Geographic Area and County History



Blount County was named for the governor of the Southwest Territory, William Blount. The county is located in the east-central area of the state. (FamilySearch Wiki)

Blount County is one of the oldest counties in Tennessee. Established in 1795 before statehood, it was named in honor of Territorial Governor William Blount. Prior to white settlement the area was home to the Cherokee Indians, who established

their capital at Chota and occupied a village at Chilhowee.

White settlers arrived in the mid-1780s and established a permanent settlement at Houston's Station in 1786. The county seat of Maryville, named after Governor Blount's wife, Mary Grainger Blount, was established and laid out in the 1795 act creating Blount County. Throughout the nineteenth century, Maryville was a medium-sized prosperous county seat, noted as the home of Maryville College. Originally established in 1819 as the Southern and Western Theological Seminary, Maryville College was among the first southern schools to open its doors to Native Americans, African Americans, and women. As industry arrived in the county at the turn of the century, Maryville boomed as a rail junction. Important properties associated with the boom include the Blount County Courthouse (1906), a Classical Revival design by Bauman and Bauman of Knoxville; the Southern Railway freight depot; and the Indiana Avenue historic district.

Smaller rural settlements are scattered throughout the county. In 1796 a settlement of Quakers from North Carolina established Friendsville, west of Maryville. Cades Cove was settled in the 1820s. By the 1870s a close community had evolved, linked by isolation and kinship. In 1927 Cades Cove residents launched an unsuccessful court battle to protect their homes from inclusion in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Many of the homes, barns, and mills of Cades Cove have been preserved or reconstructed as a reminder of the past heritage of Blount County.

Sam Houston, one of the most famous Blount County residents, moved there with his family from Virginia in 1807. In 1812 Houston taught school in a one-room schoolhouse, now preserved as a state historic site, near Maryville.

For almost one hundred years, Blount County was home to a series of resort hotels near several springs at the foot of Chilhowee Mountain at Montvale. During the 1850s Irish expatriate John Mitchell lived there, and the family of author Sidney Lanier owned the hotel from 1856 to 1863, inspiring his novel Tiger Lilies. William G. Brownlow was also a frequent guest. After the Civil War, several less successful hotels followed at Montvale, and the last hotel burned in 1933. Other smaller resorts operated near springs throughout Blount County into the early twentieth century.

In 1844 lawmakers attempted to establish a new county from the southern portion of Blount County and part of Monroe County. The new county would be called Jones, in honor of Governor James C. Jones, and the capital would be Ashley, a settlement near the former Cherokee town of Chilhowee. Surveyors mapped the area in 1844 and 1845, but the population was evidently not sufficient to warrant the creation of the new county.

During the Civil War many residents of Blount County supported the Union, as did much of East Tennessee. General William T. Sherman quartered in Maryville with approximately thirty thousand men in December 1863. Quakers at Friendsville helped over two thousand Tennessee men to escape conscription in the Confederate army.

Company towns have played a large role in Blount County's history. In 1901 the Little River Lumber Company was chartered, and a mill town, named Townsend in honor of the company president W. B. Townsend, grew up around the lumber operations in Tuckaleechee Cove. Although the Little River Lumber Company sold much of its land for the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Townsend remains as a reminder of the importance of the lumber industry in Blount County. Walland, halfway between Maryville and Townsend, was home to the Schlosser Leather Company, which processed raw hides mostly imported from South America.

In 1914 the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) reincorporated the area of North Maryville into a company town called Alcoa and built several plants for aluminum production. The company also established the town of Calderwood on the Little Tennessee River in southern Blount County to house workers. The company exercised immeasurable importance in the economic life of the county and East Tennessee in the form of jobs, schools, economic advancement, and municipal additions. By 1960 ALCOA's investment in Blount County had brought the county from eighty-fifth of Tennessee's ninety-five counties in assembled wealth to the top ten. ALCOA also provided much of the money and land to build McGhee-Tyson Airport, which serves Knoxville and East Tennessee.

