



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

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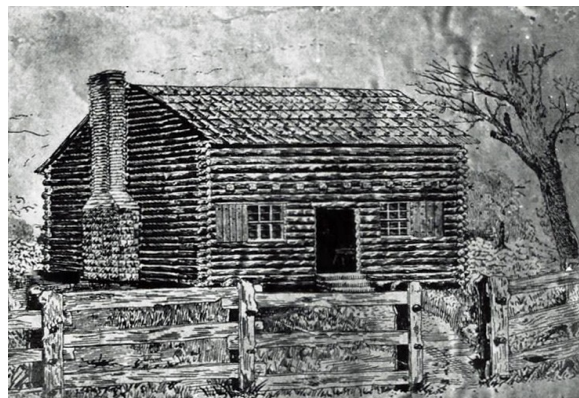
The Washington County Historical Society

Washington County, TN has a long and fascinating history. The Washington County Historical Association was first formed in 1896 to help celebrate the state's centennial, and for more than a century, has helped to preserve historical items and educate residents about the area's past.

After a period of inactivity, the current Association was restarted in 1987. Its mission is to study, preserve, and document the history of Washington County, Tennessee, and to support other organizations also dedicated to preserving Washington County's history.

Current President Judge John Kiener states, "If people really want to learn about the area, joining the Association is a good way to do that." The Association has annual dues of only \$15 per year (\$20 per family), and provides a great opportunity for interactive learning about local history.

The Association meets four or five times per year. Meetings often include a field trip to a place of local historical interest. During the Association's annual banquet, the Samuel Cole



Sketch of 1784 Wash. County Courthouse

Williams Award is presented to individuals who have made a contribution to local history (see story below about this year's winner!). For information about membership and upcoming programs, contact John Kiener at: jkiener2@comcast.net.

Heritage Alliance Director Deborah Montanti Receives Award



Heritage Alliance Director Deborah Montanti was presented with the Samuel Cole Williams Award this past October by the Washington County Historical Society. The award was first given in 2000, and is presented to a person who has made outstanding contributions to local history.

The award is named for Samuel Cole Williams (1864-1927). Mr. Williams was a businessman and attorney who lived in Johnson City. Among his many accomplishments: serving as Chancellor for Vanderbilt University, serving as a Justice on the Tennessee Supreme Court, donating the land for Johnson City's first public library, and as Chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Washington County Historical Association President Judge John Kiener speaking about Deborah Montanti before presenting her with the award.



Cooking Up A New Exhibit at the Chester Inn



Some of the cooking utensils on display at the Chester Inn

As thoughts turn to holiday cooking and festive meals, it is interesting to look back on holidays past. You can find a taste of this at the new Chester Inn exhibit: “Beef Rump, Gelatin, and Corn Dodgers: Cooking in Eastern Tennessee.”

The exhibit features recipes and cooking equipment from the past. Also on display is an apron from Paris, France, that was sent home to Jonesborough in 1918. It was one of two aprons sent to the Humphrey sisters by their relative James F. Humphries who was in Europe fighting in World War I.

Every Thursday or Friday, we’ll be featuring a new recipe from the past on the Chester Inn Facebook and Heritage Alliance Instagram pages as a recipe exchange. There will also be a jar in the museum where you can leave your own recipes to share (you can leave a story with the recipe too!). We will share these online through the holiday season. We’re happy to share your name if you include it, or the recipes can be anonymous.

Some of the historic recipes found in the exhibit sound

delicious, but others may need to be improved upon, such as the one from the 1950s for “salmon loaf in Jell-O.”

The exhibit will be on display at the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum until early 2016.



A Spot on The Hill Spotlight

The popular outdoor drama A Spot on the Hill, is presented by the Heritage Alliance in the Old Jonesborough Cemetery each year. The show includes dramatic presentations about the lives of interesting individuals who lived in Jonesborough and are buried in the Rocky Hill & College Hill Cemeteries. The drama was updated and expanded for the fall of 2015. We will be spotlighting individual characters from the play in this and future editions of The Link.

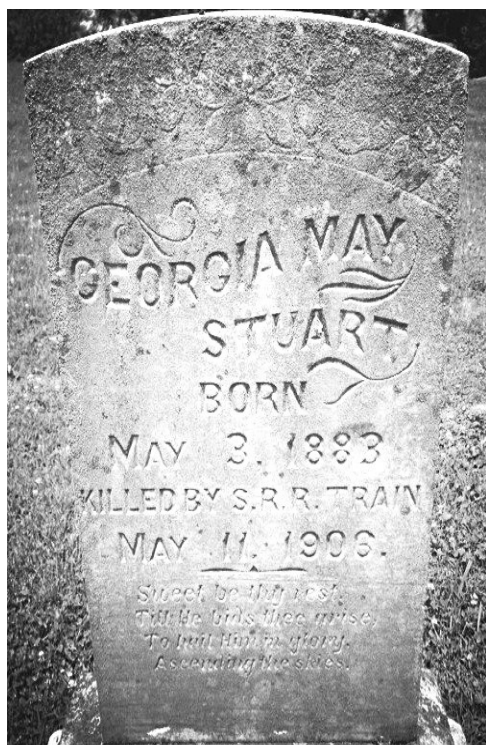
Who am I? My name is Georgia May Stuart. I am a young African American woman. I am deaf.

