

# Isle of Kent - 1631

To Discover, Identify, Restore and Preserve the Heritage of Kent Island

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

SPRING 2018

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Audrey Hawkins 90-92

Charles Koegel 93-94

Hugo Gemignani 95-98

Nancy M. Cook 99-08

## President's Message



You may have seen the articles in the *Bay Times* about our December meeting – our annual holiday brunch and installation of Board Officers at Fisherman's Inn. There was a mood of celebration and good spirits as we celebrated, in the words of Frank Sinatra's old song, "A very good year." Of course we featured another old song for the season – our own version of the 12 days of Christmas, in appropriate costumes. During the installation, we welcomed new Board member, Mark Lidinski, local author of three historic novels, featuring "adventures" of

the Kent Island Heritage Society. Mark's energy and his passion for history will be a great addition to the Board. We thanked outgoing Board members, Earl Chambers and Linda Kratovil. We will miss them both on the Board but are glad that they will continue to be active in the Society – Earle as assistant at the Historic Post Office and assistant to the president, and Linda as our docent in the Historic Stevensville Bank. We switched roles at the VP level, as Bob Lowe assumed the office of vice president, bringing his expertise in the social media world and his experience as our liaison and chair of our Library Committee.

Hal Wilson reassumed his previous position as a member of the Board. We really appreciate the support of Hal Wilson in serving as our VP this past year. Hal has always been our thoughtful idea guy - listening, weighing the pros and cons of our some times energetic Board debates, then offering the solution that usually makes the most sense. Bob and Hal are outstanding men and we are blessed to have them both in our KIHS leadership. The rest of our KIHS officers will continue to serve: Lynne Riley Coleman as Treasurer, Nancy Cook as Recording Secretary; Carole Frederick as Corresponding Secretary – what a team. And I am honored to continue as President.

Our 2017 successes included our brand new website, launched in the spring by Joslex of Stevensville, with the assistance of Bob Lowe. It's great, easily accessible, and does all we were hoping for. Check it out for our latest information – [kentislandheritagesociety.org](http://kentislandheritagesociety.org). We completed two important maintenance projects during the year. The first floor of the Kirwan House was done with the financial support of the Queen Anne's County Garden Club and the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland. The entire first floor is now up to museum/showroom standards. We also did a rehab of the Cray House front fence in time for Kent Island Day in May – looks great.

And speaking of our iconic community event, Kent Island Day, it was our best ever in terms of size, organization, and participants - thanks to our KI Day coordinator, Nancy Cook and her team. We will have a new KI Day Team in place this year and look forward to another successful event. Our other heritage events included a March

*Continued on page 2*

## KIHS Committees

### Membership

John Conley, Chair

### Budget

Bob Lowe, Chair

Jay Gibson

Linda Collier

Lynne Riley-Coleman

Jamie Sasse

### Publicity

Martha Lostrom

### Newsletter

Martha Lostrom, Editor

Carole Frederick, Managing Editor

### Library/Genealogy

Frank Frohn

Bob Lowe, Chair

Lynne Riley-Coleman

### Kirwan House

Linda Collier, Curator

Cameron Sewell

Taylor Harmon

### Cemeteries

Steve Kougores, Asst. Curator

### Cray House

Sally Lewis, Curator

### Post Office

Earl Chambers, Curator

John Conley, co-Chair

### Smoke House Building and Grounds

### Train Station

Rudy Lukakovic, Curator

### Bank

Marilyn Wilson, Docent

Lynnda Kratovil, Docent

### Docents

Sally Lewis, Coordinator

Josh Bouchal

Anne Marie Bouchal

Butch Collier

Linda Collier

Cassy Dafin

Carole Frederick

Carl Gerg

Joanne Gerg

Jay Gibson

Toni Gibson

Taylor Harmon

Chris Kilian

Lynnda Kratovil

Sally Lewis

Barbara Marmion

Fran Peters

Hanna Wall

Marilyn Wilson

### PROGRAMS

#### Kent Island Day

Jack Broderick, Chair

John Conley

Carole Frederick

Toni Gibson

Mark Lidinsky

BobLowe

Jamie Sasse

#### Picnic

Carole Frederick, Chair

Toni and Jay Gibson

Linda and Butch Collier

#### June General Meeting

Jack Broderick

#### Annual Election Brunch

Toni Gibson

*Continued from page 1*

visit to the Kennard African American Heritage and Visitors' Center in Centerville. The building is the impressively restored site of the first and only black high school in the county. The Kent Island Heritage Society is assisting in the planning and development of the museum project at the Kennard Center.

In June we celebrated the Island's maritime heritage with a memorable dinner cruise on the Chester River on board the *River Packet*. And then in September at our annual Fall Picnic we hosted a very special celebration of the saving of Kent Island - exactly 100 years to the day and the minute that the decision was announced in Congress that Kent Island would not be taken to become an ordnance proving ground and bombing range. (Instead it was moved up the Bay to Aberdeen!) That decision was thanks to the work of a massive citizen effort lead by our own Senator James Kirwan. We made sure that we marked the occasion with an appropriate celebration in the senator's own backyard - including the reading of a County Proclamation, the firing of a ceremonial cannon, and ringing of the bell of freedom! Check out our story and photos of our memorable event.

