



MARCH 2024

# KING GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



**Sam Buckley - Museum Volunteer**



**Lynn Pardee - Treasurer**

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## **Membership Renewals for 2024 Due by March 30**

Thank you to those that have already  
sent in dues payments for 2024. Payments  
may be mailed to:

The King George Historical Society  
P.O. Box 424 King George, VA 22485

For those of you that enjoy the ease of  
electronic financial transactions, we  
now offer payment by Venmo.

Simply Venmo your payment to us using:  
**@KGHistoricalSociety**

Individual: \$20 / Family: \$25  
Student: \$3 / Lifetime: \$250

# MEET OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

Most won't need an introduction to our Vice President as he has been involved with the King George Historical Society for many years. For newer Members, meet our Vice President - Mr. Robert (Bob) Baird! Bob is a King George Native with family roots in the county extending back to 1708. He is a 1971 Graduate of King George High School and has been married to his high school sweetheart, Shirley, for 50 years! Bob has worked as an Engineering Co-op at Dahlgren, a Heavy Equipment Operator, an Engineering Technician, and a Field Service Technician. He has 35 Years in Association Management - Specializing in Organizational and Program Management, Standards Development, Adult Education, and Membership Sales and Service. Bob has served as a Regional VP of Sales and Marketing on the Council of Better Business Bureaus, and is currently a Notary Public, serving as Vice Chairman of the King George Tourism Advisory Committee and Vice President of the King George Historical Society. Bob is a very active member of Shiloh Baptist Church and serves as a King George County Officer of Elections. Bob attended Northern Virginia Community College, Charles County Community College, Virginia Tech, and George Washington University. He has a Certification in Organizational Management from Institutes of Organizational Management at the University of Delaware and completion of Dale Carnegie Course. He holds numerous certifications in areas of real estate specialization and is certified In First Aid/CPR/AED. He has earned National Awards for Transaction Ends Closed for seven years and is an EXIT Realty Ambassador.







*We are so excited to share our list of  
speakers for 2024!*

March 21, 2024 -

**Mr. William (Bill) Golden** - Genealogist and DNA Analyst will discuss early Virginia, Northern Neck, and King George history.



April 18, 2024 -

**Mr. Mark McColman** is one of our newer Members and a retired law enforcement officer from South Carolina. He will present: "TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING, YOU NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM".

May 16, 2024 -

**Mr. David Deputy** will share discoveries he made during his 30+ year career as a King George County Land Surveyor.

June 20, 2024 - Picnic (location and program TBD)

September 19, 2024 -

**Jenna and Warren Veazey** will present the history of and information on the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail and share what "Poetry on the Trail" is all about.

October 17, 2024 -

**Ms. Trish Parker** is the Secretary for the Historic Port Royal Board of Directors and will offer a presentation of history and information on White House China.

November 21, 2024 -

**Dr. Rob Gates** will present his published work, "The Potomac River Bridge: Opening the Gateway to the Northern Neck."



December TBD -

Annual Christmas Party



[www.familytreewebinars.com](http://www.familytreewebinars.com)

Legacy Family Tree Webinars is the world's most popular webinar website for genealogy and DNA testing, where you can enjoy a robust offering (**AND THEY'RE FREE!**) of live and recorded webinars presented by top speakers. Upcoming webinars include:

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

**Government Money: My Heritage's U.S. Social Security Applications**

April 3, 2024

**Solving a Virginia Mystery Using DNA**

April 4, 2024

**Researching Family History at Your Library with My Heritage Library**

April 11, 2024

**Silent Storytellers: A Genealogist's Guide to Cemetery Photography**

April 11, 2024

**Tracing Your Royal Navy Ancestors and the Ships on which they Served**

April 12, 2024

**Why can't I find it? Locating surnames in online databases**



## Things To Do

### William B. Crawley Great Lives Lecture Series

Lectures are typically held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, in George Washington Hall's Dodd Auditorium at the University of Mary Washington. They include question-and-answer sessions and book-signings.

March 21, 2024: "George Remus - a Real Life Gatsby"

March 26, 2024: "Ten Caesars"

March 28, 2024: "Edgar Allan Poe"

### King George Family History Club

1st Thursday of every month from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

at LE Smoot Library in King George, VA.

Monthly classes where experienced family history consultants will guide you in your search for your ancestors. Fun for the whole family!

### Military Through The Ages 40th Anniversary

March 16-17, 2024 at the Jamestown Settlement

Make ready for centuries of military history - all in one

weekend - at Jamestown Settlement's time-honored

"Military Through the Ages" event on March 16 and 17,

marking its milestone 40th anniversary in 2024.

