

TINY AND TIMELESS, NAMELESS IS STILL THRIVING

by Mary Jo Denton

Students at Nameless School back in 1957.



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.

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.

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

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