



Ile of Kent - 1631

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

SUMMER, 1994

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

President's Message

by Charlie Koegel

We have put another Kent Island Days behind us. This has been one of the best we have ever done according to generous comments I have heard. We had a lot of help. Many thanks to the officers and board for showing up at Audrey's house every Wednesday morning to work on this project.

I would like to recognize our many helpers, hopefully not leaving any out. I always have to start out with our magic man, Bill Denny. Bill is our behind the scenes man who lets us use his old church, supplies electricity, contacts people for services and permissions to use property, and does a lot of the necessary grunt work. You could have seen Bill, Gil Dunn and Bob Jones on ladders in downtown Stevensville hanging bunting and signs.

Our treasurer, Lois Cockey, served as Chairman and keeper of the money in the Headquarters building. She was assisted by Chairman Myrtle Bruscup, Mary J. White and Eva C. Thompson who set up and managed the Kent Island history and genealogy display in the Headquarters building.

Charlene Thomas and Angela Myers

arranged with Mary Lou Parry of the Queen Anne's County Extension Service for the petting zoo. They also brought their 4H club ponies and cart for pony cart rides. In addition, Charlene took on the task of soliciting patron ads for the magazine we published this year.

Arranging for tents, tables, chairs, decorations, signs and publicity were Bob Jones, Bill Denny, Dick Dadds, Willard Thomas, Gil Dunn, Charlie Koegel and Paul Wilderson.

Florence Dunn Chaired the Train Station staffed by Roland Bruscup, Edward Yealldhall, George Switzer and Paul Wilderson.

Bill Denny also took care of getting Sanitary and Trash facilities and overseeing parking.

We also extend thanks to Billy Snyder who bush hogged the grass next to the Cray House on our new property and to Norman Wright who picked up the trash and made the final cut on the grass.

THE KENT ISLAND LIBRARY MEETING ROOM AIR CONDITIONING HAS BEEN REPAIRED. THE SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AS RE-SCHEDULED FOR JULY 14TH AT 7:30 P.M. BRING YOUR PENNIES, ETC.

The Cray House was staffed by Chairman Cindy Moose assisted by Lisa Horney, Dot Gibson, Florence Dunn, Alice Slot, Elaine Grollman, Janet Breeding, Ginger Jones, Linda Jefferson and daughter, Sharon Jarenski, Shirley Severa, Dorothy Crouch and Marilyn Wilderson.

Tickets for the Duck Decoy raffle were sold by Mordy Gibson, Ed Taylor, Bill Denny, Mary Ann Sheppard, Missy Denny and JoEtta Denny.

The Craft tables were chaired and coordinated by Willard and Emma Thomas.

The Heritage Society Craft table was chaired by Audrey Hawkins who was assisted by Mary Ann Sheppard, Grace Jones, Patty Baker, Eileen Dadds, Fran Taylor and Cheryl Hoffman. The bake table was operated by Virginia Donaldson, Mae Hutchison, Jane Grafton and Myrtle Bruscup. A big thanks to all members who donated baked goodies to sell and also those who donated money.

We also thank Mr. & Mrs. Robert Walters, owners of Walters Framing Company at Love Point for framing a map and poster, dry mounting a map, and loaning us two easels for display use.

Gil Dunn was our Master of Ceremonies on Saturday. Bill Carroll was our Master of Ceremonies on Sunday.

We used the County's portable stage this year. Best thing since sliced bread. Saved an awful lot of grunt work dragging pieces of stage out of Gil's barn and assembling them.

Guest Column

by Mike Casey

Buoyed by one of our most successful and exciting Kent Island Days, we can now turn our attention to a most significant event. The twentieth anniversary of the Kent Island Heritage society in 1995.

Blessed with good weather, the return of The South River Sutlers, the lilt of colonial music, more costumed volunteers, bigger and better booths, and a newly painted Cray House, Kent Island Days was enjoyed by large crowds of visitors and locals on both days.

Highlighting this years festivities was the debut of the Kent Island Volunteer Band. Unique in the area, the band displayed ample talent and professional direction in a program that was enthusiastically received. The success of their initial appearance promises many good times for Kent Islanders and residents throughout the Mid Shore who can look forward to quality concert performances in the years to come.

The Heritage Society's twentieth anniversary Kent Island Days celebration should be even better when we welcome back the popular parade, led next year by the Kent Island Volunteer Band in it's marching mode.

Recent visitors to Stevensville have been able to enjoy the major face lift to the Cray House. Specialists in historic restoration painstakingly stripped away multiple layers of paint and grime from our showpiece and then applied new treatment and paint which should last for a number of years. The improvement in appearance of this charming example of local lore is dramatic and worth another visit and inspection.

