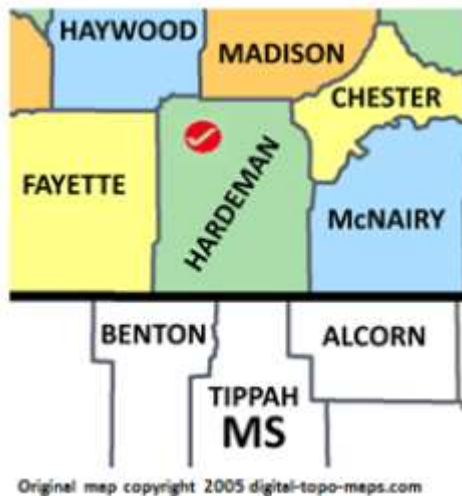


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Geographic Area

Hardeman County is a county located in the U.S. state of Tennessee. As of the 2010 census, the population was 27,253 and a population density of 16 people per km². After 10 years in 2020 county had an estimated population of 24,836 inhabitants. Its county seat is **Bolivar**. The county was created 198 years ago in 1822.

Hardeman County is located at 35°12'25"N 88°59'35"W (35.2068700, -88.9930800). It has 8 neighbors: Alcorn County, MS, Benton County, MS, Tippah County, MS Chester County, Fayette County, Haywood County, Madison County and McNairy County.



The largest city of Hardeman County is **Bolivar** with a population of 4,845.

Other cities include:

Middleton population 629
Toone population 336
Grand Junction population 265
Silerton population 99.

([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

Key Historical Events

Hardeman County has been no stranger to significant historical events. The treaty with the Chickasaws that opened West Tennessee for settlement was signed on October 19, 1818, by Isaac Shelby and Andrew Jackson. Settlers began to arrive in 1819; among the first were Ezekiel Polk, grandfather of President James Polk and author of a now-famous epitaph, and Colonel Thomas Hardeman (1788-1854), a veteran of the Creek War and the War of 1812 who served as the first county court clerk. He was commissioner of the town of Bolivar before moving to Texas in 1835, where he was and a prominent figure in the fight for Texas independence. He served as a congressman in the Republic of Texas.

Rapid settlement occurred thereafter, with new arrivals coming from North and South Carolina, Virginia, northern Alabama, and Middle Tennessee. Hardeman County was officially opened to settlers in 1820. Hardeman County was formed in 1823 from Hardin County and Indian lands. ([Private Acts of Tennessee 1823, Chapter 108](#))

In 1823, the first hamlet in Hardeman County was established along the banks of the river whose name the village bore, Hatchie Town. Given its location near the river, the town suffered from chronic pestilence and flooding and was ultimately relocated a mile to the south. An Act of the Tennessee State Legislature on October 18, 1825 designated Hatchie the county seat, but shortly

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afterward, its name was changed to Bolivar in honor of the famed South American patriot and liberator, Simon Bolivar. By the year 1830, ten mills were in operation on the banks of the Hatchie River and its tributaries, including three on Spring Creek, two on Clear Creek, (an offshoot of Clover Creek) and others on Pleasant Run Creek, Porter's Creek, Piney Creek and Mill Creek. Many of the early mills also served as river ports and settlers entering the county often settled and formed communities that later became the towns still thriving in the county. Other settlers pushed inward, forming strong communities that banded together to fend off the bands of fierce Chickasaw warriors remaining in the wilderness. These warriors were reported to have been some of the finest and fiercest warriors in America.

As a result of President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal policy, the Cherokee Nation was forced to give up its lands east of the Mississippi River and resettle in the Oklahoma Territory. Bolivar and Hardeman County paid witness to the resulting "Trail of Tears" on November 16, 1838 when a detachment of the tribe, under the direction of John Bell, crossed the Hatchie River near the old stage road. The party continued westward and crossed into Arkansas on November 24, 1838. Facing disease and privation from the long-forced march, more than one quarter of the Cherokee Nation perished during this tragedy.

