



NEWS & EVENTS

Richard Cheatham as John Rolfe | Annual Meeting | Time Capsule

December 8 - Annual Business Meeting & Country Store Talk

2:00 PM - Isle of Wight County Supervisor's Board Room, 17140 Monument Circle, Windsor.

Join us for our short annual business meeting and a presentation on Country Stores, followed by a peek at the Historical Society space under renovation in the "Old" Clerk's Office. Then adjourn for snacks in the nearby Garner Country Store in Orbit at 20365 Orbit Rd.

January 11 - Photo Scanning

In Search of Historic Isle of Wight County

Bring your historic photos and documents to the Smithfield Library to be scanned and cataloged for future research and publication.

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

255 James Street, Smithfield VA



John Rolfe by Richard Cheatham

September 15, 2024 Sunday afternoon, Benn's United Methodist Church, 14571 Benn's Church Blvd, Smithfield

The Isle of Wight County and Surry County Historical Societies present "John Rolfe", portrayed by Richard A Cheatham, a 14th generation descendant. Richard is the founder and director of Living History Associates, a graduate of VMI, a school teacher, museum educator and TV reporter.

John Rolfe was the pivotal early American who became the husband of Pocahontas. Their marriage at Jamestown brought an end to seven years of fighting between the native Powhatan people and the English. Rolfe was an entrepreneur who developed successful trade in tobacco, native plants blended with sweeter Spanish West Indies plants, that prevented the abandonment of the failing Virginia colony.



Scavenger Hunt: Where is this gate?

Rolfe was a member of America's first representative government, a little parliament called the Virginia General Assembly, several years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. His story is fundamental to America's founding story, one unfortunately few Americans have ever heard.

Doors open at 2 pm, program begins at 2:30 pm

Location: **Benn's United Methodist Church.**

No Admission charge thanks to a generous Sponsor-Member. Donations are appreciated.



The circa 1820s Isle of Wight County Court Clerk's Office is currently being renovated by County Facilities crews. When renovation is complete, space will be used for Archives of IWCHS. Other space will be for shared public meeting facility. Come see progress during our Annual Meeting in December.

Community Events

September 7-8 - 17th Century

Living History

-St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum will be examining the Colonial conflicts in this living history event with reenactors, a period concert and educational presentations.

stlukesmuseum.org/



Historical Society Contact Info

[isleofwightvahistoricalsociety@gmail](mailto:isleofwightvahistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/IOWCHS/](https://www.facebook.com/IOWCHS/)

iwchs.com

Isle of Wight County (Virginia) Historical Society
P.O. Box 121
Smithfield, VA.
23431-0121

Benn's UMC Time Capsule

One hundred years ago on July 4, a mason laid the cornerstone at Benn's United Methodist Church, concealing a copper box within it. The box sat soldered shut and undisturbed for the next century until opened on July 7 of this year during a Sunday service celebrating the building's centennial anniversary.



Benn's Church Time Capsule
(Image: Smithfield Times)

Read more at: smithfieldtimes.com/2024/07/29/a-rock-of-ages-benns-100-year-history-preserved-in-cornerstone/

Community Websites

1750 Isle of Wight County Courthouse - 1750courthouse.com

This historic building, the first erected in Smithfield, witnessed the growth of America from its earliest settlements, to life under colonial rule, the quest for independence, the Revolutionary War, and the first days of our republic.

Genuine Smithfield Events - genuinesmithfieldva.com/events

Isle of Wight County Clerk of the Circuit Court Record Room

co.isle-of-wight.va.us/our_community/history/genealogy.php

Wills, Deeds, Birth, Orphan, Death and Marriage Records.

Isle of Wight County Library (Smithfield) Research Room

blackwaterlib.org/library-branch/smithfield/

Library of Virginia Subject Guides - lva-virginia.libguides.com

Resources created by Library of Virginia librarians and archivists, grouped by subject.

Surry County, VA Historical Society - surrycountyvahistory.org/

VA 250 - va250.org/localevents/ Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) aims to form a more perfect union by educating Virginians about their history and civic duty and sharing

