

KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter
January 2020

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UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 19, 2020, 2:30 PM

Administration Building
King William Courthouse
180 Horse Landing Road
King William, VA 23086

The next meeting of the King William Historical Society will be held on Sunday, January 19th at 2:30 at the King William Administration Building on Horse Landing Road.

Robert Van Ness, Norfolk resident and founder of the Virginia History Podcast, will briefly introduce his work and then discuss Sir William Berkeley's impact on Virginia.

Berkeley's influence on Virginia extended to government, immigration, architecture, slavery, and more. His impact was felt for generations.



from the Library of Virginia website

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January 19, 2020

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Historical Society Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. As we usher in a new decade, I am reflecting upon another historic year. On November 1, the museum received a very interesting box of history from the Martin sisters. This box was well organized and contained “bulletins” of the King William County Historical Society of Virginia dating back to the early 1970s among other historic items.

In the October 1975 Bulletin of the KWHS, the 1810 Tax List for King William County is published. The list is titled “John Lord’s List” and is printed on 3 pages. The list is alphabetical and counts the number of “White Tithables”, “Slaves—over 12 yrs.” and “Horses” of each man or woman. None of the women have any “White Tithables”. The noun “tithable” when it appears in the seventeenth and eighteenth century records of Virginia refers to a person who paid, or for whom someone else paid, one of the taxes that the General Assembly imposed for the support of the civil government in the colony.

1810 TAX LIST KING WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

	White Tithables	Slaves— over 12 yrs.	Horses			
<u>John Lord's List</u>						
Avera, Thomas	1	11	3	Brown, Basel	1	7 4
Alvey, William	1	4	3	Bradberry, John	2	1 1
Alvey, John	1	4	3	Berkeley, Nelson	2	0 3
Alvey, Elizabeth	0		3	Blake, James	1	0 1
Allen, Elizabeth	1	3	3	Barrett, John S	1	9 4
Acree, Edward	3	0	3	Bradberry, Richard	1	0 1
Acree, John	1	0	0	Beard, Jamee	1	0 0
Allen, Levina	0	2	1	Batchelder, Thomas (est)	0	3 1
Adams, Richard	2	1	2	Broach, Charles	1	0 1
Abraham, Susanna	1	6	3	Banks, Tunstall, Jr.	1	0 0
Armstrong, William	1	5	5	Ball, Curtis	1	0 0
(One stud horse—\$2. 00)				Bone, Daniel	1	1 1
Ayllette, Philip	1	3	0	Ball, Williamson	1	0 2
Alexander, Jamee D.	1	0	0	Bird, John	1	0 2
Adams, John P.	1	0	0	Buckner, James	1	9 4
Adams, Ellison E.	1	0	1	Bailey, Richard	1	0 0
Atkinson, Major	1	3	3	Bowen, William E.	0	2 0
Atkins, Reuben	1		3	Bone, William	1	0 0
Abraham, Mordicai	1	11	8	Blackwell, Allen	1	0 0
Adams, William	1	0	0	Bromfield, John	1	0 1
Alexander, Dixon	1	0	1	Batchelder, Thomas	1	0 1
Alexander, John	1	1	3	Ball, William	1	0 1
Abrahams, Solomon	1	0	0			11
Adams, John P., Jr.	1	0	0	Claiborne, William D.	1	3 5
Ancarrow, Thomas W.	2	0	2	Chamberlayne, E.P. (est)	0	
Ancarrow, Mildred	0	0	2	Claybrooke, Richard	1	0 1
Armstrong, Elizabeth	0	4	3	Claiborne, Herbert	1	
Abrahams, Mordicai, Jr.	1	0	0	Claiborne, Herbert A.	1	3 1
Alexander, Aquilla	1	0	0	Claiborne, William	1	6 2
Atkins, James	1	0	0			

Many of you will recognize names on this list and if you would like the complete list, I'm happy to share that with you.

