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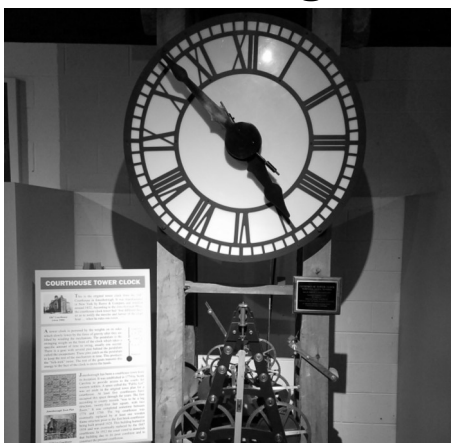


preserving our heritage and building a future together

Volume 17, Number 4

Fall 2018

Vintage Courthouse Clock to Receive Tune-up



The 1852 Reeve & Co Tower Clock, originally installed in the 1847 Washington County Courthouse, is going to receive a much needed tune-up through a partnership with the Watauga Valley Chapter 162 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. This is the group that completed the original restoration of the clock in 2005.

The clock is one of twelve such tower clocks known to have been produced by Reeve and Co, and one of the few still in working order. There is little known about the company other than they only produced a single model of tower clock and were listed at 187 Center Street in the 1854 New York City Directory.

The *Jonesborough Whig* described the courthouse clock as having “four different faces so as to notify the traveler and farmer of the exact hour ...when he rides into town ...” There was a running joke, however, that the clock faces were never correct. In his book *An American Farm*, Rhea Wells commented that “The most interesting thing about this clock was that no two dials could ever agree about the exact time of day.”

In 1952, a cable holding a 400 pound weight broke and the clock was replaced with an electric mechanism. According to the *Herald and Tribune*, the fear of future damage should the incident repeat itself and difficulties in maintaining the mechanical clock prompted this decision. The old movement was stored in the law office of former Jonesborough Mayor Bob May until it was gifted to the museum in 1982 by an anonymous donor.

The clock was part of the original museum installation in the early 1980s and was restored in 2005 with a new wooden framework. The Heritage Alliance is looking forward to this partnership and returning the clock to full functionality for the enjoyment of museum visitors.

Heritage Alliance Receives Grant for Photo Digitizing

The Jonesborough Washington County History Museum and Archives was recently awarded a grant for \$1800 to digitize its extensive photographic and negative collection. The grant is funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and administered by the Tennessee Historic Resources Advisory Board (THRAB) and Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA). Its purpose is to improve

the preservation of and access to Tennessee’s historical records.

The collection spans the history of Jonesborough and Washington County from the first photographer in town, L.W. Keen c. 1850, to the beginning of the preservation movement in the 1970s and 1980s. It was built on the collection of the Civic Trust as well as the extensive Fink-Dulaney Collection, but also includes many donations by

private individuals in the community.

We are constantly looking for new images to add to the collection, especially images from 1920 to 1970 which is the main gap. This grant will allow for digitizing these original images as well as expanding the collection by scanning new images added to the collection in the future. This will make the vast collection more accessible and better tell the story of Jonesborough and Washington County.



Discovering the Colors of Christmas, 2018

This year's Colors of Christmas Dinner was spectacular! The photos don't begin to tell the story of how beautifully decorated the Chester Inn, The Eureka Inn and the McKinney Center were. The food was fantastic (many said the best ever!) and the music was just perfect for the occasion. We are extremely grateful to The Tusculum Jazz Trio and The Jonesborough Novelty Band for making our event so cheery and bright.

We are also extremely grateful to all of the volunteers who worked so hard for us. Because of you; this event was a great success! We are fortunate to have such great volunteers and such a warm and welcoming community.

A Recap:

The evening began with appetizers in the Chester Inn and a delicious soup in the Eureka Inn. Both courses were created by the kitchen at Boone Street Market, our go to place for everything fresh and local!

Save the Date!

The Annual Meeting for the Heritage Alliance will be Thursday, February 7. Bring a dish to share and learn about all the exciting projects planned for 2019.

Hosts for the Historic Inns of Jonesborough were dressed in Victorian finery and guests were welcome to converse and explore.

