

**COOKEVILLE IN RETROSPECT**  
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN  
Sunday, 2 September 2007, pg. C-7

*Editor's note: The following is excerpted from an article that first appeared in a 1930 edition of the Putnam County Herald describing Cookeville in 1875. It is reprinted here courtesy of the Cookeville History Museum.*

In 1875, 55 years ago, Cookeville's merchants were Major J. C. Freeze, J. H. Moore, Anderson Sloan, James M. Douglas, J. W. Caruther and Capt. James H. Curtis.

Dr. J. H. S. Martin, then a young man of 27, had the year before, opened the first drug store in Cookeville.

Cookeville's practicing physicians in 1875 were Dr. J. M. Goodpasture, Dr. J. P. Martin, Dr. L. R. McClain (*Lemuel Rux McClain*) and Dr. Simeon Hinds.

Dr. J. M. Goodpasture died in the summer of 1876 at the age of 49. He was Cookeville's physician, having moved from Hilham, where he was reared, to Cookeville in 1857. Immediately after Cookeville was established as the country site, Dr. Goodpasture erected his residence on Washington Avenue where he lived until his death. It is now owned by one of his daughters, Mrs. Margery Jared. His office for several years was in the brick on the north side of the Public Square, the first brick house erected in Cookeville. After his death a frame extension was added to this building, the partition wall which separated the two office rooms was removed and the building was converted into a store house. It is now occupied by W. J. Byrne's grocery store.

In 1873 Dr. J. P. Martin and his family moved to Cookeville from White County. About the time Dr. Simeon Hinds and his family moved here from Hilham. Dr. L. R. McClain located here in 1866.

Dr. J. F. Dyer and Dr. J. B. S. Martin each began the practice of medicine in Cookeville in 1878. Dr. Henry C. Martin has been practicing here since 1884.

Dr. Simeon Hinds' home for many years was located on the west side of the Public Square. He was the father of Z. T. Hinds, for many years a well-known druggist of this city, and of James M. Hinds, a well-known business here during both of President Cleveland's administrations, and of John Hinds, who now resides in the West.

Dr. J. P. Martin's home was on Madison Street. He resided there until his death. After retiring from active practice, he conducted a drug store on the north side of the Square until his death. In 1887 Dr. Martin represented Putnam County in the general assembly.

Dr. L. R. McClain owned and for several years occupied the residence on East Springs Street now owned and occupied by Herbert Carlen. Afterwards Dr. McClain purchased the Curtis Mills farm, just east of town, where he resided for several years.

Dr. John G. Goodpasture, a brother of Dr. J. M. Goodpasture, located in Cookeville before the Civil war, moving here from Hillham. His residence occupied the present site of Charles K. Darwin's home. He sold his property here and moved to Smith County in 1870. In 1875, besides the physicians living in Cookeville there were four other well known physicians living in Putnam County. There were Dr. William Robinson, of Bloomington Springs; Dr. Richard Fane, who lived on the Nashville Road, about 17 miles west of Cookeville; Dr. W. S. Farmer, Sr., of Buffalo Valley, the father of Dr. W. S. Farmer, present Superintendent of the Central State Hospital for the Insane; and Dr. Sybert, of Silver Point, the father of Dr. W. E. Sybert afterwards for many years a well-known physician of Baxter.

In 1875 there was not a telephone or telegraph line in Putnam County. It was not until 15 years later that Putnam County had a railroad. Outside of Cookeville very few families of Putnam County read a daily newspaper. The old *Weekly Nashville American* and the *Weekly Banner* were the newspapers upon which the reading portion of our county's population generally depended for the current news of the state and nation.

Comparatively few people of this county then had buggies. People generally traveled either on horseback or in wagons.

The lawyers of the Cookeville bar in 1875 were Capt. H. H. Dillard, Holland Denton, Capt. Walton Smith, Alvin W. Boyd and Houston S. Boyd.

Capt. H. H. Dillard, as a young lawyer, located in Cookeville when it was laid off and "started" as the county site of Putnam County. He was a son of the distinguished theologian and educator, Rev. John L. Dillard, D. D. founder and for many years prior to the Civil War President of old Alphine Institute in Overton County and one of the noted Cumberland Presbyterian ministers of his day. Under his personal direction and tuition his son, Harvey H. Dillard, was carefully educated, and there were few lawyers of his day in Tennessee who were so scholarly as he. He was a man of brilliant mind and was one of the ablest lawyers of that period in this entire section of the state.

Holland Denton was another young lawyer who located in Cookeville shortly after the town was established. In 1875 he was a member of the state senate. He served throughout the Civil War in the Confederate army. He entered the service as Second Lieutenant in Capt. Dillard's company, Company 'F' of the 16<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Regiment.

He was an able lawyer, an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian church and a gentleman of the strictest integrity. He continued in the active practice of his profession until his death, which occurred about 30 years ago. Mr. Denton was the step-father of the late Jere Whitson of this city.

Houston S. Boyd graduated from the law department of Cumberland University in the Class of 1873 and immediately began the practice of law in Cookeville. He at once took

high rank in his profession in which he met with marked success until his death, which occurred in 1881.

Alvin W. Boyd was admitted to the Cookeville Bar in 1874 and practiced his profession here for 38 years and until his death in 1912. He was Clerk and master of the Chancery Court of this county from 1890 to 1896, and General of this circuit from 1886 to 1894.

Judge George H. Morgan and W. G. Currie, both of whom were able lawyers and splendid citizens located here in 1887. Judge Morgan had previously been one of the leading lawyers of Gainesboro and had served as Attorney-General of this circuit from 1870 to 1878, and as Speaker of the State Senate in 1881. He died in 1901.

**W. G. Currie** was reared at Brownsville. For about 10 years he and **Judge T. L. Denny** were law partners under the firm name of Denny & Currie.

