

THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

August 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOHN KELSEY

Our annual chapter picnic is coming up on August 25th at the Cox Farms location in Centreville off Braddock Road, courtesy of the Cox family. It's a potluck affair, and everyone is asked to bring a dish of some kind: side dish, casserole, salad, or dessert. The chapter will provide soft drinks, main course, paper and plastic ware. We'll begin around noon and go to whenever. You can get directions on the Cox Farms website at <http://www.coxfarms.com/general/hours-directions>.

Our picnic will be by the pond – see the map of Cox Farms included with this issue.

The state-wide ASV Board met over the weekend of 21-22 July in Roanoke. As before, I'm impressed and a little saddened by how much of the organization's work is done by the same, relatively few people. Not to belabor the point, highlights of the meeting were:

- The ASV bylaws have been significantly revised to reflect a rationalized ASV structure. The new bylaws will be voted on at the general membership session of the ASV annual meeting October 12-14.
- Speaking of this year's annual meeting, which is being held in Wytheville, the ASV website has information on meeting registration and hotels. Go to: <http://asv-archeology.org/News/NewsAM.html>. It's not too early to start thinking about making arrangements. It's a pretty good haul to get [Cont'd page 2](#)

August 8th presentation

BEHIND THE WINE STAINED BARRELS & PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY AT OLD COLCHESTER PARK

By
Megan Veness
&
Aimee Wells

Megan Veness, Historical Archaeologist (BA – Archaeology, James Madison University). With nearly ten years archaeological experience, Megan has work at Shenandoah National Park, George Washington's Mount Vernon, and James Madison's Montpelier. Research interests include historical archaeology of the late-colonial period, in particular the maritime history and nautical archaeology of the eastern seaboard.

Aimee Wells, FCPA staff, has a BA in anthropology magna cum laude from George Mason University and a Master's Degree from the University of Leicester. Prior to accepting this position, She has been working with the archaeological collections and with volunteers and interns since she joined the FCPA in 2006. Aimee's research interests include contact period sites, the colonial Chesapeake, and the history of anthropology in America.

Cont'd from page 1

down to Wytheville, but I hope that we'll still have good chapter representation at the meeting. If you haven't been to one, you'll find that they're both interesting and enjoyable. For 2013, a contract has been signed with the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach for October 24-27.

- An anonymous donor has offered \$10K per year to support future annual ASV field schools, presumably beginning in 2013. In today's economy, this is an extraordinary gesture that will allow the Society to offer a first class experience for certification candidates.
- A portion of the ASV's property at Kittiewan will be logged possibly as early as this November. This is part of a sustainable logging program that is an important tool for funding the maintenance of the historic property. Before any logging is done, an archaeological survey will be conducted in the area. This would be a good opportunity for certification candidates who need survey hours (and also a chance to see an interesting 18th Century house and grounds.) Keep an eye out for information on this.
- DHR/ASV/COVA is planning a Certification Lab Session on August 6-10, 2012. Several lectures will be given and hands-on experience will be gained through working with the Huntsberry (18th/20th C farmstead), Corotoman (18th C plantation), Camden (Archaic and 17th C Native American), and Savage Neck Midden South (Early and Middle Woodland) collections. Lecture topics will tentatively include historic ceramics, lithics, metals, ethnozoology, prehistoric ceramics, glass, archaeology as anthropology. Sessions will run from 9 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, with an hour lunch break. Details of lecture topics and days to be announced. Register for one or more days

by contacting Dee DeRoche dee.deroche@dhr.virginia.gov or 804 482-6441.

Diane Schug-O'Neill and I are discussing possible presentation topics for chapter meetings next year. We'd love to hear from members about their suggestions for specific talks or general areas of interest. Give us your ideas as jkelsey@cox.net or schugoneill@gmail.com.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Ellen Leddy and Bill Yaeger as new Chapter members.

COLCHESTER UPDATE





Historic

Early in July before the really hot weather started, all historic field work was completed. Feature 87 at 44FX3197 (Town Site), is about a meter deep and has sloping sides cut into subsoil. Many large sandbags full of feature soil still await waterscreen / windowscreen processes. One strata of Feature 87 had over 1,900 artifacts recovered in the window screen, ranging from dark olive bottle glass to creamware to glass beads. Within Test Unit 151, Feature 85 (cut slate wall) was revealed along the southern wall of the large stone foundation (Feature 25).

