

# ∞ Past Times ∞

A Newsletter of the Cashiers Historical Society

May, 2005

## From the Chairman

### Eleanor Welling

Welcome back to what we all consider our "favorite place!" Now that the Historical Society has acquired four acres surrounding the Zachary-Tolbert House, we are well on our way to becoming the premier Cultural Heritage Center in Western North Carolina. We have been busy with several projects over the winter, the most apparent of which is the new parking area on the property. Jan Wyatt worked long and hard on the Will Thomas Symposium that attracted eight scholars who made excellent presentations to the crowd of participants. Thanks to Cherokee Preservation Foundation, Duke Energy, the Jackson County and Cashiers Travel and Tourism Authorities, and Friends of the Albert Carlton Community Library for grants which supported this very successful first time event.

(continued)

## Interpretive Planner to host workshops



### John Veverka,

Internationally known interpretive planner, will be in Cashiers June 6 and 7, 2005 to provide site interpretive planning consultation services to the Board, an interpretive planning workshop for guides, and an interpretive training seminar for area historic societies.. Check his website: [www.heritageinterp.com](http://www.heritageinterp.com).

## Implementing the Master Site Plan

Major changes are underway at the Zachary-Tolbert Historic site.

After almost a year of planning, the Zachary-Tolbert Master Plan has been completed and implementation has begun. Ann Austin, Master Plan Chairman, and her committee enlisted the aid of outstanding regional firms including preservation architect, Ellen Harris of Harris Architects; land use planner, Dale Jaeger of the Jaeger Company and archaeologist Natalie Adams of New South to craft the plan.

The first step in the multi-phased plan has been the installation of a new parking area north of the house. Gillis MacKinnon, architect and new board member, designed the area to retain as many trees as possible and to include a buffer along I07 that shields the lot from the road. Those attending the recent Thomas Symposium were the first to park in this new area. Phase Two, scheduled to begin in early Fall, will include a pavilion with an open meeting space, catering kitchen, office, storage and bathroom facilities.



**New Parking created adjoining house**

## Tolbert Spring given to Historical Society

It's now official! Signed, sealed and delivered. The deed to the original spring at the Zachary-Tolbert House has been given to the Cashiers Historical Society by **Robert Red "Bubba" Tolbert** and his wife **Norma**. The spring, located in a picturesque clearing, still runs clear as it meanders to join the creek at the western edge of the Zachary-Tolbert House property.

Bubba, as he is affectionately known, began coming to the house as an infant with his parents Marcus Pope (Mark) and Mary Eva (Mamie) Whaley Tolbert of Rockville, South Carolina, near Charleston. His grandfather and namesake, Robert Red Tolbert, had purchased the home, its furnishing and 65 acres on July 29, 1909 from Dr. Francis and Elizabeth Parker of Charleston.

The ownership of the property continued in the Tolbert family until 1996 when the home was purchased by **Tom** and **Wendy Dowden** who deeded it to the Cashiers Historical Society in 1997 .

When selecting a site to build his home, Mordecai Zachary knew the importance of building near a spring. Fresh water could then easily be carried to the house for preparing meals, bathing and doing laundry. The house never had running

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## CASHIERS

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Mission of the Cashiers Historical Society is to preserve and interpret the Zachary-Tolbert House and Cashiers Valley in order to inspire discovery and to appreciate our past as guidance for the future.

#### OFFICERS:

**Eleanor Welling, *Chairman***  
**Jan Wyatt, *President***  
**Sarah Nelson, *Vice President***  
**Vanna M. Cameron, *Secretary***  
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**Robert Red (Bubba) Tolbert**

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*The Past is always Present in Cashiers*

## Jon Leader uses GPR at Zachary-Tolbert House

Using ground penetrating radar, equipment designed to locate land mines, **Dr. Jonathan Leader**, South Carolina state archaeologist, recently searched an area



**Martha Black and Dr. Jon Leader with GPR**

near the Zachary-Tolbert House. Dr. Leader and members of the Cashiers Historical Society walked a grid pattern over an area near the 1850s farmhouse with the hope of locating remnants of bygone days before disturbing the ground for the construction of the Pavilion and parking area. Ground penetrating radar, commonly called GPR, is a geophysical method for shallow, high-resolution, subsurface investigations of the earth. GPR uses high frequency pulsed electromagnetic waves to acquire subsurface information. Energy is sent down into the ground and

then reflected back to the surface. The information is then stored, digitally, on a computer. Several members of the Cashiers Historical Society assisted Dr. Leader by carrying an antenna along the ground surface while he watched preliminary information register on his computer screen.

"I saw one area that is definitely interesting," said Dr. Leader, "and when I print out the entire grid, something else may show up." Once Dr. Leader is able to draw conclusions as to what artifacts may be buried where construction is planned, he will share the information with Cashiers Historical Society members for further investigation. Dr. Leader plans a return visit to the Cashiers site.

