

**BRISTOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

**Annual Committee Reports**

**2011**

## **LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

As you can see by the following reports, the Bristol Historical Association has had a busy and productive year. Your committees have been extremely active in making certain that the Bristols' histories and important historic sites stay in the public's mind(s) and receive the recognition they deserve. In looking at the profit/loss figures for the year, you will note that we have operated in the black which is an extremely important achievement. Obviously, there is very little in the way of new or expanded projects BHA can do without further funds. We have done so much to cut expenses and increase income; much depends on you, our membership, to add contributions to your membership fees and to help us recruit new members. Abingdon has 500 members in its Historic Society. Abingdon is much smaller than Bristol. Surely we can do better. Tell your friends and neighbors about us and the history we are trying to preserve. Take advantage of the wonderful power point presentation put together by Archives and Membership for showing to civic groups, both large and small. Happy Holidays and may the new year be kind to you.

Isabelle

## **BHA ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PRESTON HOUSE**

Finally we can say that by the time you read this we will have purchased the historic Robert Preston House at Walnut Grove. This year began with a January meeting with APVA regional director, Sonja Ingram, and we continued to have other meetings almost weekly. We met with Cathie Freeman, Washington County Zoning and Subdivision official, and Mark Reeter, county administrator, to begin the process necessary for approval to purchase one acre and the house. The house is located in Washington County and we discovered that we did have the road frontage required for subdivision in an old road, Wallace Switch Mill Rd., that ran beside our property. This allowed us to continue on to the next requirement. We needed a right-of-way, an easement, onto that road from Lee Hwy. The property next to ours is owned by Intermont Properties and so we contacted owner Stevan Rainero who agreed to allow us to get an easement through Intermont's land. Their road, which joins Lee Hwy, would allow us access to the one acre. Randy Kennedy worked with their lawyer to make this possible. We will cross their property from Forsythe Rd just below the county line, keeping us within the city at that point. A special thanks to Intermont, for without their help subdivision and easement requirements could not have been accomplished. Baker Construction has donated the grading needed for our part of the road.

A gift from Wes Rosenbalm and the BVU Board will make power possible at the site where contractor Allen Hickman will begin the necessary stabilization and restoration. We are anxious to begin this phase. I believe that Frazier King took members of BHA to see the house about 10 years ago. We contacted Mack Trammell and began this journey. As you know we were to move the house but with a recent request from Alpha to Trammell, we now would be able to purchase one acre and the house on the original site. What could be better, but we needed money, \$110,000. We began to look for funding by addressing the Washington County Board of Supervisors, meeting with Morgan Griffith's staff, meeting with Martha Gayle

and Lois Clark of the United Company, and addressing the town council of Abingdon. Nancy Cook wrote a grant letter to the Dept. of Historic Resources requesting funding. We wrote letters requesting funding from the Massengill/DeFriece Foundation. With the generosity of Alpha, gifts from the Preston family, pledges from members of BHA, and money from some of the private and public agencies mentioned, we have the funds necessary for the purchase. The money raised and spent to date is about \$155,000. This includes in-kind, private individual donations and our ARC and TIC grants. Surveyor Tony Holbrook has been helping with this project for 10 years and was always willing to draw up the sites where we thought it might be moved. He continued to help with the subdivision, right-of-way and the final drawing of the one acre. Many thanks for his continuing support.

Isabelle Ladd's attention to details and project insight has been invaluable, and many early morning phone conversations kept the project on track. Articles in our newspaper by Joe Tennis and our own Bud Phillips have educated the public about the importance of the house and about our progress. The future will be exciting and we welcome interested persons to join the board that will be overseeing the Preston House restoration and future. We will be guided by a wonderful detailed Historic Structure Report by Gibson Worsham. Local architect Peter Lawrie will oversee the restoration process.

Jan Rainero, Chair

### **E.W. KING HOUSE**

The Association decided to sell the EW King House because of the difficulty in funding the restoration of the House. TCI Group has been contracted to list it.

Nedra Hartley, Chair

### **TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD HOUSE**

The Ford House received money for the SNAP Grant to purchase archival material. This will enable us to preserve Ernie's memorabilia. The scrap books have been used to protect all the snap shots and newspaper articles. All magazines, record albums and video tapes are now protected in the storage boxes and melinex covers. These items can now be put on display.

