NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

WINTER 2022-2023

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PAST PRESIDENTS

Marian Steuart	75-77
Gordon Seward	77-79
Julius Grollman	79-8 I
Mary White	81-82
Walter T. Denny	83-84
Eva C. White	85-86
C. Gilbert Dunn	87-89
Audrey Hawkins	90-92
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Hugo Gemignani	95-98
Nancy M. Cook	99-08



KIHS ANNUAL OLD FASHIONED PICNIC RETURNS

After several years of cancellations due to ticks, poor weather, and Covid-19, the Annual Old-Fashioned Picnic returned once again to the Kirwan House on September 25, 2022. And the event did not disappoint with all in attendance, young and old, having a wonderful time!...

(Continued on page 3)



President's Message

Good news! Our direct appeal in the last newsletter, echoing the phrase "We need you!" appears to have worked. We have three new prospective Board Members with youthful energy, ideas, and talents who have come forward to join our team. We are excited at the prospect. Elections will take place at our Annual Holiday Brunch in December. Details on the election process and the Brunch are later in this Newsletter.

All told, it's been quite a year. Coming out of the Covid winter with its virtual meetings and cancelled events led to an unprecedented springtime of "out and about" community outreach and celebration! Our Kent Island Day in Stevensville in May was one of the biggest and best in our experience, despite the heat. Our presentation in June on a compelling story of slavery on Kent Island was well done and well attended. Our historic site openings on the first Saturdays of each month brought many new visitors to our sites. And our Fall Heritage Picnic in September could not have been better! It was our first picnic in five years. The weather was perfect, and a large group of our members and friends were on hand at Kirwan Place to enjoy one another and the many heritage related activities. Check out the article and pictures in this Newsletter.

This fall we partnered with the Historic Stevensville Arts and Entertainment District to open our sites during the successful "Artoberfest" Arts and Crafts Festival in October and the

KIHS Committees

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Bob Lowe, *Chair* Linda Collier Linda Moore

Library/Genealogy

Bob Lowe, *Chair* Lou Crouch Annie May Price

Newsletter

John Conley, *Editor* Carole Frederick

Docents

Bank

Jack Broderick

Post Office

Tom Tate

Train Station

Chris Kilian John Conley

Cray House

Carol Mylander

Historic Christ Church

Nancy Cook

Kirwan House

Linda Collier Renee Dye Curtis Chance A&E KI Cruisers' Classic Car Show in November. Also in recent months, we have enjoyed an unprecedented number of requests for visits to our sites and for off-site presentations and events. Visits have included: Queen Anne's @ Home Seniors Group; Questors Group from Kent County; heritage leaders from Washington College; Defense Information School at Ft. Meade producing a documentary; and a large group from Virginia and other states – The Claiborne Society – descendents of William Claiborne - for an extensive tour of the Island and our historic sites. John Conley led the tour; check out his report. We have also had numerous individual requests for tours or visits which we are happy to host.

In addition, we have had a number of off-site presentations including: The Kent Island Giving Group; Bay Bridge Cove "Charities Fair" and follow-up presentation on Kent Island History to their extended Friday Coffee Group; a panel presentation at the Talbot County Library on the impact of the Bay Bridge on Kent Island and the Eastern Shore as part of the Smithsonian's traveling exhibition "Crossroads: Change in Rural America". We also had several unique experiences which included being on hand for the Kent Island Running Group's inaugural "Historic Stevensville Half Marathon", which featured a likeness of our Historic Post Office on their race medals. We were invited to participate in the Kent Island High School 25th Anniversary Homecoming Parade! Of course, we were there with Chris Kilian's 1915 Model T. Check out the pictures.

Thanks to our active social media presence on a variety of platforms, guided by our Vice President and social media Guru, Bob Lowe, we have had an extensive number of on-line inquires about Kent Island families, ancestry, and locations from a wide variety of folks. Our on-Board research team of Lou Crouch, Annie Mae Price, Linda Collier, and Bob Lowe continue to be immensely helpful in these inquiries.

