



Isle of Kent - 1631

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

SUMMER, 1993

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



HERE COMES THE PETTICOAT BRIGADE! *The Native Island distaff members of the Kent Island Heritage Society were in a class by themselves during the "Humongous Parade" at Kent Island Days.*

President's Message

Charlie Koegel

Another great Kent Island Days came off due to the hard work of our members and the generosity of our local citizens and businesses. The officers and board members of the Kent Island Heritage Society extend our heartfelt thanks for all your help at Headquarters, the Cray

House, the Train Station, the Craft tent, and the Humongous Parade. Because there were so many, I hesitate to name names for fear of missing someone. You all know who you are and again thanks. Even so I would like to single out Bill Denny for his yeoman work in getting the Program booklet together. I think it is one of the most difficult tasks we have, however, Bill handles it like a pro.

I would be remiss if I didn't also single out our Humongous Parade chairman Gil Dunn. Gil has given so much of himself to the Society and it would be understood if he said, "No. Enough!" But he always responds.

I would like to thank all those who donated to the patrons section of the program. We found ourselves with a short fuse and no help. So we put American ingenuity to work and said, "We'll try a special mailing." The response was great. Several were too late for publication, however we thank you for the donations.

I do have a couple of mea culpas that I know of, maybe others. Things happen to this computer at 2:00 A.M. that I am unaware of. Probably a few bad volts from the power company but most likely I should have quit at 1:00 A.M. I apologize to John and Marion Kochen. They became John and Marion Bruscup. My eye dropped a line, however, Audrey will probably invite you to all family reunions as honorary Bruscup. And to Mr. and Mrs. William M. White who were inadvertently omitted.

We have been negotiating for the property adjacent to the Cray House during this spring. I am happy to report that we were successful in purchasing the lot this week. It amounts to

0.6 acres complete with sewage hookup. (There was once a house there.)

The officers and board were unanimous in approving the purchase. We want to thank the Queenstown Bank for making a loan available to the Society. We have long talked about having a Kent Island Heritage Society Museum that would cover the time period of Kent Island from Day One until now. The acquisition of this property will help make this possible.

The "Humongous Parade"

Gil Dunn

The Kent Island Days Celebration 1993 was a successful and enjoyable activity and the large group that took part in the "Humongous Parade" did their share and deserve thanks and this I will do with all my heart.

At the beginning of the parade was our President of the Heritage Society Charlie Koegel and his wife Carolyn. Charlie also sent invitations to members of our county government.

The Petticoat Brigade was organized and directed by Eva Thompson. Audrey



The Stevensville Middle School Band in the "Humongous Parade"

Hawkins took charge of Kent Island Heritage Society members all dressed up for the occasion.

The six White Hat Captains, Paul Wilderson, Bill Goodhand, Bob Jones, Bill Denny, Richard Dadds, and Willard Thomas decorated Stevensville with flags, banners, and balloons. Their effort included help from Roland Bruscup, Jim Wills, Ceal Kramer, and Mike Foster.

Willard at the microphone informed the crowd as each unit passed the town intersection. The Stevensville Middle School Band directed by Anthony Settineri can always be depended upon for community activities. Mel Clark and Paul Clark contributed the "Spirit of '76- Kent Island".

A substantial number of elementary school children had fun parading as young Indians. The group was organized and planned by Linda Jefferson, Honey Voermann, and Trina Neighbors.

Betty Stevens, president of the Kent Island Federation of Art brought some members along.

Chris Killian and family in the timeless Model T Ford kept moving forward.

Ed Norment brought a musical group from the 1st Baptist Church of Kent Island. "Smiley" the Clown was joined by those four joyful clowns: Vicki Gossage, Gail Lundberg, Dawn Gossage, and Jane Romano.

All the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and their leaders made a large contribution.

Jane Sparks worked overtime to round up many Stevensville High School classmates, all ages, to bring back memories of the "Pirates".

Fire Chief Tracy Schulz and Dave Gellert sent Kent Island Fire Company equipment. Ralph Lee and the Queen Anne's County Watermen were also there.

Tommy Booze of Tuckahoe Steam and Gas supplied sound and size with his entry in our parade.

Jim Wills, President of the Queen Anne's Chamber of Commerce, led their entry. Members of the Kent Island Athletic Club were led by co-owner Tom Fox.

Sgt. Morris "Bunky" Jones of the Department of Natural Resources Marine Police was very impressive, followed by Charlene Thomas of the Kent Island 4-H Young Riders on horseback.

Lee Murray and members of the Talbot Kennel Club showed dog obedience is possible.

