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**Joint Meeting of History Related Groups  
May 14, 2019, 4:30-5:30 pm**

Following are descriptions of some of the organizations and groups who are invited to the Joint Meeting and wanted to share information with others.

**Abandoned Cemetery Board of Trustees** – Consists of a Five-member committee appointed by the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners. Functions of the committee include:

- Locate and identify burial sites.
- List burial sites with the County Registrar of Deeds.
- Encourage families to maintain their burial sites.
- Investigate reported encroachments of abandoned cemeteries.
- Organize and lead volunteer groups to clear growth that might damage markers and clean grave markers.
- Assist homeowners in navigating the process of moving or relocating burial sites.

**The African American Storyline Project**

The African American Storyline Project is a non-profit project under the Community Focus Foundation. Its main goal relates to capturing the rich story that is our local African American history and to share that “Storyline” through various visible formats (historic signage, educational displays, murals and other community art pieces, documentary/film, written/newspaper/books, informational “kiosks” that include visual/audio/video, websites with relevant information including an interactive digital map and historically relevant souvenir gifts.) The African American Storyline Project works with community partners and volunteers.

**Cradle of Forestry** - The 6,500 acre Cradle of Forestry Historic Site near Brevard, North Carolina commemorates the beginning of forest conservation in the United States. On this site in 1898, Dr. Carl Schenck, chief forester for George Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate, founded the Biltmore Forest School, the first forestry school in America. Today this North Carolina destination is jointly managed by the US Forest Service and the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association. The site is open to visitors every day from mid-April to early November. As you enter the main gate (4 miles off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 412) you are rewarded with the opportunity to explore the past, present, and future of environmental sustainability and stewardship. These are brought to visitors through paved interpretive trails, interactive exhibits, film, music, drama, guided tours, nature programs, and special events.

**Friends of Silvermont** - Friends of Silvermont Park are community advocates dedicated to keeping Silvermont Park a vibrant community center and historic landmark. Our mission is to support and advise Transylvania County management in the renovation, enhancement and upkeep of the mansion and grounds. Over the last three years, proceeds from various fundraisers have been used to pay for renovations to the 1st floor including new paint, window treatments and refinishing the wood floors. The ultimate goal is to completely renovate the mansion to bring it up to code.

**Heart of Brevard** - The Heart of Brevard is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to maintain a vital downtown. Revitalization is done through design, economic restructuring, promotion, and organization. The 16-block Municipal Services District served by the Heart of Brevard overlaps parts of the Main Street National Historic District. To promote the history of historic Brevard we collaborated with the JHPC and the Rowell Bosse NC Room of the Library to create a web-based walking tour and professionally designed brochure.

**Historic Toxaway Foundation** – Is focused on sharing the history of Toxaway and encouraging more people to visit and explore the Historic Hwy 64 Corridor.

**Joint Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC)** – Transylvania County’s JHPC is a board of nine county citizens appointed by the County Commissioners. In addition to being an advisory board, JHPC is also Certified Local Government (CLG), that is charged with historic designation, providing education, facilitating partnership development related to history, ensuring stewardship for historic structures and fulfilling its duties as a historic commission. As a Certified Local Government (CLG), JHPC applied for grants to facilitate an architectural and cultural survey of African American heritage-related resources in Transylvania County. This project will allow existing structures and related architectural resources of the community to be understood within a historical context that is gathered through oral history interviews.

**Morning Glory Inspirations** - Morning Glory Inspirations offers captivating historical and cultural tours, talks and experiences. History and culture are brought to life in a dynamic, fun and memorable way. Tours and educational talks primarily cover the “old” Tannery in Rosenwald, local black/Rosenwald history and the surrounding outdoors. MGI is especially committed to capturing, documenting, preserving and sharing the rich legacy of our black history, putting it on the “map” and making it visible. A portion of any profits typically go right back into Rosenwald community initiatives, such as the annual Rosenwald block party, the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center Revitalization project, back to school bashes, community dances, community art projects, the Carver Garden Club and most recently The African American Storyline Project.

**Rowell Bosse North Carolina Room at the Transylvania County Library**-Collects print and non-print materials--books, periodicals, newsletters, manuscripts, scrapbooks, documents, maps, oral histories, microfilm, media on local, regional, and state history, as well as local family genealogy. Protects these materials through stabilizing, preserving, digitizing, and transcribing to archival standards. Connects individuals, businesses, and organizations with resources in-person, online, through articles, and on social media by assisting with research and through presentations and programming.

**The Transylvania Citizens Improvement Organization** - The Transylvania Citizens Improvement Organization (T.C.I.O.,) is an organization that was established in 1960, to promote the civic, educational, political and economic opportunities for African American Citizens in Brevard and Transylvania County. The organization made an immediate impact by fighting racial discrimination in both private and public institutions and by building coalitions with white citizens that created an avenue for all to support a cause that helped to share the future of Brevard and Transylvania County. Today, the group’s mission relates to preservation of history.

**Transylvania County Historical Society** - The Transylvania County Historical Society's mission is preserving the cultural and architectural heritage of Transylvania County through research, restoration, documentation, and interpretation including docent led tours and history talks. The Society owns the Allison-Deaver House and the McGaha Chapel. The Allison-Deaver House, located at 2753 Asheville Hwy in Pisgah Forest, was built in 1815 by Benjamin Allison and is believed to be the oldest standing frame house west of the Blue Ridge. The McGaha Chapel, was completed in 1872 during the difficult Reconstruction period following the Civil War to aid in healing the divide caused by family members and friends fighting on different sides. We hold educational programs such as lectures, tours, and events at both locations and offer hymn sings at the Chapel. The Chapel is also available for weddings and baptisms.

**Transylvania Heritage Museum** - The Transylvania Heritage Museum, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 2007, located at 189 West Main Street in Brevard. The Museum provides a venue to showcase the history of Transylvania County. Exhibits are rotated twice a year and represent different aspects of our cultural heritage. The Museum also provides a broad variety of educational programs to educators and civic organizations. Teaching Trunks, made possible through grants from the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, take the museum to the classroom and are available free of charge to local educators. The Museum offers specialized programs, guided walking tours of Brevard, and Square Foot Gardening and History Detective activities for 4-H Clubs. Traveling Exhibits from the Museum have been displayed in dozens of locations throughout the county. Currently, four exhibits can be viewed in local government buildings; The History of Rosman at the Rosman Town Hall, Transylvania Communities, and A River Runs Through It in the halls of the Register of Deeds Office and the African American Experience at the Morris Educational Building. The Museum serves as a public trust, receiving dozens of historical artifacts each year. Donations can range from spinning wheels to letter collections from early community members. Many of these historical items, without the Museum to take them, would have been lost. The Museum is operated by volunteers and is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, from March through December.

**Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas** - The museum displays artifacts and conducts educational programs through events and military lectures on various topics both at the museum and at schools in western North Carolina and South Carolina. The museum features include one-of-a kind artifacts, uniforms, weaponry, original newspapers, personal letters, and more. All of these special items and more weave the great and proud stories of World War I, World War II, Korea, The Cold War, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

**Waightstill Avery Chapter NSDAR** - DAR members have participated and continue to participate in an array of projects to help preserve our cultural heritage. Locally, the Waightstill Avery Chapter has participated in locating and rededicating the DAR Jubilee Memorial Forest, volunteered at the Southern Highlands Preserve, participated in grave marker clean up at the Davidson River cemetery, served as docents at the Allison Deaver House and Silvermont and sponsored a grant request for new windows at Silvermont, which was granted by the National DAR.