

Isle of Kent - 1631

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

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

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President's Message

Nancy M. Cook

Volunteerism, as you know, is what makes our country so unique and makes so many of our projects and organizations work.

This summer the Queen Anne's Historical Consortium made a concerted effort to have its sites open the first Saturday of each month from June through October. The Society would like to continue this practice throughout the year.

The Society's present locations are the Old Stevensville Post Office and the Stevensville Train Depot.

Restoration of the Cray House in Stevensville and the Kirwan House in Chester will soon be completed, adding two more sites that will require staffing.

We need a cadre of volunteers to serve as docents. On Saturday, **September 28**, an orientation for docents will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Old Stevensville Post Office.

We need volunteers for other tasks as well. If you would please fill out the Volunteer Form on page 3 I will contact you concerning the docent orientation or other ways in which you might volunteer.

Scholarship

Accompanying this issue are an application form and an addressed return envelope for a 2003 Kent Island High School graduating

Continued on page 3

Heritage Happenings

KI Heritage Society Hears Renowned Archaeologist

Paul Wilderson

On Tuesday, June 11, The Kent Island Heritage Society held its quarterly general meeting at the Kent Island Library. The speaker was archaeologist Darren Lowery of Tilghman Island who brought KIHS members up to date on historic and prehistoric archaeological research on the Eastern Shore and Kent Island.

Ten years ago Lowery conducted an archaeological survey of Kent Island that was sponsored by the Heritage Society and the Maryland Historical Trust. At that time he uncovered some 200 significant sites along the island shoreline and in the interior as well as many valuable artifacts, and he left a good idea of the potential archaeological value of Kent Island and places for further research.

Since his work on Kent Island Lowery has explored at least 11,500 sites all over the Eastern Shore in marshes, beaches, forests, and farm fields, and all indicating a highly diverse archaeological record.

Relentless shoreline erosion often uncovers sites,

Continued on page 3

Mark Your Calendar

Kent Island Heritage Society QUARTERLY MEETING

Tuesday, September 10

Kent Island Branch Library

7:00 Refreshments

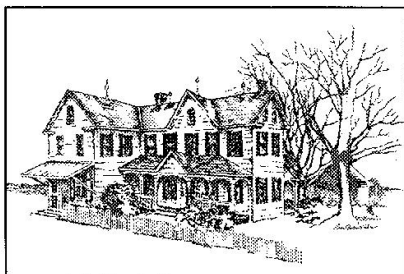
7:30 Guest Speaker William Baxter

**"The Life and Times of William
Claiborne"**

GREETINGS FROM KIRWAN HOUSE

Greg Nizza, Caretaker

Just like everyone else, it has been a struggle with this summer's drought to keep all the flowers and plants alive. While everything outside is brown, inside the sanding and refinishing of the old wood floors started this week. The job is expected to take three weeks and should result in a nice warm look.



Outside, the entrance ramp has been trimmed and painted, and selected wood trim around the house painted. Also, I just completed a project last week to remove the old split rail

fence around the Kirwan family grave site. New fencing is being researched and will be installed.

We held a research/planning meeting in the old Kirwan Store last month with several senior residents of the community who frequented the store many years ago. Their memories of the past look of the store was excellent, and we now have a sketch plan of the original layout.

The plumbing has been relocated and hidden against the walls. The next steps are to relocate the washer and dryer out of the store and to have a carpenter fashion a frame to hide the furnace. Then with a little paint to freshen it up and some original artifacts, the old Kirwan Store will begin to recapture its old charm.

Many of you may have seen a nice photo of the Kirwan House (with its patriotic banners!) in the Aug. 7 issue of *The Bay Times*. Once we complete the above projects the old Kirwan Store will indeed be added to the county's list of Historic Sites, and we will be able to open it on occasion for tours. Our goal is to be able to open at least once before the year is out.

Interesting Historic Fact: In the days before farm machinery, the Kirwan farm hired many workers to pick crops in the fields. Often these workers were paid with tokens, redeemable for goods only in the Kirwan Store!

Did You Know?

A compilation of little-known factoids about Kent Island:

▣ The Queen Anne's County Department of Tourism and Economic Development now hosts a Website for the County's Historical Sites Consortium. To view this Website, which includes The Society's historical sites, search on <http://www.historicqac.org>

▣ Last spring several 10th grade classes at Kent Island High School participated in a Service Learning project to produce material for third-graders to use in their study of Kent Island.

TREASURERS REPORT

April 1 - June 30, 2002

Audrey B. Hawkins, Treasurer

Balance on April 1 \$15,146.09

RECEIPTS

Stock dividends		2,047.80
Kent Island Day		
Sponsors	\$4,270.00	
Vendors' fees	1,646.55	
Patrons' ads	1,265.00	7,181.55
Dues		345.00
Sales		404.37
Sales tax collected		20.18
Bank interest		13.37
Donations		
Scholarship Fund		10.00
Miscellaneous		102.10
Total Receipts		\$10,124.37

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing/office supplies	682.19
Mailing	63.60
Kent Island Day	2,655.28
CPA services	240.00
Miscellaneous	249.26
Old Post Office maint.	532.29
Cray House Architect	1,698.64
Cray Hse/Depot maint.	1,036.85
Kirwan House maint.	554.01
Total Disbursements	\$7,822.12

Balance on June 30 \$17,448.34

Cray House funds	\$20,017.40
CDs	18,020.19

Packets were developed for Christ Church, the Broad Creek Cemetery and the Old Stevensville Train Station.

▣ A \$10,000 grant was obtained by the Queen Anne's County Department of Tourism and Economic Growth for a Curriculum Based Education Program Development Project. This will assist The Society in conducting guided tours of our historic sites for students. The grant is funded by the Maryland Historic Trust.

