

Isl of Kent - 1631

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

SPRING 2024

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Restoration Help for the Caboose is On Track

Thanks to a \$10,000 donation from the MacCleay Family Foundation, the iconic caboose at the train station in Stevensville will be restored to its glory. The 1928 caboose is one of the most popular attractions at our historic sites and is pictured in many group photographs and more than one family Christmas card. Thank you Geoffrey and Ashley MacCleay and we look forward to seeing you and your three sons waving from the rear of the caboose in the not-too-distant future.



President's Message

We have moved into 2024 with a great deal of enthusiasm, as we build on the successes of 2023 - a true "Landmark Year" for the Kent Island Heritage Society. In our last Newsletter we shared the many significant events and accomplishments of our past year. The most important being the acquisition of the historic property in Downtown Stevensville to be our future Kent Island Heritage Center. We could not have had such a successful year without the awesome teamwork of our dedicated members who care deeply about our heritage and our community. I'll be sharing some special "Thank Yous" in this message.

(Continued on page 2)

KIHS Committees

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As we closed out 2023, we gathered for our Holiday Brunch and Annual Elections at the beautiful Cascia Vineyard Tasting Room. We shared a great buffet prepared by Chesapeake Celebrations and enjoyed each other's company while recapping our successful year and sharing future hopes and plans. And of course, the vibrant Ms Nancy Cook led us in a round of holiday songs! We elected and swore in two new Members of the Board of Directors: Josh Brown and Hannah Wall. Josh will join his mom, Donna Brown, on the Board. He is a talented landscaper with property management skills whose experience can be helpful at our diverse historic sites. Hanna Walls is an experienced docent, both at our historic sites and with Historic Annapolis. We look forward to their energy and experience on our Heritage Board.

However, a key Board Member and Officer, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude, will be stepping down. Linda Moore has served admirably as our Treasurer for the past two years. Linda agreed to serve as Treasurer upon the death of our long serving Treasurer Lynne Riley-Coleman in late 2021. Linda had considerable financial management experience in the non-profit sector and kept us moving forward. She helped update and streamline our finances. We will always appreciate her selfless, professional approach in guiding your Society through a challenging situation. Linda has agreed to continue to assist us in a budget and finance advisory capacity. Thank you, Linda!

At our annual meeting we also announced our new Treasurer, Erica Kriegisch, who joined our Board last year. Ericka brings a wealth of professional financial management experience to the position and worked with Linda Moore to ensure a seamless transition. Thank you, Erica, for stepping up! We have also made another change in our officer duties. The role of Corresponding Secretary has changed significantly in the age of social media. We have found that the duties of Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer have become closely aligned, so we consolidated those duties under the Treasurer position. Carole Frederick, who has served admirably for decades as our Corresponding Secretary, will become a Member of the Board of Directors. Carole's deep personal knowledge of Kent Island's history and many personal connections in our community are invaluable to the Heritage Society. Thank you, Carole! As of this writing, we are still looking to fill our Recording Secretary position. Meanwhile, John Conley has unselfishly agreed to continue serving in an acting capacity. John, a man of many talents, is our Newsletter Editor, our website phone contact, and coordinates our outreach and community activities. Thank you, John! To one of you special folks reading this Newsletter, if you might consider becoming our Recording Secretary, give us a call – we can talk.

Foremost in our 2024 plans is the outfitting and completion of our new heritage headquarters / museum / records storage / research center, in our new historic property, made possible by the generous bequest from our former Treasurer, Lynne Riley-Coleman. Although we had hoped to open by Kent Island Day, our optimism is tempered by reality. To accomplish the professional results we all want, our Grand Opening will more likely

be toward the end of the calendar year. Stay tuned for our progress reports. Another important event we anticipate this year is the continued renovation of our railroad exhibits. The MacLeay Family of Kent Island has given us another generous donation to continue that effort. We look forward to the historic caboose getting a major facelift this year. Thank you, Ashley and Geoffrey MacLeay!

Meanwhile, over at the Kirwan Farm in Chester, our tireless Curator Linda Collier remains committed to keeping the Kirwan House and Museum Store in pristine condition with the help of our contract partners, Lundberg Builders. This year we look to complete the years-long project to restore the upstairs to museum condition. Thank you, Linda.

