

## **Countdown to December 1, 2019**

### **“On this Day in History” for Johnson City, Tennessee’s Sesquicentennial**

#### **December**

**On December 1, 1869**, Johnson City “received its first charter from the state of Tennessee under the name of Johnson City.” (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On December 1, 1966**, Johnson City native Steve Spurrier won the Heisman Trophy. (Source: “Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee,” Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On December 2, 1978**, the Statler Brothers appeared with Barbara Mandrel at Freedom Hall. Tickets ranged in price from \$5.50 to \$7.50. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**Between December 3, 4, and 5, 1886**, three feet of snow fell in Johnson City. “Activity ground to a halt for days.” (Source: *I’d Rather Have a Talking Frog*.)

**On December 3, 1978**, Dorothy Hamill reported in her column that the old Science Hill High School would soon be torn down. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On December 4, 1984**, an article in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that recently, a day’s tobacco sales at Big Burley, Grower’s Co-Op, and Young’s Warehouse brought tobacco growers more than \$1 million. So far that season, more than 2.1 million pounds of tobacco was sold, bringing more than \$9 million into the local economy. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On December 5, 1907**, children’s letters to Santa Claus, as printed in *The Comet*, an early Johnson City weekly newspaper, reveals their wishes for such Christmas goodies as fruit, oranges, nuts and other foods. Dolls and books were also popular items. A little boy asked for a Billy goat wagon, while a little girl wished for gloves and brown hair ribbons. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On December 6, 1884**, General J.T. Wilder was in Johnson City speaking about his plans to build a new hotel in Roan Mountain, Tennessee. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On December 6, 1988**, former City Commissioner and Mayor Raymond Huff passed away. His Commission term was from 1981-1989, and he was Mayor from 1983-1984. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On December 7, 1898**, William Exum was chosen to be the new Mayor of Johnson City, replacing William G. Mathes. His term would end on October 8, 1900. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On December 8, 2011**, the *Johnson City Press* opined in an editorial that having the Northeast State Community College presence in the former Downtown Centre would be a good thing and “could be an exciting new chapter in the redevelopment of downtown Johnson City.” (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On December 9, 1968**, the Johnson City Evening Rotary Club received their provisional charter. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On December 9, 1979**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported members of the Junior Service League, now the Junior League, would staff The Christmas House for the children of Johnson City. At The House, children could choose gifts for their family and friends away from their parents, as well as play games and hear Christmas stories. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On December 10, 1866**, East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia Christian Churches met to secure a charter for the Buffalo Male and Female Institute, now known as Milligan College. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On December 10, 1945**, City Commissioner W.O. Dyer passed away. His term was from 1943–1946. Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On December 11, 1965**, Diane Barker wrote in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* of Donna Rose’s recent trip to Guaranda, Ecuador. As the reigning Miss Johnson City, Miss Rose visited Johnson City’s Sister City of Guaranda and helped Quito, the capital of Ecuador, celebrate its 420<sup>th</sup> birthday. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On December 12, 1985**, the *Johnson City Press* reported that the Johnson City Washington County Chamber of Commerce would sponsor a course on the basics of politics. The course would be helpful to candidates for political office, and for those with an interest in politics and political campaigns. (.Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On December 13, 1937**, the Johnson City Business and Professional Women met at the Hotel John Sevier. Marie Harrison was program chairman for the evening; the topic was “What We Buy and Sell Within the United States.” (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On December 14, 1947**, Judge Samuel Cole Williams died. He and his wife donated land and \$10,000 to build Johnson City’s first public library after their son died. Judge Williams helped the State of Tennessee prepare for the Tennessee Sesquicentennial in 1946. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On December 15, 2017**, the *Johnson City Press*' Mystery Diner gave a rave review to Gourmet and Company, telling readers that their Reuben sandwich is something that "New York deli owners can only dream about." (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On December 16, 1859**, the Blue Plum Post Office discontinued service. Henry Johnson was the first Postmaster of Blue Plum, appointed in 1849. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On December 17, 1958**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that a contract for \$279,450 for school repairs and additions to existing schools was awarded to the Burleson Company. Among other expenditures in the contract, Columbus Powell was allocated \$10,950, Douglass \$84,860, North Side \$44,687 and South Side \$45,978. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On December 18, 1966**, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" was shown on television for the first time as an animated TV special. Based on the book by the same name that Dr. Seuss wrote, children all over Johnson City enjoyed it. (Source: [www.thepeoplehistory.com](http://www.thepeoplehistory.com))

**On December 18, 2011**, 1,372 students graduated from East Tennessee State University. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On December 19, 1895**, the back tax attorney, W.W. Faw, advised readers of *The Comet* that he would "offer for sale on the door of Jobe's Opera House on December 30, 1895" properties of delinquent tax payers. *The Comet* was an early Johnson City newspaper. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On December 20, 1906**, readers of *The Comet* were advised that "It is better not to be witty than it is to be half-witted." In "How to Treat Your Town" *The Comet* readers were advised to praise, improve, talk and write about their town. Trading at home, being public spirited, having home pride, speaking of the natural advantages of the town, subscribing and supporting the local paper, supporting institutions that benefit the town, and looking ahead of yourself when the entire town is considered were all suggested as ways to treat your town. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On December 20, 1974**, the James Agee Film Project was founded. (Source: Personal communication between Ross Spears and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On December 21, 1941**, Frank Reilly, a New York artist, presented Robert L. Fine, President of the Washington County Bar Association, a mural. It showed three early East Tennessee judges: Andrew Jackson, David Campbell, and Hugh Lawson White. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On December 22, 1904**, Thomas Brothers advertised men's fashions in *The Comet*. Readers were told that the merchant would "take pleasure in helping You select USEFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS." Leo and Nuchols Hardware Company had a

selection of Rome and Rochester Teapots, as well as coffeepots, berry dishes, cake dishes, and pearl and stag handled pocketknives (sic.) (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On December 22, 1954**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported the University of Tennessee at Memphis had bestowed the Doctor of Medicine degrees upon Charles E. Allen and Clarence E. Goulding, Jr. (Source: [www.facebook.com/groups/JCmemories](http://www.facebook.com/groups/JCmemories))

**On December 22, 2015**, Lisa Phillips Carter became CEO of Niswonger Children's Hospital. (Source: Personal communication between Lisa Phillips Carter and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On December 23, 1928**, the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Johnson City was organized. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On December 24, 1989**, sixteen people died in the tragic fire at the John Sevier Center. (Source: Personal recollection of Rebecca Henderson.)

**On December 25, 1956**, an article in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* noted that Lawrence G. Derthrick, the son of Dr. H.J. Derthrick, President Emeritus of Milligan College, was named as the new Commissioner of the United States Office of Education. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On December 26, 1983**, Dorothy Hamill interviewed Dana Love. He was a banker, having worked for the Unaka and City National Bank, prior to its being taken over by Hamilton National Bank. One of his recollections was of having locally printed script in different denominations during the Great Depression. The script could be used locally when currency was frozen, and was only valid after a bank officer or cashier signed it. When President Franklin Roosevelt closed all banks for several days in March 1933, local stores and businesses traded in script. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On December 27, 1900**, *The Comet* reported, "The social event of the week was the fancy dress party tendered by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Exum, on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>." (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On December 27, 1937**, the Business and Professional Women of Johnson City heard a program on "Three Wise Men." The organization met at the Hotel John Sevier, with Beulah Snyder being the program chair for the evening. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On December 27, 1971**, City Commissioner William B. Pennebaker passed away. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On December 28, 1899**, in the last issue of the century, readers of *The Comet* were advised, "It's never too late to pay your subscription to *The Comet* as a Christmas gift." (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On December 29, 1913**, according to Johnson City court documents, a Mr. Jones was fined \$10 for gaming. He paid the fine the same day. (Source: Johnson City Court Documents, 1913.)

**On December 30, 1936**, George L. Carter died. Mr. Carter was an industrialist who donated land for the building of the East Tennessee Normal School, now East Tennessee State University. (Source: [www.mtnlaurel.com](http://www.mtnlaurel.com))

**On December 31, 1983**, in Scott Pratt's commentary in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, he opines with the hiring of Dr. Mike Simmons, hopefully the Johnson City Schools are on the right track. For the decade before his hiring, no School Superintendent had been in place more than three years. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

## **January**

**On January 1, 1907**, George L. Carter moved the Carolina, Clinchfield, and Ohio Railroad offices from Bristol to Johnson City. (Source: *Greater Johnson City, a Pictorial History*.)

**On January 1, 1923**, Mayne Williams Public Library opened; this was the forerunner of the Johnson City Public Library. (Source: *Greater Johnson City, a Pictorial History*.)

**On January 1, 1951**, Steed College of Technology opened. (Source: *Greater Johnson City, a Pictorial History*.)

**On January 1, 1971**, Charles Tyson became City Manager. (Source: Personal correspondence between John Campbell and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On January 1, 1997**, Dr. Paul Stanton became President of East Tennessee State University. (Personal correspondence between Nancy Stanton and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On January 2, 2014**, Alan Levine became president of CEO of Mountain States Health Alliance, now known as Ballad Health. (Source: Personal correspondence between Laura Levine and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On January 3, 1870**, Henry Johnson was elected the first mayor of Johnson City. (Source: [www.stateoffranklin.net](http://www.stateoffranklin.net).)

**On January 4, 1900**, in the first issue of the new century, *The Comet* informed readers that a case of smallpox had been reported in Johnson City. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On January 5, 1928**, a Mr. Ford was fined \$25 for operating and possessing a still. (Source: Johnson City Court Documents, 1928.)

**On January 6, 1961**, Sidney Gilbreath passed away at the age of 91. He was the first president of East Tennessee State Normal School. (Source: [www.etsu.edu](http://www.etsu.edu))

**On January 7, 1935**, the *Johnson City Staff-News*, a forerunner of the *Johnson City Press*, carried an article in which Henry Johnson's granddaughter told of his love of Johnson City. She recounted that her grandmother was known for her hospitality, preparing meals for countless travelers; ministers were never allowed to pay for their food. (Source: *Johnson City Staff-News*.)

**On January 8, 2007**, the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy held their first White Coat Ceremony. (Source: Personal communication between Dean Emeritus Larry Calhoun and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On January 9, 1965**, the “NAACP sued on behalf of 115 black children, parents and guardians to fully integrate the Johnson City School System.” (Source: Mary Henderson-Alexander, Thesis.)

**On January 10, 1857**, George Carter was born in Hillsville, Virginia. He lived in Johnson City from 1907 until 1920, and donated 120 acres for the construction of what is now East Tennessee State University. (Source: *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.)

**On January 11, 1916**, James H. Quillen, who later represented the First District in the United States House of Representatives, was born to John and Hannah Quillen. He was one of 10 children. (Source: *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.)

**On January 12, 1967**, Steve Spurrier Day was proclaimed in Johnson City, as well as throughout the State of Tennessee. (Source: “Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee,” Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On January 12, 1994**, former Johnson City Commissioner and Mayor George Oldham passed away. Mr. Oldham was a City Commissioner from 1951-1955 and Mayor from 1953-1955. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On January 13, 1958**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that Congressman and Mrs. Carroll Reece held an open house the previous day to honor their daughter and her husband, Col. and Mrs. George Matthews of Washington, D.C. Congressman Reece represented the First District in Tennessee prior to Jimmy Quillen. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On January 14, 1915**, a Sue Ford was arrested for assault and battery, according to Johnson City court documents. The documents further state she was fined \$5.90, and was paid on October 30, 1915. (Source: Johnson City Court Documents, 1915.)

