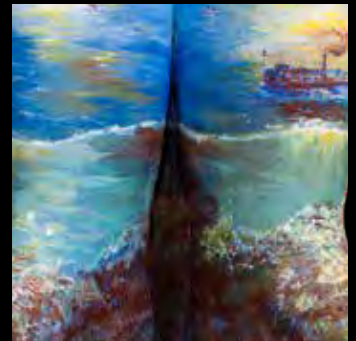
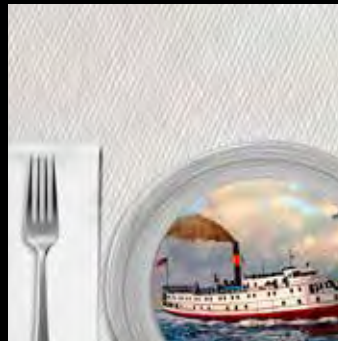




INVOLVE & EVOLVE

Steamboat Era Museum 2017 Annual Report



2017 AT A GLANCE

STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM

More than
1800+
museum visitors
+ 232+
special tour visitors
+ 338+
kid visitors
+ 300+
attendees at special events and receptions



NEW!

Major museum exhibit on a black steamboat captain, Hansford Bayton, funded in part by a grant from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation

NEW! MUSEUM AUDIO TOUR



NEW! MUSEUM WEBSITE



WOW!

Pilothouse restoration underway with major grants, donations and strong community support

BUZZ!

70+ articles in local and regional newspapers and magazines

Board of Directors

President

Nancy Travers

Vice-President

Helen Slatford

Secretary

Fran Kelly

Treasurer

Donna Tibbs

Past President

Eric F. Nost

Directors

Barbara Baxter

Mary C. Bradley

Kylie Bransford

D. Randolph Graham

Randall Kipp

Vicky Oliver

Fred Pevahouse

James Ward

Phillip Williams

President Emeritus

Richard Wilson III

Executive Director

Barbara Brecher

Administrative Assistant

Candee Pevahouse

INVOLVE & EVOLVE

This year's annual report puts a spotlight on community support. Nearly 20 years ago, we were founded by a group of strong-willed local citizens. In 2017, we experienced greater community involvement than ever, advancing a bold plan that will enable the museum to evolve – and thrive – in the years to come.

The Pilot the Potomac Home campaign was sparked by a \$100,000 grant from the Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles I. Wiley Foundation followed by a challenge grant from the Mary Martin Parsons Foundation. For every dollar the museum raised, it would be matched by the foundation – up to \$50,000. The Graham brothers, David and Philip, added to our fundraising effort by presenting two sold out concerts in August to support the Pilothouse fundraising campaign. The events in memory of Lee Stephens, a long-time museum board member and Irvington resident, raised more than \$20,000. When people learned the story of the Potomac pilothouse and our vision to restore and display the artifact, the level of response was astounding. We have a four-inch binder that says it all: It's filled to capacity and each page represents a donation.

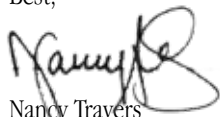
Colonna's Shipyard contributed \$50,000 to the campaign, adding another page to the pilothouse saga. It was Ben and Willoughby Colonna who first saved the pilothouse from demolition in 1936 by converting it to a summer cottage. Now Willoughby's son, Bill Colonna, has furthered that legacy with this generous donation.

While fundraising, we still had a museum to run and 2017 saw plenty of new attractions for visitors. We launched a new exhibit on Captain Hansford Bayton, one of the few African American steamboat owners, developed a museum audio tour and offered new activities for our Friday morning program for kids. A new scavenger hunt was also developed.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of our members as well as the hard work of our dedicated volunteers. We are also blessed with an outstanding Board of Directors who value community engagement and wisely guide us through opportunities and challenges.

To all of you who got **involved and enabled us to evolve** – thank you! Read on to see what you accomplished.

Best,



Nancy Travers
President
Steamboat Era Museum



The Potomac Pilothouse



Our Founders' Vision Nears Fulfillment

The biggest story of 2017 was our successful fundraising campaign to restore and exhibit the Potomac pilothouse. When we acquired the Potomac pilothouse in 2001, the museum's founders recognized the potential. They believed this rare artifact could transform our collection and enhance the museum's reputation. The pilothouse is the largest remaining portion of a Chesapeake Bay steamboat. In 2015, it was named one of Virginia's Top Ten Endangered Artifacts.

Thanks to a groundswell of public support and two significant grants, our founders' vision is well on its way to being fulfilled. Our campaign is now in a final push to achieve our goal of raising \$350,000.

It Takes a Community to Pilot the Potomac Home

A \$100,000 grant from the Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles I. Wiley Foundation gave our fundraising efforts initial traction. But it was a challenge grant from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation that spawned our 2017 public campaign. For every dollar the museum raised, it would be matched by the foundation – up to \$50,000.

We asked the community to help us Pilot the Potomac Home. The community eagerly took the wheel. The campaign received over 200 individual donations.



John Morgentbaler working on the restoration of the Potomac Pilothouse.

