

# Wright County, Missouri

Was formed in 1841 with the County seat being established at Hartsville. When the "s" was dropped from the name Hartsville is unknown. The town was named after Hartsville, Tennessee, as many of the early settlers passed through there on their way to a new territory and all the promises that it held for a better life.

## WRIGHT COUNTY OFFICIALS

This information was compiled by Phyllis Rippee from the nine-county GOODSPEED'S HISTORY, published in 1889; from newspapers published in the county and other sources.

### 1841

County Judge, Mr. Bilderback  
County Judge, Jesse Robinett  
County Judge and Sheriff, John Shields

### Between 1841 and 1845:

Presiding Judge, Jesse Robinett  
Associate Judge, Mr. Bilderback  
Associate Judge, James McMahan  
County Clerk, Isom PPool  
Sheriff, John H Hight

### 1845:

Residing Judge, Ratliff B. Palmer (had replaced Robinettwho died)  
Associate County Judge, Mr. Bilderback  
Associate County Judge, James McMahan  
County Clerk, Isom PPool\*\*  
Sheriff, John H Hight

**\*\*21 Nov 1848 The "Springfield Advertiser" shows the Sheriff offering a reward for the return of an Isham P.Pool. \$100 Reward. Whereas Isham P'Pool, who was committed to jail, at Hartsville, Wright Co. Mo. on the 29th day of October, charged with the crime of forgery, has broken said jail and escaped from custody on the 4th day of November 1848, I will give to any man who will deliver said Pool to me in Wright Co. Mo. the above reward of one hundred dollars, as soon as I receive him in my custody. Said Pool is about 45 years old, about five feet nine inches high, fair complexion, blue eyes and light colored hair. He is getting somewhat gray.--John Shields, Sheriff of Wright County, Missouri.**

**From Goodspeed: In December of 1848, Lawson Butcher and Anderson Watters were indicted for aiding in the escape of Isham P'Pool from the county jail. An earlier entry by Goodspeed indicates that County Clerk Isham Pool had done something of a serious nature**

August 7,  
1848

**Presiding Judge, Ratliff Palmer  
Associate County Judge, William R Prock  
Associate County Judge, Wilson Hillhouse  
Sheriff, John S Shields  
County Clerk, James M Tunnell  
Deputy Clerk, A. McFarlane Hudson  
Treasurer, William Franklin**

**(August 7, 1848 was the oldest record of the County Court when Goodspeed's history was published.)**

**December  
1848**

**County Judge, William R. Prock  
County Judge, Edward Garner  
County Judge, Wilson Hillhouse  
Assessor, William Scott  
Sheriff, John H Hight  
County Clerk, J M Tunnell**

**(At this meeting, the building of a brick courthouse was authorized.)**

**1850:**

**County Judge, William R Prock  
County Judge, Edward Garner  
County Judge, Wilson Hillhouse  
Assessor, William Scott  
Sheriff, John H Hight  
County Clerk, L. C. Hudson (serving the remainder of Tunnell's term.)**

**October  
1850:**

**Presiding Judge, William R Prock  
Associate County Judge, Samuel Boyd  
Associate County Judge, Samuel CHarden**

**1851:**

**Clerk of County and Circuit Courts, Dr. H H Lea**

November

1852:

Same officials, except Sheriff, Arthur Rippee

1853:

County Judge, Ratliff Palmer  
County Judge, William R Prock  
County Judge, Samuel Boyd  
School Commissioner, Samuel H Headlee  
Treasurer, John M Gorman

November

1854:

County Judge, William R Prock  
County Judge, Alvah Goss  
County Judge, Philip Kincheloe  
County Clerk, Julian Frazier  
Sheriff, Arthur Rippee  
Probate Court Judge, Wilson Hillhouse  
Treasurer, Edward Garner (replaced Gorman who had died)

1855:

County Judge, Prock  
County Judge, Kincheloe  
County Judge, John H Hight  
Treasurer, H Moody  
County Clerk, Julian Frazier  
County Seat Commissioner, H W Riley  
Assessor, C A Crain

November

1855:

County Judge, Leonard Crider\*\*  
County Surveyor, John L Tate  
Deputy Sheriff, William P Garner

\*\*(Crider took the place of John H Hight, who was unable to serve out his term)

February

1856:

**Treasurer, Isacc W Sumner\*\***  
**Probate Judge, William R Prock\*\***  
**\*\* (Sumner appointed to replace Edward Garner who had moved from Hartville)**  
**\*\* (Prock appointed to replace Wilson Hillhouse who died)**

