

# Parkstown

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The L & N railroad:



L&N Depot



L&N Depot Workers

The Louisville and Nashville (L&N) railroad system in Etowah, Tennessee was first established in 1906. The town flourished after the L & N railroad, with businesses lining up throughout the downtown. Families flooded into the area taking advantage of the opportunity for work. Black families migrated also to the area for work. Soon Parkstown was established as a community for the Black residents of Etowah.

#### Churches:

New Zion Methodist Church was predicted to have been in the area since 1886. There Black farmers and their families attended religious services and even attended school.

Mount Olive A.M.E Zion Church was established after the New Zion Methodist was burned down.

#### **Schools:**



Parkstown/ West Etowah Rosenwald School



There were two documented schools in Parkstown. The first was housed out of the church New Zion Methodist Church. Later after the church was burned down and a new school was built. The building was funded by the [Rosenwald Fund](#). Parkstown or West Etowah school was a valuable resource to the local community members. The school was named after loved community member Reverend Parks. It is where many across different communities would send their children to attend school. It was a one story building that had a classroom and gym that doubled as a cafeteria.

Celebrations:



Parkstown School May 1955

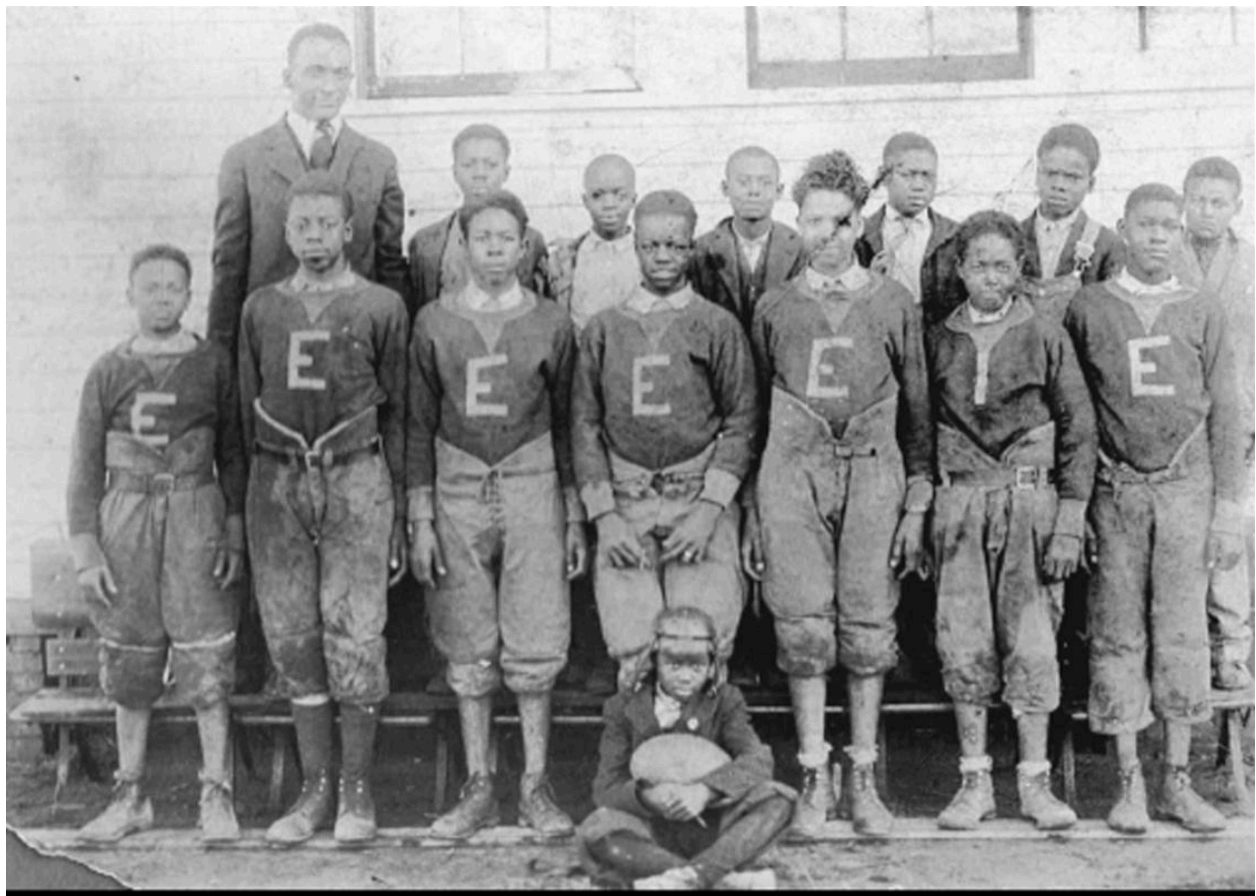
Mayday is was a celebration marking the beginning of the summer. It was a vibrant celebration where the kids dressed in their nice church clothes, wore floral decore, and danced around the mayday pole. Their was even the selection of a king and queen.

Memorial Day was a big turnout where people would gather together at up the local park in Parktown. Friends and relatives came from different locations to celebrate the holiday.

**Sports:**



Etowah Negro Baseball Team (Ft. Steel Arm Dickey)



Parkstown School Football team



Claude "Steel Arm" Dickey

Parkstown School had its own football since the kids could not play for the other schools. Etowah also had an all- Black baseball team. There were players from the area that went on to play for the big leagues. Claude "Steel Arm" Dickey was a popular player who pitched for the St. Louis Stars. Known for his excellent pitching, "Steel Arm" Dickey became a national hit. However, his career was soon cut short, after he was killed in Etowah, TN over liquor. He and his friends had gotten into a rift with a white man and Dickey's throat was slashed during the incident. The men who murdered him were not charged.

#### Businesses:



Mutt' Place- photo credit to Mrs. Rosa Lee Armstrong

One place in the area that provided a lot to the community was Mutt's Place. Mutt's was a dollar general store that provided food such as pops, sandwiches, and can food. He also sold toiletry items such as washing powders as well.