

# MOUNTAIN ECHOES

Connecting with the spirit and history of Townsend, Cades Cove, and the Great Smoky Mountains.



## ■ THE YEAR-END REVIEW

## Looking Back & Planning Forward

*As we approach the end of 2022, we want to share some of the progress we have made and inspire our readers to help us continue the work of preserving the culture and history of the Great Smoky Mountains region.*

**R**econstruction of the Davis Family Cabin, the Kellar Gunsmithing Cabin, and a single-pen cantilever barn, are some of our most visible accomplishments in 2022. All of these Appalachian artifacts are local and date back to the first half of the 19th Century.



## ■ HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022 PROGRESS

### Completed Reconstruction Projects

*(all artifacts acquired from Smoky Mountain Region)*

- The Davis Family Cabin | Circa 1830s
- Single-Pen Cantilever Barn | Circa 1830s
- The Kellar Gunsmithing Cabin | Circa 1830s

### Additional Important Milestones

- A New Website with Ticket Purchase Capacity
- Tastes of the Smokies Fundraising Event Begun
- JAM (Junior Appalachian Musicians) Chapter
- Heirloom Traditional Kitchen Garden | Circa 1800s
- Preliminary Heirloom Apple Orchard | Circa 1800s
- Heirloom Teaching Garden Curriculum
- An On-Line Virtual Village Tour

*Continued on Page 2 - 4*



**Freddie Haun** and his reconstruction team work in November to install the roof atop the cantilever barn.

### ► We've fielded lots of questions

about the history of the cantilever barn. Like the Davis Cabin, the barn was originally located in Seymour. Its log construction had been hidden for years by more modern exterior barn lumber. Although we don't know the



original owner or construction date, we do know this barn is a perfect fit alongside the Davis Cabin and our heirloom kitchen garden!



*More on Page 2 - 4*

■ MUSEUM STAFF

**Brent Lambert**, Executive Director  
**Jill Cable**, Administrative Assistant  
**Lorna Keathley**, Associate Curator  
**Trevor Lanier**, Curator  
**Logan Hull**, Director of Operations  
**Jenn Bowen**, Educator Curator  
**Zee Johnston**, Sales Associate

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■ FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Creating a Premier Destination

**T**he Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center is uniquely poised to be the cultural capital of Townsend, Tennessee. The Center is quickly becoming a premier destination attraction and civic asset. Thanks to a healthy community of benefactors and motivated stakeholders, the Heritage Center is equipped with a significant menu of amenities including the galleries, gardens, Appalachian Village, Amphitheater, and land.

The Heritage Center’s leadership team, Board of Directors, and volunteers are continually working to modify and grow the on-site experience to provide the richest visitor experience possible.

You can help too by considering a donation, membership, or volunteer pledge today at [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org) (see page 3), or contact us at 865-448-0044.

— BRENT LAMBERT



*Kudos to the **Tuckaleechee Garden Club** and Tom Talley, who helped us with the heirloom garden, apple orchard, and the teaching garden classes — all begun in 2022. We look forward to “growing” the experience in 2023.*

*The **Tastes of the Smokies** fundraising event was a huge success in 2022. Guests mingled in the Appalachian Village, gardens and galleries while they enjoyed artfully prepared food and drink provided by respected local restaurants that serve quality regional Appalachian fare.*



