

Early History
of
Pike County, Arkansas

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The First One Hundred Years
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Compiled and Published by
Pike County Heritage Club

PIKE COUNTY ARCHIVES AND HISTORY SOCIETY

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Historical Development of Pike County

Pike County was created by Act of the Arkansas Territorial Legislature, the action being approved November 1, 1833. Thus, Pike County was one of the original counties when Arkansas became a State in 1836. On December 9, 1837, by act of the State Legislature, Murfreesboro was made the permanent county seat and the county lines were established. The first clerk's office, which was erected of logs, was burned and all county records were destroyed in the Spring of 1855. A two-story frame courthouse was built in 1856, which was totally destroyed by fire on the night of March 9, 1885, when all the county records were again destroyed.

Tax receipts issued for the year 1893 were recorded in a record which was preserved, and are the earliest tax records in existence for Pike County. Many of the deeds were re-recorded.

Pike County lines have been defined by Acts of the Arkansas Legislature as follows:

- Between Pike and Sevier — November 15, 1833
- Between Pike and Hempstead — December 14, 1838
- Between Pike and Howard — April 14, 1875
- Between Pike and Clark — April 25, 1873
- Between Pike and Montgomery — December 16, 1874.

On July 4, 1819, Arkansas began its separate existence under the name of Arkansas Territory. Congress declared that on that date all that part of the Missouri Territory lying south of a line beginning on the Mississippi River to 36 degrees north, running west to St. Francis River, thence to western territorial line of Missouri should be separate territory. This took place March 2,

1819. The seat of government was to be at Arkansas Post. President Monroe appointed General James Miller of New Hampshire as governor. The capitol was moved to Little Rock in 1821.

One of the most important issues of the day was the sale of public lands and this was started in 1815 and two million acres of land was surveyed and set apart for the soldiers of the War of 1812. None of these lands were sold, but each soldier was given a warrant and the land department located it by a lottery process. Thus the new territory of Arkansas from the start was populated with the heroes of the War of 1812—men of courage and ability.

After the Territorial Legislature passed on the organization of Pike County November 1, 1833, Elijah Kelly and Henry Brewer were appointed as commissioners to find a seat of justice for the newly appointed county. Asa Thompson was the only man living in the vicinity at the time and a post office had been set up in his home and given the name of Zebulon. In searching old deeds, it is assumed he had property close to where the Floyd-Pickett house now stands. A log courthouse was quickly built, with a small frame house for the clerk's office. The clerk was D. S. Dickson from 1833-48. Zebulon at that time was no more than a settlement hacked out of the wilderness by a few hardy pioneers looking for a new frontier. In 1836 the name Zebulon was changed to Murfreesborough (later Murfreesboro) and has remained the county seat until this day. Legend has it that many of the new settlers were from Tennessee and named their town after Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Pike County was originally a part of Hempstead and Clark counties, both formed in 1818 by the legislature of Missouri. On December 31, 1813, two new counties were created, New Madrid and Arkansas. The first included the north-western angle of Arkansas county, and Pike from these two. Pike was the twenty-sixth county formed in Arkansas out of seventy-five.

In 1833 there were three settlements in Pike County: Wolf Creek, east, which is now Delight; the Brewer settlement on Muddy Fork, west; and a few families living at the place which was selected as the county seat, known later as Zebulon, then changed to Murfreesborough.

Some of the early families living in Pike County before 1830 were Asa Thompson, Joseph Davis, Jeremiah Davis, John Hughes,

PIKE COUNTY.—Murfreesboro, County Seat.
Formed November 1, 1833.