By protecting these items, we will always be able to bring these items out for display and now worry about them being left unprotected and risk the chance of them being destroyed.

The Ford House Committee is still working with Rhythm and Roots to get an annual venue at the festival.

The house still needs a new roof. This past year, tours have been down, especially tour buses.

Brenda Otis, Chair

## **I.C. FOWLER HOUSE**

As required in the purchase agreement between Scott Otis and BHA, Scott submits a report every six months to inform us of his progress on the restoration of the Fowler house. Here is a summary of his latest report.

Justin Sanders, Preservation Field Services Representative for Heritage Alliance prepared a thorough historic structure assessment for Mr. Otis with recommendations for the accurate restoration of the house in accordance with BHA covenants. Scott has custom colored lime mortar ordered to match the original mortar from foundation and porch piers; new yellow pine tongue and groove porch decking (historically appropriate) is stored in the house, ready for use, the concrete front steps (not original) have been removed. In all Scott and his Dad removed and took to the landfill 12,700 pounds of dirt and concrete. They discovered what they believe to be the remnants of the original chimneys. Lead paint issues were raised by the Bristol, Va. building inspector; they are being addressed. Scott will attend the Higher Ed Center lead-safe certification classes. The brick chimneys have been removed to just below the roofline, that part was not original to the house; they will be rebuilt to match the foundation bricks. Four feet of dirt fill in the basement will have to be removed; it was dirt originally removed from a crawl space in order to install a modern furnace. Scott has a long list of other projects that he will be able to complete during the winter months as they all concern aspects of the interior restoration. All historic building materials from the ongoing process have been saved for use in future reconstruction efforts.

## **TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

### INCOME

Memberships \$3,545.00  
Merchandise 5,410.34  
Donations 947.20  
Panoramics 690.00  
TOTAL \$10,592.54

### EXPENSES

Merchandise 2,733.61  
Utilities 1,760.05  
Telephone 718.36  
Newsletter/Web 564.40  
Insurance 2,266.00  
Office & misc. 1,491.54  
Lawn/Ford house 575.00  
TOTAL \$10,108.96

Leaving a balance of \$483.58.

Remember dues collected Nov & Dec 2010 are not included. That was \$1,620.00. Also, the utilities have EWK included because of our office space.

## **ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

- \* Responded to requests received on the B.H.A. website for photos and/or information.
  - \* Provided Kelly & Green photos of the Paramount Theater under construction and the interior on opening night to Merle Dickert for use during the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
  - \* Provided two photos of H.P. King building to a Knoxville architectural firm to use as a possible guideline for the restoration or remodeling of the exterior.
  - \* Provided four additional photos to Huber Decor for use in redecorating O'Charley's.
  - \* Roy Williams has produced a slide show of forty-five photographs from the B.H.A. collection to be used by the Membership Committee for programs at civic clubs and other organizations. The presentation is available on both flash drive and DVD. Notebooks containing the DVD, the flash drive, and a printout of the photographs with written narration to describe each photo have been given to Roxanne for Membership and to Susan for Archives.
  - \* Placed on loan to William King Museum in Abingdon several portraits, photographs, and articles of children's clothing for their exhibition, "Dress Up: A Regional Portrait of Childhood." The exhibit runs from December 16, 2011, until May 13, 2012.
  - \* Received several items of historical importance from George W. (Bill) Hammer including twelve original 1875 photographs of downtown Bristol, a book of correspondence from Hammer & Co. Food Brokers and samples of their stationary (1913-1923), original deeds, Bristol Post Office papers, an old bank book, and a 1930 flyer "The Midnight Sun" featuring the Cameo Theater.
  - \* Provided photographs for possible use by Cheddar's Casual Café soon to be opening in Bristol.
  - \* A work in progress: 1. continuing to transfer the Archives collection into proper Archival quality sleeves, envelopes and boxes which were purchased with funds from the SNAP (State and National Archival Partnership) grant. 2. continuing to transfer data from old computer to new laptop purchased with SNAP grant funds. The grant received was \$4200.
  - \* Traveled to Marion, VA. and purchased two lateral file cabinets for storage of archival material at the Bristol Public Library space. Ordered missing keys so cabinets can be locked.
  - \* Susan Long and Christine Caldwell have agreed to be Co-Chairs of the Archives committee starting January 1, 2012. A new member of the committee is Marianne Fisher. Carolyn and Roy Williams will continue to be available to the committee. Dr. William Wade and Dr. John Gaines will serve in an advisory capacity.
- Carolyn Williams, Chair November 22, 2011
- Archives Committee

