



Ile of Kent - 1631

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

SPRING, 1993

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

" CROSS THE BAY THE LOVE POINT WAY "

AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS

Every Day Across The Bay Baltimore To Love Point And Return

FARE 65 CENTS ROUND TRIP

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT AUGUST 1, 1940 (Eastern Standard Time)

Leave Baltimore (Pier 5, Light St.) Dally and Sunday 3:00 P. M.

Returning, Steamer arrives in Baltimore, 8 P. M.

FIVE GLORIOUS HOURS ON CHESAPEAKE BAY

This trip offers one of the most pleasant and attractive short cruises
out of Baltimore

REFRESHMENTS

MEALS ON STEAMER

ALL ABOARD ! LET'S GO! CROSS THE BAY THE LOVE POINT WAY

B. & E. R. R.

Phone MULberry 4800

ALL ABOARD! LET'S GO! A whole afternoon of food and fun for the enormous price of 65 cents ! A 1940 ad from the 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee book of Baltimore's St. Martin's Catholic Church donated to Ile Of Kent by Ed Yealdhall of Love Point.

ST. MARTIN 'S CAMP

Around 1925 Baltimore's St. Martin's Parish Church, to "provide for the care and recreation of children as part of parish life, ...as cities grow larger and children have fewer opportunities to get out among the green trees and fields of the country", established a summer camp at Love Point on Kent Island. "Only two hours from the city by steamer

it offered the advantages of high ground, a sweeping view, healthy breezes, a young locust tree grove, and was just a half mile from the boat landing. The first campers slept in tents, and cooking was done on an outdoor fireplace of stone. As time went on, a well was driven, drainage added, several small buildings and sleeping shacks constructed."

According to the 1940 description: "The layout now consists of a large dining hall, recreation hall, and chapel, shacks for counsellors and campers, gas for cooking, and electric lights. All this on bought-and-paid- for ten acres of land."

..." The campers sleep on cots provided by the parish but bring their own bedding. Carefully supervised swimming, baseball, basketball, hikes, and all sorts of games are keenly contested and prizes given. In two weeks some children gain as much as five or six pounds. (!) During 1940 the camp was open for the usual eight weeks in July and August with an average attendance of seventy five".

In 1985 the *Record Observer*/' *Bay Times* newspapers published a booklet of memories called *"I Remember When, a Folk History of Queen Anne's County."* On page 49 Ed Yealdhall of Love Point wrote about his memories as a camper at Camp St. Martin's:

Camp St. Martin's was a treat for city kids.

My first trip to Love Point was in the summer of 1935. I had just finished the sixth grade at St. Martin's School, Fulton Ave and Fayette St. in Baltimore. (*Editor's note: That neighborhood has changed considerably since 1935.*) We boarded buses which took us to the Light Street Pier where we went aboard the

"Smokey Joe", the Pennsylvania Railroad Ferry to Love Point and Camp St. Martin. The ride took two hours and twenty minutes.

(The camp consisted of a) wooden building, hand pump (for water); no frills like horseback riding or canoe racing- but swimming twice a day, softball, basketball, volley ball, treasure hunts, campfires, etc. and we loved it.

"An interesting sidelight of this bit of Kent Island History is what it cost us to attend camp. As members of St. Martin's Parish, we paid five dollars a week! This included transportation from ...Baltimore to Camp St. Martin at Love Point and back again. Non-parishioners paid the grand sum of ten dollars a week!

"Camp St. Martin began ..some time in the 1920's and continued until the 1960's. ...it was always staffed by volunteers. In the 1940's when I became a staff member our pay was our food and cigarettes, and, after hours, all the milk...and cookies we could eat.

"Looking back, we realize what a treat Kent Island was for young boys and girls who

lived surrounded by cement and brick. The closest many got to swimming was when the Fire Department opened the (fire) hydrants for our splashing pleasure on the hottest (summer) days. We have beautiful memories of Camp St. Martin.

"Since we have lived (d) at Love Point, several times a year former campers or staff stop by our home looking (for) the happy place of their younger days."

Love Point Lover

Ed Yealdhall loved camping on Kent Island so much that in the 1950's he and his family moved permanently to Love Point on Kent Island.

Further testimony to Ed's abiding affection for Kent Island is his Runner Up Entry in a *"Maryland You Are Beautiful"* Senior Writing Contest":

"WHY MARYLAND IS BEAUTIFUL TO ME

My true love is water: streams, rivers, bays, oceans. I cannot imagine living where one cannot always see a body of water or be able to walk to water within a short time. Water gives dimension to the space we live in. I like moving water best. Changing of tides, wind, and whitecaps, or at least, rain drops splashing on the surface.

