



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

October 2011

Chartered April 1979

## BHA Assists With William King Regional Museum Exhibit

Following an invitation from the William King Regional Museum to BHA to assist in locating items for an exhibition the Museum will be hosting at the end of this year, a number of items were selected for inclusion. In conjunction with the 2012 program ***MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Children in the Arts***, the exhibition, entitled "***Dress-Up: A Regional Portrait of Childhood***" will run from December 16th, 2011, until May 13th, 2012, and will explore the interaction of art



and fashion with children's lives in this region through examples of historic regional costume and period portraiture. At all social and economic levels, children of this time period dressed like miniature adults, with only slight differentiations in lengths of skirts or knickers. The exhibition will playfully evoke the lives and adventures of nineteenth-century children growing up in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee.



Among the articles selected were a beautiful intricately hand-crocheted dress made by the mother of BHA's own Director of Archives, Carolyn Williams, and a portrait of Carolyn at age three wearing this dress.



# Notes From the President



We are happy to report that the Preston House Project continues to make positive progress. Washington County, VA, has approved the proposed subdivision plat, and the easement agreement allowing us access to the Preston property across InterMont's property has been signed. There are no further legal obstacles to the purchase of the property, and Bill McRee will be writing the deed. BHA Member Nancy Cook, who has a great deal of grant writing experience, has been assisting with the grant application through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Her help has been invaluable and has already brought in a \$10,000 grant from Washington County, VA. Thank you, Nancy!

A contract has also been signed with the TCI Realty Group to facilitate the sale of the E.W. King House. A sign has been placed in the yard, and the property will be marketed for either potential residential or commercial use. Interested parties should contact Rick Armstrong at the TCI Group: phone (423) 968-7173 or email [armstrong@tcigroup.com](mailto:armstrong@tcigroup.com)

Mark your calendars now for BHA's November 14th General Membership meeting as well as the BHA Christmas Luncheon scheduled for Sunday, December 4th. The November 14th meeting is scheduled for 6:30pm in the J. Henry Kegley Meeting Room of the Bristol Public Library and will feature the election of officers for the coming year as well as a much-anticipated program by the Honorable Charles B. Flannagan II, Circuit Judge, 28th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, now retired. The BHA Christmas Luncheon will be held at 12:30pm on Sunday, December 4th, at the Virginian Golf Club. Look for your invitation to the Christmas Luncheon enclosed in this newsletter along with a pre-addressed RSVP envelope.

Wishing All of You a Wonderful Upcoming Holiday Season!

*Isabelle*

BHA Archivist Roy Williams has produced a slide show of forty-five BHA photographs with a narrative script to be used by Membership to present programs at civic clubs and other organizations. The presentation is available on flash drive and DVD. If you belong to a group that might be interested in having this program, please contact Membership Chair, Roxann Coulthard at [roxann@bvunet.net](mailto:roxann@bvunet.net) or 276-466-5357.



**\*\*LOOK FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER\*\***

**Remember to renew your membership for 2012!!**

**\*\*ALSO PLEASE NOTE\*\***

**Be sure to include your email address on your membership form. Newsletters will be sent by EMAIL ONLY in 2012 and you won't receive a newsletter if we don't have your email address!**



# A Tale of Two Houses

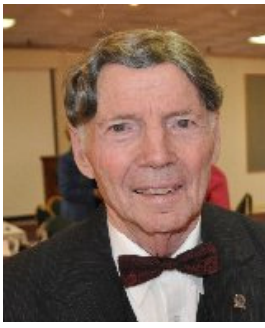
## by Scott Otis

The I.C. Fowler House, located at 417 Spencer St, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure to the Virginia Hill Historic District. It was built in 1867 in the Greek Revival architectural style and is the oldest standing house left from the original City limits of Goodson, VA. I.C. Fowler served as Mayor of Goodson, VA. He was the Editor of the Bristol News and served in the Virginia House of Delegates where he was Speaker of the House. Fowler moved from this house to Abingdon, VA in 1884 when he was appointed Clerk of the U.S. District Court. Fowler died in 1905 and is buried in Historic East Hill Cemetery.



