

Isle of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

FALL 2018

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President's Message



Fall on Kent Island brings its own set changes and adventures. If the summer season this year seemed longer - hotter and wetter than we are used to - it's because it was! Most of us look forward to those signs that fall is in the air. The geese are arriving and the trees are showing signs of change. Pumpkins seem to be everywhere. And of course the crickets get louder until that first frost quiets things down. Unfortunately, in September, with the continuation of record setting rains, our outdoor plans were again impacted. We had to cancel our Annual Fall Heritage Picnic on September 23 at the Kirwan Farm. As if the cancellation of Kent Island Day in May due to the rains wasn't enough! But iconic outdoor events such as Kent Island Day and The Fall Picnic need good weather, and they are worth all our plans and efforts when they work. We look forward with optimism to bigger and better events next year.

In spite of our frustrations with the weather, we are busy with a number of great plans and initiatives in support of our mission to discover, identify, explore, and preserve the heritage of Kent Island. We mentioned in the last Newsletter the successful events we held in March and June. In March we gathered at the Historic Christ Church and explored The Bay Bridge - Its past, present, and future. It was a nostalgic visit to the Island of yesteryear, the changes brought by the Bay Bridge, and the challenges of the future. In June we embarked on a sunset dinner cruise on the Chester River aboard the Chester River Packet to celebrate our maritime heritage.

Our First Saturday Open Sites visits continued throughout the summer and early fall, with record setting numbers of visitors experiencing first hand our history, brought to life in each of our diverse sites by our enthusiastic docents. In August we embarked on a new effort in partnership with the Kent Island Federation of Arts to provide tours of our Historic Stevensville sites for visiting US Navy personnel from the DOD Communication Course at Ft. Meade. The Navy Seamen were performing community service work to help rehab the KIFA "Art House" in Stevensville. KIFA requested the tours to help orient the personnel to Kent Island. We anticipate additional tours in the future and other potential community service "possibilities" with the Navy.

In September, we embarked on an exciting new project that promises to help stimulate interest in our heritage and history far into the future - bringing Kent Island History into Kent Island High School. The brainchild of our board member and local author, Mark Lidinsky, this effort grew out of the relationship Mark had established with KI Principal, John Schrecongost. Together, they involved KIHS students' local artwork to be featured in Mark's KI Mystery Novel Series. During this semester (September through January), we are presenting a five-part series on Kent Island History to 50 freshman and sophomore students. The students will also visit all of our Historic Sites in person. In addition, KI High School teachers will be given a tour of our sites during a teacher work day.

Continued on page 2

‘Fess-up Time Hi Ho Lady, Away by Frances (Butch) Collier

Growing up in Grasonville during the forties meant you had to make your own entertainment. There were no county ball fields, trails or soccer teams.

My cousin Charles Bryan and I were six months apart in age. He stopped by one day and suggested we find and ride Lady. Lady was a 30 year old horse that got too old to pull Dr. Cook's buggy and had been put out to pasture on the Percy Saddler farm. The pasture and the farm were across from what is now the Adventist church and right in the middle of what is Route 50 today.

There was a woods adjoining the farm where Chester River Beach trailer park now stands. Lady was in this woods when we finally found her. Naturally she had no saddle, bridle or reins and neither did we. According to Charles' recollection, he had fashioned a bridle and reins from vines, or rags or some such things.

Charles thought, with his help, I should get on first. He suggested I should scooch way back over her hind legs and then he could get on with help from me pulling him up; then he would steer the horse for our fabulous riding adventure - or so he told me.

When, he was still on the ground, he gave her a hard slap on her hind part and off I went holding on to Lady for dear life at break neck speed. I'm sure he thought this was hilarious.

I miraculously managed to hang on until a low hanging tree limb wiped me out. As I lay on the ground, flat on my back, I could hear Charles running toward me, out of breath and calling my name: "Francis, Francis"! I lay very still and tried to act dead. When he got to me, he lifted my head and cradled my lifeless body and said "speak to me Francis, speak to me". I could not hold it together any longer as I saw how upset he was and started to laugh, much to his relief.

