

= Randolph , Tennessee =

Randolph is a rural unincorporated community in Tipton County , Tennessee , United States , located on the banks of the Mississippi River . Randolph was founded in the 1820s and in 1827 , the Randolph post office was established . In the 1830s , the town became an early center of river commerce in West Tennessee . Randolph shipped more cotton annually than Memphis until 1840 . In 1834 , the first pastor of the Methodist congregation was appointed . The fortunes of the community began to decline in the late 1840s due to failed railroad development , an unfavorable mail route and other factors . The first Confederate States Army fort in Tennessee was built at Randolph early in the Civil War in 1861 , a second fortification at Randolph was constructed later that same year . During the Civil War , the town was burned down twice by Union Army forces .

The settlement is located on the second Chickasaw Bluff , the landscape is dominated by valleys carved into the soil as a product of erosion . The surface soil is composed mostly of silt loam , derived from eroded loess , and is found in different qualities and at different stages of erosion . The stratum beneath the surface consists of glacial gravel . Randolph is situated on the southeastern edge of the New Madrid Seismic Zone , an area with a high earthquake risk . Between 1974 and 2004 , forty @-@ five earthquakes were recorded in a radius of 20 miles (32 km) around the settlement . Located in the humid subtropical climate zone , the climate is characterized by hot , humid summers and chilly to mild winters .

In 2008 , Randolph Bluff Historic Park was dedicated . The park is intended to promote the Civil War history of the community and make the unique views of the Mississippi River available to a wider public . As of 2008 , Randolph has a population of about 200 and consists of about two dozen dwellings . The economy of the rural community is dominated by agriculture with no major industries and businesses present . The Girl Scouts Heart of the South operates a camp at Randolph .

= = History = =

= = = European settlement = = =

Around 1800 , Europeans began settling the land east of the Mississippi River that was inhabited by the Chickasaw Indians for centuries prior to the arrival of Europeans . Chickasaw land in West Tennessee and southwestern Kentucky was ceded in the Jackson Purchase . In 1818 , both sides agreed to the transfer by signing the Treaty of Tuscaloosa .

In the early 19th century , the terrain of the Chickasaw Bluffs provided promising locations for a harbor on the Mississippi River for Randolph . In 1820 , the area had an estimated population of 54 . Early in the 1820s , investors John T. Brown and Robert Bedford were the owners of the land that would form Randolph a few years later . Only 40 ? 50 miles (60 ? 80 km) north of Memphis by water , they described the area as " a good landing for Mississippi River flatboats " . The Hatchie River , joining the Mississippi River just north of Randolph , was accessible to steamboats upriver to Bolivar . Brown and Bedford chose the site to lay out the plan for Randolph , a promising river town . The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture gives the date of Randolph 's official establishment as 1823 . Other reports date the foundation to 1827 or 1828 . The settlement is named for John Randolph (1773 ? 1833) , a leader in the United States Congress from Virginia .

= = = Cotton commerce = = =

= = = = Success = = = =

Located on the banks of the Mississippi River , the topography of Randolph provided for an ideal harbor for steamboats and flatboats at all river stages . Randolph became the center of steamboat commerce in Tennessee . The town was an early rival of Memphis over commercial superiority on

the Mississippi River . In 1830 , Randolph was the most important shipping point in Tennessee . In the mid @-@ 1830s , Randolph shipped up to 40 @,@ 000 bales of cotton on the Mississippi River every year . More cotton was shipped from Randolph than from Memphis until 1840 . At the peak of its commercial success , the community was called the " great steamboat depot of West Tennessee " .

By 1829 , Randolph had three commission warehouses , six dry goods stores , ten physicians and one tavern . In 1834 , Randolph had a population of approximately 1 @,@ 000 . By that time , the town had four hotels , almost fifty businesses , private schools , and more than ten saloons . In the 1830s , two newspapers were published in Randolph , the Randolph Recorder and the Randolph Whig . In the 1830s , the first bank was founded and a stagecoach line provided a connection between Randolph and Jackson twice a week . The commercial success of Randolph can be attributed in part to the use of slave labor , mostly for the cultivation of cotton . Corn , beans and peas were also cultivated . In the Randolph Recorder during the early 1830s , landowners announced public auctions of slaves or offered rewards for runaway or stolen slaves .

= = = = Decline = = = =

The fortunes of Randolph declined in the later 1840s and the 1850s due to many factors , starting shortly after the establishment of the town . Five years after the settlement was founded , a dispute over the ownership of the land the town was established on , arose over a faulty land title with land owner Ann Grambelling from New York . Until 1835 , the pending lawsuit " prevented the growth of population " in and around Randolph . The residents of the community bought back the land their town was founded on for \$ 8 @,@ 000 in a settlement .

