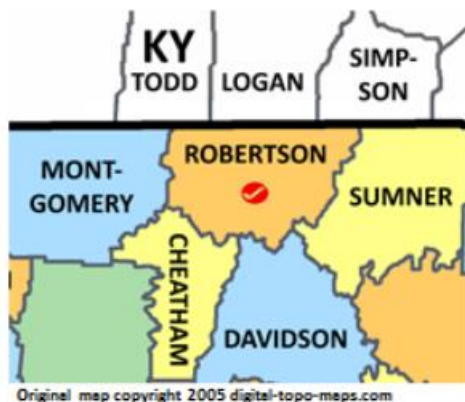


# Robertson County Locality Guide (25 February 2023)

## Geographic Area



Robertson County was named for [James Robertson](#), an explorer, founder of Nashville, and a state senator, who was often called the "Father of Middle Tennessee". The county is located in the north-central area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

The first white settlement in Robertson County was established by Thomas Kilgore, who came there in 1778 claiming land and building a station in 1779 near present-day Cross Plains. Prior to statehood this area was one of the counties in Mero District and called Tennessee County, located north of Nashville on the Kentucky border.

One of the first acts of the new state was to appropriate Tennessee County's name for its own use and to divide that county into Robertson and Montgomery Counties. Robertson County took its name from General James Robertson, often called the "Father of Middle Tennessee." Robertson County, established by the general assembly on April 9, 1796, covered 477 square miles and contained 304,640 acres.

The enabling act, which created the new county appointed commissioners and instructed them to establish the county government system and "to lay off, and appoint a place, the most central and convenient in the county of Robertson, for the purpose of erecting a courthouse prison and stocks." By 1798 Thomas Johnson had surveyed and laid out the county seat of Springfield, and the lots sold for eight dollars each.

Residents began forming churches and schools almost as soon as they arrived in the area. Red River Baptist Church in Adams was constituted on July 25, 1791, and in 1798 Mt. Zion Methodist Church was organized. Both are active churches today. Tradition has it that Robert Black started the first school in the area on Sulphur Fork in 1789, and Thomas Mosby also taught a school in the area before 1796.

Over the first half of the nineteenth century, Robertson County grew from a sparsely settled frontier community of 4,228 to a society of over 16,000 people. Most of the early white settlers in the area were of English or Scots-Irish origin, although there were also contingents of people whose backgrounds lay in the German states and other western European countries. A few of the settlers brought slaves with them and a small contingent of free blacks lived in the county in the 1790s. The earliest reference to African Americans in the area was in 1789. However, the majority of the region's inhabitants used no slave labor.

Tobacco had been raised for personal use and for sale almost as soon as people settled in Middle Tennessee. By 1820 tobacco, a crop dependent largely on slave labor, had become the most important commercial crop in the county and remains so to the present; by the 1920s Robertson County was known as the "Home of the World's Finest Dark Fired Tobacco." Another major economic force in the county was the manufacture of fine whiskey, an industry which reached its peak in the 1880s and died with prohibition in 1909. The Springfield Woolen Mills was founded in 1903 as the first major "factory" in the county.

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Robertson County was occupied territory and no major battles were fought within its borders during the Civil War. However, both armies moved men and materials through, and Confederate cavalryman John Hunt Morgan and his raiders destroyed parts of the Edgefield and Kentucky Railroad which ran through the county.

By 1910 the county's population was 25,466, including 6,492 black citizens. The lives of most residents still revolved around the rhythms of farm work. The lack of economic opportunity for many young citizens, black and white, and the burdens of segregation fueled an exodus of people from the county to the large industrial cities of the North from the 1940s until the early 1970s. From the 1950s through today several manufacturing companies have strengthened the industrial sector of the county's economy, and the area has experienced unparalleled growth. Such companies include the Frigidaire Home Products, Unarco Material Handling, Datrek Professional Bags, and CEI Auto Electronic Parts. In 2000 Frigidaire is the county's largest private employer, with 1,550 workers. Part of the growth came as Interstates 65 and 24 connected Robertson County to Nashville. Even with the rise of industry, agriculture and tobacco continue to be important elements in the economic, social, cultural, and political life of the county's population of 54,433, which has increased by 31 percent since 1990.

