

CALVIN AND GLENDOL STEWART: MARRIED 75 YEARS

Today's Seniors

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

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By Margaret Shuster: Herald Citizen Staff

Pp: 28 - 30

Glendol and Calvin Stewart - age 91 and 98, respectively - have trouble hearing people now, but they seem to hear each other just fine. Maybe it's from nearly eight decades of practice.

The couple, who celebrated their 75th anniversary in April, have spent their entire married life on Carr Ridge near Boma. Calvin still drives and serves as the eyes and able body for Glendol, who is nearly blind and has trouble walking. He does the shopping and cleaning and cooks most of their meals.

"I cook beans, taters, I cook me some cabbage. I'll cook anything rough, but no big cakes, now," he joked. "I can make some cornbread, now. I had to do that back when I was a little feller."

"He makes us breakfast," added Glendol. "He buys those frozen biscuits and some canned gravy."

"I'd still rather do it, though," said Calvin.

Glendol does most of the couple's remembering.

"She can still remember everything, and I forget," said Calvin. "I can ask anybody's birthday and she can tell me."

That's a lot to remember - the couple has four grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and a community of friends.

Said Glendol, "Sometimes I have to study a little to remember things, but he forgets his own birthday, sometimes."

They met and started courting when Calvin and his brother came to play ball at Glendol's school. She was 13 and he was 21.

"She was a pretty good ball player, and I thought I might could handle her," said Calvin. "I let her get too old, though. She was about 15 years old when we got married."

They're startlingly, humorously honest about each other, and neither seems to mind.

"She was a right pretty girl back then," said Calvin. "She didn't look like she does now. If she hadn't had to work so hard in them tobacco patches and gardens, she might've looked even better than she does now."

Replied Glendol, "I'd rather be outside doing something as in the house."

"She was a big ol' girl," said Calvin. "She was 160 or something - a big ol' fatty."

"I didn't weight that much when we married," said Glendol.

"How much did you weigh?"

"A hundred thirty-eight. Then I got goin' and got up to 186."

"She used to have a headful of hair."

Neither of them can remember how he asked her to marry him.

"I'd imagine he just said, 'Let's get married,'" said Glendol.

"And she said to herself, 'I'd better get him while I can,'" said Calvin.

They eloped to Rossville, GA, in 1931, right in the middle of the Great Depression.

"It cost us three or four dollars," said Calvin. "Back at the time, we had a big wedding, didn't we?"

Their friends and family helped them get their start.

"He went down to the store, and the merchant gave him a dishpan and a washpan. Just gave it to him," said Glendol, whose parents gave her 10 hens, a rooster and a cow as wedding gifts.

"We had milk and butter and chickens and eggs," she said. "We started out making gardens and making our vegetables, which was fun to me then, I felt like a kid."

Added Calvin, "We started out rough, but I was a guy that I'd do anything to make a dollar. I'd work. I plowed around these hillsides about 10 acres of corn, and I had a cane patch and we had a garden. The sun wouldn't be up 'til I'd be out in the field. I'd have to get up and milk an old cow or two before that."

"I'd cook breakfast while he milked, then half the time, we'd go to the field and leave the dishes and have to do them when I came back from the field," said Glendol.

In addition to cooking, cleaning and caring for their two children, her job was tending the tobacco.

"I've hoed it and stripped it and cut it and spiked it, and I've hung it up in the barn and gotten stung by waspers," said Glendol. "Standing all day long and it hot and that old sticky tobacco I'd hate to do it now."

But she made sure they had some fun, too.

"My favorite times were when we'd go fishing," said Glendol.

"I'd be needing to work in my garden and she'd say, 'Let's go fishin', and I'd say 'I need to work in my garden,'" said Calvin. "And she'd aggravate me, and I'd finally say, 'Get a pole and we'll go.'"

The couple spent their first two married years in Boma, then moved into a house Glendol's grandfather built 125 years ago. Now they live in a small trailer next to that house on the same lot.

"We've been here 70 years on this property," said Calvin.

Glendol corrected him: "It's been 73 years."

The couple attribute their longevity to living off the land.

"We're the two youngest old people in the country," said Calvin. "I reckon it's healthy to be out on an old place like this, and we had better eats than we do now."

What's the secret of their long, happy marriage?

"Hard work and working together," said Glendol. "We found a few thorns in the rosebed, but we pushed them out of the way and moved on."

She offers this advice to today's married couples: "When both of you are gonna get made, one of you better get good humor right quick," said Glendol. "No knock-down dragouts, either."

"We've had good days, and we've had bad ones," said Calvin.

"I believe the good day out-weighed the bad, though," said Glendol. "It was like the George Jones song- we were holding onto each other. That's about all we can do."

"We never did have any big falling outs,' added Calvin. "We always got along pretty good.

DOCTORS

Doctors buried in Smellage Cemetery

WHITEFIELD, PAYTON VESTA SR., DR.

b. 6 April 1849, TN – d. 17 July 1927

WIVES: Mary S. Whitefield & Sarah Whitefield

PARENTS: Benjamin & Louisa Whitefield

BURIED: Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

WHITEHEAD, JOHN "JOHNNIE" WESLEY, DR.

b. 29 January 1864, Putnam Co., TN –

d. 27 January 1926

WIFE: Marie Mary (Cameron) Whitehead

PARENTS: Daniel Jacob Whitehead & Selie J. "Celia" Cameron

BURIED: Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

Dr. John Wesley Whitehead Story

My grandfather, John W. Whitehead, was born 29 January 1864, Putnam Co., TN to Jacob D. Whitehead and Celia Stewart. He was a country doctor and store operator. He rode a horse to people's houses to treat them for illnesses. Dr. John ran two general merchandise stores, one in Crab Orchard and one in Boma. He showed silent movies in the back of one of the stores.

Dr. John married Mary Cameron, daughter of Samuel Cameron and Betsy E. Austin. She was born 21 August 1862 in Putnam Co., TN. They had four sons and four daughters. The sons were: John, Alvin, Floyd, and Fred, my father. The daughters were: Ova Whitehead Moran, Delia Whitehead Jared, Sobrима Whitehead Butler, and Martha Whitehead Ward.

Dr. John passed away on 27 January 1926, Mary passed away 20 December 1947. Both are buried in Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN. *Story by: Raymond & Rebecca C. Whitehead, grandson of Dr. John & Mary Cameron Whitehead.*

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SAMUEL DENTON

Saturday, February 22nd is the 76th birthday of Dr. Samuel Denton, of Buffalo Valley. Few men arrive at the 76th milestone of life possessed of the mental, the physical and the spiritual activity with which Dr. Denton is possessed.

Coming to Buffalo Valley in 1881, he was one of the pioneer citizens, and has spent 49 years active in the practice of his profession in this locality.

In his unassuming manner he has gone to the poor and well off alike, with only a moderate recompense for his services.

Today Dr. Denton has the vigor of a man of younger years, driving his own car and going to calls where you cannot drive a car all the way, sometimes leaving his car and going part of the way horseback.

On Sunday morning when the duties of his profession do not call him elsewhere he is at his accustomed place at the church of his choice teaching and developing the spiritual side of life, without which a life is not complete.

When taking a retrospective view of life what a privilege to look back upon a life spent in alleviating pain, in relieving suffering and distress.

Great men by their inventions and discoveries have added untold wealth and fame to this nation but, they too, when disease overtakes them and their bodies are seized with pain and suffering call the family physician for aid.

It is fitting that we give recognition to those whose lives have been spent in the service of humanity.

Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 20 February 1930, front page.

FUNERAL SERVICES TO BE HELD AT BUFFALO VALLEY, FRIDAY,
FOR DR. SAMUEL D. DENTON

Funeral services will be held for **Dr. S. D. Denton**, tomorrow (Friday) at the Church of Christ in Buffalo Valley at 2 o'clock, with R. V. Cawthon, minister of the Church of Christ at Mr. Juliet in charge. **Burial will be in the Maddux cemetery.**

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Minnie Jones Denton, of Buffalo Valley.

Dr. Denton died last night at his home in Buffalo Valley, of a heart attack.

He was born in White County, near Doyle, in January, 1854. He attended medical school at the old University of Nashville, and immediately after graduation from the medical college in 1877, he moved to Buffalo Valley, where he has engaged in the practice of his profession throughout the entire lower end of Putnam and parts of DeKalb and Smith Counties. Dr. Denton has served four generations in this section, where he was known and loved for his untold acts of mercy rendered during the 67 years he has worked and labored among his neighbors and friends.

Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 31 August 1944.

MRS. MINNIE DENTON DIES FRIDAY OF BURNS

Funeral services for Mrs. **Minnie Denton**, 73, who died Friday night at City Hospital of burns received in her home at Buffalo Valley on Wednesday morning, were held Saturday afternoon at Buffalo Valley Church of Christ, Rev. R. V. Cawthon officiated. **Burial was in the Maddux Cemetery.**

Widow of **Dr. Sam Denton**, Mrs. Denton was standing in front of her fireplace when the bathrobe she was wearing caught fire.

Daughter of the late **Wade & Rebecca Bartlett Jones**, she was a native Putnam Countian.

Survivors include 2 sisters, Mrs. Velma Newman, Nashville, Mrs. Nora Steele, Buffalo Valley & 1 brother, Henry Jones of Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN.

Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 1 December 1949, front page.

DR. EDDIE DEAL GROSS

b. 1 November 1878

d. 20 December 1968

s/o George Russell Gross (1854-1899) & Matilda Cowan

h/o Altie Knight Ferguson

b. July 1885

d. 1 January 1956

Both Buried: Gross Cemetery, Smith Co., TN

Born the son of a farmer, Eddie Deal Gross wanted to make something of himself. Born on November 1, 1878, he spent his life in Smith County.

As a young man, he worked in a general merchandise store, in the Chestnut Mound community, to work his way through the Joseph W. Allen College in Carthage. After graduating, in December of 1902, he signed a contract with the Director of School District Number 10 employing him as a teacher of school Number 3 and agreed to pay him thirty dollars per month.

The money received from his teaching enabled he and his brother John W. Gross (Dr. John William Horace Gross) to enter the School of Medicine at the University of Nashville. He and his brother both graduated on March 31, 1905. He received his diploma and permanent M. D. license at the age of 26.

Dr. Gross remained in Smith County, while his brother entered the United States Navy. John W. Gross died a few months later of meningitis in the U. S. Navy Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia on December 2, 1912.

Dr. E. D. Gross did most of his work in Smith County and surrounding counties. He practiced medicine for over 50 years. He was a member of the Tennessee and American Medical association, and the Smith County Medical Society and was at one time the President of the Upper Cumberland Medical Society.

Dr. Gross was loved by all his patients and friends. He was married to Altie K. Ferguson, who passed away January 1, 1956. They had three children, Sadie Carter of Carthage, TN, Bill Gross of Oak Ridge, TN, and John Gross of Chestnut Mound, TN. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Carthage.

Dr. Gross died on December 20, 1968 at the age of 90.

