



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

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Spring 2018

"With These Hands" to Return with Summer Performances

"With These Hands" an original play by the Heritage Alliance's Anne G'Fellers Mason, returns for new performances this summer. It originally was staged in 2016.

Shows will held be in the McKinney Center. There will be three performances, one on Friday, Aug 3, and two on Saturday, Aug 4. The program is a joint fundraiser between the Heritage Alliance and the McKinney Center.

Most of the original cast is returning for this summer's performances. "We wanted to

do it on a full stage this time so that we could incorporate all the special effect elements we weren't able to earlier when it was performed outdoors," said Anne G'Fellers Mason.

The play brings stories of Jonesborough's past to life... Can two families on opposing sides of the Civil War share the same house? Can a former Southern belle accept help from a Freedman? How did the railroad impact the lives of local people, and what exactly is "historic" spit? Tickets are available now at 423.753.1010.



A scene from "With These Hands" (photo by Mountain Photographics, Inc.)



Anne G'Fellers Mason (top) and Joe Spiker (bottom) receive awards from East TN Historical Society

Heritage Alliance Receives Awards

The Heritage Alliance received two Awards of Distinction from the East Tennessee Historical Society at their Annual Meeting on May 1 in Knoxville. The Society's Awards of Excellence program annually recognizes individuals and organizations for significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, and interpretation of the region's history.

The Heritage Alliance won a 2018 Award of Distinction for the interactive, murder mystery "Legs In a Barrel." The play, which was based on an actual murder that took

place in Jonesborough, was a fundraiser for the Heritage Alliance's educational programs.

The Chester Inn Museum received a 2018 Award of Distinction for the History Happy Hour program. HHH offers the public an opportunity to learn more about local history, and continues the Chester Inn's longtime role as a community meeting place. HHH also received an Award of Excellence from the Tennessee Association of Museums. Please congratulate the Heritage Alliance crew for receiving these honors!



“Jammin at the Cabin” Thursdays this Summer to Benefit Christopher Taylor House

The Heritage Alliance and Town of Jonesborough will be hosting an old-time and bluegrass music jam session every first Thursday of the month, May through September, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The jam session will be held on the front lawn of the Christopher Taylor House.

Both musicians and spectators are invited. There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted. All proceeds will go toward the restoration of the Christopher Taylor House.

Bring a lawn chair and picnic and join us!



History Happy Hour Schedule

History Happy Hour returned this past March to begin another season of interesting programs. Here's what's on tap for this summer:

June 21: Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, “The Navajo Treaty of 1868”

July 19: Curtis Buchanan, “Windsor Chair Making”

August 16: Jennifer Bauer, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Site, “Sabine Hill Restoration”

September 20: Donna Briggs, “From the Washington County Archives”

October 18: Rene Rodgers, Birthplace of Country Music Museum, “The 1927 Bristol Recordings”

November 15: Dr. Brenda G'Fellers & Kristin Pearson, “Searching for Rhea Wells”

The Heritage Alliance sincerely appreciates Main Street Café and Catering's assistance with our Visitor's Count program!



Christopher Taylor House Gets Grant Funding

The Heritage Alliance has received a \$7,000 grant from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to assist in completing repairs to the roof of the Christopher Taylor House. The DAR Special Projects Grant program gives financial support to projects in local communities that promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. The Christopher Taylor House was the only historic preservation grant awarded in Tennessee this year.

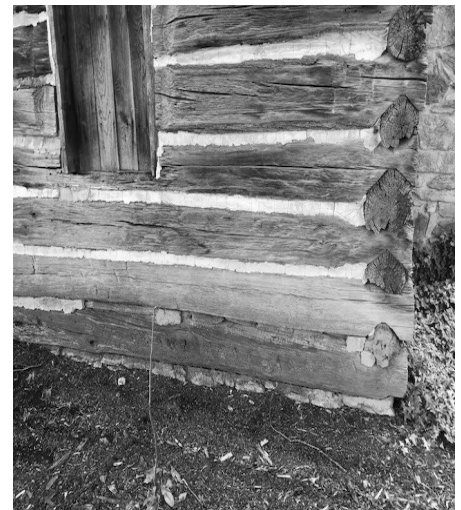
The house was built around 1777 and originally stood about two miles west of Jonesborough. Christopher Taylor and his family lived in the home. It is considered one of the best remaining examples of early pioneer architecture in Northeast Tennessee. Its V-notched log construction illustrates how early settlers made use of available resources and technologies (using logs to construct houses prior to the availability of lumber from sawmills). When viewed in the context of the rest of the Historic District, the Christopher Taylor House helps to illustrate the evolution of the area's architecture from earliest European settlement through the mid twentieth century.

