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KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2026 - Volume 18, Number 4

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please join us for a special presentation about **cemetery monument identification, cleaning, and preservation** by Mr. Corey Cosby (Parliamentarian) and Mr. Vincent McAllister (Vice President).

King William County holds a unique and storied place in Virginia's history. Whether you are a lifelong resident, a passionate genealogist, or simply curious about the roots of our region, your voice and presence are vital to preserving our local heritage. When & Where:

• Date: October 18th

• Place: County Administration Building
180 Horse Landing Road, King William, VA 23086

• Time: 2:30 pm

Open to all members, prospective members, and the public. We look forward to seeing you there!

African-American Oral History Project

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Jessica Taylor, Jason Higgins, and all of the interviewees who took part in the African American Oral History project.

The interview team completed 16 interviews in person and via Zoom. Interviews were either audio recorded, video recorded, or both based on the interviewees' preference.

These recordings are now in the process of being transcribed and sent to interviewees for any edits or corrections. Once complete, the Historical Society will have the recordings and keyword-searchable transcripts that will preserve these stories for generations to come.

Again, thank you to everyone who participated, and we hope to conduct more interviews in the future.

- Katie, Reggie, Debi, John, Bibb

You are cordially invited to join the
Commonwealth and Old St. John's Church Chapters of
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for the
Dedication of America 250! Patriot Marker
Honoring the Men and Women Who Supported American Independence
Saturday, October 17, 2026 One O'clock
King William County Historic Courthouse
227 Courthouse Lane, King William, Virginia 23086
Reception: Join us for colonial refreshments, music, historical exhibits, and tours of the oldest courthouse in continuous use in the United States
Please RSVP: tracysandmann@hotmail.com

DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution

King William County Virginia Since 1702 VA250 Virginia Since 1776

VIRGINIA 250
A REVOLUTION OF IDEAS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Summer is winding down, I am happy to take this time to touch base and connect with our members. I have enjoyed getting to know everyone over the past two years, and I look forward to connecting with others over the next two.

When Dave Brown first approached me two years ago about being on the board, he told me he had joined the Historical Society to connect with the history of the community he lived in, but that he stayed involved because of the people. During my term as Vice President, I came to understand exactly what he meant. I am grateful for the folks I have had the opportunity to meet, and am especially grateful to Dave for his guidance and years of commitment to the Society.

As a volunteer organization, we thrive because of folks with commitment and passion for the history of King William. As we move forward, my goal as President is to foster an inclusive space for those who share that passion to fulfill our mission of preserving, sharing, and honoring the history of King William. We have a board that is eager to get to work. As members of the board, we are representatives of the membership. My aim is not to pursue a personal agenda but to come to a consensus through compromise and make decisions reflective of decisions that best serve our membership.

With that being said, I want to hear from **YOU**! I will be holding office hours at the historic courthouse complex November 15th from 2-5pm. Please feel free to come by and chat or work with me on projects.

I will also note that this is all new to me, and I ask for grace as we start up and get in the groove. I am humble enough to know that I may unknowingly make mistakes, but please know that as President those mistakes will never be made from a place of ill intent or purposeful malice. I welcome dialogue and know that I may not always have the answers but will do my best to make each member feel heard. I look forward to seeing everyone on October 18th.

- Katie Gibson Harlow

MEET OUR 2026-28 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Katie Gibson Harlow: President

"I am Katie Gibson Harlow, a local historian and genealogist with a B.A. from William & Mary and an M.A. from Virginia Tech, both in History.

In addition to serving as President of the King William County Historical Society, I am a Board Member for the West Point Historical Society, Vice President of the King William County Historic Preservation and Architectural Review Board, and a Member of the King William VA250 Committee.

I have been honored to publish four journal articles and have a report for the National Parks Service set to be published spring of 2027.

I also work full-time as a Senior Associate for Kenah Consulting, supporting Tribal Nations through administrative capacity building and cultural heritage work throughout Virginia and the United States.

My passion for local history began ten years ago working in the West Point museum, where I learned how community stories shape our understanding of place.

As President of KWCHS, I remain committed to centering people and fostering an inviting, engaging space for all who love history."

- Continued on Page 9

MUSEUM

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve as your Chair of the King William County Historical Museum. We've accomplished much over the past few years. The museum team, along with the King William VA250 program, was privileged to celebrate the occasion of the 300th Anniversary of the Old Courthouse, the oldest courthouse still in use in the United States. The group was also pivotal in the celebration of the America 250.

