



# Bristol Historical Association, Inc. Newsletter

P.O. Box 204      Bristol, Tennessee      37620

**September 2008**

**Chartered April 1979**

Dear Bristol Historical Association Members,

We have a wonderful chance to preserve an important part of Bristol's History! The original Seth Thomas Wall Clock that hung in the Train Station ticket office from the opening of the station until its closing has been offered to our Community for a price of \$2,500. Unfortunately, the Train Station Foundation is not able to be the purchaser, and the Historical Association does not have the money to purchase the clock. So we are asking our members for help with this "special" project. It would be wonderful if the clock could be purchased in time to be presented to the Train Station Foundation at their grand reopening celebration in mid-November. If the members of the Historical Association help purchase the clock, it would be exhibited in the Station on a "permanent loan" basis. This would ensure that in the unlikely event that the train station should ever become the property of an entity other than the Bristol Train Station Foundation, the clock would revert to the BHA and be permanently exhibited in the E. W. King House Museum of Bristol History.

The clock has been appraised and does work. It has remained with the family of the train station ticket agent to whom it was given since the 1970s. It has been carefully compared with the photo in O. Winston Link's book "Steam, Steel and Stars" showing ticket clerk A.T. Moody in the foreground with the clock on the wall immediately behind him. The appraisers are confident this is indeed the original clock.

We strongly feel that the clock is an important part of our history and therefore is well worth the attempt to raise the money. To be successful in this effort we would need 25 people to donate \$100 toward this purchase, or 50 people at \$50 each, or 100 people at \$25 each. It's so much easier when more people participate, and more take an interest in a project when they have contributed. Each of us will be proud to see the words "Presented in Celebration of the Grand Reopening of Bristol's Union Depot by Members of the Bristol Historical Association," on the plaque affixed to the wall beside the original clock.

Any contribution you might consider to help with this worthy cause should be made payable to the Bristol Historical Association, with a notation that it is to go to the "Train Station Clock" project. We do hope you will help in our efforts to bring back a piece of Bristol's history! Remember that your contribution is tax deductible. It is important that you respond soon, and I will be more than happy to answer any of your questions personally. Please call 423-366-1905.

Many Thanks,  
Mary Beth Rainero, President



# Bristol Historical Association News

## **BHA New Headquarters:**

The new headquarters of the Bristol Historical Association will be housed in the former garage behind the E.W. King House which is located at the corner of Anderson and Seventh Street. Thanks to all of the members who worked so diligently in making this move a success. The headquarters will be a place for committee meetings with telephone and computer capability, a home for our BHA merchandise for sale, and a place for some of our archival and other collections. A special thank you to Air Movers and John Crewey for the wonderful new climate control. We also would like to thank SESCO for giving us a room for extra collectables.



*Isabelle Ladd directing work at the BHA new headquarter*

Amy Hopper



*Bristol Historical Association  
Sale at Ruth King's June 2008*

The Bristol Historical Association's Deaccession Sale, held June 26-28 at Ruth King Antiques, was a well-functioning, financial success. The event cleared over six thousand dollars which will be used for the operating funds of the Bristol Historical Association and the E.W. King House Project. Many BHA members worked countless hours to make this sale possible, and we thank Ruth King for this wonderful opportunity. Thanks also to everyone who participated and made the effort so worthwhile!

Isabelle Ladd

## Local Author Introduces Sullivan County Pictorial History To Association

**Joe Tennis** doesn't let grass grow around his feet. Working for the Bristol Herald Courier he has become well known for his hometown & regional columns that have endeared him to the community. His curiosity in what makes the Southern experience has resulted in a number of well received books, *The Marble and Other Ghost Tales of Virginia and Tennessee* and *Beach to Bluegrass: Places To Brake On Virginia's Longest Road*. Hot off the press in October, Tennis will introduce his newest book **Arcadia, Images of America Series, "Sullivan County, Tennessee"**. This will be the public's first opportunity to purchase the new photographic history.