<https://www.jyfmuseums.org/events/programs-activities/military-through-the-ages>

### Historic Garden Week - Fredericksburg Tour

Tuesday April 23, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Host: The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

Price: \$40 pp in advance or \$50 pp day-of

[www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)





**The National Archives Museum celebrated the life and legacy of Rosalynn Carter by sharing one of her most beloved dessert recipes.**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Strawberry Cake  
A Carter Family Favorite  
From Rosalynn Carter

- 1 package yellow or white cake mix
- 1 3-ounce package of strawberry jello
- 3/4 cup cooking oil
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 4 eggs
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 10-ounce package frozen strawberries or 1 pint fresh strawberries with 1/2 cup sugar

Mix all ingredients and beat well; pour into angel food cake pan and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until done.

Serve plain or with whipped cream.

**Do you have a family recipe you would like to share?**

**We would love to honor you or your family member's recipes by sharing them with our Membership!**

**Please email the recipe and the history of the recipe to [kinggeorgehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinggeorgehistoricalsociety@gmail.com)**



## John Stanton's History of the King George Historical Society

WHEN I PURCHASED MY FARM ABOUT 1980, I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE ANCESTRY OF MY NEIGHBORS. IN MY SAME BLOCK WERE DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON. I WANTED TO TALK TO THESE PEOPLE. THE ASHTONS - - GOOD PEOPLE. BEYOND THAT I SAW THAT THE NAMES IN THE KING GEORGE PHONE BOOK WERE ALMOST EXACTLY A COPY OF THE 1860 CENSUS. HOLY SMOKE, THESE FAMILIES HAVE LIVED HERE FOR LIKE 200 OR 300 YEARS. THEY MUST LIKE IT HERE.

THEN CAME THE "COUP DE GRACE", AS WE WERE BURYING OUR POWER LINES ACROSS THE FARM, WE BEGAN TO DIG UP ARTIFACTS- BELT BUCKLES - WEIRD BUTTONS - OLD DINNER WARE, FROM BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. BIGGER HOLY SMOKE. I REALIZED THAT NOW I AM PART OF THAT HISTORY, AND I APPRECIATE THAT HONOR. WE EVEN DUG UP A CLANDESTINE MAIL-DROP. AT FIRST I DID NOT REALIZE WHAT IT WAS. IT WAS A LARGE IRON POT ON THREE LEGS, WITH A LARGE FLAT ROCK ON TOP- READILY AVAILABLE TO THE EDGE OF THE RIVER. THE POT GOT BROKEN, BUT I STILL HAVE IT. THE ROCK IS STILL IN THE PLACE WHERE WE FOUND IT. THIS STIRRED UP A DESIRE IN ME, TO LOOK, TO FIND, TO STUDY. THAT HAS NEVER GONE AWAY.

ONE PERSON COULD NOT DO THE JOB -( TO GATHER UP 300 YEARS OF HISTORY,) BUT A GROUP OF LIKE MINDED PEOPLE, WORKING TOGETHER, OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, MIGHT MAKE A DENT. OK, WHY NOT PUT THIS GROUP TOGETHER AND SEE WHAT ELSE HAPPENED IN THIS NECK-OF-THE-WOODS. I BECAME A HISTORY PEST. FRIENDS WOULD CROSS THE STREET WHEN THEY SAW ME COMING - "HE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT BOOTH-RUN FOR IT".

THIS LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE KING GEORGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. IN TIME, ED VEAZEY OFFERED THE USE OF CLEYDAEL FOR OUR FIRST GET-TOGETHER. AT THE FIRST GET-TOGETHER, AS WELL AS I CAN REMEMBER, WERE JOY AND ED VEAZEY, MARY BELLE AND STUART ASHTON, AND ELIZABETH LEE. I AM ASHAMED THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER THEM ALL, OH YEAH, I WAS THERE. I THINK THAT IN RETALIATION FOR BEING THE PEST,

# John Stanton's History of the King George Historical Society, cont'd

THEY ALL AGREED "OK, BIG MOUTH, YOU ARE THE PRESIDENT! FROM THIS START, WE NEEDED A PLACE TO MEET REGULARLY. WE ASKED THE COUNTY FOR HELP. THEY OFFERED US THE "ASSEMBLY ROOM" OF THE COURT HOUSE. I CAN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHERE IT WAS - BUT IT WAS SOMEWHERE NEAR OUR MUSEUM. SO, ON FEBRUARY 7, 1986, WE HELD THE FIRST MEETING OF THE KING GEORGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. WE HAD A CONTENTIOUS TIME AGREEING ON A NAME FOR THE GROUP. IF WE CALLED IT "THE KING GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY", SOME PEOPLE MIGHT THINK IT HAD SOMETHING TO WITH KING GEORGE II.

