

Isle of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

SPRING 2021

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Audrey Hawkins 90-92
Charles Koegel 93-94
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President's Message



We welcome new Board Member, Capt. Rick White, USN Ret. Rick is a Kent Island native, from a long line of Kent Island ancestors. Rick recently returned to the Island after a successful Navy career. We are glad to have Rick on our Board and look forward to his energy and ideas.

Moving forward into 2021, the Kent Island Heritage Society Board continues to be optimistic, but we balance cautious optimism with a healthy dose of responsible realism. We remain committed to our mission to discover, identify, explore, and preserve our heritage by being proactive and creative. Our Board meets virtually and plans the expansion of our presence in the virtual world both within our heritage-related activities and in broader community events. Tending to the physical needs of our sites also keeps us occupied.

The pandemic has caused us to extend the cancellation of all in-person events for the foreseeable future in 2021. That includes our iconic Kent Island Day celebration in May, our general meetings in March and June, and the monthly openings of our historic sites. We will monitor the developments of the pandemic and follow the advice of our elected leaders and our health officials as to when and how we will reopen. We look forward to that time when we can come together and celebrate a special Kent Island "Coming Out" event! Meanwhile we urge our members, friends, and families to stay safe, respect the COVID courtesy rules, and get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Ongoing maintenance and developing projects continue during these months at the Stevensville sites and at the Kirwan farm in Chester. One such project is finding a place to display the Marks' collection as well as assisting Dr. Darrin Lowery with his continued archaeological project on Parson's Island. Also, we are supporting the efforts of the Friends of Historic Christ Church to preserve that famous landmark in Stevensville and look forward to its opening for community use.

Additionally, we have been looking into the acquisition of the old Stevensville Bank through a grant from the Maryland Historic Trust. Receiving a grant would involve a fundraiser designated to provide matching funds. This site could be used to house the Marks' collection and other attractions. The bank's location will allow it to serve as a hub for tourism in Stevensville, on Kent Island, and in all of Queen Anne's County.

(Continued on page 2)

KIHS Committees

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Chris Kilian

Carmen Mendez

Fran Peters

Hanna Wall

Marilyn Wilson

Cheryl Valentine

PROGRAMS

Kent Island Day

Jack Broderick, *Chair*

John Conley

Nancy Cook

Carole Frederick

Bob Lowe

Picnic

Carole Frederick, *Chair*

Toni and Jay Gibson

Linda and Butch Collier

June General Meeting

Jack Broderick, *Chair*

Annual Election Brunch

Toni Gibson, *Chair*

(Continued from page 1)

Also, as part of our broader community involvement, we are actively participating in the County Comprehensive Master Plan. Virtual visioning sessions and special workshops are teaching us more ways to protect our historic and cultural resources. We appreciate the support of our county's professional planners and we reciprocate by helping them. These efforts increase the importance of local tourism.

Our plans to expand into the virtual world are continuing. They include online presentations of stories and characters of Kent Island's history. These live, virtual presentations are available now upon request for groups or organizations. We have done several Zoom presentations and have more scheduled. They have been well received and we enjoy presenting them. Contact us and we can tailor the presentation to most groups' interests. We are also planning online tours of our historic sites (Five Minutes of History) to be made available through our website, YouTube, and other platforms. That remains a work in progress, so look for more info on our social media accounts. We are working to enhance that growing social media presence through our website, our Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest accounts, plus any and all other possibilities. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

And speaking of reciprocation with other agencies, we have had to contact the State Highway Administration (SHA) – once again a car traveling at high-speed left Dominion Road and struck the Kirwan property, destroying sections of the fence and the handmade gingerbread decorations on the porch. Luckily, neither the house nor the store was damaged and also, importantly, no one was hurt. We are awaiting estimates from insurance companies and Lundburg Builders is on stand-by. (See pictures in this newsletter.)

