



# THE DATUM POINT

January 2018

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 PATRICK O'NEILL

I'm back! Thanks to Rich Eilers for steering the helm the past year, it's not easy. Thanks also goes to Diane Schug-O'Neill for her years of finding speakers, updating the chapter website, and being president of the chapter. Yvonne French has joined the officers as Vice-President, welcome. Chris Havlicek has become our webmaster, succeeding Diane, thank you as well.

What will 2018 bring the Northern Virginia Chapter? Fun in archaeology, I hope! While it is cold, Mike Johnson is setting up lab work on many of his projects he has been working on, including Smith Mountain Lake and Chapman's Mill.

I hope to sponsor some more excavations at the Ball-Sellers House in Arlington, and all chapter members, and non-members too, are welcome to come and assist those efforts. I will advertise in the *Datum Point*. We are still processing Ball-Sellers artifacts at the Arlington County Museum in Arlington, and you are very welcome to assist.

We are continuing the effort to move our website onto the ASV website, if possible, and save the chapter money. We will let you know as this effort progresses.

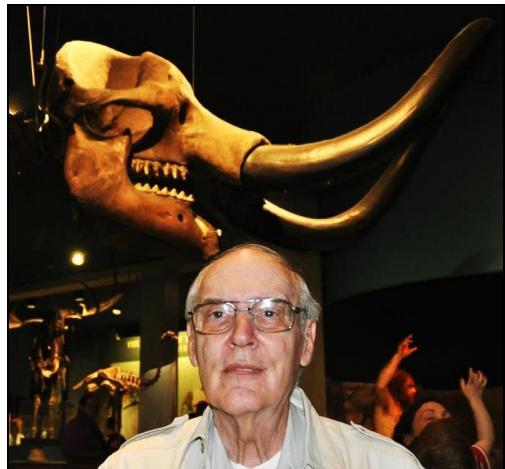
Finally, become involved with chapter and ASV events! Virginia has so much archaeology and history to offer the public, and you can help be the conduit!

**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**

**Chapter Talk 7:30pm  
Weds January 10, 2018**

**By Jack Hranicky**

**PALEOAMERICAN  
ARCHAEOLOGY IN VIRGINIA**



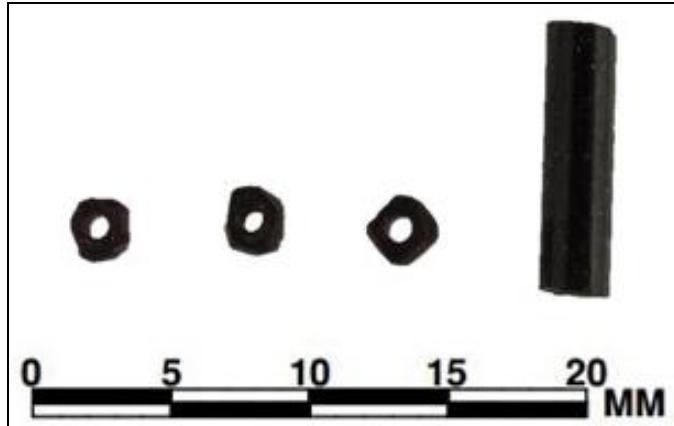
Jack Hranicky, is a retired U.S. Government contractor yet involved with archaeology as a full-time passion for over 40 years. His main interest is the Paleo-Indian period; however, he has worked in all facets of American archaeology. He has published over 250 papers and over 40 books on archaeology with his most recent being a national point book called *North American Projectile Points*. In Virginia, he is considered an expert on prehistoric stone tools and rockart. He has served as president of the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) and Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF), and been past chairman of the Alexandria Archaeology Commission. He is a charter member of the Registry of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). And, since he joined the ASV and the chapter in 1966, he is one its senior members. His major publication is *Bipoints Before Clovis*.

## **CART**

### County Archaeological Research Team

Staff and volunteers continue to process the materials from Feature 5 and are continually discovering new information about the daily lives of the past people of the site. Field and Lab Archaeologist Haley H. and all the lab staff have researched and cataloged hundreds of artifacts this month. The artifact assemblage from Feature 5 contains a large amount of animal bone. Thus far, we have been able to identify pig, cow, fish, bird, and even cat!

Our volunteers are also steadily making their way through the pickings from Feature 5. Searching through these artifact-rich pickings, our diligent volunteers are rewarded with frequent finds including small ceramic sherds, seeds, lead shot, straight pins, fish scales, egg shell, and even teeny-tiny beads (see image below). Once all the artifacts have been washed, picked, analyzed, and cataloged we will have a better understanding of the lifeways in Western Fairfax County during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries.



