

## UNFORTUNATE DEATHS AND INCIDENTS

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### Robert Elmore Bilbrey

b. 28 December 1882, Overton Co., TN – d. 10 June 1911, Putnam Co., TN, md **Annie Denton (Hampton) Bilbrey**, b. 1890 – d. 1964, TN. Annie also md **Swep Rogers**, b. 25 August 1892, Dyer Co., TN – d. 24 September 1955, Algood, Putnam Co., TN, (Tennessee CPL HO Co 115 Field Arty WWI). **Annie Denton (Hampton) Bilbrey**, d/o **John Forest Hampton** (1863-1935) & **Sarah Caroline Eldridge** (1861-1922). **Annie Denton (Hampton) Bilbrey** and her parents are all buried in Algood Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Robert Elmore Bilbrey is buried in Algood Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

BILBREY, R. E.: R. E. Bilbrey of Algood was drowned while bathing in the Caney Fork River near Buffalo Valley last Saturday afternoon. A party had gone to the river for a few days outing, including Mr. Bilbrey and family, H. A. Draper and wife, and other from Algood. In swimming the river it was supposed Bilbrey was seized with cramps. Mr. Draper went to his assistance, but failed to reach him before he sank. The body was recovered Sunday afternoon and taken to Algood for burial. Mr. Bilbrey was one of Putnam County's best citizens, and about 30 years of age. [Date 6/15/1911, Vol. IX, No. 24, Page 1]

### Sparta Expositor, White Co., TN:

Date 7/10/1913, Vol. XI, No. 28, Page 1

### **Alvin E, Bartlett**

b. 30 October 1887 – d. 29 June 1913, Sparta, White Co., TN.

BARTLETT, ALVIE: Sparta and the entire community were shocked by the accident, on Sunday afternoon, which brought about the death of Alvie Bartlett by drowning. He and Richard Gist were swimming in the noted pool north of Sparta on Dr. Richards' premises, about dusk, when the said occurrence happened. Mr. Bartlett had reached about the middle of the stream when he took the cramp and began to sink. His companion had just reached the bank, and at first thought he was diving, but when he came up it was seen he was sinking. Mr. Gist started to swim to him, but he had gone down a third time before he reached him. At once he dressed and hurried to give the alarm. It was more than an hour before the body was recovered, when the physician worked over him till all hope was lost. His body was taken to the Sims house where it was prepared for burial by Undertaker Quarles & Hunter, and remained till his people could be informed and get here. His remains were laid to rest in Dry Valley cemetery, the community burying grounds where his father lived. Alvie was a son of Nate Bartlett, was 24 years of age and leaves five brothers and one sister besides his parents. He began life for himself very young, clerking for Whitley Hyder of Cookeville, then for Whitson Bros., later with the Gainesboro Telephone Co., and Lebeck Bros., of Nashville, and with the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co., working with their man here, Mr. Frank Sutton. He had made a very favorable impression among the people here who deplore his sad and untimely death.

### Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 19 July 1917

#### A MURDER MYSTERY:

Several weeks ago Amon Hutchings of the Eighth district disappeared. A short time ago the skull and certain other human bones were found near where he was last seen alive. It appeared that Hutchings had been murdered and his body cremated. The remains were identified by a bullet in the skull and the finding of a ring known to have been worn by Hutchings.

Hobart Roberts was arrested and charged with the crime. Last Saturday Esqs. M. C. Farly and A. L. Green came to Cookeville and conducted a preliminary hearing as a result of which Roberts was held in court without bail. He stoutly denies being guilty of the crime.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

1 May 1919

Aubrey C. Wright

b. 20 November 1894, TN – d. 30 April 1919, VA, (Sgt. 1/C No 11 A.S.P.L.F. VA), s/o **John E. Wright & Virginia “Jennie” Francis (Coe) Wright.**

**AUBREY WRIGHT KILLED:**

Sergeant Aubrey Wright of this city was killed instantly Wednesday afternoon, April 30, at Langley Field, VA. He was a mechanic in the aviation service of the U. S. Army, and his death was caused by the blade of an aero plane propeller, hitting him on the head. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wright, formerly of his city, but residing near Ashland City. The remains will be buried in the city cemetery, Saturday.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

1 April 1920

**HORRIBLE CRIME:**

**Corporal Raphael Parimutter Murdered and Mutilated:**

**VERDUCT OF THE INQUEST JURY:**

On Monday night, March 15, 1920, the band of the Twenty-eighth Infantry arrived in Cookeville to aid in the big drive for army enlistments. On Tuesday night the 16<sup>th</sup> Corp. Raphael Perimutter, a member of the band was seen on the street and never seen again alive by his companions. He was reported missing and careful search for a week failed to disclose even a clue as to his whereabouts. On Monday, March 29, about 10 o'clock a.m. Tom and Harvey Kuykendall found his dead body in the brush about two miles west of the courthouse, near what is known as the “old crock kiln,” and came to town to report.

Coroner J. R. Douglass went at once to the place, summoned a jury, brought the body to town and began a legal inquest, which has continued until Friday.

Many witnesses were examined and suspicion early pointed to certain parties as guilty of the murder of having criminal knowledge of the affair. Wednesday evening Let Hill, a Negro woman made important statements, and that night John Kirby made a confession in which he told the whole story, according to his version, which was to the effect that he and three other men induced Perimutter to go out with them, Kirby, Jim Madewell, Alfred Smith and Will Robinson, a negro known as “Gressy.” That they had gone out for the purpose of gambling, and arriving at a place near the place where the body was found, without any row having occurred, Smith shot Perimutter, the negro cut his throat and Madewell beat up his head with a hickory cane belonging to Kirby, the skull being crushed in badly. That Smith then went through the dead man's pockets, and they carried the body to the place where it was found. Kirby also stated that Smith took whatever was found on Perimutter.

Kirby, Madewell and Robinson are in jail here and Smith has been arrested in Detroit, MI, where he had gone soon after Perimutter disappeared.

This is a brief statement of the case as developed up to date, without confusing our readers with many details.

The body of Corp. Perimutter was sent to New York for burial, he having relatives there.

The motive fro the crime is thought to have been robbery.

Perimutter was supposed to have considerable money, drafts and post office money orders with him.

It was one of the most horrible murders ever committed in this section, and the people are determined upon a speedy trial and that every possible effort be made to punish the guilty whoever they may be.

The jury of inquest brought in the following verdict:

As inquisition holden at Cookeville in the state and county aforesaid, beginning on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, and extending until this April 2<sup>nd</sup>, before J. R. Douglass, Coroner of Putnam County, upon the body of a person identified as Raphael Perimutter, found dead about a mile and a half west of Cookeville, and brought to Cookeville, by the jurors whose names are hereto subscribed, who, upon their oaths, do say that the dead body is that of Raphael Perimutter, a member of the band in the United States Army, Headquarters Company, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry, who was temporarily at Cookeville with said band, and whose residence prior and at the time of his enlistment was in the state of New York, but hat he was a Russian Jew, and that he was about the age of (blank) years, and a white man. They find that he had been shot in the right side of the head just back of the eye, near the temple, and in the mouth, with something like a 32 or 38 caliber ball; that he had been hit with some blunt instrument apparently a stick, on the right side of the head, that had bursted his skull; and that his throat had been cut two or three times. The evidence disclosed that he was killed on the evening of March 16<sup>th</sup>. That about dark on said date, this deceased in company with John Kirby, Jim Madewell, and Alfred Smith, went to the home of Will Robinson (colored), near where the dirt road crosses the railroad, about a mile and a quarter west of Cookeville, and that at that place they were joined by Will Robinson (colored), and proceeded west along the railroad track, for something like a quarter of a mile when they turned to the left and went over near the barn of T. J. Gregory, at which place the deceased Raphael Perimutter, was shot, struck with a stick, and cut, by the parties who were with him, the said Alfred Smith having done the shooting, Will Robinson (colored) having done the cutting, and Jim Madewell having used the stick, according to the testimony of John Kirby. That after said deceased was killed, all four of the said parties picked him up and carried him around down in a westerly direction, got out into the public road with his body, and then came back into the same enclosure and carried it up northward, and laid it down near Cane Creek, and there left it in a thicket.

The jury, therefore, find that the deceased came to his death, at the hands of Alfred Smith, Will Robinson, Jim Madewell and John Kirby, who perpetrated the homicide, and later robbed the body, and are, therefore, guilty of murder in the first degree.

In testimony, the said jurors have hereunto set their hands on this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 1920.

Thos A. Early, J. C. Tyler, F. C. Maxwell, F. E. Collier, T. J. Foutch, L. C. Reeves, W. R. Carlen, H. S. Barnes, Lucien Stanton, J. B. Graves, W. W. Harris.

The three accused men waived preliminary hearing, were held by Coroner J. R. Douglass without bail and will be sent to Nashville for safety.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

27 January 1921.

John M. Speakman Obt.

b. 14 March 1861, Jackson Co., TN – d. 24 January 1921, md on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1890, Jackson Co., TN to **Emma (Phillips) Speakman**, b. 25 October 1867, Jackson Co., TN – d. 7 May 1948. John M. Speakman, s/o **William Speakman & Francis A. Casson**.

JOHN SPEAKMAN KILLED BY SWITCH ENGINE:

One of Cookeville's Most Highly Respected Citizens Meets Instant Death:

One of the most appalling tragedies in the history of Cookeville occurred at the Tennessee Central passenger station last Monday morning at eight o'clock, when John Speakman was struck and instantly killed by a switch engine.

Mr. Speakman who was almost totally deaf, was crossing the track on the north side, and evidently was not aware of the fact that the engine was approaching, as it was traveling at a slow rate of speed, according to eye witnesses, and was just in the act of crossing over the rail of the track and had he quickened his motion the least bit would have been safety over. But he did not otherwise and he was caught by the cow-catcher of the engine and drawn back to instant death. The engine was stopped a few feet from where the accident occurred and the body did not get under the train but was badly broken in places. Two of three bystanders rushed to the rescue but he was dead before they could reach him. The body was immediately carried to the rear room at the barber shop by the railway authorities and a little later carried over to the family.

John Speakman was a most respected citizen and will be greatly missed in his community. He was a tinner by trade and in this capacity had worked in this trade during his twenty-two years residence in Cookeville. He held the confidence of all with whom he came in contact. Despite his deafness which was of course a great handicap to him, he was always jovial, and invariably had a pleasant word of greeting for everyone. He was especially fond of children and was a great favorite among the little folks. At the time of the fatal accident one little fellow we are told, knew the danger his friend was in, and realizing that an alarm would be of no avail, ran as fast as his little legs would carry him to pull Mr. Speakman out of harm's way, but he was too late.

Mr. Speakman was 59 years of age. He was born in Jackson county, having moved from Gainesboro to Cookeville a quarter of a century ago. He is survived by a wife and four daughters. He also was the father of four sons, all of whom preceded him to the grave. He is also survived by two sisters who live in Cookeville, Mrs. Wm. Smoot and Mrs. Nina Embry. One brother, Hall Speakman, was here to attend the funeral, which was conducted at the home Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock by Rev. C. L. Talley of the Christian Church. The remains were interred in the city cemetery at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, attended by many relatives and friends of the deceased.

The Herald joins the entire community in heartfelt sympathy in their sorrow.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

3 March 1921

Samuel "Sammie" Newton McBroom Obt.

b. 1 June 1883, TN – d. 25 February 1921, TN, md on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1899, Putnam Co., TN to **Clara C. (Roberts) McBroom Loftis**, b. 1885 – d. 3 August 1953, TN. Samuel Newton McBroom, s/o **Samuel McBroom** (1843-1909) & **Martha Ann Grimes**, (1848-1925).

**KILLING AT DOUBLE SPRINGS:**

A deplorable tragedy was enacted in the Seventh Civil District of this county last Friday afternoon when Sam McBroom, a highly respected farmer living near McBroom's Chapel was shot and mortally wounded by Bev Pippin.

McBroom was hurried to a Nashville hospital in the hope that an operation might save his life, but he died Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, about three hours after his arrival at St. Thomas Hospital. When he reached the hospital he was so near dead that no operation was attempted. Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at the Double Springs cemetery by Elder C. L. Talley of this city, and Elder Goolsby of Double Springs, his funeral being attended by several hundred people.

The deceased was thirty-seven years old and was a son of Sam McBroom, a well-known pioneer citizen of this county. He owned his father's old farm on which he resided with his wife and only child, Arthur McBroom, and his aged mother. He was a brother of Mrs. Houston Dyer of the Seventh district and had many other relatives in this county.

There was a dispute between McBroom and Plunkett Whitson over about one acre of ground, each of them claiming the land. First reported that Bev Pippin claims to have purchased the timber on the disputed land from Plunkett Whitson.

On Friday afternoon McBroom returned to his home from a singing school, which was being conducted at McBroom's Chapel, and found Bev Pippin outing timber on the disputed land. Some of Pippin's relatives were with him at the time. McBroom requested them to desist from cutting the timber, and warm words ensued between him and Pippin, which were soon followed by the difficulty in which McBroom lost his life. McBroom received three pistol shots in his body. He also fired on Pippin but Pippin did not receive any injury.

Pippin is a married man and is about forty years old. He came to Cookeville Saturday and offered to surrender to the Sheriff, but as no warrant had been sworn out against him he was not taken into custody, Pippin claims self defense.

The scene of the killing was only about 25 yards from the residence of McBrooms.

Sam McBroom was a good citizen and was never before involved in a serious difficulty.

He was known as one of the best singer's in the county and was a man of unusual intelligence and industry. He was a candidate for the democratic nomination for county Register two years ago and made a creditable race.

This unfortunate tragedy came as a great shock to the community and is deeply deplored by everyone.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

17 March 1921

Arrested on Murder Charge: James Hunter Brought to Local Jail:

James Hunter, a miner in the employ of the Bos Air Coal & Mining Co. was arrested last Sunday on a charge of being implicated in the murder of the young Italian whose body was found near Ravenscroft last week. Hunter was brought to Cookeville Sunday night and placed in jail to await a preliminary hearing, which we understand will be given him next Monday, before Esquire J. H. Hodge.

There have been rumors to the effect that other arrests would follow soon in connection with the affair, but up to the time of going to press nothing definite could be learned in regard to any further developments. Hunter, who is represented by Boyd & Clouse, protests his innocence of the crime. The body of the murdered man was found just over the line in Putnam County, but it is not known whether the killing occurred in White or Putnam.

Later reports verify the arrest of Ben Austin in connection with the murder and he is now in jail at Sparta, having waived preliminary trial, and has been bound over to criminal court.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

31 March 1921

Lillard James Shot in Back Last Thursday:

From the Effects Of Which He Died The Following Day:

Lillard James, a young man who lived in DeKalb county, about two and one-half miles from Silver Point was shot in the back last Thursday afternoon, March 24<sup>th</sup>, while walking down the railway track, between Boma and Silver Point, from the effects of which he die the following day at a hospital in Nashville, where he had been carried for treatments. The ball which is said to have been of a small caliber, passed through his body, penetrating one of his kidneys.

Young James was about 22 years of age, and was the son of Byrd James, a DeKalb county farmer. Zeb Lee, Abease and Dee Martin, three young men who live in the 17<sup>th</sup> district were arrested on Thursday night as being implicated in the affair, and were brought here Monday afternoon and arraigned before J. H.

Hodge, J. P. Both the Martin boys made statements in regard to the case and were discharged so far as being implicated in the killing was concerned, but were placed under a \$260.00 bond each, as witnesses for the state. Zeb Lee stood trial before Justice Hodge and was bound over to Criminal court without bail, to await the action of the grand jury.

According to statements by Abesse and Dee Martin who are 17 and 15 years old, they were with Zeb Lee near the railroad tracks, just back of Shanks store when James came along, stopped and talked with them a few minutes, giving each of them a drink of whiskey, after which he left, going down the track toward Silver Point. When he had traveled something like sixty yards and was in the act of crossing a cattle guard, which was in a cut, Lee, it is stated, reached out his hand, took a pistol from the belt of Abesse Martin, and fired down the track. Abesse Martin who was standing close to the track, looking at James, states that he saw James stagger, then straighten up and go on. He told Lee that he believed he had hit James, and Lee answered that he was shooting at a telephone pole, which was several feet to the right of the man. Dee Martin stated that he was sitting with Lee on a pile of cross ties, close to the truck, and that Martin leveled the pistol across his lap when he fired the shot. He also stated that he could not see James at the time the shot was fired, as he had entered the cut. Le did not take the stand at the hearing.

It appears that neither of the three young men made any effort to find out whether or not the man was shot and the first intimation they had of it was something like an hour later when the afternoon passenger train stopped just below the cattle guard, took the wounded man aboard, carrying him to Silver Point. According to the evidence there was no hard feelings existing between Lee and James. Lee claims that he was shooting at telephone pole and that James was out of sight when he fired.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**  
13 April 1922

**WILBURN CLARK INSTANTLY KILLED:**

At His Home In Dry Valley Last Saturday Night:

A most deplorable tragedy was enacted last Saturday night, in the third district of this county, when Wilburn Clark, a young farmer of the Dry Valley community was shot and instantly killed, on the front porch of his home. It being alleged that the act was committed by one of six boys of the neighborhood.

It appears that several young men of the neighborhood had been at the home of Clark earlier in the night, and there had been some boisterous conduct and Clark had requested them to leave as a woman visitor who was at the home had become nervous. The young men left when requested to do so, but later on six of them returned, and on hearing them approach the house, Clark walked out on the porch, when he received a shotgun wound which almost severed his head from his body, killing him instantly. An investigation was instituted by constable C. P. Hunter and Squire Herman McCormick which resulted in the arrest of six young men of the neighborhood, who were brought to Cookeville Sunday afternoon and placed in jail to await a preliminary hearing, on the charge of having murdered Wilburn Clark. The young men are members of good families, their ages ranging from 17 to 22 years. Their names are Edward Trapp; Hollis Henry, Odus Emery, Ernest Howard, and Cicero and John Robinson. There has been no statement made by the boys so far as this paper has been able to learn. The young men were brought before Squire J. R. Douglass Tuesday for a hearing, but the trial was postponed until 10 o'clock Friday morning. The tragedy has stirred the whole community in which it occurred and is a most regrettable affair.

Wilburn Clark was the son of L. P. Clark, a prominent farmer of the third district, who is well and favorably known throughout the county. He was 21 years of age, and is survived by a young wife and baby. His remains were interred on Monday, near his home, the burial services being attended by a large concourse of friends and relatives of the family.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**  
5 May 1921

#### IRBY & SCRUGGS KILLED:

The many Cookeville friends of Irby Scruggs, federal prohibition enforcement officer, were shocked to hear of his death which occurred near Knoxville last Saturday morning as the result of wounds inflicted by a deputy sheriff with whom he and other officers had been making a capture of whiskey. Scruggs shot and killed his assailant and was then taken to a Knoxville hospital, dying of the wounds a few hours later.

The trouble it appears arose over the deputy sheriff, whose name was Fuller, wanting a drink of the captured whiskey and Scruggs refusal to allow him to have it. It is also reported that the deputy had made a proposition to split the 100 gallons of whiskey fifty, fifty with the federal officers.

Irby Scruggs was well and favorably known in Cookeville having made this town his headquarters for two or three years while assisting in raids in and near this section. He had been in the internal revenue service for some years and was well liked by all his associates. He was a native of Giles county, and his remains were interred at Pulaski, his former home, on Tuesday.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

11 May 1922

#### Residence Burned:

The large frame residence and boarding house of Fred Cravens on Washington Ave., better known as the Ferrell place, was burned to the ground last Monday night between eight and nine o'clock. The fire which originated in the kitchen presumably from a defective flue, had gained such headway when discovered that the building could not be saved, although every possible means was employed to that end. The furniture in the down stairs rooms was carried out, but all the furniture on the second floor was burned with the house. Heroic efforts were successfully used to save the residence adjoining the place and just across the street, and fortunately there was little wind stirring at the time the fire was at its worst. The house was one of the oldest in Cookeville and was a landmark of the earlier days, but was a well preserved and roomy residence. Mr. Cravens purchased the place about a year ago and was running a boarding house.

The loss, including furniture, was something like \$5,000 and was partially covered by insurance.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

11 May 1922

#### Barn Burned From Lightning:

The barn of Wm. H. Hall who lives about two miles east of town in the Whitson Chapel vicinity was struck by lightning during the thunderstorms Tuesday night and burned to the ground with all its contents.

The loss sustained by Mr. Hall will be great as the barn was practically new. He lost four good work mules, a fine mare and colt, a cow or two, besides a wagon and perhaps other farming implements together with food, grain, etc. The loss was partially covered by insurance but nothing like enough to replace the loss. The policy was placed with the Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Putnam county.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

29 June 1922

#### Putnam Countians Killed In Auto:

G. R. Jackson and Mrs. Nathan Thomas, both former Putnam countians, were instantly killed near Manchester last Sunday, when the auto in which they were riding was struck by a train on the Sparta branch of the N.C. & St. L. Railway.

Nathan Thomas, husband of the dead woman was driving the car and when crossing the track near a deep cut, the train struck the car, knocking it some forty feet. Jackson and Mrs. Thomas were killed. Mr. Thomas and four children were all more or less injured, but have a chance to recover. The Thomas family moved to Manchester some months ago from the lower end of the county and were engaged in the grocery business. Mr. Jackson was a farmer and had lived in that vicinity for five or six years. They have many relatives and friends in Putnam county who were shocked to learn of the tragedy.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

29 June 1922

**'BUD' LYNCH IS MOONSHINERS' LATEST VICTIM:**

**Well-Known Jackson County Officer Shot And Killed Near Stafford's Store, Five Miles From Gainesboro, By Henry Young – Slayer Surrenders And Is In Cookeville Jail.**

Henry Young, Jackson countain who shot and killed Federal Officer Bud Lynch near Stafford's store this afternoon about noon, was brought to Cookeville tonight and placed in jail for safe-keeping. According to information reaching here from Gainesboro, feeling against Young became intense and fear was expressed that friends of the slain man might make an attempt to raid the jail and take summary action. Sheriff John Spurlock, of Jackson county, having in view the safety of his prisoner and co-operating with federal officers, asked that the transfer be made. Prohibition enforcement officers, Herbert Hughes and Carson Tyler made the transfer, and Young is now in prison here. When seen by a Herald representative and asked to give an account of the affair, Young declined to go into details explaining that he had not yet been able to see his attorney, P. J. Anderson, of Gainesboro. He did state, however, that the fatal shot was fired from the front porch of his mother's home, and that Lynch was approximately fifteen feet from him when the shooting took place. He insists that he had not seen Lynch before on that day, and that no words passed between them. The fatal shot was fired from an automatic shotgun. Sam Whittaker, Jackson county deputy sheriff who was accompanying Lynch was twenty or thirty yards behind the slain man when the tragedy was staged. Young, however, did not describe such details, but courteously evaded going into any of the facts. When seen by the newspaper representative he was sleeping soundly and had to be called twice by Sheriff Morgan Stout. He got up, rubbed his eyes, yawned two or three times, and appeared to be as calm and self-possessed as through preparing for a holiday outing. He is about thirty-five years of age, intelligent, has a pleasing personality, and gives the impression of being possessed of an unbounded physical courage. In fact, this reputation has long attached to him. Frank Shirley, taxi-driver who brought prohibition officers to Cookeville states that Sam Whitaker in relating the tragedy in the court house at Gainesboro, explained that he (Whitaker) and Lynch had just completed a raid not far from the Young home, and that they were pursuing their investigations and were approaching the resident of Young's mother when the tragedy occurred. The report of what Whitaker said is indirect and is, of course, subject to his later verifications, but Shirley's understanding of the affair was to the effect that Whitaker was walking a short distance behind Lynch and was carrying part of a still outfit. After Lynch had been shot, Whittaker states that he (Whitaker) fired several shots from his pistol, none of which took effect. Young then fired two or three shots from his automatic shotgun and made the situation so unpleasant that the officer beat it. Lynch is said to have been armed with two pistols, but did not fire at Young. Sheriff Stout stated this morning that Young himself admitted that Lynch did not fire, but insists that the shooting was necessary in order to protect his own life.

Lynch's body was taken to Gainesboro. He was a well-known Jackson county political factor, having served four years as sheriff and four years as trustee. He was fearless from a physical standpoint, but had formerly been recognized as "liberal" in his law-enforcement views, and had many friends and supporters who did not believe in strict prohibition enforcement and bone-dry county. For several months he had been serving as a raiding officer, and it is said that his activities had become particularly distasteful to the moonshiners, many of whom had at one time been friendly to him and had given him their political support. Bad blood had also existed between Lynch and Young for some time. It is claimed that a number of years ago the two had a run-in, and that as a result of the encounter Young was shot in a finger and in the leg. Accuracy of this rumor could not be verified this afternoon. Sheriff Stout stated that during the past

winter Young was brought to Cookeville on a charge of making liquor, the arrest and delivery here having been made by Lynch. The charge against Young is still pending in federal court here.

The point where the shooting occurred is approximately a mile and a half off the Gainesboro-Cookeville road, to the right of Stafford's store. The prisoner is a son of Will Young, well known Jackson countian, who several years ago featured in a feudal engagement with Attorney D. B. Johnson on the streets of Gainesboro. Johnson is an attorney, and on that occasion fired several shots at Young, who failed to show even a remote trace of the white weather, but, instead, armed only with stones, continued to approach Johnson as he fired at him.

A number of prohibition enforcement agents came up from Nashville and have go to Gainesboro to make an investigation of the shooting. They were guided by offices Tyler and Hughes.

It is stated that Young, following the shooting, went immediately to Gainesboro, walked into the court house where Judge Gardenhire was holding court and delivered himself to the sheriff.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

13 July 1922

**SLAYER OF BUD LYNCH HELD IN FEDERAL COURT:**

Commissioner Insists On Bond Of \$36,000 In Each Of Two Cases Pushed By Government:

Witnesses Tell How Lynch Fell

Whittaker Insists Shot Fired Before Warning Was Given – Shells Found Upstairs:

Henry Young of Jackson county, who on last Thursday afternoon shot and instantly killed "Bud" Lynch, a deputy prohibition enforcement officer was given a hearing before U. S. Commissioner J. B. Barnes, Tuesday afternoon on charges of interfering with an officer in the discharge of his duty and was bound over to the federal grand jury under bond of \$25,000 in each case. One count grew out of the shooting of Lynch, the other resulted from Young's efforts to shoot Deputy Sam Whittaker. Under the federal laws, the extreme penalty in the former case is ten years in federal prison, and the limit in the second case is one year. Young was represented by attorneys O. K. Holladay of this city. Pose Whilbanks, of Sparta, and P. J. Anderson, of Gainesboro. The government was represented by assistant attorney-general W. P. Smith.

Young has already been indicted by the grand jury in Jackson county on a charge of first degree murder, and the proceedings in federal court here are, therefore, in the nature of a supplemental action. It is understood that attorneys for Young expect soon to institute habeas corpus proceedings in an endeavor to secure bail for their client. So far the two bonds aggregating fifty thousand dollars stipulated by Commissioner Barnes have not been made.

**TESTIMONY OF SAM WHITTAKER:**

Bud Lynch was shot and killed on the afternoon of July 6<sup>th</sup> while he and I were walking toward Henry Young's home, after having found parts of a still in a hollow below his home. I have been helping prohibition enforcement agents in their raids in Jackson county for more than a year and have known Lynch intimately for a long time. In response to a call from Lynch, I joined him in Gainesboro on Tuesday, preceding the tragedy which occurred on Thursday of last week. We were together in Gainesboro most all of Tuesday, all of Wednesday, and went together to make the raid near Young's home on Thursday. We left Gainesboro about eleven o'clock on Thursday morning. I think, although I did not have a watch and am not quite sure of the exact time. We went directly to Saddler's store, about five miles from Gainesboro. Our car was driven by Bud Lynch's son. We went from Saddler's store over to the "ridge", and then down into the hollow, where, according to reports which Lynch had received, we expected to find a wildcat still near an old burnt house. We left Lynch's boy in the Bud's car and he was not with us during our hunt in the hollow. We first looked carefully in a drain back of the Young home. At one point we saw where

something had been dragged over the ground and our impression was that some one had recently snaked a still outfit away and had hidden it, and a little later on we found the still hidden under the brush of an old tree top, about three hundred yards from Henry Young's home. All indications pointed to the fact that the outfit had been used recently. A little creek which flowed nearby was white with still "slip", and there were other signs of activity. I put part of the still on my back and together we started toward Young's house, thinking that perhaps we would find the "cap", and "worm". When we got to the end of the barn, Bud went to the left and said he would look for whiskey. I saw Bud cross a lane. At that time there were two fences between us, one fence on either side of the lane. I stopped under an apple tree picked us two or three apples off the ground, and was eating one of them when I heard the report of a gun in the direction of the house, and looking up, I saw Lynch fall. His back was toward me at that time. I did not see who shot him, and did not know definite where the report came from, except that I do know that it came from the house. I jerked out my pistol and made a break for the house. When Lynch was shot he was just getting ready to go into the yard of the Young place. After Lynch fell, and after I had made a break for the house with my pistol drawn, I saw Henry Young come running out in the yard.

I was twelve or fifteen steps from the barn. After the shot was fired I saw two or three heads at the old shed, and know there were other people looking on. I did not take my shot was fired from the house, and I pistol from its holster until after the did not at any time, cross over the lane, or into it. (*this sentence is transcribed as written in the paper*). I felt, instinctively, that Lynch was dead, for after he fell he did move. The next thing I saw was Young, who came running out of the house. I did not see him shoot Bud and do not know who did the shooting. After Young came into the yard we began exchanging shots, but I do not know whether he or I shot first. (The defendant Young, sitting with his attorneys, smiled when Whittaker made this statement.) I saw that Young was running toward a gap in the fence and was coming toward me as fast as he could. The last shot he fired at me was from a distance of about thirty-five yards. I am not sure how long we were engaged in this exchange of shots, but think it was three or four minutes between the time the first shot was fired, and the time he fired last. In shooting at him I fired once, then waited a second or two and fired three shots as fast as my pistol would work, then hesitated and shot again, and then emptied my pistol. All together I fired six shots. No, it does not look like I am a good shot, does it? When I ran off down the drain I jumped over two small gulleys, but before this time I had again stopped and searched my pockets for cartridges, failing to find any. I wanted to go to Gainesboro, for I felt that probably Young had relatives somewhere close to his house or in the hollow, and that is all likelihood they would kill me if they could. I did not have a weapon with which to defend myself, and did not feel like going up against a shotgun and me unarmed. No, I do not know just exactly what time it was when the shooting took place, but I do remember that we heard the dinner bell while we were in the hollow searching for the still, and I feel sure it must have been around half past one o'clock when Bud was shot. I was not familiar with the hollow or the woods around the Young home, and in trying to get out and find the public road, I got lost. Along about half past three or four o'clock (I did not have a watch and am merely estimating the time) I came to a house. The folks who lived at this place had heard about the killing, and told me that it was reported that I had also been killed. They also said that Young had gone to Gainesboro and had surrendered to the authorities. This house where I stopped was about three miles from Gainesboro, on what is called Aaron's Branch, I think. Before going up to Saddle's store and into the hollow on the Thursday on which Lynch was killed, he and I talked about the trip and Bud told me he was getting information from other people "so we can go to work." I saw Young in Gainesboro on Tuesday or Wednesday. While we were at work in the hollow looking for the still, Bud told me that he had searched Young's automobile in town on Monday. Yes, I was with Bud in Gainesboro on Tuesday and remained with him until we went on this raid. We were down town late Tuesday night. I do not know what time it was when we went home, but it must have been late. Bud and I frequently were in town until late, looking for information, and this was nothing unusual. I do not know whether it was as late as twelve o'clock Tuesday night when we went home, it may have been.

W. H. TYLER, TESTIFIES:

W. H. Tyler, chief federal prohibition agent for Tennessee took the stand merely for the purpose of reading into the record a statement to the effect that Lynch was employed thru his department, and that at the time of his death he was pursuing his job as an employee of the federal government.

DR. R. C. GAW DESCRIBES WOUND:

Dr. R. C. Gaw, who examined the dead man's body after it had been taken to Gainesboro on July 6<sup>th</sup>, stated that he probed the wound very carefully, and that the instrument entered at an angle of approximately 45 degrees and passed freely to a depth of seven inches. Shot were scattered over the chest, but the main charge had entered at such a point that the left lung and heart were penetrated. One shot struck the mastoid bone on the left side of the face, one had glanced the left ear, and one shot was in the back. Dr. Gaw did not know whether the shot in the back was made by the missile when it went in, or when it came out. There was a hole about an inch in diameter between the left clavicle and the second rib. There were no powder burns on the body, but there was a red place or abrasion of the skin on the left side near the wound, caused, in my opinion, by the wadding of the gun when the shot was fired. Dr. Gaw testified that he would not qualify as an expert on gunshot wounds. Although he had had occasion, in his practice, to examine a great many such cases, due to the fact that shot guns of different bore will give different results at a fixed distance, it is, he thinks, impossible to say just what distance Lynch was from Young when the fatal shot was fired, but his opinion is that it was not more than twelve or fifteen feet.

LEON ANDERSON'S VERSION:

Leon Anderson, thirteen or fourteen years of age, is a cripple and came into the court room on crutches. But in spite of his physical misfortunes he is a bright intelligent young fellow and looked the attorneys squarely in the face while questions were being directed to him. Young Anderson's testimony briefly, was as follows:

I was in a car in the old shed near Henry Young's house on Thursday afternoon of last week when Bud Lynch was shot and killed. I went to Young's house about the middle of the morning, but met Young up the road and we came to the house two or three times before dinner. He would come in and go out but finally he got his shotgun and went out in the back yard, then on to the back porch, and finally went up stairs with the gun just a little while before dinner. He did not come down into the dining room while we were at the table, and I am sure he did not eat any dinner that day. The gun he had was a double-barreled shotgun. Willie Clay Young ate dinner at the same time I did. After dinner I sat on the front porch a little while, then went down to the shed and got in the car. I had not been in the car long before I saw Mr. Sam Whittaker coming from in the direction of the bar and going toward the house. Whittaker was on one side of the fence and Lynch was on the other side (referring to the lane). I heard a shot fired, but at the time this occurred I was looking at Whittaker and did not see Lynch at the instant. I think that it was about five minutes from the time I left the house and got in the car before the two men came up and the shot was fired. I did not see Lynch, but know he was on the other side of the fence. When the shot was fired I laid down in the car in just a short time after the shot was fired. I saw Henry Young come running by the car with his shotgun. He was not running very fast, but was just "trotting." I heard a number of shots after the one from the house had been fired, and think that all together there were eight or nine reports. When Young passed the car I was in he was going toward the road, and in the direction where I had last seen Whittaker, and where Whittaker had dropped the still he was carrying on his back. No, I did not hear Young say anything before going up stairs. Yes, I saw him on the back porch, and I saw him talking to his mother, and I did hear Young tell his nephew, Charlie Young, to stay on the porch and "watch." He did not tell him what to watch for, but I understood that they were looking for the revenue officers, and I thought that was what Young was talking about.

After Young went back to the house after the shooting he told his mother he had killed Lynch. He did not use any bad language or curse him, but said that Lynch had been "after him" for twenty years.

On cross examination Anderson said that Young left in his automobile about five or six minutes after the shooting and went to Gainesboro. Witness stated that while he (witness) was in the car under the shed while the shots were being exchanged, Willie Clay Young, 14 years of age, was with him; also Charlie Young, nephew of Henry Young the latter a youth of fifteen or sixteen years of age. Chlio, the young girl formerly referred to, is a sister to Henry Young and is sixteen or seventeen years of age. Witness admitted that the stairway leading up to the room from which Young is supposed to have fired, was not in view of the dining

room, inference of the defense being that it was possible for Young to have come down while Anderson was at the dining table without the latter's attention.

**DEPUTY SHERIFF TESTIFIES:**

Oliver Spurlock, of Jackson county insisted that he arrived at Young's home about half past two o'clock Thursday afternoon and found Bud Lynch's body and examined it. Lynch was armed with two pistols which were taken off his person by witness. Neither had been discharged, and there were no blank shells in them. Witness made a search for Sam Whittaker, the impression at the at time being that he had been killed, or that he had been seriously wounded and was in the adjoining hollow in distress. Spurlock went into the Young home and searched it carefully from top to bottom. Upstairs he found five or six shotgun shells near a window one, one of which was empty and looked as though it had been recently discharged. The other shells were loaded. The room in which the shells were found was on the east side of the house, and Lynch had been shot from the east side of the house. Witness in searching other parts of the building, said that he found signs of liquor, including a quantity of "singlings" in the basement and some malt in the backyard. Near the road he found another empty shell that looked as though it had been recently discharged. The body of the dead man, witness said, was 25 o4 30 feet from the house. The upstairs room where the loaded and empty shells were found had a window on the same corresponding with the point where Lynch's body was found. Spurlock thinks that he arrived at the Young home about three-quarters of an hour after the shooting occurred. He then went to Gainesboro, and found that Young had gone there and surrendered.

Prohibition officer H. M. Hughes, who brought Young from Gainesboro to Cookeville for safe-keeping on his night following the shooting, brought into the court room four or five load shells, said to have been those found in the upstairs room of the Young home. They were twelve gauge shotgun shells, made by the Winchester Arms Company, and were loaded with three drams of powder and an ounce of No. 5 shot. No. 5 shot are generally referred to as "squirrel" shot and are little smaller than a capital "O" of the type used in the story.

Deputy Spurlock, on cross-examination, admitted that his statement to the effect that the empty shells found in the Young home and in the yard merely "looked" as though they had been recently fired, and that he could not testify positively on this point and neither could he say with absolute definiteness that they were fired from the gun used by Young.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**  
20 July 1922

**WOMAN BITTEN BY COPPERHEAD:**

Lebanon, TN: July 14 – Mrs. George Wavers is in a very serious condition at the home of her sister, Mrs. Jim Watson, on the Coles Ferry pike, as a result of being bitten by a copperhead snake. She and one of her Children were returning to her home from her sister's when in cutting across a creek bottom she felt something sting her right let just about the shoe and turning she saw a copper head sank running through the grass. She was carried to the home of her sisters where a physician was hurriedly called and a treatment started. She is confined to her bed.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**  
31 August 1922

**CHILD CRIPPLED FOR LIFE BY ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF A GUN:**

Seven-Year-Old Daughter of Bill Mahlor was made a cripple for life when a charge of shot accidentally fire from a gun with which as older brother was playing tore into her leg at the knee. The flesh and bones were horribly lacerated, necessitating an operation. The limb was taken off just above the knee. The brother had gotten the gun for the purpose of shooting a rabbit. The weapon failed to fire and the young fellow was picking at the cap when the gun went off.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 31 August 1922

**BILL SMITH OF 8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT SHOT AND KILLED BY HERRON:**

Bill Smith, of the Eighth civil district, was shot and instantly killed last Monday afternoon by Bruce Herron. The latter used a shotgun, the entire charge striking Smith in the face at a distance of not exceeding fifteen feet.

The two had been engaged in a poker game near a brush pile, according to meager information reading Cookeville, when an argument arose. Smith, it is claimed, drew his pocket-knife and was advancing on Herron in a threatening manner. The latter backed several feet and fell into or against a brush pile, at the same time picking up a shotgun and firing point blank into Smith's face. Smith was between 45 and 50 years of age. He is the third brother to meet a violent death. About a year ago John Smith was killed by Charles Maynard, and previous to that time another brother had been killed. Herron is about 18 years of age. He had not been arrested.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 16 November 1922

**HENRY YOUNG GIVEN NINETY-NINE YEARS FOR KILLING LYNCH:**

Jury at Gainesboro Returns Verdict In Sensational Case Growing Out of Prohibition Raids in Jackson Co.

The jury in the Henry Young case of Gainesboro yesterday returned a verdict, finding the defendant guilty of murder, and his sentence was fixed at ninety-nine years in the penitentiary an appeal will be taken to the supreme court.

Young was indicted for the murder of "Bud" Lynch, whom he shot July 6<sup>th</sup>. Lynch, who was a prohibition enforcement officer, went, in company with Deputy Sheriff Sam Whittaker to Young's home several miles from Gainesboro, searched a hollow near Young's home for a still, and was entering the Young yard when he was shot dead, a shotgun being used as the weapon of assault. It was alleged that Young had secreted himself in an upstairs room, and that the fatal shot was fired through an open window. Young then came out into the yard and exchanged shots with Whittaker, but the killer escaped without injury.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 20 November 1922

**WILL WALL BITTEN BY RAT WHILE ASLEEP AT HOME ON BROAD STREET:**

"Rats" said Will Wall.

"Shut up," said Mrs. Wall.

"There's blood on my ear" persisted Will.

But, sure enough, when the light was turned on Will found that an impudent rodent had taken a nip out of the left ear and then negotiated a successful escape. Will is sure he heard the visitor when it ran away, but anyhow the impudent fellow left his visiting card and Mr. Wall is going about with a swollen lobe.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

22 February 1923

**JOE F. HAMILTON KILLED BY TRAIN:**

His many friends in Cookeville were shocked yesterday when the news came by wire that Joe F. Hamilton had been killed by train at Carthage Junction. It is supposed that Mr. Hamilton was walking on the track when the fatal accident occurred. No one witnessed the occurrence, and the enginemen failed to see him. His body was discovered after the train left the station. The train was the east bound passenger, due in Cookeville at 12:35 p.m.

Mr. Hamilton was at the time of his death agent of the Tennessee Central at Carthage Junction. He had been employed at Cookeville at different times during the past 15 years, and had many friends here. He was a brother of J. P. Hamilton of this city, now agent of the T. C. He is survived by one son, Raymond Hamilton. His wife died several years ago. Burial will probably be had at Elora on Friday.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

9 April 1923

HOME OF WM. RIPPETOE IS DESTROYED BY FIRE:

The residence of Wm. Rippetoe, three miles west of Cookeville, was burned Saturday forenoon about 11 o'clock, together with most of the contents. The store building adjoining the house also burned, but contained no goods. The place is best known as the J. A. Welch store. Mr. Rippetoe had no insurance, we understand, and the loss is a heavy one for him.

On the same day and about the same hour, the large barn of Alf Maxwell of the 16<sup>th</sup> district was burned, with its contents, and no insurance.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

10 May 1923

FIRE FIEND LOOSE IN COOKEVILLE:

The residence owned by Dr. J. P. Storie next door to his home on Oak street was totally destroyed by fire Monday night after 9:30 o'clock. The house was occupied by Dan Smith and a Mr. Frazier. A portion of the latter's furniture was saved, but Mr. Smith lost everything but the clothes he and his wife and baby were wearing. Mrs. Smith had a \$10 gold piece in a trunk, and this she found the next morning. There was some insurance on the building and contents.

A strong wind was blowing from the south and the fire would have spread to several other houses but for the good work of the fire department.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

21 May 1923

BODY OF R. B. TUNNELL, DISCOVERED NEAR SPARTA:

The body of R. B. Tunnell was found near the railroad track in East Sparta early last Monday morning. His skull was crushed and other wounds found on his head. It is believed that Tunnell was murdered and his body placed near the track to make it appear that he had been struck by a train.