## Master Plan on Drawing Board

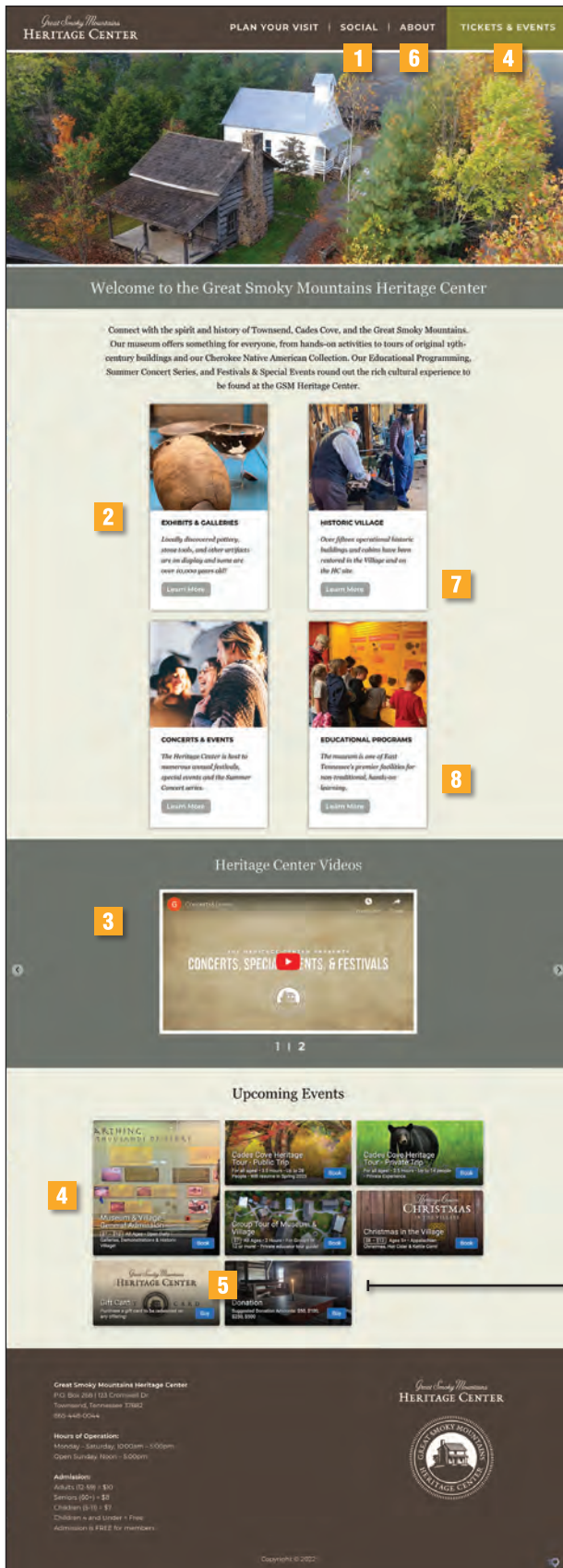
The GSMHC Leadership Team, the Building and Maintenance Committee, and Johnson Architecture have joined forces to prepare a master plan for future development of the Heritage Center. With guidance from Daryl Johnson, the process

has been all-inclusive and will represent a significant next step for the future of the center. The GSMHC is grateful to have a building committee that is loaded with experienced business folks who are successful, knowledgeable and talented.



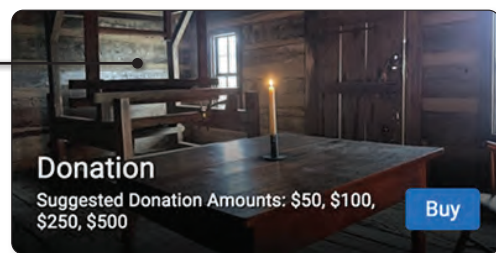
THE YEAR-END REVIEW

# New Website Launch @ gsmheritagecenter.org



The new Heritage Center website was designed in 2022 to be attractive, informative, and for ease of use. The new site should provide a far more positive experience for the consumer by streamlining our event management and ticketing processes.

- SOME FEATURES OF THE NEW WEBSITE...
1. Facebook Feed for Current Events
  2. Links to Information about HC Operations
  3. Movies that deliver a sense of HC Experience
  4. Purchase Event Tickets, Purchase Concert Tickets
  5. Buy Giftcards | Make Donations
  6. Staff and Board of Directors
  7. Link to Virtual Tours of Village
  8. Information for Schools and Volunteers



The **gift** and **donation** "cards" on the website make it easy to give holiday gifts or donate to the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center.



