

# Isle of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

WINTER 2013

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## President's Message

Fall can be a really magic time on Kent Island. This year has been particularly so, with some of the best fall colors in memory, especially the maples. And so many brilliant sunsets! In September, we gathered at the Kirwan Place to celebrate our Fall Heritage Picnic. On another nearly perfect early fall day we enjoyed some great covered dish specialties, including the Colliers' home made ice cream, kids games, and historic tours, and shared the charm and friendship of old Kent Island. The picnic has become a great tradition of our Society. We hope you were able to come; if not, we hope you can share the day with us next year. Congratulations and thanks to our picnic committee of Carole Frederick, Linda Collier, Toni Gibson, and Hanna Wall and to all our Board members and volunteers who helped make the day so successful. We offer a special word of thanks to Michael Thomas for doing so much to help spruce up the grounds around the Kirwan Place. They look great, Mike!

The stewardship of our historic sites is always a top priority. We are happy to report that in addition to the outside of the Kirwan Place, we have finished the interior renovations of the Kirwan House. The old kitchen is now a charming replica of a turn of the century Victorian kitchen, complete with wood stove and hand pump "zinc". The kitchen area is complemented by a new hidden modern back kitchen, fully equipped to support

our social events at the House. We wish to thank our Kirwan curator, Linda Collier, and VP, Nancy Cook, for their undaunted determination in seeing this project through to completion. We also extend our thanks to our historic preservation contractor, Tom Willy and his expert team of craftsmen, for their outstanding work, in both professional and volunteer capacity. The full first floor of the Kirwan House is now restored to museum quality and "ready for prime time". We think old Senator Kirwan would be proud.

Meanwhile, over in Historic Stevensville we've completed renovating the exterior of the Old Post Office, with a fresh new paint job. To quote our secretary, Kay Roser, the historic yellow paint "glows like a ray of sunshine as you come through town". This coming year we plan to focus our efforts on renovating the exterior of the two-century old Cray House. We'd like to extend a very special thank you to Hunter Kerlin, cousin of our corresponding secretary, Carole Frederick, for his generous donation which covered the full cost of painting the Post Office. He spent his summers as a young boy on the Island and loves the unique charm of Historic Stevensville. We will memorialize his generosity during Kent Island Day 2014 with a special plaque to be dedicated in memory of his loving relatives.

We also want to acknowledge the generous donation from colorful local author Mark Lidinski. Mark is a fiction writer who is writing a series of mysteries based on Kent Island history. He has pledged a portion of the profits from each

## KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Coordinator

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### Kirwan Museum - Chester

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#### Cemetery Preservation

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#### Picnic

Butch Collier  
Jay Gibson  
Hanna Wall  
Carole Frederick  
Linda Collier  
Toni Gibson

#### Annual Dinner

Toni Gibson  
Linda Collier  
Carole Frederick  
Flora Sossi

#### Historic Records

Myrtle Bruscup

#### Development

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#### Kent Island Day

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book to support the work of the Kent Island Heritage Society. He recently presented a check from his first book, *Captain Boyles' Treasure*, highlighting the War of 1812. His just-released second book, *The Headless Oysterman*, features the historic Chesapeake Oyster Wars of the late 1800s. Mark's books are not only helping fund KIHS efforts to keep local history alive, but are helping to stimulate that interest in his readers. The check presentation was made at the Bay Times office, during a "photo op" for an upcoming Bay Times article. While there, we helped celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bay Times. The newspaper has been an important part of our Kent Island heritage, during the last half century. We wish them many more years of success in helping to tell the Kent Island Story.

We rounded out our year with our annual election meeting at a Sunday Brunch on December 8, at KIYC. The annual meeting announcement with details and reservations was sent to our members by special mailing, and we had a good turnout in spite of contrary wintry weather. Also, at the meeting we held the annual election of Officers and Board members for 2014. We voted in and welcomed three new Board Members: Alex Johnson of Chester, Marilyn Hull of Grasonville, and Jamie Sasse of Chester. We also honored Flora Sossi who will be stepping off the Board for a "political sabbatical", to assist in her husband's campaign. We are grateful for Flora's leadership of our Kent Island Day team for the past several years.

Thank you for your support during 2013. We look forward to an active and successful 2014.

