



## A HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY TENNESSEE

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Cookeville, Tennessee

*Excerpts from this book with the names & places  
related to the family line of Audrey June (Denny) Lambert*



John Allison, Revolutionary soldier, came from Boonesborough, Orange County, North Carolina, in 1807, and settled six miles south of Baxter when his son, Joseph (Mine Lick), was six years old. When this son reached his majority the father gave him a little flea-bitten gray pony. With this as his only start he entered land, cleared a field, and built a cabin. The pony was hitched under a tree that winter. "Uncle Mine Lick," as he was familiarly known to the people, had a fund of information gained largely by contact with Nature, and many of his original and eccentric sayings and doings are current legend for miles around his old home. *Pgs.10&11*

Robert Gentry came from North Carolina in 1815 and settled in the Mine Lick country. The large Gentry family descended from this pioneer. *Pg.11*

Simeon Shanks, of Virginia, entered a large tract of land and came to the new county in 1835, locating near his father-in-law, Craven Shanks. *Pg. 12 & 13* Craven and Besty Maddux came from Virginia with their large family in 1835 and located on the Walton Road, at what is now known as the Lee place near Baxter. Their children were: Margaret, William, Redmond, Addison, Jane, Snowden Horton, Thomas, Silas, Fannie and George. *Pg. 16*

John McCaleb came from Orange County, NC, in 1824, and settled on Cane Creek, on the farm now owned by Roe Howell. His father was killed in the Revolutionary War. His son, S.M. McCaleb, was a Captain in the Civil War. *Pg. 13*

William Allison, also from Orange County, NC, settled on Cane Creek, at an early date, on the farm now owned by Alfred Maxwell. His son, Joseph, (known as "Hog Joe," on account of owing as many hogs), lived on the Walton Road. *Pg 14*

Jefferson W. Boyd, (*Jefferson Wiseman Boyd*) married Mary Jared, daughter of Moses Jared. They are survived by two sons and a daughter – John J. Boyd, of this county, Dr. W.M. Boyd, of Jackson County, and Miss Matilda Boyd. Two sons – Alvin W. and Houston S. Boyd, now dead, - were prominent lawyers of the Cookeville bar. Jefferson W. Boyd was a gallant Confederate soldier, was desperately wounded in battle, and spent many months in the Rock Island Federal prison. *Pg.18*



The Jared family is one of the oldest and largest in the county. William Jared, born in Virginia in 1765, was the first pioneer of name, coming over the Walton Road in 1810. He died at his home on *Big Indian Creek, Putnam Co., TN*, in 1827. His sons, progenitors of large families, were Moses, Samuel, William, Joseph and John. A daughter, rut Brown, also left many descendants.

Joseph Jared, brother of William, emigrated from Virginia about the same time and located his farm on the ridge at a point known as the Low Gap. One of his sons was the late Josiah Jared, who was for many years one of the most prominent citizens of the county.

John Jared, the last surviving son of William Jared, died at an advanced age about twenty-five years ago. He was the grandfather of Wirt and Walter Jared, prominent business men of Buffalo Valley.

Moses Jared married Malinda Byrne. Their home was on the farm now known as the J.P. Nichols place. They had one son, Moses, and three daughters – Elizabeth, wife of David H. Nichols; Mary, wife of Jefferson W. Boyd; and Rhoda, wife of Adolphus Young.

William Jared Jr., was a Methodist minister. After middle life he disposed of his farm on Indian Creek and located near Sparta, where he is buried. The White County, TN, Jareds are his descendants.

The late William Jared, of Cookeville, was a grandson of Samuel Jared, and Esq. F.H. Jared, of Gentry, is a grandson of Joseph Jared.

Joe H. Jared, of Gentry, bears his grandfather's name. T.C. Holladay, of Cookeville, is also a grandson of the pioneer, Joseph Jared. Another grandson was the late Capt. William Ensor, progenitor of the large Ensor family of this county.

