

Isle of Kent - 1631



Newsletter of The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

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

KENT ISLAND ON-LINE

Brent Lewis

There are some things everybody knows. Everybody knows crabmeat tastes good. Everybody knows not to go swimming right after eating. And everybody knows you can find anything on the internet. Even folks who don't know what the internet is.

The internet, or world wide web, is an endless network of computer data bases all interconnected and accessible to any computer user within that web. No one person or organization owns the net. It is estimated that there are thirty million users in the United States alone. The freedom to easily communicate with anyone, anywhere on earth, is one of the internet's popular attractions. Another is the vast wealth of researchable data stored with its amazing global linkage. You really can find anything on the internet.

For anyone with an interest in local history, a computer connection with the world wide web can prove to be a priceless resource.

A recent internet search turned up a variety of Kent Island related websites worth a visit.

See p. 3



KIHS member Hanna Wall is hostess for the Stevensville Train Depot while archaeologist John Seidel and daughter Jessie record data at the Cray House dig, 11-1-98.

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Isle of Kent correspondence to Marilyn Wilderson, Editor, 419 Love Point Road, Stevensville, MD 21666

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	Eva Thompson	643-5368
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Christmas Dinner	Emma Thomas	643-5584
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President's Message

Dear friends of the Kent Island Heritage Society:

This will be my last time to talk to you as president. As you know, the success of any society is its working members. This society is no different than any other, in that it has the same few members doing the yeoman's job of the work. To them I say Thank You.

Special thanks go to Audrey Hawkins. She has been my right hand. Eva Thompson has worked so hard to keep this society running: finding people to host the Cray House and Train Station, rewriting our Bylaws, and organizing our affairs. Also I want to say "Thank You" to Lois Cockey. She did so so much for me. You will all be in my thoughts. I hate to think what might happen to this society without these ladies and my wonderful Board Members and officers.

As I review our work over the past four years, all of us can be proud. The Heritage Society now owns four properties. We have begun the restoration work on the Cray House. But we must be vigilant. Development on Kent Island is coming! This society must be in the forefront of fighting for careful preservation of Kent Island.

We must decide now. Do we want Glen Burnie or do we fight to preserve Kent Island's heritage? Only you can decide.

*Sincerely,
Hugo G. Gemignani*

President Kent Island Heritage Society

*The state maintained www.mdarchives.state.md.us is a great place for the historical investigator to begin exploring the avenues along the information superhighway. The reference and research pages include on-line access to birth, death, and adoption records. There is information about accessing the great wealth of documentation managed by the Maryland Archives and about enrolling in genealogy workshops. MARYLAND AT A GLANCE includes a Chesapeake Bay chronology from 10,000 B.C. to the present and an index of Maryland museums arranged by county. The state symbols are listed here too. From our Great Seal and official flag to our bird, boat, crustacean, and dog, they're all available for quick review. You can even e-mail your favorite (or least favorite) state officials.

*Family Line Genealogy Publications at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Strawn> offers a comprehensive collection of significant historical and genealogical source books for sale. The company sells such publications as Tombstones of Queen Anne's County, Settlers of Maryland, and A Collection of Maryland Church Records. This website also features research-for-hire services, an archive that examines 200,000 surnames, and a page that displays 40,000 linked genealogy sites.

*www.ubmail.ubalt.edu/thollowak/chesapk.html doesn't market books for sale, but instead gives the researcher a great Chesapeake Bay bibliography that includes such baiting titles as Watermen, Oystermen, and Kent Island Controversy.

*Internet odds and ends include: www.sunsite.unc.edu/hyperwar where you can discover the USS

KENT ISLAND, a Second World War Navy ship, and www.serve.com/shadows, a site that explores the mysterious world. There's a sea serpent section that features our very own CHESSIE alongside such luminaries as the Loch Ness Monster and the giant octopus of the Bahamas.

*The last stop on our internet tour of Kent Island is an interesting commercial site, www.covesoft.com. These folks offer various internet services but also maintain a nice community interest section on their site. Along with a listing of area events and a map are several pages of information and photos showcasing some of our favorite local landmarks, such as Christ Church and the Stevensville Train Depot. High tech history never looked so good.

The Kent Island Heritage Society has lost some very special friends.

