



# Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

June 2014

NUMBER 88

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CNEHA Has a Permanent Address for Its Website:

<http://www.cneha.org/>

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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](mailto: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.

## UPDATE—*Northeast Historical Archaeology*

Reported by: Susan Maguire, Editor

Happy Spring! I am excited to report that you should have all received Volume 41. The layout for Volume 42 is well underway. This volume presents a collection of nine articles that explore foodways in the Northeast. This research examines the context and meaning of food-related practices through analyses of the physical remains of food, the material evidence of foodways practices, and the spaces in which foods are prepared and consumed. In keeping with the pattern of alternating a thematic volume with an open content volume, Volume 43 will include a sampler of research from throughout the Northeast; topics include the investigation of a wooden shipwreck site in Maine, the analysis of townscapes in 17th century northeastern New Jersey, and the examination of dating methods and techniques at the 17th-century John Hallowes Site in Virginia. Just to name a few. Volume 44 will commemorate the 200th anniversary of final conflicts of the War of 1812 with a thematic volume on the archaeology of the war.

Take a trip down memory lane. The complete run of *Northeast Historical Archaeology*, beginning with Volume 1 in 1971, has now been digitized and is available on our digital commons site, <http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/neha/>. The site is seeing a great deal of traffic with the number of article downloads averaging about 5000 per month over the past three months. Rutsch and Skinner (1972) *Fort Nonsense* is currently enjoying a run as the most popular paper on the site. Our goal in this project was to make the research published in our journal more readily available to archaeologists, scholars of related topics, students, and the broader community. It is truly gratifying to see this resource enjoying a wide usage. In the next few weeks we hope to expand our audience by announcing the website on archaeology listservs and related social media sites. Looking forward, we are exploring the possibility of developing a limited-access portion of the digital commons site which would provide members with password-protected access to digital content for the most recent volumes. Additionally, we will seek to increase our research community by expanding our presence in library research databases.

Be sure to renew your membership to get the latest issue of *Northeast Historical Archaeology*. Enjoy the field season and be sure to think of publishing your research in the journal.

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Feel free to email me at maguirse@buffalostate.edu with any comments, questions or suggestions for the journal.

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT**

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

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

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## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **2015 Pennsylvania Archaeological Council Symposium**

#### **The Industries of Pennsylvania: An Archaeological Perspective**

This symposium will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015, in conjunction with the 86th annual meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology in Fogelsville (Allentown), PA (April 10-12). Although you do not need to be a member of PAC to participate, you must be a member of the SPA (2015) to present a paper.

SPA membership information:

<http://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com/Membership.htm>

Site-specific papers and regional or industry-specific summaries (that include recent work) are both welcome. To date two topics have been spoken for: the iron industry (G. Coppock); and canals and canal towns (S. Heberling).

Other potential topics include (but are in no way limited to) coal mining, coke production, steel works, the lumbering and/or wood-chemical industries, tanning, grist mills, glass making, brick making, the ceramic industry, the travel industries (e.g., early roads/turnpikes, railroads, ship building, etc.), textile factories, industrialization and immigration, company towns, unions and the labor movement, how industrialization affected the rural and/or urban landscape, etc. In the spirit of "Industrial Archaeology," keep in mind that standing buildings and other above-ground structures are artifacts too. Be creative, and consider collaborating with historians or architectural historians, etc.

If the papers are of sufficient quality they will likely be published as part of PAC's "Recent Research in Pennsylvania Archaeology" series.

### **Important Dates:**

*Notification of Interest:* ASAP (author name(s), topic, contact information)

*Abstract:* December 31, 2014.

Also, please contact me if know of someone who has done relevant research but who may not be a member of PAC or SPA so that I can make contact with him/her. Thanks.

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## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

### **Pennsylvania**

Reported by: Wade Catts

#### **GAPP conference March 21, 2014, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Gas and Preservation Partnership**

[Submitted by Meta Janowitz]

On March 21, 2014, a one-day symposium of the Gas and Preservation Partnership (GAPP) was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to which members of the archaeological and historic preservation communities were invited. Meta Janowitz attended as the representative from CNEHA. GAPP, established in 2013, is concerned with the effects of the development of hydraulic fracking on above and below ground archaeological and heritage resources. The board includes members from energy and cultural resource management companies as well as a representative from the Society for American Archaeology. The development of hydraulic fracking sites does not fall under 106 regulations; therefore this group is trying to “bridge the gap” between business and preservation. The development of the extraction of oil and gas from shale is a very recent development (within the past 10 years) and, because exploitation of these fuels is not subject to regular federal regulations, the members of GAPP see this as an opportunity to develop voluntary best practices protocols which will benefit both the gas and preservation communities. Information is available at the GAPP web site ([gasand-preservation.org](http://gasand-preservation.org)) and a summary of the conference for a local newspaper audience can be found at <http://www.post-gazette.com/powersource/features-powersource/2014/03/22/Drillers-try-adjusting-to-cultural-concerns/stories/201403220076>

### **Maryland**

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

#### **St. Mary's City**

Historic St. Mary's City kicked off the New Year with a digital makeover. An updated website, a new URL, and new e-mail addresses revitalize the public face of the museum.

The website offers a brighter design, better organization, and a wealth of new information to better address the needs of tourists, researchers, students, members, and other users. Check out the weather, plan your visit, or play a game. A Search function will aid in navigation of the site and Google maps are incorporated to aid navigation to the museum. Websites are always works in progress -- watch as new features continue to roll out, including an illustrated, interactive museum map and online registrations.

The site's address, or URL, is transitioning to [www.HSMCDigsHistory.org](http://www.HSMCDigsHistory.org), and for e-mail type [FirstNameLastInitial@DigsHistory.org](mailto:FirstNameLastInitial@DigsHistory.org). “Our new web and e-mail addresses are descriptive and just a bit fun,” HSMC executive director Regina Faden, Ph.D. commented. “After all, we have been discovering history through archaeology for more than forty years. Our visitors enjoy unique opportunities to get up close and personal with digs at one of the nation's most significant archaeological sites. We'd like everyone to dig history the way we do!” She added, “The renovated website had been many months in the making. I hope it exceeds all expectations. Let us know what you think by contacting us at [webmaster@HSMCDigsHistory.org](mailto:webmaster@HSMCDigsHistory.org).”

Tidewater Archaeology Days, Jul 25 and 26, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm - Help uncover the past at one of the best-preserved colonial sites in the nation. Work alongside archaeologists as they find and identify objects our ancestors lost or discarded. Take a guided tour of excavations and don't miss a once-a-year opportunity to explore the archaeology laboratory — sign up at the Visitor Center when you arrive.

#### **Huntingtown**

During the 2012-2013 school year, the “Historical Investigations” class at Huntingtown High School in southern Maryland analyzed the contents of a mid-19th century privy from Baltimore's Federal Reserve site (18BC27). Archaeologists excavated the site in 1980, but since no artifact analysis had ever been completed, the students were conducting brand new research on the assemblage.

Privy pits became convenient dumping places for household garbage in the days before city-wide trash pick-up and this pit was no exception. The students' privy had been filled with broken plates, spittoons, chamber pots, medicine bottles, seeds, animal bones and clothing items. The students cataloged 2,500 artifacts, mended all of the broken pottery and glass, and conducted research on the objects, the site and Baltimore in the late 1800s. Using this research, the students created a series of Curator's Choice Posters which can be viewed at <http://www.jefpat.org/hhs-historicalinvestigationsclass-curatorschoice.html>. They also wrote, designed and installed an exhibit entitled, “One Man's Privy Is Another's Class Project” at the Calvert County Library in Prince Frederick, where it was on display for three months in the spring and early summer of 2013. The exhibit has now been moved to a display

case within the high school where it will remain for the 2013-2014 school year. Lastly, they wrote a final research report which will remain on file at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory as part of the permanent records for the Baltimore Federal Reserve site.