The Robertson County Courthouse and Springfield Public Square are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with thirteen other locations within the county. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

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

### Record Loss – Robertson County (Family Search)

Lost censuses: 1800, 1810

### County Boundary Changes

1796--Robertson County was established 9 April 1796 from part of Tennessee County, North Carolina.

County seat: Springfield

## [FamilySearch Robertson County Wiki](#)

## [FamilySearch Robertson County Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project – [Robertson County](#)      Contact – [Jerry Wilson](#)

## [Robertson County, TN History & Genealogy](#)

### Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1908

## Robertson County Locality Guide (25 February 2023)

	<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 1839
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	<a href="#">TSLA</a>
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1908
	<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 Registrations began 1796
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	TNGenWeb	<a href="#">Index to Deeds</a>
	USGenWeb	<a href="#">Index to Deeds</a>
List of Microfilmed Robertson County Records	<a href="#">TSLA-PDF</a>	
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	<a href="#">County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications</a>
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1796
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	<a href="#">Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters</a>
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	<a href="#">Research Collection</a>

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## County Repositories

[Stokes Brown Public Library](#)  
[Robertson County Archives Databases](#)  
[Robertson County Historical Society & Museum](#)

## Current Area Information

[Robertson County Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Robertson County Government](#)  
[J. Mark Lowe - Genealogist, Author & Lecturer](#)  
Website: <http://www.kytnresearch.com>  
Blog: <http://www.keepingthestoryalive.blogspot.com>

## Resources

### General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) - Robertson County](#)  
[Robertson County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)  
[Genealogy Trails History Group - Robertson County](#)  
[Robertson County Archives Databases](#)  
[Linkpendium - Robertson County](#)  
[Robertson County, TN History & Genealogy](#)  
[Robertson Historical Society](#)  
[Tennessee State Library & Archives - Robertson County Facts Sheet](#)  
[TNGenWeb - Robertson County](#)  
[USGenWeb Archives - Robertson County Tennessee](#)

### Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

[Check Online Catalog for Robertson Newspaper Details & Dates Held](#). Scroll down to Robertson County. TSLA does not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers.

Newspaper.com

[Robertson County Times](#) Springfield, Tennessee 1950 - 2023

Genealogybank.com

No titles for Robertson County

# Robertson County Locality Guide (25 February 2023)

## Selected Published County Histories

### Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Adams, Adams Station & Red River Businesses (Henson, 2006)
- Chronicles of Robertson County, as Appears in Springfield Record, August 1902 (Thomas, 1922?)
- Historic Robertson County, Places and Personalities (Holman & Durrett, 1970)\*
- Historical Sketches of Adams, Robertson County, Tennessee and Port Royal, Montgomery County, Tennessee, from 1779 to 1968 (Winters, 1978)\* *[surname index]*
- History of Tennessee from the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and a Biographical Sketch of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart (Goodspeed, 1979)
- Houston County Area: Excerpts from the Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties of Tennessee (Friends of the Houston County Library, 19??)
- Orlinda, Tennessee, July 5, 1986 (Rigsby, 1986?)
- Pleasant View and Environs: Cheatham and Robertson County Tennessee, 1787-1981 (Walker, 1982)
- Robertson County, Tennessee: Home of the World's Finest Celebrating 200 Years (Reid & Gregory, 1996)\* *[name index]*
- Slaves and Slaveholders of Wessyngton Plantation: An Exhibition at the Tennessee State Museum, February 11, 2014, through August 31, 2014 (Dehart, 2014)
- Winds of Change: Robertson County, Tennessee in the Civil War (Allen, 2000) *[name index]*

## Selected Manuscripts Material

### Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Albert Lee Dorsey Collection, ca. 1860-1940 (Microfilm Manuscript #42, 1 reel)\*
- Bethlehem Baptist Church Records. Robertson County, 1853-1955 (Microfilm Manuscript #467, 1 reel)\*
- Dan Borthick Genealogy, 1267-1978. Simpson County, Kentucky and Robertson County, Tennessee (Microfilm Manuscript #770, 4 reels)\*
- Fort Family Papers, 1710-1962 (Microfilm Manuscript #1065, 1 reel)\*
- Francis McGavock Papers, 1784-1854 (Microfilm Manuscript #742, 1 reel)\*
- Fykes Grove Primitive Baptist Church Records. Robertson County, 1813-1976 (Microfilm Manuscript #534, 1 reel)\*
- Harmony Baptist Church Records. Cedar Hill, 1880-1935 (Microfilm Manuscript #160, 1 reel)\*
- History of Oakland Baptist Church and Oakland School, 1908-1972 (Microfilm Manuscript #1959, 1 reel)\*
- History of Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1947-1987 (Microfilm Manuscript #1960, 1 reel)\*
- Mary Barry (Martin) Freeman Papers, 1700-1962 (Microfilm Manuscript #1216, 5 reels)\*

