

Historical Resources on Microfilm:
Hardin County, Tennessee

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The most current version of this list is accessible as a printable .pdf file
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West Tennessee Heritage Study Center
Univ. of Tennessee at Martin

Hardin County

At the 1810 census the Hardin County area was an undefined region assigned administratively to Humphreys County. The earliest foray into the area was made in 1815 by Joseph Hardin, for whom the county was later named, who returned home to Roane County after surveying and claiming a large tract in his name for his children. The following year two companies of related families came from Roane and settled along Hardin's Creek (just south of White's Ferry, later Cerro Gordo) on the east side of the Tennessee River.

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. Hardin County was one of these three.

Hardin was created to run from its eastern boundary to the Mississippi River, but eleven days later Shelby County was organized, leaving Hardin's western and northern boundary effectively indefinite. That issue was settled with the creation of McNairy County in 1823 Oct. Between 1820 and 1830 the northern boundary with Perry County (later Decatur) was adjusted to follow an eastward bend of the Tennessee River. Between 1830 and 1840 the county acquired a narrow strip of "Indian land" along the Mississippi border. It lost a sliver to Wayne, and Decatur claimed a small section between 1850 and 1860 along the west bank of the Tennessee.

The 1832 courthouse in Savannah burned during the Civil War. The county records were preserved and the courthouse reconstructed. This structure burned 1949 Dec 4.

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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	
456	1820 census
642	1830 census
474	1840 census
503	1850 census, free schedule
525	1850 census, slave schedule
544	1860 census, free schedule
572	1860 census, slave schedule
598	1870 census
653	1880 census
684	1890 census, Union veterans and widows schedules
704	1900 census
749	1910 census
788	1920 census
833	1930 census

Maps

410	Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps (Savannah)
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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).