

East Tennessee County Formation: Dates Formed, Parent Counties, and County Seats

By Paula Gammell

The following 30 counties now comprise “East Tennessee.” Each county ultimately traces its ancestry back to Washington, the original North Carolina county, which was formed in February, 1778. The last county formed was Unicoi, in 1876. James County was formed in 1871 but abolished in 1919.

County	Formed	From	County Seat
Anderson	1801	Knox, Grainger	Clinton
Blount	1795	Knox	Maryville
Bradley	1836	Indian Lands	Cleveland
Campbell	1806	Knox, Anderson	Jacksboro
Carter	1796	Washington	Elizabethton
Claiborne	1801	Grainger, Hawkins	Tazewell
Cocke	1797	Jefferson	Newport
Grainger	1796	Hawkins, Knox	Rutledge
Greene	1783	Washington	Greeneville
Hamblen	1870	Grainger, Hawkins, Jefferson	Morristown
Hamilton	1820	Rhea	Chattanooga
Hancock	1846	Claiborne, Hawkins	Sneedville
Hawkins	1787	Sullivan	Rogersville
(James)	1871	Bradley, Hamilton	abolished in 1919)
Jefferson	1792	Greene, Hawkins	Dandridge
Johnson	1836	Carter	Mountain City
Knox	1792	Greene, Hawkins	Knoxville
Loudon	1870	Blount, Monroe, Roane	Loudon
McMinn	1820	Indian Lands	Madisonville
Meigs	1836	Rhea	Decatur
Monroe	1820	Indian Lands	Madisonville
Morgan	1818	Roane	Wartburg
Polk	1840	Bradley, McMinn	Benton
Rhea	1808	Roane	Dayton
Roane	1801	Knox	Kingston
Scott	1850	Anderson, Campbell, Fentress, Morgan	Huntsville
Sevier	1794	Jefferson	Sevierville
Sullivan	1780	Washington	Blountville
Unicoi	1876	Carter, Washington	Erwin
Union	1854	Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Grainger, and Knox	Maynardville
Washington	1778	Original NC County	Jonesborough