

THURMAN SHIPLEY, M. D. (#882)

Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pg. 318 - **Thurman Shipley** was born March 6, 1903 in a log house located in Putnam County, TN on the Old Gainesboro road. He was the seventh of ten children born to **Harvey Richard** and **Sally Welch**



Shipley. He attended elementary school at the Shipley School where his oldest brother, Milburn, was his seventh and eighth grade teacher. He graduated from Technical High School at Tennessee Tech in 1923 and enrolled in the College of Engineering at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. In September 1927, he entered the University of Tennessee College of Medicine at Memphis. Upon graduating in 1932, he served an internship and surgical residency at St. Joseph's Hospital in Memphis, TN. In 1933, he opened his medical office in Cookeville. On May 30, 1935, he **married Helen Cross Cates.** Their children are **Martha Helen Shipley Chen** and **Dr. William Thurman Shipley.**

The old Cookeville City Hospital was purchased from **Dr. Howard.** Surgeons had to own their instruments and carry them to the hospital for each operation. The first X-ray machine available to the hospital was Dr. Shipley's portable unit and his nitrous oxide machine was the only one available for anesthesia.

During the year of World War II great advances were made in medicine and the original unit of the present Cookeville General Hospital was built. It soon proved inadequate for the needs of the community, and efforts were made to secure Hill-Burton funds to expand. After several futile attempts, the hospital staff designated **Dr. Shipley** and **Dr. T. M. Crain of Monterey** to approach the Commissioner of Public Health for his support in securing funds and soon the first three floors of the unit that faced 5th Street were built.

The Putnam County Medical Society was reorganized in 1933. **Dr. Shipley** was elected Secretary Treasurer and continued in that office for over thirty years. In addition to the County Society, Dr. Shipley maintained membership in the American Medical Association, the Tennessee Medical Association of which he served one term as vice-president. He was active in the American and Tennessee Academies of Family Practice and was made a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physician in 1973. He was active in the Tom Moore Chapter of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians the Upper Cumberland Medical Society and Upper Cumberland Medical Society and the Middle Tennessee Medical Association. Dr. Shipley has served each of these professional organizations as president and in other capacities.

Dr. Shipley was a Major in the Tennessee State Guard during World War II. He was a charter member of the Cookeville Rotary Club and served as its president, he is a past president of the Tennessee Tech Alumni Association. He was a member of the Cookeville First Methodist Church and served on its Board of Trustees. He loved to make moving pictures, slides and printed pictures in his darkroom. Some of his home movies of events in the Cookeville area are shown at the Cookeville History Museum.

Story by William T. Shipley, D.D.S., M.S.D., Cookeville, TN. Sources: Family Bible records and family knowledge.

THURMAN SHIPLEY, M. D., b. 6 March 1903, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **Harvey Richard Shipley** (1867-1934) & **Sallie Arrine (Welch) Shipley** (1873-1953), both buried in the Smyrna Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. On May 30, 1935, he married **Helen Cross Cates.** Their children are Martha Helen Shipley Chen and Dr. William Thurman Shipley.

(DC #1334, Putnam Co., TN: **Harvey Richard Shipley, s/o William Milburn Shipley & Elizabeth Kinnaird**)

(**William Milburn Shipley**, b. 21 May 1847 – d. 16 December 1873/8 & his wife **Elizabeth (Kinnaird) Shipley**, b. 11 April 1847 – d. 7 June 1896, both buried in the Bullington Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. William Milburn Shipley, s/o **Eli & Mahala Shipley**)

(**E. W. Shipley**, b. 12 January 1817, TN – d. 13 February 1897, buried in the Bullington Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN).

(1860 census, 1st Civil Dist., Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 112 – **Eli Shipley** is head of household, 42 yrs. old, TN md to **Mahala**, 37 yrs. old, VA. Children: Rachel, 16 yrs. old; **William**, 13 yrs. old; Gaines, 10 yrs. old; Joel, 8 yrs. old & Susan Shipley, 5 yrs. old. All born in TN)

(1870 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 35 – **E. W. Shiplly** is head of household, 51 yrs. old, TN md to **Elizabeth**, 49 yrs. old, TN. Children: Joel, 18 yrs. old & Susan M. Shiplly, 15 yrs. old. Both born in TN).

