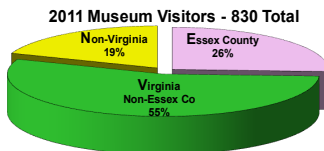


The Time Keeper

Museum Visitors from Around the World

Last year the Essex County Museum received visitors from England, Scotland, France, Germany, Slavonia, and Korea as well as more than 150 people from outside Virginia. Their comments expressed their thrill to find the historical significance of Tappahannock and Essex County.



Be sure to include the Essex County Museum as a place of interest for your out-of-town visitors. They will appreciate it.

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Museum Hours:
M, T, Th, Fr, Sat 10 am—3 pm

From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of the Essex County Museum and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. We're excited about this year's exhibits, educational opportunities, and upcoming events. We begin this issue of the Newsletter with a special request from the First Lady of Virginia.

Suzanne Derieux, President

Maureen McDonnell
First Lady of Virginia



The Executive Mansion
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! Calling All Virginians!

Family homes are prized possessions, and it can be challenging to pass them from one generation to the next. However, when we are able to do so, we gain a much fuller understanding of our ancestors' lives, surrounded by the furnishings and art that reflect their history.

For four years, Governor McDonnell and I have the honor of living in one of Virginia's oldest "family" homes ~ the Executive Mansion. Celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2013, the Executive Mansion is the oldest continually occupied governor's residence in all the fifty states. As you can imagine, this translates to a home full of history and stories of everyday family life. With the 200th birthday of the mansion approaching, we are looking to gain a more intimate understanding of this historic home, one that has not yet been told in the history books.

This fall, the official book of the Executive Mansion's 200th Anniversary will be released. Our commemorative coffee table book will chronicle the experiences of the fifty-four governors' families who have occupied the mansion. It is being written by Virginia historian Mary Miley Theobald, with an introduction by Virginia author David Baldacci and designed by Carol Roper Hoffer. We are also planning a yearlong celebration with special events, exhibits, and programs to commemorate this bicentennial.

I believe that the key to unlocking the untold stories of the mansion lies with the people of Virginia, and I'd like to involve you in this endeavor. If you are a descendant of a former "First Family" or of someone who worked in the mansion, we'd love to hear your stories about your ancestors and the mansion. We are looking for old photographs of governors' families taken in the mansion and any letters and objects with a history of having been in the mansion that we might exhibit. You may have to dig them out of your great-great Aunt Matilda's trunk that's been sitting in Grandma's attic, but they will help shed light on this wonderful home's proud past.

If you have stories or images of Virginia's Executive Mansion, please join us in this opportunity to recapture them as we celebrate the bicentennial. Please contact us by mail at Commonwealth of Virginia, Executive Mansion, P.O. Box 1475, Richmond, Virginia 23218; or by email at ExecutiveMansion@governor.virginia.gov, and help us bring the history of Virginia's Executive Mansion to life!

With warmest regards,

Maureen McDonnell
First Lady of Virginia

Volunteers Create Success

We owe the success of Essex County Museum & Historical Society to our volunteers who work with our paid staff, the Museum Curator and the Administrative Assistant. The Museum Curator, **David Jett**, manages and creates displays of artifacts that always receive raves from our visitors. **Kelly LaFollette**, Administrative Assistant, handles a myriad of administrative duties from keeping track of income and expenses to organizing all the paperwork. The rest of the Museum's operation is handled by dedicated volunteers.

