## **Geographic Area and County History**



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Grundy County – Grundy County was named for Felix Grundy. The county is located in the south-central area of the state. (FamilySearch Wiki).

The Tennessee General Assembly established Grundy County in 1844 from parts of Warren, Coffee, and later, Marion Counties. It was named in honor of Felix Grundy, a Virginian who migrated to Tennessee by way of Kentucky. Grundy served in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate and was attorney general under President Martin Van Buren.

The first County Court was held at Beersheba Springs and then at several individual homes near the present site of Altamont, which was established as the permanent county seat in 1848. The founding of Beersheba Springs and Pelham predated the formation of Grundy County.

Long associated with the economic history of the county, coal was discovered in the area of present-day Tracy City in the 1840s while Ben Wooten's sons were digging out a groundhog from beneath a stump. In 1848 a young Irishman, Leslie Kennedy, followed the construction of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad in search of moneymaking opportunities. While hiking through the Cumberland Plateau he became interested in coal outcroppings and returned to Nashville to seek financial backing for a coal mining venture. Nashville attorney William N. Bilbo listened to his scheme and bought the Wooten land and vast tracts belonging to the Samuel Barrell heirs, before heading to New York to find developers for the coal lands. Samuel Franklin Tracy and a group of financiers traveled to Tennessee and purchased Bilbo's holdings, which they used to form the Sewanee Mining Company with Tracy as president. When the Sewanee site proved less productive than expected, the mining company extended their tracks ten miles farther to the Wooten site, which became the town of Tracy City. The first coal was shipped from the site on November 8, 1858.

After the Civil War, creditors in New York and Tennessee won judgments against the company and bought the property. Arthur St. Clair Colyar, a Tennessee attorney, became the president of the new company, which became the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company in 1882. Colyar recognized the need for coke in the iron smelting industry and experimented with its production. In 1873 the company erected the famous Fiery Gizzard Coke Iron Furnace at Tracy City and produced fifteen tons of iron before it collapsed. That original furnace demonstrated the efficacy of Tracy City coal and determined the economic future of the city.

In 1869 developers Eugen H. Plumacher, John Hitz, and Peter Staub established a Swiss settlement, Gruetli. Among the Swiss immigrants to the settlement were the Angst, Amacher, Bonholzer, Schild, Flury, and Scholer families.

Monteagle, first called Moffat Station, was founded by John Moffat, an organizer in the temperance movement. In 1870 Moffat purchased the 1,146 acres of forest land on the Cumberland Plateau that became Monteagle. In 1882 the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly incorporated to promote the "advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday school interest and promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect or denomination." Andrew Nelson Lytle, the Vanderbilt Agrarian, did much of his writing at Monteagle, including his biography of Nathan Bedford Forrest.

The Summerfield community lies between Tracy City and Monteagle. There May Justice wrote more than sixty children's books. The community was also the site of the controversial Highlander Folk School from 1932 until 1962. This school, headed by Myles Horton, began as a training facility for labor organizers. In the 1950s, it became famous for its promotion of civil rights and the training of civil rights leaders.

In 1903 the Sewanee Coal, Coke and Land Company began mining coal in Coalmont, first called Coaldale. In 1908 the Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company bought the holdings and built coke ovens on the site. Coalmont is now the location of the new Grundy County High School and a privately operated state prison.

In 1918 the railroad was extended to Palmer, where the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company opened up new coalmines. Pelham, located in the valley part of Grundy County, is a farming town and contains several small manufacturing businesses. In addition to these small industrial plants, Grundy County's economy includes a growing nursery industry and several hundred chicken broiler houses.

In 1972 the long efforts of Herman Baggenstoss of Tracy City led to the creation of the South Cumberland Recreation Area. It includes the Stone Door, Savage Gulf, Grundy Lakes, and Fiery Gizzard parks, which receive thousands of visitors each year.

