



NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

WINTER 1990

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

CHRISTMAS ON KENT ISLAND

In a departure from recent years, Co-chairs Eva Thompson and Mary White have added a 10-house tour for the Kent Island Heritage Society's annual Christmas festivities. Never before opened to the public, each private home will be decorated for the season.

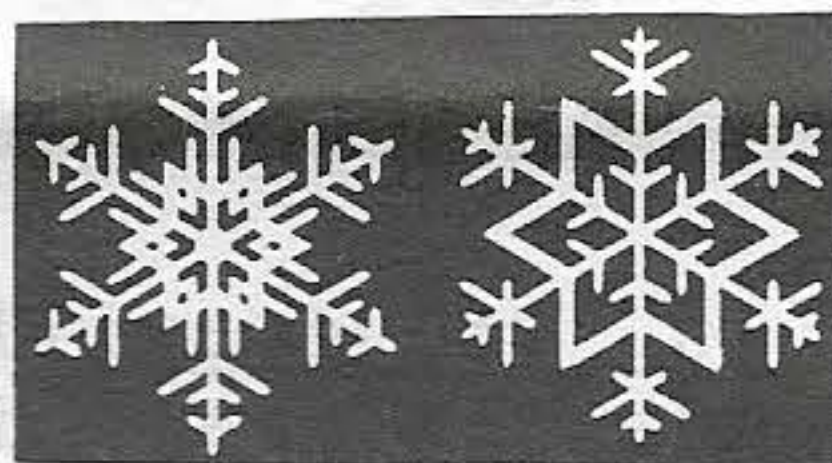
A brochure complete with map is in the works for the December 16th event which begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. Tour tickets are \$2 for individual homes or \$10 for the complete tour, available at the Cray House, individual homes, and the Chamber of Commerce office.

Seasonal refreshments will be served at the Cray House.

A preview of the featured homes:

1. The Schulz House.

This two story colonial brick house with center staircase was



completed in 1963. An indoor pool was installed in 1983. Filled with personal and family memorabilia, this Cox Neck home welcomes visitors as easily as The Fisherman's Inn. Owned by Betty Schulz.

2. The Klages House. Built in 1949 for William and Ruth Cathell, this home faces west on Cox Creek overlooking a beautiful view of Warehouse Creek. Large white pine and cedar trees surround the property and driveway. Alterations and additions

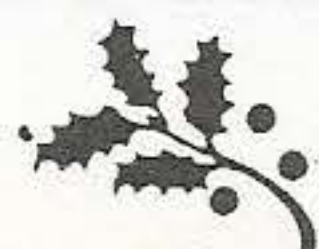
have been made by its present owners, Harry and Ellen Klages.

3. Palmer-Hutchison House. The original house was a rancher built by June and Arnold Palmer in 1953, focusing on a large sycamore tree which stands prominently in the backyard. In 1978 their daughter Alva and her husband Bob Hutchison designed additions and remodeled to accomodate the lifestyle of three generations under one roof.

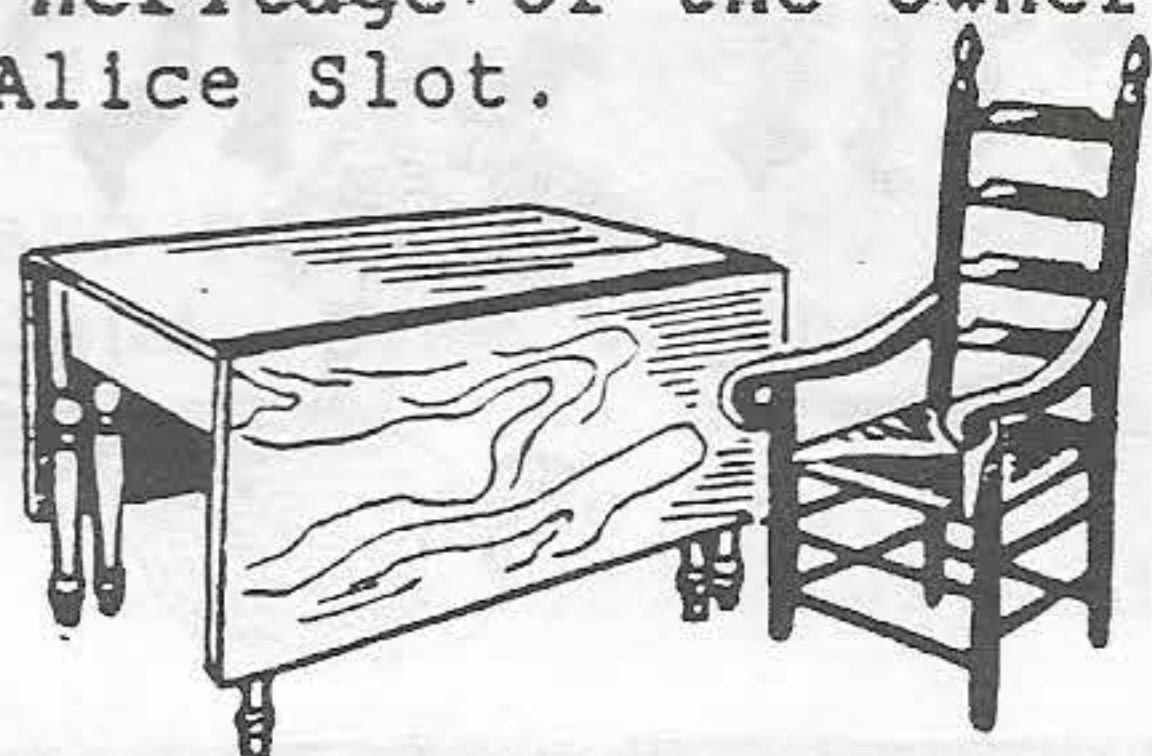
4. Denny's Valley Point Farm. This two story Victorian house was built by James E. Kirwan about 1866. Located at the head of Crab Alley Creek, it has been in the Denny family since 1951. Remodeled in 1979, its traditional furnishings reflect the home's style. Occupied by Randy and Joetta Denny, the house is owned by Billy and Joyce Denny.

