

# 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 2018



### Inside this issue:

October King & Queen Historical Society Meeting. Research with a positive outcome. The new teachers luncheon. A visit by Zion Baptist Church members and one member's story. Remembering the WWI & WWII fallen. Recent Accessions.

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### 2018 Save the Date:

The King & Queen County Historical Society will hold its fall meeting on Sunday, October 28 at 3:00 p.m. at historic Aspen Grove, the home of Hunter and Stacy Richardson. Absalom Bland, Mr. Richardson's great-great-great grandfather built the house. The Richardson's will speak about its history, its furnishings, and recent renovations. A tour of the house will be part of the program. This charming house is located at Shacklefords in the lower end of the county and was last open to the Historical Society for a meeting in July 1984. Directions are in the meeting announcement postcard.



Aspen Grove

### Museum Hosts New Teachers

On Tuesday, August 21 the Museum held its annual luncheon for new King and Queen County teachers and their mentors. On behalf of the Museum Council educator Linda Barnes welcomed the 30 attendees and noted how the Museum can supplement their classes. She wished them a successful year of teaching and learning, and provided them with a "Teachers First Aid Kit." The items included were Candy (peppermint because you are worth 'a mint' to us and strawberry



"You are worth a mint"

because we are so 'berry' happy you are here), a Band-aid to cover the 'wounds' of the day, a Marble so you will never lose your last one, a Straw so you will always have a spare, a Rubber Band so you can always keep yourself together, a Paper Clip to use if the rubber band breaks, and a Dime so you will have money until payday.

### A Positive Outcome for a Visitor & the Museum

by Page McLemore

The Museum recently had a moment of serendipity that connected a filing job in the archives with a visitor from New York. An undocumented pamphlet entitled "Exhibit K&Q County" had recently been found in a folder of similar material, but the pamphlet itself had never found its way into the inventory list. There was no date or author indicated within the printed booklet, but there were several interesting

ads in the back, including one for Aberdeen Academy, so it was thought that an approximate date could be estimated. Another item on the back page was a notice that H. R. Pollard was selling his farm. Mr. Pollard's "Memoir" is in the Museum library. A quick read there indicated that he was born at Spring Farm near Stevensville, built a home at Edgewood, then moved his family to Richmond in 1889. The next question was who wrote the pamphlet? B.H. Walker's "Homeseeker" pamphlet, written in 1906, used some of the same introductory language but was essentially different.

At that point the Museum phone rang. A person researching records next door in the King & Queen County Clerk's Office wanted to schedule a visit to review a few files in our archives. She was looking for slave ancestors named Holmes, Jeffries, and Gresham at Spring Farm. She particularly wanted to find the Holmes connection. According to the Pollard memoir, the surnames my visitor was looking for were all brides of older Pollards, including Hoomes, the old spelling for Holmes. Together we read Mrs. Hutchinson's descriptions of Bel Air, Spring Farm and Edgewood (all Pollard places), and then pulled the *History of Mattaponi Church* which contains membership lists indexed by name, including Jeffries, Gresham and Pollard. Our visitor found the names of her slave ancestors listed there, but without surnames, for instance "Martha (belonging to Thos Jeffries)". What made all the difference for her search was that she already knew many names. While our visitor was looking in the church history, I thumbed through Rev. Alfred Bagby's *History of King & Queen* to see if he had anything to add and found that the text of

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**A HIGHLY IMPROVED FARM  
FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.**

Desiring to remove to the City of Richmond, Va., to prosecute my profession, the law, I will sell my farm lying in

**KING AND QUEEN COUNTY, VA., NEAR STEVENSVILLE,**

**Containing 125 Acres.**

On it is a new dwelling with ten rooms, besides servant's rooms and kitchen, barn, stables, hay and carriage houses. Enclosures good, water pure and abundant, and sufficient timber land. Convenient to churches, stores, schools, mills and steamboat navigation.

**PRICE.**

Four thousand dollars on very liberal terms, or will exchange for city property. Will also sell very cheap in a lump, stock of horses, mules, oxen, cows, sheep, hogs and farm implements. Address

**H. R. POLLARD,  
Stevensville, Va.**

1888 Pollard Advertisement

the Exhibit pamphlet was contained in Chapter III, which Rev. Bagby prefaced by saying he had written the text in 1888 to accompany an exhibit of county resources at that year's State Fair.

My visitor and I were both very pleased with the morning's results.

Zion Baptist Church Members

## Zion Baptist Church Congregation Visits

by Page McLemore

On Sunday, August 26 after morning fellowship at Zion Baptist Church near King & Queen Court House over 36 members of the congregation led by Pastor Edgar T. Rawles, Minister Vera Ship, Minister Kimberly Holmes, Minister Trey Rawles, and Minister Jerone Davis toured the Museum and its campus. Church members Abigail Collins, a charter member of the Museum Council, and Clerk of the Court Vanessa Porter, a long-time Museum supporter, assisted with the event. The visitors found many exhibits of interest including the facade of the old Stevensville Post Office which some of them remembered, the military artifacts of family members, and pictures of schools and students. The children were excited about the fossil exhibit and the schoolhouse.

