

Franklin During Reconstruction: A Time of Transformation



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Did You Know?

- In 1860, more than 4 million slaves and free blacks lived in the South, making up almost 40% of the region's population.
- Emancipation began *during* the Civil War. One day after Union General Benjamin Butler arrived at Fort Monroe in Virginia in May 1861, three slave men escaped to the fort. General Butler called the escaped slaves "contraband of war" and refused to return them to their owners. The word "contraband" was used during the war to refer to former slaves.
- After the Union victory at Antietam in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, announcing that on January 1, 1863, slaves in Confederate territory would be free.
- The Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, declared that slaves who lived in the Confederate states were free, with a few exceptions (see below). Most of these slaves, however, could not yet actually gain their freedom.
- The Emancipation Proclamation did not apply to Tennessee, southern Louisiana, or parts of Virginia. The Union army occupied much of this territory, and President Lincoln did not want to anger Unionist slaveholders who lived within it. Although the proclamation did not apply to slaves in these areas, many left their owners anyway and claimed their freedom.
- The U.S. Congress established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands on March 3, 1865, to oversee the transition from slavery to freedom; the agency is commonly called the Freedmen's Bureau.
- In March 1865 the Confederate Congress gave President Jefferson Davis the authority to recruit slave men as soldiers, with their owners' approval.
- The Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, was ratified in Tennessee in April 1865 and became part of the U.S. Constitution in December 1865.
- African Americans held Emancipation Day celebrations for decades after the war; the day of the celebration varied and included January 1, April 9 (day of General Robert E. Lee's surrender), and September 22, among others. June 19th, known as "Juneteenth," has recently gained popularity; it was originally a celebration of the 1865 announcement of freedom on Galveston Island, Texas.
- On July 18, 1866, Tennessee ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, guaranteeing black citizenship, and on July 24 became the first former Confederate state readmitted to the Union.
- Black men gained the vote in Tennessee in February 1867, three years before the Fifteenth Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution.



Classroom Activities



Benjamin Holmes

Born into slavery in Charleston, South Carolina

Later sold to an owner in Chattanooga, Tennessee

During the Civil War, when Union troops occupied Chattanooga, was hired by a Union general as a servant

Now that the war is over, attends Fisk University -- started at Fisk in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1868

Planning to become a school teacher

A founding member of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a choral group at Fisk University

Preparing to travel with the Fisk Jubilee Singers to Great Britain for a performance

Thomas H. Peebles

Former slave owner

Married and has children

Lives in Williamson County, Tennessee

Owns a large farm, including crops and livestock

Has hired several of his former slaves as farm laborers

Provides housing on his land to the farm laborers and splits the crops with them as payment

Wants his workers to continue to do multiple jobs and be on call for work at all times

Wants to control his workers' personal lives as well as their work lives -- for example, requires laborers to have permission to receive visitors and limits what animals they can and cannot raise

Miss L. Humphrey

White northern school teacher, who was an abolitionist and now works for the American Missionary Association

Lives in Camp Shiloh, a freedmen's village, near Memphis, Tennessee

Uses a pointer stick that once belonged to a slave owner who used it to whip slaves, one of whom is now a top student

Worked with the Union army to get windows and seats for the school which did not have them at first

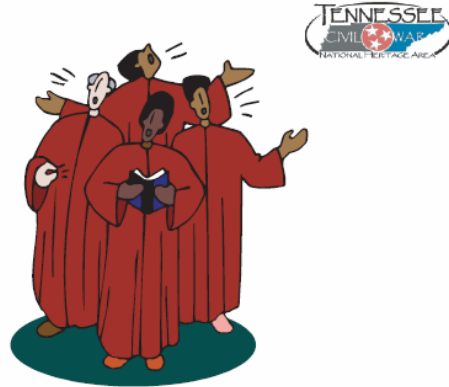
Has nearly 300 students registered (men, women, and children, ages 7 to 65) and teaches 4 sessions of school a day

At first, had just 3 books and 5 large "cards" with letters and Bible verses with which to teach the students

The students have all contributed money to buy more books and create a small school library

50 of her students learned to read within 2 months

Musical Memory



Originally sung by slaves, the spiritual "Many Thousand Gone" was sung by black Union soldiers during the Civil War and by the world-famous Fisk Jubilee Singers after the war ended. Examine its lyrics to answer the questions below.

