

Isle of Kent - 1631

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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. ■ WINTER 2010

www.kentislandheritagesociety.com

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President's Message

*I*t has been quite a winter. We can't help asking that age-old question, "Can spring be far behind?" Our snows this year on Kent Island and across the County were certainly historic and caused many of us to reflect on challenging winters of years past. We were all impressed with the historic response from our county leaders, road crews and emergency responders at all levels. We join our friends and neighbors in extending a hardy "Thank You."

I'm happy to report that our historic sites appear to have weathered the storms reasonably well, with wind-driven window leaks at the Kirwan House being our biggest challenge. But spring clean up and sprucing up is already underway at our sites. Special thanks to Tom Willey and Nancy Cook for their efforts to finish the Caboose project this spring.

We paid special tribute to Florence Dunn and Myrtle Bruscup for their lasting contributions to the Heritage Society, and extended our thanks and best wishes to both. We also gave special thanks to resigning board members, Kerry Lake and Peg Walbert. The unique talents of

Continued on page

Kent Island Day

*S*aturday, May 15, will mark our 39th annual Kent Island Day, an event that honors our past and celebrates what we've become. Please mark it on your calendars. And bring your children and grandkids. It's fun. And it's educational. (Don't tell them about that part, though.)

There will be a parade and continuous entertainment for young and old. Artisans and crafters. Reenactors galore. Music and dancers. Great food. And much more.

We're always looking for new ways to make our signature event more stimulating and interesting. If you should know of food vendors, crafters, artisans, operators of kiddie rides and the like that would contribute to a more memorable experience, please let us know.

Call coordinator Joyce Woodford at 410-827-4189 or mail her at joycehwoodford@msn.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Kent Island Heritage Society Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, March 24

► Fisherman's Inn, Kent Narrows ◄

7:00 p.m. Refreshments

7:30 p.m. Program

Dr. Clara Small

Prof. of History, Salisbury University

**"THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY
ON THE EASTERN SHORE"**

DOCENTS

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

KENT ISLAND DAY

•Joyce Woodward •Toni Gibson •Gary Walters

KIRWAN PROPERTY

•Joel Berger •Bill Denny •Dan Hopkins •Wayne Morris •Hal Wilson

KIRWAN INTERIOR

•Midge Kirwan •Myrtle Bruscup •Jane Sparks •Emma Thomas

KIRWAN STORE

•Linda Collier, Curator •Lora Lake, Curator

CRAY HOUSE

•Bill Denny •Barbara Marmion

STEVENSVILLE P.O.

•Francis Collier

TRAIN DEPOT

•Florence & Gil Dunn

CABOOSE RESTORATION

•Nancy Cook •Richard Dadds •"T" & Wayne Humphries •Tom Willey

STEVENSVILLE BANK

•Bill Denny •Jay Gibson

ORAL HISTORIES

•Brent Lewis

MEMBERSHIP

•Mae Hutchison

LIBRARY FILES

•Myrtle Bruscup •Fran Peters •Sally Morgan •Nancy Sadler

AUDIT

•Lynn Riley-Coleman •Jane Sparks

QAC HISTORIC SITES

•Nancy Cook, Coordinator

DEVELOPMENT

•Kerry Lake •Hal Wilson

CEMETERY ID & PRESERVATION

•Josh Willis

FARMERS MARKET

•Laura Keene

WEBSITE

•Carole Frederick

•John Bonner

PUBLIC RELATIONS

•John Bonner, Editor

President's Message

Continued from page 1

both are greatly appreciated, Kerry for his successful grant writing efforts and Peg for her service as our recording secretary.

At the dinner, we also elected and welcomed three new board members: Kay Roser, who will serve as our new recording secretary (Thanks Kay!); Josh Willis, who brings his "youthful vigor" and love of metal detecting to our team, and Nancy Cook, who will rejoin the board. Nancy's extensive corporate knowledge and experience, after nine years as our past president and many years as an active board member, will be a great addition to our leadership team.

At our dinner, we also held a successful silent auction with some wonderful antiques and unique items that generated some new funds to help support our coming efforts. Thank you, Linda, Toni, and Carol for making that event such a success, and thanks to all who donated and brought items and who participated in the spirited bidding. We hope to do it again next year.

