

Silas Dean Denny Obituary

s/o Jonathan Denny & Agnes Winfree
Putnam County Herald – Cookeville, TN
Thursday, January 3, 1935

**Prominent Carpenter, Cabinet Maker, Succumbs to Heart Attack. Was Buried Here
Odd Fellow Member - 34 Years**



Silas Dean Denny

Funeral services for Silas Dean Denny, 80 who died at his home on Oak Street, Sunday night after a short illness, were conducted at the home Tuesday afternoon by the Rev. Dow A. Ensor. Burial took place in the Cookeville City Cemetery, *Cookeville, TN*.

Mr. Denny's death was a shock to his hundreds of friends in Cookeville and Putnam county, where he was well known. He had been in town Sunday afternoon and had started to his home after the Tennessee Central passenger train No. 1 had pulled out. Mr. Denny had met passenger trains almost daily for many years, and had appeared to be in excellent health Sunday afternoon when talking with friends at the depot. He was stricken when near his home, became worse later in the night, and died toward midnight.

He was a native of Putnam county, being born near Buffalo Valley, December 1, 1854, the son of Jonathan and Agnes Winfree Denny. He was educated in the public schools of the county, and early in life became a carpenter by trade. He moved to Cookeville about 40 years ago, and by his woodwork became known as one of the best carpenters and cabinet makers in the state.

He was married in 1879 to Miss Molly Essex, who died seventeen years ago. To this union three children were born, Walter Denny, Mrs. Gertrude Dillard, of Cookeville, Ed C. Denny, of Fort Worth, Texas. Walter Denny died here several years ago.

Mr. Denny became a member of the Methodist church when a young man, and had been a steadfast member until his death. He had been a member of the Cookeville, Lodge, I.O.O.F., for 34 years, joining in 1900 shortly after his removal to Cookeville.

Active pallbearers were Judge Oscar King Holladay, Hubert Clark, Linnaeus Milan Bullington, Leslie Marvin Bullington, Virgil Timothy Denny, Dr. E.A. Conger, and Clifford Massa.

Honorary pallbearers were W. A. Holladay, Hiram Knight, U. T. Brown, Beeman Graves, Comer Cannon, Jim Haynes, Bill Hughes, Jim Viteto, Theodore Essex, Hugh Hargis, Walter Carlen, Dillard Hix, P.Y. Jared, D.W. Dow, Bonnell Appel, and Perry Wassom.

Mary Ann "Mollie" (Essex) Denny Obt.

b. 27 December 1864, TN – d. 30 April 1919, Nashville, TN , md 1879, TN to **Silas Dean Denny**, b. 1 December 1854, Putnam Co., TN – d. 30 December 1934, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **Jonathan Denny** (1822-1902) & **Agnes Thompson Winfree** (1828-1894).

*See Silas Dean Denny Obt.

Mrs. Mary A. Denny, wife of Silas D. Denny of this city, died at a hospital in Nashville Wednesday afternoon. She had been sick for some time and was carried to the city Wednesday morning for an operation. She was in her 65th year, and is survived by her husband, and three children; Mrs. S. L. Dillard, Shelbyville, TN, Edward Denny of Fort Worth, TX, and Walter Denny of this city. Funeral services will be held at her home Friday afternoon and interment will be in the city cemetery.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 1 May 1919

*See Chapter 5 – Jonathan Denny for complete family listing.
...Silas Dean Denny – *Odd Fellow Member, 34 yrs. - Heart Attack.*

b. 1 December 1854, nr. Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN
d. 30 December 1934, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN
md ca.1879, “Mollie” Mary Ann Essex –
b. 27 December 1854, TN – d. 30 April 1919
*Silas was a carpenter – Building booms which both preceded
and followed the coming of the railroad kept contractors busy.
James T. Carlen, Silas Dean Denny, L.B. Allison, and Joe F. Scott
were some of Cookeville’s leading builders. Putnam County,
Tennessee, 1850-1970 by Mary Jean DeLozier – pg. 129.*
Both Buried: + Cookeville City Cemetery, TN