Source: Smith County History, Smith County Homecoming '86 Heritage Committee, F 375, pg. 516.

GROSS CEMETERY

The Gross Cemetery is located beside the house at #38 Maggart Road in Chestnut Mound.

GPS 36-12-50N 85-49-99W

Gross, Sadie Murray Carter 16 July 1921 - 16 May 1997

Gross, Dr. Eddie D. 1 Nov 1878 - 20 Dec 1968 - Son of George Russell Gross & Matilda Cowan.

Gross, Altie K. 22 Jul 1885 - 1 Jan 1956 - Altie K. Ferguson, w/o Dr. Eddie Deal Gross

Gross, John H. 27 Dec 1912 - 2 Mar 1994

Gross, Ruth McDonald 30 Aug 1915 - 1 Aug 1995

Gross, Lizzie Lee 9 Sep 1866 - 24 Aug 1907 – Sister of William Horace Gross.

Gross, George Russell 3 Oct 1854 -13 Nov 1899 - Husband of Matilda Cowan, md 13 April 1876.

Gross, Dr. John William Horace 15 Aug 1882 - 2 Dec 1912 - Died in U. S. Navy. Son of George Russell Gross & Matilda Cowan.

Gross, William Horace 2 Mar 1858 - 28 Jun 1929

Gross, Sarah C. 16 Dec 1835 - 22 Aug 1892

There are 8-10 graves immediately to the north of this cemetery with burials marked with slate rocks or detected by depressions in the soil that are said to be of the Hawthorne family.

Copied by Retta Waggoner July 23, 2003

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsmith/cempics/grosscem.htm>

Listed in Smith County Tennessee Cemeteries - South of the Cumberland River page 165.

DR. LUTHER M. FREEMAN

Luther M. Freeman, M. D., Granville, TN, s/o Thomas & Eliza Freeman. Ethel Maddux, d/o Robert Fain Maddux & Martha Stanton md Dr. Luther M. Freeman. Her sister Alta Maddux md Dr. Charles McClain

of Carthage, Smith Co., TN. Luther M. Freeman, b. 13 January 1879, TN – d. 5 November 1973 & his wife Ethel (Maddux) Freeman, b. 14 October 1886, TN – d. 16 March 1970, both buried in the Maddux Graveyard, Putnam Co., TN located on Martin's Creek between Dr. Luther M. Freeman homeplace and Thomas Jefferson Maddux homeplace.

(SS Death Index: Name: **LUTHER FREEMAN** - Birth: 13 January 1879 - Death: 5 November 1973 - Age: 67 - Last Residence: Granville, Jackson, TN 38564 - Last Benefit: (not specified) - SSN: 412-64-3375 - Issued by: Tennessee).

In 1905 Dr. Luther Martin Freeman graduated from the University of Tennessee Medical School in Nashville. He came to Granville on horseback in 1906 to set up his practice. He married local girl Ethel Maddux and settled into the community. Dr. Freeman practiced medicine until shortly before his death at the age of 94. He performed dual roles in the community, as he was also Granville's longest-serving postmaster. *Images of America Granville*, TN by The Granville Museum, Inc., pg. 75.

LUTHER M. FREEMAN SERVICES HELD

Nashville Banner, TN
6 November 1973

COOKEVILLE: Dr. L. M. Freeman, 94, a practicing physician in Granville for 67 years, died Monday in a Cookeville hospital.

Services will be at 2 Wednesday at Hooper-Huddleston Funeral Home with burial in Maddux Cemetery.

Dr. Freeman began his practice in 1906.

A member of the Church of Christ, Freeman was secretary-treasurer of the Upper Cumberland Medical Association, a member of the American Medical Association's 50-Year Club, the Putnam County, 5 County and the Tennessee Medical Association.

His wife, Mrs. Ethel Maddux Freeman, died in 1970.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Eliza Freeman Thompson, Granville; a grandson and 2 great grandchildren.

MRS. FREEMAN SERVICES SET AT 2 WEDNESDAY

Nashville Banner, TN
17 March 1970, pg. 27

COOKEVILLE: Services for Mrs. Ethel Maddux Freeman, 84, will be at 2 Wednesday at the Granville Methodist Church with burial in Maddux Cemetery, Smith County. The body is at Hooper-Huddleston Funeral Home, Cookeville.

The Rev. James Reed Cox and the Rev. Weldon H. Harris will officiate.

Mrs. Freeman died Monday at her home in Granville following a long illness.

Her husband Dr. L. M. Freeman is a well-known Middle Tennessee physician.

A native of Tennessee, she was a daughter of the late Robert and Martha Stanton Maddux.

Survivors in addition to her husband include a daughter, Mrs. Paul Thompson, Cookeville; 1 grandson and 2 grandchildren.

DR. THOMAS JEFFERSON SMITH

Thomas Jefferson Smith, M. D. lived in Silver Point and served the Smithville and the Center Hill areas in the early 20th century.

Dr. Thomas Jefferson Smith Obt.

b. 17 September 1870, Laurel Hill, Putnam Co., TN – d. 14 March 1948, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN.

DR. T. J. SMITH OF PUTNAM DIES:

Dr. Thomas J. Smith, 77, prominent Putnam county physician for half a century, died yesterday afternoon at the home of his daughter here.

Dr. Smith had been in failing health for nearly two years. Death came from a heart attack suffered at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Howard C. Curtis, 412 Fairfax Ave. with whom he had made his home for the past seven months.



The body will lie in state at Bracey-Welsh Funeral home today and be taken to Silver Point Presbyterian chapel and **burial will be in Cookeville Cemetery, Cookeville, TN.**

A native of Laurel Hill, TN, Dr. Smith was a son of the late Samuel and Mary Maxwell Smith. He received his early education in the public schools of Athens, TN and was graduated from Vanderbilt Medical School in 1891. He did intern work at Poly clinic in New York City and had practiced medicine in Putnam county for more than 50 years. His wife, the former Miss Mattie Belle McDonald, died in 1938. Upon her death, Dr. Smith provided the funds for and dedicated the Silver Point Presbyterian chapel to her memory.

He was a member of the Putnam medical society.

In addition to his daughter, he is survived by a son Lionel F. Smith of Silver, and seven grandchildren.

Nashville Tennessean Newspaper, Monday, 15 March 1948, pg. 6.

Source: DC #4896, Putnam Co., TN

Full Name: Thomas Jefferson Smith

Place of Death: 412 Fairfax Ave., Davidson Co., Nashville, TN

Age: 77 yrs. 5 months 27 days

Date of Birth: 17 September 1870, Laurel Hill, DeKalb Co., TN

Wife: Belle McDonald

Occupation: Medical Doctor

Father: Samuel Houston Smith

Mother: Mary Ann Maxwell, born in Murfreesboro, TN

Informant: Mrs. Howard Curtis of 412 Fairfax Ave

Cemetery: Cookeville, Cookeville, TN

Undertaker: Jack Carver Funeral Home, Cookeville, TN by Jack Carver

Usual Residence: Civil Dist. 13, Silver Point, Putnam Co., TN

Cause of Death: Pulmonary tuberculosis

Mattie Belle (McDonald) Smith Obt.

b. 12 March 1873 – d. 12 August 1936

FUNERAL HELD FOR MRS. T. J. SMITH:

Funeral services for Mrs. T. J. Smith, 63, who died at her home in Baxter, Wednesday, August 12, was held at the home Thursday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. J. A. Harris. **Burial was in the Cookeville Cemetery.**

The large crowd attending her funeral and the beautiful floral wreaths attested to the love and esteem in which she was held.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. T. J. Smith, a son, Lionel Smith; a daughter, Mrs. H. C. Curtis; brother, F. W. McDonald; three sisters, Misses Sallie and Lucille McDonald and Mrs. Johnnie Moss; and four grandchildren, Ashley and Lee McDonald Smith, Bill and Carolyn Curtis.

Herald Newspaper, 20 August 1936, pg. 5.

Mattie Belle (McDonald) Smith Obt.

SILVER POINT: MRS. MATTIE SMITH DIES:

In the death of Mrs. Mattie Smith which occurred at her home Wednesday morning, August 12, humanity loses one of its most gracious and useful women.

Mrs. Smith was a wonderful woman; so good, so high minded, so charitable, lovable and a lover of all human kind.

In a life of sixty three years, no unkind word about her fellowman ever escaped her lips, no unkind thought ever clouded her mind, but through all the years her life was filled with good deeds and practiced charity, that made her a benefactor in this section.

Her hospitable home was ever open to her friends and their friends. The crowds were never too large to find comfortable entertainment. The good humor and wisdom which emanated from this cheerful, smiling Christian woman, made the honorees of her hospitality realize that life was worth living. The young folks as well as old, flocked to her home. They loved her, they enjoyed her, she was entertainment and instructive to them. Not a heart be aches, that knew here, and the unbroken rays of her friends bespeak for her the eternal rest that comes to those who love the Lord.

It matters not how great the offense or wrong, Mrs. Smith had a word of defense and good for the wrong doer - she breathed kindness, she lived kindness.

Funeral services were conducted at the home, Thursday afternoon, by Rev. J. A. Harris, of Baxter.

Interment took place in the Cookeville cemetery.

Pallbearers were Beecher Wallace, Herman Alcorn, Will Julian, G. H. Denny, Alfred Gill and Bismark Rowland.

She leaves a husband, Dr. T. J. Smith, daughter, Mrs. H. C. Curtis, son, Lionel, brother, F. W. McDonald, three sisters, Misses Sallie and Lucille McDonald and Mrs. Johnnie Moss, four grandchildren, Ashley and Lee McDonald Smith, Bill and Carolyn Curtis, and a host of friends to mourn her death.

Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 27 August 1936, pg. 3.

Lionel Smith Obt.

SERVICES HELD SATURDAY:

Funeral services were held Saturday for Lionel Smith, 51, at the Silver Point Presbyterian Church. **Burial was in Cookeville City Cemetery.**

Mr. Smith, a rural mail carrier, died Wednesday night at his home in Silver Point of a heart attack.

Son of the late Dr. Thomas J. and Mrs. Mattie McDonald Smith, he was a native of Putnam County, TN.

Survivors include his widow Mrs. Annie Mae Julian Smith; four sons, Ashley Lee, Donald, William T. and James A. Smith, and one daughter, Miss Mary Smith.

Thomas Jefferson Smith, b. 17 September 1870, Laurel Hill, DeKalb Co., TN – d. 14 March 1948, Davidson Co., Nashville, TN & Martha “Mattie” Belle (McDonald) Smith, b. 12 March 1873 – d. 12 August 1936, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN. Both buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Thomas Jefferson Smith, s/o Samuel Houston Smith & Mary Ann Maxwell of DeKalb Co., TN. Martha “Mattie” Belle (McDonald) Smith, d/o Jesse & Josie McDonald of DeKalb Co., TN.