An important part of our heritage mission is sharing the stories of our rich Kent Island history with visitors to our sites and by reaching out in the community to share our stories on the road. We had many great experiences this past year and anticipate many similar events during this year. We especially enjoy sharing our history with students of all ages and from all types of schools. We look forward to that this year, especially to building the relationship with Stevensville Middle School – literally right next door!

Due to our active social media presence, guided by our VP Bob Lowe, we continue to have a growing number of on-line inquires about Kent Island families, ancestry, and locations from a wide variety of people. Thank you to our on-board research team of Lou Crouch, Annie Mae Price, Linda Collier, and John Conley, who are amazing with some of the detailed information they are able to uncover and share! Annie Mae has left our Board this year, but will continue to be a great resource on the many genealogical inquires we receive.

Our plans for this year also include strengthening our relationship with our partners in the Historic Stevensville Arts and Entertainment District. This year during our First Saturday activities (April through November) which include our historic sites being open with docents, there will be a monthly Art Market of local artists set up in the Historic Christ Church parking lot. The hope is to increase in-town vitality and attract more visitors to Historic Stevensville on those special days.

We will hold our Kent Island Day on Saturday, May 18, in Historic Stevensville with the big KI Day Parade, on-stage entertainment, great local food and over 100 vendors and exhibitors. This year we will again have the outstanding services of our event planner, Stacy Bernstein. Stacy was a real game changer in helping us realize the success of last year's event. Thank you, Stacy! We look forward to an even bigger and better Kent Island Day celebration this year. At our March general meeting we will host an informative presentation on a subject that affects all of us – "The Bay Bridge – Our Heritage – Our Future", on Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. at Historic Christ Church in Stevensville. We will discuss some highlights of our heritage of the Bay Bridge. State officials will join us to share plans for a possible new Bay Crossing on Kent Island and what the implications might be. Check out the announcement for this important meeting here in our Newsletter.

We hope you'll consider joining us then and at Kent Island Day.

Finally, as our activities continue to grow, we would welcome increased involvement from you, our members, to serve as docents, event support and other activities. Contact me or any Board member.

Thanks for your support and best wishes for a great 2024! See ya 'round the Island.

Jack Broderick



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

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 19

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING/PRESENTATION
7 P.M. HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH
IN STEVENSVILLE

MAY 18

KENT ISLAND DAY

JUNE 18

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING AND EVENT TBA

SEPT. 22

MEMBERSHIP PICNIC
AT KIRWAN HOUSE

DEC. 8

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
AND ELECTIONS

KIHS HISTORIC SITES ARE OPEN
first Saturdays from April to Nov.

KIHS BOARD MEETINGS
are held on the third Wednesday of
the month at the Kirwan House.
All Society members are welcome
to attend or suggest topics for
consideration.

FOR INFORMATION on these and
other events, visit our website
kentislandheritagesociety.org

THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE
SOCIETY MAINTAINS A SOCIAL
MEDIA PRESENCE ON-LINE AT
kentislandheritagesociety.org
and on Facebook , X (Twitter,)
YouTube, Instagram, Tiktok,
Pinterest, Hashtags, and E-Mail.



YOU ARE INVITED

Kent Island Heritage Society General Meeting

Tuesday. March 19, 2024

**"The Bay Bridge – Our Heritage!
Our Future?"**

**Historic Christ Church, Stevensville, MD
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The Kent Island Heritage Society will host an informative evening examining a subject that affects us all - The Bay Bridge – a critical part of both our heritage and our future.

The State of Maryland and the Federal Highway Administration have concluded that a new Bay Crossing is needed, and the best location is between Sandy Point and Kent Island. The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) is currently involved in "Tier 2" of a 4 Tier study process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Join us on March 19 to learn where we are in the process and what the potential impact could be on Kent Island, as there will be new roadways and infrastructure required for the new Bridge.

Jack Broderick, KIHS President will discuss the historical aspects of the Bridge and the tremendous impact on Kent Island and the Eastern Shore. **Heather Lowe, MDTA, Director of Planning and Program Development**, who is the Bay Crossing Project Manager, will share where the State is in the planning process and what the possible options are. **Sarah Groesbeck, MDTA Cultural Resources Lead**, will review what actions are underway to document and evaluate potential impacts on historic and cultural resources in the Study Area.

There will be ample opportunity for questions, answers, and discussion following the presentations. This is a unique opportunity to learn first-hand what our future may hold, how we may be affected, and how we can be involved.

