“WE NEED YOU!”

I have one brief but pressing message in this Newsletter, “We need you.”

As we celebrate the success of our wonderful Kent Island Day in May, the fascinating presentation in June on our Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site here on Kent Island, and the opening of Historic Sites for “First Saturdays”, one fact is glaringly apparent. We have too few good folks doing too many good things in support of our mission. We are in reasonably good shape financially, but we need more direct personal involvement from our members. The Covid time was challenging for all of us as we curtailed in-person events and did our work virtually. However during these past several years, we also experienced some key personnel losses, with the death of two Board Members and the loss of several key Board Members and docents due to health issues. A particular challenge was the death of our beloved veteran Treasurer, Lynne Riley Coleman. Luckily, we have our interim Treasurer, Linda Moore, serving in a transitional role, but we’re exploring how to fill that critical position in the future.

All of us on the Board are committed to doing all we can in support of our mission as outlined in our recent Newsletters. However, we need your help. Please consider this a direct appeal to those of you who love and appreciate our rich Kent Island history and who might like to become more directly involved – as a docent, as a Board Member, as a volunteer supporting one of our upcoming events or at one of our historic sites. I have personally reached out to several of you to consider. I would like to invite any of you who may be interested to contact us through our website or to contact me personally with any questions or ideas (email at jackbb@atlanticbb.net or cell at 410-829-7760). I hope you’ll consider.

Meanwhile, we’ll be opening our sites on the First Saturdays (September, October, and November), and continue planning for additional events. Most importantly, we’ll be celebrating our Fall Heritage Membership Picnic over at the Kirwan Place on Sunday September 25 – an old fashioned country picnic with all the trimmings, at a great place, among old and new friends. This will be our first Picnic in five years, considering two years during the Covid pandemic, one year of rain-out, and one year of deer tick invasion (since resolved). At our last Picnic in 2017, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Senator Kirwan leading the effort to save Kent Island from what would eventually become Aberdeen Proving Ground! We celebrated by firing a cannon! Check out our Picnic flyer here in this Newsletter and please respond with your information. We hope to see you there.

Again, the Kent Island Heritage Society has long been a tremendous asset to our community through our active membership, and with your help we will grow even stronger as we spread, preserve, and share the special history of our unique island.

Jack Broderick
One of the things docents at the Kent Island Heritage Society sites like to point out to visitors is the American flag at each site and to ask them to count the stars. Thanks to our 2022 Kent Island Day Parade Grand Marshall, Dr. Earl Chambers, each site has a flag that would have flown when the building was built. The Cray House flag (1795 to 1818) has 15 stars and 15 stripes as Vermont and Kentucky had joined the original thirteen colonies as states. A law was passed in 1818 to add a star on the 4th of July each year a new state joined the Union, but to have just 13 stripes to honor the original colonies.

The Stevensville post office and Kirwan Museum flags each have 38 stars for flags that flew from 1877 to 1890. Old Glory at the Historic Stevensville Bank and the Stevensville train station each have 45 stars for flags from 1896 to 1908. The current flag added its 50th star with the admission of Hawaii in 1960 and, for 62 years, has flown the most years with one design. There are a number of designs on the drawing boards should more states be added to the United States of America.

Long may she wave!!!!!
IT’S TIME AGAIN FOR 
AN OLD-FASHIONED 
PICNIC

Join Kent Island Heritage Society Members and Guests

The Kirwan House and Farm
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Please Bring A Covered Dish and Lawn Chairs for comfort
KIHS Will Provide
Fried Chicken, Hot Dogs, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee
And HOME-MADE ICE CREAM!!!

Join us for Games, Conversation and Displays

PLEASE RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 21

PROVIDE RESPONSE WITH INFORMATION BELOW
by Email to kentislandheritagesociety@gmail.com
or mail to KIHS P.O. Box 321, Stevensville MD 21666

Names of Adults (for badges):

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Names and ages of children (for game planning):

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Phone number and email in case of inclement weather:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

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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.
Some storied events in Stevensville history described over the years in local newspapers and this newsletter are those connected to officials of the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt visiting the town in the 1930s, including FDR himself, as recalled by the locals and captured in photographs. Here for the first time is a detailed accounting of the circumstances behind those days little Stevensville was visited by the high and mighty.

