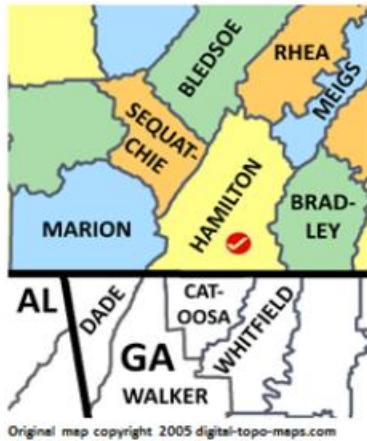


Hamilton County Locality Guide (18 March 2023)

Geographic Area



Hamilton County was named for Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury. The county is located in the southeastern area of the state. ([FamilySearch Wiki](#))

The Tennessee General Assembly created Hamilton County on October 25, 1819. Rhea, Marion, and Bledsoe Counties bounded the new county, and it extended south to the state line. The creation of the new county on the southwestern frontier was brought about by a treaty with the Cherokees in 1817. By the terms of the Hiwassee Purchase, the Indians yielded large sections of Alabama and Georgia, as well as the Sequatchie Valley and the area that became Hamilton County. Initially, Hamilton County did not extend south of the Tennessee River. This area, including the site of Cherokee Chief John Ross's landing in present-day Chattanooga, did not become a part of the county until the disputed Treaty of 1835 that led to Indian removal and the "Trail of Tears." The county was named in honor of Alexander Hamilton, secretary of the treasury in George Washington's administration. Hamilton was the name of the district of which this section had formerly been a part.

This beautiful region, where the Tennessee River winds through the convergence of several mountain ranges, was the last stronghold of the Cherokees. When their valiant effort to retain their homeland failed, Ross's Landing became one of the main staging areas for the trek west.

At the time of the 1820 census, Hamilton County counted 821 residents, including 16 free blacks and 39 slaves. Approximately 100 Cherokees lived on six private family reserves. The settlers were clustered mainly at Sale Creek, at Poe's Crossroads (Daisy) and at the farm of Asahel Rawlings (Dallas). Hasten Poe had a popular tavern at a crossroads near the foot of Walden's Ridge, and this was used for the holding of the first courts. The courts were later moved nearby to the farm of John Mitchell before a log courthouse was built at Dallas on the Tennessee River. The county seat was shifted across the river to the new town of Harrison in 1840. Chattanooga, whose growth far outstripped that of Harrison, became the seat of government in 1870.

Principal towns, in addition to Chattanooga, are Red Bank, Soddy-Daisy, Ooltewah, Collegedale, East Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and Signal Mountain. The old towns of Dallas and Harrison were inundated by waters of Lake Chickamauga in 1939 when Hamilton County became a center for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Chattanooga's future as a railroad center was assured when the Western and Atlantic Railroad selected it as its northern terminus. This line reached the city in 1849, and the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad was completed in 1854. The East Tennessee, Virginia

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and Georgia Railroad, the Cincinnati Southern, and other rail lines later were extended to the growing city.

A rail center and the "Gateway to the South," Chattanooga became a focal point in the Civil War, especially in the summer and fall of 1863. The Army of Tennessee under General Braxton Bragg fell back from the city and fought a bloody battle at nearby Chickamauga, Georgia, on September 19 and 20, 1863. From the surrounding mountains, the Confederate forces besieged Chattanooga until the arrival of Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant and General William T. Sherman. The Union won victories at Wauhatchie and Lookout Mountain prior to the famous charge up Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863.

After the Civil War, Chattanooga experienced a cholera epidemic in 1873 and a yellow fever scourge five years later. There were also devastating floods in 1867 and 1886. The city still managed to develop as a manufacturing center and underwent a real estate boom in the late 1880s. Later, it became the site of the first Coca-Cola bottling franchise and the headquarters for several major insurance companies. Combustion Engineering, DuPont, and McKee Baking were also key employers. The Krystal hamburger, the Moon Pie, the Double-Cola soft drink, and the Little Debbie snack cake originated in Hamilton County, and all four nationally known products have their corporate headquarters in the county. Hamilton Place Mall, one of the state's largest shopping malls, opened in 1987.

Colleges and universities in Hamilton County include the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga State Technical Community College, Southern University, Tennessee Temple University, and Covenant College.

The 2000 population of Chattanooga is 155,554 and Hamilton County's was 307,896. Hamilton County encompasses 542 square miles. Chattanooga and Hamilton County operate under separate governments, and the county includes nine municipalities.

