

# KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter  
July 2020

## IN THIS ISSUE

The membership meeting planned for Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, has been cancelled due to Covid-19. The Museum is closed at this time. We will let you know when it reopens.

We look forward to our next meeting for 2020 on Sunday, October 18, 2:30 p.m.



*At the King William County Courthouse Green*

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## MEMBER NEWS

### Nominations for the Board of the King William County Historical Society

The Nominating Committee of the King William County Historical Society proposes the following slate of new board members for the membership to review and approve:

Tina Glazebrook, Morgan Faulkner, and Robert Hubbard

Understanding the difficulties of meeting in person during the Coronavirus, but acknowledging that our organization must move forward with its important business, we anticipate voting on this slate in the weeks to come. We will reach out to you via email requesting your vote to approve this slate of board members, with officer positions elected at our annual meeting in January.

We greatly appreciate the time, effort, and passion of Patricia Haile, Fran Freimarck, and Rhonda Sonnenberg, who are cycling off of the board. We also appreciate the work of Lloyd Huckstep who assisted with the search for qualified candidates.

Sincerely,  
Dr. David A. Brown, Fran Freimarck, Sally Pearson



### Dues Alert

If you have not paid your annual King William County Historic Society dues, they are now due. Please remit based on the schedule below. Annual dues payments should be made out and sent to: **King William County Historic Society**, P O Box 233, King William, VA 23086.

#### Membership Level

\$20.00 Individual Membership for one Year

\$30.00 Family Membership for one Year

\$250.00 Individual Lifetime Membership

#### Donor Level

\$150.00 and above: Artifact Level

\$300.00 and above: Pamunkey/Mattaponi Level

\$500.00 and above: Thomas T.H. Hill Benefactor Level

\$500.00 and above: Corporate Sponsorship

Your annual dues and gifts help KWHS to continue to meet its basic goal of preserving the unique history of King William County. Tax deductible donations over and above dues payments are encouraged.

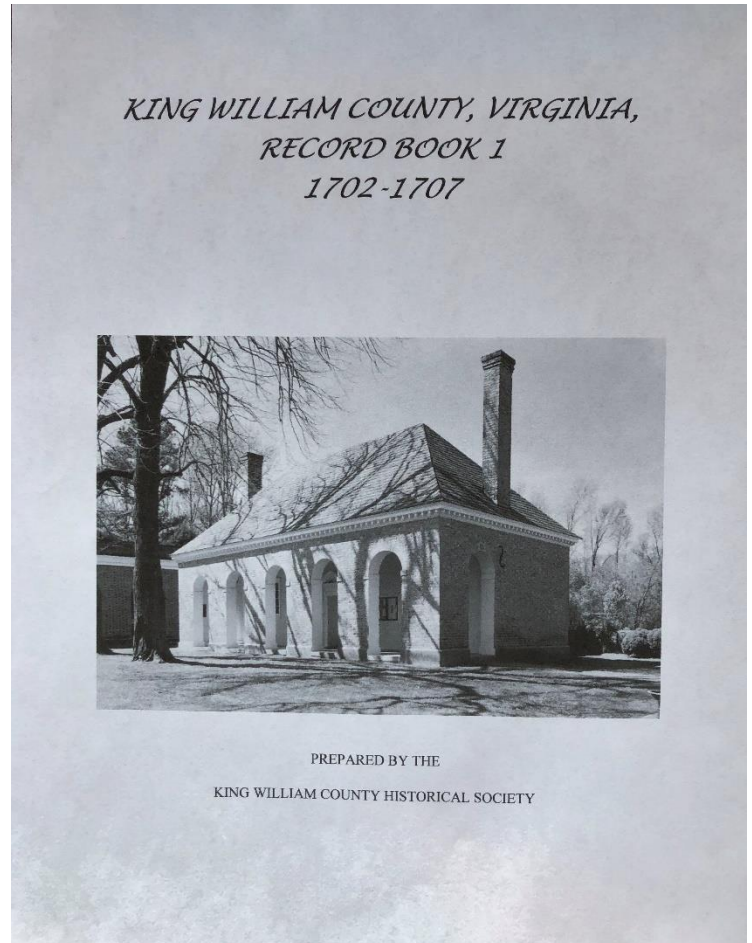
## King William County Record Book 1 Available

The King William County Historical Society's Transcription Committee is pleased to announce for purchase The King William County Record Book 1 (1702-1707). This is a key-word searchable, digital-only Adobe PDF which includes the full transcription of each page conveniently displayed opposite the high-resolution, full-color digital image of the surviving document.

Not only will you be able to easily search for people, place names, dates, and other important information across 400+ pages in mere seconds, but you'll also have helpful annotations about many of the deeds, a detailed explanation of historic terminology, and a summary of the transcription project's history. Each copy costs \$50 with the proceeds supporting the King William County Museum.

