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Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi

NO. 72. TUNICA COUNTY (TUNICA)

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Prepared by
The Mississippi Historical Records Survey
Service Division
Work Projects Administration

The Mississippi Historical Records Survey
Jackson, Mississippi

INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES

OF MISSISSIPPI

NO. 72. TUNICA COUNTY (TUNICA)
Preliminary Edition

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The Mississippi Historical Records Survey
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* * * * *

The Mississippi Historical Records Survey
Jackson, Mississippi
June 1942

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

F. H. Dryden, Acting Commissioner
Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner
Q. Edward Gatlin, State Administrator
Jerome Sage, Director, Service Division

SPONSOR

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

FOREWORD

The Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi is one of a number of guides to historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on Historical Records Survey projects of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of Tunica County, is number 72 of the Mississippi series.

The Historical Records Survey program was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by the officials of the county, and also the needs of lawyers, businessmen and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by Historical Records Survey projects attempt to do more than give merely a list of records - they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and other local inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as a bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of Historical Records Survey projects, even in a single county, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey program was orgainzed by Luther H. Evans, who served as Director until March 1, 1940, when he was succeeded by Sargent B. Child, who had been National Field Supervisor since the inauguration of the Survey. The Survey has operated as a Nation-wide series of locally sponsored projects in the Service Division, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

F. H. DRYDEN
Acting Commissioner

PREFACE

The Mississippi Historical Records Survey program was organized to inventory State, county, and municipal archives, early American imprints, church records, and manuscripts in collections. In Mississippi the Historical Records Survey was operated as a unit of the Statewide Records Project in the Service Division, and has been sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and some seventy county boards of supervisors. The Survey is being discontinued in order that its personnel may be diverted to activities which have a direct and unqualified relation to the war effort. However, this volume is being published in a preliminary edition, since all data, except the subject and entry index, had been compiled preparatory to publication.

The inventory of the records of Tunica County is the seventh prepared for publication. It is arranged so that the records of the executive branch of county government come first, followed by those of the recording, judicial, law enforcement, fiscal, election, education, health, and miscellaneous agencies. Included also is a short essay on each agency of county government outlining the organization of the agency in Tunica County, its present status, the method of filling the office, and the term of office. Since these essays are limited, it is suggested that the reader consult the Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi, No. 37, Lamar County, for more detailed essays than those found in the Tunica County inventory. The records are described by records series in entries whose style has been formalized to give information concerning the title of record, dates for which available, quantity, labeling of volumes or containers, variant titles, description of record contents, manner of arrangement, indexing, nature of recording, size of volumes or containers, and location.

This inventory will be useful to officials, to students of research, and to schools. It will serve as a guide or catalog to officials who, because of periodic turnover in office personnel and because of the division of duties, cannot be expected to have a comprehensive knowledge of all the records, familiarity with which is necessary to the efficient functioning of the office. Writers of local history will find that the inventory is a ready guide to all records reflecting political, social, and economic development of the county, and students of local government will value the inventory for locating the records and for tracing the trends of local government. The inventory can be used by the schools to familiarize the students with the various aspects of local government, with the types of records kept in connection with the administration of local government, and with the instruments filed and recorded to protect private property rights.

The survey of the records of Tunica County was made by Mrs. Ellen Farrell, a life-long resident of the county, and a sound student of its history. Mrs. Farrell also write the historical sketch using as her principal sources the original, unpublished records of the county.

The Survey has followed general regulations and procedures applicable to all WPA project units in the 48 states. Mississippi WPA officials have given the Survey their cordial support and assistance. The Survey also acknowledges the interest and cooperation of the Tunica County officials and of Dr. William D. McCain, Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The State office of the Survey profited in all phases of its work by the constructive advise and criticism of the National office and its representatives. This inventory in manuscript form was given editorial review in the National office by Louise Boynton, assistant editor, and was further reviewed by Mabel S. Brodie, editor in charge of public records inventories.

The original plan of the Historical Records Survey was to publish the Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi in 82 units, one for each county in the State, with the units numbered to correspond with the alphabetical sequence of the counties. Thus, the inventory of the records of Tunica County, herewith presented, is number 72. It is being issued in a preliminary edition in mimeographed form for free distribution to State and local public officials and libraries in Mississippi and to a limited number of libraries and governmental agencies outside the State. The inventory was prepared for publication in the State office of the Survey by an editorial staff headed by Nash K. Burger, Project Technician, and Andrew Brown, Assistant State Supervisor.

A list of the publications issued by the Mississippi Historical Records Survey appears on page 184. More than 1,850 publications have been issued by the Survey throughout the Nation.

ROBERT E. STRONG
State Supervisor
Mississippi Historical
Records Survey

9 Bridges Building
Jackson, Mississippi
June 1942

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1. HISTORICAL SKETCH

Boundaries

Tunica County was established February 9, 1836, and is one of the 10 counties formed in that year from the Chickasaw Cession of 1832, the Treaty of Pontotoc.[1] It was named from the Indian tribe of the same name, the word meaning "the people."[2] The county now has a land surface of 449 square miles, but as originally established, it embraced an area of about 19 townships, or 684 square miles. Its boundaries were defined as follows: "Beginning at the northwestern corner of Tallahatchie County, and running thence due north to the dividing line between the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians; thence with the said dividing line to the Mississippi river; thence up the said river, to the point where the line between townships 2 and 3 intersects the same; thence with the said township line, to the line between ranges 9 and 10 west; thence south with the said range line, and from its termination in a direct line to the northern boundary of Tallahatchie County, and thence west with said northern boundary to the beginning."[3] In 1873, part of Tunica County lying east of the Coldwater River was included in the boundaries of Tate County, and in 1877 another portion, south of the line between townships 7 and 8, was transferred to Quitman County.[4]

Tunica County is situated in the northwestern part of the State in the Yazoo and Mississippi Delta, and it is quite irregular in shape. It is bounded by DeSoto County on the north and east, by Tate and Panola Counties on the east, by Quitman and Coahoma Counties on the south, and by the Mississippi River on the west.[5]

Physical Characteristics

The county lies in the upper or northern rim of the great shallow bowl that holds the flood-plain deposit of the Mississippi River.[6] This basin was carved from the rocks of the Gulf coastal plain by the Mississippi and its tributaries, and it contains the rich alluvial soil deposited by the rivers throughout the ages. In cutting the basin, the river shifted back and forth in its process of lateral planation and left scattered remnants of its old channels. These remnants are now represented by horseshoe and crescent- shaped lakes, bayous, and other depressions, which in flood-time again join the river.[7]

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1. L. M. 1836, p. 13; 7 U. S. Stat., p. 381.
2. Dunbar Rowland, History of Mississippi, The Heart of the South, II, 840; hereafter cited as Rowland, Heart of the South.
3. Dunbar Rowland (comp.), Mississippi - Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions and Persons Arranged in Cyclopedic Form, II, 827.
4. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 841.
5. Ibid.
6. E. N. Lowe, Mississippi, Its Geology, Geography, Soils and Mineral Resources, p. 314; hereafter cited as Lowe, Mississippi.
7. W. N. Logan, The Soils of Mississippi, pp. 33-34; hereafter cited as Logan, The Soils of Mississippi.

Historical Sketch (First entry, p. 79)

A part of the county is generally level and, with the exceptions of scattered Indian mounds, the variation in level does not exceed 20 feet.[8] While the average relief of this region is slight, the county does have higher lands, long narrow ridges that lie adjacent to the streams. The interstream areas are low and swampy, and the lowlands profit greatly through drainage systems.[9]

The county as a whole slopes gently from north to south. This is shown conclusively by the elevations of the town sites. In Supervisor's District 1, located in the north end of the county, the elevation 4 miles west of Clacks is 204 feet above the sea level; the town of Robinsonville is 204, Commerce is 201, and Banks is 200. In District 2, Hollywood has an elevation of 199 feet, and Tunica of 197. In District 3, Austin has an elevation of 196 feet, and Clayton of 192 above sea level. District 4 has Dundee with an elevation of 190, and Maud with 188. The inland town of Dubbs in District 5 has an elevation of only 188 feet. These towns are built on ridge land, and the lowlands and cypress brakes are much lower.[10]

Rivers, Streams, Lakes, and Swamps

Tunica County is fortunate in having the Mississippi and the Coldwater Rivers as two of its boundary lines, for they provide excellent outlets for excess rainfall.[11] The county is criss-crossed by a network of bayous, and contains many small horseshoe-shaped lakes that indicate a former channel of the Mississippi.[12] The longest of the bayous is White Oak that rises in District 2 and flows through the lower three-fifths of the county. The most famous of the lakes is McKinney Lake, named for one of the county's Chickasaw Indian families.[13] In 1859, after high water had caused universal suffering in the county, the board of police and the Tunica County Levee Commission decided that an outlet must be made for McKinney Lake. The natural drain was through the bayou flowing from the lake into the Mississippi River. This bayou was in the way of the levee and so it was filled in, and the levee built straight across the bayou. As a result, the lake overflowed that part of the county called the McKinney Basin, causing property damage and disease. To remedy this situation, a canal, leading from McKinney Lake to a point near the source of White Oak Bayou, a distance of 1½ miles was planned.[14] The canal was only two-thirds finished at the beginning of the Civil War and was never completed. It now looks like a short bayou and is called "The Irish Ditch" in memory of the laborers who dug it.[15] The water from McKinney Lake was siphoned over the levee until a pumping station was established by the levee district. The water in the lake is now kept at the proper level by an electric pumping system, which adequately performs this important task.[16]

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8. Ibid.
9. Lowe, Mississippi.
10. Ibid., pp. 138-140.
11. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
12. Logan, The Soils of Mississippi, p. 34.
13. Land Deed Records, A, p. 18; see entry 12.
14. Minutes Board of Police, III, 8-9; see entry 1.
15. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
16. Ibid.

Other streams and lakes in the county are Buck Island, Overcup, Minton, Bonnie Blue, Seven Mile, Coon, Stranger, Boggy and Phillips Bayous, and Beaverdam, Soule, Blue, Flower, Walnut, Cypress, Eagle, Swan, Bear, and Two Mile Lakes.[17]

Climate

Tunica County is in that section of the State having a frost-free season of nearly 200 days. The first killing frost occurs in November; the last in the middle of March. It has an average annual rainfall of 54 inches. The months of September, October, and November have the lightest rainfall, and the county's growing season is 9 months.[18]

Owing to the fact that Tunica County is one of the northernmost counties in the State and that the county has a severe winter at intervals of 4 or 5 years, the boll weevil, the most serious insect menace to the cotton crop, is kept to a minimum. In 1940, the county experienced one of its severest winters. The temperature went as low as 9 degrees below zero, and a 5-inch snow stayed on the ground for 10 days.[19]

Soils

Since Tunica County is a part of the great Yazoo-Mississippi Basin, the soils are derived from the alluvium of the Mississippi flood plains. In years past the annual overflow from the river built a deep soil from fine particles intermingled with organic matter. As the streams overflowed, the greatest amount of material was deposited near the stream's bank, and the soils of the stream areas are higher and better drained than those of the interstream areas.[20]

These higher soils, sandy loam, have an average depth of 12 inches, and vary in color from a yellowish-grey to a brownish-grey.[21] Much of the sandy loam land in the county has been in cultivation for 100 years.[22] The soil is easily cultivated, being mellow under proper moisture conditions. With proper rotation of crops, it does not wear out, and the loam lands are easily drained by open ditches.[23]

There are 2 varieties of clay soils in the county, the locally called "buck shot" and waxy. Buckshot is so named because in drying it breaks into little cube-like masses, the size of shot. This type of soil lies just

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17. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 841; Map of Tunica County, Mississippi, 1934, see entry 125.
18. Federal Writers' Project, WPA, Mississippi, A Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 35; hereafter cited as Guide to the Magnolia State.
19. Tunica Times-Democrat, Jan. 25, 1940.
20. Logan, The Soils of Mississippi, p. 34.
21. Ibid.
22. Land Roll, 1846, 1-80; see entry 15.
23. Logan, op. cit., p. 34.

beyond the loam soil on the highest part of the interstream areas. It generally contains a high percent of organic matter and is greatly improved by thorough cultivation. It is very productive, but it is not as easily cultivated as the loamy soil, because it must be plowed when the moisture conditions are just right, since the moldboard surface of the soil puddles when wet and breaks up into heavy clods when plowed too dry.[24]

The waxy clay soil in the county occupies the lowest lands of the county. The greater part of this land is subject to overflow from the Coldwater River or the bayous, and much of it is covered with hardwood timber. Only a small amount of this waxy land has been cultivated.[25]

Vegetation

When the first white settlers came to Tunica County, the ridges were covered with several varieties of white oak, hickory, sweet gum, hackberry, ash, and red elm, and the lowlands were virgin forests of over-cup, red, water, black and pin oaks, rock elm, and black, red and tupelo gums.[26] Along the rivers, sycamores, willows, and cottonwoods flourished; and the brakes were full of bald cypress and tall cane, and the little switch cane grew in profusion.[27]

At the present time wide fields of cotton, corn, and legumes stretch from border to border of the county, but there are still heavy stands of timbered land lying between the levee and the Mississippi River.[28] Another timbered strip known locally as "the Big Woods" or the "Coldwater Bottom," 6 miles wide and about 30 miles long, lies on the east side of the county.[29] Bayou banks, lake sides, and brakes still contain willow, cypress, tupelo, black and sweet gum trees.[30]

The flora of the Delta differs radically from that of the hills of Mississippi. Tunica County "abounds in lakes, basins, marshes, and sluggish streams,"[31] and these are the habitat of many of the county's distinctive wild flowers. The wild marshmallow or hibiscus, white, cream, pink and rose, grow along brakes and ditches; water lilies of several colors, yonkapins, and "water-cotton" are in lakes and bayous, and great numbers of large white spider lilies thrive in the "Big Woods" near the Coldwater River. Wildflowers grow on the edges of the forests; in pastures and fence corners, by the

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24. Ibid., pp. 34-35.
25. Ibid., pp. 35-38.
26. S. A. Withers, "One of Tunica County's Most Lucrative Resources," Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
27. Ibid.
28. L. C. Canon, "Fins, Fur, and Feathers as Discussed by a Nimrod," Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
29. Ibid.
30. Guide to the Magnolia State, pp. 21-42.
31. Dunbar Rowland (ed.), A Symposium on the Place of Discovery of the Mississippi River, p. 47; hereafter cited as Rowland, Symposium.

dredge ditches, and along the levee grow Virginia and trumpet creepers, morning glories, dandelions, blackeyed susans, violets, papaw, black and red haw, the red-bud or Judas tree, dog-wood, wild plum, iron weed, butterfly weed, black locust, wisteria, and clematis. In the Fall, reddened foliage of the deciduous trees brighten the landscape, and dark red sumac leaves and berries border the brakes.[32]

Animal Life

Animals were abundant here when the first white settlers came. Bear, deer, foxes, wolves, panthers, raccoon, opossums, and rabbits roamed through the woods. The people lived on game, and venison haunches and bear steak were common fare to the pioneers.[33] At the establishment of the county the board of police ordered that a bounty be paid on panthers and wolves. This bounty of 3 dollars for each animal could be collected by presenting the scalp to the clerk of the board who paid for it in county warrants or by presenting the scalps to the tax collector when taxes were paid. This order was in force as late as 1860 and has not been repealed.[34]

Approximately all of the fresh-water fish are found in Tunica County's streams and lakes: Black bass, buffalo, shovel-bill, channel, sand and mud cat fish, and many varieties of perch, carp, shad, drum and jack fish are still plentiful.[35] Fish range in size from the alligator gar, which sometimes attains a weight of 500 pounds, to the diminutive minnow. The varieties most highly prized by fishermen are the croppie, the big mouthed bass, and the bream.[36]

Near the rivers and lakes live many species of heron, blue cranes, gourd-head cranes, and the stately white egret which has multiplied rapidly since protective laws have been in effect.[37] Gulls are found near the Mississippi River. The prothonotary and hooded warblers and the indigo bunting thrive in the thick undergrowth. The woodpecker, sap-sucker, flicker, dickcissel, painted bunting, bronze grackle, Joe Reeds, cowbird, lark, dove, and many others are found in the rural sections, and in towns and on the plantations: Mocking birds, cardinals, orioles, thrashers, wrens, jays, cedar birds or wax-wings, and the ruby-throated humming bird.

Indian Period

Tunica County is named for the Indian tribe of the same name. In 1682, the French took possession of the Mississippi valley in the name of the King.[38]

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32. Guide to the Magnolia State, pp. 40-41.
33. Ibid., pp. 42, 52.
34. Minutes of the Board of Police, II, 469; see entry 1.
35. Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 42.
36. L. C. Canon, "Fins, Fur and Feathers as Discussed by a Nimrod," Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
37. Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 43.
38. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 129.

At this time the Tunica had settlements on the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers. One settlement was as far south as the mouth of the Red River in Louisiana, and the most northern was in the southwest corner of Tunica County, near the Mississippi River.[39] These Indians were friendly to the French. Whether they liked the French for their own sake or because the Chickasaw hated them is not known, but being an ally to the French brought them into direct warfare with the Chickasaw and they suffered a severe defeat by the Chickasaw in 1763.[40] They also suffered severely during the Johnstone administration (1764-66). The Tunica, having absorbed the Frenchman's hatred of the English, assembled in large numbers about 10 miles above the mouth of the Red River to ambush an English expedition to Illinois. The English suffered severe losses, among the slain being Major Loftus, the commander of the English expedition. The expedition was abandoned, and for more than 35 years the locality was known as Loftus Heights. Before the battle, the place had been "Roche á Davion," because Father Anthony Davion, a priest at Old Biloxi, had established a mission in 1698 among the Tunica Indians.[41] The tribe continued to have intermittent trouble with the English and the Chickasaw, who were encouraged in their hostility by the remnant of the Natchez Indian Tribe which had retired to the country of the Chickasaw after their tribe had been destroyed by the French.[42]

With the exception of the Tunica's settlement the county was in Chickasaw Indian territory.[43] According to some historical authorities, the county was the cradle of the Chickasaw nation, the "Royal Province of Quizquiz," and the home of the legendary chieftain Chisca.[44] This tribe, one of the most powerful in the State, belonged to the Muskhogean linguistic family.[45] The Chickasaw inhabited the northern part of Mississippi, west Tennessee, and part of Kentucky.[46]

They were a proud, warlike people, and they heartily disliked the French who had treated them as an inferior race. They liked and respected the English and were in turn liked and trusted by them, remaining steadfast allies to the English,[47] although they refused to fight for them in the Revolution. The French gave the Chickasaw credit for great courage and declared them to be the most intrepid of all American nations. Bossu, in his writings, says that their country was the finest and most fruitful on the continent, and that neither the French or other Indian tribes had ever been able to take their land from them.[48] This is true, for, when their last treaty was made and signed at Pontotoc and the tribe moved west, the Chickasaw went

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39. Ibid., 76.
40. Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 58.
41. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 259.
42. Ibid., 236.
43. Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 59.
44. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 118-120.
45. Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 47.
46. Ibid.
47. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 68.
48. Ibid., 71.

not as a defeated people driven out by their enemies, but as a people who had made an honorable business deal that benefited both parties to the agreement.[49]

The men of the tribe were tall and well-formed and they rode well. Their women were comely and clean, and while the men were extremely reticent regarding their women in the presence of strangers, in reality they loved them better than in other nations.[50]

The warriors defended the homeland with an intrepid daring that gave them the reputation of being the ablest warriors in the South.[51] They also did the hunting and made the weapons. From earliest times, they made forays into the west and brought back bars of copper and silver to fashion into ornaments.[52]

In direct contrast to the warlike men of the tribe, the women were merry and loved to dance and sing. Their part in the nation's economy was to sow and cultivate the crops and to do the housework.[53] The fields were near the towns and were prepared by burning off the underbrush and girdling the trees. In some places the cultivated fields of the Chickasaw were several miles in width. The crops consisted of corn, beans, pumpkins, melons, and sometimes sunflowers; and the women gathered and made use of nuts, especially pecans, which still grow plentifully in the county.[54] They used nut and bear oil in seasoning vegetables, venison, and wild turkey. Hominy, made from corn, was the staple family dish and hota kapusi, a parched corn meal, was also made to be used on the warpath or in time of famine.[55]

Skins of animals were dressed and made supple by the women. The skins were made into robes, blankets, leggings, the short skirts worn by the women, and moccasins, and these were embroidered with beads and the quills of the porcupine. Both sexes liked ornaments consisting of heavily embroidered headbands, belts and garters woven of opossum hair, and shell bone and copper beads. Mantles of wild goose or bird feathers and a fabric made from mulberry bark were woven on a down-weaving loom.

Children were taught to weave baskets, to model pots and bowls of clay, and to make other articles of bone or wood. After they had reached 12 years of age, the girls were taught women's work and the boys were placed under the supervision of the oldest men of the families to be taught to wrestle, run, and shoot.[56]

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49. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
50. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 71.
51. Dunbar Rowland, The Official and Statistical Register of the State of Mississippi, Centennial Edition, 1917, p. 11; hereafter cited as Rowland, Official Register.
52. Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 53.
53. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 71.
54. Rowland, Symposium, p. 90.
55. Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 51.
56. Ibid., p. 52.

Historical Sketch (First entry, p.79)

If the civilization of a people is to be judged by the quality of their laws, religion, homelife, and the chastity of their women, the Chickasaw have no reason for shame. They were a self-reliant, self-respecting people who governed themselves by rigidly enforced laws. The chiefs were men who had won reputations through exploits on the warpath or through wisdom in council. The Mingo or King was elected by the vote of the entire tribe.[57]

The laws were stern. Punishment for murder was death at the hands of the nearest relative of the slain man; or if the murderer could not be found, his nearest kin was executed. The "Ish-ya'h-kah-py" of the tribe punished a thief with the lash, being appointed by the tribal council to whip such offenders.[58] Infidelity in marriage was punished severely by death or by banishment from the tribe. By tribal law there were no orphans as all children whose parents had died were immediately adopted by a relative chosen by the council.[59]

The Chickasaw were deeply religious and they were not superstitious, being unafraid of natural phenomena, unlike neighboring tribes. They believed that comets, eclipses, and earthquakes were natural things made by and under the guidance of the "Beloved One." They declared that they believed in "One who lived in the clear blue sky, and two with him, three in all," and that they had known this always, as soon as the ground was sound and fit to stand upon. They also believed in a future state after death, where different degrees of comfort and happiness were enjoyed according to the acts of the life spent in this world.[60] They taught the resurrection of the dead, but the Chickasaw did not visualize a heaven with streets of gold, but looked forward to returning to that spot of his homeland he had loved best before his eternal sleep, a happy hunting ground where he would live forever.[61] Religious services were held at sunrise or at moonrise at which tobacco was burned as a sacrifice. This was distinctly not sun or moon worship but the worship of the "Beloved One" who "lived in the clear blue sky" and had made the sun and moon to light the way of his children, the Chickasaw. Their ideas as to the relationship of the "Beloved One" with people other than the Chickasaw were not fixed, as they "had not seen and could not know."[62]

Many mounds were left in Tunica County by the Indians. Two on the Abbay Leatherman plantation have been named the "DeSoto Mounds" by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History as they supposedly lie along the route of DeSoto's march through Mississippi.[63] Another group of mounds is located in the DeBeVoise field, about 3 miles southeast of the DeSoto Mounds. Dr. Calvin Brown, State Archaeologist, gives the measurements of the largest one as 22 feet in height, 200 feet across the base, and 100 feet

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57. James H. Malone, The Chickasaw Nation, pp. 37-38.
58. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 72.
59. Malone, op. cit., p. 2.
60. Ibid., pp. 38, 213, 216, 218.
61. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 73.
62. Malone, op. cit., pp. 216, 219.
63. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 47.

across the flat top. Around it is an enclosure of 15 acres, formed by low elongated mounds connected by dikes. These outworks are becoming less and less distinct from plowing. Near the great mound which has not been touched, are 3 other conspicuous mounds, on 2 of which tenant houses have been built and on the third, a barn. The group forms a good example of an Indian capitol city. It stands on the bank of Mound Bayou, a dry bayou near McKinney Lake.[64] Other mounds in the county are the Johnson, Hollywood, Evansville, Dundee, and Alexander or Lowe. In addition, there are many smaller mounds.

Tunica County also contains the remains of earthworks so old that no one knows their origin. One of these is located a little south of O. K. Landing, between the levee and the Mississippi River. The first record of this ancient earthwork was made by John D. Grahan, Deputy Surveyor of the lands ceded by the Chickasaw Indians, in his "Field Notes of the Interior Lines of Frac. Township 5 S., Range 12 W." This survey of the fractional township was begun November 14 and finished December 10, 1835, and it states that after starting on the line between sections 20 and 21, and running due north, at the distance of 35 chains he crossed "an ancient entrenchment," and that 5 chains further north, he reached an ancient embankment "20 feet high" on which he erected the quarter section post.[65] This was spoken of as "ancient" in 1835, before the formation of Tunica County. Although the embankment looks like a short piece of levee, the first levee in the county was not begun until 1849.

Articles such as pieces of pottery have been carried away from the mounds at Commerce.[66] Two large sacks of articles which had been removed from the mounds on the DeBeVoise place were given to Dr. Dunbar Rowland, late director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, several years ago by C. H. Block, whose wife is one of the owners of the plantation.[67] Richard W. Owens of Evansville, owns a fine collection of relics which were found in the mounds on the Owens plantation south of Evansville, near the edge of Beaverdam Lake. All articles found in this mound have proved to be pre-Columbian, of the second culture period. The collection contains about 20 bowls and urns of a greyish earthenware and they are shell-tempered. They are not tinted as are the pieces found in Arkansas, or in Walls, Mississippi, DeSoto County, (a few miles to the north of this county) which, according to Dr. Calvin S. Brown, are of an older culture and were classified by him as shell-tempered and of the second culture, only the straw-tempered pottery being older. The collection contains only one "effigy urn" or decorated piece, and it has a rude head, apparently that of a turtle, modelled on it. No beads or ornaments have been found by Mr. Owen, and only a scant amount of stone tools. There are crudely made arrow heads that indicate great age. The skeletons found always disintegrate in a short while, needing to be cared for by a skilled archeologist after exposure to air. The tombs are very

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64. Rowland, Symposium, pp. 81, 85, 89.
65. Field Notes, Tunica County, p. 299; see entry 25.
66. Information obtained from Mr. S. R. Leatherman, Dec. 2, 1940, by Ellen Farrell.
67. Information obtained from Mr. S. R. Block, Dec. 2, 1940, by Ellen Farrell.

simple, having only an earthenware pot or urn on each side of the skeleton and a handful of arrowheads. No pipe heads have been found in the graves.[68]

There are few Indian names in Tunica County. Souva Lake is located in the southeast part of the county, and Soule Lake is in the west portion of the county near the Mississippi River,[69] but the meaning of either of the two place names is not known. The county itself and the county seat are named for the Tunica Indians, the word "Tunica" meaning "the people."[70] McKinney Bayou, McKinney Lake, and McKinney Basin are familiar place names in the county and were named for a prominent Chickasaw family, who lived in the county during the period of later development and settlement and do not belong to the early Indian Period.[71]

The Chickasaw did not leave any of their customs as a legacy to the people who now live on the lands of their race, with the exception of the Mississippi law which gives a woman complete control of her property, and keeps her from being responsible for her husband's debts. This law is the direct descendant of the Chickasaw custom of keeping the woman's property as a thing apart from her husband's.[72]

Spanish Period

The annals of Tunica County begin with the period of the Spanish conquistadores when the expeditionary force under Hernando DeSoto landed at Espiritu Santo (Tampa) in 1539 and began its march of conquest through the South. After being met in a friendly way by the Indians, DeSoto repaid their hospitality by attacking them. The Spanish slew 500 in battle and later murdered in cold blood hundreds of the prisoners taken. Moving onward triumphantly in his vain search for gold and treasure, he sacked the countryside as he went until he came to a village of Coosa, in the present State of Alabama. The great chief Tuscaloosa ruled this part of the country and he was not the man to take the treatment meted out by the Spaniards. In October 1540 an Indian army met the Spanish at the village of Maubila, on the north bank of the Alabama River, at what is now Choctaw Bluff, in Clarke County. One account of the battle says that 2,500 Indians were slain, and by their own count, the Spaniards had 150 men badly wounded and lost many horses. Fearing the desertion of his men, DeSoto turned northwest into an unknown wilderness, determined to reach the fabled land to the west in which he hoped to find great riches. The expedition crossed the Tombigbee River on December 16, 1540, and that night reached the town of Chicasa (Chickasaw) in what is now Pontotoc County. The Spaniards spent the winter here. The Indians met the Spaniards in a friendly manner, but the Spaniards attempted to seize various goods from the Indians, who in retaliation attacked and burned the camp in March 1541. Many of the men were killed, and the loss in horses was

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68. Information obtained from Mr. R. W. Owen, Dec. 2, 1940, by Ellen Farrell.
69. Map of Tunica County, 1934, tax assessor's office, Tunica, Miss; see entry 125.
70. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 840.
71. Land Deed Records, A, p. 18; see entry 12.
72. Code 1930, secs. 1940, 1942.

heavy; but far more serious was the loss of most of the saddles and weapons and 400 Hogs. It was necessary to retemper the swords that were damaged by fire, and to make lances, cross-bows, and saddles before the march could be resumed.

Until he reached this point in his travels, DeSoto had been received with courtesy at every Indian village, but after leaving the battlefield of Chicasa on April 25, 1540, he came upon a palisaded fort occupied by a force of Chickasaw under Chief Alabamo. His stock of food was low because of the losses sustained in the battle of Chicasa, and he demanded food for his men and horses, but he was forced to storm the fort with a resultant loss of men. This incident occured on a river believed to be the Tallahatchie River, in what is now Union County. Still without supply of corn, DeSoto continued for 7 days through a level country that was a "wilderness of forests, marshes, lakes and sluggish streams" until Sunday, May 8, 1541, (according to Ranjel, who was with the expedition) when he reached the first town in the Indian Province of Quizquiz. He occupied the town and took prisoners, who were afterwards released. The Spaniards continued to a second village which had an abundance of corn.[73] About a league from this village, a third was reached, and here the men saw the great river, the Mississippi, near the lower Chickasaw Bluff in Tunica County, Mississippi.[74] DeSoto tarried in Tunica County for a month before he crossed the river into Arkansas. With the exception of corn, nuts, fish, and dried plums, he got nothing from the Indians of intrinsic value.[75] The women, over 300 of whom had been taken prisoners, were turned loose unharmed because the Spaniards feared the warriors lurking in the woods.[76]

Although the city of Memphis and other localities have laid claim to the locus of the discovery of the Mississippi River, Tunica County matches in detail the description of the place of discovery given by those who were with DeSoto and left manuscripts dealing with the expedition.[77] Not only does the county have the mounds mentioned by the narrators but they are in the right direction, one from the other, and are of the approximate distance as given in the manuscripts.[78] The county also has the counterpart of the stream described in the manuscripts in McKinney Lake and Bayou which flow out of the great McKinney Lake Swamp (Hollywood Brake). It is a deep wide stream that flows into the Mississippi about 3 miles above the town of Austin, and is over 13 miles long from levee to levee. It is the only stream flowing into the Mississippi between Horn Lake Creek and the mouth of the Yazoo River.[79]

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73. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 108-109, 110, 113-114, 117-118.
74. Harper's Encylopedia of United States History, III, 106; Edward Channing, History of the United States, I, 73; John W. Monette, Valley of the Mississippi, I, 47; Edward Bourne, Spain in America, p. 134.
75. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 119.
76. Rowland, Symposium, p. 67.
77. Ibid., pp. 88-96.
78. Ibid., p. 89.
79. Ibid., p. 81.

Another interesting point of identification of the locus is recorded by Biedma, the factor of the DeSoto expedition, in The Narrative of DeSoto, II, 25: "There (the first village of Quizquiz) we first found a little walnut of the country, which is much better than that here in Spain."[80] The narrative of the Gentleman of Elvas, who is supposed to have been Alvaro Fernandez,[81] mentions that after crossing the river they also found many of the walnut trees, "bearing soft shelled walnuts in fashion like bullets," and in the houses they found many of them which the Indians had laid up in store.[82] The river bottoms of Tunica County abound in pecans, the nuts "in fashion like bullets."

After the 30-day occupation of this territory by the force under DeSoto in 1541, it remained Indian country and was not the site of any Spanish settlements although it was a part of the territory claimed by Spain as late as the administration of the Spanish Governor Carondelet who succeeded Don Esteban Miro in 1791. At this time Spain claimed territory even further north than Tunica County and concluded a treaty with the Chickasaw by which they became allies of Spain and also granted the Spanish a site near the mouth of the Wolf River for the erection of a fort.[83] This new fort was occupied as Fort Prudhomme for 5 months before the signing of the treaty of San Lorenzo el Real in 1795, fixing the 31st degree of north latitude as the boundary between Spain and the United States.[84] The ratification of this treaty placed the Chickasaw lands within the undisputed boundaries of the United States,[85] although it was in possession of and under absolute control of the Chickasaw Nation. The Spanish left no mark of their period on the county. They made no settlement, and there are no Spanish place names in the county.

French Period

From that day in June 1541, when the DeSoto expedition crossed over into Arkansas, the inhabitants of the county were without knowledge of the white man until July 1673, when Marquette and Joliet descended the Mississippi as far as the 34th parallel.[86] After they had received news of the dangerous inhabitants of the lower valley, they turned back.[87] Five years later Robert Cavalier de LaSalle received a commission from the French government to explore the great river at his own expense.[88] On February 6, 1682, the expedition reached the Mississippi River, which LaSalle named the Colbert. As he descended the lower reaches of the river he went more often to visit the Indian tribes on shore, or sent Tonti to them as an advance courier. Thus the French met the Chickasaw and other Indian tribes of Mississippi. By March 22, 1682, the expedition had reached the 31st parallel

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80. Ibid., p. 90.
81. Ibid., p. 3.
82. Ibid., p. 90.
83. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 311.
84. Ibid., 311-312.
85. Ibid., 312.
86. Ibid., 125.
87. Ibid., 124.
88. Ibid., 125.

of latitude; Tunica County lies within the 34th parallel. On April 9, 1682, LaSalle took possession of the entire Mississippi valley in the name of the King of France.[89] Owing to the death of LaSalle, it was not until 1699 that the French began the settling of Mississippi. As early as 1701 the Choctaw Indians appealed to the French for help against their enemies the Chickasaw, who separated the French settlements in the Illinois country from those on the lower Mississippi. Many French homes were being established, even as far as the Yazoo. This expansion of the French settlements was often the result of unjust aggression, accomplished with cupidity and misconduct that created unconcealed hatred in the minds of the warlike Chickasaw. After the French destroyed the Natchez Indians, the pitiful remnants of that people were received by the Chickasaw, who refused to deliver them to their enemies. This was the beginning of the Chickasaw Wars, during which the French played their Indian allies, the Tunica, Choctaw and others, against each other.[90]

There is no doubt that the French were quite as much to blame for the incessant warfare between the Chickasaw Nation and themselves as were the Indians. In the first Chickasaw War the Indians sued for peace in 1740, and soon afterwards Bienville concluded a regular treaty of peace with a deputation of Chickasaw chiefs and warriors. Within 3 months Bienville himself suggested that peace between the French and Chickasaw be postponed "in order that the Choctaw might avenge themselves on their enemies and thus weaken them (the Chickasaw) the more." Again in 1746, the Marquise de Vaudreuil refused to treat with the Chickasaw unless the Choctaw were parties to the treaty. Although the French burned a few villages and destroyed Chickasaw fields, they could not weaken their power as an Indian nation,[91] and the Chickasaw remained a separating wall between the northern and southern colonies that in the end meant English supremacy in North America.[92]

So far as Tunica County is concerned, the French left nothing to mark their rule. No place names remain and no settlements were made.

English Period

Before LaSalle's exploration, England had laid claim to all land in the Mississippi Valley through the Carolina Grant made in 1629-30 by Charles I of England. A century later the province of Georgia was created and extended westward as far as the Mississippi River,[93] and James Oglethorpe, with his colonists from the debtors' prisons of England, began to make settlements. It is significant of the Chickasaw prowess in war that Governor Oglethorpe should seek out, through a thousand miles of wilderness, their tribe, to make a treaty of friendship.[94] The treaty was concluded and became the foundation of mutual respect of the people. The Chickasaw learned many things

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89. Ibid., 129.
90. Ibid., 151, 179, 226, 233, 238.
91. Ibid., 241, 243.
92. Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 51.
93. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 237, 238.
94. Ibid., 239-240.

from the English, especially the art of defensive warfare behind earthworks,[95] and the English were forced to respect their savage friends, for the Chickasaw did not break a treaty with the English.[96] Traders came into the country and settlers came into places in the eastern part of the Chickasaw Country, but at no time did anyone rule the Chickasaw Nation save its own chiefs. The territory that is now Tunica County remained free from white settlers and was still a virgin forest when the Americans gained their independence, and the Chickasaw Nation became a part of the territory claimed by the United States.[97]

American Period

The Territorial government instituted in Mississippi by the Government of the United States included the Natchez District, the first Choctaw Cession of 1805, the District of Mobile, and in the last year of Mississippi as a Territory, 1816, the land of the First Chickasaw Cession. The central part of Mississippi was held by the Choctaw, and the entire north end of the State was the Chickasaw Nation.[98] During this time the present county of Tunica was without a white settlement, and if American traders came into the territory, nothing is known of them.

From the beginning of State government, the pressure of immigration that followed the westward moving cotton crop drove the Indians out of the confines of the State,[99] and by 1832 the last treaty was signed that sold the lands of the Chickasaw Nation to the United States Government. Four years later, in 1836, the Chickasaw Cession was opened to immigration and, as new counties, the divided lands of the Chickasaw began their part in the history of the State. Tunica County was organized on February 9, 1836, but before this settlers had begun to come into the county, as is shown by the number of "improvements" or settlements mentioned in the field notes of the survey of the lands ceded by the Chickasaw.[100] In fact, settlers coming into the new county found many homes and a flourishing town, Commerce, founded in 1834 by Thomas M. Fletcher, a half-breed Indian. It was the center of the county's life until destroyed by the Mississippi River in 1842.[101]

The Chickasaw Indians possessed that type of mind that enabled them to assimilate white civilization, and at the time of the Treaty of Pontotoc (1832), many of the Indians then living in Tunica County were far advanced in civilization. Many of them were farmers and owned negro slaves, with whose labor they cultivated their fields. In addition to the Indians, there were many white people scattered through the Chickasaw Nation, who were instrumental in getting the treaty ratified at Pontotoc. The personal rights of

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95. Malone, The Chickasaw Nation, p. 38.
96. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 323-324.
97. Ibid., II, 674, 678.
98. A Guide to the Magnolia State, pp. 48, 49.
99. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 678, 840.
100. Field Notes, Tunica County, p. 299; see entry 25.
101. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.

the Indians were preserved, and their lands from an allotment to the tribe were divided among the members with the right to sell and convey individually, and for this reason most of the Tunica County deeds are traced back to the Indian owner. This fact is not always noticeable because many of these Indians had adopted English names, under which their lands were conveyed.[102] Many of the Chickasaw had some degree of education, as many of the land deeds were signed by Chickasaw men with their actual signatures, although it is to be noticed that the women made their marks.[103]

Very little time elasped from the signing of the treaty and the migration of the Indians before the county began to fill up with a highly intelligent and wealthy class of settlers. They came from Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and brought their Negroes with them to open up large plantations along the river front.[104] These people formed a group which has impressed its characteristics upon the generation following them and which has had a large influence upon the history of the county and the State.

In addition to the aristocratic planter, many men of the working class came into the county to clear land for the planters and stayed to establish homes. These men are known in Tunica County's annals as the "Deadeners." They were native-born Americans. The county had no foreign settlers, and practically all the native-born settlers were from the older Southern states; however, some of the families in the county boast of Chickasaw descent, one family at least still owning land that was never bought or sold but was inherited directly from a Chickasaw Indian.[105] The county has always had a large Negro population, having in 1930 a percentage of 85.8 black population, a larger percentage than any other Mississippi county.[106]

County Organization

On February 9, 1836, the Legislature passed an act whereby the lands of the Chickasaw Cession were divided into 10 counties, one of which was Tunica. Governor Lynch refused to issue writs of election to the new counties in 1836, so that representatives from the new counties could be sent to the Legislature that was to meet in extra session in January 1837. His refusal was ignored by the boards of police, who held the elections under local writs. At the extra session in 1837 a great debate arose on the legality of seating these representatives, the opposition being led by the eloquent Sargent S. Prentiss; but they were seated notwithstanding.[107] The first representative from Tunica

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102. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
103. Land Deed Records, A, pp. 18, 54, 77, 98, 191; see entry 12.
104. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
105. Ibid.
106. Walker Wood (ed. and comp.), Mississippi Blue Book, Biennial Report, Secretary of State to the Legislature of Mississippi, July 1, 1937 to July 1, 1939, p. 46; hereafter cited as Wood, Blue Book.
107. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 589, 592-593, 610.

County was Walter H. Bell, who served from 1836 to 1840.[108]

The first county officers were: John H. Bridges, sheriff; Thomas W. Floyd, circuit clerk; William Cameron, probate clerk; Edmond H. Bridges, probate judge; James Wilson, treasurer; James N. Smith (president), Rutherford J. Thornton, William Phillips, John Ballard, and James S. Porter, members of the board of police. James D. Hallam was first State Senator, serving from 1837 to 1838.[109]

Other prominent citizens of the county during pioneer days were Richard and Anthony S. Abbay, James Irwin, Charles and Samuel May, Byrd Sherrill, Peyton Skipwith, Stephen Harbert, Andrew Kerr, Thomas M. Fletcher, Alfred Cox, Lorenzo A. Besancon, Ransome H. Byron, David Weathers, John P. and Robert Caruthers, and Henry P. Heraldston.[110]

The first county seat was Commerce, the oldest town in the county. It was founded in 1834 by Thomas M. Fletcher, a half-breed Choctaw Indian who had been adopted by the Chickasaw.[111] A United States post office was soon established, and as Commerce had a fine deep-water landing, it was soon the rival of Memphis, Tennessee. It was recognized as one of the principal cities of Mississippi and shipped more cotton than any other Mississippi port excepting Natchez and Vicksburg. It was the home port of a very fine river packet, the DeSoto, which had been built in Cincinnati for river trade.[112] The Western Bank was established there, and some of the bank notes issued by it are still in existence in the county.[113] A branch office of the Nashville Marine Insurance and Trust Company was located in the town as well as several important mercantile establishments. One of the leading merchants was Gen. Lorenzo A. Besancon, who had been editor of the Natchez Free Trader, one of the foremost newspapers in Mississippi in the 1820's and 1830's,[114] and who was representative to the Legislature for Tunica County in 1840-1843.[115] In its prime Commerce boasted a population of 2,000 whites and over 3,000 slaves.[116]

Commerce was the most important river town in Mississippi north of Vicksburg when a charter was granted by the Legislature of 1837 to the Hernando Banking Company to construct a railroad from Hernando to Commerce.

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108. Rowland, Official Register, p. 213.
109. Minutes of the Probate Court, I, 2; see entry 43.
110. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 1-50; see entry 1; Minutes of the Probate Court, I, 1-25; see entry 43.
111. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
112. "100 Years Ago," (reprints of news items from the Commercial, Aug. 28, 1840), Memphis Commercial Appeal, Aug. 28, 1940.
113. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
114. Memphis Commercial Appeal, Aug. 28, 1940.
115. Rowland, Official Register, p. 213.
116. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.

The company had banking privileges and a capital stock of $100,000. Later it borrowed $200,000. The roadbed was complete and ready for the rails when the charter was revoked under the drastic banking laws passed during the McNutt administration, 1840-1843.[117] The railroad was never finished and the board of police made a turnpike of the roadbed.[118] It is the county road that now runs from Commerce through Robinsonville to Hernando.

Commerce lost its importance in the early 1840's when a change in the current of the Mississippi River destroyed the entire business section of the town. Fear of its complete destruction caused the board of police to move the county seat to Austin in 1848.[119]

The county records show that the board of police did nothing toward building a courthouse until November 1847. The first volume of the minutes of the board of police is missing, but the second volume shows that from 1844 to 1848 the county rented from James McPherson, the tavernkeeper at Commerce, his barroom and other rooms to be used as a courtroom and county offices.[120] A room to be used as an office for the probate clerk was rented from James Fite of Commerce.[121] At first the rent for the tavern rooms was $50 a year,[122] but in 1845 the rent was raised to $75.[123]

Apparently this arrangement worked satisfactorily until the fall term of court in 1847, but on October 4 of that year, James McPherson presented a bill to the board of police "for furnishing the jury with lights and for damages sustained Beds, Furniture, & By Said Jury." Perhaps a pioneer jury shut up over night in a barroom did damage not only to the furniture but also to the tavern's stock of hard liquor as well. McPherson was paid for the loss sustained by the issuance of county warrant 173.[124] It is not known whether the board of police was influenced by the roistering jury, or by the death of James McPherson in November 1847,[125] but on November 12, 1847, the board levied a special tax to be used for "procurring and fitting up a suitable house to be used as Courtroom and Clerk's offices."[126] John P. Caruthers, county treasurer, reported to the board at the February meeting in 1848 that he had $150 of the special courthouse tax.[127] On receipt of this encouraging news, a committee composed of Ransome H. Byrn, Richard Abbay, and John P. Caruthers was appointed to procure a suitable house and have it fitted as a courthouse.[128] The commissioners reported to the board of police on

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117. Memphis Commercial Appeal, Aug. 28, 1940; Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926; Land Deed Records, A, p. 1; see entry 12.
118. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 60.
119. Ibid., 64.
120. Ibid., 13.
121. Ibid., 43.
122. Ibid., 9.
123. Ibid., 13.
124. Ibid., 38.
125. Ibid., 42.
126. Ibid., 43.
127. Ibid., 54-55.
128. Ibid., 43.

February 28, that they had purchased from Col. Ransome H. Byrn a house and lot containing 1 acre of ground (Lot 5, Block 13 in the city of Commerce), and had contracted to have the house fitted in a neat and comfortable manner, well enclosed with a fence, and that it would be ready for use "in a very few days."[129]

On February 29, 1848, the board of police ordered the clerk to issue warrants for the following accounts: "Warrant no. 235 for $12 to Anthony S. Abbay of Commerce, for erecting 2 horse-racks and for a cord of firewood for the courthouse; Warrant no. 236 for $230.44 to Rain and Russell, repairing and fitting up courthouse; Warrant no. 237 for $100 to William Cocks for building chimney and plastering courthouse; Warrant no. 238 for $25 to Henry Russell for extra work on courthouse; warrant no. 239 for $7.87½ to John P. Caruthers for locks, haspings, butts & furnished by him for the courthouse;" and Warrant no. 247 was issued to Col. Ransome H. Byrn for $200 as the full purchase price of the courthouse.[130] This little building, constructed of brick made by slave labor, was originally the station of the stage-coach line that ran to Commerce, the stable for the coach horses being built nearby, and when the town was practically destroyed by the river, it was not needed for its original purpose. The property had belonged to Thomas M. Fletcher, who sold his property in Commerce to Ransome H. Byrn in 1843.[131] After the county seat moved to Austin in 1848, the board of police authorized the use of the little courthouse as a schoolhouse and a church, and for a while it was the postoffice. Later, it was ordered sold to the highest bidder,[132] but it was not until three such orders had been made that it passed back into the hands of Ransome H. Byrn. When the Byrn property was purchased by the Abbay family, it became a part of the Commerce Plantation and is now used as the plantation office building. It is kept in a splendid state of repair by the great-grandchildren of Richard Abbay, who bought it for the county, and who was the first white man to buy land in Tunica County.[133]

A village called Peyton was established on Fractional Section 21, Township 5, Range 12 as early as 1838. It was located at what is now called O. K. Landing. After Commerce was partially destroyed, Peyton was tried out as a temporary county seat in 1844, but owing to the swampy nature of the land surrounding the little town, the county officers went back to Commerce.[134] The county must have owned, or was in charge of the town site of Peyton, because in 1844 lots were sold in Peyton by the board of police, 10 percent of the purchase price being cash. After returning to Commerce, the board of police paid back to certain purchasers of Peyton lots, their cash payments, and ordered the probate clerk to cancel their notes and the title bonds to the lots.[135]

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129. Ibid., 55.
130. Ibid., 57-58.
131. Land Deed Records, C, p. 157.
132. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 85.
133. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
134. Ibid.
135. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 8.

Historical Sketch (First entry, p. 79)

Although the board of police, through its commissioners, had purchased and fitted up a courthouse in Commerce early in February 1848, the determination of the citizens to build a new county seat that would be safe from caving river banks persisted, and the Legislature was petitioned for permission to make the move. The permission was granted, and an election to decide on the location of a new seat was held throughout the county on June 5, 1848. On June 19, 1848, the board of police appointed commissioners to receive such donations as might be given by the citizens for the use and benefit of the county, to lay off all lands donated into town lots, and to sell them to the highest bidder.[136] On the following day the commissioners, John P. Caruthers, Richard Abbay, Elijah B. Bridges, William Houck, and Byrd Sherrill were authorized to lay off into town lots the 20 acres of land donated to the county as a town site and to sell as many as were deemed advisable, provided they did not sell more than one-fourth of the lots; and they were further ordered to let a contract for the building of a courthouse on one of the lots. The land, situated in Section 15, Township 5, Range 12 West, was given by Judge Austin Miller, and the board in his honor ordered that "The same shall from this time be known and designated by the name of AUSTIN."[137]

A building committee composed of Calvin Barnes, Stephen Harbert, Henry P. Heraldston, Elijah B. Bridges, and John P. Caruthers, was appointed and its report to the board states that the committee "had received from Judge Austin Miller a bond for title to a certain piece of Ground containing nearly twenty acres of land." The courthouse was built facing the town square.[138]

All of the materials and labor that could be secured in Tunica County were donated, and the minutes of the board of police tells us that "not exceeding $250" was spent on the courthouse.[139] Although the plans for the courthouse are not in existence and no persons are now alive who lived in the county when Austin was the county seat, something is known of it. It was built of logs and fronted the town square.[140] Its cisterns were located in the east and west corners of the building. These were not burned when the house was destroyed by fire in 1863, and they were again used when the courthouse was rebuilt after the Civil War. As the cisterns were 60 feet apart, the courthouse was approximately 60 feet wide. These 2 cisterns, as a part of the courthouse, were in charge of the sheriff, and it was a misdemeanor, with a fine of $5 for each offense, for the public to use water from them except as drinking water.[141] The cisterns were a gift to the county from Judge Austin Miller, who was granted the "priviledge of building the cisterns at his own expense." The courthouse was remodeled in May 1858, and the entire house was plastered inside and weatherboarded outside. The commissioners for this work were Johnson O'Neal, William S. Baskin, James Irwin, Franklin Neblett, and Byron Jarnagin, and they were authorized to use their

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136. Ibid., 64.
137. Ibid.
138. Land Deed Records, E, p. 43.
139. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 64, 67.
140. Land Deed Records, E, p. 43.
141. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 400.

own discretion in regard to materials and workers.[142] In July 1857, Robert H. Humphreys, the sheriff, asked to be allowed to build, at his personal expense, another office adjoining the sheriff's office. Permission was granted, and early in 1858 the sheriff reported to the board that he had moved the iron safe into the new office.[143]

On December 15, 1848, an order was issued by Isaac Shelby McPeak, president of the board of police, to Elijah B. Bridges, to advise residents of each police district that the courts of justice would from that time be held in the new county seat of Austin.[144]

The county did not build a jail until 1855. Up until this time, prisoners were boarded out in both Coahoma and DeSoto Counties.[145] The first jail was evidently not a good one for in 1859 the county paid a reward for "escaped fugitives from the jail in Austin."[146] After this, the board of police ordered a new jail to be built of brick, "on the same plan as the jail in Batesville," and this building, costing $5,000, was finished in May 1860.[147]

The new county seat grew into a prosperous river town of over 2,000 people.[148] On June 25, 1863, the Diana, a gunboat containing troops under Brig. Gen. A. W. Ellett aboard, landed at the wharf, and the soldiers burned Austin, the courthouse first of all.[149]

With the county recognized as "occupied territory" and continually overrun by Union soldiers, and most of the county officers in the Confederate Army, the old men who composed the board of police kept the governmental organization of the county in their hands and held their meetings when and where they could. The first meeting after the burning of the courthouse was held on Saturday, August 10, 1863, at the home of T. B. Turner,[150] who lived in the part of the county called Harbert's Bend, about 16 miles below Austin. Later in the year, rooms to be used as county offices were rented at the residence of Dr. James Crawford Nelson, the probate judge, and these rooms were used until 1866 when the second courthouse at Austin was built. In December 1866, the board of police issued warrants in the amount of $600 for rent on these rooms, but these were not paid because all warrants issued by the board who had served under the Confederacy were declared null and void by the "Reconstruction" board.[151] As the rooms in the Nelson residence were not large enough, the hall and parlors at the home of Dr. F. A. Owen were rented

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142. Ibid., 362.
143. Ibid., 316, 369.
144. Ibid., 78, 79.
145. Ibid., 165, 269.
146. Ibid., 246, 269, 375.
147. Ibid., 450.
148. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 541.
149. "75 Years Ago Today" (reprints of news from the Commercial, June 27, 1863), Memphis Commercial Appeal, June 27, 1938.
150. Minutes of the Board of Police, III, 12.
151. Ibid., I, 61.

for the term of circuit court held in 1866.[152]

After the downfall of the Confederacy, Tunica County, far away from railroads, was left in peace for a short space by the Union, and the county officers elected by the people under the Confederacy remained in office. During this time, the board of police determined to rebuild the courthouse, and on November 29, 1865, commissioners were appointed to receive plans for the erection of a courthouse and jail. The commissioners were James S. Houck, Jonathan Bostick, W. H. D. Wendel, T. B. Turner, and Dr. John Mason Phillips, and they made their report to the board on December 11, 1865.[153] The plans for the new courthouse were drawn by John A. Jenkins and Company of Austin, the county paying $50 for plans and specifications.[154] The committee appointed to let contracts for the courthouse and jail was composed of: W. H. D. Wendel, T. B. Turner, and Franklin Neblett. The courthouse was built according to the plans submitted by John A. Jenkins and the jail was to be a copy of the jail burned in 1863.[155]

Bids for the building of both courthouse and jail were advertised for in the Panola Star, a newspaper published in Panola, Mississippi, the bids being taken and the contracts let at public outcry in the town of Austin on the first Monday of May 1866. The contract for the courthouse was let to T. B. Turner of Tunica County, who bid $23,500, the jail to William H. Bounds of Austin, for $6,250.[156] The building committee to supervise construction of both buildings was composed of Dr. James Franklin Sample, sheriff; Dr. John Mason Phillips, probate clerk; and Franklin Neblett, a citizen of Austin.[157] The jail was reported finished on the second Monday of August 1866. The commissioners reported that not only had all plans and specifications been carried out by the contractor, but also, that he had done additional work "highly necessary to the comfort and proper furnishing of the jail that had been overlooked in the specifications."[158]

Warrants were issued to Mr. Bounds in the amount of $6,250 on August 13, 1866, and the board of police ordered that the jail be used as a courthouse until the courthouse was finished.[159]

In building the courthouse some changes were made in the original plans. "A Spiral Iron Stair Case & Platform in front of the courthouse with doors to enter from the outside, and with iron columns to support the same" were contracted for. The price for the iron staircase and for the benches and the jury box for the courtroom was $4,350.[160] The spiral stairs were made

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152. Ibid., 46.
153. Ibid., III, 42.
154. Ibid., 56.
155. Ibid., 57.
156. Ibid.
157. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
158. Minutes of the Board of Police, III, 61.
159. Ibid., 61.
160. Ibid., 70.

of filagree iron in an elaborate design, with a filagree iron floor on the upper stair landing called the gallery.