An unfavorable mail line also had an early and lasting influence on the fortunes of the town . When the mail route was established in 1829 , Randolph was put at the end of a branch route of the mail line and received mail only once a week . Failed railroad development further contributed to the demise of the town ; and in 1852 , residents of Randolph unsuccessfully tried to move the county seat from Covington to Randolph . Financial depression and David Crockett 's failed attempt to cut a canal from the Hatchie River to the Tennessee River also were problems that had a negative impact on the future of commercial prosperity in Randolph . During the Civil War , the town was burned down twice , in September 1862 and again in 1865 , discouraging many residents from re @-@ building residences and businesses a second time .

= = = Civil War = = =

= = = = Fortifications = = = =

Fort Wright was the first Confederate Army fortification built at Randolph . On January 20 , 1861 , the Memphis Appeal published a pro @-@ secessionist proposal to build a fort at Randolph to defend Memphis . In April 1861 , Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris ordered to establish a camp and complete the fortification at Randolph . About 5 @,@ 000 troops from Tennessee , Arkansas and the Confederate Army were stationed at the location to accomplish the task . By June 1861 , fifty cannons were reported to be ready at Fort Wright .

Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821 ? 77) trained at Fort Wright . Forrest and other future leaders in the Confederate States Army and the Army of Tennessee received training at Fort Wright . The fort was Tennessee 's first military training camp in which soldiers could gain experience in the construction of fortifications and the setup of artillery batteries . Fort Wright was the forwardmost defensive position on the Mississippi River until July 1861 . In 2008 , only a powder magazine is left of Fort Wright .

Fort Randolph , the second Confederate stronghold in the area during the Civil War , was constructed in Fall 1861 . The fortification was situated on the Mississippi River bluffs , about 1 mile (1 @.@ 6 km) southwest of Fort Wright . In a dispatch published by the New York Times in March

1862 , Fort Randolph is described as a " rough and incomplete earthwork (...) , more than 100 feet above the river " . The position of the fortification allowed a view of the Mississippi River for 6 miles (10 km) , both upstream and downstream . In 2008 , Fort Randolph is no longer in existence .

===== Destruction =====

In 1862 , Union Army Major General William T. Sherman (1820 ? 91) and his troops assumed control of Memphis and the surrounding areas . While trying to keep the area under Union control , Sherman became " frustrated by the constant guerrilla activity in his sector " . Confederate guerrillas from the Randolph area weakened the Union forces along the Mississippi River .

In September 1862 , the Union supply ship Eugene was fired at from Randolph . Sherman ordered to " destroy the place , leaving one house to mark the place " . Union Army soldiers burned down Randolph in retaliation for the guerrilla attack . To his superior officer , General Ulysses S. Grant , Sherman reported that he had " given public notice that a repetition [of guerrilla attacks] will justify any measures of retaliation " . Randolph was burned down a second time by federal soldiers in 1865 .

===== Geography and climate =====

===== Geography =====

Randolph is located at 35 ° 30 ' 59 " N 89 ° 53 ' 19 " W. The elevation above sea level is 315 feet (96 m) .

The surface soil in the Randolph area is composed mostly of silt loam of different qualities and at different stages of erosion . About 15 % of the surface soil consists of " Adler silt loam " with a slope of 0 ? 1 % , found in the frequently flooded plains at Randolph . About 20 % of the soil is severely eroded " Memphis silt loam " with 12 ? 25 % slopes , and ca . 35 % of the soil consists of " Memphis silt loam " with 20 ? 40 % slopes . Less than 8 % consists of moderately eroded " Memphis silt loam " with slopes from 1 ? 5 % . The remaining surface soil is composed of other silts , sands or clays , including " Robinsonville fine sandy loam " (ca . 6 %) and " Tunica clay " (ca . 1 @. @ 5 %) . Approximately 1 @. @ 5 % of the area is covered by water . The parent material of the " Memphis silt loam " is Pleistocene loess . Loess is a fine @-@ grained , slightly coherent , silty , windblown sediment . Eroded loess consists of extremely fine , sandy particles and forms silt in environments that provide sufficient moisture of the soil , usually caused by occasional flooding or precipitation . Soil derived from eroded loess is sometimes also referred to as loess .

===== Landscape =====

The settlement of Randolph is situated on top of the second Chickasaw Bluff , on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River in Tipton County . The four Chickasaw Bluffs are high grounds above the Mississippi River flood plains , composed of eroded pre @-@ historic loess over glacial gravel . The Chickasaw Bluffs west of the community , on the banks of the Mississippi River , and flat cotton @-@ fields east of Randolph dominate the rural landscape surrounding the settlement .