Our future challenges during the coming year will include continuing our active presence in the community; considering a new system for financial management; search for a potential historic location in Stevensville as a museum and heritage file / research site; and ongoing historic site maintenance.

We hope you will consider joining us at our Annual Holiday Brunch and Election on Sunday December 11, 1:00 - 3:00, at the beautiful Cascia Vineyard Tasting Room. Please see this Newsletter for information and reservations.

Thank you for your support. We extend to you and your family warm wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

Jack Broderick



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

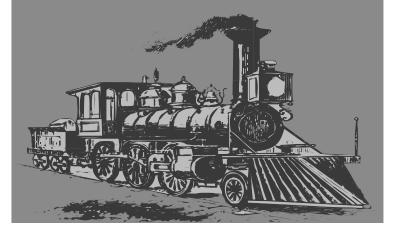
Quick Response (QR) Code

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.

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 3rd and 4th and 10th and 11th.**













... PICNIC RETURNS













year's picnic!







Cascia Vineyard Tasting Room
1200 Thompson Creek Rd. Stevensville, MD
(Catered by Chesapeake Celebrations)

1:00 to 3:30

BUFFET MENU:

French Toast Casserole Potato and Brisket Hash Egg and Spinach Quiche Smoked Salmon / Mini Bagels / Condiments Sausage & Bacon Scones with Lemon Curd Fruit & Berry Salad Fruit Juices Coffee Bar / Bottled Water Cash Wine Bar

Please Reserve your Seat for the Brunch

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 The cost will be \$30.00 per person

Please make checks payable to: The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc Mail to: Kent Island Heritage Society P.O. Box 321 Stevensville MD 21666 If you desire transportation to the Brunch, call or text Jack at 410-829-7760.

Please complete this section and return with your check



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mail:

THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. 2023 SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

An election of Officers and Directors to lead the Kent Island Heritage Society in 2023 will be held at the Annual Holiday Brunch on Sunday, December 11, 2022. Officers are elected for a one year term and Directors for a three year term.

The following slate is recommended by the Board:

President Jack Broderick
Vice President Bob Lowe
Recording Secretary John Conley
Corresponding Secretary Carole Frederick
Treasurer Linda Moore

New Directors: Donna Brown

Harrison Van Waes Ericka Kriegisch

Returning Directors: Lou Crouch

Annie Mae Price Kristin Bombard-Green

Objections to this slate may be made by December 5, 2022 to Bob Lowe at 863-259-9120 or rclowesr@yahoo.com

Additional nominations may be made by December 5, 2022 by a member-at-large. A declaration of intent must be presented to Bob Lowe, 272 Goldfinch Lane, Centreville, MD 21617, signed by the candidate and two supporting members of the Society.

2023 Incumbent Directors: Linda Collier Mike Rosendale

Chip Price Vernetta Sherman





Claiborne Society Visits Kent Island

KIHS enjoyed being part of the Claiborne Society's visit to Kent Island as part of its semi-annual meeting held this year in Annapolis. Members of KIHS helped plan the visit and spent an enjoyable tour of "where it all began." Visitors included 28 people, some actually named Claiborne, from many states, including Virginia, Washington, Minnesota, Georgia, and Pennsylvania.

Highlights included crossing a very foggy Bay Bridge (tour guide John Conley assured them they would see the bridge on the return trip,) a visit to the a waterfront property near where Claiborne may have landed where they heard KIHS members Leslie and Linda Moore discuss the geology and history of the area, a stop for lunch at the historic Kent Manor Resort, a visit to the Queen Anne's County Visitors Center, a lively history

presentation by Nancy Cook at the Historic Christ Church in Stevensville, and a trip back across a sunlit Bay Bridge for a better view of the island.