Happy Holidays,

*Jack Broderick*

## Calendar of Events

January 15

BOARD MEETING

February 19

BOARD MEETING

March 19

GENERAL MEETING

"War of 1812" ~ Bert Hubinger  
Kent Island Public Library

6:30 -- refreshments ~ 7:00 -- program

April 16

BOARD MEETING

May 17

KENT ISLAND DAY

May 21

BOARD MEETING

June 18

GENERAL MEETING

"Watermen of the Chesapeake"  
Chesapeake Heritage & Visitor Center ~ 7pm

July 16

BOARD MEETING

August 20

BOARD MEETING

September 17

BOARD MEETING

September 28

ANNUAL PICNIC

Kirwin House ~ 1pm - 5pm

October 15

BOARD MEETING

November 19

BOARD MEETING

December 14

ANNUAL MEETING  
Election of Officers



## Annual Picnic at Kirwan House and Farm

*by Lynnda Kratovil*

Sunday, September 22 was my first time attending the Kent Island Heritage Society (KIHS) picnic. It was also my first time to get a good look around the Kirwan House. In truth, until I was elected to the KIHS board of directors this year, I knew little about the history of Kent Island – the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest English settlement in the United States.

I arrived early for the picnic – great, no-fuss parking! It was a warm, sunny, fall day with no signs of the previous night's rain. The aroma of hotdogs grilling filled the air. Tables were laden with sumptuous offerings – crisp fried chicken, hot and cold casseroles, salads made with every ingredient imaginable, and Oh My!!!! – the dessert table!!!! Laid out were homemade cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, donuts, bread pudding, and the most delicious apple caramel spread with crackers. (I later enjoyed the same on toast with my morning coffee!) It didn't end there; around 4:00 out came Butch and Linda's homemade ice cream. This was truly a traditional American feast.

The atmosphere in the spacious back yard, where tables were set with red and white table cloths, was informal and friendly. People were meeting and greeting each other – many of whom they hadn't seen for awhile. While waiting for the dinner bell, I decided to walk around the back yard on the concrete walk-ways that were recently unearthed – such tranquility. How fortunate we are to have a place to experience such in our rush-around world.

This day was not just about eating. There were games/contests such as guessing the decade of the clothing displayed on mannequins placed around the inside of the house. Each one represented the style of a decade between 1860 and 1960. The winner received a prize. I couldn't help but think how dark and heavy most of the clothing looked compared to my slacks and loose

skirt. It reminded me of how free we women are today – both in mind and body.

Entering the Kirwan house is like stepping back in time. I recognized furniture and household items similar to those in my grandparents' homes: the dishes with the blue borders, the kitchen cabinet, oriental rugs, marble top tables, and not too comfortable Victorian sofas and chairs. The coffee table was filled with flowers and some personal treasures were displayed there. The dining room table was set seemingly for special guests who would arrive at any moment.

Outside on the porch was a showcase of old gadgets used in the home and on the farm; again we had the opportunity to identify each one of these. These were completely lost on me – being that I am a city girl from Baltimore.

The country store is always open during the picnic and what an amazing shop it is. I can only equate it to the old country westerns I used to watch on TV. The homesteaders would come to town to buy their flour, cloth, and coffee beans, etc., (with their pistols at hand) in a store very similar to this one. We can only thank Linda Collier, our resident creative genius, for the hours she has spent developing this museum.

If you haven't attended one of the picnics, you are missing a wonderful day. Put it on your calendar for next year and bring some of your family and friends!

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE

A new cemetery committee is forming under the chairmanship of Sandy Frederick. If you would be interested in participating with this committee or if you have any information regarding grave sites that have not been documented (to your knowledge) please call Sandy Frederick: 443.994.1919.

## BROAD CREEK CEMETERY

by Brent Lewis

The Reverend Mark S. Delcuze is excited to serve as the most recent in a long line of pastors at Kent Island's Christ Church Parish, the second oldest Anglican congregation in North America. "From Jamestown to here is a direct line. There are none older," is how Rev. Delcuze puts it. "Christ Church Parish is also the oldest congregation in Maryland of any Christian body. That's astonishing and very important historically."

Richard Ervin is a senior archeologist for the State Highway Administration with over thirty years of experience. Mr. Ervin is also a Christ Church parishioner and a longtime member of the church's Broad Creek Cemetery committee.

Broad Creek Cemetery is an historic Christ Church Parish property, a serene patch of sacred land, located bayside, near the top of Romancoke Road.

