

Tipton County Locality Guide (26 January 2024)

Geographic Area and County History



Tipton County was named for Jacob Tipton, born in 1765, in Frederick, Virginia, British Colonial America. Captain Jacob Tipton who was killed leading his men in a battle near Fort Wayne in 1791. The county is located in the southwestern area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

The area forming West Tennessee was part of the Chickasaw Nation until 1818, when the territory was opened for settlement under the terms of the

Jackson Purchase. An 1819 act by the general assembly divided the new territory into five districts. The first county in the Western District was Shelby, which was organized at the village of Chickasaw Bluff in 1819. Tipton County was formed from Shelby County in 1823 and named for Captain Jacob Tipton who was killed leading his men in a battle near Fort Wayne in 1791. Tipton's son, Armistead Blevins, who supervised the organization of Shelby County, was present when Tipton County was formed. Covington, situated near the center of the county, was established as the county seat in 1826. Its name honored Leonard Wales Covington, a Maryland native who was killed in the battle of Chrysler's Field in 1813.

In 1833 the Tennessee Gazetteer described Covington as a post town and seat of justice thirty-eight miles from Memphis. Covington was originally divided into 106 lots on seven streets. Most construction was of frame and log, with the exception of a brick jail. In addition to the courthouse and jail, Covington had seven stores, two taverns, a surveyor's office, three or four physicians' offices, a similar number of lawyers' offices, and thirty or forty houses. Located on a tributary of the Hatchie River, Covington remained isolated from the steamboat trade of the nineteenth century and did not achieve commercial significance until the arrival of the Newport News and Mississippi Valley Railroad in 1873. Between 1873 and 1880, over 6,000 new residents arrived in Covington to take advantage of the commercial and industrial opportunities created by the arrival of the railroad. Economic expansion rose even faster after the takeover of the railroad by the Illinois Central in the 1890s. The town received its first telephone service and electric street lights in 1894. By 1920 Covington had a population of over 3,400 and boasted a weekly newspaper; three banks; an electric light plant; a water works; and a cotton mill, a cottonseed oil mill, and other manufacturing enterprises. Today, the downtown historic district contains an array of architecturally significant commercial and residential buildings.

Mason, thirteen miles south of Covington, was founded in 1858 and named for James Mason. In 1855 Mason became the first town in Tipton County to acquire rail services when the Memphis and Ohio Railroad established Sharon Depot, later known as Mason Depot. By 1859 the town contained four businesses, and the following year Mason hosted a campaign speech by Stephen Douglas. The town received a visit from Jefferson Davis,

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president of the Confederate States, who attended services at the Trinity Episcopal Church. Mason was also the site where a regiment of West Tennessee African American soldiers were mustered into the Union army. By 1887 Mason, with 400 inhabitants, was the second largest town in the county.

Randolph was founded in 1823 and named for John Randolph of Virginia. Randolph undoubtedly occupied the best potential site available for water-borne commerce and provided an excellent harbor for steam and flatboats at all stages of the river. Until 1840 Randolph shipped more cotton than Memphis, as many as thirty-five to forty thousand bales annually, and became the great steamboat depot of West Tennessee. By 1834 it had its first newspaper and a population of 1,000. It had four hotels, several schools, nearly fifty businesses, and a dozen saloons.

Many factors led to the demise of Randolph. Five years after its founding, the land title was discovered to be faulty. Mrs. Ann Grambelling of New York filed suit to claim the whole town on the grounds that she had acquired a military land grant warrant that included the tract. Her case stood up in court and is of unusual interest because the warrant belonged to an African American soldier who served in the Revolutionary War. Randolph's citizens negotiated a compromise settlement and bought their town for eight thousand dollars. More important problems that affected the town's future were Randolph's failure to secure a railroad; financial depression; an unfavorable mail route; the continuation of the county seat at Covington despite an 1852 effort to have it moved to Randolph; and the failure to secure a proposed canal connecting the Tennessee and Hatchie rivers. The final blows came in 1862 and 1865 when federal troops twice burned the town.