Like so many Appalachian areas, Grundy County citizens have suffered through trying times, but continue to prosper. According to the 2000 census, 14,332 people lived in Grundy County. (Tennessee Encyclopedia)

**Grundy County Chamber of Commerce** 

### Record Loss – Grundy County (Family Search)

1853 and 1990 Courthouse burned and many records were damaged.

• Lost marriage records: 1844 to 1849

FamilySearch Grundy County Catalog

FamilySearch Digital Books - Search Term: Grundy County Tennessee

 TnGenWeb Project - Grundy County
 Contact - Susan Wilson James

Grundy County Tennessee History & Genealogy (FB)

Grundy County History & Heritage

#### **Record Location Table**

Record Type	Location	Record Notes
Birth	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1908
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 100 years then they are sent to <u>TSLA</u>
Marriages	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1850
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <u>TSLA</u>
Divorce	Chancery Court Clerk	
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	TSLA
Deaths	County Clerk Office	County Registrations began 1908
	Tennessee Vital Records Office	Keeps for 50 years then they are sent to <u>TSLA</u>
	TSLA	<u>1908-1912</u>
		<u>1914–1933</u>
Land Deeds		County Registrations began 1852
	County Register	County Register of Deeds
	TNGenWeb	<u>Deeds – 1852-1857</u>

List of Microfilmed Grundy County Records	TSLA-PDF	Download PDF
Pension Applications	Tennessee State Archives & Library	County Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications
Probate Records	Chancery Court TnGenWeb	County Registrations began 1850 <u>Wills &amp; Probate</u>
Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters	Ancestry.com (\$)	Tennessee Enumeration of Male Voters
World War I Veterans	Tennessee State Archives & Library	Research Collection

## **County Repositories**

Altamont Public Library (FB) Grundy County Tennessee History & Genealogy (FB) Grundy County History & Heritage Grundy County Swiss Historical Society Sewanee – The University of the South Jessie Ball duPont Library William R. Laurie University Archives and Special Collections

### **Current Area Information**

Grundy County Chamber of Commerce Grundy County Government Grundy County Archive - 116 S. Industrial Park Drive Coalmont TN 37313 Phone: 931-692-6022 Email: grundyarchives1844@gmail.com

### Resources

#### General

Tennessee County Database (TNGS) – Grundy County Grundy County Wiki (Family Search) Grundy County TN – Genealogy Trails Linkpendium – Grundy County Tennessee State Library & Archives – Grundy County Facts Sheet TLSA Name Index – Grundy County (Acts of Tennessee 1796-1850) TNGenWeb – Grundy County

USGenWeb Archives - Grundy County Tennessee Tennessee Law, The Early Days

#### Newspapers

Tennessee State Archives & Library

<u>Check Online Catalog for Grundy County Newspaper Details & Dates Held</u>. We do not necessarily hold all published issues of the newspapers.

#### Newspaper.com – Mrs. Grundy (Tracy City News) 1903-1921

Genealogybank.com - Mrs. Grundy (Tracy City News) 1903-1921

#### Chronicling America -

- <u>1. The Advertiser. (McMinnville, Tenn.) 189?-19??</u>
- 2. Cumberland Outlook. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1930-193?
- 3. The Cumberland Sun. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1948-1949
- <u>4. Tracy City News. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 188?-190?</u>
- 5. Mountain Herald. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1910-1914
- 6. North Grundy Star. (Altamont, Tenn.) 1954-1965
- 7. Mrs. Grundy of Grundy. [online resource] (Tracy City, Tenn.) 190?-1903
- 8. Mrs. Grundy of Grundy. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 190?-1903
- 9. Mrs. Grundy. [online resource] (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1903-1930
- <u>10. Mrs. Grundy. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1903-1930</u>
- 11. Grundy County Herald (The North Grundy star. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1965-1966
- 12. The Grundy County Herald. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1929-1965
- 13. Grundy County Herald. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1966-current
- <u>14. Grundy County Times and Mountain Herald. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 191?-191?</u>
- <u>15. Grundy County Times. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1918–19??</u>

