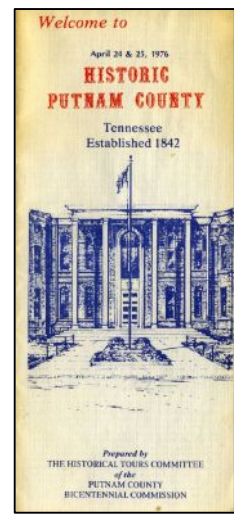


WELCOME TO HISTORIC PUTNAM COUNTY TENNESSEE
Tennessee Established 1842

Booklet prepared by
THE HISTORICAL TOURS COMMITTEE
of the
PUTNAM COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
April 24 & 25, 1976
American Revolution Bicentennial 1776-1976



A SHORT HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY

Putnam County, situated in the semi-mountainous region known as the Upper Cumberland, was formed February 11, 1854, by the 30th Tennessee General Assembly when it enacted a law permanently establishing the new county of Putnam. It was the state's 81st county to be chartered.

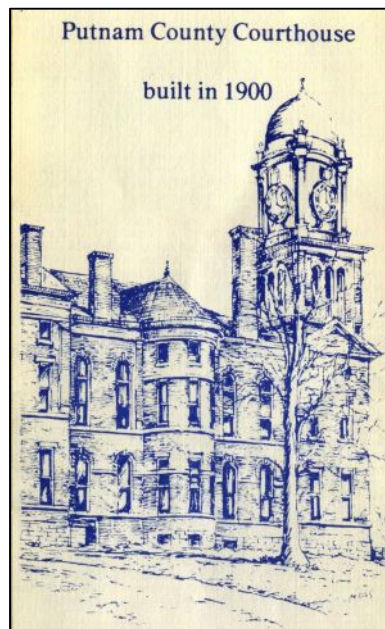
Prior to this, on February 4, 1842, the 24th Tennessee General Assembly set up a county called Putnam, named for General Israel Putnam a courageous and colorful hero of the Continental Army, taken from portions of Jackson, Overton, Fentress, and White. Overton County, however, successfully brought suit against the new county and Putnam was dissolved. The objection was that the Putnam County line came too close to her county seat and reduced the size of the county below the limits specified in the Tennessee Constitution.

Richard Fielding Cooke of Jackson County was elected to the state legislature and was successful in obtaining a new county. This new county was formed from parts of Jackson, Overton, White, Fentress, DeKalb, and Smith. The new county was again named in honor of General Putnam who was born in Salem, Massachusetts, January 7, 1718.

Each land has its own history, culture, folklore, nature, and landscape and these elements and forces combine to create something distinctive. In order to create an awareness of the history of our county and not lose sight of our historical heritage, the Historical Tours Committee of the Putnam County Bicentennial Commission has planned a tour of selected historic sites and some points of our county's visual history in hopes that what is left will be cherished and preserved.

The Historical Tours Committee is indebted to early historians and to the local news media from whom it has received much valuable information. Also, the committee is deeply grateful to the families who have opened their homes.

Members of the committee:
Mrs. Dave C. Huddleston, Chm.
Mrs. Roger Jones
Mrs. William T. Shipley
Mrs. Arnold Hunter
Miss Martha Sadler
Miss Mary Sue Sadler