Fifty years ago, in 1976, as the country was celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the nation, my brother was telling me of the covered wagons coming through King William. I was in the U.S. Army in Massachusetts at the time. Some of us were able to participate in the bicentennial celebration in Boston on the 4th of July, 1976. The Queen of England was there, Elton John was there, and some of us marched carrying "Brown Besses". Participating in both the 200th and 250th celebrations were a distinct honor—it's one of those things one will always remember.

The museum has hosted multiple family reunions on the historic grounds. Most memorable was the Gaines-Tabb reunion where Dr. Alvin Lomax provided a phenomenal presentation. The team interviewed Dr. Lomax and others to update the African-American video inside the museum on numerous occasions. Reggie Neale also interviewed the Thornton Sisters of West Point. My own King William High School graduating class of 1975 included a museum tour as part of our reunion weekend events on our recent 50th anniversary.

My favorite visit was during our Moren-Trice family reunion. Former Historic Society member, Uncle Donald Moren was a prolific historian of our family and the County. The smile on his face and the other family members is something I will always treasure.

I have hosted visitors from Texas, Arkansas, Florida, and many other states in between. It has been a pleasure to meet everyone and an honor to be a part of the history of King William County. Thanks to a wonderful Council, VA250 team, and the Historical Society and Board that offered fantastic support. Here's wishing the museum continued success.

- Debi Moren

Charles Waddell's Gift

King William's first County Administrator, from 1972 to 1983, Charles M. Waddell, 89, died recently in Woodbridge, Virginia. According to an obituary in *The Country Courier*, he established modern county government in King William.

As he took on many roles as existing governmental voids were being filled, wearing many hats, one may have been as a member of the new King William County Historical Society. This is suggested by the family request,

> "...those wishing to honor his memory may consider making a memorial contribution to the King William County Historical Society."

In addition, his estate has kindly sent us a $500 check to support our work.

In a separate article in the *Courier*, Gene Campbell noted, "We owe a great deal of gratitude to Charles Waddell for his vision and leadership in guiding King William County into the modern era."

And we thank Mr. Waddell for remembering us.

Thank You

Donald Kellum, our new Facilities Committee Chair, assisted by Lee Ramsey and Vincent McAllister, recently removed a very large broken tree limb at Acquinton Church, saving the Society around $1,600. Thanks, guys.

- Bob Hubbard

MYSTERY SOLVED!

Last month, the newsletter gave us a challenge. A 1935 photograph taken by Frances Benjamin Johnston of King William's Piping Tree Ferry House had made its way into the Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South at the Library of Congress. Tucked in the corner of the photograph were three unidentified children, and members were challenged to uncover who they were.

The photograph was shared on the King William Memories Facebook page. Then, after researching historical occupants of Piping Tree Ferry Farm, we discovered that Ollie and Ruby (Paul) Allen were living there when the photograph was taken.

Census records, birth dates, and family information strongly suggest the children are Gladys Croxton Allen, age 11, Mildred Jeanette Allen, age 10, and Clinton "Beverly" Allen, age 5. Their younger brother, Leslie "Lee" Allen, was not pictured - he was only about a year old when the photograph was taken.

As anyone tracing King William families knows, just about everybody is kin to somebody! Ollie came from a large family with six sisters and three brothers, while Ruby Paul had one brother. Through those siblings and their descendants, the Allen and Paul family lines are connected to many current King William families, including the Farmers, Pitts, Rotens, Foxes, and Gulaskys. Yes, sure enough, while researching these children, we found some of our own kinfolk: Ollie and Bill's grandmother, Alice Allen, were siblings.

Sadly, Ollie Allen was struck by lightning while working at Piping Tree Ferry Farm on July 13, 1937. He is buried at Colosse Church; he was only 37.

Ruby later married Benjamin Kirby, and they moved to Barhamsville in New Kent County. They had another daughter, Dorothy Kirby Sellars.

The Allen children went on to build lives and families of their own. Gladys married Kilby Davis, Mildred married Jack Hodges, Clinton "Beverly" married Mary Hobson, and Leslie "Lee" married Janie Wooten and later Gladys Quillian.

