

King William County Historical Society Newsletter

September 30, 2010

From Our President

I look forward to serving as your President for the next two years. Lloyd Huckstep and I switched roles, with him taking the Museum Council chairmanship and I accepting the presidency of the Historical Society.

First, let me thank Lloyd for all his hard work over the past two years. In addition to his other accomplishments, the membership was substantially increased.

The society's board has ten members. Many of these people have served for some years in various positions. As we discussed at the last board meeting, we must get more members involved in the activities of the Society and the Museum if we are to produce our future leadership.

One of my goals is to reactivate some of the society's committees. If you are asked to serve on one of these committees please accept the call.

If you have ideas about programs, I am sure our Vice President Adele Smith would be glad to hear from you (Ph. 804-769-1960). Please feel free to call me with your ideas and suggestions.

I hope to see you at our next membership meeting on October 17 and our Acquinton Church event on October 30. *Carl Fischer*

Another Walker Restoration Project!



Thanks to Mr. Carroll Lee Walker another project in King William County is underway. He purchased the old store across from the courthouse and plans to restore the exterior to its original look – including old gas pumps (not operational). The all new

interior will facilitate a couple of offices. He plans to lease the office space. *Bob Hubbard*

New Members

We welcome 7 new members to the society this quarter: Nancy Seiler, John Trimmer, Marcia and Walt Tilghman, Shirley Gemmill, Fred Hodnett, and Kevin Merritt. Welcome to all!

Old County Jail Being Repaired



Repairs to the roof using imitation slate should be completed within two weeks. The original slate is being stored for future repairs to the old courthouse.

Membership Dues

The King William Historical Society's year runs from July 1- June 30. We have 90 lifetime members and 53 members have renewed their membership for 2010.

However, 29 members have not renewed their membership for this year.

If you have not paid your dues for this year, please consider sending it now. We accomplished much this past year and need everyone to continue supporting the society and our projects.

The dues structure is:

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

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

King William Historical Museum

Mrs. Joanna Garber Miller and her uncle Tommy Garber visited our museum on August 26. The museum is very grateful for the gift of her family genealogy publication and photographs. In addition to their visit, we very much enjoyed the many stories of life events in King William.

Last month we received the gift of a collection of King William related maps from many different periods and sources. Mr. Donald Rice of the City of Newport News Waterworks sent them to us on a disc. There are some twenty-four maps and topographical sheets. This disc will be accessioned and loaded onto our computer for research purposes.

We encourage you to please share some of your time with us as docents. Students are welcome to come visit us and to learn about our operational process, and at the same time, log some hours of community service toward their Beta, NHS, or International Baccalaureate programs. Please call us to pitch in....We need you. 804-746-0450
Lloyd Huckstep

July Historical Society Meeting



New Board members were elected at our July 18th meeting. The new board serving from July 2010 – June 2012 is:

President: Carl Fischer, V-President: Adele Smith, Corresponding Sec.: Emilie Townsend, Recording Secretary: Patricia Haile, Treasurer: Bob Hubbard, Parliamentarian: Ruth Armatage, Historian: Steve Colvin, Board Members at large: Alvin Lomax, Guy Townsend, Herb White

Acquinton Church – Restoration Complete



A Brief History

St. John's Parish was formed from Stratton Parish in 1680. The first Chapel of Ease was established about the same time in West Point.

Records indicate the presence of a Chapel of Ease on Acquinton Creek prior to 1701. Between 1732 and 1734 two churches were built in St. John's Parish which exist today - Old St. John's and Acquinton. Both churches were of the same size and had identical additions added in 1755. These churches were Anglican (Episcopal). Acquinton Church is believed to have been erected on the exact site of the Acquinton Chapel, near the headwaters of a branch of Acquinton Creek for which they were named. The existing church building which encompasses the 1755 addition was extended at both ends in the 1850's. The 1734 building was demolished. The church was abandoned by the parish about 1800. It became a free church and was used by Methodists, Baptists, Christians and occasionally Episcopalians. Acquinton was almost in complete ruin after the Civil War. The building was purchased by the Methodists in 1875. It is thought the last service held in the building was about 1917. The King William County Historical Society acquired the building from the Methodists in September 1998. *Carl Fischer*

Harris Books for Sale at Museum

The Museum Council 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. They have sold well, there are only two sets left. The two volume set is 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 in the future accessed through our website.

King William Training School



In 2009, The King William Training School on Rt. 30 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This spring, it acquired a Virginia State Historical Marker. It states: “King William Training School was erected here in 1922-23. The Rosenwald Foundation, which built more than 5,300 black schools in the south, the African American community, and the county, funded the school. Constructed as a Rosenwald Foundation Plan 4A building. It has natural lighting, four classrooms with a fifth added in 1927, and an auditorium, library, and office. The school provided a formal education to grades one through twelve. It served as a high school until 1952 and an elementary school until 1961. The Pamunkey Baptist Association bought the King William Training School in 1962.”

Calendar of Events

- Next meeting: Sun. October 17th, 2:00 p.m.
Courthouse Administration Bldg.
- Acquinton Church Restoration Celebration –
Sat. October 30, 3:00 p.m.
- Executive Board Meeting, Tue. October 19th,
7:00 p.m.

Contacts

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