

## **CROSSROADS: BURTON COMMUNITY ON 'ALMOST FORGOTTEN' LIST**

by [Megan Trotter](#)

Celebrating the new Burton community sign are, from left, Lee Allison, Glenn Jones, Alvin Clouse, George



Cannon, holding Sarah Manus, Treva Cannon, Lori Hunter, Betty Stark, Gerald Myatt, Bob Allison, Agnes Knutson, Nettie Ford and Glenn Bradford. Ty Kernea | Herald-Citizen

**PUTNAM COUNTY** Putnam County's search to learn more about the area's almost forgotten communities has turned to the Burton community.

According to records, Burton was located 13 miles southwest of Cookeville, in what is now called Little Dodge.

In 1890, the Burton Post Office took over the Window Cliff Post Office and stayed open until 1905, when it moved to Silver Point. Jacob Barr served as postmaster before rural routes came into being. He constructed a building across the road from his home for the purpose of distributing the mail. He is buried in the Barr Cemetery along Cookeville Boat Dock Road.

By 1890, the community boasted a wagon master, three potters Christopher Dyer, Eli Lafever and Jacob Barr a Baptist preacher, two blacksmiths H.W. Cole and J.W. Dobbs two Justices of the Peace and a doctor, M.J. Durham. There were also two general stores called the Burton and Dyer Store and the Z.J. Cameron Store.

When Thomas W. and Georgia Ann Clouse and their family moved to the Burton area, they took possession of about an acre of land there.

“(Thomas) was a potter and a farmer. (Georgia) was a midwife. She delivered many a child in that eighth district area,” said Carolyn Nash, who married one of the couple's grandchildren.

Thomas had a hobby when his time was not consumed by farming. He was a potter.

“(The farm) had a good clay bank on it, but he didn't have a kiln of his own, he used the Lafever one,” Nash said.

Unfortunately, Thomas died in 1915, leaving his wife to raise their children: Bertha, Sam, Annabelle, Mary Lou, Rosa, Charlie, Beulah, Dillard and Agnes. They also had a tenth child, Bessie, who died at birth. In the 1940s Georgia purchased the Worth Bryant property at the south edge of Cookeville, which is now State Street. She died there Feb. 20, 1965

The Clouse's grandchildren, Bob Allison and Agnes Knutson, are still living, as well as their great-grandchild, Lee Alison. Along with Ford, Gerald Myatt is also a grandchild-in-law. Descendants of Clouse still own several examples of his pottery work.

The Putnam County Archives wants to thank Kevin Archambault, Bob Allison, Alvin Clouse and Robert Gentry for helping to purchase the signs marking the Burton community.

Those with any further information about the Burton community can contact the archives at 931-520-0042. The next featured community will be White Plains. Current and former residents of this almost forgotten community are invited to meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, at Algood School for a photo. Those with any information about the history of White Plains can also contact the archives at the number above.

\*Read more about the History of Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>