

BIOGRAPHIES/STORIES – COOKEVILLE CITY CEMETERY

Putnam Co., TN

Cookeville Department of Leisure Services,
Candlelight Cemetery Walks

(The people listed below were chosen by the Cookeville Department of Leisure Services and after research and a scripts were written the person chosen was portrayed by a local resident, actor or family member).

ABOUT THE COOKEVILLE CEMETERY: The Cookeville Cemetery officially dates from just after the Civil War. The original acreage was donated to the city. Subsequent additions were obtained by a special cemetery board of directors. Chairman, Joe Scott, owner of Scott's brickyard nearby, and later his son, presided over the acquisition of adjacent land as it became available, and managed the operation of the cemetery which was directly looked after by Opal Jackson. The City of Cookeville took over the care and operation of the cemetery in the mid eighties. Because the City Cemetery is relatively young, coming into being well after the beginning settlement of the Upper Cumberland, many persons of historical note are buried in other places...in church and family cemeteries in the area.

SEPTEMBER 2002: CANDLELIGHT CEMETERY WALK

JIM P. BARNETT, AND MARY LEE (WHITSON) BARNETT

An Ordinary Family and an Extraordinary Event.

The Barnett's were a very ordinary family and like many families in 1931...they were struggling to make ends meet in these early days of the Great Depression...a time, in Putnam County when, it seemed, that nobody but farmers and preachers had employment. Married for just a short time with two boys, James Harry, six, and Robert Harvey, sixteen months, they were probably fearful of being dependent on Mary Lee's parents, Judge Harvey Denton Whitson and Mrs. Whitson, when Jim took a highly coveted job with the U. S. Post Office as a Mail Carrier even though it meant moving to Nashville.

A record heat wave was the fateful element in this story...the story of an ordinary family, in escaping the oppressive heat, finds tragedy.... A tragedy that inspired one of the most poignant and spontaneous examples of community compassion and love in the history of Cookeville. It took place on the lawn of the Judge Whitson house, which still stands on the lot just behind the Cookeville History Museum on Lowe Avenue.

*"Grief fills the room of my absent child
Lies in his bed, walks up and down with me,
Puts on his pretty looks, repeats his words.
Remembers me of all his gracious parts,
Stuffs out his vacant garments with his form:
Then have I a reason to be fond of grief."
Shakespeare, King John*

JOINT FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR FIVE DROWING VICTIMS AT HOME FRIDAY

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN, Thursday, 6 August 1931

Thousands Gather At Whitson Home to Hear Last Rites
For Figures In Burgess Falls Tragedy;
Steel, Edwards, and Jarvis Conduct Service

Joint funeral services for Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Whitson, Mrs. J. P. Barnett and her two sons, Robert, 2, and James, 5, were held at the residence of Judge and Mrs. H. D. Whitson on Sparta road Friday afternoon. Burial took place in the City Cemetery.

A crowd of approximately 4,000 people gathered at the home to pay their respects to the quintet who were drowned when the boat in which they were riding at Burgess Falls sank on Wednesday night.

Services were conducted by the Rev. E. M. Steel, pastor of the Methodist Church of Cookeville, assisted by the Rev. Sam Edwards, of the First Baptist Church, of Nashville.

A motorcade, extending for more than a mile followed the three funeral coaches which carried the bodies to their graves.

Cookeville merchants, in response to a proclamation issued by Mayor Ezra Davis Friday morning, closed their places of business for two hours Friday afternoon.

*See **FIVE DROWNED AS BOAT SINKS AT BURGESS FALLS**

James Harry Barnett, b. 21 April 1925, TN – d. **29 July 1931**, s/o James P. Barnett & Mary Lee Whitson.
Robert Harvey Barnett, b. 15 March 1930, TN – d. **29 July 1931**, s/o James P. Barnett & Mary Lee Whitson.

***James P. Barnett**, b. 18 June 1894 – d. 8 October 1973

***Mary Lee (Whitson) Barnett**, b. 9 January 1901, TN – d. **29 July 1931**, d/o Harvey Denton Whitson & Etta Farley. Husband: James P. Barnett.

***Robert Jeremiah Whitson**, b. 28 October 1897, TN – d. **29 July 1931**, s/o Harvey Denton Whitson & Etta Farley, pg. 50: 1910 census.

***Alice Virginia (Smith) Whitson**, b. 31 January 1895, TN - d. **29 July 1931**

(The story of James “Jim” P. Barnett and Mary Lee (Whitson) Barnett was researched by Opless Walker, she also wrote the script. Actors Josh Winscott has appeared in *Alice In Wonderland* and in last year’s depot production of *Round Trip* and other area theatrical productions. Shannon Frazier played in *Annie*, *Godspell* and *Round Trip*).

JOAN PITT REW DERRYBERRY (Educator, Musician, Artist and First Lady)

Born, an only child, in Torrington, North Devon, England, she attended a boarding school near her home until she was 18. She later graduated from the Royal College of Music in London where she studied piano with enough accomplishment to be chosen to play the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with the London Philharmonic. She taught music at Wychwood School in Oxford and was a member of the Oxford Choral Society where she met William Everett Derryberry. They married in Great Torrington and would live in the U. S., moving from time to time, following Everett’s career until his appointment as the President of Tennessee Tech in 1940.



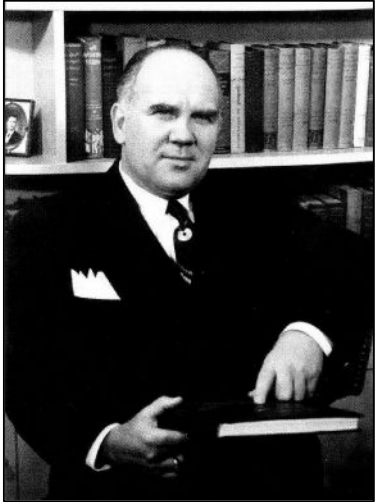
During the war years, Joan Derryberry was recruited to work with CROP (Christina Rural Overseas Program) giving speeches throughout the country including in Washington where she was invited to lunch at the White House with Eleanor Roosevelt. After the war she began teaching at Tech where she was the piano faculty until 1961 when she retired...taking up painting in earnest. She has produced almost 2000 very accomplished and highly sought after works. (Picture: Cookeville History Museum, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN).

As the much admired “first lady” of Tennessee Tech, Joan Derryberry always sought to bring the university community in closer communion with the local community and she instigated the formation of the “Town and Gown” club to further and was a long time member of the Book Lovers Club. She was a charter member of St. Michael’s Church in Cookeville, which was named after, and contains a stone from, her home church in England.

The Art Gallery and the Concerto Competition at Tennessee technological University are named in her honor.

(The story of Joan Pitt Rew Derryberry was researched by Sally Crain-Jager & Larry Slaboda. Script: Larry Slaboda. Actor: Rebecca Magura is the Manager of Cookeville's PBS affiliate, WCTE. She has performed extensively in theatrical productions throughout the area.

WILLIAM EVERETT DERRYBERRY, Gov. Prentiss Cooper chose William Everett Derryberry as president of TPI in 1940. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Oxford University as a Rhodes



scholar. Everett married Joan Pitt-Rew of Devonshire, England, who came to Tech with him. Derryberry served as TPI's president until 1974, the longest serving chief executive of the institution. During his administration, Tech built most of the campus structures, added the master's and doctorate programs, became Tennessee Technological University, and increased student enrollment to almost 6,400.

President Derryberry's avocation was architecture, and building the campus was his delight. He used the quadrangle design that he had observed in Oxford, constructing buildings, dormitories, athletic facilities, an administration building, a library, a basketball coliseum, a university center, and a new president's home were all constructed during his presidency.

President Derryberry was interested in developing the academic program at Tech. He achieved accreditation for the individual programs as well as reaccreditation for the school; he established the master's degree program in several disciplines and the Rh.D program in engineering; and he worked with the Tennessee General Assembly to change the school's name to Tennessee Technological University.

Source: Tennessee Technological University by Mancil Johnson and W. Calvin Dickinson, pgs. 42-45.

EMMA Z. (NEWMAN) HENSLEY, born 4 December 1914, Putnam Co., TN, died 31 March 2000, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, daughter of Sam Burton Newman & Zura Anne Rippetoe. She married Herman J. Hensley in 1945. He was born 29 October 1908, died 28 December 1991.

“Government Girl”, Wife and Mother

She grew up, a bright and curious child, in the rural hills of the Gentry community. When Emma Newman was 12 the family moved to Cookeville where she went to the Cookeville City School and later the new Cookeville High School and Tennessee Polytechnic Institute devoting extra time to developing shorthand and typing skills which helped her to land her first clerical position with the Homestead Project. She later went to work for Albert Gore, Sr., Tennessee's Commissioner of Labor and moved to Washington when he was elected to congress. She passed the Civil Service Exam and became a secretary for the Reconstruction Finance Committee before being recruited to become part of a small office staff of the American delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco and, there, she acquired skills lent themselves, in some small way, to the successful birth of the United Nations. While in San Francisco, Emma lived with her sister Ogeal Blythe, whose husband, Benjamin, was flying missions in the Pacific Theatre. She also helped her sister Sammie find work with the Conference enabling all three sisters to attend the signing of the original UN Charter. Sammie went on to work in New York for the United Nations and later became a secretary in the White House where she served during the presidencies of Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan. Emma retired from government service and returned to Cookeville.

Emma Newman married Herman Hensley of Cookeville in 1945 taking advantage of his stopover in San Francisco on his way to a tour of duty in the South Pacific. Their family includes two daughters, Sandra and Julia and four grandchildren.

(The story of Emma (Newman) Hensley was researched by Margery Hargrove & Judy Duke. Script: Margery Hargrove. Actor Amy Guidry (Emma (Newman) Hensley) has appeared in the Depot Production of *Bits and Pieces* and in many other area productions.

JUDGE OSCAR K. HOLLADAY, born 6 November 1876, died 10 May 1941, son of William Alexander Holladay & Martha Jane Jared. He married Marguerite "Maggie" Denny on the 17th of September 1902. She was born 28 Nov. 1881, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, died 6 August 1949, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, daughter of Judge Thompson Luther Denny (1851-1911) & Frances "Fannie" Jane Ford (1854-1907).



(Pictured: Oscar King Holladay & his wife Marguerite Maggie (Denny) Holladay on their wedding day).

A native of Putnam County, Judge Holladay was the Circuit Judge for the Fifth Judicial District for over ten years and was one of Cookeville's most prominent citizens. He was educated at the Yeargin School of Cookeville, Dickson Normal at Dickson, Tennessee and the University of Tennessee. He received his law degree from Cumberland University and was admitted to the state bar in 1898. He ranked as one of the leading lawyers in this section of the state.

He was elected three times to the State Senate where he distinguished himself by authoring Tennessee's Prohibition Law. He also served as City Recorder, City Attorney, Mayor of Cookeville and terms on the City and County Boards of Education and as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Tennessee. Holladay was a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco in 1920. He was president of the Citizens Bank and was active in the work of the Masons, Shriners, and other civic organizations. He also served twenty-five years as chairman of the board of stewards of the Cookeville Methodist Church where he taught men's Bible class for 36 years. He was president of the Wesley Brotherhood and a member of the Educational Committee of the Tennessee Conference. Oscar K. Holladay married Maggie Denny in 1902. They had a son and two daughters.

(The story of Judge Oscar K. Holladay was researched by Janey Bassett & Nancy Jane Childress. Script by Margery Hargrove. Actors: Janey Bassett is a fourth grade teacher at Sycamore Elementary. She is the great granddaughter of Judge Holladay. She last appeared in the outdoor production of *Bits and Pieces*. Matt Bassett, Janey's son has been a regular performer on local states. In this Cemetery Walk he plays his great, great grandfather).

*"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time."
Longfellow, Resignation*



MARTIN LUKE MEDLEY, born 25 June 1907, Putnam Co., TN, died 25 June 1907, Putnam Co., TN, son of Zina "Zinnie" Medley & Sarah Fronie Judd. He married Pauline Maddux, born 10 October 1906, Buffalo Valley, TN, died 6 May 1999, Putnam Co., TN, daughter of Charles Burton & Martha Jones.

Radio Pioneer and Political Visionary

Martin Luke Medley had a life-long commitment to public service. He held office as a Putnam County Judge for sixteen years and served as Cookeville's mayor for two terms. He also served as a Justice of the Peace. He was

repeatedly elected to office in a County that was a Democratic Party stronghold in spite of the fact that he was a Republican throughout his life and secretary of the Tennessee Republican Party for 20 years.