"I fell in love with Love Point in the 1930's. We traveled down from Baltimore via the "Smokey Joe", the Love Point Ferry from Light Street. Our destination was Camp St. Martin. Among our fellow passengers were trucks and truckers bringing supplies to the Eastern Shore to bring back later the marvelous produce, vacationers headed for the Love Point Hotels, and people who were to meet the train at Love Point and journey to Ocean City.

"I was able to buy my house here (in the) fifties. Not on the water. I saw Camp St. Martin's erode away year after year. I can see the Bay from my house, have the Chester River on two sides, and I have access to the water within two hundred feet. You know the whole of the Eastern Shore is alluvial-dumped after the last Ice Age by a melting glacier. It's all washing away! ...

"I have to go to Baltimore to make a living, but every night it's back to breathe deeply the unpolluted air. Every morning I see the water and breathe the air to keep me alive in anticipation of a return trip that same afternoon.

"Envy me, but do not try to join me. Too many people keep coming to live on Kent Island. If you are interested in doing so, I'll tell you about the mosquitoes, septic tanks, and well water!" (Editor's note: The late Julius Grollman used to say to people who complained about Kent Island: "Remember, that bay bridge goes both ways!")

CRAY HOUSE

Myrtle Bruscup

The Cray House Interior Committee, Mary White and I, are still antique shopping for a small cabinet or dry sink for the small room between the kitchen and the parlor in the Cray House.

Mr. John Herndon, present owner of the old Fillmore Hotel in Love Point, invited Mary and I to browse through his cellar for anything we could use. We came up with a cast iron waffle iron, pancake griddle, and a pair of ice tongs. These items are being cleaned up for us by Mike's Gun Shop in Stevensville. We gratefully appreciate this donation of those items for Cray House display. We also want to thank Evelyn Cowan for her donation of a cast iron muffin pan, which will also be on display. Again, thanks to John Herndon and Evelyn Cowan.

Chairman Katherine Casey is looking for volunteers as Saturday afternoon hostesses. Give her a call at 643-5943. Many hands make light work.

CHRISTMAS ON KENT ISLAND REPORT

Audrey Hawkins

On December 19 the Kent Island Heritage Society sponsored a tour of old homes. The tour was a success. We sold 106 tickets and I would like to thank the following members for their help and support.

House Tour and Hostesses: Emma Thomas, Grace Jones, Myrtle Bruscup, Roland Bruscup, Randy Bruscup, Florence Dunn, Marilyn Wilderson, Joyce Denny, Mary White, Eileen Dadds, Dick Dadds, Albert Hickman, and Eva Thompson.

Ticket Headquarters: Katherine Casey.

MaeHutchison, Lorraine Aaron, Charles Koegel, Bill Denny, Lois Cockey,
Cray House: Hostess, Refreshments, Entertainment, and Decorations: Dorothy Crouch, Katherine Casey, Virginia Donaldson, Jane Crafton, Janet Ellis, Myrtle Bruscup, Gil Dunn, Sarah Wilderson, Clifford Lowe Jr., Clifford Lowe Sr., and Kent Island Garden Club.

Train Depot: Roland Bruscup, Paul Wilderson, Mike Casey, Gil Dunn

Posters: distributed by Mike and Katherine Casey and Bill Denny

Brochure: Elizabeth Bukowsky

Signs: Bill Denny, Dick Dadds, Robert Jones

I would like to thank the various members who so generously supplied the cookies served at the Cray House. I would also like to thank the people who so kindly opened their homes for the Christmas Homes Tour. All of the homes were listed in the Winter newsletter thanks to Editor Bettye Speed.

I saw many of the members visiting the homes during the tour and I hope they enjoyed the visits as much as I did. If you would be interested in having your home on a tour in the future or if you have any suggestions or comments, please let me know.

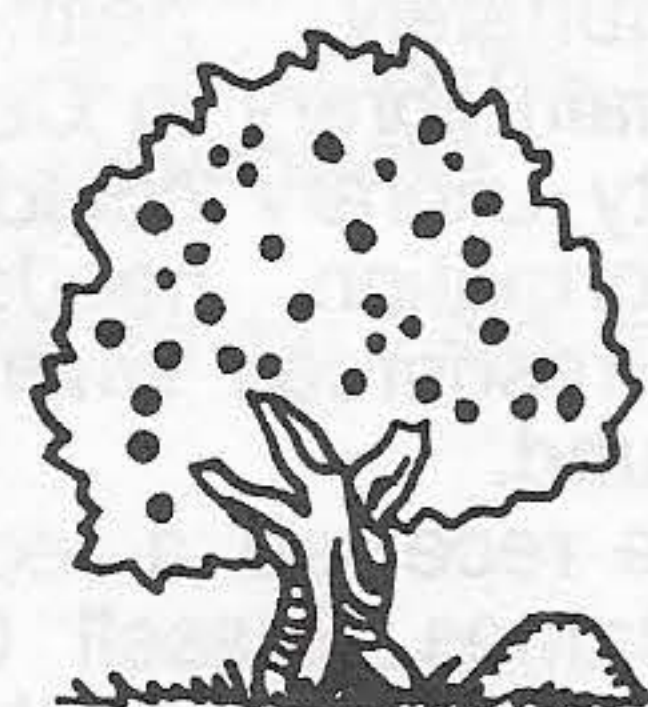


LIBRARY REPORT

Mary J. White

A three part series on "Cimbing Your Family Tree", sponsored by the Kent Island Branch Library was held at the Library on February 18th, 24th, and March 4th.