Captain \$100,000+

The Nettie L. and Charles
Wiley Foundation

Pilot \$50,000+

Colonna Shipyard
The Mary Morton
Parsons Foundation

Engineer \$10,000+

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nost
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Orr
Mr. Julien Patterson and
Ms. Terri Wesselman

Pilothouse \$5,000+

Mr. and Mrs. R. Taylor Waller, Jr.

Wheelhouse \$2,000+

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hunt, II
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Polhamus
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Somers
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Stephens
Col. Mowton L. Waring, Jr.

Captain's Quarters \$1,000+

Mr. Mark Bogert
Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Coye
Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKay
Mrs. Susan McKenna
Mr. Douglas D. Monroe, Jr.
The PetCyn Fund of RCCF
Mr. Leslie H. Phillips, III
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Ransone
Rappahannock Westminster-
Canterbury
Mr. and Mrs. Cary Schneider
Watkins Family Advised Fund, RCCF

Crew's Quarters \$500+

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Birdsong, III
Mr. William G. Broadus
Ms. Virginia Lee Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Brian W. Clarke
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Graham
Dr. and Mrs. E. Jeems Love
Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Rankin
Radm. & Mrs. Robert Sutton, Ret.
Mr. and Mrs. Travis H. Tomlinson, Jr.

Salon \$250+

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Arnold
Ms. Barbara Brecher and
Mr. Michael Geissinger
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Carr
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Curlin
Mr. and Mrs. John M. DiGrazia

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Engstrom
Mr. and Mrs. William Fisher
Mr. Michael Kennedy
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Kirkbride
Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas
Mr. and Mrs. Gene E. Mapes
Mr. and Mrs. James A. McAllister
McAllister and Foltz
Architecture, P.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pevahouse
Ms. Lori B. Pickett
Donation Box Pilothouse
Mrs. Tove N. Power
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Somers
Ms. Caroline Colonna Thrasher
Dr. and Mrs. M. Lee Williams

*In honor of our son Phillip Lee
Williams and all of his hard
work on the restoration of
the Potomac Pilothouse*
Mr. Phillip Lee Williams

Dining Room \$100+

Mr. and Mrs. Travis Abbott
Mr. H. D. Ackerly
Mr. Robert L. Adcock
Mr. and Mrs. John Alachnowicz
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Aman, III
Ms. Barbara A. Baxter
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bedford
Ms. Jennifer Boyenga
Mr. and Mrs. Scott W. Boyers
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Bradley
Ms. Barbara H. Breeden
Ms. Bonita Bruce
Ms. Agnes Feild Burke
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Carter, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin W. Carter
In Memory of Wallace Carter
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Chapman
Mr. Wiley Clawson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cocke
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Conroy
Mr. and Mrs. Eston E. Cosby
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Coyle
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Cross
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Dameron
Ms. Kathy R. Davidson
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Davies
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Dorsey
Mrs. W. H. Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. John Farmer
Mr. Timothy R. Gaylard
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Gehr
Mr. David Graham
Mr. William B. Graham, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Healy
Mr. and Mrs. R. Page Henley

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hite
Ms. Claudia J. Holmes
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hoyt
Mr. Joe Hudnall
Mr. & Mrs. Norwood J. Jackson, Jr.
Ms. Celia Jacoby
Mr. and Mrs. Craig J. Kelly
Mr. Randall Kipp and
Ms. Allison Drake
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Light
Mr. Christopher E. Lightbourn
Mrs. William McCloskey
Mr. and Mrs. Dermot McNulty
Mr. and Mrs. Sterling M. Nichols
Ms. Barbe Bonjour Pike
Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Poole
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Powell
Ms. Beverly L. Randolph

*In honor of Phillip Lee Williams and
in memory of Casper*

In Memory of Michael Thomas Boyers

Ms. Jacquelyn B. Scialabba
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Strickland
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey M. Wainscott
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Waterman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weekley
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whittaker
Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Wilson, III
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Young

Bridal Cabin \$50+

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Alexander
Ms. Virginia L. Ashburn
Ms. Joyce P. Bailey
Ms. Mary Cary Bradley
Mr. Lee H. Capps and
Ms. Michelle M. Lybarger

In Memory of R. Lee Stephens

Ms. Nancy Hubbard Clark
Ms. Alice Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Cox
Ms. J. A. Crichton
Mr. Ammon G. Dunton
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Fleet, Jr.
Ms. Erica Fleisig
Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Gwaltney
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Harris
Mr. Earl Haynie
Mr. Jimmie Jackson
Ms. Sandra J. Jordan
Mr. Richard Kantor and
Ms. Barbara Deitz
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kauneckas
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Morgan
Ms. Mercer W. O'Hara
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Painter
Dr. and Mrs. Charles D. Price, III
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Rottkamp

Mr. and Mrs. C. Latane Sale, Jr.
Ms. Jeanne Schiavo
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Shaum, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis V. Shelton
Ms. Priscilla J. Stevens
Mr. and Mrs. F. Bennett Stilmar, Jr.
Mr. Jesse Swartz
Mr. and Mrs. Irving L. Talley
Ms. Jennefer J. Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Thomas, Jr.
Mr. Elwood T. Turlington
Ms. Anne Van Arsdall
Mr. and Mrs. F. Dixon Whitworth, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Edward J. Wiley, Jr.

