

Ben Hill County

County Formed July 31, 1906

County Seat Fitzgerald

Incorporated Cities Fitzgerald

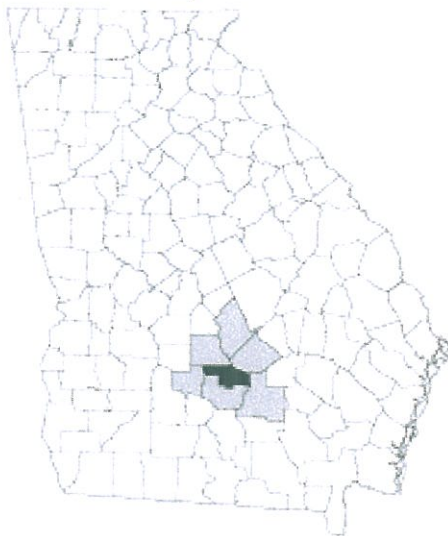
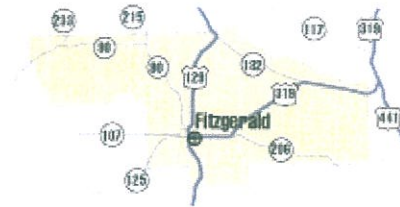
Total Area 251.8 square miles

History Ben Hill County was created in 1906, from Irwin and Wilcox counties, and was named for Benjamin Harvey Hill, U.S. Senator from Georgia, a Whig leader, and a staunch opponent of Reconstruction.

The Historic District on South Lee and South Main streets in Fitzgerald is listed on the National Register. The old railroad depot is now home to the Blue/Gray Museum.

The county has only one incorporated city, Fitzgerald, which was founded by former Union soldiers on a 50,000 acre tract owned by the non-profit American Tribune Soldiers Colony Company. The citizens of Fitzgerald, pledging unity with their former enemies, named streets after leaders of both armies. The early concentration of population in the city aided the county's industrial development. The colony also founded the first public school in Georgia to offer free books and tuition.

Points of Interest Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County maintain nine recreational parks and one river access park at the Ocmulgee River. These facilities



Depot in Fitzgerald

offer playgrounds, team sports, natural areas, meeting and concert shelters, and public boat ramps.

Annual Events Events include the Blues and Grays Festival in October, the Ebony-in-Arts Festival in the Spring, Colony City Chase in October and the Fourth of July Celebration.

County <http://www.benhillcounty.com>

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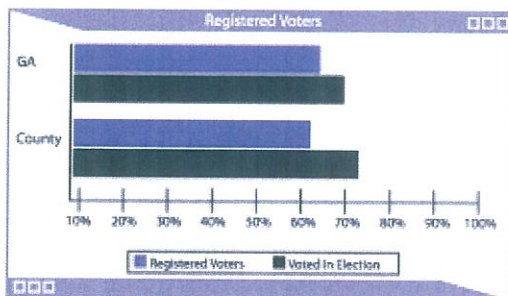
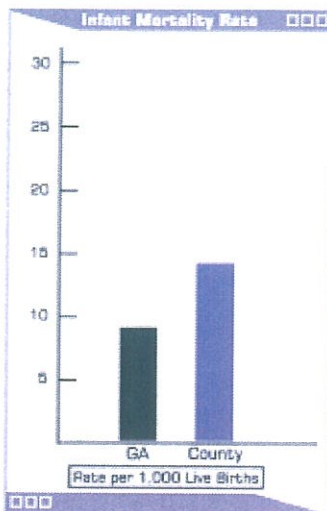
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Demographics

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Ben Hill County



- According to the Census, in Ben Hill County, 63.3% of the residents were white and 32.6% were black. Hispanics, who can be identified as either white or black in the Census data, made up 4.6% of the county's population. Statewide, 65.1% of residents were white, 28.7% were black and 5.3% were Hispanic.
- In Ben Hill County, 27.5% of the county's residents were age 18 or younger, while 13.3% were age 65 or older. Statewide, 26.5% were age 18 or younger and 9.6% were age 65 or older.
- The Census reports 10.5% of Ben Hill County's households were headed by females with children under 18 years of age, compared with 9.0% statewide. Total households with children under 18 comprised 33.2% of all households in the county and 35.0% of those in the state.

- Between 1996 and 2000, Ben Hill County school system reported an average high school dropout rate of 9.2%, for students in grades 9 to 12. Statewide, this rate is 6.8% for the same period of time.
- Ben Hill County spent an average of \$4,915 per student for public education each year between 1996 and 2000. This expenditure was less than the state wide average of \$5,285
- Based on the 2000 graduating class for Ben Hill County school system,