5. Collier's "Reward" in Kirwan's Landing with a breathtaking view of Kirwan's Creek, this Georgian style home was built in 1985. The use of oversized hand-molded bricks laid in Flemish bond plus the Williamsburg chimneys reflects the grace and charm of Southern colonial architecture. The house crosses the centuries with design, furnishings, and accessories creating a comfortable home for Francis and Linda Collier's 20th century family.

6. Slot House. The center core of this unusual home in Queen Anne's Colony is shaped as a hexagon, with two wings extending from each side.



An additional unique feature is the beamed ceiling in the central section radiating from the middle of the ceiling resembling a wagon wheel. Memorabilia and furnishings reflect the Dutch heritage of the owners, Bill and Alice Slot.



7. Gibson House. This single story contemporary house was built in 1971. The interior is designed around a central core creating easy access to each room, including a formal dining room. The large enclosed sunroom/gameroom was added in 1987. The home was purchased in 1983 by its present owners, Mordy and Dot Gibson.

8. Savapoulos Home. This two story traditional house in Queen Anne's Colony was built 25 years ago. In 1986 it was purchased by the present owners who recently completed renovations to accomodate their own personalities. Walls were removed and large windows installed to take optimum advantage of a panoramic view of the Chesapeake Bay. An eclectic mix of furnishings reflects Philip and Gail Savapoulos' casual and varied lifestyle.

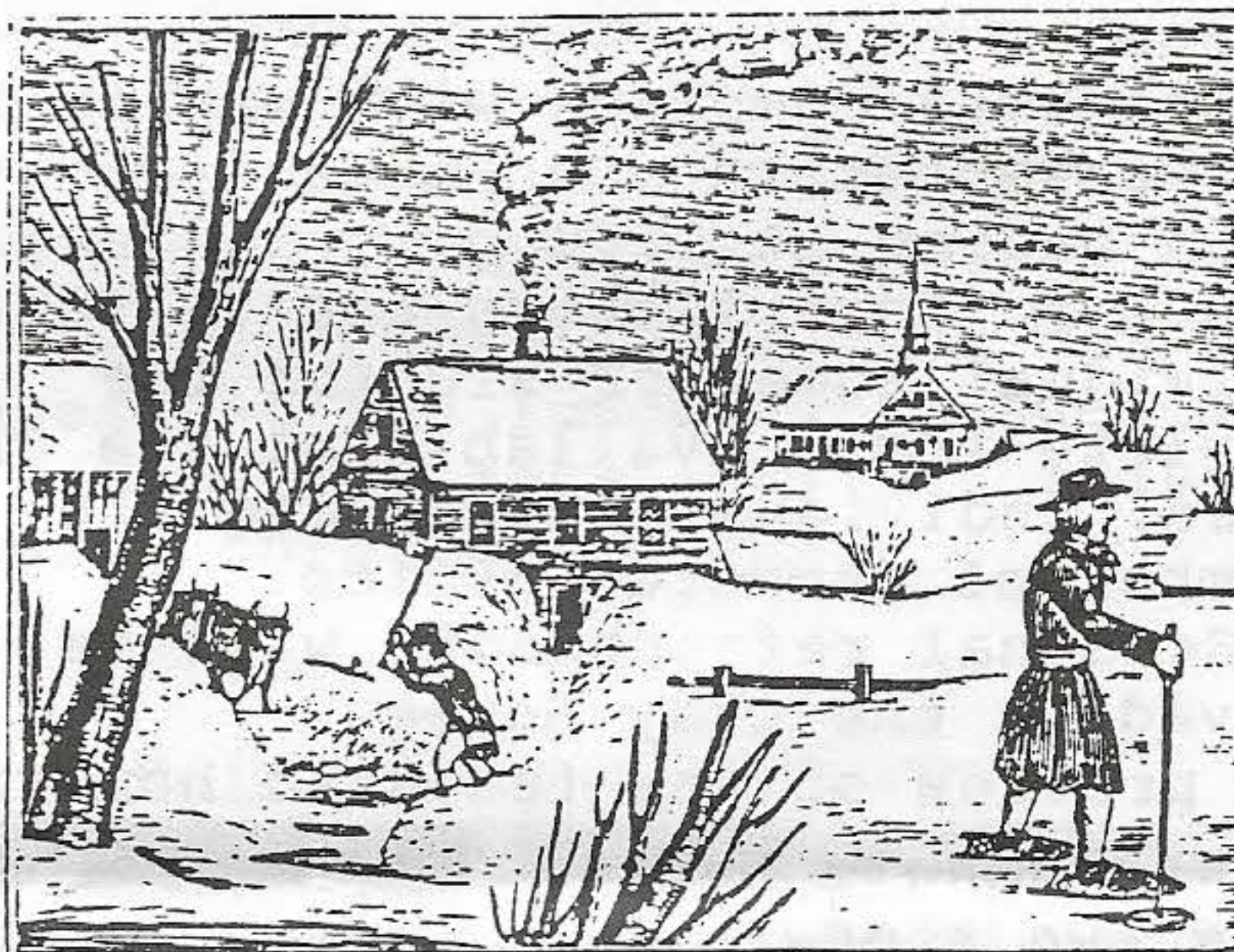
9. Blue Bay Farm. Originally known as Belle Vue, this property was renamed by its previous owners to emphasize the beautiful blue of the Bay visible from its west windows. This two story house dates from the last quarter of the 18th century and boasts unusual brickwork outside and original hardware inside. Of special interest in the living room is the built-in cupboard. The upper doors have their original glass panes, while the lower doors are simple panels. The interior reveals a domed shell motif similar to original New England cupboard designs. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Nick Kallis.

