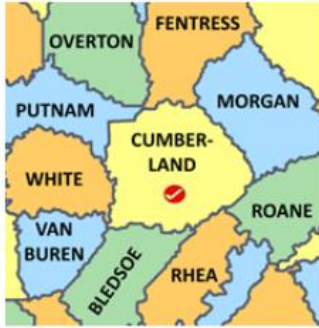


# Cumberland County Locality Guide (21 September 2023)

## Geographic Area and County History



Cumberland County was named for the Cumberland Mountains. The county is located in the east-central area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

The land that is now Cumberland County existed as an Indian hunting ground when Tennessee became a state in 1796. Bands of settlers making the perilous journey from Virginia, Maryland, and North and South Carolina to the Cumberland River settlements and beyond rested at the inns located along the toll roads that crossed the region. Kemmer's Stand, Mammy, Burke, Genesis, Lowery's Stand, and Grimes (Graham's) Stand were familiar names to early travelers. Movement across the region became so common that Helen Krechniak, author of Cumberland County's First Hundred Years, referred to the county as "The Road to Somewhere Else." Many of the roads were mere trails, partially maintained between toll gates; other roads were better maintained and offered more substantial accommodations. Crab Orchard Inn, Kemmer's Stand, and Johnson's Stand (Mayland) serviced Walton Road. That road was established by the legislature to connect Southwest Point (Kingston) to Nashville. Today, Interstate 40 follows much of the original route across Cumberland County.

In 1856 the Tennessee General Assembly created Cumberland County from the eight surrounding counties of Bledsoe, Roane, Morgan, Fentress, Rhea, Putnam, Overton, and White. Covering 679 square miles of the Cumberland Plateau, the new county rose from an elevation of eight hundred feet to a height of three thousand feet, with an average elevation of two thousand feet. Crossville (Scott's Crossroads), near the center of the county, was chosen as the county seat despite the fact that several other communities, including Crab Orchard, Grassy Cove, Mayland, and Pleasant Hill, had larger populations.

The Civil War halted most economic development on the plateau. Confederate and Union forces, as well as guerrilla bands masquerading as soldiers from both sides, pillaged the county. No major battles were fought in the county, but residents of the thinly populated area suffered as much as those Tennesseans living nearer battlefields. The population was evenly divided between pro-slavery and antislavery sentiments; brother fought brother, and sons left their families, some going to the Union and some to the Confederacy.

After the war the county's coal and timber resources received the attention of developers in Chicago, Boston, and New York. In agriculture, Cumberland County's reputation for fruits and vegetables, as well as grasses, continued to grow. Artist John W. Dodge established extensive fruit groves at Pomona. The arrival of the Tennessee Central Railroad in 1900 made the county more accessible to new settlers and opened the agricultural and livestock markets of Nashville and Knoxville to area farmers.

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In World War I Cumberland County recruited a company of volunteers who served in Company G, 119th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division. Sergeant Milo Lemert received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Sergeant Litton T. Thurman received the Distinguished Service Cross in the same action. Sergeant Alvin C. York came “home” to the Tennessee Central Depot in Crossville, where he was welcomed by his friends from Pall Mall in nearby Fentress County. In 1940 York came to the Hotel Taylor in Crossville to sign the contract for the making of the movie Sergeant York.

In the decade following World War I Cumberland County underwent a new phase of development with the construction of highways linking Crossville to Pikeville, Sparta, Spring City, and Jamestown. As part of the New Deal recovery program, the federal government, under the Subsistence Homestead Division of the Department of Interior, established the Cumberland Homesteads. The program, which provided land and homes for impoverished, deserving families to engage in subsistence farming, made provisions for 250 families. Although economically unsuccessful, the community survived and the Homestead houses of Crab Orchard stone are among the most prized dwellings in the county. The project also left a public recreational facility, what is now Cumberland Mountain State Park.

During World War II the development of the Manhattan Project at Oak Ridge and the establishment of a prisoner of war camp near Pomona kept employment high. The POW camp was commonly referred to as the “Jap Camp,” although it held only German and Italian prisoners. Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia of New York made a “secret” visit to the camp to confer with Italian generals who were among the prisoners. Soldiers from the county served in all branches of the service and in every theater of war, from Guadalcanal to Burma and Europe to Africa. Many of them continued to serve after the war ended and later retired to the plateau.

