



Bristol Historical Association, Inc. Newsletter

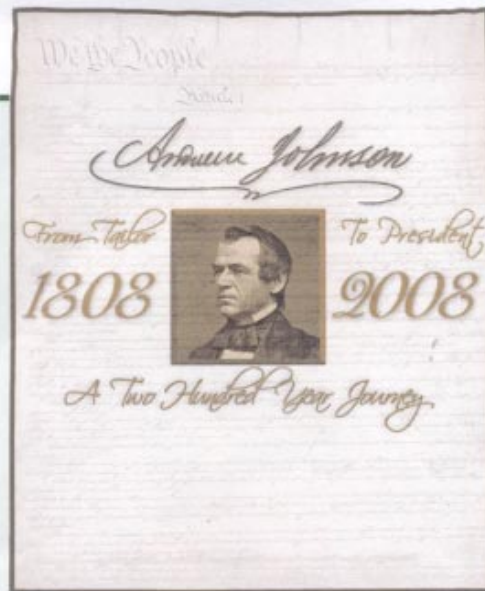
P.O. Box 204 Bristol, Tennessee 37621

March 2008

Chartered April 1979

Andrew Johnson Bicentennial Birthday Celebration

In 2008 the Bristol Historical Association will be joining in the regionwide celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of President Andrew Johnson. For our May 12th general meeting, members of the Andrew Johnson Bicentennial Celebration Steering Committee of Greenville, Tennessee, will be giving a lecture and power point presentation on "The Life of Andrew Johnson and The Matter of Reconstruction". Co-chairman Carlos C. Whaley will be speaking on the region's most noted political figure and his controversial political career. Dr. Robert Orr, a noted Andrew Johnson lecturer and author, will highlight Johnson's years as President of the United States and his relationship with the radical Republican Congress and the years into Reconstruction. The Association is proud to have the opportunity to join in this yearlong celebration. Mark this important date on your calendar.



A Bicentennial Event

The Life of Andrew Johnson & The Matter of Reconstruction

Lecture & Powerpoint Presentation

With

Dr. Robert Orr & Carlos C. Whaley

Members of The Andrew Johnson Bicentennial Celebration Steering Committee

Bristol Public Library

Monday May 12, 2008

6:30 P.M.

Presented By The Bristol Historical Association, For Details Contact Tim Buchanan (276) 669-3885

Letter from the President

Welcome to the Bristol Historical Association's first newsletter of 2008. Many thanks go to Amy Hopper for her dedication and determination to keep our members and other interested individuals informed about the Association and all our activities, not only with our newsletter, but with our wonderful website.

I am sure as you read through the newsletter you will be amazed that so much is happening in such a small organization.

A few special thanks are in order:

To Board member Robert Peel for assistance in drafting the Deed for the I. C. Fowler House. The Association plans on selling the house, but we want to be sure it will be preserved. The buyer then, according to the Deed and its protective covenants, will agree that any exterior work must be done according to the Standards set forth by the Department of Historic Resources. The Roanoke office of the Department of Historic Resources has agreed to help us as to the buyer's adherence to those protective covenants.

To both the E. W. King and the Robert Preston House committees for continuing work toward their final goals.

To the Acquisitions and Collections committees who will soon be announcing a major fund-raiser for the Association. Our storage area on the upper floors of Ruth King Antiques will no longer be available as the building will soon have a new owner, and so new storage space will have to be found, and items that we will not be exhibiting will have to be auctioned off.

To Ruth King, thanks from B.H.A. and from the entire Bristol Community, for giving so much of your time and support to help all of us in so many ways, from storage space to hosting the loveliest of parties, as receptions or as fund raisers, you have been there for everyone for many, many years.

To the Program committee who wants to bring to you speakers of interest, both locally and nationally. Tim Buchanan would welcome your suggestions, and we want the community to participate as we learn more about the past.