([Tennessee Encyclopedia](#))

Hamilton County Tennessee Genealogy Society - [History](#)

Hamilton County - Genealogytrails - [History](#)

[Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce](#)

Record Loss - Hamilton County (Family Search)

James County was created by an act of the [Tennessee General Assembly](#) on January 30, 1871. Lands were taken from a small portion of [Bradley County](#) and the eastern third of [Hamilton County](#). The county went bankrupt in April 1919 and was

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reincorporated into Hamilton County by a vote of its citizens on December 11, 1919. Few records remain of what was once James County due largely to courthouse fires in 1890 and 1913. The few remaining James County records are now kept in Hamilton County.

1910: Hamilton County Courthouse burned and many records were damaged. Antebellum Will books are lost.

Lost censuses: 1820

Lost marriages: 1819 to 1856

Lost probate: 1819 to 1861

[FamilySearch Hamilton County Catalog](#)

TnGenWeb Project - [Hamilton County](#) Contact [Tim Stowell](#)

[Hamilton County Tennessee Genealogical Society](#)

County Historian - Ms. Linda Moss Mines Email: localhistorycounts@gmail.com [Send Email](#)

Record Location Table

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1881 Chattanooga Births 1908
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to TSLA
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1857
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	TSLA
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1881 Chattanooga Deaths 1908
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to TSLA
	TSLA	1908-1912

Hamilton County Locality Guide (18 March 2023)

		1914-1933
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1796
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	TNGenWeb	Index to Deeds
List of Microfilmed Hamilton County Records	TSLA- PDF	
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court	County Registrations began 1865
Tax Lists	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Tax Years on Microfilm (Pre 1900) 1836, 1837
		Published Indexes: 1836, 1837 <i>Hamilton County, Tennessee 1836</i> <i>Tennessee Civil Districts and Tax Lists</i>
		Reels Available for Interlibrary Loan: Early TN Tax Lists > Reel 4 (Hamilton County 1836, 1837)
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$) Ancestry.com	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

County Repositories

[Chattanooga-Hamilton County Public Library](#)

[University of Tennessee – Chattanooga - George Connor Special Collections](#)

[County and Municipal Records at the Library & Archives](#)

Hamilton County Locality Guide (18 March 2023)

Current Area Information

[Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Hamilton County Government](#)

Resources

General

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) – Hamilton County](#)
[Hamilton County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)
[Hamilton County Tennessee \(Genealogy Trails\)](#)
[Hamilton Co TN Genealogy Chat \(FB\)](#)
[Linkpendium – Hamilton County](#)
[Signal Mountain Genealogical Society \(FB\)](#)
[Tennessee State Library & Archives – Hamilton County Facts Sheet](#)
[TNGenWeb – Hamilton County](#)
[USGenWeb Archives – Hamilton County Tennessee](#)

James County Links (“The Lost County”)

[Tennessee County Database \(TNGS\) – James County](#)
[James County Wiki \(Family Search\)](#)
[James County Tennessee \(Genealogy Trails\)](#)
[Tennessee State Library & Archives – James County Facts Sheet](#)
[TNGenWeb – James County](#)
[James County, Tennessee Historical Society \(FB\)](#)
[James County – Tennessee Encyclopedia](#)

[TSLA - James County TSLA Microfilmed Records](#)

Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

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

[Chattanooga](#)

[Ooltewah](#)

[Signal Mountain](#)

[Soddy](#)

Hamilton County Locality Guide (18 March 2023)

Newspaper.com - Holds 39 titles from Hamilton County

Genealogybank.com - Holds 8 titles from Hamilton County

Selected Published County Histories

Tennessee State Archives & Library

Selected Published County Histories

African Americans of Chattanooga: A History of Unsung Heroes (Hubbard, 2007) *

Chattanooga Country, 1540-1976: From Tomahawks to TVA (Govan & Livingood, 1977) *[name index]**

Chattanooga's Forest Hills Cemetery (Moore, 2012)

Chattanooga's St. Elmo (Moore, 2012)

Goodspeed's History of Hamilton, Knox, and Shelby Counties of Tennessee (Goodspeed, 1974) *[name index]*

Hamilton County (Livingood, 1981) *[name index]**

Hamilton County Pioneers (Wilson, 1998) *[name index]**

History of Hamilton County and Chattanooga, Tennessee [2 vols.] (Armstrong, 1993) *[name index]**

