



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

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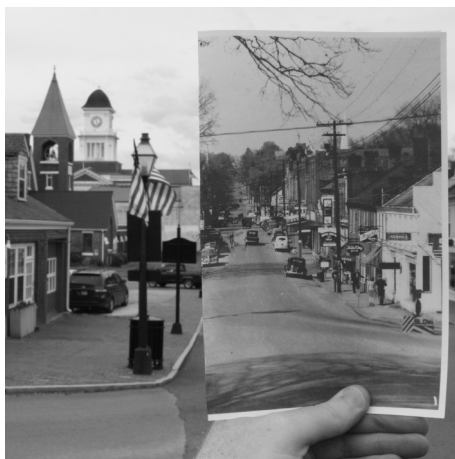
Now and Then: Throwback Thursday Photo Exchange in Full Swing Send Us Your Photos Today!

At the first of May, the Heritage Alliance announced a new public initiative to collect and display old and historical photos of the region by superimposing old images into modern landscapes. Every Thursday since, the Now and Then: Throwback Thursday Photo Exchange has shared local pictures with people all over the world through social media. The project runs through the end of August, and we're far from done.

The Heritage Alliance encourages residents throughout Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to share your family photos, vacation photos, and others that feature our region that are at least 20 years old. We want this project to showcase more than just Jonesborough, so please help us out by sharing your pictures! Email them to us at info@heritageall.org, post them to our Facebook wall with the hashtag **#heritagetbt**, or share them on your Instagram account with the hashtag **#heritagetbt**!

An exhibit of all the participating photos will be displayed in the Chester Inn Museum, a State owned Historic Site, this coming

September. To view the photos online, like our Facebook page (Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia) or follow our Instagram account (Heritage Alliance).



East Main Street circa 1950 and today.



Put your photography skills and old photos to good use this summer by contributing to the project. Come September, you'll have a photo included in a new exhibit in a State Historic Site. Submission guidelines and criteria for the Throwback Thursday Photo Exchange can be found online at www.heritageall.org in the Blog section of the website.

Check back in with Facebook every Thursday for the next set of photos in the Throwback series! We plan to fill the Chester Inn Museum this September with photos from all over the region, so submit your entry today!

Help Us Save Paper!

Are you interested in receiving your copy of *The Link* through email?

If so, please email the Heritage Alliance at info@heritageall.org and let us know where we can send your next edition.



Cemetery Preservation Abounds: A Wealth of Updates and Good Work

Old Jonesborough Cemetery:

Thanks to Gordon Edwards and the Town of Jonesborough, preservation at the Old Jonesborough Cemetery continues at a brisk pace. Currently, Jeff McCurry of Precision Ironworks is repairing the damaged fences that surround several of the plots. Jeff has done work for the town and understands historic preservation. Maintaining the integrity of fencing that is 100 plus years old is an important facet of historic preservation. In some cases, damaged sections of fence cannot be repaired, in which case the damage is removed and the balance of the fence is stabilized. Repairs are expected to be completed this summer, and all fences will then be repainted.



The fence around the Emerson Plot after a storm in 2010.

The fence repair is just another step in incorporating the cemetery into the Town of Jonesborough and its history and stories.



The Emerson fence today, photo courtesy of Gordon Edwards

Grave marker repair and resetting also continues at the Old Jonesborough Cemetery. The Heritage Alliance is proud of all the cemetery preservation taking place here in Jonesborough, and it's not just taking place on Rocky Hill. It's also occurring across the highway on 11-E.

Maple Lawn Cemetery:

Maple Lawn Cemetery, founded in 1890, is just one treasure tucked away in Jonesborough. It is the resting place of approximately 3,000 people who laid the foundation which made Washington County and Jonesborough the community we live in today. In May 2013, Elaine Cantrell and Chad Bailey, members of the Cemetery Survey Team of Northeast Tennessee, began what would become 5 months of work in the cemetery. These members, along with Geraldine Greenwell, Betty Jane Hylton, Allen Jackson, and a host of others, worked to identify unmarked graves, cleaned tombstones, and photographed every tombstone. The work was far from finished, though.

The Maple Lawn Cemetery Association members provided the Cemetery Survey Team with a minute book

from 1890 to 1968, plot ownership records from 1940 to 2003, obituaries, and a plot map from 1986. Using the information on hand, Chad Bailey transcribed the survey, drew new maps, and found death certificates for burials that took place in the cemetery from 1908-1958. It has been a long and arduous process, but community support and hours of research, photos, stories, and other artifacts have helped to formulate the story and history of Maple Lawn Cemetery and its people.

