



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 2019

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Save the Date:

2020 Historical Society Meeting Dates

January 27, April 26, July 26 and October 25

2020 Museum Special Events

In 2020 the Museum will be 20 years old. To celebrate, special events and new exhibits are being planned and will be announced in the next issue. We are excited about this achievement and hope you will attend the festivities.

Flannagan Article Continued

The previous issue noted that John Bowles Flannagan was buried at Popoporone Church at Centerville, VA, now Shackelfords. He gave the land on which the current church building now stands. Mr. Flannagan was a cabinet maker and wheelwright whose shop was located on the highway "back of Popoporone". He had one son, Willie R. Flannagan who became a minister after attending Richmond College and Crozier Seminary. He preached the sermon at Popoporone Church's 100th anniversary.

Central High School Work Experience Program

Contributor: Nancy Herman-Thompson

Three seniors from King & Queen Central High School participated in a work experience program at the Museum from October thru December created by Principal Preston L. McKeller, Jr. Kristie Shepard, School Counselor, and students Nikita Jones, interested in psychology, Antonio Carter interested in research and development of new information technology products, and Kuayne Wise, interested in electrical engineering. The students were introduced to the Museum campus and the type of jobs available in a museum or living history setting. They were provided a "reality view" of project management and active team participation. Inventorying the artifacts in an exhibit gave them an appreciation for the detail of a project and provided assistance to the Museum. They also worked with Museum volunteers to decorate and set up for the December Holiday Open House.

October Historical Society Meeting

The October 27 Historical Society meeting was to be held at historic Norwood. However, the weather did not cooperate and the meeting was instead held at historic Bruington Church. The newly approved Bruington Historic District was the program topic. Dr. A. W. Lewis began with an overview of the district and then introduced each historic property, including homes and churches. The owner or representative of each provided a description of the property and what it was like to live in such a rural community which had changed little for over a hundred and fifty years. The audience left with a true sense of community.

Virginia Women In History Exhibit



Dr. Lomax shows Miss Hamilton's picture

The King & Queen and King William branches of the Pamunkey Regional Library sponsored a November 4-December 7 exhibition of *Virginia Women In History* from the Library of Virginia. The Museum assisted with publicity. This program celebrated women's accomplishments in all walks of life, honoring women who effected meaningful changes in their communities, state, and nation that continue to affect our lives today. Miss India Hamilton, raised in the Ino community of King & Queen County and an influential educator in King William County during the first half of the twentieth century, was one of eight women celebrated. King William native and educator Dr. Alvin Lomax spoke at the exhibit opening. As a young man he knew Miss Hamilton and related her humble beginnings, her drive to receive a college degree, and her significant contributions to the development of strong communities throughout her life. Hamilton-Holmes School in King William bears her name. Some of her relatives traveled a long distance to attend the event. The Courthouse Tavern Museum and the King & Queen County Historical Society were instrumental in the inscription of Miss Hamilton's name on the Women's Monument being erected in Capital Square in Richmond.

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VSU Honors Rev. Robert D. Brown

On Nov. 9 members of the Virginia State University Middle Peninsula Alumni Chapter honored Rev. Robert D. Brown, pastor of New Mount Zion Baptist Church in Walkerton and St. Paul Baptist Church in King William. Rev. Brown has been a long-time member of the Museum Council and a strong supporter of his community and VSU. When you next see him, thank him for his many contributions.



Rev. Robert Brown at New Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Dinner with the King & Queen County Board of Supervisors

On December 9, the Museum held its annual dinner for the King & Queen County Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator. This was an opportunity for the Museum to provide an overview of its activities for the year and to thank the attendees for their support. K&Q recipes were used in preparing the delicious meal.

2019 Museum Holiday Open House

Images by Jen Shelor

On December 8, approximately 140 people came out to enjoy the Courthouse Tavern Museum annual Holiday Open House for the public. Mother Nature created a wonderful day. Students from all three King & Queen schools sang carols under the direction of Mr. Jamie Lantz. Central High School students with Ms. Stephanie Randall kicked off the music program followed by students from King & Queen Elementary and Lawson-Marriott Elementary schools with reading specialist Ms. Karen Mumaw. A Christmas carol “sing-along” concluded the program. The “Shark” (the Fossil Man in disguise) “swam” to the *Santa Shark* song and provided visitors an

opportunity to dig for shark teeth. Attendees 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 pulled cart rides. Vendors and the Museum gift shop provided a variety of items for Christmas shopping. The Upper King & Queen Ruritan Club, the Central High School Parent Tiger Community Fellowship, and the Museum Council supplied a delicious selection of refreshments. Children decorated gingerbread cookies and wrote Christmas cards with quill pens. Santa visited with the children throughout the event. What a wonderful start to the holiday season!



K&Q School Students Sing Carols



The Shark Swims to *Santa Shark* song

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Santa Listens To Wishes



Digging for Shark Teeth



Decorating Gingerbread Cookies

Following the Fossil Man

By Newell Randall

In October Newell Randall brought the "Fossil Man" presentation to 160 sixth grade students in King William County - all in one day along the banks of the Mattaponi River!

