

KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter
October 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

King William Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

Learn about Robert Mush a
Pamunkey Citizen, Revolutionary
Patriot, and Minister.
Presentation by Vice President,
Katie Harlow



Sunday
October 19, 2025

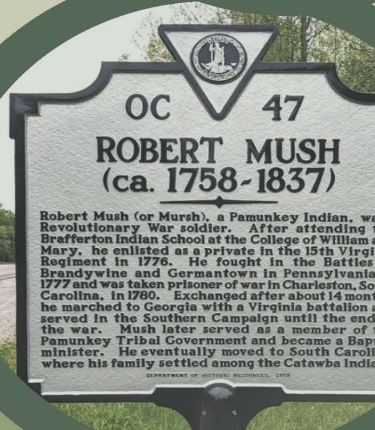


Time
2:30 P.M.



**Lanesville Christadelphian
Church**
7442 Mt. Olive Cohoke Rd.
King William, VA 23086

JOIN US



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Message

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& Membership Meeting
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members,

It is a little early for giving thanks, but never too early to appreciate the people you work with and those who came before you. I am particularly blessed to work with a board of directors at the historical society that not only contribute their time, intellect, and effort, but support in many other ways (donations included). I'm grateful for the most recent projects that have elevated the historical society's profile among the community, including our book project focusing on the houses of King William County built before the Civil War. I'm also grateful for the long-standing contributions of the museum council and the many docents who help create exhibits, catalog objects, and open the museum to the public. I want to make sure to recognize the efforts that far preceded my involvement in the society, though, and that involves a bit of time travel.

When I was first asked to join the society's board of directors, it came on the heels of the restoration work at the Old Jail, just a few feet to the east of the historic courthouse. Helping install ceiling tiles one day, it was easy to understand how historic buildings like these needed constant attention and maintenance but could also be of great use to the county and the society. I also learned about the restoration of the tall wall surrounding the courthouse, the challenges of rebuilding it (twice) and the pride so many people took in maintaining that part of this important landscape. These are just two of the many ambitious projects the society has undertaken over the years, often involving countless hours contributed by numerous volunteers and funded through grants written by our board members and supporters.

This track record, not to mention the creation of the museum in the old clerk's office and the collaborative projects with Carrol Lee Walker on the Lanesville Christadelphian Church and Acquinton Church, is difficult to match. But I remain inspired by the past presidencies of Steve Colvin, Carl Fischer, and others whose efforts made transformative contributions to our community. I consider our society a vital component to everyday life in King William County and could not be prouder of our contributions and our potential to make a difference in the lives of others. I hope you feel the same way.

Sincerely,

Dr. David A. Brown, President

MUSEUM NEWS

REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST YEAR

As summer fades to fall and the days grow shorter, we can sit back and reflect on the past year.

The King William Historical Museum has been busy throughout the year. Thanks to all the Council's Committee Members commitment. The team worked hard throughout the year to ensure the museum ran smoothly; from gathering information to interviews with Dr. Lomax to independent research. We ventured to Appomattox to listen to an author about the Rosenwald Schools in Virginia. Council members visited the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. The audio for the Native American exhibits was also repaired. The Museum Council participated in the 300th Anniversary of the Oldest Courthouse in continuous use. A commemorative coin was designed and is available for sale in the museum. VA250 and council members eagerly greeted 4th graders when they visited the courthouse complex, archeological dig site and museum. The museum was open for the annual Edwards family reunion and family tours of the Minor Family and the Moren/Trice Family. Bill and Shannon Gulasky have represented the museum at the King William County Farmers Market. One of their booths depicted what it would be like to come to a country store and buy penny candy.

The museum is open most Sundays from 1-5pm and by appointment. There are approximately 7 docents that are trained and eager to greet visitors to the museum. Members have also assisted with genealogical research and have met with and guided visitors in the field. Even though the hours for the museum are March to November, we are open on the days that Fairfield Foundation is busy in the field with their archeological digs and by appointment.

Thank you to all the Museum Council Committee and King William Historical Society members for a fantastic year!

"Reflection fuels the growth of our future."