Lionel Donald Smith, b. 4 November 1898, TN – d. 21 December 1949, Putnam Co., TN md 1st Ruby Irene (Ashley) Smith, b. 1 October 1899, TN – d. 9 May 1934, both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Lionel Smith md 2nd Annie May (Julian) Smith. Lionel Smith was a rural mail carrier for Putnam Co., TN. He rode a horse with mail bags hanging across and delivered the mail through all kinds of weather, snow, rain or sleet.

Anna Mai (Julian) Smith Obt.

BAXTER -- Funeral services for Anna Mai Smith, 90, of Silver Point will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday from the Baxter Chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Cookeville Cemetery.

The family will receive friends after 2 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Mrs. Smith died on Friday, May 28, 2004, at NHC of Cookeville.

She was born June 7, 1913, in Silver Point to the late Will J. and Mary Ceva Watkins Julian. Mrs. Smith was a graduate of Baxter Seminary and Tennessee Technological University. She was a retired school teacher, having taught over 30 years at Buffalo Valley, Boma, Silver Point and Baxter Elementary Schools. She attended the Silver Point Church of Christ.

Her family includes a daughter, Mary Snowden of Lebanon; two sons and a daughter-in-law: William (Bill) T. Anita Smith, and James (Jim) W. Smith, all of Silver Point; four grandsons and three granddaughters-in-law: Lionel Smith, Phillip and Daka Smith, and Forest and Susan Smith; a granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Lorna and Shea Lee; three great-grandchildren: Danika and Colton Smith, and Elliott Lee.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her husband Lionel D. Smith; two sisters: Carolyn Julian and Lois Alcorn; three brothers: Earl, Will and Lloyd Julian; and a granddaughter, Ann Snowden.

Active pallbearers will be Lionel, Phillip and Forest Smith, Shea Lee, Clyde Clemons, Byrd Clemons, Jr., Brian Sears, John Tom Alcorn, and Gerald Julian.

Honorary pallbearers will be all former teachers who worked with Mrs. Smith, and former students, Danika and Colton Smith and Elliott Lee.

Bro. Johnny Fox and Bro. Don Chaffin will officiate at the services.

Published May 29, 2004 3:35 PM CDT : Herald-Citizen, Cookeville TN

Source: Putnam County Tennessee, 1850 - 1970 by Mary Jean DeLozier, pg. 204 - 207: From 1890 to 1920 J. Thomas Moore and J. A. Butler practiced medicine in Algood and Robert L. Ray, W. C. Officer, C. A. Collins, Alvah Johnson, and T. Morrison Crain were Monterey physicians. **Dr. Samuel Denton**, W. E.

Sypert, Shelia Davis, Ned Burton, William F. Sewell, J. M. Wheeler, **Thomas Jefferson Smith**, and **Luther M. Freeman** served the western part of the county.¹⁷

R. L. Duval, G. N. Guthrie, W. D. Ferrell, J. Peyton Terry, and S. H. Baird were some of the Putnam County's leading dentists.

In the early years of the twentieth century a number of factors brought some improvement in health practices in Putnam County. Informed persons throughout the United States began to realize the implications of the germ theory and to demand better sanitation. New discoveries in medical science gained increased respect for the medical profession. In 1901 the Tennessee General Assembly tightened standards for state medical schools, and in 1916 that body required examinations of all physicians who wished to practice in Tennessee. The Putnam County Quarterly Court elected a health officer who led immunization drives and sanitation projects, hired a county nurse, and paid partial expenses for care of mentally ill at Central State Hospital in Nashville. The Tennessee Public Health Department examined water supplies.

After World War I the Red Cross provided workers who investigated the health needs of county families and arranged for care with local physicians. The chapter likewise scheduled classes in home nursing.

County doctors introduced new techniques. They abandoned their emphasis on purgatives, emphasized immunization, and began employing x-rays for diagnosis. Dr. Moore introduced the use of aspirin to relieve pain.

In spite of improved sanitation and preventative measures, epidemics continued to hit the area. While smallpox and typhoid fever were on the wane, diphtheria and scarlet fever still claimed many victims, and in 1918 a terrible influenza epidemic hit the United States and Putnam County. Beginning in September of 1918, the disease spread rapidly throughout the county. It struck whole families and many, especially the elderly, babies, and those who refused bed rest, died. Stores ran out of coffins and families had to make their own. Schools and theaters closed, and clubs discontinued meetings.

Nevertheless, Putnam had made progress in health care from 1890 to 1920. While many of its citizens still relied on folk cures, many others called in physicians, now better trained to treat their illnesses. In 1923 Putnam County had 116 practicing physicians and ranked 22 in the number of doctors among the 95 counties of Tennessee.

¹⁷This list, compiled primarily from accounts of medical meetings in area newspapers, is not a complete roster of the physicians of Putnam County from 1890 to 1920. Although during these years medical doctors were required to register their licenses in the county court clerk's office, these registrations cannot presently be located by that office. Dr. and Mrs. Thurman Shipley and others were helpful in checking the list compiled by the writer.

Source: Putnam County Tennessee Cemeteries by Maurine Ensor Patton & Doris Garrison Gilbert, pg. 358: Located across from the old Lloyd Denny place. Recorded in 1981.

Medley, William Riley, b. 22 December 1857, TN – d. 12 February 1944, s/o G. W. Medley & Amanda Smith.

(William Riley Medley was the registrar on many death certificates included in this book).

Medley, Ada "Ader" McCulley, b. 25 October 1876, TN – d. 1958

Medley, Bessie Lee, b. 4 November 1910 – d. 16 December 1910, d/o Doss & Samantha J. Medley.

Medley, Mary E., b. 4 December 1860 – d. 24 April 1892

Medley, Cyril H., b. 12 December 1903 – d. 17 March 1956

Medley, Martha, b. 25 July 1876 – d. 11 October 1896

@Medley, Infant, d/o Eugene Eschol "Dock" Medley & Buena Vista Denny.

(1860 census 8th Dist., Smithville, DeKalb Co., TN: Dwl: 863 – **George W. Medley** is head of household, 27 yrs. old, TN md to **Amanda**, 25 yrs. old, TN. Children: James Sidney, 6 yrs. old; Pickney, 5 yrs. old; **William Riley**, 2 yrs. old & Alvin Smith Medley, 21 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1870 census 8th Dist., Laurel Hill, DeKalb Co., TN: Dwl: 6 – **George W. Medley** is head of household, 37 yrs. old, TN md to **Amanda**, 35 yrs. old, TN. Children: James Sidney; 16 yrs. old; Pickney, 15 yrs. old; **William Riley**, 12 yrs. old; Napoleon B., 10 yrs. old; George W., 7 yrs. old; Alvin, 5 yrs. old; John A., 3 yrs. old & Octavo Medley, 1 yr. old. All born in TN)

Dwl: 6 Family: 6

Census Place: 1880 District 8, De Kalb Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255252 National Archives Film T9-1252 Page 176D

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
G. W. MEDLEY	Self	M	M	W	52	TN

Occ: Farming Fa: VA Mo: VA

(George W. Medley, s/o George Medley & Mary "Polly" Howell)

Amanda MEDLEY	Wife	F	M	W	45	TN
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Occ: Keeps House Fa: TN Mo: TN

(Amanda D. (Smith) Medley, d/o Thomas Smith & Matilda Puckett)

George MEDLEY	Son	M	S	W	16	TN
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Occ: Farm Labor Fa: TN Mo: TN

Alvin MEDLEY	Son	M	S	W	15	TN
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Occ: Farm Labor Fa: TN Mo: TN

(Alvin Medley md 1st Velma Mitchell, md 2nd Katie Novella Jones, md 3rd Laura Belle Lafever)

John MEDLEY	Son	M	S	W	13	TN
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Occ: Farm Labor Fa: TN Mo: TN

Octava F. MEDLEY	Dau	F	S	W	11	TN
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Fa: TN Mo: TN

Laverna MEDLEY	Dau	F	S	W	5	TN
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Occ: At Home Fa: TN Mo: TN

Collumbus MEDLEY	Son	M	S	W	2	TN
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Fa: TN Mo: TN

(Source: DeKalb County Cemeteries by Doris Garrison Gilbert, pg. 171 - **Amanda Medley**, b. 9 April 1835, TN – d. 30 April 1892, w/o G. W. Medley is buried in the Arlee Medley Cemetery, DeKalb Co., TN, located, going from Silver Point, south on Maggart Ridge Road to Second Creek. The cemetery is near the end of the road at the bottom of a hill among several cabins).

Putnam County, TN 1900 census enumerated by me on the 1st day of June 1900, W. R. Medley Enumerator.

(1900 census 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 10 – **William R. Medley** is head of household, 42 yrs. old, b. December 1857, TN md 3 yrs. to **Ada "Ader"**, 23 yrs. old, b. October 1876, TN. Children: Zina A., son, 19 yrs. old; Haritte, 15 yrs. old, b. July 1880; Earnest 14 yrs. old, b. November 1885; Elsie M., 13 yrs. old, b. March 1887; Babe, son, 10 yrs. old, b. November 1889 & Eugene Eschol "Dock" "Eskel E." Medley, 2 yrs. old, b. January 1898. All born in TN).

Putnam County, TN 1900 census enumerated by me on the 13th day of May 1910, W. R. Medley Enumerator.

(1910 census 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 175 – **William R. Medley** is head of household, 52 yrs. old, TN, md 14 yrs. to **Ada**, 34 yrs. old, TN, **4 children born, 4 children living**. Children: Elsa M., 22 yrs. old; Babe, 20 yrs. old; Eschol E., 12 yrs. old; Verte Mai, 9 yrs. old; Cyril H., 6 yrs. old & Mabel R. Medley, 4 yrs. old. All born in TN. Also living in the household: Arnold Medley, grandson, 2 yrs. old, TN).

(Zina Adrian Medley md Sarah Saphronia Judd; Hautie "Haritte" Medley md Ally Presley; Ernest "Earnest" Medley md Micheal "Telia" Anderson, d/o Lewis Monroe Anderson & Matilda "Tildy" Wallace; Clarence "Babe" Medley md Ida Geneverette Carr; Eugene "Dock" Medley md Buena Vista Denny, d/o John Rankin Denny & Ada Scruggs & Mable R. Medley md Thurman Alcorn).

A. L. SMELLAGE, ET AL. TO DEED TO PUBLIC GRAVEYARD

August 27th 1909

Know all men by these presents, That We A. L. Smellage and G. O. Kinnaird, do by these presents, give, Grant, transfer and convey to the Public, and to be used by the People for the purpose of Buring the Dead, the following described lott or pearcil of land, lying and being situated in the State of Tennessee, County of Putnam, and Civil Dist., No. 17. Containing by estimation one acre and three eights, and bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning on a cedar tree, runing thence west 10 rod and 5 yds to a stone, thence south 18 rod and 9 yds to a stone on the bank of the Buffalo Valley and Indian Creek road, thence east with said road 10 rod and 5 yds to a stone, thence north 18 rod and 9 yds to the beginning corner, Said land is known as the Smellage old Grave Yard, and the said A. L. Smellage includes and excludes and reserves 15 yds long, by 7 yds wide, where his Father and Mother and other connection is buried. To have and to hold the above described lot of land, as herein set out. We are lawfully seized and possessed of said land and have a good right to convey it.