The area experienced its most rapid growth during the postwar period. The most important factor in the advancement of agriculture, industry, and tourism was the construction of Interstate 40 through the county. The development of retirement facilities such as Fairfield Glade, Lake Tansi Resort, Renegade Mountain (now Cumberland Gardens), and Pleasant Hill brought thousands of people to visit, build homes, and retire. Manufacturing and distribution centers found Cumberland County’s improved access to urban centers and smaller local markets a plus. Crossville’s locally owned and developed publications, Trade-A-Plane, Rock and Dirt, Boats and Harbors, and Tradequip receive national distribution.

Cumberland County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Although it remains 75 percent forested, it is no longer a rural county. Cumberland Medical Center, the nationally known Cumberland County Playhouse, and the availability of technical and higher education provide the county’s citizens with the benefits of more populated areas. The county’s 2000 population was 46,802, an increase of almost 35 percent since 1990. ([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

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[Crossville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce](#)

## Record Loss – Cumberland County (Family Search)

1905 Courthouse burned and many records were damaged.

Marriages recorded between 1855 and 1904 are lost

Probate records 1855 to 1904 are lost

All other records, except deeds, destroyed in 1905 fire

FamilySearch Cumberland County [Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project – [Cumberland County](#)

Contacts – [Mike Boniol](#) and [Jill Honcoop](#)

[Cumberland County Tennessee History & Genealogy](#)

## Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1914
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1905
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>
	TNGenWeb	<a href="#">Pre-1900 Marriages</a>
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	<a href="#">TSLA</a>
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1914
	<a href="#">Tennessee Vital Records Office</a>	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <a href="#">TSLA</a>
	TSLA	<a href="#">1908-1912</a>
		<a href="#">1914-1933</a>
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1854
	County Register	County Register of Deeds

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List of Microfilmed Cumberland County Records	TSLA-PDF	<a href="#">Download PDF</a>
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	<a href="#">County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications</a>
Probate Records	Chancery Court TnGenWeb	County Registrations began 1904
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	<a href="#">Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters</a>
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	<a href="#">Research Collection</a>

### County Repositories

[Art Circle Public Library](#)  
[Cumberland County Archives and Family Heritage Center](#)  
[Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association](#)

### Current Area Information

[Crossville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Cumberland County Government](#)

### Resources

#### General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) - Cumberland County](#)  
[Cumberland County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)  
[Linkpendium - Cumberland County](#)  
[Tennessee State Library & Archives - Cumberland County Facts Sheet](#)  
[TSLA Name Index - Cumberland County \(Acts of Tennessee 1796-1850\)](#)  
[TNGenWeb - Cumberland County](#)  
[USGenWeb Archives - Cumberland County Tennessee](#)  
[Tennessee Law, The Early Days](#)

# Cumberland County Locality Guide (21 September 2023)

## Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

Newspaper.com

Crossville Chronicle - 1915 - 1922

Genealogybank.com

Crossville Chronicle - 1915 - 1922

Chronicling America

1. Crossville chronicle. [online resource] (Crossville, Tennessee) 1894-current
2. Crossville chronicle. [volume] (Crossville, Tenn.) 1894-current
3. Crossville news-democrat. (Crossville, Tenn.) 1898-1???
4. Crossville sentinel. (Crossville, Tenn.) 1890-1894
5. The Crossville times. (Crossville, Tenn.) 1886-1889
6. The Crossville tribune. (Crossville, Tenn.) 187?-18??
7. Cumberland County super times. ([Crossville, Tenn.) 1981-1985
8. Cumberland County times. (Crossville, Tenn.) 1968-1988
9. Cumberland times. (Crossville, Tenn.) 1988-1996
10. Super times. (Crossville, Tenn.) 1985-1989
11. The Tennessee times. (Crossville, Tenn.) 1889-1895

## Selected Published County Histories - Tennessee State Archives & Library

- And This is Grassy Cove (Stratton, 1938)\*
- Brief History First Congregational Church, Crossville, Tennessee, 1887-1962 (Brookhart, 1962)
- Cumberland County, Tennessee, 1956-1986 (Bullard, 1987) *[name index]\**
- Cumberland County's First Hundred Years (Bullard & Krechniak, 1956) *[surname / partial name index]\**
- First Hundred Years of the Pleasant Hill Community Church: United Church of Christ, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, 1885-1985 (Marriott, 1985)
- Hamby Mill Case of Cumberland County, Tennessee (Cantrell, 1999)
- Short History of Cumberland County (Kiwanis Club of Crab Orchard, Tennessee, 1982)
- Tales of the Civil War Era (Harvey, 1977)\*
- The Way it Was: Crossville, Cumberland County (Stanley, 1983)\*

