



Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

October 2013

NUMBER 86

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

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CNEHA Has a Permanent Address for Its Website:
<http://www.cneha.org/>

COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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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, Editor, *Northeast Historical Archaeology*, c/o Anthropology Department, Classroom Bldg B107, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY 14222. neha@buffalostate.edu

CNEHA Facebook Page

CNEHA now has a Facebook page! Log onto Facebook and then search for Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology to see announcements about conferences and other updates.

As you will see from the report that follows, recent events at Flowerdew Hundred could not better illustrate the preservation challenges we face and the related difficulties of communication and public outreach. These events were brought to CNEHA's attention by our Virginia state newsletter editor, David Brown, who asked if we could reprint Taft Kaiser's New York Times article describing the terrible losses that were sustained at this National Register site as the result of an organized metal detecting hunt (for a link to this article, go to <http://www.cneha.org/news.html>). Given Flowerdew's archaeological and historical significance, and parallel concerns about programming on National Geographic, Spike TV, and the Travel Channel that continues to glamorize and promote practices that are potentially harmful to archaeological resources, it seemed appropriate to ask the archaeologists closest to this story to write a companion piece for our fall newsletter that would provide more information on recent events. The report printed in this issue is the result. It was written by Charley Hodges, one of four archaeologists who uncovered the story. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Charley for accepting my invitation and for writing with such passion about events that had both personal and professional significance for him.

Charley shared this article with the Society for Historical Archaeology as well, and because of our tremendous concern over the broader ramifications of these events for archaeology and preservation, CNEHA and SHA agreed to jointly publish Charley's article. SHA's newsletter editor Alasdair Brooks took on the task of editing Charley's submission, and the article appears in both the SHA and CNEHA newsletters.

While these events are tragic, our intention is to stress the importance of addressing the larger issue of education and preservation. As Charley points out, the internet has significantly changed the landscape—while it can be used as a tool for public outreach, it can also dramatically increase the impact of destructive behaviors such as this metal-detecting hunt.

I believe our role as a regional organization is to report on events but also to provide our members with a venue to discuss responses and proactive measures that can increase public awareness and help to bridge the interests of metal de-

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tecting enthusiasts and those of archaeologists and preservationists.

It is a terribly important discussion to have. This discussion has begun among the national organizations, but it is imperative that archaeologists across the Northeast also meet to discuss specific educational initiatives and public outreach at the local and regional level.

I encourage our members to participate in the upcoming roundtable discussion in Newark. The roundtable is the second in a series of talks and brainstorming sessions sponsored by the Subcommittee on Collaborative Preservation. Look for updates in the newsletter and on the website. Participate in the survey (found in the bookroom of our upcoming conference and in the “News” area of the CNEHA website). Contact our subcommittee chairs, Christina Hodge and Patricia Samford, with concerns, ideas, and stories from the field. Your participation is key to meeting the challenges ahead.

Best wishes,
Karen Metheny
Chair, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology

FLOWERDEW HUNDRED PLANTATION AND THE 2013 GRAND NATIONAL RELIC SHOOTOUT

by Charles T. Hodges

Consulting Archaeologist to the William and Mary Center
For Archaeological Research, Williamsburg, Virginia

On 1 and 2 March 2013 over 200 metal-detector-wielding members of a relic collectors club descended on the historic Flowerdew Plantation and removed 8,961 metal artifacts dating to between ca. 1590 and 1865. While large, organized groups of relic hunters are not new to Virginia or the United States, their presence seems to be increasing with the aid of modern digital communications. Moreover they handle ever-more sophisticated metal detector technology, and many are actively promoting this would-be romantic hobby on the Web. Accordingly, their growing capacity to permanently compromise nonrenewable archaeological resources is difficult to overestimate. In this instance, the damage occurred on a very well-known archaeological resource along the south bank of the James River about halfway between Richmond and Jamestown, in Prince George County, Virginia. Flowerdew Plantation was listed on the Virginia Landmark Register in May 1975, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in August 1975. The full story of the Flowerdew event is presented here as a cautionary case study.

The scale of the recent damage at Flowerdew is only magnified by the long history of archaeological research, preservation, public education, and outreach conducted at the site. First surveyed in 1949, at the base of Windmill Point, Dr. Gilmore Holland and Dr. Benjamin McCary located contact-period Native American sites with very early English occupations

directly over them in identical spatial and artifact-density patterns. Following this early work, the College of William and Mary conducted intensive field research from 1971 to 1979 under Dr. Norman Barka and Dr. Theodore Reinhart. This included creating the college’s first Archaeology Field School in 1978. The work rapidly attracted national attention and was featured in Time magazine in 1972 and National Geographic in 1976. Most of this work was financially supported by the wealthy landowner David A. Harrison III. Among the finds was a fortified area associated with a ca. 1619–1645 settlement building cluster, and the early English manor house—the first known “big house” in rural Virginia and the grandfather of all subsequent Virginia plantation houses. This semipermanent building on an interrupted (by half timbers) siltstone foundation was created by the initial tobacco boom, and the latest evidence suggests its construction was begun by the early colonial governor Sir George Yeardley, who gave America its first representative assembly rights in 1619. In 1979, in a lawsuit of national significance, landowner David Harrison sued the college for its artifacts and research; he won his case, as he had financed the fieldwork on his private property. In 1980 the core collections became the basis of an archaeology museum and public education program, largely masterminded by Harrison and Dr. James Deetz.

Deetz worked at Flowerdew from 1981 to 1995 in association with the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Virginia. Additional funding came from NEH Grants, University Research Expedition Programs, and anthropology field schools. Again, core operating finance—particularly for the museum—came from the landowner. Across both the William and Mary and Deetz-led programs, a remarkable number of archaeologists got their real start at Flowerdew. Deetz was already famous for his innovative museum interpretation work at “Plimouth Plantation” near Boston, Massachusetts. Flowerdew’s archaeological record provided a unique opportunity for Deetz’s holistic theoretical approach to historic archaeology, as witnessed by his 1993 book, *Flowerdew Hundred—The Archaeology of a Virginia Plantation 1619–1864*. In 1983, the present author, assisted by Taft Kiser, created an active public archaeology program at the site by creating a “virtually wide-open to the public” early-17th-century excavation, where visitors by design could see the actual ancient soil stains and the artifacts in situ and follow the careful excavations through time at the “Bread Oven Site” (44PG82). The program was so successful that we had difficulty getting visitors to leave the archaeology site, and press releases led to coverage on the front page of the New York Times! Flowerdew had a profound influence on the current Jamestown Rediscovery program, as noted by Dr. William Kelso.

In 2010 and 2011, an early English fort and its moat and ditch-set palisades were being rescued from the jaws of the James River with state salvage funds and through the College of William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research; the fieldwork was headed by Joe Jones and directed by the present author and William Moore. The tail end of this rescue exca-

vation straddled the Harrison family ownership of Flowerdew and that of the present Justice family, and provided an opportunity to teach the new Farm Manager, Mr. Mike Spear, about two critically important archaeology sites at Flowerdew (44PG64 and 44PG65); this included an open-ended offer to teach staff about other parts of the site that required preservation awareness. Mike Barber, the Virginia State Archaeologist, and Carol Bowman, the Executive Director of the Prince George Regional Heritage Center, made similar offers to the new owners.

After Dr. Deetz left in 1995, David Harrison and his family maintained the museum until 2007. Before his death in 2002, Harrison had the foresight to fund a full-time curator based at the University of Virginia, Karen Shriver, to maintain the artifact collections and research archives for the use of future researchers and exhibits, which continue to serve Virginia archaeology to this day. Immediately prior to the property sale, the family felt a protective archaeological easement would potentially hurt the property sale potential, so no legal easements were in place during the property transfer. However, the two most important early English and late Native American sites were preserved under a mowed lawn which was not under cultivation. Moreover, David Harrison had previously protected the English fort from the James River with a clay dyke and built up a new packed-clay overburden superimposed over the original remains and initial protective backfill. Over the course of the Harrisons' ownership of Flowerdew, few—if any—families have done more for American archaeology.