Because of their innovative project, the class was awarded a 2014 Maryland Preservation Award for Excellence in Education by the Maryland Historical Trust at a ceremony held in Annapolis on February 4th. Calvert County Public Schools should be commended for its role in allowing this class to take place at all. In the current educational climate, this is something that should not be overlooked. Huntingtown High School is producing graduates who not only excel in the required tests but who also understand research, collaboration and project completion. These students have a firm grasp on 21st century skills as well as history and they know why both are important. They will become the adults responsible for the preservation of Maryland's historic treasures, but unlike some of their peers, they will be able to look at an old building or an archaeological site and understand why preserving it is important to our shared history. It was exciting to work with students on a project that provided them with real world experience in a supportive setting, conducting the type of analysis normally done by professional archaeologists. Even better, was watching the students get excited by each new artifact and the information it holds. We were thrilled that the Historical Investigations class was chosen to receive this honor and were gratified to see them recognized on stage in early February.

#### **Anne Arundel County**

During the Fall and Winter of 2013/14, Applied Archaeology and History Associates, Inc. (AAHA) conducted a Phase I archaeological survey and Phase II archaeological evaluation of sites located within the Key School Golf Course Property which lies on a peninsula south of the City of Annapolis in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The Key School, a private K-12 coeducational day school located nearby, plans to use a portion of the property for recreational facilities and playing fields. The property operated as a nine-hole golf course designed in the late 1920s by Charles H. "Steam Shovel" Banks – a nickname associated with his extensive use of heavy machinery to deeply excavate his bunkers. As such, substantial disturbance was anticipated.

Background research revealed that the golf course was once part of the Bellemont/Belmont Plantation that was assembled by Jeremiah Townley Chase, Chief Judge of the Third Judicial District and Maryland Court of Appeals, and had once been held by Governor Benjamin Ogle and Benjamin Tasker. Chase died in 1828, leaving the Bellemont estate to his daughter, Matilda Chase, and her children. They sold part of the farm, spelled Belmont, to James W. Allen in 1855 for \$8,500. The Allens ran a small but successful farm that produced an excess of food that they supplied to the surrounding area, including wheat, corn, feed oats, and probably dairy products

and pork. The farm also produced 12,000 pounds of tobacco but likely became less profitable after abolition. In 1863 an advertisement was placed in the Baltimore Sun that described the farm's assets as follows: a large, two-story dwelling that was constructed partly of brick and partly of frame and which contained eight "fine" rooms; three large barns; stables and carriage-house; corn-cribs; meat-house; (slave) quarters; ice-house; dairy and poultry house as well as a cold water pump; a cistern in the dwelling yard and several springs. The Allens sold the 341-acre property to Jacob Brandt in 1864. A plat prepared in 1894 illustrates a number of these structures within the northern/central portion of the current golf course.

Although major portions of the property had been severely affected by the large-scale manipulation of the landscape during the construction of the golf course, the Phase I Archaeological Survey resulted in the identification of four archaeological sites. Key School Site 1 (18AN1523) was a primarily 19th-century domestic occupation associated with the Belmont Plantation. Key School Site 2 (18AN1524) was also a 19th-century occupation with two possible features. Key School Sites 3 and 4 (18AN1524/5) were ephemeral scatter of artifacts likely associated with the barns. All four of the sites had been affected to some extent by the golf course construction but, in the case of Key School 1 (18AN1523) and Key School 2 (18N1524), evidence existed for the presence of subsurface archaeological features.

The Phase II Archaeological Evaluation of Key School Site 1 (18AN1523) included close-interval shovel testing and eight m<sup>2</sup> of test units. The shovel tests indicated that much of the artifact scatter within the southern and western portion of the site was the result of the redistribution of soils to create the golf course. The shovel tests and a soil probe identified at least two separate cellar features within the core area of Site 1. The northern cellar feature represents the remains of the main Belmont dwelling house; a foundation measuring 28 feet east to west and more than 40 feet north to south. The structure was likely burned with the architectural debris pushed into the



Photo 1. *Foundation walls showing brick above stone with wine bottle base in corner.*

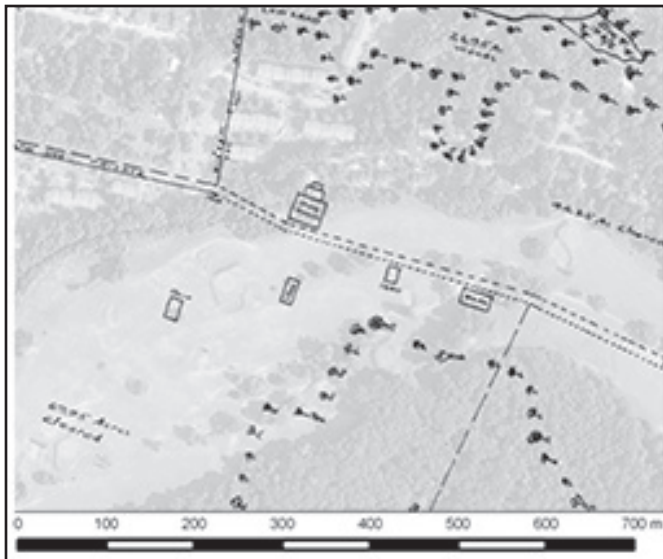


Photo 2. 1894 Plat

cellar. The same appears to be the case with the southern cellar. A possible well or cistern was identified within the southern cellar. Both cellars were excavated to a depth of 1.4m below surface with artifacts dating predominantly to the 19th century – corresponding with the Chase occupation of the Belmont Plantation. In addition, a discrete 17th century deposit was also identified. The core portion of 18AN1523 will be preserved in place.

Within Key School 2 Site (18AN1524) a total of nine shovel tests and four 1 x 1 meter test units were excavated to explore the two potential features. These excavations confirmed the identification of a well which had been in-filled during the 20th century. They also resulted in the identification of the second feature as a trash-filled swale. Disturbance across this site was significant and the site appears to lack archaeological integrity despite the subsurface features and no further investigation was recommended.

### University of Maryland

Archaeology in Annapolis is beginning a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Environmental Research Center (SERC). The partnership involves Dr. Laura Cripps of Howard Community College and Dr. James Gibb, independent consultant. SERC is in Anne Arundel County (Annapolis is the County seat) and contains plantation lands typical of the Chesapeake, including homesteads and farms of free African Americans after 1865.

Our project remains in Annapolis but continues to explore plantation and African American environments that supported and extended from Maryland's capitol city.

Wye House excavations for 2014 involve slave quarters, and an eighteenth century hothouse. Excavations on the Eastern Shore occur in a large community of free African Americans in Easton at a locale called the Hill. The Hill was founded early in the

nineteenth century and continues as an African American community today. Partners involve Morgan State University and Historic Easton Incorporated.

The University of Maryland provides access to all site reports from Archaeology in Annapolis since 1981 through DRUM, available worldwide. The website to gain access is <http://drum.lib.umd.edu/handle/1903/10991>.

Much of the information on Wye House censuses of slaves by first name and surname is on the web at <http://wyehousedb.host-ed.me/database.php>. The site is searchable by name. These censuses are completely different from federal listings and may be unique. They run from 1760 through the 1830s.

Archaeology in Annapolis will run a field school in Annapolis and at SERC during summer 2014 from June 2 to June 20. The field school will also excavate at Wye House from June 22 to July 11.

