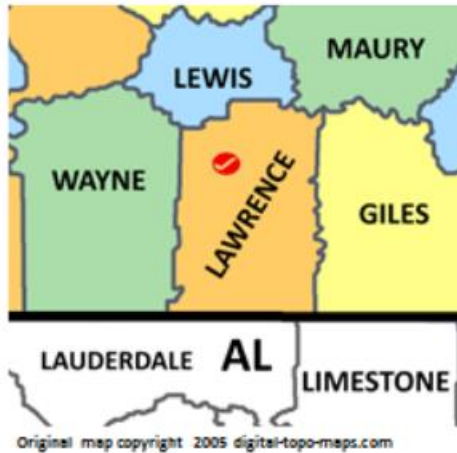


# Lawrence County Locality Guide (24 January 2023)

## Geographic Area



Lawrence County was named for Captain James Lawrence (1781-1813), who while commanding the USS Chesapeake in an 1813 battle with the Royal Navy frigate HMS Shannon, issued his famous command: "Don't give up the ship! Blow her up." The ship was nevertheless given up to the enemy and Lawrence died of wounds. The county is located in the south-central area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

On October 21, 1817, the Tennessee General Assembly created Lawrence County from territory acquired by treaty with the Chickasaw Indians. A section of Hickman County and a small portion of Giles County were included in its boundaries. Local government was established in 1818.

Both the county and the county seat were named in honor of Captain James Lawrence, U.S. Naval hero of the War of 1812. Lawrenceburg, the county seat, was sited near the center of the county, but an important consideration in determining its location was the presence of Jackson's Military Road on the eastern border of the town. As a major thoroughfare from Natchez, Mississippi, to Nashville, the Military Road played a significant role in the economic development of the county; in April 1821 the road was relocated through the center of town.

Davy Crockett served as one of the first commissioners and justices of the peace in Lawrence County. In the four or five years he lived in the area, he operated a water-powered gristmill, a powder mill, and a distillery. Today David Crockett State Park is situated on the site of the frontiersman's land. The park attracts tourists from across the United States, especially during the annual David Crockett Days.

In addition to the county seat, a number of smaller towns and communities dot the landscape, including Summertown, Henryville, Ethridge, Leoma, Loretto, St. Joseph, West Point, and Iron City. The past vitality of these towns was associated with their proximity to Jackson's Military Road or the mining of iron ore.

A number of citizens of the county have achieved regional and national prominence. George Henry Nixon, Confederate officer and politician, was the person most responsible for bringing the railroad to Lawrence County. James Jackson Pennington, a well-known local inventor, patented a working model of an "Aerial Bird," a flying machine similar to a zeppelin, in 1877. Thomas H. Paine, lawyer, politician, and educator, was appointed state superintendent of public instruction in the 1880s by Governor William B. Bate, and in 1899 he became Tennessee commissioner of agriculture.

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Lawrence County has long been known for its gospel singers. One person in particular, James D. Vaughan, transformed Lawrenceburg into the undisputed capital of gospel music in America. The James D. Vaughan Music School attracted students from across the South. The James D. Vaughan Publishing Company printed gospel music books and operated branch offices in South Carolina, Mississippi, and Texas.

Throughout the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century successive migrations brought settlers to Lawrence County from other southern states and foreign nations. Initially Lawrence County was settled largely by people migrating from the Carolinas. Wealthier farmers brought slaves, although Lawrence County never had a large percentage of slave-owning farmers. Farmers among the early immigrants planted cotton while entrepreneurs built sawmills, gristmills, and cotton mills or mined the iron ore. Mining expanded with the arrival of the railroad in 1883.

In the early 1870s a large number of German Catholics arrived in Lawrence County in search of better land. They included many skilled tradesmen and settled in such communities as Loretto and St. Joseph. A third migration between 1908 and 1915 brought families from Cullman, Winston, and Morgan Counties in Alabama to southern Middle Tennessee. Most of these twentieth century settlers were cotton growers or timbermen. Cotton continued to play a major economic role in Lawrence County until the late 1960s.

