Geographic Area



Davidson County was named for William Lee Davidson, a North Carolina general who was killed opposing General Cornwallis and the British Army's crossing of the Catawba River on February 1, 1781. The county is located in the north-central area of the state. (FamilySearch Wiki)

Davidson County is the oldest county in Middle Tennessee. It dates to 1783, when the North Carolina legislature created the county and named it in honor of William L. Davidson, a North Carolina officer who died in the Revolutionary War on January 1, 1782. The county seat, Nashville, is also the oldest permanent white settlement in Middle Tennessee, founded by

James Robertson and John Donelson during the winter of 1779-80. The initial white settlers established the Cumberland Compact in order to establish a basic rule of law and to protect their land titles. Through much of the early 1780s the settlers also faced a hostile response from Native American tribes. As the county's many known archaeological sites attest, the resources of Davidson County had attracted Native Americans for centuries. In fact, the first whites to encounter the area were fur traders, then long hunters, who came to a large salt lick, known as French Lick, in present-day Nashville to trade with Native Americans and to hunt the abundant game.

Nashville has always been the region's center of commerce, industry, transportation, and culture, but it did not become the capital of Tennessee until 1827 and did not gain permanent capital status until 1843. Its story is best told through its individual entry and the hundreds of other entries in this volume that cover significant people, events, and institutions associated with Nashville as the capital city of Tennessee.

But Davidson County is more than the history of Nashville. It is a large, sprawling landscape that has contained several other significant and distinctive towns and villages in its history, although that diversity has been often forgotten since the formation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County in 1963. Railroads and turnpikes crossed the county in the midnineteenth century and these new transportation routes led to the establishment of several villages including White's Creek, Joelton, Nolensville, Madison, Antioch, Goodlettsville, and Bellevue. The majestic Union Station in downtown Nashville still conveys the economic power of the railroads in turn-of-the-century Nashville.

Historic sites in the more rural areas of the county convey a sense of what past life was like outside the glare of the big city lights. The Hermitage of Andrew and Rachel Jackson represents the large planter landscape once common in the antebellum era. The Ellington Agricultural Center in south Davidson County developed from the Brentwood Hall estate of Rogers Caldwell and contains an excellent museum of rural and agricultural history. Newsom's Mill near Bellevue is another reminder of the agrarian economy once dominant in the county. Radnor Lake State Natural Area and the Warner Parks conserve forests and rolling hills in the west side of the county. The Natchez Trace Parkway ends in Davidson County.

War has shaped Davidson County in direct and indirect ways. Federal troops occupied the city early in the Civil War. Fort Negley, a significant post in the history of African Americans and the Civil War, was one of many marks left behind by the occupation army. Throughout the county are

many markers and monuments that document the activities of both armies during the battle of Nashville in December 1864. World War I brought the massive industrial development of the DuPont ammunition factory and company town at Old Hickory, creating a bustling city where nothing had been before.

The New Deal era also brought lasting change to the county, due to the combined political power of Congressman Joe Byrns and Nashville mayor Hillary Howse. A series of modern schools were constructed in the country and the city. The county even gained a modernistic office landmark in the Davidson County Public Building and Courthouse (1936–38). Architects Emmons H. Woolwine of Nashville and Frederic C. Hirons of New York designed this preeminent example of the Public Works Administration-influenced Modern style in Middle Tennessee; the courthouse combined the offices of city and county government, thus the unusual name. The Works Progress Administration built Marrowbone Lake and improved local parks and recreational facilities.

World War II brought additional industrial expansion, such as the Vultee aircraft factory, now the Aerostructures Corporation, along the Briley Parkway. The modern industries of Du Pont, along with Old Hickory, and Vultee transformed areas of the county that were once rural and thinly populated into much larger suburban additions to the city. After World War II that process of change continued with the construction of such facilities as the Ford Glass Plant, Genesco, Dell Corporation, and the Metro Airport. The county's 2000 population was 569,891.

