

Isle of Kent - 1631



Newsletter of The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

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

An excerpt from Nick Hoxter's book

Growing Up on The Island in the 40's and 50's

No Island anywhere could possibly cast a spell over its people with the magnitude that Kent Island did in my youth. To have been born here along its shores is a distinct privilege that God granted a very few. To have walked the beaches in the early morning, smell the salt air, feel the coolness of the wet sand as it oozed between your toes and watch the watermen as they headed out to tend their trot lines or fish their nets, listen to the sound of their one-lung palmer engines, are but a few of my memories.

To return from a trip to the Western Shore to the Island by means of the Matapeake ferries, whether the John M. Dennis, the Herbert R. O'Connor or the Harry W. Nice or by the Smokey Joe, rounding the Love Point Light, one cannot express the feeling of coming home again. The Island held a fascination like no other place for its people.

To take a skiff out into any one of the creeks, to build a tremendous bonfire and roast hot dogs and marshmallows on one of its many beaches, swim in

the Eastern or Chesapeake Bay in the moonlight.

To watch as a farmer plowed his land, the many sea gulls that engulfed the furrows seeking the worms from the freshly plowed earth, to watch the change of seasons on this beautiful Island.

To go ducking on a cold winter's morn, to set out the decoys and wait with patience in the duck blind the arrival of those ducks, while your lungs ached from the cold, the thrill of bringing down that first duck.

To go on a date with one of the many beautiful Island girls, to park at Matapeake or Love Point and watch the ferries come and go, to attend the high school proms and dances, all make you realize how fortunate you were to have been born a Kent Islander, truly a breed apart.

The way of life, the camaraderie of the people, the land and water, all seem to make Kent Island, my Island, an almost mystical place to have grown up.

Nick Hoxter's book will be available in 1996.

© Copyright, All Rights Reserved, Wm. N. Hoxter, Jr.

Isle of Kent is published quarterly by The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666. Every effort is made to publish accurate information, but no responsibility can be assumed by The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. or the Editor in the event of claim of loss or damage from any contribution. Statements attributed to individuals do not necessarily reflect official policy of the K.I.H.S. Send Isle of Kent correspondence to Cheri Hoffman, Editor, P.O. Box 708, Stevensville, MD 21666.



President's Message

Dear Kent Island Heritage Society Members:

The joyous time of Christmas is here again, a time for families and good friends to be together.

As my first year as president comes to a close, I wish to thank all the members of the board for their kind and generous help. I also wish to extend a "thank you" to Audrey Hawkins, Louis Cockey, Nick Hoxter and Bill Denny for always being there; to Kathy Comegys for doing the newsletter; to Virginia Donaldson for providing refreshments at the meetings; to May Hutchinson for keeping up with membership; and, to Charlie Koegel and all those who helped with Kent Island Days.

As the Society president for 1996, I will try to expand our membership, seek grants for restoration of the Cray House, improve the newsletter with more historical items, open part of the Kirwan house for tours, continue to work to find a caboose for the train station and work to include all of Kent Island in our 1996 Kent Island Days. I hope every one will donate some time to help the Society with these projects. Even if you can only donate one hour per week, it will help. Remember, any organization is only as good as its volunteers.

Have a joyous Christmas and a happy new year.

Hugo Gemignani

In Memoriam

Harry Clifton Lowe, Sr.

Kent Islanders were saddened to hear of the death of "Cliff" Lowe on Saturday, November 11, 1995. He will be missed by the community and especially by the Kent Island Heritage Society. Cliff, who in 1975 was one of our charter members, served as a director of the Kent Island Heritage Society board from 1981 through 1984. He also served on the nominating committee in 1985 and 1986.

The Kent Island Heritage Society has lost a valuable and helpful member, one who was always willing to participate in all our events with a smile. He always generously donated flowers and plants from Cliff Lowe's Nursery for various Society events. The Heritage Society regrets his passing, but his name and generosity will remain in our records as a testament of his interest in the Society.