We begin with the Stevensville post office constructed originally in the late 1800s as a doctor’s office and later repurposed as a post office. The long serving Stevensville postmistress, Miss Genevieve Long, began her career there and provided the initial connection with the FDR administration. Miss Long was recommended for her appointment in 1935 (Queen Anne’s Record Observer April 11, 1955) which ultimately led to approval the same year by Mr. James Farley, the Postmaster General of the US during the FDR administration from 1933-1940, and one of the most powerful members of it.

Miss Long developed a close relationship with Mr. Farley during the early years of her long service from which she retired in 1973 (Bay Times September 10, 1975, reprinted in the Summer 1998 edition of this newsletter). This post office was closed in early 1959 when the operations were moved across the street (Queen Anne’s Record Observer February 26, 1959) to what was originally a general store dating to ca 1865-1870 prior to housing the last Stevensville post office located in town. The post office that closed in 1959 was used for commercial purposes but was restored to historic appearance and has been owned by the KIHS since 1991. The last Stevensville post office in town opened in 1959 operated until 1975 when the present Stevensville post office on Thompson Creek Mall Road was completed and opened. The last in-town Stevensville post office building is now My Little Studio, an art gallery and supplies store which has operated there over two decades. We can be grateful that both historic buildings that housed Stevensville post offices and date to the early days of Stevensville have been preserved.

Mr. Farley first visited Stevensville on the day he spoke at a meeting of Maryland postmasters in Salisbury the evening of July 8, 1937 (Queen Anne’s Record Observer July 15, 1937). His motorcade stopped at several Eastern Shore post offices enroute to the meeting from Washington. His first stop on the way after taking the Matapeake ferry was, not surprisingly, Stevensville in the morning of that day. Mr. Farley’s motorcade parked in downtown Stevensville where he emerged from his car to be greeted by Miss Long with other locals in attendance and to look at the post office.

Photos in the possession of the KIHS and which have been published in local newspapers show Mr. Farley outside the post office on that day. Later that day Miss Long traveled to attend the postmasters meeting. However, FDR was not there during this visit by Mr. Farley which was stated by Miss Long herself who recalled the visit in the above-mentioned Bay Times article. We also are fortunate to have the letter Mr. Farley sent to The Honorable James E. Kirwan on July 17 to thank Mr. Kirwan for meeting him at the post office.

FDR paid three visits to the Eastern Shore between his first inauguration in 1933 and 1935, to Crisfield, Chestertown and, via the flagship Dupont of the Maryland Conservation Fleet from Annapolis, for an extended stay at the Chesapeake Rod and Gun Club (Queen Anne’s Record Observer July 11, 1935). The club was formerly on Jefferson Island near Poplar Island a few miles south of Kent Island and was under consideration as a White House retreat. There is no mention of FDR visiting Stevensville in this newspaper account of those three visits.
FDR later sailed on the presidential yacht *Potomac* for another Eastern Shore visit, arriving at Crisfield on September 5, 1938, where he embarked in a motorcade to make a speech in Denton and passed through several Eastern Shore towns to bolster political support for his candidates in the upcoming mid-term elections. James Farley and a number of other politicians were in the motorcade. The FDR speech in Denton was given from 2:00 to 2:35 PM after which he rested in town for a while before departing for Washington (Denton Journal September 10, 1938, and Caroline Times-Record September 3, 2008). However, the KIHS was unable to find any verifiable contemporaneous source that stated Mr. Farley and FDR stopped in Stevensville to visit with the locals.

