

Isle of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

FALL 2014

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Charles Koegel 93 -- 94

Hugo Gemignani 95 -- 98

Nancy M. Cook 99 -- 08

President's Message

Summer is usually prime time here on Kent Island. This year, however, with our much cooler and wetter summer months, things have felt quite different. Until early August - no seaweed, no sloughs, and no crabs in our creeks! Really...? But it has been a good rockfish season out on the Bay, the corn fields look great, and there's still plenty of Bay Bridge traffic to remind us that it is summer. Liz and I were away for a couple weeks and returned to find the crabs were finally coming on in Cox's Creek, and we even got a couple of softies in the pots off the pier. So maybe things are beginning to even out and normalize a bit in the last few weeks of summer.

I am happy to report that we had some great Heritage events in June and July. After



KIHS President, Jack Broderick and his granddaughter, Charlie.

Photo courtesy of Jean Leathery

tradition of the working waterman's heritage on Kent Island. The Watermen's Association president, Moochie Gilmer, and 10 of his colleagues shared their life stories and adventures and displayed dredged up artifacts in a fascinating evening with a packed house at the QA Heritage and Visitors Center at Kent Narrows. We extend our thanks to Moochie Gilmer and the guys, and to Debbie Birch of the Office of Tourism for their support for a great evening. We also thank *The Update*, *The Bay Times*, and *The Star Democrat* for great press coverage of the event.

In July, as part of our first Saturday Historic Open Sites Day we hosted a special bridal gown display at the Kirwan House in Chester. Linda Collier, our Kirwan Museum curator arranged for a one-of-a-kind collection of many generations-old bridal gowns and dresses, to be displayed throughout the house. Again, with the help of great advanced press coverage, we had over 70 visitors at the Kirwan Place that Saturday afternoon in early July who experience a beautiful and elegant part of our background and customs. Visits to our other historic sites this summer have also been well attended. Each of our sites is open on first Saturdays, May through October, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. In addition, group tours of our sites may be hosted through the QA Office of Tourism. Special tours for any size group can be arranged by our members by contacting Nancy Cook or by going on our website, www.kentislanheritagesociety.org.

We are happy to report that our long-term efforts, in partnership with many artists and businesses in Historic Stevensville (where most of our sites are located) and in partnership with the QA

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KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

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
Jay Gibson
Toni Gibson
Sally Lewis

Historic Christ Church

Gary Haigley

Kirwan Museum - Chester

Linda Collier
Cameron Sewell
Taylor Harmon

Committees

Caboose Restoration

Tom Willey
T. Humphries
Wayne Humphries
Nancy Cook

Cemetery Preservation

Sandy Frederick
Alex Frederick
Jamie Sasse

Picnic

Butch Collier
Jay Gibson
Hanna Wall
Carole Frederick
Linda Collier

Toni Gibson

Annual Dinner

Toni Gibson
Linda Collier
Carole Frederick

Historic Records

Myrtle Bruscup

Development

Hal Wilson

Kent Island Day

Jack Broderick
Earl Chambers
Carl Gerg
Toni Gibson
Alex Johnson
Jamie Sasse
Joyce Woodford
Gary Walters

Oral History

Brent Lewis

Membership

Carole Frederick
Nancy Cook

Website

Carole Frederick
Amanda Jenkins

Office of Tourism, have resulted in the successful establishment of the Stevensville Arts and Entertainment District. During the past year the effort has resulted in many joint events in Stevensville, where significant road and sidewalk improvements were completed by the State Highway Administration in early August. Through the successes of the A&E District, Stevensville is becoming a "Happenin' Place" with a rich past and a vibrant future. We are glad to be part of it. Congratulations to our VP, Nancy Cook, who is serving as Chair of the Stevensville A&E District Board.

Of course our stewardship of historic Kent Island sites requires ongoing maintenance of our buildings. Projects this summer and fall include repair of windows in the old Cray House and the Train Station, a new cedar shingle roof on the old Post Office, and numerous exterior renovation projects at the Kirwan House. As we have shared in previous newsletters, in the future we are planning a new venue at the Kirwan Farm - a working Blacksmith Shop, a replica of the shop that once stood on the Farm over a century ago. We hope to work with our docent, Mike Bouchal, an experienced Blacksmith, and the Mid-Atlantic Smithing Association to accomplish this effort. We hope many of our kids and their parents will enjoy the evocative sounds, smells, and sights that the Blacksmith Shop will bring the Kirwan Farm.

As we round the corner from summer into fall, we are preparing for our Fall Heritage Picnic, on Sunday September 28. Check out the article in this newsletter for details. Thanks to Carole Frederick for coordinating our picnic team and making this special day happen. We look forward to sharing the beautiful the Kirwan Place in its early fall splendor, as well as the new kitchen and the rest. The picnic is a warm and friendly celebration of our unique Kent Island heritage for our members and guests. We hope to see you there.

Jack Broderick

Calendar of Events

January 15

BOARD MEETING

February 19

BOARD MEETING

March 19

GENERAL MEETING

"War of 1812" ~ Bert Hubinger

Kent Island Public Library

6:30 -- refreshments ~ 7:00 -- program

April 16

BOARD MEETING

May 17

KENT ISLAND DAY

May 21

BOARD MEETING

June 18

GENERAL MEETING

"Watermen of the Chesapeake"

Chesapeake Heritage & Visitor Center ~ 7pm

July 16

BOARD MEETING

August 20

BOARD MEETING

September 17

BOARD MEETING

September 28

ANNUAL PICNIC

Kirwin House ~ 1pm - 5pm

October 15

BOARD MEETING

November 19

BOARD MEETING

December 14

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of Officers

Great coverage in the About Town section of the Shore Update -- Many thanks, Caryn!

Roundtable Discussion with 11 Local Watermen

On Wednesday, June 18th The Kent Island Heritage society and Queen Anne's County Office of Tourism sponsored a roundtable discussion with 11 local Watermen, Honoring the Watermen of the Chesapeake. They each received a certificate recognizing and honoring them for their unique contribution they have as Watermen rendered to the Life and Heritage of the Chesapeake Bay; presented to them by Nancy Cook with The Kent Island Heritage Society. The brotherhood of Watermen entertained the public with local Watermen folklore and educated them on the present factors affecting their livelihood.

When asked what made them want to be Watermen, they all answered that their fathers, grandfathers and other loved ones preceding them were Watermen. And most felt it was a legacy they felt compelled to continue for future generations and that a love and respect for the water lived within them. In addition, another interesting commonality amongst them is that they all have operated work boats out of the historic site known as "The Slip" located at the foot of Kent Narrows drawbridge.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jill Porter

Jacqueline Ziskind

Joan D. Searles

Trade Winds Exchange

IN MEMORIAM

G. Hunter Kerlin

1931 - 2014

(Profile appeared in the Winter 2012 edition of the KIHS newsletter)

"The heart hath its own memory, like the mind. And in it are enshrined the precious keepsakes, into which is wrought the giver's loving thought." - H.W. Longfellow

Meet your local honorees and I hope you find interesting what they had to say!



