

Baxter, Tennessee 1924
By Quimby Dyer, Cookeville, TN
(Putnam Co. Library, Cookeville, TN)
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Baxter Tennessee

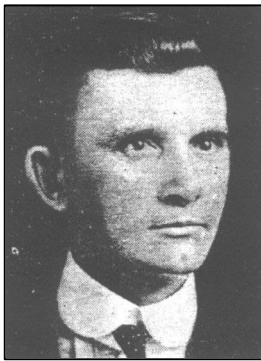
Location:

Baxter has a population of nine hundred people and is the principal town in the western section of Putnam County, located on the Tennessee Central Railroad eighty-one-miles east of Nashville and one hundred and twenty-nine miles west of Knoxville. The town is well situated, as there are six public roads leading in every direction; also a good pike leading to Nashville and all intermediate points. It is the trade center for parts of Jackson, DeKalb, Smith and the western end of Putnam County. The business men are progressive, wide-awake and honest in their dealings, which is of inestimable value in the building of any town.

Climate:

Baxter has a climate not excelled anywhere in the South. Its water is the best and purest freestone and chalybeate that runs from "Mother Earth." The cool breeze from Caney Fork river and the valley below make the Spring and Summer delightful. The nights are so cool in mid-summer that covering is necessary. In fact all the seasons of the year are as good as you will find in the world.

Municipality:



Hon. Van D. Nunally, Mayor

Baxter was incorporated in 1915. Hon. J.E. Oliver was the first mayor and under his administration most of the ordinances governing the town were formulated. Hon. V.D. Nunally, the present mayor, is serving his second term. He is progressive and doing much toward the building and improvement of the town. At present he is having a beautiful park made in the business part of the town which will add much to the comfort of the citizens. The mayor is ably assisted in his work by V.B. York, recorder, W.R. Bradford, Lawrence Grace, D.B. Boyd and Jas. L. Sadler, Aldermen.

Baxter was formerly known as Mine Lick, but the name was changed in 1902 in honor of Jere Baxter, the builder of the Tennessee Central.

Business Enterprises and Factories:

Baxter is a great shipping point. Last year there was shipped to various parts of the United States and Europe 125 cars of pulp wood, 100 cars of acid wood, 150 cars of poles, 200 cars of crossties, 50 cars of lumber and spokes, 35 cars of handles, 30 cars of eggs, 40 cars of poultry, and 25 cars of hogs and cattle. Baxter has one bank, electric light plant, two wholesale produce houses, one wholesale grocery store, one hotel, and a number of boarding houses; one telephone exchange, one long distance service with copper circuit, one Western Union Telegraph office, with money order service to all parts of the United States and Canada; one express and freight office, six general stores, two hardware stores, two grocery stores, one drug store, one millinery store, one flour exchange, two wholesale and retail crosstie and pole companies, one large handle factory that exports goods to all parts of Europe; one large saw and planing mill, one garage, Standard Oil station, cotton gin, two restaurants, one barber shop, and several other enterprises. Baxter has a live Business Mens Club and this club is at all times willing and anxious to have good people locate within their midst.

Land Adjacent to Baxter:

The land adjacent to Baxter is well adapted to the raising of corn, cotton and tobacco. Vegetables of all kinds grow well and a ready market is to be had for everything grown. There are several nurseries near Baxter, the Baxter Nursery being the largest and doing a business of \$30,000 annually. All of the nurseries do a business of \$75,000 per annum. The dairy business is just beginning to be developed and will in a short time be the greatest source of income that the farmer has. For the raising of chickens the country surrounding Baxter is unsurpassed.

Social Life of Baxter:

The citizens of Baxter are a high type of pure Anglo-Saxon, law abiding and moral. The Masons, Odd Fellows and other secret orders are fully represented, with large memberships. Church clubs, societies, get-together meetings and other forms of social relationship are to be found. In all social gatherings you will find perfect harmony and good feeling.

Churches:

Baxter is a town of deep religious environments. There are three fine churches: The Methodist, Church of Christ, and Presbyterian. All have regular services and are growing in membership. The Sunday schools are well attended and interesting in every particular. Perfect harmony and good fellowship exist among the churches.

Grammer School:

Baxter is considered one of the best educational towns of its size in the state. The grammar school is in session nine months in the year and free to all children living in the corporate limits. The school has a sufficient number of efficient teachers to give individual attention to the pupils. The school has an enrollment of over three hundred. A large and beautiful building with modern class rooms and practically fire proof has recently been completed.



Rev. Harry L.
Upperman
President

Baxter Seminary:

Fifteen years ago Rev. Joseph Daniel Harris, one of the leading citizens, advanced the idea of establishing a school of higher education, and with the co-operation of the citizens Baxter Seminary was founded in the year 1910 by the joint action of the Central Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Board of Education of said church. While it was located by the Conference, that action was endorsed by the Board of Education, and the school is under its direction and control. The majority of the Trustees are elected by the Central Tennessee Conference, but the majority of them must be laymen. The institution is chartered by the State of Tennessee.

It is recognized by the State as a Standard Four Year High School.

Baxter Seminary has served the people all through this part of Tennessee without regard to denomination or church membership, and has sought to give the best education possible to all. The Seminary now has the following department: Fully certified and equipped High School department, of A grade, giving standard diplomas and certificates; Religious education department, also giving standard work and certificates; Home Economic department, giving standard certificates; Smith-Hughes Agriculture department and Extension Work, with standard equipment; Teacher Training classes, giving standard teachers' certificates; Music department with large studio and well qualified instructor; Commercial department with the same rating; Physical Education, including athletic teams and equipment, with standard rating coach.

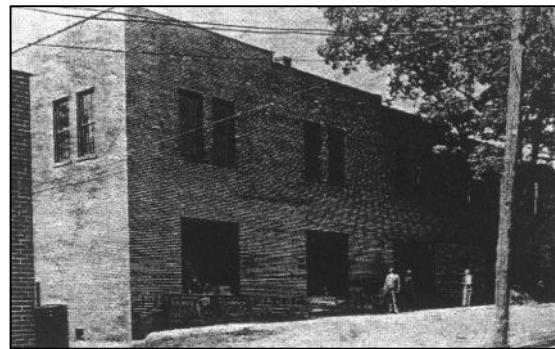
Baxter Seminary graduates its students so that they are able to enter college or go out and earn a living without feeling inferior to any one else and its graduates are now known though the country. The Seminary has a Boy's Dormitory, well equipped with a large number of students and teachers in it; also a Girls' Dormitory likewise equipped, while the Boarding department is under a capable Supervisor and Matron, and the boys and girls who live at the Seminary are able to work a large part of their way through school. No boy or girl is ever turned away because of poverty.

The campus of the Seminary is very beautiful, being twelve acres in extent, part of which is wooded, the rest being cleared. There are two large main buildings, one being the regular school rooms and Girls' Dormitory, the other being the apartments for various teachers and the Boy's Dormitory. There are also houses for cars, coal house, chicken houses, and much of the cleared land is under cultivation for raising food for winter use. The Board of Trustees and the President hope to be able to materially increase the room for the use of students and have other buildings needed badly on the campus. Many of the improvements of the Seminary have been and are being made through gifts of friends in all parts of the United States. Several organizations in various parts of the country have been formed to promote the welfare of Baxter Seminary.

