

Index to

EARLY TENNESSEE TAX LISTS

transcribed and indexed by

Byron and Barbara Sistler

Evanston, Illinois

1977

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INTRODUCTION

Research in Tennessee for the period prior to 1830 poses some difficult problems because no complete census schedules for the state exist before that date. The 1800 census schedules were entirely lost or destroyed, and for 1810 only Rutherford Co. has been saved. The 1820 lists for almost all the eastern counties are missing.

For genealogists seeking county of origin of early settlers the only feasible approach is through the county tax lists, petitions and newspaper accounts. To facilitate this search and simplify the pin-pointing of county of residence we have prepared this index to those early lists. With this "bare bones" information we hope we can send many frustrated ancestor hunters winging on their ways toward the flesh and blood material of which good family histories are made.

This is a single index to 68 county tax lists, petitions, voter lists, and newspaper lists of inhabitants in 34 Tennessee counties. There are about 46,000 entries in all. We believe we have taken all known tax lists into consideration (though not all have been included in the index, since those for years after census schedules are available were not deemed useful and in most cases the transcribing of lists less than 5 years apart would not add significant value to the work).

The earliest list included is from 1787 and the latest 1827. About 2/3 of the state's counties in existence by 1820 are included in one or more lists.

While some tax lists included additional information, such as acreage, number of "polls" etc., there is no data of genealogical value in them other than the name of household head and the county. Since the primary purpose of this book is a directional aid we have omitted this extraneous information.

The index itself is simple enough to follow. You will find the name of the subject followed by a county symbol (see inside front cover) and a date, which represents the year of that particular list.

All of the tax lists are on file at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville, TN.

Lists represented by this index are as follows:

Anderson Co.	1805	Lincoln Co.	1812(newspaper, Fayetteville only)
Bedford	1812	Maury	1811, 1816
Bledsoe	1815	McMinn	1825
Blount	1800, 1801, 1805	Monroe	1825
Campbell	1818, 1823	Montgomery	1798
Carter	1796, 1798	Rhea	1808, 1819
Claiborne	1803	Roane	1805
Cocke	1821, 1827	Robertson	1812
Davidson	1788, 1805, 1811	Sevier	1799
Franklin	1812	Sullivan	1796, 1797, 1812
Giles	1812, 1819	Sumner	1787, 1792, 1811, 1816, 1823
Grainger	1799, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1810, 1821	Warren	1805, 1812, 1817
Greene	1783, 1805, 1812	Washington	1814, 1819
Hawkins	1799, 1801	White	1811, 1825
Humphreys	1812	Williamson	1801, 1806, 1810, 1815
Jackson	1802	Wilson	1804
Jefferson	1800, 1822		
Knox	1796, 1799 1815(Knoxville only)		