**PUTNAM COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
BUILT IN 1900**

HISTORIC PUTNAM COUNTY TENNESSEE ESTABLISHED 1842

1. **The Putnam County Courthouse.** The first court in Putnam County was held at White Plains, the residence of Lieutenant William Quarles, a Revolutionary soldier of Virginia, in the blacksmith shop with Judge Quarles presiding. The first courthouse at the present site was completed in 1855 at a cost of \$6,000 with Joe Copeland as the contractor. Early courthouses burned, including one during the Civil War. Soon after the War, David L. Dow, an upper Cumberland contractor, built another courthouse, it, along with practically all records and papers was destroyed by fire in 1899. The present structure, completed in 1900, was built by Joe Scott and William Smoot. The architect was James H. Yeaman of Nashville, the designer of the Ryman Auditorium the fortress like building has since been extensively remodeled.
2. **White Plains.** Approximately one mile south of Algood is the site of the residence of William Quarles, Revolutionary soldier of Virginia, who settled here in the early 1800's. White Plains, with its general store, post office, and blacksmith shop, attracted people from miles around. When Putnam County was established, White Plains was named as the place where all courts should be held until a permanent site could be established. The present house at White Plains, built by Stephen Decatur Burton, grandson of Quarles, was occupied by descendants of Major Quarles until the present occupants purchased the property from Dave C. Huddleston and his brother William Clarence Huddleston. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howell N. Summers who have extensively remodeled the original structure. Much of the interior remains as it was when constructed. Unique are the gun closets in the entrance hallway, the ballroom on the third floor and the woodwork throughout the commodious old home.

Early historians say that the Walton Road contained four stands for the accommodations of travelers. Coming west, the first was at Kimbroughs, on the eastern foot of the mountain; the second at Crab Orchard; the third at White Plains on the western foot of the mountain; and the fourth near Pekin, also in Putnam County.

3. **Quarles Cemetery.** The family cemetery, located a few yards east of the above residence, contains the grave of Lieutenant William Quarles. The Lieutenant, who had been a Revolutionary War soldier, came with his wife, Ann Hawes Quarles, and ten children from Bedford County Virginia. Four of the children were married daughters who came with their husbands. They came about 1809. According to the marker at his grave. Quarles was born in 1752 and died in 1814.
4. **Major Richard Fielding Cooke** – Major Cooke, for whom Cookeville was named, was born in Culpepper County, Virginia, July 8, 1787. He lived in Greenville District, South Carolina, before coming to Tennessee in 1810. Major Cooke served in the War of 1812 under General Andrew Jackson and was twice a member of the State Senate. He was a leader in the effort to establish Putnam County and the county seat was named in his honor. He died October 15, 1870, and is buried in the Cooke Cemetery which was part of his plantation. His grave is located about 5 miles west of Cookeville on the Buffalo Valley Road near Baxter. A portion of the inscription on the grave marker reads, A public spirited, useful citizen, fill'd many important stations in his county and state always to the satisfaction of his countrymen, and died universally lamented.
5. **William Jared** – In addition to Lieutenant Quarles, other Revolutionary soldiers are buried in Putnam County. William Jared was born June 3, 1758. He married Elizabeth Ralston on 2 December 1792, Jefferson Co., TN (then part of NC). He came to Tennessee to settle a tract of land patented to him for his Revolutionary War service. This land was located on Indian Creek near Buffalo valley. Mr. Jared reared his family and died September 22, 1827. He is buried in the Jared Family Cemetery (now called the William Jared Cemetery) located near his original homesite. The land passed to his heirs and the cemetery is now located on the farm of Mr. Robert Anderson Shanks, on Big Indian Creek. Exit I-40 at Buffalo Valley and

turn right. Follow Big Indian Creek Road east about 2 miles. *Located off Hopewell Rd. on Indian Creek Rd., 2 ½ miles east of Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN GPS Coordinates: N36°08.726' W85°45.375'*