Cabin \$20+

Mr. David Beagle
Mr. and Mrs. Lester H. Brent, Jr.
Ms. Anita Christian
Ms. Cindy B. Clarke and
Mr. Robert S. Booth
Ms. Elizabeth C. Clarke
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Denton, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Dickerson
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Dix
Mrs. Mary G. Dorsey
Mr. and Mrs. John N. Friday
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Frye
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Harding
Ms. Carolyn P. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Headley
Mr. and Mrs. Antti A. Helne
Mrs. Joyce S. Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Eric S. Jacobson
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Larson
Ms. Lovey Jane Long
Ms. Elaine Lowrey
Ms. Kathy G. Lucas
Mr. John W. Mann
Mrs. Anne L. McClintock

In honor of Laura and Jimmy Andrews

Mr. Bruce McMillan and
Ms. Beverly Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. C. David Medlen
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Melvin
Mr. Raymond Michelini
Mr. and Mrs. J. Horace Needham
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Nunn
Ms. Linda Osborn
Mr. and Mrs. Robby Robison
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Saam
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Servis
Ms. Jacqueline D. Southworth
Ms. Alice P. Walker
Ms. Gloria S. Wallace
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Whelan

*This report includes Pilothouse donations from 1/1/17-
12/31/17 While every effort has been made to include all
donors some errors may have occurred. Please contact us
with any concerns. We apologize for any omissions.*



Putting the “FUN” in Fundraising

What’s more fun than dueling pianos? The sibling rivalry behind the dueling duo. In August, brothers David and Phillip Graham put their musical talents to work in two concerts to raise awareness and

funds for the pilothouse campaign. David and Phillip grew up spending summers in Irvington where their grandfather was a museum founder and board member. Those memories continue to bind the Graham brothers to our community. We are grateful for their generous commitment of time. Each event was a rousing success, raising more than \$20,000 for our cause. The concerts were dedicated to the memory of Lee Stephens, a longtime Board member and community leader who passed away in August.



The Graham concert in the Irvington Baptist Church



Enjoying a Low Country Boil at the Morgenthals

We also want to thank John Morgenthaler, and his wife, Olivia, for cooking up another fun event. In September, they hosted a low country boil in their home. There were no empty seats for a traditional coastal stew of seafood, sausage and corn. John is the shipwright who is restoring the pilothouse – so guests got a sneak peek at his work-in-progress.



Colonna’s Shipyard Donates \$50,000

The Potomac pilothouse and the Colonna family go way back. In 1936, Ben and Willoughby Colonna saved the pilothouse from demolition by converting it to a summer cottage. Willoughby’s son, Bill Colonna, had fond memories of staying in the cottage as a boy. Bill visited our museum to learn more about the pilothouse campaign and shared some wonderful family stories. He followed up with a donation of \$50,000 from

Colonna’s Shipyard. His generosity epitomizes the deep ties in our community to the legacy of the Steamboat Era. We are grateful to Bill Colonna – and his family – for their continuing role in preserving the pilothouse.



The Colonna family enjoying the pilothouse summer cottage in 1938. Pictured with their mother, Esther, are Caroline, age 5 and Bill, age 9.

Where Do the Funds Go?

Donations cover more than the restoration work on the Potomac pilothouse. The museum footprint will be redesigned to showcase the artifact as the centerpiece of our exhibits. Construction will continue through the 2018 season so visitors can experience how we are evolving our space to tell Steamboat Era stories. The restored pilothouse is scheduled to be installed in Fall 2018 and new exhibits will follow in 2019.

The Pieces Start to Come Together



In 2017, restoration of a wheel which will be installed in the wheelhouse of the Potomac pilothouse was completed by local craftsman Ed Thurber. The wheel was donated to the museum by the family of Jerry Nealt. Although we cannot prove this is the Potomac's original wheel, it was made by the same company that built the steamboat in 1894. Ed devoted weeks of intense work to rebuilding the wood and restoring it to its former glory.

Two sister museums had parts from the Potomac pilothouse in their collections. When they heard about our restoration project, each decided to send the artifacts where they belonged. The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum donated two window sashes while two more sashes and hinges were transferred from the Mariner's Museum in Norfolk.

Museum to Publish Book on Pilothouse Saga

To coincide with the installation of the Potomac pilothouse, the museum will publish a book on the history of the artifact. The book will bring to life the heyday of the Steamboat Era and the role the Potomac played in communities around the Northern Neck. The narrative tracks the rescue of the pilothouse from the decommissioned steamer and its long journey to our museum. The book features hundreds of images from the Steamboat Era and photographs of the recent restoration process. The research, writing and printing of the book was made possible in part by 2016 and 2017 grants from the River Counties Community Foundation. Publication is slated for Winter 2018.



Before restoration of the wheel



After Ed Thurber's restoration of the wheel.

Launching New Visitor Experiences

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Exhibit Tells the Story of a Black Steamboat Captain

In May, the museum broadened its story with the opening of a new exhibit, "Against the Tide: The Astonishing Life of a Black Steamboat Captain."

During the Steamboat Era, African Americans often served as crew, deck hands or stevedores on vessels, but few – if any – rose to prominence or prosperity. Captain Hansford Bayton was the exception. Bayton owned four excursion and mail delivery steamboats that traveled between the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula to Baltimore, Norfolk and Washington, DC. Bayton prospered and earned the respect of whites and blacks alike, however, the passing of Jim Crow laws in 1901 led to the loss of his boats and livelihood.