A clarification of what apparently occurred is the following: A copy of the itinerary of FDR on September 5, 1938, available on his presidential library website, notes arrival in Crisfield at 9:00 AM, in Denton at 1:00 PM, his Denton speech beginning at 2:00 PM and arrival in Annapolis at 4:45 PM after which other activities are recorded on the way to Washington. There is no notation of a Stevensville visit. However, the motorcade would definitely have passed through Stevensville on the way to the Matapeake ferry for Annapolis since that was the only road to the ferry coming from Denton then. The motorcade, starting with a Denton departure at perhaps 3:00 PM or later and arrival in Annapolis at 4:45 PM, would include traveling on two lane country roads for over 30 miles to the ferry and then boarding it, a 40-minute trip across the Chesapeake Bay on it, and then deboarding and a few miles drive to Annapolis. The timing of the journey from Denton to Annapolis and the lack of entry about Stevensville in the itinerary suggested that the storied visit to Stevensville by FDR and James Farley was most likely a quick drive-through and they did not have time to step foot in town this day.

Confirmation of this was obtained for this article when we were so fortunate to be able to hear from Mrs. Clara Bryan Davidson, a 1937 graduate of Stevensville High School and the valedictorian of the class, who had grown up in town and was living there that long ago Labor Day in 1938. She was asked about the FDR visit by her son to whom she related this in his words sent by email: “She said that she clearly remembered it. She said that people from around town knew that he was coming through, so they drove and walked to the center of town which was where she lived to see the motorcade as they went through. I asked her if she remembered if he stopped and she said that he did not. She said that they motored slowly through town and that he was in a black limousine, but she could see FDR through the windows.”

Regardless of semantics, we know that James Farley and FDR did indeed experience the streets of Stevensville. Once the modern ferry system was established from Annapolis to Matapeake in July 1930 until it was discontinued in July 1952 and the Route 50 dual highway bypassing Stevensville was opened, many other notable persons surely passed through the streets of Stevensville those 22 years and perhaps on occasion stopped, a subject for another day perhaps.
For those of you that have waited for the Covid-19 pandemic to pass and for the long-awaited renovation of the Kent Island Branch to be complete, you will need to wait some more. The good news is that the newly constructed expansion houses our new History Room. That is the good news. The unwelcome news is that the new space is much smaller than we had hoped for and will necessitate selectively shelving only books that are related to the history of Maryland, the Eastern Shore, and of course Kent Island. We are patiently waiting for the additional shelving to complete this phase of the project.

As before we are maintaining family, places, and vital statistic folders in the three locking cabinets. Interested researchers of local and family history can access the room by checking in at the front desk with a library staff member who will unlock the room and filing cabinets. All materials are for in library use only and must be returned to the History Room. When we have completed the shelving phase, we will establish regular times when one of our library committee members is available to assist you to research our materials.

You can send general inquiries to kentislandheritagesociety@gmail.com and our team of researchers will assist you in your search. You may also contact us at the above email and we can plan to meet you at the History Room. This is especially useful if you live out of the immediate area and are, for example, visiting from out of state or beyond. The library staff can only provide general information.

You can search our library holdings online at www.kentislandheritagesociety.org. Click on the “Library” tab. Please be aware that when we complete our shelving project the number of books available will be reduced. Books we are unable to keep at the History Room will be kept offsite and will only be able to be accessed by special arrangement. You can also view what family folders we maintain and their contents on our website by clicking on “Library.”

SCANNING PROJECTS

Due to size constraints and digitization of materials accessible to a greater audience, we are planning to scan many of our documents and photos. Those digital copies will be available to interested persons and researchers online. During 1990 The Kent Island Heritage Society invited members of the community to bring in their family bible to be photocopied; nearly 100 family bibles were recorded. There are currently 61 copies of family bible records in our files. If you have a family bible and would like to have the records (names, marriages, births, deaths, family trees, etc.) placed in a family folder we will be happy to scan that and any photos you may also have related to family history. Since many individuals have home scanners or scanners on smart phones you can send documents and photos to us at the above email address. For best results set the resolution on your scanner at 300 dpi. The library has self-service copy machines that are capable of scanning and emailing documents for free.