On a positive note, in December we decided to try something creative to help keep the Holiday spirit alive and foster our community outreach. Our brainstorming provided a totally made-up event that turned out to be a great success. We hosted a socially distanced "Visit with Santa" in Stevensville on Sunday, December 13. Santa was there, waving from the Historic Post Office. A special mailbox was posted in front to accept kids' letters to Santa (courtesy of Toni and Jay). Tables were set up with candy canes and free holiday greens. (We went "a woodsing" on the Kirwan farm and cut beautiful holly, loblolly pine boughs, and boxwood.) We also had exquisite magnolia from Carole Frederick's yard. Frankly, we were overwhelmed with joy at the response. Numerous families stopped by to drop off their kids' letters and take home some greens. Many other folks stopped by out of curiosity. We gave away all the greens and candy canes we had and received about 35 letters to Santa. Most had return addresses and were answered personally. What an experience! We really enjoyed being out and making a difference that day. One letter in particular was from a grateful Mom who touched our hearts as she said thanks! We've included her letter in this newsletter. Thanks to all of our Board members. Our idea worked and we hope to do it again next year.

Meanwhile, we look forward to other creative opportunities to keep our mission alive and to work to make a positive difference in this great community. Stay healthy and safe.

Jack Broderick

CALENDAR 2021

JANUARY 20
BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 17
BOARD MEETING

MARCH 17
GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 21
BOARD MEETING

MAY 15
KENT ISLAND DAY

MAY 19
BOARD MEETING

JUNE 16
GENERAL MEETING

JULY 21
BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 18
BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21
BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 26
ANNUAL PICNIC
@ KIRWAN HOUSE
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

OCTOBER 20
BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 17
BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 11
ANNUAL MEETING/BRUNCH
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

*Other than board meetings,
all other dates depend on
the state of COVID19.*

The Kiran House and Museum was damaged by a car crashing into it on January 21. The most significant damage was to the fence and historic porch. Read more about the incident in the President's Message in this issue.



Linda Collier with great-grandson Riggins Sewell



KIHS held a special "Letters to Santa" event in Stevensville in time for the letters to reach Santa and children to receive a reply. Look for Santa and his red mailbox to make a return trip this year.

*Dear Santa,
You have given me many years of joy.
All I want now is for my boys to have
the joy of the Christmas Holiday.
Thank you for helping with the magic
this year.
I really appreciate it.
Merry Christmas!*



Phil Kemp (1899-1973) was a colorful character involved in many aspects of Kent Island life. His waterfowl carvings reflected his time on the water.

Fillmore Goldsborough Kemp, Kent Island Carver

by Ronnie Adams

(This article is reprinted from the November/December 2020 issue of **Decoy Magazine**, decoymag.com/)

The core of decoy makers on Maryland's Kent Island carved at the centric villages of Stevensville and Chester, except one. A lovable rascal from the north who everyone on the island knew, and whose mere name was said to raise eyebrows. Kemp, known as Phil, was not only an intriguing character, his life's threads are intricately woven into the area's rich cultural/historic fabric. When exploring Phil's life, it is beneficial to discuss the circumstances under which he was raised to help achieve insight into his worldview and better appreciate and understand his life and times.

KENT ISLAND is the largest island in the Chesapeake Bay and in 1631 became the first place settled and colonized by the English in the region, years before Lord Baltimore arrived under charter from King Charles. Phil's grandfather, Capt. Jacob Fillmore Legg, was born at the family's Broad Creek farm in 1850. He was the youngest of eight and, when not tilling the soil, Jacob received a rudimentary education at the local schoolhouse and in the Catholic Church. As an adult, Jacob plied the surrounding waters for fish, oysters and waterfowl for both market and table and it was through years of these activities he earned the title of Captain.

By the time he was 20, his parents departed the island, but Jacob remained in Broad

Creek and worked as a clerk in a country store. In 1873, he married a local farmer's daughter, Nannie M. Goldsborough, and briefly moved to Pennsylvania where daughters, Mabel Pearle and Blanche Valarie Legg were born. By the mid-1870s, Jacob was back farming the island and working the water. By decade's end, he was a constable and, in 1884, appointed Queen Anne's County's postmaster.

Their youngest child Blanche married Dr. Charles Percy Kemp in 1896. Charles was an island farmer's son who had recently finished his residency in Baltimore. They settled down and began a family at Love Point on Kent Island's northern tip. Dr. Kemp built a home, opened Kemp's Pharmacy, a medical practice, served as vice president of Stevensville Savings Bank and dabbled in area politics. Over the next several years, they had two sons. At the dawn of a new century, their youngest, Fillmore Goldsborough Kemp, was born on July 11, 1899 and grew up to be a character indelibly etched into Kent Island's history.

