

# THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)

October 2011

## FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOHN KELSEY

The weather wasn't the greatest for our picnic, but that didn't keep people from coming or dampen their spirits. Thanks to **Mike Johnson** for the use of his backyard and barbecuing talents. Thanks to everyone who brought dishes to share, especially **Steve Cox** and his wonderful desserts. (cont'd pg 2)



## PRESENTATION OCTOBER 12, 2011

## OF IRON AND IRONY: THE BATTLE OF THE POTOMAC AND A SOLDIER'S LIFE AT QUANTICO

**John H. Haynes, RPA**  
*Base Archaeologist, MCB Quantico*

A native of Portsmouth, Mr. Haynes has deep roots in and fascination with Virginia. Finding archaeology to meld many interests in science, environment, and history Mr. Haynes graduated from VCU in 1979 with a degree in Anthropology. After a year earning tuition money as a deck hand on a fishing trawler in North Carolina, he entered the University of Virginia.

Earning a Master's degree and passing the PhD examination, he lacked funding to complete a study, having begun fieldwork on the lower Pamunkey River. He took the position of Principal Investigator with WAPORA Inc. in McLean for 5 years, before running Chesapeake Quaternary, Inc. of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina for 12 years, and took his current position as base archaeologist at Quantico in 2004. While his Master's and dissertation research focused on the archaeology of regional Native American culture, historic archaeology of all periods as well as underwater archaeology has been a part of both his academic and professional work.

(Cont'd pg1)

Before the picnic, the Fairfax County Park Authority Resource Management Division held its annual Volunteer Excellence Awards Reception. This year, **Barbara Welch** and **CD Cox** were recognized for **twenty years** of volunteer service. I want to add my thanks and congratulations, Barbara and CD, to those expressed by Liz Crowell in her article below. CD has been screening at Westbrook, and Barbara is digging at Colchester.



CD and Barbara on the left

**Kathleen Lowe's** brother, **John**, has been helping the CART team at Colchester build a database. At the same time, John has been trying to convince his company, Booz Allen, to support a more technically advanced and widely accessible approach. While the latter has not yet been approved, John's efforts so far on his own time have helped greatly. To recognize this, John was awarded a certificate as Volunteer of the Year for Cultural Resource Management and Protection.



John Lowe on left

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, **Ann Wood** and I met with Pam Cressey and others from Alexandria Archaeology to talk about how we can better share information and bring our two communities closer together. Those of you who heard Pam's excellent talk to the Chapter in August will not be surprised to learn that she very much shares our interest in doing this and had several concrete ideas for how we can cooperate. Part of this initiative involves sharing more information on each other's activities. You should be seeing more about this over the next several months.

I'm happy to report that **Bill Cole** and **David Whitmire** will be receiving their certification at the Annual Meeting in Staunton in October. I hope many of you will be able to join me there and congratulate our two newly certified members. The deadline for pre-registration is October 5<sup>th</sup>; after that, the conference fee increases from \$25 to \$35.

### WESTBROOK

By Mike Johnson, ret'd

We have completed Block E, which was the second "hottest" pitted hornfels producing area as identified by the ten-foot interval STP sample. It produced numerous diagnostics, none of which were of pitted hornfels and no evidence of pitted hornfels cores, which we hoped would help answer the blade-like flake question: do we have a true prismatic blade technology or something else. Although we did recover Middle Archaic Morrow Mountain II, Halifax and Lamoka-like points most of the points were Early Woodland, Hellgrammite-like points.

A light scatter of probable Middle Woodland, netmarked, sandstone tempered Culpeper pottery also was recovered. It is not clear if it is part of the Culpeper net concentration recovered from nearby Block D. All of the pottery in Block E was, as expected, recovered only from the lab sorting after a thorough washing of the dry screen residue.

The next phase of the project is the cleaning up of unfinished parts of Block B. In one 10x10-foot sub block (datum of N180E260) we have almost completed the last 59 sq. ft. The first 40 sq. ft. was completed as part of the Cultural Resource

Management (CRM) audit in which we compared the results of dry field vs. washed lab sorted screens between professional crew members from Thunderbird and our own volunteers. The only new evidence from the block is two possible Fox Creek points made of hornfels. The raw material is interesting, because this block is on the edge of the highest quartz concentration detected by the STP sample.

