



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

Volume 19, Number 1

Spring 2020

2020 is a Year of Anniversary Celebrations

In this line of work we are always cognizant of the past. This year in particular there are many national and regional anniversaries of note that are occurring. While we are looking ahead towards another year of organizational growth and history-based programming, it is important to step back and recognize several important milestones.

Nationally, this is the 100th anniversary of victory in the Women's Suffrage movement. Tennessee became the 36th state (and last state needed) to ratify the 19th Amendment, which opened up voting rights for American women. The struggle would continue to ensure protections of that right for African



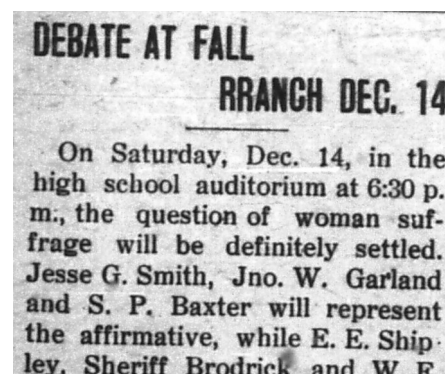
The building where *The Emancipator* was published in 1820.

American women for decades to follow, but this was a landmark advancement in the political enfranchisement of women.

Another anniversary with national implications is exceptionally rele-

vant to Jonesborough. This year marks the 200th anniversary of *The Emancipator*, Elihu Embree's abolitionist paper. Although it was only in production for a few months, it had a national subscription and is considered to be the first publication dedicated solely to the abolition of slavery in the United States.

Story Continued on Pg. 5.



Suffrage Debate in Fall Branch, 1918

Covid_19 Update: We're Still Here for You

Like most organizations, the Heritage Alliance has been directly impacted by the growing Corona Virus pandemic. The completion of this newsletter coincided with planning strategies on our organizational response to unfolding events.

We took extra time to update the newsletter as appropriate to reflect any changes or updates to programming, and we will continue to update as necessary in the coming weeks.

The decision has been made to keep the Chester Inn Museum closed and all of its programs cancelled through at least May 4th, at which point we

will reevaluate. The offices of the Heritage Alliance remain closed to the public during this time, and we have decided to postpone opening the Salvage Warehouse until June. In the meantime, we are continuing our online content and social media presence.

We will continue to monitor current events and work with the THC, the Town of Jonesborough, and Washington County to take the best course of action. If you have any questions, you can reach us via email at info@heritageall.org or call the office at 423.753.9580.

Giving Tuesday Now!

The Heritage Alliance will participate in the special, Giving Tuesday Now event on **May 5!**

This is a day designed to help nonprofits that are working to stay afloat and keep serving their communities during the current health crisis. We will have lots of fun, online activities planned that day. Stay tuned for more info as to how you can help!



History Happy Hour Returns for Fourth Season

The Chester Inn Museum's History Happy Hour program was set to return on March 26th, but current events resulted in cancellations for March and April. Keep an eye out for updates on May's program and possible reschedulings for March and April.

History Happy Hour at the Chester Inn is entering its fourth season. We have put together a full lineup for the year! We enjoy the variety of presentations and topics, and the opportunity to bring in speakers from different institutions is a bright spot of this program!

This year we are excited to bring back representatives from organizations that have spoken with us in the past: Walters State Community College, Tusculum University, and the Country Music Birthplace. Returning speakers include Dr. Rene Rogers, and Dr. Angela Keaton giving her third talk!

We are also excited to welcome new speakers and organizations this year: King University, David Crockett Birthplace, and the Langston Centre. A full list of speakers and topics are below:

3/26-Virgil Peters

—WWII and Beyond: Through the Eyes of an Appalachian Country Boy (cancelled)

4/16-Dr. Bill Kennedy

—Historic Masonry in Jonesborough (cancelled)

5/21-Dr. Kyle Osborne

—Secession and Southern Perceptions of Lincoln (Pending)

6/18-Lynne Drysdale Patterson

—Author of the Tennessee State Historic Site Cookbook

7/16-Dr. Angela Keaton

—Women's Roles in Post WWII Processed Food Production

8/20-Dr. Rene Rogers

—Guitar Styles at Bristol Sessions

9/17-Gary Purchase

—Appalachian Guerilla Fighting Techniques

10/15-Kelsey Solomon

—Mildred Haun, Appalachian Writer

11/19-Langston Centre Alumni

—Stories from Langston Centre

Schedule note: each date on the schedule is a Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. The schedule is subject to change. Any future changes or reschedules will be updated, and any cancelled programs will be rescheduled if possible.

