

King William Historical Society Newsletter

April 2011

From Our President

We've finally made it to spring. The museum is open again. Please stop by to see the three new exhibits. Better yet pick up the telephone and call Pat Fitzgerald (804-769-3919) and tell her you want to assist in staffing the museum on weekends.

As we planned, an oral history program will start this spring. It is our hope to capture important King William history that is only in the mind and memory of our residents. This is another opportunity for you to become involved. We will have a short training program. If you would like to participate or if you know of a person who should be interviewed, please call me (804 843-9194, or email - flyfischn@aol.com).

I hope you will join us for the May 1 meeting and visit to Wyoming. This is a house that most of our members have not seen. *Carl R. Fischer*

King William Historical Museum: New Exhibits

We have three new exhibits at the Museum, which I worked on over the winter. Bob Hubbard helped me with the computer image preparations.

The first one includes a 5' x 5' map on the Native American villages in the York River Basin which was produced by the National Park Service. There is also a marsh exhibit which shows the abundant sources of food available. A recording tells the story of the clash of cultures resulting from the English settlement and the eventual almost complete demise of the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Indians.

The second exhibit relates to the introduction of African slaves into King William County. Numerous illustrations on a TV screen show the lives and contributions of these people. A recording discusses the fact that African slaves were a major reason for the success of the Virginia colony and the tobacco industry.

The third exhibit traces the evolution of cooking. A display of over twenty cooking implements used in the past is on display. These items are on loan from the Archeological Society of Virginia's Kittiewan Plantation. One item is a mystery; we do not know for what it was used. Stop by the museum and help us identify this item. *Carl R. Fischer*



From the evolution of cooking exhibit

January Meeting

The membership of the King William County Historical Society met at the County Administration Building on January 30, 2011 at 2:30 pm. After a brief business meeting, Mr. Robert Gray, acting chief of the Pamunkey Tribe, gave the assembled members a synopsis of the tribe's efforts to gain national recognition. It is a process that began many years ago, has involved various attorneys and college professors from other states, has amassed reams of documentation, and has finally gone to Washington to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is unknown how long the petition will take to be granted. Mr. Gray is proud of the work and documentation and hopes that once the tribe has been able to read through and organize it, their research will be available either for publication or as historical archives for others to use. Those in attendance were delighted with his program and socialized with him at a small reception afterwards. *Adele Smith*

Acquinton Church Update

Lloyd Huckstepp has obtained the required materials for the service drop on the power pole at the church. He has approval to use the devices from the county electrical inspector. Upon completing the attachment of the service cable, meter base, panel-board, and connectivity, Rappahannock Electric will install the light. It will be a 200 amp service, padlocked with a weatherproof ground fault receptacle attached to it for temporary power needs. We're moving ahead.

Emilie Townsend

KWHS Intern

It has been a great pleasure to have Josh Dougherty working with us this semester. Josh is a King William resident who is a senior at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is serving as an intern under their program designed to give students meaningful job experience through work on projects of a historical nature with approved museums and agencies. He has been of great help in designing our oral history training program. *Carl R. Fischer*

Membership Dues

Please note that The King William Historical Society's year runs from July 1- June 30. This means dues will be due in just a couple of months. We continue to identify projects and needs for preservation in King William County and need your support.

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

New Members

We welcomed eight new members since the beginning of the year. They are: David Ross, Pemmerly and John Peterman, Becki Jones, Donald

O'Connor, Trenton Funkhouser and Ina and Robert Krapp (Reno, Nevada) *Bob Hubbard*

Finance and Membership

There was little financial activity in the first quarter of 2011. The society has approximately \$28,600 in savings and checking accounts, \$1000 in the wall account and \$7,000 in the museum operational account. While these funds are adequate for the short term, we may soon need to draw funds from our savings to meet normal expenses. With the majority of our members having "lifetime" memberships and interest rates being so low, we may have difficulty meeting our annual expenses. We will be looking at fundraising ideas later this year. We welcome suggestions and your thoughts on how to do this. The society membership continues to grow. We currently have 178 active members. *Bob Hubbard*

Rare West Point Newspapers from late 19th century to early 20th century

Over the last year Jack Neale and Bibb Edwards set out to compile an inventory of all existing West Point newspapers from the 1880's forward. Those surviving copies were in the possession and care of the special collections at the Swem Library at William and Mary College. Jack and Bibb were allowed to photograph them all last summer. They worked to clean and enhance the images and presented them to the college. W&M has now posted them on line for public use and research. They now may be found at the Swem Library website by typing in West Point as a search term. Bibb and Jack have presented a DVD copy of these to our museum for research. Visitors are welcome to use these collections. Our many thanks go out to them for their tireless efforts to enhance the collective knowledge of our local history. *Lloyd Huckstep*

Historical Society Notecards For Sale

Packages of 10 notecards with very attractive graphite drawings of Acquinton Church and King William County Courthouse (5 each) by Michael

Martin, a well known local artist, are now available. The cost is \$7.00/pkg. at the museum or \$8.00 by mail. They will also be available at the May 1 meeting and will make wonderful gifts.



Harris Books for Sale at Museum

The Museum Council ordered more 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. 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.

Upcoming Events

The Middle Peninsula Garden Club's tour of Virginia's Historic Garden Week in our area will be in Essex County on April 22. This is primarily a walking tour with one house exception. Tickets can be bought the day of the tour at St. Margaret's Hall and Mahockney for \$30 the day of the tour but \$25, if ordered by April 15 from Randy Brown, Ticket Chm. 804-443-2033.

Pamunkey Neck Project

The Pamunkey Neck Project started 20 years ago when my sister and I undertook the search for our King William ancestor, "Clergyman" Edwards mentioned in Peyton Neale Clarke's Old King William Homes and Families. As the project evolved she concentrated on genealogy; I became the historian in order to better place our research in context.

It soon became evident that the small amount of primary materials - mainly a result of the 1885 fire at the courthouse - and the relatively small number of books and articles written about the county - were going to make this search a greater challenge than we thought. Nonetheless we continued collecting information about our ancestors and their neighbors in King William. What started as a simple research question has now evolved into an attempt to share what we have learned about our family, King William County, and the process of "doing history." Our goal is the publication - in one format or another - of a history of King William from the days when it was known as Pamunkey Neck until 1952 when the country celebrated its 250th anniversary. We have learned good histories are cooperative efforts. If any of you would like to help, have suggestions, or information to share, we would love to talk with you. I have established a website: (<http://pamunkeyneck.blogspot.com>) to make it easier to share the status of current research, solicit answers to questions, and receive advice. I can be contacted at bibbedwards@mac.com. *Bibb Edwards*