

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 7

King William Historical Society  
Newsletter



***Ensuring Our Future By  
Preserving Our Past***

Come join us at our next membership meeting!

January 15, 2017 2:30pm

King William Administration Building

*Come join us for our captivating lecture  
by Bibb Edwards on the 3 additional volumes of diaries  
by the Littlepage family and their day-to-day trials and  
triumphs of life in King William County over 150 years  
ago.*

Refreshments served

*President's message:*

*The end of year often brings time for reflection. Many things have changed in our world over the last few months and certainly many more things will change as the new year arrives. As the stewards of our county's history, we are well aware of how this happens (and we have the documents and artifacts to prove it). In fact, it is our responsibility to preserve the remnants of the past for others to learn from. As I look back at the last year I am most proud of our preservation efforts. After the successful restoration work on the Old Jail at the King William County Courthouse complex, many would've thought we would take a rest, and lean on the already remarkable museum we have and our wonderful speakers at each meeting. But as new opportunities arise, we have done our best to focus our efforts and respond in kind. In the last few months this has been highlighted with our work at the Lanestville Christadelphian Church. While already wonderfully restored by Carol Lee Walker, his vision to have our society take on the future preservation of this landmark came along with the serious responsibility to make it a key part of our society's activities.*

*Our board of directors responded with an ambitious plan, inspired by and also supported by Mr. Walker, to maintain this building and add a few things that would make it suitable for year-round use. As of this newsletter, the building has electrical power for the first time, and both heat and air conditioning. The wrought iron chandeliers were recently electrified and our preliminary history of the building and its congregants submitted for review by the state's Department of Historic Resources. Alongside Acquinton Church, we have two of the most interesting historic buildings in King William County and plans to keep them well maintained and visited by the public.*

*I envision 2017 as an equally busy year for our society. As we invest more in our excellent museum, specifically drawing attention to the remarkable women in our county's history, we provide even more reason for others to visit and learn about our community's history. I also look forward to finding new members, and involving more of our fellow citizens in the worthy efforts of our society. We will surely better our organization through the inclusion of others, equally dedicated to preserving our county's legacy and sharing it. I look forward to seeing each of you in the new year, and working with you to make our society the best it can be.*

*Sincerely,*

*Dr. David Brown,*

*President, King William County Historical Society*

## King William County Journal of Rose Littlepage



We begin January 1, 2017

<http://www.roselittlepage.com>

“The journal is now being written by Rosa B. Littlepage.”

With that New Year’s declaration 18 year-old Rosena Littlepage took ownership of a blank book previously used as a journal by “Brother” Junius and her mother Caroline and made it her own.[1] During 1853 she would write almost every day, expanding on their earlier efforts, recording Littlepage family life in King William County, Virginia, and her personal hopes and fears.

Keeping such a journal was a family tradition.[2] In a little over two years her mother would renew her journal keeping by beginning a set of volumes which would continue well over a decade. Number seven of that set (1864-1867) resides at the Virginia Historical Society, as does this journal. That volume provides the basis of the website “Caroline’s Journal.” This website, which will

follow the same convention of presenting each entry as a blog post, may be considered Rose’s prequel to her mother’s narrative. While Rose’s daily entries certainly stand on their own, readers interested in learning more about the Littlepages and life in tidewater Virginia a century and a half ago are invited to visit *Caroline’s Journal* and explore both Caroline’s observations and the extensive background documentation.

*Credit and thanks are due Littlepage descendants Dudley M. Eichhorn and Louise Eichhorn Schroeder for donating these two family journals to the Virginia Historical Society. Dudley arranged for the late Peggy Dinehart and her sister Beverly Pearce to produce transcriptions of both volumes. Without their painstaking work these websites would never have happened. Numerous readers of Caroline's Journal have made comments and suggestions that have greatly added to the accuracy and overall quality of that project. Further, a team of volunteers is currently transcribing Caroline Littlepage's first two volumes which were recently donated to the Library of Virginia. Thus, this website is very much part of a collaborative work-in-progress, destination unknown. The staff of the Virginia Historical Society, especially E. Lee Shepard and Frances Pollard, has continued to provide valuable assistance and encouragement for this project. The VHS and Library of Virginia deserve our support.*

[1] Although the 1850 US Census records her name as Rosena, she and her family members preferred Rosa or, more consistently, Rose. We will call her Rose. Her likeness on the sidebar is a faux-color version of a black and white photo taken of a portrait made by itinerant artist John Toole in May, 1849. She was about 14.

[2] References in journal texts suggest several members of the Littlepage family kept journals. Rose's mother Caroline also suggests journals were kept in her Ellett family as well.

[3] Rose Littlepage photo courtesy of Bibb Edwards.

[4] Original: Virginia Historical Society, Map F232 K5 1865:1

This inset from a digital copy downloaded from the Library of Congress.





# MUSEUM NEWS

*Women's Exhibit opening on March 1, 2017  
is under construction.*

*Stay tuned for more details.*



The Museum is open March thru November, Sat.  
and Sun. from 1-5 p.m.  
Or by appointment: call 804-769-9619, or email  
[kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org](mailto:kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org)

## Minutes of the King William County Historical Society Membership Meeting Sunday, October 16, 2016

The Membership Meeting of the King William Historical Society was held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at Historic St. John's Church of West Point. It was a joint meeting with the King and Queen Historical Society and the West Point Historical Society. There were approximately 75 members and guests present. Carl Fischer, President of St. John's Church Restoration Association welcomed all to Old St. John's Church. He introduced the presidents of the three societies, David Brown, King William County Historical Society, Gus Lewis, King and Queen Historical Society and Carol Cunningham, West Point Historical Society. He expressed appreciation for the work of the three Societies. He encouraged the three societies to work together on our museums, programs, and other projects. He gave a very brief history of the Church. He introduced the speaker, Robert Teagle, Education Director and Curator of the Historic Christ Church of Weems.

Robert Teagle presented a fascinating talk entitled "Church and State in Colonial and Revolutionary Virginia." He explained the role of the church in colonial times. Church buildings were, along with courthouses, the most important buildings in the parish. Churches were used for reading of and dissemination of proclamations and information from the government. They were the embodiment of social order and hierarchy. Mr. Teagle explained how the Revolution changed the role of the church in the newly freed colonies and the Glebe Act of 1802 which changed the use of church property and buildings. After the talk there was a brief discussion of ways the three societies could cooperate. A History Trail of the region was suggested. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Fran Freimarck, Secretary

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Treasurer Ron Parker's report shows the following balances as of October 16, 2016:

Checking .....	\$14,544.16
Museum Savings .....	\$ 3,783.49
Museum Savings CD .....	\$20,099.85
Church Maintenance .....	\$37,643.50
Wells Fargo Museum Investment.....	\$110,341.16
Total .....	\$186,412.16

*Membership Form:*

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Physical Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*E-mail address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Annual Membership expires twelve(12) months after your last dues payment.*

- △ *Family*..... \$30
- △ *Individual* ..... \$20
- △ *Student* ..... \$10
- △ *Lifetime* ..... \$250
- △ *Artifact Level*.....\$150+
- △ *Pamunkey /Mattaponi Level* ..... \$300+
- △ *Thomas T.H. Hill Benefactor Level* .....\$500+
- △ *Corporate Sponsorship* .....\$500+

*Annual Membership expires twelve(12) months after your last dues payment*

*Mail to: King William Historical Society*

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