



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

Summer 2015

Featuring the King & Queen County Historical Society

The citizens of King and Queen County can thank the King & Queen County Historical Society (HS) for preserving its history. For over 60 years it has collected artifacts and books specific to the County covering many eras, communities, and families. They now number over 4500, and are available to the public. The HS has published books and a map. It collected and preserved land tax records thought to have been lost in the fire that leveled the Court House during the Civil War, bound them, and placed them in the existing Clerk's office. To display and make the artifacts and books more easily accessible, the HS created the Tavern Museum and has operated it for 15 years.

New Board of Directors Elected

At its April meeting the Historical Society elected a new Board of Directors that will serve for two years, August 2015-July 2017. They are:
President: Dr. A. W. Lewis
Vice President: John Spain
Recording Sec: Biddie Shelor
Corresponding Sec: Page McLemore
Treasurer: Pat McLemore
Museum Council Chair: Nancy Herman-Thompson
Membership Chair: Betty Gwathmey
Immed. Past Pres: Pete Glubiak
Director: E. Brownie Bevan
Director: Nora A. Walker
Director: Anne M. Ryland
Director: Frank Hurst
Director: Ellen White
Director: Richard Rumrill

Quarterly Meetings

Be sure to take the Sunday afternoon drive four times a year to the King & Queen County Historical Society Meeting. These meetings are held the fourth Sunday in January, April, July and October. Society members receive invitations and the public is also invited via announcements in local papers. After a short business meeting, there is always an interesting and informative program followed by refreshments. At the April meeting Dr. Gerald Johnson, Professor Emeritus of Geology, College of William and Mary, transported the audience back millions of years and described how the land of King and Queen County and its environs was physically formed, noting the evidence found in the remains of animals that lived here, the topology, and the matter in the soil. He shared artifacts such as skeletal and plant fossils and invited attendees to take home an example from a selection of ancient seashells. The audience, including many children, enjoyed the information, hands-on displays and enthusiasm that Dr. Johnson brought to his presentation. In July Beverly A. (Bly) Straube, PhD, FDS, a historical archaeologist in the tidewater region for close to 40 years, conveyed how the dots are connected between the artifacts coming out of the ground with other artifacts to tell a story. For example, the fort at Jamestown was originally thought to be under-

Cont'd page 2

Inside this issue:

FEATURING THE KING & QUEEN CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETYPage 1

New Board of Directors

Quarterly Meetings

70th ANNIVERSARY OF END OF WWII.....Page 2

2014 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS.....Page 2

THEN AND NOW-WISH YOU WERE HERE!.....Page 3

TAYLOR AND MADISON DESCENDANTS VISIT..... Page 3

Editor: Biddie Shelor



The Historical Society has 347 members from 31 states plus Washington, DC.

Tales from the Tavern

www.kingandqueenmuseum.com

Quarterly Meetings Cont'd

water; however, a document found in Spain actually showed an image of the fort and proved that most of the fort was still on land. The fort perimeter and several million artifacts were found. Using DNA testing, a young woman's skeleton from the period of the "starving time", the winter of the 1609-10, and believed to be cannibalized, was connected to a name on the lists of women who had come to the colony. Much has been learned about the relationship between the early settlers and the Indians from the artifacts found in the ground and the records that have survived. The site of the first church at Jamestown and three associated graves has been found. This may be the location of the marriage between Pocahontas and John Rolfe. And one of the graves has revealed a connection with the Catholic Church that was previously unknown. She left the audience with something to consider when viewing artifacts: what story do they really tell?

The next HS meeting is on Sunday, October 25 at 3pm on the Mattaponi River at Whitehall in Walkerton, VA. The program is "Who Speaks For The River." Save the date and come join us!



WWII Artifacts shared by William Gwathmey and John Jones. Photo by Alice Sheley



Past President Pete Glubiak and new President Dr. A. W. Lewis with seated WWII veterans William Gwathmey and John Jones. Photo by Alice Sheley

70th Anniversary of the End of WWII

At the July Historical Society Meeting Nancy Herman-Thompson presented to the audience the resolution that the Historical Society was jointly making with the King and Queen County Board of Supervisors honoring all King and Queen citizens that served in uniform in WWII and those who supported them on the Home Front. She led the audience in thanking the World War II veterans present, William Gwathmey and John Jones, for their service. William provided some of his memories of the home front. He remembered that on a visit home he first realized how the home front was affected when he talked to a man on the side of the road looking for a missing truck tire. He said that it was still a perfectly good tire as it had only been patched 4 times. Frank Hurst provided a summary of his trip to the World War II European battlefields and cemeteries with his aged father. John and William shared artifacts at the reception afterwards.

Over 530 men and women served from King and Queen County. A plaque at the entrance of the Circuit Court building lists the 20 men who lost their lives. The County Board of Supervisors approved the resolution at their August meeting, honoring those living veterans still residing in the County.

