From Our President

I will not be able to attend our next meeting as I will be in Kansas. I do, however, want to tell you some exciting news. Following requests from our society, the County finally put a new roof on the old jail in the historic 1725 court house complex. The interior of the jail is in need of repair. The County has indicated if the King William County Historical Society (KWCHS) can raise the funds to repair the interior of the jail, they would enter into a long term lease of the jail with the society. There are many benefits to the citizens and KWCHS if it is repaired:
1. The KWCHS would utilize one room for the storage of artifacts which are now stored in the basement of the museum.
2. A second room would be used as an historic library and research room.
3. The third room would be used as a meeting room for KWCHS and a jury room when court is held in the old court house maintaining the claim of “the oldest court house in continuous use in the United States.”
4. Two handicapped bathrooms would be built at the jail. They would be used by KWCHS and the public when events are held at the complex.
5. With the repair of the jail the historic complex will be fully utilized for our citizens.

We have applied for grants to cover some of the $25,000 cost, but granting agencies always require matching money. You will receive in the mail a request to contribute. I hope you will seriously consider making a donation.

Carl R. Fischer

Cemetery Listing

The KWCHS has gathered additional cemetery grave listings. We wish to combine this information with our existing listings. This requires typing and minimal computer skill. If you are willing to assist us with this activity please call Carl R. Fischer at 804-843-9194 or e-mail him at flyfishn@aol.com. Carl Fischer

King William County Historical Museum

Grayson and Marie Jennings have graciously donated to our museum collection an original 1828 four volume set of the "Papers of Thomas Jefferson" by Thomas Jefferson Randolph. They are in need of some repair, but all pages are intact. Our many thanks go out to the Jennings family for this gift.

Last month, we were treated to an interview with Mrs. Dorothy Martin Krewatch at Brett Reed Presbyterian Church as part of our new oral history program. She brought along the journal from her father’s grocery store which included activity in West Point at Martin’s Store from 1920 forward. As we browsed through the journal, the entries would remind her of many events of life in the West Point area in the 1930s. Adele Smith, Bibb Edwards and I were fascinated with the stories and anecdotes, digitally recorded for preservation. We plan to do many more interviews and oral histories with our residents for inclusion in our museum collections.

The Library of Virginia has allowed us to make digital copies of various King William County records. The source records are currently on microfilm, and the new digital readers allow us to copy them to our thumb drives where we can clean up and put them on discs for use in the museum as resource materials.

Bibb Edwards has compiled the complete land tax records from the late 1700s, and we are now copying a rare King William County sheriff’s book covering the activities from 1785 through 1820. Benjamin Spiller, the county sheriff, kept the account book when he moved to Lancaster County after his tenure.
in King William. Thus it survived the fire of 1885. It contains remarkable entries.

We have also digitally photographed the complete 1828-1830 Littlepage Store diary, some 250 pages, which is on display in the museum. It contains a wonderful look at what the courthouse area neighbors were buying and doing at the time. All these materials will be available for our guests to peruse and use as research tools at the museum. Lloyd Huckstep

July Picnic Report

A large contingent enjoyed the hospitality of Carl and Lynn Fisher at Windsor Shades on July 17. Thankfully, it was one of the cooler afternoons and what a wonderful spot on the Pamunkey River. Emilie Townsend

Deaths

Lois Wickam, a member of our society, and a founding member of the Hanover Historical Society died in July. Caroline Gwathmey Jones also died in July. A resident of King and Queen County, she had many King William family connections. She was a well known educator and preserver of history in our county as well as her own. Mary Thomas Abrams Smith 99, another educator, died in September. She and her husband, Ned, were staunch supporters of our society. We will surely miss them. We've lost three great ladies.

Membership and Dues

We have had about 10 new members join the society this year, most recently, Dr. David and Gwynn Litchfield of Bruington, VA. (King and Queen County) and Dr. and Mrs. Vincent Keesee (Tifton, Ga.). We welcome our new members.

This does not offset current members who have not paid their dues. If you have not paid your dues, please consider doing so. We have great plans for the coming year! Bob Hubbard

Please note that The King William Historical Society’s year runs from July 1- June 30. This means it's time to pay your dues. We continue to identify projects and needs for preservation in King William County and need your support. We currently have about 30 members who have not paid dues for the coming year. With interest rates being so low, we may have difficulty meeting our annual expenses in the coming year if our current members don’t renew their membership.

The dues structure is:
Individual... $20  Family... $30  Student... $10  Lifetime... $250

Mail to: King William Historical Society
PO Box 233
King William, Va. 23086

Harris Books for Sale at Museum

The Museum Council has sets of Dr. Malcolm H. Harris ("Old New Kent County, Some Account of The Planters, Plantations, and Places in New Kent County," published 1977). As King William was derived from New Kent, this is the single most thorough history of King William County and its people to date. It details home sites and families in the county since formation. They have sold well. The two volume set is for sale to the public for $125 and to our membership for $115. The cost for mailing is an additional $5.00. We will be actively purchasing more King William related books for sale as well. The website PayPal account...
established last fall by Bob Hubbard will allow us to sell these items via an online store, and in the future accessed through our website.

**Local Events**

The King and Queen County Tavern Museum will sponsor a book signing at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 9. Belle Boggs, acclaimed author of "Mattaponi Queen" will introduce John Milliken Thompson, author of "The Reservoir," a new novel of historical fiction. The book's setting in King and Queen and King William Counties as well as in Richmond makes it appealing to local readers. Mr. Thompson will read from his book. The novel is based on the 1885 trial of Thomas Cluverius, from a prominent King and Queen family.

Both author's books will be available for sale and for signing. Anyone who already has a book may bring it for the author's signature. *Emilie Townsend*

**Rumford Academy**

The photograph below is our only known image of the historic King William school founded in 1806. We are very interested in finding other images of Rumford Academy or other King William schools of the past for inclusion in a possible exhibit at the museum. You are our best source of information. So please contact us with any leads that may help in this effort.