Given the importance of the site, both in terms of the archaeological record and the history of North American historical archaeology, the recent metal-detecting activity at the beginning of March 2013 was therefore particularly unfortunate. The “Grand National Relic Shootout” (GNRS) was a contest organized by a website group called the Treasure Depot (<<http://www.thetreasuredepot.com/huntinfo.html>>), run by Larry Cissna. This contest pitted teams against another to see which could find the most artifacts in the shortest period of time using specific brands of metal detector. Some metal detector manufacturers were at the site to offer spare parts, onsite repairs, or instrument tuning while advertising their wares to prospective buyers. Any metal artifact predating 1865 counted as one point, leading to a total multiple team final count of 8,961 points scored (in turn enabling a rapid estimate of the number of artifacts recovered). It took four archaeologists from four separate organizations—Mike Barber, Taft Kiser, Mary Ellen Hodges, and the present author—to engage with the secret event. This finally occurred on 24 April 2013, when we eventually located the right search keywords from an article on a Shootout find that made an Ohio newspaper. From there YouTube videos posted by Treasure Depot members quickly surfaced and unique Flowerdew scenery was instantly recognized (see, for example, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePLfFLMKeHg>). The specific location was obscured in the Ohio article, videos, and on the Treasure Depot website, other than “Virginia near Richmond” or at a

“historic plantation in Virginia.” It is a matter of concern that the Shootout was allegedly facilitated by the present Flowerdew farm manager, who was thanked for his hospitality in at least two GNRS forum posts, and who was allegedly photographed at the Shootout barnyard orientation on the first day of the event. However, the manager may not have been aware that the event was allegedly misrepresented to his employers; a Justice family spokesperson has explicitly stated that West Virginia-based landowner James C. Justice II—who was certainly not present at the event—was told he was leasing the property to a large organized duck hunt. This inevitably raises serious concerns about how the event was represented to the site owners, and whether the site manager knew about this chain of events.

What data did the GNRS remove from Flowerdew? It is estimated that 75% of all artifacts collected were Federal regular army and militia military equipment, including artillery shells and cannon balls, sabots, minie balls, belt buckles, buttons, and horse and mule tackle. This was likely material evidence of General Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign, during which Grant used the James River crossing to outflank and surprise General Lee via a pontoon bridge at Weyanoke and a ferry at Willcox Landing. In contrast to the bridge crossing, the Willcox Landing ferry crossing largely involved infantry, but also involved a higher overall number of troops than the pontoon bridge crossing. Important data on the variations in the Federal equipment used by the two different groups involved in the Flowerdew crossings has therefore been lost, and information on associated camp sites and on the Confederate presence before the crossing has also likely been lost or at least badly compromised.

Numerous early colonial sites were also impacted. Among the early finds was a ca. 1590 military rapier or left-hand dagger and rare coin weights, all comparable to recent Jamestown finds. Film footage—there were at least six YouTube videos posted when the present author last checked—indicates activity in an area where Native American, English, and possibly African American burials are known to be located. The collectors also found a large concentration of large and small round shot and lead scrap in what they termed the “blunderbuss field”; these were potentially fired from swivel-mounted small cannon (murderers) and snaphaunce muskets documented at 44PG65, or perhaps other contemporary firearms. This Flowerdew site was Virginia's most important artillery fort of the terminal Virginia Company and early Royal Colonial period (ca. 1621–1632), and was initially constructed by Sir George Yeardley.

Depending on the spatial relationship of some of the “blunderbuss field” artifacts recovered, it is also possible that the collectors found the remains of paired opposing skirmish lines where volley fire was laid on. This is possibly related to an incident involving Revolutionary War militia and Benedict Arnold and/or Lt. Col Simcoe and the Queens Rangers in 1781. We know the British shelled Flowerdew, but the British

forces also made an amphibious landing while on their way to spike cannon at Hood's Fort. One collector found a rare 18th-century English naval button, but the precise recovery location is unknown. Fort Hood is on a high bluff just south of Flowerdew proper and was later known as Fort Powhatan. According to Carol Bowman of Prince George County, this site has already been the site of activity by metal detector groups twice in the very recent past. This loss of important military information contrasts greatly with the excellent data recovered by archaeologists and metal detectors working in close collaboration at other sites, notably the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Montana (<<http://www.nps.gov/mwac/libi/methods.html>>).

At present, a dialogue is occurring between the Virginia Department of Historic Resources through Kathleen Kilpatrick (SHPO) and Mike Barber (Virginia State Archaeologist) and the landowners—who, again, have stressed that they thought they were leasing use of the site to an organized duck hunt. Certainly videos show that the Shootout collectors were wearing camouflage hunting outfits. There is an active internal formal investigation within the Justice family organization into how the event occurred without the knowledge of higher-ranking members of the staff system, and family lawyers are looking carefully at the contract. Landowner James C. Justice II and his management team were honestly shocked by what had happened. The present author talked to some of these people directly over the phone, and their horror and amazement at the events was palpable and genuine. Since the GNRS, the Justice family organization has repeatedly stressed that metal detecting is illegal at Flowerdew. If misrepresentation of lease-related activity can be demonstrated, litigation against Cissna's group may be possible via a breach of the terms of the original hunting-related lease.

In terms of immediate practical action, the present author hopes to be able to send U.S. Topo Quad sheets and a color aerial photograph of the Flowerdew tract to the 2013 Shootout mailing list and ask folks kindly if they can remember where they found specific objects. Despite the issues with the GNRS at Flowerdew, I strongly emphasize that I do not think a blanket polarizing condemnation of the detector community is productive. As noted earlier in this piece, there are excellent examples of archaeologist–metal detector collaboration—and some of the people involved in the GNRS may simply not appreciate the importance of in situ archaeological resources. Perhaps I am naïve, but I think it is the latter who might come forward and help with damage control at Flowerdew.

The danger to archaeological resources at other sites, however, remains. The Travel Channel has recently featured GNRS organizer Larry Cissna in the new TV series *Dig Wars*, which draws on the GNRS competitive format. In one already-broadcast contest located at a Virginia plantation (with owner permission) just downriver from Flowerdew, the two-person competing teams end the show by going to a professional artifact and coin appraiser to see who has dis-

covered the most valuable objects, and thereby determine the “winners.” More information on both the Flowerdew activity and *Dig Wars* can be found in Taft Kiser's excellent New York Times opinion piece of 3 August 2013 (<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/03/opinion/open-season-on-history.html>>).

I would like to conclude by sharing some personal thoughts about the importance of educating people about archaeology. In 1971, Leverette “Lefty” Gregory was a laboratory mechanic for the William and Mary Anthropology Department. He lacked anthropology degrees, so at the time the department would not hire him as an archaeologist. In that same year he found a 1590 peascond armor breast plate in a ca. 1622 fortification ditch he recognized as part of a major early fortification at the base of Windmill Point at Flowerdew (44PG65). Rather than remove this find himself, he contacted a conservator at William and Mary to delicately remove it. This offers an obvious contrast with Larry Cissna and his group, who nonetheless claim they are “saving history.” Crucially, “Lefty” was an active volunteer with the Archaeological Society of Virginia, and had also briefly worked with Gerry Smith, a student of Dr. Geoffrey Coe. He had therefore been made directly aware of the importance of contextual archaeological data via active participation in organized archaeological programs. Raised in a travelling vaudeville family, this background likely contributed to Lefty Gregory's remarkable personal promotional skills, which in turn directly led to Flowerdew's iconic role in American archaeology; Lefty used the finds he had made at 44PG64 and 44PG65 to convince Flowerdew landowner David Harrison that he could fund the archaeology as a tax write-off!

If a site as important as Flowerdew can be the focus of an organized relic hunt, what about the less well-known sites? Major known resources must be watched vigilantly to protect them from this type of activity. Local communities must be educated and encouraged to join in the protection of archaeological resources. In the present author's opinion, a good beginning would be to make it illegal to use metal detectors without professional archaeological supervision on any Registered National Landmark. Where a demonstrable breach of relevant laws can be demonstrated, archaeologists should also consider liaising with impacted local communities to proactively pursue relevant legal action. As stated by Kathleen Kilpatrick (Virginia SHPO), unless there is a proactive reaction from the professional community and a large-scale engagement with community education programs, we can anticipate more negative impacts on archaeological resources. Isolated rural plantations and farms present additional challenges for community inspection and professional surveillance. Yet these very sites are often the best-preserved archaeologically, as these have not been subject to modern development. Protection here may have to come from a single well-informed farmer, and all too often we are not effectively reaching these people with our preservation concerns. Flowerdew offers a cautionary case study, but we have the tools to hand to minimize the possibility that similar cases could happen again.

UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology*

Reported by: Susan Maguire, Editor

Volume 40 is at the printer and will be mailed in mid-October. I think you will enjoy this collection of articles about small finds from around the Northeast. Volume 41 will be a general volume covering topics from a 17th century brewhouse and bakery at Ferryland to a chronology for dating suction-scars on glass containers. Volume 42 will be a thematic volume on foodways. We continue to digitize and upload the back issue content. We have now uploaded the content through Volume 27. You can find this content at <http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/neha/>. We are currently averaging 800 full-text downloads per month so I am pleased that the site is being used and the back issue content is available to a broad readership. Feel free to email me at maguirse@buffalostate.edu with any comments, questions or suggestions for the journal. I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual meetings in Delaware.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

Just as the June 2013 Newsletter went to press, an In Memoriam statement was added, honoring the memory of Paul Courtney who had just passed away. Somehow, at the print shop, his name was misspelled on the front page of the newsletter. I deeply apologize for this mistake.