6. **Joseph Jared** – Joseph Jared, a younger brother of William Jared, was also a Revolutionary soldier. He was born January 2, 1760. Martha Beard was his first wife and Elizabeth “Besty” Baker his second. William Jared was already established and probably influenced Joseph’s coming to Tennessee in 1810. The Joseph Jared land was also in the vicinity of Buffalo Valley, near that of William Jared. Joseph Jared died 7 January 1848, and is buried in the Jared-Ensor Cemetery, also known as the Low Gap Cemetery, on the Pullum Farm on Highway 70N west of Cookeville.
7. **William Hargis** – Ensign William Hargis, who served in the Revolution, was born in Fairfax County, Virginia, in 1760. He married Elizabeth Jay and settled on the Calkiller River in the early 1800’s. Mr. Hargis died in 1836 and is buried in the Hargis Cemetery located on the former Jim Johnson farm and now owned by the General Development Corporation.
8. **Francis Fergus** – Francis Fergus was born in Tyrone County, Ireland, circa 1758. He served from Virginia in the Revolution and was living with his daughter, Mrs. Abraham Ditty, at the time of his death in 1841. He is buried in the Ditty Cemetery on the Lillard Maxwell farm.
9. **Buck’s College.** Two rooms of a large two-story log building is all that remains of Putnam County’s first institution of higher learning. Buck’s College, chartered in 1848 as Andrew College, was founded by Isaac Buck and his son, Jonathan Buck. It opened its doors for students in the spring of 1852. Students lived at the school, and until 1856 it received state funds allotted to academies. The school was authorized to award the Bachelor of Arts Degree. Located on Buck Mountain Road just east of the present residence of Mrs. J. P. Terry, the school continued to operate until it closed during the Civil War. Isaac Buck, a second generation German immigrant, and his family came to this area from Pennsylvania in 1820.
10. **Washington Academy.** The site of the present City Hall was long the location of educational facilities. When Putnam County was created, a building lot was reserved here for an academy. A two-story brick building was started before the Civil War, but the structure was not completed until after the War. The school was known as the Putnam County Academy until April 1879 when a group of citizens received a charter from the State of Tennessee for Washington Academy. The school retained the name until 1899 when the brick building was replaced by a much larger frame structure, completed in 1901, and the name changed to Cookeville Collegiate Institute. This eventually became the Cookeville High School. In 1921 this building was torn down to make way for the new \$100,000 brick building known as the City School. The present Municipal Building, built in 1960, now seems to stand as a monument to these early endeavors.
11. **Bloomington College.** A few years before the Civil War, Garland Kuykendall, a teacher and preacher, opened a private elementary school at School Hill in the 10th Civil District of Jackson County which became part of Putnam County when it was formed in 1854. A teacher’s register gives the opening date of his first session as August 9, 1852, and the closing date November 5, 1852. Soon after 1854 he established Bloomington Seminary at Bloomington and it was still in operation in 1860. After some years Bloomington College was established; it was housed in a large two-story frame building which burned sometime prior to 1890. The college stood on a site near the residence of Everett Presley and south of the resort area and the Junior Military Academy.

After a few years, the effort to establish an academy shifted from Bloomington to Baxter. Two Educators, H. C. and C. W. Coleman, founded the Baxter Institute. At the end of the

first year it closed. The Methodist Church then assumed responsibility and reopened the school as Baxter Seminary.

McClain says that Ridley Draper improved the fine spring at Bloomington about 1865 and made it something of a summer resort. Several small cabins were built to accommodate the guests. After that time, Bloomington became Bloomington Springs. In 1919 the resort was sold for a military academy named Castle Heights. It later became the nationally known Junior Military Academy with Major Roy DeBerry as Headmaster.

12. **Silver Point Christian College.** The present building for the Black congregation of the Church of Christ at Silver Point is the only remaining building of the former Silver Point Christian College. This boarding school, with dormitories, was started in 1902 by G. P. Bowser to train preachers of the Church of Christ. It continued for twelve or more years and then was moved to Nashville where it became the Nashville Christian College. Marshall Keeble, a well-known preacher, was a graduate of the Silver Point school, according to Dewey Garrett who was a classmate of Keeble. The *Christian Echo*, a monthly bulletin still being published in Los Angeles, California, was first published in Silver Point. The church where the college once flourished is located on Highway 141 within one-half mile of the Silver Point School.

