



# The Link



*preserving our heritage and building a future together*

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Summer 2018

## **Telford House Still Stands Proudly**

Just outside of Broylesville, Tennessee stands a nearly forgotten piece of early Tennessee history. About 1815, this two-story Federal style brick house was built by Thomas Telford (1766-1816) and his wife Miriam (1771-1839), who moved to this region from the Charleston, South Carolina area in the early years of the nineteenth century.

The house was inherited by his son George Telford (1803-1887), who lived there with his wife Amanda (1807-1876) and raised their twelve daughters. George added Victorian porches and trim to the house.

The Victorian trim was removed by the Sharp family that bought the home in 1970, wanting to return the house to its more original Federal era appearance. The house is part of the National Register's Broylesville Historic District.

George served as a Colonel, commanding the 130th TN Militia beginning in 1833. He later became a state senator representing Washington and



*Front Elevation of the ca. 1815 House that was home to Colonel Telford and Family*

adjacent counties.

In 1858, George donated four acres for construction of railroad facilities near his house. In honor of his donation (and some sources say to allow his name to live on since he had no male heirs), the town of Milford was renamed "Telford Depot," later changed to just "Telford."

In addition to farming, in 1876 George Telford built the Telford Agricultural Manufacturing Company (TAMC) on the west end of Telford. The company made iron agricultural

implements and stoves. Besides Tennessee, products were shipped to markets in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, North Carolina, and Georgia.

The TAMC building was sold in 1894 and became the Eureka Roller Mill, which operated until 1969. It continued to be used by several different enterprises up into the 1990's. The mill stood abandoned for several years, and the building burned in 2002.

Both generations of the Telford family are buried in the Salem Cemetery at Washington College.



## New Exhibits at Area Museums for Late Summer / Fall



*1914 Boy Scout Hatchet*

Two new exhibits have opened at the Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum and the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum.

At the Chester Inn, Joe has just completed an exhibit titled "The Great Outdoors" which explores camping equipment, advertising and outdoor activities in Northeast Tennessee from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It includes a Boy Scout hatchet featured in the 1914 Abercrombie and Fitch catalogue as well as other interesting artifacts.



*Early Washing Machine Ad*

At the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum, an exhibit has also opened called "Home: A Factory Managed By Women," which features some of the HA's larger artifacts like a cream separator, and a wooden washing machine. It focuses on how the mechanization of household work both helped and hindered women of this era. These machines saved time, but they also added more complexity to a woman's plate. The increased productivity meant that she could start to do more than just housekeeping - to take paying jobs in sewing, washing, butter production, and much more.

## History Happy Hour Fall Schedule

History Happy Hour continues this fall! A few more opportunities exist to attend some special programs on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the International Storytelling Center.

September 20:

Donna Briggs: "The Last Word: Wills From the Washington County Archives"

October 18:

Rene Rodgers, Birthplace of Country Music Museum: "The 1927 Bristol Recording Sessions"

November 15:

Jennifer Bauer-Sycamore Shoals: "Sabine Hill Restoration"

### Docents Needed!

If you'd like to become a Chuckey Depot Museum docent, training will be offered at the Chuckey Depot, September 22 at 9:00 a.m.

### Heads Up!

The 2019 Heritage Alliance annual meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7.



## Christopher Taylor House Update

The Christopher Taylor House has had a busy summer. It has been consistently open on the weekends with storytellers, potters, crafters, and more. The last musical jam session of the season will be Thursday, Sept 6 from 6:30-8:30.



## Colors of Christmas Announcement!

**MEMBERS, you can purchase your Colors of Christmas: Historic Tour and Dinner Tickets starting Monday, September 3!**

***This elegant fundraiser will be held on Sat, Dec 1 with two seating times at 4:30 & 7:00. For full details, check your email or mailbox.***

***This offer is only for YOU. Tickets become available to the public on Sept 14. You have to call the Visitor's Center at 423-753-1010 to reserve!***



## "A Spot on the Hill" Returning for Fall



*Cast of "A Spot on the Hill" in 2016, photo by Charlie Mauk*

The audience favorite "A Spot on the Hill" will be returning to the Old Jonesborough Cemetery. The dates and times for the play are 6:30 on Oct. 19, 2:30 and 6:30 on Oct. 20, 6:30 on Oct. 26, and 2:30 on Oct 27. There will be one indoor performance at the Jonesborough/Washington

County History Museum on Oct. 20 at 2:30.

The play will share some new stories about occupants of the Town's cemeteries, including William E. Munsey, namesake of Munsey United Methodist Church, as well as include some

old favorites, like the harrowing and inspiring life story of Jennie Ray. The play is usually a sell-out, so plan on getting your tickets early!

Proceeds from the play go toward restoration projects at the Town's historic cemeteries.



## **“With These Hands” Completes Run at McKinney Center**

“With These Hands” an original play by the Heritage Alliance’s Anne G’Fellers Mason, returned for new performances in August. Over 200 attendees saw the play.

The programs were a joint fundraiser between the Heritage Alliance and the McKinney Center. Many thanks to the talented, all volunteer cast for their hard work! Also thanks to the McKinney Center for being such great partners in this production. It’s definitely a partnership we want to continue. Photos are courtesy of Tom Pardue and Caitlin Cornett at CSC Photography.



