



# Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

October 2010

NUMBER 77

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*Northeast Historical Archaeology* seeks manuscripts dealing with historical archaeology in the Northeast region, including field reports, artifact studies, and analytical presentations (e.g., physical anthropology, palynology, faunal analysis, etc.). We also welcome commentary and opinion pieces. To submit a manuscript or request preparation of manuscript guidelines, write to Susan Maguire, Northeast Historical Archaeology, c/o Anthropology Department, Classroom Bldg B107, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY 14222.

## UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology*

Reported by: Susan Maguire, Editor

This will be a brief update prior to the annual meeting in a few short weeks. We are currently assembling the content for Volume 38 for publication in early 2011. Start planning your submissions for the next volume. We are always looking for new content to publish. Please stop by the NEHA table in the book room to talk about ideas for manuscripts or book reviews. I am always happy to chat about ways to improve the journal for our membership. Hope to see you all at the meetings.

## Newsletter Editor's Report

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

After many, many years as a superb newsletter editor for Atlantic Canada, Rob Ferguson (Parks Canada) is about to retire in the spring. He will be greatly missed!! His successor will be Amanda Crompton ([ajcrompton@mun.ca](mailto:ajcrompton@mun.ca)), who is a lecturer and Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Archaeology, Memorial University.

Please send news for the March issue of the CNEHA Newsletter by January 15 to the appropriate provincial or state editor.

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WEST VIRGINIA: Position available.

### Maine

Reported by: Leon Cranmer

#### Submerged Resources Center

Cultural Resource Survey Conducted at International Site [Submitted by Rebecca Cole-Will, NPS]

Resource managers from Acadia National Park, the Resource Information Services Division, and the Submerged Resources Center recently conducted a survey of Saint Croix Island International Historic Site as part of a project to assess the extent of cultural resources within the park and possible impacts to these resources from a facility planned nearby.

Saint Croix Island International Historic Site is a monument for the United States and Canada that recognizes one of the first European settlements in North America. A group of French colonists, including Pierre Dougou, Sieur de Mons and Samuel Champlain, along with 77 other men, established a settlement on the island in 1604, preceding the Jamestown (1607) and Plymouth (1620) settlements. The settlement on Saint Croix was the first attempt by the French at a year-round colony in the Acadia area.

Upon their arrival, the French cleared the island, planted crops, dug a well, built houses, public buildings, fortifications, and gun emplacements. On the mainland across from the island in the area of a cove now managed by the park, the French cleared land and planted gardens. They also operated a water-powered mill and made charcoal on the mainland. Champlain created several maps documenting the island and settlement.

The French suffered a difficult winter on the island with bitter cold, deep snow, and a scarcity of fresh food, water and firewood – 35 or 36 men died and were buried on the southern portion of the island. After the harsh winter, the French abandoned the settlement for a more favorable location in present day Nova Scotia. The year spent on the island, however, provided a valuable lesson about the local environment and interacting with the indigenous people of the area, with whom the French had an amicable relationship.

Nineteenth and twentieth century uses of the island included farming, fishing, quarrying, smuggling during wartime, and possibly even a public house of low repute. In 1856, the US government purchased the northern portion of the island and built a lighthouse, which was occupied and operated until 1957. The remaining buildings on the island burned in 1976.

Various excavations occurred on the island throughout history, including an excavation of the French settlement which was undertaken in 1797 to resolve the international boundary dispute between the independent United States and the British

colonies of Canada. From prior surveys and excavations, park managers have a number of maps of the island containing survey monuments and markers, historic sites, and excavated features including foundations, walls, fireplaces and chimneys. These maps provide useful snapshots of the island's history from settlement to the present, but additional data was required to translate the mapped features to modern day coordinates. High accuracy geodetic GPS captured coordinates which will allow resource managers to rectify all previous maps and correlate them with each other, creating a single map showing the overlay of all previously generated maps of the island.

This information will be used to assess impacts to the island and cultural resources on the island from naturally occurring erosion, climate change, and any additional erosion that may be caused by the proposed facility upriver from the park. The geodetic survey will also be used as a foundation for future surveying and documentation of submerged resources associated with the island and mainland tracts of the International Historic Site. The next phase of the project will involve side scan sonar surveys surrounding the island and diver inspections of any cultural resources. The control points geodetically surveyed during this field work will provide data to allow park managers to use elevation to determine if resources found in the intertidal zone are within the jurisdiction and protection of the NPS.

Saint Croix Island is entirely within the boundaries of the United States, and the island itself is managed by the National Park Service; however, both Parcs Canada and the NPS maintain interpretive sites for Saint Croix Island International Historic Site. The agencies cooperate to educate the public about the significance of the island to the cultural history of both nations.

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## New York City

Reported by: Nancy J. Brighton

### City Hall Park

[Submitted by Alyssa Loorya, M.A. R.P.A. and Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D., R.P.A., Chrysalis Archaeology; Edward M. Morin, M.A., R.P.A., Daniel B. Eichinger and Eileen Krall, URS – Burlington]

Since May 2010 Chrysalis Archaeology and URS – Burlington have been conducting archaeological testing and construction monitoring at New York City's City Hall within City Hall Park. The property is part of the landmark African Burial Ground and The Commons Historic and Archaeological District. Past projects have demonstrated that the property is minimally disturbed and remains a rich archaeological resource.

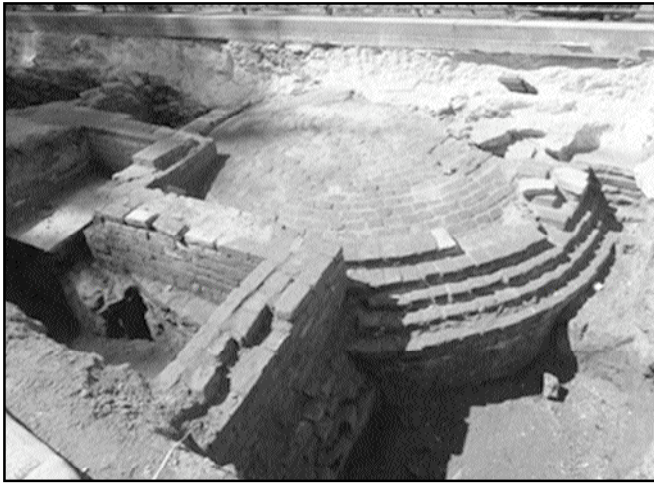
The area known as City Hall Park has been public space and used for municipal purposes since the seventeenth century. Its earliest institutional use dates to the 1735 construction of New York City's first Almshouse. Over the next 75 years the property would house two prisons, a second almshouse, several British barracks during the Revolutionary period, and it served as a burial ground. The first Almshouse was demolished in 1797 and stood within the footprint of the current City Hall, which was constructed between 1803 and 1811. By 1860 all the remaining eighteenth century structures had been demolished and the newly created City Hall Park was open to the public. Tweed Courthouse, at the park's northern end, was constructed between 1861 and 1872.

The current project has uncovered an array of architectural features and associated deposits ranging from the eighteenth century through the early decades of City Hall. The close proximity of these features highlights the density of the historic occupation of the area as well as its continued use and re-use. Among the architectural features uncovered within a 1500-square-foot area are a 13-foot-diameter eighteenth century well, a 16-foot-diameter eighteenth century cistern, a nineteenth century outdoor kitchen, an unidentified brick square shaft feature and an extensive nineteenth century brick drainage system. Other architectural features located on site include early retaining walls, shaft features, a well and two 18-foot-diameter nineteenth century cisterns.

Work within the basement of City Hall has revealed several original architectural details including a fireplace with a stepped horizontal chimney that vented through the side of the building and a sizable kitchen hearth. A bricked-up doorway in this former basement kitchen aligns with a stone sill and entry way on the exterior of the building and appears to lead to the outdoor kitchen feature. Testing within the basement uncovered eighteenth century deposits associated with the almshouse. Artifacts include bone button blanks, sewing pins, a 1746 British farthing and eyeglass frames.



