



**YORKTOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
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### **Christmas Gala Fund Raiser**

Our holiday gala, once again graciously hosted by Dave and Phil Bowditch, was wrapped in the Christmas finery of the Hornsby House Inn. The catered refreshments were enjoyed by all and the desserts provided by members were delicious.

With your support, we raised over \$1,000, which will be used to continue our restoration and preservation of the York County records! This project was taken on many years ago by the Yorktown Branch APVA, our predecessor. We have been able, through the generosity of our membership, to restore more than 50 record books over the years! This important project couldn't be accomplished without your continuing support.

If you enjoyed our Christmas fundraiser, watch for news of a summertime garden fundraiser -- place, date, and time to be announced.

### **February 16, 2014 Meeting**

The program for the February 16 meeting will focus on "Good Works from the Past" and will include discussions of the Revolutionary War cannon that is on display on Riverwalk, the Kiskiack Archeological Dig, and Preservation of York County Records. Also, we will have on display some of the YPS items which are on loan to the Custom House.

The meeting will also include discussion of how the YPS Board is soliciting ideas for future

preservation projects for the organization. All ideas from members are welcome. Even if a proposal turns out in the end to be impractical, it very well might inspire a project which is doable. Bear in mind that, while we do not wish to duplicate efforts of other organizations, we are certainly willing to cooperate with them.

### **County Records**

The York County/Poquoson Circuit Court House is home to County records that date from the 1630s, some of the oldest records in the Commonwealth. Due to the efforts of local citizens over the years, these records survived the Revolutionary War, the fire of 1812, and the Civil War. When the APVA Yorktown Branch (now YPS) was established in 1921, one of its first goals was to preserve the original records to make them available to future generations. The YPS has now compiled a list of early County Records that were copied and restored with funding by the APVA Yorktown Branch. This list will be available on our website.

On January 14, Deputy Clerk Kristen Nelson welcomed Lois Winter and Jerry Thompson to the County Courthouse to review a sampling of those records such as *Claims and Losses of York County Citizens in the British Invasion of 1781* and *Free Negroes Register 1831-1850*. Kristen suggested that early marriage records could be next on the list to be restored by YPS. Her office has contacted C.W. Warthen, the company that did the restorations in the past. They will let us know the final cost. In this way,

we will be able to continue the preservation activities began by the original APVA Yorktown Branch in 1921.

### **YPS Website**

A major and exciting activity that the Board has been involved with lately is the development of a Yorktown Preservation Society website. With the help of Joe Mitchell, our website will focus on the work of YPS and its connection with the past activities of the APVA Yorktown Branch. Those activities include:

- the preservation of York County Records
- restoration of the Revolutionary War Cannon and its placement at Riverwalk
- preservation of the Secretary Thomas Nelson home site, (later used as headquarters by Lord Cornwallis during the Revolutionary War)
- assistance in the maintenance of the Custom House
- support of the archeological dig at Chiskiak

The website will also include membership applications for new and renewing members and a calendar of events to allow you to keep up with the activities of your YPS. There will also be links to websites of other local history oriented organizations. The YPS website will be a source for people to learn more about the unique Yorktown community that we call home!

### **York County Historic Activities**

The YPS encourages members to volunteer to be docents at the York County Historical Museum. The contact person is Jim Funk at 757-898-4910. If you are interested, give Jim a call. He can give you the details and will provide any training necessary. The museum is presently on a Winter schedule, but come Spring, they will really need more docents. You may be aware that the museum is often closed -- because of a lack of docents. This is an opportunity to become involved in a very worthwhile historic activity.

Speaking of activities in the County, the County Staff sends out a variety of announcements and information about events in the County and surrounding areas by e-mail. Some of this information is of historical significance. You can get put on their e-mail distribution list by simply contacting Dave Meredith and asking him to include you on their list. Contact him at Meredith@yorkcounty.gov.

### **YPS Committees**

At the YPS Board Meeting on January 7, 2014, the following members agreed to serve the organization in the indicated capacity or to chair a supporting committee:

Corresponding Secretary -- Joy Phillips  
Fund Raising Committee -- Joy Phillips  
Historical Committee -- Barbara Boles  
Meeting Host Committee -- **Vacant\***  
Membership Committee -- Nancy Shrout  
Newsletter Committee -- Tom Clark  
Program Committee -- Barry Shrout  
Publicity Committee -- Jennifer Carver  
Recording Secretary -- George Bennett  
Website Committee -- Jerry Thompson  
YDA Representative -- Rosalie Mitchell  
York County Liaison -- Lois Winter

**\*Meeting Host Duties**--Contacts members to bring food and non-alcoholic drinks to the membership meetings, arranges food, drinks and centerpieces, sets up and dismantles tables after social, and ensures meeting space is clean and returned to original setup.

Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Frank Edwards at 757.898.6638.

If you receive a call from any of these members requesting that you serve on their committee, please respond by agreeing to help them out with the business of our organization.

**In closing, we encourage you to bring a friend to our February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and to encourage them to become part of the YPS.**