As a significant commercial thoroughfare in the 1830s and 1840s, the Hatchie River supported an active steamboat-based trade which brought wares manufactured in the north into the classic homes being built during the period. Some well-preserved examples of furniture are still located at The Pillars, the home of one-time cotton and retail magnate John Houston Bills.

Hardeman County was the scene of bitter fighting during the War Between the States, as was much of west Tennessee. Most notably, the Battle of Hatchie Bridge (also called Davis Bridge and Metamora Hill) on October 5, 1862, which resulted in an estimated 900 total casualties (US 500; CS 400). Confederate Major General Earl Van Dorn retreated from Corinth, MS on October 4, 1862 but Union Major General William S. Rosecrans did not send forces in pursuit until the morning of October 5th. Maj. Gen. Edward O.C. Ord, commanding a detachment of Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee, was, pursuant to orders, advancing on Corinth to assist Rosecrans. On the night of October 4-5, he camped near Pocahontas. Between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. the next morning, his force encountered Union Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut's 4th Division, District of Jackson, in the Confederates' front. Ord took command of the now-combined Union forces and pushed Van Dorn's advanced element, Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's Army of the West, back about five miles to the Hatchie River and across Davis Bridge. After accomplishing this, Ord was wounded in the ankle and Hurlbut assumed command. While Price's men were hotly engaged with Ord's force, Van Dorn's scouts looked for and found another crossing of the Hatchie River. Van Dorn then led his army back to Holly Springs. Grant ordered Rosecrans to abandon the pursuit. Ord had forced Price to retreat, but the Confederates escaped capture or destruction. Although they should have done so, Rosecrans's army had failed to capture or destroy Van Dorn's force. It was the final engagement of the luka-Corinth Campaign of the American Civil War.

Another key piece of Civil War history includes the Battle of Middleburg. The Battle of Middleburg occurred on August 30, 1862 when Confederate General Frank C. Armstrong rode north from Holly Springs, Mississippi, to raid Federal supply lines in West Tennessee. Armstrong engaged a Union brigade commanded by Colonel Mortimer Leggett, and following a day-long battle featuring one of the few saber engagements between Union and Confederate cavalry forces, the Union troops retreated. The Confederates continued their foray northward until two days later when

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they were halted at the Battle of Britton Lane. The only marker denoting the battle site is on Tennessee Highway 18, south of Bolivar.

Contraband Camps were found in Union-occupied portions of the Confederacy. In these camps men, women, and children who were previously enslaved gained the protection of the Union Army. The first Contraband Camp was established in Grand Junction by John Eaton. The Union Army was largely unprepared to effectively manage the number of refugees that their successes on the battlefield brought. Refugees endured extremely difficult circumstances that included overcrowding, clothing shortages, food shortages, unsanitary conditions, and ceaseless danger. These circumstances influenced the progress of emancipation and were a driving force behind the Congressional creation of the Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees, and Abandoned Lands. ([Hardeman County Chamber of Commerce](#))

County Historian - Mrs. Patricia Vincent 212 W. Sycamore Street Bolivar, TN 38008

Record Loss - 1864 Hardeman County's courthouse caught fire; most records are complete.

[FamilySearch On-Line Hardeman County Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project - [Hardeman County](#)

Contact - [Jim Daniel](#)

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
	USGenWeb - Hardeman	Births
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1823
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
1823-1859	TSLA	Microfilm #29, 1 reel
	USGenWeb - Hardeman	Marriages
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

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	USGenWeb - Hardeman	Deaths
		Obits
1908-1912	TN Death Records	Index TN Death Records
1914-1970	TN Death Records	Index TN Death Records
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1820
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	Deed Index - 1822-1902	Microfilm #37, 1 reel
List of Microfilmed Hardeman County Records	TSLA-PDF	
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1823
Executors' & Administrators' Settlements -- 1850-1859	TSLA	Microfilm #16, 1 reel
Executors' & Administrators' Settlements -- 1859-1872	TSLA	Microfilm #17, 1 reel
School Records	TSLA	School Census Records
Tax Lists	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Tax Years on Microfilm (Pre 1900): 1824-1854, 1865-1881
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection
Wills	TSLA	1824-1845 (#34, 1 reel)
	TSLA	1845-1901 (#35, 1 reel)
WPA Records	Hardeman County	Record Group #107, Roll 31, 1 reel
	General Index to Deeds	Vol. 1, pts. 1&2 (1822-1876)
	Minutes, Circuit Court	Vol. 1 (1823-1829)
	Minutes, County Court	Vol. 2 (1827-1829)
	Wills & Inventories	Vol. 1, pts. 1 & 2 (1823-1838)
	Marriage Records	(1823-1838) [loose]
		Book 1 (1838-1852)
		(1860-1870)

