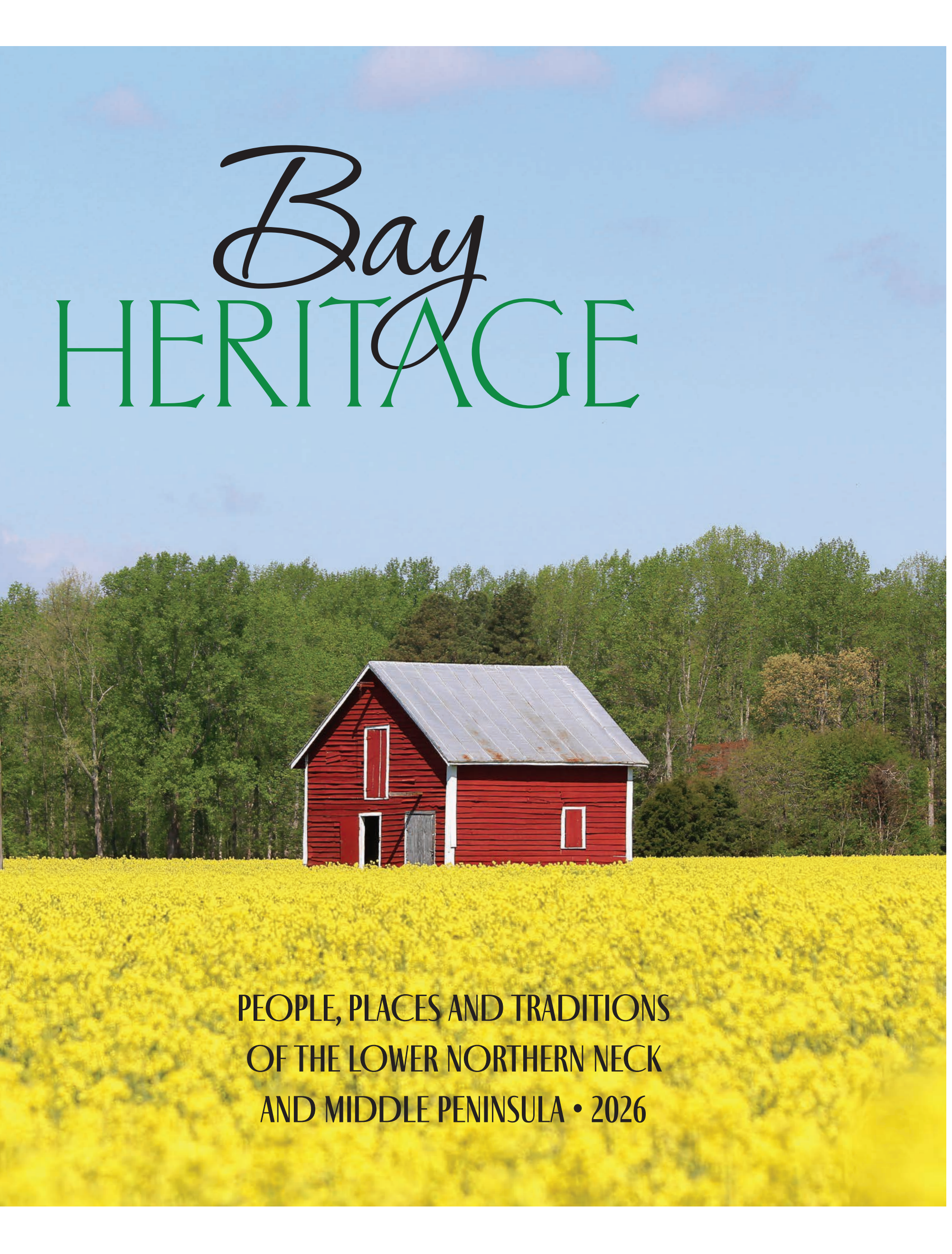


Bay HERITAGE



PEOPLE, PLACES AND TRADITIONS
OF THE LOWER NORTHERN NECK
AND MIDDLE PENINSULA • 2026



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Consider, if you will...

Nothing is important until it's personal; people do not care what you know until they know you care; and real estate is conveyed at the pace of relationships. These three conditions, among others, have guided me during my 39-plus years of real estate brokerage and development along with home designing and building.

Rising from a trusting commitment to those has been my privilege, even my blessing, to have closed over 2,200 sales, representing sellers and buyers as singles, couples, families, and entities. That number may represent great success to some, but I have never focused on my success; rather, I have focused on the significance of my clients' purposes. That is, their maximized, personal benefits to them of their sales or purchases with full protection of their best interests every step of the way.

I humbly share the comments below as a small sample of clients' perspectives of my professional efforts with personal concern for and fair-minded attention to every detail of their processes before, during, and after their closings, and I invite you to connect about your own needs and dreams.**Glenn C. Cockrell**

Glenn was very professional in helping us with a purchase. He was a great resource. His knowledge of homes in the area gave us confidence in making a decision. His many years of experience made the process easy. His involvement and timely advice made a big difference. I don't know that we would have made the purchase without him.

Glenn was the consummate professional from the moment we met on the property. His local knowledge and local contacts proved to be invaluable. He represented both sides in this closing (very glad he did). He has become a trusted friend and I would not hesitate to call on him again for any real estate need. Glenn is the complete package.

From the moment we first talked to **Glenn** to closing day, we were impressed by his genuine care and commitment throughout the process. His knowledge of the area and market was incredible, and we appreciated his quick responses to any questions we had. Glenn fought for our best interests and ensured we got the best deal.

Glenn was a tenacious and communicative agent who consistently went above and beyond to secure my dream retirement home. Even after the sale he has been helpful and supportive of things needed or desired. He has a plethora of knowledge of who does what in the Kilmarnock area and is more than willing to help secure services from reputable people. Glenn made buying a home 650 miles away from where I lived an easy and enjoyable experience. 5 stars all day long!

Glenn's care for the buyers goes way beyond real estate agent. He remained on the hunt for our family home when we had all but given up that the market would provide. His connection after the sale has reaffirmed our decision to come home to the Northern Neck. Glenn's commitment to assist in finding the right fit earns him our gratitude and highest recommendation!



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Bay HERITAGE

The history of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula, its family and cultural traditions, churches and trades have all made our communities what they are today.

Many of our small towns and villages have chronicled their histories in volunteer-run museums. They tell the stories of working watermen and generations of farmers and of the local waterfronts that once served as steamboat stops and commercial hubs.

Our churches and cemeteries, especially Old St. John's Baptist Church cemetery, tell the stories of the congregations that came before us. That particular cemetery in Kilmarnock is the oldest Black cemetery in Lancaster County and served as the burial site for members of the first Black church congregation following the Civil War.

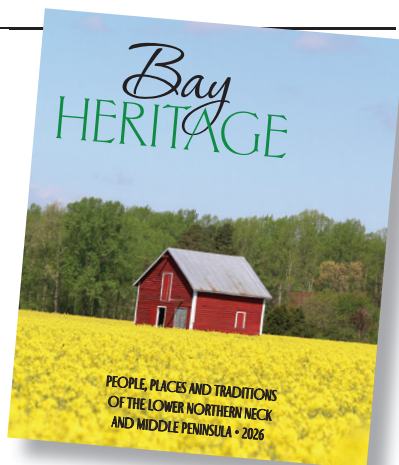
Church congregations also gathered for revivals and services at "groves" in the Northern Neck. One still exists and is used occasionally.

Culture and heritage represent the traditions and values of a community, connecting us to our roots and offering a sense of identity. Inside this special section to the Rappahannock Record and Southside Sentinel, find articles honoring our past and the people and places that are shaping our present and future.

ON THE COVER

Canola fields in Heathsville.

Photo by Jackie Nunnery



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As time would have it, the meeting place was relocated into the town proper as the Carter Creek Meeting House.

We were first a mission congregation of the Morattico Baptist Church, east of Kilmarnock, pastored by premiere Virginia Baptist minister The Reverend Mr. Fred Claybrook.

In 1895, the town of Carter Creek Wharf was renamed Irvington in honor of the fish factory owner John Irving and thus our Church followed as well. Our original 1891 building consisted of a one-room sanctuary.

By 1896, we found that the space was inadequate for a changing community and the growing body of worshippers. A balcony, classrooms and baptismal pool were added. By the mid-1930s, we had outgrown our facility yet again; and a 2-story addition consisting of five classrooms, kitchen and restrooms was appended.

Irvington went through the transition of being a Steamboat Wharf and seafood processing community to that of a town crossroads, as motorcars replaced ferries and steamboats in the 1930s. Most journeys required a ferry ride, since there were no bridges. This gave rise to the phrase of "going-off-shore" whenever folks would leave.