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Koenig	6-16-97
Agnes Wyatt Chance	8-7-97
Elmer L. Mankin	10-14-97
Paul Coleman, Sr.	10-16-97
Orem Thompson	10-22-97
Frederick S. Demarr	11-97
Elizabeth (Ecky) Tolson	2-13-98
Evelyn W. James	3-31-98
Charles S. (Buck) Snyder	5-29-98
Pauline Michael	6-10-98
Carolyn S. Koegel	6-12-98
John D. (Buddy) Sparks, Jr.	8-29-98
Walter R. Coppage	10-6-98

The Society is very thankful for the interest and support shown over the years by these members in our organization and our community. We will continue to honor their memory by discovering, identifying, restoring, and preserving the heritage of Kent Island.

CHESAPEAKE EXPLORATION CENTER ON KENT ISLAND HAS GRAND OPENING

The official opening and dedication of the Chesapeake Exploration Center, the visitors' center at the Narrows, took place Tuesday, October 6, 1998, from 2 to 5 P.M.

The program opened with a welcome by Kathy Magruder, Director of Queen Anne's County Office of Tourism. A color guard was presented by QAC Sheriff's Deputies and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police, and the Invocation was by Rev. James J. Shand of Christ Episcopal Church.

County Commission President Ted Moeller noted the contributions of many organizations including the Maryland Historic Trust, the Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Tourism Development Board, the National Park Service, and the State General Assembly.

Honorary guest was former owner of the building, Belle G. Barrett, who cut the ribbon. Also attending were other county commissioners George M. O'Donnell and Michael F. Zimmer, Jr.; Wesley R. Johnson, director of QAC Department of Parks and Recreation; Amy S. Coleman, director of QAC Economic Development Office; Charles F. Crossley, QAC Sheriff; Colonel John W. Rhodes, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police; Del. Wheeler Baker; and Senator Walter Baker.

The Exploration Center will eventually house an exhibit of the history, natural history, and culture of Queen Anne's County, to be completed in Fall 1999.

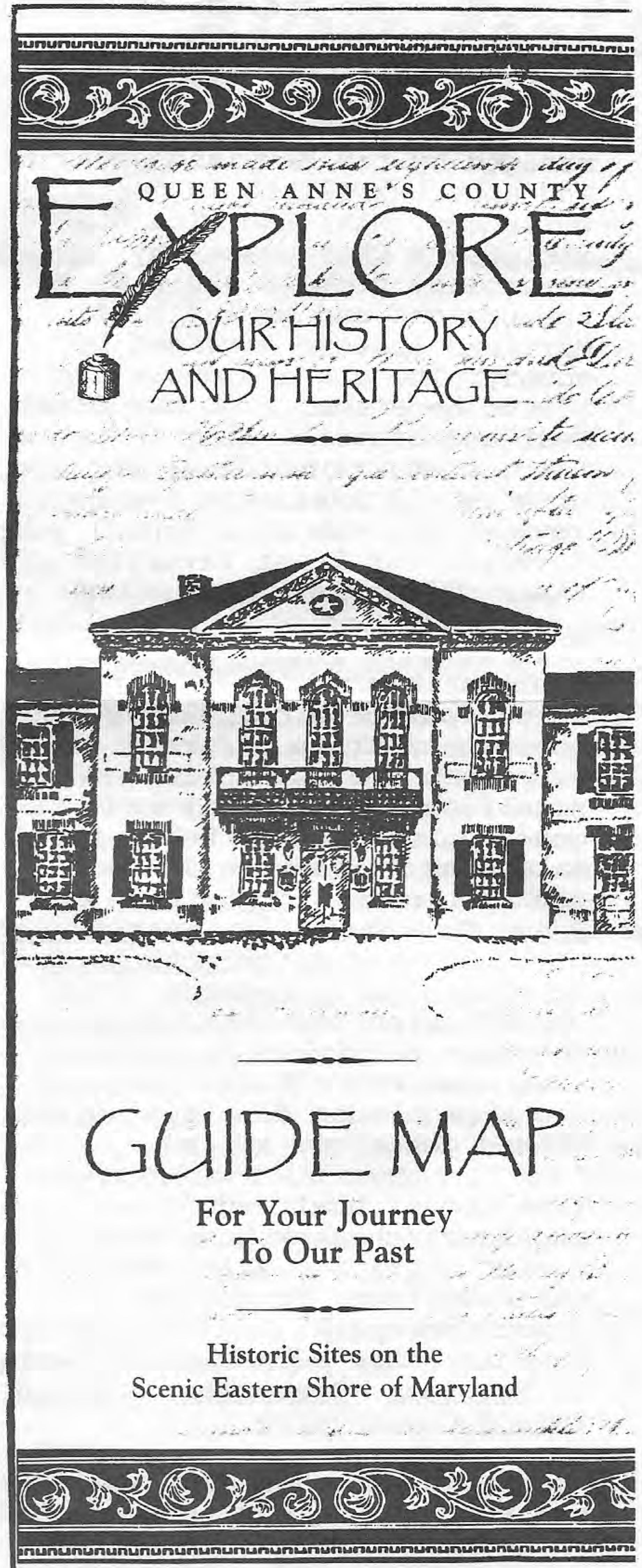
Thank you.

