

Historical Resources on Microfilm:
Crockett County, Tennessee

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<http://wthsc.utm.edu>

West Tennessee Heritage Study Center
Univ. of Tennessee at Martin

Crockett County

The earliest recorded settlement in the area that became Crockett County, Tennessee dates to about 1823. An act establishing Crockett County passed the Tennessee legislature 1845 Dec 20, which gathered in parts of Haywood (districts, other than 12, north of the South Fork of the Forked Deer River), Madison (the northwest corner of the county), Gibson (districts south of the Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River), and Dyer (southwest corner) counties and named the new entity in honor of David Crockett. The following year, however, a Madison County judge ruled that the creation of Crockett County was unconstitutional, further political organization was tabled, and the impounded sections of other counties that were to make up Crockett remained part of the parent counties.

In 1870 the legislature passed a second organic act for Crockett County with the same title and boundaries as the 1845 bill. This was enacted on July 7. Due to considerable opposition in the counties affected, nearly two years elapsed before legal challenges were resolved and a county commission could be seated. An election held 1872 Mar 9 finally seated the first district officers. The county seat, Alamo, was named for the location of Col. Crockett's dramatic demise.

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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—	
	1840 census—	
	1850 census, free schedule—	<i>see specific enumeration districts in</i>
	1850 census, slave schedule—	<i>population schedules for Dyer, Gibson,</i>
	1860 census, free schedule—	<i>Haywood, and Madison counties</i>
	1860 census, slave schedule—	
	1870 census—	
642	1880 census	
684	1890 census, Union veterans and widows schedules	
691	1900 census	
739	1910 census	
780	1920 census	
821	1930 census	

Maps

403	Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps (Alamo)
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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 in Bells as early as the 1870s, only a few scattered issues and incomplete files 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.

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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).