



The Time Keeper

Essex County Museum & Historical Society Newsletter

November 2012

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We are so grateful:

For all of the many donations, real and in-kind, that members of the community have provided during this year.

For the volunteer efforts of members, docents and board members who have contributed to making this a successful year.

The 2012 Annual Fund Drives closes December 31st.

Donations can be mailed to ECMHS, P. O. Box 404 Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

I am pleased to announce the addition of three new board members: Barbara Sethmann, who has been serving as the docent coordinator, Helen Ware and C. Norman Wood. They will begin their three year term in January. Rotating off of the board are members Gordon Harrower, Priscilla Vaughan and Louise Velletri.

The board sincerely appreciates the many contributions made by these retiring board members and looks forward to their continuing advocacy as advisors and docents.

This edition of the *Time Keeper* is being sent to update you on the many and varied activities of the ECMHS. *The Historic Bulletin*, to be published in December, will close out the year with the second article in the War of 1812 series. The members of the board extend to you their best wishes for a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Suzanne Derieux



The Cannon Restoration Effort



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Partners with

A restoration contract has been awarded to Randy Silvers of Rappahannock Carriages to rebuild the carriage. The cannon has been moved to the restoration location. The goal is to have the restored cannon on display in the Museum by summer of 2013. The cost of restoration of the cannon has been estimated to cost \$ 5,800. To date, \$3500 has been donated by individuals for this effort.

Fund raising continues with renewed excitement! Harry T. Gladding a local pilot has offered his services and his plane for a thirty minute air flight for two in exchange for a \$200 donation. This flight offer is available to ten (10) \$200 donors. Contact the museum.

Museum Hours:

M, T, Th, Fr, Sat 10 am—3 pm
804-443-4690

Essex County Museum PO Box 404 218 Water Lane Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

“The Rappahannock River Gift Shop”

The Museum Gift Shop is proud to announce and display the name “Rappahannock River Gift Shop”. It has been named and dedicated in the Honor of **Andrea and Dean VanArsdale**. This dedication comes as a result of a generous capital campaign donation made by their parents Judy and Harold VanArsdale.

Profits from the gift shop are a major component of the operations budget. Please shop regularly and by doing so demonstrate your support of the ECMHS and Essex County’s History Museum.

Reasons for shopping at the gift shop include:

- The best selection of locally published history books as well as a wide selection of quality non-fiction and fiction books.
- Great sale items to include children’s books, historic toys and local pottery; up to 50% off!
- Other unique gift selections: Salisbury pewter, quality hand woven baskets, hand carved walking sticks, cards, note cards and local honey.
- A 10% members discount every day.
- An additional 10% discount for our docents on docents shopping day (third Tuesday of each month).
- Several times a year the Gift Shop hosts local authors and demonstrations with a wine and cheese event, free of charge to all.

Larry Sisson to Identify and Appraise your Decoys Saturday, Dec. 8th

Museum Holiday open house will be held on Saturday December 8th, from ten until four o’clock. Refreshments will be served. Larry Sisson, local decoy collector and specialist will be available to identify and appraise old decoys in return for a donation to benefit the Museum and Historical Society. A minimum of \$10.00 is suggested.

Well known local carver John D. Krom of Laneview, will also be available to share stories of his early carving days. On loan from Larry Sisson is an extensive collection of carvings by Mr. Krom.



News from Joan Moore, Director of Education

Educational Overview:

The content, audience, and geographic area has drastically changed the focus and scope of the educational activities provided by the museum. Since 2007 the revised content provides information relative to the 18th century colonial life, which includes fashions, life style, work life, agriculture, John Smith's exploration, the Indians, early Tappahannock, the River and its impact on the trades and very importantly the Steamboat Era. These programs focus on all grades, particularly grades 3 – 5. Most lessons provide hands-on opportunities. The schools canvassed are all the public and private schools in Essex County and some in Middlesex and Fredericksburg.

The Essex Museum also partners with 12 other museums and historic sites to provide outreach educational programs to the elementary and middle schools within the Northern Neck Region and beyond. Additionally we also partner with other sites to provide a 2-3 day workshop to teachers with grades 4 through High School responsibilities. We have measured our success not only by the many positive responses, but the numbers. Since 2007 we have presented programs to 5600 students and adults.

Along with the children's activities, the Museum hosted a teachers "Train the Trainer Opportunity" using the river and its vast shipping and wharf history as the subject matter for a morning on the Rappahannock River. Beginning at Saunders Wharf, teachers from Essex and neighboring counties shared the adventure with local historians. Appreciation goes out to boat captains Billy Croxton, Bill Reavis and Richard Moncure (Friends of the Rappahannock), and to two local banks, EVB and Union Bank, for funding the event. The afternoon was spent with a walking tour of the historic area.