10. Windy Knoll Farm. This typical Kent Island farmhouse was built as a wedding present for Harry and Carrie Tolson in 1900. The Tolsons

moved into Stevensville just prior to World War II, selling "Windy Knoll". Baltimore's Lessing family added modern improvements to the original house, which was later sold to Jack and Audrey Hawkins. Again renovations were made to provide today's comfortable home for Mrs. Hawkins.

11. Stevensville Bank. The bank was built in 1909 and is a fine example of the typical mercantile establishment of the period. Restored and placed on the National Register of Historic Places by Charles Marsteller. Exterior only.

12. Cray House. On Cockey's Lane in Stevensville, the house was deeded to the Kent Island Heritage Society by Nora Cray's heirs in 1975. In addition to its simple unchanged style and size, its unique "post & plank" construction details are visible inside showing the 3" plank walls pegged into slotted posts. The Kent Island Garden Club maintains the herb garden and provides Christmas decor. The Cray House is also on the National Register.



13. Stevensville Train Station. The station was built in 1902 when Stevensville became part of the Queen Anne's Railway Company system across the upper Delmarva region. It remained in use until the 1952 opening of the Bay Bridge. In 1987 the old building was presented to the Heritage Society by Clarence "Skip" Morgan. Its renovation is being accomplished through the combined talents of Melvin Clark, Norman Park, and Gil Dunn.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Audrey Hawkins

I would like to express my gratitude and special thanks to the offers, directors, committee chairmen, and entire membership for the support I have received as president of the Kent Island Heritage Society for 1990.

Working together we have completed some projects, started some new ones and are looking into the future for some exciting events.

MARCH: Old Kent Island Photo Contest

MAY: 15th Anniversary dinner party

JUNE: Kent Island Archaeological Survey proposal

JUNE: Kent Island Days, new theme and location

SEPT. Opening KIHs Genealogical and History files

NOV. Membership letter for matching funds for archaeological survey

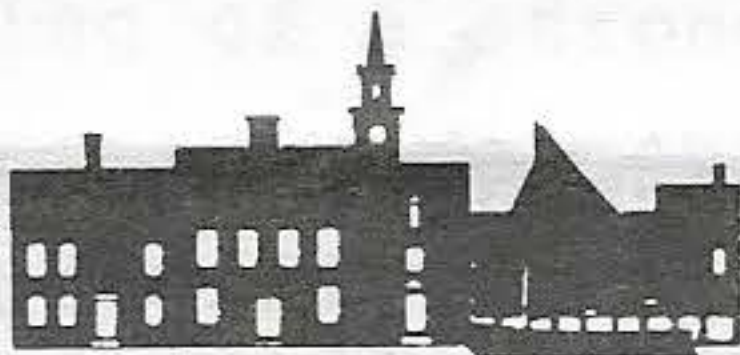
DEC. "Christmas on Kent Island"-house tour and Santa Claus

Our membership is still growing, attendance at meetings has increased, newsletter on time with interesting information, good publicity for our events.

At our annual meeting, where new officers will be presented, we will have entertainment for an enjoyable meeting.

I hope to see you there and also at "Christmas on Kent Island." Dec. 16th.

Best wishes and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



MINUTES- BOARD MEETING

Marilyn Wilderson

Meeting Nov. 27 at Audrey's home, were Mordy Gibson, Eileen Dadds, Bill Denny, Willard Thomas, and Paul and Marilyn Wilderson.

Willard Thomas donated an old photograph of the Kent Island train depot showing a Model T Ford parked at the original State Street location.

Gil Dunn reported that the front of the depot has been painted, the electricity is being installed, and new windows have been set in.

Bill Denny will look into the status of the damage reimbursement ordered by the court after last winter's vandalism.

The Kent Island Garden Club has removed the shrubbery in front of the Cray House and planted an old fashioned herb garden in the rear. In spring flowers will be planted to replace the shrubbery.

Bill Denny said that the Cray House heaters will be installed before cold weather sets in. The installation is a donation to the Society. A chimney cap is still needed.

Audrey announced that a portable electric typewriter in nearly mint condition was purchased by the Society for \$75.00 at a yard sale, saving several hundred dollars.

The archaeological survey committee met at Mordy's house in October. The fund raising letter was sent out and Norman Davidson agreed to head corporate fund raising.

Willard Thomas moved that if half the \$5,000 in funds were raised by the last week in December, then the Society should move forward to meet the Jan. 1 state grant application deadline.

The Board agreed to present the summary and status of the archaeological survey proposal at the annual meeting and accept donations from attending members.

Paul gave a summary of the 1990 Maryland Preservation Conference he attended in November. Two sessions dealt with, 1. fund raising for non-profit organizations, and 2. Maryland's new unified archaeology program presented by Richard and Elizabeth Comer Hughes of the state archaeology lab at the Jefferson-Patterson Park in Calvert County.

Audrey asked what happens to any artifacts found in the survey or in subsequent digs. Paul said they are the property of the landowners, but may be donated to the Society. Therefore an appropriate display or storage location should be found.