*City Hall Park - Well*



*City Hall Park - Cistern*



*City Hall Park - Well*

Another square brick feature was later repurposed for drainage and contained an artifact-laden ash deposit dating to the mid-nineteenth century. Among the artifacts were pottery, wine and liquor bottles, drinking glasses, a spittoon and buttons. Adjacent to and beneath this feature was a late eighteenth through early nineteenth century midden dominated by large mammal bones.

City Hall Park has been heavily used and densely populated during its 300+ years of occupation. The multiple archaeological and historical investigations of the area continue to provide new theories and insights about institutional and municipal materials and landscape use within the City of New York. The current renovation project at City Hall, being undertaken by the City of New York – Department of Design and Construction, is scheduled to be completed in July 2011.

New Jersey  
Reported by: Lynn Rakos

**Nineteenth Century Historic Archaeological District Identified, Highland Lakes**

[Submitted by Dane D. Snyder, Gray & Pape, Inc.]  
Gray & Pape archaeologists identified an abandoned nineteenth century historic archaeological district near Highland Lakes, Sussex County, New Jersey. The 8 archaeological sites once made up the community of Cherry Ridge and are now part of the Wawayanda State Park. Visible foundation remains consist of domestic dwellings/farmsteads, a school house, and cemetery. The first settler is believed to have been William Utter, an American Revolutionary and War of 1812 veteran, at the turn of the nineteenth century. William Utter died in 1826 at the age of 69 and is buried in the Cherry Ridge Cemetery; his tomb stone bears the earliest date in the cemetery. The Cherry Ridge community died out when the City of Newark and the New Jersey Zinc Company began to purchase properties for mining and development purposes with the last resident of Cherry Ridge dying in 1917.

The Phase I Investigations discovered the remains of two stone-lined wells, an overgrown cemetery, and several stone foundations including dwellings, outhouses, pens, and barns. The Phase II Evaluation uncovered a plethora of historic artifacts, among them buttons, coins, and ceramics which dated the community from the early nineteenth century to the turn of the twentieth century. Background research and historic maps of the nineteenth century identified the William Utter property and indicated that it was solely occupied by the Uppers during the entirety of the community's existence. While it has been abandoned for nearly 100 years, the farmstead retains the potential to yield significant information regarding the nineteenth century way of life of a single, documented family group.

The data recovered during this study was consistent with the findings of the background research and historic maps of the nineteenth century. The Cherry Ridge Archaeological District has the potential to yield significant information about the residents who once occupied this community. The potential for data recovered from this settlement is amplified by the fact that the deposits are related to the period of its occupation and can be considered in contexts specific to its existence (ethnicity, class status, profession, etc.). Gray & Pape is currently developing an MOA and an alternative mitigation plan for the Cherry Ridge Archaeological District.

Maryland  
Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

**St. Mary's City**

The Historic St. Mary's City Archaeological Field School continued excavations to investigate the Calvert House, the

first Governor's House and the largest Ordinary in the 17th-century town. This was the third year of a multi-year project to better understand the house and its yards. One of the main goals of the project has been to trace out the many fences that divided the property throughout its use. In the process of pursuing that goal, several interesting but unexpected discoveries were made.

About 60 feet north of the house, on the east side of the yard, evidence of a storage cellar was found. The cellar was five feet by five feet square and about 4 feet deep. Adjacent to the cellar, there were two post holes, likely part of a building that stood above the cellar. While it has not been fully defined, this structure was probably square and seven feet on a side. Based on the artifacts in the fill and its association with other features in the yard, the cellar was probably dug in the late 1650s or early 1660s. It was abandoned and filled by c. 1670.

Excavations southwest of the Calvert House revealed a rich midden area with a wide variety of artifacts and a large assemblage of animal bones. While today the area is flat, in the 17th century there was a ravine that led to a freshwater spring. Finding evidence of the ravine relatively close to the house was an important piece of landscape data. It helps to explain the arrangement of the fences and points to likely approaches to the house.

### **Prince George's County**

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC), Natural and Historical Resources Division (NHRD) Archaeology Program recently completed the 15th season of field excavations at Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park in Prince George's County, Maryland. Mount Calvert is a multi-component site dating from the Early Archaic through the mid-twentieth century. Several buildings associated with the late seventeenth century village of Charles Town were uncovered during the past three field seasons. Charles Town was an English colonial port established in 1684 along the Patuxent River approximately 20 miles southeast of Washington, D.C. Charles Town was the first county seat of Prince George's County from 1696 to 1721 and served as a primary entrepôt for the tobacco trade on the upper tidal Patuxent for much of the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Many buildings were erected in the town, including a courthouse, jail, Anglican church, dwellings, ordinaries, and several storehouses.

Excavations along the Patuxent River terrace between 2008 and 2010 identified four structures dating to the early eighteenth century. Plowzone was removed using a combination of staggered trenches and block excavations, resulting in the identification of over three hundred features. Two distinct concentrations of buildings and features were identified during the excavations.

Terrace site A contains three buildings dating to the first two decades of the eighteenth century. Structure 1 is an 18 by 24 foot earthfast structure containing the remnants of a 9-foot-wide brick chimney base located in the corner on the gable end of the structure. This building served as a dwelling and possibly an ordinary during the 1710s. Excavation of several of the postholes and molds indicates that the building was constructed using a bent frame design with posts set at 6 foot intervals. The posts were 7.5 to 8 inches square and finished to the base of the hole. Structure 1 also contained an 8 by 15 foot shed addition along the eastern edge of the building. Structure 2 is a smaller 15 by 20 foot structure located approximately 8 feet northwest of Structure 1. This structure may have been a servant or slave quarter associated with Structure 1. Rectangular stepped post holes indicate the use of fully-framed walls to construct the building. Structure 2 also contained a 4 foot subfloor pit near the center and a larger pit located under the gable end of the building. The latter pit may have been an abandoned borrow pit. This pit contained thousands of artifacts dating to the early eighteenth century, including tobacco pipes, Rhenish stoneware, tin-glazed earthenware, straight pins, lead cloth seals, glass beads, a pierced coin, and cowry shells. The final structure (Structure 3) on the property was identified by a large cellar located just to the south of Structure 1. Limited excavations in the area suggest the building was probably used by the occupants of Structure 1.

Terrace Site B contains at least one structure located approximately 150 feet northwest of Terrace Site A. This building is a 20 by 40 foot earthfast structure with a possible chimney located near the center. The posts are set at 10-foot intervals and it appears the structure was erected using bents. Tobacco pipe fragments, nails, and lead shot are by far the most common historic artifacts recovered from the site. Very few ceramic or glass fragments were recovered as compared to Terrace A. The diagnostic artifacts recovered also indicate that the primary occupation of Terrace B is earlier than Terrace A. The plowzone pipe assemblages yielded dates from 1717 to 1726 for Terrace Site A and 1708 to 1714 for Terrace B. The combined data suggest that the building identified at Terrace Site B may have served as a storehouse or combination use structure.

Together, the early eighteenth century buildings identified at Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park represent the linear core of the first county seat of Prince George's County. Laboratory analysis of the field data from Terrace Sites A and B will continue through the winter and further excavations at Terrace Site B are planned for next spring and summer.

### **Statewide**

The Institute of Maritime History (IMH) is a tax-exempt educational corporation composed of professional archaeologists

and avocational volunteers. Since 2005 it has been active in underwater archaeological reconnaissance for the State Historic Preservation Officers in Maryland and Delaware, and more recently in Virginia.