Children of Silas Dean & “Mollie” Mary Ann (Essex) Denny
... Walter C. Denny – b. 26 August 1879 – d. 12 February 1929, TN
md Mary Francis (Curtis) – b. 25 May 1877 – d. 13 August 1942
Both Buried: +Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, TN
... Holland Dean Denny – b. 23 July 1905 – d. 11 September 1949
TN Pfc 3529 Ord Medium Maint. Co WWI
md Gladys Moody – b. 5 June 1909 – d. 28 October 1965
Both Buried: + Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, TN
... Gertrude Denny
b. 20 September 1884 - d. 13 May 1963, TN
Buried: + Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, TN
md Steven Levent Dillard –
... Mary Katherine Dillard - md Arnold Judd
... Edward C. Denny – *Lived in Forth Worth, TX.*

Silas & his daughter Gertrude (Dillard) Denny. Silas s/o Jonathan & Agnes (Thompson) Denny. Putnam County 1890 Buffalo Valley, TN: lists; S&T furniture and carpenters. Silas and his brother Thompson Luther were running this business.



Gertrude Denny

Agnes Winfree Denny wife of Jonathan Denny listed as Agnes Thompson in the book, Genealogical Records by Lela B. Winfree, pg. 99. It has been further updated that her name should have been shown as: Agnes Thompson Winfree.

Certificate of Death: Silas Dean Denny #28797 – State of Tennessee, Department of Health
State of Tennessee, County of Putnam, Cookeville
Residence: 301 Oak, Cookeville, Putnam Co, TN
Male: White: Widow:
Date of Birth: 1 December 1854 – Place of Birth: Rock Springs, TN
Date of Death: 30 December 1934: 80 yrs. old
Occupation: Cabinet Maker, Retired 3 yrs.
Father’s Name: Jonathan Denny: Birthplace: TN
Mother’s Name: Agnes Winfrey: Birthplace: Unobtainable: *Census 1860 states born in TN – 1880 census states born in TN & 1880 census states born in TN.*
Informant: Mrs. Gertrude Dilliard, Cookeville, TN
Undertaker: Pendergrass Funeral Home, Cookeville, TN
I Hereby Certify, death is said to have occurred on the
date stated above at 11:00 p.m. - Angina Pectoris
Place of Burial: Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, TN

Dillard – Denny Wedding:

A wedding of interest to many Cookeville people occurred in Nashville, June 28, 1916, when Miss Gertrude Denny and Mr. Lavert Dillard were made man and wife. The ceremony was pronounced by Rev. W. E. Doss at the Jared House at 8 o'clock in the morning in the presence of

about 25 friends, mostly from Cookeville. Mr. and Mrs. Dillard left immediately by auto for their home near Shelbyville, where Mr. Dillard owns a fine farm.

The bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Denny of Cookeville. The groom has been in business in Nashville for several years but returned to his farm this spring.

Putnam County Herald, Thursday, 29 June 1916.

SILAS DENNY STORY

Another One of Our Widely Experienced and Well Seasoned Contractors and Builders
Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 2 April 1914

In issuing this Special Illustrated Edition of the Herald, we are doing considerable boosting – urging the development of our raw resources, the farmers to product more agricultural products and all kinds of live stock, and everybody to erect more buildings and better buildings, and in this connections it is quite appropriate to speak of our contractors and builders. One of the busiest and more progressive of these gentlemen is Mr. S. D. Denny, who is a native of Smith county, but has been a citizen of Cookeville for the past twenty-one years. Mr. Denny has been in the contracting and building line for thirty-five long years, principally operating in Tennessee and Kentucky, and is too well know to require any introduction at our hands. He has erected a number of high grade buildings of both residence and business character in Cookeville, and at this writing is applying the finishing work to the new and magnificent Arcade Building.

*See Chapter 5 and the Denny files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>



Home of Albert Stanton and Mary Frances Jared
built in 1892 by Silas Denny.

Picture courtesy of Evelyn Stanton Harding.

Pictured in the book: Stray Leaves of Putnam
County, by Mary Hopson, pg. 206.