

Isle of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

WINTER 2019

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President's Message



Fall on Kent Island is a beautiful time of year. As weather moderates and nature's colors change daily, you can see, feel, and smell seasonal transitions. This year, change came to us as various challenges: extremely high flood tides that affected yards, roads, and parking lots, and Rt.50 changing into a parking lot itself, while the state deals with "urgent" and prolonged deck repairs. Lately, daily life is requiring schedule adjustments and patience. But looking around at this special place quickly reminds us of our rich heritage.

The usual fall picnic at the Kirwan Farm became one of our adjustments due to a different curve ball thrown by Mother Nature. Last year – heavy rains. This year – a tiny uninvited guest, the deer tick, carrier of Lyme disease. A week before the picnic, we discovered an unprecedented infestation of deer ticks, while the back yard was being tidied up. One Board member found thirteen ticks, was bitten several times, and sought medical attention; others also found several ticks on themselves. Seeking expert assistance, we were given these options: short term treatment (available, but highly toxic to pollinators, other insects, and to marine life) or going ahead with the picnic and risking possible Lyme exposure to attendees (not an option!). Since the health and welfare of both our members and the environment are of paramount importance, we cancelled the picnic. Currently, we are exploring a long term solution that will not place guests or the environs in jeopardy and are grateful for the understanding and support of the members.

On a positive note at the Kirwan Farm, construction of the new "old" blacksmith shop was completed and approved by the county in September. Excitement is building as we prepare to outfit it with the hearth, the original Kirwan anvil, and other tools, to restore the sights, sounds, and smells of the smithy to the farm once again. Resident blacksmith Mike Bouchal is looking forward to stoking that first fire and making the hammer sing at the grand opening early in 2020. (*see pictures in newsletter*) By the way, if anyone has an old blacksmith tool hanging forgotten in a garage or shed, consider donating it to be part of our blacksmith display.

Our summer and fall open sites visits continued to set record numbers of visitors experiencing Kent Island history as brought to life by our enthusiastic docents. We also supported the Stevensville Arts and Entertainment District's outdoor movie night, Artoberfest, and the K.I. Cruisers Antique Car Show.

September saw the second year of the program that brings Kent Island history to Kent Island High School – a five-part series of interactive presentations and a trip to each of

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KIHS Committees

Membership

John Conley, *Chair*

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Bob Lowe, *Chair*

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Jamie Sasse

Newsletter

Carole Frederick, *Editor*

John Conley, *Managing Editor*

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Chris Kilian

Lynnda Kratovil

Barbara Marmion

Carmen Mendez

Fran Peters

Hanna Wall

Marilyn Wilson

PROGRAMS

Kent Island Day

Jack Broderick, *Chair*

John Conley

Carole Frederick

Toni Gibson

Bob Lowe

Jamie Sasse

Picnic

Carole Frederick, *Chair*

Toni and Jay Gibson

Linda and Butch Collier

June General Meeting

Jack Broderick, *Chair*

Annual Election Brunch

Toni Gibson, *Chair*

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our sites by fifty juniors at KIHS. The program is the brainchild of Mark Lidinsky, Board member and local author. It met with rousing success, due in great part to the enthused encouragement of KIHS Principal John Schrecongost, and we look forward to a similar success this year.

Membership Chair John Conley has infused new creative life into membership outreach. Seeing the possibility of expanding the school programs, John has put together a list of about a dozen mobile presentations based on Mark Lidinsky's research. They are now available for local communities and organizations and have been well-received at various venues. Call us if your organization might like to host a presentation by John or another Board member, attired in period clothing. *Check out the available topics on our website.*

On a sad note, we recently lost an old friend, neighbor, and relative of many multigenerational Kent Islanders – Captain Harry Davidson. He truly was a Kent Island original, a waterman, farmer, poet and musician – to name a few of his talents. His poetry about the Bay, set to original music, was featured on an MPT special last year. Bon Voyage to Capt. Harry.

The year's quick-approaching end brings to mind several events to mark on your calendars: December 3 at the KI Library – Linda Collier, Kirwan House curator, will present Christmas on Old Kent Island, complete with photos and artifacts from the Kirwan collection. Weekends Dec. 7-8 and Dec. 14-15 Festival of Trains at the old outlet center will host a KI railroad history display. Lastly, don't forget the Sunday, Dec. 8 Christmas brunch for our Annual Membership Meeting and Elections at Fisherman's Inn.. *See Announcement and Invitation to this event in this newsletter and on our website.* –

Check the website regularly for timely information about the Heritage Society, our sites, activities, and events www.kentislandheritagesociety.org. Those active in social media can link to our Facebook and Twitter accounts through the website as well.