The aquaculture industry faded; there are no working watermen in our town today. No matter, the area grew more populated with retirees.

In 1991, we added a fellowship hall and an expanded kitchen for our social events, and to serve as a community center when called upon by friends, neighbors and/or town and county.

We were honored later to open our doors as a voting precinct polling site for local, state and national voting, along with public use of our facilities by a number of community agencies, including the Irvington Town Council.

From 2003 to 2022, further renovations were done to service both Church and community, to include a ramp and elevator.

Ours is a youth-oriented, music loving, Bible study, inspiring preaching fellowship of Christians. We would love to have you visit us any Sunday or Wednesday. (53 King Carter Drive)

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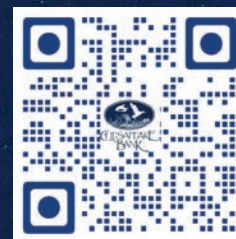


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Bay HERITAGE

FEATURES 2026



8

Camp Meetings

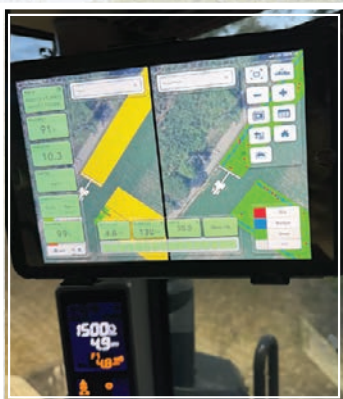
Grove revivals



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Restorations continue



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Farming ~ rough ~ e Generations

How it has changed



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Commerce On ~ e Water

Golden age of steamboats



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Down On ~ e Farm

A pictorial history

*Throughout the
publication historical
photos from Middlesex,
Lancaster and
Northumberland
counties appear.*



Located at the head of Wilton Creek a few miles west of Deltaville, Conrad's Mill was a grist mill that served the eastern end of Middlesex County. White corn and wheat were ground into cornmeal and flour. From the early colonial days when it was Kemp's Mill, people brought their grain to be milled and, while waiting, fished and swam in the millpond. On special occasions Conrad's Mill Pond was used as a setting for baptismal services by area Baptists who practiced immersion. Courtesy of Violene Jackson



Urbanna prospered during the age of the sailing schooners as many of the town's men captained and owned vessels. An outcome of that prosperity was the arrival from Baltimore of marble tombstones. Middlesex Marble Company was located right across the street from the Marble House on the site that today houses the Southside Sentinel headquarters building. Courtesy of Eunice Esker



Postcard postmarked 1908, Irvington Business District. Photo courtesy Steamboat Era Museum

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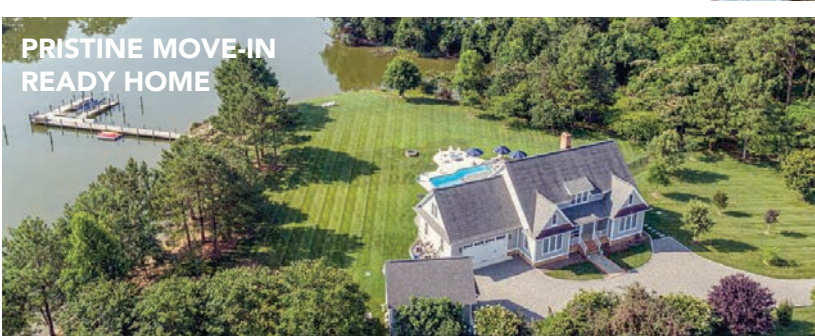
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GATHERING *at the* ROVES

*Fostering faith and
community through
camp meetings*

BY JACKIE NUNNERY

When late summer rolls around in the Northern Neck, it is time for the school year to begin. But back in the late 1800s a different tradition began taking place which brought thousands of people to the area. Camp meeting days as they were called, became the highlight of everyone's calendar nearly every year.

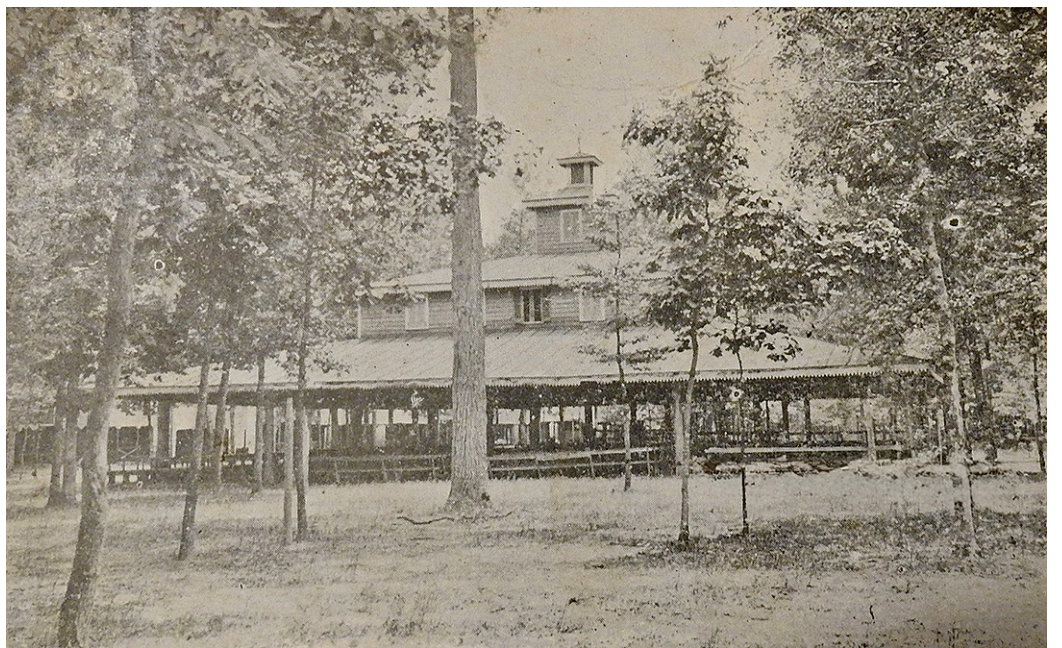
Every July or August for a week to 10 days, thousands of people gathered at three different camps—Wharton Grove in Lancaster County, Kirkland Grove in Northumberland County and Marvin Grove in Richmond County—for days of prayer and sermons, and evenings of singing, fellowship and community.

Changing times made camp meetings a thing of the past, but the groves still hold fond memories for those who attended.

Kirkland Grove

Little did anyone know that actions taken in 1892 would have reverberations felt today. Back then, James Booth conveyed 23.5 acres of land outside of Heathsville to the Kirkland Grove Baptist Camp-Meeting Committee, named in honor of Dr. William Heath Kirk, a Baptist minister active in Northumberland County from 1845-1884. While the week-long revivals no longer take place, Kirkland Grove has the distinction of having the last standing tabernacle of the Northern Neck groves. It also is one of the few remaining 19th-century religious campgrounds in the state. The site was placed on the Virginia Landmark Register in 1991 and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1992.

The 90-foot, square tabernacle, according to the NRHP application, was constructed by William Dandridge Cockrell and his brother John with timber milled from trees on the property, and by some accounts, designed to biblical specifications. Under the four-tiered tin roof, the design remains beautifully simple—daylight and



Kirkland Grove ca. 1900. Postcard postmarked 1907. The tabernacle is one of the last of its kind in the state. Surrounding camp grounds were placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1991 and National Register of Historic Places in 1992. Courtesy Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society

**A plaque near the speaker's platform
in the center of the tabernacle
recognizes the work of the builder.**

Photo by Jackie Nunnery



The bench was notched by unknown hands during the early years of the camp meetings. According to a program commemorating Kirkland Grove's 100th anniversary, this plaque was added in the 1980s.

Photo by Jackie Nunnery



ventilation coming from above through shuttered windows in the second-tier, bare lighting fixtures strung on exposed rafters and seating for about 1,000 people provided by 100 18-foot long wooden benches worn from the comings and goings of generations of worshippers.

A still-working bell is at the top, ready to call campers for services. Once seated, they all faced an elevated speaker platform with additional space for a choir or band at the center of the tabernacle.

Long gone are the 42 rustic two-story cottages that generations of Northern Neck families stayed in while gathering every August. Others stayed in one of two hotels on the grounds. Written accounts gathered on Kirkland's 100th anniversary recall concession stands selling ice cream, lemonade, candy and other treats. There also was a barbershop, bootblack stand and a photographer taking and selling pictures for the occasion.

