



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

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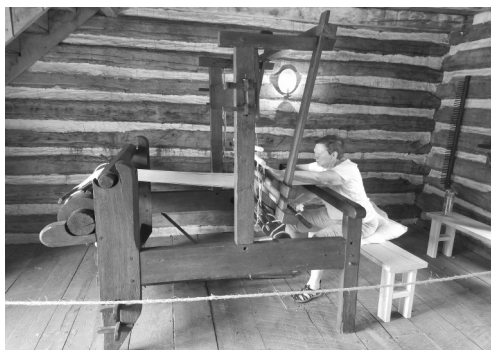
Christopher Taylor House Raise the Roof Celebration on June 22



The Heritage Alliance is gearing up for a rededication and Raise the Roof Celebration at the Christopher Taylor House on Saturday, June 22 at 6:00 p.m. The festive event will include the Town of Jonesborough, descendants of Christopher Taylor, and members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).

In 2018, the Heritage Alliance received a grant from the NSDAR to re-roof the Christopher Taylor House. The work was completed and the historic house has been open on Saturdays with storytellers, musicians, crafters, and more. You never know what you'll find inside, so stop by and take a look when the door is open

The event will last an hour on June 22 and will thank the



NSDAR, the Town of Jonesborough, and the many donors who helped make the project possible. The house will be open for tours after the formal presentation.

There is more work to be done on the Christopher Taylor House, and the Heritage Alliance looks forward to working with the Town to make sure the house welcomes guests for many years to come.

When visiting the Christopher Taylor House, you might notice a new, old addition. We recently relocated the barn loom that has been on display since the early 1980s at the Jonesborough & Washington County History Museum to the house to be used for hands-on demonstrations. This work was completed with the help of volunteers Jan, pictured above, and Tom Turner.

Jan is a local weaver who specializes in demonstrating historical weaving techniques. We are excited to have the opportunity to bring this artifact back to life and the educational opportunity it affords.

Throughout the season, we will have various activities going on in the log house. For June we have weaving, pottery, dulcimers, and storytelling lined up. Keep an eye on our social media for upcoming activities and be sure to visit soon!

We hope you can join us for the Raise the Roof Celebration on June 22! Funding for the roof project was made possible through the State of Franklin Chapter, National Daughters of the American Revolution.

Volunteer Opportunities!

Are you interested in any of our programs? Do you like museums, interacting with people, education, and history? Do you want to be part of the team that helps keep the Heritage Alliance going? Find out more information on **Page 4!**



Successful Digitization Day Commenced on 5/18

On May 18th we hosted our first ever Washington County Digitization Day. The goal of this event was to allow local residents to bring in photographs and negatives to help us fill in the gaps of our collection. In all we were able to scan over 170 images and documents related to our local history. We are thankful to the donors that came out; Eileen Queener, David Hawkins, and Terry Ponder.

While additional research will be necessary on many of the images, we did learn some interesting things from our day. One particular image of interest was taken in Jonesborough by L. W. Keen that had the date 1847 printed on the boarder. This gives us additional evidence that Keen started his studio in that year and provides valuable information on Jonesbor-

ough's earliest photographer.

While our digitization day has past, that does not mean we are no longer looking for pictures. If you have photographs or negatives you think we might be interested in, please let us know. We are particularly interested in images from the rural communities around Jonesborough and in images of town from 1920 until around 1970. Just because an image is not "old enough" does not mean it is unimportant. Feel

free to contact us at 423.753.9580 or info@heritageall.org.



Above: LW Keen photo with studio date of 1847.

Top R: 1908 Johnson City flood. Middle: Unidentified photo of people in Wash Co.

Above: Unidentified train wreck, possibly in the limestone or Telford area



Dulcimer Exhibit Delights Guests at the JWCHM

The Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum hosted a traveling exhibit on Dulcimers through June 5th. This exhibit looked at the history of the instrument while focusing on the craft of dulcimer making. It was designed by and was on loan from the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History (Mount Airy, NC) and is part of a larger exhibit entitled The Luthier's Craft: Instrument Making Traditions of the Blue Ridge. This larger exhibit looks at the traditional arts of fiddle, guitar, banjo, and dulcimer making in Southern Appalachia by featuring local luthiers (instrument makers).



The dulcimer exhibit featured mountain dulcimer luthier Ernest Combs from the Vilas community of Watauga County, NC, which is about 6 miles west-northwest of Boone, NC. In addition, there was a Hammered Dulcimer on display which was made by C. E. "Mac" McKinney in Elizabethton, TN.



