



### Denny's Seminary: 1928

Posed for a school portrait are these students and their teacher at Denny's Seminary in Buffalo Valley on March 20, 1928. From left, front row, are Joe Pullum, Pauline Robinson, Mary Lee Whitehead, Lila Mae Pullum, Lillian Robinson, Mollie Pullum, Vera Whitehead, Mary Maddie, Alma Helms,

Tim Denny and the teacher, Dimple Breeding; second row, Sam Carr, Robert Carr, Joe Whitehead, Joe Carr, Arah Carr, Geneva Whitehead, Minnie Carr; and, third row, John Pullum, Douglas Maddie, Alice Maddie, Ora Carr, Essie Leftwich, Marie Jones and Ora B. Whitehead. (Photo Provided by Mrs. Geneva Boyd)

ORIGINAL	<b>MARY F. DENNY</b>	
No. <u>3491</u>	TRUSTEE, PUTNAM COUNTY, TENN.	
	OUTSIDE CORPORATION	
	Cookeville, <u>4/30</u>	192 <u>5</u>
Poll Tax . . . . . \$2.00	RECEIVED of <u>Viggil Denny</u>	
State Tax . . . . . \$0.20	<u>Two</u>	Dollars Poll Tax
County Tax . . . . . .16	<u>100</u>	and <u>Eighty eight</u> Dollars
Public School Tax . . . . .50	<u>100.88</u>	in full for Taxes, Real and Personal Property, for the year <u>1924</u> , in District No. <u>11</u>
High School Tax . . . . .14		
T. P. L. Tax . . . . . .05		
Special Tax . . . . . .05		
Special Road Tax . . . . .19		
Good Roads Tax . . . . .15		
TOTAL . . . . . \$1.45	Total Assessment, \$ <u>130.30</u>	<u>Mary F. Denny</u> Trustee.
