

# Islc of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. | SPRING 2013

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### Corresponding Secretary

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C. Gilbert Dunn 87-89

Audrey Hawkins 90-92

Charles Koegel 93-94

Hugo Gemignani 95-98

Nancy M. Cook 99-08

## President's Message

This time of year offers a time for reflection, as we consider the challenges and accomplishments of the past year and look forward to the hopes and plans of the coming year. Our 2012 challenges ranged from invading skunks under the Kirwan House, through three major storms, the continuous need for new and creative funding, dealing with the loss of our veteran Newsletter editor, to the constant maintenance needs of our precious old historic sites. In each case our strong team of exceptional Board Members and dedicated volunteers stepped up to take care of business. All in all, as the old song goes "it was a very good year". We hosted two well attended presentations focusing on the War of 1812 and in May enjoyed our best Kent Island Day ever with generous financial support from our major sponsor, Bank Annapolis. Throughout the "open sites season" (May through October) our docents saw good attendance at each of our sites. Our fall picnic was a warm and friendly celebration of Kent Island's heritage. Throughout the year we were able to complete a number of projects to tighten up and repair our historic sites. We are especially proud of the completion of the kitchen at the Kirwan House, which now gleams as it would have in the late Victorian Era.

In December, we came together at the Kent Island Yacht Club for our annual holiday meeting and elections. We honored departing board member, Butch Collier, and thanked him for his many valuable years of active service. However, we still expect to see Butch regularly, as his wife Linda is an active Board Member and Curator at the Kirwan House. Thank you, Butch. Enjoy your semi-retirement! At our annual meeting we welcomed a team of great

new Members joining the Board in 2113: Dr. Earl Chambers of Love Point, Hanna Wall of Stevensville, Lynnda Kratovil of Grasonville, Curtis George of Centreville, and Honey Crouch Voermann of Chester. We look forward to working together with such a strong group of new Board Members. We also elected and swore in the current team of executive officers who graciously agreed to serve another term.

Plans are underway for our signature annual event, the Kent Island Day celebration on May 18. We hope to make it our biggest and best yet. We also look forward to the opening of our historic sites on the first Saturday of the month beginning in May and hope to welcome several new docents to help enlighten our visitors on the Island's history and heritage.

We will continue our efforts to keep the sites looking both welcoming and authentic with the help of Tom Willey and his team of dedicated and skillful craftsmen. We are also planning a new working historic blacksmith shop and other new venues at the Kirwan Farm.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we are working together with the county and state, along with local artists and business interests to help energize the Historic Stevensville Arts and Entertainment District, where most of our historic sites are located. We hope this project will help strengthen the economic vitality and quality of life in and around old Stevensville. The town remains a unique historic gem which deserves to be preserved and celebrated. Our own VP, Ms. Nancy Cook, will spearhead that effort as Chair of the A&E District initiative. We also to plan to participate in a County-wide effort to celebrate our heritage in a new QA Heritage Day, April 20 at Kent Narrows. Look for more info on this in our local papers.



**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  
Janet Denny  
Jay Gibson  
Toni Gibson

**Historic Christ Church**

Carole Frederick  
Ernestine Kepley

**Kirwan Museum - Chester**

Linda Collier, Curator  
Cameron Sewell  
Taylor Harmon

**COMMITTEES****Caboose Restoration**

Tom Willey  
T. Humphries  
Wayne Humphries  
Nancy Cook

**Cemetery Preservation**

Josh Willis

**Picnic**

Butch Collier  
Jay Gibson  
Hanna Wall  
Carole Frederick  
Linda Collier  
Toni Gibson

**Annual Dinner**

Toni Gibson  
Linda Collier  
Carole Frederick  
Flora Sossi

**Historic Records**

Myrtle Bruscup

**Development**

Hal Wilson

**Kent Island Day**

Joyce Woodford  
Jack Broderick  
Flora Sossi  
Toni Gibson  
Gary Walters

**Oral History**

Brent Lewis

**Public Relations****Membership**

Carole Frederick  
Nancy Cook

**Website**

Carole Frederick  
Amanda Jenkins

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

This year we will continue to focus on commemorating the War of 1812. Kent Island was badly beaten up and occupied by a large British force in August of 1813. They used us as a launch base to attack Queenstown and St. Michaels, where the British thankfully were pushed back. It was not a good time for Kent Island, and I'm sure many Islanders of the time were anxious to forget it (except those who tried for years to get reimbursed for their losses). But we think it's important for today's Islanders to understand what happened here two hundred years ago this summer. We look forward to helping commemorate that time.