His advocacy and influence were partly responsible for some of the defining characteristics of Putnam County, including the hospital, library, municipal building and fairgrounds. He helped to ensure an adequate water supply for Cookeville and much of the rural County and his representation on the governor's committee to route Tennessee's interstate highway system guaranteed Upper Cumberland and Cookeville's access to I-40.

Medley was also known for his commitment to the improvement of education in the area. Sometimes called the "school buildingest Judge" he influenced the consolidation and improvement of area schools and the construction of new schools.

In 1940, Medley founded WHUB radio, which became one of the first small-market CBS affiliates in the country and the first station the Upper Cumberland.

(The story of Martin Luke Medley was researched by Charles Denny, & Larry Slaboda. Script by Charles Denning. Actor: Burton Putnam (M. L. Medley) is a federal probation officer. His acting credits include appearances in *Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got the Will?*, *Annie* and *Godspell*.

REV THOMAS GRISSOM SMITH, born 14 February 1842, Clinton Co., KY, died 29 April 1912. He married 1st Lucinda C. (Minor) Smith, born 23 September 1844, died 20 May 1893, md 2nd Alta Cora (Terry) Smith.

Soldier, Poet and Preacher

George Schmidt came from Germany and fought as a colonial soldier in the Revolutionary War. His great-great grandson, Thomas, less than 100 years later, would fight as a Confederate soldier in the Civil war. Thomas Grissom Smith enlisted in the 13th Cavalry at Sparta at the age of 19 as a private. He was a sergeant when he was wounded and a 2nd Lieutenant at the time of his separation after being captured by the Union forces in Georgia. His older sister, Anna, was married to the famous Guerilla leader, "Champ Ferguson, whose bands of "outlaws" were involved in many raids and forays in the Upper Cumberland region in support of the Confederacy. It is known that at least one of his brothers (Isaac) rode Ferguson.

After the war he became a Cumberland Presbyterian minister in Cookeville. Smith did attend school but it is probable that he was largely self educated. He aspired to be a writer and poet frequently contributing articles to the county newspaper. A manuscript, "Eulogy on Lafayette," and examples of his poems reflect his erudition and inform us that he wrote well according to the style of the day.

Thomas Grissom Smith was born in Clinton County, Kentucky, the ninth of ten children. He married Lucinda C. Minor in 1869. They had four children. After her death in 1893, he married Alta Cora Terry. They had five children together. He taught and preached the Gospel here for fifty years.

(The story of Thomas Grissom Smith was researched by Maurine Ensor Patton & Edgar R. McCain. Script: Cindy Putnam. Actor: Homer Kemp (Rev. Thomas Grissom Smith) is a Professor of English at Tennessee Tech. He has performed in many community theatre events and was seen most recently in the Drama Center production of *Of Mice and Men*).

LETITIA PEARL (ARNOLD) WILSON, born 25 August 1872, TN, died 27 April 1937. She married Clarence E. Wilson, born 26 January 1868, TN, died 26 December 1929. She married Clarence E. Wilson's - occupation in the 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN was marble works. Clarence E. Wilson helped found the Granite and Marble Works which is still located across from the Cookeville City Cemetery. Cookeville Marble & Granit, Inc., 149 W. Spring Street, P. O. Box 1450, Cookeville, Tennessee, established 1890.

Wife, Mother

"She (Pearl) was selected to be part of this Cemetery Walk because she lived a life that was very typical of the times ... times when parents, because of disease and the state of medical practice, too often outlived their children," Judy Duke said.

Wife, Mother

Letitia Pearl Arnold's great great grandfather, William Quarles, was one of the earliest settlers to come here. He came with a Revolutionary War land grant which he turned into "White Plains Plantation." But that is not the story she will tell. She was raised by strict parents. She attended Lebanon Seminary for Ladies and Ward College in Nashville. She was a beautiful woman with very gentle ways...."Like an Angel," her husband often said. McGregor Smith knew, when he first set eyes on her in church, that they would one day marry. "I had to be introduced to her three times before she remembered me," he would tell friends...but marry they did.

For the most part, Pearl lived a life like one would expect of the wife of a successful business man in those days. And, that is the she will tell...a snippet of a memoir about what living was like...in that specific time...in this specific place.

Clarence E. & Letitia Pearl Wilson had a son named Arnold Seymour Wilson, born 2 August 1897, TN, died 12 October 1901, buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

(The story of Letitia Pearl Wilson was researched by Cindy Putnam. Script: Cindy Putnam. Actor: Cindy Putnam (Letitia Pearl (Arnold) Wilson) is a teacher at Algood Elementary School where she regularly reminds her students that we write our own life stories. Cindy has a broad experience in community theatre as a director and performer. She directed the recent Back Stage production of *Sordid Lives* and she directed the Depot presentation of *Bits and Pieces*).

SEPTEMBER 2004: CANDLELIGHT CEMETERY WALK

MAJOR RICHARD FIELDING COOKE, born 8 January 1787, Culpepper Co., VA, died 15 October 1870, Putnam Co., TN, buried in the Cooke Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. He married Margaret Cox, born 28 March 1791, died December 1849, buried in the Cooke Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.



Soldier, Surveyor, Senator

Born in Culpepper County, VA, in 1787, Richard Fielding Cooke and his family moved to Tennessee in 1810. After marrying the former Margaret Cox, Cooke joined the military and became a major in the War of 1812 under the leadership of General Andrew Jackson.

In 1816, at the age of 29, Cooke and Margaret moved to Putnam County area and with several thousand acres of land, started a farm in what was called "Big Woods," southwest of present-day Cookeville and about three miles south of what is now the Double Springs community.

Major Cooke prospered not only on the farm, but also in the surveying business. After the death of Margaret, the age of 64 or 65, he decided to venture into a new career, that of politics. In 1851, he ran a successful campaign for the Tennessee Senate. An energetic senator, he sponsored and supported many important bills.

Probably the most important was a bill he sponsored in 1854 that re-established Putnam County, which had been established and subsequently dissolved ten years earlier. The bill was passed and on February 11, 1854, the House voted and Putnam County, Tennessee was finally a reality.

To honor Major Cooke, the General Assemble amended the bill so that when the county seat was established, it was to be named Cookeville to honor the sponsoring individual. Cookeville may be the only county seat in Tennessee that was named before it actually came into existence.

Major Cooke died on October 15, 1870, after a long and successful life.

*“Nothing has prepared me for the measure of pride
that I feel for this town of Cookeville....”*

(The story of Major Richard Fielding Cooke was researched by Judy Duke. Script by Cindy Putnam. Actor: Bruce Welker (Major Richard Fielding Cooke) has performed in collegiate, community and professional theatre for nearly four decades. Bruce is a long-time veteran of the airwaves and is the Director of Sales for Clear Channel Radio in Cookeville).

Note: Mrs. Phy Gibson was the subject of the newspaper's weekly birthday interview. She turned 82 on May 4. Her daughter, Mrs. Hugh Caruthers, threw her a surprise birthday party.

Mrs. Gibson is the great granddaughter of Cookeville's namesake, Maj. Richard Fielding Cooke, a Revolutionary War veteran who was an early settler here.

Her home is on Proffitt Street where she's lived for the past 30 years. Her husband died two years ago. He was retired from the Cookeville Police Department, in which he'd served as an officer for 26 years.

Herald-Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN: 7 June 1966.

Note: Richard Fielding Cooke: Cookeville was named in honor of Richard Fielding Cooke, the fifth son born to Robert and Susannah Cooke. His middle name, Fielding, was his great grandmother's maiden name. He was born in the year 1787 in Culpepper County, VA. The usually accepted date and the date on his gravestone is July 8, 1787.

The Cooke family moved to the Greenville District of SC in 1791. It was there that Cooke spent much of his young life. In 1810, Cooke moved to Maury County, TN. On March 31, 1813, Cooke married Margaret Cox of Edgefield Distinct, SC. He was married by the Rev. Zion Blythe.

Over a year later, on September 20, 1814, he enlisted as a soldier in the War of 1812. He became a sergeant in Captain Abraham Dulaney's company, Major Woodfolk's 3rd regiment and was promoted to 3rd Lieutenant on October 1, 1814. Before the war ended, he earned the rank of Major under General Andrew Jackson.

RICHARD FIELDING COOKE

Story written for the 2008 Cookeville City Walk: Major Richard Fielding Cooke was one of the most prominent pioneer citizens of Putnam County. Born in 1789 in Culpepper County, Virginia, he was a veteran of the War of 1812 fighting with President Andrew Jackson. He came to Maury County, Tennessee in 1810 and with his wife Margaret Cox Cooke, finally settled in Jackson County in 1812. In 1816, they moved to a farm about 9 miles southwest of present day Cookeville. As a younger man, Cooke was a farmer and a surveyor. In his later years after Margaret died, Cooke, at age 64, ran for public office and became a member of the General Assembly of Tennessee. As a senator he was untiring in his efforts to secure the re-establishment of Putnam County. The county was first established in 1842 but was dissolved by court suit. His colleagues in the General Assembly, in recognition of his valiant services to re-establish the county (1854), amended his bill to provide that the county seat when decided should be named Cookeville in his honor.



CLARA JANE (COX) EPPERSON, born 4 May 1869, Gainesboro, TN, died 10 June 1937, TN, daughter of Robert Alexander COX, (1832 - 1892), Lawyer at Gainesboro, TN & Nancy Joseph DRAPER, (1834 - 1908), d/o James Draper & Jane Moore Fitzgerald. She married John Ananias EPPERSON. She was a descendant of David COX who gave the land which was used to lay off the town of Gainesboro, TN.

Clara Jane (Cox) Epperson passion for the written language inspired her pioneering efforts to establish two libraries in Putnam County. She was born in Gainesboro, Tennessee in 1869, just after the Civil War. Clara went to school in Gainesboro and then attended Price's Nashville College for Young Ladies. She taught school for a few years until she married John Epperson and moved to Algood where she started a small library with her

own books.

After her husband's death in 1919, Clara moved to Cookeville to live with her daughter, Elise Howard, the wife of Dr. W. A. Howard. She became involved in many activities in the community. Clara helped organize the Book Lover's Club and led the club in creating a library for the city. Her passion for writing led her to write many articles, poems, and children's stories that were published locally. She started a local chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club and served as state and national chairman of drama, as well as president, for the Federation of Women's Clubs. Clara was even Poet Laureate of Tennessee for a brief period of time.

After her death in 1937, the city of Cookeville named the library the Clara Cox Epperson Library in her honor. Her lifetime endeavor to promote reading and writing has remained in existence. Today, the Putnam County Library holds more than 20,000 books and is a credit to the inspiration of Clara Cox Epperson.

(Story of Clara Jane (Cox) Epperson was researched by Museum Staff. Script by Dr. Calvin Dickinson and Dr. Bettye Kash. Actor Dr. Bettye Kash (Clara Jane (Cox) Epperson) has many years of theatrical experiences from acting to directing and is currently a music teacher at Jere Whitson Elementary School. Host: Gay NcNabb.

MARY VIOLA (SIMRELL) GREENWOOD, born 27 October 1884, died 22 January 1974. She married Robert Monroe Greenwood, born 17 September 1883, TN, died 14 October 1980, s/o Polk Greenwood. In the 1900 census 1st Civil, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 322, Family 339 – Polk Greenwood is head of household 50 yrs. old, born January 1850, TN, a widow, occupation, Merchant. Living in the household: Robert, 15 yrs. old, born September 1884, Eliza, 13 yrs. old, born April 1887 & Walter Greenwood, 11 yrs. old, born September 1888. All born in TN. Also living in the household: Dollie Longford a divorced servant, 28 yrs. old, born April 1872, TN & Martin Peek, brother-in-law, 55 yrs. old, born May 1845, TN a widow.



Student, Educator, Wife and Mother.

At a time when it was uncommon for girls to extend their education, Viola Greenwood pursued her love for knowledge and proper education. Born in Sparta in 1884, her father was a Civil War captain and successful lawyer. Viola's mother, a teacher, gave her a legacy of learning, which Viola would strive to pass on to others throughout her life. She began her education at the Dibrell Normal School and received diplomas in shorthand, typing, and bookkeeping from Draughton's Business College in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1911, she married Robert Monroe Greenwood and the couple moved to Cookeville where they had their only son, Robert Greenwood Jr. Following in her mother's footsteps, Viola became a teacher and started the Viola Simrell Greenwood Business School in her own home. Over a period of thirty years, she taught over six hundred

young women. Embracing the roles of wife, mother, and professional, Viola Greenwood was truly a woman ahead of her time.

