

THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

July 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

The first thing is the Chapter picnic next month at the Cox Farm on August 10, 2013. More information to follow. And, I have a new rockart site, and it is in Fairfax County on Bull Run. I'll be setting up a field trip to record it. Anyone wanting to help, let me know. I started the Virginia Rockart Survey back in 1983 with two known sites; now we have 18. You might take time and look at my Virginia rockart website: <http://www.va-rockart.org/>

The Fairfax site appears to have Indian properties. Of course, it has modern graffiti, but the glyph does not appear to be damaged. I'll have to check with Mike Johnson to see if it has a site number, or at least the shelter probably has a number. We have similar glyphs on Difficult Run.



Fairfax Rock Art

July 10th Presentation

THE ACCOTINK QUARTER A CA. 1720 TO 1769 OUTLYING FARM QUARTER By Boyd Sipe



Identified as the Accotink Quarter in period deeds, site 44FX0223 included an overseer's house and a dwelling for enslaved laborers. The overseer during the late period of the occupation was identified as John Marvill from Colchester store accounts where his purchases of various goods for himself and the quarter are documented. The data recovery investigations at site 44FX0223 resulted in the recovery of one of the largest and best preserved assemblages of colonoware pottery sherds found in Virginia. **The largest colonoware assemblage found to date in Virginia was recovered at the associated Barnes/Owsley Site in the 1990s.**

Boyd Sipe, RPA, is an archaeologist with Thunderbird Archeology a Division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.

JULY 2013 FROM CART

By Megan Veness



June was a busy month for CART. The Open House was on 1 June 2013, and with summer interns joined us in the field and lab we have been finishing units in the Roysdon Yard. In the photo, Kayla is working with interns Mariana (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Sarah (Liberty University) on unit excavation in the Roysdon Backyard. Some rain days have led to lab days at the James Lee Center but CART has plenty of artifacts to wash and catalog. Two units in the backyard contain large round posthole features. These large features are below a buried cultural horizon and only contain a few bricks and small ceramic artifacts within the feature fill. Artifacts recovered from the units in the backyard vary from corroded iron, to porcelain, to Mason jar fragments. A few units contain a stratum that dates to the early 1800s with artifacts varying from Rhenish and red dry body stoneware to creamware, pearlware, and early hand-painted whiteware.

The Park Authority added a small parcel of land to the Old Colchester Park and Preserve near the Occoquan River and CART will begin testing the area with MTUs when the weather clears. This new area of OCPP is approximately 1.5 acres and contains some waterfront property but was just outside the 1753 Colchester Town Plat. This newly acquired land is a high probability area for prehistorics and hopefully some prehistoric and historic features will be identified.

Marion, our GIS specialist, has been busy finalizing the historic town layout upon the modern landscape. She is also digitizing the plan maps of features with AutoCAD software. These digital drawings

improve the quality of technical reports, will be used in future presentations, and hopefully shared online.

The recent downpours mean a busy lab. The field and laboratory technicians have been hard at work cataloging, picking, labeling and researching. We continue to recover straight pins, lead shot and other very small finds within the window screened soils. Matthew has joined us on a work study program and has been doing everything from washing to converting hard copy articles that we have collected over the years into a searchable digital format. The interns in the lab have been learning to properly identify all of the artifacts so that they can eventually be proficient in every aspect of the lab.

Many interesting features have been discovered that provide plenty of new questions about the colonial town as well as later time periods. As we research the possibilities, a few ideas for possible papers have started to form. In order to find out more, drop a message to CART.Volunteers@live.com and come volunteer with us.

GAULT PHOTO IN AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY! On next page!

This photo was taken during our most recent visit in November 2012. The photo was included in an article entitled "A Different View of Paleo-Indians" in the Summer issue of American Archaeology. It shows Chapter members Becky Garber, George Monken, Jean Teasdale, and yours truly, ASV member Celia Isbrecht, and long-time Gault volunteer Jill Patton.

