

# Isle of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

WINTER 2021/2022

## Officers

**PRESIDENT**  
Jack E. Broderick

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Robert Lowe

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Jay Gibson  
Toni Gibson  
Kristin Green  
Mark Lidinsky  
Leslie Moore  
Annie May Price  
Rick White

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Marian Steuart	75-77
Gordon Seward	77-79
Julius Grollman	79-81
Mary White	81-82
Walter T. Denny	83-84
Eva C. White	85-86
C. Gilbert Dunn	87-89
Audrey Hawkins	90-92
Charles Koegel	93-94
Hugo Gemignani	95-98
Nancy M. Cook	99-08



## President's Message

We extend our warmest holiday greetings to our members at the end of another challenging year. 2021 was a year of ups and downs for the Kent Island Heritage Society. Although we had high hopes that that 2021 would be an improvement with the availability of the Covid vaccine, circumstances proved otherwise. All of our meetings have been conducted virtually. We made the decision early to cancel some of our in-person events, including our iconic Kent Island Day, several general meetings, and the early opening of our sites. Then, with the emergence of the Delta variant, we prudently decided to cancel the remainder of our events, including the Fall Picnic and our annual holiday meeting.

Our saddest news however, was the death of our Treasurer, Lynne Riley-Coleman in late October. Lynne suffered a recurrence of a previous illness. She was the consummate professional, highly respected and admired. She kept our financial books in good order right up until the week she made her last trip to the hospital. Lynne combined her business acumen and insight with her passion for genealogy and history to be a valuable contributor to the KI Heritage Society for most of the past decade. Please see our tribute to Lynne here in our Newsletter. On a positive note, we are blessed that we have a new interim Treasurer, Board Member Linda Moore, who brings many years of non-profit fiscal management experience. Thank you, Linda.

We also received the sad news, as this Newsletter was going to press, of the passing of an iconic retired Heritage Society Board Member, Bill Denny of downtown Stevensville. Known affectionately as Billy, he was proud of his multi- generational Kent Island heritage and his decades-long work with the Heritage Society. With one eyebrow cocked up, he always had a story to tell about his beloved Island. We'll feature a tribute to Billy in our next Newsletter.

Another challenge we faced this year was the sale of the Historic Stevensville Bank by our long-time benefactors, the Marsteller Family. We applied for a grant to acquire the Bank building but were turned down by the Maryland Historic Trust. However, at the eleventh hour, a buyer stepped in with an offer to buy the bank with a commitment to preserve the building and maintain the relationship with the KI Heritage Society to open and show the Bank as a historic site. The sale was settled in late October. The new buyer is Bill Hufnell of Bay Point Wealth. His business is a financial planning firm

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## **KIHS Committees**

### **Membership**

John Conley, *Chair*

### **Budget**

Bob Lowe, *Chair*

Jay Gibson

Linda Collier

### **Newsletter**

Carole Frederick, *Managing Editor*

John Conley, *Editor*

### **Library/Genealogy**

Bob Lowe, *Chair*

Lou Crouch

Annie May Price

### **Kirwan House**

Linda Collier, *Curator*

Gina Cuza

### **Cray House**

Sally Lewis, *Curator*

### **Post Office**

Fran Peters, *Curator*

### **Train Station**

John Conley, *Curator*

### **Docents**

Sally Lewis, *Coordinator*

Butch Collier

Linda Collier

John Conley

Nancy Cook

Betty Folz

Carole Frederick

Jay Gibson

Toni Gibson

Chris Kilian

Carmen Mendez

Fran Peters

Hanna Wall

## **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*

from Annapolis. Bill plans to establish a part time modern financial planning office in the rear Board Room of the old Bank and to preserve the front section, with its unique vault, as the historic site. His plans include exterior and interior maintenance work to help assure long term preservation of the building. We look forward to our new heritage partnership with Bill Hufnell. See the article in this Newsletter and look for an article in the local papers highlighting our new owner and our new partnership.

Our plans to explore and celebrate our deep Native American history on Kent Island are moving forward, but at a slower pace than hoped. The extensive and famous Marks collection of artifacts, being documented by Dr. Darrin Lowery, will be displayed at a location yet to be determined. We are considering several possible locations on Kent Island and anticipate the decision this coming year. In addition, the archaeological dig on Parson's Island, overseen by Dr. Lowery, had to be curtailed due to a death in the family of his key partner from Texas A&M. We look forward to resumption of that project in the summer of 2022.

