

THE STACEY AND BETTY BIRDWELL MOTT FAMILY

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Stacey James Mott was born in Cookeville in 1925 to John Robert and Mary Louisa Sullivan Mott. Betty Ann Birdwell was born in Gainesboro in 1932 to Hollie Freelan and Ravene McGlasson Birdwell.

Stacey attended the old City School, Central High School, graduated from Tennessee Tech and followed with a year of graduate studies at the University of Kentucky. Betty attended the old Tech Campus School, Central high School and Fall's Business College in Nashville.



Stacey and Betty Birdwell Mott

In his senior year at CHS, Stacey gave up the paper route he had carried from age 11 (morning Tennessean and afternoon Banner) to take a job at the new radio station, WHUB (originally located above Maddux hardware on the Square). He started that job at age sixteen but within a year volunteered to serve with the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Betty's working career had its roots during her high school days in her father's wholesale produce business and at Sloan's Grocery on the Courthouse square. After business college, Betty worked at the Nashville Bridge Company until she returned to Cookeville to minister to her cancer-stricken mother until her death in 1954. Soon thereafter WHUB Radio employed Betty where she met her future husband whom she married in April 1956.

Stacey received his honorable discharge from the Navy in November 1945 and returned to WHUB, working part-time while enrolled at Tennessee Tech. He took leave to attend graduate school before returning as a full-time employee. In 1955 he was named Station manager by station owner Luke Medley, the pioneer broadcaster who made Cookeville one of the first small markets in the U.S. to have its own commercial broadcast station.

WHUB became one of the most respected stations in Tennessee. Luke Medley was an early recipient of the Distinguished Service Award presented annually by the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. Stacey Mott also received that honor near the end of his WHUB broadcast career, which spanned 55 years, ending in 1996.

Betty interrupted her working career to devote herself to rearing the children who blessed the couple's marriage: Stacey James "Jim", David Hollie, Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" and Melinda Caroline. When her primary role as homemaker and mother of four allowed, Betty worked at a variety of jobs, including the Cookeville, stints with First national/First Tennessee Bank, and as Director of the Algood Senior Center (1990-1994).

Stacey and Betty attended Collegese Church of Christ. He is a past president and life member of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, past president to the Cookeville Jaycees and Cookeville Noonday Rotary Club, was active in parent-teacher organizations, served several years on the Putnam County Election Commission and as treasurer of the Putnam County Veterans Organization. Betty is a past president of the Pilot Club and the former local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

The Mott's oldest son Jim lives with wife Theresa and their three children in Rome, NY; David in Washington, D.C.; Betsy, husband Lee Galliher, and their two children in Bristol, TN; and Melinda, husband Stewart Leftwich, and their three children in Cookeville.

Ancestry:

Betty Mott's ancestors came to our area before Putnam county was carved out of surrounding counties. A great-great-great-great-grandfather, **Revolutionary War soldier William Pennington Quarles** came in 1805 from Virginia to White Plains, one of Putnam County's most cherished landmarks. Julia Ann Quarles, a great granddaughter, married Confederate soldier Hugh Rhiah Thompson Terry of Jackson County. One of their daughters, Elizabeth Dee, married Green Lee (G. Lee) McGlasson, a longtime Jackson County Trustee. G. Lee's sisters Avo, Cleo and Minnie McGlasson, moved to Putnam County where Avo and Cleo were well known for the many years they taught school.

Ravene, daughter of G. Lee and Dee McGlasson, taught at Cubb Creek School and gave private piano lessons before marrying Hollie Freelan Birdwell. Hollie and Ravene moved to Cookeville, where Hollie established a wholesale fruit and vegetable business. Ravene focused her attention on rearing their children: Betty Ann (married Stacey Mott), Billy Hugh (deceased), Jack Dudley (married Betty Price) and Cynthia (Cindy), married Jimmy Ranieri.

Hollie's great-grandfather John Harvey Birdwell, Sr., was born in 1812 and married Martha Chaffin. A grandson, John Dudley Birdwell wed Anna Magnolia Jackson, daughter of Thomas Jackson, one of the area's early surveyors.

Moving to Cookeville, John operated a gristmill on south Cedar Street before turning it over to Hollie around 1945. Hollie converted the business to feed sales and continued to sell produce. He relocated, first to Scott Street, then to West Spring, where he offered fruit and vegetables at retail while maintaining routes to serve wholesale customers.

Ravene died of cancer at age 47 in 1954. Hollie remarried in 1956, this time to Laura McCanless Fox. He died in 1963 at age 52.

J. R. and Mary Louisa Sullivan Mott also had forebears with a long history in what was to become Putnam County. One of J. R.'s great-great grandfathers, **Revolutionary War**

soldier John Allison Jr., arrived around 1800. J. R.'s father was William Travis Mott who married Dicie Ann Bussell, and his grandfather was Amos Travis Mott, whose wife was Sarah Melinda Allison.

J. R. married Nora Alice Duncan, who died in 1914. They had one son, Herman (married Anna Lee Hoffmeister). J. R. later married Mary Louisa Caroline Sullivan and they had four children: Willa C., John R., Jr., Oscar and Stacey. All attended the Broad Street Church of Christ.

J. R. and Herman had a produce business on the Courthouse Square under the name of Mott & Son, which became a major shipper of live poultry to the New York market.

Mary Louise Sullivan was the daughter of John Edward and Martha Cynthia Dyer Sullivan. Louisa's great-great-great grandfather Ute Perkins came to White County around 1805. A son, Levi, was a Church of Christ preacher.

Louisa's grandfather, John Martin Dyer fought for the South in the Civil War and died in a union prison camp. John Martin was the son of immigrants from Ireland. John and Polly Youngblood Dyer.

J. R. died in 1928 at age 56. Louisa died in 1962 at age 79.

Story submitted by Stacey and Betty Mott, pg. 172.

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