



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

Volume 19, Number 4

Winter 2020

Coalition for Historic Preservation and Reuse

On November 17, 2020, the Johnson City Postal Savings Bank and Post Office was officially added to the NPS National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Historic sites on the register are federally recognized treasures with exceptional historic and/or architectural value. The building was admitted to the NRHP due to its governmental and architectural significance, primarily its beaux-arts design, which was a common style for civic building at the turn of the twentieth century.

The admittance of the Johnson City Postal Savings Bank is the culmination of over a year of hard work. During this time, the Heritage Alliance has been able to successfully engage in local historic preservation efforts that highlight the building's history. Throughout 2019 and 2020, staff members of the Heritage Alliance worked with numerous community, civic, and governmental partners in order to create a NRHP application for the building, including local grassroots preservation group the Coalition for Historic Preservation.

The Heritage Alliance's coordination with these organizations to advocate on behalf of the building was recognized by regional leaders including Mayor Joe Grandy and the Washington County Commission, and they designated the Heritage Alliance as the site's preservation coordinator in January 2020.

Heritage Alliance board member and Johnson City Historic Zoning Commissioner Hal Hunter dedicated his time, effort, and expertise to completing the architectural significance portion

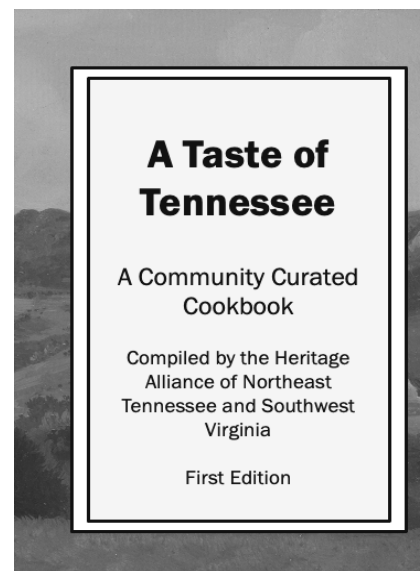
Continued on Page 2

Taste of Tennessee Cookbook Out Now

Everyone knows that the best part of any potluck is sampling the crockpot creations and pie tin productions of friends and neighbors. But, the absence of cookouts, fish fries, and dinner parties has generally left us alone in our kitchens with our own cooking. Fortunately, there is still a way this holiday season to try the tasty and beloved recipes of others!

The Heritage Alliance is looking to reunite people through food

with the release of their first-ever community curated cookbook, *A Taste Tennessee*. Consisting of contributions by local community members, as well as reprints of historical recipes, *A Taste of Tennessee* contains more than just food. It also provides historical anecdotes, archival photos, newspaper clippings, artwork, and songs/myths all related to Appalachian foodways, making it feel like a potluck in print. "Because of the current health crisis, the Heritage Alliance has



Continued on Page 4



New Year, New Museum...Same Great Mission

Travelers to the Jonesborough Visitor's Center have likely strolled through the lobby and gift shop, perusing local arts, crafts, and books that tell the story of northeast Tennessee. Perhaps they have even meandered through the large glass doors into the Jonesborough & Washington County History Museum (JWCHM), a free exhibit space that details the origin and development of both Jonesborough and Washington County.

In more normal times, there might be children visiting for a school field trip, engaging with a hands-on artifact workshop. Or a historically based play taking place, based on real-life characters and events from

Jonesborough's storied past. After all, there's something for everyone at the JWCHM and new discoveries to be made with each visit.

The museum opened in the early 1980s and came under the purview of the Heritage Alliance after its founding in 2001. Since then, the Heritage Alliance staff have worked diligently to curate new exhibits that address local historical topics and themes, rotating content on a somewhat regular basis. And in the spirit of keeping curiosity about local history alive, we will continue to do so throughout 2021. But we are also hoping to engage in some larger-scale cosmetic changes to the museum by refreshing some of the displays, as well as the

design and signage.

Throughout January and February 2021, staff members will develop and implement a redesign plan that updates aspects of the museum. Some of the signage, paint colors, and exhibits currently in place are original to the museum, and have remained unchanged since the 1980s. Our goal with this moderate redesign is to offer a fresh take for new and return visitors alike, so that we may celebrate the history of Jonesborough and Washington County in a space with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Come by and visit us in spring 2021 to see the new and improved Jonesborough & Washington County History Museum!

