

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

Geographic Area and County History



Marion County was named Francis Marion, also known as the Swamp Fox, a military officer who served in the American Revolutionary War. The county is located in the southeast-central area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#)).

Marion County, located in the southern part of the Cumberland Plateau and the Sequatchie Valley, encompasses five hundred square miles. Established in 1817 out of Cherokee lands, the county was named for General Francis Marion, a Revolutionary War leader in South

Carolina. When Tennessee became a state, the Sequatchie Valley was a part of Roane County. The upper end of the valley was established as Bledsoe County in 1807. This county included all of the valley, but treaties with the Cherokees kept white settlers out of the lower end. The first white settlers are thought to have been Amos Griffith and William and James Standifer in 1805, while the area was still part of Roane County.

Native Americans have played an important part in the history of present-day Marion County. They built their towns on the rivers and were living here when the white men came. These newcomers kept the Indian names Tennessee and Sequatchie for this area. Recent research indicates that in 1560 Spanish soldiers from Tristan de Luna's expedition entered the Tennessee River valley in the vicinity of Marion County, visiting the main town of the chiefdom of Napochies. More than a century later, the next Europeans to make contact with the Native Americans found a number of tribes in what later became Tennessee. The Cherokee dominated this area later in the 1700s and early 1800s.

In 1789 Chiefs Catetoy and Vann, accompanied by forty warriors in canoes, intercepted the boat of Colonel James Brown, who was en route with his family and party to Middle Tennessee to take up land awarded him for Revolutionary War services. The Indians killed the men and captured the women and children, including Joseph Brown, a youth who later escaped and guided the Cumberland settlers' expedition to Nickajack in 1794 to destroy the native towns of Nickajack, Running Water, and Long Island. After the Cumberland expedition, the Indians made a treaty allowing whites in the lower part of the valley.

The first court in 1817 was held in the house of John Shropshire in what is now Whitwell. Then court was held for one year in the old Cheek house, a two-story double log house located south of Whitwell in a place called Cheekville, later named Liberty, where court had been held while this county was still in North Carolina. In 1819 the county seat was moved to Jasper, named in honor of Sergeant Jasper of Revolutionary War fame. The commissioners to select and establish the county seat were William Stone, David Oats, Burgess Matthews, Alexander Kelly, William King, William Stevens, and Davis Miller. Betsy Pack, a Cherokee Indian woman, sold these commissioners forty acres, and the

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

courthouse built in 1820 was near the center of the tract where the present one now stands. John Kelly was the first clerk of the court and Alan Griffith the first registrar.

During the Civil War sentiment in the county was so divided that frequently members of the same family could be found in both the Confederate and Federal armies. The presence of the railroad and major turnpikes meant that troops from both sides often passed through the county.

Industry and mining marked the county's postwar history. In 1877 James Bowron and associates from England brought sufficient capital into the valley to develop the iron and coal industries. Coal mines opened in Whitwell; coke ovens operated in Victoria; iron ore came from Inman; and smelters dominated South Pittsburg. In the early 1890s J. C. Beene installed a small steam plant at South Pittsburg to serve the city. It became an industrial town for several important iron-making firms and manufacturing companies. The still-operating Lodge Cast Iron is one of the state's oldest manufacturing firms. Industrialist Richard Hardy established Richard City as a company town for the Dixie Portland Cement Company in the early 1900s. Today the county is famous for its manufacture of fireworks.

The development of hydroelectric power came with the completion of Hales Bar Dam in 1912. In 1933 Congress created the Tennessee Valley Authority for the purpose of flood control, navigation, and the sale of cheap hydroelectric power in the Tennessee Valley. The lake created by its Nickajack Dam covered the earlier Hales Bar Dam. The dams that the TVA built on the Tennessee River and its tributaries changed the look of the area without damaging its beauty; while covering sites used by first settlers, they improved navigation on the river.

In this lovely Sequatchie Valley county today lie the graves of countless military heroes and politicians: Brigadier General William Stone, War of 1812; General Adrian Northcut, Mexican War; U.S. Senator Hopkins Turney; Governor and U.S. Senator James B. Frazier; U.S. Senators Foster V. Brown, James Whiteside, and Tom Stewart; Congressmen Joe Brown, Sam D. McReynolds; and Judges Leslie R. Darr, Alan Kelly, Sam Polk Raulston, and John T. Raulston. The county's population was 27,776 in 2000. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

[Marion County Chamber of Commerce](#)

Record Loss – Marion County (Family Search)

1922 Courthouse was destroyed by fire in August 1922; only records from the registrar's office and the county court clerk's office were saved.

