



# The Link



*preserving our heritage and building a future together*

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Summer 2021

## **Taste of Tennessee Set for September 19th**

Growing up in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky, my family recreated recipes brought with them from Appalachia, including the mountains and coal mines of the eastern part of the state. When I married my husband, a Midwesterner from the corn fields of Illinois, he looked confusingly as I loaded the dinner table with my favorite regional dishes: burgoo, hot browns, Derby Pie, and bourbon bread pudding. (Although, to be fair, I was equally confused by his family's holiday spread of hominy and breaded pork tenderloin.) But that was the food of my childhood, the tastes and smells that defined the most important things to me, like

home and family.

Moving to North Carolina and eventually Tennessee, I met other Southerners and Appalachians who had their own cherished cuisines known only to the folks in their own communities or enclaves. And East Tennessee, especially, is a treasure trove of recipes and food-based traditions that have defined the region's culture and history. Celebrating the origins, importance, and influence of Appalachian foodways is how "Taste of Tennessee," the region's first (and to our knowledge, only) Appalachian food festival, came to be.

Taste of Tennessee is all about Appalachian cuisine – its past,

present, and future. Last year, Taste of Tennessee took place completely online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our program featured lectures, panels, guest speakers, cooking demos, historical reenactments, tours, and more. And to our delight and surprise approximately 4,000 people attended the event virtually! Fortunately, the Heritage



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## **Heritage Alliance Annual Potluck on Sept 2nd**



In case you've missed it, the Heritage Alliance is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary. Hopefully you've seen our ongoing series once a month in the *Herald & Tribune*. (Pictured above is our logo for that series designed by the H&T.) What

really makes our organization work, and why we've been around so long, is you our Members and Volunteers.

One of our favorite events of the year is our annual potluck meeting in January. Earlier this year we had to forgo the in-person fellowship, but we were still able to conduct official business by voting via email and mail for the current slate of Trustees.

We are excited to announce that

our annual potluck will take place on Thursday, September 2nd at 6:30 pm at the pavilion at Grace Meadows Farm in Jonesborough.

Official invitations will be going out soon, so watch your email or mailbox. Please RSVP by Thursday, August 26th. Bring a dessert and side dish to share that evening. The main entrée will be provided by The Kitchen at Grace Meadows Farm. This is always a lovely event, and we look forward to seeing you all again as we celebrate 20 years of the Heritage Alliance.



## Chester Inn Update: New Video Series and Exhibit

### **Exhibit Extras Video Series Debuts on Chester Inn Museum YouTube Channel**

In June the Chester Inn debuted its newest digital series: *Exhibit Extras!* This series gives visitors an in-depth and behind-the-scenes look at our museum exhibits, artifacts, and our exhibit making process. The series consists of six videos so far.

There have been a variety of episodes. Some look at items that were considered for an exhibit but ultimately left out, giving viewers a unique insight into how exhibits come together. Episode 4, "Back in the (Side)Saddle" gives an in-depth look at a sidesaddle from our collection and the sidesaddle's role in women's history. Episodes 5 and 6 explore the themes and origins of the *Black in Appalachia* exhibit and includes interviews with different organizations including Black in Appalachia and the Kingsport City Archives.

This is a unique series that will continue to provide interesting perspectives on our exhibits and

how they come together. Be sure to check this series out on the Chester Inn's YouTube channel.

### **The Cedar Grove Community Spotlighted with Exhibit and Presentation**

The Chester Inn is honored to host its second collaboration exhibit of the year. After hosting the successful travelling exhibit, *Black in Appalachia: African American History in Kingsport*, which was put together by the Kingsport City Archives and Black in Appalachia, the Chester Inn is now hosting an exhibit put together by the Cedar Grove Foundation based in Elizabethton.

Cedar Grove Foundation founder Jacey Augustus brought several of the organization's artifacts to the Chester Inn and helped put together the exhibit, and joined us

as a speaker at History Happy Hour to discuss the community's history. The exhibit focuses on two distinct time periods: Elizabethton's African American baseball team, the Blue Grays, which played in the early-mid 1900s, and the Civil War.

This is the first part of an exhibit collaboration between the Chester Inn and Cedar Grove, with the second exhibit coming in March of 2022. The current exhibit will be on display through October.



