

THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

October 2014

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

One major event occurs in October which is our ASV Annual Meeting. The chapter always has a good attendance, and I hope you will try to attend the meeting. Mike Barber has put together an excellent program which promises to be informative and entertaining. Also, the meeting gives you an opportunity to meet friends from around the state. This year's meeting is at the Double Tree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian, 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23235. The dates are October 10 thru 12, 2014.

This month's chapter meeting will feature Paul Inashima. He always delivers a great presentation, so I hope you will attend the meeting. Also, during the business meeting, Tammy Schwab of Fairfax's Education and Outreach Branch will talk to us about volunteer opportunities in the county as well as the archaeology lab.

I have one problem with my cars. They will not pass a yard sale, junk shop, used book shop, or an antique shop. They just turn in and stop; o'well, you just never know what you will find. Last month, I was at the Lucketts fair and visited a vendor. I found this tintype. As you probably know, it is a photograph made by creating a direct positive on a thin sheet of iron coated with a dark lacquer or enamel and used as the support for the photographic emulsion. Tintypes enjoyed their widest use during the 1860s and 1870s. It was quite common for Civil War soldiers. While millions were made, few were made of Native Americans. I have several, including glass slides; **cont'd page 2**

October 8, 2014, 7:30pm

"NEWTOWN" REVISITED By Paul Inashima



Recent archeological investigations and archival research into the "Newtown" Site have revealed new insights into its heritage. This early 18th-century site was initially excavated 40 years ago by Richard Muzzrole and was declared at that time as "Newtown." The current study has confirmed the early eighteenth-century chronology as well as more fully documented a prehistoric presence. Newtown is significant as the birthplace of George Mason and as the final resting place of his parents.

Paul Inashima is currently the Consulting Archeologist to Gunston Hall Plantation. He is one of the few archeologists to have been permitted to conduct excavations within the World Heritage Site of Independence Hall. He has conducted archeological work at Bent's Old Fort, the C&O Canal, Deshler-Morris House, Hampton Mansion, Harpers Ferry, Lexington, Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Pennsylvania Avenue, Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Shawnee-Minisink Paleo-indian Site, and Skyline Drive.

Cont'd from page 1

all of which I will turn over to the National Indian Museum in Washington, DC. I understand that the photography department at JMU is teaching a class on how to make tintypes. Did this individual know we would be looking at him 150 years later; I think it is called history.



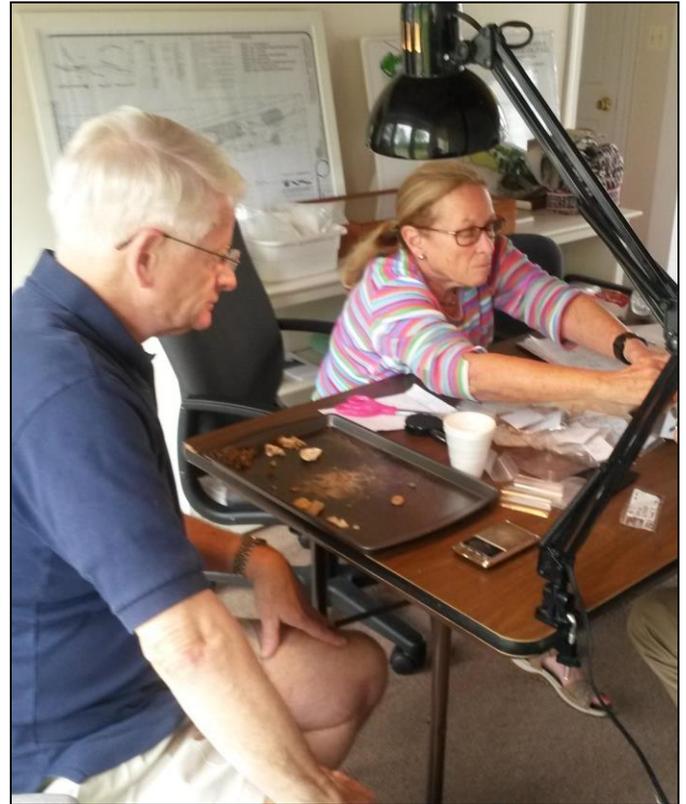
Tintype Photograph of a Native American (mid-1800s)