Much of eastern Blount County lies in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, authorized by Congress in 1926. The establishment of the park was not without controversy for local residents, but sources ranging from schoolchildren to large benefactors raised \$2.5 million in funds for the purchase of park land, a figure which was matched by the states of Tennessee and North Carolina, and the Rockefeller family donated an additional \$5 million. After land had been purchased, it was deeded to the federal government. Congress formally established the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in June 1935, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the park on September 2, 1940. (Tennessee Encyclopedia)

Blount County Chamber of Commerce

Record Loss - Blount County (Family Search)

1879 and 1906 Courthouse burned and many records were damaged.

Lost censuses: 1810, 1820

FamilySearch Blount County Catalog

TnGenWeb Project - Blount County Contact - Taneya Koonce

County Genealogist - Betty Best Phone: (865) 982-3048

County Historian - Mr. B. Kenneth Cornett

Blount County Genealogical Historical Society

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 <u>TSLA</u>
	TNGenWeb	Individual Birth Listings
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1881
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <u>TSLA</u>
	TNGenWeb	Marriages 1796-1850
		Marriages 1980-2005
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 <u>TSLA</u>
	TSLA	1908-1912
		1914-1933

Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1795
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	TNGenWeb	1795-1819 - Deed Book 1 (Index)
List of Microfilmed Blount County Records	TSLA-PDF	Download PDF
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1795
	<u>TnGenWeb</u>	
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

County Repositories

Blount County Public Library
Blount County Genealogical & Historical Society

Current Area Information

Blount County Chamber of Commerce Blount County Government

Resources

General

Tennessee County Database (TNGS) - Blount County
Blount County Wiki (Family Search)
Linkpendium - Blount County
Tennessee State Library & Archives - Blount County Facts Sheet
TLSA Name Index - Blount County (Acts of Tennessee 1796-1850)
TNGenWeb - Blount County

<u>USGenWeb Archives - Blount County Tennessee</u> <u>Tennessee Law, The Early Days</u>

Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

<u>Check Online Catalog for Blount County Newspaper Details & Dates Held.</u>
We do not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers.

Newspaper.com

Blount County Democrat - 1879-1883 Maryville Daily Times - 1884-1884 Maryville Republican - 1867-1877 The Maryville Times - 1885-1920

Genealogybank.com

Maryville Times - 1885-1920

Chronicling America

The weekly index. [volume] (Maryville, Tenn.) 1880-188?

Blount County democrat. [online resource] (Maryville, Tenn.) 1879-1883

Blount County democrat. [volume] (Maryville, Tenn.) 1879-1883

Blount County standard. (Maryville, Tenn.) 1877-1878

The soldier's gazette. [volume] (Maryville, Tenn.) 1870-1871

The independent. (Maryville, Tenn.) 187?-187?

The independent. (Kingston [Tenn.]) 1874-1876

Miscellaneous portfolio: or, Weekly abstract of general knowledge.

(Maryville, Tenn.) 1838-18??

Portfolio: or, Southern weekly magazine (Maryville, Tenn.) 1839-18??

The watchman. (Maryville, Tenn.) 1882-1882

Tri-county news. (Sevierville, Tenn.) 1956-current

Today's news. (Maryville, Tenn.) 1887-18??

The Republican. [online resource] (Maryville, Tennessee) 187?-187?

The Republican. [volume] (Maryville, Tenn.) 187?-187?

Religious & literary intelligencer. [volume] (Maryville, Tenn.) 1832-183?

The free-press. (Maryville, Tenn.) 1955-19??

Millennial trumpeter. (Maryville, Tenn.) 183?-183?

The enterprise free-press. (Maryville, Tenn.) 1954-1955

The daily times. (Maryville, Tenn.) 1981-current

The advocate. (Maryville, Tenn.) 1853-1854

Selected Published County Histories

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

Blount County

Blount County Communities We Live In Goodspeed's Blount County History (1990)

Blount County Remembered: The 1890's Photography of W.O.