Society members and guests heard a comprehensive presentation on William Claiborne and Kent Island by Dr. Matthew McKnight, Maryland's Chief Archeologist, at the historic Annapolis Maryland Inn. KIHS has invited Dr. McKnight to make a similar presentation to our community meeting on March 21, 2023.

The Claiborne Society made a monetary donation to KIHS and gave us a book on the descendants of William Claiborne which we have placed in our space at the Kent Island library for future research. The society maintains an informative website www.claibornesocierty.org.

The Beginnings of the Modern Kent Island Oyster Business

by Louis S. Crouch Jr.

Oysters have been on the menu of the Chesapeake Bay region inhabitants for millennia which is well established by archeological studies of Native American middens (shell disposal pits). The oyster middens on Kent Island were probably known soon after the settlement of Kent Island in 1631 and were studied and reported by the archaeologists Richard Stearns (The Natural History Society of Maryland Proceeding No. 9 1943) and Darrin Lowery (The Love Point Maryland Prehistoric Shell Middens: A Retrospect Based on the Collection of James Marks, 10-4-2021 Draft). None other than John Smith, the first explorer of note of the entire Chesapeake Bay region from the Old World, recorded exchange of hatchets and copper for oysters with the Kecoughtan (The Complete Works of Captain John Smith (1580-1631), P. L. Barbour, ed, University of North Carolina Press). Whether this rudimentary oyster business was ever practiced by the Native Americans of Kent Island after the settlement by English colonists may not be known, but would not be unexpected.

Fast forwarding to the 19th century, the beginnings of the oyster business on Kent Island as we know it today were recounted by John O. Phillips in an article in the November 4, 1929 edition of the *Baltimore Sun*. J.O. Phillips (1840-1933) was an accomplished and highly respected Kent Islander whose autobiography appears in a series of three articles in the Queen Annes Record (March 23, 30 and April 6, 1933, editions). Notably, Mr. Phillips served as the Justice of the Peace for the Kent Island election district (4th) for most of 52 years and stated in his autobiography that he had dealings with nearly everyone in the district. In the 93 years of his long life, Mr. Phillips witnessed the Industrial Revolution, pre-Civil War slavery era, Civil War, post-Civil War struggles of our black citizens for equality, World War I, and the beginning of the Great Depression, as well as attaining second-hand knowledge of Kent Island life from his elders stretching well back into the 18th century. It is notable that, according to the ten Decennial US Censuses for Kent Island during Mr. Phillips' life, the population remained relatively constant at approximately 2000, as it did for 1940 and 1950. Therefore, Kent Island during Mr. Phillips' life was a close-knit community with a stable population that he was well acquainted with, and he speaks of it with considerable authority.

Mr. Phillips had these remembrances as quoted directly from the 1929 *Baltimore Sun* article:

In his early days, Mr. Phillips says oystering as a business was entirely unknown, although the bivalves were popular for home consumption. Those resident on the creeks would wait for low tide and take their oxen, hitched to a cart, into the shallows and return with as many oysters as could be used. Seventy-five years ago (c1854), Mr. Phillips recalls, a Negro slave, Stantly Barber, owned by the Legg's, a family long prominent in Kent Island affairs, was occupied entirely in shucking (then termed shelling) oysters, but his occupation was primarily to obtain enough of the shells to burn for lime, continuing his work long after the

appetites of the members of his family and the attendants on the manor had been surfeited. One old Negro came nearer to making a business enterprise than anyone else, spending his time in scooping them out of the shallows and sending his wife inland with them to trade them for more staple foodstuffs.

Approximately sixty years ago (c1869) the oyster business was inaugurated on the island with the arrival from Somerset of two old salts- Captains David and Jackson Jones-in two little boats, called pungies, with which they fished the great oyster beds in Cox's creek, carrying their catch direct to the retail markets in Baltimore and Annapolis. Mr. Phillips has no recollection of packing houses even in the cities at that time. Following the example of the Joneses, others took up the transport of oysters across the Chesapeake until twenty or twenty-five years ago the establishment of the first packing house on the island created a local market. Now there are twenty-five or more on Kent Island alone, drawing into their employ oystermen and workers, the latter mostly Negroes, from as far down as Cambridge and Crisfield.