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County Repositories

[Hardeman County Archives](#) - original records dating back to 1823 - 1960 including Wills, Probate records, Guardianship records, Trust Deeds, Bolivar Bulletin Records and some Partitions.

[Bolivar-Hardeman Public Library](#)

Current Area Information

[Hardeman County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Hardeman County Government](#)

Resources

General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) – Hardeman County](#)

[Hardeman County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)

[Tennessee State Library & Archives – Hardeman County Facts Sheet](#)

[TNGenWeb – Hardeman County](#)

[USGenWeb Archives Hardeman County – Hardeman County](#)

Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

Bolivar Bulletin. Published Aug 26? 1865 - Apr 13 1888.

Bolivar Bulletin. Published Nov 30 1888 - F 1 1946.

Bolivar Bulletin & Hardeman County Times. Published Feb 7 1946 – present.

Bolivar Free Press & Farmer's Herald. Published Mar 8? 1834 - ?

Bolivar Palladium. Published Dec 2 1829 - ?

Constitutional Defender. Published Nov 1957 - ?

Hardeman County Times. Published Jul 30 1936 - Ja 31 1946.

Hardeman County Leader. Published Mzy 6 1992 – ?

Hardeman Free Press. Published Feb 8 1895 - Ag 16 1918.

Union Banner. Published Jul 31 1862 - ?

West Tennessee Democrat. Published ? 1851 - ?

West Tennessee Star. Published Apr 20 - Nov 23 1888.

Newspaper.com & Genealogybank.com

Bolivar Bulletin. 1865-1904

Chronicling America

[The Hardeman County leader \(Middleton, Tenn.\) 1992-1993](#)

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[The Hardeman County times \(Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tenn.\) 1936-1946](#)
[The Hardeman Free Press \(Bolivar, Tenn.\) 1895-1918](#)
[West Tennessee Democrat \(Bolivar, Tenn.\) 185?-18??](#)
[The West Tennessee Star \[online resource\] \(Bolivar, Tennessee\) 1888-1888](#)
[The West Tennessee Star \(Bolivar, Tenn.\) 1888-1888](#)
[The Union Banner \(Bolivar, Tenn.\) 1862-186?](#)
[The Bolivar Bulletin & the Hardeman County Times \(Bolivar, Tenn.\) 1946-1981](#)
[The Bolivar Bulletin \[online resource\] \(Bolivar, Hardeman Cnty, TN\) 1865-1888](#)
[The Bolivar Bulletin \[online resource\] \(Bolivar, Tennessee\) 1888-1946](#)
[The Bolivar Bulletin \[volume\] \(Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tenn.\) 1865-1888](#)
[The Bolivar Bulletin \(Bolivar, Tenn.\) 1888-1946](#)
[The Bolivar Free Press & Farmers Herald \(Bolivar, Tenn.\) 1834-1835](#)
[Bolivar Palladium \(Bolivar Ten\[n\].\) 1829-183?](#)
[Bulletin-Times \(Bolivar, Tenn.\) 1981-current](#)

Selected Manuscripts

Tennessee State Archives & Library

[Antebellum Southern Plantations \(Microfilm Manuscript #1370, 20 reels\)*](#)
[Calvin Jones Papers, 1786-1881 \(Microfilm Manuscript #149, 1 reel\)*](#)
[Francis McGavock Papers, 1784-1854 \(Microfilm Manuscript #742, 1 reel\)*](#)
[Roy Watterson Black Collection, ca. 1820-1970 \(Microfilm Manuscript #826, 9 reels\)*](#)
[Walter Wagner Faw Papers \(Microfilm Manuscript #998, 53 reels\)*](#)

