

# 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 2013

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Report for Year 2012

*This Newsletter is being dedicated to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Report*

### 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrated in 2012

It was a busy year with programs, exhibits and greeting visitors.

#### NEW EXHIBIT: Ivor Noel Hume Bottle Collection

The Museum had its grand opening of the Ivor Noel Hume Bottle Collection on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The bottles in the collection begin in colonial times. Because the shape of bottles have changed over time, they help date artifacts that are found in archeological digs. Ivor Noel Hume, noted archaeologist from Williamsburg, has collected the bottles over his lifetime. Hume came to the Museum and prepared a video talk for presentation in conjunction with the exhibit. The collection has been purchased by Frank Hurst, Newington Plantation, King and Queen, and is on loan to the Museum for two years. Artifacts from an archaeological dig at Newington Plantation are also part of the exhibit. Frank Hurst diligently worked to install our new exhibit and gave the introductory talk at the grand opening on how he became involved.

#### NEW EXHIBIT: St. Stephens Parish Sundial

The Museum opened its new exhibit of the 1715 St. Stephens Parish Sundial with a grand opening on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Sundial, donated in 1715 by James Taylor, prominent King and Queen resident, and the oldest colonial sundial in Virginia, was used at the Anglican Upper Church of St Stephens Parish. The sundial is on long-term loan from the Immanuel Episcopal Church at King and Queen Courthouse. The grand opening, which was preceded by a special early opening for donors to the exhibit, included a talk on the history of St.

Stephens Parish and its upper church by Jack Spain, and a special dedication by the Rev. Scott Krejci, minister at Immanuel. The project included the restoration of the sundial, the design of the exhibit by Studio Ammons of Petersburg and its fabrication by GROPEN of Charlottesville, as well as the development by a committee of the Museum Council of the history of the church for inclusion in the exhibit. The exhibit also includes the base of the baptismal font from the same church that was donated to the Museum some years ago. The funds for the project were raised by one letter to members of the Society. Contributions were received from seven states, Immanuel Church and Australia! Steven Taylor, from Australia, a descendant of James Taylor, was a special benefactor of the project. The history of St. Stephens Parish and its Upper Church prepared for the exhibit has been published in the Bulletin.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS: 2012 Endowment Fund Trip to Mount Airy and Menokin

The Museum Council sponsored a trip on October 28<sup>th</sup> to Mount Airy and Menokin Plantations in Richmond County for the benefit of donors to the Historical Society's Endowment Fund established to benefit the operations of the Museum. It was a beautiful fall Virginia day and the visits were enjoyed by all. Mount Airy, completed by John Tayloe II about 1757, has been owned by his descendants ever since. Mrs. Catherine Emery, wife of the present owner, led the group through the house and grounds, including the family cemetery where Francis Lightfoot Lee, one of the Virginia signers of the Declaration of

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# Tales from the Tavern

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Independence, is buried. Lee married Tayloe's daughter, Rebecca, and lived at Menokin, only a few miles away. The King and Queen group then ventured to Menokin where they had a box lunch and toured its museum and the Menokin house site. The museum and house are actively maintained by the Menokin Foundation.

## **2012 Leftwich Visit**

On October 19 some 70 descendants of Ralph Leftwich visited the Museum and King and Queen County as a part of their reunion in Williamsburg. Page McLemore greeted the visitors outside the Museum and docents in each room told them about the Museum and its exhibits. The group also visited the Immanuel Episcopal Church where Susan Gresham described the history of the Church. The Leftwich group had lunch at the Mattaponi Baptist Church and then ventured to the site of the original Ralph Leftwich land patent on the Exoll Swamp near Crouch. We distributed to each visitor a small map prepared by Nancy Herman Thompson showing the location of the Leftwich patent on a USGS map.

## **2012 Schools**

The Museum worked with Chuck Hudson, a history teacher at King and Queen High School, on a competition sponsored by the Museum for a written paper on King and Queen County History. The new Fall teachers in King and Queen County were guests of honor for a special meeting and tour at the Museum in August.

## **2012 Luncheon & Supper Gatherings**

The Museum hosted a supper at the Museum on October 17<sup>th</sup> for the King and Queen School Board Members and for the Board of Supervisors on November 13<sup>th</sup>. A special thank-you luncheon was held on April 21<sup>st</sup> for James Kelly at Bewdley Farm. Dr. Kelly was instrumental in the initial conceptual design of the museum when he was director of Museums at the Virginia Historical Society. He is now

Director of Museums for the U.S. Army. The Museum also had a special supper at Bewdley when Steven Taylor came to Virginia from Australia to honor his contributions to the new Sundial exhibit. Sally Walker organized and coordinated the preparation of all of the home-made meals prepared by members.

