



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

Volume 21, Number 4

Winter 2022

Heritage Alliance Annual Meeting set for January 19th



Heritage Alliance Annual Meeting Thursday, January 19 at 6:00 p.m. Jonesborough Visitor's Center

In accordance with the bylaws of the Heritage Alliance, the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on 01/19/23, and you're invited! Join us for a potluck meal. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. RSVP no later than Thursday, January 12, 2023, by calling 423.753.9580 or emailing amason@heritageall.org.

We hope you will be able to join us for the Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner on Thursday, January 19th. This is when we come together to celebrate the year that was, to look ahead at what's to come, and to nominate and vote on new Board Members.

We have not had the Annual Meeting since February of 2020, and we're looking forward to meeting in person once more. Please be sure to RSVP by January 12th and bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Let's all hope for nice weather. This is always one of the best meals of the year and we look forward to seeing you all.

Gordon Edwards Receives THC Award of Merit

A big Congratulations to Heritage Alliance member and volunteer extraordinaire Gordon Edwards on his Award of Merit from the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC). Gordon received the award earlier this year for his ongoing preservation and restoration work in the Old Jonesborough Cemetery.

Gordon is well known in these parts as "Graveyard" Gordon. He has repaired hundreds of markers in the Rocky Hill and College Hill cemeteries. He has also

traveled throughout Washington County and helped cemeteries across the region. We cannot thank him enough for his work and dedication. Thanks to his due diligence, we are able to have tours and plays in the Old Jonesborough Cemetery.

The THC's "award program began in 1975. For over forty years, Certificates of Merit have been presented annually to individuals, groups, agencies, or organizations that have made significant contributions to the

study and preservation of Tennessee's heritage during the twelve months prior to the application deadline." Next time you see Gordon, thank him and congratulate him.



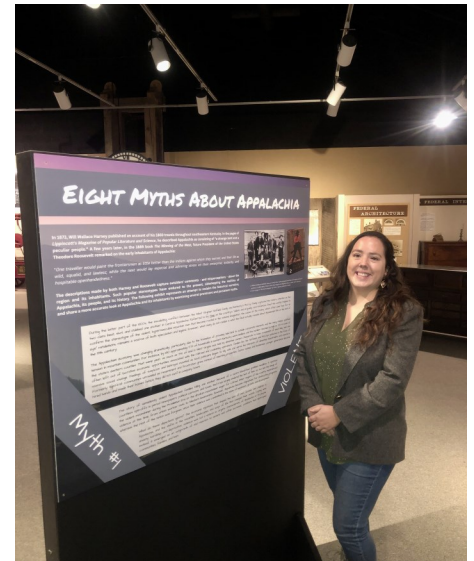
Seasons - and Exhibits - Change at The JWCHM!

In 2022, the Jonesborough & Washington County History Museum served thousands of people, including visitors, local residents, and school groups from throughout Washington County. These museumgoers have had the chance to experience some great programs, exhibits, and events—and we're excited to offer even more opportunities for patrons this winter.

Big changes have come to the museum recently, and others will arrive in the coming weeks as Heritage Alliance staff work to update some of the museum's displays. Notably, museumgoers will notice the debut of our new exhibit: "Eight Myths About Appalachia." This large, eight panel exhibit was researched, designed, and produced by

Programming Coordinator Dr. Megan Cullen Tewell. This visually impressive and timely exhibit addresses several of the prominent and lingering myths about the Appalachian region and its residents – it is slated for display until Summer to Fall 2023.

Additionally, visitors will soon be able to enjoy a new temporary exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Storytelling Festival, including two panels and a miniature case display. Other, smaller scale exhibits will also be available throughout the Winter 2022-Spring 2023 season, and we encourage folks to come by the Jonesborough Visitor's Center to learn more about and enjoy local history!



Dr. Megan Cullen Tewell poses with the "Eight Myths" exhibit in the JWCHM. Make sure you come by and check it out. This is a great exhibit to discuss with your family, especially if they're from out of town.

"Energy Efficiency in Lighting through History" Special Exhibit

Stop by the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum this winter season and be counted! Appalachia CARES AmeriCorps has a new exhibit, "Energy Efficiency in Lighting through History," that shows some different lighting in Jonesborough over time. Learn how to find the most energy efficient lighting for your home and business while also learning how to reduce your environmental footprint. Do not forget to fill out the survey to let us know how the exhibit completed the task.

