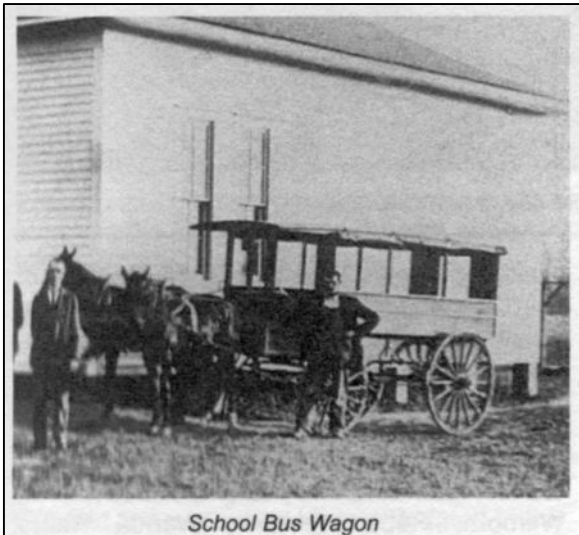


## SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION #84

**Source:** Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc. \*See also [1874 Putnam County School District](http://www.ajlambert.com) (<http://www.ajlambert.com> )

Pg. 25 – In the 1850's there were few school in Putnam County. The population of its citizens was sparse and separated, which didn't allow for many community schools. Most of the Upper Cumberland counties had little money for education, and Putnam County was one of these. During the 1860's there were still few schools before the Civil War, and most of these closed at the beginning of the war. They were one-room, crude, log buildings that were also used for church services. These public schools had home-made equipment and almost no supplies with which to work. After the war, schools reopened slowly. The 1869 records revealed the county had 40 public schools with 3 of these serving the black students. Then in 1874 the county had 50 schools with an average term of 2 ½ months. Most of the structures were one-room log buildings. The enrollment was 50% of the school age population then, but in 1890 it was 83%. By this time, there were 74 school buildings with one teacher for each. There were 30 frame buildings, 1 brick structure, and the rest still of log construction. Most schools still taught only grades 1 through 8. The few secondary schools were privately owned, and only the wealthier families could afford these for their children.

By 1920 Putnam County had 77 schools with 6 of these having 3 or more instructors. This made a total of 123 teachers in the county. The school year was extended to 115 days. The county continued to struggle to



provide an adequate public education during the 1920's and the 1930's. This was due to most citizens being unwilling to pay the necessary taxes to improve education. Then, the years of the Depression added to the hardships. The many parents that were interested in the children's education formed groups such as the PTA. Fathers as well as mothers helped. They worked to raise funds to equip classrooms and to provide textbooks. Many Pie Suppers, Cake Walks, and Candy Drawings were held locally to support each of the community schools. Many fathers, also, volunteered long evenings of labor to stretch the dollars raised. As more federal and state monies were allotted, more improvements were made. The local tax situation was not improved greatly until years later.

The photo pictured one of the 1915 school bus-wagons used to transport some student. School Superintendent James Monroe Hatfield stood near the head of the team, and the driver Jim Sutton stood in front of the wagon.

*Submitted by Carolyn A. Adcock, Heritage Book Committee Member.*

## SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, TN #85

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

Pgs. 25 & 26 – The following information regarding early Superintendents of Schools came from an article by Miss Mary Barbour published in *The Dispatch* in 1976. The first school superintendents were listed as “Superintendents of Public Instruction”. The superintendents listed here were elected by the County Court until 1936 when they were elected by the people to serve a four-year term. The list follows with the date of election: 1869-B.D. Hunter; 1873-B.M. Webb; 1876-H. S. Boyd; 1877-A. T. Anderson; 1879-L. B.

Mathey; 1883-A. Bryant; 1885-"T. L." Thompson Luther Denny; 1887-S. D. Upton; 1889-W. H. Carr; 1893-A. N. Ford; 1897-H. D. Whitson; 1901-A. J. Chisholm; 1903-Ernest H. Boyd; 1911-J. M. Hatfield; 1921-Beecher Gentry; 1927-Leonard Dunavin; 1933-Wesley P. Flatt; 1935-Tilman H. Phillips; 1936-Frank R. Adams; 1944-Oliver Bohannon; 1952-David H. Huddleston; 1959-Eddie H. Watson; 1968-Collie B. Jared; 1972-Walter Warren Shanks.

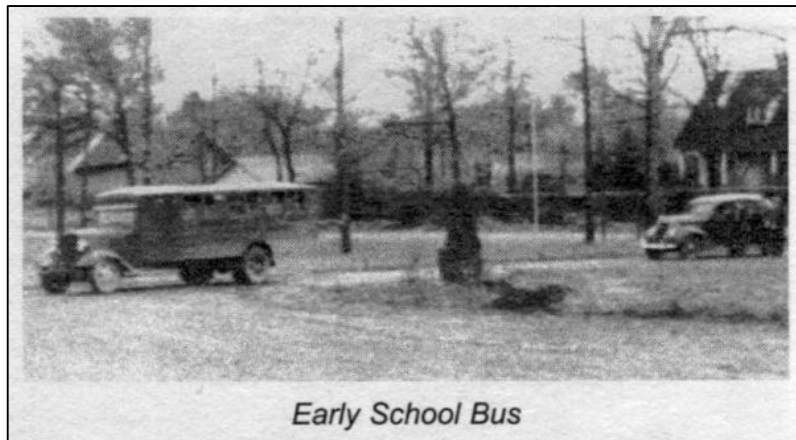
The listing for the remainder of the superintendents came from the minutes of the Putnam County Board of Education: 1984-Robert N. Hargis; 1992-Mark Gentry; 1996-Eulene Locke.

Beginning in August 2000, the county superintendents were appointed by the Board of Education. Dr. Michael Martin was appointed and served until September 2006.

September 2006-March 2007-Mike Goolsby, interim Superintendent March 2007-Present-Dr. Katherine Airhart.

Under the administration of Superintendent E. H. Boyd (1903-1911), all of the log school houses in the county were replaced with substantial frame buildings, according to Miss Barbour  
*Submitted by Carol Bradford.*

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



## HOME ECONOMICS IN THE PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOLS #87

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

Pg. 26 – Home Economics teaching in the Algood High School began with the school year of 1923-24, with Miss Ima Scott. In 1924, according to P.T.A. history, one of the projects of the Algood P.T.A. was to buy cooking equipment, sewing machines, cabinets for dishes and cooking utensils. Home Economics was first taught at Baxter Seminary in the school years of 1919-1920. At that time, the course was called Domestic Science. It consisted chiefly of reading a text book and cooking in the school kitchen. Miss Elva Hoag was the first teacher. Prior to the school year of 1927-28, the high school department of Dixie University and later Tennessee tech served the students of the Cookeville area. In 1927-28 the Cookeville City School added the first year of high school teaching, including the subject of Home Economics. Miss Ruth McGee was the Home Economics teacher. Home Economics was first taught at Darwin High School in the school year 1936-37. The first teacher was Miss Easter Williams. In the beginning, the department was a very small room with a wood stove, which was also a source of heat in cold weather. There were two sewing machines and a few odds and ends of cooking utensils. The teaching of Home Economics in the Monterey High School began with the school year of 1916-17, with Miss Ina Davis. She was hired as a teacher of other subjects but introduced Home Economics into the teaching program.

*Submitted by: Alma Jean Johnson.*