The family became an important part of the Barhamsville community and remains connected to the area today. You can find the Allen Farm stand at the Toano Farmers Market. Descendants who live nearby have maintained connections with other family members throughout King William.

Ruby and her four Allen children—Gladys, Mildred, Beverly, and Lee—are buried together at Tabernacle Memorial Cemetery in Barhamsville.

What began as a search to identify three children from an old photograph became a reminder of King William's close family connections. Using some new and old-fashioned research, the children of this 91-year-old photograph can finally tell their story. And as we went looking for them and their family, we ended up finding some of our own.

-Bill and Shannon Gulasky

Richmond Whig & Public Advertiser
February 23, 1857, page two
(Paragraphs added for clarity)

UNRECORDED PHENOMENON IN KING WILLIAM'S HISTORY

Mr. Editor and Reader: I have heard it remarked that Eastern Virginia is behind the times. Now, if the Ladies will allow me, I will convert the proposition, and prove that she is ahead of times.

This axiom was explored not by any metaphysical investigation or diligent incubation of my own, but it was explicitly demonstrated by an equestrian drama, which was evolved here in this county by the way of a Ladies' fox hunt.

First and foremost, the ladies of the county have no compunction whatever in ordering their husband's favorite riding horse and gallop off to the field of action, leaving their peremptory mandate that their hen-pecked husbands shall remain at home to see that the babe eats no dirt during her ignominious fox hunt; (can that be surpassed?) And vengeance and fury to the one who will not succumb to this proscription. And as to the young single ladies, they have chased nearly every young man out of the county, with their flaming and blasphemous tattoo of women's rights.

I, that am an old bachelor, took flight long since in the hollow of an old chestnut tree, where I have been jobbed twice with a crooked stick for an old fox, and I am at this time trembling for my salvation. Ah, this is a perilous time for such an old huffish bachelor as myself, and I am sure that old Eastern Virginia, or at any rate the King William ladies, would have contributed more credit if she or they had not gotten ahead of the times.

Notwithstanding the precarious position in which they have precipitated me, I sometimes stick my head out of my rendrevous, when the cry of dogs distract my poor ears, and amuse myself with the exhibtions of women's will — "Their grotesque jolting mules and barbed steeds," their own riding hats and feathered heads, their long riding shirts saying with the wind, as they strain over the plains of old mother Ceres in pursuit of Reynard, "scaling the walls" (if I may so say) of every obtruding forest, where not even the red skin lass dared to venture In days of yore. Bold, bright eyed maids, they; and if our readers don't believe me, just let them dress up in some madam's gown and come down, (men wear coats down here!) and see how the ladies leave the distance behind which intervenes between them and frightened Reynard; and I know you could not refrain from breathing' Alas, poor, Yorick.

If you could but see the fire and smoke which rises from the feet of their fiery-footed horses, as young cupid followed by old America, glides over the amorous fields of broom straw, through the woods, under the bows of the flexible and urbane pine, casting a fascinating smile of defiance at all impediments, such as high fences, ditches, and the like — gliding over them with such becoming grace, that the cheek of beautiful Venus was crimson with the blush of assimilation.

Is fox hunting, or its synopsis, coon hunting, an exhibition of women's will? If so, Heaven forbid that they should ever have their will. With this I leave you comment and reflect upon the fast times of the age, hoping that the ladies of King William may find more refined amusements than fox hunting "to entertain these fair, well-spoken days."

INCOGNITO

One might think our "huffish bachelor," quick with classical allusions and Shakespearean quotes, would have the last word. But that would be wrong! Next issue, a spirited defense of the Ladies of King William.

$ TREASURER'S REPORT ¢

Accounts (9/20/2026)	Balance
Primis Checking	$1,029.00
United Museum Savings CD	$11,734.00
United Museum Checking	$8,750.00
Wells Fargo Brokerage Account	$217,476.00
Wells Fargo Coon Fund Money Market	$116,702.00
PayPal Balance	$1,007.00

~ DONATIONS ~

Please consider donating to the King William County Historical Society. You can do this easily online by visiting https://kingwilliamhistory.org/donate

If you have a project in mind for the Society to undertake that you would like to financially support, let's talk.

Visit Us!

In Person: **King William County Historical Museum**
227 Horse Landing Road, King William, VA
Phone: (804) 769-9619
Open Sundays 1 PM to 5 PM
Closed November through March

Online: https://kingwilliamhistory.org
https://www.facebook.com/kingwillcoHS

Email: kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org

And Our Neighbors...