To that end, we hope you'll consider attending our upcoming March general meeting, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 20, at Historic Christ Church in Stevensville. We will host a special presentation by Christopher George, historian and noted author of the book "Terror on the Chesapeake". He will shed light on what it was like in these parts during that fearful time of the War of 1812. Ms. Mary Margaret Goodwin will also join us to share the County's plans to commemorate the War. Our meeting that night will be open to the public, so consider bringing a friend. We hope to see you then.

*Jack Broderick*



## NOTICE

We need help in our library. Could you spare some time?

Call Nancy Cook: 410-758-2502

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 16**

BOARD MEETING

**February 20**

BOARD MEETING

**March 20**

GENERAL MEETING

PUBLIC FORUM

*Historic Christ Church, Stevensville*

**March 16**

DOCENT TRAINING AND  
WORKSHOP

*Kirwan House, 10:00-12:00*

**April 17**

BOARD MEETING

**April 20**

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY HERITAGE  
DAY @ CHESAPEAKE HERITAGE AND  
VISITOR CENTER, KENT NARROWS

**May 4**

FIRST SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE  
PROGRAM BEGINS  
*(through October)*

**May 15**

BOARD MEETING

**May 18**

KENT ISLAND DAY, STEVENSVILLE

**June 19**

GENERAL MEETING

*Public Forum, Black Captains  
of Kent Island, Steven Porrian Berry  
Chesapeake Heritage & Visitor Center*

**July 17**

BOARD MEETING

**September 18**

BOARD MEETING

**September 22**

ANNUAL FALL PICNIC  
*Kirwan House*

**October 16**

BOARD MEETING

**November 20**

BOARD MEETING

**December 8**

ANNUAL MEETING / ELECTIONS  
TBA



## The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 321,  
Stevensville, Maryland 21666  
www.kentislandheritagesociety.org

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Life Membership	\$250.00
Organization Membership	\$25.00
Single Membership	\$15.00
Family Membership	\$25.00

Membership period: January 1 to  
December 31

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; dues and donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The Kent Island Heritage Society has provided no goods or services to the member in exchange for these dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND SEND WITH CHECK

## Help Wanted

### GUIDES NEEDED FOR KENT ISLAND HISTORIC SITES

by Nancy Cook

Once again we are issuing a call for guides (docents) for the historic buildings owned by the Kent Island Heritage Society, the Cray House (1809), the Old Stevensville Post Office (1877), the Stevensville Train Depot (1902), the Kirwan House (1878), the Railroad Caboose (1926) and the leased Old Stevensville Bank (1933).

If you are interested, there will be a workshop from 10 a.m. to 12:00 on Saturday, March 16, when scripts and docent training tips will be offered. The meeting will be at the Kirwan House in Chester - Dominion Road (Route 552).

The sites are open on the first Saturday of the months of May through October from 12:00-4:00 p.m. and by appointment at other times (school visits and bus tour requests). Schedules are assigned according to your availability and a docent or volunteers is not committed to every Saturday or site opening.

Please call Nancy Cook (410-758-2502) if you might be interested.

## Welcome

By Nancy Cook

We welcome three of our five new 2013 Board members who will be serving for the next three years;