What do you think happened to the "many thousand gone" referred to in this song?

How did the feelings behind the song change after emancipation?

What do you think a "peck o' corn" and a "pint o'salt" tells you about the lives of slaves? A "peck" was a dry measurement equal to about 8 quarts.

According to the song, what else do former slaves no longer have to endure?

Document Detective



and it is understood when he assigns a duty it will be performed promptly and in a good humor George will be required to pay all tools or gear lost or carelessly destroyed by himself or family no visiting or receiving visitors during work hours except by ~~consent~~ permission a reasonable deduction made for all lost time George



The contract between Thomas H. Peebles, shown here, and George and Ann Peebles provides extraordinary detail about work and family life.

and his family are to assist in harvest and saving hay from the meadows and putting in grain or seed in spring or fall in short Peebles agrees to give George so large a share of the crop for the sake of his services out of the crop Georges second daughter America is to stay in Peebles family fed clothed and educated by this same Peebles finding her books she is to perform such service as may be assigned her and never to go to her fathers house or any where else except by permission she is to be subject to such discipline as school children generally are to be punished only when she needs it and then for good The white

family are expected to be kind to Georges and his in turn are expected to be attentive polite and respectful to the white family These obligations are to continue for the entire year Ann is expected to rise by day and have her breakfast over so that George may get to his regular work by sunrise then she will attend to the milking George and Margaret will make fires for the white family every morning by day break and then go about their other business such as may be set apart to them The whole of Georges crop is to be gathered and remain in charge of Thomas H Peebles until sold or fairly divided signed in presence of Witnesses

Witnesses E W Peebles	Thomas H Peebles
H S Peebles	his
	George X Peebles
	mark
	her
	Ann X Peebles
	mark

1865 labor contract.
Courtesy of
The Heritage Foundation of
Franklin and Williamson
County, Tennessee.

CSI-Franklin 1867

*What really happened in Franklin, TN,
on Saturday, July 6, 1867?*

Investigate the Crime Scene

On Saturday, July 6, 1867, what started out as a peaceful gathering in the Franklin town square for a belated Fourth of July celebration and political rally, turned into a riot injuring and killing several people. In Tennessee, African American men had gained the right to vote in February 1867, and most former Confederates were not allowed to.

Here's what is known about this series of events:

- 6am: Union League members (primarily African American) have a parade
- 11am: The parade comes back through the square with fife & drum music and banners; the parade stops in front of the courthouse and marches the U.S. flag into the building, past a crowd of Conservatives on the steps
- 1pm: Republican candidates speak
- 4pm: The meeting ends
- 4:30pm: Joe Williams, an African American Conservative passing close by town, is detained by several Conservatives and brought to the square to speak; in the midst of his speech, Union League members tire of his speech and play music to gather together for a final procession to be held

What happens next depends on who's telling the story. The articles that follow include both personal and newspaper accounts. Remember that newspapers were often opinionated and not objective. A worksheet accompanies each account to help you determine what YOU think really happened next.

NOTE: Conservative Democrats ("Conservatives") included many former Confederates while the Radicals were an off-shoot of the Republican Party, the party of Lincoln. The African American men who formed a Union League chapter of Republicans in Franklin had been threatened numerous times prior to July 6 by groups of local Conservatives.

Memphis Daily Appeal Article

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1867.

RIOT AT FRANKLIN, TENN.

NEGROES FIRE A VOLLEY INTO A CROWD OF CONSERVATIVES.

A White Man Killed and Five More Reported Wounded.

The Firing Returned--Thirty-Five Negroes Wounded.