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- Mason and McIntosh Families Collection, ca. 1430-1936 (Microfilm Manuscript #617, 1 reel)\*
- Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Minutes. Robertson County, 1894-1976 (Microfilm Manuscript #1050, 2 reels)\*
- Little Hope Baptist Church Records. Montgomery County, 1869-1960 (Microfilm Manuscript #1227, 1 reel)\*
- Lucy Catherine Bailey Papers, 1828-1878 (Microfilm Manuscript #1200, 1 reel)\*
- Oak Grove Baptist Church Records. Robertson County, 1859-1975 (Microfilm Manuscript #598, 1 reel)\*
- Oakland Baptist Church Records, 1888-1910; 1914-2003 (Microfilm Manuscript #1736, 1 reel)\*
- Oakland Baptist Church Records. Springfield, 1888-1913 (Microfilm Manuscript #371, 1 reel)\*
- Ralph Lyles Winters, Addition, 1874-1974 (Microfilm Manuscript #1682, 2 reels)\*
- Robertson County General Store Account Books, 1867-1895, 1912-1949 (Microfilm Manuscript #254, 1 reel)\*
- Spring Creek Primitive Baptist Church Records. Robertson County, 1830-1920 (Microfilm Manuscript #504, 2 reels)\*
- Springfield Baptist Church Records. Robertson County, 1891-1987 (Microfilm Manuscript #985, 4 reels)\*
- Springfield United Methodist Church Membership Roll. Robertson County, 1920-1987 (Microfilm Manuscript #1023, 1 reel)\*
- Taylor, Baggett, and Mason Families Collection, 1765-1978 (Microfilm Manuscript #600, 1 reel)\*
- Warren Jasper Benson Papers, 1810-1961 (Microfilm Manuscript #1150, 1 reel)\*
- Washington Family Papers, 1796-1959 - Addition (Microfilm Manuscript #1266, 13 reels)\*
- Washington Family Papers, 1796-1962 (Microfilm Manuscript #961, 50 reels)\*
- William Jones Diaries, 1870-1884 and Account Book, 1845-1855 (Microfilm Manuscript #663, 1 reel)\*

## Maps

[TDOT Map of Robertson County](#)

[Robertson County - 1888](#)

[Robertson County, Tennessee soil map \(1912\)](#)

[Robertson County Bridges & Water Courses \(2010\)](#)

## Cemeteries

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

[Robertson County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)

[Robertson County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails](#)

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

## Bibliography

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

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Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
1820 census of Robertson County, Tennessee	Houston, Martha Lou, 1936			Y
20th century aspects of the Bell Witch. TN Folklore Soc. Bull. 50 (1984), pp. 18-24.	Lockhart, Teresa A., 1984	Y		
A brief survey of frontier architectural characteristics in Robertson & Sevier counties. TN Folklore Soc. Bull. 44	Kilgore, Sherry J., TN Folklore Soc.(1978)	Y		
A circle of memories - Cedar Hill & surrounding area.	Head, Mary S.	Y		
Across the plains: a history of Cross Plains, TN, 1778-1986. Cross Plains, Cross Plains Heritage Commission, 1986. 120 pp.	Read, Rita A., 1986	Y		
An American haunting : the Bell witch : being the eye witness account of Richard Powell concerning the Bell witch haunting of Robertson County, Tennessee 1817-1821	Monahan, Brent, 2006		Y	Y
An authenticated story of the famous Bell Witch	Ingram, Martin Van Buren, 1894	Y	Y	
Bell Witch: most gruesome of ghost stories, to be run as a serial in the Sun. Charleston, MS, the Sun, 1937. 48 pp.	Ingram, M.V., 1937	Y		Y
Bell, Charles B. & Harriet P. Miller. A mysterious spirit & the Bell Witch of TN. (a reprint of The Bell Witch: a mysterious spirit, 1934)	Bell, Charles B., 1934	Y		
Biographical directory, TN General Assembly, 1796-1969 (Robertson County, Preliminary # 1)	TSLA, 1968.	Y		
Bygone days in TN. Springfield, the author, 1961. 7 pp. (reproduced from Robertson County Times, Feb.-Mar.-1961)	Willett, Charles., 1961	Y		
Cemetery records of Robertson County, Tennessee	Durrett, Jean McClanahan.			Y
Childhood memories of Oak Lawn	Gunn, Lovie M., Springfield, n.p., 1967	Y		
Children of Nashville ... lineages from James Robertson	Kelley, Sarah Foster.		Y	
Chronicles of Robertson County, as appears in Springfield Record, August, 1902. Springfield, n.p.	Thomas, Mrs. Archie, comp., 1922	Y		
Churches of Robertson County, Tennessee, 1786-1900	Durrett, Charles W., Mrs., 1977		Y	