Continued from Page 1

of the application, while Programming Coordinator Megan Cullen Tewell completed the historical research on the building. Executive Director Anne G'Fellers-Mason managed the entire project and worked diplomatically with various partners to coordinate each phase of the application process. Thanks to the efforts of all of these stakeholders, the building has finally received the attention that it deserves.

So, what's next for the Johnson City Postal Savings Bank? The Washington County Commission generously matched funds from the Johnson City Development Authority and the Southside Neighborhood Organization to fund a feasibility study in order to assess the building's condition and potential reuse. That study will be underway shortly and will likely be completed by mid-2021. Stay tuned for more details!



Ashe Street Courthouse Today



"Well Done, Sister Suffragette!"

In November 2020, the Heritage Alliance debuted a new exhibit, "Women's Suffrage in Washington County," at the Jonesborough & Washington County History Museum in Jonesborough, TN. The large three text panels, as well as the artifacts on display, tell the exciting story of local women's fight to receive and exercise the right to vote. It is a complement to "To Make Our Voices Heard: Tennessee Women's Fight for the Vote," the traveling exhibition created jointly by the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

"Women's Suffrage in Washington County" recounts the notable figures, organizations, movements, and events that coalesced into Tennessee's successful ratification of the 19th Amendment. Tracing women's political involvement throughout the early twentieth century, visitors learn about lesser known aspects of the regional suffrage movement, including the many women who registered to vote in Washington County, and the

participation of women in local elections before the passage of the 19th Amendment.

The exhibit was researched and curated by Megan Cullen Tewell, Programming Coordinator at the Heritage Alliance. According to Tewell, one of the most unique—and historically important—aspects of the exhibit is its use of the Washington County Voter Registration records, currently housed at the Washington County Archives in Jonesborough. "These records reveal a lot about the local suffrage movement, especially the women who were eager to register to vote and have

their voices heard at the polls," says Tewell. "Thanks to these records," which survive for Jonesborough, but not for Johnson City, "we are able to learn their names, as well as other important information." Demographic data contained in the voter registration books allowed Tewell to identify and assess the age, race, profession, and residence of the hundreds of women who registered to vote between 1919 and 1922. Doing so clarified early participants of the local suffrage movement and allowed a more personal interpretation of this significant historical moment.



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



Chester Inn Museum Eyes 2021 Plan

The Chester Inn made several exhibit plan changes in 2020. Our opening exhibit stayed on display for the entire year, and none of the other exhibits that made it to the museum floor were on our original schedule. The museum's main exhibit, "If You Don't Watch Out," was a completely online exhibit covering the 1918 influenza pandemic, an idea that was not on the table when the museum opened in March.

For 2021 the museum hopes to incorporate some of last year's omitted exhibit plan while incorporating some of the new elements we tried out this year. According to Head Docent and exhibit designer Joe Spiker, "Our main goal is to engage our patrons as much as possible, including

online exhibits." There are also plans to expand the museum's interpretation through exhibits and collaborations, culminating in a broader, more representative story of the region's history.

One of the major projects we are working on is creating a permanent display highlighting the contributions of enslaved people at the inn. The display will be based on compiled deed research and other resources. It will feature as much information as possible about the people who had been enslaved by William and John Chester in the late 1700s and early 1800s through the stories of Columbus, Rufus, and Harry, three people who were enslaved at the property in the 1850s.

We also plan to collaborate with other organizations to tell a more inclusive story about the region. One collaboration is already in place with the Kingsport City archives. Earlier this year they worked with Black in Appalachia and produced a travelling exhibit highlighting African American history in Kingsport. We have that slated to be one of our opening exhibits in the museum in March 2021!

We have also been talking with other organizations about ways to tell as much of this region's history as possible. Spiker concludes: "It is important to ensure that everyone's stories are told, but equally important to make sure those communities and voices are able to tell their own story in their own words."

Continued from Page 1

had to limit our in-person programming," says executive director Anne G'Fellers-Mason. "But this cookbook offers us a great opportunity to interact with, and serve, the community in a way that's central to our mission—and that's fun!"

A Taste of Tennessee is currently for sale at the Jonesborough Visitor's Center on Boone Street and through the Heritage Alliance on East Sabin Drive. Printed, black and white copies can be purchased for \$12.00 or you can download a digital color version for \$8.00 (through the Heritage Alliance exclusively).