After this escapade, we resolved never to try that trick again. Did any other kids ever try that? We don't think so. Oh well, there are bound to be some consequences when kids make their own fun. It was a miracle we lived to be adults (both 86) and it gives us something to laugh about when we get together and take a walk down memory lane... "Hey Francis, remember that time we tried to ride old Lady?" says Charles.

The Board Adds New Membership Category

The KIHS now has a Business/Organization Membership category and encourages local commercial interests to join. In addition to helping to preserve and promote KIHS activities, these members will receive a membership sign to display, recognition in each KIHS newsletter, and information materials to share with customers. Please encourage businesses and organizations with which you deal to become a member. The annual dues are just \$50. KIHS recently joined the Queen Anne's County of Chamber of Commerce to increase awareness of our activities within the business community.

Membership Form

- ☐ \$15 Single Membership
- ☐ \$50 Business/Organization Membership
- ☐ \$25 Family Membership
- ☐ \$50 Community Assoc. Membership
- ☐ \$250 Individual Life Membership

Interests

- ☐ History
- ☐ Genealogy
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Docent Program
- ☐ Property Maintenance
- ☐ Special Interest _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Dues and contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
Membership period: January 1 to December 31

'Fess-up Time
Musings of a Mischievous Youth
by Bob Lowe

I didn't grow up on a farm on Kent Island or in the surrounding communities. My father, Harry "Cliff" Lowe, Sr., was a naval officer and we moved from coast to coast as his assignments dictated. Occasionally we would travel back to Kent Island to visit our grandparents, aunts and uncles, and our many cousins.

Growing up in the 1950s in California was an exciting time: the space race, hoola hoops, the Rose Bowl Parade, Pink Christmas Trees, Saturday cartoons, camping in the mountains, beach trips, Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Cub Scouts, fishing derbies, learning to ride a bike, exploring the huge flood control canals, bakery trucks (like the Good Humor truck), going to the base swimming pool (where I performed my first belly flop off the high dive!), and of course, attending elementary school. As you can see there was no shortage of activities to keep a young boy physically and mentally active!

On more than a few occasions my father would be traveling the world on a ship while my mother, Olive Bryan Lowe, held down the fort! At the time there were three of us: Cliff, Jr., Lynda, and myself. I am sure it was challenging, to say the least, for my mother to take care of us with no immediate family within 3,000 miles of California. Our mother was a master of keeping us busy with many interesting arts and crafts projects having studied at the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore. One of these projects was making paper mache objects with strips of newsprint, flour and water paste, balloons, and poster paint. Once the paper mache dries you can decorate the outside with paint to make a pumpkin, ball, or arm cast!

The package of balloons included all shapes and sizes. I don't know what gave me the idea of making a paper mache covered balloon in the shape of a cast. There was no internet, only 3 channels of TV, and no one in the family had broken any bones. But make a beautiful paper mache covered balloon in the shape of a cast I did! Once it was dry I painted it with white paint and adjusted it to fit. I also made a nifty sling out of a bandana, no doubt learned from my Boy Scout manual!

The next day I slipped out of the house with the "cast" and sling unbeknownst to my mother and headed to school. Before I got to school I slipped the "cast" on and placed my arm in the sling. Once I got to school boy did I get all the attention I deserved! Everyone wanted to know how I broke my arm and wanted to sign my cast. My teacher excused me from having to do writing assignments (it was my writing arm of course). During lunch a teacher carried my lunch tray for me. I really felt special that day!

I don't remember when I was struck with a sudden case of "cast" remorse but at some point during the school day I decided I had to confess to my crime. I told my teacher and apologized to everyone involved. I don't remember getting in trouble with the school or at home over this but I am sure there were other incidents where I did get in trouble – to be revealed at a later date.

