

Tales from the Tavern

For Friends of the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum and Members of the
King and Queen County Historical Society
Summer 2013

Special Thanks to Jack Spain

This Newsletter is being dedicated to Jack Spain for his service



Jack Spain Resigns after 15 Years of Selfless Service to the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum

Special thanks go out to Jack for his 3 years leading the effort in the start-up of the Museum and 12 years as President. His leadership has been instrumental in the total success of the Courthouse Tavern Museum. In the beginning, May 1998, Jack led the **“Task Force for the Museum”** which later became the **“Museum Council”**.

So how does one go about starting a New Museum? Jack can tell you because he has lived it. He has been there from the very beginning.

It begins with securing easements, establishing a lease with the county, obtaining state grants, obtaining outside grants, raising funds via monetary gifts and pledges, securing “Historic District” status, obtaining a feasibility study, securing an architect & a construction firm, rehabilitating the structure inside and out, installing climate control for the archives, planning and furnishing the interior, creating a video tour, recruiting and training volunteers as docents, cataloging and indexing, establishing a website, setting up a small store. The list goes on and on. AND, that is just the beginning.

Just to take a few of these activities and dive a bit deeper, you begin to understand the amount of work involved. For instance, the grants money has a bit of legislation behind it. We all can appreciate the time and effort involved in that.

The building renovation began in November 1999 and was substantially completed in July 2000 for furnishing of the interior to begin. Interior planning of the permanent exhibits, artifacts and furnishings began January 2000. Jack’s interaction with

Dr. James Kelly, Associate Director of the Virginia Historical Society (at the time), and Architect Terry Ammons resulted in the adoption of an interior master plan involving an “Antiques Road Show – King and Queen style” to locate local artifacts & furnishings.

Simultaneously, recruiting and training began for 42 volunteers to greet and guide visitors. Other tasks involved recording, marking, cataloging and indexing the first 765 artifacts already owned by the King and Queen Historical Society.

So, to say a great deal of multi-tasking was taking place during the 3 years prior to doors opening officially in May 2001 would be an understatement.

Yes, Jack had a support team during those first 3 years, but his leadership, legal expertise and people skills helped to make this possible. Once the doors were opened for visitors, the day to day activities began under Jack’s leadership as President of the Museum Council. For the past 12 years, Jack has continued to lead and see to fruition major projects for the museum. As you read through this issue of the *Tales from the Tavern*, you will see many of his accomplishments listed. When you see Jack next, extend your THANKS for his lasting contribution to King and Queen County. 🍷

Peter Glubiak, Esq. President King and Queen Historical Society shared the following . . . *“As a relative newcomer to the Historical Society and Museum Council, I have been sincerely impressed with the energy and dedication Jack showed in any number of projects. He was responsible for reaching out to various funding sources and perhaps just as importantly kept the ball rolling on all of the projects under his command. His guidance has always been gentle yet insistent and “he got things done”, which is quite an accomplishment considering the volunteer nature of the job and all of the demands on his time.”*

Ellen White, President Courthouse Tavern Museum Council, shared the following . . . *“The past twelve years working with Jack have been wonderful. I have always had an appreciation for history and working with Jack and the Museum Volunteers have taught me so much. I am very thankful for all that Jack has taught us about History and about how Museums should be set up and properly managed.”*



Jack Spain

Tales from the Tavern

Frank Hurst, Owner of current Bottle Exhibit, shared the following . . . *“King and Queen County is a wonderful place. The Tavern Museum, the Museum Council, and the Historical Society help to make the county special for me. Early in my association with the Historical Society Jack Spain emerged as a clear leader with his collaborative cross-team approach. His ability to assemble talent for the right matter is truly a gift. He leads by example. Projects are successful in part because of his sense of urgency held in place with a rare style of patience. In spite of this the final objective is always on his mind. He never forgets. As a small non-profit we are blessed to have Jack as a go to person for banking and finance matters. This sound advice has served us well. His personal interest in Architecture and History fits well with all we do at the Tavern Museum. While Jack is retiring from some responsibilities his impact is both meaningful and lasting. As he backs off, others will step to the plate out of respect for all he has done. Thanks Jack!!”*

33,938 Volunteer Hours have been donated because of Jack's inspiring force. Jack has always been quite aware that the volunteers are the backbone of the museum and provides a great deal of respect for them. Of those volunteer hours, 13,570 hours have been Docent hours. There have been 39 to 55 Docents available from year to year with 42 available when doors first opened in 2001.