Our docents are our front line. They open and close the Museum five days every week, greet our visitors, answer questions about the displays, do research, and investigate genealogy. They also serve as the Town and County "visitor bureau" by providing maps, giving directions, and suggesting things for visitors to see and do in the area. Current docents are **Sally Acree, Leigh Angel, Tommy Blackwell, Betty Jo Butler, Donna Cobb, Vonnie Creamer, Carole and Bill Croxton, Luther Derby, Hilda Fletcher, Barbara Frazier, Dot Fogg, Ned Garber, Penny and Ron Geiger, Mary Guess, Peyton Guest, Pat Haile, Anita and Gordon Harrower, Lorraine Jester, Diane Kean, Joan Moore, Michael O'Quinn, George Orton, Kitty Price, Liz Russell, Barbara Sethman, Diane Sisson, Jane Schreiber, Rick Stott, Cacky Taylor, Van VanArsdale, Lois Vaughan, Priscilla Vaughan, Kia Ware, and Anne Warner. Substitutes are Sarah Croxton, Suzanne Derieux, Joe Johnston, Ann Moore, Howard Reisinger, Penny Saffer, and Coral Sue Spruill. Diane Kean (804-443-6852) manages the docent team and its schedule to ensure our visitors are well received and informed.**

Many of our docents, and other ECMHS members, volunteer their time and talent by performing important but less obvious jobs. **Barbara Sethman** and **Jane Schreiber** assist David Jett with updating his artifacts database, and **Kia Ware** writes publicity articles and manages the Facebook and blog pages. **Robert LaFollete** takes care of landscaping. This past year, **Kevin Dolan** organized a guided bus trip for 30 people to see and hear about Richmond's role in the Civil War, **Har-**

ry T. Gladding and **Ron Geiger** began the Essex County agricultural video project, and **John Renolds, Joe Johnston, Betsy Ware** and **Neil Ware**, among others, provided Civil War artifacts and assisted with exhibit research.

Our Board of Directors not only provides fiduciary management, they also assume responsibility for specific areas. Interface and liaison between our partnering organizations are **Regina Blagmon** (the African-American Genealogy Society) and **Lloyd Huckstep** (the King William Historical Society); **David Broad** manages our website; **Gordon** and **Anita Harrower** coordinate the Annual Historian Awards and lead our oral history effort, **Anne Jackson** performs historical research, manages document archives, and along with **Joe Johnston**, coordinates the 150th Civil War commemoration activities; **Joan Moore** conducts student and teacher education programs and chairs the spring fundraisers. **Wes Pippenger** provides research material and genealogical associations interface. **Howard Reisinger** developed a multimedia plan and chairs its development; and **Louise Velletri** coordinates events with St. Margaret's School. New directors **Anne Beverly Eubank** and **Joanne Moore** have added new interfaces with the Essex County Library and the Tappahannock Art Guild, and joined the fundraising committee.

In addition to their duties as Executive Officers, **Ron Geiger**, Treasurer, conducts the Annual Fund Contributions campaign, and was responsible for installing the Gift Shop point-of-sale system, and providing videography. **Priscilla Vaughan**, Secretary, manages the Gift Shop. **Bill Croxton**, Second Vice President, manages Museum office rentals and building maintenance and improvements. **Tommy Blackwell**, First Vice President, coordinates the Annual Membership Meeting. **Suzanne Derieux**, President, manages organizational governance, and during her tenure, has rewritten the By-Laws and developed our 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Without these volunteers, the museum could not make its many contributions to the Essex community.



Exhibits and Collections

2012 is the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. One of the final engagements of this American-British conflict was the three-day occupation of Tappahannock by troops from eight British sloops in December of 1814. The 1728 courthouse was gutted by burning and British sailors broke into the Ritchie vault on Water Lane, shattered coffins and exposed skeletons for all passers-by to see. An exhibit exploring the *War of 1812 in Essex* opens in the Carl D. Silver Gallery in late spring and will run through the end of the year.

Our exhibit, *A Brush with History: Paintings by Sidney E. King from the Collection of Herbert R. Collins* currently in the Silver Gallery will remain on view through the end of April. If you haven't had a chance to see it, don't miss treating yourself to the bright recreations of Virginia history by this very talented and prolific artist.

The American Civil War Sesquicentennial continues and our *Confederate Essex* exhibit is being updated to focus on the events of 1862, both on the battlefield and the home front. In a new concept for the museum, the exhibit will feature highlights of the year 1862 presented in a push button audio format.