The work involves no-impact, Phase 1 reconnaissance by remote sensing (sidescan sonar, magnetometer, and metal detector). Archaeologically trained volunteer divers assess or "ground-truth" all anomalies that appear potentially cultural. Cultural finds are mapped and reported to state officials to assist in building inventories of the states' cultural resources for preservation and management. Sites are not disturbed. Reports include site locations, dimensions, depth, orientation, material, dimensions of key structural components, measurements and descriptions of diagnostic artifacts, and other data requested by the SHPO.

In 2005 IMH began surveying the lower Potomac River for the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), and surveyed the Delaware River near Fort Delaware for the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (DHCA).



*IMH volunteer Dawn Cheshaek and LAMP archaeologist Brendan Burke deploying a sidescan sonar.*

Work in Maryland has continued non-stop. To date the survey has covered an area more than twice the size of Washington, D.C. Twenty-four sites have been found and reported to MHT, and more are awaiting supplemental data.

### **Annapolis and Eastern Shore**

The Archaeology in Annapolis program, under the direction of Mark Leone, completed summer archaeological field school excavations on Cornhill and East Streets in the City of Annapolis' historic district, and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland at the Wye House Plantation in June and July of 2010. This season was the third field season on Cornhill Street and the sixth field season at Wye House. This summer, excavations took place at a new site in the City of Annapolis, 99 East Street. 99 East Street was purchased in 1850 by

James Holliday, a free African American man who, beginning in 1845, worked as a courier to the first superintendent of the Naval Academy, and then, subsequently, for the next seven. Archaeology in Annapolis was invited by the current owner, the great, great granddaughter of James Holliday, to conduct excavations at this new site. During the field season, unusually deep stratigraphy for Annapolis, and historic features, including a barrel privy, were uncovered. The artifacts are currently being processed and catalogued. The data from the excavations will be written up by Kathryn Deeley, a doctoral student at the University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Anthropology. During the summer of 2011, field school excavations will continue at 99 East Street and at the Wye House Plantation.

Funded by a Historical Archives Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, University of Maryland, College Park graduate student Michael Roller worked with Archaeology in Annapolis to create a physical and digital archive of the products of more than thirty years of archaeological work in Maryland's capital and the Eastern Shore. The primary materials from the more than forty excavations conducted by the project have been sorted and catalogued and will be available to the public in Hornbake Library, the special collections library at the University of Maryland (<http://lib.umd.edu/special/>). A digital archive of more than thirty site reports will also be made available for public use for free. The collection is expected to be made available for public research during the fall semester of 2010.

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### **Virginia**

Reported by: David A. Brown

### **The Fairfield Foundation**

[Submitted by David Brown and Thane Harpole]  
Summer could be characterized by a single word: overwhelming. The number of volunteers, interns, and visitors to Fairfield once again eclipsed our previous records and resulted in new discoveries that could rewrite how we look at the people and events which took place at Fairfield over the last 250 years. With the help of volunteers from Disney's "Give a Day/Get a Day" program, and interns hailing from Los Angeles, New York City, and the always reliable hotbeds of Ohio and Virginia, we opened up more test units than nearly any previous summer. Add to that our new programs with the Mathews County YMCA, Rappahannock Community College's Institute for Life Long Learning, and our annual dig days with the National Institute for American History and

Democracy (NIAHD) of the College of William and Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Through their hard work we discovered dozens of new features illuminating two significant portions of the Fairfield plantation archaeological site.

The first area is located about 200 feet east of the manor house. In 2001, we identified a large, 15-foot-diameter clay borrow pit filled in the 1720s or 1730s. Just to the east of it we identified the earliest historic feature on the site, an ash-filled tree fall dating to the last quarter of the seventeenth century. Running across the pit was a later, likely eighteenth-century fenceline that may mark the eastern boundary of the colonial core of the plantation. Danielle Cathcart's (UMass Boston) 2009 Fairfield Foundation Fellowship in Plantation Studies led us back to this area, investigating what appeared to be a structural post feature associated with a concentration of colonoware. We returned to the area this summer to expand our sampling of the plowzone with the hopes of building on her research. By the end of the summer we'd found numerous additional postholes to fence lines as well as likely earthfast buildings that will redefine how we look at this area of the site. While analysis is still underway, we have begun slowly expanding excavations above a brick-bat foundation recently located just north of the clay borrow pit found in 2001.

The second area is located about 1000 feet southwest of the house, at the edge of the current field where the land quickly drops down toward a wide creek bed. Two previous test units (2001) identified feature soils nearly covering the ten by five foot area with mid-to-late eighteenth-century artifacts in significant concentrations directly above. Our 2010 Fairfield Foundation Fellow in Plantation Studies, Tracy Jenkins, elected to reinvestigate this area. His work revealed an even more complex network of features which likely include a clay borrow pit as well as multiple subfloor pits associated with a slave quarter of the 1760s and 1770s and perhaps earlier. While none of the features were sampled, the analysis of the plowzone artifacts revealed distinct concentrations that represent multiple uses for this space. With its close proximity to the water and early boat landing, its dramatic sighting at the edge of the field and in full view of any incoming waterborne vessel, it represents a domestic space unique to the plantation. We hope to bring Tracy back in 2011 to further his research and better define the activities which took place here and how it fits within the chronology and design of the larger plantation landscape.

### **DATA Investigations**

[Submitted by David Brown and Thane Harpole]

Work at DATA Investigations continues to balance projects in our home county, Gloucester, with those farther afield. In the spring, we continued the extraction of architectural debris from Menokin, the collapsed 1769 stone home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Work focused on the southeast room and the immediate exterior in preparation of stabilization work for surviving portions of the stone walls for the cellar. Hundreds of stone fragments were documented, including many of the carefully carved water table, belt course, and decorative quoins that make this building so architecturally distinct in Virginia. We also spent three days in June working with the Menokin Foundation on a short field school for ASV certification members and students at Rappahannock Community College. These excavations focused on an area directly north of the manor house where University of Mary Washington students previously located a likely late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century slave quarter area associated with the house. The field school is part of the long-term exploration of the lives of enslaved Africans at Menokin ([www.menokin.org](http://www.menokin.org)).

DATA Investigations is also involved in archaeological surveys and testing associated with the nomination of multiple properties to the state and federal registries. Over the summer, we initiated a survey of Baiae on Ware Neck in Gloucester County. The property includes a remarkable early nineteenth-century house and the archaeological survey will compliment the nomination of the architectural resources to the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Historic Landmarks Register. The initial shovel test survey revealed significant concentrations of postbellum artifacts surrounding the house, but also a distinct cluster of early nineteenth-century material to the east of the house. In the fall we plan to return to the site in order to open test units that will hopefully identified intact features related to the nineteenth-century history of the property. Similar work was undertaken during the spring and summer at Sherwood, a largely mid-nineteenth-century home across the Ware River from Baiae. Test unit excavation uncovered the nineteenth-century foundation of a dependency to the west of the main house. Sherwood was known across Virginia for its impressive gardens. Understanding how the support buildings surrounding this garden once functioned and how they changed over time will help us better understand the role of this landscape and elite society in nineteenth-century Gloucester County. The third property in this series, the Gloucester Women's Club, is already on the state and federal registers. Our goal with the archaeological survey is to complement new historical and architectural analyses of the late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century building in order to update the nominations. Shovel testing revealed significant concentrations of early and late nineteenth-century artifacts as well as deeply stratified deposits along the edge of the hill, which gave the property its "Edge Hill House" name. The excavation of a test unit to the northwest of the house revealed the concrete foundation of an early twentieth-century structure, referred to as a kitchen. The presence of intact stratified deposits from this period suggests that earlier deposits also survive intact.