## Tolbert Spring (continued)

water or plumbing so the tradition of carrying the water from the spring continued through all the years.

Tolbert recalls that the first order of business upon arrival: "We used to get everyone to help carry the water; family, friends, or company. They all would grab two buckets. The men carried two 12 quart buckets and the children would grab two empty gallon lard cans with bail handles", said Bubba.

He continued: "Because water from the spring had a chill, it was heated in an iron kettle on the old wood stove to wash dishes and to bathe and to clean up."

Norma recalls: "We spent part of our honeymoon in October of 1984 at the house. The Fall color was so beautiful. Bubba, of course, carried the water from the spring."

Recently when archaeologists were examining the trench for the telephone cable, many river stones were discovered. Bubba remembers: "when I was a child, we would bring beautiful yellow and white river stones from the creek next to the spring and line them up around the house. I guess they discovered my rocks."

The gift of the old spring from the Tolberts is such an important addition to the Cashiers Historical Society's Zachary-Tolbert House. It will be preserved for future generations to come as a featured element of the new Master Site Plan.

## Monday wins Village Heritage Award

Save the date! Thursday, June 9, 2005; 5 to 7 P.M.



The Village Heritage Award will be presented at the Cashiers Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours co-hosted by Cashiers Historical Society and Lynn Monday. Join us for tasty food and wine in the charming setting of Monday's House of Design located on I07 South, just past the Schoolhouse Coffee Shop. Valet parking will be provided.

### From the Chairman (continued)

Ann Austin and Gillis MacKinnon have spent the winter working on the final details of the Master Plan. Martha Crouch Black headed an exciting visit by Dr. Jonathan Leader, State Archeologist of South Carolina. Ann Hastings and her committee have a wonderful Showhouse planned for us at Lonesome Valley just off Highway 64.

We have much to look forward to this season: the Village Heritage Award celebration on June 9<sup>th</sup>; the Vega String Quartet's performance at the House on July 27; two greatly anticipated Rambles to the Campbell School and into the "Ballad of Kidder Cole"; the Preview Party for the Showhouse on August 18 – just to name a few opportunities.

We are working to maintain the beauty and "village feel" of our mountains while polishing the treasures from the past that we have discovered and love to share. Please plan to visit the Zachary-Tolbert House this season and see for yourself.

### Spring Board Meeting in Savannah



Board Members on steps of Wormsley Plantation

## Meet Board Members

**Jane Langley**, who has served the Designer Showhouse since the beginning as Public Relations Consultant, joins the board. After recently selling her interest in Dowling, Langley & Associates she reports: "I can take a breath - give back to the Cashiers that we love". Along the way she was recognized by her peers with the Silver Anvil, the highest national PR award. Her successes range from the passage of tort reform in Georgia and a local sales tax referendum, to the opening of the O. Orkin Insect Zoo at the Smithsonian.

Jane is married to psychologist Michael Langley and she has two married children and two terrific grandchildren.

**Gillis MacKinnon**, an architect by profession, has joined the board. He has already been very active helping Ann Austin as she begins to implement the Master Site Plan.

A graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology, Gillis and his wife Brooke moved permanently to Cashiers in 2002 to concentrate on the design of private residences.

Gillis served as Assistant Vice Chancellor to the University System of Georgia, Office of Facilities where he developed a 500-project monthly status report and assisted with legal agreements for architect, project and construction managers. At the Sizemore Group, his major projects included Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Addition, Augusta State University Classroom Building, George State University Alpharetta Center, Beacham Water Treatment Laboratory and Education Center and Smyrna Downtown Redevelopment.

## 2005 Calendar of Events

June 3rd -Oct 1	Zachary-Tolbert House Tours Every Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
June 6 & 7, 2005	Interpretative Planner John Veverka
June 9, 2005	Village Heritage Award 5:00PM - 7:00PM Lynn Monday's House of Design
July 27, 2005	Highland-Cashiers Chamber Music and Picnic underwritten by Tom and Wendy Dowden Zachary-Tolbert House 6:00 PM
July 28, 2005	Ramble to John Campbell Folk School 8:30 AM
August 19, 2005	Designer Showhouse Preview Party at Lonesome Valley
August 20 - Sept. 4	Designer Showhouse at Lonesome Valley
September 14, 2005	Ramble - Ballad of Kidder Cole
September 28, 2005	3rd Annual Founder's Day for all area 3rd & 4th grades
October 30, 2005	Cycling thru History 8:00 AM
December 10, 2005	Cashiers Christmas Parade

Check Website for up-to-date information:

[www.cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cashiershistoricalsociety.org)



CASHIERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*There are many ways to*

*Volunteer*

*Return enclosed form Today*