Important sites determined by the survey can be protected by the state, but funds must be applied for at the Md. Historical Trust.

The new Life Membership cards in the Kent Island Heritage Society have been printed.

Continued next page

1991 will be the 360th anniversary of the settlement of Kent Island and the Board must begin thinking about plans now.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The annual dinner meeting will be held Thursday, December 13 at the Kent Island Yacht Club. Cocktail hour is 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each.

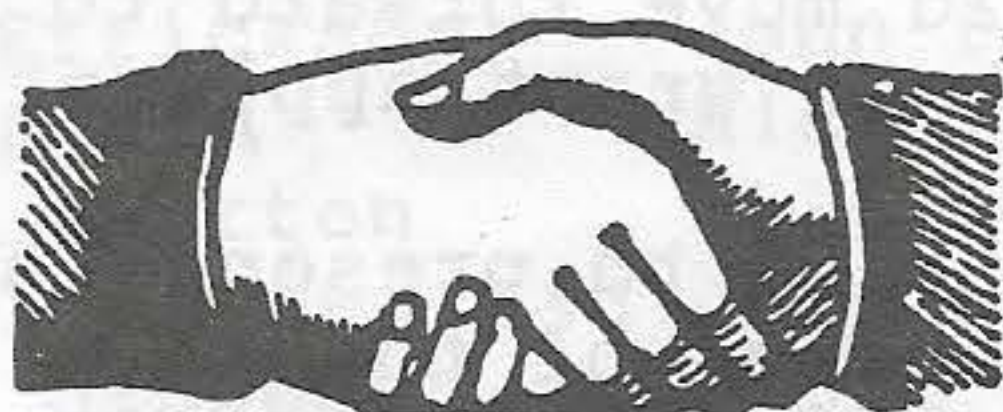
Mordy Gibson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee will present the officers of the Society for 1991 to the membership:

President	Audrey Hawkins
V.P.	Charles Koegel
Correspond'g. Sec.	Eileen Dadds
Recording Sec.	Carolyn Koegel
Treasurer	Voliet Harris

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Wilderson	William Denny III
William Goodhand	Richard Dadds

John Fountain Davidson
Congratulations!



ARCHAEOLOGY

As you all know, the Kent Island Heritage Society has a wonderful opportunity this year to receive matching funds from the Maryland Historical Trust for a professional comprehensive archaeological survey on Kent Island. Our unique place in history promises that Kent Island offers some of the richest archaeological remains in pre-1700 Maryland history.

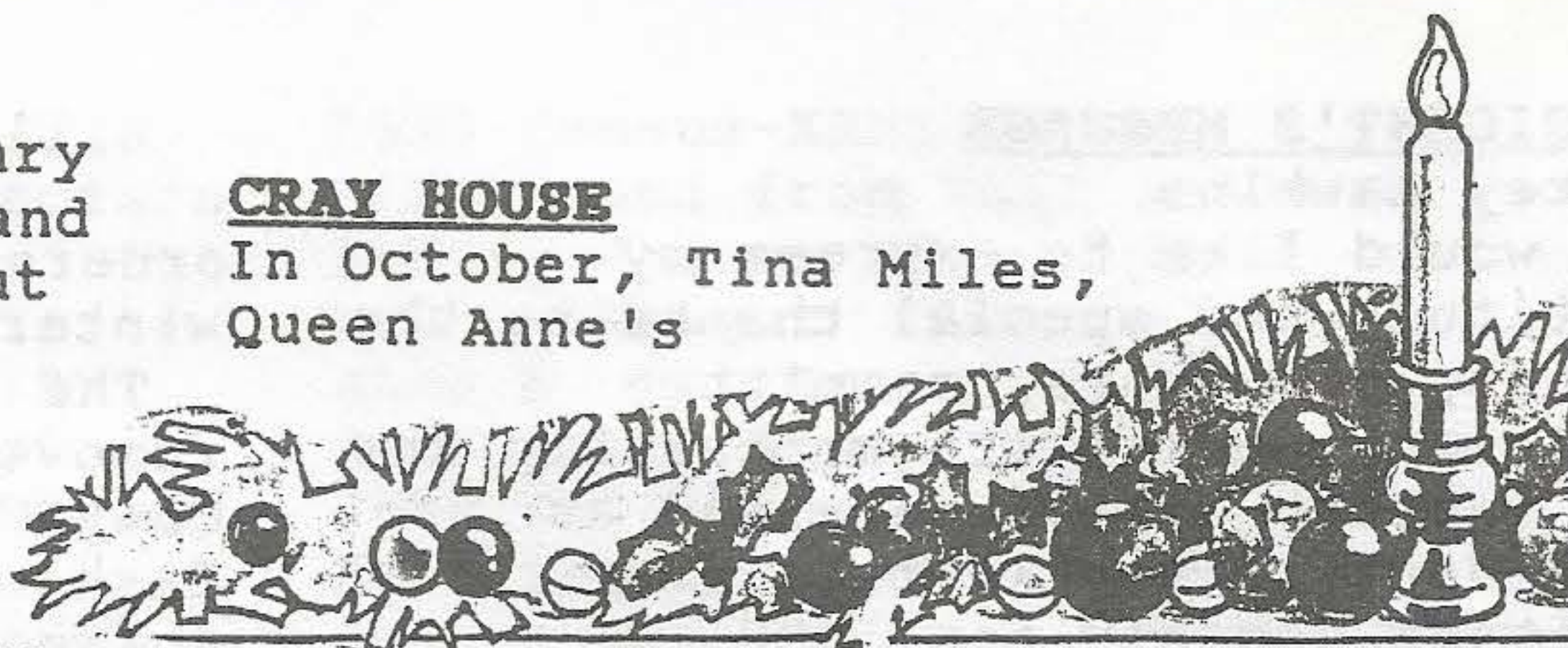
Letters have gone to every member for we face a January 1, 1991 state deadline for matching funds.