An end-of-the-year Thank You from the Kent Island Heritage Society for members who worked as docents in 1998 in the Cray House, Train Depot, and Old Post Office (headquarters):

Roland Bruscup	Wendy Morrow
Myrtle Bruscup	Dick Dadds
Billy Baxter	Eileen Dadds
Gil Dunn	Nancy Cook
Florence Dunn	Art Wall
Chris Kilian	Hanna Wall
Terry Kilian & family	Audrey Hawkins
Marilyn Wilderson	

NEW GUIDE PUTS KENT ISLAND HISTORIC SITES ON THE MAP

The new award-winning Guide Map to historic sites in Queen Anne's County produced more than 300 requests in one week from all over the United States.



The travel brochure includes a large fold-out map of sites with inserts and drawings of specific buildings on Kent Island (Kent Manor Inn, Cray House, Stevensville Train Depot, Stevensville Bank Building, Lowery Hotel, and Stevensville Post Office), and in Queenstown, Wye Mills, Centreville, Church Hill, Sudlersville, and Crumpton.

Begun by Marsha Friz, the guide was the work of the county's Historic Sites Consortium Administrator Liz Seidel, who coordinated the work of artist Ellen Foster, graphic designer Joanne Shipley, architectural historian Orlando Ridout V, and architect Tony James.

A nice write-up in the Washington Post "Travel" section on Sunday, October 25, 1998, brought a flurry of requests for the attractive guide map:

"If you're intrigued about the serene Wye River area of Maryland's Eastern Shore that hosted last week's Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, you're in luck. The Queen Anne's County Office of Tourism has just published a handsome and informative map and tourism guide to the area, which is directly across the Bay Bridge and less than an hour from most Washington-area households."

HISTORY-MAKING PARADE CELEBRATES NEW KENT ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Teresa W. Kilian

For the first time in the history of the universe, Kent Island is home to three bands--and they all marched through Stevensville on Saturday, November 7, 1998, to celebrate the advent of the brand new Kent Island High School.

Fire equipment from local volunteer fire departments and teams and student groups from the new school also participated in the parade, despite the brisk weather.

First to appear was the Stevensville Middle School band under the direction of Anthony Settineri. They looked adorable in their white hooded sweatshirts, and these young musicians really worked hard to memorize their march, "Join the

Parade."

The Kent Island Volunteer Band has been in existence for five years now, and able director Emile La Civita has coaxed a mighty sound out of his adult band members, who played "The Thunderer," by John Philip Sousa.

Bringing up the rear of the parade was the Kent Island High School Band in its first parade ever. I was overcome with emotion when I saw the sharp-looking music students in their bright blue sweatshirts and black pants and shoes marching and playing Sousa's "Liberty Bell" that crisp morning. They were led by director Lindy Sikes and drum major Laura Kilian.

More than forty musicians were in the Bucaneer Band that day. What a momentous occasion for Kent Island! And what a wonderful beginning for a school tradition that will continue for many years into the future.

Minutes

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 17, 1998

The meeting was held at the Kent Island Library in Stevensville with the following Board Members present: Hugo, Audrey, Donna, John, Bill, and Gil.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 P.M. by the president, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the June general meeting were printed in the Fall 1998 newsletter, therefore not read aloud and accepted as printed.

The Treasurer's report was given by Audrey Hawkins and accepted as read.

Hugo reviewed the officers for 1999: Nancy Cook, President; John Smigo, Vice-President; Carole Frederick, Corresponding Secretary; Donna Jones, Recording Secretary; and Audrey Hawkins, Treasurer.

Hugo also reviewed two new Board Members: Maurice Sanger and Peter Holland (1999-2000-2001).

The president then gave a brief reminder of the Bylaws regarding nominations.