Although our meetings and planning sessions had to be done virtually, we have accomplished a great deal this past year. We have responded to a number of special requests on Kent Island history and genealogy. Our Board Members Lou Crouch and Annie Mae Price have used their extensive research talents and knowledge of local history to provide priceless information for inquiring families and researchers. We have developed and presented virtual sessions on Kent Island's history to many local groups. With the assistance of QACTV, we have filmed virtual tours of our sites that are being made available on QACTV and other social media outlets. We participated in June and July with a display of the Kirwan Story, The Saving of Kent Island, in the travelling Smithsonian Exhibit in Centreville QAC hosted by the QA County Historical Society. In August, we hosted an outdoor concert on the Cray House Green in Stevensville, part of the QA Center for the Arts Thursdays in the Park Series. In addition, we helped to host two Stevensville A&E outdoor events – Artoberfest in October and The Classic Car and Truck Show in November. We also have a KI railroad display in December as part the QA Railroad Society Festival of Trains at the Outlets at Kent Narrows. We eagerly anticipate bringing back our in-person events in 2022, circumstances permitting.

On the broader community level, we have participated in a number of ways to help strengthen and protect our heritage. We supported and participated in County efforts to strengthen our tourism program and applaud the new logo "Where Shore Living Begins". From our standpoint, it translates to "Where Shore Heritage Begins". We have been actively engaged in the process to revitalize the Historic Stevensville A&E District, where most of our historic sites are located. We look forward to partnering with the new A&E leadership team in numerous events in 2022. Likewise, we are engaged with the QA County Library in their KI Branch expansion efforts and look forward to the new heritage room to support our records storage and research activities.

On the controversial Bay Bridge front, we strongly opposed the third span proposal which would destroy most of Terrapin Park and endangered much of the core of Kent Island, including many of our heritage areas. We advocated instead for a larger replacement of the two existing bridges. Our QA Commissioners have since supported a similar proposal. We also advocated, along with a large number of County residents, for preservation of the old, iconic QA High School Building / BOE in Centreville. We applaud the Commissioners' decision to dedicate funding to preserve that building. And most importantly, from the long-range perspective, we have been actively engaged with the QA County Department of Planning and Zoning in drafting the update of the County Comprehensive Master Plan, relating to preservation of our historic and cultural heritage over the next decade. Working in concert with our heritage partners of the QA

# CALENDAR 2022

**JANUARY 19**  
BOARD MEETING

**FEBRUARY 16**  
BOARD MEETING

**MARCH 15**  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
WITH SPEAKER

**APRIL 20**  
BOARD MEETING

**MAY 18**  
BOARD MEETING

**MAY 21**  
KENT ISLAND DAY

**JUNE 15**  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING EVENT  
TBA

**JULY 20**  
BOARD MEETING

**AUGUST 17**  
BOARD MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 21**  
BOARD MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 25**  
MEMBERSHIP PICNIC

**OCTOBER 19**  
BOARD MEETING

**NOVEMBER 16**  
BOARD MEETING

**DECEMBER 11**  
ANNUAL MEETING  
AND ELECTION

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NOTE: OTHER THAN BOARD  
MEETINGS, ALL OTHER EVENTS  
WILL DEPEND ON THE STATE OF  
COVID 19.

Historic Sites Consortium we anticipate a strong approach from the County level in support of our heritage.

Since we are not able to host our Annual Holiday Brunch and swearing in of our Board, we will follow our virtual model from last year. The announcement of our new Board configuration presented at our November Board Meeting is here in this Newsletter. If you have any recommended changes or additions please respond back by email or phone by December 20. No response will be considered your affirmation of the new Board. As mentioned, Linda Moore will assume the position of interim Treasurer. We will welcome four new Board members to fill newly vacated positions: Mike Rosendale, Chip Price, Vernetta Sherman, and Mindy Volker. We are excited with the new additions to our Board. Each of them brings a wealth of diverse experience, talent, and insight to our Kent Island Heritage Society mission. We'll include a discussion of their unique backgrounds in future Newsletters. We extend our thanks to our departing Board Members Toni and Jay Gibson, Mark Lidinsky, and Leslie Moore. Each of them has been valuable, contributing members of our Board and will be missed. We look forward to their continuing advice and assistance as "Directors Emeritus".

KIHS dues renewals will be mailed in early December. We thank you for your continuing support during these challenging times and look forward hopefully to an active new year of activities and events in support of our mission to discover, identify, restore, and preserve the heritage of Kent Island.

Meanwhile, we extend our warmest wishes for a safe, happy, and healthy Holiday season and a Happy New Year to you and your families.

