

THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

January 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOHN KELSEY

It was good to see many of you at the Chapter holiday party last month. The food and fellowship were excellent, and a good time was had by all.

At the party, the Chapter elected officers for 2012, as shown below:

President – John Kelsey
Vice President – Chris Havlicek
Recording Secretary – Felicia Glapion
Corresponding Secretary – Maggie Johnson
Treasurer – Isabel Pease
Datum Point Editor – Patrick O’Neill
Webmaster – Diane Schug-O’Neill
Certification Liaison – Ann Wood

Chris Havlicek and **Isabel Pease** – both relatively new but dedicated and enthusiastic chapter members – were elected to replace **Will Nelson** and **CK Gailey** as Vice President and Treasurer respectively. Will and CK, thanks for your great work on behalf of the Chapter. The Chapter is in better shape for your efforts. (Speaking of Will, Gay and I were honored to be invited to his Eagle Scout ceremony on December 17th. This is quite an accomplishment, especially considering everything else Will is involved with. Congratulations!)

We also had a chance to catch **Patrick O’Neill’s** standing-room-only talk about the Battle of the White House at Fort Washington on December 4th, followed by a ranger-guided tour of the fort. Patrick’s graphics, some of them new since his talk to the Chapter, were excellent and helped to make the battle come alive. (Along, of course, with his witty repartee.)

Finally, we visited the Stuart-Mosby (**cont’d pg2**)

January 11th talk

Spout Run Paleoindian Site in Clarke County, Virginia By Jack Hranicky

The Spout Run paleo-site (44CK151) in Clarke County is the oldest, extant, above-ground site in North America. Due to its location in some of the harshest ground in northern Virginia, this site has laid open on the ground just like the Paleoindians left it 12,000 years ago. It served them in a number of ways, such as a calendar for the annual seasons, a place where they held social and religious ceremonies, and a place from which they could control the flintknapping activities at the famous Thunderbird Paleosite in Warren County.

The principal archaeological investigator is Jack Hranicky, who has been practicing archaeology for over 40 years in Virginia. He is the Director of the Virginia Rockart Survey. He has found, recorded, and published 5 prehistoric solstice sites in the Middle Atlantic area. The Spout Run’s landowner, Chris White, a Native American, brought the site to Hranicky’s attention who immediately recognized it as a possible solstice site. With a small excavation, they established the site as Paleoindian, Virginia’s earliest time period.

Spout Run has direct alignments with both solar solstices, and the site is aligned physically east-to-west with the equinoxes. The main site is composed of stone concentric rings and a fire hearth. This area has stone pointers which directly aim at the summer and winter solstices and the equinoxes. Another major feature is a stone altar which is aligned with the summer solstice. A shelter was discovered on the site that contains Indian rockart: two glyphs and a hand print. There are now 14 known rockart sites in Virginia. Two other rockart sites contain concentric rings, altar, and hand glyphs.

(cont'd from pg1) Civil War Cavalry Museum in Centreville. This is a private endeavor led by Don Hakenson, a Civil War enthusiast whom many of us know, and Howard Crouch, the museum's curator. The museum has a small but interesting collection of artifacts, including weapons of various kinds, saddles, and clothing. More information is available at www.stuart-mosby.com/stuart-mosby-cavalry-museum.

Best wishes to all for a safe and prosperous new year. John

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012
From Isabel Pease, Treasurer

Well, it's that time of year again. As the newly elected Treasurer of the NVC/ASV for 2012, I wanted to get this information out as soon as possible. Since the Chapter has gone to a calendar year membership, renewals are due in January. Please send your checks (made out to "NVC/ASV") to:

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

The dues structure hasn't changed from last year:

Individual – \$15
Student – \$5
Family – \$17

If you joined the chapter after September 30, 2011, your dues will carry over through 2012. Otherwise, please renew your membership by March 31st to avoid being un-enrolled.

If you are not currently a member of the Chapter, please fill out all the information on the form on the last page of the Datum Point and send that to me, along with your dues for 2012. Remember that Chapter members should also be members of our parent organization, the ASV. ASV renewal can be done on line on the ASV website (<http://asv-archeology.org/>).

I am looking forward to serving as the Treasurer of the NVC/ASV for the next three years. Feel free to contact me at ipease@cox.net if you have any questions regarding the due structure or any other financial related matter.

WHAT'S NEW IN RELIC

JANUARY 2012

The Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for Genealogy and Local History (RELIC), Prince William Public Library System, Bull Run Regional Library, 8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA 20109. 703-792-4540 Email: relic2@pwcgov.org.

To read the latest lists of new materials available in RELIC click on http://www.pwcgov.org/library/relic/whats_new_in_relic.htm.

