

# THE DATUM POINT

July 2015

Newsletter of the  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (NVC) OF THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Chapter Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)



## FROM THE PRESIDENT DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL

Welcome to July, we are firmly in the Summer season; there have been storms and sites. I've been enjoying them both; I hope you have, as well. In June no less than five members of our Chapter participated in Dr. Carole Nash's field school at the White House in Page County. Please check out some of the photos < <https://flic.kr/s/aHskbSBny8> > I hope to add more in the future.

## MEETING THIS MONTH 7:30 PM AT THE JAMES LEE CENTER

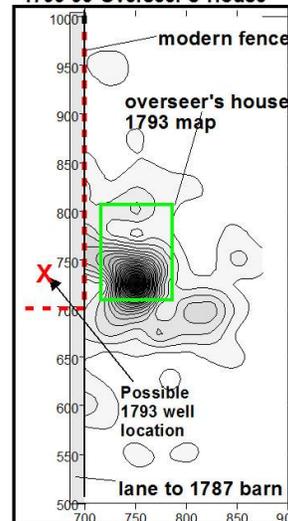
## The Overseer's House at Washington's Union Farm By Patrick O'Neill



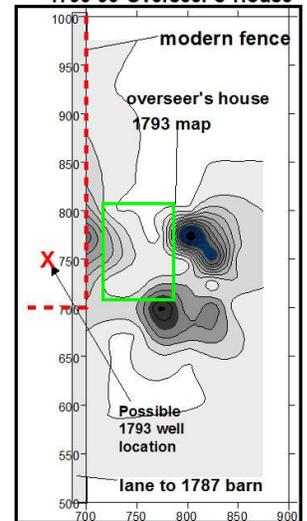
Mary Ann Francis (L) & Laura Wedin (R ASV Newsletter Editor)

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Architectural artifacts with  
1793-95 Overseer's House



Domestic artifacts with  
1793-95 Overseer's House



George Washington had five satellite farms around Mount Vernon, including Union Farm. In 2001, archaeological investigations were conducted in front of a proposed walking trail, to find evidence of the overseer's house and slave quarters shown for the area on a 1793 map personally drafted by Washington. This talk will present the extraordinary findings including a Quaker barn reusing elements from Washington's farm buildings. Patrick O'Neill has been doing archaeology and historical research projects for over 32 years, and is past President of the Northern Virginia Chapter and the ASV.

Join Chapter members at  
Anthony's Restaurant at 6 pm  
before the meeting! Located at  
3000 Annandale Rd, Falls Church,  
VA 22042 - (703) 532-0100

**President cont'd from Page 1**

There were several Certification students at the field school. They were able to obtain time learning excavation, artifact washing, mapping and profiling units.



*Bridget O'Neill (L) and Jackie Cuyler (R)*



*All three Diane, Jackie, and Bridget*



*Bridget O'Neill (R) and Diane Schug-O'Neill (L) with the Blue Ridge behind them!*