Certainly, one of the more interesting migrations into Lawrence County was that of the Amish in 1944. Bringing with them their strong religious and cultural beliefs, these immigrants established their community in the area around Ethridge. Their rejection of war and worldly pleasure and their reluctance to incorporate the conveniences of industrial society have made them a source of interest to local residents and visitors to the area. Their skills as farmers and craftsmen receive widespread admiration.

The population of Lawrence County in the 2000 census was 39,926. Thirteen public schools and four private schools serve over seven thousand students. Columbia State Community College maintains a branch in Lawrenceburg. County government operates under the county executive and a board of eighteen commissioners. The city government of Lawrenceburg is made up of a mayor and four commissioners. The Lawrenceburg Town Square is a National Register-listed historic district while the Natchez Trace Parkway passes through the western portion of the county. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

## Genealogical Records

Record Loss – [Lawrence County](#) (Family Search)

FamilySearch [Lawrence County Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project – [Lawrence County](#)

Contact – [Reita Jones Buress](#)

[Lawrence County Historian and Genealogical Society](#)

# Lawrence County Locality Guide (24 January 2023)

Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1908
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1818
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>
	Lawrence County Archives	For marriages performed in Lawrence County up to 2000, the Archives can provide a certified copy.
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	<a href="#">TSLA</a>
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1908
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>
	<a href="#">TSLA</a>	<a href="#">1908-1912</a>
		<a href="#">1914-1933</a>
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1819
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	Lawrence County Archives	The Archives has Lawrence County deeds on microfilm up to 1998 (for warranty deeds) and 1992 (for trust deeds).
List of Microfilmed Lawrence County Records	<a href="#">TSLA-PDF</a>	
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	<a href="#">County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications</a>
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1829
Early Tennessee Tax Lists	<a href="#">TSLA</a>	

## Lawrence County Locality Guide (24 January 2023)

<a href="#">Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters</a>	<a href="#">Ancestry.com (\$)</a>	<a href="#">Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters</a>
<a href="#">World War I Veterans</a>	<a href="#">Tennessee State Archives &amp; Library</a>	<a href="#">World War I Veterans</a>
		<a href="#">TeVA Research Collection</a>

### County Repositories

[Lawrence County Public Library](#)  
[Lawrence County Public Library – Local History](#)  
[Lawrence County Archives](#)

### Current Area Information

[Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Lawrence County Government](#)  
[Lawrence County Archives](#)  
[Lawrence County Archive \(Gov. Page\)](#)  
Ashley Armstrong, Archives Director  
2588 Highway 43 South  
Leoma, TN 38468  
Phone: (931) 852-4091

### Resources

#### General

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

#### Newspapers

[Tennessee State Archives & Library](#)

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

[Tennessee Newspapers Arranged by County - L](#)

# Lawrence County Locality Guide (24 January 2023)

Newspapers.com - Lawrence Democrat 1890-1913  
Genealogybank.com - Lawrence Democrat 1890-1913