Under the leadership of Judy Ireland, Reference Librarian, and your Library Committee, the following



programs were held:

Feb. 18th- GETTING STARTED-

Learning how to collect and organize information to begin your family tree.

Feb. 24th - KENT ISLAND ROOTS - Information on sources relating to Kent Island families.

Mar. 4th - MOVING ON -

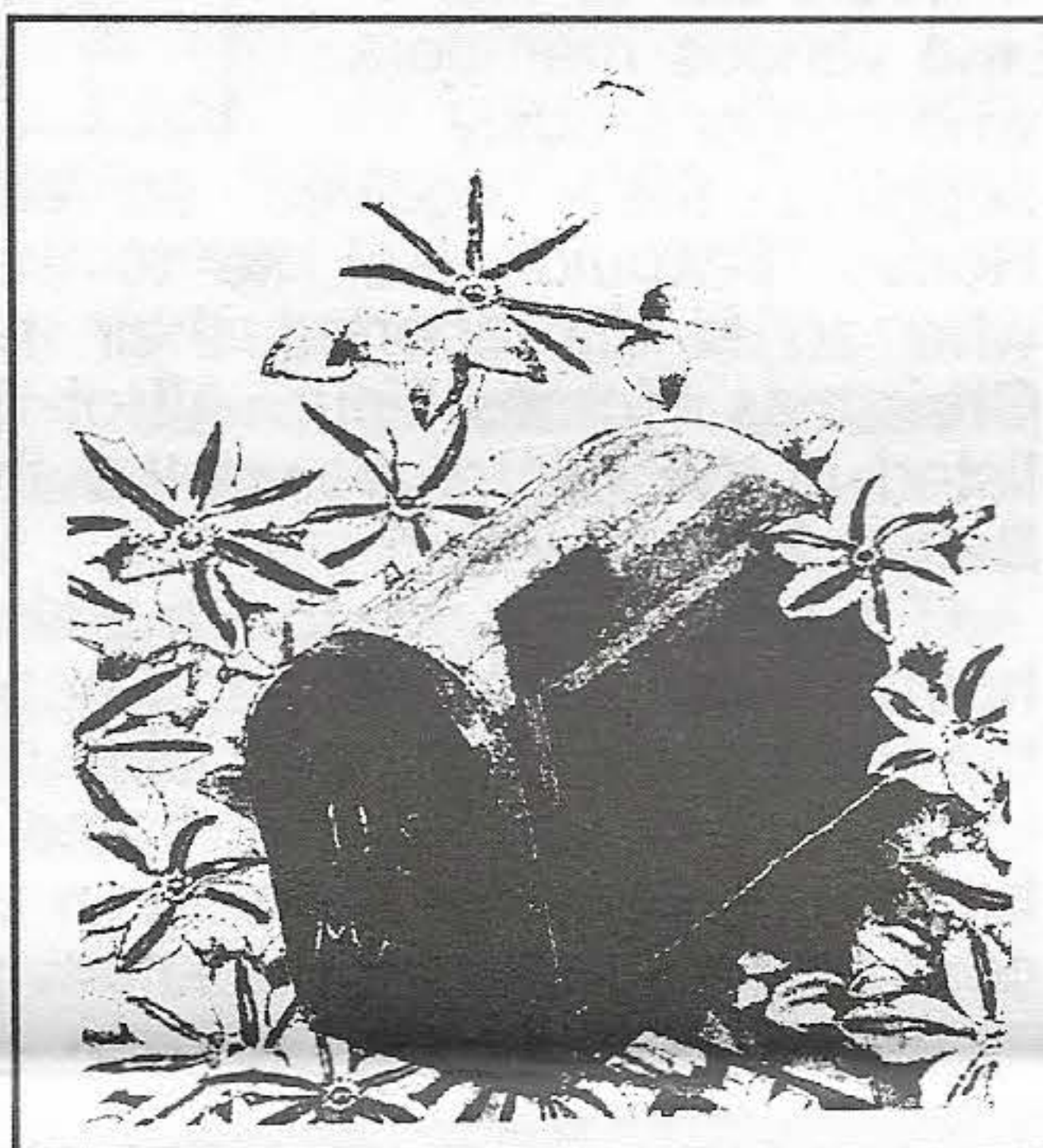
How to use genealogical resources at the County, State and Federal level.

