

The New Kent Historical Society Newsletter

New Kent, VA

March 1, 2012

New Kent Chapel



New Kent Chapel (Chapel), on Cooks Mill Road, was built, across the road from an earlier church called “Austins,” on a plot of land donated by the Austin family. Work began before the Civil War, but the building was completed only after the War was over. The names of the early members who organized the congregation and built the Chapel unfortunately are not known. The Austins, who donated the land, and the extended family of Col. Richard P. Cook were certainly instrumental in the construction of the building. During hard times, when services were not held regularly, the Oliver Chandler family was largely responsible for keeping the Chapel open and building up the membership. In the late 1860s the primary supporters of the church were the families of Col. Richard P. Cook, William Cook, J.D. Austin, Oliver Chandler, William Jones, Apperson, Porter and Capt. Morgan.

The early part of the Twentieth Century brought hard times to many churches including Chapel, mainly because the younger people moved to the cities and church membership dropped as the old folks died. By the 1930s the Richmond District of the Methodist Conference had formed a circuit which included Chapel, Providence, Pamunkey and Prospect (in far east Hanover County). During this period, and even into the 1950s, services were held only twice a month. Membership never really recovered, and Chapel closed as an active church in 1959. The circuit preachers in this period were mainly seminary students, some of whom went on to become respected ministers in the Methodist Church.

In 1873 Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Cook Jones became the first person to be buried in the Chapel’s cemetery. The New Kent Chapel Memorial Association was organized in 1916 to perpetuate the maintenance of the grounds and building. After the church became inactive in the late 1950s, the Methodist Convention sold, or possibly leased for 99 years, the property to the Memorial Association for \$1.00. New Kent Chapel now holds one service each year, a homecoming celebration in the spring.

These historical notes were excerpted from a history of Chapel, which hangs inside the sanctuary and from conversations with Charles Crump, a long-time member, and Nell Crump, who was a member in the 1950s.

New Kent Life not Easy in Early Twentieth Century

Excerpts from a memoir of Vivian Clarke Edmondson (born 1900), original contributed by Pam Radwani.

Our only means of transportation were horse and buggy or mule and wagon and finally, if you could afford it, you had a horse and carriage or surrey. The roads were narrow winding ones, so muddy in the winter you could hardly get over them. Grandpa died when I was three years old. I don't remember him. After me came Bernard, Mary, Bill, Helen, Alvin, Holden, Milton, Adelaide, and Herbert Elmer. When there were three or four children, Nannie would take us to Sunday School at New Kent Chapel. We had a big wagon with straw in it and a bed quilt over the straw and another one to cover us up when it was cold. Two mules hitched to a wagon with Eddie driving and Nannie sitting up front with him. A plank across the sides provided a seat. We would pick up the Crump children, Wickes and Slaters who lived nearby and take about an hour to get to Sunday School. The first ones there made a fire in the wood stove. You never got warm.

Our Doctor lived at Barhamsville about 20 miles from us, and he rode in a horse and buggy. He sometimes had a little black boy to ride with him to watch his horse while he went in to see his patient. Nannie had helped care for many sick folks in the neighborhood as well as the family, and she knew many medicines such as castor oil, calomel and cough medicine with onions cut up and covered with sugar and let stand until syrup formed. My, how I hated medicine!

Papa's half sister, Menia Adelaide, married Jimmy Richardson and lived at Providence Forge. They operated a hotel there, a post office and a small store just outside their yard in a small building. They bought the first automobile in the county, a Ford touring car, a real beauty. It had a black body with brass trim around the lights. The seat was up high which made it easy to see out front. Wish I had a picture to show you. He and Aunt Menia drove over one day to show it to us. It had a handle on the front that had to be cranked to start the engine. Really made a noise, but off it would go! As more people in the cities had cars, there were very few in the country and horses and mules were afraid of them. When they met a car on the road, they had to drive out on the side, get out and hold the horse or mule until the car passed. Sometimes the team would get scared of the noise and run away. Many times the cars would

get stuck in the mud and couldn't get out. Papa had something fixed on a wagon to hitch two mules to so they could pull. Seems when cars got stuck in the mud, someone would tell them how to get to Mr. Clarke's. He never turned anyone down, so he would take them on the wagon seat with him and off they would go to the car. He fastened a chain from the wagon to the car, yelled at the mules and out the car would come. He never made a charge, if they gave him a dollar or two it was OK, but if they were broke, it was OK too. He would tell us, "The poor devils, I feel sorry for them. I am better off than they are, I can get out of the mud and they can't." He never complained about helping anyone. From time to time, races were held from Richmond to Newport News to see who could make it in the shortest time. Mama would let us to go Slatersville and sit on the side of the road and wait to see them pass.