I'm also happy to share a special note about a special honor. Many of our Board Members were on hand in October when Linda Collier, our Board member and curator of the Kirwan House, was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame for her tireless work on behalf of Kent Island and the Kent Island Heritage Society. Congratulations, Linda and thank you. That recognition is well deserved!

Throughout the year we continued to reach out in broader community efforts in support of our heritage. Some of these included: the QAC Historic Sites Consortium; Stevensville A&E District; QAC Tourism; Kent Narrows Development Foundation (special video project); QAC History Summit; QAC Library; Friends of Historic Christ Church; KI Garden Club; Kennard Juneteenth Celebration; KI Kids' Connection; QAC History Day; QA Storytelling Festival; QAC Historic Sites' Preservation Policy and Archaeological Protection Proposals; etc. It was a busy year! We look forward to more proactive outreach and involvement in similar activities and projects during 2018.

In 2018 our own special projects will include continued improvements at the Kirwan House, mainly in the upstairs rooms, and continued improvements around the outside of the Cray House.

We anticipate bringing our long-planned blacksmith shop to completion at the Kirwan Place, with the help

*Continued on page 4*

# Calendar 2018

**JANUARY 17**

BOARD MEETING

**FEBRUARY 21**

BOARD MEETING

**MARCH 28**

GENERAL MEETING

Information about the Bay Bridge  
Historic Christ Church @ 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 18**

BOARD MEETING

**MAY 16**

BOARD MEETING

**MAY 19**

KENT ISLAND DAY

**JUNE 20**

General Meeting - TBA

**JULY 18**

BOARD MEETING

**AUGUST 15**

BOARD MEETING (IF NEEDED)

**September 20**

BOARD MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 23**

ANNUAL PICNIC

@ KIRWAN HOUSE

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**OCTOBER 17**

BOARD MEETING

**NOVEMBER 14**

BOARD MEETING

**DECEMBER 9 ANNUAL**

MEETING/Brunch

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

FISHERMAN'S INN

12:30 - 4:00 PM

# Black History on Kent Island

By Linda Collier

February is celebrated as black history month, nationwide. We don't like to recall it, but Kent Island's forefathers, like most plantation owners in America, owned slaves. When freed, these African Americans formed small new communities of their own. One of those communities was Fredericktown/Normans, or as we now know it, Batt's Neck.

In 2012, the members and former members of Ezion Church, created the Batt's Neck - Fredericktown Heritage Project and obtained an historic designation for the town and church from the Maryland State Historical Society.

In November of 2015, they had their second annual homecoming called "Keep the Legacy Alive." They created a booklet of historical facts and recollections of days gone by. What follows are paraphrased excerpts from that day's program.

"The 1877 map identifies W.T.C. Normans as an early settler in the area and may be why the town was called Normans until 1904. In the late 1870s or early 1880s, Mr. Norman began subdividing his land on the west side of Batts Neck Road (Rt. 802) and selling it to African Americans. It is thought to have been called Fredericktown because one of the first men to build his home there was Fred Meredith. There were three homes in the area, each with three or four rooms, but most of the congregation lived on tenant farms.

The following are the words of Rev. Edward Johnson, who at one time was pastor of the local church.

My grandfather, my mother's father, was a slave to a man who owned the farm by the airport, named Tom Carvel. After Mr. Carvel died, his son took over, and that's when they cut the slaves loose.

I heard the old folks talk afterwards about what they used to do when they got together. They would meet out there in the fields. Sometimes they would meet out in the woods or in a shed and have their prayer meeting. They had to hide themselves to do it then. They would gather together whenever they could; maybe four, five or six slaves would meet on Sunday. I heard them say that they would put down stakes and sometime march around and around the stakes, sing and have a big time.

They would be in the woods, outside, and sometimes they would just draw a circle about six- to eight-feet in diameter and put a stake there on the circumference and instead of being on the inside, they'd be on the outside, marching to the right. They called it "the right way." The stakes represented the church; sometimes they would take a box, a chair or anything to represent the church and march around that. After freedom came, they would meet in each other's houses to have their services. They never had ministers to come in until after slavery. They got freed and then they got together and the singing and praying band started right after slavery."

Batt's Neck Church has been known for its Singing and



Praying Band. Rev. Edward Johnson was once the band captain. Jonathon C. David interviewed Rev. Johnson and wrote a book about it called "Together let us Sweetly Live."

The band used to have a three-week camp meeting at Batt's Neck. This is how they held on to their African roots.

In 1878 Dr. J.H. Weeden of Kent Island, in consideration to promote public morality and religion, gave a quarter of an acre of land beginning at the bridge on Batt's Neck Road near the public road leading from Love Point to Kent Point. A church was built in 1880, and this small congregation was made up of field hands and watermen.

