



William Grover Anderson, born in Boma, Tennessee, March 24, 1889. Married Miss Lillian Lee, July 21, 1915. Engaged in wholesale and retail hardware. He has built several large business houses at Baxter. Has been mayor of Baxter. He is a member of the County Board of Education, a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Anderson is one of Baxter's most valuable citizens. Taken from *A History of Putnam County, TN* by Walter S. McClain

William Grover Anderson: by Louis Huston Gill, s/o Preston Gill & Addie Anderson. Addie Anderson was the sister of William Grover Anderson. William Grover Anderson was born 24 March 1889 and married Lillian Lee. Lillian was born 21 November 1889 and died 4 July 1925.

"William was born a farm boy at Boma in the last year of President Grover Cleveland's first administration. Anderson was a Baxter banker and merchant whose interest in public affairs led him to three terms as Putnam County's direct representative in the State Legislature. Anderson was first elected to the legislature in 1927, serving under Austin Peay's term; again in 1929-30 under Governor Henry Horton; and later, in 1949-1950 under Governor Gordon Browning. Says Mr. Anderson, 'When I went for my first term, there wasn't a mile of hard-surface road in Putnam County, Tennessee.' Anderson was a member of the Putnam Board of Education 20 years, and was building committee chairman when the first Baxter Elementary School was built in 1923."

"After Anderson finished high school in Cookeville, he worked for a time at Boma in his Uncle W.T. Anderson's general store. In 1912, he went to Baxter, TN and worked until 1918 as cashier at the Baxter Bank & Trust Company, and that year he and his uncle formed a partnership in a department store in Baxter. It was the largest in the Upper Cumberland, boasting 'anything from the cradle to the grave.' They meant it too, for the partners were the county's first licensed embalmers. Mr. Anderson moved to Cookeville, TN in 1957. After an eight year tenure as general secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, he left his office at the corner of East Spring Street and South Jefferson Avenue, Cookeville, TN. William Grover Anderson was a 32nd degree Mason."

William Grover Anderson was the brother of my Grandmother Audra Camilla (Anderson) Denny. In 1923 Baxter Seminary, operated by the Methodist Episcopal Church under the Putnam County School Board, provided secondary schooling for hundreds of student in western Putnam County who otherwise would not have had it. William Grover was a supporting businessman that helped the seminary to grow rapidly. He was a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives

from 1949 to 1951. William Grover Anderson succeeded Richard Marklham as executive secretary of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce and worked in this post until 1966. Grover helped rally support for Tennessee Tech in 1946 when the college needed housing for the record enrollment after the war. From newspaper articles and pictures I know that Grover was a busy character. He was even an undertaker at one time. A lot of the information is in the book ***Putnam Country Tennessee, 1850-1970*** by Mary Jean Delozier. I remember Grover from when I was a kid visiting Grandmother Audra (Anderson) Denny. Audra Anderson Denny was the sister of William Grover Anderson. *by Audrey June (Denny) Lambert.*

William Grover Anderson, Sr.
by Joe Lee Anderson, his son

William Grover Anderson, Sr. was born on a farm at Boma, TN in the last year of President Grover Cleveland's first administration. Anderson was a Baxter banker and merchant whose interest in public affairs led him to three terms as Putnam County's direct representative in the state Legislature. Anderson was first elected to the Legislature in 1927. He served during Austin Peay's term, and again in 1929-30 under Governor Henry Horton. Later in 1949-50 he served under Governor Gordon Browning. Mr. Anderson said, "When I went for my first term, there wasn't a mile of hard-surface road in Putnam County, TN."

His proudest accomplishment as a legislator was his now famed "Million Dollar Bill" appropriation request which saved Tennessee Tech. He called for a million dollars to help build the school up, and he almost got it. After Governor Henry Horton vetoed the million dollar bill for Tech., he was still able to get a \$250,000 appropriation and a new lease on life for the college.

Anderson was a member of the Putnam Board of Education for twenty years, and was building committee chairman when the first Baxter Elementary School was built in 1923.

After my father finished high school in Cookeville, he worked for a time at Boma, TN with his Uncle William Tom Anderson's General Store. William Tom Anderson was the brother of Lewis Monroe Anderson.