In 2000 the population of Tipton County stood at 51,271, an increase of more than a third in just a decade. The county supports a one-hundred-bed hospital and city and county school systems. The Covington Airport has five thousand feet of runway. Although agriculture continues to account for a significant portion of the Tipton County economy, many county residents work at one of several industrial enterprises. World Color, which prints catalogs and magazines, employs 875 workers; Charms Company has 300 employees, the same number of workers employed by Mueller Fittings; the 250 employees of Delfield Company make food service equipment; and the diet foods company Slim Fast employs 250 workers as well. In addition to these large employers, several smaller manufacturers produce everything from wiring harness to business forms. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

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[Tipton County Chamber of Commerce](#)

Record Loss – Tipton County (Family Search)

There is no known history of courthouse disasters in this county.

- Lack of marriage records: 1823 to 1839

FamilySearch Tipton County [Catalog](#)

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

TnGenWeb Project – [Tipton County](#)

Contact – [Susan Young](#)

[Tipton County Tennessee History & Genealogy](#)

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 TSLA
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1840
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TNGenWeb	
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 1820
	County Register	County Register of Deeds

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List of Microfilmed Tipton County Records	TSLA-PDF	Download PDF
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court TnGenWeb	County Registrations began 1823
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

County Repositories

[Munford Public Library](#)
[Tipton County Public Library](#)
[Tipton County Tennessee History & Genealogy](#)

Current Area Information

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

Resources

General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) - Tipton County](#)
[Tipton County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)
[Linkpendium - Tipton County](#)
[Tennessee State Library & Archives - Tipton County Facts Sheet](#)
[TSLA Name Index - Tipton County \(Acts of Tennessee 1796-1850\)](#)
[TNGenWeb - Tipton County](#)
[Tipton County, Tennessee - Genealogy Trails](#)
[USGenWeb Archives - Tipton County Tennessee](#)
[West Tennessee Heritage Study Center \(Paul Meek Library\)](#)
[Tennessee Law, The Early Days](#)

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Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

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

Newspaper.com

Covington Leader 1888-1922

Chronicling America

1. [Covington daily democrat. \(Covington, Tenn.\) 1900-190?](#)
2. [The Covington leader. \[online resource\] \(Covington, Tenn.\) 18??-current](#)
3. [The Covington leader. \(Covington, Tenn.\) 18??-current](#)
4. [The Weekly call. \(Covington, Tenn.\) 1875-1???](#)
5. [The weekly spy. \[volume\] \(Covington, Tenn.\) 1860-186?](#)
6. [The Tipton record. \(Covington, Tenn.\) 190?-1917](#)
7. [The Tipton weekly record. \[volume\] \(Covington, Tenn.\) 1867-190?](#)
8. [Randolph recorder. \[volume\] \(Randolph, Tenn.\) 1834-1836](#)
9. [The Randolph Whig. \[volume\] \(Randolph, Tenn.\) 1838-1838](#)
10. [The Munford star. \[volume\] \(Munford, Tenn.\) 196?-1973](#)
11. [The Munford times. \(Munford, Tenn.\) 1906-190?](#)
12. [The black cat herald. \(Munford, Tenn.\) 1945-19??](#)
13. [The black kitten herald. \(Munford, Tenn.\) 1950-19??](#)

Selected Published County Histories

Tennessee State Archives & Library

Early History of Mason	Marshall, 1985
History of Tennessee From the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and a Biographical Sketch of Lauderdale, Tipton, Haywood and Crockett	Goodspeed, 1978
Illustrated History of the People and Towns of Northeast Shelby County and South Central Tipton County: Salem, Portersville, Idaville, Kerrville, Armourtown, Bethel, Tipton, Mudville, Macedonia, Gratitude, Barretville, and Rosemark, Tennessee	McCalla, 2010
Mason: A Glimpse into the Past	Marshall, 1991
Tipton County, Tennessee: A Place of Memories: A People Moving Forward	Wortham, 1994
True Tales of Tipton: Historical Accounts of Tipton County, Tennessee	Beasley, 1981
True Tales of Tipton County Tennessee	Beasley, 2007