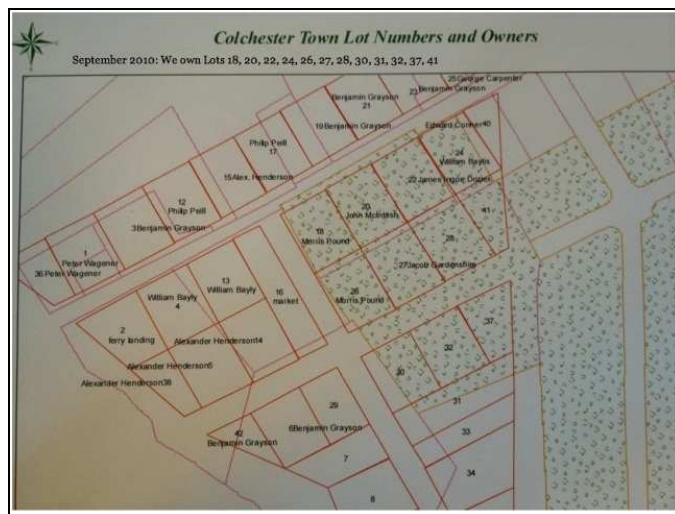
FCPA does not know the full extent of Feature 85; we first encountered it about 15 meters south of Feature 25 and do not know the southern terminus. The cut slate within this feature varies in size and shape between the interior and exterior of Feature 25. Feature 85 definitely pre-dates Feature 25, as it is below the large stone foundation, and is below the last cultural layer within Feature 25. Again this year CART is using the floatation machine at Mount Vernon. Through the float sample from each feature, small seeds or burnt bone could lead to

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more understanding of the activities of Old Colchester. Early next month, CART will backfill all the features, to preserve them for field season 2013.

Historic Research

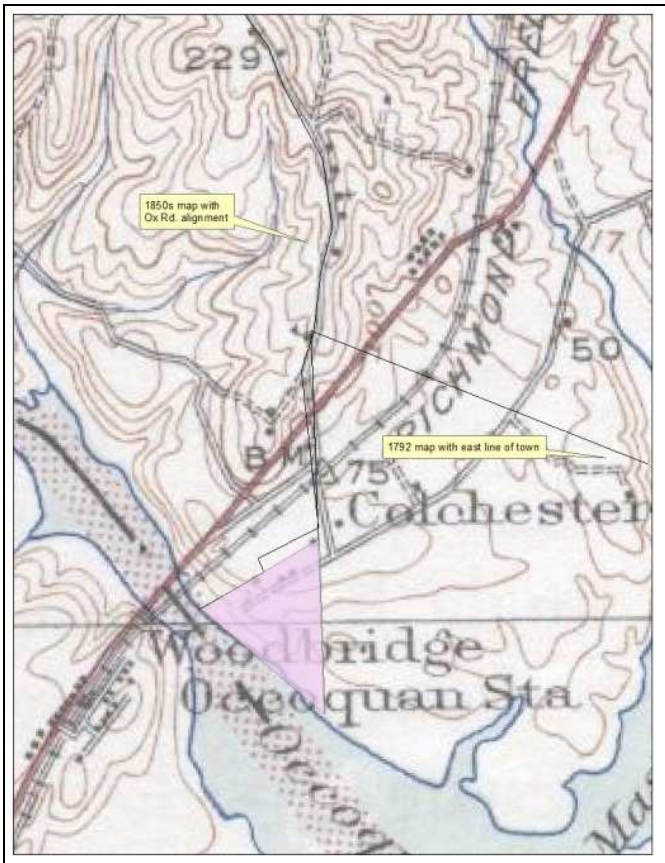
This past month was an exciting (and challenging!) month for the historic research of OCPP. Kathleen Lowe paired with CART historian Maddy McCoy throughout July, with the task of refining the lot boundaries of the town as surveyed in 1754. This activity has been undertaken on at least two previous occasions: first was the work of Edith Sprouse and, more recently, FCPA volunteer and ASV member C.K. Gailey digitized the survey map into GIS. These three maps: the original survey, Sprouse's technical drawing of the town in her book, and Mr. Gailey's digital version, are sufficient for general use. However, it was decided that an updated investigation was warranted to aid in the analysis of archaeological finds, as well as future Park interpretation.