Witness our hands, this Aug. 11, 1909.

A. L. Smellage (*Alvin L. Smellage*)
G. O. (his mark) Kinnaird (*George Oscar Kinnaird*)

STATE OF TENNESSEE, PUTNAM COUNTY:

Personally appeared before me, J. W. Barks, a Notary Public in and for Putnam County, and aforesaid State, A. L. Smellage and G. O. Kinnaird, persons with whom I am personally acquainted, and acknowledged that they executed the within deed for the purpose therein contained. Witness my hand and seal of Office, this Aug. 11, 1909.

My Commission expires July, 6, 1912 J. W. Barks, N.P.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, PUTNAM COUNTY: The above and foregoing deed was filed in my Office for registration on the 27th day of August, 1909. At 1:50 O'clock P.M. And noted in Filation Book "B" on page 297 and duly recorded in Deed Book 1 on pages 502.

Witness my hand at office in Cookeville, Tenn. This 27th day of August, 1909.
S. F. Carr, Register.
By Algood Moore, D. R.

**G.O. KINNAIRD & WIFE MYRTEL KINNAIRD TO
A.L. SMELLAGE, J. W ANDERSON & J. Y. SHANKS**

22 May 1911

Known all men by these Presents that we G O Kinnaird (*George Oscar Kinnaird*) and wife Myrtel Kinnaird for the Consideration of Twenty Five Dollars to us paid in hand the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

We do here by Sell Transfer and Convey unto A L Smellage, J W Anderson, and J Y Shanks as trustees to what is known as the Smellage Grave yard. The following described lot of land to be used by the Public for the purpose of a grave yard to burry the dead lying and being Situated in the State of Tennessee Putnam County and Civil Dist no 17, and containing three fourth of an acre by Estimation and adjoining the west end of the aforesaid grave yard and bounded as follows to wit Beginning on the north west corner of said grave yard running thence west 30 yards to a Stone thence South about 110 yards to a Stone at the Edge of the Indian Creek road thence East 30 yards with said road to a Stone the South west corner of the old grave yard thence north with the line of said old grave yard. Said land is layde off in Blocks 72 feet wide north and South and 90 feet long East and West and said Blocks is nomberd beginning with no 1 on the north sid and counting south evary 32 feet a Block or rowe and we here by rezerve the first 10 feet or lolt no 1 in the third Block or rowe which is next to the line of the old grave yard to be used by the aforesaid J Y Shanks for the purpose of buring his famley and for the reserve lott no 3 = 10 feet by 32 feet Said Block or rowe no 3 to be used by J W Anderson for the purpose of buring his famley and we futher

rezerve lott no 4 in said Block or rowe no 3 for the purpose of burying our famley and the lot of said land to be used by the public for the purpose of Buring the dead but all graves is be dug in rotation in each Block rowe and lott and Said Trustees & their successors is hereby empowered to see that all graves is kept in rotation allowing all persons to select their won Block and lott.

To have and to hold the within described lott of land to the said A L Smellage, J W Anderson and J Y Shanks and the Successors as trustees to said grave yard. We do covenant and bind ourselves our heirs and legal representatives to forever warrant and defend the title to said land to the said Board of Trustees and the successors against the lawful claimer of all persons whome so ever.

In witness where of we have here unto set our hands this May 22 1911.

G. O. Kinnaird (*George Oscar Kinnaird*)
C. M. Kinnaird (*Clemmie Myrtle (Ward) Kinnaird*)

STATE OF TENNESSEE, PUTNAM COUNTY. Personally appeared before me J. W. Barks, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, the within named G. O. Kinnaird the bargainor with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledged that he executed the within Deed instrument for the purpose therein contained. And Myrtel Kinnaird, wife of the said G. O. Kinnaird, having personally appeared before me, privately and apart from her husband, the said Myrtel Kinnaird acknowledged the execution of said Deed to have been done by her freely, voluntarily, and understandingly, without compulsion or constraint from her said husband, and for the purpose therein expressed.

Witness my hand and official seal, at Boma Tennessee, this 1 day of June 1911.

J. W. Barks, Notary Public
My commission expires July 6 1911.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, PUTNAM COUNTY: I, S. S. STANTON, Register, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing deed, with certificates hereto attached, was filed in my office for registration on the 16th day of January 1915, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. and noted in Filation Book "C" on page 74 and duly recorded in Deed Book No. 6, on page 654.

Witness my hand at office in Cookeville, Tenn., this 16th day of January 1915.

S. S. Stanton, Register

W. B. WELLS & WIFE DEED TO GRAVEYARD

To whom it may concern.

For the consideration of twenty dollars (\$20) cash in hand we, W. B. Wells and wife Lucretia M. Wells, have this day bargained and sold a certain parcel or lot of land to the trustees of Smellage Graveyard for the purpose of making a public hitching ground for horses.

The present trustees are J. W. Anderson chairman, A. L. Smellage clerk and J. Y. Shanks treasurer.

The parcel or lot is described as follows. Beginning on a black oak on the South side of the road opposite the South West corner of the part of the land bought off George Kinard in 1911 as an addition to the Smellage Graveyard; thence south with the hollow to a hollow to a small hiccory (sic) in George Kinard's line. Thence up the hollow and with George Kinard's line to a rock in the public road. Thence with the road to the beginning corner. The same to be one acre more or less. We agree to warrant and defend the title against all lawful claims. This October 27, 1911.

Signed: W. B. Wells (*William Byrd Wells*)
LouCresia M. Wells (her mark)

STATE OF TENNESSEE, Putnam COUNTY.

Personally appeared before me J. W. Barks, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, the within named W. B. Wells with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledged that he executed the within Deed instrument for the purpose therein contained. And Lou Cresia M. Wells, wife of the said W. B. Wells, having personally appeared before me, privately and apart for her husband, the said Lou Cresia M. Wells acknowledged the execution of said Deed to have been done by her freely, voluntarily, and understandingly, without compulsion or constraint from her said husband, and for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and official seal, at Boma Tennessee, this 27 day of October, 1911.

J. W. Barks, Notary Public - - my commission expires July 6, 1912.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, PUTNAM COUNTY

The foregoing instrument and certificate were noted in Note Book H, Page 206 At 10:41 O'Clock AM 4-Sept. 1973 and recorded in W. D. Book 154, Series____ Page 505 State Tax Paid \$____ Fee ____Recording Fee 4.00 Total \$4.00. Witness My hand. Receipt No. 25189 James W. Breeding, Register.

SPLENDID TIME

Source: Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 13 June 1912, front page:

Decoration, May 30, at Boma, Tennessee, was in every way a success and the writer was requested by a unanimous vote by the large audience, to write up a report and send it to the Herald for publication.

There were sixteen of the old verteran's of both sides present. Beginning at Boma cemetery, there were two sons of veterans – one on each side, one a Baptist, the other a Methodist, these young men standing at the gate of the cemetery, each held a flag (The Stars and Stripes) the old comrades halting on the outside while a short appropriate address was delivered by Rev. J. B. Dickens. Then passing through the gate under the flags, each man saluted by raising his hat. Then after a short service, conducted by Rev. M. Judd, and placing flowers on the graves the crowd proceeded to the Smellage graveyard where the same order of services were repeated. After the decoration service the large audience was held spell bound by a splendid sermon delivered by Rev. John H. Nichols, an old confederate veteran. Then a bountiful dinner was served. The afternoon services were conducted by the writer. A number of excellent talks were delivered by the old comrades, and others – all expressing themselves as being greatly benefited by these union services.

Rev. J. R. Clayton made a ringing talk which met with many hearty “amen's” from the audience. He urged upon the audience to do away with those Sunday decoration and Sunday dinners, which are becoming a nuisance – because of the large crowds, and so much Sabbath desecration and stretching over the country through the summer and fall season it is greatly paralyzing the Sunday school and church work as May 30 has been set apart by this government as National Decoration day – let every community observe this day annually.

Source: Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 13 June 1912, pg. 2.

BOMA – The decoration of the old soldiers graves at the Smellage graveyard Thursday passed off nicely. Rev. J. H. Nichol of Springhill made a very appropriate talk on that occasion.

1920 census 17th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 37 Family: 38

Mizell Duke Head 39 M W Married Blacksmith Owns Shop TN TN TN

Mattie M. Duke Wife 33 F W Married TN TN TN

Grady Duke Son 15 M W Single TN TN TN

Jaems E. Duke Son 13 Single TN TN TN

Bonnie L. Duke Dau 2 11/12 Single TN TN TN

1930 census 17th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN
Mizell Duke Head 49 M W Married TN TN TN
Mattie M. Duke Wife 44 F W Married TN TN TN
Bonie L. Duke Dau 13 F W Single TN TN TN

DECORATION DAY

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN, Thursday, 5 June 1913

Last Friday, May 30, a number of the survivors of the late war between the states of both sides, passed another milestone in their onward march toward the last annual decoration ever to be held by the old veterans of the Civil War. I say the last one because only a few remain, and every year we find that some one or more have dropped from the ranks since our last annual decoration. This was in a sense, a great day. Great because of the large audience, and many of them were busy farmers, yet not too busy to find time to spend a day in honor of these fallen heroes who once said goodbye to loved ones, laying their lives on the altar of their country, in defense of what they thought to be right, many of them never to return again.

This was a great day because of the love and friendship that abounded among the old comrades and the entire audience. It was great because of the excellent vocal music rendered by Duke, Jr. Great because of a splendid sermon by Elder S. Howell, on the subject "Open Books and the Judgement." Al so great because of an excellent address by Elder J. C. Stewart, on the subject "The Old Soldiers of the Past, the Present and the Future." It was great because of evidences of great love and friendship, and the greatest of all was that nearly all of the sixteen veterans present gave evidence of their faith in God and a hope of a blessed immortality beyond the grave.

There was a bountiful dinner of the best of the land, which was enjoyed by all present, and no doubt with some this was the most delightful feature of the entire day. The exerlises (sic) were conducted by Rev. M. Judd and the writer, opening at the cemetery near the Baptist church house at Boma at 9:30 o'clock; then at the Smellage graveyard one mile west of Boma, closing out at 3:30 p.m. We separated perhaps to meet no more until we asseble at the judgement day when the last trumpet shall call us to appear before the face of our Great Captain and King of Peace. Dear fellow comrades, we have often responded to the bugle calls, and at rollcall we have answered present; we have passed many inspections by our superior officers, and perhaps have been complimented by them, but how will it be up yonder?

DONATIONS FOR THE SMELLAGE SIGN AND CONCERT BLOCK WALL (ca. 1900's)

A new brick wall was built in 2005. This list was transcribed from the original list of donations.

