



# The Link



*preserving our heritage and building a future together*

Volume 19, Number 3

Fall 2020

## Heritage Alliance Salvage Warehouse Receives a...House?

When you are an organization that manages an archival collection, you never know what unexpected donations might come your way; strange Victorian mourning artifacts, any manner of items “used by Andy Jackson,” and maybe even a house!

That is exactly what happened at the Heritage Alliance this summer when a deconstructed, disassembled home that had been in storage for decades had to be relocated. A series of events and contacts orchestrated with the help of Dr. Bill Kennedy led to the building being donated to the Heritage Alliance’s Salvage Warehouse.

A large portion of the donation comes from the Albert Jackson Tipton home. A.J. Tipton was the great grandson of Col. John Tipton, and the house was located on North Riverside Drive



*The home in 1928, and Gordon Edwards in front of the donated windows.*

in Elizabethton. The exact date of the home’s construction has not been determined. However based on the home’s Greek Revival style and A.J. Tipton’s age (born 1820, died 1882), it was possibly constructed by the 1850s. Info from family indicates that Tipton built the house, although no deed research has been done. If the house was built earlier, it would have had to have been built by Tipton’s father, James Ireland Tipton (1792-1861).

The house was a two story brick structure with a two story frame section. There was a rear porch that was added later, possibly in the 1880s by Tipton’s son John Wright Tipton (1848-1908). Sanborn maps indicate that there were also changes to the front porch, likely completed between 1913 and 1924 by Tipton’s granddaughter-in-law Belle

Carter Tipton (1877-1946). The Tipton family sold the property in the late 1970s, and the house was dismantled in the 1980s.

The donation to the Heritage Alliance included:

1. Approximately 7500 site made bricks
2. 16 4’x8 windows
3. Two mantels
4. Several doors
5. Two entryways
6. Radiator covers

We have information about some of the donated items. For example, the brick we received is far less than the full amount needed for the entire house. Also, the steam radiator covers feature Art Deco designs and would have likely been added in the 1930s. There are some mysteries as well, such as the fact that the balancing system used on the donated windows was not invented until the mid 1880s.

For more information about the history of the home, the donated items, and their availability in our Salvage Warehouse, please contact the Heritage Alliance at (423) 753-4580 or email us at [info@heritageall.org](mailto:info@heritageall.org)!



*The donated windows are 8/8, but the windows in the 1928 photograph are 6/6.*



## **“If You Don’t Watch Out” Flu Exhibit and Program Go Online**

The Chester Inn Museum has put together its first online-only exhibit! “If You Don’t Watch Out: The 1918 Influenza Pandemic in and Around Washington County” is a three-part exhibit that looks at the local experience during six months of the 1918 flu pandemic, which impacted millions across the world.

The first section uses timelines to explore the local impact of the 1918 flu pandemic, including death record timelines for Washington and Carter Counties. The death record timelines feature monthly summaries, statistical data, and a daily breakdown of each fatality that had influenza as either a cause of death or was a contributing factor. The research for the Washington County

timeline was compiled by Chad Fred Bailey of the Jonesborough Genealogical Society.

The second part of the exhibit features local newspaper coverage broken down into eight topics including Red Cross News, World War I, and Community Updates. News articles are mixed with interpretation designed to further understand the news coverage while also placing it into the context of our current pandemic and the responses to it.

The third part of the exhibit features external links to other sources to place the local impact of the flu pandemic into the broader national and international context, reminding visitors that

the 1918 pandemic had a significant impact all across the globe.

We were fortunate enough to interview Dr. Alex Navarro, associate director of the University of Michigan’s Center for Medical History and editor of the online 1918 Flu Encyclopedia. The interview is available on our YouTube channel and is part of the exhibit, as well.



*“Child Logic,” published in the Herald and Tribune on 11-14-1918.*

## **Progressive Dinner Update**

This is the time when we’re usually gearing up for the upcoming Progressive Dinner in December. Unfortunately, but understandably, the Heritage Alliance has decided to cancel this year’s event. It was not an easy decision to make, but we know it is the best and safest decision. The Progressive Dinner is not gone for good, just on break for a year. We will miss the festivities and volunteer spirit that weekend, but we hope you’ll join us in 2021 for one

of our new and exciting Summer Suppers.

This year has been one of growth and change for the Heritage Alliance and we’ve worked to adapt several of our existing programs and create new ones. Summer Suppers will launch in 2021 and will invite guests for an intimate meal on the lawn of a historic home. The evening will include local food, lovely music, and plenty of interesting history. More information on the

suppers and specific dates will be announced soon. Stay tuned for more!