Like the other camps, the meetings were a mixture of sermons, Bible study, gospel music, socializing, and for some, that included courting. Many couples met and later married as a result of their meeting at Kirkland Grove.

"All ages promenaded on the dusty grounds between the services. An area known as the bullpen was designated to keep those who continued to promenade" from disturbing those in the tabernacle during services. "Many ladies took this opportunity to show off their new clothes while others enjoyed just sitting on the porches and visiting with their friends," as noted in the Kirkland Grove Campground 100th anniversary program, 1992.

Popularity of the revival camps waned in the 1930s and Kirkland closed in 1941. Over the next few decades, efforts were made to revive the revivals, some more successful than others. By 1965 when the Rappahannock Baptist Association took over, most of the cottages were gone or in disrepair, but improvements were made to bring electricity, phone and running water to the remaining buildings.

While week-long revivals no longer take place, the grove is still in use. In 1976 the bicentennial was recognized there and included a reenactment of the original service at Kirkland Grove. Scouts BSA Troop 250 meets and camps on the grounds and Scouts Trystan Campbell and Michael Brown made improvements to the property as part of their Eagle Scout project. The Callao Volunteer Fire Department and Northumberland County Sheriff's Office have both used the property for training and last year, Revive the Spirit, a gospel concert fundraiser for the campground was held. The property also is available for groups to rent.

Wharton Grove

It all began with an idea from John Palmer to hold interdenominational meetings during the height of religious revivals. In a history included in *Virginia's Northern Neck: A Pictorial History* by John C. Wilson, he wrote that Palmer, then an agent selling part of the old Robert "King" Carter estate, convinced Baptist Rev. F.W. Claybrook to establish a religious meeting camp on the site. Claybrook then enlisted Dr. H.M. Wharton a Baptist evangelist, and from 1893 to 1927, thousands would flock to the camp on the Corrotoman River for 10 days nearly every summer, with many coming from out-of-town by steamboat or boat.



An undated photo of cottages at the Wharton Grove, most likely after it became a vacation resort in the 1930s. Photo courtesy Lancaster Virginia Historical Society



Wharton Grove Wharf on the Corrotoman River was about a quarter mile long and very busy during camp meeting days. The wharf was demolished in a 1933 storm and replaced by a 300-foot dock. Written on the back of the photo is "This is of a camp meeting near here. This is a great place for motor boats and pretty girls. A.D.D." Photo courtesy Steamboat Era Museum



Undated photo of Wharton Grove tabernacle. Photo courtesy Lancaster Virginia Historical Society

It was said as many as 10,000 people would arrive for the final Sunday of the revival. “Wharton Grove led in popularity because it was the only one directly on a broad river highway and thus easily reached from scores of communities,” John Wharton, son of the camp’s namesake wrote in Wharton Grove Camp Days, one of his many essays about his years spent at the camp.

An 1896 account in the Virginia Citizen reported “the little bay was fairly alive with a fleet of sails and steamers” and canoes ran a ferry service from Millenbeck. The tabernacle was full to overflowing, with hundreds standing outside or on the waterfront. In 1904, the paper referred to “unprecedented” crowds that continued to arrive at the “famous” camp.

The 40-acre camp was rustic like Kirkland. No electricity, no running water, just surface wells that often ran muddy. “The buildings provided the roughest sort of accommodations,” Wharton wrote in an essay, The Famous Wharton Grove Camp Meetings. “Why not, with use limited to 10 days a year?” While

rustic, the cottages typically had gingerbread trim which was popular at that time. The rustic nature applied to some furnishings like beds—“a nailed-in wall bunk with straw-stuffed ticking”—which led to some bringing cots or hammocks for more comfort. “Every cottage had to have a porch from which to view the passing parade and spend the hours chatting except during tabernacle meeting hours,” he wrote.

“Almost everything about the 10 days of camp meetings was inconvenient, even crude, compared to other Chesapeake summer vacation spots. But who minded? Not any of the thousands—up to 10 or so—who never missed a meeting. It was carnival time laced with sermons, hymns and good old-time gospel fellowship,” wrote John Wharton, in The Seventeen Wharves of Wharton Grove.

Also much like Kirkland Grove, at the center of the 43 cottages stood the three-tiered tabernacle, 90 feet square with seating for 2,000 people. At its top was a steeple and bell which called worshippers to the meet-

ings. Completing this temporary village were “two large hotels for transients, two large dining rooms—really open sheds—two confectioneries and utility buildings.” There was even a barbershop and dentist’s office, Wharton said.

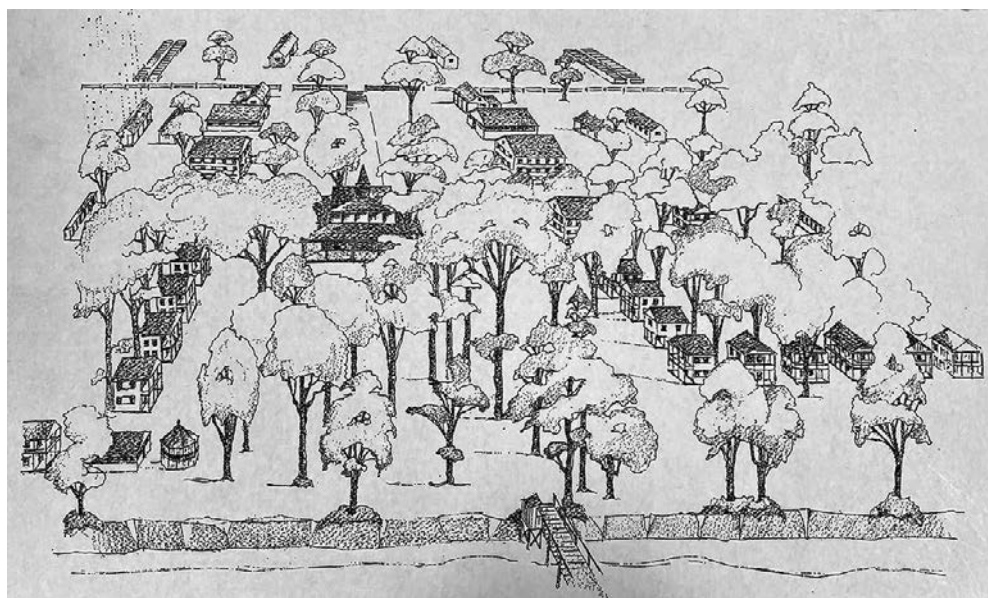
The camp’s popularity went into decline with the death of Claybrook in 1914 and the beginning of World War I, leading to its closure. However, Dr. Wharton was able to reopen it in 1920 with improvements. The camp was electrified through its own power plant; running water was available through a new artesian well; a new wharf was built and cottages were repaired. The rebirth was short lived, the last camp was held in 1927 and H.M. Wharton died in June 1928. His son said Dr. Wharton had “engaged all participants for the ensuing season and everything had to be suddenly cancelled.”

During the 1930s, the Wharton family reopened the property as a summer vacation resort. Over time, it too closed and much of the remaining camp structures disappeared. The remnants of Wharton Grove were last inventoried by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1997. At that time they noted 12 buildings, nine of which were deemed historic with construction dated to 1893. The two-story Queen Anne architecture “with porches overlooking the river” and “scallop trim work,” were said to be a “combination of imitation, personal taste and practicality.”

There were eight cottages remaining in addition to a 1950 log structure. “In 1950 three cottages—Kirk, Willey and Wharton— were joined as one by architect Walter M. Macomber.” The report also noted that alterations were made to other cottages—enclosing porches, adding chimneys, side porches, windows and detailing. All that remained of the tabernacle, the center of the camp, were the footings. The property is now privately held.

Marvin Grove

In Farnham, all that remains of Marvin Grove is a granite marker. The Methodist camp was built in 1878, with its first 10-day revival taking place on Friday, August 2, with Bishop David S. Doggett of Lancaster providing the sermon. Along with a tabernacle, there were two 50-room hotels that were booked weeks in



Architect Alan McCulloch depicted the layout of the Wharton Grove campsite when it held annual camp meetings. The wharf on the Corrotoman River is in the foreground. Photo courtesy Lancaster Virginia Historical Society



Undated photo of camp attendees in front of the hexagonal shaped tabernacle at Marvin Grove. Photo courtesy Northumberland County Historical Society



Installed in 1938, this marker off of Ridge Road is all that remains after the Marvin Grove tabernacle and most of the cottages were destroyed in a 1930 fire. Photo courtesy Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society



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In 1910, the two sons—Melvin and Sam bought a sawmill and gave birth to M.B. Lamberth & Bros. (M.B. Lamberth was the father of Dr. M.B. Lamberth, Jr. of Kilmarnock.) It was not until the end of the World War I that brothers Sam, George, and Woodland opened S.C. Lamberth & Bros., offering more than cut timber to a growing community in 1917.

