



# HARDEMAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE HISTORY AND FAMILIES, VOL. III BICENTENNIAL EDITION

*Sponsored by the Hardeman County Bicentennial Book Committee*

**A CHANCE TO BE PART OF HARDEMAN COUNTY'S HISTORY!**

In celebration of the sesquicentennial of our county, the Hardeman County Bicentennial Book Committee is sponsoring, compiling and publishing a new book, *Hardeman County History and Families, Vol. III - Bicentennial Edition*. This book will include the history of our county including family histories, communities, churches, schools, businesses, farms, memorials, tributes, clubs, organizations, and much more! It is important that **EVERY FAMILY IN THE COUNTY** be included in this historic publication.

Our community history book will contain material from 1821 through 2023, with approximately 200 to 300 pages. This hardback, library quality, Smyth-sewn 8-1/2 x 11-inch book will be bound in an elegant, swirl-grained leatherette cover with a gold foil-stamped seal depicting Hardeman County's rustic heritage on the front, and gold on the spine. What an heirloom to give your children and grandchildren!

#### IDEAS FOR WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY:

Everyone has a family history, and even if you recently moved to the county, *we want yours!* Give the date your family came to Hardeman County, where they originated, and vocation before settling here. Tell about any interesting stories from childhood; include marriages, children, job, military, education, organizations participated in, etc. Write your stories in third person (use he, she, they). The family history must be written in 500 words or less; there will be a charge of 15¢ per word for all over 500. Please submit your story typed on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper, double spaced if possible. Sign your name to your history.

**PLEASE SEND ONE PHOTOGRAPH** (current or historic) to be used with your family story; an extra photo can be included for only \$15.00. Because the photograph will be handled many times, send a professional copy (no Xeroxes please) that is not valuable or irreplaceable. Write in pencil your name and address on the back of all pictures. **Indicate the names of people, date, and caption for the picture.** Your material will be returned when the book is completed. In addition, please feel free to send any rare historic photos you wish to be printed. We will print as many as we can.

This historical book is **AVAILABLE ON A PRESALE BASIS ONLY** and is priced at \$59.95. Your check should be made out to Hardeman County Family History Book. It will be necessary to collect orders in advance of publication, since **we are going to print only a limited number of books.** All money will be held in escrow at a local bank for payment to the publishing company later. Don't miss out

on this unique opportunity to be recorded in Hardeman County's newest family history book.

As a non-profit society, our purpose in publishing a history of your families is to preserve historical records for the enjoyment and education of future generations. **ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW!**

There is **NO CHARGE** for having your history and one photo published in this book. Your history, picture(s), and book order(s) should be sent in no later than November 15, 2022. Send your material to:

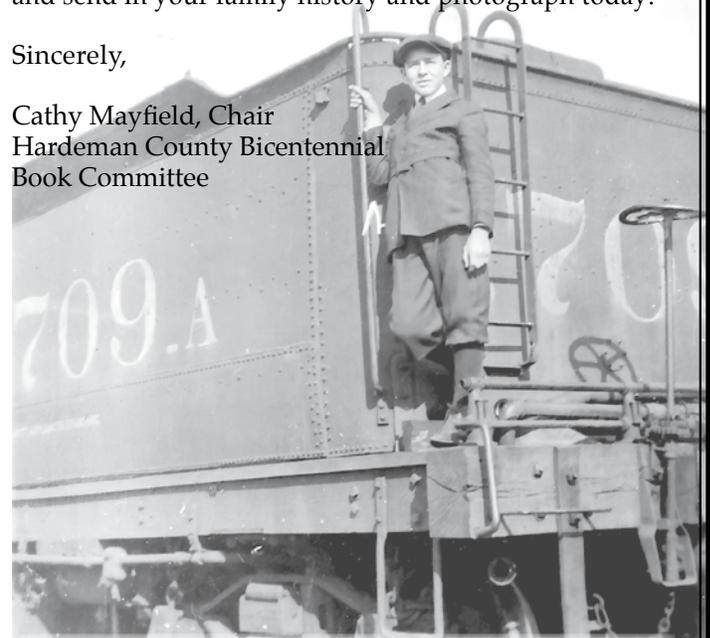
**Hardeman County History Book**  
P.O. Box 174 • Hornsby, TN 38044  
*OR you may drop your materials off at the*  
**Bolivar-Hardeman Library**  
213 N. Washington Street in Bolivar,  
M-F 8 am - 6 pm, Sat. 8 am - noon

You may also email your family history submission to [HardemanCountyBook@acclaimpress.com](mailto:HardemanCountyBook@acclaimpress.com) or submit your family history directly to the publisher online at [www.AcclaimPress.com](http://www.AcclaimPress.com) (search "Hardeman County").

