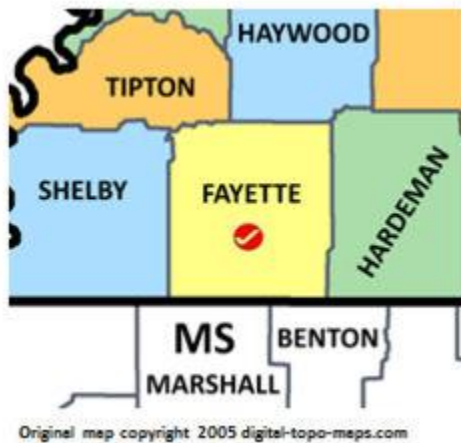


Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

Geographic Area

Fayette County is located in the western part of the U.S. state of Tennessee.



([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

The Tennessee General Assembly established Fayette County on September 29, 1824, and named it in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, French general and statesman. The county seat, Somerville, was named to honor Lieutenant Robert Somerville, hero of the battle of Tohopeka in Alabama. The county was formed from Hardeman & Shelby Counties. The first court proceedings took place at the home of Robert G. Thornton on the banks of the North Fork of the Wolf River on December 6, 1824.

Settlement began in the area as early as 1820, and by 1826 there were enough residents for the incorporation of the two oldest towns, Somerville and LaGrange. In both towns restored antebellum homes symbolize the wealth and culture of the plantation period. The entire town of LaGrange, named for Lafayette's ancestral home, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Today there are nine incorporated towns in the county: Braden, Gallaway, LaGrange, Moscow, Oakland, Piperton, Rossville, Somerville, and Williston.

Religious zeal soon prompted the organization of the county's churches. Somerville's First Presbyterian Church dates to 1829. Immanuel Parish in LaGrange, established in 1832, is the oldest Episcopal church in West Tennessee. Nineteenth-century camp meetings live on at Joyner's Campground, where annual services are held each July in the open-air tabernacle built in 1893. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

Record Loss - (Family Search)

1925: Courthouse burned and many records were damaged

1824-1837: Lack of marriage records

1824-1836: Lost probate records

[FamilySearch Fayette County Catalog](#)

Church Records

[Mount Pleasant Cumberland Presbyterian Church \(1847-1935\)](#)

[Immanuel Episcopal Church minutes, La Grange, Tennessee](#)

[St. Thomas Episcopal Church minutes and history, Somerville, Tennessee](#)

[TnGenWeb Project - Fayette County](#)

Contact - [Jenny Flower Strothers](#)

[Fayette County Historical Society](#)

President - [Cynthia Matlock](#)

[Fayette County Historical Society - Facebook](#)

Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1814. Clerk has birth records from 1925-1929.
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to TSLA
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1838, except 19181925 (lost in fire)
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TnGenWeb - Index	1838-1857
	USGenWeb - Selected Index	Abstracts of Marriage Records
	FamilySearch - TN County Marriages	1790-1950
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	TSLA
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1814. Clerk has death records from 1925-1929.
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TnGenWeb	Misc. Deaths
	FamilySearch - TN Deaths	1914-1966
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1821
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	TNGenWeb - Index	Books A-D 1825-1835
		Books E-F 1835-1837
	TN Century Farms	Heritage Farms
List of Microfilmed [County] County Records	TSLA-PDF	Fayette County Tennessee
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications

Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

Provost Marshall Records	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Union Provost Marshall
Probate Records	Chancery Court Clerk & Master	County Registrations began 1836
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
Tennessee State Penitentiary	TnGenWeb	1831-1850 1851-1870
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

County Repositories

[Fayette County Public Library](#)

Director: Laura Winfrey

Monday – Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Current Area Information

[Fayette County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Fayette County Government](#)

[Chancery Court Clerk & Master](#)

[Circuit Court Office](#)

[County Clerk Office](#)

[County Register of Deeds](#)

[County Archives](#)

Amy Anderson

Ed Pulan

Shana Burch

Eddie Pattat

Elizabeth Rice

901-465-5219

901-465-5205

901-465-5213

901-465-5251

Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

Resources

General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) – Fayette County](#)
[Fayette County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)
[Genealogy Trails History Group-Fayette County](#)
[Linkpendium – Fayette County](#)
[Tennessee State Library & Archives – Fayette County Facts Sheet](#)
[TNGenWeb – Fayette County](#)
[USGenWeb Archives – Fayette County Tennessee](#)

Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

Gatherer. Published JI 24 1841 -

LaGrange Monitor. Published JI 30 1859 -

Spirit of the Age. Published Ja 14 1871 -

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

Fayette County Review. Published Ja ? 1982 – present.

