



Ile of Kent - 1631

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

SUMMER, 1992

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

Railroad Restoration Complete!

After more than six years as Gil Dunn's personal "labor of love", Stevensville's old Train Station has been moved from its original site at the head of State Street to its final Cockey's Lane destination: jacked up, leveled, footed, re-beamed, reinforced, patched, mended, re-roofed, re-windowed, re-floored, painted, furnished, and decorated. For years, Gil has pleaded, begged, cajoled, and probably twisted a few arms for his project, while researching the history of the original rail line until now, Gil Dunn is a walking encyclopoedia of train lore.

Now, at long last, it is ready for its Grand Opening for a waiting public to visit on June 20th at 3:00 p.m. when the Kent Island Heritage Society will hold the



dedication ceremonies of the refurbished depot into the KIHS family of museums on Cockey's Lane.

Gil had a veritable army of helpers and donators to the major task the depot posed since it was in such sorry shape after years of neglect and deterioration when it was moved from State Street after being donated by Clarence "Skip" Morgan. Roland Bruscup, Melvin Clark, Tom Burton, Michael Casey, Tom

Harmon Collier,
Dick Dadds,
Florence Dunn, Bill
Eckstorm, Roger
Eisinger, Garrett
German, Barbara
Koenig, Chuck
Lansinger, Brad &
Maggie Lewis, Bill
Loudermilk, Cliff
Lowe Sr., Cliff Lowe
Jr., George Luther,
Jackie Moore, Bill
Moore, Nathan
Morris, Norman
"Dick" Park, Anne
Reifsneider, Brian
Richter, Tom
Sappington, Robert
Sellers, Bobby Snyder, Jr.,
Willard Thomas, Edith Turner,
Robert Walters, Dean
Wickline, Burton Wilson,
Walter "Woody" Woodford,
Bill Denny, "Peb" Foster, and
Mary White all joined the Friel
Foundation, the Kent Island
Garden Club, Bill Davis of
Shore Sign, model train
expert Duane McCauley and
especially Liz Bukowsky who
painted the mural of an older
Baltimore inner harbor
showing the steamboats and

market boats. In memoriam, Gil also credits Julius Grollman's support.

From donations to furnishings, everyone listed has helped Gil on his pet project for the past number of years. Now, the question is, what's Gil going to do for an encore?