The CART lab hosted another successful New Volunteer Orientation in December. We welcomed eight new volunteers to our ranks with a short day of introductory material and artifact washing. These new recruits are now equipped to begin volunteering with our lab or field crew.

As part of Fairfax County's 275th Anniversary celebration, the contributions of archaeology were recognized this month. CART's own Directors, Megan V. and Elizabeth P., starred in a short video about the historic Town of Colchester along the

Occoquan River. The video is available for viewing on the CART blog at <https://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com> or on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmit4FfL3Qc>.

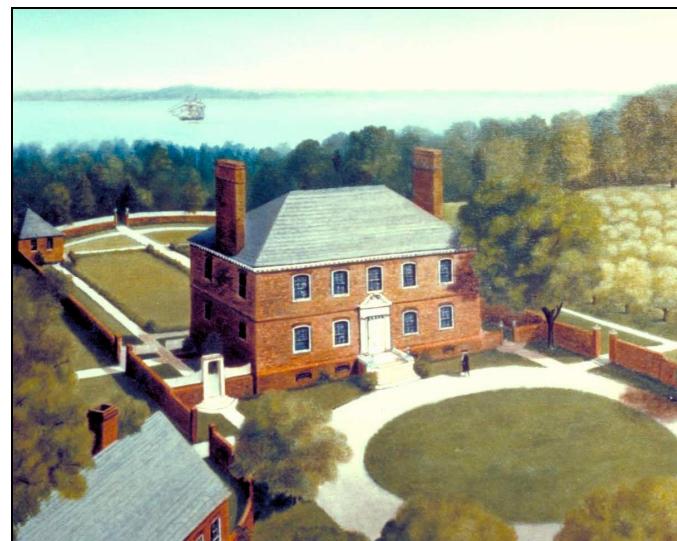
For questions about volunteering in the field, email CART staff in the field at [cart.volunteers@live.com](mailto:cart.volunteers@live.com). Volunteer days in the field are Thursdays through Saturdays, weather permitting. Volunteer days in the lab are Wednesdays through Fridays. Keep an eye on our blog: [cartarchaeology.wordpress.com](https://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com) for information on local events, winter weather delays and recent finds by CART.

## **CENTENNIAL OF CAMP A.A. HUMPHREYS**

By Patrick O'Neill

One hundred years ago this month, construction began on Camp A.A. Humphreys, now called Fort Belvoir. The United States entered the war on April 16, 1917, and in January, 1918, work began transforming the old Fairfax plantation called Belvoir into a military installation for the Army Corps of Engineers, lasting until 1992.

The original brick mansion called Belvoir was built on the bluffs above the Potomac by William Fairfax around 1743. This manor stood until fire gutted the building in 1783. The walls still stood until the Battle of the White House during the War of 1812 in September 1814.



Belvoir

Around 1800, William Fairfax's grandson Ferdinando Fairfax, built a large wooden home on the middle of the neck, and his large family lived there for a few years, before moving to Mount Eagle just south of Alexandria. Three barns and other outbuildings were built near the Fairfax home.



