

The Land Between the Lakes Heritage Geocache Challenge 2025 Grocery Stores in LBL

In each geocache box, you should find a sign in sheet, date logbook and 150+ aluminum tree tags. We have stamped each tag with numbering specific to that cache location. Collect 1 tree tag per geocache from each of the 7 locations.

- Bring your 7 different tree tags to the Golden Pond Visitor Center.
- Exchange them for a special Challenge Coin created just for this event.
- For extra bragging rights, each Challenge Coin is individually numbered from 1-150.
- Once participants have redeemed all tree tags and collected all Challenge Coins, this years geocache challenge ends.
- After closing the challenge, we collect the boxes to prepare for next years event.

Contact Chris Thornock with any suggestions and comments 270-924-2015 or christopher.thornock@usda.gov



GEOCACHING

Congratulations, you've found it! (Intentionally or not)

It's part of a worldwide game loved by GPS (Global Positioning System) users who are on the internet. It's like a scavenger hunt—its called geocaching. A GPS user hides a "treasure" (this container) and publishes the exact coordinates so other GPS users can go on a "treasure hunt" to find it.

IF YOU FOUND THIS CONTAINER BY ACCIDENT

Great! You can join us! We only ask:

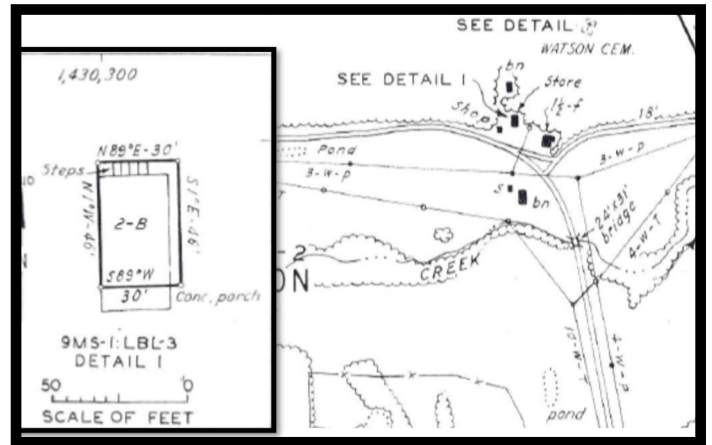
- Please don't move or vandalize the container. The real fun is just finding it and recording the visit.
- Go ahead and take something if you like. But also leave something too.

www.geocaching.com

Please respect and protect our local heritage by leaving all the cultural material in is current location. Do not remove or disturb the artifacts.



G. C. Watson's General Store 1936-1966



1960s TVA tract map of GC Watson's store.

Grady Charles Watson's General Store played a crucial role in the lives of the people in the Land Between the Rivers region by providing access to essential goods, fostering a sense of community, and supporting local organizations. People would gather there to socialize, play games like Rook and Pitch, and simply talk for hours, catching up on local news and events.



From left: Kenny, Debbie, and Greg Spiceland in front of G.C. Watson's general store.

During World War II, Watson's General Store operated under a rationing system, requiring customers to use stamps for certain goods. There was an uneven distribution of rationing stamps, with some customers receiving more of certain items than they needed while others received less. Watson observed, "Some people got more coffee than they could drink. People that didn't drink coffee get a whole lot and people that drank a whole lot didn't get hardly any". This situation sometimes led to bartering, with customers trading their excess stamps for items they actually needed. Customers would trade timber, hogs, cattle, or other goods for store credit.

Real Community Man



Cozie and Grady Watson.

In addition to being a successful store owner, Watson played an active and multifaceted role in his community. He served as a magistrate for 36 years, participating in the county court and making decisions about taxes, school funding, and other financial matters for the community. He represented his district, which included Neville's Creek, as part of a board that worked with the judge. These duties took up four days of his year unless special situations arose, such as issues within the school board.

Watson's willingness to take on various community roles demonstrates his dedication to serving his neighbors beyond his business interests. His store was more than just a place to buy goods, it was a place where people connected, socialized, and found support. This multifaceted approach to community involvement exemplifies the vital role that individuals like Watson played in rural life in the BTR. It also highlights the importance of general stores as hubs of community life, providing not just goods but also social interaction and information. Watson was a dedicated and influential figure whose contributions extended far beyond the walls of his general store.

Watson estimates the farthest customer traveled around 10 miles to reach his store. While this might seem insignificant today, it would have represented a considerable journey in the early years of the store's operation, likely undertaken by foot, wagon, or horseback.

The local Masonic lodge was located above Watson's store. This decision came about after their previous location, situated above a cattle feedlot, began to leak. Watson offered his space, which likely involved expanding the building to accommodate the lodge. This indicates his commitment to supporting local organizations and providing a space for community gatherings.



Watson was a member of the Iron mountain masonic lodge no 5444, eastern star no 412 and he was a 32 degree mason.

Ed G. C. Watson
Sept 30

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

Saturday, Sept. 30, 1967
Beginning at 8:30 A.M.
RAIN OR SHINE

Mr. G. C. Watson's Store, located on Highway 49 toward Model, Tenn. First Store on right hand side of road. Mr. Watson has been in business here for the past 31 years. He is going out of business due to the purchase of his property by the Land-between-the-Lakes.

Everything goes, groceries, hardware, store fixtures, including adding machine, cash register, antique items, drink boxes, refrigerators, fencing wire, 1949-1 ton Dodge Truck, bottom plow and Indian Relics. This is the chance to buy all your groceries, etc. below dealer's cost.

Remember the time— 8:30 A.M. sharp.

Follow Auction Signs from Highway 79.

COL. ED "BOGIE" BOGARD
AUCTIONEER

PHONE 232-5134 DOVER, TENNESSEE