

# D. C. TENNESSEANS -MEET AS COMRADES

State Society Formed in  
1918 With 50 Members  
Now Numbers 250.

BY MARGARET B. DOWNING.

It was in January of 1918, on the invitation of Rufus S. Pearson, a citizen of Tennessee, for many years resident in Washington, that about 50 other Tennesseans met in the Ebbitt Hotel and realized the long-cherished ambition of having a local State society. Senator Kenneth McKellar, who had been a champion of such an organization, addressed the meeting, and this small nucleus began with energy and enthusiasm to interest other actual or former residents of the State. A tentative constitution was drawn up the first evening, emphasizing the need of a common meeting place for Tennesseans in Washington, and of promoting the interests of the State in the recognized way, through a society, in which lectures and general addresses would be component parts of the social program. Mr. Pearson was chosen president, and with him were elected Harry Hall, vice president, and Albert G. Field, secretary and treasurer. The meetings were to be held monthly from November to May, with annual elections and other business matters to be transacted in January. The Tennesseans met during that first year in the Thomson School, its community then being utilized by many State organizations. Later the Wilson Normal School furnished hospitality to the society.

## Comradship Society Feature.

From its inception a spirit of comradeship has been a distinguishing feature of the Tennessee Society, and this has been manifested in the many jolly picnics and all fresco affairs which have marked its programs since 1918. The State has a list of eminent public officials resident in Washington besides, and an interested and most loyal congressional contingent. Two justices of the Supreme Court, Justices MacReynolds and Sanford, give dignity and weight to its conferences, whilst Senator McKellar, who had a long term in the House before he was promoted to the upper chamber, has been one of the enthusiastic supporters of the society. He made, as it were, the keynote speech the evening of its organization, and few of the more important meetings ever since have lacked his actual presence or cordial support. Former Senator and Mrs. Shields were also regular attendants, and Senator and Mrs. Tyson joined immediately on coming to Washington last Autumn. Mrs. Tyson was active in the Christmas tree celebration, a lively affair of Christmas week, which brought out 100 per cent of the membership and scores of their friends.

## Harry Hall Second President.

Harry Hall was elected president in 1919 and with him served as vice president Jesse S. Cottrell, then a well known newspaper man, but now United States Minister to Bolivia. Representative Lon A. Scott directed the society for a year in 1920 and he was succeeded by Representative B. Carroll Reece. Dr. Everett M. Ellis was the fifth president and served during 1924, and Wesley Marvin Pope was elected in 1925. Tennesseans have made the presence of some noted citizen of the State basis for some of the most important social events in the annals of their society. When Judge Edward Terry Sanford was appointed by President Harding in 1923, one of the most pleasing functions of the Spring was the banquet given in his honor in the City Club. Justice Sanford, who was United States district judge for east and middle Tennessee, had taken a cordial interest in the society from its birth and during a visit to his sister, Mrs. Hubert Frederick Fisher, wife of the Representative from Memphis, he had attended one or two of its meetings. He was, therefore, at this banquet, at which he made a

## OFFICERS OF TENNESSEE STATE SOCIETY



## Sponsor Special Programs.

The Tennessee Society makes it a point to give a tea or a more formal kind of entertainment when the Continental Congress is in session or the Daughters of the Confederacy or any organization which brings a number of its people temporarily to Washington. Two years ago a formal levee was given in honor of the Tennessee delegates to the convention of the Daughters of the Confederacy, and several pleasant entertainments have marked the visit of those connected with the Stone Mountain project. Several banquets have been given, but at no stated time. That given on February 12, 1924, was a successful

function given to inspire interest and enthusiasm among the members. Wardman Park Hotel was the scene of this amenity and about 300 members and guests were in attendance. Guil Barber of Laurel, Md., frequently has been the host of the society and the picnic to which he invited nearly 1,000 Tennesseans and their friends is the peak of the hospitalities which the society has enjoyed. Mr. Barber, with old Southern generosity, furnished all the refreshments and these took the acceptable form of barbecued beef, chicken roasted on a spit in the yard, baked sweet potatoes and corn roasted in the husks, with peaches, melons and such delicious fruit as could be brought from the State in an acceptable condition. Mr. Barber is a member of the association and his beautiful home in Laurel has been freely proffered for picnics and it very often is used.

## Past Season Notable.

The past season was one of the most active and successful in the association's chronicles. Lemuel Reece, brother of the Representative, was chosen president at the annual meeting and Maj. J. C. Sims vice president. Malcolm L. Woods is secretary and treasurer. Three standing committees were appointed about three years ago, and their chairmen are: Of membership, Samuel H. Thompson; executive, all the former presidents, headed by Rufus W. Pearson, and entertainment by Mrs. Myrtle L. Pohlmann. The Christmas tree celebration, which now is an annual feature, is the form taken by the December meeting, and it is proposed to have this the most elaborate of the assemblies, but for Tennesseans only, while to all others guests may be invited. The Christmas fete of 1925 was a brilliant success and no citizen of the State, and especially Tennessee students within the city and without opportunity to return home for the holidays, lacked a good dinner, a present and an evening of good cheer.

## Masked Ball Attractive.

An outstanding feature of the Winter and Spring season was a masked ball given at carnival time and at the Willard. Nearly 400 persons masked and frolicked and prizes were awarded for the best costumes. The society, which began eight years ago with 50 members, now has more



Left to right: Lemuel Reece, president; Maj. J. C. Sims, vice president; Malcolm L. Woods, secretary and treasurer.

than 250, with the prospect of a substantial increase the coming season. A picnic at Benedict, Md., given within the month, called out a large number, while a dance given in May taxed the capacity of the smaller ballroom of the Raleigh. The place of meeting has not been fixed, but the Tennesseans favors some definite place for the banquet and the ball, both of which have become an annual feature, with a small place for the general monthly meetings, when literary and musical programs, dancing and cards occupy the evening. An address by some good speaker of the State invariably forms part of the entertainments, and all of the official circle in Washington, the two justices, the Senators and members of the House and such as occupy other posts under the Government may always be counted on to fill in that part of the program.

## BANK PROBE RECESSED.

Inquiry in South Carolina Expected to Take All Next Week.

COLUMBIA, S. C., September 11 (AP).—Examination of witnesses in the grand jury's investigation of the failure of the American Bank & Trust Co. of Columbia will consume all of next week, it was indicated today when a recess was taken at noon until Monday morning. No session will be held on Tuesday, because of the Democratic primary that day.

James S. Farr, a director of the bank, was the only witness questioned today. Two assistant bank examiners were examined yesterday.

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[12, 1926]

[Washington Post, 8 January 1926]

## Lem Reece Made Head Of Tennessee Society

Lem Reece was elected president of the Tennessee Society at a meeting last night at the Strong John Thomson school, Twelfth and L streets northwest.

Other officers elected were Maj. J. G. Sims, vice president, and John Lambert, treasurer. M. L. Woods was reelected secretary.

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