Mathews County Historical Society, Inc.

Spring 2019 Newsletter

P.O. Box 855 | Mathews, VA 23109-0855
mathewscountyhistoricalsociety.org

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE PAST

Historical Society Board

Mathews County Historical Society recently held its annual meeting at Kingston Parish House, Mathews. Directors and officers who were elected are, seated, treasurer Hunt Thompson, secretary Reed Lawson, Linda Fleming, Tom Karow; standing from left, Sandy Warhol, Al DeWitt, John Caramia, vice president Vicki Carter, president Bobbi Hatton, Ray Stubblebine. Absent when the photo was taken was Trish Reed. Mathews County Historical Society was established in 1964 and maintains its headquarters at the Tompkins Cottage Museum on Brickbat Road.

Thomas James Store

The Thomas James Store is getting a new floor! A wooden floor is being built atop the cement floors of the east and west wings. The work has begun and will be completed by the grand opening event, Music on Maple Ave., to be held the evening of May 3rd. M & J Builders, LLC are the contractors selected to improve the existing situation of unsafe conditions in those areas of the store. The new floor will be ADA compliant.

President's Message

Bobbi Hatton

Is spring finally arriving in Mathews County? We certainly hope so, as we have big plans for the next several months.

And it's finally time for the Farmer's Market to open which means it's finally time for Tompkins Cottage and Thomas James Store to open! From April 6th through October 26th both the Cottage and the Store will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. The Cottage looks terrific with Becky Barnhart working her curatorial magic - thank you, Becky! Thomas James Store will soon have a new floor - and will be the site of our new event, Music on Maple!!!

We are hosting our new event in partnership with the Visitor's Center on Friday, May 3rd from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are available at the Visitor's Center for $25.00 - two beers, a koozie, and great music from Tara Mills Music, Jimmy Stelling and VW Old Time await. Shore Bites Food Truck will be nearby. What a great way to kick off May Faire Weekend! Finally a great way to kick off Spring! We need help for both Music on Maple and for May Faire—so call me at 502-558-9777 or email bobbihatton@gmail.com. PLEASE!

We are also fielding a team for Clean Up Mathews on Saturday April 27th from 8 a.m.-noon. If you are interested in helping us make our home look ready for the summer season, please let us know at 502-558-9777 or email bobbihatton@gmail.com. We are in the process of adopting a high-way through VDOT to keep Mathews looking great.

Put June 15th on your calendars also, as we host a Historic Church Tour! Reed Lawson and her committee have been working through the winter to make this an amazing event - thank you, Reed! I am confident the weather will be perfect, the boxed lunches available delicious, and the tour just perfect.

We will again be participating in Gwynn's Island Festival on June 29th-and we could really use some help at our booth! We're asking folks for a two hour shift helping to sell our publications and informing visitors about the Historical Society. Please help!!!! You may contact me at 502-558-9777 or email bobbihatton@gmail.com.

Although it's hard to imagine we are thinking about Summer Solstice while the weather is still chilly, but we are!!! We all look forward to seeing so many of our members at this event.

Take deep breaths, enjoy the sunshine as we finally end winter packing! And come visit the Cottage and the Store when you shop at the Farmer's Market!!!

2019
MCHS BOARD

Bobbi Hatton, *President*
Vicki Carter, *Vice President*
Reed Lawson, *Secretary*
Hunt Thompson, *Treasurer*
John Caramia
Al DeWitt
Linda Fleming
Tom Karow
Trish Reed
Ray Stubblebine
Sandy Warhol

Standing Committees

Tom Karow, *Archaeology & Education*
Ray Stubblebine, *Buildings & Grounds*
Becky Barnhardt, *Market Days*
TBD, *Membership*
Sandy Warhol, *Nominating*
TBD, *Programs*
Trish Reed, *Publications*
Trish Reed, *Publicity*

Ad Hoc Committees

Steve Wilson, *Editorial Board*
Reed Lawson, *Historic House/Church Tour*
Reed Lawson, *Joint Archival*
Kathy Yent, *Ornaments*
Vicki Carter, *Social*