Welcome New Members

Brenda and Bo Hardesty
Jill and Bruce Mulford

Queenstown Bank
Amy Dorn and Lee Sturman

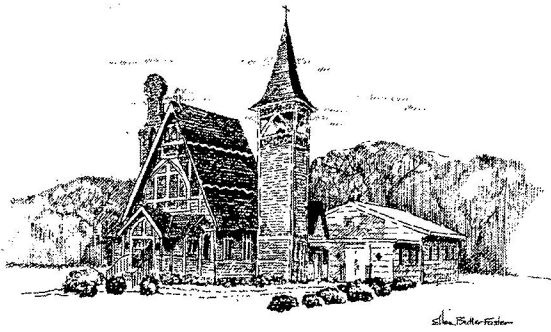
NAVY Tours Historic Sites

KIHS was happy to open our Stevensville historic sites on August 18 and August 25 to photojournalism student sailors from Fort Meade. Thirty-six sailors visited the sites prior to contributing their time and talents to renovating the Kent Island Federation of Art building. Few of the sailors had ever crossed the bay bridge so that in itself was exciting to them.

They also seemed to enjoy stepping back in history at the Cray House, post office, bank, church and train station.

Jack Broderick, John Conley and Nancy Cook provided tours and were impressed by the questions and comments from these outstanding young men and women who attend the Defense Information School (DINFOS.) That school fulfills the Department of Defense's need for an internal corps of professional journalists, broadcasters, and public affairs professionals. As might be expected, they took many pictures and some said they would return.





Heritage of Kent Island: Christ Church Parish

Compiled by: James Parker

William Claiborne, who came from England by way of Jamestown, Virginia, established a trading post and settlement in 1631, naming it Kent Fort, located at the southernmost end of Kent Island. Claiborne was most concerned that a church be built so the settlers could continue to worship as they had done in their homeland where the Church of England was the established church.

In 1632, he brought The Reverend Richard James to the Kent Island shore to conduct worship services. The earliest mention of the “framing of a church” was in 1636, probably at or near Kent Fort, but no location or description of the building exists. [KIHS website](#)

Christ Episcopal Church of Kent Island is recognized as the state’s oldest continuous Christian congregation. The Parish has used at least six buildings during its history. (Wikipedia) Four church buildings, situated at Broad Creek, the Island’s first town were constructed on the same site throughout a period of some two hundred twenty-eight years. The church cemetery remains there and is still in use.

Historic Christ Church was built in 1880, with its romantic “Carpenter Gothic” architecture and quaint village-by-the-bay feel. It stands today as a superb example of the Queen Anne style of ecclesiastical architecture. This building, together with smaller framed churches in Sudlersville and Hillsboro, presents a textbook study of the tasteful simplicity advocated by such prominent 19th century architects and writers as Richard Upjohn, Calvert Vaux, and A. J. Downing. (MD Hist. Trust)

Historic Christ Church’s unusual chimney style is known as lancet, a style that dates back to the 13th century. The building contains many wooden pegs rather than nails and some of the bricks used in the foundation were from the earlier churches at Broad Creek. This town center was named Stevensville, after the original land owners, James and Charles Stevens.(KIHS website)

The Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Queen Anne’s County purchased the property in July 2003 after recognizing the historical significance since it at one time housed the oldest continuous Episcopal congregation in the United States. That purchase also included the adjacent parsonage which predates the church by forty years and in 1866 was used to house the Chesapeake Female Institution, a day school for young ladies. A curator is currently rehabbing this building and will live there for her lifetime.

As the congregation responded to the growing population of Kent Island, a new facility for worship and education was built. The move to the expansive Route 8 property in 1995 enabled the Parish to have a larger sanctuary, education wing, meeting space, and parking lot. Its next phase of a new sanctuary and expanded office facilities was completed in 2007 (Christ Church website). Of the six referenced buildings, only the 1880 and 1995 buildings are standing today.

