

#### Inside this issue:

Holiday Message From the Historical Society and Museum Council, Your Support is Appreciated, Behind The Scenes, Fossil Man Update, Developing the New Exhibit - Public Schools in King & Queen County, Recipes from Yesteryears for Holiday and Winter Fun, Then & Now

Editor: Biddie Shelor

(804) 785-9558

www.kingandqueenmuseum.org

#### Your Support Is Appreciated

Thank you very much for your response to our recent request for donations and for your membership dues payment. These defray our costs to preserve county artifacts; to provide free public access to interesting exhibits and informative programs; to offer scholarships to county high school seniors; to produce and distribute member publications; and to develop new exhibits. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation.\* Also, if you missed renewing your annual membership (\$15 per person/\$20 per couple), please do so before year-end. Checks can be made out to the King & Queen County Historical Society and sent to King & Queen County Historical Society, P. O. Box 129, King & Queen Court House, VA 23085. Also, membership and donation payments can be made via the website at

www.kingandqueenmuseum.org under Support.

# 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 2021



The Courthouse Tavern Museum Council and the King & Queen County Historical Society Board send you holiday greetings and hope in 2022 for a return to some normalcy. The continuing COVID crisis prevented the Museum from opening as normal in 2021. The Museum was closed to the public most of the year and by appointment only in the last months of the year. We have missed our visitors, school groups, historical society meetings and special events. We very much look forward to a routine opening in Spring 2022 and a celebration of the Museum's 20 years.





#### **Behind The Scenes**

Although the Museum has been closed, the Museum Council and volunteers have been active. Existing exhibits have been refreshed. Two exhibits have been closed and four new exhibits are being added. Some of the exhibit rooms have been repainted. Shelving in the Library has been expanded and new shelving has been added to the main storage room. A new audio/visual display has been implemented. Inquiries by phone and the Museum website continue to be handled, many from out-of-state. Most inquiries are from individuals performing genealogy research or those interested in places within the county such as cemeteries, old houses, and gristmills. Receiving, evaluating, and filing county artifacts has continued throughout this year. Most recently the outside of the Museum was decorated for the 2021 Holiday Season.

<sup>\*</sup> Taxpayers who don't itemize deductions may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for single and \$600 for married cash contributions made in 2021 to qualifying organizations such as the Museum. The law changed in this area due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

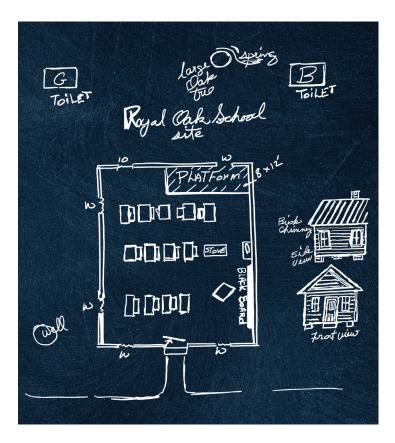
### Tales from the Tavern

#### **Fossil Man Update**

Newell Randall, the Fossil Man, continues to represent the Museum. This past summer he enjoyed taking part in the King William County Recreation and Parks 2021 Summer Sneakers Program and made a presentation to 40 youths. Please contact the Museum if you would like him to speak to your group.

## Developing the New Exhibit - Public Schools in King & Queen County

The Museum Council wanted to develop an exhibit of education in the county. However, the county has such a rich history of private and public education, it was necessary to select a period in that history, rather than cover it all. They chose the period from 1869 to 1963. In 1869 the state constitution for the first time guaranteed free elementary school education, grades 1-7, for all state residents ages 5-21 in segregated black and white schools.



At first schools operated a minimum of 5 months as students were needed to help with the farm activities in our primarily agricultural county. In 1870 the population of the county was 9709 with almost 8000 illiterate, and education was very important to improving the welfare of families. Schools were located close to communities so students and teachers could walk to school, as there

was no public transportation. When school buses were funded, consolidation of schools occurred. In the first half of the 20th century high schools emerged. Schools were integrated in the county in 1964, resulting in today's 2 elementary schools and 1 high school.

