

To Students, Parents, Teachers, and School Officials,

On Friday, May 17, 2019, the Jonesborough Genealogical Society will host the first annual Washington County Heritage Fair at the Jonesborough Visitors Center, 117 Boone Street, Jonesborough. This event will *begin at 9 am* and last until the last child is gone. The Heritage Fair is away for the society to bring educational experiences and awareness to the next generation through expression and presentation of local history and genealogy. The Heritage Fair, also, is an outgrowth of our mission: “to promote, study, preserve, and document the family heritages of Jonesborough, Washington County, and Northeast Tennessee.” In addition, the society has set many goals in our 15-year plan. One of these goals is to increase youth participation through the possibility of scholarships, programming, and working with local history teachers. The Heritage Fair does many of these factors. It provides students with a way to express themselves through creativity and research as well as increase research skills, reading skills, communication skills, and presentation skills as well as provide them a chance to grasp onto, or at least, see history played out in their own family heritages in their community and region.

The Heritage Fair is open to all students in the 5th through 8th grade within Washington County, Tennessee, and will be similar to the regional science fair. Students will have the opportunity to research, create, and develop a 3-fold presentation board that will be judged by local historians, preservationists, and genealogists. Judges will be picked from a wide variety of backgrounds throughout our region. Students who participate can choose from one of three categories: **family history, local history, or preservation/conservation projects** to enter their board. Topics can range from family members, oral histories/interviews, pedigree charts of a particular family, and/or local preservation/conservation projects (i.e. cemetery surveys, heritage tourism ideas, historic preservation of homes, churches, etc.).

This event will be a fun time for all students, principals, teachers, and the community to gather in the county seat and oldest town, Jonesborough, to learn from our students about their perspectives of local and regional heritage through their own research, creativity, and documentation. We hope your school will join us, and fill out the attached form, so we can get a county of how many schools will be participating, as well as continue preparation for the event.

Thanks,

Chad Fred Bailey

President