORNER OF HARDING PIKE AND WHITE BRIDGE ROAD. 101 PEOPLE WERE KILLED. TO DATE, THIS IS THE DEADLIEST TRAIN CRASH IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

IN 1919, PROHIBITION WAS PASSED, AND THE **BARS** ON FOURTH AVENUE SHUT DOWN, ONLY TO RE-OPEN ON THE NARROW THOROUGHFARE BEHIND THEM NOW KNOWN AS PRINTERS ALLEY.

ANOTHER RESULT OF THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT WAS TO AWAKEN WOMEN TO THE POWER THAT THEY COULD WIELD BY WORKING TOGETHER. WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO VOTE, MORE AND MORE WOMEN REASONED THAT THEY WERE AT THE MERCY OF MEN WHO MADE THE LAWS, RAN THE COUNTRY AND, AS JOHN EGERTON SAID, "DRANK THE WHISKEY."

A SMALL GROUP OF NASHVILLE WOMEN FORMED THE **NASHVILLE EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE**. IN 1912 AND 1914, RESPECTIVELY, THE STATE AND NATIONAL SUFFRAGE CONVENTIONS MET IN NASHVILLE; AND THE LOCAL SUFFRAGET LEADERS BECAME THE OBJECT OF RIDICULE BY THE STRONG, **ANTI-SUFFRAGE GROUP** WHO SAW THEIR CAUSE AS THAT OF SAVING SOUTHERN WOMANHOOD.

THEY SCORNEF FEMALE SUFFRAGE LEADERS AS “MAN-HATING, CHILDLESS, SHE-MALES.” TO COUNTERACT THESE ATTACKS, THE SUFFRAGETS CIRCULATED THIS CHARMING **PHOTOGRAPH** OF LOCAL SUFFRAGET LEADER ANN DALLAS DUDLEY AND HER TWO CHILDREN.

IN 1918, PRESIDENT WILSON URGED PASSAGE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT GRANTING THE VOTE TO WOMEN. BY MARCH OF 1920, 35 STATES HAD RATIFIED THAT AMENDMENT, AND ONLY ONE MORE STATE WAS NEEDED TO MAKE IT INTO LAW WITH THAT HONOR FALLING TO TENNESSEE. ON A HOT AUGUST 18, 1920, LOBBYISTS FOR BOTH SIDES ALONG WITH THE NATIONAL PRESS CONVERGED ON NASHVILLE AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE **LOBBY OF THE HERMITAGE HOTEL** TO WAIT OUT THE VOTE IN THE TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THERE WAS A SURPRISING 48 TO 48 TIE, AND THE FINAL VOTE FELL TO THE YOUNGEST REPRESENTATIVE, **HARRY BURN** OF NIOTA, TENNESSEE. THE 24 YEAR OLD HARRY HAD PUBLICLY DECLARED THAT HE WOULD VOTE AGAINST RATIFICATION, BUT THEN HE GOT THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM HIS WIDOWED MOTHER, PHOEBE BURN:

***“Dear Son,  
Hurrah and vote for suffrage! Don’t keep them in doubt! I notice some of the speeches against. They were bitter. I have been watching to see how you stood, but have not noticed anything yet. Don’t forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the ‘rat’ in ratification.*”**

## ***Your mother”***

NEEDLESS TO SAY, HARRY CHANGED HIS MIND, AND THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT BECAME THE LAW OF THE LAND! THE CONSERVATIVE LEGISLATORS WERE SO MAD AT HARRY FOR THAT VOTE THAT HE LITERALLY HAD TO CLIMB OUT A WINDOW TO ESCAPE THE CAPITOL BUILDING. IN A SPEECH TO THE ASSEMBLY THE NEXT DAY, HE EXPLAINED, “A GOOD BOY ALWAYS DOES WHAT HIS MOTHER ASKS HIM TO DO.”

IN 1923, JAMES BRUCE MASON OF NASHVILLE PATENTED THE FIRST SWIVEL-UP TUBE FOR **LIPSTICK**. LADIES AROUND THE WORLD CHEERED!

