



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 2020

May your days
BE
merry & bright

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As we close out this most unusual year, I send you warm greetings for this special season of hope and celebration on behalf of the entire King & Queen County Historical Society Board. Stay warm and safe and we will look forward to gathering again in 2021. Look for communications in upcoming newsletters and postcards, on the website and social media about the timing of resumed programs and events to celebrate the founding of the Tavern Museum and the rich history of King and Queen County.

Blessings to each of you ... and onward to 2021!

Cynthia Carter
King & Queen County Historical Society President

Your Support Is Appreciated

We appreciate your continuing support of the historical society and museum. Your dues and donations defray our costs to preserve county artifacts; to provide free public access to interesting exhibits and informative programs; to offer scholarships to county high school seniors; to produce and distribute member publications; and to develop new exhibits such as the two scheduled for 2021. Please consider making a donation.* Also, if you missed renewing your annual membership in August (\$15 per person/\$20 per couple), please do so before year end. We encourage you to invite new members. Checks can be made out to the King & Queen County Historical Society and sent to King & Queen County Historical Society, P. O. Box 129, King & Queen Court House, VA 23085. Membership and donation payments can also be made via the website at kingandqueenmuseum.org under Support.



Page McLemore and Bette Albert decorate the Tavern Museum.

The Museum is dressed in the Holiday Spirit even though there will be no Holiday Open House, the first time this has occurred since the tradition began many years ago. Although we have missed our visitors this year, it has not been prudent to open the Museum. We do look forward to opening next year and celebrating our postponed 20th year anniversary.

* Taxpayers who don't itemize deductions may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations such as the Museum. The law changed in this area due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

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The Taylor Collection

The Courthouse Tavern Museum is pleased to announce the acquisition of photocopies of the genealogy and history displays by Nannie Banks Taylor covering many King & Queen County families, and the history of Edge Hill Elementary School and New Mount Zion Baptist Church. She created her extensive archive using her own research techniques, beginning before the days of the personal computer and widespread interest in genealogy. Opportunities to exhibit the information occurred at church, family and community events. For display she arranged her material - text, charts, drawings and photographs - on tri-fold 35.5" x 44" boards. With Nannie's assistance, the Museum is developing an index of names for each of the 18 "Boards." In total there are over 900 individuals represented. Twelve Boards present genealogy of the Taylor, Hill, Robinson, Brooke, Frazier and Harvey families. Two tell the history of New Mount Zion Baptist Church, including a list and some photographs of church pastors, deacons and, other church officials over its first 145 years. Four Boards present the history of Edge Hill School in operation from 1937 to 1963 compiled with the assistance of the Edge Hill Alumnae Association, including drawings of the building, which no longer stands, and photographs of most of the teachers and many of the students.

Nannie, a life-long resident of King & Queen, is the daughter

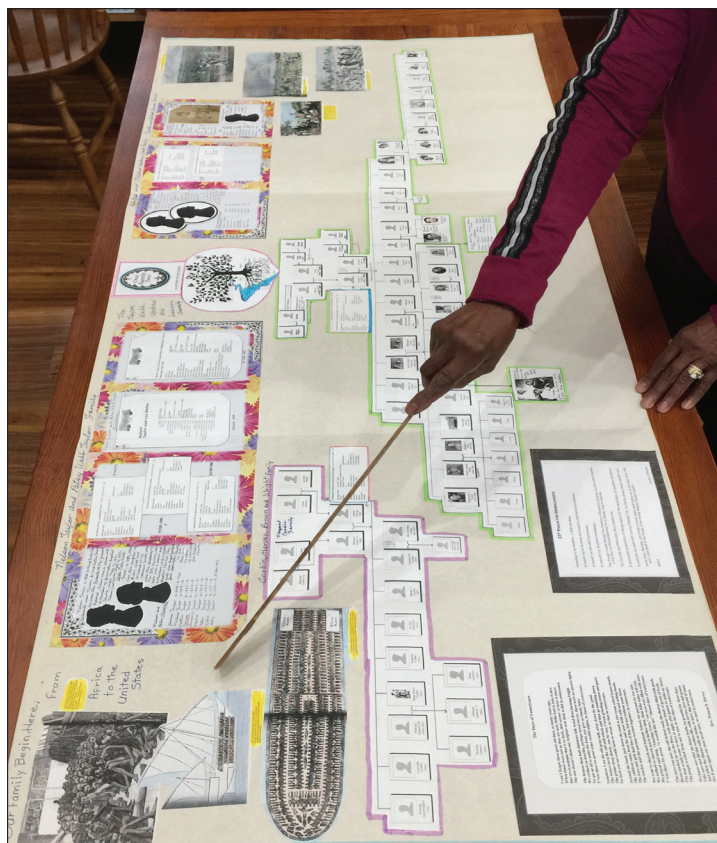


Nannie Taylor's exhibits are full to information, charts and pictures.