13. **Dixie College.** The historical marker identifying the site of Dixie College, the forerunner of Tennessee Tech, bears the following inscription: "This quadrangle was part of the grounds of the University of Dixie, commonly called 'Dixie College,' chartered November 18, 1909. Jere Whitson and other Cookeville citizens led the drive for the college; Whitson donated 12 acres for the institution. Construction began May 16, 1911. In September, 1912, high school and junior college classes began in a building where Derryberry Hall now stands. In 1915 the Dixie Board ceded its property to the State to endow the present University." The marker commemorating Dixie College stands in front of Derryberry Hall on the north end of the main campus quadrangle.

According to Austin Wheeler Smith in his book *The Story of Tennessee Tech*, the drive for the new university, on the plot known as the 'old Fair Grounds,' was spearheaded by Mr. Whitson and other members of the Broad Street Church of Christ, and the original Board of Trustees were members of that church. During the four years Dixie University was in existence, it served many young people from Putnam and the surrounding counties; this University, however, never attained college status.

In August, 1914, Dixie University merged with the Putnam County High School and this arrangement continued until the properties were ceded to the state. At the close of the 1915-16 school year, Dixie University became history and the Putnam County High School was merged with the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Austin W. Smith was faculty of TPI, September 1, 1916.

(**Note:** *Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850-1970* by Mary Jean DeLozier, 1979: Organized Religion, pg. 277. Throughout the United States church attendance and membership grew rapidly after the war. Faiths long established in Putnam County added new members and started new congregations. The Church of Christ was probably the fastest growing church in the area in the forties and fifties. In 1952 Cookeville's Broad Street congregation divided and built Colleside Church of Christ near the Tennessee Tech campus. Other historic congregations helped found new churches. Cookeville's First Baptist, for example, started a congregation in Algood in 1956, and Cookeville's First Methodist sent out members to begin Parkview in 1957.

14. **Standing Stone.** In early days a landmark for westward bound travelers. Standing Stone now stands on top of a monument in Monterey City Park near the Community Center. Originally the impressive standing stone or image had stood just west down and off the

mountain. The Indians according to legend, told white men of the standing stone when white men came to this country and the stone became a guide for travelers. Later the stone was overturned and perhaps moved some distance and utilized as a stile block in front of the post office. It was first built into a monument in 1897 and later moved to its present location around 1930. Until 1893, the town of Monterey was known as Standing Stone and had been known as such for more than 100 years. The monument stands today as a reminder of those early years before Standing Stone became Monterey.