Years of deferred maintenance to the structure have resulted in

numerous needed repairs. The Heritage Alliance is seeking additional funding to assist with the completion of these repairs. Once key projects have been completed, a cyclical maintenance program, administered by the Heritage Alliance in cooperation with the Town of Jonesborough, will ensure a long future for this irreplaceable historic resource. Funding for this project was made possible through the State of Franklin Chapter, National Daughters of the American Revolution.



V-notched wall logs.



Chinking missing from between logs.



Deteriorated sill log in need of repair.



Homeschool Day Provides Varied Activities

While special programs have been offered to school groups for several years, May 18 was the first time the Heritage Alliance offered a day just for homeschoolers and their families. A total of 64 students participated, an impressive number given the uncertain weather that Friday.

Activities included visiting Oak Hill School, a hands-on artifact activity in the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum, activities at the Chuckey Depot Museum, Town Tours, a Storyteller in the Christopher Taylor House, an Archeology excavation, and a primary source activity regarding the Cholera Epidemic of 1873. Students could also do a scavenger hunt in the Chester Inn Museum and tour the building.

“We had a great time at Homeschool day!,” one family shared with us. “We learned a lot! My oldest son was excited to come home and tell the rest of our family that he now knows what those ‘stairs to nowhere’ (aka the upping blocks) on the sidewalk were once used for.”

Another family commented, “We had such a fun time at Homeschool Day! It was so amazing that we want to come back for the August one and do what was missed!”

The second Homeschool Day is planned for August 10. Registration will begin in mid-June, keep an eye on www.heritageall.org for more details. A lot of the activities fill up quickly!



*Learning about artifacts at the Jonesborough/
Washington County History Museum*



*Kids engage in some “old school” games with Schoolmarm
Miller at Oak Hill School*

Salvage Warehouse Needs Your Help!

The Heritage Alliance’s Salvage Warehouse is in need of donations. If you, or a friend or neighbor, is doing renovations and has historical, architectural items that can be donated, please contact us. Pick-up of items usually is available.



Jonesborough Days Festival is Coming Soon!

Jonesborough Days are fast approaching on June 29-July 1. The Chester Inn Museum will be open from 11-7 on Friday and Saturday and 12-7 that Sunday.

We will be offering additional tours and guests that visit all three days will have a chance to take a Town Tour, Old Jonesborough Cemetery Tour, a Railroad Tour, and a Mythbusting Tour. Combination ticket options will be available again this year.

At Discovery Park, we'll have Schoolmarm Miller giving quill pen lessons again in the outdoor



Oak Hill School on Friday and Saturday, and have archaeologists doing excavations on Friday. We'll also have Heritage Games in the park all weekend.

You may want to watch for some familiar, tour guide faces in the Jonesborough Days parade. We hope to see you out and about during the Festival.

The Inns of Yesteryear: Hospitality in Washington County (part one)

Jonesborough has long been known for its hospitality, from the Chester Inn to the Mansion House, the Washington Hotel, and the Eureka Inn. As a major thorough fare and a County seat, there have always been plenty of people stopping in Tennessee's oldest town.

The area's history of hospitality isn't regulated to Main Street, of course. There were a multitude of inns, ordinaries, and taverns throughout Washington County. Christopher Taylor is said to have accommodated guests in his house on the old stage road. Land surveyor James Stuart built his home Buckhorn on the same road and is also said to have welcomed

travelers in need of a night's respite. Buckhorn would later become home to local politician and judge T.A.R. Nelson. The house still stands today and is currently for sale.

In the nearby community of Broylesville, Rosanna and Adam Broyles purchased a home at the turn of the 19th century and transformed the structure into the Broylesville Inn. Broylesville was founded in the late 1700s when Nicholas, Mathias, and Cyrus Broyles settled in the area. The Broylesville Inn operated for many years, and until its destruction by fire in the early 21st century, it was the oldest extant structure in the community.

Not as well known as the Broylesville Inn, the Rocky Hill Inn was located in the Oakland community between Leesburg and Limestone. The building dated to the late 1700s, and it was operated from 1790-1850 by Moses Carson and his son Moses W. Carson. The Inn was torn down in the 1940s.