Regulars Arrive from Nashville Sunday Morning--Quiet Restored.

On Sunday night the telegraph briefly announced a bloody collision between whites and blacks at Franklin, Tenn., Saturday night. Dispatches received yesterday afternoon from sources entitled to credence give the following version of the riot:

It seems that on Saturday Hon. John Trimble, of Nashville, the radical candidate for congress, made a speech in Franklin, which was the occasion of congregating in the town a large proportion of the radicals in the county, white and black. No disturbance occurred during the speech, good order being observed throughout. Sometime after Trimble concluded, Jo. Williams (colored) who had been at Spring Hill making a conservative speech, arrived in Franklin, on his way to Nashville. He was induced to stop and deliver an address, which he did, without interruption. But as soon as he concluded, a colored mob, headed by a white man named J. C. Bliss, appeared on the borders of the crowd, having been collected by the beating of drums. The assemblage dispersed, however, without any violent demonstration, Bliss and his crowd retiring to a grove about half a mile distant. This was before nightfall. About eight and a-half o'clock the negroes, headed by Bliss, re-entered the town, the majority of them armed. They proceeded to the courthouse, in front of which a number of white men, whom the mob doubtless recognized, were standing. Into this crowd the negroes fired a volley, killing one white man, M. H. Cody, and wounding five others. The firing was at once returned, and with such vigor that in a few minutes the negroes and their leader beat a hasty retreat. During the melee thirty-five negroes were wounded, some of them mortally. The affair created the most intense excitement in the town and vicinity, and in a short time a large force of white men was assembled, ready to receive the mob should another attack be ventured. But the night passed away without any further disturbance. It was feared there would be more trouble on Sunday; but early in the day a detachment of regulars arrived from Nashville, whose presence prevented any additional demonstration that might have been projected by the discomfited mob. The above are all the reliable particulars that could be obtained. A thousand rumors were afloat, but being unconfirmed, we do not deem it proper to mention them.

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Nashville Daily Press and Times Article

CONSERVATIVE CONCILIATION.

The Ballot to be Controlled
by the Bullet.

The Freemen of Williamson Shot
in the Streets of Franklin.

Murderous Attack on a Republi-
can Procession.

THE FIRE IS RETURNED.

Twenty Colored and Eight White
Men Shot—One Man Killed
and Three Mortally
Wounded.

THE CONSERVATIVES THREATEN.

United States Troops Sent to Frank-
lin to Keep the Peace.

Full Particulars of the Riot
on Saturday Night.

On Saturday last Hon. John Trimble, candidate for Congress from this district, and Mr. Elliott, candidate for the State Senate from Rutherford, went down to Franklin, nineteen miles from Nashville on the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, where Mr. Trimble had a regular appointment to speak. Mr. Trimble was met at the depot at Franklin by a delegation from the colored Union league, who, with flags and banners and martial music escorted the honorable gentleman into town. There was considerable excitement among the colored people, and they were out in considerable force, evidently determined to have a rousing time and grand Radical turnout.

determined otherwise.

We return again to a narration of the memorable events of that Saturday afternoon. The colored procession marched, as we have seen down the pike, towards the battle ground, and halted at a little grove where they discussed the condition of affairs and the propriety of carrying out their proposed plan in regard to a torch light procession. They were not ignorant of the fact that much ill feeling had been stirred up among the Conservatives by the events of the afternoon. Many were in favor of giving up the torch light demonstration, and these latter prevailed, aided by Mr. Elliott and Chas. Jr., who visited the grove and urged the colored people to defer their display until some future time. A vote was taken, and it was determined to return to the square or the Colored League Headquarters and quietly disperse.

