



Bristol Historical Association, Inc.

Newsletter

P.O. Box 204 Bristol, Tennessee 37620

December 2008

Chartered April 1979

Annual Bristol Historical Association Christmas Luncheon

The Bristol Historical Association held their annual Christmas Luncheon and Program on Sunday, December 14th, at the newly restored Bristol Train Station. The afternoon began with a wonderful buffet catered by the Troutdale Dining Room followed by special remarks from President Mary Beth Rainero. Amy Hopper displayed the Seth Thomas Clock which originally graced the Depot and gave a brief presentation detailing the Association's plans to purchase the clock and return it to the Train Station for exhibition.



Amy Hopper and Mary Beth Rainero



Jim and Brenda Otis, Roxann Coulthard

Rail Exhibit was provided by Tim Buchanan for all to view and enjoy following the Program.

A most interesting and pertinent to the occasion program entitled "Rails Through the Meadows: The History of Bristol's Depots" was presented by local



Bud Phillips and Tim Buchanan

historian and author V.N. "Bud" Phillips which was filmed by ARC Television and will be broadcast at a later date. A special

The Bristol Train Station Foundation recently completed a 10-year, \$5 million renovation of the 1902 Depot to protect and preserve one of the most beautiful depots on the Norfolk & Southern rail line and a centerpiece of historic downtown Bristol. Plans are in the works for a grand opening on July 4th, 2009, the same day the Depot was officially dedicated 107 years earlier and will be part of Bristol's annual Star-Spangled Celebration.



Jan Rainero, Anne Fleming, Roy Williams, Isabelle Ladd, Nat Copenhaver





DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS

September 6 - November 20, 2008

DONATIONS:

1931 Woman's History Club

Janet G. Nunley

Mary C. Davis

Keith Basyk (General Rubber and Plastics)

O. Lloyd Darter Council #191 (United Commercial Travelers of America)

DONATIONS TOWARDS PURCHASE OF TRAIN STATION CLOCK:

(To date - \$1400)

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cheatham

Mr. and Mrs. Nat Copenhaver

Jeanne J. Kiger

Mr. and Mrs. Kinney Ellis

Dr. and Mrs. Richard R. Gentry

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Hartley

Mr. Brian Hayes

Mr. J. Herbert Hayes

Mrs. Eleanor D. Heacock

Dr. and Mrs. Barry Hopper

Mrs. James R. King

Joyce Kistner

Judge and Mrs. Richard Ladd

Mrs. Mary F. Landrum

LTC and Mrs. Clyde Long

Mr. and Mrs. Myers Massengill (Memorial to Dawn White)

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Morgan

Dr. and Mrs. James Otis

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Penny

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Rainero

Ms. Barbara A. Shaw

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith

Ms. Barbara Spinazzola

Mrs. Frankie Trammell

Dr. and Mrs. William J. Wade

Brenda Williams

Dr. and Mrs. Matthew W. Wood, Jr.

ADDITIONAL MEMORIALS TO FRAZIER KING:

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Arnold

Mr. Walter Arnold

Mr. and Mrs. John Fleming

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hagey

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Harkrader, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Hartley

Mrs. Mary Landrum

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Morgan

Mrs. Charles J. Rainero

TOTAL MEMORIALS - \$2,082.50

(\$1505 designated to The E. W. King House and \$577.50 designated to the B.H.A. General Fund)

MEMORIAL TO LOIS KING TILLEY:

Mr. Walter Arnold

MEMORIAL TO WILLIAM M. HEPBURN, JR.:

Mr. Walter Arnold

MEMORIAL TO BILL KING:

Mr. Walter Arnold

What A Wonderful Way To Honor and Remember Your Friend Or Family Member by Your Gift to The Clock Fund.

The Original Seth Thomas Clock will be on display at the Train Station and we will retain its ownership.

For information on making a donation to the Fund email shopper226@aol.com or mbrainero@permatile.com



E. W. King House News

Article by Susan Long • Photos by Amy Hopper



The Bluegrass Band “Hart Creek” (left) entertained visitors to the E.W. King House during September’s Open House held in conjunction with Bristol’s Rhythm & Roots Festival



The Tennessee High Bluegrass Band (above) “Slim Pickens” also performed for the Open House. Their participation was all the more special due to the fact that their violin player (front row center) is Josh King, a great grandson of E.W. King

