as his latest work proceeds.

A general discussion was held concerning the Kent Island Days held in May. In general, things worked pretty well. We will discuss lessons learned and ways to improve next year's event. Planning must begin now.

We are moving forward for the purchase of the vacant lot next to the Cray House and Train Station. (*Editors Note: That property has now been purchased for $25,000.)* We will meet to discuss methods of raising funds to pay for that property and best possible uses. This will add 0.6 acres to our existing KIHS property and allow us to control what will be built next to the Cray House and Train Station. We may be able to put our Museum there in a few years. It would give us a place to store our genealogical records, artifacts, and historical items.

Audrey Hawkins proposed a new brochure for the Cray House to be done in color. It was approved to buy 500 each at a cost not to exceed $180.00.

CALENDAR NOTE

A ceremony will be held for Anne Reifsneider and Tom Helfenbein for making it possible to establish The Memorial for Marian Steuart.

The Memorial Ceremony will be held at ***Stevensville Cemetery July 20, 1993 at 11:00 a.m.***

The Rev. James J. "Bud" Shand and the Rev. Robert A. Gourlay will be attendance. Everyone is invited.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lois Cockey

February 22 through June 9, 1993

Balance in Checking 2/21/93	$3,534.10
Receipts 2/22-6/9/93	12,164.82
TOTAL RECEIPTS (incl. Md. State Grants)	15,698.92
Disbursements 2/22-6/9/93	7,043.31
Balance in Checking 6/9/93	8,655.61
Balance in CD Accounts	11,900.79
Balance in MM Account	8,677.19
TOTAL ASSETS	29,233.59

(Total Assets include Maryland Grants earmarked for D. Lowery)

LIBRARY REPORT

Mary White

We are very fortunate that Judy Ireland, Public Service Librarian and a new member of our Society is assisting us in our efforts to properly catalogue and file our growing collection so our information will be more accessible to researchers.

We are grateful to John Herndon for the following valuable additions to our files:

THE HISTORY OF MARYLAND by DULANEY, an autographed copy of THE RIVERS OF THE EASTERN SHORE by Hulbert Footner, and a 1939 copy of the "Maryland Manual."

In addition, Bettye Speed generously donated Hanson's OLD KENT, long out of print. This history includes the earliest records from Kent Island before 1706 when Queen Anne's County was erected.

GENEALOGY REPORT

Mary White

We received a request from Mrs. Frances Martin, Grenada, Miss. for information on the Gilbert family which, she stated, might be connected to the Dunn family. We were able to provide her with what we hope will be helpful to her in researching these families.

In a previous exchange of correspondence, Mrs. Martin was kind enough to send us some pertinent information on the Blunt and Smythe families, members of which were prominent on early Kent Island.

We have also received copies of family charts, etc. of the Sudler Family of Kent Island and the Sudler branch from which Sudlersville got its name. This is a very valuable addition to those family records.

We also had another visit from Eunice Brown Miller and her husband Bill. Eunice, whose grandmother was Laura Elizabeth Cray (Eva) and grandfather was Madison Brown Sr., is researching her family history. We were able to fill in some of the blanks and look forward to receiving copies of her completed research at a later time.

It is always gratifying to find people who are interested in their heritage. To quote Daniel

Webster, "He who careth not from whence he came, careth little where he goeth."

Another quote which offers a different viewpoint, taken from an article in THE ANCESTOR, Annapolis, MD. June 1906 and quoted in the Baltimore Sunday Sun Aug. 26, 1906, states, "As to those who do not care to know concerning their forefathers, it may fairly be assumed they are not worth knowing."

We welcome your requests and try to respond as soon and as accurately as possible. However, we are all volunteers and in- depth research, because it is very time consuming, is not possible. We can only provide copies of what we have readily accessible in our files. This is why we are so anxious to acquire as much information in our files as possible.

Editor's Note: Brent Lewis, writing in the Summer 1993 issue of the Kent Islander, echoes Mary White's above comment in referring to his decision, " having a few idle hours, to look up his family tree".

He says: "The first thing I learned about looking into the past is that it can't be done in a few hours! Even for someone like myself with a fairly localized heritage, tracing the family tree is a time consuming, arduous process. There are no easy ways. ...For the most part patience and good detective skills are your best tools."