In 1924, the first structures were erected on the Gloucester Lamberth Building Materials site for storing lumber, adding millwork machinery and planning equipment to produce doors, window frames, and duplications of handcrafted moldings for restoration of old homes. Restoration became the backbone of their operation in the depression years as contractors from many counties in Virginia sought them out for copying old moulding and mantels.

For the next 40 years S.C. Lamberth & Bros. had one of the finest custom cabinet shops in the area. By the late 1960's George was the only brother still active in the business. With no sons to carry on the family name, he approached his two sons-in-law, Jewel Edwards and Milton Hogge, offering them the option of buying company shares owned by other members of his family. George then gradually turned over his shares to two of his daughters Ginny (Jewel Edward's wife) and Aggie (Milton's wife.)

By 1973, a third generation came into the business, grandsons Bruce Edwards and Edwin Hogge—had been added to the staff. By the mid-1970's the name of the company changed to Lamberth Building Materials, Inc. In 1978,

the company expanded to White Stone where Albert Pollard provided a brand-new structure on Route 3 from which the company is still operating today.

Six years later the Gloucester and White Stone stores were separated, Jewel and Ginny Edwards acquiring the business in White Stone, and Milton and Aggie Hogge retaining the original business in Gloucester. Within eight years, Jewel Edwards had retired, but in those years the company expanded their lines of building materials and products and added a fleet of radio-dispatched delivery trucks.

Bruce Edwards, President of the company since 1988, noted, "We can stand firmly behind our products, we are especially proud of our service, but what gives us the most pride is our staff."

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advance, such was the popularity of the summer event.

John Efford recalled traveling to the grove in late July to get the cottage ready for the August revival by “re-whitewashing the exterior” and since the cottage “was without doors or window sash,” they had to sweep out the leaves. His story, “Camp Meeting Days,” was included in a Richmond County bicentennial book. As a boy he “vividly” remembered the “bell on the tabernacle ringing for the services and meals and although I was put to bed early, I would lie and listen to the singing and fall asleep.”

According to a 1935 article by George Reed in the Richmond Christian Advocate, the first years of the camp were self sustaining. “The amount received from ground rents, concessions for hotels, stores, horse lots, etc., together with the Sunday collections” covered operating expenses, upkeep and some improvements over the years. With automobiles, “everything was changed. While greater numbers attended the encampment afternoons and evenings, many tents were unoccupied and few spent the week.”

Then in the summer of 1930 Marvin Grove caught fire. “The beautiful trees, the tabernacle and about 60 cottages were soon consumed.” Talk of rebuilding gave way to the reality that “to rebuild Marvin Grove Camp would have been more of an undertaking than conditions would justify,” Reed wrote.

Reed also spoke at the installment of the granite marker at the Marvin Grove site in 1938. “The memory of this sacred spot will ever linger in the hearts and minds of those who loved and cherished old Marvin Grove.” This marker represented “the memory of what Marvin Grove stood for” and the hope that “the memory of what Marvin Grove stood for will be passed on through the generations to come.”

*“When’er the week had ended, we moved back home again,
Revitalized and happy that we’d reaped some ‘golden grain.’
A seed of love, a seed of faith, a seed of friendship too,
We found in our possession, with others that we grew.
“What a week that used to be! Too bad that it’s now lost.
It’s true, there’s been much progress, but was it worth the cost?
On early August mornings, when air is cool and damp,
A ‘wagonload’ of memories goes back to Kirkland Camp.”
—From the poem Camping at Kirkland by G.M. Burroughs*



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Members of the Middlesex High School band were performing in the early 1950s at the Redman's Lodge in Deltaville right next to the Deltaville Ballpark. Courtesy of Charles Richardson

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HUNTON-LUNSFORD HISTORY CENTER

Discover the Hunton-Lunsford History Center at Historic Morattico Baptist Church

Tucked inside historic Morattico Baptist Church you will find the Hunton-Lunsford History Center. This museum was created to preserve and share the rich heritage of Morattico Baptist Church founded during the American Revolution on January 17, 1778. The church began when a group gathered at Morattico Hall, the home of Alexander Hunton. Among those was the young preacher Lewis Lunsford, who became the church's first pastor and a powerful voice for the Baptist faith throughout the Northern Neck.

Through photographs, artifacts, and exhibits preserved from generations, the Center tells more than the story of one congregation. It illustrates the growth of the Baptist movement in the Northern Neck and the remarkable influence Morattico Baptist Church had on the development of other Baptist churches throughout Virginia.

Visitors can explore the people, places, pastors, missionaries, and traditions that shaped Morattico Baptist Church across nearly two and a half centuries. *The History Center is located at Historic Morattico Baptist Church, 924 Morattico Church Road, Kilmarnock, Virginia. Tours are available Sunday mornings and by appointment. Call 804-577-3043 to arrange a visit.*

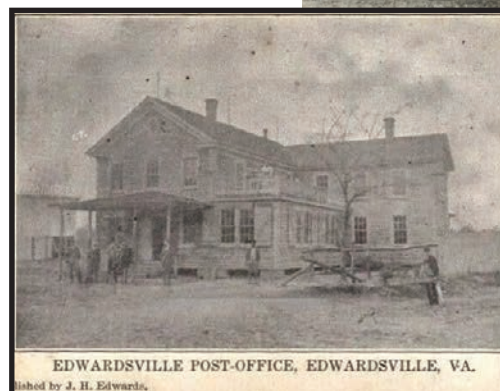
..... What local means to Morattico Baptist Church

A hidden gem where history comes alive—connecting today's visitors with the faith and determination of those who helped shape the Northern Neck almost 250 years ago. The church's influence spread throughout the region. Most Baptist churches in the Northern Neck—both white and African American—can trace their roots to the Morattico congregation.

.....

Northumberland High School, Heathsville.

Photo courtesy of the
Hinton family



Edwardsville Post Office ca. 1910. John Edwards appointed postmaster 1902. Post office closed in 2004 and mail service was moved to Burgess. Photo courtesy Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society

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by AnnGardner
Eubank

A tractor and flower field, Garner's Produce,
Warsaw. Photo courtesy of Brie O'Bier

On the farm:

While technology continues to evolve it can't replace *traditions and values*

Farmers have been the backbone of America for centuries. Waking before the rooster crows and retiring to bed long after the sun has set, farmers have made tremendous sacrifices over the years to keep their communities fed.

The mechanics in which farmers conduct their work have certainly evolved over time, but the spirit and devotion of those in agriculture have remained the same.

Like many farmers, Northumberland native Robb Hinton got his start in agriculture by helping his father at a young age.

Hinton, owner and operator of Cedar Plains Farm LLC, is a generational farmer. He inherited his love of the rural lands from the generations of farmers before him.

Around 12 years old, Hinton

began operating equipment while working alongside his father.

"Times seemed simpler back then. The peacefulness of being outdoors on an open tractor with nothing but the feel of the air, the sound of the machine and the smell of the earth was pure joy," he said.

Several years passed and Hinton went off to college.



Modern day agriculture equipment requires farmers to adhere to a checklist before they ever even take on the fields, similar to a pilot in a cockpit. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

“Times seemed simpler back then. The peacefulness of being outdoors on an open tractor with nothing but the feel of the air, the sound of the machine and the smell of the earth was pure joy.”
--Robb Hinton

When he came back home, he was initially told there wasn't enough farmland to support another family, so he took a step back from agriculture and went into carpentry.

Eventually Hinton started Northern Neck Seamless Gutter Service, which he owned and operated for 17 years. Still helping his father out where he could on the farm, it was only a matter of time until Hinton was back in the fields full time.

“I ended up always being fortunate with great timing,” he said.

Hinton approached relatives to let them know if they ever wanted to step back from agriculture, he'd happily rent their acreage and work the land.

“Not but a couple days later after I had that conversation, dozens of farmers approached me asking to rent their land. Goes to show, if you really want to do something, jump at the chance and don't wait around,” he said.

By 2003, Hinton was renting about 300 acres of land from relatives while maintaining the gutter business and still helping his father. With his own financial and timely investment on the line, Hinton decided to dive in full force—sell his business to farm full time for himself and his father.

By the mid 2000s, technology was becoming more prevalent throughout agriculture.

Today, Hinton farms about 1,500 acres, typically corn and soybeans. The processes used today have certainly changed a bit over the years.

“When I was a kid, the standard advice was ‘If you get into trouble, just cut the key off,’” he said.

As technology advanced, operating equipment became much more complex than standard oil changes and cutting the keys.