You may also purchase concert and event tickets. Be sure to purchase your tickets to the Christmas in the Village event in December 2022!



**TASTES**  
of the   
**SMOKIES**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 18



Heritage Center  
**CHRISTMAS**  
IN THE VILLAGE

**BLUE RIBBON**  
**COUNTRY FAIR**



TENNESSEE  
**POTTERY**  
FESTIVAL



THE HERITAGE CENTER  
**HEIRLOOM**  
**GARDEN**

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS  
**FIBER**  
**FAIR** 

▲ The branded events at the GSM Heritage Center hope to capture audiences for a rich, fun experience with the added benefit of raising awareness about the center's activities.

■ THE YEAR-END REVIEW

# GSMHC seeks to Sustain Growth with Top Shelf Events

Our summer concert series, festivals, and special events help provide support for all Heritage Center programming. Consistent with our mission, they are designed to communicate and celebrate the spirit and history of Townsend, Cades Cove, and the Great Smoky Mountains.



▲ Dom Flemons captivates the audience in 2022 with authentic arrangements from olden times.



▲ Renowned singer songwriter Dean Dillon played to a packed house in 2021



▲ The 2022 Pottery Festival showcased some of the nation's finest potters. Visitors interacted and learned from the experts.

## 2023 EVENTS SCHEDULE\*

Dec 9-10	Christmas in the Village
Dec 16-17	Christmas in the Village
Jan 28	Winter Heritage Festival
April 21-22	Smoky Mountain Fiber Fair
May 12	Sunset Series-Steve Kaufman *
May 26	Sunset Series-Jay Clark & the Tree Beavers*
June 3	Tastes of the Smokies   Driftboat Cowboys*
June 9	Darin and Brooke Aldridge*
June 16	Sunset Series Sheila Kay Adams & Friends*
June 23	Sunset Series-Acoustic Eidolon*
June 30	G.O.A.T. with Grizzly Goat, Pretty Little Goat, and Real Fainting Goats*
July 7	Rebel Railroad*
July 14	Sunset Series-Dirty Cello*
July 21	Smooth Sailor*
July 28	On the Border- Ultimate Eagles Tribute*
Sept 1	Sunset Series-Pistol Creek Catch of the Day*
Sept 8	Billy Dean*
Sept 22	High Fidelity*
Sept 23	Dean Dillon*
Sept 30	Blue Ribbon Country Fair
Oct 6	Appalachian Roadshow*

\* Reservations/Tickets are required for all concerts. Dates are subject to change – please check website for updates: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org) or call 865-448-0044





GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

# FIBER FAIR



THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS FIBER FAIR  
RETURNS APRIL 21-22, 2023 AT THE  
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS HERITAGE CENTER

APRIL 21 & 22, 2023

**E**xperienced fiber artists will share their knowledge and demonstrate techniques. You'll meet the alpacas, llamas, sheep, goats, and angora rabbits whose fleece becomes the fibers that are spun into yarn and used to create wearables and art. There are two days of classes, demonstrations, sales, and accompanying crafts, like blacksmithing, and woodworking. The Fair will include concessions, museum gallery tours, and live music.



▲ The 2022 Blue Ribbon Country Fair featured children's games, poultry, honey, baked goods, canning, student art, woodworking, floral design, and produce.



▲ During the Summer of 2022, the Heritage Center celebrated "Mornings in the Garden" on selected Tuesdays and Saturdays, the Tuckaleechee Garden Club offered tours and guidance about heirloom vegetables, traditional herbs, and edible flowers.



▲ A fantastic array of Southern Appalachian favorite dishes were enjoyed at the first annual Tastes of the Smokies Event held in June, 2022. We can't wait 'til next year!



