



BRISTOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to the preservation of local history

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

October 2013

Chartered April 1979

Kingsport's Netherland Inn Will be the Featured Topic at BHA's November 4th General Membership Meeting

Kingsport native Russ Bralley will be the guest speaker at the General Membership meeting of the Bristol Historical Association set for Monday, November 4, 6:30pm at the Bristol Public Library. Mr. Bralley, the Interim Curator of the Netherland Inn house museum, will speak on the history, significance, restoration and operation of the historic Inn located in Kingsport. He will also give a report on the recently



opened Museum of Pioneer Transportation in the Hal T. Spoden Bank Barn on the cultural campus of the historic property.

Bralley has been involved in numerous community projects and was responsible for creating the newly opened Museum of Pioneer Transportation at the Inn. Recently he completed a certificate program with honors from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, in History and Archaeology and an Analytical Management certificate program with honors from Stanford University in Stanford, California. He has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Master of Arts in Arts Administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and an ad eundem degree from University College, Cork, in Celtic Studies. He is currently employed by the City of Kingsport as a cultural resource

development officer.

Among his current pursuits he is absorbed in digitizing the documentary holdings of the Netherland Inn which date from approximately 1790 to the present. The building was constructed in 1802 to serve as a boat yard for salt distribution and eventually sold to William King in 1808. In 1818 it became the Netherland Inn when purchased by Richard Netherland, serving travelers

en route from Middle Tennessee to Western Kentucky on the Great Old Stage Road. The inn and boatyard property is the only place on the National Register of Historic Places that served as a stage stop and a boatyard.

The Monday November 4th presentation is in conjunction with the Bristol Public Library's mission of "Expanding Minds and Building Community." There will be a brief business meeting by the association followed by this exciting presentation. The general public is invited to attend this free meeting.

Contact Tim Buchanan, Program Chairman, for details on this or other upcoming programs, 276-669-3885, or by e-mail buchanan03@bvuu.net.

Bristol Historical Association Board Tours the King-Lancaster-McCoy-Mitchell House (aka The Margaret Mitchell House)

The Bristol Historical Association Board of Directors was privileged to hold their October Board Meeting at the Margaret Mitchell House on Solar Hill in Bristol, Virginia. Margaret Mitchell was born in the house at 54 King Street in 1901 and lived there until shortly before her death in 2003. Ms. Mitchell bequeathed the house to King College in her will. Following the meeting, Board members enjoyed a tour of the house preceded by a brief lecture by Joyce Kistner detailing the history of the property. During Margaret Mitchell's long life she maintained the house and its furnishings as they were during her childhood. Experts have described the house's architectural appearance as essentially remaining untouched since 1903, making it Bristol's best kept time capsule. The house was originally built as the seat of Reverend James King's vast plantation, first known as Sapling Grove and later as Mountain View. Two rooms of the original house built in 1816-17 remain in the present structure. The King family lived here from 1817 to 1853. Andrew Jackson frequented the house and was escorted to Washington for his inauguration by William King. The Sapling Grove post office operated here from 1839 to 1853. The house was on the Great Stage Road and was a stopping point for stage coaches from 1839 to 1856. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Many thanks to King College officials for allowing BHA to hold this month's meeting in such a special place!



Young Margaret and her nurse standing near the front porch. Brother Downman can be seen at the front gate.



Joyce Kistner, Roxann Coulthard, and Jan Rainero viewing one of the oldest rooms of the house



Margaret Mitchell's piano. Note the intricate inlay of the wood floor.

Attention Bristol Historical Association Members!

Please plan to attend the BHA Annual Meeting on Monday, November 4, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bristol Public Library. Preceding the program by Russ Bralley, Curator of The Netherland Inn, officers for the coming year will be elected.

The 2014 proposed slate of officers is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| President | Tim Buchanan |
| First Vice-President | Janet Smith |
| Second Vice-President | William Wade |
| Recording Secretary | Roxann Coulthard |
| Corresponding Secretary | Angela Hopkins |
| Treasurer | Wilma Gill |

Class of 2015 Directors:

| |
|--------------------|
| Christine Caldwell |
| Geneva Dillard |
| Nedra Hartley |
| Mary Beth Rainero |
| Barbara Smith |
| Roy Williams |

“Great and Small” William King Museum Diminutive Furniture Exhibit

Several Bristol Historical Association members were honored to have items from their personal collections selected for inclusion in the William King Regional Arts Museum’s current exhibition, “Great and Small”, which highlights the tradition of making diminutive or miniature furniture. This practice has origins in Europe and was brought to this region through our early American ancestors. The exhibition brings together a sampling of nineteenth-century diminutive furniture primarily from Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee. Commonplace furnishings such as desks, chests, pie safes, tables, and chairs were made on occasion - some with simple materials and ingenuity and others with fine timber and carpentry skill. Today these diminutive pieces are considered rare and



therefore greatly admired when discovered. Accompanying decorative accessory pieces such as pottery, candlesticks, spectacles, baskets, lamps, and small portraits offer a full view of historic life on a miniature scale. The original purposes for these diminutives range from being samples of full-scale furniture to custom children’s pieces made to order. The exhibit is open to the public through January 12, 2014.