RELIC PROGRAMS

Here are our latest offerings. Funding for RELIC programs is provided by the Friends of Central and Bull Run Libraries. Sign language interpretation is available for Prince William Public Library programs if requested at least three weeks in advance. To be notified of upcoming programs and new resources in RELIC, visit http://www.pwcgov.org/library/relic/whats_new_in_relic.htm and click on Subscribe. All these programs will take place at the community room at Bull Run Regional Library, 8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA. Most programs last about one hour. You may register for any of these programs at 703-792-4540 or relic2@pwcgov.org. For details see http://www.pwcgov.org/library/relic/relic_programs.htm

January 12, 11 am -
20 Things You Can Do to Preserve Your Family History Now, with Tish Como.

January 24, 7 pm -
Genealogy 101, with Beverly Veness.

February 9, 11 am –

Researching in the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, with Tish Como; repeated February 28, 7 pm.

"Genealogy Doctor": free counseling (contact us for an appointment).

Abstracts:

20 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY NOW

Presented by Tish Como

Even if you don't have the time or inclination to spend a lot of time researching or recording your family's history, there are some simple steps you can take to make sure that vital information, records, stories, and mementos are available for the next generations. RELIC's Tish Como will describe 20 easy ways to preserve your family's heritage in a program at Bull Run Regional Library on Thursday, January 12, at 11 a.m.=20

To reserve a seat for this free program, contact RELIC at (703) 792-4540 or at relic2@pwcgov.org.

GENEALOGY 101 =20

Presented by Beverly Veness

Those curious about their family history have an opportunity to learn about methods, strategies and resources for tracing their roots. The hour-long program, conducted by Beverly Veness of the RELIC staff, is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at 7 p.m. This program, "Genealogy 101," will highlight the numerous free genealogical resources available at RELIC and will explore basic techniques for tracking ancestors.

To reserve a seat for this free program, contact RELIC at (703) 792-4540 or at relic2@pwcgov.org.

RESEARCHING IN THE 1940 U.S. FEDERAL CENSUS

Presented by Tish Como

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census will be released to the public on April 2, 2012 on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) website. Both Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org

will then begin to prepare an every name index to the Population Schedules, but this will take many months.

RELIC's Tish Como will suggest steps you can take to search this essential genealogical resource as soon as it becomes available. This program will be presented at Bull Run Regional Library, Thursday February 9, at 11 a.m. and will be repeated on Tuesday, February 28, at 7 p.m.

To reserve a seat for this free program, contact RELIC at (703) 792-4540 or at relic2@pwcgov.org.

"Genealogy Doctor" Accepting Appointments for Research Help

Don Wilson, head of RELIC (the Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for genealogy and local history at Bull Run Regional Library), sets aside time each month for free private sessions to mentor persons researching their family history. A thirty-minute session can be used to discuss and analyze an historical or genealogical problem that has stumped you.

Daytime and evening hours are possible. To set up an appointment, please call RELIC at 703-792-4540 or email relic2@pwcgov.org. Bull Run Regional Library is located at 8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA 20109.

New Issue of Prince William Reliquary is Now Online

As was announced in December, the 34th issue of our occasional magazine has been posted. It includes a collection of Civil War letters from Kate (Caldwell) Davis of Occoquan, a study of the origins of the Calvert family in Prince William, and a photo from about 1927 of the students and staff of Woodbridge School.

<http://www.pwcgov.org/library/relic/reliquary.htm>

Have a question about Prince William County history, places or families? Need guidance with your genealogical research? You may contact RELIC staff for help and advice at Ask RELIC or by calling us at 703-792-4540. Hours, September-

June (ET): Monday-Thursday 10am-9pm, Friday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday noon-5pm. Closed Federal holidays (including Mon. Jan. 16).

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

By Mike Johnson

Westbrook: We completed our excavations on November 30 and are awaiting the developer to start stripping the site so we can do the final surface collection. We have gotten no word on that yet. We also will be starting up lab on the final 600-800 proveniences in January. It will involve a regular Tuesday lab, starting at 9 am. However, the January 3 lab will start at noon to give time to put out artifacts on the tables. The plan is to try to keep the tables filled with artifacts to be catalogued, so that anyone who wants to come in and play can do so any day during the week. Except for Tuesdays, you should call ahead to make sure the lab is open.

Leesville Lake: On December 1, Bill Childress, who for 25 years has been the official ASV monitor of the sites being eroded by the Appalachian Power Company (APCO) generating operation below Smith Mountain Dam, and I met with representatives from APCO, the Virginia Department of Historic Resource, the ASV and the Virginia Council of Indians at the VDHR offices in Richmond to make a proposal for our doing research on the sites being impacted.

These sites, located in southwest central Virginia, have produced evidence for relatively undisturbed, deeply buried Paleoamerican and Early Archaic occupation areas. One site in particular (44PY152) has produced evidence of a small fluted point occupation in which the stone appears to be Paoli or Carter Cave (Kentucky) chert (attached photo by Bill Childress). This fact and the rest of the artifact raw material Bill has recovered (mostly exotic) indicates that the site might be either a group meeting site or a main stop along a Paleo and Early Archaic transportation corridor. The sites have the potential to contribute to our understanding of what processes held Paleo and Early Archaic technologies and hopefully cultures together over vast areas of the Eastern United States.

