

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

Geographic Area



Madison County was named for founding father and president, James Madison. The county is located in the west-central area of the state. The County was organized November 7 1821 and was formed from Chickasaw Indian Lands. The county seat is Jackson. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

Before statehood, West Tennessee was occupied by prehistoric Native Americans who camped and hunted there as early as 9,000 B.C., as well as much later historic tribes such as the Choctaws and Chickasaws. Woodland Culture peoples developed the large mound village site now protected by the Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park, the site of three separate mound groups. First discovered in 1820 by surveyor Joel Pinson, the mounds remained of local interest until the 1880s, when a Smithsonian Institution archaeologist, William E. Myer, surveyed and mapped the site. Pinson Mounds is the largest Middle Woodland Period mound group in the United States and includes one mound measuring seventy-two feet, the second tallest mound in the country.

Twenty years after Tennessee statehood, the Chickasaws signed the 1818 treaty that secured the area for settlement. The first farm families came to Madison County in 1819 and settled east of Jackson in Cotton Gin Grove. In the following year, additional pioneers settled further west on the banks of the Forked Deer River in a community they named Alexandria. In 1822 Alexandria changed its name to Jackson in honor of Andrew Jackson. Jackson's sister-in-law Jane Hayes lived in the city, and Jackson played an important role in the early history of Madison County.

Jackson became the county seat in September 1822 after the Tennessee General Assembly created Madison County in November 1821. In 1835 Congressman Davy Crockett made an angry speech on the courthouse steps following his defeat for reelection in which he told the people of Jackson: "The rest of you can go to hell, for I am going to Texas." A year later he and another Jackson resident, Micajah Autry, were dead at the Alamo. In the antebellum period, Jackson became a transportation center for agricultural products on the Forked Deer River.

During the Civil War, Madison County contributed two Confederate generals, Alexander W. Campbell and William H. "Red" Jackson. The county was the scene of several small battles and skirmishes, the most important of which was the battle of Britton Lane. A small park in the Denmark area commemorates the engagement in which Confederate cavalry under General Frank C. Armstrong clashed with Federal infantry, leaving more than 170 Confederate dead. Because of its importance in the regional rail work network, Federal troops occupied Jackson for most of the Civil War. In 1864 Federal raiders demanded a ransom or they threatened to burn Jackson. Although the city met the demands, most of downtown Jackson was burned anyway.

The town of Denmark once rivaled Jackson for prominence and size, but a number of man-made and natural disasters, including fires, tornadoes, and the relocation of the railroad, have contributed to its demise. Today only a few houses remain along with a historic antebellum Presbyterian church.

The first railroad appeared in Madison County in 1858 as a result of the promotional efforts of Judge Milton Brown. In addition to serving the transportation needs of commercial agriculture,

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

the railroads developed a labor base for later industrial development. Jackson resident I. B. Tigrett was the president of Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad, which boasted three thousand miles of track. The legendary Illinois Central Railroad engineer Casey Jones made his home in Jackson. His house and many of his possessions are preserved at Casey Jones Village. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

[Goodspeed's History of Madison County](#)

[Jackson Chamber of Commerce](#))

Record Loss – (Family Search)

Lack of marriage records: 1821 to 1837

Lost probate records: 1821 to 1824

[FamilySearch Madison County Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project – [Madison County](#)

Contact – [Taneya Koonce](#)

Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1925
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to TSLA
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1823
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TnGenWeb	Various Marriage Sources
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	TSLA
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1925
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TnGenWeb	Various Death Sources
	TSLA	1908-1912
		1914-1933
Land Deeds	County Register	County Registrations began 1821

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

List of Microfilmed Madison 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 1825
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

County Repositories

[Jackson-Madison County Public Library](#)

[Tennessee Room Blog](#)

[Tennessee Room Holdings](#)

Obituary Index - Not Currently on-line (1936-1954)

[Madison County Archives](#)

