

ARCHIVES RECORDS HISTORY OF BOHANNON COMMUNITY

'Forgotten Crossroads'



Pictured at the Bohannon sign are, from left, Glenn Jones, Carol Bradford, Randall McCormick, Terry Randolph, Gene Randolph, Zebbie Norris, Carrie Deering, Lois Boyd Horsley, Anna Ruth Burroughs, Kim Bradford, Maudean Sparks, Owen Sparks and Cathy Reel. Photo by Ty Kernea.

PUTNAM COUNTY — In their search for “almost forgotten crossroads” of Putnam County, the Putnam County Archives has been collecting information from local residents about the Bohannon Community.

The Bohannon Community is located in the vicinity of Old Sparta Road, Bob Bullock Road, and Horace Lewis Road in south Cookeville.

Not much history is known about this spot. As with many historical communities, the main activities centered on school and church. The Bohannon School began in 1875 and closed in 1953. On Sundays, church was held in the school building until a church was built in the area. The Home Demonstration Club was also big part of the Bohannon Community in the 50s and 60s.

In the 1930s and 1940s, John D. (J.D.) Burnett operated a general merchandise store on what is now Old Sparta Road. The store stood just north of the Antioch Church of Christ.

“Lois Boyd Horsley remembers her grandmother, Belle Nicholas Boyd, and Belle’s daughter, Minnie Lou, tell about going to Burnett’s store to exchange eggs for dress material,” Glenn Jones, Putnam County archivist said.

J.D. Burnett’s daughter, Pearl, married Bill McCormick, and they lived in the white house farther north of the store. The McCormick house, a big white, two story house, still stands.

If anyone has information on the Bohannon Community or any other historical community, please visit the Putnam County Archives at 121 B South Dixie Ave. or call 931-520-0042.

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