The other major opportunity offered by PY152 and several other sites is to study the apparent presence of Cactus Hill-like occupations (attached photo by Bill Childress) apparently from the Paleoamerican levels at PY 152. As a result, the sites may offer an independent verification or negation of the Pre-Clovis aged finds by Joe McAvoy (Nottoway River Survey) at Cactus Hill. The advantage of the Leesville Lake location is that the soil is not sand like in the Nottoway. Therefore, the sites have better potential for deeply buried (10 feet), relatively undisturbed, living areas from the periods of the initial peopling of North America.



We are also in discussions with the Virginia Natural History Museum in Martinsville (the closest town to the sites) to develop an affiliation, which would be in the interest of both the ASV and VNHM. Elizabeth Moore is their archeologist, and she has an excellent ASV volunteer program that can work with ours. The Museum also has a top of the line lab and storage facility with a grant staff.

COLCHESTER UPDATE: THE SHA CONFERENCE FAST APPROACHES

The research is contingent on acceptance by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of our research design, which will be submitted to APCO in January. The project is an outgrowth of re-licensing of APCO by FERC, which determined that the sites are eligible to the National Register and threatened. APCO has to develop a “mitigation plan” to do something to either protect or recover the sites. We are offering them a low cost, high quality plan to help them out and serve the pure research interests of the state archeological community.

Major fieldwork probably won't begin until the Fall of 2012, due to our need to avoid APCO's peak energy demands, which are in the warmer months. We may do some initial visits to familiarize our volunteers and to develop our methodological protocols.

We plan to start with tight interval auger sampling and fine mesh screening to identify buried activity areas to be tested. The early focus will be on the more eroded areas where the Paleo components are now close to the surface. When those areas are flooded, we plan to auger test on the undisturbed terrace areas of the sites.

This assessment level testing should take several years to complete. Once done with this phase it will likely be followed more extensive research oriented recovery of the most threatened Paleo and Early Archaic occupations.

Gault: We are hoping to have a two week field session this Spring (April) at Gault in Texas. All of the Archaic levels should be completed by the time we get there and the work confined to the Clovis and Pre-Clovis levels. They have not responded as of this writing to our proposed dates.

Due to the sensitivity of the levels, the total excavation crew size at any one time will be restricted to ten people. Those crew members will also be restricted to people experienced with Gault and the complex methods/recordation. In addition, we will be allowed to have a limited number of non-excavating crew members who can help with the field lab and water screening. More information to come later.

By the time you read this update, we will be finalizing our preparations for the Society of Historical Archaeology annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland! The conference is international in scope, and archaeologists from around the world will be present, and will hopefully attend our symposium. And they just may: we have been graced with a very enviable timeslot - 11AM – 12:30PM on Friday. To learn more, please visit the SHA's website at www.sha.org.

We are extremely grateful for the NVC/ASV's generous contribution to our cause, and wish that you could all make it to this event. However, you will be able to hear our presentations at a date-to-be-determined, as partial fulfillment of our grant agreement. For your reading pleasure, the abstracts for the papers are included below:

I. Cracking Colchester, Virginia: an “Affair too difficult and mysterious to be unravelled.”

Chairs(s): Elizabeth Crowell (Fairfax County Park Authority), Kathleen Lowe (Fairfax County Park Authority)

In 2007, Fairfax County acquired approximately 150 acres along the Occoquan River in a Federal Lands-to-Parks program. This property, which is now the Old Colchester Park and Preserve, is a small pocket of undeveloped land in suburban Fairfax County, Virginia. To date, more than 30 archaeological sites have been identified, providing evidence of persistent human occupation from the Archaic Period through the present day. This session will focus on current research and excavations regarding the Colonial Port Town of Colchester, whose peak dates of occupation ranged from the early eighteenth to the early nineteenth centuries. Presentations will also address new developments in Colchester's role in the slave trade, access to material goods through international trade, and Fairfax County Park Authority's multi-tiered outreach program.

II. A Valuable Tract of Land, Situated in Fairfax County, Virginia: The Port Town of Colchester

By Maddy McCoy

The historic Port Town of Colchester was established in 1753 and can be included as one of the lost towns of tidewater Virginia and Maryland. This presentation will be a brief journey of the history of the town whilst highlighting new and significant evidence in our quest to interpret this site.