Joe Maddux, of Buffalo Valley was called and took his bloodhounds to the place where the body was found. The dogs took a trail and led to the homes of Tom Pettit and Bill Qualls, who live near by. These men and Eugene Pettit, a son of Tom were arrested in Sparta. They denied any knowledge as to how Tunnell met his death, but admitted being present at a certain place late Sunday afternoon where Tunnell and others were drinking and gambling.

Tunnell had been an employee of the Sparta Spoke Co. for many years. He leaves a wife and child.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

5 July 1923

#### W. A. HOLLADAY LOSES HOME BY FIRE JULY 4:

The home of W. A. Holladay on his farm in the Twelfth district was burned at about two o'clock on the morning of July 4. Most of the contents were saved. The house was occupied by R. J. Fields and family. The cause of the fire is not known. The loss was probably \$3,500 partly covered by insurance. Mr. Holladay was at the home of his daughter, Mrs. F. H. Stanton, just west of Cookeville at the time of the fire.

#### Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

10 April 1924

#### CHILD'S HEAD IS CUT OFF BY TRAIN:

The head of Kate Atwell, 10 year old daughter of Gobe Atwell of Gallatin, was severed from her body when she was run down by an L & N freight train near the station at that place last Tuesday afternoon. The Atwell home is near the station and the little girl had gone to the grocery and in returning home crossing the railroad track her shoe became caught in the track.

#### Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 2 January 1930

#### H. D. Thomas Obt.

b. 27 July 1893 – d. 28 December 1929, buried in the Judd Cemetery, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN.

H. D. Thomas Dies; Accidentally Shot By Brother: Deplorable Accident Occurs Near Silver Point Last Thursday:

A most deplorable and unfortunate accident occurred on last Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, near Silver Point, when H. D. Thomas, a prominent and most highly respected farmer of the 8th district was accidentally shot by his brother, Robert Thomas, with whom he had been hunting rabbit. The unfortunate man was brought to the Cookeville hospital and everything possible was done to save his life, but died on Saturday evening about six o'clock from the effects of the wound.

Dee Thomas and two of his brothers were hunting rabbits and he was just a few feet in front of his brother, Robert, when a rabbit jumped out a little to his right and his brother raised his gun to the level of his shoulder and prepared to fire. Just as he was pulling the trigger it seems that his feet became entangled in the undergrowth and caused him to fall, his gun discharging and the entire contents entered the hip of his brother at very close range, inflicting a very dangerous wound. The shot ranged upward after striking the man, some of them entering his spine.

Thomas was 35 years of age and is survived by his wife and four small children, besides a number of brothers and sisters. He was a substantial farmer of his community and the unfortunate accident which caused his death is deeply regretted by a large circle of friends and relatives.

His body was carried to his home on Saturday night and interred on Sunday in the presence of a large number of sorrowing friends and relatives.

#### Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 15 May 1930

Fire Burns Home of Wirt McDonald:

The fire alarm shrilled aloud Saturday afternoon and the fire department made a hurried run to the house occupied by W. W. McDonald on Hickory street, better known as the Colonel Pendergrass place.

It was a stubborn blaze but after some good work by the fire ladies, it was subdued, not until the building has been gutted, however, and practically nothing but a shell left. McDonald lost part of his household goods, with insurance of \$500.00. The building belonged to S. Hayden Young, and was insured for \$325.00. It could not be learned what caused the blaze, but presumably from the defective wiring.

**Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:**

12 June 1930

**SEABOLT AND TOLLISON KILLED IN DETROIT:**

Samuel Seabolt and Pleas Tollison of Burgess Falls were killed in an explosion in Detroit which wrecked the new 3000 foot intake tunnel, 175 feet under the bottom of the Detroit River, near the City Waterworks plant. Four other men were killed and several hurt in the explosion.

The bodies of the two Burgess Falls men will arrive here early Friday afternoon at the Elrod cemetery near Burgess Falls. The bereaved families have the sympathy of this entire community.

(The Pittsburg Press: 9 June 1930) Thirteen Killed in Two Explosions: Six Die 200 Feet Under Detroit River, 10 Hurt, by The United Press:

DETROIT: Death today found its way to a spot 200 feet beneath the bed of the Detroit River, where it snapped out the lives of six men and brought injuries to 10 others as they labored in a tunnel.

A dynamite explosion was its agency.

Eighteen men had entered the tunnel, which the water board is digging through solid rock beneath the river. Only two escaped without injury.

As the blast reverberated through the tunnel and up the shaft, the bodies of men nearest its center were hurled against the rock walls of the temporary structure of the mole.

Two were killed immediately. Their mangled bodies were brought up wrapped in sheets. They could not be identified immediately. Rescuers brought out the injured and sent them to a hospital.

Two others later died at St. Mary's Hospital. They were Ellis Howe and Samuel Seabolt.

**Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:**

19 June 1930

**Matthew Trousdale McDonald Obt.**

b. 7 June 1851, TN – d. 13 June 1930, TN, md on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1876 to to **Ella Elizabeth (Young) McDonald**, b. 25 November 1857, TN – d. 8 January 1903. Matthew Trousdale McDonald md 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1909 to **Margret C. "Maggie" (Whitaker) McDonald**, b. 24 February 1867 – d. 7 March 1938, d/o John Price Whitaker (1826-1898) & Hester Ann Johnson (1830-1913). Matthew Trousdale McDonald, s/o **Samuel King McDonald** (1810-1887) & **Elizabeth Brooks**. (Buried in the Young-McDonald Graveyard, Putnam Co., TN).

**KILLS MAN AS RESULT OF MULE ARGUMENT:** Virgil Petty Shoots "Uncle" Matt McDonald to Death Friday Morning:

Virgil Petty, 25, is being held in jail here prior to a preliminary hearing on the admitted charge of shooting "Uncle" Matt McDonald to death with a .32 caliber pistol at 7 o'clock Friday morning on Petty's farm in the twelfth district of Putnam county after an alleged argument over the feeding of a mule.

Petty, who lived on McDonald's farm, was said to have carried a new pistol with him when he went to work in a tobacco field, and that he shot the old man from a distance of about thirty yards. He shot six

times, three of the bullets taking effect. McDonald was killed instantly. Petty had been taking care of the dead man's stock and they had had some argument over a mule, it was reported, which arguments resulted in bitter enmity between the two.

Petty was brought to Cookeville by sheriff Warren shortly after the murder and will be given a preliminary trial before Squire J. H. Hodge next Wednesday. A number of the citizens from the prisoner's district came to Cookeville Friday to make his bond, which was denied until after the hearing.

McDonald was under bond for the shooting on April 12, this year of John White, a farmer of the twelfth district, who is still in a serious condition resulting from his pistol wounds.

Burial will take place today or tomorrow, pending the arrival of McDonald's children, three boys, Young, Howard, and Edgar, and two daughters, who are in Montana, and Dillard, who is in Michigan. He will be buried in the family cemetery at the home.

### **Cookeville Press**

Sept 25, 1930

"Dear Mother: I can't stand it any longer. Bury me by Johnnie. Thelma"

With those her last words, in a note to her mother, Thelma Anderson, 14, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Hillman Anderson, Gainesboro Road, [using] a shotgun...killed herself instantly. The tragedy took place at the home of the young girl at 6:30 last Sunday afternoon.

Thelma, who was an unusually beautiful girl and a student at the Pippin School, was thought to be grief stricken over the death of Johnnie White, 22, her sweetheart, who killed himself 3 weeks ago. She had not recovered from the shock of his death, and the note she left her mother is thought to have been written after a period of bitter grief, following which she decided to be her only path to happiness.

The deceased attended school in Cookeville for several years and later entered the Pippin School, where she was a student this year.

She is survived by her Father, Mother, three sisters and two brothers. Funeral services were conducted at the home Monday afternoon and burial took place by the side of her sweetheart in life in the White lot at Post Oak cemetery.

### **Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:**

16 October 1930

Child is Shot While Chestnut Hunting:

Bought to City Hospital From Home in Jackson County.

Carrying the bullet of a .22 rifle in a rib without apparently knowing it was there was the experience of 14 year old Dallas Hawkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Hawkins of Jackson county.

While in company with three playmates late Sunday afternoon, hunting chestnuts, young Hawkins was shot in the back by one of the other boys who carried a rifle, and who didn't know he fired the gun. Dallas said he felt no pain, and he walked a half-mile to his home without knowing what made his side sore.

He was brought to the city hospital here where he is being given treatment. The bullet lodged in one of his ribs, and hospital attendants expressed doubt that he would be operated on for removal of the pellet.

Meanwhile, Dallas lies on his hospital bed and laughs at his injury, and he told a Herald reporter that he didn't know how he was shot.

**Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:**

23 October 1930

Joe McCormick Shot By Bandits:

The Many relatives and friends of Joe McCormick in this county were shocked Sunday to learn that he was seriously shot by robbers Saturday night.

Since his graduation from Milligan College, near Johnson City, a few years ago, he has been engaged in the laundry business in Johnson City, bring the manager of a laundry in Johnson City and of another one in Elizabethton.

Relatives here received messages stating that at about 10 o'clock Saturday night, he and Edwin G. Crouch secretary of the company, were working in the office of the laundry when they were attacked by robbers. Both were shot, McCormick twice though the abdomen.. His parents and several other relatives left immediately for Johnson City. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Will L. McCormick, of near Algood, his father being a highly respected and well known farmer of this county. He is a nephew of James M. McCormick, a prominent merchant of Cookeville.

Joe McCormick is a splendid young businessman n and has met with marked success in business at Johnson City. He is held in the highest esteem in this county where he was reared.

The bandits escaped but without securing any money.

**Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN:**

27 November 1930

Arm Severed In Corn Machine:

While feeding a corn shredder on the farm of Dr. W. M. Johnson, three miles north of Sparta on the Cookeville road, Robert Burgess, 30, caught his glove in the machine and his arm was crushed. He was brought to the City hospital here where his are was amputated above the elbow.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

2 October 1930

Charlie Bates Drowns at Moss Ferry:

Charlie Bates was drowned in the Caney Fork river at the Moss ferry Monday night, while returning from work, when the bottom fell out of the canoe. His body hasn't been found. Georgie and Walter Clemmons, who were with him, had a narrow escape. Mr. Bates is survived by with wife, several children, one sister and three brothers.

**Cookeville Press, Putnam Co., TN**

**Eugenia Huddleston Obt.**

b. 21 May 1919 – d. 4 March 1930, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **John William Judd** (1897-1962) & **Arla Huddleston** (1898-1987), all buried in Salem Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Eugenia Huddleston, 10, daughter of Mrs. Arlie Huddleston Judd and granddaughter of Mr & Mrs B M Huddleston died at her home in the Salem community late Tuesday from the effects of blood poison, resulting from a slight scratch on her foot. She had only been ill since Friday, and her death was a great shock to her family and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev Sam Edwards Wednesday afternoon, after which her remains were laid to rest in the Salem cemetery.

Cookeville Press March 6, 1930

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

4 August 1931

Three Drowned When Car Backs Into River:

Three persons, Miss Lorine Medlin, 17, Mrs. Hattie Green Paris, 21, and William Judd, 32, were drowned early Saturday night when the car in which they were riding plunged down a 50 foot bank into the Caney Fork river near Sparta. Another occupant, Henry Dickson, escaped by jumping out the rear window as the car went down.

One of the girls was driving the car, and in crossing the bridge she put the car in reverse while trying to put in it second gear, and it started down the embankment. The car remained in the river until Sunday, when it was recovered by wreckers.

Funeral services for the victims of the tragedy were Sunday and Monday.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

13 August 1931

Condition of Mrs. Rittenberry is Critical: May Die:

Suffering Pistol Wound In Abdomen Inflicted by Husband: The condition of Mrs. Rittenberry, 45, remains critical, although she is resting better, City Hospital authorities reported Wednesday. She is suffering a bullet wound in the abdomen inflicted by her husband, D. Rittenberry, 53, wee-digger, who was also shot by a .32 pistol near their home on Mackey street late Saturday night. Domestic jealousy, it is claimed, was the cause of the double shooting.

According to the sheriff's office, Rittenberry claims that his wife shot him, and then he took the gun from her and however, saying that he first shot her and then went around their home and shot himself.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

20 August 1931

Putnam Boys Held In Connection With Clubbing of Sloan: Were Located in Detroit and Brought to Nashville Thursday.

Eskel Carrington and Estes Billingsley, both about 30, are being held by Nashville police charged with assault with intent to commit murder in connection with the clubbing Friday night of Douglas Sloan, formerly of Cookeville, at his home in Nashville. He was clubbed while he slept, and is suffering a severely fractured skull in a Nashville hospital. His condition is critical.

It was alleged that Carrington and Billingsley, whose homes are near Bloomington Springs, were with Sloan at his home last Friday night. Sloan regained consciousness long enough to the search for Carrington and Billingsley. They were found Wednesday in Detroit by chief of detectives James McCarthy. Ted Vaughn, Nashville detective, left Nashville last Wednesday to return the pair.

Billingsley was formerly a policeman in Detroit, while Carrington's last "steady job" was driving a bus. No motive has been assigned to the clubbing of Sloan.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

21 January 1932

GAS EXPLODES, BURNS YOUTH, DIES HERE:

Lovie Hunter, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hunter of Bloomington Springs, died at the City Hospital here early Wednesday morning from burns received Monday morning when he poured gasoline, thinking it was coal-oil, over a kitchen fire at his father's home.

The fire had been built, according to information received from Bloomington Springs, and the youth sought to make it burn better by pouring coal-oil on it. The can exploded, catching his clothes on fire and setting the kitchen. The fire was extinguished before much damage was done.

Young Hunter was brought to the hospital here Tuesday, where every effort was made to save his life.

His father was also burned trying to put out the fire, and was reported to be in a critical condition at his home.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home on Friday afternoon and burial will be in the family cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 21 April 1932

'Smacks' Wife: Says he's Safer in Jail Than At Home:

John Dyer, 45, Stephens Street, had rather go to jail than stay at home, so he told City Magistrate J. B. Dow Monday afternoon, after being arrested on a warrant sworn out by his wife charging assault and battery.

"It all came up over foolishness," John told Mr. Dow. "She threw bricks at me, and I smacked her three times."

She had had John arrested three times before that, Mr. Dyer said.

"We can't have the trial right now," Squire Dow told John. "Do you want to make bond and go home, or go to jail?"

"I'll go to jail," John answered. "I'd get hurt at home. She can't come in the jail and get me."

As his preliminary hearing Tuesday afternoon Dyer was bound over to the grand jury.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 5 May 1932

Youth Dies From Wound Inflicted By .25 Automatic Pistol on February 28:

George Judd, 23, Will Be Buried This Afternoon At Boiling Springs Cemetery: Ezra Nash, 19, Being Held In Sparta Jail on Attempted Murder Charge:

George Judd, 23, died at his home in the Sixteenth District last night of a .25 automatic pistol wound which, he declared in a dying statement here, was inflicted by Ezra Nash, 19.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Boiling Springs cemetery this afternoon by the Rev. J. L. Myers.

Judd was shot in the back on the night of February 28 as he was returning to his home from a church meeting at Eller's Ridge in White county. He and Nash had quarreled several times, he said, and declared that Nash showed him the gun just as the church services that night had ended. A few minutes later Nash is alleged to have shot him from behind, the bullet taking effect just above his hips.

Told It All:

Judd was brought to the City Hospital here the following day, and was treated. Paralysis, however, resulted from the shot, and his condition grew steadily worse. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Judd, of the Sixteenth District of Putnam county. Nash is a son of Lester Nash, also of the Sixteenth District. Nash was arrested on charges of assault with intent to commit murder in the first degree, and removed from the Cookeville to Sparta jail, where he has since been held without bond. Attaches of the Sparta jail said this morning that a new warrant charging murder probably would be served on Nash today.

Judd told a Herald reported and City Magistrate J. B. Dow his side of the case while lying in the hospital here. His words, taken down as a dying statement, included Nash as saying he would kill Judd "If it took forty years." The statement and testimony of the reporter and Magistrate will be heard before the White county grand jury which convenes next week.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 5 May 1932

'Learned His Lesson,' Wife Release Husband:

Mrs. John Dyer, who had her husband jailed on a charge of assault and battery, Tuesday told City Magistrate that she "believed he had been broke" from "smacking her, and offered to pay his way out of jail and dismissal of the suit.

"He's down at the jail crying like a baby," Mrs. Dyer said, "and begging me to get him out."

Magistrate's costs were \$12.45, and Mrs. Dyer paid it for her husband's release.

Dyer was jailed on charges of assault and battery growing out of an alleged fight between he and his wife in which she said, he smacked her three times. He argued that she threw bricks at him and told Magistrate he referred to go to jail then to go home.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 12 May 1932

Monterey Man Walks Off Bluff, Killed:

Fred Gill, 40 Monterey clothing salesman, died at his home there at 12:30 Saturday afternoon from injuries sustained when he walked off a bluff, about a mile west of Monterey, late Friday night, or early Saturday morning.

According to information received here, Gill had been with Jim Welch during Friday evening, and had been drinking. Welch left him at about midnight asleep in an automobile, and it was believed that he awakened and, in a stupor, stepped off the brink of a nearby bluff, falling about 90 feet.

He was found next morning in a critical condition and removed to his home where medical treatment was given, although to no avail.

Funeral services were conducted at the Monterey Church of Christ Sunday afternoon by Elder H. B. Blue, pastor. Burial took place in the Monterey cemetery. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ethel Welch Gill, and three children.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

front page, Thursday, 26 May 1932

MEETS DEATH IN FALL OFF CATTLE TRUCK:

\*See Henry & Betsy Ann (Jared) Nichols Story.

Lafayette Nichols, 37, of Baxter was instantly killed at 8 o'clock this morning when he fell off a cattle truck enroute to Knoxville on the Monterey Highway about 9 miles from Cookeville. According to word received here shortly after the accident, Nichols stepped from the cab of the truck to investigate a rattle in one of the front wheels. He slipped and fell to the pavement and received a fractured skull, it is believed.

Clarence Huddleston, of Algood, was driving the truck.

Mr. Nichols had long been prominent as a Putnam county stock raiser and trader. He was a son of Petway and Hattie Nichols, and was born and reared on Indian Creek, in the western section of the county. He was educated in the schools of Putnam county.

His home was at Baxter where he owned and operated a stock barn.

Tentative funeral arrangements were that services would be held at Baxter Friday afternoon.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ocia Brown Nichols; his mother, Mrs. Hattie Nichols; two brothers, Joe and Cecil; and four sisters, Mrs. E. H. Maddux, Mrs. J. P. Askew, Miss Douglas Nichols and Miss Vivian Nichols.

Robert Lee Sutton Obt.

b. October 1882 – d. 22 July 1932, s/o **James Sutton & Permelia Hoggard** (1855-1891), Apple Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Siblings: James Henry Sutton (1873-1945) & Sofronie "Fronie" (Sutton) Roberts (1879-1904).

Robert Lee Sutton, was married on 1 January 1911 in Putnam County to MARTHA ELIZABETH MAYNARD. She was a local girl, born in about 1892. This couple lived at Baxter and had four children: (1) AUDA LUNELL SUTTON, (2) GRACE SUTTON, (3) HOWARD CAMPBELL SUTTON, and (4) JESSIE MAE SUTTON. All of these children were born at Baxter: (1) Auda on 22 November 1911, (2) Grace on 29 August 1913, (3) Howard on 22 July 1916, and (4) Jessie in about 1918. Martha Sutton died in 1919 and was buried in the Apple Cemetery. She lived to be only 27 years old. Robert later married a widow who had eleven children and whose name was ANNIE CHAFFIN MARTIN. They had no children, however. On 22 July 1933

Robert was killed by a self-inflicted shotgun blast and was buried in the Apple Cemetery.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

Thursday, 11 August 1932

Cookeville Boy Is Injured When Truck Spills, Killing One:

Dave Maddux, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Maddux, of Cookeville, is suffering a severe back injury and head bruises today as a result of a truck turnover Tuesday moving near Elkmont, in East Tennessee. One boy, Cleo Whit \_\_, 15, of Nashville, was killed.

Young Maddux was one of a group of 51 Boy Scouts traveling in two trucks to Charleston, SC, for camp. Their truck turned over at Observation Point, between Elkmont and Gatlinburg, when the driver failed to make a sharp curve.

The accident was blamed on a broken brake rod. Eleven other Scouts were injured.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

3 November 1932

RIDLEY BURGESS DIES OF 5 PISTOL WOUNDS:

An old grudge flared again early Thursday afternoon down in the Sixteenth District, near the Burgess school house, seven miles from Cookeville, and as a result Ridley Burgess, 25, is dead, and Virgil Campbell, 30, is in jail here charged with the murder.

According to residents living near the scene of the killing, Burgess and Campbell met at about 2 o'clock Thursday and engaged in an argument, when Campbell pulled a pistol and fired into Burgess' chest, five bullets taking effect. Burgess lived for about one hour.

Campbell submitted to arrest and was brought to Cookeville and lodged in jail to await preliminary hearing on a charge of murder.

Burgess was a son of Paynie Burgess.

**Ridley Burgess**, b. 23 September 1901 – d. 3 November 1932, son of **Pertman Paynie Burgess**, b. 11 October 1882, Putnam Co., TN – d. 21 January 1944, Putnam Co., TN and his wife **Murtie (Carr) Burgess**, b. 26 August 1884 – d. 19 September 1960, all buried in the Howard Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Pertman Paynie Burgess, s/o Charles Burgess & Meritie Deering.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

13 October 1932

**EIGHT DISTRICT FARMER GETS DRUNK, IS FOUND DEAD UNDER SUGAR CANE:**

Lee Roton, 38, Dies of "Intoxicated Heart Failure"

His heart had gone bad on him after other drunks, his people said, so when Lee Rhoton, 38, Eighth District farmer, was found dead under a pile of sugar cane at a neighbor's barn Sunday morning, it was not such a big surprise.

Rhoton, witnesses before a coroner's jury testified Sunday, had been on a drinking party with a group of friends Saturday night. Rhoton "passed out," and his friends carried him to the barn and piled sugar cane on him to keep him warm.

He was found there Sunday morning. He never recovered from his "pass out."

Subject to Attacks:

Rhoton was a native of Kentucky, and had lived in the Eighth District for about six years. It was said at the home Sunday that his heart became noticeably dilated when he drank excessively, and that his body was subject to cramps on such occasion.

County Coroner J. B. Dow, conducted the inquest and the verdict of his jury was "Death by heart failure caused by excessive use of intoxicating liquor."

Rhoton is survived by a wife and six children.

**Cookeville Herald**

3 November 1932

James "Jim" Norris, 45, died of self-inflicted wounds at his home in Algood at 6 a.m. Monday morning.

His wife had been up for some time and had cooked breakfast, when she called to her daughter and asked if Mr. Norris was ready to get up. The daughter called to her father, who reached for a small gauge shotgun, raised himself in bed and fired into his chest. Upon hearing the shot, Mrs. Norris rushed to her husband to find him dying.

Mr. Norris was a carpenter and smithy, and was highly respected by the people in his community. Throughout the past winter, he gave untiringly of his services and means to aid those in distress, and was active in Red Cross work. He is survived by his wife and daughter, Ruth.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Monday afternoon with burial in the Algood cemetery.

He was married to Miss Allie Smith April 28, 1913.

Surviving him are his wife and daughter, Ruth; 2 sisters, Mrs. Jim Madewell, Cookeville; Mrs. James Bohannon, Poplar Grove; and 1 brother, Barger Norris, Board Valley.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

3 November 1932

**RIDLEY BURGESS DIES OF 5 PISTOL WOUNDS:**

An old grudge flared again early Thursday afternoon down in the Sixteenth District, near the Burgess school house, seven miles from Cookeville, and as a result Ridley Burgess, 25, is dead, and Virgil Campbell, 30, is in jail here charged with the murder.

According to residents living near the scene of killing, Burgess and Campbell met at about 2 o'clock Thursday and engaged in an argument, when Campbell pulled a pistol and fired into Burgess' chest, five bullets taking effect. Burgess lived for about one hour.

Campbell submitted to arrest and was brought to Cookeville and lodged in jail to await preliminary hearing on a charge of murder.

Burgess was a son of Paynie Burgess.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

3 November 1932

**ALGOOD MAN KILLS SELF WITH SHOTGUN:**

Jim Norris, 45, died of self-inflicted wounds at his home in Algood at 6 o'clock Monday morning.

His wife had been up for some time and had cooked breakfast, when she called to her daughter and asked if Mr. Norris was ready to get up. The daughter called to her father, who reached for a small gauge shotgun, raised himself in bed and fired into his chest. Upon hearing the shot, Mrs. Norris rushed to her husband to find him dying.

Helped Poor:

Mr. Norris was a carpenter and smithy, and was highly respected by the people in his community. Throughout the past winter, he gave untiringly of his services and means to aid those in distress, and was active in Red Cross work. He is survived by his wife and daughter, Ruth. Funeral services were conducted at the home Monday afternoon and burial was in Algood cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

3 December 1932

**BOTH DIVORCE, SUICIDE FAIL:**

Saturday was either a lucky or an unlucky day for Mike Johnson, 40.

He was refused a divorce by Circuit Judge O. K. Holladay on the grounds of insufficient evidence to support his intentions of martial incompatibility.

Shortly after he had heard the decree refusing his divorce, Johnson went to the “Hornet’s Nest” on Oak Street, a house so designated by Sheriff Alex Burton, and with 30 feet of rope and a large dose of vernal, sought to commit suicide.

Johnson was found hanging in an upstairs room by D. Rittenberry, who took him down and revived him.

Mike had borrowed the rope from Robert Ray two days before the attempt at suicide. Mr. Ray said Johnson told him Saturday afternoon before he went to the “Hornet’s Nest” that he was “going straight to H\_\_\_.”

The rope, a one-inch cable, belongs to Putnam county, Mr. Ray, when he heard of the attempt, went to the house and retrieved the rope.

Johnson has completely recovered but told his rescuers that he preferred their letting him hang.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

22 December 1932

**George Thomas McBroom Obt.**

b. 8 December 1881, Putnam Co., TN – d. 20 December 1932, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1901, Putnam Co., TN to **Mary Daniel (Jaquess) McBroom**, b. 15 May 1885, Jackson Co., TN – d. 21 April 1974, Canyon Co., Los Angeles, CA, d/o **Josiah Daniel Jaquess** (1854-1895) & **Mary Dunbar Young** (1853-1885), both buried in John Young Cemetery, Shiloh, Jackson Co., TN. George Thomas McBroom, s/o **Dillon McBroom** (1846-1931) & **Margaret Perkins** (1858-1932), both buried in McBroom Cemetery, Bloomington Springs, Putnam Co., TN. George Thomas McBroom buried in McBroom Cemetery, Bloomington Springs, Putnam Co., TN. Mary Daniel (Jaquess) McBroom is buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA.

When **George Thomas McBroom** was born on December 8, 1881, in Bloomington Springs, Tennessee, his father, Dillon, was 35 and his mother, Margaret, was 23. He married **Mary Daniel Jaquess** on September 15, 1901, in Cookeville, Tennessee. They had ten children in 21 years. He died on December 20, 1932, in his hometown at the age of 51, and was buried there. **Children:** Leonard Washington McBroom (1902-1946), Haskel Franklin McBroom (1904-1905), Margaret Irene McBroom (1906-1963), Thurman Dillon McBroom (1907-1990), Minnie Mae McBroom (1910-1911), Cora Dovie (Neil) McBroom (1913-2006), Ernest Lee McBroom (1916-1982), Effie Jewel (McBroom) Markey (1918-1986), James Fred McBroom (1923-2004) & Grace (McBroom) Rhodes.

DC states: Cause of Death, Putnam Co., TN: He was knocked in the head several years ago from which he never was right at times. Suicide.

FATHER OF EIGHT, OUT OF WORK, NO MONEY, HANGS SELF:

George McBroom, 51, Found in Barn by Son Tuesday at Bloomington Springs:

Helped Xmas Shoppers:

One Putnam county father Tuesday gave up the bitter fight against poverty, and rather than see his children go through a Christmas without Santa Claus he hanged himself.

He was George McBroom, 51, of Bloomington Springs. He was found hanging in his barn by his son, Ernest, 16, at 5 o'clock. A coroner's jury, impaneled on order of County Coroner J. B. Dow, who appointed Magistrate L. W. Goolsby to act as coroner, reported that McBroom was a suicide.

It was believed that he stepped from a partition after tying a rope around his neck and fastening the rope to a rafter. The fall broke his neck.

Was At Store:

After eating breakfast from the scant McBroom table, McBroom went to the store in Bloomington Springs, where he talked with friends and helped early shoppers wrap Christmas parcels. He did not leave a note, nor did he intimate that he was about to commit suicide.

He left the store and was seen walking homeward. Shortly afterward, news was spread that he had hanged himself, and the coroner's jury was formed to substantiate it. Two of the jurymen did not agree on the manner in which McBroom hanged himself.

McBroom is of a large family with many connections residing in the Eighteenth District. He had been out of work for several months, and had fed his family by doing odd jobs at Bloomington Springs and in his neighborhood.

Son in China, "Lost":

From the tragedy comes a note of horror by McBroom having a son, Leonard, living in China. The family does not know the son's address.

Other survivors of his immediate family are his wife; four daughters, Mrs. Lester Matheny and Jewel McBroom, of Old Hickory; Mrs. Bascom Neal and Grace McBroom, of Bloomington; Thurman McBroom, of Detroit, and Ernest and Fred McBroom.

Funeral services were conducted at the McBroom Cemetery in the Eighteenth District yesterday afternoon.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

29 December 1932

**OVERTON FARMER IS SUICIDE: YOUTH FALLS UNDER TRAIN:**

Critt Webb Uses .22 Pistol To Kill Self.

Two men of Putnam county connection met violent death during the holiday weekend, one dying by his own hand, and the other being killed by a Tennessee Central train.

Critt Webb, 57, was found at his house 13 miles north of Cookeville, just over the county line in Overton county, with four .22 pistol bullet holes in his body, at 2:30 Sunday afternoon by his son-in-law, Lloyd Fox, who had gone to bring Mr. Webb to Cookeville for Christmas dinner Sunday night.

Apparently, investigators said, Mr. Webb had cogitated suicide and had prepared himself for death. His wife Mrs. Laura Harp Webb, had left Saturday for a visit. Webb had shaved, bathed, and dressed, and then had gone to a chair in his sitting room, where he fired four shots into his body. One bullet entered the neck, another entered the head, and two had been fired into his left breast. It was not ascertained how long Webb had been dead when he was found, but it was believed that he had killed himself late Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

NO MURDER:

Rumors in Cookeville that Mr. Webb had been murdered were branded as false. County Coroner J. B. Dow did not investigate the case.

No reason was assigned for his suicide.

Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon at the Paran Methodist Church, of which he was a member, by the Rev. Dow A. Ensor. Burial was in the Paran Cemetery.

Besides his wife, Mr. Webb is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Dock Givens, of Overton county; Mrs. Tillman Webb, Mrs. Lloyd Fox and Miss Sibbie Lee Webb, all of Cookeville.

#### FOUND DYING:

Robert Askew, 16-year-old son of Magistrate and Mrs. J. T. Askew, of Buffalo Valley, was found dying on the Tennessee Central tracks near his home Friday afternoon, badly mangled by a train. It was thought that he was struck by West bound passenger train No. 1, although he was alone at the time he was killed.

Young Askew was rushed to the City Hospital here, and died as he was being taken from an ambulance.

Askew was a member of the sophomore class of Baxter Seminary, and was popular among his classmates.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon at the Buffalo Valley Church of Christ by Dr. O. H. Tallman. Burial was in Smellage Cemetery.

Besides his parents, he is survived by a sister, Mrs. C. T. Taylor, of Silver Point; and four brothers, Pat, Tom, Sam, and J. T. Jr.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

19 January 1933

#### FOUR HELD HERE UNDER HEAVY BONDS CHARGED WITH SENDING BANKER'S WIFE DEATH THREAT:

Officer Dresses As Woman, Others Follow In Night Raid That Climaxes In Triple Arrest In Smith County Near Rome:

#### FOURTH ARREST ON EVE OF HEARING CLEARS CASE, BRINGS CONFESSIONS

Letter to Mrs. S. D. Wilhite, Threatened Death To Child, Burning Alive of Family, And Said "You Can't Leave Town, Our Agents Are Watching You"

Putnam county's boldest extortion plot was killed in its infancy shortly before midnight Monday when a posse of federal, state, and local officers arrested three men who are charged with sending Mrs. Stacey D. Wilhite, whose husband is Assistant Cashier of the First National Bank of Cookeville, a note demanding \$21,000 and carrying a threat of death to her family.

The men are Hobson Jackson, 34; Guy Leftwich, 30, and Robert Leftwich, 23, a resident of Buffalo Valley. The others live in Cookeville.

Brasfield Coffelt, 24, a fourth party to the crimes, was arrested at noon Wednesday by U. S. Marshall W. M. Stout on a warrant sworn out by U. S. Postal Inspector D. Q. Musgrove, charging conspiracy.

Upon arrest, Coffelt made a full confession, implicating the other three. Two of them, the Leftwich boys, also made full confessions.

Preliminary hearing was before U. S. Commissioner D. H. Morgan Wednesday afternoon. All save Jackson entered pleas of "guilty," and were bound over to the action of the federal grand jury next week. They were admitted to bond of \$7500 each, which they did not make. Jackson pleaded "not guilty," and was held on \$10,000 bond.

Held on Postal Charges:

The men are held on charges under the Postal Laws and Regulations, on two counts, extortion and conspiracy. Under conviction, their maximum penalty would be 20 years imprisonment of \$5,000 fine or both.

Coffelt was arrested on a tip given by a filling station operator here to Sergt. Van Dodson and Patrolman Lucas, of the highway patrol, yesterday morning. They worked on leads and later turned over their evidence which resulted in Coffelt's arrest.

Coffelt confessed that he aided in projecting the letter, but that at the last minute he took "cold feet," and did not go with the other men. He said he anticipated a reward for the criminals after they had committed the crime, and that he was going to turn them up and collect. He said they all took two drinks of whiskey each before they started on the ride.

Letter Typed:

The letter, confessions said, was written at 4:30 Friday afternoon. Mrs. Wilhite received it Saturday morning. It was typed and was written on a broad carriage machine. It said:

Mrs. Stacey Wilhite:

On Monday, January 16, 1933, we demand \$21,000 in this form 280-\$50 bills and 350-\$20 bills.

On Sunday night Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, continuing from 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., have in your South front window a lighted candle with all other lights out.

At 7:30 p.m., sharp, Jan. 16, 1933, circle the square twice in Buick sedan BE ALONE, then drive West on highway 24 at a speed of 15 miles per hour continue driving West on 24 highway until a car drives up behind you and sounds one long blast and two short blasts then throw sack of money into highway. Then drive one mile and stop.

Unless these demands are done by you and you alone your daughters life will be in our hands.

If you and your husband in any way try to double cross us we will burn you all alive you can't leave town our agents are watching your every move. We have 40 years watching you.

LAST WARNING

Compiled With Letter:

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhite sought police aid, and complied with every demand the letter set forth, except two; Mrs. Wilhite did not drive the car, nor did the car contain \$21,000.

Investigation were secretly begun. The officers taking part in the case were lauded as doing some of the most excellent pieces of police and detective work in Tennessee criminal history. Besides the Sheriff, Deputies and Federal officers, Highway patrolmen Buddy Solomon, Clyde Odil, Lee Loveless, Earl Lucas and M. S. Andrews worked on the case. Capt. Hubert Crawford also helped in laying plans to catch the men.

The letter was written in the office of the Isbell Handle Mills here by Guy Leftwich. The office is unused, and Leftwich borrowed a key, explaining that he wanted to use the typewriter to "write a recommendation" for a man, it was reported.

Promised to Pay:

Various creditors of the three men arrested in the car, said that they had promised to pay them Tuesday, and Jackson is said to have promised Monday to take up a number of cold checks the next day.

V. E. Bockman, defending the two Leftwich men at the preliminary hearing yesterday, sought to have their bonds reduced, but Commissioner Morgan refused. The Federal courtroom was packed and hundreds stood outside unable to get in.

After the hearing, Mrs. Jackson, wife of the defendant Jackson, broke down.

Bockman first entered a plea of "not guilty" for his two Leftwich clients, and while he was preparing for the skirmish they pulled at his coat-tail, and told him in loud whispers that they wanted to change their plea to "guilty." Resse Macey, assistant district attorney, represented the government.

Coffelt, called upon to enter his plea, said he would not enter a plea but that he "knew all about it." He will be charged with conspiracy.

Mrs. Wilhite, called to the stand to identify the letter, was nervous and showed signs of mental strain.

Sergt. Wayne Hargis and Patrolman Loveless were the only other to be called.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

2 February 1933

**GORE SENTENCES THREE IN WILHITE EXTORTION PLOT:**

U. S. District Judge John Gore Saturday sentenced three of the four men held in a recent attempt to extort \$21,000 from Mrs. Stacey D. Wilhite, of Cookeville. Guy Leftwich and Hobson Jackson, alleged ring-leaders in the plot, were given 20 years each in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, and Brasfield Coffelt, alleged accessory before the fact, was given five years. Judge Gore reserved sentence on Robert L. Leftwich and remanded him to the Putnam County jail under bond of \$5,000. He made bond.

The sentences were imposed under a new federal statute providing penalties for use of the mails for extortion purposes. It is said to be the first time an indictment has been returned under the act.

Pleaded Guilty:

The four men pleaded guilty to charges of sending Mrs. Wilhite, wife of an officer of the First National Bank of Cookeville, a letter demanding that she deliver them \$21,000 under threats of death to her family.

Coffelt admitted his part in the plot, and Robert Leftwich told the judge that he took part in the affair but knew nothing of the letter or the plans of the others.

"I'm being light on you," Judge Gore said as he sentenced the men. "It ought to be the death penalty. If the law provided it, I'd sentence you."

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

20 April 1933

**Samuel Edgar Tinsley**

b. 11 January 1885, Gainesboro, TN – d. 17 April 1933, Putnam Co., TN, md **Mona (Sadler) Tinsley**. Samuel Edgar Tinsley, s/o **Samuel "Sam" Mulky Fowler Tinsley & Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Mahaney**. (Children: Howard & Harold Tinsley) (Samuel Edgar Tinsley's siblings are: Ernest Tinsley & Miss Blanche Tinsley of Gainesboro, TN. His mother was living in Gainesboro, TN at his death). (**Samuel "Sam" Mulky Fowler Tinsley**, b. 29 February 1856 – d. 8 August 1971, s/o **John F. Tinsley & Mary Jane Keith** is buried in the Gainesboro City Cemetery, South Murray Street, Gainesboro, TN).

#### SALESMAN KILLS SELF BEFORE GLASS IN HOME HERE:

Edgar Tinsley, 47, Believed To Have Taken Life Because Of Loss Of Health:

#### PROMINENT ON ROAD:

Edgar Tinsley, 47, for twenty years one of the most prominent salesmen in the Upper Cumberland, late Monday afternoon sent his wife to town, stood before a mirror in his room at his home, 412 Dixie Ave., and fired a .32 caliber pistol bullet through his head. He died a few minutes later in the City Hospital.

The deed was attributed to poor health. Mr. Tinsley was forced to retire from the road about three years ago because of failing health, and during that time had not improved.

Late Monday afternoon he sent his wife to town for some medicine, it was said, and while she was away he committed suicide.

Funeral yesterday:

Funeral services were conducted at the Cookeville Church of Christ, Wednesday afternoon by Elder J. Petty Ezell, of Murfreesboro, and Dr. O. H. Tailman, of the Cookeville Church. Burial took place in the City Cemetery.

Mr. Tinsley was a member of the Church of Christ, and was a Scottish Rite Mason.

A son of the late Sam Tinsley and Mrs. Tinsley, of Gainesboro, Mr. Tinsley had been a resident of Cookeville for the past twelve years. He was born, reared and educated in Jackson county, and was a member of one of that county's most prominent families.

He began his selling career with Robert Orr and Company of Nashville twenty years ago, later joining the sales staff of the Peters Shoe Company, whom he represented when he retired.

#### Prominent in This Section:

Mr. Tinsley circuited the Upper Cumberland section of Tennessee and was widely known. Through his personality he had made hundreds of friends, and he was prominent in the territory he served.

He is survived by his wife and two children, twin sons, Harold and Howard, eight years old; his mother, and a brother and sister, Ernest and Blanche Tinsley, of Cookeville.

Active pallbearers, E. Y. Gibson, B. M. Hudgens, W. H. Haile, E. B. Wilcox, M. A. Wydick, H. A. Draper, C. J. Cooper.

Honorary pallbearers, A. G. Maxwell, Sr., J. C. Darwin, Walter Greenwood, C. S. Jenkins, J. M. McCormick, J. L. Bohannon, C. K. Darwin, Stacy Wilhite, Walter Whitson, O. D. Massa, Dillard Massa, Benton Carlen, John H. Whitson, Jack Carver, Sam Pendergrass, O. E. Cameron, H. S. Hargis, D. H. Morgan, Comer McDearman, Dr. W. A. Howard, Dr. Harlan Taylor, Dr. Lex Dyer, Brown Minor, Carl Mofield, J. N. Cox, E. C. Warner, D. C. Wilhite, Otto Grimsley, Dave High, Layton Stanton, O. M. Adams, V. R. Williams, J. M. Anderson, Dero Darwin, Sam Crawford, Hubert Crawford, Ezra Davis, W. C. Davis, Mr. Wagstaff, O. K. Holladay, Herbie Shanks, Robert Lowe, S. A. Powell, E. C. Reeves, Matt M. Rucker, Dr. Z. L. Shipley, Benton Terry, John B. Terry, Buford Smith, Bonnell Brown, Dillard Hix, W. J. Byrne, Zeb Barnes, Algood Carlen.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

19 April 1934

#### SHERMAN LANE FOUND DEAD ON RAILROAD:

A man identified as Sherman Lane, 28, son of the late Henderson Lane, of near Algood, was found dead on the Tennessee Central track at Fisk Crossing three miles east of Cookeville Tuesday morning. He had been killed in a fall from a train, authorities believed.

Lane was last seen in Cookeville at about midnight Monday, and it was though he had hoboed a night passenger train to the vicinity of his home, and in swinging off the speeding train was thrown to the ground. His head was crushed.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday. He is survived by his wife and two children.

**Matthews "Mathias" A. Reagan Obt.**

b. 31 March 1871, Fentress Co., TN – d. 2 January 1933, Monroe, Overton Co., TN, md **Mary Alice (Choate) Reagan**, b. 15 August 1876, Fentress Co., TN – d. 23 April 1946, Overton Co., TN. Matthews A. Reagan, s/o **Joel Lucy Reagan** (1847-1930) & **Nancy Wright** (1847-1881). Joel Parkman Reagan, b. 4 October 1891, TN – d. 23 February 1977, Overton Co., TN, s/o **Joel Lucy Reagan** (1847-1930) & **Margaret Jane Wright** (1849-1935). Mathias & his wife Mary Alice (Choate) Reagan are both buried in the Dave Smith Cemetery, Monroe, Overton Co., TN. **Joel Partman Reagan** is buried in the Dave Smith Cemetery, Monroe, Overton Co., TN. Joel P. Reagan md **Magdalene Newberry**.

A grass string with a stick run through it bearing mule testimony of a primitive gallows was found around the neck of the body of Matthews A. Reagan, 54, early Monday morning near McDonald's Chapel, in the Eleventh District.