(The story of Viola (Simrell) Greenwood was researched by Maurine Ensor Patton and Kimberly Frick-Welker. Script by Dr. Calvin Dickinson & Kimberly Frick-Welker. Actor Kimberly Frick-Welker (Viola (Simrell) Greenwood) has appeared in leading roles for over twenty-five years but finds directing to be equally rewarding. A native of Carbondale, Illinois, Kimberley “Kim”, her husband Bruce Welker, and two daughters, Heather and Chelsea Frick moved to Cookeville this past December. Host: Dan Fenlon.

Mary Viola Greenwood Obt.

b. 27 October 1884 – d. 22 January 1974

COOKEVILLE – Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Viola Greenwood, 89, were to have been conducted from the First United Methodist Church today at 2 p.m. with Rev. Ben Alexander, pastor of the church officiating.

Mrs. Greenwood died Tuesday in a local nursing home following an extended illness. She was a native of Tennessee and the daughter of the late Stanton and Mary Baker Simrell.

Mrs. Greenwood taught business subjects to over 900 girls in her home for many years. She was the first Stenographer employed by the First National Bank and was a member of the United Methodist Church, the Woman’s Society of Christina Services, The Eastern Star, Business of Professional Women’s Club and the DAR. She stayed active until her health forced her to retire from her many activist.

She is survived by her husband, Robert M. Greenwood, a son, Robert Staton “Bob” Greenwood, two grandchildren, Bobby Greenwood, Cookeville, and Mrs. Ann Gholson, Nashville; and great grandchildren.

Burial was to be in Cookeville City Cemetery. Hooper and Huddleston in charge of arrangements.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 24 January 1974.

ROBERT PERRY MORGAN, born 15 January 1867, died 13 September 1933. He married Flora Viola, born 17 June 1873, died 27 January 1938. Risk Taker, Businessman, Husband, Father.

Born in 1867 on a small farm in Jackson County, Tennessee, the youngest of thirteen children, Robert Perry Morgan helped put Putnam County, Tennessee, on the map.

Early, he realized the farm could not feed his large family so he began buying local products such as hides, dried fruit, and ginseng. He filled a wagon, hauled it to Gainesboro, loaded it on a boat and floated it to Nashville. He made a small amount of money, so on the next trip he added chicken, eggs, and feathers.

Then in 1890, the train came to Putnam County, opening access to larger cities. He found a rail car could hold 4500 chickens and would sell for 75 cents each. His largest shipment was 30 cars full of chickens with five cars full of 75,000 eggs. Putnam County made more in chickens and eggs than all other farm products put together. It didn’t take Morgan long to become “the Chicken King” of Putnam County, indeed putting it on the map for sure.

Throughout his lifetime, Perry Morgan made and lost a great deal of money. His business acumen, however, put Cookeville and Putnam County, Tennessee, on the map. Morgan died in 1933 at the age of sixty-six.

(The story of Robert Perry Morgan was researched by Margery Hargrove and Mary Jean Delozier. Script by Margery Hargrove. Actor Henry Fincher (Robert Perry Morgan) is a native Cookevillian. He practices

law on the square in Cookeville and is very happy to be playing his great grandfather. Kyle Farley is a general studies major at TTU with aspirations of becoming a Youth Minister. Host: Alice Fincher Kilgrow. Henry Fincher as of 2008 holds the position of State Representative for Tennessee).

MAHALEY WILEY SHAW, a memorial stone was placed in her honor in Cookeville City Cemetery, it is engraved *This marks the grave of Mahaley Wiley Shaw who donated the first two acres of this cemetery and was the first person buried in Cookeville Cemetery.* Mother, Daughter, and Thoughtful Donor.

By Deed of Gift, Mahaley Wiley Shaw and her daughter, Artimissa, donated two acres of land to the City of Cookeville for use as a cemetery. What prompted the gift? We are not sure. What we do know follows: Mahaley was married to Thomas Jefferson Shaw. Their son, Joseph, was living in one of the first frame houses built in the area, on what is now Dixie Avenue, with his wife Margaret Apple of Chestnut Mound. Even though he was past thirty at the outbreak of the Civil War, he quickly joined the Army of the Confederacy. He was a major in the Fourth Tennessee Battalion when he was shot in the chest during the Battle of Newington, Georgia, one of many engagements around the important port city of Savannah. He was transported to a nearby plantation owned by the family named Enoch who cared for him for nine days before he succumbed to his wounds. The exigencies of the war prevented the transportation of his corpse to Cookeville, so the Enoch family graciously buried him on their ground going so far as to erect a grave marker with an engraved tribute to a man they never really knew.

Shortly after the Civil War, as the period of reconstruction invigorated the economy of the area, they opened the Shaw House, a hotel which was located near the city square joining the Isbell Hotel and the Reagan (later the Richlieu and the Sidwell.) The Shaw House included common rooms for meetings and events, a livery stable and an elegant restaurant. Jefferson opened a saloon as well on the south side of the square, which already contained four others. The Shaws prospered during this period and they were able to acquire a fair amount of property including the cemetery site. The Shaw House, the Reagan Hotel several wooden buildings near the square were destroyed in a great fire in 1881. This loss, though, was not as painful as the loss, nearly twenty years earlier, of their son Joseph, a son buried so very far from home.

(The story of Mahaley Wiley Shaw was researched by Linda Hawkins & Margery Hargrove. Script by Cindy Putnam. Actor Joyce Tatum (Mahaley Wiley Shaw) is a retired pre-school teacher and now does storytelling across the state. She is a veteran of local theatre and is recreating one again Mahaley Wiley Shaw).

JOSEPH FRANCIS SCOTT, born 13 March 1868, died 7 January 1934. He married Mary E., born 27 March 1870, died 23 December 1952. Brick Mason, Businessman, City Councilman.

Joseph Francis Scott, a prominent early Cookeville businessman, was born in Manchester, Tennessee, in 1868. It was not unusual at the time for someone to learn a trade early in life and such was the case with Scott. Learning to make bricks, he gained prominence as a builder and was responsible for building some of the more impressive buildings in Cookeville. Scott built such buildings as the Cookeville Train Depot, the Arcade on the Square, the Putnam County Courthouse, and the Central Emanuel Baptist Church, all of which are still standing today. In 1911, he contracted to build the Dixie Hall at what is now TTU. It was requested that he use his own machine-made "special" pressed brick. He also built many of the building located at the Westside of Cookeville and many of these bricks were imprinted with the name "Scott."

The Scott home place was located on Scott Street, about halfway between Stevens and Jackson Streets. Most of what is now the Cookeville City Cemetery, at one time, was Scott land.

In addition to owning the Scott Brick Yard, Mr. Scott was a Cookeville City Councilman who built apartments and owned several rental properties that he rented only to families employed by him.

Scott was known for his southern hospitality and was known to invite people on a regular basis in to his home to enjoy his wife, Mary Elizabeth's fine cooking at their 6' x 20' dining room table.

The tradition of brick laying was passed down throughout the Scott family for generations, even into the 21st century.

Joe Scott died in 1965 and to honor his memory the family erected the only brick headstone in the city cemetery.

(The story of Joseph Francis Scott was researched by Cheryl Scott Chambers. Script by Dr. Calvin Dickinson. Actor Josh Winscott (Joseph Francis Scott) last appeared in the Cookeville inaugural Shakespeare in the Park production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Oberon. He has done many other shows in Cookeville and is honored to appear in his second Cemetery Walk. Host: Janey Bassett).

MARY FRANCES WHITSON, born 1 July 1911, died 1 June 1927. She was the daughter of the philanthropist Jere WHITSON. Student, Daughter, Granddaughter.

Excitement filled the air as sixty-three Cookeville High School seniors prepared for their graduation on Friday, June 3, 1927. An unusually wet spring had dampened the outdoor activities of the active teenagers.

As the weather brightened just two days before they were to receive their diplomas, it was time to make some last minute memories that had to last a lifetime.

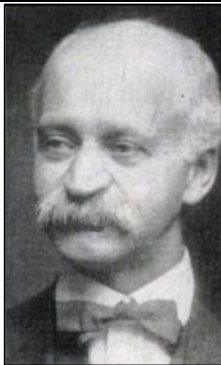
On Wednesday, June 1, Mary Frances Whitson borrowed her daddy's automobile to take her classmates for a ride. That afternoon, Mary Frances had let her friends out of the car, and drove over to her grandparent's home to show them the new watch that her father had given her for graduation.

Leaving her grandparent's home, she drove north on Dixie Avenue to meet more of her classmates at T.P.I.

A railroad crossing...a change in a passenger train schedule...a vacant seat at the graduation..!

(The story of Mary Francis Whitson was researched and the script written by Dr. Oplless Walker. Actor: Molly Malone (Mary Francis Whitson) is a senior at Cookeville High School where she will soon be playing Mrs. Savage in *The Curious Savage* on October 5, 6 and 7. Hannah Harris (Friend) is a junior who is home schooled. She is involved with the Cookeville Children's Theatre and will soon be playing the Little Mermaid in the upcoming production of *The Little Mermaid*. Host: Dr. Oplless Walker).

ELMER LINCOLN WIRT, born June 1863, Olmstead Co., MN, died 1935, Putnam Co., TN, son of Alvin & Kate WIRT. He married Katherine "Katie" DIMOND/DIAMOND. Newspaper Editor & A Founding Father of Tennessee Polytechnic Institute.



Born in 1863, Elmer Wirt grew up on the prairies of Minnesota. He worked many different jobs, such as stage conductor, before taking an interest in the newspaper business. Elmer occupied many different jobs with newspapers in the Oronoco, Minnesota area, where he learned how to set type and other jobs related to the field. At the age of thirty-one, Elmer followed his family down south to Cookeville, Tennessee, a town less than forty years old at the time. Desiring to get into the newspaper business, Elmer started a small newspaper, the Putnam County Herald, and wrote about progressive topics such as the importance of schools in the area, the arrival of the railroad system, and the need for an incorporated town. He became a representative in the Tennessee General Assembly and used that political influence to transform Dixie College into a technical school. Elmer was the author of the legislation creating Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. This institution of higher public education would become Tennessee Technological University, a vital part of the cultural and economic growth of this community.

(The story of Elmer Lincoln Wirt was written by Charles Denning and the script was also written by Charles Denning. Actor: Philip Gibbons (Elmer Lincoln Wirt) is a lifelong resident of Putnam County. He is an on-air personality for the Country Giant and also a voice-over artist with Heyman Talent in Cincinnati and Arlene Wilson Management in Atlanta. Host: Amy Guidry.

SEPTEMBER 2006: CANDLELIGHT CEMETERY WALK



MYRTLE (HURST) BARNES, born 1877, IN, died September 1952, Cookeville, TN. She married Jessie Crockett Barnes.

Myrtle Hurst Barnes was a Northern Methodist, a prohibitionist, and a Republican who followed her heart when in 1907 she traveled from Oklahoma to Tennessee to spend the rest of her life with Jesse Crockett Barnes. Barnes was a member of the Church of Christ, a purveyor of spirits, and a Southern Democrat who believed women should be seen and not heard. How then could two people who seemed so different become a couple? She was attracted to his charm and good looks and he was attracted to her “fire” and beauty.

Myrtle (Hurst) Barnes & her husband Jesse Crockett Barnes pictured left.

Myrtle listened to her heart when she went to extreme lengths to protect her marriage from an adulterous woman. On Decoration Day, May 11, 1912, she boarded the Tennessee Central “shopper” train as it came to a stop in Double Springs, TN. Myrtle was looking for her husband and a certain female passenger. Holding the Colt 25 under her apron, Myrtle took her life into her own hands and proceeded to fire a shot at that passenger. The woman fell to the ground.

Myrtle was arrested by Sheriff A. L. Weeks and her bond was set at \$50,000 for murder in the first degree. She entered a plea of not guilty. By September 30, 1923, the all male jury, due to the brilliance and eloquence of her lawyer, Oscar K. Holladay, found Myrtle “not guilty due to insanity.”

Myrtle Barnes became active in the politics of the times and was elected to the local Republican Executive Committee of Putnam County. She also became the first female embalmer in the state of Tennessee. She was indeed a well-respected person in the Cookeville community. She died in 1952.

*“All human actions have one or more of these seven causes:
Chance, nature, compulsion, habit, reason, passion, and desire.”
Aristotle*

(The story of Myrtle (Hurst) Barnes was researched by Cindy Putnam and Dr. Sam Barnes. Script by Cindy Putman. Actor: Alice Fincher Kilgrew)

Myrtle (Hurst) Barnes Obs.

Mrs. Myrtle Barnes Dies At Cookeville:

Mrs. Myrtle Hurst Barnes, 76, died at 4 a.m. today at her home here after a long illness.

