



First Phase of Replacing German Lap Siding

Photos by Carol Khalili, November 2013

Year after year, the west-facing wall of the One-Room Schoolhouse, nearest to the Church, bakes in the hot afternoon sun. As a result, the German lap wooden siding had buckled and deteriorated. This also created a serious chance of water working its way under the siding and causing even more damage.

A year ago, the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse contracted for the old siding to be removed and replaced. The workmen also repaired all of the corners of the schoolhouse with the goal of enabling the other sides of the building to last for many more years.

We plan on replacing the rest of the siding as time and funding permit.

At right: Close-up photo of preparation for corner repair to help protect the remaining old siding.



2014 Celebration Luncheon Was May 28

by Fran Armstrong; Photos by Dr. Charlie Price, Joe and Ruth Showalter's son-in-law

On May 28, 2014, the One-Room School Committee of the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association and the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse held its annual Celebration Luncheon in the Parish Hall of Christ Church.

Honor Roll Instituted

This year, an Honor Roll was created as a special tribute to the people who envisioned the restoration of a one-room schoolhouse and developed the program that we use today. (See *Feature Story centerfold on pages 4-5.*)

Thank You Volunteers!

We would like to thank all the dedicated people who have given so generously of their time and talents during both Spring and Fall sessions. YOU made the schoolhouse experience come alive for our 4th graders. We

repeatedly hear how much the students love this field trip!

Our Teachers

This year's teachers were Casey Duehrssen, Pam Enrico, Chloe Ewalt, Jody Longhill, and Carol Wagner. Our 'Farm Life or 'Taste of the Times' piece was taught by Fran Armstrong, Jack Fringer, Carol Khalili, and Pam Mackall.

Our Trail Guides

Our trail guides were Bruce Armstrong, Kathy Ellwood, Ray Enrico, Barbara Fringer (*Trail Guide Coordinator*), Jack Fringer, Jane Head, Pam Mackall, Ruth Mora, Ginny Murphy, Ruth Ott, Bob Platt, Debbie Roberts, and Fritzie Zidow.

Thank you all for making this another very successful year.



Among this year's teachers were: Carole Wagner, Jody Longhill, Casey Duehrssen, and Fran Armstrong. Not pictured: Pam Enrico, Chloe Ewalt, Jack Fringer, Carol Khalili, and Pam Mackall.



Trail Guides pictured: Bob Platt, Ginny Murphy, Pam Mackall, Barbara Fringer, Jack Fringer, Kathy Ellwood, and Bruce Armstrong. Not pictured: Ray Enrico, Jane Head, Ruth Mora, Ruth Ott, Debbie Roberts, and Fritzie Zidow.

2014 Celebration Luncheon's "Honoring Today's Living Museum and Hand"



Friend's Board member Carol Khalili spoke about Sandy Roberts' contributions.

This year, an Honor Roll was created as a special tribute to the people who paved the way for the restoration of the schoolhouse and the program that we use today. Family members from near and far were invited to share in our tribute to these dedicated people. It was a lovely reminder of all the work that went into the planning and orchestrating of all aspects of Port Republic School #7. We are truly grateful to all those who came before us. Their legacy will continue to live on in generations to come.

Thirty-seven years have passed since the dedication of the refurbished building that now houses a wonderful collection of desks, books, and artifacts that represent the life and times when the school served children from the Port Republic area. The May 28, 2014, Celebration Luncheon selected special individuals who were instrumental in the various aspects of turning the abandoned and deteriorating school building into the living museum it is today.

In keeping with academic tradition, an Honor Roll was deemed the appropriate way to highlight the contributions of each of these supporters and members of their family were invited to the Luncheon to share in the honors bestowed. A tribute was read listing the contributions of each honoree and a red rose was presented to the honoree or family member.

We Remember Those Who Have Passed on...

Elaine Cochran Dunkle was the driving force who kept the restoration on track and recruited people with talents she recognized as essential to ensure both growth and longevity of the program.