W. S. Cooper, Arvie Kinnard, Luther Shanks, Fred Anderson, E. P. Carr, Solon & Ann Lowe, Forrest Anderson, Vennie Gentry, Clayburn Jared, Boda Waller, Martelia Shanks, Leonard Oaks, Ollie Smith, Haskel & Nell Shanks, Mary Boyd, Erma S. Denny, Juanita Waller, Francis Smellage, Robert Smellage, Elizabeth Smellage, Collie Anderson, Bessie Wallace, Tina Hale, Clarence Taylor, Oscar Roberts, Charlie Herron, Bethel Jared, Mary Ellis, Minnie Lowe, Scott Lee, Ethel Carr, Martha Lee, Marg Carr, Jessie Stewart, Estel Lowe, Mack Whitehead, Edda Dean Whitehead, Fern Alexander, Travis Allison, Anthony Bush, Jessie Cookes, Gerline Leftwich, Grover Carr, Rina Shanks, Carson Cronk, Bettie Robinson, James Sullins, Winnie Whitaker, Cora Sutton, Jackie Stewart, Lester Sutton, Floyd Shanks, Dallas Leftwich, Fowler Oaks, Wallene Brewington, Freda Shanks, Ford Shanks, Lillian Robinson, Cleo Evans, James Lowry, Herbert Roberts, Floyd Adams, David Evans, John Jared, Everett Prichard, Cleo Robertson's daughters, Addie Gill, Elbie Brown, Carson Anderson, Natie Anderson, Ora Mai Brown, Nuavo Maynard, James Anderson, Treva Shanks, Howard Hudson, Audra Anderson Denny, L. M. (Lewis Monroe) Anderson, Ollie Julian, Howard Anderon, Ms. Blackburn, Dollie Starnes, Dero Brown, John Smellage, Sam Leftwich, Selma Johnson, Reba Smellage, Enon Maddux, Argenia Shanks, Nettie Allison, Luther Medley, Will Braswell, Ona Julian, Elwood Robinson, Gladys Upchurch, Walter Maxwell, Clinton Oaks, Ruby Smith, Pearl Harris, Nola Jernigan, Ruth Waller, Solon Ingram, Ova Moran, Cecil Holliday, Jimbo Medley, Dollie Starnes, Calvert Sutton, C. D. Roberts, Francis Bush.

Pay Outs: Winell Lee for supplies; James Flatt for labor; Loeffers Quarry for stone, builders supply, cement; J. M. Shaffers, stone, builders supplies, rods; Billie Hoggard for labor; Olcie Brown for labor & Doyle Choate for the sign archery.

MEETING PLANNED AT SMELLAGE CEMETERY:

An important meeting of all persons with relatives interned in the Smellage Cemetery and all persons connected with the cemetery will be held Sunday, April 12, at the graveyard.

According to Mrs. Neal Taylor who made the announcement this is not a meeting to clean off the graves but is being held for the purpose of planning a general renovation of the cemetery including removing some trees, doing some grading and possibly building some rest rooms.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 9 April 1953.

MORE WORK PLANNED AT SMELLAGE CEMETERY:

Announcement has been made that due to inclement weather cleaning work was not completed at the Smellage Cemetery at Boma last Saturday. All person interested in the Cemetery are asked to meet again Saturday, May 2, to help plan and finish the work. Your cooperation will mean a lot of beautifying the cemetery.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 30 April 1953.

SMELLAGE CEMETERY 50TH ANNIVERSARY:

A special invitation to all person interested in Smellage Cemetery is given to attend the 50th anniversary decoration and reunion Sunday, May 24.

Persons attending are asked to bring a basket lunch and it will be spread under the trees at noon as was done 50 years ago.

The Rev. R. C. Arbaugh, pastor of the Buffalo Valley and Silver Point Presbyterian Churches will speak at 11:00 a.m.

In the afternoon Rev. Lynn Markham, pastor of Steven Street Baptist Church, Cookeville, will speak and the Steven Street Quartet will bring some special numbers.

A considerable amount of cleaning and beautification has recently been done on the graveyard and an invitation is given to come and see this also.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 21 May 1953.

AT SMELLAGE CEMETERY: DECORATION DAY IS AN 81-YEAR OLD TRADITION

The Dispatch Newspaper, 19 May 1981

An 81-year-old tradition will continue this month-Decoration Day at Smellage Cemetery in Baxter. But this year the scene will be a little different.

The cemetery has expanded. Mr. and Mrs. Ted Huddleston, caretakers, have purchased land adjacent to the old cemetery to develop Memory Gardens.

The new two and one-half acre portion of the cemetery is a memorial to the Huddleston's son Bruce, who died at age 22 in a motorcycle accident in 1978.

The large Smellage Cemetery has lots left and the Huddlestons were concerned that no one would take care of the place.

"We spent a lot of time here after the accident," said Mrs. Huddleston. We thought expanding the cemetery might keep interest." The Huddleston's sons, David, Don, Gary and Mike, have also been involved in the project.

A road has been constructed, fences were removed, grave markers added and repaired and in general, the place has been "manicured." Plans for landscaping and building another road and entrance, and erecting a monument are being made.

"It shouldn't be a morbid place," Mrs. Huddleston said. She is in the process of recording all the graves counted over 600 to date. It was originally the Smellage family graveyard.

Hundreds will gather at Smellage Cemetery May 24 for the annual Decoration Day. Families often plan their vacations around the event and travel great distances to attend, according to Ted Huddleston.

The day includes preaching and singing, but the Huddlestons added that it is also a reunion of long-time friends.

The friends, or their fathers, have met each May at a rural cemetery on Hopewell Road for 80 years. Changes and improvements have been made, but the Decoration Day tradition remains the same.

'DECORATIONS' OLD TRADITION

At Smellage, Other Cemeteries

By Cameron Judd: Herald Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN

Sunday, 31 May 1981-No. 127 – Story by Reba Smellage of Oak Ridge, TN and read by her at the 1980 Decoration Day at Smellage Cemetery.

Last Sunday they gathered at Putnam County's Smellage Cemetery and carried on a tradition that is now 81-years-old and going strong - the annual decoration.

Decorations are one of the surviving traditions of the Upper Cumberland's early days, dating from before scientific undertakings techniques and machine-dug graves, back in the days when bodies had to be buried quickly, sometimes before the funeral, and when mantelpiece shrines to departed loved ones were not uncommon.

Decorations are basically services of remembrance, during which families gather to honor the memory of their deceased friends and relatives. Since the placement of flowers on the graves is the primary way this is done, the term "decoration" came to be used.

Memorial Day weekend is of course the logical time for memorials, thus many decorations have traditionally fallen in that time period.

The names on the older tombstones at Smellage ring with history, as does the feel of the cemetery itself.

At the end of the Civil War an early Upper Cumberland resident with the colorful name of Jephtheh Smellage donated 1.3 acres for public burial. In early 1865, a Henley baby became the first person buried there. The grave is unmarked.

In March of the same year, the donator of the land himself died and was buried, soon to be followed by his wife, Eleanor. The couple was, incidentally, the grandparents of John Smellage, current Boma resident.

In 1900 the annual Smellage decoration began, with the fourth Sunday in May becoming the scheduled date for the event. In Those first days, long before superhighways shortened distances and florist offered convenient plastic flowers, Upper Cumberland residents would pick fresh flowers from their yards and

gardens and ride by train or wagon to the cemetery to place a fast-fading tribute to their loved ones on the graves.

Before long, some began making longer lasting paraffin-coated "flowers" from colored paper on hatpin and broom-straw stems. Today, commercially made artificial flowers are most often used.

The cemetery is not far from the railroad tracks that connect Baxter and Boma, and in the early days the Tennessee Central Railroad used to put on an extra coach to haul the crowds of people from outlying areas such as Buffalo Valley on to a point near the cemetery.

Loaded with baskets of chicken, ham, pies, cakes and other foods that housewives had cooked in wood stoves, groups of families would trudge from the railroad to the cemetery, or perhaps ride in wagons or buggies, until they reached it.

Finding shade trees, families would spread a table cloth in some cool, grassy spot and bring out the food. Later, a cold drink from the spring on the nearby property of George Kinnaird quenched their thirsts.

The event was more than a chance to honor those already gone - it was a reunion for those still living, who perhaps lived not many miles apart but who saw each other infrequently because of the slow transportation of the day.

Dressed in their "Sunday finest," those present would mingle, one hand gripping a cold drumstick, the other shaking the hand of a friend who had come home from Nashville, or even Detroit or Dayton, just to be at the decoration.

The cemetery's "tabernacle" (still standing) would draw the crowds in the afternoon as ministers like Rev. Lonzo Harris, Rev. J. R. Clayton or Rev. J. F. Neville preached the gospel in that old-fashioned style perfected in woodframe churches and campgrounds revivals.

There was music, too, led by men like Grover Carr and Arie Nabors. The songs were the old standards, the kind people knew by heart from decorations gone by.

In 1911 more land was purchased by the cemetery trustees from George Kinnaird. Divided into plots, which sold for a dollar each, the new three-quarter acres of land conveniently expanded the cemetery.

Those early trustees were James W. Anderson, J. Y. Shanks and Alvin L. Smellage - and all three are today buried in the cemetery they supervised.

(Decoration, pg. 2 col. 5. – con't)

The annual decorations took on a patriotic touch in the years following the world wars with members of the VFW placing flags on veterans graves.

The cemetery has been expanded further through the years and today has about 1,200 graves, some containing the rough, hand-made coffins of earlier days, others with modern vaults and marble tombstones.

Today's trustees are Hara Lea Anderson, Fred Anderson, Julius Jared, Solon Lowe, Fred Shanks and John Smellage.

Upkeep is provided today largely through the work of Ted Huddleston and is funded by Mrs. Irma Shanks Denney, Mrs. Vinnie Gentry is the secretary-treasurer of the annual Decoration Day fund.

HAVE YOU EVER?, pg. 91 by Putnam County Tennessee Historian Maurine Ensor Patton (1917-2009), Have you ever ridden a T model Ford to the annual Decoration Day at the Smellage Graveyard near Boma?

LOCATION OF GRAVES AT SMELLAGE CEMETERY

By Carolyn (Shanks) Huddleston

Many graves sites are unmarked at the Smellage Cemetery. Vallie Mills for instance, near SE front wall; only a concrete block serves as a temporary reminder. Several graves of the Hancock family are near the west side of the Tabernacle awaiting identification as to the exact location.

One of the most interesting discoveries occurred a few years back while walking thru a section on the eastern edge between the road and Tabernacle. Ralph Prichard was with me in the vicinity of his brother, Schuyler Prichard's grave. He pointed out an unmarked grave near Schuyler where he said George Noe was buried. George Noe was an old army buddy of Schuyler's reaching back to WWI. Schuyler was born 5 February 1895 and died 28 May 1937. This may give a clue in finding war records for George Noe enabling us to put a Veteran's marker down.

I went to visit with Everett Prichard, a brother of Schuyler, to find out what he knew about George Noe. The story was very interesting. He took me on a trip back in time, not necessarily about George Noe, but the fate of a widow and children in an area where the only people they knew was the Prichard family.

