



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

Winter 2016

2015 Museum Open House

On Sunday, December 6th, the King and Queen Historical Society Courthouse Tavern Museum held its annual open house on a glorious sunny day. In cooperation with the King and Queen School System a music program conducted by Mr. David Fielding, the elementary schools music director, was the highlight of the event with approximately 24 sixth and seventh grade students from both Marriott-Lawson and King & Queen Elementary Schools participating. The King and Queen Ruritan Club and the Tavern Museum Council treated the crowd to delicious refreshments. The visitors toured the Museum and enjoyed the special exhibits created for the event: a train and Christmas village, toys from long ago, and quilts handmade by local residents. Brownie and Chris Bevan's miniature horse, JJ, pulled cart rides for the children. Vendors provided a variety of selections for Christmas shopping. Santa was also available to hear Christmas wishes. Holiday music played by Mr. Fielding echoed throughout the venue. The well-attended event was a wonderful prelude to the holiday season with the cheerful voices of the young and old heard everywhere. *Images provided by Alice Sheley. Visit our website to see more.*

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Editor: Biddie Shelor



Historical Society President Dr. A. W. Lewis presented the King and Queen elementary schools music director, Mr. David Fielding, a \$150 check for the school system's music program.



Museum Opens for 2016

The Courthouse Tavern Museum opened on Saturday, March 5 for the 2016 season. As a reminder the Museum is open each Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm and from 1pm to 5pm on Sunday through early December. The Museum is closed on Easter, Mother's Day, and Father's Day. Please plan a visit this year.

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www.kingandqueenmuseum.com

Up The County-Down The County Favor Store

In our very long and skinny county, the residents often are not familiar with the very small rural communities that make up the whole. Specifically before the mid-Twentieth Century the focal point of each of these was the local store(s) and post office. Favor Store described below by Gwynn Barefoot Raper Litchfield gives a glimpse of rural life long ago.

In the late 19th Century into the early 20th century it was not unusual to find a country store filled with general merchandise and owned by individual families. Favor Store in central King and Queen County was located at the crossroads of what is now The Trail (Rt. 14) and Powcan Road (Rt. 620). The store was owned and operated by W. T. Barefoot and Son. The original road ran directly in front of the store. This building, approximately 2000 square feet, contained the necessary items for the neighborhood. Ten account books have survived, dating from 1913 to 1924. Within these old records, or primary sources, are the names of county folks who purchased various items. Most neighbors purchased goods by credit and paid bills by cutting cordwood and railroad ties. W.T. Barefoot (1851-1931) and son John (1875-1954) operated the general store while W.T.'s wife, Susan Anna Griggs Barefoot (1850-1918), was the postmistress. She was granted this position in 1891 - unusual for a woman at that time. At first, the mail was distributed from the Barefoot home nearby and then from the back of the store. Several inventory books reveal the number of goods stocked within this general store. There were 67 pages, each with 30 lines, listing items that stocked the building. The store sold everything: farm tools, horse collars, buggy whips, buckets, oils, clothing, shoes, hats, corsets, medicines, louse killer, fly paper, fabrics, tobacco, sugar, flour, meats, and fish. Cont'd on page 3.



Martie Taylor (Mrs. Ben P. Owen) and Henry Taylor, Jr. sledding in the 1940s at Walkerton behind the Taylor & Caldwell Cannery.

Then and Now – Snow Days

Regardless of the year, snow days are often magical and not just for children. Schools and some businesses are suddenly closed – an unexpected “play” day. The deep fluffy January snow of 2016 reminded me of sledding in the 1950s and 1960s. Behind where the Favor Store once stood was a cow pasture that was a favorite sledding spot. The hill had a deep gradual slope. Each ride was long, unless you crashed because there were too many riders on the sled or you were laughing so hard you fell off. For the fearless there was an obstacle – going under a large tree propped up by two branches. The walk back to the top took a while. However, at the top parents provided hot chocolate and sweet treats. We did a lot of sledding at night. A bonfire was lit at the top of the sledding hill and the only other light was from the stars and moon. Many used the sleds that their parents had used or metal trash can tops as saucers. Inflated tractor tire inner tubes provided a wild ride. Clothes were layered, but layered meant multiple pairs of jeans, socks, and wool or flannel shirts under a wool jacket worn with rubber boots, nothing like the light high tech winter gear currently available. By the end of the night we were wet, frozen and exhausted, but very happy. The experience is probably the same today for young people after they have spent an unexpected “play” day in the snow.

W. T. Barefoot & Son,

**DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, GROCERIES. AND
EVERY THING KEPT IN A FIRST
CLASS GENERAL STORE.**

Favor, : Virginia.