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## Selected Published County Local Records - Tennessee State Archives & Library

1860 Census of Cumberland County, Tennessee (Kirkemide, 1982) [*surname index*]\*

1870 Census of Cumberland County, Tennessee (Kirkemide, 1980) [*surname index*]

1880 Census, Cumberland County, Tennessee (Sistler, 1992) [*alphabetical listing by head of household*]\*

Cookeville-Crossville, Tennessee, Polk City Directory : Including: Putnam and Cumberland Counties (1997) [*alphabetical listing*]

Cumberland Co., Tennessee, Fentress Co., Tennessee, Jackson Co., Tennessee, Loudon Co., Tennessee, Morgan Co., Tennessee, Overton Co. [1891 enumeration of male voters] (Reed, 1990) [*name index*]

Cumberland County, Tennessee Cemetery Records: Includes Some Adjoining Cemeteries (Castillo & Sevier, 1986) [*surname index*]\*

Cumberland County, Tennessee, Entry Takers Book No. 2, 1856-1959 (WPA, 1936) [*name index*]

Cumberland County, Tennessee, Plat Book A, 1856-97 (WPA, 1940) [*name index*]

Cumberland County, Tennessee Vital Statistics, 1914 through 1925 (Wiefering, 1993) [*name index*]\*

Genealogical and Historical Notes from Crossville, Tennessee Newspapers [vol. 1. 1878-1899; vol. 2 1900-1902] (Boniol, 1995) [*name index*]\*

Marriage Records of Cumberland County, Tennessee [1905-1962] (Reed & Davis, 1991) [*alphabetical by bride and groom*]\*

Private Acts of Cumberland County, Tennessee (McIntyre & King, 1993)\*

## Selected Manuscripts Material - Tennessee State Archives & Library

Esmerelda (Robinson) Smith Genealogical Collection, 1738-1939 (Microfilm Manuscript #1070, 1 reel)

Greenberry Wilson Family Papers, 1796-1961 (Microfilm Manuscript #1897, 1 reel)\*

Pleasant Hill Academy Records, 1908-1961 (Microfilm Manuscript #1812, 4 reels)

# Cumberland County Locality Guide (21 September 2023)

## Maps

- [TDOT Map of Cumberland County](#)
- [Cumberland County - 1888](#)
- [TnGenWeb Project = Maps Our Ancestors Followed](#)

## Cemeteries

- [Cumberland County Cemeteries – Find-a Grave](#)
- [Cumberland County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)
- [Cumberland County Cemeteries – Genealogy Trails](#)
- [Cumberland County Cemeteries - TNGenWeb \(Cemetery\)](#)

## Bibliography

- [The Land Laws of Tennessee \(Whitney, 1891\) Google Books](#)
- [Guide to Public Vital Statistics in Tennessee \(WPA 1941\)](#)

TSLA = Tennessee State Library & Archives  
 GRH&GC = Germantown Regional History & Genealogical Center  
 MPL = Memphis Public Library

Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
"Narrative of Capt. Hendly, his defeat & capture near Crab Orchard in 1793." <i>AHM 2</i> (1897), pp. 86-90.	Garrett, William R., <i>AHM 2</i> (1897), pp. 86-90.	Y		
A brief history of the First Congregational Church, Crossville, TN, 1887-1962.	Brookhart, Mary B., <i>Crossville, Chronicle</i> , 1962	Y		
A short history of Cumberland County	Kirkemide, P.B, 1977	Y		
A Short history of Cumberland County / Kiwanis Club of Crab Orchard, Tennessee.	Kiwanis Club of Crab Orchard, TN, 1982.			Y
A tribute to Cumberland County on our 80th anniversary	First National Bank of Crossville, 1980	Y		
A visit in the kitchen cookbook.	<i>Crossville, Chronicle</i> , 1979.	Y		
An analysis of the New Deal subsistence homesteads program in Cumberland County, TN	Moore, James C., 1967	Y		
And this is Grassy Cove.	<i>Chronicle</i> , 1938.	Y		