Maple Lawn's story has been documented in a new and exciting way, and it provides new insight into the history of Washington County and the people who lived here. This chapter is complete, but the book is far from finished. There is still so much to be done at Maple Lawn, and you can help by making a donation or by sharing information about a family member who is interred in the cemetery.

The Maple Lawn Cemetery Association is currently working to bring the cemetery up to date and preserve it for the future. Maintenance of a historic cemetery requires constant work, and several of the markers in Maple Lawn are in need of repair. Some of Jonesborough's most noted residents are buried there, including Judge Newton Thacker and Jonesborough Mayors Lyle and Grace Haws.

Please mail your donations, stories, and memories to Emma Treadway



at 217 Forestview Drive, Jonesborough, TN 37659. You can also support Maple Lawn and stay up to date on all the work by liking Maple Lawn Cemetery's Facebook page.

The survey and maps can be viewed at the TNGenWeb page in the Cemetery Database for Washington County, TN. [www.tngenweb.org]

The content of Maple Lawn article was provided by Chad Bailey. The Heritage Alliance thanks Chad and all the other members of the Cemetery Survey Team of Northeast Tennessee for their tireless work on Maple Lawn Cemetery. Thanks to you, many stories have been saved and the next chapter of Maple Lawn can be written. Check back with the Heritage Alliance for news on Maple Lawn and more ways in which you can help preserve one of Jonesborough's historic cemeteries.



One of the gardens at Maple Lawn Cemetery, photo courtesy of Chad Bailey.

West Lawn Cemetery:

Amazing work in cemetery preservation is also taking place in West Lawn Cemetery in Johnson City.

West Lawn Cemetery is an African-American cemetery located on Lowell Street. It contains approximately 6 acres, acquired in two basic parcels. The old section dates to 1902, and the newer section dates to 1924. There are several deeds of conveyance and the transaction history too complex to detail here.

As is the case with most burial grounds, there are both marked and unmarked graves at West Lawn. A very thorough effort has been made to identify as many graves as is possible. Included in the cemetery survey are the enumerated markers, as well as a listing of names found through death certificate research. Additionally, several people have contributed firsthand knowledge to supplement the project.

West Lawn Cemetery is governed by a board consisting of several members. It is still an active burial ground and is open to anyone wishing to make burial arrangements. In addition to the board, questions regarding West Lawn may be directed to the Langston Heritage Group, the Heritage Alliance, or the Cemetery Survey Team of Northeast Tennessee.

West Lawn has been going through some restoration and will continue to do so for some time. It is hoped that the restoration and preservation will serve to guide the continued care and respect for the deceased and to encourage community participation. Many individuals have participated in the restoration project. Several area churches are joining in, as well.



Dr. Hezekiah Hankal's grave before and after the clearing work in the cemetery.



Dr. Hankal was a ground breaking doctor, teacher, minister, and politician for the region, and he stayed in Jonesborough to care for patients of all races during the Cholera epidemic of 1873. In February of this year, Dr. Hankal's legacy was remembered when the building that houses the Washington County-Johnson City Health Department was named in his honor.

"We have a small window. What we lose now, we can never recover."
- Gordon Edwards

The content of the West Lawn article, including the images, were provided by Gordon Edwards, who has been working closely with the Langston Heritage Group and a team of dedicated individuals to preserve West Lawn Cemetery. Cemetery preservation is a long, hard process, and the work is never completely finished. Money is needed for landscaping, grave marker repair, and much more. Check back with the Heritage Alliance for updates, including West Lawn clean up days and future fundraisers.



“Head, Heart, Hands, and Health”: 4-H in Washington County

Farming has always been a significant part of the culture in Washington County, Tennessee. The valley has allowed for larger farms than the mountains, and even after industrialization of the area, many farmed while working in factories. In the late 1800s/early 1900s, when folks began to realize farming could disappear, a focus was placed on passing farming to a younger generation. Clubs that focused on youth in agriculture began to crop up.

4-H gets their name from a focus on the four H's, “head, heart, hands, and health.” The organization began in the late 1800s when research showed that younger generations were more open to modern tools and approaches to agriculture. 4-H laid the groundwork for new agricultural technology to reach communities. The clubs were informal at first, but in 1914, the Smith-Lever Act nationalized 4-H throughout the United States.

The organization's goals went beyond organizing new technology. According to 4-H's website, “The idea of practical and ‘hands-on’ learning came from the desire to connect public school education to country life. Building community clubs to help solve agricultural challenges was a first step toward youth learning more about the industries in their community.”

Here in Tennessee, the first Boys' Corn Club and Girls' Tomato Clubs were organized in 1920. Washington County's earliest 4-H recording was Arthur Depew, who represented the county at the

Tennessee State Fair in 1912. Raymond Rosson, the county's agent in 1927, led a project at Gray School with two hogs which were shipped by train and picked up in a Ford Model T.