In the nearby community of Leesburg, the DeVault family transformed their home into the DeVault Tavern, a stagecoach stop between Abingdon, Virginia, and Knoxville, Tennessee. For more information on the DeVault Tavern and the other inns of Washington County, check out our next edition of *The Link*.



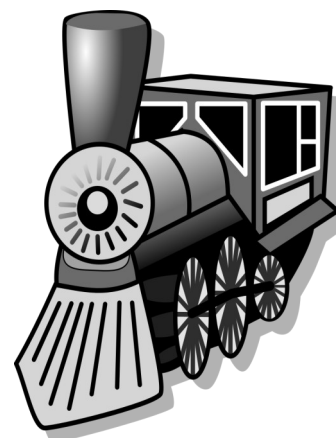
Take a New Mythbusting Tour or a Railroad Tour

There's a new Mythbusting Tour with all new myths and weird history to share on the streets of Jonesborough. Join us on the first Saturday of the month at 1:00, and the second Saturday of the month at 2:30. What is the truth about these tales?

- Was Jonesborough the model of temperance during prohibition?
- What U.S. President was threatened with tarring and feathering during a stay in town?
- What is the tragic tale of James Baxter Bean?

Also, the Railroad-themed tours will be presented the fourth Saturday of the month at 2:30. Learn about:

- How hard did the residents of Washington County fight to get the railroad to come through East Tennessee?
- What was the biggest export from Washington County in the late 1800s?
- How did the railroad permanently change the design of Main Street, Jonesborough?



Calendar of Events

- **Old Jonesborough Cemetery Tour** is back at 2:30 on the 1st and 3rd Sat of month
- **Architectural Salvage Warehouse** open from 8-12 on 1st and 3rd Sat of month
- **Heritage Alliance at Senior Center** at 10:00 a.m. June 18, July 16, Aug 20, Sept 17
- **Rug Hooking** at Christopher Taylor House 10:00-12:00 on June 16
- **Pottery** at Christopher Taylor House from 11-3 with Barbara Cara on June 23
- **Storytelling** at Christopher Taylor House from 11-3 on July 14 & 28
- **With These Hands** Aug 3 & 4, tickets available online at Jonesborough.com/tickets

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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

"Every collaboration with a new person is like when you take a bin of Legos and dump them on the floor. All of the pieces to work with are right there. A floor full of Legos is full of possibilities."

Ricky Reed

Jonesborough is like a floor full of Legos...

Collaboration is key to most great success stories and it is certainly the key to our work in Jonesborough. Over the years we have benefitted from some extraordinary partnerships. Most recently, our partnership with the McKinney Center and the Jonesborough/Washington County Library resulted in the first ever exhibition of an unsung Jonesborough gem, writer and children's book illustrator Rhea Wells.

Certainly, the Chuckey Depot is an exceptional example of collaboration. This relocated and

beautifully reconstructed building owes its very existence to a public private partnership between the Town of Jonesborough, the Heritage Alliance and the Watauga Valley Historic Railroad Society. We continue to be very involved with the Chuckey, helping to administer, train, research and prepare exhibitions.

As related elsewhere in this edition of *The Link*, we have received a grant for \$7000 to assist in re-roofing the Christopher Taylor House. The grant is matched by the Town of Jonesborough and is yet another example of how collaboration works for the good of the community. The funds will be used for a historically accurate shake roof. Other maintenance projects, such as replacing the chinking and daubing, will follow. We will create a cyclical maintenance plan to insure the stability of the structure for the long term. Working together, we will be able to save this resource and use it to showcase the depth and breadth of talent in our area.

The Christopher Taylor House will then come full circle, providing space for crafters and artisans to showcase their talents, for musicians to perform and have fun, and for historians and preservationists to educate and demonstrate. Interested in being a part of this project? Give us a call or drop by the Chester Inn with your contact information. Already, the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild has committed to sharing stories in the cabin and Jonesborough potter Barb Cara has committed to demonstrating her skill.

And while we are on the subject of collaboration, be sure to get your tickets for our joint fundraiser with the McKinney Center. This multi-media, original theatrical performance is written by Anne G'Fellers Mason and directed by Jules Corriere. It stars an all-volunteer cast of incredible performers who are anxious to share the time and talent for two of the hardest working educational non-profits out there.

Come help us put the pieces together!

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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!

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