Parkman "*Partman*" Reagan, 42, half-brother of the crudely-murdered man, is in the Livingston jail awaiting preliminary hearing Saturday on charges of first degree murder.

The elder Reagan had left home at about five o'clock, starting to Livingston to make settlement with the County Court Clerk for the estate of his father, Joel L. Reagan, deceased, of which he was administrator. His body was found at about day-light lying in a path a short distance from the road by George Cooper.

Robbery is thought to have been the motive for the crime as his empty pocketbook was found near his body. It is reported that members of his family claim that when he left home he carried the sum of \$115.

Bloodhounds belonging to Pippin brothers, of Double Springs, were brought to the scene and immediately took a trail which led to the home of Parkman Reagan, who lives a short distance away. He was arrested by Sheriff S. F. Johnson and placed in jail to await preliminary trial Saturday. – Livingston Enterprise: January 1933

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

27 April 1933

**YOUTHS ADJUDGED INSANE: ESCAPE ASSAULT CHARGES:**

Wayman and Edward Vaughn, sons of R. L. Vaughn of the Eighteenth District, Tuesday were adjudged insane by a jury in Judge B. C. Huddleston's court, and were sent to Central State Hospital.

The boys had been placed in jail here Saturday on charges of assault and battery on their father that day. He testified at the insanity hearing that they were victims of epilepsy and were "becoming dangerous" to his family. He said they had attacked him at intervals for the past three years, and that they apparently had an intense desire to "kill somebody,"

The oldest son, Wayman, about 25, attacked Dr. R. H. Millis, county health officer, in the courtroom while the trial was in progress. Millis and Dr. W. A. Howard examined the youths.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

25 May 1933

**Ed W. Brown**

b. 4 July 1879 – d. 23 May 1933, buried in Phillips Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

**ED BROWN KILLS SELF AT HOME IN ALGOOD:**

Ed Brown, 50, killed himself instantly early Tuesday morning by firing a .32-20 caliber pistol bullet into his right temple at his home in Algood. His act was attributed to financial troubles.

Brown, who had been a resident of Algood for the past 40 years, is survived by his wife and a son, Philip, and a sister.

Funeral services were conducted at the Algood Church of Christ Tuesday afternoon by Elder Allen Phy. Burial took place in Phillips Cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

15 June 1933

**JOHN WARREN, 45, KILLS WIFE, THEN TURNS GUN ON SELF:**

Double Tragedy Occurred Sunday Near Home in Fifteenth District:

Services Held At Paran:

John Warren, 45, son of the late Jim Warren, killed his wife Sunday afternoon with a .12 gauge shotgun because she had started to leave him, to go back to her mother, and then turned the gun upon himself, blowing his head off.

The double tragedy occurred near Warren's home in the Fifteenth District, nine miles north of Cookeville.

Called Taxi:

Sunday Mrs. Warren telephoned to Cookeville for a taxi to bring her to a train or bus, and the driver, Charlie Campbell, and a companion, Coe Pruitt, drive to the vicinity for the fare. They were met by Warren at a mail box, where Mrs. Warren had designated as a meeting place.

The three found Mrs. Warren at a neighbor's, and the four walked back to the road. The drivers said Warren struck his wife over the head with a butt of the gun, and while she was staggering he fired one shot at close range into the back of her head, blowing her brains out. The taxi men ran, and Warren fired at them, they said. He then fired two more shots into Mrs. Warren's body, and placed the barrel under his chin and pulled the trigger, the shot tearing his head almost completely off.

Funeral services for Warren were conducted at the Paran Methodist Church Tuesday morning by the Rev. Dow A. Ensor. Burial took place there. The body of Mrs. Warren was shipped to Evansville, IN, for services and burial.

Warren is survived by four brothers, former sheriff Marion Warren, Zeb, Beale, and Charlie Warren. His first wife and their child reside at Watertown.

Warren was a member of one of Putnam county's most prominent families, and a crowd of about 1,500 attended the funeral to pay their respects to the member of the family.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

22 June 1933

**Carlisle Lee Meadows**, b. 30 January 1908 – d. 20 June 1933, s/o **Myrtle Maxwell**. b. 22 Sept. 1892, d/o William H. Maxwell (1840-1895) & Mary Sina Burgess (1839-1938). Myrtle md on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 1912, Putnam Co., TN to Jeremiah Michah "Jere" Pippin (1891-1941).

#### YOUNG DIES FROM WOUNDS WHEN HIT BY FREIGHT TRAIN:

Carlisle Meadows, 25, son of Mrs. Myrtie Pippin, of Baxter, died in the City Hospital Tuesday night from wounds received early Tuesday morning when he was hit by Tennessee Central freight train No. 84, near Baxter.

Meadows, it was said, had sat down on the track to rest and went to sleep, the train hitting him while he slept. His body was severely mangled, although none of his limbs were cut off.

He was brought to the hospital here Tuesday but did not regain consciousness before his death.

- NAME: **Carli Lee Meadows**
  - DATE OF BIRTH: **30 Jan 1908**
  - AGE:
  - PLACE OF BIRTH: **Jackson County**
  - DATE OF DEATH: **20 Jun 1933**
  - FATHER'S NAME: **Lee Meadows**
  - FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: **TN**
  - MOTHER'S NAME: **Myrtle Maxwell**
  - MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: **TN**
- SOURCE:** Certificate No. 12533, Year 1933, Putnam County, Tennessee

#### Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:

22 June 1933

#### OFFICERS SEEK MURDERER OF CLEGHORN:

Third District Citizen is Found Dead Tuesday: Robbery Not Motive For His Killing. One Shot Entered Back and Pierced Heart.

Was Missed Saturday:

Sheriff Alex Burton and his assistants are making a through search for clues in the murder of Harvey Cleghorn, 40, whose body was found lying on a path leading to his home in the Third District late Tuesday afternoon by two neighbors, John Ramsey and Caleb Griffin.

Cleghorn, who had been missing from his home since 11 o'clock Saturday morning, had been killed by a bullet that entered at close range in his back, and pierced his heart. His body was badly decomposed.

Dow Hold Inquest:

County Coroner J. B. Dow conducted an inquest late Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning, and the coroner's jury reported that Cleghorn had been killed by unknown person or persons. Coroner Dow said the wound appeared to have been made by a rifle or pistol of .38 caliber.

Three one-dollar bills were found in Cleghorn's clothes, thus discounting the theory that he had been killed with robbery as a motive. No enmities were reported held against Cleghorn, and the murder is one of the deepest mysteries Putnam county officers have had to deal with.

Cleghorn was a farmer of little means, was quiet and unassuming, and was respected by his neighbors.

Left Buckner Home:

He had gone to the home of Odell Buckner, son of John Buckner, Saturday morning, and was last seen sitting on the front porch of the Buckner home, Coroner Dow said. It was believed he was going to his home when he was killed.

The mystery of his disappearance and the sudden discovery of his body, together with the absolute absence of any tangible clue, has added excitement to the affair, and the case is one of deep interest to authorities.

Cleghorn is survived by his widow and three children. Funeral services were conducted at his home yesterday afternoon.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

29 June 1933

BURTON HOLDS TWO IN CONNECTION WITH CLEGHORN MURDER:

Preliminary Hearing Thursday Expected To Reveal New Facts:

EVIDENCE SEEMS SLIGHT

J. H. Ramsey, 37, and Tom Danner, 25, are being held by Sheriff Burton with the mysterious slaying of Harvey Cleghorn, 40, Third District farmer whose body was found on a pathway leading to his home last week. He had been missing for three days.

The warrants were issued by Magistrate Downey on complaint of Cleghorn's brother, Ike Cleghorn. Preliminary hearing for the pair is schedule for next Thursday.

Cleghorn described his action in taking out the warrants as being a result of investigations concerning the murder, but he admitted he had little evidence against the two men held here. He said from all he could gather Ramsey, Danner, and the slain Cleghorn had quit work in a woods on the day the murder is believed to have occurred, and went to the home of Modell Buckner, where they ate dinner.

Started to Town:

From the Buckner home the three were to come to Cookeville, but for some reason Cleghorn changed his mind and started to his home. Ramsey and Danner and Danner's mother, Mrs. Joe Danner, and Mrs. John Buckner started to town in a wagon.

Cleghorn said they passed near the place where his brother's body was found, and that from information gathered from a group of R.F.C. road workmen the wagon required approximately one hour to travel one mile.

Danner and Ramsey were seen in town that afternoon, it was said. Cleghorn said Ramsey spent the night at his home Saturday, the day his brother disappeared. He said Ramsey's actions were peculiar that night.

Their preliminary hearing was set for Tuesday, before Magistrate Wade, but was continued until next Thursday on application of the defendants. New facts are expected to be revealed at the hearing, Cleghorn said, expressing the belief that witnesses summoned in the case would tell more under oath than under ordinary questioning.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

29 June 1933

CHILD KILLED BY SISTER AS SHOTGUN ACCIDENTALLY FIRES:

Elmer Murray, 13, died early Sunday morning at the City Hospital from shotgun wounds inflicted by his sister the evening before at the home of their father, Leonard Murray, one mile west of Cookeville.

According to hospital attaches, the girl, Armilda Murray, 15, said that the gun had been loaded and placed on the wall for use in killing hawks, and that she wanted to unload it and dropped it, the impact causing the gun to fire. One of the child's legs was torn off by the discharge, and the other was badly mangled. Loss of blood hurried his death.

Funeral services were conducted at the Byers Cemetery in Jackson county Sunday afternoon by the Rev. J. W. Fox.

- NAME: **Elmer Murray**
- DATE OF BIRTH: ----
- AGE: **abt 12y**
- PLACE OF BIRTH: **TN**
- DATE OF DEATH: **25 Jun 1933**
- FATHER'S NAME: **Lenard Murray**
- FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: **TN**
- MOTHER'S NAME: **Nola Winchester**
- MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: **TN**
- SOURCE: **Certificate No. 12535, Year 1933, Putnam County, Tennessee**

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

6 July 1933

**Luke Turman Crawford Obt.**

b. 24 March 1883, TN – d. 4 July 1933, s/o **Capt. William Alexander Crawford & Mary Brown.**

\*See Capt. William Alexander Crawford Obt.

\*See Sam U. Crawford buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

\*See William Hurbert Crawford buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

\*See Walter Keith Crawford buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

**LUKE CRAWFORD DIES OF SKULL FRACTURE:**

Luke Crawford, 50, injured last Thursday in a fall near the Citizens Bank, died as a result at about 7:30 Tuesday night at his home here. His skull was fractured in the fall.

Luke Crawford, 50, injured last Thursday in a fall near the Citizens Bank, died as a result at about 7:30 Tuesday night at his home here. His skull was fractured in the fall.

Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon by the Rev. E. M. Steel, pastor of the Cookeville Methodist Church, the Rev. W. V. Jarrett, presiding elder, and the Rev. Dow A. Ensor. Burial was in the City Cemetery.

He was a member of a prominent Putnam county family, and was a son of the late Capt. William Alex Crawford. He is survived by three brothers, Hubert Crawford, Walter Keith Crawford and Sam Crawford, of Cookeville, and two sisters, Mrs. D. C. Lynn of Flynn's Creek in Jackson county, and Mrs. Minnie Crawford Barbour, of Cookeville.

Active pallbearers were, J. M. Anderson, Dero Brown, C. K. Darwin, Claude Darwin, H. J. Shanks, J. L. O'Dell, Downey Wade and C. B. Jenkins.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

27 July 1933

## BUCKNER ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGES:

Third District Farmer Was Held In Cleghorn Slaying:

### OFFICERS STILL BAFFLED

John Buckner, 55, Third District farmer who was arrested last week on a warrant sworn out by Carson Allen, a neighbor, Tuesday was released in a preliminary hearing before Magistrate D. J. Wade, on charges of murder in connection with the slaying of Harvey Cleghorn on or about June 17.

Allen was the principal witness to testify against Buckner, and he sought to show that Buckner and Cleghorn had had previous trouble over Cleghorn's trapping on Buckner's land, and he testified that he had heard Buckner make threats against Cleghorn's life.

Prosecuting attorneys also sought to show that Buckner was away from his home at the time Cleghorn was believed to have been killed.

Attorneys for the defense did not offer any witnesses.

Putnam county officers are still baffled over the mysterious finding of Cleghorn's body June 20 on a hilly pathway leading to his home in the Third District. Cleghorn had been shot once through the back at close range, evidently with a pistol or rifle. The bullet pierced his heart.

County Coroner J. B. Dow conducted an inquest, the jury reporting that Cleghorn had been killed by "some unknown person or persons."

No tangible clues have been uncovered.

### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

27 July 1933

### YOUTH DROWNS SUNDAY IN CANEY FORK RIVER:

John Lee Smith, 20, son of Mrs. Lucy Madwell, of Ensor, was drowned in the Caney Fork River at Rock Springs Sunday afternoon.

Smith, who had gone swimming with a group of other young men, had swam about 50 yards from the shore, it was reported, and, evidently attacked by cramps, sank. None of his companions were able to help him.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Monday by the Rev. Estel Scarlett. He is survived, besides his mother, by three brothers, Monroe, Solon, and Hue B., and two sisters, Mrs. Monroe Rittenberry and Mrs. Haywood Jackson.

### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

1 February 1934

### CONVICT YOUTHS FOR SHOOTING OF 3D DISTRICT MAN

John Howard, Allen Hunter Get 12 Years, Other To Jail Here

### HEAR BURGESS MOTION

Three youths were convicted in Criminal Court here by a jury that reported late Saturday night on charges of murdering John Wilhite, 5, Third District farmer, near his home last October 1.

John Howard and Allen Hunter were found guilty of second degree murder and the jury fixed their punishment at 12 years each in the State penitentiary. The third, alleged accomplice, Bill Hunter, was convicted for involuntary manslaughter and his punishment was fixed by the jury at six months in the county jail.

Their trial was started Thursday and consumed the week-end. The State, represented by Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, assisted by Finis Harris, J. O. Paris and E. A. Langford, contended that Wilhite was shot down in cold blood while carrying a bucket of water from a spring to his home on the Sunday morning he was shot.

Wilhite was shot three times with a shotguns, the loads taking effect in his left shoulder, left hand, and right leg. He died while being brought to the City Hospital here.

Admit Shooting:

Howard and Allen Hunter admitted the shooting, saying they did it in self defense. They said on the witness stand that they had been squirrel hunting and that on their return Wilhite attempted to shoot them for tearing down some signs he had posted on his land. Howard testified that he shot first, the discharge going into Wilhite's shoulder, and Allen Hunter said he fired two shots at Wilhite while he was staggering. A pistol, allegedly Wilhite's, was found near the scene of the shooting.

The younger Hunter, Bill, was not implicated in the murder, he said, although he recounted on the witness stand that Wilhite had shot at him on one occasion. He said he wasn't at the scene of the shooting and took no part in it. This statement was born out by the testimony of his brother and Howard. The three youths were defended by Holladay and Clark.

Court adjourned Monday afternoon, with Judge O. K. Holladay on the bench, after hearing a motion for new trial in the Payne Burgess murder case, Burgess being convicted for second degree murder and his punishment fixed at 10 years in the penitentiary by the jury. Judge Holladay overruled the motion, and attorneys indicated they would file an appeal.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

8 February 1934

**Leah (Robinson) Bohannon**, b. 20 May 1850 – d. 31 January 1934, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 1877, Putnam Co., TN to **Lewis Alexander Bohannon**, b. 24 January 1854, White Co., TN – d. 19 June 1935, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **James Jordan Bohannon Sr. & Jane England**. Leah (Robinson) Bohannon, d/o **William Robinson & Mary Stamps**. Leah and her husband Lewis Bohannon are buried in the Bohannon Church Cemetery, Monterey, Putnam Co., TN.

Mary Jane Bohannon, b. 4 May 1881, Putnam Co., TN – d. 31 January 1934, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **Lewis Alexander Bohannon (1854-1935) & Leah Robinson (1850-1934)**. Mary Jane Bohannon buried in the Bohannon Church Cemetery, Monterey, Putnam Co., TN.

**JOINT SERVICES FOR TWO FIRE VICTIMS:** Joint funeral services for Mrs. Louis A. Bohannon, 84, and her daughter, Miss Jennie Bohannon, 52, who died of burns received at their home near Monterey last Wednesday, were conducted Friday by the Rev. W. M. Henry, and the Rev. Frank Henry, of the Baptist Church. Both were members of the Baptist Church. Burial took place in the Bohannon cemetery about seven miles south of Monterey.

The tragedy occurred last Wednesday morning when Mrs. Bohannon's clothes caught fire from an open grate. In an effort to extinguish the flames, the younger woman's clothes caught fire and the husband and father attempted vainly to aid them. He was severely burned also.

Mrs. Bohannon was a daughter of the late Bill Robinson and Mrs. Robinson, early settlers in that section of Putnam county.

Surviving Mrs. Bohannon besides her husband are two sons, J. L. Bohannon, of Cookeville, and L. D. Bohannon, of Monterey; four daughters, Mrs. Alcie Trapp and Mrs. Pearl McCormick, of near Cookeville; Mrs. Fannie Brown, of near Sparta, and Mrs. Birdie Simpson, of Amarillo, TX. One granddaughter, Miss Aleen Brown, of Sparta, also survives.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

12 April 1934

JOHN R. M'CLAIN, JOE H. TERRY MEET DEATH IN GEORGIA.

Egg-laden Truck Drives Into Telegraph Pole Near Atlanta Tuesday:

Funerals Yesterday:

A 21-year-old Cookeville boy and his companion were instantly killed shortly before six o'clock Tuesday morning when their truck, laden with 163 cases of eggs, crashed into a telegraph pole near Marietta, GA, on the Marietta-Atlanta highway.

John Robert McClain, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. McClain, of Seventh Street, and Joe Harvey Terry, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Terry, were in the fatal crash. McClain was driving the truck, which was owned by his father, and was carrying eggs to Atlanta from local produce dealers.

According to reports from Marietta, witnesses saw the crashed truck and called ambulances. When attendants arrived, they found both youths dead and the crates of eggs scattered over the highway. The truck was almost completely demolished. Under-taking attendants, according to Atlanta newspaper reports, said the driver apparently had gone to sleep while driving at high speed, and the swerving truck crashed sidewise into the heavy pole. The pole was snapped in two.

OUT OF CONTROL:

Deputy Sherriff J. F. Hicks and his brother, Steve, were the first men to reach the scene, and they said R. S. Perkins, of Smyrna, told them he was driving the car behind the egg truck and that he blew for room to pass. The truck, Perkins said, failed to heed the signal and seemed out of control either as if the brakes were locked or the driver was asleep.

It was thought McClain was driving. He was driving when the truck left Cookeville at nine o'clock Monday night.

Just before Perkins passed the truck, he said, it scraped the fenders of his car, and when he forged ahead of the truck swerved from the highway.

The truck partly turned over. It careened into the pole's path. The cab and body were torn from the chassis.

The truck was removed from the bodies by Cobb county convicts who passed shortly after the crash.

The bodies were taken to an undertaker in Marietta, and were brought to Cookeville Tuesday night.

SERVICES HERE:

Funeral services for young McClain were held Tuesday afternoon at the Methodist Church here by the pastor, the Rev. Dean Stroud. Burial took place in the Welch Memorial cemetery in Monterey.

He had lived in Cookeville since his parents moved here two years ago, and had worked for his father at his grocery store on Cedar Street. He was a member of the Jr. O.U.A.M., and was a young man of good character.

Services for Terry were held at the Church of Christ, also Tuesday afternoon, by the pastor, Dr. O. H. Tallman. Burial took place in the City Cemetery.

The Terry youth was well known in Cookeville, having been born and reared here. He was a grandson of Squire J.W.H. Terry, and was a lad of pleasing personality, genial, and with many friends. He was a member of Troop A. 109<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Tennessee National Guard.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

24 August 1934

SSEK SLAYER OF JOHN HELM, 45 IN DRUNK SPREE:

Rich Davis Alleged to Have Stabbed Cookevillian Near Hilham Road.

KNIFED IN THE HEART

Officers are still searching for Rich Davis, laborer, who, they allege, was the slayer of John Helm, 45, of Cookeville, in a drunken orgy near the home of Rolly Davis two miles north of Cookeville, on the Hilham Road, Friday afternoon.

Information learned at the Sheriff's office immediately after the killing, was that Davis and Helm were among a group of six men who were indulging in a drinking orgy at a spring near Rolly Davis' home, and that they became engaged in an argument which wound up with Davis stabbing Helm in the heart with a knife. Helm died in about five minutes, it was said.

Davis has not been seen since the fatal knifing, and Sheriff Burton has a warrant for Davis charging murder.

Coroner J. B. Dow held an inquest over the body shortly after the killing and pronounced it "death by knife wounds in the heart."

Officers were called to the scene of the knifing shortly after it occurred, but Davis had slipped away. At the spring in the heavy growth of timber and bushes, they found empty "home brew" and liquor bottles, and witnesses to the murder said they were all drinking. Officers advanced the theory that the six men were gambling also, but no proof had been uncovered to that effect, according to Deputy Sheriff Collie Jared.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

6 September 1934.

**William Finis Stone Johnson Obt.**

b. 9 October 1916, Putnam Co., TN – d. 14 November 1934, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **Solon Madison Johnson** (1882-1966) & **Elsie Marion Medley** (1888-1971). He is buried in Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN.

Youth Drowns After Being Rescued From Caney Fork In Effort to Save Girl.

Services Held Wednesday For Finis Johnson At Baxter. Tom Nunally, 20, Hailed As Hero After Rescuing Three Of Ill-Fated Party.

Tom Nunally, 20, son of Squire Van D. Nunally, Baxter druggist, is credited with having saved three lives, although one of them was wasted later, at a swimming party on the Caney Fork River near Silver Point Sunday afternoon.

Finis Johnson, 18, son of Mr. & Mrs. Solon Johnson, was drowned in the swift, muddy waters of the river as he attempted to save the life of his sweetheart, Evelyn Stanton.

Johnson had been carried to the bank of the river by Nunally, who then returned to mid-stream to aid his brother, Van, Jr., in rescuing the girl. Johnson had either not reached the bank or had returned to aid in the rescue of his sweetheart when he was carried under by the swift current, never again to be seen alive.

The scene of the tragedy is one of the most treacherous places in the Caney Fork River, other swimmers having narrow escapes from drowning there, among them being Coach Prickett, of Baxter Seminary, who saved himself and Mrs. Prickett at another occasion by floating downstream to a log. Swimmers familiar with the place say there is no way to get out of the current after it swirls around the body.

While reviving the girl on the bank of the river, Johnson was missed by the group who in their excitement had failed to notice his absence after he had been first saved from drowning.

Young Johnson's body was not discovered until Tuesday afternoon when it was found floating at Moss Ferry, about one and one-half miles from the scene of the drowning, by William Brown, farmer, who was canoeing to his home near the river.

Johnson was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Solon Johnson, and was a graduate of Baxter Seminary. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at the Church of Christ by Elder A. R. Hill, Dr. E. A. Cooks, Dr. Harry Upperman, Elder C. W. Coleman, and Squire Chester Patton. A large crowd attended the funeral. Burial took place in Smellage graveyard.

Young Johnson, who was a member of the 1933 class of Baxter Seminary, where he was voted best all-round student, planned to enter Tech this year.

Young Nunally was hailed as a hero for his gallant work in saving the three lives, and the tragedy would have been far greater had he not been there, it was said at Baxter. The little town was shocked by the death of Johnson, whose parents are prominent residents of the section near there.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

20 September 1934

DEPUTY SHERIFF LOFTIS SHOT, MAY DIE

HOMER ROBERTS, 43, HELD HERE PENDING OUTCOME OF ACTION

Fired Through Door When He Thought Neighbors Intended "Harm"

WERE SEEKING FUGITIVE

BULLETIN

Deputy Sheriff Otis Loftis, was reported improved at the City Hospital this morning. No operation had been performed as this edition went to press.

Deputy Sheriff Otis Loftis, is in the City Hospital with a bare chance for his life after being shot late Tuesday by Homer Roberts, 43, Sixteenth District farmer, at Roberts' home.

Loftis and Deputy Sheriff Charlie Norton had gone to the district with a capias for Oakley Herren, 29, on a bond forfeiture following indictment by the Grand Jury on charges of housebreaking and larceny, and receiving stolen property. According to Norton, he and Loftis drove up to Roberts' home to ask where Herren lived.

Loftis knocked on the door, he said, and gave his name and told his business. His shout was answered with a shot, Norton said, and Loftis crumpled to the porch floor. Norton rushed him to the hospital.

Roberts surrendered Wednesday morning to Deputy Sheriff Jess Rice, who brought him to jail here. After questioning by Attorney General, John Mitchell, Roberts was ordered held pending further developments in Loftis' condition.

#### USED HEAVY SHOTGUN

Roberts fired through the front door of his house with a 12 gauge shotgun. The discharge entered Loftis' stomach. Attending physicians did not operate Tuesday night because of severe shock suffered by Loftis.

#### HAD HAD TROUBLE BEFORE

Roberts, according to Deputy Sheriff Collie Jared, claimed that he did not know who the persons were who stepped on his porch, but he thought they were neighbors who intended to do him bodily harm. He said he had had trouble before over houses and that one of his houses had been burned. He had previously told Magistrate A.W. Maxwell that he called to see who was at his door and that no one answered. Squire Maxwell said Roberts told him he thought somebody was trying to break into his house and that he fired.

Loftis has been a Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Alex Burton for about two years, and lives with his family at Double Springs. He has a wife, four children, a mother, three, brothers and three sisters.

It was indicated yesterday that a temporary charge of assault with intent to commit murder in the first degree would be filed against Roberts, and in the event of Loftis' death a new charge of murder would be place against him. No action by the Grand Jury was taken yesterday.

Roberts was arrested by Loftis and other officers last year on charges of possessing liquor, General John Mitchell said yesterday. The whisky was of low alcoholic content and no indictment was brought by the Grand Jury, he said.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

27 September 1934

#### INDICTMENT OF MURDER BROUGHT AGAINST ROBERTS

Deputy Sheriff Loftis Dies Of Shotgun Wounds in Stomach, Buried Monday

#### AFTER ANOTHER PERSON

Indictment charging first degree murder was brought by the Grand Jury Tuesday against Homer Roberts, 48. Sixteenth District farmer, in the fatal shooting of Otis Loftis, 30, Deputy Sheriff, who died in the City Hospital Sunday afternoon.

Loftis was shot by Roberts at Roberts' home on the night of September 18, as he and another Deputy, Charlie Norton, were seeking Oakley Herren, 29 on a capias for bond forfeiture and a charge of housebreaking and larceny.

Loftis' stomach was riddled with pellets from a 12 gauge shotgun admittedly fired by Roberts through the front door of his home as the officer sought to learn from him where Herren lived. Roberts declared under questioning at the jail that he thought Loftis an intruder, and that he fired to protect his home. Deputy Norton however, who sat in the officers' car at the side of the road while Loftis went to the house, said that

Loftis shouted his name and that he was hunting Herren, and that Roberts fired without answering. He also said that Roberts asked his wife for another shell to kill the other officer.

#### Surrendered Next Day

Roberts surrendered next day to Deputy Sam McCulley, and was lodged in jail on a preliminary charge of assault with intent to commit murder in the first degree. He made bond on that charge and was rearrested on the murder charge. Some disposition will probably be made during the present term of criminal court.

Funeral services for Loftis who had been a Deputy under Sheriff Alex Burton for a little more than two years, were conducted at his home at Double Springs Monday afternoon by Elder John W. Fox, minister of the Gainesboro Church of Christ. Burial took place in the Smellage Cemetery, at Boma.

Loftis is survived by his wife, Avo Jernigan Loftis; four children, Johnnie 7, Jack, Geraldine, and Audrey, five months. His mother Mrs. Clara Loftis and three brothers Leo, Clyde, and Clarence and three sisters, Dona Lee, Lola B. and Lona also survive.

#### Clay Evans Bennett

b. 15 April 1918, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 27 May 1936, (18 yrs. old), s/o **Sam Denton “Dock” Bennett** (1884-1955) & **Myrtle Phy** (1893-1976), she is buried in Algood City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Sam Denton “Dock” Bennett is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Clay Evans Bennett is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

DC #18144, Putnam Co., TN. Evan's brother was Holbart Bennett, b. 29 January 1914, Jackson Co., TN – d. 2 June 1968, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md to Mary Frances Johnson.

Youth's Mutilated Body Found On T. C. Tracks Wednesday: Evans Bennett, 18, son of Sam D. Bennett, who lives about two miles from Cookeville, was struck by a train near a Tennessee Central Railroad crossing at Algood, sometime after midnight Tuesday.

The badly mangled body was found by citizens of Algood about 5 o'clock Wednesday morning. An undertaker was summoned and the body was brought to Cookeville.

It was not known which of the night trains struck Bennett but it was thought that either the east bound passenger train or the freight train struck him throwing his body from the tracks.

Funeral services were held at the home at 9:30 o'clock this morning, conducted by the Rev. J. P. Bilyeu, with burial in the City cemetery.

He is survived by his father, S. D. Bennett, and one brother, Holbart Bennett.

#### Tennessee US Death Records (1908-1965)

<b>Name</b>	Evans Bennett
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Race</b>	White
<b>Age</b>	18
<b>Birth Date</b>	15 Apr 1918
<b>Birth Place</b>	Cookeville
<b>Death Date</b>	27 May 1936 – 3:30 am
<b>Death Place</b>	Algood, Putnam, Tennessee, USA
<b>Cause of Death</b>	Killed by Tennessee Central Railway Train Body found on track some time after death. Bodysevered in several parts.

Father [Sam D Bennett](#)

Mother [Myrtle Phy](#)

Certificate Number 18144

(1920 census 1st Civil Dist., Gainesboro Rd., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 136 –Sam D. Bennett is head of household, 34 yrs. old, TN, Occupation: Fireman at the Ax Handle Factory, md to Myrtle, 28 yrs. old, TN. Children: Jasper, 14 yrs. old, Occupation: Laborer at the Ax Handle Factory ; J. T. 12 yrs. old; Eddie, daughter, 10 yrs. old; Hobart, 4 yrs. old & Clay E. Bennett, 3/12 yrs. old. All born in TN).

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

9 July 1936

**BLOOMINGTON SPRINGS FARMER HANGS SELF IN BARN LOFT:**

The body of John Halfacre, 52, farmer, was found hanging from a rafter of his barn near Bloomington Springs, by members of his family early Sunday morning. He had been dead several hours.

No explanation was offered for the act.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ritha Halfacre.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

30 July 1936

**COOKEVILLE MAN SHOT BY DEPUTY NEAR CLAY COUNTY RESORT:** Edward Dorman In Nashville Hospital In Serious Condition. Wounded in Abdomen.

Edward Dorman, 28, Cookeville machine shop proprietor is in a serious condition today at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville with a bullet wound in his abdomen suffered Sunday night when he was shot at Leonard Cave, Clay County resort, by a Clay county deputy sheriff.

According to information from Red Boiling Springs in adjoining county, Dorman was shot by deputy sheriff Reecer. Sheriff J. C. Eads at Celina, said he knew nothing of the shooting, which was reported to have occurred about 6 o'clock.

Bob Browning, Red Boiling Springs lumberman, claims to have witnessed the shooting, and attributed it to an argument.

Dr. Henry C. Hesson, of Red Boiling Springs, gave Dorman emergency attention. The wounded man was taken by Lewis Chitwood, of Red Boiling Springs, to Carthage from where he was carried to an ambulance to Nashville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

27 August 1936

**MAN'S BODY FOUND SUNDAY MORNING ON RAILROAD TRACK:** Dudley Officer, Bottling Company Employee, Believed Victim of Freight Train: Funeral Held on Monday.

The severed body of Dudley Officer, 30, was found on the Tennessee Central railroad tracks near the Central High School building about 8 o'clock Sunday morning. One half of the body was between the rails and the other part about ten feet from the track. The body was severed at the waist.

Funeral services were held at the France cemetery near Dughill in White county, Monday afternoon, with burial there.

It appeared Officer was killed when struck by a west bound train about 4:30 o'clock Sunday morning, person who found the body stated.

Mr. Officer attended a dance at Rickman, Saturday night with James Lee, who said he left him at the Public Square here about 4 o'clock Sunday morning.

It is thought that in going home he would have passed the spot where his body was discovered. He resided with his brother, David Officer, who lives one mile north of Cookeville.

Members of the train crew who found the body called an ambulance which took it to a local undertaking establishment.

Mr. Officer, an employee of the Chera-Cola Bottling Company here, is the son of J. S. Officer, of White County.

An inquest was not held. His father and brother believed he had not met with foul play. Nine dollars and a watch carried by the victim were found in his pockets.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Notie Snodgrass Officer, his daughter, Shelia Louise Officer, of Sparta; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Officer, of White county, and his brother, David Officer, of Cookeville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

1 October 1936

**DOCTOR ARRESTED HERE ON NARCOTIC CHARGES:**

Dr. B. J. Raymon, of Cookeville, Route 5, was arrested Monday by Federal officers on a charge of "falsely and fraudulently executing a document" required under the Internal Revenue laws, regarding narcotics. He was released under bond to appear October 26<sup>th</sup>, before Judge J. B. Dow for the preliminary hearing.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

31 December 1936

**Mrs. Sybil Proffitt Burns To Death In Fire Christmas Night:**

Funeral services for Mrs. Sybil Proffitt, who was burned to death when the house here in which she and her husband were living, caught fire Christmas night, were held at Flynn's Lick cemetery in Jackson County Saturday with burial there.

The home was discovered ablaze about 6 o'clock Friday night. Firemen, after getting the blaze under control, broke down a door to enter the house and carry out the fully clothed body which was found lying across the bed of a closed room.

Ike Proffitt, husband of the deceased, told Chief of Police Harvey Quarles that he had left the house to get some groceries. He said his wife asked him to lock the door, that she was going to sleep. It is thought the house caught fire from the kitchen stove, in which Proffitt said he made a fire before leaving the house.

The house was only partly burned, firemen quenching the blaze before it destroyed the building.

Profit said he wife was a heavy sleeper. It was thought possible, officers said, she suffocated before being burned. Her body was blackened but identity was easy, Sheriff Poteet said.

She and her husband had been married fifteen years. He is an employee of a local handle mill. A sister, Mrs. G. C. Brown, of Baxter, and two brothers survive Mrs. Proffitt.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

31 December 1936

**Willie Marcum Obt.**

b. 25 February 1918, Putnam Co., TN – d. 26 December 1936, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **Sidney Marcum & Sarah Gentry**.

Funeral services were held Sunday for Willie Marcum, 18, who was instantly killed when a burning tree fell on him, breaking his neck, while he and several others were fighting a forest fire three miles northwest of Silver Point Saturday.

Marcum was a junior high school student at **Baxter Seminary**.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Sidney Marcum, and two sisters, Mrs. Nero Steel and Mrs. William Bozarth.

The funeral service at the family cemetery near Silver Point was conducted by the Rev. Trobough, assisted by Dr. Harry L. Upperman, president of Baxter Seminary.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

4 February 1937

Mrs. Sarah Jane Masters, about 35, of near Dodson Branch, is in the City Hospital as a result of a suicide attempt Monday afternoon. Mrs. Masters, it is reported, shot herself in the abdomen with a 22 caliber rifle. She is expected to recover if complications do not set in. It is also reported that this was her second attempt, the other having occurred last November.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

4 February 1937

Allie Sliger, 17, daughter of Mrs. Dick Sliger of Cookeville, died at the City Hospital at 12:20 this afternoon as a result of a self-inflicted wound Tuesday afternoon. Miss Sliger is said to have shot herself in the side with a shotgun. She had been despondent for several days prior to the act, it is understood.

Funeral services had not been arranged at press time.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

4 March 1937

Wife And Son Are Arrested On Murder Charge: Warrants Are Sworn Out By Brother Of Man Found Dead In Cellar. Hearing Set For Today.

The wife and son of James Randolph who was found dead at his home in a remote section of Putnam County, were arrested yesterday by Sheriff Sam Denton Poteet on charges of murder. Warrants were sworn out against Mrs. Randolph and her son, Buster, by S. P. Randolph, brother of the deceased. Preliminary hearing is to be held before Squire T. H. Jackson this afternoon.

A corner's jury reached a decision late Monday night that James Randolph, 72, Putnam County farmer, who was found dead in the cellar at his home near Cumberland County line on February 22, had met death by means of foul play and at the hands of unknown persons.

The body which was buried without an inquest in Cumberland County thirty miles from Monterey, was exhumed Monday and a cranial autopsy was performed by Dr. Claude Martin, of Cookeville.

No marks of violence were found on the man's body but it was determined that his neck had been broken, which may have resulted in his death, examiners said.

Payton Randolph, of Fayetteville, brother of the dead man, demanded that the body of his brother be exhumed.

Randolph's family stated that they believed he died from gas poisoning, declaring that he left a can of coal burning in the cellar, with no ventilation.

Mrs. Winchester Randolph, who prepared the body for burial, said the victim bled profusely from the ears, nose, and mouth, however.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

29 April 1937

Services Held For Miss Grady Young:

Miss Grady Young, 17, daughter of Sam Young, of near here, was found shot to death on a bed in her home Monday.

Coroner Paschall Matheney went to the home, but held no inquest after members of the family said it was a case of suicide.

A note was found under the pillow. It gave no motive for the shooting but left funeral directions.

Funeral services were conducted at the home by the Rev. B. A. Moore on Tuesday afternoon.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

16 September 1937

YOUNG MAN DIES OF HEART ATTACK AT FAIR:

Funeral services for Thomas Clyde Williamson, 22, who died of a heart attack at the Putnam County Fair grounds in Cookeville, on Saturday night, at 10:00 were conducted on Monday, at 10:00 a.m., by the Rev. Thomas E. Ferrill, the Rev. William G. Klein and the Rev. B. M. Taylor, with burial in the Green Hill cemetery near Alpine, in Overton county.

He was a graduate of the Alpine High school in the class on 1937, and had many friends.

Surviving are the following: his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Williamson of Alpine; two sisters, Mrs. Bethel Maynord of McMinnville and Miss Geneva Williamson of Alpine; four brothers, Howard Williamson, who is with the U. S. Army at Fort Oglethorpe, GA, Card, Dow and Bethel Williamson of Alpine.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

16 September 1937

BREEDING CHILD, HIT BY AUTOMOBILE, DIES:

Frances Marie Breeding, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billie Breeding, who formerly lived in Cookeville and now reside in the Cumberland Homesteads, was knocked down and dragged about 50 feet by a car driven by a Mr. Emery, Tuesday afternoon. The accident happened near Crossville and the child was rushed to the Cookeville Hospital, where she died Tuesday night about 10 o'clock.

Funeral services were held at the family residence on the Algood Highway yesterday at 1 p.m. Burial was in the family cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

2 December 1937

**BAXTER STUDENT IS KILLED ACCIDENTALLY:**

Ralph Waller, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oplus Waller of near Baxter and sophomore at Baxter Seminary, was found dead near his home Saturday, apparently the victim of a hunting accident.

Young Waller had started squirrel hunting and had gone only a short distance from the house when the accident happened. The parents heard the report of the gun and saw the boy lying on the ground. It is believed the gun was accidentally fired as the boy walked along swinging the weapon. The discharge took effect in the chest, killing him instantly.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Jim Roberson. Burial was in the family cemetery.

Surviving are his parents, a younger sister, and his grandmother, Mrs. Ellar James.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

21 July 1938

**MAN ARRESTED FOR STABBING ANOTHER:**

Fred Cole, 31, was arrested Monday on charges of attempted murder in connection with the stabbing of Millard Bussell, 23, Sunday afternoon on a public road in the Eighth District twelve miles southwest of here.

Sheriff Sam D. Poteet, who arrested Cole on the warrant sworn out by John Bussell, father of the injured youth, said the two men had had trouble before.

Bussell had five knife wounds in his back. He was brought to the hospital here Sunday night for treatment, and was dismissed Monday.

Cole made bond and was released. His preliminary hearing has been set for Saturday.

The two men involved were first cousins.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

3 November 1938

**BAILEY MAXWELL, 40, IS KILLED BY TRAIN:**

The mangled body of Bailey Maxwell, 40, Putnam County farmer, was found on the Tennessee Central Railroad tracks near Silver Point at 7 p.m. Monday by four youths, Lloyd Anderson, Joe Lee Anderson, Bill Tucker and Walker Tucker.

Maxwell, whose skull was fractured, neck broken, chest and one leg crushed and one foot severed, met his death when struck by a westbound freight locomotive, according to the verdict of a jury impaneled by Squire Albert Ashburn.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Velma Love Maxwell; two daughters, Mrs. Deloris Lee and Geneva Maxwell; seven sons, Lloyd, Eugene, Louis, J. D., Bailey, Jr., Lee Donald and Billy Maxwell; his parents, Mrs. and Mrs. R. O. Maxwell, Buffalo Valley; two sisters, Mrs. Eva Lee Boma, Mrs. Gladys Montgomery, Buffalo Valley; one brother, Clarence Maxwell, Detroit, MI.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon. Burial was in the family cemetery near Buffalo Valley.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

24 November 1938.

**Blanchard Lee Maxwell Obt.**

LEE MAXWELL DIES OF INJURIES RECEIVED IN TRUCK ACCIDENT:

Blanchard Lee Maxwell, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Maxwell of Baxter, died in the Cookeville city hospital, at 9 o'clock Sunday night from injuries, received when a truck in which he as riding crashed into a bluff, two miles west of Monterey, on Highway No. 7, Saturday night.

The driver, Roy Howell, 31, who escaped without injury, lost control of the truck. Maxwell opened the door of the cab when the truck crashed into the bluff. His jaw and chest were crushed and one are was fractured in two places.

The youth was en route home from Mt. Pisgah, Ky., where he was employed at a saw mill operated by N. W. Nash of Baxter.

Maxwell is survived by his parents; two sisters, Evelyn and Jewel Maxwell; and four brothers, Olan, Nealy, Paul, and Glenn.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Church of Christ at Baxter, conducted by Elder J. B. Gaither. Burial was in the Maxwell Cemetery, two miles south of Baxter.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

22 December 1938

FATHER, SON HELD FOR 'DICE GAME' KILLING AT BOMA:

Sheriff Says Youth Admits Shooting; Preliminary Hearing Today.

Edward Lattimore, 21, and his father, Columbus Lattimore, 50, DeKalb countians, are being held in jail here on charges of murder, in connection with the death of Toy Carr, 30, of the 11<sup>th</sup> district of Putnam county, which occurred near Boma Sunday.

Preliminary hearing for the two men is to be held this afternoon at 1 o'clock before Squire Pascal Matheny.

Sheriff Poteet who with deputies arrested the Lattimores at their home Sunday night, said that the son admitted that he shot Carr in an argument during a dice game, but did so in self defense. The elder Lattimore admitted being present at the time of the shooting, but denied any part in the slaying. Carr was almost instantly killed by two .38 caliber bullet wounds, one in the abdomen and one in the chest.

The murder warrants were swore out by Wade Carr, father of the slain man.

Harvey Herrin also was arrested Sunday in connection with the case but was later released.

Sheriff Poteet quoted witnesses as saying the elder Lattimore handed the pistol to his son, who then shot Carr.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

16 March 1939

**Josie (Breeding) Bussell Obt.**

b. 21 March 1866 – d. 15 March 1939, Putnam Co., TN.

