

THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

March 2014

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Parade is the oldest parade tribute to our first U.S. President. This year's Parade Grand Marshal was Pam Cressey who was the city's chief archaeologist for over 30 years. Now retired, she left a legacy of the city's historic preservation via archaeology.



Pam Cressey, George Washington Parade's Grand Marshal

Your president has marched in the parade two times: once with the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology and once for the Alexandria Radio Club. On this occasion, the club made me dress up as George Washington and ride in the back of a pickup playing a shortwave radio. Each year, the radio club does the final parade organization and transmits the results via ham radio to the reviewing stand. As per usual, my job was to give a final paper listing of the parade line up to the announcers.
Cont'd pg 2

March 12th talk GREAT ARAB REVOLT PROJECT. "G.A.R.P." BY LEN BLASIOLO



Len Blasiol's presentation is on the Great Arab Revolt Project. "G.A.R.P." is sponsored by Bristol University in the UK. The aim of the project is to explore the material remains of the Turks and Arab Guerrilla armies in what is now southern Jordan, where Lawrence of Arabia came of fame.

Len Blasiol graduated from Tulane University in 1976 with a BA in Political Science. He wanted to major in anthropology, but a friend of his parents talked him out of it! He received an MA in International Relations from Salve Regina University, 1998. He retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2006, after 30 years' service as a field artillery officer. Len is currently employed in the Federal civil service at the Marine Corps Base, Quantico, residing in Caroline County with his spouse of 38 years. He joined the ASV in May 2012, a current member of the Colonel Howard McCord Chapter, and is enrolled in the ASV certification program.

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Of course, I get a good view of the parade. All went smoothly with over 3500 marchers in this year's parade.



Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) Marching in the GW Parade

Your chapter officers have been busy with meetings about various events and operations for the coming years. We will be reporting to you on numerous chapter projects and topics. Hopefully, this newsletter finds the beginning of Spring.

Please try and remember to pay your state dues...and chapter dues.

OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

Throughout February, CART continued work on the Enyedi property, more closely investigating areas of interest based on the survey conducted last year. Jonathan and Peter have been busy exposing a large stone feature near the intersection of Old Colchester Road and Furnace Road. As we noted before, this could be a stone foundation from a building mapped on Rochambeau Map from 1782. As seen in the picture, the stones end abruptly, and could be evidence of a bulkhead entrance for a basement to the structure.

When the ground thaws enough, we will continue feature fill removal and hopefully expose stairs or a dirt ramp to a basement. All of the artifacts recovered from the units around this stone foundation date to the mid- to late-eighteenth century, the period of Colchester Town. CART continues to try and piece together the activities happening in and around Colchester over 250 years ago. While Peter continues to expose the stone foundation, the rest of CART moved to the Finger Ridge area to continue testing prehistoric areas with one meter by one meter test units.

Due to the frigid conditions, CART has mostly been working in the office and lab. The work varies from digitizing drawings of features to artifact processing. Jonathan and Marion have been digitizing feature plan views and soil profiles into AutoCAD. There are several things that CART can do with the AutoCAD drawings such as include the image in the report or add them to GIS for larger, more detailed maps. While Sheila continues to evaluate and catalog stone tools, flakes, and artifacts from the floodplain areas of the park, Peter, Jean, Kayla and Julie are cataloging artifacts from the historic town of Colchester.

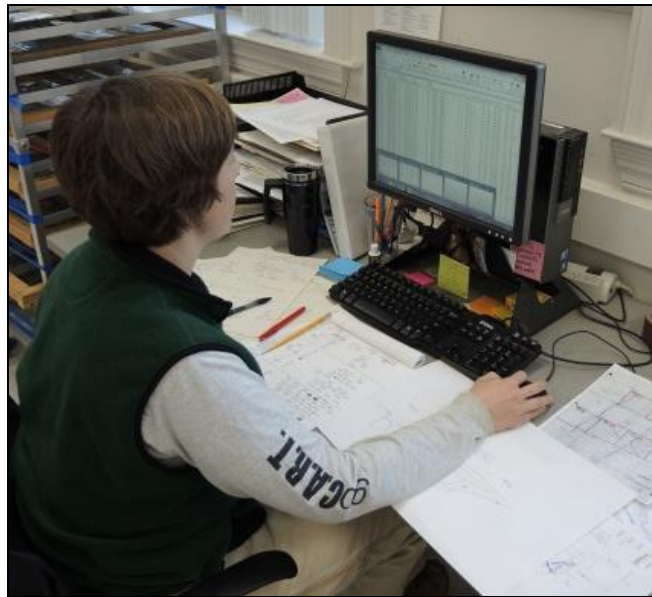


Looking at the artifacts in the lab makes it clear that some areas have been plowed or otherwise disturbed; but, some areas are still intact. These

intact areas can give us a better understanding of activities of past peoples. Nails, glass, and various ceramics are all plentiful. A few small personal items such as needles, straight pins and beads have been found, but are rare.