After George Noe's death and subsequent burial in the Smellage Cemetery, the Prichard Family had some hard decisions to make. Keep in mind that George Noe's army buddy, Schuyler Prichard, died in 1937. George Noe was from Kentucky.

As I remember the story that Everett told was, "What do we do?" Times were still hard with the Depression and Wars aftermath. They decided they must do what they felt was right for George Noe's widow and children. Apparently it was Schuyler who drove the pick-up truck with the widow Louise (Bryant) Noe and children riding in the cab with him and Everett in the back of the pick-up heading for Widow Noe's parents in Kentucky.

After a treacherous all day trip over winding dirt roads with no protection from the cold rain for Everett Prichard who was riding in the back of the old pick-up truck and the party in the cab were not much better off being crowded with no heat, they arrived at their destination: Horace Noe, father of Louise (Bryant) Noe.

It was dark and dreary as they came to a place so back woodsy that the hills and hollers back in Tennessee were where the Prichard brothers were longing to be. They knocked several times before anyone came to the door. "What do you want?" someone hollered out. Everett said, "We've brought your daughter and children home." The reply was a stern, "We don't want her and them kids".

The Prichard brothers tried to explain how they had driven all day and thought they were doing what was right. They finally had to get stern too. "Well, whether you like it or not we can't take them back with us, we can't feed them and take care of them, times are hard and we've made a sacrifice to bring them to you, they're yours."

So the story goes, they left widow Noe and the kids behind, despite protests from her folks who were very poor with little or no knowledge of the outside world except perhaps survival skills.

THE SMELLAGE CEMETERY

Putnam Co., Boma, TN

Speech prepared by Reba Smellage for the 1998 Decoration Day

The earliest Smellage in this area was Jephthah (Jeptha) W. Smellage who was born in the Norfolk, VA area in 1803. One realizes how short our American History is when you remember that Thomas Jefferson made the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. In our family this period covers 6 generations. People sometimes ask about Jephthah's unusual name. There is a judge by that name who is written about in the book of Judges, Chapter 11. We can only believe that devout parents gave their son his Old Testament name.

Jephthah was orphaned when he was only 8 years of age when both his parents died of typhoid. As the custom in those days, the courts met and "bound" him to a family who was to feed, clothe, and educate him in exchange for his labor. He grew to feel that this family was abusing him, so when he was 13 years of age he ran away and followed a wagon train into Tennessee. He almost starved to death on this trip as he followed way behind the wagons and tried to keep out of sight. He was finally spotted and brought into the train, headed by a Mr. Garner. He later married Eleanor (Elender), one of the Garner daughters.

By 1830 or 40, Jephthah had a cotton gin across the road from the George Kinnaird farm. He used oxen to haul cotton bales long after oxen had disappeared from the area. People used to come from miles around to see the oxen work. Jephthah's log cabin stood in George Kinnaird's back yard till in the 1960's when it was sold and moved to the banks of the Cumberland River near Lebanon to be used as a fishing cabin.

Jephthah's farm covered the area where the cemetery is today. Part of the farm was this clay area where nothing would grow. He recognized the need for a place for public burial. Up to that time, small isolated family cemeteries were the custom of the area. In 1865 he donated 1.3 acres to the public for a community cemetery. A Hendley baby was the first person buried in the cemetery. Today this grave is marked thanks to the generosity of Milton Theodore "Ted" Huddleston. Jephthah was buried here in March 1865. Jephthah and Eleanor were grandparents of John Smellage, the father of the 5 Smellage girls.

Local men used to go up to the Sand Springs area to cut out gravestones for the earliest graves. There are no names or dates recorded on the oldest tombstones which were made by men who were untrained and used farm tools to shape the rocks for markers.

By 1911 it was necessary for the cemetery to have additional land so the trustees bought $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of land from Mr. George Kinnaird for \$25 and divided this into plots which were sold for \$1.00 each. In 1911 the trustees bought an acre of land from William Byrd Wells for \$20 to be used as a public hitching ground for horses.

Decoration was started in 1900 so we will soon be observing the 100th memorial. The fourth Sunday in May was selected as the date of the annual Decoration Day. At first people brought whatever flowers were in bloom in their yards. Then they began to make paper flowers out of paper torn from their children's notebooks. Petals were cut out and rolled around the long hat pins that women used to wear stuck through their hats. After the petals curled, they were stuck on pieces of broom straw. After colored paper became available, this was used and the finished flowers were dipped in paraffin. Still later colored crepe paper was used to make flowers. Today, plastic flowers, professional florists' wreaths, and home grown flowers are all used.

At the 1980 Decoration, Mrs. Oma Shanks Wallace stated that she came to the first Decoration in 1900 when she was 5 years old and had missed being present only once. She gave me the information about flower making in early days.

Hundreds of people used to come for Decoration from far and near - on foot, by horseback, or with whole families in wagons. The Tennessee Central Railway used to put on an extra coach to deliver the large crowds of people.

Housewives used to cook for days. After a morning song service and sermon, the service would break for "dinner on the ground."

The present tabernacle is the third one built at the cemetery. Funerals were held under the tabernacle in all kinds of weather before there were funeral homes in this area.

The archway, reading Smellage Cemetery, has been in place since about 1970. The cemetery has been expanded several times through purchase of surrounding land till today it is estimated that between 1200 and 1500 graves are located in the cemetery.

Following our several wars, the VFW for some years put an American flag on the grave of each soldier, sailor, marine, or air man who had died in service to his country.

As more and more people moved out of the area, it became necessary to think ahead as to what would happen to the cemetery. Mrs. Erma Shanks Denny formulated the idea of the Perpetual Care Fund. Mrs. Vinnie Gentry gives an annual report on this fund which is now at more than \$20,000.

Today the cemetery is in the very capable hands of Milton Theodore "Ted" Huddleston and it is to his credit that the cemetery always looks so well kept.

"We never lose the ones we love
For, even though they're gone
Within the hearts of those who care
Their memory lingers on."

SMELLAGE CEMETERY NEWSLETTER

Several improvements have been made this past year. Graves have been filled in, grass sown, fertilizer spread, tombstones repaired and straightened. Maintenance on the cemetery is a continuous process and these improvements are needed on a yearly basis.

Other special improvements include a security light being installed on the northwest corner and traffic barriers along the road. Thank you to Neal Fisher for these.

A very big special "Thank You" to Mr. Henry Tucker who has spent countless hours working and making improvements to our cemetery. There are many others who contribute their time and money each year as a memorial to those who are buried here.

Weather permitting the cemetery will be mowed prior to Father's Day. Father's Day is on the 17th. Flowers on the graves will be removed the week prior to Father's day. If you wish to reclaim your flowers, vases and ect. Please remove them that week. All flowers on the stones can remain.

To help complete the cemetery records and identify unmarked graves please call (931) 858-2486.

MEMORIAL CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY TO BE HELD NOV. 29

Elizabeth Ayres
Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN
Sunday, Nov 23, 2008

BOMA - Local residents are preparing for Smellage Cemetery's annual candlelight ceremony at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29.

At 4:30 p.m., family and friends will come by the Tabernacle and receive a candle. At 5 p.m., memorial tributes will be passed out by a representative of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home to each family who has lost a family member in 2008.

Those being memorialized will be Mildred Spears, Frankie Nell Casey, David Carr, Nettie Allison, Jerry Wayne Sutton, Henry Tucker and Athena and Jacey Winebrenner.

The first burial in Smellage Cemetery, a small child named Margaret Hendley, took place in 1864. An acre of land was donated by the Smellage family in 1865 to be used as a community cemetery. The man who gave the land, Jephthah Smellage, was buried there in 1865. In 1980, the cemetery was expanded. Currently there are 1,100 graves in Smellage Cemetery, some of them unmarked.

The tradition of lighting candles in the cemetery harkens back to 2003, giving families an opportunity to honor their loved ones during the holiday season.

Smellage Cemetery, also known as the Memory Gardens Cemetery, is located on Hopewell Road near Boma.

For more information, call Carolyn Huddleston at (931) 858-2486 or Connie Gentry at (931) 858-302

'CARVING A NICHE'

Local four-generation business celebrates anniversary

It's a company that's been through hard economic times, a devastating fire and admittedly lots of change.

But over the past 60-plus years, Winell Lee Moulding & Hardwood has certainly etched itself into a unique category.

Today, the company offers all kinds of products, from flooring, columns, paneling and more. Winell Lee has had a hand in projects from the basic home modeling's to historical restoration work and has products that ship all over the country.

Starting from its mill outside Baxter, the company is able to take the log (with dozens of steps in between) to a finished product - something that is very rare. Its store and showroom in Cookeville displays the finished products.

"We do the unusual. We do a lot of things no one else does," said Jeanie Lee, Winell Lee sales and marketing manager. "A lot of companies can do lumber, but to be able to take it from the log to the finished product, of making moldings, flooring, a lot of custom work, you do not find that.

"We are told by the Forestry Association that we are possibly one of very few that do what we do from beginning to end," she said.

What also makes Winell rare is the fact the company has maintained itself as a family business, with at least four generations influencing its past, present and future.

Jeanie's husband Tony is the third generation family member to have a hand in the company that first started out as a simple lumber yard around 1945 by logger Isaac Lee.

Winell Lee, Isaac's son, also logged, and eventually opened up the Winell Lumber Co. in Baxter.

Tony started working with the company part time at age 12 and now has been involved with the business for 44 full-time years. Tony and Jeanie's sons, Shae and Jason, have both been working with Winell Lee for nearly 20 years - and the list goes on.

"We've got the family experience, but we've also got other employees that have been here 20 or 30 years," Jeanie Lee says. "I think there is just something about the loyalty of a family business, that once it goes so far, you want to see it keep going."

As each generation comes along, changes are inevitable. When Winell started the lumber store, one of his products included tubs, something that was later discontinued.

"We went back to our first love, which is a lot of wood," Jeanie Lee said. "And we've expanded with each generation and have now added a lot of custom stuff, custom arches, anything that's considered custom.

"And the main thing is our product, our wood, is grown and manufactured in Tennessee, and I really didn't know how important that was until people commented about that," she said.

Perhaps the most important change the company made was moving to Cookeville almost 15 years ago, not long after a fire in the early '90s destroyed its previous mill and building in Baxter.

Winell Lee opened on Interstate Drive in 1994 before moving into its current showroom and store on Jackson Street about nine years ago, a move that has surely benefited its growth.

"We've seen that it really meant something for people to see the finished product, what you can do with it, by having a large showroom," Lee said. "So that's what we did."

And Winell Lee recently celebrated more than 60 years in business, something that means a lot in face of tough times, both behind them and ahead.

"We've had tough economic times before. We've had those slumps in the family business, and we've been through fires," Jeanie Lee said. "To have that and still be able to maintain through the years through bad times, I think it takes a good product. It takes consistency, that people know we're going to be here, and I think it takes experience, knowing what we're doing."

And as for Winell Lee continuing to be a family-run business, only time will tell.