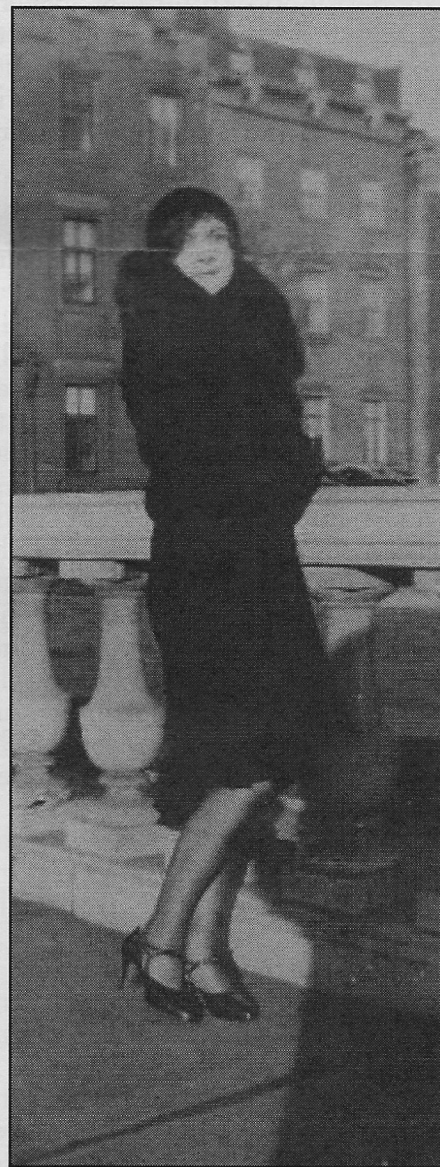
**Hanna Wall** has always been interested in history with a BS in history from UMBC in 1984. She and her husband, Art, moved to Kent Island in 1995. Hanna joined KIHS fifteen years ago and has been a docent with the Society for several years. She worked for Three Century and Watermark Tours as a tour guide in Annapolis for ten years. She is looking forward to being on the KIHS Board and chairing the committee for managing the historic Cray House (1809).

**Curtis J. George** has been a teacher in the Queen Anne's County public school system since 1993, at Stevensville Middle School as Alternative Education Teacher and 6th grade Ancient World History Teacher and is now at Matapeake Middle School teaching 6th grade Ancient World History and has been history department chair since 2007. His B.S. Elementary Education degree was awarded at California University of Pennsylvania and he received his M.A. in History at Washington College. Among his many awards are: Maryland History Day Leadership Award for Queen Anne's County in 2009, Maryland History Day Teacher of the Year Award for Queen Anne's County in 2010 and in 2012, and Excellence in Teaching Florence Buck Award from Queen Anne's County Schools in 2012.

**Earl LeRoy Chambers, Jr.** was born and raised in Baltimore, attended McDonogh School, entered the army and then went back to college and graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Arts and Sciences. Married to a Baltimore girl, Jane McCosmick, he went to dental school and graduated in 1963,

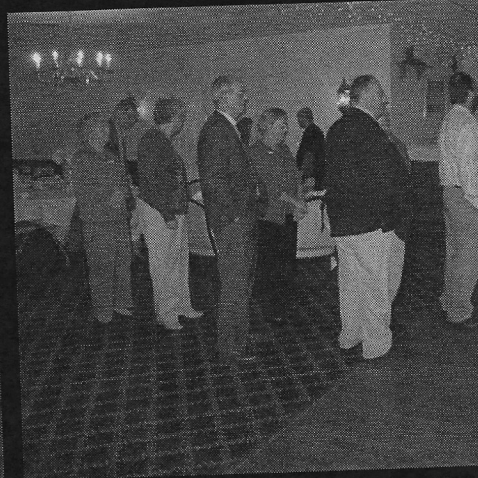
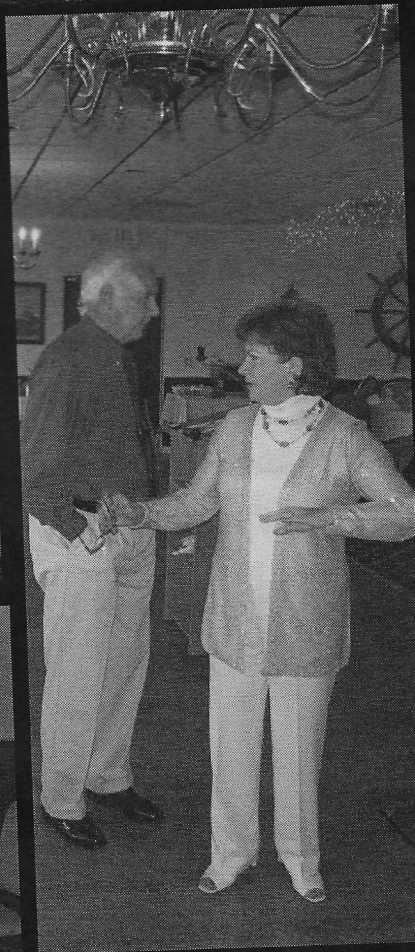
with a fellowship in oral surgery at Johns Hopkins in 1963-1964. He began his dental practice in Annapolis in 1964 where he and Jane raised five children. They moved to Kent Island in 1970 and have twelve healthy grandchildren who enjoy their home on the Bay. Dr. Chambers phased out of dentistry in the late '90s and turned the practice over to his son, Earl J. Chambers III. Jane and Earl enjoy traveling and have been to many countries in the world. His hobby is stamp collecting and he and Jane spend much time maintaining their historic home and gardens.