David Jett, Curator

Annual Membership Drive and Spring Gala/Membership Meeting

We at Essex County Museum and Historical Society would like to thank all 308 members for your continuous support. Our goal is to enroll an additional 40 members by the end of 2012, so spread the word to your family, friends and co-workers. If you have not renewed your membership for 2012, now is the time! Don't be left out of the Spring Gala and Membership Meeting for members only, to be held **May 4, 2012, 5:30-7:30 pm**, at the 1728 Courthouse (Old Beale sanctuary) located at 202 S. Church Lane, Tappahannock. The Annual Historical Preservation Award (structure) and the Annual Historical Preservation Award (publication) will be presented to recipients. If you are unsure of your membership status, please call the museum 804-443-4690, and leave a message or email Kelly directly at admin@ecmhs.org. New and renewal member-ships will be accepted at the door on May

Congratulations David!

David has completed all coursework, and is working on the final project, for the Virginia Certificate in Museum Management from the Virginia Association of Museums. VAM, the largest state museum association in the country, began offering training for museum professionals through workshops and courses in 2005. Work for the certificate typically is completed in five years and covers all aspects of museum activities, from exhibits and collections, to governance, education, outreach and finance. Workshops are offered at museums and colleges around the state and at VAM's annual conference held each March in a different city in Virginia. This year's conference, held at the Marriot Center in Newport News, March 18-20th, included programs at the Mariner's Museum, War Memorial Museum of Virginia, and the Peninsula Fine Arts Center.



Multimedia Expansion

Technological advances provide our Museum with inexpensive capabilities to reach more people than ever before. Social media like Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and e-mails coupled with our own Essex Museum website, our photo/video website, and DVD displays of our self-produced HD videos provide our local citizens, as well as distant members and friends, with an additional way to stay abreast of our numerous events, displays, and activities.

If you are not on our e-mail list, send an email to multimedia@ecmhs.org and we will add your e-mail address to our mailing list. And, rest assured, we do not share our list with anyone else. We promise not "bug" you with junk mail and spam – and certainly NO "pop-up" ads.

Northern Neck Education Alliance

A new and exciting organization, was recently established in the Northern Neck. Formed with representatives from many of the region museums, environmental and cultural institutions, as well as local school systems. The Alliance is committed to bringing schools, teachers, and institutions together, with the goal of promoting a better understanding of the past and present of the communities in which we live. ECMHS is a member of the Alliance, represented by **Joan Moore**, Director of Education.

For some time, there has been a lack of understanding and underutilization of the resources available in the local areas to teachers and the students they serve. Students suffer because they are unaware of the importance of the communities in which they live, and therefore, do not comprehend the historical and ecological significance attached to our region. Surprisingly, many students do not know that the father of our country and other patriots were born here, or how their communities dealt with cultural diversity during the 18th and 19th centuries. They are unaware of the ecological factors and changes that impacted development of the land on which they live, and how the economy and lifestyle of both the past and present affect where and how they exist today.

Recognizing the need for additional resources to support expanded educational and community opportunities prompted various community members to form the Alliance. Its first priority is to work with the Westmoreland School System to both establish a teachers' advisory team and develop a pilot program for a teacher's institute during the summer of 2012. This pilot program will focus on educators for grades 4 through 8. The week of June 18, 2012 has been selected for the institute's first program, with the general theme being *The Land Between the Rivers, It's People, Culture, and Geography*. The first two days, will be presented by historical Institutions, and will focus on Government, Religion, and Economics; the next two days will be presented by science/nature institutions, will focus on Archaeology, Geography, and Map Skills, and ECMHS will present the last day, June 22, 2012. As part of our presentation on the last day, we are planning a boat trip up the Rappahannock to view the sites of what were once notable wharf locations. ECMHS will end the day by taking the participants on a walking tour of our historic area.

