

DO YOU REMEMBER

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN

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Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 6 February 1930

WHEN the Gainesboro Telephone Company used a room in the building now occupied by Worth Brynat for the exchange in Cookeville?

WHEN the Cookeville Post Office was on the south-west corner of the Square where the vacant lot is next to Mott & Son?

WHEN the courthouse was almost surrounded by hitching posts?

WHEN the the "Free" school was held in the old canning factory building where Gregory's handle mill now is standing?

(Suggestions and reminders for this feature will be appreciated at any and all times. – Editor).

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 13 February 1930

WHEN Cookeville had only one mail a day, about 6 p.m., and all letters had to back-stamped before they could be sorted and placed in the paper boxes and pigeon holes?

WHEN the house that now adjoins Dr. Shipley's residence on the South was the last dwelling in that direction from town?

WHEN there was a board walk along Broad Street and whenever there was a big rain it would be submerged or floating where it crossed the town branch?

(Suggestions and reminders for this feature will be appreciated at any and all times. – Editor).

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday,

20 February 1930

WHEN the Town spring and Glade spring were used by several families as their chief water supply?

WHEN the Methodist Church was located on South Washington Avenue between the Sidwell Hotel and H. Algood's residence?

WHEN a tall flag pole stood on the lot on the square now occupied by the Diamond Service Station?

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 6 March 1930

WHEN there was not a business house on Broad Street between the Square and about where Jenkins & Darwin Bros. store is now located?

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 13 March 1930

WHEN at about this season of the year the more energetic lawyers, merchants, doctors, etc., of the town would be seen around the Square pitching dollars (or washers), playing marbles or pitching horseshoes?

WHEN there were only four brick buildings in Cookeville – all on the Square-and all still standing where W. J. Byrne, J. L. Hill, Huddleston Bros, the East Side Café and the vacant building on S. E. corner.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 20 March 1930

WHEN the destructive fire occurred in November 1891 which destroyed a whole block on the north-west corner of the Public Square, and also the Cumberland Presbyterian church and which came near destroying the buildings of the surrounding area?

WHEN Mr. John Rayburn, the one-legged Confederate veteran, also Henry Cannon and Ike Burgees operated old time “stage” between Cookeville and Lebanon, before Cookeville had railroad facilities?

[WHEN Mr. Paul, the hat maker was a business man in Cookeville?](#)

(We received several suggestion for this corner and will appreciate them from any one. If you remember anything this would be of interest, please send them in).

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday,

27 March 1930

WHEN the old wooden county jail was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1894?

WHEN H. J. Swarthout was depot agent for the N. & K. R. R., and who lived near where the ideal Grocery is located?

WHEN Hyder Brothers sold goods on the north-east corner of the Public Square, where Williams & Terry Bros. now transact business?

(Several more items for this corner were sent in this week from a former resident. Please send reminders of the old days in and around Cookeville for this feature of the Herald).

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 3 April 1930

WHEN the great revivals which the Rev. James Hickman and the Rev. John H. Kittrell, respectively, were conducted at the Cumberland Presbyterian church “in the years that are past, and gone?”

WHEN J. D. Morgan & Co., engaged in the grocery and drug business for West Cookeville about where J. E. Barnes’ Shoe Store now is?

WHEN the old Isbell Tan Yard was in operation? Its large two story building and deep vats, which looked very dangerous to the small boy. Also its operator, Mr. Hickey, the Englishman, who did not like to be disturbed by the annoying presence of small boys at the plant.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 10 April 1930

WHEN the courthouse burned in the spring of 1899?

WHEN Cookeville’s leading Dry Goods merchants were Major Joseph Crawford Freeze, on the West side of the Public Square and J. H. Moore and Anderson Sloan, both on the South side of the Public Square. Later do you remember the “Cookeville Stock Store, “ on the South side of the Public Square?

WHEN the “big storm” blew down Cookeville’s first Cumberland Presbyterian Church building? Also do you remember when the second one was destroyed by fire in 1891?

THE old Cookeville Fair – It's then considered imposing buildings and grounds, and the great crowds-as well as its many fights and attendant thrills. The old fair grounds is now occupied by the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute.

(Come on, with your hints for this corner. We will appreciate them_.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 17 April 1930

WHEN Cookeville's first bank the old "Bank of Cookeville," began business, forty years ago, in the frame building on the South side of the Public Square, now occupied by the Fox Restaurant, with the following officers: President, James Arnold; Vice-President, Alfred Algood; Cashier, Judge J. W. Wright; Bookkeeper, R. L. Farley.

WHEN Capt. J. H. Curtis and Dr. L. R. McClain were partners in the mercantile business on the Public Square under the firm name of "Curtis & McClain?"

It was not H. "J." Swarthout who was depot agent at Cookeville, it was H. I. Swarbout. His first name was "Hugh." Before he became depot agent he served for a good while as Assistant to Mr. Allen, Cookeville's first depot agent.

(Suggestions and reminders for this feature will be appreciated at any and all times).

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 24 April 1930

WHEN Jonathan Buck was Principal of old "Buck College" erected and owned by him. The ruins of the old Building may yet be seen just East of Dr. J. P. Terry's home.

WHEN the store of S. G. Slaughter & Co., was located on the South side of the Public Square, and was a well-known store in it's day.

Cookeville's first church building erected and first used as a Union church and later acquired by the Methodists and used by them for many years. It was a frame building and stood just South of the Sidwell Hotel.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 1 May 1930

WHEN Cookeville's two hotels were the Reagan Hotel, conducted by Mr. Isaac Reagan, and after his death by Mrs. Reagan, and later by their son-in-law, E. D. Staley, and the "Isbell Hotel," conducted by W. J. Isbell.

The Reagan Hotel, at the Southeast corner of the Square, was destroyed by fire about fifty years ago. It was rebuilt South of it's first location. The last building is now occupied as a private residence by Policeman Phy Gibson.

The old Isbell Hotel was a frame building near the Southwest corner of the Public Square. The site is now occupied by the Mott & Son Produce Company.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 8 May 1930

WHEN Putnam Country's first Courthouse was burned during the Civil War?

WHEN in the '86's, John G. Duke kept the Post Office in the building now occupied by W. J. Byrne's store, on the North side of the Public Square. Mr. Duke was again Postmaster during the first McKinley administration and kept the Post Office on the West side of the Square.

Were you one of the pupils of Miss Susan M. Quarles' private school, which she conducted for several years at her home in East Cookeville?

The day is April 1861, when Capt. Harvey H. Dillard's Company of Confederate soldiers left Cookeville for the Civil War?

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 15 May 1930

WHEN Major J. C. Freeze's general store was located in his large two-story frame building on the West side of the Public Square, on the site of the present Gibson Building? He was one of Cookeville's first merchants and continued in business until his death about thirty-two years ago. Before the Civil war the Masonic lodge met in the upper story of Major Freeze's building. We remember the imprints of Federal muskets in the heavy old home-made doors of this building, the troops having used their guns to batter the doors in. This building burned about twenty-two years ago. It then belonged to John G. Duke who had purchased it after the death of Major Freeze.

Major Freeze was a gallant Confederate soldier, a devoted Presbyterian elder and a splendid citizen.

WHEN Major Freeze rode "Old Deb" from Nashville to Cookeville in a day, a remarkable feat of endurance that was the talk of the town.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 22 May 1930

WHEN Alce Ayers walked from Nashville to Cookeville in one day? It occurred more than forty years ago, according to a reader of the Herald.

WHEN Rev. Jno. B. Dow played first base in a Cookeville basketball team? The writer remembers one game in which Mr. Dow hit a home run, and that was in the days before the "lively" hall was even dreamed of.

WHEN that great crowd, variously estimated at from ten to fifteen thousand people, who attended the hanging at Cookeville on March 27, 1878, when Teke and Joe Braswell were publicly executed after their trial and conviction of the murder of Russ Allison on the night of Nov. 29, 1875. After the hanging there was a great race back to Nashville by staff correspondents of the Capital City newspapers each trying to be first with the news, and there were no means of communication except by stage or riding.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

29 May 1930

WHEN Our baseball games were played in the field south of where the roller mill stood; then on the hill between Oak and Hickory Streets, about where Third Street crosses; then in the old field that was located between Walnut and Cedar Streets, a little north of where Third Street crosses; then in the Goodpasture field north of the Square; then at the fair grounds, and from there the grounds were moved to the T. P. I. campus? All of these moves were necessitated by the development and growth of these diamonds hard-fought games were played.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

5 June 1930

THE great excitement created at the old Methodist church's fifty years ago when a large congregation attending a Christina service was panic stricken by a jocular announcement made by some practical joker to the effect that the building was falling down. Scores of people jumped out at the windows, piling onto the ground outside two or three deep. Many people were more or less seriously injured and the wildest excitement prevailed. Of course the building was not falling down and the occurrence merely illustrated how easily a large gathering can be stampeded.