A Civil War Story

"MY DEAR LADY..."

The letter arrived sometime not long after June 6, 1865, at Dispatch Station on the York River Railroad. Mary D. (Ellyson) Morgan, now 25 and with a one-year-old daughter named Berdetta, read the letter as it continued... "It is my painful duty to make known to you the last intelligence of your husband's death." At last Mary would learn for sure that her husband was dead. The war was just over, and many men had just simply disappeared, leaving no trace behind. The letter was written from New Berne, N.C., by (Miss or Mrs.) G. A. Hosmer, who was associated with the United States Sanitary Commission. New Berne had been in Federal hands for most of the war. Several previous letters had not found Mary, and her reply to this one did not find Ms. Hosmer. Finally letters connected in 1866. Mary learned that her husband, Albert G. Morgan, had died on August 14, 1864 (two months before the birth of their daughter), and was buried in New Berne at an unknown location. Ms. Hosmer also sent to Mary \$16 and a gold Masonic Stud that were entrusted to her by Albert. Ms. Hosmer's letters noted that she had been with Mary's husband the day before he died, and she noted that he had asked her to write to Mary, conveying his love, and asking her to give the news of his death to his mother. Her letters also noted that he was much in prayer and looked forward to the joys of Heaven.

Albert G. Morgan was a somewhat enigmatic character. Born in Nelson County, Virginia, his father William was believed to be the County Jailer, but died when Albert was seven. Albert immigrated to Louisiana by 1850,

then in 1861 joined the Texas Volunteers (1st Infantry Regiment) in a company raised at Woodville, Tyler County, known as the Woodville Rifles. His occupation was listed as "Inspector of Customs" and later he was described as being five feet eleven inches, with blue eyes and red hair. Upon mustering in New Orleans, they immediately shipped to Richmond to defend the Capital. His company became part of the famed Hood's Texas Brigade. After a few skirmishes north of Richmond, and passing through the winter of 1861-2, they proceeded to the east toward Yorktown in 1862 for the battles of the Peninsula Campaign. First they played a strong role in delaying McClelland's advance to Richmond, then at Gaines Mill, led the victory that began the Federal retreat of the Seven Days Battles. Albert's war record specifically mentions his participation in that battle, June 27, 1862.

All well and good so far, but that's when the odd things began. In August (1862) he requested to be mustered out as being over-age (38). In parallel, he petitioned to become a sutler (supplier) to his old regiment. His Texas congressman wrote a letter in his support. He does indeed become sutler, and begins to sell supplies, horses, and wagons to his regiment. Then, quite out of the blue, in early October, 1862, he married (in Henrico County) Mary D. Ellyson from the Black Creek section of New Kent County (then resident in Henrico), barely six weeks after his army discharge. His marriage license lists his age at 35 and Mary at 22. Mary's father Daniel had also been selling supplies to the army. How did they meet? Their only seeming connection was that Albert's regiment had marched nearby the Ellyson farm as he headed down the peninsula to oppose the Federal advances. Perhaps his unit camped nearby. Perhaps they had met in Richmond. Suffice it to say that for a Texas soldier to be mustered out in late August and married in six weeks to a young lady from New Kent confounds the observer.

By 1863, the tide of war was turning toward the Union. Gettysburg sealed the Confederacy's fate. Mary and Albert disappeared from the record until Albert's death in New Berne in 1864. One letter from Ms. Hosmer states that he was "with Northern Gentlemen," but family lore says he was captured and in custody. His reason for being in New Berne is a mystery. Another family story is that Mary was captured en route to New Berne, and gave birth in Norfolk while in custody. A further family story has Mary going to Baltimore to stay with relatives. The records do not confirm these stories.

