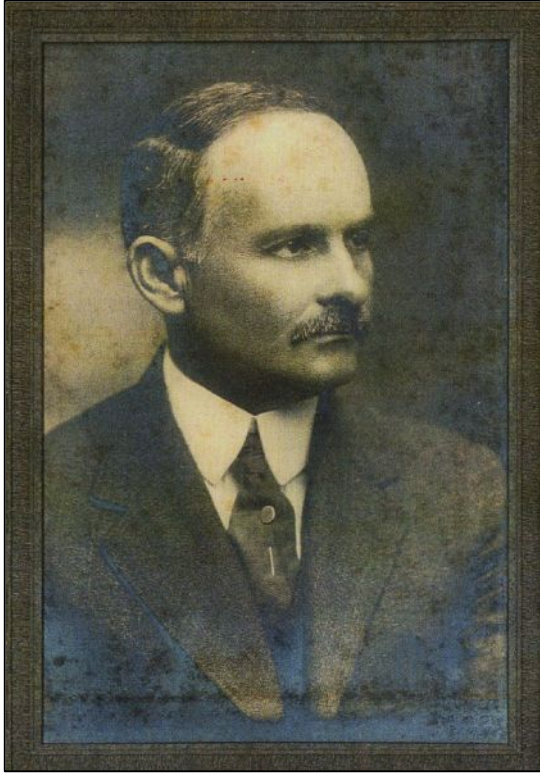


WALTER STEVEN MCCLAIN

& Family

Information and photos courtesy of Jennifer Holte Kerr



Putnam County Herald Newspaper,
Thursday, 12 March 1953:

Dr. Walter S. McClain Services Held Here

Dr. Walter Stephen McClain, 84, one of the most prominent osteopaths of this State and one of Cookeville's most widely known and highly esteemed citizens, died Saturday night at the Cookeville General Hospital, following an illness of several weeks. Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, in the chapel of the Carver Funeral Home by Rev. James L. Neal and Judge E. H. Boyd. Burial was in the family plot in the Cookeville cemetery.

(Pictured taken in the Harding Studio, Cookeville, TN in 1917. Courtesy of Jenifer Kerr).

Dr. McClain was born and reared in Cookeville, he was a son of the late Dr. L. R.

McClain wife Mrs. Emily Burton McClain, pioneer residents of Cookeville. He received his education in the schools of Cookeville and at Cumberland University, being a graduate of Cumberland University and the Southern College of Osteopathy. For several years he was a member of the faculties of both the Southern College of Osteopathy and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathy, but for the past forty years he had been actively engaged in the practice of his profession in Cookeville.

In 1897, he married Miss Minnie Avery, of Cookeville, and after her death, several years ago, he married Mrs. Jessie Bush of Baxter, who survives him. Other survivors are a son Victor H. McClain, of Newark, N. J., three brothers, Robert A. McClain, of Cookeville; William McClain of Montana; and Charles McClain of San Francisco, Calif., and two sisters, Mrs. Lucian Clark of Nashville; and Mrs. Alice Stokes of Monterey and a stepson, Capt. Monroe Bush of the U. S. Army.

Dr. McClain and his father the late Dr. L. R. McClain, served in the aggregate for seventy-five years, as Secretary of Mount View Lodge of Odd Fellows, of Cookeville, the son succeeding his father in that position and each of them serving until their deaths. Dr. McClain was a member of the Episcopal Church.

Dr. McClain was a prolific writer for osteopathic journals and had often delivered addresses at State and National Osteopathic conventions.

He was the author of a History of Putnam County, published in 1925. He formerly served for several years as a member of the Board of Aldermen of Cookeville. A host of friends are grieved by the passing of this good and useful citizens.

