

Historical Sources on Microfilm:
McNairy County, Tennessee

Revised: 2003 Oct

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

McNairy County

McNairy County was created by dividing Hardin County 1823 Oct 8 and naming the new district in honor of John McNairy, one of the three judges appointed by George Washington for the Southwest Territory. Locating a county seat was handicapped by local politics, and a courthouse at Selmer was not established until 1890.

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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	
465	1830 census
481	1840 census
509	1850 census, free schedule
526	1850 census, slave schedule
552	1860 census, free schedule
573	1860 census, slave schedule
613	1870 census
661	1880 census
684	1890 census, Union veterans and widows schedules
713–714	1900 census
756	1910 census
797	1920 census
846	1930 census

Maps

410	Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps (Selmer)
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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 Selmer as early as 1860, only a few scattered issues have survived; with one exception there are no complete files extant.

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.

WTHSC Film reel	Contents
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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).

- 50 *Purdy Weekly Gazette*, 1:1 1873 May 24 – 1:4 1873 Jun 14
 McNairy County Review (Falcon, Tenn.), 2:49 1886 Jun 19 only
 Weekly Post (Selmer, Tenn.), 4:19 1904 Mar 4 only
 Selmer Sentinel, 1:20 1908 Jan 16
 1:31 1908 Apr 2
 McNairy County Appeal (Selmer, Tenn.), 7:30 1936 May 13 only
 Whig Banner (Purdy, Tenn.), 1:37 1860 Feb 4 only
- 51–60 *McNairy County Independent*, 1902–1951

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