WHEN Harris Windle was Postmaster at Cookeville?

WHEN J. A. Welch opened a saloon here, and sold liquor at 5 cents the glass?

(Wanted: If anyone has photographs of the old Courthouse, Washington Academy or the old Methodist Church, we would like to borrow them to have copies made to us in the Herald. The pictures will not be injured).

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

12 June 1930

WHAT the old Dowell Falls, just South of town, meant to the boys and men of Cookeville prior to the installation of sewerage and the pollution of the steam?

Until about twenty-five years ago, these falls were regarded as a public necessity by the men and boys of Cookeville. Then there were no private bath rooms in Cookeville homes and those falls were Cookeville's "bathing beach." A good sized volume of water from the Town Springs and Glade Spring branch flowed over a circular falls, the rim of which was about twenty feet.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

19 June 1930

THE old "Mule Days" in Cookeville, before the advent of the automobile, the cotton boll weevil, and the decline of the mule market.

In those days almost every public day as well as many other days of the year were "Mule Days" in Cookeville, and often the Public Square would be so full of mules that one could hardly wend his way across it without getting too close to a mule's hind feet. These mule days with the Public Square crowded with mules presented a scene. Many out-of-the-country mule buyers of those days regularly bought mules in Cookeville. While numerous Putnam County mule buyers regularly bought mules here and catted them South each winter.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

3 July 1930

WHEN the Masonic and Odd Fellows' lodges held their regular meetings in the upper story of the old brick Washington Academy building?

WHEN Miss Susan M. Quarles conducted her private school at her home on East Broad street?

WHEN T. C. Holladay & Son engaged in the general mercantile business in Cookeville, and when Shirley & Greenwood Brothers were dealers in "All Kinds of Merchandise, Produce, etc."

THE old Stage Coaches which operated between Cookeville and Lebanon during the years prior to the building of the N. & K. Railroad to Cookeville in 1890.

These old stage coaches, as they were called, carried passengers to and from Nashville.

John M. Rayburn, a one-legged Confederate soldier who lost his leg in the battle of Murfreesboro, was one of the best known of these old stage drivers. Commencing soon after the close of the Civil War, he continued as a stage coach driver from Cookeville to Lebanon until the coming of the railroad put an end to his avocation. Other well known old time stage coach drivers were two colored men, Henry Cannon and Ike Burgess. All of these old time stage drivers are now dead but their memory lingers with all of our older citizens. In hot weather and in cold, with patience, endurance and uniform kindness, they provided the means of passenger transportation from Cookeville to the railroad at Lebanon for all who desired to make the trip from Cookeville to Nashville and return, in the days when Cookeville and the Upper Country were without railroads.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

10 July 1930

WHEN You were a pupil of the "Cookeville Collegiate Institute?" I had its beginning in 1897 with Prof. L. P. Evans and Prof. Ossian S. Myers as co-principals. Later Prof. Myers resigned to accept a position in IN, and Prof. Claude Lowry succeeded him. Later Prof. N. J. Finney became principal and continued to serve so long as the "Cookeville Collegiate Institute: continued. In 1903 Cookeville was incorporated and a city school system was organized. Prof. N. J. Finney continued as principal of the city school in conjunction with Prof. L. E. Summers until 1904, when Prof. T. K. Sisk became Superintendent of the Cookeville City school.

Prof. N. J. Finney's service here covered a period of about six years. Cookeville has had many scholarly teachers, but this section of the state never had an abler or more scholarly teachers, but this section of the state never had an abler or more scholarly instructor than Prof. N. J. Finney, a wonderful ability as a teacher and exalted Christian character and great kindness of heart, profoundly impressed all students who, were so fortunate as to be under his tuition.

Since leaving Cookeville, Prof. Finney has been a member of the faculty of Bethel College, at McKenzie, TN the leading college of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. During most of this period he has served as president of that college. He is now an instructor in and President emeritus of this well-known college, and in his old age, after almost three score years spent teaching young men and women, he enjoys the love and gratitude of every man and woman who has had the privilege of being one of his pupils.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

17 July 1930

The great excitement created in Cookeville and all of Putnam county by the coming of the Nashville and Knoxville railroad, Putnam county's first railroad, into this county in 1889 and 1890. The people of this county had hoped and worked for a railroad ever since the county was established and their joy knew no bounds when a railroad for Putnam county was secured. As the construction work progressed from the Caney Fork river to Cookeville, almost every individual of the county journeyed to the grade to see the work going on. As the completion of the road neared Cookeville in 1890, almost the entire adult population of the town went daily to view it. When the road was sufficiently completed to enable work trains to come as far East as what is now the T. J. Gregory farm, the teachers of the Cookeville public school, with all of the pupils, walked to that point for the school children to see the road bed and the work train. The pupils, numbering perhaps two hundred, waited impatiently for the arrival of the train and as the locomotive finally drew near with its tremendous "blowing" most of the smaller children and some of the larger ones gave way in the first law of nature and fled a considerable distance from the scene, some of them not stopping until they had scaled the fence. That occurred forty years ago, but the occurrences will not be forgotten by those who witnessed or participated in the event.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

24 July 1930

WHEN the old hacks used to meet the trains and how they used to rumble along the rough and rocky road that is now Broad Street? Why you could hear the noise and feel the jar for several blocks.

WHEN a young man would have to engage a horse and buggy several days ahead to be sure of having one to take his “sweetie” out for a drive Sunday afternoon.

COOEVILLE’S liver stables of olden days, when each of them kept about twenty horses and a large supply of buggies for public hire? Among these livery firms, which for many years served the public here were: W. H. Matlock, Charlie Burton, Judd & Staley, S. H. Wall, W. B. Whitley, Staley Bros. Matlock & Cummings, Whitson Livery Co., R. F. Pippin, Burch Byers, Campbell Morgan, G. W. Alcorn, Carlen & Regan, J. A. Hoffmeister and John E. Wall.

The old time livery stable is now only a memory, the advent of the automobile putting them out of business. Cookeville was well supplied with them from about 1880 until about 1920.

The most prominent of Cookeville’s livery barns were located as follows:

One on the present location of the Jere Whitson Hardware Company, on north-east corner of Public Square; one where the Standard Filling Station is located on the north side of the Public Square; and one on the east side of the Square, where the Tennessee Motor Company is doing business.

In West Cookeville, one was located in the building just west of the Shanks Hotel; one occupied the lot on which the Arlington Hotel stands on Oak street, and later one was built across the street where the P. G. Cooper Motor Co. garage now stands. Another one stood for several years on Cedar street about where Foutch Bros. store is now located. In earlier days one of these barns was located on Broad street near the present residence of Mrs. J. F. Slagle.

Of all these buildings erected for use as livery stables only two remain until the present day – the one on the east side of the Square, and the one just below the Shanks Hotel, and both have undergone alterations to make them suitable for automobile repair shops.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

7 August 1930

WHEN Cookeville’s first permanent motion picture show was opened and operated for a short time as the West side of the Public Square? It was the cause of a disastrous fire that destroyed every building on that side of the Square with the exception of two, one on each corner.

WHEN L. M. Bullington operated a picture show in the old Shirley building, located about where Brown’s poolroom now stands?

WHEN the old Savoy Theatre in the Maxwell Block was thought to be the very latest and best thing in a picture show? It was in the days when one and two reel pictures were the general run, and when a three reel feature was an extraordinary attraction.

The Herald of March 20, 1907, contains a full reprint of the law creating the Criminal Court for the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, of which Putnam County is a part. The law, known as Chapter 35, Acts of 1907, bears the signature of E. G. Tollett, Speaker of the Senate, John T. Cunningham, Speaker of the House, and M. R. Patterson, Governor.

In looking over copies of the Herald printed during the summer of 1907, we notice the following quotations for produce at Cookeville: Eggs 10 cents, Hens 10 cents, Chickens 10 cents, Roosters 10 cents, Guineas 10 cents, Ducks, 7 cents, Feathers, prime, 46 cents; Wool 33 cents; Tallow 3 ½ cents; Hides, dry flint 14 cents, Salt 13 cents.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

21 August 1930

WHEN there was a large number of small post offices located in the rural sections of Putnam county, practically every community being served by one? They were generally located in the community store. Some of the post offices of forty years ago that have been discontinued are: Byrne, Bilbrey, Burton, Goffton, Jeremiah, Window Cliff, Ensor, Void, Pekin, Gentry, Hudgens, Dry Valley, Quix, Venia, Shipley, Calfkiller, Irby, Dug Hill, Board Valley, Enigma and probably several others.

The inauguration of R. F. D., (*Rural Free Delivery*) service in this county in 1904 eliminated these small offices and supplied rural patrons with a much more convenient and quicker mail service.

