

Obt. James "Jimmie" Oliver Loftis
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN
Published May 09, 2003
b. 21 March 1912, Jackson co., TN
d. 8 May 2003, Cookeville, TN
md 24 December 1939, Gainesboro, TN
Myrtle Louise Allen – b. 27 March 1928, Whitleyville, TN
d/o Green Daniel Allen & Mary Elma Proctor



COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for Jimmie O. Loftis, 91, of Cookeville, will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, at Willow Avenue Church of Christ. Burial will be in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5-9 p.m. today, Friday, May 9, at Whitson Funeral Home; and from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday at the church.

Mr. Loftis passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 8, 2003, at his home.

He was born on March 21, 1912, in Jackson County to the late Noah and Cora Chaffin Loftis.

He was an active member of Willow Avenue Church of Christ. Mr. Loftis was retired from Soil Conservation Service (USDA) after 24 years of service. He was also a lifelong farmer.

His family includes his wife of 63 years, Louise Allen Loftis of Cookeville; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jimmie R. and Linda Sue Johnson Loftis of Richmond, Va., and Andy N. and Marsha McCamy Loftis of Cookeville; a daughter and son-in-law, Pollye Ruth and John David Roberts of Childersburg, Ala.; two brothers, Doliver Loftis of Springfield and Daniel Loftis of Algood; five sisters, Della Gentry Graham and Georgia Fox, both of Cookeville, Lola Frances Howe of Merced, Calif., Vola Norton of Bloomington Springs and Vada Burch of Mobile, Ala.; eight grandchildren, Stephen and Sean Loftis, Nick Wood, Stacey Walters, Jason and David Roberts and Amy and Ashley Loftis; and four great-grandchildren, Isaac and Joshua Roberts, Rosemary Walters and Trevor Wood.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Donald Loftis, and three sisters, Sara Belle Loftis, Beulah Gentry and Vela Lester.

Pallbearers will be his grandchildren.

Honorary pallbearers will be the SCD Board of Supervisors, Jim Lansford and Henrietta Williams.

Memorial donations may be made to Happy Haven Home for Children by contacting the funeral home.

Bro. Charles Burch, Mr. Loftis' brother-in-law, and Bro. Johnny Fox will officiate at the services.

*Jimmie and Louise have both taken active roles in Cousin by the Dozens (organization for the Loftis families). Jimmie retired from SCS/USDA and now farms and Myrtle Louise retired as a seamstress in a shirt factory. They live at Cookeville, TN in a restored log cabin similar to his grandfather's. * From the book, Loftis & the Descendants of Laban Loftis, pg. 374.*

James "Jimmie" Oliver Loftis is a descendant of James Madison who was the s/o Laban Loftis.

**See Chapter 11*

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



SPIN-A-TALE festival dedicated to
memory of James Loftis
Herald Citizen Newspaper
Sunday, April 25, 2004

Remembering James Oliver Loftis
This year's Spin-A-Tale, Weave-A-Story
Frontier Crafts and Storytelling Festival,
which will be held at the Putnam County
Library on May 3, is dedicated to the late

James Loftis. Loftis presented at Spin-A-Tale from 1999 through 2003. Loftis shows off his oxen, Bill and Bob, to seventh-grade students at the 2000 festival.

Loftis and his son, Jimmie show antique items during last year's festival. He died three days later on May 8, 2003.



Spin-A-Tale

Coming May 3 is the ninth annual Spin-A-Tale, Weave-A-Story Frontier Crafts and Storytelling Festival at the library.

This year's festival is dedicated to the late James Loftis, who was a Putnam County agricultural agent. Loftis presented at Spin-A-Tale from 1999 through 2003. He passed away three days after the 2003 festival. Daniel Loftis, James' younger brother, will

present household objects past and present this year in honor of his brother.

Spin 2004 is a day of living history for grades 4 and up. Artists will demonstrate basketry, weaving, spinning, blacksmithing, butter churning, frontier school, wood working and herbal medicine. Other demonstrations include quilting, Cherokee culture, drawing, natural dyeing, frontier music, dance and games. Shipley Farm will show a cow and sheep.

Storyteller Marcia Donovan will tell tales of Davy Crockett and Casey Jones at the Dogwood Park gazebo. The event is free. Call 528-3636 to reserve a space for a class or group.

The festival is funded by a Tennessee Arts Commission Rural Arts grant to the Putnam County Library and a donation from Breakfast Rotary. Also helping to make the event possible with their continuing arts support are legislators Charlotte Burks, Jere Hargrove and Charles Curtiss.



