

'Just Living Now with Memories'

News Features

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By Susan Hartley: photos by Susan Hartley



Nettie May Hawkins, born at Silver Point, daughter of a Civil War veteran, has lived in Ohio almost 60 years but still thinks of Tennessee as 'home' – she'll be 100 on Wednesday.

West Carrollton, Ohio – Nearly 60 years after leaving Middle Tennessee, Nettie Mae Bradford Hawkins still thinks of it as "home."

"I think Tennessee is the best state and has the best people," she said during an interview earlier this month. "They're the friendliest people and know how to speak to other people and talk to them."

Mrs. Hawkins and her husband, the late J. D. Fowler Hawkins relocated their family of six children to the Dayton, Ohio, area in 1945.

Mr. Hawkins, who was born February 12, 1900 in Jackson County, TN, first worked at Dayton's Master's Electric Co., then at Moraine Box Co. until his retirement in 1966. He died February 14, 1980.

Mrs. Hawkins, who will turn 100-years old Wednesday, fondly remembers her growing up days in Putnam County.

She was born May 26, 1904, at Silver Point to Thomas Taylor Bradford and Eliza Jane Sherrill Bradford, who were married in September 1902 in Smithville.

She was the second child and the oldest daughter born to the couple who lived and farmed in Putnam County's 8th District. Mr. Bradford who according to family history was born about 1848, served with the Union Army's 8th Regiment of the Tennessee Mounted Infantry during the Civil War.

He also bought and sold property in and around the Cookeville area.

Their father's Civil War service makes Mrs. Hawkins and her only surviving sibling, Delbert J., 86, among the few still-living children of Civil War veterans.

Mrs. Hawkins grew up with six brothers, one sister, two half-brothers and one half-sister. Her father and his first wife, Martha Nelson, who died in 1900, were the parents of Maude Bradford Lance (1894-1968) of Sandy, Utah; Luke (1896 – 1900); and William (1900 – 1967) of Chattanooga.

Mrs. Hawkins' siblings – all born in Putnam County – include Whitley Thomas Bradford (1902 – 1935), John Alton Bradford (1906 – 1995), Clifford Lew Bradford (1908 – 1998), Martha Ann Bradford (1910 – 1940), George Doley Bradford (1912 – 1977), Orson Bethel Bradford (1915 – 1939) and Delbert J. Bradford who lives with his wife Mary Lee Hunter in Moraine, Ohio.

"We grew up on a farm. I was the oldest girl and my brothers would help me clean the house and the yard," Mrs. Hawkins said. "We got along pretty good."

Three of Mrs. Hawkins' brothers were deaf – John Alton, George Doley and Orson Bethel. They attended school at the Tennessee School for the Deaf in Knoxville where Alton and Orson played sports, including football, basketball and baseball.

Alton, who married Ruth Upton, was active until his death nine years ago running a shoe repair shop in Livingston, Orson, who married Quinnie Ann Moyers, also owned a shoe repair shop in Jefferson City.

Clifford who married Della Dunn, served during World War II in the Philippines. George Doley never married, but studied farming at TSD and resided with Clifford and his family following their mother's death on what is now Henley Road, near Baxter.

Delbert served in North Africa and Italy as a medic with the Fifth Army's 85th Division during World War II.

Whitley and his wife, Emma Nash, and Martha and her husband, Charlie Birdwell, also resided in the Baxter area.

Mrs. Hawkins' childhood memories are filled with tales told by her father of his experiences during the Civil War. According to family records, he was very young- about 16 – when he followed his brother, Jack, to join the Union Army to keep from being drafted by the Confederates.

Because of his young age, Mrs. Bradford said, her father was often used as a spy since he could go about without being detected.

“He saved his regiment from getting captured one time. He would tell us stories and sing songs,” she recalls.

Records show that Thomas Taylor Bradford was inducted into the army at Carthage, TN, on January 1, 1865, and was discharged in August 1865 in Nashville. He's buried at Pleasant View Cemetery on Cookeville Boatdock Road, south of Baxter.

Telling a good story is a trait Bradford passed on to his daughter and she to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren who today enjoy writing stories, poetry and song lyrics.

“I like to be with people that can talk and laugh and who can tell big , funny tales,” Mrs. Hawkins said. “I like to write songs. I wrote one about home in Tennessee.”

