

# Hickman County Locality Guide (11 May 2024)

## Geographic Area and County History



Hickman County was named for Edwin Hickman, an explorer and surveyor. The county is located in the central area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#)).

The history of Hickman County began before Tennessee achieved statehood in 1796. In April 1791 Edwin Hickman, a native of North Carolina, led a surveying party into what is now Hickman County. Hickman's party included James Robertson, later known as the Father of Middle Tennessee, Robert Weakley, who also played a prominent

role in early state history, and others. The party camped at the mouth of a small creek on the north side of Duck River opposite the present site of Centerville.

The next morning, as Hickman and Robertson built a predawn fire, Indians fired on the party, killing Hickman and wounding Robertson in the hand. The party retreated to the Cumberland settlement but returned several days later to bury Hickman's body in a shallow grave at the spot where he was killed. In December 1807, when the Tennessee General Assembly created a new county, then Representative Robert Weakley attached an amendment to the bill specifying that the new county should be named in honor of Edwin Hickman. In 1994 the Hickman County Historical Society placed a monument at Hickman's grave and built a fence around the gravesite.

In 1807 the county extended all the way to the present Alabama state line, and Vernon, on the Piney River, became the first county seat. By 1820 several new counties had been created out of Hickman County, and a movement began to move the county seat to a more central location. In 1823 the new town of Centerville became the county seat. As a result of the bitterness over the change, the old log courthouse at Vernon was dismantled at night and hauled to Centerville, along with the court records. Other Hickman County communities in addition to Centerville and Vernon include Aetna, Bon Aqua, Coble, Farmers Exchange, Little Lot, Lyles, Nunnely, Only, Pinewood, Pleasantville, Shady Grove, and Wrigley.

Hickman County is now the eighth largest county in the state, containing 610 square miles. There are more springs and scenic waterfalls in Hickman County than in any other county in Middle Tennessee. A number of sulphur water springs were commercially developed as nineteenth-century recreational sites, including Bon Aqua Springs, Primm Springs, and Beaverdam Springs. These health resorts included hotels, individual cottages, and recreation facilities. Bon Aqua Springs was known as the "Queen" of the southern spas. Neither Bon Aqua nor Primm Springs is still active, but Beaverdam Springs is operated as a church camp by the Presbyterian Church as Na-Co-Me.

The county's early industry centered around the iron furnaces. Indeed, Goodspeed's 1886 History of Tennessee rated Hickman County's iron ore as the best in the state. The Lee

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and Gould Furnace on Sugar Creek opened in 1832. Five years later, Madison Napier built a furnace near Aetna, which was destroyed by Union troops during the Civil War. Furnaces also opened on Mill Creek near Wrigley at an early date. Standard Charcoal Company opened a furnace at Goodrich in 1882; a new furnace was built at Aetna in 1885. All iron works in the county were discontinued before 1940.

In addition to iron manufacturing, Hickman County's economy has centered on agriculture and timbering. Today, local industry includes manufacturers of packaging materials, metal buttons, men's pants, various wood products, structural steel, and pies. The county's 2000 population was 22,295 residents.

Two native Hickman County women gained national fame: Beth Slater Whitson and Sara Ophelia Colley. Whitson wrote several hundred songs including "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland." Colley gained world acclaim as Minnie Pearl on the Grand Ole Opry and the television show Hee Haw. A number of men played important roles in the county's history as well. Jerome Spence published Spence's History of Hickman County in 1900. S. L. Graham built a large cotton mill at Pinewood in the 1850s. Halbert Harvill began his career in education teaching in a one-room schoolhouse. He later taught history and organized and coached the first baseball team and the girls' basketball team at Austin Peay Normal School. Harvill was also dean of the school and president of Austin Peay State University before becoming Tennessee commissioner of education. He served in the Tennessee Senate from 1965 until 1981. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

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

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

1864 Fire damaged courthouse records.

- Lost censuses: 1810
- Lost marriage records: 1807 to 1868
- Lost probate records: 1807 to 1866

FamilySearch Hickman County [Catalog](#)

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

TnGenWeb Project – [Hickman County](#)

Contact - Adoptable

[Hickman County Tennessee History & Genealogy](#)