**JARMAN SHOE COMPANY** IS FOUNDED IN 1924 BY JAMES FRANKLIN JARMAN. THIS FORERUNNER OF THE GENERAL SHOE COMPANY, AND LATER GENESCO, LATER WENT ON AN ACQUISITION SPREE THAT INCLUDED SUCH LUMINARY APPAREL BRANDS A HENRI BENDEL, BONWIT TELLER AND TIFFANY’S.

IN 1925, **NATIONAL LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY** TOOK W.S.M., ON THE AIR, THE MONIKER STANDING FOR THEIR SLOGAN “WE SHIELD MILLIONS.” A FEW WEEKS LATER, ON NOV. 28, THEY BEGAN FEATURING A SATURDAY NIGHT, COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW WHICH BECAME **THE GRAND OLE OPRY**, NOW THE WORLD’S LONGEST RUNNING RADIO SHOW. TO COMPETE, LIFE & CASUALTY ACQUIRED THE PRECURSOR TO W.L.A.C., WHICH STANDS FOR LIFE AND CASUALTY.

IN 1928, THE CHEEK-NEAL COMPANY (MAKERS OF **MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE**) SOLD TO POSTUM FOR \$45,000,000, THE LARGEST SUM EVER PAID AT THE TIME FOR A FOOD PRODUCT. **CHEEKWOOD** IS A LEGACY OF THAT FORTUNE, HAVING BEEN BUILT BY MABLE AND LESLIE CHEEK IN 1932.

ROGERS CALDWELL PARLAYED HIS FATHER'S TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH FORTUNE TO DOMINATE SOUTHERN FINANCIAL CIRCLES WITH **CALDWELL AND COMPANY** LAUNCHING HIM AS THE "J.P. MORGAN OF THE SOUTH" AND UNION STREET AS THE "WALL STREET OF THE SOUTH." HOWEVER, CALDWELL & COMPANY SPECTACULARLY COLLAPSED IN 1930 BRINGING DOWN 120 BANKS ACROSS OUR REGION.

DESPITE THE STOCK MARKET CRASH, IN 1930, **J.C. BRADFORD & CO.** PAID \$400,000 AND BECAME THE FIRST NASHVILLE FIRM TO PURCHASE A SEAT ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE. 10 YEARS LATER, THIS SEAT WAS VALUED AT \$19,000.

ALSO IN 1930, **HORACE GREELEY HILL** HAD 102 GROCERY STORES IN DAVIDSON COUNTY, ALONE. HAVING BOUGHT INTO THE WHOLESALE FOOD BUSINESS, H.G. HILL, SR., ELIMINATED THE MIDDLE MAN AND HAD INTERESTS IN GROCERIES IN NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS, BIRMINGHAM AND CHATTANOOGA. THE GENIUS TO MR. HILL'S APPROACH CAME IN HIS REAL ESTATE PURCHASING PHILOSOPHY. HE WOULD BUY THE RIGHT HAND **CORNER PROPERTY** AT EVERY STOP OFF THE STREET CAR LINE. HE THEN WOULD BUY THE LAND NEXT TO THOSE SITES AS IT BECAME AVAILABLE. AS ANCHOR TENANT AND LANDLORD, HE DEVELOPED NASHVILLE'S EARLIEST SUBURBAN

SHOPPING CENTERS INCLUDING 5 POINTS IN EAST NASHVILLE, ELLISTON PLACE AND HILLSBORO VILLAGE. HE ALSO STARTED DEVELOPING THE HILLWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD AS EARLY AS THE 1930'S. ALTHOUGH NO LONGER IN THE GROCERY BUSINESS, H.G. HILL REALTY COMPANY IS ONE OF THE LARGEST, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS IN DAVIDSON COUNTY.

IN 1932, NATIONAL LIFE USED TECHNOLOGY TO GET AN EDGE. THEY **RELOCATED THEIR RADIO STATION**, W.S.M., FROM EDGEHILL OUT TO BRENTWOOD OFF CONCORD ROAD. THERE THEY BUILT NORTH AMERICA'S TALLEST RADIO TOWER WITH 50,000 WATTS OF CLEAR CHANNEL FREQUENCY. W.S.M. BECAME ONE OF OUR COUNTRY'S MOST POWERFUL RADIO STATIONS WHICH WAS KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY AND IS A FOUNDATION OF NASHVILLE'S MUSIC BUSINESS.