Initially, things went well but their marriage ended in 1906. Blanche and the boys lived at her parents' business, the Love Point Hotel. By 1908, Dr. Kemp had remarried, moved and set up practice in Baltimore. Charles Jr., the oldest son, went and lived there while Phil remained on the

island, attended school and helped at his grandparent's hotel. In the temperate months, Phil played baseball, swam, attended taffy pulls and watermelon parties and, when the water froze over, ice skated.

The Love Point Hotel has an important and interesting history. It was started in 1901 after several investors formed the Love Point Land and Improvement Company. A Baltimore architect conceived its design, which was built on a 40-acre lot, and it was opened for business in the spring of 1902. To ensure its success as a beach resort destination, the group made a deal with Queen Anne's Railroad Company to install a boat and railroad terminus on a pier adjacent to the hotel, which became a vital link between Love Point and the Eastern Shore mainland.

The railroad also operated a steamship line between Baltimore's Inner Harbor and Love Point, creating an important route that linked Baltimore to Maryland's Atlantic coast. Side-wheeled steamboats, such as Emma Giles, Westmoreland and Dreamland, and trains carried passengers and cargo, including produce, commercial goods, lumber and mail. This positioned Love Point as a busy shipping and passenger hub. During the beach season, ferries and steamers arrived three times daily carrying thousands of vacationers,

day-trippers and automobiles. These transports became interwoven in the area's milieu. Auto ferries replaced steamers around 1930. Philadelphia, the most iconic, was called "Smokey Joe" by locals due to its coal-fired steam boiler's long, thick trails of black smoke, which announced its presence for miles.

Love Point Hotel was built upon a bluff with a gorgeous scenic vista of the Chester River's mouth and the surrounding bay. The hotel included several large interconnected multistory buildings, which were unheated since it operated seasonally. It boasted 50 rooms, long sweeping verandas and a 200-seat grand dining room used for casual dining, dances and special events. It enjoyed widespread acclaim as offering some of the finest Eastern Shore cuisine. On weekends, it commonly served over 1,000 meals.

Its grounds were directly adjacent to the inland Lake Matapex and were surrounded by many ancillary attractions such as lake canoe rentals, a swimming beach, boat and bathing houses, a bowling alley, shooting gallery and an amusement boardwalk complete with an arcade and merry-go-round. It featured an expansive lawn, cottonwood tree-shaded picnic groves and a dance pavilion. It was a convenient destination for many urbanites seeking escape from the rigors and congestion of big city life, became a popular honeymoon spot and found favor with businessmen, power brokers and state politicians. In many respects, Love Point became Maryland's miniature version of New York's Coney Island.

After its completion in 1902, Capt. Legg operated the hotel until 1914. He heavily marketed and promoted the destination in Baltimore and provided guests guided scenic trips through Kent Island's countryside, motorboat tours around the local waters and outfitted fishing charters. Capt. Legg had bull-wrestling exhibitions (rodeos) and

shooting competitions, which included Annie Oakley picking off lightbulbs midair with her .44 Winchester rifle, never missing a single shot.

Phil was initiated into the ways of watermen as a young boy. Through his grandfather, he learned boating, gunning and fishing and became intimately acquainted with the bay and its surrounding tributaries. During the colder months, when the hotel closed, they gunned the area's waters together. Phil likely helped maintain the family rig during those years. While Phil's father was an occasional gunner, he lived in Baltimore. They never enjoyed more than a distant relationship. Phil and his grandfather were very close, and the Captain served as his role model and mentor.

Capt. Legg, a shrewd businessman, was one of the best-known men in Queen Anne's County. In the early 1900s, he invested heavily in the Love Point Beach and Park Company. The company auctioned off numerous parcels for development around the Love Point area in the early 1910s. In 1914, Capt. Legg purchased five of those lots, located at the southern end of Lake Matapex, just down the bluff from Love Point Hotel and, in spring 1915, opened the "new modern" Hotel Fillmore. It was built at an ideal location on the lake, just above the ferry slip, grabbing the immediate attention of potential patrons as they disembarked. Phil left high school to assist his grandfather.

