

## Mary Frances (Curtis) Denny

### Mary Frances (Curtis) Denny Obt.

b. 25 May 1877, Putnam Co., TN - d. 13 August 1942, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1901, TN to **Walter C. Denny**, b. 26 August 1879, TN - d. 12 February 1929, TN, s/o **Silas Dean Denny & Mary Ann "Mollie" Essex**. Mary Frances (Curtis) Denny, d/o **James Holland Curtis & Nancy R. McDaniel**.

### **Funeral Services Held Friday for Mrs. Mary Denny, Former Putnam Trustee**

Funeral services were held at the Pendergrass Funeral Home Friday afternoon for Mrs. Mary Frances Curtis Denny 65 with the Rev. D. A. Ensor & T. W. Mayhew in charge. Burial in the City Cemetery.

### **Mrs. Denny served as Trustee of Putnam County for 2 terms, 1922 to 1926.**

Survivors are 1 son, Holland Denny of Cookeville; 1 granddaughter, and 1 brother, Burch Curtis of Ft. Worth, TX.

Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 20 August 1942.

*\*Her husband was Walter C. Denny, s/o Silas Dean Denny & "Mollie" Mary Ann Essex.*

Name: **Mary Frances Curtis Denny**

Birth: 25 May 1877

Birth Place: Putnam Co., TN

Death: 13 August 1942

Death Place: Putnam Co., TN

Cause of Death: Cerebral Hemorrhage – essential hypertension

Time of Death: 8:05 p.m.

Attended by : T. Shipley, M. D.

Residence: 205 Oak St., Cookeville, TN

Father: **James Holland Curtis**

Mother: **Mary McDaniel** – *Nancy R. McDaniel*

Informant: Holland Denny

Undertaker: Pendergrass Funeral Home, Cookeville, TN

Cemetery: Cookeville City Cemetery

Certificate: DC#17257

County: Putnam

Social Security No: 410-18-9923

Usual Occupation: Stenographer & Trustee, retired 2 yrs.

**NAME: Walter C. Denny**

DATE OF BIRTH: *26 August 1879*

DATE OF DEATH: 12 February 1929

PLACE OF BIRTH: TN

PLACE OF DEATH: Putnam Co., TN

AGE: 49 yrs.

OCCUPATION: Merchant

CAUSE OF DEATH: Influenza, died at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDED BY: W. A. Howard M.D. "I attended January 15 1929 to February 12, 1929.

SPOUSE: *Mary Frances Curtis*

FATHER: **Silas Denny**

PLACE OF BIRTH: TN

MOTHER: **Mattie Essex**

PLACE OF BIRTH: TN  
 CERTIFICATE: 5972  
 COUNTY: Putnam  
 INFORMANT: **Mrs. Walter Denny**  
 UNDERTAKER: Jere Whitson & Company, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN  
 CEMETERY: Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN  
 SEX: White, Male, Married  
 REGISTRAR: Thelma Moore

**Nancy R. (McDaniel) Curtis**

b. 3 October 1851, TN – d. 8 February 1902, md **Capt. James Holland Curtis**, b. January 1842, TN (Capt. I Co., 25<sup>th</sup> Inf), s/o **Holland Curtis & Jane Smith**, d/o **Peter Smith** of Smith's Chapel. Nancy R. (McDaniel) Curtis, d/o **Frances McDaniel**.

(1860 census 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., post office, Bear Creek, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 415 – **Holland Curtis** is head of household, 53 yrs. old, NC, md to **Jane**, 50 yrs. old, TN. Children: James, 18 yrs. old; Malissa, 21 yrs. old & Elizabeth Curtis, 13 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1860 census 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., post office, Bear Creek, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 409 – **Frances McDaniel** is head of household, 27 yrs. old, TN. Children: **Nancy**, 8 yrs. old; Mary, 6 yrs. old & Arthur McDaniel, 4 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1870 census 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 54 Family: 54 – **Hollin Curtis** is head of household, 64 yrs. old, NC, (value of real estate, 550) (value of personal estate, 150), Occupation: Farmer. Children: **J. H. Curtis**, 29 yrs. old, TN & Elizabeth Curtis, 22 yrs. old, TN. Also living in the household: Jane Pynam (sp), 28 yrs. old, TN, keeping house & William Pynam (sp), 3 yrs. old, TN).

(1870 census 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 93 – **M. Marchbanks** is head of household, 66 yrs. old, TN. Living in the household: W. S. Marchbanks, 21 yrs. old, TN; **Frances McDaniel**, 37 yrs. old, TN; **Nancy McDaniel**, 18 yrs. old, TN, Arthur McDaniel, 14 yrs. old, TN & David Burton, 20 yrs. old, black male, TN).

