



Bulletin

King William Historical Museum September 2007 Report to the Board of Supervisors Submitted by Kathy Morrison, Chair of the Museum Council

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The King William Historical Museum opened for a preview for members of the King William Historical Society on April 22, 2007. The official opening of the museum occurred during the King William County Springfest on April 27, 2007. Since the opening through Sunday, August 26, 2007, three hundred eighty-seven (387) visitors have toured the King William Historical Museum. The museum has been open every weekend on Saturdays from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM and on Sundays from 1:00 PM-5:00 PM. Volunteers serve as docents to welcome guests to the Museum and to the Colonial Courthouse. Volunteer responsibilities include securing the OPEN sign next to Route 30, opening the museum, facilitating the operation of video and audio displays and lighting features, maintaining the Gift Shop, housekeeping duties, and turning off equipment and closing at the end of a shift. Shifts are managed on Saturdays with two volunteers available from 10:00-1:30 and two volunteers are available from 1:30-5:00. Two volunteers are available on Sundays from 1:00-5:00. In addition, the Museum has opened by appointment to the following groups: the Board of Supervisors, King William Ruritan Club, West Point Retirement Home, Tom Newman and friends, Bruington Club, and Sallie Pearson's Commissioner of Revenue conference. The Edwards Family Reunion used the facility on Sunday, August 12, 2007. Volunteers have served approximately 220 hours to maintain the operation of the Museum on weekends and for special events. Volunteers spend additional hours managing responsibilities for the Gift Shop, working on Collections Committee responsibilities, recording inventory, and taking care of exhibits and housekeeping tasks. Pat Fitzgerald is coordinating the volunteer schedules for operation and for

the Gift Shop. Rebecca Townsend is using special computer programs to maintain the inventory list of items currently on display as well as managing loans and gifts in storage for future use in Museum displays. This is a time-consuming task and a work in progress. The list of 35 individuals who have donated time as volunteers includes members of the King William Historical Society, the Museum Council, and the King William community who are spending time as docents to sustain the operation of the Museum. The Museum does not charge admission, but a donations jar is available on the front desk. The Museum Gift Shop sells publications related to the history and government of King William County, including historical maps and bulletins from the Historical Society. The County Information Officer Katy Lloyd shares inventory of King William County items such as the Cat's Meow, coffee mugs, flags, and clothing apparel for sale in the Gift Shop, and the Museum receives a percentage of the sales. Receipts to date include:

- Donations from visitors: \$161.80
- Gift Shop sales: \$83.00
- King William County merchandise: \$107.00
- King William Historical Society maps and bulletins: \$70.00

The Museum's annual operating budget was approved by the King William Historical Society and allows interest from the remainder of the Hill estate to sustain the operation of the Museum.



Born in 1822, James H. Powell established a tanning business at his home, "Tanyard", on King William's Smokey Road by 1850. The tanning process created leather from animal hides. Leather was then used by local shoemakers and by artisans who fashioned harness and other leather goods. Mr. Powell served during the Civil War and became the great-grandfather of Ellett R. McGeorge, Jr.

Museum Council of the King William Historical Society

Now that the Museum is established, the Museum Council will meet periodically for planning sessions, reports from committees, and approval of expenditures. Kathy Morrison was appointed Chairman during the July 2007 meeting and met with the Council for the first time on September 16th. The meeting involved discussion about Museum operation and activities as well as planning for a rotation of exhibits and fundraising activities. Members include people from the Society and the community:

Frank Adams
Ben Alexander
Ruth Armatage
Eugene Campbell
Steve Colvin
Harry Coon
Kenneth Custalow
Carl Fischer
Pat Fitzgerald
Jean Frawner
George Guy
Shirley Guy
James Harris

Marion Jones
Alvin Lomax
Harold Longest
Ellett McGeorge
Chief William Miles
William Mills
Lucille Minor
Jim Morrison
Tom Newman
Patricia Norman
Emmaline Page
Marcia Tilghman
Rebecca Townsend

Reminder

The King William Historical Society is classified as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization under the auspices of the Internal Revenue Service. Contributions to the Museum can be used as tax deductions.

