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.
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 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 House News

The Tennessee Historical Commission Grant

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.

The Bristol Historical Association has an exciting new website! Please visit us and share our new address with your friends. www.BristolHistoricalAssociation.com
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.
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde W. Downs
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Cheatham
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Carter
Jean G. Burnette
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Oakley
Margaret K. Norris
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Nicar
Dr. & Mrs. Perry D. Mowbray
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Morgan
Carl R. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Molteni
Marjorie E. Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Miller
Sally Massengill-Bell
Mr. & Mrs. John M. McCracken
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas D. McGlothlin
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Maclone
Sally Massengill-Bell
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Miller
Mary Jane Miller
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
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 G. Waltney
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
Heritage House Antiques (Friends)
Mr. & Mrs. William H. 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
Sherrilee Jesse
Dr. & Mrs. Neal A. Jewell
Dr. & Mrs. William H. Johnson
Homer A. Jones, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Tim P. Jones
Dr. & Mrs. Dale Keller
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. M. Frazier King
Wendy 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
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas D. McGlothlin
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Maclone
Sally Massengill-Bell
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Miller
Mary Jane Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Molteni
Carl R. Moore
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Dr. & Mrs. Perry D. Mowbray
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Nicar
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Mary Jane Miller
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Carl R. Moore
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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 Rocket III
Nora W. Rockett
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. King Rogers
Frances Rowell
Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Satterwhite
Ronald Schoenhart
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. Taylor
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 Intermont 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.
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 V1 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.

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!
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)

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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<td>Family</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<td>(2 adults &amp; children under 18 living at home)</td>
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<td>Researcher I/F</td>
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<td>12% discount on BHA merchandise</td>
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<td>Historian I/F</td>
<td>$100-249</td>
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<td>14% discount on BHA merchandise</td>
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<td>Curator I/F</td>
<td>$250-499</td>
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<td>16% discount on BHA merchandise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preservationist</td>
<td>$500-999</td>
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<td>18% discount on BHA merchandise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime Member I/F</td>
<td>$1000 &amp; Above</td>
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<td>20% discount on BHA merchandise</td>
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BHA is a 501 (c)(3) exempt organization; your membership fees and donations are tax deductible

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

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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Membership Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Level</td>
<td>Membership Fee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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.
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