	Total Tax, \$ <u>190.94</u>	<u>P</u> Deputy.

School Colors  
 ~~~~~  
 Blue & white  
 ~~~~~  
 School Yells  
 ~~~~~  
 2-4-6-8, Whom do we  
 appreciate?  
 Denny's Seminary

★ Nov. 16, 1936

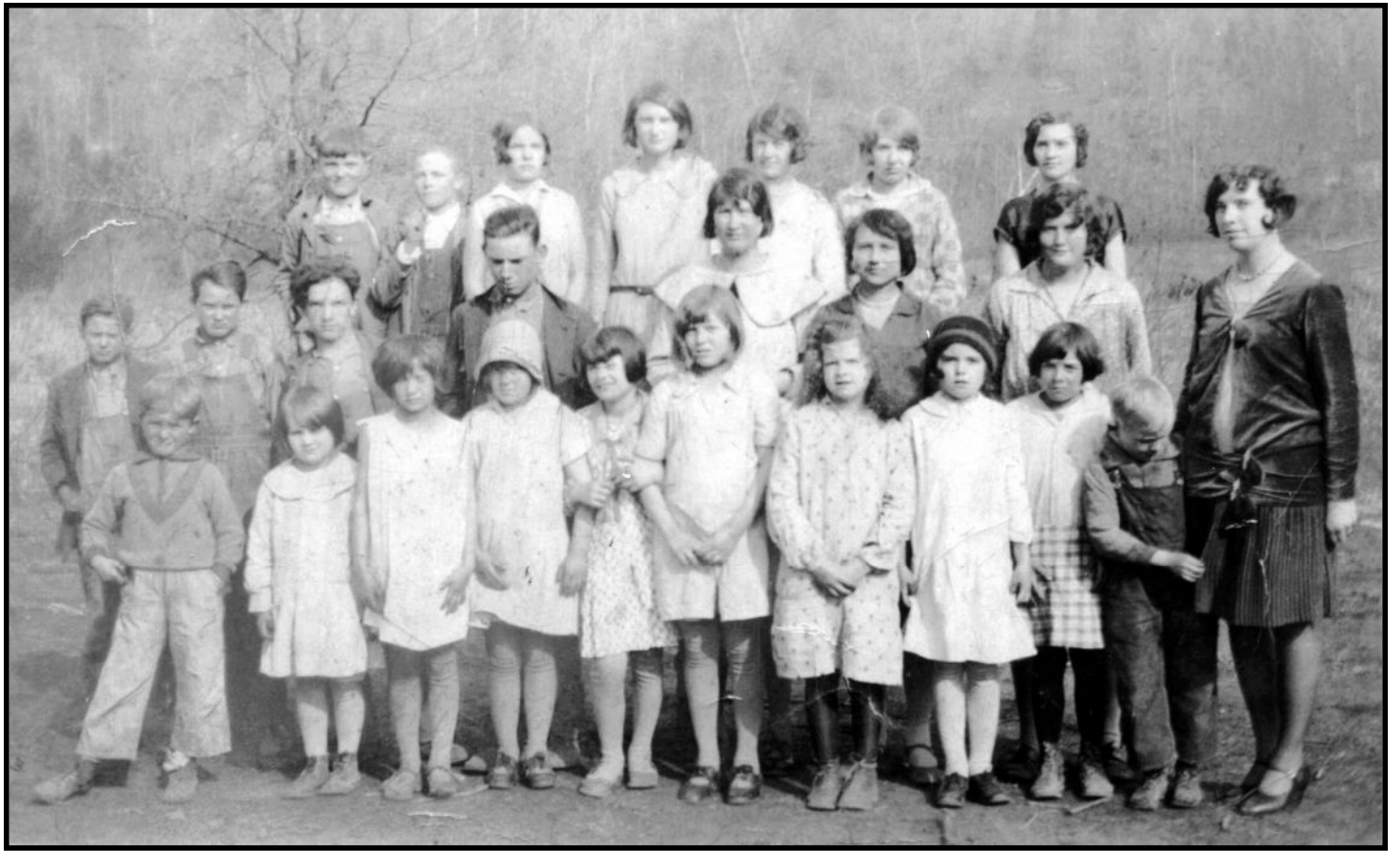
Dear Tim,  
 I think you are truth  
 ful and honest. I hope you  
 make good grades this year,  
 and I also hope you make a  
 success in High School  
 I love you lots  
 your friend & teacher  
 Douglas Nichols



\* See Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann (Jared) & David Henry Douglas Nichols - Story

L to R: Harriet Douglas Nichols, taught class at Denny's Seminary, Silver Pt., TN & her sister, Vivian (Nichols) Cunningham.





## DENNY'S SEMINARY: 1928

**TOP PICTURE:** This picture was featured in the HERALD-CITIZEN, Cookeville, Tennessee, Thurs. December 9, 1976 (Photo Provided by Mrs. Geneva Boyd)

First Row: L to R: Joe Pullum, Pauline Robinson, Mary Lee Whitehead, Lila Pullum, Lillian Robinson, Mollie Pullum, Vera Whitehead, Mary Maddie, Alma Helms, Tim Denny and the teacher, Dimple Breeding.

Second Row: L to R: Sam Carr, Rob Carr, Joe Whitehead, Joe Carr, Arah Carr, Geneva Whitehead, Minnie Carr.

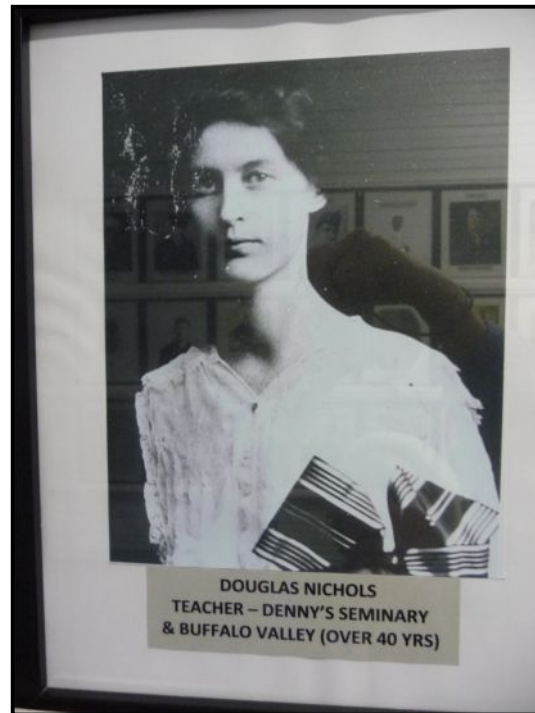
Third Row: L to R: John Pullum, Douglas Maddie, Alice Maddie, Ora Carr, Essie Leftwich, Marie Jones & Ora Whitehead.