Walter S. McClain Dies in Cookeville

Putnam County Herald Newspaper, 5 March 1953



Dr. Walter S. McClain died Saturday night at Cookeville General Hospital after an illness of several weeks. He was the son of Lemuel and Sarah Burton McClain. He was a native of Putnam County.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Jesse McClain; a son, Victor McClain of New Jersey; a step-son, Morris Bush; three brothers, Robert A. McClain of California and W. A. McClain of Montana; two sisters, Mrs. Lucian Clark, of Nashville, and Mrs. Alice Stokes of Monterey; and two grand-children.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 2:30 p.m., at Carver Funeral Home. The Rev. James L. Neal and (E)rnest (H)ouston Boyd officiated. Burial was in Cookeville cemetery.

Dr. McClain made his home in Gainesboro for two years. He came here when he purchased the Gainesboro Press in 1898. He changed the name of the paper to Gainesboro Sentinel, which he published until November 1900, at which time he sold to Fred L. Tardy, and he entered the Southern School of Osteopathy in Franklin, Kentucky where he taught for a while. He returned later to Cookeville where he had practiced osteopathy for near 50 years. Many of our readers will remember him as editor of The Gainesboro Sentinel.

Minnie Avery McClain Obt.

Cookeville, Tennessee, Thursday, March 13, 1941

Heart Attack Fatal To Mrs. Walter S. McClain Friday



Seldom in the history of this community have over people been so shocked by the sudden death of a highly esteemed resident as they were on Friday evening when Mrs. Minnie Avery McClain, wife of Dr. Walter S. McClain suffered a sudden fatal heart attack at their home.

The last day of her life was an especially busy one. In the afternoon she had attended a meeting of the Dry Valley Women's Club, and she suffered the heart attack shortly after returning to her home.

On March 15, 1897, only a few days prior to her 17th birthday, she was married to Dr. Walter S. McClain, and her death occurred only a few days before the 44th anniversary of their marriage.



Mrs. McClain's life was truly one of helpful service to others, and many were the activities and under-takings through which her useful life found expression.

For many years she had been actively identified with the organized relief work of this city and county, and was the Putnam county representative of the Child Welfare Aid.

Aside from her connection with organized relief and charitable work, and federal social service activities, Mrs. McClain's individual and personal assistance to and interest in the poor, friendless, destitute and underprivileged will ever stand as a monument to her memory in this community.

A public service which, for many years, had enlisted her best efforts and enthusiastic leadership in rural Women's Club Work in Putnam County, and to this most useful work she attested her devotion by rendering the last hours of service.

On the night preceding her death she had held in her home, a child welfare conference, attended by ministers, teachers, and social workers, for the purpose of planning a busy year's work in saving and serving underprivileged children of this county.



Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at the Methodist church of which the deceased had been a member for many years, by the pastor Rev. A. J. Morgan, assisted by the Rev. Robert W. Jones, pastor of the Presbyterian church. (The church was crowded to its capacity with friends of the deceased and her family. Many beautiful floral designs attested a community's appreciation of one who had served it long and well.) Burial was in Cookeville cemetery.

Mrs. McClain is survived by her husband, Dr. Walter S. McClain, a son, Victor H. McClain, and a granddaughter, Ann McClain of Newark, New Jersey, and a sister, Mrs. John Wade of Lansing, Michigan.

FAMILY PAPERS: Courtesy of Jennifer Holte Keer.

Resolutions Offered by The Ladies Aid Society of The Methodist Church, Cookeville, TN:

Whereas: God in his infinite wisdom has seen fit to remove from our midst Mrs. Minnie McClain, a beloved member of our organization. She had been a resident of Cookeville since her girlhood, a member of our church and society for many years. She was a woman of strong character, deep purpose, high integrity and was loved above everything else for her charitable heart. In her passing The Aid has lost a dependable member and all with whom she had daily contact will miss her keenly.

And whereas: We, the officers and members of this organization desire to express our love and appreciation of her and our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.

Further be it resolved: That a page of our minutes be devoted to this expression of our esteem and sympathy for the family of our departed member and a copy of these resolutions be furnished to them.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth C. Carlen, Alta L. Stone & Pearl J. High

Victor Hugo McClain



Mr. Victor Hugo McClain was born February 3, 1898, Cookeville, Tennessee, the son of Walter and Minnie Avery McClain.

