



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

Volume 18, Number 1

Winter 2019

History-Themed Fashion Show Highlights Schubert Club Donation



Dana Kehs made many of the featured costumes and emceed the show.

On March 2, the ladies of the Schubert Club were audience members for a very special fashion show. The Schubert Club is a longstanding supporter of the Heritage Alliance and a recent donation assisted with updating some of the period costumes used on town tours and in other HA programs. One of the biggest targets was creating new men's costumes. Throughout the year Dana Kehs—a town tour guide, actress, and seamstress extraordinaire—took the budget and made several wonderful costumes.

As a show of appreciation, the Heritage Alliance organized a fashion show. The models volunteered their time to



The collection of volunteers who participated in the show and the period costumes which range from frontier through the early 1900s.

showcase the period costumes used by the Heritage Alliance. Costumes included a frontiersman, early 1800s ladies' attire, and many mid-late 19th century styles. Dana made several of the outfits including the baseball uniforms which were patterned after a historic photograph of the Jonesboro baseball team circa 1905 and featured in the Heritage Alliance's Jonesborough Day's award-winning parade float.

The event was an opportunity to visibly show the Schubert Club the end result of their donation, and to show our appreciation for the many numerous donations that the club has made to HA programming efforts. Look for these outfits out on the streets!

Mary Noel showing off an early 1900s dress she made herself



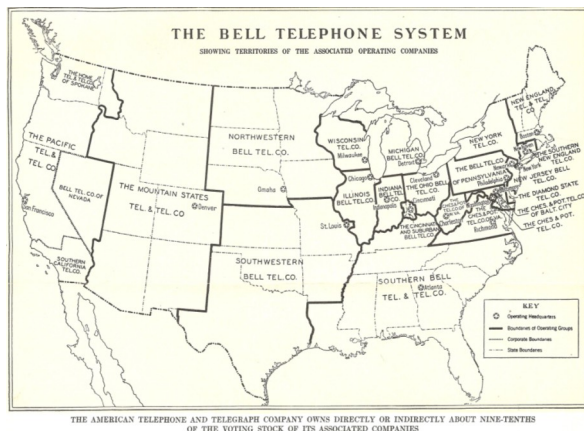
Joe Spiker and Joel VanEaton in the 1905 Baseball Uniform



“Communications” Exhibit out at the Chester Inn Museum



Interactive 20th c. Rotary Phone



Excerpt from Bell, Inc. Pamphlet, 1930

The **Red Room** of the Chester Inn Museum has received a small makeover and features a new exhibit. “Communications” examines the transition of communication technology from the 19th to 20th centuries by primarily focusing on 4 methods: letters, postcards, telegrams, and telephones. The exhibit includes several artifacts including a particularly large object that has not been on display in some time.

The exhibit also examines the impact that communication technology and its changes had on Jonesborough. In addition to increasing efficiency over short and long distances, communication changes had a geographic impact as well, including the physical spaces for buildings and the appearance of telephone and telegraph wires in Jonesborough’s early 20th century skyline.

One exciting part of the exhibit is an interactive component featuring a rotary style telephone. While it is not connected for actual use, visitors can practice picking up the phone and using a rotary dial. There are 4 local numbers from the 1956 telephone directory that are included for visitors to dial—Booker T. Washington school, Lavender’s Market, Charles Bennett, and the Jackson Theater—all with 4-5 digit phone numbers!

History Happy Hour Returns

It is hard to believe, but History Happy Hour is back for its 3rd Season! This year’s full lineup is included later in the newsletter and again features contributions from numerous institutions throughout the region. This year we are welcoming speakers from Milligan College and the David Crockett Birthplace for the first time, as well as bringing back HHH favorites Tusculum University, Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, ETSU, and Walters State Community College. Programs are the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m..

Thursday, March 21: Casey Price, ETSU History Department graduate student
“Women, Gender, and the Spatial Construction of Upper East TN”

Thursday, April 18: Dr. Angela Keaton, Tusculum University
“Early Republic-era Material Culture”

Thursday, May 16: Dr. Peter Noll, Tusculum University
“Samuel Doak’s *Lectures on Human Nature* and the Samuel W. Doak House



Christopher Taylor House Programming in 2019

Expect to see the Christopher Taylor house as an active part of our programming again in 2019! The HA plans to utilize the historic home like we did in 2018: having it open during town events when possible, and primarily on Saturday afternoon, and other days/times as available, with artisans, storytellers, historians, and more. **Save the date for a Raise the Roof Celebration with the State of Franklin Chapter of the NSDAR on June 22 at 6:00 p.m..** Stay tuned for more details!