**BOTTOM PICTURE:** L to R: Joe Carr, Minnie Carr, Ora Carr, Essie Leftwich, Mary Lee Whitehead, Mollie Pullum, Lila Pullum, Vera Whitehead & (teacher) Dimple Breeding. The two boys at the end the first is unknown, the second boy could be Tim Denny.



**remember  
its  
'glory'**

Standing in front of the now deserted Denny Seminary on her land, which her late husband's father had built 102 years ago to serve the educational needs of area children, Mrs. Audra Denny (left) puts her arm around Mrs. Carolyn Huddleston. Mrs. Huddleston attended the school and her mother, Mrs. Luke A. Shanks, is the oldest living former teacher of the school. The school, located near Buffalo Valley, was for many years the only school in the west end of the county.



Harriet Douglas Nichols, taught class at Denny's Seminary, Silver Pt., TN. Her picture hangs in the Buffalo Valley Community Center in Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN.





Denny's Seminary  
One room schoolhouse



Virgil Timothy Denny house. Standing in front of the house is the teacher of Denny's Seminary, Dimple Breeding. She is holding Tim Denny, s/o Virgil Timothy & Audra Camilla Anderson Denny.

Top Picture: See next page.

Back Row: L to R: Tim Denny & Dimple Breeding, the rest of the children are unknown.

Bottom picture: Back Row: L to R: Unknown, Ora Carr, Minnie Carr, Joe Carr, (Ora and Minnie's brother, their parent were Wes and Ina Belle (Helms) Carr,) Unknown, Unknown, Dimple Breeding, the teacher. First Row: 4<sup>th</sup> child is Tim Denny. The rest of the children are unknown. Miss Dimple Breeding was Tim's first grade teacher at Denny's Seminary, Buffalo Valley, TN.

Denny's Seminary: **N36°08.427' W85°45.878'**

Denny's Memorial Methodist Church: **N36°08.343' W85°45.962'**

Timothy Denny House: **N36°08.664' W85°45.234'**

Timothy Denny Tenant House: **N36°08.607' W85°45.316'**

Virgil Timothy Denny House: **N36°08.231' W85°45.682'**

Virgil Timothy Denny Tenant House: **N36°08.327' W85°46.002'**

Capt. William Jared Cemetery: **N36°08.726' W85°45.375'**