She was a native of Indiana, but had lived here almost 40 years. She was the widow of J. C. Barnes. (*Jesse Crockett Barnes*).

Mrs. Barnes was a member of the Methodist Church and was active in the work of the Ladies Aid Society. She was also a member of the Wesleyan Service Guild.

Mrs. Barnes was a past matron of the local Eastern Star and held offices in the grand chapter of Tennessee for several years. For many years, she was active in Republican affairs here.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete, pending the arrival of relatives. Whitson Funeral Home is in charge.

Survivors include 2 daughters, Mrs. Victor Wilson, Alma, MI, and Mrs. Norman Siglo, Los Alamos, NM; 2 sons, Allan Broshear Barnes, Los Angeles, CA and Frank Barnes, Detroit, MI; 2 step-daughters, Mrs. Cora Bartlett, Lebanon, TN and Mrs. Mahalia Wyatt, OK; 2 step-sons, Robert Barnes, TX and John Barnes, Detroit, MI.

Banner newspaper, TN: 24 September 1952, pg. 14.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER, (1861-1865)

Husband, Father, Son

His name could have been Johnny, Zebediah, Joseph , or Ashely. His name was not what was important unless you happened to be commanding officer or his mother. He was young, idealistic, handsome, invincible, and oh so brave; he loved his South, his way of life, and he was going to fight for “The Cause” no matter what.

Many young Southern boys eager to fight in the “War of Northern Aggression” joined the Confederacy, but as the war dragged on the Confederate troops began to drastically dwindle and many youngsters were forced to join the ranks of the Southern army. So many of them only had “peach fuzz” on their young faces and should never have been allowed to fight in such a bloody conflict. Some came home scarred not only physically but emotionally as well. More often than not, however, those young children never saw their beloved families again.

*“If there must be trouble let it be in my day,
that my child may have peace.”
Thomas Paine*

(The story of the Civil War Soldier was researched by Cindy Putnam. Script by Cindy Putnam. Actors: Rebecca Magura and Max Magura).

ALICE KEITH FORD, born 11 August 1894, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, died 22 October 1977, daughter of Thomas Draper Ford & Virginia Belle Birdwell.

Editor, Bookkeeper, Secretary



Alice Keith Ford was born in 1894 to Thomas Draper Ford and Virginia Belle Birdwell Ford. Her grandfather, Charles Randolph Ford, was one of the first settlers of Cookeville. She and her two siblings, George and Frances attended the old Cookeville City School. Alice attended high school at Dixie College which is now of course Tennessee Technological University.

Her first job after school was with the Gainesboro Phone Company. Mr. J. M. Cox was president of the company at the time. In addition he was also the publisher of the Putnam County Herald Publishing Company.

Cox must have recognized something special about the attractive young Miss Ford with her bright blue eyes, wavy hair and smile that covered her whole face. She had not been with the phone company long when Cox called her one Friday night and asked her to report to the

publishing company on the following Monday morning. She was to become not only the “Society Editor,” but also the bookkeeper and secretary from 8 until 5 every week day and until noon on Saturdays.

Her name first appeared in December 1938 as the “Society Editor” of the Herald and remained there for thirty years. Being in this position garnered Alice invitations to most weddings, parties, luncheons, and other social events in Cookeville. She was quite a striking figure at all the parties always with her hat, gloves, and purses to match. The Herald began to grow as did the town of Cookeville, and it wasn’t long before the Society Editor’s reporting took up a whole page in the paper.

With the growth of Cookeville, the Cookeville Herald and the Cookeville Citizen combined and the Cookeville Herald/Citizen was born – the first daily newspaper in the Upper Cumberland. Alice remained as Society Editor but sports, industry, education, and the arts vied for space and her articles became shorter.

*“To write beautifully, is to inscribe thoughts on paper in
a flowing, imaginative way. With aspirations to intrigue and inform;
it’s truly an art on paper, filled with emotion
and thought in a smooth, aesthetically brilliant way...”
Paul Acquasanta*

(The story of Alice Keith Ford was researched by Margety Hargrove. Script by Margety Hargrove. Actor: Kristen Wells).

WILLIAM JEFFERSON ISBELL, born 23 December 1840, Buffalo Valley, TN, died 20 March 1895. He was the son of James Livingston Isbell and Rebecca Jones Isbell. He married 1st Sara C. Cameron on 3 February 1861. It is unknown what happened to that union. On 1 August 1867 he married 2nd Amanda Helen Starnes. The 1870 Putnam County census states that William Jefferson Isbell was teaching school at that time. In 1880 his profession is County Court Clerk and he was also the owner of the Isbell Hotel in Cookeville.



At one time Isbell was a trustee in the Methodist church. Isbell was known to travel all over Putnam County collecting taxes and more often than not carrying large sums of money. On the night of November 29, 1875, Isbell was expected to spend the night at the Allison Stand Inn, located nine miles west of the city of Cookeville, because he frequently stayed there when he was in the western end of the country collecting taxes.

Unfortunately, this fact made William Jefferson Isbell a target for possible robbery. On that night, just as the sun was beginning to set, two travelers from DeKalb County, Tennessee, ran into a resident of the western end of Putnam County, Jim Brassell. The three men knew each other and agreed to meet at Jim Brassell’s house later that evening.

This meeting was to plan a robbery that night of the Allison Inn and of none other than the trustee and tax collector of Putnam County, William Jefferson Isbell. In addition to the three aforementioned men, Jim Brassell’s two younger brothers, Joe and Teek Brassell were present also and standing in the shadows was their sister, Amanda. After stopping at the family still house, the plan was made. However, at the last minute Jim backed out but encouraged the other four to proceed. They did with Amanda Brassell still hiding in the shadows. Unbeknownst to the robbers, Isbell became ill due to a reoccurring stomach ailment and had stopped for the night before he reached the Allison Inn.

Call it destiny or fate or chance or coincidence – whatever you choose. The lives of Joe and Teek Brassell and their sister Amanda will forever be lined to the life of William Jefferson Isbell – tax collector and trustee of Putnam County, TN.

“If the desire to kill and the opportunity to kill

Came always together, who would escape hanging?"
Mark Twain

(The story of William Jefferson Isbell was researched by Cindy Putnam and Maurine Ensor Patton. Script by Cindy Putnam. Actors: Burton Putnam and Cindy Putman).



DR. WALTER STEPHEN MCCLAIN, born 24 August 1868, Putnam Co., TN, died 28 February 1953, Cookeville, TN, son of Lemuel Rux McClain and Sarah Emma "Emily" Burton. He married 1st Minnie Avery and 2nd Jessie Bush.

Husband, Writer, Doctor of Osteopathy.

Like many youths before him, Dr. Walter Stephen McClain struggled with what path his life should take. He wanted to be a doctor, teacher, lawyer, and a newspaper man. His father, Lemuel Rucks McClain, was a doctor and young Walter would follow

in his footsteps. However, Walter, unlike his father, did not become a doctor of medicine, but instead, he chose the obscure field of osteopathy. That is, the idea that the physical body, including its systems and organs, can be manipulated by trained hands offering a positive effect on the health of the patient. He graduated from the Southern School of Osteopathy in Franklin, Kentucky, where he also spent some time teaching. Then he came back to Cookeville and began a successful practice in the field. Dr. McClain's interests were broad and he dabbled in many other things.

In the 1890's Dr. McClain entered the newspaper industry and founded The Cookeville Citizen. His opinions were shared in many articles on controversial topics such as politics, the Ku Klux Klan, and the theory of evolution. In 1925, Dr. McClain published a book, *The History of Putnam County*, the first attempt to record the history of this county. Not only did this man spend many years healing the sick, but he also utilized his talents to write many publications that challenged the mind.

(Pictured: Dr. Walter Steven McClain, founder of the Cookeville Chapter of the Red Cross, was a descendant of William Quarles, one of the early settlers of Putnam Co., TN. This photo taken by Harding Studios shows him and his son Victor in uniform with a proud wife and mother Minnie Avery McClain).

"The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want,
drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not."

Mark Twain

(The story of Dr. Walter Stephen McClain was researched by Charles Denning. Script by Charles Denning. Actor: Dwight Henry).

DR. ROBERT JOHN MOSCRIP, born 4 January 1844, died 2 October 1917. **Wife: Emma P. Sleightam Moscrip, born 6 November 1855, died 9 January 1936.**

Husband, Father, Civil Engineer

Born in Canada Robert John Moscrip, the name-sake of Scottish poet Robert Burns, moved with his parents to Omaha, Nebraska at a young age. Having served in the Union Army, Major Moscrip became a Civil Engineer of distinction after the Civil War, and surveyed the historical route of the Union Pacific Railroad. Major Moscrip was on the Union Pacific train engine when the famous photograph was taken at the driving of the Golden Spike by officials of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific in 1869 at Promontory Summit,

Utah, marking the inauguration of the transcontinental railroad. It was while Moscrip was on the payroll of the Union Pacific that he made friends with 'Wild Bill' Hickok and 'Buffalo Bill' Cody.

Officials of the Knoxville and Nashville Railroad, which was chartered in 1886, hired Major Moscrip to survey the best railroad route from Nashville through the Upper Cumberland to eventually link up with the City of Knoxville. While surveying east of Cookeville, Moscrip was hired by the Cumberland Mountain Coal Company to lay out a new town on the Cumberland Plateau. A contest was held to name the town, and Moscrip won by suggesting the name of Monterey.

Major Moscrip made the first map of Cookeville, named many of its streets, and served a term on the Cookeville Board of Aldermen. Not only did Major Moscrip leave his 'footprints in the sands of time,' he left railroads across the Upper Cumberland and throughout the U.S.

*"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time."
Longfellow*

(The story of Dr. Robert John Moscrip was researched by Dr. Oplless Walker. Script by Dr. Oplless Walker. Actors: Op Walker and Kay Walker).

CLARA ANN STARNES, born 6 May 1901, died 14 January 1984. born 6 May 1901, TN - died 14 January 1984, b. 1906 – d. 16 October 1979, d/o Shela Bedford Starnes (1872, TN -21 Oct. 1963) & Nissie Bates Starnes (b. 1880, TN - d. 21 Oct. 1963), md on the 17 April 1896, both buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. (1920 census, 12th Dist., Wilson Co., TN: Dwl: 11 – Shela B. Starnes is head of household, 47 yrs. old, TN md to Nissie N., 40 yrs. old. Children: Alton J., 20 yrs. old; Clara A., 18 yrs. old; Alva D., 16? Yrs. old; Daly D., 13 yrs. old & Bonnie S. Starnes, 10 yrs. old. All born in TN).

Teacher, Librarian, Devotee of Learning & Books

Born in 1901 to the teacher of a one room school, Clara Ann Starnes spent her childhood surrounded by books and learning. Her love for books, learning, and children inspired her to help others to appreciate the value of books and a good education.

"Miss Clara," as she was called by many, began her formal education in her father's one room schoolhouse. After graduating from the eighth grade she attended high school at what was to later become Tennessee Technological University. At the end of her formal education, when she was only eighteen years old, she began teaching a one-room school of her own.

Because of her love for learning and books, "Miss Clara" returned to Teachers in Nashville, TN with a degree in Library Science. Clara joined the Cookeville Book Lover's Club and when in 1923 it was decided that all twelve of the club members purchase a book, she was eager to do so. Because of the success of these twelve women and their fund-raising efforts, a circulating library of over a thousand books was started in 1929. And it was with this beginning that Miss Clara Starnes achieved her life-long goal of becoming a librarian.

The library continued to grow and in 1939, the public library and the Putnam County School Library were combined into the Clara Cox Epperson Library and "Miss Clara" became its first librarian.

Upon retirement, "Miss Clara" stayed active in her church, The First Baptist Church, continued her reading, and her other love sewing. Until her death in 1984, her home continued to be a welcoming place for all her nieces and nephews and books.

"A book is not only a friend, it makes friends for you.

*when you have possessed a book with mind and spirit,
you are enriched. But when you pass it on,
you are enriched threefold.”*
Henry Miller

(Story of Clara Ann Starnes researched by Margery Hargrove. Script by Margery Hargrove. Actors: Amy Guidry (Clara Ann Starnes) and Lillie Philpot as Molly.

2008 CANDLELIGHT CEMETERY WALK
Cookeville Department of Leisure Services

13 September 2008, Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

This event is for the benefit of the History Museum and Cookeville Depot Museum

ABOUT THE COOKEVILLE CEMETERY: Shortly after the War Between the States, a former member of the Cookeville community, Mrs. Mahaley Wiley Shaw and her daughter, Artimissa, donated two acres of land to the City of Cookeville for use as a cemetery.

