

**PLANNING AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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**Joint Meeting of History Related Groups  
October 10, 2017  
3:30-5:00 pm**

Following are descriptions of some of the organizations and groups who attended the Joint Meeting and wanted to share information on current projects 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.

**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 everyday 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, craft demonstrations, and special events.

**Friends of Silvermont** - Friends of Silvermont Park are community advocates for keeping Silvermont Park as 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. Last January we instituted "Dead Fall Days" on the 1st Thursday of each month to groom the grounds for the Centennial, which was celebrated in May. Currently we are preparing to hang artwork from the Transylvania Art Guild on the 1st floor as well as setting up our annual "Fun"d raiser, the Pumpkin Patch. Proceeds from this will be used to pay for renovations to the 1st floor including new paint, window treatments and refinishing the wood floors. This project is in the planning stages. Our 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 are currently collaborating 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 currently focused on signage, with the hope that attractive signs will encourage more people to visit and explore the Historic Hwy 64 Corridor.

**Rosenwald Community** – Is working to preserve and share their history through efforts to restore the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center. The Mary C. Jenkins Community Center located on Carver Street near Bethel A Baptist Church was constructed between 1942-1952, in the center of the African American community. The community's goals are to re-build, or restore the center and create a much needed gathering place for the community to mentor children, hold educational programs, and house a library with their historical documents and items. In addition, efforts are underway to update the Transylvania Citizens Improvement Organization's Historical Tour from Tannery Park to downtown Brevard.

**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.

**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. William Deaver purchased the property in 1830 and doubled the size of the existing six-room two story house. Around 1860, he raised the roof and built double porches on the front of the house. The TCHS has recently completed the first phase of restoration work on the Allison-Deaver house.

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. The Chapel is located across from the Sherwood Forest Gold Course on the Greenville Hwy in Cedar Mountain. We hold events such as lectures and hymn sings at the Chapel and it is 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 civil organization. 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.

**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.

**WNC Military History Museum Happenings:**

- Oct. 21st=A "Night At the Museum" Guests will be treated to piano music, food and beverages, sing patriotic songs, and enjoy all the museum displays.
- Oct. 28th=☺Children's "Armed Forces Appreciation Day" at the Museum. A wonderful children's activity will be offered. Children can color a picture for our deployed troops and we will send them to various deployed units around the globe. They can also choose a toy soldier to take home, so they can say prayers and/or wish success and safety for our troops. Since Halloween is right around the corner, of course they will get candy, graciously donated by Wal-Mart. In addition, each child may fill out a slip with their name and phone number on it, and place it in a Halloween container, for the chance to win a special prize!
- Nov. 10th=Curator Emmett Casciato will be the featured speaker for the Veteran's Day ceremony.
- Early Dec.=The Brevard and Rosman JMROTC have scheduled a Field Trip to visit the museum, and we will provide a detailed guided tour and some great lectures about Military History.