Last year was an active and successful year for the Society and we wish to thank all our board members, society members, and many patrons for your support of Kent Island Day, the Student Scholarship Fund, the Summer Farmers Market, the Docent Open House program, the Fall Picnic, and the Annual Dinner.

Also last year, we were on hand in November, with Sen. Ben Cardin and our local elected officials, to help dedicate a new historic park on Kent Island: Ferry Point on Kent Narrows. The site is the point of a historic ferry crossing of the Narrows and a spectacular and beautiful addition to our natural public spaces on Kent Island. It is accessible via an extension of the Cross Island Trail near the County's Exploration Center.

This year we plan to continue our successful Kent Island Heritage events with even more involvement for kids and youth, especially at Kent Island Day. Mark your calendars now for May 15. The focus of our board this year will be on strategic planning, budgeting, increased fundraising efforts, and ongoing

maintenance and improvements at our unique historic sites. We invite Heritage Society members to consider offering your time and talents if you think you can help in any of these areas.

A special note on a special lady. Our beloved Ms. Audrey Hawkins has suffered a stroke and is currently in Corsica Hills in Centreville. She would love to hear from you if you would like to stop by or drop her a card. She has slowed down a bit but her legendary spirit and feistiness are serving her well in this challenge. Miss Audrey's passion and energy are reflected throughout our Society, as our treasurer, past president, docent coordinator and mentor. We all send her our prayers and warmest wishes.

We hope you'll consider attending our upcoming March general meeting, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, at Fisherman's Inn. Our guest speaker, Dr. Clara Small, of Salisbury University, will share her insight and riveting details about a challenging but important part of our heritage, "Slavery on the Eastern Shore". Our meeting that night will be open to the public, so bring a friend. We hope to see you then.

Jack Broderick



KIHS Scholarship winner Danae Brown is the daughter of Delmar Brown of Grasonville, Md.

Ferry Point Park

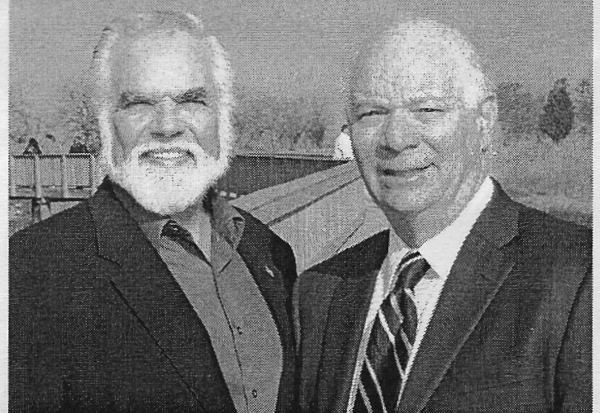
Kent Island's newest park sits on a tiny isolated spit of mostly marshland that juts into the mouth of the Chester River. Its end forms a protected cove once called "Crabclaw" by local watermen. It once was the eastern terminus of a ferry that linked Baltimore and Kent Island. Its location in relation to the Port of Baltimore suggests an even greater historical significance.

It is known that the Brits bivouacked on Kent Island just before sailing in the dead of night to shell Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. Exactly where is lost to history. But the same criteria that drove the ferry company to select it would have made it the most attractive place for the British captain to conceal his warships from the bay, to fortify his crew with grog in preparation for battle and to slip away undetected.

The National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Network Project is planning a new Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail to link sites around the bay that are significant for the War of 1812. This strategically located cove will be hard for it to ignore.

KIHS President Jack Broderick and U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin at dedication.

Federal, state and local government officials unveil the park's monument.



