



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**TENNESSEE  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
RECORDS  
1834-1977**

**RECORD GROUP 46**

*Processed by:*

Archival Technical Services

Revised: June 26, 1985

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

Original records of Tennessee's constitutional conventions are available for 1834, 1870, 1953, 1959, 1965, 1971 and 1977 and consist of minutes, journals, transcripts of proceedings, resolutions, petitions, committee reports, speeches, amendments, rules, biographical data, correspondence and oaths of office.

An indexed audio recording produced by the Archives staff is available for 1959, 1965, 1971 and 1977 Limited Convention. Floor sessions and select committee meetings are available through this medium.

The constitutional history of Tennessee is rather amply documented through printed materials, including the printed Journal and Proceedings of the various constitutional conventions. Liberal principles, such as those adopted in the articles of the Cumberland Compact, were incorporated into Tennessee's first constitution in 1796 and were characterized by Thomas Jefferson as "The least imperfect and the most republican in form of any state constitution." However, the passing of the frontier and concomitant changes in Tennessee's economic, social and political affiliations necessitated the 1834 and 1870 Constitutions. The 1870 Constitution became the oldest unamended constitution of any sovereign state in the world and Limited Constitutional Conventions have been authorized in order to modify the Constitution by the Conventions of 1953, 1959, 1965, 1971 and 1977. Indexed recordings for the Conventions of 1959, 1965, 1971 and 1977 are on file in the Archives.

These original records deserve attention as a reflection of the mandate providing constitutional change for future conventions. Temporary records generated are maintained until replaced by the next convention. The 1965 rough journals are now being utilized for this purpose. Other uses include academic and genealogical research. Biographical data submitted by the 1953 Convention delegates are available in the delegates own handwriting.

The records have been arranged and described in order to facilitate the location of specific items. Conventions have been designated as the series titles beginning with the earliest records available and continuing through 1977. Specific types of records generated comprise the designation of the subseries level. An index to correspondence and major subjects has been compiled to assist the researcher in locating information on topics addressed by the various constitutional conventions.

The Conventions of 1834 and 1870 produced Constitutions, but the later Conventions addressed limited topics and these are listed in order to guide researchers in locating information on particular aspects of constitutional reform.

Limited Constitutional Convention of 1953:

a) Article XI, Section 3, relative to amendments and conventions; b) Article II, Section 23, relative to Legislative compensation; c) Article III, Section 4, relative to Governor's term of office; d) Article III, Section 18, relative to Governor's veto power; e) Article IV, Section 1, right to suffrage; f) Article XI, Section 9, local options for home rule, uniform city charters and approval of metropolitan consolidation.

Limited Constitutional Convention of 1959:

a) to fix term of office of Sheriff for period of four years; b) to fix term of office of Trustee for period of four years; c) to permit all persons of the age of eighteen years and older the right to vote.

Limited Constitutional Convention of 1965:

a) set Legislative term of office; b) require for apportionment every ten years; c) require Representatives be apportioned into districts; d) require Representatives be qualified voter in his district; e) require Senate be apportioned by population; f) require Senators be qualified voter in his district; g) prescribe time for legislative meetings; h) allow County legislative bodies to fill vacancies; i) set legislative pay and limit legislative expense.

Limited Constitutional Convention of 1971:

Article II, Section 28, classification of property for tax assessment purposes.

Limited Constitutional Convention of 1977:

a) Article XI, Section 14, elimination of prohibition of interracial marriages; b) Article II, Section 18, changes relative to passage of bills; c) Article XI, Section 11, changes in homestead exemption; d) Article III, Section 4, change allowing Governor to serve two consecutive terms; e) Article XI, Section 18, changes relative to the approval or the veto of bills; g) Article IV, Section 1, changes in voter qualifications; h) Article II, Section 15, changes in method of filling legislative vacancies; i) Article II, Section 24, changes relative to limitations on state spending; j) Article XI, Section 7, changes relative to interest rates; k) Article VI, changes relative to local government; l) Article II, Section 8, changes relative to legislative sessions; m) Article VI, Sections 1-15, changes relative to the Judicial Department.

