



# The Historian

Norfolk County Historical Society of Chesapeake, Virginia  
-- Preserving and Sharing Local History for 55 Years! --

Fall

November 2018

Volume 23, Issue 4

Dear Fellow Members:

The NCHSC has had an extraordinary year. We celebrated our 55<sup>th</sup> birthday in October! We have added so much to our Wallace History Room holdings -- historical books, bible records, maps, family genealogies, photographs and more. Special members like you, who believe in us, have helped in bringing these fantastic materials to our history room. You have made our society great and helped us grow. And for that, I thank you!

The NCHSC collection is growing and so are our volunteer needs. If you or someone you know has a love of history, genealogy or research, we need you! The NCHSC is always looking for volunteers to work in the Wallace History Room or help with special projects. Please contact Kay Ziegler, if you have some spare time, as we would love to have you join us!

Looking over this year I realized the heritage of Norfolk County is rich, complex, and culturally diverse. We watch as the old farms fade away and new housing projects become part of our ever-growing city. Happily, our heritage will continue to live on, not only in our Chesapeake court records and a few remaining old homes, but here in the Wallace Room. We invite you to come in and browse; we'd love to show you around and help you discover your Norfolk County history.

I am so pleased that our membership meetings have been very well attended and September's program was GREAT! We had 54 in attendance for Doris Stewart's very informative presentation about her book, *The "Bear Quarter Section" of Norfolk County, Virginia and Some of Its Descendants*.

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Please note a correction from September 2018 newsletter: The picture of Frank Portlock at the Norfolk County Fair was given by Mrs. Hunter Bert of Virginia Beach, not by Mr. R. Harper as published.

## Calendar of Events

### November 2018

Library Closed 11 Nov  
NCHSC Board Meeting 13 Nov 6:00pm  
Library Closed 22-26 Nov

### December 2018

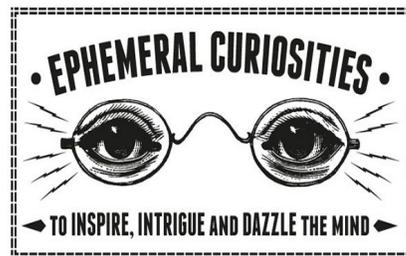
**NCHSC Annual Dinner**  
5 Dec 6:00pm  
Battle of Great Bridge Reenactment  
8 Dec & 9 Dec 10:00am  
SAR/DAR Battle of Great Bridge  
Commemoration 8 Dec 11:00am  
Library Closed 24 & 25 Dec, 31 Dec

### January 2019

Library Closed 1 Jan, 18 Jan, 21 Jan

### February 2019

NCHSC Board Meeting 12 Feb 6:00pm  
**NCHSC Membership Meeting**  
17 Feb 2:00pm  
Library Closed 18 Feb



Wallace Memorial Room

## President's Letter, *Continued from Page 1*

I am very excited about December's program too and I'd like to invite you to join us on December 5<sup>th</sup> for our annual Christmas dinner and program. We will have a special guest speaker who will be talking about the WWI German village that was built in the Norfolk Navy Yard in Portsmouth, VA. It should be an entertaining and informative evening so I hope that you will join us!