An interesting aside is that Dave Whitmire, one of this year's two certification graduates, has agreed to run the Saturday field sessions at the site. This was one of the benefits of certification we envisioned back in the early 1980s, when the Fairfax County archeology program set up the proto-type program that led to our current State-wide program. Hal bonnet, who was last seen working on archeological sites in Israel, Bob Norton, retired certified archeologist emeritus and Dave Shonyo, current Gunston Hall Archeologist, were early certification graduates, who went on to supervise field crews and eventually take on professional status. The purpose of certification was never to merely have a cadre of shovel bums to be "used" by professionals. A category, called "para-professional archeologists" was always envisioned.

Our immediate plans as they evolve are to complete the 10x10-foot sub-block (datum N180E250) in order to connect the original Block B (datum N170E250) to the one just completed. This should give us a good sample of the highest quartz concentration. Next, we will finish the five-foot interval shovel test grid around Block D. The purpose will be to hopefully better isolate the center of the pottery distribution in that area of the site. Then we intend to excavate the possible fire cracked rock feature along the western edge of Block D. On September 30 we encountered a charcoal rich, post mold sized stain in the floor of the N180E260 sub-block of Block B. We will have to address that potential feature after we deal with the possible hearth in Block D.

We are still left with numerous questions and not enough time to answer them all. Among the more pressing issues are: (1) the isolated site to the north of our main excavations discovered by Thunderbird's excellent Phase I and now named (by

Chris Ramey) "the Four Bucks Site;" (2) extending the original ten-foot interval grid to the north to finally define the site edge in that direction; (3) infill the ten-foot interval grid with a five-foot interval grid in the main part of the site, especially the area in the southwestern part of the site that produced potential pre-Middle Archaic occupations, and (4) test excavate the depressions encountered in the northern part of the site.



**ARCHAEOLOGY AT**  
**MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO,**  
**FISCAL YEARS 2010-2011**

By John H. Haynes, RPA  
*Base Archaeologist, MCB Quantico*

Over the past 24 months Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico has had Phase I surveys for range expansion and timber sale areas, as well as Phase I and II for other Section 106 compliance projects and Section 110 inventory. Louis Berger Group Inc. (LBG) surveyed 185 acres for training range expansions and Section 110 inventory in FY10, excavating 1,986 shovel test pits in the process. Expansion of Range 11 and a new Urban Terrain Course near the Fauquier/Prince William County line found no sites.

Two sites 44PW1870 and 1871, both 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century dwellings were identified in the expansion

area for Range 14, near the former site of the village of Kopp, were evaluated as having lost integrity through past disturbances and were recommended as ineligible for the NRHP. Four areas were selected for Section 110 inventory along Cedar Run by the Base Archaeologist due to the approximation of 18<sup>th</sup> century home sites from maps of the 1759 survey for the Fauquier county line (Figure 1), and from Patrick O’Neil’s georeferencing of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Brentsville tract as well as a perceived high potential for prehistoric sites.

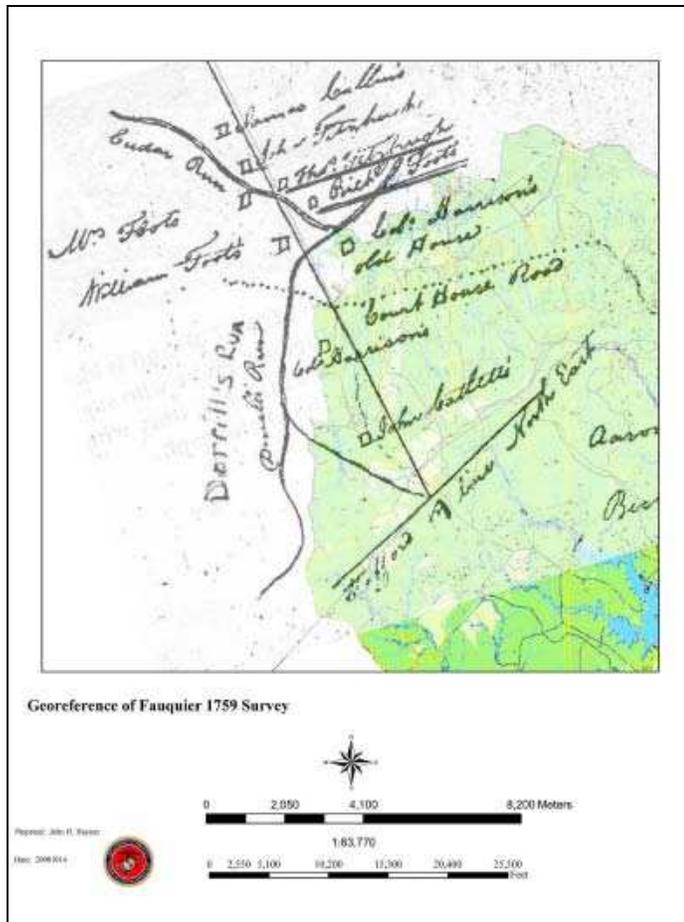


Figure 1: 1759 Survey map georeferenced

Two 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century sites were found near the confluence of Dorrell’s Run and Cedar Run. These sites, 44PW1868 and 1869 were recommended as potentially NRHP eligible. The other three areas, one at the confluence of Johns Branch and the other two along Cedar Run at Camp Upshur lacked any concentration of artifacts, historic or prehistoric.