Hotel Fillmore was a three-story, 31-room building with a wraparound porch, large dining room and appointed with an open rooftop dance floor. Room rates varied, depending on whether meals and swimsuit rentals were included. Capt. Legg's oldest daughter, May, managed daily operations and served as hostess. In its inaugural year, room rates were \$4.00 a week, swimsuits were rented for 45 cents and three meals a day cost \$1.50. Although comparably smaller than the expansive Love Point Hotel, Hotel Fillmore did very well and its cuisine enjoyed widespread acclaim. In the late 1930s, Sunday dinners consisting of fried chicken, a soft crab, peas, potatoes, corn on the cob, iced tea and ice cream, all for only \$1.00! The hotel also served as the area post office.

During the Roaring Twenties, times were challenging for the family. Phil's grandmother died in 1921 and his mother passed away not long afterwards. Misfortune struck again when the hotel caught fire and burned to the ground in January 1923. The fire broke out just as guests were sitting for lunch. An alarm was sounded, but since no firefighting apparatus existed, nothing could be done. Phil related that "...despite attempts of throwing thirty-three buckets of water on the flames" the situation was futile, and the hotel was quickly reduced to ashes. Except for most of the first-floor furniture, all was lost. The damage was estimated at \$25,000.



The first Hotel Fillmore (pictured) was built by Kemp's maternal grandfather, Captain Jacob Fillmore Legg. Phil Legg worked at that hotel and helped manage the one that replaced it 1923 after it burned down.

Capt. Legg immediately built a smaller two-story Hotel Fillmore. While it lacked the third story and rooftop dance floor, it still boasted a nice front porch, nine guest rooms and a 50-seat dining room, which continued to serve scrumptious Maryland cuisine. The new establishment opened in June 1923 and retained the reputation as one of the finest hotels on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Phil continued to live and work at the hotel and in a railroad shop on the Love Point pier.

The winter after the reopening, Phil's grandfather passed away. Although they suffered lingering grief, Phil and Aunt May, who inherited the hotel, carried on. May was appointed postmaster for Love Point and, in the off-hours, Phil worked as a waterman and guided customers who sought to fish and gun the area's waterfowl. This was about the time he started earnestly making decoys.

Despite the Great Depression's toll on most families, their business remained good. In addition to helping his aunt at the hotel, Phil worked as a railroad shipping clerk, plied the local waters and guided fishing and hunting clients. He was considered an expert fisherman, particularly for rockfish. According to the late Rock Hall barber and decoy maker, Cliff Simms, Phil was considered an exceptional waterman and credited with teaching many Rock Hall watermen the skills necessary to successfully ply their trade.

By the late 1930s, the area drastically suffered economically. Despite tough times, Phil and May retained a maid and continued to operate the hotel into the 40s. Neither ever married nor had children. May retired from postmaster in 1942 and Phil was appointed to take her place, but shortly afterward the mail was diverted to Stevensville. The surge in automobile ownership after WWII prompted state and federal governments to focus on road and highway infrastructure improvements, allocating finances to enhance and expand thoroughfares. Those initiatives, in conjunction with the ferry's relocation several miles south to Matapeake and the discontinuance of railroad and steamship passenger services to Love Point landed its final blow to tourism.

Smokey Joe made its last voyage to Love Point in 1947. By then, even freight rail services had ceased. With commerce virtually extinct, the Love Point Hotel shuttered and sat vacant until it burned to the ground in 1965. The smoke from that fire could be seen as far away as Baltimore. The 1952 completion of the Bay Bridge connected the bay's western and eastern shores, providing metropolitan vacationers easy access to Maryland's coastal beach

resorts. Destinations such as Love Point were totally disregarded.

Hotel Fillmore still operated for occasional customers. Aunt May died in 1953 and Phil continued to run it until it was sold in 1957. Its operation continued until its sale in 1985, when it became a private residence. It was placed on the Maryland Historical Trust in 2008. The Department of Natural Resources eventually took it over and demolished the neglected building in 2019.