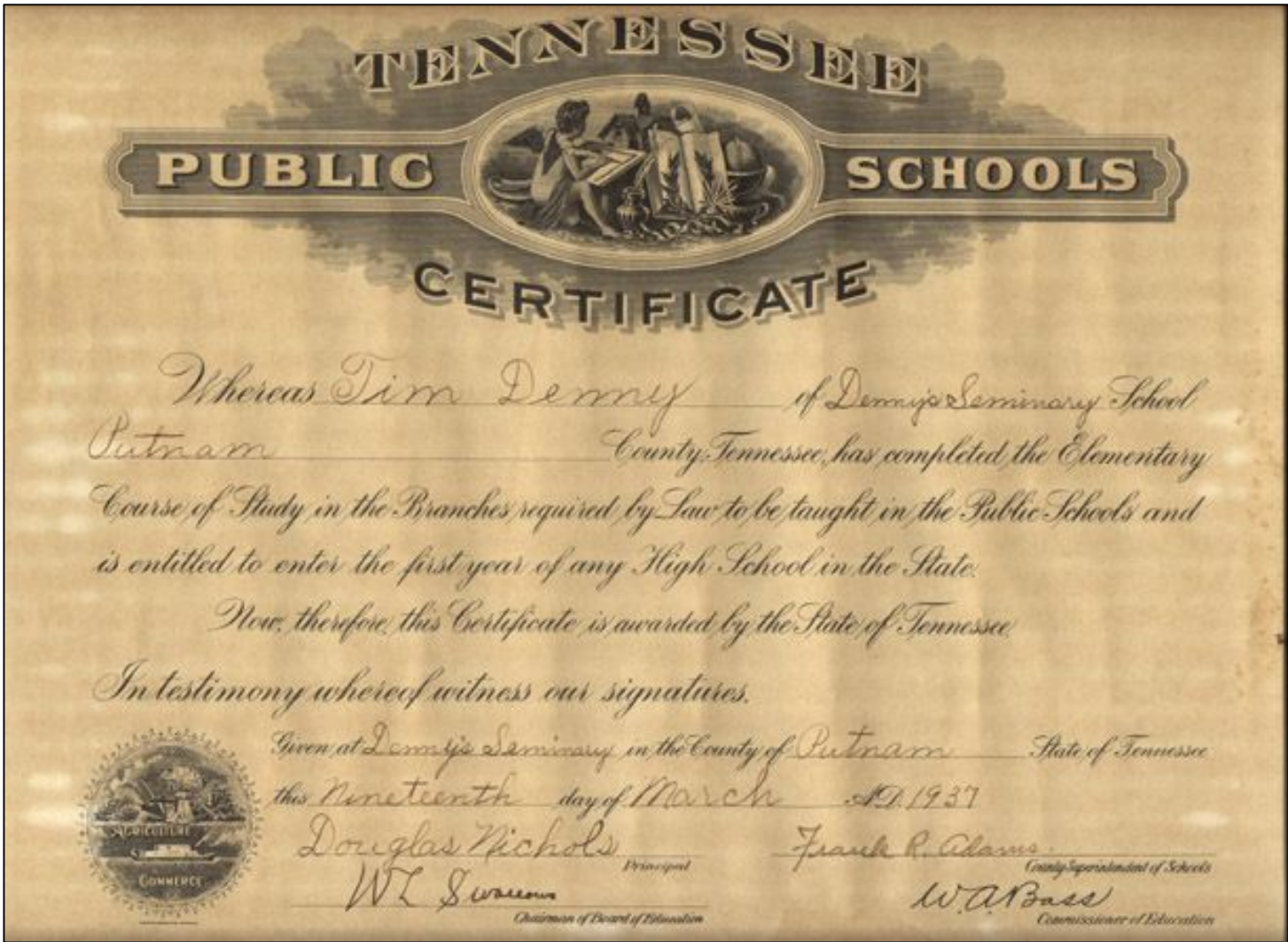


In October 2004 my husband Mike and I went to conduct our genealogy research in Putnam Co., TN and surrounding counties. One of my projects was to find the location of the Denny Seminary school. We were led to the spot by Ted and Carolyn Huddleston. The school building was totally gone. Carolyn told us that the school house was used to store hay, it caught on fire one day and burned to the ground. I remembered seeing it when I was a child. My parents took us to this area on vacation every summer. I don't ever remember going inside the schoolhouse. It was located close to the road and near it was Denny's Memorial Methodist Church. All that is left of this church is its foundation. **Denny's Memorial Methodist Church: N36°08.343' W85°45.962'.**



Pictured is the foundation of the old Denny Memorial Methodist Church. Carolyn (Shanks) Huddleston attended this church as a child. She is pictured walking up the steps to the entrance of the church. This was a beautiful church attended by the surrounding community. Virgil Denny, Luke Shanks, and Walter Shanks were the pillars of the Denny Memorial Methodist Church.





Entrance to the Denny's Memorial Methodist Church

L to R: Top: Luke Shanks & Virgil Timothy Denny.

Second Row: Walter Warren Shanks, George Morris Shanks, Dorothy Ann (Shanks) Fike & Robert Anderson Shanks.

Third Row: Doris & Anna T. Leftwich, Carolyn (Shanks) Huddleston & Miriam (Shanks) Gwaltney.

Picture by Harding Studio, Cookeville, TN:  
 30 May 1944

**Notes:** Family Connection of Pauline and Lillian Robinson students of Denny's Seminary.

**Beecher Robinson**, b. 16 November 1916, TN  
(Beecher Robinson, s/o James Prentice & Mary Lou Robinson)

**Irene Robinson**, b. 8 May 1918, TN (Irene Robinson, d/o James Prentice & Mary Lou Robinson)  
Both Buried: Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

\***Edward Lawrence Robinson**, b. 26 April 1892, TN – d. 29 March 1979,  
s/o Mary Elizabeth (Brown) Robinson Anderson & James Monroe Robinson.