John Thomas

What was your best or most memorable day on the water?

"My best or most memorable days on the water were spent towing recreational boaters and fishermen having problems to safety. I can't tell you how many we brought in off rough waters."



Reginald Jones

What's the best part of being a Waterman?

"Together we are an alliance. But individually, Watermen are very independent with lots of stories. Like me many started as 6 or 7 yrs old."



Lamont Wright

What other occupations have you had and what does your future hold?

"I started fishing with my grandfather when I was 10 years old and into my teens with my father on his headboat offering fishing charters known as 'Shirley B'. In the past I was a police officer, and most recently am a construction inspector. When I retire in the near future, I anticipate it coming full circle and will be offering fishing charters on my current charter boat 'Old Da Hook'."



Mike Rath

How long have you been a Waterman?

"I started working on my father's workboat when I was 5 years old. In my teens I worked weekends and summers with my grandfather doing fishing parties and later with Moochie. I graduated in 1991 from High school and bought my own boat and the rest is history. been on the water ever since."

"Moochie" Gilmer

How many boats have you had and what were their names?

"Three boats.
1) Debbie D - I named it after my wife.
2) Ethel E - The name of the boat when I bought it and kept it.
3) In Lieu Of - My wife named it, meaning 'in lieu of the new car she wanted'."



Joe Hornay

What is your most memorable day on the water?

"I was longing for oysters with my dad one day on the Fred Avon, I fell off the boat fully clothed in a rain suit and boots. I tried three times to get back on board and couldn't. My father grabbed my hands and pulled me right up. It was February and the water was freezing."



Harold Smith

What is your favorite artifact you've found in the water?

"A whisky jar I found it in perfect condition. On the jar it says CULOTTA BRUS. Best \$2.00 Whisky in Maryland. E.W. cot of Light and Pratt Sts. Baltimore, MD. It is a part of our Maryland History."

Captain Warren Butler

How many years have you spent on the water?

"I have spent 70 years on the water and I have picked up many fishermen and all night fishing parties who have gotten stuck or broken down."



Phil Whitby

What was your worst day on the water?

"March 1, 1974 was in my boat 'JA-DA' named after my daughter Jane and son David. Billy Butler on the 'Deke Dorn' saved us from icy waters off Tighman Island while tonging. If it wasn't for him we wouldn't have lasted more than 15 minutes in the water. It was that cold. We were located, repaired, and towed to safety that day."



Charles "Charlie the Most Honest Man"

As a retired veteran of the water what Waterman folklore can you share with us?

"Storm in the morning stir take warning" - translation - if it storms in the morning it will most likely later that day as well.

"Red at night take delight" - translation - if the moon is red the next day will yield a great catch.
"Oak leaf" - translation - Good Luck if found in the water when tonging for oysters."



Bill Benton

What is your boat's name?

"I have owned two boats one was named 'Misty Tango' and that was the name of it when I bought it. My second boat was named 'Cali Joe' which I named after my daughter."



The Johnstown Floods of 1889 and 1936

(Continued from the Summer 2014 issue of this newsletter)

by Carole Frederick

Editor's correction: a saw mill was built on our farm after the 1889 flood not after the one in 1936. There were remnants of it having been there when I was a child. Also, my grandfather (17 years old and at the time and lived two farms north of this one) told us about it and showed us where it was.

Responding to the article about the Johnstown flood, I received a call from Laura Keene with information that their house was reportedly built with lumber from that flood. It is located at Kent Point and was the farm house there.



The Keene House

Also, Holly Baker called saying she had always been told that Ms. Mamie Bryan's house in Grasonville was also built with lumber from that flood.

I also acquired an essay written by Bobby Bullen when he was either in the 3rd or 4th grade about his grandmother's 1890 house on Rt. 552. His grandmother was Catherine Jones. He writes that the lumber in her house was from the Johnstown flood and, "My great-great-grandfather, J. Wrightson Jones was a sea captain and he brought the lumber by boat to build his house."



Mamie Bryan House



*Catherine
Jones
House*

By Carl Gerg

The Johnstown Flood, by Herman Dieck, A. M. wrote the following account: "The relief train from Pittsburg(h) arrived at an early hour this morning and the work of transferring the provisions from Sang Hollow, (furthest point east reached by the train), was begun at once." The relief train averaged more than 60 miles per hour during its journey from the west. Nothing would be arriving from the east because of the extensive flooding in the Susquehanna basin. Pennsylvania Governor, James A. Beaver proclaimed, 'Late advices would seem to indicate that there is great loss of life and destruction of property along the west branch of the Susquehanna and in localities from which we can get no information'."

This comes as no surprise. Loss of life and property was experienced by both Virginias, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York State. For an understanding of the extent of the regional flooding one must view the pictures in Mr. Dieck's book. Finally, his map preceding the contents clearly shows Laurel Hills just west of Johnstown. Those hills form part of what is known as the Laurel Ridge that separates the Allegheny Rivers flowing west and those flowing east to the Chesapeake Bay, confirming the stories of salvaged flotsam on the Chesapeake Bay from Johnstown flooding.

The Juniata River joins the Susquehanna at Harrisburg. There was terrible destruction to life and property all along the Juniata Valley. The river became a raging sea between parallel hills and rose to thirty-five feet

above low-water mark. Some of the towns/cities along its way were Tyrone, Lewistown, Huntingdon and Raystown (Johnson). River waters proceeded through the mountains through water gaps (canyons - some 1300 feet deep) in the ridges of the mountains flowing both North and East from Johnstown.

Was it the 'Twenty Foot Tsunami' or railcar shipment of Johnstown products that delivered these floating lumber piles to the head-waters of

the Chesapeake Bay? We may never know the real answer to this one hundred and twenty-four year old question. According to the United States Army Corps of Engineers flood maps, part of the county in which Johnson is located (Cambria County), was well within the drainage basin of the Western Branch of the Susquehanna River that flows into the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay may be considered to be the submerged portion of the Susquehanna River Valley. The head waters of the Chesapeake may have been accessible from Johnstown due to the tremendous force of flood waters carrying lumber and wood through tributaries and rivers much deeper than they are today and unobstructed by modern dams and flood control.

Only forty-seven years later, Johnstown's second disastrous flood struck on March 17, 1936. According to the Associated Press, at least 153 persons were believed dead in 11 states and the District of Columbia as a result of wide-spread storms and floods at the time. The property loss in Johnstown was \$50 million. Melting snow and ice from the surrounding hills and a steady rain caused a gradual rise in the Conemaugh and Stony Creek Rivers that rose eighteen inches per hour.

