

Isle of Kent - 1631

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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. ■ SUMMER 2008

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President's Message

Summer is an active time on Kent Island, and that has certainly been true for the Kent Island Heritage Society, with much of the focus on our historic sites.

Our general meeting in June featured a bus tour to each of our sites. All agreed the concept worked well and we'll do it again in the future.

The doors of all our historic sites are open for public tours on each first Saturday (May through October). The new open-house times, 12:00 to 4:00, proved popular, with more than twice the visitors than in previous years. Ms. Audrey Hawkins and her dedicated team of docents also opened the sites for a number of tour groups visiting the Island. Thanks for a job well done! By the way, if you haven't checked out our sites lately, consider doing so for the open-house tours on Saturday, Oct 4, when QATV7 will be on hand to do some filming.

Another new venture we supported this summer was the Kent Island Farmers Market, every Saturday, June through August, on the Cray House Green in Stevensville. Conceived and organized by Heritage Society member, Laura Keene of southern Kent Island, the market was strongly supported by the community. It provided an authentic Saturday morning market

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New KIHS Website A Success

Our new Website has been online for only seven months and already is generating about ten inquiries a month from all over the country. People have contacted us for genealogy information, to seek pictures of the area, to order items from our new online store and to seek background information on various places. If you haven't yet done so, please visit our new Website at www.kentislandheritagesociety.org. You are certain to enjoy the experience.

Daena Price Feldman, technical writing director for Thomas Associates, oversaw the creation of our Website. Daena is a very capable Kent Island-grown woman, daughter of Louise and Clayland Price. She attended Queen Anne's County schools and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College). She taught school and received several additional master's degrees before coming to Thomas Associates, Inc., the corporate host of our Website. Her expertise in writing and her familiarity with Kent Island were very helpful in guiding this project.

Chris Barr is the technical and artistic person responsible for the development of our strikingly attractive Website. Chris was born in Baltimore City and graduated from the Western School of Technology and Environmental Science. He then earned a Bachelor's

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Mark Your Calendar

Kent Island Heritage Society Second Annual Fall Heritage Picnic

Kirwan Farm

Saturday, October 5, 1 to 5 p.m.

See page 3 for details

COMMITTEES

Docents

Audrey Hawkins
Joanne Anderson
Myrtle Bruscup
Francis & Linda Collier
Nancy Cook
Dick & Eileen Dadds
William & Janet Denny
Gil & Florence Dunn
Carole Frederick
Jay & Toni Gibson
Chris Kilian, Lora Lake
David & Jean Leathery
Geo & Barbara Marmion
Fran Peters, Louise
Price, Flora Sossi
Joan Stoer, Fran Taylor

Kent Island Day

Flora Sossi
Toni Gibson
Gary Walters
Joyce Woodward

Kirwan Property

Joel Berger
Bill Denny
Dan Hopkins
Wayne Morris

Kirwan Interior

Midge Kirwan
Myrtle Bruscup
Linda Collier
Lora Lake
Jane Sparks

Emma Thomas

Cray House

Bill Denny
Barbara Marmion

Old Stevensville P.O.

Francis Collier

Train Depot

Florence Dunn
Gil Dunn

Caboose Restoration

Nancy Cook
Richard Dadds
T & Wayne Humphries

Oral Histories

Brent Lewis

Membership

Mae Hutchison

Library Files

Myrtle Bruscup
Mary White

Audit

Lynn Riley-Coleman

Scholarship

Jane Sparks

Social

Janet Denny

Cemetery Identification & Preservation

Lora Lake

Farmers Market

Laura Keene

Editor

John Bonner

President's Message

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experience with fresh local fruits and vegetables, home-baked goods, arts and crafts, and the chance to visit with friends and celebrate a vital part of our living heritage. Laura donated the proceeds from vendor rentals to the Heritage Society! Thanks, Laura; and congratulations on a successful first year. We look forward to doing it again next year.

In a continuing commitment to help bring vitality and interest to Olde Stevensville, we are also supporting the establishment of the new Kent Island Arts and Entertainment District in Stevensville. We participate on the new Board for the District and work closely with local artisans, crafters, and businesses in future plans emphasizing the unique culture and heritage of our own Kent Island version of "Mayberry."

