



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY (TENN.)  
RECORDS,  
1794-1942**

*Processed by:*

Lori D. Lockhart  
Archival Technical Services

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## INTRODUCTION

The Williamson County (Tenn.) Records, 1794-1942, are centered around items that focus on Williamson County, Tennessee. The Williamson County (Tenn.) Records are a gift of the Williamson County Courthouse in Franklin, Tennessee. **After transfer back to Williamson County, these records are only available on microfilm.**

The materials in this collection measure 18 linear feet of shelf space. There are approximately 2,020 items and 129 volumes included in this collection. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Williamson County (Tenn.) Records may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **Williamson County, Tennessee**

On October 26, 1799, the Tennessee General Assembly created Williamson County, Tennessee, from land taken from Davidson County. The new county was named Williamson in honor of Dr. Hugh Williamson, a Revolutionary War Patriot from North Carolina and a signer of the United States Constitution. In 1800, Abram Maury used 109 acres of his property to lay out the county seat of Franklin. Franklin was named for Benjamin Franklin, an eighteenth century printer, scientist and politician, who was known for his discoveries in electricity and as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Prior to the Civil War, Williamson County was one of the wealthiest counties in Tennessee. It suffered greatly during a Union occupation that lasted from 1862 to 1865. During the battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864, Confederate General John B. Hood faced off against Union General John M. Schofield. The casualty list for both sides was high with the Union Army having an estimated casualty number of 2,326 and the Confederate Army having an estimated casualty number of 6,261.

In the years since the Civil War, Williamson County has again become a very prosperous county. As proof, Williamson County was ranked as one of the fifteen wealthiest counties in the country in 2005. Williamson County has not only grown in wealth, it has also grown in population prompting the census bureau to list Williamson County as one of the 100 fastest growing counties in the United States from 2000-2005.

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from various items within this collection and from the following websites:

<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=W069>

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/battles/tn036.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Williamson\\_County,\\_Tennessee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Williamson_County,_Tennessee)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Williamson County (Tenn.) Records, containing approximately 2,020 items and 129 volumes, span the period 1794-1942. The majority of the items and volumes are public records with the remaining items and volumes related to private individuals and businesses within Williamson County. The collection is composed of assorted account books, bonds, broadside advertisements, correspondence, court cases, court dockets, deeds, estate papers, executions, expenditure statements, indentures, petitions, powers of attorney, promissory notes, receipts, registered voter lists, reports, right of way agreements, school inspections, speeches, tax lists and warrants. The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical by format with the exception of the oversized items and ledger books which are ordered by size.

The account books, located in boxes 6-21, contain general merchant account books, railway ledgers, telephone accounts and a bank account book. Four items of note are found within the account books. One item is an account book for the *Franklin Progress* (located in box 10), dated 1881. The *Franklin Progress* was a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Franklin, Tennessee, newspaper. Another item of note in the account books is an account book for the Nashville, Centerville and Dickson Turnpike (located in box 14). An account book for the Nashville Interurban Railway (located in box 14) and Thompson's Station (located in box 14) are also contained within the account books.

The County Farm records, located in folder 1 of box 1 and box 25, include expenditure reports, lists of inmates, warrants, reports of the Poor-House Superintendent and a ledger book. Items of note include warrants issued for things like hogs, corn and hay (located in folder 1 of box 1) and reports of the Superintendent of the County Poor Farm (located in folder 1 of box 1). J. T. Hoskins was the Superintendent of the County Poor Farm during the time span of the loose records within the collection, 1920-1922

The County Home Demonstration Agent materials, located in folder 2 of box 1, contain narrative reports of the work of the County Demonstration Agent. These reports give insight into the development of health care and hygiene outreach programs in Williamson County. Information about the local Red Cross Chapter is also included within the narrative reports.

The court records are located in folders 3-17 of box 1, folder 1 of box 5, boxes 22-24 and box 26. They contain information on various court cases, Clerk and Master appointments, Chancery Court executions, Clerk and Master receipts, information regarding the building and grounds of the county courthouse, lists of registered voters, powers of attorney, warrants, court dockets, a workhouse ledger and a speech. Items of note include a speech on the history of the court system in Williamson County (located in folder 15 of box 1), trial docket books (located in box 23), and lists of registered voters for 1941 and 1942 (located in folder 10 of box 1 and folder 1 of box 5).