Cookeville's two hotels in 1875 were the "Shaw Hotel" and the "Regan Hotel." The old Shaw Hotel building burned in 1881. It was located on the south side of the Public Square on a lot now occupied by B. A. Mitchell's building. The first Reagan Hotel building burned in 1883. It was located on the southeast corner of the Public Square. It was at once rebuilt, but at a different location. After it was rebuilt it continued to served the public as a splendid hotel for that day for more than 30 years. It is now owned by A. A. Staley, a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Reagan, its first owners, and is occupied as a residence by Policeman Phy Gibson.

Cookeville had a weekly newspaper in 1875, *The Cookeville Times*.

**COOKEVILLE IN RETROSPECT**  
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Sunday, 23 September 2007, pg. C-7

Pleasant Grove Methodist church was organized in 1815. This church was first called "Rock Springs Episcopal Methodist Church." It was named Rock Spring because of a large spring which flowed through a crevice between two very large rocks at the head of Rock Spring Valley. The first services were held in the home of families living near this spring. This was then Jackson County.

Two-week camp meetings were held near this spring every year, and people came from miles away to attend these services. They traveled by horseback, ox carts and in wagons, and they brought provisions, stock feed and stayed the entire two weeks.

An excerpt in part from the August 3, 1965, issue of the *Herald Citizen* newspaper: "The first enthusiasm expressed regarding the establishment of a church in the Rock Springs Valley community was concerted interest on the part of a few returning Veterans from the War of 1812. John Boyd and his son, Ephriam, donated four acres of ground as their first efforts gave rise to the contemplated church which was at first known as the Rock Springs Episcopal Methodist Church."

It was more than a decade, however, before a church house was built. The place, nevertheless, soon became renowned as a camp meeting ground. These frontier revivals were mostly contemporary with what came to be known as the Beam Ridge Revivals in Kentucky.

The Tennessee Conference was organized November 12, 1812, at Fountain Head. This conference was organized just three years prior to the organization of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Bishop Frances Asbury, president of the Tennessee Conference, came and held a revival at the site of the Camp Ground. This revival was a wonderful success. The people of this community were so interested in the Lord's work that they decided to build a church house. John Boyd and his son, Ephraim Boyd donated the ground for this church.

The following men were appointed trustees and the deed to the church was made to them: Simon Carlisle, Wesley Carlisle, Isaac e. Ferrell, Joseph Jared, Saunders Presley, James Lee Jr. and William Blackburn.

This church was built in 1832, and it also was used as a schoolhouse. It was located on the south side of the Old Walton Road near the spring. A grove of large beech trees was on this plot of ground, and the name of the church was changed from "Rock Spring" to "Pleasant Grove." A copy of the original deed reads as follows:

"Know all men by these present that we John and Ephraim L. Boyd of the County of Jackson and the State of Tennessee, in the promotion of true and vital religion and the suppression of vice and immorality and also for divers of other good causes and consideration. Us the said John and E. L. Boyd here unto moving have given, granted and confirmed, and by these present do give, grant and confirm unto Simon Carlisle, Wesley Carlisle, Isaac Ferrell, **Joseph Jared**, Saunders Presley, James Lee Junior and William Blackburn, Trustees for the Rock Spring Episcopal Church and their successors in office, a certain tract or parcel of land with all appurtenances thereunto belonging, for the use and benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church in building a meeting house, a school house, opening a Camp Ground and such other buildings and uses as the said trustees and Church desires or direct" This said land situates and lying and running as follows, to wit; On the south side of the Walton Road, directly on the old Lancaster Road, about half mile from its junction with the Walton Road. "Beginning in a black Ash marked W running east 24 poles to a sugar tree marked "WC" thence north 24 poles to a mulberry marked "D". Thence south to the beginning."

"To have hold and enjoy the said land as after prescribed we find ourselves heirs and etc., to warrant and defend from all persons claiming under us, our heirs, Executors or administrators. In testimony, whereof we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July A. D. 1832 and 57<sup>th</sup> of American Independence".

John Boyd (seal

Ephraim L. Boyd (seal

In the year 1898, the trustees of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church bought a tract of land located on the Old Walton Road from R. B. (Byrd) and Ruth F. Gentry for \$25. They made the deed to the following trustees of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church: Joseph Holladay, W. A. Holladay, W. A. Ensor, B. F. Huddleston, W. J. Huddleston, L. T. Leftwich and David Nichols. The following is a copy of the deed:

“For and in consideration of the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25) paid in hand, we, R. B. Gentry and wife, Ruthie F. Gentry, have bargained and sold and do hereby transfer and convey unto Joseph Holladay, W. A. Ensor, B. F. Huddleston, W. J. Huddleston, L. T. Leftwich and D. H. Nichols, Trustees (of the Methodist Episcopal Church South) the following described land in Putnam County, State of Tennessee, Civil District No. 11, Bound as follows:

“Beginning at a popular tree at the South east corner of the 12<sup>th</sup> School district lot, of said County, running about North East about 309 feet to a rock, thence nearly North 177 feet to the Walton Road, thence South West with said road to the North East corner of the 12<sup>th</sup> district school lot, thence with said district school lot’s East line to the beginning.

“To have and hold, keep, maintain and dispose of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South; Subject to the Discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated.

“And we do further covenant and bind ourselves, and our heirs forever to warrant and forever defend the title to said property to the said Trustees and their successors in office and assigns, against the lawful claims of all persons.

(State of Tennessee)

(County of Putnam)

“Personally appeared before me the within named, R. B. Gentry and wife, Ruthie F. Gentry, the bargainers with whom I am personally acquainted, and acknowledged that they executed the annexed instrument for the purpose therein contained.

