

# Tales from the Tavern

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

## 2022 Volume 2



### Inside this issue:

New Flag, Save the Dates,  
New Teachers Visit, Beulah  
Broom Company, Summer in  
King & Queen County, *Phyllis  
Jean* Participates in Tidewater  
Camporee

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Lunch with new teachers.



Teachers view new school exhibit.

### New Teachers Visit

On Tuesday, August 9 the Museum Council catered a lunch at the Museum for new King and Queen County teachers. Council Chair Linda Barnes welcomed the 24 attendees and encouraged them to view the exhibits while they were there. The lunch is an opportunity for the Council to introduce the new teachers to the resources the Museum can offer to support their curriculum and strengthen ties with the schools.

### Save The Dates

Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.  
- King and Queen County Historical  
Society Meeting.

Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.  
- Courthouse Tavern Museum Holiday  
Open House.



**Historical Society  
member Carol Lowry  
created this flag to signal  
that the Museum is open.**

**Thank You Carol!**



The location is "Wayside", home of Susan and David Norman, 6779 Owens Mill Road, Indian Neck, VA 23148. The Norman family will present the history of the home and the story of preserving it. The meeting will be held under a tent in the yard. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Refreshments will be served.



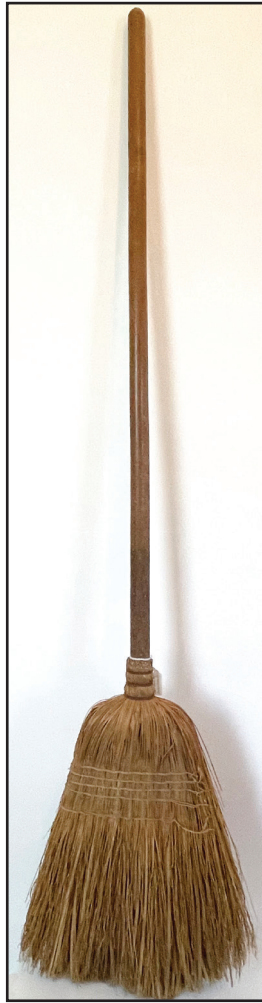
After a two year absence, this long running annual event returns to open the holiday season. There will be music, children's activities, food and opportunities to shop for the holiday. Please come and bring family and friends.

# Tales from the Tavern

## Beulah Broom Company

by Page McLemore

The Tavern Museum has recently received the gift of a broom from Alan McCann that is believed to have been purchased from the Beulah Broom Company, Shackelford's, Virginia in the mid 1920's, almost a hundred years ago. The broom is remarkably sturdy for its age. Its sweep is 14 inches across at its bottom and barely worn. The straws in the sweep vary in texture from quite fine to very thick, and are still held firmly in place with coils of wire and tacks which attach the straw to the handle. The bunched straw is shaped and flattened with well-preserved hand-tied string. The handle of the broom is a robust stick of wood, perfectly smoothed, giving the broom a total length of 54 inches. This is not a broom for a light-weight!



Broom made by Beulah Broom Company

Beulah Holiness Academy was built on property donated for that purpose in 1914, adjacent to the current day Beulah Church, chartered in 1922, and closed in 1931. Alan's father Edwin and aunt Florence both attended this school. The story handed down was that this broom was made by students there and purchased by the McCann family who lived in Chesterfield County. About the broom, Alan says "Somehow it ended up in the attic of my parent's home. From my earliest recollection, I remember seeing it there. My father, Edwin McCann, told me many stories about



Beulah Church 1948

his time at the Christian school and about the broom factory located next to it. He mentioned that the broom in our attic came from that factory."

Beulah Broom Company was operated by the Beulah Holiness Academy, and was located on property next to the school. The 2009 Beulah Church History includes a quote from a 1922 Academy Handbook stating the following purposes of the school: "To conduct a day and boarding school for the general education ..., to own and operate farms, boarding houses, and to manufacture brooms, conduct a cannery, a poultry farm, and a dairy..."



Check from the Beulah Broom Company in 1925

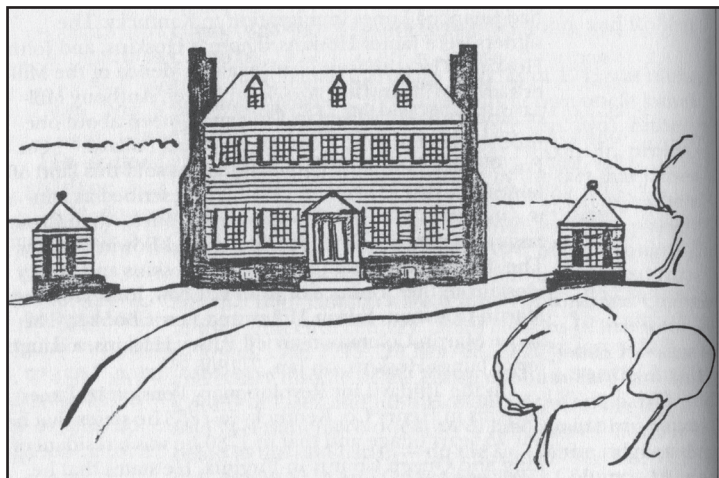
Mr. McCann writes: "All students had to work. Some of the older boys worked in the broom factory just west of the school, others had chores at the school. My father was the youngest student at the school. One of his jobs was to take the ashes out of the basement and dispose of them. It was a hard job for a young child, because they were so heavy and they had to be carried up steps and then across a field. The girl students did the cooking and the girls did the clothes washing on Monday. There was no school on Mondays; therefore, once the boys finished their chores they had free time. Often they would take long walks in the woods. The closest store was a small one at Cologne. There was a larger store at Shackelfords, but that was a much longer walk. Children from the area also attended the school. Some would walk and some would come on horseback." He adds that Florence later married one of the local students, a Mr. Milby, who rode his horse seven miles each day to school.