As a well-known waterman and fishing and hunting guide - just like his grandfather - Phil eventually earned the title of Captain. He kept offshore blinds adjacent to the ferry docks. When he was not guiding clients, he was an avid waterfowl gunner himself. Phil was friends with Henry Fleckenstein Sr., the father of that noted decoy collector and author, and occasionally provided guiding services for him. According to Henry Jr., his father sometimes helped Phil make decoys in the late 30s and early 40s. On more than one occasion, during really bad weather, Phil was sometimes called upon to search for and rescue stranded hunters.

Phil's escapades became legendary on the island and there are no shortages of his exploits. When he was young, not in school or helping around the hotel, Phil spent his days fishing, hunting and swimming. He excelled at all. Of medium height and build with brown hair and eyes, he was said to be a dapper young man who occasionally got decked out in white flannels, a blue blazer and polished black and white wing-tip oxfords. Phil loved to party, had plenty of money, a nice car and was a good dancer, which made him quite popular with the ladies. Irrespective of his many antics, Phil was well-liked and fondly remembered, described by some as Love Point's "prankster-in-chief." Although Phil was not a mean-spirited person, he was frequently mischievous and many of his monkeyshines became legendary.

During the summer, Phil would meet up with the local boys at the Love Point pier, where they would play, dive and swim together. On one occasion, Phil boasted he could hold his breath longer than any of them and promptly issued a challenge. He suggested they dive into

the water simultaneously and stay under as long as they could with the last one to surface deemed the victor. Of course, the other boys readily accepted and all simultaneously dove in.

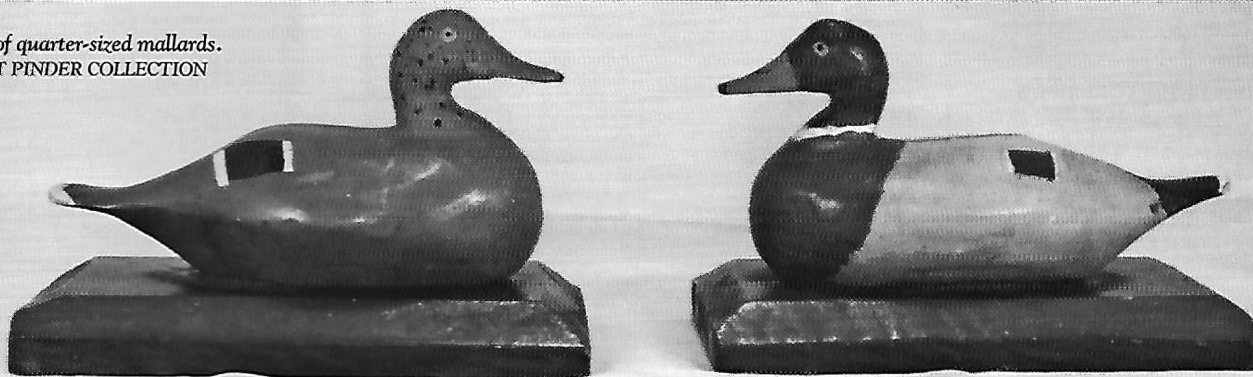
After a few moments, one by one, they popped back up, each looking around to see if he was last. All surfaced except for Phil. The boys patiently waited, but as the seconds ticked by they became more agitated, anxious and worried. When they dove in, they wondered, "Had Phil hit his head on a rock or the pier?" As their anxiety built and they were stricken with panic, Phil popped up to the surface, casually swam to the ladder and proclaimed, "I am the king!!" They were dumbfounded. After they all dove in, Phil immediately came back to the surface and hid behind a pier pole, where he watched in devilish glee as the boys panicked at his unexpected and continued disappearance.

Sometimes Phil's antics backfired. In the early 1930s, his newlywed friend, Alfred White, invited Phil on a duck hunt on the tidal pond of his family's farm. Al had two dogs, a feisty rat terrier and a sweet, noble Chesapeake Bay retriever named Pat. Chessies are loving to family and friends, but guarded and tolerant of familiar people and animals. However, when faced with anything deemed threatening, they become downright nasty and vicious. They also love to hunt. When Pat saw Al grab his double-barrel shotgun and gear, he became ecstatic.

