

THE ADVOCATE

HISTORIC PORT ROYAL, INC



January 2023

HPR Board of Directors

Kerri Holland ~ President
Renee Parker ~ Vice President
Trish Parker ~ Secretary
David Duke ~ Treasurer
Carolyn Davis ~ Past President
Robert Giles
Kristi Street

Greetings from HPR President Kerri Holland

Happy New Year! As this is my first newsletter address, please allow me to introduce myself. My family hails from Ohio and Pennsylvania, steel and railroad country. But I grew up a Virginian and developed a keen appreciation for history pretty early. It helped that my grandfather took my sisters and me to visit the region's historic sites whenever he could. But I think my fate was sealed when he put a metal detector in my 11-year-old hands and I found an 1838 half-dime. My grandfather taught me that my find was so much more than an artifact. It held clues about the lives of those who made it, used it, coveted it, and discarded it. All of the thoughts, actions, practices of those past societies make up the foundation on which we as a people, live and prosper today. All that from a little piece of silver!

After graduating from University of Mary Washington, I hit the ground running. I traveled up and down the east coast and across the Mid Atlantic, delving into every archaeology project that I was assigned. In 2015 I landed a position with Fort A.P. Hill's Cultural Resources Program. To advance my understanding of Caroline County's history and archaeology, and to help support the Program's outreach efforts, I began volunteering with Historic Port Royal where I found my niche and an amazing circle of friends and mentors. I am honored to have the opportunity to give back to the organization, town, and community that took me right in. I hope that in the time that I am allotted, I can continue the amazing work of those before me.

Now let me introduce the rest of your 2023-2024 Board of Directors.

In accordance with HPR's By Laws, the past President continues to serve on the Board as ex officio. That position is held by **Carolyn "Cookie" Davis**, who most of you know or have grown to know over the years. She will also continue as Museum Coordinator, managing docents and special tours.

Renee Parker, our new Vice President, is no stranger to leadership. She served a little over 6 years in the Navy and continues working in the Defense sector. She and her husband live just across the river in King George. Together, they have 8 kids, 7 grandkids with an eighth on the way! Renee has always loved history, particularly WWI and Civil Rights eras. She is also on the King George Historical Society Board.

Trish Parker has become Secretary and continue her contributions to the Old Port School Program and as our resident White House China and prehistoric fossils specialist. Trish, a retired schoolteacher, and her photographer husband Joe Parker live in Caroline County. Trish is also Secretary for the Fredericksburg Insight Meditation Community, and enjoys swimming, reading, cooking, camping, and gardening.

David Duke, history-enthusiast and awesome father of 4 amazing kids has come aboard as Treasurer. He grew up in Florida but has made his home here in Port Royal. Dave enjoys playing golf and metal detecting. Long-time Treasurer and Port Royal resident **Bill Henderson** has graciously agreed to act as Treasury consultant and continue his work with HPR's buildings and grounds.

Bob Giles has been a faithful HPR supporter since he discovered Port Royal, bought property here and decided to build his home on the Rappahannock River. He has been active in numerous historical groups and we look forward to having his professional and knowledgeable insight.

Kristi Street is owner and operator of The Minnow Bucket Antiques right here in town. Kristi grew up in Stafford and lives in Colonial Beach with her husband Jason. They both love collecting antiques as well as buying and selling them.

While **Cleo Coleman** and **Bonnie Cannon** are stepping back from the Board, they will continue their valuable contributions to HPR. Cleo Coleman will continue as the captivating lead of the Old Port Royal School educational program, which she helped establish. Former Vice President Bonnie Cannon will remain our amazing and hard-working Specials Event coordinator.

Welcome to the new Board members and thank you all for your continued support of HPR!