35 YEAR AWARD

Jimmie Loftis, of Cookeville is belatedly pinned with the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals for his Vietnam service by his son's father-in-law and fellow Vietnam veteran, Col. Edward Radford, deputy commander of the Georgia Department of Defense/SDF. Loftis served as 1st Lt. with Advisory Team No. 88 at Ben Tre in Kien Hoa Province in the Mekong Delta from 1969 to 1970. He found out later from military records that he had earned these awards. He was also awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal with four battle stars, the Vietnamese Service Medal, Expert Marksman Badge and Vietnamese Civic Action Honor Medal, Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with palm and Meritorious Unit Citations. He is a life member of VFW pst 6296 and is employed as the executive director of the Tennessee FFA Foundation. He is the son of the late Jimmie O. and Myrtle Louise Allen Loftis of Cookeville. He is married to the former Linda Sue Johnson, and they have two sons, Stephen of Alpharetta, GA, and Sean of Cookeville, TN

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN, Page C-5, Sunday, 2 July 2006.

Source: Loftis and the Descendants of Laban Loftis by Jimmie R. Loftis & Bobbie H. Bryant:

Pg. 297:

8. James Madison Lofti, b. 13 February 1811 near Tigerville, Greenville, Co., SC – d. 1902, Jackson Co., TN. He was the 8th child of Laban Loftis (b 1760, MD – d. 8 November 1850, Jackson Co., TN) and Elizabeth Holcombe Loftis (b. 1770, MD – d. 29 December 1859, Jackson Co., TN). James Madison arrived in Jackson Co., TN on a wagon train with his parents and other brothers and sisters in late 1816 or early 1817. He lived with his parents on Morrison’s Creek Branch of Roaring River, 6 miles East of Gainesboro, Jackson Co., TN. Descendants lived on original Loftis property on Morrison’s Creek until 1972. He married 22 March 1832, Jackson Co, TN to Sarah Elvira Dowell, b. 13 February 1810-11, Jackson Co., TN – d. 15 February 1897, Jackson Co., TN and dau of John and Sarah Hickman Dowell. They are both buried in the Loftis Cemetery on Morrison’s Creek. He served in the Confederate Army as Pvt. G. Co., 13th Cavalry Bn. during the Civil War. “Matt” and Sarah had eleven children plus rearing one grandson Charlie (Peyor) Millard Loftis.

Children:

8.1	John Martin Loftis	b. 15/18 Feb. 1833	Jackson Co., TN
8.2	Reuben Hickman Loftis	b. 16 Feb. 1835	Jackson Co., TN
8.3	Frances America Loftis	b. 17 Jan. 1837	Jackson Co., TN
8.4	Sarah E. Loftis	b. 6 Mar 1839	Jackson Co., TN
8.5	P. W. Loftis	b. 7 April 1842	Jackson Co., TN
8.6	James Madison Loftis Jr.	b. 8 Mar 1844	Jackson Co., TN
8.7	Clerry Tennessee Loftis	b. 5 Feb 1846	Jackson Co., TN
8.8	George Rufus Loftis	b. 21 Nov. 1848	Jackson Co., TN
8.9	Sophie E. Loftis	b. 13 Feb. 1851	Jackson Co., TN
8.10	Parsetta “Parzetta” Loftis	b. 25 Feb. 1855	Jackson Co., TN
8.11	Infant	born and died	Jackson Co., TN

Pg. 366:

8.6 – James Madison Loftis Jr., “Cripple Jimmy” due apparently to having what we know in our day as polio when he was about 5 years old. He was born 8 March 1844, Jackson Co., TN – d. 21 March 1926, Jackson Co., TN md 5 October 1880, Jackson Co., TN to Sarah “Surry” Jane Dill, b. March 1860 – d. 8 June 1939 dau of Roland and Nancy Carolyn Dill. Issue: 15 children.

Pg. 367:

8.6.4 – Noah Lee Loftis, b. 15 April 1884, Jackson Co., TN – d. 20 June 1972, Gainesboro, TN md 30 September 1906, Gainesboro, TN to Cora C. Chaffin, b. 21 November 1892, Jackson Co., TN – d. 12 July 1963, Jackson Co., TN dau of Abner Hill and India Belle Slinger Chaffin. Noah and Cora are both buried in the Loftis Cemetery on Morrison Creek, Jackson Co., TN.

