

# Isle of Kent - 1631

To Discover, Identify, Restore and Preserve the Heritage of Kent Island

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

SUMMER 2020

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## President's Message



Wishing health and safety to all of you! We are now living in a vastly different world than when we reached out to you in our last newsletter in late February. The COVID19 pandemic and our nation's response is upon us and has affected virtually every aspect of our lives. That certainly includes plans and activities of the Kent Island Heritage Society that involve hosting and participating in community events and receiving visitors.

Our largest event of the year, the iconic Kent Island Day 2020 was cancelled. We realized in mid-March that such a large community event in May attracting over 2,000 people, requiring extensive coordination and planning was simply unthinkable. We thus made the formal announcement of cancellation, which proved to be a timely decision and pledged to do our part to support the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens and community as our top priority. In the months to come we will monitor the situation to see if some kind of special Kent Island celebration is warranted and appropriate after this cloud has passed.

Likewise, the planned presentation on Kent Island's archaeology by Dr. Darrin Lowery was cancelled in mid-March. We made this decision at the front edge of the COVID19 restrictions out of an abundance of caution, due to the close quarters of the meeting venue and the expected overflow crowd for this popular subject. However, Dr. Lowery's archaeological project on Kent Island/Parson's Island will proceed this summer with volunteer assistance from the Society.

The Docent Tea we had planned for mid-March was also cancelled for similar reasons. We'll consider another opportunity to honor and thank our important team of docents at a future time as circumstances permit.

For the protection of our visitors and docents, our Stevensville and Chester historic sites will remain closed until mandated by the Governor and agreed to by our Board. Special programs and visits have been postponed as well. Please visit us virtually and explore what we have to offer online. When we are able to re-open, notification will be available in the local media and on our website containing our Twitter and Facebook links.

Schools have been closed since late March affecting the Heritage program at KI High School. We had presented only one session this semester, but the students were so engaged that we offered student membership to those classes. We look forward to resuming that program in the fall with the next junior class.

*Continued on page 2*

## **KIHS Committees**

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### **Budget**

Bob Lowe, *Chair*

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John Conley, *Managing Editor*

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Carmen Mendez

Fran Peters

Hanna Wall

Marilyn Wilson

Cheryl Valentine

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Kent Island Day**

Jack Broderick, *Chair*

John Conley

Nancy Cook

Carole Frederick

Bob Lowe

### **Picnic**

Carole Frederick, *Chair*

Toni and Jay Gibson

Linda and Butch Collier

### **June General Meeting**

Jack Broderick, *Chair*

### **Annual Election Brunch**

Toni Gibson, *Chair*

*Continued from page 1*

We have not been able to access historic and genealogical files housed at the KI Library since it is closed. However, materials can be retrieved by special request. Any other Heritage Society presentations on the calendar are on a temporary hold as well.

In the meantime, however, we are committed to doing all we can to support our mission to discover, identify, restore and preserve the heritage of Kent Island. Our board has met successfully via conference call to carry on the society's business. For example, each year the heritage society awards a scholarship to an eligible graduating senior. Our 2020 scholarship recipient has been chosen and will be awarded as circumstances permit.

Dr. Darrin Lowery's archaeology field work is on! He has received his approved grant from the Maryland Historic Trust to continue exploratory surveying and digging on Parson's Island, an extension of Kent Island in Prospect Bay and Crab Alley. His previous explorations resulted in fascinating new information about early man in this area. This summer's efforts will continue that work with assistance from Heritage Society volunteers. See website for ongoing details.

The Kirwan blacksmith shop is progressing – slowly but surely. The building is now completed and approved by the county. Our next step is to complete the interior work-space and acquire necessary smithing tools and equipment, such as the original Kirwan anvil donated by Kirwan family friend and neighbor, Curtie Chance. Thank you, Curtie!

The restoration aspect of our mission will be met by maintenance and repairs at all of our Stevensville sites which include: the Train Station and Caboose, Cray House, Historic Post Office, and Historic Bank.

An antique wrought iron fence was donated to us by Mr. Nick Neboshynsky, of Stevensville, The fence is being repaired and will be relocated to the family cemetery on the Kirwan Farm. Thank you Nick!

The metal roof over the Kirwan House museum store entrance is being repaired and repainted. There is also ongoing work to improve drainage around the property and to control the tick infestation in an environmentally safe way. We are determined to deal with those "dang ticks" effectively.

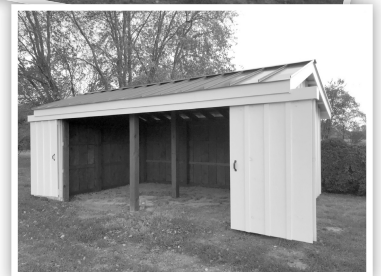
I'm sorry to share a sad note about the recent death of a true Kent Island icon, Capt. Bobby Aaron of Stevensville. Capt. Bobby owned and operated, for many decades, one of the greatest businesses on Kent Island – his Metal Working/Blacksmith Shop on Main St. in Stevensville. Please see my thoughts on Capt. Bobby Aaron in this Newsletter.

As we progress through this unusual and challenging time, we are working to keep you updated through our website that contains Facebook and Twitter links. Please check us out regularly at [kentislandheritagesociety.org](http://kentislandheritagesociety.org).

Looking to the future, we are exploring the use of current technology to bring the sites, characters, and stories of our Kent Island heritage alive through virtual tours, presentations and other media. Stay tuned!

We hope you and your families stay healthy and safe as you weather these next several months.

*Jack Broderick*



# CALENDAR 2020

**JANUARY 21**  
BOARD MEETING

**FEBRUARY 19**  
BOARD MEETING

**MARCH 18**  
GENERAL MEETING  
Darrin Lowery, Ph. D.  
Guest Speaker  
Historic Christ Church @ 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 15**  
BOARD MEETING

**MAY 16**  
KENT ISLAND DAY

**MAY 20**  
BOARD MEETING

**JUNE 17**  
GENERAL MEETING  
Annual Cruise

**JULY 15**  
BOARD MEETING

**AUGUST 19**  
BOARD MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 16**  
BOARD MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 27**  
ANNUAL PICNIC  
@ KIRWAN HOUSE  
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**OCTOBER 21**  
BOARD MEETING

**NOVEMBER 18**  
BOARD MEETING

**DECEMBER 13**  
ANNUAL MEETING/BRUNCH  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
TBA  
12:30 - 4:00 PM

## KENT ISLAND DAY PATRONS -2020-

Lorraine and Robert L. Aaron  
Phyllis and George Abendschoen  
Joann and Mike Anderson  
Mark Anderson  
Anonymous  
Roz and Marty Appel  
Betty Baker  
Holly and Wheeler Baker  
Patty Baker  
Harry Bly  
Diana Bonner  
Janet B. and Theophilus C. Breeding  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Britt  
Liz Jack Broderick  
Ethel and Madison Brown  
Ida Jean Buckel  
Dr. Earl L. Chambers, Jr.  
Curtie Chance  
Chesapeake Light Tackle  
Forrest Chisman  
Debbie and Spencer Clarke  
Dolores B. Cockey  
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Rena and Roger Dye  
Julie Eaton  
Linda Elias  
Betty Lou and Jim Ferrier  
Walter Folz  
Mary Ford  
Carole Frederick  
Donna and Frank Frohn  
Evelyn Colonna Garcia  
Sandy Gemignani