Pamunkey Indian Museum and Cultural Center
https://pamunkey.org/museum-cultural-center

Historical Society of West Point, Virginia
https://hswpva.org

King & Queen Historical Society / Tavern Museum
https://www.kingandqueenmuseum.org

New Kent Historical Society / Museum
https://www.newkenthistoricalsoc.com

Hanover County Historical Society
https://hanoverhistorical.org

Caroline County Historical Society
https://www.facebook.com/CarolineHistoricalSociety

MEMBERSHIP

DUES

Individual (Year).....$20

Family Membership (Year).....$30

Individual Lifetime.....$250

Checks can be sent to:

King William Historical Society
PO Box 233
King William, VA 23086

We also accept dues through **PayPal**.
(A PayPal account is not necessary)

Scan our QR Code below

Membership Dues

Or visit
https://kingwilliamhistory.org/dues

Yearly memberships run for one year from the date we receive your dues.

For membership questions, please contact Bob Hubbard at
treasurer@kingwilliamhistory.org

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If you are receiving this newsletter via the US Postal Service but wish to receive an electronic copy instead, please email us at
kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org

If you are a member and are not receiving a newsletter, let us know! If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, let us know that too.

King William County Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting

The Membership Meeting of the King William County Historical Society was held on Sunday, July 19, 2026 at the Lanesville Christadelphian Church. There were approximately 60 members and guests present.

President David Brown called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

Vice President and Program Chair Katie (Gibson) Harlow introduced Dr. Jessica Taylor who made an interesting, informative, and interactive presentation on best practices when doing oral history projects.

President David Brown returned to the chair for our business meeting. The January 18, 2026 Membership Meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer Sally Pearson reported that there were no changes to the KWCHS Treasury since the report published in the Summer 2026 Quarterly Newsletter.

The Chairman of the Museum Council, Debi Moren, reported the recent King William County Historical Museum activities.

There was no Old Business.

The only New Business was the biennial election of officers. Mr. Brown asked the Parliamentarian, John B. Breeden, to read the sections of the bylaws pertaining to elections. The elections would be for one office at a time. If there were no nominations from the floor, the nominee would be deemed elected. If there was more than one nominee for one or more offices, the vote would be by ballot for those offices only.

There were objections that both spouses who were Family Members should be entitled to vote but only one ballot had been provided prior to the meeting. Mr. Breeden had based his opinion on Article III, Section 4 of the KWCHS Bylaws but as there were no objections to allowing spouses of Family members to vote, approximately nine additional ballots were distributed to spouses in addition to the ballots handed out when members entered the church.

Bibb Edwards, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported the nominees: President: Katie (Gibson) Harlow; Vice President: John B. Breeden; Corresponding Secretary: Bibb Edwards; Recording Secretary: Amanda Walker; Treasurer: Sally Pearson; Parliamentarian: Dave Brown; and Board Members At Large: Lee Ramsey, Reggie Neale, and Gus Kasper.

There were no nominations from the floor for President or Corresponding Secretary. Vince McAllister was nominated for Vice President and Bob Hubbard was nominated for Treasurer. Upon their nomination, the candidates for those respective positions, John B. Breeden and Sally Pearson, withdrew their nominations and the elections for President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer were by voice vote.

Donald Kellum was nominated to serve as Recording Secretary, Corey Cosby was nominated to serve as Parliamentarian, and Macon Edwards, Isaiah Gwathmey, Sally Pearson, Barbara Trimmer, and John B. Breeden were nominated to serve At Large.

Those nominees who wished to speak or have someone speak on their behalf were given an opportunity to do so. Votes were cast and collected. Benjamin Shumaker, Bonnie Law, and John M. Breeden were appointed as Tellers.

The following individuals were elected:

President: Katie Gibson Harlow
Vice President: Vince McAllister
Recording Secretary: Donald Kellum
Corresponding Secretary: Bibb Edwards
Treasurer: Bob Hubbard
Parliamentarian: Corey Cosby
At Large: Lee Ramsey, Sally Pearson, & Macon Edwards

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Leslee Breeden for Amanda Walker, Recording Secretary

PROJECTS

The Coon Fund, Part Two

The Coon Fund has become a significant part of our Society, allowing us to take on special projects that most societies could only dream about. Years of support have resulted in a wide range of accomplishments that highlight Harry and Alma's true generosity and dedication to local history and historic preservation, but in particular they highlight a love for the courthouse. In fact, that building was the primary emphasis of their original gift. And while we have used the funds on our church properties and county-wide preservation initiatives, our board has always prioritized spending on the courthouse and its surroundings.