This exhibit was put together by Appalachia CARES AmeriCorps Service Member Samuel Bowen.

Samuel is currently serving with the Heritage Alliance through April. He has worked hard on his service project, and we hope you can stop by and view it. It is imperative for the project that Samuel compile a certain number of surveys, complete a survey and be entered into a drawing for Town Tour tickets.

We asked him some questions about his process.

How did you come up with the idea for this exhibit?

I wanted to show how everyone can make a small change and have bigger results on their

environmental footprint.

What was the most surprising fact that you learned while putting this exhibit together?

I was surprised at how little light was produced by candles compared to modern lighting.

Will this exhibit help to change any of your energy habits?

Before the exhibit, I had already begun to change habits. Using LED bulbs instead of incandescent was what I had already been doing. Making sure the lights are off in unused rooms is something I need more practice doing.



Volunteer Spotlight: Dona Lewis



People in Jonesborough are very familiar with Dona Lewis. She does so much for so many in this area. She serves on various boards and committees. She's also a member of the Heritage Alliance and a steadfast volunteer. For the past several years, Dona has helped co-organize the Progressive Dinner with Patricia Stern. Above you can see her hard at work at a previous Progressive Dinner with other volunteers Sandee and Gary Degner. We thought it was beyond time that Dona was highlighted in our volunteer spotlight.

Where are you from? What brought you to the area?

I am from New Jersey, was born, educated, and lived there until my husband and I moved here in

1995. We moved here because my brother lived here and we began to visit Jonesborough and just fell in love with the town, its people, and the area.

What inspired you to get involved with the Heritage Alliance?

Back in 1990, we had purchased a home that needed to be rehabilitated and restored and we were traveling back and forth from NJ to TN to do this for a few years. One time when we were here for Thanksgiving, my brother invited me to help at the Progressive Dinner the following weekend. It was the dessert course at Dr. Sam and Helen Thatcher's beautiful home. That was probably in 1992. I had a great time and was here the next year and the next to help out. At that time the organization was the Civic Trust.

How would you describe your volunteer role? What do you enjoy about it?

After moving here in 1995, I was asked to be on the board of the Civic Trust and was involved until after the Heritage Alliance was formed. This all started my desire to volunteer and I have

been involved every year since with the Progressive Dinner and have loved it.

I enjoy working with others and I enjoy entertaining, so the Progressive Dinner is a natural fit. I graduated from the soup course to working with Patricia Stern at the main course where I've been since 2015. I enjoy working with Pat and creating a theme for our dinner each year. We start from the beginning, choose our theme, and then get everything that we need together for it. It's very satisfying to see the end result on Saturday night.

When you're not volunteering for the Heritage Alliance, what are you interested in?

Well, volunteering seems to be in my blood because I belong to several other organizations such as The Friends of the Library, Tuesday Garden Club, Schubert Club, Main Street, and Paws in Blue. Each organization has fundraising events throughout the year. Although I'm not on the JAMSA Board any longer, I still volunteer to help at events. This keeps me pretty busy. I also enjoy

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Embree House Wedding Cakes & Historic Farm, *The Herald & Tribune*, Jonesborough Genealogical Society, Law Offices of Edmonds & Edmonds, Law Offices of James R. Wheeler, Linnaea Gardens, Main Street Café & Catering, MEK Restoration (Historical Restoration & Carpentry), Tennessee Quilts & February Hill Quilting Retreat, The Kitchen at Grace Meadows Farm, Architectural Restoration & Paint with Chris Basar, Speed Goat Solutions

For full contact information visit our website at www.heritageall.org/links.



Vol. Spotlight Cont.

reading when I have some time and a good book.

What is your favorite historical period? What makes it your favorite?

History was never a favorite subject of mine in school, but just living in the Historic Town of Jonesborough has helped me appreciate history and the importance of preservation.

Why do you think other folks should get involved with the Heritage Alliance in a volunteer capacity?

I always say, "It takes a village to run events in Jonesborough," and that means volunteers are necessary. With all that the Heritage Alliance promotes and the small staff that runs this nonprofit, it is important to volunteer time to help. It's also a great way to meet people and make new friends and help my community, and there is a sense of pride when an event is finished.