Garner

Blount County, Tennessee, 1795-1995: A Bicentennial History Cades Cove: The Life and Death of a Southern Appalachian

Community, 1818-1937 Cades Cove as it Was

Cades Cove Photos
Cades Cove Story

Friendsville

Goodspeed's Blount County History

Happy Valley in Blount County, Tennessee, Friends and Family

Historic Sites in Blount, Cocke, Monroe and Sevier Counties

History of Blount County, Tennessee and Its People, 1795-1995 History of Blount County, Tennessee; From War Trail to Landing

Strip, 1795-1955

History of New Providence Presbyterian Church, Maryville,

Tenn., 1786-1921

Legends of Cades Cove and the Smokies Beyond

Maryville [Images of America]

Maryville 1920: From Pistol Creek to the Palace Theater Oakland United Methodist Church, Trigonia Community,

Greenback, Tennessee

Snapshots of Blount County History [vol. 1-5]

Townsend

(Best, 1993)

(Albert & Cornett, 2010) *

(Tindell, 1973)*

(1990) [name index]

(Smith & Kintner, 1991)*

(Thomas, 1995)*

(Dunn, 1988) [name index]*

(Coada & Hill, 2003)*

(Shields, 1988) [name index]*

(Shields, 1977)*

(Henry & Albert, 2011)

(1990) [name index]

(Best, 2017) [surname index]

(Carberry, 1973)

(Blount County History Book Committee)

(Burns, 1974) [name index]*

(McTeer, 1921)*

(Weals, 2002)

(Albert and Duggan, 2012)

(LeQuire, 2020)

(Montgomery, 1982)

(Stone, 2005 -)

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Selected Published Local Records

Tennessee State Archives & Library

1830 U.S. Census of Blount County, Tennessee (county seat is Maryville, Tennessee)

1840 Population Schedule of the United States Census, Blount

County, Tennessee

1880 Census, Tennessee, Transcription for Blount County Anderson Co., Tennessee, Blount Co., Tennessee, Knox Co., Tennessee, Sevier Co., Tennessee: Enumeration of Male Inhabitants of Twenty-one Years of Age and Upward (Burns, 1951)*

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Blount County, Tennessee 1836 Tennessee Civil Districts and (Douthat, 1993) [name index]* Tax Lists Blount County, Tennessee Cemetery Records: Including Blount (Little, 1981) [surname index]* Section of Louden Blount County, Tennessee Chancery Court Records [vol. 1 1852-1865; *vol. 2 1866-1869] (Dockter, 1992-1994) [name index]* Blount County, Tennessee, Court Minutes, Book no. 2, 1814-1817 (WPA, 1938) [name index] Blount County, Tennessee Deeds [vol. 11795-1819*; vol. 21819-(Thomas, 1990-1993) [surname index] Blount County, Tennessee, Entry Taker's Book, 1824-1826 (WPA, 1938) (WPA, 1938) [name index] Blount County, Tennessee, First Baptist Church Minutes, Maryville (WPA, 1937) (WPA, 1937) [name index] Blount County, Tennessee, Marriage Records [vol. 11795-1854; (WPA, 1936) [name index] vol. 2 1854-1870] (WPA, 1936) Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages, 1795-1865 (Parham, 1982) (Parham, 1982) [name index] Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages, 1795 to 1910 (Little, 1982) (Little, 1982) [name index] Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages, 1795 to 1915 (Little, 1994?) (Little, 1994?) [name index]* Blount County, Tennessee, Tombstone Records (WPA, 1938) [name index] Blount County, Tennessee, Vital Statistics, 1914 through 1925 (Wiefering, 1993) [name index]* Blount County, Tennessee, Vital Statistics, 1926 through 1930 (Wiefering, 1997) [name index] Blount County, Tennessee, Vital Statistics, 1931 through 1935 (Wiefering, 1998) [name index] Blount County, Tennessee, Vital Statistics, 1936 through 1941 (Wiefering, 1999) [name index]* Blount County, Tennessee, Vital Statistics, 1942 through 1946 (Wiefering, 2000) [name index]* Blount County, Tennessee, Will Book [1799-1858] (WPA, 1937) [name index] Collection of Blount County Wills With Transcriptions, 1795-(Mary Blount Chapter, NSDAR, 1869, Volume 1, Microfilm #139, pages 166-271, Blount County, Tennessee 2012) [name index] Collection of Wills with Transcriptions, Blount County (Mary Blount Chapter, NSDAR, Tennessee, 1896-1899 2010) [name index] "Connection" in East Tennessee (Edwards & Frizzell, 2001) Estate Settlements in Blount County, Tennessee, Naming Heirs: Extracted from Execution Book II, Chancery Court, Feb. 1872 - Feb. 1893; Execution Book II, Court, Apr. 1893 - Feb. 1915, and the Workbook of James A. Greer, Clerk and Master, Chancery Court 1885-1890 Fort Loudoun Reservoir Cemeteries (Douthat, 1988) (Douthat, 1988) [surname index]* Gone So Soon: The Cemeteries of Blount County, Tennessee [4 (McGinnis, 2011) [surname index in vols] each volume] Marriages of Blount County, Tennessee, 1795-1859 (Whitley, 1982) [name index] Minutes of the County Court of Blount County, Book no. 3, 1818 (WPA, 1941) [name index] Our Ancestry: Family Records of Members of Blount County, Tennessee, Genealogical & Historical Society (1988) [surname index]* Population schedule of the United States Census of 1860 for (Templin & Henderson, 1982)* Blount County, Tennessee (

