

Sequatchie County Locality Guide (20 July 2022)

Geographic Area



Sequatchie County was named for the Sequatchie Valley, which in turn had been named for a Cherokee chief. The county is located in the south-central area of the state of Tennessee. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

On December 9, 1857, the Tennessee General Assembly created Sequatchie County from a section of Hamilton County and named Dunlap as the county seat. Europeans first settled in the area in 1806. The land in the Sequatchie Valley was highly attractive for agricultural purposes.

Throughout most of the nineteenth century, inhabitants of the county practiced subsistence agriculture, and there were a few prosperous farms located within the valley. The small farmers produced corn and raised livestock such as cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry for themselves and the local market. Few opportunities existed to expand to a larger agricultural market until a road, Anderson Pike, was built in 1852 connecting the Sequatchie Valley to the newly constructed Western and Atlantic Railroad in Georgia. Anderson Pike was used mainly by farmers to transport their livestock out of the valley and to larger markets throughout the South. During the Civil War, in October 1863, Confederate Major General Joseph Wheeler led a cavalry raid against a Union supply train on Anderson Pike that was attempting to relieve besieged Federal troops at Chattanooga. Wheeler burned an estimated eight hundred to one thousand wagons and captured livestock.

The construction of railroads in the post-Reconstruction era expanded Sequatchie County's agricultural and industrial opportunities. The Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway constructed a line through the Sequatchie Valley in the 1880s. This line reached Sequatchie County in 1888, thus enabling coal companies to conduct large-scale mining activities by the turn of the century. The Chattanooga Iron and Coal Corporation owned and operated sixteen thousand acres of coal land near Dunlap and employed 350 men. They also operated two sawmills, which supplied the railroads with ties and the coal mines with shoring. In addition to mining, the company constructed and operated 268 beehive coke ovens near Dunlap, many of which can still be viewed at the Dunlap Coke Ovens historic site. Coke ovens carbonize bituminous coal by removing the majority of volatile materials in the coal by heating it in a closed oven thus preventing its burning. The coke then is used in blast furnaces to melt iron. As the southern steel industry continued to expand, the demand for coke continued to increase.

The Chattanooga Iron and Coal Corporation sold their mining and coke operations to the Southern States Iron and Coal Company in 1919. The Southern States Company closed the operations in 1922 due to the overproduction of coal. The closing of the mines also brought about the closing of many associated industries. Railroad traffic declined in the county, and many people left the area in pursuit of work. Those who remained returned to subsistence farming as a living. The Great Depression seemed to start early for the residents of Sequatchie County.

The county saw some relief from President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs, specifically the Tennessee Valley Authority and the National Youth Administration (NYA). The former helped bring low-cost electric power to the county and surrounding areas. The latter organization was

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established in the county to give young men skills to find employment while temporarily keeping them out of the depressed labor market. During its existence in Sequatchie County, NYA members, supervised by local men, learned construction skills by building the Dunlap Community Building and four schools around Dunlap and Cagle.

While Dunlap is the main town in Sequatchie County, several smaller communities are in the surrounding area. Daus, originally known as Delphi and located south of Dunlap, began as a small farming community until the railroad came in the 1880s. Daus soon experienced rapid growth and decline due to the boom and bust of coal mining. The development of the coal industry in the early twentieth century also affected Fredonia and Cartwright. Other small farming communities include Cagle, Mount Airy, and Lone Oak. According to the 2000 census, 11,370 people lived in the county, an increase of 28 percent over the previous ten years. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

Sequatchie County, the youngest and smallest of the three counties comprising Sequatchie Valley, has an area of two hundred fifty square miles. It was formed by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, December 9, 1857, from territory belonging to Hamilton County, or rather that which formerly was a part of Bledsoe and Marion Counties.

The county was named for the valley in which it is located. The valley was named for the Cherokee Chief, Sequachee, who signed a treaty with the colonial government of South Carolina. Historians who have studied the language and lore of the Cherokee differ over the exact meaning of the word, but the general consensus is "opossum, he grins or runs."