The Christ Church Parish is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton which owns and operates Camp Wright, a summer camp at Matapeake, serving as the diocesan camp.(Wiki)

Historical Significance: Kent Island is the cradle of the Anglican Church in Maryland, being the site of the earliest Anglican settlement in the colony. From Kent Island the Anglican faith followed the early colonists to the mainland and settled the central Eastern Shore. (MD Hist. Trust)

The struggles between Claiborne, an Anglican, and Lord Baltimore, a Roman Catholic, included several naval battles in the Chesapeake and many bloody skirmishes in a conflict between Maryland and Virginia over who would control Kent Island. In 1658, Maryland gained control of the island. (KIHS website) It was not until 1712, that the parish became known as Christ Church Parish.

In 1692 the Governor's Council and the Assembly of Maryland passed the Act of 1692, establishing the English Church as the official church in Maryland. Christ Church Parish was one of the thirty parishes recognized in this Act.

Note: The docents for Historic Christ Church are members of The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. Restoration efforts are under the auspices of the Queen Anne's County Department of Parks and Recreation. Grant funding has been obtained from The State of Maryland Board of Public Works, Maryland Historic Trust, and Preservation Maryland. (KIHS Website) More information about Christ Church Parish is located in the Kent Island Heritage Society files at our Kent Island Library.

Sources - Christ Church website, Wikipedia: Christ Church in Stevensville, Maryland Historical Trust website, The Kent Island Heritage Society

In Memoriam

William R. Russell, Jr.
1930 – 2018

Mary Lou Rosendale Pierson
1934 – 2018

Joanne S. Gerg
1947 - 2018

Linda L. Armiger
1940 - 2018

Patricia Orndorff

"Each day is a gift to be shared"
From HNF Funeral Home

News in Brief

Save these Dates

Sunday, Dec. 9th: Brunch/Election of Officers at Fisherman's Inn

Thursday, Jan. 17th: IHOP fundraiser for KIHS
(20% of sales that night from 5:00 – 9:00pm)

New Business/Organization Membership Category established in KIHS

A team of KIHS board members has a History of Kent Island presentation ready for your club, organization, business or community association.

For more information call: John Conley (703) 261-0449.

KIHS VISITS KIHS

by Mark Lidinsky

This past spring, the Kent Island Heritage Society was invited to conduct seminars at our high school on the historical importance of Kent Island.

The principal of Kent Island High School, Mr. John Schrecongost, agreed that the students should be given the opportunity to learn about the rich heritage and significance of Kent Island. He said, "Kent Island High School is very excited to partner with the Kent Island Heritage Society. There is such wonderful local history of which many of us are unaware."

In early August, he and the assistant principal, Mr. Daniel Harding, toured the Kirwan House & Museum. Linda Collier, the curator, performed her usual outstanding role as docent, and the two educators departed, confirmed in their commitment to proceed with the new program.

On September 28th, the inaugural session was held in the media center of the high school and covered the founding of Kent Island through the American Revolution. There were over fifty students in attendance, from the classes of Mrs. Lacey Phelps and Mrs. Meaghan Kline. Our president, Jack Broderick, played the role of William Claiborne and Nancy Cook guided the students through the 17th and 18th centuries.

Mark Lidinsky was the moderator and began the session with an explanation of the role of the Heritage Society and its mission: "discovering, identifying, restoring and preserving the heritage of Kent Island". He thanked the principal and teachers for enabling us to help fulfill our goals by passing on the Kent Island history to new generations.

The session was conducted using the Socratic Method of asking multiple questions, and the responses from the students were stellar. There was a great deal of interest and follow-up queries were addressed. The Principal John Schrecongost reiterated, "Our partnership will help share Kent Island's history with our students and staff who will in turn share with families and neighbors."