Historically it is not actually known as to why they donated the land, but Mrs. Shaw's son, Joseph, was wounded in the Civil War and eventually died. The exigencies of war prevented the transportation of his body to Cookeville so he was buried on a farm in Georgia. It is, therefore, the common belief that the Shaw's donated the land in Joseph's memory. Once the land was donated to the city, a special cemetery board of directors was established and they obtained subsequent additions. Chairman, Joe Scott, owner of Scott's brickyard nearby, and later his son, presided over the acquisition of the cemetery.

The day to day managing was done by Mrs. Opal Jackson for many years. In the mid-eighties, the City of Cookeville took over the care and operation of the cemetery, hence the name Cookeville City Cemetery. Compared to other cemeteries in our region, the City Cemetery is relatively young, established after the beginning settlements of the Upper Cumberland. Consequently, many persons of historical note are buried in church and family cemeteries in the area.

There are 9,500 graves in the Cookeville City Cemetery with some 200-300 unmarked.

Dating back as far as 1912, the Cookeville community has taken great interest in the cemetery. In 1927 it is recorded that the trustees asked the Cookeville community to donate finances to help clean and maintain the cemetery. According to a 1927 *Putnam County Herald and Upper Cumberland News* "...the first cent ever contributed to the Board of Trustees for work in the cemetery was...when offerings were made for this work at the regular preaching services at the Baptist, Cumberland Presbyterian and Presbyterian churches – the aggregate amount of offerings made at these three churches being \$33.63."

According to an article in a 1927 *Putnam County Herald and Upper Cumberland News*, "Cookeville has one of the prettiest cemeteries in the state, and it is a sacred spot with us all." And as you are about to experience, it still is!

Cookeville City Cemetery office hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (931) 372-8086, Rick Garrison, Superintendent & James Clinton, Groundskeeper.

MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE: By Judy Duke, Administrator of Museums

"There is history in all men's lives." William Shakespeare

Every other year since 2002, we have walked through the Cookeville City Cemetery in the early fall to showcase our local history in an interesting way and to celebrate the contribution of former citizens. Funeral homes, death, sadness, ghost and things that go bump in the night are what most people think when the word cemetery is brought to mind. Rightly so, I suppose, but I think that there is another way to look at cemeteries. I have always liked to walk through cemeteries, especially the older ones. It is interesting to

see the names and dates that have been chiseled into the tombstones. Those names and dates are important, but those dashes between the dates are representative or symbolic, if you will, of the years of each individual's life. As always we strive to be diligent in regard for historical accuracy and truthful characterization, but after all it is a theatrical event.

Tonight you are going to be a part of our Cookeville City Cemetery Walk IV. For those of you who have walked with us in our three previous walks, welcome back. For those of you who are experiencing this for the first time we hope you will leave with a new appreciation of Cookeville and a few of the people who have helped make her the town she is today.

Any theatrical event whether on a stage, a street corner, or as a candlelit walk in a cemetery, takes a great number of people. Our walk requires many volunteers as well as staff members of the Department of Leisure Services. It takes over 1600 candles, 100 bales of hay, numerous torches, props and many sizes of costumes to bring this event together. I want to personally thank all the researchers, the script writers, the actors/actresses, the musicians, and the guides who all volunteer their time and talents. I also want to recognize the entire staff of the Department of Leisure Services especially the Cemetery staff, the Maintenance staff, the Drama Center staff and of course the Museums' staff. Without these volunteers and staff this event could not possibly happen.

And without you, our audience, all our efforts would be in vain, so thanks for coming. If you would like to participate as a volunteer at either the Cookeville Depot Museum or the Cookeville History Museum give us a call at 520-5455 or 528-8570.

Music by Blackeye Williams – Acoustic Guitars: Don Prince and Eli Prince – Harmonica: Jack Horton. Pre-show musical presentation of old hymns and ballads will begin one half hour before each tour, at 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions by Rick Woods, Director of Leisure Services and Public Facilities City of Cookeville.

Guides Scripts and Guide Director: Joyce Tatum. Linda Henderson, Elissa & Nathan Longfellow, Lilli Philpot, Matt Hunter, Denny and Karen Guzlas & Holly Hughes.

Production Staff: Producer, Chad McDonald; Artistic Director, Judy Duke; Technical Director, Brandon Wells and Chad McDonald; Costumes/make-up, Amy Vickers/Terry Hughes; Admissions, Steve Guilt; Publicity, Tamara Guzlas, Liz Engels; General Assistance, Pam Philpot, Amy Vickers, Rick Garrison, James Clinton, Alan Boles, Linda Henderson & Dillion James.

Special Thanks: We would like to acknowledge the following contributors: All the families that provided key information and granted us permission to visit the gravesites of their loved ones; as well as: Bruce & Virginia Throckmorton, the *Herald-citizen*, Liz Engels, Charlene McClain, Maurine Ensor Patton, Friends of the Depot Museum Board, Friends of the Cookeville History Museum Board, Jane Ellen, Jim Herron, Dave Johnson at Cookeville Communications, George Allen Mead, Tech Players, Cookeville Children's Theatre, Charles Long, Mary Jean Delozier author of Putnam County, Tennessee 1850-1970, Margery Hargrove, Jill Bolling, Laura Wolfe, Mike Allen and Van Looper.

COL. WILLIAM HUBERT CRAWFORD (Humanitarian, Law Enforcement Officer)

b. 6 January 1896, Whites Bend, Jackson Co., TN – d. 8 April 1982



“The conqueror is regarded with awe; the wise man commands our respect; but it is only the benevolent man that wins our affection.” William Dean Howells.

William Hubert Crawford was known as “Chief” to some, as “Colonel” to others, but both titles were appropriate for him. Born on January 6, 1896 at

Whites Bend, Jackson County, Tennessee, Hubert Crawford became somewhat of a legend in Putnam County before his death in April of 1982.

(Pictured: William Hubert Crawford)

He was well known as a military figure (WWI and WWII) and later as sheriff and police chief. In his later years he became a force of benevolent charity in Cookeville. At the outbreak of WWI, he and his brother Keith joined the US Army Engineer and served in Belgium. Between the wars, Col. Crawford was instrumental in the establishment of a horse cavalry unit in Cookeville as part of the Tennessee National Guard.

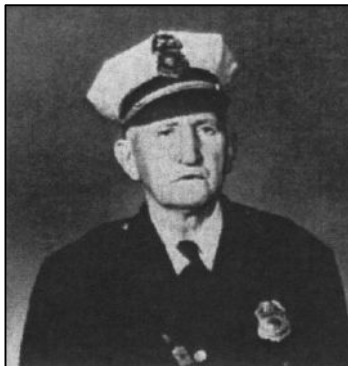
At the start of WWII, he reported to his commanders with a 175-man unit. In WWII he served in the military police, gaining the experience which would serve him after the war as sheriff of Putnam County, and later, Cookeville police chief. While serving as police chief, he gained national recognition when he instituted a “wake-up” service for long-haul truck drivers who parked and slept in Cookeville at night. Throughout his life, Crawford was active in many civic organizations. He was a charter member of the Cookeville Lions Club, served as post commander of the American Legion, and three time Legion District Commander. He also was a Mason. Best known among his list of civic works were his charitable activities with the Legion’s Big Brothers organization. In 1975 former Governor Ray Blanton proclaimed June 5 as “Hubert Crawford Day” in Cookeville and came here to name the Colonel “Ambassador of Goodwill.” His wife was the former Helen Dow. The Crawford’s had three children and were members of the First United Methodist Church.

(Story of Col. William Hubert Crawford researched by Charlene McClain. Script by Mark Creter. Actor: Mark Creter).

ALVIN PHYLANDER “PHY” GIBSON (Farmer, Law Enforment Officer)

b. 1878 – d. March 1964, h/o Lillie L., b. 4 May 1884 – d. 15 May 1968. They were married on the 24 May 1903, both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

“Obedience to lawful authority is the foundation of manly character.” Robert E. Lee



Alvin Phylander “Phy” Gibson was born in 1878 as one of twelve (some research says twenty-five) children to Asa Young Gibson, Alvin was a twin to Julius Leander Gibson. Phy and Lea, as they were called, were raised on a farm two miles south of Cookeville in the Indian Creek area. Before he began his career as a night policeman in 1928, he farmed. He moved to Cookeville in October 1927 with no intention of becoming a law enforcement officer but rather as he said, “I had a fine team of horses and was in the hauling business.” *Pictured right: Alvin Phylander “Phy” Gibson.*

On May 24, 1903, he married Lillie Myrtle Lindsey, a direct descendant of Major Richard Fielding Cooke for whom Cookeville was named, and they had eight children – four boys and four girls. It was “Uncle Bud” Choate, a retiring policeman, who first got him interested in police work. At the time Jere Whitson was mayor and he hired “Mr. Phy” as the night policeman on the west side of town. He made his first arrest on his third night of policing. At the time there was only Gibson on the night shift and the policeman did not have uniforms. One of the culprits did not believe he was a policeman and consequently decided to challenge “Mr. Phy.”

According to Gibson, he worked eight years before the under ten police chiefs and seven different mayors. He never shot anyone and only struck three of all those he arrested. In 1955 at the age of 76, “Uncle Phy” retired after almost 27 years as a Cookeville night policeman. He was known as a tough but compassionate law enforcement officer who always had the courage to do the right thing. He respected people and in turn earned their respect. As he was quoted in the *Chattanooga Sunday Times* in January 1955, “...I’m happy

to say through, that I believe I hold the good will and respect of 99 per cent of all I have ever had to arrest.” Gibson died in a Nashville hospital in March of 1964.

(Story of Alvin Phylander “Phy” Gibson researched by: Bill Gibson. Script by: Bill Gibson. Actor: Bill Gibson).

MRS. MARGARET HARRIS (Mother)

b. 4 July 1900, Clarksville, TN – d. 5 June 1984, w/o Finis Ewing Harris Sr., b. 3 August 1899 – d. 28 August 1956.



“He lived to wear his country’s arms. He died to save its honor. He was a soldier..and he knew a soldier’s duty.” Citation of Honor United States Army Air Forces.

Pictured: Margaret (Harned) Harris.

Margaret (Harned) Harris was born in Clarksville, TN in July of 1899 to Peggy Lee and Myra Gill Harned. From the beginning she had a wonderfully promising life in Clarksville. In 1921 as a young woman of 20 she married a loving and soon to be successful attorney, Finis Ewing Harris, Sr. (pictured: Finis Ewing Harris Sr.).



The Harris’s started their family a year later with the birth of Finis Ewing Harris, Jr. Their second son, Perry Rowe Harris, was born in 1923 and their third son, Mark Harris, completed their happy family. It was in 1926 they moved to Cookeville and Finis, Sr. started his local practice. On December 7, 1941 the perfect life that Margaret had known was shaken with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. With three sons who wanted to help their country and two of them already of age to service in the military, she knew her life would never be the same. All three men enlisted, Finis Jr. was sent to Europe and became a pilot flying bombing runs over Germany in a B-17, Perry Rowe was sent to the Pacific to operate a Gunner-Radio in a B-25 bomber, while Mark stayed stateside attending a military academy. The winter of 1944 shattered the lives of Margaret Harris and her husband. The two older brothers were both killed within four weeks of each other the telegrams with the news received only seven days apart.

(Story of Margaret (Harned) Harris researched by: Opress Walker, Maggie Harris Wharton & Pam Philpot. Script by: Pam Philpot. Actress: Karen Guzlas).



Finis Ewing Harris Jr.



Perry Harris



Mark Harris

ZEE MARTIN, born 1857, died 12 January 1939, d/o Dr. John Preston Martin, born 27 March 1823, died 9 June 1899 & Parmelia W. (Price) Martin, born 23 May 1823, died 26 September 1907, both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery. (Pictured: Zee Martin – findagrave)

Source: Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850-1970 by Mary Jean DeLozier, 1979, pgs. 90 & 91, 30, 65, 122 & 123.



The last recorded stagecoach holdup in Tennessee, which took place in Putnam County in 1882, near midnight on October 11, “Big” Hunt and “the two Edward boys” stopped the Cookeville-Nashville stage driven by John Rayburn, at Pekin, a post office sixteen miles west of Cookeville. There were five passengers on boards, and according to one, a **Miss Z. Martin**, the masked robbers ordered them out of the coach, relieved the men of their pocketbooks, and searched the mail pouches, splitting them with a long, sharp knife. The driver tried to hide \$2.50 in his mouth, and one passenger stood on two twenty dollar gold pieces, but the thieves were not fooled and seized the money. Ett, Martin’s brother, however, managed successfully to conceal most of his coins in his shoe, and the robbers missed the registered mail pouch, the principal target of the robbery.

