THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY INC. 1631 1973

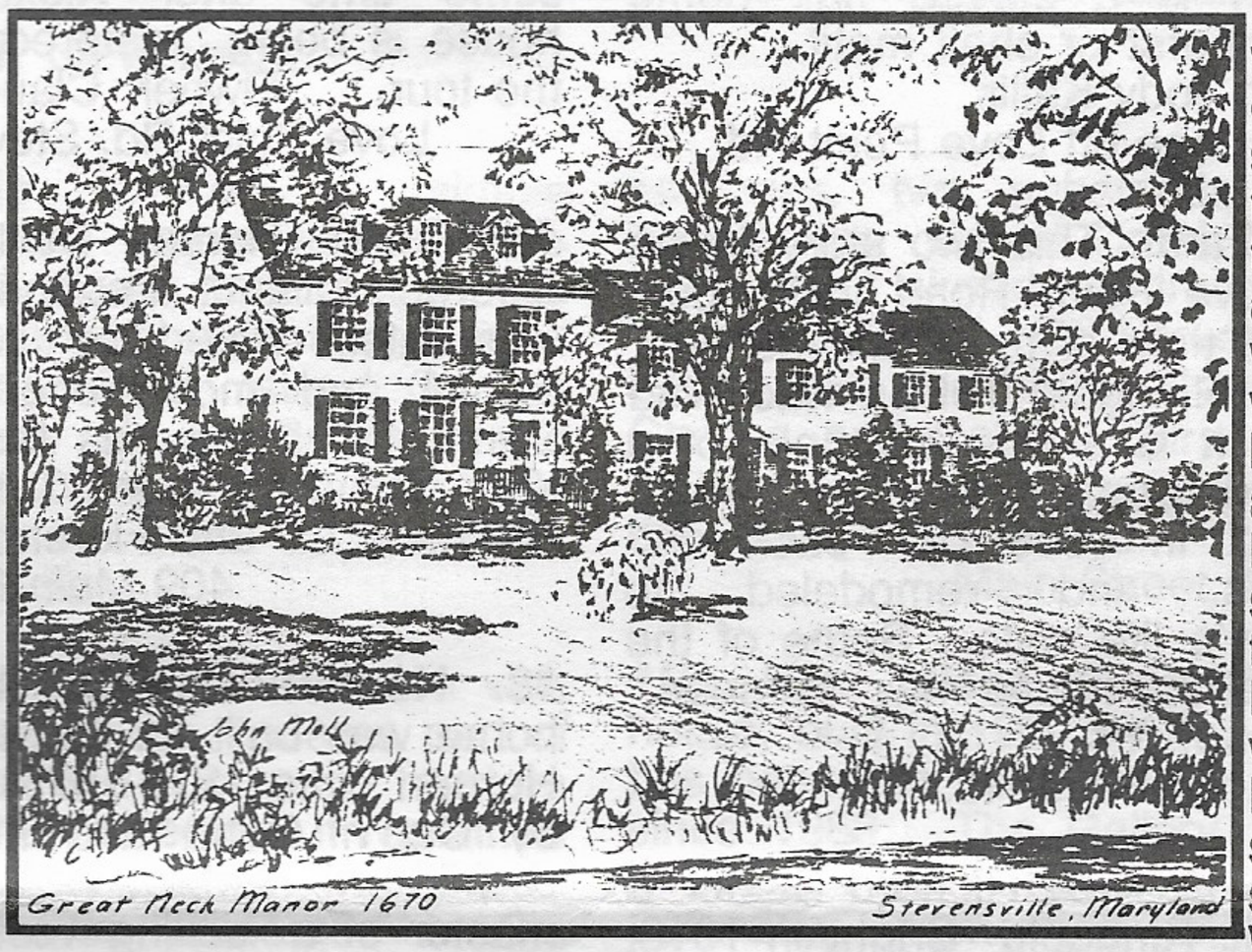
Isle of Kent - 1631

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. WINTER, 1992

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

CHRISTMAS ON KENT ISLAND

To celebrate the Kent Island Heritage Society's annual Christmas festivities, there will be a House Tour on Kent Island Saturday, December 19th from 1:00 p.m. til 5:00 p.m. Tickets are $5.00 for the complete tour, available at the vacant store caddy corner from Grollman's in Stevensville. Tickets will also be available at the December 19th annual Dinner Meeting. During the tour, refreshments will be served at the Cray House.



