

Historical Resources on Microfilm:
Haywood County, Tennessee

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West Tennessee Heritage Study Center
Univ. of Tennessee at Martin

Haywood County

In mid October 1818, Andrew Jackson and Kentucky governor 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 first known settler to establish themselves in the present Haywood County area was Richard Nixon of North Carolina, who came in 1821 to claim 3,600 acres on his father's Revolutionary grant and settled approximately four miles east of present-day Brownsville. The legislature passed an act to organize the Western District region into new counties late that same year, 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.

The region was administered by Madison County until Haywood County was created from the Western District lands by an act of the legislature dating 1823 Nov 3; the same act named the new county for judge John Haywood. The county seat, Brownsville, was established on fifty acres deeded to the county by Thomas M. Johnson on 1824 Dec 14. With the formation of Lauderdale County in 1835 Haywood lost a strip of territory around its northwest corner. The only other major boundary adjustment came with the creation of Crockett County in mid July 1870, which took effect in 1870. With the exception of District 12, Crockett absorbed Haywood territory north of the original bed of the South Fork of the Forked Deer River. That watercourse was straightened mechanically and the new channel was cut well into Haywood County, but the county line did not shift.

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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
<u>Federal census</u> ¹	
462	1830 census
474	1840 census
504	1850 census, free schedule
525	1850 census, slave schedule
544	1860 census, free schedule
573	1860 census, slave schedule
600	1870 census
654–655	1880 census
684	1890 census, Union veterans and widows schedules
705	1900 census
748	1910 census
790	1920 census
838	1930 census
 <u>Maps</u>	
403	Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps (Brownsville)

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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).