

Maryland begins here!

the finer points

A newsletter from the Friends of the
St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums

SUMMER 2012

The Friends support historical interpretation, educational programs and special needs of the sites managed by the Museum Division of St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks: St. Clement's Island Museum, the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park, the Drayden African-American Schoolhouse, and the U-1105 Black Panther German submarine shipwreck preserve. A non-profit organization, the Friends sponsor special events, assist with acquisitions and publish this newsletter to broaden understanding of and interest in these important historic sites.

Inside: Volunteer Appreciation, Carol Goes to the Big Easy, Friends News and more!

A Granddaughter's Journey *Lighthouse Keeper's Granddaughter returns to Piney Point*

By April Havens

My genealogical mind was bubbling over with anticipation of the arrival of a relative of Lighthouse Keeper Loch Humphreys (also spelled Lock).

In early April, Elizabeth Shire had contacted me stating that she was the granddaughter of light keeper Loch Humphreys, and asked if the museum had any information or photos of him. He'd been the Piney Point Lighthouse Keeper from 1911 to 1919. I excitedly told her that we had some general information and a photo of him with two children on our exhibit panel. I asked if she had any photos or information she would be willing to share. She said she did and agreed to meet in May.

Lighthouse keeping was often a family endeavor and Elizabeth had decided it was time to visit the place of her grandfather's and father's past. On May 3, she arrived at Piney Point full of excitement. Our first order of business was to share information. I provided Elizabeth with copies of Federal Census data for 1910, 1920 and 1930. The 1910 census listed Lock W. Humphreys as a Light Keeper for Government Services

residing in the 1st District of Calvert County, MD with his family.

When Lock was appointed as the Piney Point Lighthouse Keeper in 1911, he moved his family into the keeper's quarters. The family consisted of wife Ellen, 12-year-old daughter Rosalie, 9-year-old son Marion, and 11-month-old daughter Leone. Elizabeth



then told me that her father, Loch Weems Humphreys Jr. had been born in the keeper's quarters!

The 1920 census listed 45-year-old Lock W. Humphreys as a millwright for a grain elevator company, residing in Baltimore City with his wife Ellen, daughter Leone and son Lock W. Jr. This was certainly news to

See Journey, page 3

Left to Right: Elizabeth Murray, Loch Jr., Loch Sr., Nellie (Loch Sr.'s wife) and an unknown woman, possibly an aunt. Photo provided by Elizabeth Shire.

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Finer Points
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St. Clement's Island and Piney
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Our Wish for You This Summer

By Sheila Gibbons Hiebert, President

Step back in time at the St. Clement's Island Museum, where you can understand the drama of the

March day when settlers arrived on the Island to found the Maryland colony. Be sure to take in the Potomac's

Extraordinary maritime history exhibits at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, Retelling the amazing stories of watermen, sailors and seafarers.

Summer comes just once a year. Be sure to make the most of yours by visiting the museums you so generously support!

A Poem for Maryland Day

St. Mary's resident offers one of her own



St. Mary's County resident Janis Russello is a poet. Inspiration can strike at any time, she says. If she's driving, she'll pull over and write. Or she'll get up in the middle of the night to compose.

On Maryland Day March 25, Janis recited one of her poems to those gathered at the St. Clement's Island Museum. "St. Mary's" came to her several years ago while driving home from Virginia on Route 234 near Allen's Fresh. She was almost to her Mechanicsville home, but pulled over at Stone's Store and wrote it, "on the back of an envelope," she recalls, adding, "I carry pen and paper with me now." Janis lives across the street from the home in which she was born and raised, in which her mother still resides. "I just think there's no place like St. Mary's anywhere in the world," she says. Here's her tribute.

St. Mary's by Janis Russello

The Mother of Maryland

The Ark and the Dove-

The Chesapeake shimmers

Eagles soar high above.

The Patuxent, the Potomac,

Wycomico shores.

Spinners and bobbers-

Hand-tied fishing lures.

Tobacco blooms white

Rich, low-lying fields-

Amish wagons to market

To peddle their yields.

Summer brings crabs

Oysters come fall-

Horse-shoes, drag racing.

And good ol' softball.

The key to my heart,

She, alone, holds-

St. Mary's, St. Mary's!

Your daughter's come home!

An Apology to Our Friends...

We regret that we omitted the names of Marilyn and Rene Grace, Carolyn Shreeve and April Havens from the 2011 Museum Division Annual Report, Partners for Preservation list on page 7. Our volunteers are our family away from home and mean the world to us personally and professionally. Debra and the editing staff of the annual report sincerely apologize for the omission of their names.

Journey

Continued from page 1

Elizabeth and she wondered why they had chosen to move away from the southern counties of Maryland.

By 1930, Lock W. Humphreys was listed as a carpenter for a general contractor. His family still consisted of wife Ellen, daughter Leone and son Lock W. Jr., all residing in Ward 26 of Baltimore City.

