

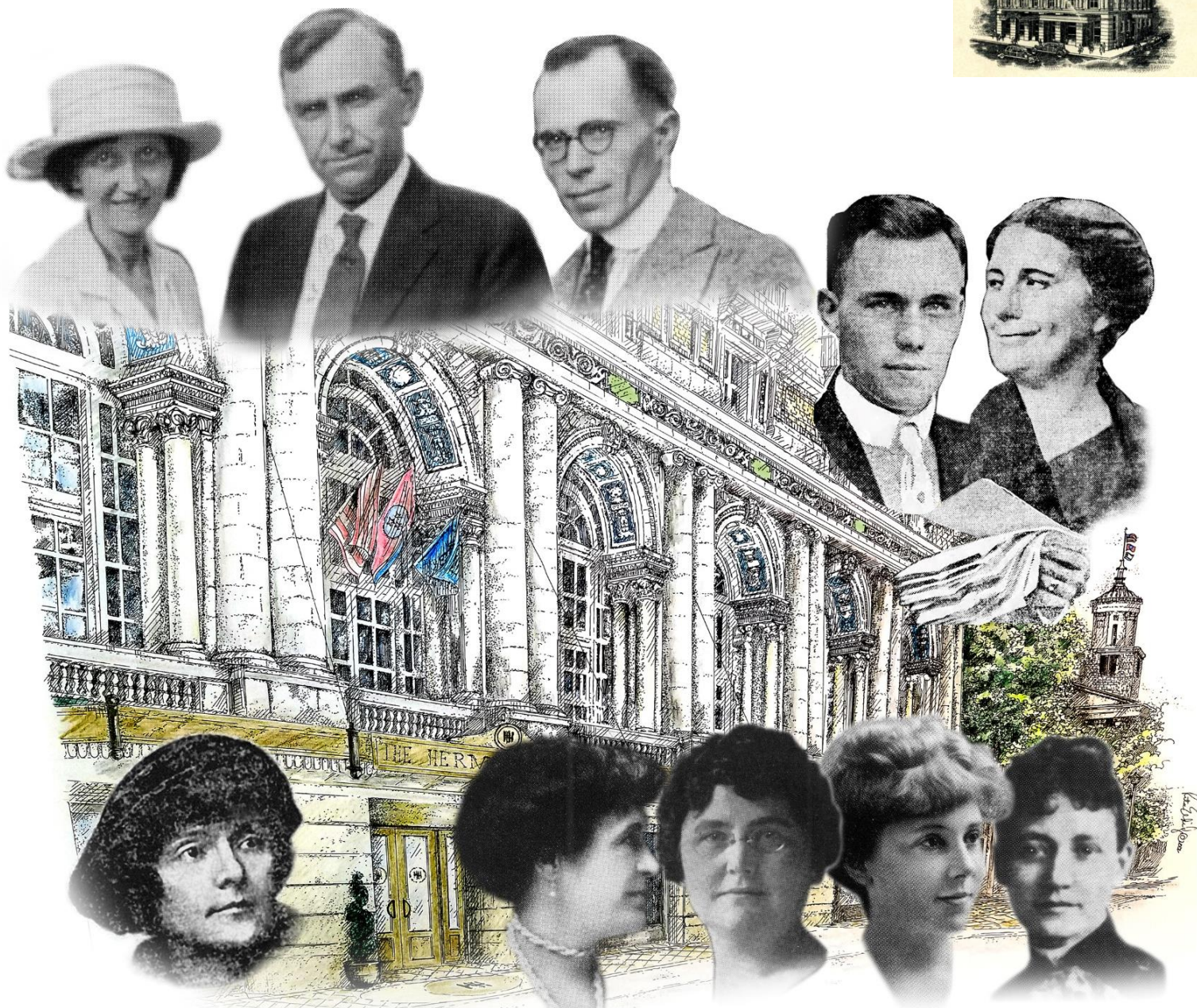
# Reflections from the Past

The Hermitage Hotel – Historical Quarterly

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## Votes for Women

Just 10 Years after opening, The Hermitage Hotel became an iconic place in American history. When the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution was signed in August 1920 giving women equal voting rights, it was made possible as Tennessee became the 36<sup>th</sup> and final state to support its passage in a special session of the state legislature.



Some of the leaders who frequented The Hermitage Hotel included: *(left to right from top)* Sue Shelton White, Governor Albert H. Roberts, Representative Joe Hanover, Harry T. Burn with congratulatory telegrams while his mother Febb looks on from home; Anne Dallas Dudley, Katherine B. Warner, Catherine Talty Kenny, Abby Crawford Milton, and Lizzie Crozier French. These leaders led thousands and worked years for Woman Suffrage.



