



Tales from the Tavern

For Friends of the King and Queen Courthouse Tavern Museum
and Members of the King and Queen County Historical Society

2024 Volume 2



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*** A color version of this newsletter can be found on the website ***

NOTICE

The Courthouse Tavern Museum is closed for the winter - until April 2025. However, visits can be scheduled by appointment via email, history@kingandqueenmuseum.org.

Interpretive Signs for the Courthouse Green Historic District

In September 1998, the King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Located at King and Queen Court House VA, the area is a wonderful place to take a stroll through history. In fall 2024 three interpretive signs were placed around the District to narrate an account of the colonial courthouse and the village that grew up around it. Photographs, drawings, brief historical notes, and quotes from early visitors and local residents tell the story.

"There are seven buildings in the district... the old courthouse, the old clerk's office, the old county jail, and four other buildings which relate to the activities of a typical rural courthouse community, including a former hotel and tavern building, a former school building, a former specialty store building and a residence on the site of another hotel/tavern. This district has remained largely intact up to this time, possibly because of its rural and isolated location."



Save The Date - Upcoming Historical Society Meeting

King & Queen County Historical Society Meeting - Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Court House Administration Building, King and Queen CH, VA 23085. Richard Carter, formerly with the Smithsonian Institution, will speak on the care and preservation of Historical Federal government buildings in Washington, D.C. He will also touch on the care and preservation of the Virginia Capitol and the Executive Mansion in Richmond.

Mr. Carter worked for years at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and the National Museum of American Art. Both museums occupy the building called "The Old Patent Office." He later worked at the National Endowment for the Humanities, located in the building called "The Old Post Office." In Richmond, he served a five-year term on the board that oversees the Executive Mansion. Mr. Carter is a writer and editor in Essex County.

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Immanuel Episcopal Church and cemetery were later included in the district. *Historical Society Bulletin* #85, July 1998, "King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District."

We would like to thank Dominion Energy for their coordination with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and for their generous donation toward the signs.

October 2024 Historical Society Meeting Held at "Smithfield"

Annually at its October meeting the King & Queen County Historical Society meets at a historic location in the county. On Sunday, October 27, 2024 the meeting was held at "Smithfield", built in 1781 by William Hill, near St. Stephen's Church VA. According to the book *Old Houses of King and Queen County, Virginia* the property has been called "Smithfield" since the 18th century (origin of the name unknown), many years before James Smith became the owner in 1832. The current owner is a Smith descendant. Richard Rumrill, James Smith's 3rd great grandson talked about stabilization and reanimation work done on the house and its dependencies. The attendees were invited to tour the large house, dependencies, and grounds.



Historical Society meeting at "Smithfield"

Celebrating the 2024 Holiday Season

The Courthouse Tavern Museum celebrated the 2024 holiday season with its annual open house on Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m. This annual free event is open to everyone. Christmas music from the string trio "So Long Ohio" led by Stephen Hendrickson set the holiday mood as visitors moved among the four Museum buildings to view the exhibits. The featured exhibit was the "America 250 Quilt" created by the Henicopolis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to celebrate the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States. The excitement of children was heard from the Archives building where gingerbread cookies were being decorated under the direction of the "cookie" elves. Sharks teeth were also dug there. The miniature horses, who the Bevan family have been bringing to the event for years, received pets and treats. Old and young visited Santa to make requests. The toy train traveled through the Christmas village, whistling as it went. One of Santa's helpers was busy making a bright quilt. The aroma of cider and hot chocolate filled the air and complemented the mouth watering variety of refreshments. Thanks go out to the Ruritans for the funnel cakes, and the Walkerton Community Fire Association and Central King & Queen Volunteer Fire Department for the opportunity to buy their delicious Brunswick Stew. To close the festivities, visitors gathered around for a new tradition, lighting the King & Queen County holiday tree located in front of the Court House Administration Building. The string band played carols to send the visitors forward into the festive season.

May your days be merry and bright!

See you next year!

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The “America 250 Quilt”

Rebecca Townsend, DAR Henricopolis Chapter America 250 Chair

The Henricopolis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began celebrating the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2024. They created a vibrant quilted wall hanging to tell of the contributions made by the historic counties represented in the Chapter: Essex, Hanover, Henrico, King & Queen, King William, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland. It is approximately 50”x50” with a 12”x12” ink transfer block within a star for each of the nine counties. Each square features an historic person, place, or event in one of these nine counties and calls attention to the sacrifices patriots made to ensure our country’s freedom. Accompanying the quilt is a notebook with an image of each block and a text of its meaning. Museum volunteers Dawn Shank and Page McLemore, designed the image and wrote the text for the King & Queen County block positioned in the upper right corner. For more details see Tales from the Tavern 2024 Vol.1.

The quilt was a featured exhibit at the Courthouse Tavern Museum 2024 Holiday Open House. At this time it has been exhibited at least once in each of the nine counties. On March 15, 2025 it will be returning to King and Queen

County for the K&Q Quilt Show at the King & Queen Public Library in St. Stephens. Because the quilt needs a home, DAR chapter members decided the only fair way to choose a recipient was to have a drawing. “Voices” (DAR-speak for tickets) will be sold and the drawing will be held at the DAR annual recognition meeting on May 17, 2025. Voices may be purchased from any Henricopolis chapter member prior to that date for \$5.00 each or 6 voices for \$20.00. To place an order contact Anne Mitchell of King and Queen County at 804-363-6586 or at enna422@gmail.com. Please put DAR Tickets as the subject line of an email and state exactly how many tickets you want.



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