After the thieves had disappeared into the darkness, the stage rumbled on to Chestnut Mound, where word of the robbery was sent back to Cookeville, and Sheriff Henry J. Brown immediately organized a posse and started in pursuit of the outlaws. Several days later Jeff Lea, Bob Maddux, and David Haynes apprehended Hunt, who was tried and sent to prison. The Edward boys escaped.

Putnam had its staunch Republicans, however, most of whom lived in the southwestern part of the county. **John P. Martin, M. D.**, a Republican, represented the county in the Tennessee House of Representative from 1887 to 1889.

Cookeville, as the county seat, became a trade center for Putnam resident. In addition to the stores which the first residents built, Whitson & Moore General Store opened for business in 1872. John Montgomery, S. G. Slaughter, Josh H. Brown, William Henley, W. F. Laycock, Henry P. Davis, A. A. Regan, and Mike Moore were other early merchants in the Cookeville area. **John P. Martin**, a physician, operated a drug store.

Drugstores in Cookeville included those owned by **J. P. Martin**, Henry Algood, Z. T. Hinds, Neal & Staley, and one Wyley.

Census 1870, Dist. 11, Newark post office, White Co., TN

Dwl: 100 Family: 100 Line: 21

J. P. Martin Head 47 M W (value of personal estate, 400) Physician TN

Permelia Martin 47 F W Keeping House TN

Henry C. Martin 17 M W At School TN J19

E. A. Martin 14 M W At Home TN

Z. Martin 11 F W At Home TN

Ethan Martin 8 M W At Home TN

Census Place: 1880 District 1, Putnam Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 78C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
J.P. MARTIN	Self	M	M	W	57	TN
Occ:	Physician		Fa: VA	Mo: VA		
P.W. MARTIN	Wife	F	M	W	57	TN
Occ:	Keeping House		Fa: VA	Mo: VA		
G. MARTIN	Dau	F	S	W	18	TN
Occ:	Student		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
E.E. MARTIN	Son	M	S	W	17	TN
Occ:	Student		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		

Census Place: 1880 District 1, Putnam Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 78C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
H.C. MARTIN	Self	M	M	M	26	TN
	Occ:	Physician		Fa: TN	Mo: TN	
Lue E. MARTIN	Wife	F	M	M	19	TN
	Occ:	Keeping House		Fa: TN	Mo: TN	
Belle MARTIN	SisterL	F	S	M	12	TN
	Occ:	Student		Fa: TN	Mo: TN	

Census Place: 1900 District 1, Putnam Co., Tennessee

Dwl: 421 Family: 431

Pamilia Martin Head 77 F W b. May 1823 Widow (6 children born, 3 children living) TN VA VA

Joe Martin Son 41 M W b. May 1859 Single Druggist TN TN TN

Minnie Martin Daughter-in-Law 22 F W b. October 1877 Widow (2 children born, 1 child living) TN TN TN

Van C. Martin Grandson 4 M W b. February 1896 Single TN TN TN

Mollie Martin Granddaughter 15 F W b. February 1885 Single TN TN TN

“Z” MARTIN (Victim, Music Teacher) & ETHAN “ET” MARTIN (Victim, Pharmacist)

(Story of Z (1857-1939) & ET Martin (1863-1900) researched by Kim Frick-Welker. Script: Kim Frick-Welker. Actor: Jason Cantrell. Actress: Tamara Guzlas).

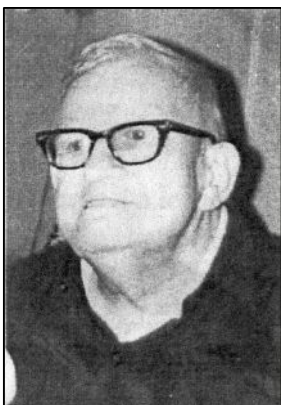
“The robbed that smiles steals something from the thief, He robs himself that spends a bootless grief.”
William Shakespeare

Born to Dr. John Preston Martin and wife Parmelia Westin (Price) Martin, Ethan (“Et”) and “Z” Martin were members of one of Cookeville’s oldest families. Father, Dr. J. P. Martin, moved to Putnam County from White County in 1873. The Martin’s had seven children in all and of the seven two were doctors and two were pharmacists and “Z” taught music and lived in Cookeville practically all of her life.

However, both will be most remember for an event that happened when “Et” was nineteen and “Z” was twenty-five years old. On October 15, 1882, this brother and sister shared a frightful, yet exciting experience as passengers on the last stage robbery in Putnam County. On Sunday evening on the night of October 15, “Bug Hunt” and the two Edward boys, “held up the Cookeville-Nashville stagecoach driven by John Rayburn. Just after the stagecoach reached Pekin or Burton at the western end of Putnam County, robbers appeared! They stole the mail and many of the possessions of the passengers. The Martin siblings survived the robbery and lived to share their harrowing experience. On Friday night, June 7, 1900, Et Martin died at his home in Cookeville after a lingering illness. At the time of his death, he left behind a wife and a young son. After living in Cookeville practically all of her life and teaching music for a number of years, “Z” Martin died at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Will Phillips of Cookeville on the morning of January 12, 1939, after a long illness.

ALVIN BUFORD “A. B.” MCKAY – (Lawyer, Philanthropist)

b. 27 January 1896 – d. 29 April 1971 married on the 15th of January 1943 to Lucy (Whitson) McKay, b. 26 June 1907 – d. 18 February 1963, both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery. Lucy was the d/o H. D. Whitson.



A. B. McKay was a prominent attorney in Cookeville, but is probably better known as Cookeville’s first philanthropist. Fondly known as “Uncle Mac,” McKay went to the Cookeville General Hospital to give all new mothers a shiny silver dollar in honor of her newborn child. He had been credited, “spending \$3,000-\$15,000 per year,” with financing the higher education of 25 teachers, 2 doctors, 2 dentist, 40 pre-school teachers and 6 graduate school musicians. If children in Cookeville needed clothes, books, school supplies,

shoes, Girl/Boy Scout manuals or uniforms, he was the one you sought for help. *Pictured left: Alvin Buford "A. B." McKay.*

He had standing accounts at department stores like Terry Brothers and Maddux and Proffit's. Very little is known about McKay prior to his arrival to Cookeville in 1926. He came from a family of farmers in Grant Parris, Louisiana. He was a bachelor for 47 years before he married 35 year old Lucy Whitson, daughter of H. D. Whitson of Cookeville on January 15, 1943. He obtained a B. S. Degree from the University of Alabama and his Law Degree from Cumberland University, Lebanon, TN in 1926. He was a veteran of WWI. Arriving in Cookeville, he practiced law with Elmer Langford, Sr. for many years. He was a strong Democrat, a member of the local Masonic Lodge and a member of Cookeville First Baptist Church. He was known, however, to attend Lucy's church, Cookeville First United Methodist Church, from time to time. Everyone who remembers "Uncle Mac," remembers him as "a real character, strongly opinionated, and somewhat eccentric."

(Story of Alvin Buford "A. B." McKay researched by: Charlene McClain & Alice Kilgrow. Script by: Alice Kilgrow. Actor: Henry Fincher).

GERTRUDE WHITNEY (Author, Editor, Post Office Assistant)

b.21 April 1875, MN – d. 26 August 1943, d/o Charles H. & Mary Alicia Whitney)

"I want to go home – To the dear old town With it's shaded streets: And the open square: And the hills And the Fields And the house I love: And the...."

Born in 1875 in Minnesota, Gertrude Whitney moved to Tennessee as a young child with her parents, Colonel and Mrs. Charles H. Whitney in September of 1887. They traveled by train from Minnesota to Sparta, Tennessee, and then traveled overland to Cookeville. It didn't take long for Gertrude and her family even though they were at first called. "Yankees," to settle and become part of the Cookeville community. They fast became friends with many prominent Cookeville families. The Whitney family did have relatives living in Cookeville.



Pictured left: Gertrude Whitney

Mrs. Whitney's brother was Alvin Wirt. "Gertie's" father had been a land agent for the Northern Railroad in Minnesota and once in Cookeville worked closely with Major Robert Moscrip in helping to develop a railroad in Cookeville. Gertrude's "cousin of my heart," Elmer Wirt, which was to become the *Herald Citizen* of Cookeville. During the 1890's and early 1900', she took art and music from Miss Laura Copeland, Miss Z Martin and Miss Lula Williams of Algood.

Gertrude was also a very capable writer of both verse and prose. Her most famous writing was a series of articles entitled "Cookeville in Retrospect" which appeared serially in the *Herald*. As an adult, Gertrude became the society editor of the *Cookeville Press* and served as an assistant in the post office. When her parents died, Gertrude moved to Florida where she became a newspaper reporter. Her later years were spent living in Dallas, Texas with her close friend Miss Elizabeth Goodwin. She died at her home in Dallas in 1943, but was brought back to Cookeville for burial.

(Story of Gertrude (Wirt) Whitney researched by: Kim Frick-Welker. Script by: Kim Frick-Welker).

SAMUEL G. SLAUGHTER (Soldier, Businessman, Devout Christian)

b. 2 February 1820, KY – d. 22 April 1903

"True religion is real living; living with all one's soul, with all one's goodness and righteousness."
Albert Einstein.

Samuel Gibson Slaughter was born on February 2, 1820 in Kentucky to William J. and Rebecca Mulkey Slaughter. He had six brothers and three sisters. His mother was a great granddaughter of the Reverend

Philip Mulkey, one of the first frontier Baptist Missionaries who came to this area of the United States around 1732 and established the Mulkey Meeting House (it still stands today near Tompkinsville, Kentucky). After leaving his home in Tompkinsville, Kentucky, Slaughter settled in the “Baghdad Community” of Jackson County, Tennessee, and married Aletha Evaline Young on December 26, 1845. In Baghdad he was a member and “Bishop” of the “Baghdad Church” which is believed to be the first congregation of what would become the Church of Christ in our area. During the Civil War, he served as a Captain in the 28th Infantry Company I stationed at Camp Zollicoffer (known as the Second Mountain Regiment). This regiment saw action in North Carolina, Georgia and all over Tennessee, including Shiloh and Chickamauga.

Around 1872 he acquired a large amount of land in the Cookeville area where he farmed and ventured into business. He was the sixth founding member of the Broad Street Church of Christ (now known as Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ) and served as a Deacon for the majority of his remaining life. In 1873, he bought (or may have given) property at Freeze Street and Washington Avenue to build the first Church of Christ worship building in Cookeville. After the passing of his first wife, he married her niece, Dulcinea Dottobozo Young in 1879. After Dulcinea’s death he was cared for by his niece, Dora Myers. Myers continued to live at the Slaughter home at 445 North Washington until she was unable to care for herself. Although the Slaughter home has undergone much renovation, it is still standing today and is the current home of Kaul and Betty Fincher. Slaughter’s property at the time bordered the Rutledge Smith property on Washington Avenue which is currently the Dr. John Limbacker home and extended to border with what is now Capshaw Woods. Slaughter died on April 22, 1903.

(Story of Samuel G. Slaughter researched by: Alice Kilgrow and Charlene McClain. Script by: Alice Kilgrow. Actor: Tom Longfellow. Actress: Joanne Longfellow).

More Biographies:

GABBERT PIONEERS 19TH CENTURY

JOEL C. GABBERT, born July 1845, died 4 August 1910. He was the son of Dr. Benjamin & Dr. Diana Gabbert. Joel C. Gabbert, C.S.A., 3rd Corporal, Capt. H. H. Dillard’s Co., 16 Tennessee Inf. He was an attorney by profession, buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Source: 1880 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 25 – **Dianah Gabbert** is head of household, 55 yrs. old, KY, keeping house, both parents born in NC. Living in the household: Mary Gabbert, dau., 27 yrs. old, TN, keeping house, both parents born in KY & Leah Gabbert, dau., 25 yrs. old, TN.



1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 396 – Family: 406 – **Joel Gabbert** is head of household, 54 yrs. old, born July 1845, TN, occupation, Attorney md 25 yrs. to Nancy, 60 yrs. old, born May 1840, TN.

1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 506 – Family: 516 – **Mary O. Gabbert** is head of household, 46 yrs. old, born March 1854, TN, father born in KY, mother born in TN, occupation: Boarding House & **Leah K. Gabbert**, sister, 39 yrs. old, born October 1860, TN, occupation: Housekeeper.

1910 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 50 – Family: 53 – **Mary Gabbert** is head of household, 51 yrs. old, TN, Single, occupation: Boarding House Cookeville, TN & **Jared C. Gabbert**, brother, 64 yrs. old, TN, widow, occupation: own income.