Selected Manuscripts Material

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Tennessee State Archives & Library

Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church Records. Tipton County, 1932-1978	Mfilm Manuscript #680, 1 reel
Georgia Wren Bishop Knight Scrapbooks, 1926-1980	Mfilm Manuscript #1332, 6 reels
Owen Family Papers, 1835-1983	Mfilm Manuscript #1267, 1 reel
Tipton County Miscellaneous Records	Mfilm Manuscript #951, 1 reel
Trinity-in-the-Fields Church, Episcopal Records. Tipton County, 1837-1973	Mfilm Manuscript #606, 1 reel

Published Local Records

Tennessee State Archives & Library

1836 Tipton County, Tennessee Civil Districts and Tax List	Sistler, 1992
1880 Census, Tipton County, Tennessee	
Covington, TN Polk City Directory	2015-2019
Historic Randolph Cemetery	2007
Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Tipton County, Tennessee, Free Population Schedules	Carpenter, 1971
Tipton County, Tennessee Deeds [vol. 1 1824-1831; vol. 2 1831-1833]	Crumpton, 2004
Tipton County, Tennessee, Direct and Reverse Index to Deeds 1824-1878 [vol. 1 A-L; vol. 2. M-Y]	WPA, 1940
Tipton County, Tennessee Family Histories & Cemetery Records	Hayes, 199?
Tipton County, Tennessee, Index to Marriage Licenses, 1864-1950	Genealogical Society of Utah, 1997
Tipton County, Tennessee, Marriage Records, Book B, 1840-1860	WPA, 1936
Tipton County, Tennessee Marriages, 1840-1860	Hays, 1987
Tipton County, Tennessee, Minute Book [vol. 1 1823-1831; vol. 2 1831-1833; vol. 3 1834-1845; vol. 4 (in 2 pts.) 1846-1853]	WPA, 1937-1941
Tipton County, TN Marriages, 1840-1874	Sistler, 1987

Maps

[TDOT Map of Tipton County](#)

[Tipton County - 1832 \(TEVA\)](#)

[Tipton County - 1886 \(Sanborn Fire Maps\)](#)

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- [Tipton County - 1888](#)
- [Tipton County - 1927 \(TEVA\)](#)
- [Tipton County - 1935 \(TEVA\)](#)
- [Tipton County - 1964 \(FamilySearch\)](#)
- [TnGenWeb Project - Maps Our Ancestors Followed](#)

Cemeteries

- [Tipton County Cemeteries - Find-a Grave](#)
- [Tipton County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)
- [Tipton 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
"A historical sketch of Tipton County, TN, 1823-1876, by Col. R.H. Munford." WTHSP 45	Gwinn, David A., 1991	Y		
"Sod Rogers: Tipton County herbalist." TN Folklore Soc. Bull. 48	Lornell, Kip, 1982	Y		
"The Devil's Elbow." WTHSP 35 (1981), pp. 5-24.	Moore, Joanne C., 1981	Y		
"The Frazier Epic, 1889- 1970": an exhibit & historical narrative of Frazier School.	Tipton Co. Frazier Alumni Assn, 1986	Y		
"Tipton County, TN." WTHSP 3 (1949), pp. 5-26.	Wingfield, Marshall., 1949	Y		
14 historic cemeteries: northeast Shelby and south-central Tipton counties	Historic Archives of Rosemark and Environs, Inc., 2010		Y	
1836 Tipton County, Tennessee civil districts and tax list.	Douthat, James L., 2001		Y	
1880 census, Tipton County,	Tennessee Sistler, Byron. Sistler, Samuel., 1992			Y
A survey of the vascular plants of Tipton County, TN. MSU thesis, 1970.	Warrington, Sarah J., 1970	Y		