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Churches of Robertson County, TN, 1786-1900. Charlotte Reeves Robertson Chapter, DAR,	Durrett, Jean., 1977.	Y		
Early Murphys - Murpheys in Pittsylvania County, Virginia; Robertson and Carroll Counties, Tennessee	Murphy, Marion Emerson, 1974		Y	Y
Early radio broadcasting in middle TN., THQ 31	DeWitt, John H., Jr. (1972)	Y		
Echoes of the Bell Witch in the twentieth century. Nashville, the author, 1979. 65 pp.	Brehm, H.C.,1979	Y		
Founding of the Cumberland settlements : the first atlas, 1779-1804. Data supplement 1 and 2	Drake, Douglas, 2009		Y	
Goodspeed's history of TN (Robertson County, pp. 827-867, 1124-1205).	Goodspeed, 1886.	Y		
Historic Robertson County, places & personalities. Photographs by Dennis Noon.	Holman, Catherine & Jean Durette. 1940	Y		
Historical quarterly, eastern Robertson County. Vol. 1, 1994-. (quarterly) Cross Plains Heritage Commission.	Cross Plains Heritage Commission, 1994	Y		
Historical sketches of Adams, Robertson County, Tennessee and Port Royal, Montgomery County, Tennessee from 1779 to 1968	Winters, Ralph L., 1968		Y	Y
Historical sketches of Adams, Robertson County, TN & Port Royal, Montgomery County, TN, 1779-1968. Clarksville, 1968. 280 pp. (reprinted 1978 by S.J. Winters)	Winters, Ralph L., 1968	Y		
History of Martin's Chapel United Methodist Church, 1845-1984. Springfield, the church, 1984. 47 pp.	Beasley, Phyllis H., 1984	Y		
History of Mt Carmel Baptist Church.	Swann, Earl.	Y		
History of Mt Zion UMC: established 1798.	Fyke, Ruth C., 1984	Y		
History of St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1842-1982. Rev. & partially rewritten by Marie English Hall. (1st. ed.) Springfield, Clemons Print. Co., 1982. 60 pp.	Hall, Marie English, 1982	Y		
History of Tennessee : from the earliest time to the present; together with an historical and a biographical sketch of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties; besides a valuable fund of notes, reminiscences, observations, etc., etc.	Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1979		Y	
Home of the world's finest, Robertson County, Tennessee	Reid, Yolanda G., c1996.			Y
Hospitality homes & historic sites in western Robertson County, TN. Clarksville, the author, 1971.	Winters, Ralph L. 1971	Y		Y



