

James Paul Anderson Obituary
Published June 10, 2002 10:23 AM CDT
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN



GAINESBORO -- Funeral services for James Paul Anderson, 66, of Gainesboro, will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, at Anderson Funeral Home. Burial will be in John L. Clark Cemetery in Jackson County.

The family will receive friends from 6-10 p.m. today, Monday, June 10, at Whitson Funeral Home; from 4-10 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, at Anderson Funeral Home; and from 11 a.m. until time of services on Wednesday, June 12, at Anderson Funeral Home.

Mr. Anderson died on Saturday, June 8, 2002, at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

He was born on Oct. 6, 1935, in Jackson County to Johnie William and Ila Mae Chaffin Anderson of Gainesboro. He was a licensed funeral director and embalmer at Whitson Funeral Home. Mr. Anderson was a member of Gainesboro Church of Christ and former owner of Anderson Funeral Home. He served as Elder at Gainesboro Church of Christ and was board member of Upper Cumberland Christian Home.

In addition to his parents, his family includes his wife, Frances (Tootie) Reed Anderson of Gainesboro; a son and daughter-in-law, Paul Reed and Phyllis Anderson of Nolensville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Susan and Tommy Elkins of Gainesboro and Gina and Jimmy Key of Cookeville; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Roger and Ruby Anderson of Gainesboro and Edward L. and Barbara Anderson of Carthage; a sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Jim Jenkins of Murfreesboro; and five grandchildren, Thomas Anderson "Andy" Elkins, Nicole and Will Anderson and Madelyn and Max Key.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Johnie Kenneth Anderson, and a granddaughter, Natalie Anderson.

Memorial donations may be made to Happy Haven for Children; American Cancer Society (Jackson County Chapter); or a charity of choice.

Bros. Wally Kirby, Reeder Oldham and Johnny Fox will officiate at the services.

Arrangements by Whitson Funeral Home.

Services Wednesday for man who preached thousands of Funerals
By Mary Jo Denton
Herald – Citizen Newspaper – 10 June 2002

James Paul Anderson of Gainesboro, who has preached thousands of funerals here over the years and was known for his kindness and humility, died Saturday in Cookeville Regional Hospital at the age of 66.

Funeral services are set for Wednesday, June 12, at 2 p.m. at Anderson Funeral Home in Gainesboro.

But visitation will also be held here in Cookeville at Whitson Funeral home today, Monday, from 6 to 10 p.m. Visitation will also be held Tuesday from 4 to 10 p.m. at Anderson in Gainesboro and there again on Wednesday from 11 a.m. till time for the services.

He will be buried in the John L. Clark Cemetery in Jackson County. Brother Johnny Fox, Brother Reeder Oldham, and Brother Wally Kirby will officiate.

Anderson, who was born in Jackson County on October 6, 1935, was a minister and a licensed funeral director and embalmer who worked at Whitson Funeral Home.

He was former owner of Anderson Funeral Home in Gainesboro and had worked in the funeral supply business. He was also a cabinet-maker and enjoyed woodworking of various kinds.

He was a member of the Gainesboro Church of Christ, where he served as an elder, and was a board member of Upper Cumberland Christian Home.

His family includes his wife, Frances "Tootie" Reed Anderson of Gainesboro; his parents, Johnie William and Ila Mae Chaffin Anderson of Jackson County; one son and daughter-in-law, Paul Reed and Phyllis Anderson of Nolensville, TN; two daughters and sons-in-law, Susan and Tommy Elkins of Gainesboro and Gina and Jimmy Key of Cookeville; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Roger and Ruby Anderson of Gainesboro and Edward L. and Barbara Anderson of Carthage; a sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Jim Jenkins of Murfreesboro; and five grandchildren, Thomas Anderson "Andy" Elkins, Nicole and Will Anderson and Madelyn and Max Key.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Johnie Kenneth Anderson, and a granddaughter, Natalie Anderson.

James Paul Anderson may have held the record for numbers of funerals conducted in the Upper Cumberland area.