Joe and Ruth Showalter's son and daughter— David Showalter, Calvert County, and Barbara Showalter Price, Kilmarnock, VA.

Walter Gott brought authentic stories of farm life and joy to the visiting students.

Waters Ross shared first hand memories from his mother who taught at Port Republic School #7.

Joe Showalter actively kept historical accuracy foremost in repair and renovations to the building.

We Honor These Previously Active Friends...

Joan Gott aligned the school house presentation to students with the Calvert County Public School curriculum for social studies in 4th grade.

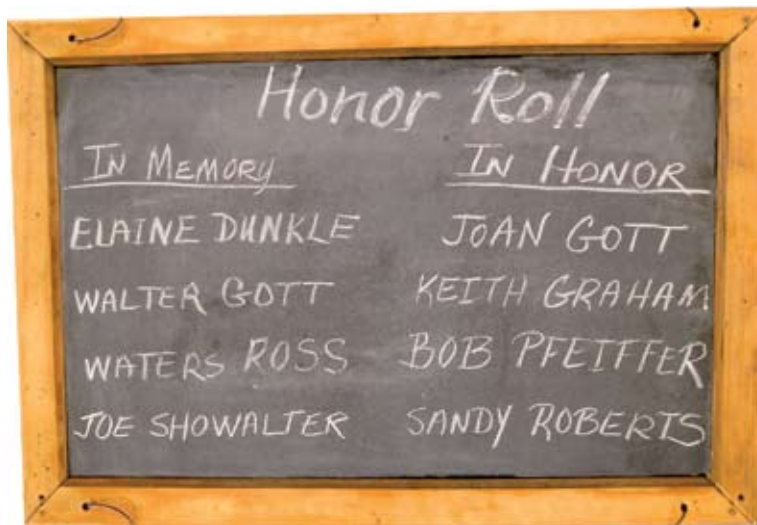
Keith Graham served for many years as treasurer of the Friends of The One-Room Schoolhouse.

Bob Pfeiffer took an active role in the original restoration, oversaw or did construction that kept the building sound, and stayed active, serving as President of the Friends for ten years.

Sandy Roberts was always present for the visiting students, recognizing that the experience the children enjoyed during their visit would make a lasting impression.

The Honor Roll individuals have made significant contributions to the school's program. Their collective efforts are greatly appreciated and recognized for bringing the Port Republic School #7 alive again.

Honor Roll” of Those Whose Vision and Action Created Hands-On Educational Experience for County’s 4th Graders



Event photos by Dr. Charlie Price, Joe and Ruth Showalter's son-in-law.

In Memory of...



Elaine Cochran Dunkle



Walter Gott

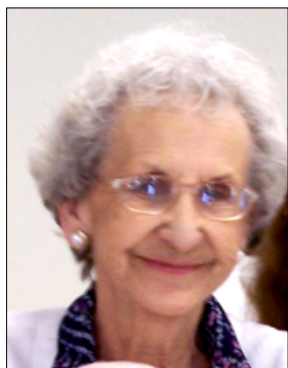


Waters Ross



Joe Showalter

In Honor of...