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3	Constitutional Convention of 1870	Vol. 3
4	Limited Constitutional Convention of 1953	Boxes 1-8
5	Limited Constitutional Convention of 1959	Box 9, Vols. 4-7
6	Limited Constitutional Convention of 1965	Box 10, Vols. 8-16
7	Limited Constitutional Convention of 1971	Vols. 17-24
8	Limited Constitutional Convention of 1977	Boxes 11-17

## CONTAINER LIST

### Volume I

Constitution 1796

### Volume II

Constitution 1834

### Volume III

Constitution 1870

### Volume 1

Minutes May 26-July 24, 1834

### Volume 2

Journal May 19-Aug. 30, 1834

### Volume 3

Journal January 10-February 23, 1870

### Box 1

	Rough Drafts	
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2	3 <sup>rd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Days	April 23-May 1
3	8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Days	May 5-May 8
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5	14 <sup>th</sup> (cont'd)-15 <sup>th</sup> Days	May 13-May 14
6	15 <sup>th</sup> (cont'd)-17 <sup>th</sup> Days	May 14-May 18

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3	19 <sup>th</sup> (cont'd)-20 <sup>th</sup> Days	May 20-May 21
4	20 <sup>th</sup> (cont'd)-21 <sup>st</sup> Days	May 21-May 22
5	22 <sup>nd</sup> Day	May 25
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3	25 <sup>th</sup> Day	May 28

4	26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Days	May 29-June 2
5	28 <sup>th</sup> Day	June 3
6	29 <sup>th</sup> Day	June 4
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5	14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> Days	May 13-May 14
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7	17 <sup>th</sup> (cont'd)-18 <sup>th</sup> Days	May 18-May 19
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**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**  
**Style and Drafting, Committee of the Whole-1977**

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## DELEGATES TO THE LIMITED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Bedford	Prentice Cooper	Shelbyville
Blount	M.H. Gamble, Jr.	Maryville
Cannon	Marshall E. Duggin	Woodburry
Carroll	Frank Taylor	Huntingdon
Chester	Mrs. Lerlie Jester McCollom	Henderson
Claiborne	John P. Davis	Tazewell
Cocke	Ben W. Hooper	New Port
Coffee	Maynard Tips	Tullahoma
Crockett	Harry S. Avery	Alamo
Davidson	K. Harlan Dodson	Nashville Trust Building, Nashville
	Harry H. Chitwood	Stahlman Building Nashville
	Cecil Sims	American Trust Building Nashville
	Ed W. McGovern	Harding Court, Nash.
	Mrs. James M. Todd	1409 Clairmont Place Nashville
	Charles L. Cornelius, Jr.	Third National Bank Building, Nashville
DeKalb	T.B. Webb	Smithville
Dickson	W.M. Leech	Charlotte
Dyer	Latta Richards	Dyersburg
Fayette	Charles A. Sainback	Somerville
Franklin	Walter M. Haynes	Winchester
Gibson	Hugh T. Bennett	Fruitland
	L.L. Harwell	Rutherford
Giles	Jack Henry	Pulaski
Greene	Leon E. Easterly	Greeneville
Hamilton	John Chambliss	Provident Building Chattanooga
	John S. Fletcher	Hamilton National Bank Bldg., Chattanooga
	Frank W. Prescott	104 Vista Drive Chattanooga
Hardeman	Alan M. Prewitt, Jr.	Bolivar
Hardin	P.M. Harbet	Savannah
Hawkins	John A. Thompson	Rogersville

Haywood  
Henry  
Hickman  
Jackson  
Knox

Lake  
Lauderdale  
Lawrence  
Lincoln  
McMinn  
McNairy  
Madison

Marion  
Marshall  
Maury  
Monroe  
Montgomery  
Moore  
Obion  
Overton  
Putnam  
Roane  
Robertson  
Rutherford  
Sevier  
Shelby

Kirby Matherne  
Alfred G. McGhee  
Claude B. Stephenson  
Robert Lee Johnson  
E.E. Patton