The primary target audience is today's county students and former students (and descendents of students)

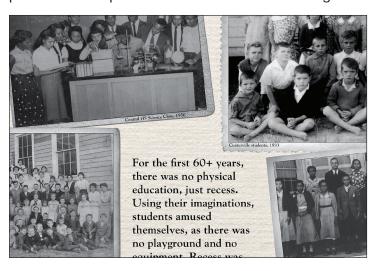




who attended during the period covered. Through the students own words, the exhibit tells their experience: the buildings with no air-conditioning and heat only from a wood stove, the lack of bathrooms and water fountains, no organized sports, multiple classes in one room taught by one teacher, no lunch rooms, no school buses, no libraries. Drawings and photographs of school buildings and student groups through the years were used to provide a perspective on school sizes and fashion of the day. Examples of books and student supplies are

### Tales from the Tavern

displayed to show the variety of curriculum and "tools" used. A county map identifies the approximate locations of each of the 74 schools. Organized school sports and activities began in the 20th century and are depicted with pictures and artifacts. School "memory" books, newspapers, and yearbooks (examples of which are displayed) recorded these. A special section focusing on the seven Rosenwald Schools in the county is presented with pictures and architectural drawings.





There were too many photographs to display so the Museum is planning to make all the photographs available in a notebook in the Museum Library.

We are excited about the "Public Schools in King & Queen County" exhibit and look forward to having you visit the Museum in 2022.

Buena Vista had two rooms, one for classes 1-3 and one for classes 4-6. Students sat in rows by class. Each year you moved a row.

#### In a student's own words

### Recipes from Yesteryears for Holiday and Winter Fun:

This time of year we often remember the delicious dishes served at past holiday gatherings of family and friends. Cookbooks and "those recipes that we have saved" inspire us to prepare something special. The recipes below from the *Bicentennial Cook Book* published by The Women's Club of King & Queen County Virginia, 1975, will warm you during cold weather days and satisfy a "sweet tooth".

### Brunswick Stew (From Betsy Fleet of Green Mount found in a cookbook published in 1895)

First catch your chickens, clean and cut them, And in an iron pot you put them; Add water nearly to the top, And in it salt and pepper drop; Boil slowly. Your tomatoes peel; Put in a shin or so of veal. And for flavor, bear in mind. A chunk of middling (pork/bacon) with rind; Next, some onions you throw in, The young and tender silver-skin; And butterbeans do not forget; And what's of more importance yet, The corn; but do not be too fast, This you must grate and add it last; For better than flour you'll find it do To give a thickness to the stew. Some lemon peel, cut very thin, May now be added and stirred in. and ere it's taken from the fire Give it a dash of Worcestershire, And soon you'll have its praises ring. This is a dish fit for a king.

### Poor Man's Cake (Eggless, milkless, butterless cake)

1 c. Crisco or lard

2 c. apples or applesauce

4 c. sifted flour

1 tsp. cloves

1 tsp. cocoa

1 c. nut-meats

2 c. brown sugar

1 tsp. soda in 1/2 c. hot water

1 tsp. nutmeg

1 box raisins

1 tsp. vanilla

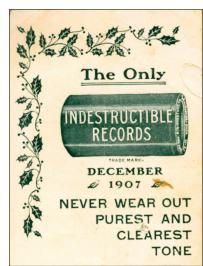
Cream shortening and sugar, add apples and hot water with soda. Combine 3 1/2 cups flour with spices and sift. Use 1/2cup flour to coat raisins and nuts. Mix all together. Bake in tube pan, greased and floured 1 hour in 350 degree oven.

### Tales from the Tavern

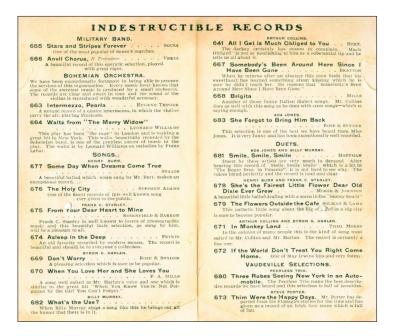
#### Then and Now

Over the last 80 years changes in physical media used to produce music and the ways we listen to it constantly changed: multiple iterations of vinyl, several

of audio iterations cassettes. compact discs, streaming. We don't think of mass marketing music records as early as 1907, but this brochure says otherwise. Indestructible Record Company recorded music and produced 1598 titles on plastic cylinder records between 1907 and 1922. William Messer, the owner of the company, developed a means of



mass-producing them after acquiring the patent rights to the cylinder from inventor Thomas Lambert. The records were first distributed by Columbia Records and later sold directly to customers and through retailers Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. Each celluloid cylinder had a cardboard core with metal reinforcing rings and played for 2 to 4 minutes. These cylinders were played on an early phonograph.



King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum PO Box 129
King and Queen C.H., VA 23085-0129

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID Aylett VA 23009 Permit No. 4