

## DENNY'S SEMINARY IN THE NEWS

Putnam Co., TN

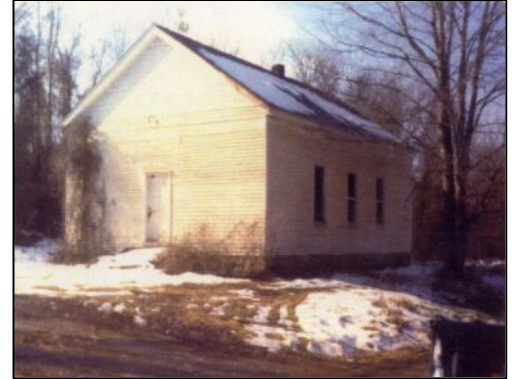
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### 1874 Putnam County School District

The following is a list of the (teacher) certificates of qualification granted up to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1874, with the names of applicants...

UCGA (Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association, Inc.)  
Vol. 7, No. 4 – pp. 105 & 106

Name:	Average Grade:	
1. W.A. Daughtery	9 ½	
2. A.T. Anderson	8 ¾	
3. C.C. Stone	9	
4. Mrs. Isabelle Sims	9	
5. J. N. King	5 3/8	
6. J. F. Dyer	6	
7. F. J. Pakerson	7 2/8	
8. Mrs. Mary J. Thomas	5 1/8	
9. J. T. Draper	7 ¾	
10. Thomas Robertson	5 ½	
11. H. L. Fraser	7 3/8	
12. Laura A. Smith	8 ¾	
13. J. J. Whitaker	6 ¾	
14. E. H. Stone	8 5/8	
15. B. W. Carr	9 ¼	
16. W. H. Carr	8	
17. <b>Miss Fannie Ford</b>	<b>8 ¾</b>	<i>Fannie Ford md Thompson Luther Denny</i>
18. C. N. Wheeler	9	
19. Miss Ova Moore		
20. Wm. Garner		
21. John T. Buford	8 ¼	
22. L. C. Smellage	7 ½	
23. M. J. Julien	7 7/8	
24. M. E. Jared	8 7/8	
25. Wm. M. Crowder	8 3/8	
26. S. D. Maddux	8 ¼	
27. <b>T. L. Denney</b>	<b>8 ½</b>	<i>Thompson Luther Denney md Fannie Ford</i>
28. J. K. P. Stewart	6 7/8	
29. W. F. Tilly	5 5/8	
30. J. W. Jones	6 5/8	
31. J. C. Bartlett	8 ½	
32. Sallie Dixon	8 7/8	
33. Samuel Saylor	7 ¾	
34. Gideon Anderson	8 5/8	
35. R. L. Gentry	7 ¾	
36. C. C. Craft	7 5/8	
37. James P. Young	8 ¾	
38. J. W. W. Langrun, Col.	2 ¾	
39. Robert Peake	7 ½	
40. Anthany Buck, Col.	1 5/8	
41. J. F. Tompson	7 3/8	
42. W. T. Poteet	5	



Denny's Seminary burned down....it was located on the corner of Hopewell & Indian Creek Rds., Putnam Co., TN. The schoolhouse was built by Silas Dean Denny and the first teacher was Thompson Luther Denny. The land was donated by their uncle Tim Denny, husband of Elizabeth Hettie Paul

43.	John Jared Jr.	9 ¼
44.	Walker Brown	7 5/8
45.	Thos. A. Cooper	5 3/8
46.	Wm. B. Wells	8 7/8
47.	J. M. Lansden	8 ¾
48.	M. W. Hickman	6
49.	T. F. Moore	5 ¾
50.	M. B. Jared	8
51.	John L. Breeding	6 ¼
52.	Mrs. Cummings	7 ½
53.	Robt. W. Taylor	7
54.	Milton Bartlett	9 1/8
55.	Matilda Garner	8 5/8

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

July 17, 1913

Elected Teachers of County Schools:

- Dist. 9: Buffalo Valley – Joe Nichols, Mrs. Joe Nichols
- Dist. 11: **Denny's Seminary** – Etmo Jared
- Dist. 11: Rock Springs – Ulzo Jared
- Dist. 11: Hopewell – Mary Leftwich, Principal, Lena Fisher, Asst. Principal
- Dist. 16: Boma – Solon Leftwich, Principal, Elsie Medley, Asst. Principal
- Dist. 17: White – Martelia Shanks
- Dist. 20: Ensor – I. E. York, Principal, Dona Boyd, Asst. Principal