15. **Old Salem Methodist Church.** When Putnam County was permanently established in 1854, before there was a county seat or a courthouse, the Old Salem Methodist Church was the site of the meetings of the courts. Isaac Buck, an ordained minister of the Methodist Church, had established the church in September, 1820. The church, located at Old Kentucky Road and the Monterey Highway, east of Cookeville and north of Interstate 40, is one of the oldest in the county. According to McClain, the act which re-established the county of Putnam provided that court should be held at the house of Lewis Huddleston, "near Salem" meeting house and camping ground, until a permanent site could be located and a courthouse erected.
16. **The Tennessee Central Depot.** The red-brick and green-roofed depot which has stood as a landmark on the city's west side for nearly 70 years is a reminder of an interesting part of Cookeville and Putnam County history. From the time of its construction in 1909 the depot was operated by the Tennessee Central Railroad as a freight and passenger station until the final passenger train ran on the line July 30, 1955. The early morning "shopper" provided a means by which people could travel to Nashville and back in the same day. This historic old building, with its roof lines remindful of Oriental castles and pagodas, has architectural and sentimental interests. For half a century, the TC Depot was a commercial and social center for the Cookeville community; today it stands as a symbol of a part of the heritage of Cookeville and its people. It was the chief link between here and the rest of the world for the movement of both goods and passengers. For diversion, especially on Sunday afternoons, crowds of people "met the train" to watch the "drama of life" unfold.
17. **Erst'while.** As tourgoers view the appealing primitive log home of Geneva and Elmer Winningham, designed and built by them with antiques in mind, they will be able to picture a way of life that will never return—a lost time captured and preserved—history reassembled. The Winningham's acquaintance with and love of people and things of the past are apparent as their guests are greeted. The enthusiasm for their possessions and sheer exuberance with which Geneva describes her "Junk" causes any visitor to share their joy that such a way of life has been preserved. The Winningham home is a two-story, built in primitive style and furnished entirely and tastefully with American primitive furniture and accessories which they have accumulated over the years. The house is like a collector's museum, with the extensive collection of antique dinnerware, hand carved butter molds, beautiful old quilts, and numerous other memorabilia and artifacts of the past. One will have to look long and hard to find what the couple has not collected. Just two miles from the Cookeville Square, on the Monterey Road or Highway 70N, tourgoers will find this unique spot—one of the most in the hills of Tennessee. On approaching the Winningham house, one passes the small guest house with its furnishings just as tastefully portrayed as in the main house. This, too, is a real eye feast and will be open to visitors the day of the tour.
18. **Laurel Hill.** One approaches the restored cabin, with its hand-hewn chimney rocks, through the gate and is immediately confronted with various old time blooming plants. Even the spindly Standing Ciphers are beautiful as they droop in the split rail enclosed yard. A visitor may be seated in front of a crackling log fire, with strings of peppers and corn hanging around to dry. There is no electricity and no running water, but there are oil lamps and a bucket filled with water and a dipper from which one may have a fresh drink. The cabin is rustic, a homespun coverlet is on the bed in the sitting room, and the furnishings are plain, but cherished family pieces. There is splendor in the simplicity. The picturesque cabin made from chestnut and poplar logs, over 150 years old taken from homesteads on the land later to

be covered by the lake of nearby Edgar Evins State Park, is located on Highway 141 within one mile of the Silver Point School. It is the guest house of Anna Mae Julian Smith and her sister, Carollyn Julian.