WHEN the annual reunions of Gen. Dilbrell's brigade and Capt. Dillard's company were occasionally held in this city, and always drew large crowds. Generally a barbecue dinner was served and some speaker of note delivered an address. At the last one the writer remembers lunch was served in the old Staley building on the Square, the day being a rainy one.

WE have not yet found a picture of this old Courthouse, of Washington Academy or the old Methodist church. If say one has either or all of these we would like to borrow them in order to have a cut made of them to use in the Herald.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

28 August 1930

WHEN Cookeville's baseball team accepted a challenge from the Livingston nine, who claimed to be champion of this section and on June 2, 1899, drove up to the capital of Overton and proceeded to give them the worst beating they ever dreamed of. After scoring 19 runs in the first inning, which, by the way, was the same number that Livingston managed to get over in the full game. Cookeville continued to score 41 more runs to win by a 70 to 29 score.

After interviewing some of the players who remain here, the team was composed of the following: Oscar K. Holladay, Captain, first base; W. R. Carlen, pitcher; Kelly Potter, catcher; H. G. Martin, third base; E. L. Wirt, short stop; Charley Denton, second base; Chas. D. Shanks, outfield.

Some incidents of the occasion were: Dr. J. T. Moore, Cookeville's regular catcher breaking a thumb in practice before the game, and Mrs. Potter, of Smithville volunteering to take his place behind the bat. The umpires were Prof. A. H. Roberts (later governor), of Livingston and John B. Dow, of this city.

It was during this game that some Livingston fan gave E. L. Wirt the appellation of "Grandpa" because of his gray hairs, and that name was used by his friends for many years.

This game was followed by one at Monterey on July 4th, when Cookeville defeated Crossville by the score of 24 to 18. Practically the same team that defeated Livingston won this game.

Two more games were played with the Crossville team on their home diamond, August 5th and 6th, the first game going to Crossville by the score of 19 to 5, and the second to Cookeville by the score of 12 to 9.

The season of 1899 was closed by a game September 30, between Cookeville and Gladice, the latter winning by a score of 18 to 16, notwithstanding John Dow's home run for Cookeville. This was the only game played in this city that year and the local team was mostly of the second string players.

In these days W. M. Shanks could throw a baseball farther than anyone else in this section, and is laying out a playing field the size of the grounds would be based on the distance that Mr. Shanks would throw the ball.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

4 September 1930

WHEN T. C. Holladay & Son operated a general store in West Cookeville?

WHEN Gorge Buck and John Judd handled goods from Nashville to Cookeville for Major Freeze and other merchants and how John Judd would tell the folks at Cookeville good-by and how he would try? He could make any one believe he was sure enough crying. It took just a week to make the trip.

WHEN Bill Rayburn operated a Meat Market on Broad street about where Stamps & Rout's battery service station is now located? And do you remember the tragic death of his little girl caused by her clothing catching fire and burning her so badly that death ensued?

WHEN D. L. Dow owned and operated a roller mill and made most all of the flour that the Cookeville people used and had the only mill of the kind in Putnam county? The mill was located near the Glade Spring and later there was a tan yard at the same location.

On page thee of this week's Herald appears a long article telling about the schools of nearly forty years ago. Be sure to read it.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

11 September 1930

WHEN the Citizens Bank corner lot was covered with a generous amount of well assorted rubbish and junk?

WHEN a big street carnival pitched their tents around the Public Square?

(We give The Pathfinder credit for the following contributions):

WHEN divorce was a tragedy?

WHEN anyone could become the life of the party by merely putting on a Charlie Chaplin mustache?

WHEN more motorists than pedestrian were sees under autos?

WHEN vacant lots were covered with woods instead of Tom Thumb golf courses?

WHEN fruit jars held nothing but fruit?

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

18 September 1930

WHEN a large Sunday School was conducted and regular preaching services were held at the Northern Methodist Church that was located at the corner of Oak and Second Streets? This building was later sold and for some time used as a overall factory.

WHEN Dr. W. S. McClain, of this city, and Joe Cullom, now of Shelbyville, printed a newspaper called "The Citizen"? We have a copy that was loaned to us and from which we expect to reprint a few extracts soon.

WHEN there was a row of lumber sheds extending all along the railroad from Oak Street to where the ice plant is now located? It was a great place for the boys to play.

We will be glad to have anyone bring in any old newspapers that might contain items of interest, or if you have any old pictures we will be glad to get them.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

25 September 1930

WHEN Prof. S. B. Yeargan's Select School was conducted in the second story of the building now occupied by G. Polly's store on the North side of the Public Square? The stairway and entrance was on the West side of the building. Later, the school was conducted on the ground floor of the building which stood across the street West of the Odd Fellows' hall and was afterwards converted into a boarding house with a store room in front, Mrs. Lee conducting the boarding house there for several years until the building burned in 1926. Prof. Yeargan's school also occupied the old Methodist Church, which stood near Henry Algood's residence and rooms up-stairs in the old P. M. Smith block opposite the passenger station.

At each of these locations Prof. Yeargan had, upon an average, about seventy-five students, most of whom were young men and young ladies. Many of them now reside in Cookeville and Putnam county. They all revere the memory of Prof. Samuel B. Yeargan.

At the close of each scholastic year it was the usual custom of this school to give a series of public entertainments running through two or three nights. We have before us one of those programs as published in "the Citizen" of May 20, 1896, with the following names appearing on the program:

W. P. Matheny, A. J. Chism, N. J. Chapin and Z. L. Shipley debated pro and con on the subject, "Resolved, That the law of heredity has more to do in the formation of character than environment." Recitations and declamations were given by A. J. Chism, Miss Eunice Haynes, J. C. King, Miss Eliza Bullock, Z. L. Shipley, Miss Lavena Watson, Davis, Miss Florence Barnes and Miss Ida Bussell. Original orations were delivered by Nell Chapin, Dow. A. Ensor, J. M. Hatfield and O. M. Davis.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

2 October 1930

WHEN the corner stone of the large frame schoolhouse that preceded our present handsome structure was laid with impressive ceremonies during a cold drizzle of rain on an afternoon late in the fall of 1898, with quite a large crowd present? The famous old Washington Academy had just been raised and the brick was used in the foundation of the "college," as the wooden building was called by most everyone for years.

WHEN Fred Fishel, a merchant of this city about thirty years or more ago, built the original part of the house now owned and occupied by Byrd Hudgens. Southeast of the Square? It was away out to itself at the time and no one thought the town would ever build that far out. The house has undergone improvements by Mr. S. H. Young, former owner, and by Mr. Hudgens. There are several people here, so doubt, who remember the Fishel family, and of the death of Mr. Fishel away out in the mountains of Arkansas, and of its being some while before his body could be brought here for burial.

WHEN Dr. Storie's horse fell in a deep mud-hole on Broad street near the depot, and just in front of where Womack's store in the corner of the Shanks Hotel is now located?

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

9 October 1930

WHEN baseball fans were contented just to get the score of world series games at the end of each inning by telegraph and then wait until the next day's newspaper arrived to get the details of the game? All of that was the custom, especially in the smaller cities, until just a few years ago. Now you can sit at home and almost see these exciting games, thanks to the play-by-play detail that the modern wonder, the radio, brings to us.

WHEN John Brown, whom most of us know only as a painter and paper hanger, operated the first barber shop in Cookeville about fifty years ago? It was located on the west side of the Square. At a later date Mr. Brown operated a shop in the small office building in West Cookeville located on Broad street and between that street and the ice plant.

WHEN Eschel Haynes, the young and only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Haynes was hit on the head by a batted baseball at school and died from the injury a few days later? Mr. and Mrs. Haynes have lived in Nashville for several years, but they are returning to Cookeville to again make this their home.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

16 October 1930

THE first football game ever played in Cookeville? It was on November 12, 1910, between Sparta and Cookeville high school teams, Sparta winning a hard fought game by the score of 12 to 11. Quite a large crowd witnessed this game which was played in a field north of Dr. Shipley's home that has since been covered with dwellings. The local team was coached by Joel M. Barnes, an all-around athlete and one of the best instructors that Cookeville ever furnished the educational world, and who was killed in an automobile accident in Florida a few years ago.

WHEN the Pierian Club and the Current Tople Club were the leaders in the social life of the city?

WHEN the first wholesale house was established in Cookeville in 1904? The firm was headed by A. G. Maxwell, of this city, and their building was built by W. L. Ditty, a contractor and builder of those days in Cookeville. The building still stands along the railroad across Broad Street from Ragland, Potter & Co.'s large brick building.

WHEN Mrs. Mollie Barnes conducted a grocery store in a small building on her home lot at the corner of Broad and Hickory Streets, where D. Brown now lives?

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

30 October 1930

THE several splendid photographers who have practiced their art in Cookeville during the past forty years, and before whose cameras most of us have appeared at one time or another and had our picture "taken"?

First, we remember, Z. T. Hutsell, who lived here and made portraits for many years. His gallery was located upstairs in a building that occupied the corner where Dr. Lex Dyer's offices are now. Mr. Hutsell died here and is buried in the City cemetery. A few years ago a daughter of his visited here, as many will remember.