While this exhibit veered slightly outside of our usual scope of Jonesborough and Washington County, it did have a regional tie-in and provided us with a great opportunity to work with local craftspeople and musicians within the museum.

During Jonesborough's Dulcimer Days, the museum hosted dulcimer performers who brought the exhibit to life with an afternoon of music.

In addition, we hosted Jim and Cheri Miller on May 23rd who entertained a crowd of about 30 guests with a program on the history of the dulcimer along with a demonstration of various forms of the instrument. The crowd favorite was the "little bitty dulcimer," a fully playable miniature mountain dulcimer. We hope you had an opportunity to visit the exhibit while it was with us.

The Luthier's Craft was produced by the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History with financial support provided by The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, Interlam, Hibco Plastics, and Dr. Mac and Becky Sumner.

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37659



Heritage Alliance Volunteer Opportunities

The Heritage Alliance is looking for volunteers! Our organization is dedicated to the preservation of the architectural, historical, and cultural heritage of our region and to providing educational experiences related to history and heritage for a wide range of audiences.

We are primarily looking for volunteers to assist as Chester Inn docents and Jonesborough Town Tour Guides. These are two separate positions, but volunteers can be both if they are interested!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with us as a docent or a town tour guide, or if you are interested in volunteering in other capacities, please call our office at (423) 753-9580, or email us at info@heritageall.org.

Check out the information for each position below:

Title: Chester Inn Docent

Duties:

-Provide greeting and orientation information and ensure all participants are aware of and follow all safety rules.

-Provide information relating to the history of Jonesborough and its architectural styles, the Chester Inn Museum, and the Museum's collections.

-Guide visitors and groups through the Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum in a safe and productive manner including a guided upstairs tour.

-Docents will be asked to help out during festivals, town events, or days when school groups are visiting, possibly outside of normal hours. There may also be opportunities to assist with programs outside of the museum.

Hours: The Chester Inn is open from 1-5 on Sunday as well as 11-6 on Monday and Wednesday through Saturday throughout the year. Shifts are normally 3-4 hours and the schedule is flexible. We have accommodating scheduling, but docents are expected to show up for each volunteer shift as scheduled.

Training: Training is provided as needed by the Executive Director, Special Projects Coordinator, and Head Docent at the Chester Inn Museum. Volunteers may seek additional training whenever they feel the need. New volunteers

receive training according to their individual schedules and a volunteer training manual.

Title: Town Tour Guide

Goal: To conduct guided, costumed tours of the Jonesborough Historic District for visitors, tour groups, and school-aged children.

Duties:

-Provide a guided tour covering historical and architectural information about Jonesborough from its founding in 1779 through the present.

-Wear a historic costume that fits into the larger theme of Jonesborough's history (current tour guide costumes range from late 18th through early 20th centuries).

Training: Training is provided as needed by the executive director, projects coordinator, and town tour guides. Volunteers receive notes and photographs to use in preparation for their tours.



The Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Historic Commission.



Interview with Digitization Intern Shayne Parker



Digitization Intern Shayne Parker

What was your most interesting discovery during the photo digitization project?

There were a lot of really interesting photos that we scanned. There were some pictures of unearthing a skeleton that was really neat. There were some photos of the massive flood that I had never heard about, but given the water level in those photos you would think it would be a story everyone would talk about, like Mary the elephant's hanging in Erwin. There were more historic moments such as the first-ever photograph of Jonesborough, or the last public hanging in Jonesborough. This is sort of a cop-out, but, it's really hard to choose just one.

What was your most surprising discovery during the photo digitization project?

This one I can give a more defined answer for! Most other cities just make new buildings if they want to move, say, the town hall. But Jonesborough repeatedly

tore down the old buildings like the town hall and jail. It was really neat that they kept old pieces of the buildings, though. I believe the original main doorway for the town hall is still being used? That's so cool to me. Being from Colonial Heights, I've lived in the area my whole life, but I never really visited Jonesborough. All I knew about the town was that "It's small," but Jonesborough is more than that. It's not small, it's dense, like a star. The size of the town isn't large, but the culture and heritage within is immense. I've really grown to love the town for its culture and how beautiful it is, but also from the people I've interacted with while working on this project. That was a bit surprising to me, as well, because for years my plan was to graduate and then move to Silicon Valley or some other area like D.C., NYC, Boston, or Berlin. But now, I'm seriously considering staying in the area.