R.R. STATION FUND RAISER

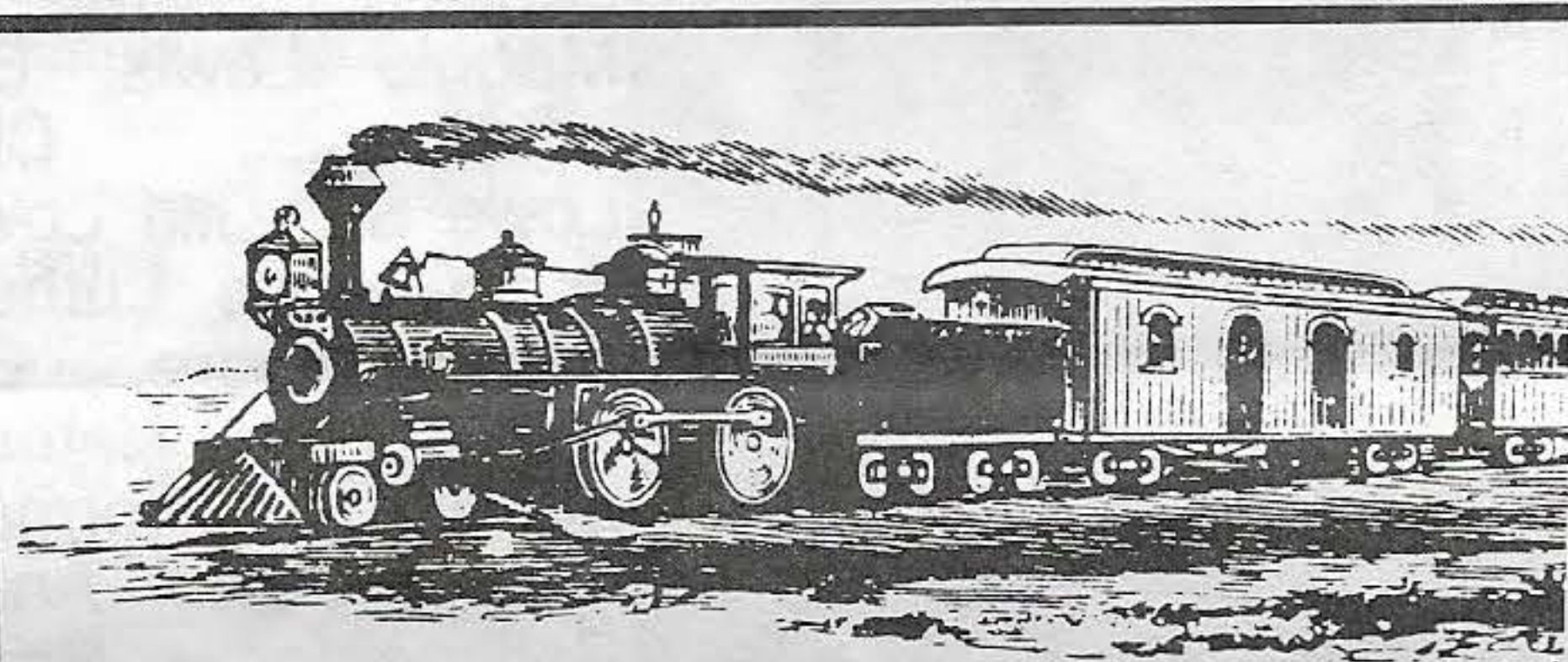
Gil Dunn

Who Me?	An Engineer
Who Me?	A Conductor
Who Me?	A Brakeman
Who Me?	A Boiler Tender
Who Me?	A Station Agent
Who Me?	A Signal Operator

You can be any of the above. We already have two locomotive Engineers, but we need more. And all those other vacancies need volunteers. Now is your chance to be a part of the R.R. Station Project. There is an opening on this R.R. for everybody.

Engineer	\$1,000
Conductor	500
Brakeman	250
Boiler Tender	100
Station Agent	50
Signalman	25
Sidewalk Superintendent	\$5.00 to \$24.

Make checks payable to KIHS Box 321 Stevensville 21666--- and many thanks.



WANTED

Old Railroad Artifacts.

Lanterns, photos, inkwells, tickets, schedules, luggage and freight carts, mailbags, station signs from Love Point to Lewes, Delaware. Displays of all artifacts are planned for the permanent exhibit at the Stevensville Train Station along with Duane McCauley's mini-model of the old Queen Anne's Railroad route.

Call Gil Dunn at 643-5414.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Audrey Hawkins

Have you noticed the news lately? We (KIHS) have had some very nice and informative articles written about us. In a new publication, "The Island Life Magazine" for April/May 1992 there is an article by Rose Grollman Spik entitled "A Look Into the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc."

Also, in Kent Islanders Magazine, Spring 1992 there is an article by Brent Lewis entitled "The Rebirth of the Stevensville Train Station". In the May 27 issue of Queen Anne's County Guidebook, there is an article on page 44 by Leslie Crook entitled "Kent Island Heritage Society- Preserving roots of the state's oldest settlement." There is a nice photo of our talented member, artist Liz Bukowsky as she paints a mural on the wall of our train station.

I think it is important that the people of Kent Island know about the Kent Island Heritage Society because it is our purpose to discover, identify, restore, and preserve the heritage of our island and to create an awareness in the community of its historical significance.

