### Geographic Area & County History



Knox County was named for the American Revolutionary War general and the first United States Secretary of War Henry Knox. The County is located in the northeast area of the state (Knox County FamilySearch Wiki)

In 1786 James White built a fort five miles below the junction of the French Broad and Holston Rivers on the southernmost edge of frontier settlement in present-day East Tennessee. William Blount, governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio, selected the site of James White's Fort as the territorial capital in 1791

and gave it the name Knoxville in honor of Revolutionary War hero General Henry Knox (1750-1806), who served as the first U.S. secretary of war from 1785 to 1794.

Knox County, also named for Henry Knox, was created from parts of Greene and Hawkins Counties on June 11, 1792, by Governor Blount and has the distinction of being one of only eight counties created during territorial administration. Knoxville has served as the county seat of Knox County from the date of the county's creation. Portions of Knox County were later removed to create Blount County (1795), Anderson County (1801), Roane County (1801), and Union County (1850). Knox County currently contains 509 square miles and lies at the geographical center of the Great Valley of East Tennessee. The Tennessee River originates near the center of the county from the union of the Holston and French Broad Rivers.

Governor Blount designated Knoxville as the capital of the Territory South of the River Ohio from 1791 to 1796. Knoxville also served as the capital of the State of Tennessee from 1796 to 1812 with the exception of one day in 1807, when the legislature met in Kingston, and briefly again in 1817–18. Frontier leader General John Sevier, a resident of Knox County, served as governor of Tennessee from 1796 to 1801 and 1803 to 1809, most of Knoxville's years as the state capital. Since no state capitol building was constructed until work began on the present capitol building in Nashville in 1845, the general assembly met in taverns and public buildings. Blount Mansion (1792), the home of Territorial Governor Blount, is the most historically significant dwelling surviving in Knox County from the pre-statehood era and is the only National Historic Landmark in the county.

Knoxville enjoyed an early advantage from its status as the capital city of the new and growing state and from its central location in the Great Valley of East Tennessee and quickly became the largest commercial center of the region. The first newspaper in Tennessee, the Knoxville Gazette, was established in 1791 by George Roulstone. Following its early growth, Knoxville lagged behind Nashville and Memphis in the decades prior to the Civil War, in part because of the difficulty of transportation on the Tennessee River. When the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad and the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad met in Knoxville in 1855, the transportation problem was solved.

Location and the railroads made Knoxville and East Tennessee strategic targets for both the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. The battle of Fort Sanders (1863) confirmed Union control of the city for the rest of the war. With Federal occupation of the city, William Gannaway "Parson" Brownlow (1805-1877), Unionist leader, author, and newspaper editor,

returned to Knoxville in triumph in 1863. He later served as governor of Tennessee (1865-69) and U.S. senator (1869-75).

Post-Civil War recovery was initially slow and difficult, but Knoxville retained its role as the major center of commerce in East Tennessee. By 1900 Knoxville had a population of 32,000 and appeared to have enormous potential for continued growth. Testaments to the city's growing regional and national importance, Knoxville hosted Appalachian Expositions in 1910 and 1911 as well as the 1913 National Conservation Exposition. The major industries of the early twentieth century were textiles, coal, lumber, marble, and zinc. Growth had slowed again by the 1930s. As a result of the New Deal initiatives, the Tennessee Valley Authority located its headquarters in Knoxville in 1933 and became a significant employer. A group of Knoxvillians led by Colonel David Chapman was instrumental in the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1934, which eventually generated a booming tourism industry in East Tennessee. The explosive post-World War II growth of the University of Tennessee and nearby Oak Ridge had a major impact on the city's economy as well. Knoxville hosted the 1982 World's Fair, which drew visitors from across the nation and the world. The principal industries of the 1990s included apparel and textiles, metal products, and food products.

