



BRISTOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to the preservation of local history



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

October 2014

Founded April 1979

Preston House Updates

Reprinted with permission from the Bristol Herald Courier:

BRISTOL, Va. – Jim Mallory and some local historians spent Monday searching for 200-year-old footprints – those left behind by famed explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

Mallory, vice-chairman of the Lewis and Clark Trust, visited two local landmarks as part of research to include Bristol and this region in the federal Lewis & Clark national historic trail. The trail presently extends 3,700 miles from St. Louis to the Pacific Northwest and back, but the National Park Service is completing a study to add the eastern portion of the route to the trail, which is part of the national park system....

“This area would be in that corridor of travel. We can’t put our footprints right in the footprints of Lewis and Clark and members of the expedition. They came back along the Wilderness Road and Great Valley Road in 1806,” Mallory said. “They brought back the findings of their exploration. Those journals and the bulk of material reside today in the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.”

During his visit, Mallory toured the Netherland Inn in Kingsport and the Robert Preston house near Interstate 81’s Exit 7, just outside the Bristol city limits in Washington County, Va. He also presented a program to the Bristol Historical Association, which owns the 1700s-era Preston house.

“The Great Road extended from Philadelphia and ended at Sapling Grove, here in Bristol,” association President Tim Buchanan said. “Bristol was either the beginning or the end of the Wilderness Road, depending on how you look at it.... We’re not sure where all the stops were but this was the major traffic route for most of the people



who traveled west.”

It is likely that Lewis stayed at the boatyard in Kingsport and possibly in one of the Preston homes - either the Robert or John Preston house -- which is now the home of the Children’s Advocacy Center, Buchanan said.

Historians have documented Lewis knew the Prestons and stayed for a meal at the Col. John Preston house in 1809.

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“Transportation was phenomenal here and the Preston family was the premier family in the Washington County area,” Buchanan said.

Inclusion in the trail would mean the park service would authorize erecting signs designating the region as part of the trail along U.S. Highway 11W and Interstate 81 and being added to the office trail map, Mallory said.

“To complete this trail will bring cultural heritage tourism that will connect with the culture you already have here, the tourism you already have here and the preservation you already have here. Having a national historic trail come through your community gives great strength to your community,” Mallory said.

Recent Milestones in the Preston House Project:

- Cabell Foundation grant of \$40,000.00.
- Reimbursement of \$ 15,682.20 from Virginia Tobacco Commission (separate grant).
- All broken and rotten window frames, sashes, and mountings replaced or restored.
- Reproduction window glass installed in all windows.
- Membrane laid under hallway floor and floor (taken out to access the timbers in the foundation needing replacement) replaced.
- Bush hogging of entire property by Permatile.
- Exterior doors reproduced and primed.
- Gifting of the remainder of the property down to the Lee Highway by the Trammell Foundation.

This great progress was made possible by individual donations including bequests from Mary Landrum Estate and Lucretia Gilmer Estate. The combined total of these non-grant gifts was \$59,544.61.

We would like to thank the latest donors:

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|--|----------------------|
| Billie C. Whisnant | Wilma Gill |
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President's Message

It's an honor to serve as President of this great organization during its 35th Anniversary. Even though I was not a member in 1979, it was on the first Anniversary of the association that I joined during a public meeting at the Bristol Tennessee Courthouse. I've held many positions throughout the years and have grown by the many friendships I've been blessed to have made. These thirty-five years have been exhilarating and challenging for the association. We've made much progress toward preserving and telling the story of Bristol.

In November we will be commemorating our 35th Anniversary with several planned events. On Monday, November 10th we will be recognizing our Charter Members. In 1979, under the leadership of Joyce Kistner, we started our first year with 58 members. Many of these visionaries have now passed from the scene and this event will recognize and thank them for giving us such a good start. I invite each member to join us for this General Membership Meeting to personally recognize these charter members and former officers for their years of service to our organization. On Sunday, November 16th we will celebrate with Exhibits and a Reception at the library from 2:30 - 4:30pm.

This has been a very successful year for the association. We continue to have wonderful and well-attended public lectures and programs, educational programs in the schools, and we are progressing very well in the restoration of the Eighteenth Century Robert Preston House at Exit 7. With the support of donors, property donated by the Trammel Foundation, and our excellent committee, this homestead will be a showplace of our heritage for upcoming generations. There are numerous projects and programs set for 2015 and you will want to be a part of what the association is doing. The Tennessee Ernie Ford Legacy Project will be our next promotion and you can learn about this at our November 10th Meeting.