The building committee reported the courthouse finished and ready for occupancy on Christmas Eve day 1866, and county warrants were issued to the contractor for his work. After this a fence was built around the entire courthouse and jail lot, and the board contracted with T. B. Turner to repair, clean out, and build shelters over the county cisterns, "to make them in all manner complete to supply water to the county offices and jail." The cisterns were repaired, pumps installed, lattice cistern houses built, and gutters so constructed that the water from the courthouse would run into the cisterns.[161]

On January 7, 1867, a new board of police, with the exception of the member from Beat 3, was sworn into office.[162] The people of the county had wanted the courthouse rebuilt, but it was not until the courthouse was almost finished that they realized what paying for it would mean to the taxpayers. The board of police had promised the contractors that the board would make provision for paying for the courthouse and jail at the regular October meeting, and at that meeting it levied 100% upon the State tax to meet regular county expenses, 50% for the county poor fund, and 600% to pay for the courthouse and jail.[163] This action occurred about a month before the November elections and in January when the county's new board of police took office, only one member of the board that had levied the taxes in October, James S. Houck of Beat 3, was on the new board. The first order of the new board rescinded the special tax levied in October and ordered the sheriff not to collect the tax. James Houck protested against this order and declared it was dishonorable to leave the contractors holding worthless county warrants, and he had his protest spread upon the minutes.[164] The board adjourned and no quorum was to be had until May when Edward Dale, president of the board, ordered that the board meet "to take into consideration the payment, the suspension or the repudiation of the tax assessed for the courthouse and jail." Nothing was done at the meeting.[165] In the meantime, the contractors sued the county for the money due them according to their contracts, and although the board of police hired W. F. Dowd to represent the county,[166] the decision of the chancellor was for the contractors and the decree to pay them was issued at the October term of chancery court in 1867.[167]

It is not known how this matter would have been settled if Tunica County had continued to govern itself, but on March 26, 1867, Mississippi was placed in the Fourth Military District under the command of Brevet Brigadier General E. O. C. Ord, whose headquarters were at Vicksburg.[168] For a short

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161. Ibid., 68.
162. Ibid., 74.
163. Ibid., 69.
164. Ibid., 74.
165. Ibid., 77.
166. Ibid., 78.
167. Ibid., 100.
168. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 141.

Historical Sketch (First entry, p. 79)

while no change was made in the county's officers, but in January 1868, Isaac Boatman was appointed by Gen. Ord as sheriff of Tunica County. Boatman was the first of the carpet-baggers appointed in the county.[169] On January 8, 1868, the General ordered the board of police and the sheriff to carry out the decree of the chancery court and collect the amount due the contractors. John A. Jenkins, one of the contractors, had died during the litigation, and the administrator of his estate had been issued new county warrants to the amount of $4,350.[170]

About the middle of April, Gen. Ord ordered that no elections could be held and that any county office becoming vacant could be reported to him and the place would be filled by appointment. A registration of all males was ordered so that the Negroes could vote,[171] and in Tunica County, registrars were sent throughout the county so that no Negroes would be missed. These men were paid $7.50 per day and some of them worked for as much as 66 days.[172] Several persons were appointed to act as registrars in each police district, and all who were registered were required to take the "iron clad oath" which disqualified nearly all of the white voters of the county and the State of Mississippi.[173]

Dr. J. M. Phillips, the probate clerk, was left in office until early in 1869, when Col. James F. Jaquess, who had served in the Union Army as Colonel of an Illinois regiment, was appointed in his place.[174] The last meeting of the board of police elected by the people was held in January 1869.[175] At the next meeting, which was held in June 1869, a new board of police appointed by the Military Commander, was sworn into office.[176]

An election was held in November 1869. During this month, the assessment roll was remade by order of Gen. Adelbert Ames, the board of police passing on his order at its October meeting. At this meeting the board ordered that all voters must pay a poll tax of $1.[177] The assessment roll, made for the third time in a year, was presented to the board on December 13, 1869.[178]

In January 1870, Frank S. Belcher, a Northerner who came to Tunica County from Coahoma County, was made sheriff in place of Isaac Boatman.[179] Mr. Boatman had served in the Union Army and was fairly decent in his treatment of the people, and old citizens of Tunica County declare he lost the office of

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169. Minutes of the Board of Police, III, 100; Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
170. Minutes of the Board of Police, III, 101.
171. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 141.
172. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, I, 60; see entry 2.
173. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 142.
174. Minutes of the Board of Police, III, 125.
175. Ibid., 124.
176. Ibid., 125.
177. Ibid., 140.
178. Ibid.
179. Ibid., 142.

sheriff because he tried to be fair to the white people.[180]

At the November election in 1871, with the exceptions of the sheriff, the clerk of the board, and the treasurer, the county officers elected were Negroes. The sheriff was Capt. Martin J. Manning, who had been an officer in a New Jersey regiment in the Union Army, and who had come south after the war to help reconstruct the country, and the clerk, Columbus W. Dunnaway, was the stepson of the newly-elected sheriff.[181]

For 2 years previously, taxes had climbed higher and higher. All county warrants had been ordered brought to the courthouse and registered, and every one issued by the officers elected under the Confederate government was declared void.[182] The county had issued many of these warrants, having paid all county debts with them, and this order caused suffering to those who had received them for work or goods. In 1877, the county was in a desperate situation. Lawlessness was rampant throughout the county, and the jail so full of law-breakers that the Negro board of supervisors, not knowing what to do with surplus prisoners, ordered at their January term that 17 men guilty of various offenses, who had been tried and sentenced, should be turned loose in order to make room for others who had been arrested for other crimes.[183]

Capt. Manning, the sheriff, was murdered January 24, and at a special term of the board Feburary 5, 1877, the office of sheriff was declared vacant and an election was ordered to fill the vacancy.[184] H. T. Coffee was elected and sworn into office in March 1877.[185]

Shortly before Manning's death a semi-military company was organized in the county under the command of Capt. J. B. Perkins. The men were furnished needle guns by Gov. John M. Stone who named them "The Tunica Rifles," but the county people called them the "Red Shirts," their uniform being grey trousers, a tightly fitted scarlet shirt or jacket buttoned down the front with brass buttons and a tall-crowned, black felt hat. For a time, these men patrolled the roads leading into Austin as a protection to the people of the county. Practically all of the company were former Confederate soldiers or sons of Confederate soldiers, and they gradually put down radical rule and re-established county government along its original form. The organization held firm until the county was safely Democratic and in the control of its own people again.[186]

It was not until the November election in 1877, that a white man was

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180. Information obtained from Mr. E. M. Dougherty, Tunica, Mississippi, Dec. 27, 1940, by Ellen Farrell.
181. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, I, 58.
182. Ibid., 18.
183. Ibid., 392.
184. Ibid., 399.
185. Ibid., 401.
186. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926, and April 15, 1937.

again on the board of supervisors. At the election three white men were elected to membership on the board.[187] Within a short time one of the two remaining Negro members resigned, and a white man was elected in his stead. By the May term only one Negro, James Rainey of Beat 2, was a supervisor. The sheriff was Isaac L. McKee, but Edward Carter, a Negro remained as county clerk.[188] At the election in November 1879, J. E. Stone was elected county clerk in place of Edward Carter.[189] This Negro was elected superintendent of education in 1880, and it was not until 1884 that all the county officers were white Democrats.[190]

It would seem that each period of governmental organization in Tunica County, the pioneer, the antebellum, and reconstruction, had been accompanied by the building of a new courthouse.[191] The period between the Reconstruction and the World War was true to form. In 1882, one of the most destructive overflows of the Mississippi River occured. The levee broke at the town of Austin, a block of stores at the end of Commerce Street going into the crevass.[192] After the water went down, the large sand-bar deposited by the river, just in front of the town, made it impossible for steamboats to land at Austin.[193] The highwater of 1884 added to the sand-bar, and Austin was an inland town.

In 1884, the first railroad was built in the county, the Louisville, New Orleans and Texas, now the line of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad.[194] Several small villages began along the line of the railroad, and soon the planters in the county got their freight and mail from these places. Austin had no connection with rail or river and consequently it was almost inaccessible. The Legislature was petitioned for permission for the residents in the county to change the county seat. An act was passed directing the election to be held April 12, 1888, at all precincts in the county. Tunica, a small town in Beat 2 located on the new railroad, was selected.[195]

The land for the location of the new courthouse and jail was donated. The town site of Tunica had originally belonged to Edwin Lanier Harris, who had laid it out into town lots in 1884.[196] In 1888, Mr. Harris sold his holdings to Robert Clell Irwin, a former Confederate soldier.[197] Mr. Irwin

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187. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, I, 400, 469.
188. Ibid., 501.
189. Ibid., II, 63.
190. Ibid., 207; Official Bonds, I, 280-300; see entry 32.
191. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 43, 67; Ibid., III, 57, 73; Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, III, 139.
192. Information obtained from Miss Nellie Brady, Austin, Miss., Jan. 2, 1941, by Ellen Farrell.
193. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
194. Ibid.
195. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, III, 81.
196. Land Deed Records, Q, pp. 95, 96.
197. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.

gave the courthouse lot to the county "for and in consideration of erecting a courthouse and jail."[198] The deed also contained a clause whereby the land reverts to the grantor or his heirs if at any time the county ceases to use the land as a courthouse site.[199]

The land is described in the Land Deeds as follows: "The South half of Block No. 11 in the Northeast Quarter of the Town of Tunica and North of Harris Street. Also the North half of Block No. 11 in the Southeast Quarter of the town and South of Harris Street. Also one hundred feet on the West side of the Southwest of Block 21, Irwin's Addition in the Southeast Quarter of the town, and just east of 2nd East Street." The deed was signed July 28, 1888, and was filed in the courthouse at Austin by the county clerk July 30, 1888.[200]

On the same day, July 28, 1888, Dr. F. G. Dula, Mayor of Tunica, signed a deed to the county for the part of Harris Street and the part of Second Street East that ran through the land deeded as a courthouse lot, so that the courthouse property would be a solid plat without any dividing street.[201]

The Legislature had appointed Robert Cloll Irwin, C. C. Crews, Richard W. Owen, Henry C. Myers, and Z. T. White as the building committee, but there was a great deal of outspoken dissatisfaction among the citizens of the county who felt that the Legislature had no right to appoint the county's building committee.[202] Therefore, the board of supervisors approved of and reappointed the same men as the building committee on June 5, 1888, and administered their oaths as commissioners.[203]

The plans of the courthouse were drawn by G. M. Targeson, an architect of Memphis, Tennessee, and were approved by both the committee and the board of supervisors, with the provision that both buildings should not exceed $17,000 and that changes could be made in either building at the discretion of the committee.[204] Jordan and Anderson were awarded the contract at $16,949, the contract providing that one-third of the amount should be paid in county warrants, and two-thirds should be in county bonds bearing interest at 8 percent.[205] The buildings were completed April 1, 1889.[206]

The jail was destroyed by fire in 1894,[207] and the courthouse in 1920.[208] The jail now in use was built in 1894 at a cost of $10,299. It is a handsome

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198. Land Deed Records, T, pp. 576-577.
199. Ibid.
200. Ibid.
201. Ibid.
202. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, III, 81.
203. Ibid.
204. Ibid., 83.
205. Ibid., 89-90.
206. Ibid., 139.
207. Ibid., 434.
208. Tunica Times, Jan. 17, 1920.

red brick structure, and it is fireproof. The courthouse burned January 17, 1920.[209] It was insured for $36,000, which was not more than the value of the furniture.[210]

It was 2 years before the board of supervisors approved a plan for a new courthouse.[211] During this time a frame building was used by the officers. After the courthouse was finished, this building was given to the Woman's Club in 1923. It is still used as a community house and public library.[212]

Indians in Tunica County

Not all of the Chickasaw left Tunica County when the migration to Oklahoma took place after 1832.[213] Some of the families stayed in the county, among them the McKinneys. This Indian family was prominent before the formation of the county. On the map of Fractional Township 5, Range 12, West, of Tunica County, a certified copy from the United States Land Office of the original plat as drawn by the surveyors of the land ceded by the Chickasaw, five roads are shown, all of which lead to the McKinney home which is located on the map.[214] Five members of the family are listed in the original land deeds as receiving land as members of the Chickasaw Nation: Isaac McKinney, Lakerah, his wife,[215] Charles Edward,[216] and Polly McKinney,[217] who married a man named Simon. Isaac McKinney lived in Tunica County until his death in the winter of 1845,[218] being at that time a member of the board of police.[219] His wife was named Lakerah, and in the deeds made to her this is the only name given.[220] The deeds signed by him and her jointly are signed "Isaac McKinney and Lakerah, his wife."[221] The McKinneys' holdings were sections 10, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 23, and 28, Township 5, Range 12 West,[222] the townsite of the town of Austin being a part of the old McKinney place. He was one of the county's earliest planters, and the deed books show that he owned slaves.[223] His ear-mark and brand for cattle is the first registered ear-mark in the county records, being in the book of original deeds and reads as follows: "Swallow fold in the left ear and a smoothe crop and under-bit in the right ear and his brande I M."[224] The registration was made on

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209. Ibid.
210. Ibid., Jan. 19, 1920.
211. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, XI, 44.
212. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
213. Ibid.
214. Field Notes, p. 14, see entry 25.
215. Land Deed Records, A, p. 1.
216. Ibid.
217. Ibid., p. 18.
218. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 10.
219. Ibid.
220. Land Deed Records, A, p. 1.
221. Ibid.
222. Ibid., pp. 4, 18, 157.
223. Ibid., pp. 103, 105.
224. Ibid., p. 399.

August 7, 1837.[225] McKinney was one of the citizens of the county who bought lots in the town of Peyton, when it was considered as a county site. His money was returned to him by the board of police in October 1845, and the bonds of title were ordered canceled.[226] McKinney Lake and Bayou are named for this man. None of his family lives in the county, the last McKinney having died in the 1870's.[227]

Another Chickasaw Indian who remained in the county was Benjamin Love, one of the Chickasaw chiefs.[228] There is no record of his death, and it is possible that he moved from the county and rejoined his tribe. However, as late as 1848 he was a citizen of Tunica County, for at the January meeting of the board of police in that year he was allowed 4 dollars for serving as clerk of the election at Commerce on November 2, 1847.[229] He and his brother, Henry Love, certified as chiefs of the Chickasaw, the greater part of the deeds of the Chickasaw when they sold their land after the Treaty of Pontotoc.[230] Henry Love lived in and was a citizen of Marshall County, Mississippi, in 1843, as is shown by an indenture on record in this county wherein he gave a lien on lands in Tunica County owned by him.[231]

An interpreter of the Chickasaw Nation, Alexander Mizzles, who was one of the official interpreters at the Treaty of Pontotoc,[232] and who is described in the records of Tunica County as "a native born citizen of the Chickasaw Nation,"[233] was in the county as late as 1851, as shown by reards in the chancery vault.[234]

Thomas N. Fletcher was another of the county's Indian citizens. He was half white and half Choctaw but was adopted into the Chickasaw Nation.[235] His wife was a Chickasaw woman named Sarah. Fletcher was the founder of Commerce, the first county seat.[236] He was elected to several county offices and served as representative for Tunica County from 1843 to 1844.[237] His two sons, Joshua and Samuel, were Confederate soldiers, members of Saunders' Scouts.[238] During the Civil War they made many trips in and out of the besieged city of Vicksburg, carrying powder to the Confederates, and Samuel was the first to slip into the town by floating past the Union gunboats on

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225. Ibid.
226. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 8.
227. Information obtained from E. M. Doughtery, Tunica, Miss., Dec. 26, 1940, by Ellen Farrell.
228. Land Deed Records, A, p.14.
229. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 42.
230. Land Deed Records, A, pp. 14, 47, 50, 62.
231. Land Deed Records, B, pp.124-126.
232. Ibid., A, p. 4.
233. Ibid., p. 2.
234. Wills and Inventories, pp. 54, 75, 105; see entry 39.
235. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
236. Ibid.
237. Rowland, Official Register, p. 229.
238. Memphis Commercial-Appeal, June 4, 1927.

a log.[239] Samuel Fletcher married Mrs. N. E. Byrn of Tunica County. The Fletchers had no children but Samuel Fletcher's two stepchildren inherited his property, and a descendant of the stepdaughter, Blanche Byrn, in 1926 was living in the county and owned a part of the Fletcher land.[240]

Another Chickasaw Indian whose descendants are in the county was James S. Porter, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Isabelle Miller Scaife.[241] He was one of the county's most influential pioneer citizens. He was a member of the board of police when Tunica County was organized in 1836,[242] and he served several terms on the board. He also served on grand juries, as road commissioner, on juries of review, as appraiser of estates, and as road overseer.[243] He owned a large plantation, and his granddaughter has in her possession the land grant made at the Treaty of Pontotoc and signed by President Martin VanBuren,[244] that gave him a portion of land as member of the Chickasaw Tribe.[245] Mr. Porter owned and operated a ferry from Tunica County to Helena, Arkansas, which he sold in 1847 to Strong and Halbert.[246] He married Miss Fanny Weathers, the daughter of David Weathers, one of the county's pioneer citizens and a large property owner. They had four children, David, James, Frederick, and Mary Ann. All of James Porter's sons were Confederate soldiers, and one of them, Frederick, was killed at the Battle of Fredericksburg. His niece, Mrs. Scaife, owns the Bible which he had in his pocket when he was killed, and which was sent home by a chaplain of the Union Army who found it.[247] The descendants of James S. Porter — his granddaughter, two great-grandsons, and their children — live in or near Dundee.

Relations between the whites and their Indian neighbors were friendly. It would appear from the old county records, Minutes of the Board of Police, Minutes of the Probate Court, and wills and inventories, that no prejudice existed at all between the Chickasaw and the whites, as the 2 races intermarried frequently. Many of the Indian families had taken English names long before the treaty, and it is difficult to tell whether the early county officers were white or Indian.

Agriculture

Tunica County is one of the leading cotton-producing counties in the State. It has always been strictly an agricultural county, and has only one incorporated town, Tunica, and few villages. Almost all of the county

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239. Ibid.; Tunica Times-Democrat, June 2, 1927.
240. Ibid., July 15, 1926.
241. Information obtained from Mrs. Isabelle M. Scaife, Dundee, Miss., Jan. 2, 1941, by Ellen Farrell.
242. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 841.
243. Minutes of the Board of Police, II, 31.
244. Information obtained from Mrs. Isabelle M. Scaife, Dundee, Miss., Jan. 2, 1941, by Ellen Farrell.
245. Land Deed Records, A, p. 191.
246. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 31.
247. Information obtained from Mrs. Isabelle M. Scaife, Dundee, Miss., Jan. 2, 1941, by Ellen Farrell.

population are farming people, and the vast majority are Negroes.[248] Farming on a large scale has been done in the county for a century. The inventory of an estate made in 1851 shows that even then great plantations were in cultivation. This inventory shows the valuation of personal property and chattels on the estate totalled $168,219.75. In addition to many slaves, livestock, tools and other farming equipment, $3,750 worth of corn was listed at 40 cents a bushel, 602 hogs, 12,200 pounds of pork in the smokehouse, and 428 head of cattle.[249]

The assessed valuation of farms and improvements for 1940-41 is $4,307,940, and 133,985 acres are in cultivation.[250] Until December 13, 1940, a total of 40,211 bales of cotton had been ginned, a decline of 12,966 bales from the 1939 crop of 53,177 bales.[251] However, a large part of the crop was not picked because the cotton matured late.

Lumbering

Tunica County produces both cypress and hardwood timber. Before the county was settled the ridges were covered with several varieties of white oak, ash, hickory, and other species of hardwoods; the lowlands contained oak, elm, and gum trees; and the brakes were filled with cypress. The first sawmill in the county was built by Thomas B. Turner on the mill pond, about a mile west of Austin. Another mill just north of Hollywood, was owned by Judge Archibald Wright. Since this time, from 3 to 4 billion feet of lumber have been cut in Tunica County, and there are still millions of feet in uncut timber. Much of the timber cut has been made into rough lumber in this county, and millions of feet of logs have been shipped to Memphis, Tennessee.[252] At the present time there are 18,769 acres of timber in the county. The land alone is assessed at $40,120. The uncultivatable land in the county (cut-over timber land that has not been cleared) numbers 104,247 acres, and is valued at $403,500.[253] There are only 7 sawmills in the county now.[254]

Manufacturing

As the county is strictly agricultural, its industries are few. There are 26 cotton gins in the county, valued at $63,390 in 1940. The Planters Oil Mill in Tunica is assessed at $24,510.[255] It was organized in 1900 with a capital stock of $40,000.[256] The mill crushes cotton seed, and ships hulls

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248. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 842.
249. Wills and Inventories, I, 94-119; see entry 39.
250. Land Roll, 1940-41, p. 142; see entry 15.
251. Tunica Times-Democrat, Jan. 9, 1941.
252. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
253. Land Roll, 1940-41, p. 142.
254. Clerk's Certificate of Copy of Personal Roll in "Personal Roll," 1940; see entry 28.
255. Ibid.
256. Information obtained from S. A. Withers, president of Planters Oil Mill, Tunica, Miss., Aug. 1937, by Ellen Farrell.

all over the South, and cotton seed oil to foreign lands. This mill was the first one in the South to crush soy beans. The mill is equipped with machinery valued at $31,700,[257] and it has a crushing capacity of 100 tons of seed per day.

Transportation

In 1837, the Hernando Banking Company constructed a roadbed for a railroad to connect Commerce in Tunica County with Hernando in DeSoto County.[258] When this work was stopped by the banking laws of the McNutt administration, the roadbed was "planked" and was used as a turnpike.[259] The franchise for this turnpike was granted to John P. Caruthers, E. B. Bridges, and Charles May on August 5, 1850, and the road "began at the Promenade on the Bank of the Mississippi River in front of the City of Commerce," and led east to Hernando.[260] The road was a turnpike until the Civil War, when all road work and tolls were stopped. After the war, it was worked as a public road, and today is one of the best graveled roads in the county.[261] Another turnpike, running from the southeast side of Flower Lake to Walnut Lake and up the Coldwater River to Askew's Bluff near the DeSoto County line was established in 1847. The contract for this turnpike was made by the board of police with Erasmus B. Strong and James M. Halbert, who were allowed to establish toll-bridges across Beaver Dam, Walnut Lake, and the Coldwater River. The road was to be 60 feet in width, all the lowlands bordering the road to be embanked to prevent overflow, and the road to be passable for carriages at all times of the year.[262] A road called the Tunica County Road ran from Commerce to Porter's Ferry near the Coahoma-Tunica line. This road was ordered straightened in 1845, so it would parallel the Mississippi River just far enough from the bank to prevent the road caving into the river.[263]

Until the early part of 1900 the dirt roads of the county were worked under the supervision of road overseers appointed by the board of supervisors. In 1910, the county issued bonds for building county roads with machines.[264] In 1917, separate road districts for Beat 2 and Beat 3 were established.[265] In 1920, the other 3 beats of the county were formed into separate road districts.[266] At the present time the county has a system of modern roads made of gravel, dirt, and asphalt. Road expenses to the county for the fiscal year ending October 1, 1940, were $92,934.93,[267] and payment of county

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257. Personal Roll, 1940, p. 22.
258. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 594; Land Deed Records, A, p. 1; Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
259. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 60.
260. Ibid.
261. Tunica Times-Democrat, March 4, 1937.
262. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 40-41.
263. Ibid., II, 1.
264. Bond Record, I, 1.
265. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, IX, 167.
266. Ibid., X, 174.
267. General County Ledger, XIV, Sheet 1 of Road and Bridge Commitments; see entry 155.

convicts used for road work was $10,222.86.[268] U. S. Highway 61, a concrete highway, runs through the county from north to south.

In the early days of the county many ferries licensed by the board of police were used as a means of transportation. A fixed schedule of prices was posted at each ferry, and a bond was required from the ferryman. The bonds ranged from $150 to $2,000 annually and the license fee was from $15 to $25. The ferries were located on the Mississippi River, the Coldwater River, Walnut Lake, Beaver Dam, and many other lakes and bayous. Ferriage was much higher on the Mississippi than on the Coldwater, and the fees across Beaver Dam and other bayous were only half of those on the Coldwater.[269] In 1845, as a protection to the ferries, the board of police prohibited ferrying by any one except a licensed ferryman, the penalty being a fine of $50.[270] The order was strictly enforced, and any person refusing to pay the ferry fee was forced to pay double before he could use the ferry again, and his name was posted at all licensed ferries in the county.[271] Modern roads and bridges have done away with this method of transportation.

Tunica County did not have a railroad until 1885.[272] Although the Legislature had incorporated the Hernando Railroad and Banking Company in April 1837,[273] for the purpose of building a road from Commerce to Hernando, the railroad was never completed. In September 1871, the Vicksburg and Memphis Railroad Company proposed to the board of supervisors (at that time all Negroes) that the county subscribe to the capital stock of the railroad to the amount of $100,000. The board agreed to the proposal, spread the agreement on the minutes of the board and ordered a special election to decide the question of "subscription or no subscription" as proposed by Wirth Adams, president of the railroad. Since the county was in debt and suffering from the heaviest taxation in its history, the action of the board caused so much indignation among the taxpayers that the order for election and agreement was rescinded by the board the next day.[274] At the same term of the board of supervisors, a proposition was made that the county float bonds to the value of $300,000, the entire sum to be presented to the Mobile and North Western Railroad Company, when that company should finish as much as 15 miles of track in Tunica County. The board passed on this proposition favorably and ordered an election for "subscription or no subscription," but this order was also rescinded by the board.[275] In May 1873, Gen. James R. Chalmers, acting as agent for the Mississippi River Railroad Company, asked that the board of supervisors subscribe for stock to the value of $16,000 per annum for 20 years, the stock to be issued to the taxpayers of Tunica County. The board agreed to the offer and ordered an election, but the scheme failed to

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268. Ibid., Sheet 1-A of General Fund Commitments.
269. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 31, 40-41.
270. Ibid., II, 7.
271. Tunica Times-Democrat, March 4, 1937.
272. Ibid., July 15, 1926.
273. Rowland, Heart of the South, I, 594.
274. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, I, 40-43, 45.
275. Ibid.

materialize. The road as proposed was to be built on top of the levee bordering the Mississippi River, and since the levee board at that time was in liquidation,[276] the idea of the levee being kept by the railroad was attractive to many people.

In 1884-85 the first railroad, the Louisville, New Orleans and Texas, was built.[277] It was bought in 1892 by the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad and is now the main line of that system.[278] The people of the county had long hoped for a railroad and welcomed it throughout the county, practically all of the right-of-way being given to the railroad company.[279]

For nearly 50 years the county had been dependent on river traffic for its commerce and communication with the outside world. Commerce, the first county seat, had a fine deep-water harbor and was the home port of the palatial DeSoto, a packet that ran from Commerce to New Orleans, and of other boats such as McPherson's Trading Boat, that was a county-owned institution. Boats plying from Cincinnati and St. Louis to New Orleans, from Memphis to Helena, from Memphis to Friar's Point, and from Memphis to Arkansas City, passed Tunica County's landing.[280] In addition to the packets there was a line of tow boats that handled barges, catering to the freight trade.[281]

Education

The school system of Tunica County began in April 1846, under the Common School Law of 1846, passed by the Legislature in February. On April 6, 1846, the board of police (only 3 members being present) appointed 5 school commissioners to organize and to superintend the common public schools of the county: Richard Abbay, James McPherson, W. B. Thornton, Calvin Barnes, and Henry P. Heraldston.[282]

A special tax of 25 percent on the State tax was levied for the common schools.[283] This tax was suspended in 1846 for an unstated reason.[284]

The first courthouse was used for the school at Commerce as is shown by an order issued October 3, 1848, discontinuing the school in the courthouse.[285] Directly after the county seat was moved to Austin, the board of police ordered that the old courthouse at Commerce should be given into the charge of Anthony A. Abbay, board member from Beat 1, that it should be used as a county

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276. Ibid., 147, 155.
277. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
278. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 559.
279. Land Deed Records, Q, pp. 42, 403; Land Deed Records, W, p. 175.
280. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
281. Ibid.
282. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 21.
283. Ibid., 72.
284. Ibid., 80.
285. Ibid., 81; Circuit Court was in session at this time as is shown by issuance of jury tickets and by payment made to Calvin Barnes, circuit clerk.

schoolhouse and that Mr. Abbay should be responsible for any damage done to the house.[286]

In 1860, the treasurer's report on the common schools of the county shows that in the period from May 16, 1860, to January 8, 1861, the treasury had received $3,224.72 and had paid out for the schools during the same period $3,252.73, a draft being drawn for $28.01 to pay the balance.[287] In 1860, the county paid 16 school teachers. The report does not show monthly salaries, neither does it show the length of the school term, but it does show that 1 teacher drew from the treasury during a 7-month period the sum of $479.85. Only 3 of the 16 teachers bear feminine names.[288]

In January 1861, the board ordered that "all children residing in the county without reference to their living in the Choctaw Cession shall be put upon the same footing and enjoy the same share in the Chickasaw School fund as those residing in the Chickasaw Cession."[289] The part of the county that had been a part of the Choctaw Cession was given to make Quitman County in 1877.[290]

School commissioners were appointed for 1861,[291] and the schools functioned as usual, except that $1,000 of the county's school fund was given as a loan to Capt. Robert H. Humphrey's Company of Tunica County Volunteers (Confederate soldiers), it being secured by the personal note signed by "Captain Robert H. Humphreys and others."[292] On March 6, 1861, this note was ordered canceled and the amount owed the school fund ordered charged to the county.[293] At the board meeting on March 31, all public schools in the county were ordered closed, and all funds belonging to the schools were ordered held "subject to the order of the Court for the exclusive purpose of the present war."[294]

After the Civil War, the board of police received in March 1866 a report that showed there were promissory notes in the hands of the county treasurer to the amount of $4,500 belonging to the school fund, but no money.[295] In September 1866, the treasurer reported that he had received $5 from forfeitures, estrays, etc., which had been placed in the school fund.[296] It is evident that the board of police was making an effort to start the educational system again, for in June 1867, school commissioners were appointed to make arrangements toward the opening of the common schools as soon as funds could be raised.[297] This order was given by the board who had been elected under

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286. Ibid., 85.
287. Ibid., 523, 524.
288. Ibid., 524.
289. Ibid., 522.
290. Rowland, Heart of the South, II, 816-817.
291. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 522.
292. Ibid., II, 24.
293. Ibid., 26.
294. Ibid.
295. Ibid., III, 51.
296. Ibid., 66.
297. Ibid., 81.

the provisional government of Gov. Sharkey, who had ordered the election,[298] but before anything could be done toward opening the schools, the county was placed under officers appointed by Gen. Ord, the Commander of the South Military District. At the first meeting of the board of police and the newly-appointed sheriff, Isaac Boatman, January 1868, an order was made that, "since there are no public schools in the county" all school funds and all monies arising from fines, forfeitures, estrays, etc., that had been used for the school fund should be appropriated and disbursed for general county purposes; and that furniture, including 2 desks, for the circuit clerk's office should be immediately bought out of the school funds.[299] In July 1868, the county treasurer reported that all the school funds had been disbursed for general county purposes.[300]

It was not until November 1870, that a board of school directors was appointed in the county, two for a term of 3 years, two for 2 years, and two for 1 year. Each beat had a director, and in addition there was a director-at-large for the whole county.[301]

On December 19, 1870, a tax of 1 percent on the State tax was levied for the purpose of erecting schoolhouses in all parts of the county except school district 11 in Beat 4, and an order was passed that the tax be collected.[302] Records also show that the deputy county clerk was paid a salary as secretary of the board of school directors.[303] The first superintendent of education was C. W. Dunnaway,[304] a white Republican, and the stepson of Martin J. Manning, the sheriff.[305]

The growth of the county public schools really began in 1888 under Frank Powell, county superintendent of education. In 1888, he and the boards of school trustees reorganized the schools so that they were evenly distributed throughout the county.[306] When school started in September 1888, there were 16 white schools in the county,[307] as there had been in 1860;[308] and in addition there were 19 Negro schools.[309] The present county school system began in 1914 with the building in Tunica of the Tunica County Agricultural High School, for which $30,000 worth of bonds were issued.[310] This school is now officially the Tunica County High School, the graduates from all grammar

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298. Ibid., 36, 37, 38.
299. Ibid., 100.
300. Ibid., 114, 115.
301. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, I, 18; see entry 2.
302. Ibid., 21.
303. Ibid., 50.
304. Ibid., 65.
305. Information obtained from E. M. Dougherty, Tunica, Miss., Jan. 23, 1941, by Ellen Farrell.
306. Superintendent's Account Book, II, 1-12; see entry 158.
307. Ibid., 5-6.
308. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 524.
309. Superintendent's Account Book, II, 3-5.
310. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, VIII, 344-345.

schools in the county being brought to the high school in busses.[311] The original building has been replaced by one of the most modern school buildings in the State, being built in 1933 from a "sinking fund" that was established by the county for the purpose without issuing county funds.[312] It is an accredited high school.

The Tunica Grammar School was built in 1920 at a cost of $85,000.[313] The Dubbs Consolidated School was the first consolidated school in the county, and is a well-equiped, comfortable building located at Dubbs, a country town in Beat 5. The consolidated school at Dundee burned in 1925 and was replaced immediately by a handsome stucco building.[314] School busses bring country children to school at Tunica, Dubbs, and Dundee. The white schools in the county have a 9-month term, and the Negro schools have a term of 4 months.

At the present time there are 6 schools in the county for white children (the Tunica County High School, 2 consolidated schools, and 3 elementary schools), employing 27 teachers; and 56 Negro schools employing 90 teachers. Twenty-one of the Negro schools are called "Rosenwald" schools, money being given to the county by the Foundation established by Julius Rosenwald for schools for the Negro race.[315]

Religion

The first church built in Tunica County was erected by a Mrs. Wilson who lived on the place now known as the Crew's Place, located east of Trotter's Landing in the southwest corner of the county. The church was a small building, not over 18 by 20 feet, but it easily accommodated the small community. The next church in the county was built in Austin when the town was founded in 1848. This building was built by the Tunica Lodge No. 257 Free and Accepted Masons. The church was built with the lodge room upstairs. This was used until 1863 when the Northern Army burned the town of Austin.[316] Services were then held in private homes and in the parlor of the Austin Hotel until 1874, when funds were raised by the ladies and young people of Austin to build a church. This money was divided into two parts, and a Methodist church and a Roman Catholic church were built. The little Roman Catholic Church of Saint Mary was destroyed by lightning in 1879;[317] the Diocese of Natchez still owns the vacant lot.

The Methodist church was abandoned many years ago, the lot being sold.

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311. Information obtained from Miss Florence Nelson, county superintendent of education, Tunica, Miss., Jan. 29, 1941, by Ellen Farrell.
312. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, X, 56.
313. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
314. Ibid.
315. Information obtained from Miss Florence Nelson, county superintendent of education, Tunica, Miss., Jan. 29, 1941, by Ellen Farrell.
316. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
317. Information obtained from Miss Nellie Brady, Austin, Miss., Jan. 10, 1941, by Ellen Farrell.

The building was sold to a Negro congregation and moved to another lot. Methodist churches are now located in Tunica, Dundee, Dubbs, Robinsonville, and Hollywood, although the last named place does not have a regular pastor, the people coming to church in Tunica, only 4 miles away.

The first Presbyterian church organized in the county was organized in the Methodist church building in Austin, on December 11, 1877, by the Evangelist of the North Mississippi Presbytery, the Rev. H. M. Morrison. He and the Rev. Angus Johnson preached in the county until 1885, coming from Memphis by boat, preaching at the Methodist church in Austin, riding to Donnell's schoolhouse, located one-half mile from the present town of Tunica, and afterwards riding horseback to Commerce to preach again.[318]

The Baptist church of Tunica was organized in 1899. There are also white Baptist churches at Dundee and Hollywood. There are 53 colored Baptist churches in the county.[319]

Epiphany Episcopal Church was organized by Archdeacon George Gordon Smeade in 1912 at Tunica.[320]

Population

The population of Tunica county in 1939 was 21,233, an increase over 1920 of 4.2 percent. In 1940, the population was 22,610, and increase for the decade of 1,377 or 6.5 percent. Tunica, the county seat and largest town, had a population of 1,043 in 1930 and of 1,322 in 1940.[321]

Newspapers

The first newspaper of the county was the Cotton Plant, published in 1872.[322] The Independent and The Tunica County Herald were published about 1888, the latter established at Austin by Frank Barlow.[323] The files of these early newspapers were destroyed by fire or lost. In 1895, the Tunica Delta Democrat was established by Durward M. Slocumb and was discontinued about 1917.[324] The Tunica Times was established by Mr. Otis M. Perrine in 1908,[325] the name being changed in 1923 to The Tunica Times-Democrat, when the paper was purchased by J. B. Snider and son.[326] The present owner and editor, Paul E. Phillips, purchased the paper in 1936.[327]

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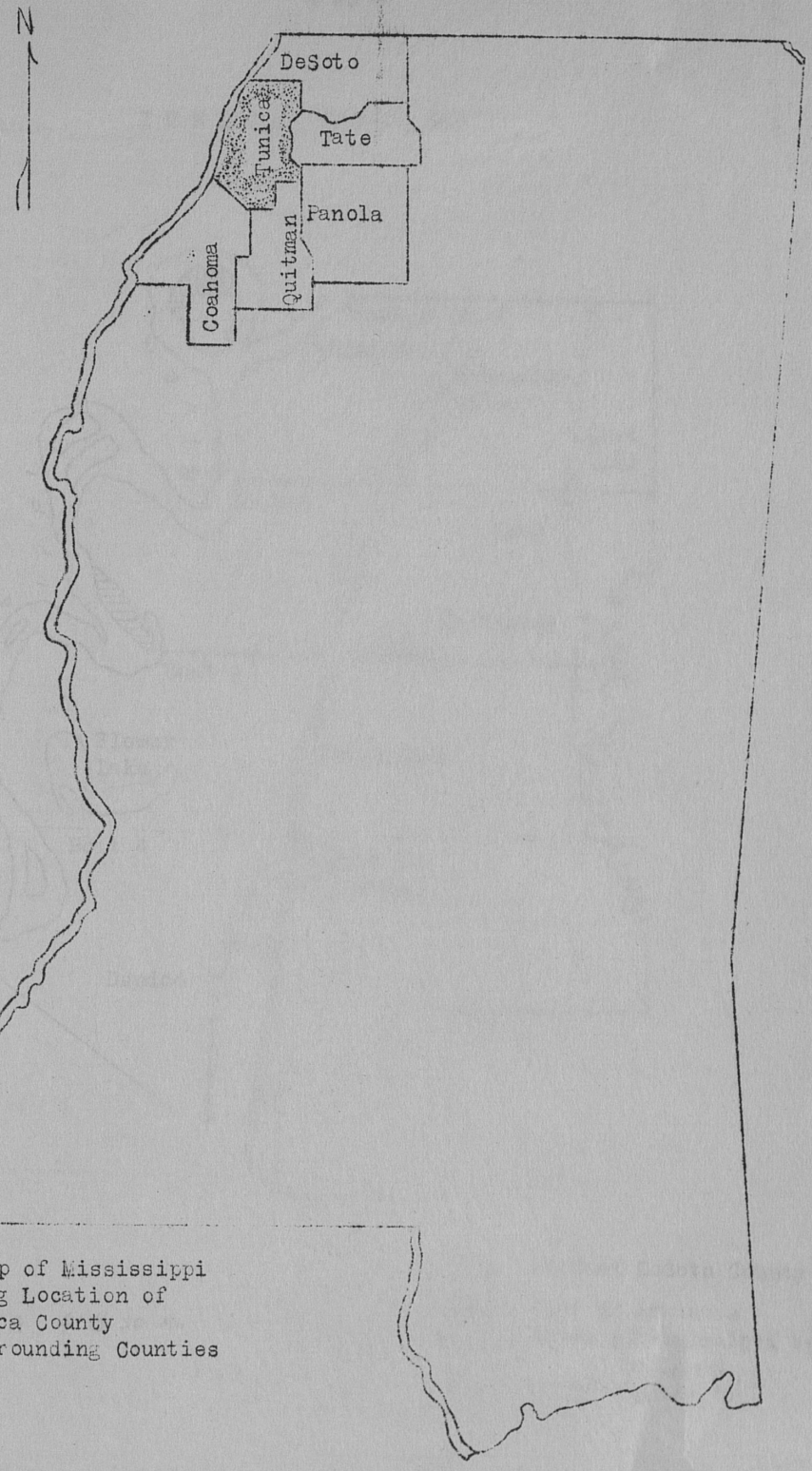
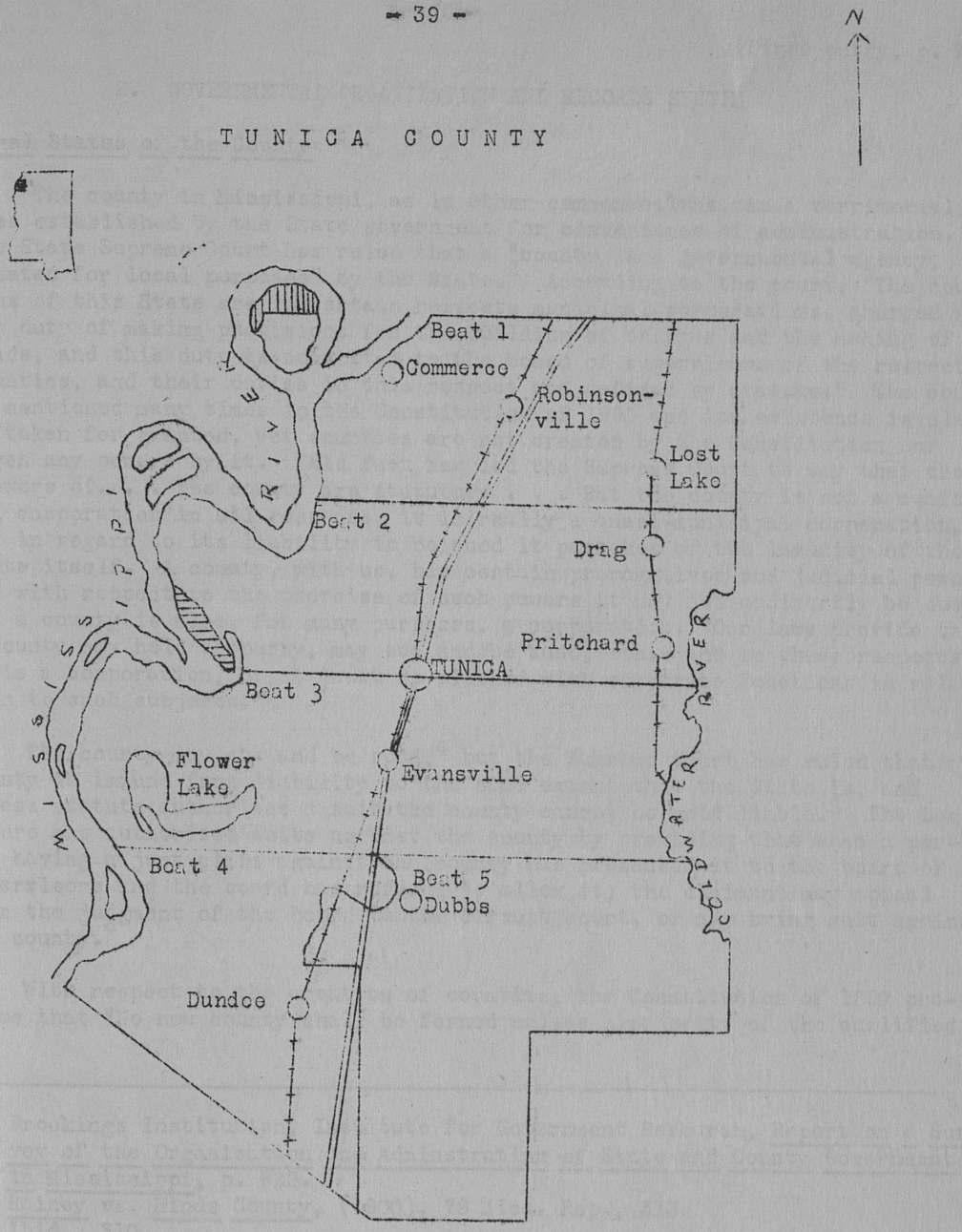
318. Tunica Times-Democrat, July 15, 1926.
319. State Office Files, Miss. Historical Records Survey, Jackson.
320. Miss. Historical Records Survey, Inventory of the Church Archives of Mississippi: Protestant Episcopal Church, p. 112.
321. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population of the State of Mississippi, Final Figures, 1940.
322. Information obtained from Mrs. Ellen P. Farrell, State-Wide Newspaper Inventory worker, Miss. Historical Records Survey.
323. Ibid.
324. Approximated (first issue on file June 7, 1902, vol. VIII, no. 14).
325. Tunica Times, Oct. 25, 1908.
326. Ibid., Oct. 4, 1923; Nov. 1, 1923.
327. Tunica Times-Democrat, Nov. 12, 1936.



Outline Map of Mississippi
Showing Location of
Tunica County
and Surrounding Counties

TUNICA COUNTY



AREA 418 SQ. MI.

(First entry, p. 79)

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Legal Status of the County

The county in Mississippi, as in other commonwealths, is a territorial area established by the State government for convenience of administration.[1] The State Supreme Court has ruled that a "county is a governmental agency, created for local purposes" by the State.[2] According to the court, "The counties of this State are in certain respects municipal corporations, charged with the duty of making provisions for the building of bridges and the making of roads, and this duty is committed to the board of supervisors of the respective counties, and their duties in this respect are defined by statute." The county is mentioned many times in the Constitution of 1890 and its existence is clearly taken for granted, yet counties are not created by the Constitution nor given any powers by it. This fact has led the Supreme Court to say that the "powers of. . . the county are statutory . . . But the county is not a municipal corporation in all respects; it is really a quasi-municipal corporation, for in regard to its liability to be sued it partakes of the immunity of the State itself. A county, with us, has certain prerogatives and judicial powers, and with respect to the exercise of such powers it may not ordinarily be sued. But a county is also, for many purposes, a corporation. Our laws provide that a county may hold property, may sue and be sued, etc.; and in these respects it is a corporation, or at least is clothed with corporate functions in relation to such subjects."[3]

The county may sue and be sued,[4] but the Supreme Court has ruled that a county is immune from liability to the same extent that the State is, and unless statute authorizes a suit the county cannot be held liable.[5] The Legislature has authorized suits against the county by providing that when a person having a just claim against the county has presented it to the board of supervisors and the board has refused to allow it, the claimant may appeal from the judgment of the board to the circuit court, or may bring suit against the county.[6]

With respect to the creation of counties, the Constitution of 1890 provides that "No new county shall be formed unless a majority of the qualified

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1. Brookings Institution, Institute for Government Research, Report on a Survey of the Organization and Adminstration of State and County Government in Mississippi, p. 622.
2. Rainey vs. Hinds County, (1900), 78 Miss. Rep., 313.
3. Ibid., 310.
4. Code 1857, p. 419; Code 1871, sec. 1384; Code 1880, sec. 2175; Code 1892, sec. 290; Code 1906, sec. 309; Code 1917, sec. 3682; Code 1930, sec. 270.
5. City of Grenada vs. Grenada County, (1917), 115 Miss. Rep., 831; 76 So. Rep., 682. In 1912, the city of Grenada made street improvements on Green Street in front of the Grenada courthouse and the board of supervisors claimed immunity when the city demanded payment for the cost as prorated. The city obtained a judgment against the county in the circuit court of Grenada County but when appealed, the decision was reversed by the Supreme Court.
6. Code 1857, p. 419; Code 1871, secs. 1383-1384; Code 1880, sec. 2175; Code 1892, sec. 292; Code 1906, sec. 311; Code 1917, sec. 3682; Code 1930, sec. 253.

electors voting in each part of the county or counties proposed to be dismembered and embraced in the new county, shall separately vote therefor . . . The elections shall not be held in any county oftener than once in 4 years. No new county shall contain less than four hundred square miles, nor, shall any existing county be reduced below that size."[7] The Constitution also permits the Legislature to provide for the consolidation of existing counties if a majority of the qualified electors of the counties to be consolidated vote in favor of the consolidation.[8] Apparently the Legislature cannot abolish a county without the consent of a majority of the qualified electors in the area concerned, but it may, however, change the boundaries of any county without the consent of the local electorate.[9]

General Administration

From the creation of Tunica County to the present time general executive supervision and control have been vested, first in the county court and road commissioners, then in the board of police, and later in the board of supervisors. These bodies have had complete authority in all matters of county police and full jurisdiction over roads, ferries, and bridges.[10] Certain duties concerning the registration of titles to property have been assigned to the board of police and the board of supervisors.[11] These bodies have participated in law enforcement, and the members of the board of supervisors are conservators of the peace.

With respect to taxation, the board of supervisors fixes the tax levy and the clerk of the board certifies the levy to the proper officials. The board of supervisors is the board of equalization and review, and since 1916, has cooperated with the State Tax Commissioner in equalizing the assessments as between counties.[12] The clerk of the board prepares the rolls and distributes copies to the proper officials. After the sheriff as tax collector has collected the county taxes, he reports his collections and deposits to the board of supervisors and to the clerk of the board as auditor.

In the expenditure of county funds the board of supervisors and the clerk of the board as auditor have important functions. All claims, accounts, and demands against the county must be presented to the board for its approval or disapproval. The board and the clerk of the board as auditor, audit all claims.[13]

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7. Const. 1890, sec. 260.
8. Ibid., sec. 271.
9. Brookings Report, p. 623.
10. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 20; Code 1871, sec. 1363; Const. 1890, sec. 170; Code 1892, sec. 289; Code 1906, sec. 307; Code 1917, sec. 3680; Code 1930, sec. 214.
11. Code 1892, secs. 299, 301, 302; L. M. 1898, ch. 37; Code 1906, secs. 318, 320, 321; Code 1917, secs. 3691, 3693, 3694; Code 1930, secs. 224, 226, 227.
12. Code 1880, sec. 505; Code 1892, secs. 3792, 3793; Code 1906, secs. 4304, 4305; Code 1917, secs. 6938, 7760; L. M. 1920, ch. 323; Code 1930, secs. 3162-3169.
13. Code 1857, ch. 59, art. 16; Code 1871, sec. 1381; Code 1880, sec. 2159; Code 1892, sec. 320; Code 1906, sec. 341; Code 1917, sec. 3714; Code 1930, sec. 255.

The clerk of the board as auditor audits the accounts of all county officers, but his own accounts and those of the other officers are subject to audit annually by the State Auditor of Public Accounts. The board of supervisors has power and authority to issue county and county-district bonds and must issue bonds when the issuance is authorized by the popular vote.

The board of supervisors has important duties in conducting elections for county officers.[14] The board, together with the county education officials, is charged with administering the county educational program.[15]

The board of supervisors and the county health officer, under the supervision of the State Board of Health, have administered the public health program.[16] The administration of public welfare comes within the powers and duties of the board of supervisors. The members of the board also have individual powers and duties in this connection.[17]

The construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, public buildings, and all public works is the duty of the board of supervisors.