FULLY VIABLE COMMERCIAL AVIATION DID NOT COME TO TOWN UNTIL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH ROOSEVELT'S WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION BUILT **BERRY FIELD** IN 1937. HARDLY ANYBODY REMEMBERS THAT IT WAS NAMED FOR COL. HARRY BERRY, THE WPA STATE ADMINISTRATOR.

IN 1941, **VULTEE AIRCRAFT** OPENED AND BECAME THE 3<sup>RD</sup> LARGEST SUPPLIER OF WAR MATERIALS DURING WWII. THEY BUILT THE P-38 "LIGHTNING FIGHTERS."

IN 1943, NASHVILLIAN, **CORNELIA FORT**, ONE OF THE PIONEERS IN WOMEN'S AVIATION, BECAME THE FIRST WOMEN KILLED IN MILITARY SERVICE DURING WWII WHEN SHE WAS STRUCK BY ANOTHER PILOT IN A MIDAIR COLLISION OVER TEXAS.

IN 1944, THE MODERN RECORDING ERA BEGAN IN NASHVILLE AS RCA VICTOR RECORDS CAME TO MAKE DISCS WITH OPRY STAR **EDDY ARNOLD** AT W.S.M.

IN OCTOBER OF 1946, FISK ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT, **PROFESSOR CHARLES JOHNSON**.

ALSO IN 1946, THE SONG PUBLISHING COMPANY ACUFF-ROSE MUSIC WAS FOUNDED AS THE FIRST NON-OPRY, COUNTRY-MUSIC BUSINESS IN NASHVILLE. THEY DISCOVERED THE LEGENDARY **HANK WILLIAMS**.

THROUGH THE 1940'S, THE NASHVILLE BASED, FINANCIAL FIRM EQUITABLE SECURITIES BECAME THE DOMINANT BOND HOUSE IN THE SOUTH. BY 1950, THEY WERE RECOGNIZED AS THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LARGEST INVESTMENT BANK IN THE UNITED STATES AND GAINED CONTROLLING INTEREST OVER AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY.

ALSO IN 1950, **CAPITOL RECORDS** BECAME THE FIRST MAJOR, NATIONAL MUSIC LABEL TO BASE A DIRECTOR OF COUNTRY MUSIC IN OUR CITY.

IN 1951, NASHVILLE EMPLOYED ITS FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICEMAN. **ADDITIONALLY**, THAT SAME YEAR, OUR FIRST BLACK COUNCILMEN WERE ELECTED TO CITY COUNCIL- LAWYERS, **Z. ALEXANDER LOOBY** AND ROBERT LILLARD.

ALSO IN 1951, WSM EXPANDED WITH OUR FIRST TELEVISION STATION, CHANNEL 4.

IN 1953, THE POLL TAX WAS FINALLY REPEALED IN TENNESSEE.

IN 1954, **OLD HICKORY LAKE** WAS COMPLETED BY THE DAMMING OF OUR CUMBERLAND RIVER.

ALSO IN 1954, THE SUPREME COURT DECIDED THE BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION CASE AND OUTLAWED SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. OUR CITY'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WAS CLEARLY SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL. SO, LATE IN 1955, 21 PLAINTIFFS FILED A FEDERAL LAWSUIT CALLING FOR AN END TO IT IN NASHVILLE.

ON OCTOBER 2, 1954, A TEENAGE **ELVIS PRESLEY** MADE HIS ONE AND ONLY APPEARANCE ON THE GRAND OLD OPRY AT THE RYMAN TO SUCH A LUKEWARM RESPONSE THAT HE NEVER RETURNED.

BY 1956, OWEN BRADLEY BUILT HIS **QUONSET HUT RECORDING STUDIO**. THIS WAS THE FIRST MUSIC BUSINESS IN THE DISTRICT THAT BECAME KNOWN AS "MUSIC ROW."