In 1912 he went to Baxter and worked until 1918 as cashier at the Baxter Bank and Trust Co. That year he and his uncle formed a partnership in a \$90,000 department store at Baxter. It was the largest in the Upper Cumberland, boasting "Anything from the Cradle to the Grave." They meant it, too, for the partners were the County's first licensed embalmers – in a day when people were skeptical, not only of embalming, but of factory-made coffins, too.

Mr. Anderson moved to Cookeville in 1957. After an eight-year tenure as General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, he left his office at the corner of East Spring St. and South Jefferson Avenue, Cookeville, TN.

William Grover was a 32nd degree Mason.

Herald – July 22, 1915

Anderson – Lee

One of the prettiest weddings of the season was that of Miss Lillian Lee and Mr. Grover Anderson which was solemnized at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. J.E. Oliver, in Baxter Thursday evening, Rev. Alonso Harris performing the ceremony.

Miss Lee was so attractive in a beautiful gown of white satin; she carried bride's roses. The music was rendered by Miss Clara Miller of Nashville. Only the immediate family and a few intimate friends were present. The bride is an accomplished popular young lady and has a large number of friends in Cookeville. The groom is a prominent young businessman, cashier of the Baxter Bank and Trust Company.

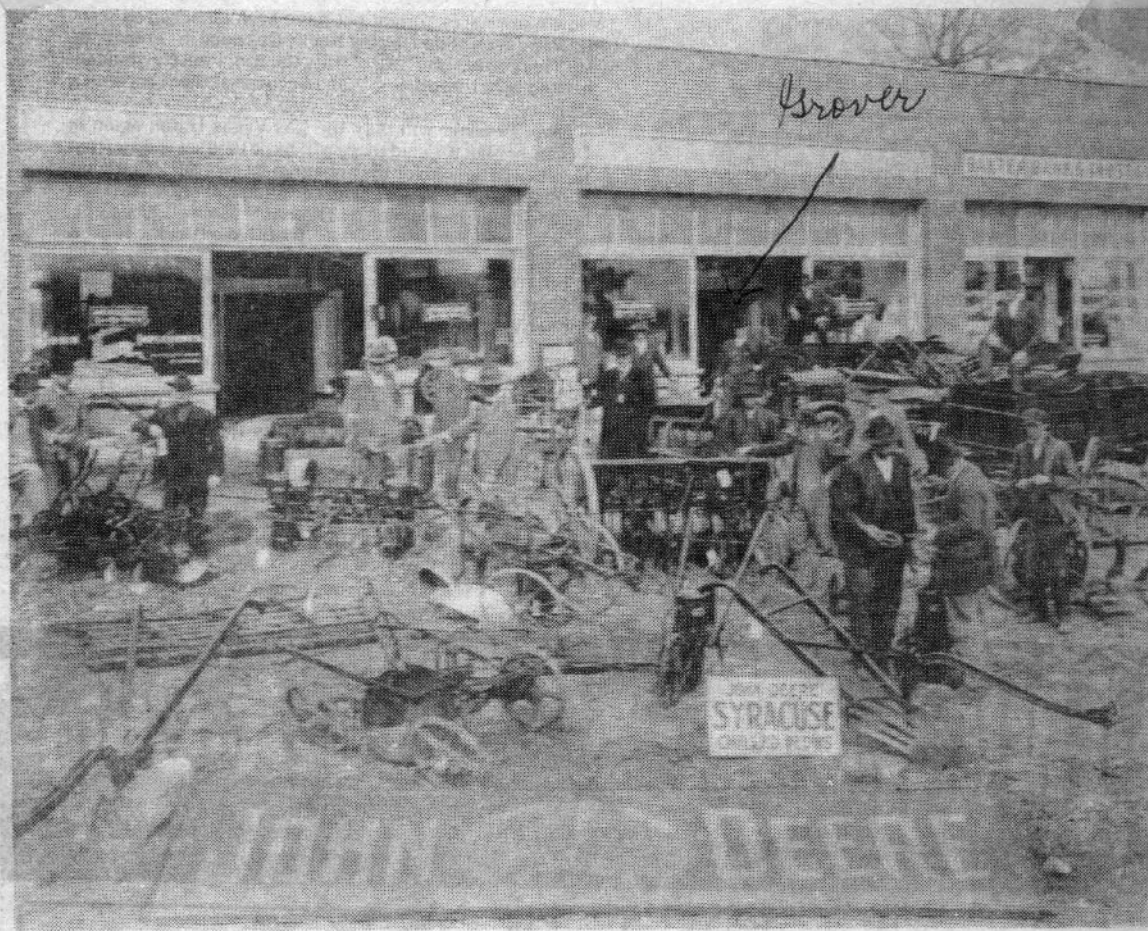
They will take a short western trip after which they will be at home after September the 1st to their friends in Baxter.

