



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

Volume 15, Number 4

Fall 2016

Main Street Tours Offer a Window to View Jonesborough's History



Heritage Alliance Tour Guides for 2016: Mary Noel, Bob Dunn, Anne G'Fellers-Mason, Joel Van Eaton, and Sam Dalton

Historical Tours of downtown Jonesborough offer one of the best opportunities for the Heritage Alliance to reach out to town residents and visitors. During the 2016 season, five weekly tours were offered - the most ever! For the first time this year all tour guides dressed in period clothing spanning more than a century of the town's past. These five Heritage Alliance tour guides offered participants a glimpse into Jonesborough's past:

Mary Noel's clothing represents the earliest era of Jonesborough, from about 1780. It's made of the

practical cotton that would have been worn by someone working about the house, barnyard or garden.

Bob Dunn is wearing the wool coat and vest of a middle class Jonesborough merchant from the Victorian era. He would have welcomed you into his general merchandise store to buy items from around the world, delivered to him daily by the railroad.

Anne G'Fellers-Mason wears a fine dress that would be owned by an upper class woman of the 1880's or 90's - for shopping or

entertaining in her fine Victorian residence.

Joel Van Eaton wears the suit of a middle class businessman from the early 1900's. He would be found selling his wares to the ladies and gentlemen of the town.

Sam Dalton wears the clothing of an early 1900's merchant who would welcome you into his store for groceries or dry goods.

Town tours continue through December on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons.



Heritage Alliance Provides Interpretive Programs at Rye Cove Intermediate School

Rye Cove Intermediate School is located in Scott County, Virginia - it includes 5th-7th grades and is home to 176 students. Thanks to a grant from the Mooneyham Foundation, the Heritage alliance has provided students with a series of interpretive programs regarding local history.

Students have been able to handle artifacts from the Heritage Alliance archives and then try to guess how they originally were used. These items included everything from a pot scrubber, a pineapple eye



snipper to a “portable” x-ray machine.

Scott County is located in an area of Southwest Virginia that has been heavily impacted by the decline of the coal and tobacco industries. Local leaders increasingly are looking to tourism - based on the area’s natural beauty and it’s strong cultural history - as a key part of its economic future .

Programs like this help to put these future leaders in touch with their local heritage. This should make them better able to appreciate, protect and find ways to promote this unique local resource.



Anne G'Fellers-Mason introduced Rye Cove students to artifacts from the Heritage Alliance's collection.





Chester Inn Docent, Joe Spiker

Meet the Heritage Alliance's Newest Employee, Joe Spiker

The new face at the Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum belongs to Joe Spiker, who was hired in August to be the Lead Docent, as well as assisting with other Heritage Alliance activities.

Joe is a native of the Tri-Cities area. He received his BA and MA in History from East Tennessee State University. Besides his work at the Chester Inn, Joe is also an Adjunct Professor of History, teaching courses at ETSU and Walter State Community College. His family includes wife Lindsay and two daughters, Ripley and Jillian.

Regarding his new job, Joe says, "so far I've really enjoyed being able to talk to the people who visit the Chester Inn, people who are really interested in history."

A Spot on the Hill Returned for Fall 2016

Four performances of the updated version of "A Spot on the Hill" were presented in October to sold out crowds for every performance, which exceeded expectations.

All new characters were presented in this year's play. The play's location allowed for a flexible audience size of between 20 to 60-plus to comfortably view the performance.

"We learn something every year from ASOH, and we always look forward to taking that knowledge and enhancing the production the year after," said Anne-G'Fellers Mason, the show's creator.

All proceeds from the production assist with Jonesborough cemetery preservation.



Cast of "A Spot on the Hill," 2016





Volunteer Spotlight: Joel Van Eaton

Joel Van Eaton is the Heritage Alliance's newest town tour guide in training. He has lived in the Tri-Cities area for 21 plus years and works as a Registered Nurse Consultant for a local nursing home.

