

# King William County Historical Society Newsletter

July 2014

## **From Our President**

When our current bylaws were drafted several years ago, I felt there should be a provision that limited the number of terms officers could serve. Accordingly, I have served two terms as President and my time now has expired. I sincerely appreciated the opportunity to serve the past four years.

The nominating committee's recommendations for our new Board members are included in this newsletter in the minutes. Nominations may also be made from the floor provided the consent of the candidate has been obtained before his/her name has been placed in nomination.

A very important item at our upcoming meeting is decision about the The Christadelphia Church at Lanesville. It has been offered to the society. At our July meeting you will be asked to vote regarding our acceptance of the Christadelphia Church building. Prior to the meeting, the church will be open from 2:30 until 3:00 for you to visit. The Board at its June meeting voted unanimously to recommend that the Society accept the building.

I hope you will be able to join us in July for our annual picnic at the King William Administration Building.

*Carl R. Fischer  
President*

## **New Sign at Acquinton Church**

Recently a beautiful double-sided bronze sign was donated and erected by one of our members to mark the Acquinton Church. The message on the sign says:

Erected 1734  
Acquinton Church  
Anglican Parish Church  
Property of  
King William County  
Historical Society  
Restored by a member in 2010  
In honor of  
Willaim Walker Acree Mann



## **KWCHS Membership Meeting**

The King William County Historical Society met on May 4, 2014 at the Lanesville Christadelphia Church. A brief business meeting included a discussion of the KWCHS acquiring the church which resulted in the decision to table the vote until the July annual business meeting where more members would be present. It was suggested that the church be open prior to our July meeting for the members who had not attended the May meeting to get a chance to see the facility and the restoration that has been done.

Following the business meeting, Adele Smith gave a brief history of the Christadelphian denomination and a brief history of the Lanesville church. Several family members who had attended the church were on hand to share their memories. The meeting was adjourned at the church but the

members were encouraged to go to Lester Manor which had been opened for our enjoyment. Refreshments were served while we toured the village. The weather was perfect and we all had a grand time.

### **The Littlepage Journal – Online**

Last month, KWCHS member Bibb Edwards sent an email to our members about a project he has been researching. He is now publishing in blog form the daily journal of Caroline Baker Ellett Littlepage, exactly 150 years later. The blog began on June 1, 2014 and started with the entry of June 1, 1864.

This journal gives us all a rare window into a place we all care about, during a most interesting time. Mr. Edwards plans to continue the daily post for the next 3 years, since Caroline's last post was June of 1867. He has gone to great lengths to footnote her daily entries with information identifying people and places and often he explains the significance of the entry.

Mr. Edwards invites you to visit the website and share this blog with others. The website is [thelittlepagejournal.com](http://thelittlepagejournal.com). As he states in his email:

*"take a look around. If you like it, come back often. The more you know, the better the story lines get. You might even read about one of your relatives. Pass the URL (address) on to friends who might be interested.*

*I consider this project a multi-year work-in-progress. It is far from finished. While I have learned much about my distant cousins, the Littlepages, and King William County in those days, there is much I don't know, much I don't even know that I don't know. I might have even made a mistake or two. So I expect the site to change, to grow, probably in ways I cannot predict. Your participation is invited."*

### **Treasurer's Report**

Welcome to the following new Members:

1. Beverly Pflugrath  
Richmond, VA - (Life Member)

2. Terence Jones  
Hamden, CT - (Life Member)

3. Robert & Marilou Fox  
Weems, VA

Thanks to Museum Director Rebecca Townsend for steering these new members our way.

We have thirty-five (35) members who have not paid their dues for the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 Fiscal Year. Keep in mind that the By-Laws state that "All memberships, except life memberships, shall expire one year after the payment of annual dues." We certainly don't want to lose any members, so please check your records to be sure your dues are up to date. If you are unsure about your status, contact us [kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org](mailto:kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org) and we will let you know.

### **Minutes from the Membership Meeting**

The regular membership meeting of the King William County Historical Society was called to order by President Carl Fischer at 2:30 pm on May 4, 2014 at the Christadelphia Church, in Lanesville, King William County, Va. The agenda was handed out to the members as well as the minutes.

#### **Minutes of January 19, 2014:**

The minutes of the January 19, 2014 regular membership meeting was previously distributed in the newsletter. A motion was made by Adele Smith to approve and seconded by Ron Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Ron Parker gave out the treasurer's report. He reported that the current balance as of May 4<sup>th</sup> was \$148,829.78. The account totals were as follows: Checking \$23,774.86, Museum Savings \$23,969.21 and the Wells Fargo Investment account was at \$101,085.71. A motion was made by Adele Smith to approve and second by Marie

Jennings. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Museum Report**

Mr. Fischer gave the museum report in the absence of Rebecca Townsend. The museum is open today and they still are looking for volunteers. Emilie Townsend asked for help.

### **Nominating Committee**

Emilie Townsend gave a report for the Nominating Committee. Herb White and Molly Gregory are also on the committee but were not at this meeting. Emilie reported the new officers to be nominated and voted on at the July Meeting were:

Robert Moran, Sally Pearson, and Fran Freimarck, Members-at-large  
Ronald Parker, Treasurer  
Susan Whit, Recording Secretary  
Audrey Mitchell, Corresponding Secretary  
David Brown, President  
No Vice President at this time.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **Cost Share Program**

Carl Fischer reported that it was now completed and we are awaiting materials and documents of the properties. The program covered over 120 different structures.

#### **Aquinton Church Sign**

Emilie Townsend reported on the sign at the church. It has been ordered and should be in soon. The sign is 24" square sign which is cast bronze and was donated by Mr. Walker.

### **Presentation – Christadelphian Church**

Carl asked for any new business and with none the program moved on. Adele Smith gave a history of the Christadelphian Church as well as family members, Overton Edwards, Charles Edwards, and Martha Hart, who had attended the Church when it was in full operation. The Church, built around 1864, is said to be oldest and the only

Christadelphian church built from the ground up in the world. It is said to have been built by Lemuel Edwards before the Civil War after breaking away from Jerusalem Church. During this time, in order to register for the war you were required to put down your place of worship. The church closed in 1964 100 years later as members diminished. The church has been restored and the inside is almost the same as when the family members attended it. Some of the family still lives on the same property as Lemuel Edwards. Mr. Fisher read to the members a letter from Mr. Walker to the Society. He told the members of the proposed acquisition of the property from Mr. Walker to the King William Historical Society. The property would be transferred to the Society along with a \$25,000 endowment for the upkeep and a sign similar to the Acquinton sign. No taxes would be due on the ownership of this building. The building has no electric or plumbing. Much discussion was made on the pro and cons and a motion was made by Adele Smith to postpone the vote until the July membership meeting when everyone would have a chance to vote. The motion was then approved.

After we adjourned the meeting at the church all the members were invited to the Village at Lester Manor which has been built to represent the village that once stood there complete with a general store, post office, and inn. A detail booklet was given out to us before leaving. Delicious refreshments were supplied by Mrs. Fischer at the Lester Manor General Store.

Respectfully submitted

Marie W. Jennings

Recording Secretary