



The Link



preserving our heritage and building a future together

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Historic Jonesborough License Plate Pre-Order Ongoing



Pre-order now at www.heritageall.org. Link on the main page. You can pay via PayPal or drop off/mail in a check with your order form.

Reward partners include the Jonesborough Genealogical Society, the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild, Hands-On! Discovery Center, and there's more to come!

Have you pre-ordered your Historic Jonesborough Specialty License Plate yet? If not, we highly recommend you do so. The Heritage Alliance and Jonesborough Genealogical Society are working towards our goal of 1,000 pre-orders by June 30, 2024. Our incentives/rewards are available now for everyone who pre-orders. We'll be adding more rewards as we go. As of now, you get free memberships, free tours, and discounts to area museums. You can pre-order through our website. Every pre-order helps preserve local history. You can also gift a tag. They make great holiday gifts!

Gordon Edwards Receives Volunteer Award for Cemetery Work

We are thrilled to share that Gordon Edwards received an Award of Excellence for his Volunteerism from the Tennessee Association of Museums. The award was given out at TAM's annual conference back in March, but the Heritage Alliance wasn't able to attend. It took us a moment, but we were finally able to get Gordon his most deserved award. "Graveyard" Gordon

Edwards has taken amazing care of the Old Jonesborough Cemetery and so many other cemeteries throughout the region. He also manages our Architectural Salvage Warehouse and helps out with school groups and special events. We cannot thank Gordon enough for all he does for us. This award was even given out before Gordon worked so hard to re-discover the mass grave from the

cholera epidemic of 1873. Thank you, Gordon, for all you do!



Taste of Tennessee a Delicious Success

The second in-person Taste of Tennessee Appalachian Foodways Festival was held from September 17th – 23rd and from all accounts it was appetizing and appealing. The event kicked off with the first ever Eats on Main Street Food Tour. Four, sold out tours took guests around Main Street where they got to try tasty dishes connected to local merchants and businesses. The event continued that Tuesday with an Affrilachian Dinner hosted at the Langston Centre in Johnson City. Chef T from Union 41 in Bristol shared the connection between African and Affrilachian cuisine and how the Caribbean Islands influence her cooking. The dinner was catered by TasteBudz. No one left hungry, that's for sure.

Katie Hoffman with Create Appalachia hosted two workshops as a part of the festival, a Basic Fermentation hands-on tutorial with sauerkraut and a Cast Iron Clinic. Cabbage was flying at Persimmon Ridge Park on Wednesday evening and one attendee has since shared that she's already on her second batch. The festival took us to the Exchange Place in Kingsport on Thursday morning where twelve students and their families took part in an open-hearth cooking class instructed by Heather Gilreath.

The entire event concluded with the Taste of Tennessee Festival

Showcase on Sunday, September 23rd. We had fourteen food and food related vendors, live music, a spoon carving demonstration with Curtis Buchanan, and a brewing demo. We had over twenty entries in three categories for our Take the Cake competition. Congratulations to Hannah Robertson for winning the Professional Category, Pam Plucker for winning the Homecook Category, and Hannah Plucker for winning the Young Baker Category. Overall, 477 people engaged with the Heritage Alliance during the Taste of Tennessee Festival. They also engaged with local history, local artists, and Appalachian culture. We're already looking forward to the 2024 festival.



Mother/Daughter team Hannah & Pam Plucker took home the Young Baker and Homecook trophies.

We'd like to thank our sponsors the Jonesborough Area Merchants and Services Association (JAMSA) and the Wild Women of Jonesborough. We'd also like to thank Food City in Jonesborough and Timber! Restaurant in Johnson City for

their donations. The Heritage Alliance was honored to receive an Arts Project Support Grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission for the Taste of Tennessee Festival.



Hannah Roberson took home the Professional Baker trophy.

Are you interested in becoming a TN4Arts Advocate?

You don't have to spend a lot of time or money to become an advocate for the Arts. Here's a simple and direct way to show your love if you're a Tennessee resident, purchase a specialized license plate. The process is easy:

- Visit your local County Clerk's Office,
- Ask for a Tennessee Arts Commission License Plate,
- Exchange your old plate for a shiny new one.

Show off your love for the Arts as you drive around town.