THE BUILDING WAS A LARGE, ONE ROOM, DISMAL PLACE. IT HAD A CONCRETE FLOOR, NO HEAT, NO REST ROOMS, BUT IT HAD ELECTRIC LIGHTS AND IRON FOLDING CHAIRS. WE MET ONCE A MONTH AND ADOPTED OUR FIRST COMMUNITY PROJECT. WE WOULD MAKE A CENSUS OF ALL THE CEMETERIES IN THE COUNTY.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE STARTED TO LOSE MEMBERS, BECAUSE OF THE "HALL". WITH THE COUNTY'S APPROVAL, WE MOVED TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL- THE ONE THAT IS NOW THE TEMPORARY RESTING PLACE FOR THE SMOOT LIBRARY. THAT WAS GREAT. THE COUNTY REALIZED THAT WE WERE ALL VOTERS. "LETS KEEP THEM HAPPY". WE GOT CUSHIONED SEATS, REST ROOMS, ETC.

HOWEVER, THE ROOF NEEDED FIXING. THERE WERE TIMES WHEN YOU COULD NOT HEAR THE SPEAKER - BECAUSE OF THE NOISE FROM THE RAIN DRIPPING INTO MANY BUCKETS. THIS FORCED ANOTHER MOVE. FROM HERE WE BEGAN TO MEET AT CALEDON. THAT WAS REAL EFFORT ON THEIR PART, BECAUSE THEY HAD TO MOVE THEIR EXHIBITS AROUND, ONCE A MONTH, AND THEN SETUP CHAIRS BUT WE WERE WARM AND DRY. WE STILL THANK THEM FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

ABOUT THIS TIME, WE SET UP A SCHEDULE FOR THE PAYMENT OF DUES. I WOULD BUILD A SHRINE TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO PROPOSED THAT, BUT I NEVER KNEW WHO IT WAS. WALLY MORTON WAS THE EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER, AND DID ALL THE COMPOSING. I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAILING. WE PUBLISHED A NEWSLETTER WHENEVER I HAD ENOUGH STAMPS.

BEFORE I MOVE ON, I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EFFORT PUT OUT BY MEMBERS LIKE LARRY CAMERON, WHO HAS HAD CHARGE OF OUR CHECK BOOK- FOREVER. MARY ANNCAMERON HAS HELD ONE OFFICE OR ANOTHER - FOR YEARS. REMEMBERING SOME MEMBERS WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US -AUBREY JENNINGS, PLATER GEDNEY, STUART ASHTON, AND VIRGINIA GROS.



## John Stanton's History of the King George Historical Society, cont'd

I WASN'T THE ONLY PRESIDENT, SO WE WILL GIVE A NOD TO, ELABETH LEE, JAMES MULLEN, KEN NEWTON, AND NOW. JEAN HUDSON. LET'S GO BACK TO ELIZABETH LEE.

THIS SOCIETY WOULD NOT FUNCTION WITHOUT ELIZABETH. SHE HAS HELD MULTIPLE POSITIONS- SIMULTANOUSLY, EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING. SHE IS AND HAS BEEN THE ONLY DIRECTOR OF OUR MUSEUM. SHE IS A MAGICIAN. SHE CAN PACK A TRUCKLOAD OF ARTIFACTS INTO A PHONE BOOTH, AND HAVE ROOM FOR US TO WALK IN AND SEE THEM. SHE HAS WORKED WITH OTHER PROJECTS, IN ADDITION. SHE ALMOST DIED WHEN SHE FOUND THAT THE ROOF BURNED OFF OF THE MUSEUM. SHE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THIS WITH THREATENING HEALTH, RAISING A FAMILY, AND EVENTUALLY RIDING HERD ON HER EXTENDED FAMILY. SHE WAS IS EVERYWHERE, WHEN SHE IS NEEDED. SHE AND HER GOOD PAL JEAN GRAHAM HAVE COOKED UP A PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN. THEY DRESS UP IN PERIOD CLOTHING AND VISIT SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE THE CHILDREN. SHE ALSO INTRODUCES THEM TO COLONIAL GAMES AND FUN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH LADIES. MY JOB WAS EASY. IF I WERE TO DWELL ON EACH MEMBER WHO HAS EXTENDED THEMSELVES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THIS SOCIETY, WE WOULD BE HERE UNTIL OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY. WE SQUIGGLED AND WE GREW, ONLY BECAUSE OF COOPERATION. CAN YOU THINK OF ANYONE WHO WORKS HARDER THAN KOONTZ CAMPBELL? NOW, THERE IS A TEAM WORKER! EACH MEMBER MADE THEIR OWN MARK ON THE SOCIETY. AS AN EXAMPLE, JIM MULLEN MUST HAVE TRIPLED OUR MEMBERSHIP WHILE HE RAN HIS BUSINESS AND SERVED AS A COUNTY SUPERVISOR. I PLAN TO HANG AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO SEE OUR SPANKING NEW MUSEUM, COMPLETE WITH SPACE, HEAT, REST ROOMS, AN AUDITORIUM, AND A GOOD ROOF - AND I'LL BET THAT IT WILL GET DONE BY THE PEOPLE SITING HERE IN FRONT OF ME. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