**On January 15, 1864**, Samuel C. Williams was born near Humboldt, Tennessee. He and his wife donated money and land to build Mayne Williams Public Library. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On January 15, 1891**, *The Comet* reported, “This week the plasterers will finish their work on the Hotel Carnegie.” On the same day, *The Comet* reported Senator West introduced a bill in the Senate to establish a Chancery Court in Johnson City. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On January 16, 2007**, the first class at the Gatton College of Pharmacy began. (Source: Personal communication between Dean Emeritus Larry Calhoun and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On January 16, 2018**, famed Johnson City native Bill Bain died. He was founder of Bain and Company; prior to that, he worked for Boston Consulting Group. (Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

**On January 17, 2012**, the *Johnson City Press* reported that Ann Smith had recently been reappointed to the Tennessee Arts Commission, which was “created to ‘encourage the presentation of performing, visual and literary arts throughout the state and to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of Tennessee.’” Mrs. Smith previously served on the Commission from 1998-2002. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On January 18, 1914**, the Monday Club of Johnson City presented a program on reforming civil service. Conditions in the public schools, the appointment of teachers and the condition of school buildings were also discussed. (Source: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com).)

**On January 18, 1998**, the Coalition for Kids received their charter. (Source: Personal communication between Randy Hensley, Executive Director, Coalition for Kids and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On January 18, 2002**, Stanton-Gerber Hall was dedicated at the Quillen College of Medicine. (Source: Personal communication between Carol Sloan, Director of Development of Alumni Relations, Quillen College of Medicine, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On January 19, 1879**, Johnson City relinquished its first charter. We are not sure why, but several reasons are cited. The reason most often cited is “To receive the benefits of the Act of the Legislature of the State which prevented the sale of intoxicating liquors within one mile of a chartered school save in incorporated cities and towns.” (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On January 20, 1947**, Johnson City’s State Senator, Hubert Brooks, introduced a bill in the state legislature that would ban a very wide variety of things. (Source: *Every Day in Tennessee History*.)

**On January 21, 1965**, the Chamber of Commerce held its Fiftieth Annual Membership dinner meeting. Dr. Carl Byers from the General Motors Corporation was the speaker. G. Bruce Kidd was Chamber President. (Source: *Johnson City Press Chronicle*.)

**On January 22, 1922**, the Inter-Mountain Telephone Company began providing service to Johnson City and Jonesboro. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee 1988*.)

**On January 23, 1969**, the Chamber of Commerce held their official kickoff for their 54<sup>th</sup> year and Johnson City’s Centennial. The theme was “Past, Present, Future.” Dr. Andy Holt was the speaker; he related that only Alabama and South Carolina spent less on educating each child than Tennessee did. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)



**On January 24, 1977**, Tom Hodge wrote in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* that the 1928 Johnson City City Directory reported that the town had six miles of street railway. (*Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On January 25, 1965**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* published an editorial lauding the many great works of Winston Churchill, who died on January 24. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*)

**On January 26, 1911**, George L. Carter donated by deed 120 acres of land to build a normal school. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On January 27, 1983**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported the Johnson City Board of Education would likely vote to combine Constitution Hall and Independence Hall, the City's two junior high schools. One reason cited in the recommendation prepared by the Central Office and school staff was that the two junior highs already shared the same campus. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On January 28, 1901**, Mountain Home, now known as the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, was created by an act of Congress. (*Greater Johnson City, Second Edition*.)

**On January 29, 1970**, the Johnson City Area Chamber of Commerce held its 55<sup>th</sup> annual membership dinner meeting. Dan B. Wexler was the Chamber President; the theme was "The Beginning of a Second Century of Progress." (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On January 30, 1885**, Isaac Harr became the mayor of Johnson City. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On January 30, 1974**, the Watauga Area Mental Health Clinic opened in the former Memorial Hospital Nursing Home building. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On January 31, 1969**, the Preaching Mission held a Prayer Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

## **February**

**On February 1, 1985**, Tom Hodge focused his column on the activities of Johnson City PTAs in the 1940's. Juvenile judges were often the speakers for the meetings. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On February 2, 1888**, Burgin Dossett was born in Campbell County, Tennessee. He was President of East Tennessee State College from 1949-1968, during which time the institution achieved university status. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 2, 1922**, the cornerstone for Mayne Williams Public Library was laid. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On February 3, 1961**, Dr. Jess Johnson of First Christian Church gave the invocation of dedication of the remodeled Chamber of Commerce offices. Carl A. Jones was President of the Chamber of Commerce. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 4, 1961**, the Altrusa Club was organized in Johnson City. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On February 5, 1965**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* carried a picture of three area legislators examining a bill in Nashville. The legislators were Representative Bill Bowers, Jr., Representative James R. Carter, and Representative Leon Cox. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On February 6, 1928**, a Mr. Ed Garland was fined \$25 for possessing ginger ale. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1928.)

**On February 7, 1947**, T.E. Mitchell was elected to the City Commission. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On February 7, 1969**, Mrs. E. Frank Brown was recognized for leading the children's department at Central Baptist Church for 48 years. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On February 8, 1981**, several businesses were recognized in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle's* "Salute to Success" pages. The S.B.White Company was recognized for being in business for 90 years, Monte Vista Burial Park and Roselawn Memory Garden for 72 years each, Harmon Ice for 65 years, and Bowman Jewelers for 54 years. General Shale was recognized for being in business for 53 years, and the Peerless for 43 years. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On February 9, 1983**, Governor Lamar Alexander presented the Educator of the Year Award to Dr. Burgin Dossett, former ETSU President. (Source: *Herald and Tribune*.)

**On February 10, 1960**, the Tennessee State Supreme Court upheld the annexation of approximately 2000 acres in North Johnson City. The newly annexed area ended just past the North Roan Street split going to either Kingsport or Bristol. Johnson City sought the annex in November, 1957. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On February 11, 1886**, *The Comet* reported on the Coasting Club's big snow of the day; many sledders had a grand time sliding down the big hill that is behind Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On February 12, 1969**, Reverend Loren Young, the Executive Director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was the speaker of the night for the Centennial Preaching Mission. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 13, 1900**, Representative Walter Brownlow of the First Congressional District in Tennessee presented a report to the House Committee on Appropriations urging the authorization of Mountain Home. On January 28, 1901, Mountain Home was authorized. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On February 14, 1867**, Tipton Jobe donated land on Knob Hill for a school initially named Science Hill Seminary. Future students made bricks on site to use in building the building. (Sources: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee; Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 14, 1921**, the former Memorial Hospital changed its name to Appalachian Hospital. It was located at the corner of Boone Street and West Fairview Avenue. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On February 15, 1969**, the Centennial Preaching Mission concluded; the services were held in Memorial Gym at East Tennessee State University. The theme for the week was "Preach the Word." (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 16, 1941**, J.A. Denton, a Johnson City Commissioner, passed away. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On February 16, 1969**, First Christian Church observed Centennial Religion Sunday. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, and Personal Recollection of Rebecca Henderson.)

**On February 17, 1969**, the Pilot Club of Johnson City held their Annual Civic Night in the John Sevier Hotel. Many ladies attended dressed in fashions from 1869, thus helping to celebrate Johnson City's Centennial. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 18, 1960**, in Boy Scouts' Fiftieth Year, a local Scout executive reported the Sequoyah Council had 10,000 members. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 19, 1977**, Elvis Presley played at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$12.50 and \$15. In today's dollars, this would be approximately equal to \$52.15 and \$62.60, respectively. (Sources: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com) and [www.in2013dollars.com](http://www.in2013dollars.com))

**On February 19, 1981**, the Johnson City Press-Chronical editorial lauded Ross Spears for writing and directing a feature-length documentary about James Agee. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On February 20, 1915**, the Board of Trustees of the Science Hill Male and Female Institute met. Handwritten minutes reveal the purpose of the meeting, held in Col. E.C. Reeves' office, was to approve the purchase of insurance for the building. (Source: Archives of Appalachian, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 21, 1969**, ETSU's Patchwork Players in Gilbreath Auditorium presented "Richard III," a Centennial Event. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 22, 1942**, a news clipping told of Frank "Red" Lamons, Sales Engineer for the Johnson City Foundry, designing, constructing, and decorating a home for him and his family. He did it "just for fun." The front of their garage was partially built of stone that Mr. and Mrs. Lamons had collected from several states. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 23, 1834**, Henry Johnson married Mary Ann Hoss. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On February 24, 1832**, the first Post Office in our current Johnson City was called Green Meadows. Joseph Burtz was Postmaster. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 24, 1969**, the Business and Professional Women's Club celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mayor Hal Littleford made the guest speaker, who was from the BPW headquarters, an honorary citizen of Johnson City (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 24, 1974**, WETS-FM began broadcasting. (Source: East Tennessee State University {Campus History}.)

**On February 24, 1997**, former City Commissioner Louise Sells died. She served from 1979-1983. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On February 25, 1924**, the Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in Johnson City. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On February 25, 1874**, Henry Johnson died at the age of 64. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On February 26, 1885**, the Tennessee legislature passed legislation to incorporate Johnson City for the second time. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On February 26, 1952**, *Look* magazine listed Johnson City as one of 25 cities that was a "hotbed of vice conditions." (Source: [www.stateoffranklin.net](http://www.stateoffranklin.net))

**On February 27, 1788**, a 3-day skirmish at Tipton-Haynes started. This was known as the Battle of the State of Franklin. (Source: [www.tipton-haynes.org](http://www.tipton-haynes.org))

**On February 28, 1974**, the Tennessee General Assembly, led by Senator Marshall Nave and Representative Palma Robinson, used their political influence in the legislative body to authorize ETSU to apply to have a federally funded, state supported medical school. However, Governor Winfield Dunn had threatened to veto the bill, and he did. (Sources: Personal communication between Carol Sloan, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Quillen College of Medicine and Rebecca Henderson; *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

## **March**

**On March 1, 1928**, Johnson City court records show that a Mr. Barbury was fined \$25 for being "in company with a leud (sic) woman." (Source: Johnson City Court Documents, 1928.)

**On March 1, 1932**, the *Staff-News*, a forerunner of the *Johnson City Press*, reported that Johnson City's 1930 population was 25,080. (Source: *Staff-News*.)

**On March 1, 1988**, Dr. Paul Stanton was named Interim Dean of the Quillen College of Medicine and Vice-President of Health Affairs. On the same date in 1989, Dr. Stanton was named Dean of the Quillen College of Medicine and Vice-President of Health Affairs. (Source: Personal correspondence between Nancy Stanton and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On March 2, 1960**, Charlie Ellis and Jim Bowman, two Science Hill High School students, won National Forensic League Awards at the District Congress. The Science Hill club had 35 members. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 3, 1883**, the *Johnson City Enterprise* was Johnson City's newspaper. W.S. Mitchell and W.B. Truslow were the publishers. (Source: *Johnson City Enterprise*.)