Treasurer's Report

October 18 through
November 29, 1995
Audrey Hawkins



Balance in Checking Account as of 10/18/95	\$2,449.68
Total Cash Receipts	\$3,019.64
Total Receipts & Checking Acct. Balance	\$5,469.32

Total Disbursements as of 11/29/95	\$1,908.49
------------------------------------	------------

Balance in Checking Account as of 11/29/95	\$3,560.83
Balance in CD Account as of 11/3/95	\$9,503.46
Balance in Money Market Acct. as of 10/31/95	\$616.57

TOTAL ASSETS \$13,680.86

Who's Who?

Officers

- **PRESIDENT**
Hugo Gemignani
- **V. PRESIDENT**
Nicholas Hoxter
- **TREASURER**
Audrey Hawkins
- **REC. SECRETARY**
Lois Cockey
- **CORRESPONDING SEC.**
Eileen Dadds

Nominations

- **PRESIDENT**
Hugo Gemignani
- **V. PRESIDENT**
Nicholas Hoxter
- **TREASURER**
Audrey Hawkins
- **REC. SECRETARY**
Cheryl Hoffman
- **CORRESPONDING SEC.**
Eileen Dadds

Nominating Committee

Richard Dadds, Chairman
Emma Thomas
Eva Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Dadds, 1994-96
Charles "Gil" Dunn, 1994-96
Robert T. Jones, 1994-96
Eva Thompson, 1985-87
Emma Thomas, 1985-87
William Denny, 1986-88
Jane McCullough, 1986-88
Nancy Cook, 1986-87

Assistants to K.I.H.S.

Michael Foster, Esq.
Legal Advisor

Lois Cockey
Administrative Assistant

Advisory Board, 1996

Kathy Magruder
Kathy Comegys
Bobby Nash
Jamie Miller
Bo Hardesty

John Boender
Myrtle Bruscup
Mae Hutchinson
Virginia Donaldson
Eileen Dadds

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

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

September 21, 1995

Quarterly Membership Meeting Minutes

Guest were Wilbur and Bertha Garrett of Queen Anne Colony and Jim and Barbara Mills of Cove Creek. They are interested in the history of the area and are interested in having a speaker talk to their club. Mr. Philip Davidson (age 96), who had planned to be our guest speaker, was unable to attend due to illness.

Requests for the caboose from CSX and the ice box from Langenfelder in Love Point still remain unanswered.

Vice President Nick Hoxter presented a life vest from the ferry, John M. Dennis, which he had recently acquired from Paul Wentxel — Mrs. Ruth Frampton's son-in-law. He will present it to the Heritage Society when we have a place to keep it.

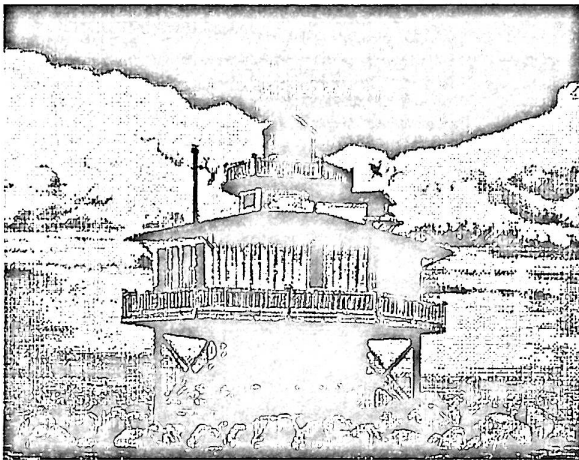
Announcement was made that the Board decided to reduce the dues to \$5 per person for a period of one year.

An announcement was made in regards to the increase of the number of Board members from 10 to 15. A motion was also passed to stagger the terms of the new members.