We're also excited to welcome Buck Ford and Murphy Ford as our guest speakers to our annual Christmas Luncheon to be held at The Virginian on December 7th. They are the son and daughter-in-law of Bristol's Own Tennessee Ernie Ford. Get your reservations in early and be a part of an exciting event and time of fellowship. RSVPs to Christmas Luncheon may be made **by Dec 1st** to Janet Smith, 104 Gaffney Rd. Bristol, Tn 37620. Cost is \$28, payable in advance.

With Friendship,

Tim Buchanan

President

Bunting's Drug Store

One of the earliest Historical Association meetings was held at the Bunting's Drug Store on State Street. At the time of the meeting in 1979, the store was for sale by twelve owners. The association tried to save this oldest continuously operated drug store in the State of Tennessee, but the fight was ultimately unsuccessful, as the owners had the store torn down early on a Sunday morning when most citizens were preparing for church. The beautiful blue tile floor and other historical features of the building were destroyed. The well-known glass top, antique soda tables and the silver leafed signs on the front of the building were saved. One of our Bristol Historical Association members has the front door sign "Buntings" in safe keeping.



Historical Association Commemorates 35th Anniversary

The Bristol Historical Association will commemorate its 35th anniversary year with several events during the month of November. A general membership meeting will be held on Monday, November 10th at 6:30 pm at which charter members and former officers of the organization will be recognized.



Painting of the Bristol Virginia Courthouse

Bristol and near destruction by Urban Renewal inspired a vision to preserve the history of the city. A small group of concerned citizens, led by Bristol Virginia elementary school teacher Joyce Kistner, spent months generating interest until the Bristol Historical Association was formed in 1979 with 58 charter members.

The following weekend, on Sunday, November 16th from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, an Anniversary Gathering will be held to exhibit association and Bristol history as well as displays on current projects of the association. Refreshments will be served and special music will be provided by Bristol's own Dixieland Band. These events are open to the public and will be held at the Bristol Public Library.

The 1970's were a significant period in the history of the Twin-Cities as concern about decline in downtown

The association has a considerable collection and archives on the history of the city as well as real estate holdings that include the Robert Preston House, an Eighteenth Century homestead located at Exit 7, and the birthplace of Bristol's own Tennessee Ernie Ford on Anderson Street. The Association will also be leading the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the independent City of Bristol, Virginia in February of 2015.



*(above) Model of Hotel Bristol that won a prize at Bristol Woman's Club 1995 by Pat Woody
(left) Photo of Hotel Bristol*



Margaret Mitchell Estate clothing, ball and chain for securing prisoners, and rope used for hanging in 1800's are some of the artifacts that will be exhibited at the November 16 meeting

Rhythm and Roots Parking and Pancakes Great Success!



The BHA's Rhythm and Roots Fundraisers made \$4,300 this year. Thanks to volunteers who parked cars Sept. 19-21 and worked the Pancake Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday!

A big *Thank You* also to the Bristol Herald Courier, Krogers, Massengill Caldwell & Coughlin P.C., Randy M. Kennedy, Larry S. Weddington, and to Quaker Steak and Lube who sponsored these activities.

Bristol Historical Association

Founding & Charter Members (1979)

Founding Members:

Joyce Kistner, president	Ann Greear
Christine Caldwell	Janice Martin
Faith Dillow (Esposito)	Margaret Mitchell

Charter Members:

Charles Barnette	Ann Greear
Billie Baxter	Amy Harkleroad
Kelly Booher (Child)	Elizabeth G. (Lester) Harkleroad
Marie (Robert) Broyles	Jennifer Harkleroad (Child)
Christine Caldwell	Fan Hepburn
Virginia Caldwell	Elizabeth Hickam
Amelia Copenhaver	Eric Hurt (Student)
Faith Dillow (Esposito)	Jean (Otis) Hurt
Belva Droke	Lynn Hurt (Student)
Amelia Eaves	Mark Hurt (Student)
Jonathan Edwards (Child)	Sandy Johnson (Child)
Fred Entler	Jane H. Jones
Mary Preston Gray	Thelma Kelly

Jean King	Ruby Reynolds
Hans Kistner (Child)	Dixie Sampson
Joyce Kistner	Steven S. Sampson
J.T. Lindsey	Jack Saylor
Ethel (S.C.) McChesney	Mary Saylor
Ann McClure	Don Seiber
Bob McDaniel	Monkey Senter
Evelyn McDaniel	Harvey Spence
Martha Marshall	Howard Taylor
Doug Martin (Child)	Gene Thompson
Janice Martin	Joseph Van Pelt
Margaret Mitchell	Marian Van Pelt
Brenda Otis	William Wade
Jim Otis	Billie Whisnant
L.R. Pierce (Child)	Virginia Odell Willis
Margaret Piper	(58 Charter Members)
Clyde Reser	

