

Skipjack Community News

Celebrate. Rejoice. Honor. Remember. Cherish.

January is a month of reflection. As we reflect upon our community, there are some noted characteristics that are prevalent and have remained prevalent throughout the year, but especially during the holiday season. Our community stepped up and absolutely showed off! We celebrated Thanksgiving with a free meal open to all. We rejoiced in the birth of Jesus with various church services, concerts, and youth programs. We honored our widows and widowers with a token gift to help them remember they are not alone. We remembered our roots and where we all came from. We cherished the magic and the spirit of Christmas. Island Christmas was a magical evening for both the young and old, Santa visited the neighborhoods he could and was available for those he couldn't, Santa did not forget any trees, and the magic of Christmas was felt by all our children. Our community was one. Our community was generous. Our community took care of its own. Our community is special.

Whether you wrote a check, volunteered a day, are a mate on a skipjack that provided oysters to Thanksgiving Dinner, bought a raffle ticket or gave of yourself in any number of others ways, you are part of the reason why our community is different. You are part of the reason why our community is special. As we move into 2023, your help continues to be needed. We are not all living in the same circumstances with the same resources, but we all

live in the same place, have the same pride in our community, and want to continue to celebrate and honor where and who we come from. That is what is important. That is what ties us together and that is what will continue to make our community a very special place to be.

Wishing you a Happy New Year with the hope that you will have many blessings in the year to come.



Photos courtesy of: Tracy Horner, Dawn Whitelock, Michelle Cawood and Deal Island Elementary School.



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Cooking with.....

Ginny Horner



Apple Sauce Cake

1 Box Raisins
2 cups water
2 1/2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice
1 stick margarine
2 cups sugar
1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
4 cups flour
1 tablespoon baking soda
Dash of salt
1 can applesauce (15-16 ounce)

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In a saucepan, bring to a boil raisins, margarine and water. Let raisin mixture cool while you combine all dry ingredients

together, then add the raisin mixture to the dry ingredients.

Mix together and add applesauce. Add walnuts (if desired). Mix good and pour into a greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake for about 1 hour or until cake tester comes out clean.

Remove from oven and let cool about 5 minutes. Turn out on wire rack to cool completely. After cake cools completely, wrap in foil very tight.

Virginia Horner, better known as Ginny, was born in Deal Island but left at the age of two. She would later return to marry the love of her life, Charles. Roots were planted in Wenona and that is where they raised their three children, Kevin, Lisa and Brian. She is an avid sports fan and loves being on the sidelines during a game, no matter if it's her beloved Yankees, any one of her six grandchildren or a complete stranger on the field. She is a supportive and passionate fan. Ginny also loves to sew and loves to feed and watch birds that visit her yard. Above all, Ginny loves time she is able to spend with her family.

COMING SOON TO THE
DEAL ISLAND AREA

**SOMERSET
COUNTY 4-H**

ROBOTICS



SEWING



COOKING



ROCKETRY



LEADERSHIP



ANIMALS



CRAFTS



ARCHERY



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE DETAILS
OPEN TO YOUTH AGES 5-18.
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT 4-H CONTACT 410-651-1350 OR EMAIL
JENNIFER AT JHOWELL@UMD.EDU

Upper Somerset AARP presents:

A Day in Dorchester County

July 12, 2023

Harriet Tubman Museum Visitor Center

Buffett Lunch at Old Salty's

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge – Visitor Center and Wildlife Drive

Cost is \$118 -due when you sign up. Checks are not deposited until trip is confirmed. The cost includes the Museum, lunch, bus transportation, Blackwater, tour guide and all taxes and gratuities.

