



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

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Spring 2015

Effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction: “In Their Own Words”



1895 Crazy Quilt on Display

In Jonesborough, the hostilities and hardships of the Civil War did not end with surrender at Appomattox. Both soldiers and the families that stayed behind were

profoundly impacted by the war and its aftermath. A new exhibit at the Chester Inn, “In Their Own Words,” captures the fears and hopes of Jonesborough residents during the Civil War and Reconstruction years.

The Jonesborough of this time was poor and stripped of resources. Some families had everything taken from them during the war and faced Reconstruction with nothing.

The exhibit uses letters, journal entries, photos and press reports to let residents who were on both sides of the conflict tell their stories. Among those represented are George Grisham, A.E. Jackson, and Adeline Deaderick. While the exhibit only includes excerpts, the full documents are available for viewing in an accompanying notebook and on the Heritage Alliance website and Facebook page. The exhibit will run through the first of October.

Elihu Embree, Abolitionist and Publisher

One of the nationally significant events that took place in Jonesborough was the publication of the first U.S. newspaper devoted entirely to the abolition of slavery. Elihu Embree (1782-1820) was owner and publisher of the paper. The Embree family owned the iron furnaces in Embreeville, and Elihu was a member of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, a group who strongly objected to human slavery. Local Quakers founded the Manumission Society, a group supporting abolition, in 1815.

The Emancipator began publication in April of 1820, and ended with Elihu’s death in December of that year. During its brief life, more than 200 subscriptions were sold, mostly in northern cities including Baltimore and Philadelphia. The publication reported on the history of the abolition movement, and on successful emancipations. Ironically, Elihu was himself a slaveholder, who freed some (but not all) of his family slaves at the time of his death.



The 1791 Embree House, Telford

The Heritage Alliance partnered with the Embree House this past April to teach a group of eighth graders about the emancipation movement in Northeast Tennessee. The students saw the site of Elihu’s publication in Jonesborough and then toured the family home. They also learned about the underground railroad, as the Embree House was a stop on that iconic path to freedom in later years.



Heritage Alliance Tours Bring Local History Alive for Students and Others

The Heritage Alliance hosted 628 students this past school year for history tours - a very good year indeed! Students came from Washington County Schools, local private schools and home schooling groups. We have the ability to serve more groups, so please get the word out about this rewarding and reasonably priced experience.



Students Get Instruction in the One Room Schoolhouse

A full description of basic fieldtrip options can be found on the website (heritageall.org) - here's a summary of the activities available:

- **Oak Hill School Heritage Education Program** – experience a school day during the 1892-1893 school year in a one room schoolhouse - in period dress if desired;
- **Jonesborough Fieldtrip Experience** – hands-on activities at places around town;
- **Jonesborough Town Tour** — learn about the town and the people who lived here;
- **Old Jonesborough Cemetery Scavenger Hunt**;
- **Chester Inn Museum** scavenger hunt and primary sources dealing with the Cholera Epidemic of 1873;
- **Jonesborough/Washington County History**



A Class Sternly Posing for a Photo - 1890s Style

Museum — activities with artifacts and photographs;

- Play **games** that were popular in the late 1800s;
- Listen to a **Jonesborough storyteller**;

Aside from school groups, churches and other adult groups are always welcome to participate.

Contact the Heritage Alliance if your group would like to participate. Programs can be modified to create an experience that fits your needs.



Students enjoy lunch on the grounds of Oak Hill School



Progress Continues on Jonesborough Cemetery Preservation

Work repairing stones and removing brush to uncover additional graves continues at the Old Jonesborough Cemetery and College Hill Cemetery. Money for this work came from the *A Spot On the Hill* shows from last October. The retooled play (more in the future on these changes) will be presented again in late summer and fall.

This calendar year our "Tombstone Guru" Gordon Edwards has made repairs to the graves of Elizabeth J. Crouch, Alfred Martin Ray, John A. Wilds, Nathaniel Taylor Jackson, and several more.