Joan Gott



Keith Graham



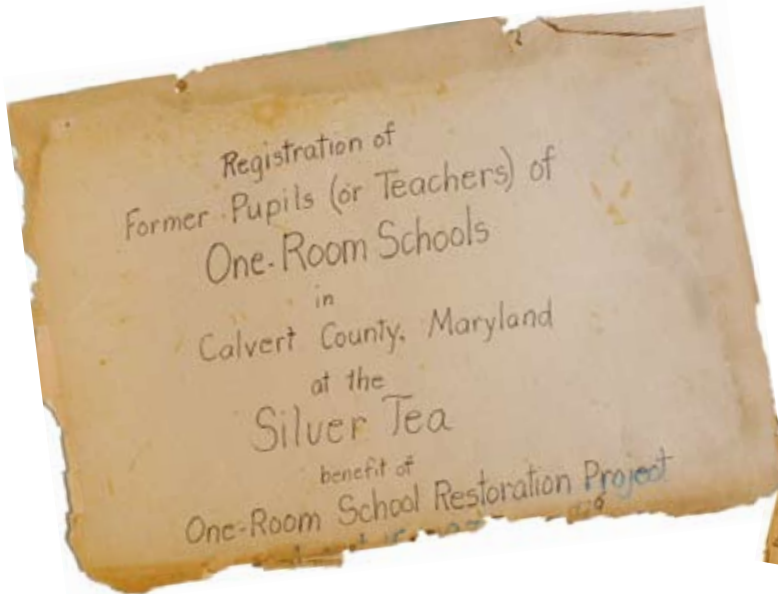
Bob Pfeiffer



Sandy Roberts

An Unexpected Treasure from Elaine!

by Carol Khalili



Elaine Cochran Dunkle kept a large scrapbook that began in 1976 with the first efforts to restore the abandoned and deteriorating school building that sat adjacent to Christ Church Parish Hall. She collected photos and newspaper articles documenting the progress that culminated in the Dedication of Port Republic School #7 on July 24, 1977. This book has been on display numerous times giving opportunity to scan pictures for familiar faces and to enjoy proof of the successful efforts of the Calvert Retired Teachers Association and community members in bringing the old schoolhouse to its present splendid condition and usefulness.

A second scrapbook existed but was unknown to today's stewards and friends of the schoolhouse. Peter Cochran alerted us to his finding this green treasure among his mother's papers as he sorted through them after her death. There are no photos in this scrapbook, composed of sheets of construction paper that have become brittle and browned from oxidation. Instead this scrapbook documents two occasions in the lead-up to opening the schoolhouse for visitors.

The first was a "Silver Tea" held on August 15, 1976, for former students and teachers of one-room schools in Calvert County. On eight pages there are rows and columns for these visitors to record their name, the schoolhouse they attended, the names of teachers they remembered having, and a space for comments.

Though the construction paper is fading, the handwriting remains, strong and beautiful, with names and comments of those who attended one-room schools in Calvert County. Among the last names with historic relevance in Calvert County: Wood, Hall, Mackall, Leitch, Hance, Gott, and Trott. The men and women who attended had been students at these Calvert County schools: Cheneyville/ Chaneyville, Wallville, Huntingtown, Barstow, Mt. Harmony, Port Republic, Stoakley, Smithville, Hallowing Point, and Bowensville.

Comments often included "Wonderful memories" and Mildred Skinner McGuire said "Small place but we learned a great deal." A more pointed comment, from Sarah Hance Lines

stated they had received "Better education than students receive now in the lower grades. Our teachers meant business." Fondly remembered teachers included: Virginia D. Sollers, Evelyn Bowen, Elvin Bowen, Mary Wright, Marie Condiff, and Vivian Ireland Gray.

July 24, 1977, was date of the Dedication of the restored Port Republic School #7. Again the green scrapbook was available for former students and teachers to sign. This time there were fond memories, "going to the spring for drinking water" by Sarah Catherine Hance Lines, and a particularly telling vignette by John Alvin Yoe who wrote "I put a frog in the water bucket and it hopped out on the floor." Preservation in digital format has been done for both of these scrapbooks. Plans are for a DVD slide show to be created so that everyone can enjoy the photos, clippings, handwriting, and memories. We look forward to sharing these treasures at a future gathering.

Ice Cream Social Was July 30

by *Chloe Ewalt*

Yummy, local farm fresh ice cream, homemade cookies, Big Band music, a gathering of friends, old and new, and a spectacular summer evening. It doesn't get much better than that!

