

## **MAKING A NAME FOR NAMELESS**

By **MARY JO DENTON**

Herald-Citizen Staff

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Plenty of RC, Moon Pies

Town with unique name sees return of a landmark.

**NAMELESS** -- A bottle of RC Cola cost a nickel, baloney and cheese were sold by the slice, and customers often came to sit a spell and play checkers.

That's how it was at the J.T. Watts general store in the small Jackson County community of Nameless back in the 1950's. And that's how it will be again, at least for a time, on May 27, as nearby Granville celebrates Heritage Day.

Cookeville banker Davis Watts and his sister, Hilda Watts, the children of J.T. and Virginia Watts, practically grew up in that store, helping their father run his business after their classes each day at the two-room one teacher Nameless School nearby.

It was an almost magical childhood, tucked safely into a time when no one had to think of safety in a tiny community which, ironically, is well-known today because of its quaint name and yesteryear atmosphere.

The paradoxical name of the little community is something which has attracted the attention of journalists and other writers in recent years.

"Yes, Nameless has been the subject of several feature articles in papers and magazines, and it was also featured in the book, Blue Highways: A Journey Into America," Davis Watts said.

"But to us, it's just home."

He's been working for some time now to restore his father's old general store.

"I'm doing it not exactly as a museum, but just for the memories of days gone by, memories of the life my family enjoyed there," he said.

The little community located about eight or ten miles from Putnam County on the Shepherdsville Highway, had a population of about 250 during its heyday. There were homes and farms, a post office, the school and a couple of stores.

The Watts family owned and operated the general store from 1957 to 1978, when J.T. and Virginia retired and moved to Cookeville. Others who owned the store over the years included J.M. and Nancy Ferguson, Mack and Ruby Myers Brown, Freeman and Bertha Carter Neal, and A.D. and Vida Ruth Ragland McBroom.

The Nameless resident who bought the building when J.T. Watts retired converted it to a residence, but the Watts family kept the old store fixtures, and last year, Davis Watts bought the building and he and his sister began restoring it "for the memories."

Today, Nameless is still Nameless, still quaint, small and full of various versions of how it got its name.

Watts says he believes the version which claims the townspeople could not agree on a name for the place when the official application for a post office was sent to Washington.

"They sent the application to Washington without a name, and Washington stamped it 'nameless' and sent it back, and that's how Nameless got its name," Watts said.

Today, the school is long gone, the post office is gone (though Watts is also working on restoring it as part of the store), and there is no store, general or otherwise.

But a couple of hundred people still live there, and many are expected to attend the Heritage Day opening of the refurbished old general store, which won't be an actual business, but will simply be there for historical purposes.

On Heritage Day, May 27, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., visitors may step into the store and back into time, thanks to Davis and Hilda Watts.

There will be RC Cola, moon pies, baloney and cheese and other treats. Someone might even get out the old checkerboard.

To get to Nameless, take Highway 56 north out of Baxter, turn left on State Highway 290 (Shepherdsville Highway), and drive a few miles, slowly.

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Hilda and Davis Watts led the restoration of their family's general store in the town of Nameless in Jackson Co., TN.

Photo by Herald-Citizen Staff/ Ty Kernea

## GIVE SOMEONE A PIECE OF HISTORY FOR CHRISTMAS

Mary Jo Denton  
Herald-Citizen Staff



Davis Watts “works the counter” in his general store museum, the restored J.T. Watts General Merchandise store in the Nameless community, while Marie Wheeler and Dolores Angelini enjoy a chat. The store museum will hold a Christmas open house this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

**UPPER CUMBERLAND** -- If you can't think of what to give someone for Christmas, how about a piece of history?

Most of the history museums in this area -- including two in Cookeville and one in

Livingston -- sell books and other items dedicated to local history, all suitable for Christmas gifts.

And a general store museum in the Nameless community is holding a Christmas open house this Saturday for those who love nostalgia.

\* In Cookeville, the Depot Museum and the Cookeville History Museum, located in the downtown Westside area, sell railroad memorabilia items, pottery items, mugs with a Cookeville logo, Putnam County throws, Sarah Holloway's "Cookeville Voices" and other books written by local authors.