In 1957, **LIFE & CASUALTY** BUILT NASHVILLE'S FIRST SKYSCRAPER AND THE SOUTH'S TALLEST AT 30 STORIES!

THAT SAME YEAR, OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION RELUCTANTLY IMPLEMENTED A PLAN TO **DESEGREGATE THE SCHOOLS BEGINNING WITH FIRST GRADE** AND CONTINUING ONE GRADE EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR. ON OPENING DAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>,

1957, ORGANIZED, WHITE, PROTEST GROUPS APPEARED AT 5 FORMERLY ALL-WHITE SCHOOLS WHERE JUST 13 AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN WERE SET TO ENROLL. THERE WERE SHOUTS AND THREATS MADE, BUT SERIOUS VIOLENCE WAS AVOIDED. HOWEVER, SIXTEEN HOURS LATER

..... BOOM! .....

AN EXPLOSION RIPPED THROUGH **HATTIE COTTON SCHOOL** IN EAST NASHVILLE. ONLY A SINGLE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD WAS ENROLLED IN THIS SCHOOL.

.....BOOM!.....

A SECOND BOMB EXPLODED AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER AS A WARNING TO THOSE JEWS SUPPORTING INTEGRATION. EVEN THOUGH NO ONE WAS KILLED OR INJURED IN THESE BLASTS, TO THIS DAY, THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRESTS MADE IN THESE CASES.

AROUND THIS SAME TIME, NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY WERE ALSO FORGING NEW GROUNDS IN CREATING A **METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT**. AS EARLY AS 1953, TENNESSEE ADOPTED A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT GRANTING CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS THE AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE PROVIDED THAT A MAJORITY OF BOTH CITY AND COUNTY VOTERS APPROVED SUCH A MERGER. IN 1958, A CHARTER COMMISSION APPOINTED BY **COUNTY JUDGE BEVERLY BRILEY AND CITY MAYOR BEN WEST** PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION FOR NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY. THIS PLAN FAILED, HOWEVER, TO BE APPROVED BY THE VOTERS OUTSIDE THE CITY. SO THEN, IN A POLITICALLY SUICIDAL MOVE, MAYOR WEST STARTED INCORPORATING PARTS OF THE COUNTY. HE THEN TAXED THESE NEW AREAS WITHOUT ACTUALLY PROVIDING SERVICES TO THEM.

ONE SUCH EXAMPLE WAS A VEHICLE TAX WHICH FORCED ANYONE WHO WORKED IN NASHVILLE BUT LIVED OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS TO HAVE TO PAY \$10 FOR A **STICKER** TO DRIVE INTO NASHVILLE.

IN 1960, NASHVILLE WAS DEFINITELY A SEGREGATED TOWN. THE NUMBER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN IN THE PREVIOUSLY ALL-WHITE SCHOOLS HAD ONLY CLIMBED TO 44. THE POINT HAD COME TO A BOIL WITHIN NASHVILLE'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY. FROM FEBRUARY TO MAY OF THAT YEAR, NASHVILLE EXPERIENCED THE LARGEST, BEST ORGANIZED, MOST DISCIPLINED AND MOST PERSISTENT OF THE STUDENT SIT-IN MOVEMENTS IN THE SOUTH.

THESE PROTESTS WERE DESIGNED BY NASHVILLE'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS AND CLERGY, MOST NOTABLY THE **REV. KELLY MILLER SMITH** (PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CAPITOL HILL AND A CLOSE FRIEND OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.)

IN ANY CASE, THE **STUDENTS** CAME MOSTLY FROM THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES OF NASHVILLE, INCLUDING FISK, MEHARRY, AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND TENNESSEE A & I (NOW TSU). ONE STUDENT IN PARTICULAR STANDS OUT IN THIS CROWD, JAMES LAWSON. HE WAS AN OLDER, AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT THEN ENROLLED AT VANDERBILT'S DIVINITY SCHOOL.

