

Grow. Engage. Preserve.

Mission Statement: To Promote, study, preserve, and document the family heritages of Jonesborough, Washington County, And Northeast Tennessee.



Jonesborough Genealogical Society

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Dear Heritage Organizations and Sites,

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 tri-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.

Yet, the society also wants to open this event to genealogical and historical organizations to have an opportunity to share their historical/genealogical knowledge with the next generation. **In this effort, we the JGS and the Jonesborough Visitors Center will host a Heritage Roundtable on Friday night, January 18, 2019, at the Jonesborough Visitors Center, 117 Boone Street, Jonesborough, from 5 pm to 8 pm.** *We strongly encourage every organization or site to participate and send a representative(s) to this event.* We hope that you will get more out of the roundtable than just information on the Heritage Fair. We hope that you will see the commonalities we all share through missions and visions, as well as begin to create partnerships between organizations and sites that we may never have had before!

These events will be a fun time for all as we gather in the county seat and oldest town of Tennessee, Jonesborough, to learn about each other’s perspectives of local and regional heritage through communication skills.

Thanks,

Chad Fred Bailey, President