

Charlie Benton Shipley Obs.

FRANKLIN, TN -- Funeral services for Charlie Benton Brooks Shipley, 89, of Williamson County, a native of Putnam County, will be held Monday, July 15, at 2 p.m. at Concord Road Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tenn.

Visitation will be held Sunday, July 14, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Williamson Memorial Funeral Home in Franklin and at 1 p.m. before the service on Monday at the church. Burial will be in Williamson Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Shipley died Friday, July 12, 2002, at Williamson Medical Center.

He was a retired educator.

His family includes his wife of 71 years, Sallie Cleo Vaughn Shipley; two daughters, Charla Shipley and Judy Parnell, and son-in-law, Jim Parnell, all of Franklin; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren, all of the Clarksville, Tenn., area. He was preceded in death by a son, Dr. Darrell Ray Shipley.

He was the uncle of Dr. William T. Shipley of Cookeville and the brother of Fred L. Shipley of Springfield, Missouri and the late Dr. Thurman Shipley and Major Michael Shipley.

He was born in Putnam County, the youngest of 10 children born to Squire Harvey Richard and Sallie Shipley, who owned and operated a 500 acre farm here. He grew up on what is now known as Tennessee Tech University Shipley Farms.



Shipley helped initiate the restoration of the 165-year-old barn on the Shipley Farms site, and two years ago, the site was recognized by the Tennessee Historical Society with a historical marker.

Shipley was a graduate of Central High here and graduated from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute with a B.S. degree in agriculture and with minors in science and education in 1938.

While in college, he worked as a student assistant to Mr. J.E. Conry, head of the Agriculture Dept. and for Dr. Bartoo in the Biology Dept. He graduated from TPI with the second highest grade point average in his class, with less than one point difference in the scores. In 1939, he earned a Master's degree and later an Ed.S. degree from the University of Tennessee.

In 1997, he was awarded the Distinguished Agricultural Alumnus Award by Tennessee Tech, and his portrait was placed in the Hyder Burks Pavilion.

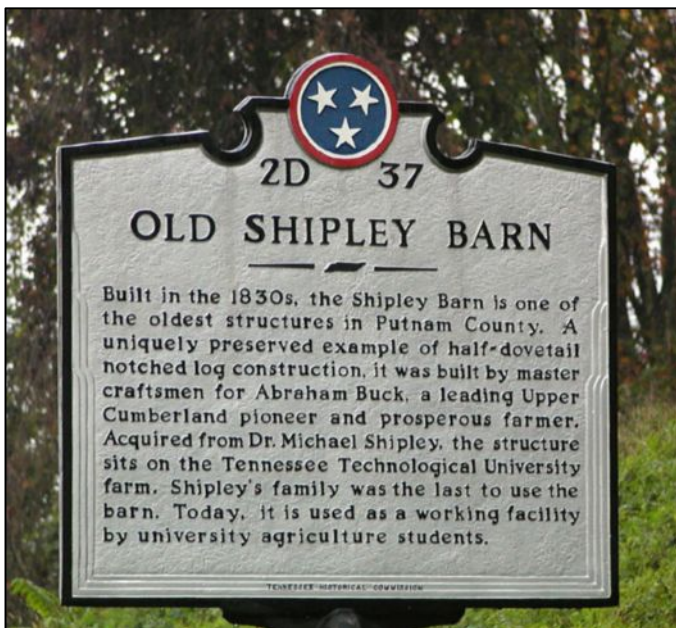
He was a member of the Church of Christ. As a boy, he attended Smyrna Church of Christ and later participated with others in the formation of Sycamore Church of Christ.

He taught vocational agriculture in Newport, Tenn., from 1939 to 1960. While in Cocke County, he co-founded the A&I County Fair and made numerous contributions to the development of the county.

He moved his family to Williamson County in 1960 and there became a noted educator. He retired from the school system in 1979 and then became manager of the Mallory Valley Utility District, which he had co-founded in 1963 and which later developed into a major commercial area known as Cool Springs.

Williamson Memorial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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OLD SHIPLEY BARN

Built in the 1830's, the Shipley Barn is one of the oldest structures in Putnam County. A uniquely preserved example of half-dovetail notched log construction, it was built by master craftsmen for Abraham Buck, a leading Upper Cumberland pioneer and prosperous farmer. Acquired from Dr. Michael Shipley, the structure sits on the Tennessee Technological University farm. Shipley's family was the last to use the barn. Today, it is used as a working facility by university agriculture students.



COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (Sept. 26, 2000) -- Tennessee Tech University's Old Shipley Barn, one of the oldest standing structures in Putnam County and possibly Tennessee, recently received its own historical marker.

The bronze marker outlines the history of the nearly 200-year-old barn located west of Cookeville on the Gainesboro Grade near the Hyder-Burks Ag Pavilion. The marker was officially unveiled at the recent Shipley Family Reunion.

After some renovation years ago, the barn is still used today as a working facility by TTU agriculture students. Renovation of the historic Shipley Barn was completed with the aid of a \$35,000 donation from the Major Michael Shipley Trust. Also, construction of a new sheep barn, adjacent to the Shipley Barn, is underway. The new barn project is supported in part by a \$25,000 Shipley Trust donation.

Built in the 1830s by slaves of the Putnam County pioneer Abraham Buck, the Old Shipley Barn is an example of half-dovetail notched and hand hewn log construction. Buck is buried near the barn.

The Old Shipley Barn is the only remaining major structure which was part of the Abraham Buck Plantation. After changing ownership many times over the years, the barn and land was purchased by Squire Harvey Shipley.

Charlie Benton Shipley, a TTU graduate who was at the recent reunion, owns the only parcel of the original Shipley Farm remaining in the Shipley family today. This parcel, as well as much of the land now owned by the state of Tennessee, through Tennessee Tech, was formerly owned by Charlie's brother, Major Michael Shipley. Today, a scholarship in Michael Shipley's name is available to eligible students entering the agriculture program at TTU.

Marc Burnett, Tennessee Tech's vice president of Student Affairs, painted a picture of the barn and, when friends and colleagues saw the artwork, they also saw an opportunity to share the barn's story with others.

Burnett donated the painting to the university's College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, and signed and numbered prints are available for sale. A certificate of authenticity, which includes a history of the barn, accompanies each print.

Proceeds from the sale will fund a scholarship Burnett established in the name of his wife, Tammie, who is a graduate of the college. Orders for the \$50 print package can be made by calling the TTU College of Agriculture and Human Ecology at 372-3149.

--Dyana Bagby

<http://www.ajlambert.com>