Members of the Kent Island Lions Club

arranged an excellent float, while Dale Kinnamon and his Rough Riders in bright red shirts can always be depended upon to join in our parade.

Jack O'Leary made a special effort to have his Kent Island Yacht Club Band to add to the festivities.

And those drivers of the flat bed trucks: Chris Duty, Skip Morgan, Jr., and Karl Himmighoefer deserve special thanks.

Paul Placek's antique convertible was an welcome addition.

Our local Mills Brothers: Arnold Tolson, Cliff Wilson, and Brit Bordley kept in tune the entire parade. Carroll Golebieski supplied the audio and it was just right.

And finally, the wonderful children who carried the introductory signs along the way: Laura Wills, and Zack Goddard: "Apply Blossom Time"; Jennifer and Chris Bucevicius: "Friends of Foor"; and Cheryl Demers, Jessica Brinkley and Stacy Ruby: "2-Da-Loo".

Mike McKenny towed the horse trailer and Chris advertised "Hay for Sale" whose last name is Dunn and so was the parade.

Many KIHS members pitched in and it all worked out just fine. Again, I thank all those who helped in any way or participated in the Kent Island Days Parade.

The Cray House

The Cray House and Train Station on Cockeys Lane in Stevensville is open every Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. through October. Janet Ellis will be hostess on the third Saturday of each month. Janet will demonstrate Colonial Crafts. Forty five third grade students from Church Hill Elementary School toured the Cray House and Train Station on June 1. They were accompanied by teachers Carrie Forman, Sandy Chance, and several parents. The students were very well behaved and especially enjoyed ringing the old school bell and hearing retired school teacher Dorothy Crouch relate some of her unique experiences teaching in an old one room school house. Gil Dunn hosted the group at the Train Station.

March 25 Minutes

Audrey Hawkins

Charlie Koegel, Lois Cockey, Bill Denny, Bill

Goodhand, and Audrey Hawkins met at the library on March 25th.

Parade Chairman Gil Dunn reported that the Kent Island Days Parade workers include Roland Bruscup, Dick Dadds, Bill Denny, Willard Thomas, Bill Goodhand and Bob Jones.

Gil also reported that he was given original telegraph poles and lines from the Baltimore to Washington B&O Railroad for the Train Station.

Katherine Casey, chairman of the Cray House tours and openings asked for volunteers for Saturday afternoons from May through October 31st.

Virginia Donaldson, chairman of the refreshment committee, reported that she will be absent for the June 24th meeting. Myrtle Bruscup volunteered to arrange for refreshments for the June meeting.

A special board meeting was called for March 27 to evaluate the latest proposal from McCrone Engineering or behalf of their client South Charles Realty. This is the second proposal received from McCrone and is in response to the president's letter rejecting the first proposal, that we did not wish to encumber the Cray House property in any way, with "easements" or "right of ways". *(Editors Note: This was prior to the recent purchase by KIHs of the property next to the Cray House. McCrone represented a client seeking to buy that property but needing an easement for drainage.)*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Archaeologist Darrin Lowery reported that the survey of Kent Island began on January 9, 1992. A complete shoreline survey has been performed. A field survey of the Island has also been conducted. 3,000 acres of agriculturally disturbed (previously plowed) fields have been surveyed at 5 to 25 foot intervals.

In January of 1992 there were 243 archaeological sites recorded in the the entire Queen Anne's County. (32 were on Kent Island.) Today there are 476 sites in Queen Anne's County and more than half of the sites are on Kent Island.

Darrin was very excited about the fact that we now will be able to find and know the cultural history of Kent Island from a detailed map.

He explained that the data of his archaeological survey is submitted into a "GLOBAL SATELLITE IMAGERY" system

located in the offices of the Maryland Historical Trust in Crownsville, Maryland. For the first time on the East Coast this map can be used to give us detailed information on the history of Kent Island.

Darrin thanked Mordecai Gibson, William E. Denny III, Mary J. White, Paul and Marilyn Wilderson, William Goodhand, Charles S. Koegel, Lois Cockey, and Audrey Hawkins for helping him.

Our general meeting speaker was John Boender of Boender Associates, a development property firm located in Ellicott City. His most recent acquisitions include Stevensville's newest five downtown buildings (*Roger Eisinger's buildings*).

Mr. Boender said his main concern right now is finding business owners willing to come into Stevensville.

All second floor area apartments are fully leased and no changes will be made there. They will continue to do what Eisinger intended to do and that was to create a kind of historical area with craft and antique shops as well as restaurants.