President Harry Lee Upperman is one of the most untiring workers to be found in any school in the country. Through his efforts the Seminary is becoming widely known. Prof. Upperman is a graduate of Syracuse University, has traveled and studied abroad, making him well equipped for the building of a great school.



Baxter Grammar School



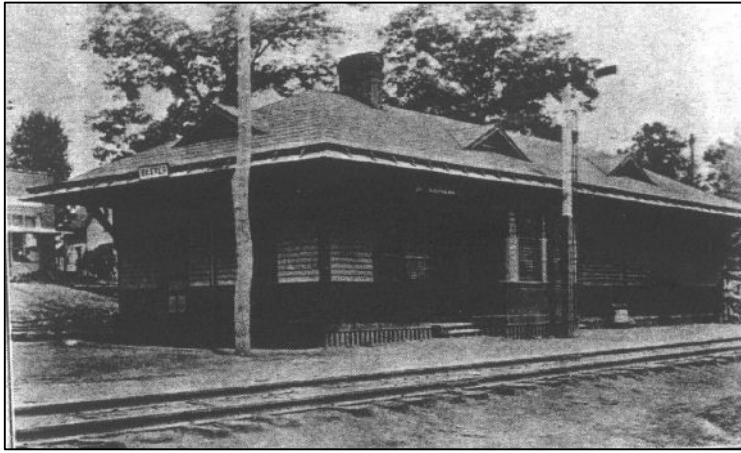
William Grover & W. T. Anderson Hardware
Company Building
Picture courtesy of Charles Nunally



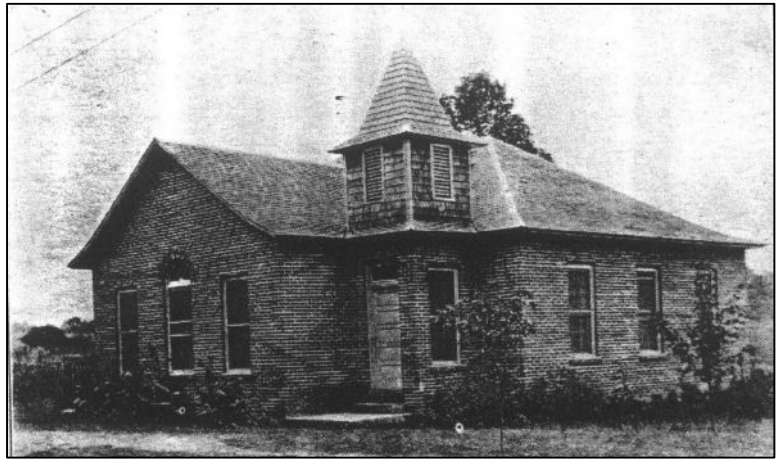
Baxter Bank & Trust Co. Building
Picture courtesy of Charles Nunally



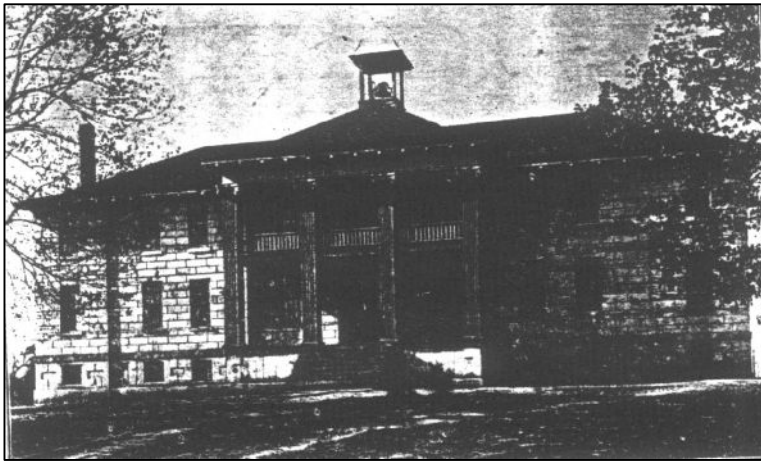
Prospective customers examine the John Deere farm equipment display in front of the William Grover & W. T. Anderson Hardware Store in Baxter in 1919. William Grover was at one time a cashier at the Baxter Bank & Trust shown in this picture right-hand corner. William Grover is the man standing in front of the door to the building next to the Baxter Bank & Trust.
*See Family Sheet for Lewis Monroe Anderson.



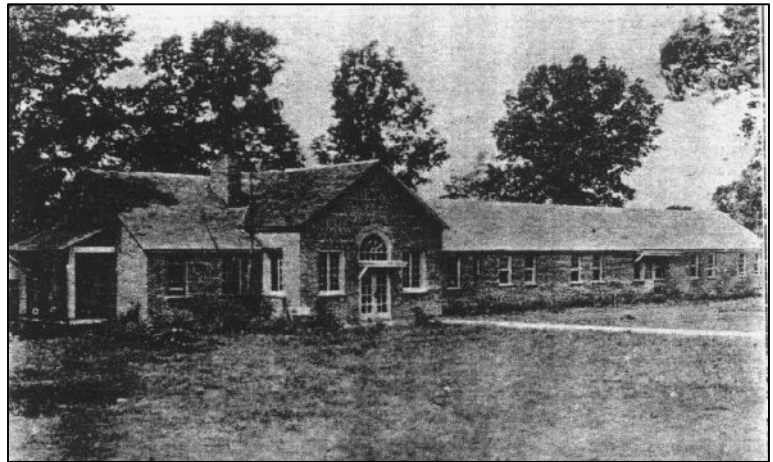
Railroad Station, Baxter
Picture courtesy of Charles Nunally



Church of Christ Baxter



Main Building, Baxter Seminary



Dormitory, Baxter Seminary



Baxter Hotel
Photo courtesy of Charles Nunally



Baxter Hotel was built in 1905 by Cham Vestal. It closed in 1928, but was used for several years as a home for various families.

Photo courtesy of Jim Heard

The Tennessee Central Railroad
pg. 97 & 98
Putnam Count Tennessee 1850 –1870 by Mary DeLozier

The Crawfords pioneered in railroading in the Upper Cumberland and continued to own the N&K until 1902. Jere Baxter, scion of a respected Tennessee family, trained in the law, dabbler in mining and rails, by connecting their small line with larger rail networks, completed the Crawfords' work

Known as the "silver-tongued promoter," Baxter chartered the Tennessee Central (TC) in 1893. Ambitiously, he planned to build a railroad from the north-flowing Tennessee River in West Tennessee to Harriman, an important stop on the Southern Railroad. Such a line would give the Upper Cumberland access to markets throughout the East. Primarily because the L&N and the NC&StL held a monopoly on track out of Nashville, Baxter faced nearly insurmountable obstacles. First, following a national recession in 1893, financial difficulties forced the TC into receivership. Baxter, however, formed a new company and quickly bought the enterprise back. But he was unable to acquire rails west of Nashville or the NC&StL road from Nashville to Lebanon. Eventually the TC built its own track on that latter stretch.