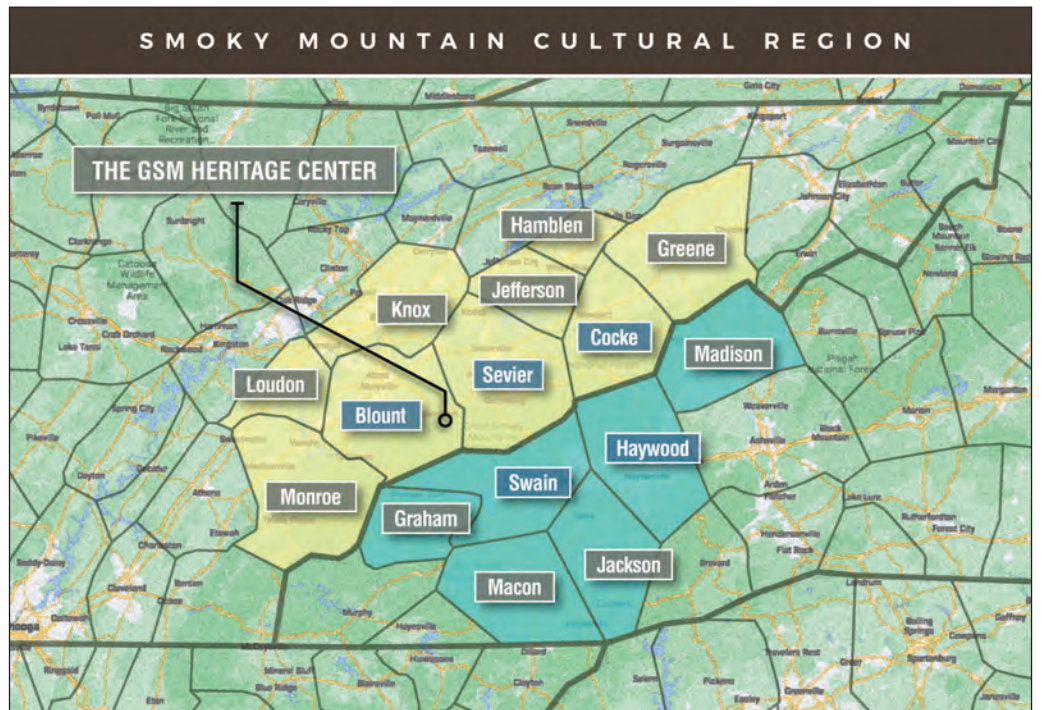


HISTORY ON DISPLAY

# Our Story Repository

*The GSM Heritage Center is a happy home for our history*

**I**n addition to growing an inventory of priceless artifacts, the Heritage Center seeks to create an incomparable facility to house and present our regional history to the public. The Center works to create immersive, engaging experiences for visitors through hands-on history exhibits, interpretive programs, demonstrations, and events. Our goal of responsible stewardship attempts to define the growth of the center, which was originally created to house the 10,000 year old artifacts uncovered by the “Townsend Dig”.



## Where do our stories come from?

*The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center frequently uses the term “**Smoky Mountain Region**” in our advertising, artifact collection policies, and our day-to-day interpretive efforts. We define the “**cultural region**”, or “**cultural sphere**” within Southern Appalachia, as an area that encompasses what is now the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the surrounding foothills area. The region includes **15 counties** covering portions of both Tennessee and North Carolina.*





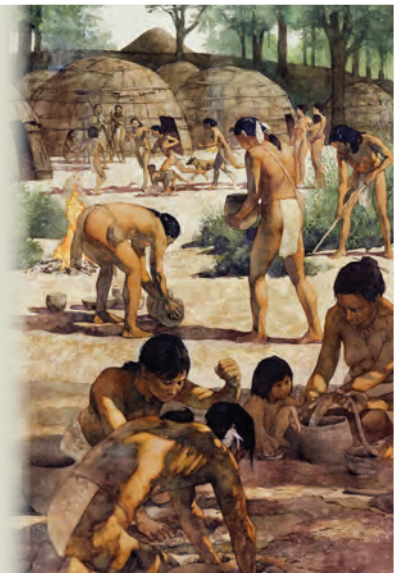
All paintings are by Greg Harlin. © McClung Museum of Natural History & Culture, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**T**he fluid and changing nature of the frontier makes it difficult for experts to pinpoint an exact Smoky Mountain Cultural Region with well-defined borders. Often, we rely on public perception of what the “Great Smoky Mountains” region is and use structures and artifacts from broader territories to more clearly define the complexities of themes like trade, immigration, ethnicity and place.



