



The Datum Point

Newsletter of the
**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA**

Website – www.nvcasv.org

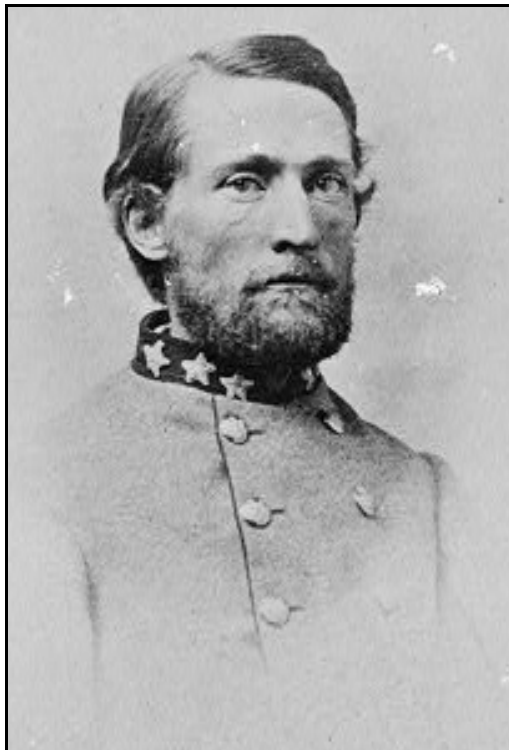
October 2006

October 11, 2006 Chapter Meeting

Speaker - Donald C. Hakenson Topic - This Forgotten Land

Mr. Hakenson will discuss the men and women, North and South, who lived in the Telegraph, Gunston, Colchester, Beulah and Franconia areas that are located outside of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Donald C. Hakenson has spent countless years tracking and researching obscure Civil War and Revolutionary War incidents and sites in Fairfax County, especially regarding the Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby and his rangers. His book, *This Forgotten Land*, was the recipient of the 2001 Nan Netherton award from the Fairfax County History Commission. Mr. Hakenson is also a founder and a member on the board of directors for the Franconia Historical Society.



Col. John Mosby, C.S.A.

Until Hakenson published his book, *This Forgotten Land*, this area had become a forgotten land concerning the history of the Civil War. In his book, he identifies the skirmish sites, Union forts and camp sites, forgotten homes of Confederate veterans, burial sites of Union and Confederate soldiers, and other interesting vignettes about these areas during the most dramatic time period in our nation's history.

Among the topics covered are Mosby's raid at the Rose Hill House and his attempt to capture the bogus Governor of Virginia, Francis Pierpont, and Stringfellow's fight at Widow Violet's house in Lorton and the fascinating story of Harrison the Spy who married Laura Broders and then mysteriously disappeared.

From the President – Patrick O'Neill

Fall is here, so get out these last few weekends before the freeze sets in and dig, dig, dig! Make sure and get your reservations for the ASV Annual Meeting in Richmond for the end of October. Details were in the last Datum Point. You may have noticed in the recent ASV mailing I am running for President Elect position of the ASV. I think I can definitely contribute to chapter level growth needed in the organization!

National Archives Report

In response to strong public comment, the National Archives has modified the schedule to provide extended research room hours once a month on Thursday and Friday evening and Saturday. The new hours are: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Once a month, we will have extended hours to accommodate researchers who seek evening and Saturday hours. The monthly extended hours are: Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 8:45 p.m., and Saturday, 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The first extended hours will be held October 19 through 21.

Chapter News

Chapter member aids effort to establish a 600-mile National Trail.

Sally Lyons joins Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route re-enactors on their march to Yorktown for the Oct 17 2006 225th Anniversary celebration. This was part of the commemorative walk to draw attention to the effort to establish a 600-mile National Trail.

In celebration of the 225th Anniversary of the Franco-American victory at Yorktown and in a monumental effort to draw attention to efforts to establish a 600-mile National Trail that marks the historic Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, three Revolutionary War re-enactors are marching the entire historic route from Newport, Rhode Island to Yorktown, Virginia. "America's March to Yorktown" is a non-profit effort to develop a National Historical Trail that would provide a self-guided auto route, hiking trails, visitor centers, appropriate signage and associated literature to preserve the memory and the route of the Washington-Rochambeau march.



Sally Lyon and Revolutionary War re-enactors

The literature and signage would include original campsites, historical sites and local points of interest along the route of the march taken in 1781 which ended with the victory at Yorktown over British General Cornwallis and effectively ended the Revolutionary War.