Stoopley Gibson  
Sharon and Pat Goss  
Jeanne and Jack Guidera  
Nancy and Bryan Hall  
M. Hamilton & Sons  
Pat and Jerry Harris  
In Memory of Audrey Hawkins  
Barbara and Thomas Helfenbein  
Sandra and James Herbert  
Valerie and Thom Hirsch  
Ava Kelley Honeycutt  
T. and Wayne Humphries  
Mae Hutchison  
Cindy Ringgold Johnson  
Claire and David Kelley  
Ernestine Kepley  
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Mr. and Mrs. William T. Key  
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Fran Peters  
Faye Councill Polillo  
Annie May Price  
Lisa and Chip Price  
Mildred Price  
Queenstown Bank of Maryland  
Julie and Mike Ranelli  
Claire Ransom  
Gene M. Ransom  
Nicole Ransom

Theo Ransom  
Sandy Reinhard  
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Elizabeth and Stan Ruddle  
Dorotheann and Bernard Sadusky  
Carol and Harry Sanders  
Henry A. Schmidt  
Pat and Bob Schocke  
Stacey and Tracy Schulz  
Jane P. Schwarz  
Elizabeth Aiello Seidel  
Shirley Severa  
Mindy, Jamie and Cameron Sewell  
Ellen and Ernie Smith  
Jarrett and Frank Smith  
Flora and Richard Sossi  
Rita H. Stowe  
Anne Baker and Tom Tate  
Dorothy Tolson Thompson  
Kathryn Thompson  
Don Thomson  
Rosalie Usilton and Richard Tillman  
Bill Tucker and Tracy Diamond  
Carole Tulip  
Anne Kyle Tyler  
Valainis Family  
Rev. Ken and Cheryl Valentine  
Mindy and Mike Voelker  
Hanna Wall  
Gayle and Jim Walls  
Gary Legg Walters  
Shirley Walters  
Paula Warner  
Pauline K. White  
Betty White  
Bucky and Jim Wills  
Marilyn and Harold Wilson  
Gigi Windley  
Joyce Woodford  
Bonel Zakarian  
Clare and Joe Zimmerman  
Jacqueline Moody Ziskind

# WILLIAM CLAIBORNE NEEDED A PRESS AGENT

By John L. Conley

Depending on what you read, Kent Island founder William Claiborne was, as described in Frederick Emory's 1950 book *Queen Anne's County Maryland*, either an "unscrupulous, bigoted—a restless adventurer 'arch disturber'" or conversely, "a sturdy champion of the Church of England, energetic, tenacious and somewhat grasping, but prompted on the whole by honorable motives." Perhaps one's view depends upon which side of the Chesapeake Bay he or she sits.

While today's Kent Islanders tend to look favorably on Mr. Claiborne, he does not fare very well everywhere including in a fictional 1910 tome *Calvert of Maryland: A Story of Lord Baltimore's Colony*. The book was written by James Otis (Kaler,) a prolific writer of history books for children. It is one of a series he wrote "to show the children, and even those who have already taken up the study of history, the home life of the colonists with whom they meet in their books." (The books were used to teach history as my original copy is stamped: Johnson Heights School, Cumberland, Maryland.)

The historical fiction book is presented through the eyes of George Calvert and, "Yes, my name is Calvert, and I am proud because it was given me by the first Lord Baltimore, near to thirteen years ago, when he stood my godfather." Young George sails for the New World with his father in November, 1633 "in the lord's ship *Ark*, of near to three hundred tons burden, and in our company will be the *Dove*, a pinnacle of fifty tons or more." (Kent Islanders would observe we were already here for two years)

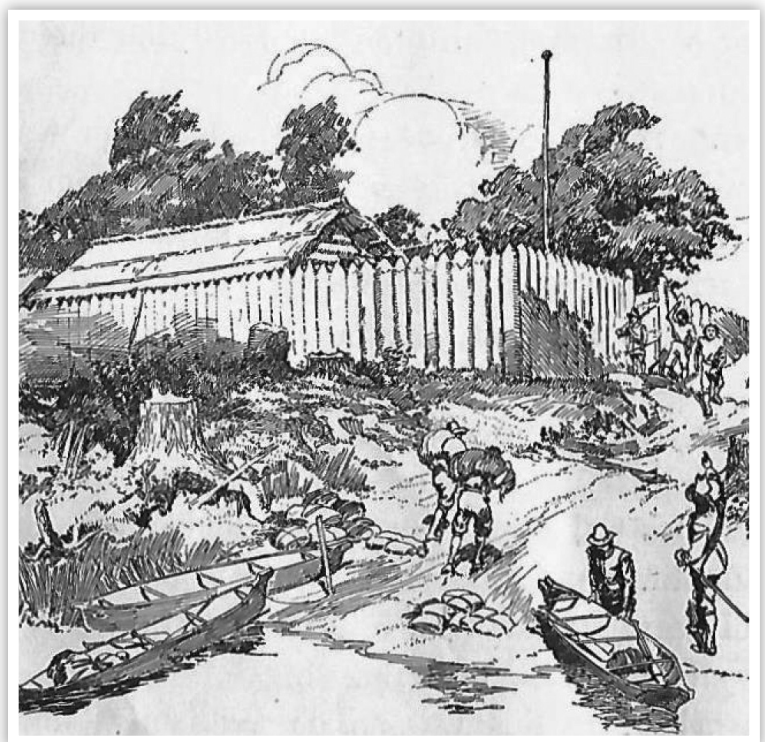
The book traces the voyage to Maryland where before the March, 1634 arrival, young George's father assures him that although he had heard that some of the "dark-skinned natives on the islands near about were cannibals, in the Province of Maryland we shall come upon brown people who are inclined to be friendly with those whose skins are white, and who do not make a practice of eating Englishmen." George recounts seeing small boats and, "That there were white people on the river above us no one had believed, although we received information of a settlement of Englishmen on Kent Island, some distance up the bay, of which I shall tell you later". He saw only dark-skinned men on the craft.

Indeed, the now St. Mary's City settled by George Calvert does say on page 85 to "let me speak of those English who had settled on Kent Island, and I beg that you read carefully in order to understand well the situation, for it was those same settlers who caused the first bloodshed in our Province of Maryland." Our William Claiborne is introduced as someone who had come from England in 1625 to survey the land for the Virginia Company. In 1627, he was "given license to trade with the Indians in the bay of Chesapeake." He was successful and, "In the year of grace 1631, which as you must remember was two years before my Lord Baltimore sent the *Ark* and *Dove*, this William Claiborne, with a London merchant as partner, got a commission from King Charles I of Scotland" to trade throughout New England and Nova Scotia.

Calvert concedes that, "Now a full year before our company sailed from London, William Claiborne had built a home upon the island of Kent" having "bought from the Indians the land of that island, and with pinnaces and many canoes, carried on a large business with the brown-skinned men in that portion of the New World." He quickly reminds the reader "to remember what I have set down concerning the gift which his Majesty made to the old lord, for that covered all the land extending north from Virginia and on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay, including the peninsula on the eastern shore. Therefore, this plantation of Kent which William Claiborne had bought from the Indians was clearly within the limits of our Province of Maryland."