Mary's brother Delaware B. Ellyson had been killed in mid 1863. A compatriot wrote that he had his head

blown off by an artillery shell at Funkstown, Maryland. Delaware Ellyson had originally served in the Pamunkey Heavy Artillery, but switched to the 3rd Virginia Cavalry, ostensibly to be with his brothers.

Mary's father, Daniel, died in 1869, leaving her a small farm. Mary never remarried, died in 1901, and was buried at Providence Methodist Church. Her daughter Berdetta Elizabeth Morgan, married Junius Williams of Chesterfield, and a large list of progeny followed. The gold Masonic pin and the original letters remain in family care, along with photographs of Mary, Albert, and Delaware. Berdetta gave her son the middle name, "Albert," and he did the same with his son Junius Albert Williams, Jr., (known as "Bud" Williams) who passed the name Albert to his son Charles Albert Williams.

Although it seems that much is known about Albert and Mary Morgan, each bit only adds to the mystery. Why was Albert in Woodville, Texas, as an inspector of customs with no ports nearby? The 1860 census shows an Albert G. Morgan, born in Virginia, age 33, cab driver, living with an Esther Morgan in New Orleans. Was this a first wife? How did Albert and Mary meet? Why was he in North Carolina? The Yellow Fever epidemic started a week later in New Berne and "carried away" over 700 people. Was he the first case? Where was he buried? The morning of the day Albert died, the Federal garrison at New Berne executed six of its own men for desertion. Was Albert on the list to be shot for spying? Or had he changed allegiances? Who was G. A. Hosmer? Was she related to the famous Hosmer family of New England? What did Mary do with the rest of her life? We can only say for sure that the war brought Albert and Mary together, and we, their descendants, owe our existence to that fact.

B. Meredith Winn, Jr.
(Great-great grandson of Mary and Albert Morgan)

New Kent County 1880

Interesting Facts from LVonne Allen

Population was 5,515, and the County Seat was New Kent Courthouse. Land had a value of about \$3.00 per acre. There was one hotel located at the Courthouse and owned by R. S. Taylor. There were two boot and shoemakers, B. F. Barker in Quinton and Evander Fortune in Tunstall, and one dentist, O. F. Taylor in Barhamsville. There were ten public schools, five white and five colored. The Superintendent of Public Schools was Dr. Samuel P. Christian of Talleville.

William Harvey Patterson



Rev. William Harvey Patterson

During the Civil War William Harvey Patterson's property was occupied by General Sheridan's troops. He filed a claim with the Virginia Southern Claims Commission for provisions that were taken by the troops. A claim for \$658 was allowed. He testified for a neighbor who also filed a claim with the Virginia Southern Claims Commission. In his testimony, he stated:

Beverly Dixon's farm is in New Kent County, on the road from White House to Charles City, the troops (General Sheridan's) were constantly in the area, on our property and passing by during the spring and summer of 1864.

William Harvey Patterson was born in New Kent County On February 3, 1810, into a family that had been free for generations. He was the son of Rebecca Ann Patterson, a free mulatto and John Bailey, a white man. Members of William Harvey Patterson's family have owned land in New Kent County since the late 1600s. William Harvey and his mother lived on a farm located next to Otter's in the Tunstall area. In 1840 William Harvey became the owner of seventy three and three fourths acres of land. His father, John Bailey, a carriage maker in New Kent County, in 1847 left Rebecca Ann Patterson ninety-one and one half acres of land, and he left his son William Harvey Patterson three acres of land. According to the 1870 census William Harvey Patterson owned \$1,000 in real estate and \$200 in personal property. In 1882 his real estate value increased due to the inheritance of the ninety-one and one half acres of land upon the death of his mother.

Prior to the Civil War Rebecca Ann Patterson and her son William Harvey were members of Emmaus Baptist Church. On the third Saturday in October 1867, William Harvey Patterson and Isum Johnson presented themselves before the Emmaus Baptist Church committee for a license to preach. On that day Brother William Harvey Patterson became duly licensed. In 1866 William Harvey Patterson was the leader of a band of former members of Emmaus Baptist Church. William Harvey Patterson was instrumental in establishing the oldest black church in New Kent County, The Second Liberty Baptist Church.