60+ Long term residents of the county were interviewed & filmed for the Video/DVD History Program. The residents shared their experiences with schools, wars, farming, travel and life in general in King & Queen “as it used to be”. From those interviews, additional DVD Programs were created by Cinebar Productions focusing on 1)History of Native Americans in King & Queen County 2)History of both white and African American schools in the county.

2,361 Photos, Archives, Objects, Books have been logged into the “Past Perfect” database as of June 2013 that came through the Museum. Combined with the Historical Society, the total is 4,291 items. To mention a few in addition to the pictured items and captions elsewhere in this issue: portrait of Mrs. Mary Macon Pendleton Gatewood Boulware; 18th Century Desk; 18th Century Cupboard; 1867 wedding dress; On Loan are 2 Millstones from Mascot Mill around 1673; walnut trundle bed; books used by King and Queen students 1808-1810; copy of **History of Mattaponi Church** once in the library of Jessie Ball duPont; bell from Marriott School that burned in late 1930s; 1940s hand crank telephone; Revolutionary Era side-by-side German shotgun/rifle; letters written during the Civil War from the front and prison camp belonging to the A.G. Sales family of Northbank, Walkerton; History of the Minor Family; Cash drawer from Stevensville Store; digitized pictures of the Museum’s albums of churches, businesses, old homes in King and Queen; 1857-1879 King and Queen Quilt Face consisting of 36 dated/signed squares with King and Queen names of Fleet, Ryland, Haynes, Clark, Walker families; 34 Books from the Library of William Boulware (1805-1870).

15,000 Years old (approx) is the age of the oldest item donated to the Museum. A Clovis Flint Point dating back to the Paleo-Indian Period was found in King and Queen County by Mrs. Frances Lambert when she was 8 years old in 1935 on her grandparents’ farm near Mascot.

10,000 Miles (approx) is the longest distance involving a Museum benefactor. Steven Taylor, from Australia, a descendant of James Taylor, was a special benefactor of the St. Stephens Parish Sundial project.



1870s Eastern View Log Schoolhouse donated by Marian Minor dismantled at Eastern View and re-assembled on Museum site

Tom Swartzwelder, County Administrator for King and Queen shared the following . . . *“I can’t think of the Tavern Museum without seeing Jack’s smiling face. He has been a tenacious advocate of the Museum and a true guardian and caretaker of the precious history of our fine County. More than anything, Jack’s gentle kindness makes him a popular and effective liaison and representative. He is a true gentleman who has left an indelible mark both on the museum and all who know him.”*



Carriage House housing Antique Buggy on loan from Brownie & Chris Bevan & Interior Façade of Stevensville Post Office donated by Bill Browne



1715 St. Stephens Parish Sundial on loan from Immanuel Episcopal Church at King & Queen Court House

\$147,000 is the Largest Single Matching Grant that Jack's leadership has helped to obtain for the Museum. Jack worked with the Jesse Ball duPont Foundation in securing \$147,000 to match the required \$147,000 from the Virginia General Assembly for the renovation to begin in 1999. Over the 15 years, Jack has been instrumental in helping to secure approx \$500,000 in grants/pledges/gifts. Jack has been very successful partnering with the Jesse Ball duPont Foundation and in securing multiple grants from them over the years. Of course, once Sally Douglass, representative from the Foundation, received a tour of the Museum in 2005, her opinion of the Museum could be summed up in her response . . . *"Best site visit ever!"* A lesser volunteer may have taken this as an opportunity to become complacent, but not Jack. He still had Museum goals to accomplish!

7 Changing Exhibits have been implemented to include: Early Tools; Lynn Perry's Schooners, Steamboats & other vessels on the Mattaponi; Capt. John Smith's Exhibit in 2007 celebrating the 400th anniversary of the 1st permanent English Colony at Jamestown & his travels through King & Queen County; West African Art; King & Queen Quilts; Late 19th & Early 20th Century Ladies Clothes; Ivor Noel Hume Bottle Collection.