Complete the attached form to order your copies of the **HARDEMAN COUNTY, TN FAMILY HISTORY BOOK**, and send in your family history and photograph today!

Sincerely,

Cathy Mayfield, Chair  
Hardeman County Bicentennial  
Book Committee



*Pictured is Samuel Cross boarding a train in Bolivar, 1920.*

**DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

# HARDEMAN CO. TENN. HISTORY AND FAMILIES BOOK

Sample family histories — Deadline to submit is November 15, 2022

*Use these examples as a guide in writing your 500 word history. Remember: It's FREE to be included!  
Send one (1) family history with one (1) family photograph per household.*

**LAKE** – The Louis Lake family comes out of the lineage of Thornton and Laura Lake. Louis Lake was born in the Oak Hill Community on Feb. 22, 1896. His siblings included Anderson, Allen, Agnes, Charlie, Elvie, Henry, Mary, Martha, Mollie, Nelson, Lucy, and Thornton, Jr.

He received formal education at the Oak Hill School, where he accepted Christ and was a loyal member until his death. Louis married the late Virtue Sain in 1920, the daughter of the late Zach Sain and Mandie Lou Sain. Louis and Virtue Lake were the parents of four girls and five boys: Rosebelle Grimes, Eloise Sain, Virtee Lake, Christine Miller, Louis Edward Lake, Rev. William H. Lake, Oather Lake, Marvinal Lake and Johnnie Lake, who became Assistant Principal of Bolivar Central High School. He has a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who still live in the Hardeman County and West Tennessee area. At the time of his death, he was married to the late Melvinia Lake, the daughter of the late Mosby Evans and Cleasie (Reaves) Evans.

During his life, he was an active member of the Oak Hill Baptist Church and was beloved in his congregation. Oak Hill Baptist Church, like many other black churches in Hardeman County, was established primarily for parishioners within a small community. Since the local population was not large enough to sustain a church, four communities banded together to establish a rotation plan—all parishioners within the four communities attended a specific church on a designated Sunday, i.e., on the first Sunday of the month, all attended Bowden Hill Church; on the second Sunday, all went to Oak Hill Baptist Church; the third Sunday was designated for Campbell Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (called "Number Six"), and the fourth was for Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church. This approach worked well for many communities. It encouraged friendships and fostered a common spiritual bond among blacks from different areas of Hardeman County.

He has relatives who are currently the pastors of three of the churches who were a part of the fellowship: Gene Bowden, pastor of Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Bennett Messenger, pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church and William D. Young, pastor of Campbell Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, who is also his great-grandson.

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**SAVAGE** – Woodson Jasper Savage, Jr. was born December 13, 1914, in Bolivar, TN. His parents were Woodson J. Savage, Sr. (1875-1967) and Nina Eveline Campbell Savage (1875-1971), who were married for 71 years. Woodson Sr. owned and operated W.J. Savage Hardware Company for over forty years in Bolivar.



*Louis Lake and Virtue Sain Lake*

Audrey Virginia Downer was born February 7, 1921, in Charleston, WV. She is the daughter of Lewis Elon and Vera La Salle Downer, both of whom were born in upstate New York. Woodson married Audrey Downer on May 8, 1941 in Hernando, MS.

Woodson Jr. graduated from Bolivar High School in 1933. In 1937, he received his B.A. degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, earning his law degree from that University in 1939, and started his law practice in Bolivar. Woodson was subject to the draft as World War II was still going on, so he and his wife were living with his parents in Bolivar. In 1944 when Audrey got pregnant, Woodson Sr. (his father) announced that three generations of Savages living under ONE roof were two generations too many! He gave Woodson and Audrey a rent home he owned at 509 East Market Street in Bolivar, and they lived there for their entire married life. Woodson Jr. was the only man I ever knew that never paid rent or had a house mortgage during his entire life!

Woodson was a member of Phi Delta Phi Law fraternity, member of the Tennessee Bar Association, served as President of the Methodist Men's Club and teacher of the Men's Bible Class.

