

PEEKVILLE
Putnam Co., TN
“Forgotten Crossroads”

Peekville, TN is located at the intersection of Old Bridge Road and Seven Springs (which was formerly known as the Falling Water Road) and Boyd-Farris Road in southern Putnam County, near the Falling Water River. The location is latitude 36 06 02 N and longitude 085 28 51 W. The post office was located on what is now the Bob Lee Bilbrey property at 2050 Seven Springs Rd. The Peekville post office opened in March 1894 with James K. Peek as the postmaster. He continued until July 1897 when Lourana “Luraney” Bounds Peek, his wife, became the postmaster. The mail service was moved to Cookeville in September 1903.

According to Connie Farris Sircy, James Peek served as Justice of the Peace and signed the first Petition in 1854. James and Luraney Peek’s great-granddaughter, Mrs. Arlene Sliger Powers continues to live in Cookeville, as do many other descendants. According to Bob Lee Bilbrey, the land grant for property in this area was given to a Mr. Bounds. In 1858 the property was owned by Joseph Crawford Freeze and Margaret Bounds Freeze, who were the parents of two sons and six daughters. (When Cookeville sold its first lot at auction, it was he who purchased it. Glade Street’s name was later changed to Freeze Street for him.) One of his daughters, Sara Freeze, married R. A. Peek. In 1905 the property was transferred from R. A. Peek to W. A. Peek and wife. In October 1915 the property sold to William Taylor Bilbrey and Arthur Whitson for the sum of \$900. Mr. Bilbrey and Mr. Whitson were brothers-in-law. William Taylor Bilbrey was the grandfather of Bob Lee Bilbrey.



(Pictured: (Celebrating the dedication of the Peekville sign are, in front, from left, David Walker, Bob Lee Bilbrey, Kim Blaylock, Sherwell Tolleson, Gwen Ray, Lois Boyd Horsley, Connie Farris Sircy, Myra Farris Kernea and Betty Stark. In back: Glenn

Bradford, Joseph Farris Wallace and Tyrus Clay Kernea. Photo by Megan Trotter/Herald-Citizen).

In January 1917, G. C. McCormick and his heirs purchased the property from Mr. Bilbrey and Mr. Whitson. Over the next several years, Luther McCormick and wife, Vallie, and Dave McCormick and wife, Lola Belle, bought the property from the other heirs. Luther and Dave were brothers. In September 1980, Bob Lee Bilbrey purchased the property where the post office is located from the McCormicks. Bob Lee's grandmother told him when he was very young about riding a horse from her house to the Peekville Post Office to pick up mail.

The original post office burned to the ground before W. T. Bilbrey and Arthur Whitson purchased the property. A small child of the Peek family burned in the fire and died a few months later and is buried on the property. A two-room structure was rebuilt by the Peeks on the site of the original structure before selling the property to Mr. Bilbrey at Mr. Whitson. Mr. Bilbrey and Mr. Whitson added two additional rooms before selling to the McCormicks. Luther and Vallie McCormick added additional living space to the house and a garage with a smoke house and cellar. Local children attended the Bridge School, which opened in 1874, and was located on the west side of the bridge at the corner of Old Bridge Rd. and Boyd-Farris Rd.

Thanks go to Bob Lee Bilbrey and Connie Farris Sircy for donating the Peek signs. If you have information regarding Peekville or any unincorporated community, please contact the Archives at 121 B. South Dixie or phone (931) 520-0042.

*Read more "Forgotten Crossroads" at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>