



Courthouse Tavern Museum

Tales from the Tavern

For Friends of the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum and Members of the King and Queen County Historical Society

Fall 2016

Events

The Historical Society and Courthouse Tavern Museum hosted its annual King & Queen County School Board dinner on Sept. 15th and the Board of Supervisors dinner on Oct. 11th.

The Third Quarter Historical Society Meeting was held jointly with the King William County and West Point Historical Societies at Old St. John's Church in King William County on October 16th. Dr. Robert Teagle, Director of Education and Curator of historic Christ Church in Irvington, Virginia, gave an informative talk on the "Church and State in Colonial and Revolutionary Virginia."

On October 19, Historical Society President Dr. A. W. Lewis and 17 members of the Lewis family dropped by after visiting the Lewis Cemetery that is being restored by the Historical Society in the lower end of the county.

On October 25, Ellen White arranged a lunch and tour at the Museum for twenty members of her bridge groups.

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 Contributors: Nancy Herman-Thompson, Jack Spain
 Editor: Biddie Shelor

Save the Date – Dec 4 - for the Festive Annual Open House

Visit the Courthouse Tavern Museum on December 4th from 2-4 pm for an afternoon of fun and cheer. There will be something for everyone: holiday music performed by county elementary and high school students; shopping opportunities with multiple vendors; children's activities – cart rides, hand puppets, and face painting; exhibits of toys, handmade quilts, and a holiday train set; mouth-watering food; and Santa on his sleigh.

After December 4th the Museum will close for the winter.

2016 COURTHOUSE TAVERN MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 4, 2016 2-4pm

Bring Family and Friends. Enjoy Delicious Food, Good Cheer, Children's Fun, Gift Selections and Holiday Music.

**146 Court House Landing Road,
King and Queen Court House, Virginia 23085**

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www.kingandqueenmuseum.com

Featuring Volunteer Roberta Jones

By Nancy Herman-Thompson

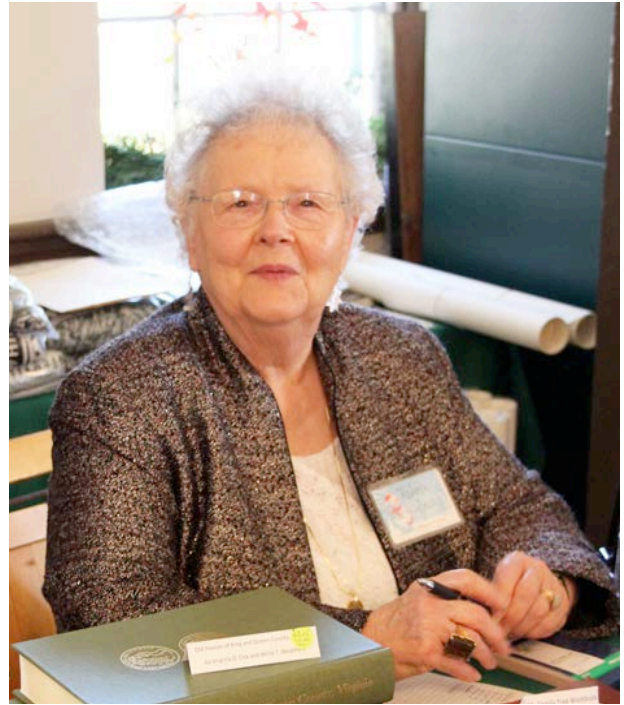
As the old adage goes..."If you want something done, ask a busy person!" applies to Roberta Jones, Docent Coordinator and Museum Council member. As Docent Coordinator, she is essential to keeping the Museum doors open by growing the docent volunteer group, scheduling and managing the monthly assignments, and following up with any needed training. Without a leader like Roberta, we would not be able to staff the required volunteer slots. She carefully matches volunteers so everyone will have a pleasant experience. This is a time-consuming position for Roberta, requiring numerous phone calls monthly, but one of the most important tasks at the Museum.

Besides her duties with the Museum, Roberta is active in the King & Queen Women's Club, having served as President (twice) and Trustee. Her acclaimed 'Cow Patty Bingo' has helped raise over \$20,000 for the Club. She also serves as Secretary of the King & Queen Republican Party and is a member of Mattaponi Crime Solvers, and the King & Queen Historical Society. Additionally, she is a Trustee and Chairman of the Yard & Cemetery Fund for the Mattaponi Baptist Church where she has attended since her youth.

Roberta and husband Shirley Jones live in a log house near St. Stephens. Between them they have five children, ten grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. They enjoy their collection of livestock and pets, even having a peacock named Lucy. Shirley, a retired building contractor, helps with many Museum events and this spring was called upon to entertain 50 ladies from Williamsburg while their tour bus was stuck in the mud during their stop at Mattaponi Baptist Church!

A life-long King & Queen resident, Roberta is from Cumnor, the daughter of Edna and George Robert (Bob) Clegg. Her sister Ellen Garnett lives in the area. Her Dad ran the country store in Cumnor from 1941 – 1970 and was also the postmaster. The store (still by the side of Rt. 14) carried everything from feed and hay, to flour, sugar, bread, gloves and socks. It had a meat counter and refrigeration. Roberta can remember as a child seeing ration stamps being used at the store and a time period when stockings were not available during WWII, a big concern of local women.