*Jack Broderick*

## Railroad on Kent Island at QARR Festival of Trains

The Kent Island Heritage Society will include a display on the Railroad on Kent Island at the Queen Ann's County Railroad Society Show at the Kent Narrows Outlet Center. There were once four railroad stations on Kent Island. **The show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. On December 4th and 5th and 11th and 12th.**



## THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

### 2022 SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

An election of officers and directors to lead The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. in 2022 will be carried out virtually. Officers are elected for a one-year term and directors for a three-year-term.

**The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate:**

***Any objections to any of the slate should be made to the chairman of the committee, Bob Lowe at 863-259-9120 or rclowesr@aol.com by December 20, 2021.***

<b>President</b>	<b>Jack Broderick</b>	<b>Directors</b>	<b>Mike Rosendale</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bob Lowe</b>		<b>Chip Price</b>
<b>Treasurer – Interim</b>	<b>Linda Moore</b>		<b>Mindy Volker</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>John Conley</b>		<b>Vernetta Sherman</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Carole Frederick</b>		

Additional nominations may be made prior to December 20, 2022 by the members at large. A declaration of intent must be presented to the chair of the nominating committee, **Bob Lowe, 257 W. Goldfinch La., Centreville, MD 21617**, signed by the candidate and two supporting members of The Society.

#### **The 2021 Kent Island Heritage Society Incumbent Board Members**

<b>Linda Collier</b>	<b>Kristin Green</b>
<b>Nancy Cook</b>	<b>Annie Mae Price</b>
<b>Lou Crouch</b>	<b>Rick White</b>

## THE HISTORIC STEVENSVILLE BANK

### **A New Owner – A New Partnership**

It turns out that cloud did have a silver lining!

We have recounted in previous Newsletters that The Historic Stevensville Bank, owned by Marsteller Family of Love Point and Frederick, MD, was being offered for sale in July 2020. The Marstellers had partnered with the Kent Island Heritage Society for several decades to have the Bank, which is recognized on the National Registry of Historic Places, shown and maintained by the Heritage Society, as a historic Kent Island site. The unique Bank building, which was the original Bank on Kent Island, opened in 1909. The Bank operated there for 50 years until 1959. When it came time to sell the property, Bob Marsteller offered to sell it to the Kent Island Heritage Society to keep it in historic preservation. But that was a financial bridge too far for us to buy it outright. With high hopes, we applied for a capital grant from the Maryland Historic Trust, a lengthy and complicated process. However, we were notified in July 2021 that we were turned down (too many applicants for limited grant money!) Our hopes to preserve the Bank were dimmed.

However, that cloud indeed did have a silver lining. A potential new buyer emerged at the eleventh hour in the event the grant was turned down. Fast forward – it all worked! After several months of negotiations with the seller and discussions with the Kent Island Heritage Society,

the sale was closed in late October. The new owner is Bill Hufnell of Bay Point Wealth, a financial planning firm based in Annapolis, with offices also in Florida and North Carolina. Bill has wanted to extend his business to a location on the Eastern Shore. He has a number of local clients and is well known to our Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce where he has done a number of on-line seminars and discussions. He comes highly recommend by our Chamber leadership. Bill also has a strong interest in history and historic preservation and has committed to a long-term relationship with the Kent Island Heritage Society similar to the previous partnership with the Marsteller Family. His plans include maintenance and preservation work to insure long term viability of the building. His vision is that Bay Point Wealth will maintain and operate a modern Financial Planning Office in the rear of the bank in the old Bank Board Room, while the Heritage Society will operate and show the front part of the Bank as a preserved historic site. All the details and the new formal rental agreement are still being finalized, but we see it as a win-win for both parties. We expect to have a joint press release in our local papers on the new partnership by the end of the year. We extend our deep appreciation to the Marsteller Family for so many successful years together and look forward to forging our new partnership with Bill Hufnell and Bay Point Wealth.



# 1815 Love Point Fish Tale

By: John L. Conley

The July 12, 1815, *Connecticut Courant* included this article which may be one of the oldest Kent Island fish stories of which we have an original report. The claim by Mr. Solomon Haycock must be true as it was attested to by himself, Thomas Goodhand, and Hugh Legg, both undoubtedly upright gentlemen whose descendants continue to live on our blessed shores.

The *Connecticut Courant*, which was first published in 1764, reprinted the Love Point story from the *Maryland Star*. That paper began publishing in 1799 and is one of the forerunners of today's *Easton Star Democrat*. The *Connecticut Courant's* founder was Thomas Green who was related to Jonas Green, the publisher of the *Maryland Gazette* in Annapolis. Jonas Green died in 1767. His widow, Anne Catherine Green, published the paper until her death in 1774.

