



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

Volume 13, Number 2

Spring 2014

The Heritage Alliance Endowment: Preserving the Past by Endowing the Future

At the January 23rd Annual Meeting, Board President Bill Stover announced the creation of the Heritage Alliance Endowment Fund. This fund marks a significant commitment on the part of our Board of Trustees to address both future funding needs and economic sustainability for the long term. Calling the endowment “the right thing to do for future generations,” Stover stressed that we are in the beginning stages of a project with the potential to make a huge difference in the community. “Non-profits are like any other business. They need capital to fulfill the mission. The establishment and growth of this permanent fund” can ensure we are around to protect, preserve, and promote the historic resources of our region for generations to come.

The endowment is a permanently restricted fund, meaning no part of the principal can be used for operational expenses. This is an investment in the future and a fitting use for funds resulting from the generous donation of Bernard and Audrey Kaiman. The Kaiman’s donated their property at 129 East Main Street to the Alliance in 2013. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of that property was used as seed money for the Endowment Fund. Their example sets a standard

for the significant investment in sustainability necessary to ensure the continuation for our work here at the Heritage alliance. But any gift can be designated to the endowment. As well, portions of donations can be designated to different priorities; thus you can direct your contribution be applied to the endowment, the Oak Hill School Heritage Education program and the museums, if you so desire. Non-directed funds are also vital, as that allows the board to utilize the funds where they are needed most.



(Celebrating the creation of the Heritage Alliance. Back row from L to R: HA Executive Director Randy Sanders, Washington County Mayor George Jaynes, Jonesborough Mayor Toby Bledsoe, Dorothy Wood representing the Friends of the Museum, HA founding board chair Roberta Herrin, Bernard Kaiman representing the Civic Trust. Front row from L to R: Moss Sanders and Gabe Hawley.)

This endowment fund is a necessary step in the creation of a long term development strategy for the

organization. It provides us with the foundation to build upon current needs and allows us to be certain that generations to come are able to experience the tremendous history of this region. “It has been a goal of the HA since the organization’s formation”, says Executive Director Deborah Montanti. “We cannot stress enough our appreciation for the generosity of the Kaiman’s. As the seed that allows this dream to become a reality, their gift is truly the gift that keeps on giving.”

Contributions to the Heritage Alliance Endowment can be of any size and/or amount and can include property, cash, appreciated assets, and life insurance, as well as gifts through wills and trusts. Interested individuals should call the office at 423-753-9580 for more information.

“It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.”

- William Murtagh, first
keeper of the
National Register
of Historic Places



The John Newton Project and Marylynn Rouse at the International Storytelling Center on April 10th

On April 10th at 7:00 PM, Marylynn Rouse from the John Newton Project will be leading a presentation and discussion on Reverend John Newton's life and legacy at the International Storytelling Center. Once a captain of English slave trading vessels during the mid-1700s, Newton experienced a profound spiritual conversion and would go on to renounce the slave trade later in his life.

Newton wrote several influential texts and religious hymns, including "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" and "Faith's Review and Expectation," best known by its opening phrase, "Amazing Grace." Newton's battle to put an end to England's involvement with the Atlantic slave trade came to a head in 1807, the same year as his death. His influence on politician William Wilberforce led to the passage of the

Slave Trade Act, which outlawed participation in the slave trade in all parts of the British Empire.

Reverend John Newton was also a contemporary of George Friedric Handel, composer of the legendary musical oratorio, *Messiah*. Marylynn Rouse's talk in Jonesborough on the 10th will coincide with the U.S. premiere of the musical event, "Handel's *Messiah*: A Celebration of God's Amazing Grace" taking place at Milligan College on April 12th and April 13th. This event will include multiple choirs from throughout the area. Tickets are available by contacting the Milligan College bookstore at 423.461.8733.

An examination of Reverend Newton's work and life provides insight into the debate over slavery on the other side of the Atlantic.

Here in Jonesborough, the town was just forming when "Amazing Grace" was first published in 1779. Jonesborough would later be home to Elihu Embree, publisher of *The Emancipator*, the first publication devoted solely to the abolition of slavery. Following the Civil War, Jonesborough was also home to abolitionist and educator Yardley Warner, who founded the Warner Institute, a school for former slaves and their children.

The John Newton Project strives to transform society by using the teachings of Reverend Newton as a guide. We hope you will be able to join us on April 10th for an enlightening evening of history as we welcome Marylynn Rouse to Jonesborough. For more information on this event, please contact the Heritage Alliance at 423.753.9580.

