

Isle of Wight County Historical Society  
News -- May 2023



Sunday JUNE 18  
At 3:00 pm  
Juneteenth Weekend  
Co-sponsored by  
The Schoolhouse Museum



Lecture  
by

**Stephanie Deutsch**

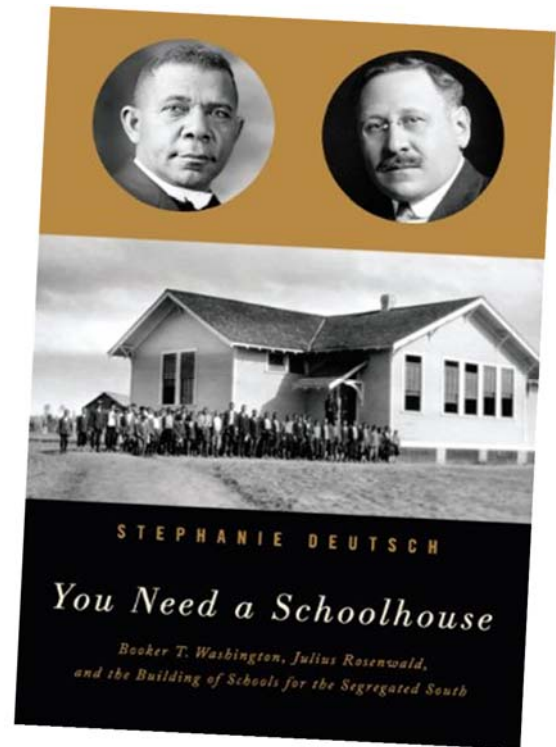
with Remarks by

**Dr. Tommy Bogger**

**"Freedom- Celebrating the Struggle  
for Black Education in the  
Rosenwald School Era"**

Followed by "Cracklin" & Picnic Supper  
*\$ donations encouraged for Schoolhouse Museum*  
with Jazz/Blues/Country music  
at

**Main Street Baptist Church**  
**517 Main Street, Smithfield VA**



**Stephanie Deutsch** is the author of "You Need a Schoolhouse", a book about her husband's great grandfather, **Julius Rosenwald**, president of Sears Roebuck, and his partnership with **Booker T. Washington**, head of the Tuskegee Institute, to advance African-American education by funding the construction of some 5000 schools into the early 1930s throughout the rural south, which educated a third of African American children before desegregation. She is now very active as a Board Member supporting the Campaign to Establish the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, <https://www.rosenwaldpark.org/>, which will include five Rosenwald School park sites in five states, in a way similar to the multi-state "Brown v Board of Education National Historic Park." She earned her BA degree from Brown University and MA from Harvard.

**Prof. Tommy Bogger** will add perspective from his elementary school days in Williamsburg and his related booklet "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. He earned a BA from Virginia State College, an MA from Carnegie-Mellon, and a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

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**Isle of Wight County Historical Society  
Member News – July 2022**