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An illustrated history of the people and towns of northeast Shelby County and south-central Tipton County: Salem, Portersville, Idaville, Kerrville, Armourtown, Bethel, Tipton, Mudville, Macedonia, Gratitude, Barretville, and Rosemark, Tennessee.	Historic Archives of Rosemark and Environs, Inc., 2010		Y	
An Illustrated history of the people and towns of northeast Shelby County and south central Tipton County : Salem, Portersville, Idaville, Kerrville, Armourtown, Bethel, Tipton, Mudville, Macedonia, Gratitude, Barretville, and Rosemark, Tennessee:	Historic Archives of Rosemark and Environs, Inc., c2010			Y
Carter County, 1796-1850: being transcriptions from the original bonds and licenses at the County Courthouse	Creekmore, Pollyanna., 1958		Y	
Community information, Covington, TN.	Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce, 1987	Y		
Cotton loan program in Tipton County, TN. Knoxville, TN Ag. Exp. Sta., 1943.	Johnson, Magnus B., 1943	Y		
Digitized miscellaneous history books and family surname books.	Tennessee Genealogical Society, 2012.		Y	
Direct and reverse index to deeds.	The Historical Records Survey, 1940?-			Y
Early families of the Memphis Area: profiles of 135 families of Fayette, Shelby and Tipton Counties in Tennessee, Crittendon County, Arkansas, and DeSoto and Marshall Counties in Mississippi; with historical time lines and photographs of those counties / compiled and edited by Paul A. Matthews.	Matthews, Paul A., c2008.		Y	Y
Goodspeed Publishing Company. History of Tennessee: from the earliest time to the present; together with an historical and a biographical sketch of Lauderdale, Tipton, Haywood and Crockett Counties, besides a valuable fund of notes, original observations, reminiscences, etc., etc. Nashville, [TN]:	The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887.		Y	
Goodspeed's history of TN (Tipton County, pp. 808-818, 885-921).	Goodspeed, 1887.	Y		
History of Tennessee: from the earliest time to the present; together with an historical and a biographical sketch of Lauderdale, Tipton, Haywood, and Crockett Counties; besides a valuable fund of notes, reminiscences, observations, etc.	Hayes, Sallie., 1997		Y	
Kelley's Chapel: a historical survey.	Woods, Gayle, 1988	Y		

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Marriage notices: extracts from newspapers from 1835 to 1860	Cargill, Bernice T., 1996		Y	
Mason: a glimpse into the past.	Marshall, John W., 1991	Y	Y	
McCain family members: from the Waxhaws, Tipton County, Tennessee	Lynn, E. Elizabeth, c1984.			Y
Memories of Island 35: Tipton County, TN.	Turner, Glaldys B., 1987	Y		
Minute book [county court] v. A. 1823-1831. 2 pts.--v. B. March 1831-1833. 2 pts.--v. C. 1834-1845.	Tennessee Historical Records Survey. 1937			Y
Notes on Randolph, TN	Wade, William J., 1949	Y		
Occupational survey Tipton County.	1964	Y		
Old times in West Tennessee: reminiscences, semi-historic, of pioneer life and the early emigrant settlers in the Big Hatchie country / by a descendent of one of the first settlers.	Williams, Joseph S., 1975.		Y	Y
Poplar Grove Cemetery, Tipton County, Tennessee.	Brown, Albert., 1988		Y	
Probate records	Tipton County, Tennessee, court records. [microfilm].			Y
Progeny of John Drew McClanahan (1805-1890) of Tipton County, Tennessee.	McClanahan, John D., V., 1990		Y	
Roll 109 -- Wills, loose records v Sh-Wo 1829-1950, Vital records (Deaths) v Br-Si 1930-1945, Vital records (Corrected births) v Ab-Y 1900-1950, Vital records (Delayed births) v Ab-Ny 1881-1940.				Y
Ruffin family record.	Barret, Richard C. Tennessee Historical Records Surve			Y
Seventh census of the United States 1850 Tipton County, Tennessee free population schedules.	Carpenter, V. K., Mrs., 1971		Y	
Sketches of the Olivers: a family history, 1726-1966.	Oliver, Hugh R., 1987		Y	
Smith Family, 1750-1990, Rowan County, NC - Tipton County, TN	Smith, Wilburn Bell, 1990			Y
The Beddingfield and Hastings families	Beddingfield, Virginia, 2003			Y
The Covington leader	William C. Simonton, editor., 1973.			Y