The document is available on a thumb drive and is copyrighted, password protected and print restricted. This work builds on the prior success of the King William County Deed Book Imaging Project, which can still be acquired for anyone interested. That thumb drive provides copies of all 9000 pages of deeds across 19 surviving deed books up until 1888, along with a copy of the previously published index (it does not include any transcriptions and is not keyword searchable). Record Book 1 is the first of the 19 record books our historical society intends to transcribe and we anticipate Record Book 2 being ready for purchase later this summer.

If you are interested in purchasing either of these publications, please email [kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org](mailto:kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org)



## MT. ZOAR: A HOMESITE AND STATE FOREST

by Gus Kasper

King William County is home to two of Virginia's only 25 State Forests: Sandy Point and Zoar State Forest. Together, they cover 2,341 acres of land. Zoar, although much smaller than Sandy Point, is incredibly rich in history. Originally owned by Colonel William Aylett, the property was acquired by Robert Pollard in 1782. Pollard founded his family's home atop a hill which sat high above the then-bustling port town of Aylett. At the time, Aylett was the farthest inland port other than Dunkirk just upriver. The town was so prosperous that it supported a race track, which in turn purportedly supported gambling, prostitution and other such illegal activities.

As the local legend goes, Robert Pollard found the lower-lying town to be filled with vice and sinful people. He therefore likened Aylett to the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, which were destroyed by God for their corruption and debauchery. Robert Pollard named his home site Mt. Zoar after the city overlooking Sodom and Gomorrah, which was spared by God.

For centuries afterward, the Pollards continued living on this same parcel of land. Unfortunately, the first two homes burned along with much of the original furniture. The house that stands today was ordered from Sears and Roebuck and was shipped up the Mattaponi via steamboat and was assembled in 1901 on site. It is one of the few examples of Queen Anne architecture in this part of the State. The farm house is complete with several outbuildings as well as a family cemetery which is surrounded by a handsome brick wall.

The Pollard family continued to occupy the house until the 1960's. In 1987, Robert H. Stoddard donated his family's ancestral lands to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a State Forest. Stoddard donated two parcels, both along river road, covering 378 acres of land. As agreed upon, the Forestry department has maintained the land in roughly the same field to forest ratio as it had been when it was donated in 1987. Today there is canoe access as well as 1.5 miles of hiking trails which meander through the forest and along the scenic Mattaponi River. The farm house functions as an office and is open to the public during normal business hours.

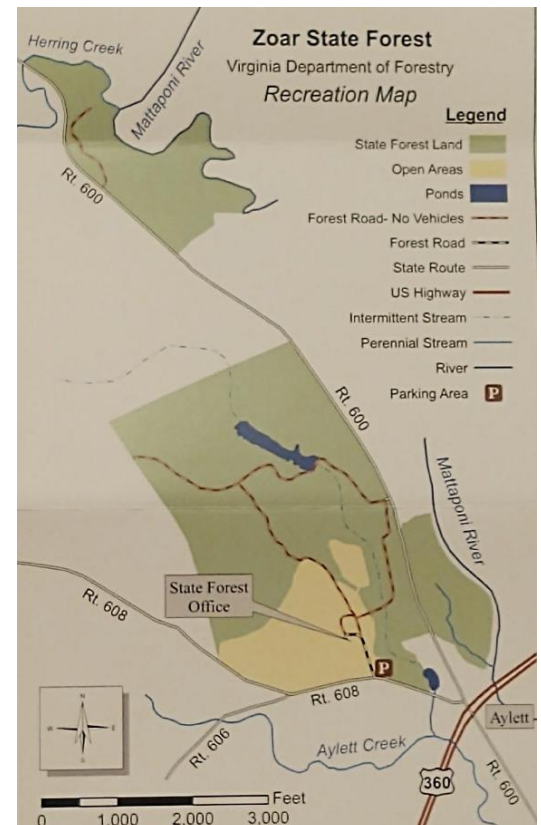
### References:

Department of Forestry (1988). Zoar State Forest Management Plan

Harris, Malcolm Hart (1977). Old New Kent County: Some Account of the Planters, Plantations, and Places in New Kent County. West Point, VA (837-839)

Map provided by the Department of Forestry

I would like to thank Dave Slack for his assistance in my research, and for providing all that the Forestry Department has to offer on Zoar State Forest. -Gus Kasper



## 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

## SAD NEWS

Longtime member of the KWCHS and friend to many, George Benjamin “Ben” Alexander, of King William County, died peacefully at home on Thursday, May 7, 2020. He enjoyed taking care of the family farm, Cherry Hill, and his pet project was researching his family genealogy. His death notice stated that “he met death the same way he lived life – fearless, never complained and had a wonderful sense of humor. He always had a ready smile and a laugh. He enjoyed life and those around him. His life was full.”

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*The King William Museum, currently closed due to the coronavirus, is located at 227 Horse Landing Road, King William, Virginia*

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There are essentially three kinds of history: what actually happened, what we are told happened and what we finally come to believe happened.

John Egerton, author

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