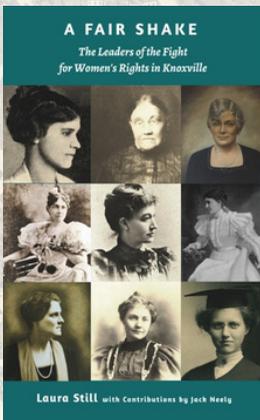


KNOXVILLE HISTORY PROJECT

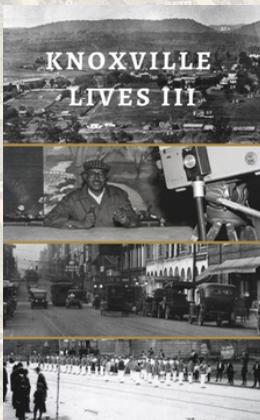
2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW PUBLICATIONS



A Fair Shake: The Leaders of the Fight for Women's Rights in Knoxville, written by partner Laura Still of Knoxville Walking Tours, came out in September. Originally slated to tie in with the Nineteenth Amendment centennial last year, this pandemic-delayed project ended up twice as long as we originally intended. Some things are worth the wait.

The third volume in our printed story collection, *Knoxville Lives III*, highlights five remarkable Knoxvilleians who deserve to be better known, including a UT administrator who was first famous as the electrical wizard of New Orleans; the dauntless Black woman who kept our railroad station orderly for almost half a century; the diminutive, bespectacled pharmaceutical executive whose name wound up one of the Smokies' biggest mountains; an elusive little girl who inspired one of the most popular writers of the Victorian era; and the city's first African American broadcaster--who ushered Knoxville into the rock 'n' roll era. This year's stories were written by Eric Dawson, Paul Brown, Paul James and Jack Neely.



DOCUMENTARIES

In June, KHP aired a short tribute documentary highlighting the historical research, publications, and community history accomplishments of **Dr. Charles and Terry Faulkner**. The 19-minute film, produced by Linda Billman and Douglas Mills, was the highlight of our summer online event that honored the Faulkners for their significant contributions to what we know about Knoxville's history. Their first collaborative publication, **Rediscovering Fort Sanders**, was published by UT Press in 2020.

In September, just in time for the 101st **Tennessee Valley Fair**, KHP released a 12-minute documentary on the Fair's first 100 incarnations, produced by Noble Robinette and Pete Carty.

Both documentaries can be found on the KHP website.



KNOXVILLE CHRONICLES PODCAST

Thanks to help from audio specialist Pete Carty, KHP launched a new podcast series this year, available through the KHP website. The first story, **The Printer's Devil**, is a story about Adolph Ochs, a kid who was scared of a graveyard while he learned the ropes of newspaper publishing here in Knoxville and who went on to become the founder of a major American institution. A reading of **In Walked Mr. Ghost** by Rebecca Longmire brings to life a *Knoxville Mercury* story about the ghostly happenings at an old house at 309 East Cumberland Avenue in the 1920s, on the eastern fringe of downtown. Two holiday-themed stories aired in November: **Knoxville's Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions**, read by Todd Ethridge. All stories were written by Jack Neely. More **Knoxville Chronicle** episodes do come in 2022.

AUDIO WALKING TOUR

Knoxville Legends: Exploring the City's Country Music Heritage is an hour-long audio walking tour produced for the internationally Voicemap platform that looks at the city's deep and dynamic heritage in the development of American country music in a new way. This audio format complements an existing self-directed walking tour around town produced by Visit Knoxville. This tour begins on North Gay Street at the former location of WIVK radio, where Dolly Parton said she "fell in love with her audience" -- and ends at the Andrew Johnson Building where Hank Williams spent his last evening.