Outside of Gloucester our efforts have focused on three sites in Mathews County. Following the re-analysis of Dr. Frank

Farmer's archaeological survey of Brighton Farm in 1984, we initiated a close-interval shovel test survey and test unit excavation to further study a Woodland-period and eighteenth-century site along the East River. In downtown Mathews, DATA assisted members of the Archaeological Society of Virginia's Middle Peninsula Chapter (ASVMPC) in the excavation of a shovel test beneath the Old James Store. This rare survival of an early nineteenth-century store was supposedly moved to its current location in the late nineteenth century. The shovel test confirmed the presence of artifacts beneath the floorboards that may predate the building, but additional testing would be necessary to be more definitive. Excavations continued on a mid-to-late seventeenth-century settlement south of Mathews Courthouse, uncovering the first evidence of an intact feature on the site. After an initial shovel test survey in 2008 and a series of test units excavated in 2009, the most recent work may have located a structural posthole and repair associated with an earthfast building at this early settlement. Fieldwork will continue in the fall in order to better understand this feature complex. The project is part of a larger strategy by the ASVMPC to document early settlements in Mathews County and nominate them to the state and federal registers.

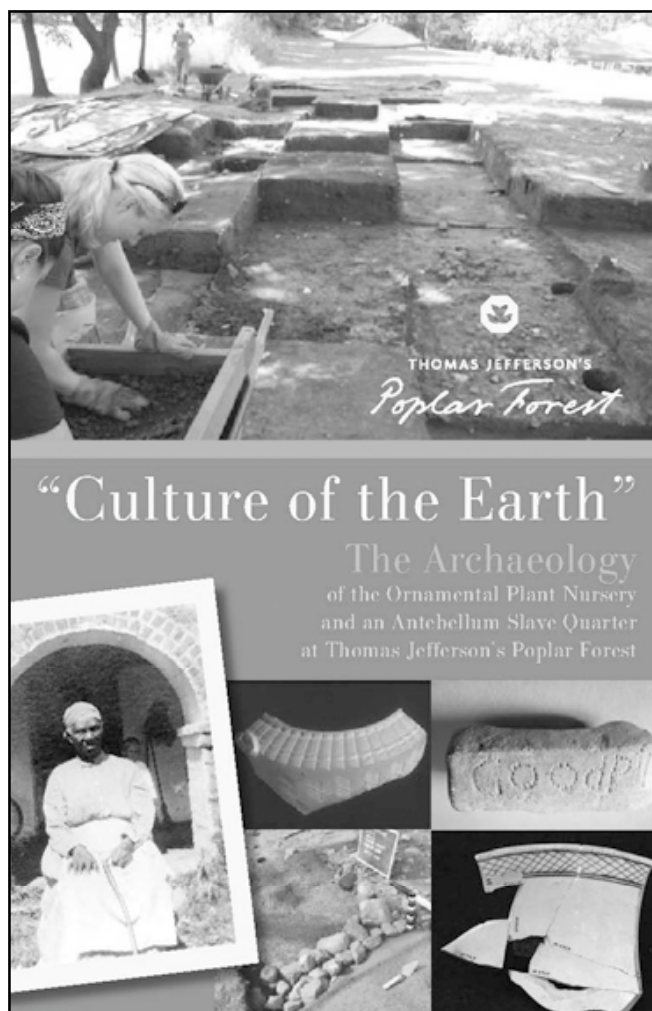
Additional projects in King William and the City of Hampton have kept DATA Investigations busier than ever before. Along with the King William Historical Society (KWHS), we excavated two test units within the ruins of the 1730s Acquinton Church. Despite significant changes to the church in the 1750s and again in the 1870s, we identified intact sections of builder's trench and topsoil from the eighteenth century. The KWHS has subsequently stabilized the ruin, rebuilt the roof, and restored much of the structure. In Hampton, NASA Langley Research Center (NASA LRC) asked us to direct a public-oriented field survey of Chesterville Plantation, the eighteenth-century birthplace and country estate of George Wythe. Chesterville is known for its c. 1771 manor house that may have been influenced by Wythe's student, Thomas Jefferson. Incorporating volunteers from the research center's staff and their families, we completed two weeks of shovel testing and a day of ground-penetrating radar (GPR). The goal of the survey was to refine the boundaries previously established by the site's nomination to the state and federal registries in the mid-1970s. NASA LRC hopes to continue research at the site in 2011, expanding previous excavations undertaken by Dr. Frank Farmer in 1974 that focused on an early eighteenth-century cobble and fieldstone house foundation located just north of the later house ruin.

### Poplar Forest

[Submitted by Jack Gary]

*New Publication Available*

The Department of Archaeology and Landscapes is thrilled to announce the release of a new publication, "Culture of the Earth": The Archaeology of the Ornamental Plant Nursery and an Antebellum Slave Cabin at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar



*Cover of the new publication. Available as a free PDF at [www.poplarforest.org](http://www.poplarforest.org).*

Forest. This public-friendly booklet highlights the excavation and analysis of two important sites that have been the focus of recent research at Poplar Forest. The publication provides the reader with an overview of Poplar Forest history, an explanation of excavation and analytical techniques, and synthesizes the different lines of evidence used to interpret the two archaeological sites. Printed in full-color with plenty of pictures of artifacts and features, the booklet should appeal to the general public as well as professional archaeologists. This publication serves as the capstone to a series of efforts to disseminate information about current archaeological research at Poplar Forest as part of a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The booklet is being distributed free as a PDF available on the Poplar Forest website, go to the following link for your copy: <http://www.poplarforest.org/archaeology/articles-and-publications>.

### Recent Excavations

This summer and early fall have been exciting ones in the field with continued excavations at one site and brand new excavations at another. Our search for the Jefferson-era sta-



*“Excavation in progress” shot of the posthole at the potential site of the stable. Note the “ears” on the south side of the posthole, these may have been dug to facilitate putting in or pulling out the post.*

bles and other structures adjacent to the ornamental plant nursery continued with our field school students during June and July. Two very exciting features were discovered. A large post-hole, approximately 2.5-3 feet square and 3 feet deep was discovered in conjunction with a layer of cobblestones found in previous excavation seasons. The size of the post suggests a large structure and the possibility of its association with a stable is exciting to contemplate. Future excavations will target areas where other postholes may be located in order to get dimensions on the structure. A builder’s trench was also found nearby, but may date to a post-Jefferson use of the area. This feature contained a large amount of domestic artifacts, faunal remains, and charred wood. A fascinating assortment of mid-19th century bottle glass is coming out of the feature and the layers surrounding it, including fragments of a George Washington/Andrew Jackson flask bottle and a cologne bottle with a molded image of the Madonna and child on the obverse panel. The corners of the structure have not been solidly identified at this time, but the nature of the material suggests the building’s use as a residence, either by enslaved laborers or an overseer.



*Overview of the excavations at the site of the double row of paper mulberry trees. The cobbled surface is exposed in this shot.*

To help guide our next steps at this site we were fortunate to have Dr. Eileen Ernenwein and Elsa McMakin of Foxfire Geophysics stop by and conduct some preliminary geophysical survey. Using magnetometry, magnetic susceptibility, and electrical conductivity, we’re starting to get a feel for the directions in which we need to head in order to find more features associated with those found during excavation. The data from these surveys are preliminary with more detailed results upcoming.

By the end of July we had begun to turn the majority of our attention to our newest project, the excavation and analysis of one of Jefferson’s landscape features at Poplar Forest. In 1812, Jefferson had double rows of paper mulberry trees planted between the main house and the flanking mounds of dirt. No mention was ever given however to the number of trees, interval of planting, or alignment of the rows. In order to restore these trees to the landscape we will need to locate them from the planting features and root stains left behind. We’ve begun by opening a 25 x 35 foot block across one area through which the double row would have crossed. In addition to finding a large cobbled surface, apparently placed sometime in the late 1800’s, we’ve begun to turn up the first charcoal flecked planting stains. At the time of submission it is too early to say if these are related to the double row. Our work on this project will continue through the fall and winter with the hope that we will have enough information to accurately replant these trees sometime in 2011. This project is one of three associated with landscape restoration that we will be undertaking over the next three years. We are excited to announce that the Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded us another grant to accomplish the second project; excavating and replanting clumps of ornamental trees at the corners of the main house.

