



DEATH OF 'ED' DORMAN RECALLS DAY FIRST NASHVILLE AND KNOXVILLE TRAIN CAME HERE



Crowds Greeted Entrance Of Iron Horse Into Town:
Resident Here Rode Special To Cookeville From Carthage: Everybody Met Train,
by Samuel K. Neal
Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 25 May 1933
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Away back in the halcyon days that most of us don't remember, Cookeville was as isolated as the Wilson Dam under the Republican administrations. What traveling was done was on horseback or in a stage coach. Stage coaches then were dangerous contraptions, what with the wild country the road traversed between Cookeville and Nashville, and "bad boys" who sometimes pulled an Al Capone on the driver and passengers to satisfy a hunger for the filthy lucre.

There was the time in 1881 when "Bug" Hunt and two boys named Edwards stepped out on the stage at _____ Putnam county's first post office, and commanded old Jeff Reyburn, veteran driver, to stop. The men were armed and wore masks, so Uncle Jeff obligingly pulled up his horses.

To emphasize the isolation, we would speak of the mad rush made by two Nashville newspaper reporters who were sent here to cover the hanging of Teke and Joe Braswell for the murder of one Russ Allison. The boys were hanged in March, 1878, before the largest crowd that had ever assembled in Cookeville, about 15,000. The reporters witnessed the event, mounted their horses, and headed for Nashville. The story was printed two days later and was read in Cookeville some time after that. That was before city editors got gray hairs over poor telephone connections.

Such, then, was the isolation of this city when Alexander Crawford, millionaire iron manufacturer of New Castle, Florida, decided to build a railroad through this wild mountain country. It seems he had grown tired of carrying coal to New Castle, as it were, and thought of extending his activities in Tennessee. At least, he started construction of a railroad, so he could haul coal somewhere else.

Dirt was first broken for the project at Watertown in 1887, and was completed to Cookeville in 1890.

During the years of construction David Dorman and his son, Edward E. Dorman, locomotive engineers, handled the work trains on the road. The death of "Ed" Dorman, as he was affectionately known by hundreds of friends, at his home here Tuesday, recalled that momentous Fourth of July, 1890, when the first passenger train rolled over the rails into Cookeville.

David Dorman was engineer on this special train.

But let's let Mrs. Laura Copeland Bilbrey, of Cookeville, a passenger on the train, tell about it.

LOADED WITH MEN:

"I had gone to Elmwood with Professor Yeargan (Samuel B. Yeargan) to teach piano, and while there I received word that my father was sick. I went to Carthage with Cassie Clark (later Mrs. Charlie Jellicorse) and we spent the night there and rode to Carthage Junction next day. We had heard that the passenger run was to begin that day, and we could come to Cookeville on it" – that would be quoting Mrs. Bilbrey.

"We got to Carthage Junction and got on a special train from Lebanon. The coach was full of men, and not a one got up to give us a seat." Mrs. Bilbrey smiled, and added, "Of course I never was used to that and I thought all the men must have been from the North."

Mrs. Bilbrey said that the slow ride to Cookeville was uneventful with the exception of slighting remarks cast at Cookeville. Nearing town, she said, one of the men, upon sight of a horse hitched to a buggy, reflected, "So, they have buggies up here."

“That kind of sat upon me,” she said, “but I didn’t say anything. Then when we got to Cookeville the depot hadn’t been built, and there was a huge pile of lumber at the depot site. This same man—we were sitting in the vestibule—remarked that Cookeville didn’t even have a depot. ‘Is this Cookeville?’, he asked.

“Then I told him that if he wanted to see the city just get out and ride over to East Side. Cassie punched me, but I was spry in those days and I always had to talk anyway.”

CAME THE PEOPLE:

Mrs. Bilbrey recalled that the train was planned as a surprise to Cookeville by A. Vandivort, road superintendent, and she said he was “mad” because citizens here had not prepared a barbecue as a welcome.

But the train had been here only a few minutes when people began coming to the depot, and it continued until practically every man, woman and child within a radius of many miles was stationed near the train.

It became a usual occurrence when the regular daily passenger runs were put on for everybody in town to meet the train, and that practice continued until only a few years ago.