16. Grundy County Times. (Tracy City, Tenn.) 1914-191?

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

- Beersheba Springs, A History [2 vols] (Beersheba Springs Historical Society, 2010-2017)
- Forgotten Colony (Clayton, 1971?)
- German Swiss Settlement at Gruetli, Tennessee (Jackson, 1933) [name index]
- Grundy County (Nicholson, 1982) [name index] \*
- Grundy County Family Portraits (Partin, 2012)
- Grundy County Tidbits (Harris, 1999) [name index] \*
- Homecoming '86: History of the Elk River Valley (Pelham Valley of Grundy County, TN) (Bean & Coats, 1986) [surname index] \*
- Pioneer Days, Pelham, Tennessee, Grundy County (Ray, 1983)

- Sweet Days, Precious Memories: A Brief History of the Hixson-Skymont Community, Grundy County, Tennessee (Lane, 1984)
- Swiss Colony at Gruetli (Grundy County Swiss Historical Society, 2010) [name index]
- Swiss Colony at Gruetli (Jackson, 2013) [name index]

Published Local Records - Tennessee State Archives & Library

- 1880 Census, Grundy County, Tennessee (Sistler, 1993) [alphabetical by head of household] \*
- Cemeteries of Grundy County, Tennessee [Vol. 1 Abplanalp Family Gravesite to Oak Grove; Vol. 2 Old Baptist to Wooten Family] (Cemetery Book Committee of Grundy County Historical Society, 2013) [name index in each volume]
- Death Certificates of Grundy County, Tennessee: Including Death Certificates, 1908– 1925 and Selected Newspaper Death Notices, 1893–1914 (Sherrill, 1991) [name index]
- Grundy County Tennessee, Earliest Deeds, 1852–1867 (Sherrill, 1996) [name index] \*
- Grundy County, Tennessee, Estate Settlement Book, 1852-95 (WPA, 1939) [name index]
- Grundy County, Tennessee, Marriage Records, 1844–1880 (Sherrill, 1984) [alphabetical by groom; bride index] \*
- Grundy County, Tennessee, Marriage Records, 1850–74 (WPA, 1938)
- Grundy County, Tennessee Marriages, 1850–1874 (Douthat, 1982)
- Grundy County, Tennessee Marriages, 1921–1936 (Turner & Taylor, 1996)
- Grundy County, Tennessee, Records: Information Taken from the Unfinished W.P.A. Records (Allen, 1991) [name index]
- Grundy County, Tennessee, Special Census Records, 1850–1880: Agricultural Schedules, Slave Population Schedules, Mortality Schedules, Products of Industry (Sherrill, 1996) [name index] \*
- Grundy County, Tennessee, Will Book [1838-1874] (198?) [name index] \*
- Grundy County, Tennessee, Will Book, vol. 1, 1838–74 (WPA, 1938) [name index] \*
- Grundy County, Tennessee, Wills and Estates, 1844–1900 (Sherrill, 1986) [name index] \*
- Inventory of Grundy County Loose Records on Microfilm at the Tennessee State Library & Archives (Cooper, 1994)\*
- Law Enforcers in Grundy County, Tennessee, 1844-2008 (Sherwood, 2009) [name index]
- Neighbors in Grundy County, 1850 (Tylor, 1999) [name index] \*
- Neighbors in Grundy County, 1880 (Tylor, 2003) [name index]
- Private Acts of Grundy County, Tennessee (McIntyre, 1994)
- Swiss Colony Cemetery, Gruetli, Tennessee (Tylor, 1996) [name index]
- Tennessee, Records of Grundy County, Minute Book 1, 1844–55 (WPA, 1936) [name index]

