

## **BUFFALO VALLEY SCHOOL (#109)**

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

**Source:** Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pg. 31: The Buffalo Valley School building is situated in the southwestern corner of Putnam County. The building was a State project in the late 1920's and was built by local carpenters and volunteers, including Henry Buckner, Waymon Leftwich, Cass Leftwich, Jim Bo Medley, Lem Brown, Byron Bartlett, and others. It replaced an older two-story structure situated on the "bluff" that was a subscription school.

Students in grades one through eight moved into the new school in 1929. The windows and classrooms remain intact. The mural on the back of the stage and the cakewalk on the stage are outstanding, features of rural American folk life. In the 1940's Grand Ole Opry stars Flatt and Scruggs, the Carter Family, and Roy Acuff performed on the school stage. A flood in 1948 caused extensive damage to the seats in the auditorium. On December 23, 1948, an order was placed for 176 new theater-like seats for the auditorium. Presently, 112 of those seats remain.

The school remained a "free public school" until 1966 when the doors were closed because of consolidation. With the closing of the school, it remained unused for about ten years where it suffered vandalism and destruction. A request was made by James Christian and Erlene Mikitka to turn the building over to them for community use rather than being sold as surplus. Various programs were started. Crafts were taught, including ceramics.

Senior citizens met weekly for quilting and potluck. School reunions became a yearly event.

*Submitted by: Carolyn (Shanks) Huddleston, Silver Point, TN 38582.*

## **BUFFALO VALLEY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTER/NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER (#109)**

**Source:** Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

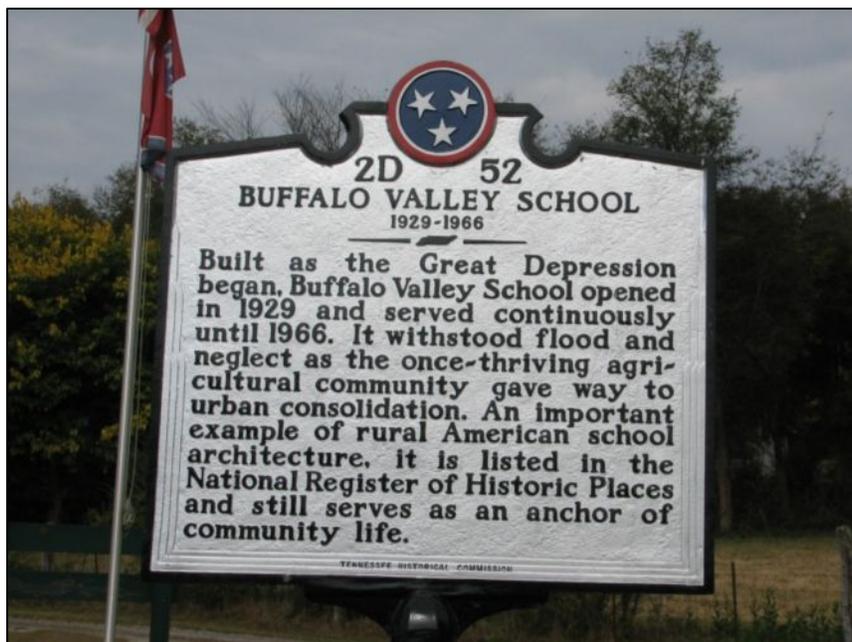


Pgs. 31 & 32: The school building has served and supported many functions of the community since it closed its doors as a school. It is now a well organized Community Center under the direction of capable board members. It serves as a center for community functions, such as family reunion, school reunions, wedding and receptions, as well as a place to vote. A former classroom now presents a newly organized library, staffed with volunteers who had a vision to help meet the educational needs of the

community. These volunteers are reaching out in the community to help fulfill the needs of others while hoping more people will become involved with reading and perhaps become volunteers, too. So far, a four year old girl, Britney Tucker, and a lively one hundred year old woman, Mrs. Nettie Allison, have checked out the most books. What's more important than good books to read and yet conveniently located in the neighborhood? Now, through the efforts of a group of community people, spearheaded by three women, Carolyn Huddleston, Barbara Markel, and Char Wanser, who saw a need for a library, the village schoolhouse, built by the people and for the school children, has received a new status.