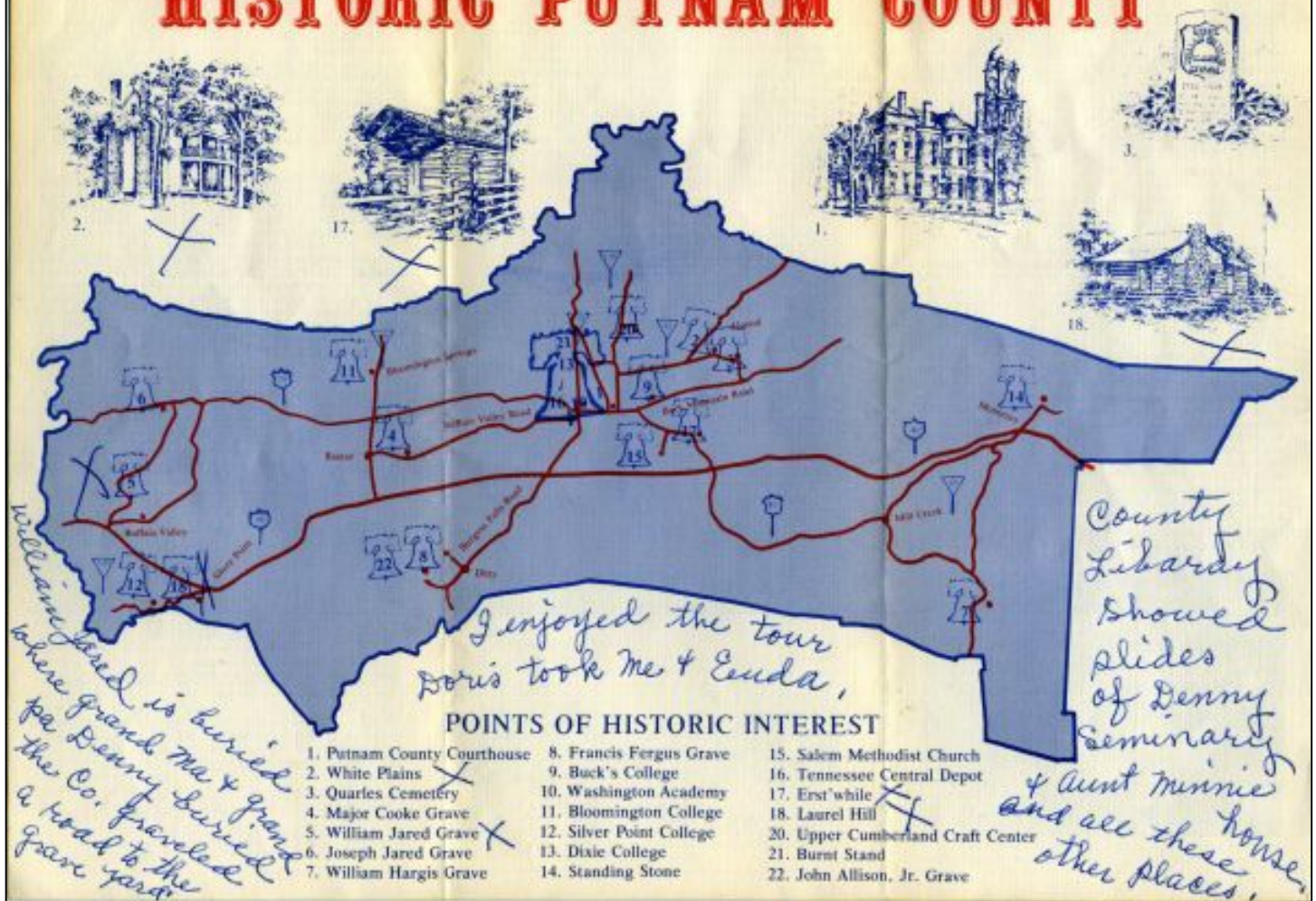
19. **The Walton Road.** The three famous roads of early Tennessee, according to Robert H. White in his *Tennessee – Its Growth and Progress*, were: The North Carolina Road or Avery's Trace, "Blazed out" in 1788; the Walton Road started in 1795 and completed in 1802; (These two roads were the principal connections between the Cumberland Settlements and the East) and the Natchez Trace which connected Nashville with the lower Mississippi Country and New Orleans. The Walton Road, according to this early authority, was the first road in Tennessee to receive any promise of money from the State for its construction.

The first legislature of the State (1797) authorized Capt. William Walton, a Revolutionary War veteran who had received a grant of land near the present site of Carthage, to construct a more direct route from East Tennessee westward. Moses Fisk surveyed the road which began near Kingston and passed through the Indian reservation, called the Wilderness, and cut it out to its terminus at the junction of the Cumberland and Caney Fork Rivers.

Putnam County has more miles of the Walton Road than any other county through which it passes. McClain describes this portion of the road as: Beginning at the Cumberland County line, the railroad very nearly parallels it through Monterey and Bilbrey to the vicinity of Brotherton. Here the railroad works around to the North to find gradual descent from the first bench of the mountain by way of Paragon, while the Walton Road, running a little south, proceeds to a rather precipitous descent at Buck's Mountain just east of White Plains. The railroad and the old highway are again in close proximity through Cookeville and do not deviate more than a mile at any point. The road came from White Plains and continued through what was once the Barnes Fairground, now Graeme Heights, passing just north of the present home of Tennessee tech's president, on by the Burnet Stand location, thence through McCulley Woods, and Westward following the route described by McClain. At Baxter the railroad is about one mile on the south and continues its divergence, while the Walton Road runs slightly northwest in the general direction of Ensor, Gentry, and Chestnut Mound, following the main ridges to reduce grades to its terminus at the Old Walton's Ferry at Carthage.