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

This year we will have had 6 programs with an average attendance of 47. For next year we are planning programs on the topics: John C. Breckinridge, the story of the State of Franklin, and a partnership program with BCMA. Working on some other programs about the history of the city. Over the past

several years we have had many of the top historians on a variety of topics related to Bristol, the region and of more broad interest.

Tim Buchanan, Chair

## **ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

We have supplied refreshments for the programs at the Library and made the reservations for the Christmas Luncheon, prepared the Invitations, collected the payments and prepared the program for the annual meeting.

Gwen King, Chair

## **COLLECTIONS & ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE**

April 1, 2011 – One railroad cart and one railroad dolly used at the Bristol Train Station and donated by Charlie Barnette in 2007 were received by Donna Mabe, Trainstation Foundation Representative, as a “permanent loan with reservations” to be displayed at the Bristol Train Station.

August 2011 – In conjunction with the 2012 program MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Children in the Arts, the William King Regional Museum is hosting the exhibition entitled “Dress-Up: A regional Portrait of Childhood” to run from December 16 to May 13, 2012. The museum invited the Bristol Historical Association to assist in locating items for their exhibition. Collections and Acquisitions has loaned the WKRM two portraits of children (pastels) from the Edith Davis Estate and approximately twenty items from Bristol Historical Association’s inventory of children’s clothing to be used in their exhibit.

Jane D. Copenhaver, Chairman

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Education Committee is busy teaching and scheduling classes. In this history program Barbara Smith and I show artifacts related to the lesson and dress children in costumes of the era. We reach about four hundred and fifty students in the fourth grade in the Bristol Va.-Tenn Public Schools, St. Anne's Catholic School, and Sullins Academy, which was added this year. At Sullins our presentation took place on grandparents' day; and the grandparents stood at the window in the hall and watched our program.

Once a year, the Dent K. Burk window is filled with historical items, and this further sends out our historical mission -Preservation of our history. This past year we displayed many of the Kelly & Green photographs developed from negatives donated to us.

An assisted living home has asked that we add them to our schedule.

We have applied for a grant that we will use for enlarging our program.

Joyce Kistner, Chair (Note: As a result of this program, Joyce has written a book based on the material taught in the classes. The title is Tracking The History of Bristol Va.-Tenn.)

## **HISTORIC MARKERS COMMITTEE**

No markers were applied for or presented in 2011.

Phyllis Harrison, Chair

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

THE FINAL TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2011 IS 134 (211 members)

The FINAL DOLLAR AMOUNT IS \$6,160.

AS OF TODAY, 18 MEMBERSHIPS HAVE RENEWED FOR 2012.

THE CAROLYN & ROY WILLIAMS FLASH DRIVE PICTURE PRESENTATION IS READY TO START SCHEDULING WITH CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. WE HOPE TO PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP WITH THESE FASCINATING PICTURES OF BRISTOL HISTORY.

MY GOAL IS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIPS TO 175 IN 2012.

Roxann Coulthard, Membership Chairperson

### **MERCHANDISING COMMITTEE**

The Merchandising Committee has continued selling merchandise at the following local businesses, and we greatly appreciate their support of BHA: Antiques & Unique Inspirations, Blakely-Mitchell, Box Wood, BoxWorks, Chamber of Commerce, C J & Company, Cranberry Lane, Gla-Mar, Gwen's Herb Shop, One of a Kind Gallery, Other World Galleries, Ryland & Co., Virginia Intermont Book Store, and Willow Creek. With the help of many BHA members, we enjoyed record sales at our booths at both Food City Family Race Night and Rhythm & Roots Reunion.

Gwen Smith, Chair