Herald – Citizen

March 30, 1970

Grover Anderson

William Grover Anderson, 81, died Thursday at Master's Nursing Home on the Algood Road

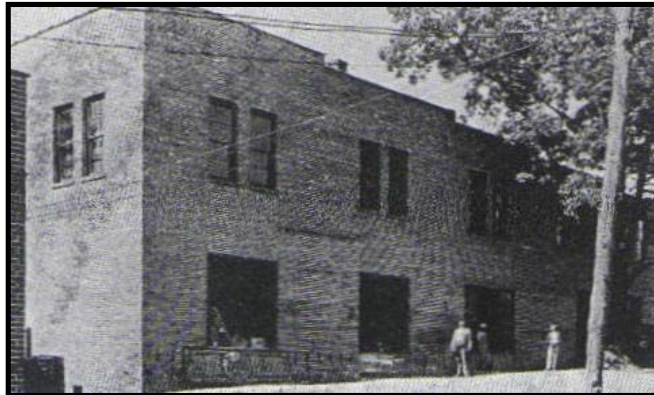


Baxter about 1918

This picture, made on March 25, 1918, is of W. G. and W. T. Anderson's Store and of Baxter Bank and Trust Co. in Baxter. Anderson's Store was displaying its John Deere farm equipment.

The two buildings occupied by the farm supply store became, on the left, Anderson's Department Store, and, on the right, Three Big Stores in One, in 1919. At the present time,

Baxter Recreational Center, owned by Silas Anderson, occupies the two W.G. and W. T. Anderson buildings; and Nunally's Drugs is located at the Baxter Bank and Trust Building.



William Grover & W. T. Anderson Hardware Company, building about 1920 in Baxter, Tennessee.

Herald Citizen

Services were held this week for Grover Anderson, 81, a prominent resident who helped save Tennessee Tech in one of its darkest days. A native, Anderson was a merchant in Baxter who served terms on the Putnam School Board and who for 40 years was a trustee at Baxter Seminary. He was serving as Putnam's state representative in 1929 when years of resentment against higher education and the stock market crash that led to the Depression threatened to dry up state dollars for the state college in Cookeville. That year, Anderson campaigned for \$1 million in state funding for Tennessee Tech for its annual budget. He got \$250,000. He attributed much of the shortcoming to competition from other state colleges in Tennessee that are scrambling for state support.

Source: Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly – Vol. III 1901 – 1931 by Ilene J. Cornwell with research by Verla S. Hodges – published by The Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville – 1988.

Anderson, William Grover (1889 – 1970)

HOUSE, 65th, 66th, and 76th General Assemblies, 1927 – 1931, 1949 – 1951; representing Putnam County; Democrat. Born March 24, 1889, in Boma, Putnam County; son of Louis and Matilda (Wallace) Anderson; extent of education not known. Married July 21, 1915, to Lillian Lee; names of children, if any, not found. His occupations included farmer, merchant, and businessman in Baxter and Cookeville, both in Putnam County; general secretary, Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. Served as mayor of Baxter; member county board of education; member Baptist Church; Free and Accepted Masons, 32nd degree, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Order of the Mystic Shine. Died March 26, 1970 in Cookeville; buried in Cookeville City Cemetery. Sources: Walter S. McClain, *History of Putnam County*, 140; Tennessee *Public Acts*, 1927, 1929, 1949; Tennessee Vital Records, Death Certificate #8880.



Micheal Martelia, Eldra, Addie & Audra Camilla Anderson
Sisters of William Grover Anderson.



