

Islc of Kent - 1631

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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. ■ FALL 2002

OFFICERS

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James G. Sparks
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Gil Dunn
Programs
John Smigo
Kirwan Museum
Bill Denny, Dan
Hopkins, Greg Nizza
Cray House
Nancy Cook
Old Stevensville P.O.
Francis Collier
Publicity - Greg Nizza
Oral Histories
Jane Sparks, Dan
Hopkins, Fran Taylor
Nominating
John Smigo, Jane
Sparks, Butch Collier
Grants - Nancy Cook
Membership
Mae Hutchison
Library Files
Myrtle Bruscup, Mary
White
Social - Jackie Kopec
Scholarship
Jane Sparks

President's Message

Nancy M. Cook

*H*urry up and wait! This seems to have been our mantra for the last few years as we attempted to improve our programs and make renovations to two of our historic properties, the Cray House and the Kirwan House. We hope that the new year will bring our efforts to conclusion and that we can move on to expand our services as promoter of things historic to the residents of Kent Island.

We are preparing for the opening of our historic sites. A training session on Sept. 28 provided volunteer docents with information about each of our sites and informed them of the procedures to be followed during each opening. I facilitated the workshop; Florence Dunn and Audrey Hawkins were presenters; new docents were Liz Bukowsky, Edna Ryon, Delores Parker and Hannah Wall; other participants were Myrtle Bruscup, Fran Peters and Lynne Riley Coleman.

Our thanks to Audrey Hawkins, who has been responsible for obtaining docents for each of the openings of our sites. The task is ever ongoing and requires a great deal of time. The Society is most appreciative of her efforts.

Many thanks to those who have acted as docents for our historic

Continued on page 2

Nominating Committee's Slate for Year 2003

The Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers and directors to lead The Kent Island Heritage Society in 2003 is:

President	Nancy M. Cook
Vice President	
Recording Secretary	Florence M. Dunn
Corresponding Secy	Carole P. Frederick
Treasurer	Audrey B. Hawkins
Director	Joel D. Berger
Director	William E. Denny III
Director	Charles "Gil" Dunn
Director	Daniel T. Hopkins
Director	Jacquelyn M. Kopec
Director	Brent F. Lewis
Director	James G. Sparks
Director	C. Willard Thomas

The election will be held at the annual meeting. Officers are elected for one-year terms; directors serve three-year terms. William E. Denny III, Charles "Gil" Dunn, Daniel T. Hopkins and James G. Sparks are current incumbents whose terms have expired.

Additional nominations may be made 21 days prior to the annual meeting. A declaration of intent must be presented to Recording Secretary Florence Dunn (409 Main St., Stevensville) and must be signed by the candidate and two support-ing members of The Society.

Members of the Nominating Committee were Jane Sparks, Butch Collier and John Smigo, chairman.

Mark Your Calendar

Kent Island Heritage Society ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, December 14
Kent Island Yacht Club
6:00 Cash Bar 7:00 Dinner

Kent Island— The Land That Once Was Eden

Author Janet Freedman developed the manuscript for her recently-published book in 1999 as a graduate project for her Master of Liberal Arts degree at Johns Hopkins University. Myrtle Bruscup helped her with the research. The book is best described in her own words.

The memoir sections of the book are three-generational, as I speak not only of my own experiences, but also those of my mother and grandmother and others of their generation. My mother, Margaret Nash, was born in Chester in 1914. Her family had been in Queen Anne's County for several generations. Her father had owned what we believe was the first oyster house on Kent Island (the second one at Kent Narrows). Many of your readers knew my cousin, Capt. Sonny Nash, who was honored at the Waterman's Festival several years ago.

Many of my memories occur before the building of the bridge and the subsequent changes to the island I remembered as a child. The historical research is generally related to the memories, and I think some of the facts will surprise even those who know a good bit of island history.

I have family on the island still and many warm memories of the Kent Island of my childhood, which I hope I have conveyed through my writing.

