From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

In 2008, two community organizations merged to apply their multiple efforts and resources to one encompassing mission. The combined ECMHS has experienced a significant increase in the number of Essex residents coming forth to donate artifacts and historical connections from their family heritage. This advantage has provided the opportunity to become a stronger advocate for historic preservation, conservation, and education within our community and for our visitors. As caretakers of history, ECMHS carefully records and stores information in historic archives so that each story can be shared for generations to come. We encourage all families to consider donating family records, pictures, and items to the historic archives and collection.

Visitors regularly comment that they are pleasantly surprised at the visual and informative qualities of our galleries. Their visit is always a positive experience. If you haven’t visited the museum recently, please come by, and bring a friend. After all, it is your museum!

Suzanne Derieux, President

ECMHS Receives Grants!

Dominion Foundation Grant

Dominion Foundation recently announced the award of a $1,000 grant to the museum in support of our climate control upgrade. The new system offers a safer environment for our valuable documents and artifacts at an increased level of energy efficiency. Thank you Dominion Foundation!

VA DAR and PNNMP Grants

Thanks to recent grants from the VA DAR and PNNMP, our watercolor and embroidery on silk picture, *The Deposition of Christ* (below), will soon undergo professional restoration and preservation treatment. This picture, which is the work of Lucy Yates Wellford Gray, has been dated around 1830, and assessed as an example of Virginia needlework at its finest. Mrs. Gray was an accomplished artist especially skilled in ornamental needlework, which was one of many subjects taught in her “Female Seminary” located in Tappahannock.

The grants, totaling $1500, were awarded in keeping with the commitment to historic preservation held by both the VA DAR and PNNMP, and the museum is grateful for their assistance in preserving this lovely piece of needlework, a significant part of Essex County history.

Barbara Sethman, Grants Coordinator
FINANCIALLY STRONG MUSEUM

Essex County Museum & Historical Society achieved another successful year in 2012. The most meaningful measurement of its success is its significant contribution to the community as a result of its historical research, acquisitions, preservation, education, and presentation of the rich history of Essex County for its citizens and visitors. Another meaningful measurement of its success is its continued financial health. Without financial strength, it cannot accomplish its mission.

Although building repairs and maintenance and fund raising expenses were higher than previous years, increased contributions and a highly successful Fall Gala more than offset the increased expenses. Total expenses, including maintaining the Museum’s historic building, grew to $71,000 however its total income was $79,300. Most of the income in excess of expenses was used to pay down the building’s mortgage, $5,300, and balance was held in reserves. Major sources of income were contributions from individuals and companies and fund raiser events $28,700, Essex County and Town of Tappahannock $24,000, business space rentals $22,500, gift shop income $2,800, and grants and investment income $1,300.

The museum’s total costs are kept low due to the countless hours of time volunteered by docents, members, and board of directors. Their contributions are not measurable, but clearly most important and appreciated.

The museum’s financial income comes from the community at large. Individuals and companies provide goods, services, and important funds through their memberships and contributions.

Memberships

Our members are the people that keep the museum functioning. Their interest in and commitment to helping the museum achieve its mission is the key to its success. The current membership follows:

**Individual ($35-59)**
- Ms. Agnes Andrews
- Ms. Jean Ball
- Ms. Donna Betts
- Mr. Walter E. Bissex
- Ms. Regina Blagmon
- Mr. E. Wayne Bock
- Ms. Susan Boettcher Bock
- Mr. Stanley S. Clarke
- Martha Coates
- Mr. & Mrs. Rosser Cobb
- Mr. Francis D. Coker
- Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Creamer
- Mr. Luther Derby
- Ms. Suzanne P. Drieux
- Mrs. Jean Edwards
- Mr. H. DeShields Fisher
- Ms. Richard Flaherty
- Mr. Roy Fontane
- Mr. & Mrs. Gordon M. Given
- Mr. & Mrs. Peyton Guest
- Mrs. Jacqueline M. Gilley
- Mr. & Mrs. Christopher C. Homenberger
- Mr. Lloyd Huckstep
- Ms. Anne Jackson
- Mr. Joe Johnston
- Mrs. Nadine H. Katona
- Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lenz
- Mrs. Sue W. Loe
- Mr. Wes Marston
- Ms.Julia Lewis Nofsinger
- Mr. Gordon Page
- Ms. Lila W. Palmer
- Mrs. Ruby Pavey
- Prince William Public Library
- Mr. Howard W. Reisinger, Jr.
- Mrs. Alice Roye
- Ms. Betty Page Schroeder
- Mr. & Mrs. John O. Sheppard
- Mrs. Diane Sisson
- Virginia Slaughter
- Ms. Shannon Spears
- Mr. H. Gwynne Tucker
- Mrs. Louise Velletri
- Ms. Linda H. McGuire
- Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wolf
- Ms. Lucy Emma B. York

