

**Oscar King Holladay – Story
Mayor of Cookeville, TN from
1913-1917**



Oscar K. Holladay b. 6 November 1876, TN - d. 10 May 1941, married Marguerite Denny. He was a lawyer & a leading member of the Cookeville bar. He served two terms in the State Senate and was elected judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Tennessee. He was author of the "Holladay Bill" book which was the beginning of prohibition in Tennessee. His son, John, succeeded him as Circuit Judge. He was a Scottish Rite Mason. s/o William Alexander & Martha Jane (Jared) Holladay

Oscar K. Holladay, Born at Pekin, Putnam County, November 6, 1876. **Married Miss Margaret Denny**, September 17, 1902. Completed his education at Cumberland University. Mr. Holladay is recognized as an able lawyer and a leading member of the Cookeville Bar. He served two terms in the State Senate and was a author of the Holladay Bill book, which was the beginning of prohibition in Tennessee. He is one of the leading Democrats of the state. A Scottish Rite Mason, and a steward in the M.E. Church, South. *A History of Putnam County by Walter S. McClain - Pg. 136*

Putnam County Courthouse in Tennessee

Many times when the wind was blowing from the north one could hear Robert Ray, the custodian at the courthouse hollering from an upstairs window for the lawyers around the square to come to court. These names, as recalled by the author, were Oscar King Holladay, Finis Harris, J.O. Paris, Edgar Bockman, A.B. McKay "Mac", Elmer Andrew Langford, Ernest Houston Boyd, Grover Boyd, Worth Bryand, Keith Crawford, George Haile, Jim Thompson, Levi Cooper, Wynn Clouse, Will Sallows, Beauregard G. Adcock, Virgil Allison, and Jimmy Clark. Ernest Houston Boyd served as District Attorney and John Adrian Mitchell was Assistant District Attorney. *The Cookeville of Long Ago by Hurshal Riddle – pg. 20 – 34. Siftings from Putnam County, Tennessee by Mary Hopson*



Putnam County Courthouse. On the extreme right side of the photograph can be seen the Smith and Davis Hardware Store. *Siftings of Putnam Co. by Mary Hopson*



The Federal Building

This picture was probably made about 1915 shortly after building was completed. Standing before the paneled doors from left to right: Oscar King Holladay, Wynne Clouse, Judge John Jordan Gore, man swearing in Gore, unknown, unknown, unknown, Alvin Gilliam Maxwell, and Ernest Houston Boyd. To the far left sitting, Jeremiah Whjitson, the back row behind Whitson on the right is Walter Whitson, next to him is James Monroe Hatfield. *Courtesy Christine Spivey Jones.*

A motion to levy a tax of ten cents on the one hundred dollars worth of property for high school purposes was carried by a vote of 24 to 15. – *County Court meeting in Cookeville, TN*. The Court elected the following High School Board: J.M. Jackson, E.M. DuBois, Dr. J. T. Moore, H.D. Whitson, J.F. Gentry and O.K. Holladay, with Supt. Hatfield ex officio. *A History of Putnam County by Walter S. McClain - Pg. 90*

These Putnam Countians have represented us in the State Senate: Holland Denton, R.S. Alcorn, A.W. Boyd, O.K. Holladay and George N. Welch. *A History of Putnam County by Walter S. McClain - Pg. 64*

*O.K. Holladay (Oscar King Holladay) married Marguerite “Maggie” Denny. **Oscar was the son of William Alexander & Martha Jane (Jared) Holladay.** Marguerite “Maggie” Denny was the daughter of Thompson “Tobe” Luther & Frances Jane “Fannie” (Ford) Denny. Thompson was a teacher, then a lawyer and finally a judge. Thompson was the son of Jonothan & Agnes (Thompson) Denny. Jonathan was the son of Zachariah Catherine (Stallings) Denny.*

Thomas Holladay came from Bedford County, Virginia, in the year 1830, and settled north of the Walton Road, on Indian Creek, of Cumberland River. Most of this fine body of land is still owned by his descendants. His children were: John, Joseph, Betsy Hubbard, Caroline Pate, Stephen and William. His second marriage was to Agnes, sister of Joseph Jared, and their children were T.C. Holladay (*Thomas Calvin “Callie” Holladay*), Rev. J.A. Holladay (*James Allison Holladay*), and Fannie (*Frances “Fannie” Holladay*), wife of Moses Jared. **O.K. Holladay, (Oscar K. Holladay)** of Cookeville, is a great-grandson of this pioneer through John and his son, William. Thomas Holladay probably introduced tobacco culture in this county. He and his sons loaded many barges with tobacco and floated them down the Cumberland and Mississippi to New Orleans, walking back the greater part of the way. *Pg. 15 & 16 – A History of Putnam County, Tennessee – by Walter S. McClain.*