Baxter was more successful on the eastern end of the line. When he began building his road from Monterey to Harriman in 1893, he was determined and ruthless. He persuaded Cumberland and Roane counties to buy \$200,000 worth of TC bonds. He leased convicts from the Tennessee State Prison to lay the track, housed them at Monterey, and exploited them inhumanely. They worked for one dollar a day, plus food, which consisted primarily of dried beans and sowbelly. Dr. Robert Lee Ray, who had just begun his medical practice in the mountain town and had a contract with the railroad company to care for the construction workers, insisted that the diet be supplemented with greens. One morning in 1894 Dr. Ray heard the crew boss berating the men for tardiness. He examined the workers and diagnosed their "laziness" as smallpox. Over the objections of the engineer, he sent a train back to Nashville for vaccine. In spite of the medical efforts of the physician and the humanitarian work of his wife, who took food to the quarters of the sick, many died before the epidemic ran its course.

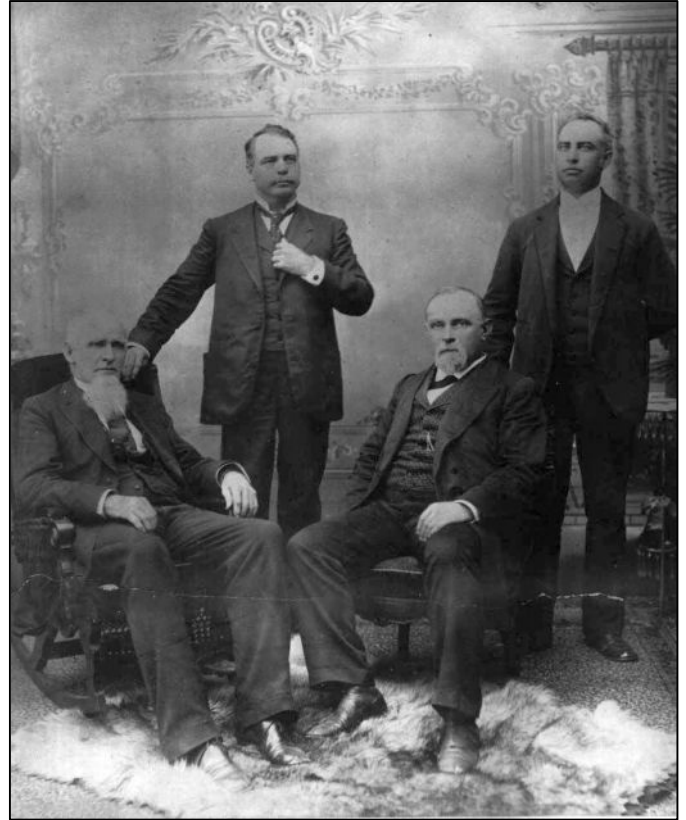
By 1898 the TC completed track from Monterey to Emory Gap, near Harriman, in 1900 to Harriman, and by 1901 to Knoxville. In 1902 Baxter bought the N&K. Eventually the TC comprised 251 miles of rails, connecting with the Southern at Harriman; the Illinois Central at Hopkinsville, Kentucky; and the L&N at Clarksville. Baxter became the hero of the Upper Cumberland. Putnam Countians named a town for him, and in 1902, when a group unsuccessfully attempted to form a new county from portions of Putnam, Overton, Fentress, and Cumberland, it proposed naming it "Baxter."



Putnam County Herald Newspaper – 3/2/1904. Vol. II, No. 4, Page 6:
JERE BAXTER: Col. Jere Baxter (1852-1904) died in a hospital at Nashville February 29, from kidney disease. We hope to publish a sketch of his brilliant career, in our next issue.

Colonel Jere Baxter, President of Tennessee Central Railroad for whom Baxter was named.
 He died in 1904 at age 52.

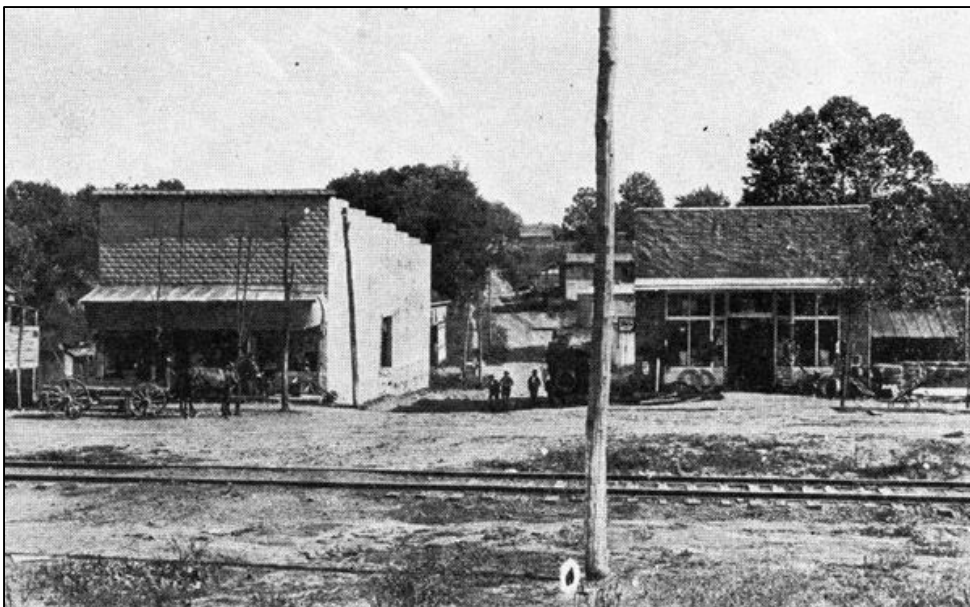
Photo: Tennessee State Library Collection #242, 1900.



Portrait of Nathaniel Baxter, Sr. (1812-1895) and three of his sons; Nathaniel Baxter, Jr., Edmund Baxter, and Jere Baxter.

Library Collection Historical Note: The senior Baxter was a lawyer and Tennessee circuit court judge. Sympathetic to the Union, four sons fought for the Confederacy.

Tennessee State Library Collection: Image ID: 244 Subjects: Lawyers; Judges; Fathers & children; Families.



Street scene about 1920, downtown, Baxter.
 Notice the railroad tracks in the front of the town.

Picture courtesy of Charles Nunally

Mine Lick, Putnam Co, TN
by G.W. Brown
Baxter Beacon – Vol. 5 #39 – July 1996

The town know as Mine Lick started around a general store located as a stop for the Railroad. As it grew its name became Ai (pronounced as Ay-Eye) then Baxter in honor of Jere Baxter, an influential leader with the railroad. In the 30's it was a rural community of around 600 population. As its number grew so did the city. Cham Vestel built the hotel Baxter. In the forties that was Baxter Seminary that became Upperman. Restaurants, roller rink and movie theater followed.