"It's hard to say. We've got generations coming on," she said. "But we've always come out on top, pulling together as a family. And I think that's been to our benefit."

Sunday, Jun 08, 2008: Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Dr. Thomas J. Ford

Census Place: 1880 E.D. 257, District 13, Wilson Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255286 National Archives Film T9-1286 Page 468A

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
J.C. FORD	Self	M	M	M	40	TN
	Occ:	Farmer	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
Catharine FORD	Wife	F	M	W	38	TN
	Occ:	Keeps House	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
M.J. FORD	Dau	F	S	W	10	TN
	Occ:	At Home	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
J.C. FORD	Son	M	S	W	8	TN
	Occ:	At Home	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
J.L. FORD	Son	M	S	W	6	TN
	Occ:	At Home	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
T.J. FORD	Son	M	S	W	4	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
W.D. FORD	Son	M	S	W	2	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		

(1910 census Civil Dist. 13, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 110 - **T. J. Ford** is head of household, 33 yrs. old, TN, widow, occupation: physician, parents both born in TN. Children: Kathleen, 5 yrs. old; Rachel A., 3 yrs. old & Ethel M. Ford, 1 ½ yrs. old. All born in TN)

(1920 census Civil Dist., 20, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 5 - **Thomas J. Ford** is head of household, 44 yrs. old, TN, occupation: medical doctor, md to **Amanda A.**, 37 yrs. old, TN. Living in the household: Kathleen, 14 yrs. old, dau.; Rachel A., 12 yrs. old, dau. & T. J. Ford Jr., 8 yrs. old. All born in TN. Also living in the household: Myrna L. Simons, 11 yrs. old, IL, niece)

(Rachel Allen Ford md Willis Martin Maxwell, s/o Andrew McClain Maxwell & Sarah Joanna Gentry. Andrew M. Maxwell, s/o David Wood Maxwell & Mary Elizabeth Shanks)

Thomas Jefferson Ford

b. 22 July 1876, TN
d. 3 November 1928

James Clinton Ford

TN

Nancy Katherine Turney

TN -----

----- Putnam

#29930

Amanda Howell Ford

b. 13 September 1882, TN

d. 13 November 1925

Vance Howell

TN

Fannie Clark

TN -----

----- Putnam

#403

(Dr. Thomas Jefferson Ford md 1st Ethel Mae McMillan, d/o James McMillian)

(**Amanda (Howell) Ford**, b. 1882 - d. 1925, w/o **Dr. T. J. Ford**, Baxter, TN, buried in the Allison Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN located between Boxtown on Boat Dock Rd. and Burgess Falls Road. Once called Clark/Allison, now just Allison Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 30, Putnam County Tennessee Cemeteries by Maurine Ensor Patton)

PATIENT SEES PROGRESS AT CRMC OVER THE YEARS

Heather Mullinix

Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN

Wednesday, Mar 11, 2009

Herald-Citizen Photo/Heather Mullinix



Margaret Oaks looks at the birthday card Cookeville Regional Medical Center sent her twins on their first birthday in 1952. Oaks was the 29th patient to be admitted to the hospital following its opening in 1950.

COOKEVILLE -- Late on a snowy night Jan. 5, 1951, Margaret Oaks woke her brother who was visiting from Ohio and had him get his car ready. She was going to the new Cookeville hospital to have her twins.

"It was so stuffy, they rolled down the windows so I could breathe," said Oaks of the drive from

Baxter that wintry night.

When they arrived at the recently opened hospital, a nurse ushered Oaks into the maternity section of the three-wing hospital and phoned for her doctor, **Dr. Thurman Shipley**. Eight-pound baby boy Jerry was delivered at 3:30 a.m. Seven-pound baby girl Kathy followed at 4:15 a.m. They were the first set of twins to be born at the Cookeville Medical Center, and Oaks was only the 29th patient admitted to the hospital.

Oaks spent the rest of that day resting up in the maternity ward, along with three other women. With mother and babies doing well, Oaks said Shipley discharged them later that afternoon.

"We didn't have insurance so, since we were all healthy, he sent us home so we wouldn't have a bigger bill," Oaks said.

Almost two weeks before, on Christmas Eve, Oaks and **her husband, the late Clarence Fowler Oaks**, had been into the hospital, expecting the birth of their second child.

"I'd spend all day cooking for Christmas," she said. "They said that caused me to go into false labor."

But, she was sent home with unexpected news. The single child she had been expecting was actually twins.

"**Dr. [Kenneth] Haile** asked if my husband or I had twins in the family. I was so scared. I told him no, even though we did," she said. "He said, 'Well, there's more than one baby.' They took X-rays and saw the babies were healthy and then they sent me home."

The new hospital was a new experience for Oaks, who had delivered her first child, Glenn, in 1948 at the Howard Hospital, the forerunner of today's Cookeville Regional Medical Center. **Dr. William Howard** operated the facility on East Main Street.

"It felt like you were walking into a home," Oaks said of the Howard Hospital. "The maternity ward was just four beds, and there were only five or six doctors in Cookeville at that time."

She recalls being cared for by a nurse, Adele Young, on that first hospital visit.

Over the years, Oaks, who is now 81 years old, has paid many visits to Cookeville Regional Medical Center. Times have changed. Nursing staff once wore traditional white uniforms with caps and doctors were never seen without a long white coat, she said. Today, medical staff often opt for scrubs and sensible shoes. Smoking was banned from the building years ago, and ward-type rooms have been replaced with private and semi-private patient care areas.

But the biggest change has been the size of the hospital.

"In 1981, I was looking out the window at the expansion they were doing," Oaks said. She was visiting her mother and the hospital was finishing up its first big expansion, which started in 1976. The \$2.2 million expansion added 55 patient beds, a clean-air surgery room, a seven-bed intensive care unit and a fifth-floor shell.

"I thought, this is as big as its going to get," she said.

But CRMC wasn't finished. Just the next year, a sixth floor was opened. Since then, CRMC added a neurosurgery clinic, pulmonary clinic, performed its first open heart surgery in 1998 and added a helipad and a cardiovascular intensive care unit. In 2003, CRMC began work on an ambulatory surgery center and opened the acute care inpatient unit.

In December, CRMC opened its newest expansion, the North Patient Tower. The addition allows the hospital to offer all private patient rooms, expand the cancer center, expand ICU units, allow for future growth of surgical needs and provide space for families that are staying with their loved ones.

But that's not all that has changed over the last six decades. Oaks noted the increase in the number of doctors serving Putnam County and the Upper Cumberland. In the 1950s, one doctor was responsible for the care of the patient. Today, more than 140 physicians provide services in 36 specialty areas.

"I think it's great how much the hospital has grown," Oaks said. "It's good to see things grown and it's good they can do so much more."

TENT GRAVES

Located in the Highland Rim and western Cumberland Plateau area of Tennessee is a folk culture type of grave covering called a tent or comb grave.

There are hundreds of these structures from near Albany , KY and across Tennessee mainly in the counties of Fentress, Overton, Putnam, White, Warren , Van Buren and continuing into Coffee County . They are also found in limited numbers in northern Alabama and northern Arkansas .

The principal material is sandstone from the Hartselle Formation which occurs in outcroppings in the area. Other materials used to a lesser degree are limestone, tin or metal, concrete, and on rare occasions marble.

Variations occur in the construction of the tents over the area of use. In Overton County the sides are often supported by an iron rod whereas in the White County area they are supported by a triangular end section of stone inserted underneath. While many are not inscribed others may have a separate grave marker or inscription on side of the slab rock.

Reasons for their construction are often given as protection from animals such as cattle walking on the graves or to protect the grave from the weather. The date of the tent graves generally is between the middle 1800's to the mid 1900's.

BAXTER GIVES CEMETERY 1,000 GALLONS OF WATER A MONTH

By Megan Trotter

BAXTER – The Baxter board of mayor and aldermen took a look at the issue of providing water to a restroom in Smellage Cemetery when approached by Ted Huddleston, who has been the caretaker of the cemetery since 1997.

“At the time (the previous administration and I) had an agreement,” he said. “I’d pay for the water. I bought a meter and everything and paid for all the expenses.”

Huddleston said that according to their unwritten agreement, he only had to pay for the water used during occasional funerals and the cemetery’s annual decoration day.

However, over the years, he had become responsible for paying a minimum bill of \$28.01 each month in the months when no water is used at all. Now retired, Huddleston told the board that he wanted to keep the bathrooms open during the times they were needed, however the set monthly fee had become a burden to him.

The board discussed options such as just charging him for the water used or instating a one-time yearly fee. However, Jason Pierce, water/sewer superintendent, had another suggestion.

“I think to keep from getting yourself in a fix, you really have two options: you can either do it like you’d do a normal customer or you put in on a non-paying account like we do some of our other agencies like the city and the ambulance service and things of that nature,” he said. “We’d just have to set precedence for how much water they could use and say, ‘this is what we’re giving you per month. If you use more than that, then you’ve got a bill coming.’”

Mayor Jeff Wilhite said, “I think if we do this, we’re either going to have to go ahead and establish a policy that this is the way we’re going to do anybody (in this situation), or if we’re just going to do it for him right now, we need to go ahead and state in the motion that this is based on the agreement he had with the previous administration.”

Melanie Inman with the water/sewer department indicated to the board that this was the only situation like this currently in Baxter.

Pierce suggested that water to cemeteries be classified under their non-paying accoiunts, up to 1,000 gallons a month. After that, the caretaker would need to be responsible for paying a bill. The board unanimously approved the motion.

“I took on (the job of caretaker) when my son got killed, and I wanted the cemetery fixed up like should be a cemetery,” Huddleston said.

“As long as I’m able, I’ll take care of the cemetery.”

Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 10 March 2013, pg. A-2



SMELLAGE CEMETERY DECORATION DAY – 2009

A new flag, donated by Woodmen of the World representative Sari Brown, is flying above Smellage Cemetery. From left, Jean Bartlett, Ted Huddleston, Linda Collier and Hilda Anderson are preparing for Decoration Day on Sunday, May 24. The cemetery was established 144 years ago in 1865, and Decoration Day has been held since 1900.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Living Section: Wednesday, 20 May 2009, pg. 8.



DEDICATION: Woodmen of the World recently held a flag dedication at Smellage Cemetery in preparation for the candlelight service. Those helping with the dedication, from left, are Linda Collier, Sari Brown of Woodmen of the World, and Ted Huddleston.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 25 November 2012.

SMELLAGE CANDLE SERVICE NOV. 24



PUTNAM COUNTY – The Smellage Cemetery will hold their ninth annual candle lighting service Saturday, Nov. 24, from 4:30-5 p.m. Families who have had a loved one interred in the cemetery this year will be presented with a memory keepsake by Ralph Maynard of Hooper, Hudleston & Horner Funeral Home during the service.

