

King William Historical Society Newsletter

June 17, 2009

From our President

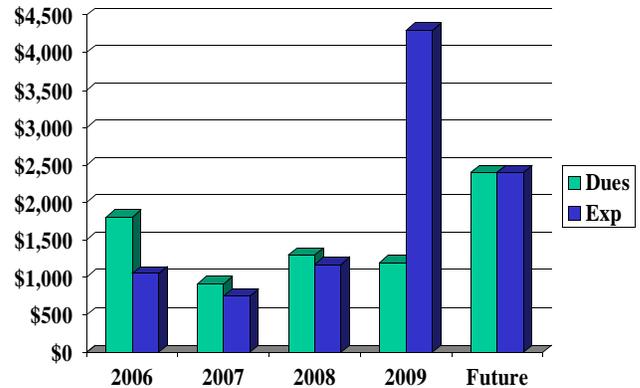
Eleven months have passed since our executive board team began our efforts to move the KWHS forward on several fronts. I want to thank all of you for supporting our efforts, and encourage you to present ideas and join in helping keep our projects moving. We need assistance in executing the creation of new exhibits in the museum. Please contact Carl or any member of the museum committee with information to assist us in developing new ideas and artifacts for our museum.

Several new members have joined us and I'm very pleased with their interest. If we keep on track with our projects, and present them properly to the public, we can expect the membership to continue to grow.

Thanks and best Lloyd

April Meeting Highlights

New Dues Structure for 2009 Approved –
A trend analysis of the society's future income and planned spending was presented. Our 2009 expenses will be higher than the past because of the Acqinton Church restoration and the expansion of our computer capabilities. Future annual spending and income should match at about \$2500 (+major project costs.)



With over 60% of our members being lifetime members, future income from dues was projected to be less than \$500 a year. This would continue to decrease in future years, as more people become lifetime members.

The proposed new dues structure is:
Individual..... \$20 Family
..... \$30
Student \$10 Lifetime
..... \$250

In addition to the change in dues, the board suggested additional income should come from fundraisers and creation of annual Society Donor Levels.

New By-Laws Approved – The board had distributed the new by-laws to society members before the meeting. There were no questions or concerns expressed during the discussion period. The by-laws were approved with a unanimous vote.

New Website Demonstrated - The new King William Historical Society Website was demonstrated at our meeting. Several members, with their knowledge of our county and a commitment of significant time, pulled together the pictures and information that best

represents the history of King William County. The topics are too numerous to even list in this newsletter. We plan to continue adding 19th century photocopies of citizens of the county, also letters and portraits, so please let us know if you have something interesting.

This is a must see for all our members and students – go to www.kingwilliamhistory.com. If you don't have a computer, find a friend or relative who can access it for you.

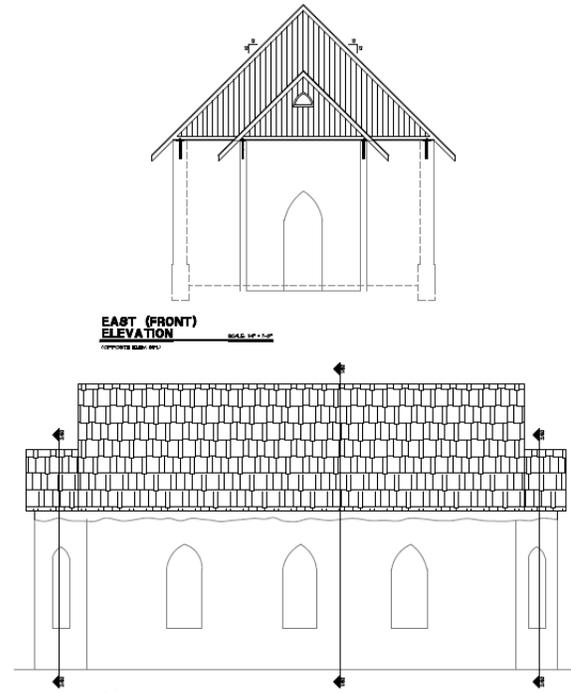
Elsing Green Visit - Edgar and Virginia Lafferty were gracious hosts for our visit to Elsing Green. The main house as well as the two adjacent buildings were open for the tour. The Laffertys were present to discuss the rich history of their home and answer questions. We plan to have this type of activity more often!

New Members

Frank & Madeline Townsend, Tazewell Fitzgerald, John & Patricia Haile, David Lancucki, Reeves & Melodie Pogue, Wesley Pipenger

Acquinton Church Stabilization

Koelzer and Associates, the engineers employed by Mr. Walker, have completed the structural drawings of the church. All supporting structures will be erected within the interior of the church. We now await the removal of the overhead power lines, which will be re-routed underground in front of the church so that the construction phase may begin. The brick will be filled in with period brick, and the walls will be tied together for stabilization.