After emancipation, African American fraternal organizations surged as former slaves founded lodges to provide mutual assistance. During the 1880s these organizations proliferated as blacks were facing the end of Reconstruction and the loss of many political rights and at a time when white insurance companies refused to write policies for blacks. For a membership fee, the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows provided social insurance benefits such as payments at death or illness of a member. It was the second oldest fraternal organization in the United States and was formed in 1843 when the international order refused membership to blacks.

In 1885, board members of the Mount Sinai Lodge #2163 Of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows on Kent Island, Elijah Turner, Osborne Williams and William H. Heath purchased one half acre of land on the west side of Route 802 to build a lodge. In 1893, the lodge constructed a two-story frame building, which is no longer standing.

Meanwhile the Ezion Batt's Neck Church and community flourished. Over the years they had singing groups like the Dixie Hummingbirds, Bill Moss and the Celestials, Five Blind Boys and many other singing groups attend their events. Ms. Maud Johns made it all happen and she arranged for The Silver Tones (from Kent Island) to air live on radio station WWIN every Sunday morning.

They also had an awesome ball team called the Batt's Neck Clowns and the girl's team was the Clownettes. They played all around Maryland as far away Virginia. Several carloads followed them for every game. Mr. Moody Bordley once said "they're as good as the Baltimore Orioles."

Eventually, Fredericktown or Normans just became the town of Batt's Neck. The little tavern – grocery store in town, once owned by Albert and Julia Bordley, was probably the first black owned store in the area. Everyone would go on Friday and Saturday nights to dance. It changed hands many times and burned down in 2007. The church has evolved over the years also and it is now the home of The Church of God. The Ezion congregation has merged with Union Wesley in Chester and its name is now the New Methodist Church.

# *Kent Island Day is Sat., May 19, 2018*

Each year on the third Saturday in May the Kent Island Heritage Society celebrates the heritage, life, and culture of Kent Island. The celebration this year will be on Saturday, May 19. The Kent Island Day tradition began in 1977 with the signing of a proclamation by Acting Governor Blair Lee.

The family friendly community festival takes place in one of Kent Island's oldest and most picturesque communities, the "Mayberry-like" village of Historic Stevensville, an official Maryland Arts and Entertainment District. It will feature the Heritage Society's Historic sites (all of which will be open), period docents, a working blacksmith, local authors, artists, crafters, vendors, great local food, kids' activities, an old fashioned parade, and lots of great on-stage entertainment.

The opening ceremony will be at 10:00 a.m.

## *President's Message continued*

of our own blacksmith, Mike Bouchall, local contractor, Tom Willey, and the support of the Mid-Atlantic Smithing Association. We also plan to continue work to set up a walk-in welcome center at the Historic Stevensville Bank, in partnership with other community organizations.

Please consider joining us in March for our general meeting on a subject near and dear to all of us – the Bay Bridge. We plan to explore the subject of the Bay Bridge – Past – Present – and Future. The bridge is a unique part of our recent island heritage. Come and participate, listen, and learn. We will meet on Wednesday March 28, 7:00 p.m. at Historic Christ Church in Stevensville. Hope to see you then!

I'll close with a reminder that our historic sites are open on the first Saturdays from April through November and any time by special request. We extend our deepest thanks to each of our dedicated docents who help to bring our sites alive with their passionate stories of our Island and the unique heritage of each of our sites. And thank you to each of our members for your generosity and support as we look forward to a successful and stimulating year in 2018.

*Jack Broderick*



with the National Anthem and salute to the flag. There will be a reading of the original Kent Island Day proclamation.

The parade will step out at Kent Island Elementary School at 10:30 and will flow down Main Street through downtown Stevensville. The Grand Marshall this year will be Ms. Nancy Cook, the endless source of energy and passion supporting Kent Island and Historic Stevensville for decades. Local author, Mark Lidinski, in one of his novels, calls her "the Energizer Bunny of Kent Island" – a fitting tribute.

"The parade will feature a great home town mix of old cars and tractors, boats, fire engines, historic costumes, marching bands, scouts, civic groups, horses, elected officials, and during an election year, a colorful array of political candidates," said Jack Broderick, Heritage Society President and parade chair. "There's always room in the parade, so if you want to be part of it, give us a call".

There will be an expanded under-cover food court featuring local specialties. A large area of plants and gardening information will be next to the Historic Cray House, including plants and displays by The Kent Island Garden Club. A model train display will be set up next to the Historic Train Station. Kid's activities will include the moon bounce, exotic animals, kids' crafts, and a magician. There will be special displays of historic and prehistoric artifacts from Kent Island and the surrounding Eastern Shore.

Entertainment will begin at noon on stage in the Stevensville Pocket Park next to the Historic Bank and continue throughout the day. The entertainment will include The Chesapeake Bay Community Band, KI High School Jazz Band, Remnant Gospel Group, Grey and Blue Grass Band, and The Backyard Blues Band.

*Kent Island Day offers an informative and entertaining day for the whole family, spiced with local food, fun, and friendship, celebrating Kent Island's heritage. For questions or more information on Kent Island Day, call Jack at 410-829-7760 or visit the Heritage Society's website at [kentislandheritagesociety.org](http://kentislandheritagesociety.org).*

# Heritage of Kent Island: The Indians

Contemporary accounts of the Indians living on what is now called Kent Island are scarce. The tribe did not have a written language and few of the first white settlers were literate.