FY 2011 surveys by LBG included Phase I survey of 158 acres of timber sale areas and Phase II on 44PW1860. Of the timber sale areas, 15.5 acres

had been previously surveyed. After field reconnaissance, the 142.5 unsurveyed acres were evaluated by the Base Archaeologist to scope the contract, using site correlation data for distance to water, landform, slope, soil types, proximity to historic roads, past disturbances and any direct historical information. This resulted in recordation of two 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century home sites, 44PW1880 and 44PW1881, and the identification of 48 acres to be recommended as shovel testing areas.

The LBG survey of these areas included 752 shovel test pits, which identified one small prehistoric site (44PW1897) and provided additional information on previously identified sites. All were recommended as not NRHP eligible. Site 44PW1860, a small 19<sup>th</sup> century cabin site, was identified by the Base Archaeologist in a 2009 survey (Figure 2). LBG undertook Phase II investigations in the fall of 2010, and found the site to be NRHP eligible. Based on documentary and archaeological evidence, they interpret the site as a slave quarter.



Figure 2: Flags mark a cluster of stoneware sherds associated with a hearth feature at 44PW1860

As of the end of March 2011, 429 sites aboard MCB Quantico have been recorded with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Periodic investigations of homestead sites known from a volunteer land survey in the 1980’s, promising landforms, or other direct information as well as Section 106 generated surveys constantly adds to the list. Information on an additional

twenty-two sites is being prepared for submission to VDHR.

One long known but undocumented site surveyed recently is a sandstone quarry on the Mainside portion of the Base which supplied stone for the construction of Butler Stadium in the 1920's (Figure 3). Additional research may show if the quarry had been in operation prior to the establishment of the Marine Corps reservation. Along with quarried blocks, there are parts from mining equipment, rails, and hand cart chassis which once road them. An interesting feature of the quarry and vicinity is graffiti, all dating to the 1920's and 30's, carved into the sandstone and the smooth bark of beech trees in the vicinity (Figure 4).



Figure 3: Sandstone quarry Marines used in the construction of Butler Stadium in the 1920s



Figure 4: Graffiti dating to the 1930s still remains in the smooth bark of some slow-growing beech trees at the site. "MCS" may stand for "Marine Corps. Schools" the official designation of MCB Quantico at that time.

Coordination with the Institute for Maritime Heritage and others on Civil War sites on and near MCB Quantico continues. IMH is planning further diving and remote sensing on wrecks in Quantico Creek in April. The primary target is most likely the CSS George Page, scuttled on 7 March 1862, but a number of other vessels were destroyed at that time as well. The Base Archaeologist spotted a cannon ball in the Potomac River during a period of unusual low water, in the vicinity of Shipping Point Battery #2 (44PW1830) in late 2008 (Figure 5).



Figure 5: The cannonball was camouflaged among thousands of river cobbles.

Several things precluded collecting the artifact at the time, including the fact that the artifact was in another state, the boundary between Virginia and Maryland begin the high water mark, and a need for a protocol with the Explosive Ordnance Detachment should the projectile prove to be an explosive shell. Maryland State Underwater Archaeologist Susan Langley was consulted as was Quantico EOD. Once these problems were solved, the problem became finding an occasion when the wind and tides would again lower the water enough to expose the cannon ball.

After two disappointments, Bill Utley an IMH member and explosives expert donned a dry-suit and groped around in the knee deep turbid waters while the author waded about in fishing waders with a backpack GPS. This proved futile, even though we knew the location of the projectile within two meters.

On 13 December 2010 the wind howled from the northwest, and by chance the author was in the vicinity of Shipping Point and strolled about the shoreline. The cannon ball was relocated and this time with accurate GPS readings and photos from several points, if still not collected due to the lack of a shovel and bucket. The waters quickly returned, but on the afternoon of 23 December the wind was up again and the water well out. At first this seemed not enough though, and the spot where the cannon ball lay was still covered by a few inches of water. Careful watching and waiting finally revealed its location and it was quickly retrieved, more than two years after originally observed.

