



THE DATUM POINT

May 2021

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

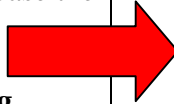


Zoom Meeting this month! Megan Veness will give a presentation on the archaeology on the Custis Square in Williamsburg! Here is the link in case the email I sent out did not reach you.

Topic: Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting
Time: May 12, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time
Join Zoom Meeting (may have to cut and paste)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84844699088>

Presentation and meeting will start at 7:00 pm



JOHN CUSTIS IV, WILLIAMSBURG'S GENTLEMAN GARDENER: RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT CUSTIS SQUARE

By Megan Veness

FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT PATRICK O'NEILL

This month's Zoom presentation will be given by Megan Veness, previously of Fairfax County and now at Colonial Williamsburg. We are trying to set up closed caption on this Zoom meeting, so things might look a little different. Please be patient with us!!! We are also trying to figure out if we can set up a hybrid presentation when we are allowed to meet in person, that way others can watch through Zoom at home. But, we aren't there yet!

Only a few people came to Bull Run last survey day, so we mapped the Feagan Cemetery. Recorded 19 good stone markers, all field stone pieces, no exotic material like marble. Only the Francis Feagan stone (1807) had markings on it, none of the others had markings. Oh well. The next available time for more survey work is Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 29th. Mark your calendars and come out if you would like to come out. Again, it's fairly physical. This next time, we may do mapping of the quarries or sites we have already discovered rather than walking more surveys, as the ground cover is growing and we can't see the ground!

John Custis IV, Williamsburg's Gentleman Gardener: Recent Excavations at Custis Square

Megan Veness
Project Archaeologist
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Department of Archaeology began a five year extensive archaeological research project in March 2019 on Custis Square, a four-acre lot south of the main streets of Colonial Williamsburg. John Custis IV (1678-1749) was a prominent landowner, politician and gardener in Colonial Williamsburg and the surrounding areas from 1717-1749. This large-scale project will investigate Custis Square for

evidence of outbuildings, planting beds, pathways and other garden features.

Megan Veness is the Project Archaeologist for the Custis Square Archaeology Project. During her 16 years of professional archaeology excavation, Megan has worked at George Washington's Mount Vernon, James Madison's Montpelier, and various sites with Fairfax County Park Authority.

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

CART is continuing the survey of Riverbend Park through the Spring. We have been lucky enough to see the local flowers and flowering trees come into bloom, including Riverbend's famous Bluebells. The field crew has completed the uplands area of the park and will be moving back into the ridges soon to continue our survey.

for a site, and can offer valuable information about those who lived in the area.



Recently, the team recovered a complete bottle (which is always exciting) with a very distinct label. "Piso's Cure for Consumption" clearly marked on the glass bottle offers unique view into the late 19th and early 20th century. Bottles like this are a great tool for archaeologists in determining a date range

Soon the field crew will be shifting our focus to a small project at Green Spring Gardens Park before returning to work at river bend. Our lab staff continues to work hard processing the artifacts brought in from the field and maintain the lab. We hope everyone is staying safe and enjoying the beautiful Spring weather before the cicadas come out!

Our volunteer program is currently suspended, and our offices remain closed until further notice. If you would like to be notified when we can again accept volunteer assistance, please email cartarchlab@live.com

2021 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Return to:

Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

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Vienna VA 22182

Chapter members can join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at www.virginiaarcheology.org/

The Chapter meets at 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month via ZOOM until the pandemic is over.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!