William Grover Anderson with his sister
Audra (Anderson) Denny's grandchildren.
Left to right are Ronald Timothy Denny,
Richard Lewis Denny &
Audrey June (Denny) Lambert.

ANDERSON HARDWARE COMPANY

The Anderson Hardware Co. of Baxter, has been incorporated, with a capital of \$100,000. W. G. Anderson, W. T. Anderson, Lawrence Grace, J. A. Isbell, and J. H. Carpenter are the incorporators. Messrs. Anderson have been engaged in the hardware business for sometime and the new company will take over and continue the business on a larger scale.

Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN, front page, Thursday, 9 September 1920.

Grover Anderson To Run For The Senate

The Herald carries the announcement this week of W. G. Anderson, better known, perhaps, as Grover, as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the State Senate from the 10th Senatorial District, a position filled by W. A. Hensley in the last Legislature.

Grover needs no special introduction to the voting public of this district, having been a member of the law-making body as Representative for Putnam county, and while in this capacity was instrumental in having enacted a number of laws applying to this county as well as the whole State. He has been a staunch supporter of our schools, roads, and other institutions, having voted for a million dollar appropriation for T. P. I. which lacked a small majority of becoming a law over the Governor's veto.

He is a man of wide business experience, genial, whole-souled and has a host of friends who will heartily support him in this race. The Herald is informed that he will make further announcement regarding his position on the matters that are likely to be considered by the next General Assembly at a later date. He feels that his previous contact and experience with legislators and his acquaintanceship with the needs of this section qualify him to a large degree to represent this district in the next Legislature.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 12 June 1930

Anderson Thanks Friends and Pledges His Full Support:

With a mind and thought of deep appreciation, it is with a sentiment of feeling, from within my heart, that I say to my loyal and true friends, that I am ever grateful and I wish to thank each of you for the support given me in my recent race for Direct Representative for Putnam County.

I fully realize that any man who seeks public office and has opposition must surrender to the majority vote, I have known success, as well as reverses, this was my fifth race for this office and the first defeat.

My successful opponent had many friends who supported him at the polls. I admire them for their loyalty, and regardless of campaign differences and methods employed, I will cooperate with him in every way possible, and ask that my supporters give him their full support in the November election. The young man chosen to represent us is of fine character, and the fact that he confronts grave responsibilities means too that he will have a great opportunity, if he falls in line with Governor Browning, to perform a service in behalf of our county that would be an enduring tribute to his own record. I wish and hope for him that he may be able to give the people of our county and state loyal and efficient representation in the coming Legislature.

Sincerely, W. G. Anderson

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 20 August 1936.

W. Grover Anderson of Silver Point, Enters Race For Direct Representatives

W. Grover Anderson, of Silver Point, announces this week as a candidate for Direct Representative from Putnam County, subject to the action of the voters in the Democratic Primary Election, August 3, 1944.

Mr. Anderson's statement follows:

To the 26,250 People (1940 Census) of Putnam County:

I come before you as a candidate for Direct Representative. In 1926, I asked for the privilege of serving you in the State Legislature as Direct Representative, and you expressed your approval by electing me. Again, in 1928, you elected me to the same office. I feel that my acquaintanceship with the needs of this section, qualify me to a large degree to represent this county. I am wholly concerned with the welfare of the county. My record as Representative is open. I have nothing to conceal from you. Under our form of government, and by Article IV of the Constitution, which guarantees a representative form of government, you are the source of all authority, and it is your right and your duty to measure the conduct and the achievements, of public servants.

Putnam County never lost anything on account of any error on my part. The boundary lines of the County were not allowed to be reduced. But, on the other hand, I submit a few outstanding measures secured. House Bills Nos. 352,667, 269, and 246, and 539 brought total benefits to Putnam County in the amount of \$484,000. Of course these are not all of the beneficial measures secured for Putnam County during the time I represented you. The completion of a concrete highway through the county at a cost of \$2,000,000 placed our county in the forefront of any county in Middle Tennessee. Coupled with our great roads is our excellent school system, headed by the State Technical College, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, which received during my term of office over a million dollars for building and operating expenses, which funds were secured through the cooperation with the citizens of the county. A complete check-up will reveal that Putnam County received six million dollars of outside capital during the four years I was in office.