Date	Judge	Clerk	Sheriff	Treasurer	Coroner	Surveyor	Assessor
1833-1835	W. Sorrels	D. S. Dickson	John Hughes		J. W. Dickson		
1835-1836	W. Kelly	D. S. Dickson	Isaac White		J. H. Kirkham	E. K. Williams	
1836-1838	W. Kelly	D. S. Dickson	Isaac White		Henry Brewer	J. H. Kirkham	
1838-1840	W. Kelly	D. S. Dickson	Isaac White	John Hughes	Henry Brewer		
1840-1842	D. Huddleston	D. S. Dickson	H. Brewer	H. Kizzia	W. T. Atkins	William Johnson	
1842-1844	D. Huddleston	D. S. Dickson	L. Huddleston	R. Stringer	B. Scott	F. Scott	
1844-1846	William Kelly	D. S. Dickson	L. Huddleston	R. Stringer	Isaac Hay		
1846-1848	William Kelly	D. S. Dickson	L. Huddleston	R. Stringer	W. B. Speer	J. H. Kirkham	
1848-1850	James Scott	W. H. Preston	L. Huddleston	R. Stringer	T. J. Conway		
1850-1852	Isaac White	T. K. Dassy	L. Huddleston	R. Stringer	S. S. Thompson	William Johnson	
1852-1854	James McDavel	J. S. Owens	L. Huddleston	R. Stringer	W. Huddleston	W. R. McFarlin	
1854-1856	D. Huddleston	W. R. McFarlin	W. Gilmer	D. Huddleston	T. J. Conway	James Scott	
1856-1858	D. Huddleston	W. J. Kelly	W. Gilmer	J. D. Brewer	C. M. Crawford	Cyrus Hubble	
1858-1860	D. Huddleston	W. J. Kelly	W. Gilmer	J. D. Brewer	Benj. Bryant	W. R. McFarlin	
1860-1862	D. Huddleston	W. J. Kelly	W. Gilmer	J. B. P. Elzy	W. J. Thompson	Cyrus Hubble	
1862-1864	D. Huddleston	J. H. Howard	J. M. Davis	J. B. P. Elzy	W. Huddleston	F. J. McFarlin	
1864-1866	D. Huddleston	W. J. Kelly	J. M. Davis	T. W. McClure	D. Wormack	W. R. Smedley	
1866-1868	E. Kelly	J. H. Howard	B. S. Davis	John Wagner	T. J. Straun	J. M. Southerland	
1868-1872	R. A. Cox	W. J. Kelly	B. S. Davis	John Wagner	G. W. Logan	C. S. Cox	John Wagner 3
1872-1874		H. P. Howard	W. J. Reed	T. C. Straun	C. W. Trapley	J. S. Corbell	W. N. McClure
1874-1876	D. Huddleston	H. P. Howard	A. F. Wilson	W. J. Jackson	C. N. Westerman	J. S. Corbell	G. W. Logan
1876-1878	D. Huddleston	W. J. White	J. P. Copeland	W. J. Smedley	John Corman	J. S. Corbell	G. W. Logan

1—E. Kelley, Judge; J. H. Howard, Clerk; D. Campbell, Treasurer; James Corbell, Coroner and Surveyor, from July, 1865. 2—W. D. Kelly from December, 1870, vice Wagner, resigned November 7. 3—J. M. Southerland from December, 1870. 4—M. W. Hill from June, 1875.

PIKE COUNTY—(Continued).