[County Records Page](#)

Current Area Information

[Jackson Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Jackson-Madison County African American Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Madison County Government](#)

Resources

General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) - Madison County](#)

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

[Linkpendium - Madison County](#)

[Tennessee State Library & Archives - Madison County Facts Sheet](#)

[TNGenWeb - Madison County](#)

[USGenWeb Archives - Madison County Tennessee](#)

[Midwest Tennessee Genealogical Society](#)

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

Newspapers.com – 31 Collections

Genealogybank.com – 2 Collections

[TnGenWeb](#) - Archives from various newspapers

Publications

[Midwest Tennessee Genealogical Society](#)

Publications – Family Findings (TN Room Jackson-Madison Co Pub Lib)

Indices:

[Volumes I-X](#) [Volumes XI-XX](#) [Volumes XXI-XXIV](#) [Volumes XXXII-XXXV](#)

Tennessee Genealogical Society

Ansearchin' News – [Search Page](#) (Enter “Madison County” in Search Box)

Selected Published County Histories - TSLA

Ezekial Brownlee Mason: His Contribution to Early Madison County, Tennessee, History (Smith, 1993)

Gold is the Key: Murder, Robbery and the Gold Rush in Jackson, Tennessee (Aud, 2012)

Goodspeed Histories of Madison County, Tennessee (Goodspeed, 1972)

Historic Madison: The Story of Jackson and Madison County, Tennessee, from the Prehistoric Moundbuilders to 1917 (Williams, 1986) *[name index]**

History of Tennessee: From the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and Biographical Sketch of the City of Jackson and the County of Madison (Goodspeed, 1979)

Jackson & Madison County: A Pictorial History (Williams, 1988) *[name index]*

Madison County (Higgins & Parish, 2009)*

Mt. Pinson, Madison County, Tennessee: A Study (Smith, 2000) *[surname index]*

Our Claybrook Heritage (Smith, 1993) *[name index]*

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

Reflections: A Pictorial History of Madison County (1988)

Tales of Madison: Historical Sketches on Jackson & Madison County (Alexander, 2002) [*name index*]*

* title may be borrowed on Interlibrary Loan

Tennessee State Archives & Library

Selected Manuscripts Material

Benjamin Troy Ammons Papers, 1934-1946

Francis McGavock Papers, 1784-1854 (Microfilm Manuscript #742, 1 reel)*

Frank Love Collection of Martin Family Papers, 1756-1952

George A. Smith & Sons Funeral Home Records, 1930-1993 (Microfilm Manuscript #1759, 2 reels)*

Hutchings family papers, 1804-1970

Memphis Conference Female Institute Records. Jackson, Madison County, 1846-1924 (Microfilm Manuscript #913, 2 reels)*

Mrs. Frank Robbins Diary, 1897-1898 (Microfilm Manuscript #111, 1 reel)*

Murrell Family Papers, 1833-1941

Railroads Collection

Robert H. Cartmell Papers, 1849-1915 (Microfilm Manuscript #1076, 4 reels)*

Tennessee State Archives & Library

Maps

[TDOT Map of Madison County](#)

[Madison County - 1888](#)

[Maps Of Madison County, Tennessee Historical and Genealogical \(James H. Hanna\)](#)

Cemeteries

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

[Madison County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)

[Madison County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails](#)

[Madison County Cemeteries - TNGenWeb](#)

