



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 2019

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Save the Date:

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

By Cynthia Carter

The King & Queen County Historical Society Meeting will be held in the New Court House building, King & Queen Court House, VA 23085. Edward Ayres, historian at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, will speak about events leading up to the Battle of Yorktown in the fall of 1781, including the attempt to capture Thomas Jefferson, the destruction caused by the British, and, finally, the siege of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Mr. Ayres is the resident historian at the American Revolutionary War Museum in Yorktown, having researched and written about the American Revolution and related topics for more than thirty years.

King & Queen County Historical Society Offers Scholarships

By Biddy 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 application may be obtained from King & Queen Central High School Guidance Counselor Christy Sheppard or by requesting it through history@kingandqueenmuseum.org. Application must be completed and received by the Historical Society Scholarship Committee by May 30.

Once In a Lifetime

By Linda Barnes

What began as an ordinary Wednesday night choir practice in early June 2018 morphed into a once in a lifetime event on November 26, 2018 - singing at Carnegie Hall! Mr. Marcus Vaughan, the Minister of Music at our church, had submitted an audition tape at least 18 months before and we had been invited to sing in one of the Distinguished Concerts International New York events - A Winter Rose: The Holiday Music of Martin & Hayes. There were regular weekly rehearsals and extra Saturday rehearsals as we, the Adult Choir of Beale Memorial Church, prepared for the ultimate choral experience!

Along with eleven other choir members, my husband Randall

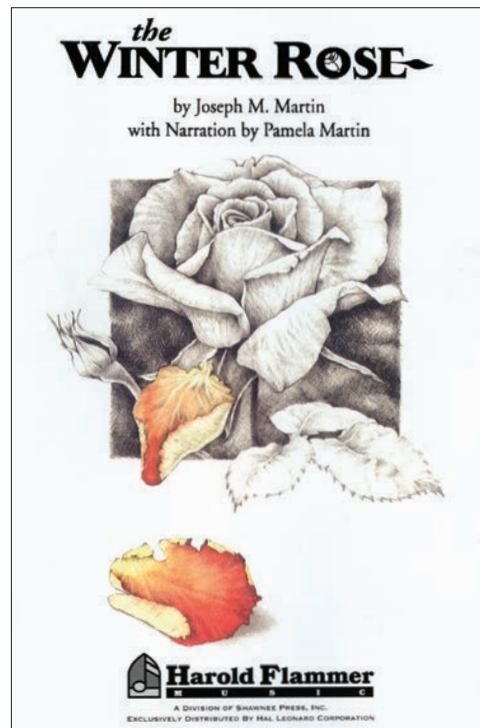


Randall and Linda Barnes

of Joseph Martin, a well-known Christian composer who had written "the Winter Rose", the Christmas cantata that we were to perform.

When we were not rehearsing, members of our group became tourists, visiting the usual sites: The Empire State Building, Rockefeller Plaza, and the 9/11 Memorial. A few brave souls rode atop the Staten Island Ferry despite the gusty wind and cold rain. However, the uncooperative weather did not deter us from sampling New York-style pizza and New York cheesecake, and other culinary delights.

After rehearsing for several hours each day through the weekend, we were pronounced ready for the big night. It was not until our group gathered for a picture under the Carnegie Hall marquee that I realized that the dream of June was now a reality, and the butterflies in my stomach began a vigorous game of tennis! Only in pictures had I seen Carnegie Hall, built in 1890 in the Renaissance style with funding from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It is considered the most prestigious concert hall in the nation and has welcomed to its stages artists from all musical genres. When I stepped onto the stage of Isaac Stern Hall, the



and I arrived in New York City on Friday, November 23rd for the final rehearsals for the concert. With 280 other singers from across the United States and Canada, we rehearsed under the direction

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largest of the three stages, I was totally unprepared for the grandeur: all the gold finishes, relief carvings, and rich tapestries. The five tiers of seats (a capacity of 2804) were filled with people. I truly wondered if the audience had been paid to attend! With the 293 singers, a full orchestra, and a full house, I thought I needed a pinch to make sure that this was real.

When Joseph Martin raised his baton and the musicians raised their instruments, the tennis match of jitters ended, and I knew that this was real. Here I was, a “girl” from rural King and Queen County, standing on the stage of Carnegie Hall raising my voice with hundreds of others in celebration of Christmas. I thought then of all those musicians in my past who had unknowingly made this day possible and hoping that in some way they could feel my gratitude.

Linda Barnes volunteers at the Courthouse Tavern Museum as a member of the Museum Council and a docent.



Anne Ryland at a Museum Council Meeting

Anne Ryland Honored

When Anne Motley Ryland of “Farmington,” King & Queen County, Virginia passed away on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, the King & Queen Historical Society and the Courthouse Tavern Museum lost a valuable resource. Anne Ryland served as the President of the HS and was a member of the Board for many, many years. She was the editor of the Society’s *Bulletin* for over 25 years, employing painstaking research to validate the detailed, historical content and assisting with inquiries from researchers across the U.S. She was a founding member of the Society’s Courthouse Tavern Museum, serving on its Task Force For The Tavern and the Museum Council since it’s inception - almost 20 years. At its October 2018 meeting the HS approved a memorial resolution honoring Anne. When

told of this honor, her daughter Anne Ryland Glubiak, said, “ I appreciate this kind and meaningful honor for my mother. She would have been embarrassed by the attention, but would have been most grateful, as am I. Both my mother and father (Temple Ryland) had a deep belief in the importance of historical societies to communities and regions at large. They believed that they were integral to preserving the history of our ancestors and challenging citizens to both evaluate and re-evaluate history in ways that would help us grow.”