In the next issue of the newsletter we shall feature Lynnda Kratovil and Honey Voermann.

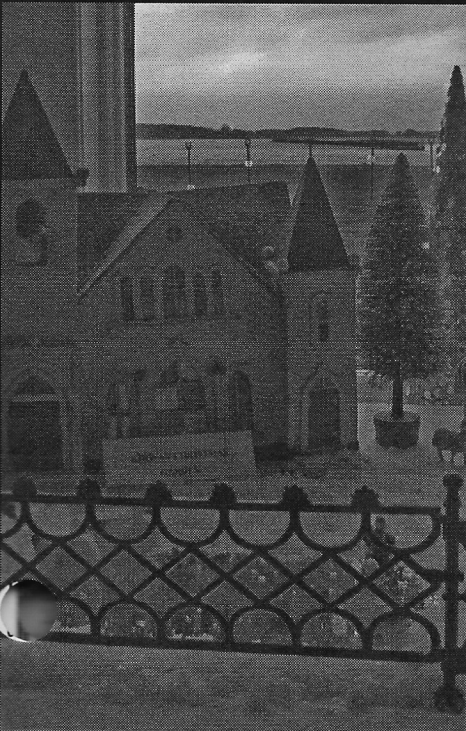




# Annual Meeting









# Tracing Your Ancestry On the Eastern Shore?

by Mary Ford Engle

The Upper Shore Genealogical Society (USGS) of Maryland is a non-profit organization dedicated to public purposes. The purposes are the discovery, collection, and publication of such data and records as may be significant to the local history and genealogy of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and the education of its members and others in the techniques of genealogical research.

The society has a research center library located at 12156 Greensboro Road, Greensboro, Caroline County, Maryland (located on Route 313 between Denton and Greensboro). It is open for research from 10 to 3 every Saturday, except Federal holiday weekends, or inclement weather.

The society, while primarily interested in the five upper counties of the Eastern Shore of Maryland (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot) is not limited to members (or interested persons) from just that area. We have members from other counties of Maryland, as well as all parts of the United States. One member from Washington State wrote to tell us, "I am very grateful for the existence of USGS and was able to connect through your organization to a cousin I didn't know I had. Thank you for being there..." We have family histories, books and research aids from the five counties mentioned above, plus Cecil, Dorchester and Worcester Counties, as well as the States of Delaware, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

We have regular meetings of the members of the society at the research center library five times a year, on the third Saturday of September, November, January, March, and May. (Sometimes those meetings may be held at other locations). We always try to have a special guest or some kind of program at these meetings beginning at 2 p.m.

On January 19, 2013 we offered a FREE genealogy workshop for

beginners and for those who had made a start, but needed a little boost. Genealogist Henrietta Wood was the instructor and provided handouts and one-on-one assistance. There were twenty-six in attendance, and we are considering holding another class in the near future.

And, on March 16, 2013 we will be having our 3rd Annual Cabin Fever Day. The soup will be Hot!! Come join us.

Membership in the society is open to anyone who is interested in genealogy and local history of the Eastern Shore. Consider joining others who are tracing their family's origins and exchange information in research of these families. We provide a forum of exchange at our meetings and in our bi-annual publication "Chesapeake Cousins." In it, members compile source material, describe dead-end research problems, and list family surnames which are being researched, just to name a few. We also publish a newsletter "Cousin to Cousin" three times a year, and a "Membership and Surname Directory" once a year. Many persons, who are unable to attend our meetings, join USGS for the value of these publications alone.

Dues are \$25 annually, beginning July 1st and ending June 30th of each year. Dues are used to cover the costs of publishing our Chesapeake Cousins, the Cousin to Cousin Newsletter, our USGS publications and e-books which are for sale (including tombstone records for Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's, and Kent Counties; obituaries of the 1960's - 1990's from newspapers covering the Upper Shore of Maryland; and 38 years of genealogy, history and research material from 71 issues of prior Chesapeake Cousins), as well as operating expenses for the library.

