



THE DATUM POINT

February 2025

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

PATRICK O'NEILL

I, for one, am glad that the frigid weather and snow are gone! We are done washing and starting the artifact analysis of the Everhart Mill. I will start writing the report soon. When it warms up, I am going to do a little archaeology in Fauquier County on Baldwin's Ridge Road, looking for an 1880s church foundation. Let me know if you are interested.

Mike Johnson is still doing Jasper Ridge lab work, so contact him if you want to help. We will also discuss sending a donation to the Fairfield Foundation so they can get matching funds from DHR. Come to the meeting to see the presentation and stay for the business meeting afterward.



This month's meeting at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, February 12th, via Zoom. To join : (copy and paste into your browser)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82480784056>

Speaker: Ishtar Watson

Topic: *The Use of Contemporary Media for Passive Archaeological Education.*

Fairfield Foundation
Building On The Past

Scan to Register!

ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER CAMP

Celebrating 25 Years of Fairfield

FAIRFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY PARK & TIMBERNECK
FOR AGES 6-8, 9-12, & 13-15
DATES AND DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES, AND THE QR CODE

Interested? Email outreach@fairfieldfoundation.org

Call for Content

- ❖ Working on a project?
- ❖ Found a fascinating article?
- ❖ Visited someplace interesting?
- ❖ Reviewed a book you have read?
- ❖ Have an artifact you want to discuss?

The Datum Point newsletter could use your content. Please contact Ishtar Watson with your ideas and content suggestions and submission. The deadline is the first of each month. Each submission will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.



British Fort Found in St. Augustine, Florida... Perhaps



Archaeologists with the City of St. Augustine Archaeology Program believe they may have found the first of seven redoubt forts constructed by the British and used between 1781 and 1783 CE, hidden

by the erosion of time under a vacant lot in the Lincolnville neighborhood of St. Augustine.

During an archaeological survey, a pair of features were found consistent with a moat of a type associated with such fortifications. Realizing that they might have found one of the seven redoubt forts missing since the late 1700's, the team began to excavate.

"They show up on maps. There are documentary references to them, but no one has found one archaeologically," city archaeologist Andrea White explained (Clark, 2025).

However, that might change if the site is confirmed to be one of the missing redoubts. If confirmed, the redoubt and the maps the team already has might be enough to approximate the location of the other six forts, an exciting prospect. As for now, the team is working to determine the site's validity.

"[sic]So it would have been a gun platform or someplace where people could have used to shoot at their enemy," explained White, *"Or even just a lookout [sic] and have people or soldiers stationed at them"* (Clark, 2025).

For more information, the reader is encouraged to read [the article](#) at First Coast News.

Clark, J. (2025, January 31). *Archeologists believe they've discovered evidence of a British fort in St. Augustine* | [firstcoastnews.com](#).

Archeologists believe they've discovered evidence of a British fort in St. Augustine.

<https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/local/british-fort-found-in-st-augustine/77-9920966f-2c1e-4f69-b5e2-a86980825a14>

The 2025 Conference on Public Archaeology will be held in Washington, D.C., from August 8 to 9, 2025. Archaeology in the Community is hosting this event for public-minded archaeologists and cultural heritage professionals.

Abstract submissions close February 19th, and advanced registration starts in March. Don't miss out on a chance to join workshops, panels, and special events tackling key topics like:

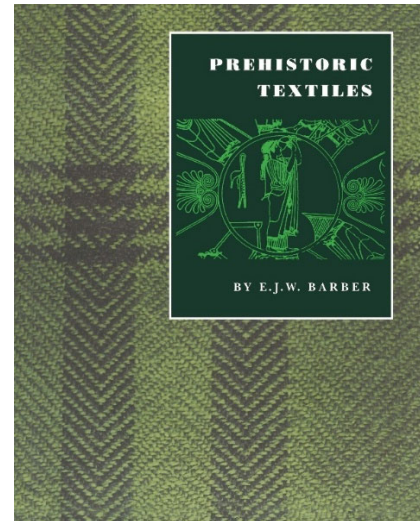
- Public archaeology & Section 106
- Community science & site stewardship
- Climate impacts on heritage
- Digital outreach & education
- Engaging with schools & educators

This unique conference will skip traditional paper presentations in favor of discussions, hands-on activities, and networking opportunities. Let's shape the future of archaeology together!

<https://zurl.co/rz4yg>

Monthly Book Review

By Ishtar Watson



Prehistoric Textiles: The Development of Cloth in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages with Special Reference to the Aegean

*1991, Princeton University Press, 1st Edition.
By Elizabeth J. W. Barber*

In perhaps her most comprehensive work, Barber discusses prehistoric textiles, their origin, development, and adaptations at length in this 471-page, richly detailed book. While many readers may find her later 1996 book, *Women's Work: The First 20,000 Years—Women, Cloth, and Society in Early Times* a lighter and more approachable read, *Prehistoric Textiles* is a must-have for the experimental archaeologist.

I reread the text after it emerged as required reading for a prehistoric experimental textiles course I was taking, and I have a copy in my home archaeology library.

Barber starts by explaining textiles and fiber arts and their significance in human history. From the Upper Paleolithic to the Bronze Age, she goes on to explain the significance of textiles in many cultures throughout time. She explains the evolution of tools and fibers and their utility in each culture. Her detailed analyses exhibit aspects of anthropological treatment, while weaving fiber arts information into a delightful and very useful text.

I did take issue with Barber's treatment of string skirts, which I found to be reductive and viewed through a contemporary gaze, something to avoid in archaeology. This mostly occurs on pages 256 and 257, though the rest of her analysis appears accurate and insightful, making this one analysis stand out as aberrant.

