

Loudon County Locality Guide (22 October 2022)

Geographic Area



Loudon County was named for nearby colonial-era Fort Loudoun. The county is located in the east-central area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

Loudon County has a reported a population of 39,086. Established on June 2, 1870, Loudon County was created from portions of Roane, Monroe, and Blount Counties. On September 5, the county court was organized, and the Loudon (formerly Blair's Ferry) town square was donated as the site for the courthouse. The county court selected the building plan submitted by A. C. Bruce, and brothers J. Wesley and Ira Napoleon Clark built it for \$14,200. By September 1872 the courthouse was ready for occupancy and has served since as the seat of government.

Comprising 229 square miles, Loudon County lies on both sides of the Tennessee River and extends north to the Clinch River. The territory south of the river contains the fertile valleys of Sweetwater, Pond, Fork, and Town Creeks. To the north are the broad bottoms of the Tennessee River. The Little Tennessee River also passes through the county. The first occupants were Native Americans. The part of the county lying south of the rivers formerly belonged to the Hiwassee District and was not settled by white men until 1819–20, but settlements were made on the north banks of the Tennessee and the Little Tennessee before 1800.

In 1790 white families settled on the north bank of the Tennessee River near the present location of the Loudon bridge. The William Tunnell family was the first to settle on the south side of the river. As other settlers, including the Carmichaels and Blairs, came, a ferry was established, and the settlement was called Blair's Ferry. In 1850 a formal plan for the town was established, and the name was changed to Loudon in 1858. The East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad was built to Blair's Ferry in 1852, and by 1855 a railroad bridge spanned the river northward, and the flourishing river trade declined.

Lenoir City traces its origins from the extensive land holdings of General William B. Lenoir, a prominent and wealthy North Carolinian who served at the battle of Kings Mountain. For his service Lenoir received 5,000 acres of land, which he deeded to his eldest son, Major William B. Lenoir, who moved his family to the area in 1810. By 1821 Major Lenoir had developed a prosperous and well-managed plantation widely known for cattle and hog production, as well as several small industries, including a cotton mill and a flour mill. When Major Lenoir died in 1852, four of his sons formed William Lenoir and Sons and controlled about 2,700 acres of the estate. Eventually, the land was sold to the Lenoir City Company, which developed the town. Lenoir City was incorporated in 1907.

In October 1813 an act of the state legislature established the town of Morgantown, located at the mouth of Baker's Creek, on land owned by Hugh and Charles Kelso. Originally called Portville, the town changed its name to honor Gideon Morgan Sr., a Revolutionary War soldier. The town did not survive the economic decline it suffered in the late 1800s, when the Louisville and Nashville

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Railroad was built through the area and ended the thriving river trade. When Tellico Dam was built in the 1970s, the waters of Tellico Lake inundated the town site.

In the fall of 1821 William Knox and Jacob Pearson established the town of Philadelphia six miles southwest of Blair's Ferry. The town's largest and most successful industry was the Philadelphia Hosiery Mill, established by Edward Waller in 1921. For more than forty years, the corporation expanded and grew, but in the early 1960s, the mill was sold and reopened as Bar Knit Hosiery, which closed in the early 1970s.

During the 1800s, the town of Greenback was established as the result of railroad construction. It occupied land once owned by Robert Thompson and J. B. Hall. Greenback is primarily an agricultural community, but one with strong civic pride.

Loudon County did not escape the destruction and devastation of the Civil War. No major battles were fought in Loudon County, but there were massive troop movements through the area. As the only East Tennessee railroad bridge across the Tennessee River, the bridge at Loudon provided a strategic link between Knoxville and Chattanooga. The bridge remained under constant surveillance during the war and was partially burned twice by retreating Confederate forces.

Following the battle of Chickamauga on September 19-20, 1863, General James Longstreet moved north to capture Knoxville, and Union General Ambrose Burnside sent ten thousand men to the Loudon area. During October and November, cavalry skirmishes took place around Philadelphia and Loudon, as the armies moved north. After the battle of Knoxville, Confederate troops burned the Loudon railroad bridge and sank three locomotives and forty-eight cars to deny General William T. Sherman access to the bridge. Loudon County and East Tennessee remained under Union control for the rest of the war.