**On March 3, 1914**, John Hannah was fined \$2.50 for throwing rocks. (Source: Johnson City Court Documents, 1914.)

**On March 3, 1972**, the Johnson City Grand Squares held their first meeting. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On March 4, 1963**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that Business and Professional Women's Club had recently observed their 39<sup>th</sup> birthday at a dinner at the John Sevier Hotel. Fifty-two members were present. The local affiliate of the club was formed in 1924 by May Ross McDowell, who served as the first president. (Source: Archives of Appalachian, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On March 4, 1999**, the Washington-Unicoi-Johnson County Medical Alliance celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a luncheon at the Johnson City Medical Center. (Source: Personal communication with Patty Holbrook and Nora Lee, past Presidents of the Washington-Unicoi-Johnson County Medical Alliance and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On March 5, 1885**, the Tennessee State Legislature approved the granting of a second charter to Johnson City, according to a thesis by Ophelia Cope Daniels. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On March 5, 1952**, Dr. Enuf ran a full-page ad in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*. Citizens gave testimonials. After drinking Dr. Enuf, people said, "What a Wonderful Way to Feel!" (Source: Personal communication between Chuck Gordon and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On March 5, 1963**, Governor Frank Clement signed the bill that would officially change the name of East Tennessee State College to East Tennessee State University. (Source: *East Tennessee State University {Campus History}*.)

**On March 5, 2018**, the Tennessee Senate passed a resolution recognizing Johnson City as the home of Mountain Dew. (Source: Personal communication between Chuck Gordon and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On March 6, 1928**, a Mr. Silvers was fined \$50 for transporting whiskey. (Source: Johnson City Court Documents, 1928.)

**On March 7, 1904**, John Alan Maxwell was born. He was a prolific illustrator, with his work appearing in many magazines and books. Although born in Virginia, he was raised in Johnson City, and returned here in retirement. (Source: [www.wikivisually.com](http://www.wikivisually.com))

**On March 8, 1971**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported on a new spectator sport in downtown Johnson City—that of watching the demolition of the old city hall. The old city hall was built in 1919, and the property it formerly occupied was purchased by the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 9, 1870**, the Haynesville post office changed its name to Johnson City. Henry Johnson was the postmaster. Before the name was Haynesville, it was Johnson's Depot; the name was changed to Haynesville on October 8, 1859. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988*.)

**On March 10, 1901**, Mary Hardin McCown was baptized in the Sinking Creek, and thus became a member of First Christian Church; she was a member there the remainder of her life. Mrs. McCown was Johnson City's historian for many years. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 11, 1969**, as a Johnson City Centennial Event, the American Revolution Historical Foundation sponsored an exhibit at the American Legion Post in Elizabethton. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On March 12, 1921**, the Salvation Army re-opened in Johnson City; it had closed several years earlier. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On March 12, 1958**, the Pro-To Club was incorporated in Johnson City. "Pro-To" stands for "Progress Together." (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On March 13, 1974**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that on the previous day, the Tennessee House and Senate overrode Governor's Dunn's veto of the bill to establish a medical school at East Tennessee State University. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 14, 1928**, the Post Office at Mountain Home began operation, and has been in continuous operation since. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee.*)

**On March 15, 1884**, *The Comet*, which was Johnson City's first daily newspaper, first began publishing. (Source: Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History.)

**On March 15, 1989**, the Mountain Branch National Home for Disabled Soldiers was officially renamed the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On March 15, 1997**, Former City Commissioner and Former Mayor Dr. Shirley Chapman passed away. She was a City Commissioner from 1983-1991 and Mayor from 1987-1988. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On March 16, 1969**, Tacoma Church of God had a Centennial Old Fashioned Church Service to honor Johnson City's Centennial. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On March 17, 1966**, Mary Elsie White, executive director of the Johnson City Girl Scout Council for more than twenty years, was honored for her work with the organization. The Business and Professional Women's Club had also recently honored her. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle.*)

**On March 17, 1971**, the "Miracle Mall" opened in Johnson City. (Sources: Personal communication between COL Gary McAllister and Rebecca Henderson; *Johnson City Press-Chronicle.*)

**On March 17, 2012**, Niswonger Children's Hospital held "Broadway Comes to Greeneville" for the first time. (Personal conversation between Cookie McKinney, Manager of Children's Initiatives, Niswonger Children's Hospital, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On March 18, 19 and 20, 1976**, Elvis was at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$10 and \$12.50, with all seats selling out for each show. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On March 18, 1978**, Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn were at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$5.50 and \$6.50. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On March 19, 1969**, as part of Johnson City's Centennial celebration, Steed College, Empire Furniture Company, Tennessee Tank Corporation, and Johnson City Spring and Bedding Company all had open houses. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)



**On March 20, 1964**, Johnson City resident Mrs. Ada Hawley Rogers was named Tennessee's "Mother of the Year" by Governor Frank Clement. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 21, 1912**, the *Johnson City Staff* reported that Senator Taylor was very ill with gallstones, adding that he would likely have surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital shortly. (Source: *Johnson City Staff*.)

**On March 22, 1884**, *The Comet* reported that Miss Lathan, who was a traveling agent for the "Sunny South," a literary magazine, had spent a day in Johnson City." With her charm, she was able to sell quite a few subscriptions." (Sources: *The Comet*, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>)

**On March 23, 1969**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* published a special Centennial section, "For and About Women." (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 24, 2012**, the *Johnson City Press*, in an editorial, urged readers to consider becoming a bone marrow donor. Readers were reminded, "A single person can make a difference in the world." Interested? Go to [www.bethematch.org](http://www.bethematch.org) for more information. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On March 24, 2017**, the newly-formed East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees held its initial quarterly meeting. (Source: [www.etsu.edu](http://www.etsu.edu))

**On March 25, 1885**, Johnson City was granted a new charter; Col. Seth H. Yokum was elected Mayor. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, handwritten notes by Mary Hardin McCown, in the Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On March 26, 1892**, T.E. Matson was elected Mayor. He ran against E.H. Stebens, with a total of 953 votes being cast. At that time, Johnson City was divided into four wards. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On March 27, 1949**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that Mrs. R.C. Hunter had celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in a private dining room at the John Sevier Hotel. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 27, 1969**, Mary Hardin McCown noted in her writings that St. John's Milling Company was 187 years old in Johnson City's Centennial year. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, handwritten notes by Mary Hardin McCown, in the Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On March 28, 1965**, Appalachian Christian Village, now Cornerstone Village, held its groundbreaking ceremony. (Source: Personal communication between Len Smith, CEO of Cornerstone Village, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On March 28, 1975**, Tom Hodge mentioned in his *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* column that if it rained on Easter, it would rain for the following seven Sundays. Mr. Hodge also wrote, "A white Christmas means a green Easter and a green Christmas means a white Easter." (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 29, 1936**, Johnson City court records note that a Mr. Jenkins was arrested and fined \$10 for being an "escaped convict from Byrd's chain gang," with an additional notation of "several times." (Source: Johnson City Court Documents, 1936.)

**On March 30, 1971**, Jim Brown, Johnson City's unofficial PR man, was lauded in an editorial in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*. Mr. Brown had recently passed away at age 82. He worked for the City of Johnson City for over forty years as a custodian, always taking time to greet visitors. Mr. Brown moved to Johnson City as a youth around 1900. Members of his church, Thankful Baptist, said he was a very humble man and would be missed much. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On March 31, 1949**, City Commissioner Ted Deakins resigned from the commission. His term was from 1947-1949. Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On March 31, 1912**, Robert Love Taylor died. Originally from Carter County, he was the Congressman from the First District in Tennessee from 1879-1881, was Governor of Tennessee from 1887-1891 and again from 1897-1899. He was United States Senator from 1907 until his death. In addition, Mr. Taylor was editor of *The Comet* in 1884. (Sources: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org) and [www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov))

## **April**

**On April 1, 1969**, the Humanities Festival, as a part of Johnson City's Centennial, was held in the Reese Museum on the East Tennessee State University campus. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On April 2, 1936**, a Mr. Casida was fined \$50 for possessing 1.85 pints of whiskey. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1936.)

**On April 3, 1910**, the original Carnegie Hotel burned. (Source: [www.stateoffranklin.net](http://www.stateoffranklin.net))

**On April 3, 1928**,

**On April 3, 1939**, a Mr. Conley was arrested for being a "Peeping Tom." He was fined \$15, and served time. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On April 3, 1941**, the City Commission of Johnson City created the Johnson City Planning Commission. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On April 4, 1936**, James Lollen was fined an unspecified amount for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, as well as refusing to support his family. The charges were dismissed. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1936.)

**On April 4, 1958**, Constance Ann Shulman was born in Johnson City. She is an actress and producer; she is known for "Fried Green Tomatoes" and "Orange is the New Black." (Source: [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))

**On April 4, 2004**, the *Johnson City Press* reported that in 1963, Dr. Ed Allen, other physicians, and leaders from ETSU started to discuss the need for a medical school for the area. At the time, the ratio of physicians to the population was less than half the national average. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On April 5, 1949**, the John Sevier Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met. Mrs. S.C. Williams presented the program, which was about France. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On April 6, 1887**, voters approved floating \$75,000 in bonds. The bonds would support the Charleston-Cincinnati-Chicago Railroad, which was coming through Johnson City. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On April 7, 1936**, Aleck McDonald of Cincinnati, Ohio, was fined \$25 for "peddling without license, drunk and investigation." He paid his fine, and spent no time in jail. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1936.)

**On April 8, 1967**, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Harris, Sr., set sail on a cruise across the Atlantic to Europe for their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were honored at the Johnson City Country Club at a surprise luncheon several days earlier, according to the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On April 9, 1884**, Johnson City's first industry, the Miller and Crumley Foundry works, was sold to investors. The company was granted a charter for the Johnson City Foundry and Machine Works. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On April 10, 1888**, several investors received approval to "manufacture electric light and to light the streets and public and private buildings." (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On April 11, 1928**, Wade McNeese was fined \$3 for crossing railroad tracks while railroad bells were ringing. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1928.)

**On April 12, 1945**, Memorial Hospital, a new hospital in Johnson City, was chartered. Memorial Hospital was a nonprofit, publically owned hospital, and served Johnson City until the Johnson City Medical Center was built. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On April 13, 1984**, John Alan Maxwell died in Johnson City. A gifted artist, his work appeared in many books and magazines. In 1936, the Society of Illustrators named him as one of the top ten illustrators in the United States. (Source: [www.wikivisually.com](http://www.wikivisually.com))

**On April 14, 1891**, President Benjamin Harrison spoke in Johnson City. The President "gave a speech from a platform at the East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railroad." (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History* and *I'd Rather Have a Talking Frog*.)

**On April 15, 1975**, North Side Hospital opened at 401 Princeton Road. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On April 15, 1992**, Carl A. Jones, Jr., the long-time publisher of the *Johnson City Press* and its forerunner, *the Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, passed away. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On April 16, 1969**, the Science Hill High School Choir presented "The Music Man" as a Centennial Event for the City of Johnson City. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On April 17, 1905**, a flag designed by Johnson City native Colonel Lee Roy Reeves became the official flag of the State of Tennessee. (Source: [www.Findagrave.com](http://www.Findagrave.com))

**On April 17, 1914**, a jury found a Mr. Leonard guilty of “failing to send two of his children to public school in said city.” He was charged \$12. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1914.)