The population in Pittsburgh was approximately 700,000 people. The property damage was at least \$35 million downtown as the three rivers at the Golden Triangle crested at an unprecedented 46 feet. The estimate of the damage downtown is multiplied when the havoc in the whole district is counted. The toll in human misery was incalculable. The heart of Pittsburgh's industrial and commercial life emerged in ruin. At an Oil Works, 300,000 gallons of oil caught fire at the height of the flood on St. Patrick's Day, and explosions and fires harried the whole Greater Pittsburgh flood area. On March 20th, the Pittsburgh Water

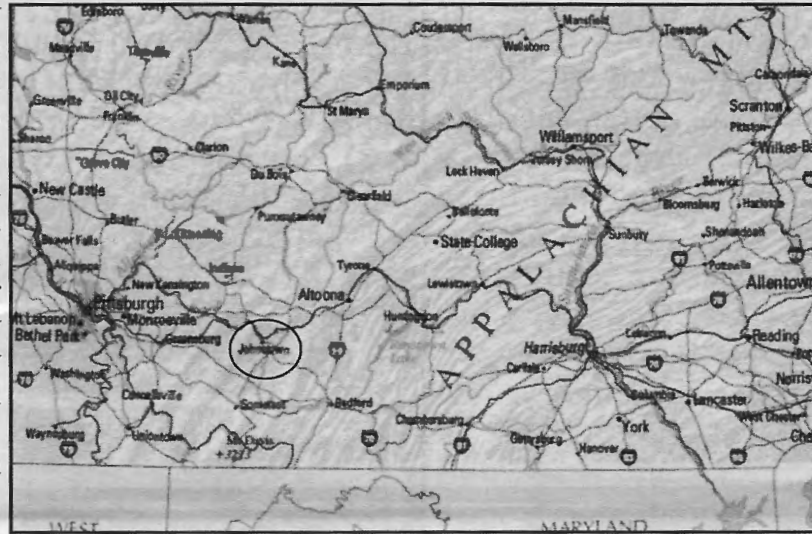
Company pumps failed, adding water famine to the horror of fire and flood. Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, U.S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, Jones and Laughlin Steel, and the Heinz (Tomato Catsup and Pickle) plant flooded and shut down, causing widespread unemployment.

Similar to the night of the May 31, 1889, some of the people of Johnstown where the total population was 30,000, fled to the hills. Just as in 1889, lumber and wood again came down the Susquehanna River in 1936. Kent Island lore has it that the homes built in post-1889 with lumber from the flood, have come to be known as *Johnstown Flood Houses*. Several houses located on Main Street in Stevensville during that time were built from lumber and wood salvaged from the Chesapeake Bay. If anyone reading this article is aware of any specific local homes or structures that were

built from material from either flood found in the Chesapeake Bay, please write to Kent Island Heritage Society, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, Maryland 21666.

Only after the Nor'easter-caused floods of March 17, 1936 and the June 1972 Tropical Storm Agnes, did the need for additional flood control become apparent. As a result of three major floods, the United States Army Corps of Engineers constructed the Johnstown Local Flood Protection Project along its waterways further protecting this Western Appalachian Region, set in the beautiful rolling hills of Pennsylvania. May it never again see the awesome power of uncontrolled river-flooding.

The Johnstown area has probably been unfairly maligned by having the great flood named after it. Even to this day the economic and development potential has been harmed. Johnstown is now quite safe from future flooding but continues to languish under old public perceptions.



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THE TURTLE DERBY

The following is quoted from a message sent to Linda Collier from Joan Denny Searles. Joan has been very generous to the Society, sending information that her mother (Emily Roe Denny) researched plus family pictures and genealogy information. We appreciate her generosity and plan to be good stewards of everything she sends to us.

by Joan Denny Searles

"When the Kent Island Lions Club was formed, my father was elected the first president. The community project of the Lions was establishing a fire company, brought on by the fire which destroyed the

PROGRAM

The Turtle Derby

THE KENT ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

Friday, August 29, 1947

HEAT 1		
1. Tommy Lane	Stevensville	Butch
2. Orrville Nash, Jr.	Chester	River Streak
3. George Taylor, Jr.	Chester	Lucky Day
4. Walter T. Denny	Stevensville	Fire Kagle
5. Beverly Sewell	Chester	Sweet William
6. Mandy Abbott	Silver Spring	Small Fry
7. Elizabeth Sewell	Baltimore	Bushy
8. Betty Gardner	Stevensville	Pop-Bye
9. Bunky Clark	Stevensville	Mortimer
10. Joan Denny	Stevensville	Li'l Abner
11. Penny Nichols	Baltimore	Loonie
12. Jackie Daniels	Stevensville	Sir William
13. Faye Dawkins	Stevensville	So-So
14. Lemuel Kirwan	Chester	Dynamite
15. Nannie Millesy	Takoma Park	Notchednerar
16. James C. Vick	Washington	A. B.
17. Bddie Dawkins	Stevensville	Bernie
18. John Palmer Smith	Centerville	Island Queen
19. Wendell Shaw	Stevensville	Pennyworth
20. Bobby Thompson	Centerville	Chadler
HEAT 2		
1. Claude Lowery	Chester	Speed King I
2. Lesley Anne Jones	Chester	Lesley
3. Tom Keating	Centerville	Wendy Willie
4. T. Walter Denny	Stevensville	Champion
5. Fred Carter	Stevensville	Turnip
6. Ida C. Denny	Stevensville	Buttons
7. Edward B. Farmer	Centerville	Superman
8. Catherine Kirwan	Chester	Pop I
9. John Milner	Stevensville	Pitchit
10. Golden Moorman	Stevensville	Papais
11. Carville Beaton	Stevensville	Snip
12. Oliver Legg	Chester	Julius
13. George Benton	Stevensville	Bob
14. Walter Eastburn	Church Hill	Obolus
15. Herbert Goldstein	Centerville	Pea
16. Wilford Moorman	Stevensville	Great Neck
17. Benton Gardner	Stevensville	Dangerous
18. Hazel Denny	Stevensville	Boss Q
19. Emory Palmer	Chester	Turkey Point
20. Betty Quimby	Stevensville	Notus
HEAT 3		
1. Greeley Higgins	Chilhowe	Dash
2. Ava Kelley	Chester	Box
3. Betty Ruess	Dundalk	Chocolate
4. Charles Moore	Catoonsville	Lord Mountbatten
5. K. E. W. Friel, Jr.	Queenstown	Speed King II
6. Queen Theatre	Queenstown	The Queen
7. Olin Pappin	Centerville	Deep Confusion
8. A. Sidney Gold, Jr.	Centerville	Burning Fuel
9. Hubert Turner	Centerville	Superman
10. Allan Weaver	Catoonsville	Unter Land
11. Sam Malachuk	Washington	Jeffrey
12. K. H. Hawkins	Stevensville	Henry
13. Leon M. Roe	Sudlersville	Mobi
14. Thelma Kelley	Stevensville	Trickle
15. John Billings	Baltimore	Kentucky Derby
16. Rosa Hayer	Hunting Ridge	B & O
17. Marty Dawkins	Stevensville	Greened Lightning
18. Louis Kelley	Stevensville	Wiggle-Waggle
19. Betty Baker	Stevensville	Shippers
20. Mrs. George Taylor	Chester	Speed Roll

house next to Ray Baker's in Stevensville....The first money-raising of the Lions was the Kent Island carnival. My father was the head of it, and my mother besides being unofficial secretary, go-fey anything else that needed doing, was chairman of entertainment.