\*See Frances (Breeding) Jackson buried in West Graveyard, Putnam Co., TN

AGED WOMAN DIES IN BLAZE AT HOME NEAR COOKEVILLE:

Mrs. Josie Breeding Bussell, 74-year-old widow, who lived alone at her home one mile east of Cookeville on the Algood Highway, died of suffocation after her clothes had become ignited early Tuesday morning.

She was found dead by an 11 year-old girl, Ruth Manier, about 6 o'clock. The girl, who lives next door, had gone to feed the aged neighbor's chickens and looking through the widow saw the woman lying on the floor. Her mother, Mrs. John Manier, summoned help and the back door of the house was broken down to gain entrance.

Sheriff Sam Denton Poteet, who investigated, said the covers off a cot near a grate were burned, a hole was burned through the floor and the flames had singed the wall paper. Apparently the cot became ignited as the aged woman kindled a fire in the grate and she had collapsed while trying to extinguish the flames with a coat. Her hair and one side of her face was burned.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Frances Johnson, of near Cookeville and several nieces and nephews. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Funeral services and burial were held yesterday afternoon at the West Cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

October 1939

Asro Wallace of Silver Point Seriously Injured When Thrown from Horse:

Asro Wallace, 50, farmer of near Silver Point, is in a serious condition at the City Hospital here as a result of being thrown from a horse at Silver Point Saturday afternoon. His skull was fractured in the fall.

He is the third Putnam countain to be injured in falls in a ten-day period. Alvin Crawford was fatally injured a week earlier when he fell from a mule and became entangled in the harness, and L. B. Dunn was fatally injured a few days later when he fell from a moving truck.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

11 April 1940

LAST RITES HELD FOR MAN KILLED WHEN STRUCK BY CAR NEAR BAXTER:

**Will H. McReynolds.**

b. 23 April 1870 – d. 7 April 1940, Putnam Co., TN, md **Della (Fields) McReynolds**, b. 7 March 1874 – d. 25 March 1939, both buried in the McReynolds-Fields Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Last rites for Will H. McReynolds, 70, of near Baxter, who was instantly killed Sunday morning when struck by a car driven by Mrs. Addison Bilbrey of Livingston, about three miles north-west of Baxter on the Nashville highway, were held at Cedar Hill Baptist Church Tuesday morning, the Rev. J. H. Stephens and the Rev. J. A. Harris officiating. Burial was in the family cemetery.

It was reported that Mr. McReynolds was leading a cow across the road when the animal became frightened by cars approaching from both directions and pulled him by the lead road into the path of Mrs. Bilbrey's car. Mrs. Bilbrey was not held following the accident.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Pearl Presley of Baxter, and Mrs. Fannie Brewington of Plant City, FL; three sons, James, Sam and Everett McReynolds, all of Baxter; a sister, Mrs. Laura Brewington of Baxter, and a brother, the Rev. G. D. McReynolds of Sringfield.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

9 May 1940.

**Robert Lee Kemp Obt.**

b. 23 July 1917, Putnam Co., TN – d. 5 May 1940, md on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1937, Putnam Co., TN to **Beulah (Taylor) Kemp**. Robert Lee Kemp, s/o **Clifton Kemp & Ollie Herd**.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 377, #9: Robert Kemp married 12 June 1937, Putnam Co., TN, age 19, address: Cookeville, TN to Beulah Taylor, age 17, Cookeville, TN, name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Bedford Taylor, Cookeville, TN).

**LAST RITES HELD FOR VICTIM OF MILL ACCIDENT:**

Last rites for Robert Kemp, 23, who was fatally injured in an accident at a Crossville handle mill on April 30, were held at the Cookeville Church of Christ Monday afternoon, Elder W. C. Cooke officiating. Burial was in the City Cemetery.

Mr. Kemp died at the City Hospital here late Sunday afternoon. He developed pneumonia following injuries received when a handle dislodged from a lathe and struck him in the abdomen, inflicting internal injuries.

He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Beulah Taylor Kemp; his father, the Rev. Clifton Kemp of Cookeville; three sisters, Mrs. Herman Smith of Pikeville, Mrs. Clyde Gragg and Miss Reva Kemp, both of Cookeville; three brothers, Kenneth, C. H. and Luther Kemp, all of Cookeville; three half sisters, Carolyn Jean, Frances Sue and Mary Ella Kemp, and a half brother, Hariah Ray Kemp, all of Cookeville.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 9 May 1940.

Certificate Number: 16989

Deceased Name: **Robert Lee Kemp**

Date of Birth: 23 Jul 1917

Place of Birth: Putnam County

Date of Death: 5 May 1940

Father: **Clifton Kemp**

Place of Birth: Putnam County

Mother: **Ollie Herd**

Place of Birth: Putnam County

Spouse: **Beulah Taylor Kemp**

Cemetery: City Cemetery

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

**Thursday, July 4, 1940.**

**BAXTER CAFÉ OPERATOR SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN WILSON COUNTY SATURDAY**



Morris Medley, 30, Baxter café operator, was critically wounded in the abdomen as the result of a shooting at Newsome Service Station on the Murfreesboro Pike, about three miles from Lebanon at 6:30 o'clock Saturday night. Scant hope is held for his recovery.

Charged with the shooting is Constable Gordon Newsome, 45, Newsome was arrested and lodged in the Wilson County Jail by Sheriff P. T. Burnett on a charge of assault with a pistol with attempt to commit murder.

Pictured: Morris Medley and his wife Vera Swallow.

Sheriff Burnett said the shooting occurred just after he had arrested Newsome on a charge of drunkenness. "As I started to take Newsome away he reached into his shirt and pulled out a .38 caliber pistol, placed it against Medley's abdomen and fired." The pistol slug, the Sheriff said, ripped through the victim's intestines and emerged through his hip.

Burnett said the argument between Medley and Newsome started over the exchange of dollar bills, one of the large old issues for the newer currency. "Because he was drunk," Sheriff Burnett said, "Newsome thought Medley had taken two one dollar bills from him for one."

Burnett recalled that Newsome had shot Ernest Holbert through the hand about a month ago.

Medley is at the McFarland Hospital in Lebanon.

**Morris Charles Medley**

b. 25 May 1910, Putnam Co., TN - d. 10 July 1940, TN, md Vera M. Swallow  
Morris Charles Medley, s/o Ernest "Earnest" Medley &  
Buried: Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

25 December 1941

Pennock Ward Killed Monday By Fall From Rock Quarry: Pennock Ward, 24, was killed almost instantly Monday afternoon when he fell from a 100-foot bluff on which he was working.

Fellow workers at the rock crusher on United States highway 70 said Ward had climbed the bluff to plant a dynamite charge and apparently lost his footing.

Ward, who lived near Algood, is survived by his wife and four children, his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Will Ward of Algood.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

15 January 1942

James T. Anderson Killed In Automobile Accident: The following account of James T. Anderson's tragic death is taken from the "Chattanooga Times" of Thursday, January 15, and will be read with genuine regret by the many relatives and friends of the Anderson family. The deceased was a nephew of J. M. Anderson and Mrs. Mai Drake, both of Cookeville.

News was received here last night of the death yesterday afternoon of James T. Anderson, former Chattanooga and student at McCallie school.

Mr. Anderson was killed in an automobile collision.

Mr. Anderson was the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Anderson, who were former residents of Chattanooga.

A student at McCallie school from 1916-19, Mr. Anderson attended Vanderbilt University after graduating from school here. He joined the O. & W. railroad after leaving Nashville, and later became secretary of the chamber of commerce of Cordele, GA.

Mr. Anderson left Cordele to assume a post with the North Carolina state department of conservation and development. About a week ago he became state OPM director for North Carolina.

Mr. Anderson is survived by his parents, who are now visiting in Chattanooga with Dr. Charles Owens; his wife; three daughters, Mary Jane, Virginia and Anne; three sisters, Mrs. W. T. White, Norfolk; Mrs. A. P. Edwards, Durham, and Mrs. W. J. Lee, Akron, OH, and one brother, O. H. Anderson, Jr., of Norfolk.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 8 October 1942.

**Stanley L. Mitchell**, b. 29 December 1933 – d. 28 September 1942, s/o Casto & Nora Lee Mitchell. Buried: Silver Point Cemetery (Jones Cemetery) across from the Silver Point Baptist Church, Putnam Co., TN.

Funeral Services Held Wednesday, September 30 For Stanley Mitchell, Car Victim:

Funeral services were held Wednesday for Stanley Mitchell, 8, at the Church of Christ in Silver Point. Services were in charge of the Rev. J. A. Harris of Baxter. Stanley was killed instantly in Silver Point, when struck by a car while playing ball in the street on the way home from school Monday afternoon, September 28. The car was driven by a Mr. Lafever and it is reported that the accident was unavoidable.

Survivors are: father, Casto Mitchell; mother, Mrs. Nora Lee Mitchell; six brothers, five, which are in the U. S. Army as follows: Bernard, Fort Bragg, NC; John, Camp Lee, VA; Jesse, Madison Barracks, Madison, WI; Ralph, Fort Oglethorpe, GA; Gerald, Camp Croft, SC; and Walter D. Mitchell of Silver Point; one sister, Reba Fay Mitchell of Silver Point.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

5 November 1942

Silver Point Private Kills Vonore Man and Himself: The public relations office of the First service command announced that an army private, stationed at a camp near Boston, shot and killed a fellow soldier and then took his own life.

Col. John J. Donovan identified the principals as Private William H. Jones, of Silver Point, TN, and Private Kermit E. Pettit of Vonore, TN. Ages of the two were not available.

Donovan, describing Jones as the assailant of Pettit, said that Jones applied for a leave yesterday but it was denied, since he was scheduled to go on guard duty at midnight.

Camp officers said there had been no indication of bad feeling between Pettit and Jones, but said an army board of inquiry will be convened to investigate the shooting.

(**Note:** Pvt. William H. Quentin Jones, b. 13 November 1919 – d. 1 November 1942, (Pvt. U. S. Army), 'Just in the morning of his day, In youth and love he died'. buried in the Holly Palmer Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN).

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

7 January 1943

J. D. Gentry Drowns While Serving In Latin America Area: A telegram Friday from the War Department and a letter from his Commanding officer was received by Mrs. Bonnie L. Gentry, Cookeville Route 2, advising that her son, J. D. Gentry was drowned December 28.

The Commanding Officer stated: "J. D. went with an inseparable friend of his, Private Jesse R. Farthering, on either a fishing trip or a boat ride on a river adjoining our base on December 26, 1942. He never told anyone of their intentions and were last seen about 4 p.m. on that date. We missed them at bed check at midnight and we could not locate them. Yesterday afternoon a native informed us that he found their bodies on a bank of the river.

Services were held for them at 11 a.m. this date. Full military honors were rendered them. Chaplain Mines officiated at the services. They were laid to rest in a beautiful silver humatically sealed casket in the Base Cemetery. It is located on a quiet knoll that is surrounded by the beauties of tropical trees and flowers."

Pfc. Gentry attended school at Baxter Seminary before volunteering for service about two years ago. He has a brother, Pfc. Willie Gaines Gentry, who is serving with the Army in the South Pacific area.

Other survivors are, father, W. L. Gentry, Detroit, six sisters, Mrs. Mollie C. Huddleston, Cookeville, Mrs. Lula Martin, Akron, OH; Mrs. Juanita Nation, Detroit, MI; Misses Mary Edna, Jonelda and Anna Pearl Gentry of Cookeville, Route 2; Sparta and T. M. Gentry of Cookeville Route 1.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

18 March 1943

Pistol Shot Causes Death of J. E. Bradford, 20, of Double Springs, who died instantly from a pistol wound Friday night, were conducted by the Rev. Hugh May at the Bradford home Monday morning at 10:30 o'clock. Interment was in the Double Springs Cemetery.

According to Sheriff M. T. Warren, Bradford was shot fatally at a service station in Double Springs Friday night by Joe Baldwin, a World War veteran. The sheriff said that Bradford came to the station where Baldwin was and that he had been drinking. He said that the two, who had held an old grudge against each other, became involved in a heated argument.

Warren said that the proprietor requested Baldwin to leave and that he did. About 20 minutes later, the sheriff said, Baldwin returned, stood outside the station, and fired one shot from an automatic pistol through the window at Bradford. The shot went through Bradford's heart, the sheriff reported.

At a preliminary hearing before Squire Paschall Matheny, Baldwin was released on a \$2,500 bond.

Surviving Bradford are his widow, Mrs. Evelyn McBroom Bradford; his father, John Bradford; mother, Mrs. Florence Philpot, of Double Springs; four sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Clinton, of Nashville, Mrs. Ruby Morgan, Cookeville, and Mrs. Daisy Baldwin and Miss Estelle Bradford, of Double Springs, and one brother, James Bradford, U. S. Army, Tampa, FL.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 18 March 1943.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

20 May 1943

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

20 May 1943

Horace Roberson, Dies Today as a Result of Truck Wreck Last Night:

Horace Roberson, of Algood, died today in a Madisonville, KY, hospital from injuries and burns sustained when his truck was sideswiped, overturned and burned on a highway near Madisonville, about midnight last night. Mr. Roberson and James Littrell left Cookeville at 7 p.m. yesterday for Evansville, IN, and it is reported that a moving van undertook to pass the Roberson truck, pushing it into the ditch, where it overturned and burned, seriously injuring Mr. Roberson and a soldier who it is thought was riding on the Roberson truck. The soldier died today. The Littrell boy was not seriously injured.

Levi Roberson, father of the wreck victim and a brother, Fred Roberson, went to the scene of the wreck. As we go to press they have not returned to Cookeville with the body. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

27 May 1943

Former Cookeville Boy Killed Saturday in Wreck:

O. C. Kirkman, Jr., age 28, a T.V.A. engineer, was killed instantly on last Saturday, when an automobile he was driving crashed into the rear of a truck loaded with steel on the Lee Highway, near Cleveland.

It is said that a freshly lighted cigarette found in front of the car seemed to indicate that he was lighting the cigarette and failed to observe his near approach to the truck in time to avoid the crash. He had many friends in Cookeville.

He was born in Cookeville, December 7, 1916, and spent his boyhood here, while his father, Prof. O. C. Kirkman was a member of the faculty of Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, which position he held for about fifteen years.

Young Kirkman received his degree as an electrical engineer in 1938 at the University of Tennessee and did post graduate study at the Philadelphia Works of the General Electric Company.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

3 June 1943

**FUNERAL SERVICES HELD WEDNESDAY FOR EVERETT MAXWELL AND REDMAN MADDUX**

Two Putnam Co., TN men, Everett Maxwell, 25 and Redman P. Maddux, 31, were killed instantly on a Hwy near Troy, Ohio, Monday morning at 5:30 when struck by an Army truck while they were replacing a tire.

The men and their wives and Maxwell's little daughter were returning to Detroit from their homes near Baxter, where they had been for a short visit.

Funeral services were held for the 2 victims yesterday (Wed.) afternoon. Mr. Maxwell's at Arnold's Chapel Church with the Rev. Dow Ensor, J. A. Harris, H. L. Upperman & Isaac Woods officiating. Burial was in the Maxwell Cemetery near Baxter.

Mr. Maddux's services were held at the home with Rev's J. A. Harris, H. L. Upperman & Wooten. Burial was in the family cemetery near his home.

Maxwell is survived by his wife and small daughter. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Maxwell; 9 brothers, Oren of Baxter, Hillard, Lillard, Lyndon, Alvin & Arnold Maxwell all of Detroit, Kenneth & Harry Maxwell of Baxter, & a sister, Miss Alta Maxwell of Detroit.

Maddux survivors include his wife, his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Maddux, Baxter; 3 brothers, Clifford & Jack Maddux of Baxter, Claud Maddux of Detroit, and a sister, Mrs. J. Hop Watts of Baxter.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

17 June 1943

**TWO BROTHERS DROWN AT BURGESS FALLS SATURDAY:**

Two brothers, Donald Wilkerson, 9, and Denver Wilkerson, 8, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wilkerson, were drowned near their home Saturday afternoon at Burgess Falls dam, twelve miles from Cookeville.

The boys, who had gone with their mother to the river stepped into deep water while wading and went under. Their mother, who was seated on the bank, could not recover the bodies.

About an hour later the bodies were recovered by Henry Carle and Aubrey Johnson, who were camping near by. First aid was given by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Carlen and other members of the camping parties, but of no avail.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 15 July 1943.

**James Arthur Pippin Obt.**

b. 1920, TN – d. July 1943, md **Hazel (Richmond) Pippin**. James A. Pippin, s/o **Ira Carmon Pippin** (1900-1986) & **Maude Estalle Brown** (1906-1931).

(WWII Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946: James A. Pippin, b. 1920, TN, white male, Enlistment date: 3 oct. 1942, GA, Fort Oglethorpe. Grade: Pvt. Term of Enlistment: For the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President of otherwise according to law. Source: Civil Life. Education: 1 year of high school. Marital Status: married. Height: 64. Weight: 106.)

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon for James Pippin, who died Saturday afternoon at the Cookeville City Hospital, with the minister of the Cookeville Church of Christ officiating. Burial was in the Double Springs Cemetery.

Mr. Pippin was inducted into the U. S. Army a few months ago and was home on furlough and was to return to Camp Forrest on Friday of last week. Just before the time for him to catch the bus, he went out into the field near Oak Grove Tourist Camp and shot himself with a .33 hollow point bullet, it is reported. He was rushed to the City Hospital, where he died Saturday afternoon.

He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Hazel Richmond, of Dayton, OH, and his father, Carmon Pippin, of Double Springs; one sister, Miss Nelda Ruth Pippin, of Cincinnati, OH, also one half-brother, David Pippin, of Double Springs.

**Frank Burton Maxwell Obt.**

b. 5 June 1918 – d. 5 July 1943, md **Sadie Lee Maxwell**, b. 5 September 1918.

Funeral services were held at Baxter Wednesday for Frank Maxwell, 25, conducted by the Rev. J. A. Harris. Burial was in the Algood Cemetery.

Mr. Maxwell, an employee of the Bethlehem Steel Company shipyard, at Wilmington, CA, was struck of an automobile driven by a sailor, while crossing a street, and fatally injured. He was rushed to a hospital, but lived only about 20 minutes after the accident.

He is survived by his wife, father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Maxwell, of Wilmington, CA, and James Howard Maxwell, U. S. Armed Forces, Camp Cooks, CA, five sisters, Miss Hattie Maxwell, Detroit; Mrs. A. V. Holland, Silver Point; Mrs. George Waller, Mrs. Odell Stewart, and Miss Ruth Maxwell, all of Baxter. His brother, Albert Maxwell, brought the body to Tennessee for burial.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

9 September 1943

**PUTNAM BOY DIES IN JAPANESE PRISON CAMP:**

In April, Mr. and Mrs. David Allison of Baxter, Route 2, received a message from the War Department advising that their son, Pfc. Elrony Allison, was reported a prisoner of war of the Japanese government, in the Philippine Islands, where he had been since 1941.

Two weeks ago they received a card from their son sent from a concentration camp in the Philippines, stating that he was well and employed.

Again on Saturday of last week they were notified by the War Department that their son had died in a Japanese prison, further details of his death were not given.

Young Allison, who attended the Cookeville schools and Baxter Seminary, had been in the regular army since 1939.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

28 October 1943

Leslie Hargis, 50, died in a Sanatorium at Fort Worth, Texas, Wednesday, October 13, at 1 p.m., following an illness of several years.

Mr. Hargis, a son of J. H. Hargis and the late Mrs. Mattie Smith Hargis, was born on Martin Creek. He moved with his parents to Granville when a small boy, and was educated in the schools of Granville, Chestnut Mound and Cookeville.

He was married to Miss Clara Pate, of Gainesboro, in 1916. She preceded him in death in 1936.

For a number of years he was a very popular traveling salesman in the Upper Cumberland territory. He moved with his family to Texas in 1925, where he was a traveling salesman until ill health forced him to resign.

He was a member of the Methodist church and of the Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Frances Floore, of St. Louis, MO; two sons, Joe Hargis, of Washington, D. C., and Charles Hargis, of Fort Worth, TX; his father, J. H. Hargis, step-mother, Mrs. Ova Hargis, a sister, Mrs. Mable Dowell, all of Granville, and a half-brother, Edmund Hargis, of Nashville. Besides these, many relatives and friends mourn his passing.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

3 February 1944

**SGT. JAMES E. SPICER DROWNS IN RIVER AT CHARLESTON, SC:**

Word came Saturday by telegram to Mrs. Helen Whitaker Spicer of Baxter, Route 2, that her husband, First Sgt. James E. Spicer had been drowned somewhere on the Charleston, SC coast on Friday, January 28.

Mrs. Spicer is also in receipt of a letter from the commanding officer of her husband's company, which states in part: "We, the 331<sup>st</sup> Harbor Craft Company, join you in mourning the loss of our comrade, James E. Spicer, who drowned in the Cooper River, Charleston, SC, at Reed's Dock, on January 28, 1944. It is hard to realize that one so full of life, vigor, kindness and those other characteristics which are so necessary in the make up of a perfect gentleman, is no longer with us. To you and his infant daughter all of us extend our sincerest sympathy and offer any and all aid which we can be able to give to alleviate the tragedy which has befallen us."

Sgt. Spicer's parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Spicer, of Overton County. He attended the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute here where he was a popular football player.

According to the information received by Mrs. Spicer, her husband's body has not been found.

**Thomas G. Phillips**

b. abt. 1904, MO – d. 5 June 1931, Putnam Co., TN, (marker once broken and patched), s/o **Thomas G. Phillips & Lou Vernie Warren**. Thomas G. Phillips was md to **Ola May (Burris) Phillips Dabbs**, b. 14 February 1904 – d. 25 August 1975, d/o **James Layton Burris** (1881-1932) & **Margaret Elizabeth "Maggie" King** (1887-1948). Ola May (Burris) Phillips md also to **Bailey C. Dabbs** (1906-1948). Thomas G. Phillips is buried in Shipley Church Cemetery.

\*See Bailey C. Dabbs buried in Shipley Church Cemetery.

Herbert Alexander was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 2 years in the state penitentiary for the stabbing death of Thomas Phillips in a fight at the West Side Billiard Parlor in Cookeville back in June. This article was taken from a September 1931 Herald newspaper.

Violent Deaths During Week-End: Tommy Phillips, Andy Godsey and Bart Raymer Dead –

#### TWO HELD FOR MURDER:

Breaking the stillness of a perfect peace that usually reigns throughout Putnam county, the deaths of three men during the week-end were marked by violence that has sent a shudder up the spines of Cookeville and Putnam citizens.

Tommy Phillips, about 27, died late Friday night of a knife wound in his breast inflicted by Herbert Alexander, 26, in the West Side Billiard Parlor here at noon Thursday.

The Sam Pendergrass ambulance was called and rushed Phillips to the City Hospital, where he was given first-aid. He was taken to his home Thursday afternoon.

Alexander was given a preliminary hearing Saturday night before Magistrate, J. B. Dow, who bound him over to the September term of criminal court, under \$5,000 bond.

\*\*Herbert Alexander was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 2 years in the state penitentiary for the stabbing death of Thomas Phillips in a fight at the West Side Billiard Parlor in Cookeville back in June. This article was taken from a September 1931 Herald newspaper.

Alexander Convicted: Herbert Alexander, 21, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter by a jury Saturday afternoon, they jury recommending that he serve two years in the state penitentiary, Alexander's counsel, Bryant, Bohannon, and Drake, filed motion for a new trial, which was set for hearing Thursday morning.

The State contended that Alexander cut Tommy Phillips, 27, to death while they were on the found scuffling after an argument arising in a west side pool room last June. The defense sought to show that Alexander was protecting himself against an onslaught by Phillips who, said to have been drunk, attempted to beat Alexander with a long piece of flooring and to cut him with his knife. Alexander cut Phillips with Phillips' knife, testimony revealed.

Assisting Atty.-Gen. Boyd in the prosecution were Howard Vaden, J. B. Thompson and George Haile.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

17 February 1944

#### JOHN M. LEE KILLED BY PASSENGER TRAIN HERE SUNDAY:

John Mathis Lee, 56, farmer and lumberman of Cookeville, Route 5, was killed Sunday afternoon when he was struck by a westbound passenger train near the city limits of Cookeville. The exact cause of the accident is unknown, but it is believed that Lee had fallen asleep while sitting on the railroad track.

He is survived by his wife; three sons Hershel and Vance Lee of Cookeville and Alvin Lee, overseas with the U. S. Army; four daughters, Mrs. Willie Cunningham, Mrs. Roberson Bullock, Mrs. Tony Mackey, Mrs. J. T. Huddleston, all of Cookeville; two brothers, Alfred Lee of Cookeville, and Zack Lee, of Sparta; two sisters, Mrs. Casto Cash of Cookeville, and Mrs. Walter Bartlett of Michigan.

#### **Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

20 April 1944

Funeral services for Mrs. Ada Bussell Eldridge were conducted Monday afternoon in the chapel of Whitson Funeral Home, by the Rev. Bob N. Ramsay, pastor of the Baptist church, followed by burial in the Davis cemetery, about three miles South of Cookeville.

Mrs. Eldridge was struck by an automobile as she was crossing the street in front of her home in Nashville, on Friday night, and died Saturday morning in a Nashville hospital from injuries sustained. She had lived in Cookeville many years, but moved to Nashville some two or three years ago. She was a member of the Baptist church.

Mrs. Eldridge was born in Putnam County October 12, 1889, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bussell, and was married twice, first to George Bussell, who passed away soon after moving his family to Cookeville in 1923. Three children were born to this union, all of whom survive: two sons, Will Staley Bussell and Zina Z. Bussell, both of Nashville, a daughter, Mrs. Ovalee Julian of Detroit, MI, and granddaughter, Mrs. Hollis McBroom, of Detroit, MI. She was married to J. B. Eldridge in 1935, and he survives. She is also survived by four sisters, Mrs. Will Long and Mrs. Sid Huddleston, both of Cookeville, Route 5; Mrs. J. A. Hendley, of Cincinnati, OH; Mrs. W. H. Capps, of Greenbrier; two brothers, Billy Bussell and Jesse Bussell, both of Detroit, MI, a half sister, Mrs. Beatrice Long, Cookeville, Route 5, and her step-mother, Mrs. Ed Bussell, of Detroit, MI.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

21 September 1944

Lieut. Frank A. Harris Dies in California Accident:

b. 22 September 1920 – d. 13 September 1944, CA, (TN 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Army Air Forces pilot).

Funeral services were conducted on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, for Lieut. Frank A. Harris, U. S. Army Air Corps, at the Algood Methodist church, with the Rev. W. L. Peery, Rev. T. W. Mayhew and Rev. Leo Rippy officiating.

Lieut. Harris, 24 years of age, died September 13, in CA, having sustained fatal injuries in an automobile accident. He volunteered for military duty in 1941 and wore a pilot's wings, which he received when he was commissioned a lieutenant. He was a member of the Algood Methodist church.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Thurman Loftis, and step-father, Thurman Loftis, Cookeville, three brothers, Lieut. Jack D. Harris, Carlsbad, NM, Kenneth Harris, "Somewhere in France," James William Harris, Cookeville; a half-brother and a half-sister, Lloyd and Juanita Loftis, of Cookeville; his grandmother, Mrs. B. L. Judd, of Algood, and a paternal grandfather, Leo Harris, of San Antonio, TX.

Burial was in the Algood cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

5 October 1944

Lieut. Athel L. Gill Reported Missing in Alaska Area:

Lt. (j.g.) Athel L. Gill, 34, husband of Mrs. Dimple Maddux Gill, 929 Montrose Ave., Nashville, was among the 19 persons listed as missing recently by the War Department in the crash September 18 of a C-17 Transport Command plane on Mr. McKinley, 70 miles from Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Alaska division of A.T.C., said ground rescue parties have not yet been able to reach the scene of the crash, but that no signs of life have been observed by crews of search planes. The A.T.C. plane was on a routine flight from Anchorage to Fairbanks.

The last radio contact was made with the plane when it was over Summitt, Alaska, more than half way to Fairbanks, the War Department stated. The wreckage was found only after exhaustive search.

Lieutenant Gill, son of Mr. and Mrs. James N. Gill, Silver Point, served as athletic coach and instructor at the Smyrna High School prior to entering the service in January, 1942.

A graduate of Smithville High School and Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, he has been stationed as a communications officer at a naval air station in the Aleutians, near Dutch Harbor, for about two years, according to his wife.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

November 16, 1944

**WILLIAM COOPER LOFTIS REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM:**

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper Loftis received a telegram November 13 from the War Department stating that their son Pfc. William Cooper Loftis, was killed in action somewhere in Belgium, October 26. No other details of his death have been learned.

William Cooper Loftis was born June 25, 1924. He attended and graduated from Cookeville Central High School with honors in the spring of 1941. He entered Tennessee Polytechnic Institute at the beginning of the summer of 1941, where he continued through the spring term of 1943. He was called to active duty on June 19, 1943, having previously enlisted in the Regular Reserves of the United States Army, and reported for induction at Fort Oglethorpe, GA.

He majored in mechanical engineering at Tennessee Tech, and made excellent grades during the entire time he attended Tech, Dean A. W. Smith stated today. He would have graduated in 1945 had he continued in school.

After receiving his basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas, he was sent to the University of Delaware, in Newark, Del., as an Army Specialized Trainee, in Advanced Mechanical Engineering, where he remained until the program was discontinued April 1, 1944.

He was transferred to Camp Carson, Colo., and attached to the 104<sup>th</sup> Military Police Platoon of the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. From the time he was sent to the Port of Embarkation until his arrival somewhere in France, he was assigned to his original division but was reattached to the Military Police Platoon after his outfit arrived in France and served as Military Police until October 15, 1944.

He was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

15 March 1945

Funeral Services Sunday For Raymond Brindley, 13:

Raymond Brindley, 13, son of Mrs. Martha Dunn, of near Cookeville, died Friday morning, March 9, at the Cookeville City Hospital, where he had undergone an operation for appendicitis on Monday.

Funeral services were conducted on Sunday afternoon at two o'clock at the home of Mrs. Dunn, with Rev. Claude Galloway, pastor of the Nazarene Church, officiated. Young Brindley was attending the Eller's Ridge school, and was to have graduated from the eighth grade last Friday.

Besides his mother, he is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Dillon Lafever, Clarkrange, Mrs. Robert Euler, Mrs. Elizabeth Randolph, J. B. Brindley, Toledo, OH; Mrs. Elizabeth Randolph and Junior Brindley, of Cookeville, Route 2.

Burial was in Ray Cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

2 August 1945

Albert Ellis Killed by Train At Baxter Wednesday:

Albert Ellis, 77, was instantly killed Wednesday afternoon about five o'clock, when struck by a local freight train. It is reported he was crossing the railroad track near the depot at Baxter, when the tragedy occurred.

Funeral services will be held at the Baxter Methodist Church tomorrow (Friday), at 1:00 p.m. The Masonic lodge, of which he was a veteran member, will have charge of the services at the cemetery. Burial will be in the Johnson Cemetery, near Gainesboro.

Mr. Ellis lived in Baxter, but operated his farm near there. He is survived by a son, Col. Arthur M. Ellis, a retired army officer, of Knoxville, two daughters, Mrs. Ida Kirkpatrick, of Gainesboro, and Miss Jonnie Ellis, of Baxter.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

10 January 1946

Six Persons Drown in Jackson County Flood:

Tennessee and this county have had one of the heaviest rainfalls in history. The swollen streams and rivers have left in their wake the loss of several lives and untold property damage. Six persons were drowned in Jackson County Monday morning as the roaring waters of Jennings Creek swept houses from their foundations.

The six reported dead from Jackson County were: Mrs. Les Stafford, 21, and her children, Glenda Lee, 3, and Bobbie, 1. Leo Whitaker, 50, his wife, Mrs. Ada Whitaker, and their four-year-old daughter.

Les Stafford reported his family was aroused about 4:30 o'clock Monday morning and that they attempted to escape across Jennings Creek, which was high over its banks.

He managed to reach safety with one of his children, and his sister-in-law, Miss Mable Bennett. Mrs. Stafford's body was recovered about 2 o'clock Monday afternoon and the body of the year-old child was found Tuesday noon, about three miles down the creek.

Funeral services for Mrs. Stafford and Bobbie were held Tuesday afternoon.

The bodies of the Whitaker family and the other Stafford child were recovered Wednesday.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

2 May 1946

Thomas Moore "Tom" Bilbrey Obt.

b. 17 November 1909 – d. 27 April 1946, md **Inez (Isabell) Bilbrey**, b. 29 October 1916 – d. 25 October 1988. Thomas Moore "Tom" Bilbrey, s/o **Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Bilbrey**.

Funeral Services for Tom Bilbrey, Lake Victim, Held Tuesday:

Funeral services for Thomas Moore "Tom" Bilbrey, 37-year-old Cookeville businessman and civic leader, who drowned in Dale Hollow Lake late Saturday afternoon was held Tuesday afternoon at the Cookeville Methodist Church.

The Rev. H. T. Fowler and the Rev. G. C. Mellwain conducted the services. Burial was in Algood Cemetery.

Mr. Bilbrey's death came while he was on a week-end fishing trip with his brother, State Sen. Robert L. Bilbrey and Keith Bohannon, both of Cookeville; State Sen. Jim Cummings and Postmaster Charlie Stone, both of Woodbury, and William Stacey and Charlie Potter, Nashville businessmen.

Senator Bilbrey said he was on the opposite side of the lake from where the tragedy occurred but happened to be looking at the boat in which his brother and Stacey were fishing from shortly before sundown.

They were having trouble with the motor, Bilbrey said, and it looked as if Mr. Stacey tried to start it and the rope apparently broke, causing him to lunge into the same side with his brother. The boat capsized and Mr. Bilbrey drowned before other boats on the lake could get to the two men. Stacey was rescued by members of the party. Mr. Bilbrey's body was recovered by a diver from the Nashville office of the U. S. Engineers early Sunday night.

Mr. Bilbrey was thought of as a "fair" swimmer, it was said, but he was known to have been subject to cramps while in water.

Some members of the party think Mr. Bilbrey became entangled in his fishing line as he grabbed for the capsized motorboat. The lake was about 30 feet deep where he went down.

In addition to Senator Bilbrey, Mr. Bilbrey is survived by his widow, the former Mis Inez Isabell; a daughter, Andra Lee Bilbrey, and his mother, Mrs. W. L. Bilbrey, all of Cookeville.

Mr. Bilbrey was a member of the Cookeville Methodist Church, a Mason, and a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

6 June 1946

**FIRE DESTROYS HANDLE MILL:**

One of the worst fires in the history of Cookeville broke out at the Tennessee Handle Company shortly before noon today and destroyed the mill. The loss was estimated by officials to be between \$975,000 and \$100,000.

The plant was not insured, according to A. G. Maxwell, Sr., owner.

One man, J. Wesley Greenwood, an employee, was burned while fighting the blaze, and was taken to City Hospital where the extent of the burns had not been determined early this afternoon.

Approximately 135 persons were on the company's payroll, with from 75 to 100 of them being daily workers, it was said.

Origin of the fire had not been ascertained this afternoon but an accumulation of oil and dust about the roof caused the flames to spread quickly over the plant.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

18 July 1946

**Frank Miller Obt.**

b. 1 March 1934 – d. 15 July 1946, s/o **Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller.**

Son of Former Cookeville Couple Drowns in Detroit:

While his mother and brother's were visiting in Putnam County, 12-year-old Frank Miller drowned Monday in a lake near Detroit, MI, while on a Boy Scout outing. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller, formerly of Cookeville.

The youngster's funeral was conducted at Judd Cemetery at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Young Frank had stayed in Detroit with his father while other members of the family came here on a visit. Reports from MI said the boy was not missed until the scoutmaster called his troop out of the lake.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

25 July 1946

Brotherton Man Shot By Neighbor; Victim in Veterans' Hospital:

A feud started a month ago when some geese ate up a garden ended Wednesday morning in gun play between two Brotherton men, Russell D. Bowman, 22, and Norman Poston, 32, according to Sheriff Harvey Higginbotham.

Bowman, an ex-soldier, was shot with a .32 caliber pistol in the extreme lower abdomen, and was reported resting "well as could be expected" today in the Veterans' Hospital, Nashville. Poston was free on a \$500 bond this morning on an attempted murder charge, but the county officers said they had another warrant charging assault with a pistol to serve on the Brotherton farmer today.

Sheriff Higginbotham said his investigation showed that the shooting was an outgrowth of trouble which had previously occurred between the two neighbors. He said that the two had been "feuding" since some geese allegedly belonging to Poston, ate up Bowman's garden about a month ago, and had later been "at outs" over the working of a sorghum crop.

The sheriff said Poston claimed that he was on a mule when Bowman attacked him with a knife and that he shot in self defense.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

28 November 1946

Self Inflicted Shot Fatal To Monterey Spanish American Vet:

Frank Fleming, 75-year-old Spanish-American War veteran, was found dead at his Monterey home Monday morning with a bullet through his head, it was reported by Putnam County officers.

After an inquest, the coroner's jury, headed by Pete Matheny, reported that Mr. Fleming, who had been in ill health and despondent for the past several months, had taken his own life by shooting himself behind the right ear with a .38 caliber pistol.

The body was found by a brother, Glen Fleming, about 11 o'clock Monday morning, according to Deputy Sheriff Millis Higginbotham. It was thought that Mr. Fleming had been dead for more than an hour when the body was found.

Funeral services were conducted at Goff Funeral Home in Monterey Tuesday afternoon. Burial was in Whitaker Cemetery. The Rev. M. B. Thompson officiated.

The brother was the only immediate relative surviving.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

22 December 1946

FIRE BURNS HANDLE MILL: SECOND IN SIX MONTHS:

The second fire within six months partly destroyed the Tennessee Handle Company main plant Friday morning with an estimated damage of \$15,000.

The fire on June 6 caused a damage of \$75,000 to \$100,000. Neither fire was covered by insurance, according to A. G. Maxwell, Jr., official of the company.

The only reason given for the blaze was that it may have started from a fire witch workmen had built for warmth.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

23 January 1947

Putnam Man Indicted for Attempted Assault on Stepdaughter:

An indictment charging Henry Caldwell with attempted criminal assault on his nine-year-old stepdaughter was returned by the Putnam County grand jury yesterday, and the 26-year-old man was sent to Central State Hospital for observation after his counsel entered a plea of insanity.

The crime allegedly took place on December 27 at his home in the Sixteenth District near the White County line.

William Harold Vinson, who was charged with robbing two service stations and who also was charged with the theft of Circuit Judge John Holladay's automobile last October, was sentenced to three to five years in the state penitentiary after pleading guilty.

J. Hunter, of Monterey, charged with the murder of Frank Shellito, Monterey restaurateur, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to one to five years in the penitentiary. His trial in the last term of court ended in a hung jury, one voting for acquittal and 11 for conviction.

Hunter also pleaded guilty to a truck theft charge, placed against him since the last term of court, and was sentenced to one to five years in the penitentiary, the sentence to run concurrently with the involuntary manslaughter count.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Harvey Higgenbotham announced that he had thwarted a jail break by Caldwell, Vinson and Semmie Bilyeu, serving a sentence of 11 months and 29 days for assault, Tuesday night when he found a number of bricks loosened in the wall and bars cut. The sheriff said he also found a hacksaw blade and chisel.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

30 January 1947

**Gertie Claudia Winton (Countiss) Gentry**

b. 15 November 1909, TN – d. 17 February 1976, md **Thurston Gentry**, b. ca. 1907 – d. 1947. Gertie Claudia Winton (Countiss) Gentry, d/o **Emmett Winton Countiss & Ailey Melvina King**. They are buried in Shipley Church Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.  
'In loving memory'

Funeral Held Sunday For Rifle Victim:

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon for Thurston Gentry, 40, who was killed instantly Saturday afternoon by a bullet fired from a .22 caliber rifle.

Sheriff Harvey Higgenbotham said that Gentry's wife, Mrs. Claudia Countiss Gentry, 36, admitted firing the fatal shot, saying it was in self-defense, as her husband was advancing toward her with a hammer.

Higgenbotham stated he was called to the Gentry home just outside the Cookeville city limits on the Buffalo Valley Road at 2 o'clock and took Mrs. Gentry into custody. He added, however she was released after he had talked with the father and a brother of the slain man, and that no warrant had been sworn out to place charges against her.

Mrs. Gentry told the sheriff that the trouble all started because her husband "was jealous" of her. They had been married for 22 years. The sheriff said she told him that they had had family trouble before.

Further investigation of the case was made this week by the Attorney General Baxter Key and the sheriff, and Key announced that he would present the facts to the next grand jury.

Gentry was employed at the Tennessee Handle Mill here. He is survived by his wife, three children, Lois, Eugene, and Earl Gentry; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Gentry of Cookeville; three brothers, Norman Gentry of Nashville, Raymond and Dawson Gentry, both of Cookeville, and one sister, Mrs. Ruby Patton of Crossville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

30 January 1947

Mine Accident Fatal to Isolene Man:

Herman Randolph, 30, Isolene, was fatally injured early Wednesday morning when his clothing caught in a conveyor belt at the Meadow Creek Coal Company mine at Monterey.

According to mine officials, there were no witnesses to the accident and the body was not found until Jim Randolph, mine foreman, reported for work at 8 a.m.

Randolph is survived by his widow Mrs. Randolph, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Randolph, of Board Valley. Funeral arrangements had not been completed early today.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 3 April 1947

Grand Jury To Get Draper Murder Case:

Preliminary hearing for Mrs. Eula Waldrip, Cookeville department store clerk, charged with the murder of Ben Draper, 29-year-old skating rink operator, at her home Sunday afternoon, was scheduled for one o'clock this afternoon.

The preliminary hearing was expected to mean nothing more than waiving the case to the May grand jury. Mrs. Waldrip made a \$10,000 bond shortly after she notified the sheriff's office of the trouble.

Mrs. Waldrip is alleged to have stabbed Draper with a saber when, she told officers, he tried to force his way into her home on King Street. She said Draper tried to get in the front door and on finding it locked, rushed to the back door and broke the glass and was making an effort to unlock the door when the tragedy occurred.

The 36-inch saber was a Japanese souvenir sent to Mrs. Waldrip by her husband.

Draper was stabbed one time near, or in the heart. Services were held for him Tuesday. Burial was in Double Springs Cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 12 June 1947.

**Floyd Warren Ament Obt.**

b. 30 August 1923 – d. 1 June 1947, s/o s/o **Joseph Walter Ament & Amanda Pennington**. Floyd W. Ament is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Cookeville Man Leaps To Death Off Bridge:

The body of Floyd Ament, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ament, who drowned in New York City June 1, is expected to arrive this weekend.

According to New York investigators, young Ament took his own life by leaping from the George Washington Bridge shortly after he had called his mother in Cookeville and told her that he was going to do something that she would "see in the newspapers."

He had been away from home for three years, the last five months of which had been in New York City.

In addition to his parents, Ament is survived by two sisters, Mrs. J. M. Garner and Carolyn Ament, Cookeville; two brothers, James Ament, Akron, OH, and Bobby Ament, of Cookeville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

24 July 1947

Murder Charge in Connection with In-Law Shooting Expected:

It is expected that a murder warrant will be issued for Pasco Bean, 30, for the alleged shotgun slaying of his brother-in-law after funeral services Friday. He has been at large for a month.