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

May 6, 1915

Teachers:

- Buffalo Valley – Essie Scudder, Ass't.
- Hopewell – Cass Leftwich, Tina Shanks
- Denny's Seminary** – Etmo Jared
- Silver Point – Walter Lafever, Eula Maxwell
- Rock Springs – Mary Leftwich, Notie L. Proffitt
- Vaden – Hallie Stanton

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

Thursday, 15 August 1918

[A number of the young people attended the box supper at Denny's Seminary last Saturday evening.](#)

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

July 31, 1919

Schools:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Dist. – Buffalo Valley, W. A. Beaty, Pearl Jared
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dist. – **Denny's Seminary**, Dona Boyd.

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

August 7, 1924, Thursday

**Box Supper At Denny Seminary**

There will be a box supper and ice cream supper at **Denny Seminary** next week, Saturday night August 16 at 8:00. The girls are all invited to come and bring their pocket books, for there will be a prize for the boy

who pays the highest price for his box. The old folks are invited to come and buy ice cream for the little ones, so everybody is cordially invited. Proceeds for the benefit of the school.

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

23 July 1931

**BUFFALO VALLEY** – Mrs. Solon Maddux and sons, Crit, of Wilmington, and Noel and Jared, of Bellview, have been visiting relatives here. Noel is at home with Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Maddux, while he is teaching at **Denny's Seminary**.

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

15 October 1931

**BUFFALO VALLEY** – **Denny's Seminary** 5 carried away the laurels from Gentry's 5, Friday evening at Gentry.

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

7 January 1932

Noel Maddux, who has been with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Solon Maddux, at Belview, for the holidays, has resumed his duties at **Denny's Seminary**.

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

April 28, 1932

Putnam County Teachers:

BOMA: Lena Whittaker, Johny Bilbrey, Lela Barr.

BUFFALO VALLEY: T. J. Ford, Nell S. Beasley, Loraine Huddleston.

SILVER POINT: Tillman Phillips, Etta Leftwich, Madgety A. Lowhorn.

HERREN'S CHAPEL: Mrs. Frazier Jaquess, Alvilda Shanks.

BUCKNER: Beatrice Palk.

**DENNY'S SEMINARY: Douglas Nichols.**

ROCK SPRINGS: Noel Maddux.

JARED: Mattie Bush.

**Note:** Mattie Bush also taught at Denny's Seminary which was located near Buffalo Valley on Hopewell Road. The school was built by Silas Denny, nephew of Timothy Denny, h/o Elizabeth "Hettie" Paul. Timothy Denny's nephew Thompson Luther Denny also taught at Denny's Seminary before going on to be a Judge and Mayor of Cookeville Putnam Co., TN. Alvilda Shanks, d/o Joe Sidney Shanks, s/o Joseph Y. Shanks & Tennessee Julian Rainwater. Alvilda Shanks md Thoburn Puckett.

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

July 20, 1933

Putnam Co. Teachers:

BOMA: Lena Whitaker, Alice Mills

BUFFALO VALLEY: T. J. Ford, Mrs. Nell Beasley

CARR CHAPEL: Lillard Smith, Alvilda (Shanks) Puckett, sister of Mildred (Shanks) Burton.

GENTRY: Noel Maddux, Beasley Maddux

SILVER POINT: Dallas Leftwich, Mattie Bush

**DENNY SEMINARY: Douglas Nichols**

ROCK SPRINGS: Geraldine Huddleston, Herman Alcorn

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

December 27, 1934.

**BUFFALO VALLEY:**

Perfect Spellers for **Denny's Seminary** last month:

1st grade: George and Dorothy Ann Shanks  
2nd grade: Miriam Shanks, Harriet Nichols and Mack Leftwich  
3rd grade: Walter W. Shanks  
4th grade: Katherine Anderson, Kathleen Robinson  
5th grade: Lennell Sutton, Frances Maxwell, Jim DuBois and James Carr  
6th grade: Alma Helms, Tim Denny and Pauline Sutton  
7th grade: Walter Sutton  
8th grade: Edna Leftwich, Ora Carr and Calbert Sutton

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

January 31, 1935

**BUFFALO VALLEY:**

Dr. W. J. Lamb has gone to Silver Point for a 10 day stay. While here, he was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bussell.

