



The Link

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LOCAL PARTNER
NATIONAL TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Exhibits, Exhibits, and More Exhibits!

“A Military Life”

The Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum has undergone several changes in the last few months, and is about to undergo several more. This year, the Heritage Alliance worked closely with Marion Light & the Veterans’ Affair Committee to advertise, collect artifacts for, and design the “A Military Life” exhibit. The exhibit contains artifacts from Washington County Veterans who served during both war and peace times throughout the twentieth century. As one veteran put it, the exhibit explores the “every day sacrifices,” that go into military service.

The first installment of “A Military Life” debuted as part of the Memorial Day Service held at the Visitor’s Center on Sunday, May 27. Artifacts showcased in the exhibit include two uniforms, WWII surrender documents, and multiple Training Books. The exhibit will rotate every six months. The second installment of the exhibit will be up in time for Veterans’ Day in November. If you’re a local veteran, or know one who might like to loan an item or share a military service story, please contact the Heritage Alliance. We hope to incorporate recorded video interviews in the next installment.

“Common People in Uncommon Times”

About a month after “A Military Life” debuted, the Heritage Alliance was proud to host a traveling exhibit from the Tennessee State Museum. “Common People in Uncommon Times” told the story of the Civil War in Tennessee through the lives of the people who endured it. Panels included information on Confederate and Union leaders, African Americans, women, and the everyday people caught up in the turmoil of war. Cases displayed several fascinating artifacts, such as a sermon book found on a soldier when he died, and a ticket to Andrew Johnson’s impeachment proceedings. The traveling exhibit ran from late June through August 28 and brought many new visitors to the museum. The Heritage Alliance hopes this traveling exhibit will be the first of many we have to offer.

A.E. Jackson

In tandem with the traveling exhibit, the Heritage Alliance added a permanent exhibit on prominent Jonesborough resident A.E. Jackson to the museum. Jackson served as a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He was also a very successful businessman, and he worked tirelessly to assure the railroad came through Jonesborough in the 1850s. The exhibit allows the Jackson family to tell their story in their own words through family letters.

Jonesboro Home Coming

At the Chester Inn Museum, a temporary exhibit commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the 1912 Jonesboro Home Coming is currently on display. The Home Coming celebration centered around the placement of the cornerstone for the latest Washington County Courthouse and attracted nationwide coverage in newspapers. The Heritage Alliance has plans for several other temporary and permanent exhibits in both museums. We can’t wait to share more of the region and state’s history with you and all our visitors!



“Common People in Uncommon Times: The Civil War in Tennessee,” a traveling exhibit from the Tennessee State Museum in commemoration of the Civil War’s Sesquicentennial.



The Heritage Alliance Bids Farwell to Justin Sanders and Kelli Nelson and Welcomes Jama Grove

It is with a heavy heart that the Heritage Alliance says goodbye to Justin Sanders and Kelli Nelson as they both leave the organization to further their educations. Kelli worked at the Chester Inn Museum for the past year, helping to make sure the Museum was in tip top condition for its inaugural year. Justin has been with the Alliance since August of 2007, and his work in preservation advocacy and education will leave a lasting legacy in this organization and the surrounding region. Justin established a Preservation Committee that helped with the continuation of the Preservation Awards and Doors Open! He also managed the Salvage Warehouse, spread the message of historic preservation every summer to teenagers enrolled in the Governor's School for Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage at E.T.S.U., and assisted the town of Jonesborough on multiple projects. He truly leaves large preservation shoes to fill.

Transitioning from her role as graduate assistant for the Teaching American History Grant, Jama Grove will be taking over the reins in the Chester Inn Museum. Jama, a native of Mascot, TN, is currently enrolled in the History Master's Program at E.T.S.U. She has already incorporated several kid friendly activities at the Chester Inn Museum. The Heritage Alliance is very happy to have her on board!



Kelli Nelson, Justin Sanders, and Jama Grove at Justin's Going Away Party thrown by the Heritage Alliance with the help of our wonderful volunteers!

New Hours for Salvage Warehouse

The Salvage Warehouse on Depot Street will be open from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of every month through October. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, led by Heritage Alliance board member Patricia Stern, we have been able to establish regular Saturday hours. If you have any question, please call the office at 423.753.9580. Additional hours may be available on a case by case basis. Please call the office for more detail.

September 1st — 10:00 — 1:00

September 15th — 10:00 — 1:00

October 6th — 10:00 — 1:00

October 20th — 10:00 — 1:00

And the Winners Are . . . Preservation Awards 2012

The seventh annual Preservation Awards were held on May 3, 2012 at the Venue located in the King's Center in downtown Johnson City. Guests and honorees gathered at the beautiful location, owned and operated by Positive Approach Group, to eat wonderful desserts and celebrate the many joys, hardships, and lasting impacts of historic preservation. The Heritage Alliance would like to thank all of our volunteers, Positive Approach Group, and our Preservation Committee for all of their hard work in making the 2012 Awards and Preservation Month such a success! This year's award winners are listed below. Congratulations on all your work and many triumphs! Keep fighting the good fight!