of Mary Ellen Brown and Purcell Banks. She was born and raised in the Walkerton area and began school at the one-room Green Briar School located at New Morning Star Baptist Church. After first grade she attended Edge Hill Elementary School and graduated from Central High School. She has been a longtime member of New Mount Zion Baptist Church. She married Robert Taylor and they raised four children. As an adult she started collecting family information when she feared that it might be lost forever. Some of her first memories were the Sunday visits to her maternal grandmother, Bessie Lee Harvey Brown who lived 12 miles away in "The Forge" area of the county. In the 1960s the houses in that area had no electricity so there were no radios or TVs for entertainment.

However, the adults talked endlessly. Nannie said, "It always seemed like they were stuck on a broken record, repeating stories and family relationships. Eventually, these stories stuck to me." At 88 her grandma Brown, who was born in 1890, began saying that this may be the last year she would be with them. Realizing that the verbal history going back to the days when her ancestors were slaves (1830s) should be saved, Nannie carried a writing pad and pencils every time she visited "the old folks." Fortunately, her grandma lived to be 103 and was able to contribute much to Nannie's maternal family history.

Nannie has her own method of research - seeking, asking, and sharing. Her primary tools are the telephone, pencil and paper, copiers, photographs, public records, and most of all people. She personally has seldom used a computer. Many a time she said to her mother, "Mama, do you want to ride?" and they would drive to courthouses and libraries hunting for clues and connections. She received assistance from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Tappahannock via their connection to FamilySearch.com. The Middle Peninsula African-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Virginia (MPAAGHS) has been a good resource as has the Courthouse Tavern Museum archives and library. People are her greatest resource. Nannie is never shy about asking, "Who are your people?" Family and Friends Day at church was a time to make connections. Each event



celebrated specific families who were invited to bring their family history and pictures. Some of Nannie's boards were prepared to assist a family in exhibiting its information. Some

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relatives traveled long distances to attend and connecting with them filled in some major blanks in her data. She has found it interesting that branches of families would not “own-up” to being related until she showed them the connections she had made. Some are still marveling at the relationships that have been uncovered.

Preparing exhibits also resulted in Nannie becoming curator of the J. C. Graves Museum on the grounds of New Mount Zion Baptist Church. For years she and Shirley Webb created Black History Month programs for their church. By 1996 they had accumulated many artifacts and information that they thought should be preserved. At a church meeting they asked if they could use the vacant Church Hill School building, located on the church property, to display the collections. There was agreement, but the building needed to be renovated. Much of the money for repairs was raised via a solicitation letter asking for a donation of \$25 that was sent to the families of alumnae of the Church Hill School (many living in Philadelphia and New Jersey). Thus the J. C. Graves Museum was established. In October 1996 Church Hill School alumnae were invited to the grand opening and treated to a “school lunch” dinner of beef stew, open faced grilled cheese sandwiches, and dessert.

Like many of us of a “certain age”, Nannie is concerned whether anyone will carry the family history into the future. She has recently seen a spark of hope in that Sharon, one of her daughters, was inspired by the story of Sally Hemings and her descendents to begin an online family tree using Nannie’s research.

Nannie has a favorite Psalm for Genealogists:

*Genealogy is my Pastime. I shall not stray.
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried
tombstones.
It leads me into still Courthouses.
It restoreth my Ancestral Knowledge...
Yea, though I wade through the Shadows of Research
Libraries and Microfilm
Readers, I shall fear no Discouragement, for a
Strong Urge is with me.
The Curiosity and Motivation, they Comfort me.
It demanded preparation of storage space for the
acquisition of countless documents.
It anointeth my head with burning Midnight Oil, my
family group sheets runneth over.
Surely Birth, Marriage, and Death records dates
shall follow me all the days of my Life, and I shall
dwell in the House of the Family History Seeker
Forever.
Amen*

by Author Unknown

Nannie has been an integral part of the Museum for over twenty years, always willing to do anything asked: helping to arrange the original furnishings, being in charge of old-time costumes in all our videos, helping with the oral histories,

being a docent, planning activities and exhibits, and bringing her famous yeast rolls, a special request, to our annual School Board and Board of Supervisor dinners. She fondly remembers the kindness and encouragement from Museum founder Minor Trevillian, a woman small in physical stature, but very large in presence who became a “best buddy”. Nannie’s memories of those early days were of a small group always helping each other whether demonstrating the “old ways” for school groups or determining how to effectively display artifacts.

