

BOILING SPRINGS SCHOOL MEMORIALIZED BY SIGN

By Megan Trotter

PUTNAM COUNTY — The school building is still there; the roof is collapsed, and everything is deteriorating. It won't be long till the building will be lost to history. However, the new sign in front of the building on Burgess Falls Road will help preserve the memory of Boiling Springs School.

In 1874 a board was formed to establish districts for school houses in Putnam County. District lines were drawn up for a school house at or near Boiling Springs in District 21.



According to the history of the Boiling Springs Church, a small log building was built in 1867 on land donated by John Grimes. The school and the church used the same building at that time. The new school is just south of the older one. Grimes also donated the land for the Boiling Springs Cemetery, which is between the church and the school building, across the road from the church.

According to the late Nancy Massa Goolsby, the church and school were named Boiling Springs because of a spring that boiled up.

The church was bricked in 1948.

The school had two teachers with two classrooms and a lunch room in the middle. Beatrice Massa Cole, age 90, said she spent her first seven years of school in the white school house located in front of the present church. When she was in the eighth grade, about 1938, she went to the new school.

Ralph Dunn, a former student, thinks the new school was a Works Progress Administration school; he began school there in 1940.

Glynn Lafever, a student from 1950 to 1958, said that he remembers that the students got their water from the bubbling spring located northeast of the old school building. Later on a well was dug. Some teachers that Glynn remembers are Vinnie Gentry, Helen Spicer, Jewel Allison, Beatrice Craighead, and Leron Cass. Hot lunches were provided by Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Vallie Dunn. Helen Dunn Holloway was a teacher's assistant when the Boiling Springs School closed in 1962.

Arnold Allen owns the school property now. It was purchased from Putnam County by his father, Everett Allen.

Glynn and Nancy Lafever donated the school signs that will remain years after the school is gone. If anyone has information on this school or any other historic county school, contact the Putnam County Archives at 931-520-0042.

The Putnam County Archives has also received an update about the Nash Chapel School. The school property was leased from the Board of Education by Nash Grove Baptist Church, not the Nash family as stated in a previous story. The County deeded the land to the church in 1997.

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Celebrating the new Boiling Springs School Sign are: In front, from left, Betty Stark, Jerry Delaney, Dimple Howell, Carlos Howell, Aline Gantt, Mildred Dunn, Nella Dean Dunn Hutchison, Carol Bradford, Rowena Massa Nash, Pearl Montgomery, Caroly Rice, Madison Phillips, Helen Holloway and Brenda Elrod. In back: Ray Montgomery, Gail Jared, Clarence Jared, Ralph Dynn, Lynn Sliger, Angela Allen, Tina Austin, Glynn Lafever, Barbara Winchester, Jane Wilkerson, Bobby Price, Randy Porter and Glenn Jones. Photo by Ty Kernea, Herald-Citizen.