Today Baxter is a nice little town. There are three restaurants the Bee-Hive, First Run Barbecue and Wagonwheel. Around town at each corner churches of all denominations are found. There is an elementary and a high school through rumor has it that it may soon close. There are two factories, two grocers, druggist, two funeral homes, two banks, laundry, auto parts, barber, movie rental, game room, senior center and a flea market on the edge of town. Ai, you have come a long way since Mine Lick.

Baxter
Putnam County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Across the Blue Ridge Mountains, pioneers from North Carolina came in covered wagons to see what the "West" had to offer. Those who chose to stay in what in now Baxter saw that the surrounding land promised both livelihood and respite.

Over the years, the settlers' land became their children's land, fields became farms, and trails became roads. The railroad left its mark; ties and beams remain to tell an outsider's recollection of a quaint little town in Putnam County. Still, many descendants of the original settler remain because Baxter is still "Off the beaten path," but accessible.

The Dispatch, Cookeville, TN, July 22, 1976



This picture made on March 25, 1918, is of W.G. & W.T. Anderson's Store and of Baxter Bank & Trust Co. in Baxter. Anderson's store was displaying its John Deere farm equipment. The two building occupied by the farm supply store became, on the left, Anderson's Department Store and on the right, Three Big Stores in One, 1919. At the present time Baxter Recreation

Center, owned by Silas Anderson, occupies the two W.G. and W.T. Anderson's buildings; and Nunally's Drugs is located at the Baxter Bank and Trust Building.

William Thomas Anderson – b. 1 November 1874, Boma, Putnam Co., TN
d. 24 December 1926, TN – *Eye Cancer.*

s/o Riley Anderson & Elizabeth Gentry – b/o Lewis Monroe Anderson – William Grover was the s/o Lewis Monroe Anderson & Matilda Wallace.

md 11 November 1900, Nota "Notie" Florence Kinnard –

b. 8 October 1883, Indian Creek, Silver Pt., TN – d. 14 July 1973, Boma, TN

d/o Pleasant Bohanan "Pleas" & Margaret Elizabeth (Lowe) Kinnard

Both Buried: + Smellage Cemetery, Boma, TN – *Simplicity * Loyathy*

Own a grocery store in Boma, TN, 1951. His nephew, William Grover Anderson worked for him as a young man. They became partners & opened a department store in Baxter, said to be the largest in Putnam Co., TN. They then became undertakers & sold farm equipment.

**See Chapter 2 for complete family listings.*



Photo and information from the Alexander website of Michael Alexander at:

<http://www.mike-alexander.net/acalexander/index.html>

The columns of City Hall were originally part of [Baxter Seminary / Upperman High School](#).

Upperman's Georgian architecture coupled with the majestic oaks on the campus made the campus one of the most picturesque and beautiful in the state. As with many historical and other works of art, it fell to progress and poor planning/judgment and was replaced by a modern, style less "box" whose roof leaked almost immediately. The columns were saved, shortened, and used in the construction of the then new City Hall.

A new Upperman High School was completed for the 2003 school year at a new 40 acre location near the northern city limits. The new school better reflects the style of the original but the original is gone except in photos and in our memories.

Source: Siftings from Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson: pg. 13.

HISTORY OF BAXTER by Solon Wayne Lowe

Sometime, during the 1850's the state of Tennessee granted Quinton Lowe, the grandfather of Jasper Davis and great grandfather of Solon Grover Lowe, a large acreage of land for assistance in the Mexican War. This grant was signed by governor William Trousdale Lowe, a soldier, had furnished his own guns and

horses during the war. His home place was located where the Baxter Elementary School now stands.

For years the land where the town of Baxter situated was known as Lowe Lands. It was first called Aiye, A-I. However, sometime before the grant the name had been changed to Mine Lick, and this territory was considered to be part of Jackson County. The Lowe property was recorded as including the west fork of Mine lick and crossing the Buffalo Valley Road.

In 1870 Betty Wade bought one hundred acres upon which she and Tobe Wade each built log cabins. After a few years they abandoned the property and went west. They later sold it to Giles Bradford for \$80 plus court cost.

After the establishment of the railroad in 1890, Joe Gentry bought a lot upon he operated a general store. A little later Robert "Bob" Oscar Gentry, s/o William Newton "Esq. Bill" Gentry & Elizabeth "Eliza" Ann Taylor, did likewise. These were the first business houses in town. Next, Joe Jones purchased three or four acres from a Mr. Elder and established a sawmill and distillery. Soon after, Mr. Brusher located an axe handle factory, the largest establishment which James A. Isbell later purchased and concluded. Cham Vestal established a furniture factory. The sawmill and lumber business of Hill and Route was another big industry. Mr. John E. Oliver built a large frame hotel. The first school was a small frame building constructed in 1895.

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 it first mayor. The town became a trade center of several businesses. The main crops were corn, cotton, and tobacco as well as dairy and poultry farming.

The first church in Baxter was the Presbyterian Church, followed by the Methodist Church and then the Church of Christ in 1905. There were several doctors in Baxter at this time. The town was also served by a traveling dentist who visited several times a year. His name was Dr. Lime, and his office was located above what is now Campbell's grocery.

V.D. Nunally, the father of our local druggist, Charles Nunally, was the second mayor of Baxter. He served two consecutive terms.

The high school, Baxter Seminary, was founded in 1910 by the joint action of the Central Tennessee Conference and Methodist Church.

All of this plus more began with Quinton Lowe, a man who made history not only in war but also a town. Today Lowe lies buried in a cemetery just below the school.

Quinton Lowe
b. 1806, Randolph Co., NC
d. 1857, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN
Wife: Elizabeth Williams
Father: James Lowe
Mother: Jane Frazier
Buried: Quinton Lowe Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

Elizabeth (Williams) Lowe
b. 1809, NC
d. 1870, Boma, Putnam Co., TN
Husband: Quinton Lowe
Father:
Mother:
Buried: Quinton Lowe Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

I. Alfred Lowe
b. 8 June 1827, NC
d. 30 May 1894, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN
Wife: Mary Clark
Father: Quinton Lowe
Mother: Elizabeth Williams
Quinton Lowe Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

Mary (Clark) Lowe
b. ca. 1827, NC
d. ca. 1890/before July 1902, Boma, Putnam Co., TN
Husband: I. Alfred Lowe
Father:
Mother:
Buried: Quinton Lowe Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

Jasper Davis Lowe
b. 17 November 1861, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN
d. 19 December 1950
Wife: Margaret E.
Father: I. Alfred Lowe
Mother: Mary Clark
Buried: Boma Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

Margaret Ellen (Conway) Lowe
b. 30 July 1861
d. 28 December 1939
Husband: Jasper Davis Lowe
Father:
Mother:

Buried: Boma Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

Solon Grover Lowe

b. 10 September 1892, Boma, TN

d. 11 December 1980, Boma, TN

Wife: Vianna Elizabeth Parker

Father: Jasper Davis Lowe

Mother: Margaret Ellen Conway

Buried: Boma Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

Vianna Elizabeth (Parker) Lowe

b. 10 December 1894

d. 24 December 1981

Husband: Solon Grover Lowe

Father: Johnnie Benjamin Parker

Mother: Mary Lou Ashe

Buried: Boma Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN



Nunally Drug Store Saving For St. Jude

Photo/Vickie Palmer

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

3 October 2004 -Pg. 13

Betty Hensley, Steve Austin and Sandy Austin in Baxter admire some of the gallon jars that have been filled with aluminum can pull tabs to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. Baxter residents have dropped off enough tabs to fill 15 jars which they recently sent off to St. Jude. Vickie Palmer, owner of Nunally Drug Store said the community started contributing when they saw employees dropping pull tabs into a jar and asked what they were doing. The pull tabs on aluminum cans are the only part of the can that is actually aluminum and therefore valuable.

Source:

Cookeville - Putnam County Chamber of Commerce:
Leslie Town Centre
1 West First Street
Cookeville, Tennessee 38501
Local Phone: 931-526-2211
Toll Free: 800-264-5541

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

CITY OF BAXTER

Baxter has borne various names. Before the railroad, a post office there was called "Ai," a name borrowed from a Biblical city of Canaanites. Before 1902 when the Nashville and Knoxville RR built a depot there, it was called "Mine Lick", before that it was known as the Lowe Lands after the Lowe family.

Baxter has been through a lot of changes – and even more maps – since its settlement in 1775.

To avoid confusion, in 1902 the community, post office, and depot were named "Baxter" in honor of Jere Baxter, president of the Tennessee Central.

The importance of the railroad in the development of Baxter was significant, eventually making it a trade center for the timber industry as well as an agricultural market for corn, cotton and tobacco.

The new town grew rapidly and farmers prospered as the rails brought distant markets within reach of their agricultural products. Baxter sawmills marketed railroad ties and other wood products.

Baxter made a unique contribution to the county's education. Because there was no secondary school in the western portion of Putnam County in the early 1900s, with the help of local leaders and public funds, the Methodist Episcopal Church established and operated Baxter Seminary from 1910 to 1959.

In 1910, Baxter established itself at the forefront of education with the construction of Baxter Seminary. "Truth, Honor, Loyalty, Service." These are the words placed over the door of Baxter Seminary. Many alumni have gone on to make names for themselves, and in doing so, have carried Baxter to other parts of the world. Upper High School now exemplifies this tradition of excellence with country pride in their achievement and graduating students.

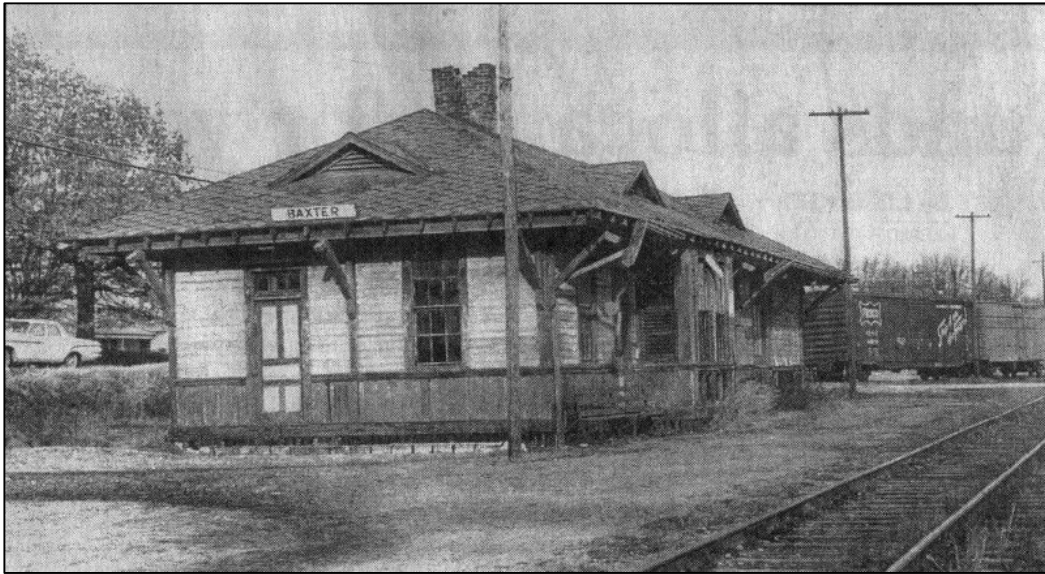
Churches also play an important role in the Baxter area. Presbyterians were the first to build, but they were soon joined by other denominations, many of which are still represented in the area.



Nunally's Drug Store in Baxter in 1953. This drug store took over the Baxter Bank & Trust building.
People pictured,

Van D. Nunally Sr., man standing on the left. The little boy could be Charles Nunally or his brother
Van D. Nunally Jr. The woman and little girl is probably his wife and daughter.

Photo courtesy of Charles Nunally



The Friends of the Baxter Depot are working hard to get plans rolling on the building of a welcome center that will be fashioned much like the original depot. The project became more of a reality for committee as they received a TDOT enhancement grant in August.

Herald-Citizen: Tuesday, 12 January 2010, pg. A-2

BANK OPENING SET FOR BAXTER FRIDAY
Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 4 August 1960

The formal opening Friday of the Baxter branch of the Citizens bank will mark the first time that banking facilities have been in Baxter since the closing of the Baxter Bank and Trust company in 1933.

The new financial institution will open at 8 o'clock Friday morning and will remain open until 6 p.m. Beginning Saturday regular banking hours will be observed between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily with the exception of Wednesday when the bank will close at 12 o'clock.

A short program will be held immediately following the opening Friday morning.

Charles Miller Jr., executive vice president and cashier of Citizens bank, said that he hoped everyone in the Baxter area will visit the new institution opening day.

A \$100.00 saving account will be awarded a lucky person at a drawing to be held at 5:30 p.m. Miller said that everyone registering at the bank during the day will be eligible for the drawing.

Favors will also be given each person attending the formal opening.

The Baxter branch is located in the building formerly housing the post office. The building has been completely remodeled inside and a new front has been installed. Workmen yesterday were rushing completion of the interior of the building for the opening.

The bank has been in the planning stages since last August when application was made for the Baxter branch and also one at Algood. The Algood branch was opened last month.

"Our bank for some time has recognized the growth of Baxter and we are happy to make many banking services more convenient for residents of the Baxter area," Miller said.

The bank officer noted that Baxter has been one of the largest towns in Tennessee without banking facilities "and we are happy to be opening the new branch."

"We are appreciative of the cooperation shown by many residents of Baxter in helping us to make the branch a reality," Miller said.

"We will offer complete banking facilities from our branch in Algood," he added.

The residents of Baxter are delighted with the opening of the bank there a survey today indicated.

"A bank has been one of the greatest needs of our town," on resident remarked.

Others said that they would be happy to have a place convenient for making change, cashing check and the like.

HOPSON, DENNY, WILL STAFF BANK BRANCH:

Two members of the Citizen bank staff will operate the new Baxter branch, according to Charles Miller Jr., executive vice president and cashier.

