

Haywood County Events 1865 – 1870
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1860 – The 1860 Census indicates there were 19, 232 persons living in Haywood County. There were 11,067 blacks and 8,165 whites.

1860 – Shelby, Fayette, Hardeman, Tipton, Haywood and Madison produce the most cotton in TN, have the highest acreage in cotton and one third of the entire TN black population.

1861 – The Civil War begins. County civil government never removed from the County. The County Court met throughout the Civil War.

1863 – Large scale enlistment of black men from the County into the Union Army begins. By 1865 more than 200 black men have served as United States Colored Troops.



Rev. Harden Smith

1865 – Emancipation becomes official in early August.

1865 – A sub-district office of the Freedmen’s Bureau opens in Brownsville with R. C. Scott as agent. John L. Poston replaces Scott in 1867. Both Scott and Poston are Union loyalists from Haywood County.

1865 – There are labor strikes among blacks across the county.

1867 – A Convention of blacks meets in Brownsville at the courthouse. Speakers talk about blacks’ civil rights. Political violence erupts between whites and blacks.

1867 – Organization of schools across the county is underway. Harriet Turner is operating a school in Brownsville, the school that will eventually become Carver High School is initiated. Schools begin on large plantations across the county.

1869 – The vote is restored to all whites in the county.

Pictured is Rev. Harden Smith who lived through the described events.