Outstanding Exterior Restoration: Donald & Elizabeth Dale of Jonesborough, TN, for restoration of an 1840s home.

Outstanding Interior Restoration: Pat & Patricia Stern of Telford, TN, for their efforts to restore a 1950s bungalow.

Outstanding Adaptive Reuse: Allan Hurley of Bristol, TN, for his efforts to restore and reuse an historic department store.

Outstanding Individual Advocacy: Betty Blue Hagood Richardson of Rogersville, TN, for spearheading the efforts to preserve several historic buildings in Downtown Rogersville.

Preservation Honor Award: Scott Otis of Bristol, VA, for outstanding efforts in historic preservation in his community.



Justin Sanders & Betty Hagood Richardson, photo courtesy of Mountain Photographics, Inc.

100 Years Ago — The 1912 Jonesboro Home Coming

The 1912 Jonesboro and Washington County homecoming celebration was not a simple small-town affair. Over a 110 representatives sat on the Home Coming Committee, which included local businessmen and nationally-known politicians. Daily newspapers across the country carried stories inviting the sons and daughters of upper East Tennessee to return for the weeklong celebration. Southern Railway offered reduced price fares for travelers returning for the festivities. Merchants sponsored entertainment and ran Home Coming sales.

Between August 12 and August 17, attendees celebrated Tennessee's history with visits to sites throughout the region, including Davy Crockett's birthplace, the Andrew Johnson home in Greene County, and the Sycamore Shoals monument. Baseball games, tennis tournaments, concerts, and parties were held throughout the week, but the greatest festivities occurred on Washington County Day, Thursday, August 15.

In 1911, Washington County had voted to build a new courthouse on the site of the existing 1847 courthouse. Washington County Day began with two cornerstone ceremonies dedicating the new construction. In the weeks leading up to Home Coming, residents were invited to bring mementos to be placed inside the cornerstone. At the request of public representatives, the local Freemasons conducted a Masonic ritual in which the cornerstone of the new public building was symbolically set, plumbed and squared and a chaplain appealed to the Grand Architect for blessings on the building. The Masonic ritual was used to dedicate many public buildings; George Washington presided over the Masonic cornerstone ritual at the US Capitol in 1793. J. M. Fink, Worshipful Master of the Jonesboro Lodge, Rhea Lodge No. 47, F.A.M. presided over the ceremony for the Washington County Courthouse. In Jonesboro, the Masonic ritual was followed by the laying of a second cornerstone by the citizens of the county.

Following the ceremonies dedicating the new courthouse, the homecomers attended a large public barbeque and listened to addresses by public officials. Washington

County Day ended with a recital by Edward Brigham, a popular speaker and entertainer whose program included songs and dramatic readings.

Everyone involved agreed that Home Coming was a success. Former residents from Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma, Florida and West Virginia returned to Washington County for the event. The Jonesboro businessmen who sponsored Home Coming activities reported brisk profits all week. Residents wrote to the *Herald and Tribune* asking if Home Coming would become an annual event. The Home Coming promotional materials focused on love and longing for the people and places of Washington County, but Senator Luke Lea unsentimentally addressed the practical benefits of the event. "I hope you will organize a permanent Home-Coming Club," Lea wrote, "It will form an efficient means of advertising your town and country."



Jonesboro 1912 Home Coming advertisement. Photo taken at the Old Mill Spring. Legend held whoever drank from the spring was destined to return to Jonesborough time and time again.

The Chester Inn Museum Offers Fun Activities for Young Visitors

Our youngest guests can receive a coloring book featuring pictures of several Jonesborough buildings. All of the buildings included in the coloring book are still standing in Jonesborough, but the images are drawn from across the decades. This fun activity helps familiarize children with some of Jonesborough's historic structures and encourages them to find the buildings around town.

Older children may earn a special sticker by completing a history scavenger hunt inside the museum. This is a great activity to help children practice their reading and critical thinking skills, although children who are just learning to read can complete the activity with adult help.

Visitors of all ages can conduct their own historical research to determine the fate of one of Jonesborough's citizens during the cholera epidemic of 1873. Using the original *Herald and Tribune* articles from 1873, interested guests can learn whether or not a specific Jonesborough resident survived the epidemic. Bring your kids and grandkids in for these fun activities, and check back for new activities during the upcoming months!



Plans Underway for 35th Progressive Dinner

December will be here before you know it, and that means we'll soon be sharing Jonesborough's splendor and holiday cheer during the 35th Annual Progressive Dinner. This year's dinner will be held on **Saturday, December 1st** and **Sunday, December 2nd**.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Heritage Alliance at 423.753.9580 or by calling the Visitor's Center at 423.753.1010. Tickets are also for sale online at www.heritageall.org and www.historicjonesborough.com.