608 Russell Street, pictured above, is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure to the Virginia Hill Historic District. Based on its Arts and Crafts style architecture, this house is believed to have been built circa 1920-1930. It is completely restored and was nominated for a 2011 APVA (Preservation Virginia) Award for "Outstanding Preservation Project". This house is now for sale. By restoring these two houses I hope to encourage more people to buy these one-of-a-kind historic old homes and restore them to their former glory. For more information about either of these properties please contact Scott Otis at [jscottotis@yahoo.com](mailto:jscottotis@yahoo.com).





# Bristol's Historic East Hill Cemetery

by Bud Phillips

In my writings, I often mention Bristol's historic East Hill Cemetery. It is actually more historic than most local residents realize because of the burials

there of local persons who have accomplished much on the local, state, and even national levels. Recently, this cemetery had its fame made greater by being placed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is also now on the Civil War Trail.

Now just how did this old cemetery come into existence? The hill upon which the oldest part is located has been known by four names, the first of which was "Maryland Hill". By the time Bristol was founded (1852) it had become known as "Round Hill", the reason being obvious. Shortly, locals started calling it Rooster Hill, because some early residents began using it as a place to have game rooster fights. After burials began to be made there it went back to the name of Round Hill. Strangely, before the town was even an oversized village it began being called the City Cemetery, although it was then outside the town limits.

The first burial done here was that of little Nellie Gaines, aged five in late February, 1857. The late Hattie King Owen told that her father, Capt. J.W. Owen returned from Mexico on February 18th and that he assisted in the burial the following week. At that time the area was covered with trees and brush. Later that year two more children were buried near Nellie Gaines. Then prior to the beginning of the Civil War a few more persons were

buried near the summit of the hill, one of them being Dr. James Pepper who died January 11, 1860 at the age of 29. He was a brother of the noted Dr. Charles Taylor Pepper for whom the popular soft drink is named. During the Civil War one hundred or more Confederate soldiers were buried on the western slope of this hill.

On May 22, 1868, L.F. Johnson, an early pioneer merchant here, bought a two acre tract that included

the Confederate burying ground. The next day he deeded it to the Ladies Memorial Association which was charged with the upkeep of the soldiers' graves. This association began selling lots of twenty by eighteen feet at twenty dollars each. In a very short time the cemetery expanded, and within two years burials

were being made far east of the original tract. The change to the present name did not come about by official action of the cemetery board or the city. Locals simply referred to it as the cemetery on the hill east of town, and this evolved into East Hill Cemetery by 1890. The cemetery continued to expand eastward until it reached Williams Street and Georgia Avenue about 1900. East Hill Cemetery, divided, though not equally, by the state line, now has about 4000 burials over almost seventeen acres, and lots are still available. The cemetery is largely maintained by donations from the public and volunteers. It is one of Bristol's most historic landmarks.

For a Walking Tour Map of East Hill Cemetery, please visit BHA's website at [www.BristolHistoricalAssociation.com](http://www.BristolHistoricalAssociation.com). Click on the "Links" tab at the top of the home page, then scroll down the page to **"East Hill Cemetery Walking Tour Brochure & Map"** then click on the link. You may then download the map and print it.



# **DONATIONS, MEMORIALS, AND SERVICES**

**September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011**

## **DONATIONS:**

Eddythe G. and H. Austin Carr  
Nancy Baker DeFriece  
George W. Hammer, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Moneyhun  
Anna S. Morgan Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Warren Crockett  
Elizabeth Finks  
Gene A. and Wilma H. Gill  
Pauline Massengill DeFriece Trust  
Walmart Foundation  
Myers and Jan Massengill  
Catherine Sheffey Douglas

## **MEMORIALS TO LOUIS KING:**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rainero

## **MEMORIALS TO JEANNE KING:**

Gwen B. King  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rainero  
Sara S. Burleson