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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EUROPEAN ORIGINS AND TRANSATLANTIC EXPORTS: TIN-GLAZED EARTHENWARE IN NORTH AMERICA

Historic Deerfield will present a three-day forum on the European production of tin-glazed earthenware and its exportation to North America on November 15-17, 2013. The practice of tin glazing spans a thousand years of history, from its beginnings in Mesopotamia in the 9th century to the decorative technique's eventual spread to Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and the New World. Tin-glazed pottery (also known as maiolica, faience, delftware, and gallyware) was covered in a lead glaze containing tin oxide which rendered it opaque white. The pottery body, usually made of red or buff-colored earthenware clay, with its coat-

ing of white glaze was often used to imitate more expensive Chinese porcelains. Serving as food and beverage vessels, storage containers, tiles, drug jars, and lighting devices, tin-glazed earthenware from almost every production center in Europe was transported to the New World's settlements in North America. This program brings together a diversity of perspectives and experience on the subject of this ceramic type and examines the North American market in a broader manner than ever before.

For more information, please go to <http://www.historic-deerfield.org/event/seminars/european-origins-and-transatlantic-exports-tin-glazed-earthenware-north-america/>

CURRENT RESEARCH

New Hampshire

Reported by: Dennis E. Howe

New England Glassworks in Temple

[Submitted by David R. Starbuck,
Plymouth State University]

On the side of Kidder Mountain in the town of Temple, NH, lie the remains of the oldest glassworks in the state of New Hampshire, accompanied by the foundation stones from cabins occupied by workers who came here to make bottles and the first crown window glass to be made in the American colonies. Robert Hewes, who owned a slaughter house and tannery in Boston, was responsible for the operation and later became involved with the Boston Crown Glass Company and the Pitkin Glassworks in Connecticut. The New England Glassworks (also called The Temple Glassworks) was in operation between 1780 and 1782, and it was excavated by Boston University between 1975 and 1978, becoming the largest industrial archaeology dig ever conducted in New Hampshire. The final report on the glassworks was published as Vol. 27, No. 1 of *The New Hampshire Archeologist* in 1986.



Volunteers working at the New England Glassworks in Temple.
The foundation of the glasshouse appears on the left.

Over the past several years the owner of the site, the Temple Historical Society, has spent hundreds of hours improving the appearance of the site, fixing the protective fence around the site, removing fallen trees, and developing signage and a walking trail. The Historical Society cosponsored an exhibition of glass at the Peterborough Historical Society in the winter of 2010-2011, cohosted a conference on New Hampshire glassmaking and, most recently, held a "Temple Glassworks Day" at the site itself on September 28, 2013. Approximately fifty persons were in attendance as David Starbuck, co-director of the 1970s' dig, lectured on the earlier excavations, and then three Plymouth State University students guided local residents in a demonstration dig on the southern edge of the glasshouse. This was quite possibly the largest group that had ever assembled at the glassworks at one time in the entire history of the site.

New York State

Reported by: Lois Huey

New Reports

Two excavation reports on work at New York State Historic Sites have been completed by co-authors Lois Feister and Paul Huey in 2012 and 2013, for the Division for Historic Preservation in the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. One report, *The History and Archeology, 1974-1994, of Crailo State Historic Site, Rensselaer, New York*, describes twenty years of excavations at Crailo, which is a site occupied by Mahican Indians in the first half of the 17th century, by the Dutch minister, Domine Megapolensis in 1643, and finally by Hendrick van Rensselaer and his descendants into the 19th century. Crailo became a State Historic Site in 1924. The excavations have revealed material evidence from all of these occupations, and based on archaeological evidence a hypothesis is proposed relating to the design of the house as reconstructed by Jeremias van Rensselaer in the 1660s. The other report, *Excavations in Rooms 105 and 106, Walt Whitman Birthplace State Historic Site, Amityville Road, West Hills, Suffolk County, New York, March 2000*, provides a detailed study of the material excavated under the floor of a pantry, where artifacts were left dating precisely to the period when the Whitman family lived there until 1823. The house was built by the Whitmans about 1816, and Walt Whitman was born there in 1819. Copies of these reports are in the collection of the New York State Library, and it will be possible to download complete free copies in pdf from the on-line catalogue of the New York State Library.

Paul Huey has also produced a report on excavations that he began at the age of 17 in a Rensselaerswyck farm house site (A08313.000261) occupied from about 1775 or 1780 to 1920 in the Town of Schodack, Rensselaer County, New York. It was the home of Martin Gehler, Jr., of German immigrant parentage, who was a Loyalist in 1777 but later decided to join the New York State militia against the British.

The Excavation of a Sutling House in Fort Edward

[Submitted by David R. Starbuck,
Plymouth State University]

SUNY Adirondack and Plymouth State University have been excavating archaeological sites dating to the French and Indian War since 1991. The summer of 2013 marked what will perhaps be the last season of excavation at the remains of a sutling house in Fort Edward, work that began in 2001 and proceeded every summer until publication of the “final” results in *Excavating the Sutlers’ House: Artifacts of the British Armies in Fort Edward and Lake George* (written by David Starbuck and published by University Press of New England in 2010). The sutling house was constructed on the east bank of the Hudson River, just south of “the fort” in Fort Edward, and it was the property of Edward Best. The diary of Jabez Fitch, Jr. indicates that Fitch was digging the cellar hole for the house in June of 1757, while later sources state that Mr. Best was on the run from his New York City creditors in May of 1758 (and was thus already gone from Fort Edward). The house burned down in either 1758 or 1759, and clearly its remains represent a very brief moment in time. Still, this sutling house was second in size only to the fort itself and to the barracks buildings located nearby on Rogers Island. Archaeology has shown that the house measured 40 feet long by 14 feet wide, and the surviving cellar hole (underneath the entire building) is approximately seven feet deep. When the house burned down, it still contained much of its merchandise, all intended for sale to British soldiers and officers.

Even though 2010 was originally meant to be the final year of digging at the sutling house, our team returned to the site in 2013 because of extensive erosion and annual flooding; these natural forces had essentially guaranteed that little would be left for the future if we did not take action immediately. Just before the excavation began this past summer, a professional logger removed the last trees that were still standing along the west side of the cellar, and we then exposed the burned west wall of the cellar, much more intact than the walls had been on any other side of the building (Figure 1). Just as im-



Figure 1. *The west cellar wall of the sutling house in Fort Edward.*

portantly, underneath the largest tree that was removed—now an enormous stump—the team discovered finds that had been “protected” over the years by the extensive root system. Underneath the stump there were bayonets, Spanish coins, six complete wine bottles (Figure 2), scales for weighing merchandise, a brass spigot, and even a large “hoard” of Spanish milled dollars that had been deliberately buried in the cellar floor (Figure 3).



Figure 2. *Some of the complete wine bottles found underneath the tree stump.*



Figure 3. *Twenty Spanish coins (19 milled dollars and one 8-real cob) discovered in the cellar floor; no traces were left of the purse or bag that they were buried in.*

Maryland

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

St. Mary’s City

Working and pleasure boats have plied Maryland waters for centuries. No one knows how many wrecked or abandoned ships lay hidden in Maryland’s rivers and bays. One suspected underwater site that was first mapped in 1994 gave up some of its secrets this summer. Scott Tucker, archaeologist and doctoral candidate from the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom, has been exploring what may be the remains of a ship in the St. Mary’s River, with the Maryland state museum, Historic St. Mary’s City.

Ten feet beneath the surface, Tucker and a crew of volunteer divers found a heavy concentration of stones in an oval-shaped area that was over 50 feet long. "The shape suggested that the site is the remains of a ship. Now we know the stacked, rounded cobble stones were used as ballast, since there is an order to them. The larger cobbles tend to be at the top of the ballast, helping to fix the smaller stones in place below," Tucker reports. "You can see where they were placed side by side by someone over 300 years ago. And these stones are unique. They are not typical of Maryland. Instead, we found a possible source on the North Devon coast of England, a geological feature called the Northam Pebble Ridge." The size of the ballast distribution suggests a ship of roughly 100-120 tonne burden, an average sized ship for trans-Atlantic trade during this period.

The archaeologists were not totally surprised to find that no timbers or ship architecture were uncovered, given the harsh environment of the small test areas, but the few artifacts that were recovered offer more clues about the site. Tobacco pipes and Dutch red bricks excavated in the 1990s suggested the remains might date to the latter half of the 17th century. "This year we found a ceramic fragment in between the ballast stones that is part of a North Devon Sgraffito jug," Tucker said. "The decoration is distinctive and dates it to 1650-1700, supporting our initial dating of the vessel. It was fired in a kiln quite close to the probable source of the ballast!" Direct trade from North Devon to Maryland is well documented throughout the second half of the seventeenth century.