Jeremiah Boyd Desk Returns to Jonesborough

In 1860, Jonesborough cabinet maker Jeremiah Boyd built a desk for local Rhea Lodge No. 47 for use by the Lodge's secretary. Boyd, largely regarded as one of Tennessee's best craftsmen, lived at 307 West Main Street. It is believed his workshop was located next door. He was listed in the 1860 Jonesborough census as a "master cabinetmaker," and four of his sons were also cabinetmakers.

One hundred years after the desk's construction, it was presented to Jonesborough historian Paul M. Fink in honor of his service to the local Masonic chapter and the town of Jonesborough. The desk remained in Paul Fink's family until this year, when his grandson Dr. John Boschen and his wife graciously donated it to the collections of the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum & Archives. The desk is currently on display in the Chester Inn Museum. A handwritten note from Paul Fink on the desk's history is still fixed to the inside door.



Mark Your Calendars: Cemetery Clean Up Date

Please bring your work gloves and gardening equipment and join us for a workday on **Saturday, September 15th** in the Old Jonesborough Cemetery. Any and all assistance is appreciated as we continue to work on the cemetery.

We will gather at **9:00** that morning and finish around **1:00**.



Wonderful New Furnishings in the Chester Inn Museum

If you've been in the Chester Inn Museum recently, you've noticed the new reception desk and donation box designed and built by our wonderful volunteer William Stout. You may have also seen or sat in the beautiful Windsor Chair on loan to the museum by Jonesborough craftsman Curtis Buchanan. The Heritage Alliance is very fortunate to have the assistance of such fine craftsmen.

William Stout also provided the Museum with a new set of storage shelves, and he is hard at work building a kids' activity table for our younger visitors. Most Wednesdays you can find William at the Duncan House, paint brush in hand and ready to help. The Heritage Alliance would not be able to operate at such a high caliber without the assistance of our dedicated volunteers.



From the Director's Desk



You might notice we are a bit late in getting this newsletter out. It has been a very busy year at the Alliance. In the course of providing assistance and programming to over 11,000 people (YTD), we have mounted four exhibits, completed our Partners in the Field Preservation project, finalized the third year of our Teaching American History grant, successfully received an extension into a fourth year, undertaken management of the Chester Inn...the list goes on. And once again we have said farewell to valued friends and colleagues.

Hopefully, everyone had a chance to stop by the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum to visit "Common People in Uncommon Times". Created by the Tennessee State Museum in commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, this exhibit has been without a doubt the most successful in the museum's history!

Bringing traveling exhibits to the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum is no easy task. The museum was not originally designed for changing exhibits and no space considerations were made for rotating artifacts in order to host traveling shows; thus we were thrilled to read in the *Herald and Tribune* recently the Mayor's comments regarding "the overall goal of improving and expanding" the museum. It is a goal we share and we look forward to working with the town to accomplish it. But right here, right now, I wish to publically acknowledge and thank those without whom we could not have hosted this exhibit:

- ◆ **Mr. Bob Parker** of Econo-Storage, 250 West Main Street in Johnson City, provided climate controlled storage space for our beloved fire pumpers and other artifacts.
- ◆ **Ms. Jean Rushing**, graduate student, ETSU Department of History, provided investigatory and research assistance in tracking down the papers of Aimee Jackson Short. Her initial work helped frame the context for our companion exhibit on Jonesborough resident AE Jackson.
- ◆ And finally, enough cannot be said to express our appreciation of **Mr. William Stout**, whose dedication and kindness to the Heritage Alliance makes so much of what we do possible.

The rather ambitious task of incorporating the firefighting equipment into the permanent exhibit space is a necessary next step in continuing our efforts to present a rotating schedule of traveling and changing exhibits. Of course, this will require redesigning and relocating much of the museum's existing exhibits.

It goes without saying that all of our work, whether its focus is on exhibits, educational resources and programs or preservation of the built environment, depends on the support and generosity of you, our members. Your contributions are essential...and greatly appreciated.

Teaching American History Grant Receives Six Month Extension

The Teaching American History Grant has received a six month extension effective August of 2012. During these six months, the Heritage Alliance will continue to work with E.T.S.U. to provide area teachers with historical context, primary sources, and pedagogy based techniques they can incorporate in their history classrooms.

Two day mini-institutes hosted this fall will explore Eras 7-10 of the Tennessee State standards. Teachers will take a closer look at the Progressive Era, World War I & II, the New Deal, the Civil Rights movement, and more. Additional pedagogy workshops will focus on the Common Core, a new model for Tennessee teachers that stresses communication across the curriculum.

Since this is the last hoorah for the grant, our TFFC coach will also be concentrating on sustainability. Working together teachers and staff will identify procedures that will facilitate communication and learning between our participants when the grant ends and assure that the TAH program leaves a lasting

legacy. It has been a wonderful three and a half years with these teachers, and the Heritage Alliance is honored to have worked alongside them in bolstering history education in our region.



Teachers look over available primary sources at the Andrew Johnson Library at Tusculum College.





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If you are already a member, please share this form with a friend and encourage them to join!

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Or give it to a friend or neighbor who should be a Heritage Alliance member

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