(1870 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 36 – **W. M. Shiplly** is head of household, 22 yrs. old, TN md to **Elizabeth**, 22 yrs. old. Children: Louis W., 4 yrs. old; **Harvy R.**, 3 yrs. old & John S. Shiplly, 1 yr. old. All born in TN)

Census Place: 1880 District 1, Putnam Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 86D

Dwl: 169

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
E.P. SHIPLEY	Self	F	W	W	35	TN
	Occ:	Keeping House	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
G.W. SHIPLEY	Son	M		W	15	TN
	Occ:	Works On Farm	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
Harvy SHIPLEY	Son	M	S	W	12	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
John SHIPLEY	Son	M	S	W	9	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
Z.L. SHIPLEY	Son	M	S	W	7	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
Parker SHIPLEY	Son	M	S	W	5	TN
			Fa: TN	Mo: TN		

Census Place: 1880 District 1, Putnam Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 85B

Dwl: 145

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
Ely SHIPLEY	Self	M	M	W	63	TN
	Occ:	Farmer	Fa: MA	Mo: MA		
Elisabeth SHIPLEY	Wife	F	M	W	56	TN
	Occ:	Keeping House	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
E.W. SHIPLEY	GSon	M	S	W	18	TN
	Occ:	Works On Farm	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		

(1900 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 166 – **Harvey Shipley** is head of household, 33 yrs. old b. July 1867, TN md 10 yrs. to **Sallie**, 27 yrs. old, b. January 1873, TN, 5 children born, 4 children living. Children: Milburn, 8 yrs. old, b. April 1892; Mitchell, 5 yrs. old, b. July 1894; Jasbel, 3 yrs. old, b. September 1896 & Florence Shipley, 1 yr. old, b. September 1898. All born in TN).

(1910 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 345 – **Harvey R. Shipley** is head of household, 41 yrs. old, TN md 20 yrs. to **Sallie A.**, 36 yrs. old, TN, 7 children born, 7 children living. Children: Milbern H., 18 yrs. old; Mitchell S., 16 yrs. old; Marry J., 14 yrs. old; Florence R., 12 yr. old; John H., 10 yrs. old; **Doctor T.**, 7 yrs. old & Fred L. Shipley, 4 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1920 census 1st Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 312 – **Harvey Shipley** is head of household, 52 yrs. old, TN md to **Sallie A.**, 47 yrs. old, TN. **Thurman**, 16 yrs. old; Fred, 14 yrs. old; Howard, 9 yrs. old & Charlie Shipley, 6 yrs. old. All born in TN).

HELEN CROSS CATES SHIPLEY (#880)

Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pg. 318 - Helen Cates was born June 1, 1907 in Briceville, TN. She was the daughter of livery-stable-owner William Cross Cates and Mary Hicks Cates. As a young child, passing by the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, her father told her, “One day, this is where you will go to school.” It was at that very school years later that Helen met Thurman Shipley. A courtship blossomed that continued while Thurman studied medicine in Memphis, during with time Helen taught school in Lenior City, Tennessee. When Thurman completed his medical studies, the couple married on May 29, 1935.



Helen Cross Cates Shipley

The newlyweds made their home in Cookeville, where Dr. Shipley began his medical practice. In time, they had two children, Martha Helen (Mrs. Martha Helen Chen) and Billy (Dr. William T. Shipley). While her husband practiced medicine, Mrs. Shipley devoted herself to civic work on behalf of Putnam County’s children, working tirelessly as one of the pioneers of the county’s long tradition of parental support for the public schools. Much of her work was aimed at the improvement of the schools, including beginning a hot-lunch program and establishing a summer recreation program.