Archaeology in Annapolis will run a separate field school devoted to public interpretation. This field school will run at Montpelier Mansion in Orange County, Virginia, from June 2 to June 20 and on the Hill in Easton, Maryland, from June 22 to July 11. This field school requires an earlier field school for admission.

## Virginia

Reported by: David A. Brown

### Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

[Submitted by Jack Gary]

Despite the brutal winter weather Poplar Forest's Department of Archaeology and Landscapes managed to wrap up the fieldwork on our third landscape restoration project. We are studying the circular carriage turnaround in front of Jefferson's retreat house in order to determine what it was paved with and what types of plantings were placed around and within the circle. We discovered a paving of a single layer of quartz cobbles underneath deposits of 20th and mid-19th century gravel. This paving creates a 12.5-foot-wide lane in an 80-foot-diameter circle. The straight approach that intersects this circle is similarly paved but is of a width of 15 feet. Excavating portions of the circular paving revealed that the cobbles were pressed directly into the clay subsoil on the east side, suggesting that the area in front of the house was graded to level it, removing the original topsoil and 18th century plowzone. Directly in front of the steps leading to the portico of the house, a 3-foot-wide paving of flat stones was discovered. These flat stones create a "crosswalk" that may have been a flat place to dismount from a horse or carriage.

Our excavations also discovered that the boxwood hedges lining, and in the center of the turnaround, were not part of Jefferson's landscape plan. Archaeological evidence definitively proved that the shrubs had been planted after Jefferson's death in 1826 and after the house burned in 1845. A burned portion of

a terra cotta ornament of the sun god Apollo that had been part of the original dining room entablature was found in the fill in which the boxwoods were planted. In September the boxwoods were removed and excavations in the center of the turnaround were expanded in order to locate the remains of an oval bed of flowers Jefferson noted planting in 1816. We discovered that the boxwoods weren't the only post-Jefferson landscape feature and in fact there may have been two or three different landscape designs in the center of the turnaround between 1826 and 1855. The most intriguing are five 2.5 to 3-foot-wide beds running through the south half of the turnaround. These beds were placed here sometime after 1833, based on the TPQ of artifacts found within the fill of the beds. What type of plants they contained is unclear, but the linear beds were covered by fill and replaced with a circular planting plan of what appear to be shrubs. This plan in-turn was replaced by the boxwoods shrubs. While we are able to get good resolution on the post-Jefferson landscape designs, the intensive gardening that took place in this space appears to have obliterated any visible remains of Jefferson's oval bed of flowers.

### **Riverfront Park, Fredericksburg**

[Submitted by Kerri Barile, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group]

In August 2013, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group conducted an archaeological investigation of the proposed Riverfront Park area in the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia. The project was undertaken at the request of the City of Fredericksburg prior to the design and associated construction of park elements within the city-owned property located along Sophia Street in downtown Fredericksburg.

The Phase I survey comprised the excavation of 12 backhoe trenches and four test units placed in areas with the potential to contain intact remains associated with the mid-eighteenth through early-twentieth century occupation of the parcel. Geo-referenced historic tax parcel maps guided the team to potential building locations, and the results proved that the project area contained numerous locations that were highly archaeologically sensitive.

Spanning from the mid-eighteenth through the mid-twentieth century, the area housed over a dozen dwellings and outbuildings, an ice house, privies, fences, and gardens. Dovetail's work uncovered and examined many of these features including Fernyhough's 1832 community ice house, a late-eighteenth century brick duplex once located along Sophia Street, a sandstone foundation associated with a tenant building constructed in 1859, and the rear yard of the Rowe-Goolrick House which highlighted the home's inhabitants as well as those who were employed at the dwelling (Photo 1). Artifacts from the excavation represented the diverse domestic occupation of the parcel: white clay pipe fragments, ceramics from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries, architectural debris, and personal items (Photo 2).

Since the dig, Dovetail has been working closely with the City,



Photo 1: *The west wall of the 1832 ice house. The possible entrance is in the foreground noted by the break in the brick pattern.*



Photo 2: *Sample of Artifacts Recovered From Test Unit 2. Top Row: green shell-edged creamware. Middle Row: French gun flint, polychrome hand-painted whiteware, and black wine bottle glass. Bottom Row: Bone-handled toothbrush with visible use wear.*

the Riverfront Task Force, and the park planners to assure that archaeological deposits are considered during park design and that the parcel's vast history is highlighted in the final product. It is anticipated that a final design will be selected by the end of the year.

### **Excavations at Mount Vernon**

[Submitted by Luke J. Pecoraro, Asst. Director for Archaeological Research]

#### ***Serpentine Area Survey (44FX762/26)***

In the frigid months of March and April, Mount Vernon's archaeologists initiated a survey of the Serpentine Area (44FX762/26), which composes the gravel lanes and central bowling green on the west side of the mansion. This large area contains two "wilderness" sections on the north and south sides of the bowling green gate; these two landscape features were planted in dense evergreen trees, with mounds and gravel paths (John Milner Associates 2004:3-25). A collaborative effort with Mount Vernon's Horticulture division and the Garden Club of Virginia was initiated to test the archaeological integrity of the north wilderness, and determine if any of Washington's landscape elements survived. The small-scale testing in the wilderness is part of a larger, on-going research project to gain insight into how Washington redesigned the immediate western vista from the Mansion as a single system in the 1780s, simultaneously reshaping the upper and lower gardens, laying out the bowling green, planting the shrubberies and wildernesses, and planning walks around and through these elements.

Pre-excavation research on the north wilderness revealed that in January of 1785 George Washington sent slaves from his near-by Dogue Run farm to search for trees to be planted along the walks, in the groves and wildernesses (Jackson and Twohig 1978[4]:75). On March 15, 1785, he recorded in his diary, "Laid out a walk for the wilderness, intended on the No. of the Serpentine road on the right" (Jackson and Twohig 1978[4]:103). This is his first specific mention of activity in the wildernesses. He laid out the walk for the south wilderness two days later (Jackson and Twohig 1978[4]:103). Later on in the month, Washington wrote that he finished planting and staking the pine trees in the wildernesses "on the left" (Jackson and Twohig 1978[4]:107).

By May, the trees planted earlier in the spring around the bowling green were in poor shape; "Most of my transplanted trees have a sickly look. The small Pines in the Wildernesses are entirely dead... In short half the Trees in the Shrubberies, & many in the Walks, are dead & declin[in]g" (Jackson and Twohig 1978[4]:135).

Not to be deterred, replanting of the trees began in November of 1785 (Jackson and Twohig 1978[4]:232) and continued through February of 1786 when George Washington recorded, "Finished planting all the young pine trees in the Wildernesses on the left" (Jackson and Twohig 1978[4]:272). This is the final specific reference made by Washington about his wildernesses.

The wildernesses were extant as a separate feature through at least 1858 when the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (MVLA) acquired the property, according to a plan drawn by Benson J. Lossing (John Milner Associates 2004:4-63). In the late nineteenth century under the direction of MVLA Superintendent H.H. Dodge, the wildernesses were restored by planting evergreens (John Milner Associates 2004:4-63). Attempts to understand the wildernesses archaeologically were overseen by Morley J. Williams, Mount Vernon's Director of Restoration and Research from 1934-37, who dug trenches and photographed archaeological evidence of a gravel walk in the north wilderness just below grade in September of 1931; neither the precise location nor the temporal designation is known of the path Williams found.

Restoration plans to rehab the wildernesses were implemented through the planting of pine trees in the south wilderness in 1952 (John Milner Associates 2004:2-238), and the addition of shrubberies in the 1999/2000 (John Milner Associates 2004:3-25).