## **2012 Christmas Open House**

The sixth Christmas Open House was held on a beautiful December 2nd<sup>th</sup> for the community. The Museum was decorated by the docents inside and out for the Christmas holiday. Guests enjoyed refreshments, including home-made donuts and popcorn made in an open kettle over an open fire outside prepared by Nancy Herman-Thompson and John and Susan Spain. Dawn Shank, a story teller, told stories in the Library. Brownie Bevan brought a small pony and cart for rides. Wallace Mahanes was the Santa Claus elf for all the young ones, holding court in an old sleigh.

## **2012 Civil War Digitation Project**

The Historical Society and the Museum worked with the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the Library of Virginia to digitize original documents from the 1859-1867 period. The project was an all-day event held at the Museum on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **PROJECTS:**

### **2012 Website and Internet Improvements**

During the first six months of the year, work was completed to update for the first time in several years the material on the Museum website, [www.kingandqueenmuseum.com](http://www.kingandqueenmuseum.com) or [www.kingqueenhistsoc.com](http://www.kingqueenhistsoc.com). We receive a number of requests for materials and visits to the Museum from people who have located items of interest. Sue Walter continues to monitor our site. Although praise has been received for the current website, under the leadership of Biddie Shelor, work began on improving the structure and features on the website, including adding new communication vehicles such as

Facebook and virtual exhibits to bring the site up to date and benefit from constantly improving technology. This update will also help to publicize events, exhibits and the Museum. Biddie Shelor's daughter, Jen, an expert website designer, is donating her time to this important project. Once updated, Jen will train others in the maintenance of the website. The Jessie Ball duPont Fund has provided a grant of \$550 to cover the projected out-of-pocket costs. King and Queen County is in the process of implementing a county wide wi-fi access system that should greatly benefit access from the Museum to its website and the Internet.

## **2012 Newsletter**

Under Sylvia Hutt's leadership, the 1<sup>st</sup> two issues of the "Tales from the Tavern" newsletter were published. The newsletter goes out to all friends of the Museum and members of the King and Queen County Historical Society. Reports will be given on past and upcoming events for both the Museum and the Historical Society. Plans are to have four issues in 2013, including one issue for the annual report that has previously been mailed separately. Good reports have been received pertaining to the newsletter and comments or suggestions are welcome.

## **2012 New Brochure for Museum**

Beth Parrish (Betty Gwathmey's niece) of Sharon Brooks Advertising worked with us to produce and update our brochure for visitors to the Museum. It is now a "tri-color tri-fold" that allows visitors to take a self-guided tour of the Museum.

## **2012 Library**

The library features books about King and Queen County, written by King and Queen authors and about King and Queen families. The complete catalogue for the library is now on the new computer system in the library and is on the website. The library is open whenever the Museum is open.

## **2012 SALES, VOLUNTEERS and OTHER:**

### **Video Disc Sales**

DVD copies of the 54 video interviews made with senior citizens in the county on their earlier experiences in the County are being sold.

### **2012 Museum Store**

The Museum Store began selling handmade glassware pieces from Jamestown in conjunction with the Ivor Noel Hume and Newington bottle exhibit. In addition, items continued to be offered from the store via the website. The new Index to Bulletins 51-100 and King and Queen School Coverlets are now offered on the website.

### **2012 Maintenance and Inspection**

Happy to report that there were no frozen kitchen pipes during the year. It is believed that the additional insulation and new storm doors installed in 2012 have helped greatly. The Museum was visited by a team from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on June 27<sup>th</sup> since the State contributed funds to the initial rehabilitation of the building and thus has an easement on the building to protect its maintenance and unwanted alterations. The Museum received a glowing review.

### **2012 Volunteers**

Since there is no paid staff, volunteers were again in 2012 the backbone of the operation. Led by Ellen White and Sally Walker, 43 volunteers kept the Museum open 16 hours on weekends and after Historical Society meetings. They also staffed all programs and receptions. Conservatively, in 2012, volunteers devoted over 4,232 hours to the Museum as follows: 1,314 docent hours to open the Museum on 125 days; 396 hours in meetings; 2,366 hours on programs and projects; 156 hours on accounting. Page McLemore has done yeoman service in adding new accessions, keeping the computer system operational, and educating others in its use. Ellen White has been instrumental in instructing new docents on an individual basis.

### **2012 Accessions**

Louise Carlton, who recently retired as chair of King and Queen

County School Board gave to the Museum records and materials relating to King and Queen schools that she had collected over a number of years, some of which dated to the early 1900s. Some of the material had been discarded by prior school systems. A committee, including Abigail Collins, Nannie Taylor, and Page McLemore, worked long hours to add relevant items to our archives.