Industrialization developed slowly after the Civil War. The Lenoir family rebuilt the depot and general store burned by Union troops and built a new burr and roller flour mill to replace the one that burned in 1860. The Lenoir City Company, founded in 1890, attracted new industries, including the Bass Foundry and Machine Shop, which eventually built railroad cars for the Southern Railroad Company under the name Lenoir Car Works. The Holston Manufacturing Company briefly operated a hosiery mill. The Tennessee Valley Authority completed Fort Loudon Dam in 1943 and added Tellico Dam in the 1970s. The creation of Tellico Lake and Tellico Village, a residential community, contributed significantly to the local economy.

Loudon's progress was slower and tied to agriculture. In 1906 Charles H. Bacon established Loudon's first significant industry, a hosiery mill. Shortly thereafter, the Lutz Mantel Company and Don P. Smith Chair Factory also were established; only the chair factory remains. In recent years, several new industries have located in Loudon: Viskase Corporation, Maremont, the Staley Corporation, Yale Security, and Kimberly Clark. From 1990 to 2000, the county's population grew by over 25 percent, reaching 39,086. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

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Record Loss – Loudon County

April 23, 2019 – Courthouse Fire – Significant if not total record loss (possibly 80-90%)

Thanks for the updated information from Nancy Loy.

Refer to the TSLA Consolidated Listing of Microfilmed Records of [Loudon County](#) as a substitute.

[FamilySearch Loudon County Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project – [Loudon County](#) Contact – [Cyndy Cox](#)

[Loudon County American History & Genealogy Project](#)

[Greenback Historical Society](#)

Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1908
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to TSLA
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1870
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TNGenWeb	1870-1882
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	TSLA
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1908
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TSLA	1908-1912
		1914-1933
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1908
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
List of Microfilmed [County] County Records	TSLA-PDF (Substitute for burned records)	Microfilmed Loudon Co. Records

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Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1870
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$) Ancestry.com	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

County Repositories

[Loudon County Public Library](#)
[Historical Loudon County](#)
[Historical Society, Loudon County, TN](#)
[Lenoir City Museum](#)

Current Area Information

[Loudon County Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Loudon County Government](#)

Resources

General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) – Loudon County](#)
[Loudon County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)
[Linkpendium – Loudon County](#)
[Tennessee State Library & Archives – Loudon County Facts Sheet](#)
[TNGenWeb – Loudon County](#)
[USGenWeb Archives - Loudon County Tennessee](#)
[East Tennessee Historical Society](#)

Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

[Check Online Catalog for Loudon Newspaper Details & Dates Held.](#) We do not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers. (18 Titles)

Newspaper.com (Publications)

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Loudon County Record
Loudon Free Press
Loudon Independent
Loudon Journal
Genealogybank.com – No Titles

Loudon Prion
Loudon Times
Republican Farmer

Selected Published County Histories

Tennessee State Archives & Library

A Place Called Greenback: An East Tennessee Town at the Turn of the Century, 1870-1917 (Best, 1993)

Beloved Landmarks of Loudon County, Tennessee (Daughters of the American Revolution, 1962)

Loudon County, We Call it Home (198?)

Past times: Obituaries, Marriages and Other Selected Articles from the Maryville Times, Maryville, Tennessee, 1884-1890 (Teffeteller, 2008) [name index]

Remembering our Heritage: Townspeople do the "Impossible": Scrap Book (Forkner, 1986)

Selected Manuscripts Material

Tennessee State Archives & Library

Anderson County Records, 1800-1974 (Microfilm Manuscript #506, 1 reel)*

Cedar Fork Baptist Church Records. Philadelphia, 1844-1968 (Microfilm Manuscript #263, 1 reel)*

Cherokee Ledger Book, 1836. / Civil War Diary, 1861-1862. / Notebook of Letters, 1869-1888 (Microfilm Manuscript #1211, 1 reel)*

Cooke family papers, 1807-1953

Hiwassee Association of Primitive Baptists Minutes. Anderson, Campbell, Cumberland, Loudon, Morgan, Roane, Scott, and Sevier Counties, 1894-1986 (Microfilm Manuscript #929, 1 reel)*

Mamie Frances (Moser) Dyche Scrapbooks, 1870-1966 (Microfilm Manuscript #246, 2 reels)*

Maps

[TDOT Map of Loudon County](#)

[Loudon County - 1888](#)

Cemeteries

[Loudon County Cemeteries – Find-a Grave](#)

[Loudon County Cemeteries – USGenWeb](#)