Much of the July weekly 1815 *Connecticut Courant*, which cost "Two Dollars per annum payable in advance," contained official notices, land for sale, employment opportunities, news on products arriving in local shops from foreign and domestic points, and information on ship departures. A "lad of about 14 years of age" was wanted to serve as an apprentice printer. Twenty bales of cotton from New Orleans were advertised, as were 1,200 pounds of Boston pressed hops, eight boxes of very fresh raisons, and 100 gallons of Lisbon lemon juice.

A long list prepared by John T. Peters was one on which no one wanted to see their name. He was the tax collector and his list contained name, location and description of the property, and amount of unpaid taxes owed. The property of those not able to pay the annual tax and a 20 percent penalty would be "sold at public sale at the Court House in Fairfield."

The paper also contained some news articles, no less laced with opinion than those in today's papers. An article decried the treatment of France under the "Italian yoke" that had been "pressing the necks of Frenchmen nearly the whole time they had been a nation." and "for a thousand years, France had been subjected to the tyrannous rule of the ecclesiastical rule

of Rome, composed of cloistered bigots." In the 16th century, Catharine de Medici, an artful and ambitious Italian woman made France to bleed at every pore."

The most recent assault on France, to whom the young United States owed much, by Italy was by "a young adventurer from a little island included in the map of Italy." His "bloody tyranny over Frenchmen, as

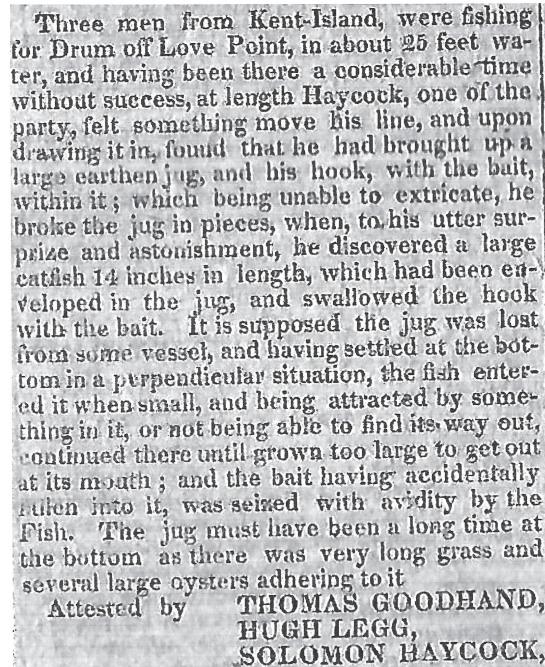
well as over nations neighboring on France, is too well known and too recent to need further illustration. It is not perhaps too much to say that more than a million Frenchmen are in their graves, who, but for him, might, this instant, be enjoying the light of life."

Of course, news from Europe came by ship and could be weeks, if not months, old. Many of those dispatches were printed in the July 12, 1815, edition. They included that as of the 23rd of May, "all the transports in England were preparing to carry troops. The Army of Lord Wellington, in Belgium, was 80,000 strong, composed of British, Hanoverians, Belgians,

Dutch, and Prussians." It was no doubt with pleasure that the paper could publish sometime in August that on June 18 at the Battle of Waterloo, the army of Napoleon Bonaparte was crushed, and he was exiled to the remote, British-held island of Saint Helena where he died on May 5, 1821, at age 51.

A lengthy editorial written just 26 years after the first United States Congress met began, "Men who have the greatest talent at getting office, are often miserably deficient in point of ability to discharge the duties of office. This observation, which is too obvious to be new, has been remarkably exemplified in the short history of the American republic."

The author wrote that the early leaders were statesmen "or at least informed of the interests of their country, and of acknowledged probity and honor." And even though the Federalists and anti-Federalists did not agree on the nature of government, they did "obey the old-fashioned impulse to follow common sense to elect to office men who did not push themselves



Three men from Kent-Island, were fishing for Drum off Love Point, in about 25 feet water, and having been there a considerable time without success, at length Haycock, one of the party, felt something move his line, and upon drawing it in, found that he had brought up a large earthen jug, and his hook, with the bait, within it; which being unable to extricate, he broke the jug in pieces, when, to his utter surprise and astonishment, he discovered a large eelish 14 inches in length, which had been enveloped in the jug, and swallowed the hook with the bait. It is supposed the jug was lost from some vessel, and having settled at the bottom in a perpendicular situation, the fish entered it when small, and being attracted by something in it, or not being able to find its way out, continued there until grown too large to get out at its mouth; and the bait having accidentally fallen into it, was seized with avidity by the fish. The jug must have been a long time at the bottom as there was very long grass and several large oysters adhering to it.

