



Tales from the Tavern

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

Spring 2019

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Contributors: Page McLemore, Cynthia Carter, Bidy Walker
Editor: Biddie Shelor

(804) 785-9558
www.kingandqueenmuseum.org

Recent School Activities

Spring continues to be the time of year when the Museum is most active with student visits and school events. On April 8, sponsored by the Museum, Carol Lowry made a presentation on the Civil War to approximately twenty 4th and 5th grade students at Aylett Country Day School (ACDS). This interactive presentation engaged students in understanding how national, state, and local events affected those living in the county.



ACDS students churn butter.



Newell Randall reviews SOL topics

Save the Date:

Sunday, July 28 at 3:00p.m.

By Cynthia Carter

The King & Queen County Historical Society will meet on Sunday, July 28 at 3:00 p.m. at the New Court House Building, King and Queen Court House, VA. Open to the public, the program will be on the history and mission of the King and Queen Fish Hatchery in Stevensville. Marcia Davis, Fish Culturist at the Fish Hatchery, will discuss the operations of this facility managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Charles G. McDaniel will speak about the origins of the Fish Hatchery and the Vaughan family of Society Hill in Stevensville who coordinated with the State in 1930 to establish this facility.

Help Plan Our 20th Birthday Celebration

In 2020 the Museum turns 20! If you have ideas on how to celebrate this amazing achievement, please contact the Museum via email history@kingandqueenmuseum.org, regular mail - P.O. Box 129, King and Queen C.H., VA 23085, or website www.kingandqueenmuseum.org.

For the first time the Museum participated in the Three Rivers Soil & Water Conservation District Standards of Learning (SOL) Review held on April 12 at King & Queen Elementary School and on April 26 at Lawson-Marriott Elementary School. Newell Randall used his marine fossil exhibit to emphasize aspects of the SOL for grades 3 through 7, addressing approximately 220 students.

On April 25 forty-five ACDS students, grades 1-3, visited the Museum for interactive learning about long ago, day-to-day activities: the schoolroom, the post office in a store,

laundry, food preservation, creating material from fibers to make clothes and linens, fossils, and outdoor games. This year new activities were added: churning butter and pressing it into a mold, more outdoor games such as marbles and "Red Rover", manually stamping envelopes at the post office, and making ice cream. Afterwards they ate a picnic lunch on the grounds. On May 15, the Museum Council held its annual dinner for the King & Queen County School Board and staff, and the Superintendent of Schools, to update them on the contributions that the Museum can continue to make in support of the schools.

Other Activities

For about 2 hours on April 15 seventeen visitors from Covenant Woods in Mechanicsville toured the Museum campus and the old Circuit Court, and afterwards enjoyed a picnic lunch. The Museum arranged a tour of historic Mattaponi Baptist Church (an Anglican Church before the American Revolution) for the group on their way home. The visitors commented on the variety of Museum artifacts, and how well they had been preserved and exhibited.

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Many residents of King & Queen County are not aware that the Courthouse Tavern Museum exists. To publicize the Museum, members of the Council speak to civic groups. On May 7 Council Chair Nancy Herman-Thompson spoke to the King & Queen County Republican Party about the Museum. Please contact the Museum, if your group is interested in a presentation.

Historical Society Awards Scholarships

by Bidy Walker

The King & Queen County Historical Society annually offers a \$2000 scholarship to each of two new graduates of King & Queen Central High School for the first year in a college, university, or technical school. The 2019 recipients are Mr. Harry Holmes and Ms. Destinee Brooks.



Destinee Brooks



Harry Holmes

Accessions

by Page McLemore

The King & Queen County Historical Society, through the Courthouse Tavern Museum, is dedicated to saving those items that express the stories and culture of the county and its people, and gladly accepts letters, genealogical information, and other memorabilia celebrating that heritage. There would be no Tavern Museum and no Archives without those donated objects and papers which make up the resources available to any visitor whether in person or via the website. Several interesting items were recently added and we encourage our friends, new and old, to look for them, and enjoy their story.

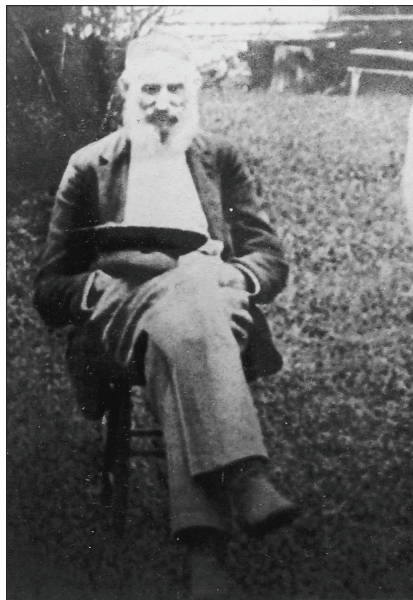


John & William Smithers - 1915

A cradle belonging to the Smithers family from Dragonville is now displayed on the 3rd floor in the Twentieth Century Bedroom. Matsie Catherine Walden of Sunnyside Farm married John Morgan Smithers and raised three children: Mary Sue, John Morgan, Jr., and William. This story accompanies the cradle: "When William was a baby, about 1913, the family's home caught fire and was destroyed. In an attempt to get the children to safety, their father tossed the cradle, with William in it, out the window." The cradle shows some fire damage, but all survived the fire. A photograph of John and William is displayed on the dresser in the bedroom.

