

# Isle of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. | WINTER 2012

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Hugo Gemignani 95-98

Nancy M. Cook 99-08

## President's Message

There is something special about that chill in the evening air and the large flocks of geese that move in to share this place that let's you know it's unmistakably fall on Kent Island! This year is no exception. In September we gathered at the Kirwan Place to celebrate our Fall Heritage Picnic. On a near perfect early fall day, with the best covered dish specialties around, great music by our local Little Creek Boys, hayrides, pony rides, kids games, and historic tours, we shared the charm and friendship of old Kent Island. We hope you were on hand to enjoy it. If not, plan to come next year.

Congratulations and thanks to our picnic committee of Carole Frederick, Linda Collier, Toni Gibson, and Hanna Wall and to all our Board members and volunteers who helped make the day so successful.

Of course fall is not without its challenges, especially weather-wise, as we were reminded by the late season visit by Hurricane Sandy. All things considered, we dodged the bullet on that one. We hope all of our members came through OK. I'm happy to report that our historic site weathered the storm with no major problems, other than some repairable leaks. The stewardship of those sites is something we take seriously in our pledge to preserve our Kent Island legacy. This year the Kirwan House received special focus and attention as we worked to fulfill our plans to complete all major interior renovations. In addition, we appreciated the special effort by our historic preservation contractor, Tom Willey and his team. They were joined in October by a group of friends and volunteers for a free work day to tighten and spruce up the exterior of the Kirwan House. Check out the pictures of this special group of heritage heroes in action. Thanks, you guys!

As part of our strategic plan we are committed to reaching out to like-minded community organizations on worthwhile local initiatives. We are working closely with the QA County Historic Sites Consortium, chaired by our own vice president, Nancy Cook, to help foster County-wide coordination and support of our sites and events. We are also working closely with local artists and business interests to establish a Stevensville Arts and Entertainment District. Most of our historic

sites are located in Historic Stevensville. We hope, with the support of the Maryland Dept. of Business and Economic Development, that this effort will help bring vitality and positive tourist attention to that unique historic area. We are glad to see the County's assignment of Debbie Carroll Burch as the new Tourism Coordinator for QA County. She appears to bring a great deal of experience, knowledge, and interest in working together to help build heritage tourism in our area. We look forward to working with her in the coming months.

Thanks to the dedicated energy of our members, we look back with pride to a successful year of events and activities for the Heritage Society: from our largest ever Kent Island Day in May, two informative historic presentations in March and June, monthly open sites at all our locations hosted by passionate and knowledgeable docents, to our great fall picnic. We are grateful to our Board members and volunteers who have contributed so much time, effort and elbow grease to help keep our heritage alive and our sites maintained and protected.

We will round out our year in December with our annual election meeting. The format will be different this year to help accommodate busy holiday schedules. We will plan a Sunday Brunch on December 9 at KIYC. Check out the annual meeting announcement in this issue for details and reservations. Also at the meeting we will hold the annual election of Officers and Board members for 2013. Please see the Report of the Nominating Committee for details. We look forward to welcoming our new Board Members: Dr. Earl Chambers, Linda Kratovil, Hanna Wall, Honey Crouch Voerman, and Curtis George.

We hope you will plan to attend the annual meeting on December 9 to help vote in and welcome our new Board.

Happy Holidays,

*Jack Broderick*

**DOCENTS**

Nancy M. Cook,  
Coordinator

**Historic Stevensville**

Fran Peters  
Butch Collier  
Marilyn Wilson  
Anne Marie Bouchal  
Michael Bouchal  
Josh Bouchal  
Flora Sossi  
Hanna Wall  
Chris Kilian  
Janet Denny  
Jay Gibson  
Toni Gibson

**Historic Christ Church**

Carole Frederick  
Ernestine Kepley

**Kirwan Museum - Chester**

Linda Collier, Curator  
Cameron Sewell  
Taylor Harmon

**COMMITTEES****Caboose Restoration**

Tom Willey  
T. Humphries  
Wayne Humphries  
Nancy Cook

**Cemetery Preservation**

Josh Willis

**Picnic**

Butch Collier  
Jay Gibson  
Hanna Wall  
Carole Frederick  
Linda Collier  
Toni Gibson

**Annual Dinner**

Toni Gibson  
Linda Collier  
Carole Frederick  
Flora Sossi

**Historic Records**

Sally Morgan  
Nancy Sadler

**Development**

Hal Wilson

**Kent Island Day**

Joyce Woodford  
Jack Broderick  
Flora Sossi  
Toni Gibson  
Gary Walters

**Oral History**

Brent Lewis

**Public Relations****Membership**

Carole Frederick  
Nancy Cook

**Website**

Carole Frederick  
Amanda Jenkins

**Help Wanted**

**Newsletter Editor** – We are still in need of a Newsletter Editor for The Society. If you have any interest or know someone who is, please call Jack Broderick at 410-643-6452.

