



# Tales from the Tavern

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

## Winter 2018

### “History Beneath Our Feet” Open House on Sunday April 22, 2018

The King and Queen County Historical Society and the Courthouse Tavern Museum invites Society members and the public to a “History Beneath Our Feet” open house on Sunday, April 22 from 2-5 p.m. Three exhibits will be featured with an archeologist digging area and prehistoric artifacts examination table.

and is available by contacting the museum.

**18th Century Vessel Remains:**  
This exhibit tells the story of the 2009 discovery of the remains of two 18th century North American coastal trading vessels at historic Newington Plantation on the beach of the Mattaponi River. These are the oldest vessel remains archeologically

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Shark teeth

**Marine Fossils:** This display is part of the extensive collection of long-time King and Queen County resident Newell Randall, supplemented by pieces from other collectors. It includes large shark teeth and vertebra, stingray crusher and skin plates, whale vertebra, salt water alligator teeth, and more, found in the county. Maps indicate the eras in which the county was underwater. Mr. Randall, who has been fossil hunting since the age of 10, encourages visitors to discover the world beneath our feet. He is an enthusiastic and informative speaker



Objects found with the vessels

investigated to date in the waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia. They provide design and construction data and reflect the craftsmanship of skilled shipwrights of the era. Artifacts recovered provide insight into the nature of Colonial life and trade on the river. The investigation and documentation were completed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). The details of the entire investigation can be viewed on the VDHR website [dhr.virginia.gov](http://dhr.virginia.gov) under their Archaeology Publications Research Report No. 18. The exhibit is sponsored by VDHR and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hurst, the owners of Newington Plantation.

**2018 Save the Date:**

- April 22 - Open House
- July 23 - 3rd Qtr. HS Meeting
- October 28 - 4th Qtr. HS Meeting

**New Museum Hours:**

The museum opens for 2018 on Friday April 6. This year there are new hours of operation: Friday and Saturday 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. On Mother’s Day and Father’s Day the Tavern Museum will be closed.

Three new exhibits are featured:

- Marine Fossils
- 18th Century Vessel Remains
- Early Stone Tools & Weapons

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Artifacts were collected by Fred L. Shelor pre 1935.

**Early Stone Tools and Weapons:** During the 20th century, three generations of the Shelor family - Fred L. Shelor, Fred L. Shelor, Jr. and Ben A. Shelor - collected prehistoric artifacts. Interested in the history and environment of rural tidewater and the middle peninsula of Virginia, they developed an understanding of the land used for camps and settlements by early peoples. They kept an eye out for objects on the ground that might appear natural, but were not. Projectile points, drills, scrapers, ground stones, arrowheads, bannerstones, axeheads, and more were found in the woods, fields, and river banks as they hunted and fished. When the earth was turned by farmers, they walked the fields and uncovered artifacts. Sometimes they traded with other collectors. This exhibit, sponsored by the Shelor family, represents what they found.

## Historical Society Honors Miss Marian Thomas Minor

On Sunday, January 22, 2018 at its first quarter meeting the King and Queen County Historical Society honored

Miss Marian Thomas Minor who passed away in November 2017. A resolution was read that summarized the many contributions that Miss Minor made to the Historical Society and the Courthouse

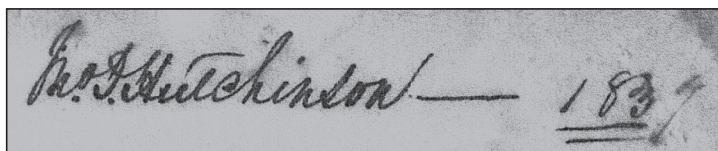


Tavern Museum. The Museum is especially indebted to her for donation of the Eastern View Schoolhouse and promoting the archaeological investigation of the

Donald Robertson School site. The family will receive a copy of the resolution and a copy will be placed in the Historical Society archives. Her support, knowledge, and counsel will be greatly missed.

## John D. Hutchinson and Education

Recently, King and Queen County Historical Society member Charles Hutchinson offered a collection of over 200 family books to family members and the Courthouse Tavern Museum. These provide a glimpse into education and life of some Hutchinson family members during the 19th century. The titles of the books are important, but the most interesting features are the signatures and notations written in many of them. The oldest books were published in the 1720s and most were published in the 1830's and 1840's. They tell us that education was important to the Hutchinson family. A broad spectrum of topics were covered: history, Greek, Latin, literature and grammar, poetry, mathematics, religion, medicine, science, geography, politics, and philosophy.