And she isn't bashful about sharing her writings with those who will stop and take time to listen. A portion of one poem she recited recently states:

“It seems so long since I've been gone.
The years have past and time is gone;
The good old days no more I'll see,
Just living now with memories.”

Mrs. Hawkins said she always received “good marks in school. I had a good father that couldn't be beat and a good mother. He was funny and was laughing all the time,” she said.

She remembers spending time with her mother, visiting with family and neighbors.

“When I was just a little girl, my mother and I went to see a sick lady. I ran to the house to cut her a piece of bacon,” she laughed. “She was sick and I thought she needed a piece of meat.”

Like other farm girls growing up in her hometown, Mrs. Hawkins attended school through the 8th grade. She attended O-Zion School, Ball Hill, Sunny Point, Silver Point (DeKalb Co.), Twin Oak, at Cookeville Boatdock and Twin Oak roads, is still standing and is today used as community center.

“I enjoyed going to school and enjoyed my friends when they'd visit with me,” she said.

Other social activities included making the rounds at church socials and dances, where in 1925 Mrs. Hawkings met her future husband, J. D. Fowler Hawkins, born February 12, 1900, the son of Austin E. and Harriet E. Copeland Hawkins.



“He was with another girl,” Mrs. Hawkins laughs, recalling how they met.

Pictured left: Nettie Mae Bradford and her husband-to-be, J. D. Fowler Hawkins, in 1925.

She and Fowler were married May 15, 1927, in DeKalb County and are the parents of six children and 14 grandchildren; the late Vailous Hawkins and his wife, Alma, and their children, Rick, Kim and the late Tammy; Marcella and the late Richard Bach and their children, Karen and Dorothy; Dimple and Stewart Thacker and their children, Susan and Greg; Dorothy Todd and her children, William and Lisa; Bailey and Jackie Hawkins and their children, Jay, Amy, and Brad; and Reed and Pat Hawkins and their children, James and Scott.

All of her children live in the Dayton area except her daughter, Dimple, and her husband, who reside at Rock Island, near McMinnville. Mrs. Hawkins has 23 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

“I’m thankful that I’m still here and have been with my family and my children that long,” Mrs. Hawkins said of reaching her 100th year.

She has lived to see many scientific and technical changes that have made her life easier.

“I didn’t have all that in my day,” she said. “I think it’s wonderful to see all the new things that have come out.”

But with the “new things” have come other problems – for example, today’s threats of terrorism and war.

“I don’t think the world can stand much more,” she said.

Besides writing poems and songs, Mrs. Hawkins also has enjoyed flower gardening and canning vegetables from her husband’s garden.

She also made clothes for her children as they were growing up and would handmake quilts, curtains and chair covers.

She is a member of the Miamisburg Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She recently began living with her daughter, Dorothy Sue, and would enjoy receiving cards and letters from her Tennessee friends.

Letters may be sent to Nettie Mae Hawkins, c/o Sue Todd, 1010 Mayrose Dr., West Carrollton, OH 45449. Those who have access to e-mail are welcome to send greetings to susanh@who.rr.com.

*Editor’s note: Susan Harley is the city editor of the Troy Daily News of Troy, Ohio, where she lives with her husband, John, and their two daughters, Maria, 17, and Laura, 15. Nettie Mae Hawkins is her grandmother.



Nettie Mae Bradford Hawkins &
her great-granddaughter, Laura Hartley, 15.

1900 Census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 165: Family: 167

RIPPITOE, David Head M W February 1859 41 M1 (16 yrs. married) Farmer TN TN TN
RIPPITOE, Nettie F. Wife W F July 1853 46 M1 (16 yrs. married) (5 children born, 4 children living) TN TN TN
RIPPITOE, Lexus L. Dsu. W F July 1886 13 Single At School TN TN TN
RIPPITOE, Rus D. Son W M July 1888 11 Single At School TN TN TN
RIPPITOE, Vola J. Dau W F April 1891 9 Single St School TN TN TN
RIPPITOE, Sophia E. Dau. W F June 1894 5 Single TN TN TN