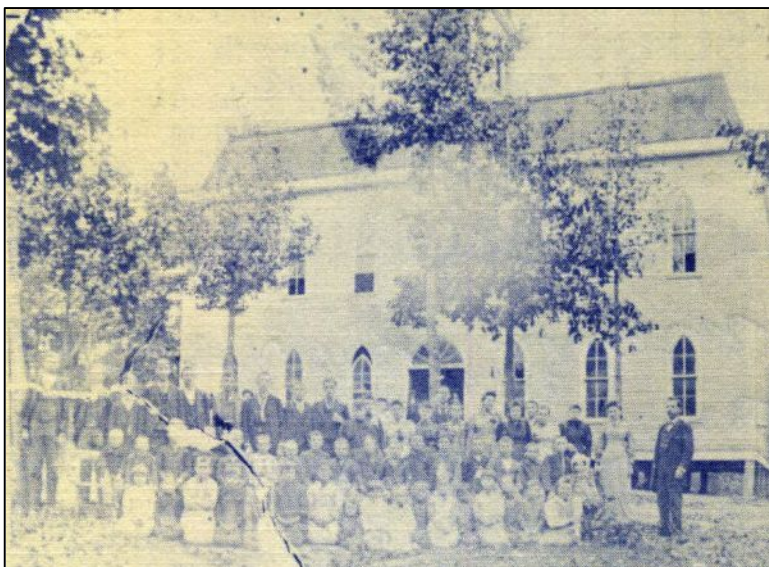
20. **Upper Cumberland Craft Center.** John Maxwell's Upper Cumberland Craft Center located at 545 East 20th Street in Cookeville, is Tennessee's largest mountain woodcraft shop. Maxwell and his craftsmen are descended from families in this area who have a natural talent for "makin" things, as well as the patience to create handcrafted products. Closed on Saturdays at this season of the year and always on Sundays, this mountain craftsman will open his crafts center especially for the tour so that visitors may be able to see products of the shop and observed some of the craftsmen at work, practicing the old time woodworkers' art. Maxwell's bird, owls, ect., are intricately designed hand carved, painted and mounted. Of special interest are his mountain dulcimers – a modern example of a musical heritage passed down for hundreds of years by our ancestors. A visit to this tour point will assure one that old time craftsmanship still exists in the Upper Cumberlands.
21. **John Allison Jr.** – John Allison Jr., who served as a private in the North Carolina Line during the Revolution, was born in 1762 in Orange County, North Carolina. He married Sarah Tollar on April 16, 1787, reared a large family in Putnam County, and died March 28, 1842. He is buried in a family cemetery on the Cookeville Boatdock Road southwest of Ditty. Mr. Allison's brothers', James and Joseph, served in the Revolutionary Army: Joseph settled in Smith County, Tennessee.

HISTORIC PUTNAM COUNTY



Above is the map included in the Historic Putnam County Tour Booklet. Doris Shanks, wife of Robert Anderson Shanks took my grandmother, Audra Camilla (Anderson) Denny and Euda (Warren) Shanks on a tour following this map. They stopped at some of the sites on the map and my grandmother made some comments on her copy of the map. She wrote that my great grandfather Timothy Denny and his wife Elizabeth Hettie (Paul) Denny were buried in the William Jared Cemetery which is very near their old homestead and near Audra's homestead. She commented that the library showed slides of Denny Seminary an old one room schoolhouse located on property donated by Timothy Denny. She also mentions Aunt Minnie who was the sister of Timothy Denny. Above comments by: Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



Bloomington College. A few years before the Civil War, Garland Kuykendall, a teacher and preacher, opened a private elementary school at School Hill in the 10th Civil District of Jackson County which became part of Putnam County when it was formed in 1854. A teacher's register gives the opening date of his first session as August 9, 1852, and the closing date November 5, 1852. Soon after 1854 he established Bloomington Seminary at Bloomington and it was still in operation in 1860. After some years Bloomington College was established; it was housed in a large two-story frame building which burned sometime prior to 1890. The college stood on a site near the residence of Everett Presley and south of the resort area and the Junior Military Academy.