It was clear to Master Calvert that the large profits Claiborne was making clearly belonged to the family of Lord Baltimore. Efforts of the newly arrived Western Shore residents to convince Claiborne of that were rejected and Claiborne soon "set about poisoning the minds of the savages against us, by saying we were Spaniards, who had come to make them slaves." Even worse, "word was brought to us that William Claiborne had begun to arm one of his pinnaces for the purpose of declaring war upon us by preventing our own trading vessels from sailing up the bay." He intended to "sail against us in enmity until our governor should enter into an agreement allowing the people of Kent Island to trade whithersoever they pleased."

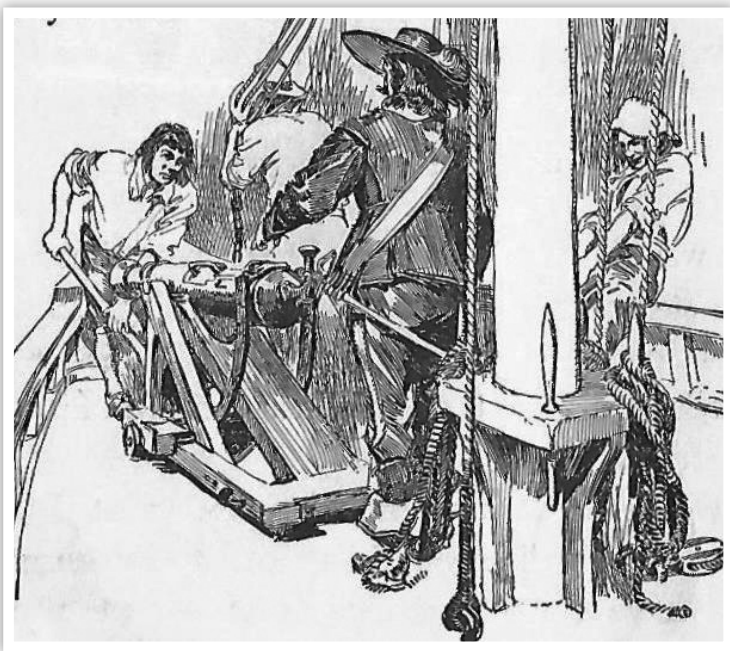
Since it was obvious that those malcontents on Kent Island were going to become "a thorn in our side," Calvert decides to inform the reader a bit more about that island and its English history. He reports that Claiborne and one officer "brought from England seventeen servants which he settled on Kent Island, providing them with, among



other things necessary, thirty cows, a large number of hogs, and much poultry. Six of these servants died shortly after coming into the New World, and Claiborne hired ten freemen from Virginia to take their place. So large was the plantation that thirty or forty men, at least, were needed during the fur-trading season."

Among those early settlers was "the first white woman to step foot on the land of our province. She was Joan Young and had been hired to wash the men's clothes." Another included was a "reader of prayers, Henry Pincke" who proved to be of little service since he soon broke his leg, "though I am puzzled to know why he could not have read prayers as well after his leg was broken." A year later arrived "the first Protestant clergyman in Maryland, the Reverend Richard James and his wife Gertrude." By 1634, the settlement "numbered not less than fifty-two servants and traders, not including three women and a boy who worked in the kitchen, nor four men who acted as hog keepers."

Our young hero/narrator George Calvert becomes a guard as "news of Claiborne's wicked intent" against St. Mary's becomes clear and the village prepares for attack as Captain Thomas Cornwallis, now commander of the Maryland forces, left to find the enemy with Maryland flags flying on two vessels. Upon finding one of Claiborne's pinnaces under the command of a Lieutenant Ratcliffe Warren, Cornwallis was sure the Kent Islanders would surrender to the show of force. Alas, Warren's ship fired first and killed one of the St. Mary's crew.



*Illustrations in James Otis' 1910 historical fiction book Calvert of Maryland include a drawing of the first naval battle on the Chesapeake Bay between William Claiborne's ship from Kent Island and the Maryland forces under command of Captain Thomas Cornwallis and one of Claiborne's fort on Kent Island.*

Cornwallis returned fire and killed Warren and some of his men and the remainder of his crew surrendered, thus ending the first naval battle on the Chesapeake.

It was clear to the Marylanders that "William Claiborne should be charged with all the mischief that he had done," and for "open rebellion to his king's commands, and had, tried to steal the rights and privileges which belonged to the Baltimores." They soon learned that Claiborne had fled to Jamestown where, despite their demand to Virginia Governor John Harvey that Claiborne be treated as a "rebel and traitor," Claiborne was "sent to England and there tried for the offense he had committed."

Though Calvert's coverage of William Claiborne ends as the instigator of the "bloody affair which need not have come about" is on his way back to England, his comments on those malcontents on Kent Island continue, and the "people of this settlement were left unheeded." Upon hearing of Claiborne's departure to stand trial for "the crime of having begun a war against the people of Maryland, his partner in London sent "one George Evelin to take charge of the property."

While the Calvert settlement believed Evelin would pursue the same mischief and "attempt to take the same stand concerning Lord Baltimore's rights over Kent Island," Evelin (for whom Evelyne St. in Gibson's Grant is named) "instead of pursuing an unwise course, he came straightaway to call upon Governor Calvert, with the result he became our friend instead of enemy."

Captain Cornwallis accompanied Evelin for a much more peaceful return to the conquered Kent Island and "there the people who had served under William Claiborne were told that Captain Evelin counted on obeying the Governor of Maryland, and held that the island was rightfully within the bounds of the province which had been granted to my Lord Baltimore." Alas, that was not to be as Calvert recalls that Evelin returned to St. Mary's with two friendly Indians to report "that several of the men in his settlement with the Susquehanoughs and other quarrelsome Indians, to bring about an uprising against us of St. Mary's."

Captain Cornwallis quickly assembles a force to "punish those evil-minded Englishmen who counted to stir up the brown men against us." This time, our now sixteen year old storyteller is thrilled to be recognized as a grown man and joins the mission as a soldier. After anchoring off the southerly end of Kent Island, the day breaks and the newly named Calvert of Maryland is ready for a mile walk and action against "those mutinous men" waiting at the heavily guarded "palisade which William Claiborne called his fort."

The mile walk to the fort turned out to be the biggest challenge as the St. Mary's men easily strolled into the fort since, "The Kent Islanders must have been slothful men, for never one was astir when we marched into the palisade around the house, calling on those within to surrender." Perhaps the capture of the fort was made easier

*Continued on page 6*

since Thomas Smith and a man named Butler who Claiborne had left in charge when he fled were both at their own homes along Beaver Neck creek. Young Calvert takes part in the easy capture of Smith and Butler. He is then assigned the task to travel Kent Island to tell residents that Governor Calvert himself will come to “settle forever the question of loyalty to our Province of Maryland.”

His task was made more difficult and “my temper was sorely tried when the stupid Englishmen would have parlayed with me concerning Governor Calvert’s right to bid them come before him for judgement.” He became especially upset with “a thick-headed laborer, who would have tried to persuade me that Kent Island belonged to the Province of Virginia rather than to Maryland.” He adds that Baxter and Smith were sent to St. Mary’s to be tried for their crimes and that “George Evelin, who had been on a visit to Virginia, came back to find that strict justice had been done the mutineers.”