CART is looking forward to the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference on March 13th through March 17th 2014. CART's very own Sheila will be presenting her reanalysis of Colchester's prehistoric artifacts on March 15th! Hope to see you there. An event closer to Fairfax County is the Archaeology Symposium at Gunston Hall, co-sponsored by FOFA, which due to the recent snow storms, has been rescheduled for 19 April 2014.

Please email CART.volunteers@live.com for field volunteer opportunities. Look forward to seeing you by the backdirt pile!!



VIRGINIA HB 997 CEMETERIES; PROCEDURE FOR REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF HUMAN REMAINS **2014 SESSION**

SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE:

Proceedings for the removal and relocation of human remains. Provides that should any county, city, or town, having acquired by any means land on which an abandoned graveyard is located, including lands acquired in accordance with § 22.1-126.1 for educational purposes, initiate plans to use that land for purposes other than to maintain the graveyard, such county, city, or town shall, prior to completion of said plans, develop and engage in active public notice and participation regarding efforts to avoid adverse impacts to the graveyard or to remove the remains interred in such graveyard to an alternative repository. The bill provides that such notice and participation shall include, at minimum, publication of at least one notice in a local newspaper of general circulation, notice posted at the site of the graveyard, and notice to and consultation with any historic preservation or other such commission, as well as area historical and genealogical societies, and at least one public hearing., and notice to the Department of Historic Resources and any local historical commission or organization.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Proceedings for the removal and relocation of human remains. Strengthens the requirements for disinterment and relocation of human remains from a cemetery or graveyard by the landowner by requiring the institution of legal proceedings, heightened notice requirements to any heirs or descendants, and notice to the Department of Historic Resources and any local historical commission or organization.



HOUSE BILL NO. 997

A BILL to amend and reenact § [57-38.1](#) of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 57 an article numbered 5.1, consisting of sections numbered [57-39.7:1](#) and [57-39.7:2](#), relating to cemeteries; procedure for the removal and relocation of human remains.

Patrons-- Anderson, Lingamfelter, Futrell and Torian

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § [57-38.1](#) of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 57 an article numbered 5.1, consisting of sections numbered [57-39.7:1](#) and [57-39.7:2](#) as follows:

§ [57-38.1](#). Proceedings by landowner for removal of remains from abandoned family graveyard.

The owner of any land on which is located an abandoned family graveyard, and there has been no reservation of rights in such graveyard, or when the beneficiaries of any reservations of rights desire to waive such rights, and in which no body has been interred for twenty-five years may file a bill in equity in the circuit court of the county or in the circuit or corporation court wherein such land is located for the purpose of having the remains interred in such graveyard removed to some more suitable repository. To such bill all persons in interest, known or unknown, other than the plaintiffs shall be duly made defendants. If any of such parties be unknown, publication shall be had once a week for eight successive weeks, in one or more newspapers, or such longer period as the court directs; the costs of such publication shall be paid by the petitioner or applicant. At least 90 days' notice shall also be (i) posted on genealogical websites in the geographical area where such land is located, (ii) posted at the cemetery or family graveyard, (iii) given to the Department of Historical Resources for a determination of historical significance in accordance with § [10.1-2305](#), and (iv) given to any local historical

commissions or organization located wherein such land is located. The court shall require the petitioner to provide proof of publication and posting of the notice required by this section. The Department shall be considered an interested party in the court proceedings considering the abandonment of legally constituted cemeteries or family graveyards with historic significance. Upon the case being properly matured for hearing, and proof being made of the propriety of the removal, the court may order the removal made and the remains properly deposited in another place, at the expense of the petitioner. Such removal and reinterment shall be done with due care and decency.

In determining the question of removal the court shall consider the historical significance of such graveyard and shall consider as well the wishes of the parties concerned so far as they are brought to its knowledge, including the desire of any beneficiaries of any reservation of rights to waive such reservation of rights in favor of removal, and so considering shall exercise a sound discretion in granting or refusing the relief prayed for.

Article 5.1.

Removal and Relocation of Human Remains.

§ [57-39.7:1](#). Permit for removal and relocation of human remains required; exception.