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Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1914
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>
	Genealogy Trails	<a href="#">Births</a>
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1867
	<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 1914
	<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 1807
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	Genealogy Trails	<a href="#">Register of Deeds-Vol G Roll#24</a>
	Family Search	<a href="#">Index to Deeds 1883-1900</a>
List of Microfilmed Hickman County Records	TSLA-PDF	<a href="#">Download 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 1846
	<a href="#">FamilySearch - Tenn. Probate Court Books 1795-1927</a>	<a href="#">Hickman County Probate Records</a>

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Tax List	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Microfilm 1836, 1837, 1867-1898 <i>1836 Tax List of Hickman County, Tennessee (Published Index)</i>
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>

### County Repositories

[Hickman Public Library](#)  
[Hickman County Historical Society](#)

### Current Area Information

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

### Resources

#### General

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

#### Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

Newspaper.com - None

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Genealogybank.com – None

Chronicling America –

1. [The Hickman County chronicle. \(Centerville, Tenn.\) 1939-1969](#)
2. [Hickman County news-herald. \(Centerville, Tenn.\) 193?-194?](#)
3. [Hickman County news. \(Centerville, Tenn.\) 189?-193?](#)
4. [Hickman County times and the Hickman County chronicle. \(Centerville, Tenn.\) 1969-1971](#)
5. [Hickman County times. \(Centerville, Tenn.\) 1949-1969](#)
6. [Hickman County times. \(Centerville, Tenn.\) 1971-current](#)
7. [The Hickman pioneer. \(Centerville \[Centerville\], Tenn.\) 1878-189?](#)

## Selected Published County Histories

### Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Account of Negro Sunday Time at Mount Aetna Furnace, 1854-1863 (WPA, 1938) [*name index*]
- Brief History of the Twelfth Civil District of Hickman County (Dotson, 1999) [*name index*]
- Glimpses of Hickman County History (Columbia State Community College, 1975)
- Hickman County Sesquicentennial Commemorating 150 Years of Progress (Hickman County (Tenn.) Sesquicentennial Corporation, 1957)
- Hickman County, Tennessee: A Pictorial History (Hickman County Historical Society, 1999) [*name index*]\*
- Hickman County, Tennessee History (Dotson, 1993)\*
- Historical Events of Hickman County, Tennessee [v.1 1900-1950; v. 2 1951-2000] (Mayberry, Sawyer & Armistead, 2007) [*name index*]
- Historical Sketches of Hickman County, Tennessee (Garrett, 1978) [*name index*]
- History of Hickman County, Tennessee (Spence, 1981) [*name index*]\*
- History of Tennessee from the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and a Biographical Sketch of Lawrence, Wayne, Perry, Hickman and Lewis (Goodspeed, 1979)
- Patchwork History of Hickman County: Hickman County, 1807-1984 (Dye, 1984)
- Primm Springs: Where Time Stands Still (198?)\*
- Short History of the Third Civil District of Hickman County (Dotson, 2001) [*name index*]
- Swan Church Book, August 19, 1852-February 6, 1870; Swan Church Minutes, 1871-1903 (Sawyer, undated)

## Published Local Records

### Tennessee State Archives & Library

- 1820 Census of Hickman County, Tennessee (Pierce, 1987) [*alphabetical*]\*
- 1836 Tax List of Hickman County, Tennessee (Linn-Shell Publishing Co., 1987)
- 1850 Census of Hickman County, Tennessee (Garrett & Gilliam, 1967) [*surname index*]\*
- 1878-1893 Obituaries, Hickman Pioneer (Sawyer, 200?) [*name index*]