**Scrapbooking Enthusiasts!!** We need someone to keep our scrapbooks up to date with current newspaper articles, pictures, etc. If this is your specialty, please call Carole Frederick 410-643-3776 for details. or email [www.cpfred@verizon.net](mailto:www.cpfred@verizon.net). We will provide materials.

**Members to Work on Committees..** Remember what our grandparents told us: Many hands make light work. There are a variety of committees that need your help and expertise, i.e., Kent Island Day, Membership, Picnic, Kirwan House Interior, Kirwan Property, Cray House, Caboose, Train Depot, Post Office, Docents, Programs, Oral Histories, Nominating, Fundraising, Grant Writing, Library, Scholarship, Cemetery, Annual Meeting and Newsletter Editor. For more information call Nancy Cook. 410 758 2502 or email: Carole Frederick: [www.cpfred@verizon.net](mailto:www.cpfred@verizon.net).

**Old Pictures** are still needed to help us preserve our history. If you have any that you could share with us, we would be glad to copy and return them to you. If you know the people in the picture, where it was taken, etc. – that would be appreciated too. Call Nancy Cook for more information: 410 758 2502 or email Carole Frederick: [www.cpfred@verizon.net](mailto:www.cpfred@verizon.net).

**Ear Trumpet** (predecessor to the hearing aid) to display in the Kirwan Store Museum. If you know how we can acquire one please call Linda Collier – 410 643 2731.

**Canned Goods Offerings** for the needy at Christmas. Please bring something to the Annual Brunch Meeting on December 9, at the KI Yacht Club. We will be working in cooperation with an organization that is disbursing the items.

**Christmas/Winter Memories** of your childhood on Kent Island. If you have memories that you would like to share with others at the Annual Meeting please have them written (preferably typed) and submitted to a board member that night. Either you may read your own or we will read them for you.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**January 18**

BOARD MEETING

**February 15**

BOARD MEETING

**March 14**

GENERAL MEETING

PUBLIC FORUM

*Historic Christ Church, Stevensville*

**March 24**

DOCENT TEA AND TRAINING

**April 18**

BOARD MEETING

**May 5**

FLEA MARKET

*Kirwan House Lawn*

FIRST SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE  
PROGRAM BEGINS  
(through October)

**May 16**

BOARD MEETING

**May 19**

KENT ISLAND DAY, STEVENSVILLE

**June 20**

GENERAL MEETING (TBA)

**July 18**

BOARD MEETING

**September 19**

BOARD MEETING

**September 23**

ANNUAL FALL PICNIC  
*Kirwan House*

**October 17**

BOARD MEETING

**November 14**

BOARD MEETING

**December 9**

ANNUAL MEETING / ELECTIONS



## Kent Island Trivia

by Toni Gibson

Here are the answers to the questions we posed in the last newsletter...

1. How does Kent Island rank in size to the other islands in the Chesapeake Bay? It is the largest in size.

2. What is its approximate square mileage (according to the Census)? Approximately 31-32 square miles.

3. What name did the Matapeake tribe have for Kent Island? Monoponson which was the Algonquian name for Kent Island and the name of another tribe which lived here.

4. For how many years has Kent Island had human life? More than 12,000 years.

5. What famous explorer was among the first Europeans to set sight on Kent Island? This explorer was John Smith.

6. Can you name three things which were included in the price of Kent Island when it was "purchased" from the natives? This form of bartering was called "truck" and is similar to the way Manhattan Island was purchased. Among the items put up for trade were axes, knives, combs, bells, beads, and woolen cloth. The total value of the trade was about twelve pounds sterling.

7. Where did William Claiborne get the name of Kent for Kent Island? It was the name of his home in England, where he lived in Kent.

8. To what two counties did Kent Island belong before it was part of Queen Anne's County? It was part of Kent County in 1642, then became part of Talbot County in 1695, and became a part of Queen Anne's County in 1706.