The exhibit is based on a book by the Captain's great-granddaughter, Julie Sullivan. Entitled "Against the Tide: The Turbulent Times of a Black Entrepreneur," the book follows Bayton from his humble beginnings in Tappahannock to his success as a businessman to the loss of his fleet. At the opening reception for the exhibition, Dr. Sullivan graciously signed copies of her work.

A \$5,000 grant from The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation underwrote development of this exhibit. Additional research was conducted by museum volunteers.



Julie Sullivan speaking at the book signing and premiere of the exhibit about her great grandfather, Hansford Bayton, pictured above with his family.

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Listen Up: Our Self-Guided Audio Tour

With our new audio tour, the museum can educate visitors in a whole new way. The self-guided tour covers 18 exhibits with brief overviews and engages the listener with questions. To access the tour, visitors either download our app or scan a QR code with a cell phone or tablet. Ear buds are provided at no charge. The audio tour enables visitors to enjoy exhibits at their own pace and preserves a quiet museum environment. As always, docents are available to answer questions.

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Introducing a New Book on the Weems Community

In October, the museum hosted a book-signing for "Tides That Bind – Weems Virginia". Author Pat Lumpkin Rose fascinated a full house with stories

of growing up in this unique community. She placed Weems in both an historical and social context, weaving together the treasured memories of the people of Weems who have formed a rare kinship. The book features hundreds of photographs that evoke the physical beauty of the area as well images of long-time residents. Pat's earlier work includes a memoir, a young adult novel and articles for magazines. Her book on Weems is available in the museum shop.

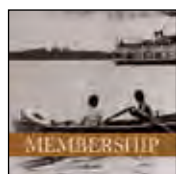


Pat Rose reading from her book.



New website graphics

INVOLVE & EVOLVE



Our Redesigned Website is User-Friendly

In 2017, the museum website got a make-over. The new design is cleaner and easier to navigate. Visitors can explore a calendar of events with a special section for kids' activities.

They can read about current exhibits then take a detour into the museum gift shop. We've also made it much easier – and more secure – for visitors to make a donation to our ongoing work.

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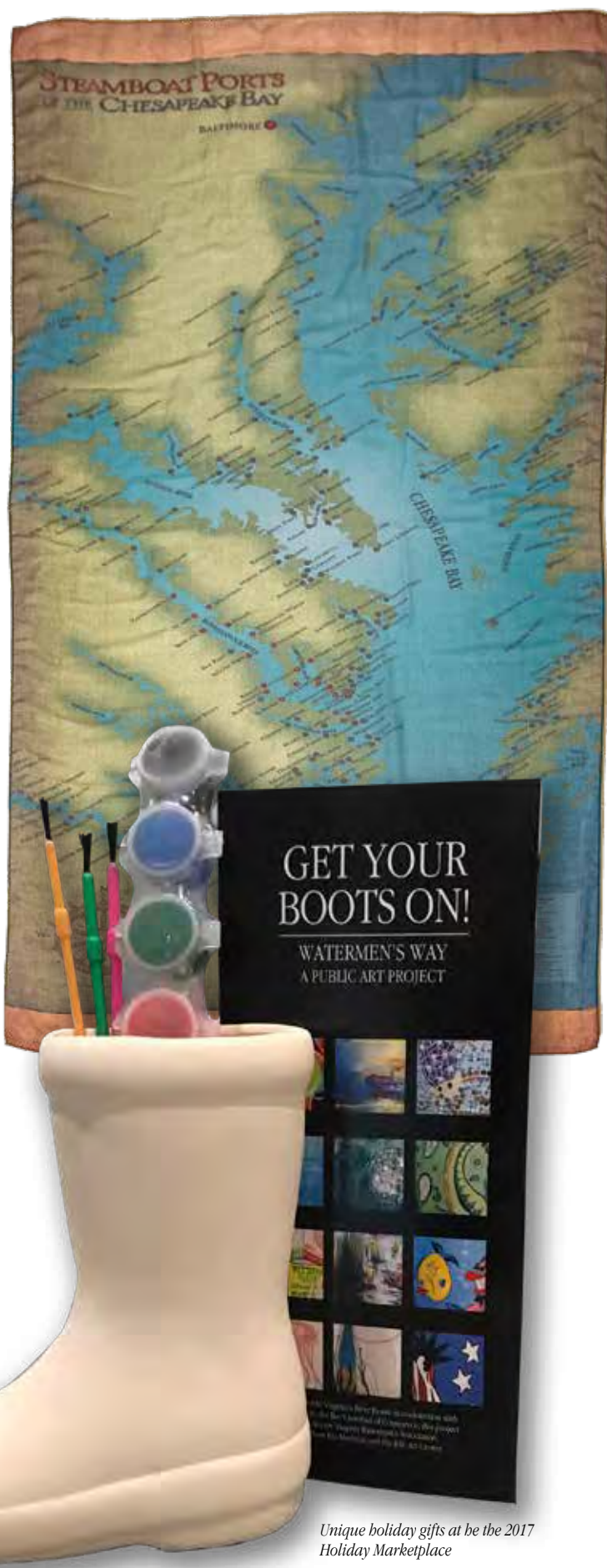


Museum 'Exclusives' at the Holiday Marketplace

Our Holiday Marketplace is always well-merchandised with handmade jewelry, baskets, wood, soaps, birdhouses, books by local authors and more. For our fourth annual shopping event, the museum took it up a notch with two exclusive – and meaningful – items.