As the preparer of the King William County tax list today, I think it is interesting to contrast the tax list.

PROPERTY CODE - OWNER	DESCRIPTION / LOCATION	LAND	IMP	TOTAL	TAX	ACCT-	
0 33 - - - 5-HI A.C. PROPERTIES OF VA LLC 1718 SPRING GARDEN ST GREENBORO NC 27403	AC 5.00 CL 4 0 ZN B-2 0900 0000870 PL 22 / LOT 7 BLOCK A MCCAULEY PARK SECTION 1	750,000	240,000	990,000	8,514.00	ACCT- FH SH ACQUINTON	11441 4,257.00 4,257.00 # 1
21- -11- A- 7 A.C. PROPERTIES OF VIRGINIA LLC 1718 SPRING GARDEN ST GREENBORO NC 27403	AC .93 CL 2 0 ZN R-1 0600 0000210 LOT 6 FOX HILL ESTATES	39,400	135,900	175,300	1,507.58	ACCT- FH SH ACQUINTON	9687 753.79 753.79 # 2
5-C - - - 6 A P S WAREHOUSE 2021 SHEDD ST RICHMOND, VA 23220-1818	AC 2.20 CL 2 0 ZN A-C LOT 7 FOX HILL ESTATES	32,800		32,800	282.08	ACCT- FH SH MANGOHIK	100 141.04 141.04 # 3
5-C - - - 7 A P S WAREHOUSE 2021 SHEDD ST RICHMOND, VA 23220-1818	AC 3.73 CL 2 0 ZN A-C LOT 7 FOX HILL ESTATES	38,900		38,900	334.54	ACCT- FH SH MANGOHIK	101 167.27 167.27 # 4
34- - 2- - 25 A PIERCE PROPERTIES LLC 123 COMMERCE PARK DR MANQUIN VA 23106	AC 2.54 CL 4 0 ZN B-2 0600 0002587 PL 19/ ADJ PEARSON	152,400	160,689	313,089	2,692.58	ACCT- FH SH ACQUINTON	10336 1,346.29 1,346.29 # 5
21- - - - 17 ABBOTT DAVID W ABBOTT SARAH-DAVIS L 9693 KING WILLIAM RD AYLETT VA 23009	AC 8.16 CL 2 0 ZN A-C 1800 0000360 ADJ FAIRFIELD	58,600	101,100	159,700	1,373.42	ACCT- FH SH ACQUINTON	581 686.71 686.71 # 6
29- - - - 1 ABC HOLDING LLC 1921 MOONWID PLACE RICHMOND, VA 23238	AC 26.07 CL 5 0 ZN A-C 1500 0002540 PL 24/ LOT 28 BLK C SECT 3 VENTER HEIGHTS	87,200	1,000	88,200	758.52	ACCT- FH SH ACQUINTON	130 379.26 379.26 # 7
21-D - 2- C- 28 ABDUL-FARUQ WALIDA 11515 KING WILLIAM RD AYLETT VA 23009	AC .00 CL 2 0 ZN R-1 1800 0002506 LOT 2 TRIMMERS SHOP ESTATES	30,000	115,900	145,900	1,254.74	ACCT- FH SH ACQUINTON	4094 627.37 627.37 # 8
47- - 4- - 2 ABERNETHY ROBERT S		15,000		15,000	129.00	ACCT- FH	811 10377 64.30

Today's tax list has over 1000 pages and lists the land value, improvement to the land and tax amount.

When I think about the abundance in my life, I think with gratitude about all that the members of the King William Historical Society give to our organization. During the past year we visited historic homes. We held a speaker series at Historic St. Johns Church. We made long strides towards transcribing the burned records of King William County and held an archaeological dig at the historic court house of King William. We share history. We make contacts with new and old members. We offer friendship to each other.

Your many gifts of knowledge make a difference. Thank you for all that you do to keep history alive and remembered in King William County.