The Matapeakes are believed to be the "true" Kent Island dwellers, thought to be a branch of the Ozinies. A tribe of 100 were recorded in William Claiborne's accounts (c.1631). Kent Island settlers said that Matapeakes were basically friendly. So much so that settlers took them into their homes as servants.

Kent Island Indians from other tribes lived on the island – mainly Iroquois and Algonquians. Native Indians were essential to the survival of Claiborne's settlers. The Indians taught them to plant corn, bake clams, cook beans, pumpkins, and squash and to use seaweed for fertilizer. Many other aspects of the Indian lifestyle were passed on to the newcomers.

Island Indians hunted with bows made of ash, hickory or locust, with a length of five feet. Other tools and weapons, before they obtained implements and guns from white traders, were primitive. Some three thousand acres of Island land were burnt off by Indians for their agricultural purposes and in hunting game. They lived in wigwams of the Quonset hut type. Their canoes were dug-outs, made by hollowing out trunks of trees with fire. They made pottery of simple design and did weaving, making baskets, and mats from grass, vines, and bark. Cloth was made from animal hides and from flax.

The Susquehannocks claimed dominion over Maryland territory as far south as the Patuxent River on the Western Shore and the Choptank on the Eastern Shore. Claiborne purchased Kent Island from the kings of the Susquehannocks for commercial goods valued at twenty pounds of sterling.

Other off-Island tribes, mainly the Wiccomess and Nanticoke, frequently attacked settlers and stole their belongings. As late as 1692, it was necessary to maintain on Kent Island, a force of rangers or scouts for service against these Indians.

The Matapeakes departed Kent Island around 1770. A letter written by James Bryan, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, declared: "I remember the Indians; their last dwelling place was upon the north-west side of the Island near the mouth of Broad Creek; and they lived in their cabins of bark, upon a small tract of woodland. They seemed friendly. I also remember the very time of their departure. They left the Island near the mouth of the Creek, and turned their faces westward. They were the last of the Indians upon the Island."

Sources for this article are: *History of Queen Anne's County* by Frederic Emory. 1950 edition (originally published 1886-87 in the Centreville Observer)

*Indians of Kent Island* by Emily Roe Denny, 1959    *Articles in The Bay Times*, March 1985

Much more information about Indians of Kent Island, Queen Anne's County, and Maryland are located in the Kent Island Heritage Society files at our Kent Island Library.

About the Researcher/Author  
Cindy V. Schmidt

Cindy's ancestors came to Kent Island in 1637. She began her genealogy when she was in her teens "because I wanted to know where they settled, lived and moved," so about 20 years ago she began studying the land.

Cindy was hired by Queen Anne's County to do surveys of the historic churches and to scan the chancery court documents of the county. Currently she is platting Talbot County. She says, "I just love the land, the families and stories that go with it".

Cindy's books are all ebooks (pdf) and are listed on <http://www.branchesofthebay.web.com>.