First, she spent untold hours on the phone persuading a burly carnival man to bring his carnival to Stevensville. When he arrived on Sunday evening to set up, he looked around and yelled, "Where is the

woman who talked me in to coming to this God-forsaken place." Seven days later the Kent Islanders had shown him how to have a carnival, and he didn't have to be persuaded to come back the next year. Actually, he brought his wife and son with him then, and they were guests in our house.

Mom planned a different entertainment for each night. There was a comic parade one night, the fire company parade the last night, a beauty contest one night and the TURTLE DERBY one night. There seemed to be a lot of box turtles around at

that time, and Mom collected them in a big box-like enclosure filled with dirt, in the corner of the yard. People from all over the Island brought them to her. Brod and I had the task of feeding them (lots of tomatoes) and exercising them (taking them out of the box every night, putting them on the grass in the oval in the middle of our driveway and letting them crawl around.)

Mom, with lots of help from others sold chances (?), bets (?) (Don't know exactly what to call it.) People paid to have a turtle in one of the heats. I remember Myron Latshaw, who owned the jewelry store in Centreville, bought ten turtles and named them all something to do with "pot"...crab pot, lobster pot, pot luck, etc. He named one chamber pot. After worrying about it for several days, Mom called him and told him she didn't think that was an appropriate name. He was very nice and changed the name, but I imagine they all had a good laugh about it in the store.

The night of the "race" a big circle was drawn on the ground, numbers were painted on the backs of the turtles, they were put in the middle of the circle, and the first one to cross the outside line won. After the race, the turtles were let go. How long do turtles live? I wonder if there is one still crawling around the island with "10" painted on its back...

Editor's note: There were 16 Heats with 20 turtles in each. The program listed the names of the participants and the names of the turtles. It had four pages of advertising bought by local businesses. Out of this grass roots effort grew the finest Fire Department in the state today.

HEAT 4		
1. Mrs. Shackelford	Stevensville	Lad
2. Pip Eaton	Stevensville	Kibrey
3. Charles Burtar	Stevensville	Soft Ball
4. James C. Bell	Stevensville	Toothies
5. Sol Grollman	Stevensville	Chink
6. Sandy Denny	Stevensville	Precious Goods
7. Nancy Chessor	Love Point	Snoodle
8. Rose Marie Hudson	Love Point	Chess
9. Claude Lowery, Jr.	Chester	Angel Ida
10. Mrs. J. C. White	New York	Lorialis
11. Julius Grollman	Stevensville	Boby
12. Billy Denny	Stevensville	Emmer
13. Virginia Bell	Love Point	Vellida
14. Teenie Thompson	Stevensville	Tuzumie
15. Ollie Weidmann	Annapolis	Muscle Man
16. Nestrand Carvel	Laurel, Del.	Mac Gillicuddy
17. J. C. White	New York	Hope
18. Margaret Sullivan	Johnson's Island	Johnson's Island
19. William E. Denny, Jr.	Stevensville	Long Acorn
20. Lou Bell	Love Point	Lightning
HEAT 5		
1. G. M. Loishaw	Centreville	Pepper Pot
2. Elsie Armstrong	Centreville	Lobster Pot
3. Elwood Cherry	Price	Point Pot
4. Earl Benion	Centreville	Tea Pot
5. Walter Woodford, Jr.	Centreville	Coffee Pot
6. John A. Jones	Centreville	China Pot
7. A. Howard Johnson	Centreville	Pot Shot
8. Paul E. Row	Church Hill	Pot Luck
9. Kate Everett	Centreville	Crack Pot
10. Reynolds Friel	Queenstown	Dragon
11. Dudley Sparks	Chester	Sparks
12. Ralph Cechey	Stevensville	Pat
13. Fountain Davidson	Stevensville	Speed
14. Leon Eaton	Stevensville	Polsey
15. Mrs. Carl Eaton	Stevensville	Brother
16. Margaret Tolson	Stevensville	Dark Shadow
17. Carl Eaton	Stevensville	Saw Dust
18. Robert White	Stevensville	Honey
19. Addison Prampton	Stevensville	Randy
20. Reba Norris	Stevensville	Shary Shooter
HEAT 6		
1. Ruth Prampton	Stevensville	Junior
2. Carol Lane	Queenstown	Nan
3. Thelma Lowery	Stevensville	Ginger
4. Allen Weaver	Calmarville	Speedy
5. Kyle Being	Stevensville	Dudley
6. Norman White	Chester	Nobo
7. Johnny Norman	Stevensville	Uncle
8. Bernard White	Chester	Pop
9. Mrs. Maurice Leamas	Washington	Barbara
10. Larry Rice	Winchester, Va.	Slow but Sure
11. Eddy Tolson	Stevensville	Kaggy
12. Peggy Ann Walters	Baltimore	Neemie
13. Wayne Higgins	Stevensville	Patty
14. Mrs. A. B. Leamas	Baltimore	Ronnie
15. Billy Thomas	Stevensville	Ja-Bip
16. Betty Thomas	Queenville	Queenie
17. Harry Gardner	Chester	Rich-Rick
18. Walter T. Denny	Stevensville	Winner
19. C. Holland	Queenville	Stymie
20. W. A. Thomas	Queenville	Betty

A Grand Affair

A Bride and Groom in New York City

by Candy Long

Wedding bells pealed as the announcer broadcasted, "General Mills presents, Bride and Groom... the honor of your presence is requested at the wedding of Shirley Maxine Benton and Elton Leslie Legg." The screen then cuts immediately to a scrumptious-looking, chocolate-iced, Betty Crocker cake and a cleverly written commercial. Host John Nelson welcomes viewers back to the program and into the love story of the happy couple. Through the magic of television, my grandparents are young again, in wedding attire, and full of hopes and dreams! John begins the interview by asking the Leslie (better known by his nickname Nip) and Shirley how they met – he seemed certain that on an island



Nip and Shirley Legg with John Nelson, host of the CBS program, Bride and Groom.

so small, they would have known each other a long time. Sure enough, Shirley responded, "We've known each other all through school but we weren't too interested in each other because Leslie

was the class cut-up and I liked to study hard and [we] didn't pay any attention to each other."