While we are most appreciative of Mrs. White's substantial gift which made this exterior restoration of the Cray House possible, we are now faced with the need to rebuild our treasury. Vice President Hugo Gemignani is beginning a novel campaign to help our fiscal situation and answer the U.S Treasury's call for placing more pennies in circulation. Hugo is urging all members of the Society who are penny collectors to turn them into our treasurer. More details will follow. At the same time a few quarters, dollar bills, fivers, sawbucks and twenties will also be welcome.

The membership of the Kent Island Heritage Society can look ahead to our twentieth year with immense pride. What began as an effort to preserve history and document the memory and spirit of a cherished way of life on this wonderfully historic island has succeeded in every respect.

The Society has created and continues to build structural memories in the center of the historic village of Stevensville. We have

amassed a major collection of artifacts and memorabilia which should one day grace a Kent Island museum.

Most importantly, the Society has made great strides toward completion of perhaps the most comprehensive archeological study in Maryland. It is only appropriate that this has been achieved here on Kent Island. The historic gateway to the Eastern Shore and home of the first English settlement in Maryland.

Moreover, all of the Society's accomplishments have taken place during a period tumultuous growth on the Island, growth which has often seemed to purposely disregard our history. However, we have not only been successful in preserving our history, but we are playing a major role in stabilizing a sense of community. In concert with efforts such as those of the Kent Island Federation of Art and the Kent Island Volunteer Band, we are playing a role in pursuing a cultural base here on Kent Island which should be the equal of any in the region.

Thus, with a solid membership and a mailing list of nearly 400 homes, The Kent Island Heritage Society approaches its twentieth year with an enthusiastic eye to the future and a clear vision of the past.

Words from Vice President

Hugo Gemignani

PENNIES FOR THE CRAY HOUSE

As you know by now, the Cray House has been completely stripped and repainted. The cost was very expensive, so we are trying to recoup some of our cost. One way is to request all of our members to donate their pennies. We all have pennies laying all over our cars and homes. It seems we never know what to do with them. I even know people who throw them away because they see them as a nuisance.

Well Now You Do! Please donate your pennies to the Kent Island Heritage Society. Bring them to the next meeting at the Kent Island Library on Thursday, July 14th at 7:30

P.M. If you cannot attend the meeting or you want someone to pick up your donation of pennies, please call me -- Hugo Gemignani at 643-6694 and I will arrange a pickup for you.

Remember, you are donating to restore the centerpiece of our Heritage Society!!

We would like to thank John F. Steadman and John A. Herndon for their generous donations to the paint fund.

LIBRARY/GENEALOGY

by Mary J. White, Chairman

We are pleased to report that our three part series on "CLIMBING YOUR FAMILY TREE" held in April was successful in that we had 25 persons registered and an average attendance of 20. Our library had received numerous requests for a repeat of last year's series. These sessions were mainly concerned with getting started, basic forms to be used and doing local Kent Island research, then moving on to County, State, National and even International sources for information.

Each session was followed by a question and answer period and one on one assistance with individual requests and problems. Our records, materials, books and publications were available for research and each evening at closing time, we had some participants who were reluctant to leave. These meetings were enthusiastically received and there was even interest expressed in pursuing more in-depth type of genealogical activity.

We are indebted to Myrtle Bruscup, Anne and Walter Denny, Judy Ireland, Peggy Ransom and the entire Library Staff. We missed Bill Goodhand who was traveling.

Mrs. Percy Dyes has 'gifted' us with a very unusual and rare book. It is "The First Parishes of the Province of Maryland" by Percy G. Skirven, printed in 1923. The book was presented to her father, Thomas Hall, former State Senator for Anne Arundel County and Senior Warden and Vestry Member of St. James Episcopal Church at Lothian. The book is

inscribed - "To Thomas Hall - With sincere appreciation for your kindness, Your Friend and Rector, David C. Watson". This book describes the very earliest parishes in the Episcopal Church in Maryland and, of course, includes our own Christ Church. Mrs. Dyes gift also included the following:

ARCHITECTURE & GARDENS
by HENRY CHANDLEE FORMAN

THE FACE OF MARYLAND
by AUBREY BODINE

We are very grateful for these fine additions to our files.

Our total of Family Bibles copied has now reached 107. June Palmer was kind enough to provide us with photocopies of the Pierson Bible which, of course, contains many old Kent Island family names such as Coursey, Golt, Palmer, Wyatt, etc. She also shared a number of newspaper clippings and other memorabilia which adds greatly to our files. She gave us a copy of the History of the Grasonville Methodist Church as well as a copy of the Kent Island Methodist Church History that was distributed at a special service held on October 20, 1963. We encourage others to share similar information for our files.

