

UPPER CUMBERLAND VETERANS HALL MOVING

JACKSON COUNTY – The Upper Cumberland Veterans Hall in Jackson County is moving from the third floor of the courthouse to its new home in the old historic Jackson County jail building.



The old jail has been newly renovated and is accessible to the elderly and handicapped.

Granite bricks are now being sold to honor all veterans.

(Pictured: The new Upper Cumberland Veterans Hall in Jackson Co., TN).

These will be used on the face of the new hall.

A flagpole will be furnished by the

Woodmen of the World and a granite marker will be donated by Harris Monument Company of Cookeville, also to be placed in front of the building.

For more information, please contact Beverly Johnson at (931) 858-5055 or Bessie Robinson at (931) 268-4326.

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JACKSON VETERANS HALL HAS NEW HOME; CELEBRATIONS PLANNED IN NOVEMBER

JACKSON COUNTY – Five years ago, Glenn Jones was researching his family's history in Jackson County. The old county records were stored in the basement of the court-house and were deteriorating. He knew something needed to be done to preserve the history of the county, which at one time encompassed Putnam and Clay counties as well.



With a committee formed to do something about the problem and with a cache of volunteers willing to work, permission was granted by county Mayor Charlie Hix for archives to be established on the third floor of the courthouse where records were cleaned, stored and preserved.

In 2005, Hix appointed Jones as county archivist. Soon after moving to the third floor, Jones felt that the walls of the long, narrow hallway should be used to display something and came up with the idea of hanging the photographs of a few veterans. It was the idea that would take hold and morph into what is now Jackson County Veterans Hall; the first hall of its kind in the state. Those few photographs have grown to 420 photographs, with 27 uniformed mannequin display showcases of veterans, and interesting ware and military memorabilia. Two other counties, Putnam and Overton, liked what they saw and have followed suit.

Being housed on the third floor of the courthouse, although a good thing at the time, soon became problematic – the archives and Veterans Hall needed to be in a fire-safe environment and elderly veterans and their family members were unable to make it up the steps to the third floor. Jackson County had recently built a new jail leaving the historic, handicapped-accessible block-constructed jail empty. Three

things could be accomplished by reconditioning and remodeling the building; the old jail would be preserved, the records would be housed in a far more fire-safe environment and Veterans Hall would have an accessible home, worthy of those whom it was created to honor.

To celebrate the opening of the new location, two events will be held at the new location, directly behind the Charles Ralph Holland Memorial Library on Short Street in Gainesboro. A tour of the new Hall will follow. On Sunday, Nov. 15, an open house will be held at the Archives and Veterans Hall from 1-4 p.m.

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JACKSON COUNTY READY TO CELEBRATE NEW VETERANS HALL

by Megan Trotter

Betty Martin, current archivist, takes a walk through the displays at the Jackson County Veterans Hall.
Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea



GAINESBORO -- Jackson County will celebrate Memorial Day this year at the new location of its veterans hall and archive: The old Jackson County Jail.

The veterans hall in Gainesboro got its start six years ago when Glenn Jones started researching his family's history. The records he was given permission to sort through were stored in the basement of the courthouse, where he found them deteriorating. He decided something needed to be done.

"With a committee formed to do something about the problem and a cache of volunteers willing to work, permission was granted by County Mayor, Charlie Hix, for an archive to be established on the third floor of the courthouse where records were cleaned, stored and preserved," said Pamela Walton, volunteer with the veterans hall.

The records were moved up to the third floor, and Jones became the archivist in 2005. He had the idea of hanging photographs of veterans along the narrow hallway, which soon turned into a collection of more than 400 pictures, 27 uniformed mannequins and many displays of war and military memorabilia. It was the first of its kind in the state and became the model for the veterans halls in Putnam and Overton counties.

Though the new upstairs location was an improvement from the records' old home in the basement, veterans hall volunteers quickly realized that it was not the best place for them.

"The archive and the veterans hall needed to be in a fire-safe environment and elderly and infirm veterans and their family members were unable to make it up the steps to the third floor," said Walton.

Jackson County had just finished building a new jail, leaving the old block-constructed building empty. Volunteers reconditioned and remodeled the old jail and transferred all the records and artifacts to this new location.

"Three things could be accomplished by reconditioning and remodeling the building," said Walton. "The old jail would be preserved, the records would be housed in a far more fire-safe environment and the veterans hall would have an accessible home, worthy of those whom it was created to honor."

This year's Memorial Day ceremony in Jackson County will be held at the veterans hall's new location at the old jail, directly behind the Charles Ralph Holland Memorial Library on Short Street. Music by local musicians will begin at 1:15 p.m. and the service will begin at 2 p.m. with a program planned by Lt. Col.

Harold Martin. At the end of the service, the public will be invited to tour the new Veterans Hall.

For more information about the event, call (931) 268-3294.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 28 May 2010

*See History - Other Tennessee country places at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>



Those on hand to celebrate the moving of the Upper Cumberland Veterans Hall in Jackson County are, from left, Beverly Johnson, volunteer and fundraiser chair; Faslin Flatt, U. S. Army European veteran; Clay Cook, U. S. Army S. Pacific veteran; Harold Martin, U. S. Army Korea/Vietnam veteran; Bessie Robinson, volunteer, and Charlie Hix, county executive.

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Clay Cook, U. S. Army WWII veteran, takes a look at the uniforms at the new home for the Upper Cumberland Veterans Hall in Jackson Co., TN. Photo by Ty Kernea.

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GAINESBORO TO HOLD VETERANS DAY SERVICES

GAINESBORO – The American Legion Buford Clark Post 129 along with the Veteran’s Hall, Jackson County and Gainesboro officials will sponsor a Veterans Day program at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, in the Little Opry Theater at Fox Elementary School in Gainesboro.

The program will feature special guests and performers who will pay tribute to all the military men and women who served this country after those first casualties at Lexington and Concord, MA, in 1776 in the

Revolutionary War for freedom. Attending veterans are encouraged to wear all medals and decorations they wore when still in uniform.

The Buford Clark Post 129 Color Guard will post and secure colors during the service. The Jackson County High School Band will honor past veterans with “The Star Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America,”



and the saluting of the U. S. Armed Forces. Carroll Gotcher, director of the band, will present TAPS in honor of those who “paid the ultimate price” while serving in the military.

A World War II Veteran will lead the audience in the Pledge of the Allegiance to the American Flag, and Wayne Wells, minister at the Gainesboro Church of Christ will deliver the prayer. Bill Draper of the Buford Clark Post 129 will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Lt. Col. Harold Martin will deliver the keynote speech this year.

(Pictured: Betty Martin and her father Harold Martin examine his military uniform on display at the Gainesboro Veterans Hall).

“Freedom has not been cheap for America, perhaps the greatest country on earth,” said James Carl Anderson who is helping to coordinate the event. “It has been won and preserved by brave men and women at home and abroad. Each year the veteran speaker represents the U. S. Military with some serious and humorous experiences. The speech will, indeed, be special.”

All military veterans in attendance will be invited to pose for an official photograph, and the Veterans Hall and Archives staff will welcome military veterans to have their photographs displayed. Also, veterans may have their names, branch of service and rank engraved in granite bricks to be displayed.

Items of historic and military importance will be on display at the Veterans Hall. There will also be items for sale, such as official photographs of veterans of several wars, and the newly published book by James Carl Anderson titled “spirit of Americana.”

“Perhaps its most important scenario illustrates how ordinary people in a free society can do extraordinary things,” Anderson said.

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*See History - Other Tennessee country places at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>