You may email us at [usgsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:usgsnewsletter@gmail.com) or [joyceoneal@verizon.net](mailto:joyceoneal@verizon.net) to contact us for any reason, whether it is for submitting articles, a query, etc. When emailing please put "USGS" on the subject line. Those without email please mail to USGS, P. O. Box 275, Easton, MD 21601.

Not a member? Feel free to come anyway and join the fun of searching for your ancestors. Bring a friend.

## GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013  
6:30 P.M.

HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH  
121 E. Main Street  
Stevensville

TERROR ON THE CHESAPEAKE  
The story of events and places prominent in the War of 1812

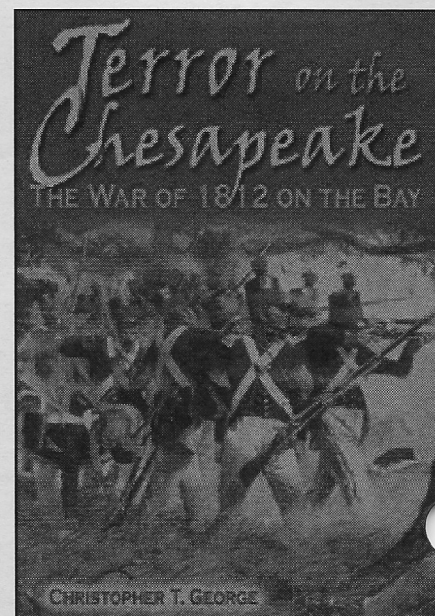
SPEAKER  
CHRISTOPHER T. GEORGE  
Author and historian

Christopher T. George was born in Liverpool, England, in 1948, but immigrated to the United States in 1955, then returned to his country to continue his education.

In 1968 he again made his home in the USA and now lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

His interest in history focuses on the War of 1812 and the study of the Whitechapel (England) murders 1888. Find him on his blog: <http://chriscgeorgewarof1812.blogspot.com>

"Terror on the Chesapeake: The War of 1812 on the Bay" was published in 2001. Mr. Christopher is the founding editor of the Journal of the War of 1812 and coordinator of The National War of 1812 Symposium series held each year since 1996.





# Annual Meeting of the Kent Island Heritage Society

by Toni Gibson

As written in the by-laws of the Kent Island Heritage Society, there must be one general meeting a year wherein the society elects, or re-elects, officers, and swears in new Board members. Traditionally, this meeting has been in December, on a Saturday evening, at the Kent Island Yacht Club. The Club has usually left the beautiful Christmas decorations from the Commodore's Ball on the tables for us, making a very festive occasion.

This year, the Board decided to tweak some of the aspects of the meeting. We still held it at the Yacht Club, and still were able to take advantage of the beautiful centerpieces, but we tried a brunch buffet, on December 9th from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. The Yacht Club offered us a variety of foods on the buffet menu, including traditional breakfast foods, like sausage biscuits and gravy, bacon and eggs, fruit, customized omelets and Belgian waffles scrumptiously made to order, and some luncheon foods as well, such as chicken and salads.

As people came in, they brought canned goods for the needier members of the community, quickly filling an antique sleigh with nonperishable items. Then folks had the opportunity to stroll through a memory-laden path, created and displayed by Linda Collier, of vintage Christmas items that could be found on Kent Island from pre-turn of the century through nineteen twenty. One could see a goose feather tree and the kinds of ornaments used then (so different from today!): real candles, silver and tin (hence tinsel) ornaments, and a variety of feathered birds. There was a house from the Christmas garden that Senator Ryan would set up each year, and these were gifts to see – not the lavish ones under today's trees, but more subdued gifts: for the man of the house, a necktie and perhaps a collar

box; the lady of the house might receive candy or a handkerchief; and the little tykes would be thrilled to find a carpentry set or a dolly. Oranges and nuts would round out the Christmas extravaganza of the early nineteen hundreds.

Almost from the same time period (but not quite!!) was a display of childhood pictures of our current Board of Directors. Guests had an opportunity to guess who these young'ns turned out to be as adults and maybe win a prize! Liz Broderick had the keenest eye, coming up with the most correct matches.