A shaped wooden fragment, possibly a piece of a ship's bilge pump, was also recovered. Researchers determined the wood is elm and hope further research may reveal more about its source. Discovery of this well-preserved piece gives hope that portions of the hull survive elsewhere under the ballast. Since few artifacts were found and the remains are close to what was the 17th-century shoreline, researchers suspect the ship was abandoned rather than wrecked. Cargo and items of value would have been removed. "While a wreck filled with goods would be more exciting, there is still much we can learn from the remains of this ancient abandoned vessel," HSMC's Director of Research Henry Miller, Ph.D. commented. "The findings strongly suggest that this is indeed a 17th-century ship. Given its likely English origin and size, it was probably a tobacco ship that carried settlers and goods to Maryland and tobacco back to Europe. Such vessels were the vital link for the early Chesapeake economy. While thousands of vessels engaged in the Tobacco Trade during the colonial era, this is the first 17th-century one to be identified by archaeologists. Scott's work gives us another hint of the vast store of archaeological evidence and historical knowledge that lies hidden under the waters of Chesapeake Bay."

State Underwater Archaeologist Susan Langley, Ph.D. remarked on the superior quality of Tucker's research design and commended his level of effort. "We are looking forward to reading his report and reviewing the evidence," said Langley.

Tucker's work was funded by the Elsie Carper Charitable Foundation with support from University of Southampton, Historic St. Mary's City Commission, the Institute for Maritime History, and the Maryland Historical Trust.

For more information about Historic St. Mary's City and archaeology on the site of Maryland's first capital, visit www.stmaryscity.org or contact the museum at 800-762-1634 or info@stmaryscity.org.

St. Leonard

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory is pleased to accept applications for its second year of the Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology. The MAC Lab is an archaeological research, conservation, and curation facility located at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, the State Museum of Archaeology, in southern Maryland. The MAC Lab serves as a clearinghouse for archaeological collections recovered from land-based and underwater projects conducted by State and Federal agencies and other researchers throughout Maryland and is currently home to 8 million artifacts representing over 12,000 years of human occupation in Maryland. All of these collections are available for research, education, and exhibit purposes to students, scholars, museum curators, and educators and the purpose of the fellowship is to encourage research in the collections.

Eligibility: Students, academics, or professionals (employees of the Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's College of Maryland are not eligible); any subject in Maryland archaeology; must use collections at the MAC Lab; must be in residence full time in the MAC Lab; must provide a presentation of research to museum staff members at the end of the fellowship.

Application process: A 1000 word proposal (no more than 4 typed pages, double-spaced) outlining the problem and the collections in the MAC Lab to be used, plus a CV plus a letter of recommendation.

Stipend: Stipend to be \$500 a week, with a minimum two week stay and maximum 5 week stay. Stipend to be paid upon completion of fellowship for stay of two weeks; a fellowship of greater length will be paid in two installments: 50% at the midway point of the fellowship and 50% upon completion of fellowship. On-site housing may be available for fellows, dependent on scheduling of fellowship.

Gloria Shafer was born on January 6, 1931 in Baltimore, Maryland. She spent summers as a child on her family's farm near Chestertown, Maryland, and attended Washington College. In 1955, she and her husband, George M. King, started a small excavating construction business in Anne Arundel County. She had a lifelong interest in Maryland history and archaeology and contributed funds and services to individuals and organizations supporting this interest. Mrs. King died on May 31, 2004, and this fellowship in her memory recognizes her many contributions to the preservation of the past.

Applications must be received at the address below by January 15th, 2014. Projects awarded a fellowship can begin as early as March 15th.

Please direct any questions to Patricia Samford at psamford@mdp.state.md.us and send application materials to: Patricia Samford, Director, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, Maryland 20685.

Galesville

Archaeologists with Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project are currently excavating the nineteenth and early twentieth century Wilson Farmstead, located in the town of Galesville. This property, which includes the ca. 1870 Henry Wilson house, two tenant house sites, and a historic Negro League baseball field, was recently acquired by the County's Recreation and Parks system after three intense years identifying more than 100 heirs of Henry Wilson to clear the title.

The house, built by freed slave Henry Wilson, came to form the core of a burgeoning African-American community in Galesville which flourished after the Civil War. The Wilson family converted a portion of the land to a sandlot baseball field for the local Galesville Hot Sox, a feeder team to the Negro Leagues of the 1920s. The site continues to be used today as an important gathering place, with baseball still bringing the community together. The property is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for these reasons.

A Phase I-A walkover reconnaissance and limited shovel testing was conducted on the 27 acre Wilson Farmstead parcel in 2012 to assess the potential for archaeological resources. Three archaeological sites were identified during the Phase IA, including the area surrounding the Wilson house itself and two Wilson-period tenant houses in the forest.

Our knowledge of the Wilson family material culture was greatly enhanced by a local collector who donated a large assemblage of artifacts found in and around the house after it was abandoned in the 1970s. This collection included portions of nearly 100 ceramic vessels, dozens of glass container fragments, and a pearl handled knife with the mark "1834, J RUSSELL & CO".

In 2013, *Lost Towns Project* archaeologists returned to the Wilson Farmstead to conduct a Phase IB of the entire parcel and to excavate test units around the house. A local civic association recently secured grant funding for emergency stabilization of the house, and while this will provide much needed help for the deteriorated 140-year-old building, it will likely destroy the surrounding subsurface resources.

Seven test units were excavated around the house with very interesting results. Thousands of artifacts were recovered, including beautifully decorated whiteware and ironstone tablewares, porcelain doll parts, dozens of buttons and a pair



Test Excavations at the Wilson House, Galesville, Maryland.

of cufflinks, and several projectile points, likely gathered by Wilson family members as they worked in the surrounding agricultural fields. Features included an oyster shell lens in the backyard that probably served to mitigate poor drainage and a brick walkway leading to the front door.

Perhaps most interesting was the discovery of a brick-lined well at the bottom of a deep coal pit. This pit was first encountered near the ground surface and was demarcated with brick rubble. Rubble was noted throughout the three-foot-deep pit, which was filled with layers of coal and coal slag, along with hundreds of domestic and architectural artifacts, suggesting a long period of use. To our surprise, a portion of the original Wilson family well was found nearly a foot beneath the pit. It seems likely that many of the upper brick courses were robbed before backfilling the well and these bricks were later used to demarcate the edge of the coal pit. The well was backfilled for unknown reasons, but it seems possible that additions to the house and a new entrance on the opposite side of the building made this well obsolete. The natural depression formed by the settling soils must have provided a good dumping ground for coal and coal slag, and within a generation, it seems unlikely that the surviving members of the Wilson family knew that the original well was located here.

The next step is for archaeologists to complete shovel testing around the Wilson-period tenant houses. These two tenant houses are unusual in that they were owned by an African-American family in the decades after the Civil War. An interesting line of research will entail examining the differences in material culture between the African-American owner family and that of their relatively poor tenants.

Little has been written about the Wilsons and few post-bellum African-American sites have been excavated in Anne Arundel County. Information from this site is contributing greatly to our understanding of the journeys of freed slaves who became American citizens.

Virginia

Reported by: David Brown

Data Investigations has been incredibly busy this summer on the Middle Peninsula, including projects in Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex counties:

Wilton, Middlesex County

At Wilton, a well-preserved 1763 home in Middlesex County built by the Churchill family, archaeologists have been testing various sections of the property for the landowner as he goes about restoring this National Register property with a historic easement. This work has involved excavations for a new driveway, testing for pathways and landscaping around the house, and monitoring the drilling for geo-thermal and water wells. These excavations are providing insight into various uses of yard space over 250 years of the property's history. Archaeologists have also conducted excavations searching for evidence of original chimneys on the north and south ends of a potential slave quarter building on the property. Confirmation of the presence and location of these chimneys indicates that the building may be in its original location and was potentially built before the Civil War, around 1850.

Gloucester Courthouse, Gloucester County

Building on work completed a couple of years ago surrounding Gloucester County's historic Courthouse Circle, which contains the standing 18th-century courthouse and several 19th-century county buildings, we have been conducting focused excavations at several points inside and near the court circle to answer specific questions about historic features and buildings located in this area, and at the same time help the county to better plan for future utility upgrades, historic building restoration, and public interpretation of this important space. This year, two 5' x 5' test units have been excavated near the 1766 Courthouse, inside the 1930s court circle wall, while another has been started nearby. One test unit was placed adjacent to the court circle wall, in an attempt to locate the corner of an 18th-century cellar foundation, discovered in 2011 during road and sidewalk reconstruction. Although we have not conclusively located another section of that foundation yet (it potentially exists deeper than the extent of our excavation), excavations did uncover a small, two-brick wide section of another brick foundation for a different 18th-century building. It is surprising that this portion of a foundation even remains intact, given the extent of disturbance by modern utility lines across this unit.