These same students will attend the hour and a half sessions through this semester and then the syllabus will be repeated to fifty new students in the spring.

The other sessions on Kent Island History will be as follows:

- October – Media Center – The War of 1812, Steamships, and the Civil War.
- November – Field Trip –Kirwan House & Museum and the Stevensville Historic Sites
- December – Media Center – Post Civil War; Farming, Railroads and the Oyster Wars
- January – Media Center - World War I, pre & Post World War II, the Bay Bridge and Today's Challenges for Kent Island.
- There will be a commencement ceremony after the last session. Each student will receive a Certificate of Kent Island Historical Importance, as well as student membership cards from the Heritage Society.

Principal John Schrecongost believes so strongly in this new program that he has requested a tour of the Stevensville sites and the Kirwan House & Museum for the entire Kent Island High School faculty! He said, "I have tremendously enjoyed our relationship so far and very much look forward to future events." The Heritage Society will be hosting approximately eighty teachers on November 5th.

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

2019 Slate of Nominees for Officers and Directors

An election of officers and directors to lead The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. in 2018 will be held at the Annual Meeting on December 9, 2018. The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate:

President	John E. Broderick
Vice President	Robert C. Lowe
Recording Secretary	Nancy M. Cook
Corresponding Secretary	Carole P. Frederick
Treasurer	Lynne Riley-Coleman
Directors	Linda S. Collier John L. Conley Annie May Price

Officers are elected for a one-year term and directors for three year terms. Additional nominations may be made twenty-one (21) days prior to the Annual Meeting. A declaration of intent must be presented to the chair of the nominating Committee, Robert C. Lowe, 157 W. Goldfinch Lane, Centreville, MD 21617 and must be signed by the candidate and two supporting members of The Society.

2019 The Kent Island Heritage Society Incumbent Board Members

**Carl Gerg
Mark Lidinsky
Antoinette (Toni) Gibson
John (Jay) Gibson
Jamie R. Sasse**

The Kent Island Heritage Society Board of Directors
requests the pleasure of your company at the
Annual Election of Officers and Board Members
for Brunch
Sunday, December 9, 2018
at
Fisherman's Inn
from
12:30 ~ 3:30
Business Meeting from 2:15 ~ 2:45
Entertainment 2:45 ~ 3:30



Buffet Menu
Cheesy Scrambled Eggs
Assorted Quiches
Potatoes O'Brien
Sausage and Bacon
Fruit Salad
Danishes and Sweet Breads
Coffee ~ Hot Tea ~ Iced Tea ~ Sodas ~ Cash Bar



Please Complete this Section and Return with Your Check

NAME(S) _____

TELEPHONE _____

AMOUNT OF CHECK _____

EMAIL _____

**Please Join Us December 9, 2018
at
Fisherman's Inn**

**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018**

The cost will be \$25.00 Per Person

Please make your check payable to:
The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

Mail to:
**Toni Gibson
1814 Churchhill Lane
Chester, Maryland 21619**

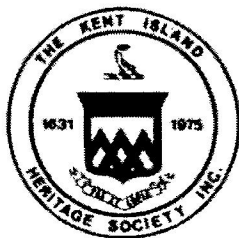
If you have special dietary needs or desire transportation to the
brunch, please call Toni Gibson at 410 643 6483

KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

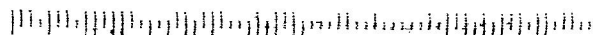
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Postcard: All Those Familiar Places

Submitted by John Conley



If we could time travel back 100 years, the car and clothes might look a little out of place, but we would certainly recognize the scene on this postcard. Likewise, the women on the card would recognize where they were today. The KIHS post office is to the left of the old drug store and the date on the corner of the KIHS bank is 1905. We are grateful to all who have helped preserve our history over the years.

The 2019 Kent Island Day will be held on this very street and surrounding areas on the third Saturday of May – May 18th. Mark your calendars now to help stave off the rain on that day!