The business meeting ushered in four new Board members, Honey Voermann, Curtis George, Hanna Wall, and Lynnda Kratovil, and officers for the 2013 year: Jack Broderick, President, Nancy Cook, Vice-President, Kay Roser, Recording Secretary, Carole Frederick, Corresponding Secretary, and Lynne Riley-Coleman as Treasurer. Former State Delegate, Honorable Richard Sossi conducted the swearing-in ceremony. After the ceremony, Butch Collier read a Christmas memory he had written about his wife Linda's mother and Toni Gibson read a memory written by Margaret Nash Whittle. The guests were then treated to entertainment provided by the Singers Madrigale of Annapolis who regaled us with acappella music of Christmas past and present.

As guests took their leave to return to a more modern Christmas schedule, we hope they left feeling full of Christmas spirit, food, and friendship.





# Treasures of Amy Jones Brown

by Linda Collier

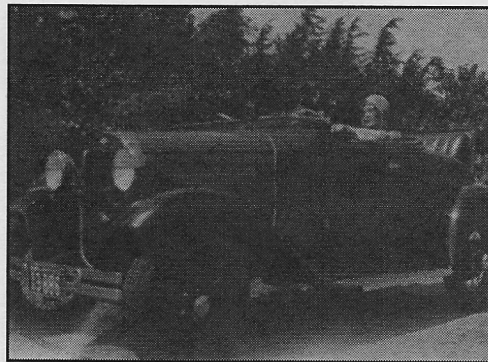
I almost decided to call this article "keeping up with the Joneses" because as I prepared this story and talked with some family members to get the facts correct, the family tree just kept growing and growing. In fact, at any given time, the small village of Dominion was largely inhabited by members of the Jones family and still is to this day.

Several years ago, the K.I.H.S. received a wonderful gift from Darlene Seeley of Gulf Breeze, Florida. The package contained photos, mementos and WONDERFUL clothing belonging to her mother, Mary Amy Biscoe Jones Brown.

Amy was born in 1908, the daughter of Capt. Benjamin Franklin and Carrie Biscoe Johnson Jones. Carrie was born on the island named after her father's family, Johnson's Island. Her father was Captain William E. Johnson. Apparently the term Captain was bestowed on any man who owned a boat and made his living on the water. Frank's parents were Samuel and Susie Jones of Dominion.

The Jones family was a typical waterman's family of the area. They had at least 6 children, Lillian (Mrs. Robert Lee, Lester Lee's mother), Tabitha (Mrs. George Crouch), Clara, Iva (Mrs. Howard Thomas, mother of Merrill and Arnold), Dewey and Amy. Lillian died young and not only did Frank and Carrie raise their remaining children, but, Lillian's, children (Eva Lee, Lester Lee, Rebeith Lee Horney, Dorothy Lee Baxter and Edna Mae) as well. Lester Lee became a national treasure when his waterman antics were featured in the book, Beautiful Swimmers, and the term "chicken necker" became a household word.

Frank and Carrie Jones had the most beautiful home in Dominion, surrounded by acres of gardens and orchards. Their home still stands today, although most of the farm has



been parceled out to relatives and "chicken neckers" wanting their own little piece of heaven on beautiful Crab Alley Creek. A burial ground containing approximately 50 graves, although only 2 or 3 markers, still exists. The house is now owned by Jack and Barbara Crocker, who keep it as well maintained as did the Jones family".