Thos. Southworth, an Englishman, was located here for quite awhile with his studio in the old Freeze (later Duke) building. Mr. Southworth married a Cookeville girl, Miss Gertrude Dyer. He is now located in Memphis.

Leo Ferrell went to school here and later entered the picture-making game, remaining here for several years. After the Duke Block was destroyed by fire, his studio being upstairs in that building, Mr. Ferrell erected the building now owned and occupied by Dr. Lex Dyer. Mr. Ferrell sold his business to John Baxter and removed to Murfreesboro, where he is now located.

Mr. Baxter did not stay here so very long and sold to R. H. Harding, who has been here for many years and has made a wonderful success in his chosen vocation.

There may have been still others whom we have overlooked, but they did not remain among us long enough to sufficiently impress themselves upon our memory.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

20 November 1930

WHEN the building of a canning factory in Cookeville in 1896 was quite an event? While the concern did not "pen out" well, operating only one season, it was an important milepost in the beginning of the industrial life of Cookeville. The superintendent of the plant was Wm. Chesterfield, who built the

residence now owned by Haskell Womack on Cedar Street. The factory was located where Gregory's handle mill now stands. The original building was used for a "free" school after the old Washington Academy had been torn down and before the succeeding school house was finished, and also as a convention hall following the destruction of the old courthouse by fire and while the present splendid structure was being built. After the Gregory handle works located on the railroad "Y" had burned, the canning factory building was bought by Mr. Gregory for his hand plant, the building and plant, being destroyed by fire several years later. Mr. Gregory rebuilt on the same location.

WHEN Rev. T. J. Clouse and Rev. M. Judd held a great meeting at Lone Oak, a mile south of Cookeville? It began on the first Sunday in September, 1895, and, in words of one who was present, "There was much good accomplished – 20 conversions and the members of all denominations were greatly benefited. That meeting will never be forgotten by many." F. E. Elrod, in Cookeville, Citizen, May 20, 1896. The Brother Clouse mentioned was the father of Hon. W. F. Clouse, of Nashville, formerly of this city, and representative in Congress for one term. Brother Matt Judd is remembered by many citizens of Cookeville and nearby dwellings. Both were beloved ministers of the Freewill Christian Baptist Church.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

27 November 1930

WHEN W. W. Brown sold groceries in a small, one-story building on the south side of the Square, where the Masonic Building now stands? He moved from there to the brick building he built on Broad street, in 1904, and dealt in groceries there for many years. The Ideal Grocery now occupies the building.

WHEN the first automobile ever to visit Cookeville was seen on our streets July 27, 1904, and how much excitement its coming created? Some two or three hours before it arrived here someone telephoned over from Sparta that it was on its way here and many people were out looking for it.

WHEN the well that was just east of the old depot, and which was filled up recently when the street was being paved was used by the thirsty crowds during the county fair to partly quench their thirst? That was in the days before bottled carbonated beverages were on the market – even soda fountains were almost an unknown luxury.

We will be glad to see any old local newspaper that you may have in order that we may get in interesting paragraph or tow for this corner.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

4 December 1930

WHEN Lester J. Smith, a theatrical producer visited Cookeville and, with the assistance of local talent, presented two of his original plays, "The Shiner's Daughter" and "Tennessee"? The plays were given in the Yeagan School hall. They were also played at Algood.

WHEN Cookeville had a well-drilled company of state militia whose headquarters was located on the north side of the Square? They used to drill on the vacant land between Oak and Hickory streets, north of Second street.

WHEN there was not a business house on Cedar street – unless a small blacksmith shop be called such – and only about ten residences on the West side of Cedar street and only one small house between Cedar street and the railroad?

WHEN Earl-Moore and Henry, his brother, who died a few years go, and their pets, a donkey and a dog "Never," with a small wagon, were almost inseparable companions about Cookeville? They enjoyed their boyhood life to the fullest extent, so did most of the boys of those days.

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:

18 December 1930

WHEN in the fall of 1905, after the completion of the old steam power plant, located where the fire hall is now, how on numerous nights we looked for the arc street lights to shine? Some little adjustments needed to be made, though, and we were disappointed.

The first rates for electric lights in Cookeville were as follows, for the old style carbon filament bulbs: one 10 candle, 75 cents per month; 2 lights at 25 cents each. Meters were hardly known here in those days.

WHEN Cookeville had a large tobacco factory? The present, "Sidwell Hotel" building, South of the Public Square, was erected for a tobacco factory and it was in this building that William B. Ford and Mort Ellison conducted their tobacco factory for about three years. This factory opened for business in 1890. Among the large number of employees of this tobacco factory, two stand out in bold relief in the memory of numerous citizens of this community, who at that time were boys or young men. The memory of those two interesting characters will never be effaced from their memory. One of these men was at the time a man well along in years, his name was George Washington Pigg, he twisted the straight twist, the brand of which was "The Alliance Straight Twist," a large straight twist of tobacco which sold at retail for five cents. In those days the "Farmers Alliance" was a powerful organization of farmers and the brand of this twist of tobacco was intended to appeal to the numbers of that popular organization. "Uncle Wash" Pigg, who all day long twisted the "Alliance Straight Twist," was a great character. He spent the entire day singing old time songs as he twisted and two small boys stemmed tobacco for him. One of his favorite songs was, "Psalms of Victory," and those who heard him sing it as he worked will never forget it. Dick Edwards, a shrewd, tall, slender negro man, then middle aged, was a great natural actor. His favorite diversion was to "throw a hard fit" on occasions when the factory would be crowded with unsophisticated visitors. He would fall backwards on a pile of tobacco with a large knife in his hand and would wall his eyes like a dying calf, at the same time uttering the most terrible and agonizing shrieks and groans. This performance upon his part always had the immediate effect of clearing the factory of all spectators and many small boys never desisted from their flight until they had reached a safe distance from the building. Dick Edwards always wore a derby hat and carried a gold headed cane and, with a luxuriant mustache, he born a likeness to the pictures of some of the presidents of Haiti. He twisted the "sweet twist," or twist which had licorice in it.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 1 January 1931

WHEN Cookeville was incorporated? Cookeville was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly, passed April 15, 1903. Prior to the passage of that act there was a warm contest, staged between the advocates and opponents of incorporation. The first city election after the incorporation of the town was held April 30, 1903. The following were elected as the first Board of Mayor and Aldermen: Mayor, Jesse Arnold; Alderman, A. W. Boyd, Ruthledge Smith, T. J. Gregory, R.J. Moscrip, C. H. Whitney, and Jere Whitson.

This first Board of Mayor and Aldermen organized by the election of Oscar K. Holladay as City Recorder and H. M. Hughes as city marshal.

Several months after the new city government was organized or on Dec. 17, 1904, Cookeville's first City Bond election was held and bonds were authorized by a vote of 180 to 36. It was a twenty-five thousand dollar bond issue for the old city power and water pant and street improvement. This city government is now almost twenty-eight years old. But Cookeville had had a previous city government years before its incorporation.

In the late seventies and early eighties, Cookeville was an incorporated town and Major J. C. Freeze, Capt. Walton Smith and A. W. Boyd served as Mayors under it's first incorporation . Ben Gabbert was the town marshal under its first incorporation. While serving as town marshal, Ben Gabbert, a splendid, kind hearted young man was shot and killed about fifty years ago. This tragedy occurred on a vacant lot on the North side of the Public Square. Ben Gabbert was not married and lived with his widowed mother, Mrs. Dianna Gabbert, and his sisters, Miss Mary Gabbert and Miss Leah Gabbert, at the old Gabbert home on Washington Avenue, just North of the County jail. Ben Gabbert was a special favorite to the Cookeville of

the day. He was a man of great kindness of heart and a great lover of children. His death occurred during the annual fair of the old original Cookeville Fairs. The fair grounds of that old fair are now occupied by the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute.

Fifty years have passed since the tragic death of Ben Gabbert, Cookeville's first love marshal, but the passage of the years have not served to dim the memory of Cookeville's older inhabitants.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 16 January 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's first bank? It was the "Bank of Cookeville." It was a state bank and was organized and opened for business in the early part of _____. Its original capital stock of _____. Its first officers were: President, Jesse Arnold; Vice[President Alfred Algood and W. G. Carrie; Cashier, Judge J. W. Wright. About a year after its organization the official force of the bank was increased by the addition of R. L. Farley as bookkeeper, who, in after years, succeeded Judge Wright as Cashier.

The bank commenced business in the frame building on the South side of the Public Square which had, until shortly before that time, been occupied by the drug store of Dr. Henry Algood. This building is still standing and is now known as the "Wilson Building." The bank occupied the store room just west of the present barber shop in that building.