We hope you can join us.

THE LAST CANOE ARTICLE UPDATE

We have updated information on log canoes built on Kent Island discussed in the article The Last Canoe which ran in the Summer 2021 Isle of Kent 1631 newsletter. The last log canoe was not the Alverta built by Joseph A. Thompson in 1908 and now on display at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, but the Isabel, built by his son Lem Thompson Sr. around 1928. We wanted to update the information since we know the KIHS newsletters are used for research. Below is part of an article written by Lydia Coleman about Kent Island businesses in an earlier KIHS newsletter.

(From article by Lydia Coleman) Thompson's boat building business was begun around 1900. Mr. Joe Thompson started building boats in his backyard, which was located on the Dominion Road next to what used to be Eddie Severa's machine shop and garage. The boats he built were mainly work boats powered by sail.

When his son Lemuel Thompson Sr. returned from World War 1 he worked in the business with him. Somewhere around 1927 Lem Sr. started his own business located in Newton. He had the distinction of building the last log canoe constructed on the island. This boat was built for his father-in-law, Pete Baxter, and was named for his sister-in-law Isabel. Pete's son Jack, a former owner of the boat, tells me that he raced it in Chestertown in 1933. He won the race and received a prize of \$50 in gold. The Isabel was made into a sailboat and now makes her home in Boston. About 1933, Lem Sr. moved his business to Little Creek (on Kent Island.) All four of his sons worked for him in the business. Since his death in 1963, his youngest son Calvert has continued to run this business which is owned by his mother Inez Thompson.

Kent Island Community Celebrations of the 1930s

by Louis S. Crouch Jr.



An official state proclamation establishing Kent Island Days as the third weekend in May to commemorate Kent Island as the first English settlement in today's Maryland (established in 1631) was signed by acting governor Blair Lee in May of 1977 just before Kent Island Days were celebrated on Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22 1977. The Kent Island Heritage Society was instrumental in getting the state proclamation and has sponsored all the celebrations of Kent Island Days over the past almost 50 years. The next Kent Island Day will be on May 18. However, before the long tradition of these ongoing celebrations, the Kent Island community held some quite grand ones during the Great Depression years.

The history of grand celebrations by the Kent Island community, of course, goes back further than the 1930s since Kent Islanders have always had pride of their homeland. The earliest account found at the writing of this article was published in the July 7th, 1917, edition of the Centerville Reporter about the July 4th celebration, sponsored by the Red Cross, as stated in the subheading: ***"All Kent Island Joined Heartily in the Demonstration That Will Long Be Remembered. Splendid Parade in the Afternoon, Followed by Public Speaking. Carnival at Night. Mayor Strange and Former Senator Moss the Speakers. Between 4,000- and 5,000-Persons Present"***. This attendance was approximately twice the population of 1917 Kent Island.

News coverage of the 1930s Kent Island community celebrations was found beginning with the Queen Anne Record of 1933 (the first year of its publication) and continuing with the Queen Anne's Record-Observer starting in 1937 from which the following material was obtained.

1933- The grand celebration this year occurred over 4 days during the week of July 4th organized by the Woman's Club of Kent Island. It was held at both Matapeake ferry landing and the Opera House of Senator James Kirwan's in Stevensville and billed variously as the "Kent Island Celebration" and "Kent Island Homecoming". The events over the days leading up to July 4th included a performance at the Opera House, a dance at Matapeake, religious services, baseball games, track and field competitions, and a bathing beauty contest won by Doris Pinder of Centreville. A crowd of 3000 gathered on July 4th at Matapeake to hear rousing speeches, including one by Senator Legg who mentioned the successful effort led by Senator Kirwan in 1919 at the US Congress to halt the ill conceived military takeover of Kent Island to establish an artillery base and displace all residents from the oldest settlement in Maryland. Kent Island's long shadow in Maryland history was not forgotten when Mr. T.D. Claiborne, William Claiborne's 9th generation direct descendant, spoke of his ancestor's pivotal role in the settlement of Kent Island. A carnival followed a few days after July 4th.

1934- The grand celebration was once again held during July 4th week, this time organized by the Kent Island Community Club. An ad for it from the June 28th, 1934, Queen Anne's Record is shown in Fig. 1. All activities were at the Matapeake ferry landing which included boat races, baseball games, swimming, perhaps for the first time fireworks, an open air dance, a carnival and the ever popular speechmaking by politicians. A crowd of an estimated 3000 attended on July 4th.

