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 TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 

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# NEWSLETTER

www.tchistoricalsociety.com

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## 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

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.

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](mailto:tchsociety@yahoo.com) and make sure to check out our website: [tchistoricalsociety.com](http://tchistoricalsociety.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

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# HAPPENINGS!

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## 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.

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## MCGAHA CHAPEL

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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!

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## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 - \$499    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or Civic Organization \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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**