The above information is summarized in the Kent Island oyster business time line below:

Kent Island Oyster Business Type	Approximate Start Year
Native American Trade?	1631
Oyster Shell Lime Production	1854
Whole Oyster Bartering	Post 1865?
Whole Oyster Commercial Market	1869
Oyster Packing Houses	1904-1909

Further information concerning the recollections of the beginnings of the modern Kent Island oyster business of Mr. Phillips was researched for this article and the following was found:

Oyster Shell Lime Production: No specific information on the Legg family slave Stantly Barber was found. He could not be located in the post-Civil War censuses of Queen Anne's County. However, the following male Leggs owned a black slave old enough to harvest and shuck oysters according to the 1850 and 1860 US Slave Censuses of Kent Island (which do not list slave names, only sex and age): Jacob W., John, John C., Henry, W. Hanny, Aquilla, and Harris. Furthermore, in the 1870 Kent Island census possible descendants of Mr. Barber are John (27, farm laborer), Amanda (25, servant) and Alexander (16, farm laborer) Barber listed in the households of John R. Downs, W.C. Ringgold and James Cook, respectively.

Whole Oyster Commercial Market: Mr. Phillips stated in his autobiography that his father bought land from Edward Hopkins adjoining Cox Creek when he was two, as seen on an 1866 map of Kent Island indicated as his mother's property, his father having passed away in 1848. Mr. Phillips remained there until purchasing his own land at the head of Cox Neck in 1888 at age 48. He undoubtedly observed the Jones brothers,





Left: Jones family property 1937 with two packing houses at lower right. **Above:** Jones family property 1963 with the last packing house and pier next to the shucker's housing.

to whom he attributes the beginning of the oyster business on Kent Island, from his home. The year 1869, approximately when the Jones brothers began their oyster business, is of note because it is near the beginning of the rapid rise in the Chesapeake Bay oyster harvest which among other factors can be attributed to the much-expanded markets to locations far from the Chesapeake Bay, made possible by establishment of the railroad system. The oyster boom had struck Kent Island.

Captain David D. Jones (1823-1899) and Captain Jackson John Jones (1827-1913) were born in Dorchester County, Maryland and had apparently moved to Kent Island by the late 1840s as evidenced by their marriages in Queen Annes's County in 1849 and 1848, respectively. David D. Jones acquired property on Blount Point on Kent Island from Eliza and Rachel Evens in 1850 and this property on the east side of Crab Alley Creek can be seen on an 1866 map of Kent Island, with his brother Jackson living on adjoining land to the north. Additional acres of adjoining land at Blount Point were acquired later which were used for farming. Captain David D. Jones and wife Annie built a home at Blount Point in the 1890s which stands today. A second home was built next door to the south in 1913 for other Jones family members which also stands today. The former Jones property today can be seen along Jones Road off of Cox Neck Road and none of it is now in the hands of the family.

The US Censuses of 1850-1880 for Kent Island list the Jones brothers' occupations as sailors or sailor and farmer which indicates their oyster business provided part of their income and, according to Mr. Phillips, they did not pursue that business until approximately two decades after arriving on Kent Island. However, the 1880 census for the Jackson Jones

household lists his son John (21) and nephew Columbus (25) as oystermen. The Jones family oyster business was continued by the descendants of David D. Jones: son Captain "Rome" (Jerome Sylvanius) Jones (1869-1926), grandson Jerome Calvert Jones Sr. (1890-1952, uncle of the author through marriage to his aunt Pearl Lillian Crouch) and greatgrandson David Lee Jones (1926-1969). Notably, Jerome Sylvanius Jones's occupation is listed as farmer and packer of oysters and crabs in the 1910 US Census which corresponds to the approximate date range of the establishment of the first oyster packing business on Kent Island (1904-1909) according to Mr. Phillips.