The change, however, came in August of 1951 at the Firemen's Carnival. Shirley told John that Nip had, "made a bet with another boy that he would take me home. I asked Mother and Daddy and they consented so he took me home." She shared that Nip had asked her to go steady that very night and John marveled that Nip would make such a bold move so soon. Nip responded, "All my friends had steady girls and I thought it

was a good idea." Shirley said, however, that she didn't agree.

By December, though, she had changed her mind. She had grown accustomed to his friendship and phone chats; but one day he didn't call. She waited all day by the phone only to find out that he had been in a car accident. She realized that she was so concerned that she must truly love him! She told John, "I couldn't wait to tell him!" The very next time they saw each other she said, "You know we're going steady now?" Shirley added, "He was quite surprised."

The two explained to their host how they had to wait a bit before they could marry citing that they had no place to live until Nip's father, Elton "Rose" Legg, leased a farm. John asked Shirley what she felt would make a good farmer's wife. She responded, "Having the meals ready when he comes in after a hard day's work."

"Do you agree Leslie?"

"Yes, Sir!" replied Nip heartily.

Their love song, *Always*, was sung as the traditional ceremony began. Shirley's sister, Bertie was her maid of honor and Nip's brother Weldon ("Guinea") was the best man and keeper of the rings. While both of Shirley's parents went to New York for the wedding, only her father can be seen on screen ceremoniously giving away his eldest daughter. Nip's mother Mabel also attended but his father stayed home to tend the farm.

The newly married couple received a stunning *Keepsake* bridal ring set, many household parting gifts, as well as a short honeymoon in New York City. All expenses were paid and included a car for sight-seeing adventures!

The newlyweds weren't the only folks star struck by this trip of a lifetime. I had the privilege of chatting with my great-uncle Guinea to ask what he remembers about that grand affair.

Uncle Guinea recalled that a car was sent to collect the family and they were taken to Wilmington, Delaware to catch the train to New

York City. "I was scared to death! I had never been on a train." Nothing could have prepared these rural, country families for the sights and sounds of the Big Apple. "I was in total shock," said Uncle Guinea, "trains, whistles, city buildings, the noise... it was all new to me. I was scared to death!"

"How did Gaga take it all?" I asked.

"Oh, he took it like a champ! He was in hog-heaven; he feared nothing."

I asked Uncle Guinea what he remembered about the wedding ceremony itself and he confessed, "I was wound tighter than an eight-day clock! My hands were trembling when I handed over the rings." Of course, if he was nervous, it didn't show; he stood assuredly next to his brother.

Uncle Guinea also shared a funny little side story with me. Shirley had asked her cousin, Edwin Horney, a Methodist minister, to marry them in New York and of course he agreed. He, like everyone else, had never experienced anything quite like New York

City. Uncle Guinea remembers having time to take in the wonders of the city and they set out as a group on foot to see the sights. They'd walk a little while and Edwin would gaze up at a skyscraper of a building and then declare, "Conawingo!" This perplexed Uncle Guinea a bit but not knowing the young minister all that well, he didn't inquire. They proceeded on and came to another structure that touched the sky. Edwin yet again proclaimed, "Conawingo!"

Finally, Uncle Guinea just had to ask, "What does that mean, anyway?" The young preacher answered, "That's the biggest 'Damn!' I could think of!"

A tour of NYC isn't complete without a visit to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. "I was scared in that too," said Uncle Guinea as he remembered gazing out the windows of Lady Liberty's crown.

These two Kent Island families spent two nights in the city that never sleeps before returning home as local celebrities. Because the show aired during the lunchtime hour, Bell's Hardware store brought a television set to the school gymnasium so that students wouldn't miss it. Not every family owned a television set so

many folks squeezed into friends' and neighbors' sitting rooms to watch two of their own get hitched on national television. Uncle Guinea remembers, "Folks talked about it for years after."

I asked Grammom once what made her even consider the possibility of being married in such a big way. I was a little surprised with her response, "It was

Daddy's favorite show at the time – he never missed it. He talked me into writing the letter."

There was no end to the wedding gifts that were showered upon the newlywed couple, but the most treasured has been the film of that special day. The film was converted to VHS for their 35th wedding anniversary and I have since had it converted to DVD. The KIHS will have a copy should anyone want to take a trip down memory lane.



From left to right: Edwin Horney, Bertie Benton, Marjorie Benton, Carville Benton, Shirley Legg, Leslie "Nip" Legg, Mabel Legg, Weldon "Guinea" Legg

The Kent Island Heritage Society Requests the Pleasure of your Company

by Linda Collier



Above: Lynnda Kratovil with her mother's dress and picture. Eva Wilbur Skinner married in 1923 wearing this darling tiny dress.

Right: This wedding gown was worn by Charlotte Livingston when she married Edward Severa in an "at home" wedding on Thanksgiving Day in 1931. It is midnight blue velvet and her attendant wore brown velvet. Catherine Kirwan was the pianist for the celebration.



Right: This lovely green dress was lavishly embellished with rows of pearls and silver thread. It was worn by Katie Eugenia Fleming Russel for her at home wedding in 1896. Katie would probably have worn this dress to other special functions in the future. She was the grandmother of Mildred Price.



Above: Rozanne Lane married Royden Powell in this timeless satin classic. The cameo she wore on the bodice was the wedding gift of her new husband.

The Kirwan house was the venue for a display of heirloom wedding attire for the months of May, June and July.

The inspiration for the display came from a gift of a 1920's wedding dress given to us by Lynnda Kratovil, a KIHS board member. The dress was worn by her mother Eva Wilbur Skinner when she married in 1923. It was then I remembered Nancy Cook had shown me a beautiful dress that her Grandmother, Minnie Goodloe had worn when she became Mrs. MacGregor in 1896. I had my own Mother's packed away and being a collector of vintage clothing, had a Victorian wedding gown in my collection, also. With all this info swirling in my head a wedding display began to form.

I made an appeal to all of our friends on the Kent Island Heritage Society's Facebook page and before we knew it we had 10 dresses plus accessories, photos, favors, invitations and newspaper accounts, all with local connections. We set the table, added a wedding cake, flowers, etc., and before we knew it the Kirwan house was in the nuptial mode. We even turned an upstairs bedroom into a presentation of trousseau items which was a huge success. Special thanks go to Lynnda Kratovil for providing the inspiration and to all of the families who entrusted me with some of their most precious possessions. If you attended, I hope it was indeed a pleasure. It was certainly a pleasure for me to handle the items and to share memories with the families who participated.

Thanks, also to Doug bishop of the Bay Times who gave us great publicity for the last day of the display on July 5th.

Approximately 125-150 people visited the display.

Right: Olive Bryan was a real beauty when she walked down the aisle to meet the handsome Cliff Lowe in 1943. The gown was ordered from New York



Above: This fabulous gown from 1870 was the oldest in the exhibit and on loan from Bobby Anne Nash.

