



# Isle of Kent - 1631

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NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND  
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

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FALL, 1992

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*TO DISCOVER, IDENTIFY, RESTORE AND PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF KENT ISLAND*

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## Kent Island Archaeological Survey Update

By Darrin Lowery

The archaeological field survey of Kent Island concluded on June 16, 1992. As a result of the field survey, 46 tilled fields on Kent Island were examined. A detailed description of each field was kept so that future researchers would know which tilled fields on the Island were checked for archaeological sites. When the field survey was finished, an additional 45 archaeological sites were recorded with the Maryland Historical Trust.

From June 17 to July 30, the information recorded as a result of the Kent Island survey was compiled and documented. The site data forms for each site were completed. Slides taken during the survey were duplicated and descriptions of each slide were completed. Approximately 43 figures, tables, and appendixes were compiled for the survey manuscript. A survey report or manuscript was completed which describes the prehistory and history of Kent Island, settlement trends on the island for the past 10,000 years, and suggestions for future work. In total, approximately 2,000 pages of written information document the results of the Kent Island survey. Three copies of the Kent Island survey report were made. Each of the funding groups will receive a copy, i.e. Kent Island Heritage Society, Maryland Historical Trust, and University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research.

The manuscript is presently being reviewed by Dr. Jay F. Custer of the University of Delaware. When the review has been completed and corrections made, each supporting group will receive a copy of the final report.

In a meeting on July 28, 1992 at the Maryland Historical Trust, suggestions were made for future research on the Island when the Heritage Society receives the grant money from the State of Maryland. The meeting was attended by Darrin Lowery, Paul Wilderson, Orlando Ridout and Maureen Kavanaugh. Orlando indicated that the contract between the Kent Island Heritage Society and the Maryland Historical Trust had been received and that the first check for \$6,000 should be processed soon. Orlando also indicated that because the field survey had been completed, the Heritage Society could bill the Historical Trust an additional \$4000 for the second grant disbursement. When the survey report has been reviewed and the Historical Trust has received their copy of the report, the third and final disbursement of \$1000 would be made.

All who attended the meeting agreed that the State money should be used to perform test excavations at 10 to 15 of the best prehistoric and historic sites found on the Island. The test excavations would provide more detailed information about each of these sites. Additional survey work did not seem feasible because of the present foliage cover which could easily hide archaeological sites in tilled fields. It was planned that the second phase of the Kent Island survey begin in early October 92 and be



concluded sometime in February 93. The results of the second phase would also be documented in a report and provide an excellent supplement to the survey report.

An archaeological survey of Kent Island would have been impossible without the help of many people. I would like to thank all the members of the Kent Island Heritage Society for their hospitality. Their society's interest in their native island goes beyond recognition and each member deserves a special thanks. I would like to thank Paul Wilderson, who was project coordinator for the society, for his help and assistance throughout the duration of the project. Audrey Hawkins, president of the Society, is graciously thanked for her assistance. I would also like to thank Mordy Gibson, Mary White and Bill Denny for traveling to Tilghman Island on a rainy Saturday morning to discuss the Heritage Society's interest in an archaeological survey. Bill Denny deserves a special thanks. Without his help, the Kent Island survey would not have been very successful. Mr. Denny's knowledge of the landowners of Kent Island was a valuable reference and he provided information necessary to get access to many large tracts of land.

Without the help of Dr. Jay Custer of the University of Delaware, the Kent Island Survey would not have started on time. He provided the necessary grant money to match the Kent Island Heritage Society's funds so that the survey could begin at the optimum time of the year. His suggestions and assistance are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Orlando Ridout and Maureen Kavanaugh of the Maryland Historical Trust for their help. Orlando's vast knowledge of Kent Island's history and land records contributed much to the historic aspects of the report. Maureen's help on the site data forms made it possible for me to keep up with my research.

Lastly and most importantly, I would like to thank all the landowners and collectors who allowed me access to their property and/or artifact collections. Without their help the Kent Island Archaeological Survey would not have been possible. A special thanks to my friend Norman Brady for contributing his time during the shoreline and field surveys. The hospitality of Betty Smith should be recognized. I would like to thank her for making me lunch while I was recording her husband's (Melvin Smith) vast and well documented collection.

To all the people of Kent Island, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to work in an area rich with history with an equally rich heritage. It was truly a memorable experience.