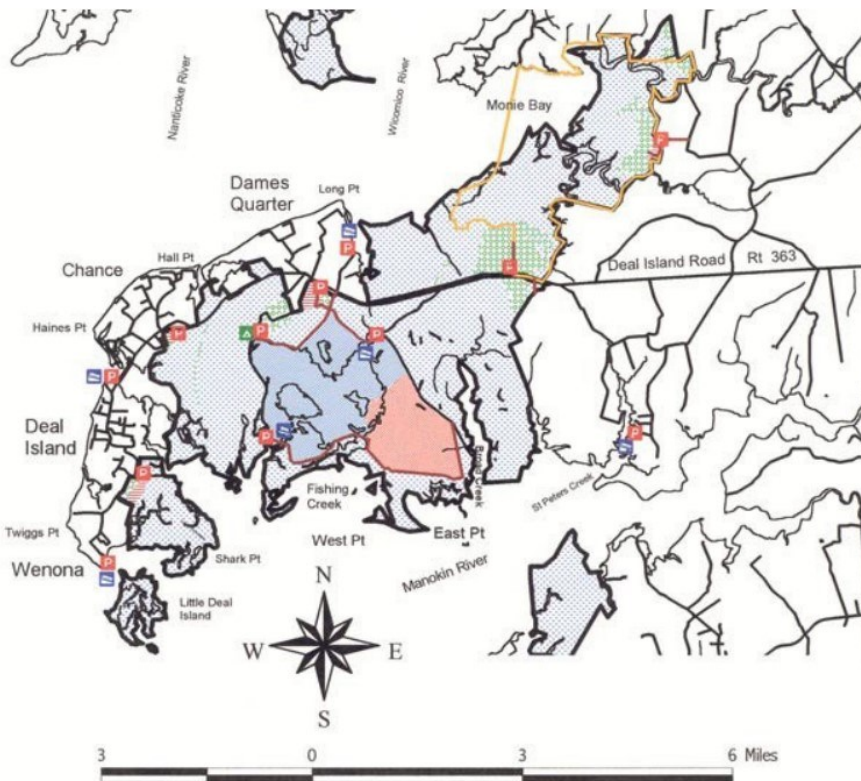
Pick up at Ollie's in Salisbury at 7:30 am.

Checks payable to Upper Somerset AARP by April 15, 2023

Mail to Sharon Malone, 13371 Oyster House RD, Princess Anne, MD 21853

Questions? Call Sharon Malone 410-621-0091 H or 410-726-1049 C

swmalone@comcast.net



<https://anr.maryland.gov/wiaaife/documents/aeaisianamap.pdf>

Newsletter Editor Wanted

If you would like to be the Editor of the community newsletter, please email skipjackscommunitynews@gmail.com.

Newsletter Contributors Wanted

If you would like to write an article promoting a local event or activity OR relating to our culture or history OR share a picture, flyer, etc., please email skipjackscommunitynews@gmail.com.

Newsletter Distribution

If you would like to be added to the email distribution list for our community newsletter, please email skipjackscommunitynews@gmail.com.

Culture Corner

The Venturous Founding Families of Deal Island

by Gloria Horner

The founding of Devils Island, including the hamlet of Wenona, originated with three families in the 1670s; Thomas Rowe, John Windsor, and John Lawes. Rowe and Windsor claimed land by headright and Lawes purchased his land patent from another, Thomas Schelite (sic) who had also claimed land perhaps as an investment, for no further records exist in the area for him. Until the end of the first quarter of the 19th century, the name Deal Island did not appear on any map. The change from Devils to something less unwholesome, was due perhaps at the urging of Joshua Thomas, a resident of Little Devils Island in the 1820s. Other early settlers during the mid to late 1600s also staked their headright claims in Dames Quarter and Rock Creek. By the issue of these land patents on Devils Island expanded the settlement of Somerset County. Bordering Virginia to the south, Somerset County then contained the later counties of Worcester and Wicomico, and it is probable that most of the settlers immigrated into the area, moving from other parts of Somerset or the Virginia colony.

As the British assumed ownership of the lands from the indigenous peoples, Maryland belonged to its proprietor; King Charles I granted the colony to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, in 1632, the year he died. Inherited by his son Cecilius (Cecil), the second Lord Baltimore, the intent of the colony was as a refuge for English Catholics, and a source of economic wealth. From the initial settlement of the Maryland colony in 1632 until 1680 a headright of 50 acres per person was how ownership of unclaimed land was transferred. Headrights allowed a man, the head of a household, plus any members living within his home--wife, children, relatives, servants, or anyone residing with him to request 50 acres per head, i.e., person. After 1683, the individuals applied for a land warrant.

To obtain land, never before owned in the British definition of property dominion, the head of a household applied to the local surveyor and requested a land warrant. The surveyor established the bounds, traditionally using a tree, or a natural boundary such as a waterway, or another notable landscape feature as points of reference further defined with a compass to determine the direction of a line. What the surveyor and new owner viewed was an expanse of almost virgin land punctuated with trees and in all instances bounded by water.

Continued on page 4.

Coastal Flooding Event

December 23, 2022

"A picture is worth more than a thousand words."



Photos courtesy of Michelle Cawood.

The Venturous Founding Families of Deal Island continued....

