

King William County Historical Society Newsletter

January, 2011

From Our President

As you think about a New Year's Resolution, I hope it will include giving some volunteer time to the Historical Society. You can help in many ways: serve on a committee, volunteer at the museum, help with a project, etc. We get many requests (mainly on our website) for King William history such as the name or location of a house, or family genealogy. If we had a list of volunteers to answer one or two requests a year, it would help greatly. We also want to begin gathering oral histories. You might help with this project. Individuals will receive training in taking histories. Resolve to help in some way and call me at (804-843-9194).

We had a great turnout of over 100 people at the Acquinton Church celebration. A graphite drawing of the current church was given as an appreciation to the Walker family. The Walkers expressed their gracious thanks for the gift.

We will soon install a farm light on the telephone pole near the church. A committee is being formed to consider short and long-term plans for Acquinton. *Carl Fischer*

Museum Acquires Civil War Diary

The Civil War period diary written by Lucy Pollard Waring covering the years 1860-1870 has been transcribed from original longhand and will be available as a reference research book in the museum. The diary or journal, as it was called, describes the day to day life in the Aylett area as families coped with the trouble and strife of the period. Among those who are part of the story are the Hills, Pollards, Sizars, Warings, Roanes, Gwathmeys, Taylors, Whites, Rylands, Fleets, Walkers, Minors, Robinsons, Lynes and others who lived in the Aylett area. Ms. Waring was a widow who lived primarily at Woodruff, the Robert Hill home. She was a teacher and guiding force for the children of the area during this trying time. Her faith was her true inspiration allowing her to persevere. Born in 1828, she lived in King William throughout her life until 1902 and is buried at Beulah. The diary has 176 pages and has taken the

better part of six month's work to be transcribed and properly edited. The owner loaned it to the museum so that we could have it photographed for the transcription process. Mr. Bibb Edwards and Mr. Jack Neale photographed the complete journal and we were blessed with the transcription skills of our member, Ms. Anne Jackson, who is also the archivist for the Essex Historical Society Museum. Anne transcribed the entire document from longhand and completed this daunting task a few weeks ago. Having presented the edited copy to the owner in Falls Church, we have been allowed to use it in the museum, but it is not for publication at this time. Many thanks to Anne, Jack, and Bibb for giving so much of their time so that we may enjoy this extraordinary look into King William's history. *Lloyd Huckstep*

King William Courthouse Store Restored



Mr. Carroll Lee Walker has completed renovation of the old country store across Route 30 from our courthouse. He plans to lease the building. It seems everywhere we turn in the surrounding area Mr. Walker has saved a piece of history. We can never thank him enough!

Mr. Bates Gatewood built the store about 1928-29. It was the first store in the area with an all glass front and many came to see it. Mr. Gatewood is buried at St. James Presbyterian Church at King William Courthouse. *Emilie Townsend*

An Appreciation

The society is indebted to Gene Campbell for his photographic coverage of local events and his willingness to share his photos with us.

October Historical Society Meeting

The society met on Sunday, Oct. 17 at the county administration building. Following a short business meeting Adele Smith gave a brief history of Seven Springs, the historic county home built in the early 1700's, as well as a description of its unique architectural features. Following adjournment attendees were invited to visit Seven Springs for an open house. The home is presently owned by Colonial Williamsburg and is currently for sale. We wish to thank Colonial Williamsburg and their real estate agent for allowing us to visit this remarkable piece of King William County history. *Adele Smith*

Health and Fitness Event



Our society helped sponsor the Cool Springs Primary School Turkey Trot "run/walk" on Sat., Nov. 20th. The school PTA held the event to provide community awareness on choosing a healthy lifestyle. The event featured a ½ mile Kids Turkey Drum run. Eighty-five kids participated. The 5k "run/walk" had 150 participants. In addition there was a mascot's race. While they were promoting fitness, they raised \$1300 for other health & fitness initiatives of the school's PTA.

We were recognized as a senior sponsor for contributing \$100 and also providing volunteers to man the turnaround station at Acquinton Church. The church was open for tours. Gene

Campbell provided pictures for the event and several were published in our local newspapers. *Bob Hubbard*

Acquinton Church Celebration



The Restoration Team with Lloyd Huckstep

The "resurrection" of Acquinton Church celebrated on October 30th was well attended. It is said to be the first gathering at the church since the early 1920's. In addition to our membership, many of the attendees were from the neighborhood, the Richmond area, Bowling Green, Port Royal and other areas. There were also family members whose ancestors are buried in the churchyard. One purpose of the event was to give recognition to the fine craftsmen who performed the work. In the photograph from left to right are: Joe Johnson-general manager for Mr. Walker, Terry Lindsey-project manager and designer, Lloyd, Robert Lampkin-carpentry and ceiling, Jerold Gammon-concrete flooring, Fred Robinson-painting and finishes, Cary Oakley-roofing and metals, and Cameron Henshaw-granddaughter of Terry Lindsey who provided moral support and tool retrieval for Terry. Not shown is the brick mason crew led by Charles Harris, who did an amazing job recreating the walls with period brick from the ruins of Marlmont, the 19th century home of the Waring family of Rumford. Mr. Darrell Kellum who currently owns the tract donated the bricks from the structure for use at the church. Some 7,500 bricks were reclaimed and used to shore up the walls of the church. The Walker family and this magnificent crew of craftsmen have truly brought this historic church to life once again. We will be using Acquinton Church as a venue for community events, as a place for quiet reflection, and to honor those buried in the churchyard.

New Members

We welcomed eleven new members since our last newsletter. They are: McGuire and Hylah Boyd, Donald and Roberta Prentice, Richard and Mary Susan Schreck, George Henley, Dr. Jack Neale, Frances McCauley, Robert and Bettie Grose, and Barbara Relyea. *Bob Hubbard*

Deceased Member

One of our lifetime members, Anne Clements, of Manquin, VA passed away recently.

Finance and Membership

This fiscal year, we have exceeded our budget forecast for membership dues and contributions. Our revenue this year is about \$2,000. Our expenses are now targeted to be approximately \$500 less than we budgeted. We had planned to conduct a fund raising campaign in 2010 for several future projects but it now appears this will not take place until 2011. Our membership has increased this year by 10% to 174. Unfortunately 12 people did not renew their memberships this year but we gained 33 new members. We are gratified that in the past two years our membership has increased by 30%. *Bob Hubbard*

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.

Postage

We have been able to reduce our mailing costs considerably by sending newsletter and meeting notices by email. If you have received your newsletter by postal service and also have email capability, please notify our corresponding secretary, Emilie Townsend at 804-769-2138.

If you do not have internet capability, you will continue to receive society correspondence by postal service.

Membership Dues

Please note that The King William Historical Society's year runs from July 1- June 30. If you have not paid your dues for this year, please consider sending it now. We've accomplished a lot in the 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. 23089

Contacts

Carl Fischer 843-9194 - Adele Smith 769-1960
Lloyd Huckstep 746-0450 - Bob Hubbard 994-2637 -
Emilie Townsend 769-2138

Created by Emilie Townsend