In the last 150 years , the general landscape around Randolph has not changed much . In 1862 , the hinterland of the town is described to be " full of ravines and gorges " . Ravines and gorges are valleys or canyons carved from the landscape as a product of erosion , caused by a stream or river or by seasonal precipitation , funneling water towards less elevated locations of the drainage basin . The landscape cut into the soil of the Mississippi River bluffs by water erosion for centuries is still present in modern times .

===== Roads =====

In 1833 , a stagecoach road from Randolph to Jackson in Madison County , 70 miles (100 km) east of Randolph , was established . The antebellum route connected the two towns as well as the villages along the way two times per week . Randolph and Memphis were connected by a direct travel route later in the 1830s . The road was part of a mail line between Jackson and Memphis in Shelby County on which mail was delivered weekly on horseback . The exact routing of the segment between Randolph and Memphis is unknown . A fragment of the route bearing the former name , about 1 @, @ 000 feet (300 m) in length , was in existence until about 2005 . The remaining piece of Old Randolph Road was located about 2 miles (3 km) north of the mouth of the Wolf River and 800 feet (240 m) east of the Mississippi River , just south of the mouth of the Loosahatchie River in Memphis . As of 2010 , the remaining fragment of Old Randolph Road is destroyed , the land on which the historic mail route was located is used as an industrial property . A publication dated 1862 , reports that Randolph is " approached in the rear by several good roads " .

In 2008 , Randolph is located near " good roads " as well as it was during the Civil War , with the exception that modern roads in the area are paved for the most part . U.S. Route 51 passes Randolph 5 miles (8 km) in the southeast and Tennessee State Route 59 (TN 59) passes 0 @. @ 5 miles (800 m) southeast of the town . Four roads at county level converge at Randolph , as shown in the table below . A portion of Ballard Slough Road is located in the flood plains , this segment is prone to flooding and unpaved .

=== Waterways ===

Randolph is located on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River , just south of the lower mouth of the Hatchie River . In the 1820s , the Hatchie River at Randolph was accessible to steamboats for 60 miles (100 km) upriver to Bolivar in Hardeman County .

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the federal agency responsible for navigable waters and flood protection , among many other peacetime and wartime tasks . From 2005 to 2007 , the USACE spent \$ 9 @, @ 773 @, @ 662 to ensure the navigation of the Mississippi River at Randolph for boats and barges and to provide flood protection for the immediately surrounding areas of the town . Contracts include surveying and mapping , engineering and construction , as well as tasks related to conservation and development of the Mississippi River and the river basin at Randolph . Maintenance related projects include dredging of the navigable channel of the Mississippi River at Randolph to remove sedimented sand and mud . Tasks related to conservation include dike construction to protect low @- @ lying areas at Randolph from flooding and subsequent erosion . The Navigation Bulletin No. 2 , issued by the USACE in 2006 , describes a stone dike construction at Randolph with an approximate elevation of 25 feet (7 @. @ 6 m) at river mile 770L .

=== Earthquakes ===

Located on the southeastern edge of the New Madrid Seismic Zone , the settlement of Randolph is situated in an area with a high earthquake risk . Between 1974 and 2004 , ten earthquakes have been recorded in a radius of 10 miles (16 km) around Randolph . The magnitude of the temblors ranged from 1 @. @ 5 to 3 @. @ 2 on the Richter scale . The hypocenter depth ranged from 3 @. @ 1 miles (5 @. @ 0 km) to 8 @. @ 2 miles (13 @. @ 2 km) . In the same time period , at a radius of 20 miles (32 km) around Randolph , forty five earthquakes have been reported with magnitudes ranging from 1 @. @ 0 to 3 @. @ 2 at a depth between 656 feet (200 m) and 12 @. @ 1 miles (19 @. @ 5 km) . The highest magnitude earthquake recorded in the area since 1974 occurred on August 19 , 1994 ? the temblor was measured 3 @. @ 2 on the Richter scale with an epicenter at coordinates 35 @. @ 51 ° N 89 @. @ 92 ° W ? / 35 @. @ 51 ; -89.92 ? (Earthquake 08 @- @ 19 @- @ 1994) , ca . 2 miles (3 km) west of Randolph , at a depth of 6 @. @ 6 miles (10 @. @ 6 km) .

On January 16 , 2009 at 3 : 09 p.m. local time (21 : 09 UTC) , " a small earthquake shook portions of Tipton County " . The earthquake was measured at a magnitude 2 @. @ 8 on the Richter scale .

According to the Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI) , the epicenter of the temblor was reported to be at coordinates 35 @. @ 645 ° N 89 @. @ 694 ° W ? / 35 @. @ 645 ; -89.694 ? (Earthquake 01 @- @ 16 @- @ 2009) at a depth of 5 @. @ 3 miles (8 @. @ 5 km) . There were no reports of damage caused by the earthquake . The location of the epicenter was near the first Chickasaw Bluff , about 2 miles (3 km) east of Fort Pillow State Park and ca . 8 miles (13 km) northeast of Randolph . Smaller earthquakes along the New Madrid Seismic Zone are not uncommon .