W. Leonard Ambrose

Fred R. Stair

Damon Headden  
C.S. Carney, Jr.  
Hirman W. Holtsford  
Hubert T. Holman  
Jack Johnson  
J. Louis Adams  
William P. Moss  
Jack Manheim  
Keith Hampton  
Jim McCord  
J. Dawson Frierson, Jr.  
J.D. Lee  
Demsey H. Marks  
James B. Murray  
W.M. Miles  
Millard V. Oakley  
J.M. Hatfield  
Harry T. Burn  
Chas. Willett  
C.C. Sims  
Robert L. Ogle, Jr.  
Samuel O. Bates

Everett R. Cook

Frank J. Glanker

Sam E. Chambers

Mrs. Hillman P. Rogers

Jack L. Goldsmith  
John R. Gorman

Brownsville  
Buchanan  
Centerville  
Gainesboro  
2033 Maplewood Drive  
Knoxville  
Burwell Building  
Knoxville  
Sherwood Drive  
Knoxville  
Ridgley  
Ripley  
Lawrenceburg  
Fayetteville  
Athens  
Selmer  
Jackson  
Jackson  
Jasper  
Lewisburg  
Columbia  
Tellico Plains  
Clarksville  
Lynchburg  
Union City  
Livingston  
Cookeville  
Sweetwater  
Springfield  
Murfreesboro  
Sevierville  
Com. Title Bldg.  
Memphis  
84 S. Front St.  
Memphis  
Com. Title Bldg.  
Memphis  
1517 Madison Ave.  
Memphis  
Davies Road  
Memphis  
Memphis  
740 Holly St., Memphis

Smith	H.B. McGinness	Carthage
Stewart	William D. Howell	Dover
Sullivan	J.R. Todd	Kingsport
Sumner	Lewis S. Pope	Hendersonville
Tipton	William C. Tipton	Covington
Warren	Clyde S. Jones	McMinnville
Washington	William E. Miller	Johnson City
Weakley	O.W. Beard	Dresden
White	Malcolm C. Hill	Sparta
Williamson	T.H. Alexander, Jr.	Franklin
Wilson	Sam B. Gilreath	Lebanon
1 <sup>st</sup> Flot. District	George F. Dugger	Elizabethton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Flot. District	E.F. (Jack) Smith	Kingsport
3 <sup>rd</sup> Flot. District	Miss Ella V. Ross	Johnson City
4 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	C.S. Rainwater, Jr.	Dandridge
5 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Wilbur R. Watson	Rutledge
6 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	David B. Rogers	LaFollette
7 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	R.G. Crossno	Norris
8 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	E. Bruce Foster	Burwell Building
		Knoxville
9 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	William B. Parks	Cleveland
10 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Jack Grubb	Decatur
11 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Landon Colvard	Pikeville
12 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	W. Grady Sidwell	Celina
14 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	J.C. McMurtry	Hartsville
15 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Raymond Denney	Nashville Trust Bldg.
		Nashville
17 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	R.R. Haggard	Waynesboro
18 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Gilbert Allen	Cheap Hill Community via Ashland City
		Erin
19 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Joe H. Spencer	Bakerville
20 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Tom Larkin	Camden
21 <sup>st</sup> Flot. District	H.B. Pafford	McKenzie
22 <sup>nd</sup> Flot. District	R.E.L. Gallimore	Lexington
23 <sup>rd</sup> Flot. District	Sam H. Pearson, Jr.	Halls
26 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Ross W. Dyer	1 <sup>st</sup> National Bank Bldg.
27 <sup>th</sup> Flot. District	Walter Chandler	Memphis

# INVENTORY

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

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  - c. Correspondence
  - d. Court Cases
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- 5 Research People  
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- 6 Interest Rate Committee  
Minutes
- 7 Interest Rate Committee  
Minutes

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- 6 Judicial Article Subcommittee on Attorney General, et al
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- 7 Calendar & Agenda
  
- 8 Limitation on State Spending
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- 9 Judicial--Court Clerks & Administrative Personnel
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- 2 Special Joint Committee on Constitutional Amendments

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