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Buffalo / Grassy Valley congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Humphreys County, Tennessee): general history and membership roll, 1850-1884.	Phillips, Steve, 2000		Y	
Crossville	Cooper, Herston. 1965	Y		
Crossville newspapers, 1888-1895	Kirkeminde, Patricia Barclay, 1981	Y	Y	
Crossville, Tennessee 1900-1902: historical tidbits from early newspapers.	Boniol, Michael W., 2001		Y	
Cumberland County, Tennessee cemetery records (includes some adjoining cemeteries).	Sevier, Carlton E. Castillo, Betty Nail, 1984.		Y	Y
Cumberland County, Tennessee entry takers book 2, 1856-1891.	US-WPA		Y	
Cumberland County, Tennessee vital statistics, 1914 through 1925 : a publication of the Cleveland Public Library / edited by Edna Wiefering.	Wiefering, Edna, 1993.			Y
Cumberland County, Tennessee, 1956-1986	Bullard, Helen, 1987.			Y
Cumberland County, TN, 1800-1985.	Dickinson, W. Calvin, 1992	Y		
Cumberland County, TN, 1956-1986.	Bullard, Helen, 1987	Y		
Cumberland County's first hundred years.	Bullard, Helen, 1972	Y		
Cumberland General Store. Wish & want book	1977	Y		
Cumberland Homesteads as viewed by the newspapers.	Kirkeminde, Patricia B., 1977	Y		
Doctor woman of the Cumberlands: the autobiography of May Cravath Wharton, M.D.	Wharton, May C., 1953	Y		
Economic setup of the Cumberland Homesteads	Fleming, Arklie L., 1941	Y		
Facts, folks & photos of Cumberland County, TN. Compiled by Barbara B. Parsons.	Crossville, Cumberland Co. Hist. & Gen. Soc., 1988	Y		
Founding of the Cumberland settlements: the first atlas, 1779-1804.	Drake, Douglas, 2009		Y	



## Cumberland County Locality Guide (21 September 2023)

Genealogical and historical notes from Crossville, Tennessee newspapers.	Boniol, Michael W., 1997		Y	
History of Pleasant Hill; a history of Pleasant Hill Academy & who's who of alumni.	Dodge, Emma F., 1938	Y		
I remember. Maryville	Harshman, Amy Y., 1982	Y		
Looking back: Cumberland Homesteads golden anniversary album	Vaden, Emma J., 1984	Y		
Marriage records of Cumberland County, Tennessee	Reed, Jan M., Davis, Loreda W., 1991			Y
Our Confederate ancestors : buried in Cumberland, Putnam, Van Buren, and White counties, Tennessee / Captain Sally Tompkins, #2123 United Daughters of the Confederacy.	Tompkins, Sally Louisa, 2007.			Y
Penorama ( <i>poetry</i> )	Plateau Writers, 1990	Y		
Pioneer life in the Cumberland country.	DesChamps, Margaret Burr. 1946.			Y
Social relationships & institutions in seven rural communities.	Loomis, Charles P., 1940	Y		
Soil survey, Cumberland County, TN.	US GPO., 1938	Y		
Souvenir history of Pleasant Hill Academy, 1884-1924.	Dodge, Emma F., 1925	Y		
Sugg's Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church: an early history	Partlow, Thomas E., 1974.			Y
Summary report of Cumberland County area religious survey	Irwin, Leonard G., 1964	Y		
Tales of the Civil War era.	Harvey, Stella M., 1963	Y		
Tennessee: records of Cumberland County journal B, 1856-1860.	US-WPA		Y	
The Cumberland tableland	Cumberland Land Company, 1899?	Y		
The Dale Hollow Lake graves	Norris, Gary Denton, 1999			Y
The first hundred years of the Pleasant Hill Community Church: United Church of Christ, Pleasant Hill, TN, 1885-1985	Marriott, Victor E., 1985	Y		

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The life of Joseph Bishop, the celebrated old pioneer in the first settlements of middle TN	Gray, John W., 1858	Y		
The plateau (Cumberland County school yearbook, annual).		Y		
The silver anniversary history of the Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association, 1953-1978	Toomey, Glenn A., 1979	Y		
The town of Cardiff, on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad & Tennessee River, Roane County, TN: & lands & mines of the Cardiff Coal & Iron Company, situated in Roane, Cumberland & Morgan counties.	Cardiff Coal & Iron Company, 189	Y		
The way it was, Crossville, Cumberland County.	Stanley, Bryan, 1983	Y		
Thy loving children still: history & memories of Pleasant Hill Academy.	Glebe, Iris W.,	Y		
To the people of Cumberland County.	American Volunteer, Oct 16, 1828	Y		
Two resettlement communities on the Cumberland Plateau. Vanderbilt U. thesis, 1941. 113 pp.	Montgomery, James E. , 1941	Y		
Upper Cumberland Researcher	Upper Cumberland Gen. Assoc., 1976		Y	
Webb, George W. "The settlement pattern on the Cumberland Plateau in TN."	Webb, George W., J. TN Acad. Sci. 35 (1960)	Y		