- Lost marriage records: 1817 to 1880
- Lost probate records: 1817 to 1875

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

FamilySearch Marion County [Catalog](#)

[FamilySearch Digital Books](#) - Search Term: Marion County Tennessee

TnGenWeb Project - [Marion County](#)

Contact - [Nonie Webb](#)

[Marion County Tennessee History & Genealogy](#)

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 1881
	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 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 1842
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	TNGenWeb	Deed
List of Microfilmed Marion County Records	TSLA-PDF	Download PDF
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1874
	TnGenWeb	
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	No Applications for Marion County

County Repositories

[Jasper Public Library](#)
[Orena Humpheries Library \(Whitwell\) – Genealogy Section](#)
[Marion County Historical Society](#)
[The Story of Marion County Tennessee](#)
[Marion County Genealogical Group](#)
[South Pittsburg Historic Preservation Society](#)
[Jasper Regional History Museum](#)
Sewanee – The University of the South
[Jessie Ball duPont Library](#)
[William R. Laurie University Archives and Special Collections](#)

Current Area Information

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

Resources

General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) – Marion County](#)
[Marion County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)
[Marion County TN – Genealogy Trails](#)
[Linkpendium – Marion County](#)
[Tennessee State Library & Archives – Marion County Facts Sheet](#)
[TLSA Name Index – Marion County \(Acts of Tennessee 1796-1850\)](#)
[TNGenWeb – Marion County](#)
[USGenWeb Archives – Marion County Tennessee](#)
[Tennessee Law, The Early Days](#)

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

[Check Online Catalog for Marion County Newspaper Details & Dates Held.](#)

We do not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers.

Newspaper.com - Sequachee Valley News 1895-1920

Genealogybank.com - None

Chronicling America -

- [1. South Pittsburg hustler. \(South Pittsburg, Tenn.\) 1899-1990](#)
- [2. The hustler. \(South Pittsburg, Tenn.\) 1990-current](#)
- [3. The statesman democrat. \(Jasper, Tenn.\) 1???-19??](#)
- [4. The weekly regulator. \(Jasper, Tenn.\) 188?-189?](#)
- [5. Valley herald. \[volume\] \(Jasper, Tenn.\) 1874-1890](#)
- [6. The Jasper journal. \(Jasper, Tenn.\) 1938-current](#)
- [7. Sequachee herald. \(Jasper, Tenn.\) 18??-1???](#)
- [8. The Sequachee news. \[online resource\] 189?-1896](#)
- [9. The Sequachee news. \(Sequachee \[Sequatchie\], Tenn.\) 189?-1896](#)
- [10. The Sequachee sun. \[volume\] \(Jasper, Tenn.\) 1871-1873](#)
- [11. Sequachee Valley news. \[online resource\] 1896-1952](#)
- [12. Sequachee Valley news. \(Sequachee \[Sequatchie\], Tenn.\) 1896-1952](#)
- [13. The Marion County record. \(South Pittsburg, Tenn.\) 1932-1933](#)
- [14. Marion County Sunday journal. \(Jasper, Tenn.\) 1993-1995](#)
- [15. Marion County democrat. \(Jasper, Tenn.\) 18??-1???](#)

Selected Published County Histories

Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Aaron Russell's Personal Ledger, 1861-1878: Marion County, Tennessee; Dade County, Georgia (Rushing, 1997) [partial name index]
- Along the River (Harris, 1997)* [name index]
- Ancient Owners of Marion Farms; & Early History of Owen Methodist Church (Lasater, 1985) [surname index]
- Digging for your Roots in Marion County, Tennessee (Marion County Genealogical Group, 199?)
- Exploring the Oldest Historical Map of Marion County, Tennessee (Webb, 1999) [name index]
- Hale's Bar Lock & Dam; Guild, Marion County, Tennessee History: Its Past, its People and its Events (Webb, 1991?) [surname index]
- Hale's Bar School, 1920-1941 (Webb, 1996-1998) [name index]
- Keepsake Memories, Vol. II, Cherokees and First Settlers Early Records Compiled, Marion County, Tennessee (Webb, 2002)* [name index]

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

- Marion County in Vintage Postcards (Morrison, 2005)*
- Marion County, Tennessee: History & Keepsake Memories (Webb, 1996)* [surname index]
- Memoirs of Marion County, Tennessee 1893-1946 (Cameron, 1946)*
- Memories of Hicks Chapel (Harris, 19???)
- Murder, Mayhem and More (Harris, 1991?) [surname index]
- Old Miners & Mining in Marion, 1800's, Marion County, Tennessee (Webb, 1993)* [surname index]
- Sequachee Valley News, Marion County, Tennessee, Gossip Columns [vol. 1 1895-1896; vol. 2 1897-1898] (Harris, 199?) [surname index in each volume]
- Sequachee, Victoria, Tennessee Tidbits (Harris, 1997)
- Story of Ketner's Mill, Located Near the Community of Oak Grove in Whitwell, Marion Co., Tennessee, 1824-1991 [2 vols.] (Webb, 1991)
- Story of Marion County: Its People and Places (Marion County Historical Society, 1990)* [surname index]
- Sulphur Springs, Tennessee, Tidbits (Harris, 199?)*
- Upon the Mountain (Harris, 1997) [name index]
- Whitwell High School's Whitwell, Tennessee, 1923 to 1977 (Turner, Webb & Layne, 1990) [surname index]
- Whitwell Scrapbook (Harris, 19???)*
- Ye Olde Court House at Jasper Towne (Harris, 1991?)