9. Can you name at least three kinds of establishments that were found on Broad Creek in the mid-1600s? At Broad Creek in the mid-1600s, one could find most of the necessities of life at that time – a ferryboat landing, a mill, a courthouse, a church (Christ Church) and a tavern!!

10. During colonial times, what was the name given to Kent Narrows? It was called the "Wad(e)ing Place."

11. What did you use to cross the Narrows during the time period from 1826 to 1876? During these years there was a causeway (a raised road made of dirt) that enabled one to walk through what was probably thick marshy land.

12. True or false...Was there ever a mosque on Kent Island? Yes, but this is a tricky question – a mosque needs only to be a prayer rug and a praying Muslim. Mosques have been here since the colonial era. A mosque, or masjid, is literally any place where Muslims make salat, the prayer performed in the direction of Mecca; it needn't be a building. One of the first mosques in North American history was on Kent Island, Md.: Between 1731 and 1733, African American Muslim slave and Islamic scholar Job Ben Solomon, a cattle driver, would regularly steal away to the woods there for his prayers -- in spite of a white boy who threw dirt on him as he made his prostrations.... Curtis, Edward. The Washington Post, August 29, 2010.

Hope you had fun!!

## Jack

by Nancy Cook

What a wonderful gift The Heritage Society received from Betty Jackson of Centreville! A history of the picture, printed on cloth by "The Centreville Record Steam Job Print." accompanied this 1898 advertisement for the jack's services.

Ms. Jackson wrote the following:

The picture of Jack is close to 100 years old. It is a treasure of the Eastern Shore. Five farmers in Queen Anne decided they needed a well bred jackass. So they purchased one in France and had him shipped here. He was scheduled to make many farm calls, a route that took two years. Unfortunately, too many of his calls were not successful and very few paid for his services. Mr. Joseph Jackson, Sr. decided he would keep jack. (Bob Barton said his name was Arton.) Joe Jackson, Jr. kept this picture and asked me to be sure that the Kent Island Heritage Society received it.

The advertisement read as follows:

Headlight will stand for mares exclusively on Kent Island the present season. There will be four stands. First, at my home place, Stevensville; 2nd at John H. Price's farm; 3rd at Capt. Jas. E. Kirwin's, Crab Alley Neck; and 4th at Charles E. Kirwin's, Cox's Neck.

DESCRIPTION \* AND \* PEDIGREE

Headlight was foaled August 4, 1895, making him four years old next August. He is a silky black with beautiful white points, large for his size, 15 1-2 hands high...has one of the largest and finest heads your ever saw...he is as thrifty as a pig, his legs are broad, clean and flat with a foot in keeping with his size and body. Headlight was sired by Lightning, for which \$4000 was refused. Lightning headed the list as the finest jack in Tennessee (sic). Lightning was by the famous Old Starlight; he by Belknap; he by imported Belknap.

Terms

\$15 for single mare

\$12.50 for more than one mare

50 cents, Groom's fee



## Annica Hanson Elinor Meconny Dabb\*

By Dr. Alexa Cawley\*\*

In September of 1655 a young Swedish woman named Annica Hanson appeared before the monthly Kent County Court meeting to beg for assistance. Her husband Andrew had migrated to Kent Island two years earlier from the Swedish settlement near Wilmington. Sadly he died in the spring of 1655, leaving her all alone with four small children and pregnant with a fifth. Annica lamented that she was unable to care for her children, "... having no estate left for the maintenance of herself or her Children and being constrained for want of ability to dispose of some of them to some Christian friends, for their maintenance and subsistence." She asked for the Court's approval to apprentice her son, nine year-old Hance, to Joseph Wickes. Not only did she look to the Court for approval of her decision regarding Hance, she also stressed that she was struggling to find neighbors willing to care for her children.

Annica Hanson's situation was extreme, especially because she had so many young children. But she would persist in this community for many years to come, utilizing the Court's guidance and oversight, effectively negotiating service contracts for her children, and through the best opportunity available for women, expeditious remarriage. She was able to negotiate a very good apprenticeship for her son in that first court appearance, specifying that Wickes would provide "fatherly care" until Hance was 21, including all the "necessaries for his maintenance and breeding ... reading in English tongue, writing in legible hand, casting accounts in 4 rules of Arithmetic." Within two months she was back in court requesting payments to her husband's estate and, shortly thereafter, sold her husband's half of a boat to Henry Carline. The Court reported it was happy to approve that

sale "... Considering it was for her Relief in her Extreme necessity in Child Birth. ..."