In the Museum office hangs a painting of Corbin's Mill by Mora W. Pierce Green which stood at one time on Corbin Mill Pond near The Trail. An insurance policy held by Richard Corbin indicates that it was built as early as 1805. Ms. Green is a descendant of carpenters Saul and Samuel Regensburg who worked on constructing and later repairing the mill. In the late 1700s Saul came to this country from Germany as one of a crew who worked for Frank and Tom Corbin. He changed his last name from Rossingburg to Regensburg and later settled in

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Samuel Regensburg

Richmond. After the Civil War, his son Samuel repaired the mill, perhaps damaged in the war as many mills were. The Regensburg family lived on the farm of William Atkins during the time Samuel re-built the mill. While living in the county, Samuel also contracted to construct an addition to Shackelfords Chapel and later moved with his wife, Rosie Soles Fary, to her farm in Gloucester. The painting was donated to the Tavern by the estate of Dallas Fritter together with the family history and a photograph of Samuel.

More history of both the Smithers and the Regensburg families is available in the Archives collection.

Preserving Rosenwald Schools

What is a Rosenwald school? Few people today know. The students that attended them are aging and daily less in number. There is recognition at the national and state level that these structures should be preserved. In the early twentieth century Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Institute and Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears Roebuck, realized the importance of funding school buildings for black students in the south to strengthen communities. These buildings were of a specific design. Architectural drawings and funding were provided by the Rosenwald Fund, and augmented by contributions from local residents and municipalities. Of the 360 schools built in Virginia from 1917 to 1932, seven were constructed in King & Queen County: Cumnor, Green Brier, Hockley, Ino, Little Plymouth, Prospect-Plainview and King & Queen Training School. Sadly, after school integration, many of these buildings were abandoned or demolished. The Green Brier School located on New Morning Star Baptist Church

property near St. Stephens Church is the only one of these buildings in the county still standing, due to the preservation efforts of the church. Preservation Virginia and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources are working together to gather information on Rosenwald schools and to promote and support local preservation efforts. Representatives of Preservation Virginia, Lisa Bergstrom and Justin Seraphin, met with Museum Council members and local community representatives to share information and photographs. Attendees Ms. T. Abigail Collins, Rev. Robert Brown, and Dr. Alvin Lomax had been students at Rosenwald schools in King & Queen and King William Counties and shared their experiences and some photographs. Historical Society Accessions Chair Page McLemore conveyed the collection from the archives: a map of school locations, descriptions and photos of some of the schools, group photos of school children, and School Board data on financial contributions. She also noted that there are individual video histories of some students that attended Rosenwald schools that may contain pertinent references. A DVD of the history of black schools in the county was also provided. Museum Council member Nannie Taylor, who is also curator of the local J. C. Graves Museum, shared a collection from that museum's archives. Contact information for Morning Star Baptist Church was also provided for follow-up on their preservation efforts. This exercise was a wonderful example of information exchange at all levels. For those interested in more about the Rosenwald schools, Fisk University's Franklin Library is home to the Julius Rosenwald Fund archives, containing the largest single collection of papers from the Rosenwald school building program. Part of these records, containing over 5,000 photographs accompanied by statistical information about Rosenwald schools have been digitized by Fisk University and the National Trust for Historic Preservation and can be accessed from their website. The K&Q Historical Society Accessions Committee continues to expand the county school history collection and welcomes additional data and photographs.



Green Brier School open 1929-1951

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Then & Now - Weather Predictions

Everyone talks about the weather. We check the predictions every day. We are passive observers since weather forecasts are readily available in all media forms, almost in real time. Wind, lightening, temperature, humidity numbers and more are at our fingertips. Knowing the weather forecast certainly helps when dressing and traveling and, of course, to prepare for major weather events such as hurricanes and tornados. However, there are many factors that affect weather and, in some cases, the forecasts can change frequently and quickly. Will Roger's saying, "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, wait a minute and it will change" seems to apply to most anywhere these days. Today's weather reporters seem to dramatize the weather even when there is no drama.

Before all of this data overload, people still talked about the weather and made their own predictions based on observations of nature, the sky, and animals. Many households had barometers to determine air pressure, an aid to forecasting. The sayings below were derived from the factors that were used to predict the weather.

- Red sky at night, sailors delight. Red sky in morning, sailors take warning.
- When your joints all start to ache, rainy weather is at stake.
- Rain before seven, clear before eleven.
- When clouds appear like rocks and towers, Earth's refreshed with frequent showers.
- If a goose flies high, fair weather. If a goose flies low, foul weather.
- When dew is on the grass, rain will never come to pass.
- Ring around the moon. Rain real soon.
- The higher the clouds, the finer the weather.
- When the rooster goes crowing to bed, he will rise with watery head.
- Rain from the south prevents the drought, but rain from the west is always best.

Do you have any weather sayings that you would like to share?

King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum
PO Box 129
King and Queen C.H., VA 23085-0129

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