ON FEBRUARY 13, LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE FIRST SIT-INS IN GREENSBORO, N.C., MORE THAN 200 OF THESE STUDENTS DRESSED IN THEIR BEST CLOTHES AND CAME DOWNTOWN **TO SIT AT THE**

**ALL-WHITE LUNCH COUNTERS** AT WOOLWORTHS, KRESS'S, AND MCCLELLAN'S WHICH WERE ALL THREE LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE IN THE BLOCK BETWEEN UNION AND CHURCH STREETS. THERE, THESE STUDENTS PASSIVELY WAITED FOR HOURS AND WERE BASICALLY REFUSED SERVICE.

WHITE MOBS THEN SHOWED UP AND ATTACKED THESE PEACEFUL STUDENTS. OUR POLICE ARRESTED THE NON-VIOLENT PROTESTERS AND TOOK THEM TO JAIL ONLY TO FACE NEW WAVES OF STUDENTS. SOON ENOUGH, NASHVILLE'S JAILS FILLED BECAUSE THE STUDENTS REFUSED TO PAY THEIR FINES.

AT 5:30 AM ON APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>,

.....**BOOM!**.....

THE HOME OF Z. ALEXANDER LOOBY, THE PROTESTERS' ATTORNEY, WAS BOMBED. ALTHOUGH THE STRUCTURE WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY DESTROYED, LOOBY AND HIS WIFE WHO WERE IN A BACK BEDROOM WERE AMAZINGLY UNHURT.

INSTEAD OF INTIMIDATING THE PROTESTERS, THIS VIOLENT EVENT ENERGIZED THE MOVEMENT. BY NOON OF THAT DAY, AT LEAST **3000 PEOPLE MARCHED** ON CITY HALL TO CONFRONT MAYOR BEN WEST. THERE, DIANE NASH ASKED MAYOR WEST IF THE LUNCH COUNTERS SHOULD BE DESEGREGATED, AND HE CONSENTED. SO, ON MAY 10, 1960, NASHVILLE BECAME THE FIRST MAJOR CITY IN THE SOUTH TO DESEGREGATE ITS LUNCH COUNTERS AND RESTAURANTS.

AFTER AND SADLY BECAUSE OF **JAMES LAWSON'S** ORGANIZING OF THESE SIT-INS IN THE SPRING OF 1960, THE VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY BOARD (ONE OF WHOM WAS MY GRANDFATHER) EXPELLED

HIM. ADDITIONALLY, OUR METRO POLICE ARRESTED LAWSON, BUT HE WAS QUICKLY BAILED OUT BY FACULTY OF THE DIVINITY SCHOOL, MANY OF WHOM RESIGNED OVER LAWSON'S MISTREATMENT BY THE UNIVERSITY. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT TODAY, LAWSON IS ON THE FACULTY OF VANDERBILT'S DIVINITY SCHOOL.

NASHVILLE'S LUNCH COUNTER SIT-INS MADE FUTURE LEADERS OF MANY OF THESE NASHVILLE STUDENTS INCLUDING LAWSON, **DIANE NASH**, MARION BARRY - FORMER MAYOR OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND JOHN LEWIS WHO IS CURRENTLY A CONGRESSMAN FROM GEORGIA.

HOWEVER, ALL WAS NOT NECESSARILY STRIFE IN 1960. IN JUNE OF THAT YEAR, CLARKSVILLE NATIVE AND T.S.U. TIGERBELLE, **WILMA RUDOLPH**, BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN TO WIN THREE GOLD MEDALS IN TRACK AND FIELD DURING A SINGLE, OLYMPIC GAME. A NASHVILLIAN LITERALLY BECAME THE FASTEST WOMAN ON EARTH!

IN 1961, THE COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION WAS CHARTERED.

**JIMMY ROGERS, HANK WILLIAMS AND FRED ROSE** WERE THE FIRST THREE INDUCTEES.

THEN, IN 1962, THE VOTE FOR CONSOLIDATION OF DAVIDSON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF NASHVILLE PASSED. THE FIRST ELECTION FOR OUR NEW, METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT TOOK PLACE IN NOVEMBER OF THAT YEAR; AND ON APRIL 1, 1963, THE NEW MAYOR (BEVERLY BRILEY) AND ALL 40 COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE SWORN INTO OFFICE.

