



# Isle of Kent - 1631

---

**NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND  
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.**

---

**SPRING, 1994**

---

***TO DISCOVER, IDENTIFY, RESTORE AND PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF KENT ISLAND***

---

## **President's Message**

**by Charlie Koegel**

It has been a busy season for the Heritage Society and getting busier. After a busy holiday season, House tour, annual dinner, we are now getting ready for Kent Island Days to be held on Saturday, May 14th and Sunday May 15th from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. We will have Arts and Crafts, Exhibits, South River Sutlers on Sunday demonstrating 18th century life (couldn't schedule them for Saturday this year), Blacksmithing Demo, Choptank Muzzle Loaders, Restored Stevensville Train Station, Railroad Artifacts, 18th Century Cray House, Restored Meat House, Classic Car Display (many local folks in this one), Period Costumes, Entertainment, Food and Drink, Pony Cart Rides, Petting Zoo, Children's Games, Old Fashioned Bread Baking and Beaten Biscuits, etc.

We will have two tents this year. The tents will be pitched next to Bill Denny's house in Stevensville. The Lions would appreciate any volunteers to help pitch their tent. Call Lois Cockey at 643-6200 if you can help. She will direct you to the appropriate Lion in charge of tents. The experience might be good for you if

you ever want to run away with the circus.

Ebb Tide will have our major food concession directly across from the tents. In addition, the Boy Scout Troop from the Kent Island Elks Lodge will again sell "Hot Dogs & Drinks" as a fund raiser for themselves. Janet Ellis and friends will be demonstrating "how to do" and selling bread made in old fashioned ways. They will also be making the ever famous "beaten biscuits" even as you watch. Good chance to bust your bridgework as you try to bite into one.

Janet is also in charge of "Governor's Grog" which is best served cold at that time of the year. I think Janet has talked her mother into taking on this task while she bakes bread.

Bill Carroll and associates will be performing. We will also have Mrs. Dashiell's dance group, a strolling singer, the hammer dulcimer, and as much musical entertainment as we can get. Anne Denny will be spinning and story telling for the children. We will also have Gil Dunn's new band plus a Jack O'Leary's group that jams around the Kent Island Yacht Club. Keep you busy all day with something.

Gil Dunn has enlisted the aid of the Physical Education teachers at Kent Island Elementary and Middle Schools to set up races



and games for the children. We expect to see a lot of Blue Ribbons handed out.

As you know, we purchased the adjacent empty lot. We will be able to use this property for our affairs from now on. Needs to be mowed and cleaned up. We have to get the old foundation removed that is a residual of a previous residence on the property. Once that is removed, we will have a nice field to set up in.

I've said enough for now. We look forward to seeing you at Kent Island Days. Bring all your friends and relatives and pray for a warm sunny weekend.

### **Cray House Paint**

The paint on the Cray House has gotten into a deplorable state. I don't know how many layers there are, but they all seem to peeling off together. The Cray House was last painted in 1990, however the condition of the underlying paint was very bad. Our Vice President, Hugo Gemignani, went out looking for bids on repainting. Several painting contractors looked at the job and no-bid. Hugo found a specialist painting company right here in Stevensville capable of doing what needs to be done. We are employing the Renaissance Applications Specialists, Inc. to remove the old paint, repair any hidden damage, and repaint the building. They use a proprietary process that lifts the multiple layers of paint off in sheets. If all goes well, it will be started by April 1 and finished for Kent Island Days.

The officers and members of the board have a duty to preserve our main building as well as we can. Therefore, we have entered into the contract for restorative painting. The problem is money, everybody's problem. We are calling on the membership to help defray the cost of this job which must be done. We are anticipating costs in the order of \$7500.00 if no expensive damage is revealed when the paint is removed. Please send your **donation** to the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666. The Society is a 501 (c) (3) **charitable** organization, therefore your contribution is tax deductible. Mark your

check "PAINT".

### **Cray House Break In**

Member Katherine Casey got the surprise and scare of her life the other day. She went into the Cray House at about 1:00 P.M. and found two people rolled up in some of our antique quilts on the front room floor. They had plugged in two of our electric heaters and made themselves comfy. Katherine asked them what they were doing there and they ran out the back door and over the back fence. Katherine ran over to Grollman's Store to get to a phone. Mark Grollman called the Sheriff to report the breakin. As of this writing, one juvenile had been apprehended and the Sheriff knows who the other one is and is looking for him. We were fortunate that nothing was damaged and Katherine was not injured.