For the three part series we had a total of 16 persons who were interested in researching over 50 surnames. It was a lively group and much interest was exhibited in continuing research. In addition to the numbers our committee participating consisted of the following persons: Myrtle Bruscup, Anne and Walter Denny, Bill Goodhand, and Mary White.

GENEALOGY

Mary J. White

We have had a busy three month period with several requests for genealogical assistance in addition to our participation with the Kent Island Branch Library's series on "Climbing Your Family Tree".



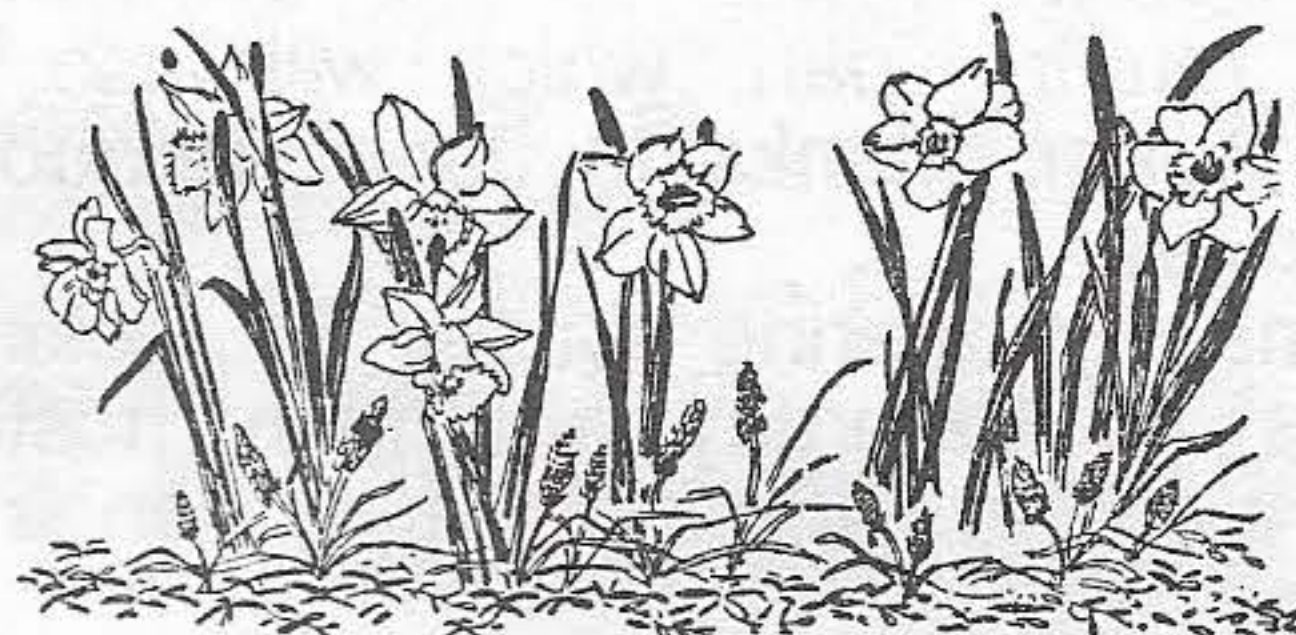
We had two different requests for information regarding families who were forced to leave Kent Island when William Claiborne left. Unfortunately, neither our files nor those in the main library in Centreville, or in the Talbot County Library could provide us with the kind of information needed. We did send a list of other resources where such information might be found.

We received a request for information from Mr. James Russell Clubine of Canada who had been told that there was a possibility that his name had originally been spelled "Claiborne". Unfortunately we have not found that spelling (*among many others*) in our research but suggested that the Maryland

Historical Society or the Virginia Historical Society or the Archives could give him more assistance. (Ed. note: *Soundex Census records might help also.*)

Other requests have involved the Carter, Dunn, Gilbert, Hopkins, Hutchison, and Thompson families. We are pleased to have a copy of the pedigree chart of Nancy Nelson Ritchie Overly whose great grandfather was the Rev. Phillip Doderidge Thompson, rector of Christ Church from 1874 to 1892. We could find no genealogical information in either our files, or in those of Christ Church or the diocese of Easton. We did send a photocopy of the page on which his only entry was made. Sadly many old church records are incomplete.

We are pleased to report that we have reached and surpassed our goal of 100 Bible records! We now have recorded the records from 103 Bibles. We are sure there are others which have not yet been copied. If you have one or know of someone who does, please let us know so arrangements can be made to preserve these valuable old records. (Ed. note: *Family Bible records frequently take the place of those many missing church records.*)



KENT ISLAND DAYS PARADE

Gil Dunn



Run a bold circle around May 16 on your calendar. Within the circle write in 1:00 p.m.-Stevensville. Now you have it- the date, the time and the place for the 1993 Kent Island Days Celebration Parade.