## Hickman County Locality Guide (11 May 2024)

- 1880 Census Hickman County, Tennessee (Sistler, 1999) *[alphabetical by head of household]\**
- 1910 Census Hickman County, Tennessee (Tatum, 1984) *[surname index]*
- Census of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1820 (1987) *[alphabetical by head of household]*
- Cheatham County, Tennessee, Dickson County, Tennessee, Hickman County, Tennessee, Humphreys County, Tennessee, Lawrence County, Tennessee [1891 enumeration of male voters] (Reed, 1982)
- Columbia & Surrounding Counties, Tennessee Polk City Directory [1990, 1991, 1992, 2003-2016] (R.L. Polk & Co.)
- Confederate Soldiers of Hickman County, Tennessee and Their Family Lines (Hickman County Historical Society, 2005) *[alphabetical]*
- Court Records of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1833-1856 (Leeper, 1968) *[surname index]*
- Death Records of Hickman County, Tennessee (Lynch, 1986) *[surname index]*
- Deed Books A, B, C, 1808-1817, Hickman County, Tennessee (Crompton, 2000) *[name index]\**
- Excerpts from Quarterly and Monthly Minutes of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1881-1932 (Dotson, 2001) *[name index]\**
- Family and Military Records from Spence's History of Hickman County, Tennessee (Leeper, 1965) *[surname index]*
- Hickman County, Tennessee, 1850 Census (Linn-Shell Publishing Co., 199?) *[surname index]\**
- Hickman County, Tennessee, Cemetery Records (Garrett & McClain, 1982) *[name index]\**
- Hickman County, Tennessee Cemetery Records, Part II (Garrett & Lynn, 1976) *[name index]*
- Hickman County, Tennessee, Cemetery Records. Part II (United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1989) *[name index]\**
- Hickman County, Tennessee Court Records 1814-1829 Land Grants, Deeds, Plats, Bills of Sale (Dotson, 1982) *[name index]*
- Hickman County, Tennessee Death Records [vol. 1 1947-1951] (Hickman County, Tennessee Historical Society, 2004-) *[name index]\**
- Hickman County Tennessee Deed Book B, 1811-1813 (WPA, 1937) *[name index]*
- Hickman County, Tennessee Deeds [December 1807 - March 1835] (Hutchings, 2002) *[name index]*
- Hickman County Tennessee Deeds, Volume A, 1808-1811 (WPA, 1937) *[name index]*
- Hickman County Tennessee Guardian & Administrative Settlements, 1844-1852 [vol. 1 1844-1846; vol. 2 1847-1852] (WPA, 1937) *[name index]*
- Hickman County Tennessee Minute Book, 1844-55 (WPA, 1938) *[name index]*
- Hickman County, Tennessee, Quarterly and Monthly Minutes, 1867-1878 (Dotson, 1984) *[name index]\**
- Hickman County, Tennessee United States Census, 1860 (United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1982) *[surname index]*

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- Hickman County Tennessee Wills 1866-1982 (Dotson, 19??) [*name index*]
- Marriage Records of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1907-1912; Death Records of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1912,1914,1915; Establishments of Business 1900-1920 City of Centreville [sic] Tennessee (Mayberry, 2003)\*
- Name Index to History of Tennessee ...: Together With ... Sketch of Lawrence, Wayne, Perry, Hickman, and Lewis Counties (Marsh, 1972)
- Old Centerville Cemetery of Hickman County, Tennessee (Sawyer, 2004) [*name index*]
- Old Marriage Records of Hickman County, Tennessee [2 vols.] (Daughters of the American Revolution, 1979) [*alphabetical by groom, with bride index*]
- Private Acts of Hickman County, Tennessee (McIntyre, 1985)
- Rainey-Moss Cemetery, Hickman County, TN (Rainey, 1996)
- Sacred to the Memory: Hickman County, Tennessee, Cemetery Records, Part I (Garrett & McClain, 1966) [*name index*]
- Surname Index to A History of Hickman County, Tennessee (Gilliam, 1965) [*surname index*]
- Tennessee Hickman County Bible, Family and Tombstone Records (WPA, 1938)

### Selected Manuscripts Material

#### Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Arnold Family Papers, 1857-1859 (Microfilm Manuscript #2036, 1 reel)\*
- Baker and Related Families Collection, 1700-1974 (Microfilm Manuscript #515, 1 reel)\*
- Bethabara Primitive Baptist Church Records. Hickman County, 1885-1931 (Microfilm Manuscript #525, 1 reel)\*
- Boaz Chapel Primitive Baptist Church of Christ Records. Hickman County, Kentucky and Weakley and Obion Counties, Tennessee, 1831-1983 (Microfilm Manuscript #735, 1 reel)\*
- Bolling Gordon Family Papers, 1797-1960 (Microfilm Manuscript #1191, 4 reels)\*
- Jill Knight Garrett Collection, 1800-1969 (Microfilm Manuscript #1196, 1 reel)\*
- McDonald Funeral Home Registers, 1945-1996 (Microfilm Manuscript #1517, 10 reels)\*
- Madison Claiborne Napier Letters, 1830-1847
- Martin and Vaughn, Inc., Columbia (Maury County), Tenn. Records, 1892-1963
- Mill Creek Baptist Church Records. Hickman County, 1883-1942 (Microfilm Manuscript #1462, 1 reel)\*
- Primm Springs Hotel Registers, ca. 1870-1961
- *Rise Of Christianity In South Western Hickman County*, by James E. Chessor (Microfilm Manuscript #426, 1 reel)\*
- South Carolina and Tennessee Cemetery Records, ca. 1850-ca. 1956 (Microfilm Manuscript #307, 1 reel)\*
- Sowell Family Papers, 1827-1881