The first was a scarf imprinted with a map of the Chesapeake Bay which showed steamboat ports. The vintage-style chart was based on a large map from the museum. The second item dovetailed with our role in the Watermen's Way public art project. We offered a mini-version of ceramic white boots. Our six-inch pair was packaged with paints and brushes – ready for holiday giving.

More than 500 shoppers visited the marketplace on November 24 and 25, with hundreds more visiting on December 3, 10 and 17. The opening days of the event featured a silent auction that included a four-foot 'Santa' Vermont Teddy Bear,



Unique holiday gifts at the 2017 Holiday Marketplace

More Events for Young Visitors

Nothing beats sparking the interest of a child in the Steamboat Era. Kids are a special audience that our museum seeks to engage and educate. This year more than 340 children visited our exhibits and participated in kid-oriented activities.

INVOLVE *&* EVOLVE



The Friday Morning Special

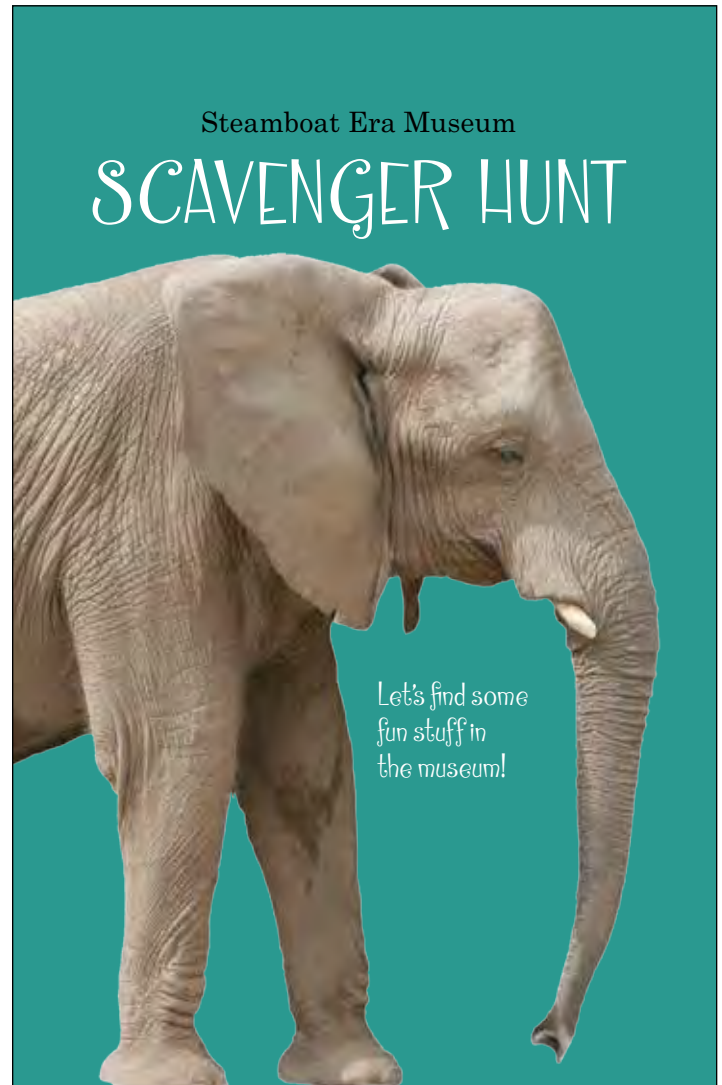
Our Friday morning kids program helped children learn how different life was when steamers sailed the Chesapeake. They wore Steamboat Era costumes pulled from our well-stocked dress-up trunk. Docents shared stories about the old-fashioned etiquette of the time and how people did all their shopping at the local country store. Crafts were also part of the activity, making a mini-steamboat or coloring a poster. There was even a Friday scavenger hunt!

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History-on-the-Go in Classrooms

Museums in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula collaborate in an educational program called History-on-the-Go. In addition to the Steamboat Era Museum, participating members include Essex County Museum, Mary Ball Washington Museum, Historic Christ Church, Reedville Fisherman Museum, Belle Isle State Park, Morratico Museum and Colonial Seaport Foundation. Our goal is to bring the area's history to children and provide them with an interactive learning experience.

In April, we presented a History-on-the-Go class at St Margaret's School. The theme was "The River: Then and Now." Fifth graders from Richmond County Elementary School attended in the morning while Tappahannock Elementary came in the afternoon. Volunteers Mary Ann McKay, Candee Pevahouse and Mary Pipkin engaged 228 students in the two sessions. In November, Mary Ann and Candee visited the fourth and fifth grade classes at Lancaster Middle School. A total of 152 students participated in the hands-on session.



Friday morning children's activities. (Above) New scavenger hunt.

Forging Strong Community Partnerships

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The Fine Art of Dining with the Rappahannock Art Center

In April, a sell-out crowd attended the second annual Fine Art of Steamboat Dining event. Our collaborative fundraiser with the Rappahannock Art Center was held at Good Luck Cellars. More than 100 patrons enjoyed an oyster bar and a four-course seated dinner.