Joel has a degree in theater and has performed on the Jonesborough Yarn Exchange for the past six years. His

acting roles with the Heritage Alliance have included the summer performance of "With these Hands" and fall performances of "A Spot on the Hill."

Joel says "I enjoy being with people. The history I've learned about Jonesborough made me want to be a part of it by serving as a tour guide."

Heritage Alliance Project Updates:

- Reconstruction of the Chuckey train depot building is almost complete and work on exhibits has begun. A 20th century caboose has been put into place beside the depot.
- In November the Chester Inn will be hosting a new exhibit of artifacts from the Dosser family, which operated the Dosser Department Stores in Jonesborough, and in Johnson City for most of the 1900's.
- The exhibit includes family photos, hats, and will include information & artifacts from other Jonesborough merchants.
- The 39th Annual Progressive Dinner will take place on Dec.3 this year — there are still tickets available for the 8:04 seating!
- The Chester Inn Museum participated in Jonesborough's Haunts and Happenings. More than 2100 local goblins and their parents came by for treats.
- The Chester Inn Museum and Town Tours will be going to their fall/winter schedule in November. Check the website for current schedules and holiday closures.
- After a year of construction on Jonesborough's East Main Street, the Heritage Alliance's Cemetery Tours resumed in Sept/Oct with great success, and will return in 2017.

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

Historic Embree House
Bed & Breakfast
142 Matthew Mills Road
Telford, TN
423.913.3812
www.embreefarm.com

Herald & Tribune
702 West Jackson Blvd
Jonesborough, TN
423-753-3136
www.heraldandtribune.com

The Law Offices of
Mark D. Edmonds
125 E Main St
Jonesborough, TN
423.753.8696



WA County Historical Association Holds Banquet

On November 4th, the Washington County Historical Association held its annual banquet. The evening included the presentation of their Award of Merit to Heritage Alliance volunteer Gordon Edwards, honoring him for his tireless efforts in researching, recording and restoring cemeteries in Washington and adjacent counties. Gordon also takes the lead in providing the public tours of Jonesborough's historic cemeteries.



Before and After: Charlotte Dillworth's marker in the Rocky Hill Cemetery, one of the many markers that Gordon has worked to preserve and restore throughout the region.

"Small Business Saturday" Returns For the Holidays and HA Now Participates in "Amazon Smile"



The holidays in downtown Jonesborough (photo from Guestquest Tennessee)

Small Business Saturday returns to Jonesborough on November 26th. This annual event encourages shoppers to shop locally and support hometown merchants. Santa will be there in his sleigh for pictures and will be accepting new or gently used toys for area children in need. Shop for those on your list! There will be free gift wrapping in the Storytelling Center Gift Shop for purchases made in downtown Jonesborough.

The Heritage Alliance will be getting into the spirit as well - offering additional Town Tours and extended hours at the Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum.

The HA is now participating in online retailer Amazon's program called "Amazon Smile." you can designate a non-profit like the HA, and a percentage of your purchases go to that organization - at no additional cost to you.

You can sign up at:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1502600>.



Calendar of Events

- **Chester Inn Museum:** Mon, Fri, Sat 11-6, Sun 1-5
- **Town Tours:** Mon, Fri, & Sat at 1:00, Sun at 2:00
- **Senior Center Programs:** Nov 21 at 1:30 "You Can Hang A Man from Any Tree"
Dec 19 at 1:30 Christmas Games & Gifts
- **Nov 26:** Small Business Saturday, FREE Town Tours & extended hours at the Chester Inn Museum.
- **Dec 3:** 39th Annual Progressive Dinner tickets still available, call 753-1010 to get your tickets today!
- **Dec 11:** Holiday Tour & Tea, from 2-6, the Chester Inn Museum will be a stop!
- **Dec 17:** Christmas Church Stroll from 11-3, visit the local churches, learn their history, and enjoy some lovely music.



Gordon Edwards with his Award of Merit.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Save the Date!

HA's Annual Meeting set for February 16

The Annual Meeting for the Heritage Alliance will take place on Thursday, February 16th at 6:30. It will be held at the Jonesborough Visitor's Center.