This centennial exhibit in the lobby of The Hermitage Hotel tells the story in pictures and words. At left are the suffragists and scenes from the state capitol. At top left is a famous Nashville “marching women” photo from 1916. In the center panel is Carrie Chapman Catt who stayed in a third floor Hermitage Hotel suite for six weeks and guided the strategies and tactics of the campaign to victory. Telegrams of congratulations and thanks she received from leaders across the country dated August 18, 1920 are displayed.

In the “red rose” panel at right are the Anti-suffragists who also made The Hermitage Hotel their headquarters during that hot summer of 1920. A rally at the Ryman Auditorium is announced and photos taken at their campaign headquarters on the mezzanine level of the hotel are included. Ironically, those women led the fight against having the right to vote.

For greater insight you are invited to read “The Woman’s Hour” by Elaine Weiss. Please also visit the Votes for Women room at the Nashville Public Library and the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Exhibition at the Tennessee State Museum (March 2020 – February 2021) ref: <https://www.visitmusiccity.com/19thamendment/events>



A bust of Carrie Chapman Catt by sculptor Alan LeQuire greets the public here, an exact replica from his acclaimed Marching Women monument. Quotes and short biographies of more than two hundred courageous Tennessee women and some gallant gentlemen are displayed, courtesy of Paula Casey from the wonderful book “The Perfect 36 – Tennessee Delivers Woman Suffrage.”

The lower section of the display contains many colorful and true stories of those times in The Hermitage Hotel when the lobby, guestrooms & suites, restaurant and meeting rooms were filled with legislators, lobbyists, and activists wearing either yellow or red roses in their lapels. You might find your grandparents or great grandparents name here! Some clever pen & ink editorial cartoons from newspapers round out the display on a lighter note.

We thank all who stepped up and brought about this social and political change for equality.

## Professional Innovation

Martha R. Jones of Nashville invented a breakfast food in 1914 while a student at Peabody College in coordination with Vanderbilt University. She found a way to process cotton seed meal into a highly nutritional and tasty food. In 1915 she established a company charter, with all the incorporators being women. Two of them, Ida Clyde Clarke and Maria Thompson Davies, were amongst the founders of the Nashville Equal Suffrage League four years earlier. The product launch to the public took place in Nashville with the support of the Nashville Business Woman's Equal Suffrage League.

Ms. Jones received a scholarship to Yale and apparently the Dixie Krispies venture did not survive, possibly a war casualty.

Jones's innovative streak flourished however. At Yale she became the first female assistant physiological chemist. She progressed to California and then Hawaii in 1928 where she developed and implemented ideas on baby health, dietetics and dental health. She saved hundreds if not thousands of lives in Hawaii through her groundbreaking work in nutrition. During a visit home and presentation at the Centennial Club in 1933 Ms. Jones stated that mother nature offers all that we need for a balanced diet in each locality around the world, and that in the South we should eat more turnip greens and sweet potatoes.



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**TOMORROW IS  
"Dixie Krispies" Day!**

**"Dixie Krispies"**  
*Are Good, Delicious, Wholesome*

"Dixie Krispies" is a new breakfast food—new in a way, as it is now being put on the market for the first time.

But "Dixie Krispies" has gone through the experimental stage. It has been tried and tested, and has proven satisfactory in every way.

Miss Martha Jones, the inventor of it, after years of study devoted to the chemistry of foods, gives "Dixie Krispies" as the most wholesome of all.

And in addition to being wholesome—it's good—delightfully delicious—extremely appetizing—and an ideal food for breakfast.

Its basis is cotton seed flour, and it contains the nutriment of the choicest meats. It's made in Nashville—and is essentially a "Dixie" product.

**SATURDAY IS  
"Dixie Krispies" Day**

"Dixie Krispies" will be on sale at Forty places down town. Buy a package—take it home—try it—let the family taste it—and you'll buy it again and again—just because it's so good.

**Price 10 Cents**

**Sold Saturday, "Dixie Krispies" Day, Under the Auspices of Nashville Business Woman's Equal Suffrage League.**

Do you have some special memories of The Hermitage Hotel ?

To share your own "news" please drop by and see Tom Vickstrom, telephone 615-345-7123 or e-mail archives@thehermitagehotel.com

~ The Hermitage Hotel 231 Sixth Avenue North Nashville, Tennessee 37219 ~ www.thehermitagehotel.com ~