Annica Hanson married three more times, bearing children in each marriage. Within a year of Andrew Hanson's 1655 death Annica married the "Spaniard" Andrew Elinor, and they had two children, Sarah in 1658 and Ann in 1659. In early 1658 Annica contracted for her seven year-old daughter, Margaret Hanson, to work for Robert Vaughan for three years provided he give her meat, drink, apparel, and lodging. Vaughan also promised Margaret's stepfather, Andrew Elinor, a cow with calf for Margaret's "use" which Vaughan would watch over until she came of age. Had Margaret reached an age where she naturally would work in another home? Perhaps, but at the age of seven, she was still a bit young to be apprenticed. Had her presence in her step-father's home, along with at least three siblings, a newborn half-sister, and another on the way, become problematic? Or had Annica just found an efficient means to find a home for her daughter as well as the promise of ownership of a cow, an important stepping stone to economic security? Sometime between 1662 and 1665 Annica married Mecume Meconny and bore him a son, John. Annica's fourth husband, John Dabb, lost his wife Nan Eares Dabb in late 1665. When he married Annica, presumably in 1666, he already had four children, and she gave birth to her last child, Lettis Dabb, in 1667.

While it is not clear how many of Annica's children lived to adulthood, by 1667 she was potentially the matriarch of a family made up of thirteen children, nine of them under the age of twelve, representing four different families. Her role as mother to so many children and the conduit between so many families must have been a challenging one. Her efforts to find care and education for at least two of her children show her active role in planning for their future well-being. While hers may be an extreme case, it highlights the complexities faced

by mothers trying to secure their children's futures in a seventeenth-century Chesapeake community hobbled by high mortality rates and an unstable population.

\*The material presented here can be found in the Archives of Maryland: Kent County Court, Volume 54 and in my dissertation "Household and Community: Kent County, Maryland, 1631-1676" (American University, 2004).

\*\* Professor Cawley teaches American and European History at Delaware State University.

## Letter to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern:

It was my family's pleasure to attend the annual Kent Island Heritage Society picnic last weekend. What a wonderful time we all had! It is so rare these days to find an activity that engages a family with varied interests in a safe and wholesome environment... that is to say we all had a good old-fashioned time! What a treat it was to tour the Kirwan house and see the changes and updates from last year, accompany my son on his first-ever hayride, indulge in a multitude of homemade goodies, listen to superb live music, and indulge in a multitude of homemade goodies (again!). Thanks to all of the folks at the Heritage Society who put in so much time and effort for such a blissful event. All of their hard work paid off; the weather was sublime and, as far as my family is concerned, a fantastic time was had by all!

Sincerely,  
the Krauss family

### Welcome to New Members

Kay Lee Butler  
Joyce and Hunter Kerlin  
Carol Mylander  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Frohn  
Adrienne Lowe and Jeff Lund  
Michael Willey  
Ann P Horvath  
Judith and Peeter Muhlberg  
Alice Randall



## Willey Workday

By Linda Collier



On Saturday, October 6th, the Kirwan House was the beneficiary of Tom Willey's annual free workday. Every year, for the past several years, Tom and Mike Willey encourage some of their buddies to volunteer their skills to help spruce up one of our historical properties. The Kirwan house was the lucky recipient this year. It is the largest of our properties and always in need of something in the form of maintenance.

Tom assessed the needs and assigned a volunteer to each chore. Mike solicited food and drink from local businesses, and while they get a lot of much needed work done, they also have a good time.

This particular Saturday they also enlisted the help of Mike's son Dalton and another young man who was accumulating hours for his school required community service. John Gant, Larry Greibel and Dale Lantz scraped and painted trim on

the back of the house while Carl Morris replaced mortar on the back brick steps. Our own Brent Lewis even revealed some hidden talent as a painter, making the pump house look spectacularly white again. Mike and Tom worked on windows.

This all coincided with our regularly scheduled open house and we had 30-40 people visit the house that day. At one time, there were so many cars and trucks in the parking lot, that the ice cream man, not wanting to miss an opportunity, made a pass through and made a few sales.

All in all, it was a very productive day...lots of visitors seeing the house, store and property for the first time and also seeing the dedication of volunteers in action...volunteers we could not survive without. A big thank you to Mike and Tom Willey and all those involved.