History of Hamilton County, Tennessee (Livingood, 1981) *[name index]**

Jewish Community of Chattanooga (Adams, 1999)*

Legendary Locals of Chattanooga Tennessee (Hull, 2012) *[name index]*

Old Timer's Guide to Chattanooga Tennessee, 1838: The Legends, History, & Fun of Chattanooga (Sands, 1982)

Sketches of Eastdale History, 1540-1986 (Blevins, 1987)

Signal Mountain and Walden's Ridge (Patten, 1976)*

Published Local Records

1860 Hamilton County, TN, Census (Douthat, 1989) *[surname index]*

1880 Census, Hamilton County, Tennessee (Sistler, 1996) *[alphabetical by head of household]*z*

Abstracts of Ocoee District Early Land Records-entries (McClure, 1990) *[alphabetical listings]*

Chattanooga Baptist Church Minutes of Hamilton County 1852-1882 (WPA, 1941)

Chickamauga Reservoir Cemeteries (Douthat, 1986) *[surname index]**

Chickamauga Reservoir Grave Removals (Tennessee Valley Authority, 1939)

Concord Baptist Church Minutes of Hamilton County, 1842-1872 (WPA, 1980)

Confederate Soldiers of Hamilton County, Tennessee: An Alphabetical Listing of the Confederate Soldiers who Lived at one Time in Hamilton County, Tennessee (Hughes & Wilson, 2001) *[alphabetical listings]*

Early Settlers, Hamilton Co., TN.: 1830-1850 census (Douthat, 1986) *[surname index]*

Hamilton County Confederate Soldiers (Armstrong, 193?) *[alphabetical listings]*

Hamilton County, TN Marriage Book 2, 1864-1874 (Douthat, 1987) *[name index]**

Hamilton County, TN Marriage Books 1-1 1/2, 1853 [i.e. 1857] -1870 (Douthat, 1986) *[name index]*

Hamilton County, Tennessee 1836 Tennessee Civil Districts and Tax Lists (Douthat, 1993) *[name index]**

Hamilton County Locality Guide (18 March 2023)

Hamilton County, Tennessee Chancery Court Minutes 1864-66 (WPA, 1940)
Hamilton County Tennessee Civil Record A Law Court of Chattanooga 1860-1867, part 1-3 (WPA, 1942)
Hamilton County Tennessee Deed Book F vol. 1 1844-1848 (WPA, 1937) *[name index]*
Hamilton County Tennessee Deeds Book ABC vol. 1 1796-1838 (WPA, 1936) *[name index]*
Hamilton County Tennessee Deeds Book D vol. 1 1837-1841 (WPA, 1936) *[name index]*
Hamilton County Tennessee Deeds Book D vol. 1 1838-1841 (WPA, 1937) *[name index]*
Hamilton County Tennessee Deeds Book E vol. 1 1841-1843 (WPA, 1936) *[name index]*
Hamilton County Tennessee Diary of Rev. Robert H. Guthrie 1874-1875 (WPA, 1938) *[name index]*
Hamilton County Tennessee Diary of Miss Josephine H. Hooke 1863-1864 (WPA, 1938) *[name index]*
Hamilton County, Tennessee, Entry Takers Book, 1824-1897 (19??) *[name index]**
Hamilton County, Tennessee, Marriage Book 3, September 1874-May 1880 (Douthat, 1995) *[name index]**
Hamilton County Tennessee Marriage Records Book 1 1857-1863, Book 2 1864-1874 (WPA, 1937) *[name index]*
Hamilton County Tennessee Marriage Records Book 1 1/2 1865-1870 (WPA, 1937) *[name index]**
Hamilton County, Tennessee Will Book Number 1, 1862-1892 (Douthat, 1996) *[name index]**
Index to the Ocoee District Early Land Records - Entries (McClure, 1990) *[name index]*
Ocoee Land District Maps (Douthat, 2013) *[name index]*
Polk's Chattanooga City Directory (2015 - 2019)
Private Acts of Hamilton County, Tennessee (McIntyre, 1980)
Probate Record of Hamilton County no. 1 1864-70 part 1-2 (WPA, 1941)
Roll of Honor: Names of Soldiers who Died in Defence of the American Union, Interred in the National Cemeteries at Chattanooga, Stone's River, and Knoxville (United States. Quartermaster's Dept., 1866)
Roster of our Dead Buried in the Confederate Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tenn. (United Confederate Veterans, 1985) *[alphabetical listings]*
Rothberger Directory Company's Chattanooga, Tennessee City Directory [1880, 1891, 1895/1896, 1899/1900, 1900/1901, 1903-1905, 1907-1910, 1912, 1913, 1915, 1917, 1920, 1922-1964, 1967-2008] *[years available only on microfilm: 1871/72, 1876-1879, 1881, 1888-1890, 1894, 1897]*
Tennessee, Hamilton County Tombstone Inscriptions (Negro) (WPA, 1939) *[name index]*
Tennessee, Records of Hamilton County: Entry Taker's Book 1824-1897 (WPA, 1937) *[name index]*
Tennessee, Records of Hamilton County: Interments of the National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee 1863-1939 (WPA, 1939) *[name index]*
Tennessee, Records of Hamilton County: Tombstone Inscriptions vol. 1-4 (WPA, 1939) *[name index]*

