

# 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 2012



## TWO NEW EXHIBITS OPEN

### Bottle Collection Dating from 1650 to 1976

### Colonial King & Queen County Sundial from 1715

The renowned Ivor Noel Hume Bottle Collection exhibit opened on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Respected archaeologist and writer Ivor Noel Hume, retired “antiquarian” from Colonial Williamsburg, assembled a personal collection of some sixty bottles. He started collecting when examining archaeological digs in London that showed remains from the time of the Romans through the time of the great London Fire of 1666 at different levels of an archaeological dig. Bottles, even broken pieces, could help him to date the layers of materials found in the digs. He says the bottles also tell stories of the people during each time period. For example, he explains, a bottle with the seal of the Sun Tavern in London when Samuel Pepys visited the tavern opens up a whole period of history.

The exhibit featuring the sundial given to the Upper Church of St. Stephens Parish in King and Queen County in 1715 by Col James Taylor of King and Queen opened on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Col Taylor was the son of James Taylor I who came to King and Queen from England by 1675 and is the great-grandfather of two presidents, Zachary Taylor and James Madison.

The sundial is on loan to the King and Queen Historical Society for a ten-year period by Immanuel Church located at King and Queen Court House. In exchange, the Museum raised funds for the restoration of the sundial and the development of the exhibit. The exhibit has been designed by Terry Ammons of Studio Ammons of Petersburg and built by GROPEN, museum fabricators of Charlottesville. A dedication ceremony was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Rev. Richard Scott Krejci of Immanuel Church participated.

The St. Stephens Parish, in the middle of King and Queen County, was formed before 1674 as part of the Church of England or Anglican Church. The Upper Church, also known as Apple Tree Church, was located on Rose Mount Road and burned in the early 1800s.

The exhibit also includes the base of the baptismal font required to be in every Anglican Church. The baptismal font was given to the Museum by St. Paul’s Episcopal Church of Essex County. 🌲

Frank and Barbara Hurst, owners of Newington Plantation in King and Queen County, the birthplace of Carter Braxton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, became interested in some of the same issues when he undertook an archaeological dig in connection with the remains of an old stone building located at Newington which has been dated to 1724. Because of his interest, Hurst ended up meeting Noel Hume. When Hurst learned that Noel Hume was in the process of selling his collection, Hurst purchased it and has brought it intact to the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern (continued p 2)

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Throw (48” x 68”) with pictures of Early King and Queen Schools Available from Historical Society. Schools in black and white or green and white. \$25, plus postage of \$7, and sales tax of \$1.25 if mailed to VA. Send check to King and Queen Historical Society, P. O. Box 129, King and Queen C. H., VA 23085

*(Bottle Collection Dating from 1650 to 1976 continued from p1)*

Museum for the newest exhibition. The exhibit also includes (1) Noel Hume's own written comments on the significance of each bottle (2) a video presentation Noel Hume specially filmed at the museum for this exhibit (3) items found at Newington, including a bowl dating to 1720-1740 made by early Virginia potter, William Rogers, and a stone from the stone building dated 1724/3- with the initials GBI (for George Braxton I, Carter Braxton's Grandfather).

One expert recently commenting on Noel Hume's collection stated, "This is assuredly an assembly of objects demonstrating that enthusiasm for collecting that can extend far beyond the Magpie instinct for mere acquisition. It is not simply a pile of random historic bones. It is the work of an expert anatomist who has constructed from it a cohesive skeleton and then provided the DNA that fleshed it out in ways that both inform and animate our history. To have dispersed it would have destroyed an important historical integrity. Ivor Noel Humes reports that the entire collection, along with its detailed history, is now in safe hands." Jack Spain, chairman of the King and Queen Museum Council, said the Museum was especially honored to be chosen for the first public exhibition of this collection.

Frank Hurst spoke at the grand opening on March 25<sup>th</sup> and recounted how he became interested, how he met Noel Hume and introduced the NEW exhibit. (See Figure 1) 🍷

*Civil War Sesquicentennial Legacy Project*

The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia have partnered to create a state-wide online collection of original Civil War manuscripts that still remain in private hands. The Civil War 150 Legacy Project Document Digitization and Access focuses on manuscript materials created during the period 1859-1867 that reflect social, political, military, business and religious life in Virginia during the period of the Civil War and the early period of Reconstruction.

The Civil War 150 Legacy Project Staff visited the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Citizens were encouraged to bring original family materials to be scanned and included in the project. The scanned material was made available on the web via the Library of Virginia website and the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission website.

The Civil War 150 Legacy Project is a multi-year initiative to locate, digitize and provide world wide access to the private documentary heritage of the American Civil War era located throughout Virginia.

The Library of Virginia holds the world's most extensive collection of material about the Old Dominion and has been a steward of its documentary and printed heritage since 1823. The Library of Virginia currently holds nearly 113 million manuscripts and more than 1.9 million books, serials, bound periodicals, microfilm reels,

documents with each an individual tile in the vast and colorful mosaic of Virginia's experience.

*King & Queen County Residents Contribute to Sesquicentennial Legacy Project*

Sally & Howard Walker provided a picture of Howard's Grandfather, William Humphrey Walker (1845-1917) in his CSA uniform. He was a private in the 26<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Co K, from King and Queen County. He was with his older brother Benjamin Walker when Benjamin, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. in the same unit was killed in 1864 by a sniper after writing a letter home.

Gwynn Litchfield donated approx 30 letters that were in her Aunt Evelyn McLelland Boschen's collection. This family was related to the McLelland and Draine families of King and Queen County. The letters contained descriptions of the Battle of Manassas written home to Philadelphia by James Davis.