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- Swan Church: Swan Cumberland Presbyterian Church; Campground Cumberland Church; Swan Creek, Campground Presbyterian Church Records. (Microfilm Manuscript #1784, 1 reel)\*
- Willow Springs Primitive Baptist Church Records. Hickman County, 1883-1942 (Microfilm Manuscript #512, 1 reel)\*

## Funeral Home Records

### Tennessee State Archives & Library

McDonald Funeral Home Registers. 1945-1996.

Registers of the McDonald Funeral Home, containing information similar to that found in death records. The registers include information on funerals conducted for individuals in Lewis County (July 1948-October 1996); Perry County 1945-95); and *Hickman County (1945-1996)*. Microfilm: #1517. 10 reels.

## Maps

[TDOT Map of Hickman County](#)

[Hickman County - 1888](#)

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

## Cemeteries

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

[Hickman County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)

[Hickman 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
"Forgotten empire: Sam Graham's Pinewood." THQ 7 (1968), pp. 40-49.	McDonaugh, James L., 1968	Y		
1836 tax list of Hickman County, Tennessee.	1987			Y
1850 Census of Hickman County, Tennessee	Garrett, Jill Knight. Gilliam, Catherine Kelly.			Y



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A brief record of the Lowe family: and some related families of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1810-1960.	Lowe, Walter Edgar		Y	
A history of Hickman County, Tennessee	Spence, W. Jerome D. Spence, David L., 1900			Y
A history of Hickman County, Tennessee.	Spence, W. Jerome D.		Y	
A history of Hickman County, TN. Nashville, Gospel Advocate, 1900.	Spence, W. Jerome, 1900	Y		
A history of Plunder's Creek, Hickman County, 1810-1987.	Smith, Delbert H., 1987	Y		
A patchwork history of Hickman County: Hickman County, 1807-1984.	Dye, Dana, ed., 1984	Y		
Bon Air Hustler: community news from Bon Air, Ravenscroft, Eastland, and Clifty [in] White County Tennessee; Wrigley, Lyles, Goodrich, and Aetna [in] Hickman County, Tennessee; Allen's Creek and Rupperttown [in] Lewis County, Tennessee; Collinwood in Wayne County, Tennessee; December 4, 1917 to November 5, 1920.	Bon Air Coal and Iron Corporation. Hickman County Historical Society (Tenn.), 2005			Y
Community data, Centerville & Hickman County, TN.	1963	Y		
Death notices from Hickman County newspapers, 1900-1924.	Sawyer, Ova Lee Peery.		Y	
Death notices from the Hickman County pioneer newspapers, 1878-1893.	Armistead, Sarah Peery		Y	
Death records of Hickman County, Tennessee	Lynch, Louise Gillespie, 1986			Y
Digitized miscellaneous history books and family surname books.	TGS, 2012.		Y	
Duck River Chapter. Old marriage records of Hickman County, Tennessee.	DAR, 1986		Y	
Family and military records from Spence's History of Hickman County, Tennessee. Abstracted and arranged by Kate Derryberry Leeper.	Leeper, Kate Derryberry. Spence, W. Jerome D, 1965			Y
Glimpses of Hickman County history: a class anthology for American History 2121	Moore, Lewis E., Jr., ed., 1975	Y		
Goodspeed Publishing Company. The Goodspeed histories of Lawrence, Wayne,	Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1975		Y	

