

## LUTHER ALEXANDER SHANKS' STORY

### Luther Alexander Shanks

b. 17 June 1890, Putnam Co., TN – d. 10 April 1980, Putnam Co., TN, md 1 September 1926, Putnam Co., TN to Dona Florence (Boyd) Shanks, b. 30 August 1889, Putnam Co., TN – d. 9 February 1977, Putnam Co., TN, d/o George Washington Boyd (1859-1924) & Tennessee “Tennie” Carr/Kerr (1855-1928), both buried in Boyd-Russell-Young Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Luther Alexander Shanks, s/o Robert Fain “Bob” Shanks (1855-1936) & Anna “Annie” Anderson (1851-1919).



(1966) “I was born June 17th 1890 in a log house 18 ft by 18 ft, upstairs and a side room. 7 of the children’s 4 boys and 3 girls all was born in this house. Dr Denton was the Dr. I went to school at Hopewell about 3 or 4 months each year. Walked without any shoes until Christmas, then 1 pair through the winter until I was about 12 years old. Then I was plowing making crops. I begin plowing some at 9 yrs. My first teacher was John (Jernigan). 2nd was N--Jared. 3rd E--Jared. 4th Sterling Gentry. 5th J.R. Clayton and Ella Crowder 6th and last was J.R. Clayton. I got through the 8th grade then went back to the farm until about 1920. Then stayed in the Dry-Good & Grocery Store until 1936. Then went back to the farm. Raised corn, wheat, rye, peas, cut hay, raised cattle, hogs, sheep, colts, mules and horses for a long time and now mostly cattle, tobacco and hay and some hogs. I’m now 76 years old and still working. I think this will be my last year to make a full time hand. When I was a boy there was 3 water mills on this creek. One here at the bridge here. One at Walter Warrens place. One at the bridge at Wirts Jared place, and at the Hick Maddux place. Across the creek was a dry good & grocery store and a Post Office name Donald, Tennessee, and a blacksmith shop and water mill. Uncle Bud Evans ran them. Lem Maddux & wife run the store and Post Office.

And in 1919 my sister Jossie died Jan. 8th and in March (3rd) my mother died with the flu. And that left Dad and I alone. And Bettie & Willie Prichard moved in house with us for 2 years and then Kate and Roscoe Bartlett moved in for about 3 years. And then Carter Clayton & wife moved in for 1 or 2 years. And then Dad married and left me by myself. So then Bethel and Martha Prichard until me and Dona got married 1926 Aug 24th. And in June 16, 1927 Miriam was born in the upper room up home. Then Nov 5th 1928 George was born up home. Then 1931 Carolyn was born down here where Floyd Adams lives.



(Pictured: Luke & Dona (Boyd) Shanks holding their daughter Naomi Carolyn (Shanks) Huddleston; Miriam close to her mom and George Morris by his dad).

We moved here in 1930 from up at the upper place. The 2 places or the 3 houses was the only ones I ever lived in until we built down here in 1954. Now I have 574 acres of land here on this creek. And on ridge 32 acres, in all 606 acres. Liked 34 acres being a section. So I guess this will be the last I will buy.

(1967)-Me and George have about 90 head of cattle now. I think we will have 100 head by fall of this year. I have made what I have by saving some every year. This is some of the things I never bought any or used or not much-- coffee, whisky, beer, never gambled any. Stayed at any work all the time that I could. (Now this is 1970). In 1968 June the 28th Ted and Carolyn began working on their house. And then in 1969 I made a tobacco crop .06 of one acre --1474# (pounds) it made. Brought \$927. I guess this will be the last crop that I will make. In February 1970, pigs sold for 81 1/2 cents per pound at the feeder pig sale at Cookeville. They weighed 25 pounds and brought \$20.65 each. This is the highest that pigs has ever brought in history. Hogs brought \$31.50# and cattle calves



brought some grades 50 cents per pound. I have sold from for 44 cents per pound. This is under President Nixon Administration. Now I will go back when my Dad was a boy. My Grand—Dad had 13 houses on his land and renters in every house. So he sent my Dad to the store and mill for all of them so they could help him work on the farm. And he sent Pa to Laurel Hill, a Post Office on Wolf Creek for their mail once a week.”

(Pictured: Pictured: L to R: The Shanks brothers: Robert Roscoe Shanks who md Blanche Brooks; Walter Robinson Shanks and wife Euda Elizabeth Warren and Luther "Luke" Alexander Shanks and his wife Dona Florence Boyd.

- Mamie Upchurch; they had 2 sons, Wynn Clouse Shanks and Robert Lee Shanks.

\*Read more about the Shanks family and others of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>