Larry Laboda of North Carolina, has given the Museum his collection of Civil War memorabilia relating to Lt. George P. Lively, 26<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry Regiment, Army of Northern Virginia, CSA, who lived at Chapultepec Plantation in King and Queen and who is buried in the cemetery at Shackelfords Chapel, UMC, Cologne, in King and Queen. They include portraits of Lively and his wife and son, as well as other artifacts relating to the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment and Lively's service in the Confederate Army.

### **2012 Hours Open**

The Museum remained open during February on Fridays and Saturdays, and from March until December every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, except Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. The Museum closed after December 19<sup>th</sup> until the end of January 2013. Hours are 10-4 on Fridays and Saturdays and 1-5 on Sundays. The same schedule is being maintained in 2013.

### **FINANCES: Endowment Fund**

The Endowment Fund set up by the Historical Society to support the operations of the Museum is held at Morgan Stanley and supervised by Howard Walker, Chairman, and Frank Hurst and Biddie Shelor, trustees. At year-end 2012, the assets totaled \$117,386.95. Gifts to the Endowment Fund may be sent to the Historical Society, marked Endowment Fund, at the address on this newsletter.

**Operations** The Museum adopted an operating budget for the ninth full year and operated within it, as set forth below. Although the County pays for building maintenance, power, & water, it has been found that phone, programs and other museum expenses

add up. The admissions charge, the \$5 portion of the Historical Society membership dues and donations from members have helped to defray those expenses.

**2012 Financial Report** Operating revenue totaled \$3,062, including \$288 from admissions (Historical Society members are free!), \$940 from the \$5 portion of the Historical Society dues, \$889 from contributions, either at the door or with additional gifts members paid with their dues, and \$106 from interest earnings. With the support of volunteers, operating expenses were kept close to that amount. No money was taken from the Endowment Fund described above set up to support operations of the Museum.

**Special Gifts** The Museum has received over \$11,000 in gifts in memory of our mentor, Caroline Jones. These funds have been set aside until an appropriate remembrance or event is determined.

**Museum Store** Profit for the year totaled \$1,317.

**Grants** A grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund was received totaling \$550 to defray out-of-pocket expenses for the website improvements described elsewhere. Unspent but allocated grant funds totaled \$2,986 at year-end.

**Sundial Project** As of December 31, 2012, \$4,164 remain from gifts for the Sundial Project.

**Capital Reserve** Made up of unspent moneys from the initial capital campaign for exhibits, totaled \$21,990 at year-end. All pledges have been paid.

*Respectfully submitted by the Museum Council,*

*Rev. Robert Brown, Don Chappel, Marge & Ted Clark, Abigail Collins, Beth Hayes, Susan Richardson, Betty Gwathmey, Nancy Hazzard, Nancy Herman-Thompson, Rev. Fred Holmes, Jr, Sylvia Hutt, Roberta Jones, Gwynn Litchfield, Page McLemore, Barbara Murphy, Chief Anne Richardson, Biddie Shelor, Allison Stoneham, Jack and Elaine Eades, Nannie Taylor, Anne Ryland, Ellen T. White, Linda Barnes, Mirian Minor, Sally Walker, Sue Walter, Jo Anne Wright, Chairman Jack Spain*

Calendar of Upcoming Events:  
 Historical Society 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Meeting.....07/28/13  
 Historical Society 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr Meeting.....10/27/13  
 Christmas Open House.....TBD

*King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum Newsletter*

**Contact information for  
 Museum and membership  
 applications for Historical  
 Society at:**

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 King and Queen C.H., VA  
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**Phone:  
 (804) 785-9558  
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 kandqmuseum@hughes.net  
 or**

**Visit us at:  
[www.kingandqueenmuseum.com](http://www.kingandqueenmuseum.com)  
[www.kingqueenhistoc.com](http://www.kingqueenhistoc.com)**

**Welcome** to the *Tales from the Tavern*, a newsletter to bring news to you as a friend of the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum and the King and Queen Historical Society. This quarter is being dedicated to the “2012 Year in Review”.

**Sylvia Hamilton Hutt, Editor**

eMail: Do you have an eMail address? It is much easier (and much cheaper) to contact you if you have an email address that you watch every couple of days. Please send your eMail address to [kandqmuseum@hughes.net](mailto:kandqmuseum@hughes.net)

**NEW At the Museum:**

1. Bottle Collection Exhibit
2. Sundial Exhibit

**Historical Society:**

Quarterly meeting...07/28/13 3:00 pm  
 Location, Speaker, Topic.....TBD

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