A Holiday Story From The Early 20th Century

Caroline Jones, one of the Museum founders, talked about "Dining Days" during the holidays. Company came to her home Canterbury for festive visits and meals managed by her mother between Christmas and the first of January,

filling her home - some folks from far away staying many days. A chapter titled "Dining Days" in *A Patchwork Quilt* by Louise Eubank Gray about life in King & Queen County between 1910-1920 paints a picture of what Caroline meant. The excerpts below give you a glimpse of the rural celebration of the holidays in a period before the time saving and communicating devices of today. However, as you will see, there are also many similarities to today.

"It was a time of relaxation from farm work, except for the necessary care of the stock for the men, and it was marked by a succession of dining days. At Christmas time the emphasis was on food, food, and more food. Families entertained each other, vying for a day "when you can come to our house.".....The planning began days ahead at our home. The big turkey strutting about the barnyard was earmarked as the Christmas turkey; the two-year old ham hanging in the smokehouse had already been designated as the Christmas ham.....Many items could be made far in advance. The Christmas fruit cake was made before Thanksgiving.....A pound cake, made two weeks before the date, kept very well in a lard tin on the back porch. Molasses and sugar candy could be made early, and, of course, pickles and preserves had been sitting on the pantry shelf since summer....

"A day or so before Christmas, my father and I would search out a thick bushy cedar along the fence rows, cut it and bring it home to decorate. Our ornaments were carefully saved from year to year; we used tinsel too, but of course, no lights.....I always hung up my stocking (really one of Daddy's socks which would hold more) on Christmas Eve and would find it filled to overflowing next morning, and there were other gifts beneath the Christmas tree as well. My presents were usually practical; I loved clothes, so a new dress delighted me. However, I had plenty of dolls, books, and games.....but they were never wrapped in gorgeous paper tied with enormous bows as they are today....Gifts were often handmade...Our customary breakfast on Christmas morning was crackling bread and stewed oysters.....

"As soon as we could we would be on our way (in the wagon), with hot bricks at our feet and wrapped in blankets against the cold, for Aunt Byrd's, the first of the succession of dining days. There would be a large crowd.....the mingling of four families, at least. The custom was for the men and older boys to go hunting after the crowd had assembled. They straggled off to the woods with two or three dogs in search of any game they might find. The women gathered in the kitchen and dining room offering to help with the preparations, but some, finding themselves in the way, would congregate in the parlor. The girls and younger children would find an empty bedroom and begin a fascinating conversation about what we had received for Christmas. The time passed quickly, and soon we would hear a yelping of dogs and see the men returning, guns on their arms, and maybe a squirrel or a rabbit to show for their trouble. The hunt had not been a serious search for game, but a way of passing

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the time and working up an appetite to do justice to the over-abundance of food prepared for them...(Seating) priority was determined by age. The older generation went to the table to sample the delectable array of food first. The second sitting would be made up of the next generation, the young married couples, who relaxed with their dignified elders out of the way. There would be joking, teasing and great fellowship among this group. A dish-washing operation would start as soon as they left the table to have plates and cutlery for the crowd of hungry children still waiting. When all had been fed, the food removed, the dishes washed and put away, it would be time for the sweet course. The sumptuous pies, cakes, jelly, and custard would be brought out, and the three groups served in rotation as before. The process took up the whole day....It was a mammoth undertaking to host a dining day, but the housewives looked forward with eagerness to this opportunity to entertain, to show off their cooking and to reciprocate for similar days which they had enjoyed elsewhere. As the winter day waned, horses would be hitched to the various vehicles for the return drive home. We often arrived after dark because we lived the farthest away. Uncomplaining, my father would change his clothes, light the lantern, get his milk buckets and go to the barn to do chores. There was no leaving things off to be done the next day. A farmer

had to practice discipline on many occasions. The next morning would see us off in another direction..."

A Patchwork Quilt may be purchased at the Museum or on the Museum website kingandqueenmuseum.org.

A King & Queen Recipe for the Holidays

The Potato Chip Cookie recipe below is from Mrs. Sally Walker, a long time member of the Museum Council, now retired, and is often made for Museum and Historical Society meetings.

Ingredients:

4 sticks butter, softened (not melted)

1/8 tsp. salt

1 1/2 c. sugar

1 1/2 c. crushed salted potato chips

1 tsp. vanilla

1 c. chopped pecans

3 c. flour

Method:

Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla; beat. Add flour and salt gradually; mix. Put potato chips in plastic bag and crush using a rolling pin. Add crushed potato chips and nuts to flour/butter. Fold in. Drop by teaspoon onto ungreased cookie sheet. With spoon or small glass dipped in water, flatten cookie. Bake 15 minutes at 325 degrees. Makes 5 dozen.

Note: Dough may be rolled into 2 logs, wrapped in wax paper or plastic wrap, chilled in the refrigerator and sliced into 1/4" cookies before baking.

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