On Thursday evening, July 30, the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse and the Calvert County Retired School Personnel hosted the 13th Annual Ice Cream Social at the Schoolhouse. Traditionally, store-bought ice cream has always been served, but this year, members and guests were treated to the delicious local ice cream made with organic milk from Mrs. Moo, at Spider Hall Farm.

How could one not get up and dance, when the Calvert Dance Band played "In The Mood?" Children and adults alike enjoyed touring the One-Room Schoolhouse with the little ones trying on the clothing of children in the in the 1920s and then experimenting writing on a slate board.

If you missed our fun event this year, be sure to mark your calendar for next year and make it a family and friend gathering.

Photos: Mrs. Moo's ice cream truck and Calvert Dance Band



On the Trail Again

by *Barbara Fringer*

"Walk this way . . . single file . . . and please keep your hands to your side. We will use our five senses as we walk along the 7 Bridges Trail."

Students will see, hear, and maybe smell a scent along the way, but they will not taste or touch. On occasion the youngsters may feel the sensation of a breeze that catches them as they march along the Barreda railroad bed or smell the crisp, fresh air of autumn while rolling down the road where hogsheads of tobacco once tumbled and rumbled to the wharf at Governor's Run. They might hear the stream, bubbling along under one of the 7 bridges as it meanders along the bottom or the squeak of Bess beetles as pointed out by Bob Platt. But taste will be limited to the savory anticipation of lunch once the walk is completed.

During a trail walk, the group will pass several dilapidated tree stands which date to times before Christ Church had purchased the property...before the scouts became trail "builders." Although hunting is no longer allowed,

Mr. Platt reports that these stands arouse much student interest as "tree houses."

On one occasion, Bob was surprised when three girls in the same class informed him that with their fathers, they had taken summer archery classes. Ultimately, they had actually shot deer with bows and arrows while hunting with their fathers! (*Exaggeration? Maybe . . . maybe not.*) All of the girls were very excited about walking in the woods.

Another visual is the "missile" that all but took out one of the 7 bridges during Hurricane Irene in 2011. (*Photo above, at right.*) This trunk-like obstacle remains in place. Delightful to see here and in other locations might be orange monarch butterflies or iridescent green six-spotted tiger beetles.

Like good scouts, the walkers will leave the trail just as it was found—grateful for the construction by the Boy Scouts and the wooden

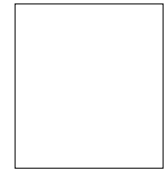


Volunteers on the leaf-strewn wooden bridge, checked out the "missile" that all but took out one of the 7 bridges during Hurricane Irene in 2011.

crosses by the Girl Scouts which provide opportunity for reflection and appreciation.

Hats off to the guides who have spent many mornings to introduce 4th graders, their teachers, and chaperones to the mile and a quarter trail leading to Port Republic School #7. There is no greater satisfaction than being part of this happy band. (*See list and photos of Trail Guides on page 3.*)

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*Newsletter layout and design by
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President's Corner

by Jack Fringer, President

We have had another productive year at Port Republic School #7!

- We once again accommodated all of Calvert County's elementary schools for their day in history. I want to offer a very sincere "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who dedicate many hours of their time to ensure that the program is a success.
- We began a tradition of recognizing past volunteers who have been instrumental in developing and continuing the school program as well as maintaining the Schoolhouse and

the Seven Bridges Trail. The first Honor Roll was posted at our Spring Recognition Luncheon (See article on pages 4-5.)

- We also initiated a long-term project of replacing the siding on the schoolhouse. This year we replaced the siding on the side of the building nearest the church and plan on replacing the rest of the siding as time and funding permit. (See article and photos on page 2.)

Volunteers Always Needed
There is always something to be done! So, if you are interested



Jack Fringer

in preserving and sharing Calvert County's past, we can use your talents. Please talk with one of our Board members who will be happy to answer your questions and "sign you up!"

In closing, I wish you and yours a very happy and joyous Holiday Season and the very best in 2015.