Carol Lowry's Great Grandfather, Atwood Cluverius Walker (1838-1922), was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the 26<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Co I, from King and Queen County. He was captured just before the war ended and sent to a Union prison at Johnson's Island, Ohio for three months. Artifacts that Carol provided were his Commission Papers, Special Order 608, several letters asking permission to come home, two amnesty oaths---one from Johnson's Island and one from Fredericksburg. Carol also had several Union letters and letters from Rudolphus Cecil of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry addressed to her Great Grandfather Peter Toombs, a resident of King and Queen. 🍷

**Figure 1**  
©Kenneth Smiegowski Studios LLC



### ***Docent of the Quarter***

We salute Sally Walker as our Docent of the Quarter because of her dedication to the Museum and the proficient manner in which she carries out her duties. Sally was born in Cleveland, OH and grew up in Washington, DC. Sally met her husband, Howard Walker, while she worked as a secretary at an insurance company. They have four children and five grandchildren. Sally is the chairperson of the Museum's Hospitality Committee and often, in addition to her own appointed days, will fill in for docents who cannot serve on their appointed days. Sally also makes herself available to open the Museum for out of town guests. Sally is also the Hospitality Chairperson for the King and Queen Historical Society where she prepares an informal reception after each quarterly meeting. She is also the Corresponding Secretary. Sally's hobbies are cooking, quilting, painting, floral arranging and gardening. Sally is a faithful member of Smyrna Baptist Church.

### ***County Makes Repairs on Museum Building***

County Employee, John Thorpe, has done yeoman work recently at the Museum. Exterior building boards are being painted with boards being replaced where needed.

Over the last couple years repairs to the Museum building have been completed pursuant to our agreement with the County. Holes have been closed in the sheetrock ceiling in the kitchen that remained after the frozen pipes were repaired 2 years ago. Chimney leaks have been repaired and walls were repaired in the two bedrooms that were damaged by leaks.

Please extend thanks to John Thorpe and Tom Swartzwelder, County Administrator, the next time you see them.

### **Gift Shop Items**

**Bulletins of the King and Queen County Historical Society .....\$2**

**Old Houses of King and Queen County, Virginia .....\$22**

**Land and Heritage in the Virginia Tidewater: A History of King and Queen County .....\$22**

**A Patchwork Quilt: Lifestyle in King and Queen County, Virginia.....\$15**

**Historical Map of King and Queen County, Virginia, 1910-1920 ....\$25**

### ***Museum Honors James C. Kelly***

The King and Queen County Historical Society's Museum Council honored James C. Kelly, former Director of Museums at the Virginia Historical Society and now Chief of Museums for the U.S. Army at a luncheon on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Bewdley Farm in King and Queen County. The luncheon was held to thank Mr. Kelly for all of his help in planning the development and design of the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum. Jack Spain, Chairman of the Museum Council, spoke of Kelly's vital role in getting the Museum started in order to present the history of King and Queen County. Mr. Kelly responded with words of appreciation for the work of the Museum Council in carrying out the plans.

Attending the luncheon, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Spain and Mr. Kelly, were Mrs. Betty Gwathmey of Bruington, Mr. Jack Hutchinson, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walker of Walkerton, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Eades of Walkerton, Ms. Abigail Collins of Stevensville, Mrs. Susan Walter of Dunnsville, Ms. Sylvia Hutt of St. Stephens Church and Mr. Gene Knecht of King George, Mrs. Page McLemore of Walkerton, Mrs. Roberta Jones of St. Stephens Church, Ms. Ellen White of Mechanicsville, Mrs. Nannie Taylor of Walkerton and Mrs. Anne Ryland of St. Stephens Church.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Historical Society 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Meeting.....7/22/12  
 Historical Society 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr Meeting.....10/28/12  
 Christmas Open House.....12/2/12

**A GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT: To the County:** The King and Queen County Historical Society operates the Courthouse Tavern Museum at King and Queen Court House, Virginia in cooperative partnership with King and Queen County, Virginia to bring the museum's services to the general public. The Museum is owned by the County and leased to the Historical Society. The County pays for all utilities, insurance, maintenance and similar expenses. The collections and endowment are owned by the Historical Society. The Historical Society provides volunteers to open the museum and is responsible for exhibits, education, acquisitions, endowment and related activities. **To the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Jessie Ball duPont Fund:** The Commonwealth of Virginia and the Jessie Ball duPont Fund each provided a 50% grant in 1999-2000 for rehabilitating the building to be used for the Museum. Aid from these sources, combined with the generosity of our many visitors and friends, help the Historical Society serve the public in accordance with its traditional standards of excellence.

*King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum Begins Newsletter*

Contact information for Museum and membership applications for Historical Society at:  
  
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King and Queen C.H., VA  
23085 -0129  
  
Phone:  
(804) 785-9558  
eMail:  
kandqmuseum@hughes.net  
or  
Visit us at:  
[www.kingandqueenmuseum.com](http://www.kingandqueenmuseum.com)  
[www.kingqueenhistsoc.com](http://www.kingqueenhistsoc.com)

**Welcome** to the first issue of *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. We will have news of openings and exhibits at the Museum, docent opportunities, lectures at the meetings of the Historical Society and other special events and items of interest.

**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, July 22, 2012, at 3 pm, at **Marriott School**, St. Stephens Church, VA  
Speakers: Luranett L. Lee, Ph.D.  
Curator of African American History  
Paige Newman, Assistant Archivist

King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum  
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