= = = Climate = = =

Randolph is located in a humid subtropical climate zone . The climate is characterized by hot , humid summers and chilly to mild winters . Significant amounts of precipitation occur in all seasons . At Randolph , July is the warmest month on the average . In 1930 , the highest recorded temperature was measured at 108 ° F (42 ° C) . January is the coolest month on the average . In 1951 , the lowest recorded temperature was measured at ? 11 ° F (? 24 ° C) . Precipitation peaks in December on the average . The table below displays the average monthly high and low temperatures and precipitation at Randolph .

= = Economy = =

Agriculture is the predominating source of income in the area surrounding Randolph , especially the cultivation of cotton . Corn , beans and peas were also cultivated during the last century . After the abolition of slavery in 1865 , sharecropping was the primary means of income for low income families in the area . Mostly for the cultivation of cotton , land would be used by sharecroppers in return for a share of the crop to the landowner . Modern machines such as the cotton picker have made the manual cultivation obsolete over time as they took over the work from the manual laborers .

In 2008 , Randolph has a population of c . 200 , and consists of about two dozen dwellings . The economy of the rural community is dominated by agriculture with no major industries and businesses present .

= = Culture = =

= = = Churches = = =

= = = Randolph United Methodist Church = = =

In 1834 , Reverend Samuel R. Davidson became the first pastor at Randolph . He was appointed by the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church . After his appointment as a pastor of the community , a congregation formed around Davidson and built a church at Randolph . The second church at Randolph was built by the congregation in 1883 . In 1953 , construction of a new church was completed , the building was remodeled in 1975 and serves as a place of worship for the Methodist congregation of Randolph as of 2008 .

The United Methodist Church at Randolph had 78 pastors as of 1983 . In 2008 , Reverend Thomas M. Yoder and Reverend Ben Rainey are the appointed pastors at the Randolph Methodist community . Randolph United Methodist Church is located at 98 Ballard Slough Road . The worship attendance for the church is reported as 76 members of the congregation on the average .

= = = Randolph Assembly of God = = =

Randolph Assembly of God is a second place of worship in the town , the church was founded in

2001 . In 2008 , the congregation is led by Pastor Larry Rose and Pastor Frank Russell . Randolph Assembly of God is located at 1135 Randolph Road .

= = = Randolph Bluff Historic Park = = =

On October 11 , 2008 , the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation , a non @-@ profit organization , dedicated Randolph Bluff Historic Park in a celebration with politicians , conservationists , historians and community members . The 19 acres (77 @,@ 000 m²) property on the second Chickasaw Bluff was purchased for \$ 378 @,@ 000 . The park is intended to promote the Civil War history of the community and make the unique views of the Mississippi River available to a wider public , additional revenue from tourism is expected for the community . Once Randolph Bluff Historic Park is finished , it will be part of the Mississippi River Corridor Tennessee , a project to " create a scenic byway that connects historic sites along the Mississippi River " , the project also promotes economical development and the preservation of land and wildlife in the Tennessee counties bordering the Mississippi River .

= = = Girl Scouts Heart of the South = = =

Girl Scouts Heart of the South is a girl scout organization serving 16 @,@ 500 girls in the Memphis metropolitan area , including counties in West Tennessee , North Mississippi and Crittenden County , Arkansas . Girl Scouts Heart of the South operates six camps and one training center in their area of coverage , including a 104 acres (420 @,@ 000 m²) property in Tipton County , " Camp Annemeekee " . The scout camp is located on Girl Scout Road south of Randolph .

= = Cemeteries = =

Old Randolph Cemetery is at coordinates 35 @.@ 523693 ° N 89 @.@ 885643 ° W ? / 35 @.@ 523693 ; -89.885643 ? (Old Randolph Cemetery) .

Historic Randolph Cemetery is on McClerkin Lane at coordinates 35 @.@ 52163 ° N 89 @.@ 87909 ° W ? / 35 @.@ 52163 ; -89.87909 . Graves in the cemetery date from the early 19th century to present day .

= = Postal = =

A post office was established at Randolph in 1827 . The Randolph Post Office was in operation until 1932 . The exact location of the post office at Randolph is unknown .

In 2008 , the U.S. ZIP code for Randolph is 38015 (Burlison , Tennessee) . The telephone area code is 901 (Memphis metro area) .

= = Notable natives = =

William Parsons Miller (c.1802 ? 62) , an early settler of Randolph and commander of the Confederate Nashville Battalion .

William Clyde Martin (1893 ? 1984) , a bishop of three Methodist churches , born in Randolph on July 28 , 1893 .