Mr. McClain married Miss Helen Carnes, in Dallas, Texas, on November 16, 1926. One daughter was born to this union. The family made their home in Westfield, New Jersey, for 35 years.

Mr. McClain was a retired electrical engineer with the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company. While in Westfield, he was an active member of the Telephone Pioneers, the Art Association and the

Community Players.

He and Mrs. McClain moved to Alba, Texas, in 1962, where he was a member of the Alba Lions Club.



Mr. McClain was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Helen McClain, on February 18, 1977.

He passed away in a Mineola, Texas, hospital on May 7, 1977, following a brief illness.

Mr. McClain is survived by, his daughter, Mrs. Ann Branch of Phoenix, Arizona, his step-daughter, Mrs. Jessie McClain, of Cookeville, TN, 3 grandchildren, Barbara Branch and William Brand of Phoenix, Arizona, and Robert Branch of Massachusetts, 1 great grandson, Patrick Branch, other relatives and many friends. Mr. McClain was a Methodist.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 1900, Jackson Co., TN, Gainesboro Sentinel Newspaper

Dr. C. B. Moore and W. S. McClain left Monday for a few days visit at Franklin, Ky. T. G. Settle will have charge of The Sentinel office during the editor's absence. . . ."

Many thanks to Karra Porter for the following Jackson County and related newspaper records she transcribed from microfilm: <http://www.tngenweb.org/jackson/JackNews.htm>

THURSDAY, 4 JULY 1901, Jackson Co., TN, Gainesboro Sentinel Newspaper

Mrs. Walter McClain and son Victor of Franklin, Ky., are visiting relatives and friends at Cookeville and will visit in Gainesboro before returning."

Many thanks to Karra Porter for the following Jackson County and related newspaper records she transcribed from microfilm: <http://www.tngenweb.org/jackson/JackNews.htm>

THURSDAY, 11 JULY 1901, Jackson Co., TN Newspaper

Mrs. W. S. McClain, of Franklin, Ky., who is visiting the family of her father-in-law, Dr. L. R. McClain, at this place, is quite sick with typhoid fever.--Press."

Many thanks to Karra Porter for the following Jackson County and related newspaper records she transcribed from microfilm: <http://www.tngenweb.org/jackson/JackNews.htm>

29 JANUARY 1903:

Dr. W. S. McClain graduates from the Southern School of Osteopathy, at Franklin, KY, today. Our best wishes are for his success he may locate. Courtesy of Jennifer Holte Keer.

19 AUGUST 1903:

Dr. W. S. McClain left for Franklin, KY, the first of the week to resume his duties as a member of the faculty in the Southern School of Osteopathy. The Doctor spent a delightful vacation among his many old friends here, and returned to his work in high spirits. His wife and son accompanied him to Franklin. Courtesy of Jennifer Holte Keer.

DR. WALTER S. MCCLAIN SUCCEEDS FATHER AS LODGE SECRETARY

Dr. L. R. McClain, who served for half a century with unsurpassed fidelity and efficiency, as Secretary of Mount View Lodge, No. 179, I. O. O. F., of this city, has been succeeded as secretary by his son, Dr. Walter S. McClain, who was elected as his father's successor at the regular meeting of Mount View Lodge, on last Saturday night. Courtesy of Jennifer Holte Keer.

GIRL IMPROVES AFTER HICCOUGHS

Monterey, Tenn. May 13 – (Special) – Miss Laura Belle Tosh, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tosh, Monterey, who has been suffering from hiccoughs since Friday, is resting well in her room after undergoing treatment by Dr. Walter S. McClain at Cookeville yesterday afternoon.

He attributed the young woman's malady to a nervous disorder from a possible injury from a fall a few months ago.

Dr. McClain advised absolute quite and rest in a room of subdued light and plenty of fresh air. She has had only a brief attack since being treated yesterday afternoon and spent a restful night.