After removing soil layers related to these modern utility lines, we located an approximately 1.5' square posthole with mold, containing a complete tobacco pipe bowl, adjacent to the small section of intact brick foundation. This could be evidence of another building or fence line related to one of the several colonial structures in this area. In the northwestern corner of the unit, a small section of soil, potentially an intact 18th-century layer, also survived the utility line intru-

sions. Upon removal of the soil within the utility trenches, a builder's trench for the 1930s court circle brick wall was also excavated. In the second 5' x 5' test unit, a few feet to the north of the first unit, we again uncovered modern utility lines, including a large hole filled with pea-gravel for an undetermined utility. One large utility trench cuts across the center of the unit running east-west, but surviving on either side of this trench is a thin layer of intact 18th-century topsoil. The artifacts recovered from this layer included tin-glazed earthenware, imported tobacco pipe fragments, wine bottle glass, table glass fragments, and wrought nails. Excavation of the utility trench provided a glimpse at the profile of two smaller potential postholes, as well as a builder's trench for a colonial structure identified two years ago that predates the standing 1766 courthouse. Excavations are on-going in the Gloucester Courthouse area, as we continue to expand our understanding of the constantly changing layout of the Courthouse landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Fort Nonsense Historical Park, Mathews County

In preparation for the opening of Mathews County's first historical park, DATA Investigations staff excavated 28 2.5' x 2.5' units, as well as a number of shovel test pits, on the 2.8 acre property encompassing the remains of well-preserved Civil War era earthworks, where Confederate soldiers and other laborers created defenses to repel a potential attack by the Union army which never occurred. Archaeologists worked to hand-excavate the locations of boardwalk footings in advance of the boardwalk construction that will go along with a pathway and interpretive signage throughout the park. Surprisingly, excavations did not result in the recovery of any artifacts that can be conclusively associated with the Civil War occupation of this fort; aside from relatively modern trash deposits on the property (predominantly glass bottles), the only artifacts recovered date to the 18th-century. These artifacts include wine bottle glass, wrought nails, slipware, tin-glazed earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware, other coarse earthenware, imported tobacco pipe fragments, and brick fragments. The recovery of these artifacts suggests the presence of an 18th-century colonial occupation, the nature of which has yet to be determined. The soil layers observed during excavation, particularly near the top of the central fortification berm, perhaps indicate that the berms were constructed by filling in certain areas to build up the natural slope of the land into a fortification for defense. The fill layers could also relate to the end of use of the berms, where fortification ditches were filled in to level the land after the Confederate troops moved out of the area. Future archaeological excavations at this site have the potential to shed light on the 18th-century occupation at this important local crossroads.

Fairfield Foundation 2013 Update

As always, it's been an incredibly busy summer at Fairfield, with high school students buzzing around the site from May to August. We continued our success with our popular high school internship program with 18 high school interns this

summer, in addition to two research fellows working on projects at Fairfield through the College of William and Mary. There is nothing like a constantly shifting mix of energetic high school and college students to keep spirits high and dirt moving out at Fairfield plantation and around the Middle Peninsula! W&M senior Colleen Betti spent most of her summer analyzing artifacts from the midden at Fairfield, hoping to look at how the use of this part of the plantation landscape changed over space and time. Specifically, Colleen has been collecting copious amounts of data about these artifacts, in an attempt to use information about the size and age of artifacts to separate objects discarded in the midden from those deposited earlier in the slave quarter yard. Our other resident W&M fellow, senior Chris Godschalk, has been studying the prehistoric landscape of Fairfield, primarily by analyzing the lithic artifacts in the Fairfield artifact collection. In the process, Chris created his own illustrated lithic glossary and guide to lithic types, and will continue to track concentrations of prehistoric artifacts at Fairfield to locate potential areas of the site with the highest probability of containing additional lithic artifacts. Chris's work will allow us to create a more complete picture of the landscape surrounding Fairfield, expanding our understanding of the site and its pre-colonial occupants.

In addition to our revolving door of high school interns and college fellows, we also wrapped up another successful summer collaboration with the College of William & Mary's pre-collegiate NIAHD (National Institute for American History and Democracy). For five summer Saturdays, anywhere between 20 and 50 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors swarmed the site at Fairfield, learning basic test unit excavation techniques and artifact identification, as well as helping us out with some general site maintenance. The visits from these students always renew the energy of Fairfield staff and volunteers – not to mention the serious amount of archaeology that gets done with this huge force of volunteers! With their help, we made great strides in our excavation sampling strategy, focusing at this point on exploring areas to the north of the manor house and investigating the use of space in the front yard and midden areas.

After recovering from this flurry of activity, we soon had to



NIAHD students excavate at Fairfield in the midden area



Unexpected cellar opening and interesting row of rowlock bricks uncovered during excavations

prepare for another huge undertaking. At the end of August, Fairfield partnered with Adventures in Preservation for the third year in a row, this time hosting a Preservation Workshop at Fairfield. The workshop, attended by a dozen enthusiastic and historic preservation-minded students from across the country, focused on bringing together experts in archaeology and preservation, to introduce to participants the benefits that come about when these disciplines work hand-in-hand. During the workshop, students had a chance to participate in a variety of activities, including assessing the condition of the manor house foundations, consulting experts in the field of historic masonry and architectural conservation to receive recommendations on how to stabilize and rebuild sections of the foundations, and learning the excavation procedures for removing accumulated soil and rubble from within the manor house ruins. Using the authentic lime mortar, experts in historic masonry from Colonial Williamsburg worked with workshop participants to build back and repoint sections of the southwest corner of the foundation. Excavation within the early 18th-century extension of the south wing, just to the south of the original 1694 foundation, revealed an unexpected opening in the foundation. Analysis of the historic photos of the manor house indicate that there could be a cellar window in this location (the view of which is blocked by an exterior porch in the photo). Alternatively, the opening could represent another type of opening: a stairway into the cellar.

Working through this process of discovery as a group – workshop participants, Fairfield staff, and Colonial Williamsburg historic masons – and bouncing ideas off of each other about what this could mean, was exactly the kind of experience we were hoping for. The successful workshop helped us take measurable steps towards our goal: to preserve the manor house, provide a sense of place for visitors, and create a launching point for guests to engage with Fairfield's storied past.

Poplar Forest

[Submitted by Jack Gary]

Recent Excavations and Research

Once again the spring and summer were busy times for the Poplar Forest Department of Archaeology and Landscapes. The Carriage Turnaround project, designed to better understand the pavings, boundaries and plantings associated with a circular drive in front of Jefferson's retreat home, was in high gear. A goal of the project has been to date a circular maze of English boxwoods at the center of the turnaround and the border of American boxwoods on the outside of the turnaround. Excavating in, around, and underneath the shrubs themselves we discovered that the boxwoods were planted on a layer of fill capping earlier landscape features. Artifacts within this fill solidly date the deposit to after 1845 when the house burned. Underlying the fill was a 3-foot-wide linear feature that ran across the center of the turnaround circle. The purpose of this long and shallow feature is still unknown, but a cross-section excavated through it revealed a fragment of black transfer printed whiteware with the Napier pattern. Manufactured no earlier than 1833, this pattern in conjunction with dates from the overlying fill provided the definitive evidence that the shrubs were placed here well after Jefferson's death in 1826. It seems most likely that Edward and Emma Hutter had the boxwoods planted during renovations to the house and grounds in the mid-1850's. Thus we have been able to lay to rest any speculation that they were part of Thomas Jefferson's landscape design.

The question then became, "what exactly was his design for the area in the middle of the turnaround?" With the boxwoods physically blocking our ability to excavate further to answer this question, we made the difficult decision to remove them. After several months reviewing the data and deliberating with our landscape advisory panel, the shrubs were cut down in September. Prior to their removal they were carefully documented from above and on ground. Clippings have been rooted and are curated on site and at the Center for Historic Plants. The locations of the shrubs have also been surveyed and included in our GIS. Theoretically we would be able to

accurately replant the boxwoods using the same genetic stock from the original plantings if we ever desired.

Now with unfettered access, we will continue to excavate the area in the center of the turnaround in order to discover any remains of plantings or landscape features associated with Jefferson's design. The end goal for the project is to restore the Jefferson-era features including the paving of the turnaround itself.