Warm Regards,
Sally W. Pearson



Carl Lounsbury speaking at the December 8 lecture at Old St. John's

MEMBER NEWS

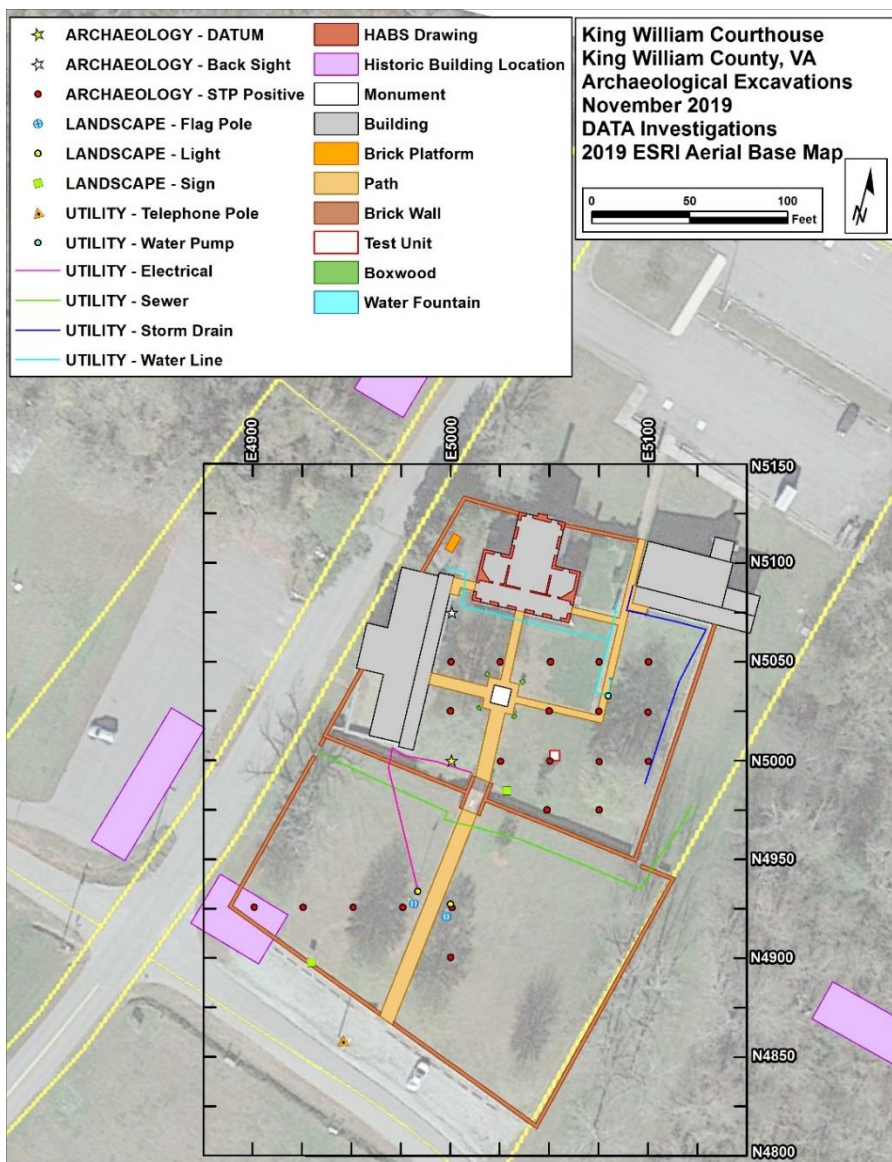
Archaeology Brings Excitement (and 4th Graders) to the King William Courthouse

This fall's archaeological survey and testing of the King William County Courthouse was a resounding success. Every fourth grade student in King William County not only enjoyed a tour of our county museum, but also participated in the first archaeological dig at the historic courthouse complex. The historical society sponsored the excavation, undertaken by DATA Investigations LLC and in collaboration with the Fairfield Foundation. The goal of the work was to document concentrations of artifacts and soil layers that would tell us about the history of the courthouse and surrounding properties.