"Roots here go back to the first imaginings of Europeans in the new world," says Rev. Delcuze: "Coming from Jamestown, William Claiborne knew that every new colony needed someone to conduct religious services, so he brought a priest (Rev. Richard James) with him when he came to settle Kent Island."

Claiborne's operations were primarily centered south of what is now Batts Neck. As island life migrated north to the growing bayfront town of



*A state historical marker sums up the importance of Christ Church Parish to Maryland's and Kent Island's religious and societal heritage.*

Broad Creek, the Christ Church congregation moved with it.

Mr. Ervin says "We believe Broad Creek was

the site of a church by 1650, 1652. We haven't found verifiable written evidence of that, but we've



*Archaeological finds at Broad Creek Cemetery are treated with great care and reverence by the Church's restoration efforts.*

got supporting evidence that narrows the timeframe."

He continues, "By the early 18<sup>th</sup> century they were replacing one of the churches. Instead of building new, the churches were L-shaped, so there was a series of churches. They'd raze the oldest wing as it deteriorated and build the new wing, maybe a little bigger than before, and then that would probably be the church's primary section. According to our records that happened in 1712, 1748 to 1752, and between 1826 and 1841. In 1825, the entire structure collapsed during construction of the new wing."

"Our vestry records are amazing historic documents," Delcuze adds. "They're written in real pen on real paper written by a real person. You feel it as soon as you open those books. And some prior rectors served here for decades and kept good records year after year. Unfortunately, others didn't keep very good records at all."

Ervin says, "In some eras there weren't any residing priests here. Maybe a traveling priest would visit on occasion, but the vestry was still active even when there wasn't a church. They were meeting, perhaps in their homes, and those records haven't yet been discovered."

"A most remarkable event in our country's history was the War of 1812," Delcuze points out. "Our being included on the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail helps people remember how important Kent Island was in this war that established once and for all, that this was an independent nation."

The British navy was moving up and down



the Chesapeake at will, and at one point there were 3,000 troops garrisoned on Kent Island. It was not well received by the local people. In our vestry record it's noted that \$91 was set aside to buy bars for the windows and locks for the church doors. They wanted the British to know they weren't welcome."

After more than two hundred years of the church at Broad Creek being at the heart of the parish's spiritual connection to the island, where, as Delcuze says, "you buried your dead, where your children were baptized, where marriages took place," times were changing. As the village of Broad Creek faded from existence, the Christ Church Parish congregation moved another couple miles north to the bustling new town of Stevensville.

And the Broad Creek site deteriorated.

Ervin confirms: "We believed that after the Civil War, probably around the time the congregation moved to Stevensville, the property was used as an animal barnyard. A consulting firm donated their time and expertise to provide remote sensing (technology that uncovers information without physically having to disturb anything) which



*Volunteers help with early archeological efforts in 2003.*

indicated that a ring of ferrous material went around the cemetery. We excavated and found fragments of barbed wire, so we were able to physically confirm what we thought we already knew."

A 1950s-era archeological survey led by Dr. Reginald Van Truitt set important ground work, but generally the place was ignored until parishioner Joe Thompson (1926-2006) took a personal interest in the overgrown and neglected property.

Joe was determined to save the Broad Creek Cemetery. He enlisted the help of friend DeeDee McCracken and revitalization took seed. Richard Ervin came onboard not long after. "When I found out Joe and DeeDee were forming the cemetery committee I was very interested. It sounded fascinating.

"Our goals have always been to research, salvage, restore, and maintain," he says. "Joe and DeeDee were instrumental. Joe was passionate. He loved that property and dreamed of rescuing it, clearing it to reuse, but also to honor the past. DeeDee gives Joe all the credit, but that diminishes the huge role she's played in saving the property."

Since 2001, Broad Creek Cemetery has been accepting new interments. Those burials conducted after the cemetery's reopening were the first since 1908.

"The cemetery is self sufficient," says Ervin. "Plots are available to our congregation, as well as to members of the general community. Part of the income from that goes into our perpetual care fund to ensure that the cemetery will always be maintained and never fall back into disrepair. The focus has always been to put the cemetery to use while respecting the history of the land, the heritage, what it means to us. That remains unchanged as we move into the future," says Ervin.

"We have fragments of colonial brick we've found at the cemetery," says Rev. Delcuze. "Over 350 years ago, that brick was made by men who dug the clay themselves, fed the fire, formed the brick, all in a very dangerous and rugged environment. It got very, very dark at night. Civilization was a long dangerous journey away. There were hardships. They risked their lives to be here."