To the Marketing and Merchandise committee which considers new B.H.A. merchandise for unique gifts for special occasions, selects sites for display, and collects monies, all to help provide a year round income to the Association. Thank you Gwen.

To the Archives committee for helping local businesses hang Bristol historical photographs in their restaurants and offices and for digitizing our inventory of old pictures. Carolyn your work has been enjoyed by so many people.

To the entire Board of the Historical Association for your dedication. I am amazed at what you do as volunteers. The community thanks you for helping to preserve Bristol's history.

We hope you enjoy reading about our activities. If you would like to become more actively involved, WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU. If you have suggestions, or would like to make a contribution, either for our collection or a monetary gift, please contact us. We thank you for your continued interest and support and hope you look forward to our next newsletter. Please encourage your friends to become members, and bring them with you to our next general meeting on May 12.

Mary Beth Rainero



The Bristol Historical Association has an exciting new website!
Please visit us and share our new address with your friends.
www.BristolHistoricalAssociation.com

Information found on the website:

1. Bristol's landmarks and homes we own
 2. Many old and new photos of Bristol
 3. Newsletters from 2007 and all others from now on
 4. News about programs and board meetings
 5. A store to buy our BHA items from mugs to sweatshirts
 6. The history and goals for the Bristol Historical Association
 7. Our officers and staff and people to contact
 8. Other organizations we are linked to such as King College, The Bristol Chamber, The Paramount Centre
- Anyone wanting to advertise or add to what we have on the website, email Amy Hopper at shopper226@aol.com. We may add anything approved by our committee.

E.W. King House News

The Tennessee Historical Commission Grant

The Tennessee Historical Commission has awarded the Bristol Historical Association a grant of \$12,000 for the preparation of an Historic Structure Report for the E.W. King House. Contact has been made with several Historic Architects who may be interested in bidding on the project, and on site visits are being conducted. The Historic Structure Report is a necessary step for the restoration of the property and is a prerequisite for many grant applicants. The HSR is expected to be completed by October 2008.



*E. W. King Committee Members, left to right:
Amy Hopper, Carolyn Williams, Roy Williams, Susan Long, Robert Rodgers and Nedra Hartley, Chairman.*

Memorials to Bill King

Donations to the E.W. King House restoration in memory of Bill King now total over \$27,000. Bill King, a past president of Bristol Historical Association, will be remembered for his devotion to family and his love of Bristol. We thank Bill's family for designating that contributions in his memory be made for the restoration of his grandparents' home, the E. W. King House.

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Adair
 Jean G. Adams
 Marcia Adams-Gilliam
 Mr. & Mrs. Silas P. Amick
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Arnold
 Joe L. Arnold
 Mr. & Mrs. James C. Bailey
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward G. Balaban
 Susan (Warner) and Leslie Bechdel
 Birthplace of Country Music Alliance
 Mr. & Mrs. William Black III
 Dr. & Mrs. Frank S. Blanton, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blevins, Jr.
 John P. Booth
 Bristol Chamber of Commerce
 Bristol Herald Courier
 Bristol TN City Schools-BTHS
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brown
 Mary Ellen Buhls
 Connie T. Bundy
 Martha Jean Bundy
 Jean G. Burnette
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Carter
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Cheatham
 Mr. & Mrs. Allen C. Clark
 Andrea M. Clark
 John H. Coffman
 William S. Coffman
 Mr. & Mrs. George Conn
 Mr. & Mrs. Nat H. Copenhagen, Jr.
 Drs. Jim & Margaret Cowan
 Mr. & Mrs. James E. Cozart
 Cranberry Lane (Friends)
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Crawford
 Mr. & Mrs. David Crockett
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Crockett
 Mr. & Mrs. Warren Crockett
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Callahan
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Dahlin
 Mrs. James K. Daniel
 Mr. & Mrs. Preston E. Deal
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank DeFriece, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Clyde W. Downs
 Rosemary Y. Droke
 Mr. & Mrs. Kinney R. Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Everhart
 Mr. & Mrs. James A. Faucett
 Mr. & Mrs. James A. Faucett, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond H. Feierabend
 Dr. & Mrs. John Fincher
 Lynn S. Fuller
 Mr. & Mrs. Alex Gatewood
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard R. Gentry
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene A. Gill
 Mr. & Mrs. T. Gordon Gilmer
 Dr. & Mrs. Henry G. Glass
 Shirley F. Godsey and Children
 Mr. & Mrs. Chalmers J. Gorman