Sequatchie County is located in the center of the valley. It is bordered on the north by Bledsoe County, east by Hamilton County, south by Marion County, and on the west by Grundy County and Van Buren County. ([Sequatchie County Chamber of Commerce](#))

Record Loss – There is no known history of courthouse disasters in this county. ([Family Search](#))

[FamilySearch Sequatchie County Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project – [Sequatchie County](#)

Contact – [Karen Caldwell Fletcher](#)

Sequatchie County Genealogical and History Group (FB)

Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1858
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to TSLA
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1858
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TSLA	Marriage records 1858-1922 (#9, 1 reel)*

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Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	TSLA
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1858
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TSLA	TN Death Records 1908-1912
	TSLA	TN Death Records 1914-1933
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1858
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	TSLA - microfilm	Deed Index 1858-1968 (#21, 1 reel)*
List of Microfilmed [County] County Records	TSLA-PDF	
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1858
	TSLA	Wills and settlements 1858-1968 (#20, 1 reel)*
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

County Repositories

[Sequatchie County Public Library](#)

Genealogy Room available on Wednesdays (Starting Aug 1st)

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Current Area Information

[Sequatchie County Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Sequatchie County Government](#)

Resources

General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) – Sequatchie County](#)
[Sequatchie County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)
[Linkpendium – Sequatchie County](#)
[Tennessee State Library & Archives – Sequatchie County Facts Sheet](#)
[TNGenWeb – Sequatchie County](#)
[USGenWeb Archives - Sequatchie County Tennessee](#)
[Sequatchie County TN Genealogy & History](#)

Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

[Check Online Catalog for Sequatchie Newspaper Details & Dates Held.](#) We do not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers.

Newspaper.com

No County Specific Newspapers. Search Hamilton County (Chattanooga).

Genealogybank.com

No County Specific Newspapers. Search Hamilton County (Chattanooga).

Selected Published County Histories

Tennessee State Archives & Library

Sequatchie County (Camp, 1984) [*name index*]*

Sequatchie County: A Story of a Place and its People (Camp, 1997) [*name index*]

Sequatchie County: History and Development (Layne, 1969)*

Sequatchie County, Tennessee, Pictorial History (1997) [*surname index*]*

Published Local Records (TSLA)

1880 Census, Sequatchie County, TN (Sistler, 1994) [*alphabetical by surname*]*

Abstracts From Deed Book A, 1858-1875, Sequatchie County, TN (Hobbs & Goins, 1986?) [*indexed by name of seller*]*

Abstracts From Deed Book B, 1875-1883, Sequatchie County, TN (Hobbs & Goins, 1986?) [*indexed by name of seller*]*

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Abstracts From Deed Book C, 1883-1887, Sequatchie County, TN (Hobbs & Goins, 1986?) *[indexed by name of seller]**

Abstracts From Deed Book D, 1887-1890, Sequatchie County, TN (Hobbs & Goins, 1986?) *[indexed by name of seller]**

Abstracts From Deed Book E, 1890-1897, Sequatchie County, TN (Hobbs & Goins, 1986?) *[indexed by name of seller]**

Birth Records of Sequatchie County, TN, 1881-1938 (Hobbs & Goins, 1988?) *[surname index]**

Death Records of Sequatchie County, TN, 1881-1938 (Hobbs & Goins, 1988?) *[name index]**

Cemeteries of Sequatchie Valley: Approximately 145 cemeteries, Approximately 7800 graves (Raulston, 19??)

Marriage Records, Small Book O, 1858-1874 (WPA, 1939) *[name index]*

Marriage Records of Sequatchie County, TN [5 volumes: vol.1 1858-1897; vol. 2 1897-1911; vol. 3 1911-1922; vol. 4 1922-1936; vol. 5 1936-1962] (Hobbs & Goins, 1986?) *[vols. 1-3, name index; vols. 4-5, surname index]**

Sequatchie County, TN, Church Minutes, 1868, 1896-1899 (WPA, 1938) *[name index]*

Sequatchie County, TN, Court Minutes, 1858-1874 (WPA, 1936) *[name index]*

Sequatchie County, TN Marriages, 1858-1881 (Douthat, 1982) *[surname index]*

Sequatchie County, TN, Marriages, 1858-1922 (Brown, 1976) *[name index]*

Sequatchie County, TN, Vital Statistics, 1914 through 1925 (Wiefering, 1994) *[name index]**

Sequatchie County, TN, Wills and Inventories, 1858-1895 (WPA, 1938) *[name index]**

Sequatchie Valley Bible Records (Douthat, 1985) *[surname index]**

Tombstone Inscriptions of Sequatchie County, Tennessee (WPA, 1937) *[name index]*

