

ASTROLOGY

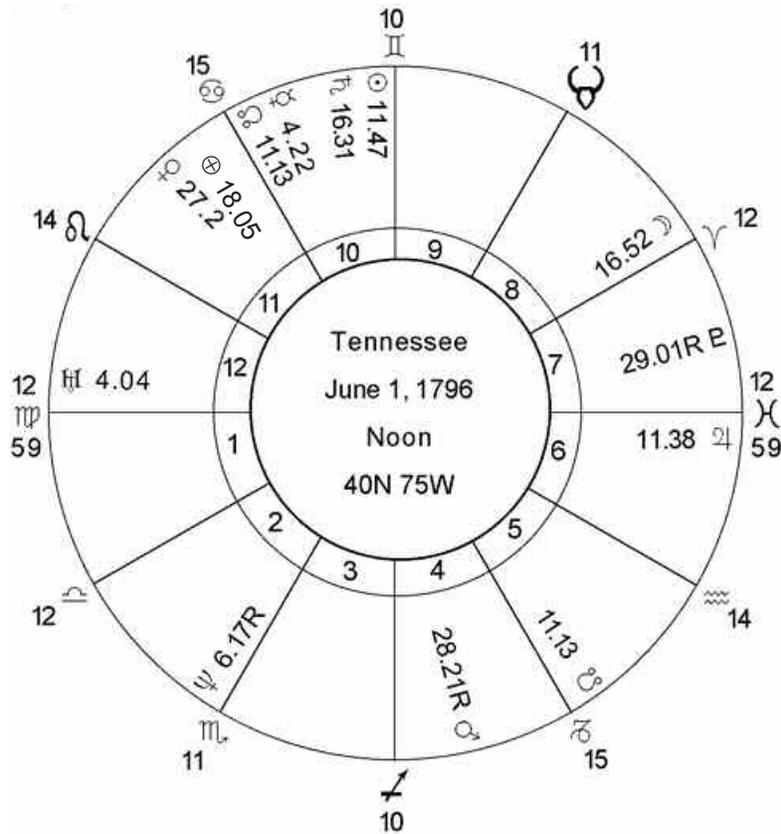
Where America Really Began: Tennessee Turns Two Hundred and Two

DID AMERICA BEGIN at Jamestown in 1607? At Plymouth Rock in 1620? Or Philadelphia in 1776? How about Tennessee 1772?

Yes, four years before the Declaration of Independence, in eastern Tennessee's beautiful hills, some sturdy settlers formed a *Witenagemot*, a legislative body, creating the very first body politic anywhere in the New World based on European culture and ideals, controlled by [immigrant] Europeans, yet having absolutely no ties whatsoever to the Old World. Wasn't that a pretty accurate foreshadowing of what America was to be all about?

That spirit of independence has greatly influenced Tennessee ever since. It joined the Union in 1796. Uranus is the planet closest to the Ascendant, sextile Mercury and Neptune and part of a T-square with the Sun and Jupiter.

Dominating the chart is Saturn. The Sun is closer to the M.C., but since it is in this area in all U.S. state charts, this is of minimal meaning. Saturn is strong in its own house, where it is ambitious, hard-working, and given to climb.¹ In Gemini it is well-placed, tending to put a break on the bent to scatter energy. The square to Jupiter, since the latter is in its own sign, does not bode ill. The ponderous planet is ruler of the Ascendant's decanate and co-ruler of the sixth house of work; its overall impact is augmented due to its location in a critical degree.



The sixth cusp is in a middle degree of a fixed sign. Intense Pluto is in that sector, in the sign's last degree which tends to extremes: undeniably, we have here a strong sixth sector. (Technically Jupiter is also in this house, but so close to the seventh house's cusp that its major influence falls therein.

What's the point in mentioning all the above? Tennessee is not a lazy state. Moreover, dogs that bark don't bite; those who really work are not given to be loquacious. Mountaineers are traditionally reserved; the part of Tennessee settled first was the mountainous East, and its influence has been strong.

Tennessee's natus abundantly reflects a virtuous

non-waste of words. (See Matthew 12:36.) Gemini, the sign holding the Sun and M.C., is indeed the logo of communication, but Saturn therein is restrictive. Mercury is the planet of communication, but here it is located in Cancer, the sign of the crab, a voiceless animal. It is sextile Uranus in cautious Virgo, in the 12th house of restrictions, trine Neptune, natural ruler thereof, which is in repressive Scorpio. And this sign on the cusp of the third house of communication, conjunct a critical degree. The third cusp's degree symbol: "An embassy ball."² Who attends such gatherings? Diplomats. Who weighs his words most carefully? A diplomat!