Wade Presentation of “The Kearfott Legacy”

The Bristol Historical Association and the Arts Historical Association, and is a retired King University Alliance Mountain Empire jointly sponsored a program on October 6, 2014 featuring William J. Wade presenting a Power Point slide show entitled “The Kearfott Legacy”. The program identified the accomplishments of two eminent twentieth century Bristol architects, father and son, both named Clarence B. Kearfott. It emphasized the artistic versatility of these two men and showed the wide variety of buildings that they designed – homes, schools, churches, offices, hotels, government buildings, and industrial complexes. Some original plans and other memorabilia were also on display.

Dr. Wade currently serves as vice president of the Bristol

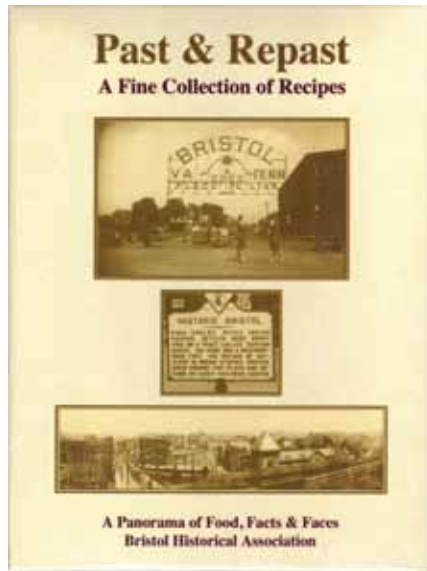


professor. Coming to King College (now King University) in 1952, he taught every history and political science course that the college ever offered until his retirement in 1998. Among his many accomplishments at King, he was instrumental in the establishment of the historical archives through the gifts and support of the friends of the college.

The October 6th presentation was open to the public and highlighted the most significant family of architects in the history of the city. The joint meeting with the Arts Alliance Mountain Empire was also partnered with the Bristol Library’s mission of “Expanding Minds and Building Community.”

Past And Repast - A Fine Collection Of Recipes

The Bristol Historical Association has just published its first cookbook, Past and Repast - A Fine Collection of Recipes. This is a unique collection of recipes from modern kitchens and old-fashioned, made-from-scratch potions from early Bristol families and eateries. The association has published numerous books on the history of the Twin-Cities, but this is the first collection of recipes, published in recognition of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the organization. It contains almost 500 recipes, some dating from Bristol's early years, as well as historic images from our archives, facts, and trivia.



committee have enjoyed bringing long-forgotten recipes back to the family table.

This publication had its debut at the association's public meeting October 6th at the Bristol Public Library. The recipe book "Past and Repast" retails for \$25.00 (price includes sales tax) and is available at the following outlets: BoxWorks, Boxwood, The Bristol Chamber of Commerce, GlaMar Gallery, Gwen's Herb Shop, and Willow Creek. Cookbooks will also be for sale at the November 10, 2014, BHA meeting.

The cookbook committee -- Tim Buchanan, Christine Caldwell, Marianne Fischer, Gail Fleenor, Isabelle Ladd, Susan

Southern favorites such as "Spoonbread," "Hoppin John," "Ambrosia," "Charlotte Russe," and "Dandelion Wine" are included, as well as other intriguing recipes for "Not Insane Yet Cake" (our 1950's original), Polar Bear Salad (no polar bears were harmed, of course), "Potatoes in Jackets", "Rinctom Diddy" and many more.

According to project chairwomen Christine Caldwell, "The entire community responded when asked to submit their favorite recipes." There are 100+ year-old family recipes, including some from the Anderson, Reynolds, Susong, E.W. King, and H.P. King families. Members of the

Long, Gwen Smith, Janet Smith, Carolyn Williams and Roy Williams -- thanks everyone who shared their recipes, new and old, easy and challenging, lean and decadent.

This recipe book is a community project and the association also thanks the many residents who submitted recipes. For questions or to find outlets at which to purchase "Past and Repast", you may contact the association by e-mail BHACookBook@aol.com, look up the association's website, www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com, or find us on Facebook, BRISTOL HISTORY.