Following a short bus ride to the McKinney Center, guests were seated and served a fresh Holiday salad and beverage while HA Executive Director Deborah Montanti greeted them and expressed appreciation to the many hands and guests who made the evening so special. Jonesborough Mayor Chuck Vest toasted the event and all of those who keep history alive and well in Jonesborough. Seasonal Jazz provided by the

Tusculum Jazz Trio played softly in the background while guests enjoyed a meal of Chateau Briand, garlic roasted potatoes, and roasted root vegetables done to perfection by Main Street Café and Catering. And the perfect finish, Italian Rum Cake with Cream Cheese Icing from Embree House Wedding Cakes blended beautifully with the joyous performance of the Jonesborough Novelty Band.

You really missed something if you missed this event this year, but not to worry, it will be back next year on the first Saturday of December!



Victorian hosts await guests at the Chester Inn (photo by Peter Montanti)



The Colors of Christmas...



*Victorian hosts at the Eureka Inn
(photo by Tom Pardue)*



The Jonesborough Novelty Band performed (photo by Tom Pardue)



The David Crockett Civinettes helped out (photo by Tom Pardue)



Diners at the McKinney Center (photo by Tom Pardue)



The Spring schedule for History Happy Hour has been announced. Please join us!

March 21: Casey Price "State Resistance in Frontier Upper East Tennessee"

April 18: Angela Keaton "Appalachian Material Culture"

May 16: Peter Noll "Architecture of the Doak House"



Revisiting *A Spot on the Hill* for 2018



Cast of "A Spot on the Hill"



Stefanie Murphy as Lucinda Jackson

A Spot On the Hill had five performances this past October, all sold out. The weather forced three of the four outdoor performances inside to the museum, but spirits were high. There were five new cast members and seven returning cast members for 2018, as well as new stories to tell. Over 200 people attended the show over its two weekend run. The year's program was dedicated to long-time cemetery supporter Bobby Oliver (see article below for more information about his contributions).



Younger cast members pose in the cemetery.

Chucky Depot Exhibits



Time is running out to see "Train Talk," the current exhibit at the Chucky Depot Museum all about railroad communication. In 2019, look for a new exhibit about working on the railroad.

Remembering Margaret Holly and Bobby Oliver

The Heritage Alliance lost two good friends in recent months.

Bobby Oliver was the Park Maintenance Supervisor for the Town of Jonesborough and was instrumental in cleaning up and repairing tombstones in Rocky Hill and College Hill Cemeteries. Whenever we needed a helping hand from the Town, he was there.

Margaret Holley was a local historian. She was a member of the Heritage Alliance, a member of the Boones Creek Historical Trust, and the Washington County Historical Association. She was a recipient of the Samuel Cole Williams Award. Along with her husband George, she ran the Knob Creek Historical Museum which preserves the history of the Knob Creek Community.



History Comes Alive at Jonesborough Middle School

On November 7th, 89 eighth graders packed into the library at Jonesborough Middle School to accompany Annette Broadacre on her sojourn through Jonesborough in 1856 in *A Sojourn in Jonesborough*, an original play written by Anne G'Fellers-Mason. The Heritage Alliance was invited to perform by Social Studies and English teacher Mr. Anderson.

The Heritage Alliance has two, primary source-based theatrical pieces that can travel to schools, *A Sojourn in Jonesborough* and "*Things Are Changing*," (a two-person show focusing on local teacher Julia Bullard Nelson and the changing roles of gender and race in education at the turn of the 20th century).

A Sojourn in Jonesborough is based on the travelogue "Winter in the South" by David Strother as published in *Harpers Monthly Magazine*. The play picks up where the serial leaves off in Jonesborough, with the women of the Broadacre family wishing to remain in town. Sojourn recreates what Main Street Jonesborough may have looked like in the year 1856.

After the performance, students asked questions including, "What type of primary sources were used to create the show? Where can you find primary sources? What's an archive? What societal changes have taken place since



Anne G'Fellers-Mason introduces the play

the mid-1800s? What was the most surprising thing learned through the research? Why was Annette selected to be the narrator? Why did anyone think hoop skirts were ever a good thing?" Several students voiced an interest in wanting to volunteer for the Heritage Alliance.

