

KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter
April 2022

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UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING April 10, 2022, 2:30 PM

Administration Building, King William Courthouse
180 Horse Landing Road
King William, VA 23086

Please join us at the next meeting of the King William County Historical Society which will be held on Sunday, April 10th at 2:30. This will be an in-person meeting but will also be available via Zoom for those members unable to attend in person. We encourage attendees to be vaccinated. Masks will not be required but members are welcome to wear them.

Our speaker, Dr Alvin Lomax, will be speaking on "Evolution and Implementation of Formal Education for African Americans from 1869 through 1960". Dr Lomax will speak about the development of the school systems and law enforcement of school policies during the period. The focus of Dr. Lomax's presentation will be on the King William County educational system, but he will also discuss developments across the Commonwealth during those years.

Dr. Lomax is a long-time member of the King William County Historical Society. He majored in Pre-med at Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) and later received his master's degree in Education Administration from there as well. He received his doctoral degree in Administration and Higher Education from William and Mary.

Dr. Lomax was commissioned in the US army ROTC with primary responsibilities as a training officer for the for 37th Infantry Battalion. After active duty, he worked at the Sinclair Walker High school in Middlesex Virginia and then joined what is now Norfolk State University as Assistant Director of Student Teaching and later served as Director for Student Financial Aid. His last 14 years there were as Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs.

Refreshments will be available after the presentation.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Friends,

I'm so happy to see spring is here and we are finally able to get out and about again! The Museum has re-opened and the Museum Council did a wonderful job recreating the historic King William Tavern exhibit. I hope you all will be able to visit the museum soon. The Museum is always in need of docents to share our unique history. The museum is open on Sunday afternoons and by appointment. If you are willing and able, please volunteer to serve as a docent by contacting Rebecca Townsend at 804-338-5738.

There are many opportunities to learn and celebrate King William County history in the coming months. On Sunday April 10th, Dr. Lomax will present a program to the membership about the education of African Americans in King William County. The following day on April 11th, King William County will celebrate its 320th birthday at the Historic King William County Courthouse. The archaeological work continues at the King William Colonial Courthouse and you are invited to see the work being performed by DATA Investigations LLC on most Thursdays. In addition, the historic society is contracting to perform ground penetrating radar to help in finding the foundation of the old King William Courthouse Tavern.

Historic Garden Week in Virginia takes place April 23-30. The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula represents King William County and will host a tour of five houses in lower King and Queen County's Buena Vista District on April 29th. Tickets are available in advance at vagardenweek.org.

I hope that you are able to get out and enjoy some historic sites this spring and enjoy the beauty of our area.

Best Regards,

Sally W. Pearson

President, King William County Historical Society



Tavern Scene in the newly reopened King William Co. Museum; see page 7 for details

MEMBER NEWS

Searching the Newly Transcribed County Records – Books 1 & 2

We are happy to announce that the first *and second* (see below) of 19 record books for King William County are transcribed and fully keyword searchable. As usual - your purchase of a thumb drive with the secure PDF goes to support the King William County Museum. You may be wondering why these versions are so invaluable. Just as with Book 1, the transcription for Book 2 was done page by page, word by word, letter by letter, accurately portraying the original. And you can compare it for yourself because we include an image of each original page opposite the transcription. Still not sold? The ease of searching the book is remarkable and can lead to immediate discoveries.

One of the most remarkable documents in Book 2 is a list of enslaved Africans referenced by name in the inventory of Gentleman William Clayborne's Estate (appraised January 16, 1706);

Imprimis

To: 1 old Negro man named Bocka	£008.00.00
To: 1 Negro Man named Guy	£020.00.00
To: 1 Mulatto named Jack Smith	£030.00.00
To: 1 Negroe woman named Kate	£025.00.00
To: 1 Negro woman named Bess	£025.00.00
To: 1 Mullatto named Jenny	£028.00.00
To: 1 Mullatto named Sarah	£027.00.00
To: 1 Negroe Boay named Billy	£025.00.00
To: 1 Mullatto Boay named Phenie [?]	£015.00.00
To: 1 Mullatto Boay named Tho: Russell	£005.00.00

This document is perhaps the only reference in history for these ten individuals. Their "value" listed on the right-hand side reminds us of the dehumanizing horrors of slavery. Part of our efforts are to bring into everyone's hands the documents from the past that survive so that we can all benefit. Knowing their names is a first, important step.