They are going in with rentals about 50% of what was being charged in the past to get businesses started. Rosendale Realty of Chester will be doing the leasing.

The Neyhart building has been rented as "Stained Glass Windows Co.". In addition, a home improvement company has rented a building. Mr. Boender reported that they now have an 'on site' manager, the man who operates the Antique Shop.

As of May 1, 1993 the State Highway Administration has put up signs on Route 50 going East and West reading "Historic District, Stevensville".

Mr. Boender also talked about printing a brochure about "Historic Stevensville". The meeting was adjourned.

June 15th Minutes of Board

Charlie Koegel

The Board of Directors met at Audrey Hawkins home June 15. Present were Charlie Koegel, Audrey Hawkins, Bill Denny, Lois Cockey, Bill Goodhand, and Emma Thomas.

Lois Cockey read the Treasurers Report. The Board recommended that a note be added to the report indicating that the money for a state grant was included in the total assets and will be distributed to Darrin Lowery

as his latest work proceeds.

A general discussion was held concerning the Kent Island Days held in May. In general, things worked pretty well. We will discuss lessons learned and ways to improve next year's event. Planning must begin now.

We are moving forward for the purchase of the vacant lot next to the Cray House and Train Station. (*Editors Note: That property has now been purchased for \$25,000.*) We will meet to discuss methods of raising funds to pay for that property and best possible uses. This will add 0.6 acres to our existing KHS property and allow us to control what will be built next to the Cray House and Train Station. We may be able to put our Museum there in a few years. It would give us a place to store our genealogical records, artifacts, and historical items.

Audrey Hawkins proposed a new brochure for the Cray House to be done in color. It was approved to buy 500 each at a cost not to exceed \$180.00.

CALENDAR NOTE

A ceremony will be held for Anne Reifsneider and Tom Helfenbein for making it possible to establish The Memorial for Marian Steuart.

The Memorial Ceremony will be held at **Stevensville Cemetery July 20, 1993 at 11:00 a.m.**

The Rev. James J. "Bud" Shand and the Rev. Robert A. Gourlay will be attendance. Everyone is invited.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lois Cockey

February 22 through June 9, 1993

Balance in Checking 2/21/93	\$3,534.10
Receipts 2/22-6/9/93	12,164.82
TOTAL RECEIPTS (incl. Md. State Grants)	15,698.92

Disbursements 2/22-6/9/93	7,043.31
Balance in Checking 6/9/93	8,655.61
Balance in CD Accounts	11,900.79
Balance in MM Account	8,677.19
TOTAL ASSETS	29,233.59

(Total Assets include Maryland Grants earmarked for D. Lowery)

LIBRARY REPORT

Mary White

We are very fortunate that Judy Ireland, Public Service Librarian and a new member of our Society is assisting us in our efforts to properly catalogue and file our growing collection so our information will be more accessible to researchers.

We are grateful to John Herndon for the following valuable additions to our files:

THE HISTORY OF MARYLAND by DULANEY, an autographed copy of THE RIVERS OF THE EASTERN SHORE by Hulbert Footner, and a 1939 copy of the "Maryland Manual."

In addition, Bettye Speed generously donated Hanson's OLD KENT, long out of print. This history includes the earliest records from Kent Island before 1706 when Queen Anne's County was erected.

GENEALOGY REPORT

Mary White

We received a request from Mrs. Frances Martin, Grenada, Miss. for information on the Gilbert family which, she stated, might be connected to the Dunn family. We were able to provide her with what we hope will be helpful to her in researching these families.

In a previous exchange of correspondence, Mrs. Martin was kind enough to send us some pertinent information on the Blunt and Smythe families, members of which were prominent on early Kent Island.

We have also received copies of family charts, etc. of the Sudler Family of Kent Island and the Sudler branch from which Sudlersville got its name. This is a very valuable addition to those family records.

We also had another visit from Eunice Brown Miller and her husband Bill. Eunice, whose grandmother was Laura Elizabeth Cray (Eva) and grandfather was Madison Brown Sr., is researching her family history. We were able to fill in some of the blanks and look forward to receiving copies of her completed research at a later time.

It is always gratifying to find people who are interested in their heritage. To quote Daniel

Webster, "He who careth not from whence he came, careth little where he goeth."

Another quote which offers a different viewpoint, taken from an article in THE ANCESTOR, Annapolis, MD. June 1906 and quoted in the Baltimore Sunday Sun Aug. 26, 1906, states, "As to those who do not care to know concerning their forefathers, it may fairly be assumed they are not worth knowing."

