

## STARK RECORDING FAMILY MILITARY HISTORY

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**PUTNAM COUNTY** -- For years, **Betty Stark** has been painstakingly collecting and recording her family's history.



A collection of family photos, family trees, newspaper clippings and birth, marriage and death notices have been collected to be treasured by future generations.

But with the opening of the Putnam County Veterans Hall, Stark found another way to preserve some of her family's history and honor the veterans of her family for years to come.

"Until we sat down and started doing this, I didn't really realize just how many veterans are in my family," Stark told the Herald-Citizen.

Stark has placed her father, three of her nine children and two grandchildren in the Veterans Hall.

The history begins with **Herman Presley Stewart, Stark's father**. Stewart joined the U.S. Army May 29, 1919, and was discharged June 2, 1922. He served with the 10th Coast Artillery Corps. in World War I, achieving the rank of Private First Class.

**Stewart was born Feb. 1, 1901, in Baxter, the son of Samuel P. and Pearl Holman Stewart.** He had seven brothers and four sisters.

**In addition to Stark, Stewart had four other children, Lela Ruth Gentry, Lulu Mae Stout, Kenneth "Jack" Stewart and Floyd "Tod."**

**He died Jan. 23, 1974.**

**Stark had nine children: Donna, June, Deborah, Gary, Connie, Robert, Judy, Betty "Cricket" and David.**

Stark's son Gary Lynn Nabors joined the U.S. Army National Guard in 1976, serving until 1981. He achieved the rank of E6. Gary was born May 28, 1955 in Detroit, Mich.

Daughter Connie Mae Nabors-Stokley joined the U.S. Navy in 1976, serving until 1980. She served in San Diego, Calif., achieving the rank of PNZ. She was born Aug. 12, 1957 in Cookeville.

Robert Duane Nabors joined the U.S. Navy July 27, 1979. He achieved a rank of E3 and served at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash. He was discharged July 27, 1982.

"They mostly joined to get an education after they graduated from high school," said Stark. "I never really questioned why they were joining at the time. I thought it was just something they wanted to do."

**Stark has three grandsons currently serving in the U.S. military.**

Sgt. Jonathan Eric Plassman, with the U.S. Marines, has been deployed to Iraq five times. He serves with the 8th Communications Battalion of the 1st Marine Air Wing. He was born Sept. 30, 1983.

Pvt. David Allen Plassman joined the U.S. Army in July of this year. He attended basic training at Fort Stewart, Ga. and, Stark said, is currently in Oklahoma. He was born July 15, 1987.

Grandson Charles Russell Draper served with the U.S. Army and grandson Ryan Adam Switzer, from Indiana, is serving in California with the U.S. Marine Corps, Stark said.

To be included in the Veterans Hall, the veteran must have been born in Putnam County or attended elementary or high school in the county. Veterans who have lived in the county for at least 20 years and have been married for at least 20 years to a person who was born in the county or who attended school in the county are also eligible for inclusion, as well as veterans who have been buried in the county or who have lived in Putnam County and plan on being buried here after their death.

After retiring in 1990, Stark spent much of her time researching her genealogy and going cemetery hunting in and around Putnam County. She has collected directions to more than 340 old cemeteries in the area and catalogued who is buried in several of those. She shared that information with the Putnam County Library, she said, and continues to update information as she has time.

Her love of history, along with her gift for dowsing the location of graves, led her to a meeting with Putnam County Archivist Glenn Jones when she made a presentation for a group Jones belonged to. When Jones was named the archivist for the county and brought the idea of a veterans hall forward, he called on Stark to help.

"I enjoy it a great deal," she said of returning to work, on a volunteer basis, at the age of 80. "It keeps me and my mind active."

She is also happy to be helping families preserve their own histories through inclusion in the veterans hall, and enjoys being close to the collection of famed photographs and personal items on display.

"There's a feeling when I go back there," she said of the hall. "I hear the quietness. It's very calming."

For more information on the Putnam County Veterans Hall, call (931) 520-0042 or stop by the Hall at 1656 W. Broad, Cookeville, TN. It is open today until 6 p.m. with regular hours of 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Tuesday, Nov 11, 2008: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

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### **LLOYD WASHINGTON NABORS**



Lloyd Washington Nabors, 7 November 1926 – 11 November 1991, the 6<sup>th</sup> child of Haskell Washington Nabors (1891-1944) and Settie Inellie Jane Burgess-Tollett (1897-1992) he is the grandson of James Frank Nabors (1858-1893) and Sarah Frances "Fannie" Haynes (1865-ca. 1891). On 21 August 1946 married Betty Viola Stewart, d/o Herman Presley Stewart (1 February 1901 – 23 January 1974) and Pearl Wossa Kilgore (12 May 1903-15 November 1948.