**On April 17, 1969**, the Centennial Miss Johnson City Pageant began. It was held three consecutive days, with the Centennial Miss Johnson City being crowned on April 19, 1969. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On April 18, 1953**, the Washington County Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities began observing Tennessee Week, according to Mary Hardin McCown’s writings. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, handwritten notes by Mary Hardin McCown, in the Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On April 19, 1939**, J.D. Hensley of Kingsport was fined \$50 for driving drunk and without a driver’s license. The fine was to be paid in \$10 installments on each payday, which was the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On April 20, 1999**, Johnson Citians were aghast at the Columbine High School shootings in Colorado. Concern, worry, and prayers were among the words uttered in stores and offices that tragic day. (Source: Personal recollection of Rebecca Henderson.)

**On April 21, 1959**, The Unaka Rock and Mineral Society was formed in Johnson City. (*History of Washington County Tennessee.*)

**On April 21, 2002**, Judge Oris Hyder passed away. Prior to becoming president of First Peoples Bank, he was Criminal Court Judge. (Personal communication between Mary-Colin Hyder Santos and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On April 22, 1939**, men from Johnson City, Erwin, Washington, D.C., Poppear, North Carolina, Pigeon Roost, North Carolina, Elizabethton, and Milligan College were fined for being drunk in public. On the same day, a John Deaton was “crazy-locked up-wife request,” and then sent to Jonesboro. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On April 22, 1957**, Henry Bridges died. He developed and managed the Woodmont Rod and Gun Club in Maryland for more than half a century. He also maintained a home in Johnson City, now known as Shelbridge, which serves as the ETSU President’s home. (Sources: Archives of Appalachia; Mary Hardin McCown Collection; personal conversation between Nancy Stanton and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On April 23, 1869**, First Presbyterian Church was organized. (*History of Washington County, Tennessee.*)

**On April 23, 1939**, Joe Ray was fined for “messing with water meter.” The amount of the fine was not listed. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On April 24, 1969**, the Metro Kiwanis Club presented a travelogue at Science Hill High School as part of the Centennial Events. The subject was "Londontowne." (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown collection.)

**On April 25, 1939**, Toupie Scalf was fined \$50 for possessing ½ gallon of white whiskey. He paid \$25 and was released on the order of a Dr. Matthews. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On April 25, 1993**, Daniel Norris was born in Johnson City. Norris is a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers. ([www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On April 26, 2009**, Johnson City voters were getting ready to head to the polls in two days to elect City Commissioners. Among those on the ballot were Phil Carriger, Steve Darden and Jane Myron. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On April 27, 1809**, Henry Johnson was born in Guilford, North Carolina. (Source: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com))

**On April 27, 1974**, Tipton-Haynes Historical Farm began a three-day Tri-Centennial Celebration. The Honorable James H. Quillen spoke at the opening ceremonies. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On April 28, 1952**, the Oakland Park Juvenile Home opened. The City of Johnson City dedicated \$42,000 to the project. In today's money, that would be about \$412,000. (Sources: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee; [www.in2013dollars.com](http://www.in2013dollars.com))

**On April 30, 1971**, the Miss Johnson City Pageant was in its second day of a three-day pageant for the year. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On April 30, 2013**, the *Johnson City Press* reported that Coach Brittney Ezell had recently been hired to coach women's basketball at East Tennessee State University. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

## **May**

**On May 1, 1895**, the Johnson City Public Library opened. It was a subscription library; the 45 members paid \$1 a year to belong. This is equivalent to about \$30 today. (Sources: [www.jcpl.org](http://www.jcpl.org); [www.in2013dollars.com](http://www.in2013dollars.com))

**On May 1, 1886**, the Bank of Johnson City opened on the corner of Main Street and the public square. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On May 2, 1905**, a fire broke out between Roan Street and Spring Street, destroying several buildings. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On May 3, 1928**, a Wade Gallemore was fined \$5 for wreckless driving. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1928.)

**On May 4, 1983**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that the Science Hill High School Marching Band, directed by Mark Bays, had recently marched in the Mickey Mouse Character Parade at Walt Disney World. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On May 4, 2015**, Tim Belilse was elected chair of the Johnson City Board of Education. (Source: Personal communication between Tim Belisle and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 5, 1969**, a golf game between Milligan College and King College took place as part of Johnson City's Centennial celebration. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On May 6, 1952**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* carried an article about Henry and Shelly Bridges; Mrs. Bridges was the former Shelly Thomas. They lived in Shelbridge, now the home of the President of ETSU. (Sources: Archives of Appalachia; Mary Hardin McCown Collection; personal conversation between Nancy Stanton and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 6, 2010**, the first class graduated from the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. (Source: Personal communication between Dean Emeritus Larry Calhoun and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 7, 1949**, Babe Didrikson Zaharias played in a golf exhibition at the Johnson City Country Club. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On May 8, 1951**, Edward Cowell, a Johnson City City Commissioner, left office. His term was from 1949-1951. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 8, 1982**, the first class graduated from Quillen College of Medicine (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On May 9, 1951**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that Louis Young, George Oldham, and T.F. Beckner, Jr., were elected to the City Commission. Viola Mathes and T.W. Roland were elected to the Board of Education. (Sources: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* and *Buddy, The Life and Good Times of Thomas Folsom Beckner, Jr.*)

**On May 10, 1911**, Johnson City's first hospital opened at 712 East Second Avenue, which is now Fairview Avenue. The newly opened Memorial Hospital had a capacity of ten beds. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee.*)

**On May 10, 1955**, Johnson City voters voted to become a home rule municipality. (Source: [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu))

**On May 11, 1969**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* ran a picture from 1912 of a recruiting wagon. The recruiting wagon was used around 1912 to recruit students to East Tennessee Normal School. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle.*)

**On May 12, 1963**, Our Savior Lutheran Church was dedicated. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee.*)

**On May 13, 1914**, three men were fined \$10 each for trespassing in the resouvier (sic.) This would be a bit more than \$252, or \$756 total, in today's dollars. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1914.)

**On May 14, 1920**, the Johnson City Kiwanis Club was chartered. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee.*)

**On May 14, 1936**, the Boy Scouts of America officially chartered the Sequoyah Council, which serves the greater Johnson City area. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee.*)

**On May 14, 1976**, President Gerald Ford campaigned at Freedom Hall. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History.*)

**On May 15, 1951**, Guy Beller, a Johnson City City Commissioner, left office. His term was from 1949-1951. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 15, 1962**, Mayor May Ross McDowell opened "the new club room of the Senior Citizens Club in the Recreation Building," located on Legion Street. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On May 16, 1950**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* ran a picture and caption about Dr. David Cavella, a Civil War veteran 102 years old, having fought under Beauregard and Pickett in the 1860's. Dr. Cavella went to the Johnson City Census Bureau "to be



counted.” He described himself as a “veteran clown,” having entertained a variety of groups around the United States. Dr. Cavella was a graduate of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On May 17, 1915**, East Tennessee Normal School participated in their first men’s track meet, which was held on the school grounds. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On May 17, 1945**, City Commissioner J.R. Zimmerman left office; he was a Commissioner from 1939-1945. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 18, 1910**, the Johnson City Steam Laundry opened. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On May 18, 1944**, the Parks and Recreation Board was established in Johnson City. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On May 18, 1953**, Rufus Jennings, a Johnson City City Commissioner, left office. His term was from 1951-1953. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 19, 1939**, Edward Jones was fined \$25 for operating a gambling house. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On May 19, 1979**, the Oak Ridge Boys and Emmylou Harris were at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$7 and \$8. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On May 20, 1939**, Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited Johnson City; she stayed at the John Sevier Hotel to review a veteran’s parade at Soldier’s Home that afternoon. Mrs. Roosevelt spoke at the Optimist Club that evening. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On May 20, 1962**, Charles Bowman died. Born in Gray Station, Tennessee, and known as “Fiddlin’ Charlie Bowman,” he wrote many songs. Some were railroad songs, such as “Nine Pound Hammer.” Good friends with Congressman B. Carroll Reece, Bowman wrote the “Reece Rag.” (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On May 21, 1931**, Mrs. Perkins was fined for selling milk with no permit; her case was dismissed. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1931.)

**On May 22, 1897**, the first class graduated from Langston High School. There were only two class members; they were E. Fitzgerald and Julia Hankal. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On May 23, 1938**, the Finance Committee of the Johnson City Business and Professional Women's Club held their "Hope Chest" fundraiser. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On May 24, 1884**, *The Comet* quipped, "Some of our base-ball (sic) team seem to have been vaccinated. They can't catch anything." (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On May 25, 1969**, an ad in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* for Wright's Supermarket advised, "You get today's quality at yesterday's prices," helping Johnson City celebrate the Centennial. (Personal conversation between Connie Wright and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 25, 1960**, Col. Lee Roy Reeves, who was born in Johnson City, died. He designed the Tennessee State Flag. (Source: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com))

**On May 26, 1871**, the Science Hill Male and Female Institute had their closing exercises starting at 8:30 a.m. H.H. Carr, Esq. delivered the address. (Source: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com))

**On May 27, 1939**,

**On May 28, 1922**, the local newspaper, which was probably the *Johnson City Staff*, printed a special edition to celebrate the Montrose Court being finished. (Sources: [www.sos.tn.gov](http://www.sos.tn.gov) and [www.stateoffranklin.net](http://www.stateoffranklin.net))

**On May 28, 1965**, Langston High School saw its last class to graduate. (Sources: Personal conversation between Evelyn Fields Debro, Tom Hager, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On May 29, 1835**, Patent Office records show that a patent was issued to Henry Johnson for a threshing machine. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988*.)

**On May 29, 1908**, downtown Johnson City experienced a big flood when Brush Creek overflowed its banks. (Source: *Greater Johnson City: A Pictorial History*.)

**On May 30, 1957**, East Tennessee State College President, Dr. Sidney Gilbreath announced that Ina Yoakley, former Dean of Women, would be honored posthumously by the College for her work. Construction would soon begin on Yoakley Hall, a women's residence hall. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On May 30, 1969**, a picture and caption in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* showed Mr. and Mrs. Allen Harris, Sr., dressed in period clothing of 1869. They were helping celebrate Johnson City's Centennial by arriving in a horse-drawn carriage to the Junior Service League's (now the Junior League) Centennial Ball, held at the Johnson City Country Club. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On May 31, 1978**, the City Commission of Johnson City approved the Public Safety Officer program. The goals were to increase protection and to lower the firemen's workweek from 72 hours to 56 hours. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**June**

**On June 1, 1917**, the Johnson City Rotary Club was chartered. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On June 1, 1939**, Margaret Williams was fined \$10 for being in contempt of court. She paid the fine. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On June 1, 1957**, one of Henry Johnson's granddaughters died. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On June 2, 1939**, several people were cited for "blocking alley." They were fined \$3 each and paid the fine. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On June 2, 2017**, Fire Chief Mark Scott retired. (Source: Personal conversation between Mark Scott and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On June 3, 1993**, City Commissioners voted to buy Buffalo Valle Golf Course for \$1.525 million. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On June 4, 1948**, the Johnson City Foundry and Machine works celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, "Johnson City Foundry and Machine Works: Brief History 1968.")