Reba June Green
 Mr. & Mrs. William R. Greene
 Dr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Greene
 Dr. & Mrs. Ronnie W. Guest
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Gunn
 Dr. & Mrs. Nelson Gwaltney
 Mr. & Mrs. William M. Hagey
 Edwin H. Hale
 Mr. & Mrs. George E. Handley
 Diana Dixon Hardison
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Hartley
 Fred Hayes Mechanical Contractors
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Helton
 Mr. & Mrs. W. Morris Hensley
 Mr. & Mrs. William Hepburn
 Heritage House Antiques (Friends)
 Mr. & Mrs. Shelton B. Hillman, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Hodges
 Dr. & Mrs. Barry L. Hopper
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark T. Hurt
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis D. Hyde
 Mr. & Mrs. Trentice G. Imbler
 Mr. & Mrs. Curt L. Jackson
 Sherri Jessee
 Dr. & Mrs. Neal A. Jewell
 Dr. & Mrs. William H. Johnstone
 Homer A. Jones, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim P. Jones
 Dr. & Mrs. Dale Keller
 Dr. & Mrs. Randy Kennedy
 Mr. & Mrs. M. Frazier King
 Gwen B. King
 Nancy B. King
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. King
 Mr. & Mrs. Emerson Kirby, Jr.
 Larry N. Kiser
 Judge & Mrs. Richard E. Ladd
 Mary Landrum
 Dr. & Mrs. James L. Lapis
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Leonard
 Dr. & Mrs. James S. Lester
 LTC & Mrs. Clyde W. Long
 David N. Lowe
 Carol A. McCoy
 Mr. & Mrs. John M. McCracken
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. McGlothlin
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Macione
 Sally Massengill-Bell
 Mr. & Mrs. John F. Miller
 Mary Jane Miller
 Marjorie E. Mitchell
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Molteni
 Carl R. Moore
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Morgan
 Dr. & Mrs. Perry D. Mowbray
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Nicar
 Margaret K. Norris
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Oakley

Mr. & Mrs. Sid Oakley
 Office Machines & Supply Co.
 Jean P. Paris
 Dr. Charles E. Parks
 Elizabeth P. Parks
 Mr. & Mrs. George K. Parks
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Peel
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard M. Penny, Jr.
 Joelma Powers
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Piper, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Rainero
 Mr. & Mrs. James H. Rainero
 Mr. & Mrs. Stevan Rainero
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Rhinehart
 M. Nicole Robinette
 Dr. & Mrs. Craig Rockett III
 Nora W. Rockett
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rodgers
 Mr. & Mrs. King Rogers
 Frances Rowell
 Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Satterwhite
 Ronald Schoenhardt
 Dana S. Sherwood
 Roger Sikorski
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Siler
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank L. Slack
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Karl Smith
 Bradley Sparger, Sparger Transfer
 Dr. & Mrs. John Michael Spear
 Mrs. E. E. Stauber
 Lynda S. Stuart
 Stan Sturgess
 C. Rilea
 Mr. & Mrs. James M. Tayloe
 Mr. & Mrs. John Terry, Sr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul F. Thomas
 Clark D. Thomas
 Mr. & Mrs. John D. Tickle
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tilley
 Frances H. Trammell
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Trent
 Uncle Sam's Loan Office
 United Way of Bristol
 Mr. & Mrs. John M. Vann
 Virginia Interment College
 Mr. & Mrs. Shelbourne W. Wallace
 Jane Warner
 John & Laura Ann Warner
 John & Mary Warner
 Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Weberling
 Henry White
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher A. White
 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Williams
 Nancy Windrow
 Lynne R. Wood
 Mr. & Mrs. Ted Wood
 Mr. & Mrs. John T. Woolley
 Mrs. C. Edward Wright