We welcome your requests and try to respond as soon and as accurately as possible. However, we are all volunteers and in-depth research, because it is very time consuming, is not possible. We can only provide copies of what we have readily accessible in our files. This is why we are so anxious to acquire as much information in our files as possible.

Editor's Note: Brent Lewis, writing in the Summer 1993 issue of the Kent Islander, echoes Mary White's above comment in referring to his decision, "having a few idle hours, to look up his family tree".

He says: "The first thing I learned about looking into the past is that it can't be done in a few hours! Even for someone like myself with a fairly localized heritage, tracing the family tree is a time consuming, arduous process. There are no easy ways. ...For the most part patience and good detective skills are your best tools."

"My personal search has provided very little that wasn't already documented or even surprising, but the thrill of the hunt is unearthing that little tidbit of information that maybe no one else knows. Sheer volumes of the sources handy not only make for months of work but also increases the possibility of overlooking details."

Brent's article concerning his search gives great credit to Mary White's Committee's Genealogical files at the Kent Island Library. His article includes family photos of his father Joe Lewis of Dominion Road, Chester (mentioning his Coleman grandparents of Chester); his maternal grandparents Grover and Virginia Clough and his mother Jackie of Stevensville, later Grasonville; great great grandparents Charles Otho and Alice Virginia Coursey from Grasonville; and his great grandmother Alice Coursey, her second husband Norman Pierson, and Aunt Maude Coursey Newcombe, Aunt Molly Coursey McQuire, and Aunt Carolyn Coursey - a Grasonville schoolteacher in 1918 who now lives in Seaford,

Delaware.

KIHS will keep Brent's informative article in the Kent Island Library genealogical files.

Jean Lee (Mrs. Leif) Eareckson of Annapolis, an ardent genealogist and member of KIHS has offered her addendum to Mildred Schoch's book "Of History and Houses". Through her own early Kent Island Eareckson family research she has uncovered facts Mrs. Schoch may have overlooked.

Mrs. Eareckson writes:

"I think it would be a good idea to keep an addendum file to Mildred Schoch's book. Professor Norris who wrote "Annapolis; Its Colonial and Naval Story" kept such a file in the Hall of Records. New information appears all of the time; errors are found and corrected. We need to keep valuable work up to date.

As an example.. I would include:

Footnotes:

THE FRIENDSHIP

5. Should read Deed RT 12/361
6. This reference used incorrectly

LEWIS' ADDITION

5. STW 5/89

PENNYWORTH

6. JT 4/30

"An addendum would add to rather than detract from Mildred's research which was a major work. Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, Archivist of Maryland published a book, In Pursuit of Profit, in which he mentions the home of Lloyd Dulaney and includes a photograph of a house still standing on Conduit St. in Annapolis.

"Later research shows that the Conduit St. house was built after the Revolution by Thomas Mann. Lloyd Dulaney's house no longer exists.

"As you know the gathering of (genealogical and historical) information is an on-going process, and I think that we should be able to add to Mildred's work."

A correction to Schoch's work on p. 56 was included: "Methodist Protestant Church- M.G. Goodhand" is a typographical error. It should be M. G. White as per original record clearly shows that that it was Marmaduke Goodhand White. There was no M. G. Goodhand.

THE CRAY HOUSE- Shore Tracks

History and Memories

Queenstown Bank Newsletter May 1993

MEMORIES

Bill Denny

The Directors and Employees of the Queenstown Bank have begun a series of reminiscences in their newsletter.

For those of you who do not receive the bank's newsletter, we would like to share "The Cray House" from "Shore Tracks"

"The Cray House on Cockey's Lane is one of the most interesting structures on Kent Island. It stands on a tract called "Stevens Adventure which was granted to Francis Stevens in 1764.

Francis left it to his son John in 1790 and with its sale in 1809 to John Denny, it passed out of the Stevens family.

John Denny paid \$43.00 for the land and sold it in 1817 for \$400 to William Patterson of Baltimore. (Ed. Note: Father of Betsy Patterson-Mrs. Jerome Bonaparte?) This increase in price indicates it was improved by a building. (between the two deed dates.) Architects have fixed the date of the older portion of the house to this time.

In 1839 the heirs of William Patterson sold it to William Calvert of Delaware.

His heirs sold it in 1842 to Mary E. Carville Legg. In her will of 1866 she left it to her nephew Joseph Cook. He was a post master of Stevensville. He left the property to his wife Lucy. She married John Stelle, she left no heirs.

The property which then included both the Cray House and the property next door was sold at public auction in 1914 to Nora Cray which its name is now taken from.