Additional money raised through the new cemetery tours and *A Spot on the Hill* will be used to address the remaining tree problems, and to hopefully bring back the Chicora Foundation, a nationally recognized cemetery preservation group, to complete a follow-up to their 2009 assessment of cemetery priorities, since much has changed (for the better!) since the previous assessment.

Work will continue on the additional tombstones in the Jonesborough and College Hill cemeteries that need cleaning and adjusting.



John A. Wilds Grave in Jonesborough Cemetery, Prior to (above) and During (below) Restoration.

Jonesborough Cemetery Tours Expanded

Jonesborough cemetery tours begin during Jonesborough Days with tours at 10:00/6:00 on July 3 and at 6:00 on July 4. The tours will continue on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 through the fall. The cost of the tour will be \$5.00 per person. One can also purchase a combo ticket for both the Town Tour and Cemetery Tour for \$8.00. Tickets are available at the International Storytelling Center and Chester Inn Museum.

After tickets are purchased,

one should head up East Main to the Old Jonesborough Cemetery entrance, where your guide will be waiting for you.

The tour will be about an hour in length and will cover the history and evolution of the different cemeteries, the lives of some of the people who are buried there - how they came to live and die in town, the transformation of the cemetery during the late 1800s to a more park-like feel, the symbolism seen in the different types of markers, and much more!



Jonesborough Days Schedule

Thursday, July 2:

Chester Inn Museum open 11-7

Friday, July 3

Chester Inn Museum open 10-7

Old Jonesborough Cem Tour – 10:00

Town Tour – 11:00

Mother Goose in Parlor – 11:00

Town Tour – 1:00

Mother Goose in Parlor – 2:00

Old Jonesborough Cem Tour – 6:00

Saturday, July 4

Chester Inn Museum open 10-7

Town Tour – 1:00

Mother Goose in the Parlor – 2:00

Old Jonesborough Cem Tour – 6:00



Coupon – Historic Jonesborough Walking Tour

Buy One Tour Ticket

Get a Second Ticket FREE

Tickets \$5.00 at International Storytelling Center

(Expires 12/31/2015, One Coupon per Group)



"Mother Goose" Marjorie Shaefer

Jonesborough's Mother Goose

For over thirty years, Marjorie Shaefer has been performing as Mother Goose. She engages children through a rhyming "call and response" format and by using objects and figures from her own extensive Mother Goose collection.

Her first appearance was at a picnic for families with children in the Children's Hospital. Since she had not yet found her "Inner Goose," she began with the rhyme: "Where's my goose? My goose is loose." When one of the little girls ran down the hill and hugged her around the legs,

saying, "Oh, Mother Goose, I knew you would come" - that showed the way for Marjorie, and she has been performing as Mother Goose ever since.

Marjorie will be performing as Mother Goose in the Chester Inn parlor during Jonesborough Days. Youngsters (and the young at heart) are welcome to come and participate.



History Briefs - Update on Ongoing Projects

- **Jackson Theater Restoration:** The Town of Jonesborough continues work on restoration of the Jackson Theater. So far no historic photos of the theater have been found, so please, keep looking!
- **Chester Inn Tour Expansion:** The third floor lodging room at Chester Inn is scheduled to be open for public tours for Jonesborough Days - come and see this new addition.
- **Chuckey Depot:** Walls of the Depot are going up on Second Avenue in Jonesborough. The Depot will house exhibits focusing on local railroad history and the story of the Town of Chuckey.
- **Historical Photos for Courthouse:** The Heritage Alliance provided historic photos from our archives that now adorn the walls of the new Mayor's Office and meeting rooms in the Washington County Courthouse.
- **Washington County, TN Archives:** Washington County is remodeling the old bank building which formerly housed the Mayor's Office into expanded space for the Washington County Archives.



Chuckey Depot: Original Location (upper) and During Reconstruction in Jonesborough (lower).

Meet Paul Johnston, New Heritage Alliance Intern



The Heritage Alliance welcomes a new summer intern, Paul Johnston. Paul is a Museum Studies Major at Tusculum College. His fascination with the past began through medieval reenacting with his family. In high school, Paul changed his focus to Civil War reenacting. Paul says, "History is so important in order to have a sense of self and to better understand different cultures. Museums serve as a window to the past, and my dream is to become a part of a living history museum."

