



Isle of Kent - 1631

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

FALL, 1992

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

Kent Island Archaeological Survey Update

By Darrin Lowery

The archaeological field survey of Kent Island concluded on June 16, 1992. As a result of the field survey, 46 tilled fields on Kent Island were examined. A detailed description of each field was kept so that future researchers would know which tilled fields on the Island were checked for archaeological sites. When the field survey was finished, an additional 45 archaeological sites were recorded with the Maryland Historical Trust.

From June 17 to July 30, the information recorded as a result of the Kent Island survey was compiled and documented. The site data forms for each site were completed. Slides taken during the survey were duplicated and descriptions of each slide were completed. Approximately 43 figures, tables, and appendixes were compiled for the survey manuscript. A survey report or manuscript was completed which describes the prehistory and history of Kent Island, settlement trends on the island for the past 10,000 years, and suggestions for future work. In total, approximately 2,000 pages of written information document the results of the Kent Island survey. Three copies of the Kent Island survey report were made. Each of the funding groups will receive a copy, i.e. Kent Island Heritage Society, Maryland Historical Trust, and University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research.

The manuscript is presently being reviewed by Dr. Jay F. Custer of the University of Delaware. When the review has been completed and corrections made, each supporting group will receive a copy of the final report.

In a meeting on July 28, 1992 at the Maryland Historical Trust, suggestions were made for future research on the Island when the Heritage Society receives the grant money from the State of Maryland. The meeting was attended by Darrin Lowery, Paul Wilderson, Orlando Ridout and Maureen Kavanaugh. Orlando indicated that the contract between the Kent Island Heritage Society and the Maryland Historical Trust had been received and that the first check for \$6,000 should be processed soon. Orlando also indicated that because the field survey had been completed, the Heritage Society could bill the Historical Trust an additional \$4000 for the second grant disbursement. When the survey report has been reviewed and the Historical Trust has received their copy of the report, the third and final disbursement of \$1000 would be made.

All who attended the meeting agreed that the State money should be used to perform test excavations at 10 to 15 of the best prehistoric and historic sites found on the Island. The test excavations would provide more detailed information about each of these sites. Additional survey work did not seem feasible because of the present foliage cover which could easily hide archaeological sites in tilled fields. It was planned that the second phase of the Kent Island survey begin in early October 92 and be

concluded sometime in February 93. The results of the second phase would also be documented in a report and provide an excellent supplement to the survey report.

An archaeological survey of Kent Island would have been impossible without the help of many people. I would like to thank all the members of the Kent Island Heritage Society for their hospitality. Their society's interest in their native island goes beyond recognition and each member deserves a special thanks. I would like to thank Paul Wilderson, who was project coordinator for the society, for his help and assistance throughout the duration of the project. Audrey Hawkins, president of the Society, is graciously thanked for her assistance. I would also like to thank Mordy Gibson, Mary White and Bill Denny for traveling to Tilghman Island on a rainy Saturday morning to discuss the Heritage Society's interest in an archaeological survey. Bill Denny deserves a special thanks. Without his help, the Kent Island survey would not have been very successful. Mr. Denny's knowledge of the landowners of Kent Island was a valuable reference and he provided information necessary to get access to many large tracts of land.

Without the help of Dr. Jay Custer of the University of Delaware, the Kent Island Survey would not have started on time. He provided the necessary grant money to match the Kent Island Heritage Society's funds so that the survey could begin at the optimum time of the year. His suggestions and assistance are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Orlando Ridout and Maureen Kavanaugh of the Maryland Historical Trust for their help. Orlando's vast knowledge of Kent Island's history and land records contributed much to the historic aspects of the report. Maureen's help on the site data forms made it possible for me to keep up with my research.

Lastly and most importantly, I would like to thank all the landowners and collectors who allowed me access to their property and/or artifact collections. Without their help the Kent Island Archaeological Survey would not have been possible. A special thanks to my friend Norman Brady for contributing his time during the shoreline and field surveys. The hospitality of Betty Smith should be recognized. I would like to thank her for making me lunch while I was recording her husband's (Melvin Smith) vast and well documented collection.

To all the people of Kent Island, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to work in area rich with history with an equally rich heritage. It was truly a memorable experience.

