

## HUDDLESTON FARM EARNS PUTNAM'S 10TH CENTURY DESIGNATION

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**Hubert "Roe" Monroe Huddleston is pictured on his farm, the Isaac Huddleston Farm,** which was recently named the county's 10th century farm. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea



**COOKEVILLE --** A farm located eight miles southeast of the Cookeville square has been named Putnam County's 10th century farm. **The farm was founded in 1841 by Thomas Robinson of Grayson County, Va., who received a land grant of 100 acres signed by then-Tennessee governor James C. Jones.**

"I helped fill out the application to get it on the list," Hubert Huddleston said. "I knew it was going to be named."

Robinson and his wife, Susannah Prior, and their eight children raised horses, corn, wheat and cattle on their 100-acre farm. They built a house in 1848, along with a smokehouse, log cabin, barn, corncrib and granary.

**James S. Robinson, the eldest son, was the farm's second owner.** He, along with his wife Syrena Isom, expanded the farm to 300 acres and raised horses, hay, corn and wheat, along with their nine children.

According to family records, Robinson raised some of the finest horses in Middle Tennessee. Those horses were taken by Union troops during the Civil War and Robinson was taken prisoner to take care of the horses. He was released a few weeks after being captured.

In 1881, Robinson was given 890 acres of land in White County for compensation for the stolen horses during the war. An additional 57 acres was granted six years later. Robinson and his wife moved to the White County farm and **left the Putnam County farm in the care of one of their children: a daughter, Mary Jane Robinson, and her husband, Asbury R. Bullock.**

**When Syrena died in 1914, Mary Jane and Asbury acquired the farm and built a third home on the land on Cherry Creek Road where they lived for the rest of their lives.** After Mary Jane and Asbury's death, their daughter, Arrie, and her husband, Ezra Davis, acquired the land. They managed the farm through tenant farmers. Davis was a two-term mayor of Cookeville.

**Mary B. Davis, and her husband, Isaac Stanton Huddleston, are the fifth generation to own the farm.** They bought the land at an auction in 1949 when the Davis Estate was settled. They raised their four children, a variety of cultivated foods -- from vegetables to strawberries -- along with cows, chickens, pigs and more on 140 acres

Tobacco was their main source of income. Huddleston also served as a Justice of the Peace of the Mountain Herman Community and later as Putnam County's trustee for two terms.

**Huddleston died in 1980 and willed the land to his four children, Hubert "Roe" Monroe, Neil, Ned (deceased) and Mary Jane.** Today, 100 of the farm's 140 acres are the original land of Thomas and Susanna Robinson. Currently, Hubert and Mary Jane live on the farm while Hubert manages and operates it. Neil resides in Galveston, Texas.

Tobacco is no longer grown on the farm, but cattle, hay and some vegetable produce is still raised there. He has completed a long-term soil conservation program and has also participated in a pasture contest. "It's going to (continue to) be in my family as long as I live," Huddleston said.

The Century Farm Program recognizes the contributions of Tennessee residents who have continuously owned and kept in production family land for at least 100 years.

\*See Huddleston files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>