



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

Volume 18, Number 3

Summer 2019

Oak Hill School Heritage Education Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary!

This October, the award winning Oak Hill School Heritage Education Program will be celebrating its 20th anniversary! Since 1999, the one room schoolhouse has welcomed students from across the region to a school day in 1892/1893. The Heritage Alliance is excited to celebrate the program, and we hope you will join us.

Oak Hill School served the Knob Creek Community of Johnson City from 1886 through the 1950s. It was a part of Washing-

ton County Schools, and it was moved to Jonesborough in the 1990s to save it from demolition. The heritage education program was crafted by the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum, and the schoolhouse is the largest artifact in the museum's collection. Today, the schoolhouse is operated by the Heritage Alliance, and students of all ages participate in the experiential learning program.

When the schoolhouse reopened in its current location in 1999, Jean Smith brought her fourth graders from University School as the first group of students to attend the program. We're excited that University School will be bringing their fourth graders again this year, twenty years to the day. What's even more exciting, Jean Smith will be their Schoolmarm.

On October 13, we'll be hosting an anniversary celebration for the program from 2:00-4:00 that afternoon. Stop by for light refreshments, and try your hand at the slate board or the quill pen. We are also partnering with the StoryTown Brigade that day to offer a story circle at the Jones-

borough Public Library. If you are an alumni of Oak Hill School, or the family member of any alumni, please join the story circle and share your memories. It's important that we record these stories and this history for future generations. The story circle will take place from 3:00-4:00 that afternoon.

In addition to public and private schools, Oak Hill School welcomes a number of homeschool students throughout the year. It has also hosted senior groups, foreign exchange students, birthday parties, and weddings. Jonesborough Elementary has even taught their 21st century lessons in the 19th century schoolhouse. Oak Hill School remains a vital part of the community.



First day of class at Oak Hill School, October 11, 1999

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? For information on becoming a volunteer call our office (423) 753-9580 or email us at info@heritageall.org!



Chester Inn Museum is Online with New YouTube Channel

In an effort to improve visibility of our mission and share history in many ways, we have increased our online and social media presence. We already had active Facebook and Instagram accounts for the Heritage Alliance and Chester Inn Museum, but we decided to take a major step forward this summer and launch a YouTube channel for the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum.

To date, we have posted 7 videos and have over 180 views and 16 subscribers to the channel. So far our videos have featured some of our Christopher Taylor House programming, provided extra information on exhibits, and exam-

ined individual artifacts on display and in our collection.

The YouTube channel will be a helpful extension of our education mission as well as an extra component of our exhibit space. It is also another way to get the word out about the Chester Inn Museum and Heritage Alliance, and we are excited to see it continue to grow and develop!

We also had a great time this summer with our social media campaign, #chesterinnpic, that was part of our photography exhibit. The exhibit featured a photo backdrop of O.L. Hensley's studio circa 1900

where museum visitors could pose with various 19th century clothing items and take their picture.

If you would like to keep up with us online, be sure to like and subscribe to our YouTube Channel and follow us on social media:

Facebook: Heritage Alliance, and Chester Inn Museum (2 separate accounts)

Instagram: @heritage_alliance



YouTube

Colors of Christmas Progressive Dinner Returns on Dec 7th!

Plans are underway for the **Colors of Christmas Progressive Dinner!** This year's dinner will feature four different locations all dedicated to Jonesborough's educational history. We are excited to return to the dinner's traditional format of serving a delicious appetizer, soup, main course, and dessert in historic buildings and private residences. The dinner is set for Saturday, December 7th, with three seating times available: 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 8:00pm. Tickets for this festive evening are \$85.00 per person.

Now in its 42nd year, the Progressive Dinner is a unique event,

combining fine food, rich history, and great entertainment. Proceeds from the Progressive Dinner help ensure that our educational programs remain accessible to a wide range of audiences. Proceeds from this year's event will also help us grow our Hands-On with History initiative to bring our artifacts and programs into the classroom.

The locations on this year's dinner are all about education, including a one room school-house, a condo in a restored school, and a private home that once served as a female academy and a school for the

African American community.

Phone reservations can be made through the Visitors' Center at (423) 753-1010. On-line ticketing through the town of Jonesborough is available at jonesborough.com/tickets. If you would like to make a reservation for a table of 6 or more, please contact the Heritage Alliance directly at (423) 753-9580.

With only 40 spots available per seating, this year's event is a guaranteed sell out, so secure your reservations today! The Colors of Christmas Progressive Dinner is the perfect kick off to the holiday season!



150 Years of the Herald & Tribune

It's hard to believe it's been 150 years since the *Herald & Tribune* first began publication on August 26, 1869. The paper's first publishers were Drs. Christopher Wheeler and M.S. Mahoney. The paper was founded on the motto, "Honesty of purpose and equal rights to all men, will secure happiness to the people."

To this day, the paper remains a vital source of local and national news. In a new exhibit in the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum, we will feature moments from the paper's history, as well as other newspapers from the Town's history like the *Jonesborough Whig* and the *Union Flag*. The exhibit will be up this fall and will remain through 2020, so make sure you stop by and see it.