This is one of a handful of documents that are truly remarkable. But the most meaningful discoveries are the ones that link you to your ancestors in King William County. Can you imagine what you might find when you type in your family's name, or the creek where they lived, or any number of words that will help you with your research. The transcriptions go beyond the useful indexes and achieve a far higher level. Perhaps your GGGGGGrandfather's land was a boundary to another property? Or perhaps he served as a witness? And the record books include inventories, too, often listing enslaved Africans and others who are seldom referenced in finding aids. This will help any researcher anxious to work through a book cover-to-cover, with nary a single needle missed in this giant haystack. – David Brown

Book 1 is approx. 380 pages long and covers the years 1702-1707. Book 2 is 267 pages long and covers a range of years, including 1702-1706, 1721-1722, and 1785-1786. The soon-to-be published Book 3 (editing the transcription is underway) is 474 pages long and picks up where Book 2 leaves off. We anticipate Book 3 being available for purchase later this spring/summer.

The fully transcribed and illustrated Record Books 1 & 2 are each available for purchase for \$50. They are provided on a thumb drive and are print restricted. Please note that the proceeds support our most amazing and deserving King William County Museum, so it's worth purchasing for TWO reasons. To buy your copies, please email kwhs@kingwilliamhistory.org.

MEMBER NEWS

King William Courthouse in the 20th Century

Some of you may have heard that we are conducting a cultural landscape reconstruction for the 300 acres surrounding the King William Courthouse. As part of this, we are tracing the ownership of each parcel as far back as we can, looking at deeds, wills, plats, and reaching out with property owners and neighbors, too (see Figure 1 on the following page). If you have something to share about landmarks and properties in this area, we would love to hear from you. Drop us a line at 804-815-1066 or email Dr. Dave Brown at dabro3@email.wm.edu.

To get some of this started, we thought it best to tell you a bit about what we've learned so far - and then ask a few questions that you might know the answer to. Our research so far has focused on the 20th century, looking at records in the clerk's office, and writing letters to residents. We've found surveys that reference ice ponds and dams in two different locations, two ice houses adjacent to our newer courthouse, and the ironic discovery that Rt. 30 (cutting east-west, south of the courthouse) was in fact built in 1930. Coincidence? Probably. We have a copy of the original lease agreement for the Fire Tower. Located in Deed Book 50 on page 464, Mr. John McP. Lacy leases to F.C. Pederson (Acting State Forester) on September 15, 1933 "a piece of land 50-foot square, lying on top of the knoll in front of Mr. Lacy's house, situated in the triangular lot between the old road leading to the court house [sic] and the new West Point Road. The said easement and right-of-way hereby granted is for the construction, maintenance, and full, free and quiet use and enjoyment of a lookout fire tower or station to be used for the purpose of detecting forest fires." And a quick shout-out to Gus Kasper for his wonderful article in last year's newsletter on our beloved, county-owned fire tower.

There are several wonderful tidbits beyond this, but we thought it best to also ask folks a few questions they might be able to answer.

1. When was the Juvenile Courts Building (just north of the post office) built? And what was its original use?
2. Did anyone ever live in the old barn-like building next to Oakdale (south, across the street from the post office...not the Doctor's Office)? Was this originally a slave quarter-turned-tenant house?
3. Was the gas station always an Esso Station (now Mr. Glubiak's office)? Does anyone have photos of it when it was in use? or when the garage was still out back?

If you have answers for any of these questions, or if you have questions and you want answers, please reach out when you have a moment and we'd be happy to share with all of you what we've discovered.

