

Spring 1995

# Isle of Kent - 1631



Newsletter of The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

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

***Shocking Exclusive!!***

***K.I.H.S. MEMBER COMMITTED!***

**You're committed to the heritage of our Island and to VOLUNTEERING. We need you.**

We need volunteers to help at the decoy, WWII and train exhibits... to help sell souvenirs and give out information at the headquarters... to setup and breakdown the tents, tables and chairs... to hang signs, banners and flags. We also need all of your old books to sell at our book fair. PLEASE CALL President Hugo Gemignani at 643-1690 to make your commitment to this year's Kent Island Days.

**Saturday & Sunday • May 18 & 19 • Historic Stevensville**

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Children's Rides & Craft Area

World War II Exhibit

Kent Island History Display

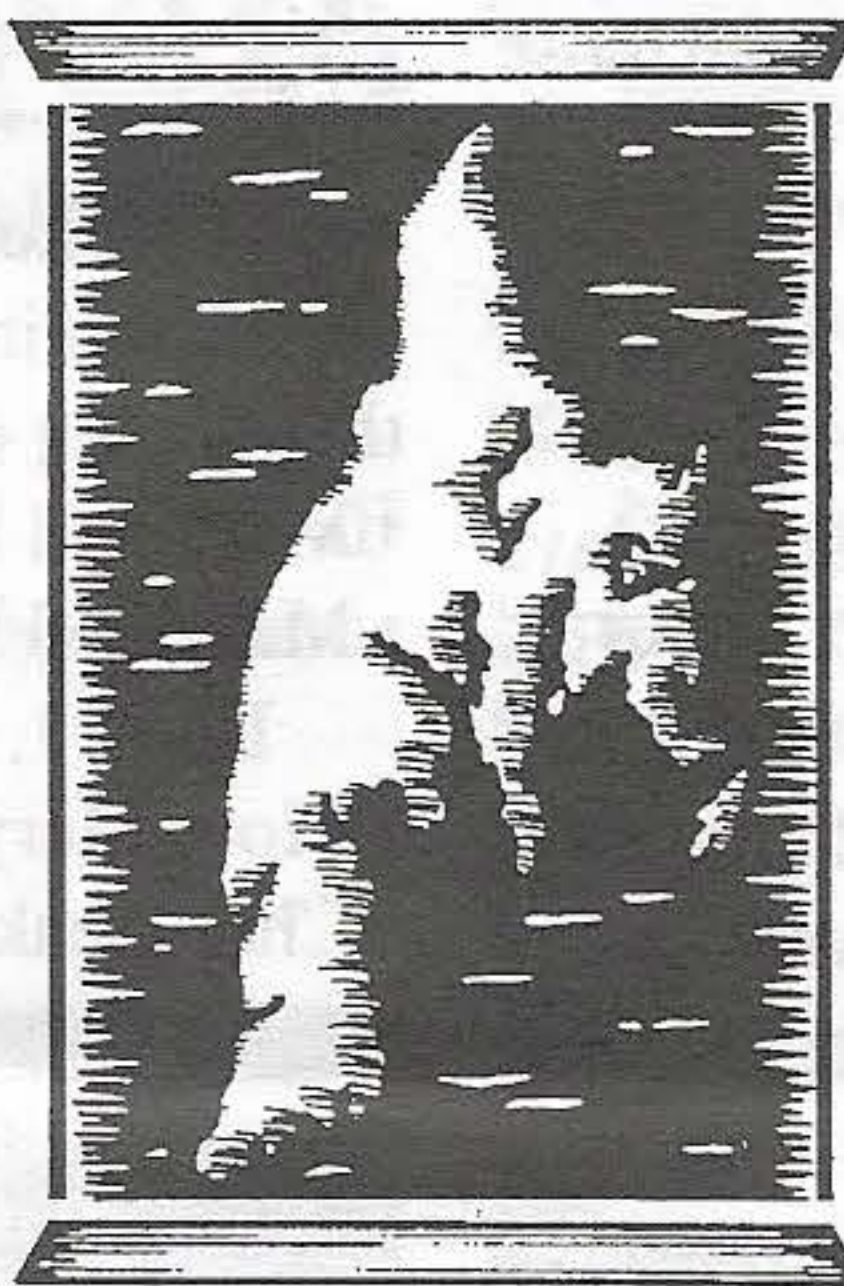
Darrin Lowery's Artifact Display

A Weekend of Entertainment

Crafters

Food & Family Fun!