Education has also played an important role in Knox County's history. The University of Tennessee grew out of Blount College, founded in Knoxville in 1794. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the home campus of the statewide University of Tennessee system, serves twenty-five thousand students in 297 degree programs in fifteen colleges and schools. Knoxville College, founded in 1875 to provide a unique educational experience for African Americans, remains the oldest historically black college in East Tennessee. Pellissippi State Technical Community College, established in 1974, currently enrolls eight thousand students in programs for associate undergraduate degrees and vocational training. Knox County operates a consolidated city and county public school system with an enrollment of over fifty-two thousand students in grades K-12. Lawson McGhee Library, the main library of the Knox County Public Library System, is the oldest continuously functioning public library in East Tennessee.

Growing communities in Knox County include the incorporated town of Farragut, the fastest growing area of Knox County, and the unincorporated communities of Concord, Halls, Karns, and Powell. Some historic communities in Knox County include Asbury, Ball Camp, Byington, Cedar Bluff, Corryton, Dante, Ebenezer, Gibbs, Graveston, Harbison's Cross Roads, Heiskell, Kimberlin Heights, Mascot, Millertown, Riverdale, Skaggston, Solway, Spring Place, Stock Creek, and Thorn Grove. The county's 2000 population was 382,032. (Tennessee Encyclopedia)

Record Loss - (Family Search) - Lost censuses 1800, 1810, and 1820.

FamilySearch Knox County Wiki

FamilySearch Knox County Catalog

<u>TnGenWeb Project - Knox County</u> Contact - Billie R. McNamara

**Knox County Genealogy & History** 

Knox County Historian Steve Cotham (McClung Historical Collection)

### 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>
Marriages	County Clerk Marriage Lookup	County Registrations began 1792
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <u>TSLA</u>
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	TSLA
Deaths		County Registrations began 1881
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <u>TSLA</u>
Land Deeds	County Register of Deeds	County Registrations began 1791
		USGenWeb-Knox Co
	NC-Land Grants (Knox) NC State Archives	DOC Land Grants Search Guide
List of Microfilmed Knox County Records	TSLA	There is no inventory for Knox County
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1789
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters

World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

### **County Repositories**

**East Tennessee Historical Society** 

Knox County Public Library - Genealogy

Knox County Public Library - Local History

Knox County Public Library - McClung Historical Collection

**Knox County Archives** 

#### **Current Area Information**

**Knox County Chamber of Commerce** 

**Knox County Government** 

#### Resources

#### General

Tennessee County Database (TNGS) - Knox County
Knox County Wiki (Family Search)
Linkpendium - Knox County
Tennessee State Library & Archives - Knox County Facts Sheet
TNGenWeb - Knox County
USGenWeb Archives - Knox County Tennessee