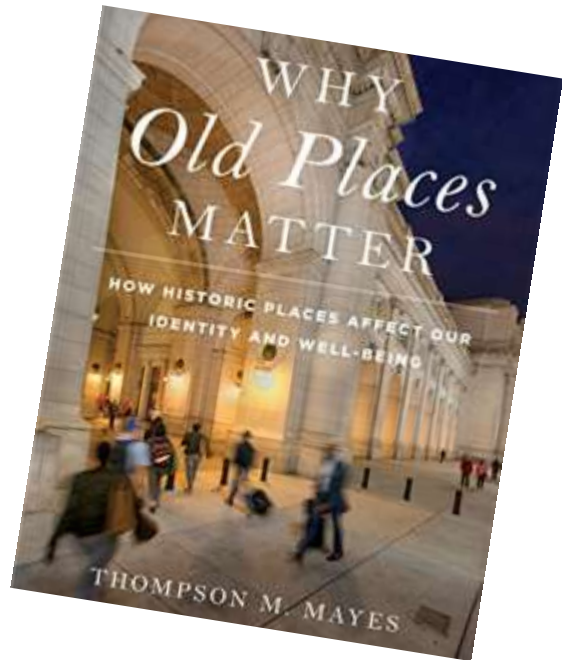
**NEXT  
PROGRAMS  
& News**

**Sunday OCTOBER 2 at 2:00 pm**

**Thompson M. Mayes  
"Why Old Places Matter"**

**at**

**St. LUKE's Historic Church & Museum  
Smithfield VA**



**Limited seating – about 80**

**Reserve in Advance**

Signup details to follow by early September

Mr. Mayes is the chief legal officer and general counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He has specialized in both corporate and preservation law since he joined the National Trust in 1986. Details about the book and Mr. Mayes can be seen at:

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/why-do-old-places-matter>

<http://sofa.aarome.org/2013-2014/thompson-m-mayes>

**BOOKS will be available at the lecture for \$50 from the IWCHS (cash or check).**

**5:00 pm there will be a DINNER**

**at the Smithfield Inn**

**112 Main Street, Smithfield VA**

**Limited seating     \$100 Advance reservations**

**Saturday OCTOBER 1 -- SELF-DRIVING TOUR**  
**Day before the program "Old Places" program on Sunday**

**HISTORIC ISLE OF WIGHT**

**Driving directions and map will be sent  
to members by email in September**

**correlated to BOOK**  
**"Historic Isle of Wight"**  
**by Helen Haverty King**  
updated with photographs of the  
Keen and Farmer collection (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2007)  
©The Isle of Wight County Historical Society



**and**  
**About 10am to 4 pm**  
**REFRESHMENTS and BOOKS**  
**[and printed directions]**

**at Garner's ORBIT GENERAL STORE**  
**20368 Orbit Road, Windsor VA**

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**Other News -- VISIT and fascinating Holliman/Holleman family history**

We enjoyed a fascinating day Saturday March 12 when a dozen cousins in the Holliman/Holleman/Holeyman family convened to visit historic family sites in Isle of Wight County. These friends of our Historical Society were from Suffolk, Richmond, Harrisburg PA, Syracuse NY, San Antonio and California. They have made wonderful historical and personal connections through research of thousands of family tree connections among their European-American and African-American ancestors that are associated with Holliman and Urquhart ("Strawberry Plains") plantations in the Mill Swamp road area in the western part of our county.

One of these connections is an inspiring story of the life of Isaac Holliman, born in slavery in 1818, freed in 1836, sold back into slavery in 1848 and escaped during the Civil war to Fort Monroe, where he was freed as "contraband" to live out the rest of the war in the neighborhood of the Fort. In 1866 he received money from the Freedman's Bureau to re-connect with family members and begin a new life. In 1871 he bought a farm of about 50 acres just southeast of Windsor. He died 1897-98, and the farm continued to belong to descendants through the mid-1900s. The link below is recommended for short reading about Isaac and Ann Holleman.

<http://hollimanfamilyhistory.blogspot.com/>

This is one of a series of articles of extensive family history that you may want to continue to read farther down the web page. Research is by Susan G. White of Richmond with related perspective by Sandi Royal of Suffolk, the great granddaughter of Isaac and Ann. Other leadership of this family group and its research has been from Glenn N. Holliman of Harrisburg PA who is also President of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and also the newest life member of IWCHS.

Long-time IWCHS members Sarah Barlow Wright and (Del. 1992-2011) William K. Barlow are also descendants of Holleman family with roots to the house on Mill Swamp. Sarah provided information about the house during a Holliman/Holleman reunion in 2016.

<http://hollimanfamilyhistory.blogspot.com/2016/04/christopher-hollymans-plantation-332.html>

We hope for a future presentation to our IWCHS members from Holliman family historians, perhaps during the next of their annual reunions.