III. Unearthing Old Colchester: Stories of a Colonial Port Town

By: Christopher I. Sperling, MA and Kathleen A. Lowe

The Old Colchester Park and Preserve contains a sizable portion of the mid- to late-eighteenth century colonial port town of Colchester. A small crew of staff archaeologists from the Fairfax County Park Authority and a cadre of volunteers have been excavating various areas across the site. The methods devised for archaeological studies on the park are intended to better understand human activity over time and space and are of particular utility for investigating a townscape. Excavations are recovering period material culture and revealing structural and landscape features reflective of town life during the late colonial period. The distribution of these artifacts and features is beginning to paint a picture not only of the spatial arrangement but also of the social organization of the landscape.

IV. Behind the Wine Stained Barrels: A Tale of a Colonial Port Town and a Man Who Made Bad Wine

By Megan Veness and Robin Kuprewicz

Morris Pound was a colonial pioneer and winemaker who lived on the main street of Colchester, who tried his luck in the port town until moving to Pennsylvania. Historic records document domestic occupation as well as winery operations on the land in the front and center of town. In combination with the original excavations done by the George Mason University field school in the 1980s, our excavations have revealed several other structures and a possible drainage feature. This paper will discuss the features found on Old

Colchester Road and how they shaped the face of old Colchester.

V. The Merchant of Colchester: Searching for Influences of John Glasford and Co. in the Archaeological Record of an Old Port Town

By Alisa Pettitt and Elizabeth Paynter

The port town of Colchester contained one of many storehouses in the Tidewater belonging to John Glasford and Co. By comparing the ledgers and account books with the archaeological record, patterns in access to material goods across social strata can be identified and applied to the archaeological interpretation.