Precious video tape found

Dick Dadds of Marling Farms in Chester and a board member of the Kent Island Heritage Society has given the Society a VCR tape that contains scenes of the Smokey Joe. Dick had an old motion picture film redone on a modern VCR tape with what in all probability is the only moving picture left of the Smokey Joe. The Society is very fortunate to have members like Dick and his wife Eileen who are so devoted to our Island's heritage. Many, many thanks to them.

The Love Point Light to come to life



Nick Hoxter, our vice president, has been working with Jafar Komeylian of Komeylian Sculpture Line in Stevensville since January of this year in an effort to add the Love Point Lighthouse to his line. Presently, Komeylian has 19 models that are sold in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and Pennsylvania. In 1996, he plans to have all the Chesapeake Bay Lighthouses on the market.

Nick said he met with Jafar in November to view the model, which will then be in production this December. He will meet with Jafar again this December to assess the colors used on the model.

The first Lighthouse will go to Nick's wife Sharon, who was instrumental in the research and completion of the Love Point Light Painting (by Joseph Hegarty, pictured left) and the model.

We at the Heritage Society think it's a feather in our cap to add this lovely old lady to the fine Komeylian line of sculptures.

“HERITAGE PARK” UPDATE

Billy Denny and Nick Hoxter have been working hard at the Heritage Park at Stevensville. The area where the house set on a foundation has been removed by Norman Wright and back filled with the pile of dirt that sat near the road. All debris was removed (two truck loads), and trees were trimmed. Another load of top soil was needed to completely fill this area and was donated by R.B. Baker & Sons of Queenstown. Many thanks to Baker & Sons... and a tip of the old hat to Teddy Baker.

Ted and Janet Breeding of Stevensville have the given the Kent Island Heritage Society the old restaurant formerly owned by Jute and Marian Hardesty. This building has been sitting on the Breeding Farm since the early 1940's when Ted's father bought it from the Hardesty's. Ted informed us that it was towed to where it now sits by means of a tractor and truck. For many years, it was used as a tenant house for farm hands.

Many old time Islanders will remember it as a Pure filling station, first built between 1930 and 1932, sitting across from Dr. John R. Bentons home on Route 18 in Stevensville. Mr. Sudler Cockey had it built and Mr. Ed Goodhand was the manager. Mr. Cockey's theory was that

this was the ideal location to catch the ferry traffic coming from the Matapeake ferries, which had just commenced operation. For a while, this held true. Then a service station opened on Rt. 18 near Matapeake. Mr. Bill Denny also opened his garage and gas station in the center of Stevensville. With the competition too strong, Mr. Cockey sold his business to Jute and Marian Hardesty who then turned it into a restaurant while still retaining the gas sales. The business closed in the early 40's.

A committee consisting of Billy Denny, Dick Dadds and Nick Hoxter has been appointed to ascertain the feasibility of having this building moved to the Heritage Park at Stevensville and restored to its former self.

Many thanks to the Breeding Family.

When the building is restored, it will be used as a temporary museum to house Heritagr artifacts. It is imperative that any Island artifacts be kept on the Island and be placed in the Heritage Museum. Please do not let these items leave the Island. They belong here. If you have any, please contact Nick Hoxter at 827-7842, Bill Denny at 643-5869 or Dick Dadds at 643-5288.



Send Out a Hello

Miss Price, one of the two remaining founders of The Kent Island Heritage Society, is now residing at William Hill Manor Retirement Section, Apt. 115 Easton, MD 21601

We are sure she would appreciate a card from her friends of the Society... a thinking of you card, "hello" card or Christmas card would be nice. The Society has sent Annie May flowers.

Another person on the sick list is Roland Bruscup
300 Kallis Road
Stevensville, MD 21666

We know he would appreciate a card or call (643-5596). Roland is a loyal supporter of the Heritage Society — especially the Train Depot. We can always count on him to be a host.