The board of supervisors appoints agents of the agricultural extension and demonstration work on the recommendation of the Extension Department of Mississippi State College and subject to the approval of the United States Department of Agriculture and furnishes quarters for them.[18]

The board of supervisors is also required to furnish all officers and offices with record books and supplies and is responsible for the upkeep of the records in the county, although each officer is charged with keeping his records in order.[19]

Registration of Title To Property

Every conveyance of real or personal property, to be valid and to serve as constructive notice to all subsequent purchasers, must be lodged for recording with the clerk of the chancery court as recorder and must be acknowledged as his voluntary act by the person who executed it, or proved by one or more of

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14. L. M. 1922, ch. 290; Code 1930, secs. 310, 311.
15. L. M. 1924, ch. 283; L. M. 1928, ch. 64; L. M. 1928, Ex. Sess., ch. 38.
16. Code 1906, secs. 1640-1647, 2483-2516; Code 1917, secs. 4818-4884; Code 1930, secs. 4860-4941.
17. Code 1871, secs. 1875-1885; Code 1880, secs. 624-630; Const. 1890, sec. 262; Code 1892, secs. 289, 3143, 3149-3150, 3155-3156; Code 1906, secs. 307, 3566, 3572-3573, 3578-3579; L. M. 1912, pp. 305, 306; Code 1917, secs. 3680, 6189-6190, 6196; Code 1930, secs. 214, 5694-5698; L. M. 1940, ch. 298, sec. 7.
18. L. M. 1908, p. 94; L. M. 1914, p. 260; Code 1917, secs. 3783, 3801; L. M. 1924, p. 260; Code 1930, secs. 279-282; L. M. 1932, p. 517.
19. Code 1848, ch. 51, art. 4 (42); Code 1857, ch. 59, art. 18; Code 1871, sec. 1365; Code 1880, sec. 2146; Code 1892, secs. 296, 298, 299, Code 1906, secs. 315, 317, 318; Code 1917, secs. 3688, 3690, 3691; Code 1930, secs. 222-224.

the subscribing witnesses to the instrument. The acknowledgment or proof must be in writing on the instrument and must be signed by the officer before whom it was made.[20] The sheriff's certified lists of lands sold to individuals or struck off to the State for taxes must be recorded by the clerk of the chancery court as recorder,[21] as must lis pendens notices of suits begun to enforce a lien, right, interest in, or easement in any real estate when the claim is not based on any judgment or decree previously entered or recorded.[22]

To insure adequate descriptions of boundaries, the board of supervisors must furnish the office of the clerk of the chancery court as recorder with a copy of the field notes of the original United States survey, transcriptions of the records of other counties which affect titles to land in Tunica County, transcriptions of original entries of land, and all necessary township plats and surveys.[23] Since 1920, the board has been required to furnish the office of the clerk of the chancery court as recorder with a sectional index to all land conveyances and other instruments touching or concerning title to land in the county.[24] The board may provide a complete abstract of title to land in the county.[25]

Administration of Justice

Civil and common law jurisdiction is vested in the circuit court and in the justice of the peace courts. The circuit court has civil jurisdiction in all actions in which the amount in controversy exceeds $200 and in all other

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20. L. M. 1836, p. 56; L. M. 1839, p. 22; Code 1848, pp. 605-618; Code 1857, p. 309; Code 1871, sec. 2302; Code 1880, sec. 1209; Code 1892, sec. 2454; Code 1906, sec. 2784; Code 1917, sec. 2288; L. M. 1924, pp. 333-334; Code 1930, sec. 2116. Conveyances may be acknowledged or proved before any judge of a United States Court, any judge of the Supreme Court, any judge of a circuit court, any chancellor, any clerk of a court of record, any notary public, any justice of the peace, or any member of the board of supervisors. (L. M. 1836, p. 56; L. M. 1839, p. 22; Code 1848, pp. 605, 617-618; Code 1857, p. 349; Code 1871, sec. 2310; Code 1880, sec. 1217; Code 1892, sec. 2464; Code 1906, sec. 2798; Code 1917, sec. 2299; Code 1930, sec. 2136).
21. L. M. 1846, pp. 65-97; Code 1848, pp. 189, 190, 199, 395, 407; Code 1857, p. 80; Code 1871, secs. 1698, 1701; Code 1880, sec. 223, 526; Code 1892, secs. 3815, 3818; Code 1906, secs. 2933, 4333; L. M. 1912, p. 302; Code 1917, secs. 5268, 6967; L. M. 1922, p. 326; Code 1930, sec. 3256; see entries 20-22.
22. Code 1892, sec. 2783; Code 1906, sec. 3148; Code 1917, sec. 2499; Code 1930, sec. 2325; see entry 19.
23. L. M. 1822, pp. 10-24; Poindexter's Code 1824, pp. 71-84; Turner's Digest, p. 71; Code 1848, p. 709; Code 1857, p. 417, sec. 1680; Code 1880, sec. 3146; Code 1892, sec. 296; Code 1906, sec. 315; Code 1917, sec. 3688; Code 1930, sec. 222; see entries 25-27.
24. L. M. 1920, pp. 368-369; Code 1930, secs. 227-228; see entry 14.
25. Code 1892, sec. 301; L. M. 1898, p. 59; Code 1906, sec. 320; Code 1917, sec. 3693; Code 1930, sec. 226; see entry 27.

causes not exclusively cognizable in some other court.[26] It also has jurisdiction in cases transferred to it by the chancery court, remanded to it by the Supreme Court, and appealed to it from justice of the peace court.[27] Justice of the peace courts are given civil jurisdiction in all actions in which the amount in controversy is $200 or less,[28] in matters of unlawful entry and detainer,[29] and in the partition of personal property when the appraised value of the property involved does not exceed $200.[30] A justice of the peace is chosen by the clerk of the circuit court to conduct hearings in eminent domain proceedings.[31]

The circuit court has power to hear and determine all prosecutions in the name of the State for treason, felonies, crimes, and misdemeanors, except such as may be exclusively cognizable before some other court; and it has all the powers of a court of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery.[32] Justice of the peace courts have jurisdiction concurrent with the circuit court over all crimes occurring in their districts in which the punishment prescribed does not exceed a fine and imprisonment in the county jail.[33] In addition justices of the peace have power to conduct preliminary hearings in cases of

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26. Const. 1817, art. V, sec. 4; L. M. 1830, pp. 161-164; Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 14; Code 1848, p. 884; Code 1857, p. 482; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 14; Code 1871, sec. 509; Code 1880, sec. 1493; Const. 1890, sec. 156; Code 1892, sec. 645; Code 1906, sec. 702; Code 1917, sec. 481; Code 1930, sec. 490.
27. Code 1892, sec. 646; Code 1906, sec. 703; Code 1917, sec. 482; Code 1930, sec. 491.
28. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 23; Code 1848, p. 690; Code 1857, p. 405; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 23; Code 1871, sec. 1320; Code 1880, sec. 2190; Const. 1890, sec. 171; Code 1892, secs. 2394, 2420; Code 1906, secs. 2723, 2749; Code 1917, secs. 2222, 2248; Code 1930, secs. 2071, 2097.
29. L. M. 1822, pp. 376-381; Code 1848, p. 812; Code 1857, p. 349; Code 1871, sec. 1583; Code 1880, sec. 2646; Code 1892, sec. 4462; Code 1906, sec. 5041; Code 1917, sec. 3313; Code 1930, sec. 3458.
30. Code 1880, sec. 2580; Code 1892, sec. 3121; Code 1906, sec. 3544; Code 1917, sec. 2856; Code 1930, sec. 2943.
31. Code 1892, sec. 1680; Code 1906, sec. 1855; Code 1917, sec. 1493; Code 1930, sec. 1481.
32. Const. 1817, art. V, sec. 4; L. M. 1830, pp. 161-164; Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 14; Code 1848, p. 884; Code 1857, p. 482; Const. 1869, art. VI, secs.1-24; Code 1871, sec. 159; Code 1880, sec. 1493; Const. 1890, sec. 156; Code 1892, sec. 645; Code 1906, sec. 702; Code 1917, sec. 481; Code 1930, sec. 490.
33. Const. 1817, art. V, sec. 8; L. M. 1822, p. 17; Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 23; Code 1848, p. 690; Code 1857, ch. 58, art. 7; Code 1871, sec. 1304; Code 1880, sec. 2190; Const. 1890, sec. 171; Code 1892, secs. 2394, 2420; Code 1906, secs. 2723, 2749; Code 1917, secs. 2222, 2248; Code 1930, secs. 2071, 2097.

felonies committed within their respective districts, to bind the accused over to await the action of the grand jury, and to fix the amount of the appearance bond.[34]

The chancery court has both chancery and probate jurisdiction and it is given power to try and determine all matters of equity, divorce and alimony, matters testamentary and of administration, minors' business, and cases of idiocy, lunacy, and persons of unsound mind.[35] It has jurisdiction in all causes transferred to it by the circuit court and remanded to it by the Supreme Court.[36]

Until 1940, the circuit court and the chancery court had concurrent jurisdiction in cases of juvenile delinquency,[37] and in Tunica County this function was exercised by the circuit court. In 1940, the Legislature passed an act giving jurisdiction over juvenile offenders and dependent and neglected children to the county court and chancery court concurrently, in counties having a county court; otherwise concurrently to the circuit and chancery court.[38]

Appeals from judgments and decrees rendered in justice of the peace courts may be taken to the circuit court.[39] Appeals from judgments and decrees of the circuit and chancery court may be made to the Supreme Court.[40]

The county court has jurisdiction concurrently with the courts of justice of the peace in all matters, civil and criminal, of which justices of the peace have jurisdiction; and jurisdiction concurrent with the circuit and chancery courts in all matters of law and equity wherein the amount of the value of the thing in controversy shall not exceed, exclusive of costs and interest, the sum of $1,000. It has exclusively the jurisdiction previously exercised by justices of the peace in the following matters and causes,

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34. Code 1857, p. 626; Code 1871, sec. 2821; Code 1880, sec. 3112; Code 1892, sec. 1460; Code 1906, sec. 1533; Code 1917, sec. 1295; Code 1930, sec. 1320.
35. Const. 1832, third amendment; Const, 1869, art. VI, sec. 16; Code 1871, sec. 525; Code 1880, secs. 1496, 1830, 1938; Const. 1890, sec. 159; Code 1892, secs. 492-493; Code 1906, secs. 542-543; Code 1917, secs. 299-300; Code 1930, secs. 353-358.
36. Toulmin's Digest, pp. 123-124; Turner's Digest, pp. 142-143; L. M. 1819, p. 98; Turner's Digest, p. 178; Const. 1817, art. V, secs. 4, 5; L. M. 1821, p. 105; Const. 1832, art. IV, secs. 16, 22, 27; Code 1848, p. 754; Code 1857, p. 450; Code 1871, sec. 984; Code 1880, sec. 1329; Code 1892, sec. 482; Code 1906, sec. 532; Code 1917, sec. 289; Code 1930, sec. 351.
37. L. M. 1916, p. 151; Code 1917, sec. 4970; Code 1930, sec. 7521.
38. L. M. 1940, p. 544.
39. L. M. 1833, pp. 473-475; Code 1848, pp. 704-816; Code 1857, pp. 401, 409; Code 1871, secs. 1332, 1355, 1594; Code 1880, secs. 2353, 2355, 2657; Code 1892, secs. 81, 82, 86; Code 1906, secs. 82, 83, 87; Code 1917, secs. 62, 63, 69; Code 1930, secs. 63, 64, 68.
40. L. M. 1837, pp. 354, 355; Code 1848, p. 932; Code 1857, p. 622; Code 1871, sec. 2841; Code 1880, secs. 2308, 2314; Code 1892, secs. 31, 36; Code 1906, secs. 32, 37; Code 1917, secs. 7, 12; Code 1930, secs. 12, 16.

viz.: Eminent domain, the partition of personal property, and in actions of unlawful entry and detainer. The county court has appellate jurisdiction of causes appealed from justice of the peace and municipal courts. Appeals are taken from the county court to the circuit court.[41]

The sheriff is the principal officer charged with the preservation of the peace.[42] However, constables have the same duty.[43] If there is a vacancy in the office of sheriff for any reason and there is no deputy to act, the coroner performs all the duties of the sheriff except that of collecting taxes.[44] In the event the office of sheriff is vacant for any reason, and there is no deputy to act, and there is no coroner, the circuit judge or the chancellor may appoint some qualified elector of the county to perform the duty of coroner in this regard.[45] All members of the board of supervisors,[46] the circuit judge, the chancellor, and all justices of the peace of the county are conservators of the peace.[47]

The coroner is required to hold inquests of all violent and sudden deaths in the county,[48] but if there is no coroner or if the coroner is unable to act, any justice of the peace may hold an inquest and perform all the duties of the coroner.[49]

The power and duty of returning indictments and presentments is given to the grand jury.[50]

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41. L. M. 1926, ch. 131; Code 1930, secs. 693, 704, 705.
42. L. M. 1822, pp. 100-108; Code 1848, p. 444; Code 1857, p. 126; Code 1871, sec. 235; Code 1880, sec. 340; Code 1892, sec. 4130; Code 1906, sec. 4682; Code 1917, sec. 3099; Code 1930, sec. 3329.
43. L. M. 1822, pp. 114-116; Code 1848, p. 695; Code 1857, p. 135; Code 1871, sec. 280; Code 1880, sec. 389; Code 1892, sec. 769; Code 1906, sec. 831; Code 1917, sec. 637; Code 1930, sec. 632.
44. L. M. 1822, pp. 108-113; Code 1848, p. 457; Code 1857, p. 131; Code 1871, sec. 257; Code 1880, sec. 363; Code 1892, sec. 828; Code 1906, sec. 893; Code 1917, sec. 4060; Code 1930, sec. 651; L. M. 1938, pp. 655-656.
45. L. M. 1938, p. 656.
46. Code 1857, p. 415; Code 1871, sec. 1359; Code 1880, sec. 2141; Code 1892, sec. 286; Code 1906, sec. 304; Code 1917, sec. 3677; Code 1930, sec. 210.
47. Code 1857, pp. 480, 626; Code 1871, secs. 532, 2821; Code 1880, secs. 2268, 3112; Code 1892, secs. 917, 1459; Code 1906, secs. 993, 1532; Code 1917, secs. 713, 1294; Code 1930, secs. 740, 1320.
48. L. M. 1822, pp. 108-113; Code 1848, p. 454; Code 1857, p. 128; Code 1871, sec. 245; Code 1880, sec. 351; Code 1892, sec. 816; Code 1906, sec. 881; Code 1917, sec . 4048; Code 1930, sec. 639.
49. Code 1857, p. 130; Code 1871, sec. 255; Code 1880, sec. 361; Code 1892, sec. 826; Code 1906, sec. 891; Code 1917, sec. 4058; Code 1930, sec. 649.
50. L. M. 1822, pp. 25-75; Code 1848, p. 878; Code 1857, p. 498; Code 1871, sec. 731; Code 1880, sec. 1666; Code 1892, secs. 2372-2373; Code 1906, secs. 2701-2702; L. M. 1908, p. 192; Code 1917, secs. 2194-2195; Code 1930, secs. 2047-2048.

Governmental Organization and Records System (First entry, p. 79)

Arrests for crimes and offenses may be made by the sheriff, his deputies, or by any constable or conservator of the peace within his county, or by the marshall or policeman of any city, town, or village within the county. Private persons may also make arrests. All persons, when commanded to do so by an officer seeking to arrest an offender, must aid and assist in making the arrest, and must obey the commands of the arresting officer. Arrests for criminal offenses and to prevent a breach of the peace may be made at any time and at any place. An officer or private person may make arrests without warrant for an indictable offense committed, a breach of the peace threatened or attempted in his presence, and for a felony committed. An arresting officer or private person may, after giving notice of his object and admittance is refused, break into any dwelling or house in which he has reason to believe the offender may be found. Escaped offenders may be retaken by the person from whose custody they escaped at any time and in any county without warrant. All offenders apprehended must be taken before the proper officer without unnecessary delay by the person making the arrest. All officers and others who make arrests legally as authorized and required by law are not liable to a civil or criminal action although it may appear that the person arrested was innocent of any offense. Warrants issued by justices of the peace extend to other counties, and justices of the peace may issue warrants for the arrest and return of any escaped offender to the county in which his offense is cognizable. The sheriff and constables may pursue offenders into other counties and, in returning prisoners, may place them in any jail for safekeeping.[51]

The sheriff is the county jailer and has custody of all prisoners.[52] He is required to receive and keep any prisoner committed by any justice of the peace,[53] and he must receive and keep prisoners committed under legal process from officers of the courts of the United States, if the subsistence of such prisoners is secured by the officers delivering the prisoners to him.[54] The sheriff must see that prisoners have medical attention and he must protect them from mob violence.[55]

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51. Code 1857, pp. 617-618, 627-628; Code 1871, secs. 2773-2780, 2826, 2828; Code 1880, secs. 3023-3030, 3032, 3033; Code 1892, secs. 1372-1382; Code 1906, secs. 1444-1454; Code 1917, secs. 1202-1211; Code 1930, secs. 1224-1234.
52. L. M. 1822, pp. 100-108; Code 1848, p. 445; Code 1857, p. 126; Code 1871, sec. 237; Code 1880, sec. 243; Code 1892, sec. 4136; Code 1906, sec. 4687; Code 1917, sec. 3104; Code 1930, sec. 3334.
53. Code 1848, p. 1006; Code 1871, sec. 1324; Code 1880, sec. 2219; Code 1892, sec. 4141; Code 1906, sec. 4692; Code 1917, sec. 3109; Code 1930, sec. 3339.
54. Code 1848, p. 55; Code 1857, ch. 64, art. 281; Code 1871, sec. 2781; Code 1880, sec. 3031; Code 1892, sec. 4142; Code 1906, sec. 4693; Code 1917, sec. 3110; L. M. 1928, pp. 311-312; Code 1930, sec. 3340.
55. Code 1848, pp. 447-448; Code 1857, p. 127; Code 1871, secs. 238, 241; Code 1880, secs. 244-245; Code 1892, secs. 4138-4139; Code 1906, secs. 4689-4690; Code 1917, secs. 3106-3107; Code 1930, secs. 3336-3337.

The district attorney must appear in circuit court, and in the name of the State prosecute all criminal prosecutions and all persons or corporations for any violation of the Constitution or State laws, and he must attend grand jury deliberations, when required to do so by the jury, to give necessary information as to the law.[56] The county prosecuting attorney represents the State in the justice of the peace courts, assists the district attorney in all criminal cases and represents the State before the grand jury.[57]

The sheriff as the executive officer of the court is required to execute all sentences imposed by the court.[58]

Finance

It was not until 1922, according to the records of the clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor,[59] that the first real effort at budgetary control was made in Tunica County. The law of 1922 made it mandatory that the board of supervisors at its September meeting prepare and adopt a budget of county expenses estimated for the next year and prepare a statement showing the aggregate revenue by sources, collected during the current year.[60] In 1924, the State Auditor of Public Accounts was directed to prescribe a uniform system of accounts for State and county offices, and he was required to inspect their accounts regularly. Further, the law made it mandatory that all counties adopt the prescribed system of accounting.[61] Accordingly, in 1929 a uniform system of accounting for counties, including a detailed outline for the county budget, was prescribed by the State Auditor of Public Accounts.[62] The expenditures of all county offices and departments are subject to budgetary control.[63] Since 1936, the superintendent of education has been required to prepare and file with the State Superintendent of Education a budget of the expenditures for the support, maintenance, and operation of the public schools of the county for each fiscal year, and a statement of all available revenues. Likewise, the trustees of the consolidated school districts, special consolidated school districts, and all other school districts maintaining a special tax levy must prepare and file with the county superintendent of education a budget of estimated expenditures and a statement of estimated revenues for each

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56. L. M. 1833, pp. 400-409; Code 1848, p. 410; Code 1857, p. 113; Code 1871, sec. 214; Code 1880, sec. 225; Code 1892, secs. 1555-1556; Code 1906, secs. 1661-1663; Code 1917, secs. 1398, 1400; Code 1930, sec. 4363.
57. L. M. 1916, pp. 347-348; Code 1917, secs. 696-697; Code 1930, secs. 4225, 4226.
58. L. M. 1822, pp. 100-108; Code 1848, pp. 444-445; Code 1857, p. 126; Code 1871, sec. 255; Code 1880, sec. 2278; Code 1892, sec. 4116; Code 1906, sec. 4668; Code 1917, sec. 3085; Code 1930, sec. 3315.
59. See entry 155.
60. L. M. 1922, pp. 309-310; L. M. 1928, p. 327; Code 1930, secs. 3970-3971.
61. L. M. 1924, pp. 557-567.
62. Carl C. White (comp.), Uniform System of Accounts for Counties, State of Mississippi.
63. Ibid., pp. 23-24.

fiscal year. The superintendent must attach copies of these budgets to the county school budget which he submits to the State Superintendent of Public Education.[64]

The revenue of the county is derived mainly from ad valorem taxes levied on all real and personal property and from license taxes. All classes of property are liable to taxation unless specifically exempt. The following classes are exempt: Public property, privately owned property devoted to religious and charitable purposes, privately owned property devoted to educational purposes, household equipment, wearing apparel and certain personal effects, farming equipment, farm products for a period of two years after they are harvested, Federal, State, county, municipal, levee, drainage, and school bonds and obligations, bank deposits, lands and other property situated between the Mississippi river and the levees, and timber on land classified for reforestation for a period of ten years.[65]

The board of supervisors may exempt for 5 years, subject to popular referendum, hotels and many specified new factories and industries of public utility from county ad valorem taxes.[66] In 1932, the Legislature exempted homesteads and 40 acres of land from State ad valorem taxes to the extent of $1,000, and the law of 1935 increased the exemption from State ad valorem taxes to $2,500 and 160 acres of land.[67] The Home Exemption Act of 1938 exempted to the extent of $5,000 and 160 acres of land all bona fide homes owned and actually lived in, from all State ad valorem taxes and from all county, road district, and school district ad valorem taxes.[68] Each of the acts directed that all claims for exemption be made to the board of supervisors through the tax assessor, and the board is empowered and required to adjudicate all claims.[69]

The board of supervisors fixes the general tax levy annually.[70] In addition, it imposes a number of separate property taxes, some mandatory,

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64. L. M. 1936, pp. 496-497.
65. Const. 1817, art. VI, sec. 7; L. M. 1822, pp. 357-370; Const. 1832, art. VII, sec. 15; Code 1848, p. 171; Code 1857, pp. 73-74; Const. 1869, art. XI, sec. 20; Code 1871, sec. 1662; Code 1880, sec. 468; Const. 1890, secs. 90, 112, 181, 182, 192; Code 1892, sec. 3744; Code 1906, sec. 4251; Code 1917, sec. 6878; L. M. 1924, ch. 329; L. M. 1928, pp. 245-246; Code 1930, secs. 3108, 6161; L. M. 1938, pp. 157-158.
66. Const. 1890, sec. 192; L. M. 1920, p. 356; L. M. 1922, p. 348; L. M. 1924, p. 597; L. M. 1930, pp. 116-119; Code 1930, secs. 3109-3113; L. M. 1932, pp. 630-631; L. M. 1934, pp. 382-384; L. M. 1936, pp. 181-183; L. M. 1936, Ex. Sess., pp. 32-35, in L. M. 1938; see entries 2-3.
67. L. M. 1934, p. 442; L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., p. 136.
68. L. M. 1938, Ex. Sess., p. 19.
69. L. M. 1934, p. 442; L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., p. 140; L. M. 1938, Ex. Sess., pp. 28-29; see entry 3.
70. L. M. 1833, pp. 385-399; Code 1848, p. 710; Code 1857, pp. 416-418; Code 1871, secs. 980, 1363, 1372-1373; Code 1880, secs. 1835, 2144, 2153-2154; Code 1892, secs. 289, 314; Code 1906, secs. 307, 335; Code 1917, secs. 3680, 3708; L. M. 1920, p. 366; Code 1930, secs. 214, 366, 3227.

others optional. It may levy a special tax for erecting, enlarging, repairing, or remodeling county buildings, and it has power to impose a special tax for maintaining the county public schools outside separate school districts. The board must levy taxes in the various school and road districts of the county for supplementing the county general funds, and for other purposes, if petitioned to do so by a majority of the qualified electors of any district. The board must also levy special taxes to pay the interest on county or county-district bonds and provide sinking funds for their redemption. It must also levy a special tax to meet loans made in anticipation of taxes.[71]

After the tax levy has been made, the clerk of the board of supervisors certifies it to the sheriff as tax collector, to the State Auditor of Public Accounts, to the State Land Commissioner, and to the State Tax Commission.[72]

The tax assessor is required to make an annual assessment of the polls and of all personal property in the county subject to taxation and a biennial assessment of all real property in the county subject to taxation.[73] The real and personal rolls must be completed and delivered to the board of supervisors on or before the first Monday in July.[74] The board of supervisors is required to equalize and review the tax assessments at its July meeting and within 10 days of its August meeting, and on completing the equalization, must approve the assessments subject to the rights of persons in interest to be heard on objections. The August meeting of the board must be devoted to hearing and determining all objections and exceptions filed by persons dissatisfied with the assessments. It is the duty of the board to send the rolls to the State Tax Commission for final correction and equalization. The Commission equalizes the assessments as between counties and

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71. L. M. 1833, pp. 385-399; Code 1848, pp. 710, 713-714; Code 1857, pp. 416-418; Code 1871, secs. 1363, 1369; Code 1880, secs. 2144, 2150; Code 1892, secs. 231, 289, 305, 314, 3227, 4014, 4047; Code 1906, secs. 307, 324, 335, 4534, 4572; L. M. 1908, p. 92; L. M. 1910, pp. 110-111, 145; L. M. 1912, pp. 152, 315, 327; L. M. 1914, pp. 245, 261, 267, 311-312; L. M. 1916, pp. 248, 257, 285-286; Code 1917, secs. 3420, 3697, 3708, 7152, 7163, 7352-7353; L. M. 1920, pp. 224, 366, 386; L. M. 1924, pp. 444, 450-451, 455, 467-468; L. M. 1928, p. 213; Code 1930, secs. 214, 231, 3227, 6392, 6435, 6649, 6654, 6663, 6675, 6725, 6727; L. M. 1932, pp. 466-467.
72. Code 1857, pp. 417-418; Code 1871, sec. 1372; Code 1880, sec. 2153; Code 1892, sec. 315; Code 1906, sec. 336; Code 1917, sec. 3709; L. M. 1920, pp. 366-367; Code 1930, sec. 3228.
73. L. M. 1846, pp. 65-97; Code 1848, p. 187; Code 1857, p. 75; Code 1871, secs. 1673, 1675; Code 1880, secs. 478, 489; Code 1892, secs. 3754, 3772; Code 1906, secs. 4263, 4281; Code 1917, secs. 6897, 6915; L. M. 1920, p. 452; L. M. 1926, p. 417; L. M. 1928, Ex. Sess., pp., 97-99; Code 1930, secs. 3128, 3144-3145.
74. Code 1871, sec. 1684; Code 1880, sec. 499; Code 1892, sec. 3782; Code 1906, sec. 4291; Code 1917, sec. 6925; L. M. 1918, p. 137; L. M. 1920, p. 453; L. M. 1927, p. 323; Code 1930, sec. 3161.

with regard to the different classes of property and returns the rolls to the board subject to hearing objections from that body.[75]

After the assessment rolls have been accepted and corrected by the board, the clerk of the board must make two copies, deliver one copy to the sheriff as tax collector, another to the State Tax Commission, and keep the original in his office as a permanent record.[76] The real and personal property of public service corporations in the county is assessed by the State Tax Commission, and, after the assessments are equalized and reviewed, the Commission forwards a copy of the rolls to the clerk of the board of supervisors who makes a copy and delivers it to the sheriff as tax collector, retaining the original as a permanent record of his office.[77]

The sheriff as tax collector, after receiving the tax rolls from the clerk of the board of supervisors, collects both State and county taxes.[78] He is required to make monthly reports of collections to the clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor and to the State Auditor of Public Accounts. At the same time, he must pay over State taxes collected to the State Treasurer and county taxes collected to the county depository.[79]

It is the duty of the sheriff as tax collector to sell both real and personal property on which taxes are delinquent.[80] Redemption of lands sold for taxes must be made through the clerk of the chancery court as recorder who remits redemption monies to the proper officials.[81]

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75. L. M. 1846, pp. 65-97; Code 1848, p. 189; Code 1857, p. 78; Code 1871, sec. 1687; Code 1880, secs. 502, 505; Code 1892, secs. 3785-3788, 3792; Code 1906, secs. 4292-4297, 4304-4308; L. M. 1916, p. 98; L. M. 1917, Ex. Sess., p. 43; Code 1917, secs. 6928-6931, 6939-6942, 7769; L. M. 1918, pp. 137-139, 206-207; L. M. 1920, pp. 453-455; Code 1930, secs. 3165, 3168-3170, 3172, 3175-3179, 3185-3187.
76. Code 1871, sec. 1685; Code 1880, sec. 474; Code 1892, sec. 3751; Code 1906, sec. 4307; Code 1917, sec. 6941; L. M. 1920, p. 456; Code 1930, sec. 3181; L. M. 1938, Ex. Sess., p. 32; see entries 15, 136.
77. L. M. 1918, pp. 143-146; Code 1930, secs. 3200-3207; see entry 16.
78. Code 1857, p. 79; Code 1871, sec. 1690; Code 1880, secs. 510, 2155; Code 1892, sec. 3801; Code 1906, sec. 4314; Code 1917, sec. 6948; L. M. 1926, p. 215; Code 1930, secs. 3222, 3229; L. M. 1931, Ex. Sess., p. 215; L. M. 1932, Ex. Sess., in L. M. 1924, p. 653-654; L. M. 1934, p. 414.
79. Code 1857, p. 85; Code 1871, sec. 1724; Code 1880, sec. 548; L. M. 1888, p. 33; Code 1892, sec. 3840; L. M. 1904, p. 216; Code 1906, sec. 4357; Code 1917, sec. 6994; L. M. 1918, p. 142; Code 1930, sec. 3289.
80. L. M. 1841, pp. 51-52; Code 1848, p. 176; Code 1857, p. 74; Code 1871, sec. 1665; Code 1880, sec. 470; L. M. 1884, p. 16; Code 1892, sec. 3746; Code 1906, sec. 4255; Code 1917, sec. 6886; L. M. 1928, Ex. Sess., pp. 17-18; Code 1930, sec. 3120; L. M. 1934, p. 454.
81. Code 1871, secs. 1701-1702; Code 1880, secs. 531-532; Code 1892, secs. 3823, 3825; Code 1906, secs. 4338, 4340; L. M. 1910, p. 216; Code 1917, secs. 6972, 6974; Code 1930, sec. 3263; see entries 23-24.

License taxes are imposed by the State and county on practically every occupation and profession and are collected for the State by the sheriff as tax collector.[82] The county is authorized and required to collect through the sheriff as tax collector and for its own use an annual license fee from all owners of motor vehicles in the county.[83] The sheriff as tax collector remits occupational license fees collected to the State Treasurer and the motor vehicle or road and bridge privilege taxes to the county depository.[84]

The county has several sources of miscellaneous revenue. The board of supervisors has control of the county's share of the Chickasaw School Fund paid to it by the State.[85] Another source of revenue is the money derived from fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed in the courts of the county. The clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor debits the sheriff with all jury taxes, fines, penalties, and forfeitures reported to him by the clerks of the courts, and the sheriff is required to collect and pay the amount charged him into the county treasury.[86] The county highway fund is supplemented by a substantial share of the State tax levied on gasoline sold in the county.[87] Poll taxes collected in the county are placed to the credit of the county public school fund.[88] The county also receives a portion of the State equalization fund for the use of the county schools.[89] Federal aid is received to carry on a program of agricultural and home demonstration work.[90]

All claims, accounts, and demands against the county must be presented to the board of supervisors. The board, together with the clerk of the board as auditor, audits all claims and the clerk, on the order of the board,

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82. Code 1871, secs. 1748, 1750; L. M. 1876, p. 165; Code 1880, sec. 589; Code 1892, sec. 3401; Code 1906, sec. 3894; Code 1917, sec. 6621; L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., p. 122; see entries 138-140.
83. L. M. 1914, pp. 100-101; L. M. 1916, p. 38; Code 1917, secs. 5756-5757; L. M. 1920, p. 143-144; L. M. 1924, pp. 113-114; L. M. 1926, pp. 190-192; L. M. 1928, pp. 300-301; Code 1930, secs. 5604-5606; see entry 141.
84. Code 1871, sec. 1748; Code 1880, sec. 5921; Code 1892, sec. 3406; Code 1906, sec. 3904; Code 1917, sec. 6633; L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., p. 128.
85. L. M. 1848, ch. 5, secs. 1, 2, 5; Code 1848, pp. 226-227, 233-235; L. M. 1856, pp. 82-86; Code 1857, pp. 682, 685-686; Code 1871, secs. 2015-2021; Code 1892, sec. 4045; Code 1906, sec. 4570; Code 1917, sec. 7386; L. M. 1924, p. 429; Code 1930, sec. 7241.
86. Code 1880, sec. 2168; Code 1892, sec. 334; Code 1906, sec. 355; Code 1917, sec. 3278; Code 1930, sec. 302.
87. L. M. 1926, pp. 186-187; L. M. 1928, Ex. Sess., pp. 16-17; L. M. 1932, p. 237; L. M. 1938, p. 258.
88. L. M. 1844, pp. 57-86; Code 1848, p. 182; Code 1857, pp. 10-11; Const. 1869, art. VIII, sec. 6; Code 1871, sec. 664; Code 1880, sec. 469; Const. 1890, secs. 206, 243; Code 1892, sec. 3745; Code 1906, sec. 4254; Code 1917, sec. 6885; L. M. 1924, pp. 470, 479; Code 1930, secs. 306, 3127.
89. L. M. 1924, pp. 412, 479; Code 1930, sec. 6740.
90. 38 U. S. Stat., part 1, pp. 373-374; L. M. 1914, p. 260; Code 1917, secs. 3800-3801; 45 U. S. Stat., part 1, p. 711; Code 1930, secs. 281-282.

issues warrants on the county depository in payment of all claims which are approved by the board.[91] It is the duty of the county depository to make quarterly reports of all receipts and disbursements and to return with the reports all canceled warrants which the clerk of the board as auditor must file and preserve as a public record.[92]

The clerk of the board as auditor must audit the accounts of county officers regularly.[93] In addition, the State Auditor of Public Accounts is empowered to audit and examine the accounts of all county officers at least once a year. He is particularly charged with auditing the allowances and expenditures made by the board of supervisors.[94]

The board of supervisors has power and authority to issue bonds for general county purposes, for erecting and maintaining schools, for refunding outstanding bond issues, for constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, for meeting outstanding warrants and other legal obligations, for establishing and maintaining a county convict farm, and for erecting and maintaining a courthouse and a jail.[95]

Elections

A person to qualify as an elector must be a citizen of the United States; at least 21 years of age; a resident of the State for 2 years, and of the district in which he is offering to vote for 1 year; must be able to read any section of the Constitution of the United States, or if he cannot read, understand and give a reasonable interpretation of it; must never have been convicted of bribery, burglary, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, embezzlement, or bigamy; must have paid all taxes legally required of him, and be able to produce satisfactory evidence (poll tax receipts for 2 consecutive years) of such payment to the officers holding an election; and must be registered as prescribed by law.[96]

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91. Code 1857, p. 419; Code 1871, sec. 1381; Code 1880, sec. 2159; Code 1892, secs. 320-321; Code 1906, secs. 341-342; Code 1917, secs. 3714-3715; Code 1930, secs. 254-255; see entry 148.
92. L. M. 1912, p. 210; Code 1917, sec. 4244; Code 1930, sec. 4350; see entries 149-150.
93. Code 1880, sec. 2171; Code 1892, sec. 336; Code 1906, sec. 357; L. M. 1914, p. 299; Code 1917, sec. 3730; Code 1930, sec. 304.
94. L. M. 1924, p. 557; L. M. 1930, p. 443; Code 1930, sec. 3753; L. M. 1938, pp. 356-357; see entry 155.
95. Code 1892, sec. 311; L. M. 1900, pp. 165-166; L. M. 1904, p. 195; L. M. 1906, p. 108; Code 1906, secs. 331, 397; L. M. 1910, pp. 140, 192; L. M. 1912, pp. 160, 161, 166; L. M. 1914, pp. 242-243, 266-267; Code 1917, secs. 3704, 3774, 7159-7161, 7356-7357; L. M. 1918, pp. 257-258; L. M. 1920, pp. 284, 393-395; L. M. 1924, pp. 459-460, 471-474; Code 1930, secs. 237, 247, 5977, 5986, 6389, 6421, 6431, 6686, 6737-6738; see entries 2, 3, 135.
96. Const. 1869, art. VIII, secs. 1-3; art. XII, sec. 2; Code 1871, sec. 343; Code 1880, sec. 108; Const. 1890, secs. 214-245; Code 1892, secs. 3613-3614; Code 1906, secs. 4110-4120; Code 1917, secs. 6753-6754, 6772; Code 1930, secs. 6185-6186, 6217; L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., p. 36; see entries 135, 156-157.

Prospective electors must register with the clerk of the circuit court as registrar, who examines them as to their qualifications and requires them to swear they possess the necessary qualifications to vote, and that they are not disqualified because of conviction for any crime.[97]

The county board of election commissioners is required, before every election, to revise or purge the registration books and poll books kept by the registrar of elections.[98]

A candidate for public office must be a qualified elector, and in addition, must not deny the existence of a Supreme Being, although he is not required to meet any religious test as a qualification for office; must not have been convicted of bribery, perjury, or any other infamous crime, or of giving or offering directly or indirectly any bribe to procure the election or appointment of a person to office; and must not have participated in a duel or served as a second to a duelist.[99]

The Corrupt Practices Act of 1935 requires that candidates for State, district, county, and county-district offices make affidavits that they have read the Corrupt Practices Act and that they will not violate it. The act also requires candidates for county and county-district offices to file with the clerk of the circuit court itemized statements of their campaign expenses, and it prohibits candidates from promising appointments to office or their influence in other ways, and sets up rigid restrictions against verbal or printed attacks on opponents during the campaign.[100]

All officers elected or appointed to office in the State, except judges and members of the Legislature must take the following oath before entering upon duties of their offices: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and obey the laws thereof; that I am not disqualified from holding office; and I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter. So help me God."[101]

The county board of election commissioners is charged with the preparation of ballots for elections.[102]

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97. Code 1871, sec. 343; Code 1880, secs. 106, 108; Code 1892, secs. 3613-3614; Code 1906, secs. 4119-4120; Code 1917, secs. 6751-6754; Code 1930, secs. 6185-6186.
98. Code 1871, sec. 351; Code 1880, sec. 124; Code 1892, sec. 3635; Code 1906, secs. 3702, 4142; Code 1917, secs. 6394, 6776; Code 1930, sec. 5871.
99. Const. 1832, art. I, secs. 3-4, art. VII, secs. 2, 4-5; Const. 1869, art. I, secs. 23, 27, art. IV, secs. 17-18, art. XII, sec. 3; Const. 1890, secs. 18, 19, 44, 250, 265.
100. L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., pp. 33-52.
101. Const. 1832, art. VII, sec. I; Const. 1869, art. XII, sec. 26; Const. 1890, sec. 26.
102. Code 1892, secs. 3651, 3659-3660; Code 1906, secs. 4158, 4166-4167; Code 1917, secs. 6792, 6800, 6802; Code 1930, secs. 6224-6225, 6228.

General elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers are held every fourth year on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.[103] Primary elections for party nominations of officers are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August preceding the general elections, and they are governed and regulated by the election laws in force at the time the elections are held, with the county executive committee discharging the duties of the county board of election commissioners, except revising the registration and poll books.[104] As only one major party functions in Mississippi, the Democratic, nomination at primary elections is tantamount to election. When no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, second primaries are held 3 weeks after the first primary, between the 2 candidates who receive the highest number of votes.[105] Special elections for unexpired terms are called by the county board of election commissioners on order of the board of supervisors, if the unexpired term is for more than 6 months.[106]

It is the duty of the sheriff to provide equipment for polling places and he must furnish a sufficient number of voting compartments, shelves, and tables, so that there shall be not less than 1 of each for each 100 electors in the district.[107]

The county board of election commissioners, appointed by the State Board of Election Commissioners, is required to appoint the managers of elections.[108] It is the duty of the county commissioners to appoint bailiffs to preserve order at the polls.[109]

The votes cast in primary elections are counted and tallied at each polling place by the election managers who certify the results and seal all

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103. L. M. 1833, pp. 414-423; Code 1848, p. 159; Code 1857, p. 90; Const. 1869, art. IV, sec. 7; Code 1871, sec. 356; Code 1880, sec. 117; Const. 1890, sec. 102; Code 1892, sec. 3632; Code 1906, sec. 4129; Code 1917, sec. 6773; Code 1930, sec. 6209.
104. Code 1892, secs. 3256, 3257; Code 1906, sec. 3697; Code 1917, sec. 6388; Code 1930, sec. 3864. The county executive committee is composed of 15 members, 3 from each supervisor's district chosen by party delegate conventions every 4 years (ibid.).
105. Code 1906, sec. 3700; L. M. 1914, pp. 193-194; Code 1917, sec. 6391; Code 1930, sec. 5868.
106. L. M. 1900, pp. 94-95; Code 1906, sec. 4189; Code 1917, sec. 6823; Code 1930, sec. 6263.
107. Code 1892, sec. 3647; Code 1906, sec. 4154; Code 1917, sec. 6788; Code 1930, sec. 6223.
108. L. M. 1833, pp. 414-423; Code 1848, pp. 159-160; Code 1857, pp. 91-92; Code 1871, secs. 340, 369; Code 1880, secs. 121, 133; Code 1892, secs. 3602, 3643-3646; Code 1906, secs. 4108, 4150, 4153; Code 1917, secs. 6742, 6784, 6787; Code 1930, secs. 6177, 6214, 6222.
109. L. M. 1833, pp. 414-423; Code 1848, pp. 161-162; Code 1857, p. 91; Code 1871, sec. 365; Code 1880, sec. 128; Code 1892, sec. 3638; Code 1906, sec. 4145; Code 1917, sec. 6779; Code 1930, sec. 6217.

ballots and a certified copy of the result in the boxes. The boxes are delivered to the county executive committee. This committee canvasses and reviews all boxes and deposits the boxes with the registrar of elections.[110] The vote cast in general elections are delivered in the same manner to the election commissioners by the election managers who canvass and review the boxes and deliver them to the clerk of the circuit court as registrar.[111]

With respect to party nominations of presidential electors, each political party[112] in Tunica County is entitled to 2 delegates to its State convention held every 4 years to select the electors. These delegates are chosen by county delegate conventions held every 4 years. Delegates to the county convention are elected at precinct elections called by the county executive committee, and are apportioned among the supervisors' districts or among the precincts of the county in proportion to the number of votes cast by the party at the preceding presidential election.[113]

Education

County agencies which participate in the administration of the school program are the superintendent of education, the county school board, and the board of supervisors. Four types of subdivisions in the county, called districts, have been established in Tunica County as authorized by law: Common school districts, consolidated school districts, special consolidated school districts, and separate school districts, with boards of trustees for each.[114]

Separate schools are maintained for children of the white and colored races.[115]

The schools in the county are supported by county taxes, by poll taxes collected and retained in the county, by the State per capita fund, by the State equalizing fund, by local district taxes which the people impose on themselves, and by cash payments made by the State from the Chickasaw School Fund.

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110. Code 1906, sec. 3705; Code 1917, sec. 6397; Code 1930, secs. 5884, 5895; L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., pp. 37-39.
111. L. M. 1833, pp. 414-423; Code 1848, p. 161; Code 1857, pp. 92-93; Code 1871, sec. 377; Code 1880, sec. 138; Code 1892, sec. 3671; Code 1906, secs. 3712, 4128; L. M. 1910, ch. 208; Code 1917, secs. 6404, 6812; Code 1930, secs. 5884, 6850.
112. The Democratic party is the only major party functioning in Mississippi.
113. Code 1892, secs. 3256, 3257; L. M. 1902, pp. 106-107; Code 1906, sec. 3699; Code 1917, sec. 6390; Code 1930, sec. 5866. Each county is entitled to a number of votes in the State convention equal to double its representation in the State House of Representatives (ibid.), and Tunica County elects 1 representative. (Code 1930, sec. 5320).
114. See "School Trustee," pp. 150-151.
115. Const. 1890, sec. 207.

The superintendent, whose duties are administrative rather than supervisory, controls the county school fund composed of State money, county school taxes, and poll taxes; fixes the salaries of teachers; appoints teachers when the local trustees do not select and recommend them by June 15; and enters into the only contracts made for teaching services.[116]

The main functions of the county school board are to organize and fix the boundaries of the school districts; to designate the location of the schoolhouse in any district when it has not already been located; to set the date for the opening of the county schools or give assent to the date proposed by the superintendent of education;[117] and together with the superintendent, lay out all routes for the transportation of school children and let all contracts for such transportation.[118]

The board of supervisors, as a direct function in the conduct of the county schools, may levy an annual tax of not more than 1 mill on the property in the county outside of separate school districts for a fund to be used for building school houses.[119] All other taxes are levied after action of some other agency. County taxes outside of separate districts are imposed only after the levy has been approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting in an election,[120] and district taxes are levied on the petition of a majority of the qualified electors of the district.[121] The board may issue county and district bonds on the approval of three-fifths of the qualified electors of the county voting in an election, or on the approval of a majority of the qualified electors residing in the district.[122]

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116. Code 1871, secs. 2006-2010; Code 1892, secs. 3979-3991; Code 1906, secs. 4497-4509, 4809-4816; Code 1917, secs. 7556-7687; L. M. 1924, pp. 416-423; Code 1930, secs. 6562-6580.
117. Code 1892, secs. 3991-3996; Code 1906, secs. 4510-4515; Code 1917, secs. 7330-7335; L. M. 1924, pp. 423-425; Code 1930, secs. 6581-6587.
118. L. M. 1938, p. 545. Until 1938, this was a function of the school trustees (L. M. 1910, p. 114; L. M. 1912, p. 323; L. M. 1914, pp. 265-266; L. M. 1916, pp. 265-267; L. M. 1924, pp. 440-441; Code 1930, sec. 6639).
119. Code 1930, sec. 6725; L. M. 1936, Second Ex. Sess., in L. M. 1938, pp. 18-19.
120. Code 1892, sec. 4047; Code 1906, sec. 4572; L. M. 1914, pp. 131-132; Code 1917, sec. 7388; L. M. 1924, pp. 467-468; Code 1930, sec. 6725; L. M. 1936, Second Ex. Sess., in L. M. 1938, p. 18. The Constitution authorizes the board to increase the prescribed State poll tax of $2 to not more than $3 for the purpose of aiding the common schools (Const. 1890, sec. 243).
121. L. M. 1914, p. 259; L. M. 1916, pp. 284-285; Code 1917, secs. 7352-5353, 7364 ; L. M. 1924, pp. 443-444; Code 1930, secs. 6647, 6649, 6654, 6663, 6726-6727; L. M. 1932, pp. 466-467.
122. L. M. 1912, p. 166; L. M. 1914, pp. 236-267; Code 1917, secs. 7356-7358, 7364; L. M. 1920, pp. 282-284; L. M. 1924, pp. 444-445, 471-476; Code 1930, secs. 5982-5983, 6737-6738; L. M. 1932, pp. 499-500, 547, 548, 550; L. M. 1934, p. 538; L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., pp. 184-185; L. M. 1938, pp. 537-538.

District school trustees have general local supervision of the school or schools in their respective districts,[123] may borrow money in anticipation of taxes,[124] and must prepare and file with the superintendent of education a budget of estimated expenses and a statement of estimated revenues for each fiscal year.[125] The trustees of all county district schools elect the members to the county school board.[126]

Public Health

The public health program in the county is conducted by a county department of health, the director of which is appointed by the board of supervisors subject to approval by the State Board of Health.[127] The department was organized January 2, 1939, and at present consists of the director, 4 public health nurses, a sanitation supervisor, 2 clerks, and a secretary.[128]

The board must fix and pay the salary of the director of the health department.[129] It may establish local quarantine and enforce it by reasonable rules and regulations[130] and provide for compulsory smallpox vaccinations.[131] It may instruct the health officer to make sanitary inspections of schools, prisons, markets, and other public places, and may receive reports of the officer's investigations.[132] The board is authorized to appropriate money to be used in the control and eradication of infectious diseases and in the promotion of public health.[133]

Under the direct supervision of the State Board of Health, the county health officer must enforce the rules and regulations of this board in regard to the health interest of the county; examine as far as practicable into all cases of malarial, infectious, and epidemic diseases and their causes; investigate the sanitary conditions of schools, prisons, markets, and other public places; recommend to the governing authorities of the county, and of

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123. L. M. 1873, p. 11; Code 1880, secs. 703-708; Code 1892, secs. 4003-4006; Code 1906, secs. 4522-4525; Code 1917, secs. 7342-7356; L. M. 1924, pp. 433-434; Code 1930, secs. 6629-6631, 6639. The boards of trustees are not bodies corporate and cannot sue or be sued.
124. Code 1930, secs. 6728-6729; L. M. 1938, pp. 553-554.
125. L. M. 1936, pp. 496-497.
126. Code 1930, sec. 6581.
127. L. M. 1920, pp. 284-285; L. M. 1924, p. 544; L. M. 1926, pp. 433-434; Code 1930, sec. 4926.
128. See "Department of Health," p. 154.
129. L. M. 1920, pp. 284-285; L. M. 1924, p. 544; L. M. 1926, pp. 433-434; Code 1930, sec. 4926.
130. Code 1892, sec. 2278; Code 1906, sec. 2496; Code 1917, sec. 4845; Code 1930, sec. 4882.
131. L. M. 1900, p. 146; Code 1906, sec. 2492; Code 1917, sec. 4841; Code 1930, sec. 4878.
132. Code 1892, sec. 2276; L. M. 1894, p. 34; Code 1906, sec. 2494; Code 1917, sec. 4843; Code 1930, sec. 4880.
133. L. M. 1918, p. 253; Code 1930, sec. 4932.

any city in the county, regulations considered necessary to promote the health of the county; and report his actions, all information, and the results of investigations to the State Board of Health.[134]

Births and deaths in the county are reported to the Division of Vital Statistics of the State Board of Health by the county registrar of births and deaths.[135] Marriage statistics are reported by the clerk of the circuit court,[136] and divorce statistics are reported by the clerk of the chancery court.[137]

Welfare

The board of supervisors has jurisdiction over the relief and support of the poor in the county.[138] The board also has jurisdiction over poor orphan children,[139] and it must advance money for the investigation and removal of insane persons.[140] The board must also provide for the care and maintenance of paupers alleged to be insane, pending investigation, and provide permanent care for such persons after they have been legally adjudged insane if there is no place for them in one of the State insane hospitals.[141] In addition, the board appoints the members of the county board of public welfare of the State Department of Public Welfare,[142] and it has power and authority to cooperate with the Federal relief program.[143]

The pension board of inquiry, appointed by the board of supervisors, adjudicates all claims for State-paid pensions, made by Confederate veterans, their widows, and their servants.[144]

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134. Code 1892, sec. 2276; Code 1906, sec. 2494; L. M. 1916, p. 166; Code 1917, sec. 4877; L. M. 1920, pp. 285-286; Code 1930, secs. 4913-4927.
135. L. M. 1912, pp. 158-159; Code 1917, sec. 4871; Code 1930, sec. 4907; Mississippi State Board of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Instructions to Registrars of Births and Deaths, pp. 2, 6, 10.
136. L. M. 1936, pp. 256-257; Code 1930, sec. 4937.
137. L. M. 1926, p. 257; L. M. 1928, pp. 184-186; Code 1930, sec. 1426.
138. L. M. 1833, pp. 385-399; Code 1848, pp. 295-296, 299, 710; Code 1857, pp. 210-211, 416; Const., 1869, art. VII, sec. 29; Code 1871, secs. 1975-1985; Code 1880, secs. 624-630; Const. 1890, sec. 262; Code 1892, secs. 289, 3143, 3149-3150, 3155-3156; Code 1906, secs. 307, 3566, 3572, 3573, 3578-3579; L. M. 1912, pp. 305-306; Code 1917, secs. 3680, 6189-6190, 6196; Code 1930, secs. 214, 5694-5698.
139. Code 1880, sec. 637; Code 1892, sec. 3159; Code 1906, sec. 3582; L. M. 1916, pp. 336-337; Code 1917, sec. 6199; Code 1930, sec. 5710.
140. Code 1880, secs. 663, 665-666; Code 1892, secs. 2835, 2838; Code 1906, secs. 3222, 3230; Code 1917, secs. 5564, 5572; Code 1930, secs. 4579, 4586.
141. Code 1906, sec. 308; Code 1917, sec. 3681; Code 1930, sec. 238.
142. L. M. 1936, p. 272.
143. L. M. 1934, pp. 472-473; L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., pp. 197, 211; L. M. 1938, pp. 683-684; L. M. 1938, Ex. Sess., pp. 117-118.
144. L. M. 1888, p. 30; L. M. 1892, p. 32; L. M. 1896, p. 65; L. M. 1898, p. 54; L. M. 1900, pp. 84; L. M. 1904, pp. 185-186; Code 1906, sec. 3662; Code 1917, sec. 6317; Code 1930, sec. 5812.