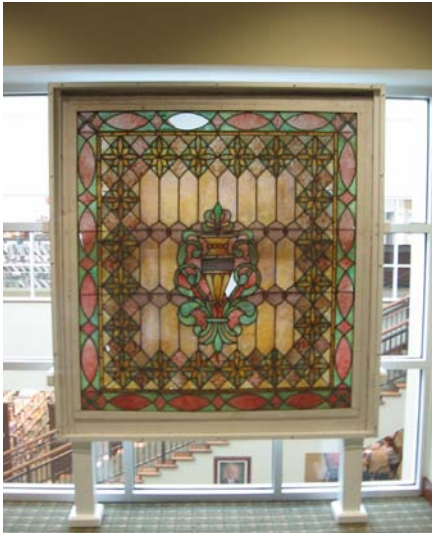


Robert Rodgers interviewed Bill Taft, 92, who lived in the E.W. King House in 1938 after it became a boarding house. Mr. Taft’s remembrances included playing cards in the dining room with other boarders, relaxing afternoons spent on the front porch, and lively dances held on the third floor





The E. W. King House Stained Glass Window



*Displayed at the
Bristol Public Library*

This beautiful stained glass window is original to the foyer of the E.W. King House. The house, built about 1903, is one of the few remaining homes built at the beginning of the 20th Century in Bristol and provides an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture. The BHA plans to restore the property to its original grandeur to serve as a house museum, a repository for artifacts and revolving exhibits relating to important events associated with our city and the East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia regions, and as an educational tool for our schools to use in making local history a fundamental and exciting aspect of students' curriculum. The imperative of teaching Bristol's future generations about their heritage is a key goal of the E.W. King House Project, for by illustrating to our children the importance of understanding their past we encourage and perpetuate pride in our community and its accomplishments. Special thanks to Jud Barry for providing display space for the window until the restorations are

complete.

The site of the home is of further historical significance in that it rests on the site of the 18th Century fort built by Gen. Evan Shelby in 1771 to provide protection for the early settlers of the region from Cherokee Indian raids. It is estimated that nearly 100,000 travelers passed through the fort from 1780 to 1790, including frequent visits from Daniel Boone and George Rogers Clark. It was at Shelby's Fort that the initial plans for the Battle of King's Mountain were conceived resulting in a victory which turned the tide of the Revolutionary War.



The Bristol Historical Association encourages the public to learn more about this project as well as detailed information regarding both Bristol's history and the work of preserving it at www.BristolHistoricalAssociation.com. It is through the interest and involvement of you, the community, that Bristol can keep its heritage, culture, and history alive and intact for future generations to learn from and build upon.



Beat the holiday rush & be among the first to renew your BHA Membership!

Bristol Historical Association

P.O. Box 204

Bristol Tennessee 37621-0204

2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Bristol Historical Association is dedicated to the identification, preservation, interpretation, and presentation of local history.

Members enjoy a variety of service opportunities, receive quarterly newsletters, and, most importantly, take pride in the part they play in preserving and promoting the history of our area. We always welcome new members and appreciate the increasing participation in our many community projects!

Simply complete and return the membership form below. You will receive a BHA membership card to carry with you. Invest in the futurejoin Bristol Historical Association today!

Eleanor Heacock
BHA Membership Chairman

Mary Beth Rainero
BHA President

2009 Levels of Membership:

Individual	\$30	
Family	\$45	(2 adults & children under 18 living at home)
Researcher I/F	\$50-99	12% discount on BHA merchandise
Historian I/F	\$100-249	14% discount on BHA merchandise
Curator I/F	\$250-499	16% discount on BHA merchandise
Preservationist I/F	\$500-999	18% discount on BHA merchandise
Lifetime Member I/F	\$1000 and above	20% discount on BHA merchandise

BHA is a 501 (c) (3) exempt organization; your membership fees and donations are tax deductible

cut along this line & mail your check & the form below to BHA

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL _____

MEMBERSHIP FEE _____

I also want to make a donation to BHA:

DONATION _____

Make check payable to: Bristol Historical Association

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

(Please Print Clearly)

New Member _____ Renewal _____

Committee/Project interest _____

Suggestions/Recommendations _____

Bristol Historical Association, P.O. Box 204, Bristol Tennessee 37621-0204

www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com

The I.C. Fowler House

by Bud Philips



Isaac Chapman Fowler was born at Jeffersonville, VA, September 23, 1831, the son of Dr. Thomas Fowler and wife Priscilla. He was educated at Emory and Henry College. Later he was connected to the Commissary Department of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. Soon after the War, he came to Bristol where he became editor of the Bristol News. He bought lots fronting Spencer Street and had his home built there in 1868. The house was built by George Blackley, a master carpenter. The house was fashioned in the Greek Revival style which was rather rare for this area at the time.

I.C. Fowler began his political career by serving as mayor of Goodson, VA. He then served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1875-79 and again in 1881-83. During his latter term he served as Speaker of the House. In 1884 he was appointed Clerk of the US District Court in Abingdon and served until 1904. I.C. Fowler died April 29, 1905, and is buried near the junction of Bud Phillips Drive and Julian Burroughs Circle in Bristol's historic East Hill Cemetery.