A systematic random sampling strategy was implemented to excavate a 5 x 5 foot test unit within 20 x 20 foot quadrants in the north wilderness area. This excavation model was formulated during the 2008-2010 investigations of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, 44FX2460 (White 2012). Though 44FX2460 was a plowzone site, this testing strategy can be employed for stratified areas of the estate including 44FX762/26. The excavation methodology provided a sampling of the stratigraphy to arrive at site formation processes and of potential features.

Our six week project in March/April opened 14 5' x 5' test units, seven of which located path deposits interpreted as comprising two different paths. The sections of path were relatively shallow, and in some cases overlie prehistoric horizons. Though it cannot be discerned what time period the paths may date to, a topographic plan of the estate drawn in 1931 by Williams illustrates an S-shaped path in the location where one of the two paths was discovered.

An additional result of the excavation was the discovery of six planting features. Systematic data collection on trees in Mount Vernon's historic core began in 1917, with subsequent surveys completed in 1926, 1931, 1934, and 1951. Trees standing in the north wilderness at present were surveyed with a total station, and it may be possible to correlate the archaeologically-discovered tree holes with past surveys, and determine which trees may relate to the original wilderness layout and design.

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### ***African American Cemetery Survey (44FX0116)***

[Submitted by Luke J. Pecoraro, Asst. Director for Archaeological Research]

One of our upcoming projects which will begin in June and run through early fall is a systematic survey of Mount Vernon's African American Cemetery. Located on a ridge approximately 50 feet southwest of George Washington's New Tomb, the cemetery is thought to have been in use from c. 1760 – 1860, with upwards of 150 individuals interred. Our goal is to thoroughly compile documentary evidence for the cemetery, which to date is very sparse, and archaeologically test the area using a random sampling strategy excavating 5' x 5' test units. Only the tops of the grave shafts will be uncovered and fully documented, with the goal to delineate boundaries and internal spatial organization of the cemetery.

Limited archaeology has taken place in the African-American cemetery, despite a geophysical survey of the southwest corner which produced 50 anomalies thought to be potential graves. These anomalies were never ground-truthed, and subsequent work to mitigate effects of activities done between 1994 and 2014 such as erecting a new fence, planting trees, fixing the memorial archway, and attending to drainage issues has indicated an additional 8 possible grave shafts not found in the 1985 survey.

Excavation in the African American Cemetery will take place on Fridays and Saturdays from June 6 through October 25. Volunteers are welcome, and if interested should contact Dr. Eleanor Breen: [ebreen@mountvernon.org](mailto:ebreen@mountvernon.org).

### **Archaeology at the Capitol Ravine – Colonial Williamsburg Archaeology**

[Submitted by Andrew Edwards]

This spring, Colonial Williamsburg (CWF) archaeologists have been examining the east, or Capitol side of one of the major ravines that crosses Williamsburg. The ravines are natural geological structures common to upper Tidewater and remained virtually untouched for hundreds of thousands of years – until

the decision was made to build a new capital city at Middle Plantation. Governor Francis Nicholson's Baroque plan called for a long, straight avenue from the William & Mary College Building, situated in Middle Plantation in 1695, and the new capitol to be built nearly a mile to the east. The several ravines that crossed that avenue were to be bridged or filled, a task accomplished in the first quarter of the 18th century. As Williamsburg grew, the ravines got smaller, becoming convenient receptacles for trash and even receiving fill on which to construct buildings.

Between 2008 and 2011, as part of the Coffeehouse reconstruction project, we explored the western side of the Capitol ravine, recovering topographical, environmental and artifactual information. Archaeology showed that the Coffeehouse itself was constructed in 1750 on fill brought into the ravine and that it was used for dumping material generated by use of the building as a coffeehouse, tavern and store in the third quarter of the 18th century. We recorded one episode of very heavy rain (a hurricane?) dating to the 1760s that was suggested by erosional gullies and sand alluvium found during the excavations. In the spring of 2014, through the largess of donors, we got the opportunity to explore the eastern side of our ravine. Using the same north grid-line, we would be able to create a cross-section of the whole ravine by cutting a 25-meter swath from the creek to the Secretary's Office yard. This side of the ravine was less steep, owing, we thought, to the dumping of material from the 1747 and 1832 capitol fires. We did not expect many artifacts as this area was a public space throughout the 18th century, but we did want to understand the filling sequence and recover environmental material in datable strata.

After six weeks of excavation, we have been able to determine several filling episodes, beginning with the spreading of burned brick rubble (probably from the 1747 capitol fire), sand and clay on the very eastern extremity of the ravine in order to create a flat area for the construction of the 1748 Secretary's Office. The steepest slope of the ravine appears to have been actually cut away some time in the 18th century as debris from the 1832 capitol fire was found lying on a sandy wash, not a buried "A" horizon as expected. Also unexpected was the deposition of a very dense clay about 20 feet wide and 6-7 feet deep along the bottom of the ravine adjacent to where the creek runs now. The six-inch layer of sandy wash found under the 1832 brick lay over the eastern edge of the clay. That stratum contained only 18th-century material, including a French uniform button from an artillery regiment that was only in the Yorktown/Williamsburg area between 1780 and 1783. This find suggests that the deposition of the clay occurred after the Revolution and before the 1832 deposition of burned brick.

Environmental (pollen and phytolith) and flotation samples were recovered from relevant strata and will be analyzed prior to writing the final report. This brief excavation will tie into our long-term study of how the ravines in and around Williamsburg were changed over time and how the environment responded and corresponded to those changes.

### **Ferry Farm, Fredericksburg**

[Submitted by Laura Galke]

George Washington Foundation staff are joined this season by students from the University of South Florida and Virginia Commonwealth University for another season of excavation at George Washington's boyhood home, Ferry Farm, in Stafford County. Excavation in the Washington family's yard has revealed utilitarian earthenwares, colonial-era bottle glass, and earthenware wig hair curlers. About twenty percent of the artifacts recovered reflect American Indian use of this culturally dynamic landscape, which is adjacent to the fall line of the Rappahannock River and boasts a fresh water spring. Public archaeology is practiced daily, as visitors and school children can tour the site, help archaeologists screen excavated soil, and interact with excavators and students directly.

Artifacts have revealed new information about the Washington family during their 1738-1772 occupation in the Fredericksburg area, including mid-eighteenth-century strategies that they used to express their pride in the British empire and to compensate for their financial stress following the untimely death of George's father, Augustine, in 1743. This season's excavations will continue through July.

### **Fairfield Foundation**

[Submitted by Anna Hayden]

For the past six months, the Fairfield Foundation has been hard at work all across the Middle Peninsula (and beyond!), growing our public archaeology programs by introducing exciting new opportunities as well as continuing a number of existing programs. Here is a glance at some of our favorite recent projects!

#### ***Middle Peninsula State Park Survey, Gloucester County***

This March, despite the abnormal and distinctly un-spring-like plunging temperatures, Fairfield staff and volunteers persevered to squeeze in one day of shovel test survey on the future Middle Peninsula State Park property. With the help of volunteers who trekked up in the cold from VA Beach, we made some excellent progress with the STP survey, completing shovel test pits over a large portion of an agricultural field and filling in some gaps in the testing grid. In one area of the field in particular, excavations revealed an array of artifacts including wine bottle glass, tobacco pipe stems, tin-glazed earthenware, and colonoware. All of the park land was associated with Rosewell plantation from the 17th century to the late 19th century, and this work will help us better understand the evolution of the broader agricultural landscape as the Page family, African slaves, and English indentured servants worked to clear forests, plant tobacco, and build the houses, fences, roads and other infrastructure that defined this area for centuries. These continued archaeological efforts will help guide the planning process on the state park, as we identify areas that deserve preservation or more research prior to any park infrastructure projects.