We extend a warm thank you to each of our members for your continued generosity and support. Happy Fall!

Hope to see you on December 8th

Jack Broderick

CALENDAR 2019

JANUARY 16

BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 20

BOARD MEETING

MARCH 20

GENERAL MEETING

Darrin Lowery, Ph. D.
Guest Speaker

Historic Christ Church @ 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 17

BOARD MEETING

MAY 15

BOARD MEETING

MAY 18

KENT ISLAND DAY

JUNE 19

GENERAL MEETING

Annual Cruise

JULY 17

BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 21

BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 18

BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22

ANNUAL PICNIC
@ KIRWAN HOUSE
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

OCTOBER 16

BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20

BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 8

ANNUAL MEETING/BRUNCH

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
FISHERMAN'S INN
12:30 - 4:00 PM

POSTCARD from Kent Island:

Farewell Hotel Fillmore: Last Link to Love Point Glory Years

Submitted by John L. Conley

One of the last remaining buildings with ties to the Glory Years of Love Point was demolished this past August under a Raze Contract let by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources which owns the property on which the historic hotel was located. This Hotel Fillmore was constructed and opened in summer 1923 on the same site as a previous Hotel Fillmore that burned on January 30, of that year. It served as a hotel and the Love Point Post Office for many years and eventually became a private residence.

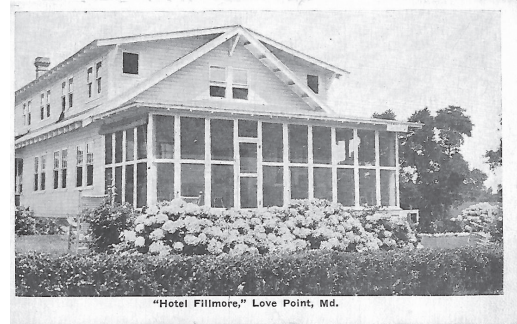
The original Hotel Fillmore was opened in 1915 by Captain J. Fill Legg who had recently been manager of the larger Love Point Hotel. That hotel was three stories high and included a massive porch, roof garden, restaurant and 31 rooms. A 1915 advertisement in the Baltimore Evening Sun announced "a new hotel with all modern improvements that will serve fine old Maryland Dinners for excursion crowds."

The hotel was a success and the Baltimore and local papers of the time mention many groups that met there. Among them was a May 1915 "wind-up of the season (for) the Wedgewood Club, a social organization of druggists that went on excursion down to Love Point." It continued, "A hotly contested game of baseball between selected nines was followed by dinner at the Hotel Fillmore during which several addresses were made."

In November 1917, "a banquet at Hotel Fillmore, Love Point, was given for F. E. Schnepfe, road engineer of Queen Anne's County." Among those attending were James E. Kirwan, William McKenney, Fountain Jackson, and W. W. Bordley.

Like other tourist destinations at popular Love Point, the Hotel Fillmore provided many employment opportunities

for Kent Island residents. A May 30, 1917 advertisement in the Baltimore Sun read: "WANTED—WHITE WAITRESSES, experienced, at Hotel Fillmore, Love Point, Md. Immediate work. Good wages. Come or write."



The original Hotel Fillmore opened in 1915 and is shown in a postcard mailed in 1919. The hotel featured fine Maryland dining on neat tables as shown in the postcard mailed in 1917. The second hotel was constructed in 1923. It served as the Love Point post office for many years. The building was razed by the State of Maryland in August 2019.

According to a January 31, 1923 article in the Wilmington Evening Journal and a February 3 article in the Denton Journal, a devastating fire broke out at the hotel on Tuesday January 30. The Wilmington paper reported that the fire: "destroyed the Hotel Fillmore, three-story structure at Love Point, Md., a resort, with loss estimated at \$25,000 by Captain J. Fill Legg, owner and proprietor. Twelve guests, with about five members of Captain Legg's family, were eating luncheon on the first floor when the flames were first discovered by an unidentified person walking past the hotel noticed smoke pouring from the roof. The whistle at the Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Railroad shops, which is a short distance from the building, was sounded calling residents of the village to the scene."