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United States Census, Hamilton County, Tennessee, 1850 (Hobbs & Goins, 198?) [*surname index*]*

United States Census, Hamilton County, Tennessee, 1870 (Hobbs & Goins, 198?) [*surname index*]*

Selected Manuscripts Material

Tennessee State Archives & Library

Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, South Records. Chattanooga, 1899-1966 (Microfilm Manuscript #454, 1 reel)*

Chamber of Commerce Records. Chattanooga, 1903-1965 (Microfilm Manuscript #445 & 446, 5 reels)*

Chamber of Commerce Records. Chattanooga, 1966-1970 (Microfilm Manuscript #528, 1 reel)*

Chattanooga Primitive Baptist Church Records. Chattanooga, 1910-1972 (Microfilm Manuscript #488, 1 reel)*

Church of the Good Shepherd Records. Lookout Mountain, 1946-1969 (Microfilm Manuscript #306, 1 reel)*

Clift Family Papers, ~ 1820-1968

Enrollment Book of the Superior Court, Knoxville, Tenn., from Hamilton District Territory South of the River, 1793-1800 (Microfilm Manuscript #1488, 1 reel)*

First Methodist Episcopal Church Records. Chattanooga, 1872-1954 (Microfilm Manuscript #455, 1 reel)*

Lookout Mountain Baptist Church Records. Lookout Mountain, 1945-1969 (Microfilm Manuscript #328, 9 reels)*

Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church Records. Lookout Mountain, 1894-1975 (Microfilm Manuscript #493, 3 reels)*

McGill-Thatcher Family Papers, 1818-1979 (Microfilm Manuscript #1844, 1 reel)*

McKenzie and Son, Surveyors Maps. Chattanooga, 1880-1916 (Microfilm Manuscript #1477, 1 reel)*

Roark-Conner Association Papers, 1795-1996 (Microfilm Manuscript #1518, 5 reels)*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Records. Chattanooga, 1850-1900 (Microfilm Manuscript #503, 1 reel)*

Signal Mountain Community Guild Minutes. Hamilton County, 1973-1982 (Microfilm Manuscript #765, 1 reel)*

Signal Mountain Community Guild Minutes. Hamilton County, 1983-1989 (Microfilm Manuscript #1100, 1 reel)*

Signal Mountain Community Guild Records, 1994-2000 (Microfilm Manuscript #1629, 1 reel)*

Swick Family Papers, 1842-1879

Union Chapel of Walden's Ridge Records. Summertown, 1909-1967 (Microfilm Manuscript #474, 1 reel)*

William Polk Papers, 1785-1890 (Microfilm Manuscript #17, 1 reel)*

Maps

[TDOT Map of Hamilton County](#)

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[Hamilton County - 1839](#)

[Hamilton County - 1888](#)

[Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps - Chattanooga, TN \(LOC\)](#)

[Chattanooga History Maps \(1889-2018\)](#)

Cemeteries

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

[Hamilton County Cemeteries - USGenWeb](#)

[Hamilton County Cemeteries - Genealogy Trails](#)

[Hamilton County Cemeteries - TNGenWeb \(Cemetery\)](#)

Bibliography

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

TSLA holds over 1600 sources for Hamilton County
Digital Resources (796)
Books (147)
Serials (118)
Archived Materials (65)
Maps (26)
Microform (3)