William Harvey married Mary Ann Dungey on November 22, 1832; she died November 15, 1848. On March 24, 1850, he married Lutilda F. Bailey. One of his sons, John W. Patterson, followed in his father's footsteps and became a minister. One of his daughters, Lutilda F. Patterson, was a teacher in New Kent County, and another daughter, Nancy Patterson, married prominent New Kent County minister, Rev. John W. Kemp. According to Luther Porter Jackson, author of "Negro Office Holders of Virginia," William Harvey Patterson encountered very little prejudice because of his high intelligence, and he was well respected in the county. William Harvey Patterson was a leader, a farmer and a minister. He also served in the House of Delegates from 1871 to 1873. He died May 24, 1895, at his home in New Kent County on land that had been in his family for generations. Members of the Patterson Family still live on the same property.

-----LaVonne Allen

The Castle



The Castle, or “Foster’s Castle” as it was originally called, was built between 1630 and 1690. It was originally the home of Col. Joseph Foster, who was a burgess and High Sheriff of New Kent. This two-story house was used in defense against the Indians; it is also one of four cross-type Tudor houses in Virginia. It is believed to be one of the six oldest residences in the tidewater area.

This house has been altered several times. An early painting shows that the original house had diamond-shaped window panes set in lead. The brickwork is Flemish bond with glazed headers, which form a checkered pattern. The mortar is made of crumbled and burned oyster shell and sand.

In its early years the house was painted white. Later Dr. Junious Claiborne Gregory painted it red. Now that it has weathered, the original white places are visible. The original plan of the house has also been changed. In 1872 Dr. Junious Claiborne Gregory, first of the Gregorys to own the Castle, raised its roof and removed the original dormers, to create a full height second floor. He also changed the first floor dining room windows from two narrow windows, which let in light and kept out Indians, to one large window. When the current Gregory residents replaced a frame addition on the rear, they tried to duplicate the original brickwork.

The staircase, which is made of golden brown, hand carved pine, has been restored by the present Gregory occupants to its original beauty. The Castle remains an active farming operation managed by Roger Gregory, III, and George E. Gregory, Sr. Major crops include corn, soybeans, oats and hay.

--History adapted from tour notes created by Sheila Gregory Mitchell

Valuable Chickahominy Land for Sale

The Subscriber, wishing to remove where he can more conveniently educate his children, will sell the following named plantations in the County of New Kent.

ROXBURY, the farm on which he resides, is on the Chickahominy, twenty-five miles below Richmond and three miles above tide water; contains Five Hundred Acres of excellent river land, a large portion of which produces cotton equal to any land in Virginia; upwards of one hundred acres is first rate river low grounds; it has all necessary houses for the convenience of a large family, and is in one of the best neighborhoods in the lower country – ORAPAKES, lies also on the Chickahominy, 12 miles lower down; containing upwards of One Thousand Acres of excellent land, more than half in woods, heavily timbered with fine oak, hickory and black-walnut; so convenient to the river that any size vessel that can enter the mouth, can load, and the carriage to the landing place is less than a quarter-mile. All kinds of fish and fowl that the river affords, can be had in abundance at all seasons of the year at the door, there is on this plantation an excellent dwelling house and the necessary out houses – PAMACRA, is also on the Chickahominy, two miles above Orapakes; contains Four Hundred and Seventy Acres, with a house that may be made very good by some repairs; it has several fine fisheries, and marshes that afford wild fowl in abundance. Any persons wishing to buy valuable lands in the lower country, are invited to see these lands; a description of which, and the terms may be known by applying to Maj. Edmund Christian near Richmond and the lands will be shown by the subscriber living at ROXBURY.