Past president and loyal Heritage Society supporter Charles Koegel is in the hospital/recovering from surgery. The Society thanks him for his continued support and help with labels. Again, we know he'd appreciate hearing from his friends. You can mail a "hello" to him at
307 Five Farms Drive
Stevensville, MD 21666

MEMBERSHIP

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**

1996 Membership Meeting Dates
Library, 7:30 p.m.

March 21 • June 20 • September 19

**Thank you.
Thank you.
Thank you.**

Cray House Report

Many thanks to Eva Chance Thompson for contacting members to be hostesses for the Cray House during the past hot summer (from May through October).

On Saturday, October 28, we had a special day at the Cray House and Train Depot. Bobby Nash and friend Sylvia Taylor were hostesses at the Cray House. They dressed in costume and presented a puppet show for the children.

The Kent Island Volunteer Band also entertained us with their wonderful music. Unfortunately, the attendance was very poor — but those who were there did enjoy the concert. The Heritage Society sold baked goods and apple juice, making a profit of \$65. Many thanks to our members for supplying the baked goods and to the K-Mart employees for giving us \$30 worth of apple juice to sell.

Another special thanks goes out to our members Bill Denny and Nick Hoxter for all their hard work in cleaning the growth out around the old foundation on our lot next to the Cray House. They did a great job!

Thanks to all the hostesses who helped at the Cray House and Train Depot during our open house from May through October.

More thanks to the Island Garden Club (Ellen Klages) for decorating the Cray House for Christmas. As always, they do a wonderful job.

The Cray House and Train Depot will be open for visitors on Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10 from 1 - 4 p.m. Cookies and hot wassail will be served. Please HELP by bringing your baked goods to the Cray House either Saturday or Sunday. Thanks for all your help.

A "Thank You" from Audrey B. Hawkins

I would like to thank our Heritage Society President Hugo Gemignani for nominating me as a candidate for the 1995 "Maryland You Are Beautiful Volunteer" program.

My sincere appreciation and thanks to all the friends who sent me cards of congratulations and the many who phoned me or congratulated me when they saw me.

It has been a very interesting and exciting experience for me. On September 5th, I was presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" and a "Proclamation" by order of the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County, Mark Belton, Michael Zimmer, Jr. and George O'Donnell, for preserving and promoting the history of Queen Anne's County through the Kent Island Heritage Society.

The winners from all 23 counties and Baltimore

City were recognized at an awards ceremony on November 1st in Annapolis. Each winner received the Governor's Citation and a congratulation handshake from Governor Parris Glendening, State Comptroller Louis Goldstein and Annapolis Mayor Al Hopkins. A special thank you to Commissioner Mike Zimmer for escorting me on to the auditorium stage to receive the Governor's Citation.

I would also like to thank the Kent Island *Bay Times* and *Island Life Magazine* for writing and publishing nice articles regarding this award.

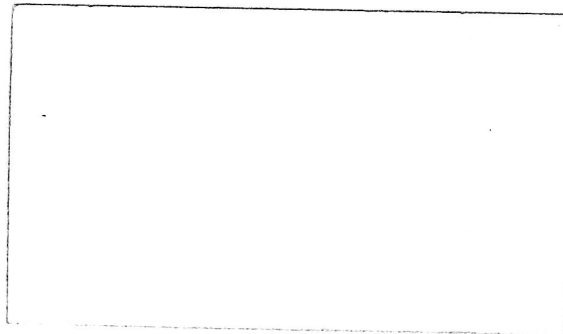
I consider it an honor to be selected to represent Queen Anne's County in the "Maryland You Are Beautiful" volunteer program, and I will continue to volunteer to the best of my ability to preserve the history of Queen Anne's County.

The Kent Island Heritage Society

P.O. Box 321
Stevensville, MD 21666

Bulk Rate Paid Permit #11 Stevensville, Md. 21666

Address Change Requested



Happy Holidays



The Kent Island Volunteer Band will perform on December 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stevensville Middle School. Please show this great band your support & attend.