



THE DATUM POINT

February 2020

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT **PATRICK O'NEILL**

The ASV Board Meeting on Feb 1st was very productive. The Annual Meeting this year will return to Williamsburg for the second year in a row.

I know that DHR is scheduling more work at Eyreville, but I have not yet received the detailed information to pass on to you. Dr. Carole Nash wants to conduct a field school centering on lab work at Kittiewan later this year.

Jessica Kaplan, this month's speaker, worked with me at the Ball-Sellers House and she is an excellent speaking and does great historical research! Come listen to her talk about The Bottom! You will not be disappointed!

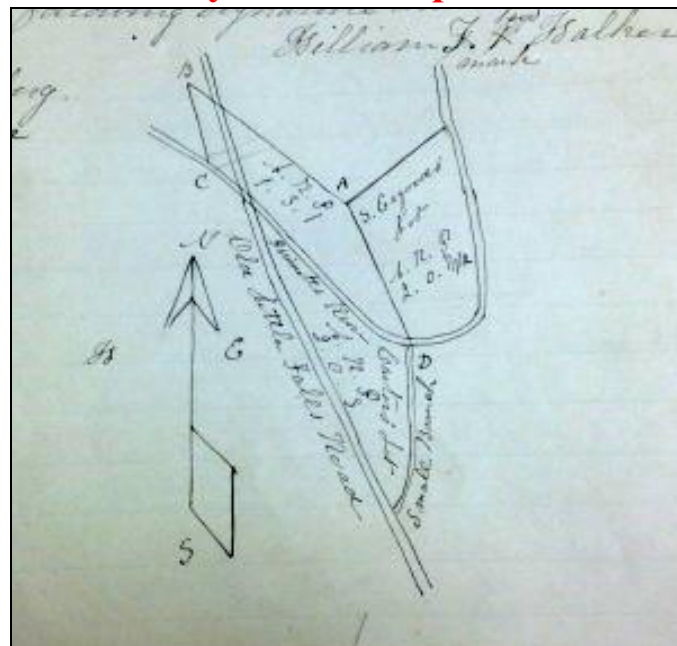


Jessica (Left) and Simone (right)

Chapter Meeting 7:30pm
Weds February 12, 2020

THE BOTTOM: AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN ENCLAVE UNCOVERED

By Jessica Kaplan



Jessica Kaplan brings to life "The Bottom," one of the oldest African American enclaves in Arlington located along Pimmit Run near Chain Bridge. Through meticulous research in newspapers, Civil War soldiers' drawings, and Southern Claims Commission documents, she provides a window into the lives of its residents. The Bottom was a small community established before the Civil War by free African Americans and offered sanctuary to

**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**

a group of families struggling to earn a living and create a safe community. The area remained their home through challenging times: war, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, segregation, and suburbanization. The black families were slowly displaced during the first decades of the 20th century. In the 1950s, most of The Bottom became the anchor for an overpass of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

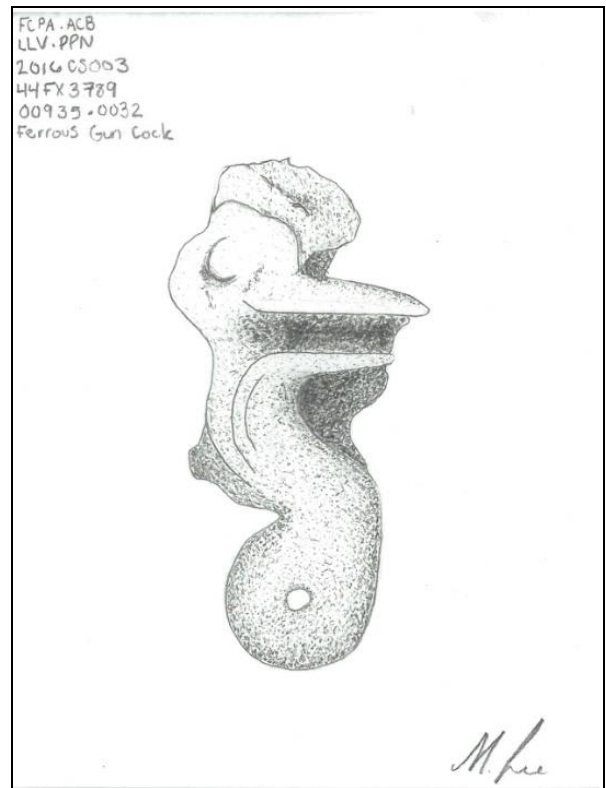
Jessica Kaplan is a long-time resident of Arlington who has worked as an archivist and freelance historical researcher for more than 20 years. She regularly researches and writes about Arlington history and has written articles for the Arlington Historical Magazine including "Was a Union Man" James and Lewis Marcey's Civil War Experience. She is a member of the Arlington Historical Society.

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

Throughout January CART archaeologists continued working hard in both the field and in the lab. Inclement weather this time of year often create more opportunities for CART field technicians to work on new projects in the lab. Archaeologist Melissa has been working through the winter months on scaled drawing of some of the more notable artifacts from Fairfax County Parks. Drawings are a very useful for showing depth and detail that is often lost in photographs, they are then scanned and saved for future reference. Some of the artifacts she focused on include utensils, mended ceramics, a gun cock, and other small artifacts.

Field excavations are ongoing at both the Mount Air Historic Site in Lorton and Riverbend Park in Great Falls. Both projects consist of systematically shovel test pit (STP) surveys across grids established for both parks. We use the artifacts recovered from these surveys to delineate archaeological sites; this way we have a better understanding of resources within the parks in general. If a trail needs to be maintained or realigned in one of our parks, the data from these surveys help guide installation so no cultural resources are lost or compromised.



In the lab, staff and volunteers continue artifact processing, cataloging, and data entry for the artifacts recovered from Riverbend and Mount Air. Assistant Collections Manager Heather created a fantastic new exhibit featuring archaeologically artifacts and museum objects preserved by CART throughout the years. The exhibit focus on the Frederick Colman painting *One of the Family* (1880) and the type of artifacts archaeologists have recovered from eighteenth and nineteenth century sites across Fairfax County. The display can be seen next to the Archaeology Lab in the James Lee Community Center.



If you would like to be notified when space becomes available for volunteering, please email cartarchlab@live.com

2020 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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DC City Archaeologist	Dr. Ruth Troccoli	Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov 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 can join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at www.virginiaarcheology.org/

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!