The article continued, "On the first floor of the hotel was located the Love Point post office, Love Point, and the fire-fighters, giving up hope of saving the building, turned their efforts to removing all valuable mail and the furniture on the first floor to a place of safety. All the clothing of the guests and members of the proprietor's family was destroyed."

Then 73-year old Captain Legg announced in March 1923 that a new hotel would be built on site and, indeed, advertisements appeared in the Baltimore papers for the new Hotel Fillmore and a July 15, advertisement announced that the hotel was "now open" and that a Cafeteria lunch was available on the steamer which left

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Farewell Hotel Fillmore cont...

Pier 8 Light Street with a one dollar fare and children half price The new hotel was a one-and-one half story front gabled house, smaller than the one that it replaced. It had 17 guest rooms. It had a smaller porch that faced to the southeast to Pier Ave.

While Captain Legg was able to enjoy the new hotel, he died on January 31, 1924, almost a year to the day after the fire. The February 18, 1924 Caroline Sun wrote: *"For a number of years Captain Legg was proprietor of the Hotel Love Point, and later he built the Fillmore Hotel. It was destroyed by fire, but not withstanding his advanced years, Captain Legg immediately constructed a new hostelry. He was an ardent Democrat and for many years was keenly interested in the success of his party at the polls."* Legg was buried in Stevensville Cemetery.

Captain Legg's daughter Miss Mary "May" Legg took over management of the Hotel Fillmore, along with her nephews Charles Percy Kemp Jr. and Fillmore G. Kemp, sons of her late sister Blanche Kemp. F. G. "Phil" Kemp worked as a fishing guide from the hotel. In July 1925, the Baltimore Sun carried the following advertisement: "FILLMORE HOTEL LOVE POINT—Hotel containing 21 rooms; modern; 5 acres; 3 acres in gardens; shade, fruit, flowers in abundance. Splendid fishing and bathing. Price less than cost of a house. Surely a snap."

An advertisement listed in the July 7, 1931 Baltimore Sun continued to list M.P. Legg as Proprietor and "Boarders (were) solicited by day, week and month. Furnished Rooms, \$6.00 per week. All day lunch service." She continued to operate the hotel into the 1940s and died in 1953. Phil Legg worked as a waterman and decoy carver. He died in July 1973.

In February 1948 the Baltimore Sun carried the following advertisement: "EASTERN SHORE Love Point--Hotel. Fillmore—Large two story seventeen rm. Bldg.. lots included. Call Mr. Lowe, Stevensville 2564 or Mr. Paul Nichols, LE, 6855 HO1155".

It is not known at this time what the State of Maryland will do with the property on Love Point it now owns and upon which the Hotel Fillmore once hosted guests in style. While this and other buildings from the Glory Years of Love Point are gone, they should not be forgotten. ■

This 'n That



A bright sunny November 2 helped produce a nice crowd for the Kent Island Cruisers car show and final Saturday opening of Kent Island Heritage Society sites.



The newly constructed Kirwan Blacksmith Shop. Doors open and doors closed. Now just waiting to be outfitted.

Part 3

Captain Gene Herbert, Stevensville's Oldest Man, Looks Back at Past Days From Great-Grandfather on, Family Followed the Water

Reprint from

Queen Anne's County Record Observer, Thursday, July 27, 1939, 4th Section, pg. 5, Centreville, Maryland

Another incident of interest is said to have occurred just about this same time. Piracy was not uncommon around the Atlantic seaboard at this time and naturally pirates ventured up the Chesapeake. It is reported that the British captured some pirates on the Chesapeake and one of the poor devils was imprisoned in a cage resembling and oversized bird cage and hung up a tree at Kent Point at the extreme end of the Island. The pirate was left alone to starve to death.

Probably the next incident of importance to occur on the Island was the beginning of Stevensville. The exact date of the beginning is not known but it is thought to have begun as a town somewhere about the year 1861. According to Captain Gene, Stevensville was once two farms, the property of Charles and James M. Stevens. From these two men the name of Stevensville was probably derived. These two men are the ancestors of the present Charles Stevens living in Stevensville. Cap'n Gene's story goes on that these farms were sold to Dave Jones, Caleb Legg and Hugh Legg. The said Caleb Legg had the present Main Street of Stevensville constructed, upon ownership. The same Mr. Legg interested a Mr. Tuck of Annapolis in his property. Lots were laid off along the street which was constructed. Mr. Tuck then put up the money for and had most of the homes constructed which now border the main highway through Stevensville to Matapeake. The lumber for these homes was grown and cut right on Kent Island. Most of it came from the farm now owned by Dr. Charles E. Snyder and was cut by Mr. John Gibson. Some of the later homes along this same street were constructed from the lumber from the Johnstown flood.

