

A rainbow of good feeling

By Lynn E. Norris, Kinsale Museum Director

Thanks so much to everyone who prayed to dissolve the rain over Kinsale proper on Saturday, Sept. 22, for our rescheduled Kinsale Day and also over Point Lane during the duck-washing on Sunday from 2-3:45 at the Hummels'.

The promise of the beautiful double rainbow earlier in the week was truly fulfilled, and now all we need to do is be generous to our neighboring states who have suffered so much from Hurricane Florence.

Moved from the prior Saturday when Florence was so threatening, Kinsale Day played host to a very warm-hearted group of townsfolk as well as visitors from elsewhere, who seemed delighted to learn more about history and community while enjoying Muddy Boots's rhythms that started with blues, moved into country, and saluted other genres with equal fervor.

Sing a song of history and family

Leigh Ann and Bill Miller of Kirnan delightedly explained the irresistible forces of tradition and family that have brought visitors and calls from as far off as England, looking for the homeplace of the Garner clan, which was called China Hall in their day.

The Millers are happy to make these folks feel right at home in their Virginia State Landmark residence. We appreciate their description of what it means to live in a place so full of heart and history, and we wish them well as they seek national recognition.

Leigh Ann's family, the Adamses, have 75 years of backstory here. She herself has been coming to the river since she was a baby: 58 years ago, though she doesn't look it!

Leigh Ann and Bill's children are the fourth generation of their family to love Rivah life. And they love being linked into a larger family because of their purchase of Kirnan, which was the name given to the house by John Campbell when he bought it in 1822. Eventually, it became the property of the Taylors and the Morrows, who still love to host family reunions there.

Kirnan, whose oldest section dates to 1781, was expanded in the first third of the 19th century.

Its story is so complicated it took the Millers a year and a half to research the whole saga, and three years of reconstruction, during which they discerned with fascination that the joists were numbered in Roman numerals.

Tales of ice skating and sledding parties, proposals, weddings, brown eggs and butter shared with the Adamses so many years ago by their Kirnan neighbors... all these things have increased the Millers' sense of stewardship and the importance of their role as custodians of history.

Repeatedly queried as to whether they have ghosts, Bill, a lifelong hunter, noted that he certainly had heard *suspicious* noises.

Definitely made by an animal larger than a squirrel... which turned out to be a ground hog living upstairs. Encouraged to migrate elsewhere, the critter took to the basement. In the dim light, Bill saw what he thought was a beast as large as a panther, leaning against the basement wall. He took aim, but luckily, just before he perforated the hot water heater and the electric box, he discerned the ground hog was already dead.

Service with a smile

Appointed or reappointed through Sept. 2022 were the following: longtime board members Jimmy Moss and Ann Lewis, interim member Rosemary Wilson, and new members Vikki Ravinskas (Treasurer-to-be) and Vanessa Hummel. All possess enthusiasm, a mindset of service, generosity, energy, and a wealth of knowledge and experience. We feel very fortunate to have them.

Deepest thanks go to departing Treasurer Les Jackson, for his patience and fortitude. And all our love to the family of our departed Vice-Chair Joni Lawler, who died at 68 on August 20 after a valiant battle with cancer.

Income

Les reported total income of \$42,057.38 plus \$40.84 for postage for Fiscal Year 2017-18. (This was exceptionally high due to a \$5,000 bequest and a one-time donation of \$3,000.) Expenses, including \$6,396 in depreciation (a non-cash outlay) were \$33,592.08. Net income was \$8,506.14. As of 2017-18, depreciation on the Gazebo and Ice Cream Parlor has run its course. During 2018-19 and ongoing for the next 20 years, non-cash outlay depreciation on the Museum will be \$3,125.

Auction figures

\$8,505 was the totally wondrous auction total as of Sept. 30. You all went above and beyond in your exceptionally energetic bidding! Here are the big ticket items:

\$500 for the fishing trip donated by Cap'n Scottie Moss

\$350 for a dinner for four couples with Museum Director and Board Secretary, Lynn and Walter Norris

\$300 each for Phil Arnest's wharf print, donated by Jimmy Williams (this will be heading to California), and the whale wind/weather vane from David Morris (which sparked considerable comment during the course of the auction)

\$280 for John Battaile's elegant "closet kayak"

\$200 each for a two-night stay at the Inn at Montross, for the handsome antique clock from David Morris and for one pound cake

\$175 for the Coopers' inflatable dinghy

\$165 after a hot contest between two grandmothers-to-be for Ann Lewis's baby boy basket with the handmade quilt and so many water-themed items

\$150 for Dave Butt's live-edge walnut handmade coffee table; its new home is in D.C.

