



# 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 2017**

## 2017 Courthouse Tavern Museum Open House

Sunday, December 3, 2017 2-4pm

**Bring Family and Friends. Enjoy  
Delicious Food, Good Cheer,  
Children's Fun, Gift Selections  
and Holiday Music.**

**146 Court House Landing Road,  
King and Queen Court House,  
Virginia 23085**



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www.kingandqueenmuseum.org

***Be sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Museum Open House. Visit the Courthouse Tavern Museum on Sunday, December 3rd from 2-4pm for an afternoon of fun and cheer. There will be something for everyone.***

On November 6th, the Museum Council held its annual dinner for the King and Queen County Board of Supervisors.

### Save the Date:

2018 Historical Society Meetings  
January 28  
April 22  
July 23  
October 28

After December 3rd, the Museum will close for the winter. When the Museum opens again at the end of March, three new exhibits will be available:

Fossil Exhibit  
18th Century Vessels Exhibit  
Arrowhead-Primitive tools Exhibit

### Fossil Hunt

This fall Newell Randall led news reporter Amy Lacy of ABC Channel 8 in Richmond on a fossil hunt in the King and Queen countryside to locate sharks teeth. This was for an upcoming "hidden mysteries" segment. It was an ideal day and the hunt was quite successful. Look for an upcoming announcement of when to view this clip. The Museum is inviting educators in multiple counties to integrate into their curriculum a presentation of fossils at the Museum or in the classroom. Mr. Randall's enthusiasm, knowledge and storytelling ability will hold each student's interest and inspire further investigation. For others, the fossil exhibit can be viewed at the Museum and Mr. Randall is also available for presentations to groups. His story of finding part of a megalodon tooth that perfectly matches the other half found



Newell Randall Fall Fossil Hunt with Reporter Amy Lacy. Forrest Shelor films. Image by Alice Sheley.

years before fascinates listeners of all ages.

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## Visiting the Past: Little Plymouth General Store

Contributed by Linda Barnes and Susan Richardson

Who knew? There has been a store at Little Plymouth since the late 1700s. It last operated in the 1960s. The property at the corner of The Trail and Clifton Lane was initially purchased by a Mr. Williams, who was from New England and who named his home, Little Plymouth, after a



Little Plymouth General Store - 2017

New England town. It is documented that Williams placed a store on his property circa 1780 and that it operated for 40 years. In May, 2017, the current owners of the store contacted the Museum Council asking if the Council wanted any of the contents of the store and would the Council assist with the cleaning out of the store in return. In early June, 2017 a “clean-out-crew” of Council members arrived at the store to begin the treasure hunt. The store’s large front windows were boarded up, making the interior of the store very dim. The crew entered armed with flashlights, masks, and gloves. Over the next several hours, the air was filled with clouds of dust and the exclamations of the crew: “Ahh!”, “Ohhh!”, “What IS that?”, “Look at THIS!” as the crew moved methodically through the store. Some treasures that were beyond use were relegated to trash bags. The unique items and papers were taken outside to be examined in the sunlight. The interior of the store was reminiscent of a general store from The Andy Griffith Show. Upon entering the large, double doors, you were surrounded by the U-shaped counter with a wooden top and front with shelves and open spaces behind the counter. Along the outside wall, open display shelves extended from the high ceiling down to wide drawers with period hardware, that extended to the floor. In the rear and to the right of the entrance was the Little Plymouth Post Office which was in operation from 1825 until 1965. (It is not known at this time when this building was built, so it cannot be said that all operations were in the building.) In the Post Office area, Post Office manuals from several decades were stored in boxes along with receipts for stamp purchases, money orders, and other documents related to the operation of the Post Office. All were signed by Thomas Corr, Postmaster and store owner, or in later

years his daughter, Lelia Corr, who succeeded him. A door in the rear of the building opened into a storeroom with an outside door and a narrow stairway to the second floor. The second floor had an unusual architectural feature, an oval hole in the floor which was trimmed with a railing similar to a stair railing. The second floor windows added light to the downstairs and made the items stored above visible from below. One would presume that the store was heated with a wood stove, centrally located, but in the dim interior, neither stove nor chimney was seen.

From papers related to the operation of the store, it was obvious that Mr. Corr was an astute businessman. The majority of goods for sale in the store, and there were many, were shipped from merchants in Baltimore, Maryland. The merchandise was shipped by steamship to West Point and then up the Mattaponi River to Clifton Landing at the end of the road. From there, the merchandise was brought to the store by wagon. In addition to Baltimore, goods were purchased from merchants in West Point, Richmond, Fredericksburg, and West Virginia. One order was received from a merchant in New York City and another order was filled in Mishawaka, Indiana! The variety of merchandise ordered gave a brief glimpse into the activity in the community. Items ordered were: fabric and notions for the dressmakers, men’s clothing (6 pr. Men’s pants, \$2.00); saddles, harnesses and related accessories (#5 whip, \$0.75, lap robe, \$3.30). The complete order for horse-related items totaled \$84.33 plus the shipping fee of \$0.64. Another order for tin ware included 50 tin dippers