Attested by THOMAS GOODHAND,  
HUGH LEGG,  
SOLOMON HAYCOCK,

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forward but were selected for talents and character." In the early congresses, George Washington "was selected twice, unanimously, and the senate and the house of representatives were, generally, entitled to the credit of talent and dignity of character."

Alas, he wrote, "But it was not for long, ere the men who bore the venerable stamp of the first congress were thrown into the shade. Honesty was supplanted by knavery, dignity by meanness, and talent by conceited noisy emptiness. Under the auspices of the arch-deamagogue, a race of mushroom-patriots and statesmen sprung up and dinned the ears of the people

with their clamorous pretensions." The members of the 13th Congress "have leeched the body politic, they have plied it with cathartics, they have bled it, they have wasted its substance, partly out of mere quackery, and more to satisfy their own exorbitant avarice."

We will never know what the editorial writer from May 1815 would think of today's Congress, but perhaps we have a better idea of why Thomas Goodhand, Hugh Legg, and Solomon Haycock down on Kent Island in Maryland decided their time better spent going fishing off Love Point and catching a catfish in an old jug.



## *Lynne Riley- Coleman*

Lynne Riley- Coleman was truly a gifted and talented woman who brought her unique strengths to bear for the Kent Island Heritage Society. We will miss Lynne. During her business career she challenged and broke the glass ceiling in the computer services and data management field, starting in 1970. She was president of the Montgomery Data Systems, Inc. which she helped found in Montgomery

County for three decades. We were blessed when she decided to dedicate her strength and skills to our Heritage Society mission. Lynne was from a military family. Her father and grandfather were senior naval officers for which she carried a quiet and confident pride. She enjoyed her Kent Island home on the Bay that she inherited from her Dad, called "The Wheelhouse". She kept the name. It was an appropriate vision for us. From her Wheelhouse office Lynne kept a steady hand on our financial rudder to steer the Heritage Society on a responsible course. Lynne also had a deep passion for heritage and genealogy and maintained an immense collection of books and records at the Wheelhouse. She was proud of her own ancestry, tracing her lineage back through her Mother's side of the family, to Capt. William Claiborne, the Founder of Kent Island! In addition to her own family research, she worked tirelessly for years along with our Heritage Vice President, Bob Lowe, on our Kent Island Heritage records and files housed at the Kent Island Library. We salute Lynne Riley-Coleman for the indelible mark she has left on the Kent Island Heritage Society. Thank you, Lynne.

### Here is Lynne's Obituary

Lynne Lovelace Riley-Coleman of Stevensville passed away on October 21, 2021. She was 78 years old. Lynne was born on December 10th, 1942, in San Diego, California to the late Vice Admiral Herbert Douglas Riley, USN and the late Marjorie Elizabeth Towers Riley Rotureau. Lynne spent her early years in Baltimore with her grandmother, Sarah Maude Mealy Riley. She attended St. Agnes School in Alexandria, VA from 1953 to 1958. She then attended Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii where she graduated from in 1960. After graduation, she returned to Virginia to attend Sweet Briar College, class of 1964. Lynne married the late John King Gladden Coleman, who was the former Chief of the Gasoline Tax Division of the state of Maryland. He passed away in 1993. She was very active in multiple organizations and clubs. She was a sustaining member of the Junior League of Washington, former treasurer of the Kent Island Federation of Arts, Inc (KIFA), treasurer and board member of the Kent Island Heritage Society, former officer and board member of the Queen Anne Colony Association, life member of the Maryland Historical Society, life member of the Maryland Genealogical Society, member of the National Genealogical Society, member of the New England Genealogical and Historical Society, and a volunteer for Animal Resource Foundation. Lynne is survived by her son, Alan A. Coleman and his wife Judy, daughter Wendy Todd Coldwell and her husband Robert; three granddaughters and a great grandson.

Lynne was buried in St. Anne's Cemetery in Annapolis. Memorial contributions can be made to KI Federation of Arts or KI Heritage Society



# A Moving Memorial to EDWARD COPPEDGE OF KENT ISLAND

by Louis S. Crouch Jr.