\$1,215 in total pound cakes sales.

There are only four items left that were unbid upon: two **very** evocative pictures (Does anybody know anybody who lives near Gettysburg in Blue Ridge Summit? One of the pictures is from there!) and two baskets: decorator's touches and celebrate the seasons. I will entertain best offers if you want to come by and scope these out.

Another \$180 from pre-sales by charge card in FY 2017-18 was deposited in the Gift Shop, but it was really part of the auction.

The wider world across the water

Kinsale's Duck Derby has really gone international! No wonder, considering that several members are just back from Spain and France, and another will be heading off to Africa soon.

The first prize of \$500 in what will henceforth be known as the Joni Lawler Memorial Rubber Duckie Derby was won by #153, adopted by David and Amy Butt. The money will go toward the medical missionary work of their daughter Anna, husband Patrick LaRochelle, and their kids Luke and Miriam in Democratic Republic of Congo, where famine and Ebola stalk the land. Very often there is almost no food at all, but the people always share what little they have.

Second prize of \$250 went to #676, adopted by Brenda and Buddy Sanford. He hasn't won anything for 40 or more years when he won a vacuum cleaner he didn't want at a carnival in Montross. She had a jewelry catalogue open looking at something nice when the call came in.

3rd place winners #729 Sarah and Austin Sichol will put the \$100 netted by their duck #729 in their vacation fund.

\$25 gift certificates for Citgo gas at Kinsale Handy Store for four of the winners and a Kinsale Museum gift certificate for the newlyweds in the bunch are in the mail to the five runners-up:

#470, Claire Lohr

#385 was the mascot of newlyweds Mark and Joanne Douglas Nelson Hunter. (Joanne was a frequent docent at the Museum in days gone by. Mark took a hand in preparing the Morris' elegant antique clock for this auction. And the Hunters both love history -- hence our choice to give the Kinsale prize to the charming couple, whose wedding was Sept. 8.)

#254, Betsy Hardy

#1,074, Frances "Dickie" McMullan. Was there any intervention from the plastic Big Duck, on which Dickie and her three sisters posed for a great photo?

#980 Vikki Ravinskas

Thanks to all you generous souls who so kindly adopted so many ducks BEFORE Kinsale Day, our winsome flock of racing ducks increased by almost 10% from last year to 1,092, at an average of slightly over \$4.10 per duck. The total was \$4,480! All the prizes (cash and otherwise) were donated by generous donors, including Bayshore Design and Frederick Northup Inc.

A special salute to the race team and duck washers, as well as to the wind which whipped the ducks into a racing frenzy as the tide tried to confuse them.

Some of you have seen the next section already, but it was not in the newspaper and we like to keep it as a part of the report for the day.

DONATIONS to the Museum this year

Lloyd W. English Jr.: James Allen's **Kinsale baseball team uniform**

Andy Coates and Ray Wilson have shared two very interesting pictures showing **friendship and fellow feeling among the black and white youngsters of their time**, a friendship which has been lifelong between Andy and Ray. One was of their 1965-66 second grade class at Cople, taught by Francie Dameron Thompson's mother, the first year when the schools were being desegregated. The other one is from perhaps 1972 when the Kinsale baseball team won the Little League championship.

Harriet Williams gave us an intriguing primitive-looking folding **three-legged stool** that was at the old Jeffries house when she bought it from Jan Hamilton in February 2017. According to furniture experts Carey Howlett and Iris Heissenbittel, the hinges indicate it is from the 1900s, an example of a Northern European style **Brettstuhl** or plank chair. Similar pieces on the internet are dubbed birthing stools.