## Selected Published County Histories

### Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Brief History of Early Lawrence County, Tennessee (Morrison, 1968)\*
- Communities of Lawrence County, Tennessee (Alford, 1999)\* *[name index]*
- Factory Creek: The People, the Place, and the Times (Hollis, 1998)\* *[name index]*
- Glimpses of Lawrence County history: A Class Anthology for American History 2121 (Moore, 1970)\*
- Henryville (Henervull): A History of the First Settlement in Lawrence County, Tennessee (Dickey, 199?)\* *[surname index]*
- Heritage of Lawrence County, Tennessee [1817-2008] (Lawrence County Heritage Book Committee, 2008) *[name index]*
- Historic Material by Early Lawrence County Writers, 1846-1933 (Alford, 1998) *[name index]*
- History of Idaho Area in Lawrence County, Tennessee (Sills, 200?)\* *[name index]*
- History of Lawrence County, Tennessee [5 vols.] (Alford, 1994)\* *[name index in each volume]*
- History of Loretto, Tennessee Area: As We Remember; As We've Been Told (Cole, 1986)
- History of Springer Station and Pleasant Point (Sims, 1982)\*
- History of Tennessee from the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and a Biographical Sketch of Lawrence, Wayne, Perry, Hickman and Lewis (Goodspeed, 1979)
- History of West Point and Surrounding Territory (Welch, 1962)
- History of West Point, Tennessee (Welch, 1999) *[name index]*
- Lawrence County, Tennessee, Pictorial History (Lawrence County Historical Society, 1994)\* *[name index]*
- Life in the Holler Near Iron City, Tennessee (Marshall, 1996)
- Our Hometown, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee: The Crossroads of Dixie (Carpenter & Carter, 1986) *[name index]*
- Places in Lawrence County, Tennessee: "Then and Now" (Cole, 1994)
- Private Acts of Lawrence County, Tennessee (McIntyre, 1984)

## Selected Manuscripts Material

### Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Cumberland Presbyterian Church Records. Lawrenceburg, 1904-1973 (Microfilm Manuscript #463, 1 reel)\*

## Lawrence County Locality Guide (24 January 2023)

- Emma Bloom Schindler Diaries, 1890-1916 (Microfilm Manuscript #537, 1 reel)\*
- First Presbyterian Church Records. Lawrenceburg, 1938-1973 (Microfilm Manuscript #464, 1 reel)\*
- First United Methodist Church Records. Lawrenceburg, 1909-1979 (Microfilm Manuscript #653, 3 reels)\*
- Flat Woods Methodist Church Records. Lawrence County, 1915-1948 (Microfilm Manuscript #700, 1 reel)\*
- Freewill Baptist Church Records. Lawrence County, 1915-1946 (Microfilm Manuscript #589, 1 reel)\*
- Lawrence County (Tenn.) Store & Miscellaneous Account Books, 1855-1939 (Microfilm Manuscript #1654, 4 reels)\*
- Lawrence County Miscellaneous Records, ca. 1800-1940 (Microfilm Manuscript #566, 3 reels)\*
- Loretto United Methodist Church Records. Loretto, 1918-1971 (Microfilm Manuscript #481, 1 reel)\*
- Richland Presbytery Minutes. Lawrence County, 1894-1903 (Microfilm Manuscript #896, 1 reel)\*
- St. Joseph Methodist Episcopal Church, South Records. Lawrence County, 1918-1972 (Microfilm Manuscript #476, 1 reel)\*
- Second Creek Primitive Baptist Church Records. Lawrence County, 1830-1973 (Microfilm Manuscript #462, 1 reel)\*

### Microfilm reels available on interlibrary loan

#### Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Deed Index -- 1820-1908 (#33, 1 reel)\*
- Marriage Bonds -- 1818-1829 (#63, 1 reel)\*
- Marriage Bonds -- 1830-1839 (#64, 1 reel)\*
- Marriage Bonds -- 1840-1849 (#65, 1 reel)\*
- Marriage Bonds -- 1850-1859 (#66, 1 reel)\*
- Marriages -- 1818-1889 (#14, 1 reel)\*
- Wills -- 1829-1855 (#30, 1 reel)\*
- Wills -- 1856-1868 (#31, 1 reel)\*
- Wills -- 1858-1868; 1887-1919 (#32, 1 reel)\*
- WPA Records, Lawrence County (Record Group #107, Roll 50, 1 reel). Roll includes County Court Minutes, Vol. 1 (1818-1823), General Index to Deed Books, A-P (1819-1871), Wills, Inventories, Etc., Book B (1829-1847), Marriage Records (1838-1860 & 1861-1866), Rule Docket, Chancery Court (1848-1871), Road Record Book (1853-1883) and Bible, Family & Tombstone Records (undated).\*