The Kent Island Heritage Society (KHS) received a request in August 2020 on its Facebook page from a member of the Coppage family as to where a memorial to Edward Coppedge, an early settler of Kent Island, is located. The journey of the memorial to its present home and some history of the Coppages are the subjects here. The spelling of the Coppedge family name differs amongst descendant lines with Coppage and Coppedge being the most common and Coppage will be used except in quoted references.

Edward Coppage was born in England in 1610 and emigrated from England to Northumberland County, Virginia in 1648, the first Coppage to arrive in the English colonies. Members of Edward Coppage's family in England emigrated to Northumberland County soon afterwards including his nephew William. William remained in Northumberland County and is notable as the first male of the Virginia Coppage line whereas Edward is the first male of the Maryland line. The Coppage family in the United States is thought to be largely descendants of Edward and William along with some contribution from a Coppage family that arrived from England much later.

A patent of 100 acres on Kent Island, according to a land record recorded in May 1652, was originally granted to Henry Morgan in 1650, whose arrival there in 1637 from England entitled him to it. This was the first grant recorded for the Eastern Shore of Maryland. However, also in the same record, the title was then assigned in 1650 by Henry Morgan to Edward Coppage as signed by Henry Morgan but not Edward Coppage. This patent was originally called Indian Springs owing to the spring and native American settlement there (later on sometimes Indian Plantation or Leggs Dependence). It remained in the Coppage family until 1787 when sold by Edward Coppage's great-grandson John and remained a farm owned successively by several other families until sold for development in the 1980s. The location is along the shores of Long Creek across Route 8 from the Kent Morr development about 5 miles south of Route 50/301. In addition to Indian Springs, Edward Coppage had acquired a substantial property in Northumberland County, Virginia by 1653.

The earliest record of Edward Coppage clearly establishing him on Kent Island is an oath of loyalty to the English Commonwealth issued 05 April 1652 listing him and 63 others from Kent Island. Edward and his wife Elizabeth Risely had two daughters, Elizabeth (b 1654) and Sarah (b 1656), and two sons, John (1660-1715) and Phillip (1663-1726). It is through Phillip that the Coppage name line continued in the Maryland line since John did not have sons. Elizabeth passed away in 1669 and Edward in 1677 on Kent Island. Their gravesites are not known but most likely would have been on the Indian Springs farm or the cemetery of the church they attended (see below).

Settlement of Kent Island under the leadership of William Claiborne occurred in 1631. It was the first permanent English settlement within the borders of Maryland although it was part of the Virginia colony at the time of founding. The oldest Christian church congregation in Maryland, the Anglican (Episcopal) Christ Church, was founded in 1632 on Kent Island with the first church built at the southern end of the island. A new church was erected in 1652 in the first major town of Kent Island, Broad Creek, near the center of the island which was rebuilt twice over many years and was attended by the Coppages. The town site was just south of the Bay Bridges on the Chesapeake Bay, now largely developed. The fourth church for the congregation was built in nearby Stevensville and the congregation moved there in 1880 as did many other Broad Creek residents. The Broad Creek church site was abandoned after the move to Stevensville (as was largely the town itself) but the cemetery has been restored and some remains of the old church are still present. Notably, Edward Coppage's son John was briefly a Vestryman of the Broad Creek church. Kent Island was originally part of Maryland's Kent County, became part of Talbot County in 1695, and then finally part of the new county of Queen Anne's in 1706. John Coppage participated in the survey demarcating the new county.

The descendants of Edward Coppage and his nephew William have a truly remarkable appreciation of their heritage. This was incarnated with the formation of the Coppage-Coppedge Family Association that Max and Harold Coppage and John

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E. Manahan founded it in 1947: *"The stated purpose of the Association was to: preserve and foster an appreciation of the history, traditions, and records of the Family; give opportunity to the members of the Family for social contacts through the annual reunions of the Association; and provide financial assistance to consolidate the genealogical data into a written history to be published in book form"*. The Association's first documentation of family history was in the book *"Coppage-Coppedge Family (1542-1955)"*, published by John E. Manahan and Max Coppage in 1955. This extensive genealogical and history treatise is available as a free e-book on-line and much of the material for this article is taken from the book. Interestingly, John E. Manahan was not only a Coppage descendant but also descended from William Claiborne as stated in his 1955 book. Further, he was a history professor and genealogist at the University of Virginia for the final years of his academic career having taught at several other colleges and universities previously.