Lloyd and Betty Nabors have nine children: 1) Donna Rose b. 14 July 1947, married Terry Rice 27 November 2004; 2) Bertha June b. 27 March 1950, married Kevin Plassman 25 February 1980; 3) Deborah Kay b. 8 December 1951, married Jack Robert Barlow Jr.; 4) Gary Lynn b. 28 May 1955; 5) Connie Mae b. 12 August 1957, married Kenneth Stokley, 7 November 1992; 6) Robert Duane b. 7 July 1959, married Nadine Tittman Smith, 14 August 1993; 7) Judy Lynn b. 22 June 1962, married Dennis Michael Switzer, 28 September 1986; 8) Betty "Crickett" Diane b. 24 August 1963; 9) David James b. 29 October 1965, married Jodie Cravins, 14 May 1988.

Lloyd and Betty have 16 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Story by Betty Viola Stewart-Nabors-Stark.

### **Kenneth "Jack" F. Stewart**

Thursday, Oct 08, 2009, Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

**COOKEVILLE** -- Memorial services, with honor guard, for **Kenneth (Jack) Fred Stewart**, 83, will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11, at Stewart Cemetery. A dinner and visitation will follow the services at the family's residence. All family and friends are invited to attend.



Mr. Stewart, known to family as Jack, passed from this world on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, in Henry Ford Macomb Hospital-Warren Campus, Warren, Mich. **He was born Aug. 6, 1926, in Tyrone, Okla., to the late Herman P. and Pearl W. Stewart.** The family moved to Cookeville in 1935, and later to Michigan. His father, Herman, was a brick mason for many of the buildings still standing in Cookeville today.

(Pictured: Pvt. PFC Kenneth F. "Jack" Stewart).

After proudly serving in the Army during World War II, in the 404th Infantry in the Philippines, Mr. Stewart lived in Michigan and worked as an assemblyman at Chrysler. He retired in 1987, after 30 years as a jig and fixture builder from Midwest Wire in Ferndale, Mich. Mr. Stewart was a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles 1269 in Mt. Clemens, Mich. In addition to being a talented woodworker, enjoying working around his home and garden, he was an avid fisherman and enjoyed the company of his canine companion "Duffy." He also loved camping, bowling and car trips with his wife and family.

His family includes his **wife of 38 years, Pauline Rose Wininger Stewart (whom he married Aug. 25, 1971)**; three sons and daughters-in-law, Bobby and Kathy Stewart of Maryland, Allen and Janet Stewart of Utica, Mich., and Jerry and Johanne Garner of Dearborn Heights, Mich.; a daughter and son-in-law, Elaine and Dave Harville of Clinton Township, Mich.; three sisters, Lula Mae Stout of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Lela Ruth Gentry and **Betty Viola Nabors Stark**, both of Cookeville; 10 grandsons; one granddaughter; and one great-granddaughter. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his only brother, Floyd L. (Todd) Stewart. Bro. Charles Burgess will officiate at the services. Whitson Funeral Home in Cookeville is in charge of arrangements.

### **Lela Ruth (Stewart) Gentry Obt.**



Funeral services for Lela Ruth Gentry, 87, of Cookeville, will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29, from the Cookeville Chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Stewart Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. today, Tuesday, Dec. 28, and from 9 a.m. until time of services on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Mrs. Gentry died Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, at her residence.

She was born Aug. 14, 1923, in Hooker, Okla., to the late Herman Presley and Pearl Kilgore Stewart.

Mrs. Gentry was of the Baptist faith. She was retired from McCord Winn, with more than 33 years of service. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. She was

an avid gardener, quilter and crafter.

Her family includes two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jimmy Gentry and Darrell and Nancy Gentry, all of Cookeville; four daughters and two sons-in-law, Betty Gentry, Barbara and Gene Smith, Wanda and Junior Grasty and Mary Pippin, all of Cookeville; a sister, Viola Starks of Cookeville; a sister-in-law, Pauline Stewart of Lakeshore, Mich.; 20 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; five stepgreat-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepmother, Fannie Stewart; two brothers, Floyd and Kenneth Stewart; a sister, Lula Mae Stout; a son-in-law, Jimmy Pippin; and former husband, Doyle Gentry.

Pallbearers will be Mrs. Gentry's grandsons.

Rev. Joel Wood will officiate at the services.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 29 December 2010.

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