

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This past year, KHP served more than **3,000 participants** through **80+ educational programs**. We continue to provide talks and guidebooks for Leadership Knoxville and numerous community groups. We lead monthly tours of the Eugenia Williams House on Lyons View Pike for Aslan Foundation, and support local tourism through blog posts and consultancy services for Visit Knoxville. We also are a dependable source of local history information for local TV and radio stations who call on us almost weekly for help interpreting stories.

More than 5,000 copies of **Knoxville: A Walking Literary Guide** were distributed throughout the community.

Downloadable walking tours of **Fort Sanders** and **UT Campus** and driving tours of **Fountain City** and **Mechanicsville & Lonsdale** have been published online.

Seven new episodes for **Knoxville Chronicles Season Two** podcast were produced.

Jack Neely wrote a major chapter, “Art in Knoxville,” for the Knoxville Museum of Art’s new exhibition guide, *Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee*.

Knoxville Lives V featured new stories by Jack Neely, Paul James, Laura Still, Eric Dawson, and Janine Winfrey.

KHP exceeded its fundraising goal for its **Seventh Annual Luncheon**, which honored **UT Professor Emeritus Frederick C. Moffatt**.



ONGOING CORE PROGRAMS

TALKS AND TOURS

KHP serves Knoxville residents and visitors through engaging educational programs, both in-person and online. Our programs illuminate the city's past, incorporating new research and previously untold stories covering a broad range of subjects, presented by KHP staff and guest presenters.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

KHP works with individuals, developers, property owners, government departments, and community-based organizations to research and produce new narratives expanding awareness and a better understanding of the city's complex past.

“THE SCRUFFY CITIZEN”

Freshly researched articles highlight a diverse variety of relevant but little-known stories from Knoxville's past, shared with KHP supporters and then posted online.

KNOXVILLE HISTORY ONLINE

KHP’s website offers a comprehensive online resource, including stories, historic sites, image galleries, videos, podcasts, maps, and our online store.

KNOXVILLE SHOEBOX

We encourage community members to share photographs, brochures, and illustrations to be permanently archived for historical use. Selected images are highlighted in monthly articles in *West Knoxville Lifestyle* magazine.

LIBRARY READERSHIP

To serve the general public, we produce hardback versions of KHP story collections for readers in the Knox County Public Library system.



OUR VISION & MISSION

KHP’s vision is to ensure Knoxville’s history is widely known; connecting the past, present, and future.

Our mission is to research, preserve, and promote the history and culture of Knoxville, Tennessee.

KNOXVILLE HISTORY PROJECT

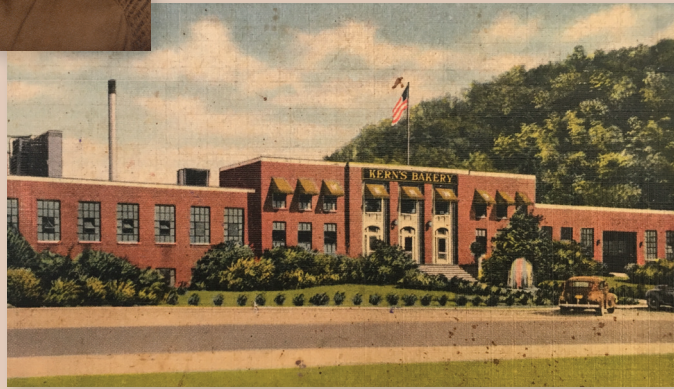
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KNOXVILLE HISTORY PROJECT

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2024 PRIORITIES



2024 PRIORITIES



SOUTH KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY HISTORY

KHP will complete a two-year project to publish a new full-color community history book on the history of South Knoxville. The scope of the book is broad, taking in everything south of the Tennessee river to Tarklin Valley on the southern border of Blount County, and east to the Sevier County line.

We'll be covering the early years of the land that some settlers referred to as "Iredell" for the North Carolina home of founding father **Captain James White** and some South Knoxville pioneers. Officially outside of city limits until 1917, South Knoxville was known by many early residents simply as "**South America**." During those early days, ferrymen like **Alexander Cunningham** and **Jesse Simpson** transported livestock, civilians, traders and politicians including first state governor **John Sevier**. These men and their services were in high demand during times when no reliable bridge spanned the Tennessee River.

We'll look at durable businesses and industries that primarily developed alongside the river or the railroad, including **Ross Marble Quarry, Rose Lumber, Jones Brickyard, Vestal Lumber, and Jefferson Woolen Mills**. The remains of some of these sites still inform the southside landscape.

While many businesses have vanished, others now have new leases on life, among them **Loghaven**, established by the tenacious **Myssie Thompson**, who in the 1930s created an unusual enclave of log cabins that attracted an often-bohemian set. The site has been converted by Aslan Foundation into an artist residency. In the 1930s and early '40s, off Chapman Highway above Ye Olde Steakhouse, German-born **Alfred Clauss** designed **Little Switzerland**, a cluster of five houses that has now been recognized as the first International Style modernist development in America.

We'll also be delving into the stories of African Americans such as **Cal Johnson**, owner of the southside racetrack where Suttee landing Park is today; **William Hastie**, who grew up on Woodlawn Pike, and studied law before becoming America's first Black governor (of the U.S. Virgin Islands) and who has a local natural area named after him; and **Ben Maynard**, a Martin Mill Pike farmer and florist.

We'll also round up histories from all major neighborhoods, historic churches, cemeteries, schools, businesses, racetracks, and other notable sites across the landscape.

Please contact us if you have any South Knoxville stories or images to share.

NICOLE STAHL, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
JACK NEELY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PAUL JAMES, DIRECTOR PUBLISHING & DEVELOPMENT

ALSO TO BE COMPLETED IN 2024

In partnership with the historic Bijou Theatre, KHP will research and coordinate production for a book that tells the history of the **African American experience of the Bijou Theatre**, including the Lamar House, and related stories. The project will coordinate with the Bijou's campaign to restore the old "colored" second balcony, unused for half a century.

KHP will complete an illustrated historical narrative of the **St. Mary's Hospital Site in North Knoxville for the City of Knoxville**. Included will be the site's 19th-century origin as Oak Hill and the hilltop mansion of industrialist **F.A.R. Scott** (1826-1909); the initiative of a neighbor, retired saloonkeeper **Daniel Dewine** (1863-1927), of a well-known Irish Catholic family, who donated a large piece of the property to the **Sisters of Mercy** for a Catholic hospital in honor of his daughter who died young; and the legendary **Sister Mary Annunciata** (ca. 1895-1963), who led the hospital through growth and change, and who in the 30-year period of her administration, earned her the sobriquet "the best businessman in town."

This year will also see the centennial of the movement to create a national park in the Smokies. KHP will mark the occasion by developing a new narrative of the dramatic story of **Knoxvillians' role in the founding of Great Smoky Mountains National Park** and host several related programs and events.