Our esteemed fellow townsman, Judge John J. Gore, was a passenger on the first train to Nashville, we understand.

Several years after that first Nashville and Knoxville train pulled into town, the Tennessee Central was organized, built the line from Harriman to Monterey, purchased the N. & K., and extended the line from Lebanon into Nashville, and on to Hopkinsville, Ky. The Iron Horse then became more frequent here, but it has never lost its romance.

Cookeville’s isolation became a thing of the past with the entrance of the railroad, and that day marked the beginning of her swift industrial, educational, and social growth.

It is conceded that Mr. Dorman and his father contributed to the city’s real beginning. They, to say the least, did pilot the instrument which first led to the opening of a vast mining and agricultural section, and had an important hand in developing the Upper Cumberland.

Edward Elmer Dorman Obt.

b. 22 February 1861, Allegheny, PA – d. 23 May 1933, Cookeville, TN, md **Lucy Amelia (McCowen) Dorman**, b. 1 December 1861, Alliance, OH – d. 18 February 1948, d/o **Hayes Lorenzo McCowen** (1830-1896) & **Sara Marie Manly/Mouley** (1830-1893). Edward Elmer Dorman, s/o **David Dorman & Adeline Johnston**.

E.E. DORMAN AND SISTER DIE SUDDENLY HERE LATE TUESDAY. Prominent Resident Here Had Been in Failing Health for Four Years. Shock Believed to Have Hurried Sister’s Death After She Saw Him Die. Services This Afternoon: Herald, Cookeville, TN: 25 May 1933, pg. 1.

Edward E. Dorman, 72, died suddenly at his home in West Cookeville late Tuesday afternoon of a heart attack, and his only sister, **Mrs. Carrie W. Walden, 64, of Chicago, visiting in his home, died 20 minutes later of a similar attack, believed to have been instigated at the sight of his death.**

Mr. Dorman, long a prominent Cookeville resident, had been in failing health for the past four years. Shortly before his death, however, he had appeared amiable and had chatted freely with friends who had visited him.

Mrs. Dorman and Mrs. Walden had assisted Mr. Dorman from his chair to a bed when he suffered his attack, and immediately Mrs. Walden became faint. She became violently ill a few minutes afterwards, and expired soon after medical aid reached her.

Started When 12: Edward Elmer Dorman was born in Allegheny, Penn., February 22, 1861. At the age of twelve he assisted his father, David Dorman, at the throttle of a railroad locomotive on a Pennsylvania railroad. He began his training at the Pittsburg Locomotive Works and delivered engines for that company to railroad systems throughout the United States.

He was married to Lucy A. McCowen, of Alliance, O., when a young man, and soon thereafter became connected with the old Nashville and Knoxville Railroad as engineer. He followed the road's trail through the unsullied Upper Cumberland until it reached Cookeville. The road was extended to Monterey, and for many years afterwards his father engineered the train from Cookeville to Monterey, and he ran between Cookeville and Lebanon.

Ran Shop Here: Since his retirement from the Tennessee Central Railway thirty years ago, Mr. Dorman had conducted a machine shop in Cookeville, and was recognized as one of the most expert machinists in the State. His health began failing about four years ago, and he retired from active business connections.

Joint funeral services were conducted at the Dorman home this afternoon by the Rev. Joe Barbee, pastor of the Watertown Cumberland Presbyterian Church, engineer for the Tennessee Central, former fireman for Mr. Dorman, and a life-long friend. His burial will take place in the City Cemetery.

Mrs. Watson will be buried in the grave with her brother. She was the mother of Ralph Rout, of Chicago, and had made her home with him for several years. Mr. Rout was formerly connected with Will Stamps in the storage battery business here.

Besides his widow, Mr. Dorman is survived by two sons, Carl, of Jackson, Miss., and Edward F., of Cookeville, and a daughter, Mrs. Marguerite D. Hendrix, of Cookeville, and three grandchildren. Mrs. Hendrix is private secretary to Federal Judge John J. Gore.