The Cray House was built in two stages with the oldest part being the north side. Land records show that it is possible that part of the Cray House has been moved from its original site. It is unclear where it was originally located. (Ed. Note: This notion may or may not be true. There has been considerable speculation as to whether the early portion of the Cray House was ever moved. We'll probably never know for sure.)

The Cray House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Through the generosity of the Cray Family the house was left to the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. in 1976 to be restored and used by the Society.

I was eight years old and Mr. John Cray took me duck hunting at Blunts Marsh off of Cox Creek.

I had a 410 Shot Gun and Mr. Cray had a 12 gauge double barrel with ears.

Mr. John had a hunting blind on the shore and I remember it was very cold when we rowed the boat onto the Creek to put the decoys out.

We wore sheepskin coats to keep warm, the skin of the sheep was inside the jacket and the canvas was on the outside. We purchased our coats from Joe Ginsberg.

After hunting for awhile it seemed as though Mr. Cray was getting all the good shots off and my little pea shooter wasn't hitting anything.

Mr. Cray offered to let me use his gun, I used my coat and part of Mr. Cray's coat to cushion the butt against my shoulder.

He cocked both hammers back and when the next duck came into view, I let her have it.

That gun kicked me so hard that I was knocked about six feet to the other side of the blind!

After we finished hunting we got into his 1938 Packard whose doors opened from the front and headed towards Rt. 8.

Mr. John said, "Bill, do you want to steer this thing?" The Packard had a great big wooden steering wheel. I took it over and I know I was winding all over the road.

When we finally got to Rt. 8 he took me to the Cray House where Mr. John and his brother Dick lived. They invited me in to eat. I don't remember the first course, but I definitely remember the dessert.

Dick Cray had baked three three-layered cakes; a coconut, a chocolate and an angel food. He asked me which one I wanted and I said, "That coconut one sure looks good."

I ate that piece of cake that was the size of my dinner plate with a glass of orange soda. I didn't think I would live long enough to eat all of that cake.

We sat next to the fireplace and I almost fell asleep after the long day of hunting.

The Cray family always made me feel I was part of their family. We had such a fellowship in those days.

I enjoyed Mr. John and Mr. Dick just as though they were my own grandparents.

KIHS QUILTS SELECTED

The early Maryland-made quilts which were donated to the Kent Island Heritage Society and are on display at the Cray House have been selected for a forthcoming book on Maryland quilts, from 1634 to 1934.

According to compiler Gloria Allen about 2500 specimens of early handiwork were surveyed and 150 were selected as "finalists". About 80 of those will be written about although not all will be included in the photographs.

The KIHS quilts were both selected to be among the 80 in the book. They were both donated by Mary Esther Dyes and her sister Frances "Bart" Hall, now deceased.

One is a "Feathered Star" quilt considered to be dated about 1850. According to the Hall family genealogy and history (from South Anne Arundel County), one of the quilts was given in 1875 as a wedding present to Virginia Hall by her mother Rachel Sophia Waters Hall (b. 1806, m. 1826 Thomas John Hall). It had been made as a dowery quilt for Rachel by her beloved step-mother Harriett Tongue Waters.

The Society is honored to have been given these illustrious early handiworks.

Historic Chester House

We have received an interesting letter from Clarence Booze of Chester about an old house on Dominion Road his son Jim bought and restored a few years back.

Clarence, who is an accomplished carpenter, recognized some very early hand planed trim over early beading in the house Jim was working on.

Knowing it predated the Civil War considerably, he went to the deeds in Centreville to look up the history of the house. It seems it had been owned by Rebecca Chase, daughter of a brother of Samuel Chase, the Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Rebecca apparently made friends with two of the Gardner families of early Chester then known as "Sharktown" for she mentions them in her 1895 will, leaving her "house in Sharktown to Hiram and Samuel Gardner, and their heirs...." and "Richard I Gardner and his son Richard I. Gardner".... and Emily A. E. Gardner who inherited a blue and white counterpane with nine snowballs and a ring" (Has anyone ever seen this decoration pattern?) *Ed. Note: Are these the Gardners buried on the north side of Rt. 50/301 near the old Chester Station in the old cemetery?*



Isle of Kent is published by Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. a non-profit corporation. Correspondence to Bettye Speed, 128 Eareckson Lane, Stevensville. Effort is made to publish accurate information, but no responsibility can be assumed by the Society. Membership dues are \$10 annually. Send applications to Catherine Kirwan, 641 Dominion Rd. Chester, MD 21619