MEMBER NEWS

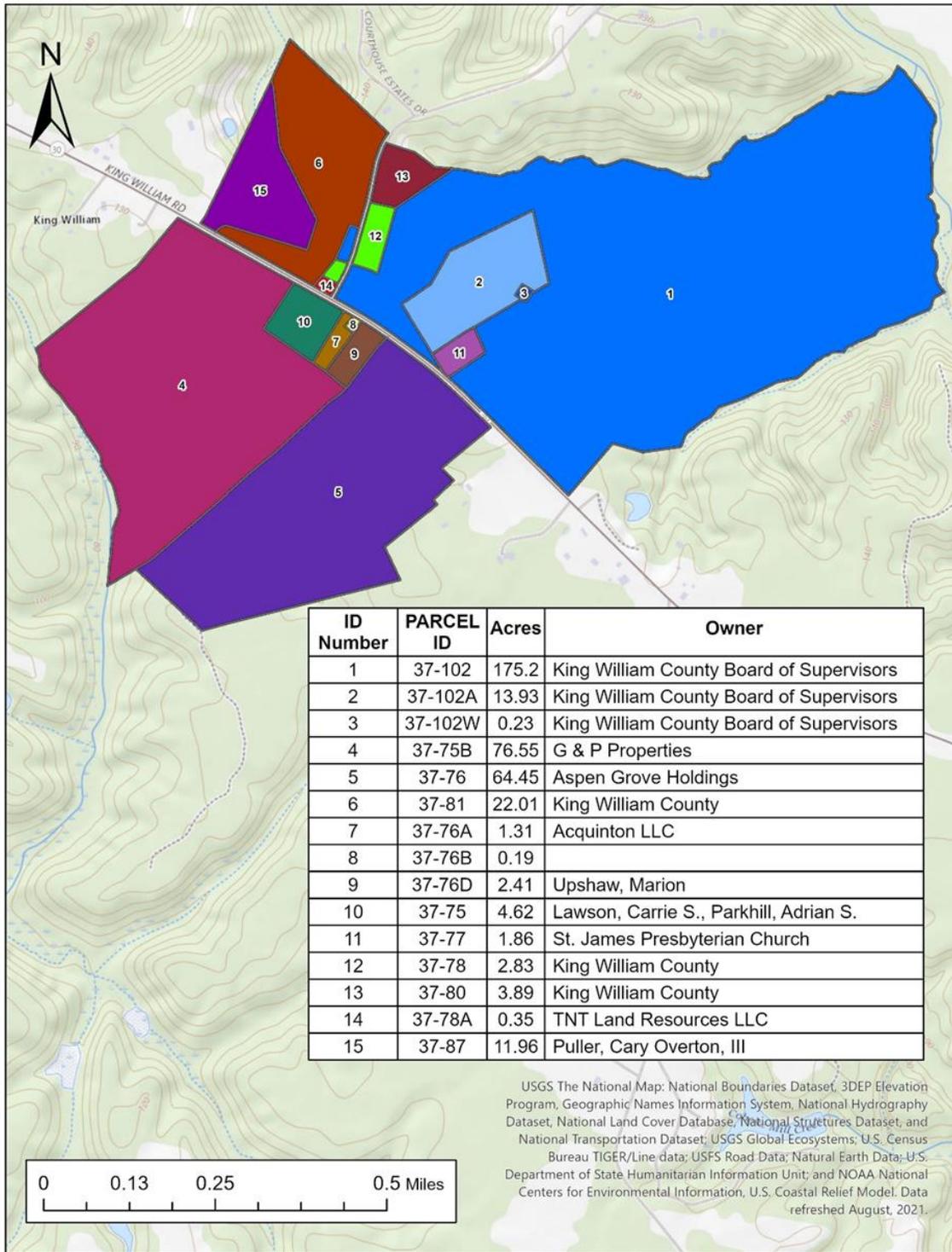


Figure 1

MEMBER NEWS

Celebrate Our Heritage on April 11th

King William County was organized in 1701, its territory being taken from King and Queen County, which had been formed from a part of New Kent in 1691. The General Assembly act became effective on April 11, 1702, establishing King William County as the 24th county in Virginia. The county was named for King William III, King of England 1689-1702.

King William County is celebrating its 320th anniversary on April 11, 2022, at the county administration complex on Horse Landing Road. The Historical Society, in partnership with county administration, will be hosting the event featuring historical pictures, maps, and artifacts, as well as other historical society projects. A food truck will be on-site from 11:30am-1:30pm. Lunch will be enjoyed on the old courthouse lawn, and cake will be served in the administration building lobby. Fairfield Foundation Archeologists will be on site to explain the current "dig" searching for the historical tavern. The tavern is where those that historically frequented what is now the nation's oldest courthouse in continuous use, roomed and dined. The main attraction will be an opening of our county museum from 10:00 to 5:00pm, with a new exhibit that recreates the 18th century tavern atmosphere with artifacts uncovered by archeologists at the courthouse site.

King William County Courthouse was erected in 1725 and is the best preserved of Virginia's eleven colonial court buildings. The arcaded front of the building resembles the same style architecture of the arcades connecting the wings of the first Virginia State Capitol in Williamsburg.

The courthouse grounds include a 19th-century Clerk's Office and jail that are surrounded by a brick wall built to keep out wandering livestock.

Please come join us!

Dig Days Coming Up

The King William County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Fairfield Foundation, is excited to announce three upcoming archaeology "dig days" at the Historic King William Courthouse. Come see the excavations underway as archaeologists recover artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries while they search for the brick foundations of the King William Tavern. You are welcome to watch, ask questions, and maybe even help screen for artifacts.

Visitors are welcome between 10 am and 4 pm on April 11th (as part of the King William 320th Anniversary festivities) and on April 14th and 28th. More dates are anticipated in May and June, so check back in on our social media or contact dave@fairfieldfoundation.org for more information.