Above: Elizabethton Blue Grays Uniform on Display



Left: The Cedar Grove Exhibit

## Useable Past Returns on August 26th

The Heritage Alliance is pleased to present the latest workshop in the *Useable Past* series, part of an ongoing collaboration with the McKinney Center of Jonesborough and the Langston Centre of Johnson City. Taking place on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, this installment of *Useable Past* will address inclusive representation at regional historic sites, including

the Green McAdoo Cultural Center and the Children's Defense Fund Haley Farm both located in Clinton, TN.

Our panelists will share the experiences, challenges, and successes that they have encountered interpreting the African American past in East Tennessee. We hope that you will be able to join

us for this important and timely panel.

**USEABLE PAST:**

**SPOTLIGHTING SUCCESSFUL**

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Free Online Workshop  
August 26, 9 am  
Register for the zoom link at  
[McKinneyCenter.com](https://www.mckinneycenter.com)



## History Trivia Night Returns on August 27th

Trivia Night is in-person on August 27th at the Eureka Inn! Teams (of up to six people) can register for this trivia experience up until the evening of the event, which kicks off at 7:00 pm and lasts approximately 1.5-2 hours.

Teams test their knowledge of general historic trivia and compete to answer a variety of questions. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams, and past rewards have included gift certificates from local businesses. The cost is \$5 per team, though additional donations are appreciated.

Joe Spiker and Megan Cullen Tewell host this riotously fun event that combines entertainment, education, and engagement.

Participants can register to play at [www.heritageall.org](http://www.heritageall.org).



## Circus Exhibit Now Open at the JWCHM

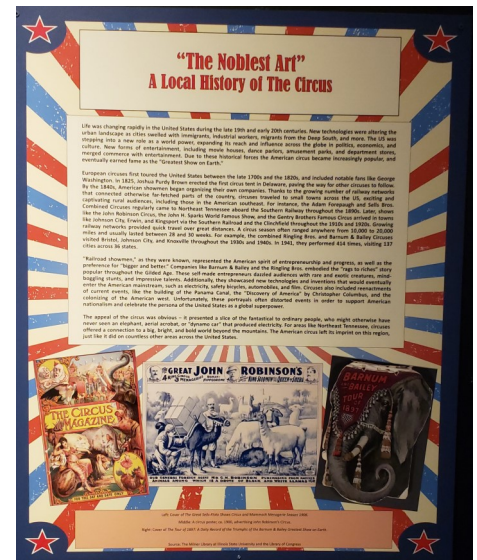
Come one, come all! A new exhibit, entitled *The Noblest Art: A Local History of the Circus*, is now on display at the Jonesborough and Washington County Museum. This colorful and energetic exhibit retraces the history of the traveling circuses that toured East Tennessee (including Johnson City, Jonesborough, Bristol, Knoxville, and Erwin) from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Featuring local stories, dazzling pictures, and personal memories from residents, *The Noblest Art* relives

the highs and lows of America's "greatest show," and the impact that it had on our region and its inhabitants.



Above: Circus Exhibit on Display

Right: The Noblest Art Circus Panel



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Embree House Wedding Cakes &  
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142 Matthew Mills Road  
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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





## Nancy's Story Captures Audiences at Embree Farm



On Juneteenth, Ubunibi-Afia Short took to the stage at the Embree House Historic Farm and shared Nancy's story before a sold out crowd. She performed the show three times that day, and all told over one hundred people now know Nancy and Elihu Embree a little better.

Researched and written by Anne G'Fellers-Mason, *Nancy* is about Elihu Embree's enslaved woman

and her children. The play takes place from 1820-1821, a truly tumultuous time for everyone in the Embree family. That was the year Elihu Embree wrote his historic paper *The Emancipator*. At the same time, he owned Nancy and her children. It's a complicated story full of sorrow, joy, and hope. We know Elihu's story so well, and it was an honor to be able to share Nancy's story with the public. This is only the first step in getting her story out there. Another performance is planned for November 13th at Washington College Academy. Details will follow shortly on that event.

We asked Afia what she hoped people would take away from

Nancy's story. This was her response. "The knowledge that those little ticks or lines that they see in the census records under chattel or property, they stand for a person. It stands for a whole life that was lived and could have been lived under completely inhumane conditions. And it may look like a simple tick of the pen or mark of the pen, but within that line on the paper, there was a lot of life lived. And I'm hoping this opens up the desire to tell other stories or find out who those other hash marks or tick marks represent, so that their stories aren't lost.

## Chester Inn Museum Receives Pinnacle Award

We are proud to announce that the Chester Inn Museum received a Pinnacle Award from the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association (NETTA)!