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KNOXVILLE

COUNTY

LOOKING NORTHWEST

1871

TENNESSEE

CHURCHES

- 11 BAPTIST
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- 14 METHODIST
- 15 1ST PRESBYTERIAN
- 16 2ND PRESBYTERIAN
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- 18 FEMALE INSTITUTE

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN 2021

KHP has hosted more than 70 educational programs for the general public and groups this year, reaching almost 3,000 people, covering the following subjects:

Knoxville's Secretly Exotic Past • Knoxville in the Roaring Twenties • **Tennessee Begins: 225th Anniversary of the State** • Knoxville College • **Knoxville: Urban Renewal** • Jazzbilly • **Annemarie Schwarzenbach: From the Shadow Side** • St. Patrick's Day: The Irish in Knoxville • **The Enigma of Eugenia Williams** • Frances Hodgson Burnett in Knoxville • **April 1: No Foolin'** • Harry Ijams: Commercial Artist of Imagination and Wit • **Snap shots: Rare Glimpses of Knoxville** • Sultana! • **Higher Ground: Inside KMA's East Tennessee Collection of Visual Arts** • In Memory of Mom • **Seven Wonders of Ancient Knoxville** • Fort Knoxville • **You've Got To Be There! Knoxville's 1982 World's Fair** • A Faulknerian Celebration • **A Suttree Serenade** • Our Parks and Gardens • **An Air-Conditioned Tour of Downtown** • The Delaney Museum • **The Turning Point: 1921** • History of the Knoxville Botanical Gardens • **A Fair Shake: The Leaders of the Fight for Women's Rights in Knoxville** • An Air-Conditioned Tour of UT Campus • **Spirits of Old Gray** • Candoro Marble • **Gone – The Passenger Pigeon and Knoxville's Connections to a Lost Species** • The Photographic Conservationist: The Surprising Legacy of Jim Thompson • **and more.**

Special thanks to our guest presenters: **Robert Booker, Paul Brown, Eric Dawson, Rev. Reneé Kesler, Jim Richards, Norman Shaw, Laura Still, Prof. Chris Magra, Prof. Stewart Harris, and Stephen Wicks.**

8 NEW ART WRAPS IN 2021



In partnership with the City, KHP produced four art wraps as part of the Magnolia Avenue TDOT Streetscape improvement Project between Hall of Fame Drive and N. Bertrand. Knoxville artists included (from left) **Charles Griffin Farr, Beauford Delaney, and Ruth Cobb Brice** (two paintings).



Downtown Art Wraps now total 30 installations, including these new ones (from left) highlighting the work of **Catherine Wiley** (at Central and Broadway, sponsored by Deborah Franklin); **Will Henry Stevens** (at Western Avenue at 11th Street) and **Joseph Knaffl** (at State and W. Church), both funded by a State ABC grant and matching donation by Graphic Creations; and **Russell Briscoe** (on Henley at W. Cumberland, sponsored by Ossoli Circle).



SCRUFFY CITIZEN STORIES

Each year, Jack Neely's column provides a bevy of new local history stories, shared with our supporters first and later posted online for everyone to read. Stories published so far in 2021 include:

Tennessee Begins: For over a century, Tennessee has celebrated June 1 as Statehood Day. But why did our original state seal proclaim Feb. 6, 1796? It was about something that happened on Gay Street.

Viva Almirante Farragut: What Knox County has in common with Menorca, Spain, and how a native-Tennessee Union naval commander was related to a rare Latino participant in the American Revolution.

The House Where It Happened: The fate of artist Catherine Wiley's childhood home raises a question: How do you know when you're buying a cultural landmark?

The Birds and the Bees and the Cigarette Trees: The obscure and contradictory story of Haywire Mac.

Unprecedented? We will remember this pandemic.

Welcome Afro-American League: The 130th anniversary of a civil-rights convention in downtown Knoxville that was decades ahead of its time—and helped introduce some charismatic Black leaders of the future.

More Deadly in Purpose: Why you'd rather not be on Hill Avenue, one century ago during the 1921 lynch-mob riot.

Ayres Hall at 100, and the Electrical Wizard of St. Charles Avenue: the dramatic but forgotten early years of UT administrator Brown Ayres.

Matilda X: The Doctors and Patients who Pioneered a new surgery on Gay Street.



