

Services Tuesday for
former school chief



Former Putnam County School Superintendent Walter Warren Shanks died yesterday, apparently of a heart attack. He was 70.

Family members said he was teaching the adult Sunday School class at Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church when he became ill yesterday morning.

His lesson theme was "Live in love and holiness." Church member said.

He became short of breath and left the classroom, and his wife set out to drive him to the hospital. Someone at the church called for an ambulance, and the Putnam Ambulance service met the Shanks car at the Burgess Falls road exit from Interstate 40 in Cookeville.

Paramedics said Mr. Shanks had lost consciousness and that someone was administering CPR to him in a parking lot when they arrived.

He was died on arrival at Cookeville General Hospital.

Mr. Shanks, who had retired from his job with the State Department of Education five years ago, served as superintendent of Putnam County Schools from 1972 till 1984.

Funeral services are set for Tuesday, March 11, 1997, at 3 p.m. at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Cookeville with Dr. Wesley Henry and Dr. Charles McCaskey officiating. Burial will be in the Maddux Cemetery. *Maddux Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN is located east of Buffalo Valley on Walter Warren Shanks farm. His father, Walter Robinson Shanks & his mother, Euda Warren are also buried in Maddux Cemetery.*

The family will receive friends at Cumberland Presbyterian Church on E. 10th St. on Monday, March 10, from 4 to 9 p.m. and on Tuesday from noon until 3 p.m.

He was the son of the late Walter Robinson and Euda Warren Shanks.

He was born October 17, 1926.

Before being elected superintendent here in 1972, he had taught school, ten years at Capshaw Elementary and six at Cookeville Jr. High, where he had also served as assistant principal.

He had served in the U.S. Navy and was graduated from Baxter Seminary and also held degrees from Tennessee Tech.

He was active in many education organizations throughout his career and had just recently been elected president of the Retired teacher Association here. After serving three terms as superintendent, he worked for the State Department of Education, retiring from that five years ago.

He had continued running his cattle farm at Silver Point since his retirement.

His family includes his wife, Wanda Stout Shanks of Silver Point; his sons and daughters-in-law, Walter Hargis and Lynn Shanks of Augusta, Georgia, Wayne and Kathy Shanks of Cookeville, and Stanley and Cindy Shanks of Huntsville, Alabama; his grandchildren, Walter Hargis Shanks Jr., Robert Warren Shanks, Tiffany Shanks, Andrea Shanks, Wes Shanks, Rachel Shanks, and Sara Shanks; his sister, Dorothy Ann Shanks Fike of Madison; his brother, Robert Anderson Shanks of Silver Point and Reginald Roscoe Shanks of Cookeville.

His son, Wayne, today issued this statement; "God has truly blessed our lives with a Christian husband, father, and grandfather who was always a teacher first, by the way he lived his life.

"Many lives have been greatly influenced and enriched throughout the county and the state by this wonderful educator, he was not only a father, but he was our best friend.

Memorial donations may be made to the Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church or to the Baxter Seminary Upperman High Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Pallbearers will be his nephews. Dr. Bunker Stout, Patrick Stout, Larry Carter, Michael Carter, Kenny Stout, Mark Stout, Charles Johnson, David Johnson, Andy Hill, Monty Hill, and David Fike.

Honorary pallbearers will be the retired teachers of Putnam County and the Tennessee Department of Education.

Dyer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Article: Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN – 10 December 1972:
Putnam School Superintendent **Walter Warren Shanks** has agreed with a state proposal to fund kindergarten classes for all schools wishing to adopt the program.

Article: Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN – 6 August 1980:
This week's local election results are in: **Walter Warren Shanks** has been returned to office as school superintendent by a narrow margin. Bill Baird Griffith has swept 26 or 30 polls to become the new General Sessions Judge here. Former state senator Vernon Neal has been elected Chancellor.



Walter Warren Shanks
Picture in 1942 The Highlander – Baxter Seminary, Baxter, TN -
Sophomore – pg. 21

Father, Walter Robinson Shanks (b. 30 November 1883 – d. 17 October 1967) - md Euda Warren (b. 2 February 1902) Both Buried: Maddux Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN – children: Walter Warren - md Wanda Stout; Dorothy Ann – md Mr. Fike; Robert A. – md Doris Gillem & Reginald Shanks.

Walter Robinson Shanks owned a store, blacksmith shop & corn mill, in Putnam Co., TN on Hopewell Road, TN.

*See Story of Walter Robinson Shanks Store.

*See Family Sheet for Luke Alexander Shanks

*See Story of Simon Shanks

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 6 August 1980

This week's local election results are in: **Walter Warren Shanks** has been returned to office as school superintendent by a narrow margin. Bill Baird Griffith has swept 26 of 30 polls to become the new General Sessions Judge here. Former state senator Vernon Neal has been elected Chancellor.

Bob Craighead has claimed a narrow win in his race for the school board and Eleanor Mitchell has also won a seat on the school board with a healthy win over her opponent.

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RETIREMENT RECEPTION

A retirement reception was hosted recently by the faculty at Cookeville High School in honor of four teachers who collectively have 129 1/2 years of teaching service. Shown, from left, are Sabra Lacy, with 33 years service; Carole Ivey, 35 years; Sue Boyd, 21 years; Rosalie Andrews, 40 1/2 years; and with them is Wayne Shanks, CHS principal.