



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

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Heritage Alliance Members-Only Programs Continue to Entertain and Educate

On November 21st, the second members-only program entitled *"Things Are Changing"* premiered before an audience of Heritage Alliance members. The short, two person play shared the story of the Warner Institute and the struggles and triumphs of teacher/principal Julia Bullard Nelson during her time in Jonesborough. The play relied heavily on primary sources, including the *Herald & Tribune*, the *Jonesboro Journal*, and letters shared between Julia Bullard Nelson and Warner Institute founder Yardley Warner. Most of the dialogue in the play was taken directly from the sources themselves.

"Things Are Changing" is markedly different from *A Sojourn in Jonesborough*, the first members-only program featured in March of last year. *Sojourn* brought us Miss Annette

Broadacre, a young and enthusiastic woman visiting Jonesborough for the first time in the late 1850s. Her story was based on a small snippet from a serial in *Harpers New Monthly Magazine*, and greatly expanded upon through the use of secondary sources.

Heritage Alliance playwright and Special Projects Coordinator Anne G'Fellers-Mason says she's proud of the differences between the two pieces. Her hope is to make every members-only program different, but the ultimate goal will always remain the same. Each program will

shine a light on a lesser known aspect of Jonesborough's history while showcasing the many ways in which history can be researched and shared.

Miss Broadacre and Julia Bullard Nelson will make additional appearances in 2014, and you might even see Miss Broadacre at the Annual Meeting on January 23rd. The Alliance plans to offer more members-only programs this year in addition to opening our previous performances up to a wider audience. To stay up to date, check us out on Facebook or visit us at www.heritageall.org.



Anne Mason and Don Burger in a scene from *"Things Are Changing,"* photo courtesy of Peter Montanti.

Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Meeting!

January 23, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Jonesborough Visitor's Center

Please bring a covered dish to share as we celebrate the year that was in the Alliance. You never know who may show up, even Miss Broadacre might be there.



36th Annual Progressive Dinner Celebrates the Spirit of Community!

The 36th Annual Progressive Dinner took place on Saturday, December 7th and guests from all around the country came to share in Jonesborough's holiday spirit. This year's dinner celebrated community and once again featured Jonesborough's rich history and eclectic architectural styles. Guests arrived at the Chester Inn Museum, where they visited the parlor and dining room, each beautifully decorated for a Victorian Christmas by Marcy Hawley. Guests also tried to guess what some of the artifacts were in the Cabinet of Comparisons.

The first stop of the night was the Wells/Smith house, home of the Turner Family. The home, which was originally located on the lot where the AmericInn now stands, was built by Reverend Rufus Wells in 1856. Reverend Wells was instrumental in the construction of the Presbyterian Church on Main Street and in the cultivation of its congregation. He was pivotal to the religious community and life of Jonesborough. The front part of the current home is a near replica of the antebellum home Reverend Wells built.

Upon leaving the Wells/Smith home, guests enjoyed a delicious helping of butternut squash soup at the Patton/Childress home. The 1920s bungalow was built by the Patton family. Today, it is the

home of the Childress family. The Pattons were both very important members of Jonesborough's social scene, and Mr. Patton worked in the local pharmaceutical industry.

The main course was served at the McKinney Center at Booker T. Washington School. This was the first time the McKinney Center, Jonesborough's latest adaptive reuse success story, was featured on the Progressive Dinner. While dining, guests shared in the building's rich history and in the amazing legacy of the McKinney Family.

Dessert was served at the Peoples/Knight house, one of Jonesborough's many beautiful Victorian homes.

Mr. Peoples was a well respected dry goods merchant, and he built his Victorian home in 1884. Today, it is the home of the Knight Family. The Jonesborough Novelty Band rounded out the festive evening with a spirited sing along.

The Heritage Alliance could not possibly pull off the dinner without the support of our generous sponsors, the help of our driven volunteers, and the love of our town and community. Thank you for another beautiful and successful evening. We are always honored when we get to share our beautiful town, and our rich history and heritage with others.



Above, guests at the McKinney Center. Next page, snapshots from the dinner. All photos by Charlie Mauk.





The Curious Case of Hattie Broyles: First Female Jailor in the Sate of Tennessee?