The **European** and **Native** peoples that collided in Appalachia during the latter half of the eighteenth century were on each side **multi-ethnic, multi-lingual societies** shaped by earlier generations' experience of warfare, migration, and disease.

**John Alexander Williams** | Appalachia: A History



The **Appalachian Frontier** that emerged during the eighteenth century was **not a well-defined boundary separating a commercial and agricultural empire from a receding population of hunter-gatherers**. Rather, it was a zone where the familiar categories of human difference —languages, economic roles, ethnic identities, customs and habits, even the distinctions between men and women and between slave and free — blurred and overlapped.

**John Alexander Williams** | Appalachia: A History



Each year, the Heritage Center has many living history demonstrations and a permanent exhibit dedicated to the Native Americans of East Tennessee.

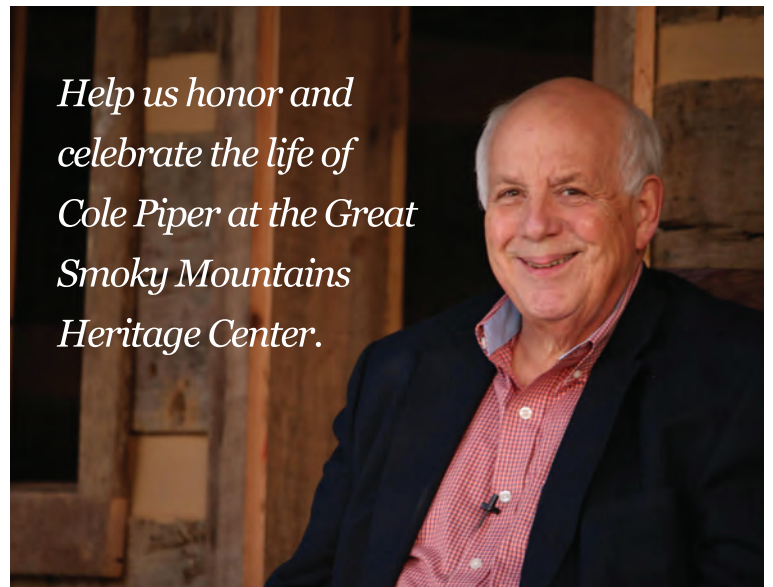
# Remembering our friend Cole Piper

Help us maintain the priceless heirlooms at the **Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center** by contributing to the **Cole Piper Memorial Fund**.

**C**ole Piper was one of the first official members of our Board of Directors, helping to birth the idea of the **Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center** some three and one-half years before the museum was constructed and opened to the public in 2006. He was an integral part of the group who brought this museum concept to life. Cole served the **Heritage Center Board** for an unprecedented 14.5 years.



Cole was the driving force behind the relocation of the **Isaac Anderson Cabin** (home of the founder and first President of Maryville College) to the grounds of the Heritage Center. A dedication of the structure was held in February 2019. The Anderson cabin now stands sentinel at the entrance of the Heritage Center to welcome our visitors and is, in fact, at the center of our logo!



*Help us honor and celebrate the life of Cole Piper at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center.*

THE **COLE PIPER MEMORIAL FUND** IS A WAY TO HONOR COLE'S DEDICATION TO - AND HIS LOVE OF - THE **GSM HERITAGE CENTER**. A PLAQUE WILL BE PLACED IN HIS HONOR AT THE **ISAAC ANDERSON CABIN** SO THAT OTHERS MAY LEARN OF HIS GREAT EFFORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO HERITAGE CENTER PROJECTS.

## ► CREDIT CARD:

Call 865-448-0044 and speak with Jill Cable who will help you process your donation, or visit our new website at [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org) and purchase with a credit card.