Pictures from this year's Progressive Dinner. The Storytelling Resource Place at the Slemons House looked beautiful, as did the Helvey's House where the Jonesborough Novelty Band entertained guests. Thank you to all the volunteers, musicians, and guests who made this year's dinner such a resounding success.

Mark Your Calendars: Useable Past Returns!

The Heritage Alliance is proud to announce the return of Useable Past, an online panel series that provides an inclusive look at Appalachian history, culture, and tourism. Debuting in 2021, The Useable Past is an award-winning initiative facilitated by the Heritage Alliance, in collaboration with the McKinney Center, the Langston Centre, and ETSU's Black American Studies Program. The series has connected audiences with experts on a variety of regional topics, bridg-

ing considerations of the past, present, and future. Most recently the Useable Past panel addressed the legacies and experiences of African Americans and Appalachian music.

And now the program is back and better than ever! Useable Past 2023 is off to a bang in February with powerhouse speakers such as Stephanie Jones, Founder and CEO of Blacks in Travel and Tourism, as well as Jenni Veal, Rural Destination Development

Manager for the State of Tennessee. Although the panel's official title has yet to be announced, participants will address different aspects of inclusive and diverse tourism practices in Tennessee, an exciting and incredibly relevant topic, especially in a post-Covid context. The Useable Past series is free to attend, although registration is required through the McKinney Center. More information can be found at heritageall.org.



Holiday Feature: The Legend of Krampus

Article by Chester Inn Site Manager Joshua Dacey.

As with most holiday traditions in the U.S., Christmas came across the Atlantic Ocean with immigrants from all over Europe. This led to a multitude of traditions melding in to what we now celebrate on December 25th. Historically, the Christmas tradition stems from celebrations of the winter solstice in Germany, Scandinavia, and even Rome. In Germanic countries, cattle were slaughtered at this time of the year to save on feed during the winter months. Also, most wine and beer finished fermenting. It was a time of feasting, drinking, and communal celebration. Here we find the origins of the yule log and reveling at the birth of an infant god, Mithra, on December 25th. St. Nicholas, who our Santa Claus is modeled after, first appeared in the U.S. during the 18th century. Dutch families in New England commemorated the death of "Santer Klaas," Dutch for Saint Nicholas, every December. In recent years, yet another Christmas tradition has slowly started to take hold in the United States.

We all know Santa has a list of which children were naughty and which children were nice. Those on the nice list are rewarded with presents and sweets. Their naughty counterparts receive a single lump of coal. There are several possible origins for this practice. Some say it originated in 16th century Holland when children would put their clogs next to the fireplace on Christmas Eve.

Others say it stems from the Italian tradition of Le Bafana, an old woman or witch who delivered gifts on Epiphany. She too left lumps of coal and also onions or garlic. In any instance, the threat of a Christmas without presents hopefully encourages children to be kind and obedient throughout the year. In Austria and Germany, a more menacing punishment is reserved for the naughtiest of children. Throughout December, St. Nicholas visits villages across the Alps bringing joy and cheer. He does not make his visits alone though.

Imagine a frigid, snowy night in a small Alpine town. Jolly old St. Nick has just arrived with a sack full of candy and toys. Children gleefully await their reward for a year of good behavior. Now, imagine a tall horned menace, half demon and half goat. Jet black fur covers his body, only his bloodshot eyes burn bright. He carries an empty leather sack on his back and a fist full of birch branches. A cacophony of cowbells and howls erupt from the dozen just like him parading behind. They rampage through villages in search of the naughtiest children. As if their terrible appearances weren't enough, they chase the naughty children, beating them or stuffing them into their leather sacks. Some children are never seen again.

While this might sound like a farfetched fairy tale, it is the annual *Krampuslauf*, or Krampus run. The creature Krampus is thought to predate pre-Germanic

paganism. A son of the Norse god of the underworld Hel, Krampus is the polar opposite of St. Nicholas. The saint and the devil. The injection of the devil into this tradition originated in the 12th and 13th centuries, when the Christianization of Norse peoples was at its height in Europe. The demonization of the creature was intentional and the tradition nearly vanished. In recent years, the Krampus festival has seen a resurgence not just in Austria and Germany, but in the United States. Krampus festivals have been held in Orlando, FL and New Orleans, LA for several years. The festivals are now celebrated as a gleeful banishment of winter ghosts. Krampus has also come into popular culture through movies and comic books. Whether a terror or a yule time hero, Krampus is certainly one of the more unique Christmas celebrations. Public Service Announcement: No children were harmed in the making of this Christmas tradition.



