



THE DATUM POINT

July 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

Hot, Hot, Hot! The chapter is still working on clearing the brush from the Saint's Hill mansion.

Go here to register for the ASV Annual Meeting and get hotel reservations, too! I hope to see you there!

<https://virginiaarcheology.org/2025-annual-meeting-registration/>

Mike Johnson is still doing field work and lab work on Jasper Ridge!

Hilarie M. Hicks is currently the Senior Research Historian James Madison's Montpelier, where she has been on staff since 2010. She served on the research and writing team for the award-winning exhibition *The Mere Distinction of Colour*, and is currently the project director for an upcoming exhibition on *James Madison and Freedom of Conscience*. Hilarie writes biographies of the enslaved for The Naming Project on Montpelier's *Digital Doorway* website, and has contributed to the site's blog on a wide variety of Madisonian topics.

**This month's meeting at 7:30 PM,
Wednesday, July 9th, on Zoom - [Link](#)**

Speaker: *Hilarie Hicks, Senior Research Historian at Montpelier.*

Topic: African American Research at Montpelier: What Survives, and What Doesn't?



Hilarie serves as a judge in the *We the People* student civics competition and is a past board member of the Orange County Historical Society. Before coming to Montpelier, Hilarie served as Curator of Interpretation at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens (New Bern, NC) and Executive Director of the Rosewell Foundation (Gloucester, VA). She is an alum of the College of William and Mary (B.A.), the Cooperstown Graduate Program in History Museum Studies (M.A.), and the Seminar for Historical Administration (now the History Leadership Institute).

Obituary: Sue Henry Renaud

Richard Viet, SHA President:

With heavy hearts, we want to share the news that Sue Henry Renaud passed away on June 25, 2025. Sue was president of SHA in 2000 and worked for the National Park Service (NPS) for more than 22 years before she retired in December 2011. Sue's longtime goal at NPS was to ensure that historic preservation planning in general and State historic preservation plans in particular recognize that archaeology needs to be considered whenever there is ground disturbance in any kind of project, including rehabilitation and restoration projects.

Before working for NPS, Sue worked for the City of Alexandria, Virginia Archaeology Program, Fairfax County, Virginia, an archaeological consulting firm in Phoenix, Arizona, the Delaware Department of Transportation, and at a National Trust for Historic Preservation property near Leesburg, Virginia. She received her academic training in historical archaeology at Catholic University and at George Washington University and did her field work at Historic St. Mary's City.



Sue Henry Renaud

She was a nationally known expert on colonial terracotta tobacco pipes, protecting archaeological sites on private land, and historic preservation of the recent past. The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) named one of their regular awards in honor of the contributions that Sue and her husband, John, have made to local historic preservation in the United States.

[Original Post](#) July 23, 2025, The Society for Historical Archaeology.



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. 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>

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.

2024 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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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. *Due to COVID-19 concerns, 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!!!!