It's no secret, Jonesborough has always been a very political town. How could a courthouse town not be political? It's also no secret that Jonesborough has been home to some very powerful and influential women, women like Julia Bullard Nelson and Carolyn Moore. Add to that list Hattie Broyles, wife, mother, teacher, and possibly Tennessee's first female jailor.

Hattie Vines was a teacher at Conklin High School when she married Lolla M. Broyles. The two lived in Jonesborough where Mr. Broyles worked as the local jailor. Things swiftly changed, however, when Hattie was appointed jailor in 1930. Her husband, a staunch Democrat, had fallen out of favor with the new Sheriff, an equally staunch Republican. The new Sheriff appointed Hattie to the position, even though she shared her husband's political views, and she remained in the role until 1932.

The Heritage Alliance stumbled upon Hattie while researching items for the Chester Inn Museum's "Law and Order in Washington County" exhibit that accompanied the Courthouse Centennial celebration. A box of receipts from the Broyles family paved the way. The receipts show what the jailors bought and what the prisoners ate during the early 1930s, and are a fascinating look into prison management.

They are also a valuable window into what businesses were in and around Jonesborough at the time. Upon closer inspection, the Alliance noticed that the signature on the receipts transitioned from Mr. Broyles to Ms. Broyles after 1930, and that prompted us to do a little more digging.

In the 1930 U.S. Census, the county jail was listed as the Broyles' home address. The prisoners, both male and female, were listed as dependents. Mr. Broyles was still noted as head jailor, and there were 51 inmates at the time of the census, consisting of 41 male prisoners and 10 female prisoners. Some of the inmates had odd jobs, like office assistant. The oldest inmate was 66 and the youngest, a girl, was 17.

Hungry for more, we looked to our books. A small profile on Hattie is included in the *History of Washington County Tennessee*, compiled and edited by Joyce and W. Eugene Cox. In an interview with the *Johnson City Press Chronicle* later in her life, Hattie referred to her time as jailor as "lots of fun." The paper went on to report that she never once said, "This isn't woman's work."

L.M. Broyles passed in 1940, but Hattie remained busy. She was the first woman elected to the board of elders of the Presbyterian Church she attended. She also served as president of the local Woman's Temperance Christina Union. At the time of her death, she was affectionately known as "Granny Broyles."



Construction of the 1913 courthouse with the jail in the background.



Vietnam Veterans Share Their Stories and Experiences

For our first program of the year, the Heritage Alliance is honored to host the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 979 out of Kingsport on Sunday, January 19th at the Historic Jonesborough Visitor's Center. The group, which includes veterans from the many branches of service, will share their memories, stories, and journeys in the United State's Military, with special emphasis on their duties during the Vietnam War. Items and pictures from their years of service will also be on display.

The group has shared their program with multiple audiences throughout the region, and all ages are encouraged to attend. The program will start at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 19th and will last about two hours. Weather permitting; there will also be a historic military vehicle on display outside the Visitor's Center.

SP/5 Melvin "Moe" Baines, a member of the group and Director of the Tri-Cities Military Affairs

Council, loaned multiple items from his time in Vietnam for display in the latest edition of the "A Military Life" exhibit at the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum. Even if you cannot attend the program, we encourage you to visit the exhibit and view the items currently on display, including a crossbow, arrow, and quiver that once belonged to members of the

Montagnard tribes. Mr. Baines worked closely with these tribes while he was serving in Vietnam. He is sure to share some of those stories on January 19th.

We hope you'll be able to join us as we help honor these veterans and share in their triumphs and sacrifices.

(Photo courtesy of SP/5 Melvin Baines.)



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January-April Calendar of Events

January 19: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 979 out of Kingsport will share their stories and journeys at the Visitor's Center from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

January 23: ANNUAL MEETING at 6:30 p.m. at the Jonesborough Visitor's Center, please bring a covered dish.

January 25: Volunteer training for docents at the Chester Inn Museum at 10:00 a.m.

March 1: Chester Inn Museum opens for the 2014 season with spring hrs, Fri-Sat 11:00-6:00 and Sun 1:00-5:00.

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

April 5: Salvage Warehouse Open from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

April 5: Rug hooking at the Chester Inn, Easter Bunny Pillow day one, 11:00-2:00. \$20.00 fee, please call office to RSVP.

April 14: 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.