## KENT ISLAND



## DAYS

## PLEASE HELP US

Set Up Tents & Tables

Hang Banners & Signs

By Donating Unwanted Books

Monitor The Exhibits

Sell Souvenirs

Run The Headquarters

Break Down & Clean Up!

**Isle of Kent is published quarterly by The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666. Every effort is made to publish accurate information, but no responsibility can be assumed by The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. or the Editor in the event of claim of loss or damage from any contribution. Statements attributed to individuals do not necessarily reflect official policy of the K.I.H.S. Send Isle of Kent correspondence to Cheri Hoffman, Editor, P.O. Box 708, Stevensville, MD 21666.**



# The Barnacled Bookshelf

by Brent Lewis



Books are complicated things. The philosopher Voltaire said they were like people — “a very small number play a great part, the rest are lost in the multitude.” Despite the cries of foul from frustrated writers, the old thinker was probably right. Few works, of the countless published around the world each day for thousands of years, have any lasting impact whatsoever.

Or maybe Voltaire was just trying to discourage the competition.

A writer that took a more instructive tact, to ultimately arrive on similar terrain, was Isaac D’Israeli. His simple advice was “Beware the man of one book.”

Though the two quotes are almost contradictory on the surface, they both ultimately shed light on the wisdom of building a carefully collected library of favorite books.

It’s good to have a wide range of interests. There are books available on every subject from Aardvarks to Zymology. Here we’re going to concentrate on books that appeal to the Kent Island in us all.

Like every structure that contains it, a good library needs strong foundations. Though there are many books that might be more consequential or enlightening than those listed here, these are the classics.

QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY by Frederic Emory was originally published by the 1886 *Centreville Observer* in newspaper serial form. An encompassing look back at our days as a colony through the Civil War, QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY is a wealth of both straight forward data (such as census reports), as well as social and political commentary (including the eighteenth century’s best taverns.)

A. Aubrey Bodine, Maryland’s photographer

## Hostesses Needed for The Cray House

May 25 through October

Call Eva Thompson at 643-5368 to help out.

extraordinaire, published several notable books in his long career, but THE FACE OF MARYLAND is a masterpiece. Though the book features photos from all of Maryland’s regions, there are classic shots of our Eastern Shore, including several examples of historic local architecture. There’s one picture of a fully rigged oldtime frigate passing under a single span Bay Bridge that says more about the past and future than a multitude of texts ever could.

BEAUTIFUL SWIMMERS by William W. Warner is a Pulitzer Prize winning collection of essays that introduced millions of people to our world of the blue crab. In light of recent and growing concern for the future of our favorite crustacean, now would be a great time to reread this thoughtful standard.

James Michner’s CHESAPEAKE is an epic undertaking of great scope for both writer and reader. It takes faith to plunge into the deep waters of this fictional tributary, but even if it requires several attempts to get started, the challenge is well worth the effort. Natives will wonder how an honorary Eastern Shoreman could get so many details just right. Must be genius.

Those are our four cornerstones. From this humble beginning, future additions to the bookshelf will attempt to help strengthen the bond between readers and this marshy land we cherish. Recommendations to the collection are encouraged.

## More Book News...

Mary White and Myrtle Bruscup visited the Family Tree Bookshop in Easton to purchase the following books for the reading room in the Stevesville Library:

- Maryland Deponents, 1634 - 1799
- Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records Book 1, 1648 - 1725
- More Maryland Deponents, 1716 - 1799
- Chesapeake Conflict: The Troublesome Early Days of Maryland
- Revolutionary Patrols of Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties, Maryland
- Obituaries in Maryland Newspapers of Queen Anne’s County, 1898 - 1899

The funds used to purchase these books were donated by charter member Ms. Virginia Bell. The genealogy and history files of Kent Island are available for public use at the Kent Island Library, Stevensville.