\* In Livingston, the Overton County Heritage Museum, located at 318 W. Broad St., sells "Overton County Tennessee Pictorial History," a thick book containing many photos from the past in that area. The proceeds go to the Overton County Historical Society.

The museum also sells "Let's Go Play," by local author and folklorist Callie Melton. The book describes many of the games that children of yesteryear played long before the days of TV and computers.

Just the names of the games are interesting: Town Ball, Rotten Egg, I Lost My Glove (or Drop the Handkerchief), Green Gravel. Melton explains each game and recalls how popular they were back in the day.

\* In Nameless, the restored J.T. Watts General Merchandise store museum owned by Davis and Hilda Watts will have a Christmas open house this Saturday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As in the old days when the store was the center of the little rural community in the edge of Jackson County, there will be baloney, cheese, crackers, and Coca Cola. The store, which is decorated for Christmas, offers a look back to the old days before supermarkets and mega marts. Admission is free.

To get to Nameless, take Highway 56 north out of Baxter, turn left onto Highway 290, and drive a few miles.

Friday, Dec 07, 2007: Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN

## NO PLACE LIKE NAMELESS

Mary Jo Denton  
Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN



**Davis Watts** stands in front of the general store museum in Nameless, Tenn., where he grew up. Sitting on the porch of the store, as was the custom of the past, are Jeremy Bolenbarker (chair, front left), in back, from left, Mark Brown, Rusty Chilcutt, Nicholas Plunkett, Raymond Pharris, Marie Wheeler, Lucie Bolenbarker, Ryan Bolenbarker, Jossalyn Plunkett, Adriel Stout, Nancy Stout, Ivan Bilbrey, Vila Bilbrey, Dolores Angelini. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

**NAMELESS** -- This little community's ironic name is part of its charm.

Located in a rural area in the edge of Jackson County and having a population of around 200, it makes Mayberry look like a city. And that's how everyone wants it to stay, a vision from yesteryear.

Every summer, visitors hankering for a taste of the past visit Nameless to sample the peace of country living and savor memories of a simpler time. This year's Nameless Heritage Day is set for Saturday, May 24.

Visitors on that day may take in a community fundraiser offering baked goodies, Nameless Fire Dept. cookbooks, and Nameless T-shirts. The Fire Dept. will also have fire prevention and safety information packets, fire hats for the children, and smoke detectors for community residents.

Visitors may also "trade" at the old country store in Nameless on Heritage Day. It is actually not a store but a museum that has been preserved from what used to be J.T. Watts Gen. Mdse, the center of the community in its heyday back in the 1950's.

Davis Watts and his sister, Hilda, of Cookeville, the son and daughter of J.T. Watts, grew up there and have created this museum, making it as much like the store they recall from their youth as possible.

Each year, they open it to the public on special occasions and use the "trade" to gain donations for the Nameless Community Center and the Nameless Volunteer Fire Dept.

The summer opening this year will be held on Nameless Heritage Day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. That's also the same day as the 10th annual Granville Heritage Day celebration in another small Jackson County community located not far from Nameless.

"We usually open the store at Nameless on Heritage Day, on Labor Day, at Christmas, and on other special occasions," said Davis Watts.

When the store is open, everyone is invited to stop by and have a Pepsi or Coke, a moon pie, a baloney and cheese sandwich. There is no charge, but the hope is that everyone will make a donation to help the little community with its fire department and community center.

A portion of the donations will also go to the Veteran's Hall project in Gainesboro, and that is in honor and memory of all the Nameless residents who have served in the military, Watts said.

This year, the Nameless store's May 24 opening will also feature hand-crafted pottery items made by James

Watts, the son of Davis Watts. The items in his display will also be for sale.

Another special feature this year is a birthday celebration at noon for Elmer (Shorty) Winningham of Cookeville, who will be 101 on May 25. While the Nameless store is a tribute to old-time values and community history, Winningham is a living monument to those ideals, and the Watts family honors that.

