

DEDICATION OF THE RESTORED WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018 10:30 AM

NORTHEAST LAWN OF THE MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

100 MAIN STREET IN DOWNTOWN JACKSON, TENNESSEE



PRITZKER
MILITARY
MUSEUM & LIBRARY

FOUNDING SPONSOR



MADISON
COUNTYTM

PROGRAM

Presentation of the Colors
Northside High School Junior ROTC

National Anthem
Taniya Miller

Invocation
G. Andrew Pouncey
Germantown Historian, member, TGWC

Welcome and recognition of guests
Jimmy Harris
Madison County Mayor

Reflections
Vicki Foote
City of Jackson Vice-Mayor

Reflections

Harrell Carter

President, Jackson Madison County

NAACP Branch President

Unveiling of the fountain

Jimmy Harris, Vicki Foote, Harrell Carter,

Sen. Ed Jackson, Andy Pouncey

Presentation of the official certificate

Susan Mennenga

representing the Pritzker Military Museum &

Library, co-program Manager 100 Cities/100

Memorial Program

“The Little Fountain with a Big History”

Alice-Catherine Carls

Restoration Project Director, member, TGWC,

History professor UT Martin

RESTORING JACKSON-MADISON COUNTY'S WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

Located in the northeast quadrant of the downtown Courthouse Square, is a drinking fountain that many Jacksonians remember. Yet few realize its significance as a memorial to the efforts and sacrifices of the citizens of Jackson-Madison County during World War I.

In or shortly after 1919, members of the Jackson McClaran Chapter of the American Red Cross donated a memorial fountain to Madison County. The fountain, manufactured by the J. L. Mott Iron Company of New York, arrived in Jackson on May 16, 1922. The fountain bears two plaques "in admiration of the living and to honor the dead who answered." On one plaque are inscribed the names of 44 soldiers who died in the war. On the other plaque are inscribed the names of 54 Surgical Dressings workers. Admirable as it is, this memorial fountain does not recognize the names of African-American surgical dressings workers or those of the African-American war dead.

The restoration project has two goals. First, to remember "America's forgotten war." The dedication of the restored fountain on the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I on November 11, 1918, will mark the centennial of the end of World War I. Secondly, to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of citizens of Madison County regardless of gender, race, or religion. Black and white soldiers died side by side on the Western front in 1917-1918. White and African-American women of Madison County sewed in excess of 12,000 surgical dressings between August 1917 and November 1918 to provide a new, efficient type of dressing for the grievous wounds inflicted by heavy artillery shelling on the Western front. To that effect, two new plaques will be installed. One plaque acknowledges the story of the fountain and recognizes African-American citizens of Madison County. The other plaque lists the names of the war dead who were omitted from the 1922 plaque.

In 2017, Jackson became one of 100 cities across the United States to receive a grant from the Pritzker Military Foundation/United States Centennial World War I Commission to help restore this fountain. The fountain will be designated as one of the 100 Centennial Memorial Monuments in the United States, in remembrance of World War I. An official plaque recognizing this honor will be installed on the fountain as well.

Work has begun to restore the fountain's original appearance (repainting and restoring the missing urn at the top). The fountain will not be connected to a water line. It will remain as a memorial. Research continues to document the full history of the fountain.

The dedication of the restored fountain will take place on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 10:30 AM on the northeast lawn of the Madison County Courthouse, 100 Main Street in downtown Jackson, Tennessee.