Parmelia W. Price Martin was my great-great-great-grandmother. My great-grandfather, Van Martin, was born at her house in 1896 and lived with her for several years.

She was born May 23, 1823 in Warren Co., TN. and died Sept. 28, 1907 in Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN. She married Dr. John Preston Martin 1847 in White Co., TN. She was the daughter of Dr. Price. Added by my daughter: K.K. 2/28/05... Carolyn Price, h/o Larry Leon Price.

Source: Findagrave

SEPTEMBER 2010: CANDLELIGHT CEMETERY WALK

ROBERT BYRD CAPSHAW

13 October 1855, TN – d. 20 February 1928, md **Alice (Whitson) Capshaw**, b. 17 June 1856, TN – d. 13 July 1932. **Robert Byrd Capshaw**, s/o **James Capshaw & Mary Parsley**. "(Capshaw's) probably a more well-known name because the elementary school is named after him.

Robert Bird Capshaw
 TN b. -----, TN
 d. 21 Feb 1928
 Age: abt 72y
 Father: James Capshaw, TN
 Mother: Mary Parsley, TN
 City Cemetery Putnam Co., TN
 DC #4235. Putnam Co., TN

Census Place: 1880 District 1, Putnam Co., TN

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 80C

Dwl: 59

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
B.F. HITCHCOCK	Self	M	M	M	W 62	TN
Occ:	Farmer	Fa: TN	Mo: NC			

Sarah A. HITCHCOCK	Wife	F	M	W	55	TN
Occ:	Keeping House	Fa: GA	Mo: GA			
R.B. CAPSHAW	Other	M	S	W	24	TN
Occ:	Attorney At Law	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			

(1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 512 – **Robert B. Capshaw** is head of household, 46 yrs. old, b. November 1853, TN, Occupation: Attorney, md 17 yrs. to **Alice G.**, 44 yrs. old, b. June 1855, TN, 3 children born, 3 children living. Children: Earl W., 14 yrs. old, b. March 1886; Coran P., 12 yrs. old, b. April 1888 & Hulon J. Capshaw, 8 yrs. old, b. June 1891. All born in TN).

MARY CURTIS DENNY

Mary Frances (Curtis) Denny Obt.

b. 25 May 1877, Putnam Co., TN - d. 13 August 1942, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 19th of August 1901, TN to **Walter C. Denny**, b. 26 August 1879, TN - d. 12 February 1929, TN, s/o **Silas Dean Denny & Mary Ann "Mollie" Essex**. Mary Frances (Curtis) Denny, d/o **James Holland Curtis & Nancy R. McDaniel**.

*See Silas Dean Denny Obt.

*See Nancy R. (McDaniel) Curtis buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

Funeral Services Held Friday for Mrs. Mary Denny, Former Putnam Trustee

Funeral services were held at the Pendergrass Funeral Home Friday afternoon for Mrs. Mary Frances Curtis Denny 65 with the Rev. D. A. Ensor & T. W. Mayhew in charge. Burial in the City Cemetery.

Mrs. Denny served as Trustee of Putnam County for 2 terms, 1922 to 1926.

Survivors are 1 son, Holland Denny of Cookeville; 1 granddaughter, and 1 brother, Burch Curtis of Ft. Worth, TX.

**Her husband was Walter C. Denny, s/o Silas Dean Denny & "Mollie" Mary Ann Essex. Walter C. Denny is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.*

Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 20 August 1942.

(1860 census 15th Civil Dist., post office, Bear Creek, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 415 – **Holland Curtis** is head of household, 53 yrs. old, NC, md to Jane, 50 yrs. old, TN. Children: James, 18 yrs. old; Malissa, 21 yrs. old & Elizabeth Curtis, 13 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1870 census 15th Civil Dist., Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 54 Family: 54 – **Hollin Curtis** is head of household, 64 yrs. old, NC, (value of real estate, 550) (value of personal estate, 150), Occupation: Farmer. Children: J. H. Curtis, 29 yrs. old, TN & Elizabeth Curtis, 22 yrs. old, TN. Also living in the household: Jane Pynam (sp), 28 yrs. old, TN, keeping house & William Pynam (sp), 3 yrs. old, TN).

Census Place: 1880 District 1, Putnam Co., TN

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 78C

Dwl: 30

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
J. H. CURTIS	Self	M	M	W	38	TN
Occ:	Circuit Ct. Clk.		Fa: NC	Mo: TN		
N.R. CURTIS	Wife	F	M	W	27	TN
Occ:	Keeping House		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
A.B. CURTIS	Son	M	S	W	4	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
M.F. CURTIS	Dau	F	S	W	1M	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
M.E. CURTIS	Sister	F		W	30	TN

Occ: House Keeping Fa: NC Mo: TN
Amanda HUNTER Other F B 25 TN
Occ: Servant Fa: TN Mo: TN

(1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 428 – **James H. Curtis** is head of household, 58 yrs. old b. January 1842, TN (father born in NC, mother born in TN), Occupation: Merchant, md to **Nancy R.**, 38 yrs. old b. October 1851, TN, 3 children born, 3 children living. Children **Albert B.**, 24 yrs. old b. September 1875; **Mary F.**, 20 yrs. old b. May 1880 & **Bessie Curtis**, 2 yrs. old b. November 1897. All born in TN).

(1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 436 – **Silus D. Denny** is head of household, 45 yrs. old, b. December 1854, TN, Occupation: Carpenter, md 21 yrs. to **Mary Ann**, 45 yrs. old, b. December 1854, TN, 3 children born, 3 children living. Children: **Walter**, 20 yrs. old, b. August 1879, Occupation: Clerk; **Edgar C.**, 17 yrs. old, b. July 1882, Occupation: Groceryman & **Agnes G. Denny**, 15 yrs. old, b. September 1884. All born in TN).

(1910 census Tarrant Co., 8-WD Fort Worth, N. Magnolia St., TX: Dwl: 58 Family: 71 – **Walter C. Denny** is head of household, 30 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: Merchant – Produce, md 8 yrs. to **Mary F.**, 28 yrs. old, TN, 1 child born, 1 child living. Child: **Holland Denny**, 4 yrs. old, TX).

(1920 census 1st Civil Dist., Hickory St., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 310-130-153 - **Walter C. Denny** is head of household, 40 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: none, md to **Mary F.**, 39 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: City Clerk, City Hall. Child: **Holland Denny**, 14 yrs. old, TN).

(1930 census, Civil Dist., Cookeville Twp. East part, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 718-199-208 – **Mary F. Denny** is head of household, 48 yrs. old, widow, 20 yrs. old 1st marriage, bookkeeper law office, TN TN TN).

(1930 census, 26th Civil Dist., Whitney Street, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 95-139-158 – **Holland Denny** is head of household, 24 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: Mechanic for Ford Motors, md to **Gladys**, 20 yrs. old, TN).

(Gladys Moody, d/o Pete W. & Daisy Moody)

Source: Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850 – 1970
By Mary Jean DeLozier, pg. 167.

Through many community leaders now urged women to exercise the franchise, there was considerable apprehension over women holding political offices. The *Herald* carried letters, reprints from other newspapers, and editorials reflecting this fear. **Mary F. Denny was the first woman to run for elective office in Putnam County.** In May of 1921 she announced as candidate for the Democratic nomination for Putnam County trustee. Mrs. Denny had held clerical and secretarial positions in the postal service, Cookeville town government, and at TPI; but in her campaign she found it necessary to explain that she needed the public office because she was the sole support of her invalid husband and son and to deny a rumor that her husband received a pension. She asked, “Is there any reason why I should be defeated just because I am a woman? I am asking for this office in order that I can better care for a man who cannot care for himself.” **Mrs. Denny won the nomination and the election and served two terms** as trustee. *Pg. 167 – Printed in the Herald – 25 August 1921 – pg. 1.*

JANIE ROSE (DOW) DUBOIS

b. 17 September 1905, Putnam Co., TN – d. 23 July 2000, TN, md **Curtis T. DuBois**, b. ca. 1908, TN – d. 24 March 1990, age 82. **Janie Rose (Dow) DuBois, d/o Judge John Byrd Dow Sr. & Elizabeth Owen.**
*See Judge John Byrd Dow Sr. buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for Rose Dow DuBois, 94, of Cookeville, will be held at 2 p.m. on Tues., July 25, at Collegieside Church of Christ. Burial will be in Cookeville City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-8:30 p.m. today, Mon., July 24, at Dyer Funeral Home.

Mrs. DuBois died on Sun., July 23, 2000, at Masters Health Care.

She was born on Sept. 17, 1905, in Putnam County to the late John B. and Elizabeth Owen Dow. Her father was former Mayor of Cookeville. **Mrs. DuBois was a retired school teacher. She taught at Silver Point, Baxter, Old City School, Capshaw and Tech Training School.** She was also known as Miss Rose. She was author of the article "Living Memories" for the Dispatch. Mrs. DuBois graduated from Tennessee Tech and received a Masters Degree from Peabody College. She was a member of Colleside Church of Christ.

Her family includes a daughter, Libby DuBois Pettit of Missoula, Mont.; five grandsons and three granddaughters-in-law, Matthew Medley of Rhode Island, John Young of Louisville, Ky., Mark and Jackie Medley of Grape Vine, Texas, Lee and Gricell Medley of Italy, and James and Renee Young of Columbus, Ohio; two great-granddaughters, Emily and Lia Medley; and two stepgreat-granddaughters, Kelly and Jillian McGraw.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her **husband, Curtis T. DuBois;** and a daughter, Jane Young.

Bro. Kelly Campbell will officiate at the services.

Published July 24, 2000 12:20 PM CDT: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

JUDGE DICK LATTA LANSDEN

b. 15 May 1869, White Co., TN – d. 10 August 1924, md on the 14th of November 1895 to **Helen Jane (Snodgrass) Lansden**, b. 7 December 1875, White Co., TN – d. 18 September 1962. Judge Dick Latta was Chief Justice Tennessee Supreme Court.

*See Helen (Snodgrass) Lansden Obt.

*See Florence (Lansden) Johnson buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

Dick was born at Bakers Cross Road in White County, Tennessee, **the son of Dr. Hugh Hill and Anna Lee (McGee) Lansden.** On November 14, 1895 he married Helen Jane Snodgrass. Dick served on the Tennessee Supreme Court and as its Chief Justice.

Children of Judge Dick Latta Lansden & Helen Jane Snodgrass are:

1. David Snodgrass Lansden, b. 22 August 1896 - d. 29 June 1959, md on the 29th of July 1923 to Ladye Frances Hamilton. Interment: Woodlawn Cemetery, Nashville TN.
2. Florence Ann Lansden, b. 11 November 1898 - d. 5 March 1940, md on the 13th of October 1920, Nashville, TN to Hollis Johnson Sr.
3. Henry Snodgrass Lansden, b. 28 October 1900.
4. Hugh McDonald Lansden, b. 13 May 1902.
5. James King Lansden, b. 7 May 1905.
6. John Knight Shields Lansden, b. 2 November 1907 - d. 17 May 1961, md on the 14th of April 1934 to Edna Scott (1906-1997), Interments: Woodlawn Cemetery, Nashville TN.
7. Dick Latta Lansden, Jr., b. 17 October 1909 - d. 12 February 1999, md 19th of October 1935 to Martha Stanfill, b. 1 December 1911, Milan, TN – d. 13 August 2010, Montgomery, AL, Interments: Woodlawn Cemetery, Nashville TN.
8. Helen Lansden, b. 23 November 1911 - d. 8 December 1911. Interment: Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, TN.
9. Arthur Buchanan Lansden, Sr., b. 24 August 1913 - d. 2 December 1948, md on the 24th of November 1939 to Naomi Henderson.

Source: 10,000 Famous Free Masons from K to Z, Vol. 3 by William R. Denslow, Harry S. Truman, pg. 54: Dick Latta Lansden (1869-1924) Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Tennessee from 1918, b. May 15, 1869 at Bakers Cross Roads, TN. Admitted to the bar in 1893, and practiced at Sparta, from 1893-97, and Crossville, 1897-1902. Was Justice of Supreme Court of Tennessee from 1910. Affiliated with Sparta Lodge No. 99, Sparta, Tenn. in 1896 and in good standing at time of death on August 1924.

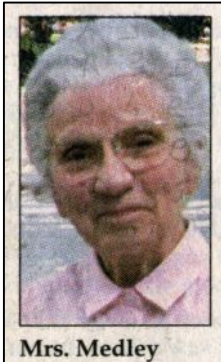
Martha (Stanfill) Lansden Obt.

