

FORGOTTEN CROSSROADS: TWIN OAK COMMUNITY

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN
Sunday, 3 November 2013, pg. A5

Archives collects history of Twin Oak community:

PUTNAM COUNTY – In their search for “almost forgotten crossroads” of Putnam County, the Putnam County Archives has been collecting information from local residents about the Twin Oak community. This community is located in the 7th District, along the rolling hills of Cookeville Boat Dock Road, formerly the Cookeville to Smithville Road, eight miles south from the Putnam County Courthouse. According to the old maps in the archives, in the early 1900s the Smithville Road started on the south side of the Courthouse, which is now Spring Street. The community center, formerly Twin Oak Grammar School, is located at the intersection of Cookeville Boat Dock Rd. and Thomas-Twin Oak Rd.

“Land for the school was purchased by the school board from Dillard and Catherine Thompson in 1917,” Glenn Jones, Putnam County archivist, said. “The brick building was constructed during the WPA (Work Projects Administration) years ago. There was a ‘big room’ for grades 5-8, and a ‘little room’ for grades 1-4. The school closed in 1968 and is now the Twin Oak Community Center.



(Pictured:
In front,
from left,
Glenn
Jones,
Putnam
County
archivist;
Leecoe
Banker;
Beverly
Goff;
Dorothy
McCaleb,
William
McCaleb;
Alexis

Luke; Mike Luke, holding Barrett Luke; Lloyd Sherrell; Carol Bradford, assistant archivist; and Kim (Burks) Blaylock, county executive).

According to the late Lela Belle Barr Nash, the voting precinct for the 8th District was under some oak trees. In case of rain, the voting was moved to John Nash’s farm. In later years the voting precinct was moved to the Twin Oak School Building, which is now a community center. The court/county commissioners later changed the precinct to

the 7th District. The Twin Oak Community Signs were donated by the Twin Oak Community Center.

Those who would like to share more information on the history of the Twin Oak community or any other local “forgotten” community, or to donate the funds for other unincorporated communities in Putnam County can visit the Putnam County Archives at 121 B. S. Dixie Ave. or call (931) 520-0042.

Read more about “Forgotten Crossroads at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>