### ***Virtual Poplar Forest to be Unveiled this Fall***

As part of Poplar Forest's landscape restoration plans we have begun creating virtual models and animations of the ornamental grounds based on archaeological and documentary research. The Center for the Electronic Reconstruction of Historical and Archaeological Sites at the University of Cincinnati (CERHAS), has created the first three dimensional renderings and animations that show what the ornamental landscape around the main house may have looked like in Jefferson's time. These renderings give our visitors a sneak peek at the landscape we are trying to restore and understand, while also giving us a tool to test our interpretations of plantings and landscape elements before we put them back in the ground. These animations, which place the viewer at ground level to experience this virtual world, will be available on a touch screen kiosk at Poplar Forest as well as online through our website. At submission the final drafts were being tweaked and should be unveiled by late fall.



*Screen shot of a digital animation showing a conjectured view of the house, double row of paper mulberry trees on the left, shrubs on the sunken lawn and a clump of trees at the southwest corner of the main house c. 1812.*

### **Mount Vernon Archaeology**

[Submitted by Esther White]

#### ***Upper Garden Restoration***

In September Mount Vernon's Upper Garden was closed to the public for two months as the restoration of the garden commenced. Based in part upon results of archaeological work undertaken since 2005, the restoration is designed to more accurately depict George Washington's 1799 Upper Garden. Over the last five years, archaeologists excavated about 15% of the garden, documenting at least six iterations of the Upper Garden, including features from the earliest c. 1762 fruit garden originally in the space, through cultivation of roses by the Ladies' Association in the early 20th century. The archaeological fieldwork suggests that the 1799 garden contained many fewer paths than the present garden. Additionally, these paths were quite a bit wider than the current three-foot garden paths. The first stage of the restoration included widening the four paths which date to Washington's



*Perspective view.*

time and covering 17 paths which were added during the 200 years since Washington's death.

Through the elimination of paths, additional area is being put into cultivation but with a vastly different configuration. Whereas the current garden was divided into more than 28 small beds of various shapes, the restored garden will employ a much simpler layout: three large, rectangular beds will dominate the south side, while the northern half will maintain the current layout of fruit trees and boxwood parterres. The newly restored, large beds will integrate flowers, vegetables and fruit trees and be bordered by boxwood, a design based upon recent scholarship and understanding of not only Washington's garden, but also period gardens throughout the region. While the restoration will lose only about 80 square feet of space devoted to flowers, we are putting back more than 10,000 square feet of vegetables – a ratio that is more in lines with the primary documentation that discusses gardening activities and species known to have been in the Upper Garden. The paths and beds will be prepared this autumn and gardeners will work throughout the winter to plant the new spaces. The restored garden officially opens to the public in April 2011.



*Image of the proposed restoration which will open in April 2011.*

### ***Mount Vernon Library Survey***

Testing at 44FX2460 ended this summer at the proposed location for the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. Located along a ridge approximately a quarter mile from the Mansion, the site is in an area that has been wooded since the 1920s. A shovel test survey conducted during 2008/2009 identified a relatively light scatter of late 18th and early 19th-century artifacts in a plowzone horizon across 3.5 acres and three distinct large concentrations of artifacts were delineated. The artifacts suggest a domestic occupation, or possibly series of occupations. This domestic site is not documented in Washington's writings and it is currently not known if it represents an undocumented slave quarter or housing for hired white servants.

This summer the final concentration of artifacts was tested utilizing a systematic random sampling strategy. Similar to the previously tested concentrations, a 5x5-foot test unit, randomly located, was excavated within each 20-foot block of the site grid. Results of the numerous test units excavated to date have verified and supplemented the artifact distribution pattern found during the shovel test survey. Unfortunately, no cultural features were found beneath the plowzone. The absence of features likely reflects the architectural character of the occupation – the structures on the site may have been relatively impermanent, perhaps constructed on piers or ground-laid sills. While many of Washington's overseers and employees lived in better housing, the impermanence of most slave-occupied structures is documented in Washington's writings; during the re-organization of his farms in the late 18th century, slave cabins were simply moved on log rollers to new locations.

### ***South Grove Midden – Archaeology Online***

Mount Vernon Archaeology has recently embarked on a 2 - year project to re-analyze and digitize the South Grove midden feature. The project is being funded by Mount Vernon's generous and prestigious support organization, the Life Guard Society, named after the personal security detail assigned to George Washington during the American Revolution. Ultimately, interested groups such as decorative arts specialists, professional archaeologists, and the general public will be able to search online and find artifacts and related contextual and interpretive information from this important site. Our goal is to integrate a complete catalogue of the artifacts (appealing to archaeologists interested in eighteenth-century plantation material culture) with the top 400 most significant and unique objects highlighted at the front end of the website for general audiences. The artifacts will be catalogued using the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery system (or DAACS) and will, therefore, be comparable with data from Mount Vernon's House for Families slave quarter (already in the database) and other sites associated with plantation slavery. We plan to re-assess the feature from a variety of analytical approaches, including a full faunal and botanical study and a synthesis of related historical documents.

The fill of the pit feature reflects the activities occurring in the Mount Vernon mansion and nearby outbuildings undertaken by the Lawrence Washington household, from ca. 1740 to 1758, and the early George and Martha Washington households, from 1759 to 1775. Overlying layers reflect late eighteenth and early nineteenth century phases of occupation that, when fully analyzed, will provide time depth not available from any other single site at Mount Vernon. We envision that this re-assessment of the data will push forward research on the following themes: gentility, intercultural interactions, foodways, and the consumer revolution. Hopefully, the ease of availability of the data will encourage comparative research, both within Mount Vernon plantation, with other similar sites in the northern Chesapeake region, and with sites outside the area in the Tidewater and the Piedmont.

### ***Greenhouse/Slave Quarters Exhibit***

The Archaeology Department has also been hard at work putting together an exhibit that will be housed in the newly reconstructed Greenhouse and Slave Quarter complex beginning in November. In 1793, George Washington added two one-story wings to the existing Greenhouse to provide living quarters for slaves working on Mansion House Farm. These wings replaced an earlier structure called the House for Families, which was excavated in the 1980s. Inside these wings, visitors will view an updated interpretation of slave life. One wing will also house an exhibit on the material culture of slavery and the history of George Washington's nearby Blacksmith's Shop (another recent addition to the list of reconstructed outbuildings surrounding the Mount Vernon mansion). On display will be tools and other implements made in the Blacksmith's Shop, evidence of slave foodways, and artifacts relating to African spirituality and personal life.



*IMH research vessel Roper off Mount Vernon.*

### ***Statewide***

The Institute of Maritime History (IMH) is a tax-exempt educational corporation composed of professional archaeologists and avocational volunteers. Since 2005 it has been active in underwater archaeological reconnaissance for the State Historic Preservation Officers in Maryland and Delaware, and more recently in Virginia. In 2010 IMH also continued to

assess several Civil War wrecks at Quantico, Virginia, for the U.S. Marine Corps Base archaeologist, and began the first known underwater archaeological survey at Mount Vernon in collaboration with Historic Mount Vernon and with the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Project (LAMP), the archaeological division of the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum.

During the autumn and winter of 2010 and spring of 2011, IMH plans to continue work at Mount Vernon and Quantico, to survey the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers in the District of Columbia, to survey six rivers for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, to assist MHT in reconnaissance of a submerged battlefield in the Chesapeake Bay, and to assist Stafford County, Virginia, in a survey of the submerged battlefield at Aquia.

