## Geographic Area and County History



Stewart County was named for Duncan Stewart, an early settler, Tennessee state legislator and lieutenant governor of Mississippi Territory. The county is located in the north-central area of the state. (FamilySearch Wiki).

Created in 1803 from Montgomery County, Stewart County is named for an early pioneer and speculator, Duncan Stewart. Originally inhabited by nomadic hunters and mound builders, the area received white settlers in the 1780s, as Revolutionary War veterans

arrived to claim land grants. The fertile bottomland attracted immediate interest, but the area's substantial iron deposits also drew attention. Several factors, including the location of deposits between the easily navigable Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, the availability of slave labor to operate the furnaces, and timber for fuel, produced a thriving iron industry that lasted for over a century.

The county's boundary lines have changed repeatedly. Today, the county encompasses 458 square miles; its population in 2000 was 12,370, representing a 30 percent increase since 1990. State and federal agencies control over 44 percent of the land in the county. Modern highways have replaced the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers as the primary transportation arteries. A Cumberland City ferry is the last remnant of a service rendered obsolete by the construction of bridges throughout the county. However, many place names indicate the county's geography and cultural history: Tobaccoport, Bumpus Mills, Big Rock, Bear Springs, Model, Bellwood, Leatherwood, Indian Mound, and Cumberland City.

In 1805 a state-appointed commission purchased a 30-acre plot on the Cumberland River from Robert Nelson and established the county seat of Dover. By 1850 the frontier town had blossomed into a large river trade center and the second largest steamboat port on the Cumberland. During the Civil War, Union troops, who had occupied the town since the fall of Fort Donelson in 1862, set fire to Dover to prevent the town from falling into the hands of General Nathan Bedford Forrest; only four buildings survived the conflagration. Today, a mayor and four aldermen govern the 2,000 citizens of Dover. The city oversees the operation of modern utility systems, and citizens enjoy the benefits of up-to-date medical facilities. Dover has a weekly newspaper, the Stewart-Houston Times, and a radio station, WTWL-101.5. An automotive assembly plant and a garment factory provide employment.

Cumberland City, the second largest city, was established in 1814. Prior to 1860, it was known as Bowling Green, but changed the name to Cumberland to eliminate confusion with Bowling Green, Kentucky, which was also on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

The word "City" was added by citizens who anticipated a great future for their town. The town is perhaps best known for the Cumberland City Academy, which was founded in 1893 by W. T. Thomas. Before statehood, Methodist circuit-riding preachers conducted campground meetings at the site of the McKendree Church, the oldest church in the county. Today, Cumberland City looks much as it did at the turn of the twentieth century, except for the presence of one of the largest coal burning steam plants in the world, constructed by the TVA in 1968. Adjacent to the steam plant is Stewart-Houston Industrial Park, which houses several modern manufacturing operations.

Many other county communities were once bustling towns. Bumpus Mills derives its name from Andrew Bumpus, who built a sawmill, gristmill, flour mill, and planing mill on Saline Creek in 1846. The mills thrived and were best known for the production of Bob White Flour. Big Rock was a hub of activity for tobacco farmers at the turn of the century. A tobacco prizing warehouse established in 1915 by C. W. Joiner and William Martin attracted tobacco men from the area. Although Big Rock remains an important county community, the development of Fort Campbell in the 1940s greatly diminished the town's size and population. Indian Mound was named for the prehistoric burial mounds located in the community. Early settlers recognized the mounds and recorded their presence in early court records and deeds. The community developed with the establishment of two iron furnaces. When the furnaces closed, the population of the community declined.

As the era of the iron industry passed, the economy depended more heavily on the earlier established farming and timber industry. Cotton was among the first crops grown in the early 1800s, but it declined in production due to low yields caused by poor soil conservation practices. Both dark-fired and burley tobacco were introduced into the area in the early 1800s, but dark-fired tobacco dominated and continues as the county's primary cash crop. In fact, the region is known as the "Dark-Fired Capitol of the World." In addition to tobacco, Stewart County farmers produce corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Timber has always been one of the county's greatest natural resources. As early as the 1830s trees were harvested for the production of charcoal to fuel the iron furnaces and steam boats. As the railroad expanded, local farmers provided crossties to meet increasing demand. Even today, hundreds of acres of timber are managed by Westvaco and a number of sawmills continue in operation.

