

# Isle of Kent - 1631



Newsletter of The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

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

## A visit to "Yesteryear" at the Cray House

Twenty-five guests arrived at the Cray House in historic Stevensville on Saturday, August 10 for a unique visit to "Yesteryear."

On display was the "Bobbeann" special collection of period attire from days gone by. Ellen Klages of the Kent Island Garden Club decorated the rooms with herb and floral arrangements pertinent to the times. The hostesses, Mary J. White (pictured left), Mary Jane Leaverton (pictured middle) and Eva C. Thompson (pictured right), wore gowns of interest as they greeted the guests with tidbits of information and a bit of cheer. Roland Bruscup greeted the ladies as they wandered through the gardens to visit the train station.



Look for another "happening" in the near future. Come and see!

## K.I.H.S. members should check it out!

Each issue, we'll publish a partial list of some of the fascinating books in the Kent Island Heritage Society's library (at the Stevensville branch of the Q.A.C. Free Library). They are there for your information and enjoyment, so please check them out!

American and British Genealogy & Heraldry  
American Colonial Wars: A Concise History

American Commonwealth  
American Genealogy  
American Heritage Books of Indians  
American Women  
Antiques as an Investment  
Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial History  
Chesapeake Bay Notes & Sketches

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# President's Message

Dear Kent Island Heritage Society Members:

It is with a great deal of joy that I announce to you that the Kent Island Heritage Society has been given a contribution by the Kent Island American Legion. The award comes at a time when we can, at last, complete some much needed projects. Some of the funds will be used to repaint our train station. We will also purchase a camcorder, which will enable our Society to tape events, lectures and interviews for our permanent records. The major portion of the funds will help us with Kent Island Days, particularly our kids events. I would like to thank the American Legion Post for their kind and generous contribution.

*Hugo Gemignani, President*

## Nominating Committee Report

*Nominations for 1997 officers and board of directors*

Nominating Committee: Elaine Scharnus, chair; Charles Koegel; Donna Jones; and, Bill Denny, advisor

President: Hugo S. Gemignani  
Vice President: Stephen N. Abplanalp  
Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Cook  
Recording Secretary: Donna P. Jones  
Treasurer: Audrey Hawkins

New Board Members (filling the three vacancies): Charles "Gil" Dunn, Gail B. Rumenap and John F. Smigo

Incumbent Board Members: William E. Denny III — 1996, 97, 98; Emma Thomas — 1995, 96, 97; Eva Thompson — 1995, 96, 97; Jane McCullough — 1996, 97, 98

Article III, Section 2 of The Society bylaws provide that additional nominations for any position may be made 21 days in advance of the annual meeting by presentation to the Recording Secretary of a declaration of intent to be a candidate signed by the candidate and two sponsoring members.

Officers are elected for one year terms and directors for three year terms. The election will be held at the annual dinner meeting on December 6, 1996. Additional nominations must be received by the Recording Secretary Cheryl Hoffman by November 15, 1996.

A tribute to such a special lady — the senior member of the Kent Island Heritage Society — who honored the Kent Island Days museum with her presence on Saturday, May 18 from 10 to 3... Our own first lady, Mrs. Charlotte Severa.

— Eva Thompson

## Treasurer's Report

**June 21 through  
August 23, 1996  
Audrey Hawkins**



Beginning Balance in Checking Account	
.....	\$3,776.93
Total Cash Receipts	
.....	\$1,897.13
Total Receipts & Checking Acct. Balance	
.....	\$5,674.06

Total Disbursements	
.....	\$2,093.29

Balance in Checking Account as of 8/23/96	
.....	\$3,580.29
Balance in CD Account	
.....	\$9,919.60
Balance in CD Account	
.....	\$641.60

**TOTAL ASSETS..... \$14,141.97**

## 27th Annual Candlelight Walking Tour

The Historic District of Chestertown, MD

Saturday, September 21, 1996  
6 until 10 p.m.

For more information, call 410-778-3499

Sponsored by the Historical Society of  
Kent County, Inc.

# Minutes

Topics covered:

## 1997 KENT ISLAND DAYS

Kent Island Days 1997 will be held on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. - ?. The rain date is Sunday, May 18.

The Society will also purchase #2 of 25 of "The Gunning Decoy Carvers of Kent Island" for our next raffle item.

Patron ad requests will be included with the dues notices in an effort to increase participation while cutting back on costs.

New event/activity ideas and problem areas of the 1996 festival were discussed.

It was decided to increase the charge to vendors and improve the handling/organization of them.

## MISCELLANEOUS

It was decided to have the Cray House open the 3rd Saturday of each month beginning in September with entertainment under the direction of Cray House Chairperson Eva Thompson.

The amendments to the bylaws were discussed. The amendments will be acted upon at the September general meeting.

Business of the Kirwan estate was discussed.

Another topic of discussion was our need to tap into area organizations like the Legion and Elks Lodge who make donations to groups like ours.

## Amendments to bylaws

President Hugo Gemignani asked Eva Thompson to update the bylaws, which have not been revised since 1981. These are the revisions made:

### Article I, Members Section 4

Each active member shall be required to make an annual contribution to the Society of ten dollars (\$10.00).

### Article III, Elections

(1) The nominating committee shall consist of three members to be announced at the June meeting. The nominating committee shall prepare a list of candidates to be presented at the September meeting and circulated by the Secretary to all active and life members of the Society with the notice of the annual meeting.

(2) Nominations other than those submitted by the nominating committee must be received by the Recording Secretary in writing, together with the nominees consent to run not later than 21 days prior to the annual election.

(3) Chairman of the nominating committee shall conduct the election of officers at the annual meeting, followed immediately by the installation of officers.

### Article VI

(1) The President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, the following standing committees: membership, budget, program, publicity, newsletter, library/genealogy, grants, audit, nominating, bylaws, Kirwan property, Cray House interior, Train Station, Smoke House, buildings & grounds.

### Charter/Article II, Purposes

Second Section (2) at any regular or special meeting of the Society twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business, except where a greater number is required by these articles.

### Amendment

Amendments to this charter may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Society at which more than twenty-five of the voting members are present.

**Kent Island Heritage Society  
President Hugo Gemignani is  
available for speaking engagements  
on the Chesapeake Bay and the Kent  
Island Heritage Society.**

**Call him at (410) 643-1690  
to make arrangements.**

# **Donate items for our AUCTION now!**

**We need your treasures for our annual  
Christmas dinner meeting silent auction.**

**We're collecting your donations now.  
Just call Elaine Scharmus at  
643-6495 to make arrangements.**

**Remember... your helping a good cause &  
your donation might be tax deductible!**

## ***MEMBERSHIP DRIVE***

Membership dues are \$5 per person per year or  
\$100 for a lifetime membership.

Name (s), address, telephone number and payment  
can be mailed to

**The Kent Island Heritage Society, Membership  
P.O. Box 321 • Stevensville, MD 21666**

### **NEW MEMBERS ARE**

Mr. & Mrs. Art Wall  
Mrs. Edna May Lewis

**The next membership meeting is  
September 19 at the library at 7:30  
p.m. Wheeler Baker will be the  
speaker.**

***The Kent Island Heritage Society***

**P.O. Box 321  
Stevensville, MD 21666**

**Address Change Requested**

**Bulk Rate Paid  
Permit #11  
Stevensville, Md.  
21666**