Holladay, Oscar King (1876 – 1941)

SENATE, 55th – 57th General Assemblies, 1907 – 1913; representing Putnam, Clay, Fentress, Jackson, Morgan, Overton, and Pickett counties in the 55th, same counties without Morgan in the 56th and 57th; Democrat. Born November 6, 1876, in Pekin, Putnam County; son of William Alexander and Martha Jane (Jared) Holladay. Attended Pekin elementary school; Washington Academy, Cookeville, Putnam County; Dickson Normal College, Dickson County; was graduated from Cumberland University, Lebanon, Wilson County. Married September 17, 1902, in Cookeville to **Margaret Black Denny, daughter of T.L. and Frances Denny; children: John Denny, Mabel Jane, and Nan Ford.** Taught school three years after college, then established legal practice in Cookeville. Served as legal representative for Tennessee Central Railroad; president, Citizens Bank, Cookeville; vice-president, People’s Bank, Cookeville; reorganized in 1921 the newspaper, *Putnam County Herald*, in Cookeville and was instrumental in its publication. County attorney, 1903; city recorder and city attorney; assistant district attorney-general, 1907-1908; mayor of Cookeville, 1913 – 1917; chairman of both city and county schools boards; judge of 5th judicial circuit of Tennessee, 1930 – 1941. Chairman, board of trustees and board of stewards, Cookeville Methodist Church. Member of Free and Accepted Masons; Order of the Mystic Shrine; president, Lions Club. Died May 10, 1941, in Cookeville; buried in that city. Father of Senator John Denny Holladay, 71st and 72nd Assemblies, 1939 – 1943.

Sources: Information supplied by son, Judge John Denny Holladay, Cookeville; *Putnam County Herald*, August 12, 1903; May 15, 1941; Moore, *Tennessee, The Volunteer State, II*, 453-454; Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, 1957; *Who’s Who in Tennessee*, 95 Gillem, *Prominent Tennesseans*, 56.

(Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: July 8 1903) The position of Putnam County Attorney was created this week as a result of a mass meeting called by the Herald for “getting matters in shape to successfully fight against the illegal and open sale of whiskey and its train of following evils.”

In that meeting, the crowd elected **O.K. Holladay** chairman and Wirt secretary of the prohibitionist group.

Meanwhile, the Putnam County Quarterly Court was in session as they met and the prohibitionists voted to send five men there to petition the court to elect a county attorney so that "a person clothed in the power and majesty of law could be ready at all times to prosecute offenses." **Holladay was named County Attorney by the court.**

(Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: April 12, 1917) **Mayor O.K. Holladay** is urging residents to raise food.

"For years food has been so plentiful in our section that little attention has been paid to its preservation. Conditions have now changed suddenly, and food riots are common in more populous sections of the United States, similar to those that have been going on for some time in Europe.

"Our people do not seem to realize the fact that the last two years have been lean ones. The Allies have been importing many food stuffs but we are near the end of the line in this country."

He blames the abandonment of agriculture for other professions.

A mass meeting has also been called at the courthouse to discuss the federal and state recommendations on Americans raising food.

(Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Dec. 4, 1941) A year ago today Tennessee began its first drawing for the draft. Four hundred and seventy two young men from Tennessee were selected for military service in a move to boost the nation's military preparedness now that much of the world is at war.

In Putnam county, 93 were selected in the first round a year ago and went to Ft. Oglethorpe for training. Over the last 12 months, Tennessee sent 27,228 young men to the military for service.

Meanwhile, local volunteers for the Red Cross were recognized in the newspaper this week. Among those listed as having donated 100 hours of time to Red Cross defense work were **Mrs. O.K. Holladay**, Mrs. I.C. Marchbanks, Mrs. E.H. Hooper, and Mrs. W. Judd.

Those who have done 200 hours of volunteer work to date include Mrs. O.D. Massa, Miss Tommy McKinley, Mrs. Pennock Moore, Mrs. Henry Carlen, and Miss Dolly Warren.

The work included sewing items of clothing for troops and preparing cloth bandages for the wounded that America hopes it will not have. But three days from now at a place called Pearl Harbor, the nation will need the bandages prepared here and elsewhere across the nation by women volunteers.

(Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sept. 28, 1903)
Putnam Countians became world travelers: "**T.C. Holladay** left Wednesday for the Indian Territories to see his son and accompany his wife on the return home."