An important role of the Society is protecting and preserving historic artifacts that reflect our heritage. I want to thank the Society members who have come forward to donate precious family heirlooms and artifacts in recent months. Some recent highlights have included: Doris Gibson -- decoy blanks used by her famous grandfather, Choo-Choo Thompson, of Dominion; Carol Mylander -- antique duck decoys from the Mylander Farm on Love Point; Mary Dadds -- heirloom book given to her family by Ms. Katherine Kirwan, when the Dadds family lived on the Kirwan Farm; Sara Denny -- collection of history and literature books that belonged to her grandmother, Ms. Emily Roe Denny, co-founder of the Kent Island Heritage Society; and Verna Rosenberry the antique cash register that stood for decades in the foyer of the old Island Inn in Stevensville. From all of us in the Society, a heartfelt "Thank You" for your generosity. I'd also like to acknowledge the loan of special items by Jim Barton of Centreville for display in the Kirwan Store. His antique garter cabinet and thread/sewing cabinet are now part of the countertop display. Thanks, Jim.

One of our most unique activities this year has been the Kent Island Flag contest. Conceived by Board Member, Toni Gibson, a career educator, we hoped to reach out and involve kids in our effort to emphasize the Island's heritage. We weren't sure how much interest there might be, but we were overwhelmed by the response -- with over 60 entries, from all

age levels! Judging was tough. We announced the four age category winners on Kent Island Day and had hoped to present the grand winner at the County 4th of July celebration at the Narrows. However, the County did not support our request, so we'll use our own Fall Heritage Picnic on October 5 to announce the grand winner and fly the flag for the first time!

We hope you'll join us at the Kirwan Farm on Sunday October 5 for our second annual Fall Heritage Picnic. We'll have guest antique tractors and hay rides. We're sprucing up the farm house; the museum is amazing; and the grounds look great. We'll bring the fried chicken and the drinks; you bring a covered dish and a smile. Last year's picnic was great and we look forward to an even better event this year. Great food, great friends, great place -- **Kent Island.**

Hope to see you then.

Jack Broderick

Congratulations Brent Lewis

Conspicuously missing from these pages is the superb writing of our own Brent Lewis. He's been writing for others. Some of whom pay, even. So much and so well that he's become quite busy at it.

You may have seen his byline on several recent articles in *What's Up? Eastern Shore*. He's been writing a monthly restaurant news column for them called "What's the Buzz," as well as some upcoming historical feature articles that include one about winters on the Eastern Shore and another about locally filmed movies.

Brent also is working with the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department on an exciting project that you should hear more about next year, and there's another seed planted that Kent Islanders should find interesting if it grows to fruition.

He promises to have something for us in the next issue.

Website A Success

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degree from Salisbury University.

Daena and Chris took the photos and collaborated in the design of this extraordinary product and share in overseeing its operation.

This Website is no small gift to our Society. We are exceedingly grateful to Alexis Thomas, owner of Thomas Associates, for her generosity and the expertise she provided.

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"ANOTHER LUCKY DAY"

By Gil Dunn

Here comes my good friend Sam in his white pickup truck to take me to the Athletic Club for my morning workout. It is a brief but very enjoyable drive. Plenty of good conversation. And sometimes much laughter.

I give Sam a cordial "Thank you" and go in for my workout.

On the second floor I find an unoccupied stationary bike. I jump on

and pedal for 32 minutes. The computer on the bike indicates that I have traveled 11.5 miles. (Theoretically.)

I go to the treadmill and walk at a modest pace for 12 minutes. The computer indicates that I have walked a half mile. (Theoretically.)

Downstairs I struggle with the pushups and the other body building equipment for 30 minutes. The workout is over. Almost two hours.

My friend John is waiting to give me several answers for the daily crossword puzzle. They are for my wife, Florence, a dedicated worker of crossword puzzles. They will make her very happy. John also gives me a bag of vegetables from his garden. A vine-ripened cantaloupe is always a treat.

A warm, comfortable shower completes my workout. I am ready to go with Sam and take that

pleasant ride home. Interesting stories, and wonderful conversation.

Before leaving with a sincere thank you and goodbye, we exchange a familiar message — "Another Lucky Day."

Writer Gil Dunn, who gives his age as "90 plus two months," maintains an exercise regimen that puts many decades-younger couch potatoes to shame.

In Memoriam

MELVIN CLARK

WALTER T. DENNY

KIHS PRESIDENT F/Y 1983-84

The society is very thankful for and will miss the interest and support shown our organization by these members. Continuing our shared mission honors their memories.

Welcome New Members

Elaine Abceel and Arif Durrani
Chester, Md.

May McCahan
Burlington, N.J.

Louis M. and Deborah S. Hickman
Stevensville, Md.

Isle of Kent

John Bonner, Editor

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