When did I live? 1883 - 1906

How did I earn my spot on the hill? On a Saturday afternoon while walking near the old Central Christian Church (Parson's Table), I got too close to the train tracks. I was hit and killed by a Southern Railroad freight train. It came up behind me and I couldn't hear it.



Georgia May Stuart, as portrayed in "A Spot on the Hill" by Stefanie Murphy. Photo courtesy of Charlie Mauk of the Herald & Tribune.



Ms. Stuart's Grave, located on College Hill, in the African American section of the Old Jonesborough Cemetery.



What is known about me? Only what is written on my tombstone and what was recorded about my death in the *Herald & Tribune* on May 23, 1906. You can visualize the Jonesborough I lived in, though, by using the old Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.



“Main Street America ” Helps Jonesborough Grow



Two years ago Jonesborough became a member of Main Street America - a program developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Nationally over 2,000 historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts make up this network, including about 26 Tennessee

communities. The Main Street program helps these historic communities share ideas and experiences in order to better promote preservation based economic development.

In Jonesborough, one of the focus events for the Main Street program has been Small Business

Saturday, coming up on November 28. This year's event will feature special promotions by many local businesses and expanded hours (many businesses will stay open until 8pm).

Also on that day, the Town of Jonesborough will be offering a “Whoville” Christmas program which includes Santa in his sleigh, the Grinch handing out candy, a chance to make gingerbread houses, and the town Christmas tree lighting at 6pm.

Main Street Jonesborough Coordinator Melinda Copp says “the beauty of Small Business Saturday is rediscovering the fun of small town shopping. We want everyone to eat, shop and enjoy - to come make a day of it in downtown Jonesborough.”

Heritage Alliance Updates

- Haunts and Happenings: An amazing crowd of about 2,500 people visited the Chester Inn this year.
- The Shanks Oak: The State voted in October to formally designate the Shanks Oak as a State Landmark tree.
- The Tennessee Historical Commission: The statewide advisory group had their quarterly meeting here this past October - their first return to Jonesborough in six years. Many thanks to the Mayor and others who provided the tour and reception - the commission members were very complementary of our hospitality.
- A Spot on the Hill 2015: Performances were given this year to sold out crowds. The new format of having the audience stay in one location worked well.
- Mother Goose is coming! Marjorie Shaefer will be appearing as Mother Goose in the Chester Inn parlor at 11:00 and 2:00 on November 28 (as a part of Small

Business Saturday) and on December 12 at 1:00 as a part of Christmas in Olde Jonesborough.



Marjorie Shaefer as Mother Goose, photo courtesy of Charlie Mauk



A Military Life Exhibit Features “The Warrior’s Canvas”

The ongoing “A Military Life” exhibit in the Jonesborough/ Washington County History Museum has been updated to feature work from The Warrior’s Canvas. The exhibit is a collaborative effort between the Heritage Alliance and the Veterans Affairs Committee chaired by Marion Light.

Heritage Alliance Executive Director Deborah Montanti said, “We’re very proud to partner with The Warrior’s Canvas to share the artwork of local veterans and their powerful mission.”

Established two years ago by veterans David Shields and Jason Sabbides, the Warrior’s Canvas and Veterans Art Center is a 501C3 nonprofit organization whose purpose is to build an artist community of military veterans, to provide a professional gallery for artist veterans to display and sell their work, and to be a rallying point and gathering place for veterans from all branches of military service. In addition to providing studio space for



Some of the artwork by local veterans on loan from “The Warrior’s Canvas”

veterans and their families, the Warrior’s Canvas also holds art classes in various media, including drawing, painting, mixed media and photography. The artwork featured in the exhibit includes paintings, ceramics, wood carvings and more. The pieces depict scenes of military service as well as other topics. The artists are diverse, spanning different genders, ages, branches of service, wars/conflicts, and

artistic mediums. Information on their studio/gallery located at 320 East Main Street in Johnson City, and about upcoming programs and classes is available in the museum.

The “A Military Life” exhibit was a part of Jonesborough’s 32nd tribute to veterans hosted on November 8th at the Jonesborough Visitors Center. The exhibit will be on display through the first months of 2016.