Tennis reflected that "Sullivan County" fits alongside his first book, 2004's *Southwest Virginia Crossroads: An Almanac of Place Names and Places to See*. "You can't tell the story of Sullivan County without Southwest Virginia" Tennis said. That story in captioned photographs ranges from century-old churches to Johnny Wood fishing on South Holston Lake. The photo cover shows a late 1940's postcard of Bluff City at a dam that was demolished in order to build Boone Lake. This new release tours Blountville, Bristol, Bluff City, Piney Flats and Kingsport and also delves into the history of the county's three large lakes built in the 1940's and 1950's by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The book will show that Sullivan County Tennessee "is an extremely diverse land - much more that people realize". From glimpses into the Lost State of Franklin to Bristol's Birthplace of Country Music Tennis's new venture also identifies his knowledge of the Mountain Empire. This presentation is free and open to the public. For further details on this upcoming event contact program chairman, Tim Buchanan, 276-669-3885

Visit [www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com](http://www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com) to find out about the extensive work of the association preserving & promoting the region's heritage. During the first year, over 3,340 people have enjoyed visiting that website. With three historic properties in the city, the Bristol Historical Association is working toward a regional museum in the historic E.W. King House and continued maintenance of the Tennessee Ernie Ford birthplace. Current efforts are also securing a permanent site for the eighteenth century Robert Preston House, located on Lee Highway near Exit 7.

Tim Buchanan

# Donations, Honorariums, Memorials

April 1 - September 5, 2008

## **BHA Sale**

Ruth King  
Jean Burnette  
Mary Beth Rainero  
Major Walt Musgrove, Bristol TN Police Dept.  
Becky Wilkerson  
Mrs. Carl Shumate  
Mrs. Wm. B. Smith  
Tim Valentine - Office Machines & Supply  
Bristol Herald Courier  
Bill Trivett  
Mrs. Frank Blanton  
Mrs. Wm. H. Johnstone  
Nedra and Phil Hartley

## **Donations to E.W. King House:**

Isabelle and Dick Ladd  
Geneva and Marc Dillard  
Jackie Leonard  
George W. Hammer, Jr.  
Reba June Green  
Martha T. Daniel  
Betty K. and Walter Irvine  
Jeanne D. King  
James Y. Kuhnert  
Andrea A. Coles  
Eddythe and Austin Carr  
Linda and Jim Rainero  
Joyce and Sid Oakley  
Sondra and William Schermer  
Thelma and Mike Blair

## **Donation:**

Mr. and Mrs. George K. Parks  
through the Summit Leadership Foundation  
(American Values Community Fund)

## **Donation:**

Pauline M. DeFriece Belvedere Fund

## **Honorarium to Jane Copenhaver and Jackie Piper:**

Mrs. Charles J. Rainero

## **Memorials to Frazier King:**

Beth and George K. Parks  
Martha Jean Bundy  
Senah B. Seagle  
Barbara and K. Thomas Smith, Jr.  
Mrs. E. E. Stauber  
Margaret and Raymond Feierabend  
Laura Ann and John Warner  
Mary Bullit Rainero  
Linda and Jim Rainero

## **Memorials to Frazier King**

*( Designated for E.W. King House):*

Jane and Nat Copenhaver  
Peggy and Bob Nicar  
Ruth M. King  
Patty and David Faulkner  
Kintronic Laboratories, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Sid Oakley  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Everhart  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Williams

## **Memorials to Bill King**

*( Designated for E.W. King House):*

Patty and David Faulkner  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Brittle  
Sara S. Burleson  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Helton  
Dr. and Mrs. Barry L. Hopper  
Dr. and Mrs. Bobby L. Long  
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Stubbs  
Mr. and Mrs. F. Wm. Thomas  
Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Wike

## **Memorial to Carole King Crockett**

*(Designated for E.W. King House):*

Patty and Davis Faulkner

## **Memorial to Lois King Tilley**

*(Designated for E.W. King House):*

Patty and Davis Faulkner

## **Memorial to William M. Hepburn:**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. DeFriece, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond H. Feierabend

## **Memorial to Robert C. Callahan:**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. DeFriece, Jr.

## ***E.W. King House***

The E.W. King House Committee hosted a fundraising concert at the Paramount on September 4th featuring the Bristol England Male Voice Choir. This special concert was dedicated to the memory of Bill King, a grandson of E.W. King, in honor of his commitment to this project as well as his generous involvement in the countless other community activities. A Patron's Party was held prior to the event at the former Ruth King Antiques, and the Committee would like to thank Ruth for graciously providing the location for this party as well as each of the record number of Patron's who supported this event. Net proceeds of the evening were just under \$10,000 dollars and will benefit the E.W. King House Museum Project.



***Mrs. Frazier King, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Williams,  
Dr. Barry Hopper  
Patron's party September 4, 2008***

The Committee held an Open House on Saturday, September 20th during Bristol's Rhythm and Roots Reunion Festival. Bluegrass bands performed on the grounds of the E.W. King House. The event also featured an Antiques and Collectibles Sale as well as an Exhibit showcasing discoveries made during the commission of an Historic Structure Report which was partially funded by a grant from the Tennessee Historic Commission. Historic architect Ellen Harris from Brevard, NC was present with special displays to explain the work involved in the preparation of this report and to entertain questions from the public. A cleanup of the property prior to the Open House was organized by Scout Kaine McClellan and the volunteers from Boy Scout Troop #8.

