

Cashiers Historical Society

The Cashiers Historical Society (CHS) was founded in 1996 to preserve the heritage of Cashiers Valley through education, stewardship, and advocacy. The Society maintains the Zachary-Tolbert house and surrounding grounds and structures as a museum for the public to tour and study. In addition, the society has many ties to both local county and wider regional education by working with partner organizations such as the Blue Ridge School, Summit Charter School and Western Carolina University. CHS Executive Director Kyle Dreher and Administrative and Development Coordinator Zachary Storie are both alumni of WCU.

A variety of public events are designed to involve and serve residents of Cashiers, Jackson County, and the wider regional community. Annual activities include Heritage Apple Day, Music on the Grounds, and the Jan Wyatt Symposium. Youth-oriented events such as Founders Day educate local school children on the history of the valley and mountain culture. History Rambles, traditional skills workshops, and an ongoing survey of Cashiers historic structures help to preserve regional heritage for the future. The CHS also holds off-site events such as the Cashiers Designer Show House and the Village Heritage Awards.

The Society has also created books and other resources to document and celebrate local structures and people. The most recent, *Faces and Places of Cashiers Valley* (2019), a book of photographs and interviews that chronicle the history of Cashiers. The culmination of a 10-year effort, the *Faces and Places* project included site surveys of 140 historic properties and four phases of documentary photography and oral history interviews by acclaimed photographer Tim Barnwell, resulting in several on-site and traveling exhibitions and catalogs. The project was chaired by CHS board member Millie Lathan. Local historians Tim Osment, Ann McKee Austin, Jane Nardy and Carol Bryson contributed to the text.

Cashiers was founded in the early 1800s, and many descendants of those early settlers still live in Cashiers Valley. Today, the area is facing increased development bringing great changes to its unique sense of place. It is hoped that the activities and projects of the Cashiers Historical Society will help shape the future of Cashiers as well as preserving its past.