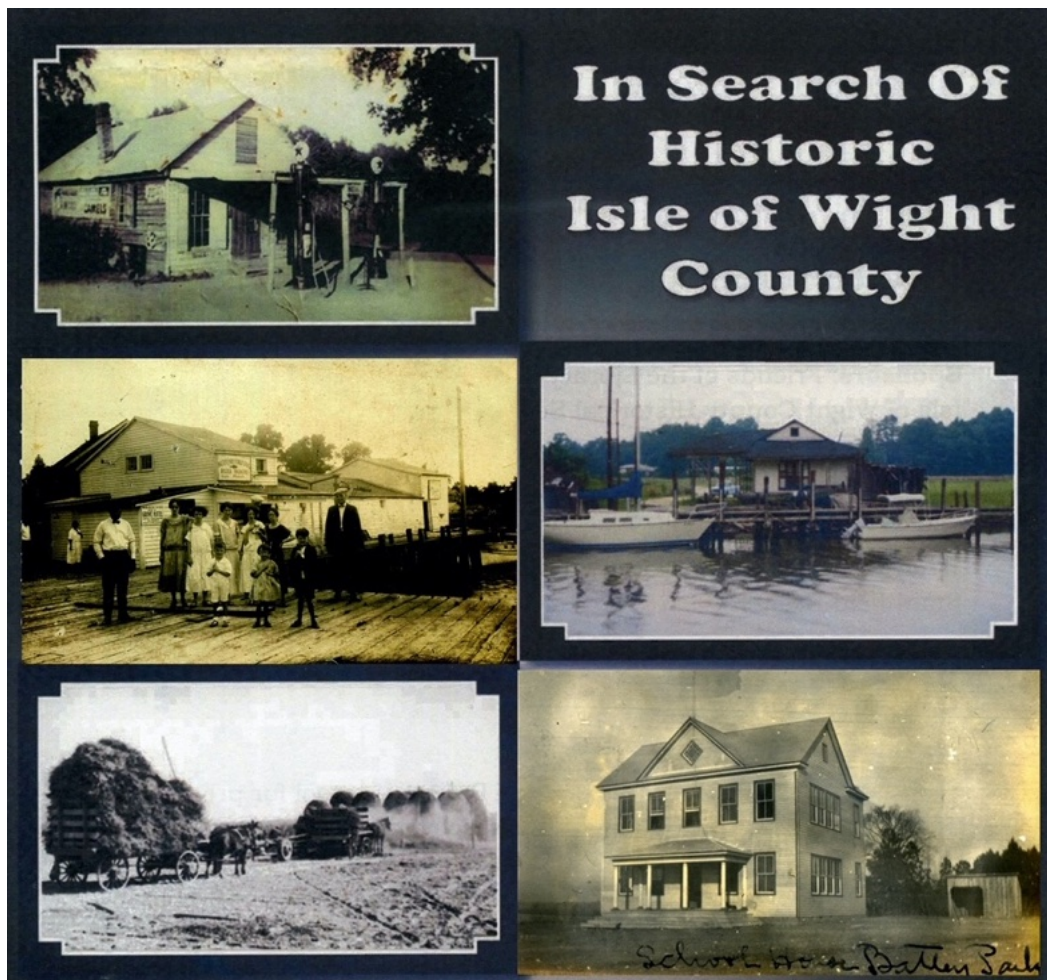
Mill Swamp Dedicated Restored Horse Statue

Mill Swamp Indian Horses dedicated a restored horse statue that has been painted to resemble a brown Corolla horse, one of the endangered breeds local to the Outer Banks. The statue previously had homes at Tastee Freeze and Hardy Elementary. Isle of Wight County gifted the statue to the Isle of Wight County Historical Society in 2023 and the statue was passed along to the Gwaltney Frontier Farm Education Foundation. Mill Swamp Indian Horses Founder Steve Edwards also gave a presentation on Thomas Gwaltney, sharing local perspectives from 1635, with the help of his horse Holland.



January 11, 2025 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Blackwater Regional Library, Smithfield Branch, 255 James Street, Smithfield, VA



In Search Of Historic Isle of Wight County

The Digital Imaging History Project seeks to locate early images (photographs) and documents of Historic Isle of Wight County, Virginia and to create a historical database. The images will be carefully scanned into the history database and cataloged for future publications and research.

The following is a brief list of items of interest:

- Historic buildings (houses, barns, kitchens, slave quarters, dairies, smokehouses, corncribs, icehouses, country stores, schoolhouses)
- Early farm scenes (peanut shocks, wagons, equipment, field hands, hog killings, plantings and harvests.)
- Waterfront scenes (oyster boats, steamboats, wharf scenes, etc.)

“I agree with you that it is the duty of every good citizen to use all of the opportunities, which occur to him, for preserving documents relating to the history of our country.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1823

Additional Calendar Events

August

31 "1750 Stitches" Historical Sewing, 1750 Courthouse, Smithfield
[_facebook.com/1750isleofwightcourthouse](https://www.facebook.com/1750isleofwightcourthouse)

September

18-19 - 1750 Courthouse annual ghost walk

28 "1750 Stitches" Historical Sewing, 1750 Courthouse, Smithfield
[facebook.com/1750isleofwightcourthouse](https://www.facebook.com/1750isleofwightcourthouse)

October

26 "1750 Stitches" Historical Sewing, 1750 Courthouse, Smithfield
[facebook.com/1750isleofwightcourthouse](https://www.facebook.com/1750isleofwightcourthouse)

Board of Directors

Carolyn Keen - President

Gerald Gwaltney - V Pres

Jim Henderson – Treasurer

William V. Garner

Kent Lewis, Newsletter Editor

Beverly Walkup

Nick Blevins

Historical Society Projects

Historical Marker for Elizabeth Bennett Young, caretaker of Court records during the Revolutionary War
Carolyn Keen and Kent Lewis

Historic Isle of Wight by Helen Haverty King, 3rd Edition, Carolyn Keen, Kent and Audrey Lewis

Ebenezer Rosenwald Schoolhouse Preservation – William V. Garner with
Brown’s AME Church & Schoolhouse Museum

Share your story! Get more info! Join the fun! Drop us a note at...

Email: isleofwightvahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/IOWCHS/](https://www.facebook.com/IOWCHS/)

We have a few copies of *Historic Isle of Wight* by Helen Haverty King, 2nd Edition

Each \$40 plus VA sales tax \$2 = Total \$42 each
Shipping \$7 each -- or pickup to avoid this charge.

Also *Why Old Places Matter* by Thompson Mayes

Each \$42 plus VA sales tax \$2.10 = Total \$44.10 each
Shipping \$7 each -- or pickup to avoid this charge.

NEWS ALERT

Isle Of Wight County VA Historical Society receives the 2024 Genuine Smithfield Community Ambassador Award

2024 Genuine Smithfield Community Ambassador Award

The Isle of Wight County VA Historical Society is a 2024 recipient of the Community Ambassador Award, presented by the Smithfield and Isle of Wight Convention and Visitors Bureau. Several local groups were recognized for their efforts to create special events in our wonderful community that bring in fun events and visitors from across the country.

It is through the great support of Historical Society Members that these events are possible, and there are thanks to be spread all around for your continued support and interest in our Society.