1900 Census 8th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 178 Family: 178

BRADFORD, Thomas T. Head M W March 1850 50 Married (5 years married) Farmer TN TN TN
(Thomas Taylor Bradford md 1st Martha Nelson).
BRADFORD, Martha Wife F W August 1869 30 Md (5 years married) (3 children born, 3 children living) TN TN
(Martha Nelson died in 1900, 1st w/o Thomas Taylor Bradford).
BRADFORD, Maud Dau. F W March 1894 6 Single TN TN TN
(Maude Bradford Lance, b. March 1894, TN – d. 1968).
BRADFORD, Luke G. Son W M February 1896 4 Single TN TN TN
(Luke Bradford, b. February 1896, TN – d. 1900).
BRADFORD, William Son W M May 1900 0/12 Single TN TN TN
(William Bradford, b. May 1900 – d. 1967).
NELSON, Susie Mother-in-Law W F March 1852 48 Widow (9 children born, 5 children living) TN TN TN

1910 Census 8th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 85 Family: 85: Cookeville & Smithville Rd.

BRADFORD, Thomas T. Head M W 62 M2 (9 years married) Farm Laborer General Farm TN TN TN
Thomas Taylor Bradford joined the Union Army – Civil War. He md 2nd Eliza Jane Sherrill).
BRADFORD, Eliza S. Wife F W 31 M1 (9 years married) (5 children born, 5 children living) TN TN TN
(Eliza Jane Sherrill)
BRADFORD, Maud Dau. F W 16 Single TN TN TN
BRADFORD, Whitley T. M W 7 Single Farm Laborer Working Out TN TN TN
(Whitley Thomas Bradford, b. 1902, TN - d. 1935: md Emma Nash).
BRADFORD, Nettie M. Dau F W 6 Single TN TN TN
(Nettie Mae Bradford, b. 26 May 1904, TN – 100 yrs. old May 2004. She md Joseph Marion Fowler Hawkins – b. 12 February 1900, Jackson Co., TN – d. 14 February 1980, s/o Austin E. Hawkins & Harriet E. Copeland).
BRADFORD, Alton J. Son M W 4 Single TN TN TN
(John Alton Bradford, b. 1906, TN – d. 1995: md Ruth Upton).
BRADFORD, Lien C. Son M W 2 Single TN TN TN
(Clifford Lew Bradford, b. 1908, TN – d. 1998: md Della Dunn).
BRADFORD, Martha A. Dau F W 0/12 Single TN TN TN
(Martha Ann Bradford, b. 1910, TN – d. 1940: md Charlie Birdwell).

1910 Census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 359: Family: 369

RIPETO, David C. Head M W 50 M1 (25 yrs. married) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

RIPETO, Nettie F. Wife F W 55 M1 (25 yrs. married) TN TN TN

RIPETO, Lex L. M W 24 Single Photographer TN TN TN

RIPETO, Valia J. Dau. F W 19 Single TN TN TN

RIPETO, Sophie E. Dau. F W 16 Single TN TN TN

BRADFORD, Willie Nephew M W 10 Single TN TN TN

(*William "Willie" Bradford, b. May 1900 – d. 1967. Son of Thomas Taylor Brandford & Martha Nelson*).

Source: Putnam County Tennessee Cemeteries by Maurine Ensor Patton: pg. 398

Pleasant View Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN: Located off Cookeville Boat Dock Road in the 8th Civil Dist. Recorded by Bettie Doyle and Nancy M. Goolsby 16 June 1983. There are at least 20 unmarked graves and several that are marked with bricks, and a few that are illegible.

Bradford, Thomas (T)*aylor-* b. *March 1850, TN* – d. 16 November 1938

(*Thomas Taylor Bradford: Co. C 8th Tennessee Mtd Infantry. s/o Jery Bradford*).

Bradford, Eliza – b. 24 October 1878, *TN* – d. 2 July 1948

(*Eliza Sherrill, 2nd w/o Thomas Taylor Bradford*).

Bradford, George Doley – b. 2 April 1912 – d. 7 November 1977 – (*never married*).

Bradford, Whitley (T)*homas* – b. 24 September 1902, *TN* – d. 1 May 1935

(*s/o Thomas Taylor Bradford & Eliza Sherrill. He md Emma Nash*).

Bradford, Emma Nash – b. 7 May 1895

Source: Putnam County Tennessee Cemeteries by Maurine Ensor Patton: pg. 54

Boiling Springs Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN: Located 6 miles south of I-40 on Burgess Falls Road. All graves are listed north to south starting next to Burgess Falls Road. Recorded by Nancy Massa Goolsby.