This brings me to the exciting news about the restoration of our train depot in Stevensville. The dedication at the Cockey's Lane site should be a festive occasion. Come see the results of a great deal of hard labor completed by Chief Engineer Gil Dunn and his hardworking crew. Darrin Lowery is still successfully conducting our Archaeological Survey Project on Kent Island. Darrin will be at our next meeting, Thursday June 18 at 7:30 at the library to speak about this project. Please make every effort to attend.

In March we received word from the Maryland Historical Trust that the grant award of \$5,000 would be increased to \$11,000. As of this date we have not received the contract which is under legal review by MHT. We have been paying Darrin from our original matching funds of \$5,000. We will keep the membership informed as this project progresses.

The officers and Board have been meeting with Janet Ellis, Chairman of the 18th Century weekend planned for October 17 and 18. We will need your help to make this event a success. Contact Janet at 643-6227 in the evenings or Audrey Hawkins at 643-5969 during the day. Please call we need HELP!

Last but not least special thanks to the few dedicated members who marched in the Kent Island Little League parade May 2. They carried the Kent Island Heritage Society banner and won "runner up" as the "Most Typical Kent Island" entry. Gil and Florence Dunn, Henrietta Grollman, Anna Mae Price, Janet Ellis and Jackie Kopec carried the KIHS banner. Remember: Meeting June 18 and train station dedication - June 20.

NOTICE ! CALENDAR CHANGE

The September meeting has been changed to September 10 from September 17.

CORRECTIONS-OMISSIONS

Charlie Koegel noted that three items in the budget were inadvertently deleted in the Winter issue. Add to EXPENSES:

Postage	\$850
Library Material	\$200
Deposit Box	55

Mary Legg called to tell us that the Kent County Thompsons (listed on the church wall) were part of her family and always lived in Kent County.

Leroy Smith's (Mystery Tonger) brother Earl not a County Commissioner. That was Leonard Smith.

Mrs. Leif Eareckson of Annapolis wrote that her research on her husband's Eareckson and Thompson families show some of the Worton church yard dates are incorrect. She said her records are in the KHS files at the library for any one to pursue. It must be here noted that the Editor's job is simply to print what is sent in, not to research family histories in our library files or anywhere else before publication. We will always print corrections, but the disclaimer at the end of each issue of "Ile of Kent" is self explanatory.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lois Cockey

Balance- 2/20/92	\$13,112.63
Receipts-5/21/92	968.44
TOTAL:	14,081.07
Disbursements-5/21/02	6,253.44
Balance in checking	7,827.63
Balance in CD's	3,324.56
	7,912.16
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$19,064.35

CRAY HOUSE

Myrtle Bruscup

Hooray!!! Mary White and I finally found a piece of furniture for the Cray House dining area- a small corner cupboard. Fabric was purchased and new curtains were made and hung in all the windows.

During our tours of antique shops, we purchased a blue granite ware coffee pot and two mugs. Also Mary White added a pewter candle holder and two Jefferson cups.

We now need a small jelly cupboard, a wash stand, dry sink or some small items for the small dining area and the bedrooms. If any one has some items they think we could use please let either Mary or me know. (Editor's Note: Should be confined to period pieces of the Cray House' early 1800's era, plus small sizes to fit the house' diminutive scale.)

We would really like to get the Cray House "dressed up" and made as attractive as possible for the era of this house. All (antique items) we have looked at are more than the committee can afford, so we need "help". Search your attics, garages etc. perhaps you have something stashed away that we can use for the Cray House' period decor. Myrtle Bruscup- 643- 5969 Mary White- 643-6283.