We will also be featuring readings of articles on our Chester Inn YouTube page. Make sure you follow along to learn more about the long history of the *Herald & Tribune*.

History Happy Hour 2019 Fall Schedule

***NOTE: Sept. and Oct. Happy Hour Programs are held at the Storytelling Center**

9/19 -Dr. Tim Holder-Walters State
"19th Century Methodist Circuit
Rider Francis Asbury"

10/17 -Nathan Dodson-David Crockett
BP "18th Century Settlement
Techniques"

*All dates/times are Thursdays at 6:30

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



Join us for Museum Day on Saturday, September 21! This year's theme is music, so we plan to have live dulcimer music in the Christopher Taylor House and melodeon music in the parlor room of the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum until 2:00, including a special melodeon program from 12:00-12:45 featuring local melodeon enthusiast Jacob Moorman!

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

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423.753.8696

Michael R. Floyd
Ed. D., LP-HSP
Jonesborough, TN
37659

At the Chuckey Depot

Clinchfield Railroad



Now on Exhibit
Through January 2020



A Spot On the Hill Returns in October

"A Spot On the Hill," our annual cemetery-based play, is returning for its sixth year. This fall we will be featuring all new stories from Rocky Hill and College Hill Cemeteries, including Alice Slemmons whose house is now the Storytelling Resource Center and Revered William Cate, the founding minister of the First Baptist Church in Jonesborough.

Performances will be at 6:30pm on Oct 18, 19, and 26, and at 2:00pm on Oct 19 and 26. The



matinee on Oct 26 will take place inside the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum. Tickets are \$8 and can

be purchased by calling the Visitor's Center at 423-753-1010 or online at jonesborough.com/tickets.

Seating is limited and the show sales out, so get your tickets now.

(Picture: 2018 cast of A Spot On the Hill)

Voices of the Chester Debuts

The inaugural run of "Voices of the Chester," a new historic play set in the Chester Inn, debuted to sold out audiences in June. It shared the stories of Dr. William P. Chester, enslaved worker Dapney, bound orphans Sarah and James Roberts, past operator Mrs. Theodotia Vance, politician Alfred Taylor, and more.

The Heritage Alliance will be offering school performances of this unique, theatrical experience on Friday, September 20. For more information, contact the Heritage Alliance. The building has many more stories to be told, so stay tuned for future performances.



Scenes of the cast performing "Voices of the Chester"



Calendar of Events

- **Town Tours:** 1:00 pm Saturdays
- **Mythbusting Town Tours:** 1:00 pm 2nd Saturday each month
- **Cemetery Tours:** 2:30 pm 9/7 & 9/21, 10/5
- **Architectural Salvage Warehouse:** open from 8-12 on 1st and 3rd Saturday each month through 10/5
- **Heritage Alliance Presentations at Senior Center:** October 14 at 10:00 African American Education, December 9 at 10:00 State of Franklin
- **Constitution Week Bell Ringing** Sept 15 at 1:30 at Oak Hill School
- **Oak Hill School 20th Anniversary Party** Oct 13 from 2-4 at the schoolhouse
- **A Spot on the Hill:** See article
- **Progressive Dinner:** Dec 7 at 4:00, 6:00, and 8:00



Constitution Week Bell Ringing to Focus on 18th & 21st Amendments

On September 15th, the Heritage Alliance will partner with the State of Franklin Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) to host the sixth annual Constitution Week Bell Ringing. The event will take place at 1:30pm at Oak Hill School. The program will include history on the 18th and 21st Amendments.

The 18th Amendment, which put National Prohibition into place, was ratified on January 29, 1919. National Prohibition went into effect a year later in January 1920. Jonesborough had been dry long before that, though, with the last saloon closing in the early 1900s. Surprisingly, there's not been a lot written on prohibition in Jonesborough. Still, we know bits and pieces. We know there was a very active chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance

Union in the community, and they published a weekly column in the *Herald & Tribune* for a number of years.

On the other hand, Jonesborough was very clever when it came to finding loopholes around Tennessee's prohibition laws. In 1877, the State's Four Mile Law prohibited selling intoxicating beverages within four miles of any incorporated institution of learning. At the time, the Town had the Warner Institute on East Main Street and the Jonesborough Graded School on West Main Street. In order to keep the "hooch" flowing, Jonesborough surrendered its town charter and became a taxing district in 1879. The Town regained its charter in 1903.

Once Jonesborough went dry, the Town remained dry until the

current ordinances regarding alcohol were put on the books in the late 20th century. Nationally, prohibition was a disaster, and the 18th Amendment was repealed by the 21st Amendment in 1933. One of the great things about the Constitution is it can be altered and can change with the times.

Come and celebrate the Constitution with us on September 15th. Bring a chair to sit on and a bell to ring!



Picture of Wash Co officer with a busted still. Photo from the Heritage Alliance archives.

Successful Jonesborough Days for Heritage Alliance

The Heritage Alliance had a successful Jonesborough Days which included receiving the Eagle Award for the best overall float entry in the parade. Judging factors include conformance with the parade theme and representation of the time period.