VI. Public Archaeology at Old Colchester Park and Preserve: Stewardship in Action

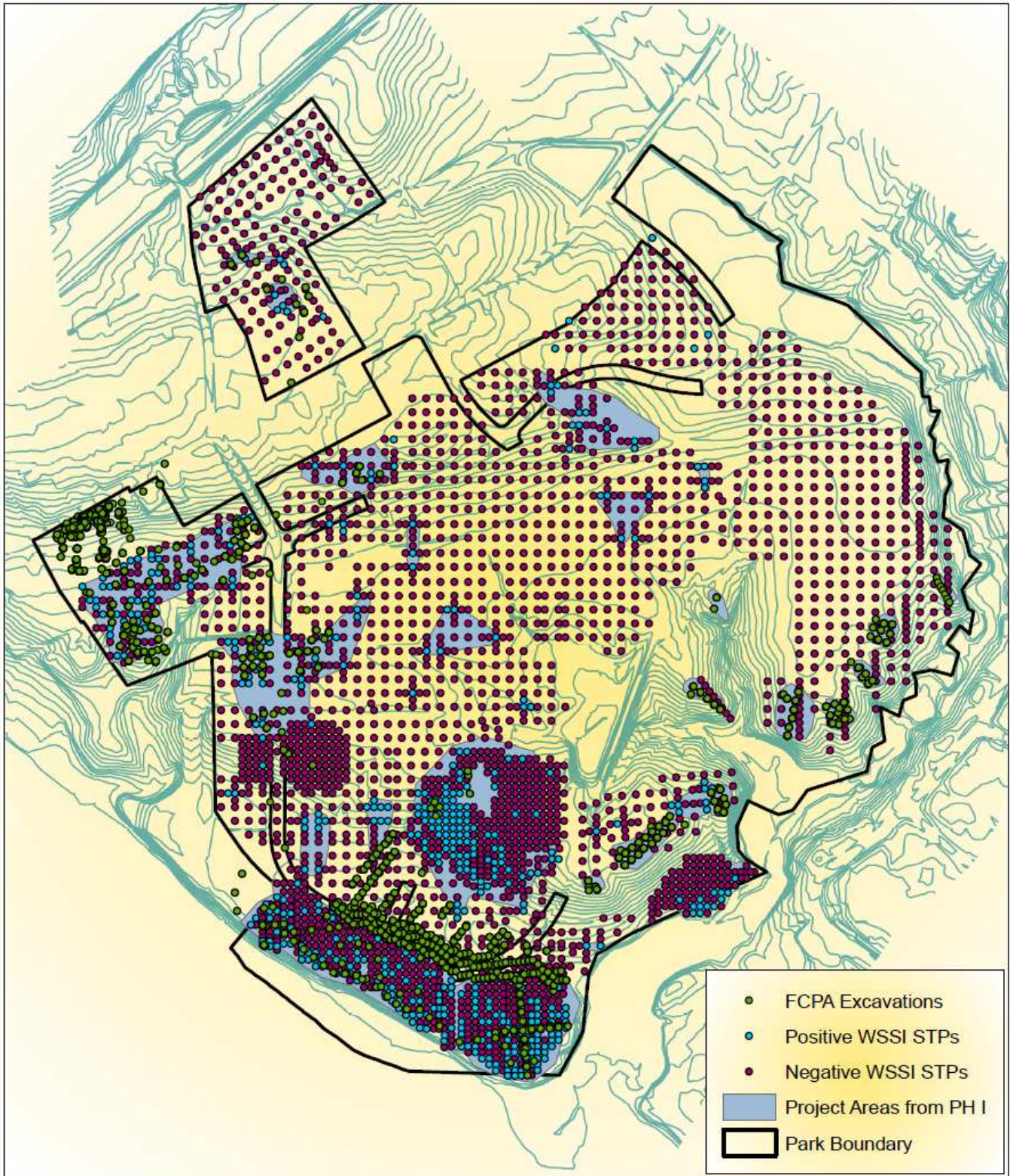
by Aimee Wells and Jonathan Mayes

Fairfax County Park Authority's Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section has maintained a strong public outreach program in an effort to foster stewardship of cultural resources. As part of that program nine staff members have worked with more than seventy-five volunteers in the research, excavation, and laboratory analysis on the Colchester project. In addition, the team uses new media tools to engage the public while the project is ongoing, in an effort to communicate with and educate people who may not make the leap to volunteerism, but who may otherwise be engaged and interested. This paper discusses the rewards and challenges of FCPA's public archaeology program from both the paid staff member, and volunteer point of view.

Colchester Update:

As we shift gears and the seasons change, it is almost staggering to realize exactly how much of an undertaking this has been. When the County first acquired the property, a full Phase I STP survey had already been completed, with 25' intervals over areas previously identified as containing cultural resources. When that data is combined with our own work, the map image looks.... Well, you can see for yourself in the accompanying photo. We are very proud of our work, and the results speak for themselves.

Combined Excavations of 2006 WWSI and 2011-2012 FCPA Investigations



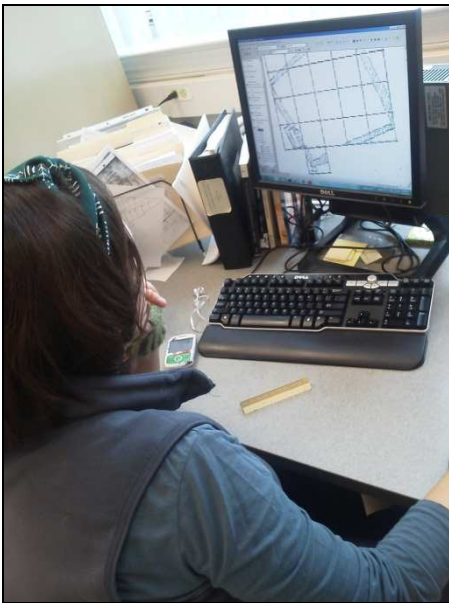
Well, as you are probably well aware, the majority of our time this month has been spent in the lab at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church. The weather patterns, in combination with the increasing focus on cataloging and report production, have stacked the cards against field work. It's been fun to go to spend more time as a group, and take time to practice our artifact analysis skills.

Below: Jon and Alisa study a sherd of prehistoric ceramic. Right: Robin digitizes F25.



work consisted of hiking the transit out onto the spine of the park, and shooting in units. This work has been completed, and excavation is ready to begin. As always, volunteers are welcome to join us – just be ready for the long haul. It's going to be fun!

Some final views of 44FX1670/2409 before the wintry Finger Ridge adventure begins!



The CART crew took advantage of every opportunity to get into the field, as the weather was often quite pleasant when it wasn't raining. The Prehistoric crew has all but finished the units on the big site, and has once again focused their efforts on the Finger Ridges. Last week, the majority of field

The historic team has been keeping plenty busy, as well! Work has been steadily winding down on the downtown areas, though new excavations near the occasionally dry stone foundation on the west edge of the property continue. We opened up a new unit just outside of the George Mason field school excavations from the 1980s, which we exposed with the help of our volunteers. We are hoping to find any correlation between Feature 67 and the stone foundation. You can hear more about this in Robin and Megan's SHA paper, either at the conference or the ASV presentation.

While the water table has been plaguing the downtown, it was wholly unexpected at the site in

the woods. The intense flooding of all units in the woods has led to some frustration, as even when the weather is dry, the site is not. Despite all that, we still have had some excellent finds as we continue to open units on the landform. We have been expanding on our black stain feature that has yielded diagnostic and just plain cool artifacts, including two sets of cufflinks, a bottle seal, and several different animals' worth of cut, burnt, and discarded bone. In our most recent excavations, it seems as if we have accurately identified the beginning of the feature, and will begin working within the feature next. We also may have found another edge to the as-of-yet unidentified structural feature in the center of the landform. We will have lots to do in the coming months, and welcome all help from our volunteers.

ARCHAEOLOGY AT GUNSTON HALL

By Dave Shonyo

The archaeology program at Gunston Hall does accept volunteers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. However, we will be wrapping up our field season this week. We will then be in the lab until the end of March. If cleaning and cataloging artifacts appeals to you, then e-mail me at archaeology@gunstonhall.org a couple of days before you would like to start.