“And Ruthie F. Gentry, wife of the said R. B. Gentry, has appeared before me, privately and apart from her husband, and acknowledges the execution of the said instrument to have been done by her freely, voluntarily and understandingly without compulsion or constraint from her said husband, or any one else and for the purpose therein expressed. Witnessed my hand and seal, at office, this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1898.

J. A. Boyd, Notary Public, State of Tennessee, Putnam County.

The within and foregoing deed was filed in my office for registration on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 1898 at 9 a.m. and noted in Book 'B' on page 162 and recorded in Deed book 'S' on pages 16 and 17.

Witness my hand at office this September 3, 1898.

S. F. Carr, Register for Putnam County.

By Algood Moore”

The following names are some of the early leaders of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church: John Boyd, **William Jared**, **Joseph Jared**, Joseph Holladay, Robert Goodloe Hughes, Davy Nichols, George Bruce, George Byrne, Isaac Huddleston, William A. Ensor, John W. Newman, Bradley Maddux, William Leftwich, William Baker Elrod, George Slagle, Anthony Bush, Thomas Yates, Felix McGinness, Stephen Petty, James A. Whitefield, James R. Brown, A. Ballard, John Tallant, Liege Whitaker, James F. McKinley, John Bullington, Pierce Jernigan, Lem Burton and probably many more.

This was a first frame structure, which only later in 1917 was replaced by the brick edifice presently in use.

In September of 2004 a two story addition of 4,500 sq. ft. consisting of a fellowship hall, classrooms and youth facilities was begun. This project was spearheaded by the present pastor, Bill Cowan and his wife, Glenda.

The dedication ceremony was held November 28, 2006. The attendance has been more than doubled in the past six years since Pastor Cowan has been there.

Pleasant Grove Methodist Church is very active. Sunday School starts at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. and Wednesday evening Bible study starts at 7 p.m. Welcome!

*Excerpts taken from “The History of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church” by Mrs. Pearl Huddleston Ensor, 2005; Submitted and compiled by her daughter, Maurine Ensor Patton.*

### **COOKEVILLE IN RETROSPECT**

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Sunday, 9 September 2007, pg. C-7

Submitted by Putnam County Historian Maurine Ensor Patton

*Note: Article by Walter Stephen McClain (1868-1958), buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.*

According to James Peek Buck, Andrew College, familiarly known as Buck College, was named for James Osgood Andrew of Georgia, a leading bishop in the Methodist Church who was much loved by the Buck family.

Buck College was built by Isaac Buck and his son, Jonathan. These Bucks were descendants of a German family by the name of Bock. The father of Isaac Buck and the grandfather of Jonathan Buck migrated from Hessany, Germany. He settled among the Pennsylvania Dutch in Philadelphia.

Mr. Buck had lived in Pennsylvania only a short time when Tennessee lured him with his wife to settle on a large tract of land in Carter County, which the state of North Carolina granted him.

It was in this rustic home in Carter County that Isaac Buck was born in 1800. Isaac's first reading lessons were in German, his father using the German Bible, which he had brought with him to teach his children to read.

Isaac Buck married in 1819 and built a home at the foot of the Cumberland Mountains about eight miles east of Cookeville on this plantation of 600 acres.

It was in this home that Jonathan Buck was born on October 16, 1820. Jonathan was studiously inclined and when only 7 years old, his father brought for him his first book, a Blue Back Speller.

Mr. Buck used this one speller through his school days and, after he was a teacher, each one of his children used it.

In 1849, Isaac Buck bought 140 acres of land about a mile and a half from Cookeville. In this same year, he and Jonathan started the erection of Buck College, a part of which is still standing. This magnificent building was in the shape of an "H."

One leg of the "H" formed the front part of the house which was four rooms long, each room being at least 20 square feet. The house was two stories high, making eight large rooms and four fireplaces in the front part which is still standing. The center of the "H" was a room about 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. It was to have been the dining hall for the students.

The back part of the building formed the second leg of the "H" and was to have been a kitchen and sleeping apartment.

Buck College was opened for college students in 1852 and was running as an agricultural college when the Civil War broke out, but it was closed sometime during the war, never to be reopened as a college again.

Buck College was reopened after the war as an elementary school and was taught for several years by anyone who would undertake it. It was not very successful until Jonathan Buck took charge in 1875 to secure instruction for his children as well as his neighbors' children.

Jonathan Buck did in 1885 at age 65, leaving a library of more than 900 volumes, including Shakespeare's complete works and most of the works of Milton.

Though Mr. Buck failed to establish a lasting college, we should be proud to have in our community the first school in the state to receive state money.

### **COOKEVILLE IN RETROSPECT**

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Sunday, 21 October 2007, pg. C-7

Compiled by Dr. Oplless Walker

#### **TRAINS: ACCOUNTS OF DEATH**

The Putnam County obituaries for the time period of 1903-1913 record 28 accounts of fatalities related to railroads: three accounts of deaths occurring in another state involving Putnam County residents, one account of a railroad employee being assassinated while working on a train, one account of a passenger dying while riding the train to procure medical assistance, one account of a murder on a train and 22 accounts of individuals killed as a result of train accidents within or near Putnam County.

Grimsley, Will Henry: Falls Off Train Near Silver Point and is Run Over – Wednesday night about 9:30 o'clock, Brakeman Will Henry Grimsley of this place, fell between the cars near Silver Point and was killed, the wheels passing over both legs and one arm. He was brought here as soon as possible and medical aid summoned, but died about 1 o'clock. He was a son of Widow Grimsley, and an honorable young man. The funeral will be from the residence on West Side at 4 o'clock this, Thursday evening. (Date 3/18/1903, Vol. I, No. 6, Page 8). *Will Henry Grimsley, b. 23 September 1877 – d. 19 March 1903. Buried next to him is: John O. Grimsley, b. 10 August 1866 – d. 13 November 1902. Both buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.*

#### **THREE DEATHS IN OTHER STATES:**

Carr, Sam: Sam Carr, formerly of this place, was run over by a train at Bessemer, Ala., Christmas Day and died of his injuries Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1905. His remains were brought to this place for burial. He leaves a wife and several small children in destitute circumstances. (Date: 1/3/1906, Vol. III, No. 47, page 1).