## ► CASH OR CHECK:

Of course, this is the easiest and most traditional way of donating. Make your check payable to Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center (or GSMHC) and mail it to P.O. Box 268, Townsend, TN 37882.

## ► SECURITIES:

The Heritage Center does accept gifts of stock as well. Please contact Brent Lambert, [blambert@gsmheritagecenter.org](mailto:blambert@gsmheritagecenter.org), for more information.

Checks should be made payable to the **GSM Heritage Center** with **Cole Piper Fund** in the memo line.





*We believe Cole Piper would be pleased to know that reconstruction of the Davis Cabin is complete.*

## The Davis and Kellar Cabins were reconstructed in 2022

**I**n 2022, the Heritage Center successfully preserved two historically significant structures. Our experts moved and reassembled the two cabins at the Center where our visitors and patrons can connect with the spirit and history of these priceless artifacts.

The **Davis Cabin** was disassembled, stored, and reconstructed at the entrance to the GSMHC campus. The Davis Family built it about 200 years ago, not long after statehood. The cabin was owned by the same family on its original site until it was donated to the GSMHC in 2021.

The **Kellar Cabin** is the original homeplace of Samuel Kellar, who was possibly the best known and most prolific gunsmith in this area. **See Pages 10-11 to learn more.**

## Membership helps too!

*Our mission focuses on the preservation, interpretation, and sharing of the history and culture of the peoples who have inhabited the Great Smoky Mountains Cultural Region. We believe the best days of the Heritage Center are ahead of us, and we encourage you to join us on that journey.*

### Basic Membership Levels (As of January 1, 2023)

**Individual Level** (One person): \$45 per year

**Dual Level** (Two people): \$80 per year

**Family Level** (Two adults and all household children under 18 years): \$90 per year

**Heirloom Level** (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$250 per year

- Immediate benefits include unlimited museum admission throughout the year
- Free admission to Tuesdays at Two lecture series
- Free admission to all GSMHC-managed festivals
- 10% Discount in the Museum Store
- Quarterly newsletter
- Two (2) Friends and Family Tickets
- Invitations to special events

**Little River Level** (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$500 per year

- Immediate benefits include unlimited museum admission throughout the year
- Free admission to Tuesdays at Two lecture series
- Free admission to all GSMHC-managed festivals
- 10% Discount in the Museum Store
- Quarterly newsletter
- Five (5) Friends and Family Tickets
- Invitations to special events
- Reserved event parking
- Pre-event hospitality

**Tuckaleechee Level** (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$1,000 per year

- Immediate benefits include unlimited museum admission throughout the year
- Free admission to Tuesdays at Two lecture series
- Free admission to all GSMHC-managed festivals
- 10% Discount in the Museum Store
- Quarterly newsletter
- Two (2) Annual Passes for Friends and Family Museum Admission
- Invitations to special events
- Reserved event parking
- Pre-event hospitality
- Business Listing on GSMHC website, if desired
- Business Listing on Informational TV in the Museum Store Lobby, if desired

*In addition to the listed benefits, you also get 6 free concerts, discounts on all concerts, free lectures and historical programming, and one free night of Christmas in the Village. The value of the free concerts alone is greater than the cost of the annual membership!*

# Kellar Gallery on the Drawing Board

**C**ontributions for Kellar Gallery Construction will be used to help us to complete this important project, which includes a historic recreation of the Kellar gunsmith shop along with a combination of interactive and static exhibits that allow guests to delve into the political and societal struggles of the 1830s.



A **Samuel Kellar rifle** and his cabin are the centerpieces of a proposed new exhibit at the Heritage Center. Kellar's Gunsmithing operation thrived in Six Mile, just outside of Maryville, Tenn. Barnwood Builders reconstructed the Kellar Cabin at the Heritage Center in February.