- Tombstone Inscriptions of Grundy County, Tennessee (Sherrill, 1986) [surname index] \*
- United States Census, Grundy County, Tennessee, 1850 (Hobbs, 1986) [surname index] \*
- United States Census, Grundy County, Tennessee, 1860 (Wilhelm, 1988?) [surname index] \*
- United States Census, Grundy County, Tennessee, 1870 (Hobbs & Goins, 1989?) [surname index] \*
- United States Census, Grundy County Tennessee, 1880 (Hobbs, 1994?) [surname index] \*
- United States Census, Grundy County, Tennessee, 1900 (Wilhelm, 1987?) [surname index] \*
- United States Census, Grundy County, Tennessee, 1910 (Hobbs, 1990?) [name index]
- Vital Records from Grundy County, Tennessee, Newspapers (Tate, 1998) [name index]

Selected Manuscripts Material - Tennessee State Archives & Library

- Beersheba Springs Historical Society Subject Files, 1806–1983 (Microfilm Manuscript #1911, 1 reel)
- Beersheba Springs Ledgers and Scrapbooks, 1879–2000 (Microfilm Manuscript #1909, 2 reels)
- Beersheba Springs Museum Family Name Files, 1881–1996 (Microfilm Manuscript #1813, 1 reel)
- Brashear Family Papers, 1918-1943 (Microfilm Manuscript #1365, 1 reel)\*
- Eugene Plumacher Papers, 1877-1947 (Microfilm Manuscript #1324, 1 reel)\*
- German Swiss Settlement at Gruetli, Tennessee, by Frances Helen Jackson (Microfilm Manuscript #303, 1 reel)\*
- Gruetli Swiss Colony Records, 1869–1936 (Microfilm Manuscript #1717, 1 reel)\*
- Highlander Folk School Clippings. Monteagle, 1932–1961 (Microfilm Manuscript #214, 1 reel)\*
- Highlander Folk School Collection, 1932–1966 (Microfilm Manuscript #990, 9 reels) RESTRICTED
- Medical Account Books, 1871, 1883–1891 (Microfilm Manuscript #142, 1 reel)\*
- Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Records. Grundy County, 1882–1971 (Microfilm Manuscript #390, 3 reels)\*
- Northcut Family Papers, 1854–1942 (Microfilm Manuscript #1280, 9 reels)\*
- Samuel Hervey Laughlin Diary, 1845 (Microfilm Manuscript #40, 1 reel)\*
- Zilphia Horton folk music collection, 1935-1956 \*

Maps

<u>TDOT Map of Grundy County</u> <u>Plat Map of University of the South (1858)</u> <u>Grundy County - 1888</u>

<u>Grundy County Boundary Changes</u> <u>Original Swiss Colony</u> <u>Grundy County 1939 Highway & Census Map</u> Tracy City Sanborne Maps (Grundy County History & Heritage) <u>1894 Tracy City</u> <u>1901 Tracy City</u> <u>1907 Tracy City</u> <u>1917 Tracy City</u> <u>1926 Tracy City</u> <u>Sanborn Key</u>

**TnGenWeb Project - Maps Our Ancestors Followed** 

#### Cemeteries

<u>Grundy County Cemeteries – Find-a Grave</u> <u>Grundy County Cemeteries – USGenWeb</u> <u>Grundy County Cemeteries – Genealogy Trails</u> <u>Grundy County Cemeteries – TNGenWeb (Cemetery & Burial Records)</u>

### 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
"Beersheba Springs & L. Virginia French: the novelist	Gower, Hershel,	Y		
as historian." <i>THQ</i> 42 (1983), pp. 115-137.	1983			
"Chautauqua & TN: Monteagle & the independent	Porter, Curt,	Y		
assemblies." <i>THQ</i> 22 (1963)	1963			
"John Armfield of Beersheba Springs." <i>THQ</i> 3 (1944),	Howell, Isabel,	Y		
pp. 46- 64, 156-167.	1944			
"The Beersheba diary of L. Virginia	Gower, Hershel,	Y		
French." <i>ETHSP</i> 52 (1980), pp. 89-107; 54 (1982), pp. 3-	ed. 1982			
25.				
"The Highlander Folk School: the depression	Thomas, H.	Y		
years." <i>THQ</i> 23 (1964), pp. 358-371.	Glyn, 1964			
"The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly: a brief	Wills, Ridley II,	Y		
account of its origin & history." THQ 44 (1985), pp. 3-	1985			
26.				
"The New Deal in TN: the Highlander Folk School &	Price, Michael,	Y		
worker response in Grundy County." <i>THQ</i> 43 (1984),	1984			
pp. 99-120.				