See p. 8

Cray House archaeological excavation

1998



Sara Allison, Washington College student volunteer, carefully removes soil from her grid near the north wing of the Cray House. Exposed are brick fragments, oyster shells, and a whole tin can, 10-25-98.

"The foundations of the vanished north wing may reveal its size and construction, while artifacts found within it may demonstrate its function.

In back of the house, evidence for old outbuildings may exist, including the stable and meat house noted in the 1896 tax assessment. Parts of even earlier structures may also lie buried there including smokehouses, privies, and wells."

Dr. John Seidel, assistant professor in the Chesapeake Regional Studies program at Washington College, directed the archaeology dig. He was assisted by Elizabeth Seidel, Historic Sites Consortium administrator for Queen Anne's County.

The program was funded in part by the Maryland Humanities Council through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dazzling, dry October weather shone on the three weekends of the archaeological dig at the Cray House in Stevensville, Oct.10-17, Oct.24-25, and Oct.31-Nov.1, 1998.

The excavations were a cooperative project by the Kent Island Heritage Society, Washington College, the Queen Anne's County Office of Tourism, and the Historic Sites Consortium of Queen Anne's County.

Plans are in place for the stabilization and restoration of the framing, foundation, and chimneys of the Cray House. Because the renovation will significantly disturb the grounds of the house, an archaeological dig was planned to examine areas that would be lost to future research by the renovation.

A pamphlet "Archaeology at the Cray House" outlines some of the goals of the project:

Dr. John Seidel and son Andrew determine stratigraphy at the Cray House dig, 11-1-98.





Pat Groller, a volunteer from Preston, MD, explains her work to visitors at the Cray House dig, 11-1-98.

"Coal was tossed out the back door," explained John Seidel, "as were animal bones. We're not talking about manicured lawns and garbage collection in the nineteenth century."

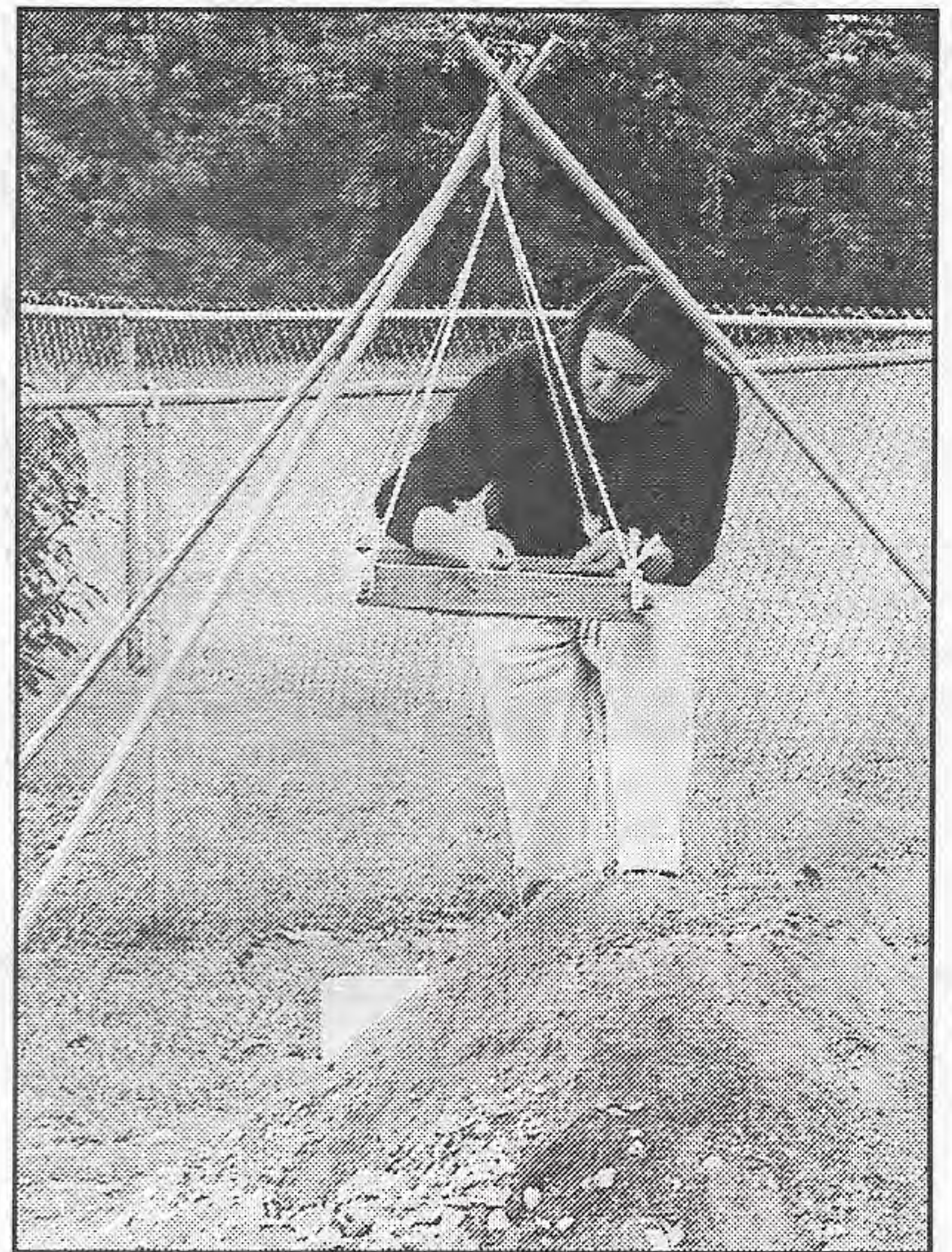
Other artifacts of interest--a glass bowl or cup, a whole glass bottle, a barrel hoop, an iron ring, a large piece of cut iron, shards from a chamber pot and a large plate will be cleaned and processed in the laboratory, all usefully recorded as to their exact site and strata of discovery.