It is time for renewal of the Heritage Society's colorful and popular event. We, the Parade People want the 1993 celebration to be as good as ever or even better. Over 25 various groups have been contacted. All have expressed interest and want to be part of the celebration. A large number of Heritage Society members will lead the way along with present, past but not forgotten generations old Kent Islanders.

There will be bands (hopefully, hopefully), humor, history, intrigue, (!?) music, art, and children of all ages, etc. etc. You don't want to miss it and you shouldn't. We welcome your suggestions and ideas. And to those volunteers to help with the logistics (putting up the flags, bunting, balloons, etc. in town), a full measure of appreciation would be extended. Hope to hear from you!

CONGRATULATIONS

To the new officers and directors of the Kent Island Heritage Society - President Charlie Koegel and Vice President Lorraine Aaron. Carolyn Koegel, Eileen Dadds, and Lois Cockey remain in place as Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Former president Audrey Hawkins has been made a director for the 1993- 1995 term.

In addition, the following members have agreed to serve as chairmen of KIHS's Special Committees:

<u>Audit</u>	<i>Florence Dunn</i>
<u>Archaeology</u>	<i>Paul Wilderson</i>
<u>Cray House Tours</u>	<i>Katherine Casey</i>
<u>Cray House Furnishings</u>	<i>Myrtle Bruscup Mary White</i>
<u>Cray House Exterior</u>	<i>Gil Dunn</i>
<u>Cray House Garden</u>	<i>Kent Island Garden Club, Ellen Klages, President Mary White</i>
<u>Library/Genealogy</u>	<i>Mary White</i>
<u>Membership/New</u>	<i>Catherine Kirwan</i>
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	<i>Mae Hutchison</i>
<u>Newsletter</u>	<i>Bettye Speed</i>
<u>Programs</u>	<i>Lorraine Aaron</i>
<u>Publicity</u>	<i>Jonathan Slocum</i>
<u>Refreshments</u>	<i>Virginia Donaldson</i>
<u>Depot/ Smoke House</u>	<i>Gil Dunn</i>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Charlie Koegel

We are coming off a very successful year under the able leadership of President Audrey Hawkins. We received an \$11,000 grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to match our \$5,000 plus raised to perform an archaeological survey of Kent Island. All funds have been received and the work and reports have been completed by Darrin Lowery. Darrin supplied an article for the Fall 1992 newsletter and an extensive report published in the Bay Times and the Colonial Weekend brochure passed out at Kent Island Colonial Days. His work was found to be of high professional quality by the Historical Trust. As a consequence we expect to be funded for additional work.

Restoration of the depot was completed by Gil Dunn and a host of helpers. If you know Gil, you know he can't sit still. He immediately started renovation of the old meathouse, it's about 90% complete now. Gil is looking for a tenant.

October's Colonial Weekend, though chilly, was very successful. Everyone had a good time watching our "18th Century folks" demonstrate how life was lived without electricity and no TV- an eye opener for the kids. Some of the appliances looked pretty crude, but they got the job done. We had crafters under a tent and in some of Stevensville's empty stores, thanks to the owner for their free use of the space. We hope the new owners allow us the same privileges during May's Kent Island Days for stores that may still be unoccupied.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next Thursday (Mar. 25) at 7:30 p.m. at the Library Darrin Lowery will update us on his archaeological survey.

John E. Boender, who recently bought a good part of Stevensville, will discuss his plans for the future of downtown Stevensville.

1993 Membership meetings to be held at the Library at 7:30 P.M.

Thursday March 25

Thursday June 24

Thursday Sept. 16

Thursday Dec. 9 Annual Dinner at 6:00 P.M. at the Kent Island Yacht Club

KENT ISLAND DAYS: May 15th- 16th.