3 Book Signings & Reviews by Authors to include: A Patchwork Quilt: Lifestyle in King and Queen County, Virginia 1910-1920, by Louise Gray; Mattaponi Queen, by Belle Boggs; The Reservoir, by John Thornton.

6 Christmas Open Houses have been held starting in 2007 which have been instrumental in reaching out to the community and showcasing the cultural and historical experience that the Museum provides.

Norman Burns, II, Executive Director, Maymont Foundation shared the following . . . *"Maymont Foundation is indebted to Jack Spain for many years of extraordinary stewardship. Jack was instrumental in the development of the legal operating agreement between the nonprofit Maymont Foundation and the City of Richmond that led to the Foundation assuming responsibility for operation of the estate in 1975. Jack was a dedicated member of the Maymont Foundation Board of Directors for many years, serving in various roles, including President from 1976 to 1979. Jack and his wife Mary have continued their support and involvement with Maymont over the years. Jack actively serves as an enthusiastic member of Maymont Foundation's Horticulture Advisory Committee. With all best wishes to Jack and Mary and to the King and Queen Historical Society."*

12 Yearly Recognition Dinners for the Board of Supervisors for their partnership support each year in paying for utilities, insurance and maintenance on the Museum building.

5 Endowment Fund Trips have been sponsored by the Museum Council for the benefit of donors to the Historical Society's Endowment Fund established to benefit the operations of the Museum. Trips have involved the following for which Jack has been instrumental in coordinating: bus trip retracing Alexander Spotswood's 1716 trip to find a passage through the Blue Ridge Mountains; bus trip retracing Col. Ulric Dahlgren's 1864 Raid; Tuckahoe Plantation in Goochland County; James Madison's Montpelier in Orange County where the guides have built into their interpretation the Madison connection to King and Queen as well as Madison's attendance at Donald Robertson's school in King and Queen County; day trips to Mount Airy and Menokin Plantations.

Schools Program For 8 years, local county history programs have been presented in King and Queen Elementary Schools for 2 grades some years and up to 7 grades during other years to help students meet Virginia SOL requirements. Each year new county teachers have been invited for a personal tour of the Museum.

3 Brochure Revisions have taken place that allow visitors to take self-guided tours & to take away information about the museum.

2 Websites Jack's leadership was behind the initial Website that was established in 2006 which has just recently undergone a transformation to an interactive website. www.kingandqueenmuseum.com or www.kingqueenhistsoc.com.

With Jack's vision as the guiding post, the new website was designed and developed by Jen Shelor of Shelor Interactive in cooperation with other Museum Council members. Using images, the website presents an overview of the Museum's 11 exhibits and also offers informative online exhibits. The Museum Library, Archives, Historical Society Bulletins, and DVD collections can be searched. Recent Newsletters and Press Releases are available. Online tools assist with membership, donation, and volunteer support for the Museum and the King and Queen Historical Society. The Museum Shop offers books and maps of King and Queen County for sale online. Planning a visit is easy with the website information, including a link to Google Maps for directions and a street or satellite view of the location. The website is linked to the Museum on Facebook at [facebook.com/KingQueenCountyCourtHouseTavernMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/KingQueenCountyCourtHouseTavernMuseum).

Newsletter Under Jack's guidance, the *Tales from the Tavern* newsletter began circulation in 2012. Jack's visions for the newsletter and quarterly input to the editor have been invaluable to the effort.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:	
Historical Society 4 th Qtr Meeting.....	10/27/13
Book Review <u>Green Mount: A Virginia Plantation Family During the Civil War</u>	11/03/13
Christmas Open House.....	12/01/13

King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum Newsletter

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 Jack Spain as seen through the eyes of this editor. If in trying to capture the many accomplishments of Jack Spain and his team of volunteers, I have overlooked someone or something, please accept my apologies. The intent was not to omit anything or anyone, but Jack's accomplishments are so vast, it is indeed impossible to capture all in the limited space.

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@kqva.net

NEW At the Museum:

1. Bottle Collection Exhibit
2. Sundial Exhibit

Historical Society 60th Anniversary:

Quarterly meeting...**10/27/13 3:00 pm**
at Newington Plantation, 998 Newington Lane,
King and Queen Court House

Speakers:

Ivor Noel Hume, Archaeologist & Writer
Matthew R. Laird, Ph.D., RPA

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