“GPS has revolutionized farming. It's the number one tool in the toolbox that can work for any farmer,” he said.

Stepping into a modern piece

of farming equipment appears comparable to a small aircraft in terms of screens, switches and electronics.

The auto steer, which Hinton referred to as the backbone of modern farming, has become an essential tool for efficiency in terms of planting.

When it's time to plant crops, a farmer will drive his equipment around the perimeter of the land he wishes to cultivate. From there, the GPS will fill in the internal rows, making sure not to overlap as well as properly space out the seed. It ultimately provides exact, real time field positioning that allows for precision agriculture while reducing input waste and cutting operating costs.

The same premise applies for sprayers, regardless if they're distributing fertilizers, chemicals or water. Hinton purchased his first sprayer with auto-steer in 2008.

Hinton decided to focus on purchasing equipment that had the ability to record what he was doing in the fields, and the performance of the equipment as well.

“You can't manage what you don't measure,” he said.

One of the major changes over the last several decades can be found in equipment maintenance. Aboard Hinton's equipment are a number of screens, pinpointing where crops were planted, and diagnostics for the equipment. The technology can show precisely what ball-joints may be loose or what specific bolts are coming loose.

“That's one of the biggest changes in equipment today. When people come to service machinery, they're not showing up with a toolbox, they show up with a laptop,” Hinton said.

With everything computerized, glitches are some of the most worrisome parts of farming.

“It's all like a Rubik's cube. Every move has a consequence. There are so many moving parts in both farming and the equipment we use,” he said.



GPS has been revolutionary in the farming industry. The technology is utilized to optimize precision in planting and spraying, ultimately leading to reduction in input waste as well as cutting overall operating costs. Photo by Robb Hinton

“That's one of the biggest changes in equipment today. When people come to service machinery, they're not showing up with a toolbox, they show up with a laptop.” --Robb Hinton

Today, the agriculture world has become completely engulfed in technology, but maybe to a fault.

According to Hinton, the new technology is great when it works. Harsh environments however can wreak havoc on all of the electrical sensors which lead to glitches that cause major frustrations, particularly when the price tag for equipment is greater than the cost of an average home.

Despite the sophisticated advancements in technology as it applies to farming, the principles of agriculture remain the same.

Hinton said he doesn't pay

attention to any almanacs or anything of the sort, however, maintaining your knowledge of your grounds is the most fundamental, tried and true component of successful farming.

“Good agronomy is getting it in the ground right where it needs to be...knowing your numbers is the most tried and true piece of the puzzle,” he said.

Farming is not as simple as cutting the key when you're in doubt these days. Like an airplane pilot, a farmer has a checklist to adhere to within the equipment to go over before they ever move through the field.

While some bells and whistles, like air conditioning and

mini drink fridges inside the tractors can make for a more comfortable day on the farm, it's the same connection to the earth that their ancestors felt that keep them working the lands.

“I take joy in combining a crop I know I did everything I was supposed to do...I take joy in the puzzle. My enjoyment in farming comes from the beauty I see,” Hinton said.

While the world of agriculture is ever evolving, the spirit for providing for family and community on land passed down generation to generation is one anchored in tradition and rural values, proving there's some things technology simply cannot change.

GENERATIONS ON THE FARM: A VISUAL HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE



America celebrates its 250th birthday this year and we would be remiss if we didn't honor and acknowledge the generations of family farms and individuals that have fed the nation since its founding.

Around 97% of U.S. farms are family-owned and passed down through multiple generations. That is especially true in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula where there are many century farms, a working farm that has been owned and

operated by the same family for 100 years or more.

Innovation and technological growth have changed the way modern producers grow and harvest our foods but one thing will hopefully never change and that's the expansive fields of green and gold that line our roadways.

On these pages, find a sampling of the many reader-submitted photos documenting the vibrant landscapes and portraits of life on the farm.

Each potential kernel of corn produces a strand of corn silk from its tip that eventually emerges from the end of the ear. Photo by Bob Waldrop



A farm field in Lottsburg. Photo by Patty Kelly Long



Cows at Ditchley Cider Works, Spring 2024. Photo by Kimberley Gittman



Turk and Tyler Crittenden of Merryvale Farms inspecting the combine. Photo courtesy of Leslie Krom

My Mom wrote on the back of this photo: Oct. 12, 1946, picking our corn. The farm was in Heathsville. Photo courtesy of Almeda Hundley McKenney



Working combine on a farm near Heathville. Photo by Gayle Werling



Harry Bray of Hampstead Farm at Remilk in Middlesex County rescued a mule when he retired in 1970. Above, Bray drives Katie to plow a garden to plant potatoes. Bray, a lifelong farmer born in 1916, also worked with draft animals when he was young. Photo courtesy of Jerry Bray



Jeff and Kaggy Chase enjoying their first self-propelled combine. Notice the sign of the times: Kaggy's new house. Jeff's new yacht. The kids' inheritance. Photo courtesy of Kaggy Chase



Cattle grazing on a Newland farm. Photo courtesy of Brie O'Bier



"Attached are photos I took of a very old tractor my son, Dan Kurdziel rescued. He got it running and liked to ride it around our property. Unfortunately, it died in the middle of the field and he was unable to get it going again. I hope someday he will get enthused enough to move it. But for now it provides a scenic peek at the past." — Shari Faina



James 'Turk' Crittenden of Merryvale Farm picking sweet corn. Photo courtesy of Leslie Krom



Sunflowers, Middlesex County. Shot July 10, 2026. Photo by Tina McCloud



Raindrops on wheat. Photo by Barbara West



Sunset over a corn field on the Maynard farm in Ophelia. Photo by Sandy Maynard



My Mom wrote on the back of this photo: 1947 October 16, Ralph picking corn in the Headley field (near Heathsville). Photo courtesy of Almeda Hundley McKenney



Good Luck Cellars owner Katie Krop harvesting grapes with squad support. Photo by Monique MacEachin



Sign, Deltaville, Middlesex County, May 27, 2026. Photo by Tina McCloud



This John Deere tractor is an everyday sight on Fleets Bay Road. Photo by Bob Waldrop



William Wright and Amy Wright Maloney harvest industrial hemp. Photo by Amy Wright Maloney



My Mom wrote on the back of this photo: 1960 “cookies and lemonade time” setting tomato plants, Jean, Charles, Ralph, Lynette, Carroll and Lloyd Davis. Photo courtesy of Almeda Hundley McKenney



Sunset over Sassafras Grove, a century farm in Lancaster County. Photo by Rhea Frances Talley



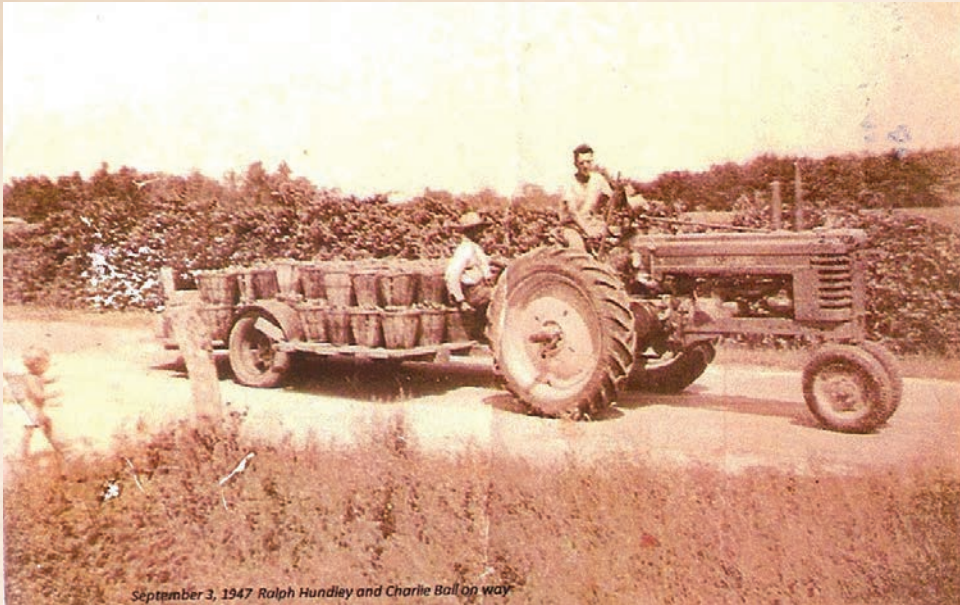
From left, Ronnie Gill, Jayson Gill and Hannah Gill plant pumpkin seeds on Gill Farms in Lancaster County. Don Gill is driving the tractor. Photo courtesy of Crystal Whay