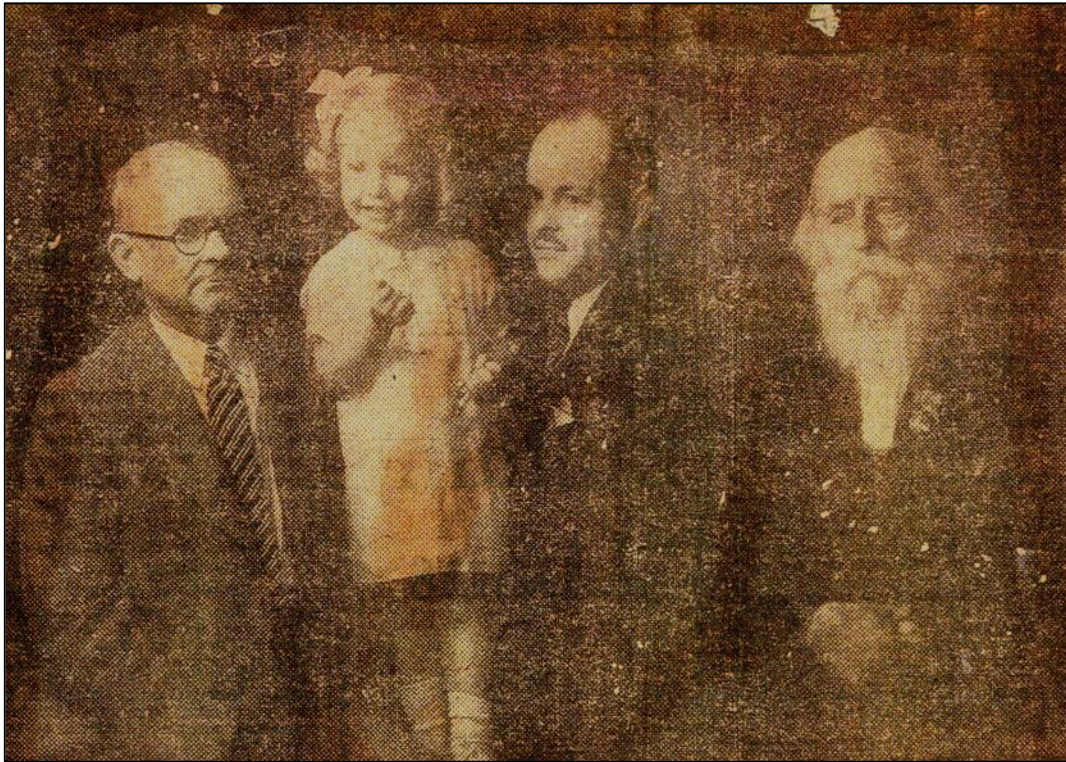
Courtesy of Jennifer Holte Keer.

RED CROSS EXPRESSES THANKS

S. L. Gipson, chairman of the Putnam County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Wednesday expressed the appreciation of the county organization to L. T. Stone, for his warehouse donation, and to James N. Cox, owner of the Herald building, for the Red Cross office space.

“They are two of our largest donations,” Mrs. Gipson said, “and we are very grateful.”

The Red Cross last week, under the direction of Mrs. Walter McClain, production chairman, made clothes of goods received here and distributed them. She was assisted by Mrs. S. L. Gipson, Mrs. H. T. Whitson, Mrs. Harden Young, Mrs. Algood Carlen, and Mrs. G. A. Davidson. They will make clothes for the county’s needy school children as soon as material arrives. Courtesy of Jennifer Holte Keer.



REPRESENT ESTEEMED FAMILY IN PUTNAM
DR.; L. R. MCCLAIN AND DESCENDANTS

COOKEVILLE, TENN., JUNE 27 – (Special) – Dr. Lemuel R. McClain, 86, is Putnam County’s oldest physician and most highly respected citizens. Upon completing his medical education in the Missouri Medical College at St. Louis, he located in Cookeville sixty-four years ago and began the practice of his profession. He has resided in Cookeville ever since. His family was one of the pioneer families of Smith County of this State. He is a nephew of Judge Andrew McClain, who was once Circuit Judge of this circuit and afterwards a Judge of the Supreme Court of this State. A picture of Judge Andrew McClain was presented to the Supreme Court only a few days ago.