The Jones family oyster packing business certainly was close to the time the first one was established on Kent Island since it obviously was in operation prior to 1910. Jerome Sylvanius Jones's occupation was listed as merchant in the 1900 US Census which also agrees with Mr. Phillip's recollections of the first Kent Island oyster packing business not being in existence at that time. The Jones family seafood packing business on Kent Island ceased when David Lee Jones closed it in the early 1960s, thus marking nearly 100 years in the modern commercial oyster business which perhaps makes it not only the first one on Kent Island but also the longest lasting. Figures 1-4 below (from the Queen Annes County GIS Historic Image Viewer and the author's files) are of the Jones property from 1937 to 1963 and associates of the Jones family. The two packing houses in 1937 (one used for crabs) were destroyed or heavily damaged by Hurricane Hazel in 1954 and a new one built soon afterwards which still stands today although never subsequently used as a seafood packing house after the Jones family.

Oyster Packing Houses: It was stated in an article in the July 27, 1939, *Queen Annes's Record Observer*, featuring the reminiscences of life-long Kent Island resident Captain Eugene Herbert (born 1853), that the first oyster packing business on Kent Island was that of a man named Stranahand from Baltimore. No further details of Mr. Stranahand and his





business were in the 1939 article. Based on the very limited information, the existence of the Stranahand business could not be confirmed after some effort including consideration of the likelihood that the name was a misspelling of Stranahan. A controversy concerning which was the first oyster packing business established on Kent Island was the subject of an article in the *March 11, 1971 Bay Times*. That the Stranahand oyster packing business was the first on Kent Island was disputed in the article by William Nash Sr. of Chester MD, who stated that his grandfather, Charles M. Nash, had the first oyster packing business. Mr. Nash Sr. stated that his grandfather's business

started around 1890 at Bryan's Cove in Piney Creek near Kent Narrows, based on his grandfather's age and unspecified family records. The oyster packing business was later taken over by Mr. Nash Sr's father Robert E. Nash.

The 1900 US Census of Kent Island lists the household of 62 year-old Charles M. Nash, noting his occupation as farmer and includes son Robert E. (23) as assistant and sons John E. (17) and Arthur (16) as oystermen. The 1910 US Census of Kent Island lists the household of 72 year old Charles M. Nash, noting his occupation as farmer again and including sons John E. (27) and Arthur (26) now as watermen (crab and oyster). The 1910 US Census of Kent Island lists the household of 33 year old Robert E. Nash, noting his occupation as waterman (crab and oyster) and including son William E Nash (2), who is the William Nash Sr. interviewed for the 1971 article. Finally, the 1920 US Census of Kent Island lists 43 year old Robert E. Nash, noting his occupation as oyster packer and including son William E. Nash (12). The census records are consistent with the Nash oyster packing business on Kent Island beginning between 1910 and 1920 which is also consistent with Mr. Phillips recollections that the first oyster packing business was not established until somewhere around 1904 to 1909. However, although Charles M. Nash listed his occupation as farmer and not oyster packer in the 1900 and 1910 censuses, it is possible that oyster packing was a minor source of income which he omitted. No other records regarding the Nash family oyster business were examined for this article and these may offer further explanation for the apparent contradictions between the census records and the establishment of the Nash family oyster packing business in approximately 1890.

Conclusion: The oyster business on and around Kent Island, based on the traditional harvesting methods and processing of the harvested oysters, is now limited to the few oystermen remaining who tong the public oyster bars, the packing houses having been long gone. However, the first of a new type of oyster business for Kent Island has been established there, involving aquaculture. This is the Orchard Point Oyster Company, headquartered in Stevensville and founded in 2015 by Scott Budden, who was raised on the Eastern Shore. The business has become "the Upper Chesapeake's leading source of boutique farmed oysters" as stated on their website. They have been successful and have expanded their operations from their first site in the Chester River to two others in the upper Chesapeake. The best outcome for the future of the oyster business on Kent Island may well be a combination of restoration of the natural oyster beds now in progress and aquaculture.