1. The projected town lots at outset of project (2010) with FCPA park land illustrated by green dots. Note the edge of FCPA land is defined on the western edge of lots 18 and 26, historically Vine Street.

The first step was to collect copies of original surveys from a range of historical maps. Instead of simply digitizing the drawings, the detailed metes and bounds of surveys from the early 1700s to the 1960s were entered into specialized software that recognizes older terminology and transferred the

descriptions into digital lines that were accurate in both length and angle to each other. These digitized lines were brought into GIS, and scaled to the same size. Once all this was completed, the surveys of 250 years were able to be compared directly.



2. Survey lines from the 1790s and 1850s define the northern and eastern boundaries of Colchester. The background is the USGS from 1910, showing the 1850s survey tracing the original alignment of Ox Road.

Based on the historical surveys, an outline of the town was created. Then, the language of the 1754 town plat was consulted. The document specified that each lot would be one half acre, with 132' of road frontage and 165' deep; all roads were to be 60' wide. All the regularly-sized lots were digitally drawn to these specifications, and the result was a shift in the lots and our understanding of the town itself.



3. Updated town lot projection as of July 2012, with a geo-referenced aerial photo from 2011 as background. FCPA land is illustrated by the purple blob, and the outline of Colchester is a thin, red line.

As seen in Image 3, the bottom lots have not been drawn, as they are irregularly-sized and cannot be created with any mathematical certainty. Lot 33, which is on FCPA property, was created based on three of its four sides being defined by knowns (Vine Street, the eastern boundary of the town, and the intersections of the regularly-sized lots to its north), as well as the knowledge that all lots were to be a half acre in size.

When comparing the 2010 projection to the most recent, the most glaring difference is the shift of the location of Vine Street, which is now on FCPA property along with half of Lot 16 – the “market lot”. This challenged the widely-held belief that a modern driveway had occupied the location and alignment of Vine Street for 250 years. A reexamination of a court case from 1911/12 provided an answer: the old road was plowed and

moved west to the boundary line of two property owners, Beach and Hyde.

Megan Veness will discuss how this updated projection of Colchester town fits with and effects the interpretation of features excavated on 44FX3197 at the upcoming ASV NVC chapter meeting on Wednesday, August 8th. Be sure to attend for more details on these exciting developments!

In related news, Chris is digging at the Walney Visitor's Center at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. He is excavating mini-tests and full test units in an area along and just north of the house. He has only had a few field days but is recovering eighteenth and nineteenth century artifacts. He is not sure how much longer he will be out there so if you are interested, contact him at christopher.sperling@fairfaxcounty.gov. He tries to make it out Thursdays through Saturdays.

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS **FROM OUR FRIENDS IN MARYLAND**

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum is pleased to announce the Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology: <http://jeff-patt-park.livejournal.com/>

Three new sections have been added to Post-Colonial Ceramics on the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website posted under the category "Less Commonly Found Wares," and include: Rockingham wares, decal decorated wares and sprig molded wares (of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries). *(This is an interesting website that's worth a visit for those interested in the subject matter.)*

<http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/index.htm>

USNA professor [President of the Anne Arundel County Archeological Society, a chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, ASM] finds possible remains of early 19th Century Fort Madison on the grounds of the Naval Academy.

http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/naval_academy/usna-professor-finds-possible-remains-of-army-fort/article_17eaf49-209e-5943-b835-ec20b82dbc72.html?mode=story

Up-Coming Events

- The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. will host its 19th annual symposium, "The World Around Them: How Pre-Columbian Societies Created Their Cultural Landscapes," on September 15th at the US Navy Memorial and Heritage Center, Washington, D.C. For further information, see [http://www.pcswdc.org/powercms/files/Symposia/2012/Brochure%20\(web\).pdf](http://www.pcswdc.org/powercms/files/Symposia/2012/Brochure%20(web).pdf).
- Preservation Virginia's annual conference on "Bridging the Gap: Connecting People & Resources to Preserve Virginia's Historic Places" will be held in Leesburg September 23-25. For more information, see <http://preservationvirginia.org/programs/annual-conference>.
- Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc. will host an archaeology symposium on "Current Archaeological Research and Public Outreach in the Potomac Region" on Thursday, November 1st at its Gainesville, VA office. See flyer included in this issue for further information.
- Fairfax County's 8th Annual History Conference will be held on Saturday, November 10th at the Stacy Sherwood Conference Center in Fairfax, VA. See flyer included in this issue for further information.