**On June 5, 2014**, the *Johnson City Press* editorial opined that drug courts would help combat prescription drug abuse. "Washington County Sessions Court has implemented drug court that promises to help misdemeanor offenders who wish to shed the shackles of drug dependency." Judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and mental health professionals work together in the drug courts. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On June 6, 1939**, J.W. Hughes was fined \$3 for double parking, according to Johnson City Court Records. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On June 7, 1849**, the Blue Plum Post Office opened; Henry Johnson the first postmaster. In 1859, that Post Office was closed. (Source: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com))

**On June 8, 1980**, an ad ran in the *Johnson City Press* advertising the upcoming dedication and open house at the Haven of Mercy Rescue Mission. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On June 9, 1959**, psychiatric care became available in Johnson City with the opening of a clinic on Fairview Avenue. The Junior Service League, now the Junior League, channeled volunteer and fundraising efforts toward the clinic's opening for several years. The clinic was the forerunner of Watauga Mental Health, and is now Frontier Health. (Sources *History of Washington County Tennessee* and personal conversation between Kathy Benedetto, SPE, LMFT, LPC., and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On June 10, 1969**, the City of Johnson City received greetings from Donald Helfferick, President of Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. Ursinus was celebrating their Centennial in 1969. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On June 11, 1951**, City Commissioner Ben B. Snipes resigned. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On June 12, 1934**, what is now the *Johnson City Press* began daily publication. Immediately previously, the daily was known as the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On June 12, 1974**, a news release from the Office of James H. Quillen announced that Veterans Affairs had approved the location of the future College of Medicine at the VA Mountain Home campus. (Source: Personal communication between Carol Sloan, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Quillen College of Medicine and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On June 13, 1969**, the Johnson City Community Theatre put on the play “Brigadoon” as part of the Centennial celebration. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On June 14, 1939**, several men were cited for parking too far (25 inches) from the curb. All charges were dismissed. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On June 15, 1993**, the City of Johnson City opened Buffalo Valley Golf Course, less than two weeks after purchase. (Source: “Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee,” Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On June 15, 1881**, the Tennessee Legislature initially chartered the ET&WNC as a broad gauge railroad. Unanticipated problems necessitated the broad gauge railroad to be abandoned. The railroad was built instead as a narrow gauge. The line discontinued service in June of 1969. (Source: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com))

**On June 16, 1961**, Mayor May Ross McDowell presented the City of Johnson City’s first gavel to City Recorder Calvin Guthrie. The gavel was made out of wood from the historical Jacob Brown tree. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On June 16, 2008**, the William L. Jenkins Forensic Center was named for former the former First District Congressman. (Source: Personal communication between Carol Sloan, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Quillen College of Medicine and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On June 17, 1952**, in their fortieth season, the Wednesday Morning Music Club had the Beeson Family in recital at East Tennessee State College. Such pieces as “Waltz of the

Flowers” by Tchaikovsky and the “Ballet from the Petite Suite” by Debussy were on the program. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On June 18, 1982**, Dorothy Hamill reported various facts about Mary Hardin McCown. Not only was Mrs. McCown an expert on local history, she was also well-versed in genealogy. Born in Johnson City on April 22, 1891, her father was a depot agent at East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad. Mrs. McCown earned a B.A. from the University of Tennessee in 1911, majoring in math, French and German. In 1914, she left to study at Columbia University. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On June 19, 1985**, Buff Colonna, Laura Godfrey, and Myra O’Dell were featured in an article in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*. The women told about smocking clothing and were getting ready for a French hand sewn fashion show at the D.P.Culp Center. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On June 20, 1939**, James Shehan of Caroleen, North Carolina, was arrested for white slavery. He was released to the custody of the FBI. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On June 20, 1985**, the Johnson City’s City Commission voted to purchase the Arney Farm for use as a city park. It’s is now Winged Deer Park. (Source: “Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee,” Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On June 21, 1961**, the Johnson City Rotary Club held their annual picnic at Rotary Park. Nat Winston was honored in memory and as founder and president of Home Federal Savings and Loan. Members of the Spade and Trowel Garden Club served as hostesses. Raymond Long, chairman of the Rotary Club’s Park Committee, spoke of the history of Rotary Park. (Sources: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* and [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On June 22, 1987**, the Washington County Courthouse Downtown Centre opened. The new Courthouse replaced the Ashe Street Courthouse, built in 1910. The Ashe Street Courthouse also served as a Post Office. (Source: “Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee,” Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On June 23, 1913**, a Mr. Chester was fined \$2 for public profanity; he put his watch up for bond. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1913.)

**On June 23, 1970**, the Mountain Empire Chapter of the Sweet Adelines met for the first time. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On June 24, 1934**, the *Johnson City Chronicle* opined that “...as far as the *Chronicle* and the *Staff-News* go....their primary function as a newspaper is to purvey history in the making....” (Source: *Johnson City Chronicle*.)

**On June 25, 1975**, Peter Frampton and Montrose were at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$5.00. In today's dollars, this would be about \$23.50. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On June 26, 1894**, "Johnson City Blues" artist Clarence Horton Greene was born. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee.*)

**On June 26, 1921**, Memorial Hospital in Johnson City became Appalachian Hospital. It was located at the corner of Boone Street and West Fairview Avenue. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee.*)

**On June 27, 1929**, the City Commission elected Johnson City's first Civil Service Board. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On June 27, 1986**, Tom Hodge wrote in his column about the first Families of Franklin, of which there were approximately 1000. He also wrote about Faith Stahl's idea of celebrating the Bicentennial of the Lost State of Franklin. (Source: *Johnson City Press.*)

**On June 27, 2010**, the Gatton College of Pharmacy received their full accreditation status. (Source: Personal communication between Dean Emeritus Larry Calhoun and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On June 28, 1937**, Evelyn Armbrister held a party honoring Mrs. St. John. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On June 28, 2009**, the *Johnson City Press* carried an article about Hermann Kueck. Several pictures accompanied the article, which told about Mr. Kueck's method of repairing cane chairs, as well as wicker chairs. (Source: *Johnson City Press.*)

**On June 29, 1893**, the *Comet* announced it would quit publication. "The Daily Comet is simply off its orbit." The article further stated, "Publishing a daily paper in Johnson City is like running free lunch counter in Washington, DC. It is well patronized, but not profitable." (Source: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com))

**On June 30, 1955**, Guy Blackwell became Mayor of Johnson City. He served until **June 30, 1957**, at which time Carl A. Johnson became Mayor. Mayor Johnson served in that capacity until **June 30, 1959**. Carroll H. Long was Mayor from **June 30, 1959** until **June 30, 1961**. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On June 30 1958**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* published a special section about the Johnson City Rotary Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. An article declared, "Rotary keeps pace with change." (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle.*)

**On June 30, 1977**, a letter of reasonable assurance of accreditation was approved for the new medical school. (Source: Carol Sloan, Director of Development of Alumni Relations, Quillen College of Medicine and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On June 30, 1985**, Woodridge Hospital began operation. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)



## **July**

**On July 1, 1945**, the Johnson City Power Board was established. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On July 1, 1949**, Roy L. Waddell resigned as City Commissioner. His term was from 1947-1949. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On July 1, 1963**, East Tennessee State College officially became known as East Tennessee State University. (Source: *East Tennessee State University {Campus History}*)

**On July 2, 1947**, Ross Spears was born. A Johnson City native, he is widely acclaimed as the founder and director of Agee Films. (Source: Personal communication between Ross Spears and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On July 2, 1965**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* featured an article about Reverend and Mrs. O.R. Tarwater. They were honored at First United Methodist Church, having served in the ministry for over sixty years. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On July 2, 2016**, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Stanton celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. (Personal conversation between Nancy Stanton and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On July 3, 1913**, Johnson City Court Records noted that "Jack Kelly (a very old man)" was fined \$10 for public drunkenness. The case was suspended for good behavior, however. \$10 in 1913 would be worth a little less than \$255 today. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1913; [www.in2013dollars.com](http://www.in2013dollars.com))

**On July 4, 1974**, the City of Johnson City received a bell as part of America's Bicentennial celebration; the tone carried as far as three miles. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On July 4, 1991**, the Johnson City Police Department debuted its Bicycle Patrol. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On July 5, 1974**, Freedom Hall opened with Bob Hope being the headline entertainer. (Source: Personal recollection of Rebecca Henderson.)

**On July 6, 1915**, the Johnson City Area Chamber of Commerce initially met. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On July 7, 1849**, the Blue Plum Post Office opened with Henry Johnson serving as postmaster. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On July 8, 1969**, in honor of Johnson City's Centennial, the Johnson City Yankees played Wytheville in Yankee Park in Johnson City. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On July 9, 1928**, Johnson City Court Records show that D.B. Shipley was fined \$3 for "breaking line of funeral procession." (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1928.)

**On July 10, 1857**, Henry Johnson became the first postmaster at Johnson's Depot. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On July 11, 1957**, the Mayes Brothers Tool Manufacturing Company announced it was moving from Port Arthur, Michigan to Johnson City. Mayes Brothers manufactured items such as aluminum ladders and carpenter's tools. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On July 11, 1992**, Jennifer Allen was crowned Miss Johnson City. (Source: Personal conversation between Jen Allen and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On July 12, 2009**, the *Johnson City Press* featured a story about the need for the Downtown Day Clinic and the Downtown Center, serving the uninsured, underinsured, homeless, and migrant populations. They are still utilized, but Johnson City Community Health Clinic has augmented them with their services. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On July 13, 1928**, several men were fined for operating a slot machine. However, it was noted that the case was not handled, simply because there was no case. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1928.)

**On July 14, 1939**, Mr. Stoner was fined \$25 for "Operating gambling game with butter and eggs." (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On July 14, 2005**, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission approved the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. (Source: Personal communication between Dean Emeritus Larry Calhoun and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On July 15, 1915**, John Hicks was charged for "shooting in city." The fine was paid the same day. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1915.)

**On July 16, 1931**, the portion of Highway 23 leading from Johnson City to Kingsport was completed. Highway 23 is approximately 2500 miles long, and goes from Florida to Michigan. (Sources: *History of Washington County, Tennessee* and [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org).)

**On July 17, 1913**, three men were charged with vagrancy. They were fined, but the cost was "suspended provided (they) leave the city and stay away and if they come

back (indecipherable) the fine will be enforced.” (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1913.)

**On July 17, 1939**, a Mr. Gillispie was arrested for “attempt to kill and assault.” He was released to the state. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On July 18, 1901**, *The Comet* published an ad for the S.B. White Company, and mentioned that their telephone number was 55. The same issue of *The Comet* mentioned, “a shirt waist dance was recently held at the Hotel Carnegie.” (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On July 18, 2018**, the *Johnson City Press* reported that work had begun on the third phase of the expanding Johnson City/Washington County Veterans Memorial. The Memorial is in Kiwanis Park, and in close proximity to the Mountain Home National Cemetery. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On July 19, 1979**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* editorialized that Mrs. Lonnie W. McCown (Mary Hardin McCown) was the “perfect choice” to be the official historian of Johnson City. The City Commission had recently bestowed that honor upon Mrs. McCown, who had been conducting historical research since 1920. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On July 20, 1969**, the Unaka Rod and Gun Club held a Centennial Trap and Skeet Shooting. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On July 21, 1945**, Congressman Phil Roe was born (Source: [www.roe.house.gov/biography](http://www.roe.house.gov/biography))

**On July 21, 1910**, *The Comet* advised, “He who sews brambles must reap thorns.” (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On July 22, 1939**, several men were arrested for automobile theft; Chief Carriger released them. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1939.)

