



Donna Briggs and Ned Irwin holding Deed Book A, returned to Washington County on June 1, 2021.

### ***DEED BOOK'S RETURN, TENNESSEE'S STATEHOOD CELEBRATED***

Deed Book A is home. Containing the earliest land records for what became Tennessee, it lies on a special shelf in the archives' bank vault. The book's return coincided with the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tennessee's statehood. It seems appropriate and a little ironic that the two events occurred together. Deed Book A was sent to Nashville as part of the county's display at the celebration of Tennessee's centennial. Now 125 years later, it came home as part of the celebration of the state's 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Both events were celebrated at a major event held in Jonesborough the evening of Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Governor Bill Lee and Secretary of State Tre Hargett returned the deed book to County Mayor Joe Grandy in a ceremony held by the Washington County Courthouse steps. Governor Lee used the event to kickoff a year-long celebration of the statehood anniversary, which will see related events happen across the state. United States Senator Marsha Blackburn also addressed the large crowd regarding the state's history and the important role it has played in national events.

The evening was capped off with a mini-concert by the Oak Ridge Boys, who opened the ceremonies with an a capella rendition of the national anthem.

Attending the event were dignitaries from throughout Washington County and neighboring counties, including former Congressman Phil Roe, State Senator Rusty Crowe and State Representatives Rebecca Alexander and Tim Hicks, members of the Washington County Commission, the Washington County Public Records Commission, other county officials, the local judiciary, and many others. More than 2,000 persons were estimated to have attended.

The deed book will be on display and viewable by the public in the archives' Reading Room on a temporary basis from June 2<sup>nd</sup>-June 18<sup>th</sup>.

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