IF YOU EVER WONDER BY SO MANY OF OUR ROADS CHANGE NAMES, THE REASON MAY WELL BE BECAUSE OF THIS CONSOLIDATION. YOU

SEE, OUR ROADS WOULD OFTEN CHANGE NAMES WHEN THEY  
CROSSED THE CITY/COUNTY LINE. FOR EXAMPLE, WEST END BECOMES  
HARDING PIKE AND BLAKEMORE BECOMES WEDGEWOOD.

IN 1963, **BROADCAST MUSIC, INC.**, BETTER KNOWN AS BMI,  
BECAME THE FIRST PERFORMANCE-RIGHTS ORGANIZATION TO OPEN A  
NASHVILLE OFFICE, LATER FOLLOWED BY BOTH ASCAP AND SESAC.

THAT SAME YEAR, THE 58 YEAR OLD **JACK MASSEY**, A  
SUCCESSFUL AND RETIRED BUSINESSMAN AND PHARMACIST, AGREED  
TO LOAN \$16,000 TO A THEN 28 YEAR OLD, LOUISVILLE ATTORNEY, JOHN  
Y. BROWN, JR. SO THAT HE COULD INVEST WITH  
COL. HARLAN SANDERS. MASSEY SAW AN OPPORTUNITY. \$2,000,000  
AND A \$40,000 PER YEAR SALARY FOR THE COLONEL SEALED THE DEAL  
WITH MASSEY OWNING 60% OF THIS COMPANY WHICH WOULD  
REVOLUTIONIZE THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS.

ALSO IN 1963 OR 64, **SOUTHERN PLASTICS**, NOW KNOWN AS  
UNITED RECORD PRESSING, PRODUCED FOR VEEJAY RECORDS THE  
BEATLES' FIRST, 7 INCHES IN AMERICA. THEY ALSO PRODUCED  
RECORDS FOR MOTOWN. TO ACCOMMODATE THESE AFRICAN  
AMERICAN CLIENTS WHO HAD TROUBLE FINDING HOTELS OR  
RESTAURANTS TO SERVICE THEM IN OUR CITY, THEY BUILT AN  
APARTMENT ABOVE THEIR FACTORY CALLED THE UNITED HILTON  
SUITE. IT LATER BECAME KNOWN AS THE "**MOTOWN SUITE**" AND  
IS STILL THERE AND ABLE TO BE TOURED AT THEIR PLANT ON  
CHESTNUT STREET.

ON ANOTHER FRONT IN THE 1960'S, UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF  
TENNESSEE'S **SENATOR AL GORE, SR.** , THE INTERSTATE

HIGHWAY SYSTEM EMERGED AND WE FOUND THAT---EXCEPT FOR INDIANAPOLIS---WE HAD AS MANY INTERSTATE CONNECTIONS AS ANY CITY IN THE UNITED STATES. UNFORTUNATELY, NORTH NASHVILLE PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR THIS PROGRESS WHEN INTERSTATE I-40 RIGHT WAS RUN RIGHT THROUGH THE COMMERCIAL HEART OF NORTH NASHVILLE. THIS ACT FUNDAMENTALLY CRIPPLED THE **JEFFERSON STREET** BUSINESS DISTRICT SPLITTING THIS HISTORIC, AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD LITERALLY IN HALF.

IN 1964, THE **GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION** WAS CHARTERED, BECOMING THE SECOND MUSICAL GENRE TO CLAIM NASHVILLE AS ITS HOME BASE.

ALSO IN 1967, **PERCY PRIEST LAKE**, WHICH IS FORMED BY THE STONES RIVER, WAS COMPLETED.

LASTLY IN 1967, WITH TWO TRIES AND NO SMALL THANKS TO LEADERSHIP NASHVILLE FOUNDER – **NELSON ANDREWS** - WE PASSED LIQUOR BY THE DRINK! IN FACT, AS A CLOSE NEIGHBOR, I REMEMBER WHEN HIS MAILBOX WAS BOMBED OVER THAT CONTROVERSY.