A silent auction ran during the event but a highlight of the evening was the spirited bidding that took place during the live auction. Included in the items for bid were a family portrait by former presidential photographer Michael Geissinger and a table from the first class lounge of the SS United States.



The Fine Art of Steamboat Dining dinner.

INVOLVE *&* EVOLVE



Get Your Boots On: Watermen's Way Public Art Project

Another community partnership placed fiberglass sculptures around the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Decorated by local artists, the sculptures honor the contributions of watermen

and waterwomen to our region's heritage. Communities and businesses brought or rented a pair of boots as an attraction for residents and visitors who could stand in the boots and snap a prized selfie. Look out social media!

This project was sponsored by Virginia's River Realm in conjunction with Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce, and benefits the Virginia Watermen's Association, Steamboat Era Museum and the RAL Art Center.



Watermen Ways boots. (Left to right, top to bottom) Town of Urbanna, Burke's Fine Jewelers, Front Porch Coffee House, Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce and Lancaster Library, Virginia Commonwealth Bank, Chesapeake Bank, Kilmarnock Inn, Nobletts, Objects, Rappahannock Art Center, Tides Inn, Town of Kilmarnock. For more information visit: virginiariverrealm.com/boots



Watermen Ways boots at the Steamboat Era Museum.

We Supported Our Community

We opened the museum to the community to hold a variety of events, meetings and social hours. We hosted events for:

National Association of Retired Federal Employees
Lancaster by The Bay Chamber of Commerce After Hours
Lead Northern Neck

The museum supported community organizations by purchasing advertising in their program books, donating silent auction items or taking part in their events. During 2017, we lent a helping hand to:

Rappahannock Concert Association
Northern Neck Orchestra
Westmoreland Players
Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck
Chesapeake Academy
Tide's Inn Taste of Spring

The Community Turns Out to Support Our Biggest Event

INVOLVE *EVOLVE*



Sixth Annual Irvington Crab Festival

An uncertain weather forecast did not dampen the spirits of attendees at the Sixth Annual Irvington Crab Festival. Over 500 people crowded the big-top tent on Irvington Commons to make our biggest

fundraiser a rousing success. They feasted on bushel after bushel of steam crabs as well as hot dogs and barbecue.

The threat of rain and thunderstorms meant the Legacy Band couldn't play live, but a DJ provided terrific background music for the event. A silent auction was an added attraction.

This year, for the first time, tables could be reserved for the event. A big crowd is a good problem to have – so we wanted to ensure extended families or other large groups could sit together. A single purchase of 20 tickets, online, by phone or at the museum, reserved a table in the buyer's name.

With a successful sixth Crab Festival under our belt, we want to acknowledge our volunteers and sponsors and our event chairs Candee and Fred Pevahouse, along with Barbara Baxter, who recruited and scheduled our volunteers. By now, many of these folks are veterans of this annual event. Thanks to their hard work and support, our fundraiser is truly a crowd-pleaser.



Enjoying crabs and friends at the Sixth Annual Irvington Crab Festival.



The Museum's President Emeritus Dick Wilson III and his wife Marty enjoying the Crab Festival.

BIG CLAW

Chesapeake Bank
Jimmy & Sook
Virginia Commonwealth Bank

JIMMIE

101.7 Bay FM
and 104.9 WIGO Country
Dog & Oyster Vineyard
Northern Neck Insurance
Tides Inn
Town of Irvington
Rappahannock
Westminster-Canterbury

SOFT SHELL

Bay Automotive
Creative DeSIGNS
Mr. and Mrs. Holmes Ginn
Tri-Star
Hubbard Terry & Britt, P.C.
Objects

OLD BAY

Brecher Design Group
MetroCast
Rappahannock Record
The Dandelion
Trick Dog - Bar & Bistro

Silent Auction Donors

King Carter Golf Club
Tides Inn
Hope and Glory Inn
Randy and Carolyn Graham
Jan Dobrowolski
Barb Brecher and
Michael Geissinger
Robert Fleet
Prime Cut Crafts
Burkes Fine Jewelers

2017 Crab Festival Volunteers

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS and to CRABS EXPRESS!

Barbara Baxter
Carter Bonner
Cay Bradley
Kylie Bransford + 2 VCB helpers
Mackenzie Burchbuchler
Virginia Craig
Becky Cross
Virginia Fleet
Robbie Fleet
Michael Geissinger
Carolyn Graham
David Graham
Randy Graham
Laura Hall
Mary French Hutt
Sally Johnson
Fran Kelly
Brandon Lousiell
Bob McKay
Mary Ann McKay
Robin Miegel
Eric Nost + 2 helpers
Fran Nunnally
Wayne Nunnally
Vicki Oliver
Candee Pevahouse
Fred Pevahouse
Cathy Polhamus
Stu Polhamus
Beverly Randolph
Bonnie Robertson
Lin Ross
Helen Slatford
Kay Somers
Nancy Sullivan
Donna Tibbs
Nancy Travers
Jim Ward
Phil Williams

Boys & Girls Club

Richie (leader),
Jonte,
Ainsley
Jakeem
Shyniece
Michael
Kiyah
Troy

Irvington Baptist Church

Noah
Macs
Spence
Chris
Hailey
Jacob
Rachel

Keeping the Museum in the News

The museum's exhibits, programs and events got plenty of media coverage during 2017. Leading the way was The Rappahannock Record – with more than 30 articles. The museum also scored a feature piece in Local Scoop as well as frequent items in the South-Side Sentinel. We kept the buzz going through a variety of media outlets including Rivah Magazine, The Richmond Times-Dispatch, The Free Lance-Star, the Bay Journal, Constant Contact and Chesterfield Living Magazine.