"Some people were buried in shrouds, some in a pine box. Most folks were buried by their families who probably dug the graves themselves or paid the local help to do it. That's where you see the ebb and flow of life, and that's part of what's most moving about the cemetery. It's the rootedness of who we are"

"For me, it's a connection to the men who served on that ground for so many generations. At the oldest of gravestones I remember somebody had to stand over those graves and say the same words I still say today. There is a direct connection that I feel."

Richard Ervin feels the connection as well. "The cemetery is a pristine, beautiful property safe from all the development around it. It's holy, contemplative, overwhelming. Our goal is to be good caretakers, good stewards."

"It's paramount to remember that it is hallowed ground," says Rev. Delcuze. "We want the folks who are interested in the history of Kent Island to know that we're still working; that there's still a lot to find. Our hope is to translate the facts we discover into a narrative of the people."

"The people who came to this island, fought for it, who established their lives and communities here."

Here on Kent Island.

Fashions from 1860 to 1960 were on display in the Kirwan House during our annual picnic. "Guess the Decade" was the game with some decades having more than one garment – just to make things interesting! Many Thanks to Linda Collier for such a chic display.



Charlotte Livingston wore this midnight blue velvet dress when she married Edward Severa on November 26, 1931. It featured rhinestone clips at the neckline and a rhinestone clasp at the back of the ruched peplum.



Fairly elaborate cream silk wedding gown with ruffles accented with large pearl and bead trim. The dress has quite large leg o' mutton sleeves, a train and about a 14 inch waist. (From the collection of Linda Collier)

1920s – This is a peach chiffon flapper dress with bead work at the shoulder and side swag. This era brought a major change in fashion: hemlines came up and sleeves and high necklines were gone for comfort. This was the flapper era!!!! Worn by Amy Jones. ~~~ think Downton Abbey!



1940 - This wonderful pink crepe dress has a gorgeous black dahlia on the shoulder. The black coat with the large fur collar was worn by Amy Jones and also her mother, Carrie Johnson Jones. The dress belonged to Margaret Martin.







Also from the 1930s, this gorgeous black crepe dress features a diagonal appliqué with green sequins made of gelatin. There is a side peplum and was worn by Amy Jones. However, it would have been worthy of Wallace Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor.



1900 - This beige traveling dress is trimmed in cream crocheted lace and features "dust catcher" hem binding. The fabric is quite heavy and coarse. It has been on display at the Kirwan House for awhile because it is of the era of the house.



1960 - This red wool collarless coat with three-quarter sleeves was going to be worn by Linda Collier to the Kennedy inauguration in 1960. It was Jackie inspired (It snowed heavily and she didn't go). The monkey fur muff was donated to the society by Midge Kirwan.



1880 - 1895 - An evening dress of black silk satin basque with steel boning. Black lace overlays a cream satin insert and it is heavily beaded with black jet.



1910 - Here is a white cotton batiste "lingerie" dress. These were always white with a lot of pintucks, insets and lace. At this time skirts were a little more slender, floor length but had no train. This one features three-quarter length sleeves and sleeve caps. They were usually worn by younger women.



1954 - This white taffeta, strapless gown with tulle overlay was worn by Janet Bryan Breeding for her senior prom at Stevensville High School in 1954.



1870 - The bonnet over the back of the chair features board slats in a stiff brim. The top hat is collapsible. The bodice has the typical "V" line in the back with bow and hanging ribbons. These were gifts to the society from Sally Morgan and Barbara Robinson.

1860 - This is a typical second mourning dress of the early 1860s or Civil War era. It is high waisted and made of black bombazine. Bombazine is a fabric made of silk and wool and at this time was widely used for mourning. From the collection of Linda Collier.





# The Star Spangled Banner

by Carole Frederick

*Author's note: Historical information is from a Maryland Historical Society Newsletter*

This summer, three members of the Kent Island Heritage Society participated in the stitching of the American Flag using the same



*Linda Collier making a few stitches*

sewing techniques that Mary Pickersgill used in 1813: they were Kay Butler, Linda Collier and Toni Gibson. Actually, Linda and Toni told me they did only cursory stitching but Kay provided a lot of time and talent toward this project.

