

Isle of Kent - 1631

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

WINTER, 1993

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



LOWERY HOTEL BACK ON KIHS XMAS HOUSE TOUR

The owners of 13 of Stevensville's historic homes and buildings have graciously consented to invite Kent Islanders to visit on December 12th from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m.

The homes will be decorated for the Christmas season. Tickets for the house tour may be obtained at Sophie's Cafe, located in the historic store in the heart of Stevensville at the corner of Love Point Road and Main Street.

The number keyed map was published in the Bay Times on November 25 designating each building.

1. **Dunn Home.** The Dunn home was built in 1910-1912 in the late Queen Anne cottage style for George Holland, a cannery owner. The next owners were successively: John M. Ruth, John Daniel and the present owners, Gil and

Florence Dunn.

2. Dr. Todd and Stacy Hickman's home at 412 Main Street was built about 1920 by Johnny and Nannie Hopkins Brown. Johnny was killed in an accident on the old railroad trestle crossing Cox Creek near Buzz Tanner's farm.

The house later was owned by the Hoxters whose son Ronnie and his wife lived there before they built across the street.

Most recently it was owned by Paul and Marilyn Wilderson who did a great deal of interior restoration and landscaping to the house before selling it to the Hickmans.

3. The building now occupied by the Kent Island Federation of Art was built around 1900 for Dr. William L. Henry of Easton. He lived there with his wife and two sons while he

carried out his practice from his home office.

Since doctors traveled to their patients in those days, Dr. Henry didn't need a lot of space. The entrance to this office can be seen from the enclosed porch

Later the house was owned by B. Harrison Bright, J. Fred Stevens, Charles Bright, Elizabeth Bright, and then Charles G. Dunn. Since 1983 it has been occupied by the Art Federation. The Gallery is open five days a week and contains pictures and crafts by local and well-known artists.

4. The **Captain Eugene Herbert** home at 408 Main St. was built circa 1870- 1875 by Captain "Gene" and his brother Sam, a carpenter. Sam, a carpenter. Capt. Gene was also a carpenter and master of a sailing vessel plying the waters from Maine to North Carolina, carrying coal, lime phosphate, and wheat.

Capt.. Gene and his wife had a daughter Gene, who greatly resembled Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the president. She was often mistaken for Mrs. Roosevelt when she visited Washington, D.C.

Following the death of her parents, Gene Herbert owned the home. It was then sold to Earnest and Emma Porter.

5. Established in 1631, the present 1880 **Christ Church** building is still the oldest church on the island. Housing the oldest established congregation in Maryland and therefore one of the oldest in the United States, if not the oldest depending on the historical argument concerning "continual" congregations. (There was a relatively short period in which there was no clergy and no congregation in the early 19th century.) The building is on the National Register of Historic places.

6. **Grollman's Original Dry Goods Store** was built as a home in

1870 for Charles B. Downes by his brother Sam Downes. Henry Grollman bought the property in 1910.

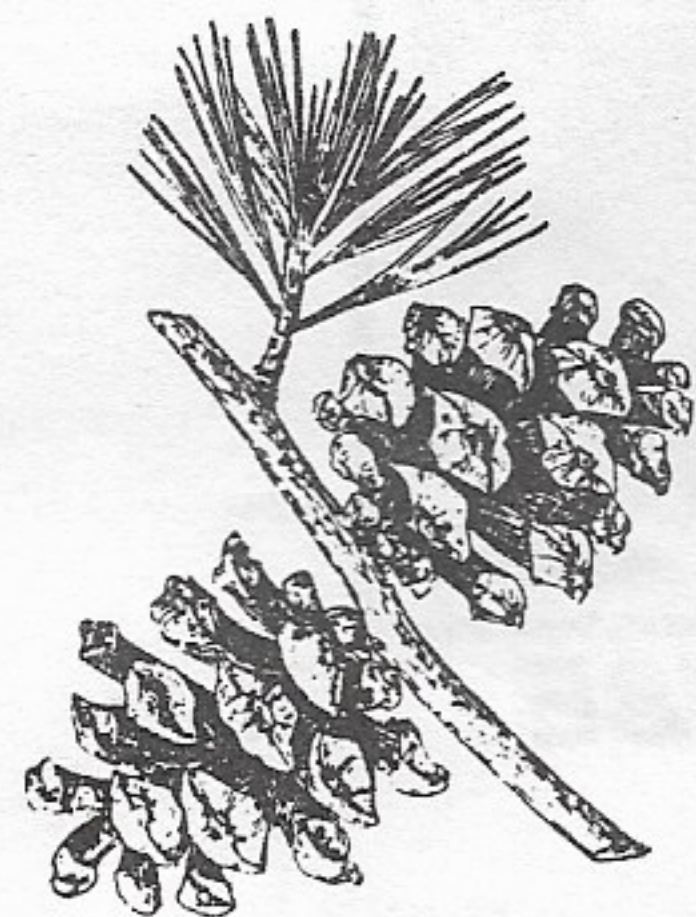
After leaving the partnership of Henry and Ellis Grollman, Henry built an addition to this home on Main Street next to Legg's Town Hall (the site of the new Stevensville Office building) across from Christ Church. Here Henry and his wife Lena opened their original dry goods store. All their children except the youngest were born here. As his business grew, needing more space, Henry acquired the property on the corner now known as Grollman's General Merchandise. NOT OPEN