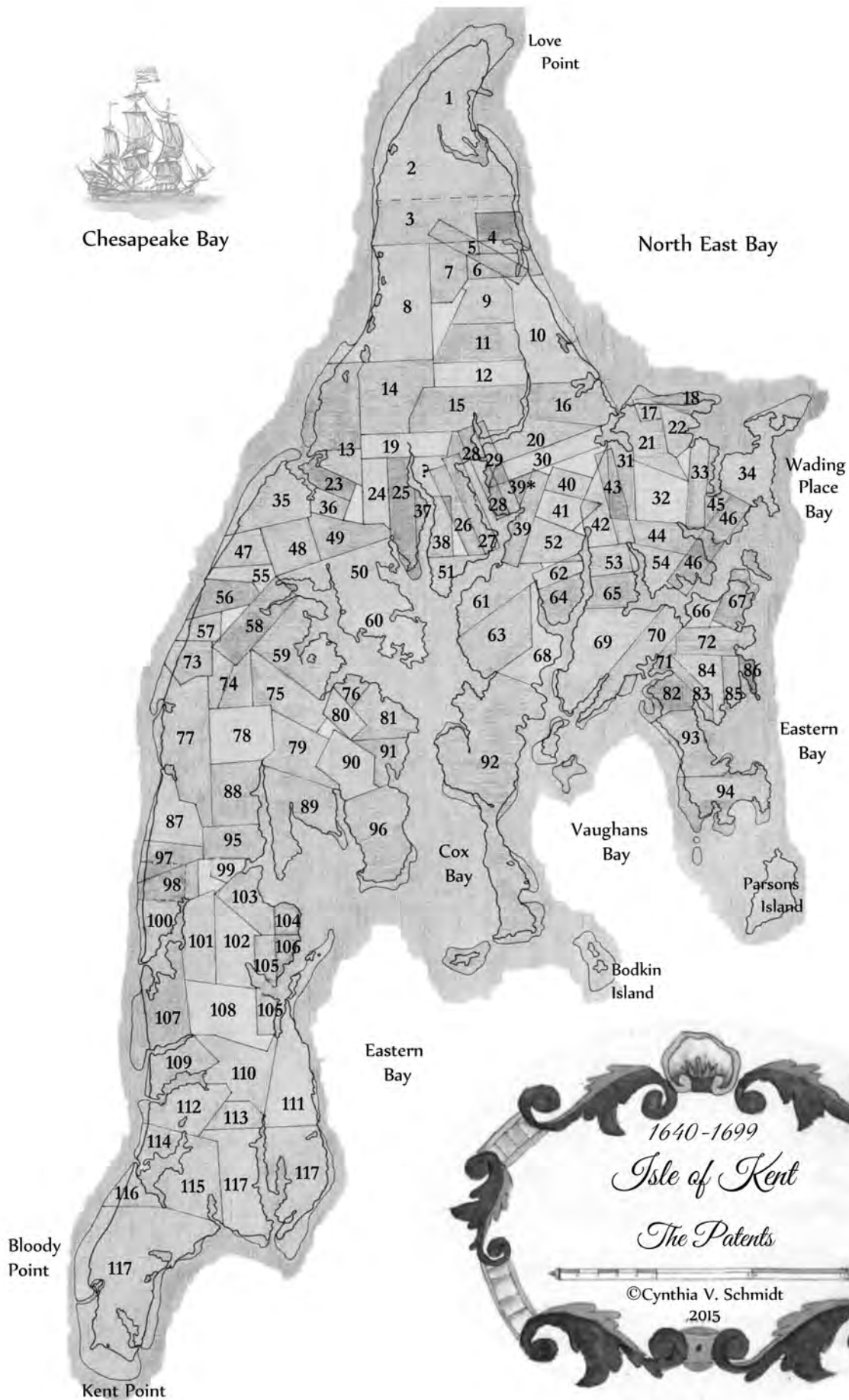
1600's PATENTS OF THE ISLE OF KENT

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Widow Commins' - Point Love               | 61. Pentrowey/Pengrogay                       |
| 2. Sillen                                    | 62. Adventure                                 |
| 3. Belcher                                   | 63. Upper Blunt Point                         |
| 4. Isaac's Lott                              | 64. George's Cod                              |
| 5. Pett's Gift                               | 65. Ashford                                   |
| 6. Pett's Neck                               | 66. Eastern Island                            |
| 7. Isaac's Chance                            | 67. Primus                                    |
| 8. Woodyard Thickett                         | 68. Woodland Neck                             |
| 9. Elliott's Addition                        | 69. Broad Oak                                 |
| 10. North East Thickett                      | 70. Poplar Neck                               |
| 11. Elliott                                  | 71. Rotterdam                                 |
| 12. Timber Ridge                             | 72. Workmans Hazard                           |
| 13. Broad Creek                              | 73. Commins Freehold                          |
| 14. Phillip Connor's Thickett                | 74. Derochbrue's and Neglect ?                |
| 15. Little Ease                              | 75. Adventure ?                               |
| 16. Body's Neck                              | 76. Batts Neck                                |
| 17. Walter's Addition                        | 77. Craney Neck                               |
| 18. Piney Neck                               | 78. The Addition - Goldhawk & Nash            |
| 19. Timber Neck                              | 79. The Ridge                                 |
| 20. Copartnership                            | 80. Saw Pit Neck                              |
| 21. Stoopley Gibsons                         | 81. Jones Hole                                |
| 22. Maidens Choice                           | 82. Pasco's Lott - Bonaventure                |
| 23. Little Neck                              | 83. Chance                                    |
| 24. Wetherell - Courthouse                   | 84. Providence                                |
| 25. Martins Neck                             | 85. Sparks Point                              |
| 26. Smithson Addition                        | 86. Long Point                                |
| ? Smiths Lott                                | 87. Crayford                                  |
| 27. Hills Cabbin                             | 88. Ore Mines                                 |
| 28. Walnut Ridge                             | 89. Yewell & Medcalf                          |
| 29. The Chance                               | 90. Matthews Enlargement                      |
| 30. Dunns Hazard                             | 91. Stint - Stinton                           |
| 31. Barnstable Hill                          | 92. Cox Neck                                  |
| 32. Winchester - Paul's Old Field            | 93. Parsons Neck                              |
| 33. Dundee                                   | 94. Parsons Point                             |
| 34. The Wading Place                         | 95. Indian Spring                             |
| 35. Connors Neck                             | 96. Stinton Erickson                          |
| 36. France                                   | 97. Coopers Freehold                          |
| 37. Smiths Addition to Martins Neck          | 98. Basha                                     |
| 38. Beverton                                 | 99. Woolcotts Addition                        |
| 39. Barren Ridge - 39* Barren Ridge Addition | 100. Beaver Neck                              |
| 40. Coopers Quarter                          | 101. Purlivant                                |
| 41. Oldsons Relief                           | 102. Isaacs Addition                          |
| 42. Jones His Plott                          | 103. Mattapax Neck                            |
| 43. Conny Hall                               | 104. Sarah's Portion                          |
| 44. Unknown                                  | 105. Ship Point                               |
| 45. Ashbury Addition                         | 106. Hales Neck                               |
| 46. Pasco's Adventure                        | 107. Little Thickett                          |
| 47. The Tarkill                              | 108. Marshes Forebearance                     |
| 48. Mary's Portion                           | 109. Hogg Pen Neck                            |
| 49. Smithfield                               | 110. Burtons Lot - Morgans Enlargement        |
| 50. Great Neck                               | 111. Philpotts Neck                           |
| 51. Pig Quarter                              | 112. Elliotts Choice                          |
| 52. Limberick                                | 113. Forlorn Hope                             |
| 53. Cooper Hill                              | 114. Wrights Fortune - Hutchings Hope - Brent |
| 54. Allens Deceipt                           | 115. Hickory Thickett                         |
| 55. Lewis' Addition                          | 116. Allens Neck                              |
| 56. Goldhawks Enlargement                    | 117. Keot Fort                                |
| 57. Mersons Freehold                         |   |
| 58. The Friendship                           |   |
| 59. Cabin Neck                               |   |
| 60. Blunts Marsh                             |   |