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The early history of Mason.	Marshall, John W., 1985	Y	Y	
The Mitchell family of Tipton County, Tennessee: their antecedents in colonial Southside Virginia including Jones and Bishop and their numerous descendants	Goggans, Helen Mitchell, c1990.			Y
The Perre Magness Collection [index]: a compilation of collections	Peterson, Lauren., 2011.			Y
Tipton county (Covington)	The Tennessee historical records survey, 1941.			Y
Tipton County (Tenn.) Will book. v. A. 1824-1859.	Historical Records Survey, 1939			Y
Tipton County, Tennessee Circuit Court minutes, civil and criminal.	Bailey, Loretta, Tennessee Genealogical Society, 2012.		Y	
Tipton County, Tennessee deed book.	Crumpton, Barbara., 2004		Y	
Tipton County, Tennessee family histories & cemetery records	Hayes, Sallie.		Y	Y
Tipton County, Tennessee marriages, 1840-1860	Hays, Tony., 1987.			Y
Tipton County, Tennessee, court records. [microfilm] Roll Nos. 1-5, A-3448 - A3451. Roll Nos. 6-13				Y
Tipton County, Tennessee, court records. [microfilm]. Roll A3507 -- Settlements, Administrators v E - F, Dec 1892 - Apr 1930.				Y
Tipton County, Tennessee, court records. [microfilm]. Roll Nos. A-3454 - A-3460.				Y
Tipton County, Tennessee, deeds [microfilm] Deed index v.1 1824 - 1878.				Y
Tipton County, Tennessee, deeds [microfilm] Reel nos. 53 - 58.				Y
Tipton County, Tennessee, marriage records [microfilm] Reel nos. 36 - 39, A3490-A3494.				Y
Tipton County, Tennessee, vital statistics [microfilm] Vital records (Deaths) 1908 - 1912, Births/Deaths 1908 - 1912. Roll no. A3503.				Y
Tipton County, Tennessee, wills [microfilm] Roll 984 -- Wills 1824-1918.				Y
Tipton County, Tennessee.	Beasley, Gaylon Neil., 2007		Y	
Tipton County, Tennessee: a place of memories: a people moving forward	Wortham, Mildred Owen, c1994.			Y

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Tipton County, TN marriages, 1840-1874	Byron Sistler, Barbara Sistler., 1987.			Y
Tipton County, TN: a place of memories: a people moving forward.	Wortham, Mildred O., 1994	Y		
Tipton County, TN marriages, 1840-1874	Sistler, Byron.			Y
True tales of Tipton: [historical accounts of Tipton County, Tennessee] / Gaylon N. Beasley.	Beasley, Gaylon Neil., 2007.			Y
True tales of Tipton: historical accounts of Tipton County, Tennessee.	Tipton County Historical Society, 1981		Y	
True tales of Tipton: historical accounts of Tipton County, TN. (Tipton Co. Hist. Soc)	Beasley, Gaylon N., 1981	Y		
Welcome home Atoka! A history of our town.	Forbess, Tim Ed.,1986	Y		
Welcome home Rosemark: a history of our town.	1986		Y	
West Tennessee death records.	Hays, Tony., 1987		Y	