ASV/NVC VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT
CHAPMAN'S MILL

by Jackie Cuyler

With plans at Chapman's Mill, located at Thoroughfare Gap on the border between Fauquier and Prince William Counties, for improvements to make the property more accessible to the public, archaeological survey work has been conducted by members of the ASV/Northern Virginia Chapter volunteers over the past several years. The Gap, through which Broad Run flows at the Bull Run

Mountains , has been and continues to be an important east-west passage between the ocean and the mountains which people have used for thousands of years.



John Kelsey and Janet Martin

The first preliminary excavations were conducted by archaeologist Patrick O'Neill and a handful of NVC volunteers. As time passed and In an attempt to beat the bulldozers our volunteer crew, led at the time by archaeologist Dr. Kay McCarron, has managed to excavate and record nearly 200 shovel test pits, some of which were expanded to mini-test units as necessary.

When the Turn the Mill Around Campaign, the non-profit custodian of the mill, announced that plans for pedestrian pathways, etc. were delayed, we decided in the spring of 2014 that it was time to halt the excavations so we could systematically categorize, catalog, and bag/box the artifacts excavated thus far.

The artifacts we have catalogued to this point are already reflecting the site's history from Archaic and Woodland lithics and pottery through an industrial and residential site dating to the 18th and

19th century, as well as a Civil War battle. We continue to be optimistic that this area of the Broad Run terraces has the potential of an earlier prehistoric component.

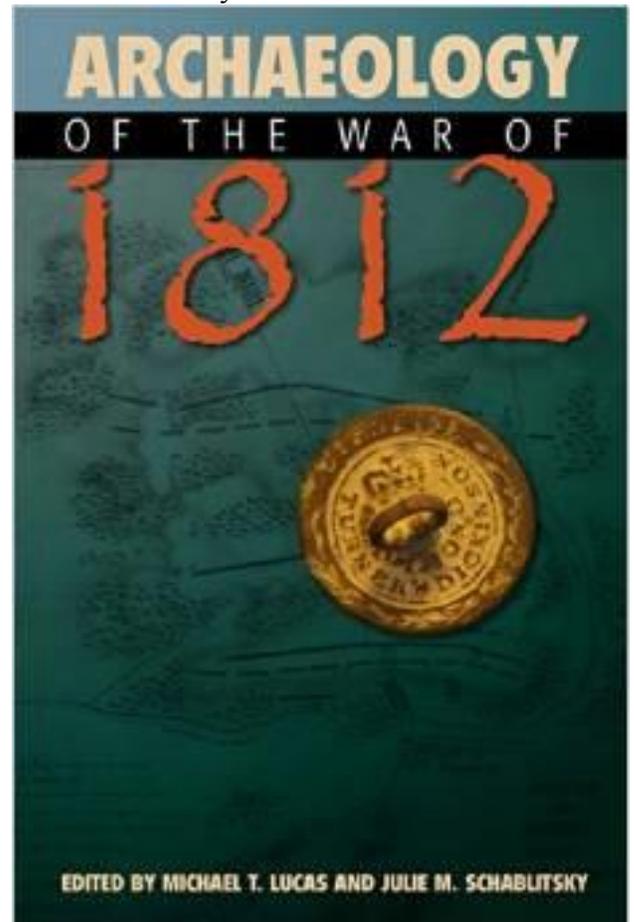


Chris Ramey and Martha Wallace

The project director, Frances Allshouse, with the support of project archaeologist Dr. Mike Johnson, welcome a dedicated crew of 10-12 NVC volunteers each Tuesday at our lab located in The Plains (west of Haymarket). Frances and Mike hope that, informed by our lab work, we will be caught up by spring of 2015 so further survey and excavation in the field may follow. If you have been to the Mill, you know it is a wonderful site with a rich history.

