

A HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY, TN
By Walter S. McClain - 1925
The County Asylum

Martin Laycock was superintendent of the County Poor House, situated two miles north of Cookeville, in the years before the Civil War, so we are told by Mrs. Mary Quarles, 84, widow of John Quincy Quarles, a life long resident of that vicinity. After the war, Mr. Quarles was superintendent for awhile, followed by Ned Chote, Denton Quarles, Cant Chism and perhaps other for short periods. Then came the administration of Christopher Columbus Davis for a period of about ten years. All of this time institution was a constant expense but the inmates were few. The buildings were small and cheaply constructed and the farm produced very little of anything. In 1890, the County Court voted to purchase from Samuel Sliger a larger and more productive farm, about five miles north-west of Cookeville, and made a effort to place the institution upon a self-supporting basis. This was under the administration of County Judge Denny, (**Thomas Luther Denny**). The average number of inmates for the past twenty years has been about ten, mostly very old and infirm people. Very few children have been cared for at the Poor House, and only one Negro, so far as we have been able to learn. The following superintendents have served since 1890: William A. Rippetoe, William King, Andrew Robinson, W.W. Brown and A.H. Hawkins, the present incumbent. Benton M. Carr of Cookeville, is the Poor House Commissioner, elected by the County Court. About \$2,500 Have been spent for improvements during the last few years, including running water, etc. The farm produces enough to reduce the up-keep of the inmates to about \$180 a year for each. *Pg. 108 & 109*

T.L. Denny mentioned also on pg. 130 as involved in public affairs and a highly esteemed citizen.

Thompson Luther Denny (T.L. Denny) was the son of Jonothan Denny who married Agnes Thompson. Jonothan Denny was the son of Zachariah Denny, (Denney) and brother of Timothy Denny, (Denney), Timothy Denny was the Great Grandfather of Audrey June (Denny) Lambert. T.L. Denny was a teacher, then a lawyer and finally a Judge.