

## HOLLADAY COMMUNITY DATES BACK TO 1915

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“At a Glance Putnam Archives Seeks Lost Places”

**PUTNAM COUNTY** – People are bringing information to the Putnam County Archives office about places like schools, grist mills, blacksmith shops, stores and post offices from almost forgotten communities in the Putnam County area.



(Pictured: Celebrating the hanging of the new Holladay community sign are, from left, Lewis Clark, Dolores Clark, Dr. Sam Barnes, Shelia Barnes, Nancy Turner, Tom Montgomery Jr., Glenn Jones, Carol Bradford, Reggie Shanks, Andelene Shanks, Betty Stark, Doyle White, J. C. McDaniel and Carol McDaniel).

One such community is Holladay, located southwest of the county courthouse, near the intersection of Holladay Road and Mine Lick Creek Road.



(Picture: The Holladay Community has been around since 1915 and the first fair in Putnam County is said to have been held there).

Named for the Holladay family, the community got its start in 1915 with the building of Holladay School on six acres of land owned by someone with the last name “Smith.” The man donated the land in memory of his daughter who died that year. This new school consolidated Lee Seminary. Lone Oak and Pleasant Valley

schools into one. It was created by Harvey McCulley, the first principal; Monroe Hatfield, superintendent of schools; and Judge Oscar K. Holladay.

“It was a big room with a kitchen on the side. We had cooked meals there,” said Betty Stark, who was a former student there. “I believe they were the first school to have a school wagon or a school bus.”

These “school buses” were pulled by horses and were housed in a large barn. Teachers and other students who rode their horses and mules to Holladay School also stabled them there.

According to Bill Austin the first local organized fair was held at the school, where community members brought in exhibits and the boys volleyball team practiced in hopes of bringing back the country championship.

The school was destroyed on July 18, 1929, when around midnight an electrical storm passed through the community and a bolt of lightning struck the bell tower, burning it to the ground. That morning, the community stood around the ashes of what had once been their four-room school house.

Students were shuffled off to Lee Seminary Church and Judd Graveyard Church where they held classes until three years later when the new Holladay School was completed at the original location.

Years later, the school was sold to Clarence Carter, who made it into a private home. It is



now owned by Dr. Sam Barnes.

(Pictured: Holladay School 1915, is believed to be the first consolidated school in Putnam County. This picture was made the first year the school opened. Shown is the original building and the first teachers and students. Standing to the left in the back row are the teachers, Miss Notie Proffitt (sister of Herman Proffitt), Miss Kate Davis, and the school's principal, Harve McCulley who was the father of Charlie and Sam McCulley. At the right near the horses is school superintendent James Monroe Hatfield. At the right is one of the first school bus-wagons and driver, Jim Sutton. Some say this was the site of the beginning of the Putnam County Agricultural Fair where community fairs were held for several years before the fair organized. This building burned on July 18, 1929, after being struck by lightning. Photo courtesy of Arda Lee. **Source:** Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by First American Bank, pg. 205).

The Putnam County Archives wants to thank Reggie and Andelene Shanks, Doyle White, Carlos and Nancy Turner and Dr. Sam and Shelia Barnes for their contributions to enable the purchase of the sign for the Holladay community. Anyone with further information on the Holladay community or other local "forgotten" communities in Putnam County can contact the archives at (931) 520-0042.

Signs are being purchased to set up around these local communities. Those interested in donating to the fund to purchase signs for their community can contact the Putnam County Archives at the phone number above.

\*See more about the History of Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>