America's March to Yorktown site:

<http://www.marchtoYorktown.org/>

Archaeological News

Ramey Site (Langert '06 project)

By Mike Johnson

All approximately 900 bags of "goat feed" have been washed and are being sorted and catalogued. The sorting alone is a daunting task that hopefully will be done before the end of the winter lab season.



Knife/saw-like tools from Langert 1 and Ramey sites.



Etched piece of hornfels (pictograph) recovered from the Ramey site.



Large, reworked knife/saw-like tool from Ramsey.

During the cataloguing material collected after the site had been stripped, we identified additional unusual artifacts. These included the atlatl weight fragment shown in last month's DP, and the "one-piece" knife/saw-like tools mentioned last month and what is emerging as possibly the most significant single artifact in the collection.

I recognized the item as different early in the analysis but was unwilling to go out on the petroglyph limb and, therefore, put it in the "hornfels unidentified" pile. However, several volunteers kept asking me about it and finally Paul Inashima insisted that I reconsider its classification. I sent a picture of it to our own Dr. Stephen Potter, Regional Archeologist for the Interior Department's National Capital Region, and the encyclopedia on all things archeological in the region. He responded that it looked like an example of "portable rock art" and gave me a reference. We will continue the research, especially since petroglyphs are rare in Eastern North America and they represent one of the few windows into prehistoric thought.

Lucy's Daughter

From: The Economist, Sep 21st 2006



The ancient child's skull discovered in Ethiopia.

This is a photograph of the skull of a three-year-old girl—or a 3m-year-old girl, depending on how you count it. It was discovered, along with much of the rest of her skeleton, in the Hadar region of Ethiopia, in 2000. She belonged to a species called *Australopithecus afarensis*, which is believed to be ancestral to modern man. Following five painstaking years spent extracting her bones from their sandstone casing, Zeresenay Alemseged of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, in Leipzig, and his colleagues have described her in *Nature*. Her leg bones confirm that *A. afarensis* could walk upright, though her ape-like upper body and the arrangement of the semi-circular canals of her ears, which are the location of the sense of balance, suggest she also spent a lot of time climbing trees. The evolutionary transition to full-time walking, which would have freed early humans' hands for using tools, clearly came later.

Since young bones are fragile, such a complete specimen of an ancient infant is a startling find. Comparing it with adult specimens (the most famous of which is known as Lucy) should show the way that *A. afarensis* grew from childhood to adulthood, particularly the way the brain grew. Knowing how that process has changed over time may shed light on the evolution of humans' superior intelligence, which relies on a long childhood.

Lexington

By Paul Inashima

FPCA has been conducting a survey of Lexington Plantation within the Mason Neck State Park in Fairfax County. The Lexington manor house was constructed sometime between 1783 and 1787 by George Mason IV for his son George Mason V. The original plantation comprised 1,000 acres and included fisheries, slave complexes, wood lots, agricultural fields, and the sites of a former mill and mill pond. Lexington was preceded by a smaller tenancy which in 1760 was held by John Ferguson and which was worked with the help of 6 slaves. The tenancy buildings may have been situated within the same boundaries as the Lexington manor house. On George Mason IV's death, Lexington Plantation grew to include over 2,250 acres (the western half of his holdings on Mason Neck) and was assumed by his will by William, the younger brother of George Mason V. The manor house burned in 1879. At least one outbuilding was occupied as late as 1905.

No plans, drawings, photographs, or detailed descriptions of the manor house and grounds are known. Early nineteenth-century real estate advertisements for the proposed sale of Lexington list some of the structures and a 1905 photograph depicts two of the then extant period outbuildings.

The archeological current project entails two main operations: (1) the preparation of a detailed one-foot contour map of the manor house grounds and (2) a modified stratified twenty-foot grid interval survey of 300 feet by 300 feet zone around the location of the manor house.

The manor house is marked by a 30 by 50 foot cellar hole and is situated on the end of a ridge which runs westward from Gunston Hall. It occupies the highest point of land at that location. To the south, the former manor house is faced by a broad lawn area which drops down to a terrace and, then, cascades down more steeply to two other terraces before continuing downward along the natural slope. A graveled central alley connects the manor house to the terraces. The two lower terraces are accessed by ramps along the east and west borders and by a central ramp.

