

HOTEL SHANKS, COOKEVILLE, TN

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S. R. Shanks, one of the old highly respected citizens of Cookeville, died at his home in west side Saturday night. He had been in poor health for a year or more and his death was not unexpected. Mr. Shanks was engaged for years in the grocery business, having moved here from Sparta. Later he purchased the Duke House and has been running that hotel since. He was a member of the Christian Church. He was a close attendant to business and never troubled over other people's affairs, thus gaining the good will and esteem of all. He leaves a wife and 5 children. His remains were taken to Cassville for interment.

Cookeville Press Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 14 March 1901, pg. 4.

Note: Samuel R. Shanks's father was John Shanks. Later his family had the Shanks Hotel in Cookeville. Samuel R. Shanks married Molley Shores.

SHANKS - DAVIS WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Davis have issued cards announcing the marriage of their daughter Linnie to Mr. Harry Carr Shanks in Cookeville, Wednesday, August 17th. The marriage took place at the home of the bride's parents in South Cookeville at 3:40 o'clock. The sacred words of the ceremony were said by Dr. Walker, at an improvised altar of ferns and lilies, arranged for the grouping of the bridal party in the presence of the members of the two families and a number of intimate friends of the bride and groom.

A program of beautiful music was given by Mrs. Luke Shanks at the piano and Miss Lena Livingston who sang, Prayer Perfect, and The Greatest Wish In the World. Mrs. Shanks played Mendelssohn's Wedding March for the entrance of the bridal party, and An Idyll, during the ceremony.

The bride was lovely in a fall costume of dark blue tricotine with hat and accessories to harmonize. She carried Sweetheart roses. Miss Charley Shanks as maid of honor was charming in a dress of pink satin, and with it she wore a picture hat; her flowers were LaFrance roses. The groom was attended by his best man, Mr. Benton Terry.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis were assisted in receiving the guests by Mrs. Mary Simrell, Mrs. Robert Greenwood, Mrs. Cooper Loftis and Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Davis. Punch was served in the dining room.

Immediately following the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Shanks left for a several days stay at Chattanooga and Signal Mountain. After September 1st, they will be home with Mrs. S. R. Shanks.

Miss Davis has been an employee of the First National Bank for a number of years and besides her business qualifications has many charming traits of character that have endeared her to a wide circle of friends. Mr. Shanks is the youngest son of Mrs. S. R. Shanks and during the world war saw actual service in the Argonne Forest with Headquarters Co. Battery E. 144th F. A. of the famous Thirtieth Division. He is now in business in Cookeville.

Out of town guests at the wedding were Miss Charley Shanks of Algood, Miss Anna Lena Livingston of Monterey, and Miss Evelyn Ebelen, Kingston, Tenn.

A tea complimentary to the bride will be given by Mesdames Herbie Shanks, Luke Shanks and Mackie Shanks early in September, at the home of Mrs. Mackie Shanks.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Maddux of Buffalo Valley were in Cookeville on Tuesday, coming to attend the Shanks-Davis wedding.

Note: Luke Shanks, s/o Samuel R. Shanks & Molly Shores.

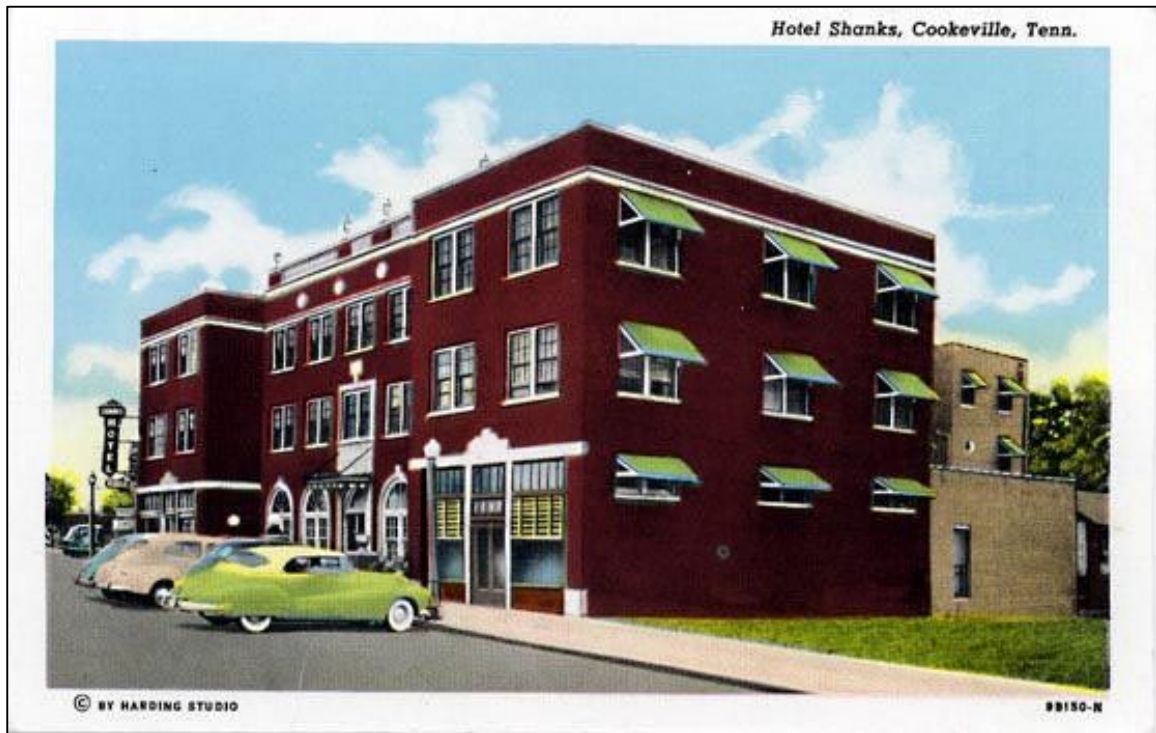
Herald, Thursday, 18 August 1921, pg. 5: Miss Alice Keith Ford, Editor.