**On July 23, 1896**, *The Comet* advised, “You may try to do business without advertising, but your efforts will fail.” (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On July 24, 1913**, James Griffin was fined 90 cents for “using waters without paying for it.” He paid the fine on July 26. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1913.)

**On July 25, 1965**, the Bertha Ellis Girls’ Club opened. The Club was named for Bertha Ellis, who was a 1909 graduate of Langston high School. (Source: Mary Henderson-Alexander, Thesis.)

**On July 26, 1885**, a new building and loan association was announced in *The Comet*. Col. Seth Yokum had a role in the new business. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On July 27, 1893,** *The Comet* advised, “One reason large fish are not sold net is that they cannot be weighted without the scales.” The same issue of *The Comet* also carried several articles about the World’s Fair, which was running during that time. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On July 28, 1897,** a three-day fair began at Austin Springs. This was the first fair to be held in Johnson City. (Source: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com))

**On July 29, 1897,** *The Comet* warned against the hazards of smoking cigarettes and employment. It quoted the *Morristown Gazette*, “The time may come, and may not be a long way off either, when business men and corporations will refuse to employ a cigarette smoker.” The same issue of *The Comet* told of an annular eclipse of the sun on that day; it would be “visible only as a partial eclipse in Johnson City.” (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On July 30, 1889,** Charles Thomas Bowman was born in Gray Station, Tennessee. Better known as “Fiddlin’ Charlie Bowman,” he wrote many songs, including railroad songs, such as “Nine Pound Hammer.” He was a good friend of Congressman B. Carroll Reece, and wrote the “Reece Rag” in the Congressman’s honor. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On July 30, 1897,** Mayne Williams died at the age of four. He was the son of Judge and Mrs. Samuel Cole Williams. Later, his parents donated land and \$10,000 to build Mayne Williams Public Library, the forerunner of Johnson City Public Library. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On July 30, 1991,** the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded a \$6 million grant to the Division of Health Services at ETSU. The grant was to establish the Community Partnerships for the Health Professions Education Program; this began the Rural Primary Care Track at the College of Medicine. (Source: Personal communication between Carol Sloan, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Quillen College of Medicine and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On July 31, 1850,** Robert Love Taylor was born in Carter County. He was the Congressman from the First District in Tennessee from 1879-1881, was Governor of Tennessee from 1887-1891 and from 1897-1899 and was United States Senator from 1907 until his death. In addition, Mr. Taylor was editor of *The Comet* in 1884. (Sources: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org) and [www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov))

**On July 31, 1937,** management consultant Bill Bain was born in Johnson City. Mr. Bain founded Bain and Company; prior to that, he worked for Boston Consulting Group. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On July 31, 1966**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* published a special section honoring Col. Lee B. Harr, the Director of the Veterans Administration at Mountain Home. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

## **August**

**On August 1, 1928**, Sam Roberts, Jr. was fined \$4 for following a fire engine too closely. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1928.)

**On August 1, 1957**, City Commission Ben Crumley replaced Travis Kinkead on the City Commission. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On August 1, 1996**, Dr. William W. Locke became Northeast State Technical Community College. (Source: [www.northeaststate.edu](http://www.northeaststate.edu))

**On August 2, 1888**, *The Comet* advertised for a devil. "No boy need apply unless he wants to learn the trade and can read manuscripts fairly well." (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On August 3, 1983**, Tom Hodge opined in his column "the best vacation is the one where you don't go anywhere." (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On August 4, 1892**, the Graham Ice Company reported making 5 tons of ice every day, all of which was consumed in Johnson City. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On August 4, 2008**, former City Commissioner Dr. Dan Hammer died. He was Commissioner from 1991-1995. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On August 5, 1924**, the John Sevier Hotel opened. The 10-floor building featured a revolving door and double mezzanines, among other unique features. More than 1500 people came to the grand opening. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History* and "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On August 6, 1848**, Alf Taylor was born in Carter County. A member of the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1874-1876, he went on to represent the First Congressional District in Tennessee in Washington from March 3, 1889 until March 3, 1895. Taylor was Governor of Tennessee from January 15, 1921 until January 16, 1923. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org/](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/))

**On August 7, 1902**, *The Comet* carried a story about mapping Roan Mountain. On another page, we read that "Love is never found; it comes." (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On August 7, 1928**, Red J's Taxi Company was cited for parking at a fire plug. The charge was dismissed. (Source: Johnson City Court Documents, 1928.)

**On August 8, 1889**, *The Comet* ran an ad for the Johnson City Foundry and Machine Works. The ad noted that all of their work was guaranteed; they repaired machinery as well as built it. Among other things, they made car wheels, window sills, cane mills, and sash weights. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On August 8, 1936**, Cecil Crowe, an employee of the Plymouth Cab Company was cited for violating the sanitary ordinance. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1936.)

**On August 9, 1937**, the Johnson City Business and Professional Women met for dinner at the Hotel John Sevier. Louise Scott was program chairman. The topic was "How We Get a Living." (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On August 10, 1905**, *The Comet* printed Washington's Rules. Among other things, readers were advised to "Be not forward, but friendly and courteous," "Be not curious as to the affairs of others," and "Be not tedious in discourse." In the same edition, *The Comet* also printed "What the World Wants." Three of these wants include "Men who cannot be bought," "Men whose word is their bond," and "Philanthropists who will not let their right hand know what their left hand is doing." (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On August 11, 1927**, construction began on a new highway between Elizabethton and Johnson City. It was called the Glanzstoff Highway, and is now known as 321. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On August 12, 1970**, the last passenger train to make a regular run in Johnson City made its last stop at the depot here. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On August 13, 1969**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that Centennial Day would be held at the Appalachian District Fair on August 16. In addition, the article gave a call for entries for men with beards for the "Hairiest of the Fair," another Centennial activity. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On August 14, 1982**, the Guaranda Friendship Garden was dedicated. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On August 15, 1983**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* featured an article about the recent "Fifth Annual Old Time Country Radio Reunion," which played on WJCW. The audience was nearly at capacity. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On August 16, 1961**, the international premier of "Bridge to the Sun" took place at the Majestic Theater. The movie was based on the book of the same name, written by Johnson City native Gwen Terasaki. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On August 16, 1982**, the first Annual Senior Olympics began. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On August 17, 1965**, Walter Lee Price, a Johnson City attorney, “presented the Johnson City School System’s final desegregation plan to the United States District Court in Greeneville.” (Source: Mary Henderson-Alexander, Thesis.)

**On August 18, 1871**, the minutes of the Science Hill Literary Society declared that W.S. Hickey was the Secretary of the Society. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On August 19, 1915**, *The Comet* featured ads for the Model Mill and Milligan College. An article noted Mrs. James Epps and Mrs. Hardin Epps had recently returned from Arizona. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On August 19, 1956**, *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* readers were told that the City Health Department would be giving polio vaccines soon. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On August 20, 1957**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* featured an ad for the Freeman Motor Company at 91 Wilson Avenue. Freeman sold both Studebakers and Packards. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On August 21, 1978**, the inaugural class of medical school students arrived on campus at East Tennessee State University. (Source: Personal communication between Carol Sloan, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Quillen College of Medicine and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On August 21, 1983**, Tom Hodge’s column was about Free Service Tire Company, established by Dan B. Wexler in 1919. At that time, automobiles were still quite a novelty and needed air for tires and water for engines on a frequent basis. Mr. Wexler’s company provided both without a charge. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On August 21, 2012**, the newly renovated Steve Lacy Fieldhouse was dedicated on the campus of Milligan College. (Source: [www.milligan.edu](http://www.milligan.edu))

**On August 22, 1914**, Ole Lewis, a soldier, was charged with gaming. His charge was dismissed without prejudice. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1914.)

**On August 23, 1983**, it was reported that Johnson City Schools might need to close early for several days due to a record heat wave. Carter County schools, in fact, were already closing early for that reason. Superintendent Mike Simmons stated that he would decide if the Johnson City Schools would close early on August 24 based on temperatures that would be taken at a few of the schools later in the day. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On August 24, 1868**, the Science Hill Male and Female Institute opened at Johnson’s Depot, Tennessee. Reverent John Pence was the principal. (Sources: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History* and Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)



**On August 24, 2015**, Northeast State Community College opened their Johnson City campus. (Source: Personal conversation between Dr. Leigh Hornsby, former Chief Advancement Officer at Northeast State and Principal Partner, Public Information Associates and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On August 25, 2016**, the *Johnson City Press* reported that construction costs for the Millennium Centre would be refinanced; doing so would save over \$700,000. The amount to be refinanced was \$7.9 million. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On August 26, 1928**, the *Johnson City Chronicle and Staff* reported more than 400 people recently attended 'a circus party', given by John Robinson's Circus. This was a reunion of sorts, as the people had seen the same circus over 50 years prior. (Source: *Johnson City Chronicle and Staff*.)

**On August 27, 1918**, the *Johnson City Daily Staff* carried the news that Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs visited Johnson City the previous afternoon. A crowd estimated at 500-1000 people turned out to greet their guests. The men were en route on their annual vacation trip from New York City by automobile on a mountainous journey that culminated in Ashville, NC. (Sources: *Johnson City Daily Staff* via [www.bcyesteryear.com/](http://www.bcyesteryear.com/))

**On August 27, 1931**, Sherrod Library was dedicated. At that time, it was called "the fireproof library." (Source: [www.etsu.edu](http://www.etsu.edu))

**On August 28, 1960**, Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Sherrod celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in the Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Dr. Sherrod was President of East Tennessee State College from 1925 until 1949. (Sources: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection and [www.etsu.edu](http://www.etsu.edu))

**On August 29, 1969**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that Murphy Snoderly, Johnson City's first City Manager, would retire from a similar position in Knoxville. Mr. Snoderly was City Manager when Sam H. Sells was Mayor (from 1939-1941) and when Welsford Artz was Mayor (from 1943-1947.) (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On August 30, 1951**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* carried a full-page ad for Dr. Enuf. The ad advised "17,954 Johnson City Folks Can't Be Wrong!" Dr. Enuf had Vitamin B1, B2, Niacin, and Iodine, and would benefit those who drank it in many ways. A 4-bottle carton was 98 cents, which would be approximately \$9.70 today. (Sources: Personal conversation between Chuck Gordon and Rebecca Henderson; [www.in2013dollars.com](http://www.in2013dollars.com))

**On August 30, 1997**, the *Johnson City Press* editorialized the many merits of T.F. Beckner, Jr., who passed away two days prior. Mr. Beckner joined the family business, Beckner's Jewelers after his graduation; active in his church and community, he was

also a veteran of World War II. (Sources: *Johnson City Press* and *Buddy, The Life and Good Times of Thomas Folsom Beckner, Jr.*)

**On August 30, 2014**, the Tweetsie Trail opened. (Source: [www.TweetsieTrail.com](http://www.TweetsieTrail.com))

**On August 31, 1899**, *The Comet* published advice from Russell Sage, an American financier. Some of Mr. Sage's advice included "Opportunities are disguised by men who do not recognize them," "Despair is the forerunner of failure," and "When a man 'loses his head,' he mustn't complain about the other fellow taking the advantage." (Source: *The Comet*.)