Report to Board of Supervisors, continued:

Continued from front page

- Verizon Telephone Service (\$72x12months) - \$864
- Vector Security Alarm System (\$73.20x12 months) - \$878
- Insurance (annual payment) - \$2163
- Miscellaneous operation expenses (includes Gift Shop expenses) - \$1500
- Total annual operating budget: \$5405

One hundred thousand dollars, representing the balance of the bequest from Thomas T. H. Hills's estate, is in a Certificate of Deposit at Citizen and Farmer's Bank. The interest from this CD (@5.05% will be transferred to the Museum account to maintain operating expenses. The interest is estimated at \$5,050 per year if current interest rates are used. The principal invested in the certificate of deposit will be maintained as an investment for the King William Historical Museum. Profit from Gift Shop sales and donation will be maintained in the Museum account for operation expenses. Fundraising activities will supplement this funding for the Mu-

seum. The King William Historical Society is classified as a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization with the IRS.



Born in King William County in 1873, Cleveland Foster was one of the first merchants of color in the area of King William Courthouse. Foster was an early graduate of the King William Academy and earned a position of great respect in his community. His best-remembered store was opened at LaCrosse, near the intersection of Routes 30 and 629, in 1918. Mr. Foster operated this establishment for twenty-six years. Among his survivors was a grandson, Dr. Alvin Lomax.

Historical Society's Outgoing Officers

Since early 2007 the work of the King William County Historical Society has been managed by the following individuals: Ellett R. McGeorge, Jr., has served as Acting President, a position he has held since September 2006. The position of Corresponding Secretary has been filled by Christine B. Colvin, and Shirley M. Guy has

served as the Society's Recording Secretary. George H. Guy has served as Treasurer, and Jean Frawner served as the Society's Program Chairperson. Eva Jo Kelly reactivated the role of Membership Chairperson, working closely with George Guy in monitoring the Society's membership list. Steve Colvin was appointed

Bulletin Chairman during the winter of 2007, and Dr. Alvin Lomax and James Malcolm Hart Harris have been in the position of "Members at Large" since their election in July 2006.

"Societal changes during different time periods produced changes in the lives of all the people of King William County."

Plans for New Exhibit

The King William Historical Museum Council plans to build some new exhibits within the next twelve to eighteen months. The general theme for the exhibit is *"Evolution of Community: Dependence to Independence to Interdependence."* Societal changes during different time periods produced changes in the lives of all the people of

King William County. The exhibit will highlight changes in agriculture, trade, businesses, occupations, and access to products and services. The Museum Council is interested in involving members of the community in the planning for these exhibits. If you would like to assist, contact of the following members: Alvin Lomax (769-2416), Lucille Minor (769-3219), Steve Colvin

(779-3666), Carl Fischer (843-9194), Pat Fitzgerald (769-3919), Ruth Armatage (769-3148), Rebecca Townsend (769-2318), Marcia Tilghman (769-5034), Kathy Morrison (769-4052).

KING WILLIAM COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 233
King William, VA 23086
Phone: 804-769-3919



The following list of volunteers includes members of the King William Historical Society, the Museum Council, and the King William community who are spending time as docents to sustain the operation of the Museum.

LaVerne Abrams	Alvin Lomax
Ruth Armatage	Lucille Minor
Susan Baine	Constance Mickens
Ruth and Bryan Childress	Kathy and Jim Morrison
Christy Cole	Martha and Tom Newman
Christine Colvin	Emmaline Page
Steve Colvin	Gertrude Pitts
Carolyn Elliott	Adele Smith
Lynn and Carl Fischer	Marcia Tilghman
Pat Fitzgerald	Madeleine and Frank Townsend
Nancy and Bob Hubbard	Lloyd Huckstep
Janis Jones	Rebecca Townsend
Marion Jones	Wortley White

Requests from Readers

Randy Dickinson, at 120 Wineberry Lane, Ballston Spa, New York, 12020, web address randy-fafny@yahoo.com, is seeking information on his fourth-great-grandfather, Ambrose Madison, originally from King William County. Ambrose Madison relocated from King William County to Louisa County in 1801 with his wife, Martha "Patsey" Duke Madison. The Madisons lived in Louisa for the next eighteen years, before moving on with their family to Montgomery County, Tennessee in 1819, and later to Todd County, Kentucky, where Ambrose Madison died in 1844. The Madisons intermarried with the Lipscomb family, resulting in a male descendant named Madison Lipscomb. Madison Lipscomb had at least one son, one Conway Lipscomb, who acquired twenty-five acres through his marriage to Sarah Parkes Bailey, daughter of Parke Bailey.

William and Nancy Shelley (804)529-7088 are looking for information about William's great-grandfather, William F. Shelley, who bought land near Aylett from Augustine and Indiana Broach. Was Indiana Broach the daughter of a Pollard, and was the land sold to William F. Shelley connected to the Pollard property at "Zoar?" According to the inquirer, the Shelley property was referred to as "Racetrack," and the house there was built in 1845.