**Courteous treatment of our patrons
Full measure and weight
The right price
Our Motto**

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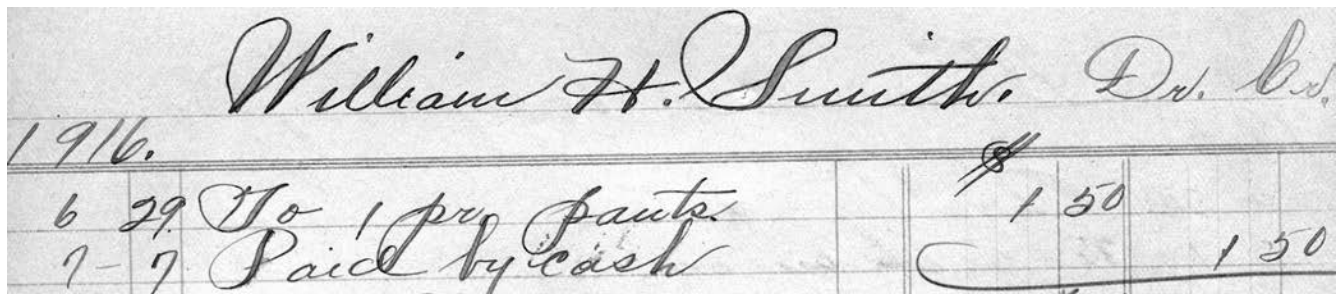
Favor Store - cont'd

After automobiles were introduced, gas was sold from 50 gal. drums, pumped into 10 qt. buckets and poured into automobile tanks by funnel. Also found within these primary sources were the places from which merchandise for the store was ordered: Wilcox Hardware & Iron Co., Baltimore; Confectioners in Norfolk; farm and lumber wagons from Sam Bland in West Point; Harrellson Grocers & Tobacco, Richmond; Peerless Watch Co., Chicago; Arbuckle roasted coffee, N.Y.; Lewis Baer Hide & Fur Co., Baltimore; and Jacob Haas-Ladies, Misses', Children's Trimmed Hats, St. Louis, Mo. Most goods were shipped by steamboat up the Mattaponi and unloaded at the Walkerton dock, seven miles away. There was little cash in those days. Some goods were "paid by work" and some by exchanging eggs and hay. Cut wood was the most common method of paying for items charged in the account books. Lumber was the most abundant product of the county. W.T. Barefoot and Son also operated a sawmill. Wood was shipped from the Walkerton dock to distant locations as far as Long Island Wood Co. Brooklyn, New York, and to local companies such as B. W. Edwards, Henrico Lumber Co. The account books list approximately 150 names. Entered at the top page in Susan Anna's fine handwriting are the patrons names. Most family names are still prevalent in the county: Jones, Pollard, Banks, Gwathmey, Draine, Dorsey, Griggs, Baytops, Roots, Henley, Ryland, Holmes, Coleman, Croxton, Smith. Filling the page under each name is a list of goods purchased and how they were paid. Penciled notes written on small pieces of paper were left in the books: "I will pay you soon", or "charge to my account". Many notes request the Barefoot's give "Dick \$3.00 for cutting wood". One note asks that shoes be given to "Johnny so that he might go to Sunday School." Another note states "send me too (2) of those little pack of flour and too (2) plugs of Apple Suncured tobacco & 4 lbs sugar" (paid by horse, \$100.00). A note on a previous receipt says, "Pay for the sugar and sauspan out of the eggs". In 1916 Dixie Hill School on Duck Pond Road

bought 1 stove (\$2), a window paine (14 cents), and a bucket (18 cents). Neighbors would meet at Favor Store to purchase goods, to transact other business, and to socialize. Within these country stores little attention was made to class or race. By researching details discovered within these old ledgers - the laptops of that time - we are able to gather information on a remarkable time period in King and Queen County. *View some of these Account Books at the Museum.*

Featuring *The Bulletins*

For 60 years the King and Queen County Historical Society has produced two *Bulletins* a year. The first was published in July 1956 with the following statement from the editorial committee: "*The Bulletin* of the King and Queen Historical Society makes its modest bow to the public with contributions from some of Virginia's distinguished historians who are interested in the success of our Society. (Samuel M. Bemiss, David J. Mays, William J. Van Schreeven, Dr. John Garland Pollard, and Dr. Malcolm H. Harris). Subsequent issues which we propose to publish semi-annually will contain items of local historical significance. Our hope is that *The Bulletin* will foster a wider interest in King and Queen history in the minds and hearts of all our members wherever they may be." Anyone interested in King and Queen County life - the residents, their homes, communities and churches - during the various historical eras can find informative descriptions, personal anecdotes, and first hand records. Copies of *The Bulletins* and their indices' are available at the Museum. As a complement to the Favor Store article, the reader may find the following articles of interest: "Reminiscences of J. T. Barefoot"- *Bulletin* 76, January 1994 by his son, Berkley Barefoot, and daughter, Gwynn Barefoot Raper Litchfield, and "The Southern Country Store" - *Bulletin* 74, January 1993 by Anne M. Ryland.



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.

King and Queen Historical Society Meeting

The January meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm. The 2016 Second Quarter Meeting will be Sunday, April 26 at 3pm. A more detailed notice will be communicated in early April. The newly renovated Archives Building will be open for a visit. Please plan to attend.

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www.kingandqueenmuseum.com

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facebook.com/KingQueenCountyCourthouseTavernMuseum

Phone: (804) 785-9558 with voice mail

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