Will Krom, summer job on the farm. Photo courtesy of Leslie Krom



Harry Bray, who owned and operated Hampstead Farm starting in the late 1940s poses with the “family cow.” Following World War II, many local farmers went into dairy farming, said Harry’s son Jerry Bray. Milk was sold to military installations and schools on the Peninsula. Photo courtesy of Jerry Bray



My Mom wrote on the back of this photo: 1947 taking load to the tomato factory at Coan Wharf. Ralph took tomatoes to canneries at Coan, Walnut Point, Avalon and Indian Valley. Photo courtesy of Almeda Hundley McKenney



The world's most grown legume, grown by the acre throughout the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Photo by Bob Waldrop



Hay field, Soles, Mathews County, April 30, 2026. Photo by Tina McCloud



My Mom wrote on the back of this photo: 1970 Ralph and Almeda planting beans at Horse Head farm. Photo courtesy of Almeda Hundley McKenney



David Maynard, picking peaches on his Ophelia farm. Photo by Sandy Maynard



From left, Don Gill, Ronnie Gill and Jayson Gill look at the wheat field on Gill Farms in Lancaster County. Photo courtesy of Crystal Whay



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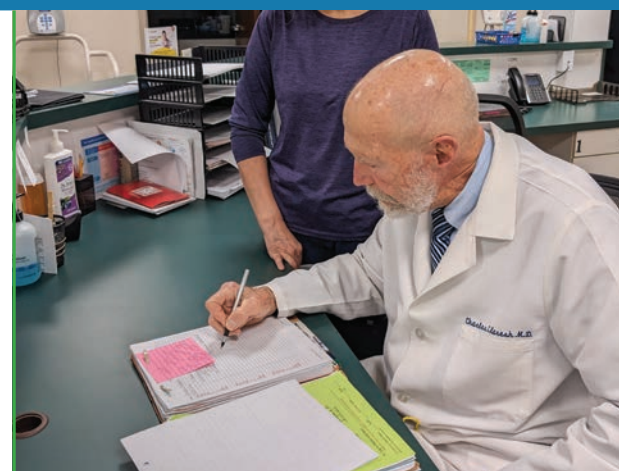
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MAKING AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY

A look at NNMFHC statistics for the 2025/26 Fiscal Year



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Restoring and remembrance:

The effort to save Lancaster's oldest Black cemetery

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

In some areas of Old St. John's Cemetery a small mound and depression, shrouded in grass and leaves, is the only sign of a burial site. In other spots, a simple stake or the remains of a brick or cinderblock mark a gravesite. Many of the dozens of headstones, some harder to read than others, are toppled or leaning.

This long-neglected acreage along a roadside in Kilmarnock quietly connects generations of many of the Black families in the lower Northern Neck.

Cemeteries have always served as physical archives, telling a community's history, family lineages and cultural heritage. That's exactly what Old St. John's Cemetery does. On Calvary Drive off Harris Road in Kilmarnock, it was ignored for nearly a century, overgrown, littered with trash and hiding among the trees. Until recently, many passed by the historic cemetery without even knowing it existed. Today, however, its entrance is plainly marked by two brick pillars, one with a plaque and brief history. The signage, pillars and post-and-chain fence that now mark the entrance were just erected by Baker Home Repairs LLC in the spring of 2026.

A massive cleanup day on November 15, 2025, attracted 87 volunteers representing 11 churches and organizations.



From left, Kerry Peterson, Bill Lee and the Rev. Gernard Reed are helping to restore Old St. John's Baptist Church Cemetery in Kilmarnock. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



Several members of the Caster family are buried adjacent to the old cemetery, Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



An interracial, interdenominational and intergenerational group gathered on November 15, 2025, to clear the cemetery of brush, debris and small trees.



Buenivista Wiggins was only 16 when she died in 1898.
Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



Liston Frazier, a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, tackles the remains of a large tree that took down grave markers when it fell many years ago.

“It’s been an immense joy to be involved and a part of the historical restoration of the Cemetery of the Old St. John’s Baptist Church, one of our daughter churches.”—Richard Abbott, committee member and pastor of Morattico Baptist Church, the “Mother Church of Baptist Churches in the Northern Neck”

It was an interracial, interdenominational and intergenerational group of volunteers who put in sweat equity to restore and salvage what remained of the forgotten burial ground.

“This particular cemetery has really caught a lot of notoriety and community support,” said Kerry Peterson, president of the Kilmarnock Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and author of the book *Old Saint John’s Cemetery: A New Look at a Forgotten Church and a Lost Cemetery In Kilmarnock, Virginia*.

“You could really feel a tangible sense of unity and community. It was multigenerational and there were multiple faiths. There was a real sense of accomplishment,” said the cemetery advisory committee co-chair Francine Hunter.

“As we did the work,”—both physically and with research—“we found that if you’re Black and you’ve been here anytime, say two or three generations, you have an ancestor here,” said Petersen as he walked the cemetery grounds a few weeks ago with Bill Lee and the Rev. Gernard Reed. Lee is a Lancaster county supervisor and member of Calvary Baptist Church in Kilmarnock. Rev. Reed is the pastor at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in White Stone.

History

According to Peterson, the original St. John’s Baptist Church was thought to be located off Harris Road between Cherry Lane and the current Interfaith Service Council building. Nothing remains today. No foundation or footing. No frame or timbers. No signage.

But not far from where historians believed the church sat is the remains of its cemetery.

According to Hunter, Black members of Morattico Baptist Church asked to be dismissed on July 6, 1867, to form their own congregation. The resolution passed and St. John’s



Often, a simple stake was used to mark a grave.
Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Available books offer additional insight on historic cemeteries

Historian Margaret Hill and pastor Kerry Petersen have both written books unearthing facts about the lost, overlooked and often neglected cemeteries in Lancaster County.

Petersen’s book, *Old Saint John’s Cemetery: A New Look at a Forgotten Church and a Lost Cemetery in Kilmarnock Virginia*, was published in November 2025 and deals strictly with that cemetery. It includes historical information and lists information about the families of those believed to be buried there.

Hill authored her book, *In Remembrance: Gravestone Inscriptions and Burials in Lancaster County, Virginia*, some 20 years ago and it includes research on “all the cemeteries I could find,” she said. “From Historic Christ Church to Old St. John, which was quite overgrown, and many in between.”

Both books are available for purchase at the Lancaster Virginia Historical Society, 8346 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster. Hill’s book also is available on Amazon.



Workers throw brush, limbs and small trees into a wood chipper during a clean-up day in November 2025 at the cemetery.



Bill Lee tries to read the inscription on an old tombstone. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



New signage recently was placed at the cemetery entrance off of Harris Road in Kilmarnock. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Baptist Church was established in 1868. That church became the first independent Black congregation in Lancaster County following the Civil War and the cemetery was established soon after.

By 1892, the congregation had dissolved and six baptist churches emerged from that first church, including Mt. Olive in Wicomico Church, Willie Chapel in Lancaster, Mt. Vernon in White Stone, Sharon in Weems and Calvary and New St. John's, both in Kilmarnock. With the establishment of New St. John's, the original church was then referred to as Old St. John's.

Today, four of those churches—Mt. Vernon, Sharon, Calvary and New St. John's—own the cemetery, which Lee believes is about seven acres in all.

Restoration

Over 20 years ago, James E.C. "Jimmy" Norris, MD, a native of Lancaster and practicing physician and surgeon in New York, began an effort to restore the cemetery. Norris was the son of Lancaster's first African American physician, Dr. Morgan E. Norris Sr.

In 2024, per the request of Dr. Norris, Hunter and Mt. Olive pastor Rev. Dr. Tyron Williams, along with community members and representatives from the four steward churches, joined forces with a renewed energy to reclaim the property from overgrowth and neglect.

"The real problem is nobody kept good death records until about 1900," said Peterson.

Through the initial research of historian Margaret Hill and Clyde Ratcliffe, 377 persons were documented to be buried there. A full name supplemental index to Hill's book (see sidebar) was compiled by Margaret Forrester.

Even before the community workday in November, a comprehensive genealogical investigation began with more than 2,000 volunteer hours dedicated to the project, he said.

Over 16,000 death certificates were reviewed and what began as an effort to identify those buried in the cemetery morphed into something greater—the rebuilding of a complete congregational directory, according to Peterson.

Research confirms 377 documented burials in the cemetery but findings suggest there are more than 1,000.

As Peterson, Lee and Rev. Reed walked through the woods, picking up a stick here or there, they squinted to read the headstones. Lee examined one for Buenivista Wiggins, who died in 1898.

Peterson quietly said, "the whole concept here is respect."