The Jared family has been actively identified with public affairs in this section for more than a century, and is in every respect, an excellent family, characterized by intelligence, integrity and frugality. Closely related to the Jareds are the Byrnes, Nichols, Holladays, Boyds, Ensors, Huddlestons, Maddux, Leftwiches, and other large families of the Western division of the county. *Pg. 19 & 20*

Hugh Wallace, of North Carolina, the progenitor of the large Wallace family, settled not far from Silver Point about 1820, and died about 1860. *Pg. 21*

John Ensor came from Virginia to Rock Spring Valley in 1824. He married Ruth, oldest daughter of Joseph Jared. He was the father of Capt. William Ensor and grandfather of John L. Ensor and Dr. L.D.J. Ensor, deceased. *Pg. 21*

Joshua Bartlett, another early settler in Buffalo Valley, located just below the Jones'. His sons were Ned, Mit, Joe and Henry. *Pg. 22*

Buffalo Valley was the home of the Jones', Bartletts, Wallaces, and others. The rich Creek country on either side of the Walton Road supported several fine communities. *Pg. 24*

John T. Askew, eighty-five years old, widely known and highly respected, gave us this interview: "I was born on Wilkin's Creek, Dekalb county, July 9, 1840, and located at Buffalo Valley, Putnam county, January 1, 1867, where I have since resided. The old log school and church house, about a mile up the Valley, was our only public meeting place. Capt. Exum, who was the first merchant here, boarded at my house. Samuel Young was considered the richest man in the county. When I came to the Valley, the well known citizens in this section were, as well as I remember: Snowden Maddux, Joshua Bartlett, Matthew Scudder, Thomas Maddux, Samuel Young, David Nichols, John Evans, Peter Young, **Jonathan Denny, Timothy Denny**, Robert Alcorn, James Isbell, Jenkins Jones, Loona Thompson, George Maddux, John Jared, Bradley Maddux. Perhaps I have forgotten some. Soon after the war Green Duke, the founder of a religious sect called the 'Dukeites,' gained a considerable following here. He claimed that he could handle snakes and drink poisons and that he would never die. After his death the sect died out. The first time I was in Cookeville I was about sixteen years old and went there with my father to a horse race. We had been to a big race at Smithville, and went on to Cookeville, passing through Mine Lick. In those days there were numerous race tracks in this and adjoining countries, plenty of whiskey and lots of gambling. These were good places for gamblers to meet and try their luck." *Pg. 43 --- Reference to my Great Grandfather Timothy Denny and his brother Jonathan Denny, (Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert).*

William Vance married Elizabeth Boyd and located at Industry, IL, before the Civil War. When the conflict came on one of his sons, John B. Vance, was living with his uncle, Jefferson W. Boyd, in Rock Springs Valley, this county, and teaching school at Pleasant Grove church. He immediately suspended his school and volunteered as a private Confederate soldier in Capt. H.H. Dillard's company. Later he became Captain of the company and met an heroic death at the Battle of Perryville. *Pg. 58 Jefferson W. Boyd married Mary Jared – d/o Moses & Malinda Byrne Jared.*

The Legislature in 1857 created the office of County Judge for Putnam County, and Governor Andrew Johnson commissioned William C. Bounds as the first Judge. The office was soon abolished and the County Chairman plan adopted. Among those serving in this capacity were R.D. Allison, S.G. Slaughter, Jacob Henry, Benjamin Hitchcock, J. Arnold, J.N. King, John Tucker, J.J. Peek. In 1891 the Legislature again created the office of County Judge for Putnam County. **T.L. Denny**, of the Cookeville bar, was appointed to serve until the

regular election in 1892, when W.G. Davis was elected. In 1894 J.W. Puckett was elected for eight years. H.D. Whitson was elected in 1902, and Sam Edwards in 1910. Judge Whitson was again elected in 1918. *Pg. 62 - Thompson Luther Denny (T.L. Denny) was the son of Jonothan Denny who married Agnes Thompson. Jonothan Denny was the son of Zachariah Denny, (Denney) and brother of Timothy Denny, (Denney), Timothy Denny was the Great Grandfather of Audrey June (Denny) Lambert. T.L. Denny was a teacher, then a lawyer and finally a Judge.*

The members of the present County Court are as follows:

S.E. Anderson, Albert Ashburn, J.T Askew, Jr., J.L. Bilbrey, R.A. Bockman, J.J. Boyd, R.B. Capshaw, P.S. Cole, J.K. Flatt, J.S. Ford, L.W. Goolsby, H.T. Gragg, J.F. Hampton, J.W. Hickey, J.D. Henry, J.S. Herron, J.H. Hodge, B.C. Huddleston, Hugh Hunter, T.A. Hutcheson, T.B. Jackson, F.H. Jared, **J.T. Jernigan**, T.S. Johnson, J.W. Judd, P.L. Judd, A.W. Maxwell, J.N. McCloud, B.F. McBroom, W.R. McBroom, R.B. Officer, J.C. Parrett, J.H. Robinson, J.S. Robinson, J.W. Scott, J.D. Smith, R.B. Stewart, C.M. Stone, J.J. Sullins, W. S. Swallows, W.L. Swallows, John Tucker, W.M. Watson, Grover C. Whittaker, Tim Williams. *Pg. 62 –John Tilford Jernigan married Hulda Jane Thompson. Their daughter was Essie Avo Jernigan who married Milton Otis Loftis. J.T. Jernigan was my Great Grandfather – Audrey June (Denny) Lambert.*