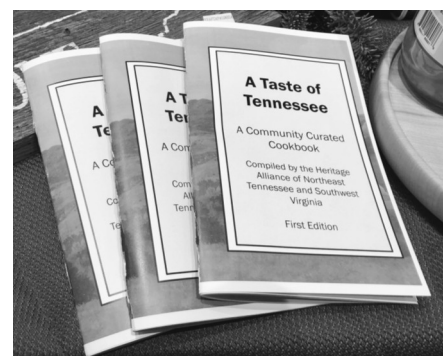
To purchase through the Heritage Alliance, call us at 423-753-9580 or reach out to us via email at info@heritageall.org.

These cookbooks are a limited release and would make an excellent holiday gift for folks interested in food, Appalachia, and local history.

Special Offer for Heritage Alliance Members/Volunteers:

As a Member, we'd like to offer you a discount on this publication. Physical, black and white copies can be purchased through us for

\$10.00, or you can purchase a \$5.00 color, digital download. In order to receive your discount, you must purchase directly through the Heritage Alliance via phone or email. There is no limit to how many copies you can purchase from us with your Membership/Volunteer discount.



Volunteer Spotlight: Jean Rushing

Here is our Q & A with Jean Rushing, a volunteer working in an area that is always top on our to-do list but often at the bottom of our got-to list: organizing our archives and archival collection!

What is your volunteer role with the Heritage Alliance?

I am working as a volunteer archivist for the Heritage Alliance so I will be focusing on caring for the document collections. One of my first goals is to maximize the archival storage area and then hopefully I can begin creating finding aids for some of the wonderful collections.

Have you worked with the Heritage Alliance before?

I briefly worked on a Heritage Alliance exhibit project several years ago during my Archival Studies program.

What is it about archives that excites you?

I am both an archivist and a historian. I love planning, sorting, and organizing so I use these skills all the time in preserving historical documents. It's very satisfying to me to see chaos turn into order. But the absolute best part of archiving for me is the endless discovery of stories that I find in everything from letters, to diaries, to corporate minute books.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy reading, hiking, and a little stargazing. I also love to pick through antique malls, junk stores, and estate sales.

What do you hope to achieve in your volunteer role with the Heritage Alliance?

With the recent trend of budget slashes in small and mid-sized archives, many repositories are simply unable to maintain the

staffing levels needed to fully safeguard America's cultural heritage. I hope that by volunteering some of my time, I can play a small role in preserving our documentary past. And it really is a fair exchange for now because the Heritage Alliance is providing me with the opportunity to exercise my professional skills while my salaried work is in another field less affected with budget constraints. Also, I teach a graduate school course in archiving so it's nice to take practical experiences to my students as well.



Heritage Alliance Board Member Feature: Cari Jarman

How does Cari Jarman describe the first year of her term on the Heritage Alliance board? "It has been an interesting time to learn how a board like this works, considering all the challenges that confronted the organization given the pandemic. I continue to be impressed with the way the staff and volunteers have risen to the occasion and surpassed expectations despite the many obstacles 2020 brought us."

According to Cari, her favorite memory of working with the Heritage Alliance "would probably have to be volunteering for the dessert course for the Progressive Dinner with the Novelty Band and our friends the Countermine and Bob Riser & Cynthia Burnley." She also enjoys the Annual Meeting Pot Luck: "There is NOTHING like Main Street Cafe & Catering's lasagna and all the great dishes the community brings to share."

When she is not volunteering for the Heritage Alliance, Cari and her husband Jay spend time raising a small herd of Angora goats for their fiber. The fiber is spun and dyed, and then sold at the Mill Spring Maker's Market along with other fiber products. When she is not working her day job in IT Security, she spends time in her studio on Spring Street—which used to be the old Mulberry Corner Used Book



Continued on Page 6

Store—playing with fiber and making art.

Cari and Jay have 5 cats, one of whom, Brother Wallace, is seen in the editorial cartoon every week in *The Herald and Tribune*. Cari is also a fairly rabid ETSU basketball fan. “I think that’s the thing I miss most of all about ‘normal’ life before COVID-19,” she adds.

The Jarmans moved here in 2012 but had been coming here since 2001 for the Storytelling Festival. Cari felt like it was the only place they ever went on vacation, adding: “Now we don’t need to go anywhere as far as I’m concerned!”