President's Message

By Audrey Hawkins

In our Summer 1992 newsletter, I wrote about some very nice and informative articles written about KIHS in the "Kent Islanders" magazine and "The Island Life" magazine. Again, I would like the members to be aware of the articles written in the "Island Life" magazine August/September 1992 issue covering the dedication of the Stevensville Train Station. In the "Kent Islander" magazine, late summer issue, there was also an article about the official Stevensville Train Station opening. Many thanks to the publishers Cheryl Walters and Lisa A. Duke. In addition, the "Annapolitan Magazine", published 10 times a year by Annapolitan, Inc., 413 Fourth Street, Annapolis, MD 21403, published an article entitled "A Smile at The Door" by Ann Jensen in the July 1992 issue. This article is about Kent Islanders and The Kent Island Heritage Society. Several members are mentioned. We thank the "Annapolitan Magazine" very much for their interest and support.

After five years of a labor of love, our original Stevensville Train Depot was officially opened on Saturday, June 20, 1992. A record crowd of more than 100 people attended the opening ceremony. Dr. Harry Rhodes presided and Gil Dunn officially opened the depot. Refreshments were served and many pictures were taken. The very next day Gil was busy making plans to restore the old "meathouse" (smokehouse). There is no end to his energy and dedication! Thanks Gil!!!!!! I might add that he is well underway as of this writing.

The first stage of the Archaeological Survey Project of Kent Island has been completed as of this month as you are well aware of by reading Darrin Lowery's report. In June of this year, we signed the contract presented by the State of Maryland Historic Trust for a grant award of \$11,000. As of this date we have just received the initial \$6000 of the grant award money.

Our next big event this year is our "Kent Island Days" celebration with an 18th Century

Weekend and Craft Show, Saturday, October 17th and Sunday, October 18th - 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The event will be held in Historic Stevensville on the grounds of the Cray House and in a large tent and in various stores in Stevensville to create a community and town affair. Food, drink, and entertainment, no admission fee. **PLAN TO ATTEND!! YOU WILL HAVE FUNNNN!!**

We need crafters. If interested, please contact Myrtle Bruscup at 1-410-643-5596. Table fee is \$30.00 for a 10' X 8' space for both days in the tent.

September Meeting At Kent Island Library

Our quarterly meeting will be held at the Kent Island Library on Thursday, September 10, 1992 at 7:30 P.M. Our speaker will be Charles D. Melson, Director of the new Queen Anne's County museum to be built. Plan to attend, hope to see you.

KENT ISLAND DAYS CELEBRATION WITH AN 18TH CENTURY WEEKEND, OCTOBER 17TH & 18TH

We are planning to have a weekend designated to the 18th century, a living history weekend. People will pitch tents and live on the Cray House grounds in historic Stevensville in the manner they did in the 18th century. They will cook, eat and live as they did in those times. There will be wandering minstrels, blacksmiths, gun demonstrations, story telling, wool spinning, and 18th century displays that will add the flavor of the past to the celebration. Thus far we have committed to us the South River Suttlers; Speedy Hogarth, Longhunter; John Douglas Hall, Musician; Sarah Lewis, Midwife; Spike Stoner, Blacksmith; and more. Festivities will be from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. You will see at the Festival demonstrations of wood carving, candle dipping, basket weaving, quilting, chair caning, outside screen painting, beaten biscuits and more.

There will be a museum of Kent Island memorabilia such as old bible records, school records, burial permits and old ferries. There will be arts and crafts exhibits and a bake sale. Kent Island Heritage Society T-shirts, sweat shirts, mugs, caps and visors will be on sale.

Archaeologist Darrin Lowery, a recent graduate of the University of Delaware, will be on hand to show the preliminary results of the Kent Island Shoreline Survey and to display some of the artifacts he discovered.

ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD AND DRINK. NO ADMISSION FEE

Take a stroll around the Historic Town of Stevensville, north on Route # 18. The entire town has been placed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The old Cray House and the original train depot of the Queen Anne's Railroad located on Cockey's Lane will be open. No admission fee.

Nominations

Nominating Committee for 1993 Officers and Directors

Eva Chance Thompson, Chair Person
June Palmer
Dana Lee Thompson

1993 Officers Slate

President	Charles S. Koegel
Vice President	Lorraine Gardner
	Aaron
Recording Secretary	Carolyn Stevens
	Koegel
Corresponding Secretary	Eileen Dadds
Treasurer	Lois Cockey

1993 Board Of Directors Slate

William E. Denny III	1991 - 1993
Richard Dadds	1991 - 1993
William T. Goodhand	1991 - 1993
Emma Thomas	1992 - 1994
Audrey B. Hawkins	1993 - 1995

Note: Due to the resignation of John Fountain Davidson, Director; Audrey Bruscup Hawkins has consented to serve as a Director.