## Atlantic Canada Newfoundland and Labrador

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

### Ferryland

[Submitted by James Tuck and Barry Gaulton]

As the 2010 field season winds down, and rain and northeast wind seem to be the prevailing weather features, we are able to summarize briefly the results of the season (almost) past. Excavations were carried out in three main locations – the southeastern portion of the waterfront excavated beginning in 1992, the defensive works that anchored the southeast corner of the settlement and a large deep profile that was expanded westward from the main area of settlement.

In the first area we (or rather one of the students employed by a generous grant from Ben and Millie Benham of New Mexico!) discovered a well-built stone wall (Figure 1) that separates the waterfront terrace from the higher terrace upon which most of the dwellings, the forge, brewhouse, stable, etc. are located. There may be a third terrace behind this, but thus far we have only located a single structure at this level. The whole village must have resembled one of the small port towns of the West Country with its layers of buildings and cobbled walkways, courtyards and work areas. Unfortunately, most of the terrace edge, as well as the north or south ends of a number of structures, are concealed beneath the present paved road. Preliminary steps are being taken to have the road re-routed, but this will undoubtedly take some time.

Aaron Miller (Ph.D. candidate, Memorial University) continued his attempt to locate the south wall of the “palisado” that surrounded the 1621 settlement. The eastern fortifications include a ditch, rampart and, presumably, the wooden palisade made from “posts, rails and trees seven feet tall and sharpened at the top” which we cannot find. These features are clear as far south as a major bastion that anchored the



Figure 1. *Well-built stone wall discovered at Ferryland.*

defenses at the southeast corner and for a short distance to the west after they turn around the bastion. After that, despite considerable trenching with shovels and a mini-excavator, no trace of the ditch, rampart or palisade was found. However, a small three-sided stone structure, about eight feet on a side, was discovered. It is not a fireplace (there is no evidence of burning), and its function remains obscure. It is filled with eighteenth-century trash, probably from a nearby tavern, but despite this even its age is not certain. Hopefully, excavations in 2011 will provide some answers.

Finally, excavations continued at the western edge of the second terrace (the main living area) following the removal of a house purchased by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. The profile increases in depth from south to north from about 60cm on the hill to the south to more than two meters at the northern end, closer to the inner harbour known as The Pool. The upper layers contain refuse from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. The seventeenth century is represented by a deep midden from a nearby house which we suspect may have been built by Philip Kirke, the

son of Sir David and Lady Sara Kirke. Regardless of exactly who lived there it is clear from the artifacts, especially the ceramics, that it was a gentry family: North Italian sgraffito vessels, bowls and plates bearing the initials “SK” and clearly belonging to Lady Kirke and so much Portuguese tingly-glazed pottery of all forms and sizes that one researcher from Lisbon said the it “looked like a Portuguese settlement.”

Beneath the seventeenth-century layers there is evidence of migratory fishing crews, in this case, judging from the ceramics, almost all of which originated in Brittany, consisting almost entirely of Bretons. Below that are refuse deposits made by the Beothuk Indians – arrowpoints and waste flakes from their manufacture – and a single Dorset Eskimo harpoon end blade identical to others found to the west in Trinity Bay.

Excavations are expected to resume in the spring of 2011 and with a break in the weather, some of the questions left dangling at the end of this season will be answered.

### Signal Hill

[Submitted by Amanda Crompton, Memorial University, St. John’s, [ajcrompton@mun.ca](mailto:ajcrompton@mun.ca)]

Signal Hill’s dominant position overlooking the harbour of St. John’s, Newfoundland, assured that the hill would become an important part of the defence of the town that lay at its base. The process of fortifying the summit of Signal Hill began at the end of the eighteenth century. The scale of fortifications on Signal Hill increased throughout following century, until the military was withdrawn from St. John’s in 1870.

For the third season in a row, students participated in Memorial University’s Archaeology Field School at Signal Hill National Historic Site. This project is a joint venture between Parks Canada and Memorial University; both of these institutions provided funding, logistical support, and assistance. This season, we returned to the North Range Barracks site (1A51), which is located on the top of Signal Hill, on a terrace just below Ladies’ Lookout. This was a British soldiers’ barracks, used from 1799 to approximately 1842. After this, the building’s use is not clear, but it was certainly abandoned by 1870, and likely collapsed after 1880 (Candow 1979). This site had been tested in 1984 by archaeologists Robert Ferguson and Martha Drake, and then excavated intensively by the 2009 Memorial University Archaeology Field School (Ferguson 1986). These field seasons had determined that the site preserved several features that could be attributed to the barracks. Comparisons with extant historic maps indicated that excavations had uncovered one external stone wall of the barracks, and a rectangular stone base that formed the foundation for one of the barracks’ four chimney stacks. By the end of the season, though, it was not clear if we had exposed the single-hearth chimney base at the end of the building, or a larger double-hearth chimney base from the middle of the building. Guided by the historic

maps, we attempted to locate the end wall of the barracks, with little success.

Thus, the goals of this season’s excavations were to resolve this uncertainty. The first task was to locate a second chimney base, and compare its dimensions to the base excavated in 2009. A series of trenches uncovered the second mortared stone chimney base. At over three meters wide (on its north-south axis), the 2010 chimney base was over a meter larger than the base excavated in 2009. This suggested to us that the 2009 chimney base was indeed located near the end of the building. As a result, we opened a large trench near the 2009 chimney base; after digging through over a meter of compacted rubble-laden deposits disturbed during the Second World War, we located the south-west corner of the building. [Figure 1]

The deposits in the undisturbed parts of the site contain rich deposits of artifacts and ecofacts, and appear to represent the remains of items stored (and discarded) in the building’s cellar. These provisions, utensils, and personal goods would have been the property of military personnel of varying backgrounds: either officers (who resided in the building for a

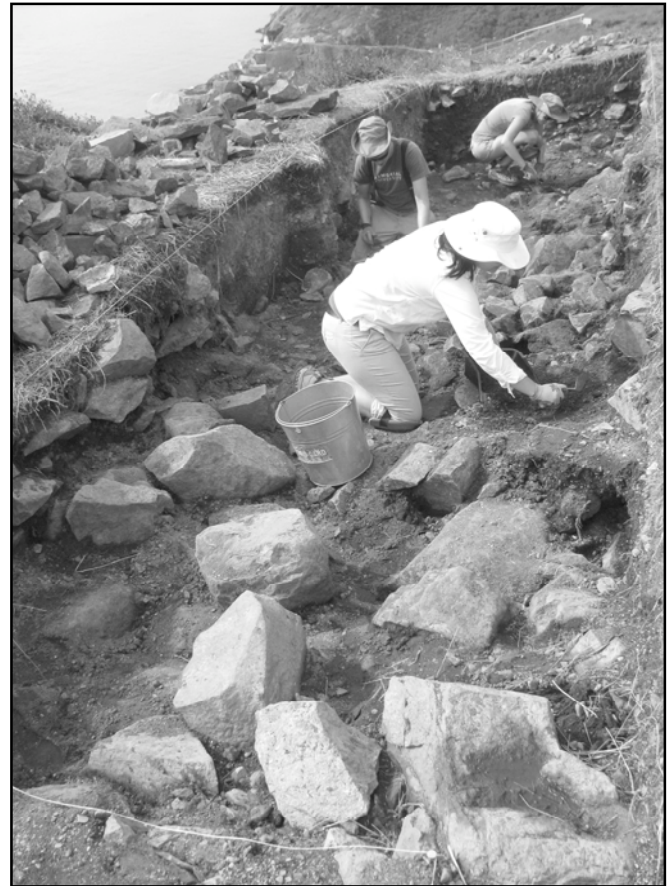


Figure 1. *Massive deposit of stone rubble in the North Range Barracks (1799-ca. 1880), probably deposited by American troops stationed on Signal Hill in the Second World War. Photo: Amanda Crompton, Memorial University.*

time), convalescent veterans (for whom this was a residence for a short while), or the infantry soldiers and their families, who also lived in the barracks building.

