

State of Tennessee  
David H. Lillard, Jr., State Treasurer

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### **The State Pays Tribute to the History of Tennessee State Treasurers and the Treasury Department**

Serving as Tennessee's state treasurer is a challenging job.

For example, consider the plight of Hill McAlister, who had the dubious honor of serving in the office during the Great Depression.

Then there was James B. Walker Sr., who fell ill not long after becoming treasurer in the 1950s and turned to his son, James B. Walker Jr., for help.

Their stories and others have been chronicled as part of a new project undertaken by staff at the Tennessee Treasury Department. The goal of the project is to honor the legacy and contributions of State Treasurers and Treasury Department employees to the state of Tennessee. The project provides biographical information about current Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr. and all of the people who preceded him in the office - available in one place for the first time ever.

A reception to pay tribute to preceding Tennessee State Treasurers, living and deceased, will be held at 3 p.m. today in the State Capitol's Old Supreme Court Chamber. Treasurer Lillard along with Gov. Bill Haslam, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, House Speaker Beth Harwell and members of the Tennessee General Assembly will be honoring the four living former treasurers: Thomas A. Wiseman, Harlan Mathews, Steve Adams and Dale Sims. Additional honored guests will include the descendants of other past treasurers and state historians.

The biographical information about the past and current treasurers can be viewed online at: <http://treasury.tn.gov/TreasHist/history.html>

"I believe it is very important for the Treasury Department to retain this information for future generations of Tennesseans," Treasurer Lillard said. "Financial management is an integral component of government and the success of the Treasury Department can be directly linked to the professionals who have served our department, both past and present. I want to thank all of the historians and archivists who helped my staff members, Heather Sczeczanski and Karen Faehr, research information that is provided on the web site. I also want to thank the families of previous treasurers for contributing to this effort as well."

At the reception, portraits of past treasurers will be on display. Those portraits will become part of a permanent exhibit in the 11th floor conference room at the Andrew

Jackson State Office Building in downtown Nashville, where the Treasury Department's offices are located.

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