Bradford, Clifford (L)*ew* – b. 30 January 1907, *TN* – d. 1998

(*Clifford Lew Bradford md 7 May 1932, Della R. Dunn*).

Bradford, Della R. Dunn – b. 20 December 1909 – d. 11 February 1985

Source: Certificate of Death – State of Tennessee
Department of Public Health – Division of Vital Statistics

NAME: Thomas T. Bradford

DATE OF BIRTH:

DATE OF DEATH: 16 Nov 1938

PLACE OF BIRTH: TN

AGE: abt 90y

SPOUSE: Eliza Sherrell

CEMETERY: Pleasant View

FATHER: Jery Bradford

PLACE OF BIRTH: TN

MOTHER: Unknown

PLACE OF BIRTH:

CERTIFICATE: 24906

COUNTY: Putnam



Nettie Mae Bradford Hawkins and her brother, Delbert Bradford, 86 – surviving out of eight children.

NAME: Whitley Bradford

DATE OF BIRTH:

DATE OF DEATH: 1 May 1935

PLACE OF BIRTH: Putnam County

AGE: 32y
 SPOUSE: *Emma Nash*
 CEMETERY: Pleasant View
 FATHER: **Tom Bradford**
 PLACE OF BIRTH: TN
 MOTHER: **Eliza Shirrell**
 PLACE OF BIRTH: TN
CERTIFICATE: 11356
 COUNTY: Putnam

NAME: **Jan Randy Bradford**
 DATE OF BIRTH: 9 May 1932
 DATE OF DEATH: 9 May 1932
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Putnam County
 AGE:
 SPOUSE:
 CEMETERY: Pleasant View
 FATHER: **Clifford Bradford**
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Putnam County
 MOTHER: **Dellar Dunn**
 PLACE OF BIRTH: DeKalb County
 CERTIFICATE: 10687
 COUNTY: Putnam

NAME: **Dortha Wille Bradford**
 DATE OF BIRTH:
 DATE OF DEATH: 3 Mar 1933
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Putnam County
 AGE: 13d
 SPOUSE:
 CEMETERY: Pleasant View Cemetery
 FATHER: **Clifford Bradford**
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Putnam County
 MOTHER: **Della Dunn**
 PLACE OF BIRTH: TN
 CERTIFICATE: 6162
 COUNTY: Putnam

Census Place: 1880 District 3, Overton, Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255274 National Archives Film T9-1274 Page 272C

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Joseph HAWKINS	Self	M	M	W	67	TENN.
Occ: Farmer	Fa: VIRGINIA	Mo: VIRGINIA				
Nancy HAWKINS	Wife	F	M	W	35	TENN.
Occ: Keeping House	Fa: TENN.	Mo: TENN.				
Austin E HAWKINS	Son	M	S	W	15	TENN.
Occ: Laborer	Fa: TENN.	Mo: TENN.				
Elisabeth HAWKINS	Dau	F	S	W	13	TENN.
Occ: At Home	Fa: TENN.	Mo: TENN.				
Thos Jefferson HAWKINS	Son	M	S	W	11	TENN.
Occ: At Home	Fa: TENN.	Mo: TENN.				
Joseph Hillery HAWKINS	Son	M	S	W	9	TENN.
	Fa: TENN.	Mo: TENN.				
Campbell A HAWKINS	Son	M	S	W	7	TENN.
	Fa: TENN.	Mo: TENN.				
James M HAWKINS	Son	M	S	W	5	TENN.

Emily V HAWKINS	Fa: TENN. Dau F	Mo: TENN. S W	3	TENN.
Samuel Lee HAWKINS	Fa: TENN. Son M	Mo: TENN. S W	1	TENN.
	Fa: TENN.	Mo: TENN.		

Source: Gone But Not Forgotten by Patsy Underhill Walls: pg. 131
 Peeled Chestnut Cemetery, DeKalb Co., TN – Location: Go Hwy 70 East 9.3 miles to Peeled Chestnut Road. Just before DeKalb-White County line. Cemetery is .08/mile on the right.