## Two Book Reviews

By Alex Johnson

### KENT ISLAND: THE LAND THAT ONCE WAS EDEN

by Janet Freedman, Published by the Maryland Historical Society

No other time in our lives brings back richer memories than our childhood.

Janet Freedman can remember, in her mind's eye, the Kent Island of the 50's and 60's, the swooping flight of sea birds, the tang of the salt marsh, and the grit of an oyster-shell lane. In *THE LAND THAT ONCE WAS EDEN* she writes a detailed remembrance of a place and people much loved, and not forgotten.

As a child, Freedman visited her grandmother, Jeanette Elizabeth Nash, at her farm on Kent Island where Gibson's Grant now stands. Elsewhere in her book she writes of the native Matapeakes, the coming of William Claiborne, and the rise and fall of the Love Point Hotel. The chapter on island grammar schools is particularly poignant. The photos are gathered from old family albums and from other generous residents of the island.

The book is available from the Kent Island Library and from the publisher. If you read only one book this year about Kent Island or the Eastern Shore, it should be this one.

### CAPTAIN BOYLES TREASURE,

Kent Island Mystery Series  
by Mark Lidinsky, Published by Dog Ear Publishing

In *CAPTAIN BOYLE'S TREASURE*, Mark Lidinsky takes the reader on a treasure quest from Peace of Cake Bakery in Stevensville to the Kent Island Library and down Dominion Road. Lidinsky weaves a tale of mystery and intrigue. Did Thomas Boyle, a War of 1812 sea captain, leave a treasure on Kent Island? Local residents and the Kent Island Heritage Society think so. The search ensues.

Some wonderful illustrations are added by Kent Island High School students.

If you have a reluctant reader in your vicinity, this may be just the book for them. It may open the door for them to Edgar Allen Poe's *THE GOLD BUG*, or even Robert Louis Stevenson's *TREASURE ISLAND*.

## Poetry Corner

My Blue Heron

by Alex Johnson

The eel sits sideways in

King Tut's beak

What happens next is part luck;  
part physique.

Lining his meal with his throat is  
swell,

Not perpendicular, but parallel.

He tosses his head back, flips the eel

And all his effort ends in a meal.

The heron stares out with a wild  
surmise;

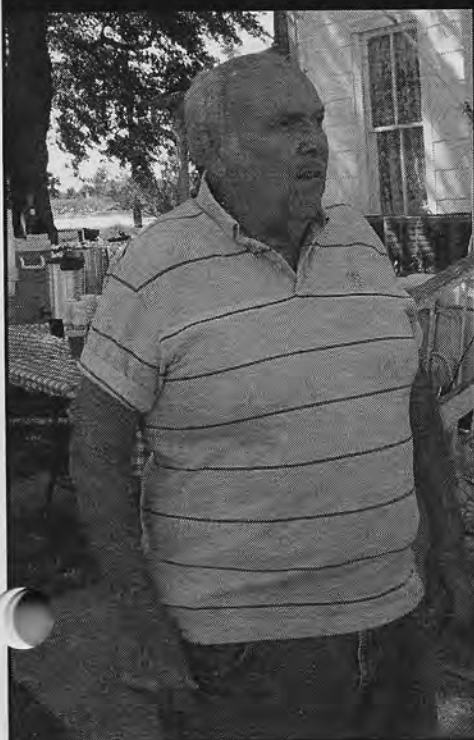
A Cheshire look, and those cold  
black eyes.

He can stay forever, a feathered toy,  
Silent as that entombed Egyptian  
boy.

# *Annual Picnic*







# Turtle Soup/Pie – YUM

By Carole Frederick



remember exactly where the trap door was. There are signs of trap doors in several places but the one that housed the snappers is still a mystery.

Not only the snapping turtle but the diamondback terrapin was used for turtle soup and/or pie. In fact, this species was probably more plentiful than the snapper as their habitat was the in brackish marsh waters along the Chesapeake Bay.

There are many ways to prepare this delicacy. In colonial times the colonists learned to prepare turtle the way the Algonquin Indians did: roasting in the shell over burning coals.

Turtle is considered a delicacy in many places as it was in Hotel Rennert in Baltimore, around the turn of the century. They kept up to 600 terrapins in their basement. In 1891, Maryland harvested 89,000 pounds of terrapin. The following is the soup recipe similar to the one used at the Rennert:

## Classic Terrapin or Mock Terrapin Soup

- 1 qt. chicken or veal stock
- 2 C terrapin meat – chopped
- 2 hardboiled egg yolks
- 1 C cream
- 2 T butter
- ½ t salt
- 1/8 t paprika
- ½ C Sherry
- Dash of Mace

\* The terms turtle and terrapin are used inter-changeably depending on the region of the world. Terrapin is derived from the Algonquin language. American English tends to use turtle as a general term for all species.