New Collection Donated to HA Archives

Here at the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum and Archives, our collections staff has been occupied with a new acquisition of several linear feet of boxes containing numerous letters, receipts, books, pamphlets, dress patterns and other paper ephemera that, now unpacked, has covered the whole Duncan House archives office! Arriving in dusty and possibly mouse chewed cardboard boxes, all of these papers were discovered in a cabin that was to be torn down, but saved by a local resident. The cabin was located in the nearby Hales community, less than two miles from Jonesborough. With just a cursory inventory, staff found some of these letters date back to the 1880s, with later ones from the 1950s, and represent local families and businesses in this area!

After being isolated in plastic bags to ensure there were no live

infestations of various insects nor critters, staff began sifting through the stacks, deciding what could be salvaged and what needed to go. Fortunately, most of the items just needed a good brushing off of dirt and dust.

The most engaging part is that these items demonstrate day-to-day life in Jonesborough's cultural history beginning in the late 19th to early 20th centuries. From checks written to the First National Bank of Jonesborough, (dated 1908); to notes written by Dr. Pendergast here in town, (c 1910s); to billing postcards from the Pleasant Valley Telephone Company, (dated 1932); it is a mélange of great culture-based local history.

Besides organizing the collection, one of the most difficult parts is just reading the letters! One must quickly return to their early school learning to decipher some of these handwritten lines. Along

with that, staff must research archaic expressions, and even names of local areas - it's quite interesting how quickly language changes decade by decade, even from Piney Flats to Telford by way of Jonesborough.

The Archives is actively soliciting volunteers who are interested in transcribing and the organization of this collection. It contains amazing local genealogy and provides a wide view into the tiny society here in Northeast Tennessee, from Mountain City on (remember, one had to get as far as Kingsport to travel on a bus). Anyone who is interested, please contact Amy Steadman DeWitt, Collections Manager and Museum Coordinator, at adewitt@heritageall.org.

Amy Steadman DeWitt
Collections Manager and Museum
Coordinator
Heritage Alliance
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Jonesborough, TN 37659



like him he would
walk 100 miles to see
them of this wonderful
medicine. Dad. wants me
to try it tho will not tell
my p. just and if it
don't do any good will
sho my new Dr. Ha.
have got whole lot to tell
you when you come up.
Chance I want you to
get that acid from Mineral
and take it your self
I know it will help
you Joe. Has. told
so many bout it that
has stomach trouble
and tis owing even
one so the drugg store
cant supply the

The collection, above, and one of the letters, right.



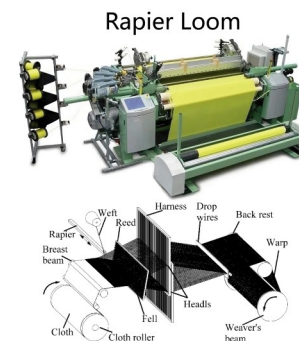
Energy Efficiency & Textiles by Samuel Bowen

In July, an exhibit was displayed at the Christopher Taylor House called “Looms and Their Efficiency.” A comparison of the different types of looms was shown with emphasis on the air, Rapier, hand, and water jet looms. The most environmentally friendly would be the Rapier loom. This loom is slower since it uses no motor, only an arrow and arrow belt. The hand loom is also environmentally friendly but the wood used may need special care. The air jet loom is faster but the motor uses fluid to compress air to move the yarn. The water jet loom uses fluid to shoot water to move the yarn. The water jet is less damaging to the yarn than the air jet loom.

Caesar Cone, (April 22, 1859-March 1, 1917), was featured. Mr.

Caesar Cone was from Jonesborough before moving to North Carolina. It was in North Carolina that he, along with his brother Moses, started the largest textile selling organization in the world. Two factories began in 1895. The second factory was the largest denim producing plant in the world at that time. Their denim was sold to Lee's, Levi Strauss, and Wrangler brands. The first factory closed in December 2017. The company is still in operation and is working to revolutionize denim.

Samuel is our Appalachia CARES AmeriCorps Service Member.



Pictures: A diagram of a Rapier Loom and Caesar Cone.

Board Member Spotlight: Nick Andrews

Get to know one of our newest Board of Trustee members.

How long have you served on the Heritage Alliance board?

One year

Why did you decide to join the board?