The estate papers are located in folders 18-21 of box 1, folders 1-12 of box 2, folder 2 of box 5 and box 25. The estate papers include receipts, wills, deeds, correspondence, accounts and scrapbooks. One item of interest is a scrapbook

kept by J. F. Eggleston (located in folder 7 of box 2). J. F. Eggleston was the executor of T. J. Redmond's estate. Mr. Eggleston kept a scrapbook containing items related to the estate, such as receipts, correspondence and checks.

The Farm Bureau ledger, located in box 25, contains a list of Farm Bureau members for the given time span, 1922-1928. It is interesting to note that the occupations of most of the members are listed beside their names in the ledger. Amounts of the dues owed are also listed in the ledger.

The individual papers, located in folders 13-18 of box 2 and folders 1-20 of box 3, contain various receipts, contracts, deeds, indentures, accounts, land grants, correspondence, bank account ledgers and checks. The following individuals or families have items contained within the individual papers: R. W. Atkinson, A. H. Beckwith, Thomas Brady, George Washington Campbell, P. E. Cox, George Doherty, M. F. Holshousen, James Hughes, John B. McEwen, various members of the Owen Family, Amelia Shy, T. W. Turley, James H. Wilson and W. E. Winstead. It should be mentioned that the James H. Wilson materials (located in folders 10-19 of box 3) also contain materials related to the Zollicoffer family. Mr. Wilson served as guardian to the children of General Feliz K. Zollicoffer. It is also worth mentioning that the George Washington Campbell materials (located in folder 17 of box 2) and the George Doherty materials (located in folder 2 of box 3) contain information regarding both Mr. Campbell and Mr. Doherty. Also contained within the individual papers are items related to Brentwood Mills (located in folder 16 of box 2).

The land records, located in folders 1-4 of box 4, folder 3 of box 5 and boxes 25-28, contain indentures, Chancery Court receipts, promissory notes, probate deeds, land sale records and Chancery Court broadside advertisements for land. Two items of note include a scrapbook (located in box 26) that contains land advertisements for the years 1899-1905 and the Chancery Court broadside advertisements for land (located in boxes 27 and 28).

The public road records, located in folders 5 and 6 of box 4 and folder 4 of box 5, include expenditure statements, a petition by R. H. Baker and right of way agreements. The expenditure statements (located in folder 5 of box 4) are statements regarding county roads that were under the supervision of the County Highway Commission. The R. H. Baker petition (located in folder 6 of box 4) is a petition by R. H. Baker, the Commissioner of the Department of Highways and Public Works of the State of Tennessee, against A. B. Scruggs, a resident of Arkansas. The petition concerns State Highway No. 106, which runs through Williamson County.

The school records, located in folders 7-12 of box 4, folders 5-6 of box 5 and boxes 29-33, contain account books, school medical inspections, monthly reports, receipts, bonds, teacher lists and a cash book. Items of note include the items related to the Tennessee Female College (located in folder 12 of box 4 and folder 5 of box 5) and a list of registered teachers (located in box 33).

The tax records, located in folders 13-19 of box 4, folders 7-11 of box 5 and box 34, contain tax assessments, delinquent tax lists, poll taxes, taxable property lists, real estate assessments and unpaid tax lists. Items of note include a delinquent tax list for the 21<sup>st</sup> District (located in folder 15 of box 4) and some

1881 tax assessments for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> districts (located in folders 6-10 of box 5).

