



Bristol Historical Association, Inc.

# Newsletter

P.O. Box 204 Bristol, Tennessee 37621

September 2007

Chartered April 1979



## Music and Festivities at the E.W. King House

The Bristol Historical Association's E.W. King House Committee will hold an Open House at the E.W. King House and Grounds on Saturday, September 15th, 2007 from 9 am-2 pm during the Rhythm and Roots Reunion Festival. Bluegrass bands, including the Green Bean String Band from the Asheville, NC and the Tennessee High School Bluegrass Band, will be performing for this event which will also feature an Antiques and Collectibles Sale on the grounds and an Exhibit of Historic Artifacts of local and regional significance, including furniture, documents, and musical instruments, inside the house. In addition, noted Bristol historian and author V.N. "Bud" Phillips will be available all day for book signing and sales. This event provides a unique opportunity to tour this pre-restoration house, discover the past, see the present, and learn of the role it will play in the future as an integral part of Bristol's rich historic fabric and culture.

The Bristol Historical Association plans to restore the house as a house museum, a repository for artifacts and revolving exhibits relating to important events associated with both Bristols as well as the East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia regions, and as an educational tool for school systems to use in making local history a fundamental and exciting aspect of students' curriculum. The house is historically important due to the prominent and lasting impact that Edward Washington King had on the growth and development of our city both as a businessman and philanthropist. In addition, the house occupies the site of Fort Shelby, an important stopover station for pioneers during the westward expansion of our nation in the eighteenth century.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own chairs or blankets for seating on the grounds. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Admission to this event is free. Please note that one step is necessary to enter the house in its current unrestored condition. The E.W. King House is located at the corner of Anderson and 7th Streets in Bristol, TN. For more information, please contact Susan Long at 276.494.9925 or visit [www.EWKingHouse.com](http://www.EWKingHouse.com).

September 2007  
BHA Newsletter Article

EW King House News:

March fundraiser - Final results (Seldom Scene at the Paramount) \$9200

2007 Donations:

January \$800 - Wal-mart Foundation

January-March \$995 - Memorials to Carole King Crockett

July \$5000 - American Values Community Fund (George and Beth Parks)

July \$4700 (appraised value) - Antiques and collectibles from estate of Elizabeth King

June replacement roof on garage apartment

Shingles - Superior Distribution Company, Piney Flats

Labor - Vanderpool Construction and Roofing, Kingsport

August pest control treatment - All State Pest Control

January, July - ExxonMobil Foundation \$1285

Grant:

October 2007 from the Tennessee Historical Commission/National Park Service - \$12,000

Matching funds reimbursement grant for Building Analysis and Documentation including historic finishes.

Requests for bids will be sent out in October.

Donations from Elizabeth King estate will be on sale at Open House September 15, 2007.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SEPTEMBER 15th**

If you can help the day of our Open House, please call Carolyn Williams at 276.669.6506. We need people to help with sales of merchandise and food. You may choose to work all day or half the day.

*Antiques, Collectibles, Vintage Sale*

The E.W. King House Committee is sponsoring a sale of antiques, collectibles and vintage items during the Open House at the corner of Anderson and Broad Streets on Saturday, September 15. Included will be glassware, silver, pictures, lamps, a painting, decorative accessories, and much more.

Come and bring a friend to enjoy the music, see the historical exhibit, and of course, do some shopping. This activity is part of the big Rhythm and Roots celebration. We hope to see you there.

## Tennessee Ernie Ford House

There will be an open house September 15 from 10-4 and September 16 from 1-5 during the Rhythm and Roots Reunion Festival. Transportation from the town center will be given to all those who wish to tour the home on Saturday, September 15, 2007. The house is located at 1223 Anderson, and there is parking space for about four cars. The house has been magnificently restored. Jim and Scott Otis have painted and put down new floors as well as restored the kitchen as it might have been in 1919. You must come to see all the new work as well as the priceless memorabilia belonging to Tennessee Ernie Ford and his family.

Special thanks to Lowe's, Edmond Brothers, and Planters and Designers Nursery for their donations and to Jim and Scott Otis for all they did to restore Tennessee Ernie Ford's birthplace.



# Preservation/Restoration Report

by Bud Phillips

I am happy to report that historic restoration and preservation are alive and well in Bristol. I can honestly say that the interest in such is at its highest level since I arrived here a little over fifty-four years ago. During those years I have seen the City advance from virtually no interest, through the urban renewal years during which we lost some of our oldest and finest landmarks, possibly the best-known landmark, the Bristol Depot which is undergoing an extensive and thorough restoration.

I am glad to know that several old homes have been purchased and will be returned to single-family dwellings. I'm sure there are others of which I am unaware, but ones that I am closely watching include the old John S. Ashworth home at 202 Johnson Street; the old Kendrick house at 127 Solar Street and the C.L. Sevier house at 101 Solar Street. Sadly, as some are being correctly restored, I see a few others that are being tragically mutilated. The primary rule is keep it original! Not to do so is very much like trying to improve a priceless painting by putting on new paint. It doesn't help, it ruins.

There are numerous buildings downtown that are being restored and more that have had the work completed. I arrived here in 1953 just after there had been a strong effort to have all the downtown storefronts made ultra-modern. I am delighted to have lived to the times where just the opposite is being done. Of course, whether residential or business, we want our buildings to have as accurate a history as possible. Accuracy and age give them a certain status. A word of caution is in order here. The first deed transaction that can be found concerning a certain property does not necessarily establish the date of the present building. Virtually all the lots in downtown Bristol, and I can think of no exception, now have from the second to fifth building on it. Many are in the third to fifth category. Recently, the date of more than 130 years was placed on a building that is well known to have been erected in the early 1920's. The architecture and building materials clearly show this as do official and family records. Another building was dated to about 114 years ago, when there are many living persons who well remember when it was constructed. I don't think these people were living in 1893! Some examples of residences that are often misdated include these: the J.B. Lyon house at 403 Spencer Street (northwest corner of

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Spencer and Russell), the Judge Robertson home at 114 Solar Street, both of which are often assumed to be pre-Civil War. Actually the Lyon house was built in 1903 and the Robertson house was built about 1928. Be cautious in establishing the history of old buildings, including dates. Errors here will almost certainly come back to haunt you! And as we preserve old buildings, we should also endeavor to preserve history. To this end, we are now working with city officials of Bristol in a movement to mark the birthplace of this City. This is a very worthwhile project and worthy of the support of all of us.

From time to time, I will write more on the local preservation and restoration movement.

Gifts to the Bristol Historical Association Summer of 2007

A gift of \$500.00 from the Belvedere Fund, Pauline M. Defriece

Thirty percent of the Estate of Edith Davis to the BHA

Gift of China for the E.W. King House from Anne Corley estimated value, \$1628.00.

A 1940 Bristol Police Uniform.

**ATTENTION ALL BOARD MEMBERS AND  
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Next Board Meeting is September 11, 2007  
at 4:30 PM at the Bristol Public Library**

# BRISTOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## IMPORTANT MEETINGS

FALL 2007

General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 6:00 PM  
Bristol Public Library

Tim Buchanan will share his exciting and successful experiences as Chairman of the Bristol Sesquicentennial Committee in 2006, and he will also bring his great collection of local memorabilia.

*Board Meeting at 5:30 PM.*

General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 6:00 PM  
Bristol Public Library

Charlie Barnette will show his antique bottle collection that tells about the history of Bristol. You will love his presentation.

*Board Meeting at 5:30 PM.*

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