The Graham brothers will p... dueling piano concerts Aug

The Graham brothers and their two pianos will be back in action locally for back-to-back concerts at 7:30 p.m. August 25 and 3:30 p.m. August 26 at Irvington Baptist Church, 53 King Carter Drive, Irvington.

The concerts are slated to raise awareness and funds for the Steamboat Era Museum's Potomac pilothouse restoration project, said executive director Barbara Brecher.

Tickets for the concerts are free, but required due to limited available seating. For tickets, call the museum, 438-6888, or email director@steamboatmuseum.org.

The Steamboat Era Museum is proud to include among its collection the largest surviving artifact



November 16, 2017
Rappahannock Record
Kilmarnock, VA

Visit a gem

I was staying with friends on Tabbs Creek this fall when I decided to visit the Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington. Much to my delight, I discovered the museum contained the work of Bill Wright, whose ship models are in corporate board rooms and the homes and business offices of private collectors throughout the Eastern Seaboard.

Most significantly, his model of the Virgil G. Dean, a three-sail bateau, or oyster dredging skipjack built in Dorchester County, Maryland, was selected for viewing in the Mariner's Museum of Newport News in the later 1980s.

Some years ago, I had the privilege of meeting Colonel Wright at the Ocean City, Md., Convention Center, which was featuring a special program for individuals and businesses whose main interests were depicting, either through art or modeling, life on the Chesapeake Bay. He limited his modeling to log canoes, bug-eyes and skipjacks built on the bay from 1882 to 1929. Since no plans exist for these boats, he informed me that he would frequent the coves and shallows of the Chesapeake and its tributaries to take measurements from derelicts that were abandoned by their owners when they were considered beyond repair. Today, most of these wrecks have rotted away or have been destroyed by storms and high tides.

I was amazed that a museum of this quality could be found in a very small town on the Northern Neck. I am told that much of its success is due to its current director, Barbara Brecher, and an excellent board of directors. Do yourself a favor; visit this gem before it closes for the winter.

Stephen R. Bradley,
Fredericksburg

Growing our Collection

Thanks to loans and donations of papers and artifacts during 2017, our stories about the Steamboat Era keep growing. These are highly personal accounts that reach through generations of Northern Neck families. Margery Nea's story started with a shock.

INVOLVE  EVOLVE

Dameron Family Donation

During Margery's tour of the museum, she was watching a 1929 film about cannery operations. She was surprised to see the face of her great-uncle. The film showed an oyster cannery at Weems Wharf which, at that time, was owned by the Dameron family. James Oscar Dameron and Walton A. Dameron sailed from Kinsale in 1889 to search for a business site. They ended up in Carters Creek at the Weems Wharf where their family settled. Margery arranged a loan of some of the Dameron's family papers and artifacts which document their long and rich history. Included was a wedding dress from 1902. It has been worn, with additions and alterations, by four generations of the Dameron family. We hope to include some of this material in our new exhibits to be mounted in 2019.



Margery Nea wearing her grandmother wedding dress. She was the third generation to wear the dress.

INVOLVE  EVOLVE



Doll Donation

Joyce Lee Smith of Midlothian donated a collection of paper mache dolls that had belonged to her mother, Helen Davenport Smith (1899 – 1993). Sometime between 1905 and 1911, these beautiful dolls – most likely produced in Germany – were given to three lucky little girls who lived near the museum in Lancaster County. The girls' father was a farmer and merchant. He often traveled by steamer to Baltimore to buy merchandise for his country store and would bring back gifts for his daughters – including these dolls. Ms. Smith's mother sewed the white dresses on the two largest dolls and Ms. Smith stitched the dresses on the smaller doll.

Our growing collection means significant work in areas like documentation and cataloging. In 2017, the museum was fortunate to have a summer intern who could shoulder some of these responsibilities. Mackenzie Burchbuchler, a junior at St. Margaret's School, helped with research on the new Bayton exhibit and archived our photography collection. Her position was made possible by a donation from Randy Graham, a museum Board member.



Dolls on display at the museum.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM

Thank you for
your support!



SteamboatEraMuseum.org

Growing our Donors

In the midst of our highly successful campaign to Pilot the Potomac Home we shifted gears to issue our Annual Appeal letter. Donors were reminded that we need to make sure we have a museum to house the pilothouse – and tell the story of the Steamboat Era. 2017 was a year to build on, with over 1800

visitors and a calendar packed with programs and events. Picking up on the energy of our pilothouse fundraising, our Annual Appeal drew widespread response. We thank all our donors for their continuing support.