Treasurer's Report

By Lois Cockey

Checking Balance 5/21/92	\$7,827.63
Receipts 5/22 - 8/20	<u>\$2,689.92</u>
Total	\$10,517.55
Disbursements 5/22 - 8/20 -	\$6,513.11
Checking Balance 8/20/92	\$4,004.44
Balance in CD's	\$3,364.04
	\$8,075.35
Money Market Account	<u>\$4,500.00</u>
Total Assets	\$19,943.83

Library Report

By Mary J. White

Our files in the Library continue to be used at a remarkable rate. We were fortunate to receive a copy PIERCE's REGISTER, the 17th DAR REPORT which was given by Bettye Speed. We were also able to make a copy of her COAST GUARD #135 - CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM CHOPTANK RIVER TO MAGOTHY RIVER, U.S.C. & G.S., Washington, D.C. 1895. This map provides an interesting look at the shore line of Kent Island in comparison both to Hermann's earlier map and, of course, to modern maps. Bettye's fascination with maps has resulted in our having several valuable additions to our collection.

Other additions include the following publications purchased in June from Mrs. Irma Harper, avid researcher and author, who offered her files and collections at a private sale back of her home in St. Michaels:

9 volumes of BALDWIN'S CALENDAR OF WILLS 1635 - 1749

1 DAR PATRIOT INDEX

VOLUMES I, II, & III - MARYLAND MARRIAGE CLUES by IRMA HARPER

3 INVENTORIES OF THE

PREROGATIVE COURT OF MD 1769 - 1777 by V.L. SKINNER, JR.

2 VOLUMES MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE VITAL RECORDS 1775-1800
by F. EDWARD WRIGHT

1 CAROLINE CO. MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS 1850 - 1880
by F. EDWARD WRIGHT

1 TALBOT CO. MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS 1850 - 1875
by R. BERNICE LEONARD

We were most fortunate to acquire these books at a fraction of their real value. My thanks to Mrs. Harper and to Myrtle Bruscup who accompanied me and offered moral support and encouragement on my spending spree.

Our latest request for general information came from Mr. Frank Asbury Christian of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Christian is interested in the history of Kent Island and its relationship to the State of Virginia. He is inquiring about the information we have in our files. Responding to this request will, of course, have to be in general terms, but, at least, we can provide him with a list of resources available in our files.

It appears that our "Island" and the "Heritage Society" are becoming known all over the country.

We were pleased to receive an updated research paper on EARECKSON's PROSPECT from Jean Lee Eareckson. She is to be commended for the accuracy and the depth of her research for this paper. She has thoroughly searched the titles to the properties which composed the final tract of land known as EARECKSON's PROSPECT. She has also included genealogical information of the early families that have owned the property. This tract of land called LEGG-EARECKSON in the book of HISTORY AND HOUSES was known as EARECKSON's PROSPECT until 1938 when Emma Winston Murray and Gerard Murray sold it to J. Archie Legg. Anyone doing research on either the Eareckson family or the properties adjacent to this farm would do well to look it over. It is filed in the History files in the library.

Genealogy

By Mary J. White

Interest in our genealogical files continues to grow. We have received requests from several people for information on some of the older families here on the Island. A telephone call from Mrs. Edward Savage of Santa Monica, CA was especially interesting because she was inquiring about her ancestors, the Winchester family. In spite of the fact that it was a 30 minute telephone call, and we exchanged information the whole time, we really only covered a few basic facts. However, we plan to get together the next time Mrs. Savage comes East and share our information. We did send her a copy of a very detailed Winchester family tree beginning with John Winchester who emigrated about 1644 and styled himself, Cordwainer. He received his first grant of land dated 26 August, 1650, -- "do grant to said John Winchester a parcel of land called Winchester on east side of Chesapeake Bay near east end of Isle of Kent, called Wading Place, to be holden free and common socage ----". For many years, the Winchesters were prominent in the life of the Island and adjacent areas, with extensive land holdings as far away as Tuckahoe Neck. They intermarried with many of the old Kent Island families, such as the Blunts, Derohbrunes, Earecksons, Gibsons, Goodhands, Price, Seegar and Whites. As far as I know, the only remaining descendants of the Winchester family remaining on Kent Island are the descendants of Julia Elizabeth Winchester who married Thomas Walter Kirby White.