**August**  
**1856:**

**Assessor, George W Sparks**  
**Sheriff and Collector, Jesse Young**

**December**  
**1856:**

**County Clerk, William P Garner (succeeded Julian Frazier)**

**November**  
**1857:**

**Associate Judge, Carson M Berry (succeeded Leonard Crider)**

**January**  
**1858:**

**County divided into 4 assessment districts.**  
**Assessors: James R Bowman, Lewis Boyer\*\*, Edward Garner,**  
**J C Campbell**  
**\*\* (Later, John Scott replaced Boyer)**

**November**  
**1858:**

**Presiding Judge, William Wood**  
**Associate Judge, Abram PPool**  
**Associate Judge, William J Whittaker**  
**Commissioner of the Seat of Justice, J LTate**

**January**  
**1860:**

**County Assessor, George Forkner**  
**4 District Assessors: William Moore, Charles A Crain**  
**George W Sparks, Jesse Bruton**

**November**  
**1860:**

Presiding Judge, David H Crawford  
Associate Judge, Wood  
Associate Judge, PPool  
Sheriff, C. F. Haggard  
County Clerk, John M Frazier  
Deputy Clerk, William Nickle  
Assessor, G W Sparks  
Land Agent, Julian Frazier

**From July 1861 to November 2, 1863 the only County Court business conducted was ordering money collected on notes due.**

November  
1863:

Presiding Judge, Ratliff B Palmer  
Associate Judge, William F Young  
Associate Judge, Arnet Shields  
County Clerk, William A Fly

**This meeting was held in Dr. S H Headlee's house on the north side of the square because of damage to the courthouse during the battle of Hartville.**

May  
1864:

Presiding Judge, William Wood  
Associate Judge, Shields  
Associate Judge, Young  
Assessor, Joseph Pyatt  
Public Administrator, Littleton Freeman  
County Clerk, Edward Beaumont\*\*  
Sheriff, John L Tate  
\*\*(Beaumont appointed to replace Fly who died)

November  
1864:

County Clerk, William K Benton  
Treasurer, E Beaumont

November  
1865:

County Judge, William J Whittaker  
County Judge, W F Young  
County Judge, William Wood

**Taxes for 1861-62-63 were waived for those who remained here during the war.**

**1866:**

**County court met in the old dwelling of John Blain, on the west side of the square, the same judges, sheriff and clerk being present. But in November of that year, sessions were resumed in the courthouse.**

November  
**1866:**

**Sheriff, John Moore  
County Clerk, Barney Amick**

February  
**1867:**

**Presiding Judge, James Forrest  
Associate Judge, Malcolm Hunter  
Associate Judge, W F Young  
Sheriff, Samuel Coday, Jr  
Treasurer, Edward Beaumont**

April  
**1867:**

**County Attorney, W S Pope (by appointment)  
County Seat Commissioner, Noah N Nichols**

**May 1867--County Court orders all money in the treasury, including the permanent school fund, be appropriated to use for Courthouse repairs. This amounted to \$3,000.**

**May 1869--Eli Burney petitioned the Court to discharge him from his liability on Sheriff Coday's \$20,000 bond.**

July 26,  
**1869:**

**Sheriff and Collector, W J Whittaker\*\*  
Treasurer, J C Robinson**

**(Sheriff Coday could not present a \$20,000 bond. Office was declared vacant and  
\*\* Whittaker appointed)**

**August 30, 1869--Edward Beaumont, contractor, reports Courthouse repairs completed.**

**1870:**

**County Judge, Forrest  
County Judge, Robinett  
County Judge, Hunter  
Assessor, Andrew Ross**

**January**

**1871:**

**Presiding Judge, William Wood  
Associate Judge, J H Robinett  
Associate Judge, Malcolm Hunter  
Sheriff, M D Gorman  
County Clerk, Barney Amick  
Treasurer, James Beaumont**

**April**

**1871:**

**Presiding Judge, James Forrest (replaced Wood)**

**November 1871--new jail accepted from the contractor**

**January**

**1872:**

**Presiding Judge, W J Whittaker  
Associate Judge, Hunter  
Associate Judge, Robinett  
County Attorney, John M Frazier\*\***

**\*\* (appointed after discussion of the legality John S Pope's appointment led to the office  
being declared vacant)**

**1873:**

**County Judge, J A Pyatt  
County Judge, Hunter  
County Judge, Whittaker  
Assessor, John C Crockett**

**1874:**

**Treasurer, N B Gaines  
Collector, A P Pool**

**1875:**

**Presiding Judge, John Royster  
Associate Judge, William Young  
Assoicate Judge, J A Pyatt  
Sheriff, J W Hensley  
County Clerk, James Forrest  
Treasurer, N N Nichols  
Road Commissioner, J L Tate  
Assessor, J C Crockett  
Collector, A PPool**