ANNUAL MEETING

- Del. Dick Sossi swears in 2010 officers
- Florence Dunn & Myrtle Bruscup honored for long service to KIHS

■ Silent Auction

Gold diamond, sapphire pin and pendant, \$125 value

Paula's Fine Jewelry

Hand painted box

Daena Feldman

Jay Gibson

Gold, pearl, diamond post earrings, \$295 value

Paula's Fine Jewelry

Tom Willey

\$100 gift certificate

TNT Jewelers

Flora Sossi

\$50 gift certificate

TNT Jeweler's

Dave Leathery

\$25 gift certificate

TNT Jewelers

Diana Bonner

Summer Bridge Tea

Tangles

Hal Wilson

Cordless drill, tape measure, screwdriver, work gloves

True Value Hardware

Joann Gerg

12 pc. barbeque set, **Sears**

Crab salsa, **Country Petal**

1 bu KI crabs (in season)

Jack Broderick

Florence Morris

1 qt. fresh-shucked oysters

Spencer Clark

Audrey Hawkins

1 qt. fresh-shucked oysters

Spencer Clark

Dick Sossi

A day (warm) of kayaking for two on Cox Creek

Jack Broderick

Rana Dye



GAME NIGHT SPECIAL

2 bottles of wine

Baker's Liquors

2 \$5 gift certificates

Pizza Hut

Black & white hammon game, puzzle

game, hand-painted box

Daena FeldmanPopcorn, **Linda Collier**

Joann Gerg

Cuff links, money clip

Kent Island Jewlery

Oil change, filter, lube

Main Street Auto

Phil Dumenio

\$25 gift certificate

Cracker Barrel

One month gift certificate

Island Athletic Club

Cameron Sewell

Travel bag, slippers, robe,

blanket, pillow

Spanning the Globe

Hair Products

Bay Bridge Salon

Renee (KI Yacht Club)

\$25 gift certificate

La Fontana Restaurant

Comnote, candlesticks,

decorative plates

Lynne Riley Coleman

Joann Gerg

Child's antique desk

Daena Feldman

Personalized note cards

Minuteman Press

Emily Hubis

Christmas centerpiece

Periwinkles

Christmas dip bowl, spreader,

dip mix

Country Petaller

\$25 gift certificate

Wildflower Nursery

Dawn Thomas

Basket of cheer

Critters at Christmas

Love Point Deli, Wine &**Spirits** Dick Sossi

2 btl salad dressing, pepper,

ginger peach, **Island Flowers**4 salad bowls, **Kirwan Coll.**

James Wimsatt

Yellow afghan, hand knitted

Mae Hutchison

Embroidered pillow cases

Anderson Custom**Embroidering**

Hand-painted, signed

Victorian Plate

Kirwan Collection

Joann Gerg

2 hand-knitted scarves

Island Yarn

Flora Sossi

Skin care products and

classic manicure

Tangles

Cuff Bracelet

Kirwan Collection

Cameron Sewell

Livingston Sangria

Jinx's Liquors

10 etched Thistle Glasses

Kirwan Collection

Marilyn Wilson

6 sandwich certificates

Hardee'sPlate, **Kirwan Collection**

Diana Bonner

6 sandwich certificates

Hardee'sPlate, **Kirwan Collection**

Kathy Hovland

12 sandwich certificates

Hardee'sPlate, **Kirwan Collection**

Linda Collier

6 sandwich certificates

Hardee'sPlate, **Kirwan Collection**

M.L. Dodge

Sangria, **Jinx's Liquors**

10 etched Thistle glasses

Kirwan Collection

Marilyn Wilson

Decanter and glasses

Kirwan Collection

Curaçao liqueurs sampler

Toni & Jay Gibson

Jack Broderick

2 Wedgewood cups, saucers

Kirwan Collection

Hal Wilson

Belleek sugar, creamer, lamp

Kirwan Collection

Nicole Ransom

2 Rose Medallion plates

2 Royal Chelsea cups/saucers

3 Chinese Export Porcelain

'Canton' plates

Tea, jam, scone mix

Kirwan Collection

Linda Collier

Hall pitcher

Kirwan Collection

Jay Gibson

Tea pot, **Kirwan Collection**Signed copy of *Remembering**Kent Island* by Brent Lewis

M.L. Dodge

Proceeds from sale of items from Kirwan Collection are earmarked for maintenance of Kirwan House.

PHOTOS BY JEAN LEATHERY



Remembrances of Dr. Sattelmaier

By Margaret Nash Whittle

The article about Dr. Sattelmaier in the last Isle of Kent was great. I enjoyed it very much. He must have been in the military when he was very young. Regarding those quoted, I am older than Billy Denny — I knew his parents when they were sweethearts, and his Aunt Emily was one of my teachers. I have an original copy of her book that she gave me.