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Perry, Hickman & Lewis Counties, Tennessee.				
Goodspeed's history of TN (Hickman County, pp. 788-801, 910-923).	Goodspeed, 1886.	Y		
Halbert Harvill, my story.	Harvill, Halbert, 1984	Y		
Hickman County sesquicentennial commemorating 150 years of progress: a presentation to the people of Hickman County, TN.	Hickman County Sesquicentennial Corp., 1957.	Y		
Hickman County, 1980-1987: an economic analysis.	1988	Y		
Hickman County, Centerville, TN County Court Clerk vital records, 1908-1912, 1925-1939.	TSLA, 1986		Y	
Hickman County, Tennessee cemetery and Bible records.	2015		Y	
Hickman County, Tennessee cemetery records / [compiled] by Jill Garrett and Iris H. McClain.	Garnett, Jill Knight. McClain, Iris Hopkins, 1982			Y
Hickman County, Tennessee cemetery records.	Garrett, Jill, 1982		Y	
Hickman County, Tennessee court records and wills.	Dotson, Olga		Y	
Hickman County, Tennessee court records, 1814-1829: land grants, deeds, plats, bills of sale.	Dotson, Olga, 1982		Y	
Hickman County, Tennessee deed books A, B, C, 1808 - 1817.	Crumpton, Barbara		Y	
Hickman County, Tennessee history	Dotson, Edward, 1993		Y	Y
Hickman County, Tennessee, deeds [microform] Index to deeds 1884-1900, Deeds July 1808 - Oct. 1817, Feb. 1818 - March 1835.				Y
Hickman County, Tennessee, minutes [microform] Minutes Jan. 1897 - June 1900.				Y
Hickman County, Tennessee, wills [microform] Wills 1866-1916.				Y
Hickman County, Tennessee: Bible - tombstone records.	2011		Y	
Hickman County, Tennessee: bible, family and tombstone records.	WPA		Y	

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Hickman County, TN history.	Hickman County Historical Society, 1993.	Y		
Historical sketches of Hickman County (rev. ed.).	Garrett, Jill K., 1978	Y		
Historical sketches of Hickman County, Tennessee	Garrett, Jill K., 192?			Y
History of Tennessee: from the earliest time to the present: together with an historical and a biographical sketch of Lawrence, Wayne, Perry, Hickman and Lewis Counties, besides a valuable fund of notes, reminiscences, observations, etc., etc.	Goodspeed Publishers, 1979			Y
Index to Tennessee county court records.	TGS, 1971		Y	
Johnson, F. F. Life and works of F.F. Johnson, M.D. Stonefort, IL: F. F. Johnson, 1913.			Y	
Land grant genealogy: North Carolina warrants, surveys & surveyor plats. [Gallatin, TN]: Warioto Press, ©2012.	Masters, Jack, 2012		Y	
Lest we forget: Churches of Christ in Hickman County, TN across 150 years.	Dotson, Edward, 1986	Y		
Old marriage records of Hickman County, Tennessee	DAR, 1979			Y
Remember when--: an oral history of Centerville & Hickman County.	Lynn, Mrs. O.J., 1986	Y		
Sacred to the memory: Hickman County, Tennessee, cemetery records	Garrett, Jill Knight. McClain, Iris Hopkins, 1966			Y
Spence's History of Hickman County name index: (for the 1969 Gilbert edition)	Savage, Kitty E., 1972	Y		
Spence's history of Hickman County, Tennessee.	Spence, W. Jerome D., 1981			Y
Tennessee Census reports, no. 8, Hickman County, 1820	Houston, Martha Lou, 1935			Y
The development of domestic architecture in Hickman County, TN, 1800-1910. Vanderbilt U. thesis	Ferguson, Jane E., 1975	Y		
The Forrester, Dunaway, and Reeves families of Sugar Creek in the 19th century: ancestors and descendants.	Laster, Marion Lynn, 2017		Y	

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The Goodspeed histories of Lawrence, Wayne, Perry, Hickman & Lewis counties, Tennessee.	Goodspeed Publishers, 1975			Y
The old Centerville Cemetery of Hickman County, Tennessee: biographical sketches.	Sawyer, Ova Lee, 2004		Y	
The River Counties Quarterly.	Garrett, Jill		Y	
The Sampson Stewarts: a family record.	Stewart, Morris Monroe, 1982		Y	
Wagon trails & train rails: a journey back to old fifth district of Hickman County, TN.	Pierce, Deborah B., 1989	Y		