Alice Harris of King & Queen Court House, and a member of the Zion congregation, mentioned that she had a newspaper photograph of her mother pointing to Alice's older brother Lenwood's name on a plaque somewhere at the Court House. Moments later she stood in front of the plaque touching her brother's name. Lenwood Harris, son of Henry and Fannie Harris, was a casualty of World War II and was "killed instantly by an enemy shell" on board a ship in the Western Pacific in June 1945 at the age of 19. Alice generously offered to share digital scans with the Historical Society of her mother's archive containing a photograph and correspondence connected to Lenwood's service. A photograph of his medals was also included: The Purple Heart, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, World War II Victory



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Lenwood Harris

Medal, President's Unit Citation Ribbon and Combat Action Ribbon. A letter of condolence written June 22, 1945 by a shipmate describes the entire ship's fondness for Lenwood, "the first Negro ever to be stationed aboard this particular ship. He had a beautiful singing voice and the crew of this little ship would always gather around him to hear his original style which was unrivaled by anyone aboard. A few weeks later the crew knew him well by his first and his last name. They knew and felt that he was almost as essential to this ship and its crew as its engine, so the crew held a little meeting, took up a collection, and to Lenwood's complete surprise they bought and presented him a guitar."

Lenwood's letters home are particularly precious to Alice,

who was a toddler when her brother died. He asks "What is little Alice doing? I bet she can walk..." One postcard he sent while in training camp is printed with his Thanksgiving dinner menu. Several years after Lenwood's death the Harris family home in King & Queen burned with everything inside it except Mrs. Harris' bag of important papers, which included the letters from Lenwood. Sadly, his medals burned with the house, but Mrs. Harris obtained replacements from the Department of the Navy in 2007.

## WWI & WWII Fallen Remembered

The plaque that was of interest to Alice Harris is a memorial to county men who lost their lives in World War I and World War II. In 1966 when the Historical Society received the Albert B. Corey Award from the American Association for State and Local History for being the most outstanding local historical society in the U.S. and Canada, the members voted to use the \$200 for a bronze plaque to honor the WWI and WWII dead. None were lost in the Korean War. On Sunday, October 22, 1972 at a ceremony conducted by the HS this plaque, located on the exterior wall to the right of the front door of the Circuit Court Building, was unveiled by gold star mothers Mrs. H. C. Vaughan, mother of Herbert Clyde Vaughan, Jr., and by Mrs. Henry Clay Harris, mother of Lenwood Harris. It was accepted by Mr. Carey C. Hall, Clerk of the Court. There were approximately 200 in attendance. Forty were family members of the fallen. The names of the 15 World War I dead and 20 World War II dead were read:

World War I - Bernard Diggs Allen, Walter S. Aumack, Willie Braxton, Eddie Brown, Reginald S. Clark, Andrew Elliott, Rawley Fleet, James H. Garnett, William L. Hall,



Memorial Plaque

# *Tales from the Tavern*

Alfred H. Howard, William Loving, Jesse Ruffin, William R. Seward, Willie Turner and William R. Walton.

World War II - Clayton S. Anderson, Clyde Thomas Atkins, Ernest Green Baytops, Oscar Benjamin Brooks, Walter L. Brooks, James J. Brown, Ivan Clark, Jr., James Garnett Crouch, Franklin Elvin Gibson, Lenwood Harris, Maurice Blake Haynes, William L. Milby, William E. Redmond, George I. Reid, Raleigh Ambrose Rowe, Arthur Randolph Simpkins, Richard Thomas Stone, Herbert Clyde Vaughan, Jr., Hurley L. Walton, and John Alexander Wilson. One name is missing from the plaque: Turner M. Overton was missing in action in the Philippines in World War II. This poem was also read:

*The muffled drums sad roll has beat  
the soldier's last tattoo.  
No more on life's parade shall meet the  
Brave and fallen few.  
On fame's eternal camping ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And Glory guards with solemn round  
The bivouac of the dead.*

King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Accessions**

During July and August, the King & Queen County Historical Society Accessions Committee approved the following items. A framed copy of the original King & Queen Ruritan Club charter, #50 created in 1938, that records the names and occupations of the 27 charter members was accepted. This gift inspired a review of the many HS artifacts related to the Ruritan Club. A few items have been selected to be framed and displayed together with the charter, including a photograph of the membership in the mid-1940's.

Of special interest to genealogy researchers, photocopies and transcriptions of Bible records have been added for the following: Bray family, 19th century - includes Faulconer, Jones, Tribble, Waring; Edward Wright, 19th century - includes Haile, Motley, Matthews; Samuel Parker, 18th, 19th, 20th centuries - includes Gresham, Gouldman, Dunn; John Parker, 19th and 20th centuries - includes Burnett, Broaddus, Nance, Tuck, Burke, Powers, Carlton, Andrews, Wilson; William Parker, 19th and 20th centuries - includes Bentley, Gouldman, John G. Bentley list of servants, 1857-1863; Fogg, 19th and 20th centuries - includes Haile, Scott; Motley and Hutchinson (Edward L. line), 19th and early 20th centuries; and genealogy records associated with Streshley Ball and his son James Ball (1839-1864), living in King & Queen in the mid-1800's.

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