Now we come to the Stevensville of the early twentieth century. The town was much changed. Stores flourished and the population had increased considerably. In the year 1900 Stevensville boasted several high-class stores, a hotel, and all other shops needed for such a town. One of the most important stores of the town was Kemp's Pharmacy which was established in 1902 with Dr. John C. Norris as the druggist. Previous to this Miss Lucy Denny ran an apothecary shop which was called the drugstore by the townspeople. However, she was not a licensed druggist. In 1907 Dr. Norris bought the drug store from Dr. Kemp. Dr. Norris installed a soda fountain in his store which was then the only one on the Island, and still is the only one. All ice cream served at this store was made on the site. The ice used was imported via the Love Point steamer from Baltimore. All syrups used in the preparation of drinks were also made at home.

Dr. Norris tells us of an interesting occurrence. In 1924 when the sale of alcoholic beverages was first prohibited by law, he was the only druggist on the Eastern Shore of Maryland allowed to sell them. In order to get liquors from the druggist, one had to get a prescription from his doctor at one dollar per prescription. On pint was allowed to each person. Consequently, a person wishing more than one pint had to have several prescriptions and each had to have a different name to it. Subscriptions were so numerous that people ran out of names so towards the last subscribers visited cemeteries, inscribing upon their prescriptions names which they found on tombstones and some went so far as to use the names of their horses.

(to be continued in the next newsletter)

Festival of Trains Show Will Include Kent Island Stations

The Queen Anne's Railroad Society has invited KIHS to again include a Kent Island display in its popular Festival of Trains Show which will be held in December at the old Kent Narrows Outlet Center. Large displays of model trains and railroad related items will be held from Noon to 5 p.m. on December 7 and 8 and again on December 14 and 15. Santa has been known to visit.

The KIHS display will include pictures from the four railroad stations that were located on Kent Island at Love Point, Stevensville, Chester, and at Kent Narrows. We will be especially interested in hearing from visitors who can share information and memories about the railroad which crossed Kent Island from 1902 until the early 1950s. For more information on the event which shares the magic of model trains for "children of all ages" can be found at qarrs.org. There is no admission fee, but donations are welcome.



FIRST KENT ISLANDERS DRAFTED FOR WORLD WAR I

The first draft of 40 Queen Anne's County men to report for duty for World War I included 11 Kent Islanders. They left for Fort Meade in September 1917.

The Kent Island men included:

Alex Grollman	}	From Stevensville
John Eckstorm		
William Grimes		
Gerhart Colin		
Edward Milliner		

Harry McPherson ~ From Love Point

Edward Severa	}	From Chester
Arthur F. Thompson		
William Walter Coursey		
Percy Thomas		
Elson Coleman		

Among the first forty recruits from Queen Anne's County was Jeff Davis Jr. from Church Hill who was the first person from the county killed in the war. The American Legion Post in Centerville is named for Davis who was killed in France in May 1918. We remember these men and all Kent Island veterans on Veterans' Day.

DOCENTS' WORKSHOP

A breakfast workshop will be held for all docents (new and returning) in preparation for the 2020 year of opening our historic sites.

When: Saturday, March 14th, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Kirwan house
641 Dominion Road (Route 552)
Chester, Maryland

If you would like to join our team of docents and/or attend the workshop please call Sally Lewis at 443-249-3203

Coffee ~~~~~ Tea ~~~~~ Sweets ~~~~~ Fruit
Won't you join us?

HELP WANTED

KIHS NEEDS DOCENTS AT OUR SIX HISTORIC SITES.

KIHS needs docent hosts at our six historic sites. The main qualification is that the person enjoys learning about and sharing our special local history. Training will be provided by current KIHS docent/ hosts and you can serve as often as your schedule allows. Our sites are open on the first Saturday of each month (May through October) and for special events and school tours. Compensation is an ongoing fun learning experience.

You can find a "Docent Form" at kentislandheritagesociety.org, contact any Kent Island Heritage Society Board Member, or just show up at one of our sites.