Museum 2018 Annual Report Summary

By Nancy Herman-Thompson

The Museum Council continues to promote interest in and publicity for King & Queen County. It was busy managing a full calendar of activities, scheduling docents, and increasing publicity with specific emphasis on three new exhibits with the theme “History Beneath Our Feet”: Fossils of King & Queen County, 18th Century Vessel Remains, and Early Stone Tools and Weapons. More than 650 visitors came to the Museum as individuals or part of groups, from 20 states across the U.S., and from Australia. U.S. visitors came from as far away as California, Washington, and Oregon on the west coast, and Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island on the east coast. The Museum website received over 3900 visitors, most of them new this year.



Student finds a sharks tooth

Our work with King & Queen County schools continues and includes providing hands-on tours as requested, a special supper to keep the School Board and Administration staff informed of our offerings, an annual New Teacher’s Luncheon on their first day of work to welcome them to King & Queen, and providing the venue for the King & Queen Teachers’ cookie swap and gift exchange. We also hosted a school group from Aylett Country Day School. Students provided a

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music program to entertain attendees at the Christmas Holiday Open House.

Other scheduled activities included the annual Docent Appreciation Dinner, and tours for the national Taylor Family Reunion (descendents of an early colonial family in King & Queen) and local Zion Baptist Church members, which provided a significant connection to Lenwood Harris, a casualty of WWII whose name is listed on the memorial plaque posted on the Circuit Court building. The Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Board and members from many areas of the Commonwealth toured. The Council provided dinner and an annual report to County Board of Supervisors and staff. Our largest event is the annual Holiday Open House held in December. Folks were entertained for the afternoon with a music program, vendors, Santa, refreshments and special displays; antique toys, a train set, and quilts. This year we added children's activities in the Archives building which allowed face time with the fossil exhibit for students and parents. The activities were well received and included decorating gingerbread cookies, signing Christmas cards with a turkey quill pen, stringing popcorn and cranberries and making ornaments.



Children Enjoy Activities at Holiday Open House

An increased focus on publicity resulted in the Courthouse Tavern Museum (and County) being featured in an article in the regional *House & Home* magazine (April), inclusion in the list of local museums in *The Rivah* magazine, numerous newspaper articles (in the *Country Courier*, *Rappahannock Times*, *Daily Press* and *Virginia Gazette*), and coverage on Channel 8, WRIC, on 'the Fossil Man,' showcasing Newell Randall and fossil hunting in King & Queen. Mr. Randall continues to be the face of the Museum, invited to speak to community groups, the MPRA River camp, and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. The Museum continued to publish the *Tales from the Tavern* newsletter quarterly.

We also continue to work with the County Administrator in maintenance of the 215 year-old Tavern building. We appreciate the upgrade to the HVAC system – for our comfort and the needed climate control for the exhibits and artifacts.

All this activity wouldn't happen without a group of dedicated volunteers. We currently have approximately 35 docents and 20 other volunteers. Three of our longest-serving docents are retiring: James Croxton, Rachel Williams, and Sharon Draine. Mr. Croxton and Rachel (with her late husband Russell Williams) were in the very first group of volunteers for the museum and have been loyal, hard-working volunteers for over 18 years. Ms. Draine has served for at least ten years. The Museum is led by a Council of fifteen volunteers under the oversight of the Historical Society Board. We thank all docents and volunteers for everything they do!

The Bruington Rural Historic District

By Dr. Augustine Lewis

The Bruington Rural Historic District has been officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is now the third historic district within King & Queen County, joining the Newtown and King and Queen Courthouse Green districts. Last fall it was chosen by the Board of Historic Resources to be on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the application was submitted to the National Park Service for the National Register at that time. Local members of the Historical Society, along with Fairfield Foundation and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, were involved in the research and application process. Among the historic structures in the District are Bruington Church, Bethlehem Church, Rosemount, Erin, Marlborough, The Institute, Locust Hill, Norwood, Brewington, Greenview, The Vineyard, Cloverly, and others.



Bruington Church, focus of the Historic District

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Museum Is On the Virginia History Trails APP



American Evolution, Virginia to America 1619-2019, has created the Virginia History Trails APP, to promote exploration of the known, un-known and under-told stories of Virginia History. The Courthouse Tavern Museum is a “stop” on one the many trails. Download this FREE app and enjoy places you may not know existed.

The Fossil Man Enjoys Educating Others

By Newell Randall

This winter Newell Randall, the enthusiastic Museum ambassador known as the Fossil Man, was engaged in several events, sharing his knowledge of marine fossils and some of his large collection with the King & Queen Retired Teachers Association and attendees at

the 15th Annual Science Night at Reynolds Community College. Contact the Museum to ask him to speak to your organization. Look for upcoming events to enjoy.



Newell Randal at the 15th Annual Science Night at Reynolds Community College

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