Positions

Reed Lawson, *Archivist*
Becky Barnhardt, *Curator*
Linda Fleming, *Docent Coordinator*
Reed Lawson & Becky Barnhardt, *Newsletter*
Bobbi Hatton, *Registered Agent*
Becky Barnhardt, *Webmaster*

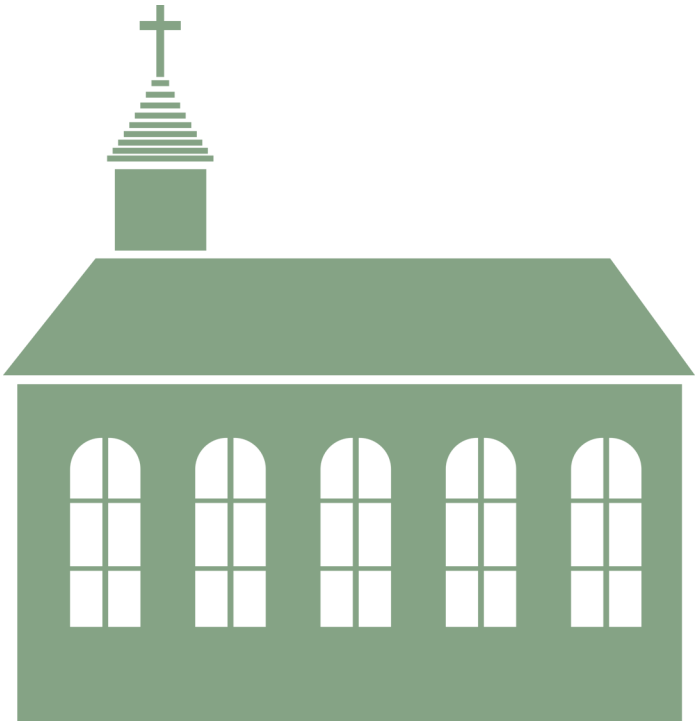
MCHS Lecture—Harriet Tubman: Conductor, Spy, 'General'

Laurie King, Assistant Conservator USS Monitor Project of the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, spoke on Harriet Tubman on Feb. 2nd at Kingston Parish House. Tubman is most commonly known for her actions as a conductor in the Underground Railway, repeatedly crossing into slave territory to lead enslaved friends and families to freedom. The other parts of her life involve her work as an abolitionist, humanitarian, nurse, scout, spy and fighter for freedom and justice. Pictured above are, from left, Cleo Hayes, Bobbi Hatton, Hunter Owens, Gaylen Davis and Ms. King. Hunter and Asher Raub are two student members of the historical society and have donated to several of its designated funds.

Tompkins Cottage Museum—Docent Training and New Displays

Tompkins Cottage Museum in Mathews opened for the season Saturday, April 6th with fresh displays and Mathews County Historical Society docents on hand to provide information about the c. 1820 building. Pictured while undergoing training are, from left, Docent Coordinator Linda Fleming, Trish Reed, Vicki Carter, Josie Thorpe, Reed Lawson and Vicki Pritchett. The museum is open on Saturdays from 10 am until 1 pm from April through October.

Mathews Historic Church Tour
Saturday, June 15th
10 A.M.—4 P.M.
Rain or shine



Six churches in Mathews County will be open for the Mathews County Historical Society's Historic Church Tour. The event showcases the architecture, history and culture of Mathews County through one of its richest and historical resources—our churches.

Traditionally, MCHS has featured local residences in its historic tours. However, in 2015 nine historic churches were invited to participate with most favorable comments received. This year the society will again highlight more of the historic churches in the county.

Tickets will be available for purchase locally beginning May 1st at Flowers from the Heart and the Mathews County Visitor and Information Center.

Opportunities to serve as ticket takers/greeters at the churches are available. To sign up for a shift, please contact Trish Reed at 703.498.9636 or treed7311@gmail.com.

TICKETS
$12 in advance, or $15 the day of the tour
*Children **under 12 are FREE***

BOXED LUNCHES
$12 ordered in advance only
(Lunches prepared by Nelda Gibbs)
Available 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Westville Christian Fellowship Hall.