Mary Pickersgill worked with her daughter Caroline, nieces Eliza and Margaret Young, and an African American indentured servant, Grace Wisher in the summer of 1813. The flag was completed in six weeks and measured 30' by 42'. They spread the fabric across the floor of an East Baltimore brewery in order to have enough room to work on it.



*Toni Gibson making a few stitches*

The flag currently made consists of authentically reproduced English wool bunting (17 stitches per inch) of the following:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 4 short red stripes   | 26 feet long |
| 4 short white stripes   | 26 feet long |
| 4 long red stripes  | 42 feet long |
| 3 long white stripes  | 42 feet long |
| 8 blue stripes (canton)   | 16 feet long |
| 15 stars, two feet wide, will be hand appliquéd to the canton last. |              |

Kay wrote the following regarding her experience:

*One of the most memorable events I had the pleasure of enjoying this summer was to visit the Maryland Historical Society and become a part of stitching a replica of the Star Spangled Banner. When we arrived, we were escorted to a sewing table and were "mentored" on how to do basting stitches and how to do a French seam. After an hour of practicing our stitches, we were allowed to work on the real flag. We 'appliqué-ers', who were used to making very tiny stitches, had to "think big" and render larger, even stitches in order to stitch the white thread to the blue woven fabric. I was able to stitch about four feet of the flag and felt humbled to be a small part of this historic event! Loving that we were a part of the Maryland Flag!*



*Kay Butler during a stitching session*

## The Ellen Klages Memorial Herb Garden

by Linda Elias

The *Ellen Klages Memorial Herb Garden at the Cray House* was created by the Kent Island Garden Club in 2002 and is designed to replicate a garden style from the colonial period.

The herbs in the garden are grouped into three categories: Culinary herbs, Dyer's herbs, and Medicinal herbs.

In the Culinary herb section you can find Thyme (leaves can be used in soups, stews, roasts and vegetable dishes), Golden Thyme, Sage (this tea was a favorite beverage in medieval Europe), Lemon Verbena (fresh leaves give a subtle lemon flavor to foods), Rosemary (seasons a wide variety of foods, sauces and breads), Chives (flowers and leaves are used to garnish and flavor salads, soups, meats and vinegars), Winter Savory (use to season stuffing for meat, fish and sausage), Peppermint (tea made with its leaves is used for its gas relieving properties), Basil (compliments garlic and is a native of Africa and Asia), Horseradish (the root is grated to make pungent relish for meats), Sorrel (use young leaves in salads and soups), English Lavender (since colonial

dago (dried petals were brewed as tea during Revolutionary times) and Flax (used as a medicine and source of linen since ancient times).

In the Medicinal herb section, you can find St. John's Wort (the leaves of which were used to treat wounds and burns and internally to treat depression and agitation), Comfrey (used as a poultice for bruises, wounds and sores), Feverfew (used by Colonists to treat fevers, rheumatism, earaches and to kill worms), Tansy (used in preserving corpses before



Photography courtesy of Jean Leathery

embalming and its young leaves were eaten as spring tonics) and Monarda (used to aid digestion and to soothe sore throats).

Our garden is situated in full sun. Members of our club take turns weeding and watering the garden during the hot summer months. The fragrances are a true delight, and we hope you will take the time to visit and to enjoy as well.



Photography courtesy of Jean Leathery

times, it has been prized for scenting soaps, oils and linens), and annual Nasturtiums (totally edible and has a spicy, peppery flavor).

In the Dyer's herb section, you can find Dyer's Woad (the source of indigo blue dye in Europe prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century), Weld (since Roman times, used to make a brilliant yellow dye that does not fade and can be mixed with indigo to create true greens), Soli-

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Amy and Ronald Blackmon

Jeanne and John Guidera

Patricia Orndorff

Phyllis Pippin

Alice Randall

Cindy and Joseph Schmidt

Sharon and Stephanie Talbot



## Book Review

by Alex Johnson

*Poplar Island, My Memories as a Boy*

By Peter K. Bailey

Published by the author, 1996

The life story of Poplar Island has so many chapters it's hard to believe they all came from the same book. Located in the Chesapeake Bay, south of Kent Island, Poplar was discovered in 1631 by William Claiborne, who used it for years to grow crops and livestock to feed his Kent Island people. That era ended when Nanticoke Indians allegedly massacred the resident farmers. For many years thereafter the island was owned by a series of plantation owners and farmers growing grains and tobacco.

