

**THE FORERUNNERS OF TENNESSEE TECH**  
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Less than a mile east of Cookeville stands an old, two-story building known to modern inhabitants as "Uncle Jim Nichols'" old place, but to the old citizen it is known as Buck College. To read the story of Buck College, is to read the story of the beginning of the great educational advantages now offered by Putnam County.

On Feb. 2, 1842, an act of the Legislature of Tennessee established a new county, called Putnam County in honor of the hero of the Revolution, Gen. Israel Putnam. The land taken for this county was part of Smith, Jackson, and Overton County. The county seat was called Monticello. Isaac Buck and Mounce Gore, grandfather of John Gore, who introduced the bill in the Senate of 1915 to create the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, were appointed to survey the land. They were to leave three acres for a square, a lot for a jail, a lot for the courthouse, a lot for a place of worship, and a lot for an academy for males and females. Twenty acres were to be sold for two lots.

The town was laid out and called Monticello and Jonathan Buck, son of Isaac Buck, built a substantial buildings called it Buck College and taught there many years. He, with a man by the name of Mills, ran a newspaper known as "The Monticello Times." Court was held at White Plains two miles north of Buck College, then owned by William Quarles, who had served as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, and who, when the Putnam County regiment was formed as a part of the state militia, was put in charge.

Eighteen months after the establishment of Putnam county, an injunction was issued by officers of Overton County against Putnam County. The claim was made that Monticello could not be established as a country seat because it was within twelve miles of another county seat, Livingston, which was unconstitutional.

In 1853 the question of a new county was again agitated and it was found that after a county was once established it could not be abolished, so Putnam county was re-established and the town site located where it now stands because of two springs known today as Glade and Town Springs. It was called Cookeville in honor of Major Richard F. Cooke who owned quite a bit of land around here. An academy of brick was begun at once, but was left standing uncovered until after the Civil War. It was known as Washington Academy and for many years was the principle school of Cookeville. It has sent out into the world many men who have left their "footprints on the sands of time." The old Academy was condemned in 1899 and a frame building erected and stands today as our City School. This, too, has been condemned and the early days of June will see its walls razed to the ground and by fall, a handsome brick building will stand on the site of Washington Academy. This new building will give to Cookeville a school system and educational advantages surpassed by no town of the state.

Two other pioneer schools which left their impression on the citizens of Cookeville are, the school taught by Miss Susan Quarles and Miss Lou Robinson, and the one taught by Prof. Sam Yeargan. Yeargan Select School was the main school for boys in this section for many years.

Dixie College was then established. Prof. W. B. Boyd was president and at the time it was turned over to the State, there was a large enrollment. This was a denominational school established through the efforts of the members of the Church of Christ of Cookeville. It was controlled by a board consisting of ten men of which Mr. Jere Whitson was chairman. But the citizens of Cookeville had since the beginning of the old Academy, a dream of a State school, and after many months of intensive campaigning, the dream became a realization. In 1915 a bill was signed establishing the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. The school is yet in its infancy so far as years are concerned, but it is fast gathering into its fold the boys and girls of the state and promises to become one of the greatest centers of the South.

Besides the four-year high school there is the college department consisting of two years of college work. Every year the enrollment of this department has increased and sometime in the future we hope that the course will be extended to four years instead of two.

#### JUNIOR COLLEGE CLASS:

Last fall many of the students who graduated from the high school department in '21 were back again at T. P. I. to welcome the new ones who had come to join their happy throng. These are our "last years' bird nests" but they say they'll be birds next year. Of course the juniors are old and dignified having been Senior Highs last year and while planning on being in the Senior College Class next year they hold their places very admirably and occasionally condescend to speak to the "little Senior Highs". However, taking all in all "they'll pass" and indeed they set a wonderful example for the ones following in their footsteps. The members of this "pink and white" brigade are:

Myrtie Bullock, Keith Bohannon, Bessie Bohannon, John Barksdale, Jas. Chapman, Ezra Crowder, Dixie Bond, Roosevelt Patten, Rupert Whittaker, Benton Cantrell, Ephraim Anderson, Ira Hatfield, Thelma Rogers, Lily Brown Tipps, Paula Sidwell, Thurston Tipps, Silas Anderson, Thomas Gann, Willard Millsapps, Margaret Kilteter, Crit Pharris, John Bell, Paul Buford, Douglas McFarland, Dewitt Puckett, President.

#### SENIOR COLLEGE CLASS:

The Senior College Class is composed of the students of T.P.I. We hold them above us with reverence and it is with respectful mind that we glance upon their fair countenance. For four years they rambled over the road of high school life and for two years they have crossed the college seas. My but they are high and mighty seniors. One of these, Miss Ima Scott was voted the most versatile girl in the school.

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