In the 1940’s, the Shipley children attended Capshaw Elementary, then a four0room schoolhouse where lunch was prepare in a basement furnace-room and served in hallways (Miss Alice Whitson, the cook, is still remember by students of that period for her delicious peanut butter cookies). Mrs. Shipley and other parents decided that school lunches would be better prepared and served in a new kitchen and lunchroom. Just as parents of today often do, they did not wait for scarce tax dollars to solve the problem but went aggressively to work raising funds to construct the new lunchroom. They served meals to the Rotary Club by inviting the businessmen to eat in the school’s basement furnace-room (a setting that probably made the desired impression), and it wasn’t long before the new lunchroom became a reality.

In the following years, Mrs. Shipley worked constantly with the schools and continued that service when her children moved on to City School (which was located where Cookeville city hall is today). One of her first projects at that school was persuading city leaders to approve rewiring the school building, for the original wiring had become dangerous. She also served as president of the school’s PTA and held offices in other organizations, including the Women’s Society of the Methodist Church, the local and state Medical Auxiliary, the TB Association’s annual Christmas Seal drives, and Republican Women’s groups. Her personal time was devoted to interest that included genealogy work, public health issues, gardening, and needlework.

When she passed away on August 22, 1998 at age 91, Mrs. Helen Shipley left behind a vast legacy of civic contributions. She was a kind person with a big heart and went out of her way to help those who needed it. Her tireless efforts touched many lives in Putnam County, but none more important to her than those of the children.

Submitted by: Martha Helen Shipley Chen, Birmingham, AL.

Sources: Family Bible records and family knowledge.

TWINS KENNETH AND LENNETH SHIPLEY (#881)



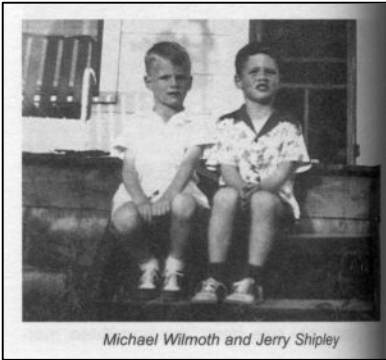
Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pg. 318 – Twin sons of Walter and Ethel Shipley. Kenneth moved to Brownsville, Texas. Lenneth Shipley stayed in Cookeville.

Submitted by: Mary Frances Shipley Wilmoth

MICHAEL WILMOTH AND HIS COUSIN JERRY SHIPLEY (#883)

Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.



Pg. 318 & 319 – Michael born in 1945 is the son of Tracy and Mary Frances Wilmoth. Jerry born in 1944 is the son of Lenneth “Slim” Shipley. Jerry became a doctor, working in Overton County, TN and he married Janet Hensley, daughter of Doctor William Hensley.

Submitted by: Mary Frances Shipley Wilmoth.

LONG TIME PHYSICIAN IS HONORED DR. THURMAN SHIPLEY

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

Dr. Thurman Shipley, well-known Putnam physician credited with securing state funds for Cookeville



General Hospital’s 1971 expansion, last night became the 11th recipient of the Cookeville Kiwanis coveted Community Service Award.

Honored at a Kiwanis award banquet last night at the Holiday Inn, Dr. Shipley now joins the ranks of Putnam educators, civic promoters and his late brother, Major Mike Shipley, in receiving the prestigious award.

(Pictured: Dr. Thurman Shipley, center, Cookeville physician for almost 46 years, receives from Marshall Bertram of the Kiwanis Club a plaque denoting his selection for the club’s “community Service Award,”

an honor bestowed on outstanding citizens. At right is Mrs. Shipley. (Herald-Citizen photo by Steve Winningham).

Born in 1903 in a log home near the present Tennessee Tech Shipley Farm, named after his brother, Dr. Shipley was educated at Tennessee Tech and UT-Knoxville, and then attended medical school at the UT College of Medicine in Memphis.

He opened his practice here in 1933 in a time without antibiotics of modern medical techniques, when housecalls were the order of the day.

For a fee often of \$1, Dr. Shipley treated broken bones, illnesses and delivered babies in homes throughout Putnam County. His office was mostly a place for keeping records and restocking his doctor's kit with medical supplies before making house calls in rural Putnam County.

At that time, the Cookeville City Hospital, predecessor of Cookeville General Hospital, was a 10-room hospital.

*See Dr. Thurman Shipley – History Putnam County, TN at:

<http://www.ajlamber.com>