After about a year in this building, the bank was moved to a new building erected on the East side of the Public Square by Jesse Arnold and ever since known as the "Arnold Building," and now belonging to the C. E. Wilson estate. The Bank of Cookeville continued in that building for about twenty years. It was one of the largest state banks in this section of the state and, for many years, it was the only bank in Putnam County. This bank was promoted and organized in 1890 through the work of Jesse Arnold and Judge J. W. Wright, who continued to serve as president and Cashier, respectively, until shortly before their deaths.

Judge James W. Wright was reared in Fentress County. In his young manhood he located at Livingston. He was a lawyer by profession and served for several years as Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Overton County. He served as State Senator and, by appointment of the Governor in the Seventies, served for about two years as District Attorney-General. He had also served as County Judge of Overton County.

He was a splendid gentleman and a man of rare business judgment. He was held in the highest esteem, by all who knew him.

In 1890 he moved from Livingston to Cookeville to become Cashier of the bank which he assisted in organizing. When he moved to Cookeville he bought the property on Washington Avenue now owned by W. M. Shanks and he lived there until his death. He and his wife and only child, a daughter, are buried in Cookeville Cemetery.

Jesse Arnold was born at Hilham, where his father was a pioneer merchant. In his boyhood he moved with his widowed mother to Cookeville. In his young manhood he was admitted to the bar, but never engaged very actively in the practice. From his young manhood until he became President of the Bank of Cookeville, he served either as Deputy Clerk and Master or Clerk and Master of this County for a period of twenty years. During this time, and until 1894, he was City Magistrate of Cookeville and was, for several years, Chairman of the County Court. From 1903 to 1907 he was Mayor of Cookeville, being the first Mayor under the present Charter. For many years he was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. He was a prominent Mason and a successful business man, and throughout his active life, was prominently identified with every progressive and public spirited movement in Cookeville and Putnam County. He died nineteen years ago.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 22 January 1931

WHEN the veneering plant, commonly known as the "box factory," was installed and put in operation by Messrs. Soper and Hulwart, who came here from the North? It was in the early spring of 1905 that his plant commenced the manufacture of egg cases and veneering, being the first plant of its kind in the South. A few years later Messrs. R. L. Farley and A. G. Maxwell, of this city, bought the plant and operated it for several years, adding plants in Mississippi to their business. About two years ago, suitable timber having become scarce in this section, the veneer plant was moved to Crossville, where its operation is being continued. This manufacturing enterprise used timber that was unmarketable for other purposes and employed a large force of operations practically all the time, and was the means of many thousands of dollars being put in circulation in this immediate section for timber and wages.

WHEN Sid Jenkins and Bennett Smith were partners in the old Shirley building on the South side of Broad Street?

WHEN the Peoples' Bank was organized? They bought a lot from P. M. Greenwood and built a brick building for their home during the summer of 1905. The building is now owned and occupied by R. H. Harding.

WHEN the purchase of a typewriter by local men was an event of news value? In July 1905, the Herald reported a new typewriter and desk installed by Bockman & Bryant, lawyers, whose office was located on the West side of the Public Square about where the Western Union office is now.

WHEN the clear ringing bells of the various churches of the town chimed together in a glad, peaceful melody every Sunday morning, calling the people to their respective places of worship for Sunday school and church services?

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:
Thursday, 29 January 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches: Have you ever acquainted yourself with the history of Putnam County's oldest church congregations or organizations? An interesting volume could be written about them, and their history should be preserved for the information and inspiration of coming generations. A few of these congregations, or, more accurately speaking, church organizations, are now one hundred years old. Several are seventy-five years old.

Pleasant Grove Methodist Church

Perhaps the oldest active church organization in Putnam County is the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. This congregation was organized more than one hundred years ago. The original church building, as well as the second building, a commodious frame structure erected by this congregation were located on the same site, in a beautiful beech grove, in the head of Rock Springs valley, a few hundred yards South of the Nashville highway. At this location this congregation worshipped for more than three-quarters of a century. Before the Civil War, Pleasant Grove was one of the noted camp grounds of this section of the state. Its annual camp meetings were attended by thousands of people and many of the prominent pioneer preachers of this part of the state preached at these great revival gatherings.

School was taught regularly at the old Pleasant Grove Church from early pioneer days until many years after the Civil War. It was a great gathering point. Several years ago the congregation of this church decided to move the church building from the historic site to a near-by point on the ridge, on the Nashville road. A few years later the large frame building was replaced by the present brick building, one of the most valuable and attractive church buildings in this section of the state.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday,
5 February 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Caney Fork (Brown's Mill) Baptist Church

The old Caney Fork (Brown's Mill) Baptist Church, located in the Third Civil District, on Falling Water, was organized more than a century ago. It is very unfortunate that the early records of this old congregation have not been preserved. It is the claim of old citizens, both living and dead, of that community that the regular preaching day of this congregation has been the third Sunday of each month for a period of more than a hundred years. Corder Stone, a prominent pioneer Baptist preacher, is said to have been prominently identified with the organization of this congregation, for which he was preaching regularly in 1831. Old men of that congregation have insisted that this congregation was organized several years prior to that date, and probably as early as 1819. If this be correct there is not much difference in the age of this congregation and the old Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Plans are now under way for the erection of a new church building for this old Baptist congregation. It is hoped that it will be a commodious structure, in keeping with the important part which this old church has played in the religious history of that community and of this county.

"Old Prospect" Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located near the present town of Algood, was one of the noted churches of this county in pioneer days. It was probably the first Cumberland Presbyterian congregation organized in what is now Putnam County. It was a community center and great gathering point from the early settlement of that section of the country until after the town of Algood had its beginning with the building of the Nashville and Knoxville railroad to that point. About thirty years ago a number of the leading members of the Old Prospect Church withdrew and organized a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Algood. A few years before this occurred, another larger group of the membership of the Prospect congregation had withdrawn to organize the Post Oak congregation, and there is no longer a congregation at Prospect, that congregation having been dissolved a few years ago, but, organized about a century ago, it was one of the leading congregation of this county for a great many years and the memory of this old church is cherished by many people who, in other days, regularly attended the services.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 12 February 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Smyrna Church

Smyrna Church is the oldest congregation of the Christian Church in Putnam County, and is one of the historic congregations of this section. It was organized about a hundred years ago. It is located four miles north-west of Cookeville. Throughout its long history, it has been an active congregation and many prominent ministers of this faith have conducted meetings at this old church. Among the ministers who preached for this congregation before the Civil War was the late Elder Elisha G. Sewell, who married in the Smyrna community. He lived for some years as a young married man in that community, teaching and preaching at Smyrna. Later he became a noted preacher and for about sixty years was a joint Editor, with David Liscomb, of the Gospel Advocate, published at Nashville. He died a few years ago at a ripe old age, being past ninety. So long as he was physically able to do so, he conducted a protracted meeting almost every year at Smyrna Church, to which congregation many of his relatives belonged. He was greatly loved by this congregation as were Garland, Williams and James Kuykendall, three other noted pioneer preachers and teachers, who lived in that community and preached to this congregation both before and after the Civil War. Few churches in this county here exerted so great an influence upon the religious history of this section as has the old Smyrna Church.

Salem Methodist Church:

Salem Methodist Church, located about two miles South-east of Cookeville, is one of the oldest and most noted churches or congregations of this county. It was organized about one hundred years ago and ever since its organization has been an active congregation. Before the Civil War this was for many years a noted camp ground and the scene of many great religious gatherings and wonderful revivals. This old church has throughout its long history been the community center for a splendid community.

For almost a hundred years school was regularly taught each year in the Salem church building.

A few years ago, the Salem church building was destroyed by fire and a new church building was erected on the same site, the present building being the third church building of this congregation, the original building erected in early pioneer days, having been a log building. Since the erection of the present building, it has been used solely for religious purposes, as a public school building was erected in that community a few years ago.

The cemetery at Salem church is one of the old and well-known cemeteries of this county.

The Salem church is located in what is generally known as the Huddleston community, one of the best and oldest communities of this county. Several generations of the Huddleston family have been actively identified with the history of the Salem congregation.

This old church has exerted a wonderful influence upon the community and section in which it is located. The Salem congregation was organized long before Putnam County was established.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 12 February 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Cane Creek Baptist Church:

The Cane Creek Baptist church is located about four miles South-west of Cookeville. It is one of the old and well-known churches or congregations of this county.

The Cane Creek church had its beginning before the Civil War and is has ever since been an active congregation. This old congregation furnished a number of well-known Baptist ministers to this section of the county.

The Cane Creek church has been the scene of many association meetings and great revivals. Many of the pioneer Baptist ministers of this section served the Cane Creek church and conducted revivals for that congregation.

This church since pioneer days has been a great gathering point.

A few years ago there was a division in this congregation. Those known as the Freewill Baptist faction erected a new and separate church building which they occupy.

The Missionary Baptist faction continued to worship at the old Cane Creek church.