Calvert ends his tale of dealing with Kent Island recounting that, “As of William Claiborne’s property that could be come at was taken as prize of war, and by such means our Province of Maryland was richer by 70,000 pounds of tobacco, two hundred cattle, sixteen servants who had yet many years to serve before they would become freemen, together with tools and other goods to the value, so I have heard said, of not less than seven thousand pounds, meaning nearly thirty-five thousand dollars, as money is now reckoned among us.” ■

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I was surprised at the use of the term “dollar” in a story that was supposed to have taken place in the mid-1630s. According to *The History of Money* by Glyn Davies, “dollar” is an Anglicized form of the word “thaler,” the term given to coins minted in Bohemia in 1519, and that was in use in England before colonization in America began. Shakespeare used the term in both *Macbeth* and *The Tempest* around 1610.

2. There is no indication of what sources James Otis (Kaler) (Otis dropped his last name Kaler in most books) used in his 1910 historic novel. One may have been the 1821 *Early History of Maryland* by Thomas W. Griffith. The book starts with the overall positive settlement of Maryland in 1634: “They lived in the same houses, and cultivated the same grounds with the red people, and in the utmost harmony, until one of the Virginia Council, named William Clayborne, who had procured a license to trade, and established factories on Kent Island and near the Susquehannah, excited the Indians living within the territories granted to Lord Baltimore, but who were pacified or overawed when the Governor had forcibly dispersed the intruders soon after.” He also discussed “an agent of Clayborne’s, of by the name of Thomas Smith, whom they had taken after a combat of pinnaces in the bay, in which some lives on both sides were lost, and condemned as a pirate, passing a

bill of attainder against his principal (Clayborne), then gone to England to seek in vain redress which, however unwillingly, the government of Virginia had been obliged to refuse him.” Clayborne “who was perhaps already an associate of Cromwell, Hazlerigg and others, who were prevented from leaving England in 1638 by a general order of the government against disorderly fugitives, and now at least a partisan of the commons, instigated a rebellion in the province, to which the Governor returned in 1644.” Likewise, had Otis gone to my *Annals of Annapolis* published by Maryland State Librarian David Ridgley in 1841, he would have found nothing positive about our Mr. Claiborne. He mentions the once loyal Captain Henry Fleet from Virginia: “In the beginning he was very obliging to us, but being seduced by the malicious counsels of a certain Claiborne, he became very hostile, and in the most artful manner inflamed the minds of the natives against us.” Ridgley also partially blames the loss of early St. Mary’s records “destroyed by Ingle and Claiborne’s rebellion about ten years after the landing in 1634.” Nor would Mr. Otis have found many kind words for Claiborne in a more-balanced and expanded coverage of his Kent Island exploits in the 1903 book *Side-Lights of Maryland History* by Hester Dorsey Richardson. Of Claiborne she wrote that “the records give no suggestion of any such sentimental basis for the Claiborne rebellion, and as the fight was begun by Claiborne it cannot be ascribed to any but its real cause—his desire to own Kent Island whilly-nilly.”

3. It is discouraging to consider that the students in far western Allegany County probably learned more about Kent Island history in the fictional Calvert of Maryland in 1910 than many students of Queen Anne’s County do today. Our Kent Island Heritage Society has endeavored to fill that educational gap through student tours of our historic sites and the comprehensive local history presentation series conducted at Kent Island High School under the direction of KIHS Board Member Mark Lidinsky.



*Calvert of Maryland: A Story of Lord Baltimore's Colony* by James Otis.

## **Farewell - Capt. Bobby Aaron**

*by Jack Broderick*

Capt. Bobby Aaron's shop in Stevensville was literally an extension of Kent Island history. To walk into his shop was to step back into another time, another culture, another dedicated work ethic. You couldn't even begin to conceive of all the tools and all the metal that was hanging around, standing around, stacked around. He could make and/or fix ANYTHING out of metal. He was a special friend and resource, especially to our local watermen for clamming rigs and every kind of boat part or marine fitting, and to anybody who just walked in. He tossed you around verbally a bit when you walked in... depending... (And his language could be pretty... well... salty). There always seemed to be a couple guys hanging around, commenting or helping or watching you. And there was that mischievous sparkle in his eye! He built or fixed a lot of stuff for me in the forty years or so that I walked in there. He never seemed to charge enough. But, I always walked out with exactly what I needed and feeling happy, lucky, maybe a little abused, but very privileged that we had a guy like him and I knew him, if even just a little. Bobby Anne Nash once told me I should go hang out in Bobby Aaron's shop sometime for three days in a row and see and listen to all the guys that came in and out of there. She said "that would give you plenty to write about in the Kent Island Heritage Newsletter!" I always wanted to - but I never did - I wish I had. Capt. Bobby, for all you gave to Kent Island, thank you. Be at peace.

## *Feedback Feedback*

FROM ANNIE MAY PRICE

*"I liked that article about the 'feedbag' clothes. After reading it, I remembered my mother also used the plain white bags as 'tea towels' to wrap her hot rolls in after baking. She also used 'tea towels' to dry the dishes after washing them. I may still have one of those towels, but it would be well worn, if I do have it."*



*Grain never looked so stylish as fashion maven Carole Frederick dons Helen Lewis's creation: Kent Island Corona Couture.*



# Honey Bees on the Kent Island Price Farm

by Carole Price Frederick

“...and the honeybee looking for a home...”



*Sandy and Ron Frederick*

Driving up to the house, I noticed a brown-bag-looking-sack hanging from the birdbath in the front yard. Upon getting closer I realized it was a swarm of honey bees. My grandson, Zachary (known for never letting any grass grow under his feet - like his mother, Sandy) must have seen the same thing the next morning. By that afternoon, my son, Ron and grandson, Zachary had built a “bee-box” and the three of them were loading the hive into the box! (See the website: [www.kentislandheritagesociety.com](http://www.kentislandheritagesociety.com) for a video of this)

There are several reasons bees will form new colonies: one is that the original colony gets too large; another is that the queen in the original colony gets too old; another is that the queen decides to move to a new location and still another is that new queens will emerge and worker bees will follow them to protect them. We are not sure if these new hives are the result of the original queen moving to a new location or if a new queen emerged from the old hive. Once the bees have settled in the bee-box they are quiet and very few are flying outside of it until they start to pollinate.

This development stimulated my curiosity about honey bees so some research was inevitable. There was so much I did not know about this incredible insect that I thought I would share some of this information with our heritage society.

Computer Sources: 1) youtube.com – National Geographic, “How Do Honey Bees Get Their Jobs?”  
2) wikipedia.org/life/wiki/western- honey bees  
3) businessinsider.com/biological-annihilation –sixth mass extinction  
4) thehoneybeeconservancy.org  
5) agdaily.com

First and foremost there is a whole vocabulary associated with the honey bee. The following are some terms that are necessary to understand this community.