Students, society members, and the public were welcomed to assist professional archaeologists in digging shovel test pits (1-foot diameter holes dug every 25' on grid) and two small excavation units (5' square), recovering artifacts from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. The project succeeded in finding evidence of activities from all three centuries, and significant architectural debris that may indicate where buildings once stood, including debtors' jails, clerk's office, hotel, general store, and tavern from the 1700s and 1800s.

A report of the excavations will help county planners and the maintenance team avoid disturbing sensitive archaeological deposits with future improvements to the complex. The report will also be available to researchers interested in the history of the courthouse and a small poster exhibit is anticipated in 2020 that focuses on this work. Mark your calendars and join the archaeologists on Friday, January 24th from 10-4 when they return for a final field day at the courthouse.

Contributed by Dr. David Brown, Co-Director of the not-for-profit historic preservation organization The Fairfield Foundation and the Co-Owner of the Cultural Resource Management company DATA Investigations LLC. He is also the past-president of the King William County Historical Society.



KWCHS MINUTES

Minutes of the King William County Historical Society Membership Meeting Sunday, October 20, 2019

The Membership Meeting of the King William County Historical Society was held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, 2019, at Old St. John's Church. There were approximately 40 members and guests present.

Vice President Rhonda Sonnenberg welcomed members and guests, including members of the West Point Historical Society and President Malechek and Karena Funkhouser. She introduced Carl Fischer who asked for a moment of silence to remember Mr. Jim Harris, Society member who died recently.

Carl noted that this meeting is the first in a speaker series co-sponsored by the King William Historical Society and Old St. John's Church. In anticipation of the talk about "Religion and the American Revolution," Carl discussed attitudes of the parishioners of Old St. John's Church toward the idea of Revolution. He explained that there were heated disputes in the vestry over the prospect of the colonies' separating from England. Some parishioners were loyalists, some returned to England, and others, like Carter Braxton, stayed and supported the Revolution. Carl then gave a brief history of Old St. John's Church.

Carl then introduced John Ericson, a Lutheran pastor from Newport News who is also the Outreach Coordinator and a Public Historian for St. Luke's Historic Church and Museum in Isle of Wight County.

Mr. Ericson presented a thought-provoking talk on the English government's imposed Church of England in the colonies and the idea of religious freedom as partial causes of the American Revolution.

At the close of the talk, Society Vice President Rhonda Sonnenberg called the membership meeting to order.

The minutes of the July 21, 2019 membership meeting were published in the KWHS Newsletter and approved as submitted.

Treasurer Ron Parker's report shows the following balances as of October 20, 2019.

Checking	\$ 19,353.37 *
Museum Savings CD	\$ 20,908.60
Church Maintenance	\$ 657.43
Wells Fargo Museum Investment	\$143,938.95
Total	\$184,858.35

*Checking account includes \$14,257.15 in Coon Grant Funds.

John Breeden reported that the Transcription Project Committee is negotiating with the editor and transcriber for a contract to continue the work.

Members were reminded that the second St. John's Lecture Series talk will take place on Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 p.m.

The Archaeological Survey and Public Dig Days at King William Courthouse were held on October 18 and 19. Several pipe stems and pieces of pottery were found during the dig. The second round of Public Dig Days will take place on November 15 and 16. Fourth graders from King William Public Schools will participate on November 15.

The next KWHS Board Meeting is Sunday, December 15, 2019. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Fran Freimarck
Secretary

The Visit of Robert E. Lee to King William County after Appomattox

By Gus Kaspar

King William County boasts a great wealth of connections to the Lee family. Robert E. Lee's grandmother was born and married at Chelsea Plantation near West Point, and his father-in-law owned both Romancoke Plantation in King William and White House Plantation just across the Pamunkey River in New Kent. Robert E. Lee had many connections to King William prior to the war and may have visited the County before, but his most famous and best documented visit was the one in June of 1865, in the aftermath of his surrender at Appomattox.

When Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant on April 15th, 1865, he and his army of Northern Virginia were exhausted from four long years of war. Lee himself was fifty-eight years old at the time of the surrender. His age coupled with the tough life style he lived throughout the war (living in tents, campaigning on horseback, and exposure to the elements), had taken a toll on his health; he was tired. After the surrender he returned to his family's most current residence at 707 East Franklin Street in Richmond, Virginia. When he entered the city, he saw for the first time the desolation that was Richmond after the war. Many buildings were still freshly charred from the fire that engulfed the city following his flight only a couple weeks before.

He was greeted by his family, who was for the first time in four years completely united; his son Robert E. Lee Jr. joined two weeks later making it a complete reunion. He slept a lot and did not leave the house often immediately after his return. He was not alone, however, as he had not only his family, but also a constant stream of diverse visitors begging for his attention. People from all walks of life called upon him; they ranged from statesmen, widows, journalists, and Union and Confederate soldiers alike. In addition to dealing with dozens of visitors a day, he also worried about Andrew Johnson renewing charges of treason against the agreement that had been reached with Grant at Appomattox.

It was during this time of popularity and uncertainty about his future that he began to consider making his lifelong goal of retiring on a rural farm a reality. He decided to travel to the country in early June to get a respite from the busy nature of Richmond, and to ask his country relatives advice about where to settle down. Lee travelled some twenty-five miles to Pampatike Plantation in King William County to visit his cousin Colonel Thomas H. Carter, who had also just returned from his service in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Lee arrived unexpectedly at Pampatike around three o'clock in the afternoon, mounted on his old horse Traveller. Although uninvited, he was welcomed into the house of his relatives with open arms with that old-fashioned Virginia hospitality. According to Colonel Carter, Lee enjoyed every moment of his stay. Always very fond of children, Lee was surrounded by the three children in the house, the two youngest girls being three and five years old. According to his son, Robert E. Lee Jr., the elder Lee "followed them around, talking baby-talk to them, and getting them to talk to him." Also, for the first time in years, his beloved Traveller was able to graze on fresh green grass. Lee would not allow any corn to be fed to him, saying he had plenty of that during the last four years according to Robert E. Lee Jr. Lee did not talk much about the war with Colonel Carter; he instead focused on topics like Mexico, or mutual friends and acquaintances they had in the area.

During his stay, Lee was invited to dine at Chericoke Plantation, the old home of the Braxton's, located just upriver from Pampatike. Also invited were two of Lee's sons, who were staying close by at White House Plantation, as well as various other friends and relatives living in the area. According to Robert E. Lee Jr., Mrs. Braxton's house "had long been noted for its hospitality and bountiful table." Despite the war, and the difficulties and desolation it caused, Mrs. Braxton's table remained unaltered. All of the guests were quite pleased with the feast except Lee himself, who viewed the feast as excessive. He stated to Colonel Carter, "Thomas, there was enough dinner today for twenty people; you cannot afford it; we shall have to practice economy."

In another conversation with Colonel Carter, Lee advised him to get rid of the remaining newly freed black labor on the farm, ninety people in total. The population of which consisted mostly of women, children, and the elderly. Lee told his cousin to let the government provide for them, and advised him to instead hire white labor.

One of the purposes of his visit to King William was to ask advice on where he should retire to in the state. Over their last dinner, Colonel Carter advised him to consider either Clarke County in Northern Virginia, or Gloucester County located in the tidewater. According to Robert E. Lee Jr., he favored Clarke County, as it was part of "the grass-growing country." The next day he mounted Traveller, said his goodbyes to his hospitable relatives, and after crossing the Pamunkey River at Newcastle ferry, he headed home to Richmond.