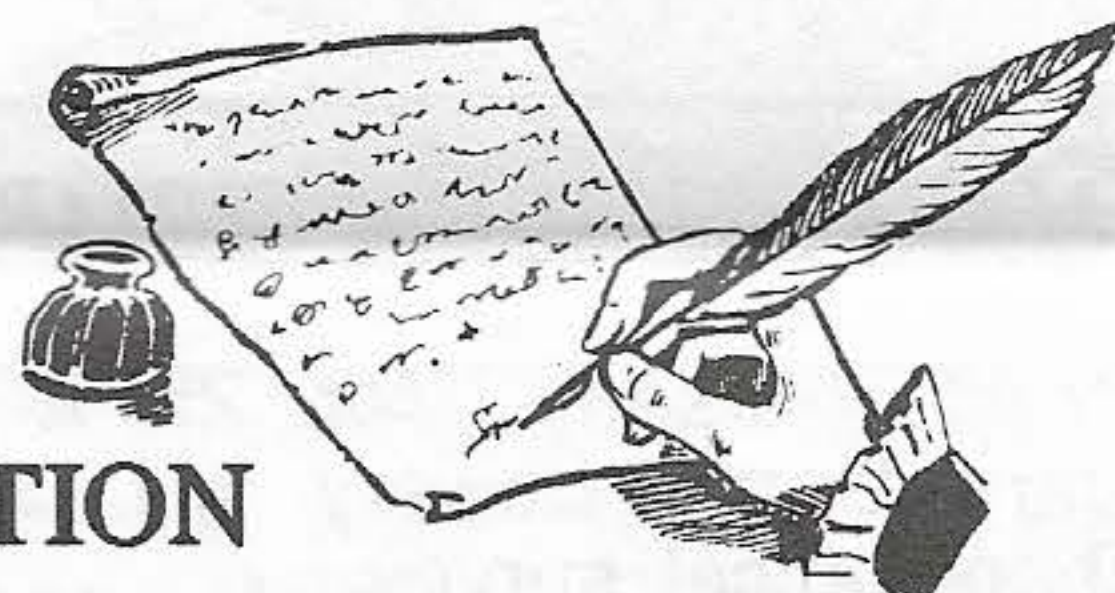
The annual Kent Island Days will be held Saturday and Sunday May 15th and 16th from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. As Gil Dunn notes we will again have the GREAT PARADE on Sunday at 1:00 P.M. In addition, by popular demand, we will again have the 18th Century folks demonstrating life "in the slow lane". There will be wandering minstrels, blacksmiths, gun demonstrations, story telling, wool spinning, and 18th Century displays and demonstrations of wood carving, basket weaving, candle dipping and more.

We will also have the Kent Island "Museum of Memorabilia" including old Bible records, school records and photographs. Plus the sales table of baked goods, Kent island Heritage Society T-shirts, sweat shirts, mugs, caps, and visors will be open for business as usual.

The CRAY HOUSE and the TRAIN STATION will be open. No admission fees are charged. In addition. We will have many crafters under the big tent and around the community to display and sell their wares. I am always surprised and pleased at the range of talent that we have. There is something for everybody.

CORRECTIONS/OMISSIONS

Mrs. Anne Reifsneider's donation noted in the last newsletter was \$250 to the Train Depot. Lowe's Nursery of Stevensville donated the tree planted by Cliff Lowe Jr. in the DAR ceremony at the Cray House honoring Mrs. Reifsneider's aunt, DAR member Marian P. Steuart.



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1975, Dr. Charles Gilbert Dunn was one of the Charter Members of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. and

Whereas, Dr. Dunn served as **PRESIDENT OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.** for the three years: 1987 1988 1989 and

Whereas, Dr. Dunn served as **CHAIRMAN OF THE CRAY HOUSE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** for the years: 1987 through 1992 and

Whereas, Dr. Dunn served as **CHAIRMAN OF THE RESTORATION OF THE ORIGINAL STEVENSVILLE TRAIN STATION** for the years: 1988 through 1992 and

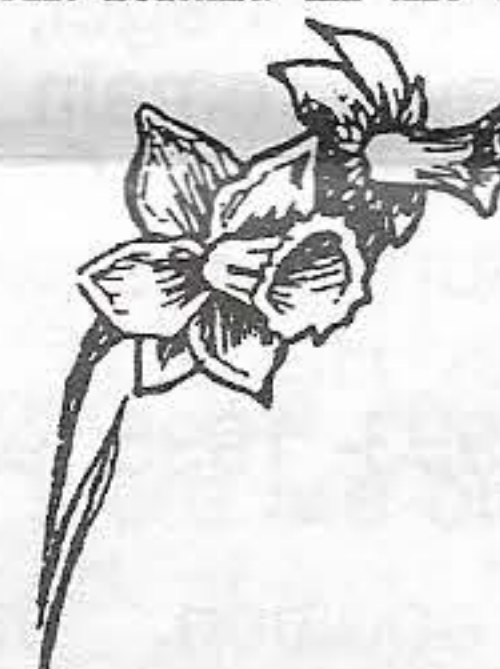
Whereas. Dr. Dunn served as **CHAIRMAN OF THE RESTORATION OF THE MEATHOUSE** for the years: 1991 through 1992 and

Whereas. through the years. Dr. Dunn has given his time and talent in community service to the Isle of Kent and **RESOLVED**, that the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** grants an **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP** to Dr. Charles Gilbert Dunn as an expression of sincere appreciation for his years of service; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that copies of this **RESOLUTION** be spread upon the minutes of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. and be published in the next issue of the Ile of Kent Newsletter. Further, that a **CERTIFICATE** and a copy of the **RESOLUTION** be presented to Dr. Charles Gilbert Dunn with appropriate ceremony.

Dated this tenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred ninety two, on Kent Island in the State of Maryland.