"He's an amazing man, still gets around and works in the garden," said Davis Watts.

Among the Nameless residents you might meet on Heritage Day is Dolores Angelini, president of the Community Center. She and her husband moved to Nameless back in the late 1970's from their home just outside New York City.

"We wanted to get away from the rat race, and we looked at places in Maryland and Virginia, then in the Cookeville, Tennessee, area," Angelini said. "A realtor was taking us around this area, and he said, 'I've got one last place you might be interested in, and it's in Nameless.' And when we heard that name, we said, 'That's it!'"

They love the place.

"It's a nice, friendly community," Angelini said. "We're all family here."

You might also meet the Nameless Fire Dept. Assistant Fire Chief Lucie Bolenbarker, who moved with her family to Nameless from Virginia a few years ago after retiring from the Navy. How did she and her husband choose Nameless?

"It's a long story," she said. "I'm from Massachusetts, my husband's from Texas, and Tennessee's in between."

If you take in the Nameless Heritage Day on Saturday, May 24, you may also want to travel on a few miles and enjoy Granville Heritage Day.

That celebration of the local history also features a restored country store, Ben Sutton Store & General Merchandise. There will also be a bluegrass festival, square dancing, an antique car show, a Granville School reunion, crafts booths, and many other attractions.

Nameless is located on Highway 290 (Shepherdsville Highway) near the Jackson and Putnam County line. To get there, take Highway 56 north out of Baxter and turn left on Highway 290.

Sunday, May 18, 2008: Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



#### DONATION TO ATMS SOFTBALL

Softball season begins soon for Avery Trace Middle School, and First Tennessee Bank recently awarded the team with a generous sponsorship to help cover expenses related to hosting teams in Cookeville. Pictured, from left, is **Davis Watts, senior vice president of the bank**, who is presenting a check to softball team members Jan Kathryn Hutchins and Shelby Enochs. For more information on sponsoring the team, contact coach Charity Espinosa at 520-2200.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 8 February 2009, pg. B-2.

## NOTHING LIKE A DAY IN NAMELESS

Mary Jo Denton  
Herald-Citizen Staff  
Sunday, May 17, 2009, Cookeville, TN



At last year's Heritage Day in Nameless, visitors relaxed on the porch of the store museum that was the J.T. Watts general store, the center of the little community back in the 1940s and 1950s. Photo by Dean Carothers

It's almost time for that priceless annual journey to the Nameless community in the edge of Jackson County.

Nameless is a rural community of about 200, and every summer, folks there host visitors from everywhere at the Nameless Heritage

Day. They come for a daylong taste of rural life as it used to be.

Heritage Day is set for Saturday, May 23.

The heart of the little community today features a community center, a volunteer fire department, and the J.T. Watts general store, which has been restored as a museum.

The store will be open for Heritage Day and will have baloney and cheese sandwiches, moon pies, soft drinks, and crackers -- just the way it used to be back in the old days.

Davis Watts of Cookeville, the son of the late J.T. Watts, has worked tirelessly for years to recreate his father's store, where he and his late sister, Hilda Watts, spent many afternoons as children privileged to grow up in the Nameless community.

Back in those days before modern supermarkets, everyone in the community stopped by the store to pick up groceries or just to chat with neighbors and pass along the local news. Mostly, they were farmers, and everyone knew everyone. If somebody needed help, neighbors were there to provide it. No one had to lock their doors. Everyone looked out for everyone.

Memories of those simpler times are good, and that's why Davis Watts and other Nameless natives as well as those who have moved in and love the place work each year to provide Heritage Day for all who want to visit.

The refreshments offered at the store this year are free, but donations for the Nameless Volunteer Fire Department, the Nameless Community Center, and Veterans Hall will be appreciated, Watts said.

Also, the Community Center and Fire Department will be holding a bake sale and garage sale fundraiser.

Another special feature this year is a visit from Sandra Gaither Pitchford of Searcy, Arkansas, who has written a book about her father, J.B. Gaither, who was a popular Church of Christ preacher in Jackson County back in the 1950s through the 1970s. She will be in Nameless from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Heritage Day.

