

August 2022



**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Tidewater Virginia Historical Society is to preserve and promote the heritage of Tidewater Virginia by serving as an advocate for historic knowledge, archaeology preservation and our geographic and cultural heritage.

### **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**"Watch for that beautiful, sunny autumn day, with the air like cider and a sky so blue you could drown in it"**

September is around the corner with TVHS once again offering outstanding programs. These include a "Members Only" Event on September 15<sup>th</sup> plus an October 9th program, and on October 20<sup>th</sup> an exceptional bus excursion. Mark your calendars today.



On May 12, 2022 our bus trip took members to Southside – "Architectural Tour of Southside Virginia", note the photo of smiling faces of those that joined the fun. Carl Lounsbury took us back in history at each site, we could visualize .....St Luke's church members sitting below the colorful stained glass windows and quietly worshipping, the once active Windsor Castle farm which has a land grant of 1,450 acres patented in 1637, the Courthouse (1751) that saw action regarding disputes plus other legal matters, and Bacon's Castle (also known as Arthur Allen House) with 17<sup>th</sup> century guests strolling in the gardens. We relaxed at The Smithfield Inn for our luncheon which provided a pleasant environment to chat with others.

Many "thanks" to Paige Jessee, our Program Director, for the hours she spent coordinating and giving us a great trip.

Additionally, a "thank you" to Carl Lounsbury for sharing his expertise in historical architecture.

This fall we are recognizing our Treasurer, Melissa McCue. She keeps the Board straight on our finances and shares her abundance of energy and wonderful ideas – see **Spotlight** section.

**Note: TVHS needs a website expert (WordPress) to assist in maintaining our site – TV-HS.org.**  
Could you help us?? Please contact us at [info@tv-hs.org](mailto:info@tv-hs.org).



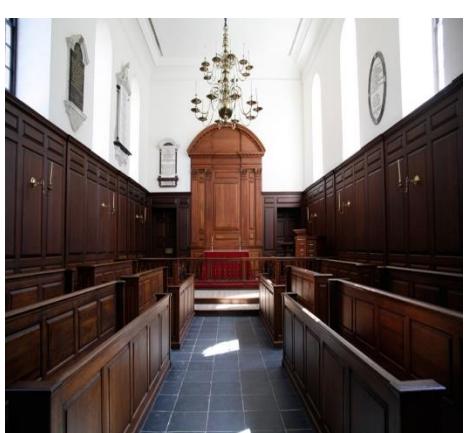
(Picture on left, Carl Lounsbury discussing the brick and architectural design of St. Luke's Church.)

Our membership continues to grow and we are truly grateful for our members, speakers, our partners with similar objectives, and the community.

The TVHS Board is energized to offer our members and the community a fantastic fall with plenty of activities. Please monitor our FaceBook page and our website, TV-HS.org.

*A Toast of Cider - to a fun fall,*

*Sharon Short, President*



**September 15, 2022**

**Members Only Event** – a walking tour

**Wren Building/Bray-Diggs House/Bruton Parish Church & Cemetery**

**Location:** in front of Kimball Theater, 428 W. Duke of Gloucester Street

**Time:** 9:30 am

**Limited attendance for group size:** The first 30 people to RSVP no later than September 9 to [TidewaterVAHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:TidewaterVAHistoricalSociety@gmail.com). Confirmation will be sent to the first 30 people.

It's that time of year! The kids are back in school, it's sweater weather and the leaves are turning. Kick off the season with our **Fall Members Only Event** on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Join old friends and meet new members for a private tour of William & Mary's historic Wren Building. Dating to 1695 it is the oldest academic building in continuous use in the United States. We will continue our tour as we visit the site of Bray-Diggs House which once housed the Williamsburg Bray School. The morning will include a very special tour of Bruton Parish Church and churchyard.

## October 9, 2022

### First Baptist Church of Williamsburg Excavation Project – “A Story to be Told”



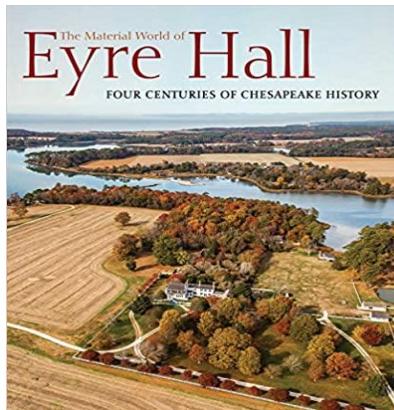
**Time: 4:00 pm**

**Speakers:** Connie Matthews Harshaw, President of Let Freedom Ring Foundation and Meredith Poole, Senior Archaeologist at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

**Location: Colonial Williamsburg Art Museum – Hennage Auditorium**

Join us as we discover what archeologist have found at the excavation site of the original First Baptist Church building and explore the partnership in this work with the community, the First Baptist Church of Williamsburg congregation and the Let Freedom Ring Foundation. The excavation of this historic site is only the beginning as it offers the unique opportunity to tell the broader story of the people who attended the church and their descendants. The program will be held at the Hennage Auditorium. At the conclusion of the program you are invited to take a short walk from the Hennage Auditorium to the excavation site on Nassau Street for Q & A with the archaeologist.