A. The owner of any land on which is located a cemetery or a family graveyard shall apply to the circuit court in which the cemetery or graveyard is located for a permit prior to the disinterment and reinterment of any human remains located in such cemetery or graveyard. A permit issued by the court shall be required prior to the disinterment of such human remains and prior to the institution of any proceedings authorized in in this article or Article 4 (§ [57-35.36](#) et seq.). However, notice to any heir at law or descendant of such deceased person shall be required in the same manner as set forth in Article 4 (§ [57-35.36](#) et seq.), which notice shall state that a permit application is pending before the court and that any such heir or descendant has a right to be made a party to the proceedings before the court or to make comment to the court concerning the removal of the remains.

B. Prior to the issuance of any permit, the court shall require the owner of any such land to provide

evidence satisfactory to the court that the notice required by subsection A has been given. The court shall afford any such heir or descendant an opportunity to be heard prior to the issuance of the permit at such time and place as determined by the court.

C. No permit shall be required if such cemetery or family graveyard is determined to be of historical significance pursuant to § [10.1-2305](#), but the owner of the cemetery or family graveyard shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 23 (§ [10.1-2300](#) et seq.) of Title 10.1.

§ [57-39.7:2](#). Proceedings by landowner for removal of remains from cemetery or family graveyard.

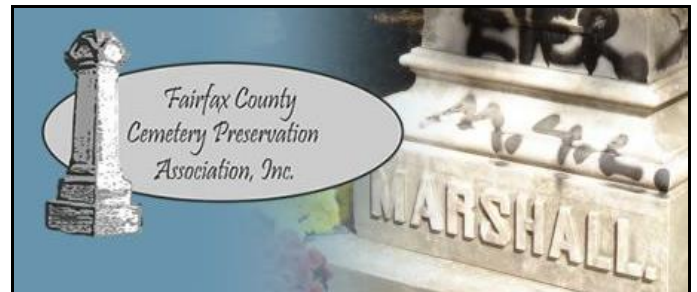
Prior to the removal of any remains, the owner of any land on which is located a cemetery or family graveyard shall file a bill in equity in the circuit court wherein such land is located for the purpose of having the remains interred in such cemetery or graveyard removed to some more suitable repository. The petitioner shall provide the court with a written justification for the removal of the remains. To such bill, all persons in interest, known or unknown, other than the plaintiffs shall be duly made defendants. If any of such parties be unknown, publication shall be had once a week for eight successive weeks, in one or more newspapers, or such longer period as the court directs; the costs of such publication shall be paid by the petitioner or applicant. At least 90 days' notice shall also be (i) posted on genealogical websites in the geographical area where such land is located, (ii) posted at the cemetery or family graveyard, (iii) given to the Department of Historical Resources for a determination of historical significance in accordance with § [10.1-2305](#), and (iv) given to any local historical commissions or organization located wherein such land is located. The court shall require the petitioner to provide proof of publication and posting of the notice required by this section. The Department shall be considered an interested party in the court proceedings considering the legally constituted cemeteries or family graveyards with historic significance.

In determining the question of removal and relocation of the remains, the court shall consider the historical significance of such graveyard and

shall consider as well the wishes of any next-of-kin first, followed by the wishes of any other parties concerned, other than the petitioner, so far as they are brought to its knowledge, including the desire of any beneficiaries of any reservation of rights to waive such reservation of rights in favor of removal. If there are no next-of-kin, the court shall designate a historical or cemetery preservation organization to represent the interest of the next-of-kin. In so considering all of the evidence and statements of the parties, the court shall exercise a sound discretion in granting or refusing the relief prayed for.

Upon the case being properly matured for hearing, and proof being made of the propriety of the removal, the court may order the removal made and the remains properly deposited in another place, at the expense of the petitioner. Such removal and reinterment shall be done with due care and decency.

FAIRFAX COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION



<http://www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org/>

**NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING -
GUESTS WELCOME!**

If you enjoy research, surveying, pulling weeds, cleaning headstones, special projects, planning programs, planning a newsletter, and the like, please attend and share your ideas and preferences in planning FCCPA's 2014 activities.

**Did you know that Fairfax County had
such an organization?! Go to a meeting
and help out!!!!**

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please send *Datum Point* via e-mail

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

New _____

Renewal _____

Return to:

**Isabella Pease, Treasurer, NVC/ASV
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THE DATUM POINT

Northern Virginia Chapter
Archeological Society of Virginia
2855 Annandale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Help NVC-ASV Save Postage and be GREEN!
Have the Datum Point emailed to you!**