Analysis of the results of the Cray House dig 1998 will take some time to prepare. Watch for future reports in the KIHS newsletter or The Bay Times.

Claire Baker, Washington College student volunteer, sifts artifacts and soil through shaker at Cray House dig, 11-1-98.

Some of the student volunteers from Washington College for the three weekends were: Claire Baker, Kathleen Russell, Kate Wise, Sara Allison, and the Seidels' daughter Jessie and son Andrew. Fifteen members of Boy Scout Webelow Troop #148 from Queenstown, MD, worked the soil shakers Sunday, October 25.

As the soil yielded its secrets, none were surprising: they were the expected remains of middle-class nineteenth-century life. Fragments of brick and other building debris remain where the north wing of the house was demolished; horse shoe nails and cut nails; oyster shell and pig and beef bones, indicating diet and means of disposing of garbage; a fire pit in the back yard full of charcoal.



OLD BUSINESS

Hugo reminded the members to keep abreast of the plans to reroute a road through Stevensville via Cockey Lane. A property owner, Lou Johnson, was approached as to his plans for the property where the supposed road will go. Hugo told us that Mr. Johnson has been to file for a building permit for his lot, in hopes of stopping the plans.

The president is also concerned about the growth plans of members of the County Commission and urged the Society to voice its cares about economic expansion.

Hugo wished to express many thanks to his fellow officers during his term.

NEW BUSINESS

On display at the meeting were building plans of the Cray House restoration.

Forrest Chisman, author of History of Matapeake, was introduced and presented an overview of his book, which can be found in our library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hugo noted that his Kent Island decoys will be donated to the Society upon his death or put on display if we acquire a suitable place. Thank you, Hugo!

Many thanks to Janet Denny, who provided the tasty treats for tonight's meeting. You always do a lovely job!

Tonight's guest speakers, John and Elizabeth Seidel, were presented to discuss the archaeological dig at the Cray House.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of November, 1998,

Donna Jones
Recording Secretary

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF CRAY HOUSE DIG

Donna Jones

Program for September 17, 1998

Dr. John Seidel and Elizabeth Seidel, guest speakers

Elizabeth Seidel opened the program with a synopsis of the history and unique architectural points of the Cray House. An archaeological dig will take place on this site in Stevensville in hopes of unearthing clues to the origin of the house and whether or not a previous wing existed. The dig will take place over three weekends in October 1998, with guided tours of the site and advertising in newspapers and local schools. Tour guides are asked to volunteer as well as anyone who would like to participate in the dig.

A slide presentation of archaeological procedures was presented by John Seidel. Anyone wishing to participate in the dig must also attend a workshop given prior to the dig in order to be further educated on the process. The procedure begins with a survey of the property to lay out a series of controls. A grid of the property is then laid in order to pinpoint the exact location of where the artifacts are found.