### ***New Quarter Park, York County***

Recently we returned to New Quarter Park in York County to conduct another two-day public archaeology project on a significant 18th-century site. There are direct connections between this site, a Burwell family property for much of the 18th century, and the family's ancestral home at Fairfield, where we've been digging for the last 14 years. Researching this site is giving us a chance to look at the wider influence of the Burwell family, which controlled thousands of acres across Virginia, as well as the daily lives of African slaves or indentured servants who may have occupied this property. This project is a collaborative effort between the Tidewater Virginia Historical Society (TVHS), the Fairfield Foundation, the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) (and its Middle Peninsula Chapter), and New Quarter Park. York County acquired the park in 1976 and opened it to the public soon thereafter. The two-day excavation brought dozens of volunteers to the site to learn about archaeology through hands-on participation. The volunteer crew was instructed in the field by Fairfield Foundation staff and our trained volunteers, many of whom completed the ASV's Archeological Technician Certification Program. The ability to provide personal archaeological instruction to small groups has been a mainstay of our foundation's educational mission for more than a dozen years.

Building upon our initial work last November, we continued expanding an intensive shovel test survey, excavating small holes every 25 feet on a grid, to better establish site boundaries, the general site chronology and begin to identify distinct concentrations of artifacts. So far we have completed about 63 of these tests, covering roughly a 175 by 225 foot area, and are starting to get a sense for size and complexity of the site. In addition to this work, we excavated several 2.5' square test units, which open larger windows into the history of this site, by yielding larger artifact samples and identifying cultural features that embellish our understanding of the built landscape. Volunteers helped us uncover possible 18th-century postholes, which may relate to a building or fence line at the site, and also helped identify intact layers that escaped the plow blade, an unusual phenomenon in Tidewater, Virginia. Artifacts in the undisturbed layer, such as a decorated locally-made tobacco pipe bowl, as well as the neck of a square case bottle, hint at a late 17th-century component to a site we initially surmised was occupied solely within the 18th century. The identity of the site's occupants is still unclear, but it is always exciting to share both the thrill of discovery, as well as the challenge of answering a plethora of research questions, with archaeological newcomers. After all, the point of archaeology is to answer questions about the past, and we think this is an exciting process that should be shared with the public. We are already making plans to return to New Quarter Park again in the fall, as the public response to this project has been exceptional. Much of the recent work was filmed and will contribute towards a documentary about the project and the Fairfield Foundation's public archaeology mission.

### ***Daffodil Festival, Gloucester Courthouse***

Springtime in Gloucester means daffodils! Though they have taken a little longer to appear this year than normal, those bright yellow harbingers of sunnier days perked up all over the county, just in time for the annual Daffodil Festival -- a celebration of spring and the first big public event of the year on Gloucester's Main Street. Public archaeology excavations occurred within the historic courthouse circle, exploring this rich ground for more traces of Gloucester's past. The excavation during last year's festival was a resounding success, with thousands of visitors wandering past, stopping to ask questions, and viewing some of the objects that we uncovered. It was also popular with the kids, a number of whom came over and helped screen for artifacts. The excavations that we have done so far have helped uncover numerous unidentified buildings from the 18th century, some pre-dating the standing 1766 courthouse. The goal of this work, which has been supported by both the state of Virginia (through the Department of Historic Resources) and Gloucester County (through the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department), is to learn more about the complex evolution of the courthouse village through time, which unfortunately is not very well documented in the surviving documents. What we reveal will help interpret the story of Gloucester County to the public, and can also help planners and public works officials sensitively plan for utility upgrades, buildings repairs, and other projects within the historic courthouse green that minimize disturbances to intact archaeological resources.

Building on the success of last year's public excavation, this year's dig focused on searching for the foundation to a building that predates and is partially covered by the standing 1766 colonial courthouse. Young and old visitors alike joined in our search for this early building's foundation, tracing it beneath a flower bed full of daffodils (although we were careful not to dig any of those up!). At the very end of the second day we found what we were looking for -- almost. The foundation was gone, but what remained was a trench where the bricks once sat, now filled with brick rubble and 18th-century artifacts. We will analyze the artifacts, comparing them with those we found previously during construction monitoring, to learn more about what life was like in the courthouse before the Revolutionary War, and hopefully what type of building this was. With luck, it will match one of the buildings found on the 1754 plat of the courthouse area!

### ***Fairfield Plantation, Gloucester County***

Archaeology at Fairfield plantation has been spurred this spring by visits from a number of local groups -- including a Boy Scout troop from Yorktown, a middle school group from New Kent, and a high school group from Gloucester. We also held a very successful public dig day in conjunction with Garden Week. All of these visitors got the chance to help us excavate, as we continue with our sampling strategy, consisting of 5'x5' test units excavated every 20 feet across the site. This spring we are excavating test units to the north of the manor house, in an area that likely would have been part of the front

yard. This area continues to the north of the house, right up to the edge of a ravine. Excavation of these units is providing us with information about how frequently and when agricultural plowing might have occurred in the front yard, and might also shed light on possibly intentional episodes of filling in sections of the ravine in order to extend the yard and eliminate dangerous low spots. We were also lucky enough to excavate a handful of test units in the midden area to the west of the manor house. These units produce large quantities of artifacts that require extensive processing time, so excavation in the midden is infrequent, but is always exciting when it happens. This excavation occurred in conjunction with the final stages of Colleen Betti's senior honor's thesis project at the College of William and Mary. Colleen's analysis of artifact patterning in different areas of the midden has produced intriguing results, hinting at differential spatial use of the midden and associated work yards correlating with changing occupation of the manor house.

### **Virtual Curation Laboratory: Publications, Outreach, and Current Research**

[Submitted by Bernard K. Means, Director]

The Virtual Curation Laboratory celebrated its second year of existence with funding from a new Department of Defense Legacy Project (13-334) beginning in October 2013. This project, entitled Virtual Mobility Archaeology Project: Further Applications of Three Dimensional Digital Scanning of Artifacts, is designed with the ideal of created digital archaeological type collections of diagnostic chipped stone tools, as well as animal bones from various species. The project is expected to be completed in May 2015.

October 2013 also saw presentations and demonstrations by student workers and interns in the Virtual Curation Laboratory. The papers were published in a special issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* and included:

Ellrich, Aaron

2014 Lithics and Lasers: 3D Scanning Prehistoric Projectile Points from James Madison's Montpelier. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 69 (1):57-68. Winner of best undergraduate paper.

Huber, Allen

2014 Broken Bones: Digital Curation and Mending of Human Remains. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 69 (1):37-45.

Hulvey, Rachael

2014 Manipulating Montpelier: Creating a Virtual Exhibit of Life at Montpelier for the Madisons and their Enslaved People. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 69 (1):69-74.

McCouston, Ashley

2014 One Million Years of Technology: Lithic Analysis and 3D Scanning in the 21st Century. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 69 (1):47-56.

Means, Bernard K.

2014 Two Years Before the Past: Activities in the Virtual Curation Laboratory @ VCU from August 2011 to December 2013. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 69 (1):3-16.

Volkers, Lauren

2014 The Miss Measure of Artifacts? Examining Digital Models of Artifact Replicas to Observe Variation on Size and Form. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 69 (1):17-28.

Zechini, Mariana

2014 Zooarchaeology in the 21st Century. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 69 (1):29-36.

VCU student staff and interns also presented and demonstrated earlier in the year at the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference. One paper was published in the 2013 *Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology* and the remainder in the 2014 Spring edition of *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*.