1935- The traditional July 4th week grand celebration continued this year which was organized by the Kent Island Businessman's Association for the purpose of purchasing firefighting equipment. It was held at the Matapeake ferry landing and an ad for it appeared in the June 27th 1935 Queen Anne's Record (Fig 2). This one was touted as "Kent Island's Greatest Celebration" and it lived up to it. The events scheduled for July 4th included stunt flying and parachuting, speed boat racing, bathing beauty contest, dancing and fireworks with an estimated crowd of 8000 in attendance. On the following two days the events included a fireman's parade with 10 Eastern Shore companies, a 30 voice chorus concert, a dance contest and an orchestra concert. Ground prizes were awarded and an electric refrigerator was chanced off.

1936- Once again the Kent Island Businessman's Association organized the traditional July 4th week celebration over 8 days with the purpose of raising funds for firefighting equipment. Hopes were up for this to be the most magnificent celebration ever which was held at the Love Point resort. The event types from the 1935 celebration were for the most part repeated with the addition of boxing and wrestling matches, a donkey baseball game and a Mardi Gras night at the carnival with costume attire requested. No crowd estimate was given although it was stated as being up to expectations despite some rainy weather.

The 1935 and 1936 Kent Island community celebrations raised money for firefighting equipment although Kent Island had no volunteer fire company at the time and had to rely on fire companies from nearby towns off Kent Island. Further efforts to establish firefighting capacity based on Kent Island seemingly were put aside during the later years of the Great Depression and the World War II years until the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Company was established in 1947. The weeklong Kent Island Fireman's carnival to raise funds, traditionally in August, started in 1947 and quickly grew into arguably the largest Kent Island community celebration for many years. It still attracts large crowds from all over the area 75 years later. The famous KIVFD Fireman's Parade held during the carnival is immensely popular as certainly it was for perhaps the very first fireman's parade on Kent Island in 1935.



1937- The timing of the Kent Island celebration for this year apparently was changed to Labor Day week at the Love Point resort since no news coverage of a July 4th celebration was found. The organizing group was not identified in the news articles and the celebration may have been sponsored by the resort. An ad for the event in the August 26th Queen Anne's Record-ObsERVER touts a "Love Point Celebration" rather than a Kent Island one (Fig 3) with ads being broadcast a number times over WFBR radio in Baltimore which of course conveniently had ferry service to Love Point. However, it was described as a "Kent Island Celebration" in a news article preceding it which stated that attendance over all days (presumably) in the past ranged from 15,000 to 20,000 or comparable to today's Kent Island population. The events scheduled were similar to the previous two celebrations with the addition of a Mock Wedding ceremony which is essentially a scripted parody play. The very elaborate Kent Island community celebrations with wide appeal outside Kent Island held traditionally during July 4th week except for this one apparently ended in 1937. No news coverage could be found after this year. As stated above, these grand celebrations went back to at least until 1917 and likely had a longer history, but it seems ultimately they did not survive the Great Depression.

1936-1939- Another Kent Island celebration did continue until the end of the 1930s. This was the annual festival during Memorial Day week sponsored by the Kent Island Woman's Club which was held in Stevensville. The first one in 1936, which had little publicity, appears to have been limited to speeches but by 1938 and 1939 the festival had focused largely on the county school students. The events in those two years included athletic competitions, singing, dancing and musical talent contests, beauty contests, a maypole dance, quiz contest, operetta and fashion show. The 1938 and 1939 celebrations concluded with a dance at Stevensville High School.

Today's Kent Islanders enjoy many community celebrations and events throughout the year. The Kent Island Heritage Society as always encourages all to join us at our unique annual event in May to celebrate Kent Island's long history as Kent Island approaches the four century mark since the first adventurous settlers in the soon to be state of Maryland immigrated from across the ocean and called it home.

Opening Ceremonies and Parade at 10:15 a.m.