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Index to microfilm : Robertson County, Springfield, Tennessee.	Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1965			Y
Index to Tennessee county court records.	Works Progress Administration, 1971		Y	
Life and times of Edward Swanson / one of the original pioneers who with General James Robertson founded Nashville, Tennessee, 1779;	McRaven, William Henry.			Y
Marriages of Robertson County, Tennessee, 1839-1861	Whitley, Edythe Johns Rucker, 1981.			Y
Marriages of Robertson County, Tennessee, 1839-1861	Whitley, Edythe Rucker, 1981		Y	
Miscellaneous collection of pamphlets & materials relating to Robertson County & Springfield, 1908-1940. (unpub. typescript)	Dorsey, A. L.	Y		
Orlinda, TN.	Rigsby, Maggie.	Y		
Pioneer colored Christians. Clarksville, W.P. Titus, 1911. 103 pp. (reprinted 1972 by Black Heritage Library Collection)	Miller, Harriet P., 1911	Y		
Pleasant View & environs: Cheatham & Robertson County, TN, 1787-1981. Pleasant View, the author, 1982. 164 pp.	Walker, Mary E., 1982	Y		Y
Red River Baptist Church (Adams, TN). Records of Red River Church at the mouth of Sulpher Fork of Red River in TN County (now Robertson County) Mero District, 1791.	1936	Y		
Red River settlers : records of the settlers of northern Montgomery, Robertson, and Sumner Counties, Tennessee	Whitley, Edythe Rucker, 1980		Y	Y
Reminiscences of Robertson County. Springfield, n.p., n.d. 23 pp.	Mulloy, James S.	Y		
Ridgetop Hist. Soc. Ridgetop, a unique TN community.	Ridgetop, the society, 1985	Y		
Robercrest in the snow	n.p., 1940	Y		
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Robertson County & the Black Patch War, 1904-1909.	Gregory, Rick, THQ 39 (1980)	Y		
Robertson County (Tennessee) Circuit Court minutes: January 1850-June 1869	Tennessee State Library and Archives		Y	
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Robertson County distilleries, 1796-1909.	Gaston, Ray B., THQ 43 (1984)	Y		
Robertson County Negro yearbook, 1938. Compiled by Jacob C. Morton & Virdner D. Moore, Jr. Springfield	Morton, Jacob C., 1938	Y		
Robertson County, Tennessee : marriage book 2, 1859-1873	Lowe, J. Mark., 2005		Y	
Robertson County, Tennessee : obituaries and death records, 1802-1930	Poole, Gregory G.		Y	
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Robertson County, Tennessee 1836 civil districts and tax list	Douthat, James L., 1999.			Y
Robertson County, Tennessee abstracts of chancery court loose papers, 1844-1872	Durrett, Jean M., 1986		Y	
Robertson County, Tennessee abstracts of Chancery Court: loose papers, 1844-1872	Durrett, Jean M. Reid, Yolanda G. 1986.			Y
Robertson County, Tennessee cemetery records	Durrett, Jean M., 1987		Y	
Robertson County, Tennessee court minutes, 1796-1807	Wells, Carol, 1993.			Y
Robertson County, Tennessee population schedules of the United States census of 1820	Presley, Leister E., Mrs., 1999		Y	
Robertson County, Tennessee, 1850 census (transcribed)	Porch, Deanne			Y
Robertson County, Tennessee, court records [microform] Contents County Clerk Minutes v. 1-4, 1796-1817.				Y
Robertson County, Tennessee, marriage records [microform] Contents Marriages 1839-1878.				Y
Robertson County, Tennessee, minutes of Red River Baptist Church, 1791-1826	Red River Baptist Church (Adams, Tenn.) c1983.			Y
Robertson County, Tennessee, wills [microform]				Y

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Robertson County, Tennessee, wills [microform] Wills & inventories 1843-1851.				Y
Robertson County, Tennessee; minute book, 1818-1820	Works Progress Administration, 2005		Y	
Robertson County's heritage of homes. Springfield, Robertson County Antiquities Foundation	Henderson, Deborah K., 1979	Y	Y	
Sadler/Saddler : a record of the family and the descendants of Thomas Sadler, Sr., 1720-1796, and Rebecca Featherston, 1722-1796/99 of Brunswick County Virginia	Smola, Joan Coker. 1994		Y	
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The Bell Witch at Adams. Nashville, D. Hutchinson	Barr, Gladys H., 1969	Y		
The Bell Witch of middle TN. Clarksville, Leaf-Chronicle, 1930. 72 pp.	Miller, Harriet P., 1930	Y		
The first hundred years of the Catholic Church in Robertson County, TN	Walker, Theron J., comp., 1942	Y		
The House With Open Doors.	Gunn, Lovie M., Springfield,, 1967	Y		
The infamous Bell witch of Tennessee	Price, Charles Edwin, 1994	Y		Y
The Pioneers of Nashville and of Tennessee	May, Charles, 1880		Y	
The Springfield I have known. Springfield, Robertson County Times, n.d. 19 pp. (a reproduction of articles published in the Robertson County Times, beginning with its issue of Feb. 4, 1943)	Love, Charles H., 1943	Y		
The village green, Greenbrier, TN, 1858- 1920. Greenbrier, D.M. Hill, 1983. 151 pp.	Hill, Doris M. & Marjorie S. Pike, 1983	Y		
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