The Fowler house has a second claim to fame. After the Fowlers moved to Abingdon, the house became home to Charles E. Finch and family. Mr. Finch was the son in law of L. F. Johnson, a pioneer Bristol settler and prominent businessman. Finch was a member of the Goodson City Council, and it was on his motion that Goodson was renamed Bristol. Mr. Finch was the local agent for the N & W Railroad and as such he had been troubled by the fact that local passenger and freight depots all gave their location as "Bristol" while the town was called "Goodson". Doubtless it was of great relief to him to see the matter settled.

After Finch there were several owners, but by the late 1980s the house was vacant and would have soon been demolished but for Mr. Sid Oakley's generously donating the house to the BHA to be protected and restored. I am happy to report that it is now in the hands of one, Scott Otis, who we believe will do a true restoration so that the house will be preserved for generations to come.





Bristol's Confederate Soldier Statue

By Joyce Kistner

The Italian marble statue of a Confederate soldier located at the Bristol Depot is now being readied for a change in location. Because of acid rain, twenty-five rumbling trains passing daily, six intersecting lanes of traffic, and no manner of cleaning its surface for eighty-eight years, the statue needs a safer and more appropriate place to reside. Two possible sites under consideration are the War Memorial Park and East Hill Cemetery.

The Ann Carter Lee United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of Confederate Veterans are working on a plan of preservation of the statue. Many groups are willing to help, but much more ground work needs to be laid.



Teaching Bristol's History In The Public Schools

By Carolyn Williams

Bristol Historical Association, under the capable writing, planning and direction of Joyce Kistner, initiated a program last school year of teaching the history of Bristol Virginia-Tennessee in the elementary schools on both sides of town. Two separate programs, one about early settlers and another about trains, are being combined into one lesson this year. Joyce will present the curriculum to fourth grade classes in nine city

schools and to one in Washington County, Virginia.

Students are encouraged to read their lesson together on CD. A new upgrade will be added next year in book form. Students will continue to "dress up" in clothing portraying Bristol characters of the past.

www.antanet.com/kistner/bristol.htm





2009 Bristol Historical Association Board of Directors

President	Mary Beth Rainero
First Vice President.....	Isabelle Ladd
Second Vice President.....	Nedra Hartley
Recording Secretary	Barbara Smith
Corresponding Secretary.....	Geneva Dillard
Treasurer	Teresa West

Class of 2009

Nat Copenhaver
Amy Hopper
Phylliss Harrison
Brenda Otis
Roy Williams
Roxann Coulthard

Class of 2010

Gwen King
Bud Phillips
Jan Rainero
Tim Buchanan
Ruth King
Steve Slack



Committees

Education & Outreach.....	Joyce Kistner
Arrangements and Publicity	Roxann Coulthard
Newsletter/Website.....	Amy Hopper
Historical Markers	Phyllis Harrison
Parliamentarian & By-laws	Robert S. Peel
Programs.....	Tim Buchanan
Merchandising & Marketing.....	Gwen Smith
Archives.....	Carolyn Williams and Jane Copenhaver
Historian	Bud Phillips
Membership	Eleanor Heacock and Susan Long
Finance Nat Copenhaver	
Collections and Acquisitions.....	Isabelle Ladd
Properties:	
Ford House.....	Brenda Otis
E.W. King House	Nedra Hartley
Preston House	Jan Rainero



Bristol Historical Association

P.O. Box 204

Bristol, TN 37621-0204

President's Message

Recently as I was sitting in the audience at the Paramount Center for the Arts enjoying "A Christmas Carol" with my #6 grandchild, Judson Powers, and looking around at what could very easily have been gone, I thought how wonderful it is that the Bristol Community has been able to hold on to so much of our history. Sitting there with Judson, I was remembering how excited I was to take my own children to the theatre, and dreaming that maybe, just maybe, I would take a great grandchild to a performance at the Paramount some day. Without the support of the Bristol Community, the Paramount, The Train Station, The Tennessee Ernie Ford House, the I.C. Fowler House, the Stone Castle, and many of the buildings in our wonderful Downtown would be gone. How fortunate we are! There are still many more important sites that need to be preserved for our posterity. I know that they will still be there because Bristolians love this wonderful town, and they want future generations to love and treasure it as much as they.

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and much happiness in the New Year.

Mary Beth Rainero

Bristol Historical Association Important Meetings 2009

<u>January 12</u>	Board Meeting 5:00pm At the Bristol Public Library
<u>February 9th</u>	Board Meeting 5:00pm At the Bristol Public Library
<u>February 9th</u>	General Membership Meeting Black History Month - Speaker: Wilhelmina Banks 6:30pm At The Bristol Public Library

See your BHA Newsletter in beautiful color! Send your email address to shopper226@aol.com
and please visit our website www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com

