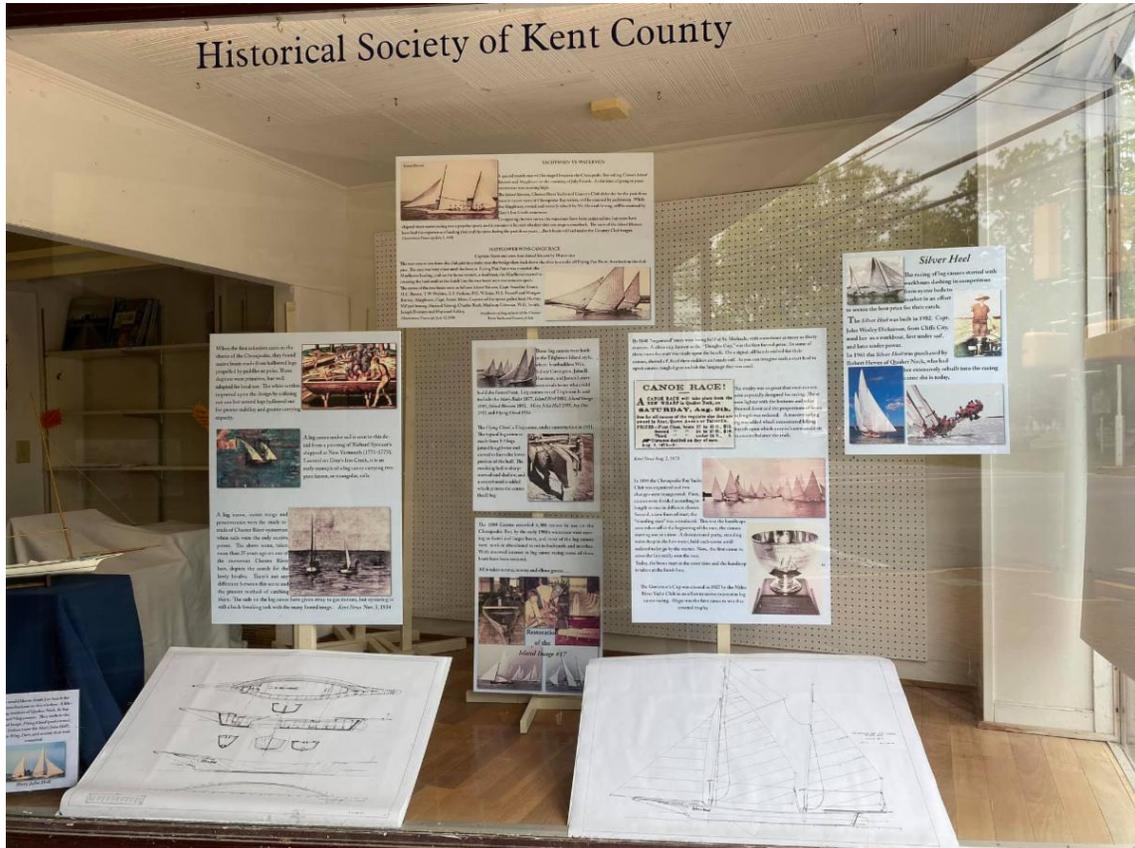




THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of
KENT COUNTY
UNLOCKING OUR PAST



Eastern Shore's Famous Log Canoes Window Exhibit

News From Your Bordley History Center

Closed but Still Offering History!

Although the Bordley History Center has been closed to the public since March 13, we have continued to serve up history through our window exhibits, our virtual architectural walking tour of the Historic District, and the treasure trove of history facts, documents, and even videos on our website. (Tip of the history hat to online *Chestertown Spy* for running an article about our continued offerings and to online *Kent Pilot* for its weekly history quiz from our board member Joan Horsey.)

Volunteer window designer Stephanie Gosman recently installed a new exhibit in our north High Street window featuring the Eastern

Shore's famous log canoes, including Kent County's own "Silver Heel," owned by the Hewes family and raced from their Quaker Neck farm on the Chester River.

Look too for mystery photos posted twice weekly on our Facebook page by part-time curator Amanda Tuttle-Smith. The first one received more than 4,000 hits!



Can you guess the location of our first mystery photo? Send us your best guess by email at director@kentcountyhistory.org

[Visit our Website](#)

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting Set for Tuesday, June 9—And It's Online!

The Society's Annual Meeting is now set for Tuesday, June 9, at 5:30 p.m. It's free and it's online! Look for a letter and an email (if we have your email address) by the end of the month; these will have the information on how to log into the meeting with your computer or how to call in if you do not have a computer. The primary agenda item is the election of officers and directors. At its May meeting (the first ever online!), the Society's Board of Directors amended our Bylaws to change the annual meeting from April to June and to add three additional Board seats, bringing the total Board to five officers and twelve directors. Nominees will be included in the information to be provided by the end of the month.

Renovations Have Continued and Are Almost Completed

Last fall we started crucial renovations of the front and rear facades of the Bordley History Center. These projects were almost finished when interrupted by Gov. Hogan's closure of non-essential businesses, including our contractor. Our rear brick wall has been refastened to the building structure and the front

facades failing interior beam replaced. When you walk or drive by, you can see the places where the bricks have been re-pointed, exterior rosette pins added, and the High Street stucco replaced. We are looking a little scruffy but we are sound!

With those exterior repairs completed, we are ready for the next stage: replacing the twin display windows flanking the High Street entrance. The tempered, UV-resistant glass has been ordered. We hope to have the new windows, frames, and moldings installed by late June-early July.

These vital renovations have been financed in part by a grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority. This is a matching grant, which means the Society has to match each of the \$21,000 in grant dollars with our own dollars (with a limited amount of credit for volunteer time). We were just beginning our annual fund-raising season when we were forced to cease operations. This means we are behind with raising our matching dollars. Your donations to this matching fund will be gratefully appreciated. You can donate online at our website or by mailing your check to our post office box.



[Donate Now](#)

When Will the Bordley Center Re-open?



There are several factors influencing this decision.

First, re-opening depends on when Gov. Hogan permits all non-essential businesses to re-open. We are a museum, so when museums are permitted to re-open, we will do our best to do so.

Second, our museum and gift shop are staffed by volunteers. When we are permitted to open, we will need to re-invigorate our team of volunteers before we can open our doors. We also need to institute new safety procedures and train the volunteers about them—masks, social distancing, hand-

sanitizing, etc. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to us.

Third, the replacement of our High Street window display areas will require the museum and gift shop to be closed for several days while the old windows are taken out and the new ones installed. We want to coordinate any re-opening with this project's completion.



Office Closed but Emails Being Read

Our offices officially closed on March 23 after Gov. Hogan closed non-essential businesses, a definition which included the Bordley History Center. We furloughed our part-time librarian and part-time administrative assistant at that time, and they remain safely at their homes.

Since then, our phone message advises callers to send an email, which are being read daily by Society officers. Our mail is being picked up and our bills paid by other officers, all working together cooperatively and remotely. If you need to reach the Society for any reason please send an email to director@kentcountyhistory.org