How will your work on this project help you as you head out to continue your studies or search for jobs?

I'll try to answer this using as little jargon as possible. I apologize in advance for the lengthiness. During the course of digitizing the photos and other things, there was a day where we learned that the program the museum uses was actually creating duplicate images because

the resolution of the images we were uploading was too large. This resulted in the hard drive filling up twice as fast as it should have. To remedy this, Jacob talked to me about writing a program that would automatically resize the images so they wouldn't be duplicated.

I had never done anything like that before, and I only had a rough idea for how to approach the task. I did some research and discovered that it was probably going to be easier than I originally anticipated, but it was still going to require learning a new software.

Honestly, I was intimidated. I thought I had said I could do more than I was actually capable of doing. But, I was able to do it. After researching it over spring break, it only took me a few hours of work to finish the program. I then proceeded to keep working on it and ended up making it convoluted to use, which I plan on fixing after my exams.

So in the end, I learned some specific new skills, but the more important things that I learned are: 1) Not doubt myself right off the bat. I told myself I wasn't capable before I even tried, but it was something that ended up being very simple for me. And 2) Don't fix what isn't broken.



Museum Roundup

Here is an update on some changes that took place and upcoming items to look for at the Jonesborough/ Washington County History Museum and Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum!

JWCHM:

- More updates to the exhibit space have been completed! Some components of the blacksmith shop have been relocated to the Greeneville/ Green County History Museum,

while the loom has been moved to the Christopher Taylor House.

- Plans for the open space includes a rotating preservation spotlight, starting with the recently completed Presbyterian Church steeple restoration.

Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum:

- The Chester Inn exhibit space will continue to be updated throughout the summer. The second photo spotlight is currently on display and features

outdoor recreation scenes just in time for summer.

- The main exhibit update will be “Capturing Images: Photography Equipment and Technology” which will be on display from June through August.
- We were able to provide sounds of the 19th century during Jonesborough’s Strolling on Main! A local resident volunteered his time—and his own restored melodeon—to play songs in our parlor room during the

Calendar of Events

- **Town Tours:** 1:00 pm Saturdays
- **Evening Town Tours:** 7:00 pm Thursdays May through August
- **Mythbusting Town Tours:** 1:00 pm 2nd Saturday each month
- **Cemetery Tours:** 2:30 pm 1st and 3rd Saturday May through September
- **Architectural Salvage Warehouse** open from 8-12 on 1st and 3rd Saturday each month
- **Voices of the Chester:**
Friday 6/14: 7-8pm
Saturday 6/15: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 pm
Sunday 6/16: 1 pm at ISC
- **Taylor House Raise the Roof:**
Saturday 6/22 at 6 pm

Heritage Alliance Presentations at Senior Center

- June 10: Hospitality in Washington County at 10:00
- Aug 12: Photography through Time at 10:00

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Jonesborough Genealogical Society
c/o Washington County Library
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<http://jgstin.wordpress.com/>



Giving a Voice to the Voiceless: Sharing Stories of Enslaved People and Indentured Orphans at the Chester Inn



Kalli Papas as Sarah Roberts, Kaye Gonel as Dapney, and Taylor Santucci as James Roberts in *Voices of the Chester*. Performances are June 14 at 7:00, June 15 at 1:00, 3:00, 6:00, and 8:00. A special performance will take place June 16 at 1:00 at the International Storytelling Center.

At *Voices of the Chester* from June 14-16, you'll encounter many stories from the building's long past. Some of the names are well known, including that of the Inn's first owner Dr. William P. Chester. Other names are not as well known, such as Dapney and Sarah and James Roberts. They did not leave behind the historical record other voices left, but their stories and their place within the building's history are important.

Sarah and James Roberts were orphans who were bound to Dr. Chester to work at the Inn. The only source we have for them is the court document that bound them to Dr. Chester in 1796. Sarah's indenture was supposed to last until she was 18, and James' indenture was set until he was 21. Did they serve out their terms? We don't know.

Unfortunately, we also do not know much about Dapney. We know she was an enslaved woman owned by Dr. Chester and that he sold her in 1807 to John Patton. After that, she disappears from the historical record. How do we share these important stories when so little is known?

We work with the actors. We take what we know of the time period, and we try to present a reality that very well could have belonged to Dapney, Sarah, and James. Meet all three at *Voices of the Chester*. Tickets are on sale now at 423.753.1010.

History Happy Hour 2019 Summer Schedule

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 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 |

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

*All programs are **free** and **open to the public**





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