I went through Chester Grammar School and Stevensville High School in the same class with Catherine Kirwan and graduated in the last class to finish in the old school in 1931. I left Kent Island when I was 17 to attend Strayers Business College in Baltimore.

I was born in Chester in 1914. We were a healthy family, and all of us were delivered at home by "Aunt George," a licensed midwife. We didn't have much contact with doctors, but I remember Dr. Henry came to our home to vaccinate me at age 6. I knew Dr. Benton and his son Bill. I visited Dr. Snyder's office only once but knew his children. Dr. Sattelmaier came to Stevensville when I was in high school.

After I had gone to Baltimore, my mother began having terrible pains in her back and side and called for Dr. Sattelmaier. She liked him very much and could understand German and speak it some, as her parents were German immigrants. He immediately diagnosed her pain as a kidney stone and recommended she go to the hospital for surgery. But after the effects of the needle he gave her had subsided the pain, she wouldn't agree to the hospitalization.

Every time she had an attack, I was called home to help. This went on for 10 years until Dr. Sattelmaier got upset with her and told her that she had to go or she would die, as the stone was blocking her kidney. She did go to Baltimore and had the

operation at age 75. The stone was as big as a nutmeg with sharp points. She recovered and lived to be 96. I give Dr. Sattelmaier credit for giving her those years.

My father, Robert Ephriam (1876-1941) built the first oyster packing house on Kent Island and my mother, Jeannette Elizabeth Samm (1879-1941), is the one I referenced in my stories about Dr. Sattelmaier.

My mother and Mrs. Lizzie Taylor were both hungry for a German meal they loved, but no one on Kent Island had ever eaten sauerbraten, which is sour beef typically served with potato dumplings. They finally got a recipe (see below) and got very good at making it. Somehow Dr. Sattelmaier learned about it. It being a favorite of his, mom sent him some whenever she made it.

My sister, Jeannette Clevenger, and cousin, Mildred Haddaway, and I are the only three of our generation still living. Charles Edward of Denton and Robert Ephriam of Queenstown are nephews with the name Nash.

A bit of Nash history

There are many with the name "Nash" on Kent Island and as far north as New England and as far south as South Carolina. Some, too, in the Midwest. Try as we have, we haven't been able to connect them and find out who came first or how they might be related. But of this we are sure:

Ephriam Nash (1785-1871) and Elizabeth Ann Young (1793-1859) were my great-grandparents. Elizabeth is mentioned as the daughter of an Eastern Shore planter, but we don't know where on the Shore. Ephriam fought at the Battle of Northpoint in the War of 1812 and was captured by the British. My daughter received copies of his service from the Library of Congress.

His son, Charles Maltimore Nash (1837-1918), served on the Maryland legislature and had a successful oyster

packing business in Baltimore that was destroyed in the Great Baltimore Fire. Apparently he liked Kent Island, as he built a summer home on Piney Creek Road where it turns toward the creek.

Margaret Nash Whittle, 95, lives in Baltimore, as does her daughter, Janet Whittle Freedman, author of "Kent Island, The Land That Once Was Eden."

There are many more stories like this waiting to be told. If you or someone you know would like to give it a try, we'll be happy to help you put it in publishable form. Trips down memory lane are treasures worth preserving.

Sauerbratten mit Potato Dumplings

3 lb. lean beef, cut in cubes
3 onions, chopped
½ handful pickling spices
(tied in cheesecloth)
1 bay leaf, 3 c. vinegar
3 c. water, salt and pepper
15 gingersnaps (to thicken gravy)

1. Place all ingredients except gingersnaps in crock or glass bowl, cover, marinate in refrigerator overnight.
2. Add 2 cups of water, cook slowly to preserve liquid until tender.
3. Dissolve gingersnaps in enough water to make paste. Add to pot to thicken gravy.

Potato Dumplings

10 or 12 unpeeled potatoes
1 egg, beaten, 4 Tbsp. shortening
1 tsp. salt, 3 slices bread, cubed
Flour

1. Skin potatoes and mash. Work with hands until fine. Let stand until cold. Add egg, salt and 2 Tbsp. shortening. Add flour a little at a time until almost stiff as bread dough.
2. Brown bread cubes in other 2 Tbsp. of shortening.
3. Form dough into balls surrounding 3 browned bread cubes. Drop them one at a time into gently boiling slightly salted water and cook for about 10 minutes. They rise to the top when done. Makes about 16 to 18 dumplings.