### **History Happy Hour 2020 Final Presentation**

**Thursday 11/19 at 6:30  
Langston Centre  
“Stories from Langston”**

*\*Speakers and Topics Subject to Change*



## Taste of Tennessee Recap and Cook Book Update

In August 2020, the Heritage Alliance launched a new program, the Taste of Tennessee, a virtual Appalachian food celebration. The event highlighted the history and culture of regional Appalachian foodways by bringing people together to explore and celebrate Appalachian cuisine from the comfort of their homes. This day-long digital celebration was full of education and entertainment, and also served as a partial fundraiser for the organization. Public presentations were offered online through Facebook and Zoom. Presentations included a variety of demonstrations, lectures, and cooking classes.

Given the digital delivery of the program, it is hard to properly evaluate the impact of Taste of Tennessee. However, social media analytics suggest that the event reached over 3,800 people on Facebook alone. Viewers from throughout the region tuned in for demonstrations, tours, discussions, and cooking classes featuring local fare. The program also allowed the Heritage Alliance to pursue new partnerships with local businesses, chefs, and foodway experts creating opportunities for future collaborations. Some of these collaborators included Timber! restaurant, Serenity Knoll Farm, River Creek Farm, Boone Street Market, the NC

Craft Beverage Museum, Exchange Place, and many more! Furthermore, Taste of Tennessee opened the doors for the Heritage Alliance to engage with untapped audiences, and serve new community interests, a trend we hope to continue with next year's Taste of Tennessee.

As part of the inaugural event, the Heritage Alliance also collected recipes for a community-curated cookbook, which will debut later this year. This cookbook promises to continue the spirit of the event by using Appalachian food to explore regional history and culture. We are very excited to share this new project with you and hope you will support us by purchasing your very own copy of this special cookbook.

Keep an eye out for special Heritage Alliance programming **ALL DAY** long on **December 1st** as part of the Giving Tuesday Now Fundraiser!

*Tomato Pie from our cooking class with Margie Kendall of Serenity Knoll*



**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](http://www.embreefarm.com)

Herald & Tribune  
702 West Jackson Blvd  
Jonesborough, TN  
423-753-3136  
[www.heraldandtribune.com](http://www.heraldandtribune.com)

The Law Offices of  
Mark D. Edmonds  
105 E Main St  
Jonesborough, TN  
423.753.8696



## Museum Roundup: Suffrage and New Cases

### Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum:

Small history organizations know how to make a lot out of a little. But they rarely have the luxury of purchasing new, state-of-the-art equipment for museums, historic sites, or archives. Sometimes, though, unexpected opportunities make themselves known. And that is exactly what happened in September 2020, when the Lexington History Museum in Lexington, Kentucky generously donated three mid-century retail cases to the Heritage Alliance.

These cases, historic artifacts in and of themselves, will now be

used to house displays in the museum. Excitingly, these cases will allow visitors to see artifacts that, for security reasons, would otherwise remain safely housed in our museum storage area.

At least one of the cases will make its debut celebrating the anniversary of Women's Suffrage. As a complement to the Tennessee State Museum's traveling exhibit on the subject, the Heritage Alliance is preparing a supplemental display addressing women's local political participation in and around that time. Many know of the crucial role that Tennessee played in empowering women with the vote, but this exhibit

promises a new chapter in that story, one that features the lives, efforts, and experiences of local women. Using both text and artifacts from the Heritage Alliance's prized collections, we look forward to sharing and celebrating this unique historical moment with audiences. The exhibit will be available to the public by early November 2020.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Dana Kehs

For this edition of our newsletter, we got to interview Tour Guide, Actress, and Seamstress extraordinaire Dana Kehs! We asked her what brought her to the area and why she chooses to volunteer her time for the Heritage Alliance.

"I first came to upper East TN on a family vacation and from the moment that I set foot on Jonesborough soil I felt that connection, that bonding, that kinship with those that had been here before me. There is a long time myth about the Old Mill Spring that if you take a drink from it you are destined to return

to Jonesborough. I think that must have been what happened to me.

I met Anne through the Yarn Exchange Old Time Radio Show. She had written a new play and was holding auditions. It required a monologue so I researched Jonesborough history and wrote my own piece. I fell more in love with Jonesborough at that very moment.

Now I am a tour guide doing town tours and mythbusting tours. I love bringing to life Jonesborough's vibrant, multifaceted past for others to learn from and enjoy.

I highly encourage everyone to get involved with preserving our rich heritage found here. There are multiple ways to 'fall in love with Jonesborough all over again'...just ask Anne Mason!"