The search begins with policing the area on foot to locate artifacts that may be at the surface of the ground, hidden beneath grass or objects. All artifacts are plotted on a grid map of the dig, beginning with ground level. An area is scraped away one layer at a time, with the dirt being screened to expose any small overlooked artifact. The soil is studied for features such as color changes and composition to detect remains of structures, foundations, walls, and evidence of fires. Soil can also lead to the recovery of artifacts in wells or cisterns, which were sometimes filled in with trash.

With the actual digging over, all of the artifacts are painstakingly plotted on a grid map and their locations put on an overlay to be placed on the map. A soil color chart is established and everything has to be drawn and photographed. The

artifacts are then taken to the lab, where they are carefully cleaned and stabilized. A digitized map of the dig is done on computer to visualize all of the compiled data, with all items in a database for quick comparison.

Treasurer's Report

Audrey Hawkins



August 1--September 30, 1998

Begin. balance in checking acct.
.....\$32,104.21

Accounts Receivable

(Includes membership dues, bank interest, sales income, sales tax, stock dividend, Sam's Club dues).....\$2,087.31

Total Receivables & Checking Acct. balance.....\$34,191.52

Disbursements

(Includes purchases to sell, Cray House architect, electrician, grant fee, Train Depot, grass maintenance, postage, printing & office supplies, Post Office electricity and grass, storage fee, Christmas dinner deposit, & misc.).....\$6,528.33

Balance in checking account
(9-30-98).....\$27,663.19

October 1--October 31, 1998

Begin. balance in checking acct.
.....\$27,663.11

Accounts Receivable

(Includes membership dues, bank interest, sales income, sales tax, patron ad for 1999)..\$190.19

Total Receivables & Checking Acct. balance.....\$27,853.30

Disbursements

(Includes Cray House electricity, Greg Torchio to move & store furniture, QAC Sanitary District, Train Depot, Post Office grass/elec./sanitary district, storage fee, & misc.)...\$2,335.92

Balance in checking acct.
(10-31-98).....\$25,517.38

CD Savings.....\$14,299.03

CD Savings..... 709.52

Special savings.....11,709.53

SAFE STORAGE FOR FAMILY HISTORY
A WORTHWHILE PROJECT

Teresa W. Kilian

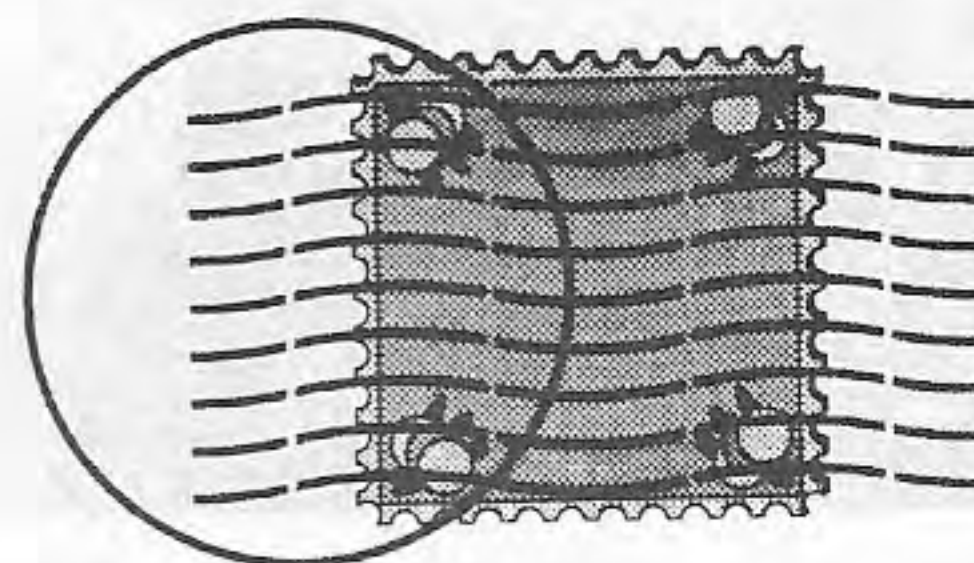
If your house burned down tonight what could never be replaced? Probably you have treasures such as photographs, old letters, newspaper clippings, and family heirlooms from the past lovingly stashed away. You may also have artwork, report cards, and certificates generated by your children or grandchildren.

If you are hoarding any such irreplaceable items, you may be interested in storing them archivally so they can also be enjoyed by future generations.