LANSDEN, Martha Stanfill Age 98, died August 13, 2010, in Montgomery, AL, at Cara Vita Village Retirement Community after a short illness. She was born December 1, 1911 in Milan, TN, the only child of Dr. and Mrs. Lee Stanfill. She moved to Nashville at an early age and was educated in Nashville Public schools. She graduated magna cum laude from Vanderbilt University where she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She was **married to Dick Latta Lansden**, a Nashville attorney and partner with Waller Lansden. He preceded her in death in 1999. Mrs. Lansden is survived by her daughter, Carol Lansden Brewbaker, Montgomery, AL and three grandchildren, William Styne Brewbaker III, (Becky) Tuscaloosa, AL, Dick Lansden Brewbaker, (Ruth) Montgomery, AL, and Carol Brewbaker Rickard, (Don) Montgomery, AL. She is also survived by thirteen great grandchildren, Catherine Garner Brewbaker, Mary Lansden Brewbaker, William Styne Brewbaker IV, Rebecca Grace Brewbaker, and Samuel Joseph Brewbaker, Tuscaloosa, AL; David Lansden Brewbaker, Thomas Garrett Brewbaker, William McCall Brewbaker, Benjamin Lee Brewbaker, and James Alexander Brewbaker, Montgomery, AL; and Margaret Caldwell Rickard, Caroline Christian Rickard, and Martha Claire Rickard, Montgomery, AL. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Nashville and later joined Trinity Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, AL. She was a member of the Centennial Club. Graveside services will be held at Woodlawn Memorial Park Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 2 o'clock, with the Rev. Michael Howell, Trinity Presbyterian Church, officiating. Memorial gifts may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 4815 Franklin Road, Nashville, TN or to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1728 South Hull St., Montgomery, AL 36104. Arrangements by

MOZELLE (SPAIN) MEDLEY

b. 10 October 1909, Kosciusko, MS – d. 23 June 2003, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md **Ralph Pedigo Medley**, b. 20 December 1902, TN – d. 23 December 1951, TN, s/o **Zina A. Medley & Sara Sophronia Judd**. Mozelle (Spain) Medley, d/o **Sidney Johnston Spain & Texanna Temple**.

*See Ralph Pedigo Medley Obt. buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.



Mrs. Medley

COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for Mozelle Spain Medley, 93, of Cookeville, will be held Friday, June 27, at 11 a.m. at the Cookeville First Presbyterian Church.

Burial will be in Cookeville City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at Hopper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home tomorrow (Thursday, June 26) from 5-8 p.m. and at the church on Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of services.

Mrs. Medley died Monday, June 23, 2003, at NHC Healthcare in Cookeville.

Born in Kosciusko, Miss., on Oct. 10, 1909, she was the **daughter of the late Sidney Johnston and Texanna Temple Spain**.

Mrs. Medley graduated from Kosciusko High School in 1927; attended Sophie Newcomb/Tulane University, Mississippi State College for Women and Hillman College (which became Mississippi College) and received a BS degree from Tennessee Tech University in Education/Curriculum and Instruction in 1950 and an MA from the George Peabody College for Teachers/Vanderbilt University.

She was a member of the Tennessee Tech Faculty Women's Club and **Old Walton Road Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution**.

Mrs. Medley was also a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma, Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Friends of the Depot, Depot Board of Directors and Tennessee Tech Community Symphony Guild.

She was involved with home-delivered meals, the Cookeville Regional Hospital Auxiliary/Pink Lady, the Study Club and was an elder at the First Presbyterian Church.

She received the 1997 Patron Award for the Cookeville Arts Council and was named outstanding contributor to the arts in Cookeville.

She taught fourth grade at the Tech Campus School for 21 years, was a part-time instructor at TTU and was the director of Title III, ESEA and the Upper Cumberland Reading Project for three years.

She was on the TTU Education Foundation Board, a member of the Cookeville Tomorrow Project/Education Group, Tennessee Tech Emeriti Faculty Association, Tennessee Retired Teachers Association, American Association of University Women and the Tech Garden Club.

Her family includes a daughter and son-in-law, Alice and Dr. James L. Snelgrove of Naperville, Ill.; a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Adron and Sara Medley of Helena, Mont.; a sister, Lucille Spain Turner, of Kosciusko, Miss.; seven grandchildren, Mark Adron Medley, Lee Emmett Medley, Bryce Matthew Medley, Sara Leigh Medley, Shane Adron Medley, Anne Caroline Snelgrove and Dr. Sarah Margaret Snelgrove; and three great-grandchildren, Emily, Lia and Emma Medley.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Pedigo Medley, whom she married in Kosciusko, Miss., on April 8, 1934; a sister, Christine Spain Emerson, and a brother, Alfred Otto Spain.

Pallbearers will be Mike, Martin, Don, Shane and Michael Medley and Jim Snelgrove.

Honorary pallbearers will be Tennessee Tech emeriti faculty, members of the Putnam County Retired Teachers Association, the staff of NHC Healthcare of Cookeville, former 4th-grade students at Tech Campus School and elders of the First Presbyterian Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Tennessee Tech College of Education Foundation, P.O. Box 5047, Cookeville, TN 38505.

The Rev. G. David Campbell and the Rev. Ernest Robertson will conduct Friday's services.

Published June 25, 2003 12:09 PM CDT : Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

ANN TRIGG ROBINSON

b. 23 November 1874, TN – d. 25 March 1955, d/o **Dr. Joseph W. Robinson & Mrs. Louise Quarles.**

*See Louisa Trigg Robinson (1845-1929) buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.



Ann Trigg Robinson, was a graduate of the University of the South at Sewanee, TN. She was first a teacher and then a nurse serving in a New Orleans hospital. Upon returning to Cookeville, her interest in history prompted her to keep meticulous written records of the heritage of the area. These records have proven invaluable to local researchers. Courtesy of Laura Medley.

rites held for Miss Ann Trigg Robinson

Funeral services for Miss Ann Trigg Robinson, 80, Cookeville native, were held at 2:00 p.m. last Saturday at Whitson Funeral Home. Rev. Allen McMillian, pastor of the Episcopal church officiated. Burial was in the City Cemetery.

A registered nurse, Miss Robinson died Friday morning after a long illness.

Her parents were the late Dr. Joseph W. Robinson and Mrs. Louise Quarles. She leaves no immediate survivors.

Miss Robinson was the granddaughter of Capt. William Quarles, Revolutionary War soldier who founded White Plains. She was born at the Quarles home and lived there her entire life.

The Putnam County Herald: 31 March 1955

(1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 495 – **Sallie Quarles** is head of household, 66 yrs. old, b. September 1833, TN, single, (parents both born in VA). Living in the household: **Susan M. Quarles**, sister, 53 yrs. old, b. February 1847, TN, single. **Louisa T. Robinson**, sister, 55 yrs. old, b. January 1845, TN, widow, 1 child born, 1 child living. Child: **Ann Robinson**, niece, 24 yrs. old, b. November 1874, TN).

(1910 census 1st Civil Dist., Cookeville Town, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 86 – **John S. Quarles Sr.** is head of household, 72 yrs. old, TN, widow. Children: **John S. Quarles Jr.**, son, 31 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: Lumberman Buy & Sell; James A. Quarles, son, 29 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: Traveling Sales, Drugs. Also living in the household: Susan M. Quarles, sister, 65 yrs. old, TN; **Luesie Robinson**, sister, 65 yrs. old, TN, widow, 1 child born, 1 child living & **Anne T. Robinson**, niece, 33 yrs. old, TN).

CEMETERY 'RESIDENTS' TO SHARE STORIES IN CANDLELIGHT WALK SATURDAY

by Amy Davis

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

23 September 2012

Cookeville City Cemetery "residents" Mary Lee Adcock (Virginia Lovellette) Everett Derryberry (Walter Derryberry) and Dr. Dianah Coffee Gabbert (Elissa Longfellow) will be making a special appearance Sept. 29 during the sixth Candlelight Cemetery Walk sponsored by Leisure Services as a fundraiser for the



Cookeville History Museum and Cookeville Depot Museum. Tickets are \$12 at the Cookeville Performing Arts Center. Ty Kernea | Herald-Citizen.

COOKEVILLE — Eight “residents” of the Cookeville City Cemetery will be making a special appearance this Saturday night.

But not in a spooky sense.

Dressed appropriately from days gone by, they’ll have plenty of stories to tell about their former lives and contributions to the city of Cookeville

as visitors make their way along a candlelit path amongst the glowing tombstones in Leisure Services’ sixth Candlelight Cemetery Walk.

“This is an educational, historical presentation,” said Judy Duke, administrator of Cookeville museums. “But, yes, it’s theatrical, and, yes, we do take some dramatic licenses.”

The event — a fundraiser for the Cookeville History Museum and Cookeville Depot Museum — has been a quick sell-out each even-numbered year since it began in 2002, and Duke expects no less for this year.

“People love it,” she said. “It’s been very successful.”

Tickets are available at the Cookeville Performing Arts Center for \$12.

The event features two walks — one at 6:30 p.m. and the other at 9 p.m.— and begins at the Walnut Street entrance of the cemetery, with participants divided into eight groups for the approximate hour-long venture through the graveyard.

“The second walk is my favorite because it’s dark, and I think the Cookeville City Cemetery is a pretty cemetery anyway, but especially at night with the candles lighting the way and the guides carrying their torches,” Duke said.

During the half-hour before each walk, the jazz band All About Us will perform.

The eight graves to be visited are as follows:

- James N. Cox (2/9/1876 to 3/12/1953)
- Major Joseph Freeze (7/13/1826 to 8/26/1896)
- Roe Bockman (1883 to 1962)
- Dr. Dianah Gabbert (no date)
- Judge Ernest Houston Boyd (10/1/1879 to 12/1956)
- Mrs. Beauregard (Mary Lee Kendrick) Adcock (2/2/1863 to 3/26/1931)
- Laura Quarles Lewis (9/1/1872 to 12/24/1898)
- William Everett Derryberry (1906 to 1991)

Also “present” during the cemetery walk will be Richard Fielding Cooke — for whom Cookeville was named — and his wife, Margaret, who will be making a special visit from Cooke Cemetery in Putnam County.

“They will be talking to the folks and introducing the band,” Duke said.

“They come back to Cookeville every other year to attend the cemetery walk.”

Duke pointed out that it won’t be just prominent citizens who will be recognized.

“For instance, a lot of people have no idea who Roe Bockman is,” she said.

“His story comes from the time after World War II when veterans were coming back with G.I. bills to go to school. Tech didn’t have enough space for them, so President Everett Derryberry asked people in town if they’d be willing to open up their homes.”

And that’s just what Bockman did.

“He and his wife opened up their home on Dixie Avenue, and the guys who stayed there became known as the ‘Bockman boys,’” Duke said.

“There were 50 to 100 guys who roomed there in the late 1940s and early 1950s. It’s a great story.”

Bockman will be portrayed by Tennessee Tech University student Nathan Kapoor.

Another not-so-well known name is Dr. Dianah Gabbert, who will be brought back to life by Elissa Longfellow.

“There is a tombstone in the city cemetery, and all it says is ‘Gabbert pioneers,’” Duke said. “It’s one of the oldest stones in the cemetery and has numerous names. I’ve wanted to find out who they were and what they did for a number of years now, and finally I’m getting to do it.”

Mrs. Beauregard (Mary Lee Kendrick) Adcock, with help from Virginia Lovellette, will also be sharing her story with cemetery visitors.

“She was a school teacher, and her husband was a lawyer, and it’s a real interesting story,” Duke said. “The house they built is still standing here in Cookeville, and people will have to go on the cemetery walk to find out where it is.”

Some other names in the cemetery walk may be more familiar.

“James N. Cox, who is being portrayed by Rob Wheeler, was instrumental at the telephone company here in Cookeville and is a well-known name,” Duke said. “And Dr. Homer Kemp, a professor at TTU, will be portraying Major Joseph Freeze, who Freeze Street is named after. That’s a great story.

“And then there’s Judge Ernest Houston Boyd — he was a superintendent of schools and also wrote ‘Nuggets of Putnam County,’ which was an early history book. His grandson Ernie Evans is going to portray him.”

Noelle Davis will be telling the story of Laura Quarles Lewis.

“She died at an early age and was kin to the Quarles family out of White Plains, who were some of the first settlers,” Duke said.

“And then Dr. William Everett Derryberry, who will be portrayed by his son Walter E. Derryberry, was president of Tennessee Tech University for many, many years.”

For more information about the Candlelight Cemetery Walk, call Duke at 520-5455 or CPAC at 528-1313.

*Read more about the History of Putnam Co., TN and Cookeville Cemetery at:
<http://www.ajalmbert.com>