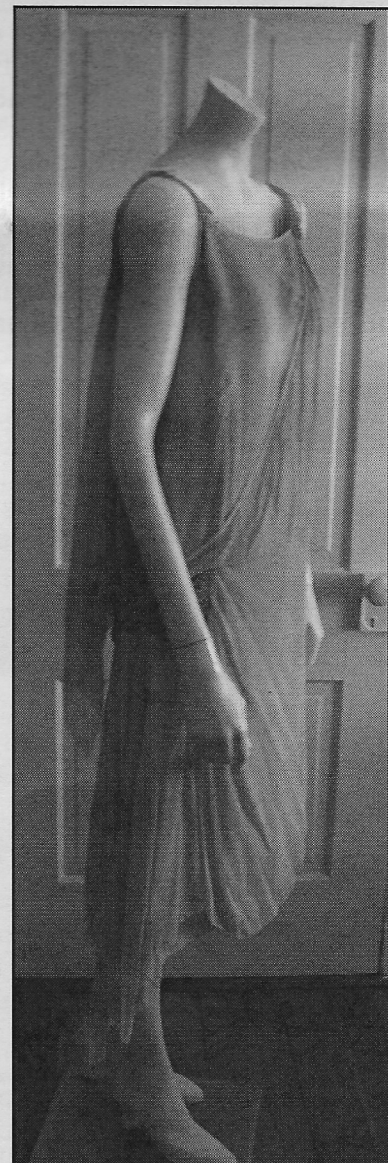


And now back to their beautiful daughter, Amy. The clothing Mrs. Seeley, Amys daughter, sent us was far above ordinary, actually befitting Wallace Simpson or an episode of Downton Abbey. According to Mrs. Seeley, after graduating from Stevensville High School in 1925, Amy went on to business school and later worked for Hochschild Kohn department store. Apparently Amy had a lovely social life and had the means to dress in the latest fashions of the day. In 1933 she married Albert Forster Brown, a businessman from Baltimore. The announcement said "Amy Jones, attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones, was married at the parsonage of the M.E. Mount Vernon church with Miss Pearl Jones (probably another relative) as bridesmaid and they

honeymooned in Chicago where they visited the World's Fair. As you can see, Miss Amy Jones was indeed a very attractive and stylish lady. She died in 1992 still holding on to her incredibly beautiful wardrobe. We are so happy her daughter has entrusted it with us.

The pictures do not do these dresses justice as the details are magnificent. We took some of them to the Textiles Museum and were told it was a good thing we hadn't sent one of them to the cleaner, as what we thought were sequins, were actually made out of gelatin and the dry cleaners may have melted them.

We are delighted to be able to display these on our new mannequins at the Kirwan House and hope that soon you can get a closer look during one of our future events.





## Kent Island Profile Clara Davidson

By  
Brent Lewis

Clara Davidson's father was a sailboat captain, same as his father before him.

A man of the Chesapeake, Capt. Norman Bryan "carried freight up and down, all around the bay," says Clara. "Produce, corn, wheat, watermelon, lumber, I believe sometimes coal. He was gone a lot, and we were all always happy when he came home. He'd bring things like oranges and bananas. Things we didn't see every day. It was exciting," she says. "He always told us a lot of stories."

Clara was the second oldest of four sisters born to Norman and Cora Carroll Bryan. There was only Norma before Clara, then Olive, then baby sister Mary. At age 92, Clara's the last still with us.

Clara's earliest memories center on a Batts Neck farmhouse where her family lived until Norma neared school age and the Bryans moved to Stevensville. "Things were changing," Clara says. The era of Chesapeake Bay sailboat transport was coming to an end. "Trucks and trains came along" she says, "and jobs started getting scarce. That business disappeared," she says.

Capt. Bryan was hired to do custodial work at the prestigious, private, college preparatory McDonogh School in Owings Mills. Before long, however, Clara says administrators found out her father could sail. The school had two camps on Lake Champlain in New York and he'd go up there every summer

to teach the students how to sail. The numbers of youngsters that Norman Bryan taught his art to can't be counted.

"And," Clara says, "He never lost a race he entered."

In the 1930's, Clara's family lived in a house that later burned down, but was across the street from what was Bill Denny's garage. Stevensville was a bustling little town. "Everybody on the farms had to come here to do their shopping. Do you remember Grollman's store?" She means both Henry Grollman's Stevensville landmark, and Julius', who followed in his father's shop-keeping footsteps and was born the same year as Clara. "They had almost anything up there," she says. My husband used to go up there to buy the boys' shoes; he'd buy sweaters, all kinds of things.

"My sister used to come visit my aunt who lived across the street (from my house). Her husband went down to Grollman's and bought her a pairing knife – she said it was the best pairing knife she ever had in her life." Clara laughs, "She just loved that pairing knife!"

Clara graduated from Stevensville High School at age 16, class of 1937, and was valedictorian, an honor she laughingly downplays by saying there were only 19 students, 3 boys, 16 girls, in the class and they had to pick somebody.