Chesapeake Bay





The "Grand Old Man" of Kent Island  
To the tune of "I've been working on the railroad"

1• Sittin' in the Kirwan's backyard

On this picnic day  
Country living at its finest  
"Cause Kirwan had his say.  
In the Senate he would argue  
For his Isle of Kent,  
And the Senators all listened  
What Kirwan did present

2• Right here on this land

Lived the "grand old man"  
The Senator who saved our island home  
He had a lumber mill  
(he might have had a still)  
And in the store the turtles roamed.

3• Sitting in the Senate with Kirwan

Hearing all the arguments  
Voting on a test location  
Choosing Aberdeen made sense  
And we say, "Thank you SenatorK!  
Thank you for our treasured island.  
Thank you Senator K!  
Kent Island got to stay!

4• Let us take a trip in hist'ry

To nineteen seventeen  
We could join a delegation  
To save our ;island dream!  
Five hundred was the awesome number  
Of folks who rode the track  
To show the Senate they felt strongly  
To have Kent Island back.

5• Right here on this land

Lived the "gramd old man"  
The Senator who saved our island dear  
He had a blacksmith shop  
And a wharf and a dock  
And we thank him that we can be here!

6• In the parlor was Miss Catherine

Entertain friends from far and near  
Fellowship at its finest  
The kind we have right here  
And we say, "Thank you , Catherine K.  
Thank you for this lovely setting  
Thank you, Catherine K.,  
That we can be here today!!!



*Doug Bishop captures the moment of canon firing at the picnic to honor the Kent Island successful effort to avoid it becoming a proving ground thanks to core efforts of Sen. Kirwan*



# Annual Picnic: Fun, Games, Good Food and Friends



- #1 Christmas tree weighted candle holder
- #2 Oyster culling hammer
- #3 Clothes sprinkler
- #4 Clothing fluter or pleater
- #5 Scrapple turner
- #6 Shot gun shell crimper
- #7 Anti macassar set

- #8 Flag holder for your radiator cap  
(not in picture)
- #9 1 quart ice cream maker
- #10 Riser for wood stove burner
- #11 Toaster
- #12 egg beater (not in picture)



# A Whirlwind Tour of Kent Island for Special Visitors

## by Carl Berg

In a very enlightening phone call from my famous relatives from the “Left Coast,” we learned of their ambitious plans for a 50-day Transcontinental Odyssey. I must tell you, my busy wife and I were highly skeptical of their scheduled Saturday arrival during a mid-July beach traffic nightmare. They faced two thousand miles of congested roads and interim layovers and social commitments. They experienced 23 days on Interstate highways, sightseeing, rest stops, hotels, and surprising detours before they were to reach Kent Island. It is a long, long way from the Alpine Wonderland of Washington State just over the mountains from Seattle to the historic towns of Stevensville and Chester, Maryland.

Important people make considerable efforts to inform others of their respective progress. I began mapping way points and milestones on my Road Atlas of North America. As Saturday July 22nd neared, my wife Joanne drew up an itinerary for two action packed days presenting the best of Kent Island. To achieve this goal, I quickly made myself scarce and left that to the logistics expert, my wife. Experts are people who can make huge mistakes with absolute confidence. Instead of providing my usual hopelessly flawed input, I clammed up and pantomimed my willingness to drive all over Kent Island as part of the agenda. Off the proposed agenda went by text message to the last stop before Kent Island, namely Somerville, New York. Miss America and her husband approved the plan! All we Kent Islanders had to do was finalize the arrangements.

I later learned from my visiting in-laws that Metropolitan New York is no longer the civilized place of my youth (in 1964). At that time, one could drop off a Greyhound bus load of high school athletes in the middle of Times Square and retrieve them at the stroke of midnight without incident. That is a thing of the past. Decent hotels are booked weeks or more in advance and rates start at \$1,000 a night. It is open season on tourists and crime is comparable to Baltimore. They arrived on early Saturday evening at the new Chesapeake Bay Beach Club Hotel after crossing the Kent Narrows Bridge on Route 50. From the lovely hotel view of the Chesapeake Bay and twin-span Bridge, they could tell they were now in the “Land of Pleasant Living.”