In addition to Museum and History studies, Paul was on the USA Alpine Ski team at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in South Korea, placing fourth overall in Giant Slalom. He's also has been a member of several barbershop quartets.

Please Frequent Our Business Members as They Help Support Our Region's History:

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Jonesborough, TN
423-753-3136
www.heraldandtribune.com

The Law Offices of
Mark D. Edmonds
125 E Main St
Jonesborough, TN
423-753-8696



Heritage Alliance Quiz

How Well Do You Know Tennessee's Oldest Town?

Are you knowledgeable about Jonesborough's long history and its storytelling past? This fun quiz (and answers) can be found on "Playbuzz" through a link on our website (heritageall.org) or here:



Sample quiz questions...

- *What year was Jonesborough founded?*
- *Why was the town named after Willie Jones?*
- *What year was the first Storytelling Festival held in Jonesborough?*



Calendar of Events ***July - August 2015***

- **Chester Inn Museum:** 11:00-6:00
Monday, Wednesday-Saturday and 1:00-5:00 Sunday
- **Downtown Walking Tours:** 1:00
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
- **Cemetery Tours:** 10:00 and 6:00
during Old Jonesborough Days; continuing afterward on Saturdays at 2:00
- **Salvage Warehouse:** open 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 8:00 till 11:00

July 2-4: Old Jonesborough Days
(see full schedule on Page 4)

July 27: Jonesborough Yarn Exchange shows at 6:00 and 7:30

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

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116 Franklin Avenue

Jonesborough, TN 37659

423-753-3819

www.franklinhousebb.com

Team Bridal Wedding
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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

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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

Chuckey Remembered

Do you know where Fullen was? How about the Donnelly Hotel or Warren College?

If you guessed Chuckey, you would be correct. Fullen, or Fullen's Depot was the original name of the community that grew up around the crossings of two major routes to Rheatown, the stage road and the river landing. These two routes crossed with the building of the railroad. Ad Fullen, the area's largest landowner, donated the land on which the depot was built. By 1861, Fullen's Depot was becoming a thriving community.

Fullen's original depot structure was said to be a simple, wood sided building with a separate freight "tin" warehouse located a short distance away. How long this building was used is unknown to us, but the depot which is being reassembled on Second Avenue in Jonesborough is thought to have been built in 1906. The attached freight warehouse was a standard kit supplied by the railroad and added on to the office and passenger service areas. This depot was the life blood of the community, whose name had changed to Chuckey City in 1900. (In 1904, its name was shortened to Chuckey by the US Postal Service.)

Turn of the century Chuckey City was a central location for merchants

and their patrons. It boasted numerous retail establishments, including a hardware store, two dry good stores, a photography studio, a shoe store and a livery stable, in addition to the bank and the post office. Chuckey City also featured the Fullen Station Hotel, built by Major Donnelly (and sometimes referred to as the Donnelly Hotel) of Rheatown. According to Harry Roberts' *Olden Times in Greene County Tennessee*, the Donnelly Hotel was often used by "drummers" as home base. These gentlemen, hired by wholesalers to sell merchandise to retail shop owners, would arrive by train with trunks of merchandise, rent rooms at the Donnelly and travel throughout the county for weeks at a time, touting their wares.

Chuckey was also home to Warren College, established by a Reverend Fitzgerald on land donated by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Prior to the

turn of the century, the academy name had changed to Wesleyan Academy in honor of John Wesley. By the year 1908, the academy's enrollment reached 213 students.

Chuckey flourished as long as passenger trains continued to stop at the Depot, as the railroad was the reason for its existence and prosperity. As automobiles became the preferred method of travel, communities like Chuckey all up and down the railroad began to shrink.

With the removal of its depot, the community of Chuckey lost a great piece of its history; but as it is being rebuilt in Jonesborough, it becomes our responsibility to interpret and honor that history, not only for the people of Chuckey, but for all the small railroad communities that have faded through time.



Chuckey Depot prior to Removal





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Jonesborough, TN 37659

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