Termite damage done to the outside siding of the Cray House has been repaired and both the Cray House and the Depot have been treated for termites. Bob Walker's Pest Control of Easton donated \$100 of his \$600 bill for this work to the Heritage Society. Many thanks for his generous donation.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members have joined Kent Island Heritage Society since the first of the year:

Dallas Cupps, Claude DiGiovine, John and Lizete Gilfeather, Perry and Mary Lou Mattingly, Craig Saia, and Gary & Rose Spik, all of Stevensville;

Conrad Horney and Joan McAllister of Grasonville;

Lynette Burton of Crumpton;

Kathy Magruder of Queenstown;

Bob Walker of Easton;

Jeff and Charles Ferrell of Gaithersburg;

Ruth Cecil of Randallstown;

Edward Cox of Ames, Iowa;

Nona R. Malcolm of Raleigh, N.C.;

Frances G. Martin of Grenada, MS. (Your Editor's grandfather was one of the original charter stockholders of the old Grenada Bank!);

Marilyn Etheredge of Hendersonville, TN., and Rep. Tom McMillen who is running here in the 1st Congressional District.

We will spell Dallas, Texas' Kay Lee Wrage Gunn's name correctly this time.

Welcome to you all.

SHS Alumni Association Up and Running.

After years of discussion, the first meeting of the newly formed Stevensville High School Alumni Association was held May 20 at the library. 65 people attended the first meeting, according to Jane and Buddy Sparks who are the main organizers of this newly formed group.

Jane says they were very pleased to see Margaret Nash Whittle '31 of Baltimore; Melvin Gardner of Annapolis, '39; Fred Wilhelm, '49, Jack Coursey '45, and Eunice Brown Wallace '54; all of Baltimore join Gerald '47 and Lorraine Kelley Crouch '51 of Annapolis, and Robert Anderson '65 of Reisterstown all in attendance from their distant homes with local Alums.

The group adopted by-laws and elected temporary officers at their first meeting. Jane Golt Sparks is acting President, Bob Norris is Vice President, Maxine Binny Howard is Secretary, while Beverly Crouch Young takes up the duties of treasurer.

A number of committees were formed, but of special interest for this announcement is Janet Breeding's Archival Committee. They will be beginning a collection of memorabilia, sports records, clippings, photographs, etc.

Jane told "Ile of Kent" that they are open to any and all suggestions for the dinner meeting program. Any one who has ideas or desires further information, contact Jane Sparks in Chester.

Dues will be \$5.00 with a charter membership costing \$10 to defray the expenses incurred to get the whole organization going and to get their message out.

The next meeting will be a dinner meeting on Saturday November 21 at the Stevensville American Legion. Stay tuned for time and details.

LIBRARY

Mary White

It is a pleasure to report that our history files are used very frequently by many of our college students. This spring we welcomed Dina Hutchison, daughter of Alva and Bob, to use

our files.

She was writing a paper on the Chesapeake Ferry Boats, specifically the ones plying between Matapeake and Sandy Point. Her grandfather, Arnold Palmer, was the chief engineer on the ferry "Herbert R. O'Connor".

What a pleasure it was to meet Dina and her grandmother June Palmer and be able to provide much material that she did not already have. It is at times like these that we feel our work in getting our files set up is truly worth while.

So remember, any clippings, pictures or information you may have on any facet of life on Kent Island will be a welcome addition to our files.

We were particularly pleased that Jean Lee and Leif Eareckson added some important research material to our "Eareckson Prospect" files. We have been given access to a remarkable collection of Stevensville High School Memorabilia which we will make available to the newly formed Stevensville High Alumni Association. Our best wishes to this group along with our promise to provide all the assistance we can. The Society has been hoping for years that this organization could become a reality.

GENEALOGY

Mary White

We are constantly adding to our genealogy files. Over the past several months we have copied records from three more Family Bibles, bringing our total to 91. (100 - here we come!) The Gertz-Thomas Bible owned by Margaret Knox also includes the following surnames: Ireland, Chaplin, Thompson, Lewis, Blockston, Parks, Collins, Hardesty, and Anthony.

Elsie Porter brought in the Graham-Reamy Bible published in 1850 which included surnames: Kersey, Gardner, Miliner, Seward, and Britt.