Elizabeth shared several photos of her grandfather. Some were of Lock as a young man, some with his sons and one of Elizabeth and her grandfather. She had a photo of Lock and his wife Ellen celebrating what appears to be a 50th wedding anniversary. When Elizabeth asked how I knew it was an anniversary photo, I chuckled. I magnified the photo and showed her the smaller photo and wedding bell atop the cake. The most exciting photo, however, was one of the Humphreys family visiting Piney Point many years later. It shows Elizabeth's parents, her grandfather and grandmother and, she believes, an aunt standing in front of the keeper's quarters (pictured on cover).

I asked Elizabeth if she would like to see her grandfather in his Lighthouse Service uniform. We went into the exhibit gallery and Elizabeth was all smiles as I showed her the photo of Lock Weems Humphreys. I then took Elizabeth to the keeper's quarters and lighthouse tower. She was amazed that her grandfather had lived and worked in such unique surroundings.

Often a family endeavor becomes much more, Elizabeth and I will stay in touch as we learn more about Lock Weems Humphreys, Keeper of the Piney Point Light.

A Letter From Debra

Dear Friends,

This spring we saw the completion of two of our grant projects. One of our large grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority was awarded in 2007 to assist with the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park enhancements. The project supported part of the construction of new parking areas and walkways, and included the Dory Boat exhibit shelter and signage for the site. The final part of the project included 4 new interpretive panels covering the history of the Navy Workshop building; the Museum Building and Stuart Petroleum, the Dory Boat and an environmental panel explaining the rain garden and bio-retention pond. An orientation kiosk and several signs with the site map will assist visitors as they move around the property.

The second grant completed was from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium for a set of interpretive panels explaining the stories of the original Blackistone Lighthouse and the new replica of the Blackistone Lighthouse. The panels will be installed on the island this summer. It is estimated that approximately 80% of the visitors to the Island arrive on privately owned boats when there are no volunteers or staff on hand to explain the site's history. The panels, to be added to the existing interpretive panels, will help interested visitors understand the Island's remarkable history.

Each of the interpretive panels is designed according to a template we use to make sure there is a branding that clearly and consistently identifies the Museum Division. The story lines have to be researched, proofed for accuracy, written and professionally edited. Graphics have to be identified, copied and changed to a digital format, and copyrights secured. Once everything is written and collected, the material has to be laid out and a design for the sign finalized, drafted and edited. It is a time-consuming project that requires multiple skills. This year we were fortunate to have intern Kate Goggin helping with the St. Clement's Island signs and former Historic Site Coordinator Lydia Wood working on both sets of signs. You can read about Kate's work with us on Page 6.

It is always a good feeling to have projects completed and products of quality that enhance the credibility of the Museum Division. I heartily thank Kate and Lydia as well as all the partners that assisted with the research and the graphics and the financing of the signs.

Sincerely,



Find the St. Mary's County Museum Division on Facebook!



Thank you... Volunteers!

*We appreciate your time,
service and dedication to
our museums!*



1. Volunteers and government officials who attended the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in April: (l to r) George Brstilo, Jane Turner, Mary Hyatt, Marilyn Grace, Commissioner Cindy Jones, Duff Bailey, Eileen Amole, Delegate Johnny Wood, Shirley Leyland, Mary Jane Palmby and Grace Hutchinson. Louanne and Bo Bailey, who could not attend, received the President's Award for their many years of service and support.

2. Junior volunteers recognized were Virginia Barbour, Jessica and Louie Sequenzia seen here with Commissioner Jones and Delegate Wood.

3. Eileen Amole (right), Volunteer of the Year at the St. Clement's Island Museum, with site supervisor Christina Barbour and volunteer coordinator Jean Hoffman.



4. Marilyn Grace (right), Volunteer of the Year at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, with site supervisor April Havens and volunteer coordinator Bettie Broadhurst.

5. Spearheading the volunteer corps are volunteer coordinators Jean Hoffman (far left) and Bettie Broadhurst (far right) along with site supervisors Christina Barbour and April Havens.

6. St. Clement's Island Museum volunteer Grace Hutchinson has given us more than 3000 hours.

All photos by Kim Cullins



Carol Goes to the Big Easy

By Carol Cribbs, Museum Stores Manager

The Museum Store Association (MSA) is an invaluable informational resource for museum store professionals. Each year, MSA has a national convention and expo along with regional meetings. It's a wonderful opportunity to network with other museum professionals and share information and ideas. This year the national meeting was held in New Orleans. Being a Cajun at heart, I decided this was for me! So, with the blessing of the Friends, off I went in April 2012. Since I don't like to fly, my husband Andy and I decided to take our Airstream trailer, my Mom and Aggie the dog on this adventure.

