
 TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

www.tchistoricalociety.com



DEAR FRIENDS,

2023 has been a busy year for the Transylvania County Historical Society. Our collaboration with the Transylvania Heritage Museum and efforts to become more visible to the public have paid off with more tours and school group visits to the Allison-Deaver House and McGaha Chapel.

The participation of the Master Gardeners in maintaining the gardens and decorating the House have things looking better than ever. Please visit to enjoy their efforts.

The Afternoon Tea at the Allison-Deaver House in May was a delightful event.

The Sing-a-long at the McGaha Chapel in June was a bittersweet event, a fitting tribute to Charley Burden, the inspiration for the sings and an ardent supporter of the Chapel and Cedar Mountain.

The Appalachian Folk Fest attracted more than 1,200 visitors to the field by the Barn.

Grants from Transylvania County facilitated the upgrade of our security system and the installation of internet on the property. We are also grateful to the Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority for their financial aid for the printing of our new rack cards and a grant to help with the costs of "Behind the Mask: Cherokee Mask Makers and their Legacy" which will be on exhibit at the Allison-Deaver House starting October 21.

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7PM

AT SILVERMONT MANSION

SHORT BUSINESS MEETING

FOLLOWED BY

"TALES FROM US 276:

GHOSTLY AND OTHERWISE" WITH PATTY STAHL

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND FREE OF CHARGE

In the Spring, we hired Kadie Sanders as our Administrative Assistant. Kadie has knowledge of the grant request process and is creative. She brings a new vitality to our programming. Kadie will be working at the Allison-Deaver House several days a week and be available to meet with visitors who come to the House.

The Pisgah Collective continues to thrive at the Barn. They are good tenants. Their rent payments help us to maintain the property.

A significant development is our contract with Adams and Adams Construction, historic preservation contractors, to assess the condition of the Allison-Deaver House and provide estimates of the costs of necessary repairs. We anticipate that these projects will be quite expensive and are pursuing grant funds. As the details of the required restoration and repair work at the Allison-Deaver House become available, I will share them with you.

Please feel free to reach out to me at tchsociety@yahoo.com and make sure to check out our website: tchistoricalociety.com and the Allison-Deaver House page on Facebook.

I hope that you will join or continue to be a member of the Society by returning the form in this newsletter or donating on our webpage.

Sincerely,

Marjorie O. Lillard

President

Transylvania County Historical Society

HAPPENINGS!

TEA PARTY



In May, an Afternoon Tea filled the first floor of the Allison-Deaver House, the porch and the yard with elegant revelers. Brenda Doroski led the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners and Society volunteers. Perfect weather and delicious food was enjoyed by all. Look for our next tea in the Spring.

MCGAHA CHAPEL

We sang Christmas Carols at McGaha Chapel in December and had tasted treats at the Sherwood Forest Center. Sadly, Charley Burden Passed away in May. We continue the tradition that he started and sang "Songs our Grandparents Sang" and enjoyed watermelon on the lawn. A cheerful and dedicated supporter of the McGaha Chapel and Cedar Mountain, Charley's spirit will live on. We will continue to care for the Chapel and tell the stories of the lands and people that he cherished.



CHARLEY BURDEN
AT THE CHAPEL

APPALACHIAN FOLK FEST



The Appalachian Folk Festival in June drew a crowd to the Allison-Deaver House and grounds. We partnered with the Transylvania Heritage Museum to organize a day of heritage craft demonstrators, house tours, live music, story telling, and engaging children's activities. And the weather cooperated!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



The word is getting out about our wonderful children's programming! Rebecca Suddeth of the Transylvania Heritage Museum is spearheading development of educational programming regarding Appalachian homesteading. The tour begins at the Allison-Deaver House and ends at the Silvermont Mansion as the children consider life two hundred years ago, and then one hundred years ago. "Kids who don't learn to appreciate old houses grow up to tear them," Rebecca cautions as she forges forward.

THE HERITAGE OF THE PAST IS THE SEED THAT BRINGS FORTH THE HARVEST OF THE FUTURE. - WENDELL PHILIPS



Local Elementary Students beating the pan to call their friends to "Dinner".



Marcy Thompson teaching students about patchwork quilts with some of the quilts at the Allison-Deaver House.



BEHIND THE MASK

CHEROKEE MASK MAKERS AND THEIR LEGACY

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EXHIBITION
 Oct. 21 through Nov. 30, 2023
 Open Saturdays and Sundays 11-3 and by appointment
 Children's activities ~ Groups welcome

SPECIAL EVENT
 Nov. 18, 2023
 11 am and 1 pm: Guided Tour by exhibition Curator, Anna Fariello
 12-1 pm: Three Sisters sampling of traditional Cherokee food
 Limited space RSVP at tchsociety@yahoo.com

ALLISON-DEAVER HOUSE
 2753 Asheville Highway, Pisgah Forest, 28768



SPONSORS

- Transylvania County Historical Society
- Transylvania County Heritage Museum
- Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Transylvania County
- Blue Ridge Community College Seed Library
- Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority



Will West Long photographed in 1946. Photograph courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.
 Booger Mask by Will West Long. Courtesy of the National Museum of Natural History.
 Exhibition courtesy of Curatorial InSight, Cullowhee NC.

We are excited to bring this exhibition to the Allison-Deaver House. The creation of the exhibition, "Behind the Mask", was a two-year project in collaboration with the Eastern Band of Cherokee. It is a collection of photographs of masks and mask makers found in private collections across the country. Accompanying the exhibition, there will be a mask making activity for children and a display of artifacts from the Transylvania Heritage Museum collection.

The exhibit and activities are free and open to the public.

Exhibition tours and book signings with the curator, Anna Fariello, will be held on November 18, 2023 at IIAM and IPM. A Three Sisters traditional Cherokee food sampling will be available.

Please RSVP for the November 18th event at tchsociety@yahoo.com.



Transylvania County Historical Society Membership Form:

We appreciate your help! Donations can also be made through our website. Please consider giving to our efforts as we make this upcoming year one of restoration, education, inspiration, and celebration of the heritage of our community!

- Individual \$35
- Patron \$100 - \$499
- Family or Civic Organization \$50
- Sustainer \$500 or more

I would like to make an additional donation to support: Programs and events \$ _____

Restoration and repairs at the Allison-Deaver House and McGaha Chapel \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law
TCHS does not share members' mailing or e-mail addresses
Please mail contributions to: TCHS, PO Box 2061, Brevard, NC 28712