## **September**

**On September 1, 1928**, the Kingsport Brick Company and the Johnson City Shale Brick Company formed the General Shale Products Corporation. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On September 1, 1937**, the Tri-Cities Airport, the forerunner of the Tri-Cities Regional Airport, opened. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On September 1, 1970**, Judge Stewart Cannon went on the bench. (Source: Personal conversations with Mrs. Stewart {Norma Jean} Cannon, Connie Cannon Taylor, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On September 1, 1980**, the Johnson City Medical Center opened, replacing Johnson City Memorial Hospital. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988*.)

**On September 1, 1981**, the Majestic Theatre closed. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On September 1, 2016**, the Junior League presented a check for \$20,000 to East Tennessee State University's Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment to create a Neonatal Abstinence Unit database. (Sources: *Johnson City Press* and personal recollection of Rebecca Henderson.)

**On September 2, 1888**, "thru the efforts of" James H. Crumley, electricity became available in Johnson City. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988*.)

**On September 2, 2005**, the Charles Ed Allen Hall was dedicated on the VA Campus as an integral part of the Quillen College of Medicine. Dr. Allen was an early champion for a medical school on Johnson City, and fought tirelessly for it for years. (Source: Personal communication between Carol Sloan, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Quillen College of Medicine and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On September 3, 2012**, the *Johnson City Press* asked readers of the editorial page if they were happy with their job. Readers were invited to comment by writing letters to the Mailbag. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On September 4, 1914**, Rollen Dykes, a college student, was charged \$2.50 for riding his bicycle on a sidewalk. (Sources: Johnson City Court Records, 1914.)

**On September 4, 1973**, Johnson City Schools students rode to school for the first time in All American Bluebird buses. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On September 5, 1911**, East Tennessee Normal School opened. Dr. Philander P. Claxton was the speaker. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On September 5, 1990**, St. Mary's Church and School opened on East Lakeview Drive. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee.*)

**On September 6, 1836**, several men certified they had seen Johnson's Thrashing Machine in operation. It was invented by Henry Johnson and used 2 horsepower. It could thrash up to 48 bushels of wheat an hour. Two plantations in Washington County used the machine. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On September 6, 1983**, Jerry Richard Blevins was born in Johnson City. He played Major League Baseball for the Oakland Athletics, the Washington Nationals, and the New York Mets. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On September 7, 1905**, the cornerstone of St. John's Episcopal Church was laid. (Source: *Johnson City, Images of America.*)

**On September 8, 1880**, William B. Miller, known as W.B., was born in Johnson City. He celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1980 with an article about him in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*. Some of Mr. Miller's accomplishments included chairing the Board of Education from 1926 until 1932, being director emeritus of Hamilton Bank, and to the knowledge of the Johnson City Kiwanis Club, being the oldest active Kiwanian in the world. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle.*)

**On September 9, 1977**, the band AC/DC with Cheap Trick and the Dictators performed at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$5. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On September 10, 1908**, readers of *The Comet* learned that "There is every evidence that the CC and O Railroad is preparing to build its line into the city." The letters CC and O stood for Carolina, Clinchfield, and Ohio. *The Comet* advised readers "We regret to the Nashville Tennessean that it is better to be an attorney for a brewery than to be a star customer." (Sources: *The Comet* and [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com).)

**On September 11, 1937**, the Johnson City Business and Professional Women's Club held a rummage sale, which was an event of the Finance Committee. Jessica Miller chaired the effort. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On September 11, 2001**, Johnson City residents were in shock as America was attacked. Many businesses closed early that day. We woke up that morning feeling safe, but went to bed with a different kind of tiredness, and with fear in our hearts. (Source: Personal recollection of Rebecca Henderson.)

**On September 12, 1998**, Johnson's Depot Playground at Willow Springs Park was dedicated. Named for Johnson's City's founder, the playground was a cooperative effort between the City of Johnson City and the Junior League of Johnson City. (Source: Personal recollection of Rebecca Henderson.)

**On September 13, 1884**, *The Comet*, in an editorial from the *Mountaineer*, opined that “If you wish to vote for a man who has been false to every pledge and promise, to foist himself upon an unwilling people, vote for Pettibone.” (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On September 14, 1883**, the Johnson City Real Estate Company was the first real estate corporation chartered in Johnson City. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On September 14, 1960**, the Junior Service League, in an effort to become a Junior League, which was ultimately successful, published the results of a lengthy community questionnaire and needs assessment. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On September 15, 1985**, the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Antonia Joy Wilson, released plans to hold a free pops-style concert later than month at the VA. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On September 16, 1930**, the Johnson City Area United Way was established as a Community Chest. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On September 17, 1986**, a special task force consisting of members of the Johnson City/Washington County Chamber of Commerce was seated. Their purpose was to place priorities on needed projects in Johnson City, Washington County and at East Tennessee State University, so “the three entities don’t bump heads in the quest for state funds.” (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On September 18, 1966**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* published a special section recognizing East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Dozens of ads were in the section, including ones from Cooper’s Office Equipment, Citizens Bank and East Tennessee State University. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On September 19, 1983**, Dr. James Owen assumed duties of Tri-Cities State Tech, now known as Northeast State Community College. (Source: Personal conversation between Dr. Leigh Hornsby, former Chief Advancement Officer at Northeast State Community College and Principal Partner, Public Information Associates and Rebecca Henderson,)

**On September 19, 2011**, Johnson City native and Appalachian writer Jo Carson died. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On September 20, 1973**, the Lady of the Fountain came home from Henderson, North Carolina. She had previously made her home at the residence of Helen Summers Zollicoffer. (Source: *Remembering Johnson City*.)

**On September 21, 1961**, land was purchased for Appalachian Christian Village, now known as Cornerstone Village. (Source: Personal communication between Len Smith, CEO of Cornerstone Village, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On September 22, 1971**, the Chamber of Commerce coordinated a trip to Nashville to talk with Governor Winfield Dunn about the need for a medical school in Johnson City. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On September 23, 1923**, an article in the *Johnson City Chronicle* proclaimed that “Johnson City’s biggest days are yet to come” and that Johnson City was the “Gateway of the Appalachians.” (Source: *Johnson City Chronicle*.)

**On September 24, 1932**, the Hamilton Bank was organized. (Source: *Johnson City Chronicle*.)

**On September 25, 1928**, King’s Department Store opened. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On September 26, 1970**, Johnson City’s City Hall at 601 East Main Street was dedicated. At 2:00 p.m., there was a big celebration, complete with sirens, a ribbon cutting, and an open house. (Sources: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History* and “Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee,” Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On September 27, 1892**, the Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church was organized. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On September 27, 1914**, Catherine Marshall was born in Johnson City. Mrs. Marshall was an author of many books, including *A Man Called Peter* and *Christy*. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On September 28, 1914**, Arvell Miller was fined \$10 for selling soft drinks without a label. He paid the fine the same day. (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1914.)

**On September 29, 1914**, Mrs. Decker was fined \$25 for “keeping a bawdie (sic.) Fine dismissed if she quits-otherwise enforced.” (Source: Johnson City Court Records, 1914.)

**On September 30, 1919**, Judge Oris Hyder was born. He was Criminal Court Judge in 1957, and then was on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals. Following that, he was president of First People’s Bank, which later became United American Bank. (Personal communication between Mary-Colin Hyder Santos and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On September 30, 1948**, the Freedom Train, which traveled across the United States to give citizens an opportunity to reflect on what citizenship meant to them after World War II, made a stop in Johnson City. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

## **October**

**On October 1, 1945**, Dr. Thomas P. McKee founded the McKee Eye Hospital, located at 207 East Watauga Avenue. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On October 1, 1990**, the first house built by Holston Habitat for Humanity volunteers in Johnson City was dedicated. (Source: Personal conversation between Trish Patterson, Executive Director of Holston Habitat for Humanity and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On October 1, 2009**, three Girl Scout Councils, including the Girl Scout Council of the Appalachians, headquartered in Johnson City, merged to become the Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians. (Source: Personal recollections of Becky Luntsford, Nancy Stanton, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On October 1, 2018**, President Donald Trump visited Johnson City. (Source: Personal recollection of Rebecca Henderson.)

**On October 2, 1911**, the East Tennessee Normal School, now East Tennessee State University, opened. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On October 3, 1903**, the National Soldiers Home opened. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On October 4, 1977**, Tom Jones played at Freedom Hall. The cost of tickets was \$8 and \$9. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On October 5, 1929**, the Appalachian Fair ended its five-day run for 1929. The Fair was held at Keystone Field, and was sponsored by *The Chronicle*. "Every afternoon and evening during the Fair... in front of the Grandstand, the... Sun Brothers Circus," as reported in Tom Hodge's column. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On October 6, 1873**, Dr. Hezekiah Hankal received a certificate to teach in public schools in Tennessee. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On October 6, 1928**, Republican Presidential nominee Herbert Hoover campaigned in Johnson City. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On October 7, 1923**, the *Johnson City Staff* carried a story about the Battle of King's Mountain, which was 143 years prior. (Source: *Johnson City Staff*.)

**On October 8, 1859**, the name of the post office in what is now Johnson City was changed from Johnson's Tank to Haynesville. This name change was to honor Landon Carter Haynes, a Confederate senator who lived south of the town. (Sources: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com) and [www.tennesseeencyclopedia.net](http://www.tennesseeencyclopedia.net))

**On October 8, 1901**, the Tri-County Fair opened for a 4-day run. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988*.)

**On October 9, 1946**, Jo Carson, an author, was born in Johnson City. Her works include *Liars, Thieves, and Other Sinners on the Bench*, *Spider Speculations: A Physics and Biophysics of Storytelling*, and *Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet*. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On October 10, 1911**, the Tennessee State Legislature adopted Tennessee's first and current lag, and was first raised at dedication ceremonies at the newly-opened East Tennessee Normal School. The dedication took place 8 days after the first session of the school opened. (Sources: *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* and *Remembering Johnson City*.)

**On October 10, 1965**, the Reece Museum at East Tennessee State University opened. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On October 10, 1975**, the Four Seasons played at Freedom Hall. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On October 11, 2017**, Johnson City Police Chief Mark Sirois announced his upcoming retirement. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On October 12, 1935**, construction began on what is now the Tri-Cities Regional Airport. It was a Works Progress Administration project. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On October 12, 1979**, Johnson City Transit began operation. (Source: Personal communication between Keisha Shoun, Director, Communications and Marketing, City of Johnson City, and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On October 13, 1976**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that former Mayor James Louis Young had passed away. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On October 13, 1978**, the Harlem Globetrotters played basketball at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$5 and \$6. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On October 14, 1965**, Ella V. Ross was named to "Who's Who of American Women." Among other positions, she was Dean of Students at East Tennessee State University. Originally from New York, she was educated at Duke and Harvard. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On October 15, 1903**, the Mountain Home Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers opened. We now know it as the VA Medical Center. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On October 15, 1975**, Rod Stewart played at Freedom Hall. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))



**On October 16, 1928**, the Tri-County Fair became known as the Appalachian District Fair; the Fair ran from that day until October 20 that year, and had a theme for each day. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On October 16, 1950**, the Tweetsie made her last run. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On October 17, 1994**, the Iris Glen Environmental Center opened. Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On October 18, 1932**, the Tennessee Press and Authors Club State Convention concluded their three-day meeting at the John Sevier Hotel. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On October 19, 1914**, the Monday Club had a program on "Public Health: A Free Clinic in our Public Schools, the Value of an Open Air School and Free Lunches." (Source: [www.bcyesteryear.com](http://www.bcyesteryear.com))

**On October 20, 1970**, President Richard M. Nixon visited the campus of East Tennessee State University to campaign for Winfield Dunn, who was running for Governor and Bill Brock, who was running for Senate. (Source: *East Tennessee State University {Campus History}*.)