**THIS HISTORY WAS PRESENTED BY BY JOHN STANTON AT THE SOCIETY MEETING ON OCTOBER 11, 2011. HE WAS THE PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY IN 1986.**

## **-News of Yesteryear-**

### **Stories from 100 Years Ago!**



#### **Published January 1, 1924**

##### **New Officials**

Many new officials in the adjoining counties will take office January 1, 1924 and others who were reelected will begin their new terms. J. C. Grigsby goes in as Treasurer of King George County, succeeding J. T. Minor, who has served for several terms. The Board of Supervisors will be an entirely new set of officials. They are R. W. Boggs, J. F. Jones, and Dr. V. R. Caruthers.

#### **Published June 17, 1924**

##### **King George Farm Purchased by Mr. Grymes of New York**

Mr. A. J. Grymes of New York, has purchased Eagle's Nest Farm, in King George County, from Mr. Marshall P. Grymes. The farm, which is located near Chatterton, is located near Chatterton contains 134 acres overlooking the Potomac River and has a fine frame dwelling of 13 rooms. The purchase price was \$5,500.00. Eagle's Nest has been in the Grymes family for 127 years. Mr. A. J. Grymes is a native of King George county, now a prominent business man in New York.

#### **Published June 17, 1924**

##### **Damage By Wind**

The storm of last week played havoc at the farm of Mrs. W. H. Spilman, at Rosita, King George county; when a near tornado took the roof from her sheep house, chicken house and damaged the kitchen roof, besides blowing down several valuable fruit trees.

#### **Published March 22, 1924**

##### **Index 4-H Club**

On Thursday afternoon, March 13, the Index Graded School Club members of King George county, met with the county agent, Mr. K. L. M. Walker, jr., and Mr. C. A. Montgomery, assistant State Boy's Club Agent, for the purpose of organizing a 4-H Club. The following officers were elected: President, Gordon Spilman, Secretary-Treasurer, Audrey Olive, Inez Lee, Ethel Dickerson. Executive Committee, Mae Allensworth, Margaret Norris, Gordon Spilman.



## News of Yesteryear

**Published March 22, 1924**

Notes of Interest From The County Seat:

King George C. H., Va., March 20, '24 - The roads in some sections are impassable for autos and in their present muddy condition, work on them must necessarily be postponed until work will be effective and lasting.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Newton, of Igo, have gone to Washington to make their future home.

Miss Beatrice Purks entertained at a delightful party Saturday evening at her home.

Miss Thelma Stevens and Mr. Stevens motored to Prince William county Sunday to visit Mrs. Richard Skidmore.

Little Miss Mazie Foster, of Washington, who is spending some time with relatives in the county, is confined to her bed with chicken pox.

Miss Virginia Carter motored to her home last week for the week-end.

Miss Gladys Purks, who is in Washington under treatment for injuries to her face caused by a gunshot about two years ago, is deriving much benefit therefrom and is expected home shortly to visit her parent, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Purks.

Mrs. Sarah Newton, who is under treatment at Mary Washington Hospital, Fredericksburg, is rapidly improving and will soon leave for her home near Igo. Mrs. E. R. Purks, Mrs. E. H. Roach and Mrs. Nellie Purvis motored to Fredericksburg Saturday to visit Mrs. Newton at the hospital.

Ms. W. J. Rogers has had a radio outfit put in her home near Osso.

Mr. Wilson Jones, of Passapatanzy, has bought of the Rawlings Motor Co. a fine Star car.





## Mark your calendars!

### KG Historical Society Meeting

**March 21, 2024 5:45 P.M.**

We will welcome Mr. William (Bill)  
Golden, Genealogist and DNA  
Analyst.

Mr. Golden will discuss early  
Virginia, Northern Neck, and King  
George history as discovered  
through genealogy and the use of  
DNA (genetic genealogy).

### KGHS Executive Committee

Renee Parker - President  
Bob Baird - Vice President  
Carol Werle - Secretary  
Lynn Pardee - Treasurer  
Ryan Portner - Museum Archivist &  
Librarian  
Sam Buckley - Museum Librarian  
Earl Leach - Membership &  
Communications Lead

Gloria Sharp - Genealogy Committee  
Mark McColman - Genealogy Committee  
Wallace Morton - Genealogy Committee

Contact Information:  
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P.O. Box 424 King George, VA 22485

### KING GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

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and contributors.



### We Are Looking For Help With...

- \*\*Secretary for the KG Historical Society**
- \*\*Newsletter creation**
- \*\*Museum Staffing**
- \*\*Event Coordination**
- \*\*Event Staffing**

Please email  
**kinggeorgehistoricalsociety@gmail.com** if  
**you're interested in helping!**  
**Thank you!**