

King William County Historical Society Newsletter

June 2016

From Our President

We are blessed with a strong sense of community in King William County. We share an interest in our history, our buildings, and our artifacts. And our interests often extend beyond our county's borders. Many of you are members not only of this society, but of some of our neighboring county's historical societies. They, too, are blessed with significant history that interests us and adds to the wonderful quality of life that we enjoy each day. It is with that in mind - that sense of community - that we are hosting the first joint meeting of the King & Queen, West Point, and King William County historical societies. Highlighted later in this newsletter, you will find a wonderful program hosted by Historic St. John's Church that will allow for our organizations to enjoy each other's company and share in our love of history.

Our sense of community extends inward, as well. With the support of Rappahannock Community College and their Institute for Life Long Learning, the King William County Historical Society is supporting a three day class on King William County history. Starting at the King William County Courthouse, and our museum and offices/research center, the course will introduce participants to some of our remarkable buildings and sites, including historic churches, such as Historic St. John's, Acquinton Church, and the Lanesville Christadelphian Church, and several historic homes, too. These three two-hour classes will be held in late October/early November and information on signing up is also listed in the pages that follow.

Our community is also strong - and was made stronger with the recent recognition by the federal government of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe. This historic moment in our county's history marks the first federally acknowledged tribe within Virginia, and recognizes the cultural, historic, and contemporary significance of these people we count among our citizens. Our recent meeting at the Pamunkey Reservation introduced us to some of their history, through the marvelous lecture by Ashley Atkins (director of the museum) and the wonderful exhibits throughout their cultural center. We are lucky to have several historic museums in the county look forward to continued investment and collaboration in preserving and sharing our region's history with our community. Please consider reaching out to our own museum, at the King William County Courthouse, and get involved. The museum committee is looking for passionate history lovers and your efforts would not only help us keep our museum open and enjoyable by tourists to the county, but a resource for our own community. So get involved and help make a difference!

Dr. David A. Brown
President

Upcoming Historical Societies Meeting in October

The King & Queen County and West Point Historical Societies will join us at the historic Old St. John's Church on October 17th at 2:30 in the afternoon. This promises to be a great opportunity for the historical societies to get together and share their interest of history in the region. Guest Speaker Robert Teagle, Education Director & Curator of the Historic Christ Church of Weems, will be giving an educational presentation titled "Church and State in Colonial and Revolutionary Virginia".

Following this presentation, there will be a concert at the church at 4:00 PM. Everyone is invited to stay for the concert, which is free but donations are encouraged.

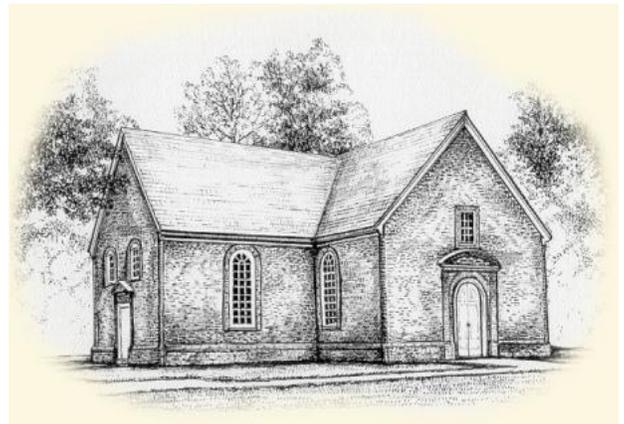


Image source: <http://oldstjohns.org>

Treasurer's Notes

Just a reminder that your Annual Membership expires twelve(12) months after your last dues payment, so if you haven't paid in the past year, please send in your dues to remain in good standing.

The dues structure is:

Individual.....	\$20
Family	\$30
Student	\$10
Lifetime	\$250

Mail to: King William Historical Society
PO Box 233
King William, Va. 23086

We welcome and thank our newest members:

Rose & Kenneth Bloomfield - King William
Beverly Winston - Arlington
Frank & Laura Brooks - King William
Vanessa & Jesse Crews - Orinda, CA
Sarah & Frank Barham - Powhatan
Jessica & Grant Coffee – Kenbridge

Caroline's Journal

Exciting news! Two more of Caroline Littlepage's journals have been located. Here is what Bibb Edwards recently posted in early June about what he "discovered."

"Perhaps discovered is not the right word. Volumes #1 and 2 (1855-1858) were donated the Library of Virginia in 2012. Jenny Littlepage Wilkinson, who has been of enormous behind-the-curtain support as this website has moved along, was simply googling Caroline's name one evening and a four year-old Quarterly Accession Report of the Library's popped up. It contained details of the donation. A quick trip to the LOV's online catalog confirmed they were sitting there patiently waiting on us.

A Maryland county genealogical society received the two volumes some years ago. Deciding they belonged in Virginia, they contacted the LOV which was happy to accept them. With all of the research I have done on the Littlepages in that building since then, one might have thought I would have noticed. I hope you are laughing with me."

Bibb reports that the journals are in great condition and cover her life in the 1850's. Still looking for the 5 missing journals, but now have over six years of Caroline's journal entries, about 300,000 words.