The Buffalo Valley School was entered on The National Historic Register in the year 2006, after more than two years of research by L. L. "Bud" Alley of the Center for Historic Preservation, along with the assistance of Ted and Carolyn Huddleston, two locals who have deep roots in Putnam County. To achieve the goal, many people were interviewed along the way, including Luke Leftwich, Erlene Mikitka, J. T. Askew, Bud Maddux, Jack Williams, J. B. Leftwich, and others. The spirit of the school will live on as it goes forward with plans, not only for its future as a historic place to be remembered by its many students who have passed through the doors, but a place to come and enjoy being part of the community. Although it's no longer a school house, lettered on the building over the door are the words: BUFFALO VALLEY SCHOOL, 1929.

*Submitted by: Carolyn (Shanks) Huddleston, 3031 Mill Pond Lane, Silver Point, TN 38582.*



**J. T. ASKEW JR. ET AL TO DEED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FOR THE CONSIDERATION of the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars cash in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, we, **J. T. Askew, Jr., R. L. Kerr, Byron Bartlett, and W. A. Jared**, have this day bargained and sold and do hereby transfer and convey unto **D. C. Wilhite**, Chairman **B. M. Carr, W. G. Anderson, E. H. Maddux, Dr. J. T. Moore, R. L. Brown and J. P. Romines**, and **Beecher Gentry** Sec. who now compose and constitute the present **COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**, in and for Putnam County, Tennessee, this conveyance being hereby made to the above members of said Board, for the Use and benefit of said County Board of Public Education, and to their successors in office and assigns forever, the following tract or parcel of land, in the 11<sup>th</sup> Civil District of Putnam County, Tennessee, and described as follows, to-wit; BEGINNING on a Box-elder on the north bank of Indian Creek, opposite to a white oak, running thence north 11 degrees west 24 poles to a rock, thence north 75 degrees east 29 poles to a rock, thence south 49 degrees east 8 poles to a rock, thence south 74 degrees east 11 poles to a hackberry on the bank of Indian Creek, thence down said creek east 2 poles to a rock on the bank of said creek, thence south 78 degrees west 18 ½ poles to a rock, thence south 14 degrees east 13 poles to a rock, thence south 75 degrees west and striking the said creek at about 4 poles and on in same direction in all 30 poles to the beginning, containing by survey 5 acres, be the same more or less. This being the same tract conveyed to us on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1925, which deed is the previous and last conveyance to this tract, said deed being of record in the Putnam County, Tennessee Register's Office in Vol. \_\_\_\_ at page \_\_\_\_\_. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all the estate, title and interest in and to said tract of land above described, to the said **D. C. Wilhite** Chairman, **B. M. Carr, W. G. Anderson, E. H. Maddux, Dr. J. T. Moore, R. L. Brown, and J. P. Romines, Beecher Gentry** Sec. **for the use and benefit of the COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, in and for a school at Buffalo Valley Putnam County, Tennessee**, their successors in office, or assigns forever. We covenant with the said Grantee that we are lawfully seized and possessed of said tract of land, have a good right to make this conveyance, and that the same is unencumbered. We further agree and bind ourselves, heirs and legal representatives to warrant and forever defend the title of said land to the said Grantee, their successors in office, or assigns, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. Witness our signatures, this July 13<sup>th</sup> 1925.

**J. T. Askew Jr.**  
**R. L. Kerr**  
**Byron Bartlett**  
**W. A. Jared**

STATE OF TENNESSEE – PUTNAM COUNTY;

Personally appeared before me **J. J. Boyd**, a Notary Public in and for said state and county the foregoing bargainers, **J. T. Askew, Jr., R. L. Kerr, Byron Bartlett, and W. A. Jared**, with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledged that they executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained. Witness my hand and official seal, at office, on this 16 day of July, 1925.