# Lawrence County Locality Guide (24 January 2023)

## Maps

[TDOT Map of Lawrence County](#)  
[Lawrence County - 1888](#)

## Cemeteries

[Lawrence County Cemeteries - Find-a Grave](#)  
[Lawrence County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)  
[Lawrence County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails](#)  
[Lawrence County Cemeteries - TNGenWeb \(Cemetery\)](#)

## Bibliography

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

Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
1850 census Lawrence County, Tennessee (including some other early records)	Carter, Marymaud K., 1972		Y	Y
1880 census Lawrence County, Tennessee	Carpenter, Viola H.,		Y	
A brief history of early Lawrence County, TN. By John F. Morrison, Jr., the county historian of Lawrence County, TN. Lawrenceburg.	Morrison, John F, 1968	Y		
A brief history of early Lawrence County, TN. By John F. Morrison, Jr., the county historian of Lawrence County, TN. Lawrenceburg, n.p.,	Morrison, John F., 1968	Y		
A history of West Point & surrounding territory: "I tell the tale as 'twas told to me" & other things from memory. Lawrenceburg.	Welch, Paul., 1962	Y		
A history of West Point, TN, formerly Blountville. N.p.	Smithson, Jesse H., 1981	Y		
A look at the past. Lawrenceburg, Bassham's Print Shop.	Curtis, Sandy., 1976	Y		
Annals of Lawrence County, TN. Lawrenceburg, Lawrence County Hist. Soc., 1970-1972. 2 vols.		Y		
At Rest : Cemetery records of Lawrence County, Tennessee	Alexander, Irene McBane, Buffalo River Chapter, DAR, 1977		Y	Y
Biographical directory, TN General Assembly, 1796-1969 (Lawrence County, Preliminary #27).	Nashville, 1971.	Y		

## Lawrence County Locality Guide (24 January 2023)

Biography of the Forbes family	John McEver Forbes, 1887.		Y	
Choates of the South : descendants of Christopher Choate of Maryland. Volume 1	Irene Choate Williams, 1966		Y	
Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 1887-1987.	Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1987		Y	
Early sales & ownership of lots in Lawrenceburg, TN. Lawrenceburg, Lawrence County Hist. Soc.	Alexander, William F., Jr. & John T. Morrison, Jr., 1970	Y		
Goodspeed's history of TN (Lawrence County, pp. 749-763, 807-849).	Goodspeed, 1886.	Y	Y	Y
History of Lawrence County, TN.	Alford, Bobby, 1994	Y		
History of Loretto, TN area: as we remember; as we've been told. History Committee, Estha Cole, chairman. Loretto, Byler Press, 1986.	1986	Y		
History of the First Methodist Church, Lawrenceburg, TN, 1824-1962. Lawrenceburg, J.D. Vaughan Pub. Co.	Bryce, Sibyl N., 1962	Y		
Important women of Lawrence County	Alford, Bobby. 1887		Y	
James Moore of Lincoln Co., NC to Lawrence & Wayne Co., TN : family and descendants	Franks, Mary Nell Hollis, 1976		Y	
Lawrence County (Tennessee) deed index: Direct and reverse	Tennessee State Archives, 2016		Y	
Lawrence County Hist. Soc. Bulletin. No. 1-55, 1953-1967. (monthly) Lawrence County Hist. Soc.		Y		
Lawrence County Hist. Soc. David Crockett in Lawrence County, TN: historical information. Lawrenceburg, 1953-1955.		Y		
Lawrence County Records	Carter, Marymaud K.		Y	
Lawrence County, 1980-1987: an economic analysis. Nashville, TN Dept. Emp. Sec.	1988	Y		
Lawrence County, Tennessee marriage records, 1818-1923	Mrs. Claude A. Carter. P-Vine Press, 1979.			Y
Lawrence County, Tennessee marriages, 1838-1923.	Lawrence County H.S.(TN), 1961		Y	