Figure 2. *Field Technician Emily Tomlin working underneath the English boxwoods in the center of the turnaround.*



Figure 3. *The linear feature containing the fragment of ceramic with the Napier transfer print (c.1833-1846).*

Figure 1. *View of the Carriage Turnaround and boxwoods prior to removal. This is one of numerous aerial photographs of the boxwoods taken with a remote controlled helicopter.*



New Book by Martha W. McCartney

The title of my new book is *Kingston Parish Register, Mathews, Gloucester, and Middlesex Counties, Virginia: Slaves and Slaveholders, 1746-1827*. While doing research on the history of Mathews County, I discovered that the people who transcribed and published the Kingston Parish Register in 1963 limited their coverage to white parishioners and omitted the vital records of nearly 1,860 enslaved men, women and children of African descent. That deficiency is addressed in my book, which is being published by the Genealogical Publishing Company and should be out toward the end of 2013 or early 2014.

Archaeology and Metal-Detecting: Time to Draw the Line in the Sand

by Michael B. Barber, Ph.D., RPA

State Archaeologist

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Introduction

For many decades, metal-detecting on archaeological sites has been anathema. Oft times associated with detectorist relic hunters, the metal detecting devices themselves are symbolic of destruction of archaeological sites. However, archaeologists have more recently recognized that these machines can actually be useful and, with proper archaeological methodology and recordation, the data they produce can be beneficial to our understanding and reconstruction of the past.

The Bad News

But while archaeologists are learning to use the devices in the service of archaeology, the public does not understand the destructive impact of metal-detecting by relic hunters on archaeological sites. For the most part, people generally consider this activity to be a harmless hobby which allows an individual to experience the thrill of discovery. There are a number of rationales which are used to justify these activities.

1. Archaeology is too slow. Granted, archeology is not known for its great pace. However, archaeology is a slow process because it is destructive. Once a site is excavated, it cannot be patched back together in its exact original form. Because of this, when it is being dismantled, it must be meticulously recorded through drawings, field notes, photography, GIS, GPS, ground penetrating radar, magnetometers, and anything else which may ensure a better understanding of a site and its occupying culture. It is often commented that archaeologists dig for a few weeks in the summer and then disappear for the rest of the year. There is a reason for that – they are processing, analyzing, and stabilizing all the artifactual material they have recovered, reviewing all the literature which might come to bear on a site in both time and space, and placing that culture into a regional and/or global context.

2. Metal detecting saves history as the metals will rust away in the ground. By removing the artifacts from

the ground, the relic hunters have often stated that they are “saving history” because, as they rationalized it, artifacts just rust away in the ground and other metals oxidize until they are gone. If this is the case, I would ask how we know about the Bronze Age of Europe, the Old Copper Culture of the Great Lakes, or trading of brass from Jamestown to the Powhatan for the production of ornamentation associated with status? Sure, some of these things can be gleaned from the ethnohistoric record. But the recovery of these metals in an archaeological context allows us to interpret the cultural contexts. The truth be known, these metal artifacts may last in the ground for many thousands of years. And, of course, the reason is that they have reached an equilibrium with their environment. Their condition has stabilized with regard to their surroundings and further deterioration is arrested or very much slowed. The irony is that when they are removed from this context, they almost immediately begin to deteriorate. Air is not the friend of buried metals. So unless the metal detecting relic hunter has a trained conservator at his disposal, which is not very likely, the artifacts are doomed.

3. If the site is so important, how come no archaeologist has contacted the land-owner? Metal detecting relic hunters often use this argument to gain access to a particular property. To the land-owner, this makes perfect sense. Where are these concerned archaeologists who want to protect these extremely important sites? Until the metal detectors were unleashed, they were nowhere to be seen. Now they are suddenly up-at-arms, trying to keep these nice relic hunters from following a harmless hobby. It’s a question of numbers: numbers of sites versus numbers of archaeologists. The Council of Virginia Archaeologists, the professional organization in the state, has ca. 65 members which include most of the professionals within the state. Say for the sake of argument, it represents only half the community and there are really 130 archaeologists working in Virginia. There are currently ca. 42,585 sites recorded with the DHR in Virginia. With the lack of survey coverage in most of the state, these are just the known sites, probably less than 10% of the sites in the Commonwealth. Even with this low number of known sites, each Virginia archaeologist would be responsible for monitoring and land owner interface for a mere 328 sites.

4. It’s only a hobby, I just add the relics to my collection. This may be true in some cases but destroying history for some pretty things on one’s mantle cannot be justified. With archaeology, when context is gone, it’s gone forever. Archaeological resources are fragile, finite, and non-renewable. And the truth be known, many of the metal detected artifacts are pulled from the ground for sale. Just take a look at eBay. These “recovered” artifacts have high sale value and the professional relic hunters know just what they can get for what artifact. It’s not the altruism of benign collecting nor the “saving of history” that drives many of the relic hunters but the profit margin to be made in the market square.

5. The site was going to be destroyed anyhow so what's the harm in recovering the artifacts prior to destruction?

This is an argument that even some misguided archaeologists support. The site will be developed, there is no Section 106 legal protection or the archaeologists have sampled the site and are gone, what's the harm in recovering the artifacts. The harm is providing grist for the sale-of-artifacts mill. Any artifact that enters the market encourages the destruction of other sites for profit.

Archaeologists' Rationale

Some individuals have eloquently justified the cooperation between archaeologists and the relic hunting community. The argument goes that these folks are somehow Civil War "scholars" who have dedicated their lives to the understanding of the conflict. The cooperative effort is justified as the relic collectors are very knowledgeable of troop movements during the Civil War, have done documentary research of the Civil War, are familiar with the Civil War maps, know where the Civil War sites are located, and are familiar with the material culture associated with the Civil War. What they fail to add is that the relic collectors are also responsible for the destruction of the data base associated with the Civil War. And if one is hired for a CRM work where Civil War sites are expected, should not the archaeologist be knowledgeable of troop movements, have studied Civil War documents, know Civil War maps, be familiar with Civil War materials culture, and be able to locate Civil War sites? That's the job.

What Archaeologists Can Do

The archaeological community in Virginia and elsewhere has been developing strategies to counter this wholesale destruction of sites. What can archaeologists do?

1. Protest Metal Detecting TV shows. Television is a powerful tool in the public realm. TV shows like National Geographic's "Diggers," Spike TV's "American Diggers," and Travel Channel's "Dig Wars" destroy numerous sites as the public watches. While upsetting in and of itself, the damage goes far beyond the sites aired but mesmerizes the public into a belief that metal detecting is harmless fun, an avenue to historic discovery, and an opportunity to find buried treasure. The general public does not have an adequate information base to realize the destructive nature of the activity. The archaeological community needs to strongly protest these programs through general media, letters to the networks, and public education. SHA has developed an on-line petition which protests the show on all three channels; it can be found at www.change.org/petition and do a search for "National Geographic archaeology."

Addresses:

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1145 17th Street NW www.travelchannel.com/contactus
Washington DC 20036

2. Educate the Public. The professional community in Virginia has always supported public education. It is apparent that now is the time to go beyond presentations on the importance of archaeology, archaeological method and theory, and more esoteric topics to address the problem at hand, the destruction of resources through uncontrolled metal detecting. This needs to be part of the message to the public in general and land-owners in particular. In my experience, the metal detectorist is a lost cause. No amount of reasoning will convince these people that they are destroying their own history. Land-owners are the key as they control the resource and trespassing remains illegal. They need to be convinced that they are the stewards of the past and that the protection of resources is their responsibility.

DHR and COVA have continuously worked with the ASV on publications, teaching trunks, public exhibits, and, most importantly, the Certification Program. This program teaches the avocational community archaeological methodology with some theory in order to bring their expertise to the technician level, a level which would allow them to act as a crew chief on most archaeological endeavors. The great benefit to historic preservation is the understanding of the value of the archaeological resources which come with the program. Grads can now act as monitors of sites and have reported several instances of illegal metal-detecting on public lands.

3. Obtain Property Easements. Recent Governors have focused on increasing the number of acres protected in Virginia through purchase of important lands by non-profit conservation organizations or public agencies or by the placement of such lands under easement. This includes an emphasis on preserving historic lands, landmarks, and sites of significance. Archaeological sites may be protected by a preservation easement held by the Department of Historic Resources as part of a larger historic landscape comprising a listed property. Or, if listing property in the state landmarks register is not practical, protection of a site may be achieved through use of an open space easement held by the Department with special provisions for archaeological stewardship.

4. Learn how to use a metal-detector. Archaeologists are not imminently trainable. Most have learned how to drive a car, navigate a computer, and master a transit. Why then, can we not learn the intricacies of metal-detector use? I have often been told by a few historic archaeologists that the only way to gain reliable metal-detecting results is by using experienced metal-detectorists. In essence, this means resorting to employing those who have gained the experience over the years by destroying archaeological resources. This is particularly prevalent in Civil War surveys where "experienced" detectorists help to map the distribution of artifacts. I object to this on two grounds. First, there is the ethical problem of employing people who knowingly and blatantly destroy historic resources. The archaeologists in question know their history yet still use them in the field. Help an archaeologist on Friday, destroy a site on Saturday. I do find this unacceptable.