Fayette Falcon. Published JI 26 1907 - ? 2000

Reporter And Falcon. Published ? 1883 - JI 19 1907.

Somerville Falcon. Published F 23? 1866? - 1882?

Somerville Journal. Published ? 1896 - ? w. Filmed with *Fayette Falcon*

Somerville Reporter. Published Mr 11? 1837 - 1856? Filmed with *Fayette Falcon*

TnGenWeb – [Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings](#)

Chronicling America – [Titles in Fayette County](#)

Selected Published County Histories

Tennessee State Archives & Library

- 150 Years in Fayette County, Tennessee, 1824-1974 (Fayette County Sesquicentennial, Inc., 1974)
- Fayette County (Morton, 1989)
- Fayette County: History of Tennessee (Goodspeed, 1990)
- Fayette County, Tennessee: Tragedy and Confrontation (Walls, 1969)
- History of Fayette County, Tennessee, 1986 (Fayette County Historical Society, 1986)

Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

- History of Tennessee From the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and a Biographical Sketch of Fayette and Hardeman Counties (Goodspeed, 1979)
- Nineteenth Century Homes of Fayette County (Morton, 1974)*
- Our Portion of Hell, Fayette County, Tennessee: An Oral History of the Struggle for Civil Rights (Hamberger, 1973)

Selected Manuscripts Material

Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Armstrong Family Letters, 1832-1901 (Microfilm Manuscript #1920, 1 reel)
- City of Somerville Records, 1853-1915 (Microfilm Manuscript #622, 1 reel)
- Fayette County Miscellaneous Records, ca. 1807-1944 (Microfilm Manuscript #569, 2 reels)
- Margaret Travis Gray Genealogical Materials: Gray - King Lineage, 1886-1994 (Microfilm Manuscript #1776, 1 reel)
- Moscow Methodist Church Records. Fayette County, 1890-1970 (Microfilm Manuscript #360, 1 reel)
- Mount Pleasant Cumberland Presbyterian Church Records. Macon, 1847-1935. St. Thomas Episcopal Church Records. Somerville, 1872-1916 (Microfilm Manuscript #225, 1 reel)
- Mt. Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church Records. Fayette County, 1832-1901 (Microfilm Manuscript #361, 1 reel)
- Somerville Reporter and Falcon Records. Fayette County, 1882-1906 (Microfilm Manuscript #642, 1 reel)

Maps

[TDOT Map of Fayette County](#)

[Fayette County, Tennessee 1888 Map](#)

[Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Somerville, Fayette County TN \(1893\)](#)

[Map of Fayette County \(1937\)](#)

Cemeteries

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

[Fayette County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)

[Fayette County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails](#)

Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

Bibliography

[The Land Laws of Tennessee \(Whitney, 1891\) Google Books](#)
[Early Families of the Memphis Area \(Matthews, 2008\) Google Books](#)
[Early History of LaGrange, Tennessee](#)
[Index to Tennessee Wills and Administrations 1779-1861 \(Sistler, 2006\) Google Books](#)
[West Tennessee's Forgotten Children: apprentices from 1821 to 1889 \(Miller, 2007\)](#)
 University of Memphis - McWherter Library - Special Collections