7. On Cockey's Lane in Stevensville, the tiny, simple **Cray House** was donated to the Kent Island Heritage Society by the Cray heirs. Since then it has been the central focus of the Society as an Island domestic arts museum, representing one of the few specimens of vernacular architecture in the state.

The oldest part on the northwest side is unique in its unusual post and plank construction consisting of 3" horizontal planked walls pegged into slotted posts.

The Island Garden Club, which plants and maintains the summer herb garden will decorate the house for Christmas. The Cray House is also on the National Register of Historic Places. Open. Refreshments.

8. **Stevensville Depot.** In 1894 the Maryland Legislature gave approval to the Queen Anne's Railroad Company to build an East-West Railroad across the upper Delmarva peninsula to connect Queenstown with Lewes, Delaware on the coast. In 1902 Kent Island became a part of this rail system. The opening of the new western terminus on the island required 13 additional miles of track and 6 new stations, including Stevensville. The railroad flourished for



CHRIST CHURCH- Built in 1880, Stevensville's Episcopal Church is the fourth known building, following earlier 1652 and 1712 structures built at Broad Creek, and the first at Kent Fort, established by William Claiborne. Plans are in process for a fifth. larger structure on Camp Wright's land.

a half century until the opening in 1952 of the first span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. The increased automobile access to the Eastern Shore spelled the end of the railroad service to the Island.

The old station, used as a home for awhile, was overgrown with weeds and in "falling-down" condition when donated to the society and moved to its present site near the Cray House. After restoration, it was dedicated as a second Society museum. Open.

9. **The Stevensville Bank** building was erected in 1909, although the bank opened for business in 1903. It was built on land that belonged to Dr. William E. Denny on the site of a former Apothecary Shop owned by Dr. Denny, where his sister and niece, Miss Annie and Miss Lucie served as clerks. When the bank moved to its present location on Rt. 50, the old building was used as offices for the new Bay Times newspaper by then owners Chris and Mary Lou Rosendale.

Later it became the law office of Harper Smith. It was purchased by the late Charles Marsteller and once again housed Chesapeake Publishing's Bay Times, until the paper closed for about a year on Kent Island. The bank is also on the National Register of Historic places. NOT OPEN.

10. **Methodist Protestant Church.** Located on Love Point Road, this old church is on part of the original "Steven's Adventure" grant. In 1851 Charles and Mary Ann Stevens sold the land to the Chesapeake Lodge #59 of the Order of Odd Fellows for 1 cent. In 1864 the Lodge sold it to the trustees of the Methodist Protestant Church who were: John Jeffers, Charles Downes, James Denny, William C. Gobson, Franklin Bright, M. G. Goodhand, and C. G. L. Porter. No longer used as a church, it was purchased by William E. Denny, Jr, the present owner. NOT OPEN

11. **The Lowery Hotel** at 414 Love Point Road was built in 1860 for J. Reuben Jeffers. The 1877 Stevensville map shows it as a boarding house. Rented to Alexander Lowery of Cox's Neck, he later bought the property. Alterations and additions were made to meet the needs of overnight travelers, and Lowery opened it as a hotel in November 1883.

A livery stable provided care for overnight travelers' horses. Complete meals were 25 cents. Fountain and Florence Lowery Jackson continued the business for sometime after Alexander Lowery's death.

More recently it was sold to developer Roger Eisinger who planned to convert it into an old age home. With the bankruptcy sale of Eisinger's Stevensville real estate, Paul and Marilyn Wilderson recently bought the old Lowery Hotel and are making it livable after a long period of sitting empty.

12. At 425 Love Point Road, the "**H. Goodhand Hotel**" was shown on the old 1877 map, testifying that Stevensville was a busy place in the late 19th century for overnight travelers. It was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Emory Skinner during the last of the 19th or the first of the 20th centuries.