Nameless is located on Highway 290, the Shepherdsville Highway, near the Jackson and Putnam County line. To get there, take Highway 56 north out of Baxter and turn left on Highway 290.



Davis Watts and his father, the late James Thurman Watts, sit on the porch of the general store the family owned in Nameless back in the 1960's. Today, Davis Watts has restored his father's old store as a museum, which will be open to the public Saturday, May 23, 2009, Nameless Heritage Day.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, May 17, 2009.

### **OLD TIME CHRISTMAS AT NAMELESS MUSEUM SATURDAY**

By Mary Jo Denton, Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

**NAMELESS** – If you like to remember Christmas in the old days, you can step back in time next Saturday by visiting the general store museum in the Nameless community of Jackson County.



It's about as far as you can get from shopping as we know it today.

(Pictured: Davis Watts stands behind the counter of the J. T. Watts General Store in Nameless at Christmas time. It's not a real store now, just a museum he has created by preserving the look and feel of the once-thriving business which his father ran many years ago).

Cookevillian Davis Watts, who grew up in that tiny little community, has created the museum by preserving the small general store his father, the late James Thurman Watts, owned back then.

The museum will be open to the public Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. There will be refreshments. And memories of Christmases long ago.

The store was the center of the little rural community in the days when no one had heard of "Black Friday" and when Christmas didn't start right after Halloween.

In those days, Christmas shopping meant buying some of the few items not grown on the farm or that couldn't be afforded year-round.

"We would sell whole stalks of bananas around Christmas time, and the store didn't even have fruit until after Thanksgiving," Watts said. "People bought oranges and apples to give as Christmas presents."

They also would often buy baloney and cheese, special treats to families back then, he said.

"They would kill their own hens for Christmas dinner or they had country ham, but they didn't often have baloney and cheese, so they bought it for Christmas. We also would get in coconuts, and a lot of people bought those to make Christmas coconut cakes."

The store didn't sell toys, but some Nameless residents bought new shoes or bib overalls for their kids at Christmas, and gifts for adults were usually work clothes, Watts said.

What about decorating the store for Christmas back then?

"The only decorations we had in the store were the big cardboard Santa Clauses that Coca Cola and Pepsi would put out every year," he said.

And kids were very excited by just that one image of the season. One of the cardboard Santas from that era is on display in the store museum now.

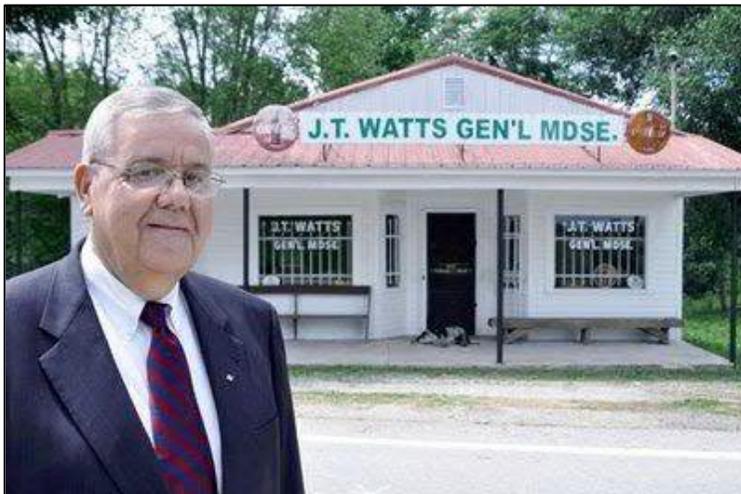
Also on hand at the Christmas open house will be the author of a book about a well-known preacher of Jackson back in the day.

From 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Sandra Gaither Pitchford, who has written a book about her father, the late J. B. Gaither, will be there.

To get to the store museum in Nameless, take Highway 56 north out of Baxter and turn left onto Highway 290.