Baskel Roberts, 27, died Wednesday at 11 o'clock in the Veterans Hospital in Nashville of shotgun wounds suffered June 25. The shooting occurred after a family quarrel at Bean's home in the Smith Chapel community.

Funeral services for Roberts will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Smith Chapel Church, by the Rev. Addison McCaleb. Burial will be in the cemetery there.

Roberts is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Roberts; four brothers, Lonnie Roberts, Detroit, MI, Martin, Lewis, and Cordell Roberts, of Cookeville; and three sisters, Mrs. Pearl Roberts Bean, Catherine Roberts, and Ruby Nell Roberts, of Cookeville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

31 July 1947

Funeral for Quinland Victim Held Today:

What started out to be an afternoon of recreation ended in tragedy yesterday when Frankie Lee Carr, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Carr, Algood, drowned while swimming in Quinland Lake near the Post Oak community. Artificial respiration was administered for more than an hour after young Carr's body was taken from the lake. Witnesses said he appeared to be playing around in the water just before he went down.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon at the Zion Hill Methodist Church by the Rev. W. T. Andrews. Burial was in Zion Hill Cemetery.

Besides his parents, survivors include two brothers, J. D. and Bruce Carr; three sisters, Lucille, Jo Ann and Carol Carr; grandmother, Mrs. Alice Qualls, all of Algood.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

7 August 1947

Man Falls to Death at Center Hill Dam:

The second fatality since the building of Center Hill Dam started, occurred Wednesday morning when Charles Scott, 28, of Route 4, Liberty, fell 60 feet through a shaft inside the structure. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Scott, Liberty.

The body was badly crushed and death was immediate, according to personnel officials, as Scott received a broken back and neck. He was a bucket hooker for trucks unloading concrete.

Dr. J. M. Allison, physician at the dam, pronounced Scott dead upon arrival at the hospital there. The other death was several months ago when a rigger fell 60 feet.

Survivors include a wife, Mrs. Neil Scott.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

14 August 1947

Man Shot in Face Saturday by Neighbor:

Freeman Harris, 26, who was shot twice in the face Saturday night as he allegedly attempted to enter the home of Brock Brown, 50, has been removed from City Hospital to his home on Bunker Hill Road, two miles South of Cookeville. Brown also lives in the same community.

The shooting occurred after Brown had obtained a warrant charging Harris with attempted murder, according to Sheriff Harvey Higgenbotham. Officers were looking for Harris to serve the warrant at the time of the gun-play.

When the Browns returned home Harris drove up in an automobile, according to officers and Brown fired his shotgun-the pellets striking Harris in the face and side.

Brown said Harris walked toward the house and that he fired again without stopping him. He then summoned officers. The wounds were described, however, as minor.

Sheriff Higgenbotham said that Brown later placed Harris under a peace bond.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

4 September 1947

Odell Harris Obt.

Harris Funeral Held Today; Constable Faces Murder Charge:

Military funeral service were held this afternoon at the Silver Point Church of Christ for Odell Harris, 35, who was shot to death Monday night by Constable Sam Brown in an attempt to arrest him.

L. N. Moody, minister of the Cookeville Church of Christ, officiated and burial was in Ashburn Cemetery.

Meanwhile, Constable Brown is free on \$2,000 bond pending preliminary hearing.

Conflicting stories on how the shooting occurred have been told. Brown told Sheriff Harvey Higgenbotham that he went to the home of Mrs. Mai Hensley, 111 Franklin St., to tell her that her son was in jail upon the request of the son when Harris came out to the car where Mrs. Hensley was talking to him (Brown) in a drunken condition and started using abusive language and slapped him while he was still in his automobile.

With that, Brown claims he told Harris that he was under arrest and that Mrs. Hensley told him that she would take her son-in-law (Harris) in the house. Brown told officers that he told her that it was too late and that she told him he would have to get a warrant before he could arrest him. Brown said he decided to get a warrant, according to Sheriff Higgenbotham, but changed his mind.

Members of the Harris Brothers Post of the V.F.W. heard about the shooting before their regular meeting, and heard that there had not been an investigation made- only what Brown had told the Sheriff.

A committee of V.F.W. members were appointed to get Police Chief L. K. Morgan and go inquire of witnesses to the shooting as to what had happened.

Witnesses said that at no time did they see Harris attempt to hit the constable.

The police chief said there were several witnesses to the shooting and that Rufus Hunter, 34, was seated in his front yard just across the street from the Hensley residence at the time. Hunter was quoted as saying that Brown drove up in his car and called to Mrs. Hensley who came to the auto. In a few minutes, Harris also came to the car and joined the conversation. "you aren't taking his without a warrant."

Then according to the account reported to have been given by Hunter, Brown declared he would get a warrant. Brown, it was declared, started toward the car and then turned and said "No, I never don a man this way. I'm taking you now." The constable then, it was alleged, swung around and fired at Harris and got into his car and drove away.

Chief Morgan also quoted another witness, Mrs. Myrtle Ray, a neighbor, as saying she saw Brown shake hands with Harris and heard him say he was his friend and later heard Brown tell Harris he would shoot him if he didn't go with him. Mrs. Ray said she did not see the shooting.

Harris fell in the front yard of the Hensley place with a bullet through his neck. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.

Harris' 17-year-old wife had gone to the jail at the time of the shooting, having heard that her husband was arrested with two or three other men earlier in the day by the sheriff's deputies. She signed the murder warrant.

Harris, a native of Silver Point, was a veteran of World War II and the holder of five battle stars.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Byrd Harris. He was a resident of Detroit, MI, and was in this section on a visit.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 25 September 1947

Mrs. Waldrip Freed

Mrs. Eula Waldrip, 31-year-old department store clerk, was acquitted in Criminal Court this week for the saber-murder of Ben Draper, 29, at her home March 30 as he was entering the back door of her King Street home.

Mrs. Waldrip was freed on a plea of self defense, and the only thing the state attempted to show was that she and Draper had been intimate.

Proof in the case showed that the defendant had told Draper several times by telephone on that Sunday morning that she did not want to see him again for him not to come to her home; that he did come to her home in the afternoon and after not gaining admittance at the front door he went to the back and broke the

glass from a door and was unlocking it when she stabbed him near or through the heart. She said she was attempting to stab Draper in the arm.

Mrs. Waldrip testified that Draper had his knife open at the time and was threatening to kill her when he got in.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville TN:**

13 May 1948

Hedgecough Murder Case Bound Over to Grand Jury:

Charlie Hedgecough, Monterey dry kiln worker charged with the murder of Joe Pat Raines, waived preliminary hearing before Magistrate B. M. Hudgens Monday and the case was bound over to the grand jury.

Hedgecough is still in the county jail after failure to make a \$3,000 bond agreed upon by the defense attorney, A. B. McKay, and Assistant Attorney General Scott Camp.

Raines' body was found Friday in the kiln of the Monterey Hardwood Flooring Company, where he had been dead about a week.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

8 July 1948

Mystery of Gentry Beating Unsolved; Victim Badly Hurt:

Several arrests have been made in connection with the beating of Winnell Gentry last week, Sheriff Henry Higgenbotham said today, but all suspects have been released. Investigation of the case is still going on, according to the officer.

Gentry, 25, was found about 11 o'clock last Friday night lying on a side road near the old Buffalo Valley Road, about three miles from Cookeville, by Johnnie Daniels, a cab driver. He was badly beaten.

At the first of the week, Gentry, was considered in critical condition by officials at City Hospital. He was moved to the Veterans Hospital in Nashville, however, and was reported recovering slowly.

Gentry lost one eye as a result of the beating, and both his jaws were broken. He also sustained serious head wounds.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

19 August 1948

17-Year-Old Freddie Judd Slightly Hurt After Falling Elevator Shaft:

In City Hospital thanking his "lucky stars" for being alive since Monday, Freddie Judd, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Hershel Judd, Spring Street, is wanting to go home.

Freddie has been wondering just what kept him from being killed (or at least critically injured) when he fell through an open elevator shaft Monday morning at the Coca Cola plant here.

Suffering from severe shock and possibly a slight brain concussion, young Judd was taken to the hospital after the little more than 13-foot fall in an unconscious condition. He remained in a semi-conscious condition throughout the day, and it was feared that he may have been in a critical condition.

Hospital attaches today said that he was sitting up in bed, and that there is no evidence of broken bones.

Officials at the bottling plant said that Judd was handling some freight on a two-wheel cart near the elevator and that when he pulled the rig from under the load he (Judd) lost his balance and tumbled backwards down the shaft. It is thought that his hip hit the cross beam at the top of the shaft to check his fall.

Judd will be a junior at Central High school this year.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

23 September 1948

JOE MADDUX GIVEN EIGHT YEARS:

Third Jury Agrees After Two Mis-Trails On Slayer of Sam Upchurch, 17-year-old:

Joe Maddux, Buffalo farmer, today was sentenced to eight years in the penitentiary for the murder of Sam Upchurch, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Upchurch, who was at the time of the shotgun slaying tenants on the Maddux farm.

Two previous trails ended in the jurors being unable to agree.

The jury was given the case at noon today and deliberated until nearly 2 o'clock before filing into the court room before Judge John A. Mitchell to announce they were in agreement.

Maddux was noticeably "befuddled" as the jury announced it had fixed his sentence at eight years.

The shooting occurred April 11, 1947 near one of Maddux's barns after the two had been fussing for some time, according to testimony of a younger Upchurch son. The younger Upchurch also testified that his brother had been drinking at the time of the shooting which took place as officers were approaching to arrest Sam Upchurch.

The shooting occurred shortly before death, and Upchurch was being rushed to a Nashville hospital when he died at Lebanon.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

21 October 1948

With Marriage Date Set, Former Putnam Couple Victims of Carbon-Monoxide Gas:

Double funeral services for a young man and woman who had announced November 22 as their wedding date will be held tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at the Boiling Springs cemetery.

They were Johnie Virgil Dunn, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Dunn, Laurel Hill community, Route 5, Sparta, and Miss Opal Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnson, former residents of the same community.

The sweethearts were found dead in her father's automobile, in the garage, Tuesday morning at her home in the Royal Oak section of Detroit, MI, where both were employed. Their deaths were attributed to carbon monoxide gas. They had been using the Johnson family car, and had arrived home. The garage is attached to the home.

The Johnson family moved to Detroit about three years ago.

In addition to her parents, Miss Johnson is survived by one sister, Ruby Lee Johnson, Detroit.

Besides his parents, Mr. Dunn is survived by four brothers, Roy E. Dunn of WV, Sam Dunn, Silver Point, Delbert and Paul Dunn, Route 5, Sparta; three sisters, Mrs. Ethel Trabaugh, Silver Point, Jewel and Irene, both of Route 5, Sparta.

The Rev. Oscar Nash will conduct the funeral and burial will be in Boiling Springs Cemetery.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

11 November 1948

Charles Bumbalough, b. 5 June 1926 – d. 31 October 1948, (US Army WWII), s/o **James Oliver Bumbalough** (1894-1928) & **Effie Shipley** (1897-1977). Siblings: Kathleen Flora (Bumbalough) Bohannon (1923-2007), Eugene “Hank” Bumbalough & James Bumbalough. Charles Bumbalough is buried in West Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Coroner Reports Death of Cookeville Soldier as Suicide:

The body of Charles Bumbalough, 22-year-old Cookeville soldier, found Tuesday in the Potomac at Washington, D. C., is expected to arrive at the Carver Funeral Home sometime tomorrow, members of the family said today.

Bumbalough was the son of Mrs. Effie Bumbalough, who lives at Broad and Dixie. He was an overseas battle veteran but re-enlisted after being out of the army for nearly a year. He had been in a hospital at Belvoir, VA, and had been reassigned to duty at Fort Monmouth, Red Bank, NJ.

Members of the family at first suspected foul play in connection with the private first class' death since it was thought that he had about \$300 on his person, but reports from Washington authorities describe it as suicide.

Bumbalough's brother, James, told the Herald that his last words before leaving home October 30 to report to duty was “I'll see you Christmas.” He said his brother was in “great spirits, apparently not worried about anything.”

District of Columbia Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald yesterday issued a certificate of suicide. Police said the soldier had been dead about a week.

An army lieutenant said in a United Press story that Bumbalough had been in the hospital for treatment of a mental disease and that he attempted to jump from a bridge over the Potomac about six months ago but was thwarted by a Washington park police.

Charles had to go by the Virginia base to pick up his clothing and receive his pay-check, his brother said.

Authorities in Washington said all identification papers were on the body, and that he also had a bus ticket for Red Bank, NJ, but nothing was said about any money.

After attending Central High school for three years, Bumbalough enlisted in the army. He served with an engineer outfit in the European theater of operations and wore two battle stars on his combat ribbon.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed earlier today, but the body will be taken to the Carver Funeral Home.

Harris Brothers Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will conduct the military funeral, and burial will be in West Cemetery, on the Smithville Road.

In addition to his mother and brother, both of Cookeville, survivors include another brother, Eugene Bumbalough, Detroit, MI, and a sister, Mrs. Kenneth Bohannon, Madison.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

9 December 1948

Brother of Cookeville Woman Burns to Death:

Jim A. Davis, 78, brother of Mrs. Nora Pointer, Cookeville, died at his home in Hickman county last week. Funeral service and burial were at Nunnely.

Mr. Davis' body was found by a neighbor, and it was believed that he tried to kindle a fire with kerosene in his kitchen and that his clothing caught fire in the resulting explosion. He was a native of Alexandria, but had lived in Hickman County for the past two years.

Mrs. Claude Hensley, Cookeville, is a grandniece.

**Willard Williams Obt.**

b. 10 April 1912, Putnam Co., TN – d. 2 December 1948, (Tennessee Pvt. QM Truck Co. WWII), md **Lou Nell (Litchford) Williams**. Willard Williams, s/o **Emerick Monroe Williams & Renda Blain Maxwell** (1886-1967), she is buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

\*See Willie Frances (Williams) Dyer obt. buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

\*See Renda Blain (Maxwell) Williams Obt. buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Buffalo Valley Man Killed By Train: Funeral Was Sunday:

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon for Willard Williams, 36, Buffalo Valley man, who was killed Thursday night when he was struck by a train.

The body of Mr. Williams, a farmer and veteran of World War II, was found early Friday morning by the crew of an east-bound Tennessee Central freight train. It was near the Buffalo Valley station, close to the tracks.

Sheriff Charlie Pierce and Conner Pete Matheney investigated. No inquest was said, but it was apparent that Williams had been struck by an earlier train.

Son of the late Monroe Williams and Mrs. Renda Maxwell Williams, who survives, Mr. Williams was born in Putnam County had lived in Buffalo Valley most of his life.

In addition to his mother, Mr. Williams is survived by his widow, Mrs. Nell Litchford Williams; six daughters, Mrs. Frances Dyer, Granville; Misses Ruth, Jean, Margaret, Lou, Charlie Williams, of Buffalo Valley; four brothers, Fred and Lee Williams, Buffalo Valley, Cordell Williams, Detroit, and J. W. Williams, Akron; three sisters, Mrs. Gambell, Mrs. Myrtle Russell, Mrs. Lou Smith, Buffalo Valley.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 9 December 1948

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

21 April 1949

Brock Brown Dies in City Hospital:

Funeral arrangements are incomplete for Brock Brown, 47, who died about 2:00 a.m. Wednesday morning at the City Hospital as a result of gun-shot wounds Tuesday night at his home in the Wilhite community. The body will be at the home until time for services.

Mr. Brown was the son of Joshua and Dora Hitchcock Brown. He was a member of the Baptist church. He had been in ill health for quite some time.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Ann Davis Brown; one son, Lex Dyer Brown; and one daughter, Arlene Brown, all of Cookeville, Route 4; five brothers, Hamp Brown, Cookeville, James H., George, Hopson, and Guy Brown, all of Sparta; and one sister, Mrs. Maggie Brown England, Sparta.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 20 April 1950.

Funeral services for Patricia Lowe Pointer, 15, daughter of John and Mildred Gentry Pointer. Services were held in Cookeville at the Methodist Church. The Rev. Thornton Fowler officiated. Burial was in Cookeville City cemetery.

A native of Putnam County, she was a sophomore at Central High School and was a member of the Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents, survivors include two sisters, Barbar and Betty Pointer; a brother, Jimmy Pointer, all of Cookeville; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Pointer of Athens and Mr. and Mrs. Solon Gentry of Cookeville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 27 April 1950

**GIRL'S BODY EXHUMED; HUNTER MAKES BOND:**

The body of 15-year-old Patsy Lowe Pointer was exhumed here Tuesday on order of Scott Camp, assistant attorney general, at the direction of Baxter Key, attorney general, and with the consent of members of the family. Investigators are seeking to determine whether she died by her own hand or was murdered.

Paraffin casts of the girl's hands were made in the hope of determining whether she had fired the pistol that sent a bullet into her right temple the night of April 13.

The casts were taken to Nashville Wednesday by Sheriff Carlie Pierce, where he conferred with Sam Neal, State Safety Commissioner as to whether ot have them examined at a Nashville laboratory or sent to the FBI laboratory in Washington.

Two Cookeville doctors Tuesday performed an autopsy on the body, but had not completed their report Wednesday afternoon.

Howard Hunter, 37, operator of an automobile repair firm, who had been held for several days for questioning in the girl's death, was formally arraigned Friday afternoon before General Sessions Judge John Bryan where he waived hearing to the May term of the Putnam County Grand jury. He made bond in the amount of \$5,000, and was released Friday night.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 3 August 1950

**Amputee Swims Center Hill Lake:**

The most unusual swimming feat we have heard of recently was that of Scott Murdock of Urbana, IL, who swam across Center Hill Lake at Puckett's landing last Thursday, to Graner Knob, a distant of two miles and then plunged back in and swam the same distance back.

What makes the feat more remarkable was the fact that Murdock has his leg amputated just below the knee and the use of one of his arms is impaired from an automobile accident. Two hours were required for the swim.

Murdock who is a half-brother of Mrs. Wilbur Todd and a nephew of Ernest Puckett both of Cookeville is spending a two weeks vacation at the lake and visiting relatives here.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 30 November 1950

**GAINESBORO GIRL DIES FROM BURNS:**

Funeral services for Barbara Carolyn Coleman, 12, sixth grade student at Gainesboro elementary school, were held Monday afternoon at the Gainesboro Church of Christ. Joe Alley officiated and interment was in Clark Memorial cemetery two miles north of Gainesboro.

Barbara Carolyn died at 4 a.m. Sunday at Jackson county hospital from burns received Saturday night when her house coat caught on fire before an open grate at her home in Gainesboro. Her mother, Mrs. Beulah Coleman, 32, is in critical condition at the hospital with burns she received while trying to extinguish the blaze.

The girl's father, Herman Coleman, suffered severe burns on the hands.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Martin of Baxter and Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Coleman of Gainesboro.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 30 November 1950

**Rites For Hunting Accident Victim:**

Funeral services for Kenneth Ray Madewell, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Madewell, were held Saturday afternoon at the Wilhite church with the Rev. Oliver Lane officiating. Interment was in the Stone Seminary cemetery.

Young Madewell died in City hospital as a result of injuries received in a hunting accident Thanksgiving Day.

A freshman at Central High School, Madewell was hunting with his cousin, James Walker, and two other boys when Walker's gun accidentally discharged striking Madewell. In school he was a member of the Future Farmers of America.

Survivors include, in addition to his parents, three sisters, Marie Eva Lois, and Faye Madewell, grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Morgan, all of Wilhite community.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

12 April 1951

**Rites In Detroit For Jim Hunter:**

Word has been received here relative to the deaths of Jim Hunter which recently occurred in Detroit, MI, due to an automobile accident.

Mr. Hunter, 59, was the son of the late Vance and Hannah Brown Hunter and was reared in the Dry Valley community of Putnam County. He has been a resident of Detroit for several years.

Funeral services and burial were held in Detroit.

Survivors include two brothers, Hollis Hunter of Cookeville, Will Hunter of Sparta, and a sister, Mrs. Maggie Mason of Nashville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

31 May 1951

**Mark Pullum Obt.**

b. 27 May 1923, TN – d. 25 May 1951, Harlan, Harlan Co., KY, (FCC USN 2958897), md on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1947, Putnam Co., TN to **Juanita Opal (Wright) Pullum**. Mark Pullum, s/o **William Haskell “Hack” Pullum & Callie E. Gill**. Buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

\*See William Haskell “Hack” Pullum buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

\*See Kenneth Scott Pullum Obt.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 174: Mark Pullum married 10 October 1947, Putnam Co., TN, age 24, b. 27 May 1923, address; Silver Point, TN to Juanita Opal Wright, age 19, b. 18 September 1928, address: 400 Cedar St., Cookeville, TN, name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: John L. Wright, Jamestown, TN).

Kentucky Death Records (1852-1965)

**Name:** Mark Pullum  
**Gender:** Male  
**Race:** White  
**Death Age:** 27  
**Birth Date:** 27 May 1923  
**Birth Place:** Tennessee  
**Death Date:** 25 May 1951

**Cause of Death** Cerebral Hemorrhage due to fracture skull.

**Cause of Death** Hemorrhage in thoracic cavity due to chest injury.

**Death Place:** Harlan, Kentucky, USA

**Father:** [W H Pullum](#)

**Mother:** [Callie Gill](#)

**State File** 51 - 9458

Mark Pullum Dies In Auto Accident:

Chief Petty Officer Mark Pullu, 26, Navy recruiting officer, died as a result of an automobile accident on May 25<sup>th</sup> in Cumberland, KY. Pullum was stationed in Middlesboro, KY.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Wolf Creek Baptist Church with interment in Cookeville City Cemetery with full military rites.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Opal Wright Pullum, and small daughter, Barbara Ann; his parents Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pullum of Silver Point; two brothers, Pat Pullum of Silver Point and Kenneth Pullum of Buffalo Valley.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

1 November 1951

**James Clayton Birdwell Obt.**

b. 7 December 1899, Jackson Co., TN – d. 29 October 1951, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **Joseph Edward “Eddie” Birdwell & Sarah Margaret “Margie” Chaffin**. Birdwell buried in Double Springs Cemetery.

\*See Joseph Edward “Eddie” Birdwell buried in Double Springs Cemetery.

JAMES C. BIRDWELL IS TRAFFIC VICTIM:

Funeral services for James Clayton Birdwell, 51, who died in General Hospital Monday from injuries received when he was struck by an automobile about three miles west of Cookeville on Highway 70 Sunday afternoon at Carver Funeral Home. Edward Anderson officiated and burial was in Double Springs Cemetery.

Birdwell received a broken leg and severe head injuries in the accident which occurred when he was reported to have started to cross the highway in the path of the car.

No charges have been placed against Joyce S. Rittenberry of Nashville who was listed as the driver of the car. The car overturned after striking Birdwell but none of its three occupants were injured.

The son of Joseph Edward and Margaret Chaffin Birdwell, he was a native of Jackson county, but had lived in Putnam county for the past 20 years. He was a farmer and a member of the Church of Christ.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Davis Fox of Cookeville and four brothers, Odie Birdwell, Cookeville and John William, Harvey and Simon Birdwell of Detroit.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

16 October 1952

**WHITE COUNTY MAN KILLED BY BLAST:**

Thomas Leslie Frazier, 45, of White County, was killed near Buffalo Valley Monday when the jack hammer he was operating was reported to have exploded a dynamite charge.

Frazier was working on a road grading and basing project when the tragedy occurred. A dynamite charge had lodged in a hold and Frazier, attempting to force the dynamite to fall, was boring a hole adjacent to it when the jack hammer's bit struck the charge. A fellow worker said the explosion threw him down a 60-foot rock quarry embankment.

An employee of the Anderson & Gregory Construction Co., Frazier resided at Bon Air and was a native of White County.

He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Lorene Payne; two daughters, Reba and Lois Frazier; and four sons, Carl Thomas, Gordon, Jerry and Billy Dean Frazier.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 29 January 1953

**JACKSON COUNTY MAN FALLS TO HIS DEATH FROM TEXAS SCHOOL:**

William Lee Orrick, 74, a former Jackson County native, was fatally injured last Thursday when he fell off the roof of a school where he was janitor in Shamrock, Texas. The accident occurred when Orrick went up to the roof to adjust a bell which had been blown off balance by a high north wind. He slipped and fell over the front entrance, landing on the concrete in front of the school. He died 40 minutes later in a local hospital.

Mr. Orrick was born Feb. 12, 1878 in Jackson County. He moved to Shamrock in 1906, and he and his wife were the first couple to be married in a church wedding there.

School Superintendent Elmer J. Moore described Mr. Orrick as loved by both students and teachers." During the past 12 years he had twice tried to retire from his work as school custodian, but returned because he liked to work with children.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Eula Orrick, three sons, Robert, Shamrock, James, Stutigart, AR, and George Orrick, McLean, TX; a daughter, Mrs. Cora Mae Hood, White Deer, TX; and four grandchildren.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 26 March 1953

**Lillard Pascell Smith Obt.**

b. 17 August 1906, TN – d. 23 March 1953, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1934, Putnam Co., TN to **Etta (Maxwell) Smith**, b. 20 September 1913 – d. 5 February 1985. Lillard Smith, s/o **John B. Smith & Ama Anna (Delaney)**.

(SS Death Index: Name: **ETTA SMITH** Birth: 20 Sep 1913- Death: Feb 1985–Last Residence: (Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN) -Last Benefit: (none specified) – SSN: 409-05-6922, TN)

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 351, docket #3, pg. 222: Lillard Smith married 6 October 1934, Putnam Co., TN, age 26, address: Cookeville, TN to Etta Maxwell, age 21, address: Silver Point, Putnam Co., TN, name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Houston Maxwell, Rt. 2, Silver Point, TN).

Funeral services for Lillard Pascell Smith, 46, were held Wednesday afternoon at Stone Seminary church in the Mt. Herman community. Mr. Smith died at his home in the Bohannon community Monday morning from what Coroner Paschal Matheney said was a self-inflicted gun shot wound.

A former Central High School mathematics teacher, Mr. Smith had operated a farm for the past four years. He held the B. S. degree from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute and had taught at other schools in Putnam and Morgan Counties before teaching at Central High.

A neighbor reported that Smith had been ill with influenza recently and also suffered from high blood pressure.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Etta Maxwell Smith; a son, James Lowell Smith; a brother, Haskell Smith of Route 5, Cookeville; four sisters, Mrs. Vallie Tull, Winston, IL, Mrs. Hallie Denny and Mrs. Odell Williams, Detroit, and Mrs. Addie Bell Schwedhelm of St. John, MI.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

Thursday, 26 March 1953

Funeral services for Oliver B. Thompson, 17, of near Buffalo Valley, were held Tuesday afternoon at Cedar Hill Baptist Church. The Rev. James Hardy officiated at the services. Burial was in the family cemetery.

The body of the youth was found Monday morning near Baxter crossroads. Thompson suffered from epilepsy and is believed to have fainted and died from exposure.

He was a son of Farmer and Dessis Uhles Thompson, who survive. He is also survived by three brothers, Earl Ray, Robert Lee, and Jerry Clay Thompson, all of Buffalo Valley; a sister, Barbara Ann Thompson; and his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Uhles.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

18 June 1953

**THREE DROWN IN LAKE TRAGEDY HERE SUNDAY:**

A family outing ended in tragedy last Sunday afternoon when a brother and sister and their cousin drowned in Quinland Lake, about two miles north of Algood.

The victims were Anna Ruth Gore, 11, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gore of Algood; Mrs. Thelma Jean Gore Guy, 17, and her brother Douglas William Gore, 12. Mrs. Guy and Douglas were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gore of the Black Oak Community of White County.

Witnesses reported that Anna Ruth and Douglas were wading in shallow water on the east end of the lake when they stepped off a ledge into deep water about 15 feet from shore. They said that Jean went to their aid and went under with them. Their uncle, Woodrow, 35, Cookeville taxie driver, also attempted to rescue them but was unsuccessful. He was reported to have almost drowned in the effort.

Herman Gore reported that none of the three victims could swim. He said the only other person in the vicinity was an older couple neither of whom were swimmers. A crowd estimated at about 1,000 persons gathered while workers searched for the bodies.

The accident occurred about 2:30 p.m. and the first body that of Mrs. Guy, was recovered about 3:30 p.m. by Denver Florida, Algood, neighbor of the Gore family. Florida said that the body of Douglas was recovered about 30 minutes later and that of Anna Ruth approximately an hour after the first body was located. Lt. Alvin C. Jared and Sgt. Mao Wix of the state highway patrol headed the rescue party and recovered the bodies of the two children. The workers were also assisted by SGT. George Sturgis of the Tech ROTC staff, who dived and helped locate the victims. Mrs. Guy's body was found in about 12 feet of water and the others at a depth of about 18 feet.

Mrs. Guy was the wife of Max Harold Guy, U. S. Navy, stationed at Treasure Island, CA. Her father reported the couple had been married two months Saturday.

Algood residents reported that three other person have been drowned in the lake, the last about two years ago and two others when the lake was first completed.

Funeral services for Anna Ruth Gore were held Tuesday afternoon at Old Zion Presbyterian Church with interment in the church cemetery.

In addition to her parents Anna Ruth is survived by two brothers, William Harold Gore and Gerald Wayne Gore and a sister, Brenda Gale Gore all of Algood.

Besides their parents Mrs. Guy and Douglas Gore are survived by three brothers, Gary Gene, Donald Edward and Bobby Eugene Gore; two sisters, Miss Freda Gore and Miss Clede Louise Gore all of White County.

Mrs. Guy was employed at Sparta Shirt Factory; Douglas was a seventh grade student at Black Oak School and Anna Ruth a fifth grade student at Algood School.

Both Gore families were originally from Putnam County.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

17 September 1953

**SILVER POINT MAN HURT IN ACCIDENT:**

Kenneth Maxwell, 40, of Silver Point was seriously injured when his car collided head-on with moving trailer van near Carthage last Saturday morning.

Maxwell was taken to Smith County hospital for emergency treatment and later was taken to Mid State Baptist Hospital in Nashville where he was reported in serious condition.

Investigating officers said that the accident occurred about 2:30 a.m. near the east end of Rome bridge, when the van driver attempted to pass another truck.

William Blackburn, 38, of Chapel Hill, driver of the van was released after posting \$250 bond on a reckless driving charge.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

1 October 1953

**GAME WARDEN SHOT BY TWO SQUIRREL HUNTERS:**

George Tucker Brown, 20, of Monterey State Conservation Office for Putnam County was shot twice while attempting to check the limits of two Monterey squirrel hunters last Saturday morning.

From his hospital bed in Monterey Monday. Brown said that he caught about 74 buckshot mostly in the lower part of his body from two shotgun blasts fired by Ray Riddle, about 32 also of Monterey. He is not thought to be in serious condition, however.

A grand jury hearing for Riddle charged with attempted murder and his brother Jim Ed Riddle, about 38, charged with aiding and abetting in the shooting has been set for Friday morning.

The incident happened about 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Brown reported. When he and officer Virgil Brown were on a routine patrol in the Calfkiller section of Putnam County about a mile from the White County line. The injured officer said that they saw the two hunters put some squirrels in the trunk of the car and then a short time later saw them bring in 12 more squirrels, their limit, and lock them in the truck of the car.

Brown said the hunters refused to let them inspect the squirrels in the car and when he attempted to arrest them that they jumped in the car and drove off. The officer fired a shot at the tire of the car in an attempt to stop them but missed. Riddle then leaned out of the window of the car and fired. Brown reported, the blast knocking him to the ground.

A second shot was fired Brown said as he took to a ditch and he fired again at the car but the bullet bounced off the body of the vehicle. The first shot was from about 35 yards the officer reported, and the second from about 60 yards.

Fred Williams of Nashville, Chief law enforcement officer of the State Game and Fish Commission was in Monterey over the weekend to investigate the incident.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

1 October 1953

**TECH EMPLOYEE IS KILLED IN ACCIDENT:**

Funeral services for Dallas Junior Hargis, 20, were held Sunday, October 4, at Samaria Church of Christ. Rev. Henry Neely officiated. Burial was in the Boiling Springs cemetery.

Mr. Hargis was fatally injured Friday afternoon when the detachable rim flew off a road grader wheel and struck him in the forehead. He died en route to a Nashville hospital. The accident occurred in a maintenance shop at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute where he was employed.

He was the son of Alvin Lee and Daisy Collier Hargis of near Cookeville, who survive.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his widow, Mrs. Virginia Rogers Hargis; a son, Kenneth Junior Hargis; four brothers, John Fred Hargis, Baxter, Lloyd Hargis, Bloomington Springs, Harvey Lee Hargis, Baxter and Nathan Howard Hargis, Cookeville; a sister, Mrs. Beulah Rogers, Bloomington Springs, and his maternal grandparents, John and Lela Collier, Granville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

15 April 1954.

**FRANK "CHICK" JARED SEVERELY BURNED:**

Frank "Chick" Jared about 40 of Cookeville is in serious condition in a Nashville hospital as a result of severe burns sustained at his home on Oak Street Tuesday evening.

Jared was in an unconscious condition in bed when discovered by his mother, Mrs. Myrtle Jared about 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Jared said that apparently his clothing had caught fire from a lighted cigarette. Clothing was burned off the upper part of his body she said and he was severely burned about his shoulders, arms and face. There was no damage to bed or furnishings.

He was rushed to Cookeville General Hospital for treatment but because of the seriousness of his condition was taken to Nashville Hospital late Tuesday night.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

29 October 1953

**MONTEREY MAN DIES IN MINE ACCIDENT:**

Robert Swafford, 20, was crushed to death about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in an accident at Meadow Creek Mines near Monterey.

Mine officials said it was thought a door hung on the car Swafford was riding crushed him against the top of the mine shaft. Mine safety inspectors were investigating the cause of the accident Wednesday.

The young miner graduated from Monterey High School two years ago where he played football. He was married to the former Jaen Ann Holloway, of Monterey, about a year ago.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Swafford, Monterey; three sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Dayton, OH, Mrs. Lulu Pearl Silvers, Ozone, and Miss Clara Mae Swafford, Monterey; four brothers, Roy and Billy Swafford, Monterey; Frank Swafford, Jr., Delleville, OH, and Jimmy Swafford, Dayton, OH and his grandmother, Mrs. Polly Ann Ford of Monterey.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

17 June 1954.

**FRANK "CHICK" JARED DIES FROM BURNS:**

David Frank "Chick" Jared, 41, died Friday morning in Nashville General Hospital. He suffered severe burns at his home here several weeks ago and had been hospitalized since that time.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Cookeville Methodist Church with Dr. Bruce Strother officiating. Interment was in the Cookeville City Cemetery.

Mr. Jared was a native of Putnam County, receiving his education in the Cookeville schools, and studied two years at Tech. He was employed for some years in a local Drugstore, and also worked in a Maryville Drugstore. For the past several years he has been associated with his mother in the restaurant business. He was a member of the Methodist Church and the W.O.W.

Survivors include his parents, Bersheba and Myrtle Jones Jared; and one sister, Mrs. George Gay, Rock Hill, SC.

**Ray Joe Jones Obt.**

b. 1898 – d. 1954, s/o **Henry Jones** (1869-1958) & **Nevada "Vada" Jones** (1874-1956).

Funeral services for Ray Jones, 55, were conducted at his home Wednesday afternoon by Dr. Harry L. Upperman of Baxter. He had been ill for some time and had spent some time in the veteran's hospital in Nashville before steadily growing worse at home.

Surviving are his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones with whom he lived, a sister, Mrs. Charles Niles of Ypsilanti, MI; 2 brothers, Howard and Clarion Jones of Detroit.

Burial was in the family cemetery.

Ray Joe Jones lived on the family farm most of his life. He was a tobacco farmer and helped support the farm. He was drafted into the U.S. Army during WWII but saw no military action. During this time his absence caused a hardship because his parents were aging. He suffered health problems while in the Army and received a medical discharge. He was a wonderful and loving person. **He developed Lou Gehrig's disease and died of self inflicted gunshot wounds during the latter stages of the disease**

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

10 September 1956

**YOUTH KILLED ACCIDENTALLY WHILE HUNTING:**

Funeral services for 10-year-old Marvin Looney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hershel T. Looney of Sparta route 2, were held this afternoon at the Taylor's Providence church and burial services were held in the church cemetery.

Marvin fatally wounded himself in a hunting accident about sundown Saturday, according to Sheriff Sam Denton Potet who investigated it.

Through on Sparta route 2, the family home is in Putnam county near Pleasant Ridge, Potet said. Marvin attended the Dry Valley school.

Hunter funeral home of Sparta is in charge and arrangements were not completed at present time.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

15 October 1956

**LOCAL SOLDIER DIES IN MISHAP:**

Pvt. Tom G. Holladay, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Holladay who live on the Dodson Branch Road north of Cookeville, was killed Monday when a trailer being pulled by a jeep jackknifed and overturned on a dirt road between Raeford and Vass, NC, near Fort Bragg.

The parents were notified by army authorities but it has not been learned when the body will arrive in Cookeville. Whitson Funeral Home will be in charge of local arrangements and will announce funeral services later.

Pvt. Holladay was a graduate of Cookeville Central High with the class of 1954 and attended Tennessee Tech in 1955.

He has one sister, Miss Marie Holladay of Cookeville.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

20 May 1957

**Willie Almond Hedgecough Obt.**

b. 18 August 1935 – d. 17 May 1957, s/o **William E. "Willie" & Mildred Hedgecough.**

\*See William E. "Willie" Hedgecough buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

Funeral services for Willie Hengecouth, 21, who was **killed by a freight train near here Friday night** were held Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Graveside services were held at the Cookeville City cemetery with the Rev. Charles Sallee, pastor of the First Baptist church officiating.

Young Hengecouth, according to Sheriff Sam Denton Poteet, was killed instantly by a Tennessee Central Railway train about 9 p.m. The accident occurred near Chattanooga Handle Co.

Poteet quoted the train crew as saying the victim was seen lying on the tracks but the train could not be stopped in time to prevent hitting him.

He was the son of Mrs. Mildred Hedgecouth, and the late William Hedgecouth.

Survivors are his mother, two brothers, Allen and Franklin Hedgecouth of Cookeville; five sisters, Mary Alice Elrod, IN; Gladys and Ella Mae Hedgecouth of Tullahoma; Margaret Frances and Lola Ann Hedgecouth of Cookeville.

Whitson funeral home was in charge.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

5 August 1957

Joyce (Ward) Martin Obt.

b. 1 November 1926 – d. 4 August 1957, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN, md **W. D. Martin**, b. 29 October 1921 – d. 20 March 1972. Joyce (Ward) Martin, d/o **Wiley Cicero Ward & Odia Minton**.

\*See John Bradford "Brad" Martin Obt.

\*See W. D. Martin buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

\*See Wiley Cicero Ward buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

**BULLET FATAL TO BAXTER WOMAN:**

More than \$2,000 in reward money has been placed in escrow with the two Cookeville banks for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in the shooting of a Baxter woman late Saturday night.

More money is expected to be added to the reward fund this afternoon and tomorrow. Persons wishing to give money to the reward fund may mail or take it to the First National Bank or Citizens Bank to be placed in the escrow fund.

Persons having information relating to the shooting have been guaranteed immunity by peace officers. Any person knowing anything about the shooting is asked to contact Attorney General Baxter Keys of Carthage at his office phone Carthage 7M or his home Carthage phone 84; Ethridge C. Hale, or N. B. Matheny Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Cookeville phone 625 or the Putnam County Sheriff's office at Cookeville 108.

The money will be held in escrow by the banks unto the judge of the court under whose jurisdiction the case is tried decides the person or persons to whom the reward money is to be paid.

Mrs. Joyce Ward Martin of Baxter **died Sunday morning of a bullet wound which was inflicted by a .22 caliber rifle Saturday night**. The shot was one of two fired into the Bradford Martin home in Baxter while the two Martin families were playing cards and listening to the election returns.

The Baxter woman died Sunday at 8 a.m. in Vanderbilt Hospital. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow from the Baxter Church of Christ.

Martin said that the drapes of the room were closed when the shooting occurred and that he doubted if anyone could see into the room.

The Brad Martin home is in the southeast section of Baxter on the Buffalo Valley road. Mrs. Goldie Martin, Brad's wife is an employee of the Delman Company. She was one of the first women to cross the picket line the first day of the strike which was called by the International Association of Machinists.

It is reported that officers are working on the theory that the shooting may be connected with the labor troubles at the plant. The strike went into its fourth week today.

During the strike other employees of the company have constantly reported threats of intimidation by workers on the picket line. Numerous times the workers have been accosted with throwing of pop bottles, tomatoes, apples and eggs.

Other reports of intimidations have been made to workers at their homes. No arrests have been made at press-time.

Mrs. Joyce Martin was the wife of W. D. Martin of a Baxter furniture firm. Other survivors include a daughter, Rita of the home; her mother, Mrs. Wiley Ward of Baxtr; three sisters, Mrs. Lillian and Frances Vinetta Ward, both of Baxter and Mrs. Glenn Hale of Gallatin; two brothers, Charles Ward of Gallatin and Carson Ward of Murfreesboro.

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**  
5 February 1958

#### **BOMA RITES SET FOR FIRE VICTIM:**

N. B. Kelly, 37, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Kelly of Buffalo Valley, was burned to death in a fire which destroyed his home at Peru, IN, last Saturday afternoon.

Funeral services were to be held this afternoon (Wednesday) at the Boma Baptist church. Interment was scheduled for the Boma cemetery. The Rev. Robert DeLozier was to officiate. Whitson funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Nora Mabrey, two sons, Dallas and Ralph Kelly, and a daughter, Joyce Kelly, all of Peru, IN; five brothers, Cosby Kelly, Louisville, KY, Wilburn Kelly, Buffalo Valley, W. D. Kelly, Boma, J. D. Kelly, Silver Point, and Howard Edward Kelly, Elmwood; and a sister, Mrs. Harvey Herron, of Peru, IN.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**  
12 March 1958

Isham G. Rodgers Obt.

b. 8 July 1892 – d. 5 March 1958, TN, md on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1918, Putnam Co., TN to **Lola B. (Smith) Rodgers**, b. 31 October 1895 – d. 17 December 1976.

(SS Death Index: Name: **LOLA RODGERS** Birth: 31 October 1895 – Death: December 1976–Last Residence: (Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, 38501) -Last Benefit: (none specified) – SSN: 412-76-8806, TN)

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 460, #1829: I. G. Rodgers married 15 September 1918, Putnam Co., TN to Miss L. B. Smith).

Funeral services for Isham G. Rodgers, 65, a former circuit court clerk of Putnam county, were held Saturday at First Baptist church, here.

The Rev. Harold Stephens, the Rev. Charles Langford and the Rev. C. D. Sallee officiated. Burial was in Cookeville city cemetery. Hooper and Huddleston funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Rodgers, died last Wednesday from gunshot wounds. He was in a building near his home when a gun reportedly discharged accidentally.

A farmer in the Poplar Grove community, he was also pastor of the Rocky Point Baptist church. He also worked as a deputy in the circuit court clerk's office.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Lola Smith Rodgers, two daughters, Mrs. Carson Stanton, Donelson, and Mrs. William R., Hersch, Jr., Bethlehem, PA; three brothers, Haywood, Burris and Carmon Rodgers, all of Putnam county; two sisters, Mrs. Seburn McBroom, Putnam county, and Mrs. Pearlie Flatt, Detroit, MI; and four grandsons.