**Census Place: 1880 District 1, Putnam Co., TN**

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 78C

Dwl: 30

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
<b>J. H. CURTIS</b>	Self	M	M	W	38	TN
Occ:	Circuit Ct. Clk.		Fa: NC	Mo: TN		
<b>N.R. CURTIS</b>	Wife	F	M	W	27	TN
Occ:	Keeping House		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
A.B. CURTIS	Son	M	S	W	4	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
M.F. CURTIS	Dau	F	S	W	1M	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
M.E. CURTIS	Sister	F		W	30	TN
Occ:	House Keeping		Fa: NC	Mo: TN		
Amanda HUNTER	Other	F		B	25	TN
Occ:	Servant		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		

(1900 census 1<sup>st</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 428 – **James H. Curtis** is head of household, 58 yrs. old b. January 1842, TN (father born in NC, mother born in TN), Occupation: Merchant, md 26 yrs. to **Nancy R.**, 38 yrs. old b. October 1851, TN, 3 children born, 3 children living. Children Albert B., 24 yrs. old b. September 1875, Occupation: School Teacher; **Mary F.**, 20 yrs. old b. May 1880 & Ella J. Curtis, 10 yrs. old, b. October 1889. All born in TN).

**Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN**

**Nancy R. McDaniel Curtis**, b. 3 October 1851, TN - 8 February 1902, w/o **Capt. James Holland Curtis**.

\***Walter C. Denny**, b. 26 August 1879, TN – d. 12 February 1929, TN  
(s/o Silas Dean Denny & Mary Ann "Mollie" Essex).

\***Mary F. Curtis Denny**, b. 25 May 1877, TN – d. 13 August 1942, TN, w/o **Walter C. Denny**.

\***Silas Dean Denny**, 1 December 1854, TN – d. 30 December 1934, Putnam Co., TN,  
(s/o Jonathan Denny & Agnes "Aggie" Winfree).

\* **Mary Ann "Mollie" Essex**, b. 27 December 1864, TN – d. 30 April 1919, TN

\* **Holland Dean Denny** – b. 23 July 1905 – d. 11 Sept. 1949, TN  
(s/o Walter C. Denny & Mary Frances Curtis)

\* **Gladys Moody Denny** – b. 5 June 1909, TN – d. 28 October 1965  
(she md 2<sup>nd</sup> **Rupert Denny**, s/o Leslie Luther Denny & Nallie Naoma Trousdale, their son was Bill Lee Denny).

(1860 census 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., post office, Bear Creek, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 415 – **Holland Curtis** is head of household, 53 yrs. old, NC, md to **Jane**, 50 yrs. old, TN. Children: **James**, 18 yrs. old; Malissa, 21 yrs. old & Elizabeth Curtis, 13 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1870 census 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 54 Family: 54 – **Hollin Curtis** is head of household, 64 yrs. old, NC, (value of real estate, 550) (value of personal estate, 150), Occupation: Farmer. Children: **J. H. Curtis**, 29 yrs. old, TN & Elizabeth Curtis, 22 yrs. old, TN. Also living in the household: Jane Pynam (sp), 28 yrs. old, TN, keeping house & William Pynam (sp), 3 yrs. old, TN).  
(*James Holland Curtis md Mary/Nancy R. McDaniel*)

#### Census Place: 1880, District 1, Putnam Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 78C

Dwl: 30

Dwl: 30 Family: 30

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
<b>J.H. CURTIS</b>	Self	M	M	W	38	TN
Occ:	<b>Circuit Ct. Clk.</b>		Fa: NC	Mo: TN		
<b>N.R. CURTIS</b>	Wife	F	M	W	27	TN
Occ:	Keeping House		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
A.B. CURTIS	Son	M	S	W	4	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
<b>M.F. CURTIS</b>	Dau	F	S	W	1M	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		

(*Mary Frances Curtis md Walter C. Denny, s/o Silas Denny & "Mollie" Mary Ann Essex*)

M.E. CURTIS	Sister	F		W	30	TN
Occ:	House Keeping		Fa: NC	Mo: TN		
Amanda HUNTER	Other	F			B	25 TN
Occ:	Servant		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		

#### US Census 1900 - Civil Dist. 1 - Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 428 Family: 438

**Curtis, James H.** Head 58 M W January 1842 (md 26 yrs.) Merchant TN NC TN

**Curtis, Nancy R.** Wife 38 F W October 1861 (md 26 yrs.) (3 children born, 3 children living) TN TN TN

Curtis, Albert B. Son 24 M W September 1875 Single School Teacher TN TN TN

**Curtis Mary F.** Dau 20 F W May 1880 Single TN TN TN

(*Mary Frances Curtis md Walter C. Denny, s/o Silas Denny & "Mollie" Mary Ann Essex*)