1. Melittology – the study of bees
2. Bee Colony – a self sufficient village of bees
3. Queen Bee – ruler of the colony who determines the sex of her off-spring
4. Worker Bees – almost entirely female and do all the work for the survival of the colony
5. Drones – male bees who mate with the queen in mid-air and immediately die
6. Brood – young bees



7. Nurse Bees – feed and care for the brood
8. Undertaker Bees – remove bees that die in the hive
9. Pollinate – to transfer pollen grains from the male anther of the plants to the female stigma
10. Larvae – result after the bee egg hatches
11. Propolis – bee glue produced by honey bees that has many uses in the hive – resin-like
12. CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) – when the majority of worker bees in the colony disappear
13. Royal Jelly – bee secretion used as nutrition for larvae for 3 days after hatching. After that is only fed to the Queen.
14. Bee Bread – mixture of pollen and nectar – main food source for worker bees and larvae
15. Round Dance - } movement that directs
16. Waggle Dance - } other bees to food sources
15. Jerking Dance or Vibration Dance – indicates foraging and task management
16. Sixth Mass Extinction – we may be in this era now (Fifth mass extinction eliminated dinosaurs)

Every honey bee has a specific task to perform for building and maintaining the colony. The tasks are written in their genetic make-up. The queen bee is the only female who propagates and she also determines the DNA of each egg. The hive is made up of thousands of bees with a brain about the size of a sesame seed.<sup>1</sup>

The queen mates with up to twenty drones in her first week of life. She stores the spermatozoa and only releases it to the eggs she wants to hatch as a female worker bees. After she lays the eggs in cells there are four stages of the honey bee life: 1) Metamorphosis which takes about three weeks and they emerge as worker bees; 2) As they leave the cell they clean it and then act as nurses for three days and feed the young; 3) About a week later they do general handy work such as making honeycomb to sustain the hive; and 4) They leave the colony to forage for pollen. *National Geographic* claims they are one of the most successful super-organisms in nature.<sup>1</sup>

The February 2019 study regarding honey bees found that 40% of the honey bees in the United States perished. It also found that the honey bees' pollination is worth about 15 Billion dollars to crops in this country. Some of the causes for their decline are loss of habitat, use of pesticides and fertilizers and climate change. One indicator that we might be in the Sixth Mass Extinction is the shrinking number of insects. This could have a devastating effect on our food supply.<sup>3</sup>

In 2000, honey bee pollination in the United States agricultural industry was estimated to have a value of \$14.6 billion. (Morse and Calderone 2000). However, honey production was valued around \$200 million. Bartomeus et al., in 2014, found that if bees contribute in the production of fruits and vegetables, the quality improves and yield grows by 71%.<sup>4</sup>

According to WebMD, propolis is another substance produced by bees that benefits humans such as it has healing properties for wounds, tumors and canker sores. It is also used in cosmetics and household products.<sup>4</sup>

Whether or not bees are becoming extinct is debatable according to various sources in the media. Some scientists say that pesticides, CDC, varroa mites and natural causes (climate change) have decreased the numbers of bees. Other sources from beekeepers to agriculture research say they were not near extinction and have come back in great numbers. Since the beginning of my research, another hive has formed at the farm and has been moved from the chair where it formed to another bee-box. We'll keep building bee-boxes as long as the honey bee is looking for a home!

All of the previous information notwithstanding, the fact that we love the taste of honey is important. In my family, we would have a cup of tea and a beaten-biscuit with honey on it. What a treat!

# *Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Kent Island Area Place Names Origins*

*by Louis S. Crouch Jr.*

The previous Winter/Spring 2020 Issue of this Newsletter featured a review of the book *Place Names of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* by J.K. Keatley (Queen Anne's Press 1987). The information presented here is mostly from an article published in the 16 May 1940 Queen Anne's Record Observer and references are noted if otherwise. The article resulted from a project by history class students from the Stevensville High School classes of 1940 and 1941. These students, from Kent Island and Grasonville and whose combined graduating classes totaled all of 30, covered approximately 80 place names. They gathered much information from their parents and grandparents, capturing some colorful place names for posterity.

## Bays, Creeks, Coves and Streams

Bodies of water seem an appropriate place to start. Proceeding large to small, big, **Chesapeake** is derived from the Algonquian name Chesepeiooc (village at a big river), used by the earliest European explorers in the 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>1</sup>. **Eastern Bay** is east of the Chesapeake. **Hog Bay** includes the waters surrounding **Hog Island**, in the north part of Prospect Bay.

Creeks were named after the families whose land they touched, landmarks or for characteristics of the creek.

### Kent Island

**Chews Creek** (bayside north of Kent Point, a family name); **Thompson Creek** (south of Stevensville); **Macum Creek** (named for Macum McHenry, the husband of an early owner of the Stooply-Gibson property north of Chester<sup>2</sup>); **Goodhand Creek** (first creek south of Kent Narrows); **Kirwan Creek** (after the family of Senator James Kirwan, second creek south of Kent Narrows. It was known as **Hog Bay Creek** before the Kirwans owned it<sup>3</sup>); **Gardner's Creek** (after a family that had once owned the bordering land just prior to 1940. It is possibly the branch of Kirwan Creek that is close to Dominion Road<sup>4</sup>); **Broad Creek** (just south of the Bay Bridges, named because it forms a wide harbor at its mouth. The site of an historic major town on Kent Island, also called Broad Creek, before the founding of Stevensville in the late 1800s); **Warehouse Creek** (tributary of Cox Creek, named after Blunt's Warehouse on **Great Neck** which dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The creek was also called **Tarkiler** for a period during the 1700s<sup>5</sup>); **Scaffold Creek** (borders Scaffold Point north of Kent Point on Eastern Bay); **Shipping Creek** (the

only creek on lower Kent Island deep enough for early sailing ships, off northern Eastern Bay); **Kent Point Creek** (because the mouth was located very near the point. It may be a small creek that has silted in since no such creek is shown on present maps); **Piney Creek** (mouth surrounded by pine trees, directly west of Kent Narrows); **Steam Mill Creek** (a name given the northern extension of **Cox Creek**, after a mill that was located on the site of the Stevensville Cemetery); **Little Creek** (from the diminutive size of its mouth, off northern Crab Alley Bay); and **Crab Alley Creek** (borders Crab Alley Neck, off northern Crab Alley Bay).

### Grasonville

**Jackson Creek** (near Kent Narrows); **Grasonville Creek** (an informal name for **Winchester Creek** which is the historic name, east of Jackson Creek); **Muddy Creek** (from the creek bottom composition, next to Kent Narrows); **Marshy Creek** (surrounded by marsh on the east, south and north, south of Kent Narrows); **Cabin Creek** (south of Muddy Creek, from the many homes of oystermen and crabbers who were on the banks around 1840, apparently misspelled as Calvin Creek in the 1940 article); **Greenwood Creek** (from the forest of evergreens on both sides, off Eastern Bay); **Sawmill Creek** (a sawmill used to be located on the banks. It is called Hog Hole Creek on present day maps<sup>6</sup>).

Coves covered by the students include **Well Cove** in Kent Narrows (after a deep well nearby on Well Hill); **Walter White's Cove** (off Macum Creek, probably the one in front of the historic Stooply-Gibson home in the Gibson's Grant development. The development is on the former farm owned by the White Family from 1868-1934<sup>2</sup> and known then and for years afterwards as White's Heritage. The author's grandfather, mother and aunt were born at White's Heritage); **House's Cove** (originally **Richard's Cove** and across Grasonville's **Winchester Creek** from **Peck's Cove**); **Peck's Cove**; **Beecher's Cove** (from the Beecher family in Grasonville. It is off Winchester Creek<sup>6</sup>) and **Pear Tree Cove** (located at the present Gibson's Grant development, named after an orchard of Walter White's when the White family owned the property. The exact location was not described but possibly is off Macum Creek).

The only stream described in the 1940 article was **Gravel Run**, so called because it flows over gravel and sand. Its course at the time was from the area of **Scott**

**Town**, near Grasonville, into **Winchester Creek**. Its location is approximately along Gravel Run Road<sup>6</sup> which is due south of Winchester Creek.