Sand Springs Baptist Church:

The Sand Springs Baptist church, located in the Fifth Civil district, is one of the noted churches of this county. This congregation was organized about seventy-five years ago. One of the prominent leaders in the early history of this congregation was the Rev. Abraham Ford, a leading pioneer citizen of the mountain section. He was a well-known pioneer Baptist preacher of this section. He lived in the Sand Springs community and continued to preach at the Sand Springs church until, on account of the infirmities of age, he had to be seated in a chair while preaching. When the Civil War broke out he was made Captain of a company of Confederate soldiers and battled for the South. He reared a large family and was the father of the late Rev. Willie Ford, a well-known Baptist minister of this section, who died in old age, about two years ago, greatly esteemed throughout the mountain section.

The original Sand Springs church building was a log building. About thirty-five years ago the old log building was replaced with a frame building, which burned several years ago, after which the present frame building was erected. The Sand Springs church has always been a great gathering point. The Sand Springs church cemetery is one of the largest and best known rural cemeteries in this county.

For many years the annual decoration and memorial services held at the Sand Springs church cemetery have been attended by large assemblies of people. Many of the leading pioneer citizens of the mountain section are buried in the Sand Springs church cemetery.

Trinity Cumberland Presbyterian Church:

The old Trinity Cumberland Presbyterian church, located within a short distance of the Putnam, Jackson and Smith county lines, a congregation which throughout its long history has been composed of members living in each of the three counties named, is one of the noted churches and congregations of this section. This congregation was organized almost a century ago. Many of the prominent pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian ministers of this section of the state preached and conducted revivals at Trinity church. Many great revivals have been held at this church. Throughout the long ministerial careers of the Rev. John H. Kittrell and the Rev. William Dillard they each preached often at Trinity church and conducted revivals there. Numerous old families of the Twelfth district of this county have been actively identified with this congregation since pioneer days.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 26 February 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Bloomington Springs Methodist Church:

The congregation of the Bloomington Springs Methodist church was organized about seventy-five years ago. Among the pioneer Methodist ministers of this section who were actively identified with the organization of this congregation and who preached for it before the Civil War, were T. R. Dodson and Alexander Byers.

Through the efforts of this congregation, and the early ministers who served it, Bloomington College, a Methodist school, was established at Bloomington about fifty years ago. Until the college building burned about thirty years ago, this school was one of the leading educational institutions of this section and enjoyed a large patronage. The last president of Bloomington College was Prof. Ossian S. Myers, and educator of marked ability. He was president of the college when the college building burned. He was then induced to come to Cookeville and with Prof. L. P. Evans became a co-principal of the "Cookeville Collegiate Institute," the establishment of which school afforded the inspiration for the erection, in 1899, of the beautiful and commodious frame school building which supplanted the historic old brick Washington Academy building. Prof. Myers taught in Cookeville with marked success for a few years. He was greatly esteemed by his pupils and was a teacher of rare scholarly attainments. After a few years, he accepted a flattering offer from his home state and returned to Indiana.

During the days of Bloomington College, the Bloomington Methodist, church has the benefit of unusually strong leadership, as the teachers in that school were all active members of the Methodist church.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 5 March 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Johnson Church:

The Johnson Church, on the Calfkiller river, in the Fourth Civil district, is one of the oldest Baptist congregations of this county. It was organized many years before the Civil War. It bears the name it does because it was organized in a community in which most of the pioneer families were Johnsons, or related to the Johnsons. One of the pioneer Baptist preachers who was actively identified with this congregation during the early period of its history, and until his death in old age about thirty years ago, was the Rev. Henry Johnson, the father of T. L. Johnson and the grandfather of James H. Johnson of Cookeville. In his old age he was affectionately known as "Uncle Henry" Johnson throughout the eastern portion of the county where he enjoyed, in a marked degree, the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Other well-known pioneer Baptist preachers who had preached for this congregation were Corder Stone, Patrick Moore and Thos. J. Clouse.

The Johnson church graveyard is a well-known cemetery in which are the graves of many prominent pioneer residents of that section.

The Johnson family was divided in its religious affiliations, some of the families of this large family connection being Presbyterians, and the Presbyterian congregation at that place has harmoniously shared the church building with the Baptist congregation, the late Esq. George M. Johnson having been an active elder in the Presbyterian congregation at that place until his death. James H. Johnson, of Cookeville, was formerly an elder in the same Presbyterian congregation, but after moving to Cookeville he transferred his membership to the Cookeville Presbyterian church.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 12 March 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Macedonia Baptist Church:

The Macedonia Baptist church, located at the head of Falling Water, in the Third Civil district, is an old and well-known Baptist church of this county. This congregation was organized about sixty-six years ago. The original building was a log house. About forty years ago it was replaced with the present frame building. This is one of the well-known Baptist churches of the mountain section. It has a beautiful and picturesque location.

Many great revivals have been held at this church. This was the church home of many well-known pioneer citizens of that section. Those sturdy old pioneers, Zach Lee and Houston Beasley, were both deacons in this congregation for many years prior to their death. Among others long and actively identified with this congregation in their life time were J. J. Lee, W. C. Lee, Levi Jackson, John Jones, Campbell Bohanon, Claiborne Bohanon and J. K. P. Jones.

Shady Grove Baptist Church:

The Shady Grove Baptist Church, located in the Stamp's Cove in the Sixth district, is one of the old and well-known churches of this county. This congregation was organized before the Civil War and throughout its long history it has been an active congregation. Among the prominent early pioneer citizens of that section who were actively identified with this congregation during the early period of its history, and until their deaths, were Sanford Stamps and William Billbrey, both of whom were the ancestors of large and well-known families.

The Shady Grove church occupies a beautiful location, under the mountains, in a Cove of rare scenic charm. This is one of the large Baptist congregations of this county.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 26 March 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Mount Herman Cumberland Presbyterian Church:

Mount Herman Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located in the Second Civil District, is one of the most attractive rural churches in this county. It is a large and commodious frame building, situated in a beautiful grove.

This building was erected about forty-two years ago. Before the erection of this building the Cumberland Presbyterians, of that community for years held their services at the old Bridge School house, located near the wooden Falling Water bridge on the old Cookeville and Sparta road. Before this congregation committed to worship in the old Bridge school house, both before the Civil War and for several years after the close of the War, Rev. Jesse Hickman, a greatly beloved pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian preacher, whose home was on Cherry Creek in White county, preached regularly at the homes of different Cumberland Presbyterians in what is now the Mount Herman community. He often, in those days, held preaching services at the home of "Uncle" Mack Wilhite, Mr. Bullock, the pioneer tanner, Maj. Hill, A. J. Johnson and others. This noted pioneer preacher was highly esteemed in that community as he was throughout this section. It was through his efforts, largely, that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was established in that community, and in his old age and shortly before his death he was greatly rejoiced over the erection of the Mount Herman church building. Upon the death of that venerable soldier of the Cross, the last Rev. W. H. "Henry" Carr became pastor of the Mount Herman Church, which he served for many years and almost continuously until his death. He, like the Rev. Jesse Hickman, was greatly loved by the people of that community, where he exerted a great influence for good.

Mount Herman church has been the scene of many great revivals. All of the pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian ministers of this presbytery preached to this congregation. Many sessions of presbytery have been held at the Mount Herman church. Among the well-known families of that community who, through the years, have been actively identified with this congregation are the Wilhite, Johnson, Hill, Bullock, Hudgens, Stone and Leech families.

Rev. P. L. Ramsey is the present pastor of this congregation.

The Mount Herman community is one of the best communities of this county, noted for its sobriety, harmony, industry and good citizenship.

Broad Valley Baptist Church:

The Broad Valley Baptist Church is located near the county line between Putnam and White counties. About one-half of the members of this congregation are residents of the Fourth Civil District of this county. This congregation was organized before the Civil War and the Broad Valley Baptist church, throughout its long history, has been a great gathering point, and has been one of the leading Baptist congregations of the mountain section.

This church was the home church of two of the leading pioneer Baptist ministers of this section. Thomas Clouse and Benjamin Clouse, two brothers, who resided in that community throughout their long lives. Each of them spent about half a century in the ministry and they were both held in the highest esteem throughout this section. Receiving very little pecuniary compensation for their services, these two faithful pioneer ministers preached throughout this and adjoining counties- holding hundreds of revivals, organizing many congregations and leaving an influence for good which is strongly felt to this day. This congregation has also sent out many well known ministers who are still active in the ministry, among them Rev. W. S. Clouse, Rev. Dock Brown, Rev. W. N. Selby, Rev. George E. Pennington and Rev. G. W. Randolph, all well known Baptist ministers of this section. Another one, Rev. B. B. Pensington, is now one of the leading Methodist ministers of Nashville and one of the most popular ministers of the Tennessee Conference of the Southern Methodist Church.