The substantial artifact collection includes ceramics, bottle glass, and tobacco pipe fragments consistent with a nineteenth-century occupation. The majority of the ceramics is undecorated creamware, decorated pearlware, and decorated whiteware. We also uncovered buttons and other uniform-related artifacts marked with regimental insignia, some of which were not known to be in Newfoundland. We suspect that the latter examples probably represent the use of surplus supplies or informal exchange between soldiers, rather than the undocumented presence of regiments. Research on the regimental insignia displayed on the buttons, and the maker's marks found on the reverse of some fully support the dates derived for the site thus far. We also found other personal belongings, such as clay marbles (some of which were marked with X's), and ceramic plate fragments with initials scratched into them.

Ecofacts were recovered from the cellar deposits as well, though they remain largely unidentified and unquantified at this point. Preliminarily, we can say that this part of the site contains abundant faunal material (which appears to have preserved very well), but little in the way of paleoethnobotanical remains (for which there is apparently poor preservation). The faunal remains certainly demonstrate that the cellar was used for the storage of food supplies. Initial information derived during cataloguing suggests the assemblage contains plentiful mammal and fish bone. The discovery of rat bones and rodent-gnawed bones suggest that rodent infestation may have been a problem in the barracks.

In the end, we hope to re-construct the world of the British soldier in Newfoundland. Life on the exposed summit of Signal Hill, in constrained living quarters, presented more than the usual complement of problems for the soldiers garrisoned there. To this end, we will combine further artifact analysis and research in the Provincial Archives to further draw out their story.

The blog for Signal Hill archaeology was continued this year and can be seen at: <http://signalhillarchaeology.wordpress.com>

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## Nova Scotia

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

### Grand Pré National Historic Site

Archaeological research in 2010 was focused on an area west of the 1922 commemorative church, in response to mitigation requirements for a waterline through the park. In 2009, Robert Shears, Saint Mary's University, had undertaken a series of test excavations in the apple orchard which lies on the west side of the building, following an EM-38 geophysical survey. This work, supplemented by several test excavations directly related to the mitigation, indicated that resources were minimal, consisting of sparsely scattered artifacts within a stratum of 20th-century disturbance for the park gardens.

Grand Pré National Historic Site commemorates the large and prosperous French Acadian community that existed here from the early 1680s until forcible eviction by the British colonial government in 1755. Subsequent to the deportation, the lands were occupied by New England Planters, whose descendants still occupy many of the farms in the area today.

Installation of the waterline began in late January, 2010, with mitigation under the direction of Rob Ferguson, Parks Canada. Most of the pipe was installed by directional drilling deep enough to avoid archaeological features. However, large pits were required at either end of the installations to accommodate the drilling equipment.

Testing had indicated modern depositional strata with some Planter-period artifacts and minimal Acadian-period material mixed in. During the course of the installation, an undisturbed stone alignment at least 19m in length was uncovered. [Figure 1] The pipeline route had to be extensively altered to accommodate the feature, resulting in much greater ground disturbance than had been planned. The discovery was considered particularly sensitive since the location of the original Acadian church of Saint Charles des Mines has never been identified. The church was not only the centre of the Acadian community through almost 70 years of prosperous farming, but was also the place where the deportation orders were read and where over 400 men and boys of the community were held as prisoners until forced onto the ships.

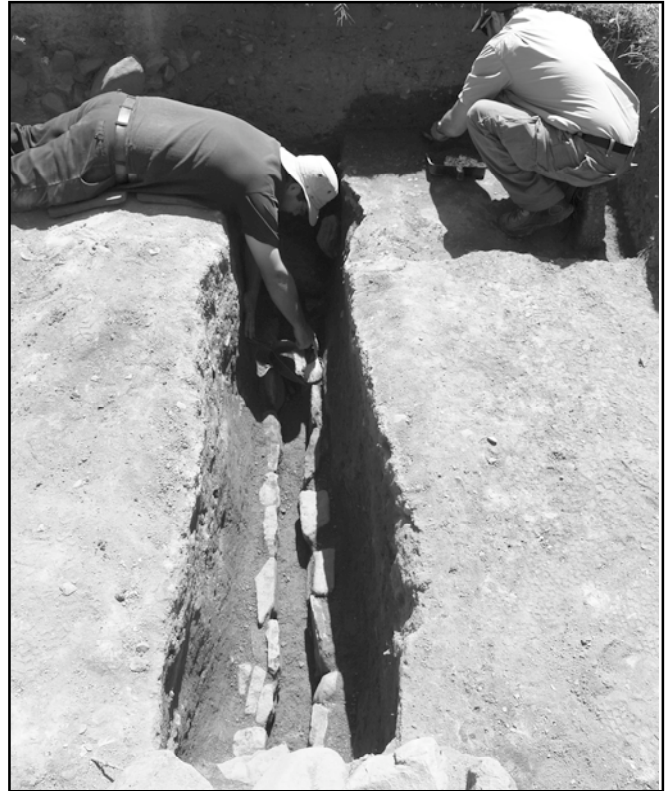
To further investigate the feature, the 10th annual Saint Mary's University Field School, under Dr. Jonathan Fowler, focused its efforts here for three weeks in May. A public archaeology programme, sponsored by Parks Canada and the Société Promotion Grand-Pré, was also organized to continue excavations for two weeks in July.

The alignment, originally thought to be a footing for a large building, is in fact a loose array of stones lying on top of a drainage trench. [Figure 2] It appears to have been built by the New England Planters. Ceramic evidence in and around



Figure 1 (Left). *Overhead view of stone configuration at Grand Pré National Historic Site. The trench follows a slightly curving path and the stones are roughly laid across the top of the trench. No stones were found at the south end (top) where excavations revealed a deep stone-lined drain. Photo: Jonathan Fowler, Saint Mary's University.*

Figure 2 (Below), *Stéphane Noël uncovers a section of the stone-lined drain. Creamware sherds of the late-18th to early-19th century were recovered from the deepest parts of the trench. Photo: Rob Ferguson, Parks Canada.*



the trench is dominated by creamwares, with other material types fitting a late-18th to early-19th century time frame. The drain runs close to a stone-filled pit which may be a house cellar. This has yet to be examined. A cluster of pewter spoons and bone-handled forks immediately outside this pit may indicate a domestic context.

Closer to the memorial building, mitigation work uncovered a probable well site. Artifacts in this area include a mix of Planter and Acadian-period artifacts, though again, predominantly Planter. Excavation of the well has been deferred for the moment.

Two graduate students, Christina Fry and Stéphane Noël, employed through Young Canada Works, facilitated these archaeological programmes throughout the summer. They have also added to last year's blog of the site: <http://grandpre.wordpress.com/>

## Sable Island Archaeological Survey 2010 Season

[Submitted by Dan Finamore]

During the first week of August, 2010, Daniel Finamore led an archaeological reconnaissance of Sable Island, a narrow crescent of sand dunes approximately twenty miles long by one mile wide, located approximately 180 nautical miles ESE of Halifax Harbor. Given the island's physical difficulty of access, its restrictions on visitation as a wildlife refuge, as well as challenging off-shore navigation, several years of logistical planning as well as archival research preceded this initial survey. The archaeological team reached the island on board the 36-foot yacht *Tazzarin*, William Barton, Captain. After a 36-hour passage, the boat was anchored off the more protected north side of the island. The boat then became the floating research lab and dormitory of the project. Largely compatible weather (calm water with little fog) allowed the crew to access the island by an inflatable tender on four of the five potential days allotted for the survey.