#9 Great Neck Manor, (pictured above) was a freehold of 330 acres granted in 1650 by Lord Baltimore to Richard Blunt. Blunt transported himself to the Ile of Kent in 1649 along with his wife, his daughter Rebecca, and his servant Thomas. The four section "telescope" house known as Great Neck was erected over the centuries on the north shore of Tarkiler Creek, now called Warehouse Creek after the colonial tobacco warehouse built by the Blunt family.

The house began with a modest one and a half story structure. Later in the 17th century a two story addition was built. Between 1720 and 1750 the three story west end was added. The original beams may still be seen from the basement. The tobacco warehouse and trading center west of the house was a hub of business, travel, and social activity. Revolutionary War soldiers trained on the site and were housed in the warehouse. Great Neck is actually sited on an island, surrounded by Warehouse Creek on the south and east and a bridged moat on the north and west. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. W. Coleman Guthrie

In numerical order the tour houses are:

#1. Love Point. About 1912 many of the oldest homes in Love Point were contructed as summer getaways. This house is the only one remaining with

originalclapboard siding and wooden shutters. No remodeling had ever been done when the Kilians purchased the house in 1970. Over the past 22 years they have added rooms and modernized the old summer home for permanent use. Primitive murals depicting local history have been added to the dining room. Many of the original architectural features of the house can still be seen. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kilian
3100 Love Point Road

#2 Blue Bay Farm. Originally known as Belle Vue, this property was renamed by its previous owners to emphasize the beautiful blue of the Chesapeake Bay from its west facing view. This two story home dates from the last quarter of the 18th century and boasts unusual brick work outside and original hardware inside. Of special interest in the living room is the arched cupboard the top of which is a carved half dome suggesting a sunburst or shell motif.
Owners: Nick and Jody Kallis
Kallis Lane off Love Point Rd.

#3. Windy Knoll Farm. This two story frame house on Old Love Point Road was built about 1900 at the time of the marriage of J. Harry and Carrie Ringgold Tolson who lived there until 1939. It is a fine example of a typical Kent Island farmhouse of the period. It was purchased in 1958 by Jack and Audrey Hawkins and remodeled to accomodate today's life style. Some of the original features of the house may be seen.
Owner: Audrey Hawkins
1130 Old Love Point Rd.

#4. Collier Home. Built by Richard Baxter & Sons for Ida Cook, Ringgold Bright in 1913, it was later sold to James D. C. and Katherine Downes, then in 1958 to Jack and Dora Gibson who sold it in 1985 to Bruce Smith. The present owners bought it from Smith and began extensive refurbishing. It is a large white three story home with its originla black iron fence encircling the property. Of special interest is the gracious double stairway in the front hall and the modern kitchen in the back of the house.
Owners: Tom and Ellen Collier
Love Point Rd. Stevensville