Stewart County contains a number of sites of recreational, educational, and historical interest. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley offer opportunities for fishing and boating. Cross Creek Wildlife Refuge and the Land Between the Lakes provide nature lovers sightings of eagles, wild geese, turkey, and deer. The 1850 Homeplace, a living history farm, furnishes entertainment and education for all ages. For Civil War buffs, Fort Donelson National Battlefield and Cemetery and Surrender House, the site of Buckner's surrender to Grant, are popular attractions. (Tennessee Encyclopedia)

### **Stewart County Chamber of Commerce**

## Record Loss - Stewart County (Family Search)

1862 During the <u>American Civil War, 1861-1865</u>, a fire on 25 August damaged records mostly from the Chancery Court, and a few records from the County Court. Otherwise, the county records are intact.

- Lost census: 1810
- Marriage records are lacking from 1804 to 1837; white marriages from 1876 to 1881 are lost.
- Lost probate records: 1812, 1817-1824
- Lost Chancery Court records: before 1865

#### FamilySearch Stewart County Catalog

TnGenWeb Project - Stewart County

Contact - Jim Long

#### **Stewart County Historical Society**

#### **Record Location Table**

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1881
	Tennessee Vital	Keeps for 100 years then they are
	Records Office	sent to <u>TSLA</u>
	TNGenWeb	1881-1883
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1898
	Tennessee Vital	Keeps for 50 years then they are
	Records Office	sent to <u>TSLA</u>
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital	TSLA
	Records Office	
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1881

	Tennessee Vital Records Office TSLA	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA  1908-1912  1914-1933
Land Deeds	County Register	County Registrations began 1803 County Register of Deeds
	TNGenWeb	Deeds
List of Microfilmed Stewart County Records	TSLA-PDF	Download PDF
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1898
	TnGenWeb	
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

## **County Repositories**

Stewart County Public Library
Stewart County Public Library - Genealogy
Stewart County Historical Society

### **Current Area Information**

Stewart County Chamber of Commerce Stewart County Government

Stewart County Courthouse 225 Donelson Parkway Dover, TN 37058

County Courthouse Phone: 931-232-7042

County Clerk Phone: 931-232-7616

County Register of Deeds Phone: 931-232-5990

**Stewart County Archives** 

110 Natcor Dr. Center for Teaching and Learning

**Dover TN 37058** 

Phone# 615-609-0030

**Email: Stewart County Archives** 

Hours: Tues & Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse books, records and loose papers (excluding marriages and deeds), 1804-1950s. Circuit Court case files, minutes, dockets, 1810-2000; County Court minutes and misc., 1808-1970; Chancery Court minutes, dockets, 1865-1950; Trust Deeds, 1864-1951; Settlements, Wills and Bonds, 1866-1914

County Clerk has marriage and probate records from 1898. Register of Deeds has land records from 1803.

#### Resources

#### General

Tennessee County Database (TNGS) - Stewart County
Stewart County Wiki (Family Search)
Linkpendium - Stewart County
Tennessee State Library & Archives - Stewart County Facts Sheet
TNGenWeb - Stewart County
USGenWeb Archives - Stewart County Tennessee
Tennessee Law, The Early Days

#### **Newspapers**

Tennessee State Archives & Library

Check Online Catalog for Cumberland City Newspaper Details & Dates Held Check Online Catalog for Dover Newspaper Details & Dates Held

. We do not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers.

#### Newspaper.com

Dover Courier – 1886 - 1923
The Stewart Breeze = 1887-1892
The Stewart County Enterprise - 1922-1992
Stewart County Standard – 2015-2022
The Stewart County Times – 1925-1949
The Stewart County Review – 1913=1913

#### Genealogybank.com - No Issues Available

#### **Chronicling America**

- 1. The Cumberland City review. (Cumberland City, Tenn.) 1???-19??
- 2. Dover courier. (Dover, Tenn.) 18??-188?
- 3. The Dover courier. (Dover, Tenn.) 19??-19??
- 4. Dover weekly intelligencer. (Dover, Tenn.) 1859-18??
- 5. The Stewart breeze. (Dover, Tenn.) 188?-18??
- 6. The Stewart County enterprise. (Dover, Tenn.) 192?-192?
- 7. The Stewart County review. (Cumberland City, Tenn.) 1???-19??
- 8. The Stewart County times. (Dover, Tenn.) 1921-1949
- 9. The Stewart courier. (Dover, Tenn.) 188?-189?
- 10. Stewart-Houston times. (Clarksville, Tenn.) 1949-current
- 11. Weekly record. [volume] (Dover, Tenn.) 1870-1877