BOOK REVIEW

Queen Anne’s County, Maryland: Its Early History and Development by Frederic Emory. The Queen Anne Press. Queenstown, Maryland, 1981. Often when we have requests for genealogical research, we recommend Emory’s book. The latest edition is based on a series of sketches based on research by Emory and originally published in the Centreville Observer between 1886 and 1887. Included in its 629 pages are chapters on the land topography, native Americans, early settlers and settlements, Kent Island, churches, courts, education, history through 1887, and more. Both the Kent Island Branch and our History Room maintain a copy.
Jill Porter, my precious friend since childhood and a lifetime member of the Kent Island Heritage Society, passed away on June 11th at the age of 70. She grew up on Kent Island, as did her parents, Capt. Harry B. and Isabel Baxter Porter, and her grandparents. She was fun loving, outgoing and active, but could be extremely serious when it came to politics, public policies, or the Orioles. Jill graduated from Western Maryland college and then worked on Capitol Hill, was assistant to the lieutenant governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, and in many other agencies of Maryland government. She had recently become a contributor to our K.I.H.S. newsletter. She will not only be greatly missed by me, but by her cadre of friends and acquaintances from near and far. At her request, there was no funeral or memorial.

Fast forward a couple of weeks and my husband and I decided to go to our favorite auction house, Dixon's at Crumpton. While perusing the outdoor offerings, Butch called my attention to a lovely little Victorian garden bench. I absolutely loved it and decided I would bid on it for the Kirwan House. All bidding is done online these days, so I set my limit and vowed not to exceed it and pushed the button with my first bid. Well, someone else thought it was darling, also. A bidding war ensued. I did finally get it, although I went way over my limit. That night I was having a little buyer's remorse and worrying how I was going to work it into my Kirwan House budget. I would find a way.

The very next day I got a message from a friend of Jill’s who said she and few of Jill’s friends just wanted to do something and they knew how much Jill loved Kent Island and that she had told them about the Kirwan House and was wondering if they could buy something we needed in memory of Jill. Did I have any suggestions? I thought of the bench. I told her I had just bought a bench and that I would send her a photo she could share with the others.

She got back to me the very next day and said this was perfect and how much did it cost? I reluctantly told her, as I may have overpaid, but she said she and four other ladies would cover it. Her friends were so generous and even exceeded that amount leaving enough to buy some perennials, as Jill loved gardening.

Merriam Webster’s definition of the word serendipity is this...” the phenomenon of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought after.” This, my friends, was a serendipitous event and a lovely way to remember our friend and native Kent Islander.

Some of Jill’s friends have organized a memorial event to be held on October 11, 2022, at 4 o’clock in Rehoboth at the Aqua restaurant where Jill’s favorite band will play later in the evening. Anyone who knew Jill is invited to attend.
SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE
KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

By Bob Lowe

A plethora of social media platforms exist today. A few are well known to you, no doubt, such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. However, many others exist. For this brief primer we will focus on the ones that the Kent Island Heritage Society utilizes to disseminate information, publicize events, and communicate with other social media users.

Many of these platforms overlap each other but there are some key differences when it comes to the audience. For example, our website www.kentislandheritagesociety.org which is a great starting point, is visited mostly by our younger generations. From the main page you can visit our Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter pages. While our website is a major source of information on Kent Island Heritage Society activities and current events you must purposefully visit the site. Other social media such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter can send you notifications to keep you on top of the most recent events. In the past year we have had over 9,500 users visit the site. As expected, our annual Kent Island Day generates the most visits.

By utilizing these varied social media platforms that appeal to different age groups we hope to spread our message and mission to more individuals.

FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page is currently followed by 1,703 individuals and is curated by Linda Collier, Kent Island Heritage Society board member and curator of the Kirwan House and Museum. Since it is a public platform, you do not need an account to read anything on a Facebook page. However, if you want to leave comments or interact with the page you will need a Facebook account which is free to set up. On our Facebook page you can read interesting information, view photos and videos, and communicate with us. You can access our Facebook page on your computer by typing Kent Island Heritage Society Facebook in your browser’s search box. If you have a smartphone, you can open the Facebook app and use the search function for the page. If you have a Facebook account (page) you can adjust your personal and privacy settings to suit your needs. You can also post your own discussions, photos, videos, and livestream events! Depending upon your settings you can also share items to other people of pages.

YOUTUBE

Our YouTube channel is a recent reincarnation of an old channel. Like Facebook it is free to access, and you do not need an account unless you are planning to have your own YouTube channel. On it you can find short videos of the Kent Island Day Parade, presentations of historical interest, oral histories of Kent Islanders of the early 20th century, and view links to other historic sites related to Maryland and the Eastern Shore. You can also subscribe to a channel and receive notifications when something new is posted. To find our channel type William Claiborne YouTube in your browser search box or YouTube app.
TWITTER
Most readers will recognize Twitter right away since it is used extensively to express one’s views. However, it is useful to disseminate Kent Island Heritage Society information like our other social media platforms and develop a network of likeminded individuals and organizations. Twitter can be used to post short messages, videos, and photos. Like our other platforms you can share posts with others and make comments. You can access our account by typing Kent Island Heritage Society into your browser search box or Twitter app. We currently have 183 followers and have sent out 928 tweets. In the past year we have had 10,000 views.

INSTAGRAM
Instagram is related to Facebook and allows users to share photos and videos on their smartphones. To find our Instagram account type Instagram Kent Island Heritage Society into your browser search box or in the Instagram app search for Kent Island Heritage Society. We have made 26 posts and currently have 200 followers. In the past 90 days (about 3 months) 74 users have viewed our posts.

TIKTOK
TikTok is a social media platform for creating, sharing, and discovering short videos. The app is used by young people as an outlet to express themselves and allows users to create and share videos. In the past 60 days (about 2 months) we have had 1,733 views of our video clips.

PINTEREST
Pinterest is a virtual pin board (bulletin board) where you can pin inspirational ideas such as photos and text; these ideas can link to a website for more inspiration. Our Pinterest account can be accessed by typing pinterest kent island heritage society into your browser search box or by typing the same into the search box of the Pinterest app. While we only have 16 followers, over the past year our pins have been seen by over 3 thousand people.

HASHTAGS #
A hashtag is a keyword or phrase preceded by the hash symbol (#), written within a post or comment to highlight it and facilitate a search for it. By including hash marks in your post, it can be discoverable to everyone on social media. For example, if you were to type #kentisland into your Instagram search box you would display a wide range of photos and videos.

EMAIL
Though not as broad a social media platform as others, email is a tool with which members and the general public can communicate with KIHS and KIHS can share messages with its members on a timely basis. The KIHS email address is kentislandheritagesociety@gmail.com.

Do We Have Your Email Address?
To enhance our communications with members on a timely basis, KIHS is expanding our membership email list. This will enable us to more quickly distribute information—such as changes to an event—and other announcements, and for members to communicate with KIHS. Member email addresses will not be shared with any other organizations and can be removed at any time. To receive our email communications, please send your email address to kentislandheritagesociety.com.
THE FOLLOWING ARE LIFE MEMBERS OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY.

Thank you for your support!!