In 1813, Poplar was occupied by the British military as they advanced up the bay to attack Baltimore. The island's owners tried unsuccessfully to recover damages for their confiscated livestock.

Charles Carroll of Annapolis owned the island in the 1840's. In 1847, he learned there was a market for black cat fur in China. For 25 cents each, thousands of black cats were shipped by general delivery to Poplar Island. Procreation began, but the great Poplar Island Black Cat Fur Farm came to an abrupt end that winter, when the bay froze solid and the cats walked to freedom across the ice!

By 1880, the island had eroded from 1200 acres to just 50 acres on 3 islands; Poplar (the largest), Jefferson and Coaches. There was still room enough for 70-100 residents, a school and church, a post office, general store, and a saw mill. Local watermen sold their abundant oyster catches for 35 cents a bushel.

There were no longer any permanent residents in 1918. The island was used only for occasional hunting and moon-shining. One lowlight of this time was a raid by federal revenueurs, who seized a one-thousand gallon still and thousands of gallons of whiskey. Nine men were arrested.

In 1931, several prominent Democratic congressmen purchased Jefferson Island, refurbished the old colonial house, and added out-buildings. They called it the Jefferson Island Club and they extended exclusive membership to many Washington politicians, including President Roosevelt, who visited many times. This era came to an end in March 1946 when the clubhouse accidentally burned to the ground.

Peter K. Bailey, the author, was seven when his parents bought Jefferson Island and what remained of the clubhouse. It was an idyllic time for him and his siblings, as the family built a new lodge and began receiving guests. The youngsters roamed the island trails and crabbed and fished in the shallow waters. To get to deep water, the new dock



*Poplar Island, My Memories as a Boy* by Peter K. Bailey

had to be 612 feet long. Sadly, their happy days on the island came to an end after three years, with the illness and eventual death of Peter's father, George Bailey. The family had to move off the island, and the Jefferson Island Inn had many owners who came and went in the 1950's and 60's.

In modern times, Poplar Island has eroded to 4 tiny pieces consisting of about five acres. Since the late 1980's a multi-million dollar project, providing millions of cubic yards of sediment from the Chesapeake shipping channels, is restoring the island as a new habitat for birds, fish, shellfish, and other bay creatures. Peter Bailey's book is a good read for anyone interested in a Chesapeake Bay Island; what it was, and what it will become.

# Test Your Knowledge...

*How many "Ol'-Timey" medical terms do you know?*

Match the terms taken from Old Death Certificates, Doctors' Reports and in Old Letters with the medical terms used today by jotting down the appropriate letter in the space provided in the left-hand column. Good Luck!

*This list was compiled by Daniel H. Burrows and posted to one of the USGS email lists. Submitted by Annie May Price for the USGS*

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Falling sickness _____  | a) Rabies                                     |
| 2. French pox _____        | b) Influenza                                  |
| 3. Ague _____              | c) Malarial Fever                             |
| 4. Bright's disease _____  | d) Typhoid or malaria                         |
| 5. Childbed fever _____    | e) Chronic kidney disease                     |
| 6. Hydrophobia _____       | f) Yellow fever                               |
| 7. Scrivener's palsy _____ | g) Typhus                                     |
| 8. Camp fever _____        | h) Swelling caused by exposure to cold        |
| 9. Lagrippe _____          | i) Infection following birth of a child       |
| 10. Chilblain _____        | j) Swelling caused by kidney or heart disease |
| 11. Paroxysm _____         | k) Epilepsy                                   |
| 12. Bronze John _____      | l) Syphilis                                   |
| 13. Bilious fever _____    | m) Paralysis                                  |
| 14. Dropsy _____           | n) Convulsion                                 |
| 15. Palsy _____            | o) Writer's cramp                             |

ANSWERS: 1-K; 2-L; 3-C; 4-E; 5-I; 6-A; 7-O; 8-G; 9-B; 10-H; 11-N; 12-F; 13-D; 14-J; 15-M.



## IN MEMORIAM

*Grace Larrimore Seward Jones,*

*1920 - 2013*

*Peter Stephen Elias*

*1927 - 2013*

*Elizabeth "Liz" Bukowsky*

*1919 - 2013*

### *Post Office Is a Ray of Sunshine*

The Historic Stevensville Post Office was painted this past fall and Joyce and Hunter Kerlin's donation of forty-five hundred dollars made this possible.