The book can be ordered through the Maryland Historical Society [www.mdhs.org], but I hope to find places on the island where it might be sold. Several kind people have expressed an interest in helping me with this.

The book is already listed on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble and should now be in bookstores. Bill Denny has told me he will be happy to sell copies at his shop, for which I am very grateful.

The Kent Island Heritage Society was very helpful to me in allowing me to use their files and to reproduce photographs and other material from those files as were a number of local residents who generously shared photographs and stories.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

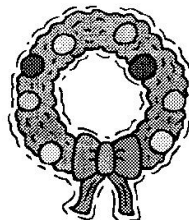
sites: Fran Peters, Roland Bruscup, Myrtle Bruscup, Florence Dunn, Gil Dunn, Butch Collier, Paul Wilderson, Lynne Riley Coleman, Eva Thompson, Carole Frederick, Willard Thomas, Emma Thomas, Eileen Dadds, Richard Dadds.

Won't you please join us at our annual meeting on Saturday, Dec. 14? We will be recognizing the so many who have helped us throughout the past year. And you will meet those

who have recently become members.

Invitations to the annual meeting will be mailed, but in case we miss you, the box on page 1 provides the essential information. The cost is \$28 per person. Reservations are due by Dec. 4.

As you know, the Silent Auction is a highlight of our annual meeting. Auction co-chairs Janet Denny and Jackie Kopec ask that you contact them at 410-643-5869 if you have an item to contribute for this event.



TREASURERS REPORT July 1 - Sept. 30, 2002 Audrey B. Hawkins, Treasurer

Balance on July 1 **\$17,448.34**

RECEIPTS

Stock dividends	2,047.80	
Dues	345.00	
Sales	213.74	
Sales tax collected	6.51	
Bank interest	6.39	
Donations		
Scholarship Fund	310.00	
Cray House Bldg Fund	300.00	610.00
Total Receipts		\$3,229.44

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing and copying	389.30
Office supplies	68.19
Postage	59.53
Purchases for resale	96.00
Insurance	1,614.00
Promotion and advertising	60.00
Miscellaneous	73.20
Old Post Office maint.	253.98
Cray House Architect	2,475.93
Cray Hse/Depot maint.	699.04
Kirwan House exp.	1,861.73
Total Disbursements	\$7,882.97

Balance on Sept. 30 **\$12,794.81**

Balances as of Aug. 30

Cray House Bldg Fund Savings Acct	\$20,092.26
CD	861.42
CD (Cray House Building Fund)	17,165.17

Contributors to Scholarship Fund

President Nancy Cook reports that the Scholarship Fund is half way to its goal of \$1,000. She extends her thanks to the following contributors:

Sen. Walter M. Baker
Ida Jean Buckel
Elizabeth Bukowsky
Patricia & Francis Carnes
Claude Digiovine
Richard & Janet Doeler
John A. Herndon
Nathan Morris

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Kirwan House Activities

Kirwan House Report

Greg Nizza
CARETAKER

The old Kirwan store is really starting to come together. Many of you may have noticed the removal of the non-original outside foyer on the storefront at the Kirwan House. This foyer was added in the 1970s as a wind block and had obscured the original storefront look. Now when one approaches the house on Dominion Road, the old storefront look has been recaptured, and the original feel of the general store has been restored.

Inside, the Kirwan store is undergoing many changes. The washer and dryer have been relocated, the old freezer has been disposed of, and carpenters have started work on building a facade to disguise the oil furnace. (Special thanks to Bill Denny for his work on this project.) Paint colors are being matched. A wonderful and generous contribution of some original glass store cases from the Gardner family's old store (across from Rite Aid in Chester) has added more of the original feel. Many thanks to the Gardner's and to Butch and Linda Collier for their work on obtaining this important donation.