The column, numbering some eighty men, accordingly reformed, and headed by the music, proceeded back to town. It was now eight o'clock, and dusk was rapidly settling into the deeper shades of night. The procession passed along the southwestern corner of the square, and opposite the law offices in that locality, and had turned down the adjacent street, when, as the rear of the column came opposite the crowd collected on the corner, a single shot was fired from that throng, followed instantly by a perfect volley. The procession, which was on the opposite sidewalk from that occupied by the treacherous and murderous crowd that had fired into their rear, wheeled about, advanced rapidly a few paces and returned the fire. Instantly, eye witnesses inform us, shots blazed from doors and windows upon that devoted column of colored men, thus made the prey of deliberate, murderous designs. All was wild confusion for a moment, and then the column withdrew rapidly from the street, bearing away its wounded.

The result of that brief conflict, which

lasted at the most but half a minute, was sanguinary.

Cody, the livery stable man previously mentioned, fired the first shot upon the procession, and lost his life by the return volley. A ball pierced his body and he fell dead among his misguided friends. Seven or eight white men in that crowd were wounded more or less severely, two of them, it is reported very seriously if not fatally. Of the colored men twenty-three were wounded, four or five but slightly and three or four mortally, it is thought.

Gathering testimony fixes the firing of the first shot, as we have before stated, upon the man Cody, who paid the penalty of the crime with his life. The Conservatives, after perpetrating this terrible outrage went off immediately for more arms and reinforcements. The colored men composing the League with the addition of others rallied and would have returned and fought it out with the cowardly assassins had they not been earnestly counselled to retire.

By the midnight train Mr. Trimble and others who went to Franklin returned to Nashville, and brought the intelligence of the bloody outrage. The military authorities were promptly informed, and at noon yesterday a company of the 45th regulars, with Gen. Duncan's Adjutant General, Lieut. Groesbeck, Gen. Carlin's Adjutant General and Capt. Walsh left for the scene of the tragedy.

Exaggerated and highly colored statements of this affair were circulated in the city yesterday and much excitement produced. We have the gratification of knowing that the statements given above is derived entirely from accurate and trustworthy sources.

Note:

Due to the length and detail of this article, selected excerpts have been chosen for inclusion in this activity.

Nashville Daily Press and Times Article

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New York Times Article

New York Times
Jul. 8, 1867

A RIOT IN TENNESSEE.

Radical Meeting at Franklin - Attack on Colored Loyal Leaguers - One White Man Killed, Four Wounded and Eighteen Colored Men Wounded.
Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, July 7.

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NASHVILLE, Tenn., Sunday, July 7.

JOHN TRIMBLE, candidate for Congress, and two candidates for the State Legislature, all Radicals, had an appointment to speak yesterday at Franklin, Williamson County. A large number of persons, white and black, assembled, among the latter members of a loyal league, about eighty in number, who paraded the streets in regalia, with a band of music, and armed, in some instances firing a salute. The candidates were heard without interruption, the speaking lasting until about 4:30 o'clock. Subsequently, however, TRIMBLE, when not present, was denounced on the public square, and one of the legislative candidates badgered for something he had said. Much excitement arose, and symptoms of ill feeling between some of the whites and colored Leaguers were developed. The Leaguers retired in bad humor to a grove, where they were followed by a son of Dr. CLIFFE, who, in a conciliatory address, advised them to disperse. They agreed to do this and marched back to their hall. By this time night came on, and after stowing away their regalia, &c., they left the hall and returned to the public square, where a collision immediately occurred. It is alleged that they were fired on by a party of white and colored Conservatives, a man named CADY, a livery stable keeper, firing the first shot. The fire was instantly returned. The affair lasted but a few moments—half a minute, perhaps. There appeared to be a volley in attack, and a scattering reply, resulting in the death of CADY, who was shot through the heart, and the wounding of eight whites and eighteen blacks. Three of the latter are mortally wounded. Some of the wounded blacks are Conservatives. The Radical blacks were much exasperated, and threatened to return and renew the fight, but Dr. CLIFFE interposed and prevailed upon them to desist. An official investigation will be necessary to fix the responsibility for this murderous affair. On one hand it is charged that the colored Leaguers were armed, were menacing in deportment, and desired a fight; on the other that they had been previously and repeatedly assaulted, and they were armed in self-defense, and the attack evinced a preparation and design to do so. It was apprehended that the difficulty would be renewed to-day, but all is quiet. A company of the Forty-fifth Regulars left this place this morning for Franklin to maintain quiet. The affair is deplored by all parties.