Board Member Spotlight: Meghan Kieta

How long have you been on the Heritage Alliance board?

I've been on the board for a year.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time on the board?

I really enjoyed being a part of the Heritage Alliance's Progressive Dinner, helping with any of the programs involving Rocky Hill Cemetery, and helping in the Salvage Warehouse.

Why did you decide to join the board?

I was lucky enough to meet Gordon Edwards my first weekend in Jonesborough and he taught me about Rocky Hill Cemetery right next to my house and introduced me to many of the wonderful things the Heritage Alliance has done in our region. I love history and the Town of Jonesborough. It just made sense

to become involved in an organization heavily involved in educating and preserving our town.

What do you like to do when you're not serving on the board?

My main "hobby", if you can call it that, is working on my parents' future home, the former Warner Institute they bought in 2016. We have been renovating since they bought it. I love learning about renovation, restoration, and working with my hands. It's been quite the adventure! I also enjoy going to any event the Town of Jonesborough puts on.

Why should people get involved with the Heritage Alliance?

Being involved in the Heritage Alliance has been incredibly rewarding. Seeing people become passionate and interested in this awesome town is the best experience. I hope to stay involved for

many, many years and hope other people who share these interests will get involved with the Heritage Alliance, whether by volunteering or attending some of their events.



Meghan Kieta with Gordon Edwards at the Progressive Dinner in 2019.



The Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum is all decked out for Christmas. In this picture you can see the new safety railing installed on the historic porch. This is the same technique that is used in New Orleans on historic porches in the French Quarter. Once some minor wood damage is repaired on the porch, it will once again be open to the public. Also, with the safety rail in place, we'll be able to put rocking chairs back on the porch. 2023 is going to be a very exciting year!





From the Director's Desk:

Here we are, at the end of the another year. 2022 was definitely a full one for the Heritage Alliance. We hosted our first in-person Taste of Tennessee festival, educated the public through new museum exhibits and museum theatre, won several awards, welcomed new members to our staff, and much more. Thank you all for coming along for the ride and for your constant support. I wanted to highlight a special project that happened this year at the Chester Inn State Historic Site and Museum.

The Chester Inn is a State Owned Historic Site. This year the site was the recipient of a capital improvement project overseen by the THC. This included a new coat of paint for the building, wood repairs to the back porch, a new safety rail on the projecting porch, and a return to the building's historic façade. Based on archival images, we know that the Chester Inn had a third floor porch railing and two doors on the third floor. This was when the Chester was known as the Planter's House or the Jonesboro Inn. The rest of the building was

restored to its late 1800s appearance, so it was only fitting that these features were incorporated back into the building to give it a truly, authentic look. The third floor railing was re-installed when the State completed its original restoration of the building in the 1990s, but it was removed again not long after that. This time, the third floor railing was rebuilt with sturdy wood, ready to withstand the weather.



In this picture you can just barely make out the third floor railing. Believe it or not, this is one of the few images we have of the railing. This is when the Cox Block stood where the International Storytelling Center is today. We believe the third floor railing was also on the building during the blizzard of 1886. Why else would the snow be stacked that way on the roof? You can see this historic image inside the museum.



You can make out the doors and screens in the other two photos. In some of our archival images, you can also see benches on the second floor porch roof. Yikes! We will not be bringing that back. No, the restored doors are for emergency access only. It's great to have the doors and screens back, though, as well as the third floor railing. It helps us imagine what the Inn was really like back in its heyday. One of the best treats of it all, getting to see the original mortise and tenon inside the windows after they were removed.



A big thank you to the State of Tennessee and the Tennessee Historical Commission for taking such good care of the Chester Inn and for making sure it's still standing one hundred years from now. We hope you will get the chance to come and visit the museum in the coming year. And who knows, you may even be able to kick back on the projecting porch and enjoy the view.





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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: Joshua Dacey
chesterinn@heritageall.org

Programming Coordinator: Dr. Megan
Cullen Tewell
mtewell@heritageall.org

Oak Hill School: Deanna Carey

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