Window replacement project ongoing at the Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum

The Tennessee Historic Commission's capital improvement project to restore the windows at the Chester Inn is still underway. The on-site work should not disrupt the day-to-day operations of the first floor portion of the museum. However, there is a possibility that the restored room tours of the dining room, parlor room, and lodging room may be partially or completely unavailable. Keep an eye out for updates as the project progresses throughout the year!

These new, old windows are lovely and will serve the Chester Inn well for many years to come.

Washington County Digitization Day – May 18th (11:00am-3:00pm)

The Heritage Alliance will have an open donation day for the general public to bring in pictures to be digitized on May 18th. This is part of our ongoing project to digitize photos and negatives related to Jonesborough and Washington County History.

As part of this project, we are asking local donors to help us fill in some of the gaps in our collection. While we would typically rather a donor gift the original hard copy of a historic picture so we can preserve it for future use, we do have the option of a digital donation. This allows us to scan the original image and save a digital copy for our uses and then return the original to the



*Jacob and
volunteer Boo Moss
in the archives with
the new scanner.*

donor. In either case, we can provide a digital copy to the donor if you bring a flash drive to save it on.

We hope that you will be able to join us in preserving the history of our region for future generations. If you are unable to

attend, you can contact us any time regarding any photographs you may have that relate to Jonesborough or Washington County by emailing us at info@heritageall.org or by calling us at (423)753-9580 or (423) 753-4580. You can also help out by spreading the word about the date, time, and goal of this event!



2019 Annual Meeting Welcomes a Full House!



The Annual Meeting is always scheduled during a “delicate” time of the year. It is impossible to know more than a few days beforehand if it is going to be 60 or 6 degrees, clear and calm, or windy and wet. This year the meeting survived the wild January weather and saw 100 members in attendance.

Highlights included a recap of our record breaking attendance in 2018, a quick summary of the Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum’s participation in the Visitors Count! survey program, a look ahead to our 2019 programs, and inducting new board members.

A sincere thank you to departing board members for all of their service: Joe Grandy, Jimmy Rhein, and Sharon Boles

A hearty welcome to our new board members: Dan Eldridge, Hal Hunter, and Jack Van Zandt

We are excited to work with you!

The Chester Inn is a Tennessee Historical Commission State-Owned Historic Site. This project is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Historical Commission.



History Happy Hour

2019 Schedule

- 3/21 Casey Price-ETSU Graduate Student
“Women, Gender, and the Spatial
Construction of Upper East TN”
- 4/18 Dr. Angela Keaton-Tusculum
Early Republic Material Culture
- 5/16 Dr. Peter Noll-Tusculum
Samuel Doak’s *Lectures on Human Nature*
and the Samuel W. Doak House
- 6/20 Katherine Banks-Milligan
Spotlight on African American and
Female Personalities at Milligan
- 7/18 Arleigh Greear-Andrew Johnson NP
National Cemetery History
- 8/15 Dr. Tom Lee-ETSU
The Jonesborough-Asheville Road
- 9/19 Dr. Tim Holder-Walters State
Circuit Rider Francis Asbury
- 10/17 Nathan Dodson-David Crockett BP
18th Century Settlement Techniques

* all dates/times are Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm





Working on the Railroad is now on display at the Chuckey Depot Museum. This new exhibit features the tools that were necessary to keep the trains running. It will be on display through July.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Are you interested in any of our programs? Do you like museums, history, education, and talking to people? Do you want to be part of the team that helps keep the Heritage Alliance going? Then **contact us!** We have volunteer opportunities as a museum docent, town tour guide, Oak Hill School, extra help for programs, and for many of the odds and ends that we get involved with!

Changes at the Jonesborough-Washington County History Museum



The WWI mortar is now located beside the courthouse clock.

We have a lot going on at the Jonesborough-Washington County Museum right now. In addition to the digitization project, we are working on some fairly large changes in the museum itself. Recent visitors may have noticed that the WWI mortar has been relocated beside the courthouse clock. This move

also prompted a reworking of the blacksmith exhibit with new interpretation.