*The Cast of “With These Hands.”*



*Dana Kehs and Alexis Shearin*



*Ashton and Mike D’Avella*

## **Heritage Alliance Wins Mayor’s Award for 2018 Jonesborough Days Parade**



*The Team in Action! Photo by Peter Montanti*

This award is “given to the float judged to be the best overall entry. Judging factors include conformance with the theme, representation of the time period, design, etc.” We could not have won without our wonderful volunteers, including Dana and David Kehs, Joel and Anna VanEaton, Ed and Karin Dembowzyk. Also thanks to Joe Spiker and Jacob Simpson, and a very special thanks to Dana Kehs who made the early 1900’s costumes for the HA’s Jonesboro Baseball team.



## Train Talk: New Exhibit at the Chucky Depot

A new exhibit opened in June at the Chucky Depot titled "Train Talk." It will be at the museum through December.

If you want to find out how the various crew members on a train communicated with one another prior to radio, you need to visit the "Train Talk" exhibit to find out!

The exhibit was designed by the Chucky Depot Exhibit Sub-Committee, which includes members Rachel Conger, Jacob Simpson, Anne Mason, Susu Floyd, Jean Smith, Rick Chinouth, and Jason Davis. Thanks for the good work!



*"Train Talk" Exhibit at the Chucky Depot*

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

In our last edition, we left off our tour of the inns of yesteryear with the DeVault Tavern, now a privately owned residence, located in the former community of Leesburg. The DeVault, or Dewald, family moved to East Tennessee in the late 1700s. Henry (Heinrich) Dewald was a tailor, farmer, and Revolutionary War veteran who'd emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1766.

In 1797, the same year the Chester Inn was being built in Jonesborough, he purchased land in both Sullivan and Washington Counties. Seven of his children moved to Washington County, including Frederick and Valentine. The two married sister

brides, and the two families all lived together under one roof for fifteen years. After their father's death in 1817, the brothers bought 427 acres of land in Leesburg.

Between 1819-1821, Frederick constructed an L-shaped brick house with an impressive, two-story Federal style porch. The house was ideally situated on a bend in the stagecoach road. The DeVault family was now in the hospitality business.

Business must have been going well because Frederick added a two-story addition onto the south-east corner of the home in 1827. Frederick's son John, the first DeVault to be born in Leesburg,

took over operations of the Tavern in 1847. He managed the Tavern, farm, and family with the use of slave labor. As of now, the names of twenty-five enslaved persons who worked at the DeVault Tavern have been identified, and the impressions of their homes remain in the land around the house.

John DeVault closed the Tavern and sold the home in 1857, right before the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad entered the region and changed the landscape forever.

Recommended Reading: *The DeVault Tavern* by Paul Kennedy





## Volunteer Spotlight: Joe Allison and John White

Volunteers Joe Allison and John White show teamwork can be a winning approach. The two met at the Jonesborough Senior Center while attending a presentation by the Heritage Alliance and decided to work together as docents at the Chester Inn. Joe previously had done archival work for the HA, while for John, this has been a new adventure.

Both spent time in the military and enjoy talking with visiting veterans. Joe said "All through my working career I've wanted to be involved in history - this gives me the opportunity to put my history degree to use." John said, "We're glad to see things being preserved in Jonesborough and to be a part of it."



*Docent Partners John White and Joe Allison*

### **Calendar of Events**

- **Old Jonesborough Cemetery Tour** at 2:30 on Sept 1, 15, and Oct 6
- **Architectural Salvage Warehouse** open from 8-12 on Sept 1, 15, and Oct 6 and 20
- **Heritage Alliance at Senior Center** at 10:00 a.m. on Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, and Dec 17
- **Pottery** at Christopher Taylor House from 11-3 with Barbara Cara on Sept 7
- **Volunteer Drop-In** at Oak Hill School, Sept 9 from 2:00-4:00
- **Storytelling** at Christopher Taylor House Sept 15, 11-3
- **Constitution Week Bell Ringing** at Oak Hill School, Sept 16 at 1:30
- **Basket weaver** Diane Thompson at Christopher Taylor House from 11-3 on Sept 22

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## From the Director's Desk

Recently, the planet lost a kind and gentle soul and the Heritage Alliance lost a most respected and cherished friend. To the family of Dr. Conrad Crow we offer heartfelt condolences and know that the blessings of memory and the knowledge of a life well lived may be a comfort.

Over the years, Dr. Crow honored our Annual Membership meetings with his thoughtful and thought-provoking invocations. We are extremely grateful that we have this one to share from our 10th Anniversary Membership meeting in 2011.

Invocation by Conrad Crow:

*God of wonder and glory, Upon us in daily, abundant doses your blessings arrive, Unbidden and undeserved. Not least among them is this town we call our*

*home, an inheritance and trust from former hearts and hands.*

*Deliver us from poor memories, lest we forget the rich history of Jonesborough and seek to build her future on some lesser foundation.*

*Let the stories of past generations Inspire and equip us to be the foretellers of what can come to pass.*

*To that end, give wisdom to town leaders and this Heritage Alliance, that the old may be honored and the best interests of our future imagined into fruition.*

*May progress be a glad companion to preservation, and change a careful, beneficial overlay on the past.*

*In this day of heated rhetoric and uncivil behavior, temper our tongues and baptize us with*

*goodwill toward all, remembering what a people are that will their community be.*

*Harness the gifts of old timers and newcomers alike that this oldest town in Tennessee may be forever young in welcoming spirit.*

*Bless now these offerings of food and the fellowship of us who meet in united common purpose. And all God's people said, "Amen."*

I was not able to spend a great deal of time with Dr. Crow, but I can truthfully say that every encounter I had with him was ( and is) special. It is my opinion that a man such as Conrad Crow is a once in a lifetime gift and I am grateful to have known him for the time I did...

"And all God's people said, Amen."

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

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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  
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