Top Left: Crab feast 1957 Jones family packing house. L-R Dorothy Crouch, Ida Denny, David Lee Jones, Pearl Crouch

Bottom Left: Jerome Calvert Jones Sr. (left) and Louis Crouch Sr. with oysters, Denny's garage, Stevensville 1930s



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 FormComplete 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 1st.** Send to: The Kent Island Heritage Society Scholarship Committee c/o Mrs. Nancy Cook 124 Bryce Road, Queenstown. MD 21658



KIHS PRESIDENT JACK BRODERICK DISCUSSES KENT ISLAND'S SPECIAL HISTORY WITH **RESIDENTS OF BAY BRIDGE COVE IN** STEVENSVILLE.

Most of the thirty people in the audience moved to the new community from other places and appreciated learning more about what makes Kent Island a special place to live. KIHS is happy to make similar presentations to local community organizations. Please contact KIHS if you know of any group that would like to learn more about Kent Island's years since 1631.



HISTORY ROOM

The History Room at the Kent Island Branch of the Queen Anne's Free Library is slowly taking shape. We have culled duplicate books, journals that can be accessed online, fictional novels, and out of state references that are not pertinent to local history. We are keeping those books related to Kent Island, surrounding counties, the Eastern Shore, and Maryland. All of our holdings are searchable on our website at https://www. librarycat.org/lib/Kent_ Island_Heritage. Some of these will be moved offsite due to space limitations.

BIBLE RECORDS PROJECT PART 2

In 1990 members of the community were invited to bring their family bibles to the library to be photocopied and kept on file in the family folders housed in our filing cabinets. Family bibles are great resources of marriages, births, deaths, family trees, and other family information such as photos not found online. Originally 65 family bibles were recorded. At last count we have 58 bible records. To see if your family bible record is on file view our Kent Island Surnames under the Library tab https:// kentislandheritagesociety.org/kentisland-surnames/. For an interesting revisiting of Family Bibles and their sometimes-unique inclusions please read the Fall 1990 newsletter which can be accessed on our website under the About Us/Newsletter Archive tab https://kentislandheritagesociety. org/newsletter-archive/. If you are interested in having your family bible records kept on file, you can arrange to bring the bible to the library so we can scan the pages for you or scan them yourself with your own flatbed scanner or smartphone scanner and send them to us at kentislandheritagesociety@ gmail.com and we can place them in a family folder for you. If you prefer you can donate your family bible, photos, and other items and we will scan into our system. Please contact us at the above email if you are interested.

BOOK REVIEW

Remembering Kent Island: Stories from the Chesapeake by Brent Lewis

History Press Library Editions (May 1, 2009), 130 pages, and available in our online store https://kentislandheritagesociety.org/product/remebering-kentisland-stories-from-the-chesapeake-by-brent-lewis/

Settled by William Claiborne and fought for by the Calverts, Kent Island is a land of charming beauty and unfailing hospitality. Local author Brent Lewis regales his readers with tales of industrious watermen, floating theatres, legendary pirates, bootleggers and ghostly haunts. Meet Islanders such as the feisty Margaret Brent, who petitioned for voting rights in 1648, and tenacious Senator James Kirwan, who saved the island from becoming a weapons testing ground. With a warm style, Lewis pays homage to a way of life that is fast slipping beneath the waters of Chesapeake Bay.