The refinishing of the wood floors has been completed and has resulted in a much cleaner and brighter look in the public rooms of the home. I will be working on some touch up painting in the foyer and upstairs bedrooms to complete the cosmetic renovation of these areas.

I also recently have done some work in the Kirwan yard, doing extensive edging to the original garden walkways that I first uncovered last fall. These walkways are an important part of the history of the Kirwan gardens and form a very interesting network of paths throughout the yard.

An interesting note: I recently hosted a visit to the Kirwan grounds by Doug Musser, a professional forester and environmental engineer. He has helped by identifying several original plantings on the property, including several English

Walnut trees and uncovered several artifacts from the one of the original landings on Kirwan Creek.

Christmas is coming, and I plan to decorate again this year. Happy Holidays to all!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR KIRWAN MUSEUM

The proposed Kirwan House Store Museum is in need of store-type artifacts. If you can contribute period-appropriate store equipment, fixtures, signs or merchandise containers, such old spice cans, oyster cans, cigar boxes, old beverage bottles and wooden cases, old barrels, wooden boxes with manufacturers' names printed on them or other store related items, please call Nancy Cook at 410-758-2502.

Those contributing these items will be given a 501(c)(3) contribution form for tax purposes.

Did You Know?

A compilation of little-known factoids:

▣ \$200 for Cray House restoration has been donated from funds provided by The Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, resulting from The Kent Island Garden Club's and Queen Anne's County Garden Club's participation in house tours sponsored by House and Garden Pilgrimage. The next Queen Anne's County House Tour will be April 27.

▣ The Society's Walking Tour brochure has been so popular that a second printing is needed, as are monies to finance this project.

▣ The Kent Island Heritage Society was formed in May 1975, thus we have passed a 27-year milestone.

Kirwan Gardens Update

Diana Bonner
KENT ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

Seven large loblolly pines and three American holly trees purchased by the Kent Island Garden Club were recently planted along the southern boundary of the yard by Roger Denny. They will form a sound barrier for both the gardens and the house.

This summer's severe drought made it difficult for new plants. But, thanks to the efforts of Kirwan House Caretaker Greg Nizza, most survived.

Scout John Hamilton, son of Betsy and Mickey Hamilton, has submitted his application for formal approval of the second phase of the Kirwan gardens as suitable for his Eagle Scout project. This will involve restoration of the pool, adjacent walkways and a nearby planter wall.

The Kent Island Garden Club held a free flower show on Nov. 5 at the Kent Island Yacht Club. A special exhibit featuring the Kirwan house and gardens project generated much public interest. Some were looking forward to visiting the museum and enjoying the gardens.

Scholarship Fund

Continued from page 2

Virginia Pioso
Evelyn Price
Anne K. Reifsnider
Karen Salter
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Seiders
Oscar Schulz
Richard & Rosalie Tillman
Robert & Sara Towers
Mrs. Mary White

She asks that members pass scholarship information on to a graduating Kent Island senior.

REMINDER
DUES, DUES, DUES
NOTICES WILL SOON BE
MAILED FOR RENEWAL

Welcome New Members

Ashley Davis
Chester, Md.
(Life membership)

Larry & Marie DiPietro
Stevensville, Md.

E. Gardner
Montevue Homes
Frederick, Md.

In Memoriam

Mrs. C.M. Marsteller
August 2002

Fresley G. "Buck" Reamy
July 15, 2002

THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. P.O. Box 321 • Stevensville, Maryland 21666-0321

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to become a member of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

Enclosed is my check to cover dues of membership indicated below:

Life Membership ...	\$250.00	Single Membership ...	\$10.00
Organization Membership ...	\$25.00	Family Membership ...	\$25.00

Name _____

Street _____

Town/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

*Dues and contributions are deductible on income tax returns.
Membership period January 1 - December 31*

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.
Post Office Box No. 321
Stevensville, Maryland 21666

Address Service Requested

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21666
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Isle of Kent

John Bonner, Editor

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