

# King William Historical Society Newsletter

July 6, 2010

## From Our President

The past two years have gone by very quickly for our executive board team. It gives me great pleasure to know our team of officers has been able to make a difference and to move our society ahead in many areas. I am truly grateful for all the help, support and work given freely by this team. The most rewarding thing for me has been in getting to know such a wonderful group of people. I will continue to work and spearhead some of our projects, and to add material to our website. For now I will begin to concentrate my efforts at the museum as chairman of the Museum Council. Our society needs your time, ideas and input for our projects and I encourage all of you to keep in touch, stay involved, and help keep our organization visible to the our region and our sister organizations.

*Lloyd Huckstep*

## Chesapeake Deeds Artifacts to KWHS

The Newport News Waterworks Department and Chesapeake Corporation presented the society with the contents of all archaeological test pits conducted on Chesapeake's property during the permitting stages of the abandoned reservoir project. Mrs. Nancy McPhail and Donald Rice of the Waterworks met with Lloyd and Carl in May at the museum to deliver four boxes of sundry items numbering some three hundred entries, with the archaeological report. It details the locations of the shovel tests and the description of the finds. The items are a of a mix of Native American pottery sherds, points, debitage, stone flakes, gun flints and Colonial English pottery sherds, pipe stems, glass and brick bits. All the items are carefully documented, bagged and labeled. We are very happy to receive this collection, which describes man's footprint on the county. The collection has been accessioned into the museum's Past Perfect computer system and is currently stored there.

## New Members

We have had 5 new members join the society this quarter: Paul Lawrence, Mary Vidlak, Maryann Skinner, John Marcom and Dr. Richard Hosfield.

## Old County Jail will be Saved!



Concerned Members await Supervisor Decision

At the June 28<sup>th</sup> King William County Board of Supervisor's meeting, the board voted to appropriate \$46,000 for the roof replacement and repair of the portico at the old jail. Hallelujah!!! It was agreed that a contract would be awarded to low bidder, Darrell Kellum, Inc. Part of this building will be used as a jury room and hopefully some of the space can be utilized as office space by our society. We are grateful to Terri Hale and Bill Porter, our county administrators, as well as the county Board of Supervisors for their efforts. Thanks also to our Herb White for his tireless work in gathering bids and networking our supervisors. The ball is now rolling to make this old building useful once again.

At this same meeting, Bob Hubbard was appointed a member of the King William County Historic Preservation Architecture Review Board.

## Annual Membership Dues

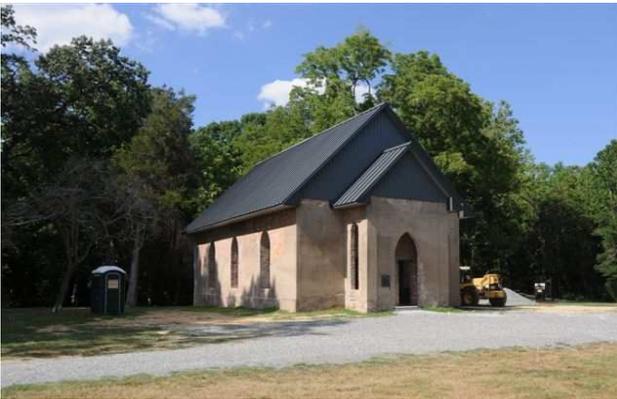
The King William Historical Society's year runs from July 1- June 30 so 2010 dues are due.

The new dues structure is:

Individual.....	\$20	Family .....	\$30
Student .....	\$10	Lifetime .....	\$250

Mail to: King William Historical Society  
PO Box 233  
King William, Va. 23086

### **Acquinton Church Restoration**



The transformation of the Acquinton Church ruins is a true miracle. Mr. Carroll Lee Walker and Terry Lindsey have worked for over a year to preserve this historic church. They have completed the brickwork, poured the concrete floor, installed the roof structure with a tongue and groove ceiling, and they are now looking to fabricate and install wooden shutters with screens. Following the historical society business meeting on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, the membership is invited to visit Acquinton Church to view the progress. Refreshments will be served at the church.

There has been considerable local interest and support for this project including two inquiries regarding the possibility of weddings at the church. Upon completion of the project there will be a formal presentation with details to be announced.

### **King William Historical Museum**

The King William Historical Museum entered into a new two-year agreement with the Virginia Historical Society regarding the loan of items from VHS. New items on loan include: 1. A Sampler by Frances Ragsdale 1790's. 2. A Silver Caster with Cruets originally owned by William Presley Braxton of "Oak Springs" 1840's. We have a new display Mr. Perry Harvey's World War 1 Jacket (born in King William November 1, 1886).