The photo was taken by Bill McGovern; Bill's wife Ginger was also working at the site but not pictured, as were Vicki Monken, Mike Johnson, CD and Steve Cox. Gault is the richest Clovis-era site in North America; during recent years, two strata of earlier than Clovis artifacts have been found. Unfortunately, as field work is drawing to a close, it appears unlikely that there will be a return visit to a very special site. John Kelsey



BILL MCGOVERN / THE GAULT SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Researchers work at the Gault site in Texas. Most of the tools uncovered at Gault were made from local materials, which questions the assumption that Paleo-Indians ranged far and wide to obtain exotic materials from which to make their tools.

american archaeology

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A Chapter field trip has been scheduled for October 5th to the Weston Farmstead near Warrenton in Fauquier County. Weston is a late 18th / early 19th Century farmstead which traces its roots back to a Robert King Carter land grant. See the Weston website at <http://www.historicweston.org/>. The house itself is very interesting, and a number of the outbuildings remain. There is also an opportunity to view an extant slave quarter on the property. The tour is scheduled from 11 AM to 1 PM. You are welcome to bring a lunch and picnic on the front porch or grounds of the house. Alternatively, Warrenton has a number of restaurants and is a relatively short drive away. You will have an opportunity in August to sign up for the field trip. The members of the Warrenton Antiquarian Society are opening the property specifically for the Chapter, so we need to be sure that we have enough people interested in going to justify their effort. If you have questions at this point, please contact John Kelsey.

CHAPTER PICNIC!

August 10th Noon to 2pm

The Cox family has kindly agreed to host the 2013 NVC Chapter Picnic at Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Rd, Centreville, VA 20120.

Bring a side dish, dessert, or whatever you want to share! We will post some signs once you get there to direct you to the picnic area!

VIRGINIA NEWSPAPER PROJECT

The Virginia Newspaper Project and the Library of Virginia invite you to visit Virginia Chronicle <http://viriniachronicle.com/> (<http://viriniachronicle.com>), the Library's online newspaper database and repository. We have added close to 300,000 pages to Virginia Chronicle that the Newspaper Project originally contributed to Chronicling America as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program.

But there's more. Virginia Chronicle will include titles that are either outside the scope of the NDNP or that have particular interest for those doing Virginia related research. For example, in recent months the Library partnered with the Virginia Farm Bureau, an advocacy group for the farming industry, to include issues from the 1940's to 1999 of the Farm Bureau News on Virginia Chronicle.

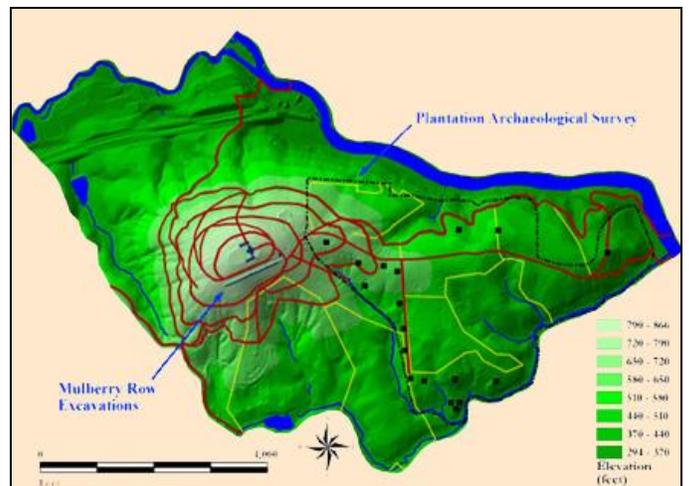
Our Church Paper (New Market, 1875-1904) will be added in the next few days.

Look for the following titles to be added to Virginia Chronicle in the coming weeks:

Amherst Progress 1904-1922
Campaign 1884-1888 Richmond
Afro-American Churchman 1886-1890 Petersburg
Missionary Weekly 1889-1890 Richmond
Jeffersonian Republican 1859-1889 Charlottesville
Children's Friend 1865-1884 Richmond
Critic 1887-1889 Richmond
Evening News 1868-1873 Harrisonburg
Roanoke Baptist Union/Baptist Union 1888-1914
Evening Truth 1887 Richmond
Virginia Farmer 1908-1909 Emporia

Virginia Chronicle also offers patrons a text correcting option, a great new feature that we're excited to have added to the database. By simply registering, users can assist in correcting text that may have been missed or "misread" by optical character recognition (OCR) software. OCR is impressive technology but it's not perfect and through user participation, text correcting will improve search results while making a very good database even better.

For a fun thing to do on the Internet, go to Google and type in “Images for Virginia Archaeology” and see how many wonderful images come up! Then, go through them and see where they take you! Below are some examples showing a wide variety of tasks and fun!



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