Mr. Anderson shared, "The performance by the Heritage Alliance at Jonesborough Middle School provided students with a first-hand account of how primary sources can be used in today's world. Students focus on dissecting primary sources in US History and understanding life in the 1700s and 1800s. Also, the use of storytelling in English class is a key element in understanding

how characters and stories develop over time. *A Sojourn in Jonesborough* gave students an opportunity to see all of these elements working together to create a performance they won't soon forget."

Performances of *A Sojourn in Jonesborough* and "*Things Are Changing*" are available for local classrooms. To learn more about our educational programs, visit www.heritageall.org/education/.

We are dedicated to providing educational experiences related to the history and preservation of our region. The Heritage Alliance actively cooperates with schools and school groups to teach history both outside and inside of the classroom.



Volunteer Spotlight: Fred Counts

For the past two years Fred has been lending a hand at the HA's Architectural Salvage Warehouse, as well as helping out the at the Chester Inn Museum with Haunts and Happenings. Fred grew up in the Kingsport area and has a BA in History from ETSU, as well as a recently completed MA in Teaching.

Prior to returning to the Tri Cities, Fred completed his graduate studies in

Minnesota and got the opportunity to work for the St Paul Preservation Commission.

Fred says the favorite part of his work at the Salvage Warehouse is... "getting to know the people in the area and hearing the stories about the houses they are restoring."

Please stop by and visit with Fred when the warehouse reopens in the spring!



Fred Counts

Calendar of Events

- **Chester Inn Museum** open Dec 17, 21, 22, 28, 29 from 11-6, open Dec 23 from 1-5
- **Town Tours** at 1:00 on Dec 15 and Dec 29
- **Heritage Alliance at Senior Center** at 10:00 on Dec 17, program on Hoss and McCall and other local merchants
- **Annual Meeting** on Thurs, Feb 7 at the Visitors Center

Visit Victorian Christmas at the Chester Inn Museum before it's gone! You can also vote for the Chester Inn as a part of the Festival of Trees taking place throughout Town until Dec 23!

Check our website and Facebook to see what the Heritage Alliance has planned for 2019!

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www.franklinhousebb.com

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





From the Director's Desk

It has been quite a year for the Heritage Alliance and we are grateful to each and every one of you for your support and participation. We had already surpassed last year's attendance by the end of October this year. Programs such as History Happy Hour and our various museum theatre offerings have increased our audience and expanded our outreach.

In addition, our projects in partnership with the Town of Jonesborough have increased our scope and allowed us to expand our general audience programming. Jonesborough's Historic Cemeteries are home to *A Spot on the Hill*, which over the past five years has reached hundreds of people. These audiences learn about the importance of our sacred spaces and the need to maintain them,

while experiencing the stories of those who have gone before. Our work to restore and interpret the Christopher Taylor House extends the depiction of Jonesborough history back to its founding in a way no other artifact in town can do. We look forward to continuing these partnerships and to cooperating to ensure history remains in the forefront of Jonesborough's tourism initiatives.

This past year has seen our student programming expand in several ways. In October we partnered with Jonesborough Elementary to bring a modern curriculum into a 19th century setting. The creativity and enthusiasm with which Jonesborough Elementary embraced this program was infectious. We look forward to more of these programs and to watching students make connections with the past in unexpected ways. Not to be outdone, Jonesborough Middle School eighth graders had the opportunity to experience a visit to Jonesborough through the eyes of a

teenager in 1856. Anne G'Fellers Mason's one woman show not only entertained, it introduced students and educators alike to the potentials of primary sources in the classroom. *A Sojourn in Jonesborough* is currently one of two museum theatre programs available for in-school performances and there are plans for others. This type of programming is particularly exciting as it brings the best of what we offer directly to the students, introducing new ways to create excitement in the history classroom.

These are just a few highlights of 2018. We are honored to have received a generous grant from the Mooneyhan Family Foundation to help us expand our outreach from programs such as these. Combined with the NSDAR grant which helped roof the Christopher Taylor House and the THRAB grant to digitize our photographic collection, we have had a most productive year and are looking ahead to many exciting things to come!

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

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& Historic Farm
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Telford, TN
423.913.3812
www.embreefarm.com

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Jonesborough, TN
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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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