Heritage Alliance and Chester Inn Win TAM Awards of Excellence

The Heritage Alliance and the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum received two Awards of Excellence from the Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM). Even though the Association was unable to host their annual conference due to the Covid_19 pandemic, they still handed out awards of Commendation and Excellence in programming, exhibits, and more for museums and historic sites throughout Tennessee.

The Chester Inn Museum's YouTube Channel took home an Award of Excellence in the Audio/Visual/Video Blog category. Launched in 2019, the channel features behind the scenes videos in the museum and highlights

different artifacts. The Chester Inn Museum is currently closed to the public, but we are using the YouTube Channel to bring our collections and Jonesborough's history to audiences around the globe. We have recently launched two, new video series including Social Distancing with the Victorians and At Home Amateur Museum Theatre. Subscribe on YouTube today to see our latest content.

The Heritage Alliance also received an Award of Excellence in the Special Event category for its program "Voices of the Chester." This original play took guests through the Chester Inn where they met and interacted with people from the Inn's past, including original

proprietor Dr. William Chester. The play also shared the stories of Dr. Chester's enslaved woman Dapney, his two indentured orphans, James and Sarah Roberts, former Tennessee Governor Alf Taylor, and many more. The show took place in June of 2019 and school performances were offered in September. Two of the stories are featured on the Chester Inn's YouTube page. "Voices of the Chester" was also a runner up for TAM's Past Presidents' Award which is the highest honor conveyed by the Association. The Past Presidents' Award highlights "unique and inspiring exhibits and programs, showing inclusiveness, diversity and pushing boundaries."



Historians at Home: Crowd Sourcing Current History

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Heritage Alliance has designed a new program to capture this unique moment in time. Building on our institutional mission to collect, preserve, and share the stories of ordinary people in our region, we have launched a new crowd-sourcing initiative: Historians At Home.

“Historians at Home” is a rapid response project focused on archiving the lived experience of the COVID-19 epidemic. We are asking the public to help us create a collective record of this irregular experience by sharing their own individual stories.

We are asking participants to submit a letter, containing their personal stories and points of view, regarding how this pandemic has affected their lives. Whether they are self-quarantining from the couch,

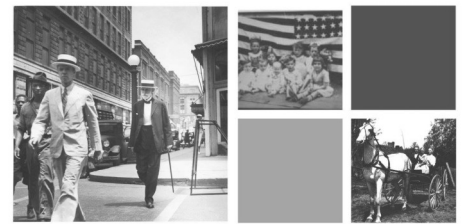
struggling to maintain family or social connections via “social distancing,” or facing challenges as they continue working through the crisis, we want to hear it all.

These stories are important because they are personal to each individual, and we want every voice to be represented in our collection for the benefit of generations to come.

The Heritage Alliance is continuing to work hard to preserve meaningful, factual, and personal stories that will contribute great value to our collection.

We provide instructions for “Historians At Home” on our social media page, including a description of the program, directions for submissions, a written release, and a list of questions to help participants get started writing their letters.

We are accepting email submissions for this program at historiansathome@gmail.com. Or participants can mail their letter and release to The Heritage Alliance at 212 E. Sabine Drive, Jonesborough, TN 37659.



+ “Everyman, His Own Historian”

Some of the most incredible historical materials come out of experiences of adversity. We are asking the public to help us crowdsource a collective record of this unique experience. Please send us a letter, containing your personal stories and points of view, regarding how this pandemic is affecting your life. Whether you are enduring self-quarantine from your couch, struggling to maintain family or social connections through “social distancing,” or facing challenges as you continue working through the crisis, we want to hear it all. Your story is important because it is your own, and we want your voice to be represented in our collection for the benefit of generations to come. Please email your submissions, as well as a completed Written Release, to historiansathome@gmail.com. Or you can mail your letter and release to The Heritage Alliance at 212 E. Sabine Drive, Jonesborough, TN 37659. Thank you for helping us to preserve this moment in time by being a historian at home!

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

Embree House Wedding Cakes
& Historic Farm
142 Matthew Mills Road
Telford, TN
423.913.3812
www.embreefarm.com

Herald & Tribune
702 West Jackson Blvd
Jonesborough, TN
423-753-3136
www.heraldandtribune.com

The Law Offices of
Edmonds & Edmonds
105 E Main St
Jonesborough, TN
423.753.8696



Archival Work Provides Opportunities

The Heritage Alliance cannot run without a team of dedicated volunteers. Our most public use of volunteer time is on the frontlines: Chester Inn Museum docents, actors in our museum theatre plays, and town tour guides. But our archives can also provide a lot of work for volunteers with a variety of backgrounds!