**Family ($60-99)**
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Allen
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Anderson
- Dr. & Mrs. Robert Armour
- Mr. Peter C. Bance
- Mr. & Mrs. McGuire Boyd
- Mr. David Brazell
- Mr. & Mrs. William T. Carreras
- Ms. S. Lynn Coates
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Schreiber
- Mr. Gordon Page
- Dr. & Mrs. John R. Haile
- Mr. & Mrs. William Jester
- Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Kean
- Mr. & Mrs. David F. Leonard
- Mr. & Mrs. William L. Lewis
- Dr. & Mrs. John Rennolds, Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. William A. Sadler
- Dr. & Mrs. Lewis B. Wilkins
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wind
- Mr. & Mrs. John R. Haile
- Mr. & Mrs. William A. Sadler
- Dr. & Mrs. Lewis B. Wilkins
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wind
- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Stinchcomb
- Mr. & Mrs. Carrington Taylor
- Mr. & Mrs. Steve G. Walters
- Mr. & Mrs. Tim Ware
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wolfinger
- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Stinchcomb
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wind
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wolfinger

**1692 Society ($100-150)**
- Mr. & Mrs. Leigh Angel
- Mr. Edgar J. Bance
- Mr. & Mrs. Gene Beverly
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Blackwell
- Ms. Grace Brouillette
- Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Bucher
- Ms. Agnes Andrews
- Mr. & Mrs. Ronald R. Geiger
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank C. Harris
- Mr. David Leary
- Ms. Grace Brouillette
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas G. Schroeder
- Mr. & Mrs. William A. Croxton
- Mr. & Mrs. Ronald R. Geiger
- Mrs. Jane G. Watkins
- Mr. & Mrs. William G. Leary
- Mrs. Jane G. Watkins
- Mr. & Mrs. John Rennolds, Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Sassar, Jr.
- Mrs. Priscilla Vaughan
- Mrs. Jane G. Watkins
- Mr. & Mrs. Hilb B. Wellford
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. Spruill, Jr.
- Lt. Gen. & Mrs. C. Norman Wood
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Paris
- Mr. & Mrs. William D. Reavis
- Mr. & Mrs. James B. Slaughter
- Mr. & Mrs. John Allen
- Mr. & Mrs. William D. Reavis
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Blackwell
- Mr. & Mrs. James B. Slaughter
- Judge & Mrs. Joseph E. Spruill, Jr.
- Lt. Gen. & Mrs. C. Norman Wood
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Ware
- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Stinchcomb
- Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Sassar, Jr.
- Mrs. Priscilla Vaughan
- Mrs. Jane G. Watkins
- Mr. & Mrs. Hilb B. Wellford
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. Spruill, Jr.
- Lt. Gen. & Mrs. C. Norman Wood
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Ware
Annual Fund Contributions

In addition to membership fees, additional funding is necessary to keep the museum operating. Contributions from the following individuals and companies were received throughout 2012. The mid-year Annual Fund Campaign attracted most of the contributions.

Friends of the Museum ($25 to $50)
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Allen  Mr. & Mrs. George Elliott  Mrs. Diane Sisson
Mrs. S.B. Baird  Mr. H. DeShields Fisher  Ms. Shannon Spears
Mrs. Nancy T. Ball  Mr. Richard Flaherty  Mr. & Mrs. James C. Terry, Jr.
Mr. David Brazell  Mrs. Roberta Garnett  Mrs. Dixie L. Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Carreras  Mrs. Margaret T. Haynes-Scroggins  Mr. & Mrs. Jack E. Tribett
Mr. Stanley S. Clarke  Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lee  Byrd Waring
Country Friends  Mr. & Mrs. Gary Mosman  Mrs. Dee M. Wilson
Cynthia C. Coy  Ms. Julia Lewis Nofsinger  Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wolf
Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Davis  Ms. Susie E. Shelton  