UPDATE FROM
ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
FORT WARD

This map and key were passed out at the last SAG meeting at Fort Ward. A new update will come in a few weeks outlying the last findings. Several additional graves were discovered in the last few weeks of work directed by Francine Bromberg of our staff, particularly at the Jackson Cemetery. In addition, two additional graves were identified on either side of Clara and Roberts Adams, and two graves were found where Amanda Clarke stated she wanted to be buried at the far east of her property in a grove of trees in the corner of property connecting with her half-sister, Clara Adams.

All the Stage 2 Archaeology work is finished at Fort Ward. You may see some additional trenching work to make sure that fencing for the cemeteries will not disturb any graves. Depending upon what is decided regarding the Adams burial area, and what we are calling the Amanda Clarke burial area (but we don't know who is actually buried there), more archaeological work may be needed in the future.

In addition, Garrett Fesler and Ruth Reeder of our staff have worked with students in the Archaeology Summer Camp the last two weeks to examine the Ashby House property. Their experience was heightened by the photographs provided by Stephanie Gordon, daughter of Barbara Ashby Gordon who has fond memories of the Ashby House. Professor Krystyn Moon offered provocative and interesting sessions about the history and oral history of the people who once lived at The Fort.

Volunteers directed by staff archaeologist Paul Nasca will continue processing the artifacts at the museum laboratory in the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

LEGEND FOR MAP ON NEXT PAGE

Area of Interest 1: Peters and Lewis households.

Area of Interest 2: Peters lot.

Area of Interest 3: James Jackson lot (1894-1925) or Garnett Ashby lot (1925-1938).

Area of Interest 4: Javins households

Area of Interest 5: Cravins lot.

Area of Interest 6: Unknown household. Impacted by loop road.

Area of Interest 7: Possible Shorts/Stewart outbuilding.

Area of Interest 8: Unknown building on 1937 aerial map.

Area of Interest 9: Shorts/Stewart household.

Area of Interest 10: Possible Amanda Clark dwelling.

Area of Interest 11: Ashby household.

Area of Interest 12: Smith/Collins house.

Area of Interest 13: Seminary Colored School (ca. 1898-1926), St. Cyprians Episcopal Church (ca. 1926-1942), Lee Thomas Young house (ca. 1947-1960).

Area of Interest 14: Casey/Belk house.

Area of Interest 15: Hogan/Craven house.

Area of Interest 16: Clara Adams/McKnight house.

Area of Interest 17: Ball family house.

Area of Interest 18: Randall household.