Our Society have emphasized work at the historic courthouse complex even before Harry and Alma's transformative gift, specifically restoring the tall brick wall and renovating the Jail in our office and research room, along with a meeting room and bathrooms that support public activities.

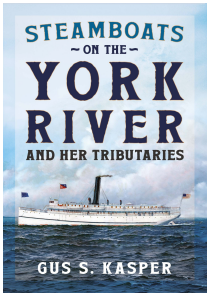
The Coon Fund has made it possible to do much more. This includes small projects, such as minor repairs to the Confederate monument and stucco on the courthouse façade. But it also supported larger projects, including research on the courthouse. The most interesting was the use of tree ring dating (dendrochronology) that identified a fire at the courthouse in the late 18th century.

Other projects situated the courthouse at the center of a community, including the study of property ownership changes within the courthouse district, nominating the district to the state and federal registers of historic places (with support from neighbors), and continued public archaeology that also helps the county administration plan for updating infrastructure without endangering our buried history.

Perhaps the most beneficial projects, reaching beyond the physical fabric of the courthouse area, has been support for our Museum's exhibits and the King William County Records Project. The latter project is an extension of the initial project to photograph the surviving 19 record books saved from the Clerk's Office fire in 1885. These books were as much a part of the courthouse as the justice of the peace or the clerk themselves. Our transcriptions currently include the first ten books, providing the public with easy-to-read, keyword-searchable gold mines of historic and genealogical data far surpassing previously available microfilm or abstracted versions. They bring our county's history to your fingertips, unlocking secrets with every keystroke.

We'd like to think that Harry and Alma are looking down on us, proud that we've kept the courthouse area that they fell in love with at the center of our Society. There are exciting opportunities to continue working there, from potential outdoor signage to interpreting the courthouse history through museum exhibits, brickwork restoration, and more. All to benefit our community and it's most iconic symbol for generations to come.

New Local History Book



Society member Gus Kasper, who has written newsletter articles for us, has recently finished his first book, ***Steamboats of the York River and Her Tributaries.*** His account of the now-all-but-forgotten steamboats on the York, Mattaponi, and Pamunkey rivers will be published November 24th by America Through Time®, an imprint of Sutton Publishing Inc., Charleston, South Carolina. You can pre-order through Amazon. Full review in our Winter issue.

MEET OUR 2026-28 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vincent McAllister: Vice President & Museum Council Chair

"I'm Vincent, a retired land owner from King William. I've lived in Mangohick almost all of the 44 years of my life. My paternal grandmother's roots stretch deep into the Gwathmey, Spurlock and Moncure families of King William.

After retiring I decided to take up a new hobby, and history has almost become more of a bug that I've been bit by, than a hobby. I look forward to devoting my newfound spare time to preserving the rich and diverse culture that makes up the county I was born in.

My main focus will be celebrating the diverse cultures and communities that have shaped King William County's remarkable history.

I'm also incredibly thankful for the opportunity to serve the community as the new Museum Chair.

I plan to work behind the scenes to help manage critical museum infrastructure, finances, fundraising, and the preservation of our historic courthouse grounds."

Bob Hubbard: Treasurer

"I grew up in Henrico County, married my high-school sweetheart, and raised a son and daughter. I served in the Marine Corps, and after college spent 30 years in information technology developing engineering process control and business systems. I retired from a Fortune 50 company in 2004 as the Director of Project Management for IT Development.

My interest in local history began in 1999 when my wife and I purchased a 200-year-old plantation in King William County. We had "renovated" a 100-year-old house, but quickly learned "restoration" of 200-year-old buildings was an entirely different adventure! I immersed myself in 19th-century building techniques and traditional crafts, using period tools and materials to restore the house and outbuildings. That experience deepened my appreciation for the people and stories behind our county's historic places.

For 20 years, I have supported the KWC Historical Society, including three terms on the board and several leadership roles including a member of the museum council. My goal is to help bring the Society and Museum together, so as one team we can better preserve, celebrate, and share King William County's remarkable heritage for generations to come."

