

## MAXWELL-FARLEY

By Quimby Dyer

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The Upper Cumberland counties are counties that any boy should be proud to live in. the pure mountain atmosphere, the beautiful hills and valleys, the sparkling streams, and the charm of the trees, the flowers, the birds, create geniuses in many line, business and professional. The greatest fighter of the World war, Alvin C. York, lives in Fentress county. The governor Tennessee from 1919-21, A. H. Roberts, received his inspiration as a lawyer, thinker and speaker in the hills of Overton county. The national chairman of the democratic party, Cordell Hull, was born and reared on the banks of the Cumberland, in Clay county, in the rich bottoms of Jackson county, the president of the United States found John J. Gore, now federal judge for Middle Tennessee.

Putnam county has the honor of producing two of the great business men of Tennessee, Gillem Maxwell and R. L. Farley. Both were born in Putnam county and have lived here practically all of their lives. These gentlemen formed a partnership in 1909 to engage in the timber business. From that time up to the present their business has developed wonderfully. The spoke industry of Tennessee is under their control. The egg case industry of the South is also under their management. They own and operate many saw mills in Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi and are the owners of many thousands of acres of fine timber land in each of these states. Their products are sold in practically every state in the Union, Canada, South America and in many European countries in far-off China and Japan.

Mr. Maxwell is a man that is not afraid to do things. This was shown in 1920 when Cookeville was suffering for the want of business houses. No one would build on account of the inflated prices of labor and material then prevailing. Mr. Maxwell said, "The town must have the buildings. I will build them myself." And he did. One building after another was erected, all modern and up-to-date. Today he is decidedly the largest owner of business property in Cookeville.

A citizen of the first rank, public-spirited and open-hearted; always ready with his time and money to help not only his town but anyone in distress; a pleasant gentleman to be with and an all-round, first class man. He is president of the Gainesboro Telephone Co.; director in several banks and many other business enterprises; a member of the City School Board and mayor of Cookeville for two terms, from 1917-21.

Mr. Farley has as much serve as his partner and is not afraid to back his judgment with his money. He was cashier of the Bank of Cookeville for many years, and through him more than any other man, this Upper country owes its gratitude. Seeing the possibilities of the timber industry he financed every legitimate enterprise to the limit. We today are gathering the fruits of these many industries finances in the beginning by him. Putnam county, on account of these activities, is one of the most progressive counties in the state today. Mr. Farley always greets you with a smile and pleasant word. A gentleman of the highest type; ready at all times to help Cookeville with his time and means. He is vice-president of the Gainesboro Telephone Co.; member of the City School Board and has been for many years; also a director in several banks and corporations.

Cookeville and Putnam county should be and are proud of these two big public-spirited business men.

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**Note:** Alvin Gillem Maxwell began his business life as a commercial traveler and there was no better on the road. Entering business for himself, he made a success of every enterprise he attempted. Today he owns more real estate than any other individual in Cookeville, TN. He and Robert L. Farley own a controlling interest in numerous spoke mills, veneering mills, flour mills, etc. Alvin G. Maxwell is a Democrat and a member of the Church of Christ. Was a Colonel on the staff of Gov. Roberts. One of the most progressive and public spirited citizens of Putnam County, TN. Article written in the book "A History of Putnam County" by Walter S. McClain.

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