*Dana leads a group of tourists through Town.*



## Johnson City Postal Savings Bank & Post Office Nomination Clears a Hurdle

The saying “it takes a village” usually refers to a coordinated, community-based effort that achieves a notable goal. And in the case of the historic Ashe Street courthouse, that is exactly what took place! In September 2020, the Johnson City Postal Savings Bank and Post Office (also known as the former Ashe Street courthouse) moved even closer to joining the exclusive and prestigious National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Thanks to coordinated efforts between Heritage Alliance staff and leadership, as well as local government, residents, and citizen groups, the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) approved the building’s proposed designation during one of their quarterly meetings. In order to make the decision official, the building’s admittance to the NRHP still needs to be confirmed

by the National Park Service, a ruling that may be made as soon as the end of this year. But, the approval of the THC marks an exciting acknowledgement of the building’s history and its significance, as well as the end of a long and demanding process that began a year ago.

Originally constructed as the only Postal Savings Bank in Tennessee, the building at 401 Ashe Street in Johnson City opened in 1911 on land donated by George L. Carter. Postal savings banks were introduced by President William Howard Taft, designed to “prioritize financial security, affordable credit, and macroeconomic stability.” When it first opened its doors, the Ashe Street site was one of only 48 such facilities nationwide and served that purpose until the late 1930s.

After the construction of a new, more spacious post office, the building continued to serve the community by offering New Deal youth programs, operating as a courthouse, and later housing an emergency services call center. The building has been vacant since 2017.

Historic preservation is a key part of the Heritage Alliance’s mission, and our organization’s central involvement with the Johnson City Postal Savings Bank and Post Office should be celebrated as a triumph for local historic preservation. Thanks to the efforts of the participants, collaborators, and contributors, the century-old building will finally receive the recognition that it deserves.

## Heritage Alliance Board Member Feature: Dr. Mike Floyd

Dr. Mike Floyd has been a member of the Heritage Alliance Board since 2018. He enjoys the good cheer of meeting and working with a diverse group of people from throughout the community that he might not usually get to meet. He also enjoys getting to see a close-up preview of the projects that are developed and accomplished by the Heritage Alliance’s young professionals who are actively involved in regional historic

preservation, public education, and resource development.

Dr. Floyd completed his training and internship in psychology at Auburn University and the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1982. He found employment in Johnson City with the Watauga Area Mental Health Center and Woodridge Hospital. By 1986, he had married, become the father of two children, and built his first

house on an old farm with a wonderful spring in Washington County. In 1989 he began working with East Tennessee State University with the James H. Quillen College of Medicine.

Dr. Floyd enjoys recreational activities such as cross-country skiing and road cycling. Additionally, he has long held an interest in all things old, especially houses. Dr. Floyd grew up and lived near a 19th century



*Continued from page 5*

fortification in Ft. Meade, FL, until he was eight. He adventured with his brother around a rundown settler's "mansion," which included an overgrown back yard, a foot-powered grinding wheel that "sharpened our knives," and a shed with "real" Confederate currency.

His serious interest in old buildings began while in graduate school in Auburn, Alabama. "I lived in an antebellum home and found a way to make ends meet as a carpenters' helper with a friend who moved and restored two antebellum houses."

It was not that big of a stretch to take on the rehabilitations of the former Jonesborough Bank and Trust building and Panhorst House, or enjoy the already-restored Fink House. "Susanna (Susu) and our children turned the mezzanine, upper level roof into a loft apartment and patio deck. The flooring for Kennedy & Hankins' office came from the trees harvested from my county home, as were the ash flooring, basswood woodwork, walnut cabinetry, and cedar closets in the upstairs." Around this time he also joined the Historic Zoning Commission.

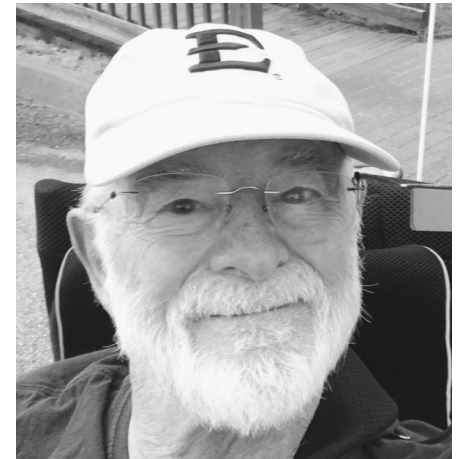
Dr. Floyd enjoys the culture of the area, and thinks that participation with organizations like the Heritage Alliance and Historic Zoning Commission allows a deeper immersion into a

history that has, in part, become our collective history. This offers a deeper understanding and appreciation for those who came before and another perspective on contemporary life.

Heritage Alliance membership offers a wide variety of volunteer activities at events like the Progressive Dinner or projects with the history museums. Dr. Floyd offers two personal examples: "My wife, Susu has been active with the educational activities with the Chucky Depot and I helped Jack Moore prepare the Oak Hill School for its move from the Knob Creek area of Johnson City to its new home in Jonesborough. Once placed, Susu, working with Jean Smith, became one of its first "schoolmarns" offering an emersion experience for school children from

throughout our region."