I received another interesting phone call from Jane Butler Knapp from Houston, Texas. Mrs. Knapp is a descendant of Thomas Butler who came to the Island with William Claiborne. She told me some very interesting facts about her ancestors and is currently engaged in writing a family history as well as preparing a documentary on the subject. She will share this with us at a later date and sent us a very generous donation for the material we sent her.

My third telephone call was from Mr. George Brown whose father operated a gas station in Stevensville in the early 1900's. Mr. Brown will visit some time in the near future to conduct more intense research on his family. He has a sheepskin deed dated 1808 which should be very interesting. I'm looking forward to getting a copy of the deed and

would appreciate any assistance anyone can give me in pinpointing which Brown family he belongs to and especially the location of the long ago gas station.

We were pleased to receive a very complete Individual Family Sheet from Katherine Reese Nash whose husband was the late Arthur Orville Nash. Old timers will remember MISS KITTY'S outside of Easton which Orville and Katherine operated when they moved from Kent Island. This information is a valuable addition to the Nash Family History given to us several years ago by Bob Nash, a nephew of Orville's. Katherine now lives in Denton.

Closer to home, we received from our own Betty Stielper, a very fine computer printout of her mother's family, the Taylor's. This was also a welcome addition to our files.

Our thanks to Charlotte Severa for pointing out to us that in our last issue we listed, (as was given to us), the name of Charlotte Ann, beloved wife of Richard Thomas, incorrectly. It should have been Richard Thompson. Charlotte should know because that was her grandmother for whom she was named.

On the subject of private grave yards, I am happy to report that steps have been taken by members of the White Family to restore the family cemetery located at Workmans's Hazard - the Walter K. White Farm in Crab Alley Neck. The area has been cleared and the next step will be to determine if graves exist other than those that have already been found.

We continue our project of copying Bible records and ask that, anyone who has one that has not been copied, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. We have copied the records from 91 Bibles at this point and would very much like to make it 100.

Stevensville Train Station

By Gil Dunn

It was five years ago, May 1987. The old Stevensville Train Station had seen better days. It was falling down and the owner had no future use for it and offered it to the Heritage Society. We accepted the offer and had it moved to a new location adjacent to the Cray House property. It has been five years of a "Labor of Love" for many members and

friends to complete the restoration of this piece of local history. Now the restoration is complete and everyone is cordially invited to come visit it and take a step back in Kent Island history. Nearly all of the original building has been retained. The exterior structure board and batten, the wood shingle roof and the central brick chimney with pot-bellied stove are as they were when a railroad traveled through Kent Island. The interior of the station is the same layout as it was long ago. An added feature on one wall is the striking and colorful mural of Baltimore City in the early 1900's. This attractive mural is the art skill of Elizabeth Bukowsky (everybody knows Liz). This mural alone is sufficient to visit the restored train station. A detailed miniature model of the original Queen Anne's Railroad is part of the interior layout. It follows the rails from Queenstown 1897, Love Point 1902, to its eastern terminus, Lewes, Delaware. The building is open for visitors every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 P.M. to 4 P.M. regularly. And if by chance you are in town at another time, stop by the station, someone may be on the job and let you in.

Smoke House Studio ???

By Gil Dunn

At the cross roads in the center of Stevensville, the pinkish-peach colored building opposite Grollman's General Store was a busy grocery store many years ago. More recently an antique dealer ran the shop. Then for a brief period the building was the Stevensville U.S. Post Office. One of the out buildings associated with it was the ubiquitous "smoke house" used for curing and preserving meat products. Many homes on Kent Island had one. Times have changed. Today this same "smoke house" sits on the Cray House property directly opposite the restored Train Station. It has been sitting there for the past five years. It is not a pretty sight. Now a decision was made to restore it and work has begun. Six treated wood piers were placed for it to rest upon. The exterior wood siding has been removed and refinished. Soon the same siding will be put back in place. Further work on the restoration will continue. When finished, it will be an intriguing addition to the Kent Island Heritage Society Complex in Stevensville.

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Effort is made to publish accurate information, but no responsibility can be assumed by the Kent Island Heritage Society or the Editor.

Membership dues are \$5.00. Send applications to:

Catherine Kirwan

Membership Chairman

Kent Island Heritage Society

Rt.1, Box 227

Chester, MD 21619

Note: Bettye and her husband are touring Europe. I'm sitting in as a guest Editor, typist, programmer, etc. Bettye will be back for the next issue.

Charlie Koegel

Vice President