Library Titles	Author / Date	TSLA	GRH&GC	MPL
1880 Census, James County, Tennessee	Sisler, 1981	Y		
1904 biography and achievements of the colored citizens of Chattanooga.	White, J. Bliss, 2004		Y	
A history of Hamilton County, Tennessee	Livingood, James W. 1981			Y
Abstracts of Ocoee District early land records-entries.	McClure, Lucille.		Y	
Ancestral sketches. [A chronicle of the pioneer East Tennessee families: Reeves, Miller, De Valt, and Range of Washington County; Robeson of Sullivan and McMinn Counties; and Easley, Hamilton, Acuff, and Vincent of Sullivan County; and certain of their antecedents in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina]	Reeves, Le Roy, 1951			Y
Centennial history of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1853-1953.	Lindsey, Edwin S., 1953		Y	
Chattanooga	Chattanooga African American Museum, 2005		Y	
Chattanooga's transportation heritage.	Steinberg, David H., 2013		Y	
Early settlers Hamilton Co., TN 1830-1850 census.	Douthat, James L., 1986		Y	

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Federal pensioners: 1840 census of. Bethel Springs, TN	Brown, Albert, 1989		Y	
Gann and Painter ancestors: of Paul Thurman Butler / Paul Thurman Butler.	Butler, Paul Thurman, 1984		Y	
Gann and Painter ancestors: of Paul Thurman Butler / Paul Thurman Butler.	Butler, Paul Thurman, 1984		Y	
Goodspeed's history of Hamilton, Knox, and Shelby Counties of Tennessee.	Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1974		Y	Y
Guide to the manuscript collections of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library	Irwin, Ned L. 1990			Y
Hamilton county (Chattanooga) Tennessee Historical Records Survey.	1937			Y
Hamilton County pioneers.	Wilson, John, 1998		Y	
Hamilton County, Tennessee 1836 Tennessee civil districts and tax lists.	Douthat, James L., 1993		Y	
Hamilton County, Tennessee entry takers book, 1824-1897.	U.S. Works Progress Administration.		Y	
Hamilton County, Tennessee marriage book 3, September 1874-May 1880.	Douthat, James L., 1995		Y	
Hamilton County, Tennessee will book number 1, 1862-1892.	Douthat, James L. 1996		Y	Y
Hamilton County, TN marriage book 2, 1864-1874.	Douthat, James L., 1986		Y	Y
Hamilton County, TN marriage books 1-1 1/2, 1853-1870.	Douthat, James L., 1986		Y	
Hamilton County. Memphis, Tennessee: Memphis State University Press, ©1981.	Livingood, James W., 1981		Y	
History of Tennessee, from the earliest time to the present; together with an historical and a biographical sketch of Hamilton County, besides a valuable fund of notes, original observations, reminiscences, etc.	Goodspeed Publishers, 1887			Y
History of Tennessee: containing historical and biographical sketches of thirty east Tennessee counties.	Goodspeed Publishing Company, 2006		Y	
James County: a lost county of Tennessee / a project of Old James County Chapter,	ETHS, Donnelly, Polly, 1983			Y
James County, TN marriages, 1913-1919. Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, ©1986.	Douthat, James L., 1986	Y	Y	
James County : A Lost County of Tennessee	Donnelly, 1983	Y		
Ocoee land district maps.	Douthat, James L., 2013		Y	
Record family papers.	Ricketts family, 1974		Y	

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Selected records of the Tennessee Field Office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872 [microform] [Rolls 49 - 73], United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. United States.	National Archives and Records Service.			Y
Signal Mountain.	Norris, Mary Scott, 2008		Y	
Tennessee 1850 U. S. census slave schedule: Fayette, Fentress, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardeman Counties.	The National Archives, 1964		Y	
Tennessee 1860 U. S. census slave schedule: Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardeman, Hardin, Hawkins.	The National Archives, 1967		Y	
Tennessee records of Hamilton County entry takers book, 1824-1897.	U.S. Work's Progress Administration			Y
The battles for Chattanooga.	Cozzens, Peter, 1996		Y	
The battles for Chattanooga.	Tucker, Glenn., 1992		Y	
The Chattanooga country: gateway to history; the Nashville to Atlanta rail corridor of the 1860s.	Livingood, James W., 1995		Y	
The Confederate soldiers of Hamilton County, Tennessee: an alphabetical listing of the Confederate soldiers who lived at one time in Hamilton County, Tennessee.	Hughes, Nathaniel Cheairs, Jr., 2001		Y	
The fight for Chattanooga: Chickamauga to Missionary Ridge.	Korn, Jerry., 1985		Y	
The history of Hamilton County and Chattanooga, Tennessee.	Overmountain Press, 1993, Armstrong, Zella.		Y	Y
The history of Hamilton County and Chattanooga, Tennessee.	Overmountain Press, 1993, Armstrong, Zella.		Y	
The University of Chattanooga: sixty years. Chattanooga, [Tennessee]: University of Chattanooga, ©1947.	Govan, Gilbert E., 1947		Y	