"The supernatural in Summerfield." <i>TN Folklore Soc.</i> <i>Bull.</i> 27 (1961), pp. 52-55.	Marlowe, Mikii, 1961	Y		
"TN: social & economic laboratory." Sewanee Rev. <i>46</i> ( <i>1938</i> ), <i>p</i> p. 36-44, 158-166, 312-336.	Stone, Grave, 1938	Y		
"Witch hunt in TN: Highlander Folk School." New Repub. (Ma <i>r. 9, 1959</i> )	Horton, Myles, 1959	Y		
A report of the survey of the finances and management of the government of Grundy county, Tennessee.	Tennessee Taxpayers Association.			Y
Agricultural & social aspects of Swiss settlement in Grundy County, TN.	Neskaug, Selmer R., 1936	Y		
Agricultural & social aspects of the Swiss settlement in Grundy County, TN.	Neskaug, Selmer R., 1936	Y		
All the lost Octobers & other poems; edited by Benjamin H. Caldwell, Jr. & Herschel Gower	Tate, Leonard L., 1990	Y		
Beersheba Springs : 150 years, 1833-1983 : a history and a celebration / written and edited by Margaret Brown Coppinger [et al.] with the assistance of numerous contributors.	Coppinger, Margaret Brown, 1983	Y	Y	Y
County court minutes book I: Grundy Co., Tennessee, 1844-1855.	WPA		Y	
Death certificates of Grundy County, Tennessee : including death certificates, 1908–1925 and selected newspaper death notices, 1893–1914 / abstracted by Charles A. Sherrill.	Sherrill, Charles A., 1991		Y	Y
Dramatic activities & workers' education at Highlander Folk School, 1932-1942.	Petty, Anne W., 1983	Y		
Education for citizenship: a foundation's experience.	Tjerandsen, Carl, 1980	Y		
Family maps of Grundy County, Illinois: with homesteads, roads, waterways, towns, cemeteries, railroads, and more.	Boyd, Gregory A., 2006		Y	
Forgotten colony. Gruetli	Clayton, David E., 1971	Y		
Grundy County / by James L. Nicholson ; Robert E. Corlew, editor.	Nicholson, James L. Corlew, Robert Ewing, 1982	Y		Y
Grundy County, 1844–1976. Tracy City, the <i>Herald</i> , 1976. ( <i>special history publication representing vol. 47</i> , <i>no. 7, Sept. 2, 1976 of the Grundy County Herald</i> <i>combined with the North Grundy Star</i> )		Y		
Grundy County, 1946-1960: a chronology.	Grundy County Herald, 1977	Y		
Grundy County, Tennessee: Will Book	WPA			Y