## Summer in King & Queen County

Through the years summer has been the time when families gather for reunions, when churches have homecomings, and folks migrate to the country to escape the heat of the city. Activities are varied and the emphasis is on relaxation and fun. This article highlights how some folks celebrated summer in King and Queen. If you have any stories, please send them for future newsletters.

# Tales from the Tavern

On July 4, 1797 Frances Baylor Hill of Hillsborough wrote in her diary, "Went to a barbecue at Mount Pleasant. Cousin Temple with us. There were about 50 Ladies and more Gentlemen, had very bad musick, and was much crowded. There were a great many strangers. We had a good dinner, Porter wine &c. I danced a great deal."



Mount Pleasant in King & Queen Co. Owned by Ambrose Cook in 1797. Sold to him by James, Nancy & John Hoskins in 1793. Illustration from *Hoskins of Virginia and Related Families* by Charles Willard Hoskins Warner. Courtesy of the Essex Public Library.

On July 4, 1860 Benny Fleet noted in his journal that he took a nice bath, picked Lillies for the girls and attended a gathering at Bruington Church where he sat by Miss Ida Faulkner, "the very place I wanted to be," and listened to the "Declaration of Independence" being read.



Bruington Baptist Church - 1953

In his sketch of "Home Life in the South", Edward B. Bagby wrote that the boys of the south had glorious times in the summer: slides down the old haystacks; bareback horse races performing stunts on the horse's back, sometimes falling in deep sand; swimming in the old mill-pond, rushing to be the first one in; fishing in the branch where the fish were ready to bite; raiding the watermelon patch where they plunked the fruit to determine ripeness.



Fishing on the Mattaponi.

In her book *A Patchwork Quilt, Lifestyle in King and Queen County, Virginia, 1910-1920*, Louise Eubank Gray describes the fun of stealing watermelons from her father's patch. "They were there for the asking. Choosing as large a melon as we could carry, we placed it in the stream to cool. Selecting a ripe one was something we did not know how to do at first. One summer it seemed that the melons would never get ripe. Borrowing a knife from the kitchen, I went to the patch. I studied several to see if I could tell which was ripe, thumping them as I had seen my father do and examining the curl. They all seemed alike so I carefully cut a one-inch cube from the top of a particularly big one. Prying it out wasn't easy...I could not discern pink flesh." This was tried on some more melons with no positive results. Several days later Louise's father called to her to go with him. She continues, "Unsuspecting, I followed happily, but, on the way he stopped at a peach tree and pulled a sturdy little branch. My heart fell. I began to go over in my mind various misdemeanors of the last few days, but I never thought of the visit to the watermelon patch. When he told me that I had destroyed a half-dozen watermelons, I was shocked. Realizing that I did not know the seriousness of my act, he threw the switch away and took me to the patch. There he carefully pointed out the clues to ripeness: the drying curl, the yellow underside, the hollow thud. Perhaps you'd better let me pick them for awhile yet, he said."



Eating Watermelon at a summer family gathering at Mount Elba - early 1900s.

# Tales from the Tavern

## **Phyllis Jean Participates in Tidewater Camporee**

Excerpt from *Tidewater Review* and *Southside Sentinel* August 1960

The *Phyllis Jean* (a 35ft Navy Captains gig donated by the Navy to the Walkerton Sea Scouts) on July 22, 1960 at 3:40 a.m. slipped quietly from her berth at Walkerton into the foggy stillness of the Mattaponi River headed 125 water miles away to Sharps, VA to participate in the Tidewater District Camporee for Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts. The course had been carefully plotted by captains Franklin Parker and Leonard Reynolds, both of Walkerton. Sea scouts Billo Acree, Winnie Clark and Ray Croxton, and Committeemen Ernest Vaughan and Robert Coleman were also on board. She passed West Point and glided into the York River at 7:20 a.m. From there she traveled into the Chesapeake Bay and from the Bay into the Rappahannock River. At 7 p.m., after 11 hours and 40 minutes she docked at Fred Garrett's Marina at Bowler's Wharf where she was treated to generous hospitality. At 8:30 the next morning the *Phyllis Jean* left Garrett's Marina and headed for Sharps across the river, arriving at 9 a.m. The crew then rowed ashore to join the activities of the Camporee. The highlight was the swimming meet on Saturday afternoon in which the Walkerton Sea Scouts and Scouts placed first and second respectively in the overall judging. Scoutmaster Charles Carneal and captains Parker and Reynolds were very proud. On the return trip some crew changes

occurred. Sea Scout Francis Mitchell came on board, as did Scoutmaster Carneal, and Committeemen John Ball, Russell Langford and George R. Griggs, replacing Vaughan and Coleman. In addition, guests Ray Griffin and Dean Pemberton joined. After waiting for a terrific storm to subside, the *Phyllis Jean* weighed anchor and returned to Garrett's Marina for the night. At 4:55 a.m. Sunday she headed home to Walkerton arriving at 8:05 Sunday night, completing her 250 mile journey. She was met by a large cheering section composed of wives and families of those aboard Ship 213, plus other interested parties. During the course of the trip, the Sea Scouts were instructed on how to keep a boat on its course, how to read buoys and markers, and other fundamentals of safe boating. The Scouting Organization of Walkerton feels that this trip was quite an accomplishment and is very proud of the Sea Scouts and of the *Phyllis Jean*. They feel fortunate to have captains Franklin Parker and Leonard Reynolds as their Sea Scout leaders.



Flag flown on the *Phyllis Jean*

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