So far the response has been extremely promising. \$1,500 has been collected in bits and pieces of \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100 checks all going toward the goal of \$5,000. Another \$1,000 has been pledged so far.

Please send your contribution toward the identification and preservation of Kent Island's important place in history and help meet the state's deadline.

CRAY HOUSE

In October, Tina Miles, Queen Anne's



County Tourism Director escorted 36 ladies from Baltimore on a tour of the county and of course, stopped to visit the Cray House Museum.

The ladies, who were from an adult class at the Roland Park Country School, were greeted by Myrtle Bruscup and Mary White at the Cray House. The tourists left a generous donation for the Cray House fund.

ANCIENT INITIALS PUZZLE OWNERS

At the head of a tidal stream of Shipping Creek at the end of Batt's Neck Road, Anne and Tom Griffin built their home in a thick woods about 6 years ago.

After clearing for their home, one of the trees the Griffins carefully preserved is a huge old holly overlooking the shallow creek which traditionally was famous as an Island soft crab source. In recent years the submerged grasses have diminished, leaving the shedding crabs no place to hide.

Carved on the holly tree trunk with the date "1913" are a pair of initials which have spread open as the tree trunk grew.



"T. C. Stevens" is still very legible. The second set appears to be:

"L. T. Jamey or Janey." The lower case letters were carved in a smaller handwriting and the widening by the tree's growth makes them extremely hard to read. The letter following "J" is shaped like an "a" rather than an "o", while the last letter resembles a "y".

The two sets are followed by "J.S.", perhaps carved at a later date.

Asking elderly Islanders, we determined that T.C. Stevens was Tristram ("Trus") Stevens whose father William once kept a store at what is

Continued next page

now Batt's Neck Village.

Can anyone help with the second set? Could it be a "James" or a "Jones", despite the last letter, a questionable "y"?

LIBRARY REPORT

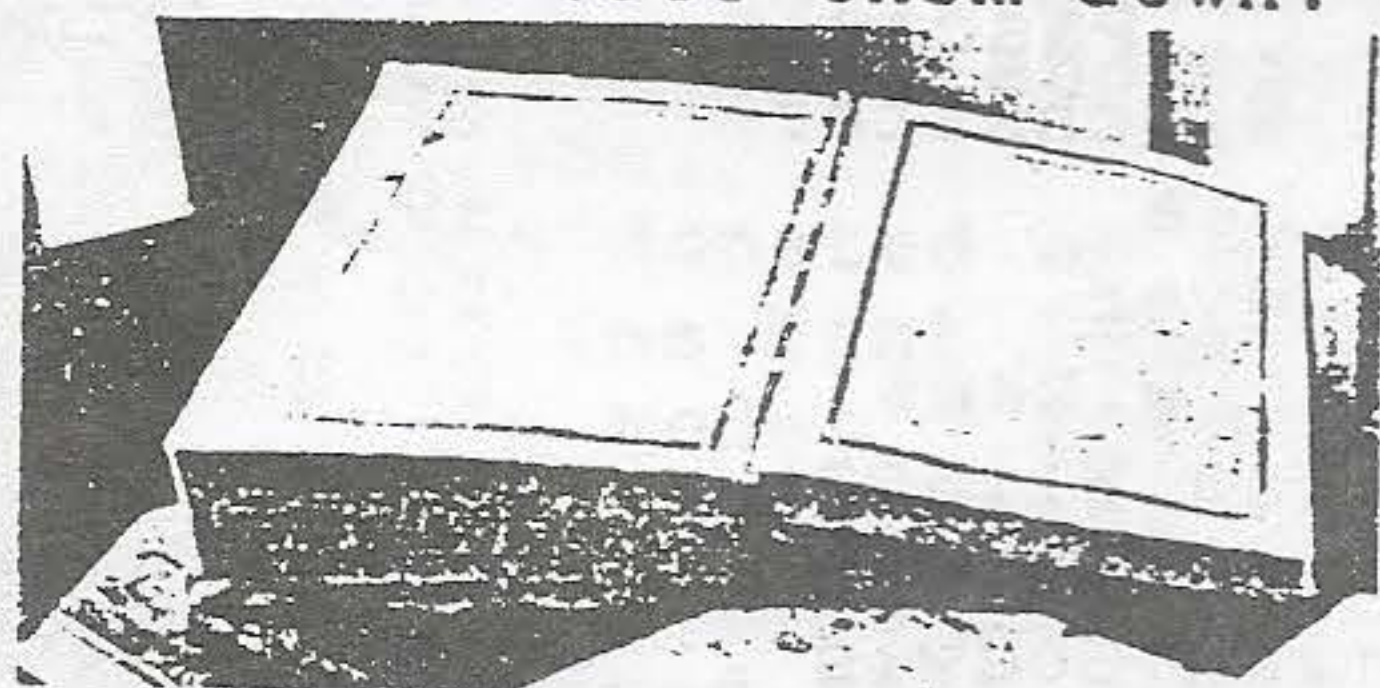
Mary J. White

The Society's Genealogy and History files at the Kent Island Library were officially opened to the public September 20. Nearly 100 people witnessed the ribbon cutting ceremony and to view the many exhibits.