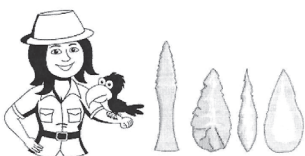


CELEBRATING THE FOUNDING
OF
KENT ISLAND



Kent Island Day

May 18, 2024



Come Join the Fun



Attention

*Commercial Groups, Artisans, and Non-Profits
For exhibitor forms to participate go to our website:
www.kentislandheritagesociety.org*



Most of our readers are familiar with the Cockey brothers, Frank and Jim. Their decoys are known far and wide and command high prices. The Kent Island Heritage Society was lucky enough to be gifted a couple of those by our past president, Hugo Gemgiani. But, did you know their father carved, also?

John Mordicai Cockey was the subject of a bio written by Ronnie Adams. Ronnie was raised in Maryland and has a Masters of City and Regional Planning and is a long time employee of the University of Maryland School of Medicine; an avid outdoorsman and a collector of Upper Bay decoys and researcher and biographical writer of Maryland historic waterman, gunners and decoy carvers. He posts the facebook page, Gunner's Art. He has kindly given us permission to reprint it here.

Top: John Mordicai Cockey
Bottom: Ronnie Adams

SEE NEXT PAGE



John Mordecai Cockey (1863-1927)

Kent Island, Maryland

Kent Island is the earliest colonized place in Maryland. In 1631 William Claiborne, the Virginia Colony's Secretary of State, established Fort Kent near the island's southern tip and built a palisade, a Clobber & Co. trading post, windmill, storehouse, housing and other assorted structures within and manned the fort. This was accomplished several years prior to Maryland being officially established and settled in 1634 by Lord Cecil Calvert.

The island's Cockey Family are not only familiar to Chesapeake Bay decoy collectors but this family is one of the island's earliest inhabitants. They arrived on Kent Island coming from Anne Arundel County in 1685 through British naval officer and family patriarch, Captain Edward Cockey. Notably he married President George Washington's maternal aunt. After her death he remarried to Rhonda Harris and purchased a large tract along the island's Cox Creek. Over the years adjacent lands were absorbed into their Cox Creek estate and a manor house was constructed on his grounds in 1722. That home remains today. The Cockey men were generational island farmers, entrepreneurs, builders, watermen and hunters.

A century later James Sudler Cockey was born on the estate at 1813 and went on to marry Emily Ann Hopkins. Their first child, James Edward Cockey, our subject's father, was born at the estate on March 22, 1838. By 1860 22 years old James Edward was living on his own adjacent farmland which in all probability was a portion of his father's land gifted to him. Around 1863 James married Frances Ann "Fannie" Downes and their first son, John Mordecai Cockey was born on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1863.

James Edward's father passed away in 1873 and he took over running the family estate. He was a busy planter during that time and raising a growing family of 5 children. He now owned both his primary residence and the historic Cockey ancestral homestead "Stinton Sudler" plantation (commonly known as Old Point Farm). Old Point manor house and it bordered the southern shore of Warehouse Creek continuing along the southern shore into Cox Creek. Today this land would be off of Batts Neck Road where Johnson Road, Batts Neck Plantation Lane, Stinton Road and Cornelius Point Road exist. James also owned another area plantation which consisted of two tracts of land called "Morgan's Enclosure" and "Isaacs Addition."

In the 1880s James and Fannie tended their plantations along with three live-in servants. When not at school John Mordecai and his siblings helped around the farm and during the colder months the boys hunted alongside their father. James market gunned around the property's Cox and Shipping Creeks as well as on Eastern Bay to make additional income.

In 1891 John Cockey married Margaret B. "Maggie" Ford and ran his own farm near his parent's plantation. He and Maggie would have 6 children but only 4 would survive beyond infancy. They were James Edward Jr., (named after his grandfather), Frank Bartlett, Thomas Baker and Margaret P. Cockey. Things were prosperous for John's family and they even enjoyed 3 servants on their plantation. Around 1895, advancing in age, John's father retired and moved to nearby Stevensville to live with his daughter Mary who taught at the town's high school.

John took over running the 170-acre Cockey ancestral Old Point Farm but also owned and operated the adjacent 270-acre M. T. Cockey Farm commonly known as Goose Hill Farm. Goose Hill was situated at the top of Shipping Creek and directly across Batts Neck Road from Old Point. John grew tomatoes, corn, potatoes and wheat and raised livestock including mules, horses, sheep, pigs, cattle and poultry.