Maps

[Hardeman County, Tennessee, showing civil districts \(1836\)](#)
[Hardeman County 1937](#)
[Hardeman County 1923](#)
[TDOT Map of Hardeman County](#)
[Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps - Bolivar Hardeman County](#)

Cemeteries

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

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Bibliography

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

Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
"Ames Plantation, Grand Junction." THQ 38	Davidson / 1979	Y		
"Lest we forget." Grand Junction TN 1 st Baptist Church	2007		Y	
"No plumbing for negroes: Ames Plantation." Atlantic	Barraclough / Sep 1965	Y		
A sociological & religious study of forty negro church communities of Hardeman County, TN. Drew U. thesis	Robinson / 1950	Y		
Abstracts from the Bolivar bulletin	Cox / 1993		Y	Y
Abstracts from the Hardeman free press, 1895-1918	Cox / 1993		Y	
Alphabetical index to Hardeman County, Tennessee deed books A-Z (TNGS)	Crawford / 2008		Y	
As it was: plantation life in west TN beginning 1832	Stewart / 1974	Y		
Bible Records, Hatchie Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tennessee	Owens / 1977	Y	Y	Y
Calvin Jones, physician, soldier & freemason, 1755- 1846, being an account of his career in NC & TN	Haywood / 1919	Y		
Cemeteries Near Hickory Valley, Hardeman County, Tennessee	19??	Y		
Cemetery Records of Hardeman County, Tennessee	Owens / 1970	Y	Y	
Diary of Sally Wendell Fentress of Hardeman County, Tennessee, August 1863 to February 1866	Kinser / 1995	Y		
Extracts of wills - estate settlements and guardian bonds of Hardeman County, Tennessee	Cox / 1993		Y	
Extracts of Wills, Estate Settlements and Guardian Bonds of Hardeman County, Tennessee	Davidson / 1993	Y		
Extracts of wills-estate settlements and guardian bonds of Hardeman County, Tennessee	Owens			Y
First Baptist Church, Bolivar, TN, 1835-1985. Bolivar, the church	1985	Y		
General index to deeds, No.1, 1822-1876. Hardeman County, Tennessee.				Y
General Index to Deeds, Number 1 1822-1876	WPA / 1940	Y		
Goodspeed's Hardeman County History	Goodpseed / 1988	Y	Y	
Gravestone inscriptions. Cemeteries: Newcastle, Hardeman Co., Tenn.	Ericksen			Y
Harde-facts	Vincent		Y	
Hardeman CO., TN. 1836 & 1837 tax list	Brown			Y
Hardeman County	Coleman, 2012	Y		
Hardeman County (Tennessee) deeds: Vol A-C October 1822-October 1834	TSLA	Y		Y
Hardeman County (Tennessee) deeds: Vol D-E, Oct 1834 - Dec 1838	TSLA	Y		Y
Hardeman County (Tennessee) deeds: Vol K-L December 1849-September 1853	TSLA	Y		Y