Advocates of the Museum ($50-$100)
Mr. Edgar J. Bance  Mr. Joe Johnston  Virginia W. Shelor
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Dawkins  Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Kean  O. Bryan Taliaferro
Mr. Luther Derby  Mr. & Mrs. John Lawler  Mr. & Mrs. David Vaughan
Mrs. Jean Edwards  LexisNexis  Mr. & Mrs. William Ware
Mrs. Roberta Garnett  Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Madren  Wayne W. Wray
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Gatewood  Alonso McNeill  Mr. Gary Youngling
Mrs. Sharon R. Hardy  Mrs. Ruby Paysiere  

Sponsors of the Museum ($100-$200)
Mr. & Mrs. Leigh Angel  Mr. & Mrs. David League  Mr. & Mrs. Roger Sethmann
Mr. & Mrs. James Ashworth  Marks-Bristow Funeral Home, Inc.  Mr. Fairfax Settle
Mr. Peter C. Bance  Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. McDaniel  Ms. Mary Ann Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Ellis  Mr. & Mrs. Donald Moore  Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Ware
Mrs. Roberta Garnett  Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Paris  Lt. Gen. & Mrs. C. Norman Wood
Dr. & Mrs. Robert N. Holt  Rappahannock Electric Cooperative  
Mr. George Jennings  Dr. & Mrs. William Ryan  

Historians for the Museum ($200-$500)
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Harrower  Mr. & Mrs. William Lowery, III  Mr. & Mrs. Tim Ware
Mr. & Mrs. Emerson Hughes  Mr. & Mrs. John Magruder  Women’s Club of Essex County
In honor of Frances Garrett  Mr. & Mrs. James B. Slaughter  
Mr. David Leary  Ms. Louise Velletri  

Founders for the Museum ($500 or more)
Ms. Suzanne P. Derieux  Rappahannock Electric Cooperative  Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Wellford
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Fletcher  Carl D. Silver Trust  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald R. Geiger  Mrs. Priscilla Vaughan  

Government Funding

Each year the Town of Tappahannock and Essex County recognize the important contribution the museum offers their citizens and visitors and provide major funding for the museum’s operations. Their 2012 funding totaled $24,000.

Save the Cannon

In past years special fund raising campaigns have occurred to purchase the museum’s building, expand exhibit space, and acquire historically significant artifacts. During 2012, the museum accepted the responsibility for restoration and exhibition of the County’s Civil War cannon. The restoration is well underway and is expected to be ready for its rededication this summer. We have reached 100% of our $6,000 goal for the estimated cost of restoration as of this publication date.

Friends of the Cannon
Mr. & Mrs. Leigh Angel  Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hammond  Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Neuman
Anonymous Donations  Ms. Patricia G. Harper  Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Paris
Mr. & Mrs. W. Keith Cooke  Mr. & Mrs. Frank C. Harris  Mr. Brian Penniston
Mrs. James W. Cox  Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Harrower  Mr. Michael Rawlings
Mrs. Connie F. Danluck  Mr. David Henderson  Mr. & Mrs. Edwin E. Smith, Jr.
Mr. William “Binkey” Durham  Mr. & Mrs. Emerson Hughes  Mr. & Mrs. I.C. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Edmunds  Ms. Marcia Jenkins  Ms. Betty S. Tancredi
Mrs. Jean Edwards  Mr. Joe Johnston  Tappahannock Rotary Club
Mr. Roy Fontane  Mrs. Trudy Koch  Mr. & Mrs. Herbert White
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald R. Geiger  Mr. & Mrs. William Lowery, III  Lt. Gen. & Mrs. C. Norman Wood
Dr. & Mrs. Charles P. Gilchrist, III  Ms. Linda Lumpkin  Mr. & Mrs. Steve Wyatt
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Gill  Mr. & Mrs. Donald Moore  

Ron Geiger, Treasurer
The Time Keeper

Exhibits and Collections

In February our exhibit in honor of Black History Month featured First Baptist Church in Tappahannock. I was surprised to learn that this congregation built the first Baptist church building in Tappahannock, in 1874, then located on Virginia Street. The subsequent sanctuary on Marsh Street is now well over a century old and still thriving. The early black churches also played a vital role in supporting secondary education for blacks since the state of Virginia provided funding only for the elementary grades until the 1930s.

The museum has acquired a colorful collection of nineteen hand-carved duck decoys by John Krom of Laneview. They illustrate pairs of many of the game birds found on the Rappahannock.

We are looking forward to the arrival of the newly restored Essex County Civil War commemorative cannon that will be displayed in the Essex Gallery starting this spring. Our Civil War Sesquicentennial exhibit has been updated to reflect the events of 1863. In April of that year, Essex’s infantrymen of the 55th Virginia figured prominently in securing a stunning victory at the Battle of Chancellorsville in nearby Spotsylvania County.

