Dr. William L. Watkins: Brownsville Dentist 1924-1936
Dorothy Granberry, Geneva Miller Historical Society

For nearly twelve years or so, residents of Haywood County TN had access to the dental skills of Dr. William L. Watkins, a 1924 graduate of the Dental Program at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN. Dr. Watkins, a Nashville native and the son of John David and Mattie Goodall Watkins, came to Brownsville and set up a dental practice shortly after graduating Meharry at age 28.

in March 1925, he married Ms. Alline Love, a teacher at Haywood County Training School and a native of Halls, TN in Lauderdale County with family ties in the Brownsville area. Ms. Watkins, the daughter of John Washington and Virginia Currin Love, is shown here in a1935 picture culled from a group photo. It is unknown if Dr. Watkins met and wooed Ms. Alline after coming to Brownsville or if she was one of the reasons for his decision to practice dentistry here. You see Ms. Alline Love, a graduate of Roger Williams, had spent several years in Nashville as a student.

The Watkins lived at 706 Jefferson St. in Brownsville. They had no children. It is presently unknown if Dr. Watkins practiced dentistry from his home or if he maintained an office at another place. He was a World War I veteran who served in the 155th Depot Brigade and was honorably discharged in 1919.

Sometime about 1933, Dr. Watkins began having health problems. According to his widow, Mrs. Alline Watkins Price, he was hospitalized in Nashville and she made numerous train trips to see about him while still maintaining her teaching responsibilities in Brownsville.

In January 1936, forty year old Dr. William L. Watkins died in Brownsville cared for by his personal physician, Dr. John William Evans. Dr. Watkins is buried in the National Cemetery on Gallatin Road in Nashville. His widow, Ms. Alline Watkins, later married Dr. Thomas Hugh Price of Covington, TN. She died in Covington in 2007 at the age of 103 years old and is buried in the Love Cemetery in Halls, TN.