Debi Moren,

Museum Chair

*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*

MEMBER NEWS

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 by check to:

King William Historical Society

P O Box 233

King William, VA 23086



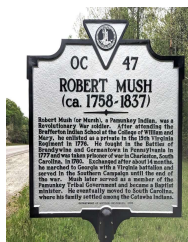
Scan QRCode to pay
through PayPal.

We also accept payments through **PayPal**. You can scan the QRCode above or visit the following link. <https://kingwilliamhistory.org/dues>

If you have questions as to whether your dues are current, please contact Sally Pearson at treasurer@kingwilliamhistory.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

Our next membership meeting will be on Sunday, October 19th at the Lanesville Christadelphian Church located at 7442 Mt. Olive Cohoke Rd, King William, VA, starting at 2:30pm.



Robert Mush (or Mursh), a Pamunkey Indian, was a Revolutionary War soldier. After attending the Brafferton Indian School at the College of William and Mary, he enlisted as a private in the 15th Virginia Regiment in 1776. He fought in the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown in Pennsylvania in 1777 and was taken prisoner of war in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1780. Exchanged after about 14 months, he marched to Georgia with a Virginia battalion and served in the Southern Campaign until the end of the war. Mush later served as a member of the Pamunkey Tribal Government and became a Baptist minister. He eventually moved to South Carolina, where his family settled among the Catawba Indians.

Please consider donating to the King William Historical Society to help with our ongoing operational costs. You can do this online by visiting <https://kingwilliamhistory.org/donate>

Membership Meeting Minutes

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+

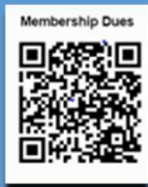
Corporate Sponsorship \$500+

Pay Online at:

www.kingwilliamhistory.org/dues

Or mail to:

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



King William County Historical Society Membership Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 20, 2025

The King William County Historical Society members met on Sunday, July 20, 2025, in the board meeting room of the King William County Administrative building in King William County, Virginia. Vice President Katie Gibson called the meeting to order at 2:26 pm. The minutes from the January 19, 2025, membership meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's Report and membership applications were made available in the lobby for members.

Old Business: The Department of Historic Resources has approved the historical marker for racial integrity that will be installed adjacent to the marker in front of the Historical Courthouse. The sign is now in production and once cast, an event will be held for its dedication. The transcriptions of Deed Book Eight and Deed Book Nine are currently in the editing phase. The photography for the first seventy-five homes selected for the King William Historical Homes book project is over halfway complete.

Museum Report: From May through July, the museum was open twenty-two days. Thirteen docents volunteered a total of 172 hours. The museum has been open during the archaeological digs taking place on the second and fourth Thursday of each month and was also open for the Juneteenth Celebration. Docent training is in progress. The museum hosted 156 fourth graders from Acquinton Elementary on May 9, 2024. Bill and Shannon Gulasky had a stand at the King William Farmer's Market on May 23, 2025, featuring an "old country store" with penny candy. The Moren/Trice family reunion visited the museum. The council had a commemorative coin struck for the 300th Anniversary of the Courthouse that is available for sale in the museum for \$20.00.

New Business: Scott Mitchell, owner of D S Mitchell Electric, repaired an electrical issue at the Lanesville Christadelphian Church at no cost to the Society. Liz and Johanna of King William florist donated a flower arrangement to the VA250 table at the 300th Courthouse celebration. Gene Fornash won the arrangement in a drawing. Eleven applications for new and renewed memberships were processed at the event.

Vice President Katie Gibson introduced Edward Haile as the speaker. Haile is the editor and author of Jamestown Narratives and the author John Smith in the Chesapeake. He is also the cryptographer of two maps for the period, Virginia Discovered and Described, and England in America. Mr. Haile told the group all about the Captain John Smith's capture by a hunting party led by Chief Powhatan's younger brother, Oppachancanoe. The party led Smith across the Pamunkey River, through what is now King William County, and across the Mattaponi River. They were likely on a search to deliver him to Chief Powhatan. King William County hosts three of twenty-one granite markers found around the Chesapeake Bay area, marking the path of John Smith's travels. Folks interested in learning more about Smith's travels through the region, as well as the marker locations, can visit captainjohnsmith.org.

Katie took the floor back and the meeting was adjourned.

Twenty members and five guests attended the meeting. Light refreshments were enjoyed after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Walker

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.