



The Link



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preserving our heritage and building a future together

Winter 2017

History Happy Hour, a New Program at the Chester Inn, Kicks off March 23rd!

The Heritage Alliance is launching History Happy Hour at the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum on Thursday, March 23! History makes us happy, and we want to share that happiness with you. This new, monthly program will feature a wide range of topics, including First Lady Eliza Johnson, the Alaska purchase, and much more! The region is full of history, and people who know about history, and History Happy Hour is a chance for them to share their exciting knowledge with the wider public. The program is a collaborative effort between local organizations, so audiences will have the chance to interact with multiple groups.

History Happy Hour will be held at the Chester Inn Museum. Admission is free, and the program will start at 6:30 p.m. The goal of the program is to offer insightful history to the public, foster a collaborative relationship with various individuals and organizations, and increase the role of the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum as a community meeting place. To stay up to date on our

program schedule, follow the Chester Inn Museum and the Heritage Alliance on Facebook.

The spring schedule is set and features history lovers and practitioners from the Andrew Johnson National Park in Greeneville, Tennessee. On Thursday, March 23, Kendra Hinkle will speak about First Lady Eliza Johnson. On Thursday, April 20, Stephanie Steinhurst will share information on the Alaska Purchase, and on Thursday, May 25, Andrea Nott will showcase the slave narratives of Rachel Kennedy and Viney Gahagan Brown.

Kendra is the curator for the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site. Stephanie is the Chief of Interpretation and Education for the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and Andrea has done independent research with the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site on various topics including slavery.

2017 should be an exciting year for the Chester Inn. Lead Docent Joe Spiker reports that the museum exhibit space will be

expanded and that exhibits will be changed out about every six weeks. This will allow repeat visitors to come and discover new artifacts and learn new stories about Jonesborough's past.

Four topical exhibits currently are planned for the year, each one focusing on the history of a significant Jonesborough building. The first exhibit will provide information on the National Bank Building which now houses the Washington County Archives.



*Expect New Exhibits at the Chester Inn
Museum for 2017*



Heritage Alliance Annual Meeting Held February 16



Heritage Alliance Annual Meeting, 2017

The Heritage Alliance held its 2017 Annual Meeting on February 16 at the Jonesborough Visitor's Center. About 100 members were present for the meeting and dinner.

New board members were elected and second term board members were recognized. Joe Spiker, the new lead Docent at the Chester Inn, described upcoming programs for 2017. Deborah Montanti discussed several upcoming HA projects in Jonesborough (Chucky Depot, Jackson Theatre and Christopher Taylor Cabin). Gordon Edwards described cemetery projects from 2016, and Bob Dunn talked about the upcoming town tour season. Anne G'Fellers-Mason and Joel Van Eaton finished off the evening with a scene from Anne's play "With These Hands."

Walking Tours for 2017 to Offer New Themes and Options

Historic Walking Tours in downtown Jonesborough resumed in March. For 2017, some exciting new tour options will be available.

The first addition, the **Jonesborough Mythbusting Tour** will be offered on April Fool's Day. While Heritage Alliance Tour Guides pride themselves on being factual regarding the information they present, this special tour provides an opportunity to explore the folklore and legends that also have become a part of Jonesborough's history. The Jonesborough Mythbusting Tour will be available throughout the year in conjunction with special events, like Jonesborough Days and the Storytelling Festival. Just how outrageous is Jonesborough's history? Come along and find out!

The Historic Walking Tours have expanded times this year, and will also include a stop at the Eureka Inn with an opportunity to take a tour of the historic hotel. Tour goers will receive a discount on their next stay at the Eureka Inn.

Weekly Old Jonesborough Cemetery tours will begin again on Memorial Day Weekend and will continue through the end of October. You may see a character or two from "A Spot On the Hill" pop up on the cemetery tours.



Anne Mason sharing Jonesborough's History, photo courtesy of Tom Pardue



New Washington County Archives Building to be Dedicated



County Archivist Ned Irwin and Assistant Archivist Donna Cox Briggs in front of the New Washington County Archives Building

The new Washington County Archives will formally be dedicated on April 1 between 2 and 4 p.m. The public is invited to the ceremony, to be held at the International Storytelling Center. The new location is the former home of the National Bank Building at 103 West Main Street, constructed in 1915.

The Records Management and Archives Department was established by Washington County in 2011. Records span from 1771 to the mid twentieth century.