We were pleased to have Mae Hutchison's assistance at the Library several weeks ago. She is very knowledgeable about several old Kent Island families including the Benton, Clendaniel and Gardner families. She is also the historian for the Hutchison family which holds a yearly reunion.

We will be glad to have other assistance also - just let us know when and remember, we are still looking for Bible records to copy.

OUR MARY J. WHITE WINS CONTEST

Extracted from the Upper Shore Genealogical Society's Newsletter - May 1994

"A title has been chosen for the Queen Anne's County cemetery books. The title will

be: **QUEEN ANNE REMEMBERS - TOMBSTONES OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND.** The winner of a free copy of Volume One in this series is: **Mrs. Mary J. White**".

KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY WINS PARADE TROPHY

The Kent Island Heritage Society participated in the Centreville Bicentennial Parade on July 3 and won the trophy for Best Appearing Float. The float was populated by Ann Denny complete with spinning wheel and wool, Joyce Denny and grandson Derrick Denny, Linda Jefferson and daughter Margaret Ann.

Our banner was carried by Gil Dunn, Florence Dunn, The Reverend "Bud" Shand, and Virginia Ingling.

A bench type wagon, towed by Mike of B&M Glass Co. of Centreville carried Eva Thompson, Audrey Hawkins, Eileen & Dick Dadds, Myrtle Bruscup, Jean Cockey and her two sons.

Chris Kilian, complete with Model T Ford, carrying his wife Teresa, children Nancy, Laura and Jeff joined in the festivities. (These Fords seem to hang around forever).

We would like to thank Ed Smith of the Parade committee and Bill Friis for their valued assistance in helping the Society get the show on the road.

It should be noted that everyone was in Colonial costume.

Kent Island Volunteer Band

The Kent Island Volunteer Band played in Centreville on Sunday. You can see them again in August in the Kent Island Fire Department Parade.

Nominating Committee

I have to appoint a nominating committee in September to select new officers and board members. Please call me at 410-643-3261 if

you are intersted in serving on that committee.

Charlie Koegel

Treasurer's Report

by Lois Cockey

March 8, 1994 through June 16, 1994

Balance in checking account 3/7/94 - 4,325.54

Recpts 3/8/94 - 6/16/94

Membership Dues	144.00
Donations	795.20
Bank Interest	55.82
House Book	330.00
T Shirts/Hats	56.00
Mugs/Train Hats	60.00
Miscellaneous Sales	117.82
Miscellaneous	500.25
Trfred from MM Account	13,500.00

Kent Island Days

Business Ads	5,867.50
Patron Ads	290.00
Crafts	810.00
Grog	110.44
Tax Collected	25.10
Boat Poster	40.00
KI Days Program Book	16.00
Decoy Book	50.00
Decoy Award	272.00
KI Maps	135.00
Cake Table/Drink Sales	343.37

Bridge Walk

Cake Table/Drink Sales	<u>102.00</u>
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Total Receipts	23,620.50
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Total Receipts and Cking Acct. Balance	27,946.04
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Disbursements 3/8/94 - 6/15/94

Cray House Repairs, etc.	1,745.68
Cray House Paint	7,084.00
Cray House Electricity	20.06
Train Depot	40.00
Postage	591.69
Library	96.00
Miscellaneous	1,398.54
Archaeology	536.05
New Lot (Mortgage)	2169.30
New Lot (Sewage Charge)	89.56
Printing	sz108.18

Kent Island Days

Grog	79.48
Decoy Award	36.50
Newspaper Ads	69.68
KI Maps	427.04
Sales Tax	55.45
Entertainment	1,580.00
Commissions on Sales (Ads)	1311.00
Printing Paper (KI Days Booklet)	3,194.45
Soft Drinks	199.98
Crafts	35.20

Total Disbursements	20,867.84
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Cking Acct. Balance - 6/15/94	7,078.20
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6/10/94 CD Balance	8,814.11
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6/10/94 MM Balance	<u>2508.68</u>
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Total Assets	18,400.99
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1/ Receipts and Disbursements for KI Days still not complete.

2/ Mortgage Balance 6/10/94 - 20,499.54

NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE
Please pay your dues if you have not already done so. We certainly love you and want to keep you but we can't afford the printing and postage if you don't pay. No ticket, no shirt.

The Isle of Kent is published quarterly by the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a non profit corporation, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666.

Send correspondence to the Society at it's 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 st the Kent Island Library.

Thursday	March 31, 1994	7:30 P.M.
Thursday	July 14, 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 1995 (Dates to be announced)

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

Address correction requested •