The award was for Best Social Media Campaign for the web series *With the Victorians*. The series of short, silent-era style videos debuted last year to show what life looked like in the Victorian Period and how people

might have socially distanced during that time.

The series provided some of the most popular social media and digital content for the museum in 2020, and we are honored that NETTA recognized the hard work that went into it!

The series can be found on the Chester Inn [YouTube](#) channel. Keep an eye out for a new season!



Anne Mason and Joe Spiker with the Pinnacle Award

### Continued from Page 1

Alliance is able to host Taste of Tennessee in person this year, and the event will take place on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the parking lot between the Washington County Library and the historic Duncan House (off of Boone Street). We hope to offer a

dynamic and diverse event, celebrating Appalachian food and foodways, around an imaginary table, where there is a place for each of us. Please look out for more information about the event on our social media and in the local press. We hope you will mark your calendars, and plan to join us!



## Heritage Alliance Intern Spotlight: Samuel Bowen

My name is Samuel Bowen. I am a Greeneville native and a rising senior at Tusculum University. I graduated from Home Life Academy and studied at Walters State Community College before attending Tusculum as a Museum Studies major.

I became interested in history when I went to a history camp at the Doak House Museum. That is where I found passion for history. So far my favorite part of my internship has been learning about all of the historic buildings around Jonesborough. Helping to teach the public what I have learned has been very satisfying.

The most Surprising part of the internship is honestly how many people from out of town tour the museums. They are interested in not only Jonesborough but East Tennessee as a whole

After I graduate I would like to find a job in the museum field. Eventually I would like to work up to a curator or director of a museum, not only to keep history alive, but to help give people a love for the past.

I will take with me the work ethic and passion that the Heritage Alliance staff and volunteers have for their jobs. Being new, brought

in, and treated like family has been something that I will not forget. I hope to treat the new person the same way in the future.



*Summer Intern Samuel Bowen assisting with Jonesborough Days*

## Heritage Alliance Board Member Feature: Jack Van Zandt

This board member spotlight is on Jack Van Zandt! Jack moved into the area in 2003, and has been involved with the Heritage Alliance for years prior to becoming a board member in 2019.

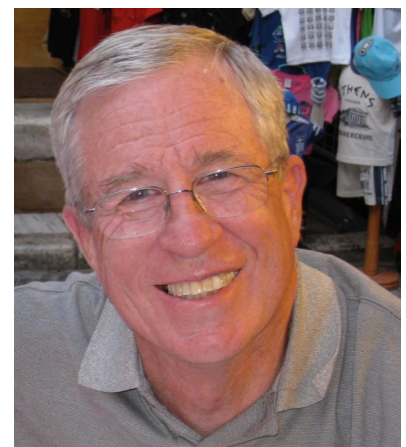
One of Jack's favorite memories is helping with the Progressive Dinner at the Parson's Table location. "I washed dishes like crazy and helped my wife and others to ensure the tables were ready for each group." He adds, "I believe the dinners, while a lot of work and planning, provide an excellent opportunity for many in the town to experience the homes participating in the event."

Jack's wife Viola also helped with the event and remembers dropping the mayor's roll on the floor. Oops!

When he's not volunteering for the Heritage Alliance, Jack enjoys simply helping others and doing handyman work around the house. Jack is also a member of the Jonesborough Kiwanis Club and participates in fundraisers to raise money for organizations, including the Heritage Alliance. He works with Jonesborough Parks and Recreation advisory board and has worked on several projects in that arena. According to Jack, "We also like to travel with grandkids in Europe. Our horizon has expanded. I think I am told I am too busy by my supervisor."

Jack enjoys his work with the Heritage Alliance, and he likes that the organization focuses on finding and preserving history. He thinks that people should join the organization as a member or a volunteer because "it organizes

and catalogues important documents for our country, researches history of buildings, works to restore historic artifacts and buildings and, most importantly, devises ways to teach our history in unique ways. It works with governing agencies to restore important historic buildings."



*Board Member Jack Van Zandt*

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## Oak Hill School Receives NSDAR Historic Preservation Grant!

The Heritage Alliance is excited to announce we've received a Historic Preservation Grant from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The matching funds will help with restoration work at Oak Hill School. The 135 year old schoolhouse is in need of a new coat of paint and some wood repair. The schoolhouse is the largest artifact in our museum collection, and it has welcomed students to its Heritage Education Program for over 20 years. The schoolhouse has become an important part of Jonesborough, serving as the

setting for the DAR's Constitution Week Bell Ringing in September and the Storytelling Guild's "Swapping Grounds" during the Storytelling Festival. We're excited for work to begin on the school, and we're very grateful to the State of Franklin Chapter of the DAR for sponsoring Oak Hill School for the grant.

