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Ben Hill County

County July 31, 1906 **Formed**

County Seat Fitzgerald

Incorporated Fitzgerald Cities

Total Area 251.8 square miles

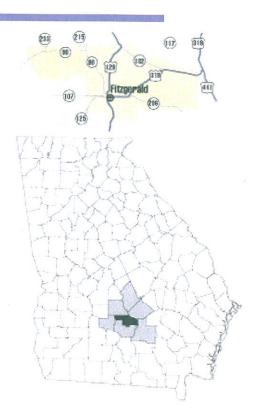
History Ben Hill County was created in 1906, from Irwin and Wilcox counties, and was named for Benjamin Harvey Hill, U.S. Senator

> 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 Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County **Interest** 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 include the Blues and Grays **Events** 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

Printable Ben Hill County PDF **PDF**





Grand Theatre

profile

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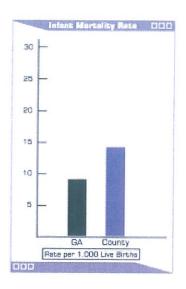
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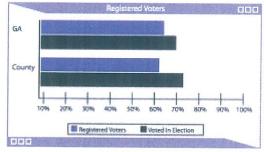
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- According to the Census, in Ben Hill County, 63.3% of the residents were white and 32.6% were black.
 Hispanics, who can be identified as either white or black in the Census data, made up 4.6% of the county's population.
 Statewide, 65.1% of residents 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,