

ELMER LINCOLN WIRT OBT.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN
24 December 1935



The founder and first editor of the Putnam County Herald died this week of a heart attack at age 72 while walking to mail a letter.

Elmer Wirt, born in Olmstead County, Minnesota in 1863, learned the newspaper profession from the ground up, starting his career hand-setting type for several daily papers as a young man.

He worked for a while in the 1880's as a railroader, riding the cold Great Northern Railroad's routes. Then, in 1891, Wirt became the publisher of the Farmer's Alliance in Elbow Lake, Minnesota.

In 1903 he came to Cookeville. His brother, Walter, was already here operating a print shop. Together they decided to open the Putnam County Herald. It was soon aggressively leading the fight to incorporate the town.

Elmer Wirt was an avid baseball fan and promoted and watched the game until his death. He also relished politics. He was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1915. There, he authored a bill that created Tennessee Polytechnic Institute.

A big crowd is expected at his services this week. He's to be buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

Census Place: 1880 Manannah, Meeker, Minnesota

Source: FHL Film 1254626 National Archives Film T9-0626 Page 218A

Dwl: 8

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Alvin WIRT	Self		M	M	W	42 OH
Occ:	Miller	Fa: PA	Mo: PA			
Kate WIRT	Wife		F	M	W	40 NY
Occ:	Keeping House	Fa: NY	Mo: NY			
Charles WIRT	Son		M	S	W	20 WI
Occ:	Laborer	Fa: OH	Mo: NY			
Elmer WIRT	Son		M	S	W	17 MN
Occ:	At School	Fa: OH	Mo: NY			
Walter WIRT	Son		M	S	W	6 MN
Occ:	At School	Fa: OH	Mo: NY			
Nellie WIRT	Dau		F	S	W	3 MN
		Fa: OH	Mo: NY			

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

Dwl: 400 Line: 29

Alvin Wirt Head 63 M W b. July 1837 M (42 yrs. married) OH PA PA

Katie Wirt Wife 61 F W b. June 1840 M (42 yrs. married) (4 children born, 4 children living) NY NY NY

Wallis Wirt Son 26 M W b. November (?) 1874 Single Printer MN OH NY

James Ford Son-in-Law 29 M W b. March 1871 M (3 yrs. married) Farmer TN VA TN

Nellie Ford Dau 23 F W b. September 1876 M (3 yrs. married) (2 children born, 2 children living) MN PA NY

Gladys Ford Granddaughter 2 F W June 1898 Single TN MN TN

Charles Ford Grandson 1 M W b. June 1900 Single TN MN TN

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

Dwl: 401 Line: 36

Elmer L. Wirt Head 37 M W June 1863 M1 (13 yrs. md) MN OH NY

Katie B. Wife 38 W F September 1861 M1 (13 yrs. md)

(5 children born, 5 children living) GA CT MD

Ralph H. Wirt Son 11 M W July 1888 Single MN MN GA

Sara L. Wirt Dau. 10 F W April 1890 Single MN MN GA

Melva Wirt Dau. 7 F W June 1892 Single MN MN GA

Alvin B. Wirt Son 5 M W August 1894 Single MN MN GA

Willard W. Wirt Son 1 M W June 1898 Single MN MN GA

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

Dwl: 115

James F. Ford Head 39 M W M1 (13 yrs. married) US Inspector Cattle TN VA TN

Nellie Ford Wife 33 F W M1 (13 yrs. married) (2 children born, 2 children living) MN OH NY

Gladis Ford Dau 12 F W Single TN TN MN

Charles Ford Son 10 M W Single TN TN MN

Alvin Wirt Father-in-Law 71 M W M1 (52 yrs. married) Laborer Bottling Works OH PA OH

Kate Wirt Mother-in-Law 69 F W M1 (52 yrs. married) (4 children born, 4 children living) NY NY NY

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

Dwl: 197

Elmer L. Wirt Head 46 M W M1 (22 yrs. md) Editor Paper MN OH NY

Catherine B. Wife 48 W F M1 (22 yrs. md)