Want to Buy a Piece of Kent Island History?

Give Your Favorite Realtor a Call

By Brent Lewis

Though the exact location of William Claiborne's original settlement has yet to be definitively determined we do know that Crafford (or Crayford) Farm on Romancoke Road, just north of Kentmorr Airpark, was where he built his personal estate.

According Mildred Schoch's "Of History and Houses," our first island forefather's plantation was named in honor of the parish in Kent, England, where he was born. The property was known in those days as Crayford Fort and was palisaded. Early settlers in general needed protection against the possibility of attack from the native tribes of the region.

Claiborne was more specifically concerned about a forceful encroachment on his claim to Kent Island by the Calvert family and the forces of their new Maryland colony. When the upstart usurpers eventually wrestled control from the venturesome Virginian, the men installed as Commanders of the island were headquartered at Crayford. Records indicate rents due Lord Baltimore were specified to be paid here.

The parcel, surveyed at 264 acres in 1715, now consists of 107 acres and features 1200 feet of prime Chesapeake Bay waterfront, most of it sandy beach. The original improvements are long gone. Tax records indicate the current farmhouse dates back to 1881. It's reported to be in a state of disrepair. There are numerous outbuilding on the property. The oldest is an 18th century log plank meat house. This small structure is one of the few farm buildings from the 1700s documented by the county and may be one of the oldest existing links to Kent Island's past.

Edmund Carville bought the property in 1799, and it was kept in the family for generations. The last of

his line to maintain Crafford was Delbert N. Carvel, former Governor of Delaware and well respected part-time Islander. When the alternate spelling of the estate came about is uncertain.

Pricing such unique properties is often difficult. In the current market it might be next to impossible. Originally offered at nearly \$5 million dollars, Crafford Farm has been reduced to \$2,995,000.

If that's still a little out of your range, you might want to take advantage of a rare opportunity to acquire a unique and historic business/residential property located in the heart of Historic Stevensville once known far and wide as Grollman's Store.

Early in the 20th century, Henry Grollman followed his emigrant brother Isaac from Lithuania to Kent Island. Isaac found success here as a traveling merchant, walking from farm to farm with his goods first strapped to his back, and later when he could afford it, on a cart. When he'd saved enough money, he opened a store down-Island. Inspired by Isaac, Henry and his wife Lena opened their own store soon after marrying in 1907. The original shop was located across the street from Stevensville's 1880 Christ Church. The operation was moved down the street near the Love Point Road corner sometime in the early 1920s. This property is currently listed for sale at \$599,900.

In 1953 Henry and Lena's son, Julius, opened a liquor store in the space next to his parent's hardware store and took over the entire enterprise when Henry retired in 1970.

Grollman's was the place to go for merchandise unobtainable anywhere else. "From ammunition to zippers," it's been said. The shelves and floors were a jumble of hardware, household goods, boots, clothing, crabbing and

fishing supplies, hunting gear, Redwing boots, lunch boxes, mailboxes, paint supplies, rope, chains, kerosene lamps, wood stoves, watches, patent medicines, garden seeds, packaged vanilla cookies, chocolate sodas, rock and rye whiskey, lottery tickets, and two-ounce cans of beer. A look around might reveal treasures seemingly delivered by time machine. If you didn't see something and asked, after a moment's consideration and a few minutes of digging around, the item would most likely be unearthed.

Grollman's closed a few years after "Jules" died in 1991, and the era of Kent Island's family operated store as meeting place and town hub ended. The commercial property at 101 Main Street currently offered for sale also included two attached residential spaces that served as the family's living spaces for many years.

Want to live within Stevensville's Historic District but not interested in the business potential of the old Grollman parcel? The Price House at 610 Love Point Road has been renovated and is available at \$349,900. Built in 1915 for P. Thomas and Augusta Legg Price, this is one of the largest homes in town. Price House features a tin roof and a unique cupola that was used during World War II lookout post for enemy planes.