A twelve-foot wide gravel roadway parallels the south side of the manor house and connects to the east side of the central alley. The east end of the roadway has not yet been determined.

Selective testing along the east and north sides of the cellar hole indicate that the cellar was excavated only to the dimensions of the foundation, as no indications of a builder's trench were detected. Further, examination reveals that much of the foundation was robbed subsequent to the 1879 destruction of the manor house. Based on the accumulation of brick waste, it is hypothesized that the manor house had externally located dual-end fireplaces. Additionally, based on the depth of the cellar, it is hypothesized that the house had an elevated first floor level.

A well is situated near the northwest corner of the cellar hole. At present, it is devoid of water. Vertically, the well is 50-foot clear; but it may contain 10 or more feet of deposits below that depth.

A Georgian-influenced landscape is indicated by the symmetrical arrangement of outbuildings to the north (rear) of the manor house. Two large outbuilding remains are situated to the north and east (E1) and west (W1), respectively of the manor house. The west outbuilding (W1) is mirrored by a smaller outbuilding to its north (W2). The east outbuilding (E1) is mirrored by foundation remains to its north (E2), which in turn lie in line with secondary west (W2) outbuilding.

W1 is assumed to have been a kitchen based on the amount of brick rubble (i.e., larger fireplace) and associated artifacts and faunal remains. It is fronted along its south by a brick apron and cobble walkway. Adjoining the apron is a twelve-foot wide, north-to-south oriented cobble roadway. The roadway is brick-curbed along its east side, suggesting a formally landscaped area directly behind the manor house. An anomalous 10 by 10 foot, southeast-to-northwest cobble area lies down slope and to the southwest of W1. Based on the 1905 photograph, W1 was a one-story with loft frame structure with a west-sided fireplace.

W2 is interpreted as a smokehouse based on the 1905 photograph. It was a square building with a pyramidal roof. It appears to have been supported by piers which rested on large native cobbles.

E1, as with W1, is fronted along its south by a brick apron. Although no indications of an associated roadway similar to the cobble paving of W1 have been detected, a continuation of the cobble walkway between W1 and E1, however, has been found. The amount of brick rubble present indicates that E1 had a fireplace as well as brick foundation.

E2 appears to have been a larger outbuilding than W2, extending 10 feet further to the west than the mirrored

symmetrical footprint of W₂. Its function has not yet been determined. Indications of the disturbance and removal of brick here during the late nineteenth-century is indicated.

To the west and north of W₁ along the edge of the ridge top is a large 10-foot deep conical depression. This depression is interpreted as a dry well or ice house component. To the down slope of this depression is a brick-lined arched entryway into a brick chamber set into the hillside. This chamber is interpreted as an icehouse. Along the west side of the entry is a wide, artificially flattened access area which continues as an unimproved roadway to the north toward Mill Branch and toward a section of the drainage which appears to have at one time been impounded for a mill pond. Along the same path and to the north of entry, the path is joined by a secondary roadway which leads back up and to the east of the slope and towards the general direction of both W₁ and W₂.

Preliminary examination of the artifacts indicates that most are attributable to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These include refined redware, creamware, pearlware, and early Chinese export porcelain. Rare examples of black, brown, green, and purple transfer-print; brown slipped gray stoneware; and red slipped gray stoneware occur. Squiggle decorated tumblers similar to those found on mid- to third-quarter eighteenth century Philadelphia sites has been recovered. Lead glazed redware utilitarian vessels and cobalt blue salt-glazed stoneware occur.

The nails are primarily hand wrought or early machine cut; no wire nails have been recovered. The bricks are handmade in molds, and likely locally fired. They range from soft poorly fired to over-fired glazed bricks. The incorporation of a mixture of such bricks within the sub-surface sections of foundations suggests no preference for the use of glazed bricks in intentional patterns on this site. The mortar is soft sand lime incorporating burnt and crushed shell; the mortar appears to have been locally made.

Flat areas to the immediate north and east of the immediate manor house grounds have not yet been explored, but are likely locations for additional outbuildings. Likewise, a location of a probable slave complex to the west near Mill Branch has not yet been investigated. These areas will be examined later in the fall.

Archeological Lectures & Events

Virginia Conference will Feature Nationally Known Speakers on Indian History and Culture.

