

# Jackson County Locality Guide (15 May 2023)

## Geographic Area and County History



Jackson County was named for Andrew Jackson, who by 1801 had already served as a U.S. Congressman and Senator from Tennessee, a Tennessee Supreme Court justice, and a colonel in the Tennessee militia. He became more widely known as commander at the Battle of New Orleans and as the seventh President of the United States. The county is located in the central area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

Located in the picturesque foothills of the Cumberland Mountains, Jackson County is known as the “Switzerland of the Cumberlands.” Although the western part of Jackson County lies within the Nashville Basin, most of the eastern part of the county is situated within the Highland Rim physiographic province at the foot of the Higher Cumberland Plateau to the east and is part of the Interior Low Plateau. There is much rolling land between sharply incised stream valleys.

Jackson County, named in honor of Andrew Jackson, was created by the Tennessee legislature in November 1801. It is the second oldest of the twenty-three counties named for Jackson in the United States; only Jackson County in Georgia is older. Temporary county seats were used until about the year 1806, when Williamsburg, named for Sampson Williams, an early pioneer in the area, was named as the county seat.

In 1817 Gainesboro was designated as the permanent county seat and was incorporated in 1820. The land was donated by David Cox. Gainesborough, as it was then spelled, is one of the oldest towns in the state and was named for General Edmund Pendleton Gaines, who fought with Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. The Gainesboro Historic District, which includes the town square and the 1927 Jackson County Courthouse, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The same mountains that give Jackson County its beauty also made travel difficult in the days before paved roads and steel bridges. Both the Cumberland and Roaring Rivers cross the county. Timber and farming have been primary occupations in the county since its establishment, and riverboats of bygone days passed through the county daily, carrying passengers, merchandise, agricultural produce, and lumber products. With the flooding of the Cumberland River in 1963 by the Cordell Hull Dam, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the opening of a deepwater port in 1981 near Gainesboro, the river once again became very important to Jackson County.

Sportsmen can enjoy the abundant wildlife—from deer and quail to bass and catfish—in Jackson County year-round. The American bald eagle and the whooping crane can still be seen, and Canadian geese winter in Jackson County. The Granville Marina on the Cordell

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Hull Lake offers every pleasure in outdoor recreation—from boating to camping. Two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas are at Roaring River and Salt Lick Creek.

Jackson County also offers one of the most important historic sites in the upper Cumberland in Fort Blount and the nearby old town site of Williamsburg. Governor William Blount ordered this frontier fort to be built in 1794 to protect the increasing number of settlers moving over the trail on their way west. William Gillespie operated a tavern and ferry there. The site is located near the Cumberland River about sixteen miles downstream from Gainesboro. The Fort Blount-Williamsburg site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Future projects of the Jackson County Historical Society include the restoration of Fort Blount and the creation of an interest in, and appreciation of, the Old Avery Trace, the first road to enter Jackson County. A bicentennial project traces its roots to a visit to Fort Blount by noted French botanist and explorer Andre Michaux on March 1, 1796.

Since the state legislature passed a law in 1992 designating the yellowwood as Tennessee's official bicentennial tree, Jackson County residents have placed yellowwood trees across the state, including one on the grounds of the State Capitol in Nashville.

Much of the material for a comprehensive history of Gainesboro and Jackson County was destroyed when the courthouse burned on the night of August 14, 1872. All county records were lost in the blaze except those of the chancery court. The chancery court records survived because Robert A. Cox, clerk and master, maintained his office in a private building away from the courthouse. The loss of the records of the circuit court clerk, the county court clerk, the register of deeds, and the tax assessor generated great confusion for many years.

Agriculture is the oldest enterprise in Jackson County. In 1940, for instance, of the 194,000 acres listed in the county, over 172,000 acres were devoted to farming. Tobacco, livestock, and corn continue to be important farm products. The land area of Jackson County comprises 327 square miles and the population of Gainesboro, in the 2000 census, was 879. The population of Jackson County was 10,984. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

### [Jackson County Chamber of Commerce](#)

### [Record Loss – Jackson County \(Family Search\)](#)

1872 and 1926 Fires damaged courthouse records.