Roberta graduated Pleasant Hill High School where she was the captain of the girls basketball team (the team photo is at the Museum –



Roberta Jones

she is the girl with the basketball in the middle of the first row!) and a cheerleader for the football team. She was awarded a DuPont college scholarship and attended Longwood College in Business Administration. Anxious to go to work, she quickly found a job in Richmond and spent the first few years of her professional career in statistical work for a life insurance company and accounting for a general contractor, learning all financial aspects of a small business.

She then landed a job with Reynolds Metals in downtown Richmond as a statistical clerk and soon progressed to an executive assistant in the Credit Department where her leadership skills flourished for ten years. These were the days when women had to dress for work in suits, heels, stockings, makeup and absolutely no pantsuits. And Reynolds employment policies for women included a ban on women who had children under the age of six years old, and termination after the fourth month of pregnancy. Roberta had an exciting job helping to plan and orchestrate conferences/conventions, accompanying her boss while working to set up the event. She became president of the national credit women's group that helped to advance working women within the department. Ever the accomplished event planner, Roberta's skills learned at this job have served her well.

She was then hired as a District Sales Manager for a Fortune 500 company. From an office in Mechanicsville, she supervised 360-400 employees in 12 counties. As an Avon Products, Inc. executive, she

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Roberta Jones cont'd

won several sales awards and honors including being in the top 10% of nationwide sales five times. Her business trips included Hong Kong, main land China, Paris, Monte Carlo, the Bahama's, and Hawaii. Her 21 year success with Avon was due to her enthusiasm for the product, and the hustle and encouragement she gave her representatives. As she says, "you sell your passion." Her skills in sales are again used at the Museum and Women's Club - who can say no to Roberta?

After a long professional career in business, Roberta has enjoyed her retirement through quilting, painting classes, a reading group, and staying active in her church and community organizations, and keeping up with the combined large family she has with her husband Shirley.

Roberta is well known as an excellent cook and hostess. Her signature dishes are coconut pie, coconut cake and the King & Queen pound cake! Yum. If you want to tease Roberta, suggest we use 'store bought' desserts at a Museum function.

Did you know Roberta Jones was the first King & Queen County Tobaccoland Princess? The next time you see Roberta, please tell her thank you for her continued hard work to make the Museum a success!

Then and Now – Celebrating Tobacco

As we know from history, Virginia tobacco was very profitable throughout various periods. Although varieties differed, tobacco has been grown in nearly every Virginia county. Do you know someone who can start tiny tobacco seeds in a special seedbed, pick off tobacco worms, grade leaves, or tie a "hand" of tobacco for packing at auction time? These were common skills for King & Queen tobacco farmers. Tobacco was the mainstay of Richmond area industry during the 20th century until societal health issues were taken very seriously late in the century. Beginning in the late 1940's and continuing for about 40 years, tobacco was celebrated in Richmond each fall with the Tobacco Festival; a week of events that included a fashion show, tours of tobacco companies, luncheons, a parade, a football game between college teams, and a grand ball. Areas that grew tobacco in Virginia and other states were invited to send a candidate for queen of the festival. In 1956 the King & Queen County Junior Women's Club announced that the county was eligible to enter a princess since sun-cured tobacco used in the manufacture of chewing tobacco was grown in the western end of the county. Twenty-five candidates

competed and four finalists were named: Roberta Clegg of Cumnor, Gwynn Barefoot of Bruington, Carolyn Bradley of Mattaponi and Frances Turpin of Newtown. Our own Roberta Jones (Roberta Clegg) was crowned as King and Queen County's first Tobaccoland Princess at the county Ruritan picnic in August 1956. When interviewed about how she felt during the announcement, she said it made her "feel wonderful", although she promptly went home with the flu. Roberta also noted that the Woman's Club had given her a white formal dress and long white gloves for the Tobacco Festival events. Today few "King & Queen'ners" have ever walked in a tobacco field or even seen the crop harvested.



K&Q Tobaccoland Princess Roberta Clegg



Runners-up Francis Turpin and Gwynn Barefoot

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Visitors Come Long Distances

Contributed by Jack Spain

The Museum is way “off the beaten path”, but the visitors that come, some from very long distances, are often amazed at what they find and leave more informed. Many visitors bring family and friends to visit places in the county that they knew long ago. A visitor who once lived in Walkerton and at “Bewdley” came from Wyoming to revisit those places and see the “new” Museum. Many more visitors are searching for their roots and trying to solve associated mysteries. They want to find connections with people and places. Some are just filling in the details, such as birth, death, marriage dates. Others are seeking a gravesite or pictures. There are many examples. A visitor brought her sister from Wisconsin to do research on the Hart family. An assistant professor from George Washington University sought information about Col. Thomas Haynes of Bruington and found a picture of him, his wife, and son in the archives. A researcher from Maryland was excited when she found the 3’x 2’ genealogy chart of the Price Family which has wonderful detailed images and a plat on it. Several Virginia residents were looking for a gravesite:

one for Roy Harris, a Native American, and another for the graveyard of the Crump family of Scottsville. A descendent of Humphrey Hill of “Hillsborough” who is researching his Baylor ancestors lives in Colorado and has visited the Museum multiple times. Although the Museum does not do formal research, many of the long-time volunteers and docents are well informed about certain areas of the county and families, often providing insights that point the way to an answer or a connection. The docents also learn a great deal from visitors.



From Price Family
Chart

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