The Robert Preston House

by Jan Rainero



BHA now has a wonderful Historic Structure Report by Gibson Worsham, architect. This report contains a history narrative of the family, architectural description, room-by-room description of the house, and conditions and recommendations for restoration. The Bristol Public Library has a copy, and our archives will keep a copy as well. This report was made possible through the ARC grant to BHA.

The final reimbursement request worksheet and final expenditure report was filed with ARC at the end of December, 2007, with the help of Deborah Jones, grant writer. Deborah was here for a weekend and donated two days to this project. We now have an architect, Peter Lawrie, working on plans needed to restore the house to its original condition. Everyone who has been interested in the house is

excited about the progress. I would like to mention that Peter's grandfather designed the statue of Atlas in the Rockefeller Center.

If you are interested in this project and would like to be on the committee, please contact Jan Rainero, Robert Preston House Committee Chairman, at (276) 669-2249.

The I. C. Fowler House

by Isabelle Ladd

Rob Peel and Bill McRee had drafted a deed for the I. C. Fowler house that included the historical covenants and restrictions they proposed. The draft was read and presented to the board for its approval at our February meeting. The motion was carried. The next step before the sale will be a reappraisal of the property with the new boundaries. After that we will put the property on the market with the potential buyer to be restricted by the deed's historical preservation clauses.



Archives Committee Activities

by Carolyn Williams

An external hard drive was purchased and is being used to store our collection of digitized photographs which now totals approximately six hundred. If anyone has old photographs of buildings, scenes or activities of Bristol, we welcome such contributions to be added to our archives. If need be, we can scan and return the originals to the owner. Sometimes the photographs are included in BHA publications, public displays or for promoting historic preservation. Also, we would like very much to add to our collection of old city directories. They are a valuable resource for researching families and businesses. Contact Carolyn Williams at 276.669.6506.

Education Report

A program entitled "History of Bristol, Virginia-Tennessee" is being taught to all fourth grade students in both cities. Joyce Kistner designed the curriculum using texts from several local sources, and she is the presenter/teacher. The course consists of a series of three lessons presented in each school. The topics are:

1. Early Pioneer Life, including Indians that lived in this area, as well as the founding fathers of our two cities.
2. The Coming of Trains to Bristol. Children are given the opportunity to dress up in old costumes of the early days, and they may be served Journey Cakes to give them a taste of life of those traveling west.
3. Writing of poems and stories about these subjects. The children will be helped to compose stories and poems, and to create art work and dioramas. Each school will choose the best to be exhibited at the renovated train station.



A power point presentation has been developed which the children use as an oral reading lesson during the class and as a handy reference of historical facts when they are writing their compositions.

Katie Wilson, a senior at VI College and a history major is helping and assisting Joyce for a special project and as a course requirement.

The Virginia schools that have been visited are Stonewall Jackson, Highland View, and Van Pelt. Principals of the Tennessee schools are calling to schedule the program. Tennessee schools are Fairmount, Central, Avoca, Holston View and Haynesfield. The principals, teachers, and students have welcomed this opportunity to learn more about our local history and are passing the word that it is a must for all fourth grade students of Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia.

Annual Christmas Social



The annual Christmas social was a great success. Seventy-five members and guests enjoyed a special buffet luncheon at The Virginian Golf Club on Sunday, December 9, 2007. Chairman of the event was Roxanne Coulthard. Thanks to Mary Beth for making arrangements at The Virginian.

President Mary Beth Rainero updated the group on projects and coming events and recognized committees and individuals for special contributions to the association. Joyce Kistner, Education and Outreach Chairman, presented the story board and historical collection she uses at Bristol schools. Amy Hopper announced that the new website is up and running. The 2008 slate of officers was presented.