WHAT: Virginia Indians Discuss 400 Years of Survival: An Educational Conference featuring tribal center tours

WHEN: October 5-7, 2006

WHERE: Williamsburg Lodge
310 South England Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Williamsburg, VA-Virginia's Indian tribes are hosting a three-day conference this October to showcase their culture and discuss the laws and policies that have affected Virginia Indians and Indians nationwide.

"Virginia Indians: 400 Years of Survival" will be held Oct. 5-7 at the Williamsburg Lodge and at tribal centers throughout Virginia. It will feature representatives from Virginia's eight-state recognized tribes as well as nationally known speakers and dignitaries. The conference will include panel discussions on "Indian Law and Culture through History," "Government Policy as it Relates to American Indians," and "Preserving History and Culture."

The first laws concerning Indian tribes originated in Virginia, and the first forced displacement of Indian tribes to reservations occurred in Virginia. Those termination and reservation policies went on to affect Indians across America, and are not properly taught as part of Virginia or United States history," said Upper Mattaponi Chief Kenneth Adams. "This symposium gives us an opportunity to educate the public on parts of our culture and history, and review these laws and policies in an educational environment."

Dr. Robert Duncan, president of Bacone College in Muskogee, OK, will address conference attendees during a luncheon being held at the lodge. Many Virginia Indians attended Bacone College from the 1940s through the 1990s. At times Bacone was the only high school education available to Virginia Indians.

Tex Hall, chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara) in North Dakota, will deliver a keynote speech during a banquet that evening. Hall is the former president of the National Congress of American Indians. In appearances before congressional committees and in many other venues, he has lobbied on behalf of all Native Americans on such issues as

housing, education, and discrimination in employment.

The conference then takes to the road for a two-day tour of Virginia's tribal lands. On Oct. 6, the Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Rappahannock and the Upper Mattaponi tribes are inviting the public to their tribal centers to participate in special events and programs showcasing their culture and history. The tour will conclude with a special dinner, traditional music and dancing at the Chickahominy tribal center.

On Oct. 7, the Monacan Indian Nation will host its annual Homecoming in Amherst County. Transportation and a guided tour will be available for conference attendees wishing to attend. "As we visit the tribal centers, hopefully participants will learn first-hand about our past and the hopes we have for our future. We have never before had this opportunity to tell our own story in our own words on such a comprehensive Level." Adams said.

The panel discussions are free to the public. Separate fees will be assessed for individuals attending the banquet functions on Oct. 5, for individuals interested in the bus tour to the various tribal centers on Oct. 6 or for transportation to the Monacan Indian Nation's Homecoming on Oct. 7.

Agenda:

Oct. 5: Educational Conference (Williamsburg Lodge)

Oct. 6: A bus tour of the Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, Upper Mattaponi Indian tribal land. Special activities are being planned for visitors. Tour includes lunch and dinner.

Oct. 7: Monacan Indian Nation Homecoming, Amherst County. Tour includes lunch.

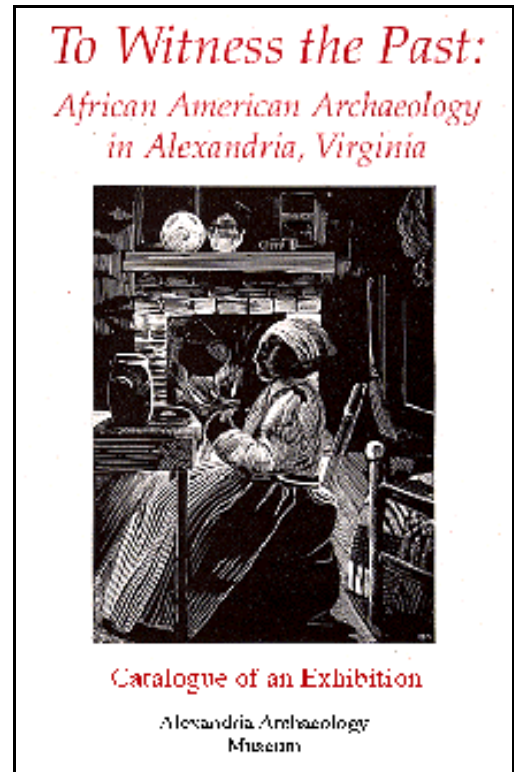
REGISTRATION: To register for the conference: visit www.Americas400thAnniversary.com or call 1-866-400-1607

COST: Conference panel discussions are free to the public. Lunch featuring the conference speaker Dr. Robert Duncan: \$20. Reception and banquet dinner with Keynote Speaker Tex Hall: \$50 Bus tour, lunch and dinner on Oct. 6 to Indian reservations and tribal centers: \$50 Bus tour and lunch on Oct. 7 to the Monacan Indian Nation's Homecoming: \$35. As space is limited, please register early.