Mills, John: John Mills, a former citizen of Cookeville, was killed by a freight train at his home in Como, Texas, on Aug. 27, 1908. (09/02/1908, Vol. VI, No. 31, pg. 1).

Nation, Bert: Bert Nation was run down and instantly killed by an L & N switch engine in Howell, Ind., today. The writer (John Warren) help pull the corpse from the cars. Oh! How sad his wife and two little tots felt when they arrived at the scene. Funeral services at Oak Hill Cemetery Monday at 10:30. (11/9/1911, Vol. IX, No. 45, pg. 11)

#### **WORKER ASSASSINATED ON TRAIN:**



Stephens, J. F.: J. F. Stephens, express messenger on the shopping train, was shot and instantly killed in his car as the train was leaving Boma last Friday morning. (The killer) boarded the train at Boma, went into the express car and picked up Stephen's pistol. When told to put it down, he shot Stephens in the head and again after he fell. (The shooter also shot) at conductor Owen and the Porter. (The killer) is said to be insane. He has a family and lives near Boma. He was arrested, brought here (Cookeville), placed in jail and indicted for murder in the first degree. (Date: 06/03/1909, Vol. VII, No. 22, pg. 1)

#### PASSENGER DEATH FROM NATURAL CAUSE:

Tucker, Gallant: Gallant Tucker, one of the best known and most prosperous farmers of this county, died suddenly Saturday afternoon while en route to Nashville on the evening passenger train. He had been unwell for several weeks and was going to Nashville for treatment. He was 65 years old and leaves a wife and several grown children. His remains were interred Sunday afternoon at the family cemetery in the Ninth Civil District. (Date: 01/27/1910, Vol. VIII, No. 4, pg. 5).

#### TRAIL ACCIDENT WITHIN OR NEAR PUTNAM COUNTY:

Shanks, Charles D: "Popular Young Man Loses His Life From a Railroad Accident" - Thursday morning, Nov. 19, 1903, Charles Shanks of this city, a brakeman on the T. C. Railroad, had an ankle and lower leg crushed while coupling cars at Crab Orchard. He was brought home and his injury dressed, and on Friday was taken to the city hospital in Nashville in order to receive treatment of Dr. Fort, chief surgeon for the railroad company. On Saturday it was found amputation would be necessary, and accordingly his foot was taken off. The poor boy never rallied from the shock, but lingered on until Tuesday morning, when he died. His wife and mother went to him Sunday and, with his brothers Mackie and Herbert, were with him to the end. Every service mortal could render was given him, but an all wise Providence ruled to cut short the young life. The remains were brought home Tuesday night and the funeral services conducted Wednesday at 2 o'clock at Duke house by Rev. G. W. Nackles. Interment (was) at the Cookeville Cemetery under auspices of the local Odd Fellows Lodge.

*Note from editor: The above death so moved the Cookeville Community that the following article was subsequently written:*

Shanks, Charlie D.: Charlie D. Shanks, whose sad death occurred in Nashville hospital Tuesday morning, Nov. 24, was a young man of good appearance, industrious habits, and had many friends. On the 24th of September 1902, he was married to Miss Kate Hunter of Goffton, Tenn. Our friend being only about 27 years of age, his accidental injury and sudden death all add to the sadness of the general fact. The funeral service on the afternoon of the 25th was largely attended. Mt. View Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which the deceased was a loyal member, had a large delegation on hand and they conducted the burial services. (Date: 12/09/1903, Vol. I, No. 44, pg. 6).

**COOKEVILLE IN RETROSPECT  
RAILROAD TRAGEDIES**

As Recorded in the  
Putnam County Herald  
1903-1913  
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN  
Sunday, 18 November 2007, pg. C-3

**PART THREE**

Train accidents within or near Putnam County, continued:

Simmons, J. S.: J. S. Simmons was killed at Monterey after being run over by a car in the railroad yard while crossing the tracks. (Date: 04/19/1905, Vol. III, No. 11, Page 1)

(Editor's Note: Individual on foot often crossed the tracks while trains were active in the area. Taking chances by crawling under a train car was a practice all too common. Complacency due to familiarity with the presence of trains led to acts of carelessness. Switching yards were especially dangerous due to released cars rolling down the tracks upon being set free from the main train system.)

Crowder, Tom: The dead body of Tom Crowder was found on the track at Bennett's Siding, west of Boma on Sunday morning. It had been crushed. Nothing is known as to how he met death. Inquest declared that it was from being hit by a train. (Date: 12/3/1908, Vol. VI, No. 28, Page 1).

Sims, Tom: Fatal Accident - Tuesday morning of last week Tom Sims, colored, was killed by a Tennessee Central freight train at the crossing near R. P. Morgan's residence. Sims was driving a team (of mules) belonging to the Cookeville Roller Mills, hitched to a wagon with no bed and collided with the train. He was thrown under the engine and badly mangled. His team was not hurt and the wagon slightly damaged.

Sims was a respected Negro and had lived here many years. (Date: 2/10/1909, Vol. VII, No. 6, Page 5).

Lindsay, S. F.: Fatal Railroad Wreck - Last Thursday night a west-bound freight train on the Tennessee Central was wrecked about two miles east of Algood by the engine running into a lot of rock that had slid onto the track.

Conductors S. S. Knight, who was on the engine, and Fireman S. F. Lindsay were killed and Engineer J. E. Stevens was injured. (Date: 7/14/1910, Vol. VIII, No. 28, Page 1).

Dishman, Joe: Joe Dishman was killed by the east-bound passenger train last Friday near Brotherton, his body being terribly mangled. He was subject to epileptic attacks and is supposed to have fallen on the track. (Date: 1/13/1910, Vol. VIII, No. 2, Page 3).

(Editor's note: The father (Millus Dishman) of Joe Dishman died that Friday night only hours after learning of the death of his son. (Refer to obituary below).

Dishman, Milus: Milus Dishman, father of Joe, died Friday night after a long illness and both were buried in one grave at Bryers Cemetery on Sunday. (Date: 1/13/1910, Vol., VIII, No. 2, Page 3).

Kinnaird, Alvin: Killed by Train - Alvin Kinnaird of this city was run over and killed by a passenger train on the Tennessee Central Railroad early Sunday morning, near Hickman. Kinnaird had been to Nashville and was coming home. For some reason he was put off the train at Holmes Gap and had walked nearly to Hickman. It is supposed he sat down on the track to rest and fell asleep. He was a son of Tom Kinnaird, who lives a few miles north of town and was about 20 years old.

Dennis, Chas: The shopping train on the T. C. Railroad, leaving Nashville at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, collided with a work train about four miles out of the city. Both engineers were killed, and about 20 passengers injured.

Bud Cleveland was engineer on the passenger train and Chas. Dennis was the engineer on the work train. Firemen from both trains jumped and saved their lives. Among passengers, E. H. Boyd of this city was among the ones most seriously injured, being taken to a hospital in Nashville. Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Farley were also on the train. The work train was making for a side-track when the trains met on a curve. (Date: 6/22/1911, Vol. XI, No. 25, Page 1).

Tabor, Bell: Killed by Train - Last Monday, Bell Tabor, daughter of Peter Tabor of Johnson Stand, was run over by a passenger train on the T. C. Railroad, her body being badly mangled. It is supposed the girl took this means of committing suicide. She was 14 years old. (Date: 1/26/1911, Vol., IX, No. 4, Page 5).

Connor, M. P.: A freight train was wrecked on Silver Point Hill last Thursday night and a brakeman named M. P. Connor was killed. (Date: 9/18/1913, Vol. XI, No. 38, Page 4).

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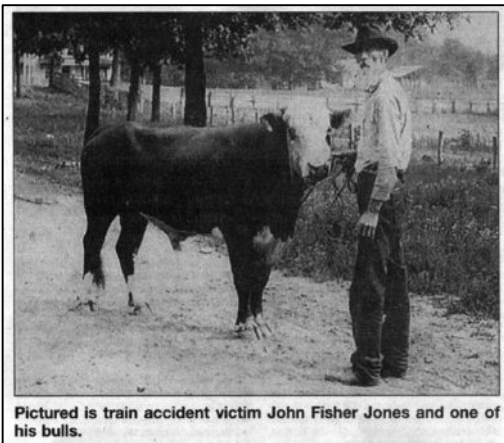
**RAILROAD TRAGEDIES**  
As Recorded In The Putnam County Herald, 1903-1913  
**PART FOUR:**

Train accidents within or near Putnam County, continued...

WHITE, S. W.: A Peculiar Fatal Accident – A crowbar falling from the top of a bridge on the Tennessee Central Railroad near Monterey, under which S. W. White was working at

the time, struck him in the top of the left shoulder and entirely pierced his body, the point of the crowbar coming out just at the groin. The accident occurred at 10-30 o'clock Saturday morning and medical attention was summoned at once to attend him while he was being taken to Nashville by railcar. Reaching the city Saturday evening shortly after 6 o'clock, he was rushed to Fort's infirmary, where the best medical attention was given him, but in vain. He died about 8 o'clock. White was employed by the railroad company as a bridge carpenter and lived with his wife and two children near Buffalo Valley. He was about 30 years of age. He was of a large heavy build and it is stated by the attending physician that only his wonderful constitution kept him alive during the eight hours journey to the city (Nashville) and hospital. The cause of the falling of the death-dealing instrument is an absolute mystery, and it was not known that it was there until it fell. It is thought that a passing freight train jarred it from its place and that the hammering of the workmen making repairs on the bridge caused it to roll off. (Date 7/24/1913, Vol. XI, No. 30 page 1).

**VAUGHN, CARL: Killed By Train** – On last Saturday morning at three o'clock an east-bound freight train ran over and horribly mangled the body of Carl Vaughn, the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Vaughn of Monterey, the scene of the accident being one mile east of Monterey. The body of the young man was lying on the track entirely between the rails when it was discovered by the train crew, but it was impossible to bring the train to a stand-still until after it had run over the body. There was a suspicion upon the part of a number of people that the young man might have been murdered and his body placed upon the track to destroy evidence of the crime and on this account County Coroner J. R. Douglass and County Attorney E. H. Boyd went to Monterey and had an inquest held Saturday. After hearing the testimony of a large number of witnesses the jury of inquest returned a verdict to the effect that the young man's death was due to his having been run over by the freight train, the evidence warranting the find of the jury. The young man, in an intoxicated condition, was evidently on his return to his home in Monterey from a party at the home of John Owens, two miles, east of that town, when he is supposed to have gone to sleep on the track. (Date: 12/4/1913, Vol. XI, No. 49, page 2).



Pictured is train accident victim John Fisher Jones and one of his bulls.