Lisa Connell of Centreville brought the Cole Bible published in 1868 including the names Hummel, Seward, Jones, and Jurod. Lisa has done a tremendous amount of research on the Cole, Seward, Jones, Marshall, Jones, and Jurod families and has given us copies of wills and family group sheets in addition to the Bible records.

We have also received Bible records from Jean Lee and Leif Eareckson which have been copied but not processed so they will be included in our next report. She has also done extensive research on the Eareckson and Thompson families.

Margaret Knox also gave us a listing of persons known to be buried in private plots in Dominion. In back of the Earl Jones house are buried Gertrude Ireland Thomas, Francis Enright Thomas and Randolph Robert Gertz. Henry and Randolph Thomas are also buried there but there are no stones marking their graves.

In back of the Wash Jones house, which is now gone, there are two stones: Samuel Jones who died June 28, 1901 at 63 years of age and Charlotte Ann, beloved wife of Richard Thomas, who died Feb. 22, 1879 in the 26th year of her age. It is very important that we document these sites before they are lost, whether by natural or man made causes.

EARECKSON RENOVATION

The old brick house facing west above old Rt. 8 at Batt's Neck Village was called the "Legg-Eareckson Farm" by Mildred Schoch in her book "Of History and Houses". The property was named "Eareckson's Prospect" in Benjamin Eareckson's 1864 will. Mrs. Schoch often used double names in deference to the modern families who owned ancient properties at the time she published.

In the 1970's this particular farm, which has the Eareckson graveyard on it, was purchased and rented out. The early 19th century house was not in very good shape and lack of upkeep added to its deterioration.

In 1987 Edward "Bunky" Severa bought this farm and a contiguous farm despite opposition from the county Zoning administrator. Thus Bunky preserved the land as it had always been, saving it from development. He has farmed his land ever since.

Last year he began to refurbish the old house. Important first steps included a complete new roof, a poured concrete cellar floor, and rebuilt foundations. Termites and rot, always a problem in old houses meant total window replacement, plus re-pointing of the Flemish bond brick work and restoration of two collapsing chimneys.

Severa says he consulted one of the Maryland Historical Trust's restoration architects to assess the property. He learned that the two story kitchen wing was probably the third such structure added in the 20th Century. There was not a wing when the house was originally built in the early 19th century. (Mrs. Schoch's book gives dates of 1795-1815. Deeds and tax lists should identify its builder, and those have been researched by Mrs. Eareckson.) Severa has rebuilt the wing in three levels to serve 1990's purposes yet

extending the original house rooms at their original levels.

After removing the wing and its porch he uncovered a "lean to" line along the brickwork at the rear of the main house. He thinks this is the roof line of whatever original wing was added. He has added a porch at the rear door into the center hall and an entrance portico and steps at the front which had lost its steps years ago. Leaving the original location of the "behind-the-chimney-breast" enclosed staircase on the living room side of the house, Severa has also tried to preserve as much as he can of the random-width floors, with replacements made of wood taken from beams which had to be replaced. Severa is milling much of his wood and kiln drying it right on the property.

While discussing the Eareckson graveyard mentioned in Mary White's column, Severa pointed out that he remembered another graveyard about 20 years ago down the hill in the field from Cabin Neck, which is adjacent to his wood milling facility. He said he didn't think the stones were still there but that the land was farmed for past absentee owners Shreeve and Billman by Spies, suggesting he might have further information.

Severa also pointed out that the owners have rebuilt the deteriorated chimneys of the old house at Cabin Neck as well. He doesn't know much about it, but said he thinks the owner is planning to carry restoration further. Any renovation or restoration of early Kent Island properties is VERY good news for the Kent Island Heritage Society. Neglect, absentee ownership, and just plain not caring have destroyed or lost too many early Island architectural specimens. Even many of those mentioned in Mildred Schoch's book are now gone or beyond repair.