Al and Phil took the back lane towards the shore while Pat darted ahead making sure all was safe, sniffing and inspecting every bush, twig or rock along the way. The tidal pond, surrounded by cattails and bushes, was a favorite haunt of their quarry, the elusive black duck. When they reached the blind, Pat was shivering with adrenaline and excitement. Now Phil, who had never hunted with Pat before, said, "White, your dog is freezing." "No, Phil, he's just excited about hunting." After more debate, Phil said, "Dammit Al, that poor dog is freezing. I'm going to put my coat on him."

Ignoring Al's objections, Phil placed his hunting coat over Pat's back and buttoned the collar around his neck. Not long

Pair of quarter-sized mallards.
CLINT PINDER COLLECTION



afterward a pair of black ducks lighted in and both men quickly raised their guns, shot and downed one. Instinctively, Pat immediately jumped into the water, swam out and retrieved the bird, still wearing Phil's now drenched coat. Phil took the coat off, wrung it out, mumbled a few colorful remarks and said, "White, your dog sure likes to hunt!" Unfortunately, the wind picked up and temperatures rapidly began to drop. Phil nearly froze to death before they finally returned to the farmhouse.

On another occasion in the 1920s, Phil was with friends at a Saturday night dance held at the local hot spot Booker's Wharf. Phil, as usual, was being the life of the party. At intermission he went outside to get some air and have a little moonshine (this was during Prohibition). After the band started back, he remained outside. After a bit, someone found Al on the dance floor and told him to get outside quickly because Phil was making a scene and getting hurt.

Al wasn't much of a drinker but loved to dance. He reluctantly agreed and once outside, he saw a small crowd had gathered on the pier. Phil, who appeared drunk, was at the end of the diving board, swaying and nearly falling off. A few women shrieked and the guys implored him to come, but not Al. He hollered, "Let that son of a bitch fall! You couldn't drown that menace if you tied a cement block to his feet!" After Al's outburst, the crowd settled down and Phil walked in just as sober as a nun. He went up to Al and said, "Dammit, you ruined all my fun!" to which Alfred retorted, "Yeah, and you spoiled all of mine!"

Phil was famous for telling tales. Coon hunting was popular on the island and Phil claimed he had the smartest coon hound around. He said he once fashioned a skinning board, set it out by the back porch and let his dog out for the evening. The next morning, he said, his dog had caught a perfect sized coon, skinned it and mounted it on the board. A few days later, Phil decided to test the dog and made another skinning board a little larger. Sure enough, the next morning a bigger coon was skinned and mounted. Phil did this over the next few weeks and there was always a perfect-sized skinned and mounted coon the next morning. Then one evening Aunt May washed her ironing board and set it out on the back porch to dry. Phil said the following morning he found the ironing board on the back porch but never saw his coon dog again.

Phil claimed he made the best decoys and told a story with several renditions. He made three decoys, so it began, with which he put a great deal of effort, painstakingly painting them so they looked as real as possible. When they were all painted but still wet, he placed them in the sun to dry. Not long after, the first decoy just up and flew away, the cat ate the second one and the maid shot the third one and cooked it for dinner. In another rendition, Phil took the three decoys out to his blind to hunt over them. He was watching them bounce on the waves and waiting for birds to light in when, all of a sudden, one dove under the water and was never seen again. The second one jumped up and joined a flock of passing ducks. Before he lost the third one, Phil immediately shot it and had May cook it for dinner. Phil said it was the best

tasting duck he ever ate.

About the time Phil sold the hotel, his health began to decline, so he boarded in Stevensville with Dick and Dora Tims, who provided older men assisted living. He often hung out with local decoy makers Kirby "Choo-Choo" Thompson and Holton Legg and occasionally coon hunted with Legg. Sometimes he'd go to the bar and sit on a stool and whittle mini ducks to trade patrons for beer. Phil left the island in the early 1960s and moved to an apartment in Centreville, where he spent the remainder of his life. Rows of his miniatures were displayed for sale just around the corner in the front window display of Frank Mayer's shoe repair store. Besides having a fondness for alcohol, he was a heavy smoker and developed serious respiratory issues. Phil passed away on July 10, 1973, one day short of his 74th birthday. He was taken back to Kent Island and buried.