▣ Board member Butch Collier contributed his carpentry skills to install the antique mailboxes we acquired last year in the Old Stevensville Post Office.

▣ The duck prints that were originally commissioned as a fundraiser are now on sale at Walters Art Shop, 2901 Love Point Road, Stevensville. Unnumbered signed prints are \$40; signed prints with remarks are \$75. Monies from the sale of prints will go to the Cray House fund for renovations and

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KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Kent Island Heritage Society is offering a \$1000 one-year scholarship to a graduating senior from Kent Island High School who plans to attend college.

To be eligible the applicant must:

be a second-generation Kent Island native, at least one parent born on Kent Island;

have a 3.0 GPA or higher; and

have performed community service.

Please submit for review:

the application form, a letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor accompanied by your high school transcript, and a one page essay on the importance of preserving the heritage of Kent Island (the first paragraph of which should contain a brief biographical sketch).

Application Form

Complete the following and return with recommendation and essay.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Kent Island born parent: _____

Other native parent/grandparents: _____

Brief explanation of Community Service: _____

All applications must be submitted by **April 30**. Send to:
Kent Island Heritage Society
Scholarship Committee
PO Box 321
Stevensville, MD 21666

President's Message

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senior. Eligibility criteria are on the form. If you don't know of a deserving candidate, please pass the application form to someone who may.

Heritage Happenings

In case you missed Paul Wilderson's inaugural column, Heritage Happenings, in the July 24 issue of *The Kent Island Bay Times*, it is reprinted as the lead article on page 1. This will be a quarterly column.

We are most grateful for Paul's talents. We hope that publicizing events and activities of The Society will increase awareness of the history of Kent Island.

Kent Island Heritage Society

VOLUNTEER

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

I would like to volunteer in the areas of:

- ☐ Docent
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Writing
- ☐ Publicity coordinator
- ☐ Event organizer
- ☐ Grant writer
- ☐ Other

Please mail to:

Nancy M. Cook
124 Bryce Rd.
Queenstown, MD 21658

KIHS Hears Renowned Archaeologist

Continued from page 1

which archaeologists such as Lowery are then asked to identify and record. He explained how to recognize an archaeological feature in a seemingly nondescript landscape and how that can often prove to be a window into the past. Most features are indicative of human habitation at some time in the past, from anywhere between fifty and tens of thousands years ago. The remains or artifacts from a site will often tell who was there and when. Indian points, for instance, whether found in a burial or a prehistoric shell midden—a collection of discarded oyster or other shells—will often give a good general idea of the time that a site was occupied. Native American pottery does the same and some artifacts, such as an Indian scraper made from wine bottle glass, will indicate that the people who used it had been in contact with early European populations in America.

Some of the best identifying artifacts from the historical period, when this portion of North America was occupied mainly by the English, are bricks, pipe stems, and pottery fragments. When Lowery found and examined the foundation of the first free school in Talbot County, the ceramics told him it dated to the mid-1700s.

In his original survey of Kent Island it was Lowery who identified a likely location of William Claiborne's fort, on the east side of Kent Point on the shore's edge south of Scaffold Creek. There he found 17th century (1600s) artifacts and, most telling, burned brick remains and melted trade beads, the kind brought specifically by the English to trade to the Indians for furs, burned into clumps and indicative of a raging fire. It is known that fire destroyed Kent Fort in 1631. Lowery can also claim the earliest known European pottery fragment found in North America. Clamming with a dredge off Kent Island he recognized a piece of Bellarmine stoneware coming up the conveyor belt. When he examined this section of what obviously had been part of a large container made in the German Rhineland, he found the date 1593 clearly inscribed as part of the jug's

decoration.

Lowery has completed all of the work for a Ph.D. in Archaeology at Temple University in Philadelphia except final details on his dissertation. He currently is with a nonprofit archaeological survey group operating out of the Easton area. They are presently doing work for the State of Virginia on the lower Eastern Shore and expect to soon be doing more for the State of Maryland. Much of this is required by law, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires an archaeological survey prior to the development of any site that requires a federal or state permit. As he noted, however, the law is often overlooked, such as when Queen Anne's County built the new park on Batt's Neck Road. People need to be better educated and informed, Lowery noted, about the law and about the importance of our archaeological and historical heritage.

Did You Know?

Continued from page 2

furnishings.

▣ The Kirwan House was featured in the Aug. 8 issue of *The Bay Times* about day trips in Queen Anne's County. The Kent Island Garden Club is moving forward with an eagle scout project to restore the garden fountain.

▣ A new permanent exhibit at the Kent Narrows visitors center will feature the work of photographer Marion Warren. He is best known for his familiar photo, "Chesapeake Bay Bridge, 1953," which shows an ethereal ribbon of light wending across the bay. He more recently produced the monumental 1994 book, *Bringing Back the Bay*. Warren's work is in the league with that of such notable photographers as Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Edward Steichen and Steiglitz.

DATE TO REMEMBER

December 14, 2002
Annual Meeting and
Christmas Dinner
Kent Island Yacht Club
6:00 p.m.

Welcome New Members

Carl Bochau
Ellicott City, Md.

Jacqueline M. Kopec
Stevensville, Md.

Patricia Klug
Stevensville, Md.

Kent Island Abbey Floor
Covering Co.
Stevensville, Md.

Robert E. Pezzoli
Stevensville, Md.

Queen Anne's County Historical
Society, Centreville, Md.

Karen Salter
Chester, Md.

Joseph C. Zimmerman
Stevensville, Md.

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 ... \$15.00

Name _____

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Stevensville, MD
21666
Permit # 11

Isle of Kent

John Bonner, Editor

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