◀ *The Samuel Kellar Cabin, shown during reconstruction (left), is the foundation of a new gallery being designed in the Heritage Center. The cabin is where Kellar crafted his famous guns.*



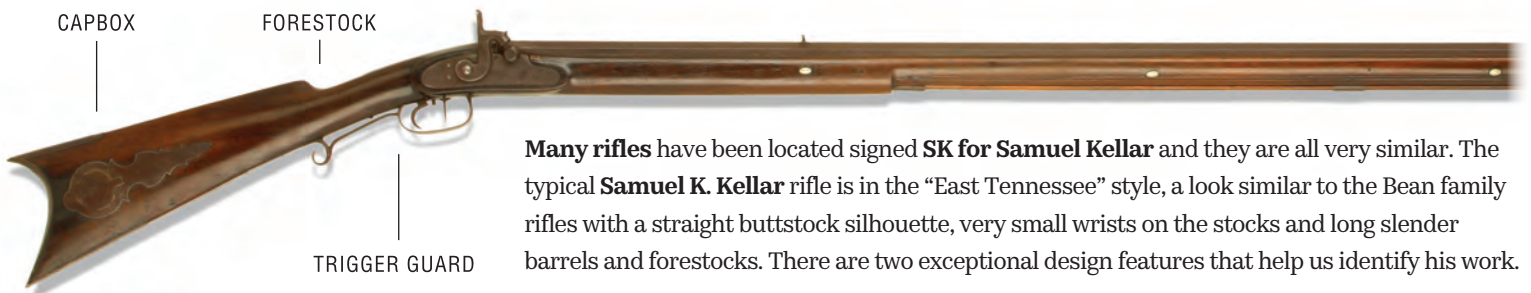
*SK*

**SAMUEL KELLAR**

◀ *Samuel Kellar married Elizabeth Gibson and is buried in Old Piney Cemetery in Blount County, less than a mile from his home.*



▲ *Kellar, "the Old Gunsmith" signed his renowned guns with his distinctive initials.*



Many rifles have been located signed **SK for Samuel Kellar** and they are all very similar. The typical **Samuel K. Kellar** rifle is in the "East Tennessee" style, a look similar to the Bean family rifles with a straight buttstock silhouette, very small wrists on the stocks and long slender barrels and forestocks. There are two exceptional design features that help us identify his work.

*The first* is a distinctive cap box composed of semicircular elements put together in a pleasing design, which is believed to be developed or at least refined by Samuel.

