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Cannon County

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(Below)

More than half of Cannon County lies in the Central Basin, and the remainder on the Highland Rim. Spurs shoot out from the highlands, forming numerous valleys, through which course mountain streams, giving the county probably as much varied and picturesque scenery as any in the State. The soils on the highlands are light colored, and are for the most part thin and unproductive, save of a rank, barren grass which affords good summer grazing. Fruits and tobacco will also grow, in the highland soils. The knobs of the Central basin are usually fertile to the top, but limestone crops out in such abundance as to render much of the surface unfit for cultivation. In the basin, however, is found the valuable farm lands of the county. The soil is rich, loamy and pebbly, easily worked and highly productive. Bluegrass grows spontaneously and luxuriantly on the slopes and tops of the hills, and even in the glades, furnishing rich pasturage. The crops of the county are corn, wheat, hay, clover, tobacco and the grasses, while the timber embraces species of oak, ash, poplar, walnut, hickory, chestnut, gum, maple, beech, buckeye, cherry and elm.

Stone River traverses the county from the east to the west, receiving the waters of numerous tributaries, and is the principal water course of the county. Other streams are Rockhouse, Carpenter, Rush, Lock, Hill, Hollis and Brawley Creeks, all emptying into the Stone River, Carson Fork, emptying into Brawley Creek, and Barren Fork of Collins River, Clear Fork, Sycamore, Hurricane, Saunders and Marshall Creeks.

The country now embraced in Cannon County was settled as early as 1807 and 1809, though it then belonged to several other counties in part. The early settlers were chiefly North Carolinians, who, however, came here from East Tennessee, to which section they had previously immigrated in quest of homes, but pushed on over the mountains as Middle Tennessee opened up for settlement. Among the settlers living here in 1836, when Cannon County was organized, were Henry D. McBroom, John Wood, James and Edmond Taylor, Wm. Hollis, Noel Lilly, Isham Cherry, Alexander Hill, Phillip Rough, Phillip Hoas, Henry Ford, Benjamin Allen, Usibid Stone, George St. John, Wm. Mears, Melchesedec Self, Joseph Harrison, Samuel Lewis, Wm. Middleton, James and John Barkley, Richard Vincent, Alexander Orr, Wm. McFerrin, Calvin Carlee, Jackson Wherry, Daniel Travis, Arthur Warren, Phillip Mouser, Joshua Barton, George Petty, Benjamin Arant, L.S. Gilliam, Reuben Evans, Benjamin Blodes, Tilman Bethal, G.W. Duncan, Joseph Simpson, D.M. Stewart, James Ferrell, Archibald Stone, J.G.W. Rose, Joseph Clark, Asa Smith, Elijah Stephens, James M. Brown, John Wright, Pumphry Bynum, Charles Espy, Wm. Preston, Sr., Walter Wood, Benjamin Cummings, Sr., Warren Cummings, Wm. Cummings, Sr., John Stone, Andrew Melton, Caleb and Wm. Sevillirant, Joseph James, James Miles, Alexander McBroom, Kit and Wm. Pyburn, Cullin Corlee, Edmond Sutton, William, James and John Wood, Nathan Finley, Jesse and James [Todd](#), Robert Carson, Jonathan Jones, Ambrose Petty, Thomas Williams, John McClain, Archibald Hicks, Thomas Fowler, Gideon Rucker, Jesse G. Moore, Louis Jetton, Gabriel Elkins, James Hawkins and Charles Evans, many of who are still living. One of the first schools taught in what is now Cannon County was the one situated about seven miles west of Woodbury, of which James Barklay was the teacher.. This school was taught as early as 1810 or 1812. Other Early schools of the years between the above school and 1815 were taught by Jacob Mackeroy, on Hill Creek, one and a half miles east of Woodbury; by Bartlett Wade, in the same neighborhood, and later in that neighborhood by John Finley. In about 1814 James Rucker opened a school in Woodbury (then Danville), and a few years later Elliot Tunley taught a school in the Methodist meeting-house in town. The next school in Woodbury was taught by Thomas G. Wood. Laurens Academy was established in Woodbury in 1838 as a county academy, for which a frame building was erected. In 1859 the house was destroyed by a fire, when a substantial brick was erected, which is now occupied as a private residence. In about 1855 Baptists established a school, which has since become the Woodbury College. The school building is a large two-story brick, and the school a most excellent one. The other schools of the county besides the commons schools are those at Short Mountain, Auburn, Bradysville and Readerville, those at Woodbury and Short Mountain being chartered and working under the four-mile law. In 1838 the scholastic population of Cannon County was 1,961; in 1868, 3,559, and in 1885, as follows: White--male, 2,296; female, 2,251. Colored--male, 118; female, 179; total, white and colored, 4,844. Among the first churches of Cannon County were Brawley Fork Baptist Church, in which is now the Third District; Prospect Methodist Church, on Hill Creek, in the Sixth District; Ford Meeting-house, Christian, in the Sixth District, and