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Evanston, IL
August, 1977

11B

- HENDERSON, John (son of A.), Je-1822
 John Jr., Ct-1796
 Joseph, Bo-1801, Bo-1800, Ge-1812,
 Ge-1805
 Lawson, Sn-1816, Mu-1811
 Logan, Mu-1811(2)
 Loston, Mu-1811
 Nathan, Gi-1812
 Nathaniel, Wi-1810(2), Mu-1816,
 Mu-1811
 Noden, JE-1822
 Patsy, Sn-1816
 Peter, Ct-1796
 Pleasant, W-1812, W-1805
 Richard, Gr-1799, Mu-1816, Mu-1811
 Richard & Co., Gr-1799
 Robert, Je-1800, Wl-1804, Se-1799,
 Ge-1805, Ge-1812, W-1812,
 Wi-1810, Mu-1811
 Robert N., Je-1822
 S. William, Mu-1811
 Sannuel, Wi-1815
 Samuel, Fr-1812, Ge-1812, Ge-1805
 Shadrick, Bl-1815
 Thomas, Gr-1804, Gr-1799, Cl-1803,
 Co-1827, Sn-1816, Mu-1811,
 Gr-1805
 William, Gr-1799, Gr-1804, Ge-1783,
 Bo-1800, Bl-1815, Se-1799,
 Bo-1801, Je-1822, W-1812,
 Gi-1812(2), Wi-1801, Sn-1811,
 Mu-1816, Mu-1811, D-1805
 William, heirs, Je-1822
 William S., Mu-1816
 Wm. T., B-1812
 Wilson, Mu-1816
- HENDLEY, George, Wa-1814, Wa-1819
 Isaac, Wa-1814(2), Wa-1819
 James, Wa-1819
 Joshua, Wa-1814, Wa-1819
 Elijah, A-1805
- HENDRICH, Thomas, Sn-1787
- HENDRICK, David, Fr-1812
 Jacob, Wa-1819
 James, Cl-1803
 Jeremiah, Sn-1811
 Jesse, Mu-1811
 Samuel, Wa-1819
- HENDRICKS, Abner, Mu-1816
 Drucilla, Wl-1804
 Elijah, Hu-1812
 Jeremiah, Wl-1804
 John, Ct-1798, Ct-1796
 Jos., Sn-1792
 Joseph D., Wl-1804
 Solomon, Ct-1796, Ct-1798
 Tolbert, Sn-1816
 Wm., Gi-1819
- HENDRIN, Abner, Mu-1811
- HENDRIX, Albert, Sn-1811
 Thomas, Wi-1815
- HENEGAR, Henry, Ge-1812
- HENERY, Joseph, Wh-1825
 Samuel, Bo-1801(2)
 Thomas, Wh-1285
- HENESLY, Benjamin, Wh-1825
- HENGER, John, J-1802
- HENLEY, Abner, J-1802