Published Local Records

Tennessee State Archives & Library

- 1836 Marion County, Tennessee Tax List (Harris, 19???) [name index]
- 1840 Census, Sequatchie Valley, Bledsoe-Marion Counties (Douthat, 1982) [surname index]
- 1850 Marion Co., Tenn., Census (Douthat, 1982) [surname index]
- 1862 Tax list, Marion County, Tennessee (Tate, 1996)* [name index]
- 1880 Census, Marion County, Tennessee (Sistler, 1995) [alphabetical by head of household]
- Abstracts of Marion County, Tennessee, Death Certificates [vol. 1 1908-1919; vol. 2 1920-1925] (Tate, 199?) [name index in each volume]
- Ancestor Charts, Marion County, Tennessee [2 vols.] (Harris, 1996) [name index in each volume]
- Births, Deaths and Marriages Extracted from the Sequachee Valley News 1891-1910 (Harris, 1985) [surname index]
- Christ Church Episcopal, South Pittsburg Tennessee, Parish Register, volume 1, 1878-1905 (Judge David Cambell Chapter [DAR], 2004) [name index]
- Civil War Tidbits of Marion County, Tennessee (Harris, 199?) [name index]
- Early Land Records, Marion County, Tennessee [1824-1830] (Harris, 1996)* [name index]
- Ebenezer Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Minutes of Session and Church Register, 1889-1918 [includes Family Record of the Hall's, 1794-1933] (WPA, 1939)
- First Baptist Church of Whitwell: 100 Years of Ministry, 1893-1993 (Harris, 1993?)
- Index to the Wills of Marion County, Tennessee [1875-1900, 1925-1968] (Harris, 19???) [name index]
- Marion County, Tennessee Cemetery Records (Harris, 1987)* [alphabetical by cemetery with surname index]

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

- Marion County, Tennessee, Deed Book C, Abstract, 1831-1836 (Hobbs & Goins, 1993?)* [name index]
- Marion County, Tennessee, Marriages [vol. 1 1881-1910; vol. 2 1911-1925] (Harris, 199?) [name index in each volume]
- Marion County Tennessee Population Schedule of the Sixth Census of the United States, 1840 (Broyles, 1983) [surname index]
- Marion County, Tennessee, Vital Statistics, 1914 Through 1925 (Wiefering, 1995)* [name index]
- Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church book, 1888-1916: Church Located in the New Hope Community, Marion County, Tennessee (Blevins, 1988) [surname index]
- Obituaries of Marion County, Tennessee [vol. 1 1895-1920; vol. 2 1920-1989, A-G; vol. 3 1920-1989, H-L; vol. 4 1920-1989, M-R; vol. 5 1920-1989, S-Z] (Harris, 1993?) [surname index in vol. 1; alphabetical in vols. 2 - 5]
- Ocoee Land District Maps (Douthat, 2013) [name index]
- Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Marion County, Tennessee, Free Population Schedules (Carpenter, 1971) [surname index]
- Teague Cemetery Records Marion County, Tennessee (Judge David Campbell Chapter, NSDAR , 2010) [name index]
- Tennessee Records of Marion County, 1819-1830 [deeds - 2 vols., 1819-1830] (19??)* [name index in each volume]
- Union Primitive Baptist Church Book, 1821-1868 (Blevins, 1987) [name index]
- United States Census, Marion County, Tennessee, 1850 (Hobbs & Goins, 1986)* [name index of head of household]
- United States Census, Marion County, Tennessee, 1860 (Hobbs & Goins, 1987?)* [surname index]
- United States Census, Marion County, Tennessee, 1870 (Goins and Hobbs Genealogy Service, 1990)* [surname index]
- United States Census, Marion County, Tennessee, 1880 (Hobbs & Goins, 1989?)* [surname index]
- United States Census, Marion County, Tennessee, 1900 (Hobbs & Goins, 198?)* [surname index]
- United States Census, Marion County, Tennessee, 1910 (Hobbs & Goins, 19??)* [surname index]
- United States Census, Marion County, Tennessee, 1920 (Hobbs & Goins, 1994)* [name index of head of household]

Selected Manuscripts Material

Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Donaldson Family Papers, 1819-2005 (Microfilm Manuscript #2011, 1 reel)
- Jackson Pryor Papers, 1830-1897
- Mamie Frances (Moser) Dyche Scrapbooks, 1870-1966 (Microfilm Manuscript #246, 2 reels)*
- McKenzie and Son, Surveyors Maps. Chattanooga, 1880-1916 (Microfilm Manuscript #1477, 1 reel)*