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CSI Suspect: Burrell Bostick

Transcription of his official deposition on July 8, 1867

My name is Burrell Bostick. I live at Widow Bostick's about one mile from Franklin, Tenn. I was at the speaking and in the procession of the 6th of July 1867 at Franklin, Tenn. I was with the crowd at the Court House, when Joe Williams was speaking. Mr. Bliss told the colored people to leave the Court House and not to kick up a disturbance and let him speak his opinions. We then left the Court House and went across the Square. He, Mr. House, went up to Mr. Bliss on the Square and hit with his fist on the face - after that was over we marched on to the grove to hear the speaking. After the speaking was over, we came back to the Square marching in procession. I was in the front at the head of the column when I heard the first shot fired. I turned as well as all the others that were near me. The shot was fired from Mr. House's Corner; about 30 of mixed white and colored were in that crowd. On the opposite side of the Square, I saw and heard several shots fired. I saw some shots also fired out of the Court House windows (the upper windows). Also saw shots fired out of the window of Mr. Bennett's House. After the first round was fired the (col'd) people returned the fire. The names of the colored men that fired were Bob Caruthers, Bundy Caruthers and myself. Mr. House said, "Is Mr. Cody Shot?" - some one answered, "Yes." - Mr. House said, "He is the first-man fired and then got shot." Mr. House was in command. He told [his] men to fall back and load - they then got back and loaded and came back again, and Mr. House told them to go straight for the Flag - we were carrying a United States flag. He then said to the men go up Brave - that he would make them remember taking a banner with Fort Pillow on it - I was wounded in the head.

CSI Suspect: John L. House

Transcription of his official deposition on July 10, 1867

I am a citizen of Franklin, Tennessee and was in town on Saturday last the 6th Inst. on which day the Hon. John Trimble, candidate for Congress. and the Hon. W.Y. Elliot, candidate for the Senate, (both Radicals) addressed a large crowd and everything seemed to pass off pleasantly....

[After Williams had been speaking fifteen or twenty minutes...] I heard the drums and I shut up and immediately went out and saw that a part of the crowd had left the speaking and that Mr. Bliss was out side of courtyard much excited.... I called to [Mr. Bliss] and requested him not to go away but to stop the mob he had started, saying I would stop Williams from speaking. I was approaching Bliss all the while, who had by that time, turned into Main Cross Street, when I came up with him and told him I was surprised that a man of his age and senses would engage in getting up a mob and riot. He said he had done no such thing and called me a liar; for which I slapped [him] in the face....

As I was returning to my store after supper, I met Joe Williams at the Livery Stable and told him he must not think of speaking that night, that it might cause a difficulty. After arriving at my store, as was my custom, I took a seat on a bench on the pavement near my back door and commenced smoking. When some of my friends came and informed me that they had heard the League threaten to mob me, I replied, "I do not think they will try to do it, but if they do, I must defend myself." About that time the Court House bell was rung by some one and, in a few minutes, fifteen or twenty gentlemen came up and I inquired of them for what the bell was rung.

Some one replied, "Jo Williams was to speak." I told them there was nothing of it - that he must not speak - that there would be great danger of a difficulty, which should be depreciated by all good citizens. Just then a runner came up and stated that the mob was coming and that he had heard the order or declaration, "When you get to the Corner fire into House's store." I said I did not want to be burned out and would remain outside, and directed the door to be closed, so that the light would not shine and enable them to see and shoot me.

While sitting on the bench, close to the door, Allen Williams, colored, an influential Radical, came and asked for Samuel House. I informed him that he had gone home and asked if I would do. He said, he had done all he could to keep peace and believed the League would disband. I replied, "I hope so, peace is greatly to be desired by every body."