**JONES, JOHN FISHER:** We are sad to report the death of Mr. John Fisher Jones, which occurred here last Friday morning at 5 o'clock. He heard the eastbound local come in and went to the depot (Monterey) to see how many of the train crew wanted breakfast at his son's boarding house. He was standing on the main track talking to the fireman when he was caught under a switch engine and terribly mangled, suffering intensely until 11 o'clock, and went peacefully to sleep and never awoke. Appropriate funeral services were conducted at the Holiness Church by Revs. A.P. Welch and

Lige Weaver. He was buried in the city cemetery by the side of his wife, who died about

17 months ago. He is survived by one son and a daughter, both of Monterey, Chas. Jones and Mrs. Alvin Countess. Mr. Jones was a devout Christian man, and had a host of friends in Monterey, as well as all over Putnam County. We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved ones. Monterey has indeed lost a good man. (Date: 12/9/1909, Vol. VII, No. 5).

*(Editor's Note: Dale Welch, owner and publisher of Monterey's Hilltop Express, wrote a story on John Fisher Jones in the July 26, 2007, Page 3, edition of his newspaper).*

A Monterey man was killed when he was run over by a train at the Monterey Depot early one December morning in 1909.

Born in August 1853, John Fisher Jones was the son of Lewis J. and Anna Jones. They lived near Lansing, in Morgan County. Everyone in the family worked on the farm.

Jones married Elizabeth sometime around 1874. According to an old story by one of their daughters, Rosa Jones Countiss Calahan, who is now deceased, the couple had two girls and four boys. Their children were born in Morgan County near the "Cincinnati and Southern Railroad."

Sometime after 1880 and prior to 1900, John Fisher and Elizabeth loaded up their family and moved two miles below Monterey onto a farm. The family all worked together and had stock and poultry and raised everything they needed.

Mrs. Jones died on June 28, 1908 and was laid to rest at the Whittaker Cemetery, then also called the "city cemetery."

About 17 months later, Fisher Jones, who was a Putnam Justice of the Peace, was at his son, Charlie's boarding house, which sit on the corner of S. Chestnut St. and E. Railroad Ave. Descendants say the original house is not there anymore.

On Friday, December 3, 1909, about 5 a.m., Fisher Jones heard the eastbound local train pull into the Monterey Depot, just about a block away. He went to the depot to see who all wanted breakfast at the Charlie's boarding house.

The early morning was till dark around the depot. Jones was standing on the main track talking to the fireman when he was caught under the switch engine, which wasn't using any lights, and badly mangled.

The old newspaper account said that he suffered intensely until 11 a.m. and "went peacefully to sleep and never awoke."

Rev. A. P. Welch and Rev. Lige Weaver conducted funeral services at the Holiness Church (named was later changed to the Monterey Church of the Nazarene). Jones was buried beside his wife in the Whittaker Cemetery.

*Information was compiled of Dr. Oplless Walker.*

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

**BONE, JOHN D.:** John D. Bone, of Alexandria, while on his way to Texas fell from a moving train in Arkansas and was instantly killed. His remains reached Alexandria a few days ago and were interred in the family burying grounds. Mr. Bone was a well known citizen of Dekalb County. (Dekalb County) [Date: 11/18/1897, Vol. XI, No. 5, Page 8] The Cookeville Press, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

**CARR, SAM:** Sam Carr formerly of this place, was run over by a train at Bessemer, Ala., Christmas day and died of his injuries Tuesday, Dec 26, 1905. His remains were brought to this place for burial. He leaves a wife and several small children in destitute circumstances. [Date: 1/3/1906, Vol. III, No. 47, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN. Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**CANTRELL, MILTON:** Unfortunate Accident -- Monday afternoon when the train returning from Lebanon had reached Spring Creek, the engine and brakemen went in on the sidetrack to pull out a car. Milton Cantrell and Ack Meachum, two brakemen, went down to make the coupling. Mr. Cantrell thinking the draw head of the car was too low to couple, lifted it up and directed Meachum to put a rock under it. While holding the draw head, the engine was backing struck him, mashing him between the two draw heads, when the engine was signaled ahead, Cantrell dropped helpless to the ground, but was quickly assisted by his brother laborers, who placed him in the baggage car and the train made a quick run to Watertown where Dr. Blair was summoned and who accompanied Cantrell to his home at this place. Arriving here, Dr. G. W. Whitney was called in and examination made and it was found that the left hip and side were crushed and the wounded man was pronounced to be in a precarious condition. All was done that was possible to relieve his suffering, but he could not endure the injuries received. He lingered through the night amid excruciating pain, and died about 7:30 Tuesday morning. His remains were immediately taken charge of by the members of Lily Lodge, No. 91, K. P., of which he was a beloved member, some of whom were with him from the moment that he was hurt, until the last clod was thrown on his grave. . . . A special train was tendered by the N. & K. officials to convey the remains, relatives, and Knights and their families to Double Springs, where his body was buried at 7 o'clock in the afternoon with the impressive K. of P. ceremony. Milton Cantrell was a native of Putnam county, among his relatives are numbered some of the best people of this county. . . . He was married last fall to Miss Judd of Double Springs, who with his aged mother, are grief-stricken at their sudden loss. Our deepest sympathy is with them. [Date: 4/26/1894, Vol. VII, No. 26, Page 4] The Cookeville Press, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

**CLEVELAND, BUD:** The shopping train on the T. C. railroad, leaving Nashville at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, collided with a work train about four miles out of the city. Both engineers were killed, and about twenty passengers injured. Bud Cleveland was engineer on the passenger train and Chas. Dennis on the work train. Both firemen jumped and saved their lives. Among passengers, E. H. Boyd of this city was among the ones most seriously injured, being taken to a hospital in Nashville. Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Farley

were also on the train. The work train was making for a side-track to meet the passenger when the trains met on a curve. [Date: 6/22/1911, Vol. IX, No. 25, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**CONNOR, M. P.:** A freight train was wrecked on Silver Point hill last Thursday night a brakeman named M. P. Connor was killed. [Date: 9/18/1913, Vol. XI, No. 38, Page 4] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**COPELAND, MACK:** Killed by a Train -- Mack Copeland was run over by a train and instantly killed at Lovejoy last Saturday. His head was completely severed. His remains were brought here and buried at Smyrna on Sunday, beside his wife. He left several children. [Date: 7/26/1905, Vol. III, No. 25, Page 5] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**COPELAND, THOS.:** We noticed an account of the death of a young man in the Talihina, (I. T.) News, by the name of Thos. Copeland who was run over by a train near that place and killed the 25th of August. Nothing was known of the young man more than it was learned from a companion who had been with him but a short time, that his name was Thos. Copeland, and his home was in Tennessee. We publish the above thinking he might have relatives in this section, as a number of families by his name reside in this and Overton county. [Date: 10/4/1894, Vol. VII, No. 49, Page 5] The Cookeville Press, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