All three Tennessee presidents lived in Davidson County; both Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk died and were buried there. Davidson County also is home to many of the state's most famous educational and cultural institutions including Belmont, Fisk, Lipscomb, Tennessee State, Trevecca, and Vanderbilt Universities; the Grand Ole Opry; the Tennessee State Museum; the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum; and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. (Tennessee Encyclopedia)

Record Loss - Davidson County (Family Search)

1856 Courthouse burned and many records were damaged. Lost censuses 1790, 1800, and 1810.

FamilySearch Davidson County Catalog

TnGenWeb Project - <u>Davidson County</u>

Contact - Jane Colmenares

<u>Davidson County Tennessee Facebook Page</u>

Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1881
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to <u>TSLA</u>
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1789

	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	TSLA
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1881
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TSLA	1908-1912
		1914-1933
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1784
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	TNGenWeb	Index to Deeds
List of Microfilmed [County] County Records	TSLA-PDF	
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1783
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

Nashville Public Library
Genealogy
Special Collections
Metro Archives

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Nashville Chapter Historical Commission of Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County Jewish Genealogical Society of Nashville Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society

Andrew Jackson's Papers (The Hermitage)

Metro Archives – Third floor Nashville Public Library

Tennessee State Library & Archives

Tennessee State Museum

Belmont University Library Archives & Special Collections
Fisk University Library - Special Collections & Archives
Lipscomb University Library Archives & Special Collections
Tennessee State University Library Special Collections & Archives
Trevecca Nazarene University Library Archives
Vanderbilt University Library - Special Collections and Archives

Current Area Information

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Davidson County Government

Resources

General

Tennessee County Database (TNGS) - Davidson County

Davidson County Wiki (Family Search)

Linkpendium - Davidson County

Tennessee State Library & Archives - Davidson County Facts Sheet

TNGenWeb - Davidson County

USGenWeb Archives - Davidson County Tennessee

Nashville History

Tennessee State Archives & Library

<u>Check Online Catalog for Davidson Newspaper Details & Dates Held.</u> We do not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers. – 312 Titles

Newspapers.com (20 titles)

Newspapers in Davidson County, Tennessee

Genealogybank.com (30 titles, including 1 German Language)
Newspapers in Davidson County, Tennessee

Tennessee Electronic Library (Nashville Tennessean)
Newspapers in Davidson County, Tennessee

Chronicling America

Nashville daily patriot Nashville, Tenn., 1855-1857

The Nashville daily union Nashville, Tenn., 1862-1866

The Nashville globe Nashville, Tenn., 1906-193?

Nashville patriot Nashville, Tenn., 1858-1860

Nashville union and American Nashville, Tenn., 1853-1862

Nashville union and American Nashville, Tenn., 1868-1875

Nashville union and dispatch Nashville, Tenn., 1866-1868

Nashville union [Nashville, Tenn.], 1851-1853

The Nashville weekly union Nashville, Tenn., 1862-1866

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African-American History of Nashville, Tennessee, 1780-1930: Elites and Dilemmas (Lovett, 1999) [name index]

Andrew Jackson Slept Here: A Guide to Historical Markers in Nashville and Davidson County (Metropolitan Historical Commission of Nashville and Davidson County, 1993) [name index]*

Articles from Nashville, Tennessee Newspapers, 1800 to 1850 (Armistead, 2009) [name index]

Articles from Nashville, Tennessee Newspapers, 1851 to 1865 (Armistead, 2009) *[name index]*

Articles from Nashville, Tennessee Newspapers, 1866 to 1870 (Armistead, 2009) [name index]*

Articles from Nashville, Tennessee Newspapers, 1871 to 1875 (Armistead, 2012) [name index]*

Black Community of Nashville and Davidson County, 1860-1870 (Ridley, 1982)

Centennial History of Westminster Presbyterian Church: Originally Named Moore Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1873–1973: With a Postscript Through 1978 (Harwell, 1979) [name index]

Davidson County (Burns, 1989) /name index/*

Davidson County, Tennessee (Nashville. Industrial Bureau, 1911?)*

God, Guns, Guitars & Whiskey: An Illustrated Guide to Historic Nashville, Tennessee (Zimmerman, 2012)

Historic Blue Grass Line: A Review of the History of Davidson and Sumner Counties (Nashville-Gallatin Interurban Railway, 1913)

Historic Cane Ridge and its Families (Johnson, 1973) [name index]*

Historic Places in Davidson, Williamson, Maury and Giles Counties (Tennessee Historical Commission, 1921?)

Historic Travelers' Rest, Nashville, Tennessee (Davis, 1976)

History of Davidson County (Woods, 1946?)

History of Davidson, County, Tennessee, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers (Clayton, 1971) [index in separate volume]*

History of McKendree Church (Tipps, 1984)

History of the Dickinson Road (Bell, 1936?)

Marks, Landmarks and Markers: A Guide to the Civil War in Nashville and Davidson County (Beasley, 196?)

