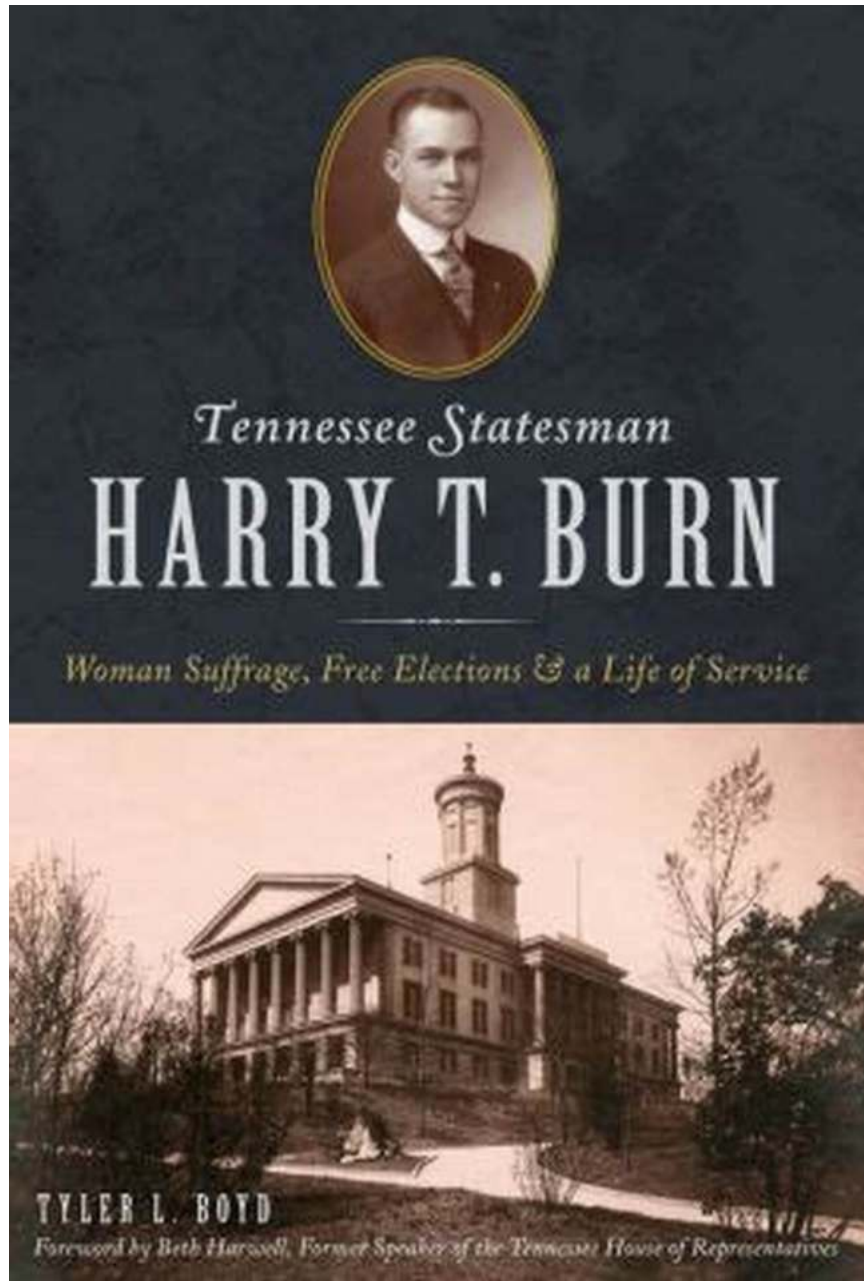


Tennessee Statesman Harry Burn: The Voice that Changed History

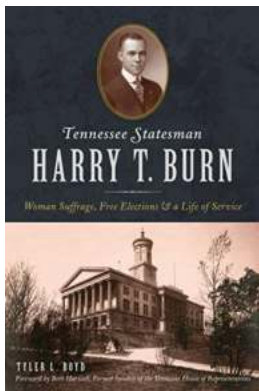


Harry Burn, a name that might not ring a bell for many, was a modest Tennessee statesman who left an indelible mark on American history. Born on July 27, 1895, in Niota, Tennessee, Burn grew up in a time when the notion of equality and progress was slowly taking root in society. Despite initial obscurity, he eventually

became a pivotal figure in the ratification of the 19th Amendment, ultimately granting women the right to vote in the United States.

The Early Life and Political Awakening of Harry Burn

Harry Burn was raised in a conservative household by his parents, James H. Burn and Adelaide Ayers. His father, a respected lawyer and politician, instilled in him the values of public service and civic responsibility from an early age. These fundamental principles would shape Harry Burn's future as a dedicated advocate for the people.



Tennessee Statesman Harry T. Burn: Woman Suffrage, Free Elections & a Life of Service

by David Wiles (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6336 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 291 pages
Lending : Enabled



After completing his education at the University of Tennessee, Burn entered the political arena by running for a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1918. At the young age of 23, his bid for public office was successful, making him one of the youngest members of the House at the time.

