

# The New Kent Historical Society Newsletter

New Kent County Jail

March 2013



Surely the most beautiful spot in New Kent County for a church is the hill overlooking Diascund Creek where Liberty Baptist stands. Based on the cornerstone, Liberty's classic sanctuary was started in 1928, approximately 100 years after the original congregation of about 25 members first assembled, There is no record of the original church building, but a meeting house with two front doors, probably similar to Tabernacle Methodist in Barhamsville (July 2012 NKHS Newsletter), was built and dedicated in 1852. This building served a growing congregation for almost 80 years and, according to historical notes on Liberty's web site, provides an interesting Civil War story. Confederate troops destroyed the bridge over Diascund Creek. Union Troops then removed the floor structure from Liberty's building to rebuild the bridge. Undaunted the congregation continued to meet in the 1852 building. The original pulpit Bible, saved from the 1852 building, is still in the building shown. Because of continued growth the Liberty's congregation now worships in a larger building completed in 2004 on adjoining property, but this historic building is used for special occasions like weddings.

*These historical notes were summarized from an article by Henry N. Ward and displayed on Liberty's web site.*

## **The Blayton Family**

Article by LaVonne Allen

John Henry Blayton Sr. and his wife Maria Saunders Blayton moved from Charles City County to New Kent County in the 1840's. Their children William Archer Blayton, Mary E. Blayton, John Henry Blayton Jr., Maria W. Blayton and James Saunders Blayton were born in Charles City County, but lived in New Kent County.

John H. Blayton Sr. served in the war of 1812, and his descendant Thomas Blayton an attorney wrote the fiery speeches for Nathaniel Bacon and was involved in the Bacon's Rebellion. Maria Saunders Blayton was born in James City County and died in New Kent County at the age of 80 years old on October 9, 1867.

Their son's William Archer Blayton and John Henry Blayton served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. They both served in the Third Virginia Cavalry, John as a Private in Company F, and William as a Private in Company F and as a Private in Company K Artillery Regiment. William Archer Blayton became critically ill

during the war and was sent home where he died on December 12, 1865. John was a prisoner of war for short time period, but survived the war and returned home where he was a large land owner and a lumber dealer.

William Archer Blayton, born about 1824, died unmarried with no children, Mary E. Blayton born about 1828, married Overton Slater. They had several children: Clara, John, Mary, Robert, Norman, George and William. A descendant of the Slater's was Dr. Leonard Slater. He was an Assistant Surgeon during the Civil War. Dr. Slater served in the Third Virginia Cavalry Company F. John Henry Blayton born about 1829, married Virginia Jones and they had no children. Maria W. Blayton, born about 1833, Married Fleming McKenney, and they had several children among them were: Columbus, America, Victorious/Vesticious, Knoo and George. James Saunders Blayton born 1835, married Martha E. Eggleston on October 1868. Their children were: Nettie, Maria and Mary Magdalene.



**John Henry Blayton**

John owned all the land north of what is now route 60 and North Waterside Drive over to the Diascund Reservoir, where the Blayton homestead was located



**James Saunders Blayton**

James owned all the land south of what is now route 60 and South Waterside Drive to the Chickahominy River.

Other surnames associated with the Blayton Family are: Adams, Davidson, Davis, Hancock, Harris, Hazelwood, Holland, Laker, Lee, Major, Marshall, Payne, Rhodes, Ricks, Taylor and Walker.

## The Blayton and Allen Families



Susan Allen

Even though John Henry Blayton and his wife Virginia Jones Blayton did not have children; John Blayton sired several children with a slave owned by his mother and father. The slave was Susan Allen.

Susan Allen was born about 1827 and died in 1902. In a deed recorded in the New Kent Courthouse, John H. Blayton left a large amount of land to Susan Allen and his heirs. Susan later divided the land among her children and descendants of John H. Blayton and Susan Allen are living on this land today.

Because Susan Allen was a slave her children were also slaves. Due to the high standing of the Blayton Family in the county, the children of John H. Blayton and Susan Allen were educated and several became teachers in the county. Their son Fleming Christian Allen was a farmer and owned some of the best and most expensive farming equipment in the county. Neighbors white and black would often come to Fleming and ask to borrow his equipment to do their own farming.