Sources include:

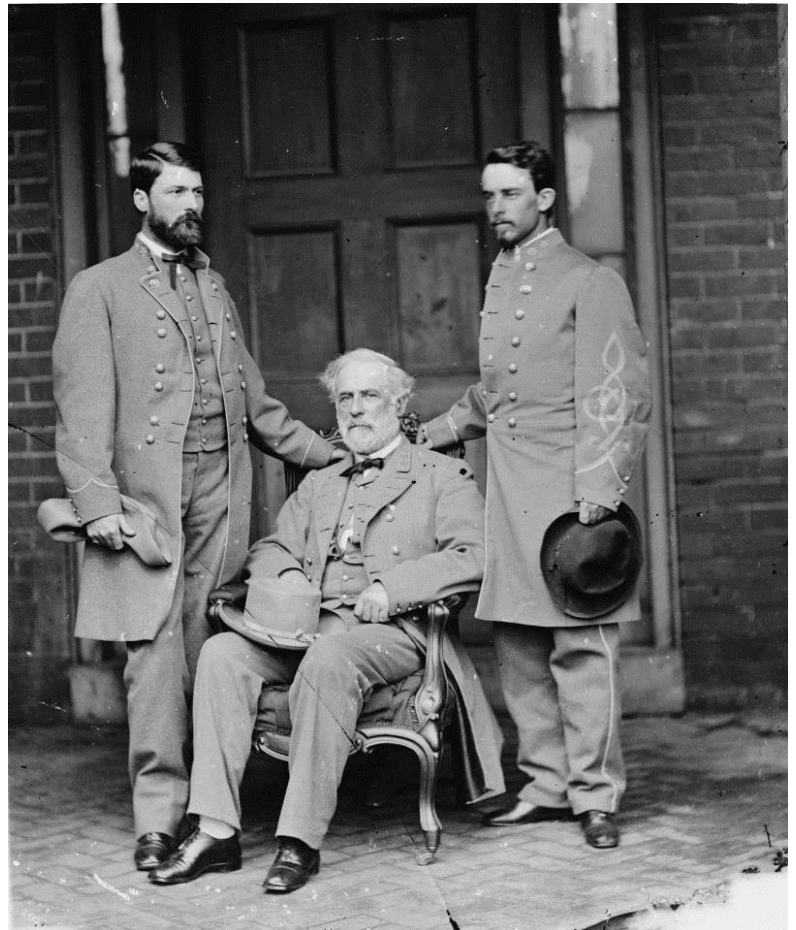
Fishwick, M. W. (1963). Lee after the war. United States: Dodd, Mead, and Company.

Lee, R. E., & Wynne, B. (2004). Recollections and Letters of Robert E. Lee. New York: Barnes & Noble Books.

Thomas, E. M. (1995). Robert E. Lee: a biography. New York: W.W. Norton.

PHOTOGRAPH: Taken by Matthew Brady April 17th, 1865 in Richmond at Lee's home on East Franklin St.

Gus Kasper is a King William resident majoring in History at the University of Mary Washington.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

Family \$30

Student \$10

Individual \$20

Lifetime \$250

Artifact Level \$150+

Pamunkey/Mattaponi Level \$300+

Thomas T. H. Hill Benefactor Level
\$500+

Corporate Sponsorship \$500+

Mail to:

King William Historical Society
P.O. Box 233
King William, VA 23086

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, January 24, 2020, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Join the archaeologists when they return for a final field day at the courthouse. See the article on page 4 for more details about the project.

KWCHS Membership Meetings for 2020

January 19, 2020

April 19, 2020

July 19, 2020

October 18, 2020

*The King William Museum is open Sundays from
1:00 - 5:00 PM, March through November, and by
prearranged appointment (closed on major holidays).
Located at 227 Horse Landing Road,
King William, Virginia*



The recipe for perpetual ignorance is a very simple and effective one: be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge.

Elbert Hubbard