Robert B. Hitchings,  
President, NCHSC

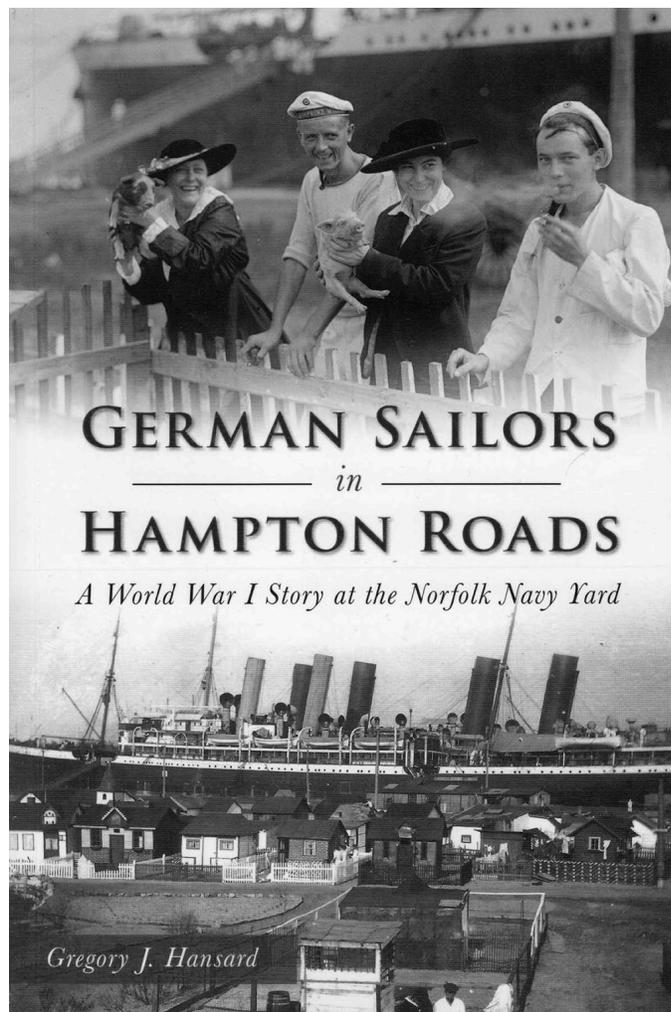
## Historian, Greg Hansard, To Present At Annual Christmas Dinner on December 5th

Our December dinner program will be presented by local historian Greg Hansard, author of *German Sailors in Hampton Roads: A World War I Story at the Norfolk Navy Yard*. Mr. Hansard will share with us the fascinating story of how Hampton Roads became a safe haven for German sailors during World War I when two of their warships sought harbor to make repairs at Hampton Roads.

Allied ships nearby kept them from leaving, so more than 800 German sailors took up residence at the Norfolk Navy Yard in Portsmouth, Virginia. They built their own miniature German village, visited family and friends and attended social events in the community. Their presence made the shipyard a major tourist area before the United States entered the war.

Greg Hansard teaches history and museum studies at John Tyler Community College in Chester, Virginia. He previously worked at the Virginia Historical Society, where he held positions as manager of web and digital resources and assistant editor of publications. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and a Master of Arts degree in history from Virginia State University.

We look forward to Mr. Hansard's program and to a very festive and fun evening! Please see the enclosed flier for further details and how to RSVP.