They are Ike Hobson, manager, and John H. Denny.

Hopson has been connected with banking firms for the past 12 years and Denny has been with Citizens bank since September 1956.

Hobson came here January 1 from Smithville where he had been connected with First National bank for 12 years. He has been an assistant cashier of the bank here.

Before moving to Cookeville Hobson was a civic leader in the DeKalb county town. He was director of the DeKalb Red Cross chapter for four years. He also served as chairman of the official board and Sunday school superintendent of the Methodist church in Smithville.

Mrs. Hobson is the former Miss Mary John Burton. The Hobsons have two children, Randal and Cynthia, and reside on Crescent drive here in Cookeville.

Denny, a native of Putnam county, served as trustee for four years, 1952-56, and has been with Citizens bank since his tenure in county office.

He is a graduate of Baxter Seminary and attended Tennessee Tech. Prior to becoming trustee, he was a tobacco grader. He also worked with the Production Marketing Administration.

Denny is married to the former Miss Helen Carr. They have two sons, Hugh Wayne Denny, a student at Georgia Tech, and David Denny, and two daughters, Rebecca and Jean Denny.

The Dennys reside on North Jefferson here in Cookeville.

BAXTER ONCE KNOWN AS AI Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 4 August 1960

Baxter, home of the new branch of the Citizens bank, was known as Mine Lick previous to 1902 when the name was changed to honor Jere Baxter at that time head of the Tennessee Central railway.

At one time the post office there was known as Ai.

First business houses in the town were erected about 1890, according to the Putnam County History. Sawmills were the main industries in Baxter prior to the establishment of the shirt factory there about four years ago.

Georgia Shoe company now occupies the building originally constructed for the shirt firm. It has been expanded since the shoe company started operations in Baxter two years ago.

A large axe-handle factory once flourished in Baxter along with a furniture factory and a distillery, according to the history.

In later years Baxter's biggest asset was probably Baxter Seminary which operated for 50 years before being acquired by the county last year. It is now Upperman High School, so named in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Harry L. Upperman.

Baxter was incorporated in 1915 and the 1960 population is 845.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

24 June 1915

BAXTER ROUTE 1 IN THE NEWS:

R. T. Stanton of Cookeville, is at work on the farm this week.

Fate Bartlett, one of the best known and most highly respected farmers in this section of the state, died at his home on Martin's Creek last Thursday. Mr. Bartlett leaves a wife and several children and numberless friends to mourn his loss.

Miss Maude Jared of this place, left for Nashville a few days ago to assume the duties of a nurse in one of the hospitals there.

Well, if you want to go somewhere, and go right quick, just get Joe Nichols to take you in his new car, and you'll get there on time.

Ex-Sheriff Gen. Alcorn, was in this part of the county on business last week.

Dow Hughes has taken a position with the Jared Produce Co. of Buffalo Valley.

Who said Elvis Bush and Estelle Jared were regular visitors at Ensor? They went again Saturday, but said they were going to the ball game at Bloomington.

Carlos Dyer goes to Bloomington Springs almost every Sunday and says he believes the water there has greatly improved his health.

J. O. Holladay, the manager of the Gainesboro Telephone Co., at Cookeville, came down on a visit last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hargis, of Cookeville, passed here Sunday enroute to Granville, to visit relatives.

A very severe rain and windstorm hit this section Monday morning and did lots of damage to wheat, corn and oats.

Putnam County Herald, Thursday, Cookeville, TN:

10 August 1916

BAXTER – This lonesome Saturday morning I will write a letter as I see no news from Baxter. Everybody is done farming here, we sure are having some fine weather.

Maggie Jared of Silver Point, come on with your letters.

I have just arrived from Maddux Chapel conference and sure did have a nice time. A big revival is going on here now.

Mrs. Margaret Evans is visiting her granddaughter, Mrs. Mollie Sutton.

Mrs. Vada McHenry is improving.

Mrs. Electra Nichols and sister and brothers have our sympathy after losing their mother, Mrs. Verna Nichols. Mrs. Nichols was a good Christina woman and has lived a life before her children that they cannot regret. We are sorry to give her up but hope some day, and it may not be long, that all will meet her in that beautiful home over yonder where there is no parting or sorrow. All will be happiness then.

Wade Dunavin of Haviland, Kansas, how are you? Why don't you answer my letter.

As I see so many asking for birthday cards I will ask for a shower for my sister Aug. 26. All cards will be highly appreciated. Address to Miss Gladys Sutton, Baxter, Tenn. She will answer all received.

Bertha Sutton.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

20 July 1922

NEW BUILDINGS GO UP IN BAXTER AND BUSINESS IS GOOD: Correspondent Says Building Boom Has Hit Town – Ball Team Defeats Gordonsville in Shutout.

Baxter is experiencing it's the biggest building boom in its history. We have just begun the erection of a \$12,000 school building. The Christian church is erecting a new building which is to be brick and will have all modern appointments. Several new homes are being built and some of the old ones are being repaired.

We had a very interesting ball game here Saturday, July 15, between Baxter and Gordonsville. Baxter won the game four to nothing. The Baxter boys have made a very remarkable record this season, having won twelve out of fourteen games played, six being shut-outs. We have some player who are very promising to the league. Joe Puckett without a doubt is one of the best pitchers in Middle Tennessee, he throws a very swift ball always to the plate. He never winds' but throws so quickly that the hitter sometimes hears the "strike" called out before he is aware it has been thrown.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:

6 March 1947

BILL SEWELL SIX-TIME MAYOR OF BAXTER:

W. T. "Bill" Sewell, Baxter, wholesale grocer, Saturday was elected to his sixth two-year term as mayor of the city. His election was without opposition.

Others elected to posts in the town government were: Charlie Maxwell, town recorder; Leander Myatt, Lawrence Grace, Will Sadler, and Charlie Ligon, aldermen; Andrew Burgess, town constable, and Ander Holmes, town marshal.

All were elected without opposition.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:

31 July 1947

Mrs. Dice Hancock, 47 Dies; Funeral Today:

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon for Mrs. Lena McBroom Hancock, 47, who died Tuesday in a Lebanon hospital after an illness of two weeks. She was the wife of Dice Hancock, Baxter merchant.

Services were held at the home on Nashville highway by the Rev. James Hooten, the Rev. Isaac Tucker, and the Rev. Willie Gentry. Burial was in Baxter Cemetery.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Hancock is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Byrd McBroom; two daughters, Mrs. Emma Dean Whitehead and Mrs. Ruby Palmer; two sisters, Mrs. Bessie Dyer and Mrs. Georgia Dickerson ;six brothers, Walter, Cordell, Joe, J. P., Byrd, Junior, and Paul McBroom, all of Baxter.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

21 July 1949

William M. Fields, b. 8 September 1876 – d. 13 July 1949, buried in the McReynolds-Fields Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

W. M. Fields, 72, Former School Board Member, Succumbs:

Funeral services for William M. Fields, 72, were held at his home Thursday afternoon with Ralph Kidd officiating. Burial was in the family cemetery.