		1		
Grundy County, Tennessee earliest deeds, 1852-1867.	Sherrill, Charles A., 1996		Y	
Grundy County, Tennessee marriage records, 1844- 1880.	Sherrill, Charles A., 1984		Y	
Grundy County, Tennessee Marriage Records.	Sherrill, C.A., 2021.		Y	
Grundy County, Tennessee records.	WPA, 1991		Y	
Grundy County, Tennessee special census records, 1850–1880: agricultural schedules, slave population schedules, mortality schedules, products of industry schedules.	Sherrill, Charles A., 1996		Y	
Grundy County, Tennessee, court records [microform] - Minute index 1848-1854; Minutes 1848- 1854; Deed Bk E index 1852-1957.	WPA			Y
Grundy County, Tennessee, earliest deeds, 1852-1867	Sherrill, Charles A., 1996			Y
Grundy County, Tennessee, marriage records, 1844- 1880	Sherrill, Charles A., 1994			Y
Grundy County, Tennessee, records : information taken from the unfinished W.P.A. records.	Allen, Penelope Johnson, 1991			Y
Grundy County, Tennessee: estate settlement book, 1852-1895.	WPA, 2014		Y	
Grundy County.	Nicholson, James L. ,1982		Y	
Highlander: no ordinary school, 1932-1962.	Glen, John M., 1988	Y		
History of the Highlander Folk School.	Thomas, H. Glyn, 1964	Y		
Homecoming '86 history of the Elk River Valley (Pelham Valley) of Grundy County, TN.	Bean, Arlene P., 1986	Y		
How the Swiss farmers operate on the Cumberland Plateau	Allred, Charles E., et al., 1937	Y		
Hubbard's Cove and beyond: history and genealogy of its people.	Sherwood, Bettye Wooten, 2007		Y	
Mountain voices: the centennial history of Monteagle Sunday School Assembly.	Waldrop, Frank C. ed.,1982	Y		
On the cutting edge: a history of the Highlander Folk School, 1932-1962.	Glen, John M., 1985	Y		
Opposition in process: the press, Highlander Folk School & radical social change, 1932-1961.	Durham, Frank D., 1933	Y		
Or we'll all hang separately: the Highlander idea.	Bledsoe, Thomas, 1969	Y		
Picturesque Monteagle Springs, the famous health & pleasure resort, in that wonderful cloud-land, the Cumberland Plateau.	Robert, Charles E., 1881	Y		

Pioneer days, Pelham, TN.	Ray, Henrietta B. 1985	Y		
Reminiscence: senior citizens of Tracy City. Tracy City, Grundy County Hist. Soc., 1990.	Grundy Co. His. Soc. 1990	Y		
Sequatchie Valley soldiers in the Civil War: Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion & Sequatchie counties in TN & Jackson County in AL	Blevins, Jerry, 1990	Y		
Sketch of Beersheba Springs & Chickamauga Trace.	Bentley, Blanche S., 1928	Y		
Sweet days, precious memories: a brief history of the Hixson-Skymount community, Grundy County, TN	Lane, Patricia G., 1984	Y		
Tennessee 1850 U. S. census slave schedule: Fayette, Fentress, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardeman Counties.	NARA, 1967		Y	
Tennessee 1860 U. S. census slave schedule: Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardeman, Hardin, Hawkins. Washington, [DC]: The National Archives, 1967.	NARA, 1967		Y	
Tennessee genealogical records: records of early settlers from state and county archives.	Whitley, Edythe Johns Rucker, 1980		Y	
Tennessee records of Grundy County will book.	WPA		Y	
The Beersheba Springs diaries of L. Virginia French, 1863- 1864.	French, Lucy V., 1986	Y		
The German-Swiss settlement at Gruetli, TN.	Jackson, Frances H., 1933	Y		
The Highlander Folk School: a history of its major programs, 1932-1961.	Horton, Aimee I., 1989	Y		
The long haul: an autobiography.	Horton, Myles, 1990	Y		
The mountain goat: tales of men, locomotives, coal trains, mountain grades, & a lot of memories are woven into a story of the Tracy City Branch Line of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis	Arbuckle, J.W. & Alan C. Shook, 1992	Y		
Tombstone inscriptions of Grundy County, Tennessee / by Charles A. Sherrill.	Sherrill, Charles A., 1986			Y
Tracy City from 1893 to 1899. Important events, deaths, marriages, etc. that have occurred here in the past six years.	Woodward, I.B 1899	Y		
Tracy City from 1893 to 1910 (inclusive): important events, deaths, marriages, etc. that have occurred here in the past eighteen years.	Woodward, I.B 1910	Y		
Unearthing seeds of fire: the idea of Highlander	Adams, Frank., 1975	Y		

Views from the mountain : columns by a country editor on values which endure / James L. Nicholson.	Nicholson, James L., 1974		Y
Views from the mountain: columns by a country editor on values which endure	Nicholson, James L., 1974	Y	
We make the road by walking: conversations on	Horton, Myles,	Y	
education & social change.	1990		