Audrey Bruscup Hawkins, President



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1975 Mr. William E. Denny, III was one of the Charter Members of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. and

Whereas, Mr. Denny served on the Board of Directors of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. for the terms: 1981-1983 1984-1986 1987-1989 1990-1992 and

Whereas, Mr. Denny served as Co-Chairman of the Stevensville Historic District Committee in 1985 and 1986. Stevensville was registered on the National Register of Historic Places as of September 11, 1986 and

Whereas, Mr. Denny served as Co-Chairman of "Kent Island Days" for: June 1990 August 1991 September 1992 and

Whereas, Mr. Denny served as Co-Chairman of the comprehensive archaeological survey of Kent Island, sponsored by the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. in 1990-1992 and

Whereas, through the years, Mr. Denny has given his time and talent in community service to the Isle of Kent and

RESOLVED, that the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** grants an **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP** to William E. Denny III as an expression of sincere apprecain for his years of ssxerie; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that copies of this **RESOLUTION** be spread upon the minutes of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. and be published in the next issue of the Ile of Kent Newsletter. Further, that a **CERTIFICATE** and a copy of the **RESOLUTION** be presented to William E. Denny III with appropriate ceremony.

Dated this tenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred ninety two, on Kent Island in the State of Maryland.

Audrey Bruscup Hawkins, President

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Mrs. Elizabeth Bukowsky has through the years donated her time and many artistic talents to the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. providing paintings, artwork, murals, etc. as needed by the Society in its various endeavors

and

RESOLVED, that the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** grants an **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP** to Mrs. Elizabeth Bukowsky as an expression of sincere appreciation for her services;

be it therefore

RESOLVED, that copies of this **RESOLUTION** be spread upon the minutes of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. and be published in the next issue of the Ile of Kent Newsletter. Further, that a **CERTIFICATE** and a copy of the **RESOLUTION** be presented to Mrs. Elizabeth Bukowsky with appropriate ceremony.

Dated this tenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred ninety two, on Kent Island in the State of Maryland.

Audrey Bruscup Hawkins, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lois Cockey

REPORT FOR 11/13-12/31. 1992

Balance \$5531.70

Receipts:

Dues	2727.00
Interest	26.95
Sales	90.00
Kent Island Days	435.00
Christmas Dinner	1680.00
Miscellaneous	159.65
House Tour	520.00

Total: 5638.60

Balance: 11,170.30

Disbursements:

Cray House	36.25
Depot	35.00
Printing	183.46
Postage	230.42
Dinner Meeting	438.12
Supplies	47.63
Archaeological Study	3810.56
Kent Island Days	84.35
House Tour	368.69

Total: 5439.48

Balance in checking- 12/31/1992	5730.82
Balance in CD Accounts	11,645.89
Balance in MM Account	8603.70

TOTAL ASSETS: 12/31/92 \$25,980.41

Report for 1/1/1993-2/21/1993

Receipts

Dues	316.00
Donations	315.00
House Tour	10.00
Interest	25.29
Sales	59.00
State of Maryland grant	3000.00

TOTAL: 3725.29

Checking account balance: 9456.11

Disbursements

Cray House	8.55
Christmas Dinner	1324.00
Supplies	5.95
Archaeological Study	4583.51