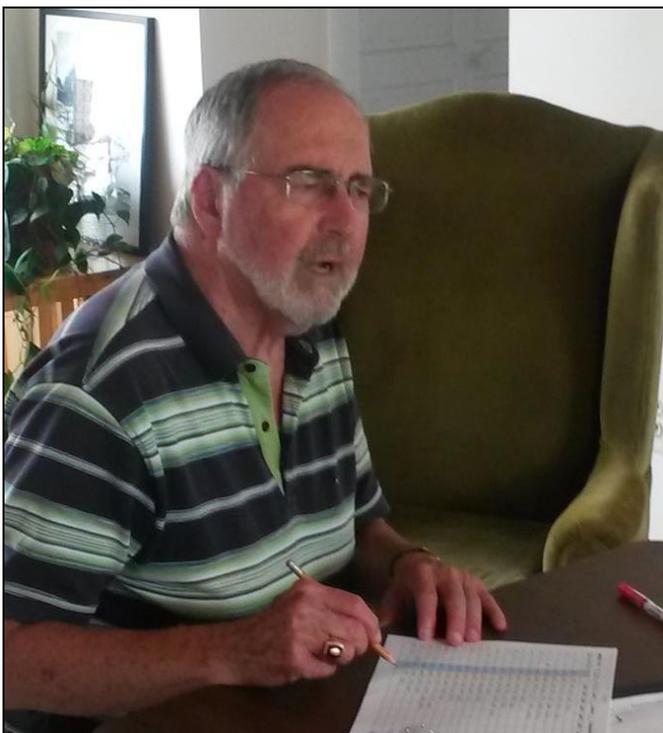
**NEW BOOK ON ARCHAEOLOGY
AND THE WAR OF 1812**

by Patrick O'Neill



Archaeology and the War of 1812, edited by Michael T. Lucas and Julie M. Schablitsky from left Coast Press is a great cross section of work done on that time period. I have a chapter on the archaeology of the Battle of the White House, and there are other great sites discussed in this one-of-a-kind book. If you are interested, go to the web at <http://www.lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=502>.

Book is \$79, but you get 30% of now!



Paul Ansten

OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

CART is about half done with the 3.5 acre landform testing area, digging Mini-Test Units (MTUs) in an area south of Hyde Street. Transiting (seen in the picture) has become a weekly activity at Colchester. Each MTU is surveyed with the Total Station to create a systematic testing of the landform. Artifacts recovered range from refined earthenware ceramics to quartz and quartzite debitage. No diagnostic lithic artifacts have been recovered.



Chris Sperling, with help of CART staff and volunteers, is conducting some preliminary testing at Ash Grove near Tysons. The Meat House associated with the larger house will have some ground disturbance grading of the soil to help water drain away from the structure. Located directly around the Meat House structure was a shallow

builder's trench which has contained both historic and prehistoric artifacts.

CART members Megan and Kayla are heading down to Richmond for the ASV conference in a few weeks. Kayla is presenting a paper on Sunday 12 October 2014, about a large black stain feature found during excavations conducted in downtown Colchester.

The CART lab finished analysis on the first phase of the excavation on the big prehistoric areas. During the second and current phase of excavations, more tests were added in order to better define the site. The lab is currently entering all of the data into the relational database. Soon it will be possible to compare the data in that region of the park from the first and the second stages of archaeological investigation.

Whenever it rains, the field crew picks through the water-screened debris from the uplands in search of very small artifacts. There is plenty of picking, but the crew also continues to catalog, enter data into the computer, illustrate artifacts, and help to organize the lab.

“Fire, Flight and Fury War of 1812 in Fairfax County – 200 Years Later”

Fairfax County
10th Annual History Conference
Saturday November 8, 2014
Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center
3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax,
Virginia 22030
8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Save the Date:

Saturday, October 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A FOFA Symposium

Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources

The Archaeology of the War of 1812



Featuring Patrick O'Neill, on the Archaeology of the Battle of the White House, Ruth Troccoli, Archaeologist of the District of Columbia, on the war in Washington, and others

Continental breakfast, and refreshments appropriate to the time

Free to FOFA members, \$15.00 (the price of a membership) to others.

**James Lee Community Center auditorium
2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, Virginia.**

**Sponsored by FOFA and the
Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch
of the Fairfax County Park Authority**

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Please send *Datum Point* via e-mail

Individual (\$15) _____

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