For more information, contact Lloyd Huckstep

Save the County Jail

In October a subcommittee was formed to assess the feasibility of restoring the Old County Jail on the courthouse grounds. Herb White, Danny Wright, Darrell Kellum and a restoration contractor have met to assess the work necessary to save and to resurrect this building. Their initial consensus was that the building is indeed worth saving, and that this work should be completed in two phases. The first phase should be to replace rafters and roofing and the second phase should be restoration of the interior. Darrell has provided us with an estimate and we are in the process of obtaining additional ones. We expect these repairs to be in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000 and are seeking funding for this project. *For more information, contact Herb White.*

Spring Fest 2009

The Historical Society had a booth set up at the 2009 Spring Fest, on Saturday, May 5th sponsored by the King William Chamber of Commerce. We displayed the website information along with a

table of artifacts loaned to us by Dick and Gene Campbell. The location of our tent was adjacent to the steps leading to the museum and courthouse, so we were able to direct the visitors to the museum. We had 130 people to visit our museum. Many thanks to Herb White and the Chamber of Commerce for affording us such a perfect location to present the King William Historical Society and Museum.

Documenting King William Cemeteries

Reminder: As mentioned in February's newsletter, we have set June 2009 as the deadline for gathering additional information on old King William County Cemeteries. A new book will be published and made available for a nominal fee. We also hope to make this information available on our new website for online viewing.

Aylett Cemetery

The Aylett cemetery is looking pretty good these days. Grass has been cut, sticks removed, and the periwinkle is starting to recover the inside perimeter of the cemetery. We are asking members to please stop by the cemetery and take a minute to transplant a few pieces of periwinkle from the perimeter walls to the interior. If bits of it are planted throughout, the visual effect will be enhanced and the periwinkle will keep down the weeds. Feel free to visit, as the owners of the property, Sandra and Bill Berry, encourage our help in doing what we can to keep the cemetery looking respectable...helps them too.

Mr. Jarvis Taylor, who spearheaded the project to reclaim this important graveyard from nature, has recently presented the Historical Society and Museum his complete manuscript detailing the history, inhabitants, and reclamation of the graveyard. As this was a dedicated KWHS project, for

which funding was solicited and received, we will continue to maintain it. And yes, it would please us to witness a living, breathing Aylett descendent contributing a can of Roundup or its equivalent now and again.

Thank you, Jarvis Taylor, for your tireless gift to the county and for the manuscript. And thank you too, Steve Colvin, Wortley White, and Rebecca Townsend for your help with this project.

Map Project

Mr. Bibb Edwards has created an enhanced map of King William County showing historic homes and old home sites, reservations, churches and mills. He has formulated the map from our Wendenburg/ Garber map, along with information from the Gilmer Map, Dr. Harris' books, and other sources. Bibb will allow us to add more information to create a more comprehensive historical account of the county. From here we will ask those who live in various sections of the county to present more information from their neighborhoods relating to old home sites and graveyards so they may be placed on the map. We want all the old schools and additional church locations documented as well. We will present this map at our October meeting. If you have information on old home site foundations, old wills or deeds detailing family graveyards, please let Lloyd, Bibb, or Steve Colvin know about them.

King William Historical Museum

The Museum Council welcomes ten new members, bringing the total membership to 29. The by-laws allow up to 30 members, so we still have an opening, if you would like to serve. New officers for the Museum Council are: Carl Fischer - Chair, Bill Miles - Vice Chair, Bob Hubbard - Treasurer and Gene Campbell - Secretary, Ruth Childress & Elizabeth McAllister - Executive Committee.

We are planning to develop some new exhibits during the next twelve months. The theme will be societal changes during the past 400 years, with changes in independence, dependence, and interdependence in mind. Three committees will report back on their specific plans in July.

We are in the process of having the Virginia Standards of Learning criteria applied to the museum. This will allow students to tour with these standards applied. We are in need of someone to do library type work (cataloguing, filing, etc.) If you can help, please contact Carl Fischer (843-9194).

Our historic county map (mural) in the museum has been updated with four additional historic sites:

Recently Registered Historic Properties:

- **Roseville Plantation**
- **Sharon Indian School**

Recent Historic Markers:

- **Indian Treaty of 1646**
- **Indians Poisoned at Peace Treaty**



Museum hours are Saturday and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. We can arrange for special tours at other times by contacting Carl Fischer (843-9294) or Pat Fitzgerald (769-3919.) If you would like to help staff the Museum when it is open, please contact them.

Society Bulletin

We are looking for individuals with interesting stories to share with the society in a bulletin to be published in the fall. Steve Colvin has written an article on the old Jail at the courthouse. I'm sure there are many other stories our members could share about people, places or events in King William County's past. If you have something in mind but don't want to write an article, maybe we can write it for you. Contact Bob Hubbard at 994-2637.

Member Notices

- Our next meeting/social is July 11th at Ruth Armatage's home.
- Society membership annual dues are due in July
- Bill Miles (Museum Council Vice Chair) is home recovering from a recent illness; we wish him a speedy recovery.

Created by Bob
Hubbard