A land rich in potential, full of a diverse array of flora and fauna. Once surveyed, the landowner was required to pay one shilling for every 50 acres. In the 1600's 12 pence equaled a shilling and a conversion in today's money for the value of a shilling would be \$300. A person who could produce one, two, or three shillings for rent, or what we think of as property tax, would be well off. Especially as they were coming in and establishing their property with the need to build and import everything necessary to survive. The new owner would need that amount of money, plus a payment to the surveyor, and owed that amount annually.

The first three patents for Devils Island; Gravesend, 1673, an area of 300 acres encompassing the middle of Devils Island stretched along the high ridge of the island for Thomas Rowe. This patent, located within an area from about Pinky's or the Hunting Club to almost the southern edge of Wenona. John Windsor received a tract of 50 acres, Wooledge in 1677 on Lover's Lane/Parkinson Road, stretching from the sandy beach on Wenona to adjoin Rowe's homestead. While Greenwich, 1677, was initially surveyed for Thomas Schelito (sic), later sold to John Lawes, and it encompassed much of the sandy beachfront on the northwestern side of the island.

By the late 1700s all of the island was claimed save for a tract called Two Sisters, an area encompassing a wide swath of marsh on the eastern side of the island, only patented in 1923. For the next 100 years, Lawes and succeeding family members add large tracts at the north face of the island, ultimately contributing to defining 'Law's Thoroughfare.' By the end of the 1700s there were sixteen households

on Deal Island and two on Little Deal Island. An examination of a map presents a hodgepodge of tracts reminiscent of pieces of a puzzle.

The exact locations of the homes these people built remains a mystery. The name Lawes is immortalized in 'Law's Thurfur'; the Rowes' descendants who remain on Deal Island no longer carry that as a surname; however the Windsor's continued through numerous generations, with Peggy 'nee Windsor' Webster the remaining representative of the family living on the island who directly carried the name before her marriage.

The areas surveyed from Dames Quarter through to Little Deal Island included all lands, even those we view today as solely marsh. However, we know that many of these areas were once farming lands and held communities. Pigeon House, easily observed as you leave St. Stephens, two small groups of trees across from the road to the Wildlife Management area, reflect where a number of houses once stood. And the land surrounding was farmed then and even as recently as the early 20th Century. Yet the landscape of the area across time, responds and changes to the imperceptible morphing of climate.

Thomas Rowe probably arrived from across the Chesapeake Bay, from the Northern Neck area of Virginia, however of Windsor or Lawes no records are extant to identify from where they immigrated. John Windsor may have received his 50 acres for service. He arrived without a wife. Thomas Rowe brought his wife and a nephew, Phillip. John Laws arrives later, but then marries Catherine Bozman from Anderson Road, near Venton. All of these settlers chose property with

The Venturous Founding Families of Deal Island

continued....

water access. If people can walk or ride across a landscape, there will be roads. However, since time immemorial, people realized that journey by water is often faster, while roads require maintenance to travel, at least comfortably or effectively.

Much of what we know about these first settlers comes from the inventories conducted at the death of the head of the household. No matter the circumstances, an inventory was carried out after his death. The thorough review of the contents of the property reveals much, both by what is mentioned and what is missing, about life for these intrepid settlers. The importance of animals for food; any meat in the diet was raised and butchered on site, as well as farming for feed and sustenance. These first settlers were farmers, they raised crops for export, and in the 1600s tobacco was king. Tobacco is sensitive to waterlogging and requires well drained soils. However, the soil required to grow tobacco is not found in sufficient quantity this far on the western side of the county area.

Animals in the inventories include horses, cattle; with one settler possessed 72 or 90 head of cattle at the time of his death. Also hogs and sows were common animals, including the detail for shoats, young hogs and barrows for castrated hogs. Age, sex, and even reproductive ability were documented, as each denoted different values of the creatures. Initially the first animals were brought into these homesteads from outside the area, immigrating along with the owners. Farming implements most commonly recorded included plows and hoes. Yet few shovels or even rakes appear. And most surprisingly, for an area where most homesteads began, few boats, or canoes were ever recorded. Thus, bounty harvested from the waters was probably for personal consumption, later following the water evolved as a profession.

Typical household goods of tables, chairs, pots, pans, and even piles of rags were noted, even items beyond repair or a second life were considered notable. Even

unsewn fabric--linen, serge, fustian, and calico, all typical types of fabrics used for clothing and household goods were documented and assigned a value. Such detail demonstrates that the head of the household held absolute ownership of all within his domain. Only clothing belonging to a wife or children were excluded. And few luxury goods existed. Bibles, some books, and even guns appear in the inventories. Our ancestors might be shocked to imagine a household so well stocked with the sheer quantity of excess items, and the quality of materials found within our homes. Nor can we imagine an inventory so thoroughly conducted shortly after our passing to capture the number of possessions we use or hold dear.

