THEO

The Theo community was located about five miles south of Bluff City. A post office was there from 1904 until 1939. A small school was at Theo until 1929 when it consolidated with Bluff City.

Theo was named for Theodore Lewis Gulley, grandson of John Gulley who once owned a huge plantation in that area. The Gulley plantation was about 1400 acres in size and had large well-drained fields suited for growing cotton and other crops. Part of the old plantation is today used as a pine seedling nursery developed in the 1970s by International Paper Company. The Gulley family cemetery is located on the nursery property.

Besides the school, Theo had a Methodist church, one or two stores, a grist mill, and Dr. E. E. Shell had an office there. I have one of the old mill stones from the grist mill at Theo.

Some of the well-known family names associated with Theo were Gulley, Knight, McAteer, Kirk, Creech, and Mooty.

The area around Theo is now forest land except for the nursery just north of the old town. County road 422 runs through the area, but can get slick in wet weather and there are deep sand beds to contend with in dry weather.

Written by Jerry McKelvy