US Census, Sequatchie County, TN, 1860 (Hobbs & Goins, 1986) *[name index]**

US Census, Sequatchie County, TN, 1870 (Hobbs & Goins, 198?) *[name index]**

US Census, Sequatchie County, TN, 1880 (Hobbs & Goins, 1986) *[surname index]**

US Census, Sequatchie County, TN, 1900 (Hobbs & Goins, 1986) *[surname index]**

US Census, Sequatchie County, TN, 1910 (Hobbs & Goins, 1986) *[surname index]**

US Census, Sequatchie County, TN, 1920 (Hobbs & Goins, 1994) *[name index]**

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Tennessee State Archives & Library

Maps

[TDOT Map of Sequatchie County](#)

[Sequatchie County - 1888](#)

[Grundy-Sequatchie-Bledsoe Counties \(Early 20th Century\)](#)

Cemeteries

[Sequatchie County Cemeteries - Find-a Grave](#)

[Sequatchie County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)

[Sequatchie County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails](#)

[Sequatchie County Cemeteries - TNGenWeb](#)

Bibliography

[The Land Laws of Tennessee \(Whitney, 1891\) Google Books](#)

Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
Abstracts from deed book A, 1858-1875, Sequatchie County, Tennessee. Dunlap, TN: Norma J. Hobbs & Sara A. Goins,	Hobbs, Norma J. Dennis.		Y	
Ancient owners of Marion farms & early history of Owen Methodist Church. N.p., M.S. Harris, 1985. 56 pp. (compilation of writings originally published in the Sequatchie Valley News, 1946-1947)	Lasater, Lee 1985	Y		
Biographical directory, TN General Assembly, 1796-1969 (Sequatchie County, Preliminary # 26).	TSLA, 1971	Y		
Coal miners & coke oven workers in Sequatchie County, TN 1910.	Sequatchie Valley Hist. Assoc., 1985.	Y		
Federal pensioners: 1840 census of. Bethel Springs, TN:	Brown, Albert., 1989		Y	
Handbook to the Sequatchie Valley. Nashville, Foster & Webb, 1988.	Bowron, William M., 1988	Y		
Peters. Vaughn, Russell and related families. Amory, MS: Amory Advocate,	Holloman, Eddie Inez Peters. 1974		Y	
Sequatchie Co., TN county court minutes, 1858-1874. Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press	USWPA, 2005		Y	
Sequatchie Co., TN wills & inventories, 1858-1895. Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press,	USWPA		Y	
Sequatchie County	Camp, Henry R. (Henry Ray), 1950			Y

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Sequatchie County: a story of a place and its people	Camp, Henry R. (Henry Ray), 1950			Y
Sequatchie County, Tennessee births and deaths, 1881-1913. Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press	Douthat, James L., 2017		Y	
Sequatchie County, Tennessee marriages, 1854-1881	Douthat, James L.			Y
Sequatchie County, Tennessee, bible records [microform]				Y
Sequatchie County. Memphis, MSU, 1984.	Camp, Henry R., 1984	Y		
Sequatchie County. Memphis, Tennessee: Memphis State University Press	Camp, Henry R., 1984		Y	
Sequatchie County: history & development.	Layne, Ora. 1969	Y		
Sequatchie families : biographical sketches of the earlier settlers of the Sequatchie Valley of Tennessee	Douthat, James L.			Y
Sequatchie families: biographical sketches of the earlier settlers of the Sequatchie Valley of Tennessee. Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press	Douthat, James L., 1983		Y	
Sequatchie Valley Bible records. Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press	Douthat, James L., 1985		Y	
Sequatchie Valley Revolutionary War soldiers. Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press,	Douthat, James L., 1999		Y	
Sequatchie Valley, a historical sketch. Photographs by Marguerite Hiatt. Nashville, M.E. Church	Hiatt, Ellen O., 1916	Y		
Sequatchie: a story of the southern Cumberlands, Knoxville, UT, 1974	Raulston, J. Leonard & James W. Livingood	Y		
Tennessee tidbits, 1778-1914: a collection of items showing birth, death, marriage, divorce, guardianship, naturalization, illegitimacy, lunacy, migration, residency, relationship, adoption, disability, military service, emancipation, tribute, apprenticeship, etc. Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, Inc.,	Fischer, Marjorie Hood. 1986		Y	
The Sequatchie Valley, TN, a study in land utilization. George Peabody College dissertation	Martin, Robert L. 1941	Y		
"Week on Waldens Ridge." Atlantic Monthly (May-June 1895), pp. 605-613, 776-784.	Torrey, B.	Y		