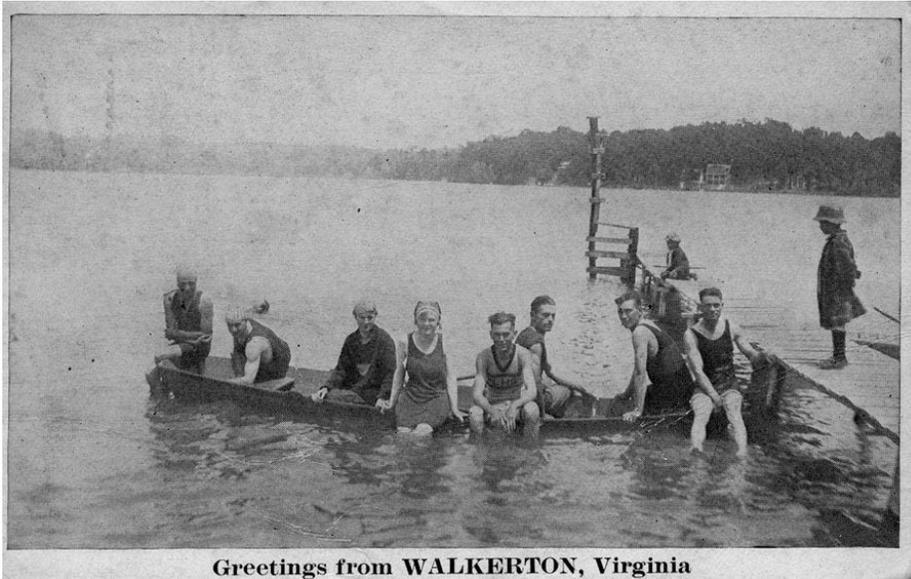
Courthouse Tavern Museum 2014 Annual Report Highlights

The 2014 Annual Report for the Museum is now available. Please contact the Museum if you would like a copy. Some of the highlights are: The Museum was managed and operated on an all-volunteer basis with 34 volunteers contributing a total of 2369 hours. Most of these were docent hours to support the 3 days a week the Museum is open from the end of February to mid-December. 290 visitors came to the Museum to tour, experience the special events, or research family and places. There were also 2729 virtual visitors via the Courthouse Tavern Museum website. 81% were new visitors and were from all over the United States. Examples of group visits and events include: the Northern Neck Antique Car Club visit to the Museum in 50 antique cars numbering 122 visitors from various states, as far away as Michigan, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Alabama, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The Middle
Cont'd page 3



Tales from the Tavern

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Greetings from WALKERTON, Virginia

Then and Now – Wish You Were Here!

In today's world of instant communications with most everyone "attached" to some sort of device, the lowly postcard is seldom used. Years ago the postcard was the means of saying "Wish You Were Here!" regardless of whether you were in some far exotic location or just 50 miles away. Localities used them to promote their communities. One of the first things you did when you reached your destination was find a postcard and send it to your friends and family, even if you would only be gone a short time, in order for it to reach them before you returned. Today with smart phones and social media available, sending images and messages takes minutes rather than days. The community of Walkerton had postcards produced even though the images did not always reflect those of the immediate area. Above is one of those postcards sent by Emily Moore to her friends, Misses Herndon in Ashland, Virginia in August 1928. Is it a picture taken near Walkerton and do you recognized any of the people?

Taylor and Madison Descendants Visit

The Museum welcomes groups and, with planning, can accommodate them at special times. Ten descendants of the Taylor and Madison families who resided in King and Queen County in the late 1600s and early 1700s visited the Museum this summer. They traveled from California, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Virginia, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Australia. Of particular interest to the group was the exhibit of the 1715 Sundial from the Upper Church of St. Stephens's Parish, locally called Apple Tree Church. It was originally given to the Anglican Church by Colonel James Taylor, and restored in 2011 through a joint effort of the Tavern Museum, Immanuel Episcopal Church, and Steve Taylor. Nancy Herman-Thompson distributed copies of a modern map with James Taylor patents of 1686 and 1689 superimposed. They also viewed the plaque memorializing several prominent members of the Taylor family, including Presidents James Madison and Zachary Taylor, that hangs on the wall of the Circuit Court.

Courthouse Tavern Museum 2014 Annual Report Highlights Cont'd

Peninsula African-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Virginia (MPAAGHS) held its October meeting at the Courthouse Tavern Museum. The visit provided the attendees an opportunity to explore the many Museum resources. The Museum is a partner with the County promoting education and hosted its annual lunch/dinners respectively for new teachers, the School Board, and the Board of Supervisors. The Tavern Museum Council hosted a trip for patrons and volunteers to Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News, Virginia. Sunday, December 7 the Courthouse Tavern Museum held its annual Christmas Open House and invited Historical Society members and the public. This well attended event was a wonderful start to the holidays! The Museum stayed within its operating budget and finished the year with net income of \$5694.63. This included donations from 37 contributors, 28 of which were over \$50.

Do You Recognize These Men? Follow-up

The identity of the veterans in front of the Confederate monument in the Spring 2015 Newsletter still remains a mystery. The two responses provided identities for the same man. More to come.

Welcome to Tales from the Tavern, a communication to friends of the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum and members of the King and Queen Historical Society.

Archives Building Repairs Underway

Much needed repairs are being made to the Tavern Museum Archives Building, once the old Clerk's Office. These will upgrade the facility and provide additional exhibit space. Stay tuned for more information in future newsletters.

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