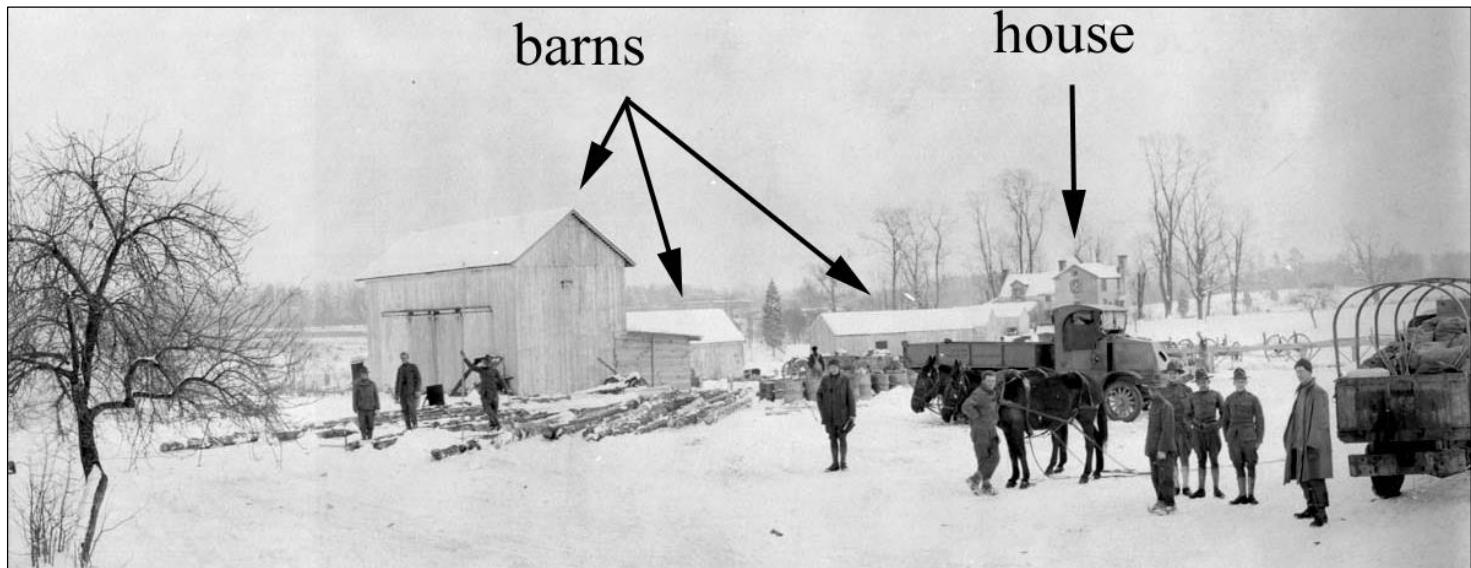
Ferdinando Fairfax home on Belvoir

When the Army Corps of Engineers came to Belvoir in January 1918, winter was ugly, and several inches of snow had fallen. The Army quickly starting building new structures and laying roads out on the property.

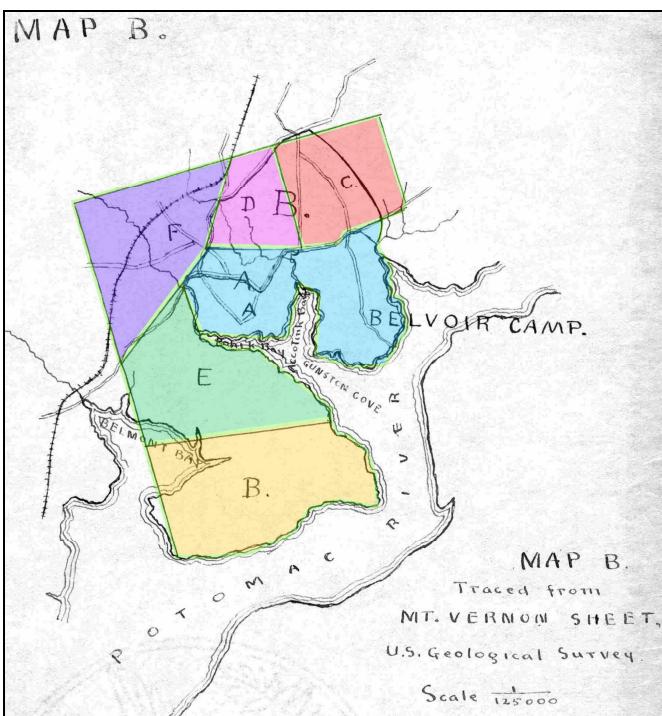
A wonderful panoramic photograph has survived on this first week of construction (see below). The Fairfax house stood for several weeks, but in the end, was torched and built over. The barns survived a little longer, but were gone by summer.