William Blount



Dr. John Mason Boyd



Haywire Mac



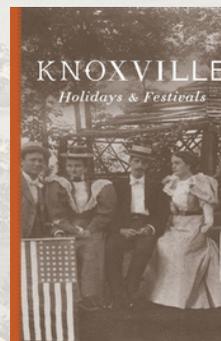
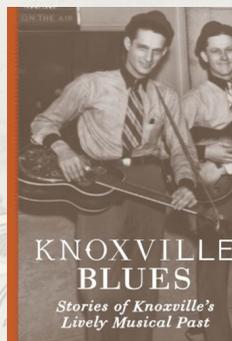
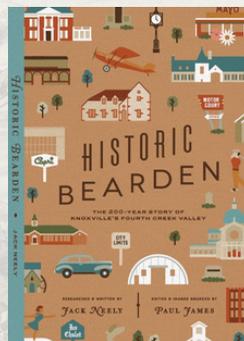
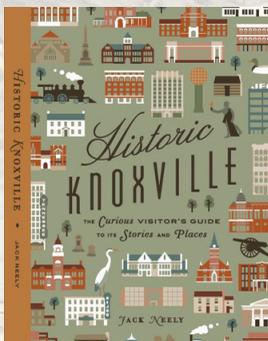
Ida B. Wells

READERSHIP

KHP's comprehensive *Historic Knoxville* guide has now sold more than almost **5,000 copies** since its release in late 2018, reaching an estimated **9,000 readers**. The title is utilized by several groups as a primer to the city's history. **Leadership Knoxville** and **Introduction Knoxville** now provide a copy to all participants (approx. 200 across both programs) each year.

Historic Bearden, KHP's first community history book has reached sold **1,700 copies** reaching an estimated **3,400 readers** since its release in 2020.

All KHP's titles are available to readers at the Knox County Public Library. In addition to shelf-bound reference copies, KHP's titles collectively circulated **232 times** with card-carrying library readers.



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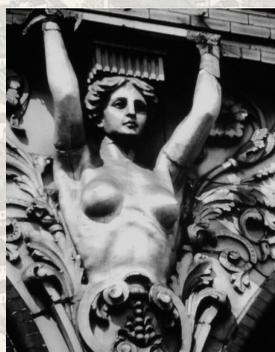
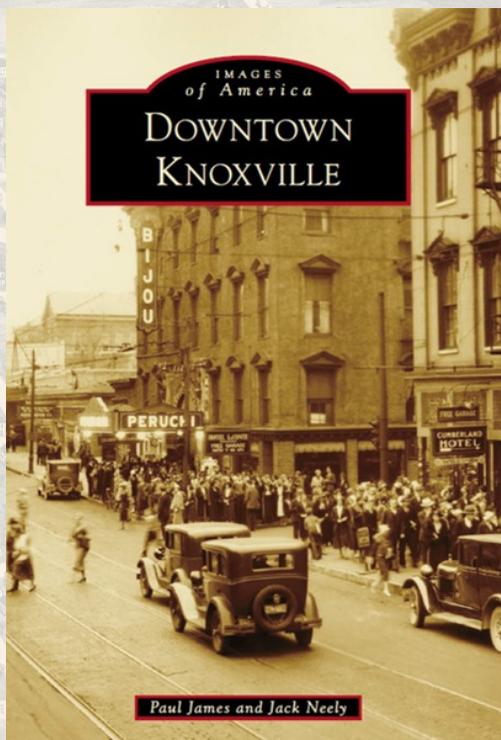
KNOXVILLE
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DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE IN PICTURES

KHP spent a good part of the year undertaking photographic research for a new title in Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" series highlighting the visual history of the city's iconic downtown core. A total of 180 photographs have been selected, featuring well-known classics that you will be familiar with as well as numerous ones that are rarely seen, and as far as we know, have never been previously published. From the postcolonial years through the Civil War and onward to Knoxville's emergence as an industrial city, downtown is where everything happened, the setting of the city's most memorable stories and legends. **Downtown Knoxville** will be published on January 24, 2022.



THANK YOU

The mission of the Knoxville History Project is to research, preserve and promote the history and culture of Knoxville, Tennessee.

The staff and Board of the Knoxville History Project wishes to thank all of our many supporters and partners for helping to underwrite our ongoing educational programs and special research projects. We especially would like to recognize the following grant funders:



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