Lost census: 1810

Lost marriage records: 1801 to 1871

Lost deed records 1801 to 1871

Lost tax records 1801 to 1871

Lost probate records: 1801 to 1871 (Chancery Court Docket & Minute Bks are extant)

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[FamilySearch Jackson County Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project - [Jackson County](#)    Contacts - [Jane Hembree Crowley](#)  
[Charles Reeves, Jr.](#)

## Record Location Table

| Record Type                                | Location                                       | Record Notes   |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
| Birth                                      | County Clerk Office                            | County Registrations began 1881                                |
|  | <a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a> | Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a> |
|  |  |  |
| Marriages                                  | County Clerk Office                            | County Registrations began 1870                                |
|  | <a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a> | Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>  |
|  | TnGenWeb (Jackson)                             | <a href="#">Index to Marriages</a>                             |
|  |  |  |
| Divorce                                    | Chancery Court Clerk                           |  |
|  | <a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a> | <a href="#">TSLA</a>   |
|  | TnGenWeb (Jackson)                             | <a href="#">Index to Divorce Cases</a>                         |
|  |  |  |
| Deaths                                     | County Clerk Office                            | County Registrations began 1881                                |
|  | <a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a> | Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>  |
|  | TSLA   | <a href="#">1908-1912</a>                                      |
|  |  | <a href="#">1914-1933</a>                                      |
|  |  |  |
| Land Deeds                                 | County Register                                | County Register of Deeds                                       |
|  |  | County Registrations began 1817                                |
|  | TNGenWeb (Jackson)                             | <a href="#">Land Records</a>                                   |
|  |  |  |
| List of Microfilmed Jackson County Records | TSLA-PDF                                       | <a href="#">Download PDF</a>                                   |
|  |  |  |
| Probate Records                            | Chancery Court                                 | County Registrations began 1870                                |
|  | TNGenWeb (Jackson)                             | <a href="#">Wills &amp; Probate</a>                            |
|  |  |  |

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|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <a href="#">Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters</a> | <a href="#">Ancestry.com (\$)</a>                      | <a href="#">Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters</a> |
|  |  |  |
| <a href="#">World War I Veterans</a>                 | <a href="#">Tennessee State Archives &amp; Library</a> | <a href="#">Research Collection</a>                  |
|  |  |  |

### County Repositories

[Charles Ralph Holland Memorial Library](#)

[Granville Museum \(Surname Files\)](#)

[Jackson County Historical Society Museum](#)

[Jackson County Tennessee Genealogical \(FB\)](#)

[Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association](#)

[Cumberland Pioneer Settlers](#)

[Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society](#)

### Current Area Information

[Jackson County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Jackson County Government](#)

### Resources

#### General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) - Jackson County](#)

[Jackson County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)

[Linkpendium - Jackson County](#)

[Tennessee State Library & Archives - Jackson County Facts Sheet](#)

[TNGenWeb - Jackson County](#)

[USGenWeb Archives - Jackson County Tennessee](#)

[Tennessee Law, The Early Days](#)

#### Tennessee Virtual Archive

[Jackson County on TnVA](#)

[Ledger book of Dr. W. B. Holmes \(80 pgs\)](#)

# Jackson County Locality Guide (15 May 2023)

## Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

[Check Online Catalog for Jackson Newspaper Details & Dates Held](#). We do not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers.

[Jackson County Newspapers](#) (TnGenWeb)

Newspaper.com

[Jackson County Sentinel](#) (1916-1922)

Genealogybank.com

[Jackson County Sentinel](#) (1916-1922)

## Selected Published County Histories - Tennessee State Archives & Library

History of Gainesboro [bound in book *Jackson County Tennessee Miscellaneous Records 1810-1909*] (WPA, 1938)

Jackson County, Tennessee (Tayse, 1989)

Pictorial History of Jackson County, Tennessee (Jackson County Historical Society, 2001) [*surname index*]

Those Were the Days: Bob Dudney's Recollections of Yesterday in Free State and Tennessee's Upper Cumberland (Montell & Comley, 1996)

## Selected Manuscripts Material - Tennessee State Archives & Library

Brown Family Genealogical Materials (Microfilm Manuscript #1918, 1 reel)\*

Isaac Newton Buck Papers, 1836-1850 (Microfilm Manuscript #3, 1 reel)\*

## Published Local Records - Tennessee State Archives & Library

15th Census of the United States, Jackson County, Tennessee 1930 (Gann, 2002) [*name index*]\*

