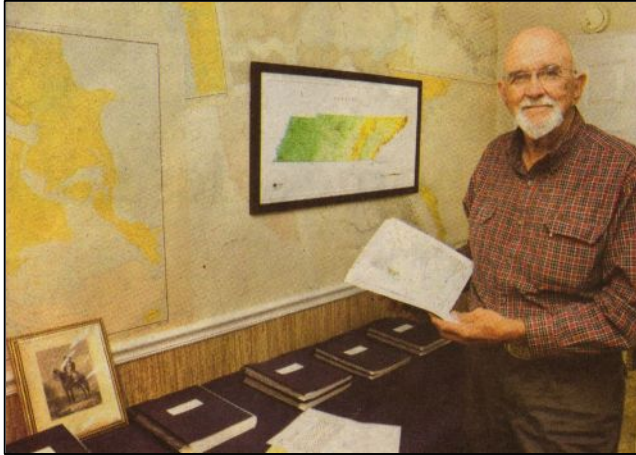


BOOK CAPTURES GPS LOCATIONS OF FORGOTTEN PUTNAM COMMUNITIES

By Sam Barnes & Marvin Snow
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COOKEVILLE – Many small communities that once sprung up in Putnam County are now no more. They are quickly fading from the memories of locals, and without some form of preservation, there would be no record that they ever existed at all. This was the



topic of discussion between Sam Barnes and Marvin Snow several years ago.

(Pictured: Sam Barnes shows off a copy of his book, co-created with Marvin Snow, “the Putnam County GPS Gazetteer.” Photo by Ty Kernea)

“We got discussing the history of Putnam County, and we got talking about the different communities like the Holladay Community,” Barnes said. “He told me so many communities are being lost...I thought, ‘Why don’t we make a map with all these different communities to where people lived in this holler or that ridge and there’s this cave and that old abandoned school – that’s being lost.”

A fifth generation Putnam County native himself, Barnes has always been interested in history. He had been taking a mixture of classes at Tennessee Tech and when he realized all those hours were adding up, he decided to go for a degree in history.

He started learning about maps and spent countless hours pinpointing important historic areas of Putnam County and creating maps that gave exact longitude and latitude of each spot.

“That’s an absolute preservation,” he said.

The result of Barnes’ studies – with help from Snow and guidance from a number of other experts – was a book titled “The Putnam County GPS Gazetteer.” It’s a 288 color page reference book that lists Putnam County waterways, caves, cemeteries, ridges, hollows, schools, points of interest, summits and communities.

“Because the maps include GPS coordinates, anyone can easily access cemeteries, schools and other points of interest highlighted in the volume,” said Michael Birdwell, TTU history professor.

It has become an important resource for the Putnam County Archives as well.

“For people looking for cemeteries, it is invaluable,” Glenn Jones, Putnam County archivist, said. “Most people are not aware of the name of certain cemeteries or where they are located... As time goes by – say 25 years – many of these community locations would have been lost. Now they are permanently listed by GPS locations.”

A book signing will be held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. this Saturday at the south entrance of the Putnam County Courthouse.

Those who cannot make it to the book signing, but are still interested in a copy of the book can contact Barnes at (931) 432-6642.

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*Read more about the history of Putnam County, Tennessee and surrounding areas at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>