While I was attending sessions at the convention center, Andy and Mom were out experiencing the unique flavor of New Orleans. We all attended an evening reception at the WWII Museum where we visited the recently dedicated "Made in the USA" store which followed a helpful seminar about procuring and pricing USA-made goods. The expo includes worldwide vendors who deal specifically with museum stores and understand the mission-related issues that we must contend with. I returned from this trip with renewed enthusiasm along with many new products (please visit the Crab Claw at the St. Clement's Island



Museum and Lighthouse Lens at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum) and new marketing ideas..

Prior to the meeting, a call went out from the Mid-Atlantic MSA Chapter for a location to host the fall regional meeting. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter includes museums from Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Several years ago, we hosted this event at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, so I asked Debra if she was willing for us to host the fall meeting at the St. Clement's Island Museum. Being a long-time supporter of the MSA, she agreed. During the chapter meeting in New Orleans, I volunteered our site to host and everyone is thrilled to be able to come back to Southern Maryland for stuffed ham and crabcakes!

Barbour Receives Manager of the Year Award

St. Mary's County Government annually acknowledges employees for their contributions and outstanding service. This year, in the category of Manager of the Year, the winner was Christina Barbour, site supervisor at the St. Clement's Island Museum. She was nominated by Museum Division Manager Debra Pence.

Chris has been working for the Museum Division since October 1999. She studied archaeology and historic preservation at the University of

Maryland, College Park. Prior to joining the Museum Division, she worked as a contract archaeologist for the Maryland Historical Trust and as a museum teacher at Historic St. Mary's City.

"I feel fortunate to have found a niche in a field of work I enjoy," she says. "I have a great supervisor and work with great staff and volunteers."



Left to right: Commissioners Cindy Jones and Dan Morris, Christina Barbour, Commissioners Larry Jarboe, Todd Morgan and Francis Jack Russell. Photo provided by St. Mary's County Public Information Office.

SCIM Intern Sharpens Skills, Goes for Credential

By Sheila Gibbons Hiebert

Kate Goggin had 15 years of experience working in communications for public and private organizations, much of it at the Department of the Interior in public relations and community outreach. She had great assignments everywhere. But she wanted to try something new.

She says she lucked out when she landed an internship at the St. Clement's Island Museum, where she was mentored by Debra Pence as she pursued the Certified Interpretive Planner credential offered by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). Kate had a tight timeframe for proposing and completing an interpretive media project required for obtaining the credential. Kate had friends in Colton's Point and was familiar with the museum. She contacted Debra, who told her about several projects, including an outstanding mini-grant to create interpretive signage explaining the histories of the original Blackistone Lighthouse on St. Clement's Island and the replica lighthouse built in 2008. (More on this in Debra's letter on page 3.)

"We decided her goals and our project were a good match," Debra said. The panels Kate subsequently

worked on, to be installed on the island this summer, will be an important interpretive asset, "since a majority of the time there isn't anyone on site to explain to visitors the difference in the two structures," Debra added.



want to do – public affairs in the woods," Kate recalled. "Fortunately, a colleague from the National Park Service in the adjacent campsite said, 'Then have you have thought about interpretation?' That was the spark that sent me on a two-year journey towards interpretation" – and into the rigorous NAI program.

Kate says she's grateful for the opportunity she had at the St. Clement's Island Museum. "Debra really helped me see how this work could build upon my previous communications career and take it in a new direction. Her encouragement prompted me to propose a large-scale interpretive project for my agency – I'm working on that now!"

UP AND COMING . . .

Set a course for these exciting events

Visit www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums or call 301-769-2222 for more information on these events.

August 4 – Children's Day

Bring the kids and grandkids to the St. Clement's Island Museum from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a fun program of games, crafts, demonstrations, and more. Free t-shirts for the first 100 kids! Meet our community heroes from the fire department, rescue squad, sheriff's office and hospital! Food available for 50 cents each. Free water taxi rides for kids! Free museum admission!

August 5 – National Lighthouse Day

On August 7, 1789, Congress first approved an Act for the establishment and support of lighthouses. Two hundred years later, Congress made August 7 the official day for celebrating the history and mission of lighthouses across America. Na-

tional Lighthouse Day will be observed locally on Sunday, August 5. All are invited to visit and tour the inside of the reconstructed Blackistone Lighthouse on St. Clement's Island with water taxi tours starting at 10 a.m. The Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park will open the Keeper's Quarters building for a rare glimpse inside. Local artists will occupy each room with art for sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

September 14 – Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser

Mark your calendar now for this hilarious and unrehearsed interactive murder mystery, "Murder by Merlot," taking place at Olde Breton Inn, in Leonardtown, MD from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This Friends fundraiser features live and silent auctions, dinner buffet, cash bar and audience participation

for those accepting parts as members of a whodunit set at an imaginary international wine competition. Tickets are \$65 for Friends members, \$70 for the general public, and go on sale August 1. Call the St. Clement's Island Museum at 301-769-2222 for tickets and info.