Enquirer, 5/12/1829

Will of William Armistead

(1700s)

In the name of God amen, I William Armistead of the County of New Kent and the Parrish of Blisland do hereby make and constitute this to be my last will and testament, it is my will and desire that my son William be educated in as liberal a manner as my circumstance will afford particularly that he may as early as possible be taught the Greek orating languages, mathematics and geography under the direction of such teachers as are most attentive to the morals of their scholars for which purpose I give the sum of one hundred pounds to be raised out of the Debts due to me to be so applied by my Executor before the payment of any legacy here after given and if that sum shall be insufficient for the purpose intended I desire that my Executor may apply in the

same manner any additional which might be necessary therefore for having due regard to the inconsistencies of my wife and Daughters I gave unto my loving wife during her widowhood all my lands and all the rest of my Estate of what kind service that shall remain after the payment of my Debts subject however to the reason able maintenance of all my children until my son William shall be put out to school by my Executor and afterwards subject to the like maintenance of my Daughters until they shall marry after the debt of my said wife in case she shall not marry again. I give all that I have given to her during her widowhood except the land to be equally divided among such of my Daughters as shall be then be living and if any shall be deceased leaving a child or children my will is that such child or children shall take the proportion that his/her or their Parents would have been entitled to if alive at the death of my wife my lands in possession of my wife's buying as aforesaid without marrying I give to my son William subject however to the annual payment of twelve pounds to be divided among my daughters during their lives to go holy to them and the survivors of them whilst their shall be one loving and my said wife shall marry again my will that she be reduced to such portion of my Estate as the Shallows for Dower in which case I bequeath part of my personal estate is taken out and excepting the allowance for my son, William education to be equally divided amongst my daughters and their heirs and I give them the remaining two thirds of my land after my wife's Dower to my son William subject to thirds of the Twelve pounds given as aforesaid to my daughters made oath and intended into bond according to law no security required of the Executor the same being for bid by the will.

Test Will: Clayton CNKC

-----Above two articles located and provided by Pam Radwani. Grammar and capitalization not altered.

Courthouse Records now Available in the New Kent Historical Society's Library

NKHS now has four sets of records, transcribed from official courthouse documents and indexed for easy searching, available in the "Jail." These include:

- "Marriages New Kent County, VA 1951-1993"
- "Marriages New Kent County, VA 1911-1950"
- "Marriages New Kent County, VA 1854-1910"
- "Births and Deaths New Kent County, VA 1865-1888"

Two Civil War Surgeons Born in New Kent County

Confederate Surgeon Dr. Leonard A. Slater

Third Virginia Calvary Company F, Stewart's Division

Dr. Leonard A. Slater was born in New Kent County in 1835. He was appointed Assistant Surgeon in the Confederate States Army in 1861. In 1862 he was appointed Surgeon in the 15th Virginia Calvary. In 1864 he was surgeon of General Hospital at Columbia, South Carolina. He was appointed surgeon in charge of the Second Division General Hospital Number 10, state of North Carolina at Salisbury. Following the war he returned to New Kent County to continue his practice of medicine.

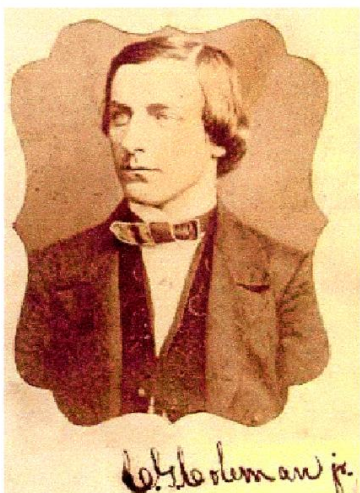
He served as school trustee of Cumberland district 1879-1884 and county physician to the Almshouse in New Kent County 1874-1885.

He resided at his family home, Slatersville, until his death in 1897.



The surgical kits used by Confederate doctors during the Civil War include a variety of steel saws and knives used during amputations (the largest one shown was used for cutting through bone and was known as a capital bone saw), as well as trepanning instruments for drilling into the skull of an injured patient. Tourniquets of canvas and brass are also included in these kits, along with a slender hook-shaped instrument known as a tenaculum for grabbing and holding tissue or blood vessels during surgery. The wooden box at the left has a bone forceps (that looks like a pair of pliers) for trimming bits of bone from the newly amputated area to create a neat stump; the kit at the top features an additional tool—a small bristle brush to remove bone dust generated during the operation.

The kit to the left, which features two tiers of instruments, was used by Confederate surgeon Dr. Leonard Slater. Dr. Slater graduated as valedictorian from Lynchburg College. He also served as a surgeon at General Hospital No. 23 in Richmond, Virginia.



Confederate Surgeon Dr. Clayton Glanville Coleman Jr.