MEMBER NEWS

King William County Museum: Newly Renovated and Re-opened

The King William County Museum has a beautiful new exhibit and has re-opened to the public! The new exhibit inhabits the large central room of the Museum, and depicts a scene from a colonial tavern. You will feel as if you've gone back in time when you enter the Museum, as you will hear the sounds of a crowd enjoying tavern fare and the company of others. A new video explains the importance of the Courthouse and Court days in colonial life.

Kudos to the Museum Council for all of their hard work in bringing this slice of the past back to life. It is far more than a nice scene; everything visitors see represents documented research done by the Council members.

Check out the photo in the President's Message on page 2, and plan to visit the Museum soon. It is open now on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Officers and Board Members Nominated for the Next Biennium

The Nominating Committee has announced the following nominees for officers and board members:

President: David Brown
Vice-President: Morgan Faulkner
Treasurer: Sally Pearson
Corresponding Secretary: Amanda Walker
Recording Secretary: Lisa Vawter
At Large: Benjamin Shumaker
At Large: Carl Fischer
At Large: Bob Hubbard
Parliamentarian: John Breeden

Members will vote in July at the Annual meeting. The Nominating Committee includes John Breeden, Bob Hubbard, and Lisa Vawter.

Mark Your Calendars

Membership meetings are planned for

Sunday, July 17th: Join us for the Grand Re-opening of the King William County Museum

Sunday, October 16th: You are invited to picnic on the grounds of the estate of Retreat in the Mangohick area of King William.

Watch your newsletter for details later this year.

ADAMSTOWN

By Morgan L. Faulkner

In the summer of 2021, the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe completed the largest land acquisition in the Tribe's modern history. The nearly 207-acre parcel extends from Kelley Lane to Indian Church Road. Today, the property includes a farm house, agricultural fields, pond, and historic Upper Mattaponi cemetery. Citizens of the Tribe are elated to begin rebuilding the community in this region.

The area became known as Adamstown in the eighteenth century when the tribal group called the Adamstown Band took up residence there. This area has been the center of the Upper Mattaponi community ever since. The presence of a Native community is even noted in the Adamstown region on an 1863 Civil War map of King William County. As the needs of the community grew, so did the infrastructure. Still in use today is Indian View Baptist Church and Sharon Indian School. The Church meets every Sunday at 11 a.m. and is still the spiritual home of many Upper Mattaponi families. Even though Sharon Indian School no longer functions as an educational facility on a daily basis, the Tribe still holds many meetings and culture classes in the building. Sharon Indian School was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

While the history of Adamstown is well document and extends generation before my time, I cannot help but recall the memories I have of this beautiful place growing up on the dirt road called Rural Route 2 in the 1990s. My family was one of the lucky few to still reside in Adamstown years after many of the Upper Mattaponi citizen owned farms and properties had been sold off. Like any community we had names and landmarks which we used to denote specific areas that might not mean much to outsiders but told us everything we needed to know. There was Peter's, where you could count on finding wild blackberry bushes ready to be picked every August. We loved to fish in Kelley's Pond where we caught crickets to use as bait. Then Susie's, which was an old, green house standing among the fields of hearty crops. Up the road was my Grandma Hockey's where a grove of early blooming daffodils reminded us that Spring was fast approaching each March. There was Quarter Field, where I always seemed to get lost while navigating our trails through the woods. And last but not least, the frog pond that led to an endless amount of entertainment each summer. This history, the one that has evolved over time and is recent in our memory, is the one that I cannot wait to explore and document in the years to come now that the Upper Mattaponi Tribe has this land back.



A portion of an 1863 Civil War map

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual Membership expires twelve (12) months after your last dues payment.

Family \$30

Student \$10

Individual \$20

Lifetime \$250

Artifact Level \$150+

Pamunkey/Mattaponi Level \$300+

Thomas T. H. Hill Benefactor Level \$500+

Corporate Sponsorship \$500+

Mail to:

King William Historical Society
P.O. Box 233
King William, VA 23086

KELLEY'S POND



Chief W. Frank Adams, showing off Kelley's Pond, Adamstown area

*The King William Museum is open on Sundays from
1:00 to 5:00 pm.
Located at 227 Horse Landing Road,
King William, Virginia*

King William County Historical Society

The King William County Historical Society was formed in 1973 to preserve and promote the unique heritage and rich history of King William County, Virginia through education, research, and restoration of historically significant landmarks.

Our mission is to collect, interpret, and preserve those things relative to the history of the county while acting as caretaker of artifacts from the lives and traditions of the people who have gone before us.

To this end our efforts are wide ranging, including our publications, operating the county historical museum, and the stabilization and restoration of King William landmarks such as the Old Jail, Lanesville Christadelphian Church, and Acquinton Church.

Membership is open to all who share a passion for history, a reverence for the past, and an interest in preserving our common heritage for future generations.