



# 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, Donn Lee.

## UPCOMING EVENT! JOIN US FOR OUR FALL FESTIVAL on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th

### A FEW WORDS FROM PHYLLIS

Summer has arrived and the school year has ended.

The Governor has lifted the restrictions on events, gatherings, and travel throughout the Commonwealth.

America celebrates its 245th birthday this year.

We at the Whitehurst-Buffington House celebrate our 219th year by welcoming visitors and sharing a bit of the old Princess Anne County history as seen by the families who called this place home.

The grounds are shady, and the house is cool- perfect for a visit to learn a little more of our story.

### THE BRATTEN HOUSE VIOLETS

Many of the older homes once located in the area surrounding the Princess Anne Court House are no longer in existence.

One such home, the Bratten House, was on North Landing Road just west of the Municipal center. Sadly, the house fell into disrepair and had to be demolished.

As children we enjoyed visiting the house, talking with the ladies and their brother, petting their pet goat, and eating grapes from a massive arbor in the back yard.

### LUNCH & LEARN

The Princess Anne Garden Club held their May meeting at the Whitehurst-Buffington House. Attending were thirty-six members, many of whom had never before visited the house. Board member Mary Ann Schmidt hosted and Katie Hand, president, presided over the meeting.



One of the sisters, Margaret, was an accomplished gardener, creating spaces with grassy pathways between curving beds. Many types of flowering plants filled her beds, among them some beautiful white violets with purple centers. Margaret told us the violets had been brought over from England.

I grew up, married, and moved into an older home of my own. I again visited the Bratten house, walked through the gardens, and was gifted with some of the violets for my own yard. They flourished for many years; however, as new plants

### HISTORY NOTES

George W. and Marie Bratten bought the Whitehurst-Buffington House in 1940. They had brick veneer installed over the original clapboard. A kitchen was added creating a saltbox roof on the back of the house. Electricity, indoor plumbing, and radiator heat were also added.

Brattens were prominent in Princess Anne County & owned many properties. The J.M. Bratten Lumber Co. made a number of products including barrel heads and shingles. Prior to its 1936 move, the post office was located on Bratten property, and, at one time, a Bratten served as postmaster.

George passed away and Marie sold the WBH to James Buffington in 1953. His family retained ownership until 1986.

were added and changes made, they seemed to die out.

But this spring Margaret's flowers suddenly reappeared beneath my grapevine where the grass was no longer being mowed - close to their original site.

Today these violets are tucked into a flowerbed at the Whitehurst-Buffington House, a tribute to the Bratten family and the role they played in the development of this wonderful old house.

*-Phyllis Sawyer*

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

## RECENT DONATIONS

Mary Ann Schmidt donated two brass ladles. They are hanging on either side of the dining room fireplace.



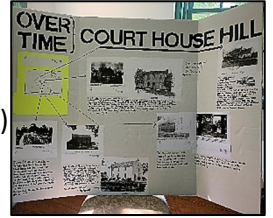
Barbara Vaughan donated a photo of her great uncle Frank Craze. In a period bubble glass frame, he is wearing his WWI uniform. It was taken just prior to his leaving for service overseas where he died and, like many of our fallen soldiers, was buried. The picture was sent to Barbara by her Grandmother Armentrout who was then living in Richmond. It is hanging in the map room.

Rebecca Whitson donated a hand made baby cradle for permanent display at the Whitehurst-Buffington House. It has been in her family for four generations.



## DID YOU KNOW

New displays of Princess Anne Courthouse History (1822-1968) are now available for viewing in the map room.



Included are enlarged aerial photographs of the area.

The information comes from the "Historic Structures Report: Princess Anne County Courthouse: City of Virginia Beach" (2017).

The boards were assembled by WBHF vice president Barbara Vaughan who served on the panel that produced the report.

## 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.



# Fall Festival

Saturday, September 18, 2021  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Antique Cars**  
**Local Artists & Crafters**  
**Tidewater Blacksmith's Guild**



**Picnic Area**  
**Tour the historic house**  
**Donations welcomed. Proceeds benefit the historic WBH.**

**Whitehurst-Buffington House**  
2441 North Landing Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456  
wbhouse.org - Facebook

Visit &  Like the Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation Facebook page.

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.