

THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

December 2013

Chapter meets at the James Lee Center, 2855 Annandale Rd, Falls Church, 2nd Weds. of each month

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

The Chapter has had an excellent year with excellent speakers, great newsletter, updated website, great tours (Weston Farm and Colchester), certifications, and super food at the annual picnic. And, John Kelsey and I attended the ASV Executive Board meeting and participated in their state activities and actions. All that is left is the Christmas party; you (all) come and bring a food dish.

You probably heard me talk about the Spout Run site in Clarke County. From an excavated square, we got a heavily burnt piece of jasper. It was ideal to try for a TL date; after 15 months, we got a Paleoindian date for the site from the University of Washington's TL lab. You have heard me say that the site is the oldest above ground prehistoric site in North America. Finally, I can close the site out. And, it is the only site in Virginia with a waterfall on it.

I am working on the Arkfeld site in Frederick County. One interesting observation is these toolmakers knew exactly where two stone beds, shale and limestone, came together. We have several artifacts that were made from these two stones.

Datum Point

DECEMBER 11TH MEETING

ELECTIONS, THEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

STARTS AT 6:30PM



Artifact from Two Different Stones at Arkfeld in Frederick County

We have chapter elections at the party; so I hope you will vote for next year's officers. The nominating committee published the nominees in last month's newsletter. I thank this year's officers; they did excellent jobs. Let us know some of your ideas for chapter activities next year. Merry Christmas!

December 2013

page 1

OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

CART would like to start off by hoping that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break with their family and friends! Despite the colder weather we've been having and the upcoming holiday season CART has completed the survey along the Occoquan River within the larger prehistoric sites of the park. The tests within this area yielded material ranging from quartz flakes and tools to small jasper flakes.

CART has now returned to working on the Enyedi Property, opening test units in areas that yielded eighteenth and nineteenth century artifacts as well as possible features discovered earlier this year. Artifacts of interest include more marbles (which had been found in the initial survey) and ceramic fragments.



According to historical maps and documents, we hope to expose more of Colchester Town along the southern edge of the Enyedi Property (which is closer to Furnace Rd and Old Colchester Rd). Denice and Elizabeth joined the field crew at Enyedi for half a day. It is not only

beneficial for field crew to spend time in lab, but it is also beneficial for the lab crew to spend time out in the field. It helps to gain a better understanding of each of the work processes. Besides it never hurts just to get outside of the lab for a little while!

We would like to welcome the newest member of the CART lab crew, Julie. We are excited to have another member helping out with cataloging and processing artifacts! Julie will be working with Elizabeth, Denice, Shelia, and Kayla over the next couple weeks to familiarize herself with our catalog and the types of artifacts we usually find. The lab is continuing to identify and catalog artifacts from Roysdon as well as items from the Flood Plain Survey conducted earlier this year.



Shelia continues to increase the quality and detail of our analysis of prehistoric artifacts. She has done a wonderful job in teaching all of us more about identifying prehistoric material. As always we would like to thank our wonderful volunteers and interns for their hard work in helping us in the field and lab. Chip has done a wonderful job in helping Elizabeth and Aimee in the Access

database to improve our catalog entry system.

Just a reminder as the holiday season approaches, the hours of both lab and field may change as employees take vacation time. Please email us at CART.Volunteers@live.com for any possible schedule field changes. We hope you have a happy holiday season and Happy New Year!

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP **FOR 2014**

By Isabella Pease

It is getting close to that time of year again. Since the Chapter is on a calendar year membership, renewals are due in January.

Please send your checks (made out to "NVC/ASV") to:

Isabel 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, 2013, your dues will carry over through 2014. Otherwise please renew your membership not later than March 31st to avoid being dis-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 2014. (Even if you are a current member I would appreciate it if you fill out the form as well. It helps me keep the bookkeeping straight). Remember also that Chapter members should also be members of our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV). Information on ASV membership can be found on-line on the ASV website (<http://asv-archeology.org/>).

I am looking forward to serving you as Treasurer in 2014. Feel free to contact me at ipease@cox.net if you have any questions regarding the due structure or any other financial related matter."



Don Williams, NVC member, receiving the ASV Certification Diploma from Bruce Baker

In Virginia, protests arise as a forlorn cemetery is dug up to make way for high school football

Washington Post, December 2, 2013, by Michael E. Ruane

There wasn't much left of the person in grave No. 10 — leg bones as fragile as ash, a well-worn tooth, a few milk-glass buttons from the burial clothing.

Grave No. 9 contained a set of rubber and porcelain dentures, a gold-plated ring and evidence of a large glass viewing plate in the coffin lid.

At first, when plans were made to move the tiny cemetery with the unmarked graves to make room for a [Prince William County](#) high school sports complex, no one knew who its occupants were.

