

KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter
July 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July 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, July 21st at 2:30. This will be an in-person meeting at the King William Administration Building. Our guest speaker will be HS member Bibb Edwards, who will speak about a 19th century incident in King William. The title of his presentation is "Beulah Does the Right Thing."

Four years ago, an email to the King William Historical Society initiated research into a very disturbing series of events that occurred in post-war 1866 King William. Accounts of what happened and a graphic photograph 'went viral' that summer in newspapers across the country. The "no one had anything to be proud about" story soon faded away. But the dark cloud that passed over King William had a silver lining. Join local historian Bibb Edwards as he introduces us to citizens who did the right thing.

Light refreshments will be available after the presentation.

P.2: The President's
Message

P. 3: Book on Historic
Homes in King William

P. 4: Transcription
Project Update

P. 5: Article in
Ceramics in America

P. 6: Slate of Officers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Membership,

This summer's challenge is two-fold: a) how to avoid the heat without staying trapped inside, and b) how to politely encourage all of our members to send in their dues while also raising membership numbers through friends, family, and spreading the word about our amazing society. We have a good solution for the first part - namely our upcoming meeting which will be air conditioned, but also is not in your living room. The second is more of a challenge.

The upcoming meeting will see several new but familiar faces nominated to our board of directors. We are excited to have what projects to be a full board for the first time in several years. While many hands make tasks much easier (or so my kindergarten teacher taught me), they also bring new ideas, energy, and experience to us and I'm very optimistic about the year ahead. At the same time, I'm very much grateful for and indebted to those leaving the board. They have provided us with amazing guest speakers, impromptu (free) legal advice, a high-quality newsletter, passionate advocacy for King William's history, and good humor throughout board meetings and special functions. I know that each board has their own identity and I've valued the most recent board for their decency, attention to detail, willingness to debate without descending into argument, and a preference to laugh through difficult times rather than devolve into negativity.

I think that our board is one of our society's best assets and leads us through their example. I'm highlighting them here because some of you may not get the chance to see these wonderful people in action like I do. I am proud of their accomplishments and it has been an honor to serve as their president (and I hope to do so again for another two-year term). And so, I ask that you strongly consider checking your bank statements and making sure you've sent in your membership dues for this year. We know we're a bargain, and we've kept the amount stable while so many other prices have increased, but while the dues may not seem like much they are greatly appreciated and help us cover the essential costs - namely insurance, but also the other every day, every month expenses that keep the lights on. Our special projects are covered by other funds, and we're grateful for those too, but we're nothing without you and your support.

So, whether we see you at the next meeting or not, I hope you stay cool, stay safe, and keep interested and supportive of our work.

Sincerely,
Dr. David A. Brown, President

MEMBER NEWS

Book on King William County Historic Houses

King William County's population remained basically the same from 1800 to 1980 - about 9,000. There are many reasons for the lack of population growth and development, but it resulted in many historic buildings being preserved. A recent survey conducted by the King William County Historical Society documented hundreds of buildings over 100 years old.

A committee was formed to investigate the creation of a book to document and photograph these buildings. The objective was to get a "snap shot" of our historic buildings that still exist in 2024. After identifying the buildings, the committee felt just one book would be difficult - too big, too time consuming and too expensive. So, it was decided there should be several books and the consensus was to start with existing houses that were constructed before 1865. As of this writing, there are 75 houses that qualify for the first book.

The committee has investigated and documented each of the 75 houses and have begun the search for an author. The ideal author will be qualified to perform detail research on each house, conduct historical architectural reviews and coordinate photography ... as well as writing the manuscripts. The Historical Society Board has approved funding for the first phase of the project which includes detail research, content descriptions/examples and the book outline.

We will soon make the list of 75 houses available to our members to review and provide feedback on their qualification and to determine if we missed any. We would also appreciate help with owner contact information, as the next step will be to contact the owners by letter to inform them of the project and solicit their support and involvement.

Members of the book committee are Debi Moren, Lisa Vawter, Ron Parker, Lee Ramsey, John Breeden and Bob Hubbard.