(6 children born, 6 children living) GA CT NY

Ralph H. Wirt Son 21 M W Single Editor Paper MN MN GA

Sara L. Wirt Dau. 19 F W Single Compositor Printing Office MN MN GA

Melva R. Wirt Dau. 17 F W Single MN MN GA

Alvin B. Wirt Son 15 M W Single MN MN GA

Willard W. Wirt Son 11 M W Single MN MN GA

Ramond E. Wirt Son 8 M W Single MN MN GA

Pearl Peek Boarder 22 F W Single Compositor Printing Office TN TN TN

1920 census 1st Civil Dist., Cookeville Town, Broad Street, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 181 Family: 209 Line: 3

Elmer L. Wirt Head 56 M W M1 (22 yrs. md) Editor Weekly Paper MN WI NY

Catherine B. Wife 58 W F M1 (22 yrs. md)

(6 children born, 6 children living) GA GA NY

Melva R. Wirt Dau. 27 F W Single MN MN GA

Willard W. Wirt Son 21 M W Single Pressman Newspaper TN MN GA

Ramond Wirt Son 17 M W Single TN MN GA

Ralph H. Wirt Son 31 M W Married Manager Newspaper MN MN GA

Margrett Wirt Daughter-in-law 23 F W Married TN TN TN

Ruth E. Wirt Grandchild 1 5/12 F W Single TN MN TN

1920 census 1st Civil Dist., Cookeville Town, Spring Street, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 258 Family: 313 Line: 89

James F. Ford Head 49 M W Widow Inspector Stock Government TN TN TN

Kate L. Wirt Mother-in-Law 79 F W Widow NY NY NY

Gladys Ford Dau 22 F W Single Stenographer State School TN TN MN

Charles Ford Son 20 M W Single None TN TN MN *Charles Ford, s/o James F. Ford & Nellie Wirt.*

1930 census 1st Civil Dist., North of TC RR, Putnam Co., TN

Elmer L. Wirt Head 66 M W (24 yrs. old 1st marriage) Insurance Agent MN OH NY

Catherine B. Wife 68 W F (26 yrs. old 1st marriage) GA GA NY

Buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

Elmer Lincoln Wirt – b. June 1863, MN – d. 20 December 1935

Katherine “Katie” (Dimond/Diamond) Wirt – b. September 1861, Columbus, GA – d. 1931

Catherine "Kate" Howard Wirt – b. June 1840, NY – d. 1927, md **Alvin Wirt**, b. July 1837, OH.

Ralph Howard Wirt – b. 4 July 1888, TN – d. 25 January 1976 – Sons of the American Revolution

Margaret J. Wirt – b. 10 August 1896 – d. 20 July 1985



Jessie Wirt Watts is a member of the Old Walton Road DAR Chapter, TN, 2006.



Catherine "Kate" Howard Wirt – b. June 1840, NY – d. 1927, md **Alvin Wirt**, b. July 1837, OH.

Catherine "Kate" Howard Wirt, buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

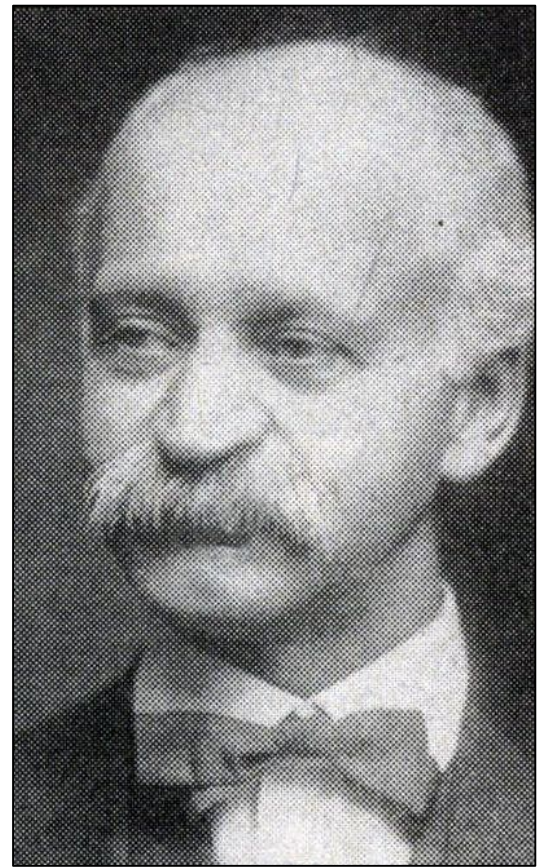
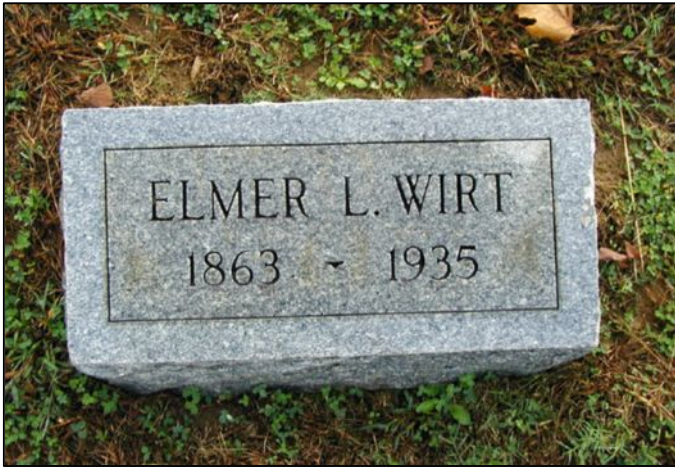
Mother of **Elmer Lincoln Wirt** (1863-1935).