Below: The 1890 leg-o-mutton sleeved silk dress is from the collection of Linda Collier. The heavy satin and lace creation was worn by Minnie Goodloe in 1898. She was the grandmother of Nancy Cook, the society's vice president. Wedding certificates from local churches can be seen on the piano.



THE BALL GLOVE

by Alex Johnson

He came back from the war,
but never went home.
Jack-hammered nights,
he walked in the rain.
In-coming rounds
or a bent young man with a
cane.

His own wall had its names;
Broadway Billy
Lance Corporal Mel
Shorty and Prince.

All shot to hell.

He awoke one morning
on a bench in the park.
Children were calling
choosing up sides
playing a game
with a bat and a ball.
None of them lame.

Tack of the bat
Slap ball in the glove
Running it out
Declaring a hit
Working a sweat

Once, he had a mitt.

*The attic never cared about the wait.
Old boxes stacked and labeled had no date.
The workmen here were Silence, Darkness,
Dust,
Aromas of excelsior and must.*

He came like archeology,
digging through.
Smelling his old glove
before he found it,
linseed oil
doing its thing.

Lacrosse ball still in the pocket
tied up with string.

Out in the drive
he bounced the ball
against the ground,
against the wall.
Th-rump slap, th-rump slap,
time and again.
Th-rump slap, into the glove.

The cane clattered away
shirt thrown aside
he was moulting, finding
space.

The hot sun on the scars,
old Aprils in his face.



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BITTERS

by Linda Collier

Many companies came into being during the second half of the 19th century as the Temperance Movement gained momentum. Bitters were sold as a medicinal tonic. Its alcohol component (up to 47%) was promoted as a vital ingredient needed to preserve the medicinal properties of the vegetable extracts in a fluid state.

Companies such as Hostetter's, made a real fortune from the public and especially the military during the Civil War. Hostetter's was known as the Soldier's Safeguard. "Just one bottle creates an appetite, forces off impure bile and purifies the system" read an 1856 newspaper advertisement. But, if one was good, two were better. "Two bottles cure a bad liver(really?) and lends strength and cheerfulness" read an ad.

Many others jumped on the bandwagon such as DeWitt's, Robach's, Atwoods and, of course, Petzold's.

Dr. Petzold's was made in Baltimore and had the endorsements of then Governor McLane, Attorney General Roberts, Mayor Latrobe, Archbishop Gibbons, and several Mothers Superior. Often their endorsements would be printed with the Petzold's advertisements.

Competition was fierce in the market and manufacturers used a variety of methods to promote their product to the public. Trade cards, almanacs, signs, tokens and dosage cups to name a few. Coincidentally, the dosage cup is the same size as a shot glass.

The Kirwan store was gifted a full set of Dr. Petzold's trade cards where each character has a head that looks like an innocent vegetable.

After the passage of the Food and Drug Act of 1906, the bitters trade was mortally wounded. The government cracked down on the sale of medicinal products whose benefits were seriously questionable. Bitters made a brief resurgence during prohibition, but, never reached the

popularity it enjoyed during the late 1800s. Apparently they posed quite a problem on Kent Island if there were a need to enact legislation. A Temperance Songbook was found amongst the Kirwan Collection. Perhaps Mary Rebecca Kirwan was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. In the book, familiar tunes have had their words replaced with temperance type lyrics. Lots of organizations formed during this time, most advocating the limiting of consumption of alcohol and not total abstinence. Most often women were the organizers, as they were the most affected by alcohol abuse.

(By the way, in the 1870 Baltimore Phone Directory, Lewis Petzold was listed as a wine shipper and no Doctor designation can be validated either.)



More Kent Island Gleanings from...

The Queenstown News

A Saturday weekly newspaper which started in 1882 and merged with other newspapers before finally merging with the Queen Anne's County Record Observer in 1956.

March 24, 1888

Mattipex reports: The passage of a law forbidding the sale of bitters on the Island by our present legislature, is a regular "God send" to the Island, as we have had more drunkenness with bitters than we had when whiskey was openly sold on the Island.

April 7, 1888

Now, as the prohibition loving people of the island have their wish and highest hopes gratified in having a bill passed to prohibit the sale of Dr. Petzold's German Bitters, we will have a chance to see where most of the intoxicating beverage comes from, Baltimore or Stevensville. We will not pass our opinion on that subject, but, we think that it is acting altogether contrary to the principles of the Bible, for God's holy word requires that all dealing between man and man should be in the spirit of love, that employers deal justly and the employed render faithful service.

May 15, 1897 (9 years later)

A man can live 5 minutes without air, ten days without sleep, without water for a week, without food for 50 days and yet some men think they cannot live 3 hours without whiskey!



Meet our Docents

Fran Peters

Old Stevensville Post Office

Fran Peters was born and raised in Texas, married and had three children. She has lived in New York City, Texas and Pennsylvania, but has resided on the Eastern Shore since 1990. She worked as a secretary for the state of Maryland until she retired in 1994. Fran now works part-time on the weekends at the Chesapeake Heritage and Visitor Center.



Her interests are many- Kent Island Heritage Society docent, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center volunteer, bird watching, photography, knitting, rock and sand collecting, making sea glass jewelry, container gardening and traveling.

She says she is a curious person, so she is never sure what she will be involved in next. She hopes to stay young by keeping on the move and learning one new thing every day.

THE DRUMMER BOY OF FORT MCHENRY

by Donna Frohn, Society Member

The mood in Baltimore was somber and daunting. Then a boom from the signaling cannon atop of Federal Hill sent a shiver throughout the city.

The Sunday morning church services were interrupted as throngs of worshipers emptied into the streets and hurried to the high ground.

This was Sunday, September 11, 1814, and what they saw was an increasing number of white billowing sails at the mouth of the Patapsco River. Emotion was already running high, as articles on the destruction of Washington City appeared in the Baltimore newspapers, the Patriot and Advertiser, for the last couple of weeks. Detailed accounts of the burning of the Capitol and the Presidents' House were causing much excitement among the townsfolk.

Preparations at Fort McHenry had been underway for some time. Now, with the ever increasing number of sails in the glistening sun, men could be seen running up to the top of the ramparts and peering out at the activity on the river.

Sitting nervously in front of the headquarters of Captain John Berry, a young boy held a pair of sticks in his hand. Next to him was a large drum with an eagle emblazoned on its side. This was no ordinary drum. This drum was carried by his father, John Michael Lightner, in the War for Independence. Now, thirty years later, the drum has been called back to service, and again, against the British. Now it is being carried by 16 year old Henry Lightner, a member of Captain Berry's Washington Artillery of the Maryland 1st Regiment, a drummer.