Perfect Speller for **Denny's Seminary** last month:

1st grade: George Shanks and Royce Cronk  
2nd grade: Dorothy Ann Shanks and Luke Leftwich  
3rd grade: Harriet Nichols, Walter Warren and Ann Miriam Shanks  
4th grade: Kathleen Robinson  
5th grade: Jim DuBois, Dimple Helms, Frances and Kenneth Maxwell and Lennell Sutton.  
6th grade: Alma Helms, Bill Medley, Tim Denny and Pauline Robinson  
7th grade: Walter Sutton  
8th grade: Ora Carr and Edna Leftwich

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

August 8, 1935, front page

Putnam County Teachers:

**BOMA:** Travis Phillips, Mary Nell Anderson, Mildred Shanks, (Mildred (Shanks) Burton, b. 28 February 1915 - d. 23 March, 2007, McMinnville, TN, d/o Joe Syd Shanks & Mary Lou Anderson, d/o Jim Anderson & Margaret Maddux. Mildred Shanks md Benjamin "Ben" Hooper Burton, s/o Manson Byrd Burton & Lena Miles Lavever.

**BUFFALO VALLEY:** Herman Alcorn, Lorraine Huddleston, Clara Nell Ashburn

**CARR CHAPEL:** Dallas Leftwich, Mary Sue Sadler

**GENTRY:** Mrs. Virgil Stanton, Ocia Nichols.

**SILVER POINT:** Lawson Williams, Anna Mae Julian, Martha Sadler

**DENNY SEMINARY:** Douglas Nichols

**ROCK SPRINGS:** Luke Allen Jared, Beasley Maddux

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

September 19, 1935

**BUFFALO VALLEY** – Monroe Shoemake gave a musical program Friday night at **Denny's Seminary**, to a very good audience.

Prayer meeting will be held at **Denny's Memorial** Saturday night at 7 o'clock.

On Friday night there will be an ice cream and pie supper at **Denny's Seminary**. Everyone is invited.

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

October 31, 1935

Quite a number of the pupils of **Denny's Seminary**, have mumps.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

April 9, 1936

**BUFFALO VALLEY:** Calbert Sutton, Fannie Jane Uhles, Robert Carr, and Clara Boyd, received their diplomas at **Denny's Seminary**, March 27.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

October 1, 1936

**BUFFALO VALLEY:** Last Saturday, Miss Douglas Nichols entertained the following patrons and pupils of **Denny's Seminary School**, at a picnic at Old Maddux Chapel spring. Mrs. Tom Waller, T. J., Vivian Floyd, and Geraldine Waller, Mrs. W. R. Shanks, Walter Warren, Dorothy Ann, Robert, Reginald, Miriam, George, Carolyn Shanks, Mrs. Lois Waller, Lawrence and Dorman Waller, Mrs. Fred Williams, Beatrice, Owen, Fay, and Alden Williams, Mrs. Oscar Helms, Alma, Dimple, and Otis "Bud" Helms, Luke Leftwich, Clara and Marvin Boyd, Reba and Hilda Duke, William Bell, Edward, and Lennel Haggard, Walter, Lennel, Ella Ruth, and Loftis Sutton, Minnie, Arah, and Ora Carr, Vivian, Harriet, and Tom Nichols, and Jim DuBois. A bountiful lunch was served after which the caves were explored.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

March 25, 1937

**Denny's Seminary School** closed Friday at which time an egg hunt was enjoyed by the children. A prize for finding the most eggs was awarded to Miriam Shanks. Ara Carr, Patty, and Lynn Fields found prize eggs.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

May 5, 1938, front page

**BAXTER:** Dallas Leftwich, principle; Cleo Sliger, Rubye Tallant, Travis Phillips, Sara Stamps, Vada Pope, Hannah Hall.

**BOMA:** Chester Patton, principle; Mary Nell Anderson, Nell Bain.

**BUCKNER:** Artie Jared, principle

**BUFFALO VALLEY:** T. J. Ford, principle; Loraine Maddux.

**DENNY'S SEMINARY: Douglas Nichols, principle.**

**GENTRY:** S. D. Maddux, principle; Lola Stanton.

**HOPEWELL:** Mary Sue Sadler, principle.

**ROCK SPRINGS:** Luke Allen Jared, principle; Edith Amonette.

**SILVER POINT:** Herman Alcorn, principle; Hazel Jones, Chas. Frazier Gill.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

August 4, 1938

**Rev. J. A. Harris of Baxter was here Friday to have charge of services at Denny's Seminary for Bro. Hale, who was ill.**

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

May 4, 1939

Teachers:

**Denny's Seminary – Douglas Nichols, Principal**

Buffalo Valley – Nell Beasley, Principal, Clara Jared, Goodwin Harding.