BABIES since Kinsale Day 2017: **Everly Lucille Birdsall**, daughter of Matt & Amanda Birdsall, was born Sept. 14, 2017. **Mason Carter Butler**, son of Kinsale Fire Chief JB Butler & Karen Jenkins Butler, was born prematurely Oct. 27, 2017, weighing 1 lb., 10 oz. **Parker McNeal Conrad** was born Oct. 27, 2017; he is the son of Elizabeth & Sam Conrad, grandson of Liz & H.T. Headley, & great-grandson of Betty Bailey. **Elizabeth "Ella" Maria Headley**, daughter of Travers Headley III & Faith Barrett, was born Dec. 22, 2017. **Chase Lee Lewis** was born July 16, 2018 weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz. to Jason Lewis & Leah Lucy of Reedville; grandparents are Terry & Jimmy Moss. **Madelyn Rose Matousek** was born Jan. 23, 2018, weighing 7.1 lbs. to Rori Sullivan Matousek & Michael Matousek of Fox Point, WI.; grandparents w/ Kinsale connections are Linda (King) Sullivan & the late Mark Sullivan & great-grandfather Lloyd Rosser King. Born May 23, 2018 & weighing in at 5 lbs. 11 oz., **Logan Hunter Ripley** is the son of Alex & Ruby Ripley & little brother to Cole of Oakland, CA.; grandparents are Nancy Schools Moss, Kinsale & George C. Ripley, Gloucester. **Owen Scott Roberts**, the son of Annie & Tyler Roberts of Kinsale, was born Sept. 30, 2017, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz.; grandparents are William & Connie Hutt Kinsale. **Rhys McKendree Sichol**, the son of Sarah & Austin Sichol, was born Feb. 23, 2018, weighing 8 lbs. 9.9 oz.; grandparents are Nancy & Rhys Weakley, Montross; Jane & Jack McKendree Sichol, Sandy Point; Pat & Al Henderson, Wicomico Church.

NEW MEMBERS since Kinsale Day 2017:

Dr. L.C. Zacharias; Bailey descendants Dan & Cyndi Mackey and Frank & Ann Howery of Spiro, OK. Susan Erichsen of Callao. DeShields Fisher of Tappahannock. Rust descendant Lillian Quantz, of South Carolina. Retired Children's Literature Professor Priscilla "Pris" Ord. Eileen & Rodger Cornell of Pretty Point (retired NJ restaurateurs). Perry D'Angelo (Annie Arnest's partner). Frieda Headley Byrd. Jane & Tscharner Watkins. Rod & Betsy Gardner. Jim & Frances Williams. Barbara Roane Davis. Rob & Anne Norris. Neal & Elaine Bailey. Jeanne Hymes;

Hallie & Dan Ahrnsbrak; Fieldcrest Farms/ Isobel Swinson; Frank Sherman; Barbara Cushing of Menokin; B.H. Baird Ins. Co.; Mercer O'Hara of Sabine Hall; Joyce Michael & Tom Bell; Kyle Bailey and Angela Shephard.

May I just note that many many people have not been enticed to join our Kinsale Foundation yet because I have not been able to send them a welcome basket or a seductive pound cake since I do not know them. If YOU have a neighbor who is not a member, please see your Museum Director and we will get together on this. I just reprinted 100 more copies of the 2018 *Waterways* and this is also accessible on our website.

NEW NEIGHBORS: Potomac Supply is now owned by Tom and Dick Jones of the Teal-Jones Group, 17897 Triggs Road, Surrey, BC V4N 4M8. The former Cople Parish House at Hague is being purchased by Community of Lights Ministries, Pastors Ricky & Connie Brooks Wilson, 804-313-5827, riccontae@yahoo.com.

New folks I have not yet met: Jennifer "Jenn" Willoughby and Gabe Loesel who are renting Capt'n Charlie Davis's old house at 539 Kinsale Rd. now owned by Jimmy and Joyce Davis. I am sorry to note I have managed to rename BOTH of them incorrectly, in the course of saving several versions of the Kinsale Day program and other notes. An LPN working on her RN, Jenn works at Bowling Green Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Terry, Etoyia, Harper and Carter Burrell are renting the Cottrells' house at 406 Kinsale Rd. Terry is the grandson of Wayland and Brenda Burrell, who live on Cople Highway. Their family roots were at Tucker Hill, near Ayrfield.

Some corrections from the program and recent emails:

New Skipjack Rd. residents Sandy and Ken Melson's North Carolina beach vacation house was not destroyed, it has apparently only lost some shingles and the steps to the beach. They and their Portuguese Water Dogs moved here from Northern Virginia.

Another of our new members is Rod (short for Rodney) Gardner, not Rob. Good Lord, I am falling to bits here. Sorry, Rod!