COLCHESTER INTERN ESSAY

by Allison Harmon

The following narrative was written by Allison Harmon in fulfillment of the requirements of a for-credit college internship. Allison is a student at Stevenson University and intern with the Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART) during the summer of 2010. This work represents her analysis of a "layer in the life" of a historic feature in the Town of Colchester. CART is grateful for the hard work Allison did for us and proud of her ability to translate the results of her fieldwork into an interpretive piece. This is the crux of the archaeological practice and we hope that it also succeeded the educational purpose to expose Allison to all aspects of archaeology.

Any Archaeologist can attest to the fact that not every test unit (TU) yields significant finds or in

some cases, any finds at all. But the first horizon of the feature in TU 60 on the Historic Site at Colchester proved to be filled with many different types of artifacts. The wide array of artifacts will help CART team members to make conclusions about the site, relating to the Colchester, the citizens of the town and the structures in the town.

Some of the more significant finds in the test unit have been: ceramics, buttons, glass, a pipe stem, and a buckle. Of the ceramic pieces that were excavated, there seems to be a split between decorative items and more practical service ware items. The large group of sherds of cream ware (1760 -1820), the sherds of pearlware (1775-1820), the English brown stoneware piece (1690-1775), and the pieces of vessels probably belong to more practical tableware items. The porcelain and tin-glaze (late 1700s) sherds that were found indicate the presence of more expensive decorative items.

The glass fragments are most likely from two sources: a small medicine vile and window glass. The small vile is a less telling find because most households would have some type of glass storage ware. But the window glass fragments indicate some wealth because not every household could afford fenestration. The low quality tin buttons that were found at the site (mid to late 1700s) were less expensive and required less technology to produce than the higher quality silver buttons seen in wealthier Colonial settlements. The buckle, which is believed to be a pewter shoe buckle dating between 1700 and 1815, indicated more of a functional role for the owner than that of the more elaborate buckles belonging to the gentry at the time.

The partial white clay tobacco pipe stem that was found also reveals much about its owner. The back of the pipe bowl, partial wall and partial long stem of the pipe are in tact; the in tact pipe stem has a bore size of 4/64 inch suggesting that it is most likely from 1750-1800. The long pipe stem can be seen as a status symbol of the time; the idea of needing to use one hand to hold the pipe stem indicated its owner did not need two hands to work.

The items that were found in TU 60 present many different ways to draw conclusions about the site. Based on the artifacts found, I conclude that in the

Town of Colchester there resided at least one middle class family. I feel that the service ware, functional buckle, and buttons indicate that the family had a large quantity of functional and less expensive items. But the family also had some decorative wares, and a long-stemmed pipe indicating that they did have some money for luxury items. As for the structures within the town, the window glass indicates that at least one home was built with windows, a luxury at the time. Overall the artifacts that were found in TU 60 indicate that the Town of Colchester, during the later part of the 1700s had households that had access to and had use for both functional and decorative items, indicating a presence of a middle class.

Works Cited:

Hume, Ivor Noel. *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1969.. Pg. 84-312

Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory. "Colonial Ceramics." Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland. Accessed August 10, 2011. Last modified February 28, 2008. http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/historic_ceramic_web_page/Historic_Main.htm.

UP-COMING AND ON-GOING EVENTS

- *Pompeii from the Bottom Up: Excavations into the History of Pompeii's Working Class Families*, a lecture sponsored by the Washington DC Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. Tuesday, January 24th at 7 PM at the George Washington University. (<http://www.archaeological.org/societies/washingtondc>)
- *A Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria*, January 25th at 7:30 PM at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria. (<http://alexandriava.gov/historic/lyceum/default.aspx?id=51546>)
- *Mason Neck Underground: a Symposium Dedicated to the Archaeology and Cultural Resources of Mason Neck*, Saturday, January 28th at Gunston Hall, 9 AM to 3 PM.

(<http://www.gunstonhall.org/grounds/archaeology.html>)

- *Anglo-Saxon Hoard: Gold from England's Dark Ages*, an on-going exhibit at the Explorers Hall, National Geographic Society, Washington, DC through March 4th. (<http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/exhibits/>)

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS ON A CEMETERY I PROBED AND MAPPED LAST YEAR! PATRICK O'NEILL

120-YEAR-OLD CEMETERY TO GAIN HISTORIC DESIGNATION

by Steve Thurston, in *Arlington Mercury* December 21, 2011



Sandra Green is chair of the Church History Committee, and has led the church in its pursuit of historic status for its cemetery.

[Editor's note: idiot math. In the hurry to post, I miss added and wrote that the cemetery was at least 130 years old. It is, at least 122 years old, based on the available records. --Steve Thurston, Wednesday 11:15a.m.]

The stones at a church cemetery on Lee Highway tilt at odd angles, or they are half-buried. They are not in neat rows. The headstones are west of each body, and the feet of some of the sites nearly touch the church's driveway. In one or two places, bushes have overgrown the stones. In some cases the burial

mounds are clearly visible, but any marker that may have existed is not.