#### **Newspapers**

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

Newspaper.com

Holds 72 different newspaper titles from Knoxville, TN

Genealogybank.com

Holds 25 different newspaper titles from Knoxville, TN

### **Selected Published County Histories**

### Tennessee State Archives & Library

Community Historical Sketches in Knox County, Tennessee: Corryton, Harbison's Cross Roads, Smithwood	(Hcks, 1958)
Concord UMC The History of a Church and its Environment 1865–1985	(Cottrell, 1985) [partial name index]
Divided Loyalties: Fort Sanders and the Civil War in East Tennessee	(Seymour, 2002) [name index]
Encyclopedia: Experiences of Black People in Knoxville, Tennessee, 1844-1974	(2017) [name index]
Facsimile Edition of the Half-Century of Knoxville: The First Published Account of the Founding of Knoxville	(Humes, 1990) [partial name index]
French Broad-Holston Country: A History of Knox County, Tennessee	(East Tennessee Hstorical Society, 1946) [name index]*
Gay Street: Stories of Knoxville, Tennessee	(Mauro, 2000)*
Goodspeed's History of Hamilton, Knox, and Shelby Counties of Tennessee	(Goodspeed, 1974)
Heart of the Valley: A History of Knoxville, Tennessee	(Deaderick, 1976) [name index]
Hstory of Blacks in Knoxville, Tennessee: The First One Hundred Years, 1791-1891	(Booker, 1990)
Hstory of Fountain City: With Sections on Smithwood and Inskip	(Hcks, 2000)
Hstory of Lebanon Presbyterian Church, 1791: "In the Fork," Five Miles East of Knoxville, Tenn	(Ramsey, 1973)
Hstory of Tennessee from the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Hstorical and a Biographical Sketch of the County of Knox and the City of Knoxville	(1982)
John Adair Section of Knox County, Tennessee	(Hcks, 1968)
Knox County, Tennessee: A History in Pictures	(Creekmore, 1988)
Knox-stalgia	(Allen, 1999)*
Knox-stalgia: A Preliminary Encyclopedia of Communities, Schools, Hotels, Entertainment Venues, Historical Buildings, Organizations, Sites and Some Historical Events in Knoxville, Tennessee From the Earliest Times to 1950	(Allen, 2011)
Knoxville	(Hooper, 2003)*
Knoxville City Directory [1859/60, 1876/77, 1885, 1887, 1891/92, 1895, 1897, 1900, 1902–1903, 1905, 1908–1911, 1916, 1919, 1924, 1926–1962, 1964–1965, 1967–1977, 1979–2008, 2016–2020]	
Knoxville in the Civil War	(Markel, 2013)
Knoxville!	(Creekmore, 1991) [name index]

Knoxville, Crossroads of the New South	(MacArthur, 1892)
Knoxville, Tennessee in the Gay Nneties	(Allen, 2011)
Knoxville, Tennessee: Summer 1915 - Spring 1916, Home of James Rufus Agee [and More Than Thirty-Six Thousand Other Souls]	(Allen, 2008)
Knoxville's African-American Community, 1860-1920	(Jones, 1989)
South Knoxville	(Mahurin, 2012)
They Trusted and Were Delivered: The French-Swiss of Knoxville, Tennessee [2 vols.]	(Babelay, 1988)
Two Centuries of Knox County, Tennessee: A Celebration in Photographs	(Knox County Public Library System 1992)

#### Selected Manuscripts Material

#### Tennessee State Archives & Library

Manuscript Title	Microfilm #
Anderson County Records, 1800-1974	#506, 1 reel
Calvin Morgan Family Papers, 1820-1931	
Confederate Veterans Association of Upper East Tennessee Records, 1861-ca. 1895	#167, 1 reel
Diana Roberts Thompson Genealogical Collection, 1750–1970	#1393, 1 reel
Grace Armstrong Coile Collection of Robert Armstrong Papers, 1790-1930	#1584, 15 reels
Hubbs - Frost and Allied Families Papers, ca. 1500-1973	#333, 1 reel
Ida Hamilton Thompson Dickinson Genealogical Collection, ca. 1660-1945	#1155, 1 reel
John Overton Lea Papers, 1867-1911	
Mt. Hebron Primitive Baptist Church Records. Knoxville, 1824–1942	#450, 1 reel
Mount Olive Baptist Church Records. Knox County, 1837-1967	#581, 1 reel
Rhea Family Papers, 1769–1859	#792, 1 reel
Walker Family Papers, 1863–1885	
William A. J. Moore Papers, 1893–1898	

#### Maps

**TDOT Map of Knox County** 

Knox County - 1790-1807 (Haston Family)

Knox County - 1832 (TEVA)

Knox County - 1888

**Knox County - 1895 [LOC]** 

Knox County - Sanborn Maps

Knox County - 2017

**Knox County Register of Deeds Historical Tax Maps** 

#### Cemeteries

Knox County Cemeteries - Find-a Grave
Knox County Cemeteries - USGenWeb
Knox County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails

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Asleep in Jesus: A Record of the Church Cemeteries of Knox County, Tennessee [vol. 1 Northeast Knox County; vol. 2 Southeast Knox County; vol. 3 Southwest Knox County; vol. 4 Northwest Knox County]	(McGinnis, 2001- ) [surname index]*	Y		
At Rest: A Record of the Interments at Asbury Cemetery, Knox County, Tennessee	(McGinnis, 2002)*	Υ		
Beaver Creek Church Records, 1833-1879	(WPA, 19??)*	Υ		
Bench and bar of Knox County, Tennessee, brief sketches of the bench and bar of Knox County of other days, including an autobiographical sketch of the author / by John W. Green of the Knoxville Bar.	Green, John Webb, 1859-			Υ
Church record, July, 1839-September, 1856. Copied from the original by Mrs. James G. Johnson. Typed by Mrs. Chas. F. Wayland, Sr.	Primitive Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, Stock Creek, Knox County (Tenn.)			Υ
County Court Minute Book, 1792-1872 [vol. 6 1806-08; vol. 7 1809-12; vol. 8 1813-16; vol. 9 1817-18; vol. 10 1819-20; vol. 11 1820-22; vol. 12 1822-24; vol. 13 1824-26; vol. 14 1826-30; vol. 15 1831-35; vol. 17 1840-46; vol. 18 1846-50; vol. 19 1850-54; vol. 20 1854-57; vol. 21 1857-59 (in 2 pts.); vol. 22 1860-64 (in 2 pts.); vol. 23 1864-66; vol. 25 1869-72]; (WPA, 1940-1942)		Υ		
Enumeration of Male Inhabitants, 1891 Anderson, Blount, Knox, Sevier Counties, Tenn.	(Reed, 1989)	Υ		
Estate Book, 1812-1830 [vol. 2 1812-1819; vol. 3 1818- 1824; vol. 4 1824-1830]	(WPA, 1938) [name indexes]	Υ		
Family of Edward Eppes of Knox County, Tennessee, compiled by Mary Lou (Shoemaker) Johnson [and] Mae L. Treadwell.	Johnson, Mary Lou Shoemaker, 1884-			Υ