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142 Matthew Mills Road
Telford, TN
423.913.3812
www.embreefarm.com

Herald & Tribune
702 West Jackson Blvd
Jonesborough, TN
423-753-3136
www.heraldandtribune.com

The Law Offices of
Mark D. Edmonds
125 E Main St
Jonesborough, TN
423.753.8696



Calendar of Events

- **Chester Inn Museum:**
11:00-6:00 Mon, Fri-Sat and
1:00-5:00 Sun
- **Downtown Walking Tours:**
1:00 Mon, Fri, and Sat
- **Architectural Salvage Warehouse:** By appointment only, call 423-753-9580
- **Yarn Exchange:**
November 23 @ 7:00

Nov 26-27: Heritage Alliance office closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.

Nov 28: Small Business Saturday, free Town Tours at the top of every hour from 11:00-3:00. Chester Inn Museum open from 10:00-7:00, Mother Goose stories in the parlor at 11:00 and 2:00.

Dec 5: 38th Annual Progressive Dinner, tickets still available for the 3:00 and 8:04 seatings. Call 423-753-9580 for more information.

Dec 12: Mother Goose shares stories and rhymes in the Chester Inn Parlor at 1:00.

Dec 19: Christmas Church Tour in Jonesborough from 11:00-3:00, visit www.jonesboroughtn.org for more information.

Dec 21-Jan 3: Heritage Alliance office closed.

Dec 28: Last day Chester Inn Museum is open (11-6) for 2015 season and last Town Tour (1:00) of the year.

Volunteer Spotlight - Cathy Bomba



The Heritage Alliance welcomes Cathy Bomba as a volunteer docent at the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum. Cathy grew up in the tri-cities area and attended ETSU. She and her family lived in Michigan for many years. About two and a half years ago, she and her husband moved back to the area.

Cathy's Son and Daughter-in-Law, Alex and Breelyn Bomba, run Main Street Catering in Jonesborough.

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Franklin House Bed & Breakfast

116 Franklin Avenue
Jonesborough, TN 37659

423-753-3819

www.franklinhousebb.com

Team Bridal Wedding & Event Loft

119 East Main Street
Jonesborough, TN
423-753-2903

www.theweddingloft.com

Main Street Café and Catering

117 West Main Street
Jonesborough, TN
423-753-2460

www.mainstreetcatering.net

SonGear: A Christian Lifestyle Company Jack Van Zandt, Customer Servant

423.948.0237

www.songear.com

Jonesborough Genealogical Society c/o Washington County Library 200 Sabin Drive Jonesborough, TN 37659

<http://jgstn.wordpress.com/>





From the Director's Desk

Tis the season...

As preparations for the Progressive Dinner are being finalized and as the "Old Town" is already sheathed in Holiday finery, it is only fitting we provide the following tidbits...

Prior to the nineteenth century, it was not the custom of many Americans to "keep Christmas." Gifts were rarely, if ever, exchanged and certainly homes were not festively decorated for the season. However, New Yorkers (who were mostly of Dutch and English decent) did keep Christmas, and brought with them many of the Northern European customs which we still keep today. They burned Yule logs, told their children the legend of St. Nicholas and often took the week between Christmas and New Years as a holiday from work. The poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was written in 1822 by New York's Reverend Clement Moore as a bed-time story for his children. This poem is the earliest record of Santa's sleigh being pulled by eight reindeer and Moore is generally credited with having come up with their names. By the nineteenth century, prosperous families were also giving generous gifts, especially to children and those they considered in need. By 1867, New York's major department store, Macy's was staying open until midnight on Christmas Eve, and in 1874 their grand tradition of elaborate, festive window displays

with a Christmas theme was begun. As these customs spread throughout the nation, families began creating their own traditions - mostly centered on meals, decorations and spending time with family and friends.

Surprisingly, in a review of Jonesborough's December *Herald and Tribunes* for the years 1869-1871, we found only one advertisement mentioning the holiday (for fireworks being sold in Knoxville). In Jonesborough, we find the following report in the January 5, 1871 edition of *The Herald and Tribune*:

The holidays passed off with a quietude and a general abstinence from Intoxicating fluids(sic) that is creditable to our community and a source of pleasure to our law and order loving people. Only one wedding in Jonesborough during the Christmas hilarities. The young folks all ready for fun – none save this exception, bidding for connubial felicity.

The December 15th 1870 edition warns husbands and brothers not to question their wives and sisters, should they hear much rustling and

giggling coming from the parlor prior to their entrance, then find the ladies sitting idly upon stepping into the room, as it is "nothing but slippers being prepared for Christmas presents."

In closing, we offer a portion of the Christmas Editorial from the December 22nd 1870 (reconstruction era) *Herald and Tribune*:

...our plains no longer tremble and our mountains shake with the thunders of cannon. The war eagles no longer shriek their cries for blood but the olive branch of peace has entwined its tendrils around all hearts...We have caught the melodies that flooded the plains of Bethlehem on that night when the magi traversed their dark measures and them let us have a merry Christmas and let it be a time of universal joy, praise and gratitude.

That, at least has not changed.

May all your days be filled with peace, time for quiet reflection and the joy of family and friends.





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Jonesborough, TN 37659

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