HOXTER FAMILY REUNION

The 14th annual Hoxter Family Reunion will be held at Conquest Beach on July 4th according to organizer Stewart Hoxter. At least he THINKS it's the 14th, "I'm not good at dates." Stew says the get-together idea began at his son's funeral many years back when someone remarked that they only time they got together was to bury one another. So they decided to take the positive step and have an annual get together. In the years between, of course there have been many funerals as the older generation fades away. "Since Mama died, Aunt Charlotte Severa is one of the remaining older generations," Stewart says, "And many of the Baltimore County and Pennsylvania cousins have stopped coming." (Perhaps they ran into "Reach the Beach" and gave up! Stewart, tell them it's all clear now!) Have a grand time all you Hoxters, Tolsons, Courseys, and Severas.

Meantime, someone see if they can locate the Hoxter etc. family Bibles for Mary White's growing collection of Island Family Bibles at the library. Remember, Mary only Xerox copies the Bible's family pages and returns it promptly to its owner.

CARTER FAMILY HISTORY

Bettye Speed

Last winter I had a phone call from Edward Cox of Ames, Iowa in response to a notice I wrote to a Georgia genealogy magazine about the Kent Island Heritage Society's growing Bible and family record collections. Mr Cox was looking for his ancestor John Gott (ca.1769-1833) who married Sarah Small Carter of Kent Island in 1799 and died 8 July 1833 in White County, Illinois leaving a will. After his death, Sarah "Sally" Carter Gott remarried in 1837 Daniel Millspaugh and was alive in 1856. One wonders how many letters she wrote home to Kent Island through the years and if any survived.

When Mr. Cox phoned I wondered if "Gott" and "Golt" could have been the same family, but nothing currently in our library files opened up clues along that line. The "German sailor" story is no doubt based on fact. A careful study of German history and immigration patterns to the colonies might provide clues. In the 18th century, Germany was not the cohesive nation we recognize today, but rather a system of individual states- Bavaria, Prussia, Baden, Hanover, Mecklenburg, etc.

Our Chesapeake Bay of course was the highway in those days. Traveling or working aboard one of the Bay's many boats, John Gott, if not from Kent Island, could have frequently docked there and met Sarah, marrying her in 1799. I asked Mr. Cox to send copies of his research to see if we could help him. It is obvious from these records, (now filed at the library) that his search has been frustrating in that definitive records for his John Gott do not show up in Maryland. A JONATHAN Gott is found in Baltimore County in the 1790 census with "two males over 16 two males under 16 and two females." Not much help!

But there IS a record of John Gott's March 7, 1799 marriage to Sarah Carter b.ca. 1777 (age 77 in 1855), of Kent Island and the research Mr. Cox sent shows Sarah's parents Henry Carter (II), b. ca. 1730, (son of John (d. 1740) and Mary Lubsy Carter m. Rachel Small dau. of Richard Small (d. 1770) generations back to Henry Carter I (1660-1706), wife nee Elizabeth Valentine.

Mr. Cox's information is a really valuable addition to our genealogical files for

the Carters of Carter's Creek and of the original Carter House (See H. Chandlee Foreman's "Early Manor Houses") and the many brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles Sally Carter Gott left behind as she and her husband moved prior to Oct. 1804 to Kentucky, then to Illinois by 1825. One wonders if there were other family members who took the long journey with them.

Sally's father's will in May 1799 names sons: Valentine, Henry (III) John, and Jacob; daughters Ruth Tolson, Mary Lubsy Spencer, Rachel Norman, Susannah Carter and Sarah Small Gott, naming home estate at Mattapax Neck and lands in Delaware.

Her maternal grandfather Richard Small's 1769 will names sons Richard and James; daughters Sarah Spaulding, Hannah Weedon, and Rachel Carter; land on Wye River; testators: Dan Weedon, Thomas Yewell, and Henry Weedon.