Cari thinks people should support the Heritage Alliance by becoming a member or volunteering their time in order to help preserve (and reveal) our history, whether in the form of structures, culture, artifacts or stories. “The Heritage Alliance brings much of the past to life, especially all the great content and programs that the staff has produced for online and physically distanced audiences in addition to the traditional museum displays. I think it’s particularly important now, when inequities and divisiveness in our society have been brought to light, to focus on all the history, not just the perspective of the majority or the winners of past conflicts. Truth should be spoken about the unfortunate parts of our shared past, and how actions and

positions taken hundreds of years ago continue to shape events and attitudes of the present.”

They say that those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it, and Cari believes that ALL of our history needs to be examined frankly so we can learn to do better for everyone. “Heritage Alliance members have a unique position to ensure that everyone’s voice, past and present, is heard.”

Thank you for all you do, Cari!



Board Member Cari Jarman

**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

Law Offices of James R. Wheeler
1211 East Jackson Blvd
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-913-0117
www.firsttownlaw.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/

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

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



From the Director's Desk:

And somehow we're here, at the end of 2020, a year like no other. This year has simultaneously moved at the speed of snail and the speed of light. Through it all, our staff, board members, and volunteers have worked hard to keep our programming adaptive and engaging. We hope you've enjoyed what we've had to offer.

There are a few issues I'd like to address here in my end of the year musings. First, THANK YOU all SO MUCH for your show of support on Giving Tuesday on December 1st. As you know, it wasn't safe to host the Progressive Dinner this year so we actively participated in the national day of giving for non-profits. We had several virtual tours and programs that day, including our first ever History Trivia event. It was a great day, and we felt your love and support tenfold.

(Don't worry, we'll be doing more trivia in the future.)

The second item I'd like to discuss is the state of the Annual Meeting. Usually, we all gather together at the Visitor's Center in January to share the best potluck of the year and celebrate the organization's accomplishments. As we continue to slog through this pandemic, a gathering of such magnitude is not advisable in January of 2021. Our hope is to have our potluck outside at a nice venue in the spring/summer. An

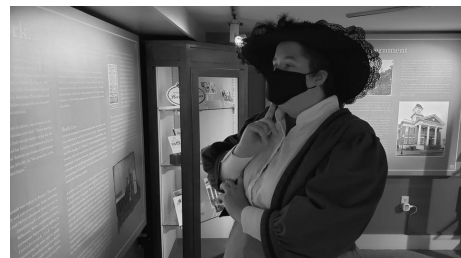
official date announcement will come later.

Even if we can't gather together at the start of the year, there is an important piece of business that must be taken care of. Per the Heritage Alliance By-Laws, the new and returning members of the Board of Trustees must be voted on by the general Membership in January. We do not have to meet in person to do this. There are options for voting, and I've outlined them below.

On Friday, January 15, 2021, the Heritage Alliance will open the Annual Meeting. I will send out an email to the Members from Board President Gordon Edwards with the official Board of Trustees' ballot. Members will vote to confirm the returning Trustees for a three year term and the new Trustees who are joining the Board in 2021 for their first three year term.

If we do not have your email address on file, do not worry. We will be mailing paper ballots with return envelopes to Members who do not wish to receive communication via email. If you'd rather receive a paper ballot as opposed to an email ballot, please contact our office and let us know.

All ballots, email and paper, must be returned by Friday, January 29, 2021. On that day, Board President Gordon Edwards will close the Annual Meeting and the results of the election will be



announced. I hope this is clear. If you have any questions about how the Annual Meeting will work, please reach out to me at the office. We will be sending further communication on this matter at the beginning of the new year.

Speaking of 2021, the Heritage Alliance will be celebrating our 20th anniversary next year. (Just another reason we want to wait until it's safer to have our potluck.) We've partnered with the *Herald & Tribune* to help us commemorate this anniversary. Every week we'll be showcasing historic photos from our archival collection in the paper, and every third Wednesday we'll have a featured article about one aspect of the Heritage Alliance. As you all know, we do a lot, so we're really excited about the opportunity to share our mission through these articles.

I know we'll find other ways to celebrate the anniversary safely next year. And who knows, you all might be asked to contribute an article.

Please, please stay safe as we close out 2020. Happy Holidays, my friends. You all mean the world to us here at the Heritage Alliance.





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
info@heritageall.org

*The Chester Inn Museum is funded
under an agreement with the
Tennessee Department of Environ-
ment and Conservation, Tennessee
Historic Commission.*

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

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

Programming Coordinator: Dr. 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 <input type="checkbox"/> General \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100.00	Join a Circle! <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 and join via PayPal
or mail checks to Heritage Alliance 212 E. Sabin Dr.
Jonesborough, TN 37659