John Delaware Hutchinson's signature in 1837

John Delaware Hutchinson's signature and notations appear in many of the books and supplement what we know about him. He was well educated, became an educator, and started a school in 1837. Born in 1815, John was the second son of William H. Hutchinson and Anne Foster who had seven children and lived at Rosewood in upper King and Queen County, near the Indian Neck area. We do not know where John attended college, but we do know from the signatures and notes in the books that his younger brother Robert did attend Richmond College (later University of Richmond) in 1841 and 1842, and the College of William and Mary in 1843 and 1844. The assumption can be made that John also attended one of these colleges when he was of age in the early 1830s.

John's first teaching job may have been at Rappahannock Academy in Caroline County, as indicated by the inscription in an *Introduction To Algebra* book: "Rappahannock Academy" and the dates 1833 and 1834. John started a school in the Indian Neck area of the county about 1837, and rented Liberty Hall, a property owned by the Garnett family. He may have taught some of his siblings. In 1845 he married Elizabeth

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Buchner Haile from nearby Beaver's Hill, Essex County. Since she was nine years younger, she may have been a student of his as indicated by the notation "Bettie B



Liberty Hall at Indian Neck - Upper King and Queen Co.

Haile 1843" in the book *Familiar Lectures on Botnay* along with the name of John's brother, Billie Hutchinson. After marriage Bettie and John conducted the school together. The book *Southern Readers and Speakers*, published in 1848, has both their signatures.

The Hutchinsons bought Liberty Hall in 1849. Two separate buildings, different in style and constructed in different centuries, were connected by an enclosed decorative brick arcade, and were ideal for a school. One section was located in King and Queen County and the other was in Essex County. The Hutchinsons had eleven children and educated them in the school. The signatures included Nanny, Sallie, Mary E., Charles, Virginia, Billie and Lucy. Other students, some of them relatives, signed their school books: Southwood Pointer of Bewdley, Nellie Channing Day, Kate L. Pointer, Emma Whitelaw, Emma Haile, Matie Lakewood, Matie Gatewood, Sallie Pollard, Arch Pointer, Maggie E. Cauthorn, Miss Harriet E. Jones (Poplar Grove, Essex Co.), Jamie D. Cecil, and Edwin Wrenn. William Latane, subject of the famous painting "The Death of Latane", and his five brothers were educated at Liberty Hall. There are other mysteries to be solved regarding some of the names, especially that of John L. Cason whose signature appears many times, dated in the 1830s. Any information about John Hutchinson and his school at Liberty Hall will be appreciated.

Space does not allow for a listing of the books; however, they are available to those interested in the texts used

to educate young people in the 19th century, as well as entertain them. The range of topics were very broad and well rounded.

## 2017 Tavern Museum Accomplishments

The Museum is all volunteer and was extremely busy in 2017. Eighteen events were held, 11 onsite and 7 offsite, eight of which were in support of local schools. An exhibit of African American inventors was created for the local high school. Over 400 visitors were received onsite and over 3000 visited online. Although the majority of visitors were from Virginia, many were from across the country: predominantly California, Maine, Ohio, Georgia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, and Minnesota. The most memorable was the Vietnam veteran from Michigan seeking the family of a fallen comrade. Two new exhibits opened and four newsletters were published. Three major improvements to facilities were made: new exhibit cabinets, improved lighting for



County schools provide a music program at December Open House

exhibits, and renovation of the office. In addition, many requests for assistance with historical and genealogical research were informally fulfilled. The many monetary donations made by Museum patrons and the numerous hours of time contributed by the volunteers enable the Tavern Museum to thrive and are very much appreciated by the Museum Council and the Historical Society.

## Essex County Historical Society To Hold Meeting In Newtown

The Essex County Historical Society invites K&Q HS members to attend their annual meeting on Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m. at the Lee Bouleware house in Newtown.

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The guest speaker will be Mr. Bill Taliaferro who will talk about the death of Bennie Fleet and wounding of Willie Taliaferro during the Civil War.

## Museum Sponsors Exhibit at Community College Science Night

Newell Randall was one of 30 exhibitors at the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Science Night held on March 14th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the Glen Allen campus. This event is an interactive science experience with lab demonstrations hosted by Reynolds departments of Biology, Geology, Engineering, Physics, Honors, and Math Central along with other area organizations such as the Hanover Extension Office, Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation, Math Science Innovation Center, Mattaponi Pamunkey Rivers Association, Science Matters – Community Idea Stations, Virginia Herpetological Society and more. This event was free and the public was invited to come out and experience the fun of scientific discovery. Newell displayed fossils similar to those in his exhibit at the Tavern Museum, such as vertebrae, shark teeth, shell,



Newell Randall's traveling exhibit

coral, and whalebones. He gave shark teeth to the children. Over 300 people attended.

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