During my four years as your Representative, I talked with you publicly concerning all of the issues for the aid and advantage of the County and the State, as a whole, and during that time you had opportunities to know my stand upon everything which was for the good of all the people, and if again elected I will do likewise.

I believe that the office sought is one of great importance to you and to the State, and I believe that the experience that I have gained, and the knowledge I have of public affairs, qualifies me to serve you in a manner both befitting that office and rendering to you the greatest service possible. Based upon the above, I respectfully submit my candidacy.

Sincerely submitted,
W. G. Anderson

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 15 June 1944.

**W. Grover Anderson Withdrawn From
Direct Representative Race**

W. Grover Anderson, of the Thirteen District, today issued a notice to the voters of Putnam County, with drawing from the Direct Representative race. This leaves only two candidates in the field, Algood Moore, of Cookeville, and Stanley C. Sampley, of Monterey.

Mr. Anderson's statement follows:

"To the Democratic Voters of Putnam County:

"Since my announcement as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Direct Representative from Putnam County, in view of certain matters that have arisen that were beyond my control, I am withdrawing as a candidate for the office. In this connection, I wish to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to many many friends who have so loyally pledged me their support and influence and assure them that it will never be forgotten.

W. Grover Anderson."

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 27 July 1944.

W. Grover Anderson Announces for Direct Representative

Promising to publish all local bills before passage and pledging his support of a beer referendum, W. Grover Anderson, Silver Point farmer, today announced his candidacy for direct representative from Putnam County.

Qualified last week, Anderson, who served two terms in the house of representatives in the last twenties, gave full statement to the Herald about his becoming a candidate. He said his "prime motive" for wanting to return to the legislature is that, "I am deeply interested in our educational system."

Since last week when seven were qualified to make the race for representative, three have withdrawn their names. They are: Jeff D. Ray, Sims Hatfield, and Billy Stanton. Ray and Stanton are both ex-service-men.

The withdraws leave, besides Anderson, three other men in the race but one and perhaps two will withdraw before the ballots are printed, according to some of Putnam County's best political observers. In addition to Anderson, other men now in the race are J. M. Hatfield, C. W. Carrington, and Cecil Garrett.

Anderson's statement follows:

"The public interest of this county has been well served by the qualifications of a number of candidates for the legislature. The public always should have a choice because legislation should proceed from the people.

"I was one in the parade of possible candidates, and I now submit myself for your consideration as a candidate for direct representative, and I am deeply grateful for the expressed interest of many personal friends and the confidence expressed in me. I would not go to the legislature with the serpent of malice and hatred coiled in my heart against any individual, business, corporation, or organization. I would represent all the people as best I know how, for to do otherwise would be unjust and unfair.

"The public good rises above individual whims, and I know there is a call in our county for unity and an appeal for clear thinking in order that we may secure the much sought improvements necessary for the advancement of our county and its people as a whole. We should keep steady our determination to seek the best things for our county that she may maintain her place among the leading counties of our state.

"The services and conduct of one who has served in public office is a good criterion by which to judge his future services. If I am elected to represent our county I will serve all in a manner both befitting that office and rendering to you the greatest service possible. I have always had

confidence in the integrity and judgment of the people and endeavored to the best of my ability, to manifest my appreciation of their favors by rendering true service.

"My prime motive for returning to the legislature is that I am deeply interested in our educational system.

"I pledge myself to publish all local bills when introduced.

"I also pledge myself to support a beer referendum, and to leave all bond issues to a vote of the people," Anderson ended his statement.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 11 July 1946.

Anderson Seeks Post As Direct Representative

W. G. Anderson, well known Putnam County farmer, former banker and merchant, today announced his candidacy for direct representative of Putnam County. He held the post he seeks during terms of the late governors Austin Peary and Henry Horton.

Although he did not fully discuss all the questions which will arise as the campaign develops, Anderson did come out strong on several points as he set up an office in the Arcade Building, Cookeville where he requested those interested in legislative matters to write or visit him.

He said he would, after elected, set up a county legislative service under 15 heading, with a committee to study needed reforms in each. Anderson said he believed such a setup would "obtain for us the best things for our county so that she may maintain her place among the leading counties of our state."