Our newest addition is a dedicated "From the Collection" space. In this area, we will rotate objects and photographs in and out in order to let visitors see some of the artifacts that are not

often on display. Currently there are four large, framed pictures mounted in this area. Sometimes it is difficult to display large items due to a lack of available space, so having a new area to showcase some lesser known artifacts is exciting! Later this spring we plan to make a few more updates so please keep an eye out for those, and visit often.



New Focus in Chester Inn's "Spotlight" Exhibit Space for 2019

The Chester Inn Museum will shine a spotlight on a new theme for 2019: photographs. The last two years the spotlight exhibit, which is located to the left of the town diorama, has focused on restored buildings.

One of the main reasons we are focusing on photographs this year is because of our current digitization efforts. Not only are we digitizing our own archival photograph collection, but we are also looking to the community for assistance in expanding our

photographic collection. The spotlight area will be used to make our visitors aware of our request for photos. The first spotlight features photographs of women, which coincides perfectly with Women's History Month. Some of the women are identified, but many are not. Stop by and see if you recognize anyone. Our archives are full of stories waiting to be told!

The photo spotlight featuring photographs of women will be on display through the end of April.



Calendar of Events

- **Town Tours:** 1:00 pm Saturdays,
Mythbusting Town Tours: 1:00 pm 2nd Saturday each month,
Old Jonesborough Cemetery Tours: 2:30 pm 1st & 3rd Saturdays May-Sept
- **Architectural Salvage Warehouse** open from 8-12 on 1st & 3rd Saturdays April-Sept
- **Homeschool Day** Wednesday, April 10, Registration open now at heritageall.org
- **HA Presentations at Senior Center** April 15 – The Second Certainty of Life: Tax History in Washington County at 10:00 am
- **Oak Hill School Homeschool Day** Friday, May 10, Registration open now at heritageall.org
- **Digitization Day** Saturday, May 18 from 11-3 at Visitors' Center
- **Voices of the Chester** June 14-15 at the Chester Inn, tickets \$8, on sale soon

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



A Fiddling Governor Lends His Voice to the Chester Inn this Summer

Born in Carter County in 1848 and 1850, Alfred A. Taylor and Robert Love Taylor were showmen from an early age. They were also interested in politics, and they knew what it was to grow up in a divided household. Their father Nathaniel Green Taylor was a Whig politician, while their mother Emmaline Haynes Taylor was a staunch Democrat.

The brothers attended Buffalo Institute, now Milligan College, and the East TN Wesleyan College. It was at the latter institute where the two would write their first play together. Their love for theatrics would serve them well in their political careers.

Following in his father's footsteps, Alfred sought the Republican Party nomination for the 1st congressional district in 1878. The local Democratic party asked his younger brother Bob to

run on their ticket. Bob won the seat and a political rivalry unlike any other was created.

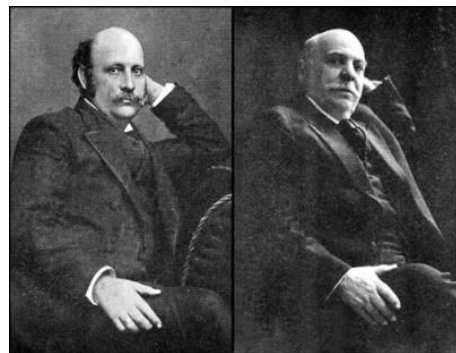
In 1886, both brothers decided to run for Governor of Tennessee. Even though they were from opposing political parties, they decided to campaign together. Their tour across the region became known as the War of the Roses, with Bob's supporters wearing white roses and Alfred's wearing red.

During their campaign stops they'd deliver speeches and then take a break to fiddle. They were always pulling pranks on one another and at one stop Bob stole Alfred's speech and delivered it before he could take the stage. Their campaign stop at Johnson City took place at Jobe's Opera House that used to stand on the corner of Spring St. and East Main.

Bob won the office and became

known as "Our Bob." He would later serve as a senator for the state and Alfred became governor in 1920 at the age of 71. Between their politicking, the brothers continued to tour and perform speeches and fiddle numbers to sold out houses.

Hear one of the Taylor brothers reminisce and speak for himself at Voices of the Chester on June 14 and June 15. This museum theatre piece will take place throughout the Chester Inn and feature voices from the building's past. Keep an eye out for more information and come hear what the Voices of the Chester have to say this summer!



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Oak Hill School: Deanna Carey and Jean
Smith



*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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