As it turns out, the projectile is a 42 pound round shot, ammunition for 4 of the 5 guns which had been positioned in Shipping Point Battery #2 (Figure 6). Remote sensing and excavation inland at the location found no trace of the battery, and stratigraphy could not confirm that a feature in that area had been a part of the earthwork. It seems likely that the site was lost to erosion between 1862 and the installation of a bulkhead in 1952.

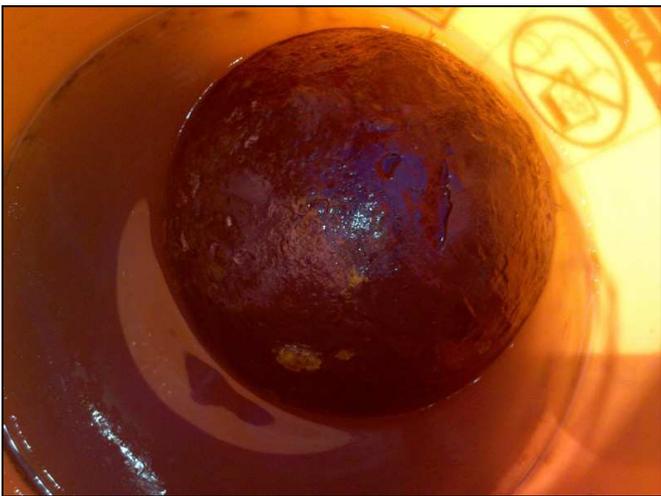


Figure 6: After recovery the cannonball was weighed and measured at approximately 7 inches in diameter, and about 42 pounds confirming it was an iron shot for a 42 pounder gun.

Close georeferencing of maps from 1919 and 1926 indicate that there may have been 50 feet of land lost to the river in that area prior to the seawall, and if another 50 feet or more were lost from 1862 until that time erosion would have claimed the site. IMH has discussed doing magnetometer and metal detector work to search for other artifacts in the

area. The 42 pound shot has been accessioned as the sole (thus far) artifact from 44PW1830. It was transferred to the Underwater Archaeology Branch of the Naval History and Heritage Command where it is undergoing conservation.

In April 2011 further underwater survey was undertaken in Quantico Creek and around Shipping (Hospital) Point by Dr. Gordon Watt in conjunction with the Institute for Maritime History (Figure 7). Surface survey using side-scan sonar in conjunction with a marine magnetometer provided additional data on the wreck, now positively identified as the Confederate gunboat CSS George Page, as well as a newly discovered wreck in the Potomac River (Figure 8). The later was participated in by a US Navy Dive team from Indian Head, who dove on the new wreck in June confirming the electronic data. The long narrow vessel, possibly a canal boat, could be the 'scow' described as scuttled in an aborted attempt to evacuate heavy artillery as the Confederates retreated from Shipping Point in March 1862.



Figure 7: Dr. Gordon Watts conducting sonar and magnetometer survey in Quantico Creek, left Ray Hayes, IMH right.

In May Marine Corps Base Quantico's Cultural Resource Management Program was awarded the Chairman's Award for Historic Preservation by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at the Old Post Office Building in Washington, D.C. (Figure 9). Also cited in the award were the Institute for Maritime History, John Milner Associates, the National Environmental Education Foundations, and the Virginia Department of

Historic Resources for various projects identifying, evaluating, and protecting Civil War sites in and around Quantico.

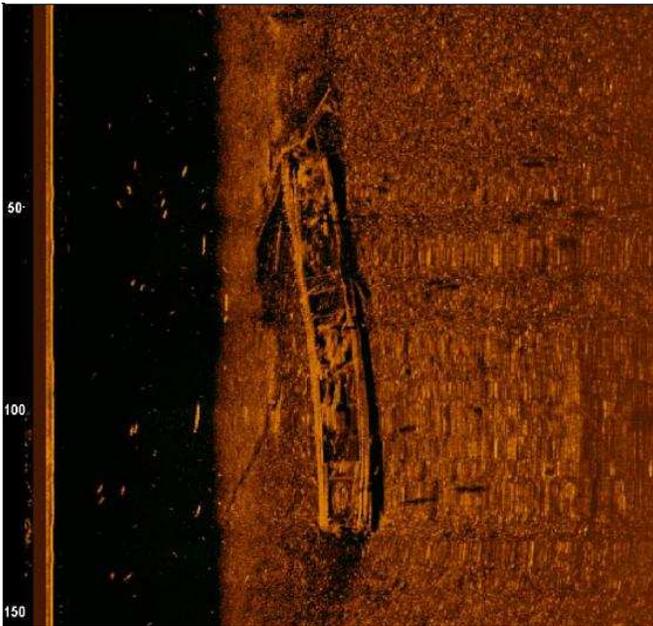


Figure 8: Newly identified shipwreck in the Potomac River.