\***Florence (Maynard) Robinson**, b. 10 November 1896, TN – d. 15 January 1987 md 12 May 1913.  
Both Buried: Odd Fellows Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

(SS Death Index: Name: **EDWARD ROBINSON** - Birth: 26 Apr 1891 – Death: Mar 1979 – Age: 87 – Last Residence: Baxter, Putnam, TN 38544 - Last Benefit: (not specified) – SSN: 408-26-9907 Issued By: Tennessee).

**Children of Edward Lawrence Robinson & Florence Maynard are:**

Cleo Robinson, b. 30 May 1914 – d. 31 December 31 2005

James W. Robinson, b. 15 March 1916 – d. 13 January 1918,  
buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

**Lillian Robinson**, b. 1 April 1918 – d. 26 September 1996 (*in photo*)

**Pauline Robinson**, b. 20 December 1921- (*in photo*)

Sara Kathleen Robinson, b. 4 May 1923 - d. 15 November 1987

Charles Edward Robinson, b. 13 May 1925 – d. 26 February 1995

**James W. Robinson**, b. 15 March 1916, TN – d. 13 January 1918, s/o **Edward Lawrence Robinson & Florence Maynard**. He is buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

\***Tony Anderson**, b. 18 September 1877, TN – d. 20 August 1961, buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. (\*See Chapter 1)

\***Mary Elizabeth (Brown) Robinson Anderson**, b. 29 May 1874, TN – d. 21 July 1949, buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. She was married 1<sup>st</sup> to **James Monroe Robinson**. (\*See Chapters 1, 3 & 14).

\* **James Monroe Robinson**, b. 27 September 1870, TN – d. 24 February 1895, buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. **James Monroe Robinson**, s/o Gross Scruggs Robinson Jr. & Helen Jane Whitefield. Gross Scruggs Robinson Sr. md Sarah "Sally" Anderson, d/o William Anderson & Catherine Shirley. Gross Scruggs Robinson Sr., s/o Field Robinson Jr. & Keziah Scruggs. Field Robinson Jr., s/o Field Robinson Sr. & Obedience Bradshaw, d/o William Bradshaw & Judith Scruggs. Field Robinson Sr., s/o John Robinson & Tabitha Jones. James Monroe Robinson was md to Mary Elizabeth Brown who later md Tony Anderson. Mary Elizabeth Brown, d/o William Riley "little Riley" Brown (1853-1920) & Lizabeth "Mary" A. Butler (1857). (\*See Chapters 3 & 14)

\***James Prentice Robinson**, b. 30 August 1894, TN – d. 15 August 1941, buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN, s/o Mary Elizabeth (Brown) Robinson Anderson & James Monroe Robinson

**Mary Lou Robinson**, b. 16 June 1889, TN – d. 7 June 1987, buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

\***William Riley "Little Riley" Brown**, b. 4 April 1853, Putnam Co., TN – d. 16 August 1920, Putnam Co., TN

\*\***"Lizabeth" Mary A. (Butler) Brown**, 5 September 1857, TN – d. ?