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50th Wedding Anniversary*

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Grants

Catherine B. Chilton Endowment
River Counties
Community Foundation
Lincoln Financial Corporation
Markel Corporation
Tidewater Foundation
Tang Family Foundation

*This report includes donations and from 1/1/17- 12/31/17
While every effort has been made to include all donors and
members some errors may have occurred. Please contact us
with any concerns. We apologize for any omissions.*



Membership Has (More) Privileges

Our members are accustomed to special treatment, like invitations to exhibition openings and an advance ticket sale for the Irvington Crab Festival. Thanks to the museum being accepted into the

Council of Maritime Museums (Camm), we added a new perk in 2017. Now memberships of \$125 or more include membership in the Camm program with free admission to maritime museums across the country.

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Dr. and Mrs. M. Lee Williams
Col. William J. Wright

*This report includes memberships and from 1/1/17- 12/31/17
While every effort has been made to include all donors and
members some errors may have occurred. Please contact us
with any concerns. We apologize for any omissions.*

We Love Our Volunteers!



Time and again, throughout this annual report, you have read about volunteers and their support in museum events and programs. As a small institution, we literally could not operate without these wonderful people. Volunteers serve as the face of the museum to our visitors and are the backbone of our community outreach. They also work tirelessly behind the scenes on tasks both big and small.

We would like to give a shout-out to:

Board members Fred Pevahouse and Jim Ward who built shelves in our attic and then cleaned organized the space

Board member Fran Kelly who worked with Carol Hughes on our garden

Mary Ann McKay who managed our children's programs

Barbara Baxter who organized our many mailings

Lin Ross who served as our membership chair

Becky Cross who designed our amazing floral arrangements

Many thanks to all our volunteers for their commitment and enthusiasm during 2017.

Kathy Applegate
Barbara Baxter
Loretta Borostovik
Kylie Bransford
Virginia Lee Brown
Bonita Bruce
Virginia Craig
Becky Cross
Lynne Engstrom
Virginia Fleet
Carolyn Graham
Randy Graham
Laura Hall
Ann Harris
Debby Hoyt
Mary French Hutt
Marion James
Sally Johnson
Beth Koeberle
Brandon Louisell
Daria Lowe
Mary Ann McKay
Kathy Meyer
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Fran Nunnally
Anne Paparella

Candee Pevahouse
Fred Pevahouse
Mary Pipkin
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Kay Somers
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Donna Tibbs
Jean Ward
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Doris Willett
Dick Wilson
Larry Worth
Allan Young

Mailings

Mary Barany
Donna Berger
Jean Hess
Sandy Jordan
Kay Micklen
Cathy Polhamus



The Board of Directors
Dedicates this Annual Report
in Memory of

Lee Stephens
Board Member

George Frayne
Master Model Maker

Grace Broaddus
Longtime Supporter

Taking Care of Business



Annual Meeting

The museum held its 2017 Annual Meeting on May 13th with an overflow crowd in attendance. Two new Board members were elected: Cay Bradley, a recent addition to our community, and Jim Ward, a longtime museum volunteer. Retiring from the

Board were Frank Tetrick, Beverly Randolph and Lee Stephens. The retirees were presented with an inscribed box containing a fountain pen handmade with wood from the Potomac pilothouse.

The Board voted in new museum officers. These were: Nancy Travers, President, Helen Slatford, Vice President, Fran Kelly, Secretary, and Donna Gibbs, Treasurer. Eric Nost will continue his term on the Board as Past President. Other directors include Barbara Baxter, Kylie Bransford, Randall Kipp, Vicky Oliver, Fred Pevahouse, Phillip Williams, and Richard Wilson as President Emeritus.



Life Member Suzy Stephens speaking at the 2017 Annual Meeting

Financials to come

THE 2017 FINE PRINT

STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM

New For Visitors In 2017 Captain Hansford Bayton Exhibit Partially Supported by a Grant From the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation • Museum Audio Tour • Revamped Website • New Scavenger Hunt • Archived All Photographs and Artifacts • Dress-Up Trunk for Children • Two Authors' Book Signings • Jigsaw Puzzles Featuring Museum Artifacts • **New Membership Perk** Council of Maritime Museum Free Admission Card to Maritime Museums Across the Country • **Potomac Pilothouse** Matched a \$50K Challenge Grant from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation • \$100K Grant from Nettie Lokey Wiley Foundation • \$50K Donation from Colonna Shipyard • Graham Brother's Piano Concert • Low Country Boil • Strong Community Support **Hosted Events** National Association of Retired Federal Employees • Lancaster by The Bay Chamber of Commerce After Hours • Lead Northern Neck • The Art of Fine Dining in Conjunction with the Rappahannock Art Center • Annual Crab Festival **Events for Kids** Friday Morning Program • History-On-The-Go School Presentations • Dress Up Trunk • Scavenger Hunts **Supporting Our Community** Waterman's Way Public Art Project • Lancaster by the Bay Chamber Of Commerce • Rappahannock Concert Association • Northern Neck Orchestra • Westmoreland Players • Boys & Girls Club • Chesapeake Academy • Tide's Inn Taste of Spring **Media Coverage** Rappahannock Record • Rivah Magazine • Richmond Times-Dispatch • The Free Lance-Star • Bay Journal • Chesterfield Living Magazine • Local Scoop • South-Side Sentinel

and **MORE!**



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