A custom frame for safely displaying the beautiful stained glass window from the house has been completed, and the window, along with a narrative regarding the project, will soon be installed inside the Bristol Public Library for the public to view and enjoy.

***Boy Scouts work at the E.W. King House  
September 13, 2008***



The E.W. King House Committee would like to thank our Underwriters and Contributors.



Arts Alliance Mountain Empire  
Boy Scout Troop 8  
Bristol Herald Courier  
Bristol Public Library  
City of Bristol Tennessee  
City of Bristol Virginia  
Jean Burnette

Jane Crewley  
Stephen Dillard  
Pat Flanagan  
General Rubber and Plastic  
Todd Hester  
Inari Wines  
Ruth King

Herb Reach  
Paramount Staff  
WCYB-TV5  
WOPI Radio-Mack Blevins  
Walmart and Sam's Club  
Bart Long  
Premier Printing

### The E.W. King House Committee

|                      |               |                          |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Sytha Cheatham       | Nedra Hartley | Susan Long               |
| Andrea Coles         | Evelyn Helton | Mary Beth Rainero        |
| William Collier      | Amy Hopper    | Herb Reach               |
| Nat Copenhaver       | Jeanne Kiger  | Robert Rodgers           |
| Steve and Amy Greene | Gwen King     | David Shumaker           |
|                      |               | Carolyn and Roy Williams |

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## *The Preston House*

This spring, the Preston House Committee met with members of the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office; Kathy Manning, an archaeologist from Knoxville; Peter Lawrie, our architect; and representatives for the property owner, Mr. Trammell. The purpose of this meeting was to request Mr. Trammell's permission to allow the historic Preston House to remain on site; numerous reasons as to why leaving the house in its original location would be desirable were presented. Mr. Lawrie displayed his drawings, and Ms. Manning explained that, even if the house were to be relocated, the property site would still require extensive exploration. In addition, the Historic Structure Report was given to Mr. Trammell's committee for review. At this time, a decision has not been received.

The Committee is pleased to report that they have received an offer of some doors to replace the ones that were taken from the property several years ago. The donated doors will be similar to the originals and date from the period in which the house was built.

The log building is in poor condition, and it is hoped that this structure can be dismantled this fall. A storage location for the logs is being considered. Architect Peter Lawrie is currently drawing up plans to secure and repair the house before winter.

The Committee would like to thank the Sheriff's Department for clearing the property and making it accessible.

Jan Rainero

Kings Mountain  
Memorial Hospital  
1925-2008



## The Loss of Another Bristol Landmark

It now appears certain that the old King's Mountain Memorial Hospital will be demolished. Here is a brief history of this historic medical facility.

By 1900, the need for a suitable hospital was very apparent here in Bristol. It was at this time that Dr. Matthew Moore Butler was invited to speak to the Sycamore Shoals Chapter of DAR. He chose as his subject "The Inadequate Medical Facilities of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars". He expressed his opinion that many lives would have been spared if Bristol had a suitable hospital then and that there was a great need for one now. Mrs. Cynthia Boyd McCue heard him say this and later proposed that she should help to conduct a campaign to build a hospital in Bristol. It would be named in honor of the soldiers who fought in the Battle of King's Mountain.

The drive for the hospital continued for several years with funds being raised; donations ranged from five cents to five hundred dollars. The Bristol Herald Courier made a special appeal for a hospital, pointing out the fact that those needing surgery had to travel to distant cities. Meanwhile, St. Luke's Hospital was opened at 25 Tenth Street and served the people well, but the Sycamore Shoals Chapter of the DAR wanted to build another hospital. In 1921, a city wide committee was formed under the leadership of E.W. King, a prominent businessman of the city. This committee solicited funds from Bristol as well as the surrounding area. A local architect, C.B. Kearfott, was chosen to draw the plans for the hospital, and he designed a suitable and beautiful building. Drawings of the proposed hospital were put in public places where all the people might see them. Contractors Kingsolver and Huddle assisted Holston Construction, and the erection of the building was done in 1925. On November 11, 1925, Dr. Malcom Fuller of the First Baptist Church led in the dedication of the new hospital, saying the hospital was "to the glory of God and to the service of humanity". The late Lt. Col. Harmon L. Pippin, Jr was the first patient admitted to the new hospital. Charles B. Moore was the first baby to occupy the nursery there. The Nurse's Home, standing just east of the hospital was erected well within the memory of several persons still living today.