Memorable High Tea Event

ECMHS hosted a "High Tea" Luncheon at St. Margaret's on Saturday, March 10, 2012. This increasingly popular ECMHS event was attended by fifty guests who enjoyed the beautiful water view, fantastic weather, delicious food,



and delightful entertainment. The Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society of Fredericksburg, Inc. prepared and served a traditional High Tea menu. Society members, dressed in period attire, entertained with

vignettes recreating 18th Century Fredericksburg history, a step back in time, as notable individuals such as Archibald Ritchie gave an account of his involvement with the Stamp Act, and sweet Mary Washington, mother of George, described her life in Fredericksburg. The program closed with an 18th Century dance, and door prizes were given to lucky guests.

Sunday Afternoon of Family Fun

Sunday, **June 3, 2-4 pm**, children's author Bentley Boyd from Virginia Beach, author of the series: "Comix with Content" will be on the lawn of The Essex Inn for a book review. Following the review, books will be sold/signed and tours of the Historic Area will be offered by members of the ECMHS with a stop at the museum. *The Children's Walking Tour Book*, by Robert LaFollette, will be given free to those taking the tour. The tour will include Emerson's Ordinary, SMS Campus, St John's Church, The Inn, the Courthouse Green, by the Ritchie House and back to the Museum. The stops are within walking distance of each other, and the tour text will be brief, keeping the tour no longer than 45 minutes. Several groups will tour at the same time. Copies of the "Essex County Coloring Book" illustrated by Josh Hodges will be given to all children who attend. Refreshments will be served on the lawn by the Inn. If raining, the event will be held at museum.

Need a Gift, But Short on Shopping Time

Now you can shop at the Museum's well stocked Gift Shop without leaving your computer. Many of the books and gifts are available online at our website store, <http://essexmuseum.org/ecm-shop.htm>. And as an ECMHS member, you receive the same 10% discount you receive when you visit the Museum.

For those people on your gift list who are hard to buy for, consider a book about the intriguing history of Essex County. *Settlers Southerners Americans* by James B. Slaughter (known by locals as "Jimmy") is an excellent example. Originally published in 1982 by the Essex County Board of Supervisors, it was reprinted last year to meet continued demand. People from Utah and Maryland as well as local folk have purchased it from the museum's website online store.

In the Gift Shop, great sales continue with discounts of 15%, 25%, and 50%; look for the yellow, green and purple dots! New items include several comics from the series "Comix with Content" by Bentley Boyd, all signed, which are not only educational, but published in standard comic book format and fun to read. Also new are handmade baskets, hanging glass vases, local scenes painted on recycled wood, and Essex County note cards. New baskets just arrived that are perfect for Easter gifts. The crab cookie has been making appearances and will be back for the summer, so visit us soon!

Local Authors Reading

Marty Glenn Taylor and Sarah Honenberger will be at the Museum for an afternoon book reading on **April 1, 2012, 2-4 pm**. Each author will read from her latest book in progress. A reception will follow the reading. Their books "*Catcher Caught*" by Honenberger and "*The River Me*" by Taylor will be available at the museum for purchase and signing or bring your own copies!



Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

APRIL 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



- 1st Author's Reading
2:00-4:00 pm
- 17th Docent Shopping Day
- 18th Qtrly. Board Meeting
Roma's Rest., 5:30 pm



- 4th Spring Gala/
Membership Meeting
Old Beale, 5:30-7:30 pm
- 15th Docent Shopping Day
- 23th Docent Training



- 3rd Family Day
Essex Inn, 2-4 pm
- 19th Docent Shopping Day



This is the last newsletter ECMHS will mail to all members. The next *Time Keeper*, scheduled for Fall 2012, and all subsequent newsletters will be e-mailed when possible and placed on our website, 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 a message to that effect. ECMHS will update its membership records to reflect your most current status.

Essex County Museum & Historical Society
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Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

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