Purchase of either of these properties would transfer stewardship of some very significant historical real estate and help stimulate the local economy.

As an alternative, you could invest in a few pieces of handmade Kent Island-centric pottery now available through your Heritage Society.

Look at it this way: You've got to start somewhere.



DIFFERENT DRIVE THROUGH, SAME OLD CHEESEBURGERS

By Skeeter Philpot

“W hatta’ ya think about all the hoo-hah up-county over that training facility they want to build?” I could tell my business partner, Burle Shoalwater, otherwise known as co-owner of the old wooden workboat, *Hell’s Belch*, had already made up his mind.

I said, “I see both sides,” because I did, but also to annoy him.

“You always do.” He rolled down the window of my old truck and spit chew at a street sign to annoy me. “You think it’s gonna bring jobs, put a few coins in people’s pockets?”

“That’s one of the arguments.” I already regretted poking the opinionated bear with the pointy stick. “But tell you the truth I don’t know much about it. All I know is what two bickering sides have to say. That I take with a grain of salt or ten.”

“Remember back in World War I?” Burle asked without giving me a chance to answer with my ice-pick sharp wit that no, I hadn’t been born yet and neither had he. “Senator Kirwan and them had to fight the federal guh’mint so they wouldn’t turn Kent Island into an ordinance testing ground. Those Islanders stood up for themselves, and the Army found a place to put their bombs and chemicals up in Aberdeen instead. The business people here were all for it, though. Said it would be a great boon to the county and that the Islanders were being selfish and unpatriotic in resisting. Bet even most of them are glad the Kent Island bomb base never happened.

“Then in the fifties,” Burle went on,

“Dave Nichols developed all those subdivisions but nobody was buying. It leaked out that the Naval Academy was looking at everything on Route 8 from Warehouse Creek down. They wanted to build a flight school there to weed out the pilots who wouldn’t have cut the mustard in Pensacola. Again they promised jobs and the big wheels were all gung-ho, but the Islanders weren’t buying either. I don’t know where they ended up putting it, but I know where they didn’t put it. And it’s a good thing too.” He took a breath. “Wish I’d been born 100 years ago”

“Alright,” I said, “the proving ground I’ll give you. That’s some heavy, heavy stuff they blow up. Way heavier than the Ruthsburg site would.” There was a long line at the fast food drive through. We got in it. “But the air station might have been different. Seems like that might have given locals more opportunity to make a buck and a lot less of Route 8 would have been developed. That might have been better environmentally.

“Tree hugger.

Our culler, Ebb Tyde, sitting between us like a string bean between a couple baked potatoes, spoke up. “What about the Bay Model? The Army Corps of Engineers built that to study the bay. It could simulate all kinds of conditions and changes in things like tides, salinity, currents, sediments, and temperatures and could reproduce a 24 hour time cycle in 15 minutes; a year in 91 hours. Thing cost about 15 million in 1972, I think. When Matapeake was chosen as the site they told us we should be honored. Everybody got all excited

about the prestige, the jobs. I never knew anybody worked there and I bet neither of you did either.

“Almost soon as it opened, the Bay Model was outdated. Within a few years for sure, computer programs could do everything the model was designed to do at a red cat’s hair of the costs. The place was soon abandoned and has been nothing but an eyesore to one degree or another ever since.

“There’s this research group called, uhm, The Center for Land Use Interpretation. They study places like abandoned research centers. They held an exhibit in Los Angeles a few years ago. Pictures from all phases of the Bay Model’s life were displayed, artifacts too. In the end the Bay Model was one big white elephant. An art show.

Ebb hadn’t said so many words about a single subject since he fell in love with Mabel Taylor in the third grade. “How you know so much about it?” Burle said after a few mo-ments with his jaw dropped like mine.

“World wide internet.”

Burle and I were both impressed.

“So you still see both sides?” Burle leaned forward to ask me.

This time when I told him I did, it was mostly just to annoy him. Me and Burle got double cheeseburgers. He got two. I reminded him there weren’t any fast food joints on Kent Island a hundred years ago. Ebb Tyde likes chicken nuggets.

Skeeter can almost always see both sides of an argument. Unless it’s over the proper way to bait a trot line.