Fleming Christian Allen

John Blayton and Susan Allen's son Robert S. Allen attended Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University). He was a classmate and good friend of Booker T. Washington, and named one of his sons Booker T. Allen. Robert S. Allen was a teacher in the Lanexa area of New Kent County for many years. Two of his daughters followed in his footsteps and also became teachers.



Robert S. Allen

Another son William Lemuel Allen also taught in the Lanexa area of New Kent. William Lemuel Allen's daughter Maude Allen Clark also taught school in New Kent and West Point.

John H. Blayton and Susan Allen also had a daughter named Matilda, and two sons named George and Thomas. Susan Allen also had a daughter named Harriette Allen, and her father was Albert Robinson.



William Lemuel Allen



Matilda Allen



George Washington  
Allen



Thomas Jefferson  
Allen



Harriette Allen



## **Southy L. Savage, and a letter to his sister condensed from info provided by Pam Radwani**

Southy L. Savage (1831-1915), who is on the left in the picture, was born in New Kent County, Virginia. His parents were Nathaniel L. and Elizabeth Parkinson Savage.



Nathaniel Savage was a farmer; in 1850 he had six children, the oldest of which was Southy. Southy at age 18 was employed as a deputy sheriff. In 1860 Southy was a widower with no listed occupation. He and his son lived in New Kent with his sister Emily, and her husband, Leonard C. Crump a physician. Southy joined the Confederate Army and eventually was in the Signal Corp attached to the Inspector General's Department. In this capacity he was stationed in King George County where, he reported in a letter to his sister Emily, he "had a delightful time," and "formed a great many acquaintances who... were all very kind to me, made me a great many presents such as socks, and .. were constantly sending me something good to eat(ed.), which I stood in need of at times, for it was so very inconvenient for me to get my rations." Here are a few interesting quotes from this letter "How are you getting on housekeeping, and how do you like Richmond. From all I can learn times must be very hard on you all, everything is so very high, but if you can make out to live, you, are better off than if you were in the county in Old New Kent. " "I feel very sorry for the citizens that are left down in that county; they are bound to suffer and badly." "but you would have the vile wretches to contend with (the Yankees)."

We are all fortunate not to have experienced the problems of the Civil War, but perhaps this letter gives us the flavor of what it was like. The full text of this letter can be found at:

[http://www.rarebookis.nd.edu/digital/civil\\_war/Letters/savage](http://www.rarebookis.nd.edu/digital/civil_war/Letters/savage).

## **Several distinguished members of the Massie Family lived in New Kent County. Here is a brief history of this family from Pam Radwani.**

Thornton Lemmon Massie, lawyer, was born in Nelson County, Virginia, October 1, 1866. His parents were Patrick Cabell Massie and Susan Catherine Massie nee Susan Catherine Withers. On his paternal side Massie

was of English descent. The first of his Massie ancestors in America was Peter Massie, who was a vestryman of St. Peter's, New Kent County, in 1708. Peter was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses for New Kent in 1722 and 1726. He died in 1792, leaving a son, William, who was also a member of the House of Burgesses. He also left a large estate.

William Massie's son, Thomas , was born in 1783. He served in the Continental forces in the War of the American Revolution. At the fall of Yorktown Major Thomas Massie was aide to General Nelson. He moved from St. Peter's Parish in 1780 to Frederick County Virginia and then, in about 1803, to that part of Amherst County that is now Nelson County, Virginia. His lands lay in the present county of Nelson and he died at Level Green, his residence in that county, February 2, 1834.

Thomas Massie's son, Dr. Thomas Massie, was born 1783. He selected the practice of medicine for a profession, and after graduating in Philadelphia spent four years in Europe in the medical schools of Edinburgh, London and Paris. He settled in Richmond and began to practice, but finally removed to Nelson County, where he died at an advanced age in 1884. He was a surgeon in the War of 1812; a member of the House of Delegates from 1824-1827, and again from 1829 – 1830; a member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829—1830 and a trustee of Washington College, Virginia. He married twice, his first wife being a Miss Waller and his second wife Sallie Cabell of Union Hill, who was a member of the distinguished family of that name in Virginia.

## **Congratulations to our new officers**

Our new President is Camilla Tramuel.  
Our new Treasurer is Margaret (Gussie) Pomfery.  
Our new Secretary is Tim Timberlake.  
Our new Vice President is Preston Martin.  
And still serving as Vice President is William Hodges

## **Deceased Member**

Raymond A. Bowery, originally from Quinton and more recently living in Lawrenceville, Georgia ,died February 4, 2013, in Lawrenceville. He was buried in the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia.