Events are subject to change, and new ones that aren't listed here may be added. To stay up to date on everything that's going on, make sure to like us on Facebook and visit us at www.heritageall.org to view our online calendar.

Happenings at the Chester Inn Museum

2013 was another busy year at the Chester Inn Museum! The Museum hosted school groups, social clubs, and guests from all over. Multiple, temporary exhibits provided information on local merchants, area children's author Rhea Wells, and Washington County's long history with law and order. Two of the most successful exhibits were the Cabinet of Curiosities and the Cabinet of Comparisons. The Cabinet of Curiosities, a play on the Victorian practice, asked visitors to guess at the mysterious and slightly macabre items and images inside. The Cabinet of Comparisons was similar, but it offered guests a glimpse of what Christmas morning might have looked like during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The Heritage Alliance hopes to incorporate more interactive exhibits within the new year. More classes, like the rug hooking courses, will be offered at the Chester, and a new series of programming for guests of various ages is slated to begin. For dates and descriptions, please visit our website at www.heritageall.org. Also, please like the Chester Inn Museum and the Heritage Alliance on Facebook to stay up to date on the latest. The Museum will be closed until March 1st, but we are always happy to let visitors inside. Please call our office at 423.753.9580 to arrange a visit.

We hope to see you in the new year at the Chester Inn Museum. 2014 promises to be another exciting one!



Haunts and Happenings at the Chester Inn Museum, the Museum saw over 1,000 guests that night!



From the Director's Desk



November of 2013 marked 10 years I have been with the Heritage Alliance. It hardly seems possible. So much has changed with the organization (and my job!) since that time. I was originally hired as Education Coordinator, managing the Oak Hill School and Museum programs. One of my first actions was to begin monitoring attendance and volunteer hours for Heritage Alliance programs (essential information for grants and funders). In 2004, 5119 individuals visited the Jonesborough Washington County Museum and /or attended Heritage Alliance events and programs. That number has grown to just shy of 20,000 in 2013! Volunteer hours have increased proportionally. Increases such as these are a clear reflection of support at many levels. So pat yourselves on the back...you did this with your efforts and your support of our programs and services!

This past year featured several new programs that have been highly acclaimed. Though all are exciting, I am particularly enthusiastic about our original history based theatrical performances. Museum theatre has been around for quite awhile, though with a very few exceptions, museums in this region have shied away from it.

Thanks to the talents of Anne G'Fellers-Mason, HA Special Projects Coordinator and resident playwright, we have now produced and performed two pieces. Both of these pieces are based on rigorous scholarship, are highly entertaining and offer a glimpse into rarely discussed aspects of Jonesborough history. In other words, good history and entertaining too! Look for more of these in the future.

And while we excel at doing good history, we (and by we, I mean me) are becoming more comfortable with the more "whimsical" aspects of heritage in Jonesborough. The Jonesborough Yarn Exchange has graciously extended an invitation to the HA to participate with a regular "Ask the Historian" segment during their popular old time radio show. I have to say I cannot recall when I have had more fun, met so many incredibly talented and friendly folk, and learned so much...all at the same time. If you haven't had a chance to enjoy one of these performances, make it a point to do so.

One of my goals at the HA has been to increase community involvement with the historic spaces under our care. As the stage upon which we live our lives, old buildings have stories to tell, but one must spend time in them in order to hear. The Oak Hill Needle Arts Program is a series of classes teaching traditional needle arts. Thus far, classes in crochet, knitting and

rug hooking have occurred inside both the Oak Hill School and the Chester Inn. At one time, both of these spaces were important community gathering spots. Over the years, that function has diminished, but with these classes and more programming to come, we are looking to restore the Oak Hill School and the Chester Inn to their rightful places within the community.

Perhaps one of the most overdue projects accomplished in 2013 is the creation of a permanent space for changing exhibits in the Jonesborough Washington County History Museum. This space allows us to professionally mount temporary exhibits without negatively impacting, i.e. relocating and or storing permanent exhibits. We also created a new permanent exhibit around the 19th century fire pumpers and Jonesborough's fire history. This marks the first new permanent exhibit in the JWCHM in a decade.

I think you will agree that 2013 was a busy year. But 2014 is looking to be even busier. Plans are underway for more community classes, preservation workshops, and new original programming in some surprising old spaces. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and check in at www.heritageall.org for more information.





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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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