

L. B. GARRISON (#700)

Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pg. 260 – On March 10, 1920 in a two room house in Dry Hollow of Putnam County, TN, L. B. Garrison was born to Solon and Nellie Helms Garrison. The house was still standing in 1985 when we visited it. We parked at a spot just off the Buffalo Valley Road where the electric lines ended and hiked about a mile further up the hollow to the house.



L.B. Garrison

L. B. was given the “initials only” name after his uncle Lawrence and aunt Brizena. He was the eldest of three children.

The house was heated with a wood burning stove. One cold night when L. B. was an infant, Solon went to put another log on the fire. In his sleep deprived condition, he picked up the baby instead of a log. Screams from Nellie jolted the young father wide awake, averting disaster!!

In November 1925, L. B. played in the snow all day while his father and uncles cut firewood. That evening he crawled up in his father’s arms screaming, delirious with fever. The family summoned Dr. Denton who after his examination, said the child would not live through the night. His grandmother Helms asked the doctor if she could use onion poultices on him. Dr. Denton approved, believing it would not matter because the child would be dead of pneumonia by the next morning anyway. An onion poultice consists of cooked onions wrapped in flour sacks and placed on the chest until they cool. The doctor gave L. B. quinine, the only medicine he had for pneumonia in 1925. Grandmother started her treatment with onion poultices and for 9 days the doctor’s prognosis was the same until the tenth day, when he decided that L. B. would live.

From: Memories of L. B. Garrison: “I started school at Deny Seminary, a one room school with one teacher and about 40 students. When I was in the third or fourth grade, I changed to the Buffalo Valley School, a three teacher school. Because of the pneumonia I suffered a few years earlier, the doctor did not want me to go to school when the weather was extremely cold, so it took a long time to finish elementary school.

I started high school at Baxter Seminary and it was difficult to walk the mile and a half to the bus stop. A friend and I went to Dr. Upperman who generously arranged a sponsor for us to live in the dormitory and attend school. Once when working on campus construction, the man in charge tossed me the keys to the truck with the offhand question, “You can drive, can’t you?” Cockily, I replied ‘Sure’. After all, I had seen people drive, even though I had never been behind the wheel of any vehicle in my life. But I drove that truck and brought back the building materials I had been sent to get. Thus began my career as a driver!! In my last year at Baxter Seminar, I drove the school bus and lived at home.

In November 1941, I left school to volunteer induction into the Army. The military doctors rejected me for service because they thought I had tuberculosis and would be dead within 18 months. Dr. Denton thought the military doctors had miss-read the scars on my lungs from the childhood pneumonia as T. B. but it was still a worry for me for some time.

I returned to school and after graduation, married Sarah Elizabeth Ford, who I met at Baxter Seminary. In 1944, we moved to Oak Ridge Tennessee where I worked as a guard for the Tennessee Eastman Corporation. While we were there, we never knew that the facility was working on components for the atomic bomb that would end WWII.

After we left Oak Ridge, I was a driver for Shortways and Trailways Bus Lines. I eventually went to work for Greyhound Bus lines where I stayed until retirement.

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L.B. Garrison Obt.

SMITHVILLE -- Funeral services for L.B. Garrison, 79, of Smithville, will be held at 3 p.m. on Tues., March 23, from the chapel of Love-Cantrell Funeral Home. Burial will be in DeKalb Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive friends from 5-9 p.m. today, Mon., March 22, and until time of services on Tues., March 23, at the funeral home.

Mr. Garrison died on Sun., March 21, 1999, at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville.

Mr. Garrison was a retired Greyhound Bus driver and a farmer. He was a member of the Baptist faith. Mr. Garrison was also a Mason.

His family includes his wife, Johnie Wallace Garrison of Smithville; two daughters, Doris Gilbert of Smithville and Linda Willoughby of Kentucky; a brother, Clifford Garrison of Indiana; four grandchildren, Michael Gilbert of Smithville, Richard Gilbert of Franklin, Eric Willoughby and Christy Parsley, both of Kentucky; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Solon and Nettie Helms Garrison; and his first wife, Sarah Elizabeth Ford Garrison.

Bro. Bill Robertson will officiate at the services.

Published March 22, 1999 12:37 PM CST ; Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

*See Chapter 15 at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>