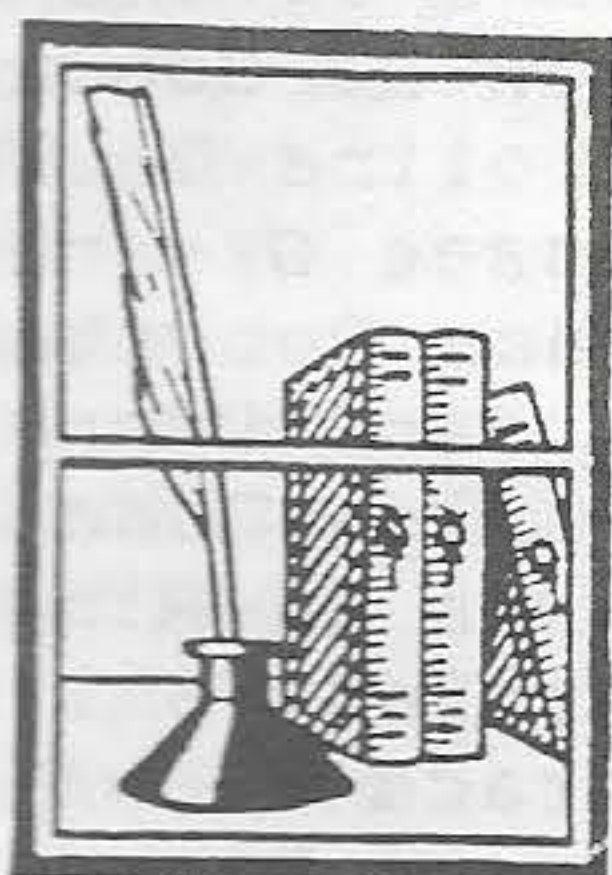
Rose Lane explained the content and use of our genealogy files and **Bettye Speed** enumerated the many records included in our history files.

A very fine exhibit of school pictures and memorabilia was organized by **June Palmer**. Visitors were fascinated by this display and helped greatly in naming persons and places which the committee had been unable to identify.

Bill Goodhand presided over the able display and reference books with assistance from **Evelyn White James**, **Mary Jane White Leaverton**, **Jane Golt Sparks**, and **Toni Baxter Davis**. Sixteen Family Bibles in one place created an attractive display. The amount of information contained in those volumes is mind boggling. The sight of so many old family treasures in one spot gave a rare feeling of a strong connection with the past, conjuring up visions of Grandma with her quill pen inscribing in her fine feathery hand those important family dates into the Bible by the light of a candle. Those dates ultimately are just as important today as they were when she wrote them down.



At the present time we have copied the records of 78 family Bibles and have found over 100 other surnames listed in them.



There are still many other Bibles which have not been copied containing information of tremendous value to researchers.

Among the reference books displayed was an original copy of the 1877 Maps of the Eastern Shore brought in by **Bill Denny**. Several of the late **Mildred Schoch's** published books as well as her abstracts of wills, deeds, and the Methodist Church records of marriages, baptisms, and burials 1854-1900 were on display. Christ Church records 1846-1900 compiled by **Mary J. White** and a list of the records of over 30 private burial grounds on Kent Island also drew much interest. Perhaps the most interesting of the reference grouping were the Burial Permits issued by the late **Frank Thomas** from 1900-1922. The originals, too fragile to be handled, will be placed in the Hall of Records. They were the gift of **Charles and Frances Ford**.

Delicious refreshments were prepared and served by **Myrtle Bruscup** and **Joyce Denny**.

Records show that our files are being used on average of two to three times weekly. For those people who may need help phone 643-6283 to arrange for a committee member to be on hand at the library.

Sincere thanks to all who have supported this project.

MURPHY'S LAW FOR GENEALOGISTS

(for those whose ancestors emmigrated from state to state)

The document containing evidence of the missing link in your research has been lost due to fire or war.

The keeper of vital records you need will have just been insulted by a genealogist

Your great-great grandfather's obituary states "he died leaving no issue of record".

The town clerk you write desperately can't write legibly and doesn't have a copier.

The will you need went down with the Titanic.

Copies of old newspapers have holes in the last names only.

No one in your family tree ever did anything, always rented, never was

Continued next page **211**

sued, and was named in no wills.

You just learned great Aunt Matilda's executor sold all her family records to a flea market dealer some where in New York City.

Yours is the only last name not recorded in 3 billion in the Mormons records.

The 37-volume 16,000 page history of your county of origin isn't indexed.

The critical link in your family tree is named "Smith."

PETITION OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE ILE OF KENT*

To the Lt. Gen'l. of the Province of Maryland: May 23, 1662

That Cap't. Thomas Brednox,... deceased, received six or seven thousand pounds of tobacco which hee was to buy... necessarys for the Company, which hee hath not done, but converted it to his owne use; Petitioners pray that there may be an account given to our Captain Will Leeads,... for the use of the Company, Subscribed:

John Errickson	John Dobes
John smith	Richard Blunt
Meeck Bearton	william Price
Cornelius Meateag	John Pusser
John Gibson	John Winchester
Macom Mecomy	Henry Hare
Willm Dauis	Francis Finch
George Collison	Moses stegoll
Mathew Read	John Winchester
Thomas Brooke	Edmond Carphenter
Peeter Pihall	Charles Stoward
Edward Joanes	Peeter Johnson
William Dauis	John White
John Macrinnon	John Morgan
Richard steuens	Thomas Osborne
Anthony Callaway	Thomas Hills
Allexander Nash	Dell Lonely**
Allexander waters	Joseph Newman.

* Archives, Vol. 3, p. 455
 ** P. 526 this man is named "Deliverance Lovely". It is interesting to compare names with the 1850 census to how many original families (despite spelling) remained Queen Anne's County or Kent Island.