Brent Lewis is a native Chesapeake Bay Eastern Shoreman. He has published two nonfiction books about the region, Remembering Kent Island: Stories from the Chesapeake and a History of the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department. Brent conducted the Kent Island Heritage Society's oral histories program over a decade, and has published numerous magazine articles about the Chesapeake Bay and its people. His first novel, Bloody Point 1976, won an Honorable Mention Award at the 2015 Hollywood Book Festival. His latest book is titled STARDUST BY THE BUSHEL. You can read more interesting stories of Kent Island and the Eastern Shore on his blog at https:// easternshorebrent.com/.



The 7th Historic Stevensville Classic Car Show on November 5 attracted 90 cars and trucks and large crowds. The Historic Stevensville Arts and Entertainment District sponsored the show, with participation from the Kent Island Cruisers and many other car clubs and organizations. The event was held at Cult Classic in Stevensville. The Kent Island Heritage Society kept their historic sites open until 4pm to accommodate participants and spectators after the show's 1:30 pm closing. Car registrants received a free ice cream coupon

from Tasty Toucan and a metal dash plaque with the image from a vintage postcard of Love Point Road in Stevensville. KIHS train docent Chris Kilian showed his 1915 Ford Model T (pictured elsewhere in this issue) and did "Ford Talk" with Kevin Cauley from Rockville MD who showed his 1966 Shelby GT350.

The Kent Island Heritage Society was pleased to work with students from the Defense Information School (DINFOS) at Fort Meade on a video project on how businesses and other organizations interact with their communities.

KIHS members Jack Broderick and John Conley met with the students and took them on a tour of KIHS sites. Students from this school did impressive restoration work on the Kent Island Fine Arts building in Stevensville in 2018 when they also visited KIHS sites in Stevensville. Pictured are USAF Airman Thomas Hansford, USAF Airman First Class Elias Carrero, USMC LCpl Samuel Qin, and USMC LCpl Sam Devine. The students will share their final presentation with KIHS.



Love Point Road Looking South, Circa 19

Running Past Kent Island History

On Sunday September 25, 2022, the Kent Island Running Group held their first Historic Stevensville Metric Half Marathon! The course began and ended at the Bark Barbeque Café on Log Canoe Circle in The Chesapeake Bay Business Park. The run covered 13.1 kilometers (about 8.14 mi) and passed through the Stevensville Historic District while also utilizing the scenic Cross Island Trail.

The Stevensville Historic District, designated in 1986, comprises a group of approximately 82 significant houses, churches, commercial buildings, and a school. It is significant for its architecture, and for its association with the development of transportation and commerce on Maryland's rural Eastern Shore during the latter half of the 19th century and first three decades of the 20th. Though most sites are privately owned, visitors can view several buildings including the Historic Christ Church, Old Post Office, Stevensville Train Depot, Stevensville Bank, and Cray House. Each site, with docent lead tours, is open to the public the first Saturday of every month, May through November. Additionally, tours of the sites for private groups can be scheduled through the Kent Island Heritage Society.

The Kent Island Cross island Trail was constructed on the former railway bed of the Love Point to Queenstown extension in 1902 by the Queen Anne's Railroad which took passengers from Baltimore and surrounding areas to the Atlantic Beaches: Terminus at Lewes DE. It later became the Maryland, Delaware, and Virgina Railway Company (MD&V) and was purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1905 and operated under the subsidiary of MD&V until 1923 when it became the Baltimore and Eastern Railroad thus completing the line from Baltimore to Ocean City, MD, 137 miles (ferry included). Passenger service ended in 1938 although freight service continued up until the construction of the first Bay Bridge. Ironically, one of the last loads brought by train consisted of material used to construct the original span of the Bay Bridge.

One Hundred and Twenty-eight runners participated. The youngest runner was 16 and the oldest runner was 72! Ken Zimmerman was the top overall finisher with a time of 48:37.39 (5:58 per mile pace) and Genna Arnel was the top female finisher (8th overall) with a time of 1:01:33.76 (7:34 per mile pace). Congratulations to all the



finishers! President Jack Broderick and super-docent Tom Tate greeted each runner as they passed by the Old Stevensville Post Office at the two-mile mark. Although these fleet of foot runners may not have been able to stop and visit this time, we hope they will on future First Saturdays!