Source: Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by First American Bank, Cookeville, TN, pg. 53.

The Duke House was popular in its day when railroad travelers could spend the night for 50 cents to a dollar. The Duke House was located across from the Cookeville Depot on what is now Wilson Sporting Goods' parking lot. This building was later replaced by a larger more modern brick buildings and was known as the Shanks Hotel.





SHANKS HOTEL NOW BEING MODERNIZED ADDITION IS PLANNED:

“The only hotel between Knoxville and Nashville, recommended by the American Automobile Association and one of the highest rated small-town hotels in the county.” That is the distinction the Shanks Hotel has after a complete renovation and re-decorating job which is now nearing completion.

The \$100,000 renovation job, supervised by Bob Stringer, involved tearing out walls, ceiling, and floors from lobby to roof and replacing with modern construction which, in addition to improving the appearance, also greatly reduces the fire hazard. New steel frames also replaced the old wooden supports throughout most of the building.

One of the greatest changes has been made in the lobby where the wooden walls and ceiling have been replaced by marble and plaster walls and sound-proof ceiling. Fluorescent lighting fixtures were installed and new furnishings took the place of the old furniture. Similar changes were made in the assembly room which will accommodate 75 people comfortably and is available for meetings of local and out-of-town groups. Floors throughout the hotel have been covered with carpet from wall to wall.

The 70-room three story building which will accommodate 110 people has also been completely air-cooled and steam-electric heat has been installed throughout. A new brick terrace has been built in front of the hotel and in the near future will be covered with a new canopy.

With the exception of four rooms all rooms and suites are equipped with tub and shower baths which have also been completely renovated. New tile floors and walls have been put in with the walls in the different rooms of varying pastel colors. The rooms have been furnished throughout with new furniture and all tables have marble tops.

New electrical wiring has been installed and a telephone placed in each room.

The managers report that plans are also being made to install an elevator system in the near future. A 22-room addition with two assembly rooms is planned. Drawings have been prepared for this addition, which will be added to the rear of the present structure, although no definite decision has been made as to when construction will start.

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 1 June 1950.

HISTORY MUSEUM WELCOMES BACK THE SHANKS HOTEL

COOKEVILLE – The Cookeville History Museum is welcoming back the Shanks Hotel in a recently opened exhibit now on display.

“Remembering the Shanks Hotel” pays homage to the business that once sat across the street from the Cookeville Depot. The building burned in the 1960s and the lot still sits empty today.

The Shanks Hotel was owned by the H. F. Shanks family and was quite the place in its day, said Cookeville History Museum administrator Judy Duke.

The Shanks family bought the Duke House, a boarding house, in 1926 and then built the Shanks Hotel around it. The Shanks enlarged and “modernized” the old Duke House with 50 rooms and 60 beds, making it the largest and nicest hotel in the country.

Around the hotel there was a drugstore, barbershop and a beauty shop. The hotel became a favorite dining spot for locals especially on Sundays after church. The menu included fried chicken, roast veal, country ham, fruit cocktail, fresh vegetable and fruit, homemade rolls, and ice cream. Often there was live music.

Over the years a number of well-known people were guests at the hotel, including Congressman Cordell Hull, Gov. Frank G. Clement, Lee Majors, Albert Gore Sr. and Al Gore Jr. Even Rin Tin Tin and his handler stayed there.

The hotel was run by descendants of H. F. Shanks until it burned in the mid – 1960s. The Shanks family chose not to rebuild.

The “Remembering the Shanks Hotel” exhibit will run until Saturday, July 9. The Cookeville History Museum is located at 40 E. Broad St. and is open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Admission is free. For more information call (931) 520-5455. <http://www.cookevillehistorymuseum.com/>

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Monday, 6 June 2011, front page.