While no evidence of any of the houses remain, perhaps yet just undiscovered, we can assume from other sources that most homes followed the British medieval hall style. Usually 16 feet wide and 20 feet long with one or more fireplaces. The house might be divided into a public area where daily living took place; cooking, eating, meeting, gathering, and playing. A private space was for withdrawing, sleeping for some members and even for storing valuables.

The coming of these three first families onto Devils, (later spellings of Deils and finally Deal) Island gave rise to the community we live in today. In Rock Creek, Dames Quarter, St. Stephens, Oriole, and Venton the same pattern of settlement was repeated by the earliest settlers. People sought high dry ground, often with water access, looking to acquire the best and most useful land. Many of our current families retain the bloodline of these earliest settlers. The use of DNA testing opened a door into the past, directly connecting our local residents to their ancestors who patented ground uninhabited or lightly moved upon by the local members of the First Nations, and saw a future for them, for their children, and succeeding generations. Those individuals who gave up everything and moved to our community left a legacy of pride and produced people capable of transforming the world.

“Many of our current families retain the bloodline of these earliest settlers.”

Community Clean Up Day - November 5

Thank you to all the volunteers who spent their Saturday making our community a little cleaner. Thank you to St. John's Church for providing all volunteers with a complimentary lunch and the Deal Island-Chance Fire Department Auxiliary for providing all volunteers with a complimentary breakfast.

A special thanks goes to Danny Ray Webster and Dana Seiler for organizing the Fire Truck wash but especially to Cindy Zgorski for organizing and coordinating the entire day!



We hope you can join us next time and remember, please leave our community better than you find it.

Please don't litter!



Oyster Fritter Sandwich & Drink
\$12.00

January 21
10:30 a.m. until sold out

Deal Island Chance-Fire Department

Order ahead by contacting Tracy Horner at 443-235-0554.

Drive through service. Please do not leave your vehicles. Fire Department members will be out to take your order and bring food to you.

St. John's Church Indoor Yard Sale

January 7
7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Refreshments available for purchase.
Lots of treasures to be found!

Donations of gently used and/or new items are accepted
as well.



Deal Island-Chance Fire Department
Virtual Quarter Auction

April 1, 2023

Numbers are \$30 each or 4 for \$100. Contact Tracy Horner at 443-235-0554 for more information.

Deal Island-Chance Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

Breakfast
January 28
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Deal Island-Chance Fire Hall

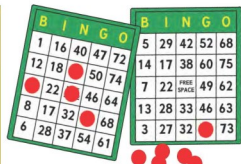


PLEASE JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY
SENIOR (60+)

BINGO

\$5.00 TO PLAY

**SATURDAY,
January 14
2023**



Doors Open
4:00 pm
Games Begin
5:00 pm

\$5 ENTRY INCLUDES 6 BINGO CARDS for each game, 1 BINGO CARD FOR EACH SPECIAL GAME, 1 DABBER AND A CHANCE TO WIN SOME AWESOME PRIZES!

ALL PRIZES PROVIDED BY Deal Island-Chance Lions Club!!

CONCESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE

20 REGULAR GAMES, 2 SPECIAL GAMES & 50/50
HELD AT DEAL ISLAND-CHANCE FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANY QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE CONTACT
CARRIE DAY AT 443-614-9926 OR
EMAIL DICLIONS58@GMAIL.COM
NO PRE-SALE. PURCHASE ENTRY AT THE DOOR.



WANT TO PLAY PICKLEBALL?!

**No experience needed! Easy to learn and play!
If your between 18 and 100 yrs old,
interested in more information,
Send email to DIPickleBall784@gmail.com**

Happy People Play Pickleball!

Deal Island Elementary Tennis Courts

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Getty Stock

Calendar of Events	
01/07	Indoor Yard Sale - St. John's Church Hall
01/14	Senior Bingo - Deal Island-Chance Fire Hall
01/21	Oyster Fritter Sale - Deal Island-Chance Fire Hall
01/28	Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast - Deal Island-Chance Fire Hall
02/04	Indoor Yard Sale - St. John's Church Hall
02/18	Love Dinner - Hold the Date - More Details Coming Soon!
02/25	Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast - Deal Island-Chance Fire Hall
03/18	Bus Trip to Sight & Sound
04/01	Virtual Quarter Auction - Deal Island-Chance Fire Department