

King William Historical Society Newsletter

February 13, 2009

From our President

Our KWHS executive board is pleased to present to you our first Newsletter, which should serve as a bridge of communication to keep you posted on the progress of projects and activities that are currently in play. Hopefully, you will see things in this Newsletter that may spark your interest, and you may want to come on board to help us get them done. In the past six months we have moved forward on many fronts and will need some of your time and support to complete them. We will also share these newsletters with prospective new members so that others outside our organization become interested and involved. Now that we are equipped with email, we will be able to more effectively communicate with each other.

These Newsletters are by no means designed to replace our biannual King William Historical Society Bulletins, but are meant to spotlight the Society's progress on current activities. Since fund raising will become an ever more important part of our work, the Newsletters can be an important tool in helping us to trade ideas in this area.

Let us know what you think about the Newsletters. We thrive on feedback, especially if it's coupled with ideas and involvement.

Thanks and best *Lloyd*

Acquinton Church Stabilization

Our historical society is responsible for Acquinton Church and its remaining structure has deteriorated to the point we weren't sure it could be saved. Then along comes Mr. Carroll Lee Walker who has offered to clean up the grounds and stabilize the church – at no cost to us!

The overgrown vegetation has been cleared and a plan is in place to build supporting structures to stabilize the walls and to build a roof. We are working with our attorney, Randy Cook, to transfer ownership of the property to Carroll Lee for one year, for which, he would pay the KWHS the appraised value of \$40,000 (\$26,000 cash and a contribution receipt for \$14,000 for work already completed).

After the completion of the stabilization work, the KWHS will purchase Acquinton Church back for the \$26,000 cash, plus another contribution credit for the appraised value upon completion. Mr. Walker intends to make an additional \$10,000 contribution to the KWHS for the express purpose of upkeep and maintenance of the site.

We anticipate completion by end of year. More detail will be shared at our April members meeting.

For more information, contact *Lloyd Huckstep*

Society's New By-Laws

A new set of By-Laws for the society will be presented for your consideration at our April meeting. They will be sent to you in advance of the meeting. This is a complete re-write, so we will not show changes. It is our hope these new By-Laws will make business easier and will require limited changes in the future.

For more information, contact *Carl Fischer*

Documenting King William Cemeteries

Rebecca Townsend has been coordinating work on improving the documentation of King William County's cemeteries for about 2 years. We now have 26 additional or updated sites to integrate into our existing book, "Old King William County Cemeteries."

We have set June of 2009 as the deadline for gathering additional information, so let Rebecca know if you have additional information to be included. There has been interest expressed in documenting 3 Indian cemeteries but we need assistance from knowledgeable people who can provide detail information.

Once the documenting is complete, the new book will be published and made available for a nominal fee. We also hope to make this information available on our new website for "on-line" viewing at no charge!

For more information, contact *Rebecca Townsend*

Save the County Jail

In October a subcommittee was formed to assess the feasibility of restoring the Old County Jail on the courthouse grounds. Herb White, Danny Wright, Darrell Kellum and a restoration contractor have met to assess the work necessary to save and to resurrect this building. Their initial consensus was that the building is indeed worth the work to save it, and that this work should be completed in two phases. The first phase should be the repair of the roof, and they found that many of the roof slates that have fallen could still be used. The second phase should be restoration of the interior. Darrell is to provide Herb with budget figures. There may be some county funds that could be made available to help in this effort. Herb and Danny are working on that prospect, and we will know more in a few weeks.

For more information, contact *Herb White*

Budget Established

The new Historical Society board has lots of ideas for the future but we all know there is little you can do these days without money, and we can't do it all! So, we have established a budget system to help plan our expenses based on projected income. The budget will include the Museum as well as the Historical Society. The 2009 budget will be presented at our next society meeting in April.

For more information, contact *Bob Hubbard*

Elsing Green

Edgar and Virginia Lafferty have given their permission for us to visit their historic house, Elsing Green following our April 19th member meeting.

As Dr Harris said in his book, "There are few plantations in Virginia which have had a more interesting history and belonged to so many people, who added luster to the history of Old New Kent and King William Counties."

For more information, contact *Carl Fischer*

E-mail & Website Established

One of the goals for 2009 was to establish an e-mail account and a website for the historical society. The e-mail account is in place and this will help keep our members with e-mail informed of project status, plans and activities.

The website will allow us to share information among ourselves and with the rest of the world about King William County history, our society and the museum. There currently exists a lot of pictures and documentation residing in file cabinets and drawers that could be made available on our website and accessed by anyone with just a few "clicks"! We have selected *River City Web Design* to do the development work. Ideas are welcomed.

For more information, contact *Bob Hubbard*

Museum Status

In the past year, our Museum only missed four days out of 103 in operation due to inclement weather and/or lack of staff. This was an extraordinary effort from our volunteers, serving 839 hours to maintain the operation of the museum and special events. We recorded 633 visitors and collected \$728 in donations during that time period.

In November 2008, the Council made a decision to close during December, January, and February. Regular operation hours will be 1:00-5:00 on weekends and visits by appointment with the reopening in March 2009.

A committee started work on a new exhibit entitled "Evolution of Community" with an emphasis on agriculture, trade, businesses and occupations and access to products and services. Students from the National Honor Society at King William High School participated in training as docents for community service hours.

For more information, contact *Kathy Morrison*

Save the Date

Our next Historical Society member meeting will be 2:00, April 19, 2009 at the Courthouse Administrative Building. A meeting notice will be mailed in March.

Created by *Bob Hubbard*