## Lawrence County Locality Guide (24 January 2023)

Lawrence County, Tennessee Wills	Simmons Hist. Pub., Willis, Laura, 2003		Y	
Lawrence County, Tennessee, 1870 census	Carter and Carter, P-Vine Press, 1977.			Y
Lawrence County, Tennessee, deeds [microform] Index to deeds 1820-1908.				Y
Lawrence County, Tennessee, marriage records [microform] Marriage bonds 1818-1829; Marriage bonds 1830-1839 (dates out of order); Marriage bonds 1840-1849 (dates out of order); Marriages Feb. 1838 - March 1889.				Y
Lawrence County, Tennessee, marriages, 1818-1870	Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., Southern Hist. Press, 1999.			Y
Lawrence County, Tennessee, miscellaneous records [microform] Settlements Sept. 1897-Nov. 1907.				Y
Lawrence County, Tennessee, miscellaneous records [microform] Justice of the Peace journal 1818-1822;				Y
Lawrence County, Tennessee, wills[microform] Wills Jan. 1829 - Jan. 1855.				Y
Life & character of Capt. Wm. B. Allen, of Lawrence County, TN, who fell at the storming of Monterey on the 21st of September, 1846.	Rowles, W.P., 1853	Y		
Loretto in the happy long ago, 1800-1954.	Reeves, Charles E.	Y		
Marriages of Lawrence County, Tennessee, 1818-1854	Genealogical Publishing Co., Whitley, Edythe Rucker, 1982		Y	
Marriages of Lawrence County, Tennessee, 1818-1854	Edythe Rucker Whitley, Genealogical Pub. Co., 1982.			Y
Minute book: court of pleas and quarter sessions, Lawrence County, Tennessee, 1818-1822	Carpenter, Charles E., Mrs., P-Vine Press, 1977		Y	Y

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<i>Murray cycle</i> . A bicentennial series: "Great moments in Lawrence County history." No. 1, Oct., 1975-no. 15, Dec., 1976.		Y		
Obituaries, 1846-1932 : taken from the pages of various papers, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee	Crowder, Nancy Lanning, 2005		Y	
Obituaries, 1900-1919, taken from the pages of the Lawrence Democrat, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee	Nancy Lanning Crowder, 2005		Y	
Obituaries, 1922-1935, taken from the pages of the Lawrence News, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee	Nancy Lanning Crowder, 2005		Y	
Our hometown, Lawrenceburg, TN: the crossroads of Dixie. Lawrenceburg, Lino-Litho Printers,	Carpenter, Viola H. & Marymaud K., 1986	Y		
Places in Lawrence County, TN, "then & now." Loretto.	Cole, Estha., 1994	Y		
Tennessee Lawrence County general index deed books, 1819-1871.	Porter, Matilda A., 1972		Y	
Tennessee's hero of the Alamo, Col. David Crockett & businessmen's directory. Written & compiled by Sen. C.C. Kelly. Lawrenceburg,	Kelly, C.C., 1922	Y		
The Alford family of Lawrence County, Tennessee	Alford, Bobby		Y	
The McAnally family in America	McAnally, James L, 1976		Y	
The real David Crockett, a short, authentic, illustrated history of TN's famous hunter, frontiersman... & hero of the Alamo, Col. David Crockett... Lawrenceburg, n.p	Morrison, John F. & Bob Hamslely., 1955	Y		
Tungett, Tounget, Toungett Toungette : Cross, Dicus, Dubois, Nelson and other related families of Giles & Lawrence Counties in Tennessee and beyond	Toungette, William Allen., 1983		Y	
Valley Leaves	Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Inc., 1966		Y	
William "Flat River" Clayton and Benjamin Crews families of Person County, NC to Lawrence Co., TN	Mary Nell Hollis Franks, 2016.		Y	
Yesterday & today in Lawrence County. Vol. 1, Apr. 1978-. (triannual) Lawrence County Hist. Soc.		Y		