King's Mountain Memorial Hospital served Bristol well until Bristol Memorial Hospital opened on January 18, 1953. The wonderful old building that housed King's Mountain Memorial has been standing vacant for many years, and now we must all say farewell to what was long one of Bristol's grandest and best known landmarks.

Bud Phillips

# Bristol Historical Association

## Important Meetings 2008

### **October BHA Meeting**

*Arcadia, Images of America Series,*

*"Sullivan County Tennessee"*

Presented by Joe Tennis

Monday, October 13, 2008

United Way Bldg. 315 8th St. 6:30pm

Board Meeting before at 5pm

### **November General Membership Meeting**

Election of 2009 Officers

Guest Speaker: Shelia Steele Hunt

Director - Sullivan County Department of  
Archives & History

Topic: Historic Preservation in Sullivan County

Monday, November 10, 6:30pm

Bristol Public Library

All Bristol Historical Association Members  
And anyone interested in joining  
Please send your email address to  
[shopper226@aol.com](mailto:shopper226@aol.com) and please visit our website  
[www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com](http://www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com)

**Bristol Historical Association**

P.O. Box 204

Bristol, TN 37621-0204



## The President's Report;

I hope you are as proud of the Bristol Historical Association as I. We are an amazing group of enthusiastic volunteers. Do you know that we have assets in excess of a half a million dollars? And that we are owners and caretakers of Bristol's history spanning more than two hundred years?

We own a large piece of the Pemberton Oak Tree, the tree under which the Over Mountain Men mustered on their way to the Battle of Kings Mountain, the battle considered as the turning point of the Revolutionary War.

The Robert Preston House on the Lee Highway was built by the man who was commissioned by Thomas Jefferson to survey what was then called Fincastle, Virginia. The house now belongs to us. The Tennessee Ernie Ford House has been completely restored by the Bristol Historical Association and is open to the public. Bristol Tennessee City officials recently toured the house and were most favorably impressed. And we are very excited over the potential for the Edward Washington King House as the repository for Bristol's history. Built by Bristol's first major retail merchant, the house is on the National Register of Historic Places both for the architecture of the house and because of the many contributions of the man who built it.

Because we are not in the real estate business, we have had to make some difficult decisions about our fourth property, the I. C. Fowler House. Believed to be the oldest residence in the City of Bristol, Virginia, the Historical Association wants to be sure it is preserved, but having no immediate use for the house and no ability to finance its restoration, we have determined the best decision would be to sell the house, with certain covenants in place to protect its future. And so we have advertised the house for sale. We will have the advice of the Department of Historic Resources in Roanoke to help us be sure that the buyer restores the house according to the protective covenants.

We have come a long way over the course of our existence, and we have many dreams for the future. We have not come this way overnight without the good planning of those who have gone before us. This has been a difficult year for the Historical Association in saying good-bye to those who have helped make this Association what it is today. Just two newsletters ago we remembered Bill King, and now we are remembering yet two more of our past presidents, Tom Finks and Frazier King.

Tom and his wonderful wife Elizabeth were instrumental in securing the Tennessee Ernie Ford House. They were the catalysts in our early days, finding us our first home, giving us a place to meet and a home in which to catalog our memorabilia. They opened the door for future possibilities. Tom spent untold hours physically working to make the Ford house a reality. It was then, when the Historical Association actually "owned" a location and some "thing," that it began to attract new interest with the citizens of the Bristol Community, and the membership began to grow. Tom was very businesslike in his tenure as president and brought a professional approach to fiscal responsibility.

And our friend Frazier King, we will miss him, too. "A great doer must also be a great dreamer." (a quote of Theodore Roosevelt's) And Frazier was that, a great doer! Frazier, a descendant of H. P. King, whose brother was E. W. King, was a "doer" in Bristol for over seventy years. He was forever supportive and interested in bettering Bristol. He wanted so very much to think that the E. W. King House project would be finished in just a year or two and become an accredited world class museum exhibiting Bristol History from 1890-1950, an era of time not addressed by any other regional museum. Frazier played a crucial part in the Association's benefiting from the kind generosity of Mr. Cecil Knighton in the gifting of the E. W. King House. Frazier led the E. W. King House committee forward with their Master Plan to renovate the house into the future museum. He had an unwavering commitment and love for Bristol and her citizens. Frazier made a great impact on history. We will surely miss him.

Well that is enough for now. I hope that you enjoy being a part of our organization. I encourage you to tell your friends about all the things that we are doing, and we would welcome you to join us. Have a wonderful fall season and we hope to see you at our meetings.