David Jett, Curator

ECMHS Archives/Sesquicentennial/Research

To celebrate Spring and spur your interests, the archives department is preparing new collection groups on Essex County. Local families are spotlighted in our newest accessions being catalogued. These include the Dawkins Papers, Haile Papers, and Stockton Papers all of which give us a glimpse of Essex past. We also have a cache of old Tappahannock newspapers which is in the process of being preserved and then digitized for ease of research.

The Sesquicentennial Remembrance continues with the 2013 lecture series being held at William & Mary College on April 20, 2013. Space is still available, so we encourage you to attend. For more information, go to http://www.virginiacivilwar.org. If you are unable to attend, proceedings from the highly-acclaimed Signatur Conference series are available in both print and DVD, along with the Emmy-nominated "Virginia in the Civil War: A Sesquicentennial Remembrance."

Remember, the archives are here for you to utilize as a window into ‘Old Essex County’ and our populace.

Anne Jackson, Archivist
research@ecmhs.org

Cannon Restoration Nearly Complete

The museum’s cannon restoration project is nearing completion. Its wheels and carriage were completely replaced by restoration craftsmen in Essex County and Pennsylvania.

Old paint from its original 816 pound iron barrel was removed prior to mounting it on its restored carriage. The removal of old paint uncovered markings on the barrel which show the barrel was made at the Allegheny Arsenal near Pittsburgh in 1864.

(continue next column)

Education and Outreach

As part of our outreach partnership with other Northern Neck museums, ECMHS presented a program at Aylett County Day school on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, for grades 3-8, on the following topics: Archaeology, 18c herbs, the American Indian, Slavery and Music, Oystering, and John Smith’s journey. The presentation included interactive activities, always popular with the children, that provide the opportunity to learn and experience a hands-on connection to the past.

We are also planning another river excursion for teachers, grades 4-8, from Tappahannock, including Aylett and Richmond County, for the end of June. The focus will be on the southern portion of the river and will again explore the importance of the river, wharves, and the Steamship era. We hope this activity can be made available to the general public as a fund raising event for the museum. In October, we will again participate in Richmond County’s Elementary School open house where we explain what we have available, from education to exhibits etc., to encourage interest in and emphasize the importance of our history. Another school will be scheduled for our outreach program in early November.

ECMHS couldn’t meet its educational obligations without the efforts of our volunteers who willingly donate their time and skills. Thanks to: Betty Jo Butler, Billy Croxton, Suzanne Derieux, Cupper Dickinson, Ron Geiger, Anita Harrower, Lloyd Huckstep, Lorraine Jester, Diane Kean, Richard Moncure, Howard Reisinger, Liz Russell, Jane Schrieber, Diane Sisson, and Priscilla Vaughan. Thanks to David Jett for providing information and Peyton Guest for making items for the Archaeology lesson, also to St. Margaret’s, Parker’s Marina, for use of their facilities and to Peter and Ted Bance for allowing us to use Saunders Wharf. And a very big thank you to the nine museums that have consistently participated in the “History on the Go” outreach endeavor; Belle Isle State Park, GW Birthplace, Historic Christ Church, Mary Ball Washington Museum, Menokin Foundation, Morratico Waterfront Museum, Reedville Fishermen’s Museum, Richmond County Museum, and Westmoreland County Museum. As of the end of 2012, we have provided educational activities to 5,840 students and adults!

Jean Moore, Director

The restored cannon will be rededicated at a ceremony this summer at the Essex County Museum and Historical Society where the cannon will be on display.

Over 90% of the costs of restoration have been contributed by more than 30 local and distant people and organizations.

Tappahannock Carriage’s workers, Randy Silvers and co-worker, sanding one of the cannon’s wheels.

Joe Johnston, Project Chair

(continue next column)
MultiMedia

The MultiMedia Committee made considerable progress in 2012 toward making ECMHS a state-of-the-art community resource. Multi-Media took a big step forward with the purchase of a new high definition, flat panel TV, which now displays a continuously running slideshow developed to accompany the new War of 1812 exhibit. The Committee also added still photographs and video of the Museum-sponsored Tea to the museum’s web site, as well as photos of the Fall Gala at Wheatland. We have been gratified and encouraged to hear that visitors are very complimentary and have reacted very positively to these efforts.