 Caleb, Mu-1816
 George, Hu-1812, Rb-1812
 John, Sn-1811
 William, Rb-1812(3), Sn-1811
- HENLY, Caleb, Mu-1811, Mu-1816
 John, Fr-1812
 Moore, Fr-1812
 Samuel, Rb-1812
 William, Fr-1812
- HENDRIX, Squire, A-1805
- HENERY, Charles, Bo-1801
 James, Bo-1805
 Samuel, Bo-1805
 William, Bo-1805, Bo-1801
- HENNEGER, Javon, Ge-1805
- HENNESSEE, James, W-1812, W-1805
- HENNEY, John, Sn-1816
- HENNING, Alsua, Wl-1804(2)
 Pace, Wl-1804(2)
- HENRDY, Thompson, Wa-1814
- HENREY, Newton, Sn-1811
- HENRY, Abraham, Ct-1796, Ct-1798
 Andrew, Wi-1801
 Benjamin, Je-1822
 Charles, Bo-1800
 David, Mt-1798, Sn-1811, Rb-1812,
 Sn-1816, Je-1822
 Eli, Wa-1819
 Ewen, Je-1822
 Ezekiel, Ro-1805, R-1808
 George, Wh-1825
 Hately, B-1812
 Hugh, Wl-1804, Je-1822
 Hugh Jr., Je-1822
 Isaac, Fr-1812, B-1812
 Isaiah, Mu-1816
 James, Fr-1812, Ge-1812, Gi-1812
 James Sr., Gi-1812
 James L., Gi-1819
 John, Wi-1810, Wh-1825, Wh-1811,
 Je-1822, R-1819
 John J., Wi-1815
 Josiah, Mu-1811
 Lofty, Je-1822
 Moses, Sn-1816
 Newton, Sn-1816
 Quist?, Wh-1825
 Robert, Gr-1850, Ge-1812
 Samuel, Fr-1812, Bo-1800
 Silas, Je-1822
 Spencer, Wa-1819
 Squire John, R-1808
 Thomas, Wl-1804
 Thomas B., Gi-1819
 William, D-1811(2), Sn-1811,
 Sn-1816, Je-1800, Bo-1800,
 Gi-1819, Ge-1812, Ro-1805,
 Je-1822, Gi-1812, Co-1821
- HENSE, John, Sn-1811
- HENSFORD, Andrew, Fr-1812
 Henry Sr., Fr-1812
 Henry Jr., Fr-1812
 John, Fr-1812
- HENSHAW, John, Gr-1805
 William, Fr-1812
- HENSLEY, Charles, Wh-1285
 Isam, Su-1797
 Obediah, Fr-1812
 Samuel, J-1802
 William, D-1805
- HENSLY, John, Wa-1819
- HENSON, Allen, Ro-1805
 David, Wh-1825
 Elisha, D-1811
 Green, Ro-1805
 Jesse, Sn-1816