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE – THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY RECORDS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED BACK TO THE COUNTY AND WILL BE FOUND IN THE COUNTY ARCHIVES. THEY ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ON MICROFILM AT THE TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES.**

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

1. County Farm Records, 1920-1922
2. County Home Demonstration Agent -- Reports, 1921, n.d.
3. Court Records -- Allen, J. H., Case, 1891
4. Court Records -- Appointment of the Clerk and Master of Chancery Court, 1870
5. Court Records -- Chancery Court Executions, 1865-1878
6. Court Records -- Clerk and Master Receipts, 1866-1887
7. Court Records -- Courthouse Grounds, 1830-1855, n.d.
8. Court Records -- Farmers National Bank vs. Y. M. Rizer, n.d.
9. Court Records -- Gibson vs. Turnpike Company, 1849-1850
10. Court Records -- List of Registered Voters, 1942
11. Court Records -- List of Registered Voters, n.d.
12. Court Records -- McClure vs. Allen, 1872-1876
13. Court Records -- Power of Attorney for James L. Burgess, 1860
14. Court Records -- Power of Attorney for James L. Shy, 1868
15. Court Records -- Speech on the History of the Williamson County Courts, n.d.
16. Court Records -- State vs. John Foxall, n.d.
17. Court Records -- Warrants, 1870-1891
18. Estate Papers -- Degraffenreid, M. F., 1865-1873, n.d.
19. Estate Papers -- Fitzhugh, J. A., 1891, n.d.
20. Estate Papers -- Hayes, E. M., 1868
21. Estate Papers -- Lester, Henry, 1851-1854, n.d.

### Box 2

1. Estate Papers -- McDaniel, Horatio, 1866-1870, n.d.
2. Estate Papers -- McDowell, William, 1854-1876
3. Estate Papers -- Maney, William, 1869-1876
4. Estate Papers -- Page, John, 1881-1891, n.d.
5. Estate Papers -- Peay, Elizabeth, 1847-1889
6. Estate Papers -- Pinkerton, Joseph, 1874-1884
7. Estate Papers -- Redmond, T. J., 1898-1905
8. Estate Papers -- Starnes Family, 1867-1868, n.d.
9. Estate Papers -- Swain, Polly, 1888
10. Estate Papers -- Watson, B. O., 1858-1868
11. Estate Papers -- Wilson, Isaac B., 1858-1871, n.d.
12. Estate Papers -- Wilson, Richard, 1874-1878, n.d.
13. Individual Papers -- Atkinson, R. W., 1867-1869
14. Individual Papers -- Beckwith, A. H., 1889-1897
15. Individual Papers -- Brady, Thomas, 1862-1870
16. Individual Papers -- Brentwood Mills, 1876
17. Individual Papers -- Campbell, George Washington, 1794-1820, n.d.
18. Individual Papers -- Correspondence, 1867-1929, n.d.

### **Box 3**

1. Individual Papers -- Cox, P. E., 1903-1927, n.d.
2. Individual Papers -- Doherty, George, 1803-1835, n.d.
3. Individual Papers -- Holshousen, M. F., 1867-1875, n.d.
4. Individual Papers -- Hughes, James, 1858-1862
5. Individual Papers -- McEwen, John B., 1890-1895, n.d.
6. Individual Papers -- Owen Family, 1866-1869
7. Individual Papers -- Receipts, 1862-1901
8. Individual Papers -- Shy, Amelia, 1870
9. Individual Papers -- Turley, T. W., 1878
10. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1850-1857
11. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1858-1859
12. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1860-1861
13. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1862-1863
14. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1864
15. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1865
16. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1866
17. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1867
18. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1868
19. Individual Papers -- Wilson, James H., 1869, n.d.
20. Individual Papers -- Winstead, W. E., 1865-1887, n.d.

### **Box 4**

1. Land Records, 1861-1891, n.d.
2. Land Records -- Chancery Court Receipts, 1873-1875, n.d.
3. Land Records -- Indentures, 1796-1866, n.d.
4. Land Records -- Promissory Notes, 1869-1892
5. Public Road Records -- Expenditure Statements, 1920-1922, n.d.
6. Public Road Records -- R. H. Baker Petition, 1917-1919
7. School Records -- Battle Ground Academy, 1889-1894
8. School Records -- Medical Inspection of Schools, n.d.
9. School Records -- Monthly Reports to the County Superintendent, 1918
10. School Records -- Receipts, 1917
11. School Records -- Teacher's Annual Report, 1918
12. School Records -- Tennessee Female College, 1856-1871, n.d.
13. Tax Records -- Annual Taxes, 1867
14. Tax Records -- Delinquent Tax List -- 21<sup>st</sup> District, 1884-1886
15. Tax Records -- List of Lands and Involvements, 1804
16. Tax Records -- Poll Tax for County School, 1876-1878
17. Tax Records -- Taxable Property Lists, 1802
18. Tax Records -- Taxable Property Lists, 1809
19. Tax Records -- Taxable Property Lists, 1879-1882