We met them upon check-in to the newest hotel on Kent Island, and started our visit by having drinks at their upscale bar with appetizers. Next came the tour of vegetable gardens with seedlings of plants from Nash’s plant farm, the Hops Pyramid Structures used to make a new brew of local beer, and the large circular fire pit with rocking chairs for evening relaxation.

Early Sunday morning started with breakfast at the Cracker Barrel and tour of eclectic items for sale in the country store. This was followed by a drive north on Love Point Road passed Earl Chambers property, then to the cottages on the tip of Kent Island. This dead end street on the Chester River is next to the original Love Point Ferry Landing of Smokey Joe (the Philadelphia) from Baltimore Harbor in the day. This area has transitioned from Langenfelder’s commercial use to the State of Maryland that will coordinate with Queen Anne’s County to build a public park in the future.

On the way back south on Route 8 was the drive through the Stevensville Historic District. The properties owned/leased and managed by the Kent Island Heritage Society were of great interest to our visitors and included the old bank, original Stevensville Post Office, Stevensville Train Depot and Caboose, and Cray House with its unique shiplap construction.

Turning back onto Route 50 and heading east and then south to the end of Thompson Creek Road were the Cascia Vineyards & Winery. Our visitors also have grapes growing in their part of Western Washing-

ton State near Wenatchee. Their grapes are often combined with native grown Huckleberries and Blackberries for a unique sweet tasting red wine. Of note regarding the grape vines on Kent Island was the green turf growing around each root rather than cultivated soil as usually seen elsewhere.

Driving further east on Route 50 to the exit on Cox Neck Road and past Baker's Liquor Store is the route to Southwind. The area of Southwind was once called Turkey Point and has a long history as well. From here (looking south) to the East is Kent Narrows, to the West is Cox Creek, and to the South is the Eastern Bay.

After some visiting at our home and exchange of wedding anniversary gifts, it was time for lunch at the Crab Deck overlooking luxury boats in slips from the surrounding metropolitan areas of Washington, D.C., Annapolis, and Philadelphia. The highlight was talking to Jody and Andy Schulz about the history of the area dating back to oyster shucking and crabmeat packing seafood operations on the Narrows to the landscape today of restaurants and modern marinas. Our visitors were told that eating our signature "Maryland Blue Crab" delicacies was mandatory. They enjoyed the excellent crab cake sandwiches and cream of crab soup with optional sherry wine.

By now it was afternoon and following our agenda, the next drive was from the Kent Narrows West on Route 50 and back to Route 8, this time driving South on Romancoke Road. Next was the turn into Queen Anne's Colony Drive and over to the community and private marinas. Quietly rocking in the boat slips were Chesapeake Bay workboats and luxury sailboats and powerboats. As per our agenda, we were expected to visit on the screened in porch of our friend's home overlooking Price Creek and our sailboat.

A few streets away in Queen Anne's Colony, we next arrived at the home of our friend on the waterfront of the Chesapeake Bay. We spent the rest of the afternoon having drinks and watching the many freighter ships both anchored in the Bay and steaming north to Baltimore with their cargos from all over the world.

The final planned activity of the evening was at the Kent Island Yacht Club with salsa music and dancing with Tacos and Fajitas and open bar. While there, we were treated to an unexpected lightning show that put constant white flashes over the Bay and lit up all of the restaurants on the southern side of the Kent Narrows including the Fisherman's Inn and Crab Deck.

That afternoon at the Crab Deck, a sudden wind and rain assailed us as we left the Narrows, but it stopped once we reached the Queen Anne's Colony. Now the rainless flashes lit up the night sky. We learned a day later that this was a pre-cursor to the Kent Island tornado that first appeared as a water spout and then struck Bay City with a ferocity not seen on Kent Island for 50 years. The tornado was rated a EF3 with a 125 mile per hour speed that lasted for four minutes on the ground. It was 200 yards wide and cut a swath from Bay City to Thompson Creek (just missing K-Mart and the Cracker Barrel) and then crossed over Route 50 to the Stevensville Cemetery, finally passing Castle Marina and on to the Chester River. It tossed over the new massive power poles on Route 18 like matchsticks and entwined power lines and caused loss of electricity for many residents.

By this time, our visitors had arrived safely in Virginia Beach after travelling across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel system. We were able to text them about the tornado and send pictures of the devastation on Kent Island. The end of the odyssey for our visitors occurred on their 48th day, cutting short their transcontinental trip by two days because they were anxious to get home from their adventures.

They wrote us telling that their tour of Kent Island was the highlight of their once-in-a-lifetime experience.

# The Aerie and the Pitchfork

by Alex Johnson

High in the desolate rafters of their grandparents' pole barn,  
amid aromas of alfalfa and cow manure,  
cousins Wayne and Randy, 10 years old,  
built their aerie.

Just slab boards, laid on crossbeams,  
room enough to spread their bed rolls,  
with a board shelf for filched cigs and dime novels.

Every summer, their mothers, who were sisters,  
brought them to the old farm in the high hill country.