Nashville: A Pictorial History (Adams & Christian, 1980) [name index]

Nashville in the New South, 1880-1930 (Doyle, 1985) [name index]

Nashville Since the 1920s (Doyle, 1985) [name index]

Nashville Streets & Their Stories (Wills, 2012)

Nashville, Then and Now 1780-1930 (Weidner, 1930)

Nashville, the Occupied City: The First Seventeen Months, February 16, 1862 to June 30, 1863 (Durham, 1985) [name index]

North Nashville and Germantown: Yesterday and Today (Connelly, 1982) [name index]

Northwest Davidson County: The Land, Its People: Historical Sketches of Bordeaux, Jordonia, Scottsboro, Bell's Bend, Joelton, White's Creek, Union Hill (Graves, 1975) [name index in separate volume]*

Pioneers of Davidson County, Tennessee (Whitley, 1999) [surname index]*

South Nashville (Wagner, 2018)

Wicked Nashville (Goetsch, 2017)

With Good Will and Affection—for Antioch: Reminiscences of Antioch, Tennessee (Marshall, 2002) [name index]

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1770-1790 Census of the Cumberland Settlements: Davidson, Sumner, and Tennessee Counties (in What is Now Tennessee) (Fulcher, 1987) [alphabetical for each county]

1780-1790 Census of the Cumberland Settlements: An Enumeration of the Inhabitants of Record in Davidson County (Fulcher, 1979) [alphabetical]*

1812 Davidson County, Tennessee Tax List (Douthat, 19??) [name index]

1850 Census of the City of Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee (Porch, 1969) [surname index]

1860 Davidson County, Tennessee, Census [4 vols.] (Dobson-Sides, 2000) [surname index in vol. 4]*

1880 Census, Davidson County, Tennessee (Sistler, 2000) [alphabetical by head of household]*

Cemetery Records of Davidson and Wilson Counties (Carver, 1957)

Corrected Index, Deed Books T & W, Davidson County (Smith, 1994?) [name index]*

Davidson Co., Tennessee Land Entries 1824-1836; Land Surveys 1824-1852 (Pruitt, 2007) [name index]

Davidson Co., TN Marriages, 1838-1863 (Sistler, 1985) [alphabetical]*

Davidson County Index to Military Discharges, 1917-1946 (19??)

Davidson County Pioneers, Revolutionary and War of 1812 Soldiers (Whitley, 1965) [surname index]

Davidson County, Superior Court of Law and Equity, Mero District, pleas [vol. 1 & 2 1803-1809; vol. 3 1807-1809] (WPA, 1938) *[name index in vols. 2 & 3]*

*Davidson County, Tennessee, 1850 Census (Porch, 1969) [surname index]

Davidson County, Tennessee County Court Minutes, 1783-1792 (Wells, 1990) [name index]*

Davidson County, Tennessee County Court Minutes, 1792-1799 (Wells, 1991) [surname index]*

Davidson County, Tennessee, County Court Minutes, 1799-1803 (Wells, 1991) [surname index]*

Davidson County, Tennessee Death Records & Tombstone Inscriptions [2 vols.] (Fulcher, 1979-) [name index in each volume]*

Davidson County, Tennessee Deed Book H, 1809-1821 (Smith, 2000) [name index]*

Davidson County, Tennessee Deed Book "P": Personal Property Deeds, 15 November 1821-13 February 1829 (Smith, 1997) [name index]*

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Davidson County, Tennessee, Naturalization Records, 1803-1906 (Smith, 1997) [name index]*

Davidson County, Tennessee, Register Book A, 1784-1789 [2 vols.] (WPA, 1940) [name index in vol. 1]

Davidson County, Tennessee, Re-survey of Nashville, 1820 (WPA, 1939) [name index]

Davidson County, Tennessee Wills & Inventories [vol. 1 1783-1816; vol. 2 1816-1830] (Marsh, 1990-) [surname index in each volume]*

Davidson County, TN Wills and Administrations to 1861 (Sistler, 1989) [alphabetical]*

Davidson County Women in the World War, 1914-1919 (Gilmore, 1923)*

Death Notices from *The Clarion*, 1800-1821 (Armistead, 2005) *[name index]*

Death Notices From the *Christian Advocate*, Nashville, Tennessee [1874-1876; 1877-1879; 1880-1882; 1883-1884 (in 2 pts)] (Smith, 1999-) [surname index in each volume]