Notes:

Thomas Holladay – came from Bedford County, VA, in 1830, settling north of the Walton Road, on Indian Creek. His children were: **John Holladay**, Joseph Holladay, Besty Holladay Hubbard, Caroline Holladay Pate, Stephen Holladay, and William Holladay. His 2nd wife was **Agnes Jared Holladay**, sister of Joseph Jared, and their children were: **T.C. Holladay**, **Rev. James Allison**

Holladay, and Fannie Holladay Jared, wife of Moses Jared. **Oscar King Holladay** is a great-grandson. This pioneer probably introduced tobacco culture in this county.
Pictorial History of Putnam County, Tennessee – pg. 20

Source: CELEBRATING A HUNDRED YEARS

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN
11 February 2003

As the years passed, the obituaries in the Herald-Citizen became less and less elaborate. By 1920, most of the icing was gone and obituaries, for the most part, resembled those of today.

Rhetorical flourishes — though more subdued — were occasionally added, however, for very prominent citizens, such as judges, up through the 1940s. But even those obituaries were not nearly as fancy as those of the early 1900s; they remained rather factual, except for passages like, **“Seldom has this community experienced a greater shock than that caused by the sudden death of Judge [O. K.] Holladay, who for the past 43 years had been one of Cookeville’s most active citizens.”**

Today, the obituaries of well-known community figures are sometimes featured on the front page, but even then, the writeups stick generally to the times, dates, family members, achievements and affiliations of the deceased, perhaps with laudatory quotations from acquaintances, but not the editorial comment of years ago.

Yes, gone are the days of journalistic sentimentality, at least where death is concerned.

Source: CELEBRATING A HUNDRED YEARS

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN
11 February 2003

Creating Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (now Tennessee Technological University) in Cookeville was a difficult struggle, a political fight of the first order. Other colleges in the state opposed TPI and even high schools opposed it because operating money for the new school was to come from the secondary school fund.

Many were the letters written by academic persons at all levels objecting to the establishment of ‘Tech.’ Wirt and other politicians from the area, however, worked together with Gov. Thomas C. Rye to create the school. Rye’s secretary, John Denton, was a half brother to Jere Whitson of Cookeville.

Other important Cookeville-area players in the drama were Whitson, O. K. Holladay, James N. Cox and Robert L. Farley. Legislative leaders who supported the school were William Cooper, speaker of the house, and Albert Hill, speaker of the senate.

Luke Lea and the Tennessean newspaper also endorsed the bill creating TPI. Even after the legislature passed the bill, a strong effort was made to revoke it. The repeal effort failed by only one vote.

Source: CELEBRATING A HUNDRED YEARS

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN
11 February 2003

Socialist-populist philosophy

Throughout his life and journalism career, the issue that most concerned Wirt was the plight of the small farmer. From his beginning when he published The Farmers’ Alliance in Minnesota in 1891 to his support of the Agrarian Democrats in Tennessee, he was faithful in championing the

agrarian cause. His support of the small farmer was the reason he had adopted the socialist/populist philosophy, and his agrarian crusade was one major reason he had pursued a career in journalism and an interest in politics.

In Oct. 1920, little more than two months after he dropped out of the governor's race, Wirt sold the Herald. His reasons for selling can only be surmised, but his age — 57 — and his growing print shop business may have influenced him to sell. His disappointments in politics may have been another reason.



O. K. Holladay, Walter Carlen and James N. Cox, three prominent businessmen, bought the Herald for an undisclosed amount of money. In 1922 and 1923, Wirt acted as temporary editor of the Herald, and his son, Ralph Wirt, operated the mechanical department of the paper for the new owners.

Elmer Wirt died in 1935. Forerunner of the Herald Citizen Newspaper. Pictured left.

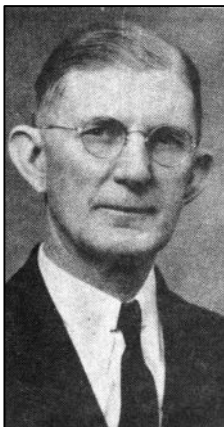
Wirt initiated the century-long run of the Herald, now the Herald-Citizen. Charging 25 cents for a year's subscription in the beginning, he would accept payment in currency or in produce. Each issue had eight pages, and it was published weekly.

Linnie Milan Bullington – Story

Linnie Milan Bullington, born December 16, 1884, in Gentry, Tennessee. Graduate of Cumberland University Law School. Married April 12, 1915, to **Miss Cora Allison**. Has been engaged in the practice of law in Cookeville since 1909. Commissioner of Finance of Cookeville 1920-24. Member of Methodist Episcopal Church, South. During his term as Commissioner, Cookeville's one hundred thousand dollar Grammar school was erected also the light plant. He gave four years of his time to Cookeville in an efficient and pains-taking way. Mr. Bullington is a strong advocate of good roads and better schools.