Islands, Necks, Points,  
Landings and Hills

Solid earth is not quite an appropriate term for the Kent Island area as the inhabitants well know. Land features exposed to tide, current, waves and sea level rise have disappeared even from the time of the students 80 years ago. Their parents and grandparents certainly remembered some that had vanished by 1940. Land eroding from runoff has also filled in some creeks and was a factor in shifting the major town of Broad Creek to Stevensville.

**Kent Island**, named in historic order, **Monoponson** by the Algonquians, **Winston Island** after discovery by John Smith in the early 1600s, and the **Isle of Kent** by William Claiborne in 1631 after his birthplace in England<sup>1</sup>. **Hog Island** is in north Prospect Bay near **Kent Narrows** and used to house a large piggery. **Johnson's Island** is in Kent Island's **Crab Alley Bay** and was named after the family of William Johnson. **Parson's Island** is in Eastern Bay near the Marling Farms development on Kent Island and was named after the family of an early settler. **Cedar Island** in the Chester River was only in the memories of 1940 Kent Islanders but used to have a huge cedar tree on it. **Filbert's Island** was named after its first owner Joe Filbert. It was located in the center of the mouth of Warehouse Creek at Eastern Bay but has eroded away since 1940<sup>6</sup>.

**Great Neck** on Kent Island contained Great Neck Plantation granted to Richard Blunt in 1650 by Lord Baltimore<sup>5</sup>. **Booby Owl Glory** in Grasonville is a neck with a thicket named by the locals because of the owls calling there every night.

Points in the Kent Island area may have a tenuous existence but the ones described in 1940 can still be found. These points are on Kent Island: **Norman Point** on the southern tip of the Marling Farms development was named after a previous farm owner. **Ferry Point**<sup>7</sup> is the point first encountered entering north Kent Narrows and was the landing site for the pre-bridges ferry (there was a small island called Ferry Island off the tip that washed away in 1960s storms<sup>7</sup>). **Buck Horn Point** once resembled a ram or deer horn, it is the site of the Kent Island Yacht Club. **Bloody Point** (near Kent Point on the Chesapeake Bay) is prominent in Kent Island lore as the SHS history students described: "*Bloody Point was*

*called this because one dark, stormy night in the early winter of 1812, a British schooner ran into the point of land and anchored. During the night one of the sailors killed the captain and mate and escaped to the mainland. He was followed and after a long hunt, was captured in Norfolk, Virginia by the crew. He was then carried to the extreme point of the island, as near as possible to the place where he committed the foul deed and there hanged up by his thumbs, with a loaf of bread to torment him incessantly when the pangs of hunger began to make themselves felt. He was in this condition to die suspended from a tall pole driven deep in the ground. It is said that no grass or living substance has ever grown around this part, where the murderer met his fate. Thus this point lying between Chesapeake and Eastern Bay has been called Bloody Point".* **Long Point**, in Eastern Bay at the mouth of Tanners Creek near Kent Point, is named that because it is a long sandy point. **Scaffold Point** at the mouth of Scaffold Creek was where the early settlers hanged local Native Americans they deemed cruel. **Turkey Point** was named for the abundant wild turkeys once there and is the terminus of Coxes Neck is the current Southwind development. **Kent Point** is the southern tip of Kent Island. **Love Point** is the northern tip of Kent Island and is also prominent in Kent Island lore as described by the SHS history students: "*Love Point was formerly called "The Point of Love." This name was given to Love Point after an Indian maiden and an Englishman who drowned off the Point. This Englishman had come here to explore. He met an Indian. The two finally fell in love. When the man had to leave, the Indian maiden wanted to accompany him so they started rowing to his schooner; a storm was coming up. Their rowboat upset during the storm and they both were drowned. When their bodies were recovered, they were still clinging to each other. From then on, Love Point was so called. There is also a legend that two men from Stevensville fought a duel over a beauty from Love Point and it was so called as a result of it".*

Grasonville also has a **Long Point**, surrounded by Jackson and Muddy Creeks, and was so called because it was nearly a mile long in 1940 (the 1940 article mistakenly calls this Love Point). **Piney Point** named for the pine forest on it, is at the southern tip of Piney Neck near the mouth of Greenwood Creek. **Burnt Point** was named after a large forest on it that was once destroyed by fire. It is Brian Point south of Cabin Creek<sup>6</sup>. These points are on the southern end of Eastern Neck Island in Kent County in the Chester River:

*Continued on page 12*

**Cedar Point** was named from the trees growing there and **Hell Point**, actually Hall or Hale Point, was called this by a man whose wife and child were killed in a storm while he was away.

There are a number of landings in the Kent Island area, some quite historic which played a critical role in early commerce and transportation since our waterways were once our major highways. Landings are still important for watermen but now mainly serve recreational purposes. **Love Point Landing** was just south of Love Point on the Chester River and was used for freight and passenger ships. It operated until the 1930s by which time the former Love Point resort and the need for commercial shipping had declined. **Steamboat Landing** was named for the steamships that used it, and was at the end of Grollman Road a couple of miles south of Love Point Landing. **Shipping Creek Landing** (existing) is in Shipping Creek. **Well's Cove Landing** (existing) in Kent Narrows was part of the property of Well Hill. The county bought it and made it a public landing.

Hills are not a landscape feature strongly associated with the Kent Island area. Nevertheless, **Well Hill** located in Kent Narrows was named for a large well found there. **Slippery Hill** near the intersection of Bennett Point Road and Route 18 is an historic site. At the hilltop was an American encampment during the War of 1812 and the soldiers so named it after a winter's snow and ice made ascent difficult. The British and Americans fought a minor battle there on August 13, 1813 after which the Americans retreated to Centreville according to the Maryland Historical Marker near the site.

### Towns and Streets

The term town is used in the loosest sense for some of the settlements in the Kent Island area described by the SHS history students, some being only a grouping of homes. No towns were incorporated complete with elected officials and a self-government structure in 1940, which remains true today. **Grasonville** was first named Piney Neck and sometimes called Ford's Store (after a store owner). It was officially Winchester (after a Dr. Winchester) and finally was changed to Grasonville (after William Grason, governor of Maryland from 1839-42 who is buried at Wye River Farm on Bennett Point Road<sup>8</sup>. The change was made in the 1920s<sup>9</sup>). **Turncake Alley** was noted in 1940 Grasonville but is now called Melvin Avenue<sup>6</sup>. It was formerly so called because of an acrimonious dispute between two women