IN 1968, **DRS. THOMAS FRIST SR. & JR. AND JACK MASSEY** START HOSPITAL CORPORTATION OF AMERICA, THEREBY LAUNCHING NASHVILLE’S INCREDIBLE RIDE AS A HUB OF THE HOSPITAL/MEDICAL INDUSTRY.

IN 1969, SHONEY'S RESTAURANTS CREATED A FAST FOOD SEAFOOD CONCEPT CALLED **MR. D'S** (NOW CAPTAIN D'S), NAMED AFTER ITS LARGEST FRANCHISEE, RAY DANNER.

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1969, **DAN EVINS** OPENED THE FIRST CRACKER BARRELL JUST UP THE ROAD IN LEBANON. IT NOW HAS OVER 620 SUCH STORES IN 42 STATES.

IN APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> OF THAT YEAR, THE **COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME** OPENED JUST OFF WHERE THE ROUNDABOUT AT MUSIC ROW IS NOW LOCATED.

IN 1971, DANNER FOODS ACQUIRED **SHONEY'S BIG BOY** AND MOVED ITS HEADQUARTERS TO NASHVILLE.

IN 1972, THE COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION STARTED FAN FAIR, NOW KNOWN AS THE CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL. TODAY OVER 250,000 TICKETS ARE SOLD EACH YEAR TO THAT EVENT.

ALSO IN 1972, NATIONAL LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY OPENED **OPRYLAND** THEME PARK. OUR MONICKER AS "MUSIC CITY" WAS CEMENTED!

LASTLY IN 1972, **OPRAH WINFREY**, HAVING MOVED TO NASHVILLE TO LIVE WITH HER FATHER, VERNON, WON MISS BLACK TENNESSEE AND A FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY. IN 1973, THE CBS STATION, CHANNEL 5, GAVE A LOCAL WINFREY **HER FIRST JOB IN TELEVISION!**

IN 1974, WITH CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY, NATIONAL LIFE MOVED THE GRANDE OLE OPRY FROM THE RYMAN AUDITORIUM TO THE NEW **GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE.**

IN 1977, THE TURNER FAMILY MOVED THEIR COMPANY TO GOODLETTSVILLE FROM SCOTTSVILLE, KY. **DOLLAR GENERAL** NOW OPERATES OVER 10,000 STORES IN 40 STATES

ON THANKSGIVING DAY, 1977, NATIONAL LIFE THEN OPENED THE OPRYLAND HOTEL. TODAY, IT IS THE LARGEST, NON-CASINO HOTEL IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

IN 1979, **JACK MASSEY** AGAIN CREATED A COMPANY CALLED MRS. WINNERS CHICKEN AND BISCUITS. MASSEY BECAME THE FIRST PERSON IN THE HISTORY OF THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE TO BRING 3 COMPANIES PUBLIC ON THE BIG BOARD!

IN 1984, **AMERICAN GENERAL** OF HOUSTON SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF NATIONAL LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY. AMERICAN GENERAL LATER BECOMES A.I.G., MADE INFAMOUS IN OUR LAST GREAT RECESSION. GAYLORD BROADCASTING COMPANY OF OKLAHOMA, NOW RYMAN HOSPITALITY PROPERTIES, STEPPED IN TO PURCHASE THE OPRYLAND PROPERTIES.

IN 1984, **DAVE WACHTEL** RESIGNED AS PRESIDENT OF SHONEY'S AND BOUGHT THE O'CHARLEY'S RESTAURANT ON 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE SOUTH ACROSS FROM THE VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL. TODAY, IT OPERATES MORE THAN 230 SUCH RESTAURANTS IN 17 STATES.

IN 1986, OUR CITY BECAME AN **AMERICAN AIRLINES HUB** AND WAS SUCH UNTIL 1995.