Public Work

Full jurisdiction over roads, ferries, and bridges is exercised by the board of supervisors in accordance with such regulations as the Legislature may prescribe.[145] The board must provide and maintain a courthouse and a jail, and if there is not a courthouse in the county or if it is undergoing repairs or it is not fit for use, the board must provide a building in which the courts and the meeting of the board may be held.[146]

This body is given the exclusive power to make and authorize all contracts in the name of the county.[147]

Miscellaneous Functions

Activities in agricultural demonstration and home economics are carried on in the county with the aid of Federal funds, by the county extension department in agriculture and home economics.[148] The county agents in charge of this program are appointed by the board of supervisors on the recommendation of the Extension Department of Mississippi State College and with the approval of the United States Department of Agriculture.[149]

Provisions are made for the recording with the clerk of the chancery court as recorder of charters of incorporation,[150] marks and brands of livestock,[151] declarations of homesteads to obtain exemption from seizure or sale

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145. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 20; L. M. 1833, pp. 385-399; Code 1848, p. 710; Code 1857, p. 416; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 20; Code 1871, sec. 1363; Code 1880, sec. 2144; Const. 1890, sec. 269; L. M. 1896, pp. 145-146; Code 1906, sec. 307; Code 1917, sec. 3680; Code 1930, sec. 214.
146. L. M. 1833, pp. 385-399; Code 1848, p. 710; Code 1857, pp. 416-417; Code 1871, secs. 1363, 1370; Code 1880, secs. 2144, 2151; Code 1892, secs. 269, 306; Code 1906, secs. 307, 325; Code 1917, secs. 3680, 3698; Code 1930, secs. 214, 220.
147. Code 1871, sec. 1388; Code 1880, sec. 2179; Code 1892, sec. 340; L. M. 1904, pp. 185-188; Code 1906, sec. 361; Code 1917, sec. 3724; Code 1930, sec. 329.
148. L. M. 1908, p. 94; 38 U. S. Stat., Part I, 373-374; L. M. 1914, p. 260; Code 1917, secs. 3782, 3800; L. M. 1924, p. 322; 45 U. S. Stat., Part I, 711; Code 1930, secs. 278, 281; L. M. 1932, pp. 517-518.
149. L. M. 1908, p. 94; L. M. 1914, p. 260; Code 1917, secs. 3783, 3801; L. M. 1924, p. 322; Code 1930, secs. 279, 282; L. M. 1932, p. 517.
150. Code 1857, p. 291; Code 1871, sec. 2401; Code 1880, sec. 1930; Const. 1890, sec. 189; Code 1892, sec. 4072; Code 1930, sec. 4115; see entry 34.
151. L. M. 1916, p. 175; Code 1917, sec. 1560; Code 1930, sec. 5476; see entry 35.

under execution or attachment for debt,[152] discharges and all military records and documents of veterans of the Spanish-American War,[153] and all surveys of land made by the county surveyors or other surveyors.[154]

Records System

The records of Tunica County are in general in good condition, with the exception of some of the older records which were damaged during the Civil War. Tunica County has had two disasters in which records were destroyed. When Austin, the first county seat, was burned by Union soldiers during the Civil War, most of the county records were placed for safety in the 2 cisterns on either side of the courthouse. The records stayed in the cisterns for several months, and those on the bottom rotted from damp. One of the first marriage records was ruined and the roster of Confederate soldiers was destroyed. In 1920, fire destroyed the courthouse at Tunica, and several cases of files were damaged by smoke and water. Some of the records have been lost in moving from courthouse to courthouse.

All of the land conveyance records and court dockets are kept in heavy, leather-bound books, most of which are insertable loose-leaf type. Ledgers and journals since 1922 have been kept in canvas-bound insertable, loose-leaf volumes and conform to the standard accounting system prescribed by the State Auditor of Public Accounts. The newspapers are bound yearly in heavy canvass covers. Unbound records are deposited in manila or steel containers and are preserved in an orderly manner.

The vaults in the courthouse are ample for the needs of the county officers, and the outside storage vault and the records room in the jail contain sufficient storage room for non-current records.

County officers are authorized and empowered to deposit for permanent preservation with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History any official books, records, documents, original papers, newspaper files, and printed record books not in current use in their offices.[155]

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152. Code 1892, sec. 1972; Code 1906, sec. 248; Code 1917, sec. 1823; Code 1930, sec. 1767; see entry 36.
153. L. M. 1922, pp. 359-360; see entry 37.
154. Code 1892, sec. 4398; Code 1906, sec. 4953; Code 1917, sec. 7746; Code 1930, sec. 7148.
155. L. M. 1902, p. 45; Code 1906, sec. 1636; Code 1917, sec. 3450; Code 1930, sec. 3629.

Chart of Government - Tunica County 1942 -
Legend

LEGEND

○ Constitutional

□ Statutory

..... Ex Officio Office

All officers elected by popular vote serve four-year terms.

(1) No incumbent in Beat 1. Two justices from Beats 2 and 4; one justice each from Beats 3 and 5.

(2) Five members, one from each beat or district.

(3) Seven members; a qualified elector from each of the five supervisors' beats or districts, a World War veteran, and the county prosecuting attorney.

(4) Appointed by the board of supervisors, subject to the approval of the Mississippi State Board of Health.

(5) In charge of one county agent and one home demonstration agent, appointed on recommendation of Extension Department of Mississippi State College and on approval of United States Department of Agriculture. Indefinite term.

(6) Appointed by the State Board of Election Commissioners which designates the clerk of the circuit court unless it considers him an improper person.

(7) Three members appointed by the State Board of Election Commissioners. Two-year term.

(8) Not more than 20 or less than 15 members designated at each criminal session of circuit court from the first 20 names drawn from a list of 62 names; these 62 being empanelled from a list of not more than 300 or less than 200 persons eligible to serve as jurors, prepared annually by the board of supervisors.

(9) Appointed by the Division of Vital Statistics of the Mississippi State Board of Health. Indefinite term.

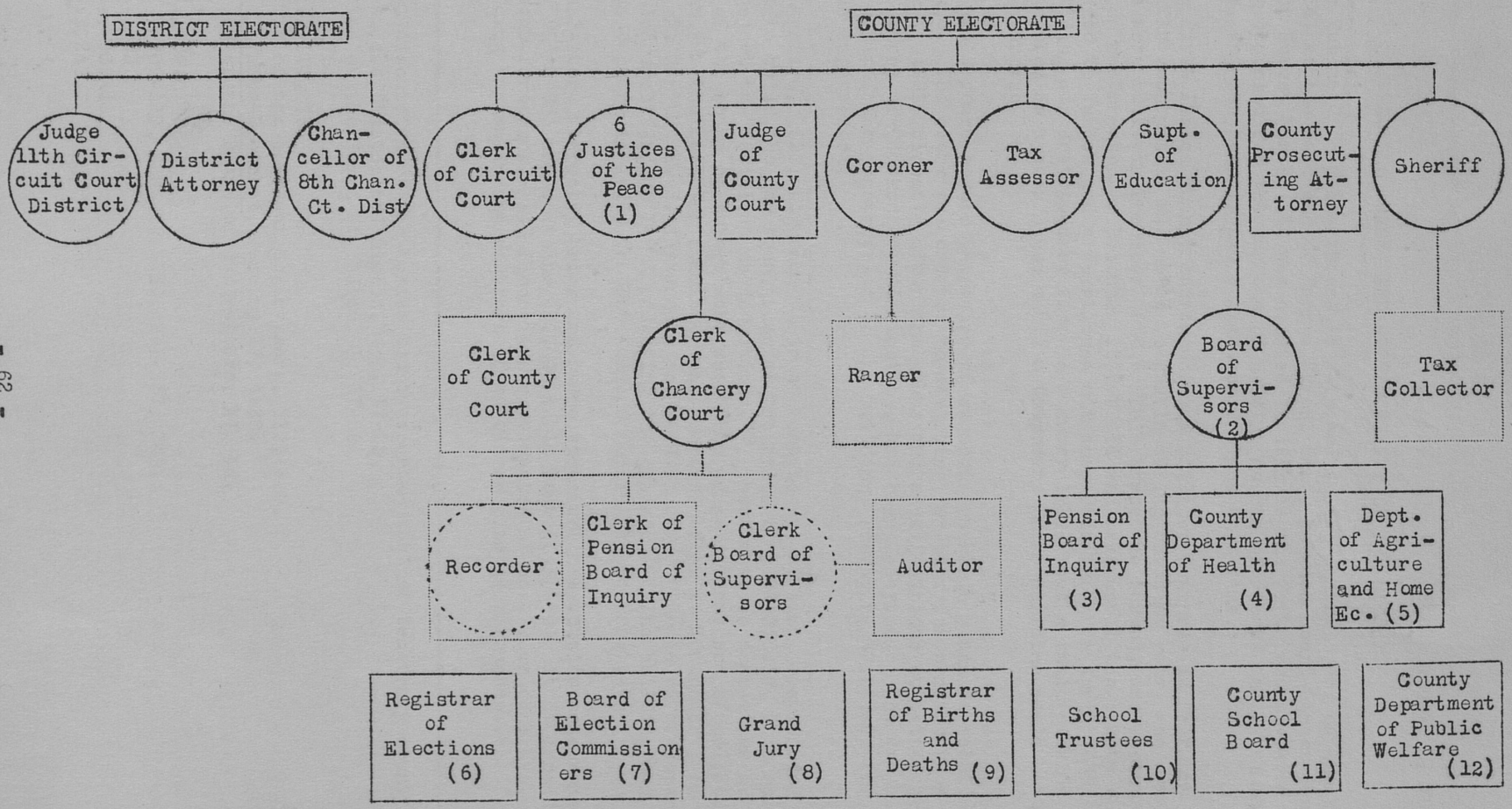
(10) Three to five members for each school district, elected by school patrons who are qualified electors. Three- to five-year term. One member elected annually.

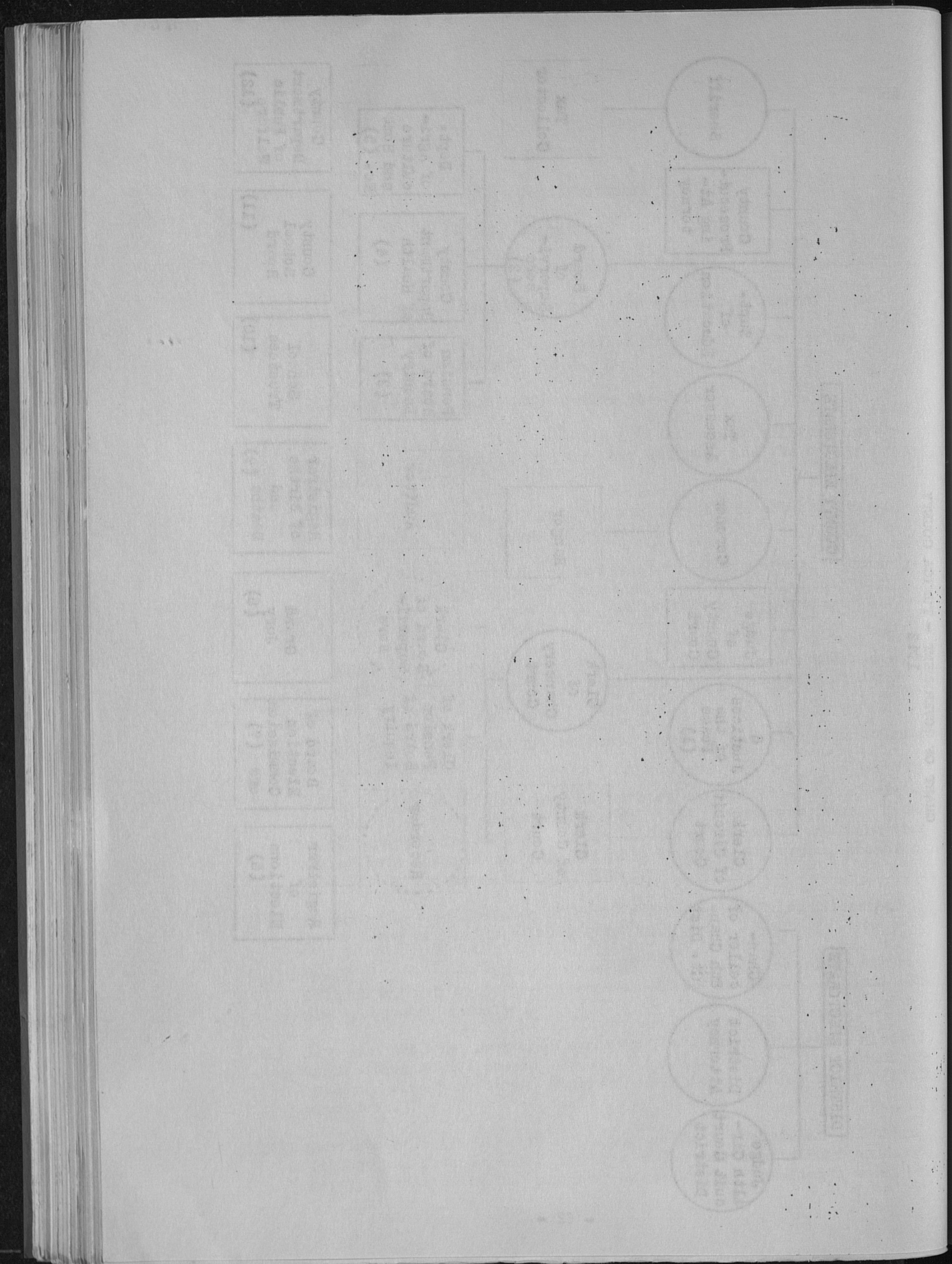
(11) Five members, one from each supervisor's beat or district, elected by trustees of all county school districts. One member elected annually. Five-year term. Superintendent of education is ex officio president.

(12) Consists of welfare agent appointed by State Department of Public Welfare and five members, one from each supervisor's beat or district, appointed by the board of supervisors. Indefinite term.

CHART OF GOVERNMENT - TUNICA COUNTY
1942

CHART OF GOVERNMENT - TUNICA COUNTY
1942





(First entry, p. 79)

3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

The Tunica County courthouse is situated in the central part of the town of Tunica, at the east end of Harris Street East, between Court Street South and Court Street North. It was erected in 1922 as the fifth county-owned building occupied for the purpose of holding courts of record and by county officers, and has been in use continuously since that time.[1]

The first Tunica County courthouse was built at Commerce in February 1848.[2] The county seat was moved to Austin during the same year, and new quarters were built in December 1848.[3] This structure burned, and another courthouse was erected in December 1866.[4] It was used until the county seat was changed to Tunica and a courthouse was completed there in April 1889.[5] This building was destroyed by fire in January 1920,[6] and a small outside vault was used as a courthouse until a temporary frame building could be built for this purpose.

It was 2 years before the board of supervisors began plans to rebuild the courthouse. The clerk was ordered to advertise for bids for construction on February 7, 1922, directly after the plans and specifications submitted by Mr. Frank P. Gates of Clarksdale, Mississippi, had been accepted.[7] The architect also supervised the construction of the building, receiving $3,061.58 for plans and supervision.[8]

On April 4, 1922, Algernon Blair of Montgomery, Alabama, was awarded the contract to build the new courthouse at the price of $122,863.07, this sum being subject to "additions or deductions."[9] There were no deductions but the minutes of the board of supervisors show that an additional sum of $41,563.59 was spent.[10] The building committee was composed of F. A. Montgomery, O. F. West, E. P. Mangum, R. S. Alexander, and J. W. Lake.[11] The board of supervisors also spent $6,000 for landscaping the grounds.[12] The building was accepted on January 4, 1923, the date called for in the contract.[13]

The 3-story, tapestry brick and stone structure has outside measurements of 70' x 80' x 75' and contains 420,000 cubic feet of space. It is considered 100 percent fireproof. All floors are constructed of marble or concrete, and the building has walls and ceilings of marble or plaster throughout.

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1. For a discussion of the Tunica County courthouses and temporary county offices, see "Historical Sketch," pp. 17-23.
2. Minutes of the Board of Police, I, 57-58.
3. Ibid., 78.
4. Ibid., III, 73.
5. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, III, 139.
6. Tunica Times-Democrat, January 17, 1920.
7. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, XI, 44.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid., 84.
10. Ibid., 109-110, 225-228, 231, 235-237, 249.
11. Ibid., 93.
12. Ibid., 109-10.
13. Ibid., 249.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records (First entry, p. 79)

The courthouse is heated by a gas furnace located in the concrete cellar of the county jail, a red brick building 50 feet northeast of the courthouse. Heat is brought into the courthouse through large pipes entering at the second floor on the east side of the building. Radiators in all offices and vaults make the building comfortable and safe from the danger of fire. Ventilation and lighting are uniformly good in all offices and vaults. Approximately 75 percent of all county records are stored in four vaults in the courthouse, in an outside storage vault, and in the jail record vault.

The building is well-kept and is not allowed to deteriorate. In 1939, the interior of the building was refinished, all walls being calcimined and window frames and doors refinished.

The courthouse is in the center of a lot approximately 500 feet east and west and 360 feet north and south. The offices of the sheriff, chancery clerk, circuit clerk, board of supervisors, and the superintendent of education are on the first floor. The offices of the county prosecuting attorney, tax assessor, and the county agricultural agent are on the second floor as well as the courtroom, juryroom, and the county law library which is also used as the office of the department of public welfare. The office of the assistant county agricultural agent is on the third floor. The main entrance on the west side opens into a marble vestibule which in turn opens through large double doors into a lobby walled with marble, supported by four great marble columns, and containing a handsome marble staircase. All offices on the first floor are entered from this lobby.

Board of Supervisors: The office of the board of supervisors is on the east side of the courthouse adjoining the chancery clerk's office. The room is 20' x 22' x 14½'. Space and equipment are adequate for the board of supervisors and for public users. No permanent records of the board are kept in this room. Approximately 48 percent of the supervisors' records are kept by the chancery clerk in his vault; 50 percent are stored in the outside vault; 3 file boxes of papers in the chancery clerk's office and 1 bound volume in the tax assessor's office, comprise the remaining 2 percent. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the board of supervisors, see Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65; Outside Vault, p. 70; and Tax Assessor, p. 68.

Clerk of the Chancery Court as Recorder: Approximately 85 percent of the recorder's records are in the chancery vault, 14 percent in the outside vault, and 1 percent in the jail. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the clerk of the chancery court as recorder, see Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65; Outside Vault, p. 70; and Jail, p. 71.

Probate Court: All of the probate court records are filed in the chancery clerk's vault. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the probate court, see Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65.

Chancery Court: The chancery court records are distributed as follows: 98 percent in the chancery vault, 1 percent in the jail, and 1 percent in the outside vault. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the court, see Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65; Jail, p. 71; and Outside Vault, p. 70.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records (First entry, p. 79)

Clerk of the Chancery Court: The clerk of the chancery court keeps records of the board of supervisors, of the recorder, of the chancery court, of the treasurer, of the auditor, and of the pension board of inquiry.

The office and vault of the clerk of the chancery court are situated on the first floor in the east part of the building. The office, measuring 16' x 23' x 14½', has on the north wall 2 steel cabinets containing 10 file boxes (in 3 of which are the supervisors' orders), 11" x 4½" x 12", and 72 drawers, 11" x 16" x 24", holding 85 linear feet of unbound material. Running through the center of the office is a steel counter, 2' x 3½' x 18', extending east and west 12 feet, and thence south 6 feet. The space under the counter is fitted with doors and contains 54 linear feet of steel shelving on which office supplies and 2 percent of the sheriff's bound records are placed. The office is not crowded, and the equipment for workers and public users is adequate.

The chancery vault is adjacent to and east of his office. It measures 16' x 23' x 14½'. On the north, south, and west walls are located 677 linear feet of steel roller shelving containing 677 linear feet of bound volumes. In the southwest corner of the vault is a small iron staircase extending to a narrow balcony which contains 567 steel file boxes, 4" x 12" x 12", holding 85 linear feet of unbound material, nearly half of the boxes being empty. At the end of the steel shelving on the north side is a steel safe, 20" x 52" x 25". Touching the safe and extending the entire length of the vault (23 feet) on the east side and for 10 feet on the south side, is a steel counter 4' x 3½' x 1½'. Twelve feet of the space under this counter has been fitted with 35 linear feet of steel shelving which holds 30 feet of bound records and 5 linear feet of unbound materials. This vault holds approximately 48 percent of the supervisors' records, 85 percent of the recorder's records, 100 percent of the probate court records, 98 percent of the chancery court records, 2 percent of the records of the sheriff as tax collector, 100 percent of the pension records (except the 1 folder in the outside vault), 100 percent of the treasurer's current records, 39 percent of the auditor's records, and 6 percent of the records of the superintendent of education.

Circuit Court: Circuit court records are distributed as follows: 45 percent in the circuit clerk's vault, 33 percent in the jail, 20 percent in the retiring vault, 1 percent in the clerk's office, and 1 percent in the outside vault. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the circuit court, see Clerk of the Circuit Court, below; Jail, p. 71; and Outside vault p. 70.

Clerk of the Circuit Court: The clerk keeps the records of the circuit court, of the county court, of the registrar of elections, and his licensing and recording records.

The office and vault of the clerk of the circuit court occupy the southwest corner of the first floor of the building. The office measures 15' x 23' x 14½'. On the north and south sides of the room are located 3 steel filing cabinets in which are kept office supplies and 1 percent of the circuit court records. An iron safe, 30" x 42" x 25", located on the east side of the room contains private papers and the current volumes of the grand jury records. Accommodations for workers and public users are adequate.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records (First entry, p. 79)

The clerk's vault is 7' x 9' x 14½'. Steel roller shelves, measuring 106 feet line the north wall and contain 106 linear feet of bound records. The east wall has 36 linear feet of steel shelving containing 12 linear feet of bound records. A steel cabinet contains 45 file boxes, 11" x 4½" x 12", in which circuit and county court case papers are stored. Records kept in this room include 45 percent of the circuit court records, 100 percent of the county court records, 50 percent of the clerk of the circuit court in his licensing and recording capacities, 22 percent of the records of the registrar of elections, and all the grand jury records except those in the office safe.

Non-current records of the clerk of the circuit court are stored in a vault called the circuit clerk's retiring vault. It is located on the first floor of the courthouse, immediately east of the circuit clerk's office but is not connected with the clerk's office, being entered from a door from the lobby. It is 9' x 14½' x 14½'. On the east side of the room are steel roller shelves on which are located 297 linear feet of bound records. Above these shelves are 224 steel file boxes, each 11" x 4½" x 12", containing only 21 linear feet of unbound material. A steel counter is located against the west wall, and underneath the counter are 99 linear feet of steel roller shelving not in use. This vault contains 20 percent of the circuit court records, 50 percent of the records of the circuit clerk in his licensing and recording capacities and 16 percent of the records of the registrar of elections.

County Court: All of the county court records are stored in the circuit clerk's vault. For the housing, care, and accessibility of these records, see Clerk of the Circuit Court, p. 65.

Courtroom: The courtroom occupies the major portion of the east side of the courthouse of both the second and third floors. It measures 40' x 60' x 24'. No records are kept permanently in the courtroom.

Grand Jury: The grand jury holds its sessions in the supervisors' room on the first floor of the courthouse, but its records are kept in the vault of the clerk of the circuit court, except for the current indictment record and docket in the clerk's office safe. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the grand jury, see Clerk of the Circuit Court, p. 65.

Justice of the Peace: District or Beat One, (No incumbent). All the existing records of this district are stored in the vault on the first floor of the county jail. District or Beat Two, (E. M. Dougherty and W. B. Coggins). The justices of the peace of this district hold court in the private office of the sheriff. Of the records of the district, 24 percent are kept in the sheriff's private office, 35 percent in the outside vault, and 41 percent in the jail vault. District or Beat Three, (H. B. Kittle). The justice of the peace in this district holds court in his office on his farm one-half mile east of Evansville, Mississippi. Of the records of this district, 25 percent are kept in the office of the justice and 75 percent are kept in the jail vault. District or Beat Four, (J. R. Terry and M. P. Myers). Mr. Terry holds court in his office at Dundee, Mississippi, and Mr. Myers holds court in his office located on the Myers' plantation (postoffice address, R. F. D., Dundee, Mississippi). Of the records of the district 17 percent are kept in Mr. Terry's

office at Dundee, Mississippi, 17 percent in Mr. Myers' office, and 66 percent in the jail vault. District or Beat Five, (W. E. Watson). The justice of the peace of this district holds court in his office at his home, 3 miles east of Dubbs, Mississippi. Of the records of the district 50 percent are kept in the justice's office and 50 percent in the jail vault.

District Attorney: The district attorney of the eleventh circuit court district, to which Tunica County is attached, maintains a private office in the postoffice building at the city of Clarksdale, the county seat of Coahoma County.

County Prosecuting Attorney: The office of the county prosecuting attorney is on the second floor of the courthouse, to the left of the second floor lobby. It measures 12' x 16' x 12'. A steel filing case containing 60 drawers 11" x 9" x 4", in which there are less than 25 linear feet of unbound materials, stands on the north side of the room. An oak filing case having 4 file drawers 18" x 12" x 36" contains 4 linear feet of unbound material. There is a metal bookcase 3' x 7' x 1' containing 18 linear feet of bound volumes, the attorney's private law library. Only the attorney's private records are kept here as he is not required to preserve any permanent records for county purposes. Accommodations and equipment are adequate.

Sheriff: The sheriff's office is on the north side of the first floor. The room is 20' x 42' x 14½'. Two steel filing cabinets on the west and south walls contain 44 file boxes, 12" x 4" x 14", in only 2 of which are kept records, the others in use containing blank forms measuring 15 cubic feet. The cabinets also contain bound records of the sheriff and 1 bound volume of tax collector's records. There is a heavy iron safe 3' x 5' x 2½' near the south wall. Across three-fourths of the south side of the office is a steel grating beneath which is a marble counter. Approximately 5 percent of the current records of the sheriff, and 0.5 percent of the tax collector's records are kept in this room. Accommodations and equipment are adequate for public users and for workers.

The sheriff's vault is adjacent to and may be entered through the sheriff's public office. It measures 7½' x 9½' x 14½'. On the south wall are steel roller shelves measuring 106 linear feet containing 106 linear feet of bound records. On the east side of the vault there are 36 linear feet of steel shelving, without rollers, on which there are 9 linear feet of bound records and 29 file boxes. About 46 percent of the sheriff's records, 11 percent of the tax collector's records, and 2 percent of the auditor's records are stored in the vault.

Of the remaining records of the sheriff, 27 percent are in the jail, 20 percent in the outside vault, and 2 percent in the chancery clerk's office.

The sheriff's private office in the northeast corner of the building measures 13½' x 20' x 14½'. On the east side of the room is a desk containing 4 volumes, which are the active dockets of W. B. Coggins and E. M. Dougherty, justices of the peace in Beat 2, totaling 24 percent of the district's records. None of the sheriff's records are kept in this room.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records (First entry, p. 79)

Coroner: No coroner's records were found in Tunica County.

Constables: Constables have no offices but are attached to the offices of the justices of the peace from whose district or beat they are elected.

Tax Assessor: The tax assessor's office is on the west side of the second floor. The room is 12' x 16' x 12'. On the east side of the office is a steel case containing 120 linear feet of bound records on 240 linear feet of steel roller shelving. One steel file box 14" x 12" x 25" and 3 letter files 12" x 12" x 3" are on a table on the east side of the room. On the south side is a locked steel cabinet containing 12 file boxes 12" x 4" x 14", and 4 shelves measuring 18 linear feet, which hold 6 linear feet of unbound material. Forty-five percent of the assessor's records are in this room, the others being in the outside storage vault. The room contains 1 bound volume of supervisors' records and 0.5 percent of the tax collector's records. The office and equipment of the office are adequate for workers.

Sheriff as Tax Collector: The tax collector's records are distributed as follows: 11 percent in the sheriff's vault, 47 percent in the jail, 39 percent in the outside vault, 2 percent in the chancery vault, and the other 1 percent divided evenly between the sheriff's office and the tax assessor's office. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the sheriff as tax collector, see Sheriff, p. 67 ; Jail, p. 71 ; Outside Vault, p. 70 ; Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65 ; and Tax Assessor, above.

Treasurer: The treasurer's records are stored in the chancery vault. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the treasurer's current records, see Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65. For treasurer's non-current records, see Outside Vault, p. 70 ; Jail, p. 71.

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors as Auditor: The auditor's records are distributed as follows: 48 percent in the outside vault, 39 percent in the chancery vault, 11 percent in the jail, and 2 percent in the sheriff's vault. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor, see Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65 ; Outside Vault, p. 70 ; Jail, p. 71 ; and Sheriff, p. 67 .

Registrar of Elections: The registrar's records are divided as follows: 22 percent in the circuit vault, 16 percent in the circuit clerk's retiring vault, and 62 percent in the jail. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records, see Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65 ; Jail, p. 71 ; and Clerk of the Circuit Court, pp. 65-66 .

County Board of Election Commissioners: The county board of election commissioners holds its meetings in the office of the clerk of the circuit court. The board does not keep any records.

Superintendent of Education: The office of the county superintendent of education is situated on the east side of the building on the first floor, between the sheriff's office and the room used by the board of supervisors. It measures 13' x 22' x 14½' and is entered from both the lobby and the board room.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records (First entry, p. 79)

On the south wall is a locked steel cabinet containing 15 linear feet of unbound material and a steel filing cabinet with 12 boxes, 12" x 4" x 14", and 2 boxes, 14" x 12" x 14", holding 6 linear feet of unbound material. On the north wall are 30 feet of steel roller shelving containing 30 linear feet of bound records. There is a steel cabinet on the north side, having 24 file boxes, 12" x 14" x 14", that contain 12 linear feet of unbound material. On the west wall is a steel bookcase with glass doors containing 15 linear feet of bound volumes (text books). Approximately 25 percent of the superintendent's records are kept here, 6 percent being in the chancery clerk's vault, 65 percent in the outside vault, and 4 percent in the jail. All of the records of the county school board and of the school trustees are kept in this office. Space and accommodations for the workers and public users are adequate.

School Trustees: The school trustees of all schools except the Tunica County High School meet in the school buildings. The trustees of the Tunica County High School meet in the office of the superintendent of education. All records of the trustees are kept in the office of the superintendent of education. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of the school trustees, see Superintendent of Education, p. 68.

Department of Health: The office of the health officer is maintained in a private building, situated on Harris Street East, 250 feet directly west of the courthouse. The health officer's room is 12' x 14' x 10'. Other offices maintained in this building include a reception room, the nurses' offices, a treatment room, the sanitation inspector's office, and the clerk's office. The clerk's office is 12' x 12' x 10' and adjoins the reception room. All of the records of the Tunica County health unit are kept in the clerk's office. One steel cabinet containing 8 drawers, 24" x 18" x 8", is located on the west wall of the office; 1 steel filing cabinet having 36 drawers, 11" x 2" x 16", and 2 oak file boxes, 4" x 6" x 5", are located against the east wall. The records of the registrar of births and deaths are kept in this room in a separate steel cabinet with 36 drawers, each 11" x 2" x 16", located on the north side of the room. The accommodations are adequate, and there is room for expansion.

Registrar of Births and Deaths: Since 1939, the registrar of births and deaths has maintained an office with the Tunica County health department. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of this officer, see Department of Health, above.

Pension Board of Inquiry: (Inactive since 1934). The pension board of inquiry held its meetings in the office of the clerk of the chancery court, who served as its clerk. All the pension records except the 1 folder in the outside vault are kept in the chancery vault. For the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of this board, see Clerk of the Chancery Court, p. 65; and Outside Vault, p. 70.

Coroner as Ranger: No records for the coroner as ranger were found in Tunica County.

Surveyor: The office of surveyor is not filled by a regularly elected incumbent at this time.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records (First entry, p. 79)

County Extension Department in Agriculture and Home Economics: The office of the county agent is in the northwest corner of the courthouse on the second floor. It measures 12' x 16' x 12'. On each of the 4 walls are cabinets containing 24 file boxes, 12" x 14" x 25"; 108 drawers, 11" x 2" x 16"; and 13 shelves, totaling 161 linear feet and holding 161 linear feet of unbound material. All of the records of the county agent are in this office and in the office of the assistant county agent. Accommodations and space are inadequate although the equipment is good.

The assistant county agent's office is in the southwest corner of the third floor. It measures 15' x 23' x 11'. On the east, north, and west sides of the room are located steel cases containing 20 file boxes, 12" x 14" x 25", and 1 oak file cabinet with 6 boxes 10" x 7" x 18", containing 25 linear feet of unbound materials, none of which are records. Equipment for workers is adequate, but additional space is needed. When court is not in session the workers use the jurors' dormitory, a room 28' x 32' x 11'. These rooms are separated, being reached by different stairways.

The office of the county home demonstration agent has been filled for only irregular periods and no records of the office have been preserved.

Department of Public Welfare: The welfare office is maintained in the library located in the north end of the second floor of the courthouse. This room measures 20' x 18' x 12'. On the east side of the room are metal bookcases with glass doors that contain 36 linear feet of shelving holding 36 linear feet of bound volumes comprising the Tunica County law library. Against the north wall of the room are located 2 desks used by the office force of the county welfare office, and a steel filing cabinet, containing 15 file drawers 12" x 14" x 25". On the west side of the room is a table on which is an oak cabinet containing 7 drawers 6" x 8" x 17", and 1 large file box 12" x 14" x 25". There are no bound records in this office, and the unbound records are kept in manila folders stored in the steel file drawers. Practically all records are indexed and the index cards are filed in the oak cabinets on the table along the west wall of the room.

Outside Vault: East of the courthouse is an outside fireproof vault made of brick and concrete that measures 18' x 18' x 12'. It is used to store 50 percent of the supervisors' records, 14 percent of the recorder's records, 1 percent of the chancery court records, 1 percent of the circuit court records, 35 percent of the Beat 2 justice of the peace records, 20 percent of the sheriff's records, 55 percent of the tax assessor's records, 39 percent of the records of the sheriff as tax collector, 48 percent of the records of the auditor, 65 percent of the records of the superintendent of education, and 1 folder of pension records.

On the north half of the east wall are 306 linear feet of steel roller shelving containing 306 feet of bound records. On the south half of the east side, and above the steel shelves on the north wall are 144 linear feet of wooden shelves containing 76 linear feet of bound records and 34 linear feet of unbound materials filed in manila boxes 4" x 4" x 12". The remaining 34 feet of the shelves are empty. On the north side, at the end of the steel shelves,

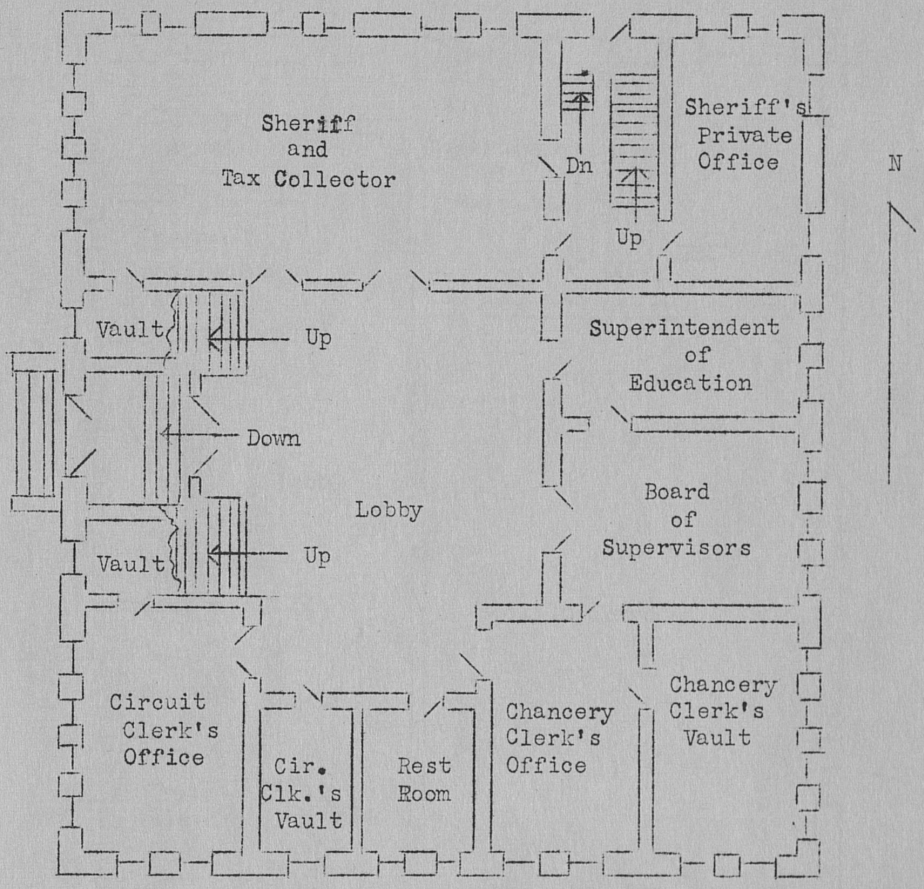
Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records (First entry, p. 79)

is a steel safe measuring 1½' x 6' x 1½' and containing 6 linear feet of unbound material in bundles and 1 folder of pension records. A steel filing case 52" x 72" x 18" contains 62 linear feet of unbound materials filed in 150 manila boxes 4" x 4" x 14".

Jail Vault: On the south side of the first floor of the county jail, about 50 feet northeast of the courthouse, is a fireproof vault measuring 17' x 21' x 12'. It contains 2 steel cases holding 90 file boxes 11" x 4½" x 12" which contain 49 feet of unbound material. On the east side of the vault is an empty steel case 7' x 3½' x 2'. The west side of the room contains 45 linear feet of wooden shelves which contain 45 linear feet of bound records. The north side of the room has 80 linear feet of wooden shelving containing 80 linear feet of bound volumes. The north side also has 2 empty cupboards 4' x 5' x 2'. A double row of steel roller shelves is located near the built-in shelves in the north half of the vault. This row contains 45 linear feet of shelves which hold a total of 90 linear feet of bound records as the books are put on the shelves from both sides.

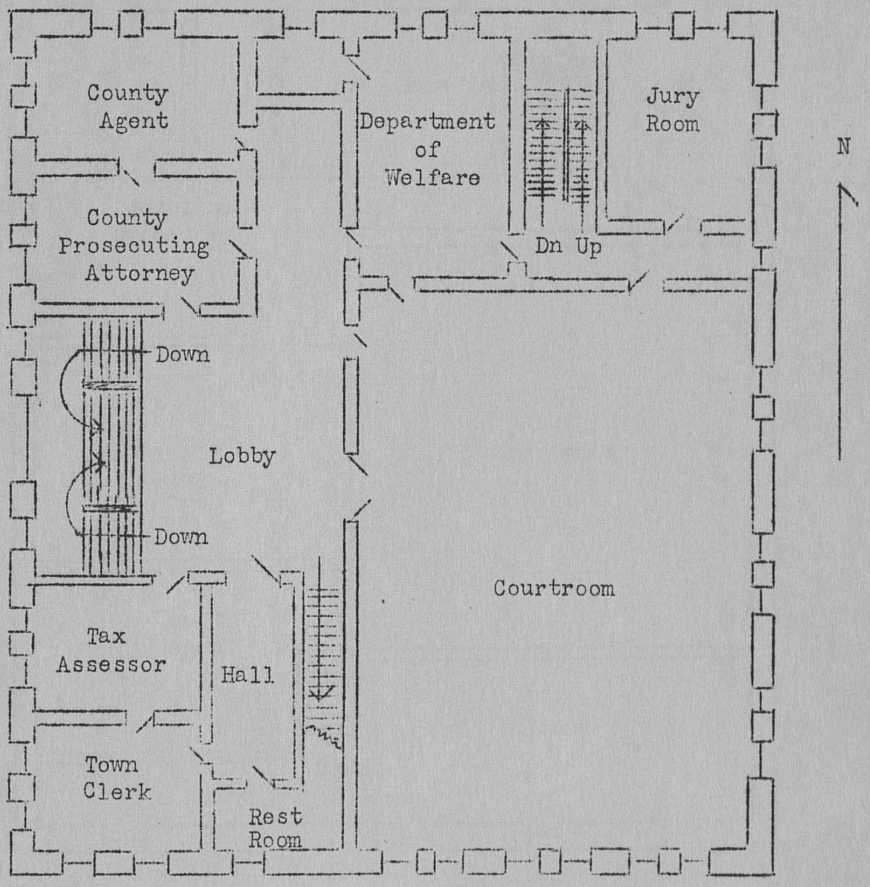
This vault contains 1 percent of the recorder's records, 1 percent of the chancery court records, 33 percent of the circuit court records, 100 percent of the Beat 1 justice of the peace records, 41 percent of the Beat 2 justice of the peace records, 75 percent of the Beat 3 justice of the peace records, 66 percent of the Beat 4 justice of the peace records, 50 percent of the Beat 5 justice of the peace records, 27 percent of the sheriff's records, 47 percent of the records of the sheriff as tax collector, 11 percent of the auditor's records, 4 percent of the records of the superintendent of education, and 62 percent of the records of the registrar of elections.

TUNICA COUNTY COURTHOUSE



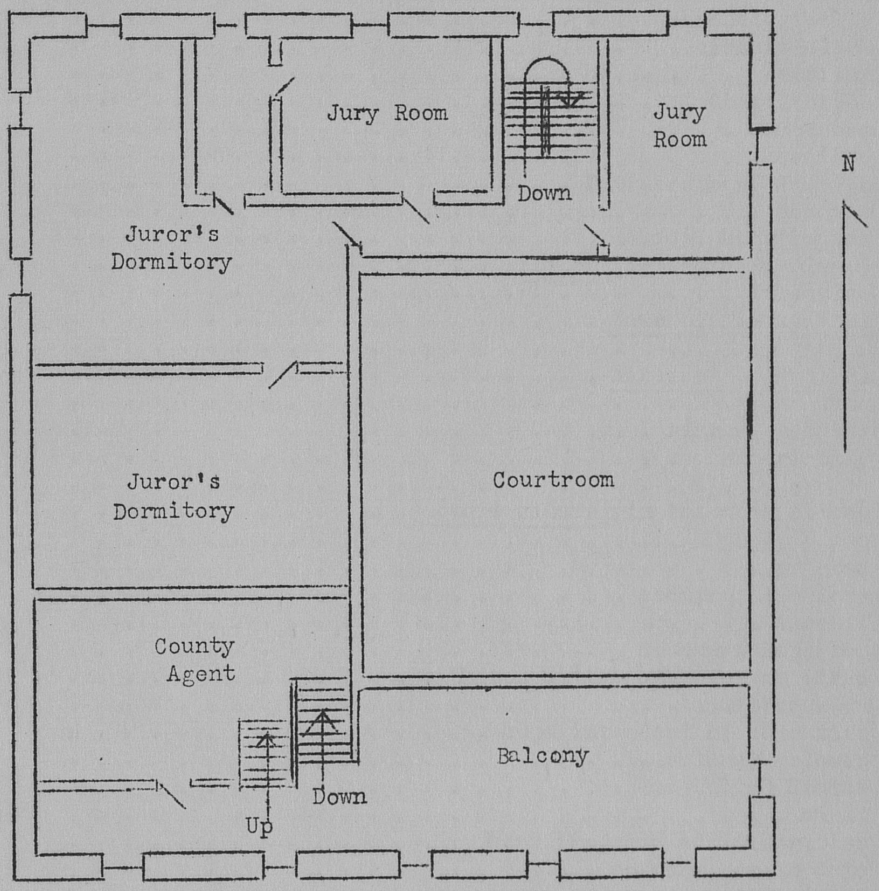
First Floor Plans

TUNICA COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Second Floor Plans

TUNICA COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Third Floor Plans

(First entry, p. 79)

4. ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

AAA	Agricultural Adjustment Administration
alph.	alphabetical, alphabetically
approx.	approximate, approximately
arr.	arranged
art.	article, articles
av.	average
cf.	confer (compare)
ch. clerk	chancery clerk
chron.	chronologically
cir. clerk	circuit clerk
comp.	compiler
Const.	Constitution
ctrm.	courtroom
ed.	editor
Ex. Sess.	Extraordinary Session
hdg.	heading
hdw.	handwritten
ibid.	ibidem (in the same place)
incl.	inclusive
L. M.	Laws of Mississippi
Miss.	Mississippi
Miss. Rep.	Mississippi Reports
n. d.	no date
no., nos.	number, numbers
numer.	numerically
off.	office
op. cit.	opere citato (in the work cited)
p., pp.	page, pages
ptd.	printed
sec., secs.	section, sections
sh.	sheriff
So. Rep.	Southern Reporter
U. S. Stat.	United States Statutes at Large
strm.	storeroom
supt.	superintendent of education
vol. vols.	volume, volumes
U. S.	United States
va.	vault
WPA	Work Projects Administration
--	current, or to date
'	foot, feet
"	inch, inches

The descriptions of the records, referred to in this inventory as entries, are numbered consecutively from 1 to 221, and are composed of two parts, the title-line paragraph and the body-of-entry paragraph. However, a third paragraph is sometimes added for the purpose of making a cross reference. Although a condensed form of entry is used, information is given as to the limiting dates of all extant records, the contents of the individual series, and the location of the records.

Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes (First entry, p. 79)

Titles of Records. Exact titles of records are written in solid capitals without parenthesis. In the absence of titles, descriptive titles have been assigned, which are written in solid caps and enclosed in brackets. If a record title is not descriptive of the contents of the record, an assigned explanatory title (or explanatory words), written with initial caps and enclosed in brackets, has been added. The current or most recent title of a record is used as the entry title and title variation is indicated.

Dates. All dates used are inclusive. Missing records are indicated by broken dates.

Quantity. When 2 or more types of containers are considered in a single entry, the quantity is shown in chronological order, insofar as possible.

Labeling. Figures or letters in parenthesis, following the number of volumes, file boxes, or other types of container, indicate the labeling. If no labeling is indicated, it may be assumed that there is none.

Discontinuance. Where no statement is made that the record was discontinued at the last date shown in the entry, it could not be definitely established that such was the case. Where no comment is made on the absence of prior, subsequent, or intermediate records, no definite information could be obtained.

Description of Records. The description of the contents of a record applies only to the current or most recent record unless change in contents is actually shown in a record entry.

Indexing. All indexes to records, unless otherwise stated, are self-contained.

Condition of Records. Records are in good condition unless otherwise indicated.

Dimensions. Dimensions are always given in inches, unless otherwise indicated.

Location of Records. When all or the majority of the records of an office have a common location, the location is indicated in the last sentence of the office essay instead of in each individual entry.

Cross References. Title-line cross references are used to show the continuity of a record series which has been kept separately for a period of time and with other records for different periods of time. An example is that in entry 66: "1907-- in Circuit Court Issue Docket, Civil and Criminal, entry 67," balanced by these words in the description of entry 67: "Also contains: Bar State Docket, 1907--, entry 66." They are also used in all artificial entries, those set up to cover records which must be shown separately under their proper office even though they are kept in files or records appearing elsewhere in the inventory.

Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes (First entry, p. 79)

Separate third-paragraph cross reference from entry to entry, and see also reference with subject headings or subheadings are used to show prior, subsequent, or closely related records which are not parts of the same series.

Citation. References to the acts of the Legislature of Mississippi cite the year of the acts and the page or pages of the published volume in which the acts appear.

(First entry, p. 79)

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The administrative and governmental affairs of Tunica County, established in 1836, have been conducted by 2 bodies, the board of police from 1836 to 1870, and the board of supervisors since 1870.[1]

The board of police was established as the local administrative authority of the county by the creating act of 1836 as prescribed by the Constitution of 1832.[2] The act directed that the county be divided into districts and that the qualified electors of each district name a member to the board for a 2-year term.[3]

The members of the first board of police were elected in 1837. The board functioned continuously in the county until 1870.[4]

The clerk of the probate court was clerk of the board of police,[5] and the sheriff was the executive officer of the board.[6]

For the general structural and functional development of the board of police and of the clerk of the probate court as clerk of the board of police, 1836-70, see Forrest County Inventory, p. 23.

The board of supervisors was established as the local authority of Tunica County by general law enacted by the Legislature in June 1870, as prescribed by the Constitution of 1869.[7] The first supervisors were appointed by the Governor to serve until members were regularly elected at the general election of 1871 for State, district, county, and county-district officers, and sworn into office.[8] The board has functioned in the county since that date.

The board is composed of 5 members, 1 from each of the 5 supervisors' beats or districts into which the county is divided.[9] Until 1890, by constitutional provision, the members of the board were elected for a term of 2 years, in and from their respective beats or districts, by the qualified

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1. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 20; L. M. 1836, p. 13; Const. 1869, art. VI, secs. 20-21; Code 1848, p. 708.
2. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 20; L. M. 1836, pp. 46-47; Code 1848, pp. 709-710.
3. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 20; L. M. 1836, p. 47; Code 1848, p. 707.
4. The first volume of the Minutes of the Board of Police is missing, but that the election was held in 1837 is shown by the fact that the county officials were sworn into office, after presenting proof of election and giving bond, by the probate judge of Tunica County on January 1, 1838, (Minutes of the Probate Court, I, 1). Official Bond Register, entry 32.
5. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 20; Code 1848, p. 430; Code 1857, p. 416.
6. Code 1848, p. 711; Code 1857, p. 415.
7. Const. 1869, art. IV, sec. 20; L. M. 1870, p. 81; Code 1871, sec. 1348; Code 1880, secs. 2129-2130; Const. 1890, sec. 170; Code 1892, sec. 272; Code 1906, sec. 291; Code 1917, sec. 3883; L. M. 1920, p. 429; Code 1930, sec. 195.
8. L. M. 1870, pp. 81-82; Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, I, 4.
9. Const. 1869, art VI, sec. 20; Code 1871, sec. 1348; Code 1880, secs. 2129-2130; Const. 1890, sec. 170; Code 1892, sec. 272; Code 1906, sec. 291; Code 1917, sec. 2883; L. M. 1920, p. 429; Code 1930, sec. 195.

electors of each beat.[10] The Constitution of 1890 provides that a member of the board shall be selected from each of the 5 districts into which the county is divided, but gives the Legislature power to determine the method of selection and term of office.[11] The Legislature has provided that the qualified electors of each beat or district elect in and from their district at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers, 1 member to the board to serve a 4-year term.[12]

The clerk of the chancery court is the ex officio clerk of the board of supervisors,[13] and the sheriff is its executive officer and must attend all its meetings in person or by deputy.[14]

For the general structural and functional development of the board of supervisors and of the office of the clerk of the chancery court as clerk of the board from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 41-70.

Unless otherwise specified, the records of the board of police and of the board of supervisors are kept in the vault of the clerk of the chancery court, who as clerk of the board is ex officio auditor. In this inventory the financial records of the board have been placed arbitrarily under "Clerk of the Board of Supervisors as Auditor," pp. 138-140.

Proceedings

(See also entries 61, 62)

1. MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF POLICE, 1845-70. 3 vols.
Record of proceedings of regular and special meetings of the board of police, showing date and term of meeting, names of members attending each meeting and names of members absent from each meeting, regulations, motions, resolutions, orders and action taken on all matters pertaining to roads, bridges and levees, schools, improvements, public buildings, allowances of claims, demands and accounts against the county, contracts, borrowing of money, salaries, annual and special tax levies, equalization of tax assessments, issuance of county bonds, special supplies to Confederate soldiers of Tunica County, military relief allowances to families of Confederate soldiers, 1863-1865; defining of election districts, and levee districts; appointment of road overseers and other special officers and employees of the county; listing of toll-bridge and ferry fees; rates to be charged at taverns and hotels; expenses of election commissioners, selecting of persons eligible to serve on grand and petit juries; applications

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10. Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 20; Code 1871, sec. 1348; Code 1880, sec. 2130.
11. Const. 1890, secs. 138, 170.
12. Code 1892, secs. 272, 3049, 3633; Code 1906, secs. 291, 3456, 4140; Code 1917, secs. 2794, 3663; L. M. 1920, p. 429; Code 1930, secs. 195, 2881, 6210.
13. Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 20; Code 1871, sec. 997; Code 1880, sec. 1824; Const. 1890, sec. 170; Code 1892, sec. 479; Code 1906, sec. 529; Code 1917, sec. 286; Code 1930, sec. 348. For the method of selecting the clerk of the chancery court, the term of office, and the present status of the office; see "Chancery Court," p. 90.
14. Code 1871, sec. 1357; Code 1880, sec. 2139; Code 1892, sec. 284; Code 1906, sec. 302; Code 1917, sec. 3675; Code 1930, sec. 208; see also "Sheriff," p. 122.

for exemption from State and county ad valorem taxes ordered 1868 and 1863; [illegible]; maintenance of courthouse, jail, county offices, and public buildings; reports of county officers, departments, road overseers, special committees, and signature of president of the board. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 15 x 24 x 3.

2. MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1870--. 16 vols. (1-16). Minutes of the proceedings of regular and special meetings of the board of supervisors, showing date and term of meeting, names of members present, names of members absent, regulations, orders, motions, and action taken on all matters pertaining to roads, bridges, improvements, public buildings, schools, public health, agricultural extension work, allowing of fees, salaries, and other claims, accounts, and demands against the county, petitions, annual and special tax levies, issuing of county and county-district bonds, borrowing money, special elections, defining supervisors' districts, election districts, justice of the peace districts, drainage and levee districts, legal publications, granting of relief, selection and listing of persons eligible to serve on grand and petit juries, appointing of officers and road overseers until 1931, of special committees, reports of officers, depositories, bids submitted, awarding of contracts for public works and for furnishing supplies and equipment, fixing of contractors' performance bonds, equalizing, reducing or increasing assessments; fixing of penalties of bonds of specified officers, establishing of hunting and fishing regulations and regulations for working convicts on county roads; fixing annual budgets, and exempting new enterprises from county ad valorem taxes. All allowances show clerk's notation of claim number in Docket of Claims Board of Supervisors (entry 148). Signed by president of the board. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. Indexed alph. by name of subject. 1870-1910, hdw.; 1911--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

3. PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1870--. 71 bundles, 333 manila file boxes.
Administrative and financial papers of the board of supervisors, of the clerk of the board, and of the clerk of the board as auditor, including original reports of county officers, reports of special committees, of election commissioners, commissioners of separate road districts, of members of the board, of road overseers, of convict camp superintendent, of common carriers, of county departments, of depositories, claims, accounts, and demands against the county, petitions for and against bond issues to lay out or change roads, for pauper relief, to change assessments, and to call special elections; applications for exemptions of homesteads from county ad valorem taxes; annual budgets; jury lists; hunting and fishing regulations; regulations for working convicts on county roads; orders to the county board of election commissioners to call special elections; and other matters coming within the jurisdiction of the board. Also contains: Orders, Board of Supervisors, 1870-1925, entry 4; Petitions /Regarding School Matters/, 1870-1925, entry 163. Arr. chron. by date presented. No index. Hdw. and typed. 206 file boxes, 4 x 4 x 12; 127 file boxes, 4 x 4 x 14. 71 bundles, 6 x 6 x 12, 1870-1906, 300 boxes, 1907-1936, outside va. 33 boxes, 1937--, ch. clerk's va.