Donald Kellum: Recording Secretary

My name is Donald Wray Kellum, and I was born in Richmond, Virginia, on January 6, 1964. I grew up in Hanover Co. and graduated from Lee-Davis High School in 1982.

My grandfather was a Custom Home Builder and quickly made use of my labor. In return, I have made a career out of doing the exact same thing. My mother grew up in King William Co. on the Mattaponi River just minutes away from where I reside. I believe that farm was once part of Uppowoc.

What really got me hooked on local history were the artifacts I have found there. As a result, I read more and more accounts about King William County and several other local areas, which ultimately sparked my interest in this organization.

I intend to give my very best at the task that has been given to me here. If anyone has questions for me, please do not hesitate to call. 804-241-5650. Thank you.

Bibb Edwards: Corresponding Secretary

"Boomer. Former redhead. Raised in rural Southside Virginia. Father's family has lived in King William since the late 1600s; mother's on the Northern Neck longer. Degrees from VT (2) and UVA. Worked in the public and private sectors, including 5 years as an assistant principal at King William High School. Married to Anita Guynn. Daughter: Malindi; granddaughter: Lily. Retired, living in the New River Valley.

Has studied history, mainly focusing on King William, for about 40 years. Began trying to solve a family mystery. Things got out of hand.

Authored "Our Courthouse Fires" for the KWCHS Newsletter in 2012. Has presented for the Society, the Historical Society of West Point, and the Virginia Forum, an annual conference of Virginia historians. Edited the online *Littlepage Journals*.

Life Member. Joined the Board At-Large in 2024. Corresp. Secretary/Newsletter Editor, 2025. Goals for the next two years: complete our ongoing projects, promote diversity, and empower our members to **Do History**." (See page 12)

Corey Cosby: Parliamentarian

"As a dedicated community leader with a long history of service throughout King William and surrounding areas. I have served on multiple committees within the community, including multiple years as President of the local youth football program, where I worked to support young athletes and their families. I also serve as Worshipful Master of Welcome Lodge #125 PHF&AM in Bowling Green, Virginia, continuing a tradition of leadership and fellowship within the Masonic community.

A lifelong student of world history, my passion took a more personal turn as I began researching my own family's roots, sparking a deep interest in the history of King William County. That journey has fueled my commitment to preserving and sharing the county's rich heritage.

I now plan to bring that same dedication to the Historical Society, with a goal of helping the organization reach its long-term objectives while continuing to educate and engage the community about King William County's storied past."

Dr. David Brown: Past President

"My name is Dr. David Brown and I'm the past president of the Society. I've had the honor of serving on the board in various capacities for several years and witnessed wonderful projects accomplished by wonderful people. I've lived in the county since 2011 and joined the Society in the years that followed, raising Andrew (15) and Aaron (11) alongside my wife Kristen.

I'm an archaeologist by profession. I co-direct the non-profit Fairfield Foundation, which focuses on hands-on archaeology, preservation, and education. I also co-own a cultural resource management firm and I teach historic preservation and public history at The College of William & Mary.

I have always loved history and investing in local history is the most effective way I can benefit my community. My goals for the next two years on the board are to assist the rest of the board with new and established projects, sharing my experiences and helping where I can."

Lee Ramsey: At Large

"I am a retired local business owner. I moved to King William in 1982 after buying a historic home built in 1792. Over the past 30+ years, I have worked to restore the property. In 2023, the home was added to both the Virginia Landmark Register and the National Register of Historic Places, two of my proudest moments.

I am active locally, having previously coached King William Little League baseball and served as a

coach and one of the founders of the King William Raiders youth football program. I am a recent member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

My goal for the next two years is to see the *Old Homes in King William* book project completed and to organize cleanups of local historic cemeteries."

Sally Pearson: At Large

"My interest in King William County began when I was assigned to audit its local courts in the early 1990s, when the circuit court was still in the old courthouse, and Pete Upshaw was clerk. I moved to the county in July 1992, became Commissioner of the Revenue on January 1, 1994, and served until retiring on February 1, 2021.

My interest in King William County history grew through the Middle Peninsula Garden Club's annual spring house and garden tours. When invited to join the King William County Historical Society board in the 2010s, I accepted and have since remained active, serving as president and treasurer.

I hope the Historical Society continues its recent progress and completes the Historic Homes book for the Middle Peninsula Garden Tour in King William County in April 2027."