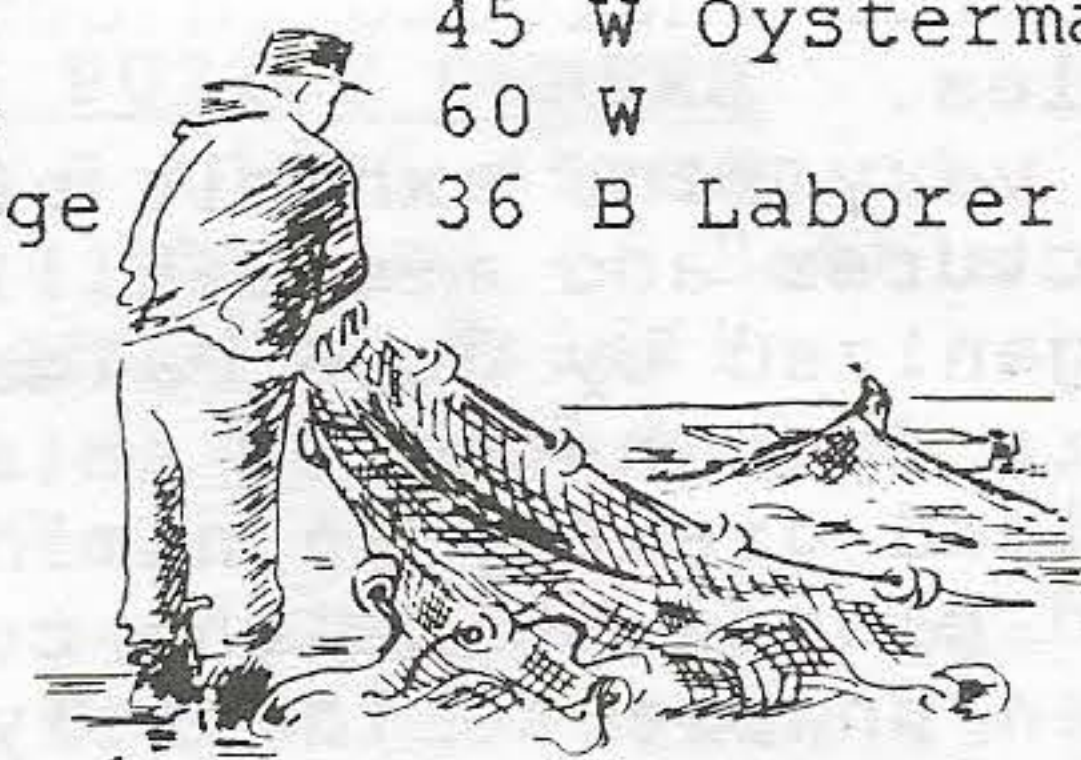
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Matchlock
musket

1850 Census-KENT ISLAND

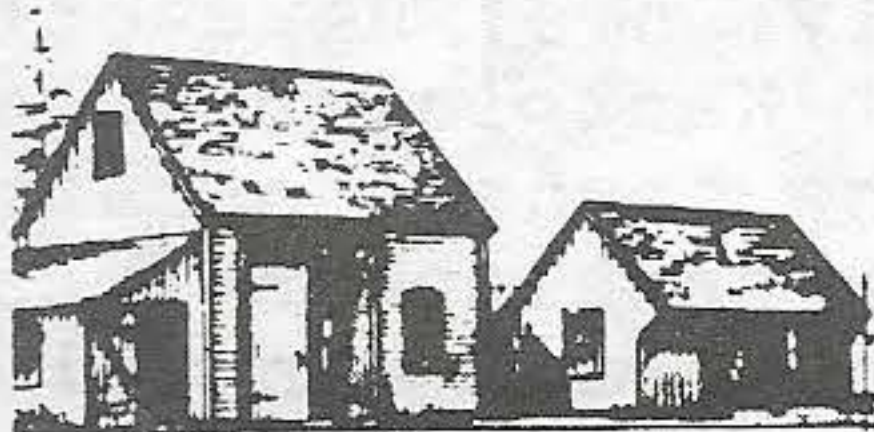
(Continued from Fall 1990)

Louisa Joiner	28 W
Hannah Wright	40 B
Anna E. Norman	45 W
James Goodhand	27 W Farmer
John D. Goodman	40 W Sailor
Caroline Tolson	63 W
Jessee Greenage	30 B Laborer
Adams Roberts	50 B Farmer
Richard Dunn	38 B Laborer
Charles Dunn	35 B Laborer
James B. Ringgold	44 W Farmer
Harriett Smith	48 B
Horace Brown	48 B Sailor
Edward Ringgold	22 W Farmer
Levi White	80 B Laborer
Charles Gardner	25 W Laborer
Margaret Legg	42 W
John Berry	12 B
Susan Cooper	47 B
Joseph Smith	45 W Oysterman
Rebecca Lewis	60 W
Asbury Greenage	36 B Laborer



Alexander Hazelton	37 B Laborer
David Jones	30 W Sailor
Arthur White	28 B Carpenter
James Ringgold	29 W Farmer
Levi White	70 B Laborer
Woolman Lynch	22 W Farmer
Wilson L. Palmer	63 W Farmer
Jacob Bullen	34 W Farmer
Edward Tims	44 W Laborer
Aquilla Legg	62 W None
Samuel T. Walker	22 W Laborer
Amos Anderson	46 B Laborer
John Wilson	71 B Laborer
James M. Stevens	39 W Farmer
Edward Hopkins	35 W Farmer
Reuben Legg	30 W Farmer
Marmaduke White	24 W Farmer
James Benton	32 W Farmer
William E. Goodhand	23 W Farmer
Lewis C. Pascault	60 W Farmer
Isaac Winchester	28 W Farmer
Julia Lee	40 B
John Boyer	50 B Laborer
Charles Wickes	60 B Laborer
Angelina Wilson	30 B
James H. Smith	35 W Sailor
Jeremiah Godwin	54 W Farmer
Jame Wright	18 B
William Tames (?)	43 W Farmer
Richard Moore	65 B

