

Tales from the Tavern

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

Annual Report for Year 2013



Courthouse Tavern Museum

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WHAT'S NEW

Museum Management Changes

In second quarter 2013, after the tireless, innovative leadership of Jack Spain during start-up and 12 years of operation, management of the Museum transferred to the very capable hands of Ellen White, one of the charter members of the Museum management team. Ellen brought with her immense knowledge of the Museum operations, the volunteers supporting it, and the desire to see the Museum stay viable for many years to come.

Website

The Museum launched a new website to substantially improve promotion of the Courthouse Tavern Museum for public education, research and enjoyment. Using images, the website presents an overview of the Museum's 11 (permanent and changing) exhibits and also informative online exhibits.

An improved search capability is available to access the Museum Library list, the Archives list, the Historical Society Bulletin index and DVD collections index. Recent Museum news, newsletters and press releases are available. Online tools assist with memberships, donations and volunteer support for the Museum and the King and Queen Historical Society. Planning a visit is easy with the website information, including a link to Google Maps for directions and a street or satellite view of the location. Social Media is being used and the website is linked to the Courthouse Tavern Museum on Facebook. The Museum Gift Shop offers books, maps of King and Queen County, Historical Society Bulletins for sale online. The Museum Council thanks Jen Shelor of Shelor Interactive LLC, and the website committee Virginia (Biddie) Shelor, Chair; Jack Spain; Susan Richardson; Page McLemore; and Sylvia Hutt for their time and effort in making this project a success. Visit the website at www.kingandqueenmuseum.com

Internet Service:

With a technical assistance grant from the DuPont Foundation internet service has been changed from HughesNet to KQVA.Net for much improved internet service.

STUDENTS & TEACHERS VISIT

Second Grade Students

In April 59 second grade students from Lawson-Marriott Elementary school visited the Museum under the leadership of teacher Nita Randall. Docents were there to point out county history artifacts of interest to students of that age. The School House and Carriage House were hits. The Museum encourages more visits from the county schools.

RCC Tour – King and Queen Day

In August Rappahannock Community College Professional Development Program sponsored a History Tour designated, "King and Queen County Day." Nine teachers from several schools in four counties - Essex, Matthews, New Kent and King George - visited the Museum and Newington Plantation where they were treated to lunch and given a tour by owner Frank Hurst. Mr. Hurst presented the varied history of Newington, including its most famous resident, Carter Braxton, one of the signers of the "Declaration of Independence." The group ended the tour at the J. C. Graves Museum in Walkerton that offers visitors information, pictures and artifacts about local African-American history.



Carriage House



Eastern View School House

Tales from the Tavern

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Visitors

On August 17 the Museum welcomed 20 bikers participating in a history tour sponsored by the owners of CycleEvents.com to thank the riders for their contributions in raising funds for various charities. After a warm welcome and a brief history of the Museum, they toured the Museum and were interviewed by Florence Cook, a reporter with the *Country Courier* newspaper.

On October 18 The Ford Colony Solitaires, a group of 18 individuals who meet each month to visit historic sites, lunched at the Museum and then toured both the Museum and the Courthouse Green Historic District.

On October 30 Mark Walker, Knowledge Management Technology Officer with the DuPont Foundation, and his associate visited the Museum and discussed with us opportunities available through the foundation.

Gatherings with County Officials and Educators

On August 19th the School Board hosted a luncheon at the Museum for the new King and Queen County teachers to introduce them to the Museum. The annual supper hosted by the Museum for the King and Queen School Board Members and for the Board of Supervisors were held respectively on October 16th and November 12th.

Christmas Celebration

On Sunday, December 1st the annual Christmas Open House was held at the Museum. There was Santa (Wallace Mahanes) on his sleigh.



Christian Heirs Quartet

Cart rides for children were provided by Brownie Bevan and his miniature horse. Donuts and popcorn balls were cooked over an open fire by Nancy Herman-Thompson and Susan Spain. Music was provided by the Christian Heirs Quartet and special guest General Robert E. Lee (Mark FaVazza) strolled the Courthouse Green Historic District and spoke with visitors. Biddie Shelor's train traveled through her wonderful Christmas Village.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

50th Anniversary Edition of *Green Mount*

On November 3, 2013 Ms. Tere Pistole reviewed the recently published 50th Anniversary edition of the book, *Green Mount: "A Virginia Plantation Family During the Civil War"*, a compilation of the journal of Benjamin Robert Fleet and letters of his family. The original book, edited by Betsy Fleet and John D. P. Fuller, was printed in 1962. The new edition expands the book using extensive research by Ms. Pistole, including added text from Benny Fleet's diary, additional photographs of people and places in the book, a period map, and more details surrounding Benny's death. Mysteries left unsolved in the original were answered; for example, where Bennie Fleet's body was found and what became of the wounded young man with him. Copies of *Green Mount* are on sale in the Museum's Gift Shop, online and at the Museum.

Publication of King and Queen Marriage Records

The Museum purchased a two volume set of marriage records titled *King and Queen County Virginia Marriage Records* published by Wesley E. Pippenger and Suzanne P. Derieux of Tappahannock. The records date from 1853 to 1886. The set contains 1,941 marriage records including names of parents, ministers, places of marriages, names of homes where marriages took place, churches and also can be cross referenced to families.