My King & Queen Roots

Linda Barnes - written in 2002

My Mother was Louisa Garnette Richardson (1912-1997) from Ino. (She hated the Louisa and spelled Garnett without the ‘e’!). Her parents were Thomas Holt Richardson (called “Pete”) and Alma Crouch Richardson. Pete and Alma met when she came to Ino to teach school. Alma’s parents lived near Crouch and were Richard Bennett Crouch (called Bennett) and Theodosia Smith Crouch, from Mascot. (Bennett and his father, Thomas Judson Crouch, built the current Providence Methodist Church building, but that’s another story!).

Mother was the oldest of nine children, and she was 11 when her mother died as the result of complications of childbirth; they called it milk leg fever. Alma was 33 years old when she died in 1923. The children were farmed out all over the neighborhood until school ended in the spring of 1924. Then the children went to live with their grandparents, the Crouch’s, each of whom were 65 years old at the time. Their aunt, Josephine Crouch, moved back home from her teaching assignment in Waynesboro, took a job teaching in Tappahannock, and helped support the family. Mother was a friend of Louise Eubank Gray (author of *A Patchwork Quilt*) and they went to school together at Center Cross School traveling in a covered wagon. Mother and her sisters walked about one mile from their house at Ino to the “wagon stop”, crossing the Dragon Run on a fallen tree, and meeting the covered wagon in Essex. During the winter, their mother gave each girl a heated brick to warm their feet after they got into the 2 bench wagon. My mother went to Stevensville School for the first year of high school (now about 7th grade) in the 1924-1925 school year, but she was needed at home to do the farm work, so did not return to school anymore. With the exception of one sister, Dorothy (married Clarence Dyke), and one brother, Richard Bennett (who never married), all the rest of the children graduated from high school. They lived in a 2-story house near the Crouch Post Office and the John Robert Williams store. Bennett was a farmer, carpenter and woodworker. He built caskets for the community when needed. Mother and Dorothy helped Bennett cut railroad ties from the trees on their farm and hauled them to Mantapike Landing to ship.

Mother talked about hunting and fishing in the Dragon and riding the horse to go fox hunting when she lived at Ino. My

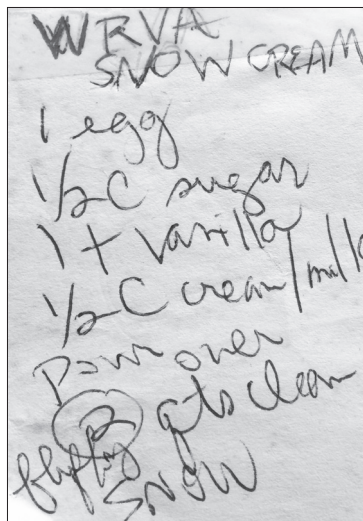
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Aunt Virginia White (who lives in Center Cross and is now 85) told me that they probably would not have had meat on the table if Mother hadn't been such a good shot. My Grandmother Alma raised turkeys and sold them to Baltimore for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Granddaddy Pete trapped mink in the Dragon and other fur-bearing animals and sold them to Baltimore, too. He also shipped turtles and carp to Baltimore. He had quite a reputation for raising hunting hounds and leading the hunt. People came from all over the Tidewater and from eastern Maryland to hunt with him. His grandsons and their children and friends still maintain a hunt club, the Ino Hunt Club. I am so lucky that I listened to Mother's stories for years and she drummed family history into me!!

Recipes from Yesteryears for Holiday and Winter Fun:

Martha Hart found this Snow Cream recipe in a drawer and remembered jotting it down years ago while listening to WRVA radio, one of the oldest stations in Richmond, in anticipation of the next big snow - an event that was more frequent then. Mix 1 egg, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1/2 cup of cream or milk and pour over 2 quarts clean fluffy snow.

Page McLemore shared her grandmother Martha Davis (Mrs.



Henry P.) Taylor's recipe for Tutti Frutti, a sauce poured over angel food cake or a large meringue (4 inches each serving). This treat was only for adults (children could not even taste), appearing at Thanksgiving and lasting through the holidays.

In 1/2 gal. jar put 1/2 pt grain alcohol. Add 4 oz. granulated sugar. As fruits come in season add 4 oz of each fruit and 3 oz. sugar: strawberries, cherries

(seeded), raspberries, pineapple (sliced & cut in bite size pieces), white seedless grapes, pears, peaches & apricots all peeled and sliced. And in the fall add red Emperor grapes (seeded). Use only good firm fruits.

Page's grandmother grew her own strawberries, cherries, raspberries and grapes (red and white). The peaches came from the orchard at Hillsboro.

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