### **NAMELESS COMES ALIVE FOR HERITAGE DAY**

By Mary Jo Denton, Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN



Down home in Nameless, Cookeville's Davis Watts stands in front of the country store his father owned and operated for many years. The store is now a museum and will be open to the public on Nameless Heritage Day, Saturday, May 29. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

**JACKSON COUNTY** -- The days in Nameless, Tennessee, pass slowly -- no Walmart, no traffic to speak of, no noise, no prickly politics.

But on Saturday, May 29, a lot of people will be there to celebrate the old-time rural atmosphere of this tiny community.

That's Heritage Day, both in Nameless and in Granville on down the road. And for that day, there will be big doings. Relatively speaking, of course, which is how they like it there.

Nameless, located on the Sheperdsville Road just over the Putnam County line, is home to about 200 people, but many more than that grew up there and moved away, or know someone who did.

The annual heritage day draws them back, just for a taste of what used to be.

One of the natives now living in Cookeville is Davis Watts, who has preserved a large part of his childhood by restoring his father's old general store in Nameless. His parents, the late J.T. and Virginia (Miss Jennie) Watts, owned the store back in its heyday.

It is a place where he and his sister, the late Hilda Watts, spent many hours after school and in the summer time. It is now a museum, which he opens on Heritage Day so that everyone can experience what it was

like to "go to the store" instead of "going shopping."

There are no other stores in Nameless, not even replicas. Also, there is no longer a school, not even the old building where Nameless children learned the three R's so long ago. It closed back in 1965 and was torn down not long afterwards.

But there is a community center and a volunteer fire department -- and the same farm fields and homes where Nameless residents live in the peace and quiet that draws visitors every year on Heritage Day.

"Last year, we had between 800 and 1,000 people come through, a lot of them stopping in on their way to Granville's Heritage Day," Watts said. "It's a big day."

The little community has gained considerable fame over the years through the varying stories about how it got its name. The most often repeated tale is that the U.S. Postal Service dubbed it Nameless because the first settlers there couldn't agree on a more proper-sounding name for a town.

And no, no one has ever suggested a "Name That Town" contest for Heritage Day. Such an idea would leave Nameless natives speechless.

The J.T. Watts General Store museum will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Heritage Day, and the Nameless Community Center will also be open.

There will be refreshments, bake sales, a yard sale, and other attractions, including Nameless T-shirts for sale. Photos of the old Nameless School and its students from the 1950s and 1960s will also be on sale, and all proceeds go to the Community Center, the Fire Department, and the Veterans Hall, Watts said.

To get there, take Highway 56 north out of Baxter, turn left on state Highway 290 (Shepherdsville Highway), and drive a few miles.

22 May 2010: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

### **NO PLACE LIKE NAMELESS**

by Mary Jo Denton, Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

**UPPER CUMBERLAND** -- It is almost time for the annual Nameless Heritage Day, when people flock to the tiny little rural community just over the Putnam County line in Jackson County to celebrate a bygone era.



This year, Heritage Day for Nameless and another old-time community on down the road, Granville, will be held on Saturday, May 26.

(Pictured: Davis Watts of Cookeville and his aunt, Marilyn Watts, enjoy sitting a spell on the front porch of the old J. T. Watts store in Nameless. The store, now a museum, was the center of the little community, which will celebrate Heritage Day on May 26).

Davis Watts of Cookeville, who owns the J.T. Watts General store museum in Nameless, and others have planned an interesting day that includes some distinguished guests, a bake sale, a yard sale, and a big helping of local history and artifacts.

Congressman Diane Black will be there from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Nameless Community Center's bake sale and yard sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"We'll have various Putnam County history books and other books with local history, including 'Pressing Toward the Goal' by Bill Flatt, and we'll have a lot of student photos from the old Nameless School and a

photo of students at Shady Grove School in 1940-1941," Watts said.

And a special guest will be Ed Ailor, author of "Blue Highways Revisited," a book that revisits that famous "Blue Highways" book written by William Least Heat-Moon back in the 1970's, which was a record of that writer's journey across America along the back roads.

Heat-Moon visited many little communities and towns across the country and recorded his dealings with the people he met. In a way, his book put Nameless "on the map," giving it widespread publicity that continues to draw travelers from time to time.