ACCESSIONS

Again this year we have received several interesting books, documents, papers and artifacts relating to King and Queen County that are on display, in the Library, or stored in the Archives. The Hutchinson family donated a collection of papers and maps prepared by Mrs. Elizabeth Henley Hutchinson that describe some of the Colonial Homes, their locations and former or current owners. Also added to our collection are three diaries of Dr. Bernard Humphrey Walker of King and Queen dated 1902-1905, 1908-1909, and 1911-1913, donated by his great-granddaughter Ms. Susan Walker Kukor. In addition, a three book series titled *The Walkers of King and Queen County* was donated by Carol Lowry and Virginia Shelor. Frank and Barbara Hurst donated a new sign for the Museum that matches the new signs in the Courthouse Green Historic District. Susan Richardson donated shelves for the Library room that greatly increased the Museum storage space. Other accessions included 19th Century hair combs (gutta percha and tortoise shell), a framed 1917 diploma from the public school at Biscoe, and ox yokes from Eastern View Farm.



New Museum sign donated by Frank and Barbara Hurst.

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VOLUNTEERS

2013 Museum Schedule

The Museum opened for the year in late February on Fridays and Saturdays, and from March until December 19th every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, except Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. Hours were 10-4 on Fridays and Saturdays and 1-5 on Sundays. The same schedule will be maintained in 2014. The Museum can be opened for special requests and events.

Hours Contributed

Since there is no paid staff, volunteers continue to be the backbone of the operation. Conservatively, in 2013, volunteers devoted over 3300 hours to the Museum. Led by Ellen White and Sally Walker, 41 docents kept the Museum open regular hours for 136 days for a total of 1334 hours. They also staffed all programs, dinners, and receptions, including the quarterly King & Queen Historical Society Meetings. The remaining hours were spent on Council and Accession meetings, projects (such as the new web site) and, by appointment, openings for out-of-town guests. Page McLemore has done yeoman service in adding new accessions, keeping the computer system operational, and educating others in its use. Ellen White has been instrumental in instructing new docents on an individual basis.

BE A VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed as docents to welcome visitors, show the Museum and explain the exhibits; and to participate in projects. This is a wonderful way to meet and work with interesting people and expand your knowledge of King & Queen County. More importantly, you will help to keep this "gem" of a Museum open to the public. Contact us using the information on the back of the newsletter.

FINANCES

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund set up by the Historical Society to support the operations of the Museum is held at Morgan Stanley and supervised by Howard Walker, Chairman, and Frank Hurst and Biddie Shelor, trustees. At year-end 2013, the assets totaled \$130,944.86. Gifts to the Endowment Fund may be sent to the Historical Society, marked Endowment Fund, at the address on this newsletter.

Operations The Museum adopted an operating budget for the eleventh full year and operated within it, as set forth below. Although the County pays for building maintenance, power, and water, it has been found that phone, internet, programs, and other expenses add up. Through very conservative management, expenses totaled \$2,576,90. The \$7,773.35 revenue from admissions charges, the 30% of Historical Society membership dues, Museum sales and donations from members covered these expenses. The admission fee for the Museum was increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00 to begin in 2014. The group fee of \$50.00 remains the same and there is no charge to Historical Society Members.

Patrons of the Museum

Also, in 2013 a special request for donations was made to members of the Historical Society to increase our operating funds. Those who donated were designated a Patron of the Museum, with recognition in the Museum's Annual Report. We received donations totaling \$4,360.25 from 44 donors as listed below:

Mrs. Richard P. Babyak
Mr. Richard O. Baldwin
Mrs. John L. Ball
Dr. Robley D. Bates
Mr. & Mrs. R. Tyler Bland
Col. and Mrs. George M. Brooke III
Mrs. Cornelia M. Cockrell
T. Abigail Collins
Catherine Mooklar Courtney

Mr. Gregory Sutton Ewell
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Gresham
Mr. Robert P. Hart Jr.
Eric C. & Lyndall Bagby Helpers
Robert and Jane Henderson
Dr. Russell G. Henley
Rev. F. D. Holmes Jr.
Anne Jackson & Lloyd C. Huckstep
Frank and Barbara Hurst
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Mr. and Mrs. Walker Lea III
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Miss Marian T. Minor
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Mrs. Glennis Newhauser
Stephen M. & Karol H. Norman
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Mr. & Mrs. Selden Richardson
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Mr. John Ryland Rose
Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Rowland
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Sica
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Sims
Wesley E. Smith
Mr. Robert M. Smith III
Robert & Susan Snead
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Spain, Jr.
Mrs. Gordon Wallace
Barbara J. Walton
Keith and Tom Wylie

*Respectfully submitted by the
Museum Council:*

Ellen T. White, Chair, Rev. Robert Brown, Abigail Collins, Beth Hayes, Susan Richardson, Betty Gwathmey, Nancy Hazzard, Nancy Herman-Thompson, Rev. Fred Holmes, Jr, Sylvia Hutt, Roberta Jones, Gwynn Litchfield, Page McLemore, Biddie Shelor, Nannie Taylor, Anne Ryland, Linda Barnes, Mirian Minor, Sally Walker, Sue Walter, Frank Hurst, Jack Spain

Welcome to the *Tales from the Tavern*, a communication to bring news to you as a friend of the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum and the King and Queen Historical Society. This newsletter is being dedicated to the “2013 Year in Review”.

Upcoming Event
Christmas Open House
At the Courthouse Tavern Museum
Sunday, December 7, 2014 2-4pm
Bring Family and Friends. Enjoy Delicious
Food, Good Cheer, Children’s Fun, Gift
Selections, and Christmas Music.

Physical Address:
146 Court House Landing Road
King and Queen Court House, Virginia
23085
GPS: 37.669034,-76.877976

Mailing Address:
The Courthouse Tavern Museum and the
King & Queen Historical Society:
PO Box 129
King and Queen C.H., VA 23085-0129

Website:
www.kingandqueenmuseum.com

Facebook:
facebook.com/KingQueenCountyCourthouseTavernMuseum

Phone: (804) 785-9558 with voice mail

Help us provide better, less expensive and more immediate communications by sharing your email address. Newsletters by email and online are in color.

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