# President's Message

*Dear Kent Island Heritage Society  
Members:*

1996 has been a year to remember and we're only two months into it. The winter has taken a toll on our nerves, pocket book, patience and sense of humor. While all of Kent Island was trying to cope with Jack Frost, the Board of the Kent Island Heritage Society has been busy planning our annual spring Kent Island Days celebration.

As you know, the third weekend of May has been set aside by a State proclamation as Kent Island Days in Maryland. This year, the dates for Kent Island Days are Saturday and Sunday, May 18 & 19, 1996.

This year we have expanded our celebration to include special lunches and dinners by all the local restaurants. The American Flyer Toy Train Club will have a large display for (all) children to enjoy. Also, the Bay Bridge Airport is trying to join us with airplane displays and shows. There will also be children's rides and many new shows for all to see and enjoy.

So please set aside the entire weekend to take time out and enjoy the heritage of our beautiful Kent Island.

Next, the board of directors has gone way out on a limb for me. This year, dues have been lowered in an effort to increase membership. The dues are \$5.00 per person. We feel that this reduced rate will help us reach our goal of increasing membership.

The Heritage Society needs you and needs you NOW. Join, come to meetings, help, volunteer, and most of all get involved. Who knows, it may become habit forming.

*Hugo Gemignani, President*

**Kent Island Heritage Society  
President Hugo Gemignani is  
available for speaking engagements  
on the Chesapeake Bay and the Kent  
Island Heritage Society.**

**Call him at (410) 643-1690  
to make arrangements.**

January 26, 1996 & February 23, 1996  
Heritage Board/Advisory Board Meeting

# Minutes

Topics covered included the annual Christmas Dinner (see Ho! Ho! Hope you didn't miss it! for details) and the 1996 Kent Island Days celebration (see the cover story for more information).

Heritage Society President Hugo Gemignani mailed a letter to attorney Elmer Thompson informing him that the tenants in the Kirwan house will stay. He pointed out that they have stopped two break-ins and hunting on the property. Hugo also reiterated that nothing can/will happen to the house or property and that nothing can/will be sold. He also said that the house needs roofing shingles and a paint job and that we will try to do these repairs out of the farming money. The Board also approved the purchase of 5 deadbolts and 3 fire extinguishers for the house. The tenants are also going to plant a small garden and would like to mow the grass around the house (If someone will donate a lawn mower for their use. Call Hugo Gemignani at 643-1690 to make arrangements).

Now that dues have been lowered, the need for a membership drive was stressed. It was suggested that we use the guest sign in sheet from the Cray House for member leads.

Briefly covered was the \$45,000 grant application Nancy Cook is working on to repair the underside front of the Cray House, and the fact that the Breeding property and the caboose are on hold.

New fund-raisers were also on the agenda. Audrey Hawkins brought in hand-painted sweat shirts of the Smokey Joe and the Love Point Light. They will be on display at the March general meeting for member input and orders. Show up and let us know what you think! Audrey also brought in Christmas ornaments hand-painted by Laura Hemsley with the Love Point Lighthouse. They will go on sale soon, so put in your orders.





# Ho! Ho! Hope you didn't miss it!

*The annual Christmas dinner  
meeting was a great success*

## Minutes of the December 15, 1995 Christmas Dinner Meeting

The annual Christmas Dinner meeting was held at the Kent Island Yacht Club with Nick Hoxter as the Master of Ceremonies.

An honorary lifetime membership was presented to Darrin Lowery for his loyalty and service to the organization (The proclamation follows on page 5).

Past presidents were recognized and Mrs. Betty Stinchcomb of Grasonville won the raffle for the one-of-a-kind twentieth anniversary bowl.

Former President Walter Denny installed the new officers for 1996. They are: Hugo Gemignani, president; Nick Hoxter, vice president; Cheryl Hoffman, recording secretary; Eileen Dadds, corresponding secretary; and, Audrey Hawkins, treasurer. Entertainment was provided by Mrs. Dashiell's Dance School and by Pat and Pat.

## Other Dinner Meeting News

At the Board Member/Advisory Board meeting on January 26, Elaine Scharmus agreed to chair the 1996

Christmas Dinner Meeting.

Profit from the 1995 dinner meeting was \$277.05.

The 1996 Christmas dinner meeting will be held at Annie's Paramount Steak House in Grasonville on Friday, December 6. The cost for the chicken or steak dinner will be \$20 per person. Emil LaCivita will play the keyboard for our listening and dancing pleasure. Watch for invitations in the December newsletter (We're trying to cut back on expenses!).

Also, plans are underway to hold a silent auction at the 1996 dinner meeting. At a silent auction, items up for bid are displayed with sheets to record bids. Participants can then record their bid next to the item. Then the auction is called to a close and the highest bidder wins. Everybody wins with a silent auction — you get to clean out your house by donating items for the auction and do some last minute Christmas shopping at the same time... all for a good cause! And to get things off to the right start, we already have an original work of art ready to go home with the highest bidder. For more information or to donate an item(s), contact Elaine Scharmus at 643-6495. Please help us make this a success!

## **We now offer FREE junk collection**

*As the saying goes...  
One man's junk is another man's treasure.*

**We need your "junk" for our annual  
Christmas dinner meeting silent auction.**

**We're collecting your unwanted treasures  
now. Just call Elaine Scharmus at  
643-6495 to make arrangements.**

**Remember... your helping a good cause &  
your donation might be tax deductible!**



# Proclamation

*Honoring Darrin Lowery  
with a lifetime membership*

WHEREAS, in the years 1992 and 1993 Darrin Lowery completed a comprehensive archaeological survey of Kent Island, sponsored by the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

WHEREAS, Mr. Lowery has over a period of several years donated his time and talent in serving the Kent Island Heritage Society in numerous ways. He has displayed the artifacts found in the archeological survey at membership meetings and has prepared exhibits of his findings for Kent Island Days for the years 1992, 93, 94 and 95. He has also served as spokesman for the Society when requested.

and

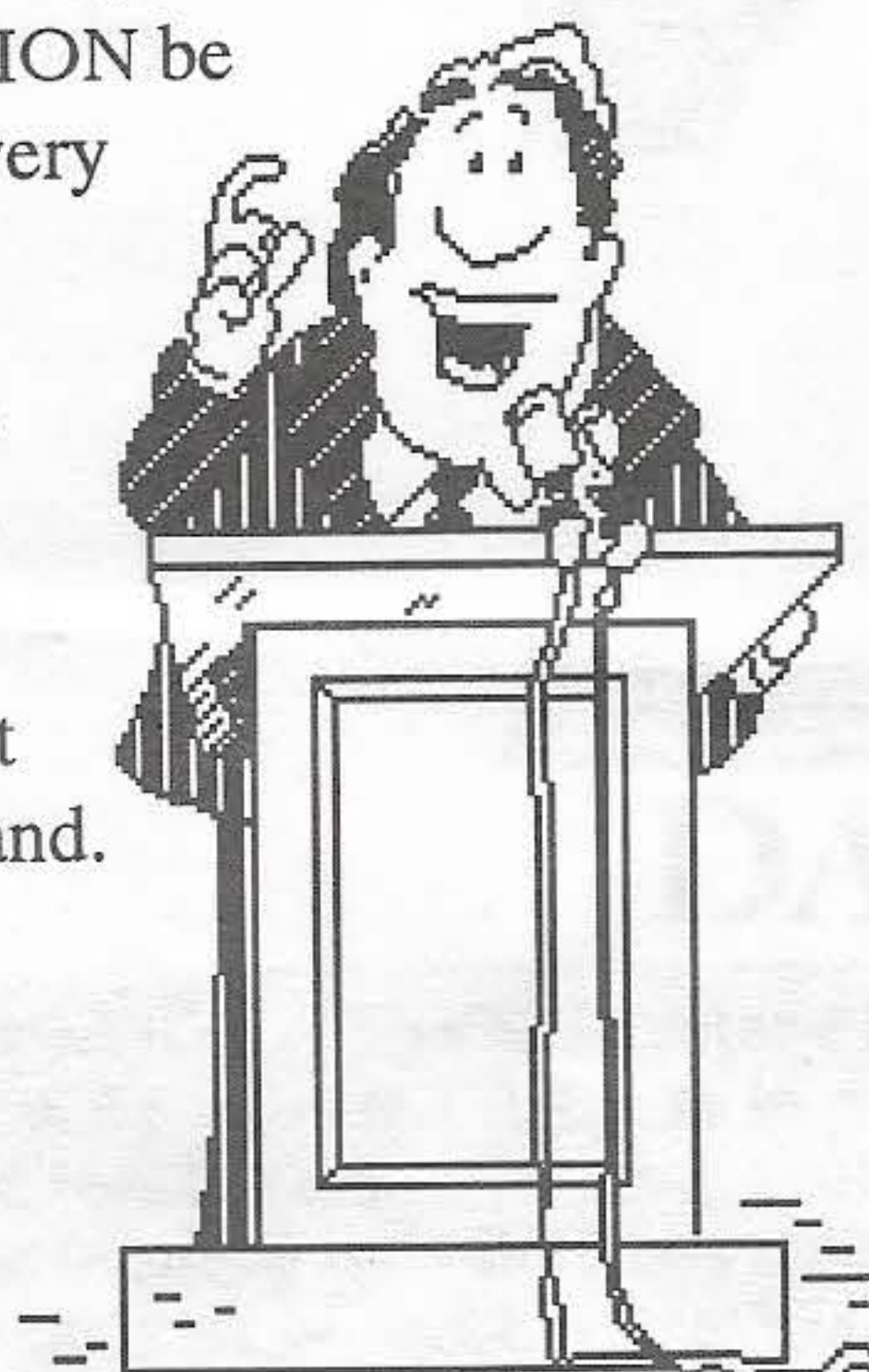
RESOLVED, that the BOARD OF DIRECTORS grants an HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP to Mr. Darrin Lowery as an expression of sincere appreciation for his services;

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 Isle of Kent Newsletter. Further, that a CERTIFICATE and a copy of the RESOLUTION be presented to Mr. Darrin Lowery with appropriate ceremony.

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

Hugo G. Gemignani  
President



## Treasurer's Report

November 30 through  
December 31, 1995  
Audrey Hawkins



Balance in Checking Account as of 11/30/95  
..... \$3,560.83

Total Cash Receipts  
..... \$3,434.39

Total Receipts & Checking Acct. Balance  
..... \$6,995.22

Total Disbursements as of 12/31/95  
..... \$1,374.56

Balance in Checking Account as of 12/31/95  
..... \$5,620.66

Balance in CD Account as of 12/31/95  
..... \$9,503.46

Balance in Money Market Acct. as of 11/30/95  
..... \$613.22

**TOTAL ASSETS..... \$10,115.79**

## Treasurer's Report

January 1 through February 23, 1995  
Audrey Hawkins

Balance in Checking Account as of 1/1/96  
..... \$5,620.66

Total Cash Receipts  
..... \$1,512.31

Total Receipts & Checking Acct. Balance  
..... \$7,132.97

Total Disbursements  
..... \$3,856.55

Balance in Checking Account as of 2/23/96  
..... \$3,276.42

Balance in CD Account  
..... \$9,641.20

Balance in Money Market Acct.  
..... \$625.13

**TOTAL ASSETS..... \$13,542.75**



# ONE GOOD HOME OFFERED

**to any working lawn mower you'd like to donate to the Kent Island Heritage Society. Call President Hugo Gemignani at 643-1690 to make arrangements.**

**1996 Membership Meeting Dates  
Library, 7:30 p.m.**

**March 21 • June 20 • September 19**

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership dues are \$5 per person per year or \$100 for a lifetime membership.

Name (s), address, telephone number and payment can be mailed to

**The Kent Island Heritage Society, Membership  
P.O. Box 321 • Stevensville, MD 21666**

### NEW MEMBERS AS OF JANUARY 1996

Wendy F. Morrow

Michelle & Steven T. French

Graham C. & William R. MacDonald

Jerry Myers

Michael & Janice Harrington

Michael & Helen Katinas

Brian K. Sommers

Lisa Kleinschmidt

Mrs. Peggy A. Whittington

Janet L. Such

Karla J. Larrimore

T. Alvin Kepley

Ernestine Kepley

***The Kent Island Heritage Society***

P.O. Box 321

Stevensville, MD 21666

Address Change Requested

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