Phil started making decoys in the mid-1920s. He was never formally taught, just picked it up out of his own volition, although it's likely he had some instruction and guidance from his grandfather, who had fashioned some of his own gunning decoys. Phil worked out of two outbuildings on the hotel grounds. His decoys were based on the migrating ducks he saw, but his patterns morphed in the late 1940s to become less refined and chunky with elongated pointed tails. Later, he whittled minis wherever he pleased. All of his gunning decoys were hand-chopped with a hatchet, worked into shape with a drawknife and penknife, then spokeshaved and sanded smooth.

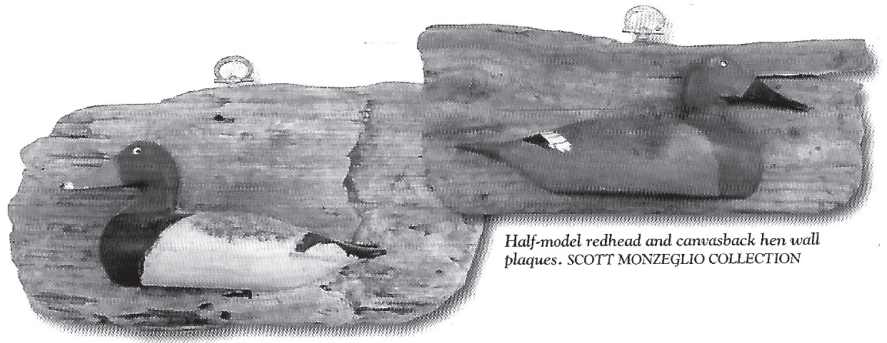
(Continued on page 8)

Phil is known to have made canvasback, redhead and bluebill gunning decoys, the predominant species which migrate through the area's open waters. He may have fashioned some puddle ducks, such as black ducks, which he gunned in the surrounding tidal marshes. Occasionally, friends helped him and some were sold to local gunners. He is the sole known Kent Island decoy maker north of Stevensville. He ceased carving gunners in the mid-1950s. Because large rigs are usually not used for blind shooting, his gunning decoys are scarce and their total output is estimated at around 800.

Phil continued to carve miniatures into the early 1970s to help supplement his income; yet like his gunning birds, they are

infrequently seen. The minis have more intricate painting patterns than the gunners and usually included wing bars, feathering and brush stroke shading on their backs. Some have the initials "PK" carved into their bottoms. Phil made them in a variety of species, including Canada geese. He also made a few decorative items, such as half bodied duck wall plaques.

Old gunning decoys, to those who collect them, are more than just carved and



Half-model redhead and canvasback hen wall plaques. SCOTT MONZEGLIO COLLECTION

Painted weathered wooden blocks. While they are considered historic artifacts of a bygone era, they are but a single facet of the life of the oft-forgotten sportsmen who made them. So, to the people of Kent Island who knew Phil Kemp, that lovable rascal from the north, those decoys are relatively unimportant. Rather, it's the years he spent among them and the tall tales woven into his past that will live on in their memories. ■

THE FORGOTTEN SEVEN:

The Decoy Carvers of Kent Island



BY HUGO G. GEMIGNANI

Phil Kemp is one of the carvers featured in the book

THE FORGOTTEN SEVEN: The Decoy Carvers of Kent Island by Hugo G. Gemignani.

The book can be purchased for \$12 via kentislandheritagesociety.org.



KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Kent Island Heritage Society is offering a \$1000 one-year scholarship to a graduating senior from Kent Island High School who plans to attend college.

TO BE ELIGIBLE THE APPLICANT MUST:

- Be a Kent island native, with at least one parent or grandparent native of Kent Island;
- Have a 3.0 GPA or higher, and
- Have performed community service.

Please submit for review:

the application form a letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor accompanied by your high school transcript, and a one page essay on the importance of preserving the heritage of Kent Island (the first paragraph of which should contain a brief biographical sketch.)

