

BAXTER COMMUNITY, TN (#22)

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

Pg. 7 – In the 1850's Governor William Trousdale and the state of Tennessee granted Quinton Lowe land for his service in the War of 1812. For years the land where the town of Baxter sits was known as Lowe



Lands. It was called Aiyee, pronounced A-I. The name was later changed to Mine Lick. After the establishment of the railroad in 1890, Joe Gentry operated a general store on land he bought. Sometime later Bob Oscar Gentry opened a general store. Joe Jones bought a few acres and established a sawmill and distillery. Mr. Brusher operated an axe handle

factory, which was later purchased by James A. Isbell. John E. Oliver built a large frame hotel. The first school in Baxter was constructed in 1895.

(Picture: Downtown Baxter, 1950, submitted by Carol Bradford).

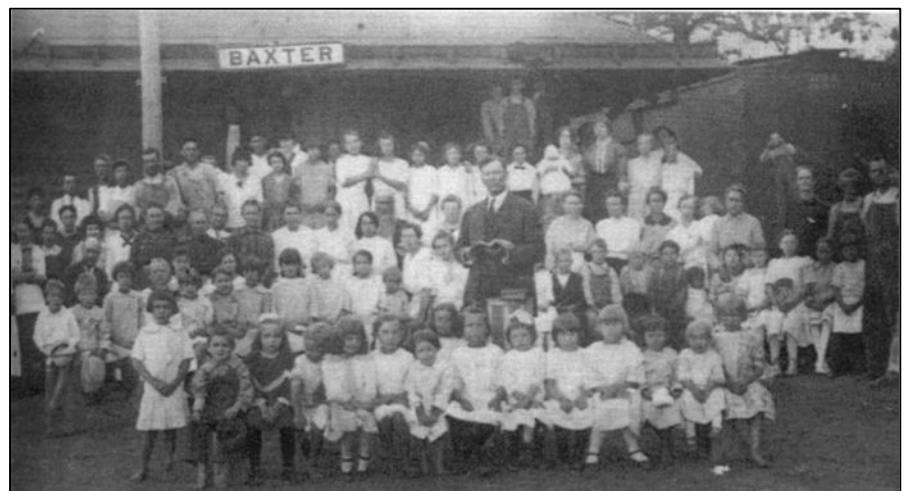
In 1902 the town changed its name to Baxter in honor of Jere Baxter, an engineer with the Tennessee Central Railroad. Baxter was incorporated in 1915 with John Oliver as the first mayor.

The first church in Baxter was the Presbyterian Church, then the Methodist and the Church of Christ in 1905. Several doctors served Baxter, including Dr. Millis and Dr. Wheeler, and a traveling dentist, Dr. Lime.

According to Mr. Quimby Dyer, in 1924, Baxter had one bank, an electric plant, two wholesale and retail crosstie and pole companies, one handle factory, one saw and planing mill, one garage, a Standard Oil Station, cotton gin, two restaurants, and one barber shop.

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Methodist Episcopal group with Rev. Emmett Starnes –
Baxter Depot ca. 1920,
submitted by Jerry Winfree.