

# KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter  
April 2024

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### UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 21, 2024, 2:30 PM  
King William County Administration Building  
180 Horse Landing Road  
King William, VA 23086

Please join us at the next meeting of the King William County Historical Society, which will be held on Sunday, April 21st at 2:30. This will be an in-person meeting at the King William Administration Building. Our guest speaker will be "Fossil Man," Newell Randell. Mr. Randell is a longtime resident of King and Queen County and has been fossil hunting since his childhood. An exhibit highlighting his work in the area is currently on display at the King and Queen Tavern Museum. The artifacts he has recovered span a number of geological eras and include a variety of different marine animals located in our area. Please join us to hear about his inspiring work and admire part of his impressive collections. Light refreshments will be available after the presentation.



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Message

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Membership,

I am truly grateful for all of you who support our organization, and put up with my "President's Message" each quarter - especially when this season's update each year starts with something trite like "Spring has sprung and flowers are blooming." I truly love flowers and Spring has definitely brought showers. My column in the last newsletter focused on our accomplishments in 2023 and anticipation for 2024, which leaves me plenty of room to talk about perhaps our biggest challenge for the year ahead: Membership and Sustainability.

Many of you are members of several historical societies or organizations that are wholly volunteer driven and sustained by donations. I'm lucky enough to be involved with several and my day job includes co-running one (The Fairfield Foundation). These organizations rely heavily on the annual donations of members like you to help achieve their goals - while also relying heavily on your significant contribution of knowledge, time and effort through board membership, committees, and events. Without your support, many of these groups would cease to exist. For that, I am eternally grateful.

Costs come in a variety of forms. Again, I know I'm speaking to many of you in the choir when I share these. Our own society operates several properties and while we do not have paid staff, we're still responsible for maintaining liability insurance and upkeep. We have a fantastic relationship with the county, which makes our work at the courthouse, museum, and the jail much easier. And we benefit greatly from the Alma and Harry Coon Fund, which provides support for special projects first and foremost related to the courthouse, but also for our other properties and projects that address King William County's history as a whole (but cannot be used for recurring expenses or overhead). But we're still responsible for the day-to-day operations, the yearly costs (website hosting, for instance) and other expenses. I'm happy to say that these are relatively small when compared to our special project budget - and that means your donations are absolute DIFFERENCE MAKERS!

Your contribution is meaningful. Small donations (\$35, \$50, \$75), medium donations (\$100, \$250, \$500), and very large donations (\$\$\$\$\$\$\$) are all welcome - and it is your collective effort that keeps the lights on, allows for our speakers and meetings, and keeps these properties accessible. So while our next newsletter will talk about getting more involved (yep, board elections are coming and we have a spot waiting for you), I appreciate your time reading this and we hope you will consider renewing your membership (or adding to your annual contribution). You are appreciated :)

Sincerely,  
Dr. David A. Brown, President

## MEMBER NEWS

### Voting for Board Positions

The upcoming biennium for the KWCHS begins this July, and we will vote for new officers and board members in July. The officers include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Parliamentarian. Also elected to the board are three at large members. Do you wish to serve, or know someone who may be interested? Please contact John Breeden or Lisa Vawter on the Nominating Committee. We can also answer any questions about duties of board members or serving on the board. John can be reached at [jljbreeden@aol.com](mailto:jljbreeden@aol.com) or 804-338-6384, and Lisa at [lilvawter@aol.com](mailto:lilvawter@aol.com) or 804-387-1241.

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### Visit the King William County Museum

Our Museum is open for the season, which began in early March and will continue through November. The Museum is open from 1:00 to 5:00 on Sundays. It is also open on “dig days,” the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, when the archaeologists are at work nearby. Stop by and check out what the archaeologists are up to, and visit the Museum.

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### From the Treasurer

Please remit your dues.

Membership dues are:

- \$20 Individual Membership for one Year
- \$30 Family Membership for one Year
- \$250 Individual Lifetime Membership

You may submit your dues to:

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

Or bring them to the meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions as to whether your dues are current, please contact Sally Pearson at [sallysgoldens@gmail.com](mailto:sallysgoldens@gmail.com)

If you know of someone who would like to join, the membership form can be found here: <https://kingwilliamhistory.org/membership/>

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### Save the Date

Mark your calendars for upcoming Membership meetings:

July 21, 2024, 2:30 pm

October 20, 2024, 2:30 pm

The meeting place is to be determined, but plan on joining us for a picnic in October, when we will hopefully have cool, comfortable weather in which to enjoy our time together.

### Lanesville Christadelphian Church

If you've driven through the Lanesville crossroads, you may have noticed work being done on the Christadelphian Church, a property given to the Historical Society by Caryle Lee Walker. When the building was originally renovated, much of the siding was replaced, and over the years it has deteriorated. In order to maintain the property, the Historical Society is having the rotted siding replaced with cypress. Hopefully this will last for many years to come. When the carpentry is completed, the exterior of the building will be painted. We are very fortunate to have funding from the Alma and Harry Coon Fund to assist with projects such as this.

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### King William County Historical Society Membership Meeting Minutes Sunday, January 21, 2024

The King William County Historical Society members met on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Mangohick Baptist Church in Hanover, Virginia. President David Brown called the meeting to order at 2:36. The minutes from both July 16, 2023 and October 15, 2023 were approved. President Brown advised that the Treasurer's Report is available and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

We noted the recent deaths of both Herbert Collins and Henry Gregory, longtime King William residents.

The recent donation to the Museum of a framed, original watercolor of a small barn near the Courthouse, by King & Queen resident and artist, Gwynn Litchfield was acknowledged. We are grateful for this lovely gift.

There being an open, at large position on the Board of Directors, Lisa Vawter nominated Lee Ramsey for the position. Brenda Parker seconded. There were no other nominations and the motion passed.

Vanessa Spurlock of Mangohick Baptist Church presented a program, sharing a history of the church and congregation. The building was constructed in 1732-1735. The congregation dates back 158 years. After the program, we toured the church, which has been lovingly maintained over the years. The KWCHS is very grateful to the church for welcoming us and sharing their beautiful church for the afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Vawter  
Recording Secretary

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## Springtime at the Courthouse

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### 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



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*The King William Museum is open from 1:00 to 5:00  
on Sundays, or by appointment. Call 804.769.9619 or  
email [kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org](mailto:kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org)  
Located at 227 Horse Landing Road,  
King William, Virginia*

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### *King William County Historical Society*

The King William County Historical Society was formed in 1973 to preserve and promote the unique heritage and rich history of King William County, Virginia through education, research, and restoration of historically significant landmarks.

Our mission is to collect, interpret, and preserve those things relative to the history of the county while acting as caretaker of artifacts from the lives and traditions of the people who have gone before us.

To this end our efforts are wide ranging, including our publications, operating the county historical museum, and the stabilization and restoration of King William landmarks such as the Old Jail, Lanesville Christadelphian Church, and Acquinton Church.

Membership is open to all who share a passion for history, a reverence for the past, and an interest in preserving our common heritage for future generations.