1820 U.S. Census, Jackson County, Tennessee (Butler, 2000) [*name index*]\*

1836 Jackson County, Tennessee Civil Districts and Tax List (Douthat, 2002) [*name index*]\*

1880 Census, Jackson County, Tennessee (Sistler, 1990) [*alphabetical by head of household*]

1891 Enumeration of Voters for Jackson County, TN (Denning, 2015) [*surname index*]

## Jackson County Locality Guide (15 May 2023)

- Building Neighborhoods: Jackson County, Tennessee, Prior to 1820 [land grants] (Bryant, 1992) *[surname index]*
- Bullets, Fire, Moonshine and the Bible: Life in Jackson County, TN [vol. 1 1873-1902; vol. 2 1903-1907] (Shrum, 2004) *[name index]\**
- Cumberland Co., Tennessee, Fentress Co., Tennessee, Jackson Co., Tennessee, Loudon Co., Tennessee, Morgan Co., Tennessee, Overton Co. [1891 enumeration of male voters] (Reed, 1990) *[name index for each county]*
- Cumberland Presbyterian Church Minute Book, 1811-1935 (WPA, 1938) *[name index]*
- Historical Information Concerning the Fort Blount-Williamsburg site, Jackson County, Tennessee (Smith & Rogers, 1989)
- Jackson County Family History Book: 200 Years of Memories (Jackson County Historical Society, 1996) *[name index]\**
- Jackson County Records [tombstone, bible, history of Gainesboro] (Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association, 1977) *[name index for each section]*
- Jackson County, Tennessee, 1850 United States Census (Lee, 1974?) *[surname index]\**
- Jackson County, Tennessee, 1860 Federal Census, USA (McComb, 1992) *[surname index]\**
- Jackson County, Tennessee, 1870 Census (Carson, 1998) *[name index]\**
- Jackson County Tennessee Cemetery Inscriptions, 1801-2003 (Mabry & Bilbrey, 2004) *[name index]*
- Jackson County, Tennessee Chancery Court Minutes, 1840-1861 (Bryant, 1993) *[name index]\**
- Jackson County, Tennessee Court Transcripts: Earliest Extant Cases for Abney through Allen (Elder, 1999) *[name index]\**
- Jackson County, Tennessee Court Transcripts: Earliest Extant Cases for Cannon through Carter (Elder, 2000) *[name index]\**
- Jackson County, Tennessee Court Transcripts: Earliest Extant Cases for Rouseau through Settle (Elder, 2000) *[name index]\**
- Jackson County, Tennessee, Death Records, 1914-1925 (Freeman, 2002) *[name index]*
- Jackson County, Tennessee Death Records, 1926-1935 (Freeman, 2003?) *[name index]*
- Jackson County, Tennessee, Death Records, 1936-1945 (Freeman, 2005?) *[name index]*
- Jackson County, Tennessee Marriages and Death Records (Shrum & Scott, 1998) *[marriages alphabetical by groom with bride index; death alphabetical with parent name index]*
- Jackson County Tennessee Miscellaneous Records 1810-1909 [church deeds, probate records, *History of Gainesboro*] (WPA, 1938) *[alphabetical index for each section]*
- Jackson County Tennessee Ranger Book, 1817-1860 (WPA, 1936) *[name index]*

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Jackson County Tennessee, Register of Church of Christ, Bagdad, Tenn. 1844-1936 (WPA, 1936) *[name index]*

Jackson County, Tennessee WPA records [historical sketches, church records, graves & tombstones] (Douthat, 1991?) *[name index]*

Jackson County Wills, Gainesboro, Tennessee (WPA, 193?) *[name index]*

Private Acts of Jackson County, Tennessee (McIntyre, 1994)

Service Record Book of Men and Women of Gainesboro, Tennessee and Community (19??)

Some Jackson County, Tennessee, Death Records, 1882-1912 (Parsley & Gilbert, 1998) *[name index]*

United States Thirteenth Census of Jackson County, Tennessee, 1910 (Bilbrey, 1999) *[name index]*\*

### Maps

[TDOT Map of Jackson County](#)

[Jackson County - 1888](#)

[Map of Jackson County, Tennessee showing civil districts \(1836\)](#)

[Jackson County, Tennessee soil map \(1913\)](#)

[Map of Jackson County](#)

[TnGenWeb Project = Maps Our Ancestors Followed](#)

### Cemeteries

[Jackson County Cemeteries - Find-a Grave](#)

[Jackson County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)

[Jackson County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails](#)

[Jackson County Cemeteries - TNGenWeb \(Cemetery\)](#)