The process of mounting your valuable mementos on acid-free paper and slipping them into polyethylene sleeves is inexpensive and lots of fun.

Remember, the enemies of our past treasures are light, dust, mold, humidity, insects, mice, and acid from trees. Most old paper has acid and lignin in it, which cause it to yellow and disintegrate. It's possible to photocopy your documents and store your photocopies in a separate place from the originals in case the worst happens. Please don't store anything folded; flatten it out instead.

For more details, call Terry at (410) 643-6787 or join my genealogy class offered free this winter by the Queen Anne's County Parks and Recreation Department.



LUNCH WITH LIZ

Florence Dunn

On November 6, 1998, the Fisherman's Inn was the setting for honoring Liz Bukowsky. The Kent Island Federation of Art planned the occasion to show appreciation to their outstanding member, Liz.

The room was filled with KIFA members, family, and friends. Liz has shared her beautiful talent with her community by painting a number of murals in the Queen Anne's County area.

The mural in the Kent Island Heritage Society's Stevensville Train Depot depicting the Baltimore skyline was done by Liz Bukowsky. She gave us her talent and a very generous gift. The Kent Island Heritage Society thanks you, Liz, and congratulations. You are a real asset to our community.

Note: The front room of the KIFA building has been designated the Liz Bukowsky Day Room. On exhibit during November 1998 is a grouping of Liz's works, with pictures of some of her large murals and three paintings on loan from Robert Eisinger.

KIHS HOLIDAY TRADITION CONTINUES Sunday, December 6, 1998, 1-4 P.M.

The KIHS Open House tradition will continue this year with hosts, hostesses, and musicians at the Stevensville Train Depot, the Old Post Office (KIHS Headquarters), and the grounds of the Cray House.

Weather permitting, the Brass Quintet from the Kent Island Volunteer Band will perform holiday music outside the Cray House from 2 to 3 P.M. Also performing at the three sites in Stevensville will be the Kilian Family Singers and flute and clarinet ensembles from the Kent Island Band.

Join us for holiday refreshments and good cheer!

*Happy
Holidays*



Liz Bukowsky paints the Stevensville Train Depot mural, May 1992.

CRAY HOUSE RESTORATION FUNDS NEEDED

One of the most important projects of the Kent Island Heritage Society is now taking place - plans to restore the Cray House, reportedly one of only two existing post and plank buildings dating from the early nineteenth century (circa 1809-1817) in the state of Maryland.

An architectural survey conducted in 1994 indicates the collapsing of the first level floor system, especially on the front side of the building due to rotting plates, sills and beams. As of **February 15, 1998 the Cray House was declared unsafe and is no longer open to visitors.**

The Cray House preservation plan consists of five phases which will occur over the next four years, the total cost estimated to be about \$200,000. Grants from Maryland Historic Trust and other sources are being sought, but your financial aid is greatly needed in order to begin the important first phase of the preservation plan, the foundation and chimney repair at the cost of \$46,000. We do need to seek matching fund monies in order to complete the task to save this very important example of nineteenth century history.

The immediate goal of the Heritage Society is to raise \$20,000 in order to provide matching funds for our grant requests. At the present time we have no monetary resources to underwrite this project.

Won't you participate in a project which will assist visitors to and the residents of Kent Island in understanding their historical and cultural heritage?

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

\$100 ____ \$200 ____ \$500 ____ Other ____

The Kent Island Heritage Society
PO Box 321
Stevensville, Maryland 21666



Mark this special evening on your calendar!

Mark your calendar for the Kent Island Heritage Society's Annual Christmas Dinner meeting, December 12, 1998, at the Kent Island Yacht Club.

Festivities will begin with a cash bar at 6 P.M. and dinner at 7 P.M.

Highlights include entertainment and the annual silent auction.

To make a donation for the silent auction, please call Florence Dunn (643-5414), John Smigo (643-4609), or Bobbi Ann Nash (643-5196).

THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 321 • Stevensville, Maryland 21666-0321

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to become a member of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

Enclosed is my check to cover dues of membership indicated below:

Life Membership ... \$250.00 Single Membership... \$10.00

Name _____

Name _____

Street _____

Town/State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Dues and contributions are deductible on income tax returns.
Membership period January 1-December 31

The Kent Island Heritage Society

P.O. Box 321

Stevensville, MD 21666

Address Service Requested

Bulk Rate Paid
Permit #11
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21666