**CROWDER, TOM:** The dead body of Tom Crowder was found on the railroad track at Bennett's Siding, west of Boma, on Sunday morning. His head had been crushed. Nothing is known as to how he met death, but the jury of inquest declared that it was from being hit by a train. [Date: 8/12/1908, Vol. VI, No. 28, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**DENNIS, CHAS.:** The shopping train on the T. C. railroad, leaving Nashville at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, collided with a work train about four miles out of the city. Both engineers were killed, and about twenty passengers injured. Bud Cleveland was engineer on the passenger train and Chas. Dennis on the work train. Both firemen jumped and saved their lives. Among passengers, E. H. Boyd of this city was among the ones most seriously injured, being taken to a hospital in Nashville. Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Farley were also on the train. The work train was making for a side-track to meet the passenger when the trains met on a curve. [Date: 6/22/1911, Vol. IX, No. 25, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**DISHMAN, JOE:** Joe Dishman was killed by the east bound passenger train last Friday, near Brotherton, his body being terribly mangled. He was subject to epileptic attacks and is supposed to have fallen on the track. [Date: 1/13/1910, Vol. VIII, No. 2, Page 3] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**GILLEM, HARVEY:** FATAL WRECK ON SOUTHERN -- Work Train Ditched Near Monterey, Kills a Man and Injures Several -- Cookeville, Tenn. Aug 15. -- One of the

most serious railroad wrecks that has ever occurred in this county happened yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock one mile east of Monterey, on the Southern Railway. Harvey Gillem, a white man 21 years old, living at Algood, was instantly killed. Gillem was a section hand. He leaves a wife and one child. He was a son of Prof. Jesse Gillem, a prominent teacher of the Fifteenth District of this county. Monroe Byers, the section foreman, is thought to be fatally injured. His home is at Algood. It is reported that his back is broken. Hank Bledsoe, engineer; Homer Erwin, fireman; Conductor Powers, Brakeman C. Watkins and Jesse William, a section hand, are all injured, some of them seriously and probably fatally. Several negro section hands were very badly injured, one of them, Ed Bolton of this city, being fatally injured. . . [Date: 8/15/1907, Vol. V, No. 24, Page 4] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**GREEN, CHARLES:** Train Runs Away Down Silver Point Hill -- Chas. Green Killed. Last Thursday night, June 23, 1904, about 9 o'clock, a train of 12 loaded slag cars in charge of Yardmaster Webster and Engineer Cantrell got beyond control and ran away down Silver Point Hill. Seven rear cars were wrecked near Alcorn siding and Charles Green, a switchman was killed. He was thrown against a rock and his chest crushed, causing internal bleeding, his lungs becoming choked with blood, suffocating him. Haskel Jared, another switchman, and Yardmaster Webster were also on the wrecked cars, but escaped injury. The engine and five head cars remaining on the track, Engineer Cantrell and Fireman Haynes were unhurt, but had a great scare. The remains of Mr. Green were brought here and interred in the city cemetery Friday evening, Mr. Green had lived in Cookeville about a year, and had made many friends here by his steady industry and quiet, gentlemanly bearing. He was familiarly called "Bogus" by his intimates, and was a witty and agreeable companion. Mr. Green was about 40 years of age, and left a widow who will continue to reside here. His parents live in Nashville, where he also has a brother. The Herald extends its deepest sympathy to the sorrowing ones. [Date: 6/29/1904, Vol. II, No. 21, Page 6] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**GRIMSLEY, WILL HENRY:** Falls Off Train Near Silver Point and is Run Over - Wednesday night about 9:30 o'clock, Brakeman Will Henry Grimsley of this place, fell between the cars near Silver Point and was killed, the wheels passing over both legs and one arm. He was brought here as soon as possible and medical aid summoned, but died about 1 o'clock. He was a son of Widow Grimsley, and an honorable your man. The funeral will be from the residence on West Side at 4 o'clock this, Thursday evening. [Date: 3/18/1903, Vol. I, No. 6, Page 8] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**HANEY, LOUIS:** Louis Haney was run over by a passenger train near Brotherton last Saturday and his body torn to pieces. He was a section hand and it is said had been drinking. We have not received any particulars of the horrible affair. [Date: 10/3/1907, Vol. V, No. 31, Page 4] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**HOWARD, FANNIE:** Last Thursday afternoon Miss Fannie Howard was killed by a freight train on the Southern Railway near Monterey. In company with her mother, Mrs. Betty Howard, she was crossing a trestle when the train came upon them. The older