Oak Hill Needle Arts School: Spring Classes Feature Flowers and Rabbits

The Oak Hill Needle Arts School will soon reopen for the 2014 spring session. This season, classes will focus on the many ways in which the traditional rug hooking techniques can be utilized to create an array of beautiful and festive projects.

On March 22nd, the Spring Flowers class will teach students how to hook a lovely Spring Bouquet for their home or for a friend using the "Proddy" technique. Types of flowers and colors will vary in the creation of these bright and beautiful

wool bouquets. The cost is \$15.00, and space is limited, so reserve your spot by calling the Heritage Alliance at 423.753.9580.

On April 5th and 12th, students will complete a bunny pillow just in time for Easter. This two Saturday class costs \$20.00 for both days. Again, space is limited, so please contact the Heritage Alliance to reserve your spot.

Classes will take place at the Chester Inn with Joani Range Douglas as instructor.



**Public Premiere of *"A Sojourn in Jonesborough"* set for
March 27th at 7:00 PM as Heritage Alliance Fundraiser**



Anne G'Fellers-Mason as Annette Broadacre, picture by Peter Montanti of Mountain Photographics, Inc.

**March 27
7 p.m.
International
Storytelling Center**

Tickets: \$10

Proceeds will help
further the mission of the
Heritage Alliance.

Seating is limited and
advanced tickets are
encouraged. Call
423.753.9580 or email
info@heritageall.org.

This play debuted as a
Members-Only event last
March for the Heritage
Alliance, and we're
hoping you'll help us
spread the word as it
premieres for the wider
public. The event will
include music,
refreshments, and a talk
back with the playwright
and performer.



Jonesborough Spotlight: Judge Newton Hacker

Newton Hacker was born on March 3, 1836, in Greene County, TN. A graduate of Tusculum College, Hacker completed his degree in 1860. Any further study was delayed, however, as civil war descended upon the nation. Hacker enlisted in the Union Army and became one of fifteen Tusculum alumni to fight in the Civil War, eleven for the Confederacy and four for the Union.

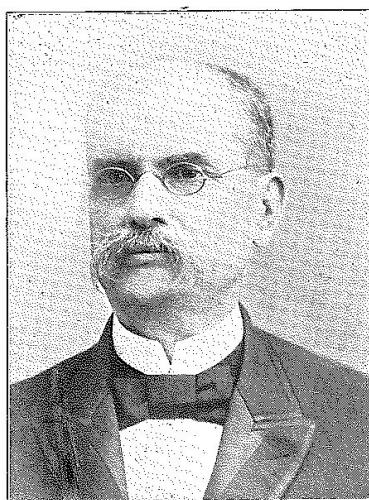
During the war, Hacker served in the company of Captain James Lane, and participated in an attempted crossing, later known as the "Big Stampede" of the Cumberland Mountains. Hacker was captured by Confederate forces under the command of General Kirby Smith, but his sentence as prisoner of war was short-lived, and he returned to active duty in the Union Army under the supervision of Captain James L. Carter. Hacker proved successful in recruitment and strategy, and he was promoted to Captain of Co. C, 4th Tennessee infantry.

Hacker's military service came to an end when he was mustered out in Nashville on August 2, 1865. Eager to move on, Hacker made his way to Jonesborough, where he resumed his study of the law under the tutelage of another Jonesborough judge, Chancellor Seth J.W. Lucky.

On October 3, 1867, Newton Hacker married Antoinette Bradley, and the two built a beautiful Victorian home at 400 West Main Street (the current home of Dr. William and Mrs. Virginia Kennedy.) Their home was a short walk to Hacker's law office located in James Deaderick's building below L.W. Keen's Gallery.

Judge Hacker's career took off in 1867, when he was admitted to the Tennessee State Legislature on the Republican ticket. He only served one term, but he was elected as attorney general for the First Judicial Circuit in 1870, a position he maintained for eight years. Another eight year term followed in 1878, when he was elected judge of the First Judicial Circuit.

ALUMNI CATALOGUE OF TUSCULUM COLLEGE



NEWTON HACKER.

Judge Hacker was a man of law and order, and he had little time for rough housing or other such shenanigans. Hacker's sons had other ideas, though, and they sometimes got into mischief. In the news about town section of the *Herald & Tribune*, Judge Hacker was reportedly on the hunt for a good switch one week. The results of the switch hunt and the remorsefulness of the boys was not published.

Following his successful law career, Hacker and his wife took the time to travel, but Jonesborough was always their home. Hacker remained an important part of town life, and when the cornerstone for the new Washington County Courthouse was laid in 1912, Judge Hacker placed his Grand Army of the Republic medal in a copper box inside the stone.