Application Form

Complete the following and return it with the recommendation, transcript and essay.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Kent Island native parent or grandparent (maiden name of KI parent/grandparent)

Brief explanation of Community Service:

All applications must be postmarked no later than **APRIL 30**. Send to:
The Kent Island Heritage Society Scholarship Committee
c/o Mrs. Nancy Cook
124 Bryce Road
Queenstown. MD 21658

GET TO KNOW THE BOARD MEMBERS



LINDA MOORE

Linda, a native Kansan, has been a resident of Maryland for more than 40 years and a Kent Islander since 2018. She graduated from the University of Kansas and worked

in various administrative positions with the federal government and nonprofit organizations. She retired as Executive Director of SPAN (a food pantry and financial assistance organization in Severna Park) in 2006 and continues as their bookkeeper and a client interviewer. She is married to fellow board member, Leslie Moore. They have two children and four grandchildren who love visiting the island. Linda hopes to learn more about the history of the Kent Point area and enjoys playing bridge, reading, boating, kayaking, crabbing, fishing and searching for artifacts in and around Eastern Bay.



JAMES FREDERICK WHITE

Captain James F "Rick" White USN (ret), a native of Kent Island, is a 1971 graduate of Queen Anne's County High School and a 1975 graduate of the United States Naval

Academy. Rick served twenty-six years as a Naval Aviator and retired from active duty in 2001. Following retirement Rick has pursued a second career in the Information Technology Sector serving in multiple roles including CIO and CTO at various technology firms. Rick is currently employed as an Executive Vice President for Global Tel*Link and as of the summer of 2020 has settled back on Kent Island.

ODDS 'N ENDS

KENT ISLAND HISTORY PRESENTATION ON QAC LIBRARY SITE

The Queen Anne's County Library will feature a virtual KIHS presentation on Kent Island history on Friday, March 26 at 7 pm. The presentation will be shown on the QAC Library Facebook page: facebook.com/qaclibrary/ and will remain on the page for future viewing.



Quick Response (QR) Code

SCAN KIHS QUICK RESPONSE (QR) CODE TO REACH OUR WEBSITE.

You can reach our Kent Island Heritage Society website with most

Smartphones which are

equipped with QR Code readers in their cameras. Hold your Smartphone camera over the QR Code so that it is clearly on the phone screen. The phone will scan the code and connect to the site. Some phones might require you to take a picture of the QR Code.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!!!!

Please contact KIHS if you have comments on items in [Isle of Kent 1631](#) or if you have questions about Kent Island history that we can try to answer. We welcome topics you would find of interest and especially information you can provide for future issues.

Contact: John Conley
jconcomm@gmail.com | cell: 703-216-0449

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POSTCARD from Kent Island: Main Street Stevensville 1912

Submitted from collection of John L. Conley

This two-panel postcard was likely mailed from the small post office building at the right of the top view partially obscured by the tree. The post office opened in a former doctor's office in the late 1800s and operated there until 1959. It later served as an office and has been maintained as an historic site by KIHS



J. C. Norris'
Drug Store,
Stevensville, Md.

since 1979. It is shown connected to the drug store next door. Dr. Charles Percy Kemp was the first owner of the building which housed his pharmacy and then it became the J.C. Norris Drug Store. Dr. Norris was born in Virginia in 1866 and died in 1941, after which the building became Dawkin's Market and then a dance studio for over 60 years. Be sure to read the article on Dr. Kemp's son Phil in this issue.



Main Street, Stevensville, Md.

The lower view shows the Stevensville Bank at left, a large white house, and the Lowery Hotel. Telephone or telegraph wires also are shown. The bank opened in the early 1900s as the Stevensville Bank of Queen Anne's County. It served as a bank until 1961 and later as the office of the Bay Times newspaper and other enterprises. The bank building today is little changed from 1961 featuring a large and very secure land records safe and is one of the popular sites on the KIHS historical sites tour. It is currently for sale. The building on the other side of the white house was the Lowery Hotel and thought to be built in the 1860s. It was a popular hospitality facility for visitors who took the ferry boats to and from Kent Island. The building still stands as a private residence.

The impressive white house stood on what is today a "pocket park" opened in 2004 maintained by Queen Anne's County. According to a 1975 deed transfer, the original property was transferred from Dr. William E. Denny to Dr. Charles E. Snyder in 1903. The house became known as the Dr. Charles E. Snyder Home Property which housed his doctor's office. Dr. Snyder died in 1961. The house eventually became vacant and was subsequently burned in an exercise by the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department.