IN 1990, GENERAL MOTORS OPENED ITS NEW LINE, **SATURN**, WITH A VAST FACILITY IN SPRING HILL, TN, JUST SOUTH OF NASHVILLE, MANUFACTURING ALMOST 200,000 CARS PER YEAR.

IN 1992, **BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION** MOVED ITS HEADQUARTERS FOR THE AMERICAS TO NASHVILLE.

BY THE TIME OF **BRONSON INGRAM'S** UNTIMELY DEATH IN 1995, HE HAD GROWN THIS BUSINESS INTO THE 14<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST PRIVATE HELD COMPANY IN AMERICA, OUR COUNTRY'S LARGEST BARGE COMPANY AND THE WORLD'S LARGEST DISTRIBUTOR OF BOOKS AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE. MARTHA INGRAM AND HER SONS CONTINUE THIS TRADITION, TODAY.

ON DECEMBER 31, 1997, OPRLAND USA CLOSED ITS GATES FOREVER. OPRY MILLS OPENED IN 2000.

1998 WAS A BIG YEAR FOR NASHVILLE SPORTS FANS. THE N.H.L. GRANTED A NEW HOCKEY FRANCHISE TO OUR CITY, AND THE **NASHVILLE PREDATORS** WERE BORN. AND, BUD ADAMS MOVED HIS OILERS FOOTBALL TEAM FROM THE HOUSTON ASTRODOME TO NASHVILLE SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGING THEIR NAME TO THE **TENNESSEE TITANS**.

IN 2000, J.C. BRADFORD & COMPANY WAS SOLD TO PAYNE WEBBER. SOME WOULD CALL IT “THE FINAL NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF THE WALL STREET OF THE SOUTH.”

2001, HOWEVER, WAS A BIG YEAR FOR BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS IN NASHVILLE:

- OUR CITY’S ART SCENE WAS GIVEN A BOOST WHEN THE **ART DECO, MAIN POST OFFICE** WAS CONVERTED INTO THE FIRST CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS.
- THE **COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME** MOVED INTO ITS NEW BUILDING, ELVIS’ GOLD CADILLAC AND ALL!
- AND OUR NEW **PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENED**, DESIGNED BY THE REKNOWN ARCHITECT, ROBERT STERN.

IN 2002, THE FIRST **BONNAROO MUSIC FESTIVAL** TOOK PLACE ON A FARM JUST SOUTHEAST OF NASHVILLE NEAR MANCHESTER. BY 2003, ROLLING STONE NAMES IT AS ONE OF THE TOP 50 MOMENTS IN ROCK & ROLL HISTORY. 150,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED THIS YEAR! COMBINED WITH THE CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL, THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE IS BIG BUSINESS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE!

IN 2006, THE **SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER** OPENED AND IS CONSIDERED TODAY ONE OF THE FINEST CONCERT HALLS IN THE U.S.

ALSO IN 2006, **NISSAN NORTH AMERICA** MOVED ITS HEADQUARTERS FROM CALIFORNIA TO NASHVILLE AND THRIVES TODAY WITH ITS LARGEST NORTH AMERICAN FACTORY LOCATED IN SMYRNA.

WITH OVER 200 JAPANESE OWNED COMPANIES IN TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN MOVED ITS CONSULATE FROM NEW ORLEANS TO NASHVILLE IN 2008.

AND JUST THIS PAST YEAR, THE **MUSIC CITY CONVENTION CENTER** OPENED WITH 353,000 SQ. FT. OF EXHIBIT SPACE.

TODAY, AS EVER, **NASHVILLE** IS A CITY UNDERGOING SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE MAKE-UP OF PEOPLE WHO CALL OUR CITY HOME. IMMIGRATION CONTINUES TO AFFECT NASHVILLE'S PRESENT AND FUTURE. I HOPE THAT IF YOU TAKE AWAY ANYTHING FROM OUR TIME TONIGHT, IT WILL BE THAT THIS TOPIC IS NOTHING NEW. FROM THE MOUND BUILDERS OF THE MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD TO THE KURDISH COMMUNITY ENTERING OUR COMMUNITY TODAY, WE ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS TO NASHVILLE.

THANK YOU.