Figure 9: Representatives of the Marine Corps and others with the author holding the ACHP award.

The remainder of FY 2011 did not include any contract surveys, and further IMH work in Quantico Creek will await the decline of the annual hydrilla bloom.

Two new volunteers from the Archeological Society of Virginia, Isabella Pease and Beth Larson, assisted the Base Archaeologist during the summer in the investigation of a prehistoric site on the tract occupied by the National Museum of the Marine Corps (Figure 10). Although it would be unaffected

by any planned projects, the site was investigated for inventory under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Although artifacts and fire-cracked rock were relatively dense at the site, systematic shovel testing and surface topography showed the area to have been subjected to erosion, and the site lacks the potential to yield any significant information. A late-stage perform found at the site conforms to the local Holmes type, of the Late Archaic period.



Figure 10: Volunteers Isabella Pease (left) and Beth Larson (right) record a soil profile.

Finally, the “Virtual Curation Unit – Recording Archaeological Materials Scientifically” (VCU-RAMS) project, a joint proposal by Base Archaeologist, John Haynes, and Dr. Bernard Means of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) to the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Program was funded in June 2011. The project will purchase and test 3D scanning equipment on artifact collections, exploring the possibilities of 3D digital data and images for interpretation and analysis. As of September 2011 the equipment has been purchased, a laboratory established at VCU, and initial tests made using the device and software on various types of artifacts (Figure 11 next page). The project can be tracked at <http://vcuarchaeology3d.wordpress.com> where posts on progress are made. Volunteers and professional enquiries are encouraged. The project will run through the summer of 2012.

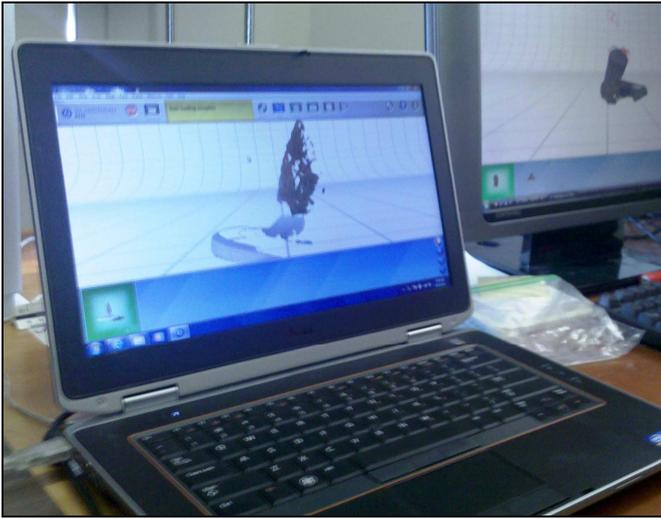


Figure 11: 3D Projectile point scan in progress

**FAIRFAX COUNTY**  
**CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND**  
**PROTECTION SECTION UPDATE**

By Liz Crowell

There are many things happening in archaeology and cultural resources in Fairfax County.

As many of you know, in the last year the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) initiated a survey of repositories which hold archaeological collections. COVA circulated a survey to assess the state of collections across the state and to determine which repositories held collections. One of the goals is to determine the condition of the artifacts, storage, and the presence or absence of associated documentation.

Over the past several years, with the assistance of volunteers and interns, we have been chipping away at reboxing and rebagging older collections to bring them to current standards. In addition, where we do not have associated documentation (fieldnotes, site maps, photographs or reports), we are reaching out to archaeological consultants to see if they still hold these materials and are willing to provide them to us. This process will be ongoing for some time to come.

As part of the COVA survey, the Department of the Army at Fort Belvoir was contacted and Derek Manning, the former cultural resource manager for

Fort Belvoir, arranged for a team of archaeologists from St. Louis to come to James Lee to assess the Fort Belvoir archaeological materials in our holdings. They are preparing a report. They will be either sending a team to James Lee to update these collections or they will be bringing the collections to St. Louis to be processed.

Work is continuing at Colchester and a write-up on this project can be found below.