HENSON, John, J-1802, Sn-1816
 Josiah, Sn-1816, Sn-1811
 Pall, Gr-1799
 Solomon, Sn-1816, Sn-1811
 Thomas, Sn-1816
 William, Sn-1811, Sn-1816(2)
 HERALD, Elijah, Mo-1825
 John, Wa-1819, Mu-1816
 HERBERT, Nathaniel, D-1811
 Richard, Wi-1815
 HERD, James, Wh-1825
 Joseph, Wh-1825
 HERENDEN, George, Je-1822
 HERING, Heli, Sn-1811
 HERMAN, Richard & Thomas, D-1805
 HERMEN?, William, Mu-1811
 HERMER, William, W-1812
 HERNDEN, Samuel, Gr-1799
 HERNDON, Benjamin Sr., Mu-1811, Mu-1816
 Benjamin Jr., Mu-1816, Mu-1811
 Cornelius, Sn-1811, Sn-1816
 John, Hu-1812
 Joseph, Mu-1816, Mu-1811
 Mary, Sn-1823
 Reuben, Fr-1812
 Stephen, Mu-1816
 William, Sn-1816
 HERNERY, REuben, Co-1821
 HERNEY, Augustin, D-1811
 HEROD, John, Se-1799
 HERRALD, Raba, Sn-1816
 William Sr., Gr-1804
 William Jr., Gr-1804
 HERRAMON?, Stephen, W-1812
 HERREL, Mashe, Ge-1812
 HERRELSON, Major, Gi-1812
 HERREN, A _____, D-1811
 Andrew, Wi-1810
 Beverly, D-1811
 Isaac, A-1805
 James, Wi-1815
 John, Hu-1812
 Lamuel, D-1811
 HERRIN, Abner, Mu-1816
 Andrew, Wi-1815
 Delaney, C-1823
 James, Wi-1810
 John, Wi-1810
 Solomon, Mu-1816
 HERRING, Peyton, Gi-1812, Wi-1810, Mu-1811
 Solomon, Mu-1811
 Stephen, Rb-1812
 HERRINGTON, John, Gi-1812
 HERROD, John, Wl-1804, Fr-1812
 Levi, Wl-1804
 HERRON, David, Wh-1825, Wh-1811
 Eli, Sn-1816
 Ferguson, Wh-1825
 James, Wh-1811(2)
 Richard, Wh-1825
 William, Wh-1825(2), D-1811, C-1818
 William W., Gi-1819
 HERSE, John, Bo-1801
 HERSFERD, Chaels, Sn-1811
 HESKET, George, Mu-1816
 HESLEY, James, D-1811
 HESLIP, Thomas, Fr-1812
 Wallace, Fr-1812
 HESS, William, Wi-1801, Wi-1810
 HESSE, John, Bo-1805
 HESSELL, Asa, Sn-1811
 HESTER, Henry, Gi-1819
 HESTER, Robert, Wh-1825
 Stephen, Mu-1816
 HESTON, Samuel, Mu-1816
 HETER, Thomas, Wi-1815
 HETHAWAY, Leonard, Su-1796
 HETTON, William, Mu-1816
 HEUY, Jesse, Rb-1812
 Joseph, Rb-1812
 William, Rb-1812
 HEW, David, Mu-1816
 HEWET, Patrick, Wh-1825
 HEWITT, Benjamin, B-1812
 William, Su-1796
 HEWS, James, Wi-1815
 Richard, Wi-1815
 HEZIAH, Richard, Gr-1799
 HIACH, T. M., K*-1815
 HIBBARD, Lemuel, Gr-1799
 HIBBERD, Jedediah, Je-1800
 Jediah, Gr-1804
 HIBBS, Malon, A-1805
 HICE, James, Ge-1812
 HICK, Jacob, Hu-1812
 William G., Cl-1803
 HICKASON, David, Sn-1811
 Richard, Sn-1811
 Samuel, Sn-1811
 HICKERSON, Charles, D-1811
 John, Sn-1787
 HICKEY, David, Ge-1783
 John, Wh-1825, Ro-1805
 Joseph, Mo-1825, Wh-1811
 Joshua, Wh-1825, Gr-1821, Gr-1804,
 Gr-1805
 HICKLAND, John, Bo-1800
 HICKLIN, John, D-1805
 HICKMAN, Abner, D-1811
 Adam, Su-1812
 Benjamin, Wh-1825, Je-1800
 Bowen, D-1788
 Caleb, Je-1822
 Edward, Mt-1798
 Edwin, J-1802
 Elias, Je-1822
 Elisha, Je-1822
 Francis, Je-1800, Je-1822
 Henry, Je-1822
 Jacob, Su-1812
 James, Gr-1799, Je-1800
 John, A-1805
 Joseph, Sn-1811
 Joshua, Je-1822
 Mary, Sn-1816
 Peter Sr., Su-1812
 Snody, Wl-1804
 Stephen, Wh-1825
 Thomas, D-1811, D-1805
 William, Wi-1810, D-1805, Je-1822
 Wm. Sr., Wi-1810
 HICKNEY, Michael, Ro-1805
 HICKON, Charles, Wh-1825
 HICKS, A. N., Gi-1819
 Abel, Sn-1816
 Alex, Se-1799
 Arthur, Gi-1812
 B. Smith, Su-1812
 Benjamin, B-1812
 Berry, Mu-1811
 Elijah, Mu-1816, K-1799
 Harrison, Gi-1819
 Henry, Sn-1792, Su-1796, Su-1812,
 Su-1797