Library Titles	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
150 years in Fayette County, TN: 1824-1974. Somerville, Fayette County Sesquicentennial, 1974	Y	Y	Y
Biographical directory, TN General Assembly, 1796-1969 (Fayette County) (TSLA, 1974)			Y
Cemetery inscriptions, Crockett, Fayette, and Shelby County, Tennessee. (Love, 1876-1953)			Y
Cemetery Records from Fayette County, Tennessee (Morton, 1974)	Y	Y	Y
<i>Diversion in blood: the Battle of Moscow, Tennessee.</i> (Witherington, 2000)		y	Y
Early families of the Memphis Area: profiles of 135 families of Fayette, Shelby and Tipton Counties in Tennessee, Crittenden County, Arkansas, and DeSoto and Marshall Counties in Mississippi; with historical time lines and photographs of those counties (Matthews)			Y
<i>Early history of Civil District 2.</i> [Fayette County, TN] (Cargill & Rosser, 2002)			Y
<i>Fayette County (Tennessee) Court Minutes - Vol A (Dec 1824-Apr 1833) + Index.</i> Tn. State Archives, 1990.	Y		Y
Fayette County Clerk Quarterly Minutes [microform].			Y
Fayette County Cousins: Fayette County, Tennessee, Some Early Settlers & Their Descendants [2 vols.] (Morris, 2012)			Y
Fayette County Historical Society (TN). <i>The history of Fayette County, Tennessee, 1986.</i> (Fayette County Historical Society, 1986)			Y
Fayette County Tennessee, Register of deeds [microform]			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee county clerk minutes [microform]			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee Deed Books [vol. 1 April 1825-February 1835; vol. 2 February 1835-July 1837] (Hutchings, 2001-)			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee Marriages 1838-1857 (Swenson & Ingmire, 1981)			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee, County Court Minute Book B, 1840-1844 (West, 1983)			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee, Court records [microform]			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee, Court records [microform]			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee, Court records [microform]			Y

Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

Fayette County, Tennessee, Immanuel Episcopal Church Record, 1848-1854 (WPA, 19???)			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee, Marriage Record Book A, 1838-1857 (WPA, 1936)			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee, marriage records [microform]			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee, marriages [microform]			Y
Fayette County, Tennessee, Marriages, 1838-1871 (Sistler, 1989)			Y
Fayette County, TN: tragedy & confrontation. Atlanta, GA, Southern Regional Council (Walls, 1969)			Y
Fayette County. MSU Press, (Morton, 1989)			Y
Goodspeed's history of TN (Fayette County, pp. 797-817, 840-887) (Goodspeed, 1887)		Y	Y
<i>History of Tennessee: from the earliest time to the present; together with an historical and a biographical sketch of Fayette and Hardeman Counties, besides a valuable fund of notes, original observations, reminiscences, etc.,</i> (Goodspeed, 1979)		Y	Y
<i>Index marriage book A, Fayette County, Tennessee, 1838 to 1857.</i> (Cargill and Rosser, 1990)			Y
<i>Letters written by Marie D. Charrier Cabarrus Lanston of La Grange, Tenn.</i> (Phillips, n.d.)			Y
<i>Old times in West Tennessee: reminiscences -- semi-historic -- of pioneer life and the early emigrant settlers in the Big Hatchie Country.</i> (Williams, 1873)			Y
Our portion of hell, Fayette County, TN: an oral history of the struggle for civil rights (Hamburger, 1973)			Y
<i>Shelby County, Tennessee newspaper abstracts through 1859.</i> (Cargill 2002)			Y
<i>Some nuggets from Civil District 6.</i> (Rosser & Cargill, 2006)			Y
Tent City, TN. Ebony (Mitchell, 1961)	Y		Y
The Allens of Fayette County, Tennessee and related families (Moore)			Y
" <i>Lest we forget.</i> " First Baptist Church Grand Junction, Tennessee (2007)	Y		
<i>A history of the First United Methodist Church: Somerville, Tennessee, 1828-2000.</i> (Harvey , 2001)	Y		
Ames Plantation, Grand Junction. THQ 38 (Davidson, 1979)	Y		
An address delivered at the laying of the cornerstone of Immanuel Church, LaGrange. Memphis, <i>Enquirer</i> Office (Alston, 1840)	Y		
<i>Braden United Methodist Church: Braden, Tennessee, history, 1890-1990.</i> Braden, Tennessee: Braden United Methodist Church, [1992?].		Y	
Fayette County, Tennessee, History of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Somerville, Tennessee (WPA, 1938)	Y		
Fayette County, Tennessee, Minute Book A, 1824-29 (WPA, 1938)			
Fayette County, Tennessee, wills [microform]			
Genealogical records report, 1957-1958. Inscriptions from 248 gravestones [Records of Hays family; other family records] Comp. by Charlotte L. O'Leary. (DAR, Brunswick, Tenn)			

Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

Geophagy in Fayette County, TN: a symbolic interpretation. TN Anthropol. 5 (Jenkins, 1980)			
<i>Goodspeed histories of Fayette & Hardeman Counties of Tennessee.</i> (Goodspeed, 1973)			
Greenville Dome, Fayette County, TN. (Boyd, 1940)			
<i>Israel Sydney Pickens: Cumberland Presbyterian minister, 1799-1876.</i> (Forester, 2002)	Y		
Joshua C. Fleetwood's diary made during a journey on horseback from NC to Fayette County, TN in 1850. WTHSP 10 (Wingfield, 1955)	Y		
LaGrange - La Belle village. THQ 30 (DeBerry,1971), pp. 133-153.	Y		
MATCOG/MDDD atlas of the cities in the six county area, Crittenden County, AR, DeSoto County, MS, Fayette County, TN, Lauderdale County, TN, Shelby County, TN, Tipton County, TN. Memphis, (MATCOG/MDDD, 1976)	Y		
Negro folklore from Fayette County. TN Folklore Soc. Bull. 19 (Parsons, 1953)	Y		
Nineteenth century homes of Fayette County (1974 sesquicentennial ed.) (Morton, 1974)	Y		
No plumbing for Negroes: Ames Plantation. Atlantic (Barraclough, 1965)	Y		
Private Acts of Fayette County, Tennessee (McIntyre, 1994)	Y		
The booster, improving & uniting southern TN. Bolivar, n.p., 1938.	Y		
<i>The early history of Grand Junction, Tennessee to the Civil War.</i> (Witherington)		Y	
<i>The early history of La Grange, Tennessee to the Civil War.</i> Witherington)		Y	
The Elrod-Jones and Harvey-Lambert families of Fayette and Hardeman Counties of Tennessee (Jones)		Y	
<i>The Fayette County Historical Society bulletin.</i> Fayette County, TN (Fayette County Historical Society, 1976)	Y		
The history of Fayette County, TN, 1986. Somerville, Fayette County Hist. Soc., 1986. 289 pp.	Y		
The La Grange cemetery. Survey and art work by James A. Holt. (Cemetery Assoc. of La Grange, Tenn)		Y	
Transcription of the Historical Record of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Gallaway, Tennessee, 1879 (Rosser & Cargill, 1992)			
<i>West Tennessee death records.</i> (Hays,1987)			
Will book A- Fayette County (Tenn.)		Y	
With pen in hand: the story of a southern planter of the nineteenth century based on his diaries & letters. (Cottle, 1991)			
Old Jones Cemetery (Fayette County, Tenn.) Records, 1785-1960.	Y		
Private acts of Fayette County, Tennessee	Y		
Somerville Reporter and Falcon Records. Fayette County 1882-1906	Y		
Tennessee Bible Records and Tennessee Tombstone Inscriptions, 1930-1933. (Acklen, 1871)	Y		

Fayette County Locality Guide (5 February 2022)

Tennessee, church minutes of Immanuel Episcopal Church, La Grange, Tennessee, Fayette County, 1848	Y		
Tennessee, Fayette County, history of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Somerville, Tennessee (WPA, 1938)	Y		
Tennessee, records of Fayette County, marriage book, vol. A, 1838-1857 (WPA, 1936)	Y		
Tennessee, records of Fayette County, minute book A, 1824-1829 (WPA, 1938)	Y		
Transcription of the historical record of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Gallaway, Tennessee, 1879	Y		
World War Record of Ex-Soldiers of Fayette County, State of Tennessee (Smith, 1875-1949)	Y		