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

Maps

- [TDOT Map of Marion County](#)
- [Marion County - 1836 \(TEVA\)](#)
- [Marion County U.S. Army - 1865](#)
- [Marion County - 1888](#)
- [Marion and Surrounding Counties](#)
- [Jasper Tennessee \(1895\)](#)
- [TnGenWeb Project - Maps Our Ancestors Followed](#)

Cemeteries

- [Marion County Cemeteries - Find-a-Grave](#)
- [Marion County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)
- [Marion County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails](#)

Bibliography

- [The Land Laws of Tennessee \(Whitney, 1891\) Google Books](#)
- [Guide to Public Vital Statistics in Tennessee \(WPA 1941\)](#)

TSLA = Tennessee State Library & Archives
 GRH&GC = Germantown Regional History & Genealogical Center
 MPL = Memphis Public Library

Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
1830 census Sequatchie Valley: Marion, Bledsoe Counties.	Douthat, James L., 1986		Y	
A history of Marion County, TN.	Link, Gertrude B., 1953	Y		
A history of South Pittsburg, TN: the first one hundred years. South Pittsburg, Hustler, 1973. 124 pp.	Kelly, Martelia C., 1973	Y		
Abstracts of Ocoee District early land records-entries.	McClure, Lucille.		Y	
Ancient owners of Marion farms, & early history of Owen Methodist Church	Lasater, Lee, 1947	Y		
Births, deaths and marriages extracted from the Sequachee Valley News	Harris, Mary S. Harris, Euline, 1985			Y
Civil War 1861-1865 tidbits.	Harris, Euline, 1990	Y		
Federal pensioners: 1840 census of. Bethel Springs, TN	Brown, Albert, 1989		Y	
Marion County connections.	Moore, Barbara		Y	

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

	Hiestand, 1989			
Marion County in Vintage Postcards	Morrison, Billyfrank, 2005		Y	
Marion County, Tennessee 1836 Tennessee civil districts and tax lists.	Douthat, James L., 1993		Y	
Marion County, Tennessee cemetery records.	Harris, Mary S., 1987		Y	
Marion County, Tennessee deed book A.	Tennessee Historical Records Project, 1938		Y	
Marion County, Tennessee deed book. Vol. 1. Deed Book A [1819-1827] -- Vol. 2. Deed Book B [1827-1830]	Tennessee Historical Records Survey, 199?			Y
Marion County, Tennessee, deed book. Contents v. A. 1819-1826 -- v. B. 1827-1830 -- v. C. Abstract 1831-1836.				
Marion County, Tennessee, deeds [microform] Deed book C 1831-1837, Minutes 1858-1874	WPA			Y
Marion County, Tennessee, deeds [microform] Deed index 1921-1945.				Y
Marion County, Tennessee, wills [microform] Will books 1875-1968.				Y
Memoirs of Marion County, TN, 1893-1946.	Cameron, Walter M., 1946	Y		
Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church book, 1888-1916: church located in the New Hope community, Marion County, TN	Blevins, Jerry, 1988	Y		
Murder, mayhem & more. (extractions from various Marion County newspapers of murders, accidents, disasters, oddities, court cases, etc., 1895-1929)	Harris, Euline, 1991	Y		
Ocoee land district maps.	Douthat, James L., 2013		Y	
Quality in the common.	Hackworth, Elizabeth R., 1993	Y		
Sequachee Valley News, Marion County, TN, gossip columns. (articles from the Sequachee Valley News)	Harris, Euline, 1990	Y		
Sequatchie families: biographical sketches of the earlier settlers of the Sequatchie Valley of Tennessee.	Douthat, James L., 1983		Y	Y

Marion County Locality Guide (24 March 2024)

Sequatchie Valley Bible records.	Douthat, James L., 1985		Y	
Sequatchie Valley: a historical sketch.	Hiatt, Ellen O., 1916	Y		
South Pittsburg on the TN River, Marion County, TN. N.p., privately printed, 1887. 29 pp.		Y		
Tennessee records of Marion County: county court minutes, 1842-1847.	WPA		Y	
Tennessee's Dixie Highway.	Sharp, Leslie N., 2011		Y	
The journal of Griffith's General Store, Jasper, Marion County, Tennessee, December 10, 1836-November 11, 1838.	TGS, 2012		Y	
The story of Marion County: its people and places.	Marion County Historical Society, 1990		Y	
Union Primitive Baptist Church book, 1821-1868.	Blevins, Jerry, 1987	Y		
Whitwell scrapbook.	Harris, Euline H., 1987	Y		
Ye old court house at Jasper towne.	Harris, Euline, 1991	Y		