Newton Hacker passed away at his home during the night of August 19, 1922. He is laid to rest in Maple Lawn Cemetery.

Image courtesy of the Tusculum College Alumni Catalog.



Spring Comes to the Chester Inn Museum

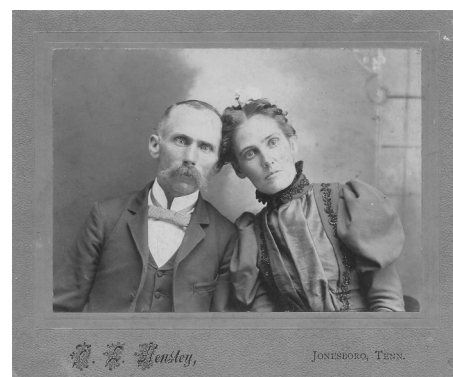
Spring is here! Spring is here! At least, that's what we here at the Heritage Alliance are choosing to believe. The weather is warming up, for the most part, and we're excited to "spring" into action with some exciting events!

On March 1, the Chester Inn Museum reopened for its 2014 season. Marking the start of the museum's third year, The White Pines Middle School History Club, consisting of approximately 50 students from grades six through eight, enjoyed a field trip which featured the museum, as well as the Oak Hill School and the Old Jonesborough Cemetery. Primary source activities were emphasized in each location. The Chester Inn Museum activity utilized a selection of *Herald and Tribune* articles from the summer of 1873. Students were able to trace the outbreak of Asiatic

cholera from New Orleans to Jonesborough, gaining understanding of one of the downsides to the advances in transportation brought about by the railroad revolution. During the activity, students discussed germ theory, advances in our understanding of medical treatments, the social implications of epidemics, as well as Jonesborough history. The activity culminated with students being asked to determine whether specific Jonesborough citizens survived the summer of 1873. The cost of a multi-location field trip to Jonesborough is \$7.00 . . . History, science, critical thinking skills and problem solving all in one museum field trip... priceless. That is value-added museum education!

Spring also marks the beginning of our rotating exhibits schedule in the Chester Inn. Currently, the rotating exhibit features photography, includ-

ing equipment through the years, as well as several never before displayed images taken by Jonesborough photographers. Jonesborough has a strong photographic history. Indeed, it is this photographic record that has informed the building restoration throughout the historic district. Our archival photographs are our most utilized collection and we are pleased to display a small fraction of that collection in this exhibit.



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423.753.8696



March-May Calendar of Events

March 22: Rug hooking at the Chester Inn, hook spring flowers using the “Proddy” technique from 11:00-3:00.

March 27: “A Sojourn in Jonesborough” at 7:00 p.m. at the International Storytelling Center.

April 5: Salvage Warehouse Open from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and Rug Hooking at the Chester Inn, Easter Bunny Pillow day one, 11:00-2:00. \$20.00 fee, please call office to RSVP.

April 10: The John Newton Project at 7:00 p.m. at the International Storytelling Center.

April 12: Rug Hooking at the Chester Inn, Easter Bunny Pillow day two, 11:00-2:00. \$20.00 fee, please call office to RSVP.

April 19: Salvage Warehouse Open from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

May 1: Chester Inn Museum switches to Summer hours, open Wed-Sat from 11:00-6:00 and on Sunday from 1:00-5:00.

May 3: Salvage Warehouse Open from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

May 17: Salvage Warehouse Open from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

May 24: Garden Gala, seminar on how to decorate your lawn by recycling salvaged materials, Salvage Warehouse will be open for this event.

Calendar events are subject to change, and new events may be added. Like us on Facebook and visit us at www.heritageall.org to view our online calendar.

WAREHOUSE! WAREHOUSE! WAREHOUSE!

The **Salvage Warehouse** returns to its regular hours on Saturday, April 5th! The Warehouse will be open from 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM every first and third Saturday of the month. If these hours don’t fit your busy schedule, give us a call at 423.753.9580, and we’ll be more than happy to schedule an appointment.

In May, the warehouse hours coincide with Jonesborough’s storied Garden Gala. This event, one of Jonesborough’s most popular, features many beautiful gardens (and gardeners) throughout town, as well as educational seminars and vendors. This year’s seminar topic is on how to incorporate antiques and other salvaged materials into gardens. Jonathan Adams will utilize objects from the Salvage Material Warehouse for his demonstration. Tickets for the Garden Gala are available at the Visitor’s Center. There are a limited number of seminar tickets, so make sure you call soon.