over turncakes. **Stevensville** was founded in the late 1800s, formed from the lands of James Stevens (the author was born and raised in Stevensville, not inconsequential as his parents had met in school there). **Chester** is located in an area once called **Sharktown** as denoted on Kent Island maps dating from 1866 and 1877 but the designation of the town as Chester came later. The origin of the Sharktown name was not discussed in the 1940 article. Two areas in the present Chester area that were apparently referred to casually by locals were **Ticktown**, the marshy tick-infested area on the east side of Chester, and **Buzzardsville**, so called because visitors from Grasonville always seemed to find male locals perched on a rail fence there. The Pennsylvania Railroad built the Chester Station, so called because of the nearby Chester River. The post office was named "Chester Post Office." Mr. Louis Kelley, Sr. named the whole community surrounding the station, Chester. (Mr. Kelley worked at the Chester post office from 1900-1934<sup>10</sup>). **Dundee Avenue**, a street in east Chester, was originally part of the Dundee family plantation (ranging from Ticktown to Buzzardsville). The Dundee family sold some building lots along which eventually was called Dundee Avenue where several homes had been erected. **Matapeake**, the area around the present Matapeake State Park, was derived from a combination of Mattapex, a Native American tribe, and Chesapeake. **Mattapex** is located south of Matapeake on Eastern Bay and is named for the aforementioned tribe. **Romancoke**, a short distance north of Kent Point on Eastern Bay, is named after William Claiborne's former estate in Virginia and is an Algonquian word meaning circling of waters<sup>1</sup>. **Wilsontown** was named after Henry Wilson, the first African American to build a house there. This was located in the Matapeake area of Kent Island. **Love Point** was a full-fledged town so called by its location and at one time serving both permanent residents and as a resort for warm season vacationers. It boasted stores, restaurants, a school, hotels, cabins, a beach and amusements but now is mostly residential housing. **Dominion** is located in Crab Alley Neck, once a village complete with a school, stores, garages, boat building and seafood related businesses but now largely a residential area with boating related businesses. It was once referred to as the **Devil's Dominion** in a frustrated local minister's sermon due to the rough and tumble nature of the inhabitants and this colorful name was picked up, probably with pride, by the locals (The author is putting pen to this paper because Dominion is where his grandparents settled from separate parts of the Eastern Shore in the 1890s. They subsequently met, married and raised their family there.) **Frederickstown**

was named after Fred Merdi, an African American who first built a house there in 1876 followed by others. It was in the Matapeake area on Kent Island<sup>6</sup>. It is not clear if Frederickstown and Wilsontown are the same place. **Courseysville** was begun by "Pop" Coursey who built a home near Piney Creek on Kent Island, and after others began to build nearby, they named it Courseysville. This was on the east side of present day Chester.

### Closing Remarks

The population of Kent Island was approximately 100 Native Americans when William Claiborne arrived in 1631<sup>11</sup>. According to the US censuses, the population remained relatively constant at 2000 people from 1920 to 1950 - just before the first Bay Bridge was opened in 1952 - then ballooned to approximately 18,000 by 2010. The landscape transitioned from a nearly untouched, natural state in 1631 to one of agriculture and small communities and then to increasingly suburban in the post-Bay Bridge era. The result has been many new places have appeared in the last 80 years and the documenting of their name origins for the post-Bay Bridge era is the subject for another day.

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- (7) Norman Davidson personal recollection;
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## OCTOGENARIAN RECALLS STEVENSVILLE'S PAST

### **Marian Steuart** (One of the founders of The Kent Island Heritage Society)

by Jane Scheuerman staff writer for Queen Annes Record Observer - May 18 1988 pages 55^56.

By the late 1800's Stevensville had grown into a thriving community of nearly 30 buildings, including houses, offices, stores, a church and a hotel. The town was a transportation center for the shipping of farm produce and commercial seafood and the receipt of manufactured goods from the western shore.

Stevensville resident Mrs. Marian Price Steuart, who recently celebrated her 85th birthday, recalled her days as a young girl in Stevensville. She lives in the house she grew up in, a handsome 19th century home on Locust Street. (*currently Main Street*)

"Back when I was a teenager in the teens, and clear on up through the twenties, Stevensville was a thriving town," Steuart said. "Lots of people came into town on Saturday nights by horse and carriage to go to the stores and do their dealing" She also said, "Ladies had their home-made butter and they would barter it in exchange for groceries."

Steuart recalled a number of stores and their owners as she took a mental shopping excursion through the old town.

In the building that today houses Fancy Stitches was Mr. Tom Carroll's store. (*currently Peace of Cake*) He carried groceries, canned food, coffee beans, kerosene and lard by the pound. "You took your own bucket to get the lard", Steuart recalled, "just as you took your own containers for spices, sugar and flour". Molasses was stored in a large

barrel. Mr. Carroll seldom had fresh meats, he sold mostly salted meat, Steuart said. He had three daughters who helped him, and they lived at the back of the store.

"One of my earliest memories was of the Stevensville post office," Steuart said. "After it moved, that became Miss Addie Skinner's Millinery Shop. I thought she had the most beautiful Easter hats you ever saw. Everybody wore hats back then, which cost between \$12 and \$15. Miss Skinner trimmed her own hats, and you could go and tell her just exactly what you wanted."

Further up the street toward Denny's garage, where the new Stevensville office building is now located, was a blacksmith shop owned and operated by Clay Hoxter. He shod horses and repaired carriages and farm wagons.

Next to him was Legg's Town Hall, a two-story building with a stage on the second floor. (*currently across East Main from Historic Christ Church*) "We held our bazaars, oyster suppers and shows there," said Steuart. "Young high school people paid 10 cents apiece for the hall. We'd buy a hod of coal, take a Victrola over there and have dances." On the first floor in the front part of Legg's was Denny's filling station. That is where they started" said Steuart. "During election time the front room off to the side was where we used to vote.

*Continued on page 14*

Next was Henry Grollman's store, (*building most recently an antique shop*) which sold general merchandise, including yard goods, dry goods, pins and material for sheets. Mrs. Grollman made pillowcases and sold them, Mrs. Steuart recalled. Henry Grollman was the father of current Stevensville merchant Julius Grollman. Across the street was a house and store operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Willoughby. (*currently Amalfi Coast Italian Wine Bar*) He was a carpenter; she took care of the store, which carried some canned goods. Mrs. Willoughby's specialty was home-made cakes, pies and bread. A loaf was 5 cents.

Next to where Grollman's Liquors is now located, (*most recently an antique store*) was Mr. George Calloway, who sold men's and women's shoes, general merchandise, pads and writing paper.

Next to Willoughby's store, was Mr. Frank Thomas, an undertaker. He sold coffins and did embalming. Mr. Thomas also met trains at the station in his horse drawn bus, and for 10 cents, you could get a ride from the station to your home. "He'd pick you up, living or dead," said Steuart, with a smile. He later got a Model T Ford for his taxi service and he also handled the mail coming from the trains.

Toward Love Point was a drug store, which Dr. Kemp had built in 1902. (*formerly a dance studio and currently home to Wally Dashiells*) It became known as Norris Drug Store during the late teens. "You could

get prescriptions filled there," Steuart said, "and they had an old-fashioned soda fountain and a small dining area with a small ice cream parlor with tables and chairs." The drug store carried small gift items around Christmas time and boxed candy. "I remember getting a dose of Castor oil there. They mixed it with sarsaparilla and made me drink it," she said.

Across the street was the Stevensville Bank, built in 1909. Ollie Calloway, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Calloway, was the first cashier. It was the only bank on Kent Island.

The Country Store was built in the late 1800's. "To my knowledge, there was always a store there," Steuart said, "and it has always been open." In the 1900's the merchant there was Addison Frampton, he had an IGA store. "I worked up there in the twenties and early thirties." (*currently Amalfi Coast Italian Wine Bar*).

At the site of the beauty parlor, was Jenny Legg's dry goods store. She sold material by the yard, ribbon, spring bonnets and accessories. In what is now the open parking space, was Mr. Charles Smith's store. (*parking lot between Paris Grey Cottage and My Little Studio*) He sold groceries and cured meat. "He was the only person I can remember in town who sold newspapers," Steuart said. "He had a long showcase full of candy, and for a penny, you could get five or six pieces. He'd even give you a sample."