The committee, spearheaded by Hunter, is seeking the cemetery's designation on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Registry. An application for an historic highway marker also has been submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Another clean-up day is in the works for the fall. A community-wide rededication service is planned for spring 2027.



This tombstone, like many, marked the graves of several people in the same family. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



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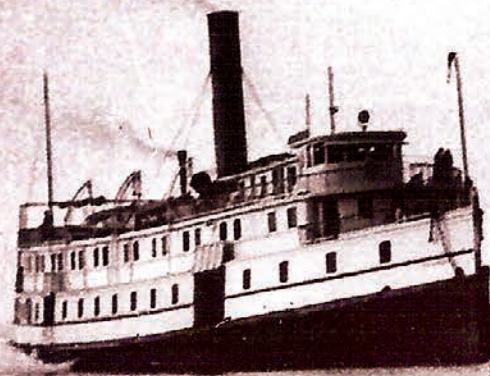
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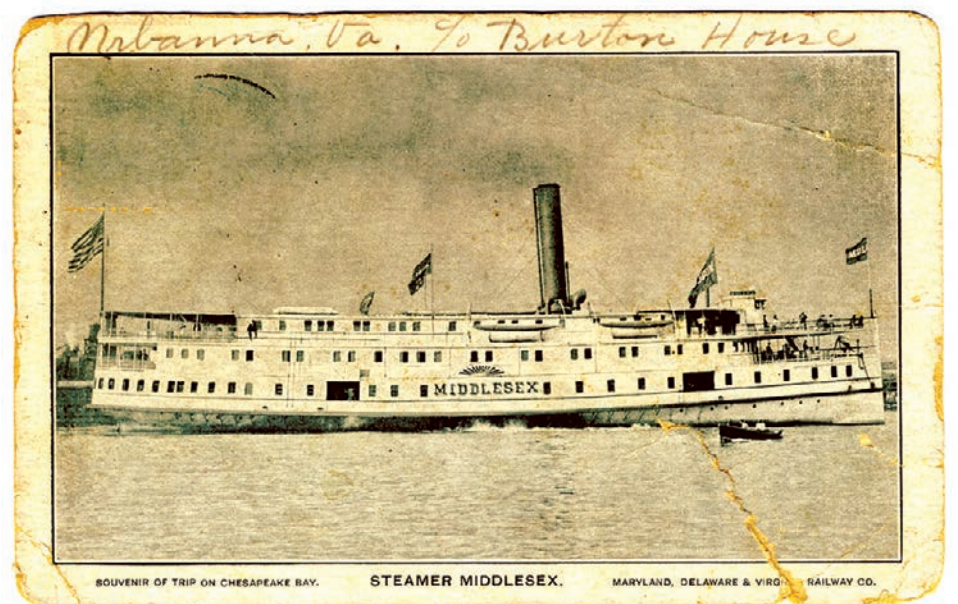
The age of commercial steamboat travel on the Rappahannock River started in 1821 and ended in 1937 when the steamboat Anne Arundel made the last excursion trip up and down the river.

Baltimorean George Weems in 1828 started the first commercial steamboat route on the Rappahannock River. Through the Antebellum period, steamboats became more prevalent on the river. In 1830, the Baltimore and Rappahannock Steam Packet Company started sending the steamboat Rappahannock to the river on a scheduled basis.

by **Larry Chowning**

The golden age of steamboats though was in the 1870-1880s when river wharves were built far out into the river. The first wharves used on the Rappahannock were inside of creeks, which made sense — high creek banks gave protection from wind and weather. If weather-bound it was also best to be inside a creek than out on the river or Chesapeake Bay. Low tides, however, often kept boats from entering creeks and hindered turn-around space. These issues often interrupted commerce and schedules.

Rappahannock River steamboat wharves on the south side of the river were extended far out to allow for the deep water draft of the steamboats. North End Wharf or Grinels Wharf near Deltaville was the first stop on the Middlesex County side of the river. When the steamboat arrived, the wharf was abuzz with activity as those riding were often met by relatives or friends. Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum



The length and size of steamboats like the Middlesex made it difficult at times for the boats to get into the creek wharves so in the 1880s long wharves were built out into the rivers to assure regular and uninterrupted commerce. Courtesy of the late Don and Judy Richwine

Also, the early steamboat wharves were privately owned. By the 1880s, the business had grown to where the CEOs in Baltimore steamboat businesses were counting pennies. Ownership of wharves enhanced profitability and allowed steamboat companies to control and monopolize the flow of commerce.

When Baltimore steamboat companies decided to shift steamboat activity from creeks to rivers it created new economic centers wherever river docks were located. The long docks on the river were North End Wharf, also known as Grinels Wharf, at Deltaville, Mill Creek Wharf at Wake, Burhan's Wharf at Locust Hill, West Urbanna Wharf near Urbanna, Water View Wharf in Middlesex, Bayport and Bowlers wharves in Essex County, Morattico (also Wheal-ton's Wharf) in Lancaster County and Sharps Wharf in Richmond County. There were other wharves against the shoreline scattered up and down the Rappahannock. The only original steamboat wharf still standing is Saunders Wharf in Essex County.

Steamboats brought city-life to county-life and county-life to city-life. Just like roads and interstate highways later on provided travel opportunities, the steamboat was that avenue for past generations.

Tourism

For some communities the steamboat brought a form of tourism. Due to locations of some river steamboat wharves, hotels were established at West Urbanna, Morattico and Bayport wharves.

West Urbanna Wharf was located at the end of Lord Mott Road near Urbanna and got its start when William H. Purkins of Urbanna sold acreage at the mouth of Robinson Creek to the Baltimore and Susquehanna Steam Company in 1871.

A long pier was built out into the Rappahannock River and it became known as West Urbanna Wharf, later renamed Nelson's Wharf and later known as Remlik Wharf.

Shortly after the dock was built, Captain D.M. (Lang) Nelson purchased the shoreline river bank near the wharf and established Hotel Nelson. It became a summertime vacation spot for families who came from as far away as Philadelphia and other northern cities via steamboat. They would come and spend a family week relaxing, playing tennis, croquet, sunbathing, dancing, crabbing, fishing and dining.

The Hotel Nelson brochure advertised that "the table is supplied from the Nelson Hotel farm, with plenty of fresh



Captain Lang Nelson purchased property near West Urbanna Wharf on Lord Mott Road near Urbanna and started Nelson's Hotel that brought regular summertime customers from Philadelphia and Baltimore for a week's stay at the hotel for fun and relaxation. After a while, people started calling the wharf Nelson's Wharf. Courtesy of Middlesex County Museum



The inside of the waiting room at Saunders Wharf was wood paneled. When this photo was taken in 1991 a museum was inside of the old wharf structure with items on display from the steamboat era. Photo by Larry Chowning



Saunders Wharf in Essex County is the last remaining steamboat dock on the Rappahannock River. Photo by Larry Chowning

vegetables, chickens and eggs, from the river plenty of fresh fish, and from Baltimore Captain Nelson buys his meat, western meat, not the tough, country variety.”

The hotel also advertised that “the average country resort gets its ice from artificial ponds, with water supplied from questionable sources and may be the open door to serious illness,” it stated.

“The Nelson Hotel gets its drinking water from a well seven hundred and twenty-two feet deep with ice made from artesian well water,” it stated.

“To those desiring a quiet resting place for the summer, where good country food is bountifully served, and thinking more of health than show, here it is.”

“Hotel Nelson is reached by boat from Baltimore or Fredericksburg, via Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Railroad Co’s steamboats,” the brochure stated.

Agriculture

Burhan’s Wharf was located in Locust Hill at the end of what is today Burhan’s Wharf Road. Burhan’s Steamboat Wharf was founded in 1887. John S. Burhans, a native of Westfield, N.J., built Burhans’ Wharf. That same year a post office named Cooper was started in a building on the shore near the wharf. The wharf was constructed near where the old Brandon Plantation (tobacco) pier had been located a century earlier. Many of the first steamboat wharves went back to tobacco and Colonial shipping.

The late Sherman Holmes Sr. grew up near the wharf and in an interview in the 1990s spoke of the way cucumbers from his father’s field were sold and transported via steamboat to Baltimore.

“My father was an oysterman and farmer. A representative for a pickle company would be at the wharf at harvest time for farmers to bring and sell cucumbers. My father had a contract with a buyer in Baltimore to provide so many bags of cucumber per season.

“The cucumbers were counted and graded (different sizes) and we were paid so much for the different sizes,” he said. “I remember this very distinctly. The buyer representative said my father was a very honest man. Whatever count he gave they accepted it. We would bring them down here in large burlap bags.