Sandra Gioia Treadway, Deputy Director, Library of Virginia
Datum Point

800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000
(804) 692-3599. www.lva.lib.va.us

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY



Alexandria Archaeology Museum –
Third Floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N.
Union Street, No. 327, Alexandria

Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday, 1–5 p.m.; Monday closed

Exhibit: A Community Digs It's Past—The Lee Street Site.

During museum hours in October: An exhibition featuring the archaeology and history unearthed during the excavation of the city block in Alexandria bounded by Lee, Union, and Queen Streets. Free and open to the public.

Kid's Program: Alexandria Archaeology Adventure Lessons.

During museum hours in October: A series of 45-minute hands-on educational programs designed for K-12. Suitable for Scout groups, birthday parties, and school

groups. Cost is \$2 per child with a \$20 minimum. Limited to 20 children per program. Reservations required. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive.

Oct 14: Alexandria Heritage Trail Bike Ride 10 am.–1 pm.

Meet in the parking lot. A 20-mile guided tour of Alexandria's Heritage Trail. Includes some street cycling, gravel trails, a few hills, and stops at Alexandria's lesser-known archaeological sites. Bring money and a bike lock for an optional lunch stop. Helmets and reservations required. A participating adult must accompany children under 16. This event is free and open to the public.

Oct 21 Interpretive Excavation Site Tour 1:30–3 p.m.

Join city archaeologists for a guided tour of the Shuter's Hill excavation site. Investigations into this registered archaeological site reveal human occupation dating back 5,000 years. The current excavation focuses on the remains of a mid-19th Century estate and vestiges of a late 18th century plantation. The tour is free and open to the public. Reservations required. The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum. 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria

Oct 25 Lecture 7:30-9:00 pm: Love and Hate in Jamestown: John Smith, Pocahontas, and the Start of the New Nation.

This is an illustrated lecture with David Price on the riveting story of the founding of Virginia. Free and open to the public. Followed by a book signing with the author. Sponsored by the Alexandria Historical Society, the Lyceum, and Alexandria Archaeology.

Oct 28 Walking Tour 10 a.m.–noon: Under the Alexandria Waterfront.

Founder's Park, Corner of North Union & Oronoco Streets. Join a walking tour with the City Archaeologist, exploring Alexandria's maritime and archaeological heritage. Free, but reservations required. Dates and times subject to change. Call the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at (703) 838-4399 for event confirmation.

The Alexandria Archaeology Museum is owned and operated by the City of Alexandria and complies with the ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes a reasonable accommodation should call the museum ten days prior to the selected event. <http://oha.ci.alexandria.va.us/archaeology/>

ASV Volunteer Opportunities

Certification Courses:

Two certification courses will be taught at this year's ASV annual meeting: Anthropological Archaeology and Archaeological Laws/Ethics. The courses will be offered on Sunday, October 29, starting at 11:30 a.m. and going through 1:30 p.m. According to Carole Nash, co-chair of the certification program, a sign-up sheet for the two courses will be sent around in early October. You may also be asked whether you want a boxed lunch. Look for this email and respond to it, AND/OR forward your message to me and I will pass it along

I urge all certification candidates to take advantage of the opportunity to complete these two courses. Further, I encourage you to attend the whole weekend, or a good portion of it. In the process of completing the certification program, a lot of learning is absorbed, and the ASV meeting is a great place for that. You are welcome to sign up for the Saturday evening banquet, where Dr. Michael Barber, the new Virginia state archaeologist, will speak on "The Future of Virginia Archaeology: 2007 and Beyond."

Kittiewan Field Trip

On Saturday afternoon, there will be an opportunity to take a field trip to Kittiewan Plantation, a historic property which is being donated to the ASV.

Ann Wood is the Northern Virginia Chapter liaison to the certification program. Contact her at email: annpwood@comcast.net

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone (H): _____
(W): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

New _____

Renewal _____

Return to:

NVC/Archeological Society of Virginia
2855 Annandale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

Chapter members are encouraged to join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia.

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the James Lee Center at the above address.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

The Datum Point

Northern Virginia Chapter
Archeological Society of Virginia
2855 Annandale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED