

# ISLE OF KENT - 1631



NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

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 Jerry C. Myers, Editor, 2809 Cox Neck Rd., Chester, MD 21619

## President's Message

*"Those of us who work in historical organizations must acknowledge that if we are to be useful and valued, we must assist our communities in the process of re-evaluation. The most critical component will be assignment of new meanings to the past, finding new lessons, new values, and a reworked sense of expectations for the future." This quote from a speech by the president of the Missouri Historical Society certainly gives our Society a goal to be attained. Thus, we will be encouraging a broader field of collaborative efforts with our community as the Society seeks to identify, discover, and preserve the heritage of Kent Island.*

*The Society now has four major projects which will require much manpower as well as financial support:*

*the restored Stevensville Train Station always needs docents who will be in attendance on the dates when the building and artifacts are on display;*

*the Old Stevensville Post Office is in need of docents, too, and artifacts relating to the early days of the postal facility will soon be actively sought;*

*the Cray House has acquired \$35,000 in grant funds from the Maryland*

*Historical Trust and the membership has contributed \$12,000 toward the restoration efforts (the Cray House will have completed the first phase of five by May, that of raising the building and installing joists and sills); and*

*the Kirwan House, which will eventually become a museum, but at the present needs to be maintained.*

*The restoration of the four buildings and the preservation and display of vintage artifacts associated with these historical buildings will surely enhance our understanding of the past and provide thoughtful insight into the future.*

*Nancy M. Cook*

*President*

*Kent Island Heritage Society*

**KENT ISLAND DAY  
MAY 15, 1999  
YOUR SUPPORT IS  
IMPORTANT!!**

**SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS**



## KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

## MEETING DATES - 1999

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1999

President	Nancy Cook	758-2502
Vice President	John Smigo	643-4609
Corresponding Secretary	Carole Frederick	643-3776
Recording Secretary	Donna Jones	827-7106
Treasurer	Audrey Hawkins	643-5969

### Incumbent Board Members

William E. Denny III	1998-2000	643-5869
Charles "Gil" Dunn	1997-1999	643-5414
Mrs. Barbara Nash	1998-2000	643-5196
Ms. Gail Rumenap	1997-1999	643-4245
Mrs. Barbara Siegert	1997-1999	827-7988
Franklin Smith	1997-1999	643-2258
Mrs. Emma Thomas	1998-2000	643-5584
Mrs. Eva Thompson	1998-2000	643-5368

### New Members

Ms. Carole Frederick	1999-2001	643-3776
Peter Holland	1999-2001	643-8481
Maurice Sanger	1999-2001	643-6465

### Assistant to KIHS

Michael Foster, Esq. Legal Advisor

### GENERAL MEETINGS KENT ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Refreshments 7:00 p.m.

Program 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16  
Tuesday, June 15  
Tuesday, September 21

### ANNUAL MEETING KENT ISLAND YACHT CLUB Saturday, December 11, 1999 Christmas Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Old Stevensville Post Office Meeting Room  
(All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.)

January 12  
February 9  
March 9  
April 13  
July 13  
October 12  
November 9



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR - 1998

*Submitted by - Audrey V. Hawkins, Treasurer, January 4, 1999*

Balance in checking as of 1-1-1998

\$29,991.19

### ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Membership dues	\$4,120.00
Donations	123.00
Bank Interest	913.72
Sales made	1,507.00
Sales tax collected	63.16
Kent Island Day Patron Ad	1,240.00
Stock Dividend	6,962.52
Kent Island Day Vendors	710.00
Kent Island Day (various)	3,712.46
Scholarship Fund	245.00
Miscellaneous	4,257.42

Electric ref 48.87

Sam's Club dues 25.00

1999 Patron Ad 10.00

Petty Cash 150.00

Book Ads K.I. 2,000.00

Kirwan Farm Rent (pro-rated) 2,023.55

### TOTAL ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

\$23,854.28

\$23,854.28

\$53,845.47

### DISBURSEMENTS

Purchases to sell	\$ 680.56
Cray House renovation	8,745.08
Cray House / Train Depot maintenance	2,311.91
Postage and Mailing expense	442.33
Printing and Office supplies	1,380.60
Donations	110.00
Kent Island Day, May expense	1,029.00
Christmas Dinner Meeting	2,278.47
Headquarters/Old Post Office (cleaning/painting)	4,093.54
Storage fee (Kirwan contents)	1,249.52
Lawyer fee (Michael Foster)	2,538.75
Miscellaneous	3,706.10

### TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$28,566.08

\$28,566.08

### BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT 12/31/98

\$25,279.39

Balance in Regular Savings Account Building Fund

\$12,712.03

CD Savings Account

718.46

CD Savings Account

\$14,479.24



## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY:

### MATAPEAKE STATE PARK

In the 1740's the area was patented under the name Friendship Resurveyed, containing 335 acres. The land was originally granted to Thomas Waddy in 1665, but he failed to have it patented. From approximately 1800 to 1900, the land was known as the "Eareckson Farm".

In 1929, the Clairborne-Annapolis Ferry Company purchased 65 acres of the farm to be used as a ferry terminal. This was to eliminate the long trip to Clairborne. This trip to Clairborne took two hours and covered 23 miles. In 1941, the State of Maryland purchased the 65 acres as a ferry terminal, which operated until late 1952. Once the Chesapeake Bay Bridge opened, the ferry stopped operating. The western terminal was moved from Annapolis to Sandy Point.

The Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs acquired 28 acres to be used as a public park and fishing pier. Part of the land was developed and still is used for the Natural Resources Police Academy. One structure from the old ferry days, is a white neo-colonial house built in the 1940's. This building served as a restaurant for ferry travelers, and is still in use. (This building is not open to the public).

Today, the park has a 900 foot long fishing pier, built in 1994-1995. The pier extends into the Chesapeake Bay, providing great access to fish and crabs. A variety of fish, including bluefish, spot, flounder, and striped bass can be caught.

For boaters, there are two ramps for launching boats. Parking is available for approximately 75 vehicles and trailers. Vehicles can be left overnight.

Birdwatchers can also find the park an excellent place to bird watch, as many varieties of waterfowl migrate through the area.

Picnic facilities are available and you can bring your own grill. There are restrooms at the park, but no water is available.

## A WARM WELCOME !

By Teresa W. Kilian

*This had to be the warmest holiday open house the Kent Island Heritage Society has ever hosted! On Sunday the 13th of December 1998 the temperature in Stevensville topped eighty degrees! What a gorgeous afternoon for meeting, greeting, music, and eating!*

*The cute little old Post Office was open, and the visitors were greeted by Myrtle Bruscup and Audrey Hawkins. Roland Bruscup and Gill Dunn were on hand to host at the Train Station. But strangely, although it was not open, the Cray House had the most guests. Because of repairs the quaint old house was all locked up - but since the weather was so beautiful, many people milled about in the tiny front yard.*

*Local musicians performed sounds of the season. From Stevensville Middle School, Geoff Kilian and Jimmy Goddard played trumpet duets. From Kent Island High School, came Laura Kilian, Marilyn and (on crutches) Margaret Wicker. Woodwind ensembles were performed by the following members of the Kent Island Volunteer Band: Hal Cessna, Christopher Kilian, Teresa Kilian, and Suzanne Ponds on clarinet and Sharon Volm and Beth Lizmi on flute. Also from the Kent Island Volunteer Band, the brass quintet was heard: Joe Diamond and Keith Patterson on trumpet, Hal Davidson on trombone, Goldey Van Sant played tuba and Jason Chandler did well on the french horn. They were led by Emil La Civita who is the able director of the Kent Island Band. Beautiful, joyful carols filled the air that day at the Cray House!*

*The sumptuous refreshments provided by the Kent Island Heritage Society were very much appreciated by children and adults alike, who were enjoying this warm day in December outdoors - what a wonderful treat for the whole community!*

*Many thanks to all who participated in this festive annual event.*



## ***SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE***

In the fall of 1998, Liz Seidel, Administrator of the Historic Sites Consortium, contacted the Queen Anne's County Board of Education and proposed a summer internship for high school students - for credit. At that time the Board did not have such a program in place, thus a draft proposal was sent and was approved with the decision that the Consortium would run the program.

The Board of Education has contracted a Career Connections Specialist who will be designing a brochure highlighting all of the internship opportunities available for the county high school students.

The details of the internship will need to be finalized with the Career Connections Specialist, the Board and the Consortium. The following is a tentative plan for summer internships:

Students will work under the direction of the Historic Sites Consortium Administrator and museum staff (12 historical sites and museums). Duties will include providing guided tours to the public; accessioning and cataloguing collections; research and other tasks related to museum operations.

Participants are required to complete 135 hours of service during a 15 week period (beginning the week of May 10 and ending August 21, approximately 9 hours per week). Students will be required to work on the third Saturday of each month, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The remainder of the schedule will be arranged on an individual basis. Students must complete 135 hours of service and will receive one academic credit.

In order of preference, students should choose three sites. One of these three museums will be the student's internship. However, participants may be assigned projects at several of the museums during the program. Activities and assignments will occur at the museum, at local libraries, or at the Historic Sites Consortium office in the Chesapeake Exploration Center at Kent Narrows.

The Historic Sites Consortium is able to offer this internship opportunity to four students. Students registering for this internship should possess a general interest in history and research and possess the following skills: ability to relate and interact with the public, good oral and written communication skills;

interest in history and heritage; and basic computer skills are a plus. Interviews will be held during the first week of May, 1999.

Students interested in a Historic Sites Consortium internship should contact their schools or call the Consortium for more information, 410-604-2100.

## ***HISTORIC SITES CONSORTIUM OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY***

The Kent Island Heritage Society is most fortunate to be part of the Historic Sites Consortium of Queen Anne's County. The organization was formed in 1995 to "heighten awareness of the significance of the illustrious past of the county; to foster and consolidate efforts to promote cultural heritage; and to improve management and accessibility of museum sites."

The Consortium is funded by the Queen Anne's County Office of Tourism and has an office which is located in the Tourism facility at 425 Piney Narrows Road in Chester. The first Administrator, Marsha Fritz, certainly set the standard for achieving the goals of the organization. The present Administrator, Elizabeth Seidel, with her enthusiasm and dedication in this part-time position, is maintaining that standard.

The Consortium museums include Queenstown Court House, Wye Grist Mill, Museum of Eastern Shore Life, Wright's Chance, Tucker House, Queen Anne's County Garden Club, Queen Anne's County Courthouse, the Church Hill Theatre, Dudley's Chapel, Sudlersville Train Station, the Jimmy Foxx Memorial, the Cray House, the Old Stevensville Post Office and the Stevensville Train Depot. On the third Saturday of every month, May through October, these museums open their doors to visitors from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, free of charge.

The Information and the help that the Consortium gives to its members is invaluable and certainly has provided these historic sites with much publicity and coordinated their efforts in providing the residents and visitors to Queen Anne's County with a glimpse into the past.

Meetings are held every month with an update given on the historic sites by their administrators. The exchange of ideas, the latest information from the state pertaining to heritage grants and workshops from preservation of old documents and clothing to docent training is part of the agenda. (continued p. 6)



The EXPLORE OUR HISTORY AND HERITAGE GUIDE MAP which was featured in the Winter 1998 newsletter was a direct result of efforts of the Consortium Administrator, Liz Seidel, and is, indeed, a most comprehensive and beautifully executed brochure.

The recent archaeological dig at the Cray House was the result of a grant being written by Liz Seidel, and her husband, John, presently, assistant professor in the Chesapeake Regional Studies Program at Washington College.

Many kudos should be given to the Office for Tourism and Kathy MacGruder for the vision to promote our county, not only for its natural beauty and resources, but from a historical perspective as well.

## **Kent Island Day Publication May 15, 1999**

### **BE A PATRON**

**Remember to send in your patron ad  
donation card (mailed with your  
dues notice)**

**Please include how you want your  
name listed in the publication -  
only \$10 for a listing**

**Send to:  
Audrey V. Hawkins, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 321  
Stevensville, MD 21666**

## **KENT ISLAND DAY MAY 15, 1999**

### **BAKED GOODS FOR SALE !!**

**BUT FIRST ....**

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN DONATING  
BAKED GOODS TO SELL!**

**\*\* CALL MYRTLE AT 410-643-5596 AND  
PROVIDE YOUR SUPPORT - DONATE  
BAKED GOODS TO SELL \*\***

**\*\* IF YOU CAN'T BAKE - CALL MYRTLE  
ANYWAY AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME  
ATTENDING THE BOOTH !\*\***

**SHOP SHOP SHOP SHOP SHOP**

**THE HERITAGE SOCIETY WILL HAVE THE FOL-  
LOWING ITEMS FOR SALE :**

*Christmas Ornaments - hand-painted by Laura  
Hemsley.*

*Adorned with area landmarks such as:  
Love Point Hotel, Love Point Lighthouse, Smokey  
Joe Ferry, Cray House, Bloody Point Lighthouse,  
Christ Church in Stevensville - Price \$15 & \$20*

*Kent Island 1631 Vase - hand-designed by Cheers  
Pottery in Stevensville for the Heritage  
Society - Price \$20*

*Coffee Mugs - Love Point Lighthouse - designed by  
Cheers Pottery also - Price \$15*

*Books -  
History & Houses Book - by Mildred Schoch - \$10  
The Forgotten Seven - by Hugo Gemignani - \$10  
The Isle of Kent - A Commemorative History - \$5  
by Reginald V. Truitt, Emily Roe Denny, and  
Dr. Clarence P. Gould*

*Maps - An 1877 map of Kent Island - \$5  
(All Prices - Plus Maryland Sales Tax)*

*Contact Audrey V. Hawkins - 410-643-5969 to buy.*





THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

Founded 1975

P.O. Box 321

Stevensville, Maryland 21666-0321

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Professor Hugh Gemignani served as PRESIDENT OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. for the four years: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998

and

Whereas, Professor Gemignani served as CHAIRMAN OF THE CRAY HOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE for years: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998

and

Whereas, Professor Gemignani served as Co-Chairman of KENT ISLAND DAYS" for May of 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998

and

Whereas, Professor Gemignani served as CHAIRMAN OF THE CATHERINE KIRWAN ESTATE for the years, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998

and

Whereas Professor Gemignani served as VICE-PRESIDENT for the year 1994

and

Whereas, through the years, Professor Gemignani has given his time and talent in community service to the Isle of Kent

and

RESOLVED, that the BOARD OF DIRECTORS grant an HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP to Professor Hugo Gemignani 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 Isle of Kent Newsletter. Further that a CERTIFICATE AND A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION be presented to Professor Gemignani with appropriate ceremony.

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

Nancy Cook KENT ISLAND

Vice-President



## *The Annual Christmas Dinner Meeting*

**Hope you were there and enjoyed the evening of good food, entertainment, and friendship!**

The annual Christmas Dinner Meeting was held at the Kent Island Yacht Club with Delegate Wheeler Baker holding the gavel as Master of Ceremonies.



This years event was extremely well attended and those who attended were treated to a great evening with entertainment by Richie G. a "*Touch of Sinatra*". Sinatra couldn't have sounded more like himself!

The festivities included a silent auction successfully coordinated by Barbara Nash. Many participants went home with new found treasures



New Officers for 1999 were installed. They are:

President	Nancy Cook
Vice President	John Smigo
Corresponding Secretary	Carole Frederick
Recording Secretary	Donna Jones
Treasurer	Audrey Hawkins

Also, new board members were installed. They are:

Ms. Carole Frederick	1999-2001
Peter Holland	1999-2001
Maurice Sanger	1999-2001

We want to thank all those worked so hard to make the meeting a success again this year. Without your efforts all of the evenings enjoyment could not have been. Since you did such a great job - how about doing it again next year!





## CRAY HOUSE RESTORATION FUNDS NEEDED

One of the most important projects of the Kent Island Heritage Society is now taking place - plans to restore the Cray House, reportedly one of only two existing post and plank buildings dating from the early nineteenth century (circa 1809-1817) in the state of Maryland.

An architectural survey conducted in 1994 indicates the collapsing of the first level floor system, especially on the front side of the building due to rotting plates, sill and beams. **As of February 15, 1998 the Cray House was declared unsafe and is no longer open to visitors.**

The Cray House preservation plan consists of five phases which will occur over the next four years, the total cost estimated to be about \$200,000. Grants from Maryland Historic Trust and other sources are being sought, but your financial aid is greatly needed in order to begin the important first phase of the preservation plan, the foundation and chimney repair at the cost of \$46,000. We do need to seek matching fund monies in order to complete the task to save this very important example of nineteenth century history.

The immediate goal of the Heritage Society is to raise \$20,000 in order to provide matching funds for our grant requests. At the present time we have no monetary resources to underwrite this project.

Won't you participate in a project which will assist visitors to and the residents of Kent Island in understanding their historical and cultural heritage?

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**The Kent Island Heritage Society  
PO Box 321  
Stevensville, Maryland 21666**



# The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 321 - Stevensville, Maryland 216660321

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to become a member of the Kent island Heritage Society, Inc.  
Enclosed is my check to cover dues of membership indicated below:  
Life Membership ... \$250.00      Single Membership... \$10.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

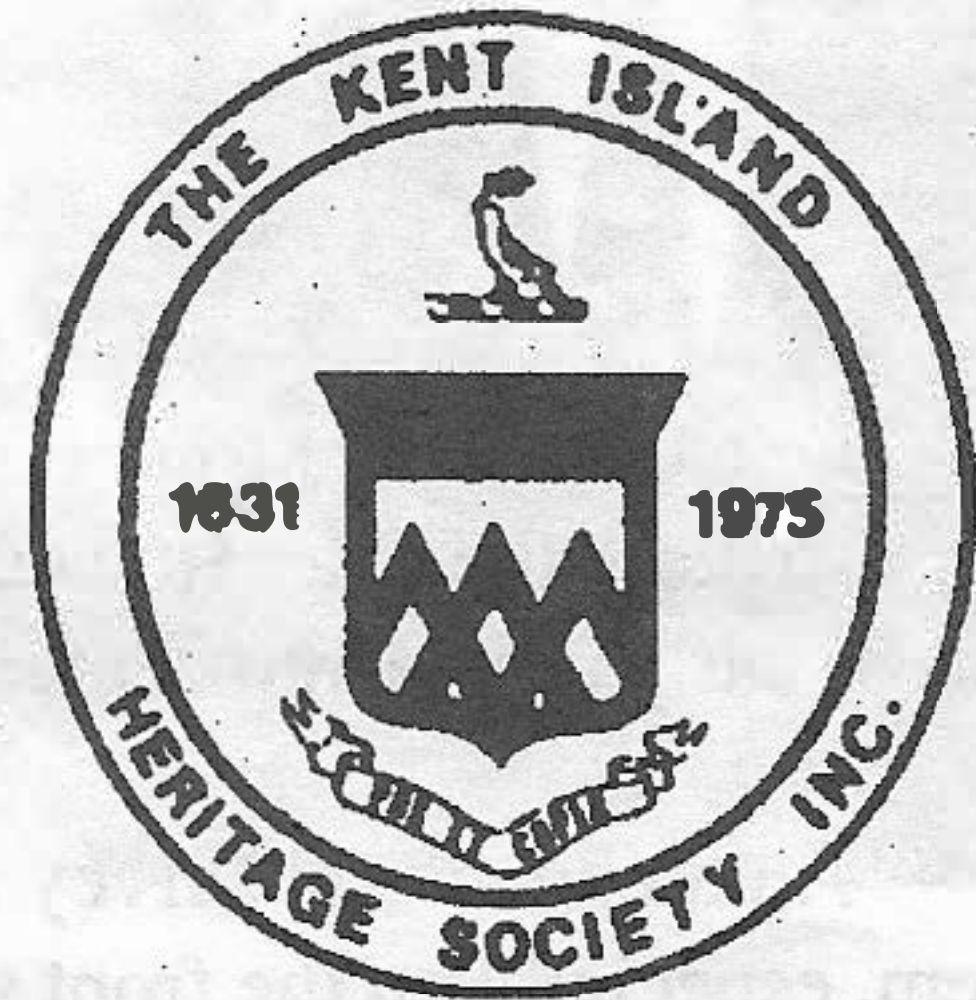
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Dues and contributions are deductible on income tax returns.  
Membership period January 1- December 31



# ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN TODAY

## *The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.*

P.O. Box 321  
Stevensville, MD 21666

Address Service Requested

Bulk Rate Paid

Permit #11

Stevensville, MD

21666