## October 20, 2022



### FALL Bus Excursion

**Where: Eyre Hall and Historic Eastville, Virginia**

Check our website (TV-HS.org) and Facebook page as more details become available.

For the October 20<sup>th</sup> bus excursion, *The Material World of Eyre Hall: Four Centuries of Chesapeake History*, Carl R. Lounsbury (Editor) will be available at a reduced cost to those who take the trip.

Join Tidewater Virginia Historical Society for a behind-the-scenes, private tour of Eyre Hall in Northampton County. This privately owned home has been held by the Eyre Family continuously for 12 generations. Carl Lounsbury, Editor of *The Material World of Eyre Hall: Four Centuries of Chesapeake History*, will take us on a tour of one of Virginia's best preserved colonial homes and gardens. Stops will also highlight the historic town of Eastville, Virginia's 1731 Old Courthouse and Courthouse Green and more.

Trip will include transportation, lunch and tours. Look for more details in [September](#).

**November 6, 2022**

**“Native History in Tidewater Virginia Region”**

**Time:** 4:00 pm

**Speaker:** Martin Gallivan, Professor and Department Chair Anthropology, William & Mary

**Location: Colonial Williamsburg Art Museum – Hennage Auditorium**

Check our website (TV-HS.org) and Facebook page as more details become available.

**MEMBERSHIP CORNER – Janie Moyers, Membership Director**

Our membership is growing beyond 120 members. Please join, if you have not already done so. Both Century and Lifetime members will receive an invitation to the TVHS Annual event, reserved seating on any TVHS bus trip and recognition in printed material.

**TVHS Membership Levels:**

\$15 - Student

\$40 - Individual

\$60 - Couple (two people)

\$75 - Family (three or more people living in the same household)

\$100 - Century (one person per membership ONLY)

\$500 – Life Member (one person per membership ONLY)

Make check payable to: TVHS

Mail check and include Name, Address, Email, and Phone number please

Address: TVHS, P.O. Box 427, Williamsburg, VA 23187

With all the fantastic upcoming programs and a bus trip this fall you will want to get your payment in soon. And don't forget to invite your friends!

### **SPOTLIGHT – Melissa Rhodes McCue – Treasurer, TVHS Board**



Melissa was born in Richmond, Virginia and graduated from Mary Baldwin College with an undergraduate degree in Mathematics. She received her MBA from Virginia Tech. Her career began with Southern Bell as an Outside Plant Engineer in Elon College, NC. From there, she held various engineering jobs in C&P of Virginia, C&P of Washington DC, Bell Atlantic and finally Verizon in Pittsburgh, PA. Melissa retired from Verizon with almost 36 years of service in 2015. While living in Pittsburgh she and her husband, Tom, raised 3 children who are now grown living in Springfield, VA, Washington DC and Noblesville, Indiana.

During her time in Pittsburgh, Melissa joined the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter (National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution) NSDAR and was the treasurer. She was also a member of the Mars Rod and Gun Club in Mars, PA. After retiring they moved to Williamsburg, VA in 2016. She joined the Williamsburg Chapter NSDAR and today is the co-chair for Constitution Week. Additionally, Melissa is a DAR partner for the James City County 1st grade classes at Norge Elementary School. Melissa resides in Colonial Heritage with her two cats and a corgi. While living in Colonial Heritage she enjoys many activities which include yoga, walking and pickleball.

Melissa spends a fair amount of time at her house in Kill Devil Hills, NC where she enjoys biking, kayaking and walking around the Wright Brothers Memorial. She also enjoys having friends and family come down to visit. Now as a grandmother of an 11 month old little girl, Millie, she easily drives 11 hours to visit Millie and her parents in Indiana. (" it's worth it!")

Melissa has traveled recently to some exciting places. Last July she took a small ship cruise (32 people) to Croatia. This July she traveled with her brother and sister-in-law on a Virginia Tech travel cruise to the Inside Passage in Alaska. It was 40 degrees cooler there than it was here in Williamsburg!!

Melissa's closing remarks include since she joined TVHS she continues to learn more about our history and that she enjoys meeting everyone associated with this society.

The Board truly appreciates all the paperwork, accounting, and reporting that Melissa provides for the various business requirements of the Board. She keeps our organization "floating" smoothly financially as well as everyone enjoys her positive, delightful outlook.

## DID YOU KNOW?



You may remember in October 2018 TVHS hosted John Broadwater for a lecture on the USS Monitor, which was followed by a private tour of the USS Monitor section in the Mariners' Museum. Today you can check out a unique video on their website - *Beyond the Frame: episode on the Monitor's turret!*

Go to the website: [Marinersmuseum.org](http://Marinersmuseum.org) - to find this interesting video. Next, go to "Beyond the Frame" videos. The title of this video is "Something to Remember". You will find other videos also worth viewing.