County Archivist Ned Irwin

says they are looking forward to being open... "Since last July we've received inquiries from 28 different states seeking information on Washington County records." They will also soon be developing a website to provide user information on the records present in the archive.

There are lots of volunteer opportunities available at the archives, from assisting visitors to filing and processing records. If you are interested in assisting them, please contact Ned Irwin at: 423-753-0393, or email him at nirwin@washingtoncountyttn.org.

Tusculum College Students Provide Archival Assistance

In 2015, seven boxes of records from the Telford Agriculture Manufacturing Co. dating from 1881-1889 were donated to the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum and Archives by Karen Maloney (in memory of W. A. Maloney). In fall of 2016, Tusculum College students in the Archival Collections Class organized and archived these records. The collection is available for research.

When the railroad came to Washington County in 1858, it opened up new possibilities for economic development. George Telford (also known as Colonel Telford due to his rank in the Tennessee Militia during the Civil War) took advantage of this access to new markets by starting the Telford Agricultural Manufacturing Company in 1876. The plant consisted of a large three-story building and attached foundry on the west side of Telford.

The company produced agricultural implements, stoves, and iron hollowware. Products were sold in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, North Carolina, Georgia, and throughout Tennessee. In 1890 the business failed and the site was sold - it continued operation a few more years as the Eureka Roller Mill.

The students also processed a collection of Schubert Club records that once belonged

to Mrs. Dorothy Whitlock Wood. The students are still in the process of assisting with the Heritage Alliance's large collection of *Herald & Tribune* newspapers that date from the late 1800s. They have been studying the papers for ads, local news stories, political cartoons, and more. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Museum Studies program at Tusculum.



Tusculum students returning the records



2016 Served Up Another Successful Progressive Dinner

The 2016 Progressive Dinner took place on December 3. Participants visited four venues in historic Jonesborough to partake of gourmet holiday cuisine and enjoy live music.

The evening started with hors d'oeuvres and Poinsettia Punch at the Gammon/Moss House, with violin music provided by Millicent Runnels.

At the Fink/Langley House, diners partook of Tomato Bisque Soup complements of the Boone Street Market, with music by Don and Deb Burger.

The third, entrée course was served at the McKinney Center, where diners enjoyed Chicken Cordon Bleu with Roasted Sweet Potato Mash from Main Street Catering. The musical guests were the Thistle Dew band.

Diners completed their evening at the Peoples/Knight Home where they enjoyed Chocolate Irish Cream Cake, to the tunes of the Jonesborough Novelty Band.

Many thanks go out to our Sponsors and hardworking Volunteers who made the event possible: First TN Bank of Jonesborough, Celebrate!, Food City of Jonesborough, Lowes of Jonesborough, the Town of Jonesborough, Main Street Catering, and the Boone Street Market. Also thanks to our gracious homeowners/hosts for a wonderful evening. This year's Progressive Dinner will mark the 40th Anniversary, so stay tuned for more details!



Hors d'Oeuvres Crew Ready for Service



Entrees at the McKinney Center



Music by Millicent



Tasty Desserts

Photos courtesy of Charlie Mauk of the Herald & Tribune



Fannie Snow's Story

A notable past resident of Jonesborough is Fannie E. Snow, who was born here in 1869. Her school career began at the Warner Institute (the large, brick structure beside the Old Jonesborough Cemetery). It was originally built in the 1850s to house the Holston Baptist Female Institute. After the Civil War, it was purchased by Yardley Warner of the Friends Freedmen's Association and became a school for African Americans.

Following her time at the Warner Institute, Miss Snow attended Fisk University in Nashville. Fisk was the first American university to offer a liberal arts education to "young women and

men irrespective of color." A large part of Fisk University's history is the Fisk Jubilee Singers, whose efforts helped to save the school during the 1870s. Fannie was a member of the singing group. She graduated from the university in 1893. While Fannie enjoyed singing, her passion was teaching, and she put that passion to good use, spending 46 years as a teacher in Evansville, Indiana. The *Fisk Herald* kept up with her, and a former teacher wrote of her, "There was Fannie Snow, for many years a student, now a respected teacher in the Evansville public schools." Her great niece, Ruth Gillespie, recalls that her aunt would come to Jonesborough in the summer when school was not in session.

Miss Fannie E. Snow taught penmanship and English for many years at Lincoln Elementary School, and then at Governor's Street School. When she retired from teaching in 1941, she had never missed a day of school. Her longest absence was only two hours. In addition to being a teacher, Fannie was also a Girl Scout troop leader. She passed away on February 19, 1959, and is interred in Indiana.