Come enjoy the best potluck as we share successes and lessons from 2016 and look ahead to 2017!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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

Franklin House Bed & Breakfast
116 Franklin Avenue
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-753-3819
www.franklinhousebb.com

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

SonGear: A Christian Lifestyle Company
Jack Van Zandt, CustomermServant
423.948.0237
www.songear.com





From the Director's Desk

Have you noticed just how much is happening on Main Street?

For such a small town, we have a BIG agenda! Working together has always been the Jonesborough way and from the evidence of this past year....it's a winning way.

JAMSA (The Jonesborough Area Merchants and Service Association) has really stepped up to the plate, with great programming that gets folks from one end of Main Street to the other. Main Street Jonesborough's promotional efforts, combined with its educational offerings are having a real impact. And who can look at the gateway to the district at the corner of Fox and Main and not be impressed!

The McKinney Center for the Arts at Booker T. Washington School is now 200 students strong and growing every day. Their

classes and exhibitions of local artists help secure Jonesborough's reputation as the home for artistic expression and celebration of the arts throughout the region. And the newest offering to emerge on the streets of Jonesborough is very much still in its infancy, but holds great promise. Hands-On Jonesborough, a community inspired effort, offers everyone on the streets an experience to take home, a memory to make, as well as a fun way to explore all Jonesborough has to offer.

The Chester Inn, State Historic Site & Museum, of course, has a huge presence on Main Street. Attendance this year has already set a record and that is even with our being closed for four weeks in the Spring! Our Guided Walking Tours have taken on such a following (get it...following?) we have had to add both evening and Sunday afternoons to the mix! Clearly, when we all work together, great things happen!

And now, it looks like we have a way forward with the Christopher Taylor House! Having determined that restoring the structure in its current location is the right thing to do, the Town of Jonesborough has encouraged us in our efforts. We are pursuing both strategies and funding that will enable us to return the Christopher Taylor House to its original glory. I am pleased to announce that we have received a very generous donation from the Hawkins family to kick off the Campaign for the Cabin! We hope this donation will be the catalyst that generates many more. A restored Christopher Taylor House will have a tremendous presence on Main Street. We envision working with all our partners to bring vibrancy and creativity back to Christopher Taylor Park!

It is still early days yet and we are still working up the plan, but we'll keep you posted!





212 East Sabin Dr.
Jonesborough, TN 37659

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Bill Stover, Johnson City
Vice-President: Terry Countermine, Jonesborough
Secretary: Patricia Stern, Telford
Treasurer: Pat Wolfe, Telford
Bill Alton, Johnson City
Jules Corriere, Jonesborough
Gordon Edwards, Jonesborough
Joe Grandy, Jonesborough
Tom Krieger, Jonesborough
Jimmy Rhein, Jonesborough
Nansee Williams, Jonesborough

HA Office Phone: 423-753-9580
Chester Inn Museum: 423-753-4580
www.heritageall.org
info@heritageall.org



Newsletter printed courtesy
of the Historic Jonesborough
Visitor's Center and the
Town of Jonesborough.

Executive Director: Deborah Montanti
dmontanti@heritageall.org
Special Projects Coordinator: Anne
G'Fellers-Mason
amason@heritageall.org
Chester Inn Museum: Joe Spiker
chesterinn@heritageall.org
Oak Hill School: Marjorie Shaefer and
Deanna Carey



*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!

Name: _____	Membership Level	Join a Circle!
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> General \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer \$100
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin \$250
Email: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage \$500
		<input type="checkbox"/> Founders \$1000

Memberships and donations to the Heritage Alliance are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. If you have questions concerning your contribution to the Alliance, please consult your tax advisor. No goods and/or services have been provided to the donor by the Heritage Alliance in consideration of this donation and membership.

Go online to www.heritageall.org and join via PayPal
or mail checks to Heritage Alliance 212 E. Sabin Dr.
Jonesborough, TN 37659