The restoration and rehabilitation at Huntley Historic Site is nearly complete. The goal of the project was to restore and rehabilitate the building using historically accurate materials and techniques. The project received a prestigious Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service. As part of the project, archaeology was conducted to ensure that construction was not going to impact archaeological resources associated with Huntley or other previous occupation.

During the removal of a modern addition near the northeast corner of the building, foundations associated with an earlier entrance were encountered. This was documented and construction in that area was designed to have the least impact to this feature. As well, the foundation of an outbuilding discovered on the northeast side of the building as part of an earlier study directed by Richard Sacchi will be interpreted. Later in the year, there will be an open house to tour the property. Stay tuned.

On September 17, the Fairfax County Park Authority sponsored an event to honor the volunteers who devote so much of their time and expertise to county programs and parks. Our own C.D. Cox and Barbara Welch were each honored for 20 years of service volunteering in archaeology. We sincerely appreciate their devotion to our program. As well, the Volunteer Excellence Award was given to John Lowe, who has volunteered his time designing an artifact cataloging database to be used with the current version of Microsoft Access. This database is being used for the Colchester project and will be available for use on all future projects. John worked with staff to ensure that the new database met our needs and is compatible with databases previously used.

There are a number of upcoming events that will highlight archaeology. The ASV and COVA meetings are upcoming in Staunton beginning on October 14 and a number of staff, chapter members, volunteers, friends and certification students will be present and participating. On November 12 the Fairfax County History Conference will be occurring in the City of Fairfax at Sherwood Community Center in the City of Fairfax. The theme of the conference will focus on the Civil War in Northern Virginia. Dr. Stephen Potter, Regional Archaeologist with the National Park Service, a recognized Civil War expert and author, will deliver the keynote address. Other regional historians and scholars will discuss the War and its effects on the resident population.

Staff have organized a symposium on Colchester to be presented at the upcoming Society for Historical Archaeology meetings in Baltimore. More information on the day and time of the symposium will be made available when we receive the information. As well, an archaeology symposium, co-sponsored by FOFA will be held at Gunston Hall on January 28 and a FOFA symposium on the Archaeology of the Civil War will be held at the James Lee Center. More information will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your continuing support.

### **COLCHESTER UPDATE**

The past month will be remembered as one of change for the C.A.R.T. Firstly, it appears that the month of August used up all the sun leaving none for September. As a result, we did not make it out to the field with much frequency. On the bright side, we have accomplished a ton of cataloging. When we did get out to dig, the historic team found many of our excavations submerged.

To those of you who regularly join us, this should be little surprise given the high water table at the historic site. Never ones to waste free water, the historic team decided to take the opportunity to clean Feature 51, a stone masonry foundation with a

partially bricked floor. Artifacts from the cellar fill within (Feature 52), suggests destruction of the structure during the 1830-1840 time period with occupation likely dating back to the Colonial Period. The washing provided for some excellent pictures.



Work on the prehistoric sites has also continued. The original cruciform of test units across the highpoint of the site has been completed. Accordingly, the effort has shifted to the area along the Occoquan River. We have placed and begun excavation on a line that roughly parallels the shoreline. Not surprisingly, excavations have revealed complex stratigraphy again attesting to the dynamic environment and are telling us how past peoples adapted. If you cannot come out to volunteer, you can always keep up with our progress on our progress blog, [www.cartarchaeology.blogspot.com](http://www.cartarchaeology.blogspot.com).

September also marked C.A.R.T.'s birthday as well as the passing of our half-life. We were formed on September 1, 2010 to conduct a two-year project. Nearly a hundred full sized test units and countless mini-test units later and we are transiting into our

next, and final, stages. Moving forward we are ramping down field work on the town site to focus on a feature categorized as the Morris Pound foundation. Other parts of town, in particular the back lots, may be revisited as time allows. As the fieldwork is scaled back, the focus is shifting to lab work and reporting. We still need volunteer assistance for the remainder of the time we be in the field and can always use more help in the lab.

Among our successes over the past year, the partnerships that C.A.R.T. has cultivated will serve as an enduring legacy. Specifically, we are working collectively with the archaeological staff at Mount Vernon. They recently purchased several reels of microfilm containing the Glassford accounts. These merchant records include the books for the Henderson store that served the Town of Colchester. The research potential for the town specifically, as well as broader regional material culture studies is unique. However, to be of greater utility, the records require transcription. A number of our volunteers have voiced an interest in helping with this endeavor. Anyone interested in transcribing these historic accounts should contact our historian, Maddy McCoy at [Colchesterhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:Colchesterhistorian@gmail.com).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

Alexandria Archaeology is holding several events in October in conjunction with Virginia Archaeology Month. These include:

- “A Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria” – a lecture at the Lyceum on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Arts Safari and Museum Open House – Alexandria Archaeology Museum on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- "Their Families were there: Families of the Fort" featuring noted genealogist, independent historian and author Char Bah, at the Oakland Baptist Church on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 1 PM.