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

Bibliography

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

Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
"Family letters: home life in Madison & Carroll counties, TN, 1864-1867. " WTHSP 23 (1969), pp. 110-128; 24 (1970), pp. 106-129.	Rothrock, Mary U., ed.	Y		
"Free blacks in antebellum Madison County. " THQ 52 (1993), pp. 56-63.	Baker, Steve.	Y		
"Jackson & Madison County, an inland cotton center of the growing west, 1821-1850. " THQ 3 (1944), pp. 24-45.	Williams, Emma I.	Y		
"Madison County. " AHM 7 (1902), pp. 328-348; 8 (1903), pp. 26- 48.	Cisco, Jay G	Y		
"Stories from the tackroom. " TN Folklore Soc. Bull. 46 (1980), pp. 45-83.	Puckett, Liz.	Y		
"The Armstrong raid including the battle of Bolivar, Medon Station & Britton Lane. " THQ 21 (1962), pp. 31-46	Alexander, Harbert L	Y		
"The early academies of west TN. " WTHSP 8 (1954), pp. 5-38.	Utley, Buford C.	Y		
"The Johnson site: precursor to Pinson Mounds? " TN Anthrop. 11 (1986), pp. 29-41.	Kwas, Mary L. & Robert C. Mainfort, Jr.	Y		
"The story of George Frederick Burgoyne Howard: the holy cheat. " WTHSP 16 (1962), pp. 56-69.	Hawkins, Herman	Y		
A genealogical miscellany, Madison County, Tennessee / by	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
A heritage revisited : First Christian Church, Jackson, Tennessee			Y	
A history of western Madison & eastern Haywood counties			Y	
A survey of family living conditions in Madison County, TN. UT thesis, 1935. 75 pp.	Mercer, Mrs. Frank A.	Y		
Abstracts of last wills and testaments, Madison County, Tennessee, 1927-1937	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Alabama Records, Newspapers			Y	
Andrew Jackson Malone, John Wesley Malone : and their descendants of Lincoln County, Tennessee, Madison County, Alabama, Oklahoma And Texas, 1840-1990			Y	
Annotated gleanings, circuit court minutes, Madison County, Tennessee, 1869-1885	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Antebellum militia, justices and some early taxpayers , Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Antebellum militia, justices and some early taxpayers. Madison County, Tennessee			Y	
Casey Jones : yester year in Memphis			Y	
Cemetery records of Madison County, Tennessee.			Y	
Cemetery records of Madison County, Tennessee.	MWTGS			Y

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

Deaths mentioned in the Madison County, Tennessee quarterly court minute books, 1881-1907	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Education of farmers' wives & children in four counties of TN. Knoxville, TN Ag. Exp. Sta., 1937. 43 pp. (its Monograph #27)	Allred, Charles E.	Y		
Ezekial Brownlee Mason: his contribution to early Madison County, TN, history. Jackson, the author, 1993. 20 pp.	Smith, Jonathan K	Y		
Fore, Soblet, Sublett. Volume 4			Y	
Freedmen's labor contracts, Madison County, Tennessee, 1866-1867	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Genealogical abstracts from antebellum circuit court records, Madison County, Tennessee	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Genealogical abstracts from Madison County, Tennessee Deed Books 31-40, 1873-1883	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Genealogical abstracts from will book Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Genealogical gleanings from the Deed Book 1 through 9, 1822-1845 Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Genealogical gleanings from the deed books 1 though 9, 1822-1845, Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Genealogical gleanings from the deed books 20 through 27, 1857-1870, Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Goodspeed's history of TN (Madison County, pp. 797-917). Goodspeed, 1887.	Goodspeed	Y		
Historic Madison : the story of Jackson and Madison County, Tennessee from the prehistoric moundbuilders to 1917			Y	
Historical configurations of the magisterial districts of Madison County, TN: a study. N.p., the author, 1992. 28 pp.	Smith, Jonathan K	Y		
Historical configurations of the magisterial districts of Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
History of Tennessee : from the earliest time to the present; together with an historical and a biographical sketch of the City of Jackson and the County of Madison; besides a valuable fund of notes, reminiscences, observations, etc., etc.			Y	
History of Tennessee, Madison County	Goodspeed Publishing Co			Y
Inheritance as a factor in the progress of TN farmers. Knoxville, TN Ag. Exp. Sta., 1938. 38 pp. (its Rural research series monograph #88)	Allred, Charles E.	Y		
John Barnett of Madison County, Tennessee, and some of his ascendants and descendants	Nyleen Barnett Bell			Y
Last will and testament abstracts, Madison County, Tennessee, 1821-1854	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Life in growing western Tennessee: 1821-1850; Jackson and Madison County the inland business center of west Tennessee			Y	
Madison County			Y	
Madison County, TN colored marriages, 1868-1871			Y	