Her paternal grandfather John Carter's 1740 will names sons John, Jacob, Valentine, Henry; and daughters Elizabeth Earuckson, Susannah Elliott, Ruth Wells, and Mary Carter.

Anyone looking for any of the above names may be able to fill in their own family group sheets using Mr. Cox's valuable information, and we are very appreciative at his generous sharing of his research and records. We only wish we could return his kindness and help him with his elusive "John Gott".

ARCHAEOLOGY

The Kent Island Heritage Society was approached about two years ago by Michael Pohuski- Organizer, Donald Shomette, Joseph McNamara, and Fred Hopkins concerning their privately funded "Claiborne Project". They described their high tech efforts using infra red aerial photography, side scan sonar, magnetometer, sub bottom profiling and scaled map overlays as well as historical research to look for and hopefully detail what they came to believe was now the underwater location of 17th Century Kent Point, William Claiborne's original fort and settlement.

Last year they discovered three wooden wells, two barrel and one box, off shore north of Hollica's Snooze during an especially low tide. A newspaper article covered this discovery and "Ile of Kent" duly noted it.

Reports by Pohuski, Shomette, Hopkins,, and McNamara were presented at the

Society for Historical Archaeological Conference. They have been published under the title "Underwater Archaeology Proceedings from Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, John Broadwater, Editor, Richmond, Virginia 1991, by the Society for Historical Archaeology, Ronald L. Michael, Editor."

Thanks to Mordie Glibson, a copy of this report has been placed in the KHS Historical files in the Archaeology folder. We feel members will find these reports fascinating.

Fred Hopkins wrote a thorough treatise on Claiborne's claim to Kent Island as his settlement and the betrayal he suffered by his English backers by way of introduction to their project. He also presented a good blow up of the Kent Island detail from Augustine Herrman's 1670 map. This early map has been especially important to researchers since it details house locations and offshore water depths. Because of his daughter's marriage to John Thompson of Kent County (in those days encompassing the Island and the habitable areas of the mainland), Herrman knew the area and its waters well.

Using the usual historic sources, Pohuski's report describes their use of available historical maps:

"The two most useful early maps were the Augustine Herman (sic) map of Virginia and Maryland, engraved in 1670 and the 1708 map of the same region by Herman Moll. The Herman engraving of the south end of Kent Island shows two plantations, one on Kent Point, and another on Long Point.

The Moll map which resembles Herman's map but was produced 39 years later, shows only the Long Point Plantation. Moll may have simply omitted a few plantations; however, land records indicate abandonment of property before 1700. The fact that both Herman and Moll show a plantation on Long Point made it clear... that the waters in that area should be included in our survey.

A more accurate map of Kent Island wasn't produced until the 1844 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. We acquired an 1847 version of that map as well as successive U.S.G.S. maps from 1892 to 1986. These maps were reduced or enlarged to a common scale and acetate overlays...created, allowing a chronological

comparison of the sea level rise, erosion, and accretion rates in our study area. This map comparison demonstrated what we had already suspected, that the island had changed significantly since Claiborne's landing. Bloody Point, Kent Point, and Long Point had all lost dramatic amounts of land in just the past 150 years. The first two creeks north of Kent Point are now almost silted closed. In the 1800's both appeared to be accessible to vessels, especially Scaffold Creek. A neck of land at the mouth of Scaffold Creek has been almost entirely lost to erosion., Bloody Point Creek, once a sizable tributary, has become a tiny, landlocked pond at the headwaters of the original creek. However the interior shore lines of the creeks between Kent and Long Point have not changed appreciably since 1847.

Our archival research is not complete, but from what we know thus far, we can make a few conclusions. The Claiborne settlement was on or near Kent Point and was visible from Poplar Island (Arch. Md. 3:161) The wind and sea conditions in the area would have necessitated a protected anchorage and any of the creeks from Bloody Point to Long Point could have served that purpose in 1631. The only shoreline areas not dramatically altered since then are the interior creek shorelines north and east of Kent Point. All other areas, which were on or near the shoreline 360 years ago, are now underwater."