HAWKINS, Austin – b. 1 February 1865 – d. 21 October 1944

HAWKINS, Harriette E. – b. 10 November 1864 – d. 19 February 1948

Buried next to them:

HAWKINS, Clure W. – b. 8 August 1903 – d. 10 October 1962

HAWKINS, Nettie E. – b. 5 December 1911

Source: Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee

published by 1st American Bank, Cookeville, TN: pg. 23

LYNN, ASA, SR. was listed in the 1830 census in Jackson Co., TN; in Humphrey Co., TN, in 1840, along with his sons: Asa Lynn, Jr. and David Lynn and then back in Jackson Co., TN, in 1850 where he stayed until he died in 1868. Asa, Sr. married 1st, **Elizabeth Hawkins**, daughter of **Joseph Hawkins**, a **Revolutionary soldier of Jackson Co., TN**, and married 2nd, Polly Reagan. He was the father of at least thirteen children and the head of a very large Lynn family where has spread to many adjoining counties including Putnam. Asa, Sr.'s children include: Margaret Lynn who married Daniel Johnson; Mary Lynn "Polly" who married William J. Anderson; David Lynn who married Elizabeth Johnson; Asa Lynn, Jr., who married Sarah Hawkins; Amanda Lynn who married Benjamin Chapman; Hester Lynn who married John Wesley Lee, Sr.; William Lynn who married Intha Patterson; Joseph Lynn who married Mary Perkins James Lynn who married 1st, Sarah Clementine Cooper and 2nd Mrs. Barbara Gentry Allen; Sally Lynn who married Derby Henzley Morgan; Andrew Lynn who married Susan Whitaker; Francis K. Lynn who married Jane, and Alfred Lynn who married Rebecca Pierce.

Census Place: 1880 District 2, Overton Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255274 National Archives Film T9-1274 Page 258D

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Matthew COPELAND	Self	M	M	W	51	TENN
Occ: Farmer	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
Melvina COPELAND	Wife	F	M	W	45	TENN
Occ: Keeps House	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
Mary COPELAND	Dau	F	S	W	23	TENN
Occ: At Home	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
Sarah COPELAND	Dau	F	S	W	22	TENN
Occ: At Home	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
James COPELAND	Son	M	S	W	19	TENN
Occ: Works On Farm	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
Elizabeth COPELAND	Dau	F	S	W	17	TENN
Occ: At Home	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
Harriet COPELAND	Dau	F	S	W	15	TENN
Occ: At Home	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
Margaret COPELAND	Dau	F	S	W	9	TENN
	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
William COPELAND	Son	M	S	W	7	TENN
	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
John COPELAND	Son	M	S	W	4	TENN
	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				
Joseph COPELAND	Son	M	S	W	6M	TENN
	Fa: TENN	Mo: TENN				



Twin Oak School, now a community center, in western Putnam County- one of several schools Mrs. Nettie Mae Bradford Hawkins attended.

Nettie Mae Bradford Hawkins Obt.

OHIO -- Funeral services for **Nettie Mae Bradford Hawkins**, 102, of West Carrollton, Ohio, and formerly of Putnam County were held Thursday, April 5, at Newcomer Funeral Home (937-293-4141) in Kettering, Ohio. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery in West Carrollton.

Mrs. Hawkins died Monday, April 2, 2007, in Dayton, Ohio.

She was born May 26, 1904, in Putnam County to the late **Thomas Taylor Bradford and Eliza Jane Sherrill Bradford**.

Mrs. Hawkins was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She and her husband resided in Putnam County until 1945, when they moved their family to the Dayton, Ohio, area. She enjoyed gardening in her flower beds, especially roses, and writing about her memories of growing up in Tennessee and writing poetry, which she shared with her family and church friends. She also enjoyed quilting and sewing.

Her family includes two sons and daughters-in-law, Will Bailey and Jacqueline Hawkins and Alton Reed and Patricia Hawkins, all of West Carrollton; three daughters and a son-in-law, Marcella Bach and Dorothy Sue Todd, both of West Carrollton, and Dimple and Stewart Thacker of Rock Island; her daughter-in-law, Alma Hawkins of Centerville, Ohio; her brother and sister-in-law, Delbert J. and Mary Bradford of Moraine, Ohio; 13 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Hawkins was preceded in death by her **husband, Vailous Fowler Hawkins**, whom she married May 15, 1927, in DeKalb County; seven brothers, Bill, Luke, Whitley, Alton, Clifford, George Doley and Orson Bradford; two sisters, Martha Birdwell and Maud Lance; her granddaughter, Tammy L. Hawkins; and two sons-in-law, Richard Bach and Billy Todd.

Bishop Leonard W. Goings officiated the services.

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