

WHITE PLAINS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL 'STANDS' FOR TRAVELERS

By Megan Trotter, Herald-Citizen Staff
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PUTNAM COUNTY - This past week the Putnam County Archives turns its attention to White Plains as staff members research the almost forgotten communities of Putnam County.

White Plains was one of the original stands first built for early travelers on the Old Walton Road, which was the first road that went from Kingston to Nashville. It was located about a mile and a half south of Algood. According to letters from Elijah Chism, an attorney from Jackson County, Native Americans were constantly monitoring the roads and watching the white settlers. It made the way somewhat unsafe for



travelers, and so a scout was assigned to escort them through the territory west of the fort at Southwest Pointe.

(Pictured: Celebrating the White Plains sign are, from left, Glenn Jones,

Putnam County Archives; Kim Blaylock, county executive; Cathy Reel, 12th district commissioner; Ann Underwood; Beecher Underwood; Carol Bradford; Eunetta Jenkins; Orlene Carter; Claude Ann Burton; Mary Chaffin; Kenneth Whittaker; Betty Stark; and Robert Hull).

According to research by Charlene McClain, Daniel Alexander was appointed the first postmaster of White Plains in 1809. An article from Feb. 9, 1810, in the Carthage Gazette lists Alexander as the postmaster listing letters at the post office that needed to be picked up or they would be sent to the General Post Office as "dead letters."

Alexander and his wife, Sarah (Sally), came from Mecklenburg County in North Carolina, where they were married, before settling in the area now known as White Plains. He wrote a letter dated Feb. 5, 1805, to Col. R.J. Miggs, the Indian agent at Southwest Point, and called his plantation "Barren Hills Wilderness." Documents in the court minutes of White County show Alexander also owned an inn, sometimes referred to as a "stand," on Walton Road.

Alexander remained the postmaster until he resigned and William Quarles was appointed on April 12, 1811. Records state the appointments were made several months before a person took charge.

Before that, in 1809, Quarles' name shows up in court records from Bedford County in Virginia, and family records mark the Quarles family arriving in White Plains along with the Burton family on Christmas day in 1809. Quarles' name is on a deed that shows him renting land in White County from Col. John McIver and William Preston Anderson until he purchased two tracts of land from Alexander one that was 60 acres and one that was 247 acres.

The original White Plains Post Office was located on his land, most likely in the corner of a merchant store. Early records show the location in Jackson County, but never far away from the original site. The first site

burned and another was built a short distance away by the time the 1840 U.S. Census was taken. Stephen Decatur Burton purchased the land from his uncle in October 1839. Burton was a well-known merchant until his death on March 17, 1892.

Several members of the Quarles and Burton families served as post masters before the post office was discontinued in 1866 and another location served the community. The Putnam County post office opened in 1870.

The Putnam County Archives thanks those who contributed information about White Plains and funds to purchase the historic signs marking the area of the old White Plains community. Those with more information about White Plains or any other "almost forgotten communities" in Putnam County can call the archives at 520-0042.

The next community featured will be Bangham. Current and former residents are invited to a group photo



to be taken at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, at the community sign.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES WHITE PLAINS
Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 8 June 2014, pg. A6

Pictured: Celebrating White Plains Day at the historical marker are, from left, Glenn Jones, Putnam County Archivist; Keith Morrison, Algood city manager; Darlene Wiegand holding two-year-old Brook Wiegand, Jill Lazuka, Claude Ann Burton, Patrick Walker, Putnam County Maintenance; David Prowse of Bennett Industries; Randy Thomas, Putnam County Maintenance; Betty Stark; Dennis McBroom, director of Putnam County Maintenance; Kim Blaylock Curtis Shinsky; Cathy Reel, Dewayne Spurlock, Putnam County Maintenance; and Eunetta Jenkins. Photo by Ty Kernea, Herald-Citizen.

COOKEVILLE – White Plains celebrated its own special day May 31, which Algood Mayor Terry Foutch recently declared as White Plains Day.

White Plains is located on Old Walton Road and was surveyed by Capt. William Quarles, a Revolutionary War veteran, and his family arrived from Virginia in December of 1809 and settled the area, turning it into a thriving community where Quarles built a general store and was the proprietor of one of the four stands along the Old Walton Road. Daniel Alexander served as the first postmaster, and the area held Putnam County's first post office.

The boundaries of Jackson, Overton and White Counties merged at White Plains, and it was named the temporary county seat in 1842 when Putnam County was formed.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 8 June 2014, A-6.

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