CSI Student Investigation

R. P. Haynes

*Read the transcription of R. P. Haynes's
July 8, 1867, deposition to answer the questions below.*

1) According to R. P. Haynes, what did he observe early that evening, just shortly before the court house bell rang the first time?

2) After the second time the bell was rung, where did he initially go and sit for the evening event?

3) Where did he move to?

4) Where did the first shot come from?

5) When was Mr. Hayne's statement taken, following this Saturday, July 6, incident?





CSI Student Investigation

Mariah Reddick

*Read the transcription of Mariah Reddick's
July 9, 1867, deposition to answer the questions below.*

1) According to Mariah Reddick, why were the Union Leaguers "excited" when they left the square for the grove?

2) Where did the first shot come from?

3) Where did the next shots come from?

4) At what point did the Union Leaguers return fire?

5) What did she do after observing the gunfire?

6) When was Ms. Reddick's statement taken, following this Saturday, July 6, incident?



CSI Student Investigation *Solving the Crime?*

TEACHERS: Suggested Further Activities & Concluding Comments

- 1) Have a trial based on the witnesses, suspects, and materials in this packet. Assign students different characters based on the depositions and newspaper articles. Select several students to serve on the jury and "hear" the case.
- 2) Have each student write up their "police report" based on the information presented in the activity sheets. Be sure to have students include notes on the demeanor and "leanings" of witnesses, suspects, and reporters.
- 3) Break students up into two groups. Each group will take on the role of a law firm. Have one group defend Mr. Bostick and the other defend Mr. House in a class presentation.
- 4) As a class, or in groups, have students develop a flowchart showing different possible versions of the riot, based on the differing reports in the newspapers and from witnesses.

Concluding Comments to Share with the Class

On July 15, 1867, an official report was filed by the head of the Tennessee division of the U.S. Freedman's Bureau to the Commissioner in Washington, D.C. Here is an excerpt:

"It is worthy to remark that of the 27 colored men, whose wounds were dressed by Dr. D. B. Cliffe of Franklin, were all wounded in the back or in the back front of the limbs, showing clearly that they were fired upon from the rear & flank by the Conservative party while marching in procession or after they had broken ranks and were running away from the Conservative mob."

Thus, they were shot from behind, suggesting that they had been fired upon first.

The report concludes as follows, "I am informed that the wounded have been well provided for and that the Conservatives, as well as Radicals, contributed provisions and money toward providing for the sufferers." The Bureau left the matter in the hands of the local court system; it does not appear that the matter was pursued.

Neighborhood Tours

Natchez Street - Begin Tour at:

First Missionary Baptist Church

113 Natchez Street

This church, organized in 1871, holds distinction as the neighborhood's oldest congregation. In 1901, the First Missionary Baptist hosted the Colored Missionary Baptist Association, when a group of three to four thousand African-Americans gathered for this religious meeting. This type of gathering for African Americans was unusual in a town whose population was only 3,000 total.

Talking Walls of Natchez

233 Natchez Street

This community center features outstanding murals and paintings by a local artist, telling the story of African Americans as they journeyed from Africa to America. Through these images, the center takes visitors through the struggles of two decades of slavery through the triumphant march to freedom and equality.

Williams Merrill House

264 Natchez Street

In 1881, former slave Moses Merrill built a large two-story residence on land sold to him by his former owner. Growing elderly and unable to maintain the residence, he sold it to well-known businessman A.N.C. Williams and his large family in 1892.

Shorter Chapel A.M.E. Church

152 W. Fowlkes Street (corner of Natchez and W. Fowlkes)

The Shorter Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church congregation organized in 1873 under the Franklin A.M.E. church. In 1925, the congregation erected its present Victorian-inspired building on the corner of Natchez and West Fowlkes Streets.