The cemetery at [Calloway United Methodist Church](#), 5000 Lee Highway, in the High View Park neighborhood is squeezed between the church's driveway and the parking lot of the Sport Fair swimsuit store.

But the graveyard, as graveyards do, carries a history. And the county tonight will make that history official.

The [Historical Affairs and Landmarks Review Board](#) is set to nominate the cemetery as an official historic site, during this, the church's 145th year. After the vote tonight, the nomination moves to the Planning Commission and Arlington County Board for final approval; county staff does not expect complications in the process.

"Collectively, we are extremely excited," said Calloway United Methodist Church Pastor Sonja Oliver. She said the cemetery touches many families in the surrounding community.

According to the county report, "Hall's Hill," the original name of the High View Park neighborhood, is named after Basil Hall, a Southerner who owned over 300 acres and several ill-treated slaves, but who voted against secession and remained loyal to the Union, according to county documents.

Freed slaves who settled there called the area Hall's Hill, according to the county's research. The neighborhood remains one of the few surviving predominantly African American neighborhoods in Arlington. A. Sandra Green, a church historian, said that youngsters from the church were the first to integrate Arlington's schools.

Four other cemeteries are designated historic, according to county documents: the Ball-Carlin Cemetery, the Old Ball Family Burial Ground, the Travers Family Graveyard and the Lomax AME Zion Church Cemetery. The Calloway cemetery will join the Lomax cemetery as the only African-American cemeteries on the list.

Providing History

The process started in 2008 when county historians asked the church about a different matter. As it happens the cemetery had been recently vandalized, and the trustees were trying to learn how best to protect it, said Green, the chair of the Church History Committee. Since they had the county's ear, they started the process of historic designation in an effort to help protect the cemetery.

Church research found that it had almost completed the process of making all of its property a historic site once before, but had opted out of completing the final steps, possibly because the designation can restrict how the owners use the property, Green said. The church proceeded this time, but asked only that the cemetery, not the buildings, be designated. To receive the designation, the church had to record the remains of the people in the yard.

The church hired archaeologist **Patrick O'Neill**, who probed the grounds for internments while the church conducted surveys of the congregation to see who knew--quite literally--where the bodies were buried and who they were.

People at the church had little idea of the number. The church has 53 stones visible, and the archaeologist found another 43 either unmarked or with markers buried in the 7,100 square foot space, according to county documents.

"We were shocked" at the number, Green said. Many families in the congregation found out that family members were buried in the cemetery. "For them it was a real sense of closure," Pastor Oliver said. "It didn't become really real for them until the remains were discovered."

There was at least one complication. Lee Highway was widened in 1960 and the state relocated the remains of approximately 10 people. Given the lack of markers or records and given that this was an African-American cemetery in southern state, and therefore may have been handled dismissively, the number has shifted during the research.

The church has been working to find those people. Green said that they have found the relocation site, Colmans Cemetery in Alexandria, but it is overgrown and they have yet to find the actual

graves. As well, they have been warned by a funeral home that the bodies may have been placed together in one mass grave, given the racial politics of Virginia at the time. The church hopes to place some sort of marker, Green said.

Historic Protection

Cynthia Liccese-Torres, a historic preservation planner with the county, said although the church will have to follow strict rules whenever they alter the property, the benefit the church receives is about documentation. The church never maintained records of who was buried in the cemetery, and the process of making [the designation culminated in a 128 page report](#) listing all the known people, their births, deaths and children, and even their headstone style and material.

Historians even included other census data in the report. Green found out that her great-grandfather, who she knew was a teacher, was a principal at a school in McLean, she said, thanks to the census data that the county collected. One man in the congregation, she said, had known the names on tombstones, but did not know he was related to them. “When he looked at the census data, they were his people,” Green said.

The HALRB is requesting that the trustees of the church put up fencing, repair and maintain headstones safely, and conduct landscaping to allow easier maintenance. But nothing further is required of the church, according to Cynthia Liccese-Torres, an Arlington County historic preservation planner.

The designation does not come with money or tax benefits, although there may be grants available for rehabilitation from the state or other foundations. Usually monetary benefits help with building, not place, preservation, Liccese-Torres said. County designation is different than being listed on the national register of historic places, which can come with tax credits.

Historic designation by the county also means that the church will have to go before the HALRB anytime it wants to complete work on the cemetery. If the church puts up a fence or plant trees, it will have to check with the HALRB first to assure that the planting is historically accurate.

Church trustees have not had a chance yet to determine what they want to do first, but “This is a priority for the church,” Green said. She said the idea that the church now must check with the county before conducting work does not bother them. “If we’re important enough to be one [a historic site], we want to adhere to those standards.”