Karl Anderson
Mark A. Anderson
Mitchell Andrews
Betty Baker
Sarah Bartlett
Cindy Beres
Kay Lee Butler
Earl Chambers Jr.
Curtis Chance
Charles Chance
Elizabeth and Harold Davidson
Ashley Davis
Sharon Dobson
Carolyn T. Dobbins
Julie Eaton
Jeannie Guidera
Trudy Guthrie
Ruby and Bryan Hopkins
William Hufnell
Alva and Robert Hutchison
William Hufnell
Alen Ingling

Virginia Ingling
Cynthia Johnson
Joyce Kerlin
Robin Lanham
Harry Lins
Martha Lostrom
Robert Lowe
Robert Marsteller
Shelly Martin
Sandra Massie
Michael McCarthy
Jane McCullough
Diane Miller
James Moran
Owen Mullen
Carol Mylander
John Patrick
Nancy Patrick
Suzanne Peach
Judith Pennington
David Perry
Kestutis “John” Prascys

Sally Prascys
Annie May Price
Mildred Price
Gene Ransom
Margaret Ransom
Michael Rosendale
James Sasse
Jody Shultz
Tracy Shultz
Joan Searles
Flora and Dick Sossi
Joan Stoer
Lieselotte Takala
Tom Tate and Anne Baker
Michael Thomas
Robert Timms Sr.
Kim Twigg
Christine West
James “Rick” White
Jennifer Sue Wolf
Jacqueline Ziskind

KIHS SEEKS TREASURER

KIHS will need a new treasurer to assume duties in January 2023. The current treasurer, Linda Moore, will be happy to transition with the new treasurer. We greatly appreciate her taking the position on an interim basis following the death of Lynne-Riley Coleman last November.

Please contact Jack Broderick if you are interested in filling this important position. Here are some basic requirements:

- Membership and Interest in the KIHS and its mission
- Familiarity with nonprofits and 501(c)(3) operating and reporting requirements
- Experience using Quickbooks accounting software
- Provide financial reports and attend monthly board meetings
- Commit 5-10 hours per week

KIHS SEEKS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

KIHS would like to fill three new Board Members to begin serving in January 2023. Board Members play an essential role in leading KIHS as it works to achieve its mission of researching, preserving, and sharing the unique history of Kent Island. The key requirements are a love of and interest in Kent Island history and willingness to attend monthly meetings and work with all KIHS members to make KIHS even stronger. Please contact Bob Lowe at kentislandheritagesociety.org if you interested in learning more about serving as a Board Member.
Welcome New Members

Norman Donough
Joseph Getty and family
Nathan Getty and family
Nicole Goldstein and family
Sherry and Allan MacLane
Jeffrey Shultz and Family
Harrison Van Waes

Thank You

Business Supporters

A Little Farm Nursery
Bay Point Life
Bev’s Grooming Service
Four Seasons at Kent Island
Harris Marine Financing, Inc
Kentmorr Marina
Lundberg Builders
Michael Rosendale Realty
The Grooming Place

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:

☐ Individual Life Membership  $250.00  ☐ Business Membership  $50.00
☐ Organization Membership  $40.00  ☐ Family Membership  $25.00
☐ Single Membership  $15.00

Name(s)______________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________
Telephone (Home)____________________________________________
(Cell)________________________________________________________
Email address________________________________________________

Your Interests:
History _____   Genealogy ____  Photography ____
Docent Program _____  Property Maintenance _____
Special Interest___________________________________________________________

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

Membership period:
January 1 to December 31

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc
P.O. Box 321
Stevensville, Maryland 21666
www.kentislandheritagesociety.org
The Kent Island Heritage Society is pleased to be working with distinguished local author and naval historian Marty Bollinger on a book he is writing about the Chesapeake Bay Ferry system. He currently serves as a Director and Vice President of the U.S. Naval Historical Foundation, based in the Washington Navy Yard. From the 1600s through the building of the Bay Bridge in 1952, ferryboats provided a link between Kent Island and Eastern Shore with the Western Shore. Chesapeake Bay ferryboat history is Kent Island history. How can we help tell the story? We are fortunate that we still have current and former residents and their families of Kent Island who can provide information about working on and riding the ferries. Importantly, we can search family photograph albums and other sources for photographs of ferryboats and piers on both the Eastern and Western shores. We are especially interested in locating photographs of boats at the Romancoke pier. If you have stories, photographs, or other information you can share for this important project, please contact Marty at mjbollinger87@gmail.com or this newsletter at jconcomm@gmail.com.