Death Notices in the CME Christian Index 1885-1905 (Smith, 1999) [surname index]

Directory of Historical Markers--Nashville-Davidson County (Beasley, 1977) [name index]*

Genealogical Abstracts from Reported Deaths, the Nashville Christian Advocate [1847-1849; 1857-1860; 1861, 1872-1873; 1869-1871; 1885-1886] (Smith, 2000-) [surname index in each volume]

Gone Under: Historic Cemeteries and Burial Grounds of Nashville, Tennessee (Zimmerman, 2012) [name index]

Index, Northwest Davidson County: The Land, Its People (Smith, 19??) [name index & subject index]

Index [to] Clayton's History of Davidson County, Tennessee, 1780-1880 (Whitfield & Williams, 1973) [name index]

- J. Percy Priest Reservoir, Cumberland River Basin, Stones River, Tennessee: Cemetery Relocation Plan (U.S. Army Engineer District, Nashville, 1965)
- J. Percy Priest Reservoir Project: Cemetery Relocation, Davidson, Wilson and Rutherford Counties, Tennessee (U.S. Army Engineer District, Nashville, 1966)

Land Deed Genealogy of Davidson County, Tennessee [vol. 1 1783-1792; vol. 2 1793-1797; vol. 3 1797-1803] (Marsh, 1992) [surname index in each volume]*

Marriage Record Book I: January 2, 1789-December 13,1837 (Lucas, 1979) [name index]

Marriage Record Book I, January 2, 1789 - December 13, 1837, Davidson County, Tennessee (Daughters of the American Revolution, 1952) [name index]

Marriages of Davidson County, Tennessee, 1789-1847 (Whitley, 1981) [name index]

Mill Creek Church Meeting Minutes, April 1797-April 1811, Davidson County, Tennessee (1994?) [name index]

Minutes of the County Court of Davidson County [vol. 2, Book B, 1791-1797] [2 pts.] (WPA, 1941) [name index in pt. 1]

Minutes of the Superior Court Mero District [vol. 1 1803-1805; vol 2 1805-1807 (in 2 pts0; vol. 3 1807-1809] (WPA, 1941) [name index in vol. 1 and vol. 3; in pt. 1 of vol. 2]

Nashville Hardgrave Cemetery (Doggett, 1995)

Nashville North, TN Polk City Directory [1998-2019]

Nashville South, TN Polk City Directory [1998, 2000-2019]

Obituaries ... of People Who are Buried in the City Cemetery [vol. 1 1822-1846; vol. 2 1846 & 1870-1875] (Armistead, 200?) [name index in each volume]

Old City Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee, Tombstone Inscriptions (Garrett & McClain, 1971) [alphabetical]

Polk's Nashville Suburban Directory (1957-1997/98)

Selected Cemeteries in Davidson County, Tennessee (Glencliff High School, 1980) [name index]

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Tennessee, Records of Davidson County, Wills & Inventories [vol. 2, pt. 1 1794-1805 / pt. 2. 1794-1805; vol. 3 1805-1811; vols. 4-6, pt. 1. 1805-1816 / pt. 2. 1805-1816; vol. 8, pt. 1. 1821-1826; vol. 10, pt. 1. 1832-1836 / pt. 2. 1832-1836] (WPA, 1937) [name index in vol. 2 (pt. 1), vol. 3, vol.4-6 (pt. 1), vol. 8 and vol. 10 (pt. 1)]

Tombstone Inscriptions of Davidson County, Tennessee [4 vols.] (Fulcher, 1986-) [name index in each volume]

Local Records on Microfilm

deed index from 1784 chancery court minutes from 1846 county court minutes from 1783 circuit court minutes from 1803 tax books from 1805

Deed Index -- 1784-1871 (A-K) Reverse (Roll A, 1 reel) * Deed Index -- 1784-1871 (L-Z) Reverse (Roll B, 1 reel) *

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Deed Index -- 1784-1871 (A-K) Direct (Roll H, 1 reel) *
Deed Index -- 1784-1871 (L-Z) Direct (Roll I, 1 reel) *
Marriages -- 1789-1837 (#469, 1 reel) *
Marriages -- 1837-1863 (#470, 1 reel) *
Will Books -- 1784-1816 (#427, 1 reel) *
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Will Books -- 1821-1832 (#429, 1 reel) *
Will Books -- 1832-1840 (#430.1 reel) *
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Will Books -- 1846-1853 (#432, 1 reel) *
Will Books -- 1853-1859 (#433, 1 reel) *
Will Books -- 1859-1865 (#434, 1 reel) *
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1798 Federal District Tax List for Davidson County, Tennessee (13th Assessment District) (Microfilm Manuscript #1640, 1 reel) *