"My personal search has provided very little that wasn't already documented or even surprising, but the thrill of the hunt is unearthing that little tidbit of information that maybe no one else knows. Sheer volumes of the sources handy not only make for months of work but also increases the possiblity of overlooking details."

Brent's article concerning his search gives great credit to Mary White's Committee's Genealogical files at the Kent Island Library. His article includes family photos of his father Joe Lewis of Dominion Road, Chester (mentioning his Coleman grandparents of Chester); his maternal grandparents Grover and Virginia Clough and his mother Jackie of Stevensville, later Grasonville; great great grandparents Charles Otho and Alice Virginia Coursey from Grasonville; and his great grandmother Alice Coursey, her second husband Norman Pierson, and Aunt Maude Coursey Newcombe, Aunt Molly Coursey McQuire, and Aunt Carolyn Coursey- a Grasonville schoolteacher in 1918 who now lives in Seaford, Delaware.

KIHS will keep Brent's informative article in the Kent Island Library genealogical files.

Jean Lee (Mrs. Leif) Eareckson of Annapolis, an ardent genealogist and member of KIHS has offered her addendum to Mildred Schoch's book "Of History and Houses". Through her own early Kent Island Eareckson family research she has uncovered facts Mrs. Schoch may have overlooked.

Mrs. Eareckson writes:

"I think it would be a good idea to keep an addendum file to Mildred Shoch's book. Professor Norris who wrote "Annapolis; Its Colonial and Naval Story" kept such a file in the Hall of Records. New information appears all of the time; errors are found and corrected. We need to keep valuable work up to date.

As an example.. I would include:

Footnotes:

THE FRIENDSHIP
5. Should read Deed RT 12/361
6. This reference used incorrectly

LEWIS' ADDITION
5. STW 5/89

PENNYWORTH
6. JT 4/30

"An addendum would add to rather than detract from Mildred's research which was a major work. Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, Archivist of Maryland published a book , In Pursuit of Profit, in which he mentions the home of Lloyd Dulaney and includes a photograph of a house still standing on Conduit St. in Annapolis.

"Later research shows that the Conduit St. house was built after the Revolution by Thomas Mann. Lloyd Dulaney's house no longer exists.

" As you know the gathering of (genealogical and historical) information is an on-going process, and I think that we should be able to add to Mildred's work. "

A correction to Shoch's work on p. 56 was included: " Methodist Protestant Church- M.G. Goodhand" is a typographical error. It should be M. G. White as per original record clearly shows that that it was **Marmaduke Goodhand White.** There was no M. G. Goodhand.

THE CRAY HOUSE- Shore Tracks

History and Memories
Queenstown Bank Newsletter May 1993

The Directors and Employees of the Queenstown Bank have begun a series of reminiscences in their newsletter.

For those of you who do not receive the bank's newsletter, we would like to share "The Cray House " from "Shore Tracks"

"The Cray House on Cockey's Lane is one of the most interesting structures on Kent Island. It stands on a tract called "Stevens Adventure which was granted to Francis Stevens in 1764.

Francis left it to his son John in 1790 and with its sale in 1809 to John Denny, it passed out of the Stevens family.

John Denny paid $43.00 for the land and sold it in 1817 for $400 to William Patterson of Baltimore. *(Ed. Note: Father of Betsy Patterson-Mrs. Jerome Bonaparte?)* This increase in price indicates it was improved by a building. (*between the two deed dates.)* Architects have fixed the date of the older portion of the house to this time.

In 1839 the heirs of William Patterson sold it to William Calvert of Delaware.

His heirs sold it in 1842 to Mary E. Carville Legg. In her will of 1866 she left it to her nephew Joseph Cook. He was a post master of Stevensville. He left the property to his wife Lucy. She married John Stelle, she left no heirs.

The property which then included both the Cray House and the property next door was sold at public auction in 1914 to Nora Cray which its name is now taken from.

The Cray House was built in two stages with the oldest part being the north side. Land records show that it is possible that part of the Cray House has been moved from its original site. It is unclear where it was originally located. *(Ed. Note: This notion may or may not be true. There has been considerable speculation as to whether the early portion of the Cray House was ever moved. We'll probably never know for sure.)*

The Cray House is listed on the National Register of Historic PIces.