Curtis, Ella J. Dau 10 F W October 1889 Single At School TN TN TN

**US Census 1900 – Civil Dist. 1 – Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 436 – Family: 446

**Denny, Silus D.** Head W M December 1854 – 45 Married (# of yrs. married, 21) Carpenter TN TN TN  
(*Silas Dean Denny*)

**Denny, Mary Ann** Wife W F December 1854 – 45 Married (# of yrs. married, 21) 3-3 (3 children born, 3 living) TN TN TN

(*“Mollie” Mary Ann Essex*)

**Denny, Walter** Son W M August 1879 – 20 Single Clerk TN TN TN

(*Walter C. Denny md Mary Frances Curtis, d/o James H. Curtis & Nancy R. McDaniel*)

Denny, Edgar C. Son W M July 1882 – 17 Single Groceryman TN TN TN

Denny, Agnes G. Dau. W F September 1884 – 15 Single TN TN TN

**1910 census Tarrant Co., 8-WD Fort Worth, N. Magnolia St., TX**

Dwl: 58 Family: 71

**Denny, Walter C.** Head MW 30 M1 (# of years married, 8) Merchant – Produce TN TN TN

**Denny, Mary F.** Wife F W 28 M1 (# of years married, 8) (1 child born, 1 child living) TN TN TN

Denny, Holland Son M W 4 Single TX TN TN

**1910 census Tarrant Co., 8-WD Fort Worth, N., TX**

Dwl: 35 Family: 38

**Curtis, Albert B.** Head M W 35 M1 (# of years married, 8) Lawyer Asst. Prosecuting Attorney TN TN TN

**Curtis, illegible** Wife F W 36 M1 (# of years married, 8), 2 children born, 2 children living TN TN TN

Curtis, Albert Son M W 7 Single OK TN TN

Curtis, Sarah Dau F W 3 Single TX TN TN

**Curtis, Ella Sister** F W 20 Single Teacher Public Schools TN TN TN

**US Census 1920, Civil Dist. 1, Putnam Co., TN**

Line: 58 Dwl: 130 Family: 153 – Hickory Street – 1920 Dist. 1

**Denny, Walter B.** (C.) Head Rent M W 40 Married Occupation None TN TN TN

(*Walter C. Denny, s/o Silas Dean Denny & “Mollie” Mary Ann Essex*)

**Denny, Mary F.** Wife F W 39 Married City Clerk City Hall TN TN TN

(*Mary Frances Curtis, d/o James H. Curtis & Nancy R. McDaniel*)

**Denny, Holland D.** Son M W 14 Single TN TN TN (*Holland Dean Denny md Gladys Moody*)

*Gladys Moody Denny later md Rupert Denny – s/o Leslie Luther Denny & Nallie Naoma Trousdale, their son was Bill Lee Denny.*

**US Census 1930, Civil Dist. Cookeville Twp. East part, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN**

House: 718 – Dwl: 199 – Family: 208

**Mary F. Denny** is head of household, 48 yrs. old, widow, 20 yrs. old 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, bookkeeper law office, TN TN TN,

(*Mary F. (Curtis) Denny md Walter C. Denny, s/o Silas Dean Denny & “Mollie” Mary Ann Essex*)

**US Census 1930, Civil Dist. 26, Putnam Co., TN**

Line: 95 Dwl: 139 Family: 158 - Whitney Street

**Denny, Holland** Head 24 M W Rent Married (\$20) Radio Not on a Farm Mechanic for Ford Motors  
TN TN TN (*Holland Dean Denny*)

**Denny, Gladys** Wife 20 F W Married TN TN TN (*Gladys Moody, d/o Pete W. & Daisy Moody*)

**Notes For Mary C. (Curtis) Denny**

b. 25 May 1877, Putnam Co., TN - d. 13 August 1942, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1901, TN to **Walter C. Denny**, b. 26 August 1879, TN - d. 12 February 1929, TN, s/o **Silas Dean Denny & Mary Ann “Mollie” Essex**. **Mary Frances (Curtis) Denny**, d/o **James Holland Curtis & Nancy R. McDaniel**. Walter C. & Mary Frances Denny are both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

Mary F. Curtis was born the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1877 in Putnam Co., TN and she died on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1942 in Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN. She was the daughter of James Holland Curtis & Nancy R. McDaniel (1851-1902). Nancy R. (McDaniel) Curtis is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1901 in Putnam Co., TN she married Walter C. Denny, born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1879, in Putnam Co., TN and died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1929, TN. He was the son of Silas Dean Denny (1854-1934) & Mary Ann "Mollie" Essex (1864-1919) a prominent family of Putnam Co., TN.