Archives Committee Report

The Archives Committee has enjoyed a busy year full of unusual projects in addition to ongoing filing and organizing of archival images and documents. Image selection of over 60 photographs for the Birthplace of Country Music Museum continued through the first half of the year. BHA members were thrilled to be given a private tour of the Museum before its official opening and were very pleased



with the use of all BHA images. A meeting was also recently held with representatives of Florentine Films concerning possible future image sales for a

Ken Burns documentary about the 1927 Bristol Sessions.

The Archives Committee was represented this year on the City of Bristol's newly formed Historic District Preservation Award Committee, which encourages excellence in preservation by honoring property owners and developers who engage in high-quality preservation projects in our historic districts. The inaugural award was presented in May to Pleasant Hill, the home of V.N. "Bud" Phillips. Nominations for next year's award can be made through the city's web site at <http://www.bristolva.org/documentcenter/view/609>.

The Committee has also replied to over 100 inquiries and requests from all over the USA and Europe. Archives continues to add contributions from the community to the BHA collection and encourages anyone interested in preserving our local history to donate relevant items.

Anniversary of “The Great War”



While U.S. historians are focusing on the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War, the rest of the world is commemorating the beginning of World War I. It was the “Great War” that centered in Europe and claimed more than 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians. At the outbreak of the war in 1914,

the U.S. had a policy of non-intervention, avoiding conflict and trying to broker peace. Ultimately, direct threats to the American homeland and unrestricted submarine warfare brought President Woodrow Wilson to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

Association member Josh Blankenship will give an overview of the world stage leading up to the American

entry into the war at our General Membership Meeting on Monday, November 10th. He is well studied and has a keen interest in “the other war” that is much overlooked due to the overwhelming interest in the American Civil War and the World War II.

Blankenship has a bachelor’s degree in History from Virginia Tech and devotes much of his free time to historic preservation of local cemeteries, primarily East Hill, where he is on the board of directors. He has been instrumental in the preservation of historic monuments and stones and general promotion of the cemetery.

The November 10th meeting will be held at the Bristol Public Library at 6:30pm in the Kegley Meeting Room. The public is cordially invited to attend this free meeting. Contact Tim Buchanan, president, for details of this or other upcoming meetings at buchanan03@bvu.net.

Pemberton Oak Prints

The Bristol Historical Association has framed beautiful prints of the historic Pemberton Oak for you! The prints are unique, as they are framed with actual wood from the tree itself. The famous Oak was the location of the gathering of the Overmountain Men. When the tree fell in 2002, wood was salvaged and a small number of frames were made. The

framed works are 8.75” x 10.75”. The price is \$125 each. On the back is a description and the history of the tree. The very limited Pemberton Oak prints have almost sold out and there are a few Bristol panoramic photographs remaining as well, either of which would make a unique and special gift. If interested, contact Roy Williams at 276 669 6506.

BHA Education Efforts



St Anne's students enjoy looking at a piece of the Pemberton Oak and other Bristol memorabilia during Bristol History classes.

The Education Committee is a vital part of the Bristol Historical Association. Volunteers go into elementary schools with a power point presentation telling the story of Bristol. Letters have gone out to all schools including Sullins, St. Anne's, the Morrison School, and Homeschoolers. Fourth grade students are targeted.

The 40 minute presentation begins with Native Americans and concludes with our present day parks, museums, and amenities. Hands-on artifacts are accompanied by 52 images presented. Barbara Smith may be contacted for a presentation.

BHA's Archives Committee's slide show “Snapshots of Bristol History” has been well received wherever it has been shown and is available to be booked as a program to any interested group at no charge. Roy and Carolyn Williams recently presented this program at the Bristol Virginia Retired Teachers Association.

Bristol Historical Association

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

Buck Ford and Murphy Ford, son and daughter-in-law of Tennessee Ernie Ford, will be the guest speakers for the Association at the Annual Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 7th at The Virginian Golf Club. Reservations are currently being taken and cost \$28 (payable in advance).



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

Bristol Historical Association Important Meetings 2014

November 10th

General Membership Meeting at 6:30 PM

Speaker: *Josh Blankenship "The Great War"*
At the Bristol Public Library

November 16th

BHA 35th Anniversary Reception at 2:30-4:30 pm
Bristol Public Library, Virgil Fleenor Art Gallery and
Kegley Meeting Room

December 8th Christmas Luncheon at 12:30 PM

Speakers: *Buck Ford and Murphy Ford*
At the Virginian Golf Club

RSVP by Dec 1 to:

Janet Smith, 104 Gaffney Rd. Bristol, Tn 37620

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*