Dr. McClain has been a devoted and active Odd Fellow for fifty-eight years and has served as Secretary of Mount View Lodge, No. 179, I.O.O.F., of Cookeville, for half a century – which position he fills with marked efficiency. He is also a veteran Mason. He is wonderfully well preserved, enjoys splendid health and is an untiring reader and a close student of current events. He is a remarkably well informed man, a life-long Democrat, a man of pronounced views and unsurpassed moral courage and is a gentleman of the strictest integrity.

Dr. Walter S. McClain, eldest son of Dr. Lemuel R. McClain, is also a resident of Cookeville and is one of Tennessee’s ablest and best known doctors of osteopathy. He is a former president of the State Osteopathic Association.

Victor H. McClain, son of Dr. Walter S. McClain, is a resident of Newark, N.J. He is a successful civil engineer.

Little Ann McClain, the youngest member of the group, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor H. McClain.

Census Place:1880 District 1, Putnam Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 77A

Dwl: 1

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
L.R. MCCLAIN	Self	M	M	W	35	AR
	Occ: Dry Goods Mer.		Fa: TN Mo: TN			
S.E. MCCLAIN	Wife	F	M	W	30	TN
			Fa: TN Mo: TN			
Walter MCCLAIN	Son	M	S	W	11	TN
			Fa: TN Mo: TN			
William MCCLAIN	Son	M	S	W	8	TN
			Fa: TN Mo: TN			
Mary MCCLAIN	Dau	F	S	W	5	TN
			Fa: AR Mo: TN			
Elizabeth MCCLAIN	Other	F	S	W	6M	---
			Fa: --- Mo: ---			
Mollie QUARLES	Other	F		MU	16	TN
			Fa: TN Mo: TN			

1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 265 Family: 268

McClain, William Head 29 M W January 1871 M1 (12 yrs. md) Farmer TN TN TN
Ruth Wife 23 F W June 1876 M1 (12 yrs. md) (4 children born, 4 children living) TN TN TN
Lulu Dau 10 F W November 1889 Single At School TN TN TN
Pate Son 8 M W September 1891 Single At School TN TN TN
Lem Son 4 M W May 1896 Single TN TN TN
Infant Dau 0/12 F W June 1900 Single TN TN TN

1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 496 Family: 506

McClaine, Lemuel R. Head 55 M W December 1844 M (32 yrs. md) **Physician**
AR TN TN
Emma S. Wife 50 F W February 1850 M (32 yrs. md) (7 children born, 6 children living)
TN TN TN
Alice Dau 18 F W March 1882 Single TN AR TN
Charlie B. Son 15 M W June 1884 Single At School TN AR TN
Robert A. Son 13 M W September 1886 At School TN AR TN
Clark, Lucian Son-in-Law 26 M W January 1874 M (2 yrs. md) Lumberman TN TN TN
Mary Dau 25 F W August 1874 M (2 yrs. md) (1 child born, 1 child living) TN AR TN
Gladys Granddaughter 4/12 F W February 1900 Single TN TN TN

1910 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 7 Family: 7

McClain, Walter S. Head 41 M W M1 (14 yrs. md) Physician General Pract.
TN AR TN
McClain, Minnie Wife 30 F W M1 (14 yrs. md) (1 child born, 1 child living) MI NY MI
McClain, Victor H. Son 12 M W Single TN TN MI

1910 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 84 Family: 88

McClain, Lemuel R. Head M W 65 M1 Physician General Pract. MO US TN
McClain, Sarah E. Wife F W 60 MI TN TN TN
McClain, Alice Dau F W 28 Div. TN MO TN
McClain, Charles M W 24 Single Farmer General Farm TN MO TN
McClain, Robert Son M W 21 Single Salesman Dry Goods Store TN MO TN

1920 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

East Spring St., Dwl: 282 – 315 – Line: 44

McClain, Walter Head M W 52 Married Doctor Osteopath TN MO TN

McClain, Minnie Wife F W 39 Married MI MI MI

McClain, Victor H. Son M W 22 Single TN MI TN

McClain, Lemuel R. Father M W 76 Widow MO MO MO

1930 census Cookeville Twp. (East part) Putnam Co., TN

Cookeville east of Walnut St.