Menu
Chicken Salad on Lettuce *or* Ham & Cheese Croissant
Broccoli Salad · Fruit Salad
Blueberry Pound Cake
Water or Iced Tea

TOUR INFO
Reed Lawson
804.725.3375
reed.lawson8880@gmail.com

Tour central is Westville Christian Church, 261 Main St.

Mathews Historic Church Tour
Featured Churches

Antioch Baptist Church, Est. 1869
110 Antioch Rd., Susan

Grace-Providence UMC Church, Est. 1896
84 Grace St., Mobjack

Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Est. 1874
2011 Old Ferry Rd., Gwynn

Macedonia Baptist Church, Est. 1886
524 East River Rd., Foster

Westville Baptist Church, Est. 1874
105 Main St., Mathews

Westville Christian Church, Est. 1858
261 Main St., Mathews

Volunteers Needed!

Music on Maple/May Faire
Bobbi Hatton
502-558-9777
bobbihatton@gmail.com

Church Tour
Trish Reed
703-498-9636
treed7311@gmail.com

Gwynn's Island Festival
Bobbi Hatton
502-558-9777
bobbihatton@gmail.com

Tompkins Cottage Museum Docents
Linda Fleming
267-614-5570
linda_fleming51@hotmail.com

Membership Chair
Bobbi Hatton
502-558-9777
bobbihatton@gmail.com

Program Chair
Bobbi Hatton
502-558-9777
bobbihatton@gmail.com

Sponsored by Abbitt Realty, Chesapeake Bank, Davenport and Company LLC, East River Construction, and Mathews County Chamber of Commerce.

Benefiting: Mathews County Historical Society and Mathews County Visitor and Information Center.

Summer Solstice Party

MCHS MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL GATHERING

Saturday, June 22nd | 12:30 p.m.
Birdwood home of Dick Waddell
1016 New Point Comfort Hwy.

Please bring a savory or sweet dish to share for a brunch on *Birdwood's* beautiful waterfront lawn. Bring a lawn chair too!

RSVP by Monday, June 17th
Vicki Carter
bayconstruction@hughes.net or 804.695.4591

Mathews County Historical Society Membership Application

A friendly reminder - Our membership dues are renewable January 1st of each year!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

I am interested in the following membership:
_____ Individual, $35 per year
_____ Couple/Family, $50 per year
_____ Active Duty Military, $15 per year
_____ Student (under 18), FREE
_____ Lifetime Membership, $500

I would like to make a gift to the preservation, collection & interpretation of Mathews County history:
_____ Friend of MCHS, $100
_____ Benefactor of MCHS, $250
_____ Lifetime Member of MCHS, $500
_____ Historian of MCHS, $1000

I would like to make a contribution to one of the following designated funds:
$ _____ Mathews Archives Fund
$ _____ Archaeology Fund
$ _____ New Point Comfort Lighthouse Preservation Fund
$ _____ Fort Nonsense Fund
$ _____ Thomas James Store Fund
$ _____ Publications Fund

$ _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Thank you for your interest and support of the Mathews County Historical Society. Please make check payable to MCHS and submit along with this application to: Membership Chair | Mathews County Historical Society, Inc. | P. O. Box 855 | Mathews, VA 23109

May Faire festival a family-friendly event sponsored by the Mathews Historical Museum, will be held on Saturday, May 4th, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the County's Historic Court Green. The event has been officially named Mathews' Heritage Event! This year will be focusing on recognizing the military and our veterans. There will be a vendors, food trucks, live music and festival events!

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2019 Mathews County Museum Calendar

Gwynn's Island Museum
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, April – October
1 p.m.-5p.m.

Mathews Maritime Museum
Fridays & Saturdays, April – October
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thomas James Store
Saturdays, April – October | 10 a.m.-1p.m.

Tompkins Cottage Museum
Saturdays, April – October | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Mathews Market Days
September 6th & 7th | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 14th | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

2019 Mathews County Events Calendar

May Faire
Saturday, May 4th | 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Gwynn's Island Festival
Saturday, June 29th | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mathews Market Days
September 6th & 7th | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Community Christmas Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 1st | 5 p.m.

Christmas Farmers Market
Saturday, December 14th | 9 am.-1 p.m.

Mathews Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 14th | 1 p.m.