The Coppage-Coppedge Family Association began holding an annual reunion in the USA in 1948 which since has occurred every August with only the necessary exception of the COVID-19 pandemic years of 2020 and 2021. The reunion of 1952 is the beginning of the Kent Island Edward Coppage memorial story, as stated in the Manahan book: *"On Saturday, 23 August 1952, the Coppedge Family Association realized one of its long-sought aims, when after a delightful trip by Greyhound bus and private car the members of the Association who had just passed over the new Chesapeake Bay Bridge near Annapolis, Maryland, gathered on the site of the old Episcopal Church on Isle of Kent and after prayer offered by Raney Coppedge of Washington, D. C., dedicated on the old stone donated the Coppedges (thanks to the efforts of President Isabel Brickert) by the Episcopal Bishop, raised on a brick foundation constructed by St. Clair Brooks, the bronze marker to the first Coppedge in America"*:

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EDWARD COPPEDGE  
(ca. 1610 - 1677)

FOUNDER OF THE COPPEDGE FAMILY IN AMERICA CAME FROM CHELWORTH, WILTSHIRE, TO VIRGINIA IN 1648 AND PATENTED LAND HERE AT "INDIAN SPRING" ON 25 FEBRUARY 1650. JOHN, WILLIAM, THOMAS, AND BENJAMIN COPPEDGE FOLLOWED HIM TO VIRGINIA. THEY WERE LOYAL TO KING CHARLES I

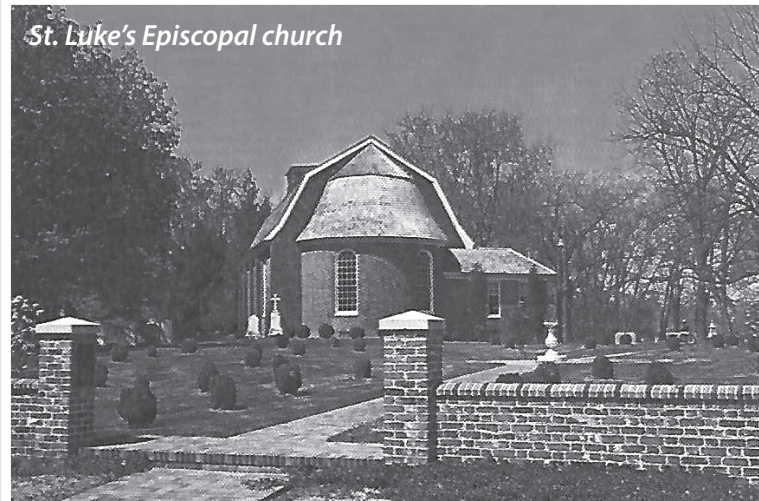
ERECTED 1952

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*"Present at the dedication were Coppages from fourteen states and the District of Columbia. Before it was taken to Isle of Kent, it was displayed in the lobby of Carvel Hall, Annapolis, Headquarters for the 304th Anniversary Banquet on August 23. J. Frank Coppage and Alton B. Coppage composed the committee who affixed the marker to the old stone now in the Churchyard near the eastern end of the Bay Bridge"*.

It appears that in 1957 the stone with attached plaque topping the memorial at the Broad Creek church site was removed from the brick base by the

St. Luke's Episcopal church





Maryland Coppage Family Association. It was then placed on a monolithic stone base with an attached plaque inscribed with the 1957 date which is the present configuration. The Coppage family decided to move the memorial to the John H. Coppage farm near Church Hill, Maryland in 1958. This farm is located just south of Route 300 where it crosses Route 301 and borders Route 301 North. The farm was sold to Gloria and Robert Leager in 1970 with a stipulation in the deed that the Edward Coppage memorial be kept with a 10-foot diameter buffer zone accessible to the Coppage family. The memorial in that location was easily visible from Route 301 at a field edge and remained on the Coppage/Leager farm for decades. Subsequently, the Coppage family decided to move the memorial to its present location in the cemetery of the St. Luke's Episcopal church in Church Hill, Maryland around 2002. This beautiful brick church was completed in 1732 at which time it was the largest church in Maryland. It continues to serve the congregation and has been attended by Coppages for generations. St. Luke's church was built on a wooded hill in a sparsely populated area before Church Hill was founded and its topographical location is the name origin of the town that grew around it.