- Archaeology Day at Shuter’s Hill Site on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Auction and Reception to Benefit Freedmen’s Record Book at the Principle Gallery on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- “Historic Alexandria” – a lecture and book signing at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to these events, every Sunday in October from 1 PM to 5 PM, the Alexandria Archaeology Museum will feature an original May 26, 1861 edition of the New York Tribune detailing Elmer Ellsworth’s death in Alexandria and other exhibits. I have sent out details on these activities by email. Let me know if you didn’t get the email.

### HENRY CLAY BIRTHPLACE

By Patrick O’Neill

**Always keep you mind open, and always be willing to change your statements.** Last month, I told you about the west wall entrance to the cellar at the suggested birthplace of Henry Clay in Hanover County. What we thought a couple of weeks ago was a cellar entrance, was a basement level fireplace, found just this past Sunday (Figure 1).



Figure 1: West wall cellar fireplace.

A test unit placed to exposed the top of the wall and fireplace found part of a brick “sill” that may have

been built around a possible first story fireplace in what may have been a shed addition (Figure 2).

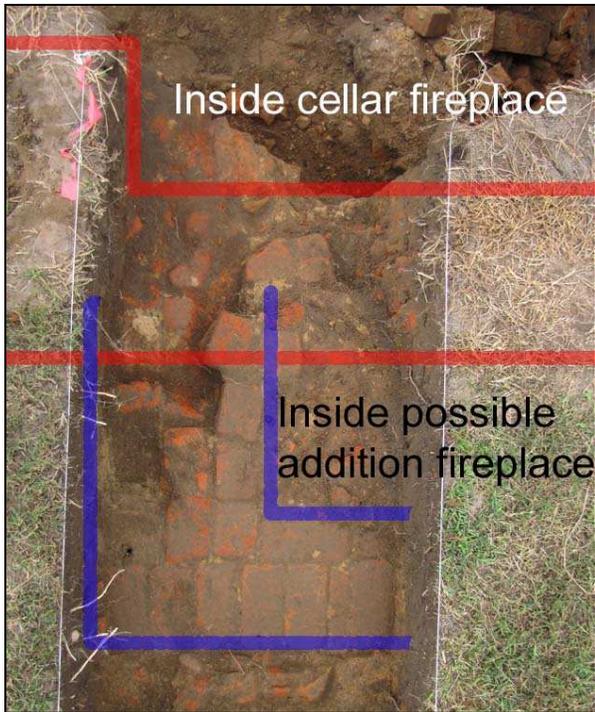
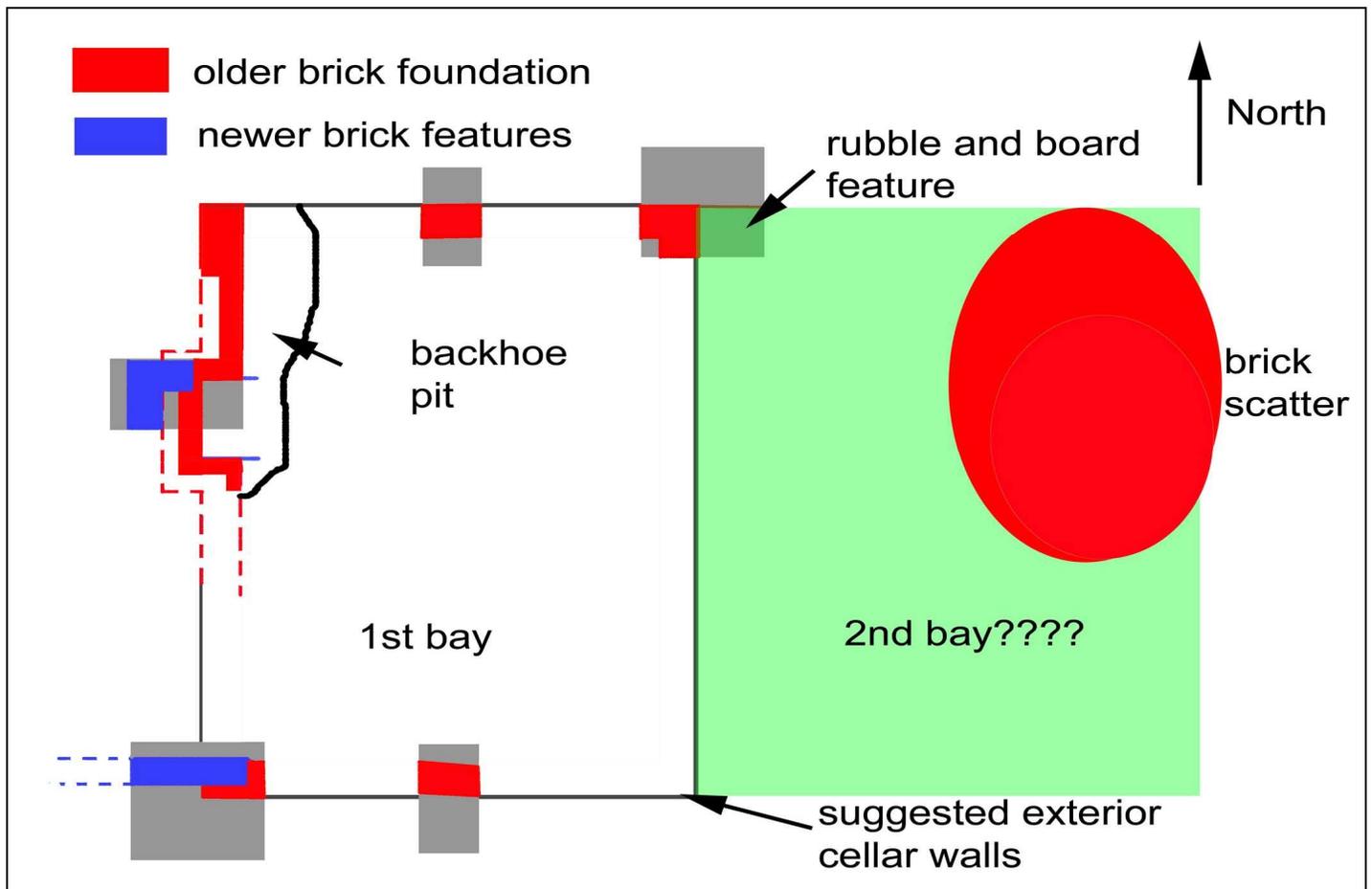
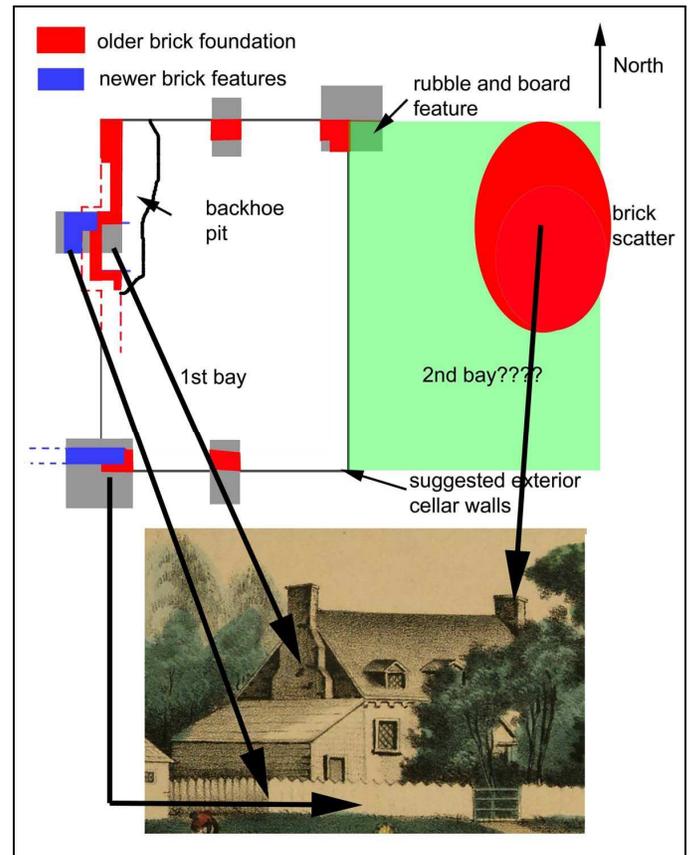


Figure 2: fireplace schematic



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Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	<a href="mailto:pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov">pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399 (information)

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

Chapter members should join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia.  
[asv-archeology.org](http://asv-archeology.org)

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at the James Lee Center at the above address.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**

### ***THE DATUM POINT***

**Northern Virginia Chapter  
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