### **March Meeting**

The first quarterly meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M on March 31st at the Kent Island Library. Our program will be furnished by The Wildfowl Trust. Our Vice President, Hugo Gemignani, is the Executive Director of the Wild fowl Trust and I am certain he will bring an informative and entertaining presentation. We will not forget their last presentation by Don Feron and the duck he brought that had bonded to him. The duck thought he was her momma.

### **Library/Genealogy Report**

**By Mary J. White**

We are pleased to report that the Upper Shore Genealogical Society's Cemetery Committee is now processing the information we have submitted for inclusion in the publication of the Queen Anne's County Cemetery Records. They anticipate publishing at least three volumes, the first of which appropriately enough, will include the 4th and 5th districts. In addition to the Stevensville Cemetery, we sent records from Christ Church Cemetery and



Glebe, Kingsley Cemetery, Wesley, Union and Ezion Cemeteries. A total of 28 private family Cemeteries on Kent Island were also included in the research.

We have placed in the library, copies of three volumes of "Beneath These Stones", the Caroline County Cemetery Records as well as three volumes of the Talbot County Cemetery Records. It is amazing how many of our old Kent Island family names can be found in these books.

We have also obtained the following publications by R. Bernice Leonard:

- Book I - Queen Anne's County, Maryland Land Records 1701-1725
- Book II - Queen Anne's County, Maryland Land Records 1726-1741

These books contain abstracts from early County Records and should prove very helpful to anyone interested in this early period of, not only Kent Island, but the entire County.

Bill Goodhand and I met with Mr. and Mrs. William Buchnal and daughter from Wilmington, Delaware at the Library to assist him in searching for some evidence that an ancestor had been here, at one time, with Claiborne. We, of course, searched through Mildred Schoch's wonderful research and then were able to refer Mr. Buchnal to additional sources. We hope to receive copies of pertinent research at a later date.

We are indebted to Member Paul Placek for informing us about the possibility of getting some very interesting photographs he had seen at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA. He provided us with photocopies, names, catalog numbers and prices on the following list of pictures:

- MATAPEAKE FERRY AT KENT ISLAND, MD.
- FERRY SLIP AT MATAPEAKE, MD.
- MATAPEAKE FERRY, MATAPEAKE, MD.

These were from the collection of Aubrey

Bodine.

In addition:

- TRAIN AND COACHES AT NARROWS, MD.
- WESTMORELAND, LOVE POINT, MD.
- LOVE POINT WHARF, KENT COUNTY, MD., STEAMER "PHILADELPHIA" LEAVING WHARF

We informed them that Love Point is in Queen Anne's County and has been since 1706. We received the photographs before Thanksgiving and they make a valuable addition to our files.

We found an interesting item in the Upper Shore Genealogical Societies's publication "Chesapeake Cousins", Vol. XX, #1. It was a Summers-Eckstorm Family Chart. It gave me an excuse to get in touch with our former Board Member, Bill Eckstorm, and was delighted to find that it was his family chart. A cousin, Don Summers, of Fort Worth, Texas, had submitted it and had also sent Bill a copy of the same information. In the course of our conversation, it developed that an uncle of Bill's, Edward Eckstorm, was the engineer on the train used in the movie "The Whip" that was filmed at Queenstown. In his book, "Queenstown - The Social History of a Small American Town", Dr. Harry Rhodes quoted from the January 6, 1917 issue of the Centreville Observer the following:

"The train started on its last run by G.E. Eckstrom, a well known engineer of the M.D. and V., who, just before he leaped from the cab, sounded a long drawn whistle blast as the swan song of the No. 4. A few minutes later, after it had come puffing down the track at a speed of about 35 miles per hour, the engine lay on its side, a battered, torn and twisted heap of scrap metal from which the steam escaped in clouds with a loud hissing."

Dr. Rhodes devoted five pages of his book to the filming of this movie. If you haven't read this particular section, please do so.



It is very interesting. Incidentally, there are copies of this book in the Library.