Heat-Moon had stopped at Nameless on that journey and ate supper with the Watts family. His conversation with Davis Watts' parents back then is described in detail in that book.

"So now another writer has retraced Heat-Moon's trip and he made pictures of Nameless for his book, 'Blue Highways Revisited,'" said Davis Watts.

The aim of the Ailor book is to "capture once more the local color and beauty of the back roads, cafes, taverns, and people" of Heat-Moon's trip, says one description of the book.

"Ailor made some beautiful photos of Nameless, and he will be in Nameless on Heritage Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to autograph his book," said Davis Watts.

Everyone is invited to the festivities, especially those who are interested in local history and rural America.

To get there, take Highway 56 north out of Baxter, turn left on State Highway 290 (Shepherdsville Highway) and find Nameless a few miles down that road.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 20 May 2012

### **PAST NOT FORGOTTEN IN NAMELESS**

By Mary Jo Denton

**NAMELESS** – In this tiny rural community, the past is not forgotten.



The little town, located in the edge of Jackson County near Putnam, is a place where everybody knows everybody, and holding onto the good old days is a favorite pastime.

(Pictured: As kids in the old days used to do, Trip and Maggie Mae Wallace pass some time on the porch of the J. T. Watts General Merchandise store in Nameless, Tennessee. Saturday, May 28, is Nameless Heritage Day, and the store, now a museum, will be open).

Next Saturday, May 28, they will once again celebrate Nameless Heritage Day.

That means the old J. T. Watts General Store, now a museum, will be open for visitors, who will be able to drink Coca Cola and Pepsi and eat a moon pie or a baloney and cheese sandwich in remembrance of the past.

Store hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Nameless Community Center will also be open for a bake sale and fund raiser, with proceeds and donations going to the upkeep of the Center and to the Veterans Hall museum.

The store that once served a thriving farming community was owned by J. T. and Virginia Watts, the parents of Davis Watts of Cookeville and his sister, the late Hilda Watts.

Like other children growing up in Nameless in the 1940s and 1950s, the Watts children attended the one-room school there and spent many a spare hour at the store, which was the central gathering place and shopping “center” for everyone in the area back in those days.

In recent years, Davis Watts has worked hard to restore the old store, turning it into a museum for the community and a memorial honoring his parents.

“The Nameless community was good to my mother and dad,” Watts said.



J. T. Watts allowed his customers to charge what they bought on an annual basis and never charged interest, he said.

“The farmers would come to the store on the in the after their tobacco had been sold and pay their bills, and then the accounts would start over for another year.”

(Pictured: Davis Watts, right, and his father, J. T. Watts, sit on the porch of the Watts general store in Nameless on a beautiful day back in 1957. Today, the store is a museum, a place that Davis Watts has preserved to honor his hometown and his parents).

He especially remembers the store’s role in Christmas seasons of that time.

“Back then, the people didn’t buy turkey or ham for Christmas. They would buy sticks of baloney, blocks of cheese, and what was called fancy candy - - orange slices, chocolate drops, and peppermint sticks.”

The candy was bought from the Brock Candy Company in Chattanooga and sold for 25 cents a pound, he said.

Nameless Heritage Day, held in May each year, is a chance to glimpse again the old days when life seemed much simpler.

Every year, the celebration draws a large number of natives as well as visitors who have heard of the quaint place that gained its odd name from the U. S. Postal Service after residents of long ago failed to agree on what to call their little town.

To visit Nameless, take highway 56 north out of Baxter, turn left on State Highway 290 (Shepherdsville Highway), and drive a few miles.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 22 May 2001, front page & pg. A-2.

### **TINY AND TIMELESS, NAMELESS IS STILL THRIVING**

by Mary Jo Denton

**NAMELESS** -- This tiny community in rural Jackson County still thrives, nourished by timeless memories of simpler days gone by.

And on Sunday, September 2, many of the natives will return for the Nameless School Reunion, a celebration of the little two-room school where so many received their elementary education in years past.