“Regarding History”

***Please send your favorite quotes, poems, etc. regarding the importance of history to
BHA@BristolHistoricalAssociation.com. Thanks!***

***“The old forget. The young don’t know.”
-Japanese Proverb***

The I.C. Fowler House Progress Report

by Scott Otis



Picture #1 (above) shows the newly built porch. The brick piers were disassembled, cleaned and rebuilt on newly poured footers using the original bricks. The lime mortar used to rebuild the brick piers matches the original mortar and was custom colored by Virginia Lime Works in Madison Heights, VA. The 4 columns were removed and restored. The portico had dropped 6" because the columns had dropped through the old rotten porch decking. The portico was jacked up to a level plane before the columns

were reinstalled. East TN Millwork in Jonesborough custom milled the tongue and groove porch decking. This picture also shows the newly restored east side of the house. The concrete ramp and garage door were removed and the window that was taken out by Blevins Funeral Home was rebuilt and installed in it's original location. The new wood siding was custom milled by East TN Millwork to match the existing siding. The trench along the east side shows what the finish grade will look like on that side of the property.

***Memorials, Donations, and Contributions to any BHA Project may be sent to
PO Box 204, Bristol, TN 37621-0204***



Picture #2 is a current view of the back side of the house. I have not done any work on it. There are two windows that were removed when the addition was put on back in the early 1920s that will have to be built and installed.



Picture #3 shows one of the 3 windows in the Dining Room. The window trim design is called "dog-eared" This picture also shows where I am removing the old sashes to be restored.

Parking Fundraiser at Rhythm & Roots a Success!

Thanks to over a dozen hard working volunteers \$3050 was collected for the BHA during last month's Rhythm and Roots Reunion Festivaland thanks to Barry and Amy Hopper's donation of materials, no expenses were incurred! Teams of four volunteers working four-hour shifts waved cars in and directed parking for 8 hours daily during each of the three festival days.

and to consider holding a one-night parking event for Food City Family Race night in 2014. In addition to the Hoppers, our sincere thanks go out to parking volunteers Jordan Pennington, Marylou Sproles, Christine Caldwell, Tim Buchanan, Clyde Long, Jan Rainero, Isabelle Ladd, Dee and Butch Flanagan, and Brenda and Jim Otis



BHA would like to thank the Massengill and Coughlin, Kennedy, and Weddington law firms for allowing the use of a total of 71 parking places.

There was plenty of positive feedback for the parking project from festival goers, and at this month's BHA Board meeting a recommendation was made to repeat the event parking fundraiser next year

Barry Hopper & Jan Rainero pointing the way



Barry Hopper parks a fan from Australia!

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Enjoyed by All



Mary Beth Rainero spearheaded BHA's pancake breakfast fundraiser which was held at the YWCA on Saturday and Sunday mornings during the Rhythm and Roots. There were seventy customers who enjoyed the food which was prepared by the Knights of Columbus. Many thanks to our volunteer servers, Jackie Piper, Jo Anne Barbour, Dee Flannagan Joday Blevins, Nancy Arnold, Nedra Hartley, Brenda Williams, Isabelle Ladd, Roxann Coulthard, Jan Rainero, Carolyn Williams and Roy Williams. Kiwanians Suzette Fullen and Mary Curtain also assisted. BHA merchandise was sold by Janet Smith and Gwen Smith during the breakfasts. Anna Horne was in charge of the Kiwanis merchandise booth.

A good time was had by all, even the workers!

Robert Preston House Update!



This is the final stone in the restored foundation of the Preston House. The work on the foundation and rotted timbers has been completed by J. A. Street. The yard has been graded, seeded,

and covered with straw. The house is ready for the siding, followed by the windows and doors.



The Bristol Historical Association will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary in 2014. The Association owns a number of historic properties including the birthplace of Tennessee Ernie Ford and the Robert Preston house. The Association recently purchased the acreage around the 200 year old Preston residence located at exit 7 and is in initial stages of historic restoration.

As you all will remember, the Preston House project was awarded a Cabell Foundation grant earlier this year, but in order to receive the \$40,000 from the Foundation, we must raise a matching amount of \$40,000. To date, we are a little over halfway to goal at approximately \$20,500.00.

Thank you to all people who gave money to the Bristol Historical Association as memorials or donations for the Robert Preston House Campaign!

Please help BHA secure the \$40,000.00 Cabell Foundation grant by sending your contribution today to:

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

Future generations will thank you!

WE WANT YOU....



**TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!!!!**

PLEASE don't forget to renew your membership!

***Download your renewal form by visiting
<http://tinyurl.com/kzsqm6c>***

Mail your renewal to

***Janet Smith
104 Gaffney Road
Bristol, TN 37620***

***call 423 764 1905 or
email janetorbob@aol.com***

Bristol Historical Association

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

Betsy White, former director of the William King Museum, will be the guest speaker for the Association at the annual Christmas Luncheon on Sunday December 8th at The Virginian Golf Club. Reservations are currently being received.

*Memorials, Donations, and Contributions to any BHA Project may be sent to
PO Box 204, Bristol, TN 37621-0204*

Bristol Historical Association Important Meetings 2013

November 4th

General Membership Meeting at 6:30 PM

Russ Bralley, Curator of The Netherland Inn

At the Bristol Public Library



December 8th Christmas Luncheon at 12:30 PM

Speaker: Betsy White

At the Virginian Golf Club



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 & please visit our website www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com