Mr. Dorman was a charter member of the Lions Club, and was a member of the Cookeville Methodist Church, the Knights of Pythias, and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Honorary pallbearers were member of the Lions Club, and Lee Douglas, Geo. Snyder and Bill Smith of Nashville; Lloyd McCluen, of Rockwood; Major Roy DeBerry, of Bloomington, Arthur Pedigo, of Cookeville; H. G. Loftis, of Algood. Active pallbearers were J. Lee Epperson, Dr. J. T. Moore, Willis Dow, S. L. Gipson, James A. Isbell, R. V. Overall, Judge John J. Gore and Leon Bockman.

Mrs. Walden is survived by her only son, Ralph Ront, and two grandchildren, all of Chicago.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 25 May 1933.

(1910 census 1st Civil Dist., First St., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 243 - **Edward E. Dorman** is head of household, 49 yrs. old, PA (father born in ME, mother, OH), Occupation: Machinist Repair Shop, md 22 yrs. to **Lucy A.**, 45 yrs. old, OH, (father born in PA, mother NY), 4 children born, 3 children living. Children: Carl H., 21 yrs. old; Margarite, 18 yrs. old & Edward F. Dorman, 3 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1920 census 1st Civil Dist., First St., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 415-121-143 - **Edward E. Dorman** is head of household, 54 yrs. old, PA (father born in ME, mother, OH), Occupation: Proprietor Machine Shop, md to **Lucy A.**, 56 yrs. old, TN (father born in PA, mother OH). Children: Edward F. Dorman, 12 yrs. old, TN. Also living in the household: Marjorie Hendricks, dau., 26 yrs. old, md, Occupation: Stenographer Law Office, Maury Hendricks, grandson, 7 yrs. old, TN).

(1930 census Cookeville Town, west, Cedar St., Civil Dist., 1, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 217 Family: 236 – **Edward E. Dorman** is head of household, 69 yrs. old, PA, (father born in ME, mother, OH), Occupation: Machinist Shop, (26 yrs. old 1st marriage), md to **Lucy**, 66 yrs. old, OH (father born in PA, mother NY), (23 yrs. old 1st marriage). Children: Edward Dorman, 23 yrs. old, TN (22 yrs. old 1st marriage), md to Lorna, daughter-in-law, 20 yrs. old, TN (father b. in TN, mother, TX). Also living in the household: Margurite Hendrix, dau., 35 yrs. old, TN (18 yrs. old 1st marriage) divorced; Billy Hendrix, grand-son, 17 yrs. old, TN).

Edward E. Dorman
b. 22 Feb 1861, PA
d. 23 May 1933
Father: David Dorman, MA
Mother: Adeline Johnston, PA
Spouse: Lucy A. Dorman
City Cemetery Putnam Co., TN
DC #10397, Putnam Co., TN

Edward Frank Dorman Sr.

b. 2 April 1907, TN – d. 30 June 1973, md **Lorna (Preston) Dorman**, b. 20 September 1909- d. 27 June 1980. Edward Frank Dorman Sr., s/o **Edward Elmer Dorman & Lucy Amelia McCowen**.

(SS Death Index: Name: **EDWARD DORMAN** Birth: 02 Apr 1907– Death: Jun 1973 –Last Residence: (Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN) -Last Benefit: (none specified) – SSN: 411-40-3924, TN)

(SS Death Index: Name: **LORNA DORMAN** Birth: 20 Sep 1909 - Death: Jun 1980 –Last Residence: (Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN) -Last Benefit: (none specified) – SSN: 415-20-1429 TN)

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Carrie W. (Dorman) Rout Walden Obt.

b. 14 September 1870 – d. 23 May 1933, TN, md 1st **Hugh T. Ront** - md 2nd **Mr. Walden**. Carrie W. (Dorman) Rout Walden, d/o **David Dorman & Adeline Johnston**. Carrie (Dorman) Walden was the sister of **Edward Elmer Dorman**. She is the mother of **Ralph Rout** of Chicago, IL.

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Mrs. Walden is survived by her only son, Ralph Rout, and two grandchildren, all of Chicago.

*See Cookeville City Cemetery Obts. & History Putnam County, TN at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>