

Historical Resources on Microfilm:
Lake 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

Lake County

Lake County lies is the extreme northwest corner of Tennessee, on the Kentucky border between Reelfoot Lake and the Mississippi River. 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. This new U.S. land claim was bisected by the Kentucky-Tennessee border at 36° 30' north latitude. The territory falling within Tennessee became the Western District. The legislature passed an act to organize the region into counties on November 7, 1821 (*Acts of Tennessee* 1821, p.39).

Obion County was one of the original counties established in the Western District on 1823 Oct 24. The first settlers in what is now Lake County located and claimed property there before 1825. The territory west of Reelfoot Lake was divided from Obion and organized separately as Lake County on 1870 Jun 9. All legal records prior to that date are filed in Obion County offices. A slim strip of territory along the Dyer County line was added to Lake County between 1880 and 1890. Boundaries have not changed since then.

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While this information sheet describes only microfilm holdings, Corbitt Special Collections holds a number of original volumes of Lake County public and business records. These are described in the library catalogue and on the departmental Web site. Point a browser to the university Web page at <<http://www.utm.edu>> and click the library link. Choose either the catalogue link, or on the library navigation bar at the left follow the "departments" link to "Special Collections," then the blue button for "Manuscripts." To find records you may either read through a list of manuscripts numerically or try the search feature.

MICROFILM

WTHSC
Film Reel

Item

Federal Census¹

465	1830 census (Obion County)
481	1840 census (Obion County)
512	1850 census, free schedule (Obion County)
527	1850 census, slave schedule (Obion County)
557	1860 census, free schedule (Obion County)
574	1860 census, slave schedule (Obion County)
606	1870 census (Obion County)
659	1880 census
684	1890 census, Union veterans and widows schedules
711	1900 census
752	1910 census
795	1920 census
843	1930 census

Manuscripts

246–248	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Choctaw Agency. Emigration letters, 1826–1859
344–351	Curry Funeral Home records, 1913–1986
363	Henley newsletters, 1968–1982

Maps

411	Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (Tiptonville)
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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 in the paper 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.

Newspaper titles and issues are listed below in the order they appear on the film. 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,

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).

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.

- 106 *Lake County News*, 5:52 1908 Dec 21
 5:25 [*sic*] 1909 Jun 24
 11:50 1915 Jan 8
 [new series] 1:1 1924 Feb 22 – 3:52 1927 Feb 18
 Tiptonville News, 4:45 1928 Jun 1 – 5:18 1928 Nov 30
105 *Tiptonville Times*, 1:1 1929 Oct 25 – 7:17 1936 Feb 7

Photographs

422–430 Sabin photograph collection

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