Fifth survey district of Tennessee, 1816-1823: grants 1601-2548.	Pederson, Diane E, 1989		Υ	
Fort Loudon Reservoir cemeteries / James L. Douthat.	Douthat, James L.			Υ
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Fourth Survey Distr[i]ct of Tennessee, 1808–1810: John McClellan–Surveyor Anderson, Bledsoe, Campbell, Knox, Overton, Rhea, Roane Counties, TN	(Douthat, 1988) [surname index]	Y		
Fourth survey district of Tennessee, 1808-1810, John McClellan, surveyor: Anderson, Bledsoe, Campbell, Knox, Overton, Rhea, Roane Counties, Tennessee. Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press	Douthat, James L, 1988.		Υ	
Genealogical abstracts of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church : 1836 and beyond / Sherida K. Eddlemon.	Eddlemon, Sherida K.			Y
Genealogy newspaper columns of Robert E. Turman: early family histories from Gibson, Harrison, Knox, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Posey, Sullivan, Washington, Vanderburgh and surrounding counties in Indiana, and including Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee and paths of migration to these general areas.	Turman, Robert E, 1981		Υ	
Gone But Not Forgotten: A Record of the Family Cemeteries of Knox County, Tennessee [vol. 1 North Knox County; vol. 2 East Knox County; vol. 3 South Knox County; vol. 4 Northwest Knox County]	(McGinnis, 2000- 2005) [surname indexes]*	Y		
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Graves of New Gray Cemetery	(McGinnis, 2002) [surname index]*	Υ		
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Graveston, Knox County, Tennessee : history and brief genealogies / by Willie A. Rodgers.	Rodgers, Willie A.			Υ
Heart of the valley: a history of Knoxville, Tennessee.	East Tennessee Historical Society, 1976.		Υ	
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Historic treasure spots of Knox County, Tennessee.	Hicks, Nannie Lee.			Υ
Historical map of Knox county, Tennessee 1748-1971 [map] / by Louis T. Ketron.	Ketron, Louis T.			Y
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In Everlasting Remembrance: The Cemeteries of the Old 1st and 2nd Districts of Knox County, Tennessee	(McGinnis, 2003) [surname index]*	Y		
Indexes, First circuit court minute book, volume 1: Knox County Tennessee, February 1810 - August 1817; Union City, Tennessee, court minutes, October 1849 - May 1856 / compiled by Knoxville Chapter, Union City Chapter.	Daughters of the American Colonists. Knoxville Chapter (Tenn.)			Y
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Knox County, Tennessee : a history in pictures / Betsey Beeler Creekmore.	Creekmore, Betsey Beeler.			Υ
Knox County, Tennessee Estate Book [vol. 1 1792-1811]	199?) [name index]	Υ		
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Knox County, Tennessee marriage records, 1792-1900, Compiled from original marriage licenses and bonds, marriage register, W.P.A. compilation and newspaper accounts by Roscoe Carlisle d'Armand and Virginia Carlisle d'Armand.	D'Armand, Roscoe Carlisle.			Y
Knox County, Tennessee marriage records, 1792-1900.	d'Armand, Roscoe Carlisle, 1970.		Υ	
Knox County, Tennessee, 1836 Tennessee Civil Districts and Tax Lists	(Douthat, 1993) [name index]*	Υ		
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Knox County, Tennessee, Court Minutes, vol. 2, 1799- 1800	(WPA, 19??) [name index]	Y		
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Knox County, Tennessee, court records [microform]	(MDA 1020) [			Υ
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[microform]				Y
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Knox County, Tennessee, Superior Court Minute Book, vol. C, 1798-1803	(WPA, 1940) [name index]	Υ		
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Meet Me at the Campground: A Record of the Interments of Bells Campground Cemetery	(McGinnis, 2001) [surname index]*	Y		
Minutes of the Circuit Court of Knox County, 1799-1851	(WPA, 1942)	Υ		
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Tennessee. Copied and compiled by Mrs. Robert S.				
Owens (Fae Jacobs), Mrs. Ed Knox Boyd (Margureitte				
Holcomb) [and] Mrs. Howell Lee Davidson (Faye				
Tennyson)				
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They Are Not Dead but Sleepeth: The Interments of the N M Cemetery at Mt. Olive	(McGinnis & Berry, 2003) [surname index]*	Υ		
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Tombstone Records, Old Gray Cemetery	(WPA, 1938) [name index]*	Υ		
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United States Census 1850 for Knox County, Tennessee	(Luttrell, 1949) [name index of head of household]	Υ		
Wheeler cousins.	Wheeler cousins, 1984		Υ	
Will Book, 1792–1803, and Guardian Book, 1792–1821, vol. 0	(WPA, 19??)	Υ		

### Local Record on Microfilm - TSLA

Knox County Records	Microfilm #
Estates, Insolvent 1859-1915	(#75, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1792-1807 [A]	(#97, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1807-1817 [A-L]	(#98, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1817 [M-Z]-1822	(#99, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1823-1827 [A-L]	(#100, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1827 [M-Z]-1831	(#101, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1832-1836	(#102, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1837-1840	(#103, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1841-1844	(#104, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1845-1848	(#105, 1 reel)