Miss Snow was a firm believer in the power of



Miss Fannie E. Snow in Her Later Years

English, and she felt like every teacher, regardless of the subject taught, should also teach English. It is fitting that her memory lives on today in the bookcase and set of Shakespeare books that reside in her niece Ruth Gillespie's Johnson City home. Fannie's passion for teaching runs in the family's blood, as Ruth Gillespie's granddaughter Anna Denise Neal is an assistant principal at Vine Middle Magnet School in Knoxville.

Story by Anne G'Fellers-Mason. Information provided by Adam Dickson, Ruth Gillespie and her family, Fisk University, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk News Publications for the information from the Fisk Herald and for the photograph of the Fisk Jubilee Singers.



Fisk University Singers, 1891-1892. Fannie Snow is seated in front.



Volunteer Spotlight



Our spotlight this issue shines on Charlene Cleveland. She has volunteered with the Heritage Alliance since 2011 and is one of the original docents at the Chester Inn State Historic Site since the Museum opened its doors in 2011.

Charlene and her husband David moved to Jonesborough in 2008 from Southern California. With degrees in Biology and English, Charlene worked in research and then education prior to her retirement.

Since arriving in Jonesborough, she has been active in several volunteer organizations. According to Charlene, "My favorite thing about working at the Chester Inn is taking people upstairs and showing visitors the restored rooms - I enjoy the looks on their faces - I'm so proud and pleased to be a part of that."

Calendar of Events

- **Chester Inn Museum:** March-April open Mon, Fri, & Sat from 11-6 and Sun from 1-5, May-Oct open Mon, Wed-Sat from 11-6, and Sun from 1-5
- **Historic Walking Tours:** March-April at 1:00 on Mon, Fri & Sat, May-October at 1:00 on Mon, Fri & Sat and at 2:00 on Sun, June-Sept 7:00 p.m. evening walking tour, tickets \$5 at the Chester Inn Museum
- **Jonesborough Mythbusting Tour:** April 1 at 1:00 p.m., tickets \$5 at the Chester Inn Museum
- **History Happy Hour:** March 23 at 6:30 First Lady Eliza Johnson, April 20 at 6:30 the Alaska purchase, May 25 at 6:30 the slave narratives of Rachel Kennedy and Viney Gahagan Brown. Join us at the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum!
- **Architectural Salvage Warehouse:** Reopens for Sat hours on April 1. Open the first and third Sat of the month from 8-11
- **Jonesborough Senior Center History Talks:** March 20 at 1:30 Julia Bullard Nelson, April 17 at 1:30 Rhea Wells Author and Illustrator
- **Yarn Exchange Radio Show:** March 27 at 7:00 Strong Women of Jonesborough, April 24 at 7:00 Valiant Volunteers, May 22 at 7:00 Stories of Local Veterans, June 26 at 7:00 Unique Food of Appalachia

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From the Director's Desk

I recently saw archives defined as “a testament to many lives lived and the complexity of the way we move forward.” (Sara Sheridan). I really like that definition because it gets to the meat closest to the bone. Collections, be they in the Washington County Archives, The Jonesborough/Washington County Library or any of the various museums operated by the Heritage Alliance, provide the public with a means for engaging with history. They help us see ourselves in clearer focus, and they provide countless hours of fascination as we immerse our imaginations in the stories of those who have gone before.

On Saturday, April 1st, we will celebrate the Grand Opening of the Washington County Department of Records Management and Archives by

dedicating the Archives Building. Hosted by the Washington County Public Records Committee and the Friends of the Washington County TN Archives, the afternoon will feature light refreshments and an escorted tour of the facility. This is a day so many of us have looked forward to for years.

To celebrate, the Chester Inn Museum and State Historic Site is featuring a small collection of documents on loan from the Archives. Hidden away for years in less than perfect environmental conditions, this small fraction of the Archives' treasures are indeed testimonies to the power of history on the local level.

History is personal, but sometimes those personal stories become more than stories, they become legends. They become myths. Debuting at 1 pm on April 1st, our first ever “April Fools Tour” will be an interactive myth busting experience. For

many years, I made it my personal mission to put the history back in Jonesborough's storied past. With this new tour, it is time to test the limits...just how outrageous is Jonesborough's history?

Stop by and visit the Archives, take a tour and be sure to check out the new exhibits and programs at the Chester Inn Museum and State Historic Site this spring. There's a lot going on in Downtown Jonesborough!

ARCHIVE



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