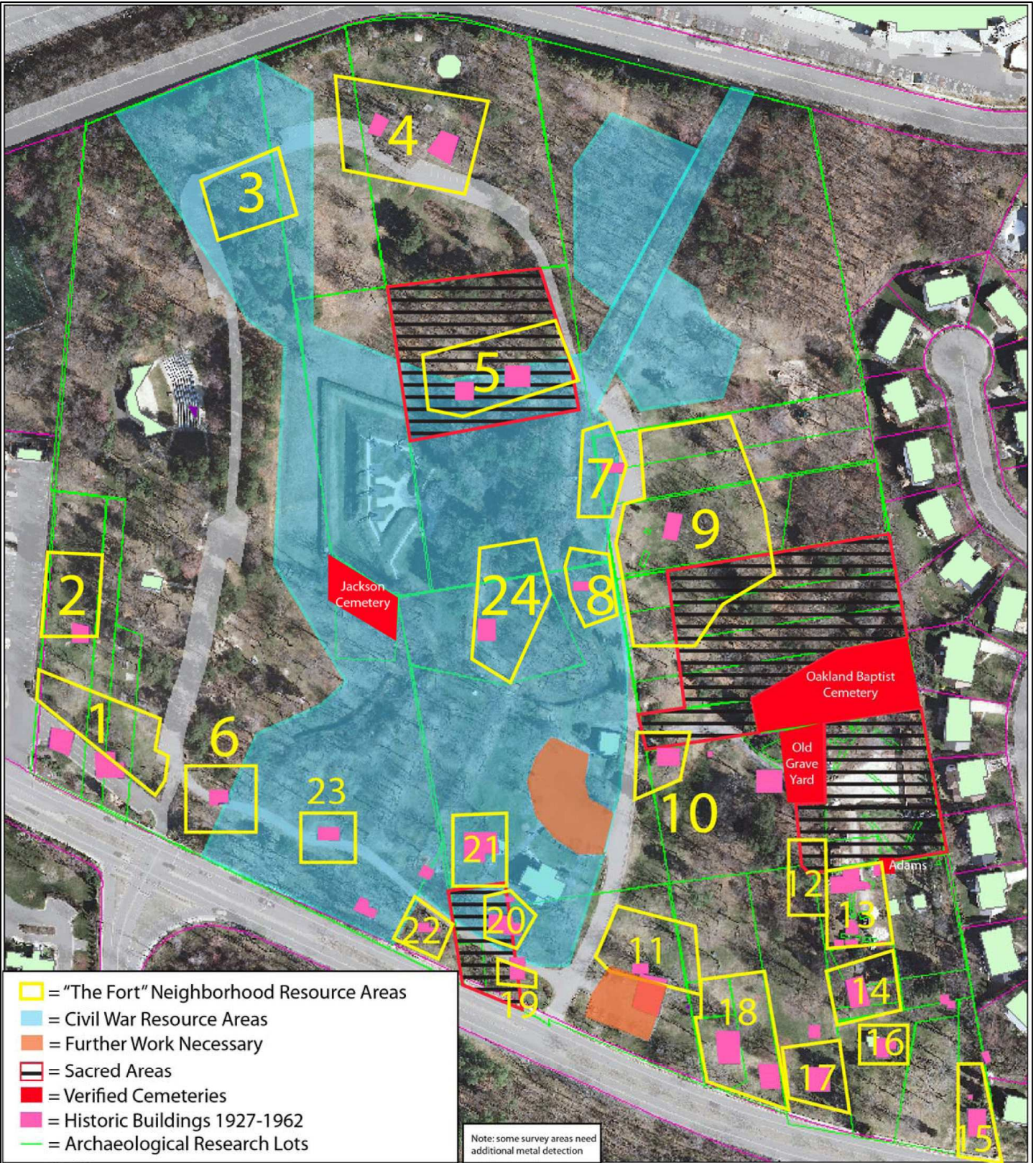
Areas of Interest 19 and 20: McKnight household.

Area of Interest 21: Miller house.

Area of Interest 22: Possible McKnight lot.

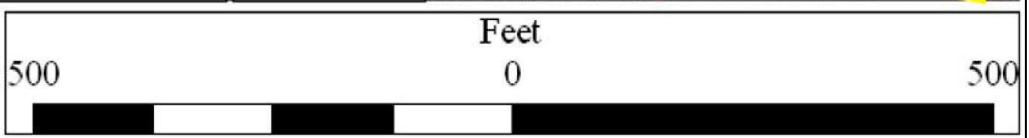
Area of Interest 23: Unknown structure.

Area of Interest 24: McKnight household.



- = "The Fort" Neighborhood Resource Areas
- = Civil War Resource Areas
- = Further Work Necessary
- = Sacred Areas
- = Verified Cemeteries
- = Historic Buildings 1927-1962
- = Archaeological Research Lots

Note: some survey areas need additional metal detection



Fort Ward Historical Park
 Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resource Areas To-Date (7-26-2012)
 Office of Historic Alexandria/Alexandria Archaeology

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Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)

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Please send *Datum Point* via e-mail

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

New _____

Renewal _____

Return to:

Isabella Pease, Treasurer, NVC/ASV
8304 Graceway Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

Chapter members should join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at asv-archeology.org

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month at the James Lee Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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