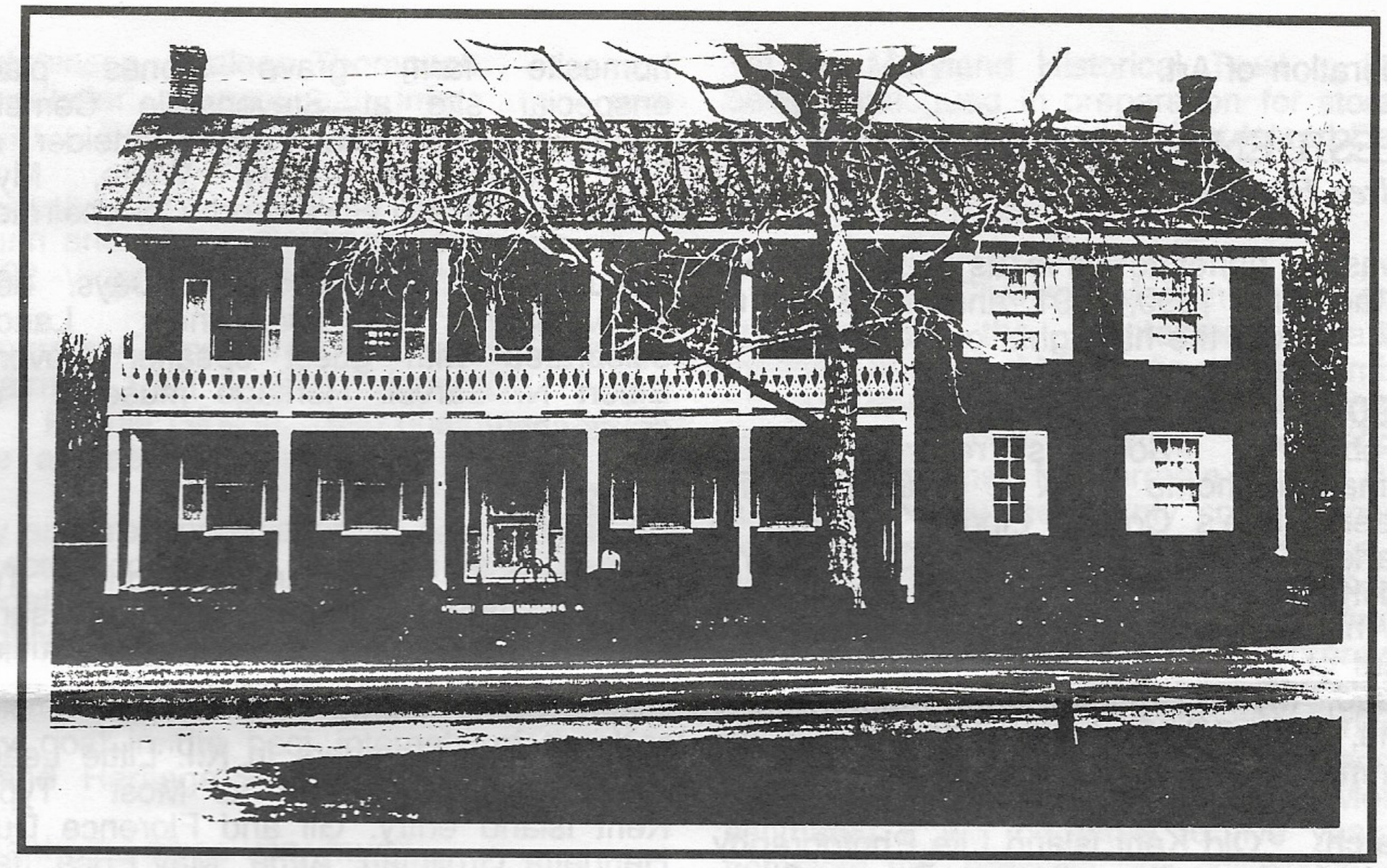
#5. White House. Built in 1914 for Ollie Callaway, cashier of the Stevensville Bank and son of George Callaway the town grocer, this was the first house built during the 1914-1915 building boom. Later it was sold to Wittman White whose son Clinton White inherited it. Clinton resided here until his death. The three story white frame home is typical of the architecture of that period. It is now owned by Clinton's son Carroll White.
Owners: Carroll and Diane White

#6. Lowery Hotel. Built about 1860 for J. Reuben Jeffers, the old hotel is shown on the 1877 Kent Island map as a boarding house rented to Alexander Lowery of Coxe's Neck. Lowery later bought the property and opened it as a hotel in November 1883. Alterations and additions were made to meet the needs of overnight travelers. A livery stable provided transportation if needed. Meals were 25 cents. Fountain and Florence Lowery Jackson continued the business for some time after Alexander's death. The house is being restored but will be open for the tour. Owner: Claude DiGiovine
Love Point Rd. Stevensville

#7. Dunn Home. Built in 1910-1912 for George Holland, a cannery owner, the house was later owned by John M. Ruth, John Daniel and most recently Dr. C. Gilbert Dunn. Dr. Dunn has been a pharmacist on Kent Island for over 30 years.
Owners: Gil and Florence Dunn
409 Main St. Stevensville

#8. Herbert House. This old Stevensville home was built for Captain Eugene "Gene" Herbert circa 1870-1875. It was probably built by Cap'n Gene and his brother Sam, a carpenter. Herbert was also a carpenter and master of a sailing vessel plying the waters from Maine to North Carolina, carrying coal, lime, phosphate, and wheat. Cap'n Herbert's daughter Gene inherited the home, then sold it to Earnest and Emma Porter who later sold it to Buddy and Colleen Thomas.
Owner: Donna McKenzie
408 Main St. Stevensville

#10. Cray House. This little house was deeded to the Kent Island Heritage Society by the heirs of Nora Cray in 1975, becoming the Society's museum of decorative arts, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cray House is a



Lowery Hotel, Stevensville

stunning example of simple vernaculararchitecture, due in part to its unique and unusual post and plank construction. Its three foot horizontal planked walls are pegged into sturdy slotted posts. The Island Garden Club maintains the Cray House gardens and provides the Christmas decorations annually. Refreshments will be served.
Cockey's Lane, Stevensville

