

## ARCHIVIST'S HOME A TREASURE TROVE OF AREA HISTORY

Glenn Jones stands at the bridge to his property in Gainesboro.  
Ty Kernea | Herald-Citizen



Jones built a little chapel on his property to go along with his historic decor. Ty Kernea | Herald-Citizen  
Archivist Glenn Jones loves history. Even as a child, he remembers picking up an old telegraph machine and telephone at a garage sale.

"I hauled it home on my wagon," he said with a

laugh.

Today, not only is he surrounded by photos, records and relics of the past while at work, he has also built himself a home off of New Salem Road in Gainesboro that is almost like living in his own personal museum.

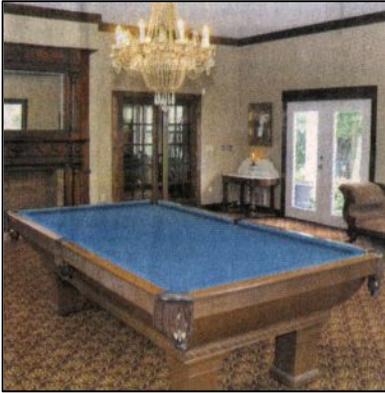
Outdoors are hand-built replicas of an old general store and gas station, complete with old signs, which make the property look like it stepped right out of the past. However, it was all created by Jones.

"This used to be just a holler right in here," he said. "I had to fill it in. ... When I bought this place, this woman in Baxter said, 'What is wrong with you? Did you buy that big, old farm up there? That's no man's land.'"



That was back in 1993, and since then, Jones has slowly turned this 'no man's land' into something amazing. Inside, his home looks like an old-fashioned hotel, filled with antique chairs, couches and other pieces of furniture. His walls are decorated with photographs of his ancestors and signs like

one for the Cookeville Motel, a Woodford's GMC Truck sign from the 1930s and a Texaco gas station sign from 1932. He has a whole room full of signs, both neon and regular, that depict familiar brands.



He also owns the pool table from the Jackson County Pool Hall, dated from 1915, as well as a victrola -- a type of antique record player -- from the Imperial Hotel in Monterey, dated 1912. He even has an indoor fireplace and an outdoor patio built with thousands of bricks from the former Baxter Seminary.

"They tore the thing down and dumped it in front of my dad's house across the street," Jones said.

An elderly neighbor spent his time pulling out the bricks and cleaning them up, and when he died, his daughter offered to sell them to Jones for only \$50.

After completing work on the house, he found family and friends making requests to be married on the property. After several weddings, Jones got an idea for a new project on his property: a country chapel he has named The Chapel at Rosewood.

So, he got to work, raising up a little church, complete with real stained glass windows, wooden pews, a small balcony and even a replica of an old country church graveyard nearby. Outdoors, near the church, he set up an archway and an area for outdoor weddings. He also converted one of his downstairs rooms into a reception area and dance hall.

The house and surrounding property is a continuous project for Jones, who hopes to continue to collect historical artifacts and make improvements as time allows. In the meantime, he can be found among the files, photographs and old military uniforms at the Putnam County Archives and Veterans Hall.

Those interested in seeing Jones' handiwork can come visit the property during his open house Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 25-26.

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\*Read more about the History of Putnam Co., TN and Veterans Hall in Cookeville, TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>