

Historical Resources on Microfilm:
Gibson County, Tennessee

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The most current version of this list is accessible as a printable .pdf file
through the WTHSC website at:
<http://wthsc.utm.edu>

West Tennessee Heritage Study Center
Univ. of Tennessee at Martin

Gibson County

Settlers were effectively held out of the region that is now west Tennessee until 1819, when the first government surveys began laying out land to be claimed under land grants issued by North Carolina. These grants complicated land registration and sales for a generation. Thomas Fite and brother-in-law John Spencer left Warren County to settle in the west the same year, building a log home about eight miles west of Trenton. About the same time, David Crockett moved his family from Lawrence County to a place north of Rutherford. When Carroll, Henderson, and Madison counties were created in 1821 the population was insufficient to organize a county further north or west. Gibson County was created by a legislative act 1823 Oct 21, and named for John H. Gibson, one of Andrew Jackson's cavalry commanders at the battle of Natchez. The county organization was effectively begun with the establishment of the county court in January, 1824.

In 1837 the county line between Gibson and Weakley counties was adjusted to include the southwestern corner of Weakley County, all land below the South Fork of the Obion in Gibson County. This simplified travel to a county seat by eliminating the need for river crossings but thereby robbed Weakley County of its most famous citizen, David Crockett, who had been killed in Texas the year before. In 1871 the newly created Crockett County acquired Gibson County territory south of the Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River for essentially the same reasons.

County population at the 2000 census stood at 48,152.

Basic county history is available in Frederick M. Culp and Mrs. Robert E. Ross, *Gibson County: Past and Present* (Trenton, Tenn.: Gibson County Historical Society, 1961).

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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
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Federal census¹

462	1830 census
473	1840 census
499	1850 census, free schedule
524	1850 census, slave schedule
540	1860 census, free schedule
572	1860 census, slave schedule
592	1870 census
647–648	1880 census
684	1890 census, Union veterans and widows schedules
698-699	1900 census
744–745	1910 census
783–784	1920 census
830–831	1930 census

Newspapers

Those seeking to find things in early local newspapers face several challenges. First, almost all newspapers were issued weekly, not daily, so the likelihood is not good that a report of an event was printed near the time it happened. Second, until the twentieth century there were no reporters, so an event appeared only if the editor was notified, and then only if there was space to print a notice *and* if the editor chose to do so. Finally, though newspapers began being published with *Western Union* in Trenton as early as the 1836, only a few scattered issues of nineteenth century newspapers have survived.

Newspaper titles are listed below in chronological order. If a sequential run is available, then the range of dates is given by noting the first and last issues using a hyphen rather than listing each individually. In the accompanying lists, the newspaper masthead (title) is given first, followed by the volume and issue number separated by a colon, as “1:24,” and then the date.

436	<i>Herald-Democrat (Trenton, Tenn.)</i> , 1937 Jan–Jun
436–447	<i>Herald-Register (Trenton, Tenn.)</i> , 1941–1967

Maps

405	Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (Humboldt)
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¹ County boundaries changed dramatically between nineteenth century 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).

- 410 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (Milan)
- 411 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (Trenton)

Manuscripts

Church Records

- 203 Eldad Baptist Church (Gibson County, Tenn.) records, 1828–1989
- 235 Concord Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Gibson County, Tenn.) records,
1854–1971

Other Manuscripts

- 246–248 U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Choctaw Agency. Emigration letters, 1826–
1859
- 358–359 Fields Funeral Home (Milan, Tenn.) records, 1910–1981
- 360–361 Wallace Jones genealogical collection

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