Dwl: 716 – 200 – 211

McClain, Walter Head M W 61 Married (age at 1st marriage, 31) Physician Osteopathic TN MO TN

McClain, Minnie Wife F W 51 Married (age at 1st marriage, 21) MI IN MI

McClain, L. R. Father M W 86 Widow (age at 1st marriage, 21) MO MO MO

Carpenter, Mary O. Boarder F W 19 Single Bookkeeper Shirt Factory TN TN TN

Winningham, Max Boarder M W 32 Single Physician Dentist TN TN TN

Buried: Cookeville City Cemetery, located in Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

Dr. Walter Stephen McClain: b. 24 August 1868, TN –

d. 28 February 1953, Cookeville, TN, s/o Lemuel R. McClain & Sarah Burton

Minnie (Avery) McClain: b. 19 August 1880, Clinton Co., MI –

d. 7 March 1941, Cookeville, TN, d/o John L. Avery & Edna Lovett;

w/o Dr. Walter S. McClain.

Victor Hugo McClain: b. 3 February 1898, TN – d. 7 May 1977, Mineola, TX,

s/o Walter S. McClain & Minnie Avery.

Helen Carnes McClain: b. 1 November 1895 – d. 18 March 1977, w/o Victor Hugo McClain.

Source: Cookeville Press, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN:

EVERY, MRS. JOHN: Mrs. John Avery (*Edna (Lovett) Avery*) died at her home in Cookeville Tuesday morning of consumption. Mrs. Avery with her husband came here from Michigan a few months ago, and during her brief residence, made many friends who deeply regret her death. [Date: 1/23/1896, Vol. IX, No. 13, Page 5]

JOHN AVERY, b. 2 April 1845 – d. 7 March 1903, Clinton Co., MI. John fought in the Civil War for the Union side and served in Company D of the 128th Regiment of Indiana. He has a very small stone at Munro Cemetery which says: JNO AVERY/COD G.A.R. He married **Edna Lovett** 26 December 1872 in Grand Ledge, MI. Munro Cemetery, Cheboygan Co., MI. Information by: Jenny Kerr.

EVERY, MCCLAIN

I am looking for the place of burial of my g grandmother, Edna (Lovett) AVERY. She died in Cookeville, Putnam CO, TN of consumption while visiting with her daughter, Minnie (Avery)McClain. Minnie was married to Dr. Walter McClain. Per the Cookeville Press, she died in Jan of 1896, and printed in the newspaper 1-23-1896. Her daughter and son in law are buried at Cookeville City Cemetery, but she is not.

Does anybody know where she may be buried? Thank you

[Jennifer Kerr](mailto:Jennifer.Kerr) -- 17010 Forest Lake Road, Sonora, CA 95370

Jeneker@aol.com

Submitted on Sun Apr 24 21:23:40 CDT 2005. Putnam County, TN Queries.

JUDD,BUSH,MCCLAIN,AVERY

Looking for a date of death on Jessie Mae Judd (Bush) who married Walter McClain in Cookeville, TN 1-13-1945. Also would like to know where she is buried and any surviving relatives. Thank you

[Jennifer Kerr](#) -- 17010 Forest Lake Road, Sonora, CA 95370
Jenekker@aol.com
Submitted on Mon May 23 23:16:27 CDT 2005

STEPHEN DECATUR BURTON

**Source: EARLY HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY
SOME PROMINENT PIONEER CITIZENS OF PUTNAM COUNTY**

By Ernest H. Boyd

This brief reference will afford an insight into the family background and early environment of **Stephen Decatur Burton**, who was one of the most successful pioneer merchants and business men of Putnam County.

He was born at White Plains, on October 8, 1813, where he died on March 17, 1892, at the age of 78. He **married Miss Mary Davis Goodbar**, of Overton County, on July 19, 1835. Her death occurred on November 21, 1895.