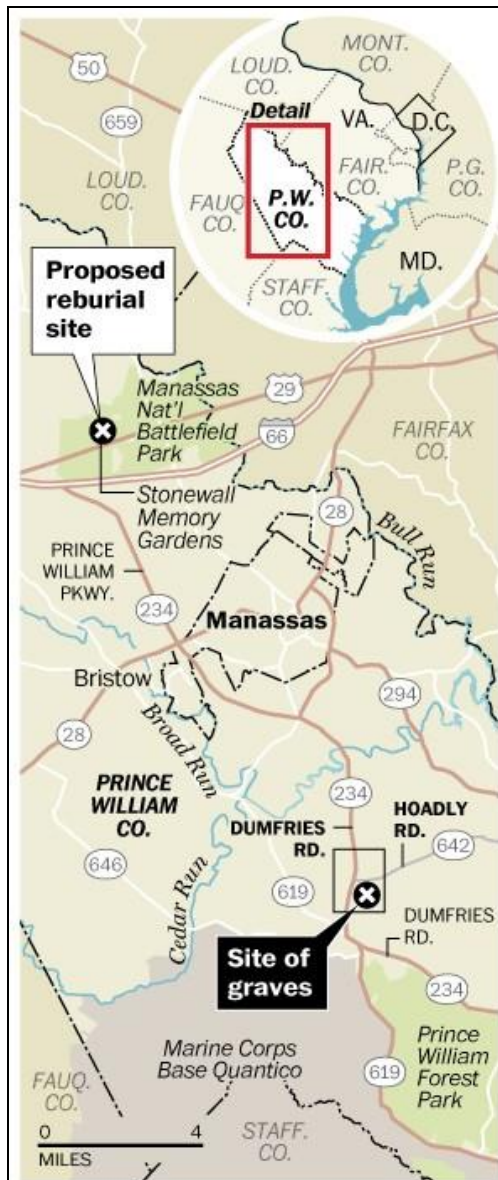
But now, in a classic Virginia collision of past and future, researchers have learned who the occupants might be, and a possible descendant contends that her presumed ancestors were hastily dug up to make way for the school football field.

“The football field!” said Carolyn Lynn, a Manassas genealogist who believes she is related to the cemetery’s occupants. “It’s not even the high school. . . . And that kind of adds insult to injury.”

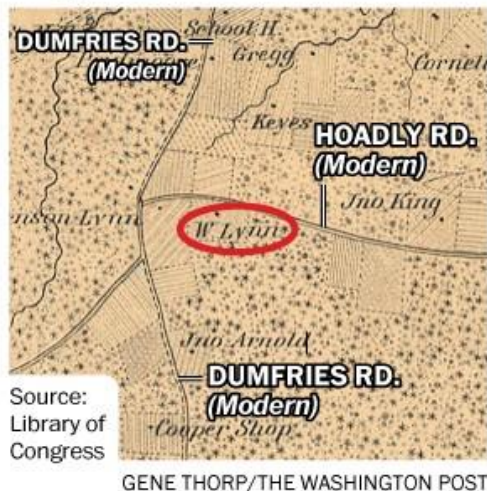
The story began in September, when the school district announced plans to move the cemetery, which it originally said had been discovered in July.

Then, last month, a school official revealed that evidence of the cemetery had actually been found in 2008 by contractors surveying the site, who, for unknown reasons, didn't tell the school system until July.

The site, on a remote ridge south of Manassas, was overgrown with dense woods. No one had been buried there in more than a century. And the graves, which dated from the 1860s to the 1890s, were



The map below, published Jan. 1, 1862, shows a W. Lynn occupying a property in the vicinity of where the graves were discovered.





marked only by rough fieldstones with no inscriptions.

It was not even clear how many graves there were, maybe a dozen or so.

But as the work on the site got underway Nov. 11, researchers poring over old deed books and microfilm quickly traced the land to a 100-acre farm occupied by a man named William Lynn, his wife, Cordelia, and their children in the mid-1800s.

And a likely scenario is that the graves ô 11 have been found ô are those of the Lynns.

The problem was that by the time that suspected connection was discovered Nov. 16, officials said, the dig had been underway for five days and couldn't be stopped.

At dusk on Nov. 21, despite complaints that it could have been paused, the work was finished.

And now there's a dispute over where the unearthed remains will be reburied.

“It's very upsetting,” Carolyn Lynn said. “These were people who lived there, farmed there, had children . . . that expected to be there forever.”

School officials said that when they were informed about the cemetery, it was too late to redesign the school site because nearby wetlands and other protected areas where the field would have been located were off-limits to construction.

“Had a redesign even been possible, it would have cost significant money and time that the school division does not have,” Philip B. Kavits, a spokesman for the Prince William County public school system, wrote in an e-mail.

“We were not aware at the time (and have still not confirmed) the connection of the family to these graves,” he wrote.

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