Image of a sketch Woodbury, Caroline's home:
<http://thelittlepagejournal.com/woodbury>

If you are not following *Caroline's Journal* on the web, check out the daily journal entries of a woman living in King William County. Each entry is 150 years ago to the day describing her daily life. You can find these daily entries, or "go back in time" and read the past two years entries at *Caroline's Journal*
<http://thelittlepagejournal.com>

Rappahannock Institute of Lifelong Learning to offer program on King William County History

"The Fascinating History of King William County: Churches, Historic Homes, and the Oldest Continuously Active Courthouse in Virginia." will be offered this fall with our very own Dr. David Brown and his coworker Thane Harpole leading this course. The dates for this course will be October 26th, and November 2nd and 9th of this coming fall.

The history of King William County is preserved in its remarkable religious, political, and domestic buildings, spanning the early 18th century through the early 20th century. These landmarks are touchstones for the community, connecting all of us to the past through the historic fabric and surrounding landscape. This course features the history of King William County through several of its historic churches, including St. Johns, Acquinton, and the Lanesville Christadelphian Church, and historic houses, as well as the county's iconic political center: the oldest continuously active courthouse in Virginia.

For more information regarding this course and the other RILL offerings from history to science and the arts, check out the Rappahannock Community College webpage for RILL (Rappahannock Institute of Lifelong Learning)

<https://www.rappahannock.edu/foundation/lifelong-learning>.

Minutes of the King William County Historical Society Membership Meeting

Sunday, April 17, 2016

The Membership Meeting of the King William Historical Society was called to order by President David Brown at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at the Pamunkey Indian Museum and Cultural Center on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation. Forty three members and guests were present.

The Minutes of the October 18, 2015 Membership Meeting were approved as submitted.

The Treasurer's Report shows the following balances as of April 17, 2016:

Checking	\$ 16,070.08
Museum Savings	\$ 3,779.71
Museum Savings CD	\$ 20,028.49
Church Maintenance	\$ 43,928.51
Wells Fargo Museum Fund	\$108,811.25
Total	\$192,618.04

Unfinished Business Reports:

President Brown reported that the Board is creating a plan for long term use of Acquinton and Lanesville Christadelphian Churches. At Acquinton Church, we are investigating installing windows to make it possible to install wooden floors. At Lanesville Christadelphian Church, we are receiving bids for replacing siding and repairing the shutters. We are also planning to install power and heating, cooling and ventilation to make the building suitable as a meeting place for the Society. The cost for all planned improvements, including nomination of both properties to the state and federal registers of historic places, is estimated to be between \$25,000 and \$35,000.

The Society plans a joint meeting with the King and Queen County Historical Society and will invite the West Point Historical Society to join us. The proposed meeting site is Old Saint John's Church with a program about church history.

New Business:

President Brown appointed a Nominating Committee. They are Ruth Childress, Gene Campbell and Robbie Moran. The Committee will propose a slate of officers for the Society for election at the June 2016 Membership Meeting.

President Brown reported the Society has made a donation to McKendree Church Building Fund in memory of long time Society supporter and member, James Townsend.

Rappahannock Community College has requested help from the Society to create a three day course on King William History for the college's Life Long Learning program.

A new dehumidifier will be installed at the Society's Museum at King William Courthouse. Lloyd Huckstep announced the Museum is seeking Society members to become volunteers/docents at the Museum.

On behalf of the Society, President Brown congratulated the Pamunkey Tribe on achieving US Federal acknowledgment as a Native American Tribe and sovereign nation. He then introduced Ashley Atkins-Spivey, Pamunkey Tribe member, director of the museum, and Ph.D. student in Anthropology at the College of William and Mary.

Mrs. Atkins-Spivey presented a fascinating slide show on the Pamunkey Tribe whose history began tens of thousands of years ago. When the English came to Jamestown in 1607 Powhatan ruled the Powhatan Paramount Chiefdom, a group of 36 tribal communities living in Eastern Virginia. After a series of wars from 1622 to 1644 the Pamunkeys signed a treaty in 1646 that established boundaries for English and Indian territory and established annual tributes the Pamunkeys paid to the Crown of England and after the Revolution, to the Governor of Virginia. The treaty is still in effect today and every year in November the Pamunkeys present a tribute of game to the Governor.

She talked about the history of the tribe and their activities and education between the 1600s and the present. Pamunkeys served as both revolutionary war soldiers and Union soldiers during the Civil war. Their fear of being enslaved led them to work as Union spies and as river pilots for the Union. For the past 200 years they have protected treaty rights. Tribal members worked in the shad market and this led to settlements of Pamunkeys in Philadelphia and other East Coast cities.

The Pamunkey Tribe is the first tribe in Virginia to receive Federal acknowledgement. They join 567 recognized tribes in the United States. Although the Pamunkey and Mattaponi inhabit the oldest reservations in the United States, one of the reasons Federal recognition took so long is that the Pamunkey Tribe had no treaties with the United States. Their treaties were signed with England, before the United States existed. Mrs. Atkins-Spivey explained the Pamunkey tribal government, their way of life, relationship with the landscape and the river and their traditional occupations of pottery making and shad fishing which persist today.

After answering questions she invited all to visit the Museum to learn more about the history of this land from the Pamunkey perspective.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Fran Freimarck