His services, both as a mortician and as a minister, were in great demand, and those who know him best say it is no wonder.

“It was his kindness,” said Johnny Fox. “He had just the perfect personality for a minister. His concern for people was genuine. He was also a highly skilled mortician and was in great demand for that service. He was very professional and trained others in the business.”

And while Anderson was the quiet, calm professional, his closest friends knew how deeply he felt the pain of grieving families, especially in the death of children, Fox said.

“He was such a down-to-earth person who could relate well to people,” said Robert Gribble, owner of Anderson Funeral Home. “He was a very humble person and was very well liked.”

For many years, it was James Paul Anderson who held most funerals in Jackson County, and only in recent years due to his health problems had the popular minister had to cut back on his services, Gribble said.

Among the favorite Bible passages Anderson used in funeral services were the 21st Psalm and the 23rd, Psalm, Gribble said.

At many a graveside in the beautiful hills of Jackson County, Anderson, recited, “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.”

“I can hear him saying that now.” Gribble said. “I’ve listened to him say it so many times.”

Contribution in his memory may be made to Happy Haven Home for Children, the Jackson County chapter of the American Cancer Society, or to a charity of the donor’s choice.

Whitson Funeral Home in Cookeville is in charge of arrangements.

**Services for my Grandmother, Audra Camilla (Anderson) Denny were administered by James Paul Anderson.
James Paul Anderson contributed much needed family information on the Anderson branch.*

Audrey J. Lambert

**See next page for Story of James Paul Anderson.*

James Paul Anderson and Frances Juanita "Tootie" Anderson
The Jackson Co., TN, Family History Book - 200 Years of Memories
Presented by the Jackson Historical Society – 1996
pgs. 48 & 49

James Paul Anderson was born October 6, 1935 in the Poor House Hollow in Jackson County, Tennessee. The son of Johnny William Anderson and Ila Mae Chaffin Anderson, he married Frances Juanita "Tootie" Reed – (b. May 5, 1936) on December 24, 1954. She is the daughter of William Thomas Reed and Sallie Mai Burris Reed.

Both James Paul and "Tootie" received their education in the Jackson County School System at Antioch and Gainesboro elementary respectively; Jackson County High School, and John A. Gupton School of Mortuary Science in Nashville, Tennessee. Their first business enterprise was a clothing store in Gainesboro, Tennessee which opened in April, 1957. On July 1, 1964, they entered the funeral business with Charles Dowe and Lucille York Sutton, and in March, 1966 they closed the clothing store to devote full time to the funeral business.

Sutton Funeral Home opened in September, 1946. Prior to 1946, all funeral merchandise was sold by the Draper and Draper Company in Gainesboro. Thurman Dowell owned a funeral home in Granville, Tennessee, and Draper-Naff Funeral Home was opened in January, 1955. James Paul and "Tootie's" first home was in the Draper-Naff premises. In 1973, James Paul and "Tootie" purchased Draper-Naff Funeral Home, the Rob Draper Memorial Cemetery and Johnson Cemetery and combined all of these with Anderson Funeral Home and John L. Clark Memorial Cemetery. In February 1981, the business was sold to Robert Gribble and Hobert Smith.

James Paul and "Tootie" are active members of the Church of Christ. James Paul preached his first sermon at Antioch and was the regular preacher at McCoinsville Church of Christ from 1961 through 1965. He has served as deacon and has been an elder at the Gainesboro church since 1975. Tootie has worshipped at Gainesboro all of her life.

Their children are as follows:

1. Susan Kay Anderson was born May 5, 1956, md Tommy Lewis Elkins, born June 4, 1952. Children: Thomas Anderson "Andy" Elkins, born January 14, 1985.
2. Paul Reed Anderson was born November 5, 1959, md Phyllis Annette Lancaster, born April 11, 1960. Children: Natalie Annette, born 23 July 1986 and Peggy Nicole, born October 23, 1987.
3. Gina Lynn Anderson, born August 12, 1964, md Jimmy Dale Key, born October 24, 1963.