### **Box 5**

1. Court Records -- List of Registered Voters, 1941
2. Estate Papers -- Allen, Z., 1871-1875
3. Land Records -- Probate Deeds, 1859-1874
4. Public Road Records -- Right of Way Agreement, 1928
5. School Records -- Tennessee Female College Bonds, 1893
6. School Records -- Williamson County Teachers, 1931-1932
7. Tax Records -- Tax Assessment -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil District, 1881
8. Tax Records -- Tax Assessment -- 5<sup>th</sup> Civil District, 1881
9. Tax Records -- Tax Assessment -- 6<sup>th</sup> Civil District, 1881
10. Tax Records -- Tax Assessment -- 19<sup>th</sup> Civil District, 1881
11. Tax Records -- Tax Assessment -- 21<sup>st</sup> Civil District, 1881

### **Box 6**

1. Account Books -- Bank account book, 1922
2. Account Books -- Barrett, Mrs. L. D., 1887
3. Account Books -- Buford, F., 1919-1922

### **Box 7**

1. Account Books -- Campbell, E. B., 1886
2. Account Books -- Campbell, E. B., 1886
3. Account Books -- Campbell, E. B., 1886-1887
4. Account Books -- Campbell, E. B., 1887-1888
5. Account Books -- Campbell, E. B., 1888
6. Account Books -- Campbell, E. B., 1888
7. Account Books -- D. B. C. and Co., No. 2, 1864
8. Account Books -- House, I. S., 1886
9. Account Books -- House, I. S., 1886
10. Account Books -- House, I. S., 1887
11. Account Books -- House, I. S., 1887
12. Account Books -- House, I. S., 1887
13. Account Books -- Neely, W. D., 1886
14. Account Books -- Neely, W. D., 1886-1887
15. Account Books -- Neely, W. D., 1887-1888
16. Account Books -- Neely and Campbell, 1886
17. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1873
18. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1887
19. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1887
20. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1888
21. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1888-1889
22. Account Books -- Wallace, W. F., 1887

### **Box 8**

1. Account Books -- Carter, W. D., 1908-1913
2. Account Books -- Carter, W. D., 1913

**Box 9**

1. Account Books -- Cox, P. E., 1901-1905
2. Account Books -- Cox, P. E., 1905
3. Account Books -- Cox, P. E., 1912-1914
4. Account Books -- Cox, P. E., 1926

**Box 10**

1. Account Books -- Fleming, A. B., 1882
2. Account Books -- Fleming, A. B., 1894-1896
3. Account Books -- Fleming, A. B., 1897
4. Account Books -- Fleming, A. B., n.d.
5. Account Books -- Franklin Progress, 1881

**Box 11**

1. Account Books -- Harvey, W. C., 1876
2. Account Books -- Hawkins, D. Louis, 1912-1924

**Box 12**

1. Account Books -- Holshousen, M. F., 1871
2. Account Books -- Holshousen, M. F., 1873-1876
3. Account Books -- Holshousen, M. F., 1873-1874
4. Account Books -- Holshousen, M. F., 1873
5. Account Books -- Holshousen, M. F., 1873-1877
6. Account Books -- Mosely, W. C., 1895

**Box 13**

1. Account Books -- Muarry, J. B., No. 24, 1868
2. Account Books -- Murray, J. B., No. 25, 1868
3. Account Books -- Parham and Short Mill, 1900
4. Account Books -- Perkins, Thomas F., 1872-1874
5. Account Books -- Pinkerton, Wall and Company, 1867-1870

**Box 14**

1. Account Books -- Nashville, Centerville and Dickson Turnpike, 1919-1929
2. Account Books -- Nashville Interurban Railway, 1907-1911
3. Account Books -- Pinkerton and Wall, 1869
4. Account Books -- Rader and Sons, 1908-1921
5. Account Books -- Short and Robinson, 1907-1909
6. Account Books -- Telephone Accounts, 1914-1915
7. Account Books -- Thompson's Station, 1905-1906