The primary goal of the 2010 survey was to undertake surface reconnaissance for archaeological resources related to the history of Sable, as well as to assess the feasibility of and strategies for future intensive archaeological investigations in this unusual environment of notoriously shifting sand dunes. Though unoccupied today except for a seasonal atmospheric research station (along with 400 wild horses and 300,000 seals), Sable Island has been the locale of many temporary and semi-permanent settlements by Europeans of several countries since the age of discovery. With more than 300 recorded shipwrecks over 400 years, the island has also supported a large number of temporary camp sites and settlements and, after 1800, a number of lifesaving stations that included residences, boathouses, supply huts and other specialized-activity structures.

The team focused efforts on locating the remains of a settlement of French convicts who were placed on the island in 1598. Other potential subjects of interest included occupations by both Acadians and Bostonians in the 1630s, and the more substantial settlements during the 18th century.

Although the earliest occupations remained elusive, an area around some small fresh-water ponds to the east of the (now-dry) Lake Wallace yielded large scatters of 18th and 19th century ceramics, glass and metal, some eroding from surrounding dunes. Normandy-type stonewares, English delftware, tin and lead oxide glazed Rouen ware, blue-and-white painted Chinese porcelain, a pipe bowl and a gun flint all date to the early-to-middle 18th century and some possibly earlier. Many of the earliest artifacts may have been associated with a feature seen in profile across a dune, which appeared to be a burned layer that may be a house floor. The feature was mapped and photographed. The site was also strewn with many artifacts of ship construction, such as sheet lead, copper-alloy spikes and sheathing, as well as a slate fragment that could be from a deck log.

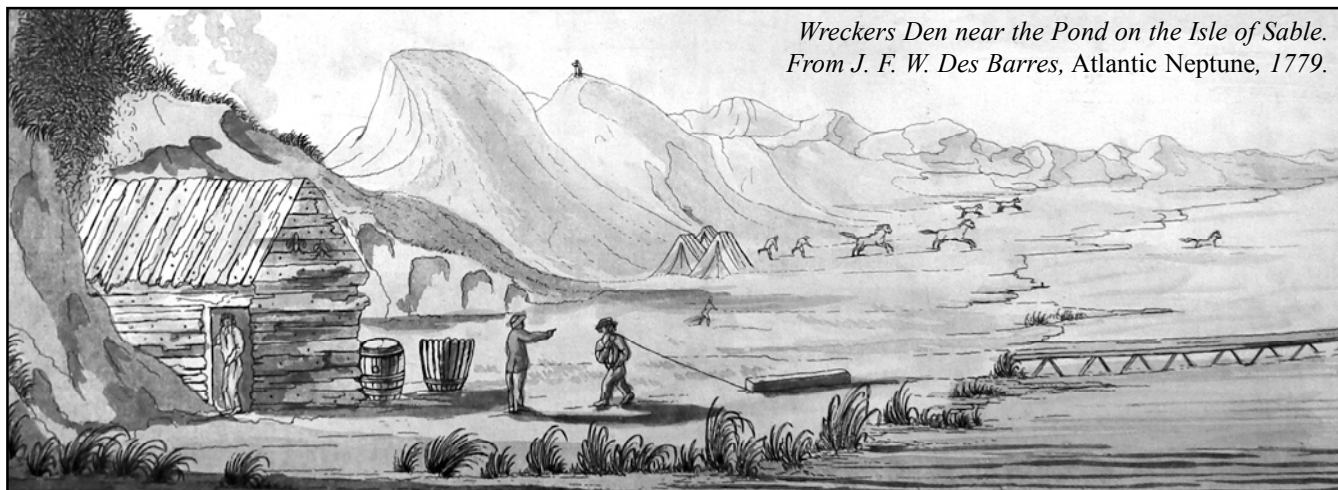
Little evidence survives for several of the lifesaving station structures that were not abandoned until the late 1940s, probably due to scavenging for wood in recent decades. Many iron gears and cables survive from one of the boat sheds that was constructed between dunes facing the north beach. This area was surveyed and sketch-mapped. Another outcome of the 2010 season is the realization that, contrary to the commonly held view that the island is migrating and all surface features are eroded and/or built up with each major storm, many of the largest dunes and ponds existing today align closely with similar features that were recorded on 18th century maps and charts, indicating that the central portion of Sable Island has remains in situ, along with many of its archaeological resources.

## Prince Edward Island

Reported by: Rob Ferguson

### Port La Joye/Fort Amherst National Historic Site

The University of Prince Edward Island Archaeological Field School held its second season at this site in June, 2010, under the direction of Dr. Richard Forsyth, UPEI, and Rob Ferguson, Parks Canada. Building on last year's excavations, the project had two goals: to expand on a brick and wood fea-



*Wreckers Den near the Pond on the Isle of Sable.  
From J. F. W. Des Barres, Atlantic Neptune, 1779.*

ture in the area of the French garrison, and to complete excavation of the Haché-Gallant cellar.

Port La Joye was founded in 1720 as a business enterprise by French colonists and served as the capital of the French colony of Isle Saint-Jean. In 1725, following the financial collapse of the company, it came under direct control of the French crown, and was garrisoned by a force from the Fortress of Louisbourg. Burned following the British and New England capture of Louisbourg in 1745, it was restored to France in 1749, but destroyed again in 1758 when the colony fell permanently under British control.

In the garrison site, the expanded area revealed a broad scatter of rubble but no actual structural remains. However, a random test pit by two graduate students (Noël and Fry, from the Grand Pre project), located a flagstone floor, probably from the garrison storehouse. [Figure 1] Identification of the building will allow us to establish limits of the fort and location of other buildings identified on historical plans. Twenty years of historical research, geophysical survey and archaeological survey strategy, and our first success comes from a random test pit. I am left to deal with the damned hubris of two graduate students who confounded us all.

At the Haché-Gallant site, we removed the last quadrant of the cellar fill. The rest of the cellar had been excavated in 1987-88 by Parks Canada archaeologists under Rob Ferguson. Michel Haché-Gallant, formerly a resident of Beaubassin in Acadia, was the first Acadian to settle on the island, joining the settlers from France in 1720, and is the ancestor of the largest Acadian family on PEI today. The cellar has been cut into the soft sandstone bedrock. Walls are thus irregular, but a square cut in the floor suggests that it had either wooden walls or a wooden floor. Artifacts reflect a 1720-1745 occupation period.



Figure 1. Flagstone floor of a French garrison structure, possibly the chapel/storehouse, ca. 1732-1745. Photo: Rob Ferguson, Parks Canada.

### Stanhope, PEI National Park

Rob Ferguson, Parks Canada, directed a week-long excavation in a late 18th-century house site, working with volunteers of the Stanhope Historical Society. This work follows a one-week excavation at the site in 2008. The site is likely the residence of the Bovyer family, Loyalists from Rhode Island who took over management of a large flax plantation owned by Sir James Montgomery. The former manager, David Lawson, had been fired for mismanagement of money. Lawson, one of the original Scottish settlers in the area in 1770, had built a large log dwelling 70 x 20 feet. Correspondence to Montgomery indicates that the Bovyers acquired the house.

A trench was placed from the upper edge of the cellar to the centre to expose structural features. [Figure 1] Large quantities of visible stone, thought to be evidence of foundation and chimney collapse, were, in fact, field stones removed from the adjacent farm fields and tossed into the abandoned cellar. There was no evidence of a footing for the building or of a cellar wall, but a flagstone floor was revealed at the bottom.

Two test pits were placed outside the depression, expanding on a midden deposit located in 2008. Artifacts recovered from the midden and from the cellar indicate a tight occupation span in the late 18th to early 19th century. Ceramics are dominated by undecorated creamwares, with some hand-painted pearlwares, agatewares and scattered sherds of a black Basaltes teapot. An iron file was recovered from the cellar floor.

It is hoped that work will continue in future years, focusing on the cellar floor.



Figure 1. Volunteers of the Stanhope Historical Society excavating a trench into the cellar of a late 18th-century homestead. Though forested now, this area in PEI National Park was open farmland well into the 20th century. Photo: Rob Ferguson, Parks Canada.

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