In the following years, Burn proved himself to be an astute and progressive legislator, championing various reforms and advocating for equal rights. Despite facing opposition from more conservative members of the House, Burn's unwavering dedication to his constituents earned him their respect and admiration.

The Turning Point: Harry Burn and the 19th Amendment

While Harry Burn's political career was marked by many notable achievements, his most significant contribution to American history came in 1920 during the ratification process of the 19th Amendment. At the time, the amendment granting women the right to vote needed just one more state to secure the required three-fourths ratification. All eyes turned to Tennessee, a state that could either be the final hurdle or the catalyst for change.

The issue of women's suffrage, despite gaining momentum across the country, was hotly debated in Tennessee. Both suffragists and anti-suffragists passionately argued their cases, creating a tense atmosphere within the state legislature. As the deciding vote loomed closer, Harry Burn, known for being liberal-minded, became the center of attention.

In a surprising turn of events, Harry Burn received a letter from his mother, Febb Ensminger Burn, urging him to vote in favor of the 19th Amendment. Despite strong pressure from anti-suffragists, Burn followed his conscience and cast the decisive vote, ensuring the amendment's passage.

The jubilation of suffragists reverberated throughout the nation as news of Tennessee's ratification spread. Harry Burn's vote forever etched his name in the annals of history as the young statesman who tipped the scales in favor of women's rights.

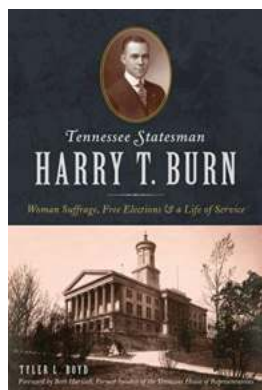
The Legacy of Harry Burn

Harry Burn went on to serve six terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives and made significant contributions to education, politics, and civil rights throughout his career. He remained a staunch advocate for equality until his death on February 19, 1977.

Today, Harry Burn's legacy continues to inspire lawmakers and activists alike. His courageous decision to vote for the 19th Amendment, despite the pressure he faced, serves as a reminder of the power of individual conviction and the impact it can have on society.

Harry Burn, the Tennessee statesman who changed history, stands as a testament to the importance of fighting for what is right, even in the face of adversity. His story is a timeless reminder that one person's voice can shape the course of a nation.

Library of Congress



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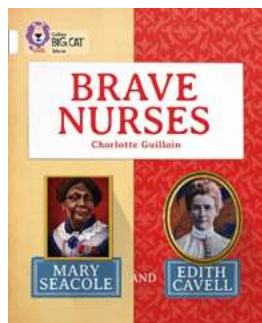


Harry T. Burn's great-grandnephew chronicles the life and legacy of the Tennessee legend who helped ratify the 19th Amendment.

After reading a letter from his mother, Burn cast the deciding vote to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting suffrage rights to millions of American women. Born and raised in McMinn County, he served in Tennessee government in various capacities for many years, including terms in the state senate and as delegate to state constitutional conventions. His accomplishments include helping secure universal suffrage rights, drafting clean election laws and leading successful careers in law and banking. He encountered more controversies in his career, such as an unsuccessful gubernatorial bid, election fraud and implementation of state legislative reapportionment.

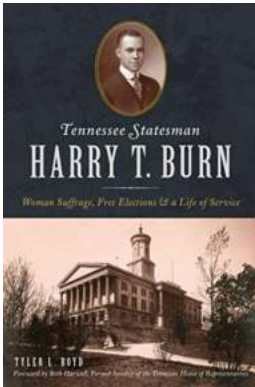
“In this deeply researched biography, Tyler L. Boyd finally brings us the full man, putting into context Burn's singular act of conscience, helping us to understand how one person can make a difference.” —Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*

“The story of what happened before and after Burn's fateful vote has been told often but often told wrong. [This book] gives us the real story, one well worth remembering as we commemorate the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in August 1920, courtesy of the Volunteer State.” —Marjorie J. Spruill, author of *Divided We Stand and One Woman, One Vote*



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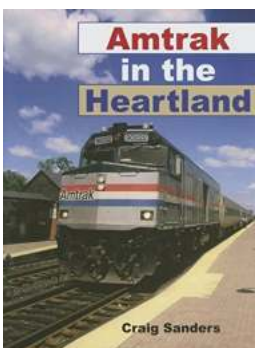
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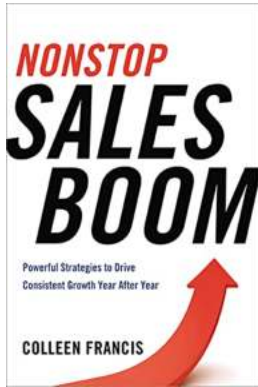
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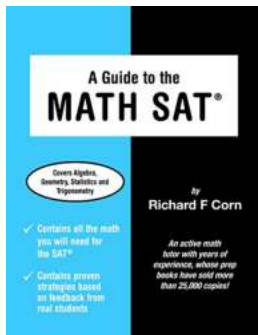
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