Bud Phillips, Jim Otis, Mary Beth Rainero

Entertainment was provided by the State Street United Methodist Church chapel quartet, accompanied by Sarah Scott. Singers Phil Haga, Nancy Arnold, Roger Horton and Diane Brewer provided a beautiful program of Christmas music. Nancy Arnold performed a fun satire on "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Good food, great fun, and lots of information prompted the expression "delightful" by all who attended!



*Top Photo, Left to Right: Nedra Hartley, Tim Buchanan, Susan Long
Bottom Photo, Left to Right: Jane Copenhaver, Isabelle Ladd,
Nat Copenhaver, Nedra Hartley, Mary Beth Rainero*

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

2008 Membership Form

Join the crowd that's making history! When you join the Bristol Historical Association you'll be on the cutting edge of making history by discovering and preserving the rich heritage of our city. Use the form below to become a new member in our adventure or renew your membership. Questions? Give me a call. Eleanor Heacock, Membership Chairman, (276) 669-5452.

Eleanor Heacock
BHA Membership Chairman

Mary Beth Rainero
BHA President

2008 Levels of Membership: (also includes remainder of 2007)

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	\$500-999	18% discount on BHA merchandise
Lifetime Member I/F	\$1000 & Above	20% discount on BHA merchandise

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

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

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 _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____

Committee/Project interest _____

Suggestions/Recommendations _____

BHA membership and community involvement continue to grow. We invite you to join us or renew your membership for 2008. Send your completed form and check to :

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

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY BRISTOL

by Bud Phillips

After Bristol was planned and laid out in 1852, one would have expected the earliest development to have been along Main (now State) Street. While the first two buildings erected in the new town, the homes of Joseph R. Anderson and Dr. B.F. Zimmerman, did face Main Street. It is clear that an effort was made to be near the railroad and depot, and that was the trend in those early years of Bristol's existence. Instead of quickly moving down Main Street early builders sought lots along Fourth Street that ran parallel with the railroad. It should be told here that this Fourth became known as Front Street. It is now Martin Luther King Boulevard. Both business houses and residences were built along its course.

Third and Washington Streets running parallel with the railroad on the east side of the tracks saw much of the town's early residential development. It may come as a surprise to many to know that for years these two streets were the most elite residential sections of Bristol. Many of the "first families" of Bristol lived there. The time came when people avoided building along the tracks. However in early Bristol such a location was regarded as a status symbol.

The first hotel in Bristol was located within a half block of the depot. This was the Columbia, erected in 1854. The second hotel, the Virginia House (sometimes called Langhorne's Tavern) quickly followed the Columbia. It was erected on Fourth (later Front) Street across from the depot. The large mercantile firm of W.W. James early located on the corner of Fourth and Main, a choice location near the depot. Other business firms soon opened along Fourth Street.

Of course within a very short time, development did push westward along Main Street. This was both commercial and residential. As late as the 1890's homes still stood here and there in the business section of downtown Bristol. I have talked to older citizens here who well remembered when the 800 block of present State Street was largely residential. This mixture of business-residential long existed on Shelby and Cumberland Streets.

The big residential expansion came in 1874 when Solar and Virginia Hills were opened for development. These were quickly by King's First Addition to the south, and the Burson-Delaney additions to the west. And here more than one hundred fifty years later Bristol continue to spread outward, further and further from her beginning point.



State Street, Bristol, Va.-Tenn., about 1909

BRISTOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IMPORTANT MEETINGS 2008

General Membership Meeting
Monday, May 12 at 6:30 PM
Bristol Public Library

Everyone is invited and
refreshments will be served.

The speakers will be Dr. Robert Orr and
Carlos C. Whaley. The topic will be
"The Life of Andrew Johnson."

Board Meetings
Mondays

March 3	5:00 p.m.
April 14	5:00 p.m.
May 12	5:00 p.m.

Bristol Public Library
Board Room

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