Date	Judge	Clerk	Sheriff	Treasurer	Coroner	Surveyor	Assessor
1878-1880	D. Huddleston	W. W. Hill	J. P. Copeland	J. A. Holland	John Gorman	J. S. Corbell	G. W. Logan
1880-1882	J. C. McKetcham	W. B. Thomasson	W. N. McClure	J. A. Holland	John Gorman	R. S. Burke	G. W. Logan
1882-1884	F. J. Falleson	W. B. Thomasson	W. N. McClure	J. W. Covington	C. N. Westerman	J. S. Thomasson	J. P. Gosnell
1884-1886	T. B. Stephen	W. B. Thomasson	W. N. McClure	H. F. Fagan	C. N. Westerman	J. S. Thomasson	J. P. Gosnell
1886-1888	Isaac Cooley	J. O. A. Bush	J. P. Gosnell	W. M. Kizzia	D. L. Bowen	J. S. Thomasson	N. M. McFarland
1888-1890	W. N. McClure	J. O. A. Bush	A. W. Parker	W. M. Kizzia	J. J. Wingfield	J. S. Thomasson	B. F. Bryant
1890-1892	C. W. Threlkeld	J. C. Hughes	O. B. Owens	J. T. Stephens	John M. White	J. S. Thomasson	M. D. Chaney
1892-1894	C. W. Threlkeld	J. C. Hughes	O. B. Owens	W. D. Alford	W. D. Wood	J. S. Thomasson	M. D. Chaney
1894-1896	J. C. Warner	J. C. Hughes	O. B. Owens	W. D. Alford	A. A. Stell	J. S. Thomasson	J. A. Dunson
1896-1898	W. N. McClure	M. M. Manney	W. N. Kizzia	M. A. Brock	A. A. Stell	J. S. Thomasson	J. A. Dunson
1898-1900	H. Wingfield	M. M. Manney	W. N. Kizzia	M. A. Morris	A. A. Stell	J. S. Thomasson	M. P. Dean
1900-1902	N. B. Parnell	C. A. Kizzia	M. D. Chaney	M. A. Morris	A. A. Stell	J. S. Thomasson	M. P. Dean
1902-1904	N. B. Parnell	C. A. Kizzia	M. D. Chaney	M. A. Morris	A. A. Allford	J. S. Thomasson	W. J. Davis
1904-1906	J. T. Pollard	Q. H. Lewis	W. E. Branch	M. A. Morris	A. A. Stell	W. T. Herndon	W. H. Dobbins
1906-1908	J. T. Pollard	Q. H. Lewis	W. E. Branch	G. W. Clingan	D. M. Pounds	W. T. Herndon	G. M. Parson
1908-1910	J. T. Pollard	Robt. N. Alford	T. B. Rogers	G. W. Clingan	W. D. Alsobrook	W. T. Herndon	G. M. Parson
1910-1912	C. W. Davis	R. N. Alford	T. B. Rogers	O. Gilleylen	W. R. Alsobrook	W. T. Herndon	C. A. Rankin
1912-1914	C. W. Davis	B. S. Butler	J. E. Chaney	O. Gilleylen	J. P. Dunn	W. T. Herndon	C. A. Rankin
1914-1916	F. W. Roundtree	Byron S. Butler	J. E. Chaney	Geo. P. Crawford	W. P. Hembey	W. T. Herndon	Geo. W. Neal
1916-1919	T. W. Roundtree	C. H. Rutherford	Tom Steuart	G. P. Crawford	J. B. Thomasson	W. T. Herndon	G. W. Neal
1919-1921	G. W. Matthews	C. H. Rutherford	Tom Steuart	Claude Rankin		W. T. Herndon	J. B. Meeks
1921-1923	W. K. Kizzia	Geo. W. Neal	J. A. Chaney	Claude Rankin		W. T. Herndon	J. B. Meeks
	+G. C. Floyd						
1923-1925	G. H. Lewis	Geo. W. Neal	J. A. Chaney	J. M. Kizzia		W. T. Herndon	S. W. Reese
	+G. C. Floyd						
1925-1926	Q. H. Lewis	T. J. Jones	M. D. Cummings	J. M. Kizzia	H. G. Davis	W. T. Herndon	S. W. Reese
	+C. G. Bolin						
1927-1928	T. W. Roundtree	T. J. Jones	M. D. Cummings	G. L. Webb	J. J. Burleson	W. T. Herndon	M. C. Burton
1929-1930	W. B. Horton	Wallis Callaway	M. D. Cummings	G. L. Webb		W. T. Herndon	M. C. Burton
1931-1932	W. B. Horton	Wallis Callaway	M. D. Cummings	Will T. Stevens	J. J. Burleson	M. H. Brewer	P. G. Coker
1933-1934	W. J. Mauney	M. C. Barton	M. D. Cummings	Gertrude Stevens	J. J. Burleson	M. H. Brewer	P. G. Coker

+County Superintendent. 5—Succeeded by J. S. Thomasson.