**Box 15**

1. Account Books -- Reams and Brothers, 1854-1862
2. Account Books -- Reams and Brothers, 1855-1859
3. Account Books -- Reams and Brothers, 1857-1859

**Box 16**

1. Account Books -- Roberts Buford Dry Goods, 1903-1905
2. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1816-1826

**Box 17**

1. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1856
2. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1874-1876

**Box 18**

1. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1857-1858

**Box 19**

1. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1884-1885
2. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1887-1898

**Box 20**

1. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1888
2. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1889
3. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1891
4. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1893
5. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1898
6. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1906-1909

**Box 21**

1. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1907-1910
2. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1915-1917
3. Account Books -- Unidentified, 1919-1924
4. Account Books -- Winstead, W. E., 1862
5. Account Books -- Winstead, W. E., 1874

**Box 22**

1. Court Records -- Execution Docket of the County Court Clerk State and Civil Cases, No. 3, 1828-1829
2. Court Records -- Index to Injunction Bonds, 1895-1897
3. Court Records -- Judges Workhouse Ledger, 1909-1910

**Box 23**

1. Court Records -- Memorandum of the Circuit Courts, 1833-1836
2. Court Records -- R. H. Crockett Docket Book, 1895-1897
3. Court Records -- R. H. Crockett Docket Book, 1898-1899
4. Court Records -- Trial Docket, 1836-1838

**Box 24**

1. Court Records -- Western Union Telegraph Company Vs. Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, Vol. 1, 1920

2. Court Records -- Western Union Telegraph Company vs. Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, Vol. 2, 1920
3. Court Records -- Western Union Telegraph Company vs. Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, 1912-1920

**Box 25**

1. County Farm Records -- Ledger, 1909-1939
2. Estate Records -- Johnson, Claiborne, 1871
3. Farm Bureau Ledger, 1922-1928
4. Land Records -- Records of Land Sales, 1867-1878
5. Williamson County Agricultural and Mechanical Association Records, 1872

**Box 26**

1. Court Records -- Merchants' License Record, 1899-1913
2. Land Records -- Advertisements, No. 1, 1899-1905

**Box 27**

1. Land Records -- Chancery Sale Advertisements, 1843-1880

**Box 28**

1. Land Records -- Chancery Sale Advertisements, 1881-1934

**Box 29**

1. School Records -- Account Book, 1910-1911
2. School Records -- Account Book, 1911-1912
3. School Records -- Account Book, 1912-1913
4. School Records -- Account Book, 1914-1915
5. School Records -- Account Book, 1915-1916

**Box 30**

1. School Records -- Account Book, 1916-1917
2. School Records -- Account Book, 1918-1919
3. School Records -- Account Book, 1919-1920
4. School Records -- Account Book, 1919-1920
5. School Records -- Account Book, 1920-1921

**Box 31**

1. School Records -- Account Book, 1920-1922
2. School Records -- Account Book, 1921-1922
3. School Records -- Account Book, 1922-1923
4. School Records -- Account Book, 1924-1925
5. School Records -- Account Book, 1926-1927

**Box 32**

1. School Records -- Account Book, 1927-1928
2. School Records -- Account Book, 1928-1931

3. School Records -- Account Book, 1929-1933
4. School Records -- Account Book, 1931-1933
5. School Records -- Account Book, 1933-1934

**Box 33**

1. School Records -- Account Book, 1935-1936
2. School Records -- Account Book, 1937-1938
3. School Records -- Registered Teachers, n.d.
4. School Records -- School Fund Cash Book, 1871-1875

**Box 34**

1. Tax Records -- Assessment of Real Estate, Personal Property and Polls -- 20<sup>th</sup> District, 1883
2. Tax Records -- Assessment of Real Estate, Personal Property and Polls -- 2<sup>nd</sup> District, 1890
3. Tax Records -- Assessment of Real Estate, Personal Property and Polls -- 4<sup>th</sup> District, 1890
4. Tax Records -- List of Unpaid Taxes -- 5<sup>th</sup> District, 1887
5. Tax Records -- List of Unpaid Taxes -- 22<sup>nd</sup> District, 1887