[Loudon County Cemeteries – Genealogy Trails](#)

[Loudon County Cemeteries – TNGenWeb \(Cemetery\)](#)

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Bibliography

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

Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
A place called Greenback: an east TN town at the turn of the century, 1870-1917.	Best, Edwin J. 1990	y		
Abstract of headstones and markings Steeke (!) Cemetery (also known as Blairs Cemetery) Loudon, Tennessee.	DAR Hiwassee Chpt (Loudon County TN)			Y
Beloved landmarks of Loudon County, Tennessee. [Loudon, TN?]: Hiwassee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, ©1962.	DAR. Hiwassee Chapter (Loudon County, TN).1962		Y	
Biographical directory, TN General Assembly, 1796-1969 (Loudon County, Preliminary #24).	TSLA 1971	y		
Blount County Planning Comm. Comprehensive plan, Blount, Loudon, Monroe counties, TN.	1970	y		
Blount County, Tennessee cemetery records: including Blount sector of Lowden [i.e., Loudon] and Monroe counties, Tennessee	Edith B. Little.	y		Y
Cumberland Co., Tennessee, Fentress Co., Tennessee, Jackson Co., Tennessee, Loudon Co., Tennessee, Morgan Co., Tennessee, Overton Co. [1891 enumeration of male voters]	(Reed, 1990)	y		
Forkner, Samuel F. Remembering our heritage: townspeople do the "impossible": scrapbook.	1986	y		
Fort Loudoun Reservoir Cemeteries [surname index]	(Douthat, 1988)	y		
Goodspeed's history of TN (Loudon County, pp. 825-828, 1081-1088).	Goodspeed, 1887.	y		
Grant, Gertrude. A study of the social & economic conditions of negroes in Loudon County, TN. Atlanta, GA, Resource Dev. Internship Project	1968	y		
Greenback: in the spotlight. Samuel F. Forkner, chairman of Homecoming '86.	1986	y		
Hawkins Mortuary and Mausoleum Death Records, 1949-1981, Lenoir City, Tennessee [name index]	(Brown, 1982)	y		
History of Tennessee: containing historical and biographical sketches of thirty east Tennessee counties.	Goodspeed Publishing Company. 2006		Y	

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Hiwassee Land District: Blount, Loudon, Monroe, McMinn, Meigs and south of the river portion of Roane Counties. Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press	Douthat, James L. 2001		Y	
Lenoir City, TN (In East TN historical & biographical)	Marfield, Samuel.	y		
Loudon County (Loudon) Tennessee Historical Records Survey.				Y
Loudon County living: 1987 guidebook. Loudon, IMAGES Publications	1987	y		
Loudon County TN Polk City Directory [with Roane County]	(2004-2007, 2009-20)	y		
Loudon County, 1980-1987: an economic analysis. Nashville, TN Dept. Emp. Sec.	1988	y		
Loudon County, Tennessee Tombstone Records [name index]	2011	y		
Loudon County, Tennessee, Tombstone Records [name index]	(WPA, 1938)	y		
Loudon County, Tennessee, vital statistics, 1914 through 1925	Edna Wiefering.			Y
Loudon County, Tennessee, Vital Statistics, 1914 Through 1925 [name index]	(Wiefering, 1993)	y		
Loudon County, Tennessee, wills [microform]				Y
Loudon County, TN : [white and yellow pages]. BellSouth Advertising & Publishing Corp.				Y
Loudon County, we call it home. Loudon, IMAGES Publications	1984	y		
Marriage Records, Loudon County, Tennessee, 1870-1910 [name index]	(Brown, 1973)	y		
Martel Methodist Church, 1795-1962.		y		
Montgomery, Johnnie E. Oakland United Methodist Church, Trigonía community, Greenback, TN.	1982	y		
Nesting ecology of mourning doves in Knox & Loudon counties, TN. TWRA	Burch, Mark S., 1982	y		
Retreat from Lenoir & siege of Knoxville. Atlantic Monthly 18 (1866), pp. 21-30.	Burrage, H.S. 18866	y		
Roane & Loudon Counties, TN Polk City Directory (2006)	2006	y		
Roane County TN Polk City Directory (2007, 2009-2012)	2007, 2009-2012	y		
Windows to the past: a historic album of the Lenoir City area. Lenoir City, American studies class, Lenoir City High School	1982	y		