woman leaped from the bridge, but her daughter was struck and fatally injured. Mrs. Howard is 79 and Miss Howard was 25 years of age. [Date: 2/12/1908, Vol. VI, No. 2, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**JONES, JOHN FISHER:** We are sad to report the death of Mr. John Fisher Jones, which occurred here last Friday morning at 5 o'clock. He heard the eastbound local come in and went to the depot to see how many of the train crew wanted breakfast at his son's boarding house. He was standing on the main track talking to the fireman when he was caught under a switch engine and terribly mangled, suffering intensely until 11 o'clock, and went peacefully to sleep and never awoke. Appropriate funeral services were conducted at the Holiness church by Revs. A. P. Welch and Lige Weaver. He was buried in the city cemetery by the side of his wife, who died about 17 months ago. He is survived by one son and a daughter, both of Monterey, Chas. Jones and Mrs. Alvin Countess. Mr. Jones was a devout Christian man, and had a host of friends in Monterey, as well as all over Putnam county. We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved ones. Monterey has indeed lost a good man. [Date: 12/9/1909, Vol. VII, No. 50, Page 5] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**JUDD, WAYNE:** Wayne Judd was run over and killed by a freight train Sunday night about 5:30 o'clock, just east of Sycamore Cut, about two miles west of town. His body was terribly mutilated. The remains were brought here and Esq. C. J. Davis and jury held an inquest. There is some talk that the young man had been murdered and his body placed on the track, but nothing of that character was brought out at the inquest. It appears that Judd and several other young men had been drinking, and got into a row, as is usual in such cases, after which they started up the railroad towards town. The other parties left Judd a short time before he was killed. [Date: 9/13/1905, Vol. III, No. 32, Page 4] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**KINNAIRD, ALVIN:** Killed by Train -- Alvin Kinnaird of this city was run over and killed by a passenger train on the Tennessee Central railroad early Sunday morning, near Hickman. Kinnaird had been to Nashville and was coming home. For some reason he was put off the train at Holmes Gap and had walked nearly to Hickman. It is supposed he sat down on the track to rest and fell asleep. He was a son of Tom Kinnaird, who lives a few miles north of town and was about 20 years old. [Date: 9/28/1911, Vol. IX, No. 39, Page 8] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**KNIGHT, S. S.:** Fatal Railroad Wreck -- Last Thursday night a west-bound freight train on the Tennessee Central was wrecked about two miles east of Algood by the engine running into a lot of rock that had slid onto the track. Conductor S. S. Knight, who was on the engine, and Fireman S. F. Lindsay were killed and Engineer J. E. Stevens was injured. [Date: 7/14/1910, Vol. VIII, No. 28, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**LINDSAY, S. F.:** Fatal Railroad Wreck -- Last Thursday night a west-bound freight train on the Tennessee Central was wrecked about two miles east of Algood by the engine running into a lot of rock that had slid onto the track. Conductor S. S. Knight, who was

on the engine, and Fireman S. F. Lindsay were killed and Engineer J. E. Stevens was injured. [Date: 7/14/1910, Vol. VIII, No. 28, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**MILLS, JOHN:** John Mills, a former citizen of Cookeville, was killed by a freight train at his home in Como, Texas, on Aug. 27. [Date: 9/2/1908, Vol. VI, No. 31, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**SIMS, TOM:** Fatal Accident - Tuesday morning of last week Tom Sims, colored was killed by a Tennessee Central freight trains at the crossing near R. P. Morgan's residence. Sims was driving a team belonging to the Cookeville Roller Mills, hitched to a wagon with no bed and collided with the train. He was thrown under the engine and badly mangled. His team was not hurt and the wagon slightly damaged. Sims was a respected negro and had lived here many years. [Date: 2/10/1909, Vol. VII, No. 6, Page 5] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**TABOR, BELL:** Killed by Train -- Last Monday Bell Tabor, daughter of Peter Tabor of Johnson Stand, was run over by a passenger train on T. C. railroad, he body being badly mangled. It is supposed the girl took this means of committing suicide. She was 14 years old. [Date: 1/26/1911, Vol. IX, No. 4, Page 5] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**VAUGHN, CARL:** Killed by Train -- On last Saturday morning at three o'clock and east bound freight train ran over and horribly mangled the body of Carl Vaughn, the 17 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Vaughn of Monterey, the scene of the accident being one mile east of Monterey. The body of the young man was lying on the track entirely between the rails when it was discovered by the train crew, but it was impossible to bring the train to a standstill until after it had ran over the body. There was a suspicion upon the part of a number of people that the young man might have been murdered and his body placed upon the track to destroy evidence of the crime and on this account County Coroner J. R. Douglass and County Attorney E. H. Boyd went to Monterey and had an inquest held Saturday. After hearing the testimony of a large number of witnesses the jury of inquest returned a verdict to the effect that the young man's death was due to his having been run over by the freight train, the evidence warranting the find of the jury. The young man, in an intoxicated condition, was evidently on his return to his home in Monterey from a party at the home of John Owens, two miles east of that town, when he is supposed to have gone to sleep on the track. [Date: 12/4/1913, Vol. XI, No. 49, Page 2] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

**WHITE, S. W.:** A Peculiar Fatal Accident -- A crowbar falling form the top of a bridge on the Tennessee Central railroad near Monterey, under which S. W. White was working at the time, struck him in the top of the left shoulder and entirely pierced his body, the point coming out just at the groin. The accident occurred at 10:30 o'clock Saturday morning and medical attention was summoned at once to attend him while he was being brought to Nashville. Reaching the city Saturday evening shortly after 6 o'clock, he was rushed to Fort's Infirmary, where the best medical attention was given him, but in vain.

He died about 8 o'clock. White was employed by the railroad company as a bridge carpenter and lived with his wife and two children near Buffalo Valley. He was about 30 years of age. He was of a large, heavy build and it is stated by the attending physician that only his wonderful constitution kept him alive during the eight hours journey to the city and hospital. The cause of the falling of the death dealing instrument is an absolute mystery, and it was not known that it was there until it fell. It is thought that a passing freight train jarred it from its place and that the hammering of the workmen making the repairs on the bridge caused it to roll off. [Date: 7/24/1913, Vol. XI, No. 30, Page 1] Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

<http://tngenes.net/obituaries/index.html>

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