October 6 & 7 – Blessing of the Fleet

Presented by the 7th District Optimist Club, this two-day, fun-filled event takes place on the grounds of the St. Clement's Island Museum. Enjoy live entertainment, fireworks, parade, delicious food, children's activities, crafters, boat rides to St. Clement's Island with Blackistone Lighthouse tours, and more! Go to www.blessingofthefleet.md.com for a complete schedule of events each day.

Member News

Welcome Aboard, New Members!

Senior

Belinda Lindsay, Great Mills, MD
Linda Piersawl, Chesapeake, VA

Individual

Toni Walker, Upper Marlboro, MD

Family

Raymond Johnson, Jr., Potomac, MD
Laura Nielsen, Baltimore, MD

Membership Upgrades

Heritage: Russell and Wanda Maske, Hyattsville, MD

Patron: Sam Brown, Avenue, MD

FRIENDS NEWS AND THANK YOUS

Chesapeake Bay Running Club

The Chesapeake Bay Running Club (CBRC) presented the 8th Annual Lower Potomac River Marathon through the scenic St. George Island and Piney Point areas of St. Mary's County in March. Part of the 26.2 mile route winds through the Piney Point Lighthouse campus and is supported by Museum Division staff and lighthouse volunteers. The CBRC has once again generously donated proceeds from the race to The Friends to support preservation efforts of the Piney Point Lighthouse. The Friends would like to thank the CBRC for the \$3,200 donation!

St. Mary's County Garden Club

On May 5, the St. Mary's County Garden Club participated in the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tour and included the St. Clement's Island Museum with water taxi tours to St. Clement's Island. The Friends thank the St. Mary's County Garden Club for their generous \$200 donation.

Piney Point Lighthouse Waterfront Celebration

Every donation is always so appreciated. Many thanks to Bruster's Real Ice Cream Store of Hollywood, MD, for donating flavored ice treats for the winners of the student art show!

Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival

The Friends' major fundraiser, the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, experienced a blazing, record sell-out of tickets in one week! We'd like to thank the following sponsors for hanging their hat on this highly successful event. **GOLD SPONSORS:** Bozick Distributors/Heineken, Lenny's Restaurant/Sleep Inn of California, MD, Café des Artistes, Planned Power Systems of Washington, D.C., JASINT Consulting and Technologies, LLC of Glen Burnie, MD, and Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival. **SILVER SPONSORS:** Community Bank of Tri-County, Law Office of A. Shane Mattingly, W. M. Davis, Inc. General Contractors, Brothers' Johnson Event Restrooms, TownePlace Suites of Lexington Park, Zahniser's Yachting Center, Whitten Laser Eye Center of Charlotte Hall, and Chesapeake Financial Advisors of Towson, MD. We appreciate the generous cash and in-kind donations that help make this event happen!



Bettie Broadhurst enjoys a giggle with little visitors at the student art show in the keeper's quarters during the Piney Point Lighthouse Waterfront Celebration in May. Photo by Kim Cullins.

Spotlight: BETTIE BROADHURST

Bettie and her husband, Tom, have been members of the Friends for years. As a Navy family, they lived in and out of St. Mary's County several times thanks to Tom's Navy career at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Bettie, the proud mother of two grown children, retired from several professional pursuits, including elementary school teacher and relocation counselor at NAS Pax River.

She was invited a few years ago by former Piney Point Lighthouse Volunteer Coordinator Shirley Leyland to volunteer. Bettie jumped in with both feet. When Shirley knew that she would be moving away, she wanted to leave the volunteer corps with an able and enthusiastic leader, so she asked Bettie. As Bettie says, "I couldn't say no to Shirley," so she jumped in even further.

Betty loves the Piney Point Lighthouse. She explained that when you retire, you really need to find your niche. Bettie has volunteered with other causes and organizations but sticks with the Piney Point Lighthouse because it's her passion. "I love April and enjoy working at the lighthouse with the other volunteers and staff," she says. "I enjoy meeting people and asking them - what brought you to Piney Point?" One of her favorite volunteer moments was the day a 70s-something gentleman, traveling in his pick-up with a camper top, stopped at the Piney Point Lighthouse for a tour. She had asked him what brought him to Piney Point. He said he was traveling across the country to see every lighthouse he could. He shared a myriad of stories, as did she, making it a visit she says she will always remember.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

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Home Phone: _____

__MC __Visa Card #: _____ Expires _____

Make checks payable to Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums. Your membership is tax deductible.

__New Member __Gift Membership

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Family (\$60)

Heritage (\$125)

Patron (\$250)

Benefactor (\$500)

Corporate Patron (\$250)

Corporate Benefactor (\$500)



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*Stephen and Renee Bisciotti
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