Mr. Fields died at his home in the tenth district of Putnam County Wednesday morning following a long illness.

He was formerly a justice of the peace of Putnam County and only on July 11 did he resign as a member of the Putnam County Board of Education after serving in that position for about 10 years.

He was a merchant at Baxter for a number of years.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Tennie Jackson Fields, and two grandchildren who live in Chicago.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

16 April 1953

Butler Bush Named Mayor of Baxter:

Butler Bush, 31 years old Insurance salesman, took the oath of office as mayor of Baxter Tuesday replacing Felix Scarlett, who resigned about 10 days ago.

Bush was sworn in as Mayor after being named to the post by the Baxter Board of Aldermen. Scarlett who has served as mayor the past two years was held over in office last month when a city election resulted in a tie vote between Pennock Maxwell and Albert Maxwell.

The Baxter charter provides that in case of a tie vote the Board of Aldermen can select a Mayor. Since the board was also evenly split on the two candidates they decided to select Bush as mayor.

Bush is the son of the late W. M. Bush and Mrs. Ova Bush and is a native of Putnam County. He is a graduate of Central High School and attended Vanderbilt and the University of Maryland.

The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:

15 January 1958

BAXTER RESIDENTS ELATED OVER NEW BOOT FACTORY:

Baxter residents were elated with the news that a new boot factory is to be opened there by the Georgia Shoe Company of Flowery Branch, GA.

The announcement was made last Thursday following an agreement by the shoe firm officials to lease the prefabricated metal building in Baxter which was erected about two years ago.

J. T. Dunavin, chairman of the Baxter Industrial corporation which owns the building, said that work is expected to get underway just as soon as the shoe manufacturing equipment is moved in.

He said that it will probably be three or four months before the plant opened because some of the equipment will have to be specially made for the plant.

The firm will manufacture a new-type of waterproof boot and other styles of boots.

A rubber mill will also be set up in connection with the plant.

One of the machines to be used in this process weighs 60 tons it was reported.

It is expected that 100 or more person will be employed.

The building was erected about two years ago and from June 1956 until December 1957, housed a shirt factory. The structure was built with funds subscribed to be residents of Baxter and Putnam county who form the Baxter Industrial corporations.

Engineers have already been to Baxter to make preliminary surveys relative to installing the machinery in the 128 by 100 foot metal building.

Clyde Dabbs, manager of the Starfit Shoe company, here, will be manager of the new boot factory.

TOWN PRIDE AND NOSTALGIA ARE FOCUS OF STREET FAIR:

BAXTER – Celebrate pride and learn the history of Baxter, the town that sits in western Putnam County, at the annual Baxter Junction Street Fair set for Saturday.

“It’s quite amazing how it’s grown,” Jeanie Lee, president of the Baxter Friends of the Depot, said of the annual event. “I am excited about a new day in the life of Baxter.”

The street fair celebrates 105 years of Tennessee Central Railroad life in Baxter. The day will begin with a 5K run at 7 a.m., followed by a “Parade of the proud” at 10 am. The grand marshals will be the Brandon Baxter family, descendants of Jere Baxter, for whom the city is named.

Baxter Mayor Jeff Wilhite and Putnam County officials will share the stage to present keys to the city to the Baxter family. The parade will include school athletic teams, cheerleaders, vintage cars, vintage fire trucks and more.

Parade participants are requested to meet at Cornerstone School at 9 a.m.

There will be activities for everyone of every age. There will be more than 100 booths that include rock wall climbing, mechanical bull riding, history rides, Maypole dancing, vintage quilt displays, corn hole games, arts and crafts, book signing, vintage cars, live music and much more. There will also be an open house at the new fire department from 1-3 p.m. that day.

“There’s a new spirit that is contagious,” Lee said.

There will also be an auction, with many items up for grabs. All proceeds will go toward the clinic and the building of the Baxter Historical Visitors Center.

Lee has also invited R. Bill Flatt, a 1952 graduate of Baxter Seminary. A player on the 1951 and 1952 football teams which went undefeated.

“He still has the jersey,” Lee said. “He may even still be able to wear it.”

In an interview held last month, Flatt recalled the days of hopping the train that came through town.



“He said that he never used the train or deport as he and his brother commuted to and from Baxter,” Lee said. “De does recall that the boys in Baxter (who lived there) would hobo a train passing through. They would ride it a little ways up and down the tack and then jump off the moving train. They did it just for kicks.”

(Pictures of Bill Flatt now and then. Bill Flatt, Class Vic President 4; Football 3,4; Basketball 3, 4; Who’s Who 4; B-Letter Club 3, 4; FFA 3, 4; Vice President 4; Treasure 3; Allied Youth 3, 4; President 4. Class of 1952, Baxter Seminary, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN. *“I cannot love one girl, I love them all.”*)

Flatt recalled the incident where he and other boys were nearly killed when a freight train came through. They jumped on and the train immediately began to pick up speed. When the time came for them to jump off, it was going too fast for a safe landing, but they jumped anyway and the jump nearly killed them.

“(The seminary) had some of the best meals,” he recalled. “It cost \$1.25 a week to eat.”

There were 52 students in his graduating class.

He also recalled the Cumberland Café, where hot dogs sold for 15 cents, a hamburger was 20 cents and a cheeseburger was 25 cents. They also had a plate lunch, a meat and three, for \$1.50.

Since Flatt graduated from the Seminary, he has been in the Air Force, got married, received his doctorate of ministry and has served in numerous positions at Harding University.

He has also published numerous books, which he will be selling and signing at the street fair. The proceeds will go toward the visitors center construction and the health clinic.

A doctor and a nurse from the health clinic will also be available at the clinic for wellness checks.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 2 September 2009, pg. A-2

BAXTER DEPOT AND OTHER PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION:

By Megan Trotter, Herald – Citizen Staff

BAXTER — Construction on the Baxter depot/welcome center is ahead of schedule and may be completed as early as Christmas or by the end of the year, according to Matthew Tucker of James C. Hailey and Company, who was present to give project updates at the recent meeting of the Baxter mayor and aldermen.

Tentative approval has been given for installing the water line to the building, and that phase is expected to begin soon.

"I know there's been some question about the roof line on the back of the building," Tucker said. "By moving that water line, we're actually going to pull that slope a little further down and make the wall in the back shorter, which will make it harder to get to the eave and will also make the back of the building a little easier to see. Right now you can't really see it that well. ... That's all in process."

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 5 December 2012.

Cecil Ray Presley Obt.

b. 29 October 1923, Putnam Co., TN – d. 15 June 2015, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md 14 October 1949, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN to **Grace (Thomas) Presley**. Ray Presley, s/o **Robert Denton Presley & Jeanie Gentry**.

Funeral services for Mr. Cecil Ray Presley, 91, of Baxter, will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 18, at the Baxter Chapel of Hooper Huddleston and Horner Funeral Home with Bro. John Pippin officiating. Interment with military honors will follow at Crest Lawn Cemetery.