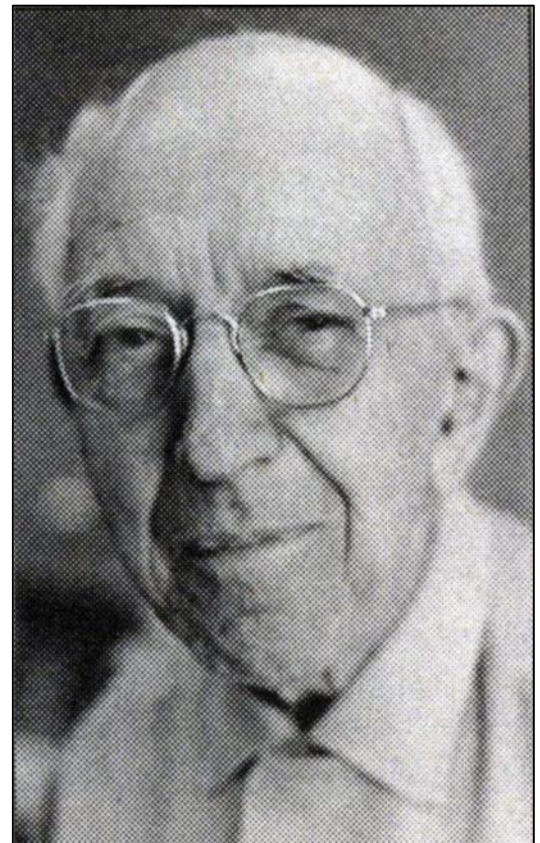
Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by First American Bank, pg. 112.

Sarah Lois Wirt, daughter of Elmer Lincoln Wirt and Catherine Beatrice Diamond Wirt – she married Ernest Leftwich.

Picture courtesy of: Mrs. Dero Brown.



Elmer L. Wirt



Ralph H. Wirt

Walter A. Wirt Obi.

md Jessie Lou (Duke) Wirt. Walter A. Wirt, s/o Alvin Wirt & Catherine "Kate" Howard.

FORMER CITIZEN DIES IN NORTHERN HOME

Cookeville, relatives received news late Sunday afternoon of the sudden and unexpected death of Walter A. Wirt, 67, which occurred Sunday morning at International Falls, MN. For many years he had been employed by the International Paper Co., and was on duty when death came. He was a brother of the late E. L. Wirt of this city.

Mr. Wirt was well known by many of the older residents of Cookeville, he having resided here about twenty-five years, coming with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. A. Wirt, in 1889, and removing with his family to International Falls, MN, in 1914, where he had since made his home.

During the time he was a citizen of Cookeville, Mr. Wirt was employed by some of the local printing offices, and was associated with his father in the jewelry business for several years, also engaged in other business enterprises here. In 1898 he enlisted in the First Tennessee Volunteer Regiment, and served overseas in the Spanish-American War, and the Philippine insurrection. He was a member of the Cookeville Band for several years, and was active in several secret orders.

In December, 1902, Mr. Wirt married Miss Jessie Lou Duke, of this city, who survives him. Other survivors include five daughters, Mrs. Helen Nyberg, Mrs. Mary Pegg, Mrs. Ludora _____, Mrs. Jessie Lee Stark, and Miss Florence With, all of MN, and a son, John Wirt, of Washington, D. C., several grandchildren, and many other relatives.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 19 June 1941

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