

Thomas Crutcher
February 18, 1760 – March 8, 1844

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Thomas Crutcher was born on February 18, 1760 in Virginia, son of Thomas and Martha Foster Crutcher. Thomas was the fifth child of seven sons and two daughters. He arrived in Nashville in 1784, aged 24 years. He was involved in church and civic affairs throughout his life. Under five governors, from 1813 to 1836, he served as Treasurer of West Tennessee. In 1836, the position was created for a State Treasurer to be responsible for the entire State of Tennessee.

Nashville Female Academy was opened in 1816 and would provide quality education for girls until the school closed at the beginning of the Civil War. In 1825, the school numbered 194 students. By 1860 the school had grown to 513 students. Thomas Crutcher served for many years as a Trustee. *Nashville Whig*, on June 13, 1843, reported that the Nashville Female Academy was “one of the jewels of our city” and “the influence of Uncle Tommy Crutcher” was cited for the school’s success. He was always welcomed on his visits because the girls knew he carried candies and apples in his pockets. Thomas Crutcher never married.

Thomas Crutcher served one year as Mayor of Nashville in 1819. In June, the Masonic marching band greeted the presidential party of James Monroe, the first president to visit Nashville. President Monroe was escorted by Andrew Jackson to a reception at the residence of Mayor Crutcher. Many years later, in 1842, Crutcher, aged 82 years old, was on the committee to greet former president Van Buren and accompany him to the Hermitage.

His death, at 84, occurred on March 8, 1844, at the Nashville Inn, his home in his later years. He had been a resident of Nashville for 60 years since the early settlement days. His funeral took place at McKendree Methodist Church, officiated by Rev. A.L.P. Green. *Nashville Whig*, on March 12, 1844, reported that the burial at City Cemetery was attended “by the largest concourse of citizens we have seen in this city on a similar occasion.” Two hundred young ladies from the Nashville Female Academy attended who were either students or graduates.

Sources

Tennessee Blue Book. Appointment as Treasurer. On-line
Nashville Female Academy. On-line
Nashville Whig, June 13, 1843. Nashville Female Academy On-line
Old Days in Nashville, by Miss Jane Thomas, pub. 1897, Pages 75-76
Obituary *Nashville Whig*, March 12, 1844 City Cemetery website
City Cemetery Tombstone Inscription for Thomas Crutcher.

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