Natchez High School (presently the Claiborne Hughes Health Center)

335 Natchez Street

In 1888, the 9th Neighborhood School Committee purchased this lot on Natchez Street. The first school was called the Claiborne Institute after first principal Willis Claiborne. The school was rebuilt in 1907 as the Franklin Colored School, and expanded in 1925 as the Franklin Training School. The present building was built in 1949. In 1962, teachers worked with the Williamson County Board of Education to change the school's name to Natchez High School to reflect the desire for equality in education and recognition that the school had evolved beyond industrial training programs. Extra-curricular activities included football and women's basketball teams, a marching band, and Homecoming events. After integration, the school graduated its last class in 1967.

Providence United Primitive Baptist Church

377 Natchez Street

Providence United Primitive Baptist Church stands at the corner of Natchez and Granbury Streets. In 1883, Atha Thomas sold the land for this church to Wallis Bradley, Randal Brown, Harrison Scruggs, Jack Wilburn and Aaron Blakely.



Hardbargain – Begin Tour at:

McLemore House

446 11th Avenue

Built in 1880 by former slave Harvey McLemore, this was one of Hardbargain's earliest homes and reflected its emergence as a stable, middle class African American neighborhood. The house stayed in the McLemore family for 117 years, and was sold through a joint purchase by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, Williamson County Habitat for Humanity, and the African American Historical Society. The building currently houses the McLemore House Museum and is open for tours by appointment.

Touissant L'Ouverture Cemetery

Corner of Del Rio Pike and Hillsboro Road

Bordering the historically white Mount Hope Cemetery, TLO served as Franklin's primary cemetery for African Americans. Formally established in 1884, the cemetery was named for the slave leader who led the 1812 revolution ending French colonial rule in Haiti. With headstones dating to the late 1800s, the cemetery also houses veterans from both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War as well as members of the many African American Masonic and social organizations. Prominent citizens buried here include ANC Williams and former Carnton slave Mariah Reddick, one of the central characters in the novel *The Widow of the South*. The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Charles Johnson Elementary historical marker

815 Glass Lane

The Charles Johnson Elementary School was named for Dr. Charles C. Johnson, a prominent local African American physician who operated the first hospital for African Americans in Franklin. The school was built in 1956 to teach the growing numbers of Franklin's African American children, and served grades K-8. Under significant pressure by federal lawmakers and the black community, Franklin's schools began limited desegregation in 1962, and Johnson Elementary was finally fully integrated in 1971.

Green Street Church of God

915 Green Street

The church's congregation was established in 1910, first organizing in tent meetings and later in rented space near the Old City Cemetery before settling permanently in Hardbargain as the Holiness Church. The present building was built in the 1950s, and became the Church of God in 1954.

Downtown – Begin Tour at:

Courthouse Square:

In 1863, A.N.C. Williams opened the first African-American business in downtown Franklin, operating a shoe repair business on the square with African-American preacher William Perkins. After the Civil War, on July 6, 1867, the courthouse square was also the site of the infamous Franklin Riot when Franklin's Colored League marched through Franklin's square to protest speeches by two congressional candidates. A.N.C. Williams attempted to avoid violence by communicating the League's desire to march peaceably to the assembled white attendees. Events escalated and shots were fired on both sides, but Williams' proved instrumental in calming tensions between blacks and whites and working for a peaceful solution to the conflict on the square.

Green House

202 Church Street

The "Green House" is the oldest remaining African American-built home still standing in downtown Franklin. The lot was purchased by prominent merchant A.N.C. Williams, and housed several African American families during the 20th century. The house was saved from demolition by a group of concerned citizens and preservation agencies in 2003.

Wiley Memorial Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church (presently Pull-Tight Players) 112 Second Avenue South

The Methodist Episcopal Church was built ca. 1869, and served as a vital community institution through the mid-twentieth century. A dwindling congregation caused the church to close in the 1950s. The former church currently houses the Pull-Tight Players, Franklin's popular community theater group.