This was done in loving memory of the following members of Hunter's family:

Charles Clayland Price, Sr.

Elvira Carroll Price

Elizabeth Price White

Philemon Bright Price

Nellie Price Hopkins

Doris Hopkins Kerlin

Katharine Barwick Marlow

All of these people sent and received mail through this little post office - most of them all of their lives. Someone said that it looks like a ray of sunshine when you ride into Stevensville. Maybe that could be symbolic of the joy that these people brought in to one young boy's life.



*Photo courtesy of Jean Leathery*

In need of a last-minute gift? Give the gift of ***Heritage & History*** this Christmas! A membership to the Kent Island Heritage Society is a unique gift that will keep on giving throughout the year.

### Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

PO BOX 321 ~ Stevensville, MD 21666

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

Life Membership — \$250

January 1 ~ December 31

Single Membership — \$15

Organization Membership — \$25

Family Membership — \$25

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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### CORRECTIONS TO FALL 2013 ISSUE

- Map # 60 Love Point Lake was also called Lake Ann and Lake Matapex
- Map # 12 One of the coves above Shipping Creek was called Bryans Cove

# *RAISE A GLASS TO WHEN WE WERE YOUNG*

*by Alex Johnson*

To dressing in the dark  
Not to wake the little ones.

Walking on snow crusts  
Then crumpling in.

Bike-riding to Love Point  
Smokey Joe is coming in.

Choosing penny candy at "Frannum's"  
Keeping the wrappers in a pocket  
Til we got home.

Driving Gramp's old tractor  
Down the old farm road.

Lunches at the White House  
Dinner at Fisherman's Inn.

Prom night drives  
Out to Holly's.

Putting your arm around a girl  
At the Stevensville picture show.

Holding a boy's hand  
On the front porch swing.

To train whistles in the night.

Riding the car ferry  
From Matapeake to Annapolis --- and back.

Picnics at Romancoke  
Hikes to Batts Neck.

Crab cakes and oyster stew  
Hush puppies and clam chowder.

Bonfires at the clubhouse  
Hot dogs, mustard and onions.

To John Dennis and Albert Ritchie  
Frank Sherman and Philadelphia  
Harry W. Nice and Herbert R. O'Conner.

Filmore and Love Point Hotels  
Brick Church and Christ Church.

To Bloody Point and Crab Alley  
Cox Neck and Macom Creek.

Blacksmiths and boatbuilders  
Teachers and coaches  
Preachers and bus drivers  
All the waitresses.

To Ticktown  
Hell's Kitchen and Buzzardsville.

Sleigh rides and chair rides  
Seaboat races  
"Crossing the Bay the Love Point way".

Eareckson House and the Lowery Hotel  
Model trains under the tree.

Arbor Day, Armistice Day  
Thanksgiving Day and summer vacations.

Firemen and chicken-neckers  
Mom and Dad  
Grandma and PaPa

Sparks Corner  
And down Dominion Road.  
"Fill 'er up" at Denny's Garage

Making fourteen dollars a week  
And stretching it.

Rockfish and steamers  
Red tomatoes and yellow squash.

To your first kiss  
And the love of your life.

To fishing, fishing, fishing,  
Bowling,  
And dancing, dancing, dancing.

So long, so long,  
"Ole" Kent Island.  
It's been good to know you.



## KENT ISLAND PROFILE

## Wes &amp; Bobby Thompson

by Brent Lewis

Kent Islanders Earle "Poke" (1901-1950) and Adelaide Coleman Thompson (1904-2002) married and had three children. Kenneth Wesley Thompson was born August 24, 1924. Robert Nathan came along two years later on July 13. A sister, Pearl, was born in 1930. Pearl passed away at age sixty.

Wes and Bobby, bachelors with more than a couple marriages between them, have been roommates in Chester for the past few years. They say they get on each other's nerves sometimes, but to see them together their strong fraternal bond is obvious.

And they're born storytellers.

One of their earliest shared memories is of the epic 1933 Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane. Bobby starts, "Grandfather had a brother lived in a boat house down Little Creek. We went to check on him. The water was so high Smitty Frouch's (oyster) buy boat was tied to a barn up on the hill."

"The boat was tied to Elmer Golt's barn," adds Wes, "about 500 yards from the shoreline. When the tide went out, we just went along picking up soft crabs were the tide had left them in the field. From where I stood, that storm was

lots stronger than Isabel (in 2003.)"