We have a large amount of artifacts housed in our archival collection including photographs, objects, and letters. When we receive a new donation, we have to accession and update our collection, and depending

on the size of the donation, rearrange the current collection to accommodate a space for it.

The Heritage Alliance archives provides opportunities for volunteers interested in historical artifacts and research in a behind the scenes setting. While it is not as public as docent or tour guide work, it is just as essential to our organization, and can be just as rewarding. Our most recent archival volunteer work has been digitizing our photograph collection.

Our archival work and research is

seen by the public in our museums, and now more than ever online. We rely on our archival collection and photographs for physical and digital exhibits, and continued volunteer interest in the archives allows that to happen!

Our archives may not be open to the public right now, but you can still help from home. We have a multitude of historic letters in need of transcription. If you are interested in historic photographs or artifacts, contact us today about volunteer opportunities!

Volunteer Spotlight: Daniel Nelson

This volunteer spotlight is on Daniel Nelson. Daniel has been volunteering this spring in our archives scanning photographs. Daniel began as a computer engineering student at Northeast State, and is now a second semester junior at ETSU where he changed his major to IT with a computing concentration. We want to thank Daniel for all of his hard work!

Q: How did you find out about volunteer opportunities with the Heritage Alliance?

A: I saw the Heritage Alliance on a list of service organizations. I chose to volunteer here because of your work on history and preservation, and because you seemed to have an impact on the community.

Q: What do you plan to do with your IT degree, and how will your volunteer work help with that?

A: I am interested in enlisting in the Air Force with a plan to focus on cyber security. This position has been helpful because I have been able to learn the Past Perfect system, see how small organizations function and how volunteers help, and this is my first time using this type of scanner.

Q: You've scanned hundreds of photographs. Do you have a favorite?

A: I really enjoyed the Civic Trust photograph collection that showed recent events and town celebrations. I also enjoyed any pictures that captured what daily life was like in the 80s and 90s around and before when I was born. My favorite photograph that I have scanned is the Ostrich Farm in Jacksonville [around 1900]. It was interesting to see how ostriches were used and how people handled them.

Q: Do you have anything that you want to add?

A: I hope to see these photographs online, and possibly made more accessible to the public in the future. I have enjoyed my time working with the Heritage Alliance staff.



Daniel at work in the archives.



We've Gone Digital! Find These Sources Online

At the end of March, the Heritage Alliance launched it's new website. The address is still www.heritageall.org, but the design is new and it's mobile friendly! Given the current health crisis, we're posting a lot of resources online. Here's an update on what you can find where.

Website:

- Updates on closures and program cancellations
- Primary source activity with the Cholera Epidemic of 1873
- Weekly photo explorations with our historic photos
- How to submit to our Historians at Home crowd sourcing program
- Chester Inn Museum coloring book
- Weekly social media round ups where you can find links to our posts in one place

Chester Inn Museum:

- Facebook: Weekly posts on the Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918 and how studying the past can help us contextualize the present pandemic. The Museum has also launched a special Padlet exhibit that takes an in-depth look at the 1918 flu pandemic in Carter County.
- YouTube: We've started a new series called Social Distancing with the Victorians that releases videos on a weekly basis.
- Website: (heritageall.org) Since the public cannot come into the museum at this time, we've created a digital exhibit featuring two cases from Historic Preservation in Jonesborough, 1970-2020.

Heritage Alliance:

- Facebook: Weekly posts featuring our archival photos. We've also been creating

historic building scavenger hunts and looking at recreation through time, including bicycling and hiking.

- Instagram: Right now we're featuring several of our archival photos that make us think of Spring.
- YouTube: We do not have a separate channel for the Heritage Alliance, but you can find our videos under the Chester Inn Museum's YouTube channel. We've been posting craft videos, including make a Buzz Saw and make a May Basket. We've also launched a new series called At Home Amateur Museum Theatre that shares local history in a fun and simple way. Gordon Edwards recently did a video for us on cemetery marker stabilization.

Follow all our social media pages to stay up to date!

Continued from Pg. 1

Another major milestone in 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the Historic Zoning Commission. This organization has been at the forefront of planning and preserving the architectural history of the area. Many of their early zoning maps and architectural analyses of structures in Jonesborough provided the blueprint for the preservation process.