Fairfax house from panoramic photograph



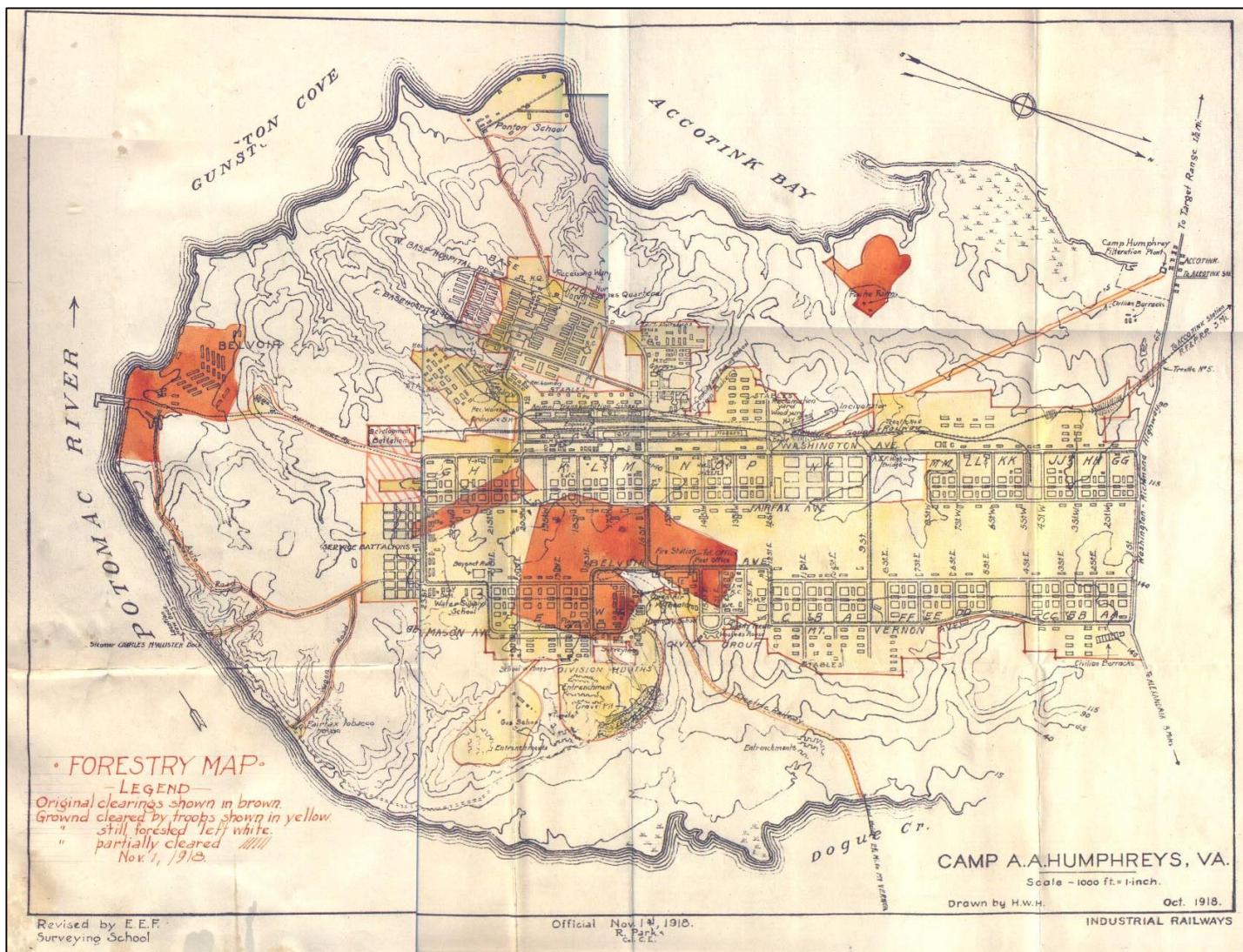
MAP B.



Camp A.A. Humphreys was originally only the Belvoir Neck, then increased across Route 1 and west across Accotink Creek. The map to the left shows that if WWI had continued, the Army had plans to enlarge the post to include Mason Neck!

The first few months of 1918 saw great change on Belvoir Neck. The Army built corduroy roads across the landscape when the winter freeze gave way to an Indian Summer, then froze again.

Ultimately, Camp A.A. Humphreys encompassed the entire neck, with narrow and full gauge railroads, a trolley from Mount Vernon and Alexandria, barracks, administration buildings, entertainment centers, training ranges, even a Knights of Columbus Hall and YMCA. The training received here helped the war effort in ways that few of us can fully appreciate.



## 2018 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
<b>Vice-President</b>	Yvonne French	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Leven	<a href="mailto:levenbarbara2@gmail.com">levenbarbara2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Corresponding Sec</b>	John Kelsey	<a href="mailto:jkelsey@cox.net">jkelsey@cox.net</a>
<b>Recording Sec</b>	Nancy Ehlke	<a href="mailto:rce2@cox.net">rce2@cox.net</a> 703-978-6724
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<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	<a href="mailto:annpwood@gmail.com">annpwood@gmail.com</a>

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

<b>Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov">elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> 703-534-3881
<b>Mount Vernon</b>	Dr. Luke Pecoraro	<a href="mailto:L.Pecoraro@mountvernon.org">L.Pecoraro@mountvernon.org</a> 703.799.6831
<b>Gunston Hall</b>	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Dr. Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov">Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399
<b>Chapmans Mill</b>	Frances Allshouse	<a href="mailto:chapmanmill@gmail.com">chapmanmill@gmail.com</a> 540-253-5888
<b>DC City Archaeologist</b>	Dr. Ruth Trocolli	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov">Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov</a> 202-442-8836

### NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Return to:**

**Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV**

**9518 Liberty Tree Lane**

**Vienna VA 22182**

**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!!!!**