Self-reliant individualism, hard work, few words—but there's much more on Tennessee's plus side. Like its nickname, Volunteer State, acquired during the last century due to its outstanding response to government appeals during the Mexican War of 1846-48. The sobriquet is indeed well deserved. The Part of Fortune helps locate what's vital in a chart; here, it is closest Venus of affection in the 11th house of idealism, in the Cancer decanate of Pisces, sign of its exaltation.³ Not to be overlooked is the fact that Cancer is the maternal sign. Is there any earthly love stronger than that of a mother? And Venus' degree symbol: "A modern Pocahontas."⁴

Who was Pocahontas? This 17th century Indian princess was a volunteer of sorts: she risked her life to plead for that of John Smith. Let it also be noted that Venus is the apex of a Finger of God configuration along with Mars and Pluto: Venus' love, the motive behind volunteering, is greatly energized and intensified.

Mars and Pluto are both retrograde. Planets in this condition don't act according to norm, and it is not "according to norm" to give freely, gladly, by way of volunteering.

Jupiter stands out as the only cosmic body in its own sign, whose natives are described as capable of being "veritable angels of mercy."⁵ Jupiter here is extra potent, being in the 12th degree of a sign, which is endowed with optimal energy.⁶ Truly, "love is strong as death" (Song of Solomon 8:6).

Tennessee's Ascendant degree is described as "power."⁷ And at the chart's base, Mars is in a

degree of "persistent endeavor,"⁸ which also denotes strength. So does the fact that all the retrogrades are in the bottom half.⁹ Its idealism is especially strong: Neptune is sextile Uranus, in mutual reception with power-packed Pluto, in quintile-of-special-gifts with Mars.

Tennessee was commended above for the manner in which it earned the name Volunteer State. But more needs to be said about this. There is a higher type of volunteering than simply responding to appeals, and that is acting on one's initiative. Tennesseans did exactly that. More of its people moved into Texas before it became a state than from any other part of the country. When Texas eventually became a part of the Union the U.S. also obtained all its vast lands to the west of the Lone Star State. What would this country be today if it did not possess that region? Incidentally, those lands were all added to the U.S. during the administration of a citizen of Tennessee, James K. Polk.¹⁰

Two years after Tennessee's bicentennial, may the story behind the origin of the nickname "Volunteer State" inspire this nation and its people to volunteer for causes that are worthy.¹¹ □

—A Probationer

1 *American Astrology Digest* 1975, page 46.

2 *The Sabian Symbols*, Marc Edmund Jones, page 191.

3 The Part of Fortune in the 11th house can denote the "reformer of ...spiritual values" *The Lunation Cycle*, Dane Rudhyar, page 92.

4 Marc Edmund Jones, op. cit., page 266. *Pocahontas*, the widely publicized 1995 film by that name, is a fictionalized version of the girl's life. See *Life*, July 1995, on a page without number.

5 *The Message of the Stars*, Max Heindel, page 292.

6 *Man and His World*, Bruno and Louise Huber, page 23.

7 Marc Edmund Jones, op. cit., page 312.

8 *The Astrology of Personality*, Dane Rudhyar, page 369.

9 *The Essentials of Astrological Analysis*, Marc Edmund Jones, pages 269-273.

10 Tennessee has been good for the U.S. Its Sun strengthens the U.S. Uranus of freedom and its Saturn helps restrain the U.S. Mars. Tennessee's Mercury, North Node and Part of Fortune add their benevolent vibrations to the U.S. second house of material resources; its benefic Venus is closely conjunct Mercury, ruler of the U.S. Ascendant.

11 Yes, Tennessee did secede from the Union during the Civil War, but only after very earnest effort to stay neutral failed. It was the last state to leave the Union; thousands of its men fought with the North; most of Tennessee was occupied by the Union during most of the war; it was the first state to rejoin. While the war was still raging, it provided the U.S. Vice-President who at war's end became President, Andrew Johnson. For fascinating "mystical" comments on the significance of some of this, see *Astrology: the Space Age Science*, Joseph E. Goodavage, pages 186, 187.