TOTAL: 5922.01

Balance in checking: 3534.10

Balance in CD's 11,772.65

Balance in MM account 6629.47

TOTAL ASSETS: \$21,936.22

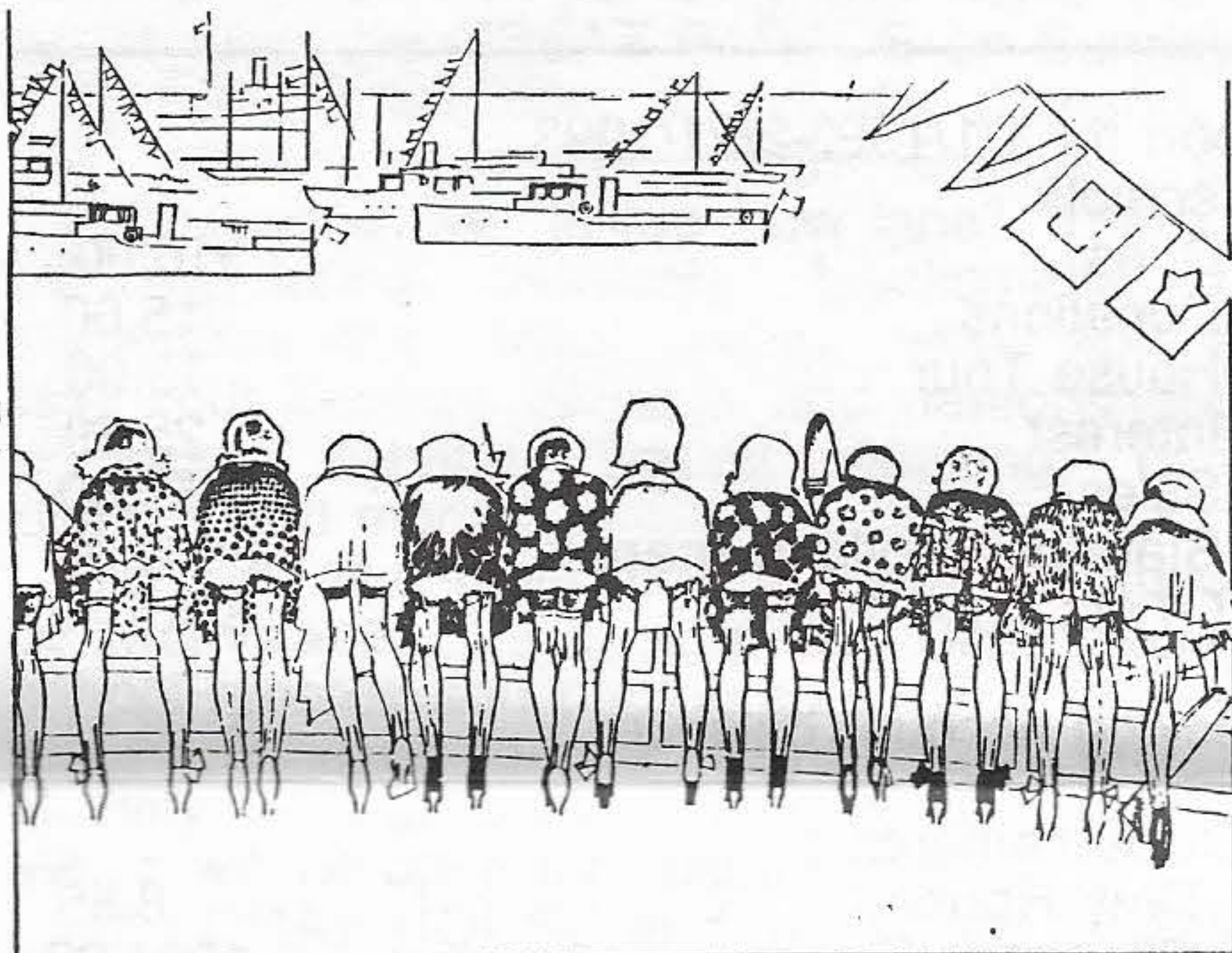
CROSSING THE BAY ON THE "SMOKEY JOE"

J. Edward Yealdhall

(Editor's Note: Thanks go to Ed Yealdhall for his permission to use his writings about Kent Island's Love Point and the ferries for this issue.)

I remember "Smokey Joe", the Baltimore to Love Point Ferry. Hard to say when it started running. Surely it would have been in operation before 1910- because that is the year the Love Point Hotel was constructed. The longest running ferryboat, to our knowledge, was the *Philadelphia*, which began the run in 1932. My first trip was in 1935 and regularly after until the last run in 1947. The "Smokey Joe" was operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad throughout the year- twenty round trips a week, three a day, with one layover on Sunday night

for maintenance. Passengers traveled on the top deck, indoors or out. Beer, soda, and food could be purchased.



Slot machines were there- penny operated! Cars and trucks occupied the four lanes on the lower deck. I remember the truck drivers shooting craps during the trip. For the 1930's seeing all those ten dollar bills moving around was quite a sight.

My mother liked to pick up bargains from the produce truck drivers, especially those incomparable Eastern Shore cantalopes.

I remember seeing photos in the pilot house of rescues made on the ice of the bay by the *Philadelphia*. One time it is recorded it even broke loose an icebreaker ship which was stuck fast. The heavy flat bottomed boat could ride up on the ice and break through any in its path.

One sidelight, to put our economy in perspective: I remember a Sunday trip in either 1937 or 1938 when we had Sunday dinner at Miss May's, a small hotel, now a private home on Pier Road above the ferry slip. The meal consisted of fried chicken, a soft crab, peas, potatoes, corn on the cob, iced tea and ice cream for dessert. The cost was one dollar!

In 1947 after "Smokey Joe" banked its coal furnaces, I began to drive to Sandy Point to take the ferry to Matapeake on Kent Island. It was a nice twenty minute ride... - but not really the same! (as good old "Smokey Joe")

In Memoriam-

Though not Kent Island born, C. Mitchell Davidson, originally of Carmichael, died recently at age 91. Mr. Davidson spent over 70 years farming on Kent Island, except for a brief period when a family illness took him to Baltimore County.

The Ile of Kent is published quarterly by the Kent Island Heritage Society a non-profit corporation, Stevensville, Md. 21666

Correspondence to Bettye Speed, Editor, 128 Eareckson Ln. Stevensville, 21666. Effort is made to publish accurate information but no responsibility can be assumed by the Society or the editor.

Membership dues are \$10 annually. Send applications to:

Catherine Kirwan,
641 Dominion Rd.
Chester, MD., 21619