“We also ordered our fertilizer from Baltimore and it was brought to the dock by steamboat,” he said. “It arrived in 200-lb. bags but later the fertilizer company downsized the bags to 167 lbs. charging the same price for the 200-lb. bags. That did not make my father happy.

“We would come down to the wharf in horse and wagon to pick the fertilizer up. There was a cart on a railroad track that we used to push the bags of fertilizer to shore and we would load it onto the wagon and take it home,” he said.

Homecoming

The late Sherman Holmes Sr.’s family has generationally been members of Calvary Baptist Church at Christchurch. He recalls when North End Wharf was the gateway to Middlesex County and traveling down to meet friends and relatives coming home for the annual summertime revival.

“We always had our revivals in August, and it always began on the third Sunday — that was Homecoming Sunday. It was a time of celebration, picnics, gospel singing, and some fiery preaching. Lord boy, some of the best eating in the world was at those revivals.

“All the people who had moved to the cities to get jobs would come home for some of that good old down-home cookin’ and religion and it was great fun,” he said. “On that Saturday night before revival, lots of people in the church would meet at North End Wharf to see who was coming off the boat going to the revival. There were cars lined up along the sides of the road for miles waiting for the boat.

“You see, that was the first wharf on the Middlesex side of

THE MARYLAND STEAMBOAT COMPANY.
Piers 3 and 4 Light Street, Baltimore, May 10 1893

To Steamer *Avalon* and owners, Dr.

For Freight on

Shipper.	Landing.	No. Pkgs.	Contents.
	<i>Jacksons</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Lot of Household Goods</i>
		<i>1</i>	<i>Bale Hay</i>
		<i>1</i>	<i>Bag Corn</i>
		<i>1</i>	<i>Horse & Wagon</i>

Received Payment *Wiley*

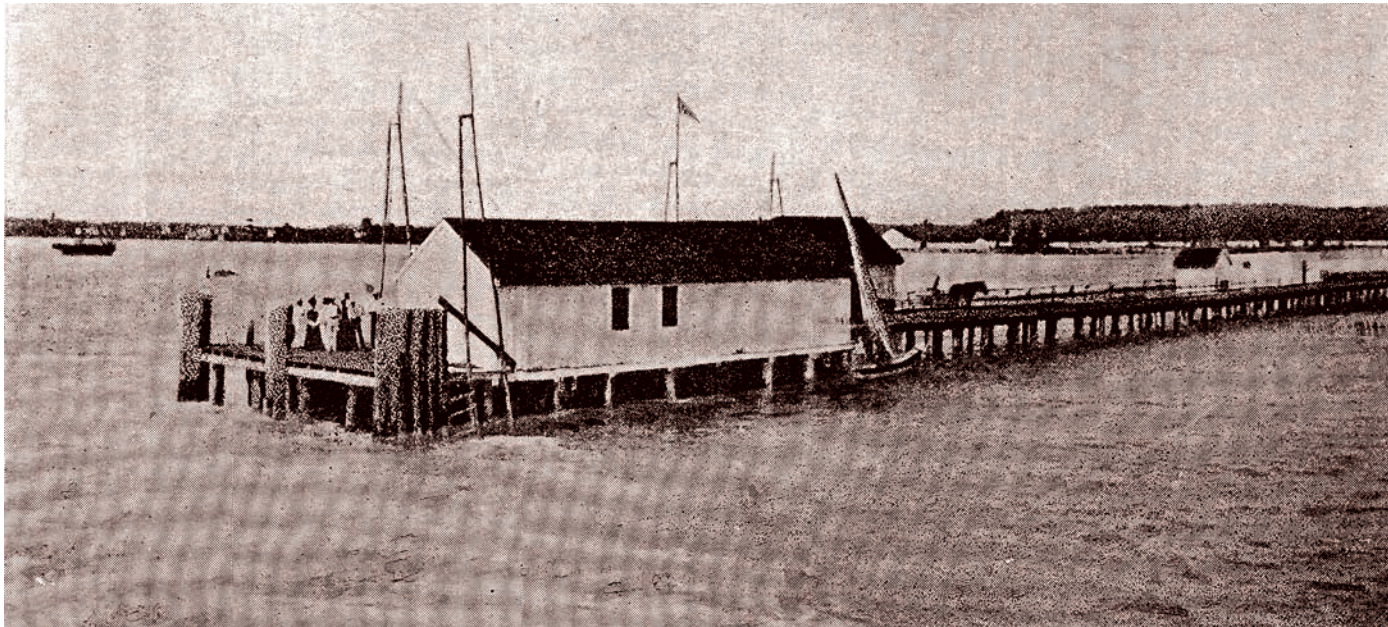
A.W. Harrow received one lot of household goods, one bale of hay, one bag of corn and one horse and wagon off the steamboat Avalon owned by the Maryland Steamboat Company at Jackson Creek Wharf in 1893. The freight cost was \$10.40. Courtesy of Willard and Shirley Norris



This photo of a group sitting on West Urbanna Steamboat Wharf rail cart belonged to Miss Olive Ann (Ollie) Bristow who taught in a one-room school on the property of William Henly Healy near Forest Chapel Church at Warner. Written on the back it stated she sent it to Baltimore through West Urbanna Wharf Express Office to have “the boy with the cross over his head enlarged and his eyes tinted blue.” Courtesy of Mary and Danny Loving



Nelson Hotel at West Urbanna Wharf was a by-product of Baltimore steamboat companies creating long Rappahannock River steamboat docks. Courtesy of L.M. Carlton Jr.



Jackson Creek Wharf was built in 1885 by Tom and Mark Hewitt. The wharf extended across Jackson Creek channel over the sandbar off of Stove Point and ended facing Chesapeake Bay. The end of the pier was in deep enough water that steamboats could come and go. Jackson Creek Wharf was the only wharf in the county that had a draw over the channel that opened and closed so boats could come and go through the channel. Filed image

the river where the boat stopped,” he said. “The steamboat got there around 11:30 or 12 o’clock at night. We would all stand at the end of the dock waiting. When they would get off the boat, I can see the people now, screaming and crying, and hugging and kissing for joy. You know, there is nothing like a homecoming.”

The longest wharf

Morattico Wharf, also called Whealton’s Wharf, is considered to have been the longest steamboat pier on the Rappahannock. By the 1920s the steamboat had brought commerce to Morattico. Baltimore’s Lord Mott vegetable processing plant had established two local branches one at Morattico Wharf and another at West Urbanna Wharf.

The community also boasted a doctor’s office, country store, a small cafe, hotel, seafood processing plant next to the wharf and an oyster holding shed located near the end of the wharf. All this was fueled by the steamboat coming and going.

At some point, oyster shells from the wharf were thrown into the water. Today, the only physical reminder of the wharf are shell piles underwater where recreational fishermen troll along the edges for rockfish.

For a time, young boys would haul passengers’ baggage in small wagons going to and from the hotel. Newlywed couples used the steamboat for honeymoon trips where Morattico Hotel provided a night or two stay. The steamboat was also the fastest form of transportation at the time to reach a hospital.

On Monday morning if a man needed a suit cleaned and pressed, he could put it on a steamboat bound for a cleaners in Baltimore and it would arrive back on Thursday ready for church on Sunday.

The end

With the introduction of Virginia’s Bryd Road Act of 1932 that turned over the maintenance of secondary highways to the state, resulting in improved inland transportation, the steamboat era stopped and the commerce surrounding villages like Morattico, Sharps, Water View, and Bowlers dried up.

The popularity of automobiles and roads worked to the advantage of other communities such as Kilmarnock, White Stone, Tappahannock and Gloucester, all located on main thoroughfares.

The steamboat and life surrounding the wharves, though, have a special aura about it that makes the Rappahannock steamboat era a special place in time!



Burhan’s Steamboat Wharf at Locust Hill had a post office named Cooper. A pickle factory was also located on shore where local farmers sold cucumbers and were paid so much for each basket of 100 cucumbers. The rail car carried cans and freight from the end of the wharf to shore. The wharf was named after John S. Burhan of New Jersey who built the wharf in 1887. Courtesy of the late Jack Miller



The Morattico Steamboat Wharf is considered to have been the longest Rappahannock River steamboat wharf to exist. To learn more about Morattico’s long wharf visit the Morattico Waterfront Museum Saturdays noon-4 p.m. and Sundays 1-4 p.m. Courtesy of the Morattico Waterfront Museum



This early 20th century Middlesex County African-American schoolhouse served about 30 students from first grade to high school and was one of several neighborhood one-room schools in the county. (It is no longer standing.) Courtesy of the Middlesex County Museum



Undated photo of Merry Point Wharf on the Corrotoman River. Photo courtesy Steamboat Era Museum



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