*Patrick O'Neill (Z) and Diane Schug-O'Neill (behind camera)*

**The 2015 NVC Picnic will be at Cox Farm on August 15<sup>th</sup> at noon! Directions will be in the next DP!**



*You can buy a lid that fits into a bucket to make a fine seat!*

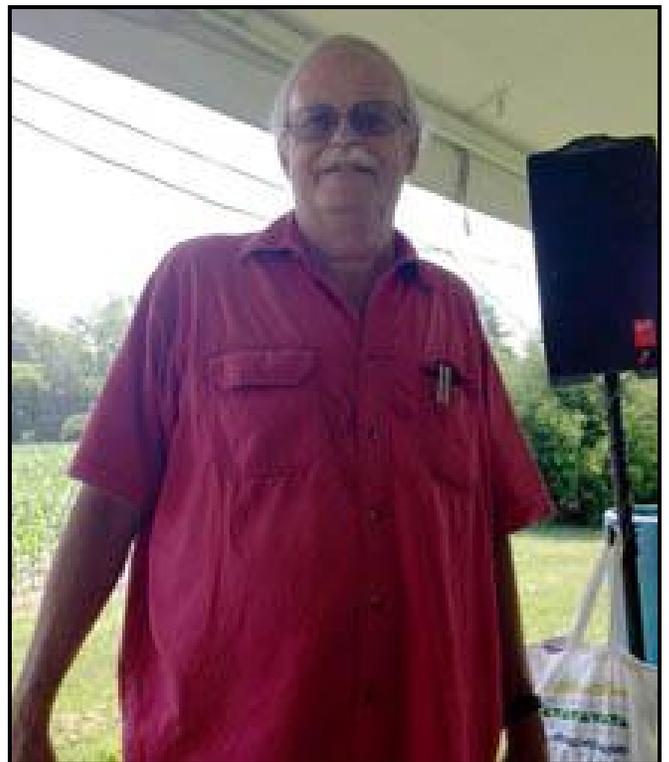


*Wagon rides were also given to the gun pit and cemetery trail*

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASV event at Kittiewan was also a huge success! This corresponded with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASV receiving Kittiewan through the Bill Cropper estate. Over 100 people attended the luncheon! The signs donated by the NVC for the walking trails to the Civil War gun pits and Hollinghorst Tomb were great.



*Trail signs*



*Bob Wharton, retired FCPA, was also spotted at the Kittiewan event!*

## A RENOWNED VIRGINIA INDIAN TRIBE FINALLY WINS FEDERAL RECOGNITION

By [Joe Heim](#) *Washington Post*, July 2, 2015

More than 400 years after their ancestors greeted John Smith and other English settlers, Virginia's Pamunkey Indians have won recognition from the federal government that they are a Native American tribe.

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs announced Thursday that the Pamunkey tribe's decades-long quest for recognition has been approved, making the tribe of Pocahontas the first in Virginia to receive the coveted designation. Six other Virginia tribes are seeking recognition through an act of Congress.

"We're just elated," said Kevin Brown, outgoing chief of the 208-member tribe. "It's been a long time coming. . . . We met the criteria and met every challenge. And we were challenged all the way. It wasn't easy."



Kevin Brown, chief of the Pamunkey, poses for a portrait inside his home on the tribal reservation. The Pamunkey are the smallest and oldest documented tribe in Virginia. (Timothy C. Wright/For The Washington Post)

The decision, which takes effect in 90 days, could have a big impact beyond the borders of the Pamunkey Indians' 1,200-acre reservation east of Richmond. The tribe's new status means it could eventually open stores that sell tax-free goods and pursue gambling ventures in a state that has long rejected casinos. That possibility had raised strenuous opposition from MGM, which is opening a \$1.2 billion casino in Prince George's County

next year, and from Virginia's gas station and convenience store owners, who worry they will lose customers if the tribe can sell gas, alcohol, cigarettes and other items without charging state taxes.

During the recognition process, the Pamunkey tribe had not commented on whether it would pursue gambling interests. But Brown said Thursday that the tribe will consider a wide range of possibilities for development, including casinos.

"To date, there's been no decision, no deals made, but it is something that the tribe has looked at and will continue to look at," Brown said. "Everybody focuses on gaming, but there's a lot of opportunities for federally recognized tribes because of your unique status, your tax-exempt status and your sovereign territory."

The Pamunkey Indians, who spent more than \$2 million to press their claim over the years, will join the 566 other federally recognized tribes and immediately be eligible for federal funding for housing, education and health care.

The Pamunkey is the second tribe to receive federal recognition during President Obama's administration.

"This is a group that Pocahontas was a member of, so it truly is a historical act," Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, said in an interview. "This is one of the most solemn duties we have in my job, to determine who the United States has a government-to-government relationship with. It's really gratifying to go through this rigorous process and be at this stage."

Washburn acknowledged that the government's decision allows the tribe "access to other processes that could ultimately someday result potentially in gaming long down the road."

MGM had strenuously opposed recognition for the Pamunkey tribe and teamed with Stand Up for California, an organization that has fought tribal casinos, to try to prevent final approval. MGM officials declined to comment Thursday on the decision.



Entering the Pamunkey reservation is a sign announcing the tribe. To the right is a small log cabin that is a re-creation of a trading post that was built on the reservation. (Timothy C. Wright/For The Washington Post)

Members of Congress, including five Democratic congresswomen and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, had also opposed the Pamunkey bid, claiming that the tribe once had rules that discriminated based on race and gender. The tribe said it abandoned those practices long ago.

“We looked very closely at the actual evidence and arguments [opponents] submitted during the comments period, but ultimately their arguments were not compelling,” Washburn said. The tribe, he added, “submitted a petition that is frankly one of the most well-documented petitions we’ve ever received.”

Steve Adkins, the chief of Virginia’s Chickahominy tribe, said he called the Pamunkey chief yesterday to congratulate him.

“It’s a great day for Virginia’s Indians, and it’s a great day for Virginia,” said Adkins, whose 850-member tribe also is seeking federal recognition. “It signals to the world that the folks who offered safe haven to the first English settlers are still here.”