I love history and architecture. After moving to the area five years ago, I also wanted to be engaged with the town and be active on a town committee.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Researching family genealogy online/researching local history. Enjoying all the outdoor benefits of living in beautiful Northeast Tennessee, Cooking, Organist/Advocate for preserving the art of the pipe organ.

Why should people get involved with the Heritage Alliance?

Jonesborough is a very unique town with a rich history. Being involved in the Heritage Alliance allows you to actively serve in promoting the history of the town/area to the wider community. You also get to serve on a

committee with a wonderful group of people who share a common love and passion for the area.



Andre Michaux Visits the Chester Inn Museum by Joshua Dacey

It is always a joy when museums are approached by younger visitors eagerly inquiring about volunteering. The Chester Inn Museum and State Historic Site was fortunate enough to welcome such a visitor this past summer, Miguel Parilla. With a background working in State Parks and currently finishing a degree at ETSU, Miguel brought a passion for the natural world into the Chester Inn. Under the guidance of Site Manager Joshua Dacey, the two intrepid museum workers set out to create an exhibit marrying Miguel's passion with the history of Eastern Tennessee. Weeks of research and exhibition planning lessons ensued. Miguel quickly gravitated to one historical individual who traveled through Jonesborough and the surrounding counties in the late 18th century.

In the late 1700's the French government faced a crisis. With their forests depleted, France sought to import new species of trees to repopulate their woodland areas which were vital for shipbuilding and other construction projects. The government tasked Andre Michaux with seeking out potential tree varieties from other regions of the same climate as France. Michaux had spent nearly his entire life studying botany and cultivating foreign varieties of trees bearing

vegetables and fruits at the palace of Versailles. In 1770, joy and tragedy struck Michaux as he welcomed a son into the world while losing his wife in childbirth. Michaux the younger would follow in his father's footsteps as a fast study in the world of botany. In 1785, the father and son team were tasked by King Louis XVII to travel across the Atlantic to the newly formed United States of America.

Their task was to find suitable tree varieties to be brought back to France in the hopes of repopulating their woodland areas. The elder Michaux quickly became friends with notable founding father Thomas Jefferson, who shared an interest in the natural world. Michaux established several "test farms" throughout the United States and left his son in charge of his properties in the southeast. Andre Michaux the younger was delighted with the assignment and quickly began exploring and cultivating the region which included Eastern Tennessee.

Andre's travels ranged from the homestead in Charleston, South Carolina, to the far northern reaches of Kentucky. He spent a considerable amount of time in the counties surrounding Jonesborough and even stayed at the Chester Inn. His research provided invaluable knowledge not only to France, but to any

student of botany. For decades, Michaux's work was heralded as groundbreaking. He identified, classified, and recorded many of the native plant species in the United States including the Spanish Oak, also called the Southern Red Oak. Often left with only hand tools and determination, Michaux hacked his way through the wilderness of Eastern Tennessee for the humble purpose of enriching mankind's understanding of flora and fauna.

Miguel's exhibit, now on display at the Chester Inn Museum, provides a vivid narrative and visual exploration of Andre Michaux's travels. Throughout the development process, Miguel learned the art of label writing, archival research, and artifact management, which he intends to further incubate in his career with Tennessee State Parks. While his studies come first, Miguel is still volunteering at the museum and sharing his passion for the natural world with visitors.



Illustration of a Red Oak, courtesy New York Public Library.



Volunteer Spotlight: Tim Herron

Where are you from?

Born in 1948; raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, I've always been fascinated by History, Humanity, and Spirituality. I've spent most of my time celebrating LIFE, primarily through those avenues. To me, ART is a primal expression; innately planted within my being. So, I discovered within me at a very early age the gifts of Drawing, Painting, Sculpting, and Make-Up. I was also a consummately-shy introvert. It required several years of acting in junior high "haunted houses," followed by performing, in (YES EVERY) high school theatrical production until my innate shyness was no longer crippling and I was "cured" of my chief terror Stage Fright Majoring in Theatre at Indiana University, I performed major roles in four one act plays and one three act play per semester! This pattern cemented my life's outward direction. Yet I paradoxically became a Monk for a number of years. This is due to my inborn "mystical call," plus the continuity of Divinely-Graced "confirming" experiences.