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Hardeman County (Tennessee) deeds: Vol M - N-September 1853 - February 1857	TSLA	Y		Y
Hardeman County (Tennessee) deeds: Vol O-P February 1857-August 1859	TSLA	Y		Y
Hardeman County (Tennessee) deeds: Vol Q-R August 1859-June 1862	TSLA	Y		Y
Hardeman County Historical Sketches	HCHC / 1979	Y	Y	Y
Hardeman County Tennessee Circuit Court Minutes, vol. 1 1823-1829	WPA / 1941	Y		
Hardeman County Tennessee Court Minutes vol. 2 1827-1829	WPA / 1936	Y		Y
Hardeman County Tennessee Marriage Book vol.1 1838-52	WPA / 1937	Y		
Hardeman County Tennessee Marriage Records 1860-1870	WPA / 1938	Y		
Hardeman County Tennessee Marriage Records Loose 1823-1838	WPA / 1938	Y		
Hardeman County vital records	Hays / 1987		Y	
Hardeman County Vital Records [marriages 1827-1832]	Hays / 1987	Y		
Hardeman County, Tennessee Cemetery Records	Black / 1965	Y		
Hardeman County, Tennessee county court minutes	Signal Mtn Press		Y	
Hardeman County, Tennessee freedmen's marriage records, November 29, 1865 to December 31, 1870	Armour / 1973		Y	Y
Hardeman County, Tennessee marriage records, February 12, 1838 to July 10, 1852	Armour / 1972		Y	
Hardeman County, Tennessee marriage records, July 11, 1852 to December 31, 1859	Armour / 1972		Y	
Hardeman County, Tennessee marriage records, October 16, 1823 to February 11, 1838	Armour / 1972		Y	
Hardeman County, Tennessee marriages, 1823-1827	Brown / 1994		Y	Y
Hardeman County, Tennessee, Marriage Records vol. 1 Oct 1823 - Feb 1838; vol. 2 Feb 1838 - July 1852; vol. 3 July 1852 - Dec 1859; vol. 4 Dec 1862 - May 1863; vol. 5 Nov 1865 - Dec 1870	Armour / 1965-66	Y		
Hardeman County, Tennessee: will book	Willis / 2007		Y	
Hardeman County, TN Marriages, 1823-1861	Sistler / 1986	Y	Y	Y
Hardeman Free Press, 1895-1918, Bolivar, Tennessee	Davidson, Owens & Cox, 1997	Y		Y
Hickory Valley, Tennessee: list of African Americans buried in cemeteries near Hickory Valley, Hardeman County, Tennessee	Jones / 2001		Y	Y
History of Tennessee From the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and a Biographical Sketch of Fayette and Hardeman Counties	Goodpseed / 1973	Y	Y	Y
Index to Hardeman County, Tennessee County Court civil dockets, 1849-1900	DAR / 1990		Y	
Index to Hardeman County, Tennessee freedman's contracts 1865-1866	Taylor			Y
List of African Americans buried in cemeteries near Hickory Valley, Hardeman County, Tennessee	Haralson			Y
Marriage notices: extracts from newspapers from 1835 to 1860	Cargill / 1996		Y	
Marriage records... 1823-1838; 1860- Hardeman County, Tennessee				Y

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Notes from Hardeman County (Vol. 1 taken from newspapers 1829-1870)	Haralson / 2013	Y		
Notes from Hardeman County (Vol. 2 taken from newspapers 1871-1877)	Haralson / 2013	Y		
Old times in West Tennessee: reminiscences -- semi-historic -- of pioneer life and the early emigrant settlers in the Big Hatchie Country	Cheaney / 1873		Y	
Planning the Ames Plantation. Harvard U. dissertation	Ewing / 1956	Y		
Portraits of Hardeman County: a pictorial history	1995		Y	
Private Acts of Hardeman County, Tennessee	McIntyre, 1988	Y		
Register of the Jones Chapel M. B. Church, 1870-2001	Jones			Y
Rocky Spring Baptist Church of Christ (Hardeman Co.) minutes, 1848-1871	Not Identified		Y	
Rogers Springs Cemetery	Toms / 2012		Y	
The Armstrong raid including the battles of Bolivar, Medon Station & Britton Lane <i>THQ 21</i>	Alexander / 1962	Y		
The Corinth Campaign and Battle of Davis Bridge: death and glory on the Hatchie River	Witherington / 1998		Y	
The Elrod-Jones and Harvey-Lambert: families of Fayette and Hardeman Counties of Tennessee	Jones / 2008		Y	Y
The last frontier; the story of Hardeman County	Neal			Y
The military history of the Hatchie River Valley in Hardeman County, TN. George Peabody College thesis	Pirtle / 1957	Y		
Warner W. Early history of Hardeman County, TN. George Peabody College thesis	Cliff / 1930	Y		
Western State Hospital censuses: Bolivar, Tennessee			Y	
Westward to TN. <i>THQ 24</i>	1965	Y		
Will abstracts - Book I, Hardeman County, Tennessee and some Tennessee Bible records	DAR / 1990		Y	Y
Wills & Inventories of Hardeman County, 1823-1838	WPA / 1942	Y		