**WE NEED YOU AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR
ANY HELP YOU CAN OFFER!
THANKS!**

*The Kent Island Heritage Society Board of Directors requests the
pleasure of your company at the
Annual Election of Officers and Board Members
for Brunch*



*Sunday, December 8, 2019
at Fisherman's Inn*

from 12:30 ~ 3:30

Business Meeting from 2:15 ~ 2:45

Entertainment 2:45 ~ 3:30

Buffet Menu

Cheesy Scrambled Eggs

Assorted Quiches

Hash Browns

Sausage and Bacon

Fruit Salad

Danishes and Sweet Breads

Coffee ~ Hot /Iced Tea ~ Sodas

Cash Bar

**Please Reserve Your Seat for December 8, 2019 at Fisherman's Inn
ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019**

The cost will be \$25.00 Per Person

Please make your check payable to: **The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.**

Mail to: **Toni Gibson**

1814 Churchhill Lane

Chester, Maryland 21619

If you have special dietary needs or desire transportation to the brunch,
call Toni and Jay Gibson at 410 643 6483



Please Complete this Section and Return with Your Check

NAME(S) _____

TELEPHONE _____

AMOUNT OF CHECK _____

EMAIL _____

THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. 2020 SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

An election of officers and directors to lead The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. in 2020 will be held at the Annual Meeting on December 8, 2019. The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate:

President	John E. Broderick
Vice President	Robert C. Lowe
Recording Secretary	Nancy M. Cook
Corresponding Secretary	Carole P. Frederick
Treasurer	Lynne Riley-Coleman
Directors	Louis Crouch

Officers are elected for a one-year term and directors for three year terms. Additional nominations may be made twenty-one (21) days prior to the annual meeting. A declaration of intent must be presented to the chair of the nominating Committee, Nancy Cook, 124 Bryce Road, Queenstown, Maryland 21658, and must be signed by the candidate and two supporting members of The Society.

2019 The Kent Island Heritage Society Incumbent Board Members

**Linda S. Collier
John L. Conley
Antoinette (Toni) Gibson
John (Jay) Gibson
Sally E. Lewis
Mark Lidinsky
Annie May Price**

THE BARD OF KENT ISLAND

Harry Davidson

1929 – 2019

LONG JOHN

(About John Pete who lived on Benton Road)

They were scraping deep using long tongs
The oysters were a coming strong
Sam and his son would rake 'em in
And John he calls 'em clean
The ice was making on the oyster tongs
And the weather was downright mean
They may get him riled up
But they never get him piled up
Long John the oyster culling man
He was 7-foot tall in his bare feet
Worked all his life on the Chesapeake
Knows the edges like the back of his hand
Long John the oyster culling man
The snow fell heavy on his long brim cap
His hands they moved like a man with a cause
When it comes to the final tally
There won't be an oyster lost
Long John the oyster culling man
They may get him riled up
But they never get him piled up
Long John the oyster culling man
The cigarette dropped from his frozen lips
And his hands they rolled about
Bring 'em on and bring 'em strong
Long John will call him out

BUTTERBALL (THE ANCHORMAN)

(Butterball, nee Calvert Thompson, Jr. who is said to have pulled himself to shore with his anchor and line for several miles after he broke down)

What a hoss
What a toss
Butterball's the boss
Butterball, Butterball
The anchor-throwing man
He's from Kent Island
And has tied a knot or two
He worked the water all his life
That's all he ever knew
One day his engine quit
And he was running out of time
The only thing he had aboard
Was an anchor and some line
He had to get back close to shore
Before the next ebb tide
He threw that anchor high
And he threw that anchor long
Sometimes it seems like it touched the sky
But that anchor, it held strong
When he made it back to shore
He held that anchor prone
The symbol of the waterman
He made it on his own
And when they had the festival
And the anchor toss contest
No one could touch Butterball
He is the waterman's best
What a hoss
What a toss
Butterball's the boss
Butterball, Butterball
The anchor-throwing man





Visit the Old Post Office in Downtown Stevensville
for this and many other localized gifts

Welcome New Members

Kimberly M. Ferrell
Tracy Lepine

In Memoriam

Alice C. Immler

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed is a check to cover dues for the membership indicated below:

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life Membership | \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Membership | \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership | \$50.00 | | |

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Telephone (Home) _____

(Cell) _____

Email address _____

*Dues and contributions are tax
deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

**Membership period:
January 1 to December 31**

**The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc
P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, Maryland
www.kentislandheritagesociety.org**

Your Interests:

History _____ Genealogy _____ Photography _____

Docent Program _____ Property Maintenance _____

Special Interest _____

KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

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