A second recipe that was used on Kent Island is as follows:

## Snapping Turtle Soup/Pie

- 2 lbs. turtle meat cut into small pieces
- 8 C water
- 2 C tomatoes
- 2 C each: diced potatoes, diced carrots, diced celery

- 6 whole cloves
- 1 bay leaf
- 1½ T salt
- 1 t sugar
- 1/8 t pepper

Place all ingredients in kettle and cover • Heat soup mixture to boiling • Reduce heat and simmer for about 2 hours or until meat is tender • Remove bones and chill over night • Next day skim fat from top, reheat and serve • Makes about 4½ quarts.

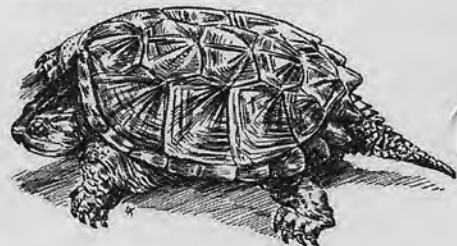
A third recipe from A Cook's Tour of the Eastern Shore from Mrs. E.T. Parsons noted at the end, "Fatten the snapper in the hog's slop barrel"!!!

Patricia Smith told me that when her mother made snapping turtle soup she would feed the turtle bread and water for several days beforehand to clean it out. Patricia's husband, Harold, has all of the tools needed to go \*\*proging. He mainly harvested the diamondback terrapin which was legal until 2007. This was done with scrapes that he made and by knowing where the best catch was. Harold told me that the one time he ever ate turtle was at his uncle's house and he thought he was eating chicken salad.

When my grandfather caught snapping turtles (late 40s and 50s), he used to put them in a 55 gallon drum and cover the top of the drum with a heavy wooden plank. My sister and I used to poke sticks down at them and watch them snap. They had a vicious snap! When they had had enough of us they would retreat into their shells.

Let us not forget that The University of Maryland's mascot is the Mighty Terrapin! Also, our state reptile is the diamondback terrapin.

\*\*The editor thinks this is the Kent Island word for "probing".



The Kirwan store had a trap door in the floor that opened to a pit of live snapping turtles to sell to those who liked homemade snapping turtle soup or pie. Our curator, Linda Collier, has had several people verify this information but no one can



## Donations to The Society

### Mannequins

We will now be able to display some of our beautiful old clothing! We are pleased to tell you that we now have 6 mannequins donated to us by a Nordstrom store in New York City. Jeannie Hamburger (nee Davidson) found them, made all of the arrangements for us to be the recipients and delivered them to the Kirwan House. She was accompanied by her husband, Syd, daughter, Rachel and son Ryan. The Kent Island Heritage Society thanks them for all of their efforts and recognizes the discomfort of riding three and a half hours with six mannequins in the car.

## THANK YOU

By Nancy Cook

...to those who brought old photographs to be scanned of places and people who have been part of the history of Kent Island. (They are a valuable resource for those researching their genealogical roots.);

...to Joanne Gerg, who researched the best scanner to purchase and rode all over Washington D.C. to find one; and

...to Carl Gerg, who manned the scanner at the September 23 picnic; and

A special word of thanks to Betty Speede, who donated so many pictures of historic houses that have been preserved and of those houses that are no longer with us-what a gift to have those pictures! Obtaining and/or scanning old photographs that have been part of Kent Island's

History will be an ongoing project of the Society, so do continue to contact us if you can contribute to this very important pictorial preservation of our past.

## September Sounds

by Toni Gibson

"Where should we put the porta-potties?"

"How high do we stack hay before it's too high?"

"What do we do with a mysterious sinkhole that has just appeared?" "Who's gonna move a one hundred and two pound pumpkin?"

These are just a few of the logistical questions one could hear being asked during the setting up of the 2012 annual picnic at the Kirwan Farm on September 23rd. The planning paid off, however, because if you cock your ear toward the festivities, you would hear the sounds of a good time being had by all.