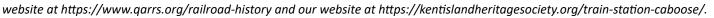
The eventual race winner, Ken Zimmerman, passes our Kent Island Historical Society table in front of the Old Stevensville Post Office.

Each finisher received a medal designed by Chris Whitesell featuring the Old Stevensville Post Office!

Proceeds from this event will be going to the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center for their Creepy Crawlers program and to the Kent Island Heritage Society! We genuinely appreciate the support we receive from the community and their interest in our culture and heritage. We look forward to developing more unique opportunities such as this in the future.

For more information including descriptions and photos of many of the Stevensville Historic District sites please visit the Maryland Historical Trust website at https://mht.maryland.gov/nr/NRDetail.aspx?NRID=971&FROM=NRMapQU.aspx.

For more information regarding the history of the railroad on Kent Island please visit the Queen Anne's Railroad Society (QARRS)



Susville Metric Hall Maratho

U.S. POST OFFICE
STEVENSVILLE, MD
— circa 1877-1951

8.15 Mile

For more information about the Kent island Running Group and the full set of race photos visit https://runsignup.com/Race/Photos/Location/TheOldPostOffice/MD/Stevensville/HistoricStevensvilleMetricHalfMarathon.



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 real "seniors" in the 2022 Kent Island High School Homecoming Parade on October 22, were the contingent from the Kent Island Heritage Society, Nancy Cook, Jack Broderick, John Conley, and Chris Kilian and his 1915 Model T. The "seniors" did keep up with the rest of the parade from the elementary schools through Stevensville and on to the high school, and were honored to be included in this great event. KIHS looks forward to resuming local history presentations to KIHS as it did before COVID. Of course, KIHS (the school) won the homecoming game.



Donald Crouch Sr.,
born and raised on
Kent Island and a
KIHS member,
completed the annual
Bay Bridge 10K
Run/Walk this past
November 13.

He keeps in shape with Senior Triathlon activities and has participated in a number of these 10Ks in the past. However, this year at age 90, he was the oldest competitor, a goal he has now achieved.







Thank you

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Donald Ferrell, *Life*Edward Kampes and Linda Tauber, *Family*George Keen, *Individual*Kimberly Lank, *Life*Michele Nooney, *Family*Chris Schwink, *Individual*Sue White-Herchek, *Individual*



MEMBERSHIP FORM Enclosed is a check to cover dues for the membership indicated below: ☐ Individual Life Membership \$250.00 ☐ Single Membership \$15.00 ☐ Organization Membership \$40.00 ☐ Family Membership \$25.00 ☐ Business Membership \$50.00 Dues and contributions are tax Name(s)_____ deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Address_____ Membership period: January 1 to December 31 Telephone (Home)______ The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. (Cell)_____ P.O. Box 321 Stevensville, Maryland 21666 Email address_____ www.kentislandheritagesociety.org Your Interests: History ____ Genealogy ____ Photography ____ Docent Program ____ Property Maintenance _____ Special Interest_____

KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

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POSTCARD from Kent Island: Kent Island: Hand Tonging for Oysters

Submitted by John L. Conley



Oysters in the Chesapeake Bay and local tributaries were once so plentiful that **Native Americans** and early settlers could just wade into the water and harvest them by hand. As oysters near shore were depleted, hand tongs were used to capture oysters in shallow waters. The tongs had handles up to 16 feet long with

metal rakes up to a yard wide on their ends. The rake would open as it was lowered into the water and then be closed and lifted into the boat. Needless to say, hand tongers did not need to go to the gym after a day on the water. There is very little commercial hand tonging for oysters off Kent Island today, though it is still common on the Choptank River near Cambridge MD.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!!!! Please contact KIHS if you have comments on items in <u>Isle of Kent 1631</u> 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