L.M. Bullington, 80, Attorney Dies; Title Authority
July 10, 1965

Linneus Milan Bullington, 1885-1965, was a descendant of the pioneer Bullington family. He was the oldest member of the Cookeville Bar Association at the time of his death. He was married to Cora Allison, a school teacher in Putnam County schools. They had a son, John Allison Bullington. In 1908, Linneus called "Linnie" by most of the people who knew him, graduated from Cumberland University Law School. He became associated with O.K. Holladay in the law practice with offices over the First National Bank building on the square. He was a noted surveyor in his time and served as city clerk and councilman. A leader of religious affairs, he was a member of the Methodist Church and a Sunday School teach for 40 years. Picture courtesy Hurshal Riddle.



Linnie Milan Bullington, 80, practicing attorney here for 50 years and expert on land titles, was discovered dead at his home Saturday morning when Mrs. Bullington went to his room to awaken him. He had worked in his office Thursday.

He had suffered from a heart ailment for some time.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at First Methodist Church, and burial was in Cookeville City Cemetery.

Mr. Bullington, a native of Putnam County, was born December 16, 1864. graduated from Cumberland University Law School in 1906 and had maintained an office in the First National Bank building, originally the Gibson building, since that time. Earlier he had taught school for a time in the area above Monterey.

For some 40 years he had taught Sunday school at First Methodist.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Cora Allison Bullington, 1305 Crescent Drive, and a son, John Allison Bullington, 280 Linnacus Dr., TN; two brother, L.L. Baxter, and Marvin Bullington , Tampa, FL; four half-brothers, George, of Mr. Bullington was well-known as a land surveyor and is said to have possessed the best available file of maps and data on Putnam and neighboring counties bearing upon land titles.

He started practice in association with the late Judge O.K. Holladay and served as Cookeville City judge during the mayoralty of Judge O.K. Holladay. He later shared a law suite with Judge John D. Holladay.

He was a member of the Putnam County Bar association.

Lebanon; Paul, Old Hickory; Lilburn, Sarasota, FL; and Charles Rhea Bullington, Nashville; two half-sisters, Mrs. Rudolph Rosebrough, Deland, FL and Miss Rose Bullington.

Martha Jane (Jared) Holladay

b. 10 July 1856, TN – d. 8 December 1911, **w/o William Alexander Holladay**, b. 20 December 1850, TN – d. 22 November 1939, both buried in the Holladay Family Graveyard, Putnam Co., TN located in Ensor Valley, south of Low Gap, west of Gentry. Martha Jane (Jared) Holladay is the **d/o Moses Alexander Jared Jr. & Maranda Jane Price.**

HOLLADAY, MRS. W. A.: Mrs. W. A. Holladay died at her home near Gentry on Friday, Dec. 8, 1911, after a long and painful illness. She was laid to rest in the family burial lot. **Mrs. Holladay was a daughter of the late Moses Jared**, and a lady of wide acquaintance. She had been a member of the Methodist church for many years. **She leaves her husband and two children Senator O. K. Holladay of this city, and Miss Bessie Holladay.**

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: [Date 12/14/1911, Vol. IX, No. 50, Page 1]

(1900 census 12th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 3 – **William A. Holladay** is head of household, 49 yrs. old, b. December 1850, TN (father born in Va, mother, TN) md 24 yrs. to **Martha J.**, 43 yrs. old, b. July 1856, TN, 2 children born, 2 children living. Children: Bessie Holladay, 11 yrs. old, TN. Also living in the household: John Holladay, father, 78 yrs. old, b. June 1821, VA (parents both born in VA), widow. Moses S. Jared, brother-in-law, 31 yrs. old, b. November 1868, TN, Occupation: School teacher, widow. Allice Adams Jared, sister-in-law, 47 yrs. old, b. December 1852, widow. Lois V. Jared, niece, 14 ys. old, b. December 1885, KS. Sam Rittenberry, servant, 17 yrs. old, b. 1883, TN).

(1910 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 264 – **Oscar K. Holiday**, is head of household, 33 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: Lawyer General Practice, md 7 yrs. to **Margaret**, 28 yrs. old, TN, 3 children born, 3 children living. Children: Mable J., 6 yrs. old; **John D.**, 4 yrs. old & Nan Holladay, 2 yrs. old. All born in TN. Also living in the household: Clara L. Denny, sister-in-law, 20 yrs. old, Occupation: Telephone Office Clerk. Ethel Jared, cousin, 19 yrs. old, TN. Willie Hogan, servant, Black, 25 yrs. old, widow, TN. Mary L. Gilliland, boarder, 28 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: Law Office Stenographer).

(1920 census 12th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 72 – **William A. Holladay** is head of household, 69 yrs. old, TN, widow. Living in the household: Bessie L. Stanton, dau., 31 yrs. old,

TN, md to Felix D. Stanton, son-in-law, 32 yrs. old, TN; Margaret L. Stanton, granddaughter, 4 6/12 yrs. old, TN).

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