

King William County Historical Society Newsletter

October 2014

November 1st & 2nd Mark your calendars now. Grand opening of the "Box of Rocks" display at the KW Museum on November 1st from 1 PM until 5 PM. The KWCHS meeting will be November 2nd in the KW Administration Building at 2:30 PM.

From Our President

Greetings to all of you. It is an honor to serve as your president and I plan to do my best to fill the significant shoes of your past president, Carl Fischer, as we embark on a year of exciting opportunities for the King William County Historical Society. We are in one of the best positions of any historical society in Virginia, with a strong foundation of core members, a dedicated board mixed with long-time members, and one of the best county museums of any locality in Virginia. With the addition of the renovated jail, we now have a great facility for researchers and our volunteers, not to mention more storage for collections and bathrooms.

In the year ahead we will build on this success. Updates to the museum, including new exhibits, highlight the fantastic work of Rebecca Townsend and the many volunteers who are dedicated to sharing our county's history with the public. New computers and updated cataloging software will ensure their hard work is not lost to the rapidly changing shifts in technology and that our amazing resources are available to our citizens and others interested in our county's past. Looking further to the future, we have the completed update of our county's architectural resources, providing us with the information we need to work with the county and private landholders to preserve and protect our built landscape.

There are many opportunities to help in the fall and winter, especially in the comfort of our renovated office space in the jail. And the museum always benefits from new

docents. This fantastic resource is dependent on great people like you to help out - so please consider visiting and, if you would like to get involved, contact Rebecca Townsend at 804-769-2318.

Again, welcome to all of you and thank you for your efforts on behalf of our historical society. I am anxious to see you at the next meeting and please let me know if I can answer any questions or tell you more about our year ahead.

Dr. David A. Brown, President
dabro3@email.wm.edu

Museum News

The museum council will be hosting a grand opening of the *Box of Rocks* on November 1st from 1 to 5 PM. The collection of over 200 artifacts was donated to the museum by Mr. Herbert Ridgeway Collins of Caroline County. A slide presentation titled *A Box of Rocks* shows the research methods that were used to help identify prehistoric tools, including projectile points, axes, wedges, and pounding tools as well as shards of vessels and ceremonial tools.

Mr. Collins will be at the museum for the afternoon to meet and greet guests. He has authored numerous books and has spent a lifetime immersed in American history. He is a Smithsonian Curator Emeritus and was an



executive director of the American History Museum. Many of the items in the collection that he has donated to the museum have come from a lifetime of walking the newly tilled fields on his farm in Caroline County.

Music At Historic St. John's Church

*A concert of works for the organ
Played by Rebecca Davy
organist at Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg
October 19th at 4 PM*

Rebecca Davy is the full-time Music Director and Organist at historic Bruton Parish Church, where she directs three adult choirs, plans liturgy, plays for weekly services, and oversees the Candle light Concert series of more than 130 performances each year. In the local community, Rebecca is also an active musician. She has been a featured accompanist for numerous Williamsburg Choral Guild concerts and has helped in the creation of the Williamsburg Youth Chorale.



Perfectly suited for this space, the Old St. John's organ replicates the kind of organ played by Johan Sebastian Bach in Leipzig. Further information may be found at oldstjohns.org. Free will offering.

Treasurer's Report

We welcome new member, Virginia Okie of Lake Wales, FL. She contacted us in regard to her McGeorge and Rowe ancestors from King William.

Reminder: If you haven't paid your dues

within the last year, please do so to remain members in good standing. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, but of course, you may pay your dues anytime during the year. Under our bylaws, your membership expires one year from your last payment. If you are unsure of when you last paid, email us at kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org or call at 804-769-8619.

Ruth Armatage



Ruth Armatage died on September 3, 2014 at Mount Columbia, her home of 55 years in Manquin. Ruth had been an active member of our community for many years, transforming her passions into realities that would greatly improve our community. Along with her late husband Keith, she established Kings Grant Preschool at the McKendree United Methodist Church. She helped establish the Upper King William Branch Library while serving as a member of the library's Board of Trustees and founded the Friends of the Library in Upper King William. She was an active member of the King William Historical Society, having served as an officer and one of the founders of the King William Historical Museum. Ruth served as a trustee of the Historic St. John's Church Restoration Association and on the King William County Architectural Review Board.

She will be greatly missed by many but her devotion to the betterment of the King William County community and her work with the establishment of the museum will benefit the citizens of King William for generations to come.