In conclusion, Prehistoric Textiles presents a thoughtful and well-written overview of humanity's use and development of fiber and fiber arts from prehistory to antiquity. The bibliography alone is a treasure trove of information. Barber's book should be considered a must-have for any textile and fiber art-related archaeologist or historian.

If you enjoyed this section, please feel free to ask the Datum Point editor about including your own book review of archaeological and associated books.

Do you know of an endangered historic place in Virginia?



Only one week remains to [submit](#) your nomination for the 2025 list of Virginia's most endangered historic places! (Closes February 14th).

Preservation Virginia is seeking nominations from the public to inform its 2025 list of endangered places. The list is used to bring attention to historic places in Virginia in an effort to protect them and maintain the precious resource that is our history.

<https://preservationvirginia.org/our-work/most-endangered-historic-places/>

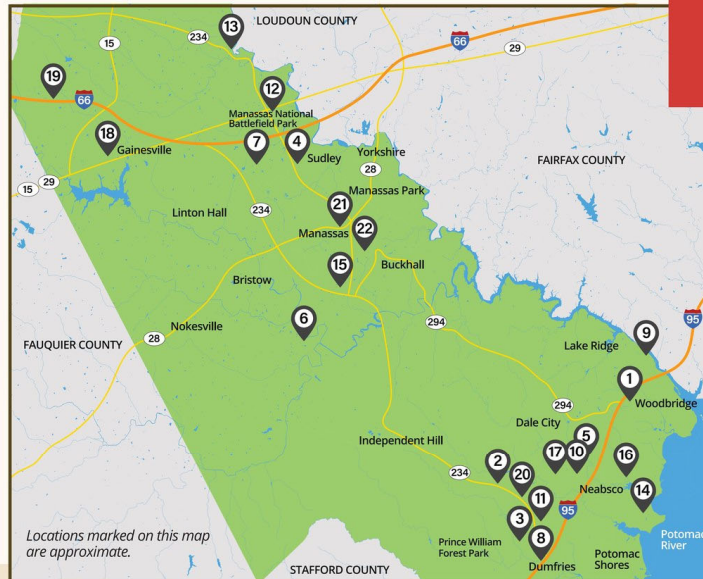
Prince William County African American History Trail

PRINCE WILLIAM
Historic Preservation

Prince William County's unique and extensive African American history connects many of our historic sites and communities. There are many different layers to our history, and many individuals have shaped the County's complex past. This trail explores the people and places whose contributions have made Prince William County the community we enjoy today.

This map highlights stops on the Prince William County African American History Trail. Scan the QR Code at each site or call 703-440-7218 to access text, audio, and images about their history.

The Prince William County African American History Trail is maintained by the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation.



Learn more here!



- #1: Agnewville
- #2: Barnes House
- #3: Batestown
- #4: Ben Lomond
- #5: Benita Fitzgerald Mosley
- #6: Brentsville
- #7: Dean Divers Church
- #8: Dumfries African American Cemetery
- #9: Ebenezer Baptist Church
- #10: Fannie Fitzgerald
- #11: First Mt. Zion Baptist Church
- #12: James Robinson
- #13: Jennie Dean
- #14: Leesylvania State Park
- #15: Lucasville School
- #16: Neabsco Regional Park & Rippon Lodge
- #17: New School Baptist Church
- #18: The Settlement
- #19: Thoroughfare
- #20: Washington-Reid School
- #21: Manassas Museum
- #22: Old Manassas Courthouse



Stop #2: Barnes House
In 1899, Eppa Barnes purchased the house where he was previously enslaved and built a successful life as a farmer with his wife and twelve children. Learn more about the history of the house and the Barnes' family history at the Barnes House near Montclair Library.



Stop #6: Brentsville
Brentsville was the fourth seat of Prince William County from 1822-1893. It served as the center of all county operations, including elections, tax collection, business, and court. Learn about how African Americans, both free and enslaved, lived in 19th century society.



Stop #13: Jennie Dean
The Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth opened in 1893 as a secondary school where African Americans could learn skills or trades to further their education. Visit the Jennie Dean Memorial to learn more about the school and its founder, Jane Serepta Dean.

Prince William County celebrates **Black History Month** by inviting people to visit many historical sites within the county that document more than 300 years of African American history – the African American History Trail. Prince William County has a rich African American heritage from the Civil War to Civil Rights and beyond. Explore sites throughout the county that allow you to connect with the past through the history, arts, culture, and contributions of Black Americans in Prince William County.

Visit <https://pwcaatour.stqry.app> to access the trail and find the locations of stops, historical information, and more.

2025 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O’Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
Vice-President	Darius Roby	Darius.Roby@live.com
Treasurer	Barbara Leven	levenbarbara2@gmail.com
Recording Sec	Diane Schug-O’Neill	schugoneill@gmail.com
Datum Point Editor	Ishtar Watson	Ishtar@anti-proton.com
Webmaster	Chris Havlicek	christo829@juno.com

Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-534-3881
Mount Vernon	Joe Downer	JDowner@mountvernon.org 703.799.6831
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-638-9724
Alexandria Museum	Dr. Eleanor Breen	Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399
DC City Archaeologist	Dr. Ruth Trocolli	Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov 202-442-8836
Germanna Foundation	Kelly Arford-Horne, MA, RPA	kelly.arford-horne@germanna.org 540-423-1700

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Dues:

Individual (\$15) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Please make check payable to NVC/ASV.

Return to:

Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

9518 Liberty Tree Lane

Vienna VA 22182

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month. Meetings may take place in-person and/or on Zoom. Details with start time and on-line/in-person information will be provided in the Datum Point newsletter prior to each meeting.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!