### Bibliography

[The Land Laws of Tennessee \(Whitney, 1891\) Google Books](#)

| Library Titles  | Author / Date           | TSLA | GRH&GC | MPL |
|---|-------------------------|------|--------|-----|
| 1820 Jackson County, Tennessee census.  | Douthat, James L., 1992 |      | Y      |     |
| 1836 Jackson County, Tennessee civil districts and tax list.                          | Douthat, James L., 2002 |      | Y      |     |
| A brief history of Cummins Falls.   | Farley, Anita C., 1993  | Y    |        |     |
| Abner Chaffin of Jackson County, Tennessee, and sons, Bailaam, Elias, Joseph, William | Albert, Carl Bert, 1923 |      |        | Y   |
| Antiquities of Jackson County, TN.  | Haile, Joshua, 1874     | Y    |        |     |

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|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Biographical directory, TN General Assembly, 1796-1969 (Jackson County, Preliminary #34).                    | TSLA, 1973.                                 | Y |   |   |
| Building neighborhoods Jackson County, Tennessee: prior to 1820.   | Bryant, Betty Huff, 1992                    |   | Y |   |
| Building neighborhoods, Jackson County, Tennessee, prior to 1820   | Bryant, Betty Huff.                         |   |   | Y |
| Early history of Jackson County, TN.   | Draper, R.C., 1929                          | Y |   |   |
| Founding of the Cumberland settlements: the first atlas, 1779-1804.  | Drake, Douglas, 2009                        |   | Y |   |
| Genealogy of Sylvanus Fowler of Newbergh, New York, Jackson and Clay County, Tennessee and Related Families. | Elise Donaldson Waters, 1981                |   | Y |   |
| Granville Museum.  | 2002  |   | Y |   |
| Historical information concerning the Fort Blount-Williamsburg site, Jackson County, TN.                     | Smith, Samuel & Stephen T. Rogers, 1989.    | Y |   |   |
| History of Gainesboro, Jackson County, TN. Copied from a daybook of Mr. Garland Draper's by Iva J. Butler.   | Draper, Garland, 1970                       | Y |   |   |
| History of Jackson County & Gainesboro.  | 1930  | Y |   |   |
| History of Jackson County: sketches from yesterday, towns, communities, people.                              | Young, Kim, 1994                            | Y |   |   |
| Homecoming '86: return of Cyrus Graham Clark.  | Cassetty, Mary K., 1994                     | Y |   |   |
| Jackson County Tennessee cemetery inscriptions : 1801-2003 including some genealogy                          | Mabry, Larry Earl. Bilbrey, Reda C. Knight. |   |   | Y |
| Jackson County, Tennessee chancery court minutes, 1840-1861.   | Bryant, Betty Huff, 1993                    |   | Y |   |
| Jackson County, Tennessee ranger book, 1817-1860.  | Works Progress Administration, 2013         |   | Y |   |
| Jackson County, Tennessee WPA records.   | Douthat, James L., 1991                     |   |   | Y |
| Jackson County, Tennessee, Chancery Court minutes, 1840-1861   |   |   |   | Y |
| Jackson County, Tennessee, death records [microform] Death records 1881-1883, has other notes.               |   |   |   | Y |
| Jackson County, Tennessee, deeds [microform] Deed index 1872 - 1915.   |   |   |   | Y |
| Jackson County, Tennessee, marriage records [microform] Marriages 1872-1886                                  |   |   |   | Y |
| Jackson County, Tennessee, wills. [microform] Wills 1872-1881; Wills 1891-1900.                              |   |   |   | Y |
| Jackson County, Tennessee: WPA records.  | 1991  |   | Y |   |



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|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson County, TN.  | Tayse, Moldon J, 1989                           | Y |   |   |
| Jackson County, TN: history from many sources.   | Jones, Christine, 1983-1984.                    | Y |   |   |
| Jackson County: Gainesboro, Tennessee.   | Tayse, Moldon Jenkins.                          |   | Y |   |
| Land grant genealogy: North Carolina warrants, surveys & surveyor plats, 1779-1804.      | Masters, Jack, 2011                             |   | Y |   |
| Migration of young adults from a low-income rural county.                                | Leuthold, Frank O. , 1967.                      | Y |   |   |
| Tennessee census reports, No. 10, Jackson County, 1820, compiled by Martha Lou Houston.  | Houston, Martha Lou, 1935                       |   |   | Y |
| Tennessee genealogical records and abstracts.  | Eddlemon, Sherida K., 1998                      |   | Y |   |
| Tennessee genealogical records: records of early settlers from state and county archives | Whitley, Edythe Johns Rucker, 1980              |   | Y |   |
| The Dycus disturbance, Jackson, County, TN.  | Mitchum, Robert M., Vanderbilt U. thesis, 1951  | Y |   |   |
| Upper Cumberland researcher.   | Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association. 1976 |   | Y |   |