After high school, Clara attended a YMCA business school in Baltimore that accepted female students, but she found the world of business unfulfilling "I never liked it in the first place," she says. "When World War II came along, the government had jobs for young people through the National Youth Administration. I worked in the

lunch room at the elementary school and then went up to the high school to do secretarial work."

Clara met the man she'd marry. When asked specifically when and where, she answers, "I don't know - I just kind of knew him."

On reflection though, it was probably at the \*Scheel's family restaurant, The Little Dutch Mill, where Clara first became aware of the big and tall Kent Island farm boy named John Fountain Davidson. "The restaurant was this little white building across the street from what was the new Stevensville High School, and was where all the young people congregated. There was a jukebox and a little teeny space to dance. Later on they sold beer, but not back then. That's probably where I started going out with Fountain."

Fountain Davidson was younger than Clara Bryan but Clara says "age didn't make any difference." The two married in 1942 and raised six children, Joanne, John, Rebecca, Norman, Margaret, and Harry Jack.

Clara and Fountain lived with his parents for several years and later moved to a small house on a farm owned by the Baltimore based businessman-developer Dave Nichols. Clara says, "Mr. Nichols had bought farms down the island and made them into developments, but he lived on the farm where Cloverfields is now. I never thought he'd take his own home farm and build a development, but that's what he did."

*\*Editor's Note: This is the building that was recently demolished at the corner of Main Street and Duke Street – across from the car wash.*

"Before Mr. Nichols, remembers Clara, "there was Dr. Cooke who

### In Memoriam

Nanine White Smith  
John Francis O'Leary, Ph.D.  
J. Chester Kellam

### Welcome New Members

Michael V. McCarthy  
The Linda Armiger Family





# KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

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bought property, I guess you could call him a land speculator, he bought that farm, maybe two farms where Bay City is, but he was a little bit too early.

"My husband worked for Mr. Nichols for a time, but I didn't like it when he started buying up all these farms." Mr. Nichols was a "huge" man, who owned fancy cars and even planes, and provided Clara with one of her life's most memorable car rides. "Fountain had to go to Baltimore for Mr. Nichols", says Clara with a smile, "and 'I rode with him in Mr. Nichol's Cadillac.'"

Fountain worked for Mr. Nichols a few years, and after that he liked oystering alright, and he loved to fish, but never really cared for the life of a waterman. He instead gravitated to road and bridge construction, and worked for the regional Potts and Callahan firm until he retired as Vice-president in 1992. Fountain passed away in August, 2004.

Clara has always enjoyed music - she loved singing with her friends when she was younger, and liked to dance. She says, "We always found things to do. We played cards, I would sew. I also liked to fish." Though she

can't quite match Fountain's record-setting bluefish caught off Queen Anne's marina in 1979, she does say, "I've gotten some citations myself" with a hint of pride.

Sitting in her Stevensville home on the northern end of town, Clara says, "We've been here since 1957. When we moved here there was just Stevensville, no Cloverfields, no developments anywhere really. This may sound odd to you, but for a long time we knew by the sound of the car who was going by, whether it was John Benton, Babe Grollman, Walter Denny, we who it was. Now so many cars fly by here, zoom, zoom, zoom...I go out with my great-granddaughter when she catches the school bus and I can't believe the amount of cars that go by.

"I made a list for my grandson of everything I used to be able to buy for a nickel or ten cents - candy, sodas, hamburgers, hotdogs, all that kind of stuff. He was amazed. I remember buying shoes for \$2.98. The movies were fifteen cents during the day and a quarter at night." Clara still enjoys going to the movies, but the costs floor her. She remembers buying a new car for \$500. She's amazed a stop at a gas

station can cost folks a hundred bucks.

Besides the cost of things, another aspect of life today that Clara makes note of is the pervasiveness of electronics in our daily modern existence: "tablets, phones, computers. Children today can't comprehend life without all their electronics. I remember when we didn't even have electric."

"There's so much more of everything now," she says.

"I like the old things, I like to know whose they were and I make sure my children and grandchildren know the family connection. I have things that belonged to my grandmothers on both sides," says Clara Davidson, "and my one grandmother was born during the civil war.

"I have all the letters my son wrote me from Vietnam," she says. "I still have some of my mother's wedding gifts. I have pillows that belonged to my father's mother. She died when I was young." She pauses a moment. "Those are some o-o-o-old pillows." Clara Davidson laughs, "but it's all important to me."