This is only step one in the restoration process, though. The schoolhouse is also in need of new guttering and a new HVAC system so that it can offer programs year round. If you'd

like to donate to Oak Hill School, you can do so through our PayPal account on our website. You can also call us in the office and donate over the phone or mail in a check.

Members of DAR plant a pink Dogwood in the schoolhouse yard



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He also thinks the way the Heritage Alliance uses plays, artifacts, and buildings helps communicate our history in an age-appropriate manner in our schools, and that programs like the Oak Hill School's 1890 school day teaches history in memorable ways. The Chester Inn, Chuckey Depot, and JWCH museums provide real life educational displays, too.

Jack believe that the Town and Cemetery Tours and the Salvage Warehouse are important parts of the organization.

"The Heritage Alliance is a key component of our community," Jack says. "Becoming a member and/or volunteering for the Heritage Alliance helps them support the community and its education. In these days, that is more important than ever."

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[thekitchenatgracemeadows.com](http://thekitchenatgracemeadows.com)

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Jonesborough, TN 37659  
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[www.linnaeagardens.com](http://www.linnaeagardens.com)

Jonesborough Genealogical  
Society  
c/o Washington County  
Library  
200 Sabin Drive  
Jonesborough, TN 37659  
[jgstn.wordpress.com](http://jgstn.wordpress.com)







### From the Director's Desk:

How is 2021 more than halfway over already?! This year has been a whirlwind. After last year's minimal attendance, we had a record breaking June. We served over 3,000 people last month which is the most we've ever served in June since we started keeping track in the mid-2000s. Our staff and volunteers are hopping as fast as they can. We are very grateful, though, that our programs have been so well received. Our Summer Supper series is completely sold out, and we had three sold out performances of Nancy at the Embree House Historic Farm on Juneteenth. Finally getting Nancy's story on stage and out in the world will be my favorite part of 2021.

The year's not done yet, though, and we have so much more in store. At the forefront of our mind with anything and everything we do this year is the ongoing pandemic and how the Heritage Alliance can do our programs while still keeping our staff, volunteers, and guests as safe as

possible. I am very excited that we will be hosting our annual potluck in the covered, but open air, pavilion at Grace Meadows Farm on September 2nd. Later that month on September 23rd we'll have a reception and celebration for our *A Tale of Three Houses* exhibit that features artifacts and stories from the Embree, Wassom, and Kyker Houses in Telford, TN. We've had a lot of fun working with the Stern family to showcase artifacts they found in their historic homes. My absolute favorite piece in the exhibit is this beautiful, handmade Crazy Quilt that Patrick Stern found in a drawer in the Wassom House. It contains all the initials of the family from the early 1900s and it's in amazing condition, especially considering it was left in a drawer for so long. Stop by the museum and see the exhibit now. We'll have more info on the celebration soon.

This coming fall we are eagerly anticipating the return of *A Spot On the Hill* to the Old Jonesborough Cemetery. We are also making plans for the Progressive Dinner, and we hope we will be able to continue our holiday tradition on December 4th.

Like I said, we're hopping here at the Heritage Alliance. We simply could not do all that we do without our volunteers. Some of our volunteers, understandably, stepped away last year. We are actively recruiting new volunteers who'd like to become a part of our Chester Inn Museum docents. We will have a volunteer training at the Chester Inn at 9:00 am on

Saturday, August 21st. Our Chester Inn docents, in addition to our other volunteers, do so much for us. If you'd like to come to the training, please RSVP by calling the museum at 423.753.4580 or emailing them at [chesterinn@heritageall.org](mailto:chesterinn@heritageall.org). If you're interested in other volunteer opportunities, let us know. In the meantime, we press on, full speed ahead.



Ubunibi-Afia Short as Nancy, picture here and on pg. 4 taken by Mark Larkey.

### **Business Members cont.**

Kovac Historical Restoration  
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Jonesborough, TN 37659  
508-840-3935  
[mekhistoricalrestorations.godaddysites.com](http://mekhistoricalrestorations.godaddysites.com)

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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)

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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  
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or mail checks to Heritage Alliance 212 E. Sabin Dr.  
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