

HISTORICAL MARKER BACK AT BURNT STAND

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COOKEVILLE - A historical marker has been returned to its original location, 20 years after it was lost.

The sign marking the former location of Burnt Stand was originally put into place along 12th Street on the west side of the Tennessee Tech stadium by the Tennessee Bicentennial Committee. When the sign was knocked down during a car accident, it was lost for 20 years before Glenn Jones, Putnam County archivist, spotted the sign on the bottom of a pile of scrap metal that was on its way to be recycled.

He alerted Dan Ransom, the owner of the scarp metal pile, and got his permission to retrieve it for restoration.

David Prowse, owner of Bennette Industries, welded a large crack in the sign and fabricated a new holder and seven-foot steel pipe. Tennessee Tech students repainted the sign as a part of their community service, and Putnam County Maintenance re-installed it on 12th Street.

The sign marks a spot along the old Walton Road, which was completed in 1801 and connected east and middle Tennessee.

Along the road were taverns or “stands” which offered shelter, food and lodging for travelers. One of these taverns stood at the place where the Burnt Stand marker has been erected.

“The Burnt Stand name is confusing,” Jones said, “even the historical marker’s author states that no one knows the original name of this stand.

“No one has yet proven the stand’s name.

“On a map at the archives in 1854, the stand was listed as Burnt Stand. Other accounts are that the person’s last name who owned the stand was ‘Burnt.’ Others think that it got its name from being burnt.”

There was also a large cemetery located next to Burnt Stand, near the corner of 12th Street and Dixie Ave. until 1967 when the Department of Health gave the authorization for the removal of the 211 graves. Of those, 43 graves were identifiable and the bodies were moved to other cemeteries by request of their families.

The unidentifiable graves were moved to Shipley Cemetery on Shipley Church Road in Cookeville.

The historical marker will help ensure that this part of Cookeville history is not lost.

“I feel that it is very important to put up signs,” Jones said, “so that when the general public passes by a historical site, they might read it with wonder.”

*Read more about the history of Putnam Co., TN – Forgotten Crossroads & surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>



WALTON ROAD OLD BURNT STAND

This street generally follows the course of the old Walton Road, completed in 1801 and connecting present-day Kingston and Carthage. Along this principal land route between east and middle Tennessee rolled wagons taking settlers west and stages carrying passengers and mail. An inn once stood on this site. After it burned, the area was known locally as “Old Burnt Stand Place.’

Celebrating the return of the Burnt Stand historical marker are, from left, Eunetta Jenkins; Glenn Jones, Putnam County archivist; Anthony Hodge; Patrick Walker, Putnam County Maintenance; Kim Blaylock, county executive; David Prowse, Bennett Industries; Betty Stark; Dennis McBroom, Putnam County Maintenance director; Cathy Reel; Curtis Shinsky and Dewayne Spurlock, Putnam County Maintenance.

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