Mr. Earl Long had a store there in the twenties where he sold fresh meats of good quality. Between that and the store on the corner was a harness shop, also the location of a bowling alley and a barber shop.

The Stevensville Professional Building was once the school house, built in 1870. (*currently 308 Love Point Road*) It was originally located behind the School House Commons building, but Dr. John R. Benton bought the building in 1910 and had it moved to its present location, where he made a home out of it, said Steuart.

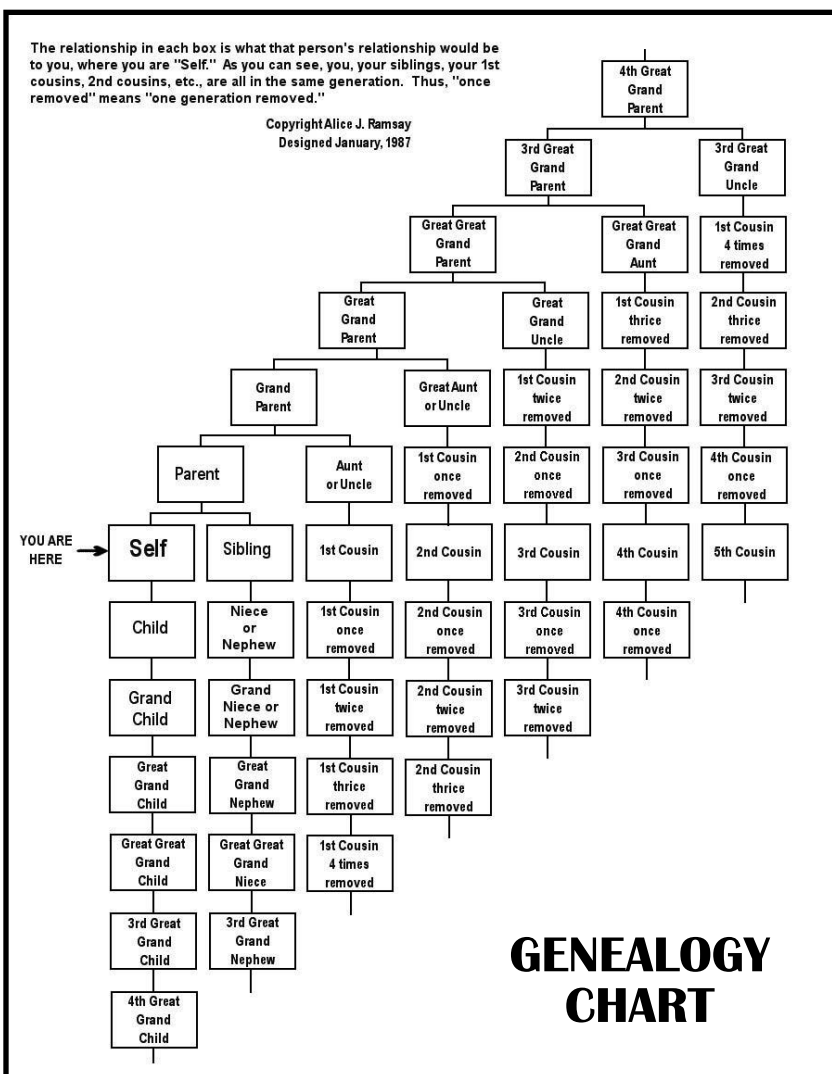
"My parents bought this house in 1904, and I have lived here for all but about 11 or 12 years of my life," she said.

Steuart is pleased with the restoration now taking place in the old town although she is very happy to be living with modern conveniences. "The old days are nice to be looking back on," she said, "but I wouldn't want to go back to those times. Only one room was usually heated in the cold weather, there was no electricity, no bathroom, and no telephone. I like to be comfortable," she said.

Steuart, along with Mrs. Alfred White, Miss Annie May Price, and the late Mrs. Walter Denny, and the late Mrs. Malven Schoch, was one of the founders of the Kent Island Heritage Society.

The group began preservation efforts in Stevensville and worked on getting the town and some of its buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. "I'm very pleased at what we've accomplished. I think we have something to be proud of," Steuart said.

She is currently working with others to compile a history of Stevensville, which she hopes to have completed within a year. ■



# In Memoriam

Robert Aaron  
(July 1935 – April 2020)

Patrick Goss  
(October 1955 – April 2020)

*To know even one life has breathed easier  
because you have lived  
This is to have succeeded.*  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson



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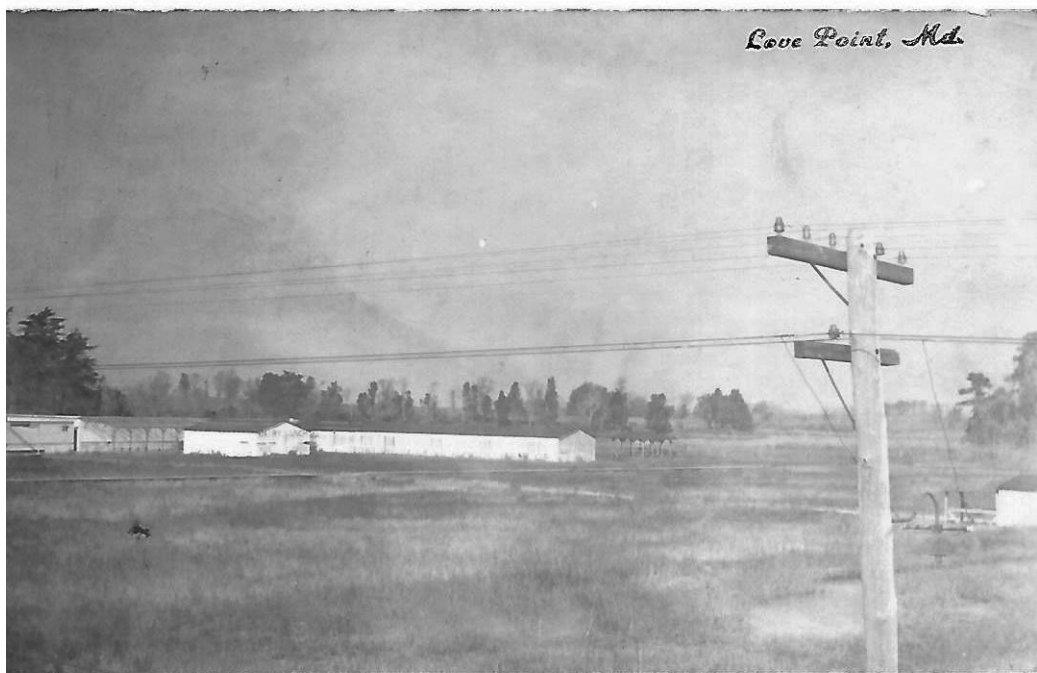
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## POSTCARD from Kent Island: Mystery View

*Submitted by John L. Conley*



This postcard is identified as Love Point, Md and was postmarked at Love Point Post Office in the 1920s. (A similar postcard clearly from Love Point was mailed from the Love Point Post Office in 1921.) Efforts to identify where on Love Point, if there at all, have thus far been unsuccessful. The words "DAIRY LUNCH" are painted on the smaller building in the foreground. This issue of the Isle of Kent contains an article by Lou Crouch on names, some now forgotten, of various places on Kent Island. Perhaps one of our faithful readers can help solve the mystery of this postcard (we think) from Kent Island.