Then called Skinner's Boarding House, offering room and board it catered to traveling salesmen. Later owned by Roland and Loleta Bright Carville, and later the Kauffman family, it was sold in the late 1980's to Norbert and Caroline Beggerow who spent over a year restoring it.

13. The present Collier home at 526 was built by Richard Baxter and Sons for Ida Cook Ringgold Bright in 1913. Later it was sold to James D. C. and Katherine Downes. Jack and Dora Gibson bought it in 1958 living here until 1985 when it was sold to Bruce Smith who sold it to Tom and Ellen Collier, who did a lot of restoration work. The house is a large white 2 1/2 story building with the original wrought iron fence around the

property. Of special interest is the double stair in the front hall and the remodeled kitchen in the rear of the house.

14. The first owner of Buzz and Barbara Shank's home at 605 Love Point Road was Mary Carville Carter, widow of Thomas B. Carville. The Carters lived on the Carter family farm on Kent Point Road- now Tower gardens development. After her husband's death in 1903, Mary Carter had this house built in Stevensville. She was later joined by her sister and brother-in-law, William and Maggie C. Tolson and their daughter Margaret.

Margaret, who never married, graduated from Towson State Normal School (teachers college) and taught in the grammar schools on Kent Island for years.

In keeping with the season, the Killian Family Singers, and the Bell Ringers will entertain visitors with Christmas carols at the Cray House, while Janet Ellis will demonstrate her skill at the colonial spinning wheel. Non-alcoholic grog and cookies will be served.

Annual Christmas Dinner

Invitations have been received for the annual Christmas Dinner at the Kent Island Yacht Club will be held Thursday, December 9. The cash bar opens at 6 P.m. and dinner will be served promptly at 7:00. Reservation at \$15.00 per person are to be sent to chairman Eva Thompson at 1235 Love Point Road. Marion Leaverton will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

KENT ISLAND MARCHING BAND?

Frustrated by scheduling conflicts for the services of the Queen Anne's High School Marching Band for Kent Island parades, carnivals, and other functions, Gil Dunn has come up with a brainstorm. "Let's put together our own volunteer band".

Gil figures that between the Heritage Society and the Volunteer Fire Companies from here to Queenstown, all local functions could use the services of a BIG BRASS BAND- John Philips Sousa style. Why not? All those former band members who have graduated still have their talent and abilities and training as well as their trombones and trumpets and drums and cymbals and tubas.

Gil sent a letter to the editor to see if he could find some adults who once formed the talent pool for the QAHS band, but never got to play for Kent Island's summer events. As adults maybe they'd like to dust off their skills as well as their instruments and give it another whirl.

In response Gil has turned up former QAHS band director Bruce Cohee who is very interested in the idea. So - can the "Isle of Kent" help turn up "76 TROMBONES" (or less) and the rest of the members of the band to put this idea together before next summer's parades and carnivals come?

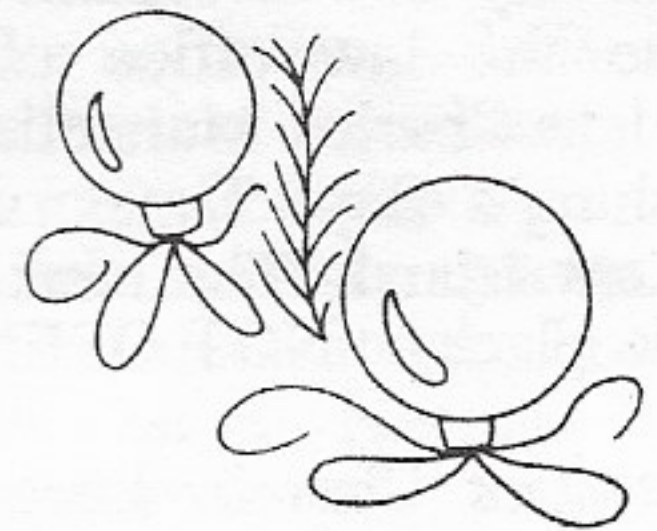
QAHS Band Alumni- "Where are you?" Are you out there? Does your mom still have your instrument in the attic? Call Gil Dunn at 643-5414 and help him out.

Note:

Due to the unexpected hospitalization of President Charlie Koegel over Thanksgiving, Minutes are not available this quarter. Charlie is home now and is feeling fine.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR !**





ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 321
Stevensville, Maryland 21666

BULK MAIL
PERMIT # 11
STEVENSVILLE
MD. 21666