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

Wednesday, 26 February 1958

Henry Jones, 88, died Friday February 21 in McFarland Hospital in Lebanon, TN from burns and complications caused by an open fire on February 14 at his home.

Funeral services were held Sunday February 23 in Baxter at the Presbyterian Church with Rev. James Bass officiating. Burial was in the family cemetery.

He was a retired farmer and had spent his entire life in Buffalo Valley and was a son of Wade and Rebecca Bartlett Jones. He was married to the late Vada Jones.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Charles (Wilma) Niles of Ypsilanti, MI; 2 sons, Howard Jones and Clarion Jones of Ypsilanti, MI; 2 sisters, Mrs. M. A. Steele and Mrs. Knox Newman of Buffalo Valley, TN; 5 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

**Estel Ramsey**

b. 15 July 1911, Jackson Co., TN – d. 22 March 1958, Sparta, White Co., TN, md **Loretta (Stafford) Ramsey**, b. 9 April 1912, Jackson Co., TN – d. 30 July 1988, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **Pank Pink McCarver Stafford** (1890-1962) & **Helen Sara Alice Nancy Jane Keith** (1893-1977). Estel Ramsey, s/o **Randolph D. Ramsey** (1871-1935) & **Sophia Elizabeth "Betty" Loftis** (1874-1944).

\*See Randolph D. "Randy" Ramsey buried in Hensley Cemetery.

When Estel B. Ramsey was born on July 15, 1911, in Jackson, Tennessee, his father, Robert, was 39 and his mother, Sophia, was 36. He had two sons and two daughters with Loretta Stafford. He died on March 22, 1958, in Tennessee at the age of 46.

US Death Records (1908-1965)

**Name:** Estel Ramsey  
**Gender:** Male  
**Race:** White  
**Age:** 46  
**Birth Date:** 15 Jul 1911  
**Birth Place:** USA  
**Death Date:** 22 Mar 1958  
**Death Place:** Sparta, White, Tennessee, USA  
**Cause of Death:** Gun shot self inflicted in left chest at home.  
**Name of Cemetery:** Hensley Cemetery, Jackson Co., TN  
**Father:** Randy Ramsey

**Mother:** Sophia Loftis  
**Certificate Number:** 58-08930

US WWII Draft Cards Young Men (1940-1947)

**Name:** Estell Ramsey  
**Gender:** Male  
**Race:** White  
**Age:** 29  
**Birth Date:** 1 Mar 1911  
**Birth Place:** Jackson, County, Tennessee  
**Residence Place:** Gainesboro, Jackson, Tennessee  
**Registration Date:** 16 Oct 1940  
**Registration Place:** Gainesboro, Jackson, Tennessee  
**Employer:** Self  
**Height:** 6ft.  
**Weight:** 150lb.  
**Complexion:** Light Brown  
**Hair Color:** Brown  
**Eye Color:** Blue  
**Next of Kin:** Mrs. Louttie Ramsey

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

30 April 1958

John Robert "Bob" Horn Obt.

b. 18 March 1884, Calfkiller, Putnam Co., TN – d. 22 April 1958, Putnam Co., TN, md **Effie (unknown) Horn**, b. 1 December 1887 – d. 30 August 1974. John Robert "Bob" Horn, s/o **John Robert Horn** (1844-1907) & **Leah Roberson** (1854-1913).

Funeral services for John Robert Horn, 74, were held Thursday at 2 p.m. at Whitson funeral home.

The Rev. Jim Roberson, the Rev. Lee Lacy and the Rev. Carson Whittaker officiated. Burial was in Judd cemetery.

Sheriff Sam Denton Poteet said that he was called to the home on East Stevens street Tuesday morning when he discovered Mr. Horn with two bullet wounds and a pistol in his hand. No inquest was held the sheriff said.

A retired farmer, the sheriff said that Mr. Horn has been in ill health.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Effie Lee Horn; two sons, William and Alva Horn, both of Dayton; four daughters, Mrs. Myrtie Ann Bilbrey, Monterey, Mrs. Aline Farley, Route 5, Cookeville, Mrs. Ruby McArthur, Colmar, PA, and Mrs. Sue Burgess, Dayton.

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

14 May 1958

Grover Fuson Carter, 70, a nursery products salesman from Silver Point, was found fatally wounded near Elizabethtown, NC, Sunday.

A report from Elizabethtown said that he was partially out of his truck when found and that he had suffered fracture of the neck. A coroners jury at Elizabethtown ruled that his death was accidental and that no foul play was involved.

Funeral services were held yesterday at the Silver Point church of Christ with Edward Anderson officiating. Burial was in the Mount Holley cemetery in DeKalb County. Whitson funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Mary Alice Johnson Carter; four daughters, Mrs. Joe Anderson and Mrs. Ollie Hall of Silver Point, Mrs. Fred Medley of Center Line, MI, Mrs. Phil Matthews of Fort Worth, TX; two brothers, John Carter of McMinnville and William A. Carter of Silver Point; a sister, Mrs. John Carter of Algood and 7 grandchildren.

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

4 June 1958

**SHOT-GUN BLAST INJURES WOMAN:**

Mrs. Wilma McDaniel Stamps, 23 is in Cookeville General hospital in a critical condition from wounds received when she was struck by two shot gun blasts fired through a window of her parents' home near here last night.

In custody is her husband, James Edsell Stamps, 28, who is charred with felonious assault with a shot gun with intent to commit murder.

The shooting happened at 9:30 lat night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey McDaniel on the Buck Mountain road about a mile east of Cookeville, sheriff Sam D. Poteet said.

The sheriff said that Stamps gave himself up this morning but denied any connection with the shooting. The sheriff took Stamps to Nashville this morning to take the lie detector test.

Sheriff Poteet said that the shooting followed an altercation between Mr. and Mrs. Stamps yesterday morning.

"I was called to the home yesterday morning but Stamps had left when I arrived," the sheriff advised. "He left word that we were not to come after him because he would kill whoever attempted to take him," the sheriff said.

The shots were fired from a 20 gauge shot gun through a side window and struck Mrs. Stamps who was lying on a couch in the living room, Sheriff Poteet reported. Part of the shots lodged in a chair which was near the window. Mrs. Stamps was struck in the chest and arm.

The sheriff reported that members of the family said that "Stamps told them Tuesday that he was going to kill Wilma and then himself."

Officers spent the night searching for the husband. However, he voluntarily came to the jail this morning. The sheriff quoted him as denying the crime and explained that he had been fishing all night. Poteet said that he kept his 20 gauge shot gun with him while fishing on the Falling Water river last night. Officers confiscated the gun.

**BROKEN MAIN SAID FOUND AT BLAST SITE**

By Bill Flatt, Tennessean State Correspondent

The Tennessean, Nashville, TN: 12 June 1969

Comer William Nabors and his daughter died in a fire at Spring Street Super Market in Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN. (6 June 1969).

**Comer William Nabors** (1918-1969) md on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1936, Putnam Co., TN to **Ida E. (Emery) Nabors** (1915-1998). They had a daughter named **Wilma Ruth Nabors** (1914-1969), who died at the fire along with her father at Spring Street Super Market. All buried in Carter Cemetery, White Co., TN.

**COOKEVILLE** – A private investigation says a broken gas main, separated by more than 28 inches, was found at the rear of a three-business complex in which two people were killed last Friday by fire and explosions.

Paul White, a Pennsylvania consulting field engineer, employed by **Bonnell Nabors, owner of a supermarket** destroyed in the fire-blasts, said he made the discovery.

THE BROKEN gas main was found at a depth of five feet and at an estimated 60 feet from where repairs were made last Thursday afternoon on an eruption of a gas main caused by excavation equipment operating on property adjoining the complex.

A claims representative for one of the city of Cookeville's insurance carriers was present during the investigation.

William Magness, Nashville, counsel for National Mutual Casualty Insurance Co., the city's carrier, said the firm is awaiting the report of Stratton Hammond, Louisville fire and explosion expert, before making any statements. Hammond has already partly completed the investigation in behalf of the insurance firm.

THE FIRE also destroyed a doctor's office and a barbershop.

**Victims in the blast were Comer Nabors, 51, brother of the supermarket owner, and the victim's daughter, Miss Wilma Nabors, 26.**

John Poteet, Cookeville, of the law firm Poteet and Snow, representing Nabors, the market owner, said, "We are exploring" the theory of responsibility involved in the cause of the explosions and fires.

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

8 October 1958

**WOMAN BOUND TO GRAND JURY ON SHOOTING CHARGE:**

Mrs. Etta Warren, 56, of Monterey was bound over to the grand jury on a charge of first degree murder at a preliminary hearing here Saturday.

Charges against Mrs. Warren grew out of the shooting last Monday in Monterey of her estranged husband, Bob Warren, 62, who died Wednesday in Monterey hospital.

Married in 1951, the couple had been separated since June.

The prosecution handled by Assistant Attorney General Scott Camp, E. A. Langford and Elmer D. Langford, presented two witnesses for the state. They were Thurman Warren, former Overton county sheriff and brother of the victim, and N. K. Matthews chief of police in Monterey.

Matthews testified that he went to Mrs. Warren's home immediately after receiving a report that the shooting has taken place. "Bob Warren was sitting on the bed when I arrived and had been shot in the right side of the face," he said.

Matthews quoted Warren as saying that "she sent for me to come over here and shot me."

The chief said that the shooting took place in the kitchen of the home and that he found a shot gun under the davenport in the living room.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN:**

30 October 1958

**MOTORMAN IS KILLED IN MINE MISHAP:**

A Monterey mine motor man was killed instantly Tuesday in an accident at the Clinchfield mine at Monterey.

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon from the Monterey church of Christ. Goff Funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

James Testament, 35, had worked off and on for the company for the past four years.

Testament reportedly was killed when a coupling broke on one of the cars of an underground locomotive. The six loaded coal cars which were released by the broken coupling went down the grade and hit the locomotive of Testament. He was sitting on the ramp of the locomotive when the cars struck and the impact of the collision hurtled him against the loading elevator. He died instantly.

Survivors include the widow Betty and three children.

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

25 July 1961

Body Found In Center Hill Lake: (Lewis "Junior" Margeson Jr., b. 12 July 1931, Walling, White Co., TN – d. 25 July 1961, TN, s/o Lewis Margeson Sr. (1901-1976) & Emma Louise Wheeler).

Lewis Margeson Jr., Walling, Rt. 1, was found drowned in Center Hill Lake between Three Island and Webb Camp Boatdock at 8 a.m. today by his brother-in-law, Watt Usrey according to White County Officers.

Margeson was last seen Sunday afternoon. Officers said he planned to swim across the lake to Usrey's home and fell in. The 30-year-old man was found floating in the water with his shoes on.

His wallet and cigarettes were found under a plank close to the lake. Margeson's body is at Hunter Funeral Home in Sparta.

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

25 July 1961

Former City Man's Body Found In River: (**Robert Ray Huff**, b. 6 October 1900 – d. 18 July 1961, TN, md on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1922, Putnam Co., TN to **Eliza Lassie (Bockman) Huff**, b. 20 February 1906 – d. 2 July 1995. Robert Ray Huff, s/o **Nathan & Martha Huff**).

The body of a former Cookeville man, Robert Ray Huff, who was 60 years old, moved from Cookeville to Nashville a few months ago. He was a retired farmer.

Huff disappeared from his home, 1620 Holly Street in Nashville, Monday night. Davidson County's medical examiner said that Huff died July 17. The body was found near Bordeaux by fishermen.

Funeral services were held Monday, at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home, with Frank Vaughn, minister of Whitson chapel Church of Christ officiating. Burial was in City Cemetery.

Huff's parents were the late Nathan and Martha Huff.

Huff is survived by: his widow, Mrs. Lassie Bockman Huff, of Nashville; one daughter, Virginia Huff and one son, Gerald Huff, both of Nashville; one sister, Mrs. Annie Johnson, Gainesboro; three brothers, Henry Huff and Willie Huff of California, and Charley Huff of Chestnut Mound.

**The Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

25 July 1961

**Thomas Payton Pharris Obt.**

b. 4 January 1936 – d. 23 July 1961, White Co., TN, (Tennessee A3C 463 Supply Sq AF), s/o **Thomas Moore Pharris** (1901-1988) & **Louella Phillips** (1904-1997).

Funeral services for Thomas Payton Pharris, 25, of Algood, Route 2 will be held Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. at the Free Will Baptist Church, Brotherton, with burial in the Brotherton Cemetery. Rev. Earl Williams and Rev. J. T. Smith will officiate.

**Pharris was found hanging in a cell in the White County jail at 4 p.m. Sunday.** He had been booked by the Sparta Police Department on a driving while intoxicated charge, according to Mrs. J. F. Cummings, wife of White County's sheriff.

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moore Pharris of Algood, Rt. 2, Cookeville; Mrs. Ezell Carr, Detroit; three others, Joe G. Pharris, Ft. Benning, GA, James Pharris, Cookeville, Garner Pharris of Detroit.

Whitson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

**Jackson Co., TN Newspaper**

13 April 1977

Funeral services for Mr. Charles Richard Stewart, 26, were conducted from the Chapel of Anderson Funeral Home. Monday April 11 at 2 p.m. with Bro. James Paul officiating.

Burial was in John L. Clark Cemetery.

Mr. Stewart drown, April 9 in Cordell Hull Lake. He was a construction worker and a native of Jackson County. He was the son of late Leonard Stewart and Mrs. Annie Stafford Stewart of Whitleyville.

Survivors include his grandmother, Mrs. Annie Stewart, Whitleyville, TN; his wife, Mrs. Charlene Massey Stewart, Gordonsville; three sons, Scott Stewart, Carthage; David and Jeff Stewart, Gordonsville; one daughter, Mary Elizabeth Stewart, Gordonsville; two brothers, Walter Stewart, Gordonsville; Alfred Stewart, Riddleton, TN; one sister, Mrs. Carolyn Harris, Gordonsville.

Anderson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

17 March 1991

TREE-CUTTING MISHAP FATAL TO BAXTER MAN: By Mary Jo Denton.

A Baxter man was killed in a tree-cutting accident Friday afternoon, law officers said.

Douglas Ray Pulley, 64, of Route 1, Baxter, was found dead, apparently crushed by a large tree limb from a tree he had cut down, on Friday afternoon on his property in the Cedar hill area, said Putnam Sheriff's Deputy Neil Blythe, who investigated.

Pulley's body was found about 3 p.m. Friday by Donald Jones, a neighbor who had gone to the Pulley property to show Pulley a piece of farm equipment, Blythe said.

Pulley had apparently been dead there in the woods cutting trees with a chainsaw, cutting for firewood, I guess,” Blythe said.

“He had sawed down this big old, 80 foot high tree, cutting it at about four feet above the ground, and it looked like maybe he had stepped back to let the tree fall.

“And a big old limb on the tree – about 55 feet up – scraped another tree as the big tree fell. The limb broke off and fell and hit Mr. Pulley square in the top of his head and he died instantly,” Blythe said.

The limb itself was 11 ½ inches in diameter, and the whole tree was “four or five feet around,” Deputy Blythe said.

Donald Jones had come over to Pulley’s place about 3 p.m. to see him and went on back to the woods when he heard the sound of Pulley’s chainsaw, Blythe said.

“And he went back there and found Mr. Pulley flat on the ground on his back with the chainsaw on the ground by him, the saw still running and the big tree limb across his chest and face,” Blythe said.

Another neighbor, Nelson Bruce, recalled hearing the tree fall about 1 ½ hours before Pulley was found, the deputy said.

An obituary for Mr. Pulley is being published on page 12 of today’s Herald-Citizen.

#### **Douglas Ray Pulley Obt.**

Funeral services for Douglas Ray Pulley, 64, of Rt. 1, Baxter, were conducted from the chapel of Baxter Funeral Home, Monday, March 18, with Bro. Ernest Cashdollar officiating. Burial was in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Pulley was dead on arrival at Cookeville General Hospital on Friday, March 15. A native of Trousdale County, he was born September 1, 1926, to the late Elbert and Mirtie Lee Pulley.

Survivors include his wife, A. V. Manier Pulley of Baxter, one son, Larry Pulley of Nashville and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Jolene Pulley Jones.

Active pallbearers were nephews, Tommy and James Manier, Bruce, Wayne and Billy Lewis and Scott Pulley. Honorary pallbearers were friends, Charlie Apple, Delbert Elrod, Danny Finn, Marco Stanley, Houston Austin, Nelson Bruce and Carl Mills.

Baxter Funeral Home was in charge.

#### **David Hancock Jr. “Pee Wee” Obt.**

DAVID HANCOCK JR., DROWNING VICTIM, SERVICES TUESDAY.

**BUFFALO VALLEY** – Funeral services for David Hancock, Jr., 28, of Buffalo Valley will be Tuesday, July 6, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of the Baxter Funeral Home. Burial will be in Smellage Memory Gardens.

Mr. Hancock was dead on arrival July 2, 1993, at Jackson County Hospital. He reportedly drowned near the Granville Marina on the Cumberland River in Jackson County.

Born July 23, 1964, in Putnam County, Mr. Hancock, better known as “Pee Wee,” worked for Hamlet Construction Co. and was a member of the Emmanuel Church of Christ.

His family includes his parents, David Hancock; one son, Steven Allen Hancock of Gordonsville; and grandmothers, Oda Frances Sutton of Buffalo Valley and Mattie Fields of Carthage.

Pallbearers will be Buddy Hancock and Charles Hancock; Terry Autrey, Jackie Whitehead and Mark Anthony Sutton.

The family will receive visitors after 6 p.m. today at the Baxter Funeral Home.

Sister Juanita Hunt will officiate at the services.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 4 July 1993.

### **Charles Edward Gentry Jr. Obt.**

#### ACCIDENT FATAL TO BAXTER MAN:

A Baxter man was fatally injured in a farm machinery accident on Saturday afternoon.

Charlie Edward Gentry Jr., 39, of Mine Lick Creek Road, Baxter, was dead on arrival at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga on Saturday.

He had been working on the Charles Robinson farm on Lilly's Chapel Road when a hay baling machine he and others were using became clogged, sources said.

Gentry was attempting to fix the machine and became caught in it. He suffered a head injury.

He was taken to Cookeville General Hospital by the Putnam Ambulance Service and was then airlifted to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga.

The accident happened about 1 p.m. Saturday.

Mr. Gentry was a rural mail carrier and served as secretary-treasurer of the Putnam Rural Carriers Association.

An obituary for Mr. Gentry is being published elsewhere in today's Herald-Citizen.

**BAXTER** – Funeral services for Charlie Edward Gentry Jr., 39, of Baxter will be held today, September 12, at 3:30 p.m. in Lilly Chapel Freewill Baptist Church. Burial will be in Maxwell Cemetery.

Mr. Gentry was dead on arrival at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga Saturday, September 10, 1994.

Born September 7, 1955, in Putnam County, he was the son of Charlie and Edna Francis Lee Gentry of Baxter.

Mr. Gentry attended Freewill Baptist Church. He was a rural mail carrier and served as the secretary-treasurer of the Putnam County Rural Carriers Association.

In addition to his parents, his family includes his wife, Sue Gilpatrick Gentry of Baxter; two sisters, Sharon Savage of Pulaski and Cynthia Edmonds of Baxter; one stepson, Michael Gilpatrick of Cookeville; one stepdaughter and stepson-in-law, Carson and Louise Eldridge of Ricman; nieces and nephews, John and Victoria Edmonds and Carrie Lee and Hannah Grace Savage; and one granddaughter, Whitney Mayberry.

Pallbearers will be Kenny Ramsey, Dan Huddleston, Dewey and Marvin Moss, Milton Ashburn, Eddie Watts and David Medley.

Honorary pallbearers will be Gilbert Maxwell, Kelley Roberts, Pam Lewis, Joanne Deckerd, Wanda Rodriguez, Jodi Fox, Jean Jones, Rucy Flatt, and all other Putnam County rural mail carriers.

Bros. Joe Roysden and Comer McGuire will officiate at the services.

**The Dispatch, Cookeville, TN**

Monday, 12 February 1979

**BUFFALO VALLEY MAN SHOT TO DEATH BY WIFE:**

A Buffalo Valley man was shot to death Saturday evening and his wife has reportedly admitted to slaying him because he was beating their small children.

According to Putnam County Sheriff Jerry Abston, Richard Tucker, 31 was shot one time "waist high" in the right side by a 30-30 rifle. Sheriff Abston said Tucker's wife Barbara was brought into the Putnam County Jail for questioning but was released after she had made a statement, Sheriff Abston said he did not wish to disclose her statement at this time, but that no charges had been filed, pending an autopsy.

The sheriff said a decision on whether to charge Mrs. Tucker in the slaying will be made after he confers with Assistant District Attorney Laken Mitchell later today.

According to Abston, Mrs. Tucker went to a neighbor's house after the shooting and had the neighbor call the sheriff's office and reported the shooting. The lawmen arrived at the family's home, located in the Happy Hollow area of Buffalo Valley some 20 miles west of Cookeville, at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Abston said Tucker was apparently dead when they arrived, but was not officially declared dead until the body was taken to Cookeville General Hospital, although Deputy Sheriff Willard Burgess, an assistant coroner, accompanied him on the investigation.

**Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN**

Wednesday, 30 March 2005, front page

**DEKALB MURDER VICTIMS HAD  
STRONG TIES TO COOKEVILLE**

By Mary Jo Denton

Alleged killer well known around Putnam's Silver Point area.

The victims of yesterday's murder-suicide in DeKalb County had many connections to Cookeville, and the alleged killer was well known in the Silver Point community.

The murders took place on Aunt Helen Road just inside DeKalb County around 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Authorities said **Roy Whitehead**, 54, who was probably upset over his recent conviction for vandalism of his neighbor's fence, **shot and killed his neighbors, Richard Parker**, 36, while their seven-year-old daughter, Madison was present.

Whitehead then drove to a picnic area at Center Hill Lake and killed himself.

The little girl who was a student at Northeast Elementary School in Cookeville, told DeKalb County sheriff Lloyd Emmons she had seen Roy Whitehead come into her house with a gun.

"She said she had just woke up and her mother was in the bathroom drying her hair when she saw Roy Whitehead come into the house with a gun," Sheriff Lloyd Emmons told the Herald-Citizen.

"She ran outside then to check on her daddy and found him lying beside his truck. He had been shot, probably twice in the torso," the sheriff said.

“Then she saw Roy Whitehead come out of the house, and they locked eyes and she said he gave her a hard look and walked on. She later told me, ‘I don’t know why he didn’t shoot me.’

“After he left, she went back inside and found her mother lying on the bedroom floor. She had been shot too, and the little girl asked her, ‘Mommy, should I call 9-1-1?’

“She said her mother just kind of moaned. Then, the little girl called 9-1-1 and told dispatchers her parents had been shot and that Roy did it.

“After that she got into what she calls her safe place – a corner between the bed and the wall in her parents’ room – and waited.”

When Sheriff Emmons and others arrived, they found the parents dead and the little girl waiting. Emmons said. Both the Parkers had been shot twice at close range, he said.

“She’s a remarkable little girl, very brave,” the sheriff said. “I sat with her in the living room and we talked and talked. She cried, but she was able to give a full statement.”

Roy Whitehead, who had been in a dispute with the Parkers for some time over the boundary line between the properties, had used a shotgun to kill the Parkers.

A short time later, someone at the Center Hill picnic area came across Whitehead’s body there and phoned 9-1-1 to report that.

Investigators later pieced together what had happened.

They said Whitehead, who was to have been sentenced next week for vandalizing Parker’s fence last year, apparently decided yesterday to kill his neighbors and then kill himself.

Richard Parker was the owner of a successful construction company. Express Contractors, and reportedly had provided services in various projects here in Cookeville. His wife Laurie worked at the medical offices of Dr. Steve Flatt here in Cookeville.

The had lived next door to Roy Whitehead for a time, and had erected a fence between their property and his a few years ago, according to Assistant District Attorney Bill Locke, who recently prosecuted Whitehead for vandalism of that fence.

“There had been an old fence there, and they replaced it with a nicer fence about three years ago and believed they had his approval for putting up the new fence,” Locke said.

In March of last year, however, Whitehead “took a hammer to that fence,” causing damage of more than \$500, and Parker filed a charge against Whitehead.

Charged with vandalism over \$500, Whitehead was tried in Criminal Court last month, Locke said.

At the one-day trial, Whitehead said the fence was on his property.

But the jury convicted him of vandalism, and he was coming up for sentencing on that conviction next Monday.

While he could have been sentenced to as much as two years in jail, the more likely sentence would have been some form of probation and an order to pay restitution, officials said.

The vandalism trial took place in Criminal Court in DeKalb County on February 15.

“I am deeply saddened by this tragic event. My heartfelt sympathy is forwarded to the Parker and Whitehead families. The official report of the defendant’s background and history filed the Court provide no indicators or predictors of this tragedy.”

Sheriff Emmons said the Parker child is now with her maternal grandmother, who lives in the area. He said many other relatives are also now with her.

The bodies have been sent to Nashville for an autopsies, the sheriff said.

As for Roy Whitehead the sheriff said, “I’ve heard him described by some as a nice fellow and by others as something I would call the neighborhood grouch.”

“We’d had calls out there before over such things as some teenagers out walking who got onto his property and he cursed them and scared them. Or he would call and report somebody had been on his property.

But no incident in the past had ever given a hint of the extreme violence that occurred there yesterday the sheriff said.

**Laurie Jean (Morando) Parker Obt.**

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for Laurie Jean Parker, 36, of Silver Point, will be held at 10 a.m. on Fri., April 1, at First United Methodist Church in Cookeville. Burial will be in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-9 p.m. today, Thurs., March 31, at Whitson Funeral Home.

**Mrs. Parker died on Tues., March 29, 2005, (along with her husband, Richard Drew Parker) at their home in Silver Point.**

She was born on Aug. 9, 1968, in Malden, Mass., to Dominick and Arlene Davis Morando, both of Silver Point.

Mrs. Parker was office manager at Upper Cumberland Physicians Dr. Steven Flatt. She was a Girl Scout leader and attended First United Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents, her family includes a daughter, Madison Parker of Silver Point; two brothers, Salvatore Dominick Morando Jr. of Saughs, Mass., and Christopher Morando of Boynton Beach, Fla.; and a sister, Vicki Ann Howe of Melbourne, Fla.

The Rev. Jon Bell will officiate at the joint services for Richard and Laurie Parker.

Published March 31, 2005 10:17 AM CST: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

**Richard Drew Parker Obt.**

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for Richard Drew Parker, 45, of Silver Point, will be held at 10 a.m. on Fri., April 1, at First United Methodist Church in Cookeville. Burial will be in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-9 p.m. today, Thurs., March 31, at Whitson Funeral Home in Cookeville.

**Mr. Parker died on Tues., March 29, 2005, (along with his wife, Laurie Jean Parker) at their home in Silver Point.**

He was born on Jan. 1, 1960, in Decatur, Ala., to Richard E. and Hazel E. Everett Parker of Hot Springs, Ark.

He was owner of Express General Contractors and a member of the Baptist Faith.

In addition to his parents, his family includes two daughters, Madison Parker of Silver Point, and Melissa Parker of St. Louis, Mo.; two sisters, Donna Parker of New Orleans, La., and Judy Parker of Memphis; and a grandchild, Elijah Parker.

The Rev. Jon Bell will officiate at the joint services for Richard and Laurie Parker.

Published March 31, 2005 10:17 AM CST: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

**Roy Steven Whitehead Obt.**

**COOKEVILLE** – Roy Steven Whitehead, 55, of Silver Point, **died Tuesday, March 29, 2005 in DeKalb County.** The family has chosen cremation and no services are planned.

He was born Aug. 27, 1949, in Putnam County to the late Sam Morgan and Stella Melton Whitehead.

Mr. Whitehead was a crane operator in the construction industry and was an Army Veteran of the Vietnam War.

His family includes two sisters, Betty F. Warren of Hickman and Evelyn Glover of Algood; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by twin brothers, Robert Lee and Samuel Wayne Whitehead

Cookeville Chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN**  
Friday, 17 April 2009

**WOMAN KILLED ON 4-WHEELER**

Mary Jo Denton  
Herald-Citizen Staff

**PUTNAM COUNTY** -- A woman who was riding her new 4-wheeler was fatally injured when the vehicle flipped in her driveway on Thursday afternoon, law officers said.

Anna Phillips, 38, of Bunker Hill Road, Cookeville, died at Cookeville Regional Hospital following the crash, says a report by Putnam Sheriff's Deputy Cpl. Chuck Ledbetter.

Ledbetter said he and Deputy Bo Sherrell were sent to the Bunker Hill Road residence after a report came in just before 6 p.m. about a 4-wheeler accident there.

"We were told that Emergency Medical Services was enroute, and on my arrival, the paramedics were there preparing to load the victim, Anna Phillips, into the ambulance," Ledbetter's report says.

"Mrs. Phillips was alert and told the paramedics she could not breathe."

The deputy talked to the victim's husband, Jackie Phillips, and learned that the couple had just bought their 4-wheelers.

"He said they were riding them in the ditchline and said Mrs. Phillips was turning into the front yard and instead of hitting the brakes, she hit the gas.

"He said she was about to hit a car in the driveway and she turned sharply."

The vehicle then flipped over and Mrs. Phillips and the 4-wheeler hit the car, the deputy's report says.

A helicopter ambulance was called in to take the victim to a hospital in another city, but apparently, due to the severity of the victim's injuries, reportedly chest injuries, the decision was made to rush her to the hospital here.

"We later learned that Mrs. Phillips had died," Ledbetter's report says.

**Anna Marie (Kennedy) Phillips Obt.**

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for Anna M. Phillips, 38, of Cookeville, will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, from the chapel of Cookeville Funeral Home. Burial will be in West Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5-9 p.m. today, Friday, April 17, and from 8:30 a.m. on Saturday at the funeral home.

Mrs. Phillips died Thursday, April 16, 2009, in Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

She was born Sept. 13, 1970, in Kettering, Ohio, to Connie Kennedy and Judy Greene.

Mrs. Phillips was a homemaker and a member of O'Connor Church of Christ. She loved to fish, play her guitar and sing.

In addition to her parents, her family includes her husband, Jackie Phillips of Cookeville; a sister and brother-in-law, Rebecca and Jack White of Sparta; four daughters, Nikita Kennedy and Chelsie Phillips, both of Cookeville, and Sydney and McKenzie Howard, both of Baxter; two nephews, Daniel Whitson and A.J. White; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Lennie and J.L. Phillips of Cookeville; her stepfather, Richard Greene; and her stepmother, Willene Roberson Kennedy.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Delores Grant, and a nephew, William Glass.

Pallbearers will be family and friends.

Bro. Doyle will officiate at the services.

Condolences to the family may be sent to [www.cookevillefuneralhome.com](http://www.cookevillefuneralhome.com).

Friday, Apr 17, 2009: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

**Justin David Brown Obt.**

Funeral services for Justin Brown, 20, of Cookeville, will be held at 4 p.m. on Tues., August 16, at Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in West Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5-8 today, Monday, August 15, from the Cookeville chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home; and from 3 p.m. until time of services on Tuesday at the church.

Mr. Brown died Sun., Aug. 14, 2005, from injuries sustained in four-wheeler accident during the final race at the Putnam County Fair.

He was born June 29, 1985, in Cookeville to David A. Brown and Dianne Joyce Brown, both of Cookeville.

He was a 2003 graduate of Cookeville High School and worked with his father at Brown's Heating and Cooling. Justin was a member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He was an avid four wheeler rider and participated in numerous motorcross racing events. In previous years, he was third in the nation in his age category. Justin was registered with the Tennessee Donor Services.

In addition to her parents, his family includes his stepmother, Angela Eakin Brown of Cookeville; a brother, Tyler Brown of Cookeville; a sister, Madison Brown of Cookeville; maternal grandmother Sarah Mann Joyce of Cookeville; paternal grandparents Hayden and Jean Flatt Brown of Cookeville; and girlfriend Kristie Scott of Cookeville.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, John A. "Jack" Joyce, who died Dec. 17, 2001.

Honorary pallbearers will be his friends in motorcross racing.

Memorial donations may be made to Cumberland Presbyterian Church Building Fund.

Dr. Charles McCaskey and Rev. Michael Clark will officiate the services.

### **Tena Rose (Randolph) Craighead**

b. 7 March 1961 – d. 15 February 1979, TN, md to **Richard Craighead**. Tene Rose (Randolph) Craighead, d/o **Glen Randolph**. Tena is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Mother of Chad

'The Lord Gave and the Lord Hath Taken Aways Blessed Be the Name of the Lord'

**Source:** Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 16 February 1979

A young Cookeville woman, working her 2 to 10 p.m. shift at the Tech Self Service gas station on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Willow here last night, was apparently robbed, abducted and later murdered in Smith County.



The body of Tena Rose Randolph Craighead, 17, was found about 9 p.m. last night on the side of the road just off the Highway 141 exit ramp from Interstate 40 in Smith County, near New Middleton, about 30 miles west of Cookeville.

A Gordonsville man, Eddie Fitzpatrick, was driving by and saw the body and summoned authorities to the site of the "badly torn up body," Smith County Sheriff Sidney Harper said.

Cookeville police began their investigation when a woman customer bought gas at the service station here between 7 and 7:30 p.m. last night and found no one in the glass booth where the clerk normally sits and where a color picture of Mrs. Craighead's 15-month-old son is taped to the glass widow.

The customer called police who summoned station manager David Howard, and it was discovered that \$400 was missing from the station cash register.

Sheriff Harper said today that Mrs. Craighead “may have died two or three different ways” and that all authorities are working on “a kidnap, robbery, murder theory.”

“The body was in pretty bad shape. Whoever did it may have stangled her and then threw her out and ran over here, or they may have just thrown her out and ran over her,” Harper said.

The body was at Cookeville General Hospital for an autopsy this morning.

Sheriff Harper said information released late last night and early this morning concerning suspects described as “two men in a brown van” had been a theory the Cookeville police had late last night, apparently from someone who had seen such a van at the service station around the time of the abduction.

But Cookeville Police Commissioner Larry O’Rear refused to “confirm or deny” that information this morning and said only that “we have no suspects at this point.”

Rumors this morning that a van thought to be connected to the case has been found wrecked could not be confirmed by police officials.

“We do want anyone who may have been at the service station between 6:30 and 7:15 p.m. last night or anyone who may have been at a nearby carwash at that time to call the Cookeville police and leave their name and phone number,” O’Rear said.

O’Rear would not comment on the cause of death, saying “that will have to wait until the autopsy is completed.”

“We can say there were no signs of sexual assault,” he said.

According to the Gordonsville man who found the body, “It looked like she may have crawled or been dragged from three to six feet.”

Fitzpatrick said that when he saw the body he thought at first it was a prank and left. But later he became worried and returned to the scene with friends. They called police.

Sheriff Harper said, “They apparently drove west on Interstate 40 after the robbery, turning off on the New Middleton exit. It looks like they beat her and then threw her out of the van they were in. There were tread marks on the body, so we figure they turned around and drove over her after throwing her out on the road.

“It’s the most brutal thing I’ve seen in the course of my law enforcement career,” the sheriff said.

Mrs. Craighead, the wife of Richard Craighead and the daughter of Glen Randolph, lived with her husband and son at 111 Shipley St.

She had come on her shift to work at the service station at 2 p.m., station manager David Howard said. No guns are kept at the station, he said, and there were no signs of violence at the station.

Mrs. Craighead would have been 18 next month.

**Source:** Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 24 October 1979

FBI agents in Portland, Ore., have arrested a short-order cook from Cookeville, Joe Buck. He's charged with the Feb. 15 murder here of a young mother, Tena Rose Craighead, who was abducted from the Tech Self-service Station where she worked on Willow Avenue and who was later found dead in Smith County. Four hundred dollars was taken from the service station cash drawer.

**Source:** Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 16 January 16, 1981

Former shortorder cook Joe Buck has been sentenced to death by a Smith County jury for the February 1979 kidnapping, rape and murder of Cookeville service station clerk and young mother Tena Rose Craighead. The FBI arrested Buck in Portland, Oregon, where he confessed to robbing the service station where Mrs. Craighead worked. Buck confessed to kidnapping, raping and killing her and leaving her body on the side of a rural road in Smith County. During his trial this week, he said the confession was coerced. The trial took two weeks to unfold. The jury took 29 minutes to convict Buck. They held candles and stood in the rain here last night at TTU.

### **SIMCOX CHARGED IN MINISTER'S MURDER**

**Source:** Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN  
Monday, 22 May 1978

Secretary To Be Chief Witness  
By Bronwyn Turner

A Cookeville secretary will apparently be the state's chief witness against her lover who is charged with murdering her minister when finding them together in a secluded area of a cemetery west of Cookeville about noon Friday.

**Mrs. Constance (Polly) Nichols** of Monterey, has told close friends of the family that she had gone to Judd Cemetery in the Holladay community near Cookeville with **Rev. James C. Hammons**, minister of Mill Creek Baptist Church to talk with him about her wishes to end her relationship with **Orville B. Simcox**, 55, also of Monterey.

But Simcox, a Putnam County political figure and retired Tennessee Central Railroad conductor, had allegedly followed them and there near the Judd Cemetery church he shot Hammons twice in the head as he sat in Mrs. Nichols' car, and he died immediately.

District Attorney General John Roberts confirmed today that a preliminary hearing in the case may be waived by agreement between prosecutors and defense attorney Donald Dickerson and an indictment sought directly from the grand jury.

A June 2 date has been tentatively set for a preliminary hearing Roberts said. In the meantime, the case will go before the grand jury, he indicated.

Hammons, 40, was shot twice in the head, once in the forehead and once in the right temple, according to reports.

His body was found near the church, in a puddle of blood, by ambulance attendants answering an anonymous phone call received at 11:48 a.m. Hammons was declared dead on arrival at Cookeville General Hospital shortly before noon, after a second anonymous phone call was made to the Putnam Ambulance Service.

Authorities investigating the shooting have been reluctant to release details of the events leading to Hammons' death. But sources indicate that Mrs. Nichols was being "counseled" by Rev. Hammons when Simcox allegedly surprised them and shot Hammons to death.

According to one report, Simcox forced Mrs. Nichols to assist in moving Hammons body by car the 150 yards from the cemetery to the church then leaving the body there and attempting to clean up the car.

Simcox was arrested by officers Friday night outside Cookeville General Hospital where he was visiting his wife, a patient there.

Simcox was leader of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel Singing and had performed with Hammons in a revival in a Cookeville church two weeks ago.

Hammons, a resident of Quinland Lake Road, was a member of the Hammons Trio, a popular gospel singing group, and minister of the Mill Creek Baptist, near Cookeville. He also worked as a salesman for Foam and Wood Industries, 621 Maxwell.

Apparently Hammons was contacted by Mrs. Nichols, a member of his church, Friday morning. Mrs. Nichols, about 30, told one source that she was trying to break up a relationship with Simcox, was afraid of him and was seeking counseling from her minister about the situation.

Hammons and Mrs. Nichols reportedly first met at a Cookeville shopping center, then drove in separate cars to the church after having encountered Simcox in the shopping center parking lot.

At the church, Hammons reportedly got in Mrs. Nichols' car and drove with her to the rear of the cemetery to talk with her. Simcox allegedly followed them and at once shot Hammons at close range with a 25-caliber pistol.

Simcox is being held without bond at Putnam jail. He told a newsman at the jail Saturday. "Pray for me."

A former Putnam magistrate Simcox has long been active in Democratic politics here and was a candidate for register of deeds in 1974. He is employed as a salesman for the Vaughn Mounment Works in Cookeville.

Simcox also directs music at Monterey Freewill Baptist Church and is a former president of the Tennessee State Singing Convention.

Funeral services for Hammons were to be held at 2 p.m. today with burial at Crest Lawn memorial Cemetery. Rev. Raymond White and Rev. Charles Randolph were to conduct services at Eastwood Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Cooper) Hammon, a son, Timothy Howard Hammons; two daughters, Melinda Annette and Lisa Elaine, all of Quinland Lake Road, his mother, Mrs. Ella Mae Hammons of Quinland Lake Road and one sister, Mrs. Joyce Geyer of Warren, Michigan.

Hammons was a native of Overton County.

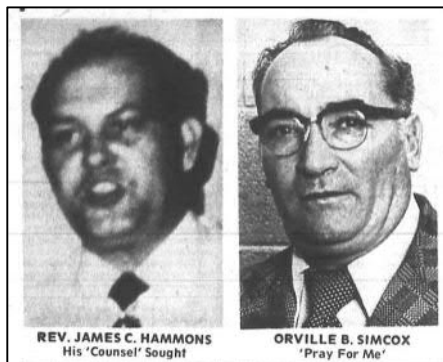
Whitson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### **The Dispatch, Cookeville, TN**

Tuesday, 26 December 1978

#### **TWO MEN SLAIN IN HOLIDAY VIOLENCE:**

Two holiday shootings have left two people dead and one arrested as two Putnam County men were both shot to death, one by four shotgun blasts and the other by a .38 caliber revolver, police and sheriff's officers said.



Mrs. Neldy Margie Stamps was released on 25,000 bond Monday after being charged about 2:30 p.m. yesterday with the first degree murder of her husband, William Talmage Stamps, 53, of Whit Hall Road, according to District Attorney General John Roberts.

"Mr. Stamps had been but earlier in the evening with another couple and came home highly intoxicated," Roberts said. "So intoxicated, I understand that he had to be assisted getting into the house."

The couple the slain man had been with Christmas Eve was not identified. The murder weapon is thought to be a .38 caliber pistol, Roberts said. "They got him in the house and there was some disagreement with his wife," he said. The male of the couple was, we are told, a witness to the shooting." A preliminary hearing is set for January 7.

Mrs. Stamps is a cashier for Kroger Grocery on South Jefferson. She lived with her husband on White Hall Road in the north end of the county.

The first Christmas holiday shooting took place in the early morning hours of Christmas Eve, according to the Cookeville Police Department. The victim was identified as Billy C. Campbell, 31, who according to TBI agent Tom Moore, had a drunkenness record.

Campbell was found in Cookeville City Cemetery about 6:30 a.m. Dec. 24 by someone visiting the cemetery, Cookeville Public Safety Director Larry O'Rear said. The victim had been shot four times with a 12 gauge shotgun, once in the head and three times in the chest, according to O'Rear.

"Somebody was very angry at him or very afraid of him," Moore said. "It was a pretty quick fight." Campbell was found with an unopened pocket knife.

There was nothing to indicate the body had been moved from another location, Moore said. "there was no indication he had been dragged," he said. "It appears the cemetery is where it actually took place.

"We have talked with a couple of drinking companions. We've got a suspect and we talked to him all afternoon (Dec. 24).

There has been no arrest so far, and the suspect's identity was withheld.

**\*Note: William Talmage Stamps**

b. 14 March 1925 – d. 25 December 1978, Putnam Co., TN, md to **Neldy Margie (unknown) Stamps**. William Talmage Stamps, s/o **William Virgil Stamps** (1888-1982) & **Nancy Catherine Jackson** (1892-1981). William Talmage Stamps is buried in the Sand Springs Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Buried next to him is his son **Jeffrey William Stamps**, b. 3 July 1959 – d. 17 September 1973.

