

HUDGENS COMMUNITY NOT FORGOTTEN

By Megan Trotter

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

Sunday, 5 August 2012

“At a Glance Putnam Archives Seeks Lost Places”

PUTNAM COUNTY - The Putnam County Archives office is collecting historic information on almost forgotten communities located around Putnam County. Places like schools, grist mills, blacksmith shops, stores and post offices are some spots of the biggest interest.

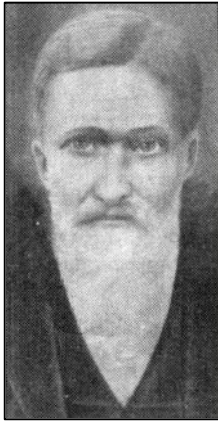


One such community is Hudgens, located on Burgess Falls Road, near West Cemetery Road. Though it is home now to various businesses, churches and subdivisions such as Colonial Estates and Colonial Heights, it once was a small community, home to farms, a post office, saw mill, general store, grist mill and blacksmith shop.

(Pictured: Standing with the Hudgens sign are, in front, from left, Sharon Mata and Kathy Shanks, community members; Betty Starks, archives volunteer,; Carol Bradford,

assistant archivist; and Nettie Ford and Teresa Bostic, community members, and in the back are Reyes Mata, Wayne Shanks, Cindy Garrett and Scott Dunn, all community members).

Nettie Ford of Cookeville remembers stories from her father about her grandfather, William Henry Harrison Grimes, owning the blacksmith shop. The post office, that was once located in the Brown and Wilhite General Store where the rail fence now separates the Doug and Billie Gentry properties, holds special significance for her family.



(Pictured: William Henry Harrison Grimes from the Hudgens community in Putnam County fought in the Civil War).

“That’s where (my grandfather) went when he went to sign up for the (Civil) War and he fought for the Union,” Ford said. “He was captured by the rebels in Sept. of ‘65.”

He was 24 years old at the time and a private in company C of the 8th Mounted Infantry. He later escaped and ran from his prison in the Hickman County area all the way to Nashville before eventually getting back home to the Putnam County area.

“My dad told me that as (his father) was trying to get to Nashville, he could hear the horses coming for him, and he would hide from them,” Ford said. “But he made his way back.”

He died in 1912 and was buried in the Hudgens community.

The post office opened on April 27, 1880, and was owned and operated by Robert B. Brown, who later sold the property to the parents of Shelia Officer, who later sold it to Claude and Billie Gentry. The post office closed July 30, 1904, after the postal service from that area began to be supplied from Cookeville instead.

The local saw mill on West Cemetery Road was owned by Hershel Davis and his brother-in-law, Lester Williams, and his brother, Bolivar Davis, worked at the mill. The grist mill was located at the mill. The

grist mill was located on the corner of Burgess Falls Road and Burgess School Road and was operated by Walter Grimes.

The Putnam County Archives wants to thank Ford, Sharon Mata, Florence Davis and Pat and Linda West for their research about the Hudgens community. Anyone with further information on the Hudgens Community or other local “forgotten” communities in Putnam County can contact the archives at (921) 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.

A photo with the sign for the Holladay community will be taken at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, at the Judd Church Cemetery off of Holladay Rd. Current and former residents are welcome to attend.

*See other stories about the History of Putnam County, TN and Veterans Hall and Archives at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>