The Edward Coppage memorial now at St. Luke's was followed by a second memorial placed by the family association at the historic Wicomoco Parish Church in Northumberland County, Virginia in 1959. This church is in the area of Virginia where the Coppages first emigrated to from England as already noted. The church parish was created in 1645 or before and the first of several churches was constructed in 1647/1648 on the site, at the time the Coppages first arrived. John and Charles Coppage were wardens of the church in the colonial years and their names along with many others are inscribed on a monument erected in 1961 in front of the church. The Edward Coppage memorial consists of a plaque attached to a stone base with the following inscription:

---

EDWARD COPPEDGE (CA 1610-1677)

FOUNDER OF THE COPPEDGE FAMILY IN AMERICA  
FROM CHELWORTH, WILTSHIRE, TO VIRGINIA IN 1648.  
HE WAS FOLLOWED BY JOHN COPPEDGE OF LOWER  
NORFOLK AND WILLIAM, AND BENJAMIN COPPEDGE OF  
NORTHUMBERLAND, WHERE EDWARD OWNED LAND  
IN CHERRY POINT IN 1653 AND LATER NEPHEWS WERE  
VESTRYMEN OF WICOMOCO. PER ANNOS CCCXI

ERECTED 1959 BY COPPEDGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

---

The Coppage family members who requested of the KIHS to find the present and presumably final location of their ancestor's memorial in Maryland visited St. Luke's in September 2020 to view it. The Edward Coppage memorial at the Wicomoco Parish Church in Virginia is not expected to match the travels of its Maryland companion according to the Coppage Family Bulletin of January 1960: *"The Virginia marker is to remain at Wicomoco Church, site of the largest Episcopal church of Colonial Virginia"*.

Kent Island, Maryland (1631) is arguably the fourth permanent English settlement in the USA continuing to the present from founding after Hampton, Virginia (1610), Plymouth, Massachusetts (1620), and the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1630) which included present day Boston. Jamestown (1607) is often cited as the first permanent English settlement in the USA, but it was essentially abandoned by 1699. Kent Island is lesser known to the general public than those earlier English settlements founded not long before. Nevertheless, many families like the Coppages have deep roots going back to an ancestor on Kent Island. The KIHS always welcomes queries from those curious of some aspect of their Kent Island ancestors such as the one that prompted this article.

The first paragraph from the epilogue of the 1955 Manahan book is an appropriate finish for the story of the moving memorial:

*Three hundred years have elapsed since five Coppedges set sail from old England to settle in America; they represented not over three males in an English wood in 1298. Today there are not less than 1000 bearing their name in the USA. Of descendants in the female line there are, by conservative estimate, 20,000. America has done well by the Coppedges, as indeed the whole world has done well, population-wise, by little England.*

I am most grateful for the generous assistance of Christopher Coppage and Michael Oaks of the Coppage-Coppedge Family Association, Gloria Leager, Vicki Harding of the Wicomoco Parish Church and The Reverend Loretta Collins, Deacon of St. Luke's church in my research for this article.



## 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:

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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



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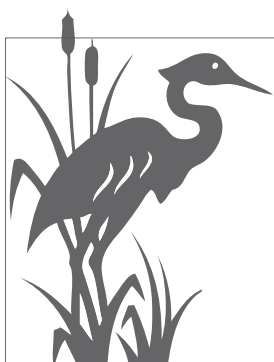
## Welcome New Members

Sarah and Chris Bartlett-Mason  
Nancy Hedden-Kunkel and family  
William Hufnel - *Life Member*  
Robin Lanham - *Life Member*  
Tammy Punzel and family  
Ann Corey  
William Hufnell - *Life Member*



## In Memoriam

Ted Breeding  
Lynne Riley-Coleman  
William Denny



## 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

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed is a check to cover dues for the membership indicated below:

- |   |          |  |         |
|---|----------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life Membership | \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Membership    | \$40.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership        | \$50.00  |  |         |

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*Dues and contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

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## POSTCARD from Kent Island: Historic Stevensville Bank Sold

*Submitted by John L. Conley*

Sketch of Stevensville Bank by Barbara Koenig.  
Loaned by Diane Hoxter

The historic Stevensville Bank was recently purchased, and we are pleased to report that the new owners will coordinate with KIHS to maintain it as a key historic treasure of Kent Island history. The Stevensville Savings Bank of Queen Anne's County Corporation was established in 1903. The Stevensville Bank Building opened in 1909 and served as a bank until 1960. The stucco exterior and ornamental pressed-tin ceiling have survived through today. The building had no running water or indoor bathroom when the bank closed in 1960.

Another historic event there was the opening of the newly created Bay Times newspaper. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The drawing featured on this postcard was by Kent Island artist Barbara Koenig (1923-1979.) She drew several Kent Island sites and was a longtime member of the Kent Island Federation of Arts (KIFA.) The KIFA Barbara Koenig Best in Show Award was presented for many years.