(WPA, 1936) [name index]*

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Six Mile Baptist Church, 1813-1836

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Jonathan Wade H. Tipton Journal, 1846-1847 (Microfilm Manuscript #59, 1 reel) *

Maps

TDOT Map of Blount County

Blount County & East TN 1795

Blount County - 1834 (US Gen Web-TN)

Blount County ~1870 (Tn Virtual Arch)

Blount County - 1888

Blount County - 1900 ED Map

TnGenWeb Project - Maps Our Ancestors Followed

Cemeteries

Blount County Cemeteries - Find-a Grave

Blount County Cemeteries - USGenWeb

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GRH&GC = Germantown Regional History & Genealogical Center
MPL = Memphis Public Library

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	Barbara, 1921			
A century of Maryville College, 1819-1919	Wilson, Samuel	Υ		
	T., 1916			
A child welfare survey of Blount County. Maryville College	Goves, Benjamin	Υ		
(undergraduate) thesis	P., 1933			
A family history and descendants of Adam Dunlap, Sr.:	Dunlap, Marion		Υ	
with roots in Blount County, Tennessee	Ray., 1989			

A history of Calderwood, TN	Buckner, Richard M., UT Thesis, 1982	Υ		
A place called Greenback: an east TN town at the turn of the century, 1870-1917	Best, Edwin J., 1993	Υ		
A school of the prophets at Maryville.	Parker, Harold M., Jr., THQ 34 (1975)	Υ		
A survey of the birds of the Alcoa marshes	Williams, Morris D, UT thesis, 1975	Υ		
Alcoa, TN: the early years.	Parker, Russell D., ETHSP 48 (1976)	Υ		
Alcoa, TN: the years of change, 1940-1960	Parker, Russell D., ETHSP 49 (1977)	Υ		
Back home in Blount County: an illustrated history of its communities.	Maryville, Blount County Historic Trust, 1986.	Υ		
Biographical directory, TN General Assembly, 1796-1969 (Blount County, Preliminary #7)	TSLA, 1969	Υ		
Blount County	Albert, Linda Braden, 2010		Y	
Blount County	Cornett, B., 2010		Υ	
Blount County (Maryville)	TN Historical Records Survey, 1941			Y
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Blount County, Maryville, Tennessee	TSLA, 1971			Υ
Blount County, Tennessee 1836 Tennessee civil districts and tax lists	Douthat, James L., 1993			Y
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Blount County, Tennessee county court minutes book 2, 1814-1817	US-WPA		Υ	
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Blount County, Tennessee deeds, deed book 1, 1795-1819	Thomas, Jane Kizer, 1990		Υ	
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Cades Cove & parts of the Great Smoky Mountains	Ridings, Gladys 0., 1983	Y		
Cades Cove during the 19th century.	Dunn, Durwood C 1981	Υ		
Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park	Shields, Arthur R., THQ 24 (1965)	Y		
Cades Cove photos: a pictorial record of the place & the people	Shields, Arthur R., 1988	Y		
Cades Cove: the life & death of a southern Appalachian community, 1818–1937	Dunn, Durwood C 1988	Υ		
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