Both Buried: Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

**Thomas Filmore Brown**, b. 15 August 1879, TN – d. 2 May 1956, buried in Smellage Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

\***L. B. "Elbe/Ebbie Brown**, b. 12 April 1891, TN – d. 5 February 1986, Putnam Co., TN

\***Mary Jane "Little" (Anderson) Brown**, b. October 1885, TN – d. April 1969, Putnam Co., TN

Both Buried: Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

**Census Place: 1880 District 9, Putnam Co., Tennessee**

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 170D

Dwl: 170 Family: 185



|                                                                                                       | Relation | Sex | Marr | Race | Age | Birthplace |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----|------|------|-----|------------|
| <b>William R. BROWN</b>                                                                               | Self     | M   | M    | W    | 28  | TN         |
| Occ: Farmer Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                             |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <i>(William Riley "Little Riley" Brown, s/o Daniel R. &amp; Mary A. Brown)</i>                        |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <b>Mary BROWN</b>                                                                                     | Wife     | F   | M    | W    | 26  | TN         |
| Occ: Keeping House Fa: VA Mo: VA                                                                      |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <i>(Mary A. Butler)</i>                                                                               |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <b>Elizabeth BROWN</b>                                                                                | Dau      | F   | S    | W    | 6   | TN         |
| Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                                         |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <i>(Mary Elizabeth Brown md 1<sup>st</sup> James Monroe Robinson md 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Anderson)</i> |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Joseph BROWN                                                                                          | Son      | M   | S    | W    | 4   | TN         |
| Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                                         |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Dely BROWN                                                                                            | Dau      | F   | S    | W    | 3   | TN         |
| Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                                         |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Thomas F. BROWN                                                                                       | Son      | M   | S    | W    | 1   | TN         |
| Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                                         |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| BROWN                                                                                                 | Son      | M   | S    | W    | 3M  | TN         |
| Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                                         |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Emaline ELDRIGE                                                                                       | Sister   | F   | W    | W    | 35  | TN         |
| Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                                         |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| George ELDRIGE                                                                                        | Nephew   | M   | S    | W    | 8   | TN         |
| Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                                         |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Josiah ELDRIGE                                                                                        | Nephew   | M   | S    | W    | 6   | TN         |
| Fa: TN Mo: TN                                                                                         |          |     |      |      |     |            |

**Census Place: 1880 District 17, Putnam Co., Tennessee**

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 200C  
Dwl: 198 Family: 204

|                                                                                                                         | Relation | Sex | Marr | Race | Age | Birthplace |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----|------|------|-----|------------|
| <b>Gross ROBINSON</b>                                                                                                   | Self     | M   | M    | W    | 61  | TN         |
| Occ: Farming Fa: VA Mo: TN                                                                                              |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <i>(Gross Scruggs Robinson Jr., s/o Gross Scruggs Robinson Sr. &amp; Sarah "Sally" Anderson)</i>                        |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <b>Helen J. ROBINSON</b>                                                                                                | Wife     | F   | M    | W    | 46  | TN         |
| Occ: Keeping House Fa: VA Mo: NC                                                                                        |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| William B. ROBINSON                                                                                                     | Son      | M   |      | W    | 21  | TN         |
| Occ: Works On Farm Fa: VA Mo: TN                                                                                        |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Virginia F. ROBINSON                                                                                                    | Dau      | F   |      | W    | 20  | TN         |