The Thompsons, one of Kent Island's oldest families, have always built things.

"Our father and grandfather would leave and go work on big construction jobs" says Wes. "Grandma Thompson's father was head man

building the Conowingo Dam. Our father got caught between cement forms and fractured his skull. He was never the same. He had terrible headaches and died when he was fifty."

Their neighborhood was tough. "If you were born up and down through Dominion," Wes says, "you didn't have to win every fight, but you sure had to show up for them."

He says, "Buck Tull hit me in the head. I ran all the way home from school. Our old man saw me and asked what's that knot on your head? I told him Buck Tull hit me with a brick - he hadn't, he hit me with his fist. My father said why ain't you fighting him? I said because he's the meanest kid in school. Old man said you better try and whip him, or you can try me. I told Bobby - we went out in the woods and cut two poles about big around as broomsticks and about four foot long. Buck Tull came by our house every day on his bicycle. Me and Bobby hid in that big ditch and here he come. He saw us and started peddling real fast. Bobby ran out and drove his stick right through the spokes of his front wheel, and ol' Buck Tull went rolling."

"His sister was on the back of the bike," says Bobby. "They both flew off."

"His sister was meaner than he was. We had to fight them both. Of course, I was taking the hide off him with my stick. Buck Tull was mean, but not as mean as those clubs."

Bobby laughs and says "We never had no more trouble out of him after that."

Like most young men of their time and place, both brothers quit school to make a living. Bobby says, "I remember working with Uncle Paul and Uncle Ellison (Coleman). I culled 102 bushels of oysters and made four dollars."

Wes bought his first boat when he was fifteen or sixteen. "For crabbing. A log canoe. Bought it for twenty dollars," he says. "Be worth forty, fifty thousand now, who knows." He shakes his head. "Grandpop and his brothers built log canoes, too. Bobby used to follow the old man around, learned how to carpenter with him. I got in a boat so I wouldn't have to listen to him holler. He wasn't mean, but he hollered."

Both brothers served their country in World War II. Wes was part of the Army's 79<sup>th</sup> division which landed in Normandy's Omaha Beach on June 8, 1944, D-Day plus two. Bobby served in the Navy on the destroyer U.S.S. Craven and convoyed across the north Atlantic six times in



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less than eighteen months. "Twenty eight days over and three days back," Bobby says. "Sometimes we wouldn't even get off, we'd just reload and go, never come ashore."

Wes made Private First Class 4 times and" got busted down every time." When he was ready to muster out, "The guy at Fort Meade come along and said reenlist, we'll make you a corporal. I said I get back across this bay and get to my boat I'll be a captain."

Bobby returned to carpentry. Wes became a mason.

"We built everything down the Narrows at one time," says Wes. "I built almost all of United Shellfish, Fisherman's Inn. Bobby built Annie's. Bobby changed with the times. He became a much better carpenter than the old man was."

Bobby says, "I built Annie's, the Poseidon Inn back then, for Earl Seward and stayed there until I was eighty four. Forty years."

Wes took to hunting and fishing as a kid.



"Grandfather Thompson was Superintendent of Sunday School at Kingsley Church in Chester for 28 years. When I was a little boy he wouldn't let me go fishing unless I went to church. Of course, I'm sitting in the front row. Couldn't wait for it to be over but I was going to be there."

With regards to hunting, Wes says, "Wasn't until the corn picker came around (in the 1930s), leaving all those stalks in the field, that's when we first started getting geese here. There weren't any deer either. First deer I ever heard of, a fox hunter saw tracks down Kent Point and we all jumped in pickup trucks and went down there just to look at the tracks."

For years, Wes was an expert-level guide, and still hunts and fishes for fun as often as possible. Bobby builds found-lumber models of Chesapeake Bay watercraft -bugeyes, buy boats, box stern workboats and such - by eye. "Takes me six months, a year," he says. "The skipjack I made, I just went down and looked at the one at Kent Narrows (the restored skipjack the *Anna Garvey* at the Chesapeake Exploration Center) and started making it. When I feel good I can get one done pretty quick."

Its noon and the VFW's serving lunch, so it's time to wrap up our interview so the Thompson brothers can go grab a bite to eat and socialize a little. "Maybe chase a few ladies around," Wes laughs, boisterous and joyful.

Bobby chuckles.

His eyes smile with well-practiced mischief. They say, "Don't put it past us."