Funeral services for Stamps will be at 2 p.m. Thursday from the Chapel of Whitson Funeral Home. Burial will be in Sand Springs Cemetery.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Stamps, of Monterey, his wife Mrs. Neldy M. Stamps, of Cookeville, one daughter, Linda Martin, of Cookeville, three brothers, Berkley of OH, Ed, of Cookeville, Bob, of CA, eight sisters, Mrs. Dollie Milligan, Mrs. Ulla Marie hanery and Mrs. Clarice McCloud, all of Monterey; Mrs. Bernice Conley, of FL; and Mrs. Billy Catherine Moler, Mrs. Zela Mae Milligan, Mrs. Anna Sue Stamper and Violet Stamps, all of OH; and two grandchildren.

**\*Note: Billy Carson Campbell**

b. 1947 – d. 24 December 1978, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN. He is buried in the Rhea Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Funeral services for Billy C. Campbell will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday from the Chapel of Whitson Funeral Home. Burial will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday from the Chapel of Whitson Funeral Home. Burial will be in Rhea Cemetery. The officiating minister will be Brother Gerald Stow.

Survivors include his grandmother, Bessie Campbell; four sons, Jeff, Jerry, Timmy and Virgil; a daughter, Billie Ann Campbell; two sisters, Betty Eldridge and Mrs. Mary Thomas.

**Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN**

Friday, 29 December 1978

**CRIDER CHARGED IN SLAYING**, by Bob McMillan.

Billy C. Campbell and the man charged yesterday with his Christmas Eve shotgun slaying argued over details of an armed robbery the pair planned and, when the fight ended, Campbell lay dead in the city cemetery, police said yesterday.

William E. Crider, 32, of 552 Maxwell Street, Cookeville remains in jail today without bond following his arrest Thursday morning for the first-degree shooting of Campbell, whose body was discovered Sunday morning in the Cookeville City Cemetery.

Crider, a convicted burglar, was placed under arrest at the Cookeville police station after questioning yesterday morning. His preliminary hearing has been set for January 3.

Campbell, 31, was found dead from four shotgun blasts at about 6:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve by an early morning visitor to the cemetery. The slain man was found clutching an unopened pocket knife in one hand and police speculated earlier that he had been shot at close range during an argument.

Crider's arrest, announced during a press conference yesterday, came after Tennessee Bureau of Investigation laboratory technicians in Nashville linked shotgun shells found in the cemetery with a 12-gauge shotgun owned by Crider.

Campbell, an unemployed laborer with a police record of drunkenness, had been shot at close range, twice in the chest, once in the stomach and once in the head. A man living near the cemetery told police he heard at least three shots around midnight.

The arrest of Crider ends a joint investigation by Cookeville Det. Sgt. Larry Evitts, Det. Tom Lynch and TBI agent Tom Moore.

Crider was convicted of third-degree burglary in 1970 and served three years in the state penitentiary.

Cookeville Safety Commissioner Larry O'Rear declined to release further details prior to the preliminary hearing for Crider.

**Jackson Co. Newspaper, TN**

22 August 1979

**Ronald Clay Henson Obt.**

b. 4 December 1960, Jackson Co., TN – d. 19 August 1979, Gainesboro, Jackson Co., TN.

Ronald is buried in the Hurricane Cemetery, Jackson Co., TN.

Mr. Ronald Clay Henson, 18, of Route 12, Cookeville, TN, passed away suddenly Sunday August 19 after drowning at Center Hill Lake.

Funeral services were held for Mr. Henson Tuesday, August 21 at 2 p.m. with Bro. James Paul Anderson officiating from the Chapel of Anderson Funeral Home.

Mr. Henson a native of Jackson County worked for the New Jersey Zinc Co. at Gordonsville, TN.

Ronald, in addition to his parents, is survived by two brothers, Donald Ray Henson, Baxter, James Terry Henson, Rt. 12, one sister, Sherry Darlene Henson, Rt. 12, grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Henson, Gainesboro, and Mr. Roscoe McCloud of Cookeville.

**Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN**

21 September 1979

**WILLIAM CRIDER CHARGED WITH MURDER**, By Mary Jo Denton.

William Crider, charged with first degree murder in the shooting death last Christmas of Billy Campbell of Cookeville pleaded guilty today to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for a sentence of two-to-10 years in prison.

Crider, who appeared in Criminal Court with his attorney, George Henry, will now be transferred to the state prison in Nashville and may be eligible for parole in 18 months, officials said.

Crider, 32, was charged last December 28, and police said then that he and Campbell had apparently argued early on Christmas Day in Cookeville City Cemetery over an armed robbery the two were planning.

Campbell's body was found there Christmas Day. He had been shot four times at close range with a 12-gauge shotgun.

Crider had been convicted of burglary earlier and had served time on that charge.

**Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN:**  
14 November 1979.

**DANNY BOGLE, 6, STUCK BY CAR:**

**LIBERTY, TN** – Funeral services for Danny Ray Bogle, 6, were conducted at Salem Baptist Church on Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. Burial was in Salem Cemetery.

The youth was killed Monday when he reportedly ran into the path of a car in front of his home in Liberty. He died at DeKalb County General Hospital.

Survivors include his father, Danny Ray Bogle Sr., of Liberty; his mother, Mrs. Sherry Pedigo of Smithville; a half brother, Kevin Bogle, and a half sister, Kyla Bogle, both of Liberty; and his grandparents, Lem and Betty Bogle, also of Liberty.

Walker Funeral Home, Liberty Chapel, was in charge of arrangements.

**BATES**  
By Mary Jo Denton:

An Algood man was killed instantly last night when his pick-up truck slammed into a large boulder off the Mirandy Road five miles northeast of Cookeville near the Verble Mountain.

Highway patrol officials said Ercal Bates, 48, of 209 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Algood, apparently lost control of his 1956 Dodge truck on a curve, ran off the road and hit a large limestone boulder in the roadbank.

Bates was alone in the truck.

State Trooper Joe Agee, who investigated, could not be reached today, but Algood officials said the accident may have been caused by "one of the wheels that looked like it fell off a little ways before the accident," as Mayor Jim Brown put it, referring to talk of the wreck by Algood police officers who went to the scene.

Bates was a self-employed auto mechanic.

Funeral arrangements for Bates were incomplete late this morning.

The body is at Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home

Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 16 October 1980

**Chesley R. Bilbrey Obt.**

**ALGOOD** – Funeral services for Chesley R. Bilbrey, 71, were held at the Algood Chapel of Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home Monday, August 6, at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Perry Parker officiating. Burial was in Algood Cemetery.

Mr. Bilbrey died August 4, in a local nursing home following an extended illness.

He was a native of Overton County, the son of the late Andrew J. and Mary Key Bilbrey. He was a retired machinist.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Nina Phillips Bilbrey; a daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Goolsby of Algood; two grandsons.

Active pallbearers were Joe W. Pointer, Tommy Bilbrey, Willie Arms, Bill Huffine, Harley Hicks and Tom Roberson.

Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 6 August 1979.

**Georgia Myrle (Roberson) Bilbrey Obt.**

Funeral services for Mrs. Georgia Myrle Bilbrey, 78, of Cookeville, were conducted at 2 p.m., Friday, July 16, 1999, from the chapel of Cookeville Freewill Baptist Church with Bro. Sterl Paramore and Bro. A. J. Loooper officiating. Burial was in Algood Cemetery with Hooper & Huddleston Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements.

Mrs. Bilbrey, a retired store manager with U.S. 5 & 10 and a secretary with Cookeville Cable TV, died Wednesday, July 14, 1999, at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

Born February 22, 1921, in Overton County, she was the daughter of the late James Harvey and Mary Adkins Roberson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, John Roberson and Douglas Roberson; and a sister, Maude Stover.

She was a member of Cookeville Freewill Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, J.B. Bilbrey, Cookeville; a sister, Pearl Brown, Algood; and a brother, Bill Roberson, Warren, MI.

**Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN:**

24 April 1981.

**WARREN SHERIFF CHOKES TO DEATH:**

**MCMINNVILLE** – Warren County Sheriff Tom Garmon, who served with the Tennessee Highway Patrol in Cookeville for several years, died yesterday after choking on a piece of meat at dinner in his McMinnville home.

Garmon, 53, was dead on arrival at River Park Hospital in McMinnville at 8:45 p.m. Friday.

According to news reports from McMinnville, Garmon's wife, Ann Elizabeth Thomas Garmon, found him unconscious on bed several minutes after he had finished his meal. Garmon had choked during dinner, but had appeared to clear the obstruction from his throat, a family spokesman said.

A doctor at River Park Hospital said he removed a large piece of meat from Garmon's windpipe.

Garmon had served 27 years with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, many of them stationed in Cookeville, and was elected to his first term as sheriff of Warren County in 1978.

Mrs. Garmon is a native of Putnam County.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. in the chapel of McMinnville Funeral Home. Burial will be in Mt. View Cemetery.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Marsha Newman of Memphis, Miss Brenda Garmon of McMinnville and Mrs. Tommie Ann Christian of McMinnville; three sisters, Miss Georgia M. Garmon of McMinnville, Mrs. Evelyn Cummings of McMinnville and Mrs. Mildred Green of McMinnville; and four grandchildren.

**Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN:**  
29 June 1981.

**John Henry Carter**

b. 25 January 1911, Jackson Co., TN – d. 28 June 1981, White Co., TN, md on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 1931 to **Laura Frances (Hughes) Carter**, b. 1911 – d. 28 June 1981, White Co., TN.

An elderly White County couple was found shot to death at their Cherry Creek Road home just over the Putnam County line yesterday, apparently murdered in their bed on Saturday night.

And a 1975 GMC pick-up truck belonging to them and apparently when following the murder was found abandoned at a Cookeville restaurant early this morning.

The bodies of John Henry Carter, 70, a retired farmer, and his wife Laura, 70, were found at their home by a neighbor just after noon yesterday, according to White County Sheriff Joe Cummings. Both had died of gunshot wounds, probably the night before, he said.

The truck, for which police late yesterday issued an "all-points bulletin," was found abandoned early this morning by Cookeville Police Officer Nathan Honeycutt, who was on routine patrol when he spotted the vehicle parked behind the Burger Kin restaurant at 947 South Jefferson Ave. here, Cookeville Police Chief Paul Jackson said.

Sheriff Cummings said the Carters lived alone at their farm, but said their grandson, in his 20's, had lived with them "off and on" and said the young man, whom Sheriff Cummings did not identify by name, had left is area sometime Saturday.

The grandson is in Michigan and called someone here Sunday night and said he had heard about what happened," Sheriff Cummins said.

Investigators arriving at the murder scene about 12:30 yesterday found the body of Carter, clothed in night clothes," lying in the front part of the home near the porch steps. Mrs. Carter's body was found in their bed, Sheriff Cummings said.

Carter's pick-up truck and two guns belonging to him, a 357 Magnum and a shotgun, were missing from the home, but it is unclear yet whether any money or other items had been stolen, Sheriff Cummings said.

Mrs. Carter died of multiple gunshot wounds to the head, and Carter had been shot in the neck, according to Assistant District Attorney John Knowles of Sparta.

Knowles declined to comment on possible motive or other details of the case.

Sheriff Cummings said that the couple “had probably been dead about twelve hours, which would mean they were killed about midnight Saturday.”

The investigators speculate that Carter managed to crawl out of the bed after being shot and made it to the front porch, apparently seeking help.

“They both were probably shot in the bed at the same time,” Asst. DA Knowles said.

Sheriff Cummings said investigators found a gasoline can with five gallons of gas in the living room of the home and said “we think two guns, a 357 Magnum and a shotgun of Mr. Carter’s, are missing, and the truck was missing.”

Two other guns belonging to Carter were found at the home, he said.

The sheriff declined to speculate on why the gasoline can filled with gas was in the house, saying only that “It was right there in the living room – somewhere you don’t normally expect to find a can of gas.”

Although further details of the shooting deaths will not be known until autopsies are preformed, Sheriff Cummings said, “It appears they were shot by a 357 Magnum pistol.”

The truck had been impounded at the Cookeville Police station awaiting investigators who will inspect it, Chief Jackson said.

Asst. DA Knowles, Sheriff Cummings, TBI Agent Jim Moore, and others have worked almost constantly on the case since the bodies were found Sunday, the sheriff said.

Terry Whitson, a Sparta businessman who is a neighbor of the Carters, found the couple yesterday just as he was pulling out of his farm, which is across the road from the Carter home.

Whitson said today that the Carters house, which is “not isolated and is on a well-traveled road” is “up on a rise and the front probably can’t be seen well, but I noticed Mr. Carter in the yard when I pulled out of my farm.”

Whitson and his wife then stopped and went into the Carter yard, where Carter was “lying face down where he had fallen off the porch,” Whitson said. Blood led all the way back to the bedroom, where the Whitsons found Mrs. Carter lying on her back in the bed,” Whitson said.

The house had “not been exactly ransacked, but it had been gone though – drawers were open and so forth,” Whitson said.

Whitson said he had known the Carters for many yers and goes to church were they went, and said that relatives of the Carters “just thought yesterday when they didn’t come to church that they would call later and check on them, but really thought nothing was wrong,” Whitson said.

John Henry Carter, originally from Jackson County, had “worked up north” for sometime and came back to this area several years ago, Whitson said.

Carter’s grandson, Johnny Carter had lived with the Carters “off and one for the last five or six years since his own father – their son – died.” Whitson said.

Whitson said that neighbors in the area said yesterday young Carter had bought gasoline in a can at a nearby grocery store on Saturday and said he was attempting to start a car he owned and had also gone to the home of Nathan Carter, John Henry Carter's brother, about a mile away to ask for jumper cables to start the car.

Whitson said Johnny Carter often went to church with his grandparents and also helped his grandfather farm.

The Carters have a married daughter, Shirley, who lives in Memphis, Whitson said.

**Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN:**

11 April 2012

**CHILD KILLED IN TREEHOUSE ACCIDENT**

by Mary Jo Denton

**Marissa Wilmoth:**

**PUTNAM COUNTY** -- A seven-year-old girl was killed in a tragic accident in her yard on Tuesday evening, according to the Putnam Sheriff's Department.



Marissa Wilmoth, daughter of Roger and Mary Alice Wilmoth, was playing with other children in the back yard of her home at White's Point when she was fatally injured in an accident involving a collapsed treehouse, according to Deputy Sgt. Jimmy Patterson.

He said Deputies Trevor Barrett, Matt Hickey, Steve Elrod and Chris Miller were sent to the location to assist Putnam Ambulance medics "who were responding to an injured child" report around 6:30 p.m. yesterday.

"Dispatch advised that the injury occurred as the result of a collapsed treehouse and the child was unconscious," the report says.

Ambulance medics and deputies rendered first aid to the child and she was transported to Cookeville Regional Medical Center, where she died, Sgt. Patterson's report says.

The report also says that the child and other children had been playing on a wooden playset/swingset which tipped over in the incident.

Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jacky Farley said he sent deputies to the scene in the hope that they could assist in helping the child.

"This is a very sad and tragic accident, and we extend our sympathies to the family," Chief Farley said.

Marissa Wilmoth was a student at Algood Christian Academy.

**Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN:**

11 May 2012

**LOCAL DOCTOR KILLED IN FLORIDA**

by Bailey Darrow

**Ollie Macon Smithwick:**

**COOKEVILLE** -- A Cookeville anesthesiologist was fatally injured while vacationing with his wife and 10-month old baby Thursday.

Ollie Macon Smithwick, 39, was vacationing in Key West Florida where a tragic diving accident took his life, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Monroe County Florida reports.



Smithwick worked as a CV anesthesiologist at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

"We at Cookeville Regional Medical Center are deeply saddened with the news of the death of Dr. Ollie Smithwick," hospital representatives said in a statement on the doctor's passing. "Dr. Smithwick was not only a devoted husband, father, and friend but he was also a valued member of our medical staff. This is a tremendous loss for his family and for our hospital family.

"Dr. Smithwick has been a part of the CRMC family since he came to Cookeville four years ago as a member of our medical staff providing anesthesia services for our cardiac, vascular and thoracic surgery patients."

Smithwick was reportedly spearfishing with two friends near the Vandenburg shipwreck Thursday morning. Smithwick reportedly entered the water where his friends found him unresponsive 15 minutes later. Unable to get Smithwick to the water's surface, the friends returned to the boat and called 911, reports say.

After being pulled from the water by the U.S. Coast Guard, Smithwick was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy is being done to determine cause of death.

"Our prayers and condolences go out to his family and to members of our hospital family who worked closely with Dr. Smithwick every day," CRMC representatives said.

**Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN:**

11 May 2012

Ollie Macon Smithwick II Obt.

**COOKEVILLE** -- John 17:4 "I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."

Ollie Macon Smithwick III, 39, of Cookeville died Thursday, May 10, 2012, after a scuba diving accident in Key West, Fla.

A resident of Putnam County since 2008, he is survived by his wife, Angie Smithwick and his precious son, Ollie "Easton" Macon Smithwick IV. He leaves behind his parents, Lucy and Ollie Smithwick II of Duck Key, Fla., and his sister, Susan Smithwick of Tallahassee, Fla.

A memorial service will be held at Life Church in Cookeville on Wednesday, May 16, at 1:30 p.m., with Pastor Greg Canada officiating.

In lieu of flowers, a scholarship/education fund has been established for their son.

Memorial contributions can be made at any Bank of Putnam County or mailed to Bank of Putnam County, 1108 East 10th Street, Cookeville, TN 38501. Please specify "Easton Smithwick Education Fund."

**Etta B. (Smith) Medley Obt.**

b. 18 August 1952, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 9 February 1992, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md **Dwight D. Medley**. Etta B. (Smith) Medley, d/o **Ben Smith** (1921-2002) & **Etta Rector** (1925-2001), both buried in Dodson Branch Cemetery, Jackson Co., TN. Etta B. (Smith) **Medley was shot by her**

**brother-in-law Tommy Ray Meadows** at the Double Springs Church of Christ over an argument with Tommy's wife Wanda (Smith) Meadows sister of Etta.



Etta B. Medley, 61, of Bloomington Springs, Tennessee passed away on Sunday, February 9, 2014 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

The Family has chosen cremation and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Crest Lawn Funeral Home-Cremation Center in Cookeville is in charge of arrangements.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 11 February 2014

**COOKEVILLE** — A Celebration of Life service for **Etta B. Medley**, 61, of Bloomington Springs, will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16, at Double Springs Community Church.

Mrs. Medley passed away on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, in Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

She was born Monday, Aug. 18, 1952, in Cookeville to the late **Ben and Etta (Rector) Smith**.

Mrs. Medley was a loving wife and mother, member of Double Springs Community Church, and was a friend to everyone she met.

Her family includes her husband, **Dwight D. Medley** of Bloomington Springs; a son, David Lee Medley of Baxter; four sisters and three brothers-in-law, Evelyn and Roy Gentry of Baxter, Darlene and Glen Farrell of Rickman, Irene and Junior Meadows of Bloomington Springs and Wanda Meadows of Bloomington Springs; and five brothers and two sisters-in-law, Carlen Smith of Cookeville, Dale Smith of Cookeville, Larry and Tina Smith of Cookeville, Ed and Karen Smith of Baxter and Mark Smith of Sparta.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Bro. Frank Rodgers will officiate at the services.

### **Cameras allowed in murder hearing**

by Bailey Darrow

**PUTNAM COUNTY** — Cameras will be allowed in the courtroom for a preliminary hearing for **Wayne Gary Masciarella**, 26, accused in the stabbing death of 23-year-old **Courtney Cash**.



A motion filed by Masciarella's attorney to limit media coverage of the trial was overruled Wednesday and the preliminary hearing was set for April 23 at 11 a.m.

Investigators allege that Masciarella used a kitchen knife to stab Cash to death before putting her body into a chest-type box and attempting to clean up the crime scene at a duplex on Rice Road on March 19.

Masciarella appeared before Judge John Hudson after meeting briefly with his appointed lawyer, Douglas Dennis, last week. At that time, Dennis expressed concern with media coverage of the case, claiming the cameras and attention could "taint" the jury pool.

Media outlets across the country have picked up and are following the story, many focusing on the fact that **Courtney is the granddaughter of Tommy Cash, the brother of the late country music star Johnny Cash**.

Masciarella is still being held in Putnam County jail without bond.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 3 April 2014

**BAXTER, TN (WSMV) -**

The victim found murdered in a Putnam County home has been identified as the great-niece of legendary performer Johnny Cash.

A woman identified as **Courtney Cash**, the great-niece of legendary performer Johnny Cash, was found stabbed to death at a Putnam County home. [Click to view more photos.](#)

Courtney Cash was found stabbed to death and stuffed inside a large wooden box in her home on Rice Road on Wednesday morning. **Courtney Cash is the granddaughter of Tommy Cash, Johnny Cash's brother.**

The man who lived with her, identified as William Austin Johnson, was taken to Vanderbilt University Medical Center with multiple stab wounds. He remains in stable condition.

Johnson is the father of Courtney Cash's young daughter, said Putnam County Sheriff David Andrews, and was able to take the 20-month-old girl from the home and drive himself to a hospital in White County. Information Johnson provided at the hospital led authorities to a suspect in the case.

"That's a pretty strong man. He grabbed the baby and exited the house and got in the car and drove himself to the hospital," Andrews said.

Tommy Cash issued a statement Thursday afternoon:

*"We ask for your prayers for the Cash family at this time. Courtney and her boyfriend are beloved members of my family and like you we have a lot of questions and emotions that we are beginning to sort through today. We ask for you to respect our privacy and appreciate all the support that the public and media has always offered my family, as we handle the loss of my grand-daughter, pray for the father of my great-grand child and journey through the search for justice on this violent act. We are completely heartbroken. It is a time like this that we are grateful for our faith and trusting the loving guidance of God."*

Wayne Gary Masciarella, 27, was taken into custody in Cookeville and charged with first-degree murder.

Detectives say they think the two victims invited Masciarella, a friend of theirs, over to the home late Tuesday night, where an altercation ensued and the stabbing took place.

The sheriff said a 911 call was placed about 10:40 a.m. Wednesday to dispatchers in White County. The ping location from the cell phone used in the 911 call took authorities about 1/4 mile down the road to the wrong address.

Deputies began to leave the area when a second 911 call was placed about 20 minutes after the first call. That second call led the officers to the home on Rice Road, where they found Courtney Cash's body just inside the front door.

"My personal theory is that he was going to hide it for as long as he could," Andrews said.

Sheriff Andrews said he can't comment on the murder weapon or a possible motive in the case, but he said it could be drug-related.

"This was a senseless, tragic death of a young lady whose life was probably taken as a direct or indirect result of drugs, and that's just the world we live in. It's just unfortunate that our people in our society lean so heavily on drugs to get through life," Andrews said.

Masciarella is being held without bond, and he is due to appear in court on April 21.

### **Cookeville man drowns at Florida beach (Raymond Paul Smith)**

Posted Tuesday, October 15, 2019

By Paige Stanage

\*See Raymond Paul Smith Obt.

A Cookeville man drowned Sunday at a Florida beach after getting caught in a rip current.

Raymond Smith, 43, was caught in the rip current while swimming with two others at Ormond Beach near the Maverick Resort, according to the Volusia County Beach Safety incident report.

"Once on scene, I saw Officer Taylor struggling to keep an unresponsive patient (Smith) above the water slightly on the outside of the sandbar and the break," the report states. "This was approximately 100 yards away from the shore."

Lifeguards brought everyone to shore, and CPR was performed on Smith, according to reports.

He was then taken to a hospital in Volusia County where he died.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN; 15 October 2019

### **Raymond Paul Smith Obt.**

b. 21 June 1976, Cookeville Putnam Co., TN – d. 13 October 2019, Ormond Beach, FL, md **Debbie (unknown) Smith**. Raymond Paul Smith, s/o **Ernest Ray Smith & Dolly Sue Randolph**. Raymond Paul Smith also md on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1995, Putnam Co., TN to **Nanda Diane (Rich) Smith**, b. 9 July 1976.

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 454 – Raymond Paul Smith married 11 March 1995, Putnam Co., TN, age 18, b. 21 June 1976, address: 45 Stout St. Apt. A-2, Cookeville, TN to Nanda Diane Rich, age 18, b. 9 July 1976, address: 45 Stout St. Apt. A-2, Cookeville, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Bonnie Roberts, sister, Murfreesboro, TN).

**COOKEVILLE** — Raymond Paul Smith, 43, of Cookeville, Tennessee, passed from this life Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, at Ormond Beach, Florida.

Raymond was born June 21, 1976, in Cookeville, Tennessee, to Ernest Ray and Dolly Sue (Randolph) Smith.



Raymond was a wonderful, loving and devoted husband and father. He was a member of Faith Fellowship FWB Church and worked at IWC Food Group. Raymond was a hard worker and loved spending time on his farm, tending to the cows, fields and other animals. He was a very skilled mechanic and loved his tractors. He was always ready to lend a helping hand in any way possible. Raymond was loved by many friends and family. He will be greatly missed.

Raymond is survived by his wife, Debbie Smith; four children, Alex Daniels, Cameron Smith, Will Smith and Austin Daniels; his father and mother, Ray and Sue Smith; brother, Mickey and Melinda Smith; sisters,

Kathy and Mike Franklin and Kimberly and Randy Brown; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Raymond was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Jim and Stella Smith; and his maternal grandparents, Dee and Ina Randolph.

Funeral services for Raymond Paul Smith will be held Monday, Oct. 21, at 1 p.m. from the chapel of Crest Lawn Funeral Home with Rev. Sterl Paramore officiating. **Interment will follow in Sand Springs Memorial Gardens.**

Visitation with the family will be held at the funeral home today, Sunday, Oct. 20, from 4-8 p.m., and again, Monday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. until time of services at 1 p.m.

To sign the online guestbook and to send the family a message please visit [www.crestlawnmemorial.com](http://www.crestlawnmemorial.com).

Arrangements entrusted to Crest Lawn Funeral Home, 526-6384.

### **Pedestrian struck, killed Wednesday on Hwy. 56**

Posted Thursday, October 24, 2019: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN  
BY PAIGE STANAGE

A Bloomington Springs man was killed after being struck by a vehicle on Highway 56 in Putnam County Wednesday night.

**Randall Bilbrey**, 28, was walking southbound on Highway 56 when a 2013 Buick, driven by Patrick King, 50, of Cookeville, struck him in the roadway, according to the Tennessee Highway Patrol report.

King was uninjured and will not face charges, according to the report.

Trooper Jason Cobble investigated the incident.

This is the second incident in 2019 where a pedestrian was hit and killed by a driver in Putnam County, according to Tennessee Highway Safety Office statistics.

### **Randall "Bubbi" Bilbrey Obt.**

b. 27 June 1991, Crossville, TN – d. 23 October 2019, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **Randy Richard Bilbrey & Michelle Ann Floyd Daniels.**

Funeral Services for Randall "Bubbi" Bilbrey, Age 28, of Bloomington Springs, Tennessee, will be conducted on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at 2:00 PM from the Chapel of Goff Funeral Home. Rev. David



Harris will officiate with interment to follow in the Browntown Cemetery in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. Mr. Bilbrey was born on June 27, 1991, in Crossville, Tennessee, to Randy Richard Bilbrey of Bloomington Springs, Tennessee, and Michelle Ann Floyd Daniels of Crossville, Tennessee. Mr. Bilbrey passed away on Wednesday, October 23, 2019. Mr. Bilbrey was a painter. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his companion, Teresa Collins of Bloomington Springs, TN ; Sister, Amber Bilbrey of Crossville, TN; Stepsister, Summer Iles of Crossville, TN; Stepbrother, Travis Iles of Crossville, TN; Paternal Grandparents, Randall Bilbrey of Cookeville, TN, Brenda Bilbrey Bloomington Springs, TN; Maternal Grandmother, Loretta Hood of Crossville, TN; Aunts, Vanessa and Dale Miller, Misty Bilbrey, Sheila and Junior Hood, Shonda and David Livesay, Charity and Mark Naser; Uncle, Archie Bilbrey of Bloomington Springs, TN; Nieces/Nephews, Bailey Bilbrey, Jayden Bilbrey, and Mackenzie Mitchell. He was preceded in death by his paternal Grandfather, Layton Hood; Maternal

Grandfather, Bobby Floyd; Uncle Boone Bilbrey; Aunt, Carol Cross; and Nephew, Braston Culver. The Family will receive friends at Goff Funeral Home on Saturday, October 26, 2019, from 5:00 PM Until 8:00 PM.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: October 25, 2019

**Ed W. Brown Obt.**

b. 4 July 1879, IL – d. 23 May 1933, Algood, Putnam Co., TN, md **Margie M. (Umbarger) Brown**, b. 17 May 1897 – d. 10 August 1981, she is buried in Wichita Park Cemetery and Mausolium, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., KS. Ed W. Brown, s/o **Joseph E. Brown** (1833-1919) & **Sarah Adeline Phillips** (1839-1906).

\*See Joseph E. Brown buried in Phillips Cemetery.

Tennessee Death Records (1908-1958)

**Name:** Ed W Brown  
**Gender:** Male  
**Race:** White  
**Age:** 53  
**Birth Date:** 4 Jul 1879  
**Birth Place:** Illinois, USA  
**Death Date:** 23 May 1933  
**Death Place:** Algood, Putnam, TN at home  
**Cause of Death** Suicide – Pistol shot right temple  
**Father:** [Joe Brown](#)  
**Mother:** [Phillips](#)  
**Informant** Mrs. Marjorie Brown  
**Undertaker** Pendergrass Funeral Home  
**Burial** Phillips Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

**Certificate Number:** 10406

Ed Brown, 50, killed himself instantly early Tuesday morning by firing a .32-.30 calibre pistol bullet into his right temple at his home in Algood. His act was attributed to financial troubles.

Brown, who had been a resident of Algood for the past 40 years, is survived by his wife, 1 son Phillip, and a sister.

Funeral services were conducted at the Algood Church of Christ Tuesday afternoon by Elder Allen Phy, with burial in the Phillips cemetery.

Putnam Herald May 25, 1933

**Ian Michael James Austin**

b. 25 September 2009, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 7 December 2019, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **Jamie Austin & Kayla Randolph**.

**COOKEVILLE** — Funeral services for Ian Michael James Austin, age 10, of Cookeville, Tennessee, will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at The Edge Facility at Life Church. Pastor Bobby Davis and Ryan Higgins will officiate.

The family will receive friends at the church Thursday, Dec. 12, from 3 p.m. until service time at 6 p.m.

Graveside services and interment will be held Friday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m. at Judd Cemetery.

Ian passed away suddenly Saturday Dec. 7, 2019.

He was born Sept. 25, 2009, in Cookeville, to Jamie Austin and Kayla Randolph, both of Cookeville.

Ian was a fourth grade student at Cane Creek Elementary School. He was outgoing, always smiling, and brightened any room when he entered.



In addition to his parents, he is survived by a brother, Braxton Crossman; maternal great-grandmother, Karen Lovallo; paternal grandmother, April (Robert) Wheatley; paternal great-grandmother, Linda Wittenberg; paternal great-great-grandmother, Loretta Harness; uncle, Mathew (April) Randolph; aunt, Shayilyn Randolph; cousin, Evan Randolph; and great aunts and uncles, Charlotte Campbell and Dewayne (Amanda) Ashburn.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dyer Funeral Home for funeral expenses.

Dyer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 526-7158. Share your thoughts and memories at [www.dyerfh.com](http://www.dyerfh.com).

#### **10-year-old identified as shooting victim**

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Tuesday, December 10, 2019

By Paige Stanage

A 10-year-old boy has been identified as the shooting victim from Saturday.

Ian Austin is the victim, according to Putnam County Sheriff Eddie Farris.

Thirteenth Judicial District Attorney Bryant Dunaway said detectives have been working on the case since the weekend to find out what happened.

"We're still mulling through it," Dunaway said of the investigation into the boy's shooting death. "I've got to make a hard decision. We believe it was probably self-inflicted. It's a tough call."

Austin was a fourth grader at Cane Creek Elementary School, according to Putnam County Schools Director Jerry Boyd.

"We have counselors at Cane Creek to help those students and teachers cope with the loss of their student and friend," Boyd said. "We want to keep Ian's family in all of our thoughts and prayers."

Funeral services will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Edge facility at Life Church.

A gofundme account has been created by Edward Davis to cover funeral expenses.

Davis wrote a statement about Austin and his family.

"Ian was 10 years old and full of life. He was an amazing kid. He played football, rode four wheelers, grew up with my kids and a lot of our friends kids. We've pretty much been a big family," Davis wrote. "It breaks our heart what happened. Please everyone keep Jamie (Austin) and his family and everyone affected by the tragedy today (in your thoughts and prayers)."

As of press time Tuesday, more than \$3,400 had been raised for Austin's funeral expenses.

To donate, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/paying-tribute-to-ian-austin>.

### **Fisherman dies on Center Hill Lake**

By Paige Stanage

A Putnam County man died while fishing on Center Hill Lake Wednesday.

The body of Quinn Hogan, 36, was found close to his bass fishing boat in a cove near Cookeville Boat Dock, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

"TWRA officers used GPS forensic tracking to determine the area the boat went adrift," according to the TWRA release. "The TWRA Remote Operated Vehicle was deployed and quickly located Hogan's body at 4:30 p.m. in eight feet of water, despite heavy rains in the area."

Hogan was wearing a self-inflating personal floatation device, but the device was not inflated, the release states.

His body was taken to the Davidson County Medical Examiner's office.

The incident remains under investigation.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 30 April 2020

### **Tennessean:**

Sunday, 17 March 1985

### **Patricia Gail (Nabors) Williams**

b. 21 February 1951, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 2 March 1985, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 1971, Fentress Co., TN to **Roger Dale Williams** (div). Patricia Gail (Nabors) Williams, d/o **Bonnell D. Nabors** (1930-1976) & **Doris LaFever** (1931-1972).

She Saved Last Bullet For Herself

The Lingering Riddle of a Family Tragedy

By Susan Thomas, Tennessean Staff Correspondent

**COOKEVILLE**, Tenn. – First, Patricia Williams sent flowers to her former husband, a dozen long-stemmed red roses with a card that read, "We Love You, The Kids."



A few minutes later the attractive homemaker tightened her slender fingers around the brand new .32-caliber revolver, leveled the snub-nosed barrel on her three children and said: "Kids, I'm sorry I have to do this."

Then she squeezed the trigger.

One bullet tore through her 12-year-old son's chest. A second struck her 4-year-old daughter in the stomach. A third grazed her 9-year-old son's back as he ran out of the room.

The last bullet, fired as the young mother turned the gun toward her own chest, ripped through her heart, killing her instantly.

It happened two weeks ago on a Saturday afternoon in the rolling hills of Colonial Hills Estates on the western outskirts of town.

Today the elegant blue frame house with black shutters near the end of the road where the William family lived is quiet. The doors are locked, the curtains are closed and the only stirring comes when the wind blows the long tire swing which hangs empty beneath a tall pine tree in the back yard.

Patricia Williams' neighbors, who rushed to the house when they heard the shots that March 2 afternoon, have returned to their regular routine; curious strangers have stopped their slow drives by the Williams home.

But the questions linger.

Why would Patricia Williams want to take her own life? Why did she shoot the children she loved more than anything else in the world? Was she pushed to suicide by her recent divorce, or was she trying to escape the memoirs of her own mother's suicide and her father's violent death? What darkened her high spirits over the prospect of a college degree, a new sense of religion and a promise of better days ahead?

Shouldn't someone have seen it coming? Couldn't someone have stopped her? How did she buy a gun that morning despite a history of emotional problems/

"It makes no sense at all," said one of her friends from childhood. "Something like this could have happened to somebody else, but not Pat. She was a very, very, normal person. Sue, she had problems just like everybody else, but she was handling them.

"She was strong. She was the king of person other people want to be. She was smart, funny, enthusiastic about living, a great mother and the best friend you could find.

"If you met her, you liked her, and if you knew her, you loved her."

Patricia Gail Nabors Williams, "Pat" to some and "Tricia" to others, was born in Cookeville during the February blizzard of 1951 that strangled the South with ice and subzero cold. She was the first of three daughters born to Doris and Bonnell Nabors. Her father was a prosperous Putnam County businessman best known as the owner of Spring Street Market, one of the city's largest grocery stores.

As a girl at Parkview Elementary School, Patricia was a top student who liked basketball, swimming and playing with her friends. As a teen-ager at Cookeville High School, she grew to like dancing and playing pool and managed to make straight A's even after she took on more than her share of responsibility for her younger sisters, Barbara and Cathy, when their parents' drinking problems grew out of control.

And despite all the years that had passed since she dropped out of college to get married and raise a family, she was a good student when she went back to school last summer.

"I guess it was during the next-to-the-last week in February that someone told me Pat hadn't shown up for a couple of classes," said Ann Franklin, a graduate student at Tennessee Tech where Patricia Williams enrolled as a psychology major.

"I thought it was strange because it didn't sound like her at all. She was a very good student, not the kind to miss classes, but I didn't think that much about it at the time.

Since last fall, making good grades had become a new, welcomed source of confidence and pride for Patricia Williams, second only to the pride she had in her three children.

“I can remember Pat running into my office saying, ‘I got an A! I got an A’”, I recalled one of her professor, Linda Giesbrecht-Bettoli.

“She was so happy when she made the dean’s list in December, but she deserved it. She was an enthusiastic, vivacious student. Everybody knew when she was in class, and her questions really made the class better.”

Patricia Williams had told her professors she wanted to earn a degree so that she could become a professional counselor for emotionally disturbed children, possibly those already tangled in the often less-than-compassionate correction system.

“Pat” was a very caring person,” said the Rev. A. J. Looper of First Freewill Baptist Church of Cookeville. “I remember once, back when she and the children hadn’t been coming to our church that long, when I preached on the need for visitation.

“Early the next morning, my telephone rang and it was Pat calling to ask for the names of some shut-ins so she could visit them. That was the kind of person she was. Very loving. Very caring. She thought enough about other people to want to help them even though she had problems of her own.”

Life, as it often is, had been both generous and brutal to Patricia Williams. Materially, she never went without. When she graduated from high school her father gave her a blank check to go to Nashville and pick out a brand new car. She chose a 1970, silver-green Corvette.

A few years later, after she and her high school sweetheart, Roger Williams, eloped in her shiny Corvette, her new husband worked as many as three jobs at a time before he earned a degree as a pharmacist to buy her everything she needed and more.

But more than once, money could neither buy nor save the much more meaningful elements in life.

On Aug. 22, 1972, her mother committed suicide in the den of their stylish, two-story brick family home on East Seventh Street. Then, four years later on Aug. 28, 1976, her father was shot and killed during an argument with one of his business associates. And over the years her marriage slowly died.

“She never really talked much about her parents, before or after their deaths,” said a high school friend. “I know she was hurt and stunned when they died, but she held a lot of her feelings inside.

“Maybe that’s why nobody had any idea she and Roger were having trouble. You see—now this sounds corny---but in the early years, Pat and Roger were the perfect couple. They met when she was a sophomore and he was junior and they clicked right away. Both were beautiful, smart people and I don’t think there ever was any doubt they really loved each other, not even after they got divorced the first time, married again and got divorced the second time.

“I think they just reached a point where they couldn’t live with each other---but they couldn’t live without each other either.”

Only rarely did Patricia Williams discuss her personal problems, but in the last few weeks of her life she seemed to open up more than she ever had before.

“I noticed that during church services she was sassily disturbed and would often cry,” says the Rev. Mr. Looper. “Later, during the week, she would call me on the telephone and we would talk, mainly about her marital problems.

“She believed people could help her. I guess that was why she talked to me, she told me she was seeing a psychologist, too.”

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, she called Looper and said she had decided to move her membership from another local church to First Freewill Baptist and that her children also would like to join.

“She dropped by so I could explain a few things to her like the doctrine of the church,” the preacher recounted. “She was very happy and cheerful that day and we decided that hey would join the church Sunday, March 3.”

On Friday, Feb. 22, Patricia stopped by to talk to her college friend, Ann Franklin.

“She told me she was concerned about her self-image because of her weight,” Franklin recalled. “she was about 5-foot-5 and only weighed 107 or 108 pounds. We discussed ways of gaining weight.

“I told her that I had a friend who had the same problem but it was aggravated by stress. She said, “well I am an anxious person but I’m trying to deal with it.””

As far as her family and her friends knew, the last week of Patricia Williams’ life went without a hint of anything out of the normal. She went to class and tended to her children.

But on Friday, March 1, deputies at the Putnam County sheriff’s office received two calls from family members. One was from Roger Williams, explaining that his ex-wife had threatened to kill him. The second was from one of her sisters, Barbara Shultz of Oak Ridge, who said she was afraid Patricia was contemplating suicide. The deputy, following procedure, immediately reported that call to the local office of the state Department of Human Services.

Within an hour a DHS worker had driven to the Williams home. Patricia Williams came to the door and said she was fine. She said the children were with her former husband for the night and that she had taken a couple of tranquilizers and was just resting on the couch.

Early the next morning, Saturday March 2, Patricia Williams called her former husband and asked him to bring the children home. But because he was busy working at the local Walmart, where he is a pharmacist, his father took the children home instead.

At 11 a.m. Patricia Williams and her three children walked into Universal Pawn Shop on Broad Street.

“She said she wanted to buy a gun for protection because there had been some break-ins in her neighborhood,” said the pawnshop owner, Bob Ligon. “She said she’d feel safer living there alone with the children if she had a gun.

“She asked me what kind I would recommend, and then said she just wanted a good gun as cheap as she could buy because she didn’t have a lot of money to spend.”

As they discussed guns, the children looked around in the shop, laughing and, kidding around and having a good time.

“The choice got down to between a .38 and a .32,” Ligon said. “when I told her the .38 cost \$10 more, she said she would save the \$10 and buy the .32 caliber Charter Arms.”

Ligon gave her the two forms required by law to purchase a handgun. One was the federal form that is simply filled out and left with the dealer. The second, an application for the purchase of a handgun, must be signed by a local law enforcement office before the gun can be sold.

The mother and children left. They drove down Spring Street to the sheriff’s office, where a deputy—unaware of the telephone calls the previous day to other deputies—signed the form and showed her how to put her right thumbprint in the right corner. Also on the form she filled in the basic information and wrote “No” to all the questions, including, “Have you ever been committed to a mental institution or treated for mental illness?”

“She was very calm when she came back in and wrote a check for the gun,” Ligon recalled. “She even asked me where was a good, safe place to keep it because she didn’t want the kids around it. I told her that I keep mine on a high closet shelf.”

Back at home, neighbors saw her practice shooting at an empty ice cream carton.

“It wasn’t too much after noon when Mrs. Williams called in to order the flowers,” said Bobbie Reels, owner of the Gunnels florist. “She had an account with us, so she ordered a dozen red roses to be sent to her ex-husband at Walmart where he was working.

“She wanted to put on the card, ‘We Love You, The Kids.’”

St 2:20 p.m. Roger Williams dialed 911 and told a Cookeville Police Department dispatcher, “My son just called and said my ex-wife has shot him and the other kids and that she’s shooting everybody.”

Because Colonial Hills is just outside the city limits, the dispatcher put the call through to the sheriff’s office.

Minutes later, when the deputies arrived, the shooting had ended.

Patricia Williams, dressed in blue-jeans, shirt and sweater, was lying on the couch in the den. The gun was by her side.