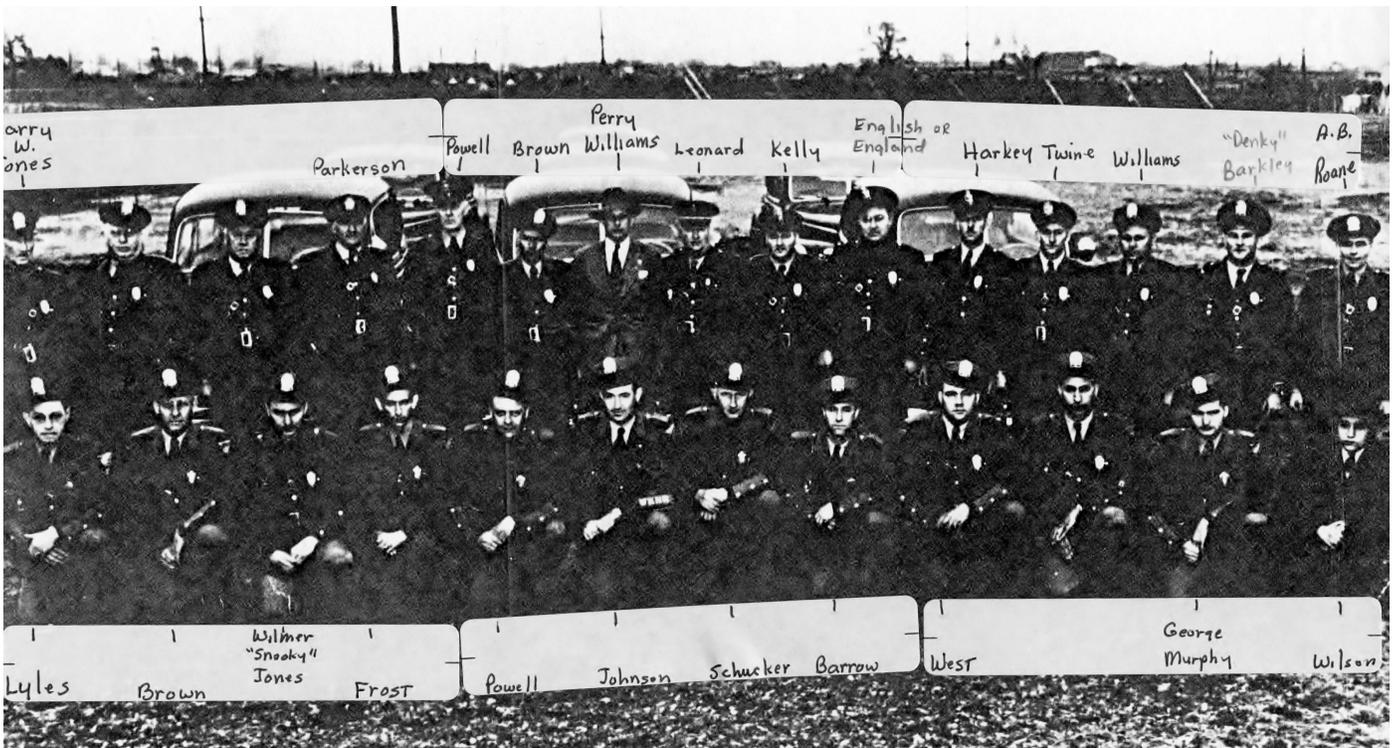
## Did You Know? -- The Norfolk County Police Department in 1947

By Paul Sutton,  
NCHSC Board Member and Wallace Room Volunteer

In 1947 the Norfolk County Police Department divided the county into six patrol districts. At the time, the county consisted of what is now Chesapeake minus the 2.4 square mile city of South Norfolk. Portlock, Riverdale, Tanners Creek, Westhaven, Cradock, and Churchland were still part of the county. It was a huge territory but only six patrols were on duty at a time; Car 1 - Tanners Creek, Car 2 - Indian River, Car 3 - Deep Creek, Car 4 - Cradock, Car 5 - Western Branch, and Car 6 - Washington Borough and Hickory. Each Officer worked ten hours per day, six days a week with one day off. The day patrol worked 8 AM to 6 PM and the evening patrol from 6 PM until 4 AM. From 4 AM to 8 AM there were no regularly scheduled patrols anywhere in the County. If there was a really important matter that had to be responded to, the evening officer would be called in between 4 AM and 6 AM, the day officer if it was between the hours of 6 AM and 8 AM.



One of the measures that police departments now use to rate the level of service to their communities is response time -- from when a call was received at the communications center to when an officer arrives on scene. Those figures would never have worked in the old Norfolk County days. I can't imagine how long it may have taken for an officer called out from home, travelling on mostly two-lane roads to arrive at a murder or other serious event. Just a reminder that "The Good Old Days" were not always so good after all.



Norfolk County Historical Society of Chesapeake  
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**Please check the date on your mailing label above to make sure your membership is current. Membership dues are due by May 31st.**

Questions or suggestions? Email us at [nchs.wallaceroom@gmail.com](mailto:nchs.wallaceroom@gmail.com), call us at (757) 410-7152, or visit our site [NorfolkCountyVAHistory.org](http://NorfolkCountyVAHistory.org). Date submitted (for your records) \_\_\_\_\_



## **Our Birthday Wish List!**

**As we celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,  
Help Us Save Some History!**

Preservation takes time, effort and supplies like these:

- ☞ Paper shipping tubes or wrapping paper tubes
- ☞ 8 1/2" x 11" white copy paper
- ☞ Thumb drives/Flash drives
- ☞ Electric stapler