



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
MINUTE BOOK AND STUDENT LEDGER,
1844-1861**

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INTRODUCTION

The minute book and student ledger on this microfilm were loaned to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Sandy Cohen of the Tennessee School for the Deaf. After filming, the books were returned to Ms. Cohen.

The minute book, dated 1844-1861, is titled *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Trustees of the Knoxville Deaf and Dumb Asylum*. The minute book includes a topical index in the back. Minutes of note include the act of incorporation minutes (located on page 1), the listing of the original board of trustees (located on page 1), and a description of the organization of the board of trustees (located on page 3).

The student ledger, dated 1845-1860, is a listing of students at the Tennessee School for the Deaf during the specified time span. Parents' names, parents' addresses, students' birthdates and causes of deafness are provided for most students.

The Tennessee School for the Deaf was established by an act of the Tennessee State Legislature, January 29, 1844. The first board met on July 27, 1844. The board researched similar schools across the nation to ascertain what they needed to do to organize the school. The first tuition fee was set at \$100 per 10 month school term; however, the board made every effort to ensure that individuals unable to pay the tuition could attend. The Tennessee School for the Deaf opened its doors to students on April 14, 1845. Rev. Thomas MacIntire was the first principal.

Source: The biographical information on the Tennessee School for the Deaf was gleaned from the following website:

http://www.knoxco tn.org/schools/tsd/schoolhistory_chapt1.htm#ESTABLISHMENT

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