What brought you to the area?

An invitation from a new friend led me to move to Johnson City in December 2007. He had seen my performance as Mary Shelley's Frankenstein at The Monster Bash Convention near Pittsburgh, PA. That scene was the novel's final eleven pages which I'd memorized and performed in homage to Boris Karloff, also for our Classic Movie Monster Convention in NE Tennessee in October 2008. Here, I met my beloved Beth Croy. We began dating in January 2009. We married ten months later and celebrated our 14th-Anniversary on October 24, 2023.

What inspired you to get involved with the Heritage Alliance?

Following a very active theatrical cycle from 2007-2010 I experienced a "dry spell" of a few -years duration. It led me to wonder fairly oft in my "inner silence" whether, and if indeed, I was now fated to be a "Retired Actor." Those of you who have met and have even gotten to, know me might realize that being

a "retired" anything doesn't hold much weight with me. I am just now, at 75, considering the numerous possibilities of ye proverbial BUCKET-LIST! And it still contains ample, bordering on prodigious, amounts of using my multitude of God-given talents. For better than half a decade I've been routinely involved with the Jonesborough Yarn Exchange, even as it morphed into the StoryTown Radio Show and podcast. It was through that social outlet that I was fortunate to meet and get to know Anne and Kyle Mason/ Anne in a chance meeting on Main Street spoke of her wish to engage my talents in a project upon which she was working and asked if I might be interested. Since YES is where I live, the ball was rolling! First off, Tennessee Governor & politician Alf Taylor in 2019-2020 and many others since then and, with God's grace, many yet to do!

Continued on next page.

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



How would you describe your volunteer role?

I'm the fellow who started haunted houses for charity with their nascent beginnings in 1960-63 in 2 different Cincinnati grade schools. Made them full houses in 1971-79. At a dollar a ticket, they earned in excess of \$750,000 and possibly closer to \$1 million just in the decade upon which I worked on them. Most of my theatre career has been funneled via my perception of Benign Generosity. A few "paying gigs," but God gave me a talent, and I enjoy giving it back to Him by sharing it, as we say in Tennessee, "with Y'All!"

What do you enjoy about it?

Building something in the most ephemeral, way. Utilizing my gifts to discern the entertaining way to interpret on every level the miracle of these persons who've preceded me in living an Earth life, replete with all of its joys, sorrows, and, as Kipling wrote, "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run." To me it is just life being Life and alive. To impress Love's truth upon the hopefully stunned viewers/receivers that they may profit, to better align their own inner-compasses in likewise. For really, is that not what this life is about?

When you're not volunteering for the Heritage Alliance, what are some of your other interests?

EVERYTHING! Seriously, everything since Love be

absolute.

What is your favorite historical period?

Too many to name! However, if I must "single out" a specific one, the Colonial Era of our early United States.

What makes it your favorite?

Great minds, great men and women, the pondering, adapting, and adopting, truths of an enlightenment moment. Humanity's free will, choice applied to all.



Tim Herron as James A. Dillworth in the 2023 production of A Spot on the Hill. Gordon Edwards joins him as the "Old Funeral Director." Photo by Osie Casey.



2023 A Spot on the Hill cast, photo by Osie Casey.

From the Director's Desk

Wonderful Members, I hope you all are well. You've probably heard by now that I will be leaving the Heritage Alliance on December 8, 2023. I am transitioning to another position within the Town of Jonesborough, so I will still be around. You'll continue to see me out and about on these historic streets, but I know it won't be the same. I'll save my long, heartfelt goodbye for the winter newsletter. In this short column, I wanted to share some things I am thankful for.

I am thankful that work has begun on the Duncan House. J. Ross painters are repairing rotten wood and scraping off old paint in preparation for a fresh coat. This restoration work was funded through a preservation grant from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Our local State of Franklin Chapter sponsored us for the grant.

I am also thankful that we received a Preservation Grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission to replace a part of the Duncan House's roof. That project is being supported in part by the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Tennessee Historical Commission.

Finally, on this list of thanks, I am thankful and thrilled that the 45th Progressive Dinner on December 2nd is already sold out. One seating was purchased for a Christmas party by a local company, and the other two seatings sold out in record time. Sorry if you missed out on this year's event, but it's good to know we're doing something right.





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