Using local clammers' collections of artifacts and the locations of their finds, along with the aerial photography, they have had to abandon the high tech approach in that it simply doesn't work. Instead they are using Scuba to locate the underwater sites, and have decided that the local waterman's clam rig will be their most valuable tool as they continue their Claiborne Project.

MEMORIES OF KENT ISLAND

Alice Cockey Immler

(Editor's Note: Former "Ile of Kent" Editor Isabel Porter received this letter in December 1989 too late for publication. By March 1990, it had been passed by Gil Dunn to Audrey Hawkins, the new President.)

Mrs. Immler described her first visits to Kent Island in 1969 with her husband Chuck, an avid boater. After making the trip back and forth to Castle Marina each summer weekend, they finally bought land and built on the Chester River in Cloverfields. They moved in in January 1971.

"... for some of you old timers who know what Kent Island was like twenty years ago, Ruby Quant and her husband had a real estate office down in a little white building just off Route 50, and Reggie Jones worked there and Walter Litvinuk was our settlement lawyer. The post office was on the corner across from Grolman's (sic) store and the country store was on the other corner.

Stevensville was a nice sleepy little town, with the Acme market and Gil Dunn's drug store and the Kent Island Bank down at the little shopping plaza. I'm a country girl and I felt like I was where I belonged. Chuck could go to the boat all he wanted and I had a house and garden and there was lots to keep us busy and we were very happy.

"... My maiden name was Cockey. My father's family had settled in Baltimore County in the 1750's. Mama said my father had relatives on Kent Island and had told her about being taken by his father when he was a little boy by ferry boat from Baltimore to Love Point to visit relatives on Kent Island.

"...(In 1970 I took my mother on) a tour of Kent Island, and our first stop was the cemetery. We saw more Cockeys; in the cemetery than we had ever seen in Baltimore County and I am almost certain our family migrated from Kent Island...

We were told that the native people were very clannish and didn't welcome strangers... to their island, but I never felt any of this in all the years I lived on Kent Island. Chuck became very involved with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Lion's Club and the Kent Island Yacht Club and we both loved the rural, small town, country atmosphere.

Then everything changed. The second span of the Bay Bridge was built and getting traffic to the beaches became the most important thing and the development of Route 50 into a corridor across Kent Island became a nightmare to the local residents. The post office moved across the highway and to cross Rte. 50 on the weekend was almost an impossibility....

Chuck died in Dec. of 1986 and in 1987 I...moved back to Montgomery County. "

Mrs. Immler describes the developmental changes she sees annually traveling Route 50 to visit in Ocean City.

"When I first lived there if you wanted a doctor you went to Centreville, and there was one bank, and your library was the bookmobile, and if you wanted to do any big shopping, you went to Chestertown or Easton or if you were brave enough you went across

the bridge."

The expanded highway and the growth along that corridor forever changed the rural flavor of the 1970's Kent Island she knew and loved.

"I suppose progress is inevitable, " she concludes, "just like old age. ... I will always cherish my memories of the way things were in the 'good old days', ...which will live in the hearts of all of us who are interested in keeping our heritage alive. God bless you all and keep up your good work... and thank you.

I suppose there isn't a reader who didn't agree with Mrs. Immler 100% about the radical changes that we all witnessed in the mid- 1980's. We had a perfectly serviceable highway that was transformed into a federal interstate with absolutely no consideration for the Islanders whose community was divided in half.

The quote that best summed up local feeling about that period was Holly E. Baker's famous "*Reach the Beach , H---! I can't even reach the bank!*"

But we have learned to adjust, we avoid the highway as much as we can, and we still wouldn't consider trading Kent Island living for Mrs. Immler's Silver Spring and the Capital Beltway!

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

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

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