Dr. Floyd's interest in history and restoration has even spread to his children: son, Ben, is restoring an old home in Waynesboro, VA and daughter, Anna, is restoring a very old log home in Jonesborough!



*Board Member, Dr. Mike Floyd*

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

Main Street Café  
& Catering  
117 West Main Street  
Jonesborough, TN  
423-753-2460  
[www.mainstreetcatering.net](http://www.mainstreetcatering.net)

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

Franklin House Bed &  
Breakfast  
116 Franklin Avenue  
Jonesborough, TN 37659  
423-753-3819  
[www.franklinhousebb.com](http://www.franklinhousebb.com)

Jonesborough Genealogical  
Society  
c/o Washington County  
Library  
200 Sabin Drive  
Jonesborough, TN 37659



## From the Director's Desk

This has certainly been a year for the history books, and we're not done yet. This year was also one for major anniversaries, including the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the 50th anniversary of Jonesborough's Historic Zoning, and the 30th anniversary of the Jonesborough Genealogical Society. We still celebrated these anniversaries, in one way or another, but some events have been postponed until 2021.

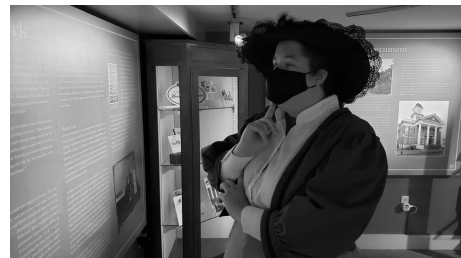
This year is also the 200th anniversary of the publication of Elihu Embree's newspaper, *The Emancipator*. We've been sharing monthly clippings from the paper's seven editions. The last will be shared this week on October 31. That was the last edition Embree published. He died that December, so perhaps his health was too poor in November for him to keep publishing.

A museum exhibit is still planned for the end of the year inside the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum, but the largest part of the anniversary celebration has been postponed until 2021, and perhaps that's fitting. I am currently researching to learn more about Embree's enslaved woman Nancy and her five children. Embree manumitted them in his will which went into effect in January of 1821. It does seem appropriate, then, that we share Nancy's story on the 200th anniversary of her emancipation.

During this anniversary and through my research, I've tried to reconcile Embree the idealist with Embree the human being who was an enslaver until the day he died. This dichotomy highlights the importance of a history education that is truthful, varied, and reveals all the facts, even when they're hard to swallow. I had one of those moments earlier this year when the Washington County Archives shared a document with me.

In February 1806, Jefory, a black man who was an apprentice with Embree filed suit against him, claiming that Embree "...Hath unlawfully and immoderately whipped (sic) beat and abused sd servant." Another such suit was filed against Embree in May of that year. Embree confessed to the beatings. This was in 1806, perhaps before his spiritual awakening that led to his emancipation fervor? Still, the fact remains that Embree did not manumit all of his slaves until his death. How long would Nancy and her children have remained enslaved if Embree had not passed in 1820? We can only wonder.

A study of history presents several reasons why Embree may have continued to enslave Nancy and her family. It was intentionally expensive to manumit enslaved people at the time, and Embree may not have had the funds. Also, you couldn't manumit the children and not the parent, and there were five



children. Embree tried to explain his reasons in his paper, but he was never able to judge himself the same way he judged other enslavers.

History is messy. It's not easy, but we have to know the whole story, view the whole picture, and that comes with seeing our idealists, our movers and shakers for who they were: human beings. Does the fact that Embree was an enslaver discount the work he did for emancipation? No. But it paints him in a broader context. Knowing this about him encourages us to search for more information on Nancy, on her children Frames, Abegil, Sophea, Mount, and John. It also encourages us to learn more about Jefory and his role in Washington County in 1806. When we truly engage with history, we have far more questions than answers, and we're always uncovering more stones with stories to be told underneath.

### Support our Business Members!

Linnaea Gardens  
1019 Hwy 81 N  
Jonesborough, TN 37659  
423-753-3286  
[www.linnaeagardens.com](http://www.linnaeagardens.com)





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  
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](http://www.heritageall.org)**  
**[info@heritageall.org](mailto:info@heritageall.org)**

*The Chester Inn 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](mailto:amason@heritageall.org)

Chester Inn Museum: Joe Spiker.  
[chesterinn@heritageall.org](mailto:chesterinn@heritageall.org)

Programming Coordinator: Dr. Megan  
Cullen Tewell  
[mtewell@heritageall.org](mailto: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: _____	<b>Membership Level</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> General \$50.00  <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100.00	<b>Join a Circle!</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Founders \$1000
Address: _____		
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		
Email: _____		

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](http://www.heritageall.org) and join via PayPal  
or mail checks to Heritage Alliance 212 E. Sabin Dr.  
Jonesborough, TN 37659