

I. COUNTY DESCRIPTION

A. County Profile

Hamblen County was established in 1870, from Jefferson, Grainger, and Greene Counties, after the citizenry of the area petitioned the Tennessee General Assembly to be recognized as a new county. In order to secure the recommendation of State Senator William Green of Hawkins County, he was given the privilege of naming the new county after his grandfather, Hezekiah Hamblen. Hezekiah had been an attorney and member of the Hawkins County circuit and county courts for many years.

Hamblen County is located 40 miles east of Knoxville and is 174 square miles. Hawkins County borders it to the north, Jefferson and Cocke Counties to the south, Greene County to the east and Grainger to the west. Hamblen County has easy access to Interstate 81 and 41, U. S. Highways 11E and 25E, and State Highways 66, 160, 342. Morristown the county seat is ideally suited for manufacturing, warehousing and distributing facilities because it lies within 600 miles of 75% of the U.S. Population and access to major highways and interstates.

Hamblen County, which is bordered by Cherokee Lake, has numerous recreational opportunities. Panther Creek State Park covering approximately 1,435 acres is located in the Hamblen County community of Panther Springs. Panther Springs is one of the country's oldest settlements. According to legend, Panther Creek and Panther Springs received their names from a panther being shot by a Colonel Bradley of Virginia and falling into the spring. Hamblen County is also rooted in historical landmarks, one of which is Crockett's Tavern. It was built by John Crockett in 1796 and was home to young Davy Crockett. Hamblen County is diverse in its recreational opportunities, its historical landmarks, and its progressive attitude in industrial recruitment and development.

Hamblen County Community Profile

Location:

Region: East Tennessee
Square Miles: 174
Distance from Knoxville: 40 miles

Population (1996 est.)

Total: 50,480
Male: 24,319
Female: 26,161
Minority: 5.7

Cities/Towns/Communities

Morristown
Russellville
Talbott
Lowland
Whitesburg

Education

Elementary 12
Middle/Jr. High 4
Sr. High 2
Private or Parochial 5
Technology Centers 1
Colleges 2

Natural Resources

Minerals: Zinc and Coal
Timber: Oak

Climate

Annual Average Temperature: 59.6°
Annual Average Precipitation: 45.85"
Annual Average Snowfall: 11.9"
Elevation: 1,351 above sea level