We sincerely thank the judges, as well as all the people who helped with and on the float: David and Dana Kehs, Stephen Goodman, Ed Dembowzyk, Brandon Reeves, Gordon Edwards, Janice Hammett, Lauren Anderson, Anne Mason, Joe Spiker, Jacob Simpson, Jack Van

Zandt, and our faithful tractor driver John. The float was designed by David and Dana Kehs and was based on the Chester Inn's iconic porch.

Oak Hill School and Heritage Games were again held in Jimmy Neil Smith park each day along with one day of an archaeological dig site. The Chester Inn was packed with many visitors posing for pictures with the Hensley Studio backdrop and 19th century props that were available. We always enjoy the festival, it is one of our best chances to interact with the local community!





From the Director's Desk

As most of you know, I have announced my retirement effective September 20th of this year. During my seventeen years with the Alliance, it has been my pleasure to work with incredibly dedicated and talented individuals, both staff and volunteers. I suppose it is only natural that I take a moment to look at the things accomplished through that dedication.

When I began my tenure with the Alliance, I found no effort to track the number of people served by the organization. Though not necessarily a key reason to provide a service, numbers are one way to illustrate impact and communicate value, especially to potential funders and stakeholders. Beginning in 2004, we tracked attendance for all programs and services. That first year, we provided services to 5119 individuals, most of whom were school aged children taking part in structured educational programming. These types of programming are vital and will always be an important part of the HA. However, they are only one component. Washington County's demographics dictate a wide variety of adult and family programming and we have striven to provide those services as well. By increasing our menu of programs and services, attendance last year reached 35,073 individuals! (And we did it with fewer staff, so a deeply heartfelt thanks to our volunteers who last year alone provided over 3000 hours to the HA.)

The increased number of programs was, in part, enabled by a series of grants from a variety of sources. For me personally, I am incredibly proud to have administered two different "Teaching American History" awards through the federal Department of Education. During those seven years, in partnership with the Department of History at East Tennessee State University, we were able to work with 17 different school systems and 39 individual history and social studies teachers to increase their comfort levels with various major themes of American history....and we did it through a local lens, thereby increasing their awareness of the history right here in their own backyards. Some of these teachers earned graduate credit through these programs and they all earned professional development hours. But most importantly, they returned to the classroom with renewed understanding and enthusiasm for this important subject.

During this same period, we were awarded a "Partners in the Field" Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This matching grant allowed us to hire a professionally trained Preservationist, who provided technical assistance, logistical support and advice to historic property owners throughout the region. Having preservation staff greatly enhanced both the scope and depth of our programs and enabled us to expand our outreach.

Two separate "Museums for America" awards through the IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Services) helped us achieve space in the Jonesborough Washington County History Museum for changing and traveling exhibits, as well as enhanced our ability to provide educational programming. Though these two programs, as well as two awards from the Tennessee State Library and Archives, we have been able to update and secure our Collections storage and to provide more accessibility to our holdings.

During the past seventeen years we have also played a major role, partnering with the Town of Jonesborough, in the restoration and continued preservation of the Historic Cemeteries of Jonesborough. The lessons learned and work accomplished in Jonesborough has allowed us to reach out to other communities to help them preserve their own historic cemeteries. We held our first Cemetery Preservation workshop in 2004 and today this work remains one of our most important outreach projects. Other projects accomplished in partnership with the Town of Jonesborough include the restoration and interpretation of the Christopher Taylor Cabin, as well as the Chuckey Depot.

We have a long list of accomplishments and the few listed above are ones that make me very proud, but perhaps the accomplishment of which I am most proud is that of opening the Chester Inn Museum. This beautiful building was, for many years, the private offices of what became the International Storytelling Center. Indeed it was, in large part, due to their efforts that the building was initially restored and became a state owned Historic Site under the protection of the




Tennessee Historical Commission (THC). In 2006, the state approached us to open the building to the public, partner with them to manage the facility and to interpret it, as well as a new museum planned for the street level. Years of planning and negotiation followed. The museum opened in September of 2011, with interpretation of both the second and third floors following shortly thereafter. The Chester Inn opened to the traveling public in 1798, offering excellent accommodations to weary stage coach travelers. The Inn's parlor became a gathering place for visitors and townspeople both. One can just imagine the stories told in that parlor over the past 221 years; thus it is fitting and proper that we continue to share the space with the ISC!

Since opening, the Chester Inn Museum has become a major part of our outreach. It is the home of several programs, including the interpretation of the Christopher Taylor Cabin, our Town Tours and History Happy Hour. This year, we debuted a new interpretive program called Voices of the Chester. This program, another of Anne G'Fellers Mason's history based creations, provides an inclusive look at the people who have populated the Inn over the centuries.

A lot of changes and certainly a lot of growth, but there remains one constant. That is the dedication and enthusiasm of our staff and volunteers. I have the utmost admiration and respect for these folk and look forward to the growth and changes ahead. Thank you all for the friendship and support you have shown to me personally and to this organization. Here's to many great things to come!

With great appreciation,



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Newsletter printed
courtesy of the Historic
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Center and the Town of
Jonesborough.

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