-Bob Hubbard

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 July 21st. If you have questions as to whether your dues are current, please contact Sally Pearson at sallysgoldens@gmail.com

Transcription Project: Volumes 3 & 4 are Now for Sale!

We're picking up the pace on the transcription project in 2024 and are proud to announce that Volumes 3 and 4 are now for sale! Each of the volumes (1-4) are keyword searchable and each original page is displayed across from the transcription for immediate verification.

To date we've completed and offer for sale the following books:

- Book One, 1702 - 1707 – 376-page images
- Book Two, 1702 - 1706, 1721 - 1722, 1785 - 1786 – 267-page images
- Book Three, 1783 - 1800 – 474-page images
- Book Four, 1800 - 1805 – 380-page images

We've also completed the transcription and editing for the following additional book and hope to offer it for sale later this year (in time for Christmas):

- Book Six, 1811 - 1816 – 517-page images

Lastly, we've completed the transcription of the following book and plan to edit and format it for sale in 2025:

- Book Five, 1806 - 1810 – 480-page images
- Book Seven, Parts 1 & 2, 1816-1819 – 531-page images

We've tentatively scheduled Books Eight (1819 -1822 – 504-page images) & Nine (Parts 1 & 2, 1835 - 1837 – 550-page images) for 2025 and with the support of the Harry and Alma Coon Fund we should be able to keep up this pace with new transcriptions in 2025. With 19 books in total, the multi-year project is intended to connect the public with vital historic records that will link them with their history. Please reach out to us to acquire your own copies of these transcribed documents. And if you don't want to wait, you can also purchase all 19 books in image form (not transcribed; not keyword searchable) on a single thumb drive (9000 pages!) from us, too.

Each copy costs \$50 with the proceeds supporting the King William County Museum. For purchase, please email kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org

-Dr. David A. Brown and John Breeden, Transcription Committee

MEMBER NEWS

English Delft Plate Artifact

The English delft plate recently uncovered during archaeological excavations in the old Courthouse Tavern area has received notoriety. The 2023 publication *Ceramics in America* included a wonderful article about “our” plate written by archaeologists Elizabeth Donison and Ned Rose of the Fairfield Foundation and curator Angelika Kuettner of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. As you may remember, the plate was found in an area filled with many pieces of broken wine bottles and pottery. Though the plate was in pieces, the archaeologists were able to find most of them and reassemble it. Ultimately it was beautifully restored and placed in our Museum. If you have not seen it, please make the time to visit the King William County Historical Museum, and read the article about its surprisingly interesting connections with Liverpool, England and archaeological excavations in Colonial Williamsburg during the 1980s.

The article can be accessed online here:

<https://chipstone.org/article.php/882/Ceramics-in-America-2023/English-Delft-for-Colonial-Tavern-Tables-in-King-William-County-and-Williamsburg,-Virginia>



Prior to restoration - see the beautifully restored plate in the Museum

MEMBER NEWS

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

The King William County Historical Society members met on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the King William County Administration Building. President David Brown called the meeting to order. The minutes from the January 21, 2024 membership meeting were approved.

The program was presented by Newell Randall, local fossil hunter, who spoke about fossil collecting and identifying. His animated presentation was greatly enjoyed, and we appreciated viewing a small selection of his collection of marine fossils.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Vawter
Recording Secretary

Voting for Board Positions

The upcoming biennium for the KWCHS begins this July, and we will vote for new officers and board members at the July membership meeting. The officers include President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Parliamentarian. Also elected to the board are three at-large members. Here is the Slate of Officers for July 2024:

President David Brown
Vice-President Katie Gibson
Recording Secretary Amanda Walker
Corresponding Secretary Ben Shumaker
Treasurer Sally Pearson
Parliamentarian John Breeden
Museum Council Chair Debi Moren
At-Large Bibb Edwards
At-Large Carl Fischer
At-Large Lee Ramsey

The Museum Council Chair, Debi Moren, is also on the Board, and while we hope Debi will continue to serve as she has done so admirably in the past, the Museum Council Chair position is not voted on by the membership.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

Family \$30

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

July Lilies



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 Located at 227 Horse Landing Road, King William, Virginia

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.