He was well educated for his day and was a man of culture and refinement. He was a constant reader and student of World events. He was a quiet, reserved, dignified gentlemen. He inherited a large landed estate and numerous slaves and other personal property from his grandfather and grandmother Quarles, and he also inherited considerable property from his father, but he was a natural born financier and business man and he not only took care of his inheritance but, from his young manhood, he was successful in business and constantly added to and increased his wealth.

A few year before the Civil War, the old Major Quarles residence, in which he was reared and lived, was destroyed by fire, and a short distance from its site he erected the large two-story colonial residence, still standing, in which he lived during the remainder of his life. In design, it is very much like the old Major Quarles residence. This old building, in a good state of preservation is now the home of Mrs. Charles Huddleston, whose late husband was a great-grandson of Major William Quarles. In fact, the present good sized farm, while not containing by any means all of the **land that Major William Quarles and later his grandson Stephen Decatur Burton** owned, has been owned by Major William Quarles or some of his descendants since 1809, not many farms remain in the ownership of the same family for 145 years, as this one has.

From his store, near his residence, on the Walton Road, and from other stores owned by him or in which he owned an interest, and from raising and selling and dealing in cotton, and in trading in slaves, and from many other business activities, he accumulated a fortune and became one of the wealthy men in this section of the State. For many years, he and his double first cousin Charles F. Burton, of the Western part of Putnam County, were the two largest tax payers in Putnam County

Using slave labor in its cultivation, he, each year for many years, raised several hundred acres of cotton.

Just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, when he was dealing in cotton on a large scale, he had about 125,000.00 worth of cotton stored in ware houses in Chattanooga, and during the Civil War the warehouses containing his cotton were burned and he sustained a total loss of that large amount of cotton.

He sustained the largest loss of any Putnam Countian on account of the emancipation of the slaves. When the negro slaves were freed, he owned about one hundred slaves, valued at about Fifty Thousand Dollars.

He was of a tranquil, philosophical temperament and he did not permit his heavy Civil War time losses to harrow him.

After he built his large and beautiful residence, he planned for beauty and plenty in his surrounding large landed estate. With the inborn and inherited sentiments of his English ancestors, he planned and developed his large plantation, and did not allow the cultivated field to encroach on his home residence, but surrounded it with a large green meadow of several acres. His diversions were reading and hunting, deer

hunting was his favorite sport. Adjoining his meadow in the woodland on one side, was his large deer lot, where deer were kept for hunting. For many years prior to the Civil War and up until about 1875, he maintained this extensive deer pound on his plantation. This wild park, ten acres or more in area, was enclosed by an unusually high and strong rail fence of the "stake and rider" type, and, on the outside of this fence, artificial mounds were constructed of logs and earth, so that wild deer might walk up and jump into the enclosure to join the tame deer, which they often did. But with the opening up of many new farms in the White Plains section, wild deer became scarce, so that new recruits for the deer pound became few and far between, and the old "deer park" became a "new ground" and later an orchard.

It is said that at the close of the Civil War, Stephen Decatur Burton's negro slaves left him reluctantly, and a number of them remained on his plantation, for he was a good slave master. Knowingly, he never separated slave families; in buying slaves, he either bought the whole family or none.

He was an ardent believer in education. He had a school house built on his plantation and he employed thoroughly qualified teachers to teach his own, as well as the neighboring children, whom he invited to share in its advantages. Among the teachers he employed at his school was Philander D. Sims, who afterwards became one of the leading physicians of Chattanooga and served as Mayor of that city. He was a son of Martin Sims, a prominent pioneer citizen of this county. Another teacher in this school was a Miss Sewell, a sister of the noted pioneer Church of Christ ministers, Jesse L. Sewell and Elisha G. Sewell.

Mr. Burton sent his daughters to the noted old Cumberland Female College in McMinnville.

Mr. Burton was the maternal grandfather of the late Dr. Walter Stephen McClain of Cookeville, and of Mrs. James N. Cox, of Cookeville.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>