## **MEMORIAL TO RICHARD C. HORNER**

Charles R. and Roxann Coulthard  
Karl and Gwen Smith

## **MEMORIAL TO NANCY HARTING:**

Michael and Linda Riley  
Barbara H. Overstreet  
James and Sharon Crumley  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rainero  
Karl and Gwen Smith  
Steve L. and Carol S. Everhart  
James R. McHenry  
Chris and Candie Horner

## **DONATED SERVICES:**

Hal Boyd  
Leah Ross  
Mark Marquette  
Katherine Jewell

## **GIFTS:**

Mary Geiger  
George W. Hammer, Jr.  
John Rainero  
David and Carol Willis

## **MATCHING GRANT:**

Exxon Mobil Foundation/Nedra Hartley

***Memorials, Donations, and Contributions to any BHA Project may be sent to  
PO Box Bristol, TN 37621-0204***

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## **Bristol Historical Association**

c/o Amy Hopper  
133 Spanish Oak Road  
Bristol, TN 37620

### **PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2012-2013**

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	ISABELLE LADD
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	NEDRA HARTLEY
<b>SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	RUTH KING
<b>RECORDING SECRETARY:</b>	JANET SMITH
<b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:</b>	GENEVA DILLARD
<b>TREASURER:</b>	WILMA GILL

#### **DIRECTORS, CLASS OF 2013:**

CHRISTINE CALDWELL  
JANE COPENHAVER  
MARY BETH RAINERO  
FRED SLAUGHTER  
BARBARA SMITH  
CAROLYN WILLIAMS

### **Bristol Historical Association Important Meetings 2011**

#### **November 14th**

##### **General Membership Meeting at 6:30 PM**

Honorable Charles B. Flannagan II, Circuit Judge, 28th  
Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia

**At the Bristol Public Library**

#### **December 4th Christmas Luncheon & General Membership Meeting**

Carl Mallory, Director of Marketing at United Central  
Company in Bristol presents Scenes of Abingdon: A  
Pictorial History from 1746 to Present

**At The Virginian Golf Club at 12:30 PM**

*General Membership Meetings are open to the public.*

**See your BHA Newsletter in full color & save the BHA postage! Send your email address to  
[bha@bristolhistoricalassociation.com](mailto:bha@bristolhistoricalassociation.com) & please visit our website [www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com](http://www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com)**

# ***Bristol Historical Association***

*C/O Roxann Coulthard, 140 Peachtree Cr, Bristol VA 24201*

[www.BristolHistoricalAssociation.com](http://www.BristolHistoricalAssociation.com)

## **2012 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 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 future...**join Bristol Historical Association today!**

### **2012 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 In	\$1000	20% discount on BHA merchandise
Lifetime Member Family	\$1500	20% discount on BHA merchandise

(Lifetime memberships may be paid in monthly installments, payable in full by 12/31/2012)

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

*Cut along this line & mail your check & the form below to BHA c/o Roxann Coulthard, 140 Peachtree Cr, Bristol VA 24201*

**MEMBERSHIP LEVEL** \_\_\_\_\_ **MEMBERSHIP FEE** \_\_\_\_\_

I also want to make a donation to BHA. DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: *Bristol Historical Association* **TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ To receive our monthly newsletter, articles, and pictures of preservation of Bristol PLEASE put your email address! Email addresses are kept confidential in the BHA database only.


New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle up to three areas of interest:

***BHA Merchandising for local events, Archives, Education, Historical Markers, Membership, Newsletter/Website, Programs, Tennessee Ernie Ford House, Robert Preston House.***

Suggestions/Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_





*Bristol Historical Association  
Annual Christmas Buffet Luncheon  
Sunday, December 4, 2011, 12:30 p.m.  
The Virginian Golf Club  
\$25 per person  
(Wine extra-pay Virginian)  
Guests are Welcome*

*Program by Carl Mallory,  
Director of Marketing, United Central Company  
"Scenes of Abingdon: A Pictorial History  
from 1746 to Present"*

*Make your reservation no later than  
November 21 by mailing your check made to  
Bristol Historical Association to:*

*Gwen King  
108 Brookwood Drive  
Bristol, TN 37620*