The family will receive friends Wednesday from 5 – 8 p.m. and again Thursday from 10 a.m. until service time at the funeral home.

Ray died Monday evening, June 15, 2015 at Heritage Pointe Senior Living in Cookeville.

He was born October 29, 1923 in Putnam County to the late Robert Denton and Jeanie Gentry Presley.

As a young man, Ray was proud to be a part of the Civilian Conservation Corp. A US Army Veteran of World War II, he served in General Patton's Army, marching through France and Germany. At the end of WWII, he continued to serve with the occupying forces in Germany for another year.

After fulfilling his military service, he returned to Baxter and taught carpentry at Baxter Seminary. Later, Ray began a career in insurance, first with Life of Georgia, and eventually with Woodman of the World, where he retired as an area manager.

Ray was a member of Baxter Church of Christ. He was a skilled woodworker who enjoyed making furniture and especially crafting toys for his grandchildren. He and his wife, Grace loved to travel. He was known for making friends and it was often said that "he never met a stranger."

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Michael Houston Presley; two brothers, Charles Presley and Willard (Hootie) Presley; sister-in-law, Vivian Presley; and nephew, Robert Presley. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Grace Thomas Presley (whom he married October 14, 1949 in Baxter, TN); daughter and son-in-law, Sherrie and Chase Evans of Nashville; special daughter-in-law, Carolyn Hamby and her husband Terry of Cadiz, KY; sister, Jean Watts of Baxter; four grandchildren, Martha Presley (husband, Danny Tran), Michael Presley (wife, Lauren), Cody and Hunter Evans; two great-grandchildren, Michael (Tripp) Houston Presley III, and Oliver Tran; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Chase, Cody, and Hunter Evans, Michael Presley, Steve Watts, and Glen Thomas will serve as pallbearers. Ray's family wishes to extend a special "THANK-YOU" Heritage Point Assisted Living and Avalone Hospice for their excellent care.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 1459 Interstate Drive Suite 211, Cookeville, TN 38501.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 16 June 2015



Jere Baxter

b. 11 February 1852, TN – d. 29 February 1904, md **Mattie (Mack) Baxter**, b. 24 November 1856, Terre Haute, IN – d. 4 December 1901, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN, d/o Judge William Mack. Jere Baxter, s/o **Jude Nathaniel Baxter & Mary Louise Jones**. Jere & Mattie Baxter both buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN

(Pictured: Jere Baxter, Source: Centennial album of Nashville, Tennessee)

Mattie (Mack) Baxter Obt.

Baxter, Mrs. Jere: Mrs. Jere Baxter Passed Away This Morning -- Mrs. Jere Baxter passed away at 2 o'clock this morning at her home, 305 South Belmont avenue. She had been ill for several months, and for several months, (sic), and for the past two weeks has been in a semi-conscious conditions from which her physicians were not able to arouse her. The end came peacefully and the whispered word of the physician told the watchers that she was no more Mrs. Mattie M. Baxter was born in Terre Haute forty-five years ago, and was the daughter of Judge William Mack, a gentleman of culture and distinction. In 1877 she was married Col. Jere Baxter president of the Tennessee Central Railroad. A husband and two sons, Mack and Here Baxter, Jr., survive her. She was a woman of rare attainments. After completing an exceedingly liberal education, she spent some years abroad traveling Europe, Asia and Africa. As a result of her wide reading and travel, she was a conversationalist of unusual versatility, and her command of language was exceptionally fine. She took great interest in study, and delved deep into the sciences and literature. Her opinions were formed after careful thought, and were independent and courageous. But it was as a wife and mother that she was known to the best advantage. During the years of uncertainty as to the future of her husband's great project, she never lost hope, but was always ready to give encouragement in gloomy moments. At home she made her fireside a charmed spot for every member of the household. She ruled as queen of her home by kindness and tenderness, and by her daily life encouraged those by whom hse was surrounded to a higher life. Mrs. Baxter was a member of Christ church. [Date: 12/05/1901, Vol. XV, No. 49, Page: 1] *The Cookeville Press, TN*

Mary Rachel (Dillon) Dyer Obt.

b. 15 July 1949, Jackson Co., TN – d. 16 March 2016, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **Willard Eugene Dillon** (1927-1996) & **Jewel Clara Goolsby** (1930-1985).

*See Willard Eugene Dillon buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

COOKEVILLE — Funeral services for Mary Rachel Dyer, 66, of Cookeville, will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, from the Cookeville chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Phillips Cemetery.



The family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, and from noon until time of services on Sunday at the funeral home.

Ms. Dyer died on Wednesday morning, March 16, 2016, at her home.

She was born July 15, 1949, in Jackson County to the late Willard Eugene and Jewel Clara Goolsby Dillon.

She was formerly employed at Red Kap in Cookeville and was the former owner T-Tommy's Market in Baxter.

She is survived by a brother, Donnie Dillon of Cookeville; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Jo and James Sponaule of Smith County and Charlotte Craddock of Cookeville; nieces, Bridget Murphy, Vanessa Sponaule, Valerie Brooks, Terri Buchanan, Cheyenne Dillon, B.J. Beaty and Clara Garrett; nephews, Tommy Dillon Jr. and Jamin Sponaule; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Tommy and Bill Dillon.

Pallbearers will be friends and family.

Bros. Aron Dillon and Bobby Kitchen will officiate at the services.

Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, (931) 526-6111.

You may share your thoughts and memories at www.hhhfunerals.com.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 18 March 2016

Margaret Rose (Stamps) Craft Greer Obt.

b. 24 February 1933, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN – d. 3 March 2016, md on the 28th of September 1968, Putnam Co., TN to **Bruce Fairfax Greer**, b. 23 August 1930. Margaret Rose (Stamps) Craft Greer, d/o **Thomas Franklin “Frank” Stamps** (1888-1980) & **Vina Lou Bohannon** (1895-1971), both buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 214 – Bruce Fairfax Greer married 28 September 1968, Putnam Co., TN, age 38, b. 23 August 1930, address: Rt. 1, Kingston Springs, TN to Margaret Rose Craft, age 35, b. 24 February 1933, address: Rt. 1, Baxter, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Mrs. T. F. Stamps, Rt. 1, Baxter, TN).

Margaret Rose Stamps Greer, Age 83, was born February 24, 1933 in Baxter, TN to the late Vina Lou & Frank F. Stamps. She passed away on March 3, 2016.



She went to Baxter Grammar, Baxter Seminary, and Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, TN. She was a member of Bellevue Church of Christ for 50 years.

Mrs. Greer is survived by her daughter, Ruth Ann (Friday) Blackwood; grandson, Charlie (Katrina) Blackwood; granddaughter, Christy Blackwood, along with several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bruce Greer; parents, Vina Lou and Frank Stamps; four sisters and six brothers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to World Bible School or Alive Hospice.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2016 and from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at Harpeth Hills Funeral Home, 9090 Hwy 100, Nashville.

A Celebration of Life Service will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, at Harpeth Hills Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Harpeth Hills Memory Gardens.

Read more about Baxter, Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>