HPR Awarded Grant - The Walton and Lacy Mahon Family Legacy Fund of the Community Foundation for the Murray House Restoration

Just before Christmas, HPR received a truly wonderful gift - a \$10,000 grant from Walton and Lacy Mahon Family Legacy Fund of the Community Foundation to assist with the continued restoration of the Murray House. The Mahon Family Legacy Fund was created by the family to honor Walton (Walt) and Lacy's love of their community and service. Walt (1929-2021) and Lacy (1931-2015) were lifetime members of Bowling Green Baptist Church where Walt served as Deacon. Walt was also a long-standing member of the Ruritan Club. Lacy taught Sunday school and served as Women's Missionary Union president. She also served as president for the Junior Woman's Club, as treasurer for the Caroline Historical Society, and was a charter member of the Caroline Garden Club. They raised their two children Laura and Bern in Bowling Green. Walt had a remarkable 42-year career with Union Bank and Trust (now Atlantic Union Bank), serving as President for 25 of those years. He contributed another 9 years to the bank's Board of Directors after his retirement.



the
community
foundation

Grants from the foundation support historic preservation, recreation, youth, and beautification in Bowling Green and Caroline County in perpetuity (<https://www.cfrrr.org/the-walton-and-lacy-mahon-family-legacy-fund/>).

May 2018



In 2010, The Museum of American History opened in the former Port Royal branch Union Bank building on Main Street (Route 301), next to the restored Old Port Royal School House. HPR leased the property from the bank for just \$1.00 a year. Then on July 4, 2016, at the 17th Annual July 4th Celebration sponsored by HPR, the Union Bank presented to HPR the deed to the Museum and Schoolhouse property. A few months later, Port Royal resident and HPR life member Jim Madison offered the 1740's Murray House to HPR for restoration as a living history museum. Over the next 3 years, The

Silver Companies donated a total of \$100,000 to restore structural integrity of the house and chimneys. The sum also provided for a new roof and siding. The last two years have, no doubt, proved challenging but we are working hard to get back on track. Last year, Rappahannock Electrical Coop donated materials and labor to get the Murray House on the power grid. Now, with the generous Mahon Family Legacy grant, HPR plans to focus on the building interior: lighting, insulation, sheetrock, trim, and painting.



Oct 2021

HPR Honors Caroline County Businessman Lorenzo W. Boxley

This February, in honor of African American Month, the Museum will unveil a new portrait commemorating Caroline County businessman Lorenzo Winfield Boxley (1931-2011). Boxley grew up in the schools of Caroline County and graduated from Virginia State University. He served in the US Army from 1952 to 1954 and was a veteran of the Korean War. While serving he was Company Commander of 581st Parts Company. He was honorably discharged as 1st Lt. of the Quartermaster Corps. After his military service, he returned home, married his wife Thelma and started a family. Most notably, Boxley was a successful businessman and actively served in his community. He was founding owner and president of the L. W. Boxley Trucking Company for 27 years. He served as principal of Lawson Elementary School in King and Queen County. He also served on the Board of Supervisors for Caroline County for 12 years. He was an active member of St. John Baptist Church, Woodford, VA, where, upon his death, he was interred.



Boxley's portrait was commissioned by Herb Collins. It will be on display at the Port Royal Museum during the month of February. It is a valuable addition to the Port Royal Portrait Gallery collection, which contains portraits of citizens important to the history of Port Royal and Caroline County. The gallery is curated at Port Royal's Town Hall on King Street and can be viewed during our quarterly meetings and by request.

New White House China Has Arrived and will be on display in the Museum's White House China Room upon reopening on **Saturday, February 18th**. Herb Collins could not miss the opportunity to add this tea cup and saucer of the Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) pattern, and this plate of the Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893) pattern that was reordered in 1908 *during* the Roosevelt administration.

The Roosevelt teacup and saucer were produced by Wedgwood. The pattern was selected from a collection presented by the company. It is one of three White House china patterns that were patented. The fine gold arcs and florets around the rim reflect a change in aesthetics, from elaborate Victorian styles to the more orderly style of Classicism. The Great Seal is a similar version of the seal we see today. Yet, above the eagle's head there is a single blue orb containing 13 gold stars. In the modern Great Seal, there is an arc of white orbs above the eagle. Wedgwood produced this pattern without the Great Seal for public purchase.