23rd Virginia Calvary, Company K

Born at Roxbury, New Kent County, Virginia, in 1840, he attended VMI class of 1859 but did not graduate. He also attended the University of Virginia and Medical College of Virginia from which he graduated in March 1861. He served as Lt. Colonel in the 23rd Virginia Infantry from 1861-1862, was elected Captain on May 21, 1862, and served at that rank until reorganization. He resigned on October 30, 1862, and was appointed Assistant Surgeon in the Confederate Medical Department on April 8, 1863. He died in Little Rock, Arkansas, October 1908.

---LaVonne Allen

Leftwich Family

Taken from the Virginia Heraldry – Early 1900s
Prominent Families of the Old Dominion

In the beautiful county of Cheshire, England, is situated Leftwich Hall, about a mile from the town of Norwick. In the time of Edward the Confessor the manor belonged to Osmer Mason lord of Sibros. After the Conquest it was granted to Richard de Vernon, Baron of Shipbank who accompanied the Conqueror to England; from Richard it descended to Sir Warin de Vernos. At the death of Sir Warin this estate passed to Margery, his daughter and co-heiress. She married Sir Richard de Wiltraham, and their daughter Matilda married Robert de Creton, a lineal descendant of the Viscounts of the Crotenin, Normandy. Robert de Croxton took the name of Leftwich from his wife's estate about 1230. This Robert de Leftwich and his lineal descendants held the estate in the name of Leftwich for over four centuries, when another Robert de Leftwich, died leaving only a daughter, Elizabeth, who married William Oldfield, Esq. Their descendents were the Leftwich Oldfields, the first of whom died in 1738. Thus the estate descended uninterruptedly from the Conquest for 670 years.

The "Visitation of Cheshire" gives the children of Ralph Leftwich and his wife whose maiden name was Eleanor Meanwaring, as Robert, Thomas, William, Elizabeth and Eleanor. The records of New Kent County, Virginia, show that Ralph Leftwich, presumably the descendant of Thomas Leftwich of Cheshire, England, received grants of land as early as 1638. Ralph received a deed for 300 acres in New Kent. Still another record states that Augustine Leftwich, Sr., was living in Caroline County when his third son, Augustine Leftwich, Jr., was born, October 8, 1852. Augustine Leftwich, Sr., having received large grants of land, married, and settled there. The will of Augustine dated June 10, 1783, shows that he left a widow, Elizabeth, and numerous children and grandchildren. The names of his sons were William, Thomas, Augustine, Uriah, John, Littleberry, Jacob and Joel. The daughters were Fanny (Carter), Mary (Earey), and Nancy (Montross). Grandchildren were James Moorman, Nancy Leftwich and others. Augustine Leftwich, Sr., served in the French and Indian War in 1738 as is shown by Hennings Statistics. Augustine Leftwich, Sr., married Elizabeth Steval late in life, December 2, 1779.

Augustine Leftwich, Jr., son of Augustine Leftwich, Sr., married Mary Turner February 12, 1765. Augustine Leftwich, Jr. was a soldier in the Revolution of 1776, serving as first lieutenant in his brother's (Capt. Thomas

Leftwich) company in October 1780. He was made captain in Col. William Trigg's regiment of the Virginia Militia.

---Article uncovered and provided by Pam Radwani

More Interesting 1880 Facts from LaVonne Allen

There were 14 general merchants:

C. P. Apperson, Providence Forge; Barnes & Bro, New Kent Courthouse; John A. Davis Tunstall; William M. Drake, Barhamsville; John W. Eames, New Kent Courthouse; Mrs. A. C. Henry, White House; Hockaday & Eglestine, Rockahock; B. B. Jones, Barhamsville; N. T. Lipscomb, Tunstall; J. D. Odell, Slatersville; G. W. Richardson, Barhamsville; R. E. Richardson, Talleyville; J. F. Sanderson, Talleyville; and J.R. & R. S. Taylor, Quinton.

and three county supervisors:

J. A. Brake, Tunstall; J. A. Hockaday, Barhamsville; W. H. Brisby, Talleyville.

Early Civil War Casualty

Anselm Justice Bailey (Variant spellings), born about 1820, joined the Pamunkey Artillery in 1861, as a private. He left his wife Lucy to care for a newborn son and three other small children. He became one of the first (if not the first) casualty of the Pamunkey Artillery, dying of measles and exposure on December 28, 1861, at the defenses at Yorktown.

