

# King William County Historical Society Newsletter

December 2014

## From Our President

Happy Holidays and welcome to the close of a wonderful year. I am frequently reminded of how special our organization is and how wonderful the people are who work to make our Society and Museum successful.

At our recent membership meeting, an engaged group of attendees enjoyed a brilliant presentation from Kate Sullivan, conservator on the Monitor Project at the Mariner's Museum. Because of her talk, we all had a better appreciation for this important event in American history, and the need to conserve and share with the public the physical fabric of our shared heritage. We also learned that these past events, peoples, and even ships are connected with King William County.

This was the first of several exciting meetings we have scheduled, with our upcoming meeting (Sunday, January 18th, 2:30-4) highlighting the efforts of Bibb Edwards and others who have resurrected the "burned" records of King William County for all of our benefit (stay tuned for more on that).

During this past year, excitement continued with our museum's accomplishments, including a brilliant new exhibit on the Virginia Indian artifact collection donated by Mr. Herbert Ridgeway Collins. Rebecca Townsend and her intrepid crew of volunteers assembled what is the newest contribution to an already highly regarded museum, making it all the more worthwhile to visit.

Our recent board meeting brought particular joy to my heart. We met at the Old Jail, enjoyed a meal together, and utilized this wonderfully restored space at the heart of our county's historic centerpiece: the oldest continuously active courthouse in the

country. That evening we discussed the year ahead, including a potential joint meeting with the King and Queen County Historical Society, and a likely venue that would truly bring together our two counties.

Matching the success of 2014 will surely take as much, if not more, effort by our board and our members, but I know we are up to the challenge. Our acceptance of the generous donation of the Lanesville Christadelphian Church from Mr. Walker, our upgrade of computer software and a new computer for visiting researchers to be housed at the Old Jail as well as several other ventures will keep us all busy in the coming year. Maintaining our properties and keeping the museum open for the public will require more volunteers. We need your help to succeed in these areas. As you look at your calendar for the year to come, plan to attend our meetings, visit the museum with friends in tow, and consider getting involved with one of our many exciting projects. You won't be disappointed!

*Dr. David A. Brown,*  
President

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## **Treasurer's Report**

As we approach the end of 2014, there are still a few members who have not paid dues for the year. As we have mentioned before, your membership expires one year from the date of your last dues payment. Please check your records to see when you made your last payment. You can email us at [kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org](mailto:kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org), or call 804-769-9619 and we will check for you. Thanks and Happy Holidays.

*Ron Parker*

## **Museum News**

Recently, council members entertained museum patrons with a buffet dinner at Queenfield. Over fifty "Friends of the Museum" sampled southern cuisine, shared ideas, and celebrated the successes of the museum.

The King William Historical Museum Council is scheduled to meet quarterly: Jan. 11, Apr. 12, July 12, Oct. 11, 2015 per Council Bylaws.

New members will be welcomed to an "Orientation TEA" at the January council meeting. At that time, "experienced members" will adopt "new members." There will be a short business meeting followed by a museum and facility tour and a "TEA" session where participants will:

**T**rade ideas  
**E**njoy each other's company, and  
**A**nswer questions.....In a relaxed atmosphere.

Friends are welcome to serve in various capacities: data entry, exhibit/collection and development, fund-raising, publicity, gardening, hosting/docents, as well as housekeeping.

For more information, please call the museum at 804-769-9619 or Rebecca Townsend, Council Chair at 804-338-5738.

## **Minutes of the November 2, 2014 Membership Meeting**

King William County Historical Society  
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, November 2, 2014

The regular meeting of the King William Historical Society was called to order at 2:30pm on November 2, 2014 at the County Administration Building. There were 10 members present, and 2 guests. Minutes

of the July 20, 2014 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report was submitted and approved. Balances in the accounts were as follows: Checking \$22,304, Museum Savings \$23,631, Investment \$104,790.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The property transfer of the Christadelphian Church was postponed until 2015, more information will be available after the first of the New Year. A memorial gift of \$500 was given to KWHS by Ruth Armitage's sister. The Board will consider ideas on how to use this gift at their next meeting.

An interesting program on the Conservation of the USS Monitor was presented by Kate Sullivan, who is a Conservator at the Mariners Museum in Newport News. The USS Monitor was the first ironclad built by the U.S. Government during the Civil War. After operations in Hampton Rhodes in the Spring and Summer of 1862, the USS Monitor sank off Cape Hatteras in December of that year. Many artifacts, including the ship's turret, along with other documents have been found and are on exhibit at the SS Monitor Center at the Mariners Museum.

The meeting was adjourned, and everyone was invited to the Historical Society Museum for refreshments.