

King William County Historical Society Newsletter

July, 2011

From Our President

By the time you receive this newsletter we will probably have held our first training meeting on taking ORAL HISTORIES. There will be other training opportunities in the future, so keep in mind potential individuals to interview.

Our July 17 meeting will be a SUMMER PICNIC. (See notice elsewhere in the newsletter). This is a great opportunity to get to know fellow members of the Society. I hope you will attend.

The COUNTY JAIL is in need of major renovations to make it usable. We have been working with the County and Supervisor Danny Wright. Mr. Wright has taken a special interest in this project. He has obtained some very favorable estimates for required work. As previously noted, the County has agreed to give space in the jail to the Society for meeting and storage. Once final estimates are obtained, we will start the process of fund raising. I plan to write a grant to obtain some of the funds.

We continue to grow and receive numerous requests for information via our website. This is your Society, so let us know your thoughts and ideas. *Carl Fischer*

King William County Historical Museum

All of our lives are busy and we understand commitments, but we are in desperate need of volunteers to man the museum on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 pm, and by appointment at other times. If any of you could give one afternoon a month or one once in awhile it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Pat Fitzgerald to volunteer...804-769-3919. *Emilie Townsend*

May Meeting Report

The King William County Historical Society met at 3:00 on May 1, 2011 at the County Administration Building. After a brief business meeting conducted by president, Carl Fischer, a short overview of Wyoming, a historic house on the Pamunkey River was given. Special notice was given to the uniqueness of its size and that Rooney Lee, son of Robert E. Lee, was held captive there one night and tended by the Widow Nelson and her daughters. The members then adjourned and caravanned to Wyoming. They were met there by Mrs. Dorothy Atkinson who was dressed as one of Mrs. Nelson's daughters. She graciously showed us her front entrance hall and living room. The members were then allowed to tour her gardens and enjoyed an afternoon visiting under the shade of the magnificent old trees surrounding the home. We appreciate Mrs. Atkinson opening Wyoming for the members of the society. In addition, she has authored two books of regional historic interest. To order:

Heritage Books Order Form
100 Railroad Ave. Suite 104
Westminster, MD. 21157-4826

A0744HB - King William County in the Civil War
\$27.00

A4131HB - Yellow Tavern and Beyond from Family
Letters and Journals \$43.00

Adele Smith

Death

Lifetime Member, Meade Jones, husband of Marion R. Jones, passed away in April. He spearheaded much of the restoration at Old St. John's Church as President of its Association. He will be missed.

Annual Membership Dues

Please note that The King William Historical Society's year runs from July 1- June 30. This means it's time to pay your dues. 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

Finance and Membership

The King William County Historical Society's 2011 fiscal year ends June 30th. We have operated within the planned budget for this timeframe. Our expenditures for the Museum and Society have been normal operating expenses, with the exception of providing a security light and power outlet for Acquinton Church (\$920). The new exhibits at the Museum were completed under the \$700 budget.

While our museum funds are adequate for the short term, we may soon need to draw funds from our savings to meet normal expenses. In the society, the majority of our members have "lifetime" memberships. With interest rates being so low, we may have difficulty meeting our annual expenses here also. We will be looking at fundraising ideas later this year. We welcome suggestions and your thoughts on how to do this. *Bob Hubbard*

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. The cost for mailing is an additional \$5.00. 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 online store, and in the future accessed through our website.

Historical Requests

We continue to grow and receive numerous requests for information via our website. Below is a list of recent requests. This is your society so let us know if you have information that would aide us in providing meaningful responses to requests.

1. Ancestor graduated from Rumford Academy
 2. Water course for Coles and Great Creek which both enter the Mattaponi River
 3. Birth and Marriage Certificates for Charles Henry Lee born in KW in 1817
 4. Marriage certificate for Charles Carter to Ann Butler Moore 1770
 5. Artifacts found in McCauley Park...use of property, previous owners
 6. Chapman Price Sneed of "Airwell," Etna Mills community, Survey done about 1942
 7. "Edgehill" cemetery, Fox and Cocke family
 8. "Retreat" cemetery, Fox family
- Emilie Townsend*

KWHS Intern

Our intern, Josh Daugherty, graduated from VCU in May. We were very pleased with his work and he became one of us. We wish him well in his endeavors after graduation, and welcome his participation in the society.

Wedding at Acquinton Church



Jason and Ashley Roberson

The first wedding held at Acquinton Church in nearly a century took place on May 28. Mr. Jason Roberson and Miss Ashley Royster were married at 2 p.m. with friends and family in attendance. This marks the first event at the restored church since the dedication ceremony last October.

Flower arrangements were donated to the Historical Society for the event by Black Creek Flowers and Sweets of Mechanicsville. Mr. Herb White and the KWHS arranged for Rappahannock Electric Co-op to install a security light adjacent to the building. Mr. Darrell Kellum installed a power connection for temporary electrical power to be used at the church. The Historical Society appreciates his donation of time and materials as well as his donation of the brick used by Mr. Carroll Lee Walker's craftsmen to restore the church.

The King William Historical Society is interested in seeing Acquinton Church used for various community events. Please contact Carl Fischer, President, or Lloyd Huckstep for information regarding the use of the building. They can be reached online at KWHS@kingwilliamhistory.org. We thank Mr. Kellum and Black Creek Flowers for

their help. Our blessings go out to the Robersons on their new life together. *Lloyd Huckstep*

July Meeting – Summer Picnic

The summer meeting of the society will be on Sunday, July 17 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the home of Carl and Lynn Fischer. Fried chicken will be provided by the historical society and the Fischers will provide lemonade, ice tea, and water. Those attending are asked to provide a side dish or dessert to share and any other preference of drinks. The Fischer's address is 1685 Sweet Hall Road on the Pamunkey River. Hope to see you there.

Directions: Sweet Hall Road is also Route 634. It is off Route 30---7.2 miles from the light in West Point (turn left) and 17 plus miles from Route 360 (turn right). Go until you see the gate and river. Drive right in front of the house you see. Do not turn right on Waterville Cove Road.

Museum Notes

Ms. Louise Schroeder recently donated to the Society and Museum a copy of two 19th century diaries written by Dr. Junius Littlepage and his family. One of them covers the time period 1848 to 1854, and the other covers 1864-1867. These provide a wonderful look at life in the King William courthouse area during these times. The museum is actively seeking copies of family diaries to be used as research tools.

We also received a visit from Dr. Krystalyn Shefveld from the University of Southern Indiana. She is a history professor researching the Colonial South, with emphasis on Anglo-Indian interaction in Colonial Virginia. She will soon be researching such records in the UK, and we are glad to make her acquaintance and share information.

There will be a coffee and refreshment table set up permanently in the research room at the museum for the use of docents and guests. Please visit when you can. *Lloyd Huckstep*