And the archaeologists' rationale is often, "They have the experience to find things less experienced detectorists cannot." This leads to the second objection and basic premise: Archaeologists are trainable. Contrary to common belief, archaeologists can learn things, can operate mechanical devices. There is no reason on the face of the earth that an archaeologist cannot learn the proper use of a metal-detector. And some have. Recent programs such as "Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist," sanctioned by Register of Professional Archaeologists, is but one example. To use our metal-detecting friends because they are experienced is a shallow panacea which says to me that someone is too lazy to learn how to use the appropriate equipment.

Conclusion

Like most scientific endeavors, archaeology is not easy to implement and not easy to explain to the public. In general, people view artifacts as objects, not as fossilized behavior or symbolic rendition of a culture. As objects, they seem to be stand-alone things which have value in and of themselves. As anthropologists, we view an artifact as a piece of an overall assemblage and representation of the bits and pieces of culture to be built upon for the understanding of that culture. If an object is removed from that database, the cultural reconstruction loses a piece of that understanding. An object out of context is an object lost to interpretation. In addition to our local home-grown metal-detecting community, Virginia is being set upon by highly organized metal-detecting relic-hunting groups. At least two groups advertise at the national level, bringing metal detectors from all over the country. The "hunt" sometimes involves upwards to 200 - 250 participants. A site is rented from the land-owner, metal detected, artifacts dug up, and the site severely damaged if not completely destroyed. Prizes are awarded, in some cases, for the "best" artifact, the relic hunters go home with their finds, and Virginia loses another piece of the Commonwealth's story. The actions of these collectors may not be illegal, but they are unethical and profoundly and irreversibly destructive of our history.

West Virginia

Reported by: David E. Rotenizer

Recent Investigations at McCoy's Fort, Greenbrier County

[Submitted by Kim A. McBride, Ph.D.,
Co-Director, Kentucky Archaeological Survey]

Drs. Kim and Stephen McBride of the Kentucky Archaeological Survey and McBride Preservation Services recently directed excavations at McCoy's Fort in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. This fort was a regional frontier defensive fort at the home of William McCoy located one mile north of present day Williamsburg. Local history suggests McCoy built his two story log house as early as 1769; it was likely fortified c. 1774 as part of the Indian-Settler hostilities known as Lord Dunmore's War. William McCoy was a militia Lieutenant under Capt. Robert McClanahan, advancing to Captain after



McCoy's Fort limestone foundation, chimney bases, and series of post holes.

McClanahan's death at Point Pleasant in 1774. Revolutionary pension applications suggest that McCoy's Fort was attacked shortly after the failed May 29, 1778 attack on Fort Donnally, located about six miles south of McCoy's Fort. Militia from nearby Renick's Fort, located about six miles east of McCoy's Fort, rushed to the aid of McCoy's Fort, which was successfully defended, though in the words of pension applicant Jonathan Hughes "with considerable loss" to the Indians. Local oral tradition holds that six Native Americans died in the attack on McCoy's Fort. The American victory at Fort Donnally and McCoy's Fort not only preserved the New-Greenbrier Valley settlements but gave the Virginia government the confidence to shift from a defensive to an offensive strategy in the frontier theatre, which greatly increased American prestige and helped convince some Native Americans toward an American alliance or to an attitude of quiescent neutrality. The period of peace that followed allowed increased settlement in West Virginia and Kentucky.

As the McCoy family prospered they built a larger house nearby, turning their original house to agricultural use. The enclosure of their original two story log structure within a larger frame barn sometime in the middle to late nineteenth century helped to preserve it, until strong winds in 2006 and 2012 destabilized both the outer barn and original log structure. In 2013 both structures were dismantled by the Williamsburg District Historical Foundation, with the support of the Simmons family, property owners since 1903. The original logs have been carefully documented, tagged, and stored for eventual reconstruction and public interpretation on site.

The excavations were funded by a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council, the Summers County Historic Landmarks Commission, and the Williamsburg District Historical Foundation. The entire limestone foundation, which measures 28 feet by 24 feet, was uncovered, as well as the bases of two end chimneys. Extensive midden deposits were found

on the east side of the structure, which helps support an interpretation that this was the back side, and that the front side faced toward the Williamsburg Community. Midden deposits included several lead balls, which could be from the 1778 attack, as well as much late 18th to mid 19th century ceramics, bottle glass, nails, and one gunflint. A series of post holes on both the east and west sides may relate to the conversion of the house to a barn sometime in the late 19th century. Five groups of Boy Scouts from the Reaching the Summit public service initiative, a part of the national Boy Scout Jamboree, participated. Further excavations are planned to further sample the midden deposits and look for evidence of any stock-ading. These excavations will include local students from 8th grade Area Studies classes.

Ontario

Reported by: Eva MacDonald

New Fort Update

[Submitted by Eva MacDonald, Archaeological Services Inc.]

In July of 2013, Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI) completed a new phase of excavation on behalf of HK Hotels LLC in advance of construction of a new hotel at Exhibition Place in the City of Toronto. Previous work at the New Fort site (AjGu-32) focused on the south foundation of the East Enlisted Mens' Barracks, which is to be conserved in situ and incorporated into the pedestrian entrance to the hotel.

Operation 3 to locate the privies began with test trenches that were excavated under the project and field direction of Eva MacDonald after potential targets had been mapped by David Robertson. Two trenches were successful in locating the buildings and these were expanded under the field direction of Wesley Oldham to fully expose the remains of two limestone foundations for features illustrated as a "cleaning shed" and a "privy" on the 1841 map of the Stanley Barracks drawn by Captain Vincent Biscoe. These features are labelled clearly on a digital high resolution copy of that map that is now available online and in colour (<http://fortyorkmaps.blogspot.ca>).

The privy foundation was 26 feet long by 10 feet wide and constructed from limestone blocks bonded with mortar to form 20-inch-thick walls (Figure 1). The interior privy vault was sectioned, and it proved to be approximately 8 feet deep (2.6 m); the floor of the vault was lined with mortared red bricks laid as stretchers perpendicular to the long axis of the building. Only the upper 20 cm of the privy shaft fill comprised organic soil containing artifacts. The balance comprised architectural rubble believed to originate from the demolition of the building, including limestone fragments, mortar, red brick fragments, and a limited amount of silty loam soil. Very few artifacts were found in the rubble. It was apparent that after the privy superstructure was demolished and the vault backfilled, leveling fill was brought in and a new structure was erected upon a brick foundation offset from the old privy shaft. This



Figure 1. Looking southeast during excavation of the stone privy vault and the brick structure that replaced it.

new building may not have been a privy as it did not have a deep vault. The privy building was gone by the time that a plan of the New Fort was drawn in 1870 by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Wiley and no new building is shown in its place; therefore, the function and age of this second building is not known at this time.

The cleaning shed was probably constructed as a place where the soldiers could wash and shave; sometimes these buildings are labeled as "ablutions room" on old maps. Sections of the foundation were no longer extant but it was complete enough to estimate that it was 22 feet long by 11 feet wide and constructed from limestone blocks bonded with mortar to form 22-inch-thick walls (Figure 2). The north, south, and east walls appeared to be continuous but the west wall comprised square piers. An arch was constructed beneath the north foundation



Figure 2. Looking southwest during excavation of the cleaning shed foundation.

of the cleaning shed to permit a brick drain to flow underneath the building and extend south underneath the east edge of the privy. Further evidence of an elaborate brick-lined drain that was first documented south of the East Enlisted Mens' Barracks in Operation 1 was uncovered between the privy and the cleaning shed (Figure 1). The 1841 plan indicated that this drainage system was set up to flush waste away and relied on water collected off the roof of the barracks, which was brought over to the privy and cleaning shed complex before it was carried down to Lake Ontario. The brick drain original to the 1841 plan was replaced by ceramic pipes laid directly inside the older brick drain, and at some point in the twentieth century, a section of the drain was replaced with PVC pipe (Figure 2). It should be noted that the function of this building changed over time. In 1870, it was labeled as a "meat store," and on the 1894 map prepared by Major Lawrence Buchanan it is a "fire hose reel house."

The final phase of work will be undertaken in 2014, when the north foundation of the East Enlisted Mens' Barracks will be uncovered to be conserved in situ and incorporated into the pedestrian entrance to the hotel.

Berkeley House

[Submitted by David Robertson, Archaeological Services Inc.]

In March and April of 2013, test excavations were undertaken on a development property near the southwest corner of King and Berkeley streets, just beyond the limits of the "Old Town" portion of Toronto, a ten-block area that represents the original Town of York as surveyed in 1793. The property originally formed part of the lands intended to make up a "Government Reserve" east of the Town but was inadvertently granted to a settler named George Porter. He immediately began construction of a log house, which he sold to John Small Senior in 1795. This dwelling, which Small named "Berkeley House," was an important early residence in the Town of York. Some of the initial meetings of the Executive Council of Upper Canada were held there while the first Government House was under construction. The house was one of those looted by American troops during their occupation of the town in the days immediately following the Battle of York on April 27, 1813.