Virginia Sens. Timothy M. Kaine (D) and Mark R. Warner (D) issued a joint news release praising the Bureau of Indian Affairs’s decision, congratulating the tribe and expressing hope that Virginia’s other tribes will also be recognized.

“Despite the integral role the tribes played in American history and the unique cultures they have continued to maintain for thousands of years, they

have faced barriers to recognition due to extraordinary circumstances out of their control,” Kaine said. “Today’s announcement is an important step toward righting this historical wrong, and I’m optimistic that the federal government’s decision to recognize the Pamunkey will spur Congress to act on our bill that seeks long-overdue recognition for six other Virginia tribes — the Chickahominy, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock, the Monacan and the Nansemond.”

The Pamunkey tribe’s presence has been well documented since English settlers arrived on Virginia’s shores. Scholars estimate that there were 14,000 to 21,000 members of the Powhatan Confederacy — Algonquian-speaking tribes that included the Pamunkey — when the English settlers arrived in 1607. The Indians, who had inhabited the region for hundreds of years before the English settlement at Jamestown, provided the colonists with food and aid.

Each year, in a much-photographed event Thanksgiving week, the Pamunkey and Mattaponi tribes present the governor of Virginia with two deer and a turkey in lieu of taxes. The Pamunkey reservation, among the oldest in the United States, is based on treaties signed with the English government in 1646 and 1677.

## **OLD COLCHESTER** **By CART**

June was a busy month for CART! We want to send a big thank you to the Friends of Fairfax Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FOFA) for their continued support and assistance during the annual Colchester Open House on June 6<sup>th</sup>. This year, the lab crew and a few of our dedicated volunteers showed visitors some of the steps artifacts go through during the processing phase, including a picking and catalog station.

Artifact displays around the room allowed visitors to see the differences in material culture found at Colchester sites from different time periods. Four of our most dedicated volunteers (Jim C., Emiko T., Chris H., and Patrick M.) were recognized for their hard work during a small ceremony and were given

a certificate signed by the FCPA Director, Kirk Kincannon, a shirt, and a cool FCPA pin.

The over 100 visitors who attended the event were also provided a tour of the current archaeological excavations at the Cemetery Site, 44FX0704. The brick work is over 17 feet long and could represent a chimney foundation (see below). Because of its shape and size, some have commented that it has a quasi-industrial look, such as for a brew house or bakery. There is no burnt soil, so if the feature does represent a hearth, the fire was raised off the ground.

A few days in mid-June were spent digging two test units at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The locations of new wayside markers had to be cleared by archaeological testing before the signs could be installed. A few pieces of glass and metal were recovered. The work was completed quickly, thanks to the volunteers who assisted on Saturday.

CART would like to welcome several new volunteers this month! An orientation was held on June 20<sup>th</sup> to help familiarize the new volunteers with lab procedures before going out into the field or spending more time in the air conditioned lab. We look forward to working with everyone!

Lab is working hard to process the large amount of waterscreen samples taken during excavations at 44FX0704. We want to thank the volunteers who have helped in the very detailed process of picking waterscreen samples. We are finding some very tiny artifacts such as beads, eggshell, straight pins, and fish bones which are not often recovered by the ¼ mesh screens used in the field.

Cataloging in the lab is an ongoing process; among the most common datable artifacts include tin-glazed coarse earthenware ceramics and creamware which place our site no later than the last quarter of the eighteenth century. A great diversity in the assemblage of hand-wrought nails should provide meaningful insight in to the construction of main structure at the site and, perhaps, into its function.

A new volunteer system is now implemented for volunteers within Fairfax County. Parks and other places will advertise for opportunities across the county, which are searchable through various interests or by keywords. Volunteers then sign up for a slot within an opportunity. Colchester lab and field opportunities are listed within the system.

<https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/>



## 2015 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	<a href="mailto:annpwood@verizon.net">annpwood@verizon.net</a>

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia

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<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Francine Bromberg	<a href="mailto:Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov">Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399
<b>Chapmans Mill</b>	Francis Allshouse	<a href="mailto:chapmanmill@gmail.com">chapmanmill@gmail.com</a> 540-253-5888

### NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$17) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:**  
**Isabella Martinez, Treasurer, NVC/ASV**  
**8304 Graceway Drive**  
**Lorton, VA 22079**

**Chapter members must join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at [asv-archeology.org](http://asv-archeology.org)**

**The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at the James Lee Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**