In the year 1910 Walter C. & Mary F. (Curtis) Denny went to Tarrant Co., Fort Worth, TX to live. Walter was listed as a produce merchant. By 1920 they had moved back to Cookeville and lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> Civil Dist. on Hickory St. in Cookeville. Walter was not employed at the time, he suffered from ataxia, an hereditary movement disorder and wasting disease, and was disabled much of his adult life. Mary Frances had a job at City Hall as a clerk. In May of 1921 Mary Frances (Curtis) Denny was announced as candidate for the Democratic nomination for Putnam County trustee. Mrs. Denny won the nomination and the election and served two terms.

Walter Denny died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1929 in Cookeville, TN and is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery. By 1930 Mary Frances (Curtis) Denny is listed in the census as being a widow that worked as a bookkeeper in a law office.

Walter and Mary F. (Curtis) Denny had one son named Holland Dean Denny who was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 1905 in TX and died on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 1949, Putnam Co., TN. Holland Dean Denny married Gladys Moody ca. 1932. She was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1909, TN and died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1965, daughter of William Pete Moody & Daisy Richardson. Holland and Gladys' daughter Betty Lou, was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1933, she married Harlan Flatt on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 1951. Betty and Harlan resided in Franklin, TN. She died 31 March 1999 and Harlan died 17 October 2006. Holland and Gladys divorced, both remarried, he married Pansy unknown and Gladys (Moody) Denny married Rupert Lee Denny (1903-1979), son of Leslie Luther Denny & Nallie Naoma Trousdale. Holland Dean & Gladys (Moody) Denny are both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

**Source:** Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850 – 1970

By Mary Jean DeLozier

(Chapter VII: The "Progressive Period," Progress, and Two Wars: Political Development: 1890-1920)

Pg. 167: Through many community leaders now urged women to exercise the franchise, there was considerable apprehension over women holding political offices. The *Herald* carried letters, reprints from other newspapers, and editorials reflecting this fear. **Mary F. Denny** was the first woman to run for elective office in Putnam County. In May of 1921 she announced as candidate for the Democratic nomination for Putnam County trustee. Mrs. Denny had held clerical and secretarial positions in the postal service, Cookeville town government, and at TPI; but in her campaign she found it necessary to explain that she needed the public office because she was the sole support of her invalid husband and son and to deny a rumor that her husband received a pension. She asked, "Is there any reason why I should be defeated just because I am a woman? I am asking for this office in order that I can better care for a man who cannot care for himself." Mrs. Denny won the nomination and the election and served two terms as trustee<sup>26</sup>. Pg. 167. <sup>26</sup>Printed in the *Herald* – 25 August 1921, pg. 1.

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

#393 Jonathan Denney/Denny Family by Jean Hudson of St. Louis MO, pgs. 126 & 17.

Silas Dean m. Mary Ann "Mollie" Essex ca. 1878. They were parents of three children; Walter b.26 August 1879, married Mary Curtis. Edward b. July 1882 married Elizabeth unknown, died 18 October 1943 in Ft. Worth Texas, and is buried there. Agnes Gertrude b. 20 September 1884 m. Steve Levent Dillard ca. 1915. Their only child Mary Katherine Dillard b. ca. 1917, married Arnold Judd, 28 June 1935, and were married 71 years when Arnold died 7 March 2007.

Walter suffered from ataxia, an hereditary movement disorder and wasting disease, and was disabled much of his adult life. Mary had previous employment in the postal service and Cookeville town government. When she became sole support for her husband and son she ran for Putnam County Trustee. She was quoted in the Herald Newspaper, 25 August 1921; "Is there any reason I should be defeated because I am a woman? I am asking for this office in order that I can better care for a man who cannot care for himself." She was elected and served two terms. Walter was under fifty when he died 12 February 1929.

The only child of Walter and Mary was Holland Dean, b. 23 July 1905, d. 11 September 1947. Holland Dean m. Gladys Moody ca. 1932, their daughter Betty Lou b.9 September 1933, married Harlan Flatt 17 March 1951. Betty and Harlan resided in Franklin, TN. She died 31 March 1999 and Harlan died 17 October 2006. Holland and Gladys divorced, both remarried, he m. Pansy unknown and Gladys married Rupert Denny.

\*See Chapter 5, Zachariah Denny Family Sheet, Jonathan Denny Family Sheet, Jonathan Denney/Denny Family by Jean Hudson, Virtual Cemetery, and Denny files at:  
<http://www.ajlambert.com>