J. J. Boyd Notary Public  
My Commission Expires, 6 day of April, 1929.

STATE OF TENNESSEE – PUTNAM COUNTY: The above and foregoing Deed was filed in my office for Registration, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 1925 at 4-10 o'clock, p.m. and noted in filation

**H. G. MADDUX & WIFE TO DEED TO**  
**COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUTNAM COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Warranty Deed: For the consideration of the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollard cash in hand, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and other valuable considerations which is the exchange of certain lands hereinafter described, we, **H. G. Maddux** and wife, **Vada Maddux**, hereby transfer and convey unto **W. L. Swallows**, Chairman, **C. C. Uffleman, Joe Cronk, Virgil Stanton, E. N. Wilhite, J. N. McCloud and Roscoe Morrow**, who now compose and constitute the present County Board of Education in and for Putnam County, Tennessee, and to their successors in office and assigns forever, the following boundary or tract of land in the Eleventh Civil District of Putnam County, Tennessee, and described as follows, to wit:

Beginning at a stake in the east side of the road leading from Buffalo Valley into U. S. Highway No. 70, running thence south 11 degrees east, 500 feet to a stake, here joining **Maddux** land; thence north 77 ½ degrees east, 513 feet to a stake; thence north 10 degrees West, 227 feet to a stake; thence north 35 ½ degrees west, 100 feet to a stake; thence north 80 ½ degrees west, 406 feet to a stake; thence north 11 degrees west, 61 feet to a stake in the east side of said highway; thence south 58 ½ degrees west, 96 feet to the beginning, containing by estimate 5 acres, be the same more or less. **H. G. Maddux** and wife, **Vada Maddux**, here convey only such portion of the foregoing boundary or tract of land as is not included in a deed made July 16, 1925 by **J. T. Askew, Jr., R. L. Kerr, Byron Bartlett** and **W. A. Jared**, to the County Board of Public Education, which deed is recorded in the Register's Office of Putnam County, Tennessee, in Deed Book No. 20, on Page 250, and the boundaries set out therein are as follows, to wit: Lying and being in the Eleventh Civil District of Putnam County Tennessee. Beginning on a Box-elder on the north bank of Indain Creek, opposite to a white oak, running thence south 49 degrees east 8 poles to a rock, thence south 74 degrees east 11 poles to a hackberry on the bank of Indian Creek, thence down said creek 2 poles to a rock on the bank of said creek; thence south 78 degrees west 18 ½ poles to a rock, thence south 14 degrees east 13 poles to a rock, thence south 75 degrees west and striking the said creek at about 4 poles and on in same direction in all 30 poles to the beginning, containing by survey 5 acres, be the same more or less. To have and to hold such portions of the tract of land herein conveyed, together with the title, interest and appurtenances there to belonging unto the said **W. L. Swallows**, Chairman, **C. C. Uffleman, Joe Cronk, Virgil Stanton, E. N. Wilhite, J. N. McCloud** and **Roscoe Morrow**, for the use and benefit of the County Board of Education in and for Putnam County, Tennessee, their successors in office or assigns forever. We covenant with the said grantees that we are lawfully seized and possessed of such portion of said boundary or tract of land as is herein conveyed by us, have a good right to convey same and that the same is unencumbered. We further covenant and bind ourselves, our heirs and legal representatives to warrant and forever defend the title to said land, as herein conveyed by us, to said grantees and their successors in office or assigns against the lawful claims of all person whomsoever. Witness our signatures this the 23 day of Nov, 1938.

**H. G. Maddux**  
**Vada Maddux.**

STATE OF TENNESSEE – PUTNAM COUNTY

Personally appeared before me **M. L. Medley**, a Notary Public in and for said State and County, **H. G. Maddux** and wife, **Vada Maddux**, the bargainors, with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledge that they executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained. Witness my hand and official seal of office at Buffalo Valley, Tennessee, on this the 25 day of Nov. 1938.

**M. L. Medley**  
Notary Public

My Commission expires the 8 day of Jan. 1942.

STATE OF TENNESSEE – PUTNAM COUNTY

I, **W. M. Bush**, Register, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing deed, with certificates hereto attached, was filed in my office for registration on the 19 day of Dec., 1938, at 2:45 o'clock p.m., and noted in Filation Book "E", on page 60, and duly recorded in deed Book No. 35, on page 372.

Witness my hand at office in Cookeville, Tenn., this 20<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 1938.

(signed) **W. M. Bush**, Register