January 8, 1795 – August 27, 1857

John Patton Erwin was born on January 8, 1795 in Wilkes County, North Carolina, the son of Andrew and Jane Patton Erwin. They would later settle in Bedford County, Tennessee. John Patton Erwin was a graduate of the University of North Carolina. On June 15, 1815, he married Frances "Fannie" Lanier Williams (1796-1872), daughter of Colonel Joseph and Rebekah Lanier Williams of Panther Creek, North Carolina.

Erwin was twice Mayor of Nashville (1821 and 1834), lawyer, postmaster, editor of the *Nashville Whig,* Principal Clerk of the Tennessee House of Representatives, secretary of the Texas Association, justice of the peace and cashier of the Bank of Yeatman, Woods & Company.

His enmity towards Andrew Jackson came from several sources. John Patton Erwin's brother James was married to Ann Clay, daughter of Henry Clay. Andrew Jackson believed Clay had stolen the presidential election of 1824 from him. His cousin Jane Erwin was married to Charles Dickinson who was killed in a duel with Andrew Jackson in 1806.

Fannie Williams Erwin's two brothers, Colonel John Williams, the Hero of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and U.S. Senator, and Lewis Williams, long-time Congressman from North Carolina, were political enemies of Jackson.

The Erwins owned *Buena Vista*, now the site of the St. Cecilia Motherhouse in Nashville. Fannie Erwin was buried at Mt. Olivet. John Patton Erwin and his brother-in-law Thomas Lanier Williams are buried in the Erwin lot at city Cemetery. Thomas was the namesake of TLWIII, better known as Tennessee Williams, the playwright.

Carter G. Baker. 2017