### Climbing Your Family Tree

The Kent Island Heritage Society will cosponsor with the Kent Island Library, a three part series on "Climbing Your Family Tree". It will be a three session course on beginning genealogy.

April 7th - Getting Started. April 14th - Kent Island Roots. April 21st - Moving on to advanced research. Sessions will be held from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Join in and learn how to do your family tree.

### Baked Goods

Myrtle Bruscup will be needing donations of baked goods for two events. We will have a booth at the bridge walk on May 1 at which some of the items for sale will be baked goods. She will also need your donations for Kent Island Days. Call Myrtle at 643-5596 if you can help out by donating baked goods and/or your time attending the booth.

### Duck Raffle

Bill Denny has agreed to donate a pair of Mason Ducks to raffle off for the benefit of the Society. Tickets will be available at the Bridge Walk, Kent Island Days and in the mail to the membership.

### Treasurer's Report

By Lois Cockey

Report for 1/1/94 thru 3/7/94

Balance as of 1/1/94 \$5835.83

#### Receipts 1/1/94 - 3/7/94

Membership Dues	1556.00
Donations	90.00
Bank Interest	31.55
T Shirts/Hats	31.50
Maryland State Grant*	1000.00
Total Receipts	2709.05

Total Receipts & Checking Balance 8544.88

#### Disbursements 1/1/94 - 3/7/94

Cray House Electricity	9.89
Postage	125.00
Library	35.50
Archaeology	1542.49
New Lot (Mortgage)	1086.33
New Lot (Sewage)	80.13
Christmas Dinner	1165.00
Bridge Walk (Booth Rental)	175.00
Total Disbursements	4219.34

Checking Balance 3/7/94 4325.54

Balance in CD Account (2/11/94) 8716.05

Balance in MM Account (2/16/94)\*\*15891.31

Total Assets \$28932.90

\* Money to be paid out to Darrin Lowery for Archaeology work.

\*\* Includes \$10,000.00 from the estate of Mrs. Elizabeth Barclay Moffat White (Rcvd. Feb. 94).

### New Officers and Board Members

#### Officers

President	Charles S. Koegel
Vice President	Hugo Gemignani
Secretary	Charlene Thomas
Corresponding Secretary	Eileen Dadds
Treasurer	Lois Cockey

#### Board Members

Gil Dunn	Richard Dadds
Audrey B. Hawkins	Robert E. Jones, Sr.
Emma Thomas	

#### Committees

Audit	Florence Dunn
Archeology	Paul Wilderson
Cray House Tours, Events & Hostesses	Eunice Chance



Cray House  
Furnishings  
Cray House Exterior  
Cray House Gardens

Myrtle Bruscup/  
Mary White  
Gil Dunn  
Ellen Klages  
KI Garden Club  
Mary White

Genealogist/  
Library Records  
Membership/New  
Membership Secretary  
Newsletter

Catherine Kirwan  
Mae Hutchison  
Betty Speed/  
Charlie Koegel  
Hugo Gemignani  
Charlie Koegel  
Virginia Donaldson  
Gil Dunn

Meeting Programs  
Publicity  
Refreshments  
Train Depot

### New Member

Welcome to new member Rusty McKay  
and family.

### Dues Are Due

Just a reminder to those who have not  
sent in their dues. We miss you.

### Editor

Betty is in Australia or New Zealand or  
both. This issue is by Charlie.

The Isle Of Kent is published quarterly by the  
Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a non profit  
corporation, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD.

Send correspondence to the Society at its post  
office box.

Every effort is made to publish accurate  
information, however, no responsibility can be  
assumed by the Society.

Annual membership is \$10.00 for a single,  
\$12.00 for a family.

### 1994 Meetings

The Society's 1994 membership meetings will be  
held on the following dates at the Kent Island  
Library:

Thursday	March 31, 1994 7:30 P.M.
Thursday	June 23, 1994 7:30 P.M.
Thursday	September 15, 1994 7:30 P.M.
Thursday	December 8, 1994 7:30 P.M.
	Annual Dinner at KI Yacht Club

Kent Island Days - May 14 & 15, 1994



Kent Island Heritage Society  
P.O. Box 321  
Stevensville, MD 21666

Address correction requested