**Putnam County Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

November 30, 1939

Miss Docia Masters organized 2 4-H clubs, one at **Denny's Seminary** with 11 new members. Miriam Shanks is the President, Dorothy Ann Shanks is the Vice-President, Reba Duke is the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

April 24, 1940, pg. 2

The **Denny's Seminary** 4-H Club met at the house of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Shanks Thursday with Dorothy Ann Shanks as hostess. Members present were: Charlene Evans, Harriet Nichols, Miriam Shanks, and Margaret Dunn.

**Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

February 6, 1941

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade from **Denny's Seminary** and Buffalo Valley were at Gentry Tuesday for achievement tests.

**Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

July 22, 1943, front page.

TEACHERS:

BOMA: Mary Nell Brown, Principal, Mary Sue Sadler

BUCKNER: Douglas Nichols

BUFFALO VALLEY: Ann Jared, Herman Alcorn

**DENNY'S SEMINARY:** Loraine Maddux

GENTRY: Virginia Maggard, Lola Stanton, Principal

HOPEWELL: Martha Sadler

ROCK SPRINGS: Clara Jared

SILVER POINT: Mrs. J. T. Anderson, Principal, Dorothy Ashburn & Jean Julian Higgins

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

January 13, 1944

**BUFFALO VALLEY** – The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fields died New Years' Day. Burial was in the cemetery at **Denny's Seminary**.

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

October 26, 1944

Election Notice: 11<sup>th</sup> Dist., **Denny's Seminary:**

Officer: Lecil Nichols

Judges: Lloyd Denny, Alex Leftwich, L. A. Shanks

Clerks: Loraine Huddleston & Verta Mae Denny

Justice of the Peace: Forrest Anderson

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

February 8, 1945

Eighth grade students of Buffalo Valley and **Denny's Seminary schools** went to Gentry Monday to take the achievement tests.

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

April 5, 1945

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates of Elementary Schools of County Are Listed:

**BUFFALO VALLEY - Denny's Seminary:** Carolyn Shanks, Sara Martha Medley, Avannah, and Denton Whitehead, Phillip Denny, Mary Waller.

BUCKNER – Eugene Denton Leftwich, Roy Denton Shanks.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN - Bob McMillan  
Published March 16, 2004 7:51 AM CST

Looking back in history, here were some of the happenings in the Cookeville area for the week of March 14-20 as recorded in the pages of the Herald-Citizen:

It's spring graduation time at the county's rural schoolhouses. The newspaper lists every graduate, hundreds of them. For many, it marks the end of their formal schooling. Some others will go on to enter the 9th grade this fall. The list shows how many thriving rural communities there were here once. And every one had its own school. Here are the names of a few of them: Bohannon, Boma, Buckner, Burnett, Bussell, Carr's Chapel, **Denny's Seminary**, Ensor, J.S. Robinson, Lafayette, Macedonia, Rock Springs, Pippin, Stanton, Thomas, Walnut Grove and Woodcliff. (March 18, 1946).

**Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN**

February 3, 1949, pg. 9

**BUFFALO VALLEY: Mrs. Stella H. Sadler who is teaching at Denny's Seminary has been quite ill but is recovering.**

*(Denny's Seminary burned down....it was located on the corner of Hopewell & Indian Creek Rds., Putnam Co., TN. The schoolhouse was built by Silas Dean Denny and the first teacher was Thompson Luther Denny. The land was donated by their Uncle Tim Denny, h/o Elizabeth Hettie Paul).*

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

December 22, 1949

Two most enjoyable Christmas programs were given Friday at the **Denny's Seminary and Buffalo Valley schools**. Santa Claus came to the **Denny's Seminary** in the morning and left in time to get to the Buffalo Valley School in the afternoon.

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

11 October 1956

MARVIN BAINES IN SERVICES AT DENNY'S SEMINARY:

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Baines and children, Raymon and Pam, of Chestnut Mound were here Sunday for Mr. Baines to conduct services at **Denny's Seminary**.

**Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

November 11, 1962

Election:

11<sup>th</sup> Dist. – **Denny's Seminary School**

Officer: Hershel Upchurch

Judges: L. D. Nichols, L. A. Shanks, B. E. Duke  
Registrars: Mrs. W. R. Shanks, Mrs. Newell Helms  
Clerks: Mrs. L. D. Denny, Dean Leftwich

\*Read more about Denny's Seminary and other school in the surrounding areas at:  
<http://www.ajlambert.com>