Pg. 374:

8.6.4.3 - James Oliver Loftis, b. 21 March 1912, Jackson Co., TN md 24 December 1939, Gainesboro, TN to Myrtle Louise Allen, b. 27 March 1928, Whitleyville, TN. She is dau of Green Daniel and Mary Elma Proctor Allen. Jimmie and Louise have both taken active roles in Cousins by the Dozens. He retired from SCS/USDA and now farms and she retired as a seamstress in a shirt factory. They live at Cookeville, TN in a restored log cabin similar to his grandfather’s.

8.6.4.3.1 – Jimmie Robert Loftis, b. 21 April 1944, Gainesboro, TN lives Roswell, GA md 14 June 1969, Cookeville, TN to Linda Sue Johnson, b. 13 June 1948, Cookeville, TN dau of Herman and Opal Stout Johnson. Issue. Jimmie R. Loftis was a 1st Lieutenant in the Army on tour of duty in Vietnam 1969/70. He received his commission after completing ROTC at Tennessee Tech where he received a degree in Agriculture in 1966. He holds a Masters degree in Soil Sciences from Auburn University. He has taken an active part in the compiling and completion of this manuscript and is trying to trace further back on all Loftis lines.

8.6.4.3.1.1 – Stephen Robert Loftis, b. 1 August 1971, Montgomery, AL. Attended GA Southern University and DeKalb College.

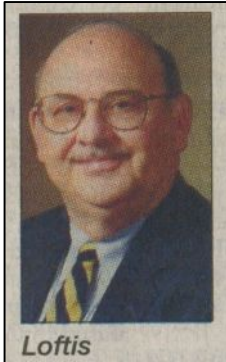
8.6.4.3.1.2 – Jonathan Sean Loftis, b. 28 May 1974, Montgomery, AL. Attends Clemson University.

Reuben Hickman Loftis, s/o James Madison Loftis & Elizabeth Holcombe ancestors of Audrey J (Denny) Loftis.

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COOKEVILLIAN TO HEAD FFA FOUNDATION

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 17 December 12004, front page.



NASHVILLE – The Board of Directors of the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. recently announced the selection of Jimmie R. Loftis of Cookeville as the organization’s new executive director. Loftis succeeds Billy Vestal of Parsons who retired in December after serving nearly four years as the Foundations first employed executive director.

“We’re excited about the selection of Jimmie Loftis, who brings a wealth of experience and qualification to the job,” said Foundation chairman Phillip Baker. “We feel confident that Jimmie will help provide invaluable leadership as we embark on a new phase of development and fund raising for the FFA.”

“The FFA is indebted to Billy Vestal for the great job he has done in getting the executive director position off to a strong start. He will be missed and we wish him the best on a well-deserved retirement.”

As executive director, Loftis will be responsible for directing funding-raising efforts of the Foundation and managing its funds in support of scholarships and incentive award programs on behalf of agricultural education and FFA in the state.

Loftis recently retired as Director of Corporate Communication and Government Affairs for the farmer-owned cooperative Southern States in Richmond, VA. He also directed corporate contributions and served as board liaison to the Southern States Foundation.

Loftis began his agricultural career in 1970 as Director of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation in Montgomery. He spent 24 years with Gold Kist Inc., eventually serving as director of public affairs at its corporate headquarters in Atlanta.

He has served in leadership positions with numerous organizations including Auburn and Clemson universities, the university of Georgia; the Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina Cooperative Councils; Georgia As In The Classroom Council; National Young Farmer Education Association and the National Farm-City Council.

He has received Honorary State Farmer Degrees from the South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia FFA Associations and the Honorary American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization.

A native of Cookeville, Loftis is a graduate of Tennessee Tech, with a masters degree in agronomy from the Auburn University. He also served in Vietnam as an advisor with the rank of First Lieutenant and with the Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, MO and Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Jim and his wife Linda, have two sons and reside in Cookeville. The Foundation’s operations will be based in Cookeville.

For more information, Loftis can be reached at (931) 432-5885, or email to jloftis74@aol.com.



90th BIRTHDAY 2010

Myrtle Louise Loftis celebrated her 90th birthday March 27 with family and friends at her log cabin home on Buffalo Valley Road in Cookeville. She was born in Whitleyville in Jackson County but lived most of her life in Putnam County and now resides at NHC Healthcare. She was married for 63 years to her late husband, Jimmie O. Loftis. She is pictured with her three children. Standing, from left are Jimmie R. Loftis of Cookeville, Pollye Ruth Roberts of Sylacauga, AL, and Andy N. Loftis of Cookeville, TN. Louise has six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Tuesday, 6 April 2010, pg. 7.