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## RIGHT TO VOTE IN TENNESSEE

**Constitutions  
and Court,  
1870-Present**

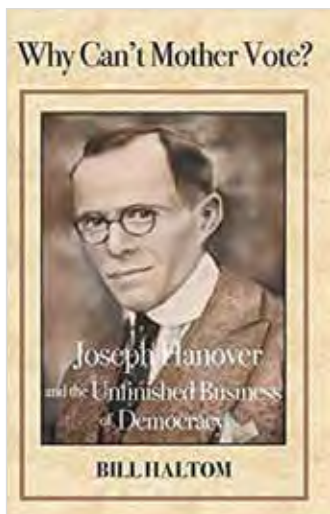
**ALSO:**

**The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment!**

**Michael Flynn & Motions to Dismiss in Tennessee**

**Fiction for Your Summer Reading**





**Why Can't Mother Vote?  
Joseph Hanover and the  
Unfinished Business  
of Democracy  
by Bill Haltom**

Hanover Square Press  
\$17.89 | 140 pages | 2019

# The Unfinished Business of Democracy

## How an Immigrant Helped Give Women the Right to Vote

### Fresh off the press

is a new work from veteran writer and former TBJ Editorial Board chair and TBA President, Bill Haltom. In his book, *Why Can't Mother Vote: Joseph Hanover and the Unfinished Business of Democracy*, Haltom tells the tale of a little-known, unsung Tennessee and American hero named Joseph Hanover — a gentleman who can be fairly and fully credited as the person whose energy and effort actually enabled the passing of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

In 1885, at the young age of six, young Joseph — a Polish immigrant — was tucked into a gunnysack and carried on the back of a stranger to a boat, with his family trailing behind, on which they would travel across a lake near Pultusk, Poland, in their first steps to freedom from the Russian pogroms affecting the Jewish population of Poland.

Through a series of job opportunities that Joseph's father took, the family found itself in Memphis where a cousin had lived for years, and thus began life in America for this family that had been through so much. And it turns out that Memphis was open and ready to receive families like the Hanovers. Just recovering and rebuilding itself after many troubles, including a tremendous loss of population through the Yellow Fever epidemic and the termination of its charter, Memphis was reclaiming itself, and hard-working families helped in that process.

In the telling of this important story from Joseph's childhood to adult activist, Haltom agilely takes the reader through

the important, history-changing steps taken by the Hanover family and young Joseph, all of which led to Joseph becoming a lawyer and ultimately a State Representative in the Tennessee House of Representatives where the battle over the right of women to vote was brewing mightily.

Known as the "War of the Roses," this battle was a vicious one — both professionally and personally. To say feelings were "strong" on the topic is a mighty understatement. Women and men alike had hard and often harsh feelings about the topic, and they wore those feelings literally on their shoulders. Those in support of the amendment (whether male or female) wore yellow roses, while those opposed to the amendment's passing wore red roses. Jeering, name-calling and retributions were common problems for those who supported the amendment.

But motivated by his absolute devotion to the founding documents of the United States (our Constitution and our Declaration of Independence) and his incredible respect for the perspective of our founding fathers in the drafting of those documents, coupled with the his devotion to and respect for his own mother, Joseph pressed forward in the battle and gave him the courage to seek justice for all. This battle, once won, toppled the national tally of state votes on the subject, and thus it led to the passing of the 19th Amendment.

I highly encourage you to take a moment to read Mr. Haltom's work on this important Tennessee lawyer and statesman. It's well worth your time. III

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