When you approach the back yard of the Kirwan farm spread, the first thing you hear is melody. The harmonious tones of the talented Little Creek Boys filter through the just warm enough late September air and bring a festive note to the many conversations of families and friends greeting each other. Add to that the sounds of horses neighing and delighted children squealing at the opportunity to ride Terry Price's patient mare. Listen! You can hear the squeak of wagon wheels turning and peeling laughter as the farm wagon giving hayrides has to back up once again to maneuver the twisty turns of the farm path made just for our exploration. Can you hear the thud-thud-thud of the bean bag hitting the surface of the corn hole game competing with the shout of "Got it!" when the bag finds its mark, parents urging little ones on to greater and greater heights of the hay pyramid and giggles as little feet become more confident in the climb?

More sounds now...the dinner bell summoning all to dinner, the prayerful invocation, and then the excited chatter as each covered dish, one more sumptuous than the next, is ladled out along with the oohs and ahhs as the savory aroma of Eastern

Shore fried chicken, reminiscent of Grandma's kitchen, reaches one's nose.

Plastic cutlery does not make much noise, but the appreciative hum of satisfied picnickers does, and so does the familiar voice of Linda Collier, the dedicated docent of the Kirwan Museum, who spurs all on in a fun and fascinating round of Guess the Gadget.

Finally the sounds of car doors shutting and cars pulling out onto the road begin to overtake all other sounds. At last, the soft thwacks of the tables being stored in the shed until the next time, the click-click of chairs being folded and stacked, the soft murmur of the remaining clean-up crew all give way to the still evening chirps of happy crickets. The 2012 picnic is silently becoming a fond memory.

Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.  
PO Box 321 • Stevensville, MD 21666

*I/We wish to join*

Enclosed is my check to cover dues for membership as indicated below:

Life Membership ..... \$250.00

*January 1 - December 31*

Single Membership ..... \$15.00

Organization Membership ..... \$25.00

Family Membership ..... \$25.00

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Town/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. is a private, 501C3 nonprofit organization, to which donations/contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

If you have friends who would like to join the Society, please share this form with them

**In Memoriam**  
**Violet (Sis) Coleman Harris**

*This society is very thankful for the Sis. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her children, grandchildren and other loved ones.*

# Annual Meeting Brunch

**When:** Sunday, December 9, 2012

**Time:** 12:30 to 3:30

**Meeting:** 2:00 to 2:15

**Where:** The Kent Island Yacht Club

Bring something for the  
food pantry please

Keep This on the Fridge!



.....

Sign Up for the Annual Business Meeting Brunch

Mail check and this form to: Kent Island Heritage Society by December 3, 2012

PO Box 321

Stevensville, Maryland 21666

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a ride? Call Carole Frederick, 410 643 3776



### **Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**

Our By-laws require that we hold an election of officers every year at our Annual Meeting. They designate December as the month in which these elections should be held so we shall accomplish this at the Brunch on December 9, 2012.

#### **The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. 2013 Slate of Nominees for Officers and Directors**

An election of officers and directors to lead The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. in 2013 will be held at the Annual Meeting on December 9, 2012. The Nominating Committee of Nancy Cook, Hal Wilson, and Butch Collier recommends the following slate:

<b>President</b>	<b>John E. Broderick</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Nancy M. Cook</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Karen (Kay) S. Roser</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Carole P. Frederick</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lynne Riley-Coleman</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Earl Chambers</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Curtis George</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Lynnda Kratovil</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Honey Voermann</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Hanna Wall</b>

Officers are elected for a one-year term; directors serve three years. Additional nominations may be made twenty-one (21) days prior to the Annual Meeting. A declaration of intent must be presented to the Recording Secretary, Kay Roser, 403 Terrapin Grove, Stevensville 21666 and must be signed by the candidate and two supporting members of The Society.

# KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

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## Kent Island Profile Hunter Kerlin

By  
Carole Price Frederick  
Aunt Vira's Rolls

"I've eaten in some of the finest restaurants in Baltimore, Washington and New York but I've never had anything as good as Aunt Vira's Rolls."

Hunter is the grandson of Nellie Price Hopkins who was one of twelve siblings born on Blue Bay Farm during the 2nd half of the 19th Century. His mother was Doris Hopkins Kerlin. There are several of us who grew up on Kent Island and some still living here whose grandparents were of that same family and generation.\*

Hunter was born in Hagerstown in 1931 and lived there until 1943 when he and his mother moved to Baltimore. It was during his Hagerstown years that he visited his Kent Island family for a month every summer: two weeks on Blue Bay Farm and two weeks on the Price Farm.