The Museum has purchased two new books to help people with genealogical research:

Virginia Genealogy Sources and Resources by Carol McGinnis and

A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African American Ancestors by Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom.

Last year I agreed to serve as Chair of the Museum Council for only one year. The only reason I agreed to do this again was because no one else would serve. On July 1 Lloyd Huckstep became the new Council Chair. The Museum is in desperate need of volunteers. Please give a few hours of your time. Call Lloyd or Pat Fitzgerald.

*Carl Fischer*

### **Society Email and Web Hosting**

A computer server failure resulted in the loss of all our membership email addresses and correspondence. Sadly, other clients of Bowling Green Electronics (Bealenet) also lost their data. This led us to evaluate other companies to host our website and email. We have selected River City Web Design in Richmond to provide these services and ensure routine backed ups. Mr. Roden of River City Web developed our website last year, and is a great help to us. The email system is much easier to use, and he has already installed all the names in our distribution list.

### **Harris Books for Sale at Museum**

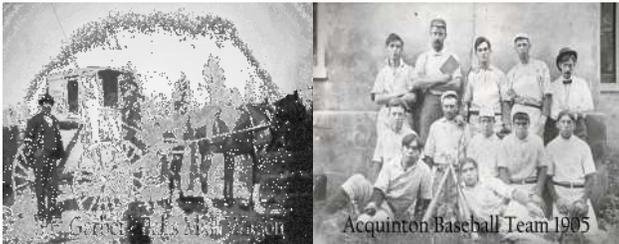
The museum council has ordered ten sets of Dr. Malcolm H. Harris' ("Old New Kent County, Some Account of The Planters, Plantations, and Places in New Kent County", published 1977.) As King William was derived from New Kent, this is the single most thorough history of King William County and its people to date. It details home sites and families in the county since formation. The two volume sets are for sale to the public for \$125 and to our membership for \$115.

We will be actively purchasing more King William related books for sale as well. The website PayPal account established last fall by Bob Hubbard will allow us to sell these items via an on-line store, and will be accessed through our website.

### **Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission**

The Virginia General Assembly's creation of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has required a representative from each county's historical society, preservation group, or governing body. King William County is finally on board and Lloyd Huckstep has volunteered to be the contact person representing King William County. Lloyd and Dr. Alvin Lomax will be attending this year's Signature Conference at Norfolk State University on September 24<sup>th</sup>. John Breedon has also volunteered to help us with projects related to the commission. We have enough information to put together a project detailing the role and lives of our county's women during the war. Please contact us with your ideas for this and other related projects. We need your input. For more information on the Sesquicentennial Commission please visit their website at [www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org)

### **Garber Family Book and Images**



Mrs. Joanna Garber Miller has presented the museum with a copy of her King William County family publication, "The B.F. and Annabelle Garber Family and Their Descendants." Also included is a disc containing images of the Garber family and events at Palls in the early 1900's. Among these fascinating photos are a 1940's photo of Acquinton Church, an image of the 1905 Acquinton baseball team with identified team members, and a truly amazing photo of Mr. B. Frank Garber beside his horse and mail wagon. Mr. Garber was instrumental in the establishment of the first rural mail delivery for Palls. He is buried at Acquinton Church. Mrs. Miller has allowed us permission to use the images on our slideshow at the museum.

We are very grateful to her for this gift and we eagerly await her visit to our museum in

August. She and her family live in upper Maryland. Our society and museum is very dependant upon the contributions of historical data and photos from the families who live or once lived in King William County. Please contact us to share. We can help with scanning and copying and are eager to do so.

### **April Historical Society Meeting**



Herb Collins describes Green Falls Furnishings

Following our April business meeting, the society toured Green Falls in Caroline County. Built in 1711, Green Falls has been in the Collins family for generations. Among the highlights in the home are a bed owned by James Madison, and a collection of presidential china, which Herb acquired from auctions over the years. There are pieces from the administrations of Andrew Jackson, John Q Adams, James K Polk and many other presidents. This home with its incredible antiques is essentially a "museum". Our deep thanks to you for sharing Herb.

### **Calendar of Events**

- Next meeting July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2:00p.m. Courthouse
- Acquinton Church dedication – to be announce

### **Contacts**

Lloyd Huckstep 746-0450 - Herb White 769-2413  
Bob Hubbard 994-2637 - Pat Fitzgerald 769-3919  
Carl Fischer 843-9194 - Ruth Armatage 769-3148  
Emilie Townsend 769-2138

Created by Bob Hubbard