Berkeley House was greatly enlarged in 1849 by Charles Coxwell Small (the younger son of John Small Senior). The facade of the 1790s structure was elevated, and a large gabled wing was added on either side. The house was now a full two storeys in height. The three sections of the house were connected by a rear wing on the south side, which was longer than the front block. The house was altered in 1874, during the tenure of Charles' son John. The Small family continued to occupy the house until 1914, at which time it was divided into three separate residences that were rented out as opportunity arose. The house stood vacant before it was finally demolished in 1925 and the area graded to serve as a storage yard and later a parking lot.

The test excavations, carried out under the project direction of David Robertson and field direction of Wesley Oldham, were

intended to sample the entire project area with particular focus on the Berkeley House structure, of which only the west half was located within the project area, part of surrounding gardens, and the locations of a number of enigmatic outbuildings or other structures that appear in variable locations on War of 1812 era maps. Three trenches were excavated in this process.

In the most southerly trench at the rear of the project area, a series of posts were encountered that may represent structural uprights of the west wall of 1849 rear frame wing of the house. A fourth post discovered may also be an internal support post. Throughout the western three-quarters of the trench, a buried A-horizon was found. The ceramic artifacts recovered from the buried A-horizon consist entirely of pearlwares, creamwares and early refined white earthenwares that are entirely representative of the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century.

In the trench through the central part of the project area, the buried A-horizon was again present. A mortared limestone and red brick wall footing and a dry laid brick pad or pavement, possibly a walkway, were found in the eastern quarter of the trench. These features, along with two posts set in well-defined pits, may represent the 1849 rear portion of the main block of Berkeley House. The footing in particular lines up with the series of posts discovered in the trench to the south, in which case the brick surface may represent an interior feature of the house.

The excavation of the final trench in the north part of the project area encountered a portion of the west wall foundation of Berkeley House. To its immediate east and keyed into the masonry of the footing was another limestone and brick feature, which may be the remains of a basement fire place or a chimney stack (Figure 3). An interior wall of the main block of the house was encountered at the extreme east end of the trench. In between the west exterior wall and the interior wall, the poorly preserved remains of a joist and plank floor were

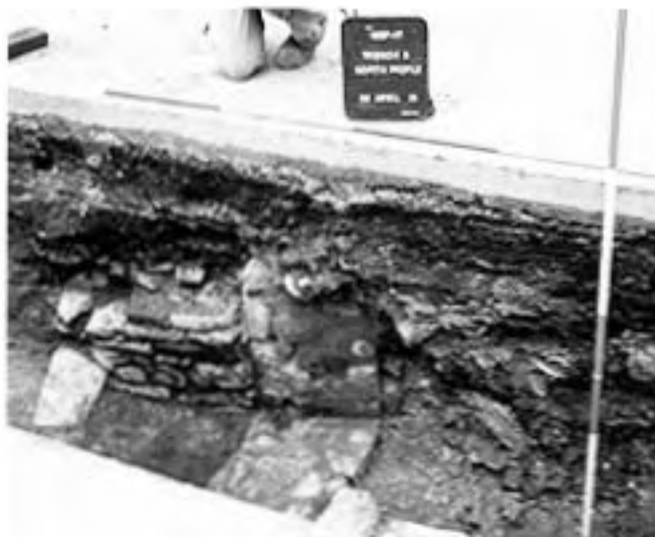


Figure 3. Exposure of a portion of a possible fireplace along the west wall of Berkeley House.

found at the base of the basement cut. This basement void was filled with a massive deposit of structural debris derived from the superstructure.

Given that the site is among the first domestic occupations in the Town of York, and was continuously occupied by the same family for almost 120 years, full scale salvage excavations were recommended given that the remains cannot be preserved within the context of the redevelopment of the property.

Quebec

Reported by: Olivier Roy

Plaisance National Park 2013, Plaisance

[Submitted by Simon Paquin, Graduate student (Master), Université Laval]

In August 2013, eight undergraduate and graduate students from the archaeology program of Université Laval, under the supervision of GRAO archaeologists André Miller, Marcel Laliberté and Manuel Lapensée-Paquette, took part in the dig of the BJs-7 site in the Plaisance National Park. Orchestrated by the GRAO (Groupe de recherches archéologiques de l'Outaouais), the historical part of the dig was aimed at the localisation of the Petite-Nation trading post. The prehistoric part was oriented toward a better understanding of the archaeological occupations and the place occupied by the site in a regional and inter-regional context.

What was really astonishing about this year's digs was the massive participation of the public for the site historical part. Dozens of volunteers, each participating for half a day, dug with us under the supervision of the GRAO archaeologists. It's been a great occasion for the diffusion of archaeological passion and methods, especially with this site once occupied and exploited by Denis-Benjamin Papineau in the first quarter of the XIXe century, a name well known to the inhabitants of La Petite Nation. The Valcourt smallholding (1825-1834), discovered and dug in part in 2012, is also located on the site. Also, it's a way for Plaisance National Park to fulfill its mission, which is the valorisation of natural and human heritage. By its location, the BJs-7 site is easy to access for walkers and cyclists who visit the park. Many came to the site during the excavation to learn more about regional history and pre-history.

Most of those historic remains are concentrated in the first archaeological layer which is the ploughed soil. The context of a mixed soil without delicate features was perfect for the participation of volunteers. The historical features we were aiming to find were, for the most part, built in wood. Therefore, it was unlikely to directly observe those in a ploughed soil due to the bad conservation of this type of material in the Northeast. It was by artifact distribution and concentration that it's been possible to propose approximate positions and orientations of the historical features.

Because of the impressive quantity of alluvium deposits brought to the site by the annual flooding of the Petite-Nation River, most of the prehistoric features and layers remained untouched by agricultural and modern activities. This particular context created a complex stratigraphy and permitted the discovery of archaeological occupation soils at depths sometimes greater than one meter. A stratified context is something rare for a prehistoric site in the Northeast and is really helpful for discerning periods or phases. The site, which was an island in prehistoric times, has been occupied from the Late Archaic period to the Late Woodland. The analysis and inventory of this year's digs are in process. The report with the final results will be published by January 2014.

Unparalleled Participation for Archaeology Month 2013!

55 places buzzing with action from August 1 to 31, 2013

From August 1 to 31, 2013, archaeology held the spotlight in 55 places throughout 13 regions of Québec and in Ottawa. For its ninth edition, Archaeology Month welcomed nearly 50,000 people to over 100 tours, talks, archaeological digs and entertaining activities, many of which were free, in the company of 40 archaeologists and specialists. Never in the history of Archaeology Month had so many activities been prepared for visitors. Participating sites outdid themselves in creating novel, meaningful and appealing activities designed to make the public more aware of the importance of archaeology and the need to safeguard it. And the public response was enthusiastic!

These accessible, authentic activities reflected the diversity and richness of our heritage. They bore the stamp of Archéo-Québec, which pilots Archaeology Month, and were marked by the quality and professionalism of the participating places. These organizations, devoted to outreach, conservation and research, include museums, national historic sites, archaeological sites and First Nations organizations, as well as public institutions like government departments, municipalities and MRCs, not to mention historical societies and a unique establishment, the archaeology-themed Auberge Saint-Antoine.

The Archéo-Québec Network is proud of the success of its ninth edition in bringing together various cultural players in the archaeological heritage field, as well as mobilizing an ever-growing public. This public, which seems to be renewed each year (84 %), included many families (a third of the visits). A majority of visitors said that they were satisfied (18 %) or very satisfied (81 %) with the activities offered, and many (62 %) planned to take part in a second activity. It is clear that Archaeology Month makes an increasing number of Quebecers, including families, more aware of the archaeology around them. This success is shared by the Archéo-Québec Network and all the participating places. The Network wishes them as much inspiration and success in 2014 for the tenth edition of Archaeology Month!



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^a Must send copy of current student I.D. Veuillez inclure une preuve de statut d'étudiant pour l'année courante.

^b For two people at the same mailing address receiving only one copy of publications.
Pour deux personnes résidant à la même adresse postale – elles ne reçoivent qu'un seul exemplaire des publications.

^c For those who feel a primary commitment to Northeast Historical Archaeology and wish to support the work of the Council at a higher membership rate.
Pour les personnes qui s'intéressent hautement à l'archéologie historique du Nord-Est américain et qui veulent aider à soutenir l'action du Conseil en versant une cotisation plus élevée.

Membership may also be applied for at <http://www.cneha.org>