In 1905 Maggie insisted their children shouldn't have to walk 3 miles to attend school in town so John built the family a home on Stevensville's Main Street but he still made daily horse and buggy trips to work his lands. Sometimes he used a Dearborn wagon when he needed to haul things but disliked this because he would have to remove the wheels every other day and grease the axles. In 1915 he purchased an automobile and that helped make these struggles much more bearable and it also made the family more mobile. John also operated a blacksmith shop in Stevensville until his death. When not in school the children helped on the farms and John's shop but also sought side work to make money for themselves.

In 1917 Kent Island came under an expropriation threat by the federal government to be converted into an army installation. John and his family traveled with other prominent island citizens to plead their case at Washington D.C. and the it was successfully saved. The government instead chose the Aberdeen/Edgewood areas in the Upper Chesapeake Bay.

Also, in 1917 son Frank married and pursued farming by renting the family's Goose Hill Farm from his parents while oldest son James learned auto mechanics and worked as a machinist in Stevensville until he enlisted in the army at the tail end of WWI and was stationed at Fort Meade. Jim returned to his parents and opened a mechanics shop behind the family's home where he repaired vehicles and built boats. About this same time John and Maggie adopted J. Ackerman Cockey into their family.

Both John and his father were avid waterfowl hunters for both the market and table. John kept and raised live birds as lures for waterfowl hunting and gunned using a 9-gauge 28 inch double barrel muzzle loading shotgun. The family hunted from blinds and a sink box. His sons James and Frank grew up hunting alongside him and their grandfather around the island. This included tending the decoy rig which was made up of not only birds John carved for them but those made by others around the area. They hunted for canvasbacks, bluebills, redheads, black ducks, and mallards at Old Point and Goose Hill Farms which was blessed with marshes, inlets and creeks. Additionally, they regularly gunned on Eastern Bay and off Bodkin, Philspot and Tilghman Islands. His sons James and Frank were known to occasionally travel in the early season up to the Susquehanna Flats where they sink box gunned during the early 1900s. John may have very well accompanied them on some of those early hunts.

When he was about 60 John retired but remained active. In the early 1920s he began suffering from Hodgkin's disease and became seriously ill in mid-June 1927. Family physician, Dr. Theodor Sattelmanier placed him in Easton Hospital for treatment where despite Dr. William Hammond's best attempts John passed away on June 23, 1927 at 63. His father James Edward Cockey died the following year at the age of 90.

John Mordecai was initially taught to make decoys in his youth for the family's rig alongside his father James Edward Cockey and Grandfather James Sudler Cockey who were both ardent gunners. John produced decoys from around the late 1870s until about 1920. He made decoys mostly for his family's use, but it appears he sold some to area gunners. He passed this heritage down to his sons Jim and Frank who in turn continued gunning and carving birds on their own up into the second half of the 20th Century.

John kept a large amount of lumber on his farms but used whatever suitable wood he could find including

Top: This 1936 photograph was taken by Annapolis photographer Edgar H. Pickering as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The original building is considered one of the oldest on Kent Island.

Bottom: The Cockey family home at Batts Neck has been known as Stinton and appears in the Of History and Houses which is available from KHS. The houses dates back to 1722, the date shown today on one of its end gables.



that from dilapidated structures, scrap and found along the shores and waters around the island. He is known to have produced canvasbacks, redheads, bluebills, Canada geese and swans but may have produced other species

including puddle ducks.

John's decoys are rarely seen and it doesn't appear many survived. They were hand chopped and usually carved from white pine. Their bodies are robust, chubby and well-rounded decoys with a broad, slightly pointy chest that exhibit a soft center-line chine made in the Talbot County, Maryland style. Unlike the decoys his sons later made, which usually exhibit a flat area on the belly for hardware attachment, John's birds tend to have rounded bottoms. Their tails either extended directly off the back of the decoy in paddle tail fashion or would be tapered down off the back. They have well sanded smooth finished surfaces with tails often squared off at the ends but may be also be pointed.