### **Selected Published County Histories**

#### Tennessee State Archives & Library

1985 Bear Spring, Tennessee, Historical Directory	1985
Arlington, Cumberland City, Erin, Tennessee, and the Wells Creek	Lovelady, 1989
Valley [name index]*	
History of Stewart County, Tennessee [thesis]	Brandon, 1944
History of Stewart County, Tennessee [name index]*	McClain, 1965
History of Tennessee From the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and a Biographical Sketch of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart	Goodspeed, 1979
Houston County Area: Excerpts from the Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties of Tennessee [surname index]	Friends of the Houston County Library, 19??
Life of Duncan Stewart: Founder of Stewart County, Tennessee	Saunders, 1997
Old Times Not Forgotten: A Pictorial History	Loeffler, 2016
Stewart County: History of Tennessee	Goodspeed, 1988
Stewart County Tennessee Heritage	Stewart County Hist. Soc., 1980
* Indicates this title may be borrowed on Interlibrary Loan from the	
Library and Archives.	

## Selected Manuscripts Material

## Tennessee State Archives & Library

1880 Census, Stewart County, Tennessee [alphabetical by head of household]*	Sistler, 1999
Benton Co., Tennessee, Carroll Co., Tennessee, Henry Co., Tennessee, Houston Co., Tennessee, Stewart Co., Tennessee [1891 enumeration of male voters]	Reed, 1989
Cemetery Records of Land Between the Lakes, (Betwixt the Rivers) 1814-1973 [surname index]	Maupin, 1974
Cemetery Records of Stewart County, Tennessee [surname index]	Stewart County Historical Society, 1983
County Court Minutes, Stewart County [vol. 1 1813-1815; vol. 2 1815-1819] [name index]	WPA, 1941
Deed Records [vol. 1 1804-06; vol. 3 1789-1818; vol. 4 Abstracts, 1810-13 & Marriage Records 1838-1848] [name indexes]	WPA, 1937-1939
Marriage Licenses Applied for, Stewart County, Tennessee [alphabetical]	Finley, 2007
Marriage Records, Stewart County, Tenn., 1849-1866 [surname index]*	Simmons, 1973
Marriage Records, Stewart County, Tenn., 1865-1881 [surname index]*	Simmons, 1973
Marriages of Stewart County, Tennessee, 1838-1866 [name index]*	Whitley, 1982
Name Index to History of Tennessee From the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with a Historical and a Biographical Sketch of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties	Marsh, 1972
Stewart Co., Tenn., Marriage Records, 1838-1848 [surname index]*	Simmons, 1974
Stewart Co., Tenn., Marriage Records, 1881-1896 [surname index by bride and groom]*	Simmons, 1993
Stewart County, Tennessee: Abstracts of Settlements, Wills and Bonds, 1804–1896 [name index]*	Long, 2008
Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1850 [surname index]	Willis, 2000
Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1850 [name index]	Partlow, 1998
Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1860 [surname index]	Partlow, 1994
Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1870 [name index]*	Partlow, 1994
Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1900 [name index]*	Partlow, 1994
Stewart County, Tennessee Circuit Court Minutes, vol. 1 & 1A, 1821–1831 [name index]	Long, 2010
Stewart County, Tennessee Circuit Court minutes, vols. 1, 1A, 1B, 2, 3 and 4, 1821–1850 [name index]	Long, 201?