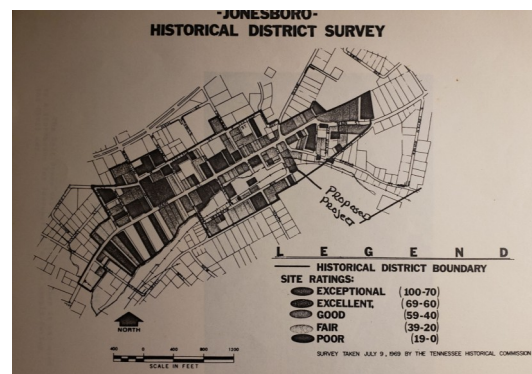
In conjunction with Historic Zoning, the Jonesborough Civic Trust was also founded 50 years ago. Many of the steps taken towards preserving the history of the area and the face of

engaging historic preservation with the public lie with the Civic Trust.

The Civic Trust's activities included organizing events such as the first Jonesborough Days and Storytelling festivals as well as structuring town tours and tours of historic homes. The Civic Trust's practice of tying preservation and history to tourism and the identity of the town is still in place today.

This year the Heritage Alliance will be acknowledging these anniversaries in a variety of ways including online content and exhibits

in our museums. Keep an eye out as we roll these items out this year!



A survey of the condition of Jonesborough's historic structures produced in the early 1970s.



Heritage Alliance Board Member Feature: Terry Countermine

In this new feature, we will be highlighting Heritage Alliance Board of Trustee members. As an organization we rely not only on our volunteers and members, but also on the contributions and support of our Board. Our first feature is on Terry Countermine. Terry and wife Sandy moved here in 1990, but they had lived here during the academic year of 1978-1979.

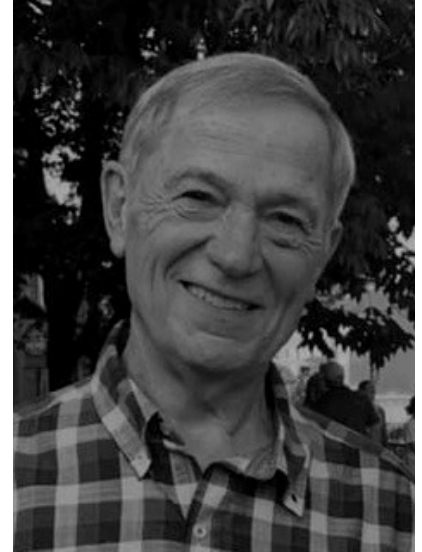
Terry Countermine is the current Vice President of the Heritage Alliance's Board of Trustees. He has been a member since the organization was established in 2001. Terry helped layout the bylaws for the organization in months of planning with other members including Gary Burkett and Dr. Bill Kennedy. One thing that took a while to come up with in the planning period? The organization's new name, Heritage Alliance.

In almost 20 years of service covering the organization's entire history, Terry has many favorite memories of his time with the Heritage Alliance. Remarkable achievements that stand out include the relocation of the Oak Hill School House, the creation of the Chester Inn Museum, and the relocation and restoration of the Chuckey Depot. He has enjoyed watching the organization grow from an organization working to find its true vision into what it is now, remarking that it has been a satisfying process for all involved.

Terry believes that the Heritage Alliance is a big part of what

makes Jonesborough so special. The preservation of buildings and culture is very important, and educating our residents is the way to getting more people involved. According to Terry, "Being a part of that process has been very rewarding."

When Terry is not serving the Heritage Alliance, you can find him playing music with the Jonesborough Novelty Band, actively involved in local issues as an Alderman, and promoting diversity. We appreciate Terry and his continued hard work and service for the Heritage Alliance!



Terry Countermine

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

Franklin House Bed &
Breakfast
116 Franklin Avenue
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-753-3819
www.franklinhousebb.com

Linnaea Gardens
1019 Hwy 81 N
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-753-3286
www.linnaeagardens.com

Main Street Café
& Catering
117 West Main Street
Jonesborough, TN
423-753-2460
www.mainstreetcatering.net

Grace Meadows Farm
170 John France Road
Jonesborough, TN 37659
+1 (423) 794-0246
www.gracemeadowsfarmtn.com/

SonGear: A Christian
Lifestyle Company
Jack Van Zandt, Customer
Servant
423.948.0237
www.songear.com

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



From the Director's Desk, by Anne Mason

Was it just three months ago when I stood before you all at the Annual Meeting and announced our plans for 2020? Geez, it feels like another lifetime now. It was so good to see all your faces that January evening. At that meeting, we shared our goals for the coming year, including two, new fundraisers: the “Dash Through the Past Fun Run/Walk” set for May 30 and the “Taste of Tennessee” cooking event set for August 22. We also received a gracious donation of \$300 from the Wild Women of Jonesborough to help us construct our History Detective Kits and bring our artifacts into classrooms throughout the region.