The cemetery is located in western Putnam County and is one of the oldest cemeteries in the county, having been established in early 1865. It currently has more than 1,200 interred on its grounds. Last year as volunteers gathered to prepare for the annual candle lighting service at the cemetery and were joined by Etta Dean Whitehead O'Conner and her daughter, Nancy Hadley O'Conner is 88, grew up in the Boma community. She had always attended the decoration in May, but heard of the candle lighting service and wanted to help with the preparations and attend the service. Volunteers are still needed to help prepare for this year's service. Those willing to volunteer are asked to be at the cemetery at noon. For more information about the event, call Connie Gentry at (931) 858-3020.

Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Friday, 2 November 2012, pg. 7.



CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE 2009

The sixth annual memorial candlelight service will be held Saturday, Nov. 28, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Smellage Cemetery on Hopewell Road in the Boma Community. Preparing for the candle Lighting, from left, are Tony, Audrey, and Elliott Lee and Connie Gentry. The lighting of candles will be at 4:30 p.m., and memorial keepsakes will be passed out at 5 p.m. by a representative of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral to the families of Keith Kinniard, Billie Jean Guinn Moore, Winnie Milse Vinson Butler, Lewis C. Watts, Billy Steven Prichard, Morris Eugene Carr and Edna Jackson Smith. The lighting of candles gives families an opportunity to honor their loved ones during the holiday season. All are welcome. For more information, call Carolyn Huddleston at (931) 858-2486 or Coonie Gentry at (931) 858-3020.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Monday, 16 November 2009, pg. 8.



HAND-MADE QUILT

From left, Etta Dean O'Conner of Anderson, IN, Carol Buckner of Tavres, FL, and Libbie Whitehead of Sanford, FL, display a hand-made quilt that will be given away at the upcoming Smellage Cemetery Fundraiser on Saturday, 22 June 2013. For \$10.00 a visitor can get a meal of pulled pork, sides, dessert and drink.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Wednesday, 12 June 2013

FUNDRAISER HELPS WITH UPKEEP OF HISTORIC SMELLAGE CEMETERY

By Megan Trotter

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Wed., 12 June 2013, pg. 9

PUTNAM COUNTY – Those with family buried in Smellage Cemetery are gearing up for a fundraiser Saturday, June 22, that will help fund the upkeep of the cemetery. The event will be held from 4-7 p.m. at the Boma Community Center off of Old Baxter Road. For \$10, visitors can get a meal of pulled pork, sides, dessert and drink, as well as an entry in the cake walk and an entry to win a hand-made quilt. Kids six and under get in free.

The cemetery – located in the Boma community, five miles west of Baxter on Hopewell Road – was created by local settler Jephthah W. Smellage, who moved to the Putnam County area in the 1800s. Originally from Virginia, he was orphaned when he was eight years old and given to another family by the court.

“He grew to feel this family was abusing him,” Reba Smellage explained in a speech prepared for the cemetery’s decoration day in 1998. “So when he was 13 years of age, he ran away and followed a wagon train to Tennessee.”

At first he trailed behind to keep out of sight, nearly starving to death in the process, but was finally spotted and brought into the group. Smellage later married one of the daughters of the man who headed up the wagon train. By around 1830, Smellage owned his own farm and in 1865 he donated 1.3 acres for a community cemetery.

“Local men used to go up to the Sand Springs are to cut out gravestones for the earliest graves,” Reba said. “There are no names or dates recorded on the oldest tombstones, which were made by men who were untrained and used farm tools to shape the rocks for markers.”

In 1911, the cemetery’s trustees bought an extra 3/4 of an acre from neighboring land owner George Kinnaird for \$25. They divided it into plots and sold them for \$1 each. Later they also bought an acre from W. B. Wells for \$20 to use as a public hitching ground for horses.



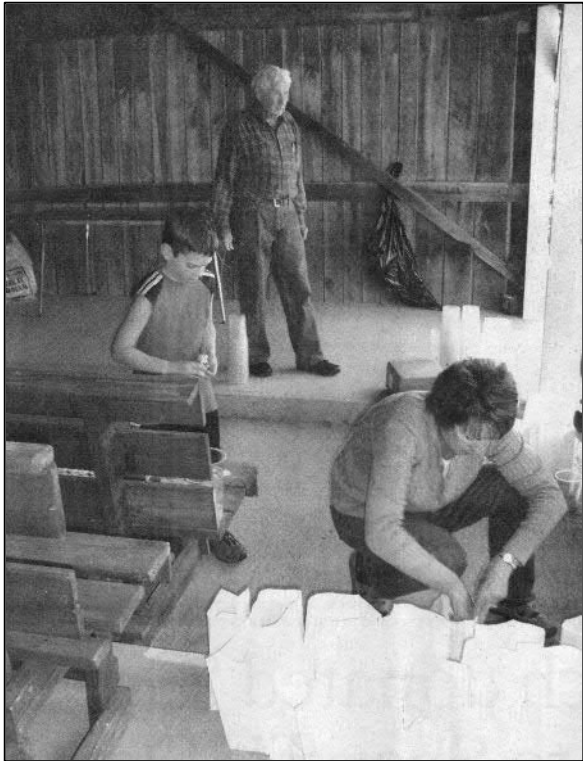
The tradition of decoration days at the Smellage Cemetery began in 1900. Hundreds of people came by foot, horseback, wagons and the Tennessee Central Railway. The event included a morning son service, sermon and dinner on the grounds.

(Pictured: Quilt Winner: Bill Collier recently won a hand-made quilt during the fundraiser to support Smellage Cemetery. Pictured presenting the quilt to Collier are Cherrye Carr, left, granddaughter of Cordell and Dorothy Carr, who are

buried in the cemetery, and Debbie Zmijewski, granddaughter of Bailey and Ethel Shanks Carr, who are also buried in Smellage Cemetery).

“At first people brought whatever flowers were in bloom in their yards,” Reba said. “Then they began to make paper flowers out of paper torn from their children’s notebooks. Petals were cut out and rolled around the long hat pins that women used to wear stuck through their hats. After the petals were curled, they were stuck on pieces of broom straw. After colored paper became available, this was used and the finished flowers were dipped in paraffin. Still later, colored crepe paper was used to make flowers. Today, plastic flowers, professional florists’ wreaths and home-grown flowers are all used.”

Today, the cemetery houses more than 1,000 graves, including about 88 veterans and the grave of the first Smellage himself, who died in March of 1865. The Smellage family continues working to care for the grounds and catalogue as much information as possible on their late family members. All of the proceeds from the June 22 fundraiser will go toward preserving this important piece of local history and honoring the people buried there.



Candlelight Service at Smellage Cemetery

From left: Elliott Lee, Ted Huddleston and Nancy Hadley prepare for this year's Smellage Cemetery Candlelight Service, to be held at 5 p.m. this Saturday. Candles are provided for families to come and light before the service. Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home will present memorial keepsakes to the families who have loved ones buried in the cemetery in the past year. Smellage Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Putnam County, with more than 1,200 gravesites. The first public burial was in 1865.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Friday, 28 November 2014.

*Read more about the people buried in Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

FAMILY THANKFUL FOR GENEALOGY MEMORIAL

Megan Trotter
Herald-Citizen Staff
Sunday, Jul 26, 2009

Mary Betty Sullins Burgess stands with the memorial at Smellage Cemetery that lists the more than 300 descendants of her grandfather, James Jasper Sullins. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea



One afternoon when 82-year-old Mary Betty Sullins Burgess of Buffalo Valley was visiting Smellage Cemetery where her relatives are buried, she noticed one of the graves had a big slab of rock across it. The slab was blank.

This gave Burgess an idea. One of her relatives, James Jasper Sullins, had a grave that was badly in need of repair. The

gravestone had been eroded by time and the elements until the name on the stone was barely readable. Burgess wanted to give him a new stone. But she also wanted to do something more, explains her niece, Wanda C. Corbin.

"Aunt Betty said, 'What if I can come up with the names of all of his descendants?'"

Those words started a year-long quest to gather more than 300 names of every single one of James Sullins' decedents, both living and deceased. Each of these names were cut into two large slabs, along with a headstone dedicated to James Sullins and his wife Elizabeth (Betty) Shanks, complete with photos.

James Sullins, born in 1861, served as Justice of the Peace from the 11th District of Putnam County in 1908 and served until his death in 1935. From the bits and pieces Corbin has collected about the man, he appears to have been a very level-headed gentleman.

In a clipping from a 1923 edition of the Herald-Citizen, James Sullin writes, "I have heard some inquires as to my stand on the so-called Stock Law. As far as I know, the tax payers are content with that law as it is, and I see no reason why any member of the Legislature should consume time with laws tax payers are content with, while there are so many laws they are not content with that needs abolishing and repealing that would take the entire time of 75 days or longer."

James was the son of Jesse W. Sullins. Jesse was one of five brothers, all of which fought in the Civil War on the Confederate side.

James was born the year his father left for the war and did not see him again until nearly four and a half years later. Jesse was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered to Grant, and was even given a train ticket from Washington, D.C., to Tullahoma. The fact that the government paid for his ticket home indicates he must have been some type of war hero, Corbin said.

Within a year of returning from the war, Jesse died at the age of 23, possibly from wounds sustained in battle.

Later in life, James had seven children, Charlie Cleveland, Dolph, Martha Catherine, Robert S., Samuel Denton, John and Buchanan Sullins.

Burgess has been able to trace the family tree back from James to Martin Franklin Sullins, Zachariah Sullins, Nathan Sullins and finally Richard Sullins, the earliest known ancestor in the United States.

This past May, Burgess gathered with her living relatives at the Smellage Cemetery to admire their new genealogy memorial. In addition to Burgess, who is the granddaughter of James, other distinguished family members attended such as Reba Sullins Roberts, Burgess' sister; Charlene Sullins, Burgess' cousin; and Betty Crowell Sullins, daughter-in-law to Burgess' Uncle Dolph.

The whole family is thankful for Burgess' selfless act of compiling the list of their ancestors, Corbin says. Because of this one woman's dedication to her family's heritage, their family will be blessed to have all of their genealogy in one location.

"She has the most giving heart of any human being I've ever met," said Corbin of her aunt. "Everybody knows her as a giver. She's not one to sit by and idly talk about it. She does it."

*Read more about the people buried in Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



To celebrate 80 years and 5 generations of their family business, Winell Lee Mouldings & Hardwoods hosted an educational meeting for the Home Builders Association of the Upper Cumberland. They presented a program about wire cable stairs and decking systems. Louie Barlow, Digger Specialties, demonstrated contemporary vertical cables that provide architectural style with a virtually unobstructed view. From left, Home Builders Association President Larry Suggs, Frank Stinery, **Jay Lee**, **Jeanie Lee** and **Connie Gentry** all of **Winell Lee**, and Louie Barlow of Digger Specialties. Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 16 September 2018

Jason “Jay” Lee is the son of Winell A. “Tony” Lee & Jeanie Connie Jo (Lee) Gentry md Phillip Howard Gentry

Winell A. “Tony” Lee & Connie Jo (Lee) Gentry are children of Winell Lee (1927-2002) & Mary Louise Statom (1929-2005): Founders and Ownsr of Winell Lee Lumber Co., Inc., for 40 yrs.