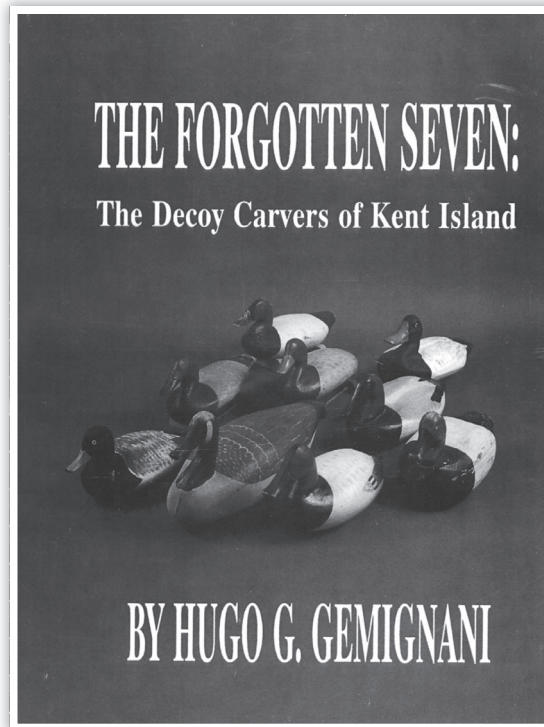
The heads were whittled from white pine and also reflect a strong Talbot County influence. They are skillfully carved and rounded with long swooping bills

which flow on plane down off the flat foreheads and often appear to be looking slightly down. The bills have no v notch or delineation and are void of nostrils or mandibles. Some necks are delicately scalloped out directly below the lower jaw areas imbuing them with a subtle cheeky jowl.

John often used a large four-sided, angular elliptical diamond like shaped poured lead ballast cast from a wooden mold and attached these with a nail at each end. He often used either an eye screw or leather thong for anchor line attachment. Hardware was often applied after painting.

His paint style utilized a basic, but appropriate technique using the specific specie patterns and colors and were often finished without applying any eyes.

John marked his personal rig decoys with the J. M. COCKEY brand. He is also known to have made some wing ducks of which some the family still possess. It doesn't appear he made any iron, decorative or miniature birds. ■



Decoys made by John Mordechi Cockey's sons Jim and Frank are included in The Forgotten Seven book which is available from KIHs.



KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Kent Island Heritage Society is offering a \$1000 one-year scholarship to a graduating senior from Kent Island High School who plans to attend college.

TO BE ELIGIBLE THE APPLICANT MUST:

- Have a 3.0 GPA or higher, and
- Have performed community service.

Please submit for review:

The application form a letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor accompanied by your high school transcript, and a one page essay on the importance of preserving the heritage of Kent Island (the first paragraph of which should contain a brief biographical sketch.)

Application Form

Complete the following and return it with the recommendation, transcript and essay.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Brief explanation of Community Service: _____

All applications must be postmarked no later than **APRIL 1st**. Send to:
The Kent Island Heritage Society Scholarship Committee
c/o Mrs. Nancy Cook
124 Bryce Road, Queenstown. MD 21658



Thank You Business Supporters

Chesapeake Light Tackle
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Kentmoor Restaurant
Lundberg Builders
Maryland CPR and Safety
Michael Rosendale Realty
The Grooming Place

Welcome New Members



*Please encourage your
friends and family to
join the Kent Island
Heritage Society.*



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.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life Membership | \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Membership | \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$25.00 |
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POSTCARD from Kent Island: Return of the Chesapeake Ferry to Kent Island?

From John L. Conley Collection

From the 1600s to the opening of the Bay Bridge in 1952, ferries were the primary means of moving people and vehicles between Kent Island and Annapolis. Memories of "days gone by" were stirred in January with the announcement of a Chesapeake Bay Passenger Ferry Feasibility Study Consortium. Of course, the key word is "Passenger." Queen Anne's County is one of five local jurisdictions to request "interested parties to submit bids for determining the financial and operational viability of providing passenger ferry service to connect service to key Maryland destinations along the Chesapeake Bay." The other members are Anne Arundel, Calvert, Somerset, and St. Mary's Counties.

The objective of the ferry service would be to give water access to tourists and promote economic opportunities in several Chesapeake Bay sites on both sides of the Bay. There would be several routes, including one that would travel a route including Baltimore, Rock Hall, Kent Narrows, St. Michaels, Matapeake and Annapolis. Other initial routes would go as far down the Bay as St. Mary's City and Crisfield. For more information on Queen Anne County's involvement in this proposal, contact htinelli@qac.org.

There are sometimes suggestions that vehicle ferry service such as on the *John W. Dennis* that visited Matapeake and Claiborne be brought back, but it is likely that many of those who waited in long lines like the one seen here on Kent Island in 1952 to reach the ferries mumbled, "I wish they would hurry and finish the damn bridge."