Stewart County, Tennessee County Court Minutes, 1813-1819 (1813-1819) [name index]	Long, 20??
Stewart County, Tennessee County Court Minutes, 1819- 1828 [name index]	Long, 2014
Stewart County, Tennessee County Court Minutes, 1828- 1831 [name index]	Long, 2014
Stewart County, Tennessee, Court Minutes, vol. 3, 1811–1812 [name index]	WPA, 1941
Stewart County, Tennessee: Deed Book Indexes, 1786-1884	Long, 200?
Stewart County, Tennessee Deed Book 4 or D, 1811-1813; Deed Book 5 or E, 1814-1818 [name indexes]	Crumpton, 1999
Stewart County, Tennessee Deed Book 6 or 0, 1819-1823; Deed Book 7 or G, 1823-1826 [name indexes]	Crumpton, 1999
Stewart County, Tennessee Deed Book F, 1826-1829 [and] Deed Book 9, 1829-1832 [name indexes]	Crumpton, 1999
Stewart County, Tennessee Deed Books 1,2,3 or A,B,C, 1804- 1819 [name index]	Crumpton, 1999
Stewart County, Tennessee Deeds [*vol. 1 1791-1806; vol. 2 1803-1814; *vol. 3 1813-1817; vol.4 1817-1819] [surname indexes]	Willis, 1995
Stewart County, Tennessee, Federal Census of 1880 [name index]	Partlow, 1993
Stewart County, Tennessee, General Index to Deeds, vol. 1, 1804-43 [alphabetical by grantor and grantee]	WPA, 1939
Stewart County, Tennessee Guardian Records [Vol. 2 1842 - 1850] [name index]	Long, 2016
Stewart County, Tennessee Marriages Revisited, 1804- 1881[surname index]	Long, 2009
Stewart County, Tennessee Marriage Records, 1881-1910 [name index]	Long
Stewart County, Tennessee, Minute Docket, 1804-1807 [name index]	WPA, 1936
Stewart County, Tennessee Slave Schedule of 1860 [name index]	Partlow, 1996
Stewart County, Tennessee Tax Lists [Vol. 1 1804–1840; Vol. 2 1841–1866] [name index in each volume]	Long, 2011
Stewart County, Tennessee, Tax Book, vol. 2, 1808–1812 [name index]	WPA, 1938
* Indicates this title may be borrowed on Interlibrary Loan from th Archives.	e Library and

## Maps

TDOT Map of Stewart County
Stewart County Tennessee ~1807
Stewart County - 1888
TnGenWeb Project = Maps Our Ancestors Followed

### Cemeteries

Stewart County Cemeteries - Find-a Grave
Stewart County Cemeteries - USGenWeb
Stewart County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails
Stewart 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

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"Investigations at a Paleo-Indian site in Stewart County, TN."	Dragoo, Don W., 1965	Υ		
"Some folkways of a Stewart County community." TN Folklore Soc. Bull. 19 (1953), pp. 49–58.	Guerin, Wayne, 1953	Υ		
"Some letters from Dover, TN, 1814-1855." THQ 8 (1949), pp. 154-84, 252-83, 345-65; 9 (1950), 64-83, 155-70.	Mooney, Chase C., ed	Y		
"The handkerchief story' & 'The haunted house': two middle TN ghost stories." TN Folklore Soc. Bull. 19 (1978), pp. 71-75.	Thornell, Fran, 1978	Υ		
A history of Stewart County, Tennessee / by Iris Hopkins McClain. Minute book [1804-1807]	McClain, Iris Hopkins, c1965.			Υ
A history of Stewart County, Tennessee. [microform]	Brandon, Helen Gould. Univ. of Tenn, 1944.			Y
A history of Stewart County, TN.	McClain, Iris H., 1965	Υ		
A history of Stewart County, TN. UT thesis	Brandon, Helen G., 1944	Υ		
A manual of public service agencies in Stewart [& other] counties in TN	Seeber, R. Clifford, 1942	Υ		
A study of the vascular flora & certain vegetational aspects of the lower Bear Creek watershed, Stewart County, TN. Austin Peay State U. thesis	Stack, Jacqueline C., 1982	Y		
Arlington, Cumberland City, Erin, TN, & the Wells Creek Valley.	Lovelady, Joyce & Charles, eds., 1989	Υ		
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Justice of Minnesota Territory. U. MN dissertation,	C., 1962			
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920, 1289-1329).	1886.			V
History of Tennessee from the earliest time to the present: together with an historical and a	Goodspeed Publishing Co.,			Υ
biographical sketch of Montgomery, Robertson,	1886.			
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	Patricia, 1989			
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Marriage records, Stewart County, Tenn., 1849-1866	Simmons, Don,		Υ	Υ
	1973			
Marriages of Stewart County, Tennessee, 1838-1866	Whitley, Edythe		Υ	Υ
	Johns Rucker,			
	1900			
Obituaries: connections to Stewart, Houston,	Horn, Estelle.		Υ	
Montgomery Co., Tenn. & surrounding areas	Owens, Carlos		V	
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	Sutton, 1984			
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Stewart County, Tennessee circuit court minutes.	Long, Jim., 2019	Υ
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1813 ; deed book 5 or E, 1814-1818 Deed book 5 or E,	Barbara., c1999.	
1814-1818, Stewart County, Tennessee.		
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1823 ; deed book 7 or G, 1823-1826	Barbara, c1999.	'
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Stewart County, Tennessee guardian records, 1842-1850.	Long, Jim., 2017	Υ
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	Society, 2000	
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