

Historical Resources on Microfilm:
Decatur County, Tennessee

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West Tennessee Heritage Study Center
Univ. of Tennessee at Martin

Decatur County

In mid October 1818, Andrew Jackson and Isaac Shelby successfully strong-armed Chickasaw Indians into ceding lands of the tribe's cultural region lying east of the Mississippi River. Land south of the Ohio River and north of the Kentucky-Tennessee border became the Jackson Purchase; land south of that line within Tennessee became the Western District. The legislature passed an act to organize the region into new counties on November 7, 1821 (*Acts of Tennessee* 1821, p.39). Seventeen counties were created during the next few years to organize this section politically, three of which straddled the Tennessee River.

Decatur County was created by dividing Perry County along the line of the Tennessee River in November, 1845, and adding a sliver along the western boundary from Henderson County, this to take effect 1846 Mar 1. The name was given to honor Stephen Decatur, a naval hero of the War of 1812. Decaturville was chosen by popular vote as a county seat. A boundary adjustment after 1850 and before 1860 brought a small section into Decatur from Hardin County to the south. Finally, in the boundary adjustments during the 1890s that expanded Benton County to the north, Decatur also gave up to Benton a small section along the Tennessee River.

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Book and film holdings of the West Tennessee Heritage Study Center may be searched via the Internet by pointing a browser to <<http://wthsc.utm.edu>> and following the link to the Paul Meek Library catalogue.

MICROFILM

WTHSC
Film reel

Contents

Federal census¹

	1830 census— (see population schedules for Perry County)
	1840 census—
497	1850 census, free schedule
523	1850 census, slave schedule
537	1860 census, free schedule
571	1860 census, slave schedule
588	1870 census
645	1880 census
684	1890 census, Union veterans and widows schedules
694–695	1900 census
739	1910 census
781	1920 census
828	1930 census

Maps

404	Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps (Decaturville)
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¹ County boundaries changed dramatically between nineteenth census enumerations. Researchers can follow changes graphically in William Thorndale and William Dollarhide's *Map Guide to the U. S. Federal Censuses, 1790–1920* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1987).