#### County Officials

Trustee – Joseph Pierson, Silas W. Gentry, Simon Maxwell, W.N. Gentry, J.M. Whitson, H.M. Nichols, W.J. Lewis, W.J. Isbell, J.H. Verble, Wheeler Harp, J.T. Pointer, O.N. Draper, D.E. Slage, Haskell Womack, Mrs. Mary Denny. *Pg. 63*

Allen Young entered land on Indian Creek about 1820. His sons were John M., Lewis , Churchwell and Dock. *Pg. 69- \*See Grant of David Young. \*Allen Young's land is mentioned in several Deeds of my Great Grandfather Timothy Denny and my Grandfather Virgil Timothy Denny – Audrey June (Denny) Lambert.*

Prettyman Jones was one of the earliest settler in Buffalo Valley. His sons were Buck, Prettyman, Wade, Robert and John. *Pg. 69*

We give below the names of the various Superintendents of Public Instruction for Putnam County, with date of election of each: *Pg. 92*

1869 – B. D. Hunter	1887 – S.D. Upton
1873 – B.M. Webb	1889 – W.H. Carr
1876 – H.S. Boyd	1893 – A.N. Ford
1877 – A.T. Anderson	1897 – H.D. Whitson
1879 – L.B. Matheny	1901 – A.J. Chisholm
1883 – A. Bryant	1903 – Ernest H. Boyd

1885 – **T.L. Denny**                      1911 – J.M. Hatfield  
1921 – Beecher Gentry

School was taught regularly at the old Pleasant Grove Church from pioneer times until many years after the Civil war. It was truly a community center for old and young. Many large families grew up in the old Pleasant Grove church. These names are conspicuous in its annuals: Jared, Byrne, Hughes, Holladay, Young, Boyd, Carlen, Huddleston, Nichols, Maddux, McKinely, Leftwich, **Denny**, Taylor, Stanton and Evans. *Pg. 103*

Among the other preachers of marked ability sent out from Pleasant Grove congregation were the following: The Jared brothers, Wade and James, the former dead and the latter a prominent member of the Missouri Conference; the three Ensor brothers – Dow A., and S.M. – members of the Tennessee Conference, - and John O. Ensor, of the Missouri Conference; N.B. Taylor of the Texas Conference; and Frank P. Jernigan, Missouri Conference. *Pg. 104*

#### Sons of Temperance

From an old minute book of the Rock Spring Division, No. 239, Sons of Temperance, we gather that his Division met regularly from 1849 to 1856. E.F. Douglas appears prominently in the record, as does Charles R. Ford, Recording Secretary. The following names appear on the roll of members: N.S. Apple, John H. Young, John M. Null, William Whitehead, Thos. J. Kilman, Charles A. Huddleston, Joel Fitzpatrick, W.J. Huddleston, Jesse S. Carr, Allen Young, John H. Carr, D. b. Reynolds, Samuel Cameron, Enoch Fisher, Phillip Sadler, John H. Amonette, Martin Whitten, James Plunket, J.W. Allen, George Carter, E.F. Douglass, L.H. Betty, James E. Hogan, A.H. Farmer, L.P. Reynolds, William Lester, J.F. Colvert, Thomas J. Gill, Joseph Johnson, John E. Farmer, James Carlen, William B. Holladay, Charles R. Ford, Brice B. Jared, Isaac H. Huddleston, Samuel A. Moss, M.W. Syper, A.M. Betty, S. Petty, J. Rowland, Franklin Palmer, H.W. Carlen, George Carter, G.F. Marchbanks, R.B. Benson, George W. Whitten, P. Sadler. *Pg. 108*

Written by Blythe Semmer. 3 minutes to read. The Tennessee General Assembly first created Putnam County in 1842 from Jackson, Overton, Fentress, and White Counties, but an 1844 injunction charged that it violated state constitutional requirements. In 1854 the general assembly reestablished the county, although it was harried by boundary disputes for decades. The new county seat, Cookeville, was named after Richard F. Cooke, whose efforts were critical to the county's second attempt at creation. Putnam County's name honors Revolutionary War general Israel Putnam. Putnam County is located in the