The children of Nameless studied the three R's there, and though most grew up and moved away, they still love to come back for the annual community events celebrating their rural roots.

"The old school building is no longer there, but we all remember our school days there," said Cookeville's Davis Watts, whose family ran the general store across the road from the school.

"There was school there starting before 1916, and the last classes were held in the mid-1960's."



In that country school, students in all eight grades were taught by two teachers in classes held in either the "big" room for upper grade levels or the "little" room for lower grades.

(Pictured: Students at Nameless School back in 1957).

The teachers made use of wooden paddles or switches in disciplinary matters, students either brought their lunch or walked home for

lunch, and everybody walked to school each day.

The building was heated in winter by a pot-bellied stove and students helped carry in the wood and coal for the fires, just as they carried water from a nearby spring.



Throughout the school day, they studied, they learned, and they formed lasting friendships with others in the community.

(Pictured: The old Nameless School house on a cold winter day many years ago. Those who attended school here will have a reunion at the Nameless Community Center on Sunday,

Sept. 2, 2012).

And today, they cherish those memories, said Jim Flatt, who had attended another rural school, Shady Grove, before enrolling in Nameless School.

Watts and Flatt hope everyone who attended Nameless School or anyone interested in the historic little community will come out for the school reunion on Sunday, September 2.

Lunch will be served at the community center at 1 p.m., and those attending are asked to bring a covered dish or two. Drinks, plates, flatware, and napkins will be furnished.

"We also hope everyone brings photos of years past," Watts said.

Two former Nameless School teachers, Ella Mable Carter Stout and Emogene Way Jakob, have been invited to the reunion and plan to be there, he said.

For more information, call James Flatt at 644-0706, Billy Flatt at 931-653-4451 or Watts at 931-528-4732. Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 26 August 2012.



Some of the descendants of the men who owned and operated the general store in Nameless from 1890 to 1970s meet on the porch of the old store, which is now a museum. From left are Earlene Brown Williams, Geraldine Brown Carter, Wallace Davidson, Wallace Neal, Marjorie Dawes Wheeler, Davis Watts, and Carole Wells.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 19 May 2013.



Pictured: Davis Watts of Cookeville stands behind the counter in the old Nameless General Store his father owned and operated many years ago in the tiny rural community. The store is now a museum and is at the center of Nameless Heritage Day, set for Saturday, May 25 this year 2013.

Davis Watts, a Cookeville banker, has worked for years to restore and preserve the J. T. Watt's General Merchandise Store his father owned and operated back in the 1950's and 1960's. Each year, he opens the store on Heritage Day and offers baloney and cheese and Moon pies for visitors, along with a variety of relics from bygone eras.

"This year (May 2013) we are also focusing on the history of the store even before my dad owned it, long before," Watts said.

In fact, he has run down the history back to about 1890 and has invited some of the descendants of the previous owners to the Heritage Day celebration.

J. S. Davidson owned the store from 1890 to 1912, and other owners down through the years include Ridley Davidson, J. M. Ferguson, Mack Brown, and W. F. Neal. One old item will be on display is an old almanac from 1912 which features on its back cover an advertisement for Cardui, "the women's tonic" which, according to the ad was "recommended and sold" by J. S. Davidson at Nameless, TN

### **Gladys L. (Davidson) Burgess Obt.**

**GAINESBORO** — Funeral services for Gladys L. Burgess, 94, of the Nameless community of Jackson County, will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 9, at Anderson-Upper Cumberland Funeral Home. Burial will be in Curry's Chapel Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 4-9 p.m. today, Thursday, Nov. 8, and from 9 a.m. until time of

services on Friday at the funeral home.



Mrs. Burgess passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012, in NHC Healthcare of Cookeville.

She was born March 9, 1918, in Jackson County to the late Oakley F. Davidson and Anna Anderson Davidson.

Mrs. Burgess was a homemaker and was a member of Philadelphia Church of Christ in Jackson County.