**Isle of Wight County Historical Society**  
PO Box 121, Smithfield VA 23431

<https://www.facebook.com/IOWCHS>

**Website** <http://www.iwchs.com/>

**Ernie Powell** [webmaster@iwchs.com](mailto:webmaster@iwchs.com)

**Board of IWCHS**

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

**Carolyn Keen, President**

**Nicholas Blevins, Vice President**

**Jim Henderson, Treasurer**

**William Vaughn Garner**

**Kimberly Newman**

**Albert Burckard**

**Gerald Gwaltney**

**Attachments**

- **Flyer: The Digital Imaging History Project**
- **Form: Member information update - new and renewal**

## Isle of Wight County Historical Society – Member News – December 2021

From the Board of IWCHS

<http://www.iwchs.com/>

**Carolyn Keen, President**

**Nicholas Blevins, VP**

**Jim Henderson, Treasurer**

**William Vaughn Garner**

**Kimberly Newman**

**Albert Burckard**

**Gerald Gwaltney**

**Keith Compton**

Please **RENEW** membership and return the **MEMBER INFORMATION** form.

**DUES** for 2022 - please also pay this if not done already - **And**

**THANKS** for those of you who add a contribution with your dues!

This is sent also to prior members who let dues lapse 2 or more years.

Come back as we begin a new chapter - see **EXCITING NEWS** below!



The Isle of Wight County Historic Federal-style 1820-era Clerk of Court office, enlarged in 1822 and nearly doubled in 1937, has been empty for about a decade. It will soon be renovated and re-occupied with public meeting areas AND a new home for IWCHS meetings and Archives.

A long-term lease was recently signed with the County. The IWCHS will use a portion of the 1820 clerk's office. We will also be able to share in use of other public spaces in the building for meetings and programs. This generally assures preservation of the building and gives us a long dreamed-of place for archives and electronic records as a history research center. We are aware of some collections of important local history documents that are scattered throughout the county, most not in controlled storage environments or accessible for research. This new IWCHS location for historic archives will provide for proper storage for books, documents and photographs, and a secure place computer and scanning equipment for digital archives of what is collected and loaned to us. We now must organize an accessible and searchable database for these records to make them available to Isle of Wight County residents, descendants and researchers. They will also be just a few buildings away from the County records that are essentially complete back to the beginning of county government in the early 1600s.

We look forward to making this vision a reality and thank you for your continued support!

## **IW approves Historical Society lease**

The Smithfield Times, Tuesday, December 14, 2021

By Stephen Faleski

Isle of Wight's Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve a lease agreement on Dec. 9 that will allow the county's historical society to meet and store records in the old court clerk's office.

The 25-year lease requires rent in the amount of \$1 annually, with the Isle of Wight County Historical Society having the option to make one payment of \$25 for the entire term.

In return, the society will gain access to a 208-square-foot room in the front of the building and a 374-square-foot room in the back for its archives.

The entire detached building measures 2,511 square feet. It served as the circuit court clerk's office until a new courthouse was built in 2010 that moved the clerk's office and courts into a single building. Since that time, the old clerk's office has remained vacant.

Isle of Wight's Board of Supervisors had previously discussed the idea of partnering with the historical society on a renovation of the old clerk's office last February after the society's negotiations with the town of Smithfield to use the historic Wombwell House on West Main Street as its headquarters fell through. The Wombwell House was demolished Dec. 1.

Per the proposed lease agreement, the society would be required to reimburse the county for up to \$25,000 of the cost of the renovation, and would be responsible for maintaining the dedicated heating and air conditioning system in the document storage room once it's installed. The cost of all other utilities would be paid by the county.

### **NEXT PROGRAMS**

**We regret we have not been able to have meetings and programs in 2020 and 2021. We look forward to renewal in 2022.**

**2022 date tbd. Thompson M. Mayes, "Why Old Places Matter"**

**His books of the same title are available from the IWCHS**

Tom Mayes is Deputy General Counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He has specialized in both corporate and preservation law since he joined the National Trust in 1986. For details see

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/why-do-old-places-matter>

<http://sofa.aarome.org/2013-2014/thompson-m-mayes>

That same weekend there will also be for members a self-guided driving tour of "Old Places" in the county that are featured in the 2007 Second Edition of "Historic Isle of Wight" by Helen Haverty King with updated photos by Carolyn Keen.

A few of these books are still available for members