Fall Gala Was a Huge Success

Once more, those who missed the ECMHS Fall event missed a fun, quality evening! The location, the food, the music and the FUN blended for the perfect late afternoon at Historic Saunders Wharf on the Rappahannock. Many thanks go out to the numerous volunteers and especially to Susan, Peter and Edgar Bance for hosting; to Sponsors: (\$500 level) Rappahannock Electric, Ronald R. Geiger, LLC; McDonalds; (\$250 Level) Dillard and Katona, Garrett's Marina and Boat Sales, (\$100 >)Gregory Packet, Edward Jones Investing, Raymond Grimes, Hughes and Basye, Northern Neck Generators, Riverland Insurers, Allison Roberson, DDS; Tapp-Warsaw Women of the Moose, Leslie Taylor, CPA; and MaRainey's Boutiques. Food Sponsors: Craig Brooks, Bill Oates, Hobbs Hole, Butch Olfin, Java Jacks, Relish at Rivahside, Lowery's, Roma's, T-Bonz and Tuna and The Inn at Montross.

The end result of this great collaborative effort was that the museum raised the \$11,000 it needed to make budget for the rest of the year. That exceeded previous such events by \$3,500!



MultiMedia Committee

The Goal: Enhance the “museum experience” for visitors of all ages

The Multimedia Committee formed in 2012 and chaired by Howard Reisinger has achieved a first step toward exhibit enhancement with the video slide presentation that is part of the *War of 1812* exhibit

Future activities will include:

- Adding audio/video displays to support static exhibits through the use of slides, video, audio tracks, and narration;
- Providing the technical support to document oral histories through video and audio, in particular by capturing the voice and image of those interviewed. It should be noted that this is a time-critical activity.
- Setting up a separate Museum Theater room to which visitors can be directed to view an orientation video of Tappahannock, Essex County, and the Essex County Museum and Historical Society, or where visitors can elect to view any number of in-depth videos of various places and/or events that highlight significant history of Tappahannock and Essex County. This includes the “Town Tour” slide program that once operated on the touch screen computer that included narrative by local residents.

Please visit www.ecmhs.org and explore the web site. Clicking on the blog (B) or facebook (F) or visiting the *Shutterfly* account will keep you in touch with current events.



Curator's News

Exhibits

1. “*Proving Ground for Freedom: The War of 1812 in Essex and the Rappahannock*” opened in the Silver Gallery on July 27th. The exhibit features our first multimedia component, a slideshow continually running on a 32 inch flat screen monitor. An audio addition consisting of a 3-5 minute narrated segment accessible by push button is in the planning and writing stages. This exhibit will run through July 2013.
2. A small exhibit on the “*Era of Good Feeling*” of the James Monroe administration that followed the War of 1812 is being prepared for the Essex Gallery, featuring a 19 inch band box circa 1825 with illustrations of the Erie Canal on loan from the Port Royal Museum. A 2’x2’x2’ acrylic case and pedestal are being assembled. This display system will also be used for future exhibits.
3. Research coordinator Anne Jackson has responded to over 75 requests for research assistance in 2012.
4. Accessions Included:
 - A bound volume of the *Richmond Dispatch* for the year 1899 donated By Michael Rawlings.
 - A pair of coin silver sugar tongs signed by the Virginia silversmith and clockmaker Rix Jordan (1791-1857) who is known to have worked in Essex County in 1840-1841.
 - The Brockenbrough Collection and the Civil War diary of Lutie Brockenbrough.
 - The Sunnyside-Warner-Gardner Clothing Collection.



Time flies!

Membership drive 2013 is just around the corner.....

For those of you who have been members, this is your annual alert. You will be receiving your membership drive information in the mail during the month of December. In case you might hesitate, here are the reasons why you want to be a 2013 member:

1. Your continued patronage keeps the museum open which allows you, your friends and family and visitors to Essex County to have the museum visit experience free of charge, unlimited. Your willingness to contribute pays for the continuing educational outreach to local schools which has reached over 5600 students since the museum opened. (read the educational article on page 3.)
2. You receive two historical bulletins as year. These are highly researched quality publications written by historians. Their subject matter is chosen for its local historical interest and its "fit" with the museum's current exhibits and programs. Even though all of the previous issues of the "Bulletin" are available on the ECMHS website, we want you to have your personal copy to share and /or store for future reference. Newsletters and videos are also available on the website
3. 10 % discount everytime you shop in the gift shop. This is in addition to special "dot" discounts, so you can actually benefit with a total discount up to 60%.
4. You are invited to attend the *members only* annual spring event to enjoy a full selection of beverages and tasty/ quality food and at least two special events to open new exhibits and celebrate authors.

As we open the 2013 membership drive, we ask you for two considerations. One, Please give some thought to raising your membership level to the next level and two, find a family member or acquaintance and introduce them to the benefits of membership.



Docent's Corner Be a Docent. Call Barbara at 925-6060

Docent shopping day is the third Tuesday of every month. Shopping on this day gives you a 20% discount on all items in addition to the dot discount of up to 50%. I am also the docent for that day and would welcome you to stop in to chat or ask questions.

Look for the Docent thank you basket during the month of December and be sure to pick up your holiday "thank you."

Docent shopping day on December 18th. Refreshments and some special shopping opportunities just for the Docents.

Docent Coordinator: Barbara Sethmann