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Antebellum Southern Plantations. UPA. (Microfilm Manuscript #1370, 20 reels) *

Belle Meade United Methodist Church Records. Nashville, 1951-1980 (Microfilm Manuscript #655, 1 reel) *

Belmont United Methodist Church Records. Nashville, 1910-1981 (Microfilm Manuscript #709, 3 reels) *

Calvary United Methodist Church Records. Davidson County, 1942-1980 (Microfilm Manuscript #649, 2 reels) *

Centenary United Methodist Church Records. Davidson County, 1818-1983 (Microfilm Manuscript #757, 1 reel) *

Chandler - Jackson Family Papers, 1787-1868 *

Christ Episcopal Church Records. Nashville, 1829-1958 (Microfilm Manuscript #47, 2 reels) *

*City Road Methodist Church Records. Davidson County, 1885-1940 (Microfilm Manuscript #1041, 1 reel)

Coffee-Perkins Family Papers, 1783-1828

^{*}Available on Interlibrary Loan

Community Chest and United Givers Fund, Nashville Tennessee, Scrapbooks, 1922–1959 *

Dake Family Papers, 1828-1974 (Microfilm Manuscript #1185, 2 reels) *

Davidson County, Tennessee Land Records, 1786-1950

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Dr. Walter Henry Storer Photograph Collection, c. 1930s-1955

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Goodloe Family Papers, 1674-ca. 1895 (Microfilm Manuscript #605, 1 reel) *

Gray Family Papers, 1799-1912 (Microfilm Manuscript #880, 4 reels) *

Grace Baptist Church Records. Davidson County, 1910-1956 (Microfilm Manuscript #648, 3 reels) *

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Harding-Jackson Papers, 1819-1911

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Ida Hamilton Thompson Dickinson Genealogical Collection, ca. 1660-1945 (Microfilm Manuscript #1155, 1 reel) *

James Douglas Anderson Papers, 1854-1951 (Microfilm Manuscript #610, 6 reels) *

John McCormick Lea Account Books, 1847–1853 (Microfilm Manuscript #453, 1 reel) *

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Klein, Harry, Papers, 1943-1949 (Microfilm Manuscript #1666, 4 reels) *

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Margaret Travis Gray Genealogical Materials: Travis Ancestors of Emmett Alexander Travis, 1790-(1860-1988)-1996 (Microfilm Manuscript #1778)*

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(Microfilm Manuscript #1257, 2 reels) *

(Microfilm Manuscript #487, 1 reel) *

Mount Olivet Cemetery Records. Nashville, 1912-1989 (Microfilm Manuscript #1184, 4 reels) *

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Real Estate Books, 1866-1870 (Microfilm Manuscript #144, 1 reel) *

Records of Cumberland District, Davidson and Washington Counties, 1779-1806 (Microfilm Manuscript #224, 1 reel) *

Smith Springs Baptist Church Records. Nashville, Davidson County, 1874-1984 (Microfilm Manuscript #845, 2 reels) *

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Spring Hill Cemetery Records. Davidson County, 1785-1985 (Microfilm Manuscript #895, 18 reels) *

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Tucker-Vaughan Papers, 1840-1912 (Microfilm Manuscript #1431, 1 reel) *

William Wells Berry Papers, 1838-1896

Maps

TDOT Map of Davidson County

Davidson & Sumner Districts - 1817

<u>Davidson County - 1880 Civil Districts</u>

Davidson County - 1871

Davidson County - 1880

<u>Davidson County - 1888</u>

Nashville Public Library - Maps & Atlases (75)

Tennessee Virtual Archive - Maps of Davidson County (227)

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps – Davidson County 1897 (107)

<u>Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps – Davidson County</u> 1914 (52)

Old Maps Online - Davidson County
Cadastral Map of Davidson County - about 1920

Cemeteries

<u>Davidson County Cemeteries - Find-a Grave</u> <u>Davidson County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails</u> <u>Davidson County Cemeteries - TNGenWeb (Cemeteries)</u>

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1803	Creith Many Coa			
Davidson County, Tennessee, deed book "P": personal	Smith, Mary Sue	Υ		Υ
property deeds, 15 November 1821-13 February 1829	Cmith Many			
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