



Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation

www.wbhouse.org

Officers: Phyllis Sawyer, President; Barbara Vaughan, Vice-President; Jessica O'Connor, Secretary; Margaret Moore, Treasurer.
Board of Directors: Susan Kellam; Mary Ann Schmidt; Kenny Harris, Leslie Rawls.

WE CURRENTLY HAVE NO EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR SPRING

We will post updates for future events to our Mailing List, our Web Site and our FaceBook Page

A FEW WORDS FROM PHYLLIS

Happy New Year to everyone!

We are all glad to put the year 2020 behind us and move forward to a new bright new year in 2021.

The COVID pandemic has been a difficult time for all of us, especially as we find ourselves "staying safe" at home and unable to enjoy many of our familiar activities.

We have remained open at the Whitehurst-Buffington House, wearing our masks and greeting the small groups of visitors that visit. Hopefully, as vaccines became widely available, the virus will begin to subside.

The house has endured storms, epidemics, and wars. It remains as a tribute to the enduring strength of the human spirit of the people who made their homes and history in the southern part of Princess Anne County.



MERRY AND BRIGHT

As for families everywhere, holidays at the WBH were much quieter this year. We missed the fellowship of our annual Holiday Open House!

We were fortunate to be open for small groups and families to visit. And we were lucky to have the house decorated by the Virginia Beach Council of Garden Clubs.

Organized by Peggy Caverly and Kay Eckhardt, who also contributed, members shared some much-needed seasonal charm with their fresh, period arrangements.



MEMBERSHIPS

The WBHF thanks everyone who has renewed memberships for 2021 and welcomes those who have recently joined.

Dues help with repairs and acquisitions needed to keep this wonderful historic house going.

Membership levels are:

WBHF Friend \$25

WBHF Patron \$100

WBHF Sponsor \$250 and above

Students \$10

To join, just mail to us at:

P.O. Box 56114

Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Memberships renew annually in the month of January. Members receive quarterly mailings and a discount on building use requests.

Your support is much appreciated!



The Whitehurst-Buffington House is open 1:00- 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

CELEBRATION

On December 6th, Chris and Haleigh Harris celebrated vows under a draped arch by the live oak. The bride arrived with her father and flower girls in a horse-drawn carriage. In spite of cool weather, the small, lovely ceremony warmed our spirits. It was the first wedding at the WB.



Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation

Interested in Volunteering?

Help us with:

- _____ Greeting Visitors
- _____ Gardening
- _____ Serving on a Committee
- _____ Cleaning
- _____ Leading Tours
- _____ Special Events
- _____ Clerical Work
- _____ Other: _____

Call the Foundation President at 757-427-1151 or the Vice President at 757-427-1833 for more information.

HISTORY CONNECTIONS

We celebrate the arrival of 2021! We look toward a return to normalcy- and shedding our masks.

Masks have become a symbol of the struggles from the passing year. During the 1918 Spanish Flu, masks were also a focal point. And just as controversial.

On one side a population used to sacrificing for the war effort saw masks as part of a patriotic duty. Others saw them as a violation of civil rights unproven in effectiveness despite examples to the contrary. An anti-mask movement arose in San Francisco.

There were mandates issued for wearing masks and against spitting. These were enforced by fines and short prison terms for disturbance of the peace. Many businesses were not allowed to be open.

In Princess Anne County changes in daily living were not as expansive. Still largely agricultural, the population was only 13,000. Access was limited to a few roads and the Norfolk & Southern railroad. Closures and cancelations were not as widespread as in Norfolk.

Residents were not without challenges though. Small numbers of churches and schools made separation problematic. If sickness struck a family, crops had to be harvested with whoever was available or face devastating losses.

Medical care was limited to local doctors and there was no hospital. A Red Cross nurse, Josie Brown, noted in *Navy Medicine* that, even in cities, treatment was basic. Hot whisky toddies were popular. Ice packs for the head, neck and heart were common in combatting the high fevers associated with the Spanish Flu. In Princess Anne County herbal remedies and poultices were regularly used as treatments even for the 1918 flu.

Visit &  Like the [Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation Facebook page](#).

GOOD READ

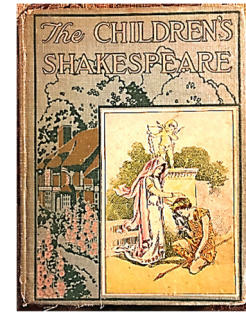
Members of the Princess Anne Book Club met at the WB on October 31st.



RECENT DONATION

A copy of **The Children's Shakespeare** was donated by Cathy Parker.

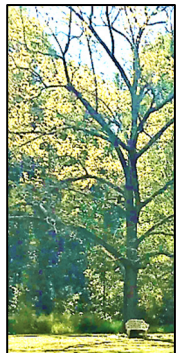
It is press dated 1900 by Henry Altemus Company. Many early printings bore the



company formation date, though, and it is likely part of the 1916 Golden Books of Childhood Series. Altemus produced juvenile books popular with boys & girls into the 1930s.

DID YOU KNOW

There is a black walnut tree at the WBH? Every part of this tree can be used. The wood is extremely hard- ideal for making furniture & instruments. High in protein and stronger tasting than English walnuts, they are delicious in cakes, cookies, and traditional honey walnut bread. Dyes can be made for stains and, when boiled, coloring wool. High tannin content makes it useful in treating asthma, high blood pressure, warts, & other maladies. Shells have been used to clean ships and for dynamite filler. The black walnut would have been prized in colonial days here.



The Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to the preservation of this historic home as a living example of early American life in Virginia.