Continued next page



Jacob Burton	70	B	Laborer
Margaret Phillips	30	W	
James Hopkins Sr.	77	W	Farmer
William Hopkins	30	W	Farmer
Daffheny Roberts	40	B	
Hans Nelson	56	W	Sailor
William Goodhand	30	W	Farmer
Walter Chesser	50	W	Sailor
223 Households	414	Colored	
811 Whites	681	Slaves	

The Editor regrets that space limitation prevents listing all family names and household relationships.

The 1850 Q. A. census was compiled by Anne Covington Kidd and published in 1987 by Family Line Publications 13405 Collingwood Terrace Silver Spring, MD. 20905.

GENEALOGY REPORT **Mary J. White**



It is very difficult to separate out genealogical information from our library information but there are one or two items that deserve special attention. In the last two issues of the Ile of Kent newsletter Editor Bettye Speed has recorded the names of the Heads of Household of the 4th District of Queen Anne's County for 1850. This was the first year the Census Bureau actually listed the names, ages, etc. of all members of a household.

The names are taken from the published 1850 census by Anne Covington Kidd, now of Virginia, but originally a native of Queen Anne's County.

Rose Lane, who has been a diligent member of the Library Committee, has generously donated a copy of Mrs. Kidd's book to our reference library

files. It is a valuable addition to our growing historical resources.

Another addition of genealogical value to us is a copy of the 560 page "NASHES OF IRELAND, Richard and Alexander Nash of the Eastern Shore and Their Allied Families, 1220-1956" by Anna Catherine Smith Pabst, Delaware Ohio.

This is a particularly interesting volume since it contains references to other Island families: **Harris, Taylor, Ringgold, Wickes, Cox, Blunt**, etc. We are grateful to **Robert E. Nash III** for his generosity in having this out of print book copied for us.



A few months ago Bill Goodhand found an iron fence- enclosed graveyard in Matapeake State Park. The markers are:

Charles H. Stansbury

1863-1931

His wife

Harriet R. Dunn

1864-19

Mary A Brice

Sept. 18, 1885

Dec. 22, 1923

Daughter of

Harriet R. Stansbury

At Rest

This brings the list of known grave sites recorded to 31. We believe there are many more sites yet unrecorded and hope eventually to find them. In addition, a beginning has been made on recording information from the Stevensville Cemetery. We would appreciate anyone's help on this activity.



RECENT HISTORY

In view of the 1989-90 controversy over the planned water and sewer expansion to Cloverfields, a repeat of a RECORD OBSERVER editorial of May 4, 1988 might cast historical perspective on the dilemma:

"KENT ISLAND PLANNING LONG OVERDUE

Kent Island, home to one third of the population of the second fastest growing county in the state, will now enjoy the benefits of an expanded water system.

The expansion, announced last week by the Queen Anne's County Commission, will cost \$6 million and take two years to complete.

For years, the county commissioners have refused to expand sewer capacity (except in 1985 and then the current commission put the expansion on hold) in order to control growth on the island. But no one ever said just what kind and how much growth the island needs, other than "controlled quality growth," as commissioner Wheeler Baker put it last week. In the eight years since the current plant's construction, the county has not progressed beyond that noble, but troublesomely vague guideline.

Where's the island's comprehensive plan? Its blueprint for future growth? Has anyone wondered just what Kent Island should look like in the 1990's and beyond?

This last question is mind boggling. Many communities don't need to answer it immediately. Often, they're big enough to absorb rapid growth, or their population is in collective agreement on the speed such development should take.

Kent Island isn't so lucky. Its island status puts severe limits on growth and the county fathers are divided on what should be preserved. The county's comprehensive plan isn't adequate to meet the special planning needs of the island. Indeed, Kent Island is a world unto itself compared to the character of the rest of the county. Its uniqueness as part of the Baltimore Metropolitan Area is probably why county officials treat its planning needs with psychological protective gloves, if at all.

The soul-wrenching questions rapid growth forces a community to face

understandibly (sic) have officials hesitant. But Kent Island hasn't waited for the county to catch up. Did it take a development rush to prove that an island can only hold so many shopping centers, condos, and parking lots? Is this a case of development overwhelming the county, or of county commissioners unwilling to open their eyes wide enough to face reality?"

From an historical perspective, Kent Islanders of 1850 would never dream of being referred to as "part of "the Baltimore metro area".

There are many Islanders who remember the fear of "opening Pandora's Box" that the 1952 Bay Bridge brought. While it is true the bridge brought many unforeseen problems, it also brought expanded services, up-to-date shopping, road improvements, jobs, and prosperity.

With the 1990 election behind us and a new County Commission being sworn in December 11th, perhaps a proposed alternative sewer system costing million of dollars less will help solve an eminent health hazard that can soon affect the entire county, not just low-lying Kent Island communities.

In four more years, one can only guess at the important issues Kent Island will face in its continuing march through history.

The Ile of KENT is published quarterly by the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD. 21666.

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128 Eareckson Lane

Stevensville, 21666

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Annual membership dues are \$5.00.

Application for membership should be sent to:

Catherine Kirwan, Membership Chair
Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.