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE 10TH ALABAMA CEMETERY AT BRISTOE STATION NEAR MANASSAS. IT FAILS TO MENTION THAT NVC MEMBERS WORKED HARD IN 2002 TO CLEAR AND MAP 65 GRAVES THERE! PATRICK O’NEILL

TENTH ALABAMA REGIMENT CEMETERY IN VIRGINIA UNCOVERED 150 YEARS LATER

The Birmingham News – December 29, 2011

By Mary Omdorff

Brian Smith, right, and his son Dane consult as volunteers help clean up part of a Civil War camp site where soldiers from Alabama are buried. The work is part of the project Dane Smith embarked upon to earn Eagle Scout status. (The Birmingham News/Mary Omdorff)



BRISTOW, Va. -- About an hour west of Washington, D.C., on a scrubby plot of land overrun by pricker bushes and in the shadow of dense modern townhouse developments, an Alabama cemetery was born.

Civil War preservationists with no personal links to Alabama admit to muttering a "Roll Tide" or two as they walked across the newly cleared land, the final resting

place of between 75 and 90 soldiers with the Tenth Alabama Infantry Regiment.

Historical documents and archeological study pinpointed the burial grounds, a desperate place in late summer of 1861, when rampant disease claimed five or six Confederates a day at what was known as Camp Jones.

There are other signs. The area is devoid of stones, except for five large rocks dug deeply into the dirt, each cut on at least one side by a man-made tool. And the area is pockmarked by man-sized depressions, not in rows, but haphazardly.

That level of detail, however, was unknown until Dec. 3, when a crew of about 40 volunteers, led by a 16-year-old Eagle Scout candidate, descended with chain saws and strong arms and gave sunlight and a defined boundary.

"It's one of the better Eagle Scout projects I've seen," said Rob Orrison, site manager with the Prince William County Department of Public Works Historic Preservation Division. "I was blown away by the number of people that came out."

The Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park is a new, lesser-known addition to an area rich with Civil War historical sites; Manassas National Battlefield Park is about three miles away as the crow flies.

The Bristoe Station park opened in 2007 after a developer, Prince William County officials, and the Civil War Preservation Trust reached a compromise. The massive farm property was to be developed for residential and office space, save for a 133-acre passive park marking the Battle of Kettle Run in 1862 and the Battle of Bristoe Station in 1863.

The private owner who sold the land to the developer farmed for decades around the unmarked cemetery, indicating he knew its historic value. But it was overgrown and inaccessible. Dane Smith of nearby Nokesville called up looking for an Eagle Scout project, park officials recommended clearing the cemetery.



Datum Point

A muddy trail leads to the section of Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park being cleaned up as part of Dane Smith's Eagle Scout project. (Photo by Mary Orndorff)

Smith's father, Brian, recalls hearing the details about the project. "When I heard it was an Alabama regiment, I was like, 'Great, I work for an Alabama bank,'" Brian Smith said on his second straight chilly December Saturday at the site. He is the lead Washington lobbyist for Regions Financial Corp.

The volunteers, under Dane Smith's direction, cleared the underbrush, cut down trees, put up a split-rail fence and built a bridge over a creek. Their work was approved by Orrison, who told them which trees to remove and how not to disturb the ground. Tree stumps were left intact. The stone grave markers -- three of which Orrison knew were there plus two others uncovered during the work -- were marked with bright pink tape. The park had earlier used radar to detect the disturbed dirt of the gravesites so they could estimate a boundary.

Soldiers marching by a nearby road in 1862 wrote of the row of cedar trees leading toward a clearing with wooden grave markers engraved with the names of the dead. Several years later, someone else wrote that the markers were in stone. "Who knows when they were changed?" Orrison said. Old pictures indicate that some of the stones were engraved, but they are missing.

Eventually, mulch will be placed on the path to the cemetery, and Orrison wants to raise the money to pay for a memorial plaque at the entrance, listing names of the 40 or so soldiers known to be buried there. He's hoping to have that work done in time for a September dedication ceremony. The gravesites will be mapped and the site open to tourists.

Park officials hope that by registering the cemetery, genealogists and historians will help them fill in the blanks of who else might be buried there, and descendants will visit their ancestors. "It is a little sad that we won't be able to tell them exactly where they are," Orrison said.

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	John Kelsey	jkelsey@cox.net 703-922-8107
Vice-President	Chris Havlicek	christo829@juno.com
Treasurer	Isabella Pease	ipease@cox.net
Corresponding Sec.	Maggie Johnson	stillmaggie@cox.net 703-455-6902
Recording Sec.	Felicia Glapion	glapfk11@yahoo.com
Editor	Patrick O'Neill	patrickloneill@verizon.net 703-249-9593
Webmaster	Diane Schug-O'Neill	schugoneill@gmail.com
Certification Liaison	Ann Wood	annpwood@verizon.net

Fairfax County Archaeology (FCPA)

Dr. Elizabeth Crowell elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-534-3881

Other Public Archaeological Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon	Esther White	ewhite@mountvernon.org
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)

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EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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