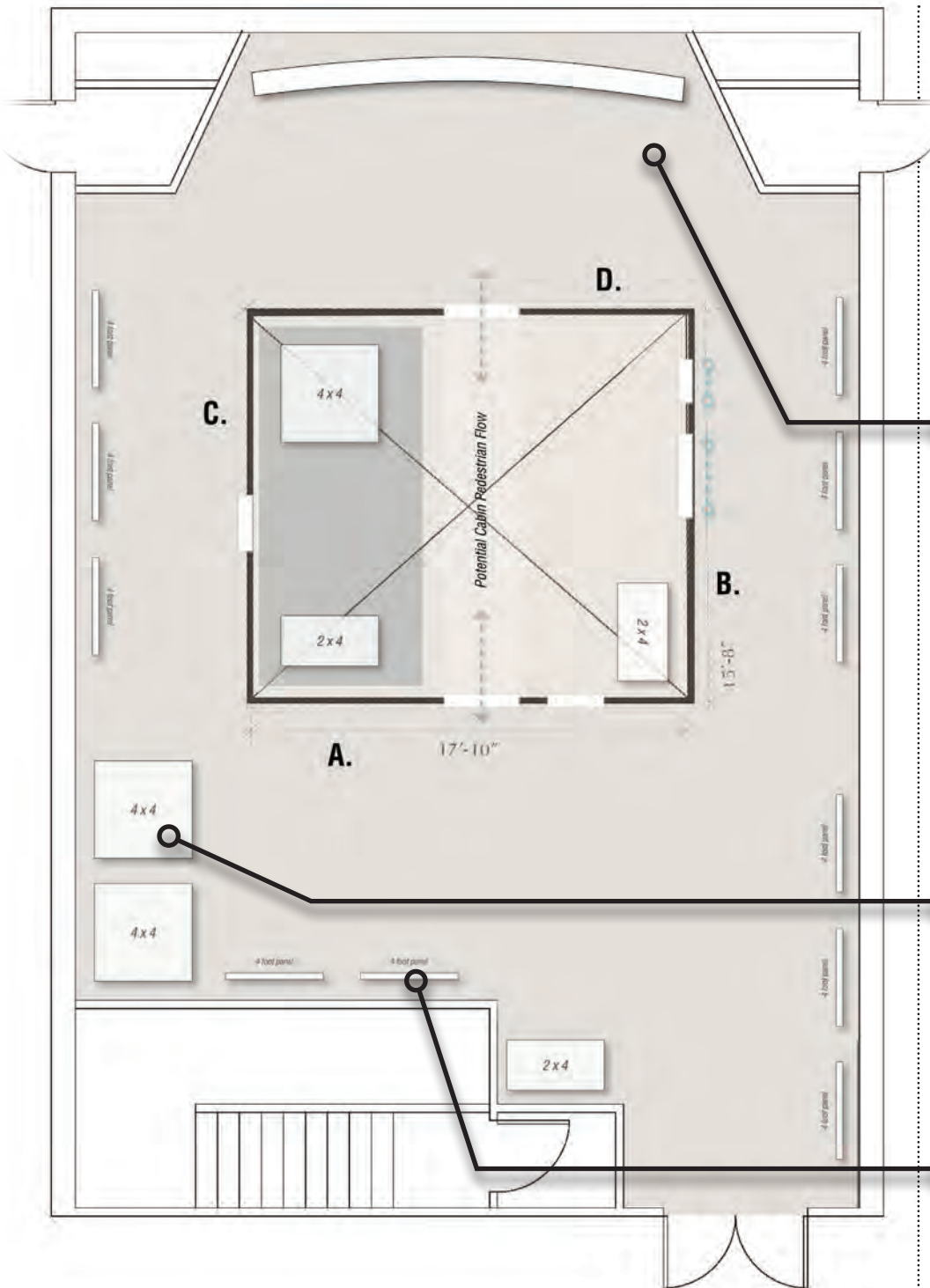
*The second* design feature is a forestock molding composed of a narrow concave area with an incised line on each side.

*Kellar, and other Blount County rifles, are the only East Tennessee rifles consistently carrying a forestock molding.*

*Kellar rifles feature deeply curved buttplates, trigger guards featuring a closed loop or curl at the rear, and long, extended breech plug tangs.*



# PRELIMINARY EXHIBIT POSITION: CONCEPTS & INSPIRATION



## INSPIRATION PHOTOS

*These photos of exhibits from the new Tennessee State Museum have inspired us and are representative of the level of finish we are seeking for the Samuel Kellar Gallery*



*Great Smoky Mountains*  
**HERITAGE CENTER**

GSMHERITAGECENTER.ORG

*Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center*  
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Connect with the spirit and history of Townsend, Cades Cove, and the Great Smoky Mountains. Our museums offer something for everyone, from hands-on activities to tours of original 19th-century buildings and our Cherokee Native American collection.



Call Today: 865-448-0044

**DON'T MISS: DECEMBER 2022**

VISIT  
**TOWNSEND**  
TENNESSEE

■ HERITAGE CENTER HOLIDAY

**HAPPY  
HISTORICAL  
HOLIDAYS...**



**Join us for the 3rd Annual Christmas in the Village.** If you'd like a taste of Appalachian Christmas traditions, complete with living history demonstrations, evening tours of our historic village, and warm refreshments, don't pass up an opportunity to visit us this holiday season!

 **TENNESSEEARTSCOMMISSION**  
Cultivate. Create. Participate.

*Events Calendar on Page 4*



*Reserve your tickets now at [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)*