## Crump's

While Liberty Baptist Church probably occupies the most beautiful ecclesiastical site in New Kent, Crump's, also known as Senora Hill, occupies one of the two most beautiful home sites in the County, the other being Cumberland overlooking the Pamunkey River. Situated on a hill on the north side of Highway 249, the house, known to many in New Kent as the "Crump House," has been a landmark for many years. This lovely building has apparently been on this site since 1855, the year engraved on a brick in its English basement. An expert on frame construction, however, thinks the house itself was built earlier and moved to this site. While originally part of a land grant possibly to a Nathaniel Crump, the land, at the time this foundation was built was apparently owned by William B. Crump and was part of a large property which included Crump's Mill. This Mr. Crump, it will be remembered, donated the wood to build Second Liberty Church.



The name W. H. Frayser is engraved on another brick near the date, suggesting that Mr. Frayser was probably the person who built the brick walls. Just who this Mr. Frayser was is not clear, but a William H. Frayser estate is shown on a map in New Kent County Virginia in 1863 by Dallas Olsen to be about 2 miles from "Crump's," and it is certainly possible this Mr. Frayser, or his son, was the person who did the job.



In the 1950s this house was owned by Earnest Crump who ran a chicken farm. At the time it looked like any other old farm house, except for the lovely site it occupied. In 1979 the property was acquired by Janice and Kenneth Fisher (originally of Quinton) who preserved and restored it to its current beautiful condition, at least from the outside. More recently its interior was redone in beautiful French County style, and the home, now a bed and breakfast, is now probably restored to its original quality, if not style. Perhaps converting some of New Kent's old buildings to commercial use will be a good way to preserve them into the future.

*Information for these notes was provided by Ken and Janice Fisher and Jim Tarrant, members of*

*the Society.*

## *From The President's Desk*

### *Executive Board*

#### *President*

Camilla Tramuel  
milliemac20@yahoo.com

#### *1st Vice President*

William Hodges

#### *2nd Vice President*

Preston Martin

#### *Secretary*

Tim Timberlake

#### *Treasurer*

Gussie Pomfrey

#### *Newsletter Editors*

Hawthorne Davis  
LaVonne Allen

#### *Webmaster*

Gussie Pomfrey

#### *Correspondence*

Martha Martin

Dear Members

Change is coming to the NKHS! As we venture into uncharted waters, the Executive Board is planning to add new and better initiatives that will move the organization forward as it grows and mark the path for change. To strengthen the Society, we are working to add the following to increase our visibility:

- Improving communication between the public and the Society
- Increasing membership
- Redesigning the website for an on-line presence
- Improving our Newsletter
- Creating new publications concerning NK history
- Bus tours during the summer months to historical places such as Tredegar Iron Works, Museum of the Confederacy, etc.

Our biggest change, however, will be changing our present location in the 1909 historic Jail from a New Kent Historical Society building to the New Kent Historical Society Museum and History building. We will be adding museum features and restoring one of the jail cells into a Bookstore. The society members will be developing a number of pamphlets and booklets that will be for sale to the public. The bookstore will also feature books from local NK authors. We have dedicated one of the rooms as the new "Pomeroy Records Room", in honor of the most dedicated historian in the County, Miss Jackie Pomeroy. Even though our ideas are a work-in-progress, you will be able to notice the change very soon. We hope to be 75% completed by June 2013. Hopefully this new strategy for the Society will keep the public interested.

As President, you can't do it all by yourself. I am fortunate enough to have a marvelous team of go-getters on the Executive Board. Together, we will accomplish the mission and goals of the NKHS. We will keep you updated on our progress as we put these ideas in place. If you feel you need to contact us, you may do so at any time. You may have a project that you need assistance in completing or may have some NK historical information that you might want to donate to the Society, stop by and visit us. In March, we will begin our normal warm weather hours: Mondays from 10-2:00. However, if we are closed, we are will open just for you. You can always send an e-mail to NKHSEmail@gmail.com.

Remember, New Kent Genealogy and History is the reason why we have come together, making personal sacrifices and volunteering so that we will be known as trailblazers in our community.