Lillie Mills and L&N Railroad complexes

First Avenue South between West Main and South Margin streets

Along First Avenue, the stacks of the former Lillie Mills flour plant and the railroad depot still mark the landscape. Lillie Mills and the railroad were key downtown industries that employed many African Americans, and contributed to the development of the downtown African American community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

A.N.C. Williams' store

428 W. Main Street

Perhaps Franklin's most prominent early African American merchant and entrepreneur, A.N.C. Williams opened one of the first African American businesses in downtown Franklin in 1863, operating a shoe repair business on the square. After purchasing sites near the present day Fourth Avenue, he constructed a building and opened a general merchandise store. Williams operated his store for sixty-four years, openly catering to both black and white patrons despite Jim Crow laws and segregation. Due to failing health, he retired in 1928 as the oldest continually operating merchant on Main Street, having owned and managed his successful store for over sixty years.

Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery

Students will learn about the landscape of this historically African American cemetery and answer questions that reflect on their reading and cemetery exploration.

Lesson:

Prior to the exploration of the cemetery, have the students read the supplementary reading on cemeteries in order to gain a historical understanding of the historic burying grounds.

Have the students answer questions based on their reading.

After answering the questions based on the reading, have the students explore the cemetery and answer the questions on the form. You may divide the class into two groups with each reporting on what they find. After the activity, come back together to discuss.

Student Activity – Exploring the Cemetery

- Why are African-American cemeteries landscaped differently than white cemeteries?
- Why are the tombstones different in white cemeteries than African-American cemeteries?
- What is the earliest burial date that you can locate in the cemetery?
- What are some of the surnames (last names) in the TLO Cemetery?
- List 3 symbols that you can find on the gravestones and use the list below to list what the symbols mean.

Try to find the grave of a veteran for each of the wars listed below. Note the name, the birth and death dates and any other details or information on the markers.

- Civil War (United States Colored Troops)
- World War I
- World War II
- Korea
- Vietnam

Additional Activities and Resources

On-line activity (From the National Constitution Center website):

Visit the National Constitution Center website for a fun and thought-provoking interactive web activity. Although this activity primarily focuses on the Civil War era, it provides great background information on the events leading up to emancipation and Reconstruction.

About the online exhibit (from the website):

Abraham Lincoln's Crossroads is an educational game based on the traveling exhibition *Lincoln: The Constitution & the Civil War*, which debuted at the National Constitution Center in June 2005.

The online game is intended for advanced middle- and high-school students. It invites them to learn about Lincoln's leadership by exploring the political choices he made. An animated Lincoln introduces a situation, asks for advice and prompts players to decide the issue for themselves, before learning the actual outcome. At the end of the game, players discover how frequently they predicted Lincoln's actions. A Resources Page keyed to each chapter provides links to relevant Websites on Lincoln and the Civil War, permitting students to explore issues in more depth.

To access the activity, visit:

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/lincoln/index.html>

On-line Resources:

Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture online edition:

<http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/>

The Heritage Education Network:

<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/then/>

Tennessee History for Kids

www.tnhistoryforkids.org

Additional Resources:

Alexander, Hudson. *Physicians of Williamson County: A Legacy of Healing 1797-1997*. Franklin, TN: Canaday Enterprises, 1997.

Ash, Stephen V. *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed, 1860-1870: War and Peace in the Upper South*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988.



Support of Tennessee Social Studies Curriculum Standards for High School Students

United States History

Era 6: Industrial Development of the United States (1870-1900)

5.0 History

Investigate the dynamics of the post-Reconstruction era and the people and events that influenced the country.

6.0 Individuals Groups and Interactions

Appreciate the diversity of various cultures and their influences on the United States.

African American History

Standard Number 1.0: Culture

1.3 Understands and recognizes the achievements and cultural achievements and contributions of African Americans in United States culture from 1860 to the present.

- African American institutions
- Schools
- Professionals

Standard Number 4.0: Governance and Civics

4.11 Assess the impact of Jim Crow laws.

Standard Number 5.0: History

5.11 Analyzes the role of African Americans during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

5.12 Understands the historical impact of Jim Crow and its effects on the life experiences of African Americans in the 19th and 20th centuries.