Bowles, Courtney

2014 Moving Between Reality as Virtual and Reality as Actual. *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 84 (1):4-8.

Huber, Allen

2014 Handing the Past to the Present: The Impact of 3D Printing on Public Archaeology. *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 84 (1):9-13.

Hulvey, Rachael

2014 New Dimensions: 3D Scanning of Iroquoian Effigy Ceramics. *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 84 (1):14-18.

McCuistion, Ashley

2014 One Million Years of Technology: Lithic Analysis and 3D Scanning in the 21st Century. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 69 (1):47-56. Winner of best student paper.

Means, Bernard K.

2014a Current Research in the Virtual Curation Laboratory @ Virginia Commonwealth University: Introduction to the Collected Papers. *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 84 (1):1-3.

2014b Who Benefits From Virtual Curation? *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 84 (1):23-26.

Zechini, Mariana

2014 Rocky Raccoon: The Application of 3D Technology to Zooarchaeology. *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 84 (1):19-22.

These papers are focused more on our initial two years in the Virtual Curation Laboratory. For a more publicly accessible article, some readers may be interested in the following:

Means, Bernard K.

2014 Virtual Curation and Virtual Collaboration. In *Blogging Archaeology*, edited by Doug Rocks-Macqueen and Chris Webster, pp. 121-144. Landward Research, Ltd. In Association with Succinct Research and DIGTECH LLC.

This is freely available at: <http://dougsarchaeology.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/blogging-archaeology.pdf>.

Our ability to conduct research, do demonstrations, and support our outreach efforts to the public (more on that below) depend on the generous access provided by individuals and institutions throughout the Middle Atlantic region. Since August 2013, we have travelled to and scanned artifacts at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Archaeology laboratory, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Fort Lee Regional Archaeological Collections Facility, George Washington's Ferry Farm (multiple times), Jamestown Rediscovery (multiple times), the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology annual meeting, and George Washington's Mount Vernon (yesterday, May 13, 2014, as I write this. We even scanned parts of the Space Shuttle Discovery at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. These research trips are described and posted on our blog (or, soon will be) at: <http://vcuarchaeology3d.wordpress.com/>. Digital animations of the artifacts we scan are available at our sister blog site: <http://virtualcurationmuseum.wordpress.com/>.

Increasingly, we are using our digital models of artifacts and printed replicas as part of public outreach efforts. In January 2014, a series of short videos were filmed in the Virtual Curation Laboratory by Archaeology in the Community and broadcast on their Instagram series The DIG: 365 Days of Artifacts. Each of our videos features a plastic replica of an artifact and a student talking about the significance of the original object from which it was derived. We have also spoken at Clover Hill High School and the Richmond Waldorf School, both in the Richmond area, about archaeology, with plastic replicas of artifacts being a key feature of these talks.

Our latest major public outreach effort involves the creation of unique chess sets that feature artifacts that we have scanned re-imagined as chess pieces. Our first set featured a Frozen Charlotte Doll from DC Archaeology as the Pawn, an Deer toe bone from the Virginia Museum of Natural History as the rook, a World War I doughboy toy soldier from Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest as the knight, an Adena point from George Washington's Ferry Farm as the bishop, and headless figurines of a man and a woman from George Washington's Mount Vernon as the king and queen. A copy of this chess set was provided to the fourth grade class of the Richmond Waldorf School, and was featured on a number of online news sources, including gaming web sites: <http://www.purplepawn.com/2014/04/vcus-archaeology-chess-sets/>. We have since made a chess set devoted to Jamestown 1607-1610 (which we gave to Jamestown Rediscovery), and two projectile point sets auctioned off

to raise money for the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology conference. The Virtual Curation Laboratory has developed a particularly close relationship with Jamestown Rediscovery, and they are incorporating into their public outreach efforts printed plastic replicas of items we scanned of their finds, including a butchered dog mandible.

I expect the second half of 2014 to be as exciting and active as the first half.

### **Projects Completed Recently by the WMCAR – 5/12/14**

[Submitted by Joe Jones]

Over the course of the past year, staff from the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) completed a historical resource context study for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park in Frederick County, Virginia. The project report expands the context of the Civil War Battle of Cedar Creek to three other thematic areas that are interrelated by the Park's unique cultural landscape: pre-historic settlement, development of a kin-based open country neighborhood, and the late nineteenth- to twentieth-century memorialization of the battle. The contexts eventually will contribute to an update of the National Register documentation for the Park and also serve as a reference for Park personnel as they manage cultural resources and develop interpretive materials.

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Staff of the WMCAR also had the opportunity over the past year to conduct systematic archaeological survey of a specific, and intensively fought-over, tract of land within the battlefield of the Battle of Cedar Creek. Few Civil War battles in the Valley of Virginia stir the imagination as does the Battle of Cedar Creek. With its dramatic turn of events and final outcome, what occurred on the battlefield on October 19, 1864 still has a remarkable story to tell. What began as a brilliantly planned early morning attack by Confederate forces under the command of Lt. Gen. Jubal Early eventually unraveled due to a massive afternoon counterattack by Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan's Army of the Valley and a resounding Union victory. Within this historic battlefield setting, the WMCAR conducted systematic archaeological investigations on a 12.5-acre parcel recently acquired by the National Park Service that was the site of one of the most intensely fought episodes of the battle. In this steeply sloped ravine on the east side of the Valley Turnpike, 164 men of the 8th Vermont Infantry mounted a furious defense of their battle flags while nearly surrounded by Confederate forces. Their stout resistance stalled the Confederate advance long enough for the XIX Corps and VI Corps to their rear to withdraw most of their men and materiel, allowing the Union Army to regroup and counterattack later that day. The initial stage of the investigation involved the excavation of 326 systematically placed shovel tests, followed by systematic metal detector sweeps along 13 transects. The second stage of work involved the excavation of 13 test units strategically placed in areas of highest artifact concentration and feature potential based on the survey results. As anticipated, the investigations revealed an extensive Civil War

site (44FK0060) that encompasses the entirety of the property, and the presence of well-preserved deposits with potential to address research issues, through artifact distributions and features, that pertain to Civil War camp structure and foodways, and the flow of the battle as it unfolded.

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A study sponsored by Virginia State University (VSU) has demonstrated the value of interpretive video production as a tool for mitigation of impacts to historic districts. As part of its campus expansion, VSU has been acquiring property that encompasses approximately one-third of the Ettrick Historic District. A mitigation plan for the proposed project included preparation of an oral history of the village in the twentieth century and presentation of an electronic video exhibit with clips selected from 21 interviews conducted with current and former residents, historic images, maps, outdoor video footage, narration, and music. The interviews document a broad time span, with birth dates of the participants ranging from 1911 through 1960. The pool of interviewees is representative of the largely white population that lived in this working class village during much of the twentieth century, but also documents the historic African American presence at VSU, which began in the 1880s, and the shifting demographics following desegregation and other historical trends.

The broader scope of the electronic exhibit is divided into four videos and draws on documentary sources to tell the story of Ettrick's dynamic industrial base in the nineteenth century. By the 1850s, some 800 residents worked at the cotton mills, cottonseed mills, and gristmills that crowded the banks of the Appomattox River below the village. Along with Petersburg, Ettrick comprised one of the most intensively developed industrial centers of the antebellum South. The collection of domestic and commercial architecture from this period of rapid growth is one of the Ettrick Historic District's outstanding features. Following the Civil War, the village and its industries continued to prosper until an electrical company acquired the rights to water power along this stretch of the Appomattox in the early twentieth century. Until the 1970s, Ettrick continued to thrive as a distinct community, with its own grocery stores and other small businesses, even as many of its residents earned their living across the river in Petersburg. In the last three decades, the community has suffered economic decline as several major employers have moved out of the region. VSU, however, continues to thrive and expand, providing the village with a much-needed source of cultural and economic activity.