Anderson said he would counsel with city, county and state officials, organizations and civic groups in order that "no one man shall have veto power," He also stressed that he would "make available to the local newspaper all bills pertaining to local matters before enactment."

A strong believer in keeping the church and state affairs separated, Anderson lashed out at the Public Act of 1947 which passed "a law levying a tax on the contributions to churches," He strongly rebuked the act and promised to work for its "immediate repeal,"

Anderson's full statement follows:

"I submit myself for your consideration as a candidate for direct representative for Putnam County, and I am deeply grateful for the expressed interest by so many, and for the confidence they have expressed in me.

"When elected I will propose a program of "beneficial legislation," and will organize under the following 15-point groups, a legislative service that will obtain for us the best things for our county that she may maintain her place among the leading counties of our state:

Agricultural, banking, insurance and loans, county affairs (county lines, liquor traffic, public health, sanitation, publicity, social welfare, (etc.) education and schools; finance and taxation; forestry; fish and game; rural roads and city streets; judiciary and law enforcement; labor and social security; manufacturing and mining; military and veterans affairs; municipalities and utilities (corporations, commerce, and railroads); professional and personal services; wholesale and retail merchants (commission and livestock sales); ways and means.

"I will counsel with city, county, and state officials, organizations and civic groups in order that no one man shall have a veto power, and I will make available to the local newspaper all bills pertaining to local matters before enactment.

"I would not go to the legislature with the serpent of malice and hatred pent up in my heart against anyone. I have never asked a favor of either candidate for governor, nor do I hold any envy or hatred fro any section of our state.

"The public rises above individual whims and I know there is a call in our county for unity and an appeal for clear-thinking in order that we may secure the much sought improvements necessary for the advancement of our county and the people as a whole, and I will serve all in a manner both befitting that office and rendering to you the greatest service possible.

"It shall be my purpose always to listen to the heads of our farm organizations and farmers, and to lend my best efforts to the development of our good farm programs. The TVA should expand and extend its facilities to all rural communities.

"The spiritual, industrial, and cultural growth of our county will be measured by the type of educational system the state builds. I shall favor the passage of legislation to increase the number of qualified teachers and to secure a salary adjustment for them. Decent salaries can be paid and, it turn, the public will then have a right to expect improved standards of instruction.

"It is fundamental in our American creed ever to keep the hands of the state off the churches of our land, and to keep the churches from mixing in state affairs, but Public Acts of 1947 changed matters. This is the first time in the history of the United States that any state has passed a law levying a tax on the contributions of churches. I condemn said act and will urge its immediate appeal.

"As I understand the veterans do not want special privileges, but they do want the opportunity to own homes, secure jobs, obtain education and to secure the blessings for which they so valiantly fought. Increased hospital facilities must be provided and I advocate that all ex-service men and women receive the same remuneration through a state servicemen's readjustment act.

"Our system of farm-to-market roads is a worthwhile project but the program is not wide spread enough, and the program of rural road development must be greatly extended and improved. Those who pay for them are entitled to action, and such a program is long overdue. Its success will be among my first and highest concerns.

"The state debt, anchored to the gasoline tax is on the rise again even though an additional anchor in the form of sales tax has been attached to it. If the president trend continues, the motorists and the consumer will be in bondage forever. There is thus being built up a mountain of bonded indebtedness in Tennessee with the whole load fixed squarely on the shoulders of the consumer to be paid in sales and gasoline taxes. None shall escape! The consumer must pay to the last farthing; thus, the sales tax is so fixed that it can not be repealed. So, watch your vote and send men to the legislature who will be on guard against a higher tax.

"I favor the removal of the sales tax from all the bare and elementary necessities of life and death, such as foods, medicine, work clothing, and burial goods, and to adjust the rate of one common level. I see no reason for the man who purchases on a 15-cent basis paying a six and two-thirds per cent tax as against the man who buys in larger quantities and pays two per cent.

"I favor the reduction of more than \$1 in our county property tax levy. This can be done and I shall discuss it at a later date.

"I also want to impress upon the people of this county that I am now and always have been a local optionist."

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 10 June 1948.

*See Anderson files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>