The Broad Valley Baptist Church is a large frame building. It has a beautiful and picturesque location. Many great revivals have been held in this church and it has often been the place of meeting of the Stone Association.

This church has had a most interesting history and has exerted a most wonderful influence for good.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 2 April 1931

The Old Jeremiah Store's Stand:

It was inadvertently stated in last week's issue of the Herald that the late Alex P. Barnes, of this city was "born at Jeremiah, in Overton county."

This, as most of our readers know, was an error. Alex P. Barnes belonged to one of the oldest pioneer families of this vicinity. His grandfather Barnes located near Cookeville in early pioneer days and Alex P. Barnes was born and reared one mile South of Cookeville. His father was a brother of Mrs. Holland Denton, Mrs. Jeremiah Whitson, Mrs. William J. Mills, and Mrs. John H. Dowell, this being one of the largest family connections in Cookeville, and the First District.

When a young man he was employed as a clerk by his first cousin, the late Jere Whitson, in the latter's large general store at old Jeremiah, in the Fifteenth District of this county (not Overton county). After working as a clerk in this well known store for some time he became a partner of Jere Whitson and for years, the well known mercantile firm, "Whitson & Barnes" had one of the largest general stores in Putnam county. They enjoyed a large and prosperous business.

When the Nashville and Knoxville Railroad was built, and the town of Algood had its beginning, the importance of Jeremiah as a mercantile stand was affected by reason of the fact that it was only about three miles from the new town of Algood. In a few years thereafter both Mr. Whitson and Mr. Barnes moved back to Cookeville, their childhood home. Mr. Whitson came back to Cookeville several years before Mr. Barnes came back.

Some of our young people may not know the location of the old Jeremiah store. All know where the present store of Levi Robinson is located on the Cookeville and Livingston highway. At Robinson's store a road turns to the South East, running up Spring Creek. The old Jeremiah store was located on the hill, on this road, only a few hundred yards from the present store of Levi Robinson and in sight of his store and the highway. After Mr. Whitson engaged in the mercantile business, in his young manhood, at that point he secured a postoffice for that community. The name of that postoffice was "Jeremiah". It was "kept" in the store and served the needs of that community until the rural free delivery routes were established in that section.

Another well known business man of this county who, as a boy, began his business career as a clerk in this store is Wheeler Harp. After Mr. Whitson retired from the firm of Whitson & Barnes, the business was continued by Mr. Barnes and for some years by Mr. Barnes and Mr. Harp.

The old Jeremiah store building was torn down several years ago. It was a large frame building. The residence across the road from the old store site in which Mr. Whitson and later Mr. Barnes, lived is still standing in a good state of preservation.

This old store at Jeremiah for many years was one of the leading stores of this section, located in Putnam County, near the line between Putnam and Overton counties, it enjoyed a large trade from both these counties.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 9 April 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Post Oak Shade Baptist Church:

If a history of the Baptist church of Putnam County should ever be written, the Post Oak Shade Baptist Church formerly the Blackburn's Fork Baptist Church would deserve notice. It is one of the oldest Baptist congregations in Putnam County. With the exceptions of the Caney Fork and Johnson Baptist Churches, it is probably the oldest Baptist congregation in the county. This church is located in a beautiful grove, near the old Gainesboro road in the Seventh Civil District.

Among the large pioneer families who settled in that community at an early day were the Pippins, Dyers and Rippetoes. There were, of course, other prominent pioneer families in that community, but, in point of numbers, the three families mentioned, all of them closely related by intermarriage, constituted a large majority of the population of that neighborhood. They organized the old "Blackburn Fork Baptist Church." Shortly after the Civil War, when the congregation decided to build a new frame church building to take the place of the old log church, a majority of the congregation voted to locate the new building about one mile from the old log church, where the congregation had worshipped since pioneer days, and, strange to say, they changed the name of the old church from "Blackburn's Fork Baptist Church" to the more common place and less descriptive name of "Post Old Shade Baptist Church." This change in name was made at the time because the frame building at the new location was erected in a beautiful oak grove, which caused some to regard the new name as being more appropriate to the changed location. Because of the part which the old church played in the pioneer life of the Blackburn's Fork community it is unfortunate that the name was changed.

Among the well known pioneer citizens who in their day were actively identified with this congregation were William Rippetoe, Edmond Dyer, Woodfork Pippin, Joe Kidd Pippin, M. L. "Fate" Byers, Jesse Barnes, Sr., James White and Richard F. Pippin. Many of their descendants are now members of this old church.

This church has had a long and useful history. It has been the church home of four and five generations of numerous families now identified with it. Its present membership should, and no doubt does, cherish its past history and old associations. It is to be hoped that this sentiment will ever find expression in a constantly increasing degree of service and religious activity upon the part of this congregation. Most of the members of this congregation enjoy the unusual privilege of holding their membership in the same old church to which their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents belonged.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 9 April 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Post Oak Presbyterian Church:

About forty-five years ago, a large number of families living in the vicinity of the present Post Oak church, in the 15th Civil District of this county, and holding their church membership in "Old Prospect" Cumberland Presbyterian Church, decided to organize a church in their own community. Accordingly they requested and were granted church letters by the Old Prospect Church and organized the "Post Oak" congregation. The first building erected by this congregation, and occupied by it for many years, being inadequate to the needs of this growing congregation, the present building was erected about twenty-five years ago. It is a splendid frame building, located in a beautiful oak grove. This is one of the handsomest and most commodious rural church buildings in this county. Several years ago this congregation erected an attractive manor, or pastor's home, near the church building.

Among those who were active leaders in this congregation from its organization until they passed to their final rewards were Rev. N. K. Phillips, A. R. Ramsey and Rev. Jesse Gillham.

Among the early pastors of this church were the Rev. S. K. Phillips, the Rev. W. H. Carr, the Rev. W. S. Crawford, the Rev. Founty Smith and the Rev. Jesse Gilliam.

This congregation has, for a number of years, had preaching services every Sunday.

For the past few years, Rev. J. Bonkemire, an able and consecrated minister, has served as pastor of this church. He is doing a splendid work and is highly esteemed by his congregation and the entire community.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

7 May 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Carlisle Chapel Methodist Church:

The first Methodist congregation organized in what is now Putnam county was the "Pleasant Grove" congregation. The second Methodist congregation organized in the county was either the Salem congregation or the Carlisle Chapel congregation. The Salem and Carlisle Chapel congregations were organized near the same time, both having been organized in early pioneer days, before Putnam county was organized.

The old Carlisle Chapel Methodist Church building was located on what is now the farm of Sid Bockman, in the 12th Civil District of Putnam county. This was an active congregation from pioneer days until about forty years ago. The old Carlisle Chapel building continued to be used as a school building for several years after it ceased to be used for church purposes. In the early nineties Prof. James H. Watts conducted a successful school in this building, it being his last teaching experience.

When the present Trinity Church building was erected, an arrangement was entered into by the Trinity Cumberland Presbyterian congregation and the Carlisle Chapel Methodist congregation where by the building should be owned jointly by the two congregations, each congregation having its own "Sundays." Then the Carlisle Chapel congregation moved from its old building to Trinity. After this joint one of the Trinity church building by the two congregations had continued for a good many years the Methodist congregation sold its interest in the building to the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation and assisted in the erection of the Apple Memorial Methodist Church building and was merged with that congregation.

The Apple Memorial Methodist Church, named in honor of the late J. C. "Jack" Apple, is located just across the county line in Smith county.

During the many years when the old Carlisle Chapel church was the church home of an active congregation, it was one of the well known churches of that section. It was in its day a great gathering point and was the scene of many great revivals and religious gatherings.

Old Carlisle Chapel occupies a secure place in the memories and affections of many of the older people of the Western portion of this county.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

14 May 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Shady Grove Methodist Church (colored):

Until the close of the Civil War negro slaves held their church membership in the white churches to which the families of their masters belonged.

In the more costly and commodious church buildings, galleries were often built for the slaves. In less commodious church buildings of that day, certain portions of the main auditoriums were set apart for the negroed.

The old church records of several of the white churches of this county, of the different denominations, show that, until the close of the Civil War, negro slaves were included in the membership. In most instances it was a few years after the Civil War before negro church buildings were erected and the former slaves received their church letters from the white congregations of their former masters and organized their own colored congregations.

The first negro congregation organized in Putnam County was the Shady Grove Methodist church. It was organized a few years after the close of the Civil War. The church building was located about two miles from Cookeville, between Cookeville and Algood, near the present site of Breeding's filling station. It was the only colored church in this community prior to the coming of the railroad in 1890. After the construction of the railroad, negro church buildings were erected in Cookeville and Algood and the old Shady Grove church began to wane. However, the Shady Grove building continued to be used for school purposes for several years thereafter, and the members of the old Shady Grove Church had transferred their membership to the Cookeville and Algood colored churches, they continued for several years to hold occasional revivals in the old building. The old Shady Grove negro cemetery being located near by, funerals were conducted in the old building until the church property was sold and the building torn down about ten years ago.