In the 1930s, the girls' club was lead by Lavona Townsend. Under her leadership, the girls hosted a dinner that included a taste test of a coffee substitute deemed “sweet whey”, made from parched sweet potatoes and wheat. The girls' club also focused on activities like canning foods and baking bread.

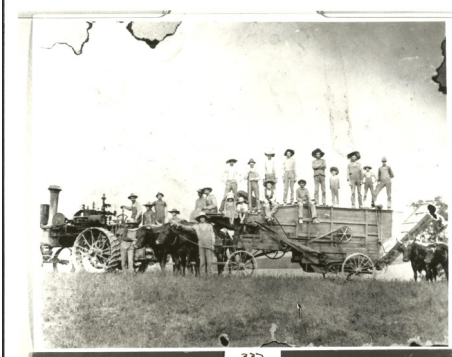
The Poteat family, who moved to Washington County in 1913, were very involved in 4-H. Their son Bela Poteat started a dairy that served grade-A, raw milk in glass bottles to Jonesborough for twenty-five years. Bela married Cora Viola Phillips and their children were involved in 4-H during the 1920s and 1930s. They carried on their family's legacy and operated the Springdale Dairy. John Poteat, the Poteat's eldest son, even made an appearance on CBS's *National Farm and Home Hour* when he visited Washington, D.C. in 1931.

4-H in Washington County has focused on more than agriculture. Public speaking and public services have also been highlights. During the 1950s, Clara Barton directed a play to raise funds for the county. It was very successful and many young members participated in the cast. Other programs include “adopt-a-grandparent,” education for low-income families, and exchange trips within the US and internationally.

Today, 4-H continues to work in Washington County to encourage young people to focus on their communities, families, and hands-on education. If you look at Tennessee's upcoming 4-H activities you will find an essay contest on beekeeping, 4-H electric camp, a performing arts troupe, and 4-H shooting sports.

Tennessee's 4-H mission has not changed with time. “Preparing young people to become responsible, capable and involved leaders and citizens of Tennessee and the nation” The clubs have grown in size as well as variety, but they continue to connect the youth of Washington County with their history, tradition, and culture.

Information for this article was gathered from the 4-H National website, the Tennessee 4-H website, and the History of Washington County, Tennessee, compiled and edited by Joyce & W. Eugene Cox.



Threshing machine and steam engine.



Chester Inn Museum Happenings: A New Docent and A New Exhibit Kick Off the 2014 Season

Lots of new and exciting things are taking place at the Chester Inn Museum. First and foremost, the Heritage Alliance would like to extend a hearty welcome to Skye McFarland, the newest docent at the museum. A North Carolina native, Skye holds a Masters in Appalachian Studies from Appalachian State University. She will be working at the Chester Inn on Wednesday through Friday. Corrinne Moore will be holding down the fort on Saturday and Sunday.



Make sure you stop by the museum and chat with Skye. The Heritage Alliance is happy to have her on board. If you don't get the chance to meet up with Skye while she's in the museum, you may have the opportunity to catch her at the Jonesborough Visitor's Center where she also works as a hostess. Skye is coming to know Jonesborough really well, and she's not shy about getting her feet wet.

Skye started the Now and Then: Throwback Thursday Photo Exchange, running now through the end of August. The work from this project will culminate in a new exhibit in the Chester Inn in September. Skye also helped research and write the Regional History article on 4-H Clubs in Washington County. Some of this same information is available for viewing in the latest exhibit in the Chester Inn, "I Belong On A Farm."

"I Belong On A Farm" showcases lots of artifacts and historical tidbits that help highlight the importance of agriculture to Jonesborough and Washington County. This exhibit is missing one thing, though, labels. It's up to you, the visitors, to determine what's in the case and what role these items once played. Stop by and take a guess, and please leave a memory in our Memory Jar on your way out. Did you ever spend time on a farm? Does one of our artifacts bring back a particular memory? We'd love to know!

Did we also mention that our first set of Victorian bedroom furniture arrived for future interpretation of a third floor lodging room? Like we said, exciting things are afoot at the Chester Inn Museum. Stay tuned for much more!

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Jonesborough, TN
423.753.8696



June-September Calendar of Events

July 3-Oak Hill School open to public from 11:00-1:00, Mother Goose stories at Oak Hill School at 11:00

July 4-Oak Hill School open to public from 11:00-1:00, Mother Goose stories at Oak Hill School at 2:00

July 4-July 5-Chester Inn Museum open extended hours from 10:00-7:00 for Jonesborough Days, free historic tours of downtown Jonesborough depending on availability.