Henry Lightner was my 3rd great-grandfather on my father's side, as we have recently discovered. Frank and I recall my father mentioning a relative who played the drum in a war he couldn't recall. It didn't seem to be a big deal to him. A few years ago, my husband Frank got the genealogy bug and began searching our roots. Within months of discovering my link to Henry Lightner, we were contacted by an unknown relative through Ancestry.com, of plans to place a grave marker on his un-marked grave in a Baltimore Cemetery. We said, "count us in."

Henry was probably dressed in a bright red coat with blue trim, while the soldiers coat is reversed. Musicians, needed to be quickly identified to relay commands to the troops. The drummer served a central

role in the day-to-day lives of the soldiers at Fort McHenry. The drums dictated every aspect of the daily routine: when the soldiers were assembled, when the rolls were taken, and when the orders of the day were read. The music told the soldiers when to get up (*Reveille*), when to eat, to go for provisions or water, when to drill, and when to retire for the night (*Tattoo*). The drummer also provided different calls to gather the soldiers, or just the non-commissioned officers, or just the officers. Each soldier was expected to know what each call meant, and to respond to it immediately.

Music also served an essential part of the entertainment of the day. The musicians would normally play the unofficial National songs of the time, *Yankee Doodle* and *Hail Columbia*. The song Henry liked playing the most was called, *The Girl I Left Behind Me*.

Drum practice was strictly regulated to particular times of the day, so that the soldiers would not mistake their music for actual duty calls. The regulations warned "...any drummer found beating at any other time, except when ordered, shall be punished" (Smyth's Manual, 1812).

What actions Henry took during the twenty five hour bombardment of the fort we may never know. What we do know is that Captain Berry's brigade won commendation from Gen. Hite. In a letter to Headquarters dated September 15, 1814, Assistant Adjutant General Robert G. Hite writes: "The militia artillery of the 3rd brigade under Captains Nicolson and Berry, and Lieutenant Pennington, vied with the regulars in a firmness and composure which would have honored veterans, and proved that they were worthy to cooperate with the regular artillery, infantry and sea fencibles in defence of that important post."

Henry was born in Baltimore in 1798 and was one of the last surviving Defenders. Many reunions were held periodically and were followed by newspapers and journals of the day. An article in the September 25, 1880 edition of *Harper's Weekly* shows engravings of Henry and six other defenders along with his drum, called, *The "Old Defenders" of Baltimore*.

His obituary, published in the Baltimore Sun, January 25, 1883 reads, "Death of the Drummer Boy of 1812,- Mr. Henry Lightner, one of the old defenders, died at 10 minutes to 10 last night at his residence, 49 East Eager Street, in the 85th year of his age. About six weeks ago he contracted a cold in attending a funeral of another old defender, and has since gradually declined in vital power. Mr. Lightner was a drummer boy in the



war of 1812, and was in the Fort McHenry garrison during the bombardment. He carried on the tinning business on Hillen and then on Forrest Street for many years, retiring about eight years ago. He was a member of the Monument Street M.E. Church for over forty years. His wife died about a year ago in her 81st year. He leaves five daughters and one son. At the house of the deceased is the drum which his father used in the revolutionary war and which he used in the war of 1812." The drum is on display at the Star Spangled Banner Flag House on Pratt Street in Baltimore.

In their book, *The War OF 1812 in the Chesapeake*, by Ralph E. Eshelman, et al they write: "Lightner may have played 'Yankee Doodle' on the morning of September 14, 1814, when the British warships withdrew to Old Roads Bay off North Point, Patapsco River, after the unsuccessful bombardment of the fort as the flag was raised over the ramparts of Fort McHenry. It is fitting that Lightner is buried within view of Fort McHenry at Baltimore Cemetery although there is no legible gravestone for him."

That changed. On October 13, 2012 the descendants of Henry Lightner unveiled a grave marker to honor his life and service to his Country. In addition to over seventy descendants and families, representatives from the Society of the War of 1812, Maryland State Daughters of the American War of 1812, National Park Service and the Baltimore Daughters of the American Revolution participated in this event.

On April 5, 2014 a group of Henry Lightner descendants was invited to the House of Delegates in Annapolis, to be present to honor our common ancestor. Henry Lightner was recognized in a Resolution for his participation in the War of 1812, at the Battle of Fort McHenry, followed by each descendant individually recognized and introduced by his/her State Delegate. It was a most moving experience for all of us. Following that event, our group was taken on a tour of the State House, the old meeting offices, and the outlying State Buildings. The day was quite a wonderful addition to the culmination of events we have had over the past year and half.

As we go further with our group of ancestors, our hope is to sponsor a scholarship fund in Henry's name for both history and music. Additional plans are a possible plaque for his birth house, and designate a street be named for this Old Defender of Baltimore.

Our group of Henry Lightner descendants will be attending and celebrating our nation's history at the upcoming *Star Spangled Spectacular*, September 10 - 16th, 2014, which is a celebration of the 200th anniversary of our national anthem at Fort McHenry

and other venues around Baltimore. Tall ships, Navy gray hulls and the Blue Angels will come to Baltimore's famed Inner Harbor to celebrate the Star Spangled Banner. Festivals include living history demonstrations, a family fun zone, live musical performances, and Chesapeake Bay food and beverages. Events crescendo on September 13th with a star-studded patriotic concert and extraordinary fireworks display over Fort McHenry and the Baltimore Harbor. More information and schedule of events may be found at their website below: <http://www.starspangled200.com/star-spangled-spectacular>

Meet our Docents

Chris Kilian

Stevensville Train Station

Christopher Kilian grew up in Southern California and it was there that he assembled his 1915 Model T Ford, largely from parts found in the desert.

He met his wife in the high school band (clarinet section) and earned a Master's degree in Engineering from UCLA. In 1970 he and his wife, Teresa, moved to Maryland and bought an old "fixer-upper" house at Love Point, where they still live and where they raised their three children.



In Maryland, Chris worked at Westinghouse about 3 years and then got a faculty position at Anne Arundel Community College, where he spent the rest of his career- eventually becoming Chairman of the Engineering Department. He retired in 2010.

Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

PO BOX 321 ~ Stevensville, MD 21666

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

Life Membership — \$250

January 1 ~ December 31

Single Membership — \$15

Organization Membership — \$25

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

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SAVE THE DATE...

Annual Brunch Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 14th

LEND US YOUR EAR...

...AND YOUR STOVE

Does your grandmother have an ear trumpet in her attic that is no longer needed? And our little red caboose is in need of the kind of stove that was used on trains. If you know the whereabouts of either of these much-sought-after relics, please call Nancy Cook at 410-758-2502.

PICNIC CORN-HOLE TOURNAMENT

How's your arm? How's your sight? How's your judgment?

Let's find out at the annual picnic when you participate in the corn-hole tournament. It will cost a dollar per person to play and the highest scoring team and highest scoring individual will split the pot. Jack Broderick will officiate and Lynne Riley-Coleman will take care of the payout.

