



## Irvin B Cooksey SR

September 20, 1927 - April 17, 2025

Irvin B. Cooksey Sr. of Salem, Missouri, passed away on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at Salem Memorial Hospital at the age of 97.

Irvin was born in Dent County, Missouri, on September 20, 1927, to the late Christopher and Carrie (Ferguson) Cooksey. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during World War II as an Infantry Rifleman, returning home from the war in March of 1947.

On January 3, 1949, Irvin married the love of his life, Miss Thela May Plank. They were blessed with 68 wonderful years together before her passing in 2017, and their union brought three beloved children into the world.

Irvin and Thela made their home on a small farm outside of town, where they raised cattle and worked the land together. He worked for 33 years at the Charcoal Plant and was a longtime and faithful member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Salem.

After retirement, Irvin and Thela moved into town. Though town life was slower, Irvin found joy in simple routines—mowing his own lawn and then the neighbors' on either side, just to keep busy. He was a Godly man, deeply devoted to his family, and will be forever missed by all who knew and loved him.

Irvin is survived by his children: June Kropp of St. Louis, MO; Marie Mehlings and husband David of Rolla, MO; and Irvin Cooksey Jr. of Sullivan, MO. He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren: Edward, Perry, Susie, Anna, Edna, and Sylvia; 15 great-grandchildren; 17 great-great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

In addition to his parents and his beloved wife Thela, Irvin was preceded in death by his brothers: Clarence, Lloyd, Ira, and Floyd Cooksey; and sisters: Virginia, Edna, Blanch, Velma, and Berniece.

A funeral service for Irvin will be held on Monday, April 21, 2025, at the Salem Chapel of James & Gahr Mortuary with Pastor Craig Wiles officiating. Interment with full military honors will follow at Cooksey Cemetery. Visitation for family and friends will be held at the chapel on Monday from 11:00 AM until service time at 1:00 PM.

# Cemetery Details

## Cooksey Cemetery

Salem, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem  
103 West Center  
Salem, MO 65560  
(573) 729-3117  
jgsalemmo@hotmail.com  
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

## Service

APR 21. 1:00 PM (CT)

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