"Blue Bay Farm\*\*was inherited by Uncle Johnny's children: Elizabeth, Anna May, John T. and Bright. Bright ran the farm and Elizabeth taught school. When I was about 11 years old one of the most exciting times on this farm to me was thrashing time. The farmers in the area pooled their resources and rented a thrasher, then went to each other's farms and thrashed all the wheat in one day on that farm. Gunny sack (burlap) bags were filled with wheat and the straw was piled in one stack. Clinton White had his pick-up truck there and it was loaded with bags of wheat and taken to the train station in Stevensville. At the train station, the truck had to ride up on the scales to be weighted with the wheat on the back. Then the truck pulled beside a box car and I jumped into the box car, sometimes knee deep in wheat, and the bags of wheat were thrown to me to untie and empty into the car. This was the hottest place on earth!! The chafe got all over me and it was miserable –

but I loved it. After all the bags were emptied we had to go back to the scales and weigh the empty truck to determine the weight of wheat. Clinton and I did this as many times as it took to deliver all of the wheat. I knew when I got finished there would be this huge straw stack that I could climb up and jump off of. That was as close to flying as I could get in those days."

"There was always some excitement on the farm. One year, as with all farms, there was a terrible rat infestation in the barn. Bright borrowed Alfred White's rat terriers and brought them to Blue Bay Farm. He proceeded to tear up the floor boards of the barn and rats ran everywhere. Everyone from the house had come to watch and those little rat terriers did their job. At one point Uncle Walter turned to the ladies who were there and said, 'Ladies you're going to have to leave – I have to drop my pants!' And there on his knee sat a huge rat!!! I don't think I could have been that gentlemanly if a rat had run up my pants leg."

"One summer we had to remove a little pig from the litter because he was a runt and the others wouldn't let him nurse. I fed him with an eye dropper until he was old enough to take a bottle. That little pig and I got so close. He followed me everywhere: out the lane to get the mail (a quarter of a mile), down the beach when I went swimming (he sat and watched me – never went in the water) and one day in to Lizzar's kitchen. (That's what I called Elizabeth) Now, no one ever yelled at me but when Lizzar heard those hooves on her kitchen floor, she came out yelling. She was meticulous about cleanliness and having a pig get in her kitchen was unacceptable. I knew never to let that happen again and it didn't. I had never had a pet as good as that pig. Everyone felt the same and when it came time to slaughter, they gave the pig to a neighbor across the way."

"On the Price Farm I learned a lot too. One of the main things I learned when I got older was to debate and argue. Uncle Clayland loved to argue so I would get the Morning Sun from the paper box and we would argue politics. I'd take the opposite side just to get him started."

"Aunt Vira on the other hand, taught me how to catch, purge, slaughter and clean a chicken. Every Wednesday she would take me out in the yard and point out four chickens that she wanted caught and put in the purge coop. It had a wire bottom and sat on top of the chicken coop. From Wednesday until Sunday these four chickens were fed only corn. On Sunday it was off with their heads with an axe. That was pretty hard for a boy my age to do and sometimes I didn't get it just right the first time. However, eventually the job was done and they were flopping around the yard (like a chicken with its head cut off). When they became still they had to be dipped in scalding water to make the feathers easier to get off. After the feathers were gone the entrails had to be removed – another awful job. Little did I know that this was training me for my hunting years when I had to dress the wild fowl I had shot. My hunting buddies were city boys and didn't know much about that kind of thing so I did most of it then. "

"Now this takes us to Sunday dinner. The chickens were cut up and coated, then fried on a wood stove in a pan of lard. The only thing better was the batch of rolls Aunt Vira had made Saturday night that were baking in the oven. Anyone who ever ate there exclaimed over Aunt Vira's rolls. She cooked them Sunday after they had risen all night. I loved to cut them in half lengthwise and put a piece of Uncle Clayland's cured ham in there and I was in heaven. "

"I could go on and on: there was blackberry picking with Katharine and the chiggers; Aunt Edna's Maryland beat biscuits that her son George had to beat with the side of the axe until the dough blistered; there were roosters to chase to protect the chickens and having them chase me; there were relatives galore and I the only child; but above all – there were Aunt Vira's rolls."

\*Carole, Pam, Terry, Geoff, Patrice, Daer Tim, Beverly, Chip, Annie May and Mary

\*\*Now the site of the controversial B&B.