Macon Edwards: At Large

Macon Edwards is a lifelong King William County resident and a fourth-generation landowner in the county. A graduate of King William High School, Macon has always considered King William home and enjoys being part of the community.

Macon is a local business owner and operates Old Dominion Shed Company in King William County. He enjoys meeting and working with people throughout the area and takes pride in owning and operating a business in the same community where he grew up.

More than anything, Macon enjoys spending time with his family. He is a husband and proud father, with the family also including two labs that keep things interesting around the house. In his free time, Macon enjoys being outdoors, working on different projects, and spending time around the county he has called home his entire life.

Dominion Energy®

Powering Your Every Day.

The KWCHS Receives Dominion Energy Grant

The King William County Historical Society is honored to receive a $1,000 Corporate Sponsorship from Dominion Energy. This fund supports community engagement efforts throughout the Middle Peninsula. Society President, Katie Harlow, and Past President Dave Brown, were contacted by Dominion representative Melanie Rapp Beale with an invitation to apply for funds.

The grant will be used to build on the success of our oral history project to purchase equipment that can be used within our community to continue gathering and preserving stories of those living in King William County.

Thank you to Dominion Energy for supporting this project.

Burned Records Transcriptions

Books **1 through 8** are complete and available for purchase. The cost is $20.00 for each transcribed book with a media charge of $10 for orders under $40. Contact Dr. David Brown (dabro3@wm.edu) for details and orders. Drives may also be purchased through the Museum in season.

Doing History

Sometime during my secondary public school days, I learned about active and passive voice. "The dog chased the cat." v. "The cat was chased by the dog." Same chase, different perspective. Active voice means the subject of the sentence performs or does the action; passive voice means the subject receives the action. The active/passive concept is useful in other areas as well: history, for example.

A decade or so ago I suggested to a group of high school students that history - what we tell ourselves about the past - is actually quite simple. Someone asks a question about the past, does research, and then shares what they learned with others. Active, a.k.a. **Doing History**.

Those students had always been on the receiving end, with history being done to them. A small, selected portion of the past had been presented to them (taught). They had been expected to receive and retain that information (learn). Active v. Passive. Generally not much fun. I suggested they didn't need to stay on the receiving end. Students or not, they could ask the questions, do the research, and tell somebody. And they didn't need anyone's permission.

Same thing applies at the KWCHS. Someone gets curious, starts asking questions. Sometimes answers fall easily to hand. But most times research is required. With labor and luck, something is learned, then shared with others. This newsletter contains a classic example: the Gulasky's identification of the three children at Piping Tree.

Whether it be our Museum's exhibits stimulating visitor curiosity, our 'burned records' projects making rare local primary sources widely available, archaeological digs uncovering artifacts and foundations of vanished buildings, restoring and maintaining county historic sites, hosting public history programs, preserving memories through recorded interviews, providing online resources 24/7, or assisting with public inquiries, we have broadly supported **Doing History** for over 50 years. May that continue.

Remember, if we don't do history, it will be done to us.

-Bibb Edwards

Calendar

October 18, 2026.....Membership Meeting
December 13, 2026.....Board Meeting
January 17, 2027.....Membership Meeting
March 21, 2027.....Board Meeting
April 18, 2027.....Membership Meeting

King William County Historical Society, Inc.

a volunteer-driven,
tax-exempt 501 (c) (03) corporation

Founded in 1974, the King William County Historical Society was incorporated in 1997 to promote interest in the history of King William County, Virginia. The Society operates the King William County Museum adjacent to the Old Courthouse, 227 Horse Landing Road, King William, VA.

We also support member and public education, research projects, and the preservation of historically significant artifacts and local landmarks.

Our quarterly Membership Meetings, usually held on the 3rd Sunday in January, April, July, and October, feature informative, historically-themed programs that are open to all. Board meetings are usually held the previous month.

We welcome your support.

Current Board & Officers

Katie Gibson Harlow: President
Vincent McAllister: Vice President
Bob Hubbard: Treasurer
Donald Kellum: Recording Secretary
Bibb Edwards: Corresponding Secretary
Corey Cosby: Parliamentarian
David Brown: Past President
Vincent McAllister: Museum Council Chair*
Lee Ramsey: At Large
Sally Pearson: At Large
Macon Edwards: At Large

*appointed by the Board