Aerie was a hard climb, up a high-built ladder,  
then across a one-foot-in-front-of-the-other rough beam.

One afternoon, after sleeping off half a Rolling Rock  
snatched from the cold spring house,  
Randy rolled over and fell (what bad luck)  
into the hay of the loft (what good luck)  
landing on a pitchfork (what bad luck)  
one tine penetrating his palm almost all the way through.

"Don't pull it out!" called Wayne from above.  
He had learned this from his Cub Scout Manual.

And so the rockers on the front porch  
saw the boys coming up the road from the barn.  
Uncle Elmer said, "I wonder why they are bringing my good fork."  
And Uncle Roy said, "Yes, and why is it necessary for both of them  
to be carrying it together like that?"

**KENT ISLAND DAY**  
**NON-PROFIT FORM**

**SATURDAY MAY 19, 2018**  
**10:00 AM to 4:30 PM**

**Return this form to:**  
**John L. Conley**  
**142 Evelyne Street**  
**Chester, Maryland**  
**Phone: 703 216 0449**

**Registration form deadline is April 25, 2018.**

**NAME OF ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**501c3 NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_ **As a courtesy to fellow non-profit organizations there is no charge unless food or merchandise is SOLD.\***

**NAME OF CONTACT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EVENING PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY PHONE (IN CASE OF RAIN, ETC.):** \_\_\_\_\_

=====

**IF FOLLOWING IS INTENDED, PLEASE ENCLOSE \$15 REGISTRATION FEE**

\_\_\_\_ ***WE INTEND TO SELL MERCHANDISE SUCH AS*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ ***WE INTEND TO SELL FOOD\* SUCH AS*** \_\_\_\_\_

=====

**\*PLEASE NOTE: IF FOOD IS SOLD A SIGNED DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED.**

**ENCLOSE A COPY WITH APPLICATION AND CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.**

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**A 10' X 10' SPACE WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN TENT, TABLE AND CHAIRS.**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**KENT ISLAND DAY**  
**PARTICIPANTS' DIRECTIONS**

**Set-Up Date: SATURDAY MAY 19, 2018**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

**SET UP TIME IS 8:00AM-10:00AM.**

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS APRIL 25, 2018**

**NO REFUNDS.**

**REMEMBER, ONLY ONE VENDOR IS ALLOWED PER RESERVED SPACE.**

**PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR OWN TENT, TABLES AND CHAIRS.**

**DIRECTIONS FROM THE BAY BRIDGE:**

**Take the first exit after crossing the Bay Bridge – Exit 37.**

**At the light at the top of the exit ramp, take a left and go over the overpass (Route 8N).**

**Take the first right between Queenstown Bank and Valero gas station. (Main Street)**

**Take the first left at Love Point Road.**

**At the stop sign, proceed straight ahead; stop at the third building (yellow – Old Post Office) on the right and register.**

**DIRECTIONS FROM THE EASTERN SHORE:**

**Follow Route 50 towards the Bay Bridge.**

**Take Exit 37 (the last exit before crossing the Bay Bridge).**

**Bear to the right at the exit ramp.**

**Take the first right between Queenstown Bank and Valero gas station. (Main Street)**

**Take the first left at Love Point Road.**

**At the stop sign, proceed straight ahead; stop at the third building (yellow – Old Post Office) on the right and register.**

# Welcome To New Members



Visit the Old Post Office in Downtown Stevensville  
for this and many other localized gifts

## Membership Form

I/We wish to be a member of The Kent Island Heritage Society. Enclosed is a check to cover dues of membership for one calendar year:

- \$15 Single Membership
- \$25 Family Membership
- \$25 Organization
  
- \$250 Life Membership per person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Interests:**

- History \_\_\_\_\_
- Genealogy \_\_\_\_\_
- Photography \_\_\_\_\_
- Docent Program \_\_\_\_\_
- Property Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_
- Special Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.  
PO Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666

*Dues and contributions are deductible on your income tax.*

*Membership period is January 1 to December 31.*

## In Memoriam

*When you lose someone you love,  
life will change, you rearrange,  
and everything around you  
seems so strange.*

From: *How Losing Someone  
Changes Your Life*

Ruth Legg  
August 7, 1925 – December 4, 2017

Thomas Charles Mullaney  
June 27, 1945 – August 5, 2017

Kay Seward Roser  
September 26, 1939 -  
October 8, 2017

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## **KIHS General Meeting on the Bay Bridge**

***General Meeting, March 28, 2018 7:00 pm***

***Historic Christ Church Stevensville***

### ***What's Happening with the New Bay Bridge***

**The Bay Bridge – Past – Present – and Future**

By Jack Broderick

Our March general meeting will focus on a subject near and dear to all of us – the Bay Bridge. Love it or hate it, the Bridge plays a critical role in our lives and is a unique part of our Kent Island Heritage. We plan to explore the subject of the Bay Bridge - its past, its present and its future. We'll travel through time, from the days on the Island before the Bridge, through its building and early years, the changes it brought to the Island, to the growing challenges today, and the State's efforts to meet those challenges for the future. Come and participate, listen, and learn.