

SPECIFIC SOURCES OF PROOF: Photo copies or scanned images of all documentation accompanying the application is required. Do not sent original copies of documents as they are not returned. We encourage you to use additional sheets of paper to include the names of all children in all generations in direct line, noting dates of birth, death and whom they married. Begin with yourself and your family and work back to the ancestor who was a resident of Fentress County in 1823.

PRIMARY SOURCES: Primary sources are defined a contemporary or government records made at the time of the event by the parties involved. These records a deemed acceptable sources in proving relationship from one generation to the previous generation.

1. **BIRTH RECORDS:** Tennessee began keeping state-wide records about 1914. These are available from **Office of Vital Records, Tennessee Department of Health, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN 37247-0350.**
2. **DEATH RECORDS:** Tennessee began keeping state-wide about 1914. For records before 1948, order from: **Tennessee State Library & Archives, Public Service Section, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37243-0312.**
For records after 1947 order from: **Office of Vital Records, Tennessee Department of Health, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN 37247-0350.**
3. **MARRIAGE RECORDS:** Tennessee marriage records are available from the County Court Clerk in the county where the marriage was performed. Marriages after 1 July 1945 are also available from: **Office of Vital Records, Tennessee Department of Health, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN 37247-0350**
4. **CENSUS RECORDS:** Tennessee Federal Census Records are available for the years 1830-1940, excluding 1890. 1820 census available for middle and west Tennessee. Many libraries have local census records in printed form. Original census images may also be obtained from several internet sources, including Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, Fold 3, or on microfilm. For assistance, ask your librarian about the microfilm rental program or contact: **Tennessee State Library & Archives, Public Services Station, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37243-0312.**
5. **PROBATE RECORDS:** Wills and estate records often list heirs and relationships. Records begin with the date of formation of the county where the land was located. Contact the County Court Clerk's office in the county originating the document.
6. **LAND RECORDS & PLOTS:** The purchase or sale of property may show residency and marital relationship. Contact the Register of Deeds in the county originating the document.
7. **TAX RECORDS:** Taxes paid on the property owned. Contact Register's Office, Trustee, or Tax Assessor's Office in the county where the ancestor lived and owned property.
8. **MILITARY RECORDS:** Records may include muster in and muster out records, pay vouchers, pension papers and military bounty land warrants. Order these records from National Archives and Records Service, Eighth & Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408.
9. **CHURCH RECORDS:** Church records are a valuable source for names, dates of birth, death, marriage for the membership. Must know the name of location of the church.
10. **COUNTY RECORDS:** Civil, criminal, divorce and other types of records are usually kept from the formation of the county. Contact Circuit Court Clerk's Office in the county originating the record.