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Staff from the WMCAR recently completed a two-year project that involved assessment of identified archaeological resources and development of a predictive model for archaeological sensitivity across as-yet-unsurveyed acreage within the Maneuver Training Center, Fort Pickett, in Brunswick, Dinwiddie, and Nottoway counties, Virginia. The assessment is based on the records of sites and survey data from previously completed archaeological surveys over a total acreage of 44,663 acres (18,075 ha) officially recorded with the Virgin-

ia Department of Historic Resources before the end of August 2012. This includes approximately 3,538 acres (1,450 ha) of parcels transferred to municipal, county, and state ownership in recent decades as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure review process.

The study assessed the resources within the larger geographic and cultural regions in which Fort Pickett is situated and provides historical and cultural background for evaluating the potential eligibility of resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This assessment of resources at Fort Pickett benefits from consideration of various approaches that have been used with mixed success in other large-area assessments and predictive models in recent decades. The predictive model was designed to make use of the results of the assessment to delineate unsurveyed areas at Fort Pickett as having either high or low sensitivity for archaeological resources of potential significance. It is important to recognize that such predictive information offers value to planners who must consider the potential effects of proposed undertakings or activities on significant archaeological resources; accurate predictions of archaeological sensitivity may prove to be useful in maximizing the efficiency (without sacrificing the accuracy) of archaeological survey efforts required by environmental regulations, for example. The assessment and predictive model development also served as an opportunity, however, for archaeologists to treat the 44,663 acres as a specific study area of both prehistoric and historic-era settlement patterns, and resulted in observation of interesting and often predictable correlations between environmental and/or map-based variables and the occurrences of certain types of archaeological sites. There was also a series of interesting research questions and suggestions for future research that arose out of this opportunity for focused assessment of settlement patterns of certain specialized site types within the 44,663-acre study area of the southern Virginia Piedmont.

## Quebec

Reported by: Olivier Roy

### New discoveries at the Monastère des Augustines de l'Hôtel-Dieu-de-Québec

[Submitted by Nathalie Gaudreau, archaeologist, Artefactuel, coop de travail]

Three young French women arrived in Quebec on August 1, 1639, after three months at sea. They came to establish a hospital for the poor and the sick under the sponsorship of the Duchess of Aiguillon. L'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec was the first hospital on the continent north of Mexico and the first of twelve established by the Augustinian Sisters who dedicated their entire lives to caring for the men, women and children of the country. Situated in the heart of Old Quebec, the entire complex is a Canadian national historic site as well as a heritage site under Quebec's Cultural Property Act. The complex is being restored and renovated as the Monastère des Augustines, a sustainable development project that will honor the Sisters' mission of caring for body and soul while perpetuating their social, cultural, historical and spiritual contribution to society.

Efforts from all partners to integrate archaeology within this vast project have been very successful and research is being carried out in the context of the extensive restoration work. The archaeological site is unique and exceptional, witnessing a long-term and continued occupancy over 375 years. Archaeology provided new data for the installation and the beginnings of the Augustinian Sisters, but also for the construction and transformation of the monastery from 1695 onwards.

Rich documentation compiled by the Augustinian Sisters over three centuries of life on the site was very useful for the project. The Sisters rapidly identified the absence of water as the main deficiency of the site. Most of the archaeological discoveries show their efforts to cope with this and provide sufficient water supplies to operate a monastery and a hospital.

Archaeological fieldwork was concentrated within and around the oldest building on the site, including a kitchen (1647), which was integrated into the two wings of the 1695 monastery built by François de Lajoüe. Archaeologically supervised excavations in the corner pavilion revealed features preceding the construction of the monastery in 1695, such as a small circular cistern (Photo 1), and what may be a small chapel (Photo

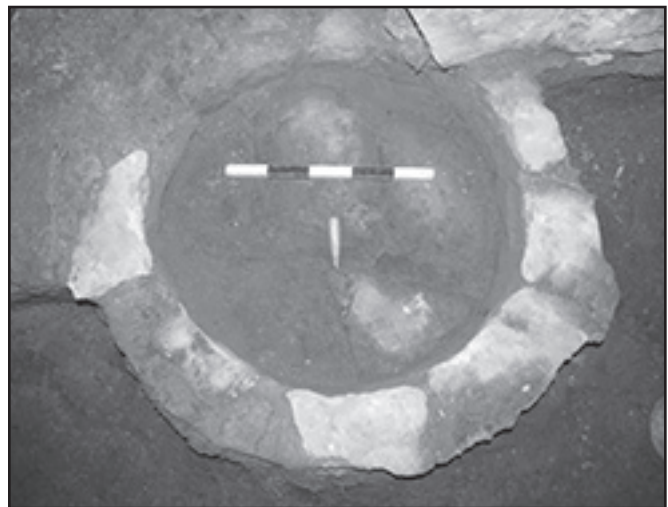


Photo 1. *Small cistern found in the corner pavilion of the monastery.*



Photo 2. *Large cistern built on an earlier building (small chapel ?) found in the corner pavilion of the monastery.*

2). Artifacts discovered in associated layers point to an occupation from the mid-17th century. A large cistern was built on the foundations of the chapel (Photo 2) following construction of the monastery, probably in 1709-1710, and was in use until the 1755 fire. A thick layer of soap-like deposits inside the cistern suggest that this feature was transformed into a laundry at the end of the 18th century and was used as such until the beginning of the 20th century.

Archaeological fieldwork inside the vaults of the west wing also revealed a vast system of stone drains built between 1650 and 1670 (Photo 3). These were later integrated into the 1695 monastery and were used until the introduction of the municipally-supplied water in the mid-19th century.

These discoveries provide a better understanding of how the buildings were adapted to cope with major flaws of the site, and also a new appreciation of the Augustinian Sisters' efforts to maintain and transform their buildings over this long-term occupancy.



Photo 3. *Stone drains found in the west wing of the monastery.*

### **L'îlot des Palais, an overview of the field school, Summer 2013**

[Submitted by Huguette Lamontagne and Geneviève Gagné-Dumont]

The site of l'îlot des Palais (CeEt-30) can be considered as the cradle of New France industrial history. It was in 1668, under the impetus of the Intendant Jean Talon, that a brew-

ery, a potash factory, a shipyard and a pottery workshop were set up. In 1686, on the same site, the first Intendant's Palace (1686-1713) was erected; a few years later, as a consequence of a destroying fire, a second palace (1716-1760) was built a little further north of the first one. After the Conquest, the building was used by British troops and severely bombed during an attack by American soldiers in 1775. These ruins were reused; in the middle of 19th century they were integrated to the Boswell brewery plant. Both areas excavated in 2013 are located at the north-west of the site.

Operations of summer 2013 (70 and 71), located west of the second intendant's palace, are the largest excavated area realized, more than 36 m<sup>2</sup>. The field school is a training place for both graduate students, who learn the steps for managing a site search, from the permit application to the writing of the final report, and for undergraduate students, who have the opportunity to get in touch with many aspects of the documentation used in historical archaeology. Besides the educational purpose of the dig, we wanted to achieve three main objectives. First, we wished to open to sterile soil to complete the stratigraphy of the area that had already been partially excavated. Another objective was to excavate the berm left between operations 62A and 62B (2008) to better understand the southern boundaries of vestige 62A350. Finally, we hoped to gather new information about the remains of wood posts found in operations 62A and 48A, what would allow us to document the missing part of the sheds belonging to the Boswell brewery.