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

Madison County, TN deed books 1 & 2, 1803-1832, will book 1, 1825-1835			Y	
Madison County, TN guardian renewal bonds, 1868-1879.			Y	
Madison County, TN loose marriage bonds, 1823-1832	Mary E Stovall			Y
Madison County, TN loose marriage bonds, 1823-1832.			Y	
Madison County, TN marriage license book. Volume II, 1838-1847.			Y	
Madison County, TN marriages, 1838-1871	Byron Sistler, Barbara Sistler			Y
Madison County, TN minute book 1, 1821-1825.			Y	
Madison County, TN tombstone inscriptions			Y	
Madison County, TN tombstone inscriptions	WPA, 1937 ,Samuel Sistler			Y
Madison County, TN, county clerk minutes [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, court records [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, court records [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, court records [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, court records [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, deeds [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, deeds [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, marriages [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, minute book 1, 1821-1825.	Anders, Robbie Roe			Y
Madison County, TN, trustee, tax books [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, vital statistics [microfilm]				Y
Madison County, TN, wills [microform]				Y
Madison County, TN, wills, index [microform]				Y
Magisterial resolutions of respect and other records, Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Maps of Madison County, TN, historical and genealogical	James H Hanna			Y
Mt. Pinson, Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Our Claybrook heritage. Jackson, the author, 1993. 64 pp.	Smith, Jonathan K	Y		
Persons appearing on the federal direct tax, Madison County, Tennessee, 1865-1866	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Public marriage records of black persons in Madison County, Tennessee, 1868-1888	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Records of Hollywood Cemetery : 406 Hollywood Drive, Jackson, Tennessee, 38301.			Y	
Reported deaths in nineteenth century Jackson, Tennessee newspapers			Y	
Riverside Cemetery inscriptions, 1830-1975 Jackson, Tennessee.			Y	
Several genealogical vignettes of Madison County, Tennessee			Y	
Tales of Madison : historical sketches on Jackson & Madison County, Tennessee			Y	

Madison County Locality Guide (24 August 2022)

The 150th anniversary of Thomas and Dilly Ann (Medlin) Williams arriving in Walnut Hill Community: then Madison County, Tennessee. now Crockett County, Tennessee 1836-1986			Y	
The Gibbs place in Madison County, TN. Jackson, the author, 1993. 10 pp.	Smith, Jonathan K	Y		
The Goodspeed histories of Madison County, Tennessee.	Goodspeed Publishing Co			Y
The historic Denmark Baptist campground & church, Madison County, TN. Jackson, the author, 1993. 11 pp.	Smith, Jonathan K	Y		
The NC & St L railway & its relation to the life & growth of Madison County, TN. Nashville, the author, 1945. 15 pp.	West, Robert H.	Y		
The Sampson Stewarts : a family record			Y	
The West Tennessee Historical Society papers			Y	
Tombstone inscriptions from Black cemeteries in Madison County, TN	Jonathan KT Smith			Y
Trial and triumph : essays in Tennessee's African American history			Y	
Watlingtons and allied families : genealogical data, 1830-1997, Madison County, Western Tennessee / Janice T. and Elton A. Watlington.			Y	
West Tennessee death records			Y	
Why farmers move or change tenure status. Knoxville, TN Ag. Exp. Sta., 1943. 40 pp. (its Rural research series monograph #159)	Allred, Charles E.	Y		
Your government in Madison County. Compiled by Madison County 4-H clubs, 1964. Jackson, n.p., 1964. 23 pp.	Swaim, J. Richard.	Y		