

## WILLIAM A. HENSLEY SR.

### William A. Hensley Sr.

b. 28 October 1883, TN – d. 1 November 1951, married **Nevada E. Mayberry**, b. 9 October 1881, TN – d. 20 October 1947, both buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. William A. Hensley Sr., s/o **David Johnson Hensley** (1864-1928) & **Frances Chaffin** (1863-1904).

**David Johnson Hensley**, b. 12 June 1864, TN – d. 5 August 1928, s/o **Azariah Hensley & Peggy Smith. Frances “Fannie” (Chaffin) Hensley**, b. 1 December 1863 – d. 16 June 1904, d/o **Fox C. Chaffin & Jane Fox**. David & his wife Frances (Chaffin) Hensley are both buried in the Fox C. Chaffin Cemetery, Jackson Co., TN. Also buried in the Fox C. Chaffin Cemetery is the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of David Johnson Hensley, **Carrie (Elkins) Hensley**, b. 25 March 1882, TN – d. 20 April 1912.

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

Pg. 267– **WILLIAM A. HENSLEY SR.** (#726): William A. Hensley, Sr., served Cookeville as Mayor for three terms from 1924-26 and served two terms in the Tennessee Senate representing the Tenth District from 1927-29. While he was Mayor, the city water plant was built and in 1926 the city’s first fire engine was acquired. In the state Senate, he served as Chairman of the Education Committee and in 1929 he introduced a bill to launch a bond drive for the expansion of Tennessee tech. He was a Vice-President of the First National Bank, a charter member of the Cookeville Lions Club, a Shriner, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason who also achieved the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree. He was appointed a Colonel on the staffs of Governors Peay and Horton, and served as US Marshall for Middle Tennessee.

Mr. Hensley was born in 1883 in Jackson County, TN the **son of David Hensley and Frances Chaffin. He married Nevada Mayberry in 1905.** They built a house on Cherry Street in 1910 which had one of the first indoor bathrooms in Cookeville, and a second house next door. They also built a log cabin about 2 ½ miles from town on Hwy. 70 which was known as Royal Oaks. They had three children: May, Charles, and William A. Hensley, Jr. May married Leslie J. Walker and they had three children – Catherine, who was born the week that Mr. Hensley was elected Mayor for the first term, Willeen, and Jimmy. Charles died in infancy. William “Bill” Hensley, a Cookeville physician, married Johnie Laminack and they had two children Janet and Deborah. Mr. Hensley was involved in a number of business ventures including ownership of Hill Hensley Wholesale House, and with Leslie Walker had the dealership for Shell Oil Co. later Pure Oil. Mr. and Mrs. Hensley were members of Broad Street Church of Christ. Mr. Hensley died in 1951 and is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, TN.

*Story submitted by: Catherine Compton, 139 Grandcove Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; Compiled by Susan Compton, 1013 Tottenham Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.*

(1900 census 9<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Jackson Co., TN: Dwl: 68 – **Davis Hensley** is head of household, 36 yrs. old, b. June 1863, TN md 18 yrs. to **Parsettie**, 37 yrs. old, b. November 1862, TN, 9 children born, 9 children living. Children: **W. A.**, 16 yrs. old, b. October 1878?, should be 1883; Ben F., 14 yrs. old, b. July 1885; Benton M.M., 13 yrs. old, b. October 1886; John, 11 yrs. old, b. January 1889; Lee, 9 yrs. old, b. November 1890; David F., 7 yrs. old, b. October 1882; Eddie P., 5 yrs. old, b. January 1895; Daisy M., 3 yrs. old, b. May 1897 & Willis D. Hensley, ?/12 yrs. old, b. Dec. All born in TN).

(1910 census 9<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Jackson Co., TN: Dwl: 68 – **David J. Hensley** is head of household, 43 yrs. old, TN (father b. in SC, mother, TN) M2, md 3 yrs to **Carrie**, 28 yrs. old, TN, 2 children born, 2 children living. Children: Frank, 16 yrs. old; Eddie P., 14 yrs. old; Daisy May, 12 yrs. old; Willis D. 10 yrs. old; Joel C., 2 yrs. old & Herman J. Hensley, 1 9/12 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1910 census 1<sup>st</sup> Civi Dist., Cookeville Town, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 134 – **William A. Hensley** is head of household, 26 yrs. old, TN. Occupation: Teach. Salesmen Groceries, md 4 yrs. to **Nevada**, 28 yrs. old, TN, 1 child born, 1 child living. Child: Fannie Hensley, 3 yrs. old, TN).

(1920 census 9<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Jackson Co., TN: Dwl: 148 – **David J. Hensley** is head of household, 56 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: Merchant – General, md to **Lidda**, 47 yrs. old, TN. Children: Willis D., 20 yrs. old; Joel C., 12 yrs. old; Herman, 11 yrs. old & Julia F. Hensley, 9 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1920 census 1<sup>st</sup> Civil Dist., Sparta, South Main St., White Co., TN: Dwl: 400-71-79- **William A. Hensley** is head of household, 36 yrs. old, TN. Occupation: Manager Wholesale Grocery, md to **Nevada**, 38 yrs. old, TN. Children: Fannie, dau, 13 yrs. old, TN & Annie Hensley, 9 yrs. old, TN).

\*See more about the people and places in Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:

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