#11. Stevensville Train Station. The station was built in 1902 when Stevensville became part of the Queen Anne's Railroad Company system across the upper Delmarva region. It remained in use until the Bay Bridge opened in 1952. In 1987 the old building was presented to the Heritage Society by Clarence "Skip" Morgan. Its renovation has been completed through the efforts of Gil Dunn and his many "elves". Mr. Dunn will be on hand to answer specific questions about the structure.
Cray House property

#12. Christ Church. Built in 1880, the present church houses the oldest established congregation in Maryland, and, therefore one of the oldest in the United States. The original congregation was founded in 1631 at William Claiborne's Kent Fort. The Rev. Richard James was the first minister. During the ensuing centuries, two substantial churches were built at the Broad Creek town site, behind the present airport. No trace of them remains above ground. Of interest are a Baskett Bible and the 17th Century Communion Chalice and Patten. Christ Church is listed on the National register. Current rector is the Rev. James Shand.
Main Street, Stevensville

#13. Kent Island Federation of Art. This house, built in 1900 for Dr. Willian L. Henry, has been the home of the Federation of Art since 1983. The Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from noon until 5 p.m. Paintings and Christmas crafts will be on sale for the tour.
Main Street, Stevensville

Guests are requested to observe the usual house tour requirements:
Wear low heels and do not handle furnishings.
Please- no photographs inside the houses. Hostesses will be present.

Tickets are not required for the train station, Christ Church, Cray House, or the

Federation of Art.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Audrey Hawkins

It was an honor to serve as your President for the years 1990, 1991, and 1992. Let us look back at the highlights of these years.

1990

February: Society's records find a permanent home in K I. branch of the Queen Anne's County Library. Thanks to Charles Powers, director Q.A.C. Library, and Kim Baklaarz of the K.I. branch. Mary J. White, Library Chairman, coordinating 15 years of accumulated KIHS records. Bettye Speed, Myrtle Bruscup, June Palmer, Rose Lane, and Bill Goodhand served on the committee.

March: Old Kent Island Life Photography Contest. Committee: Cathy Turner Chair, Gil Dunn, Roland Bruscup, Fred Whilden.

May: 15th Anniversary of KIHS Dinner Party celebration.

June: Maryland Historical Trust matching grant proposal for archaeological survey. Mordecai Gibson and Paul WIlderson, Co- chairmen.

Kent Island Days: Craft Show and Festival with 7th Annual Bay Bridge Swim and Oyster Shucking Contest.

September Reception to open genealogy and history files to public. Mary J. White & committee.

December CHRISTMAS ON KENT ISLAND House Tour. Homes never before open to public. Mary J. White and Eva C. Thompson; Co-chairmen.

1991

Cray House: Electric heater installed by Chuck's Electric Service, free of charge. Steel plates installed to reinforce cracked beams by Gil Dunn and Mel Clark.

Herb Garden and dogwood tree planted by Island Garden Club.

Cemetery Commemorative: Islanders homesite farm grave stones placed onspecial site at Stevensville Cemetery donated by members Anne Reifsneider and Tom Helfenbein. Mary White, Myrtle Bruscup, and Bill Goodhand: Co- chairmen.

August: Kent Island Days. 360th anniversary of Claiborne's Landing celebrated with guest speaker Governor Elbert N. Carvel. Heritage museum and crafts show.

1992

January: Maryland Historical Trust Funding approved for preservation survey of K.I. Darrin Lowery, archaeologist, outlined survey.

May Members in K.I. Little League Parade won runner-up as Most Typical Kent Island entry. Gil and Florence Dunn, Henrietta Grollman, Anna May Price, Janet Ellis, and Jackie Kopec took part.

June Cray House and Depot termite treated. Cray House damaged wood replaced. Dick Dadds, Bill Denny, and Bill Goodhand.

Grand Opening Ceremonies for restored Depot. Master of Ceremonies Dr. Harry C. Rhodes. 5 years of hard labor completed by Gil Dunn and his crew.

Old smokehouse moved to Cray House property. Restoration begun by Gil Dunn.

Maryland Historical Trust contract signed for $11,000 grant. Audrey Hawkins, Bill Denny, Paul Wilderson, Orlando Ridout.

October Kent Island Days- 18th Century Colonial weekend. Janet Ellis, Officers, Directors, amd members.

Daughters of American Revolution visited Cray House and Train Depot and planted tree in memory of Daughter Mrs. Marian Price Steuart.

December 19: Kent Island Christmas House Tour.

Publicity: 1990 & 1991. Roland Bruscup- great coverage. 1992 Jonathan Slocum- informative and helpful.

Membership: Growing to 515 members: Catherine Kirwan, Bill Denny, Mae