Through the generosity of the Cray Family the house was left to the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. in 1976 to be restored and used by the Society.

MEMORIES

Bill Denny

I was eight years old and Mr. John Cray took me duck hunting at Blunts Marsh off of Cox Creek.

I had a 410 Shot Gun and Mr. Cray had a 12 gauge double barrel with ears.

Mr. John had a hunting blind on the shore and I remember it was very cold when we rowed the boat onto the Creek to put the decoys out.

We wore sheepskin coats to keep warm, the skin of the sheep was inside the jacket and the canvas was on the outside. We purchased our coats from Joe Ginsberg.

After hunting for awhile it seemed as though Mr. Cray was getting all the good shots off and my little pea shooter wasn't hitting anything.

Mr. Cray offered to let me use his gun, I used my coat and part of Mr. Cray' s coat to cushion the butt against my shoulder.

He cocked both hammers back and when the next duck came into view, I let her have it.

That gun kicked me so hard that I was knocked about six feet to the other side of the blind!

After we finished hunting we got into his 1938 Packard whose doors opened from the front and headed towards Rt. 8.

Mr. John said, "Bill, do you want to steer this thing?" The Packard had a great big wooden steering wheel. I took it over and I know I was winding all over the road.

When we finally got to Rt. 8 he took me to the Cray House where Mr. John and his brother Dick lived. They invited me in to eat. I don't remember the first course, but I definitely remember the dessert.

Dick Cray had baked three three- layered cakes; a coconut, a chocolate and an angel food. He asked me which one I wanted and I said, " That coconut one sure looks good."

I ate that piece of cake that was the size of my dinner plate with a glass of orange soda. I didn't think I would live long enough to eat all of that cake.

We sat next to the fireplace and I almost fell asleep after the long day of hunting.

The Cray family always made me feel I was part of their family. We had such a fellowship in those days.

I enjoyed Mr. John and Mr. Dick just as though they were my own grandparents.

KIHS QUILTS SELECTED

The early Maryland-made quilts which were donated to the Kent Island Heritage Society and are on display at the Cray House have been selected for a forthcoming book on Maryland quilts, from 1634 to 1934.

According to compiler Gloria Allen about 2500 specimens of early handiwork were surveyed and 150 were selected as "finalists". About 80 of those will be written about although not all will be included in the photographs.

The KIHS quilts were both selected to be among the 80 in the book. They were both donated by Mary Esther Dyes and her sister Frances "Bart" Hall, now deceased.

One is a "Feathered Star" quilt considered to be dated about 1850. According to the Hall family genealogy and history (from South Anne Arundel County), one of the quilts was given in 1875 as a wedding present to Virginia Hall by her mother Rachel Sophia Waters Hall (b. 1806, m. 1826 Thomas John Hall). It had been made as a dowery quilt for Rachel by her beloved step-mother Harriett Tongue Waters.

The Society is honored to have been given these illustrious early handiworks.

Historic Chester House

We have received an interesting letter from Clarence Booze of Chester about an old house on Dominion Road his son Jim bought and restored a few years back.

Clarence, who is an accomplished carpenter, recognized some very early hand planed trim over early beading in the house Jim was working on.

Knowing it predated the Civil War considerably, he went to the deeds in Centreville to look up the history of the house. It seems it had been owned by Rebecca Chase, daughter of a brother of Samuel Chase, the Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Rebecca apparently made friends with two of the Gardner families of early Chester then known as "Sharktown" for she mentions them in her 1895 will, leaving her "house in Sharktown to Hiram and Samuel Gardner, and their heirs...." and "Richard I Gardner and his son Richard I. Gardner".... and Emily A. E. Gardner who inherited a blue and white counterpane with nine snowballs and a ring" (Has anyone ever seen this decoration pattern?) *Ed. Note: Are these the Gardners buried on the north side of Rt. 50/301 near the old Chester Station in the old cemetery?*

Isle of Kent is published by Kent Islalnd Heritage Society, Inc. a non-profit corporation. Correspondence to Bettye Speed, 128 Eareckson Lane, Stevensville. Effort is made to publish accurate information, but no responsibility can be assumed by the SCoiety. Membership dues are $10 annually. Send applications to Catherine Kirwan, 641 Dominion Rd. Chester, MD> 21619