Following five weeks of searching, the objectives have been achieved. However, the discovery of numerous remains of masonry and wooden structures have brought more questions. Summer 2013 excavations have confirmed the presence of a wet ditch, west of the first palace's fence. Present on the old maps, the ditch appears as a depression where can be found, among others, sand and plant fragments. Deemed unnecessary, the fence was destroyed and the ditch was filled about the time of the construction of the second palace. Thereafter, this area was mainly used as a place of passage.

Without undergoing major developments, the area west of the Second intendant's palace was transformed over time. We believe that it has received the soil excavated from the south part of the site, where various works have taken place. These embankments were used to raise the ground level to make or keep it on with the southernmost. As evidenced by the presence of two different era drains, drainage has always been a problem on the site, whether the French era or later during the nineteenth century; the accumulation of rainwater has also been a challenge during the excavations. When Joseph Knight Boswell joined the land at its brewery, he established the necessary structures to expand by building a malting on the ruins of latrines of the second palace. This structure is still partially visible today and was the limit of our operations.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming, Fall 2014:

**Archaeology of Food: An Encyclopedia,**  
edited by Karen Bescherer Metheny and Mary C. Beaudry.  
Rowman & Littlefield.

Archaeology of Food is the first reference work devoted to the study of food and foodways through archaeology. Archaeologists and scholars from related fields across the globe have contributed entries that span a range of geographic and temporal contexts and feature cutting-edge research, including many of interest to historical archaeologists. The encyclopedia provides overviews of current knowledge and theoretical perspectives, key research questions, and the range of scientific, archaeological, and material analyses that inform the study of food today.

### FEATURES:

- 285 entries
- A to Z listing
- Illustrated
- Cross referencing
- Recommended readings

### SAMPLE ENTRIES:

Archaeobotany  
Archaeology of Cooking  
Bioarchaeological Analysis  
Coffee  
Commensality  
Cookbooks  
Diaspora Foodways  
Factories  
Famine  
Food and Capitalism  
Foodways and Gender Roles  
Food as a Commodity  
Immigrant Foodways  
Landscape and Environmental Reconstruction  
Oral and Folk Narratives  
Ovens and Stoves  
Slave Diet, on Southern Plantations  
Slave Diet, on West Indian Plantations  
Sucrose  
Taverns/Inns  
Work Camps  
Zooarchaeology

***Crafting Preservation Criteria:  
The National Register of Historic Places and American  
Historic Preservation***  
By John Sprinkle

Have you purchased your copy of COVA member John Sprinkle's book, *Crafting Preservation Criteria: The National Register of Historic Places and American Historic Preservation* (Routledge 2014)? <http://www.amazon.com/Crafting-Preser->

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0415642566> This "lively history" documents the creation of the National Register's criteria of significance and "transforms our understanding of policies" at the core of American historic preservation. John presents the "fascinating evolution of ideas" through a "meticulous historical approach" resulting in a "wonderful and revealing" publication. The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of places worthy of preservation, but where did the criteria that shape the construction of a useable past come from? Sprinkle tells how the criteria were crafted over three decades (from the mid-1930s to the mid-1960s) of trial and error by a cadre of public servants and interested citizens. The National Park Service mandate was to create an orderly, balanced, and comprehensive panorama of historic sites that illustrated a textbook of United States history, while the pragmatic goal was to deter and deny acquisition by the agency, because there were simply too many historic sites and not enough money in the treasury. Published by Routledge, this book elucidates the "prehistory" of the National Register of Historic Places, with a special focus on the evolution of the concept of archaeological significance, and helps practitioners and students alike connect with the origins of preservation's contemporary paradigm.

### ***The Legacy of Fort William Henry: Resurrecting the Past***

By David R. Starbuck

144 Pages, 7" x 10," all in color

University Press of New England: Hanover and London

([www.upne.com](http://www.upne.com))

Paper 978-1611685473

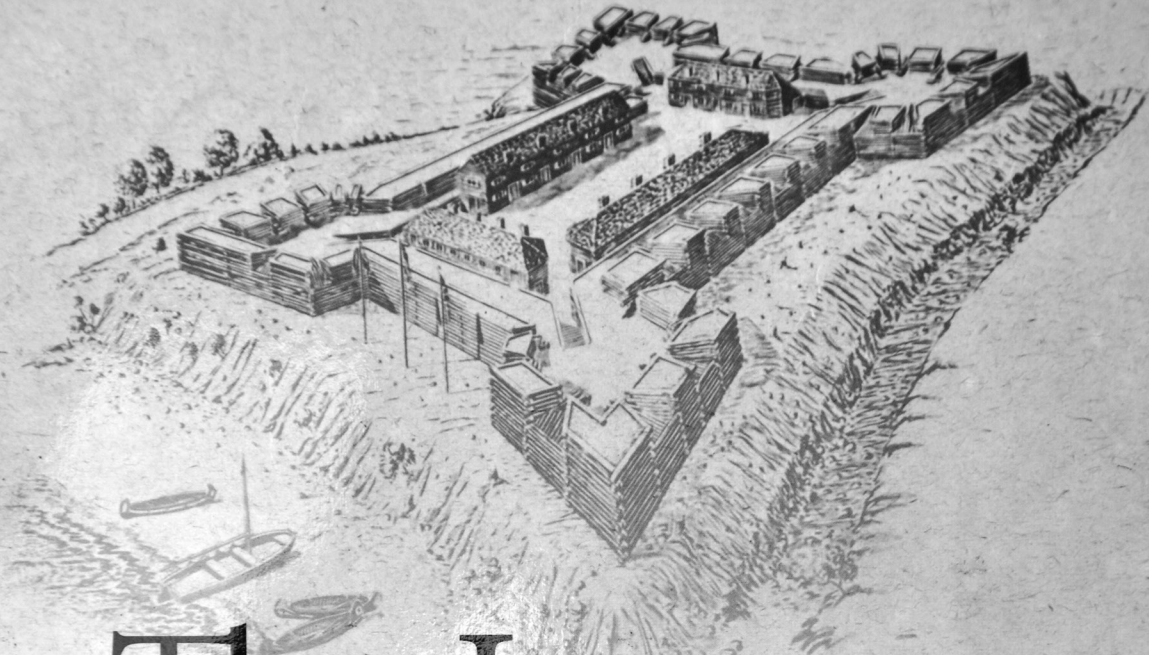
\$24.95

Fort William Henry, America's early frontier fort at the southern end of Lake George, New York, was a flashpoint for conflict between the British and French empires in America. The fort is perhaps best known as the site of a 1757 massacre of British soldiers by Native Americans allied with the French. Over the past decade, new and exciting archeological findings, in tandem with modern forensic methods, have changed our view of life at the fort prior to the massacre by providing physical evidence of the role that Native Americans played on both sides of the conflict.

Intertwining recent revelations with those of the past, David R. Starbuck creates a lively narrative beginning with the earliest Native American settlement on Lake George. He pays special attention to the fort itself: its reconstruction in the 1950s, the major discoveries of the 1990s, and the archeological disclosures of the past few years. He further discusses the importance of forensic anthropology in uncovering the secrets of the past, reviews key artifacts discovered at the fort, and considers the relevance of Fort William Henry and its history in the twenty-first century. Three appendixes discuss exhibits at the Fort William Henry Museum since the 1950s, historical foodways, and Major General Daniel Webb's surrender letter of August 17, 1757.

(From the back cover of the book)

DAVID R. STARBUCK



# The Legacy

*of Fort William Henry*



RESURRECTING THE PAST