Board of Supervisors - Tax Exemptions (4-7)

4. ORDERS, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1926--. 3 steel file boxes, 1870-1925 in Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, entry 3.
Original papers of the board of supervisors including orders of the supervisors fixing the rate of road tax in road districts, orders correcting names of ownership in legal description of real property on tax assessment rolls, for refunding road tax to persons past taxable age, for return of taxes unjustly assessed, and other miscellaneous papers pertaining to the administration of county government by the board, showing kind of paper, date of meeting at which filed and action taken. Each paper or document shows signatures of both clerk and president of the board. Arr. chron. by date filed or presented. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 4½ x 12. Ch. clerk's off.

5. RECORD OF TUNICA COUNTY LEVEES, 1859-70. 1 vol.
Proceedings of the county board of levee commissioners, including minutes of the meetings of the board, copies of reports of inspection of levees made by the county engineer to the board of police, contracts for maintenance and repair and for supplies and materials furnished for county levees, and other matters pertaining to the levees in the county, showing dates of meetings, description of levees, designating height, base, crown and number of cubic yards of earth required, dates of reports, dates, kinds, and amounts of contracts, engineers' reports on drainage canal, map of proposed canal, and signature of the county levee engineer. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. Outside va.

Tax Exemptions

6. RECORD OF APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM COUNTY AND STATE AD VALOREM TAXES, 1934--. 3 vols.
Record of applications for the exemption of homesteads from State and county ad valorem taxes filed with the tax assessor and delivered by him to the board of supervisors for its adjudication, showing total valuation, cultivatable lands, value of improvements, timbered lands, acres and value, estimated timber footage, uncultivatable lands, total acres, list of improvements, legal description of homestead, taxpayer's name, address, color, beat, school district, section, township, range, affidavit of taxpayer, and official certification. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. 2 vols., 1934-35, 1938--, ch. clerk's va.; 1 vol., 1936-37, tax assessor's off.

7. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS, 1934--. 2 vols.
Record of exemption of homesteads from State and county ad valorem taxes, showing kind and amount of tax levy, exempt rate, year of exemption, name of taxing unit, name of property owner, legal description of property, volume and page of record of assessment of taxes in Land Roll (entry 15); volume and page of record in Minutes of the Board of Supervisors (entry 2), of order of board exempting property, number of homesteads, total assessed value of real estate, exempt assessed value, and remaining assessed value. Arr. chron. by date of exemption. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of owner of exempted homestead. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 8 x 14 x 2.

Maps

8. PLAN AND PROFILE OF INTER-COUNTY HIGHWAY, TUNICA COUNTY, FROM COAHOMA COUNTY LINE TO DESOTO COUNTY LINE, June 29, 1917, 1 vol.
Physical, communications and land tenure maps of Tunica County, showing route of the highway running from the Coahoma County line to the DeSoto County line, fields, orchards, pastures, locations, and names of towns and villages, rivers, lakes, and bayous, levees, profile of highway, showing ground elevation and grade elevation of highways, bridges, culverts, railroads, telegraph, telephone, power and transmission lines, bench markings, and individual farms and tracks, showing locations of houses and other buildings, fences, hedges and name of land owner. No obvious arr. No indexing. Scale: 1 in. equals 100 ft. L. W. Mashburn. 117 pp. 22 x 34 x 1.

9. PLANS AND MAP OF CONCRETE CULVERTS ON ROAD, 1917. 1 map.
Blue print of a concrete bridge, showing elevation with concrete headwalls, and side view wing and wall slope, section of public road, dimensions with bridge and culvert, and engineer's notes. Scale: 1 in. equals 1 ft. L. W. Mashburn. 22 x 34.

10. MISSISSIPPI STATE HIGHWAY PLANS FOR WOODEN BRIDGES IN TUNICA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, June 4, 1917, 1 blue print.
Blue print of a wooden bridge, showing piles and flooring, approach to bridge, end and side views, dimensions, amount of material in construction and section of the public road showing the bridge installed. Scale: 1 in. equals 1 ft. L. W. Mashburn. 22 x 34.

11. ELECTRIC WIRING AND PLUMBING PLANS FOR TUNICA SCHOOL, May 3, 1920. 3 blue prints.
Blue prints of electric wiring and plumbing plans for the Tunica County High School, showing location, dimensions and details of septic tank, details of wiring, fixtures, and piping. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$ in. equals 1 ft. Jones and Eurgringer. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$.

II. CLERK OF THE CHANCERY COURT AS RECORDER

The clerk of the chancery court is the principal recording officer of Tunica County. The office of recorder does not exist as such in Mississippi county government, but constitutional and statute law provide that a wide variety of instruments must be recorded and preserved by the clerk and that certain records must be preserved in his office.[1]

From 1836 to 1869 the clerk of the probate court performed the duties of recorder.[2] Since 1869, recording duties have been attached to and incumbent upon the clerk of the chancery court as prescribed by the Constitution of 1869.[3]

For a general discussion of the recording duties of the clerk of the probate court, see Forrest County Inventory, pp. 27-29; and for the general functional and structural development of the office of clerk of the chancery court as recorder, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 76-80.

The records kept by the clerk as recorder, unless otherwise specified, are to be found in the vault of the clerk of the chancery court.

Real Property

Land Deeds

12. LAND DEED RECORDS, 1836--. 53 vols. (A-Z, A^2-Z^2; 1 vol. unlabeled). Recorded copies of written instruments conveying real estate, including warranty deeds, special warranty deeds, quit claim deeds, tax sale deeds, trustees' deeds, gifts, devises, United States land patents, State land patents, oil, gas, and mineral deeds, and other deeds and instruments of like nature, showing kind of instrument, name of grantor, grantee, and other parties in interest, consideration, legal description of property, dates executed and acknowledged, acknowledgments of grantor, date and exact time filed for recording, date recorded, itemization of recording fees, and certification of clerk. Also contains: Land Mortgage Records, 1836-60, entry 17; Chattel Deed Record, 1836-65, entry 29; Record of Charters and Incorporations, 1836-57, entry 34; and Record of Marks and Brands, 1836-58, entry 35. Arr. chron. by time and date filed for recording. For indexes, see entries 13 and 14. 1836-1910, hdw.; 1910--, typed. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 2.

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1. For a complete discussion of these provisions from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 76-79.
2. Const. 1832, art. IV, secs. 18, 19; L. M. 1833, p. 505; Code 1848, p. 45; Code 1857, p. 425. The clerk of the probate court was elected for a 2-year term (ibid.).
3. Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 16. For the method of selecting the clerk, the term of office, and the present status of the office, see "Chancery Court," pp. 92-94.

Clerk of the Chancery Court as Recorder - Real Property (13-16)

13. GENERAL INDEX TO LAND DEEDS, 1836--. 6 vols. Title varies: Direct and Indirect Index to Deeds, Mortgages and Other Instruments, 1836-76, 2 vols.
Alphabetical direct and reverse index to Land Deed Records (entry 12); Land Mortgage Records, 1836-60, (entry 17), and Chattel Deed Records, 1836-65, (entry 29), showing name of parties to the instrument, kind of instrument, dates and exact time filed and recorded, volume and page of record in Land Deed Records (entry 12), and legal description of, and location of property. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of grantor and grantee on alternate pp. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 3.

14. SECTIONAL INDEX, 1836--. 4 vols.
Index by land numbers to Land Deed Records (entry 12) and Land Mortgage Records, 1861--, (entry 17), showing section number, division of section, township, and range numbers, names of parties to the instrument, kind of instrument, and volume and page of record, consideration, dates executed, and dates filed and recorded. Arr. numer. by section no. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 600 pp. 24 x 24 x 4.

Tax Liens

15. LAND ROLL, 1848-61, 1866--. 47 vols. (dated).
Original copies of land assessment rolls of State and county taxes levied on real estate, showing name of county, number of police district to 1870 and supervisor's district since 1870, assessment number, number and years of tax receipt, name of owner, legal description of land or division of section, block number, section, township, range, grand total valuation, school and road districts, valuation of leases, reservations, and other interest owned separately from surface ownership, number of acres of cultivatable lands and valuation excluding buildings and improvements, valuation of buildings and improvements on country lands, number of acres of timbered lands, valuation excluding timber and improvements, number of thousand feet board measure of timber, valuation of timber, number of acres of uncultivatable lands; valuation excluding buildings, improvements, and timber; total number of acres of county lands taxable; valuation of real estate and of buildings and improvements in cities, towns, and villages; number of acres of school land not taxable; number of acres of U. S. Government lands; number of acres of State lands, totals made by tax assessor, by board of supervisors after equalization and after equalization by the State Tax Commission, tax collector's credit for uncollected assessments, and recapitulation at end of each volume; and certification of clerk, board of supervisors, and State Tax Commission. Since 1934, the rolls have included homestead exemptions, showing numbers and plats of homestead, number of acres of cultivatable and uncultivatable lands, value of land exempted, value of buildings and improvements exempted, and total number of acres of exempt land. Arr. alph. by name of political subdivision. No index. Hdw., hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 24 x 24 x 2.

16. ASSESSMENT ROLLS PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS, 1917--. 22 vols.
Certified copies of rolls of assessments on real and personal property owned by public service corporations operating in and through Tunica County computed by State railroad assessors, equalized and approved by State Tax Commission,

and sent to the clerk of the board for inclusion in county tax rolls, showing name of corporation, domicile, legal description of taxable property, valuation, assessed value, taxing district, and certification of the State Tax Commission. Arr. alph. by first letter of name of corporation. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 100 pp. 14 x 18 x 1.

Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Lands

17. LAND MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1861--. 45 vols. (1-45). 1836-60 in Land Deed Records, entry 12.
Recorded copies of written instruments mortgaging lands, including mortgages, deeds of trust, assignments of mortgages and deeds of trust, satisfactions, releases, and cancelations of mortgages and deeds of trust, and appointments of substituted trustees, showing names of grantor, beneficiary and trustees, kind of instrument, consideration, terms and conditions, legal description of land, rate of interest, dates executed and acknowledged, acknowledgment of grantor, dates and by whom satisfied, released, canceled, assigned or foreclosed, date and exact time filed for recording, date recorded, itemization of clerk's fees, and certification of clerk. Arr. chron. by time and date filed for recording. For indexes, see entries 14 and 18. 1861-1910, hdw.; 1911--, typed on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

18. GENERAL INDEX TO LAND MORTGAGES, 1876--. 3 vols. (1-3).
Alphabetical direct and reverse index to Land Mortgage Records (entry 17), showing names of parties to the instrument, dates and exact time filed for recording, date recorded, and volume and page of record in Land Mortgage Records (entry 17). Arr. alph. by first letter of surnames of grantor and grantee on alternate pp. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

Liens

19. LIS PENDENS RECORDS, 1893--. 1 vol.
Record and abstract of proceedings in suits filed in the circuit court or in the chancery court seeking to enforce liens, rights, interests, or easements in real estate when claim is not based upon any judgment or decree previously entered or recorded, showing names of complainant or plaintiff and defendant, nature of claim sought to be levied on, date of filing of suit, legal description of land sought to be levied on, date of filing and recording lis pendens notice, result of suit, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of surnames of litigants. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

Tax Sales

20. RECORD OF LANDS SOLD BY STATE FOR TAXES, 1848--. 3 vols.
Recorded copies of lists of land struck off to the State for delinquent taxes at tax sales, showing certification of sheriff as tax collector, name of person to whom land is assessed, names of holders of existing liens, mortgages, and deeds of trust, date struck off to State, legal description of land, amount of taxes due, amount of existing liens, mortgages, or deeds of trust, date of examination of record by clerk for existing liens, mortgages, and deeds

of trust, volume and page of record of existing liens, mortgages, or deeds of trust in Land Mortgage Records (entry 17), date notice issued to owners and lienholders, final date of redemption, date redeemed or patent issued, itemized statement of State and county taxes, costs, damages, and fees due. Arr. chron. by date of sale. No index. 1848-1930, hdw. on ptd. form; 1931--, typed on ptd. form. 300 pp. 2 vols., 1848-1930, 18 x 24 x 2; 1 vol., 1931--, 13 x 14 x 2.

21. LIST OF LAND SOLD [to Individuals] FOR TAXES, 1870-1931. 2 vols.
1932-- in Land Redemption Notices and Statements, entry 23.
Recorded copies of lists of lands sold to individuals for delinquent taxes at tax sales, showing certification of sheriff as tax collector; names of person to whom assessed, purchaser, and holders of existing liens, mortgages, or deeds of trust; date sold, legal description of land, amount paid by purchaser, amount of taxes due, amount of existing indebtedness; date of examination of records by clerk for existing liens, mortgages, or deeds of trust; volume and page of record of existing liens, mortgages, and deeds of trust in Land Mortgage Records (entry 17); dates notices issued to owners and to lien holders, purchaser's receipt number, final date for redemption, date redeemed; itemized statement of State and county taxes, costs, damages, and fees due; purchaser's certificate number, date issued, and certification of clerk. Arr. chron. by date of sale. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 20 x 24 x 2. 1 vol., 1870-83, jail; 2 vols., 1883-1931, ch. clerk's va.

22. STATE AND LEVEE LANDS, 1871-75. 2 vols.
Record of lands which have been struck off to the State for delinquent taxes at tax sales and which were sold to State Levee Board, showing number of levee district, legal description and location of property, division of section, township, and range; itemized statement of taxes, fees, costs, and damages; total amount of taxes, fees, costs, and damages; date of sale, signature of tax collector, dates filed and recorded, signature and certification of the clerk of the board of supervisors as recorder. Arr. alph. by name of political subdivision. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

Redemption of Land Sold for Taxes

23. LAND REDEMPTION NOTICES AND STATEMENTS, 1931--. 7 vols.
Triplicate copies of quarterly reports made by the chancery clerk as recorder to the State Land Commissioner and to the board of supervisors of the redemption of lands sold to the State or to individuals for delinquent taxes at tax sales, showing date of report, period covered, names of owner, purchaser, and redeemer, date sold, legal description of land, purchase price, date redeemed, amount paid for redemption, redemption certificate number, itemized statement of total State and county tax, cost, damages, and fees due, and certification of clerk. Also contains: List of Land Sold [to Individuals] for Taxes, 1932--, entry 21. Arr. chron. by date redeemed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

24. RECORD OF LAND REDEMPTION-PARTIAL PAYMENT, 1933--. 1 vol.
Recorded copies of applications made by the Southern Land and Realty Company to the State Land Commissioner to redeem on the partial payment plan, lands which have been struck off to the State for delinquent taxes, showing date of

application, name of owner against whom assessed, legal description and location of property, years for which due, statement of costs, fees, and damages due, total amount of taxes, costs, fees and damages, amount of each redemption installment, date of tax sale, and date application filed. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 14 x 24 x 1.

Land Titles

25. FIELD NOTES, 1834-36. Transcribed in 1888 by John M. Smylie. 1 vol.
Transcription of the original field notes of the United States survey of the Chickasaw Cession as pertaining to the townships now comprising Tunica County, showing dates of surveys, description of township and interior section lines by number of chains and links, designations and description of bearings, witness trees, monuments, creeks, and rivers, physical description of land and standing timber, signatures of surveyor, deputy surveyors, and chain bearers, and certification and approval of Surveyor of Public Lands. Arr. chron. by date of survey and numer. thereunder by township nos. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

26. TRACT BOOK OF TUNICA COUNTY, 1836-59. Transcribed in 1888 by John M. Smylie. 1 vol.
Transcription of original land patents issued by the United States Land Office, showing legal description of tract, section, township and range, contents, rate per acre, purchase price, name of purchaser, register's return, date of sale or patent, and volume and page of record. Arr. numer. by township and range nos. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 24 x 1.

27. ABSTRACT BOOK, 1836--. 6 vols.
Abstract record of titles to land, showing names of grantor, grantee, beneficiary, trustee, and substituted trustee, dower relinquished, kind of instrument, consideration, rate of interest, date of interest, designation of quarter section, township, and range, date and place filed for recording and recorded, judgments enrolled, amount of judgments, volume and page of record of judgments, and remarks. Arr. alph. by names of parties to instruments. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 vols., 1836-1900, 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2; 1 vol., 1901--, 900 pp. 20 x 24 x 5.

Personal Property

28. PERSONAL ROLL, 1871--. 85 vols.
Original assessment rolls of personal property, polls, and of commutation road tax to 1931, showing designation of city or of town, election precinct and supervisor's district, year for which taxes due, number and year of tax receipt, name, race, post-office address of person liable for taxation, amount of poll tax due, amount of commutation road tax due, receipt number, total valuation of all personal property, names of school and road taxing districts, amount of assessment, enumeration of all kinds and classes of personal property and assessed valuation, totals made by tax assessor, by board of supervisors after equalization, and as changed by order of the State Tax Commission, recapitulation at end of each volume, and certification of clerk. Arr. alph. by name of political subdivision. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 600 pp. 30 x 24½ x 2½.

Clerk of the Chancery Court as Recorder - Miscellaneous Permanent Records (29-33)

29. CHATTEL DEED RECORDS, 1866--. 76 vols. 1836-65 in Land Deed Records, entry 12.
Recorded copies of written instruments conveying personal property, including deeds, bills of sale, leases, mortgages, deeds of trust, gifts, legacies and satisfactions, cancelations, releases, foreclosures, and powers of attorney, showing names of grantor, grantee, beneficiary, trustee, and other parties in interest, description of property, statement of conditions, rate of interest, consideration or amount of indebtedness, duration of loan, acknowledgments of parties to instruments, dates and name of person by whom satisfied, canceled, released, or foreclosed, date and exact time filed for recording and recorded, itemization of recording fees, and certification of clerk. Arr. chron. by date recorded. For index, see entry 30. 1866-1920, hdw.; 1921--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3. 49 vols., 1866-1917, outside va.; 27 vols., 1918--, ch. clerk's va.

30. GENERAL INDEX TO CHATTEL DEEDS OF TRUST, 1876--. 5 vols.
Alphabetical direct and reverse index to Chattel Deed Records (entry 29), showing names of grantor and grantee, kind of instrument, date filed for recording, date recorded, and volume and page of record. Arr. alph. by first letter of surnames of parties to instrument on alternate pp. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

31. AGRICULTURAL LIEN RECORD, 1870-74. 1 vol.
Record of liens on crops kept by the chancery clerk as recorder, showing lien number, name of debtor, date of filing, amount of indebtedness, date due, name of creditor, number of contract, and date canceled. Arr. numer. by lien no. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of debtor. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. Outside va.

Miscellaneous Permanent Records

32. OFFICIAL BOND REGISTER, 1837--. 4 vols.
Recorded copies of official bonds and oaths of office executed by all county officers elected or appointed, showing name of office, name of officer, names of sureties or bonding company, amount and conditions of bond, term of office, dates executed, delivered, filed for recording, and recorded, certification of clerk, names of principals and sureties, approval and signatures of president of the board and of the clerk, transcript of oath, and name and acknowledgment of officer. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 2 vols., 1837-80, jail; 2 vols., 1889--, ch. clerk's va.

33. RETAIL LIQUOR DEALERS BOND RECORD, 1872-1908. 1 vol. Discontinued in 1908 because of the enactment of the State prohibition law.
Recorded copies of bonds executed by persons licensed to retail liquor in the county and approved by the board of supervisors, showing name of licensee as principal and names of sureties, designating principal obligor and principal obligee, business address of licensee, date executed, expiration date, license number, amount of bond, terms and conditions of bond, signatures of principal and sureties, dates filed and recorded, signatures and approval of the clerk and of the president of the board of supervisors. Arr. chron. by date recorded. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 16 x 20 x 1. Jail.

Clerk of the Chancery Court as Recorder- (34-37)
Miscellaneous Permanent Records

34. RECORD OF CHARTERS AND INCORPORATIONS, 1858--. 2 vols. 1836-57 in Land Deed Records, entry 12.
Recorded copies of charters granted to corporations, including amendments and supplements to charters, showing corporate title, domicile, names and addresses of incorporators, purpose of corporation, period of existence, amount of authorized capital stock, class of stock (common or preferred), number of shares of each class of stock, par value, sale price per share without par value, date of incorporation, signatures and acknowledgments of incorporators, endorsements and signatures of Secretary of State and of Governor, opinion of Attorney General, proof of publication, date and exact time filed for recording and recorded, itemization of recording fees, and certification of clerk. Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by title of corporation. 1858-1910, hdw.; 1911--, typed on ptd. forms. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

35. RECORD OF MARKS AND BRANDS, 1859--. 1 vol. 1836-58 in Land Deed Records, entry 12.
Record of marks and brands of livestock filed and recorded, showing name of owner, kind of livestock, description of earmark or brand, oath of applicant, name of official administering oath, dates of application and oath, dates and exact time filed for recording and recorded, itemization of recording fees, and certification of clerk. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of owner. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 1½.

36. HOMESTEAD RECORD, 1893--. 1 vol.
Recorded copies of homestead declarations that property designated and described is occupied as homestead by declarant and as such is exempted from seizure or sale under execution or attachment for debt, showing name of declarant, legal description of land, division of section, township, range, number of acres, plat of homestead, signature of declarant, acknowledgment of clerk, date filed for recording and date recorded by clerk. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of declarant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

37. RECORD OF DISCHARGE OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS, 1918--. 1 vol. Last entry May 12, 1938.
Recorded copies of official honorable discharges from the Unites States army, navy, and marine corps of soldiers, sailors, and marines serving in the Spanish-American War and in the World War, with discharges from regular army enlistments, showing name of veteran, rank, company, regiment, or vessel, birthplace, date of birth, age at time of enlistment, race, physical description of veteran, occupation, marital status, date of enlistment, date and place of discharge, reason for discharge, service record, dates and exact time filed for recording and recorded, and certification of clerk. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of veteran. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

(38)

III. CHANCERY COURT

A. Probate Court

The probate court was established in Tunica County on the county's establishment in 1836,[1] under provisions of the Constitution of 1832.[2] At that time, the court met on the fourth Monday of every month for a term of 4 days or less.[3] In 1838, the time of holding court was changed to the first Monday in January, April, July, and October for a 2-day term,[4] and in 1857, to the second Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November to continue as long as business warranted.[5]

The presiding officer of the probate court was the judge.[6] Other county officers attached to the court were the clerk[7] and the sheriff who was its executive officer.[8]

The probate judge was elected for a 2-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district offices.[9]

The court functioned in the county until its jurisdiction was transferred to the chancery court by the Constitution of 1869.[10]

For a discussion of the jurisdiction of the probate court, see Forrest County Inventory, p. 53.

The records of the probate court as required by law are kept by the chancellor in his vault.[11]

38. DOCKET OF PROBATE COURT, 1858-69. 2 vols.
Record and abstract of all papers and pleadings filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of each case in the probate court, showing docket number, names of litigants, decedent, estate, other parties in interest, names of solicitors, cause of action or matter filed for probate, title of each application or other paper filed, dates of service or proof of publication of

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1. Minutes of the Probate Court, I, 2.
2. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 18; L. M. 1833, p. 444; Code 1848, p. 721; Code 1857, p. 423.
3. L. M. 1821, p. 39.
4. L. M. 1838, p. 334; Code 1848, p. 752.
5. Code 1857, p. 428.
6. L. M. 1833, p. 444; Code 1848, p. 721; Code 1857, p. 423. From 1866 to 1870, the judge of the probate court served as judge of the county court (L. M. 1866, p. 1).
7. L. M. 1833, p. 444; Code 1848, p. 721; Code 1857, p. 425.
8. L. M. 1833, p. 442; Code 1848, p. 719; Code 1857, p. 428.
9. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 18.
10. Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 16.
11. Code 1871, sec. 996; Code 1880, sec. 1824; Code 1892, sec. 479; Code 1906, sec. 529; Code 1917, sec. 286; Code 1930, sec. 348.

process issued, date and term of hearing, volume and page of record in Minutes of the Probate Court (entry 43), orders and judgments, dates ordered, and statement of costs and fees. Arr. numer. by docket no. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 3.

39. WILLS AND INVENTORIES, 1837-69. 2 vols. Title varies: Will Record, 1837-55, 1 vol.

Recorded copies of wills and last testaments filed for probate, showing date instrument executed, kind of instrument, names of decedent, heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries, executors, trustees, and witnesses, place of execution, terms and conditions of instrument, signatures of testators and witnesses, date and exact time filed for recording, date recorded, and certification of clerk. Also contains: Record of Inventories and Accounts, entry 57. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

For record of wills, 1870--, see entry 55.

40. RECORD OF BONDS AND LETTERS, 1837-69. 4 vols.

Contains recorded copies of documents issued by the probate court:

i. Bonds, cost, appeal, appearance, executors', and administrators', showing date bond executed, names of principals, names of sureties, amount of bond, statement of conditions, acknowledgments of sureties, approval of bond by clerk of court, and date of approval.

ii. Letters testamentary and of administration, showing venue, jurisdiction, names of decedents, executors and administrators, statements of authority granted, signature of judge issuing letters, attestation, exact time filed for recording, date recorded, and certification of clerk.

Also contains: Guardians Bonds and Letters Record, 1837-65, entry 41. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

For record of bonds and letters, 1870--, see entry 56.

41. GUARDIANS Bonds and Letters Record, 1866-69, 1 vol. 1837-65 in Record of Bonds and Letters, entry 40.

Recorded copies of guardians' bonds and of letters of guardianship issued by the probate court.

i. Recorded copies of bonds show date executed, names of principals, names of sureties, amount of bond, statement of conditions, acknowledgments of sureties, approval of bond by clerk of court, and date of approval.

ii. Recorded copies of letters of guardianship show venue, jurisdiction, names of guardian and ward, statements of authority granted, signature of judge issuing letters, attestation, exact time filed for recording, date recorded, and certification of clerk.

Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

For record of bonds and letters, 1870--, see entry 56.

42. RECORD OF CLAIMS, 1837-69. 1 vol.

Register of claims against estates, showing name of decedent, date filed, nature and amount of claim, name of claimant, credits, debits, and balances.

Arr. chron. by date registered. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

For record of claims against estates, 1870--, see entry 58.

43. MINUTES OF THE PROBATE COURT, 1836-69. 3 vols.
Record of the proceedings of the probate court, showing date of term of court, day of term, name of county, name of presiding judge, case number, names of litigants, petitioners, attorneys and other parties in interest, cause of action or matter filed for probate, dates of service or proof of publication, interlocutory and final rulings, orders and decrees of the court, date rendered, amount of judgment or decree rendered, approval by court of costs, appearance, appeal and execution bonds, and of bonds of administrators, executors and guardians, statement of and allowance of costs and fees, final disposition of each case, and signature of presiding judge. Arr. chron. by date of court term. For index, see entry 44. Hdw. under ptd. hdg. 350 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

For proceedings in probate matters, 1870--, see entry 59.

44. INDEX TO MINUTES PROBATE COURT, 1836-69. 2 vols.
Alphabetical direct and reverse index to Minutes of the Probate Court (entry 43), showing names of litigants and volume and page of record. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of litigants. Hdw. 50 pp. 14 x 24 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

B. Chancery Court

An amendment approved in 1854 by popular vote, presented to the Legislature in 1856, and made a part of the Constitution in 1856, required that chancery court be held in each county by the judge of the circuit court, at least 1 week of every circuit term being given to chancery matters.[1]

The Constitution of 1869 directed the Legislature to divide the State into convenient chancery court districts, and stipulated that court should be held in each county at least 4 times a year.[2] Tunica County was assigned to the fifteenth chancery district by the act of May 4, 1870, which also provided that court be held beginning the first Monday of January, April, July, and October of each year for 6 days.[3] The first session was held in July 1870;[4]

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1. L. M. 1854, pp. 173-174; L. M. 1856, p. 28; Code 1857, p. 38.
2. Const. 1869, art. V, sec. 16. Jurisdiction of probate matters was given to the chancery court (ibid.). From 1836 to 1838 all chancery cases were heard in the superior chancery court held each year in January and July at Jackson, the State Capital (Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 16). In 1839, the Legislature divided the State into 3 superior chancery districts, placing Tunica in the third. All chancery cases for the district were heard at Oxford, the county seat of Lafayette County (L. M. 1839, p. 82; L. M. 1841, p. 131). In 1842, Tunica was placed in the northern inferior chancery district, for which court was held in Holly Springs, the county seat of Marshall County, twice each year (L. M. 1842, p. 57; Code 1848, pp. 775-779). This inferior court was presided over by a vice-chancellor and had concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court of chancery (L. M., 1842 pp. 57-65).
3. L. M. 1870, p. 45. This district was composed of Tunica, Coahoma, Bolivar, and Washington Counties (ibid.; Code 1871, sec. 899).
4. Minutes Chancery Court, II, 1.

Chancery Court (Next entry 45, p. 94)

and this court has functioned in the county since that time. In 1880, the county was attached to the third district, and in 1892 to the seventh, in which it has since remained.[5]

The Constitution of 1890, in providing for the establishment of chancery courts, requires that sessions be held at least twice in each year.[6] At present, court convenes the second Mondays of June and December for 6 days.[7]

The presiding officer of the chancery court is the chancellor of the district.[8] County officers attached to the court are the clerk,[9] and the sheriff who is the executive officer.[10] The chancellor may appoint masters in chancery,[11] special commissioners,[12] receivers,[13] and since 1916, a court stenographer in the district,[14] and a county probation officer who may be the superintendent of education.[15]

Under constitutional provision, from 1869 to 1912, the chancellor was appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate, for a 4-year term.[16] By an amendment to the Constitution, proposed by the Legislature in 1912, approved by popular vote in 1913, and made a part of the Constitution

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5. Code 1880, sec. 1793; Code 1892, sec. 455; Code 1906, sec. 494; Code 1917, sec. 245; Code 1930, sec. 318.
6. Const. 1890, sec. 158; Code 1892, sec. 448; Code 1906, sec. 496; Code 1917, sec. 249; Code 1930, sec. 318.
7. Code 1930, sec. 318.
8. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 16; Code 1848, p. 754; Code 1857, p. 540; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 19; Code 1871, sec. 979; Code 1880, sec. 1803; Const. 1890, sec. 153; Code 1892, sec. 456; Code 1906, sec. 515; Code 1917, sec. 261; Code 1930, sec. 319.
9. L. M. 1833, p. 408; L. M. 1848, p. 110; Code 1848, p. 780; Code 1857, p. 542; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 19; L. M. 1880, p. 125; Code 1871, sec. 357; Code 1880, sec. 118; Const. 1890, sec. 168; Code 1892, sec. 3633; Code 1906, sec. 4140; Code 1917, sec. 6774; Code 1930, sec. 6210.
10. Code 1823, p. 84; Code 1848, p. 750; Code 1857, p. 543; Code 1871, sec. 1277; Code 1880, sec. 2278; Code 1892, sec. 4116; Code 1906, sec. 4668; Code 1917, sec. 3085; Code 1930, sec. 3315.
11. Code 1823, p. 84; Code 1848, p. 756; Code 1857, p. 552; Code 1871, sec. 1057; Code 1880, sec. 1927; Code 1892, sec. 985; Code 1906, sec 635; Code 1917, sec. 395; Code 1930, sec. 445.
12. Code 1823, p. 84; Code 1848, p. 756; Code 1857, p. 552; Code 1871, sec. 1058; Code 1880, sec. 1928; Code 1892, sec. 585; Code 1906, sec. 636; Code 1917, sec. 396; Code 1930, sec. 451.
13. Code 1848, p. 771; Code 1857, p. 552; Code 1871, secs. 1052-1055; Code 1880, secs. 1921, 1924; Code 1892, secs. 574, 576, 577; Code 1906, secs. 627, 632; Code 1917, secs. 387, 397; Code 1930, secs. 114, 435.
14. L. M. 1916, pp. 227-228; Code 1917, sec. 3138; Code 1930, sec. 709.
15. L. M. 1916, p. 115; Code 1917, sec. 4982; Code 1930, sec. 7263.
16. Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 17; Code 1871, sec. 976; Code 1880, sec. 1803; Const. 1890, sec. 154; Code 1892, sec. 456; Code 1906, sec. 505.

in 1914, provision was made for the election of the chancellor by the qualified voters of the district, the term of office remaining the same.[17]

By constitutional amendment in 1856, the clerk of the circuit court was assigned the duties of the clerk of the chancery court. He was elected every 2 years by the qualified electors of the county.[18] Until 1904, the offices of chancery clerk and circuit clerk in Tunica County were held by the same person.[19]

The Constitutions of 1869 and 1890 provided for the office of clerk of the chancery court, and it has functioned in the county since that time.[20] The clerk is elected for a 4-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[21]

The office of court stenographer, filled by appointment by the chancellor, has functioned in the district and in the chancery court of Tunica County since 1916. The stenographer serves a 4-year term unless removed by the chancellor.[22]

For the general structural and functional development of the chancery court from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 92-107.

Unless otherwise specified, the records of the chancery court are kept in the vault of the clerk of the chancery court.

Original Case Papers

45. GENERAL DOCKET FILE, 1870--, 152 file boxes.
Original pleadings filed with all causes filed and tried in which final decree or order has been rendered and judgment ordered and the case closed; original pleadings filed with all causes concerning matters testamentary, of

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17. L. M. 1912, pp. 449-450; Const. 1890, sec. 153; Code 1917, sec. 261; Code 1930, sec. 319. Given authority by the Constitution to determine the manner and time of election of chancellors, the Legislature has prescribed that they be selected for a term of 4 years concurrently with the election of representatives in Congress; that is, in 1914 and every 4 years thereafter (Code 1917, sec. 6837; Code 1930, sec. 6281).
18. L. M. 1856, p. 28; Const. 1832, art. VI, sec. 19; Code 1857, p. 542. The office of the clerk of the chancery court commenced to function as a county office in 1856 (Code 1857, p. 542).
19. Register of Commissioners, 1899-1904. The offices of the clerk of the circuit and chancery courts may be held by the same person in the discretion of the board of supervisors, in a county of not exceeding 15,000 inhabitants (Code 1871, sec. 322; Code 1880, sec. 418; Code 1892, sec. 3073).
20. Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 19; Const. 1890, sec. 168. See also entry 32.
21. Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 19; Code 1871, sec. 359; Code 1880, sec. 118; Const. 1890, sec. 168; Code 1892, sec. 3633; Code 1906, sec. 4140; Code 1917, sec. 6774; Code 1930, sec. 6210.
22. L. M. 1916, p. 228; Code 1917, secs. 3140, 3149; Code 1930, secs. 711, 714.

administration, divorce and alimony, minors' business, idiocy, lunacy, and persons of unsound mind in which final decree or order has not been rendered, and causes are still pending hearing, showing time filed, docket number in General Docket Chancery Court (entry 47), names of parties litigants and of solicitors, cause of action and dates filed, dates of service and proof of publication of process issued, and volume and page of record in Minutes of Chancery Court (entry 59). Arr. numer. by docket no. and chron. thereunder by date of filing. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 4 x 12 x 12.

46. REALTY CASES, 1870--. 70 file boxes.
Original pleadings filed with all causes pertaining to real property filed and tried and in which final decree or order has been rendered and judgment ordered and the case closed; original pleadings filed with all causes pertaining to real property filed and tried and in which final decree or order has not been rendered, and causes are still pending hearing, including bills of complaint, petitions, bills of particulars, pleas, answers, affidavits, motions, demurrers, exceptions, lis pendens notices, writs, rulings, orders, decrees, showing time of filing, docket number in General Docket Chancery Court (entry 47), names of litigants, solicitors, and causes of action, dates of service or proof of publication of process issued, interlocutory and final orders and decrees of the court, dates rendered, amount of judgment ordered, statements of costs and fees, and volume and page of record in Minutes of Chancery Court (entry 59). Arr. numer. by docket no. and chron. thereunder by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 12 x 12.
For final record, see entry 52.

Dockets, Calendars, and Registers

Chancery and Probate

47. GENERAL DOCKET CHANCERY COURT, 1858--. 7 vols.
Record and abstract of all papers and pleadings filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of each case in the chancery court, showing docket number, names of litigants, decedents, estates, other parties in interest, and attorneys, cause of action, title of each pleading filed, date filed, dates of service or proof of publication of process issued, dates and terms of hearing, interlocutory and final rulings, orders, and decrees of the court, dates rendered, amount and judgment ordered, date ordered, statements of costs and fees, and volume and page of record in Minutes of Chancery Court (entry 59). Also contains: Motion Docket, 1858-70, entry 50; Probate and Trial Docket, Chancery Court, 1871-1929, entry 54. Arr. numer. by docket no. and chron. thereunder by date of filing. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of complainant and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

48. DEMURRER DOCKET, 1858-1902. 1 vol. 1903-- in Motion Docket, entry 50.
Record of demurrers filed in cases filed and tried in the chancery court, showing case number, names of litigants and solicitors, date filed, kind of demurrer, and disposition of each demurrer. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

Chancery Court - Dockets, Calendars, and Registers (49-53)

49. ISSUE DOCKET, 1858--. 2 vols. (1-2).
Calendar of all cases triable at each instant or approaching term of court or set for final hearing as ordered by the court or by consent of all parties, entered in order in which causes are numbered in General Docket Chancery Court (entry 47), showing docket number, names of litigants, cause of action, term set for hearing, remarks, names of attorneys, and disposition of each cause. Arr. chron. by date of court term. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

50. MOTION DOCKET, 1871--. 2 vols. (1-2). 1858-70 in General Docket Chancery Court, entry 47.
Record and abstract of all motions and special pleas filed in causes filed and tried in the chancery court, including motions, demurrers, ex parte petitions, exceptions to evidence or reports, all matters of administration and guardianship not directed to be placed on Issue Docket (entry 49), and matters brought before the clerk in vacation, showing docket number, names of litigants, decedents, estates, other parties in interest, and solicitors, title of each pleading filed, date filed, and disposition of each motion or special pleading. Also contains: Demurrer Docket, 1903--, entry 48. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

51. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1906-22. 1 vol.
Record of executions of judgments rendered, showing venue, date and term of court, names of complainant and defendant, date judgment rendered, amount of judgment, date of issuance of process, names of attorneys for plaintiff, date of sheriff's return, itemization of fees, amount of money made in executions, and signature of sheriff. Arr. chron. by date of issuance of process. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of litigant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

52. FINAL RECORD OF CHANCERY COURT, 1871--. 11 vols. (A-K).
Recorded copies of the pleadings, proofs, exhibits, and proceedings or such parts of the pleadings, proofs, exhibits, and proceedings directed to be entered by the court, of suits involving real estate filed and tried in the chancery court, showing docket number in General Docket Chancery Court (entry 47), names of litigants, decedents, estates, other parties in interest, solicitors, witnesses, cause of action, title of each pleading filed, date filed, dates of service or proof of publication of all process issued, dates and terms of hearings, exhibits and testimony accepted as evidence, legal description of property involved, of liens, rights, interest, and easements sought to be enforced, interlocutory and final rulings, orders, and decrees of the court, dates rendered, amount of judgment ordered, final disposition of each cause, statement of costs and fees, and volume and page of record in Minutes of Chancery Court (entry 59). Arr. chron. by date of entry in record and chron. thereunder by date of term of disposition. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.
For original papers filed, see entry 46.

Probate (See also entries 38, 39)

53. GENERAL ESTATE DOCKET, 1870--. 3 vols.
Abstract record of unfinished proceedings in matters testamentary and of administration, in matters concerning minors, and in cases of persons of unsound

mind, showing name of person whose estate is subject to proceedings, docket number in General Docket Chancery Court (entry 47), title of each instrument filed, date of filing, dates of issuance of process and proof of service or publication, and volume and page of record in Minutes of Chancery Court (entry 59). Arr. numer. by docket no. Indexed alph. by name of estate and alph. thereunder by name of heir. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

54. PROBATE AND TRIAL DOCKET, CHANCERY COURT, 1930--. 2 vols. 1870-1929 in General Docket Chancery Court, entry 47.
Records and abstract of all motions and special pleas filed in causes filed and tried in the chancery court of Tunica County, including motions, demurrers, ex parte petitions, exceptions to evidence or reports, matters testamentary, of administration and guardianship, and matters brought before the clerk in vacation, showing docket number in General Docket Chancery Court (entry 47), names of litigants, decedent, estate, other parties in interest, names of solicitors, title of each pleading filed, date filed, and disposition of each motion or special pleading, and volume and page of record in Minutes of Chancery Court (entry 59). Arr. numer. by docket no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 20 x 20 x 3.

55. WILL RECORDS, 1870--. 2 vols.
Recorded copies of wills and last testaments filed for probate, showing dates instruments executed, kind of instrument, names of decedents, heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries, executors, trustees, signatures of testator and witnesses, place of execution, terms and conditions of instrument, date and exact time filed for recording, date recorded, and certification of clerk. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of testator. Hdw. and typed. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.
For record of wills, 1837-69, see entry 39.

56. RECORD OF BONDS AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1870--. 5 vols.
Recorded copies of cost, appeal, appearance, executors', administrators', and guardians' bonds, and recorded copies of letters testamentary, of administration, and of guardianship issued by the chancery court.

i. Recorded copies of bonds, showing date bond executed, names of principals, names of sureties, amount of bond, statements of conditions, acknowledgments of sureties, approval of bond by clerk, and date of approval.

ii. Recorded copies of letters testamentary, of administration, and of guardianship, showing venue, jurisdiction, names of decedents, executors, administrators, guardians, and wards, statements of authority granted, signature of chancellor issuing letters, attestation, exact time filed for recording, date recorded, and certification of clerk.

Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of administrator, executor, or guardian and ward. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.
For record of bonds and letters, 1837-69, see entries 40, 41.

57. RECORD OF INVENTORIES AND ACCOUNTS, 1870--. 2 vols. 1837-69 in Wills and Inventories, entry 39.
Recorded copies of appraisals and inventories of personalty of estates made

by appraisers appointed by the court, showing date, name of decedent, docket number in General Docket Chancery Court (entry 47), warrant of chancellor authorizing appraisement, list of items constituting estate, appraisers' valuation of each item, total appraised valuation, oaths of appraisers, certification of official administering oath, certification of administrator or executor of estate appraised, and attestation of clerk. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of decedent. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

58. REGISTER OF CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATES, 1870--. 2 vols.
Register of claims filed against estates, showing name of decedent, minor, or person non compos mentis, date filed, nature and amount of claim, name of claimant, credits, debits, and balances. Arr. chron. by date registered. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of decedent, minor, or person non compos mentis. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.
For record of claims against estates, 1857-69, see entry 42.

Proceedings

59. MINUTES OF CHANCERY COURT, 1858--. 10 vols. (1-10).
Record of proceedings of chancery court at term time and in vacation, showing name of presiding chancellor, name of county, docket number of case in General Docket Chancery Court (entry 47), names of complainants and defendants, petitioners, and other parties in interest, approval of court of cost, appearance, appeal, and execution bonds, and of bonds of administrators, executors, and guardians of estates of decedents, minors, and persons non compos mentis, interlocutory and final rulings, decrees, and orders of the court, date of rendition, final disposition of each cause, allowances of clerk's, witnesses', and sheriff's fees, adjourning orders, and signature of presiding chancellor. Arr. chron. by date of court term. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

Fees and Costs

60. CHANCERY CLERKS FEE BOOK, 1870--. 14 vols.
Record of fees and costs incurred in causes filed, and filed and tried in chancery court, showing statement number, docket number, names of petitioners and litigants, itemization of costs and fees due clerk, sheriff, masters in chancery, commissioners, other officers, stenographer, printers, and witnesses, total amount of costs and fees, volume and page of record in Minutes of Chancery Court (entry 59), amount paid, date paid, and certification and signature of clerk. Arr. chron. by date assessed. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3. 5 vols., 1870-92, jail; 4 vols., 1893-1915, outside va.; 5 vols., 1916--, ch. clerk's va.

Legal Publications

61. THE DELTA DEMOCRAT, 1904-17. 14 vols. (dated).
Copies of weekly newspaper published at Tunica, county seat of Tunica County,

Chancery Court - Legal Publications (Next entry 62, p. 100)

containing the legal publications of various officers, courts, and boards, including:

i. Board of supervisors, legal publications of, showing the proceedings of the board, annual budgets, notices of special meetings, of the intention of the board to issue county and county-district bonds, to call in bonds, to issue negotiable notes, to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, to establish separate road districts, to survey and appraise land, to exempt new factories and specified new industries from county ad valorem taxes, to undertake the eradication of tuberculosis among cattle, notices that tax rolls have been equalized by the board and are ready for public inspection and examination, that special meetings have been called for the purpose of hearing objections of taxpayers to the equalization of the tax rolls made by the State Tax Commission, advertisements for competitive bids to furnish trucks, tractors, or other road machinery, to furnish supplies in road work involving more than $250, to do county printing, and to furnish supplies and equipment for county offices, departments, and bureaus, advertisements for competitive bids on all public work costing more than $100, and orders of the board fixing the width of tires and maximum loads of vehicles passing over public roads and bridges in the county. For original orders of the board of supervisors authorizing its legal publications, see entry 2.

ii. Chancery court, legal publications of, showing citations to nonresident or unknown heirs, to nonresident or unknown defendants, to nonresident or unknown appellees, to nonresident or unknown witnesses, naming a place and time a commission will take testimony, and to persons to appear before the Supreme Court at the hearing of appeals, notices of taxpayers' objections to the validation of county and county-district bonds, of proceedings to confirm titles to land sold for taxes, of the filing of petitions to create drainage districts, of foreclosures of mortgages and deeds of trust on land, to persons having an interest in an escheat, and administrators', executors', and guardians' notices to creditors to file claims against estates, of times fixed for the examination and adjudication of claims, and of administrators', executors', and guardians' sales.

iii. Charters of incorporation, publication of; for description, see entry 34.

iv. Circuit Court, legal publications of, include summons to nonresident or unknown defendants and appellees, and to nonresident or unknown witnesses, naming the time and place a commission will take testimony, to parties distraining, and notices of attachment proceedings.

v. Coroner as ranger, legal publications of, include descriptions of estrays taken up when the appraised value of the estray exceeds $20.

vi. County board of election commissioners, legal publications of, include notices of special elections ordered by the board of supervisors for voting on proposed county and county-district bond issues, of special elections ordered to fill vacancies occurring in county or county-district offices, and of special elections ordered by the county school board to vote on creating, altering, or abolishing school districts.

vii. County school board, legal publications of, include orders creating, altering, or abolishing school districts and notices that orders will become final unless petitions signed by 20 percent of the taxpayers of the district affected file a petition against the orders. For original orders of the county school board authorizing its publications, see entry 178.

viii. Pension board of inquiry, legal publications of, include lists of persons granted Confederate pensions.

ix. Registrar of elections, publications of, include notices of dates of registration of voters in each voting precinct in the county.

x. Sheriff as tax collector, legal publications of, include advertisements of lands to be sold for delinquent taxes listed in numerical order as contained in Land Rolls (entry 15), and showing names of delinquent property owners, legal description of property, amount of taxes due, date of sale, and certification of sheriff as tax collector, advertisements of the sale of personal property for delinquent taxes, and lists of poll tax delinquents. For record of land sold for taxes, see entries 20, 21.

xi. Notices of trustees' sales of land under foreclosure of deeds of trust, showing date of execution of deeds of trust, names of grantor, trustee, and beneficiary, volume and page of record in Land Mortgage Records (entry 17), statement that grantor has defaulted in the performance of the conditions of the deed of trust, time and place set for sale, legal description of property to be sold, date of notice, name of trustee, and dates of other insertions of notices in the paper.

Arr. chron. by date of publication. No index. Ptd. 250 pp. 19 x 13 x 1.

62. THE TUNICA TIMES-DEMOCRAT, 1908--. 38 vols. (dated). Title varies: The Tunica Times, 1908-23, 15 vols.

Bound copies of newspaper published at Tunica, county seat of Tunica County, containing the legal publications of various officers, courts, and boards. For list included, description of contents, arrangement, indexing, nature of recording, and cross references, see entry 61. Av. 400 pp. 22 x 15 x 2.

(Next entry 63, p. 103)

IV. CIRCUIT COURT

The Constitution of 1832 directed the Legislature to divide the State into convenient circuit court districts and stipulated that circuit court should be held in each county at least twice each year.[1] Tunica County was assigned to the eighth district by the creating act of 1836 which provided that court be held on the first Monday of April and October for 6 days.[2] The first session was held in April 1836, and the court has functioned in the county since that time.[3] In 1844, the county was assigned to the third district;[4] in 1871, to the eleventh;[5] in 1892, to the fourth;[6] and in 1930, to the eleventh in which it has since remained.[7] Terms of court are held on the third Monday of January and the second Monday in July for 12 days.[8]

The presiding officer of the court is the judge of the circuit court district.[9] County officers attached to the court are the clerk,[10] the sheriff, who is the executive officer of the court,[11] and the county prosecuting attorney, who assists the district attorney.[12]

A court reporter or stenographer in the district may be appointed by the judge.[13] Indictments and presentments are returned to the court by the grand jury,[14] and cases in issue are tried before the petit jury.[15] The

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1. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 13.
2. L. M. 1836, pp.39, 41.
3. L. M. 1836, p. 41. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
4. Code 1848, p. 742.
5. Code 1871, sec. 446.
6. Code 1892, sec. 613.
7. Code 1930, sec. 473; L. M. 1940, p. 400.
8. Ibid.
9. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 11; Code 1848, p. 734; Code 1857, ch. LXI, sec. 3, art. VII; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 11; Code 1871, sec. 526; Code 1880, sec. 1483; Const. 1890, sec. 153; Code 1892, sec. 631; Code 1906, sec. 689; Code 1917, sec. 467; Code 1930, sec. 476.
10. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 19; Code 1848, p. 432; Code 1857, ch. LXI, p. 480; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 19; Code 1871, sec. 547; Code 1880, sec. 1484; Const. 1890, sec. 168; Code 1892, sec. 633; Code 1906, sec. 690; Code 1917, sec. 469; Code 1930, sec. 498.
11. Code 1823, pp. 252, 253; Code 1848, ch. 53; Code 1857, ch. LXI, p. 484; Code 1871, sec. 876; Code 1880, sec. 2278; Code 1892, sec. 4116; Code 1906, sec. 4368; Code 1917, sec. 3085; Code 1930, sec. 3315; see "Sheriff," p. 122.
12. L. M. 1910, p. 96; Code 1917, secs. 696-697; Code 1930, secs. 4225-4226; see "County Prosecuting Attorney," p. 121.
13. L. M. 1890, pp. 254-256; Code 1892, sec. 4235; Code 1906, sec. 4785; Code 1917, sec. 3138; Code 1930, sec. 709.
14. See "Grand Jury," p. 118.
15. Const. 1832, art. I, sec. 28; Code 1848, p. 879; Code 1857, ch. LXVI, p. 499; Const. 1869, art. I, secs. 7, 12, 13; Const. 1890, secs. 14, 31.

district attorney represents the State in all criminal proceedings in the circuit court of Tunica County, and the State and the county in all civil cases in which it may be interested.[16]

The Constitution of 1832 made the office of judge of the circuit court elective for a term of 4 years.[17] Under provisions of the Constitution of 1869, the judge was appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for a term of 6 years.[18] The appointive method of selection was continued under the Constitution of 1890, but the term of office was for 4 years.[19] By an amendment to the Constitution, proposed by the Legislature in 1912, approved by popular vote in 1913, and made a part of the Constitution in 1914, the office was made elective by the qualified voters of the district for a term of 4 years.[20]

The constitutional office of clerk of the circuit court was established in Tunica County upon its creation in 1836.[21] The Constitution of 1832 prescribed that the clerk be elected by the qualified electors of the county for a term of 2 years.[22] Since 1869, the clerk may be elected for a 4-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[23] As permitted by law, the offices of the clerk of the circuit court and clerk of the chancery court were filled by the same person in Tunica County until 1904, when a clerk for each court was elected.[24]

The office of court reporter or stenographer, filled by appointment by the judge, has functioned in the district and in the circuit court of Tunica County since 1890, the stenographer serving a 4-year term unless removed from office by the judge.[25]

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16. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 25; Code 1848, p. 410; Code 1857, ch. VI, p. 113; Const. 1869, art. 6, sec. 25; Code 1871, sec. 214; Code 1880, sec. 256; Const. 1890, sec. 174; Code 1892, sec. 1555; Code 1906, sec. 1661; Code 1917, sec. 1398; Code 1930, sec. 4363. See "District Attorney," p. 120.
17. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 11.
18. Const. 1869, art. IV, sec. 11; Code 1871, sec. 526; Code 1880, sec. 1483.
19. Const. 1890, sec. 153; Code 1892, sec. 631; Code 1906, sec. 689.
20. L. M. 1912, pp. 449-450; L. M. 1914, p. 194; Const. 1890, sec. 153; Code 1917, sec. 467; Code 1930, sec. 476. Given authority by the Constitution to determine the manner and time of election of judge of the circuit court, the Legislature has prescribed that he be elected for a term of 4 years concurrently with the election of the representatives in Congress; that is, in 1914 and every 4 years thereafter (Const. 1890, sec. 153; Code 1917, sec. 6837; Code 1930, sec. 6281).
21. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 19; L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49.
22. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 19.
23. Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 19; Code 1871, secs. 307, 357; Code 1880, secs 116, 396; Const. 1890, sec. 168; Code 1892, secs. 3049, 3633; Code 1906, secs. 3456, 4140; Code 1917, secs. 3794, 5774; Code 1930, secs. 2881, 6210.
24. Code 1871, sec. 322; Code 1880, sec. 418; Code 1892, sec. 3073; Registrar of Commissions, 1899-1904.
25. L. M. 1890, pp. 254, 256; Code 1892, secs. 4235, 4237; Code 1906, secs. 4785, 4787; Code 1917, secs. 3138, 3140; Code 1930, secs. 709, 711. Until 1892, stenographers were appointed every 2 years (L. M. 1890, p. 254).