The Committee is currently involved in two new projects. First, a video with Anita Harrower as narrator, has been made to augment the War of 1812 slideshow, focusing specifically on the War of 1812 in Essex County. And second, in the near future, we plan to purchase equipment to establish a Museum Theater. Beginning with an orientation slideshow for new visitors, we anticipate developing a library of slideshows and videos to “tell the story” of Essex County history. We are also exploring the best way to make the extensive collection of Baird Papers accessible to the public via computer database and/or the Museum web site. Documenting the cannon restoration process through both still photos and video also promises to be an interesting addition to our treasure chest of history. And, the ongoing Oral Histories project will continue with video documentation of new interviews.

Howard Reisinger, Coordinator

Rappahannock River Gift Shop

Have you visited the gift shop recently? If you haven’t, after reading this article you will!! The Rappahannock River Gift Shop has a new name, new look, and new items. While maintaining our Salisbury Pewter standard items there are several new additions; a 3-ounce jigger, a 3-inch crab and a different style crab pin. And, did you know that gift items purchased several years ago have a tremendous price advantage over current additions to inventory? Over the years item costs have increased as much as 33%, but there are great bargains on several sets of salt and pepper shakers, cheese and old bay seasoning shakers, and crab eating tools still available at the old prices. Plus, you have an extra discount advantage as Members (10%); Docents (20%)! Other new items include Authentic prices. Plus, you have an extra discount advantage as Members (10%); Docents (20%)! Other new items include Authentic

antique timepieces and a new War of 1812 exhibit. The Committee also added still photographs and video of the Museum-sponsored Tea to the museum’s web site, as well as photos of the Fall Gala at Wheatland. We have been gratified and encouraged to hear that visitors are very complimentary and have reacted very positively to these efforts.

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Howard Reisinger, Coordinator

Rappahannock River Gift Shop (cont.)

The gift shop is staffed by our docents on a daily basis. They have conquered the challenge of the “point-of-sale” computer transaction, represented the mission, and been the face of the museum to our many visitors. Over the years many of the first docents have moved on. We will be eternally grateful for their service and the example they set for all of us. There would be no gift shop or museum without these faithful folks.

Gift shop sales for the year 2012 were $8,887. Special events and docent shopping days are major contributors to annual sales. For the year 2013 to date, sales through February are $813.00. Online shopping will soon be enhanced to include eBay on a trial basis.

Our newest items remind us of the beauty of spring and the Easter season. These elegantly handcrafted baskets can become part of your daily routine. Market baskets eliminate the need for plastic, tote baskets are great for all those things you need close at hand, the cutest door hangers, and a two pie basket for what else...two pies! These and many others are waiting for you at the gift shop. The Member discount every day and Docent’s additional discount on the third Tuesday of each month make these baskets even more appealing. Come by and go shopping!

Priscilla Vaughan, Manager

Chat with the Author

Local author, Bobby Watkins of Essex County, will join us for a ‘Sunday afternoon chat session’ at the Rappahannock River Gift Shop on May 5th to discuss his forthcoming book. It’s an entertaining, story-telling book about his career as a special agent for the Virginia ABC Enforcement Division that promises to be funny, factual, and informative. The afternoon will begin at 2 pm, and Bobby will begin his session around 2:30 pm. A basket weaving artisan featured on our gift shop shelves will also attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Consider Becoming an ECMHS Docent

You can contribute so much to ECMHS and your community. If you are a long time resident, we need your expertise. If you are new to the area, there’s no better way to get acquainted. Be a part of the ECMHS volunteer services:

♡ Work the front desk at least one morning or afternoon a month
♡ Assist our visitors with information about the museum, its exhibits and special projects
♡ Help our visitors with their purchases in the Museum Shop
♡ Support our board by participating in the Museum’s various projects

The hours are short and the rewards are great. You will learn more about the rich history of Essex County and surrounding area. You will be a part of a progressive effort that not only seeks to preserve our history, but to enhance our future through exciting programs that benefit not only visitors, teachers and students, but the entire community. And, you will receive an extra discount on your own gift shop purchases once a month. We provide the training and the opportunity; you provide the time and talent. Contact the ECMHS Docent Coordinator, Docents@ecmhs.org.

Barbara Sethmann, Coordinator
The **Time Keeper** is e-mailed whenever possible and placed on our website, [www.essexmuseum.org](http://www.essexmuseum.org). To be sure we have your e-mail address, please send it to admin@ecmhs.org. If you do not have internet access, please call 804-443-4690 and leave your name and current address. ECMHS will update its membership records to reflect your most current information.

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**Essex County Museum & Historical Society**  
**Post Office Box 404**  
**Tappahannock, Virginia 22560**