If you would like to participate in the cornhole tournament at the annual picnic please email Toni and Jay Gibson at jgibson@atlanticbb.net. Give them the information requested on the following form; or snail-mail the information to:

The Gibsons
1814 Churchill Lane
Chester, Maryland 21619

Contestant Names: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please put contestant's initials next to the appropriate age groups:

5 - 12: _____ 13 - 17: _____

18 - 30: _____ 31 - 50: _____

51 - 70: _____ 71 - 100: _____

Book Review

by Alex Johnson

"Country Boy Grows Up"

by Harry C. Rhodes, Queenstown, MD, 2004

"Thought you might be interested in this account. This is a partial story of my life. Not intended to be a library gem, only a rambling account. Probably good for bedtime reading if you have trouble going to sleep. Good luck, and good reading." --Harry C. Rhodes

When Harry Rhodes graduated from Centreville High School in 1931 he received a four years perfect-attendance medal. His parents were as proud of that medal as they were of his diploma, and they loved to show it off to friends and neighbors. One afternoon his father was entertaining a group of farmers, and he accidentally dropped the medal into a pig pen where it was gobbled up by a pig. Harry said he followed that pig around for 10 days, but never got the medal back.

His parents and grandparents owned several farms in the Queenstown area, one being the Beverly farm near St. Peter's Catholic Church. And another, the Bennett Outlet farm across from the Bloomingdale estate. He enjoyed his early years at these farms, doing chores and roaming the woods and streams with his brothers and sisters. He attended public school in Queenstown and learned his many speaking skills and story-telling from those days, and in the various organizations he joined.

Harry was accepted by Washington College in mathematics and sciences. He supported himself by working in the dining hall and in summers with several jobs around Queenstown. He graduated with honors in 1935 and accepted a job teaching in Montgomery County, MD. He later became principal at Poolesville High School where he met his future wife, Creighton Jones, whom he married in 1938. His career in education was interrupted by service in the US Navy and Naval Reserve until 1954. He served as an officer on several Navy ships. When he returned home he became superintendent of Queen Anne's County Public Schools, and they bought a house in Queenstown where they lived their entire lives. Harry received his Doctor of Education degree from the University of Maryland in 1960.

During his years as superintendent he was invited to make many speeches to organizations, churches, clubs, and political groups. He was always well-prepared, entertaining, and informative. He retired in 1967, but continued in a life of public service. He was dean of Faculty at Anne Arundel Community College from 1968 to 1973. In his lifetime he was called upon to serve on various boards and commissions and in organizations, always with the highest dedication. He is also the author of "Queenstown: A Social History of a Small American Town."

He lived a long and active life, and passed away recently at the age of 99, and was buried at St. Peter's.

Kent Island Profile

NORMAN LEGG BRYAN

November 3, 1883 – April 16, 1965

Husband of Cora Carroll, Father of Norma Hopkins, Clara Davidson, Olive Lowe and Mary Ford

As told by Clara Davidson to Carole Frederick

Norman Bryan grew up on the farm that is now Butler's Landing and Shipping Creek. His family owned the farms on both sides of Shipping Creek that were first inherited by his father and then by his sister (Susan A n n B r y a n Breeding) and him. There were tenant farmers employed by both Norman and his father because they were sailboat captains. Norman had been sailing since he was a small child and when he was in his teens his mother, Ellen Elizabeth Legg Bryan, gave him his own sailboat named the **Addie Mills**. He had several others and captained even more. He was known as an expert sailor with much experience.



Norman Legg Bryan

He hauled grain (corn or wheat), lumber, coal, watermelons, Christmas trees and holly to Baltimore. People came to the pier and bought from him. Sometimes he hired someone standing on the pier who was otherwise unoccupied, to cook supper for him while he worked on his boat. One time he hired a young man to make him some oyster stew. After a while he hadn't been called to eat so he called down to the galley and the young man told him it was not ready yet. After about an hour he went down to see what the hold up was and when he lifted the lid there were only oyster shells in the pot – boiling away. He asked where the oysters were and the young man said, "You mean those slimy guts? I scraped them out in the harbor! ! !!" He had many stories to tell, but that

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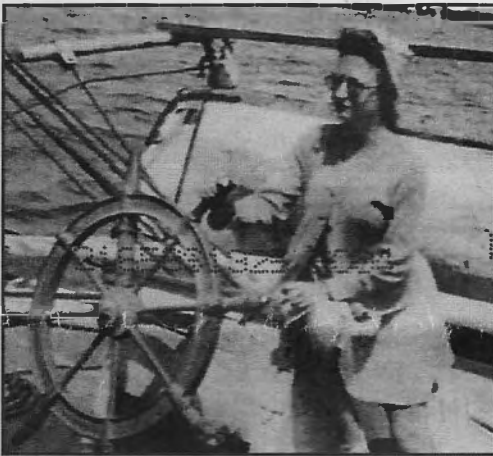


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was one of the favorites.

The family moved off the farm to town when his oldest daughter Norma started school. There

were no school buses then so being in town made a more reasonable walk for her. The house they bought was the old Methodist Parsonage that was destroyed by fire sometime in 1966. This



Daughter Norma at the wheel.

house was across the street from Bill Denny's garage. When Mr. Denny installed outside lighting on his garage, it lit the front yard of Norman's house so brightly that he *could* cut grass at night and *did*. At that time that was unheard of - he was a bit ahead of his time.

Times were changing and the trains and trucks were able to haul more economically than he could on his skipjack. He had one motorized but that still didn't help. He was hired by McDonough School to tend to their property and the owners found out that he was a master sailor and captain. They then hired him to teach sailing in a camp they owned in upstate New York near Lake Champlain. For several years he spent his summers there. His students participated in many races and never lost a race. (picture of him standing by trophies at the camp) Illness caused him to give up his teaching job and he spent time in the Merchant Marine Hospital in Baltimore. When well enough he was hired as a night

watchman at the Matapeake Ferry terminal and did so until the bay bridge opened.

One of the stories Norman used to tell his children was how it was traditional for people to go to newly weds' homes the night of the wedding, make a lot of noise and then be invited in for punch and cake. So he and his friends who lived in Batts Neck used to follow this tradition. He said sometimes they would be invited in for punch and cake, but one time the groom raised the window and shot a shot gun in the air and they all ran for dear life. He said that's when he found out how fast he could run!

Whenever he returned from any of his trips (hauling or teaching) he always brought his wife



Norman Bryan with trophies at the New York Sailing Camp

and daughters presents and lots of stories. He was a kind and thoughtful person and always took oysters to Clara for her birthday. She, in turn, always baked him a cake for his. One time granddaughter Joann asked him what he wished for when he blew the candles out, and he said, "I wish to be here next year to blow them out again!"