### **Winter Rae Odom Obt.**

b. 11 November 1996 – d. 13 December 2020, d/o **Clinton Ray Odom & Angela Renee King.**

Cookeville, TN resident and Warren County, TN native, Winter Rae Odom, age 24, was born November 11, 1996 and passed away suddenly December 13, 2020 at TriStar Skyline Medical Center in Nashville, TN from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.



A caregiver with Home Instead Senior Care and member of The Oasis church, she was the daughter of Clinton Ray and Angela Renee’ King Odom of Rock Island, TN.

In addition to her parents, Miss Odom is survived by son, River Lee Turner of Cookeville, TN; siblings, Zachary Blake Odom of Cookeville, TN, Ashley Lashae (Brenton) Hickerson of Spencer, TN, and Montana Odom of Virginia; nephews, Brantley and Ashton Hickerson; fiancé, Kyle Turner of Cookeville, TN; paternal

grandmother, Peggie Odom of Readyville, TN; maternal grandfather, Danny Ray King of Sparta, TN; paternal grandfather, Jackie Ray Odom of Readyville, TN; aunts and uncles, Heather Dawn and Rick Watkins of Sparta, TN, Tina and Paul Neumann of Cool, CA, Daniel Brian and Tina King of Sparta, TN, and Irwin "Boo" and Toni Odom of Readyville, TN; and several cousins also survive.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time. In lieu of flowers, the family request donations to assist with funeral expenses.

Online condolences may be made at [www.highfuneralhome.com](http://www.highfuneralhome.com).

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 17 December 2020

**Leitha Catherine (Judd) Rice Hickey**

b. 2 August 1877, Putnam Co., TN – d. 10 June 1941, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN, md 1<sup>st</sup> **William Andrew Rice**, b. 1 April 1871, Overton Co., TN – d. 5 March 1909, s/o **Francis Marion Rice** (1833-1902) & **Mary Ann Myers** (1845-1907), both buried in Morris Hickey Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. **Leitha Catherine (Judd) Rice Hickey** md 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 12 of December 1915 to **William Travis Hickey**, b. 29 May 1883 – d. 29 December 1962, buried in Judd Cemetery, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN.

Leitha Catherine Judd was the daughter of Rev. William Henry Harrison Judd and Louisa Ann LaFever. She married 1st, William A. Rice, by whom she had: Henry Clay Rice (Nov 17, 1894-Dec 23, 1894), Wesley A. Rice (1897-1971), Mary Louise (Rice) Parks (1898-1938), Alta Marie (Rice) Murdock (1901-1919), William Logan Rice (1904-1981) and Andrew D. Rice (1907-1954). **William A. Rice died of accidental gunshot March 5, 1909** and Leitha married December 12, 1915 to William Travis Hickey, by whom she had no children. He died 1962, and both are buried William Judd Cemetery.

Bio by: Willie Smith

**Alexton Cole Henley**

b. 27 February 2016, - d. 26 January 2021, s/o **Brandon Wayne Henley & Amanda Beth Chatman** (1996-2021). Passed away Tuesday morning January 26 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.  
\*See Amanda Beth Chatman Obt.

**Braydon Wayne Henley**

b. 31 July 2017 – d. 26 January 2021, s/o **Brandon Wayne Henley & Amanda Beth Chatman** (1996-2021). Passed away Tuesday morning January 26 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.  
\*See Amanda Beth Chatman Obt.

**Amanda Beth Chatman Obt.**

b. 13 April 1996, Madison, TN – d. 26 January 2021, Cookeville, Putnam Co. TN, md **Brandon Wayne Henley**. Amanda Beth Chatman, d/o **Candy Johnson**.  
\*See Alexton Cole Henley buried in West Graveyard.  
\*See Braydon Henley buried in West Graveyard.  
\*See Note: Michael Shepherd Story

Private family funeral services for Amanda Beth Chatman, age 24, and her sons Alexton Cole Henley, age 4, and Braydon Wayne Henley, age 3, will be Monday February 1 at Dyer Funeral Home. Kevin Daugherty, Chase Fletcher and Steve Thornton will officiate. Interment will follow at the West Cemetery in the Burgess Falls community.

A public memorial service will be planned for a later date.



Amanda, Alex, and Braydon passed away suddenly Tuesday morning January 26, 2021 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Cookeville.

Amanda was born April 13, 1996 in Madison, TN to Candy Johnson of Mayfield, KY.

She and Brandon Wayne Henley were parents to four beautiful children, Alexton Cole Henley (b. February 27, 2016), Braydon Wayne Henley (b. July 31, 2017), Kaylee Henley and Callie Beth Henley.

Amanda's family also includes, sisters, Kelley Likens of Cookeville, Brittany Chatman of Columbia, TN; mother-in-law, Lisa Brewington; grandmother-in-law, Hazel Brewington; aunt, Debbie Brewington, all of Cookeville; cousins, Kyle and Dustin Bilbrey, Lacy and Jason Stamps, Morgan, Jack, and Emma Stamps; nieces and nephews, Jaycee Likens, Connor Armour, Jayden Bass, Rylan Bilbrey, and Remington Kerr; and special family, Kris Hartbarger, Scot Galloway, and Ken Harris.

J.D. Brewington, great-grandfather to Alex and Braydon preceded them in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family by contacting the funeral home.

Dyer Chapel of Hooper Huddleston and Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 29 January 2021

**Note: Michael Shepherd Story:**

**COOKEVILLE**, Tenn. (WKRN) — The Pegram man accused of causing a crash that killed a mother and her two young sons in Cookeville has faced more than 20 criminal charges in Cheatham, Davidson, and Williamson counties since becoming an adult.

News 2 obtained an arrest record for Michael Shepherd from the Cheatham County Sheriff's Office, which shows the 25-year-old has been arrested at least 17 times since June 2014 on charges including arson, aggravated kidnapping and reckless endangerment. He has also faced four counts of driving on a revoked license, the most recent of which was in 2018.

Shepherd also has five charges in Davidson County including drugs and domestic assault.



His most recent charge is in Williamson for evading arrest in October.

“It’s my understanding that he plead guilty in Williamson County last October in 2020 for felony evading arrest and he is on probation for that arrest. So I anticipate that there’ll be a violation of probation filed in Williamson county,” Putnam County District Attorney General Bryan Dunaway told media after the hearing Wednesday.

[Shepherd was arrested Tuesday on three counts of vehicular homicide](#) and evading arrest after police said he crashed a pick-up truck into a car driven by Amanda Chatman around 7:40 a.m. Tuesday at Interstate Drive and South Willow Avenue .

Chatman, 24, and her two children, ages three and four, were killed in the collision, according to investigators.

Wednesday morning, Shepherd appeared in Putnam County court for a bond hearing, however, the judge found Shepherd could not afford a lawyer and would need to be appointed a public defender. The judge rescheduled the bond hearing for February 17th.

Cookeville police said Shepherd was fleeing from Tennessee Highway Patrol troopers at the time of the fatal crash.

Troopers with the Tennessee Highway Patrol was pursuing a 2020 Toyota Tacoma truck near the Monterey area on Interstate 40. The driver of the fleeing truck, later identified as 25-year-old Michael Don Shepherd, led troopers to an exit in Cookeville.

Shepherd's speeding truck hit a vehicle carrying mother and two children, according to investigators, and all three in the vehicle died.

The family of the victims confirmed to News 2 that 24-year old Amanda Chatman and her 3 and 4-year-old sons were killed in the crash.

Shepherd is being held in the Putnam County jail.

**Charles J. Evans Obt.**

b. 24 February 1930 – d. 27 July 1970, MI, md **Emogene (Stewart) Evans**. Charles J. Evans, s/o Charlie William Evans (1911-1981) & Cleo Robinson (1914-2004), buried in Smellage Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Charles Evans, 40, of Lamb St., Memphis, MI, died Monday night at 8 p.m. as a result of an automobile accident.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Evans of Baxter.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Mr. Evans is survived by his widow, Mrs. Emogene Stewart Evans, formerly of Boma.

Three daughters; Gail, Shrylann and Betty Sue and a son Roger Dale, of the Michigan address.

He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Robinson of Boma, TN.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN, Tuesday afternoon, 28 July 1970.

**Fred Paine Young**

b. 28 September 1877, TN – d. 14 September 1897, s/o **John Hamilton Young (1850-1888) & Edith P. (Jackson) Swearingin/Swaringer (1849-1928)**.

\*See John Harmon Young M. D. buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

\*See Naomi Melonne (Young) Reeder Obt.

\*See John Harmon Young Obt.

Fred Paine Young's **remains were moved from the Young family graveyard** located near the foot of Hopewell Hill, Putnam Co., TN to **Odd Fellows Cemetery, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN**.

**BUFFALO VALLEY THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY:** Cookeville Press: 16 September 1897

Tucker Was Waiting for Young at the Depot with a Shot Gun: Another murder has crimsoned the pages of Putnam county's history: another soul had been launched into eternity, and the courts will again be called upon to administer justice. The tragedy which was enacted at Buffalo Valley Tuesday evening was one of the most shocking that has occurred in this part of the state. **Fred Young was shot and instantly killed by Tex Tucker.**

How It Was Done:

The circumstances which led to the killing are as follows: Some time ago the store with its contents, belonging to Capt. P. Jones at Silver Point, was burned, and it was thought, Lucien Tucker, a brother of the murderer, Tex Tucker, did it. Capt. Jones offered a reward of \$25 for his capture. Fred Young, who is a detective, thought he had located Lucien at Hopkinsville, Ky., and thither he went Monday, with the intention of bringing him back. Tex hearing that Young would return with his brother, armed



himself with a double barreled shot gun, and proceeded to the depot at Buffalo Valley to await the coming of the train, when the train pulled in Tex Tucker approached brakeman Brice Pursley, in the presence of Phil Rash, and asked him if an officer and a prisoner were on board. Pursley told him there was not. Tucker said he was expecting an officer with one of his relatives under arrest, and if such was the case, he intended having his relative if he had to kill the officer.

#### Young Stepped From the Train:

While Tucker was saying this Young stepped from the train and Tucker made the remark: "There he is now, damn him, and I'll kill him," accompanying the threat with a presentment of his gun as though he intended to shoot. But he changed his mind and put his gun on his shoulder as Young was walking away towards a store nearby. At his juncture the train pulled out and the last the trainman saw of Tucker was that he was following Young.

#### The Shooting Followed:

The train was just out of sight when Tucker fired at Young, the charge striking the unfortunate young man in the left breast, tearing a great hole through him. *(missing a sentence at the bottom of the article).*

When asked if Tex would give himself up to the officials, Mr. Tucker said that Tex would not leave the country but would wait awhile until he saw how matters were before he would give up.

#### Reward Offered:

Beside the \$50.00 offered by Capt. Jones for the arrest of Tucker, we learn that Mr. Young has offered a reward of \$10.00. Sheriff Alcorn has notified all the surrounding officials by telephone, and it is not likely that he will escape. He will be vigorously prosecuted if captured.

#### Shooting at Buffalo Valley: Smithville Review: 30 June 1897, front page:

Buffalo Valley, June 25: Another affair occurred near here late Saturday evening for which this place has already become famous. **Tex Tucker** met up with **Dan Driver** at Evan's Mill on Young Creek, and accused him of forging a note on him. Driver denied the charge and the dispute led to blows. Tucker belabored Driver unmercifully until some of the bystanders interfered. Tucker then ordered Driver to leave the Mill, which he proceeded, followed by Tucker. Driver warned Tucker not to follow, but Tucker refused to listen whereupon Driver produced a revolver and shot Tucker twice, once in the shoulder and once in the hip. Tucker is lying at the house of Mrs. Young in a critical condition. The last seen of Driver he was proceeding up the creek on foot as fast as his crippled condition would allow. The Tuckers are notorious characters, always ready to promote a quarrel, and they had beaten Driver once before until he was a hopeless cripple. Tucker is about 23 years of age. Driver is an old man.

#### **Selena Mystara Meyers Obt.**

Selena Mystara Meyers, 23 of Cookeville, passed from this life Tuesday, January 26, 2021 in Eccles, Manchester, United Kingdom. She was born Thursday, March 20, 1997 in Hermitage, Tennessee to Ross LeRoy Meyers and Salem Ann (Sloan) Meyers.

Selena was a loving daughter, sister, granddaughter, and friend. She enjoyed singing, playing piano and guitar, writing, drawing, and painting. She was an advocate for mental health, raised money for multiple charities, and donated her time to various events to raise money. Selena was loved by all that knew her and she will be greatly missed.



Selena is survived by her Mother: Salem Meyers; Father: Ross Meyers; Maternal Great-Grandparents that were her guardians: Donald and Florence Lee; Maternal Grandmother: Patricia Caroland; Maternal Grandfather: Charles Sloan, Jr.; Paternal Grandfather: Eric Meyers; Siblings: Jada Roberts, Tristan Leggett, and Isabella

Sims; Fiancé: Stephen Buckley; Uncles: Robert and Richard Meyers; Aunt: Sherry Gross; and a host of great uncles, great aunts, and special friends.

Selena was preceded in death by Paternal Grandmother: Deborah Meyers; Maternal Great-Grandmother: Virginia Sloan; Special Great-Uncle: Robert Lawrence Bean.

Funeral Service for Selena Mystara Meyers were held Friday, February 26, 2021 from the chapel of Crest Lawn Funeral Home. Interment followed in the Dodson Branch Cemetery.

**Selena Meyers, 23, died after being struck by two vehicles on Worsley Road in Salford shortly before 7.30 pm on Tuesday night, January 26, 2021. She was sadly pronounced dead at the crash scene.**

Her family, releasing a tribute via police, described her as 'quiet, sweet and loving'. Selena was born in Tennessee, USA to parents, Salem and Ross. She lived and was cared for by her great grandparents, Donald and Florence Lee.

A statement released on behalf of the family said:

"Selena Mystara Meyers, born in Summit Regional Hospital in Hermitage, Tennessee to her parents Salem Ann Meyers and Ross LeRoy Meyers. My first beautiful daughter, quiet, sweet and loving - a good daughter. She was an artist with an empathetic and a kind soul, always creating, singing, painting and a writer of books and poetry. She always did charity work and was a loyal friend to Elizabeth Grogan - they were the best of friends through thick and thin all the years of her life. She lived with and was cared for by her great grandparents, Donald and Florence Lee up until she became a young lady. Her name Selena meant Moon Goddess - Mystara meant my stars. So she takes our moon and stars from us as she goes. RIP my entire night sky - my first baby girl."

Police were called to the crash at around 7.30 pm on Tuesday evening. Police say Selena was hit by Skoda Citigo travelling in a north westerly direction along Worsley Road close to the junction of Walker Road. She was then struck by a Renault Clio travelling in the opposite direction. No arrests have been made and enquiries are ongoing.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 22 February 2021

**Walter Lesley Gentry Obt.**

b. 5 October 1883, TN – d. 11 July 1931, Putnam Co., TN, md **Margaret Anne (Ellis) Gentry**, b. 3 December 1886 – d. 1 February 1978, d/o **Joel Ellis & Mary Harris**. Walter Lesley Gentry s/o **Silas Henry "Si" Gentry** (1857-1932) & **Mary Robertson Maxwell** (1859-1947). Anne (Ellis) Gentry is buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

\*See Silas Henry "Si" Gentry Obt.

\*See Katheryn Sue (Gentry) Palmer Obt. buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Pedestrian Killed While On Way To See Sick Father: Walter Gentry, 40, struck by auto on Highway No. 24 Saturday night. While walking to Baxter, Walter Gentry, 40, of Cleveland, TN, was instantly killed at 10:30 Saturday night when he was struck by a car driven by Roy McCawley, 20 year old son of John L. McCawley, of Gainesboro, on Highway No. 24 two miles west of Cookeville. Gentry was on his way to see his father, Cy (Silas Henry Gentry), who is believed dying. Gentry had come to Cookeville from Cleveland, and stopped at John Cornwell's filling station near the Cookeville city limit before continuing his journey. He had walked about a mile from the filling station when he met his death. McCawley with Braxton, Sadler of Jellico, on his way to Gainesboro and it was said that lights of an approaching car blinded him and he never saw Gentry. Gentry's left leg was torn off just below the knee and his skull was crushed. Funeral services were held at the Maxwell cemetery, Sunday afternoon, Rev. B. M. Harness officiating. Gentry is survived by his wife and a number of children and his parents.

Putnam County Herald, Thursday July 16, 1931, Cookeville, TN.

**George Thomas McBroom Obt.**

b. 8 December 1881, TN – 20 December 1932, Bloomington Springs, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1901, Putnam Co., TN to **Mary Daniel (Jaquess) McBroom**, b. 15 May 1885, Jackson Co., TN – d. 21 April 1974, Los Angeles Co., CA, d/o **Josiah Daniel Jaquess** (1854-1895) & **Mary Dunbar Young** (1853-1885), both buried in John Young Cemetery, Shiloh, Jackson Co., TN. Mary Daniel (Jaquess) McBroom, is buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Los Angeles Co., CA. George Thomas McBroom, s/o **Dillon McBroom** (1846-1931) & **Margaret Perkins** (1858-1932), both buried in the McBroom Cemetery, Bloomington Springs, Putnam Co., TN.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 98 – George McBroom married 15 September 1901, Putnam Co., TN to Mary Jaquess).

(Children: Leonard Washington McBroom (1902-1946); Thurman McBroom (1907-1990) md Elizabeth Atkinson; Haskel Franklin McBroom (1904-1905); Margaret Irene McBroom (1906-1963); Thurman Dillon McBroom (1907-1990) md Elizabeth Atkinson; Minnie Mae McBroom (1910-1911); Cora Dovie McBroom (1913-2006); Ernest Lee McBroom (1916-1982); Effie Jewel McBroom (1918-1986) md Donald Markey; James “Jim” Fred McBroom (1923-2004) md Beatrice Blackwell).

One Putnam county father Tuesday gave up the bitter fight against poverty, and rather than see his children go through a Christmas without presents, he hanged himself.

He was George McBroom, 51, of Bloomington Springs. He was found hanging in his barn by his son, Ernest, 16, at 8 o'clock. A coroner's jury, impanelled on order of County Coroner, reported that McBroom was a suicide

After eating breakfast from the scant McBroom table, McBroom went to the store in Bloomington Springs, where he talked with friends and helped early shoppers wrap packages. He did not leave a note, nor did he intimate that he was about to commit suicide.

He left the store and was seen walking homeward. Shortly afterward, news was spread that he had hanged himself.

McBroom is of a large family with many connections residing in the 18th district. He had been out of work for several months and had fed his family by doing odd jobs.

From the tragedy comes a note of horror by McBroom having a son, Leonard, living in China. The family does not know the son's address.

Other survivors of his immediate family are his wife; 4 daughters, Mrs. Lester Matheny and Jewel McBroom of Old Hickory; Mrs. Bascom Neal and Grace McBroom of Bloomington; Thurman McBroom of Detroit; and Ernest and Fred McBroom.

Funeral services were conducted at the McBroom cemetery in the 18th district yesterday afternoon.

Putnam County Herald December 22, 1932

Tennessee US Death Records (1908-1965)

<b>Name:</b>	George McBroom
<b>Gender:</b>	Male
<b>Race:</b>	White
<b>Age:</b>	51
<b>Birth Date:</b>	6 Dec 1881
<b>Birth Place:</b>	USA
<b>Death Date:</b>	20 Dec 1932
<b>Death Place:</b>	Bloomington Springs, Putnam, Tennessee, USA

**Cause of Death** Suicide by Hanging  
**Cause of Death** He was knocked in the head several years ago and he never was right at times.  
**Father:** [Dillion McBroom](#)  
**Mother:** [Margaret Perkins](#)  
**Informant:** Mrs. George McBroom, Bloomington Springs, TN

**Certificate Number:** 27129

**Mineth Buren "Doc" Burchett Obt.**

b. 5 September 1941, Clay Co., TN – d. 26 October 2011, TN, md on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 1964, Overton Co., TN to **Minnie Geneva (O’Kain) Burchett**, b. 13 January 1947. Mineth Buren “Doc” Burchett, s/o **John William Burchett** (1907-1964) & **Alta Mae Davis** (1908-1996), both buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Overton Co., TN, pg. 496, #5596 – Mineth Buren Burchett married 25 July 1964, Overton Co., TN, age 22, address: 321 W. Broad St., Cookeville, TN to Minnie Geneva O’Kain, age 17, address: 352 W. Third St., Cookeville, TN. Name of parent, guardian of next of kin of female: Blank).

Drowning victim identified  
by Mary Jo Denton

**COOKEVILLE-** The Cookeville man whose body was pulled from Center Hill Lake on Wednesday was Mineth B. "Doc" Burchett.

Burchett, 70, had left his home Wednesday morning to go fishing in the Cookeville Boat Dock area and when he did not return that evening, family members became worried.

About 6 p.m. Wednesday, a marina worker noticed a boat in the water near the boat dock and saw that no one was in it, but the motor was running.

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency crews, DeKalb County Rescue Squad members and Emergency Medical Services workers, along with DeKalb Sheriff Patrick Ray and his deputies began searching for the missing boater.

The body was found in water about seven to eight feet deep near the boat dock.

Investigators have not said whether the death resulted from an accident or possibly from a health related problem.

Family members said Burchett loved to hunt and fish.

**Mineth B. (Doc) Burchett Obt.**

**COOKEVILLE --** Funeral services for Mineth B. (Doc) Burchett, 70, will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, from the chapel of Cookeville Funeral Home. Interment will be in Cookeville City Cemetery with military honors.

The family will receive friends from 6-9 p.m. today, Friday, Oct. 28, and from 10 a.m. until time of services on Saturday at the funeral home.

Doc Burchett passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011.

He was born Sept. 5, 1941, in Clay County to the late John William and Alta Mae Davis Burchett.

Mr. Burchett was a self-employed painter and loved hunting and to fish at Cookeville Boat Dock. He was a member of life Church in Cookeville and a member of the US Armed Forces in the 82nd Airborne. His family includes his wife of 47 years, Geneva O'Kain Burchett; a daughter, Penny Gambrell and finance Eric Young; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Kenneth and Elizabeth Burchett, Mark and Karen Burchett, Brad Burchett and fiancée Melissa Lewis, all of Cookeville; three brothers, Nevil, Johnny and Jimmy Burchett, all of Cookeville, three sisters, June Cowan, Loretta Gaw and Dorothy Thomas, all of Cookeville; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his mother-in-law, Evangeline O'Kain.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant brother, Tommy Burchett; a brother, Harold Burchett; and his father-in-law, Al O'Kain.

Pallbearers will be his nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to help pay funeral expenses or to the building fund at Life Church, 2223 N. Washington Ave., Cookeville, TN 38501.

Bro. Bobby Davis will officiate at the services.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.cookevillefuneralhome.com](http://www.cookevillefuneralhome.com)

Cookeville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements (931) 528-1044.

**Wade L. Herrin Sr. Obt.**

b. 20 February 1904, DeKalb Co., TN – d. 9 August 1983, TN, md **Tannie Lee (Christian) Herrin**, b. 5 August 1908 – d. 13 June 1986. Wade L. Herrin, s/o **France Marion Herrin** (1864-1939) & **Mary Babe Dyer** (1871-1947).

**COOKEVILLE** – Funeral services for L. W. “Wade” Herrin, 79, of 338 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Cookeville, will be held at 2 p.m. Friday in the chapel of Whitson Funeral Home. Burial will be in Judd Cemetery.

Mr. Herrin, a native of DeKalb County, was dead on arrival at Cookeville General Hospital Tuesday, August 9, 1983, following an automobile accident. He was the son of the late France and Mary Dyer Herrin.

His family includes his wife, Tannie Christian Herrin of Cookeville; five sons, Joseph D., Frank M., Wade L. Jr., Dewight E. and Larry D. Herrin, all of Cookeville; three daughters, Peggy Thompson of Livonia, MI; Mary Pippin of Westland, MI, and Helen Settle of Elkton, MD; a brother, S. Roy Herrin of Old Hickory; two sisters, Katherine Herrin Haynes of Old Hickory and Hallie Herrin Parham of Valdosta, GA; 24 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Whitson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Henderson David Thomas Obt.**

b. 27 July 1893 – d. 28 December 1929, md **Eura (Carr) Thomas**, b. 8 October 1894 – d. 19 January 1961. He is buried inn Judd Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

H. D. Thomas Dies; Accidentally Shot By Brother: Deplorable Accident Occurs Near Silver Point Last Thursday:

A most deplorable and unfortunate accident occurred on last Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, near Silver Point, when H. D. Thomas, a prominent and most highly respected farmer of the 8th district was accidentally shot by his brother, Robert Thomas, with whom he had been hunting rabbit. The unfortunate man was brought to the Cookeville hospital and everything possible was done to save his life, but died on Saturday evening about six o'clock from the effects of the wound.

Dee Thomas and two of his brothers were hunting rabbits and he was just a few feet in front of his brother,

Robert, when a rabbit jumped out a little to his right and his brother raised his gun to the level of his shoulder and prepared to fire. Just as he was pulling the trigger it seems that his feet became entangled in the undergrowth and caused him to fall, his gun discharging and the entire contents entered the hip of his brother at very close range, inflicting a very dangerous wound. The shot ranged upward after striking the man, some of them entering his spine.

Thomas was 35 years of age and is survived by his wife and four small children, besides a number of brothers and sisters. He was a substantial farmer of his community and the unfortunate accident which caused his death is deeply regretted by a large circle of friends and relatives.

His body was carried to his home on Saturday night and interred on Sunday in the presence of a large number of sorrowing friends and relatives.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 2 January 1930

**James Paul "Jamie" Austin Obt.**

b. 8 March 1990, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 3 August 2021, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md **Kayla (Randolph) Austin**. James Paul "Jamie" Austin, s/o **April (Robert) Wheatley**.

James "Jamie" Paul Austin, 31 of Cookeville passed away Tuesday, August 3, 2021 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. He was born March 8, 1990 in Cookeville to April Austin.

Jamie is survived by his mother: April (Robert) Wheatley; family friend: Shailyn Randolph; girlfriend: Megan Massa; Mema: Linda Wittenberg of Cookeville; great grandmother: Loretta Harness of Michigan; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son: Ian Austin and grandfather: Daniel Wittenberg.

Funeral services were held Monday, August 9, 2021 at Dyer Chapel of Hooper Huddleston and Horner Funeral Home with Pastor Bobby Davis officiating. Graveside service was conducted Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at Judd Cemetery in Baxter.

**R. Milton Cantrell Obt.**

b. 11 September 1867 – d. 24 April 1894, md on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1893, Putnam Co., TN to **D. F. (Judd) Cantrell**.

'Since thou can no longer stay to cheer me with they love we hope to meet with thee again in youn bright world above'

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN. pg. 348 – R. M. Cantrell married 24 December 1893, PutnaM Co., TN to D. F. Judd).

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, TN

**Bailey Peyton Carr Obt.**

b. 7 January 1879, TN – 1 March 1931, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN, md on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1909, Putnam Co., TN, **Maude (Medley) Carr**, b. 1879 – 1931, d/o **James Sidney Medley** (1853-1943) & **Mary Elizabeth Isbell** (1852-1930). Bailey Peyton Carr, s/o **Pleasant Gideon "Gid" Carr** (1858-1929) & **Mary March McClellan** (1857-1935). Bailey & Maude (Medley) Carr had six children: Vernon, B. T., Charlie, Mary, Thelma & Gladys Carr. Bailey Peyton Carr is buried in Double Springs Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

\*See Pleasant Gideon "Gid" Carr buried in Double Springs Cemetery.

\*See Frank Featherston buried in Double Springs Cemetery.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 197, #241: Baley Carr married 5 November 1904, Putnam Co., TN to Miss Maud Medley).

They lived in Columbus, MS.

Conduct Funeral For Bailey P. Carr: Putnam Countian Fell in Steam Vat At Crossville Veneer Plant And Died Of Burns.

Bailey P. Carr, about 45, a well known and respected citizen of this county, died Saturday night, in a Nashville hospital, as the result of a tragic accident a week ago. **He was the owner and operator of the Carr Veneer factory at Crossville.** He accidentally fell into one of the factory vats of hot water, used for steaming the logs before they are sawed into veneering. He was terribly burned from his waist down.

He was rushed to the Vanderbilt hospital at Nashville immediately.

At the time of the accident he was removing the blocks from a vat of boiling hot water at his Crossville factory when a plank over the vat on which he was standing broke and he dropped into the vat up to his waist.

He was unable to get out of the vat without help, and factory employees rescued him.

He was a man of strict intergrity, a son of Gideon Carr and a well known citizen of this county. He was a member of the Baptist Church and an Odd Fellow.

He is survived by his wife and several children. He was reared near Double Springs. His burial took place Monday afternoon in the Double Springs cemetery. Dr. O. H. Tallman, of the Cookeville Church of Christ, conducted the funeral services.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 7 May 1931

(1900 census 18<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 64 – **Gid Carr** is head of household, 42 yrs. old, b. February 1858, TN, Occupation: Carpenter md 22 yrs. to **Mary**, 43 yrs. old, b. March 1857, TN, 5 children born, 5 children living. Children: **Bailey**, 21 yrs. old, b. January 1879, Occupation: Photographer; Maud, 13 yrs. old, b. September 1886; Grover, 11 yrs. old, b. October 1888 & Ilar Carr, 2 yrs. old, b. March 1898. All born in TN).

**Terry Darren Dyer Jr. Obt.**

b. 11 April 1966, Putnam Co., TN – d. 23 November 1991, Hokkaido Island, Japan, (US Airforce), md on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1988, Putnam Co., TN to **Vicki Lynn (Hensley) Dyer**, b. 9 March 1969. Terry Darren Dyer Jr., s/o **Mackie Hulon Dyer** (1940-2006) & **Mable Morine Billingsley** (1939-2004).

'Your love will light my way, your memory will ever be with me'

\*See Mable Morine (Billingsley) Dyer Obt.

\*See Mackie Hulon Dyer Obt.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 162 – Terry Darren Dyer Jr. married 16 December 1988, Putnam Co., TN, age 22, b. 11 April 1966, address: Rt. 2, Box 77, Cookeville, TN to Vicki Lynn Hensley, age 19, b. 9 March 1969, address: Rt. 1, Box 261, Bloomington Springs, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Bobby Hensley, Rt. 1, Box 261, Bloomington Springs, TN).

**DOUBLE SPRINGS** – Funeral services for Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Terry Darren Dyer, 25, of Double Springs will be at 2 p.m. Monday, December 2 in the chapel of Dyer Funeral Home with burial in the Double Springs Cemetery.



Mr. Dyer died Friday, November 22, 1991, in an automobile accident while on a hunting trip on Hokkaido Island, Japan. He was stationed at Misawa City, Japan, where he lived with his wife.

Born April 11, 1966, in Putnam County, he was the son of Mackie Hulon Dyer and Morine Billingsley Dyer of Cookeville.

He was a member of the Church of Christ and an Air Force crew chief on an F-16 airplane.

His family includes his wife, Vicki Hensley Dyer of Bloomington Springs; his parents, Mackie Hulon Dyer and Morine Billingsley Dyer of Cookeville; two sisters, Sherry and Tony Delaney of Cookeville and Jennifer Dyer of Cookeville; and his father and mother-in-law, Bobby and Wilma Hensley of Cookeville.

Active pallbearers include Jerry Dyer, David Dyer, Scott Delaney, Michael Jackson, James Lafever and Charlie Smith.

Bro. Paul Fox will officiate at the services.

Herald – Citizen, Cookeville, TN

**Andy C. Godsey Obt.**

b. 3 October 1908, TN – d. 7 June 1931, s/o **Louis K. Godsey Sr.** (1886-1963) & **Roxanne “Roxie” Walker** (1881-1964). He is buried in Double Springs Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

\*See Roxanne “Roxie” (Walker) Godsey buried in Double Springs Cemetery.

Andy Godsey, 23, shot and killed himself at the home of his parents, Mrs. and Mrs. L. K. Godsey, at Double Springs, at noon Saturday. According to reports from Double Springs, Godsey was cleaning his pistol and shot one time out a window. He then, thought to have been accidentally, shot himself in the breast. He was rushed to the Millis hospital at Baxter, where he died at midnight, Saturday.

Putnam County Herald, TN: 17 June 1931.

Andy Godsey

b. ----, TN

d. 7 Jun 1931

Age: 22y 8d

Father: Lewis Godsey, TN

Mother: Roxey Walker, TN

Double Springs Cemetery Putnam

#13529

(1910 census 1<sup>st</sup> Civil Dist., Jackson Co., TN: Dwl: 86 – **Lewis Godsey** is head of household, 23 yrs. old, TN md 3 yrs. to **Roxie**, 26 yrs. old, TN, 2 children born, 2 children living. Children: Altie, 3 yrs. old, TN & **Andy C. Godsey**, 1 6/12 yrs. old, TN)

**Jeffrey Lynn Herron Obt.**

b. 11 May 1957, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 12 October 2014, Chattanooga, TN, md **Carol (unknown) Herron**. Jeffrey Lynn Herron, s/o **Jimmy D. Herron**. Jeffrey Lynn Herron also md on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1983, Putnam Co., TN to **Denise Rose (Reed) Herron**, b. 9 January 1963.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 18 – Jeffrey Lynn Herron married 3 September 1983, Putnam Co., TN, age 26, b. 11 May 1957, address: Rt. 2, Baxter, TN 39544 to Denise Rose Reed, age 20, b. 9 January 1963, address: Rt. 10, Box 173, Cookeville, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Douglas Reed, father, Rt. 10., Box 173, Cookeville, TN 38501).

**COOKEVILLE** — Funeral services for Jeffrey Lynn Herron, 57, of Baxter, will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Sycamore Church of Christ. Burial will be in Double Springs Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 4-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14, and from 10 a.m. until time of services on Wednesday at the church.

Mr. Herron died on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014, in Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga from injuries received in a truck accident on Oct. 1, 2014.

He was born May 11, 1957, in Cookeville to Kay Herron and the late Jimmy D. Herron.



Mr. Herron was a loving husband and father. He enjoyed special times with all his family and was a peacemaker. He was known as a most kind and gently person. He was a member of Baxter Church of Christ. Mr. Herron was a truck driver and was employed with Builder Supply Company of Cookeville.

He was a graduate of Upperman High School.

His family includes his wife, Carol Herron; two children, Jesse and Anna Herron; a sister, Jill Lee; his grandmother, Jewell Herron; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jimmy D. Herron; a brother, Jerry Herron; a nephew and niece, Brian and Brandi Herron; and his grandfather, Otto Herron.

Pallbearers will be Danny Dunston, Tony Thomas, Ben Nash, Perkins Nash, Jesse Nash and Randy Spurlock.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Jeff Herron Memorial Fund, with provisions provided at visitation and funeral services.

Bro. Steve Bowman and John Pippin will officiate at the services.

To sign the online guest book and to leave the family a message, please visit [www.crestlawnmemorial.com](http://www.crestlawnmemorial.com).

Crest Lawn Funeral Home-Cremation Center in Cookeville is in charge of arrangements, (931) 526-6384.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 13 October 2014

**Jere Baxter Jernigan**

b. 9 February 1904, Putnam Co., TN – d. 11 May 1941, md on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1925, Putnam Co., TN to **Mattie Verble (Pippin) Jernigan**, b. 21 September 1905, TN – d. 31 May 1975, Nashville, TN, d/o **Dow M. Pippin** (1882-1969) & **Ova Mary Flynn** (1886-1973). Jere Baxter Jernigan, s/o **Charles Patrick Jernigan** (1871-1935) & **Evola Shaw** (1879-1966).

\*See Cecil J. Allen Obt. buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

\*See Charles Patrick Jernigan Obt.

\*See Mattie Verble (Pippin) Jernigan Obt.

\*See Dow M. Pippin buried in Double Springs Cemetery.

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 307, #3081 – J. B. Jernigan married 16 August 1925, Putnam Co., TN to Mattie Verble Pippin).

Tennessee, Death Records – Jere Baxter Jernigan

Gender	Male
Birth Date	9 Feb 1904
Birth Place	Putnam, TN
Age	37
Occupation	Auto Shop Worker
Death Date	11 May
Death Place	Cookeville, Putnam, TN
Cause of Death	Fractured skull, fracture left femar, chest injury to to shock from a accident
Father's Name	Charlie Jernigan
Father's Birth Place	Putnam, TN
Mother's Name	Verble Shaw
Mother's Birth Place	Putnam, TN
Informant	Dow Pippin
Undertaker	Whitson Funeral Home
Certificate Number	11762

(1930 census 7<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co. TN: Dwl: 176 – **Dow Pippin** is head of household, 47 yrs. old, TN, md to **Ova M.**, 44 yrs.old, TN. Child: **Mattie Pippin**, 19 yrs. old, TN).

(1940 census 7<sup>th</sup> Civile Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 50 – **Baxter Jernigan** is head of household, 35 yrs. old, TN, (Occupation: Attendant gasoline station md to **Mattie**, 31 yrs. old, TN, (Occupation: Floor lady, shirt factory. Children: Jerry W., 14 yrs. old; Moreen M., 13 yrs. old & Billie H. Jernigan, 11 yrs. old. All born in TN. Also living in the household: **Vola Jernigan, mother**, 60 yrs. old, TN, widow).

Baxter Jernigan of Double Springs is in Howard Hospital suffering from serious burns on his legs and hands as a result of an accident Sunday night. In company with a young lady, he attended church at Bloomington Springs. After services, he found that his car had no gasoline and someone offered him some out of another car. The gasoline was drained into another car, when someone lit a match and the gas ignited. In the excitement, someone kicked the can over the flaming liquid scattering it over Mr. Jernigan's pants. While his burns are serious, he will recover. He is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Jernigan.

Jackson County Sentinel, Jackson Co., TN: 19 August 1925

**Robert Lee Terry**

b. 3 June 1889 – d. 6 April 1951, Knoxville, Knox Co., TN, md **Ethel Byrdie (Bartlett) Terry**, b. 3 December 1889 – d. 14 July 1947, both buried in Dry Valley Cemetery, Monterey, Putnam Co., TN. Ethel Birdie (Bartlett) Terry, d/o **Nathan Bartlett** (1850-1928) & **Sarah Elizabeth Clark** (1858-1935). Robert Lee Terry, s/o **Rollen Jasper Terry** (1865-1950) & **Sarah Katherine Walker** (1869-1960).

Robert Lee Terry died in a Knoxville hospital Friday, April 6 at about 3 p.m. as a result of 3 gunshot wounds received 3 weeks ago in the Lenoir City area.

Loudon County Sheriff T V Garner said the farmer was found wounded at a slaughter house north of Lenoir City March 17.

When he first investigated, the Sheriff said, he found a pool of blood in one room and the .22 rifle from which the shots were fired in another.

Terry, who was wounded once in the head and twice in the chest, never regained consciousness.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs Nell Terry; 5 sons by a former marriage, Fred, Crossville; Elmore, Henry Nate, Jasper, and Howard Lewis Terry, all of Lenoir City; 5 grandchildren; his mother, Kate Terry; 5 brothers, Frank, Steve, Will, Jim and Jack; 3 sister, Mrs Fanny Brown, Mrs Mattie Goodpasture, Miss Ruth Terry.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 10 a.m. at Guy F Tallent Funeral Home in Lenoir City with burial at Dry Valley cemetery, Putnam County at 2 p.m.  
Crossville Chronicle April 12, 1951

#### **Elmer Flynn Emerton**

b. 12 September 1935 – d. 3 June 1945, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **John William “Bill” Emerton** (1897-1968) & **Savannah Burks** (1894-1975).

Elmer Emerton, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Emerton, of Algood, was crushed to death here Saturday night by a truck of a carnival at the Allen show grounds, according to a verdict of a jury empaneled Sunday morning by Coroner Paskel Matheny.

The body of the youth was found about six o'clock Sunday morning on the show grounds west of the city limits on highways 70, where the carnival had been showing.

Personnel of the show notified Sheriff Harvey Higgenbotham who investigated. The youth, whose head was crushed, was carried to Whitson Funeral Home, where the inquest was held.

Sheriff Higgenbotham said that it was evident the boy fell asleep near the truck and was unobserved by the driver. No arrests were made and the show left town Sunday.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Baxter Methodist church with the Rev. J. A. Harris officiating.

**Burial was in the Odd Fellows cemetery, near Baxter.**

In addition to his parents, he is survived by four brothers, Paul Emerton, U. S. Army in Germany, Eugene Emerton of Oak Ridge, Oemma and Frank Emerton, both of Algood.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 7 June 1945.

#### **William Amon Hutchings**

b. 24 June 1882, TN – d. 19 May 1917, Putnam Co., TN, md **Louisa “Eliza” (Ashburn) Hutchings**, b. 13 November 1886, DeKalb Co., TN – d. 27 March 1938, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **John Calvin Ashburn** (1862-1943) & **Caldonia Herren** (1866-1946), both buried in Dobbs Cemetery, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN. William Amon Hutchings, s/o **Jasper Sylvester “Burt” Hutchings** (1858-1955) & **Mary E. “Mollie” Medley** (1865-1942), both buried in Dobbs Cemetery, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN.

A Murder Mystery

Several weeks ago Amon Hutchings of the Eighth district disappeared. A short time ago the skull and certain other human bones were found near where he was last seen alive. It appeared that Hutchings had been murdered and his body cremated. The remains were identified by a bullet in the skull and the finding of a ring known to have been worn by Hutchings.

Hobart Roberts was arrested and charged with the crime. Last Saturday Esqs. M. C. Farley and A. L. Green came to Cookeville and conducted a preliminary hearing, as a result of which Roberts was held to court without bail. He stoutly denies being guilty of the crime.

Tennessee US Death Records (1908-1965)

**Name:** Ammon Hutchings  
**Gender:** Male  
**Race:** White  
**Age:** 34  
**Birth Date:** 24 Jun 1882  
**Birth Place:** USA  
**Death Date:** 24 May 1917  
**Death Place:** Putnam, Tennessee, USA  
**Cause of Death:** Murdered - Shot  
**Father:** Jasper Hutchings  
**Mother:** Mollie Medley

**Certificate Number:** 445

**Filed 15 Sept 1917** Douglas Martin

June the 14<sup>th</sup> 1918, Baxter Rt. 2: I cannot tell you just how Ammon Hutchings was murdered. He left home one morning and was not seen any more till they found his bones six weeks after and recognized them by his ring and a peace (*sic*) of his clothing. They did not hold any inquest over them and they have still his skull (*sic*) and to use it in court (*sic*). His brother thought he was shot, his skull bone had a hole in it, he told me. This is the best I know and you can file this certificate now better than I can. Yours respectably,  
Douglas martin, Baxter, Rt. 2.

**William R. Bullock**

b. 18 November 1886 – d. 15 February 1911, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **David Harrison Bullock** (1855-1923) & **Sophie Elizabeth Terry** (1859-1939), all buried in Salem Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

BULLOCK, WILL: Commits Suicide -- Yesterday afternoon Will Bullock, son of D. H. Bullock of Route 6, took a rifle to go hunting. Not returning when expected, search was made and he was found sitting in a fence corner not far from the house, dead -- shot through the heart. It appeared that he had shot himself. Mr. Bullock was a man probably 25 years of age and unmarried. He had been despondent for some time over personal matters. [Date 2/16/1911, Vol. IX, No. 7, Page 7]

Read more about the people & places in Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:  
<http://www.ajlambert.com>