The guarantee of the Constitution of the United States of trial by an impartial jury,[26] is provided for Mississippi insofar as Tunica County is affected, by the Constitutions of 1817, 1832, 1869, and 1890.[27] The first jury panel was drawn for the April term of court in 1836,[28] and juries have been impaneled continuously since that time.

Until 1892, jurors were drawn from lists of eligible persons returned to the court by the tax assessor,[29] and since 1892 they have been drawn from lists of eligible persons returned to the court by the board of supervisors.[30] Jurors serve for the week for which they are drawn, unless excused by the court.[31]

For the general structural and functional development of the circuit court from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 116-121.

Unless otherwise specified, the records of the circuit court are kept in the vault of the clerk of the circuit court.

Original Case Papers

Criminal and Civil

63. CIRCUIT COURT STATE AND CIVIL CASES, 1866--. 72 file boxes, (labeled by contained case nos.).

Original pleadings and other papers filed with criminal and civil cases filed and tried and filed and pending in the circuit court, including declarations, answers, indictments, pleas, bills of complaint, information, particulars, motions, demurrers, affidavits, interrogatories, depositions, process served or proof of publication, showing docket number in General State Docket (entry 65), and in General Civil Docket (entry 70), names of litigants, or defendants, names of attorneys for plaintiffs and defendants, title of each pleading filed, date filed, dates of service or proof of publication, dates and terms of hearings, interlocutory and final rulings, orders, and decrees of the court and dates of rendition, instructions to jury, verdict of jury and date rendered, amount of judgment awarded or amount of fine or term of

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26. Constitution of the United States, Amendments, art. VI.
27. Const. 1817, art. I, secs. 10, 28; Const. 1832, art. I, secs. 10, 28; Const. 1869, art. I, secs. 7, 12, 13; Const. 1890, secs. 14, 31.
28. L. M. 1836, p. 41.
29. Code 1823, p. 133; Code 1848, p. 886; Code 1857, p. 499; Code 1871, secs. 736-738; Code 1880, secs. 1681, 1690.
30. Const. 1890, sec. 264; Code 1892, secs. 2358, 2364; L. M. 1896, pp. 94-95; Code 1906, secs. 2388, 2693; Code 1917, secs. 2180, 2185; Code 1930, secs. 2033, 2039; L. M. 1938, pp. 657-658.
31. Code 1823, pp. 133-134; Code 1848, pp. 888-889; Code 1857, ch. LXI, pp. 499-500; Code 1871, sec. 738; Code 1880, sec. 1662; Code 1892, sec. 2365; Code 1906, sec. 2694; Code 1917, sec. 2186; Code 1930, sec. 2039; L. M. 1938, pp. 657-658.

imprisonment imposed, dates ordered or rendered, notice of appeal, appeal bond with names of sureties on bond, and list of costs and fees. Arr. numer. by docket no. and chron. thereunder by date of filing. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 11 x 4½ x 12. 33 file boxes, 1866-1902, jail; 12 file boxes, 1903-21, cir. clerk's retiring va.; 26 file boxes, 1922-39, cir. clerk's active va.; 1 file box, 1940--, clerk's off.

Receipts for Case Papers

64. ATTORNEYS RECEIPT BOOK, 1873-85. 1 vol. Since 1885, an insertable card system has been in use.
Record of pleadings and other papers taken from files, showing docket number, names of litigants or of defendants, number and list of papers withdrawn, name of attorney withdrawing papers, dates withdrawn and returned. Arr. chron. by date withdrawn. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

Dockets, Calendars, and Registers

Criminal

65. GENERAL STATE DOCKET, 1866--. 11 vols. (1-11).
Record and abstract of all pleadings and other papers filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of all criminal cases from their commencement to their termination, showing docket number, names of State, defendants and attorneys, offense charged, date of filing of each indictment, petition, and plea, record from inferior courts on appeal or certiorari, petition, plea, demurrer, or motion, date of issuance and return of process or dates of publication, dates and terms of hearings, interlocutory and final rulings, decrees and orders of the court, with dates of rendition, notations of verdicts and amount of fine or term of imprisonment imposed, volume and page of record in Minutes Circuit Court (entry 84), lists of costs and fees, and notice of appeal to Supreme Court. Also contains: Motion Docket, 1909--, entry 68; Subpoena Docket, 1927--, entry 76. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 2 vols., 1866-79, jail; 1 vol., 1872-89, outside va.; 4 vols., 1873-1908, cir. clerk's retiring va.; 4 vols., 1909--, cir. clerk's va.

66. BAR STATE DOCKET, 1889-1906. 1 vol. 1907-- in Circuit Court Issue Docket, Civil and Criminal, entry 67.
Calendar of cases begun by indictment, presentment, information, or other proceedings of a criminal nature, and triable at each approaching term of court, prepared by the clerk for the convenience of attorneys, showing docket number in General State Docket (entry 65), names of State and defendant, offense charged, names of prosecutor for the State and of attorneys for defendants, nature and date of information filed, term of court and year of term, and volume and page of record in Minutes Circuit Court (entry 84). Arr chron. by date of term of court. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

Civil and Criminal

67. CIRCUIT COURT ISSUE DOCKET, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL, 1866--. 5 vols.
Calendar of civil and criminal cases triable at each approaching term of court,

prepared by the clerk for the convenience of the judge, showing docket number in General State Docket (entry 65) and in General Civil Docket (entry 70), name of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, cause of action, date and term of court, and volume and page of record in Minutes Circuit Court (entry 84). Also contains: Bar State Docket, 1907--, entry 66; Appearance Docket, 1909--, entry 72; Bar Issue Docket, 1907--, entry 71. Arr. chron. by date of term of court and numer. thereunder by docket no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 3 vols., 1866-1904, jail; 2 vols., 1905--, cir. clerk's va.

68. MOTION DOCKET, 1872-1908. 2 vols. 1909-- in General State Docket, entry 65, and General Civil Docket, entry 70.
Record and abstract of all motions and special pleas filed in cases filed and tried, including motions, demurrers, exceptions to evidence or reports, showing docket number in General State Docket (entry 65), and in General Civil Docket (entry 70), names of litigants in civil cases and of State and defendant in criminal cases, names of district attorney, county prosecuting attorney, and of attorneys in criminal cases, names of attorneys for plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases, orders last term of court, orders present term of court, and disposition of motion. Arr. chron. by date of term of court and chron. thereunder by date each motion filed. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 24 x 28 x 2. 1 vol., 1872-77, jail; 1878-1908, cir. clerk's retiring va.

69. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1866--. 2 vols.
Record of executions, showing docket number in General State Docket (entry 65), and in General Civil Docket (entry 70), names of litigants, attorneys, and witnesses, name of court of rendition of judgment, date of rendition, amount of judgment, fees, and costs, date of enrollment of judgment in Judgment Roll (entry 74), date of issuance of writ of execution, dates returnable, certification and signature of clerk, itemization of fees and costs, dates writs received and returned by sheriff, and sheriff's statement of amount of money made in execution. Arr. chron. by date of final process. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 1 vol., 1866-77, jail; 1 vol., 1878--, cir. clerk's va.

Civil (See also entry 19)

70. GENERAL CIVIL DOCKET, 1872--. 5 vols.
Record and abstract of all pleadings and other papers filed, and of all important acts done in the conduct of each civil case from its commencement to its termination, showing docket number, names of litigants and attorneys, cause of action, and amount involved, date of filing each declaration, answer, writ, motion, demurrer, and record of inferior courts on appeal or certiorari, petition, pleas, demurrers, and pleadings in each case appealed, dates of issuance and return of process and dates of service or publication, dates and terms of hearings, rulings, and orders of the court with dates of rendition, notations of verdict, amount of judgment awarded, dates of issuance of execution and return, itemization of costs and fees, and volume and page of record in Minutes Circuit Court (entry 84). Also contains: Motion Docket, 1909--, entry 68. Arr. numer. by case no. and chron. thereunder by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 24 x 18 x 2. 2 vols., 1872-1918, cir. clerk's retiring va.; 3 vols., 1919--, cir. clerk's va.

71. BAR ISSUE DOCKET, 1857-1906. 3 vols. 1907-- in Circuit Court Issue Docket, Civil and Criminal, entry 67 .
Calendar of civil cases triable at each approaching term of court, prepared by the clerk for the convenience of attorneys, showing docket number in General Civil Docket (entry 70), names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, date and term of court, disposition of case, and volume and page of record in Minutes Circuit Court (entry 84). Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. Jail.

72. APPEARANCE DOCKET, 1857-1908. 2 vols. 1909-- in Circuit Court Issue Docket, Civil and Criminal, entry 67.
Calendar of civil cases not triable at the first term of court after their commencement, showing docket number in General Civil Docket (entry 70), names of plaintiff and defendant, attorneys, dates of issuance and return of process, and disposition of each case. Arr. chron. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 1 vol., 1857-89, jail; 1 vol., 1890-1908, cir. clerk's retiring va.

73. JUVENILE RECORD [Docket], 1922--. 1 vol.
Record of juvenile delinquency cases filed and tried in the circuit court, showing name of prosecutor, name of juvenile defendant, address, name of parent or guardian, address, pleadings, exhibits, date of plea, date of waiver of process and parents' consent, disposition of case, and date of order of the court. Arr. chron. by date of trial and numer. thereunder by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

Final Records
(See also entry 52)

74. JUDGMENT ROLL, 1866--. 4 vols. Title varies: Judgment Record, 1877-82, 1 vol.
Record of final judgments rendered at each term of circuit court, and record of final decrees and judgments rendered in other courts, for which abstracts have been filed with the clerk for enrollment, showing name of defendant, amount of judgment or decree, date of rendition, county and court in which rendered, date of enrollment, name of plaintiff, when and how satisfied, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date of enrollment. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2½. 3 vols., 1866-76, 1883--. cir. clerk's va.; 1 vol., 1877-82, jail.
For record of original final judgments rendered, see entries 84, 96-100.

75. FINAL RECORD OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, 1866--. 2 vols.
Recorded copies of the pleadings, proofs, exhibits, and proceedings or such part of the pleadings, proofs, exhibits, and proceedings ordered by the court to be recorded, showing docket number, names of litigants, names of attorneys, and witnesses, cause of action, title of pleadings filed, date filed, dates of service or proof of publication of all process, dates and terms of hearings, exhibits and testimony accepted as evidence, legal description of property involved, and of liens, rights, interests, and easements sought to be enforced, interlocutory and final rulings, orders, and decrees of the court, dates rendered, amount of judgment ordered, final disposition of each cause, statement

of costs and fees, and volume and page of record in Minutes Circuit Court (entry 84). Arr. chron. by date of term of court. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 1 vol., 1866-80, jail; 1 vol., 1881--, cir. clerk's va.

Witnesses

76. SUBPOENA DOCKET, 1866-1926. 7 vols. 1927-- in General State Docket entry 65 .
Record of subpenas issued for witnesses appearing in criminal and civil cases, showing docket number in General State Docket (entry 65) and in General Civil Docket (entry 70), names of plaintiffs and defendants, names of witnesses subpenaed, for which party subpenaed, term of court, number of days of attendance, date of issuance of subpena, name of officer to whom directed, dates returnable and returned. Arr. chron. by date subpena issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 4 vols., 1866-94, jail; 3 vols., 1895-1926, cir. clerk's va.

77. STATE WITNESS CERTIFICATES, 1909--. 3 vols. (1-3).
Stub record of pay certificates issued to witnesses appearing in criminal cases filed and tried, showing case number in General State Docket (entry 65), certificate number, date of issuance, name of witness, for which party appearing, number of days in attendance, mileage, total amount of fee allowed, signature of clerk, and signature of witness acknowledging receipt of certificate. Arr. numer. by certificate no. and chron. thereunder by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 2 vols., 1909-31, cir. clerk's retiring va.; 1 vol., 1932--, cir. clerk's va.

78. CIVIL WITNESS CERTIFICATES, 1924--. 1 vol.
Duplicate copies of pay certificates issued to witnesses appearing in civil cases filed and tried, showing certificate number, case number in General Civil Docket (entry 70), name of witness, for which party appearing, number of days in attendance, mileage allowed, total amount of fees allowed, signature of witness receiving certificate, date of issuance, and signature of clerk. Arr. numer. by certificate no. and chron. thereunder by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

Jurors

79. JUROR'S CERTIFICATES, 1907--. 7 vols. (1-7).
Stub record of certificates issued for jury service, showing certificate number, name of juror to whom issued, number of days of service, mileage allowed, total amount allowed, and signature of clerk. Arr. numer. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

80. JURY FEE BOOK, 1889--. 1 vol.
Record of the allowances of jurors' fees, showing certificate number, name of payee, whether serving on grand or petit jury, number of days of attendance, mileage allowed, total fees allowed, date certificate issued. Arr. numer. by certificate no. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of juror. 500 pp. 24 x 8 x 2.

Circuit Court - Fees and Costs; Proceedings; Naturalization (81-85)

Fees and Costs

81. FEE BOOK-CIVIL AND CRIMINAL, 1904--. 6 vols. (1-6).
Carbon copies of fees and cost bills issued by the clerk in criminal and civil cases filed, and filed and tried in the circuit court, showing docket number in General State Docket (entry 65) and in General Civil Docket (entry 70), names of plaintiff and defendant, itemized lists of costs and fees due clerk, sheriff, jurors, and witnesses, total fees and costs, date of issuance, and signature of clerk. Arr. numer. by cost bill no. and chron. thereunder by date of issuance. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 2 vols., 1904-16, cir. clerk's retiring va.; 4 vols., 1917--, cir. clerk's va.

82. FEE BOOK OF THE CIRCUIT CLERK, 1920-21. 1 vol. This record kept for period clerk was on salary schedule.
Record of all fees and costs assessed and collected by the clerk of the circuit court in all civil and criminal cases filed and tried in the circuit court and for issuing licenses and recording instruments, showing case number, names of litigants, and of defendants in criminal cases, cause of action, offense charged, itemized statement of kinds and amounts due. Arr. chron. by date collected. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

83. CAPIAS PRO FINEM, 1908--. 1 vol.
Record of writs of capias pro finem issued by the circuit clerk to the sheriff for service and execution on defendants delinquent in paying fines imposed in criminal cases filed and tried in the circuit court, showing name of defendant, date fine imposed, amount of fine, itemization of costs, fees and damages, date issued, to whom delivered, dates returnable and returned, and final disposition. Arr. chron. by date issued. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

Proceedings

84. MINUTES CIRCUIT COURT, 1857--. 10 vols.
Record of the proceedings of circuit court in term time and during vacation, showing name of county, month, term, year, and day of session, name of presiding judge, names of State and defendant in criminal cases heard, names of plaintiff and defendant in civil cases heard, interlocutory and final rulings, orders and decrees of the court, summoning of jurors, acceptance and swearing of jurors, charging of the grand jury, approval of appeal, appearance, bail and cost bonds, allowing of jurors', witnesses', sheriff's and clerk's fees, filing of reports of grand jury, rendering of verdicts by jury, imposing of fines and sentences of imprisonment in criminal cases, and adjourning orders. Each day's minutes are signed by the presiding judge. Arr. chron. by date of term of court. No index. Hdw. and typed. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 4 vols., 1857-1900, jail; 2 vols., 1901-1906, cir. clerk's retiring va.; 4 vols., 1907--, cir. clerk's va.

Naturalization

85. RECORD OF PROOF OF NATURALIZATION, 1926--. 1 vol.
Recorded copies of petitions and oaths of allegiance made by aliens in qualifying

Circuit Court - Naturalization (Next entry 86, p. 111)

for citizenship, showing name and address of petitioner, occupation, date and place of birth, date and place of arrival in the United States, date, place and court in which this declaration of intention filed, transcript of oath of allegiance, affidavits of witnesses, order of court, signatures and oaths of petitioner and witnesses, signature and title of officer administering oaths, signature of judge, date filed for recording and recorded, signature and certification of clerk. Arr. chron. by date of petition. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of petitioner. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2½.

(Next entry 86, p. 111)

V. COUNTY COURT

The county court of Tunica County was created in January 1927, as prescribed by legislative enactment February 25, 1926.[1] After a petition of 10 percent of the qualified electors had been presented to the board of supervisors, a special election was called August 3, 1926, to vote on the issue of creating a county court.[2] As a majority of the votes cast were in favor of the issue, a county court was organized, and the first session was held January 8, 1927. It has functioned since that time.[3]

For the jurisdiction of the county court, see "Governmental Organization and Records System," pp. 45-46.

The presiding officer of the court is the judge.[4] Other county officers attached to the court are the clerk, who is the clerk of the circuit court;[5] the sheriff, who is the executive officer of the court;[6] and the county prosecuting attorney, who assists the district attorney.[7] A court reporter or stenographer is appointed by the judge.[8]

The first county judge was elected November 2, 1926, and sworn into office December 31, 1926.[9] The judge is elected for a 4-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[10]

Upon the creation of the county court in Tunica County, the clerk of the circuit court assumed the duties of the county court.[11]

The first jury panel for county court was drawn January 8, 1927,[12] and juries have been impaneled since that time. For each week of county court

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1. Minutes County Court, I, 1; L. M. 1926, pp. 218-224. In 1865, the Legislature passed a law requiring that a county court be held in every county in the State once a month for a 6-day session. The judge of the probate court was presiding judge of the court, with two associates selected from their own number by the justices of the peace of the county (L. M. 1865, pp. 66, 69, 71). The Constitution of 1869 transferred the county court's jurisdiction to the chancery, circuit, and justice of the peace courts (Const. 1869, art. VI, secs. 14, 16, 23). In 1870, the Legislature abolished the county court (L. M. 1870, p. 83). No records for this court were found in Tunica County, and therefore, there is no way to substantiate the statement that a county court functioned in the county from 1866 to 1869.
2. Minutes Board of Supervisors, XII, 265.
3. Minutes County Court, I, 1. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
4. L. M. 1926, p. 221; Code 1930, sec. 697.
5. L. M. 1926, p. 222; Code 1930, sec. 699.
6. Ibid.
7. L. M. 1926, p. 222; Code 1930, sec. 701.
8. L. M. 1926, p. 223; Code 1930, sec. 700.
9. Register of Commissions, 1924, p. 316.
10. L. M. 1926, p. 221; Code 1930, sec. 697.
11. L. M. 1926, p. 222.
12. Minutes County Court, I, 1.

not less than 20 nor more than 40 names are drawn from the jury box in the same manner as prescribed for circuit court, provided there is a demand for a jury. The jurors selected serve until dismissed by the court.[13] All records of the county court are kept by the circuit clerk in his vault.

86. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL RECORDS, COUNTY, 1927--. 19 file boxes.
Original papers and pleadings filed with civil and criminal cases filed and tried in the county court, including bills of complaint, petitions, declarations, bills of particulars, warrants, pleas, answers, affidavits, motions, demurrers, exceptions, writs, rules, orders, and decrees, showing docket number in General Criminal Docket (entry 87) or in General Civil Docket (entry 89), names of litigants and attorneys in civil cases, of defendant, prosecuting and defense attorneys in criminal cases, other parties in interest, witnesses and jurors, cause of action or offense charged, title of each pleading filed, date filed, date of service or proof of publication, dates arrested, and arraigned in criminal cases, dates and terms of hearings, interlocutory and final rules, orders and decrees of the judge, dates rendered, statement of the costs and fees, signatures of litigants and attorneys on papers and pleadings, signature of the county judge on rules, orders, and decrees, and volume and page of record in Minute Book of the County Court (entry 91). Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 4½ x 12.

87. GENERAL CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1927--. 2 vols.
Record and abstract of all pleadings and other papers filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of criminal cases, showing docket number, names of defendants, prosecuting and defense attorneys, offense charged, dates arrested and arraigned, date and term of hearing, verdict in the case, amount of fine or term of imprisonment imposed, orders of the court from the next preceding term of court, orders of the court from the present term, volume and page of record in Minute Book of the County Court (entry 91), and remarks. Arr. numer. by case no. and chron. thereunder by date entered. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

88. COURT STATE DOCKET, 1927--. 2 vols.
Calendar of criminal cases filed in the county court and triable at each approaching term of court, prepared by the clerk for the convenience of the judge, showing docket number in General Criminal Docket (entry 87), names of defendants, prosecuting and defense attorneys, date filed, date process issued, kind of process, date set for trial, orders of the court from the next preceding term, and orders of the court from the current term. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

89. GENERAL CIVIL DOCKET, 1927--. 2 vols.
Record and abstract of all papers and pleadings filed and all important acts done in civil cases filed and tried in the county court, including bills of complaint, declarations, petitions, bills of particulars, pleas and answers,

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13. L. M. 1926, p. 223; Code 1930, sec. 703.

affidavits, motions, demurrers, exceptions, writs, rules, orders, and decrees, showing docket number, names of litigants, attorneys, other parties in interest, and witnesses, cause of action, title of each paper and pleading filed, date filed, date of service or proof of publication, dates and terms of hearings, orders and decrees of the judge, dates rendered, verdict in the case, date and amount of judgment rendered, statement of costs and fees, and volume and page of record in Minute Book of the County Court (entry 91). Arr. numer. by case no. and chron. thereunder by date entered. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

90. ISSUE DOCKET OF COUNTY COURT, 1927--. 2 vols.
Calendar of civil cases triable at the approaching term of court, prepared by the clerk for the convenience of the judge, showing term of court, date filed, docket number in General Civil Docket (entry 89), name of litigants, names of attorneys, cause of action, orders of the court from the next preceding term, orders of the court from the current term, and volume and page of record in Minute Book of the County Court (entry 91). Arr. chron. by date of court term and numer. thereunder by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

91. MINUTE BOOK OF THE COUNTY COURT, 1927--. 2 vols.
Record of the proceedings of the county court in term time and during vacation in all matters pertaining to eminent domain, the partition of personal property, unlawful entry and dotainer, civil suits involving amounts not exceeding $1,000, misdemeanors, and felonies which have been transferred from the circuit court, including all papers and pleadings filed and all important acts done, showing docket number in General Criminal Docket (entry 87) or in General Civil Docket (entry 89), names of litigants and their respective attorneys, names of defendants and prosecuting and defense attorneys, other parties in interest, and witnesses and jurors, cause of action or offense charged, title of each paper and pleading filed, date filed, date and proof of service or publication, dates arrested, indicted, and arraigned in criminal cases, dates and terms of hearing, exhibits and testimony accepted as evidence, argument of counsel, legal description and location of real property involved in litigation and of liens, rights, interests, and easements therein, interlocutory and final rules, orders and decrees of the judge, dates rendered, verdict in the case, date and amount of judgment rendered, date and amount of fine imposed or term of imprisonment sentenced, statement of costs and fees, final disposition of the case, and signature and approval of the judge. Arr. chron. by date of court term and chron. thereunder by date of hearing. No index. Typed under ptd. hdg. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

(92-93)

VI. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

The clerk of the circuit court, in addition to his clerical and clerical-judicial functions in connection with the court, has been assigned a number of licensing and recording powers and duties.[1]

The office of the clerk of the circuit court was established in Tunica County at the time the county was created in 1836, as prescribed by the Constitution of 1832.[2]

As permitted by law the offices of the clerk of the circuit court and clerk of the chancery court were filled by the same person in Tunica County until 1904, when a clerk for each court was elected.[3]

For the general structural and functional development of the clerk of the circuit court in his licensing and recording capacities from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 144-145.

The records kept by the clerk of the circuit court in his licensing and recording capacities, unless otherwise specified, are located in his vault.

92. APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1930-38. 1 vol., 8 file boxes.
1853-1929, 1939-- in Marriage Records, entry 93.
Original applications for marriage licenses filed with the circuit clerk, showing names of applicants, affidavit of male applicant as to ages of both applicants, signature of male applicant, signature of clerk as officer taking affidavit, and date affidavit made; applications, 1939--, show names and addresses of applicants, ages, race, date of application, names and addresses of parents, guardian or next of kin of applicant, signature and oath of applicants, affidavit of male applicant that no legal cause exists to obstruct marriage, date filed, and signature and certification of the circuit clerk. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Vol. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 2; file boxes 12 x 11 x 4½. Circuit clerk's retiring va.

93. MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1853--. 40 vols.
Miscellaneous records relating to marriage including:

i. Certificates of marriage returned, record of, showing names of contracting parties, date ceremony performed, name and title of person performing the ceremony, dates certificate received for filing date recorded, and signature of clerk in attest.

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1. For a summarization of these powers and duties from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 144-145.
2. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec 16; L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49. For the method of selecting the clerk, the present status of the office, and the term of office, see "Circuit Court," pp. 101-103.
3. Code 1871, sec. 322; Code 1880, sec. 418; Code 1892, sec. 3073; Register of Commissions, 1904.

ii. Consents to marriage of persons under statutory age given by parents, guardians, or next of kin, original, showing names of person under statutory age for marriage, statement of consent to marriage, signatures of parents, guardians, or next of kin, signatures of subscribing witnesses or of officer taking proof, and date of proof.

iii. Marriage license issued, record of, showing names of contracting parties, signature of clerk of licensor, date of license issued, and clerk's certification of marriage returned.

iv. Notices mailed to parents, guardians, or next of kin of applicants made by persons under statutory age for marriage, record of, showing names and addresses of parents, guardians, or next of kin notified, names, ages, race, and addresses given by applicants for license, statement that license will be issued within 5 days from date if no legal objection is made, date notices mailed, and date license will be issued, and clerk's signature in attest.

Also contains: Applications for Marriage Licenses, 1853-1929, 1939--, entry 92. Arr. chron. by date license issued. Indexed alph. by first letter of surnames of contracting parties. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 13 vols., 1853-1905, cir. clerk's retiring va.; 27 vols., 1906--, cir. clerk's va.

94. REGISTER OF PHYSICIANS, PHARMACISTS, DENTISTS AND EMBALMERS, 1882--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of temporary and permanent licenses to practice issued by the State Board of Health to physicians; by State Board of Pharmacy to pharmacists, 1892--; by State Board of Dental Examiners to dentists, 1892--; by the State Board of Embalmers to embalmers, 1892--, showing license number, name, age, birthplace, and address of person licensed, name of school attended, date of graduation, names of persons given as references, authorization from State boards to practice, expiration dates of temporary licenses, names of members of State boards, dates filed and recorded, and certification of clerk. Arr. numer. by license no. and chron. thereunder by date filed for recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 10 x 2.

95. RECORD OF VETERINARY SURGEON'S LICENSES, 1916--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of temporary and permanent licenses to practice issued by the State Board of Veterinary Examiners to veterinary surgeons, showing license number, name, age, birthplace, and address of person licensed, name of school attended, date of graduation, names of persons given as reference, authorization from State board to practice, expiration dates of temporary licenses, names of members of State boards, dates filed and recorded, and certification of clerk. Arr. numer. by license no. and chron. thereunder by date filed for recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 10 x 2.

(Next entry 96, p. 116)

VII. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Offices and courts of justices of the peace were established in Tunica County at the time of its creation in 1836, as prescribed by the Constitution of 1832.[1]

The Constitutions of 1832, of 1869, and of 1890 provide that a competent number of justices of the peace be chosen in each county by districts.[2] When the county was created, statute law required that not less than one nor more than two justices be selected from each of the five police districts.[3] From 1857 to 1932, it was provided by law that two justices be selected from each of the five districts, the boundaries of the districts being the same as the boundaries of the police and supervisors' beats.[4] Since 1932, only one justice of the peace may be selected in and from each district, but the board of supervisors is given authority to provide for the election of an additional justice in any district.[5] At the present time, there are six justices of the peace in Tunica County, two from Beats 2 and 4, and one from Beats 3 and 5.[6]

The Constitutions of 1832 and 1869 provided for the election of two justices of the peace for a term of 2 years, in and from their respective districts, by the qualified electors of each district.[7] The Constitution of 1890 provides that justices of the peace be chosen by districts for a term of 4 years, but gives the Legislature power to determine the method of selection.[8] The Legislature has prescribed that justices of the peace be elected by districts at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[9]

Justices of the peace must hold not less than one term of court each month, nor more than two.[10] Other county officers attached to each court are constables, who are executive officers of the court,[11] and the sheriff as

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1. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 23; L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49.
2. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 23; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 23; Const. 1890, sec. 171.
3. L. M. 1833, p. 473.
4. Code 1857, p. 404; Code 1871, sec. 1297; Code 1880, sec. 2185; Code 1892, sec. 2392; Code 1906, sec. 2721; Code 1917, sec. 2220; Code 1930, sec. 2069.
5. L. M. 1932, p. 473.
6. Register of Commissions, 1940, p. 377.
7. Const. 1832, art. V, sec. 8; L. M. 1833, p. 57; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 23; Code 1871, secs. 357, 1296; Code 1880, secs. 118, 2185.
8. Const. 1890, sec. 171.
9. Code 1892, secs. 2392, 3049, 3633; Code 1906, secs. 2721, 3456, 4140; Code 1917, secs. 2220, 2794, 8774; L. M. 1926, p. 319; Code 1930, secs. 2069, 2881, 6210; L. M. 1932, p. 473.
10. Code 1848, p. 699; Code 1857, p. 406; Code 1871, sec. 1309; Code 1880, sec. 2194; Code 1892, sec. 2399; Code 1917, sec. 2227; Code 1930, sec. 2076.
11. L. M. 1822, p. 114; Code 1848, p. 694; Code 1857, pp. 134-135; Code 1871, sec. 280; Code 1880, sec. 393; Code 1892, sec. 773; Code 1906, sec. 853; Code 1917, sec. 641; Code 1930, sec. 636.

executive officer in the event there is no constable.[12] A 6-member jury must be empaneled if any party to a cause demands a trial by jury.[13]

For the structural and functional development of the office of justice of the peace from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 152-156.

The records of the justices of the peace are kept in the places specified at the end of each entry. For other records of cases instituted in justice of the peace courts, see entries 105, 109, 110, 112-119.

96. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 1, 1871-98. 2 vols. No incumbent since 1898. Record and abstract of all pleadings and other papers filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of criminal and civil cases, including cases pertaining to partition of personal property, from commencement to termination, showing docket number of litigants and of attorneys, cause of action and amount involved in civil cases, names of State and of defendants, names of prosecutor for State, of attorneys for defendants, and offense charged in criminal cases, title of each pleading and paper filed, date filed, date and proof of service on process issued, date and terms of hearings, orders and rulings of the court, jury verdicts, amount of judgment rendered, or amount of fine or term of imprisonment imposed, date of issuance of writ of execution and notations of constables' returns on execution, itemization of fees and costs, and dates and notices of appeals taken to circuit court. Arr. numer. by docket no. and chron. thereunder by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 3. Jail.

97. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 2 (L.M. Dougherty, C. H. Block), 1871--. 17 vols. Record and abstracts of all pleadings and other papers filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of criminal and civil cases, including cases pertaining to partition of personal property, from commencement to termination. For description of contents, arrangement, indexing, nature of recording, number of pages, and dimensions, see entry 96. 7 vols., 1871-1914, jail; 6 vols., 1896-1936, outside va.; 4 vols., 1932--, sheriff's private off.

98. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 3 (Harry B. Kittle), 1871--. 4 vols. Record and abstract of all pleadings and other papers filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of criminal and civil cases, including cases pertaining to the partition of personal property, from commencement to termination. For description of contents, arrangement, indexing, nature of recording, number of pages, and dimensions, see entry 96. 3 vols., 1871-1927, jail; 1 vol., 1928--, off. of justice of the peace, Evansville, Miss.

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12. Code 1848, p. 444; Code 1857, p. 406; Code 1871, sec. 1311; Code 1880, sec. 2198; Code 1892, sec. 2402; Code 1906, sec 2731; Code 1917, sec. 2230; Code 1930, sec. 2079. As there are no constables in Tunica County, the sheriff is the executive officer of the justice of peace courts.
13. Code 1848, p. 700; Code 1857, p. 410; Code 1871, sec. 1326; Code 1880, sec. 2222; Code 1892, sec. 2425; Code 1906, sec. 2754; Code 1917, sec. 2253; Code 1930, sec. 2102.

99. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 4 (M. P. Myers, J. R. Terry), 1884--. 6 vols.
Record and abstract of all pleadings and other papers filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of criminal and civil cases, including cases pertaining to the partition of personal property, from commencement to termination. For description of contents, arrangement, indexing, nature of recording, number of pages, and dimensions, see entry 96. 4 vols., 1884-1920, jail; 1 vol., 1921--, home of M. P. Myers, Dundee, Miss.; 1 vol., 1931--, home of J. R. Terry, Dundee, Miss.

100. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 5 (W. B. Watson), 1892-1902, 1918--. 2 vols.
Record and abstract of all pleadings and other papers filed and of all important acts done in the conduct of criminal and civil cases, including cases pertaining to the partition of personal property, from commencement to termination. For description of contents, arrangement, indexing, nature of recording, number of pages, and dimensions, see entry 96. 1 vol., 1892-1902, jail; 1 vol., 1918--, off. of justice of the peace, Dubbs, Miss.

(Next entry 101, p. 119)

VIII. GRAND JURY

The guarantee of the Constitution of the United States that no person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, except on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury,[1] is provided for in Mississippi insofar as Tunica County is concerned, by the Constitutions of 1832, 1869, and 1890.[2]

The grand jury was first convened in Tunica County in 1837, and has functioned since that time at each term of court devoted to criminal matters.[3]

Until 1857, it was composed of not less than 13 nor more than 18 jurors.[4] Since 1857, it has been composed of not less than 15 nor more than 20 jurors, the number being designated by the court,[5] one of whom is appointed foreman by the court.[6]

From 1836 to 1857 grand jurors were selected from a special grand jury panel composed of 36 jurors drawn by the clerk of the circuit court and the sheriff.[7] From 1857 to 1892 grand jurors were selected from a special grand jury panel composed of 20 jurors designated by the board of police until 1870, and by the board of supervisors after that time, summoned by the sheriff.[8] Since 1892, grand jurors have been selected from the first 50 jurors drawn from the general jury panel.[9] Members of the grand jury serve for the duration of court, unless dismissed sooner by the judge.[10]

For the general functional and structural development of the grand jury from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 149-151.

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1. Constitution of the United States, amendments, art. V.
2. Const. 1832, art. I, sec. 10; Const. 1869, art. I, sec. 31; Const. 1890, secs. 27, 264.
3. See "Circuit Court," p. 101. Since 1910, the grand jury may be impaneled for not more than 2 terms of circuit court each year, unless otherwise directed by the judge (L. M. 1910, p. 91; Code 1917, sec. 2189; Code 1930, sec. 2043). Secret Record of Indictment, 1893--, entry 102.
4. L. M. 1822, p. 61; Code 1823, p. 135; Code 1848, p. 887.
5. Code 1857, p. 499; Code 1871, sec. 729; Code 1880, sec. 1666; Code 1892, sec. 2371; L. M. 1896, p. 95; Code 1906, sec. 2700; Code 1917, sec. 2193; Code 1930, sec. 2046.
6. L. M. 1822, p. 62; Code 1823, p. 135; Code 1848, p. 887; Code 1857, p. 499; Code 1871, sec. 731; Code 1880, sec. 1666; Code 1892, sec. 2372; Code 1906, sec. 2701; Code 1917, sec. 2194; Code 1930, sec. 2447.
7. L. M. 1822, p. 62; Code 1823, p. 135; Code 1848, p. 888.
8. Code 1857, sec 493; Code 1871, sec. 731; Code 1880, sec. 1666.
9. Code 1892, secs. 2365, 2371; L. M. 1896, pp. 94-95; Code 1906, secs. 2694, 2700; Code 1917, secs. 2186, 2193; Code 1930, secs. 2039, 2046; L. M. 1938, p. 656. For the method of procuring the jury panel, see "Circuit Court," p. 101.
10. Code 1823, p. 135; Code 1848, p. 887; Code 1857, p. 498; Code 1871, sec. 731; Code 1880, sec. 1666; Code 1892, sec. 2372; Code 1906, sec. 2701; Code 1917, sec. 2194; Code 1930, sec. 2047.

Grand Jury (101-102)

The records of the grand jury, unless otherwise specified, are preserved by the clerk of the circuit court in his vault.

101. GRAND JURY DOCKET, 1888--. 3 vols.
Abstract record of the proceedings of the grand jury, showing venue, date and court term of proceedings, names of State and defendant, name of district attorney, offense charged, names of witnesses sworn, and disposition. 2 vols., 1888-1910, jail; 1 vol., 1911--, cir. clerk's safe.

102. SECRET RECORD OF INDICTMENTS, 1893--. 2 vols. This record is not open for public inspection.
Record of indictments and presentments returned by the grand jury, showing venue, name of district attorney, indictment number, date returned, name of indictee, offense charged, kind of indictment, names of witnesses testifying, dates indictment filed for recording and recorded, signature of clerk, and name of foreman of grand jury. Arr. chron. by date of court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 16 x 24 x 3. 1 vol., 1893-1909, cir. clerk's retiring va.; 1 vol., 1910--, cir. clerk's safe.

(Next entry 103, p. 121)

IX. DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Tunica County, on its establishment in 1836,[1] was assigned to the eighth circuit court district,[2] and the district attorney of the district assumed his duties in the county and in the circuit court of the county. The office has functioned continuously since that time in the county and in the circuit court district to which Tunica County has been attached.[3]

The office of the district attorney is constitutional.[4] Since 1833, the district attorney has been elected for a 4-year term by the qualified electors of the district at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[5]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of district attorney from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 158-161.

The district attorney is not required to keep any permanent records, and no records of the district attorney were found in Tunica County.

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1. L. M. 1836, p. 10.
2. See "Circuit Court," p. 101.
3. Ibid. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
4. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 25; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 25; Const. 1890, sec. 174.
5. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 25; L. M. 1833, p. 243; Code 1848, p. 410; Code 1857, I, 80-81; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 25; Code 1871, secs. 307, 357; Code 1880, secs. 118, 396; Const. 1890, sec. 174; Code 1892, secs. 3049, 3633; Code 1906, secs. 3456, 4140; Code 1917, secs. 2794, 6774; Code 1930, secs. 2881, 6210.

(103-104)

X. COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The office of county prosecuting attorney was created and made mandatory in all counties in 1910.[1] The office was established in Tunica County April 9, 1910, by appointment of the Governor, the county prosecuting attorney being appointed to serve until the general elections of 1911 for State, district, county, and county-district officers. The office has functioned in the county since its establishment.[2]

The county prosecuting attorney is elected for a 4-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[3]

For a general discussion of the office, see Forrest County Inventory, pp. 62-63.

The records of the county prosecuting attorney are kept in his office.

103. /COUNTY ATTORNEY'S CASE RECORDS/, 1932--. 3 file drawers. Record of criminal offenses presented to the grand jury for investigation by the county attorney, showing name of defendant and of witnesses appearing before the grand jury, case number, offense charged, date and term presented, and disposition of the case. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 9 x 4.

104. /PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE FILE/, 1932--. 3 file drawers. Correspondence received by and sent out by the county attorney including letters, telegrams, notices, circulars, and memoranda, showing date of communication, from whom received or to whom sent, subject and contents, and signature of county attorney or writer. Arr. alph. by name of writer or addressee. No index. Hdw. and typed. 36 x 18 x 12.

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1. L. M. 1910, p. 96.
2. Ibid., p. 97; Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, VII, 323; Register of Commissions, 1906, p. 8. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
3. L. M. 1910, p. 96; L. M. 1916, p. 346; Code 1917, secs. 671, 6774; Code 1930, secs. 2881, 4220, 6210.

(105-106)

XI. SHERIFF

The office of sheriff was established in Tunica County by the creating act of 1836, as prescribed by the Constitution of 1832.[1] It was filled by election in 1837, and the sheriff was sworn into office January 1, 1838.[2] The office has functioned continuously since that time.

Until 1890, by constitutional provision, the sheriff was elected for a 2-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[3] The Constitution of 1890 provides that he be elected for a 4-year term, prohibits him from immediately succeeding himself in office, and gives the Legislature authority to determine the manner of election.[4] The Legislature has prescribed that the sheriff be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[5]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of sheriff from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 162-174.

Unles otherwise specified, the records of the sheriff are kept in his vault.

Process Dockets

105. SHERIFF'S PROCESS DOCKET, 1855--. 10 vols. (1-10).
Record of writs received by the sheriff for service, including writs of certiorari, capias pro finem, supersedeas, de lunatico, habeas corpus, mandamus, injunction, inquiry, venire facias juratores, subpena duces tecum, attachment, sequestration, garnishment, replevin, and restitution, showing names of plaintiff and defendant in civil cases, docket number, court of issue, date writ received; kind of writ, names of State and defendants in criminal cases, names of attorneys for plaintiff and for defendant, amount of judgment, date of rendition, rate of interest, amount of interest due, total costs and fees due, dates executed and returned, and amount of money made. Also contains: Sheriff Capias Docket, 1875-1907, entry 106; Subpoena Docket, Civil and Criminal, 1925--, entry 108. Arr. chron. by date writ received for service. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. 6 vols., 1855-1920, jail; 3 vols., 1921-32, outside va.; 1 vol., 1933--, sheriff's off.

106. SHERIFF CAPIAS DOCKET, 1908--. 2 vols. 1875-1907 in Sheriff's Process Docket, entry 105.
Record of writs of capias pro finem received by the sheriff from the circuit court for service and execution on defendants deliquent in paying fines imposed in criminal cases filed and tried in the circuit court, showing docket

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1. Const. 1832, act. V, sec. 19; L. M. 1836, p. 10. See also entry 32.
2. L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49; Minutes of the Probate Court, I, 2.
3. Const. 1832, art. V, sec. 19; Const. 1869, art. V, sec. 21; Code 1871, secs. 219, 256, 307; Code 1880, secs. 323, 396.
4. Const. 1890, sec. 135.
5. Code 1892, secs. 3049, 3632, 4108; Code 1906, secs. 3456, 4139, 4660; Code 1917, secs. 2794, 3077, 6773; Code 1930, secs. 2881, 3306, 6210.

number, name of defendant, offense charged, date issued and received and remarks. Arr. chron. by date writ received for service. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. 1 vol., 1908-20, jail; 1 vol., 1921--, sheriff's va.

107. SHERIFF'S EXECUTION DOCKET, 1856--. 6 vols. (1-6).
Sheriff's record of writs of execution received for service in cases filed and filed and tried in chancery and circuit courts, showing names of litigants, docket number of each case, names of attorneys for litigants, amount of judgment rendered, date and court of rendition, rate of interest, amount of interest due, amount of costs and fees, total amount due, date writs received, executed, and returned, and amount of money made. Arr. chron. by date writ received for service. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 25 x 2½. 5 vols., 1856-1920, jail; 1 vol., 1921--, sheriff's va.

108. SUBPOENA DOCKET, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL, 1854-1924. 5 vols. 1925--
in Sheriff's Process Docket, entry 105.
Sheriff's records of writs of subpena ad testificandum received for service in cases filed and filed and tried in the chancery and circuit courts, showing names of litigants in civil and chancery cases, docket number of each case, name of State and defendants in criminal cases, names of witnesses subpenaed, for what party subpenaed, term of court, number of days' attendance, mileage allowed, total amount of fees allowed, date writs received for service, dates of service and return, and amount of fee allowed sheriff. Arr. chron. by date writ received for service. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 2. 3 vols., 1854-1902, jail; 2 vols., 1903-24, outside va.

109. /SEARCH WARRANTS RETURNED/, 19[illegible]--. 1 file box.
Original search warrants received by the sheriff for service from the county and justice of the peace courts and from other courts of competent jurisdiction in the State, which have been served and returned, showing dates issued and received, county and court from which issued, legal description and location of property to be searched, name of property owner, purpose of the search, date returnable, signature of issuing officer, date served or disposed of, order of arrest if property is found, and signature of the sheriff. Arr. chron. by date returned. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 5½ x 12.

Jail Records

110. JAIL DOCKET, 1871--. 7 vols. Title varies: Jail records, 1871-84, 1 vol.
Record of commitment of prisoners to jail, showing name of prisoner, kind of writ committing prisoner and date received, court of conviction, title of officer issuing writ or making arrest, date prisoner received, dates of arrest and commitment, offense for which committed, order and authority for commitment, amount of bail granted, amount of time served, reason for release or discharge, receipt of officer of penitentiary for prisoners sentenced and committed to penitentiary, age and sex of prisoner, physical description and identifying marks, if any, date of delivery of convict to road contractor or to other authorized agent in charge of county road work, date of final release, warrant for release, and wages credited to prisoner for work on county roads.

Arr. chron. by date committed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 24 x 12 x 3. 4 vols., 1871-1910, jail; 1 vol., 1911-1920, outside va.; 12 vols., 1921--, sheriff's va.

111. RECEIPTS FOR CONVICTS, 1932--. 2 file boxes.
Original receipts given by State officers to the sheriff for prisoners received from the county jail for transfer to the State penitentiary, showing name of convict, date convicted, prison to which sentenced, date delivered, and signature of the State conveying officer. Arr. chron. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 5½ x 12.

112. PRISONERS CONTRACTS, 1908-19. 1 vol. Discontinued in 1919 because of abolition of prisoners' contracting system.
Record of prisoners leased to independent contractors to serve out fines and terms of imprisonment imposed in the circuit, county, and justice of the peace courts, showing name of contractor, amount of fine, name of convict, offense for which convicted, date of contract, amount of fine or term of imprisonment imposed, and statement of costs and fines. Arr. chron. by date of contract. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of convict. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 3. Outside va.

113. CONVICT ACCOUNTS, 1897--. 3 vols. (1-3).
Accounts of convicts sentenced to imprisonment in the county jail by the circuit, county, and justice of the peace courts, showing dates sentenced and committed, name of convict, term of imprisonment imposed, amount of fine, statement of costs, total amount of fines and costs, and amounts of credits. Arr. chron. by date sentenced. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of convict. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 3. 2 vols., 1897-1930, outside va.; 1 vol., 1931--, ch. clerk's off.

Bonds

114. BONDS IN CIVIL CASES, 1926--. 4 file boxes.
Original bonds executed by litigants as security in civil cases filed and tried in the circuit, county, and justice of the peace courts, and filed and approved by the sheriff, including cost, appeal, execution, judiciary and other bonds, showing case number, names of litigants, cause of action, court in which triable, date of bond, names of principal and sureties, and designating principal obligor and principal obligee, kind of bond, amount of bond, statement of terms and conditions, dates filed and approved, signatures and oaths of principal and sureties, and signature and approval of the sheriff. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 5½ x 12.

115. APPEARANCE BONDS, 1926--. 2 file boxes.
Original appearance bonds executed by defendants as security for appearance in court at trial in the circuit, county, and justice of the peace courts, filed and approved by the sheriff, showing bond number, court in which filed, case number, names of defendants as principal and of sureties, and designating principal obligor and principal obligee, offense charged, date appearance set, date executed, amount of bond, statement of terms and conditions, signatures and oaths of principal and sureties, dates filed and approved, and signature and approval of sheriff. Arr. numer. by bond no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 5½ x 12. Sheriff's off.

Sheriff - Fines, Costs, and Fees; Miscellaneous; Maps (116-120)

Fines, Costs, and Fees

116. SHERIFF'S FEE BOOK [Justice of the Peace Courts], 1928--. 6 vols.
Record of fees, costs, fines, and forfeitures collected by the sheriff in civil and criminal cases filed and tried in the justice of the peace courts, showing justice of the peace district number, case number, names of the defendants in criminal cases and of litigants in civil cases, cause of action, or offense charged, date judgment rendered or sentence imposed, amount of judgment, itemization of all fees, costs, fines or forfeitures collected, date collected, source of collection, name of justice of the peace, signature and certification of the sheriff. Arr. chron. by date entered. Indexed numer. by justice of the peace districts. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 24 x 18 x 2. 5 vols., 1928-35, outside va.; 1 vol., 1936--, sheriff's off.

117. SHERIFF'S COSTS, 1861-66. 1 vol.
Record of fees, costs, fines, and forfeitures collected by the sheriff in civil and criminal cases filed and tried in the chancery, circuit, probate, and justice of the peace courts, showing case number, names of litigants in civil cases and of defendants in criminal cases, cause of action or offense charged, court in which assessed, itemized entries of each kind and amount of fee, cost, fine, or forfeiture assessed and collected, source of collection, date collected and total amount received. Arr. chron. by date entered. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

Miscellaneous

118. UNSERVED WARRANTS, 1926--. 3 file boxes.
Original warrants for arrests issued in criminal cases and received by the sheriff for service from the circuit, county, and justice of the peace courts of the county and from other courts of competent jurisdiction in the State, but which have not been served, showing dates issued and received, kind of process, county and court from which issued, to whom directed, case number, name of defendant, offense charged, date returnable, signature of issuing officer, date, how disposed of, and signature of sheriff. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of defendant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 5½ x 12.

119. UNSERVED CIVIL PAPERS, 1932--. 1 file box.
Original legal process issued in civil cases and received by the sheriff for service from the chancery, circuit, county, and justice of the peace courts of the county and from other courts of competent jurisdiction in the State, but which have not been served, including writs, subpenas, orders, decrees, mittimus and other legal process, showing dates issued, kind of process, county and court from which issued, to whom directed, case number, names of litigants, cause of action, date returnable, signature of issuing officer, date, and signature of the sheriff. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 5½ x 12.

Maps

120. MAP OF TUNICA COUNTY, 1934. 1 map.
Political and physical map of Tunica County, showing township, range, section,

Sheriff - Maps (Next entry 121, p. 129)

beat lines, school districts, creeks, rivers, towns, drainage districts, paved, gravel, and unimproved roads and railroads. Blue and white. 1 in. equals 3,000 ft. 42 x 60.

(Next entry 121, p. 129)

XII. CORONER

The office of coroner was established in Tunica County by the creating act of 1836 as prescribed by the Constitution of 1832.[1] The office was filled by election on issue of writ of election from the Governor in 1836.[2] Except the years 1846-56, 1882-89, and 1900-1907, when no coroner held office and his functions were performed by justices of the peace as ex officio coroners, the office has functioned continuously in Tunica County since that time.[3]

Until 1890, by Constitutional provision, the coroner was elected for a 2-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[4] The Constitution of 1890 provides that he be elected for a term of 4 years and gives the Legislature authority to determine the method of election.[5] The Legislature has prescribed that the coroner be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[6]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of coroner from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 177-178.

No records of the coroner were found in Tunica County.

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1. Const. 1832, art. V, sec. 19; L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49.
2. L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49.
3. Register of Commissions, 1899--. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
4. Const. 1832, art. V, sec. 21; Code 1871, secs. 356, 359; Code 1880, secs. 110, 396. In 1871, the coroner was made ex officio ranger when the office of ranger was abolished as a separate office, (L. M. 1871, p. 769; Code 1871, p. 306; see "Coroner as Ranger," p. 161).
5. Const. 1890, sec. 135.
6. Code 1892, secs. 3049, 3633; Code 1906, secs. 3456, 4140; Code 1917, secs. 2794, 6774; Code 1930, secs. 2881, 6210.

(Next entry 121, p. 129)

XIII. CONSTABLES

The office of constable was established in each police district of Tunica County after the organization of the county in 1836 as prescribed by the Constitution of 1832.[1] These offices functioned until January 1940, when the constables elected at the general elections in 1935 went out of office.[2]

The Constitutions of 1832 and of 1869 provided that constables be elected for a 2-year term in and from each police or supervisors' district by the qualified electors of the district.[3] The Constitution of 1890 provides that constables shall be chosen by district for a 4-year term but gives the Legislature power to determine the method of selection.[4] The Legislature has prescribed that constables shall be elected by district at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[5]

The Constitutions of 1832, of 1869, and of 1890 provide that a competent number of constables be chosen in each county by districts.[6] No definite number was prescribed by the Code of 1871, but since 1880, statute law has required that 1 constable be chosen in each district for the election of justices of the peace. Since 1900, the board of supervisors has had the power to provide for the election of additional constables in any district, not to exceed the number of justices of the peace provided for in the district.[7]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of constable from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 179-181.

Constables are not required to keep any permanent records.

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1. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 23; L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49.
2. No candidate for the office of constable offered for election in any supervisors' district at the general election in 1939. As there are no constables in Tunica County, process issued by justices of the peace is served by the sheriff (Code 1848, p. 444; Code 1857, p. 406; Code 1871, sec. 1311; Code 1880, sec. 2198; Code 1892, sec. 2402; Code 1906, sec. 2731; Code 1917, sec. 2230; Code 1930, sec. 2079). See also entry 32.
3. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 23; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 23.
4. Const. 1890, sec. 171.
5. Code 1892, secs. 767, 3049, 3633; L. M. 1900, p. 80; Code 1906, secs. 829, 3456, 4140; Code 1917, secs. 635, 2794, 6477; Code 1930, secs. 630, 2881, 6210.
6. Const. 1832, art. IV, sec. 23; Const. 1869, art. VI, sec. 23; Const. 1890, sec. 171.
7. Code 1880, sec. 386; Code 1892, sec. 767; L. M. 1900, p. 80; Code 1906, sec. 829; Code 1917, sec. 635; Code 1930, sec. 630.

XIV. TAX ASSESSOR

The office of tax assessor was established in Tunica County at the time the county was created in 1836, under statutory authority of 1821, and has functioned continuously in the county since that time.[1]

From 1833 to 1890 the tax assessor was elected for a 2-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general election for State, county, district, and county-district officers.[2] The Constitution of 1890 provides that the tax assessors be elected for a 4-year term and gives the Legislature authority to determine the manner of selection.[3] The Legislature has prescribed that the tax assessor be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[4]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of tax assessor from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 182-188.

The records of the tax assessor, unless otherwise specified, are kept in his office.

121. PERSONAL TAX ASSESSMENTS, 1923--. 74 vols.
Original lists of taxable personal property returned to the tax assessor by persons liable for taxation, showing name and post office address, location of property, beat number, name of municipality, school district and road district of residence, occupation or business of taxpayer, poll tax charge, race, sex, and age of taxpayer, road tax charge or reason not liable, affidavit of taxpayer, attestation of tax assessor, date of return, classes and detailed description of property reported, including motor vehicles, valuation by taxpayer, valuation by tax assessor, and remarks. Arr. numer. by beat no. and alph. thereunder by first letter of surname of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 17 x 10 x 4. 47 vols., 1923-35, outside va.; 27 vols., 1936--, tax assessor's off.