| Occ: At Home Fa: VA Mo: TN                                                                                              |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Geneva D. ROBINSON                                                                                                      | Dau      | F   |      | W    | 18  | TN         |
| Occ: At Home Fa: VA Mo: TN                                                                                              |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Edward ROBINSON                                                                                                         | Son      | M   | S    | W    | 16  | TN         |
| Occ: Works On Farm Fa: VA Mo: TN                                                                                        |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Henerette ROBINSON                                                                                                      | Dau      | F   | S    | W    | 14  | TN         |
| Occ: At Home Fa: VA Mo: TN                                                                                              |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| Cardenia A. ROBINSON                                                                                                    | Dau      | F   | S    | W    | 12  | TN         |
| Occ: At Home Fa: VA Mo: TN                                                                                              |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <b>James M. ROBINSON</b>                                                                                                | Son      | M   | S    | W    | 9   | TN         |
| Fa: VA Mo: TN                                                                                                           |          |     |      |      |     |            |
| <i>(James Monroe Robinson, s/o Gross Scruggs Robinson Jr. &amp; Helen Jane Whitefield. He md Mary Elizabeth Brown).</i> |          |     |      |      |     |            |

**Census Place: 1900 District 17, Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 17 Family: 17

**Jane Robinson** Head 66 W F b. June 1833 Widow (7 children born, 5 children living) Farmer TN TN TN  
*(Helen Jane (Whitefield) Robinson md Gross Scruggs Robinson Jr.)*

**Elizabeth Robinson** Daughter-in-Law 25 W F b. May 1875 Widow (2 children born, 2 children living)  
Housework TN TN TN

*(Mary Elizabeth (Brown) Robinson Anderson md 1<sup>st</sup> James Monroe Robinson md 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Anderson)*

**Edward Robinson** Grandson 8 M W b. April 1892 Single TN TN TN

**James P. Robinson** Grandson 5 M W B. June 1893 Single TN TN TN

**Census Place: 1900 District 17, Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 32 Family: 33

**Pall Anderson** Head W M 54 May 1846 Married (# of yrs. married, 27) Farmer TN TN TN

**Bettie Anderson** Wife W F 45 Jan 1855 Married (# of yrs. married, 27)

(14 children born, 11 children living) TN TN TN

Martha Anderson, Dau W F 22 August 1877 S TN TN TN

**Tomie Anderson** Son W F 19 Oct 1880 S TN TN TN

Verna Anderson Dau 16 Oct 1883 S TN TN TN

Little Anderson Dau W F 14 Oct 1885 S TN TN TN

Sammie Anderson, Son W M Oct 1888 S TN TN TN

Bessie Anderson Dau W F 8 Jun 1891 S TN TN TN

Donia Anderson Dau W F 6 Jul 6 1893 S TN TN TN

Frona Anderson Dau W F 6 Jul 1893 S TN TN TN

**1910 census 17<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 69 Family: 69

**Tony Anderson** Head 28 M W M1 (8 yrs. md) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

*(Tony Anderson, b. 18 September 1877, TN – d. 20 August 1961, buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN located on Cherry Creek in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.)*

**Mary E. Anderson** Wife 33 M2 (8 yrs. md) (5 children born, 5 children living) TN TN TN

*(Mary Elizabeth (Brown) Robinson Anderson, b. 29 May 1874, TN – d. 21 July 1949, buried in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN)*

Dealy C. Anderson Son 6 M W Single TN TN TN

*(Collie Dewey Anderson md Rubye Lee Johnson)*

Nobel H. Anderson Son 3 M W Single TN TN TN

Millard F. Anderson Son 5/12 M W Single TN TN TN

**Edward L. Robinson** Step-son Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

**James L. Robinson** Step-son Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

Mary J. Anderson Sister 24 F W Single TN TN TN

**1920 census 17<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 73 Family: 74

**Tony Anderson** Head 38 M W Married Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

**Mary E. Anderson** Wife 44 F W Married TN TN TN

Colley Anderson 15 M W Single TN TN TN

Nobel H. Anderson 13 M W Single TN TN TN

Millard F. Anderson 9 M W Single TN TN TN

Olie M. Anderson 8 M W Single TN TN TN

Ode Anderson 4 5/12 M W Single TN TN TN

**1920 census 17<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 74 Family: 75

**James P. Robinson** Head 25 M W Married Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

*(James Prentice Robinson, s/o Mary Elizabeth Robinson Anderson & md 1<sup>st</sup> James Monroe Robinson – she md 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Anderson. James is the brother of Edward Lawrence Robinson)*

**Marie L. Robinson** Wife 21 F W Married TN TN TN *(Mary Lou Robinson)*

Lilard B. Robinson Son 3 1/12 Single TN TN TN

James S. Robinson Son 1 1/12 Single TN TN TN

**1920 census 17<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 77 Family: 78

**Lawrence Robinson** Head 27 M W Married Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

*(Edward Lawrence Robinson, s/o Mary Elizabeth Robinson Anderson md 1<sup>st</sup> James Monroe Robinson –she md 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Anderson. Lawrence is the brother of James P. Robinson)*

**Florence Robinson** Wife 23 F W Married

Cleo Robinson Dau 5 F W Single TN TN TN

Lillian Robinson Dau 1 9/12 F W Single TN TN TN

**1930 census 11<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 42 Family: 42

**Jim P. Robinson** Head 35 M W Married (20 yrs. old 1<sup>st</sup> marriage) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

**Mary Lou Robinson** Wife 35 F W Married (20 yrs. old 1<sup>st</sup> marriage)



Beecher Robinson Son 13 M W Single TN TN TN  
Irene Robinson Dau 11 F W Single TN TN TN  
Mary Alice Robinson Dau 8 F W Single TN TN TN

<http://www.ajlambert.com>