Her family includes two daughters and sons-in-law, Betty and William Mayberry and Kathy and W.G. Burroughs, all of the Nameless community; a daughter-in-law, Helen Burgess of Cookeville; 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Bernice E. Burgess; two sons, Barney Burgess and Blair D. Burgess; three brothers, Leamon Davidson, Dalton Davidson and Hulon B. Davidson; four sisters, Doris Flatt, Sophia Jackson, Irene Stockwell and Jean Chaplan; and a daughter-in-law, Carol Burgess.

Bro. Jimmy Anderson will officiate at the services.

Anderson-Upper Cumberland Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements (931) 268-1550.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 8 November 2012

**Elizabeth Nichole Chinoy Obt.**

b. 10 February 1981, Jackson Co., TN – d. 14 July 2016, Nameless, Jackson Co., TN, d/o **Don Chinoy & Jodie Bowman.**

**GAINESBORO** — Memorial services for Elizabeth Nichole Chinoy, 35, of the Nameless Community of Jackson County, will be held at a later date.



Ms. Chinoy passed away Thursday, July 14, 2016, in her residence in the Nameless Community.

She was born Feb. 10, 1981, in Jackson County to Don Chinoy and Jodie Bowman. She worked as an assistant wallpaper hanger.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by a daughter, Kaya Noelle Brown of the Nameless Community; maternal grandmother, Susan Bowman of Gainesboro; paternal grandmother, Edith Chinoy of Union, NJ; two brothers, Randy-Joe Beach and Andrew Grisham, both of Gainesboro; three aunts, Kathy Haynie, Peggy Bowman and Sandy Ragland; a nephew, Landon Grisham; and several uncles, cousins, relatives and friends.

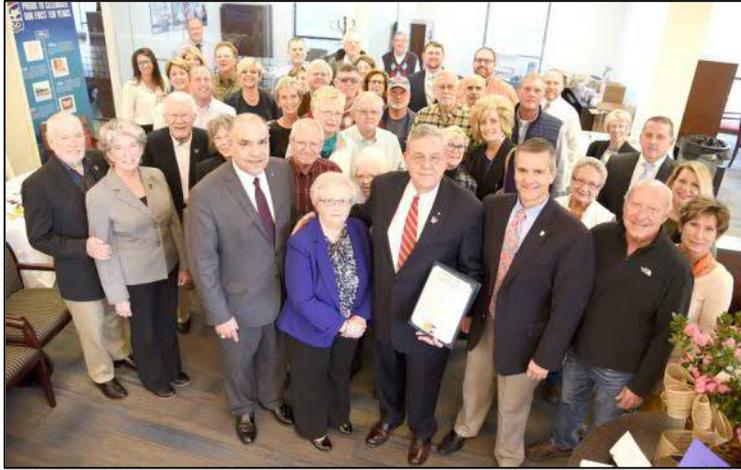
She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather Tom Joe Bowman and paternal grandfather Bernard M. Chinoy.

Memorial donations may be made to help with the funeral expenses by contacting Anderson-Upper Cumberland Funeral Home.

Anderson-Upper Cumberland Funeral Home in Gainesboro (931-268-1550) is in charge of arrangements.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 17 July 2016

**DAVIS WATTS IS RETIRING:** Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 22 November 2017



First Tennessee Bank in Cookeville and the community at large celebrated the retirement of **Davis Watts** during a 3-hour reception Tuesday at the bank's main branch on Jefferson Avenue. Watts became a fixture in the banking community during his nearly 45-year career. Hundreds of people poured into the bank to wish Watts well, and he received proclamations from Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton, State Sen. Paul Bailey, Speaker of the House Beth Harwell, State Rep. Ryan Williams, U.S. Sen. Bob Corker

and Gov. Bill Haslam. Both Shelton and Bailey delivered their proclamations in person. Watts was joined at the end of the reception by **his family, including wife, Lou Ann, son, James, and daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Wilson Davis, and their two children, Andrew and Annabelle.**



Davis Watts and his family, wife, Lou Ann, son, James, and daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Wilson Davis, and their two children, Andrew and Annabelle.

Read more about Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:  
<http://www.ajlambert.com>