Then . . . well, we all know what happened next. In addition to being a historian, I'm also a theatre person, and there's a musical called “Songs For a New World” by Jackson Robert Brown. The opening song includes the lyrics, “But then the earthquake hits and the bank closes in. Then you realize you didn't know anything.” And that's sort of what I felt like as the Covid_19 pandemic spread across the country. This certainly was not the challenge I was expecting my first year as Executive Director. (We didn't even have pandemics in our disaster manual, but we certainly do now.) Above all, I knew the safety of our staff, members, volunteers, and visitors was paramount, so the Heritage Alliance team has done our best to follow CDC guidelines and adhere to the advice of the State, the County, the Town, and the Tennessee Historical Commission.

It would be easy to mourn all the energy from the Annual Meeting as a

lost cause, but that is so far from the truth. I cannot commend my staff enough for thinking on their feet and coming up with new, exciting content like our Social Distancing with the Victorians web series, our Historians at Home crowd sourcing initiative, and digital exhibits. Every day they inspire me and thrill me. And even though we're not interacting face to face, it's rewarding to see the way the public is engaging with our posts and content online. The museum may be closed, but there is history happening now that needs to be preserved and contextualized, so the Heritage Alliance is still here.

Yes, we have had to cancel and postpone some events. We have moved our inaugural “Dash Through the Past Fun Run/Walk” to 2021. We are planning back up plans for the “Taste of Tennessee” and our other programs. The History Detective kits may not be able to roll out into classrooms this spring, but we are posting as much educational content as we possibly can to help students who are learning from home.

Throughout this crisis, I have been buoyed by the good I see around me, neighbor helping neighbor, albeit from a safe distance. As one of my favorite history professors noted on Facebook, “Historians are here to remind you that a future is possible.” In studying the epidemics and pandemics of the past, we've seen just how much we've learned from those past crises. The world will look different after Covid_19. We will have learned some valuable lessons, and as in the past, we will use what we've learned to make a better future.

In the meantime, the Heritage Alliance hopes you are staying safe and enjoying our online content. We will be participating in Giving Tuesday Now on May 5. We know times are tight for many, but if you are able to or feel so inclined, we'd encourage you to donate to the Heritage Alliance that day. Like many nonprofits, we have had to cancel programs and planned fundraisers. We'll be posting a lot of fun content that day to bring attention to the organization and all we do. And it's very true that even if the museum is closed and no kids are coming to Oak Hill School, our historic buildings still have needs that have to be addressed.

We thank you all for your continued support, and we look forward to the day when we can all gather together again in person. The world looks so very different right now, but as the characters in “Songs For a New World” observe in hindsight, “But you didn't have a clue that the surface sometimes cracks to reveal the tracks to a new world.”

Where will these tracks lead us? Who knows what this new world will look like? May we face it together and learn and be stronger for it.

The Link Update

You may be thinking, did I miss the winter edition of *The Link*? Nope. We decided to change our schedule and publish the newsletter in Spring, Summer, Fall, and do Winter at the end of the year. Don't worry, we'll still have four editions a year.





212 East Sabin Dr.
Jonesborough, TN 37659

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Gordon Edwards, Jonesborough
Vice-President: Terry Countermine, Jonesborough
Secretary: Hal Hunter, Johnson City
Treasurer: Pat Wolfe, Telford
Walter Buford, Jonesborough
Mark Edmonds, Jonesborough
Dan Eldridge, Jonesborough
Mike Floyd, Jonesborough
Cari Jarman, Jonesborough
Kati Jenkins, Jonesborough
Tom Krieger, Jonesborough
Jack Van Zandt, Jonesborough

HA Office Phone: 423-753-9580
Chester Inn Museum: 423-753-4580
www.heritageall.org
info@heritageall.org

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

Executive Director:: Anne G'Fellers-Mason
amason@heritageall.org

Chester Inn Museum: Joe Spiker.
chesterinn@heritageall.org

Programming Coordinator: Megan Cullen
Tewell
mtewell@heritageall.org

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!

Name: _____	Membership Level	Join a Circle!
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> General \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer \$100
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin \$250
Email: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage \$500
		<input type="checkbox"/> Founders \$1000

Memberships and donations to the Heritage Alliance are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. If you have questions concerning your contribution to the Alliance, please consult your tax advisor. No goods and/or services have been provided to the donor by the Heritage Alliance in consideration of this donation and membership.

Go online to www.heritageall.org and join via PayPal
or mail checks to Heritage Alliance 212 E. Sabin Dr.
Jonesborough, TN 37659