



## Isle of Wight County Historical Society

IWCHS -- July 2023

### Upcoming Programs

Admission is **NO COST** for IWCHS MEMBERS in good standing for 2023  
And **NO COST** to Scouts and Scout Leaders

Admission for **ALL** interested in Preservation and Local History is same as  
signup for new or updated IWCHS MEMBERSHIP -- \$20 each -- or \$30 family

Please also **COMPLETE THE ATTACHED -- MEMBER INFORMATION** form

**August 13, Sunday, 2 pm, at BENN's UMC, 14571 Benn's Church Blvd.**  
**Robert B. Clontz, Statewide Fire Manager & Longleaf Pine Specialist**

#### **The Nature Conservancy**

Blackwater River Region through the eyes of a Naturalist. Fire-maintained pine forests once dominated southeast Virginia. Bobby's primary focus is the restoration of flora and fauna, like red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species and indicator of the healthy fire-maintained pine forests that once dominated southeast Virginia—something that is still quite rare in the commonwealth.

Also <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/virginia/stories-in-virginia/va-how-we-work-longleaf-pine/>  
Also: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackwater\\_River\\_\(Virginia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackwater_River_(Virginia))

**October 23, Monday, 7 pm, Smithfield Center, 220 N. Church St.**  
**Dr. Helen C. Rountree, "Why Would the Indian People Build Their Town There?"**

The famous Capt. John Smith map is busy with Indian settlements, some of which were mere camps that he saw inhabited because it was the summertime before the harvest, *i.e.*, occupied only seasonally. But **WHY** were year-round **TOWNS** built at the locations Smith saw? Reconstructed answers give a majority of reasons related to **WOMEN'S** work, not the men's.

**Dr. Rountree is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at ODU** and widely regarded as a leading researcher and writer on Virginia's Native American people. She is an honorary member of the Nansemond and Upper Mattaponi tribes. She is also the author and editor numerous books focusing on Eastern American Indian tribes, primarily the Powhatans.

**December 3, Sunday, 2 pm, 1820 Clerk's office, Isle of Wight Courthouse VA**  
**OPEN HOUSE and IWCHS Annual Business meeting**

A previous Newsletter (Dec 2021) announced that the County's 1820-era Clerk of Court office, empty for a decade, is to include the new home for IWCHS meetings and Archives. Renovation is proceeding slowly but is expected to be nearly done by year-end. We have missed these year-end annual business meetings since 2020 for Covid concerns.

# Isle of Wight County Historical Society Newsletter – July 2023

## RECENT Programs

We look forward to renewed participation in programs this year after the successful turnouts of

- almost 100 participants in October to touch on themes in the book “Why Old Places Matter” by Thompson M. Mayes, Chief Legal Counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation held jointly with Historic St. Luke’s.
- almost 150 participants Sunday of Juneteenth Weekend partners The Schoolhouse Museum, Main Street Baptist Church, and the Isle of Wight NAACP, “Freedom – Celebrating the Struggle for Black Education in the Rosenwald School Era”

**SPEAKER:** Stephanie Deutsch, Author of “*You Need a Schoolhouse*” about her husband's great grandfather, Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears Roebuck, and his partner-ship with Booker T. Washington, first President of the Tuskegee Institute, to advance African-American education by funding the construction of some 5000 schools from about 1913 into the early 1930s throughout the rural south, which educated a third of African American children before desegregation.

**REMARKS:** Dr. Tommy Bogger, Author of “*Work and Play, African-American Youths in Isle of Wight County 1920-1962*” He is Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Norfolk State University, a long-time professor of history there and Director of its Lyman Beecher Brooks Memorial Library and the Harrison B. Wilson Archives.

**REMARKS:** Lynn K. Rose, recollections about saving and moving the annex building of the Christian Home Rosenwald School from Longview Drive as the current Schoolhouse Museum.

**VOLUNTEER** needed to help prepare to publish a 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of “*Historic Isle of Wight County*” by Helen Haverty King with the IWCHS. The large format 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2007) is essentially sold out. A grant was received from the county in support of this project.

**Historic Preservation – another loss.** The historic J. W. Jordan store, known locally as the **CARROLLTON STORE**, was demolished in June by the county. It was considered a danger to the community and has been vacant and unmaintained for decades – a target for vandals and neglect. It was the center of commerce in “downtown” Carrollton for more than a century.