- HICKS, Isaac, Su-1797, Bl-1815(2)
 Isaac Sr., Su-1797
 Isaac Jr., Su-1797
 Jacob, Su-1797, Su-1796, Su-1812
 James, Wl-1804, Wi-1801, Wi-1810,
 Wi-1815
 James G., D-1811
 Job, Hu-1812
 Joel, Su-1812
 John, Wi-1801, Wi-1810(2), Sn-1811,
 B-1812, Sn-1787, Wi-1815(2),
 Gi-1819, Su-1812
 Joseph, Co-1821, Wa-1819
 Joshua, Mu-1811
 Nathaniel, Su-1812
 Richard, Su-1796, Wl-1804,
 Su-1797(3)
 Seat, Rb-1812
 Shadrach, Su-1796
 Shadrack, Su-1797
 Smith B., Su-1812
 Stephen, Su-1812(2), Su-1797,
 Su-1796
 Thomas, Mu-1811, Wi-1815
 William, B-1812, Su-1812, R-1819
 Willis, A-1805
 Zebedee, Wl-1804
- HICKSON, Daniel, Gr-1821
 John, Gr-1821, Ge-1812
 Susanah, Ge-1812
- HICKUM, Jacob, Su-1812
- HIDE, Henry, Wl-1804
 William, C-1818
- HIDEN, David, R-1819(2)
- HIDER, Adam, Ct-1796
 Elizebeth, Ct-1796
 John, Ct-1796
 Michael, Ct-1796
- HIGDON, James, Wl-1804
- HIGGASON, David, Sn-1816
- HIGGENBOTHAM, William, B-1812(2)
- HIGGENBOTTON, Curtis, Rb-1812
- HIGGINBOTHAM, Aron, W-1805, W-1812
- HIGGINBOTTOM, Gabl., Gi-1812
 Wm., B-1812
- HIGGINS, Barry, D-1811
 Bernard, Sn-1816
 Burrel, R-1808
 James, Wi-1810
 Joel, R-1808
 John, J-1802
 Martha, Wi-1810
 Phelomon, J-1802
 Samuel, Sn-1816
 Samuel D., Sn-1816
 Thomas, Wa-1819
 Wm. B., Li-1812
- HIGGS, James, Mu-1816
- HIGHBARGER, David, Ge-1812
- HIGHS, Robert, B-1812
- HIGHSMITH, Daniel, Rb-1812
 John, Mu-1811
- HIGHTOWER, Abijah, A-1805
 Austin, Ge-1783
 Epaphroditus, Gr-1821
 Hardy, Gi-1812
 James, A-1805
 Joshua, Gr-1821
 Richard, Wi-1801, Ge-1783, Wi-1815
- HIGS, John, B-1812
- HIIPSHUR, Henry, Gr-1805
- HILL, Abel, Gr-1821
- HILL, Abraham, Wh-1811, Je-1822, Je-1800
 Alexander, Wl-1804, W-1812
 Alexander, Esq., W-1812
 Allen, Fr-1812, Wi-1815
 Allin, Wl-1804
 Benjn. F., B-1812
 Bennet, Mt-1798
 Caleb, Gi-1819
 Daniel, Fr-1812, Je-1800, Je-1822
 Daniel Jr., Je-1822
 Dann, Wi-1815
 Elijah, C-1823, Wh-1811, Je-1822,
 Wh-1825
 George, B-1812
 Green, Wi-1801, Wi-1815
 Henry, Fr-1812
 Hill, Je-1800
 Isaac, W-1812
 J. D., Wi-1801
 James, Gr-1799, Wi-1815, Wl-1804,
 B-1812, A-1805, Ge-1783,
 Cl-1803, Gi-1812, Wh-1811(2),
 Je-1822, Wi-1801, Mu-1811,
 Mu-1816
 James Sr., Gr-1821
 James Jr., Gr-1821
 Jeremiah, Fr-1812
 Jessee, B-1812, W-1812
 Jimmy, Wi-1815
 Joab, Gr-1799, Cl-1803
 John, Gr-1799, Cl-1803, Wi-1815,
 A-1805, Ct-1796, W-1812(2),
 R-1819, Je-1822, Gr-1821,
 Wh-1811, Ge-1800, Wi-1810,
 Wi-1801(2), Wi-1815, Mt-1798
 John D., Wi-1815, Wi-1810
 Jonas, Fr-1812
 Jonathan, K-1799
 Joseph, Je-1822, Je-1800
 Joseph Sr., Gr-1821
 Joseph Jr., Gr-1821
 M. Charles, D-1805
 Mathew, C-1823
 Matthew, C-1818
 Moses, Gi-1819
 Noddy, Hi-1822
 Peter, Bo-1800
 Phanoah, W-1812
 Pleasant, Ge-1812
 Richard, Wh-1811, W-1805
 Robert, B-1812, Wi-1815(2), J-1802,
 Je-1822, Je-1800, Mu-1811,
 K-1796
 Samuel, Ge-1805
 Samuel Sr., Je-1800
 Samuel Jr., Je-1800
 Spencer, Wi-1810, B-1812
 Stephen, Mu-1811
 Stephen D., Wh-1825
 Thomas, A-1805, Fr-1812, Gi-1812
 Wh-1811, Wi-1815, D-1811(2),
 Wh-1825(2), Mu-1816
 Thomas Jr., A-1805
 Walter, Wi-1815, Wi-1810
 William, Gr-1799, B-1812(2), Wh-1811,
 Su-1812, Je-1800, Je-1822,
 D-1811(2), Wi-1815, D-1805,
 Wh-1825
 William C., Wi-1810
 William G., Sn-1816
 Wm. H., Wi-1815
 Winfield, Wh-1825