Marriage Bonds 1848[H-Z]-1851 [A-M]	(#106, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1851[M-Z]-1854 [A-M]	(#107, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1854[N-Z]-1857 [A-K]	(#108, 1 reel)
Marriage Bonds 1857[L-Z]-1859	(#109, 1 reel)
Marriages 1798-1875	(#77, 1 reel)
Settlements, Administrator's 1792-1824	(#155, 1 reel)
Settlements, Administrator's 1824-1844	(#156, 1 reel)
Settlements, Administrator's 1840-1848	(#157, 1 reel)
Settlements, Administrator's 1848-1858	(#158, 1 reel)
Settlements, Administrator's 1858-1865	(#159, 1 reel)
WPA Records, Knox County Roll includes Oyer and Terminer	, , ,
Court, Hamilton District, Superior (1793-1798), Superior Court	(#107, Roll 43)
Minute Book, Vol. C (1798-1803), Superior Court Minute Book, No. 3	(#107, Kott 43)
(1793-1809) and County Court Minutes, Book 0 (1792-1795).	
WPA Records, Knox County Roll includes Court of Pleas &	
Quarter Sessions, Minute Book No. 2 & No. 3 (1799-1800 & 1800-1802), Superior Court Record Book B, pts. 1 & 2 (1797-1804), Superior	
Court of Law & Equity, Minute Book No. 1 (1793–1808), Circuit Court,	(#107, Roll 44)
Minutes (1799-1851), Circuit Court, Minute Book 3-A (1810-1817) and	
County Court Minute Book No. 6 (1806-1808).	
WPA Records, Knox County Roll includes County Court Minute	
Book 7 (1809-1812), County Court Minute Book 8 (1813-1816), County	
Court Minute Book 9 (1817–1818), County Court Minute Book 10 (1819–	(#107, Roll 45)
1820), County Court Minute Book 11 (1820–1822), County Court Minute	
Book 12 (1822-1824), County Court Minute Book 13 (1824-1826) and County Court Minute Book 14 (1826-1830).	
WPA Records, Knox County Roll includes County Court Minute	
Book 15 (1831–1835), County Court Minute Book 16 (1835–1840),	
County Court Minute Book 17 (1840-1846), County Court Minute Book	(#107, Roll 46)
18 (1846-1850), County Court Minute Book 19 (1850-1854) and County	
Court Minute Book 20 (1854-1857).	
WPA Records, Knox County Roll includes County Court Minute	
Book 21, pts. 1 & 2 (1857–1859), County Court Minute Book 22, pts. 1 &	(#107 Dell (7)
2 (1860–1864), County Court Minute Book 23 (1864–1866), County Court Minute Book 25 (1869–1872), Estate Book Vol. 2 (1812–1819) and	(#107, Roll 47)
Estate Book Vol. 3 (1818–1824).	
WPA Records, Knox County Roll includes Estate Book Vol. 4	
(1824-1830), List of Taxable Property (1844-1845), Pleasant Forest	
Presbyterian Church, Minute Book (1833-1891), Beaver Creek Church	
Records (1833-1879), Marriage License Record, Book 1 (1838-1850),	
Marriage Licenses Records, No. 2 (1850-1864), Will Book 0 (1792-	(#107, Roll 48)
1803), Guardian Book (1792-1821), Records Book No. 1, pts. 1 & 2	
(1795-1799), Records Book No. 4 (1802-1805), Records Book No. 5	
(1805-1806), Tombstone Records (undated) and Old Gray Cemetery Tombstone Records (undated).	
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#### **Local Land Entries Issued by North Carolina**

The original Knox County land entries issued by North Carolina are kept at the <u>North Carolina State Archives</u> in Raleigh. On their website, users can bring up a list of land entries issued in Knox County, both *before* **and** *after* it became a part of the state of Tennessee. Years covered: 1779-1803.

#### Instructions:

- 1. Follow this <u>link</u> to conduct a "Call Number Search" using the MARS Catalog on their site.
- 2. Using the pull down window, change "Call Numbers starting" to "A MarsID matching."
- 3. Type **12.14.11** (Windows Vista users may need to include a period after the last digit, for example **12.14.11**.) and click Search. This is the specific MarsID for Knox County.
- 4. Click on the entry that is returned: "Tennessee, Knox County."
- 5. In the window that pops up, click **Show List of Child Records** and a list of Knox County land entries will be produced. Browse to find abstracts of the original records. [12]