**On October 21, 1968**, correspondence from Mary Hardin McCown to Roy Meade of General Shale outlined details of a gift of bricks for the museum at the business. The bricks were from the home of early settler Davis Deaderick, built between 1800 and 1824. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On October 21, 1977**, Kenny Rogers appeared at Freedom Hall with Stella Parton and T.G. Sheppard. Tickets were \$6 and \$7. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On October 22, 1961**, Johnson City Blues singer Clarence Greene passed away. (Source: *Remembering Johnson City*.)

**On October 23, 1968**, Dr. D.P. Culp was inaugurated as President of East Tennessee State University at 10:00 a.m. in Alumni Memorial Hall. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On October 23, 1985**, East Tennessee State University began to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. President Ronald Reagan sent ETSU President Dr. Ronald Beller a congratulatory letter. (Source: [www.etsu.edu](http://www.etsu.edu))

**On October 23, 2015**, the auditorium in Stanton-Gerber Hall on the VA Campus was named for Nancy Brumit Stanton. (Source: Personal conversation between Nancy Stanton and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On October 24, 1929**, the 1929 Sessions had their last day of recording in Johnson City. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On October 24, 1964**, the Sons of the American Revolution, Kings Mountain Chapter, organized in Johnson City. (Source: *History of Washington County Tennessee*.)

**On October 25, 1986**, Johnson City Symphony Orchestra Conductor Antiona Joy Wilson spoke of the upcoming season. She stated, "Someone has to have a sense of the whole piece (of music.) Remember, the members of the orchestra just have their parts in front of them. I'm the only one with the score." (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On October 26, 1953**, the first telecast from WJHL, Channel 11, was at 6:00 p.m. with a 30-minute newscast. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On October 27, 1867**, the Science Hill Male and Female Institute was dedicated. Embree Hoss spoke. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On October 28, 1909**, *The Comet* reported on the death of 15 year-old Florence Dalton. Miss Dalton perished of typhoid fever. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On October 29, 1956**, General Thomas Dewey spoke at an East Tennessee State College rally on behalf of an Eisenhower-Nixon campaign ticket. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On October 30, 1937**, the Johnson City Business and Professional Women's Club met in the dining room of the Nurses Home at the Veteran's Facility. Gladys Dixon was the Program Chair, with the topic "What the Veteran's Faculty Means to This Community." Col. Lee Harr, Manager of the Veteran's Facility, presented remarks to the ladies. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On October 30, 1966**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that George W. Kelly was named editorial director of the newspaper, as well as WETB, a radio station. Carl Jones, publisher of the newspaper and president of the radio station, made the announcement. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On October 30, 1967**, the Centennial Celebration of Science Hill High School was held. Mary Hardin McCown, of the Class of 1907, Science Hill Male and Female Institute, gave the address. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On October 31, 1944**, the Darlin Jones cabin was moved to its current location at Camp Wildwood, and is used by the Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians. Darlin

Jones fought in the battle of Kings' Mountain. (Source: Personal communication between Becky Luntsford, Community Relations Manager, Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians and Rebecca Henderson.)

## **November**

**On November 1, 1968**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* published a special section, "An Old City Growing Young." (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 1, 2004**, Pete Peterson began his position as City Manager of Johnson City. (Source: Personal communication between Pete Peterson and Rebecca Henderson.)

**On November 2, 1888**, Mary Johnson, Henry Johnson's wife, passed away. (Source: *Remembering Johnson City*.)

**On November 2, 2003**, former Congressman James H. Quillen passed away. (Source: *The Washington Post*.)

**On November 3, 1904**, *The Comet* reported Dr. Falk and Mr. Tate recently gave an address on the evils of alcohol. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On November 3, 1978**, the Charlie Daniels Band played at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$6. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On November 4, 1904**, the *Johnson City Staff* reported that prominent architects from New York City visited the city recently "to look after contracts and buildings under construction at the Soldier's Home." (Source: *Johnson City Staff*.)

**On November 4, 1968**, the Dawn of Hope opened. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On November 5, 1937**, the McKellar Tri-City Airport, now known as the Tri-Cities Regional Airport, was dedicated. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History*.)

**On November 6, 1922**, in correspondence from Thad Cox to Elbert Treganza of New York City, Mr. Treganza noted he was in receipt of a check for \$275 for two chenille rugs, and they would be shipped immediately. This would be equivalent to approximately \$4132 in today's dollars. (Sources: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers; [www.in2013dollars.com](http://www.in2013dollars.com))

**On November 7, 1979**, Tom Hodge wrote of his adventures as part of the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* staff decided to take a ride on a new Johnson City bus. Mr. Hodge opined, "It's a nice bus system. I suspect it'll gain in popularity as folks become accustomed to it." (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 7, 1992**, the Junior League of Johnson City held their first Bag-a-Bargain sale, raising over \$30,000 for the community. In today's dollars, this is equivalent to about \$53,300. More than 97% of the proceeds were returned to the community in monetary contributions to various Junior League projects. (Sources: Personal

recollections of Rebecca Henderson, Kathy Linebarger, Lottie Ryans, and Cindy Torbett; [www.in2013dollars.com](http://www.in2013dollars.com))

**On November 8, 1982**, Tom Hodge opined in his column he believed that Johnson City was on Central Time in 1885. He remarked that sellers of spirits would “close promptly each day at: Dec. – Feb. 6:30 p.m., March – May – 8:00 p.m., June - Aug. 8:30 p.m., and Sept. – Nov. – 7:30 p.m.” (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 9, 1965**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that Mrs. Lonnie W. McCown (Mary Hardin McCown) was named to the fourth edition of “Who’s Who of American Women.” (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 9, 1975**, the Letterman played at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$5.50 and \$6.50. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On November 9, 1978**, Chicago played at Freedom hall. Tickets were \$8.50. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On November 10, 1938**, Mrs. Carrie Pace sent congratulations to the Honorable Prentice Cooper, who was elected Governor two days previously. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On November 11, 1935**, the American Legion Kings Mountain Post #24 dedicated the Dough Boy statute in front of Memorial Stadium. (Source: “Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee,” Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On November 11, 1977**, the Beach Boys played at Freedom Hall. Tickets were \$7. (Source: [www.vincestaten.blogspot.com](http://www.vincestaten.blogspot.com))

**On November 11, 2011**, at 11 a.m., the Johnson City-Washington County Veterans Memorial was dedicated. (Source: [www.jc-wcveteransmemorial.org](http://www.jc-wcveteransmemorial.org))

**On November 12, 1871**, First Christian Church began in the home of William Young at 1117 Cedar Place. (Source: *Greater Johnson City A Pictorial History and History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On November 12, 1990**, a city-wide recycling program began with the theme “Don’t Trash It. Stash It.” (Source: “Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee,” Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On November 13, 1928**, Montrose Court burned. (Source: [www.stateoffranklin.net](http://www.stateoffranklin.net))

**On November 13, 1966**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* reported that the City Commission would hire Jim Mosier the next day as the new City Manager. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 14, 1916**, the Johnson City Rotary Club was organized. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On November 15, 1982**, the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* featured an article about Jonson City School Board member Carolyn Overbay, who said, "Public education is the scapegoat for all the ills of the world because it's the one thing that can't fight back." She was also quoted as saying, "Being an effective school board member is a full-time job." (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 16, 2007**, the George L. Carter Railroad Museum was dedicated on the campus of East Tennessee State University. A railroad magnate, Mr. Carter donated 120 acres of land to create what is now known as East Tennessee State University. (Source: *East Tennessee State University {Campus History}*.)

**On November 17, 1877**, W.G. Barker was elected secretary of the Science Hill Literary Society. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On November 18, 1948**, Mrs. Carrie M. Pace, a secretary with the law firm of Cox, Taylor, Epps and Miller corresponded with the Harman Fur Farms in Christiansburg, Virginia regarding the mink scarfs that she had recently ordered. (Source: Archives of Appalachia, Cox-Painter-Adams Family Papers.)

**On November 19, 1919**, General Shale began operations. It began as the Johnson City Brick Corporation, and was located on Millard and Elm Streets. (Source: *History of Washington County, Tennessee*.)

**On November 20, 1993**, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies accredited the Johnson City Police Bureau. (Source: "Glimpses of Johnson City, Tennessee," Community Relations Department, City of Johnson City, Tennessee.)

**On November 21, 1986**, the *Johnson City Press* reported that the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra had recently received a challenge grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission. (Source: *Johnson City Press*.)

**On November 22, 1966**, Steve Spurrier, a Johnson City native, won the Heisman Trophy. (Source: [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com))

**On November 22, 1969**, a sign at the Division Street Church of God welcomed everyone to the Centennial Day Services on Sunday, November 23, 1969. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 23, 1936**, the *Monday Wash*, a fun and fund raising publication put out by The Monday Club, was printed. Their tag line was "The Monday Wash. All the News That's Not Fit to Print." Among other businesses, Parks-Belk, King's and the Tennessee Motor Company ran ads in the publication. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Beth Spina Family Papers.)

**On November 23, 1969**, an article in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* asked readers to contribute ideas for items to go in the time capsule that would be buried on December 1, 1969. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 24, 1961**, Milligan College opened the P.H. Welshimer Memorial Library. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On November 24, 1967**, Seeger Memorial Chapel at Milligan College was dedicated. The seating capacity was 1300. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On November 25, 1931**, former Governor Alf Taylor passed away in Johnson City. (Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org))

**On November 26, 1959**, a shortage of steel halted work at the new Science Hill High School, according to J.E. Green. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 27, 1936**, David Walker, age 11, founded *The Tribute*, “a small sheet issued every now and then.” The circulation was 250. King’s Boy’s Shop was an advertiser in the publication. (Source: Achieves of Appalachia, Mary Hardin McCown Collection.)

**On November 28, 1979**, Tom Hodge wrote in his column in the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* about the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Johnson City Public Library; this library was built where the old Science Hill High School (later becoming South Junior High School) was. (Source: *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*.)

**On November 29, 1906**, *The Comet’s* advertising included the Southern Railroad, which offered holiday excursion rates. Readers were advised that “We seldom repent of having eaten too little,” which was one of Jefferson’s Ten Rules the paper printed that day. (Source: *The Comet*.)

**On November 30, 1888**, the State of Tennessee chartered John T. Wilder’s “Watauga Improvement Company.” This provided for building houses, grading streets, making sidewalks, libraries and schools, as well as other like-infrastructure. (Source: [www.stateoffranklin.net](http://www.stateoffranklin.net))

-Prepared by Rebecca Henderson,  
Sesquicentennial Commission Chair,  
October and November, 2018