## President's Message

By Audrey Hawkins

In our Summer 1992 newsletter, I wrote about some very nice and informative articles written about KIHS in the "Kent Islanders" magazine and "The Island Life" magazine. Again, I would like the members to be aware of the articles written in the "Island Life" magazine August/September 1992 issue covering the dedication of the Stevensville Train Station. In the "Kent Islander" magazine, late summer issue, there was also an article about the official Stevensville Train Station opening. Many thanks to the publishers Cheryl Walters and Lisa A. Duke. In addition, the "Annapolitan Magazine", published 10 times a year by Annapolitan, Inc., 413 Fourth Street, Annapolis, MD 21403, published an article entitled "A Smile at The Door" by Ann Jensen in the July 1992 issue. This article is about Kent Islanders and The Kent Island Heritage Society. Several members are mentioned. We thank the "Annapolitan Magazine" very much for their interest and support.

After five years of a labor of love, our original Stevensville Train Depot was officially opened on Saturday, June 20, 1992. A record crowd of more than 100 people attended the opening ceremony. Dr. Harry Rhodes presided and Gil Dunn officially opened the depot. Refreshments were served and many pictures were taken. The very next day Gil was busy making plans to restore the old "meathouse" (smokehouse). There is no end to his energy and dedication! Thanks Gil!!!!!! I might add that he is well underway as of this writing.

The first stage of the Archaeological Survey Project of Kent Island has been completed as of this month as you are well aware of by reading Darrin Lowery's report. In June of this year, we signed the contract presented by the State of Maryland Historic Trust for a grant award of \$11,000. As of this date we have just received the initial \$6000 of the grant award money.

Our next big event this year is our "Kent Island Days" celebration with an 18th Century



Weekend and Craft Show, Saturday, October 17th and Sunday, October 18th - 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The event will be held in Historic Stevensville on the grounds of the Cray House and in a large tent and in various stores in Stevensville to create a community and town affair. Food, drink, and entertainment, no admission fee. **PLAN TO ATTEND!! YOU WILL HAVE FUNNNN!!**

We need crafters. If interested, please contact Myrtle Bruscup at 1-410-643-5596. Table fee is \$30.00 for a 10' X 8' space for both days in the tent.

### September Meeting At Kent Island Library

Our quarterly meeting will be held at the Kent Island Library on Thursday, September 10, 1992 at 7:30 P.M. Our speaker will be Charles D. Melson, Director of the new Queen Anne's County museum to be built. Plan to attend, hope to see you.

### KENT ISLAND DAYS CELEBRATION WITH AN 18TH CENTURY WEEKEND, OCTOBER 17TH & 18TH

We are planning to have a weekend designated to the 18th century, a living history weekend. People will pitch tents and live on the Cray House grounds in historic Stevensville in the manner they did in the 18th century. They will cook, eat and live as they did in those times. There will be wandering minstrels, blacksmiths, gun demonstrations, story telling, wool spinning, and 18th century displays that will add the flavor of the past to the celebration. Thus far we have committed to us the South River Suttlers; Speedy Hogarth, Longhunter; John Douglas Hall, Musician; Sarah Lewis, Midwife; Spike Stoner, Blacksmith; and more. Festivities will be from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. You will see at the Festival demonstrations of wood carving, candle dipping, basket weaving, quilting, chair caning, outside screen painting, beaten biscuits and more.

There will be a museum of Kent Island memorabilia such as old bible records, school records, burial permits and old ferries. There will be arts and crafts exhibits and a bake sale. Kent Island Heritage Society T-shirts, sweat shirts, mugs, caps and visors will be on sale.

Archaeologist Darrin Lowery, a recent graduate of the University of Delaware, will be on hand to show the preliminary results of the Kent Island Shoreline Survey and to display some of the artifacts he discovered.

### ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD AND DRINK. NO ADMISSION FEE

Take a stroll around the Historic Town of Stevensville, north on Route # 18. The entire town has been placed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The old Cray House and the original train depot of the Queen Anne's Railroad located on Cockey's Lane will be open. No admission fee.

### Nominations

#### Nominating Committee for 1993 Officers and Directors

Eva Chance Thompson, Chair Person  
June Palmer  
Dana Lee Thompson

#### 1993 Officers Slate

President	Charles S. Koegel
Vice President	Lorraine Gardner Aaron
Recording Secretary	Carolyn Stevens Koegel
Corresponding Secretary	Eileen Dadds
Treasurer	Lois Cockey

#### 1993 Board Of Directors Slate

William E. Denny III	1991 - 1993
Richard Dadds	1991 - 1993
William T. Goodhand	1991 - 1993
Emma Thomas	1992 - 1994
Audrey B. Hawkins	1993 - 1995

Note: Due to the resignation of John Fountain Davidson, Director; Audrey Bruscup Hawkins has consented to serve as a Director.