B. Meredith Winn, Jr.
Great-great Grandson

According to records Yankees were being paid \$8.00 for each dead Confederate recovered and buried at Poplar Grove. Reference for this statement is the 1868 Petg. Da. Index.

Factoid from Meredith Winn

The editors thank Meredith Winn, who has contributed, and continues to contribute interesting articles and information about New Kent people and the Civil War.

The Back Page

Please be prepared to vote on the By-Laws revision March 18. See below.

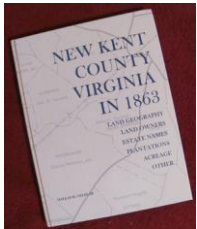
From Your President

Things are going well with the Society. Our membership has increased. We are fortunate to have two new officers: William Hodges joining Camilla Tramuel as Vice President and Michael Carr as Secretary.

Loretta Davis

Annual Dues

Good news! Almost all members have renewed their membership for 2012. If you are one of the few who haven't gotten around to it, now is the time!



Recent Gifts to the Society

Thank you to Dallas H. Oslin, Jr., for a copy of his recent book *New Kent County Virginia in 1863*. The book contains many pictures and maps as well as much information regarding our county and is a most welcome

addition to our collection.

Cash donations received from some of our members are also appreciated.

William Hodges gave a quilt from around 1900 for the second jail cell which we plan to clean up and furnish.

The Jail

General Services has been a big help with the Jail. Bars have been installed on the window of the cell which previously had no bars. David Bednarecyk has promised to install an exterior door to keep out birds, etc.

Newsletter

More members are electing to receive the newsletter via email rather than U.S. mail. Pictures are in color if received via email and there's the big savings of postage.

Family Graveyards

Please let Hawthorne and Loretta Davis know if you are aware of any family graveyards, as they are compiling a book.

Letters to the Editor

Still no "Letters to the Editor" have been received. Please consider sending your thoughts and your ideas for improvements. There has been a suggestion that members submit a small item—even one paragraph—about a person or event of interest in New Kent.

"Step into 1862"

May 5, 2012, is the date to experience a day in the life of New Kent County during the War Between the States. The FREE event will be in the New Kent Courthouse area from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. It is sponsored by the NK Historic Commission, and our Society has been asked to help.

Thanks to Our Members

LaVonne Allen continues keeping the Jail open for visitors Monday mornings and co-edits the newspaper.

Gussie Pomfrey has been sorting papers at the Jail in order to get our information better organized.

Pam Radwani continues to contribute articles to the newsletter.

Everyone not specifically mentioned for supporting the Society through attendance at meetings, dues, ideas--and yes, even criticism. Everything you do is appreciated.

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be 2:30 PM, March 18, 2012, in the 1909 New Kent Courthouse. This is an important meeting for three reasons:

1. There will be a vote on revisions to our By-Laws.
2. Paul Robinson, a local realtor, will talk about roads in New Kent and how they have changed dramatically since the 1880s.
3. We'll have a chance to see old friends and meet new ones.

By-Laws Revision

(complete document available upon request)

Section I (as is)

The Executive Committee of the New Kent Historical Society shall meet when necessary. Special meetings shall be called at any time by the President, or, in his absence or inability to serve, by a Vice President, upon the request of three members of the Executive Committee. **The Society will meet quarterly.**

Section I (proposed change)

The Executive Committee of the New Kent Historical Society shall meet when necessary. Special meetings shall be called at any time by the President, or, in his absence or inability to serve, by a Vice President, upon the request of three members of the Executive Committee. **The Society will meet at least three times a year.**



New Kent Historical Society Membership Application

Yearly membership \$15.00 _____ Lifetime membership \$200.00 _____
Business sponsor \$100.00-\$500.00 _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Surnames and other areas of interest or research in New Kent County history:

Please send comments, suggestions or newsletter submissions to:

NKHSmal@verizon.net or New Kent Historical Society, P. O. Box 24, New Kent, VA
23124

Research questions: NKHISTORY@Yahoo.com or 804-966-9117