HUTSON, James, A-1805, Wh-1825
 John, Wh-1825
 Matthias, Wh-1825
 Obediah, Wl-1804
 Robert, Ge-1812, Ge-1805
 Thomas, Ge-1805, D-1811
 Thomas Sr., D-1811
 William, Fr-1812, Ge-1805, Bo-1890
 HUTTEN, Jno., W-1812
 HUTTON, Charles, D-1805
 Charles Sr., D-1811(2)
 Charles Jr., D-1811
 Charles B., D-1811
 John, Fr-1812
 Joseph, W-1812
 Josiah, Bo-1800, Bo-1801
 Peter B., Maj., W-1812
 Samuel, D-1811(2)
 William, Fr-1812
 HUTTONS, Patrick, Mu-1811
 HYAS, Nathaniel, D-1805
 Zacheriah, D-1811
 HYATT, Simon, Wh-1825
 Simson, Wh-1825
 HYDE, Edmond, D-1811
 Hartwell, Wi-1815
 Henry, D-1805
 John, Rb-1812
 Richd. W., Wi-1815
 HYDER, Adam, Ct-1798
 Elizabeth, Ct-1798
 Jacob, Ct-1798, Wh-1811, Wh-1825
 John, Ct-1798
 Michael, Ct-1798
 HYLES, Peter, Fr-1812
 HYMMS, George, Su-1797, Su-1796
 HYMPHREYS, Jesse, Ct-1798
 HYNDS, John, B-1812
 HYNES, Andrew, D-1811
 Robert, Sn-1816
 William, Mu-1816
 ICE, Frederick, Hw-1799
 IMBER, John, Mu-1816
 IMES, John, Gr-1821
 IMPSON, John, Wl-1804
 ING, Alford, Sn-1816
 Joseph, Sn-1816
 INGAM, John, B-1812
 INGLAND, John, Bo-1800
 Thomas, Bo-1801
 INGLE, Adam, Wa-1814, Wa-1819
 Adam Jr., Wa-1819
 John, Wa-1819
 Mary, Wa-1819
 Peter, Ct-1796
 William, Wa-1819
 INGLEMAN, Joseph, D-1805
 INGLES, Estate, Wa-1814
 INGLISH, James, C-1823
 John, A-1805, Gr-1799
 Joseph, Gr-1799, A-1805
 Joshua, C-1823
 Joshua Jr., C-1823
 William, Gr-1799
 William, deceased, Gr-1799
 INGRAM, Aaron, Mo-1825
 James, Su-1812
 John, Ge-1805, Su-1797
 Marmaduke, Sn-1816
 Samuel, Wi-1810
 Wm., Hu-1812
 INGRUM, Samuel, B-1812
 INHENS, Aron, Wa-1814
 John, Wa-1814
 INMAN, Abednego, Je-1800, Je-1822
 Benjamin, Je-1822
 Berry, Co-1827
 Ezekiel, D-1811
 Ezikel, Sn-1816
 Green, Co-1827
 Henry, Wi-1810, Co-1827, Wi-1815
 Jeremiah, Je-1822(2)
 Joseph, Gr-1799
 Lazarus, D-1805
 Lazerus, D-1811
 Samuel, D-1811
 Shadrach, Je-1822
 Shadrack, Je-1822
 Shadrick, Ge-1783
 Shedrick, Je-1800
 William H., Je-1800
 William, Gr-1799
 INNMAN, Wm., Wi-1815
 IRBY, Charles, Sn-1816
 Tapley, Mu-1811
 IREDALE, William, D-1811
 IREDELL, John Sr., D-1811
 IRELAND, David, Wl-1804
 John, Fr-1812
 Thomas, Wa-1819
 IRESON, James, D-1788
 Joseph, Sn-1816
 IRION, John P., Wi-1815(2)
 IRONS, Edward, J-1802
 IRVIN, Benj., Bo-1800
 Daniel, Gr-1805
 Eph., Mu-1816
 James, Bo-1801
 Patrick, Wa-1819
 Robert, Bo-1801
 IRVINE, George Esq., Je-1822
 IRVING, Saml., Co-1827
 IRWIN, Alexander, Wh-1825, Wh-1811
 Christipher, Wi-1815
 David, Su-1797, Wh-1811
 George, C-1823, Je-1800
 Henderson, Wh-1825
 James, Wh-1825, Wh-1811
 John, Wl-1804, Sn-1811, C-1823
 Nathaniel, Sn-1811
 Robert, Bo-1800
 Samuel, Je-1800, K*-1815
 Thomas, Wh-1825
 William, Wh-1811, Wh-1825, D-1805
 ISAAC, Elijah, Gr-1799
 ISAACKS, Caleb, C-1818
 ISACKS, Jacob C., Fr-1812
 ISANBARGER, Nicholas, Wa-1819
 ISBEL, Hickman, Su-1796
 ISBELL, Abraham, Wh-1825
 James, W-1812
 Jason, W-1812
 ISBELS, Levi, Se-1799
 Muler, Se-1799
 William, Se-1799
 ISBEN, James R., Wa-1814
 ISELEY, Conrad, Su-1797
 Conrod, Su-1796(2)
 Jacob, Su-1797, Su-1796
 ISELY, Christian, A-1805
 ISENBURG, Nicholas, Wa-1814
 ISEY, William, Wa-1814
 ISH, Alexander, R-1819
 Elizabeth, Bo-1800, Bo-1801