122. ASSESSMENT OF LAND SUBJECT TO LEVEE TAX, 1871--. 1 vol.
Original lists of real property liable for levee tax returned to the tax assessor by owners of land, showing name and address of owner, beat number, school district and road district of residence, legal description of land, owner's total valuation, valuation of land and buildings, tax assessor's valuation and assessment, amount of levee tax levied, year of assessment, signature and oath of land owner, and title of officer administering oath. Arr. chron. by year of assessment. Indexed by name of political subdivision. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 3. Outside va.

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1. L. M. 1821, p. 35. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
2. L. M. 1833, p. 477; Code 1848, p. 174; Code 1857, pp. 70-71; Const. 1869, art. V, sec. 21; Code 1871, sec. 307; Code 1880, secs. 118, 396. The office of assessor and collector was a dual one until 1841 (L. M. 1841, p. 57; Code 1848, p. 186).
3. Const. 1890, sec. 135.
4. Code 1892, secs. 3049, 3633; Code 1906, secs. 3456, 4140; Code 1917, secs. 3794, 6774; Code 1930, secs. 2881, 6210.

123. IMPORTANT PAPERS, 1930--. 12 file boxes.
Miscellaneous papers pertaining to the assessment of real and personal property, including opinions from the Attorney General on matters of tax levies and assessments, instructions from the State Tax Commission, automobile and truck tag cards, showing name and address of owner, make of vehicle, assessed valuation, motor serial number and year and model, tax assessment, increases and decreases in yearly assessments, changed and corrected assessment rolls, and special rolls from the State Tax Commission. Arr. chron. by date of assessment. No index. Hdw., typed, and ptd. 11 x 5½ x 12.

124. MAP OF TUNICA [COUNTY], MISSISSIPPI, 1923. 1 map.
Physical, political, and land tenure map of Tunica County, showing location and boundaries of county, names and locations of towns and villages, names and locations and boundaries of school districts, road districts, drainage districts, and levee districts, individual tracts and lots showing section, township and range, name of owner, and number of acres, locations, names and routes of rivers, lakes, streams, and other watercourses, and locations and routes of public roads and railroads. Scale: 1 in. equals 3000 ft. Black and white and ptd. 42 x 60.

125. MAP OF TUNICA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, 1934. 1 map.
Physical, political, and land tenure map of Tunica County, showing locations and boundaries of the county, names and locations of towns and villages, names, locations, and boundaries of school districts, road districts, supervisors' districts, drainage districts, levee districts, individual tracts of land and lots showing section, township and range, number of acres and name of owner, locations, names, and routes of rivers, lakes, and other watercourses and routes of public roads and railroads. Scale: 1 in. equals 3000 ft. 42 x 89.

(126-128)

XV. SHERIFF AS TAX COLLECTOR

The office of tax collector was established in Tunica County on its creation in 1836, as provided by statute in 1830, and has functioned continuously in the county since that date.[1]

From 1833 to 1843 the tax collector was elected for a 2-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections held for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[2] Since 1843, the sheriff has been by law the ex officio tax collector.[3]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of sheriff as tax collector, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 189-198.

The records of the sheriff as tax collector, unless otherwise specified, are kept in the sheriff's vault.

Assessments
(See also entries 1-7, 15, 16, 28)

126. LAND ROLL, 1843--. 47 vols.
Copies of original assessment rolls of State and county taxes levied on taxable real estate, transmitted to the sheriff as tax collector by the clerk of the chancery court as clerk of the board of supervisors. For description, see entry 15. 25 vols., 1843-73, 1900-1921, outside va.; 13 vols., 1874-99, jail; 9 vols., 1922--, ch. clerk's va.

127. PERSONAL ROLL, 1871--. 51 vols.
Copies of original assessment rolls of State and county taxes levied on taxable personal property, transmitted to the sheriff as tax collector by the clerk of the chancery court as clerk of the board of supervisors. For description, see entry 28. 28 vols., 1871-1918, jail; 22 vols., 1919-33, outside va.; 1 vol., 1934--, tax assessor's off.

128. ASSESSMENT ROLL, 1866--. 29 vols.
Copies of original assessment rolls, showing name of tax payer, list of chattels, rate of interest and value, special assessments, poll tax, special tax for automobile or truck, and total tax. Arr. numer. by political subdivision. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 24 x 18 x ½. 28 vols., 1866-1935, jail; 1 vol., 1936--, tax assessor's off.

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1. L. M. 1830, p. 22. The office of assessor and collector was held by the same person until 1841 (ibid.; L. M. 1822, p. 358; L. M. 1833, p. 477; L. M. 1841, p. 57). See also Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
2. L. M. 1833, p. 477; Code 1848, p. 174. The office of tax collector was a separate office from 1841 to 1843 (ibid.; L. M. 1843, p. 43).
3. L. M. 1846, p. 69; Code 1848, p. 181; Code 1857, p. 71; French vs. State, 52 Miss. Rep., 738, 748; Code 1880, sec. 347; Code 1892, sec. 4143; Code 1906, sec. 4696; Code 1917, sec. 3110; L. M. 1926, pp. 304-305; Code 1930, sec. 3341.

129. ASSESSMENT ROLL OF PUBLIC CORPORATIONS, 1926--. 13 vols.
Copies of original rolls of assessments on real and personal property owned by public service corporations operating in and through Tunica County computed by State Railroad Assessors, equalized and approved by State Tax Commission, and sent to clerk of the board for inclusion in county tax rolls, showing name of corporation, domicile, legal description of taxable property, valuation, assessed value, taxing districts, and certification of State Tax Commission. Arr. chron. by date of assessment. Indexed alph. by name of corporation. Typed on ptd. form. 100 pp. 10 x 18 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

130. DRAINAGE ASSESSMENTS, 1920--. 3 file boxes.
Original lists of taxable real property returned to the board of drainage commissioners by owners of land situated in drainage districts and subject to drainage district tax, including real property owned by individuals, corporations, voluntary associations and joint stock companies, showing name and address of landowner, legal description and location of property, buildings, and improvements, total acreage, estimated valuation of benefits, commissioners' assessment, rate of mileage and percentage of tax, year of assessment, signature and oath of landowner, name of drainage district, and name and title of officer administering oath. Arr. chron. by year of assessment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 5$\frac{1}{2}$ x 12. Outside va.

131. LAKE CORMORANT DRAINAGE DISTRICT ASSESSMENT ROLL, 1924--. 1 vol.
Record of taxes levied by the board of drainage commissioners of the Lake Cormorant Drainage District, organized in 1924, for collection by the tax collector on taxable real property situated in the district for the purpose of meeting principal and interest payments on district bond issues, including real property owned by individuals, corporations, voluntary associations and joint stock companies, showing name and address of taxpayer, legal description and location of property, buildings and improvements, number of acres, assessed valuation of land, assessed valuation of buildings and improvements, assessed valuation of benefits, total assessed valuation, amount of taxes levied, amount of drainage tax levied, total amount of taxes and drainage tax levied, rate of mileage, percentage of tax, year of assessment and number of tax receipt. Arr. chron. by date of assessment. Indexed alph. by name of political subdivision. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 30 x 1$\frac{1}{2}$.

132. JERRY LAKE DRAINAGE DISTRICT ASSESSMENT ROLL, 1925--. 1 vol.
Record of taxes levied by the board of drainage commissioners of the Jerry Lake Drainage District, organized in 1925, for collection by the tax collector on taxable real property situated in the district for the purpose of meeting principal and interest payments on bond issues, including real property owned by individuals, corporations, voluntary associations and joint stock companies, showing name and address of taxpayer, legal description and location of property, buildings and improvements, total acreage, assessed valuation of land, assessed valuation of buildings and improvements, assessed valuation of benefits, total assessed valuation, amount of taxes levied, rate of mileage and percentage of tax, year of assessment and tax receipt number. Arr. chron. by date of assessment. Indexed alph. by name of political subdivision. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 24 x 16 x 1.

133. PRICHARD DRAINAGE DISTRICT ASSESSMENT ROLL, 1927-36. 1 vol.
Record of taxes levied by the board of drainage commissioners of the Prichard Drainage District, functioning 1927-36, for collection by the tax collector on taxable real property situated in the district, for the purpose of meeting principal and interest payments on district bond issues, including real property owned by individuals, corporations, voluntary associations and joint stock companies, showing name and address of taxpayer, legal description and location of property, buildings and improvements, total acreage, assessed valuation of buildings and improvements; assessed valuation of benefits, total assessed valuation, amount of taxes levied, amount of damages levied, total amount of taxes and damages levied, rate of mileage and percentage of tax, year of assessment and tax receipt number. Arr. chron. by date of assessment. Indexed alph. by name of political subdivision. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 30 x 1¼.

Tax Receipts

134. LAND TAX RECEIPTS, 1869--. 155 vols. (dated).
Duplicate copies of receipts issued to taxpayers in settlement of real property taxes assessed and due, including State and county ad valorem taxes, school district and road district taxes, taxes for creating sinking funds for servicing county bonds, showing receipt number, year for which taxes due, date receipt issued, if taxes paid, name of taxpayer, total amount of taxes due in each class of assessment, legal description of real property, and signature of tax collector. Also contains: Personal Tax Receipts, 1869-80, entry 135. Arr. numer. by tax receipt no. and chron. thereunder by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 72 vols., 1869-78, 1913-32, outside va.; 71 vols., 1879-1912, jail; 12 vols., 1933--, sheriff's va.

135. PERSONAL TAX RECEIPTS, 1881--. 108 vols. (dated). 1869-80 in Land Tax Receipts, entry 134.
Duplicate copies of receipts issued to taxpayers in settlement of personal property taxes assessed and due, including State and county ad valorem taxes, taxes for creating sinking funds to service county bonds, and poll taxes to 1935, showing receipt number, year for which taxes due, date receipt issued, if taxes paid, name of taxpayer, total amount of taxes due, and signature of tax collector. Arr. numer. by receipt no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 53 vols., 1881-1918, jail; 45 vols., 1919-32, outside va.; 10 vols., 1933--, sheriff's va.

136. DELINQUENT TAX SALES PURCHASERS' RECEIPTS, 1932--. 1 vol.
Carbon copies of receipts issued to individuals purchasing property sold at sales for delinquent taxes, showing receipt number, name of purchaser, amount paid, assessed value of property sold, date of sale, legal description of property sold, itemization and total of State and county taxes, fees, and damages due, and signature of sheriff as tax collector. Arr. numer. by receipt no. and chron. thereunder by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 12 x 18 x 2.

137. ROAD TAX RECEIPTS, 1900-32. 32 vols. (1-32).
Carbon copies of receipts issued persons electing to pay commutation road taxes in lieu of working on roads, showing receipt number, date receipt issued,

name of taxpayer, amount of taxes paid, residence of taxpayer by name of taxing district, and signature of tax collector. Arr. numer. by receipt no. and chron. thereunder by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 12 x 10 x 4. 27 vols., 1900-27, jail; 5 vols., 1928-32, outside va.

138. ROAD AND BRIDGE PRIVILEGE TAX RECORDS, 1914--. 12 vols.
Carbon copies of receipt-licenses issued to motor vehicle owners in payment of road and bridge privilege taxes and in payment of license tags, showing type of vehicle, motor number, amount of taxes paid, less 10 percent since 1934 for each annual re-registration, year for which taxes due, names of State and county, receipt-license number, names and address of taxpayer-licensee, make, age, kind and type, model and year of vehicle, voting precinct of taxpayer-licensee, estimated value of car, date receipt-license issued, signature of sheriff as tax collector, and counter-signature of Motor Vehicle Commissioner. Arr. numer. by receipt-license no. and chron. thereunder by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 24 x 12 x 1. 8 vols., 1914-30, outside va.; 4 vols., 1931--, sheriff's va.

139. HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE, 1922-32. 2 vols. Discontinued because law of 1932 gave State Game and Fish Commission authority to regulate issuance of hunting and fishing licenses and the Commission has appointed a warden to issue licenses.
Carbon copies of licenses issued and privileging individuals to hunt, fish, trap, and seine, showing license number, date issued, name and address of licensee, amount of license paid, expiration date of license, and signature of sheriff as tax collector. Arr. numer. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. Outside va.

140. LICENSE ROLL, 1872-1910. 3 vols.
Receipt of receipt-license issued and privileging places of business to sell wine, spirituous and malt liquors, showing license number, date issued, name and address of licensee, amount of license paid, expiration date of license, and signature of tax collector. Arr. numer. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 24 x 1.

Register of Motor Vehicles

141. REGISTER OF MOTOR VEHICLES, 1930--. 8 vols.
Record of automobile and motor vehicle licenses issued, showing date, number, name of owner, residence, type of vehicle, motor number, model, horsepower, carrying capacity, date delivered, amount of tax, amount of taxes paid, total damages imposed for late payment, date paid, and remarks. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 24 x 12 x 1. 7 vols., 1930-37, outside va.; 1 vol., 1938--, sheriff's va.

Cash Books and Ledgers

142. TAX COLLECTORS CASH BOOK, 1875--. 44 vols.
Daily record of all collections made by the sheriff as tax collector, showing name of person paying taxes, year for which taxes due, amount paid, receipt number and date issued, fund debited, amount of payment of taxes into State

Sheriff as Tax Collector - Cash Books and Ledgers (143)

Treasury, number of receipt warrant issued by the State Treasurer, amount of taxes paid into county treasury, number of receipt warrants issued by county treasurer to 1924, and by county depository 1924--, amount of commission deducted by tax collector and date of each entry. Arr. chron. by date of collection. No index. 200 pp. 12 x 14 x 3. 21 vols., 1875-1915, jail; 17 vols., 1916-32, outside va.; 6 vols., 1933--, sheriff's va.

143. LOG WAGON PRIVILEGE CASH BOOK, 1920-24. 1 vol.
Carbon copies of receipt-license issued to persons, firms, or corporations employed in the business of hauling logs on the public roads for commercial purposes, in payment of privilege taxes, showing licensee-receipt number, name of taxpayer-licensee, year for which taxes due, amount of taxes due, amount of taxes paid, size of wagon, number of animals required to draw it, and signature of sheriff as tax collector. Arr. numer. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Outside va.

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XVI. TREASURER

The office of treasurer was established in Tunica County at the time it was created in 1836, as prescribed by an act of the Legislature of 1830.[1] The office functioned continuously in the county until it was abolished by a constitutional amendment approved by popular vote in 1922 and made a part of the Constitution in 1924.[2]

From 1836 to 1890, by constitutional provision, the treasurer was elected for a 2-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[3] The Constitution of 1890 increased the term of office to 4 years, prohibited the treasurer from immediately succeeding himself or the sheriff in office, and gave the Legislature authority to determine the method of selection.[4] The Legislature prescribed that the treasurer be elected by the qualified voters of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[5]

The amendment in abolishing the office specified that the duties formerly imposed upon the treasurer shall be discharged by some person or persons elected as required by law.[6] In 1932, the Legislature enacted a law requiring the clerk of the chancery court in counties having county depositories to be custodian of the books, records, and papers belonging to the treasurer.[7] Since Tunica County has a regularly designated depository, the clerk of the chancery court has become custodian of the records.

For the general structural and functional development of the office of treasurer, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 202-206.

The records of the treasurer are kept in the vault of the chancery clerk.

144. TREASURER'S DOCKET, 1861-1924. 11 vols.
Ledger of receipts and disbursements of county and county-district funds kept by the treasurer, showing source and date of receipts, receipt warrant number, amount of receipts, warrant number, name of payee, date warrant issued, amount of warrant, totals, and balances. Arr. chron. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3. 5 vols., 1861-1914, outside va.; 6 vols., 1915-24, jail.

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1. L. M. 1830, p. 18; L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49. Official Bond Register, entry 32.
2. L. M. 1922, p. 144; L. M. 1924, p. 189; Const. 1890, sec. 135.
3. Const. 1832, art. V, secs. 19-20; Const. 1869, art. V, sec. 21; Code 1871, secs. 307, 357; Code 1880, secs. 118, 396.
4. Const. 1890, secs. 135, 138.
5. Code 1892, secs. 3049, 3633; Code 1906, secs. 3456, 4140; Code 1917, secs. 2794, 6774.
6. L. M. 1922, p. 144; L. M. 1924, p. 189; Const. 1890, sec. 135.
7. L. M. 1932, p. 514. For the establishment of the office of clerk of the chancery court, the present status of the office, the method of selection, and the term of office, see "Chancery Court," p. 90.

145. TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS, 1870-1924. 8 vols.
Ledger accounts with all county officers and departments kept by the treasurer, showing names of officers, departments, funds, and accounts, sources of funds received, amount and fund debited, itemized entries of disbursements, amount and fund credited, total amount of funds disbursed, and balances of each fund. Arr. chron. by date entered. Indexed alph. by name of fund. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3. 6 vols., 1870-1915, jail; 2 vols., 1916-24, outside va.

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XVII. CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AS AUDITOR

The office of auditor was established in Tunica County in 1892 when the clerk of the board of supervisors was designated by law as the auditor.[1] However, the clerk had been given auditing duties as early as 1880. The office of clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor has functioned continuously since its establishment.[2]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 207-212.

The records of the auditor, unless otherwise specified, are kept by the chancery clerk in his vault.

Bank Deposits

146. TREASURERS RECEIPT WARRANT, 1912--. 13 vols.
Duplicate copies of warrants made by the clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor authorizing the sheriff as tax collector and other county officers to deposit funds to the credit of the county, showing receipt warrant number, date issued, sources and amounts of deposits, funds to which allocated, totals, and signatures of the clerk and of the officer making the deposit. Arr. numer. by receive warrant no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 1½. 7 vols., 1912-27, outside va.; 6 vols., 1928--, ch. clerk's va.

147. BOND REGISTER, 1905--. 2 vols.
Register of coupon bonds issued by the board of supervisors for the construction and maintenance of county and county-district schools, roads, and bridges, public buildings, and other public works and improvements, showing volume and page of order of issuance in Minutes Board of Supervisors (entry 2), name of bond issue, date and purpose, total amount of issue, serial number of each bond, dates issued, names of purchasers, denomination of each bond, rate of interest, amounts of coupons, dates principal and interest payments due, maturity dates, dates of coupon payments, and dates of redemption and cancelation of bonds. Arr. chron. by date registered. Indexed alph. by name of purchasers. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 500 pp. 24 x 18 x 2.

Claims
(See also entries 77-80, 172-174)

148. DOCKET OF CLAIMS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1870--. 9 vols. Title varies: Board of Supervisors Docket, 1870-86, 1 vol.
Record of claims, accounts, and demands filed against the county for judicial

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1. Code 1892, sec. 326; Code 1906, sec. 347; Code 1917, sec. 3720; Code 1930, sec. 295. As the clerk of the chancery court is the ex officio clerk of the board of supervisors, for the establishment of the office, its present status, the method of selection, and term of office, see "Chancery Court," p. 90.
2. Code 1880, sec. 2166. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.

and school expenses, salaries, supplies, materials, and equipment furnished county offices and departments, for damages and other obligations, showing claim number assigned by clerk, name of claimant, amount claimed, date filed, date and purpose of claim, disposition, and volume and page of record of claims allowed in Minutes Board of Supervisors (entry 2). Arr. numer. by claim no. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3.

149. JOURNAL OF THE CHANCERY CLERK, 1905-09. 1 vol.
Daily record kept by the clerk of the chancery court as auditor for his convenience, of county and county-district road funds, showing road funds by districts, amount deposited to fund, balance, vouchers, and districts. Arr. chron. by date recorded. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. Outside va.

150. REPORTS OF DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS, 1910--. 1 vol.
Recorded copies of monthly reports of receipts and disbursements of county and county-district funds made by county depositories to the board of supervisors, showing name of depository, date of report, period covered, dates, sources, and amounts of receipts received for deposit, names of funds debited, total receipts, and dates, amount, and warrant numbers of disbursements, names of payees, names of funds credited, total disbursements, balances, oath of reporting officials of depository, and approval of board of supervisors. Arr. chron. by date of deposit. Indexed alph. by name of fund. Hdw. on ptd. form. 600 pp. 12 x 10 x 3½.

Disbursements

151. COUNTY WARRANTS, 1866--. 54 vols.
Stubs and duplicate copies of warrants issued in payment of approved claims for judicial and school expenses, salaries, Confederate pensions, for services rendered, for supplies, materials, and equipment furnished county offices and departments, for damages and other obligations, showing claim number in Docket of Claims Board of Supervisors (entry 148), warrant number in Warrant and Disbursement Register (entry 153), date issued, amount of warrant, name of taxpayer, purpose for which warrant issued, name of fund debited, and signature of clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 18 x 1½. 8 vols., 1866-99, jail; 31 vols., 1900-26, outside va.; 15 vols., 1927--, ch. clerk's va.

152. DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS, 1932--. 1 file box.
Duplicate copies of receipts and disbursements of county and county-district funds made by county depositories to the board of supervisors, showing name of depository, date of report, period covered, dates, sources, and amounts of receipts received for deposit, names of funds debited, total receipts, dates, amounts, and warrant numbers of disbursements, names of payees, names of funds credited, total disbursements, balances, oath of reporting official of depository, and approval of board of supervisors. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 4½ x 12. Sheriff's va.

Ledgers

153. WARRANT AND DISBURSEMENT REGISTER, 1938--. 1 vol.
General ledger of accounts with all county officers of disbursement made by

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors as Auditor - Ledgers (154-155)

warrants in payment of approved claims, including governmental costs including administrative, judicial, protection of persons and property, conservation of health, highway maintenance, charities, corrections, education, sundry, and interest on temporary loans and bonds; non-governmental costs including principal on temporary loans, bonds, permanent improvements, transfers and refunds, and trust and investment transactions, showing claim number in Docket of Claims Board of Supervisors (entry 148), warrant number, dates issued and paid, name of payee, purpose, name of fund credited, totals, and balance. Arr. chron. by date paid. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 36 x 24 x 2.

154. REGISTER OF CASH RECEIPTS, 1936--. 1 vol.
General ledger of accounts of cash receipts classified under the following headings: Revenue, including general real and personal taxes, privilege taxes, interest, rents, licenses and permits, costs, fees, fines and forfeitures, department earnings, sales and leases of property, refunds, and State aid, including gasoline tax, Confederate pensions, and school equalization funds, showing source and purpose of receipts, amounts received, and name of fund debited. Arr. chron. by date received and entered. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 36 x 24 x 2.

155. GENERAL COUNTY LEDGER, 1900--. 14 vols. (1-14).
General control ledger of current, capital, and trust accounts and recorded copies of annual county budgets prepared, published, and adopted by the board of supervisors.

i. General control ledger shows the following accounts, each supported by subsidiary accounts giving details of all transactions under each account: Depository, county budget, tax collector, county tax levy, appropriated revenues, gasoline tax receipts, bond interest, rents, licenses and permits, fines and forfeitures, State appropriations, departmental earnings, sales of property, miscellaneous receipts, temporary loans, vouchers payable, unpaid taxes, current surplus, capital appropriations, authorized construction, bonds payable, bond premiums, fixed county properties, fixed capital surplus, and trust.

ii. Budget ledger shows estimates of proposed expenditures and of prospective revenue for each fiscal year, the proposed expenditures being classified under the following headings with each heading subdivided and itemized: Administrative, judicial, protection of persons and property, conservation of health, highway maintenance, charities and corrections, education, sundry, interest, principal, construction and permanent improvements, and total county appropriations, and the estimates of prospective revenues being classified under the following headings: Gasoline tax, privilege tax, interest, rents, licenses and permits, fines and forfeits, State appropriations, departmental earnings, sales of property, sundry, total tax levy for general county purpose, and tax levy by districts.

Arr. alph. by name of fund or account and chron. thereunder by date entered. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3. 3 vols., 1900-08, jail; 8 vols., 1909-25, outside va.; 3 vols., 1926--, ch. clerk's va.

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XVIII. REGISTRAR OF ELECTIONS

The Constitution of 1869 directed the Legislature to provide for the registration of persons entitled to vote.[1] Until 1880, this function was discharged in Tunica County by a 3-member board appointed annually by a commission composed of the sheriff, the chancery clerk, and the president of the board of supervisors.[2]

In 1880, the clerk of the circuit court was made ex officio registrar of elections.[3]

The Constitution of 1890 likewise directed the Legislature to provide for the registration of persons eligible to vote,[4] and since 1892, legislation enacted has made it the duty of the State Board of Election Commissioners to appoint a registrar in each county who shall be the clerk of the circuit court unless it is shown that he is a person improper for the office. The circuit clerks of Tunica County have been appointed regularly to this office since its establishment.[5]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of clerk of the circuit court as registrar of elections, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 219-221.

The records of the office, unless otherwise specified, are kept in the vault of the clerk of the circuit court.

156. REGISTRATION BOOK, 1871--. 103 vols.
Record of registration of voters in the county, showing date of registration, number, signature, age, color, occupation, place of business, and residence of registrant, registrar's notation as to registrant's ability to read the Constitution or understand and interpret any section of it read to him if he cannot read, and remarks, including reason for removal of names because of death, disqualification, or disfranchisement. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of registrants and chron. thereunder by date of registration. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 12 x 18 x ½. 63 vols., 1871-1915, jail; 40 vols., 1916--, cir. clerk's va.

157. POLL BOOKS, 1866--. 73 vols.
Lists of qualified voters compiled from Registration Book (entry 156) and revised before each election by the registrar and the county board of election commissioners, showing registration number, date of registration, name, age, color, address of voter, election manager's notation on voter's voting record,

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1. Const. 1869, art. VII, sec. 3.
2. Code 1871, secs. 340-355.
3. Code 1880, secs. 105-116. For the establishment of the office of clerk of the circuit court, its present status, the method of selection, and the term of office, see "Circuit Court," p. 101.
4. Const. 1890, sec. 242.
5. Code 1892, sec. 3603; L. M. 1900, p. 89; Code 1906, sec. 4109; Code 1917, sec. 6743; Code 1930, sec. 6178. Official Bond Register, entry 32.

Registrar of Elections (Next entry 158, p. 144)

and remarks, including reasons for removal of names because of death, disqualification, or disfranchisement. Arr. numer. by precinct nos. and alph. thereunder by names of electors. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 12 x 18 x ½. 45 vols., 1866-1915, jail; 29 vols., 1916--, cir. clerk's retiring va.

(Next entry 158, p. 144)

XIX. COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Elections in Tunica County were conducted by a 3-member board of inspectors appointed by the board of police until 1871.[1] From 1871 to 1880, a 3-member board of registration was established to register persons entitled to vote.[2] In 1880, this function of registration was given to the circuit clerk as ex officio registrar.[3] At the same time it was provided that three commissioners of election should be appointed before each general election by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and the Secretary of State, to revise the registration books and have charge of the election.[4]

Since 1892, elections have been conducted by the county board of election commissioners composed of three members appointed for a 2-year term by the State Board of Election Commissioners.[5]

For the general functional and structural development of the county board of election commissioners, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 225-228.

This board is not required to keep any permanent records; for its publications, see entry 61vi.

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1. L. M. 1833, p. 415; Code 1848, pp. 158-159; Code 1857, p. 91.
2. Code 1871, secs. 340-365; see "Registrar of Elections," p. 141.
3. Code 1880, sec. 105.
4. Code 1880, secs. 121-140.
5. Code 1892, sec. 3602; Code 1906, sec. 4108; Code 1917, sec. 6742; Code 1930, sec. 6177.

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XX. SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

The constitutional office of superintendent of education was established in Tunica County in 1870, and has functioned continuously since that time.[1]

Until 1896, by constitutional provision, the superintendent was appointed by the State Board of Education, with the advice of the Senate,[2] but in 1896 the Legislature made the office elective in Tunica County.[3] Since that time the superintendent has been elected by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[4]

The term of office was set at 2 years by the Constitution of 1869,[5] but was increased to 4 years by the Constitution of 1890.[6]

For the general functional and structural development of the office of county superintendent of education from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 229-236.

The records of the superintendent of education, unless otherwise specified, are kept in his office.

General Administration

158. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S JOURNAL, 1870--. 10 vols. Title varies: Superintendent's Account Book, 1870-90, 2 vols.
Superintendent's record of the administration of school affairs, showing names of locations of schools, names, addresses, and date of election of school trustees, lists of teachers examined and employed, recorded copies of monthly and term reports of teachers and summaries of term reports, copies of annual financial reports made by district school treasurers, copies of general school budgets and school district budgets, copies of superintendent's reports to State Superintendent of Public Education, copies of reports of teachers' institutions, plats of each school district, and other matters of general procedure. Also contains: Minutes of the County School Board, 1886--, entry 178. Arr. alph. by name of school and chron. thereunder by date of scholastic month. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2. 2 vols., 1870-90, jail; 8 vols., 1891--, supt's. off.

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1. Const. 1869, art. VIII, sec. 4; L. M. 1870, p. 5; Code 1871, sec. 2006; Code 1880, sec. 690; Const. 1890, sec. 204. See also entry 32.
2. L. M. 1870, p. 5; Code 1871, sec. 2006; Code 1880, sec. 690; Const. 1890, sec. 204.
3. L. M. 1896, p. 113; Code 1906, secs. 4140, 4810; Code 1917, secs. 6774, 7576; L. M. 1924, p. 416; Code 1930, secs. 6210, 6562. The act of 1896 and the subsequent acts were passed under authority of the provisions of the Constitution which gives the Legislature power to make the office elective in any and all counties (Const. 1890, sec. 204).
4. L. M. 1896, p. 113; Code 1906, secs. 4140, 4810; Code 1917, secs. 6774, 7576; L. M. 1924, p. 416; Code 1930, secs. 6210, 6562.
5. Const. 1869, art. VIII, sec. 4.
6. Const. 1890, sec. 204; L. M. 1896, p. 113; Code 1906, secs. 3456, 4809; Code 1917, secs. 2794, 7566; L. M. 1924, p. 416; Code 1930, secs. 2881, 6562.

159. DATA ON NEGRO SCHOOLS, 1926--. 1 file box.
Superintendent's record of negro schools in the county, showing name of school district, name of school, location of building, name of teacher, number of students, average grades, and other information. Arr. alph. by name of school. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 4 x 18.

160. DUNDEE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL, 1924--. 1 file box.
Original written instruments pertaining to the organization of the Dundee Consolidated school district, showing location and boundaries of the district, date of instrument, estimated cost of operation, names of schools to be included, number of pupils to be enrolled, and other matters pertaining to organization. Arr. chron. by date instrument received. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 1½ x 12.

161. ABSTRACTS OF TITLE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY, 1871--. 1 file box.
Abstracts of title to school property owned by county, showing evidence of every deed, deed of trust, mortgage, will, tax lien, judgment lien, lis pendens notice, court proceedings, and other instruments, relating to the devolution of title, including names of grantors, grantees, beneficiaries, trustees, substituted trustees, purchasers at tax sales, plaintiffs and defendants, and other parties in interest, statements of conditions and limitations, final decrees, and judgments, dates and exact time filed and recorded, itemization of recording fees, and of State and county taxes, opinions of abstractors, and volume and page of record in Land Deed Records (entry 12), and Land Mortgage Record (entry 17). Arr. chron. by date abstract made. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 4½ x 12.

162. CONTRACTORS BIDS ON NEW HIGH SCHOOL, 1933--. 1 file box.
Original copies of bids filed with the superintendent of education by contractors in answer to proposals for contracts for the erection of the Tunica County High School building, showing date of bid, date filed, names and addresses of contractors, terms and specifications of bid, names and addresses of principal and sureties on performance bond, amount of bond, signature of bidder, and disposition of each bid. Arr. chron. by date of bid. No index. Typed. 12 x 4 x 18.

163. PETITIONS /Regarding School Matters/, 1926--. 1 file box. 1870-1925 in Proceedings of Board of Supervisors, entry 3.
Original instruments directed to the superintendent of education petitioning for the establishment, annexation and addition of school districts, improvements, repairs and maintenance of school buildings, facilities and equipment, showing date of petition, date presented, subject of petition, signature of petitioners, and disposition. Arr. chron. by date petition received. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 12 x 24.

Teachers

Reports

164. TEACHERS REPORTS, WHITE AND NEGRO, 1919--. 9 file boxes.
Original monthly reports made to the county superintendent by white and colored teachers, showing date of report, period covered, name of school, name of teacher, number of pupils enrolled, average attendance, number of days taught, names

and ages of pupils enrolled, salary due teacher, signature of teacher, and signatures of majority of school trustees examining and approving report. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 14 x 18.
For record of reports, see entry 158.

165. REPORTS OF SUMMER SCHOOL WORK - NEGRO TEACHERS, 1919--. 1 file box.
Original copies of reports made to the county superintendent by negro teachers attending special courses at summer schools, showing date of report, period covered, name and location of school attended, courses taken, date completed, grades on examination, grade and number of license granted, name of school assigned to, and signature and address of teacher. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 12 x 24.

166. TEACHERS APPLICATIONS, 1930--. 1 file box.
Original applications made by teachers for positions in the county schools, showing date, name, address, age, sex, color, grade of license held, experience, training and qualifications, position applied for, names of references, and signature of teacher. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 12 x 24.

167. TEACHERS LICENSES, 1890--. 1 vol.
Stub record of licenses to teach granted applicants passing examination given by county board of examiners, showing license number, name of licensee, date examination taken, expiration date of license, and notation of applicant's grades in each subject covered by examination and general average. Arr. chron. by date of license. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 10 x 12 x 3.

168. TEACHERS CONTRACTS, 1900--. 1 vol.
Stub record of contracts made with teachers, showing license number, name of teacher licensed, date contract made, school to which teacher assigned, amount of salary to be paid teacher and other terms of contract, and signatures of superintendent and of teacher employed. Arr. chron. by date of contract. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 6 x 9 x 3.

169. SCHOOL REGISTERS OF TUNICA COUNTY, 1920--. 118 vols.
Daily registers kept by teachers, showing term of school, school district, race, name of school teacher, grades taught, number of pupils, average attendance, names and ages of pupils, names of parents or guardians, ages of pupils at date of admittance to public schools, date of birth, sex, number of years in grade previous to present year, whether or not vaccinated, physical defects, if any, names of text books used, report in progress of each pupil, and signatures of teachers, principal of school, and superintendent. Arr. chron. by date of school term. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 75 pp. 10 x 12 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Outside va.

Educable Children

170. EDUCABLE CHILDREN, 1894--. 19 vols.
Original lists of educable children in the county, reported annually by principal teachers in each school district, showing name and location of school, school district, names of parents or guardians, names, ages, grades, race, sex,

of children, section, township and range in which school is located, recapitulation sheet, showing total number of educable children, total number of pupils enrolled, date of school term, and signatures of school trustees examining and approving report. Arr. chron. by date of enumeration. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 250 pp. 12 x 18 x 1½. 11 vols., 1894-1926, outside va.; 8 vols., 1927--, ch. clerk's va.

Financial Administration

171. REGISTER OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1935--. 1 vol.
Ledger record of cash receipts allocated to school funds by the clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor, and of disbursements of school funds made by pay certificates by the superintendent of education.

i. Sources of receipt are classified as revenue and non-revenue, revenue receipts being listed as per capita and equalization funds from State appropriations, taxes from common school ad valorem, special school district ad valorem, dog and poll taxes, and interest from invested sixteenth section school land funds, and non-revenue receipts being listed as transfers and loans. Both classifications show name and source of funds, debits, credits, and balances.

ii. Disbursements are classified under the following main subsidiary accounts: Administrative, including salary of superintendent of education, superintendent's office expenses, school board and board of examiners, incidentals, institutes, and normals; instruction, including principal teachers, white teachers, colored teachers, and special teachers; auxiliary agencies, including tuition and transportation, operation of school plant, including janitor's wages, janitor's supplies, light, water, telephone, fuel, rent, and insurance, maintenance, including repairs to plant and equipment, capital expenditures, including grounds, improvements of grounds, new buildings and equipment, and purchase of vehicles; interest on loans, and non-governmental costs, including loans and refunds of taxes and tuition. Under subsidiary accounts, disbursements show pay certificate number, name of payee, amount of certificates, purpose, date issued, and name of fund credited.

Cash receipts arr. chron. by dates of credits and debits; disbursements arr. chron. by date pay certificate issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 508 pp. 18 x 30 x 2½.

172. TEACHERS PAY CERTIFICATES, 1883-1935. 37 vols. 1936-- in County Superintendent's Record of Warrants, entry 174.
Stubs and duplicate copies of pay certificates issued by superintendent of education to teachers to obtain warrants from the clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor for services rendered in county schools, showing certificate number, date issued, name of payee, amount of certificate, purpose, name of school fund credited, and signatures of superintendent of education and of payee acknowledging receipt of certificate. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 10 x 1½. 3 vols., 1883-1895, jail; 10 vols., 1896-1925, outside va.; 24 vols., 1926-35, supt's off.

173. REGISTER OF PAY CERTIFICATES, 1926--. 1 vol.
Register of pay certificates issued by the superintendent of education to teachers, transportation contractors, janitors, and other claimants to obtain warrants from the clerk of the board of supervisors as auditor, in payment for services rendered, showing certificate number, name of payee, date issued, purpose, grade of school taught by teacher, monthly salary, amount of certificate, and name of school fund debited. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 14 x 20 x 4.

174. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S RECORD OF WARRANTS, 1870--. 19 vols.
Duplicate copies of pay certificates issued by superintendent of education to teachers, transportation contractors, janitors, and other claimants to obtain warrants for services rendered, supplies, materials and equipment furnished, showing certificate number, date issued, name of payee, amount of certificate, purpose, name of school fund credited, signature of superintendent of education and of payee acknowleging receipt of certificate. Also contains: Teachers Pay Certificates, 1936--, entry 172. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 1870-1935, 200 pp. 18 x 10 x 1½; 1936--, 670 pp. 18 x 24 x 4. 6 vols., 1870-90, jail; 8 vols., 1891-1921, outside va.; 5 vols., 1922--, supt's. off.

Salary Assignments

175. ORDERS OF WARRANTS, 1932--. 1 file box.
Original copies of assignments of salaries made by teachers and transportation contractors authorizing county superintendent of education to deliver to pledgee as security for loans, showing date of assignment, names of assignor and assignee, date and amount of pay certificate assigned, and signature of assignor. Arr. chron. by date of assignment. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 4 x 18.

Maps

176. MAP OF TUNICA COUNTY, 1923. 1 map.
Physical and political map of Tunica County, showing location and boundaries of supervisors' districts, road districts, school districts, and other subdivisions, with section, township and range lines, names and locations of towns and villages, locations and routes of rivers and streams, and locations and routes of public roads and railroads. Scale: 1 in. equals 3,000 ft. Ptd. and black and white. 4' x 5'.

(Next entry 177, p. 150)

XXI. BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

The first board of school directors of Tunica County was appointed April 8, 1846,[1] under the law of March 4, 1846.[2] This board consisted of 5 members, appointed by the board of police for a term of 1 year, one member being chosen from each police district.[3] At its first meeting in June 1846, the board elected a president and secretary from its members as officers.[4] This board met at the courthouse 4 times each year[5] and functioned until 1870, when it was superseded by the 6-member board of school directors.[6]

On November 16, 1870, the 6-member board of school directors was appointed by the board of supervisors under authority of the act of July 4, 1870.[7] These members were selected as far as practicable from the 5 supervisors' districts with two members appointed for a 1-year term, two for a 2-year term, and two for a 3-year term.[8] The superintendent of education served as president of the board and the clerk of the circuit court was its secretary.[9] This board functioned until 1873 when it was abolished by law and its powers and duties given to the board of supervisors and to the board of school trustees.[10]

No records of the board of school directors were found in Tunica County.

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1. Minutes Board of Police, I, 21; see "Historical Sketch," pp. 33-36. The law of 1846 named this body "Board of School Commissioners," but the police minutes listed the board as the board of school directors.
2. L. M. 1846, p. 98.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. L. M. 1870, p. 8; Code 1871, secs. 2011-2014. See also entry 32.
7. Ibid.; Minutes Board of Supervisors, I, 18; see "Historical Sketch," p. 35.
8. L. M. 1870, p. 8.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid., pp. 1-3; see "School Trustees," p. 150.

XXII. SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Boards of trustees for each school district situated outside of towns were established in Tunica County by the law of 1873,[1] and the boards have functioned continuously in the county since that time. At the present time, there are 3 types of school districts in the county: Common school districts, consolidated school districts, and special consolidated school districts.[2]

The board of trustees of common school districts and consolidated school districts are composed of three members,[3] and the board of trustees of special consolidated school districts are composed of five members.[4] All members are selected in their districts by the school patrons who are qualified electors.[5]

Until 1894 trustees were elected for a 1-year term,[6] but since that year, they have been chosen for a 3-year term with one member being chosen annually.[7] Trustees of special consolidated school districts are elected for a 5-year term with one member being elected each year.[8]

For the general structural and functional development of board of school trustees from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 247-252.

The records kept and made by the various board of school trustees, unless otherwise specified, are preserved in the office of the superintendent of education.

177. MINUTES OF TUNICA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, 1920--. 1 vol.
Record of the proceedings and regular and special meetings of the board of trustees of the Tunica County High School, showing date of school term, date

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1. L. M. 1873, pp. 8-9. Until 1873 a number of the duties given to school trustees were discharged by a board of school directors appointed by the board of supervisors and composed of six members, two serving for 1 year, two for 2 years, and two for 3 years. The superintendent of education served as president of the board, and the clerk of the circuit court as secretary (L. M. 1870, p. 5; Code 1871, secs. 2011-2014).
2. The establishment of consolidated schools was authorized in 1910 (L. M. 1910, pp. 114-115; L. M. 1912, pp. 323-324; L. M. 1914, pp. 265-266; L. M. 1916, p. 284; Code 1917, secs. 3999-4006; L. M. 1924, pp. 440-447; Code 1930, secs. 6638-6652). The establishment of special consolidated school districts was authorized in 1928 (L. M. 1928, pp. 158-161; Code 1930, secs. 6653-6656).
3. L. M. 1873, p. 8; Code 1880, sec. 703; Code 1892, sec. 3999; L. M. 1894, p. 57; Code 1906, sec. 4518; Code 1917, sec. 7338; L. M. 1924, p. 431; L. M. 1928, p. 164; Code 1930, sec. 6623.
4. L. M. 1928, p. 160; Code 1930, sec. 6655.
5. L. M. 1873, p. 8; Code 1880, sec. 703; L. M. 1894, p. 57; Code 1906, sec. 4519; L. M. 1914, p. 257; Code 1917, secs. 7338-7339; L. M. 1924, p. 432; L. M. 1928, p. 160; Code 1930, secs. 6624-6625.
6. L. M. 1873, p. 8; Code 1880, sec. 703; Code 1892, sec. 4000.
7. L. M. 1874, p. 57; Code 1906, sec. 4518; L. M. 1915, p. 257; Code 1917, secs. 7338-7339; L. M. 1924, p. 432; Code 1930, sec. 6623.
8. L. M. 1928, p. 160; Code 1930, sec. 6655.

School Trustees (Next entry 178, p. 152)

of meeting, names of members present and names of members absent, resolutions, orders, and action taken on all matters pertaining to employment, salaries of teachers, transportation contractors, and other employees, expenditures for supplies, materials, and equipment, maintenance and repairs of school buildings, and all other matters of administration of the Tunica County High School, and signature and approval of president of the board of trustees. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Typed. 500 pp. 20 x 14 x 3.

(178-179)

XXIII. COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The county school board was established in Tunica County by the law of 1886,[1] and it has functioned continuously since that time.

The board consists of five members, one from each supervisors' beat or district, and the superintendent of education,[2] who is the president and secretary of the board.[3]

Until 1930 the members of the board were appointed by the superintendent of education, subject to ratification by the board of supervisors, to serve a 4-year term.[4] Since that year, they have been elected by the trustees of the county public schools other than the trustees of municipal separate districts for a term of five years, one member being chosen annually.[5]

For the general structural and functional development of the county school board, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 242-245.

The records of the county school board are kept by the superintendent of education in his office.

178. /MINUTES OF THE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD/, 1886--. In County Superintendent's Journal, entry 156.
Minutes of the proceedings of the county school board, showing date of meeting, names of members present, rules, bylaws, and regulations drawn up by the board to govern its procedures, orders, motions, and action taken on matters of school administration, including establishment of schools, publication of orders, procuring of ground and procuring or construction of school buildings, employment of teachers, prescribing of uniform systems of text books, and annual and statistical reports to the board of supervisors.

179. TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS, 1924--. 2 file boxes.
Original instruments pertaining to the transportation of school children, including:

i. Contractors' bonds, showing date, name of contractor, amount of bond, signature of contractor, and names and signatures of sureties.

ii. Rules and regulations, showing instructions to school bus drivers as to types of vehicles approved, care of vehicle, and precautionary measures to be taken to avoid accidents.

iii. Transportation contracts, showing name of contractor, expiration date of contract, terms of contract, amount of salary to be paid to contractor, and signatures of contractor, superintendent of education, and trustees of the school.

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1. Superintendent's Account Book, II, 57; see entry 158; L. M. 1886, pp. 63-64.
2. Ibid., p. 63; Code 1892, sec. 3991; Code 1906, sec. 4510; Code 1917, sec. 7330; L. M. 1924, p. 423; Code 1930, sec. 6581.
3. L. M. 1886, p. 63; Code 1892, sec. 3979 (n); Code 1906, sec. 4497(n); Code 1917, sec. 7574 (n); L. M. 1924, p. 418; Code 1930, sec. 6570 (11).
4. L. M. 1886, p. 63; Code 1892, sec. 3991; Code 1906, sec. 4510; Code 1917, sec. 7330; L. M. 1924, p. 423.
5. L. M. 1930, p. 611; Code 1930, sec. 6581.

County School Board (180)

Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of contractor. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form; instructions mimeographed. 11 x 4½ x 12.

180. BIDS ON TRANSPORTATION, 1924--. 2 file boxes.
Original instruments submitted to county school board by persons seeking contracts to convey school children to and from consolidated schools, including:

i. Bids, showing name of bidder, amount and date of bid, designation of route to be covered, name of school, names of persons signing bidder's bond, and signature of bidder.

ii. Questionnaires answered by bidder, showing name of bidder, condition and capacity of bus or truck, approximate number of pupils to be transported, and names of school patrons on bus route.

Arr. chron. by date bid submitted. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. on mimeographed form. 11 x 4½ x 12.

(181-182)

XXIV. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The first county health officer in Tunica County was appointed June 7, 1880, by the board of supervisors. He was a part-time health officer and received an annual salary $150.[1]

This office functioned until January 2, 1931, when a full-time department of health was organized.[2] The department has functioned since that time and at the present time is composed of a director, four public health nurses, a sanitation supervisor, two clerks, and a secretary.[3]

The director of the department is appointed for a term not exceeding 4 years by the board of supervisors on the recommendation of the State Board of Health.[4]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of county health officer and of the county department of health, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 258-259.

The records of the department are kept in its clerk's office.

Reports of Director

181. MONTHLY NUMERICAL MORBIDITY REPORT, 1939--. 1 steel file drawer. Duplicate copies of monthly reports made by the director of the county health department to the Bureau of Communicable Diseases of the State Board of Health compiled from information reported by physicians on Monthly Numerical Morbidity Report Cards (entry 182), showing name of county, date, number of cases reported by physicians, name of disease, number of active physicians in county, number failing to report, name and address of any illegal practitioner, name and address of any physician who has moved into the county during the month; name and address of any physician who has moved from the county during the month; name, address, age, color, cause of death of any physician who has died in the county during the month; signature of the county health director, and date. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 11 x 16 x 2.

Disease Control

182. MONTHLY NUMERICAL MORBIDITY REPORT CARDS, 1939--. 1 oak file box. Card record of monthly reports made to the director of the county health department by each physician in the county at the first of every month of communicable diseases treated during the month, showing name of physician, address, name of county, date report made, kind of disease, color of patient treated,

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1. Minutes Board of Supervisors, II, 160; see entry 2.
2. Thirty-first Biennial Report, Being the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Annual Reports, of the State Board of Health of the State of Mississippi, July 1, 1937 to June 30, 1939, p. 221. Official Bond Register, entry 32.
3. Ibid.
4. L. M. 1920, pp. 284-286; Code 1930, sec. 4926.

and total number of cases in the county. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 4 x 6 x 5.

183. CLINICAL REPORT CARDS, 1939--. 1 oak file box.
Card record of reports made by each physician in the county to the health department within 24 hours after the discovery of violently contagious diseases, showing name of attending physician, address, date report made, name of disease, color of patient, and total number of cases reported. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 4 x 6 x 5.

184. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORD, 1939--. 1 file drawer.
Record of complete case history of persons having contagious diseases, showing name of patient, age, sex, color, disease, address, name of physician, occupation of patient, onset of disease, date reported, date of first visit made by physician, whether patient has been immunized, date released from quarantine, family case number, year, other members of family, ages, sex, place employed, school attended if person is a child, laboratory data and results of tests, date previous vaccine administered, date vaccine administered since exposure, information about present case including possible sources of infection, sanitary surroundings, possible source of contact other than family, private physician's orders, special treatment, record of visits of members of health department showing condition of patient, care or instructions given, condition at discharge, date and name of worker in health department, spread contacts of case, name, age, address, date of contact, date of vaccination, laboratory data, results, and date. Arr. alph. by name of family. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 11 x 16 x 2.

185. SMALLPOX IMMUNIZATION CARDS, 1939--. 1 file drawer.
Card record of smallpox vaccinations made by the health department, showing name of person vaccinated, age, address, sex, color, name of parents and school attended if person is a child, date of immunization, result, remarks, and date other immunization made, if obtainable. Arr. chron. by year and alph. thereunder by first letter of surname of person vaccinated. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 24 x 18.

186. DIPTHERIA IMMUNIZATION CARDS, 1939--. 1 file drawer.
Card record of individual immunizations against diptheria made by health department, showing name of person, age, address, sex, color, names of parents and school attended if a child, date of administration of toxoid or toxin-antitoxin for first, second, and third innoculations, date of previous series, remarks, Schick test date, and result. Arr. alph. by name of person immunized. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 24 x 18.

187. TYPHOID IMMUNIZATION CARDS, 1939--. 1 file drawer.
Card record of typhoid immunizations made by health department, showing name of person immunized, age, address, sex, color, names of parents and school attended if person is a child, dates of first, second, and third innoculations, date of previous series, and remarks. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of person immunized. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 24 x 18.

188. TUBERCULOSIS RECORD, 1939--. 1 file drawer.
Record of case history of tuberculosis patients in the county, showing name of patient, sex, color, marital status, address, date of birth, parents' address if patient is a child, present occupation and duration; if stopped work,

former occupation, source contact history, past history of illnesses, present history of illness, chest examinations, patient's appearance, height, weight, temperature, pulse, tuberculin reaction, diagram of physical signs, X-ray findings, diagnosis, classification, recommendations, name of examiner, family and immediate contact record, laboratory specimen examined, date of examination, specimen, result, notes on clinical conferences, notes on field visits, date, weight, temperature in morning and afternoon, respiration, sputum, diet, appetite, rest, night sweats, care of dishes, isolation, instructions followed, number of private physician's visits, services rendered, comments on progress, summary of physician's orders, date, type of visit (medical or nursing), and name of worker from health department. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 11 x 16 x 2.

189. GENERAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION [of Food Handlers] RECORD, 1939--.
1 file drawer.

Record of examinations made of persons who handle food, showing name of person, occupation, address, color, sex, marital status, date of birth, present employer, industry, additional facts, immunization and clinical tests, typhoid or smallpox immunizations, date received, disease experience, name of disease and date, services rendered and comments on progress, date, age, height, weight, nutrition, orthopedic, skin and scalp, ears, eyes, nose, mouth, teeth, throat, glands, breast, heart, lungs, abdomen, hernia, genitalia, rectal, extremities, reflexes, blood pressure, hearing, vision with and without glasses, name of examiner, significant facts, physician's notes, laboratory information, and date test made. Arr. alph. by name of person examined. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 16 x 2.

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XXV. REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The office of registrar of births and deaths was established in Tunica County in 1912 as provided by the legislative act of that year,[1] and has functioned continuously in the county since that time.

The registrar is appointed for an indefinite term by the Division of Vital Statistics of the State Board of Health.[2]

For the general functional and structural development of the office, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 264-266.

The records of the registrar of births and deaths are kept in the clerk's office of the county health department.

190. BIRTH REGISTRATION RECORD, 1924--. 32 vols.
Abstract record of reports made by registrar of vital statistics to the Division of Vital Statistics, showing name of county, registration district number, place of birth, full name of child, sex; if plural birth, twin or triplet, number in order of birth; premature, legitimate, month and day of birth; father's full name, address, age, race, birthplace, and occupation; mother's full maiden name, address, age, race, birthplace, and occupation; whether or not child stillborn, name of physician or midwife attending birth, time report filed with registrar of vital statistics, and signature of registrar. Arr. chron. by date of birth. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of child. Hdw. on ptd. form. 88 pp. 8 x 8 x ½.