Audrey served as President of the Tuesday Literary Club, has been a member of the Hardeman County Association for Preservation of Antiquities, and was Regent for three years of the National Society Hatchie Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Woodson enjoyed hunting, fishing, and weaving. He had a four-harness floor loom that he used to make coverlets, place mats and other items. Audrey was a great cook and she enjoyed sewing and making crafts. They both enjoyed collecting and restoring antiques and traveling around the world.

Woodson and Audrey Savage had two sons:

1) Woodson Jasper Savage, III (Woody) was born August 15, 1944. He married Janet DeVaul on December 8, 1972, in Pittsburgh, PA. They had one son Woodson Jasper Savage IV (Jay) that was born on April 24, 1978. Janet passed away with pancreatic cancer on August 29, 2004. Woody later married Carolyn Wisdom on July 30, 2005, in Bartlett, TN.

2) Kenneth Eugene Savage (Ken) was born June 11, 1949. He married Janelle Young on October 1, 1967, in Bolivar, TN. They have a son, Kenneth Eugene Savage, Jr. that was born on March 1, 1971. In 1998, Ken and Janelle got a divorce. Ken later married Debbie Mosley Arthur on November 23, 2000, in Bolivar, TN.

Audrey died at the age of 83 on June 19, 2004, due to Alzheimer's in Jackson, TN. Woodson Jr. died at the age of 92 on January 5, 2006, in Bolivar, TN.



*Woodson and Audrey Savage, Jr.*

*Don't be left out — send us YOUR family's story TODAY!*

## A QUALITY PUBLICATION

This hardback, collector's quality, 8-1/2" x 11" book will be bound in a beautiful swirl-grained leatherette cover with a gold foil stamping on the front cover and spine. Its archive-quality pages will be Smyth-sewn for durability. Acid-free paper will be used for superior photo reproduction and durability. This book will be in libraries and offices across the county, state and USA! This book will be a family heirloom that can be handed down from generation to generation.

### FEATURING THE FOLLOWING HARDEMAN COUNTY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES:

*Bolivar • Forty Five • Grand Junction  
Hickory Valley • Hornsby • Middleton  
Pocahontas • Salisbury • Silerton  
Toone • Whiteville • Van Buren*

*ANYONE WHO HAS EVER LIVED IN HARDEMAN CO.!*

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Sally Robinson

Questions? Call Acclaim Press at (573) 472-9800 or email  
HardemanCountyBook@acclaimpress.com

Pictured at right: A group of dapper men stand outside Saulsbury General Store in the early 1900s.

### HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Type your family history in 500 words or less (see samples on opposite page). If you need more space, add .15/word for each additional word over 500. Write in third-person (he-she-they). Use 8.5 x 11" white paper, double-spaced.
- Send a photo (historic or recent). The first photo submitted is free, additional photos are \$15/each. Write a caption for each photo on the back of the photo or on your family history. Photos will be returned to you at the completion of the project.
- If you'd like to order a book, complete the order form below and mail with your check to the address listed.
- Invite friends and family to participate — the more families included in the book, the better this historical record will be for everyone!

*Our Bicentennial book will have hundreds of historic photos from across Hardeman County*



## Order Form

<i>Hardeman County, TN – History &amp; Families III</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Total</i>
Limited Edition		\$59.95	
Deluxe Leather Edition		\$89.95	
Embossed Name on book cover		\$6.00	
Shipping & handling: if mailed, add \$6.50 per book		\$7.60	
Family history, extra words over the first 500 - add 15¢ per word		\$0.15	
Extra photos - add \$15 per photo		\$15.00	
<i>Make checks payable to HCBBC</i>		<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	

*Make checks payable to Hardeman County Family History Book*

**AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.ACCLAIMPRESS.COM](http://WWW.ACCLAIMPRESS.COM)  
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Send all material, checks, and orders to:  
**HARDEMAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
FAMILY HISTORY BOOK, VOL. III**

**P.O. Box 174 • Hornsby, TN 38044**

*OR you may drop your materials off at the  
Bolivar-Hardeman Library • 213 N. Washington Street in Bolivar,  
M-F 8 am - 6 pm, Sat. 8 am - noon*

**DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name to be embossed on cover (up to 24 spaces) \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR AMERICAN  
HERITAGE PROJECT** 

*NOTE: Proceeds from the sale of this book will also help other communities and organizations preserve their history through Our American Heritage Project, a non-profit organization.*