A Call for Artifacts and Stories from Our Washington County Veterans!

The fifth installment of “A Military Life” will be unveiled over Memorial Day weekend 2014. This ongoing display works with the Veterans Affairs Committee to honor Washington County Veterans. It has been an honor to showcase the stories and valued items of local veterans these past two years, but the work is far from done and the story is far from told.

The Heritage Alliance needs uniforms, medals, pictures, and various other objects to put on display from you, our Washington County veterans. We would love the chance to honor your service and to help tell your stories. The next installment of the exhibit will run from May through November of this year. If you have a military item you’d like to place on loan for those six months, please contact the Heritage Alliance by calling us at 423-753-9580 or by emailing us at info@heritageall.org. Help us continue this wonderful exhibit by bringing your service to the attention of the wider community.



From the Director's Desk



Annual meetings are a hallmark of all membership organizations. This is the time set aside to reflect on the most recent year and look forward to the new one. It is also the time we all come together in one place. The fellowship, shared commitment to our mission of preservation and promotion, and great food make the Heritage Alliance Annual Meeting an event not to be missed (and this year very few of you did!) The January 23rd meeting was remarkably well attended, especially in light of the bitter cold and miserable weather forecast. Thank you one and all for your support. IT was a great evening and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

The annual meeting is also the time we vote new trustees on the Heritage Alliance board. This year, term limits forced us to say goodbye to several of our valued trustees: Bob Williams, Dan Reese and Candace Jennings have worked hard for the HA over the years and their time on our board has resulted in much good work. Outgoing President Jim Reel, also term limited, has led the Alliance through one of our most eventful periods. During his tenure we saw the Chester Inn Museum come to fruition, solidified our partnership with the state of Tennessee, transitioned into a more stream-lined organization and received an organization changing donation. Together, these now former board members, along with their remaining and new counterparts, provide extensive leadership and oversight. The staff greatly appreciates these individuals,

and I am sure the membership does as well.

In other news....

It's true.... the Heritage Alliance is hosting the premier of a new Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition in the fall of 2015. *Jacob Lawrence Interprets Aesop's Fables* features 23 works aimed at reinterpreting the fables for a modern audience. Lawrence, considered one of the great artists of the twentieth century, was strongly drawn to narrative and used its influence to tell the stories of "working people's lives." According to the Smithsonian, this exhibit "is a powerful visual retelling of the ancient tales that have long been a rich resource for storytellers and artists."

Though the fall of 2015 might seem a long way off, in terms of preparation, it is really right around the corner. For various contractual reasons, we won't have much to say about the show until next year, but there are a few important things we need to say and we need to say them now and repeat them often... loudly.

Negotiations to launch this exhibit have been ongoing since early 2013! Smithsonian Traveling exhibits can require A LOT of complicated paperwork detailing EVERY aspect of the host site, from lighting and environmental issues to construction drawings and plumbing. Obviously the Smithsonian wants to know as much as possible about the site and staff to which they send their collections...that is simply good stewardship. On our own, the staff of the HA would have been hard pressed to provide SITES (Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibition Service) with all of the

necessary information. Indeed, it might have been impossible on our own. But in Jonesborough, one is never on one's own.

Without the help and support of the Town of Jonesborough and especially Raymond Yoakley, we would not be hosting this exhibit. Great folks like Jay Greene and Phil Fritz assisted with the facilities report, the town provided drawings detailing lighting, electrical and plumbing. Amber Crumley assisted with Visitor Center information. The list goes on and on. These people, led by Bob Browning, who wanted this exhibit to premier in Jonesborough as much as we did, have worked tirelessly and bent over backward to make this happen. We cannot thank them enough. It is this kind of leadership, dedication and cooperation that makes Jonesborough such a special place.

There will be a lot more information to come over the next year regarding *Jacob Lawrence Interprets Aesop's Fables*. We are very excited about potential programming possibilities with entities such as the Mary B. Martin School of the Arts at East Tennessee State University, as well as other departments on campus; so keep an eye out for more information!

In the meantime, to the Town of Jonesborough, and especially to Raymond Yoakley, our HVAC guru, thank you for helping us bring this opportunity to Jonesborough and for helping us shine a light on the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum.





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You may join the Heritage Alliance or renew your membership by removing and mailing in the form below. If you are already a member, please share this form with a friend and encourage them to join!



Preserving the architectural, historical, and cultural resources of our region and providing heritage educational experiences for a wide range of audiences.

Giving Opportunities: THANK YOU for your commitment to preserving our heritage and building a future together!

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