191. DEATH REGISTRATION RECORD, 1922--. 24 vols.
Abstract record of reports made by registrar of vital statistics to the Division of Vital Statistics, showing name of county, registration district number,

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1. L. M. 1912, pp. 158-159. From 1897 to 1912 the function of collecting vital, mortuary, and sanitary statistics was assigned to a county board of health composed of one physician from each supervisors' district, appointed by the Hospital Medical College at Vicksburg until 1906, and by the State Department of Health from 1906 to 1912. The county health officer was ... chairman of this board (L. M. 1897, p. 15; Code 1906, sec. 1645).
2. L. M. 1912, pp. 158-159; Code 1917, secs. 4868, 4870; Code 1930, secs. 4906, 4940; Mississippi State Board of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Instructions to Registrars of Births and Deaths, pp. 2, 6, 10. The acts of the Legislature required the State Board of Health as the bureau of public health of the State Department of Health, to establish a bureau of vital statistics for the purpose of providing an adequate system for the registration of births and deaths, for the preservation of vital statistics on forms prescribed by the State Board of Health, and for providing adequate methods of enforcing the laws and orders of the board relating to health matters of the State (ibid.). With respect to other vital statistics, the clerk of the chancery court since 1926 has been required to report divorce statistics (L. M. 1926, p. 257; L. M. 1928, pp. 194-196; Code 1930, sec. 1426), and the clerk of the circuit court since 1926 has been required to make reports of all marriage licenses issued and of all certificates of marriage returned (L. M. 1926, pp. 256-257; Code 1930, sec. 4937).

Registrar of Births and Deaths (Next entry 192, p. 159)

place and date of death, full name of deceased, personal and statistical particulars, occupation, name and address of father and mother, name of informant, place and date of burial, cemetery, or removal, cause of death, name of attending physician, name of undertaker, date filed with registrar of vital statistics, and signature of registrar. Arr. chron. by date of death. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 88 pp. 8 x 8 x ½.

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XXVI. PENSION BOARD OF INQUIRY

The payment of pensions by the State to Confederate veterans was instituted by the law of 1888 which also provided for the establishment of boards of inquiry in the counties to adjudicate claims for pensions. The pension board of inquiry was organized in Tunica County in 1888 and has functioned continuously since that time.[1]

Until 1902, this board was composed of the five members of the board of supervisors, the sheriff, and the clerk of the chancery court.[2]

Since 1902, the camp of Confederate veterans in the county has been authorized to select and recommend to the board of supervisors for appointment to the pension board five of their number, one from each supervisors' beat or district, if possible.[3] In 1910, pensioners were excluded from serving as members of the board.[4] The board of supervisors has been required since 1924 to appoint a World War veteran to the board, and since 1924 recommendations for membership have been extended to include not only Confederate veterans, but other citizens who are qualified electors.[5] Since 1928, the county prosecuting attorney has been a member of the board.[6] The clerk of the chancery court is clerk of the board,[7] and the sheriff is its executive officer.[8]

For the general functional and structural development of the pension board of inquiry, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 267-268.

The records of the board unless otherwise specified are kept in the vault of the clerk of the chancery court.

192. CONFEDERATE VETERAN PENSION PAPERS, 1893-1904. 1 folder. 1905--, in Minutes of the Board of Pension Commissioners, entry 193.
Miscellaneous original and duplicate pension records, including:
i. Applications of servants of Confederate soldiers and sailors, showing date of application, name, residence, age, race, date of birth,

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1. L. M. 1888, pp. 30-33. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
2. L. M. 1888, p. 31; L. M. 1900, p. 82. The Constitution of 1890 directs the Legislature to provide for the payment of pensions to Confederate soldiers and sailors, and to the widows of Confederate soldiers and sailors (Const. 1890, sec. 272). Other laws enacted prior to 1902 made it the duty of the grand jury to examine and approve or disapprove all claims for pensions allowed by the pension board of inquiry (L. M. 1892, p. 32; L. M. 1896, p. 65; L. M. 1900, p. 84).
3. L. M. 1902, p. 128; L. M. 1904, p. 185; Code 1906, sec. 3657; Code 1917, sec. 6312; Code 1930, sec. 5812. The board of supervisors makes this appointment when there is no veterans' camp in the county (ibid.).
4. L. M. 1910, p. 210; Code 1917, sec. 6312; L. M. 1918, p. 132.
5. L. M. 1924, pp. 585, 586; L. M. 1930, p. 39; Code 1930, sec. 5812.
6. L. M. 1928, p. 73; L. M. 1930, p. 39; Code 1930, sec. 5812.
7. L. M. 1888, p. 31; L. M. 1900, p. 82; L. M. 1902, p. 128; Code 1906, sec. 3657; Code 1917, sec. 6312; L. M. 1924, p. 585; Code 1930, sec. 5812.
8. L. M. 1912, p. 173; Code 1917, sec. 6323; Code 1930, sec. 5822.

and birthplace of applicant, statement of citizenship in Mississippi, length of service in Confederate army or navy, name of soldier or sailor for whom applicant was servant, company and regiment or vessel to which attached, statement of applicant that he does not own property to the value of $400, oath and signature of applicant, signature and title of official administering oath or one or more witnesses to the application, and signature of five members of the pension board of inquiry on approved applications.

ii. Applications of Confederate soldiers and sailors, showing date of application, name, residence, age, class, date of birth, and birthplace of applicant, statement of citizenship in Mississippi, county and residence at the time of enlistment, date and place of enlistment, time and place wounded and description of wounds if wounded, company and regiment or vessel to which attached, names of officers of company or regiment or vessel, length of service, statement of applicant that he was honorably discharged and that he did not desert from service, present occupation, if any, statement of applicant that he does not own property to the value of $400, oath and signature of applicant, signature and title of official administering oath, or names of one or more witnesses to application, and signature of five members of the pension board of inquiry on approved applications.

iii. Applications of widows of Confederate soldiers and sailors, showing date of application, name, residence, age, date of birth, and birthplace of applicant, statement of citizenship in Mississippi, date and place of marriage, county of residence of deceased husband when he enlisted, date and place of enlistment, company and regiment or vessel to which husband was attached, names of officers of company and regiment or vessel, date and place of death of husband, statement of applicant that she does not own property to the value of $400, oath and signature of applicant, signature and title of official administering oath or signatures of one or more witnesses to the application, and signatures of five members of the pension board of inquiry on approved applications.

Arr. chron. by date received. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 10 x 4 x ½. Outside va.

193. MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PENSION COMMISSIONERS, 1904--. 1 vol.
Record of the proceedings of the regular and special meetings of the pension board of inquiry, showing date of meeting, names of members present, names of members absent, names of applicants for pensions, approval or objection of applications, and orders to publish lists of pensions. Also contains: Confederate Veteran Pension Papers, 1905--, entry 192. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 24 x 2.

194. RECORD OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS AND WIDOWS /Receiving Pensions/, 1907--. 1 vol.
Lists of persons receiving Confederate pensions prepared by clerk, showing name, class, and address of pensioner, date pension application approved, amount of annual pension, amount of quarterly or monthly payment, and signatures of clerk and members of the pension board of inquiry. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of pensioner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 15 x 10 x ½.

(Next entry 195, p. 163)

XXVII. CORONER AS RANGER

The office of ranger was established in Tunica County on the county's creation in 1836 as provided by statutory authority of 1823, and the office has functioned continuously in the county since that time.[1]

From 1836 to 1871 the ranger was elected for a 2-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[2] Since the abolishment of the office of ranger as a separate office in 1871, the coroner is by law the ex officio ranger.[3]

For the general structural and functional development of the office of coroner as ranger from 1890 to 1938, see Lamar County Inventory, p. 271.

No records for the ranger or for the coroner as ranger were found in Tunica County; for the legal publications of the coroner as ranger, see entry 61vi.

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1. Code 1823, pp. 329-334; L. M. 1836, pp. 46-49. See also entry 32.
2. Const. 1832, art. V, sec. 19; L. M. 1833, p. 477; Code 1848, p. 278; Code 1857, p. 229. By an act of the Legislature passed in 1863, the sheriff was empowered to act as ranger when the office was vacant (L. M. 1863, p. 127).
3. L. M. 1871, p. 769; Code 1871, secs. 244, 306; Code 1880, sec. 350; Code 1892, sec. 815; Code 1906, sec. 880; Code 1917, sec. 4047; Code 1930, sec. 638. For the establishment of the office of coroner, the present status of the office, the method of selection, and the term of office, see "Coroner," p. 127.

(Next entry 195, p. 163)

XXVIII. SURVEYOR

The office of surveyor was established in Tunica County in 1866,[1] and functioned until June 18, 1897. Since that time there has been no incumbent for the office.[2]

The Constitution of 1832 provided that the surveyor be elected for a 2-year term by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers,[3] and this provision was continued in the Constitution of 1869.[4] Since 1890, by constitutional provision the surveyor has been elected for a 4-year term,[5] and the Legislature has directed that the surveyor be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for State, district, county, and county-district officers.[6]

For the general functional and structural development of the office of surveyor, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 272-274.

The records of the surveyor are kept as permanent records in the office of the clerk of the chancery court as recorder, see entries 25-27.

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1. Minutes Board of Supervisors, IV, 210.
2. Register of Commissions, 1899--. Official Bond Register, entry 32.
3. Const. 1832, art. V, sec. 19; Code 1848, p. 159; Code 1857, p. 91.
4. Const. 1868, art. V, sec. 21; Code 1871, secs. 272, 307; Code 1880, secs. 118, 379, 396.
5. Const. 1890, sec. 135.
6. Code 1892, secs. 3049, 3633, 4389; Code 1906, secs. 3456, 4140, 4954; Code 1917, secs. 2794, 6774, 7737; Code 1930, secs. 2881, 6210, 7139.

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XXIX. COUNTY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

The law of March 5, 1908, authorized counties to establish a county department of agriculture to promote agricultural extension work.[1] A department was organized in Tunica County October 14, 1914, and functioned until August 6, 1917, when the agent resigned.[2] No one was appointed to this office until October 3, 1933, and it has functioned continuously since that time.[3]

The law of March 28, 1914, authorized counties to establish a county department of home economics.[4] On June 3, 1918, a department was created in Tunica County,[5] and functioned until October 1, 1934.[6] Since that time, no one has been appointed to the office.

In 1932, counties were empowered to carry on agricultural demonstration and home economics programs through a single department to be known as the county extension department in agriculture and home economics.[7]

Until 1932, the officials directing the activities of the department of agriculture and the department of home economics (the later required by law to be a woman) were appointed by the board of supervisors,[8] but since 1932 have been appointed by the board upon the recommendation of the Extension Department of Mississippi State College and with the approval of the United States Department of Agriculture. No specific term of office is prescribed.[9]

For the general structural and functional development of the county extension department in agriculture and home economics, see Lamar County Inventory, pp. 275-276.

The records of the county agent are kept in his office and in the office of the assistant county agent. No records of the home demonstration agent have been preserved.

195. /COUNTY CONTROL AND SOIL CONSERVATION PAPERS/, 1934--. 194 file boxes.

Miscellaneous instruments including:

i. Applications, Bankhead, duplicate copies of, filed by cotton producers with the United States Department of Agriculture for cotton acreage allotments and tax exemption certificates pursuant to the

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1. L. M. 1908, p. 94.
2. Minutes Board of Supervisors, VIII, 380; IX, 210.
3. Ibid., XIV, 432; Register of Commissions, 1899--. See also entry 32.
4. L. M. 1914, p. 260.
5. Minutes Board of Supervisors, IX, 337.
6. Ibid., XIV, 593.
7. L. M. 1932, pp. 517-518.
8. L. M. 1908, p. 94; L. M. 1914, p. 260; Code 1917, secs. 3788, 3800; L. M. 1924, p. 322; Code 1930, secs. 278, 281. The legal titles of these officials until 1932 were commissioner of agriculture and county agent of home economics (ibid.), but since 1932 have been county agent and home economics agent (L. M. 1932, p. 517). However, in local terminology, they have always been known as county agent and home demonstration agent.
9. L. M. 1932, p. 517.

County Extension Department in Agriculture and Home Economics

(Next entry 196, p. 167)

Cotton Acreage Reduction Act of 1934, showing application serial number, contract serial number, name and address of producer, ownership of farm, total acreage, location of farm, mileage and name of nearest town, legal description of farm showing section, township, and range, basis for determining yield of cotton production on cultivated acreage, production during 1934 of cotton land not planted in cotton since 1927, date of application, signature and oath of producer, signature and title of officer administering oath, signatures and certification of community and county committeemen, and summary of application.

ii. Applications for cotton price adjustments, 1935--, duplicate copies of, filed by cotton producers with the United States Department of Agriculture for payments pursuant to agreements to cooperate in the cotton acreage reduction program, showing serial number of contract and work sheet, total cotton acreage, production, total number of bales sold, total number of pounds sold, number of cotton sales certificates, signatures of purchasers, dates of sales, name and address of producer, signature and affidavit of producer, signature and title of officer administering affidavit, signatures and certification of the community and county committeemen, and date of application.

iii. Applications, duplicate copies of, from producers without Bankhead, to participate in the cotton control program of the United States Department of Agriculture, showing serial number of agreement, name and address of producer, whether landlord or tenant, total acreage, location of farm, legal description of farm, mileage from and the name of nearest town, type of agreement, number of bales of cotton produced in 1933, crop acreage for 1932-33, kinds of crop and acreage allotted to each, cotton acreage and production, signatures of producer and witnesses, date of agreement, and signatures and certification of community and county committeemen.

iv. Applications for payment, duplicate copies of, showing name of applicant, State, county, code number, application serial number, name of county transmittal number, basic date and computations of payment, acreage allotted to cotton, number carried out, crop land not eligible for payment, amount of payment, signature of applicant, signature and approval of county agricultural conservation association, and signature of county committeemen.

v. Allotments, approved cotton acreage, original list of, and register of tax exemption certificates issued to cotton producers operating under contracts with the United States Department of Agriculture, showing name of community, date of list, period covered, serial number of application, name and address of producer, serial numbers of certificates issued, total number of certificates, number of pounds of tax-exempted cotton, parts of certificates canceled, date received, signature of producer, and signatures and certification of the chairman and executive secretary of the State Allotment Board.

vi. Contracts, original, 1934 and 1935 cotton acreage reduction, showing serial number of contract, name and address of producer, status of ownership, location of farm, mileage and name of nearest town, legal description of farm, total acreage, statement of terms and conditions and obligations, basis for determining cotton acreage reduction and rental and parity payments, cotton acreage and production,

County Extension Department in Agriculture and Home Economics (Next entry 196, p. 167)

signature of producer, signatures and certification of community and county committeemen, date approved and accepted, signature of the Secretary of Agriculture by a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture, signature and certification of administrative officer and comptroller, dates of first payments, and amounts of checks.

vii. Contracts, cotton option benefit, original copies of offers filed by cotton producers with the United States Department of Agriculture to enter into cotton benefit contracts for the reduction of cotton production and the receipt of payments therefor, showing name and address of producer, location of farm, total cotton acreage, number of pounds of fertilizer per acre, total yield and production in 1932, name of gin operator, description of amounts and holders of liens, estimated yield, cash payment elected, date of offer, signature of producer, signatures and consent of lienholders, date of inspection by community committeemen, signatures of community committemen, date of acceptance by county committee, signatures and acceptance of county committee, date approved, and signature of the Secretary of Agriculture by a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture.

viii. Contracts, special and new, original list of, made by cotton producers with the United States Department of Agriculture, showing serial number of contract, name and address of producer, base acreage, total cotton acreage, total rental acreage, cotton production, and name of pledgee.

ix. Contract-signers, original list of, under contract with the United States Department of Agriculture pursuant to the Cotton Acreage Reduction Act of 1934, showing name and address of producer, serial number of contract, base acreage, total cotton acreage, and total rented acreage.

x. Documents, Supplementary to Bankhead Applications, duplicate copies of, filed by cotton producers with applications for cotton acreage reduction and tax exemption certificates, showing name and address of producer, base acreage, percentage of rented acreage, cotton acreage allotment, adjusted yield per acre, stipulation of basic figures for 1935, signature of producers, signatures and certification of community and county committeemen, and signature and approval of county agent.

xi. Instructions, copies of, issued to cotton producers for the distribution of parity payments among producers, share-croppers, and tenant farmers, showing statement of rules and regulations governing distribution, application of rule, example demonstrating method of distribution, provisions for failure to produce crop because of unavoidable natural causes, total parity payment, name of producer, share-cropper, or tenant, cotton acreage allotments, amount distributed in cash and credit, signature of share-cropper or tenant, signature and oath of producer, and signature and title of officer administering oath.

xii. Receipts for cotton price adjustment payments, original, given by cotton producers for parity payment checks issued under agreements to cooperate in the cotton acreage reduction program of the United States Department of Agriculture and reports of the distribution of the payment among producers, share-croppers, and tenants, showing check number, amount of check, form number under which check

County Extension Department in Agriculture and Home Economics

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was issued, date of receipt and report, signature and address of producer, signature and address of witness, itemized statement of distribution of payment showing name of person receiving share, amount of cotton sold, rate of payment per pound, amount paid in cash and credit, signature and receipt of share-cropper or tenant, rule governing distribution of payment, date reported, signature and certification of producer, signature of witness, and signature and approval of county agent.

xiii. Receipts for checks delivered, original, given by cotton producers, share-croppers, and tenant farmers for parity payment checks delivered under agreements to participate in the cotton acreage reduction program of the United States Department of Agriculture, showing serial number of contract, amount of check, check number, and signature of recipient and witnesses.

xiv. Record of measurement, original, taken of farms operating under cotton acreage reduction contracts with the United States Department of Agriculture, showing serial number of contract, name and address of producer, location of farm, base acreage, total cultivated acreage, and total rental acreage.

xv. Record of individual producers, original, filed by cotton producers operating under cotton acreage reduction contracts, showing date filed, name and address of producer, total number of pounds allotted, total number of pounds unsigned, dates and number of pounds on each certificate issued, and signature of producer.

xvi. Reports, Soil Conservation Program, 1936, duplicate copies of, made to the United States Department of Agriculture by farmers operating under the soil conservation program of the department, showing date of report, period covered, name and address of producer, location and description of farm, legal description of farm, number of acres allotted to cotton, number of diverted acres, measurements of acres allotted to cotton, number of soil conserving acres estimated, soil building practices, soil conserving practices, hours used in measuring, names of helpers, signature of producer, and signature and certification of local supervisors.

xvii. Soil conservation farm adjustments, original copies of, made to farms operating under the soil conservation program of the United States Department of Agriculture, showing 1935 contract serial number, name of operator under 1935 contract, address, base acreage, base product, adjusted acreage, product quota, and date of adjustment.

xviii. Soil Conservation Program, Instructions for, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture containing rules, regulations, and instructions for the administration and operation of the soil conservation program, showing date published, title, and subject.

xix. Soil Conservation Program, work sheets, original, prepared by farmers and producers under the soil conservation program of the United States Department of Agriculture, showing date work sheet made, name and address of producer and of owner, beat number, detailed description of utilization of land, location of farm, legal description, base acreage and yield, number of other farms owned or operated in the county, and signature of owner-operator or producer.

County Extension Department in Agriculture and Home Economics (196-200)

xx. Tenants, location of, on farms operated under contract with the United States Department of Agriculture for cotton acreage reduction, showing name and address of tenant, serial number of contract, location of farm, and total rented acreage.
Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of producer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 24.

196. ANNUAL REPORT OF EXTENSION DEPARTMENT, 1933--. 5 vols.
Triplicate copies of annual reports made by the county agent to the State Extension Department of departmental activities and progress, including tentative plans for activities, administration and operation of the department for the approaching year, showing date of report, detailed description of work and experiments, results, itemized statement of expenses for the administration and operation of the department, names of farmers and helpers, nature of plans for the approaching year, estimated budget for the approaching year, and signature of county agent. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Typed. 25 pp. 9 x 12 x ½.

197. 4-H CLUBS, 1934--. 4 file boxes.
Record of activities and progress on work performed by members of boys' 4-H clubs in the county, showing name and location of club, names, ages, and addresses of members, description of work done and results, including kind of crops planted, yield, cost of planting, and returns from work. Arr. alph. by name of club. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 14 x 24.

198. CORRESPONDENCE, 1933--. 12 file boxes.
Letters, telegrams, notices, and memoranda received by and sent out from the office of the county agent, showing name of writer and address, date of communication, kind of communication, and contents. Arr. alph. by subject. No index. Hdw., typed, and ptd. 12 x 14 x 24.

199. MAP OF TUNICA COUNTY, 1923. 1 map.
Physical, political, and communications map of Tunica County, showing location and boundaries, name, location, and boundaries of supervisors' districts, road districts and school districts, showing section, township, and range lines, name and location of towns and villages, locations and routes of rivers, streams and lakes, and location and routes of public roads and railroads. Scale: 1 in. equals 3,000 ft. L. W. Mashburn. 4 x 5.

200. STADIA MAPS, 1936--. 645 maps in 2 steel file cabinets.
Blue print maps of each individual farm and tract of land in Tunica County, showing dimensions of farm or tract, total acreage, number of cultivated acres, number of timbered acres, number of uncultivated acres, and name and address of owner. Arr. alph. by first letter of surname of owner. No index. 36 x 6 x 24.

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XXX. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

The county board of public welfare was created in Tunica County, December 2, 1935,[1] in accordance with an act of the extraordinary session of the Legislature in 1935.[2] The law required all counties to establish a county board of emergency relief, consisting of five members appointed by the board of supervisors for a term not to extend beyond March 1, 1936.[3] This board functioned until 1936 when it was superseded by the county board of public welfare.[4]

Under the laws of 1936 the county board of public welfare was created. It consists of a county welfare board appointed by the board of supervisors with three to five members representing three to five supervisors' districts. These members are appointed for a 1-year term as prescribed by the State Department of Public Welfare.[5] The board must meet at least once each month on call of the county welfare agent.[6] The county welfare agent and assistant county welfare agent, appointed by the commissioner, serve an indefinite term.[7] Clerical assistants, for administrating the program may be employed.[8]

The records of this department are kept in its office.

201. APPLICATIONS FOR OLD AGE ASSISTANCE, 1936--. 3 file drawers. Applications for old age assistance for active and inactive cases, showing budget, home visit, and notices of award sheets, sex, color, address, distance from nearest neighborhood, citizenship record, if native or foreign born, if inmate of an institution, church membership and denomination, marital status, residence, health, relatives, insurance, annuities, property, income, employment references and verifications. Included also are supporting forms, showing verification of age, home visits and investigation of age, budget, monthly income and necessary expenses, and notice of award. Applications for inactive cases, showing rejection, cause, and date of rejection. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. For index, see entry 202. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

202. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE CARD INDEX, 1936--. 1 file drawer. Alphabetical card index to Applications for Old Age Assistance (entry 201), showing name and address of applicant, date of original application, changes of status of application subsequent to date of first application, and current status of person. Arr. alph. by surname of applicant. Typed. 6 x 8 x 17.

203. CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS RECORDS, 1936--. 1 file drawer. Original papers containing certificates of selection for enrollment in Civilian Conservation Corps, showing applicant's name, address, county, date, local agency, address, city or town, age, place and date of birth, if native born or

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1. Minutes Board of Supervisors, XV, 168.
2. L. M. 1935, Ex. Sess., p. 19.
3. Ibid.
4. L. M. 1936, p. 272. Official Bond Register, 1837--, entry 32.
5. Ibid.; Plans for Old Age Assistance and Aid to the Needy Blind, Manual of Procedure, Department of Public Welfare, State of Mississippi, pp. 3-5.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.

naturalized, height, weight, color of eyes and hair, marital status, information memoranda for CCC applicants, case record of family, showing name of case head, address, community, names of the family group, information regarding employable members of family, employment record of applicant, name of applicant, relation to case head, sex, marital status, employment record for last 3 years, property, insurance, amount, beneficiary, if farming last year, if farming this year, monthly expense of family, monthly income of family, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. For index, see entry 204. Typed. 12 x 14 x 25.

204. CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CARD INDEX, 1936--. 1 file drawer.
Alphabetical card index to Civilian Conservation Corps Records (entry 203), showing name and address of applicant, date of original application, changes of status of application subsequent to date of first application, and current status of person. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. Typed. 6 x 8 x 17.

205. CERTIFICATION FOR SURPLUS COMMODITIES ISSUED MONTHLY, 1938--.
1 file drawer.
Original certification list for surplus commodities issued monthly, showing name of county, date, case number, name, address, distribution point, relief status, number in family, race, approval, and signature of county welfare agent. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

206. COMMODITY CASE RECORDS, 1936--. 3 file drawers.
Original case records of families receiving commodities, showing case number, race, date received, by whom received, name of case head, address, community, members of family group, information on employable members of family, name of applicant, relation to head, sex, marital status, place and date of birth, naturalized or native born, veteran of Spanish American or World War, compensation, amount, employment record for last 3 years, property if any, personal property, insurance, kind, beneficiary, any other property, if farming this or last year, monthly income, statement of case head, date, signature of case head, and signature of county welfare agent. Arr. alph. by name of case head. For index, see entry 207. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

207. COMMODITY CASE RECORD CARD INDEX, 1936--. 1 file drawer.
Alphabetical card index to Commodity Case Records (entry 206), showing name and address of applicant, date of original application, changes of status of application subsequent to date of first application, and current status of person. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. Typed. 6 x 8 x 17.

208. APPLICATIONS FOR AID TO THE BLIND, 1938--. 1 file drawer.
Original applications for aid to needy blind, showing case number, sex, color, date received, by whom received, name of applicant, address, date of birth, residence, degree of blindness, whether inmate of an institution, disposal of property, marital status, relatives, members living in same house, insurance and annuities, property, personal property, education, vocational training, employment record, references, report of investigation by county welfare board, affidavit of applicant, signature of applicant, certification, date and signature of welfare agent, physician's report and welfare office budget attached to each application, rejection notice attached to all inactive cases, showing rejection, and cause. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. For index, see entry 209. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

209. BLIND CASES RECORD CARD INDEX, 1938--. 1 file drawer.
Alphabetical card index to Applications for Aid to the Blind (entry 208), showing name and address of applicant, date of original application, changes of status of application subsequent to date of first application, and current status of person. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. Typed. 6 x 8 x 17.

210. HOME VISITS TO BLIND RECORD CARDS, 1937--. 1 file drawer.
Card record of home visits to the blind, kept for the convenience of the home visitor, showing name of blind person, case number, amount of check, dates of home visits, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date of visit. No index. Typed. 6 x 8 x 17.

211. NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION APPLICATIONS, 1938--. 1 file drawer.
Original applications for admission to NYA, showing individual monthly report, earning record, monthly attendance record, official project number, work project number, district, county, job location, name of worker, post office address, occupation, class, number of hours worked per day, certification, date, signature of welfare agent, payroll number, page number, and signature of national administrator. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. For index, see entry 212. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

212. NYA APPLICATION CARD INDEX, 1938--. 1 file drawer.
Alphabetical card index to National Youth Administration Applications (entry 211), showing name and address of applicant, date of original application, changes of status of application subsequent to date of first application, and current status of person. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. Typed. 6 x 8 x 17.

213. WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION APPLICATIONS, 1937--. 1 file drawer.
Original case papers pertaining to record of family, showing case number, county, race, WPA field area, legal residence, date of application, case name, address, community address, beat number, members of family, information regarding employable members of family, employment record of individual, kind of work desired, property, if farming last year or this year, monthly expenses, monthly income, and whether certified or canceled. Arr. chron. by date of application. For index, see entry 214. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

214. WPA APPLICATION CARD INDEX, 1937--. 1 file drawer.
Alphabetical card index to Work Projects Administration Applications (entry 213), showing name and address of applicant, date of original application, changes of status of application subsequent to date of first application, and current status of person. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. Typed. 6 x 8 x 17.

Reports

215. MONTHLY REPORTS OF CASES CERTIFIED AS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SURPLUS COMMODITIES, 1938--. 1 file drawer.
Duplicate copies of monthly reports made to the State Department of Public Welfare, showing type of relief received, total certified on first day of month, number on general relief, number old age recipients, number blind, number cases added during month, total not served during month, total cases receiving commodities, estimated case load 15 days hence, number in family, cases, persons, total, certification, and signature of county welfare agent. Arr. chron. by date of monthly report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

Department of Public Welfare - (216-219)
Correspondence

216. MONTHLY REPORTS ON NEEDY BLIND, 1940--. 1 file drawer.
Duplicate copies of reports made monthly to the State Department of Public Welfare, showing name of county, name of welfare agent, case number, time commenced, travel, time and number of home visits made, elapsed time, certification and signature of welfare agent. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

217. MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT ON CERTIFICATIONS AND SERVICES, 1940--. 1 file drawer.
Duplicate copies of statistical report made to the State Department of Public Welfare, showing name of county, date, signature of welfare agent, date submitted, applications received for CCC, WPA, and NYA referral, pending from previous months, total received during month, total considered during month, referred, denied as ineligible, pending at end of month, number of cases certified for commodities and clothing, commodities only, clothing only, total, number of miscellaneous services, number of home visits, status of pending applications, monthly reports on number resident cases, agents name, county, date submitted to board or agency, date of report, summary of relief extended, and special analysis of cases receiving medical care, hospitalization or burial. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

218. MONTHLY PAYROLL RECORDS, 1936--. 1 file drawer.
Transmitted statements, showing administrative check number, old age assistance check numbers, blind assistance check numbers, correct payroll recapitulation for month, explanation of budget, showing total allotment, total case load, budgets computed, budgetary need, average needs, percent of needs given, case number, need, grant received, percent, total, request for payment old age assistance grants, request for payment personal service, change of grant, showing county, date, name of welfare agent, name of applicants, case numbers, and signatures of county welfare board. Arr. chron. by date of payroll. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.

Correspondence

219. COUNTY WELFARE OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE FILE, 1936--. 1 file box.
Original and carbon copies of letters from and to the State Welfare Office to the county office and other routine correspondence concerning welfare, showing name of writer and addressee, date of communication, kind of communication, and contents of communication. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent and chron. thereunder by date written. No index. Typed and hdw. 12 x 14 x 25.

LIST OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

Members of the Board of Police

James N. Smith, Feb. 1836 - Jan. 1837.
Rutherford J. Thornton, 1836 - 1837.
William Phillips, 1836 - 1837.
John Ballard, 1836 - 1837.
James S. Porter, 1836 - 1837.

Records, 1838 - 43, missing.

Isaac Shelby McPeack, Jan. 1844 - Mar. 1845.
Dudley D. Green, Apr. 1845 - July 1845.
Isaac Shelby Griggs, Aug. 1845 - Jan. 1846.
John Dunn, Jan. 1844 - Jan. 1846.
Thos. W. Floyd, Jan. 1844 - Jan. 1846.
W. G. Pipkin, Jan. 1844 - Jan. 1846.

Ransome H. Byrn, Jan. 1846 - Jan. 1848.
John Dunn, Jan. 1846 - Dec. 1846.
William B. Thornton, Jan. 1847 - Jan. 1848.
Isaac Shelby McKinney, Jan. 1846 - Feb. 1846.
Thomas W. Floyd, Feb. 1846 - Jan. 1848.
Anthony Puryear, Jan. 1846 - Jan. 1847.
W. G. Pipkin, Jan. 1847 - Jan. 1848.
Henry P. Heraldston, Jan. 1846 - Jan. 1848.

Anthony S. Abbay, Jan. 1848 - Jan. 1850.
Isaac Shelby McPeack, Jan. 1848 - Jan. 1850.
Peter Hutchinson, Jan. 1848 - Jan. 1850.
Johnson O'Neal, Jan. 1848 - Jan. 1850.
Henry P. Heraldston, Jan. 1848 - Jan. 1850.

Leroy Cocke, Jan. 1850 - June 1850.
Whitmell H. Davidson, July 1850 - Jan. 1852.
John W. Bridges, Jan. 1850 - Jan. 1852.
Thomas Davis, Jan. 1850 - Jan. 1852.
Henry P. Heraldston, Jan. 1850 - July 1850.
Archibald Matthews, July 1850 - Jan. 1852.
William C. Chambers, Jan. 1850 - Jan. 1852.

Ransome H. Byrn, Jan. 1852 - May 1852.
Robert W. Caruthers, June 1852 - Dec. 1852.
John P. Caruthers, Jan. 1853 - Jan. 1854.
John W. Bridges, Jan. 1852 - Aug. 1852.
George C. Harrison, Sept. 1852 - Jan. 1854.
Stephen Harbert, Jan. 1852 - Jan. 1854.
Samuel Corey, Jan. 1852 - July 1852.
W. A. Farmer, Aug. 1852 - July 1853.
M. M. Maxwell, Aug. 1853 - Jan. 1854.
William C. Chambers, Jan. 1852 - May 1852.
John A. Cole, June 1852 - Jan. 1854.

John P. Caruthers, Jan. 1854 - Jan. 1856.
S. J. Witter, Jan. 1854 - Jan. 1855.
Daniel Connel, Jan. 1854 - Apr. 1854.

List of County Officials -
Members of the Board of Police (continued)

John Hardeman, Apr. 1854 - July 1854.
Stephen Harbert, Aug. 1854 - Dec. 1854.

Johnson O'Neal, Jan. 1855 - Jan. 1856.
M. M. Maxwell, Jan. 1854 - Apr. 1854.
James C. Tarkington, May 1854 - Nov. 1854.
W. S. Baskin, Dec. 1854 - Jan. 1856.
Joseph J. Conkey, Jan. 1854 - Jan. 1856.

James J. Bowie, Jan. 1856 - May 1856.
James H. Freeman, May 1856 - Feb. 1857.
M. G. McMillian, Feb. 1857 - Dec. 1857.
James Irwin, Jan. 1856 - Jan. 1858.
Johnson O'Neal, Jan. 1856 - Jan. 1858.
William S. Baskin, Jan. 1856 - Jan. 1858.
Jacob Dunbard, Jan. 1856 - May 1856.
Joseph J. Conkey, June 1856 - Jan. 1858.

M. G. McMillian, Jan. 1858 - Jan. 1859.
Edward W. Dale, Jan. 1859 - Jan. 1860.
James Irwin, Jan. 1858 - Jan. 1860.
Johnson O'Neal, Jan. 1858 - Jan. 1860.
W. S. Baskin, Jan. 1858 - Jan. 1859.
John S. Hudson, Jan. 1859 - Jan. 1860.
Henry Weathers, Jan. 1858 - Jan. 1860.

Edward W. Dale, Jan. 1860 - Jan. 1861.
Isaac Shelby McPeack, Jan. 1861 - Oct. 1861.
Thomas Cocke, Oct. 1861 - Jan. 1862.
James Irwin, Jan. 1860 - Jan. 1862.
Johnson O'Neal, Jan. 1860 - Jan. 1861.
James S. Houck, Feb. 1861 - Jan. 1862.
John S. Hudson, Jan. 1860 - Aug. 1861.
Andrew T. Hudson, Sept. 1861 - Jan. 1862.
Henry Weathers, Jan. 1860 - Jan. 1861.
W. H. D. Wendell, Feb. 1861 - Jan. 1862.

Thomas Cocke, Jan. 1862 - Jan. 1863.
Daniel L. Ferguson, Jan. 1863 - Jan. 1864.
James Irwin, Jan. 1862 - Jan. 1864.
James S. Houck, Jan. 1862 - Jan. 1864.
Andrew T. Hudson, Jan. 1862 - Jan. 1864.
W. H. D. Wendell, Jan. 1862 - Jan. 1864.

Daniel L. Ferguson, Jan. 1864 - Jan. 1866.
James Irwin, Jan. 1864 - Mar. 1864.
Isaac Shelby McPeack, Apr. 1864 - Jan. 1866.
James S. Houck, Jan. 1864 - Jan. 1866.
Andrew T. Hudson, Jan. 1864 - Jan. 1866.
W. H. D. Wendell, Jan. 1864 - Jan. 1866.

Daniel L. Ferguson, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1867.
Edward W. Dale, Jan. 1867 - Jan. 1868.
Isaac Shelby McPeack, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1867.

List of County Officials -
Members of the Board of Police (continued)

Jobe Harrell, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1868.
James S. Houck, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1868.
Andrew T. Hudson, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1868.
James F. Rose, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1868.

Edward W. Dale, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1869.
Charles E. Brigham, Jan. 1869 - Jan. 1870.
J. W. Stone, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1870.
James S. Houck, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1869.
John McCann, Jan. 1869 - Jan. 1870.
William P. Savage, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1870.

Members of the Board of Supervisors

Charles E. Brigham, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.
Frank N. Poston, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.
John McCann, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.
William P. Savage, Jan. 1870 - Aug. 1871.
J. H. Mack, Sept. 1871 - Jan. 1872.
Robert Patterson, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.

Robin Hall (Negro), Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1874.
Albert Hunter (Negro), Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1874.
Frank Perkins (Negro), Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1874.
John A. Miller (Negro), Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1874.
J. H. Mack, Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1874.

Robin Hall (Negro), Jan. 1874 - Jan. 1876.
Albert Hunter (Negro), Jan. 1874 - Jan. 1876.
Frank Perkins (Negro), Jan. 1874 - Jan. 1876.
A. M. Evans (Negro), Jan. 1874 - Jan. 1876.

Robin Hall (Negro), Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1878.
Albert Hunter (Negro), Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1878.
Calvin Kerr (Negro), Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1878.
Harrison Hall (Negro), Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1878.
Dewitt Shotwell (Negro), Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1878.

Prior Turner, Jan. 1878 - Apr. 1878.
Isaac Shelby McPeack, Apr. 1878 - Jan. 1880.
James Rainey (Negro), Jan. 1878 - Jan. 1880.
Richard Wellington Owen, Jan. 1878 - Jan. 1880.
M. D. Brown, Jan. 1878 - Jan. 1880.
G. B. Bills (Negro), Jan. 1878 - Apr. 1878.
C. A. Ward, Apr. 1878 - Jan. 1880.

Isaac Shelby McPeack, Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1882.
James Rainey (Negro), Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1882.
Richard Wellington Owen, Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1882.
M. D. Brown, Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1882.
C. A. Ward, Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1882.

William J. Brigham, Jan. 1882 - Jan. 1884.
W. T. Bayne, Jan. 1882 - Jan. 1884.

List of County Officials -
Members of the Board of Supervisors (continued)

T. N. Rhodes, Jan. 1882 - Jan. 1884.
N. R. Rogers, Jan. 1882 - Jan. 1884.
Justus W. Lake, Jan. 1882 - Jan. 1884.

William J. Brigham, Jan. 1884 - Jan. 1886.
James Rainey (Negro), Jan. 1884 - Jan. 1886.
T. W. L. Askew, Jan. 1884 - Jan. 1886.
Henry Durfee, Jan. 1884 - Jan. 1886.
Justus W. Lake, Jan. 1884 - Jan. 1886.

William J. Brigham, Jan. 1886 - Jan. 1888.
James Rainey (Negro), Jan. 1886 - Jan. 1888.
J. M. Hawkin, Jan. 1886 - Jan. 1888.
Henry Durfee, Jan. 1886 - Jan. 1888.
Justus W. Lake, Jan. 1886 - Jan. 1888.

J. E. Helm, Jan. 1888 - Jan. 1890.
James Rainey (Negro), Jan. 1888 - Jan. 1890.
T. W. L. Askew, Jan. 1888 - Jan. 1890.
Henry Durfee, Jan. 1888 - Jan. 1890.
J. A. Salmon, Jan. 1888 - Jan. 1890.

J. E. Helm, Jan. 1890 - Jan. 1892.
Henry McPeack, Jan. 1890 - Jan. 1892.
Rufus Coffee Kyle, Jan. 1890 - Jan. 1892.
Henry Durfee, Jan. 1890 - Jan. 1892.
Bernard M. Martin, Jan. 1890 - Jan. 1892.

B. R. Scott, Jan. 1892 - Jan. 1895.
Philip D. Clack, Feb. 1895 - Jan. 1896.
Henry McPeack, Jan. 1892 - Jan. 1894.
Walter M. Johnson, Feb. 1892 - Jan. 1896.
Rufus Coffee Kyle, Jan. 1892 - Jan. 1896.
Henry Durfee, Jan. 1892 - Sept. 1893.
Christopher C. Crews, Nov. 1893 - Jan. 1896.
Bernard M. Martin, Jan. 1892 - Jan. 1896.

Philip D. Clack, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1900.
C. E. Miller, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1900.
Ralph W. Ussery, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1900.
Clarence D. Owens, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1900.
William D. Pruette, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1900.

John L. Kline, Jan. 1900 - Jan. 1904.
C. E. Miller, Jan. 1900 - Jan. 1904.
James Daniel Parmer, Jan. 1900 - Jan. 1904.
W. P. Eads, Jan. 1900 - Jan. 1904.
Justus W. Lake, Jan. 1900 - Jan. 1904.

S. R. Leatherman, Sr., Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1908.
W. D. Hall, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1908.
Jeptha R. Evans, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1908.
W. P. Eads, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1908.
Justus W. Lake, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1908.

List of County Officials -
Members of the Board of Supervisors (continued)

W. E. Cox, Jan. 1908 - Jan. 1910.
Ellis Trigg Woolfolk, Jan. 1910 - Jan. 1912.
Percy Houston, Jan. 1908 - Mar. 1908.
B. W. Garner, Apr. 1908 - Jan. 1912.
Jeptha R. Evans, Jan. 1908 - May 1909.
Ernest P. Mangum, June 1909 - Jan. 1912.
W. P. Eads, Jan. 1908 - Jan. 1910.
Berry B. Brooks, Feb. 1910 - Jan. 1912.
Frank W. Canon, Jan. 1908 - Jan. 1912.

Ellis Trigg Woolfolk, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1916.
Walter M. Johnson, Jan. 1912 - May 1914.
Oscar Lamar Houston, June 1914 - Jan. 1916.
Ernest P. Mangum, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1916.
Berry B. Brooks, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1914.
William Nichols, Feb. 1914 - Jan. 1916.
William D. Pruette, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1916.

George Moseley Shaw, Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.
Oscar Lamar Houston, Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.
Sterling Williamson Owen, Sr., Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.
William Nichols, Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.
Thomas Embry Salmon, Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.

George Moseley Shaw, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.
Henry Patrick Farrell, Sr., Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.
Sterling Williamson Owen, Sr., Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.
Ernest L. Owen, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.
Raleigh T. Mottley, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.

George Moseley Shaw, Jan. 1924 - Jan. 1928.
John L. Harris, Jan. 1924 - Jan. 1928.
Sterling A. Withers, Jan. 1924 - Jan. 1928.
John F. Hamlin, Jan. 1924 - Jan. 1928.
Raleigh T. Mottley, Jan. 1924 - Jan. 1928.

George Moseley Shaw, Jan. 1928 - Jan. 1932.
John L. Harris, Jan. 1928 - Jan. 1932.
Sterling A. Withers, Jan. 1928 - Jan. 1932.
Shelby C. Wilson, Jan. 1928 - Jan. 1932.
Raleigh T. Mottley, Jan. 1928 - Jan. 1932.

George Moseley Shaw, Jan. 1932 - Jan. 1936.
Oscar Lamar Houston, Jan. 1932 - Jan. 1936.
Edgar Melborn Hood, Jan. 1932 - Jan. 1936.
Shelby C. Wilson, Jan. 1932 - Jan. 1936.
Scott Allison Arnold, Jan. 1932 - Jan. 1936.

S. R. Leatherman, Jan. 1936 - Jan. 1940.
Oscar Lamar Houston, Jan. 1936 - Jan. 1940.
Edgar Melborn Hood, Jan. 1936 - Jan. 1940.
Shelby C. Wilson, Jan. 1936 - Jan. 1940.
James Jeptha Cox, Jan. 1936 - Jan. 1940.

List of County Officials -
Members of the Board of Supervisors (continued)

S. R. Leatherman, Jan. 1940--.
Robert Irwin Abbay, Jan. 1940--.
Edgar Melborn Hood, Jan. 1940--.
Shelby C. Wilson, Jan. 1940--.
Scott Allison Arnold, Jan. 1940--.

Clerks of Probate Court

William Cameron, Feb. 1836 - Jan. 1840.
Samuel B. Caruth, Jan. 1840 - Jan. 1842.
Charles May, Jan. 1842 - June 1847.
Robert W. Caruthers, July 1847 - Jan. 1849.
Elijah B. Bridgers, Jan. 1849 - Jan. 1852.
James Crawford Nelson, Jan. 1852 - Jan. 1860.
James Franklin Sample, Jan. 1860 - Jan. 1862.
John Mason Phillips, Jan. 1862 - Jan. 1869.
James F. Jaquess, Jan. 1869 - Jan. 1870.

Clerks of Chancery Court

James F. Jaquess, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1871.
Louis Michael Deering, Jan. 1871 - Jan. 1872.
Columbus W. Dunnaway, Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1876.
Edward Carter (Negro), Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1880.
J. E. Stone, Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1884.
William Garrison Jaquess, Jan. 1884 - Jan. 1896.
Oscar F. West, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1904.
Franklin L. Hope, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1912.
Turner Williams, Jan. 1912 - Oct. 1919.
Lonnie Cooper Shannon, Oct. 1919 - Jan. 1940.
Samuel James Houston, Jan. 1940--.

Clerks of Circuit Court

Thomas W. Floyd, Feb. 1836 - Jan. 1840.
Austin B. Manion, Jan. 1840 - Jan. 1842.
James McPherson, Jan. 1842 - Nov. 1847.
Calvin Barnes, Jan. 1848 - Dec. 1851.
James R. May, Jan. 1852 - Jan. 1854.
James F. Boren, Jan. 1854 - Jan. 1856.
James Crawford Nelson, Jan. 1856 - Jan. 1860.
James Franklin Sample, Jan. 1860 - Jan. 1862.
John Mason Phillips, Jan. 1863 - Jan. 1866.
John O. Hardeman, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1868.
James F. Jaquess, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1871.
Louis Michael Deering, Jan. 1871 - Jan. 1872.
Columbus W. Dunnaway, Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1876.
Edward Carter (Negro), Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1880.
J. E. Stone, Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1884.
William Garrison Jaquess, Jan. 1884 - Jan. 1896.
Oscar F. West, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1904.

List of County Officials - Clerks of Circuit Court (continued)

Edward M. Dougherty, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1912.
Lester E. Mitchell, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1920.
Clarence Vincent Moore, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.
Joseph William Thompson, Jan. 1924--.

County Prosecuting Attorneys

W. L. Bankston, Apr. 1910 - Jan. 1912.
Roger Montgomery, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1916.
Cranmer Augustus Jaquess, Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.
L. C. Canon, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.
George P. Ritchey, Jan. 1924 - Jan. 1932.
Martin Garner, Jan. 1932--.

Sheriffs

John H. Bridgers, Feb. 1836 - Jan. 1840.
Hardin S. Adams, Jan. 1840 - Jan. 1844.
Rutherford J. Thornton, Jan. 1844 - Jan. 1848.
Charles May, Jan. 1848 - July 1853.
W. A. P. Jones, Aug. 1853 - Nov. 1853.
Robert H. Humphreys, Nov. 1853 - Jan. 1860.
Thomas B. Turner, Jan. 1860 - Jan. 1862.
James Franklin Sample, Jan. 1862 - Jan. 1868.
Isaac Boatman, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1870.
Frank S. Belcher, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.
Martin J. Manning, Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1877.
Holland T. Coffee, Mar. 1877 - June 1877.
William G. Jaquess, June 1877 - Jan. 1878.
Isaac L. McKee, Jan. 1878 - Jan. 1880.
James H. Owen, Jan. 1880 - Oct. 1881.
James Benton Harris, Oct. 1881 - Nov. 1881.
Isaac L. McKee, Nov. 1881 - Jan. 1882.
James Benton Harris, Jan. 1882 - Jan. 1884.
John W. Johnson, Jan. 1884 - July 1892.
Francis Barlow, Sr., July 1892 - Jan. 1893.
Thomas O. King, Jan. 1893 - Jan. 1896.
Franklin L. Hope, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1900.
Albert Sidney Ivy, Jan. 1900 - Jan. 1904.
Ivan G. Owens, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1908.
Joseph Lolã Savage, Jan. 1908 - Jan. 1912.
Ernest Gilmore Woolfolk, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1916.
Ellis Trigg Woolfolk, Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.
John Mack Cox, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.
William Nichols, Jan. 1924 - Jan. 1928.
Thomas Embry Salmon, Jan. 1928 - Jan. 1932.
John Andrew Veach, Jan. 1932 - Jan. 1936.
Scott Allison Arnold, Jan. 1936 - Jan. 1940.
M. Gerald Burrow, Jan. 1940--.

List of County Officials

Tax Collector

W. F. Stewart, Feb. 1836 - Dec. 1839.

Coroners

James S. Rountree, Feb. 1836 - Jan. 1840.
Augustus Northcutt, Jan. 1840 - Jan. 1844.
Hardin S. Adams, Jan. 1844 - Jan. 1846.
M. G. McMillian, Jan. 1858 - Sept. 1861.
Frank N. Poston, Sept. 1861 - Jan. 1870.
William J. Brigham, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.
John Bransford (Negro), Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1878.
W. T. Bayne, Jan. 1878 - Jan. 1880.
W. R. Lester, Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1890.
Frank Tardy, Nov. 1890 - Feb. 1891.
Francis Barlow, Feb. 1891 - Jan. 1897.
Frank J. Barlow, Jan. 1897 - Jan. 1899.
C. W. Youngblood, Jan. 1908 - Jan. 1916.
Frank J. Barlow, Jan. 1916 - Aug. 1923.
Charles Schurer Swann, Aug. 1923 - Jan. 1928.
C. H. Block, Jan. 1928 - Jan. 1936.
Archie O'Keefe, Jan. 1936 -.

Tax Assessors

W. F. Stewart, Feb. 1836 - Jan. 1840.
Hardin G. Adams, Jan. 1840 - Jan. 1844.
John Rawls, Jan. 1844 - Jan. 1845.
Byrd Sherrill, Jan. 1845 - Jan. 1848.
Charles May, Jan. 1848 - Jan. 1852.
Fountain P. Bridgers, Jan. 1852 - Jan. 1854.
Robert H. Humphreys, Jan. 1854 - Jan. 1860.
J. F. Savage, Jan. 1860 - May 1862.
Joseph Calvin Parmer, June 1862 - Jan. 1863.
John Mack Neblett, Jan. 1864 - Jan. 1866.
John Reddick Bridgers, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1868.
Isaac Boatman, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1870.
Frank S. Belcher, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.
Martin J. Manning, Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1874.
Anthony Smith (Negro), Jan. 1874 - Jan. 1876.
Knowledge Mhoon (Negro), Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1878.
R. L. May, Jan. 1878 - Jan. 1880.
Samuel H. Fletcher, Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1884.
George T. Colemanell (Negro), Jan. 1884 - Jan. 1886.
Thomas O. King, Jan. 1886 - Jan. 1892.
J. J. Fort, Jan. 1892 - Jan. 1896.
Ivan G. Owens, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1904.
Francis Alexander Gardner, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1908.
John R. Terry, Jan. 1908 - Jan. 1912.

List of County Officials - Tax Assessors (continued)

John Mack Cox, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1920.
John Andrew Veach, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1932.
Harry Toombs Hall, Jan. 1932 - Jan. 1940.
Jeptha J. Cox, Jan. 1940--.

Treasurers

James Wilson, Feb. 1836 - Jan. 1840.
Byrd Sherrill, Jan. 1840 - Jan. 1844.
John Rawls, Jan. 1844 - Jan. 1848.
John P. Caruthers, Jan. 1848 - Jan. 1850.
Stephen Harbert, Jan. 1850 - Jan. 1852.
Thomas L. Dunlap, Jan. 1852 - Jan. 1854.
Robert G. Kelsey, Jan. 1854 - Jan. 1858.
John D. Trotter, Jan. 1858 - Jan. 1860.
Joseph G. McGowan, Jan. 1860 - Jan. 1866.
Harper McGowan, Jan. 1866 - Jan. 1867.
J. W. Lindley, Jan. 1867 - Jan. 1868.
George Brodie, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1870.
John McCann, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.
William Garrison Jaquess, Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1874.
Thomas W. L. Askew, Jan. 1874 - Jan. 1878.
James Franklin Samples, Jan. 1878 - Oct. 1878.
James Benton Harris, Nov. 1878 - Jan. 1882.
J. W. Stone, Jan. 1882 - Jan. 1886.
Jeptha R. Evans, Jan. 1886 - Jan. 1888.
A. D. Hunt Armistead, Jan. 1888 - Oct. 1892.
Oscar F. West, Nov. 1892 - Jan. 1896.
R. M. Matthews, Jan. 1896 - Mar. 1898.
Leo Lesser, Apr. 1898 - Jan. 1900.
Thomas T. Douglass, Jan. 1900 - Jan. 1904.
Henry T. Tucker, Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1908.
William D. Hall, Jan. 1908 - June 1908.
Justus W. Lake, July 1908.
Thomas Embry Salmon, July 1908 - Jan. 1912.
Bailey E. Pruette, Jan. 1912 - Jan. 1916.
H. C. Gause, Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.
Walter Riley Singler, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.

Superintendents of Education

Columbus W. Dunnaway, Jan. 1870 - Jan. 1872.
W. B. Mitchell, Jan. 1872 - Jan. 1876.
Calvin Perkins, Jan. 1876 - Jan. 1879.
John T. Bates, Jan. 1879 - Jan. 1880.
Edward Carter (Negro), Jan. 1880 - Jan. 1884.
St. John Waddell, Jan. 1884 - Mar. 1884.
S. Frank Powel, Mar. 1884 - Jan. 1888.
Zachary Taylor White, Jan. 1888 - Jan. 1896.
John Wimbish Henderson, Jan. 1896 - Jan. 1908.

List of County Officials - Superintendents of Education (continued)

Louis H. Kittle, Jan. 1908 - May 1909.
John Wimbish Henderson, May 1909 - Jan. 1916.
L. C. Canon, Jan. 1916 - Jan. 1920.
William Garrison Jaquess, Jan. 1920 - Jan. 1924.
Miss May E. Irvine, Jan. 1924 - Jan. 1932.
Mrs. C. R. West, Jan. 1932 - Jan. 1940.
Miss Florence A. Nelson, Jan. 1940--.

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MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

INVENTORIES OF COUNTY ARCHIVES

*No. 3. Amite. (ii, 85 p. mimeo., September 1937)
*No. 18. Forrest. (iv, 140 p. mimeo., June 1938)
*No. 22. Grenada. (v, 172 p. mimeo., April 1940)
No. 27. Humphreys. (v, 180 p. mimeo., August 1941)
No. 37. Lamar. (vi, 329 p. mimeo., July 1939)
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