July 5-Salvage Warehouse open 10:00-1:00, Oak Hill School open to public from 11:00-1:00

July 19-Salvage Warehouse open 10:00-1:00

August 2-Salvage Warehouse open 10:00-1:00

August 16-Salvage Warehouse open 10:00-1:00

August 28-Last day to participate in Now & Then: Throwback Thursday Photo Exchange

September 6-Salvage Warehouse open 10:00-1:00

September 20-Salvage Warehouse open 10:00-1:00

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 our online calendar.



*Marjorie Shaefer as Mother Goose
with her friend Canada.*

Mother Goose Stories at Oak Hill School

Mother Goose and her friend Canada will be visiting Oak Hill School over Jonesborough Days! Come and spend time with her in the historic schoolhouse as she shares nursery rhymes, fables, tall tales, and more! Whether you are three or ninety-three, come and join in the fun!

Mother Goose Stories at 11:00 on July 3 and 2:00 on July 4. The schoolhouse will also be open for tours from 11:00-1:00 on July 3 — July 5.

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Jonesborough
Genealogical Society
c/o Washington County Library
200 Sabin Drive
Jonesborough, TN 37659
<http://jgstn.wordpress.com/>



From the Director's Desk



"Rehabilitating historic properties conserves taxpayers' dollars, conserves our local heritage, and conserves the natural environment. Rehabilitating historic buildings and using the infrastructure that is already in place to serve them is the height of fiscal and environmental responsibility."

- Donovan Rypkema, *Place Economics*

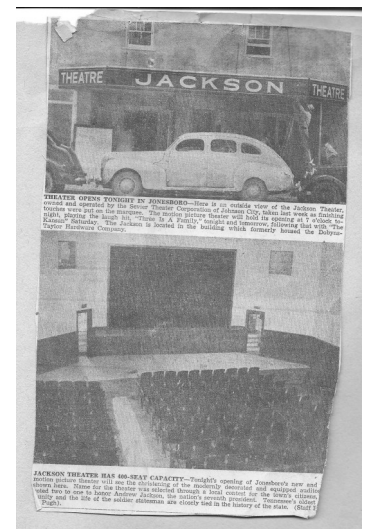
The Heritage Alliance welcomes the news that the Town of Jonesborough has purchased the Jackson Theatre and plans to restore it for film, performance and presentation space. This 1921 building, described as a "commodious mercantile building....adjoining the Keene Ten Cent Store" was originally conceived as the new home of LM Broyles' furniture store, as well as a line of musical instruments and hardware, when *The Herald and Tribune* first reported on its construction. The faint ghost of the word furniture is still visible at the top of the building. Other retail businesses to occupy this space have included The Tennessee Hatchery, which opened in 1928 to sell chicks and the Cash Feed Store, which operated alongside the Hatchery in 1932. All along, these businesses shared space with "the Movie".

It may be supposed that the rumor mill in town knew of the coming of *The Blue Mouse*, as the theatre was originally named, even before the building was completed. In 1920 *Herald and Tribune* editor E.S. Depew published an editorial

entitled "Does Jonesboro need a movie?" (In his mind the answer was almost certainly no.) Despite Depew's efforts, *The Blue Mouse* opened on Tuesday, February 21, 1922 and featured showings of silent films on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights. With a seating capacity of 300, *The Herald and Tribune* described *The Blue Mouse* as "one of the best equipped small town theatres in this part of the state." Based on local newspaper ads, it appears *The Blue Mouse* operated into 1925. In October of that year, ads for movies at this location begin appearing under the name of *Lyric Theatre*. Beginning around 1950, the name changed to *The Jackson Theatre*. It appears to have operated under this name until 1965, when the theatre ceased operation altogether.

It is important to note that regardless of its name, the theatre always hosted community events, high school musicals and fundraisers. This historic function will certainly be a part of the mix when the newly restored Jackson Theatre opens for business once again. A venue such as this for small independent films, old movies and community events, in addition to a more spacious home for Jonesborough's popular Repertory Theatre, will certainly add bang for the buck. Events and films will bring more people to downtown; provide overnight guests with additional activities and businesses that stay open after 5:00 with additional patrons.

When I speak on Jonesborough, which I frequently do, I often talk about the "forward thinking" individuals who had the foresight to understand that economic viability is about more than tax revenue. Sustainability requires the complete package and that includes an informed and involved citizenry....a citizenry that values education, cultural pursuits and quality of life issues in equal measures with economic issues. It seems to me that since its earliest days, Jonesborough has been ahead of the curve in its understanding of and embracing community building. The Jackson Theatre project is historic preservation at its most impactful.... restoration which promotes economic development, advances sustainable tourism and adds to the quality of life. You can't ask for better than that.





212 East Sabin Dr.
Jonesborough, TN 37659

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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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