

General/Governor William Carroll  
March 3, 1788 – March 22, 1844

Section 12 ID # 120016

William Carroll was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on March 3, 1788, oldest son of nine children of Thomas Carroll. He moved to Tennessee in 1810 at age 22, with a letter of introduction to Andrew Jackson written by Albert Gallatin. Shortly after his arrival in the town, he opened a successful hardware store and nail factory. He served in every campaign during the Creek War and played an important role, as Major-General, under Andrew Jackson, in the victory over the British at the Battle of New Orleans on June 8, 1815. In 1816 he purchased *General Jackson* that would be the first steamboat on the Cumberland River to reach Nashville on March 11, 1819. Two years later, after the second visit of *General Jackson* to Nashville, Carroll sold the steamboat for \$33,000. Carroll served 12 years as Governor of Tennessee, 1819-1825 and 1827-1835. During his governorship, the first State Penitentiary was opened in Nashville and approval was given to establish a state insane asylum.

Governor Carroll died, on March 22, 1844, age 56 years, at his home. Following his funeral at the Presbyterian Church, the local newspaper reported the procession to the City Cemetery included “a large number of carriages and a great multitude on horseback and on foot.” Unfortunately his old comrade-in-arms, Andrew Jackson, was not well enough to take part in the procession.

By Act of the State of Tennessee, adopted on February 2, 1845, the General Assembly resolved that Governor Aaron V. Brown be authorized and requested “to appoint some suitable person to erect and place over the grave... a suitable and appropriate monument, with an inscription appropriate to his memory.” Erected over Governor Carroll’s grave is an impressive monument with a listing of his military and political achievements.

William Carroll married Cecilia Bradford in Sumner County, Tennessee, on September 6, 1813. She was the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Payne Blakemore Bradford, who lived near Drake’s Creek on the Davidson-Sumner County line. Cecilia died, in 1848, four years after her husband, and was buried on a nearby family lot, where her granddaughter Elizabeth Jane Carroll had been buried in 1845. Over the years Cecilia Bradford Carroll’s tombstone was lost to time and weather. On April 12, 2015, Tennessee Society of Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a replacement tombstone in her memory.

#### Sources

*Tennessee Encyclopedia*. On-line

Buell, *Life of Andrew Jackson*, Volume 1, 1904

*Acts of the State of Tennessee Passed for the Years 1845-1846*. Page 361. TSLA

Obituaries. Governor Carroll. March 1844. City Cemetery website

Obituary. Cecilia Bradford Carroll. *The Whig*, Sept.19, 1848. City Cemetery website

City Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions for William Carroll and Cecilia Carroll

Fletch Coke 2017