There are several old people in Cookeville who very vividly recall the time a few years after the close of the Civil War, when the former slaves of this community, who belonged to the white Cookeville churches in which the families of their masters belonged, called for and were granted their church letters that they might assist in the organization of the Shady Grove colored church. One old negro woman, well known and respected throughout this community, Eliza Cannon, insisted on retaining her membership in the Cookeville Cumberland Presbyterian church for a few years after the Shady Grove colored church, located near her home, was organized.

When she did conclude to ask for her church letter to join the colored congregation she requested that a "farewell" sacrament be administered to her, and old people now living who were present at that Sunday service state that "aunt Eliza's" grief and shouting on that occasion moved the entire congregation to tears.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

21 May 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Lee's Seminary Cumberland Presbyterian Church:

Lee Seminary Cumberland Presbyterian church, located about four miles South-west of Cookeville, is one of the best known Cumberland Presbyterian churches in Putnam county.

This congregation did not "start" as did most of the other congregations of this county, upon the contrary it "began its existence" as a strong congregation, a merger of two old congregations.

It was in 1882 that the "Hopewell" and "Mount Zion" congregation merged or united and formed the Lee's Seminary Church and erected the present church building.

During the forty-nine years' history of this congregation, in which the present Lee's Seminary Church building has been its church home, it has made a valuable contribution to the religious life and history of Putnam County. The names of many splendid men and women, long connected with this congregation, stand out prominently in the history of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in this county and presbytery. Among the families which have been actively identified with the Lee's Seminary Church thorough the history are the Davis, Carr, Pendergrass, Brown, Taylor and Thompson families.

Among the Elders of this congregation who served it faithfully from their young manhood until their deaths in old age, and who seldom ever failed to attend the sessions of this presbytery, were C. J. "Jackson" Davis and Ira Carr.

The well known pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Stephen Davis, was prominently identified with the early history of the Lee's Seminary Church as were William Davis, Richie Brown, ...list continues.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

4 June 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER:

WHEN County Judge H. D. Whitson reported Putnam County out of debt, and an actual cash balance of \$6,470.27 on hand after all outstanding warrants had been "Paid"? Also there was no bonded indebtedness at that time, early in the year 1909.

WHEN the Methodist Church had no spire, that part of the building being added in 1903, several years after the church had been quit?

WHEN there was no wall around the Courthouse and the streets around the Square were rough and muddy whenever it rained? Work on the stone wall was started in the summer of 1905, but it was not pushed, several delays for different reasons resulting in the work not being finished for a few years.

WHEN the R. A. Elrod Building, now occupied by McMurry & Co., was erected in 1905? It was the largest building in West Cookeville and the second or third brick.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

11 June 1931

WHEN a traveling motion picture outfit came to Cookeville in January, 1905, and showed each night in the Courthouse during their stay of a week or more. This was the first "movie" show ever presented in Cookeville, if the writer's memory is correct. The feature, "The Great Train Robbery" was wonderfully and thrillingly pictured and large crowds saw the same program repeated night after night. The first permanent picture shows in Cookeville were opened in the summer or early fall of 1907, L. M. Bullington operating one in West Cookeville under the name of "Pastime Theatre," while Marshall Ray and a Mr. Kirby ran the "Cookeville Theatre" on the west side of the Square. Soon after the opening of the latter, fire broke out in the front part of the building, and in a short time most of the west side of the Square was burned to the found. In those days the movies charged only 5 cents and 10 cents admission, but everything else was in proportion then.

WHEN Capt. W. A. Crawford bought the Hamp Moore place in 1904, and occupied it. Several years later he sold to Byron Greenwood, who still lives there.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

18 June 1931

WHEN The Cookeville Red Men, (Narragansett Tribe, No. 25, I. O. R. M. to be correct) usually conducted a pilgrimage to "Nee-Yah-Kah-Tah-Kee," or Standing Stone at Monterey? This trip was usually made as an excursion over the old N. & K. Railroad in open coal cars, 25 cents being the usual charge for the round trip. The remaining part of the original "Standing Stone" was on top of a beautiful native pedestal to protect it from damage.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

25 June 1931

DO YOU REMEMBER: Putnam County's Old Churches:

Cookeville Methodist Church:

The original Act establishing Putnam County, passed by the General Assembly of Tennessee in February, 1842, contained a provision that when the commissioners should decide upon the location of the county site and lay off the county site town that they should reserve "at least three acres for a Public Square, a lot for a jail and lots for a male and female academy and for a church for public worship."

The Act of 1852; re-establishing Putnam County, contained similar provisions.

In 1857 the first church building was erected in Cookeville. This building is well remembered by all of our older and middle aged residents who lived in Cookeville prior to 1895, when the building ceased to be used for church purposes and was torn down a few years later. This first church building in Cookeville was erected at a 'union' church and was used by all denominations during the early period of Cookeville's history but a few years after the Civil War the Southern Methodist acquired the ownership of it and therefore used it until the present Methodist church building was erected in 1895.

This first Cookeville church was a frame building. It was located just south of the present Sidwell Hotel building.

The Southern Methodist congregation in Cookeville was organized in 1856, and it has ever since been a strong, active congregation.

In 1895 this congregation moved from the old frame church building to its present brick church building on Spring Street. Several years after the erection of the brick building it was considerably enlarged by the erection of its East wing.

Prior to 1906, the regular preaching day at the Methodist church was the second and fourth Sundays in each month, while the first and third Sundays were the preaching days at the Cumberland Presbyterian church, so that the members of these two congregations usually alternated in their attendance at these two churches, but for the past twenty-five years each of these churches have had preaching services each Sunday.

To do justice to the seventy-five years history of the Cookeville Southern Methodist church would require a good sized volume.

This is one of the largest, strongest and most active Methodist congregations in this section of the State.

Among the leading men of this congregation of forty and fifty years ago were Capt. J. H. Curtin, J. H. Moore, D. L. Dow, Anderson Sloan, Jacob Henry, H. F. Chapin, Prof. S. B. Yeagan and W. P. Chapin.

For many years, and until his death, Gen. Alfred Algood was prominently identified with this congregation.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

16 July 1931

WHEN Cookeville furnished five member for the regimental band of the First Tennessee Volunteer Infantry in the spring of 1898? They were H. L. Duke, B. F. Sloan, Chas. A. Ragan, W. A. Wirt and Clay Bryant.

WHEN Prof. N. J. Finney was principal of Cookeville Collegiate Institute? He was re-elected to that position in August, 1903, by the trustees, who were as follows: Jere Whitson, president; W. D. Sloan, secretary; J. A. Carlen, A. J. Dudney, G. W. Alcorn.

WHEN the city purchased a lot off the J. H. Moore place on Broad Street? They paid \$800.00 for it, which was though to be a big price at the time, 1905. It is still city property, and is worth several times the original cost, being just across the street from the Federal building. The first light and water plant was located on this lot, the building later being re-modeled into a fire hall and residence for the engineman.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

27 August 1931

WHEN Miller Bors., 101 Ranch Wild West Show exhibited in Cookeville and what a large crowd was in town to see the performance? This show was one of the most interesting that ever came here, presenting several historical features that were very much appreciated. The date of this show was September 30, 1908, and there was quite a heavy frost here on that morning.

WHEN during the performance of a small wagon circus many years ago, a monkey fell off the back of a pony and ran up through the crowd and out on top of the tent? The show was giving an exhibition on the vacant land between Oak and Hickory Streets near where Second Street crosses them. The little animal caused quite a disturbance for a few minutes.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

3 September 1931

WHEN back in the early days there stood an exceedingly tall oak tree on the high ground about where the main building of T.P.I. is now located, which could be seen for miles around and served as a pointer or guide to the old stand or inn situated a few hundred yards to the north-west? This tree was called "Lonesome Oak" by the settlers. The old stand was located on the south side of the Walton road on the hill west of the big spring. On top of the hill, just across the road from the stand, was a log schoolhouse where the first session of the County Court of Putnam County was held. Shortly after Putnam County was established a robbery was staged at this old stand and it was burned to the ground. It was never rebuilt, and since then people have always spoken of the place as "The Burnt Stand."

WHEN big game in this section was limited to deer, turkey, and an occasional bear? Stephen Brown and others would engage in hunting contests. They divided into parties of two or three, and the group bagging the most game won all that the other groups killed. The score was calculated by giving each different kind of game a number of credits or points as follows: Deer 50, turkey 10, hawk 5, horned owl, 5, crow 3, quail 1, etc. The winning group was determined by making a tally at the end of the hunt. The favorite hunting ground was four or five miles east of Cookeville on and around Buck's Mountain. A bear was killed here once. The meat was sold to the settlers and brought the man who bagged it the nice sum of \$30.00.

*Read more Putnam Co., TN history at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>