The Harrison plate is trimmed with corn husks and goldenrod to represent Harrison's Midwest roots. There are 44 gold stars in the dark blue band, representing the 44 United States at that time. In the center is a Lincoln-style eagle perched on a Union shield. In one talon, the eagle is clutching an olive branch, the symbol of our nation's commitment to peace. The other talon holds 13 arrows representing the readiness for war. The 13 stars and stripes on the Union shield, and 13 arrows in the eagle's grasp represent the 13 American colonies. On either side of the shield, a banner reads *E Pluribus Unum*, Out of Many, One, the motto of the U.S. Based on the maker's mark on the back, we can surmise that this plate is from the 1908 reprint of the Harrison pattern, issued during the Roosevelt presidency.

Thank you, Herb Collins, for your generosity and bestowing your passion for political history on us all!



A Visit to Historic Berkley Plantation by Carolyn Davis

In 1619, after a stormy voyage across the Atlantic, the Good Ship Margaret landed on the James River at Berkeley with 36 men aboard. In accordance with the instructions given in their charter, these settlers immediately observed the first Thanksgiving in the New World. This event has been commemorated in a painting by Sidney King, which can be seen at the Museum of American History at Port Royal. This painting and another King painting hanging in the Museum, "*The Burning of Berkeley Plantation, 1622*", inspired me to make a trip to see this site. It was a rich and rewarding experience.

The 17th-century settlement was destroyed by fire and abandoned. The 18th-century Berkley Plantation was built in 1726 and is the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence and three times governor of Virginia. The estate is also the birthplace of William Henry Harrison, 9th president of the United States, and ancestral home of his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, 23rd president. During the Civil War Union troops occupied the plantation and it is reported that the army bugle call *Taps* was played for the first time. Today the Georgian mansion is surrounded by terraced boxwood gardens. There are also vegetable gardens, a cook house, gift shop, auditorium, trails to the river, a family cemetery, and two reconstructed slave houses that were built for the 2019 film *Harriet*. The tour was led by costumed docent who captivated us with his knowledge and wit.

At the tour conclusion we were invited to visit the museum located in the basement of the mansion. This was the highlight of our trip. There were Sidney King signatures on nearly every painting on the walls! Some I had seen before, some were new to me. There were other artifact and exhibits, but the King collection took me by surprise! These rooms were like a salute to Sidney King. I am so proud to have known and taken lessons from this distinguished painter. If you have the chance, you must visit Berkley Plantation and its Sidney King collection.



Tour reservations can be made online (<http://www.berkeleyplantation.com>) and it is just a 1.5-hour trip from Port Royal or 30-minutes from Williamsburg.



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City & Zip: _____
 Phone: () _____
 To join, please complete this form and mail it with your check to:
Historic Port Royal, Inc.
P.O. Box 233 Port Royal, VA 22535
(804) 370-5285
www.HistoricPortRoyal.com

Type of Membership
please check one
 Individual (1 year / \$25)
 Family (1 year / \$45)
 Lifetime (Individual or Family) \$300
 Corporate (\$500)
 Additional Donation of \$ _____

YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL HELP US RESTORE ONE OF VIRGINIA'S OLDEST & MOST BEAUTIFUL PORT COMMUNITIES!

HISTORIC PORT ROYAL, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

HPR WINTER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. - Winter Meeting

Caroline County Historical Society has invited members of HPR to a joint quarterly meeting on **Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. in the Caroline Community Services Center** located at 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514. CHS will be holding elections of their officers. HPR will be introducing ours. Caroline County Cemetery Group will discuss their ongoing project at the Oliver Cemetery, an historic African American cemetery located on the grounds of St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church, Ladysmith, VA. Please come to meet the new Board members and find out how you might help the Cemetery Group.

Saturday, February 18 - Museum Reopening

The Port Royal Museum will be reopening on **Saturday, February 18**. Thereafter, the Museum will be open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Watch your email and HPR's Facebook for event and special announcements.

Saturday, May 13 - Spring Living History

History interpreters, guest speakers, refreshments. Stay tuned for more details.

July 4 - HPR 21st Independence Day Celebration

With guest speaker James Madison, colonial puppet shows, carriage rides, refreshments. More information to come.

Historic Port Royal, Inc

P.O. Box 233

Port Royal, VA 22535



Please Note: The printed date on your address label will tell you when your HPR membership expires!

HPR WINTER QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE A JOINT MEETING WITH CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE CAROLINE COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 17202 RICHMOND TURNPIKE, MILFORD, VA