Zach, Page and Alice look for artifacts

(\$1.50), 6-#10 tea pots (\$1.38), and an 8 qt. bucket (\$1.05). The prices given are not per piece, but a total for the item ordered. For instance, the cost of one dipper was just 3 cents! Little Plymouth store, a true general store, served many area farmers. Miller Fertilizer shipped fertilizer to the store in 1905. In 1914, Agricultural Implements shipped a 30-tine, open-end harrow for which Mr. Corr paid \$4.95. The invoice is marked paid on May 9, 1914. The harrow arrived via the steamboat Louise. Mr. Corr tried to meet the wishes of his customers for more unusual items. Using posters with prices listed, he could order a buggy or a surrey

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with the fringe on top. As the roads improved, Mr. Corr kept pace by stocking tires and parts for the Ford Model T, including a 1913 Inner Tube Vulcanizer. For another



Has Nannie found something?

customer, Mr. Corr ordered several pieces of furniture, including a bedroom suite and an 8-foot extension table. The furniture was ordered from Bagby Furniture in Baltimore. (Bagby Furniture had a King and Queen connection. The owner was from Stevensville.) Posters advertising the sale of War Stamps from World War I and War Bonds from World War II were found in a drawer along with unpurchased stamps and receipt books for the bonds. Among the more “modern” items were a 1940 Philco radio, children’s and ladies’

shoes, school books, toys (a 1937 Shirley Temple coloring book), and a 1964 Montgomery Ward catalog. The shelves to the left of the store’s front doors were filled with books donated by citizens to be shared with the community, perhaps the first “public” library in the county.

As the Council crew was loading the trash on their trucks



1940 Philco Radio

and carefully packing up the treasures, the conversation turned to “wonderings”: What changes had the store witnessed during its life on the corner? If walls could talk, what would these walls say about the customers who came to shop or to get their mail? Who had been the store clerk? What on Earth is an Inner Tube Vulcanizer? There is still a lot of research to be done relating to the history of Little Plymouth store and Post Office, but from what is known at this time, it is evident that



Vulcanizer

the Little Plymouth store was at the center of the community. (The Museum Council is still processing the artifacts and placing all that are relevant in the Museum’s Archives.) The Museum is grateful to the current owners for the opportunity to save a part of the county’s history. NOTE: If you have information or memories to share about the Little Plymouth store, please contact the Museum so we can add your story to that of the store.



Sewing Notions

## Then and Now – Repairing Tires

Although tire repair and inner tube repair kits are available today, when there is a problem with a vehicle tire, the consumer usually goes to a service center for repairs or a new tire or inner tube. Inner tube repair kits are usually associated with bicycles. In 1908 when Henry Ford began production of the Model T, his target consumers were ordinary people. The Model T had a 22-horsepower, four-cylinder engine that could go as fast as 40 miles per hour. Color choices were black, black, and black. The spindly pneumatic tires with inner tubes did not hold up well on the extremely poor rural roads. Very few local service stations were available. Fixing inner tubes became a problem. This spurred Cecil F. Adamson of East Palestine, Ohio to patent his Inner Tube Vulcanizer in 1913, part of a very early “patch kit”. Its lightweight, compact design was mobile, and offered a means for a quick fix to a leaking or torn inner tube. The patch and the area of the inner tube to be fixed were placed between two clamping plates and fastened in place. The flange around the edge of the top plate was a receptacle for combustible material that would heat the plate enough so the patch would adhere to the rubber of the inner tube. After 15 minutes the inner tube was ready to go. Although the basic design was the same, there were many variations. An early advertisement states that the \$3.50 repair kit weighs 3 pounds, fits in any tool box, and can be used to make 40 repairs.

## Museum Sponsors Bus Trip

On Wednesday October 18, 2017 thirty Museum volunteers and friends took a bus trip arranged by Ellen White to the historic town of Smithfield, Virginia. Smithfield is a quaint river-port town located in Isle of Wight County and is known for its famous Smithfield hams and hospitality. Two tour guides provided an interesting and informative history of the town. The group lunched at the Smithfield

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Inn and toured the Isle of Wight County Museum. On such a beautiful day, they walked along Main Street, shopped, and found several wonderful bakeries and ice cream shops.



Museum volunteers and friends took a bus trip to the historic town of Smithfield, Virginia

## A Motorcycle Club Pays Another Visit

By Ellen White

On Saturday September 23rd fifteen motorcycle riders visited the Courthouse Tavern Museum. The group belonged to Local Cycle Events out of Middlesex County, a charity organization that visits historic sites. In August

2014 they had visited the Museum and were interested in a return visit. This was a memorial ride to honor Mr. Rob Richmond, one of the founders, who passed in 2016. The group was greeted by Museum volunteers Susan Richardson, James Croxton, Allison Stoneham, Arthur Coleman and Ellen White, and several other members of the community. After an introduction to the Museum, the group toured the exhibits and the grounds, and had refreshments. Before they departed they complimented the Museum and said that they planned to return again soon.



Return visit of Local Cycle Events Motorcycle Club  
Photo by Sarah Belle Stoneham

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