



# Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

October 2015

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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 2016, Ottawa, Ontario

CNEHA's 2016 annual meeting will be held at the Lord Elgin Hotel and at City Hall in downtown Ottawa from Friday October 7th to Sunday October 9th, 2016. The theme for this year's conference is "CNEHA at 50 - Past, Present, and Future." with sessions examining where northeast historical archaeology has gone and where it might be headed. Proposed tours include visits to the Diefenbunker, Canada's premier underground Cold War site, the National Museum of Canadian History (formally the Museum of Civilization), the Canadian War Museum, and Parliament Hill. Come celebrate CNEHA at 50, enjoy a northern Thanksgiving, and take advantage a great location to see Canada's National Capital.

## Obituary: SARAH T. BRIDGES (1946-2015)

Archaeology lost an important friend when Sarah Bridges died in Virginia Central Hospital on March 31, 2015. Sarah was involved in historical archaeology and historic preservation programs at all levels: local chapters, the New York State Archaeological Association, the New York State Archaeological Council, the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, the Society for Historical Archaeology, and the Society for American Archaeology.

She received her Masters degree in Anthropology/Archaeology at New York University She was part of the staff at the Human Relations File established by George Peter Murdock before joining Paul Huey's archaeological program at the Bureau of Historic Sites, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. While there, she led important projects at State Historic Sites such as Philipse Manor Hall (Yon-

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kers), John Jay Homestead (Katonah), Washington's Headquarters (Newburgh), and Clermont (Columbia County.) She then was promoted to what is now the Field Services Bureau, serving as the first archaeologist for project review and the National Register of Historic Places.

The federal government soon beckoned her to Washington. She served 31 years in various agencies, most of which was spent at the Department of Agriculture as National Cultural Resources Specialist and Federal Preservation Officer. There she interacted and consulted with the National Historic Preservation office, State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, American Indian tribes, and local governments. She was one busy lady, frequently flying to various locations to facilitate projects.

Rheumatoid arthritis was a huge problem during the last years of her life. But she gamely continued to attend CNEHA and SHA meetings, serve on committees, and finally, work from home.

Publications included a nomination to the National Register for the Vander Ende-Onderconk House, and articles in *North-east Historical Archaeology*, the *New York State Archaeological Bulletin*, and *Historical Archaeology*.

Sarah was preceded in death by her husband, Bert Salwen. She is survived by a daughter Sarah and her husband Max Prilutsky, a sister, stepsons and their families.

She will be greatly missed by both family and friends.

Lois Miner Huey

### **UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology***

Reported by: Susan Maguire, Editor

Greetings from Buffalo. Winter is on its way. The journal office is moving along working on the Volume 44 (2015) and Volume 45 (2016) volumes. Volume 44 will be mailed out in early 2016 and Volume 45 will be published in early fall 2016. We have full lineups for both volumes. The journal website continues to see a high level of traffic. We are averaging about 3000 full-text downloads per month! It is great to have your research made so accessible to researchers and students around the world. The journal office continues to explore new avenues for digital distribution of back issue content. You can find back issue content in electronic format from the digital commons website <http://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/neha/>. Electronic content of the two most recent volumes is available for purchase from the CNEHA website [http://www.cneha.org/shopping\\_cart.html](http://www.cneha.org/shopping_cart.html). Of course CNEHA members have received your print copy of the most recent volumes. The individual articles are available for electronic purchase for \$7.50 each or the entire volume is available for \$16.

Do not forget to purchase the two new Telling Time Posters for your lab. Now available for sale are Telling Time – Historic Lighting and Telling Time in the American Revolution. These posters are \$10 each plus shipping. Check out the journal website at <http://anthropology.buffalostate.edu/north-east-historical-archaeology> for ordering information.

Feel free to email me at [maguirse@buffalostate.edu](mailto:maguirse@buffalostate.edu) with any comments, questions or suggestions for the journal. Have a great fall and winter.

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT**

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

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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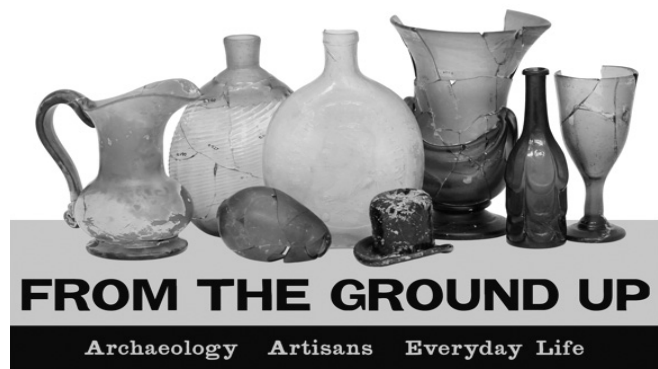
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## PHILADELPHIA I-95 EXHIBITION



In 2009, AECOM-Burlington began excavations on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration as part of the I-95 Improvement Project in Philadelphia. Next year AECOM-Burlington will share their discoveries in a new exhibition, FROM THE GROUND UP: Archaeology, Artisans, and Everyday Life, at the Museum of American Glass at Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center in Millville, New Jersey.

In addition to an exhibit of Native American artifacts, FROM THE GROUND UP will highlight the glass industry that once thrived in historical Kensington and AECOM's excavation of a portion of Dyottville Glass Works. It will include a large variety of 19th-century glass whimsies, bottles, "green glass" hollowware, and flint glass lighting and tableware. Lo-

cally manufactured ceramics including Philadelphia Queensware, stoneware, yellowware, and Rockingham will also be featured. Additional artifacts dating from the late 18th to early 20th century tell how families living along the waterfront prepared and served their food, lit their homes, cared for the sick, fed their children, and addressed personal and social issues that are still relevant today.

The exhibition, which runs April 1-December 31, 2016, will raise awareness of the role archaeology plays in preserving and interpreting the past and illustrate how Native Americans and 19th-century glassblowers and potters creatively used the region's resources. Live demonstrations at Wheaton Arts' glass and ceramics studios will allow visitors to learn firsthand about the materials and artisans' techniques. See [diggingi95.com](http://diggingi95.com) and [wheatonarts.org](http://wheatonarts.org) for more information about the I-95 Project and Wheaton Arts.

## WRITING LEADS

A common find by metal detectorists in the UK are what the British call "writing leads." They are also known by the names of: lead pencils, styluses and plummets. Some of these UK finds appear to be mass-produced writing instruments. They are well-formed, most likely by pouring molten lead into pre-carved wooden molds. Some of these UK "writing leads" exhibit striations due to the wood grains of the molds. Since these UK examples are surface metal detector finds, they are not able to be accurately dated. Additionally, there has been very little research conducted on them, so it is uncertain when these mass-produced "writing leads" began and when they ended. One would have to assume that they received stiff competition from the graphite pencils, which began in a very rudimentary fashion in the late 16th century, with the discovery of graphite in England. Though the graphite pencil was a much more effective writing instrument when compared to these "writing leads," these mass-produced "writing leads" might have been much more affordable and within the financial reach of the average family.

These well-formed, mass-produced, "writing leads" might have been important to America from England. This is underscored by two facts. First, there is no documentation that a "writing lead" industry ever existed within the Americas. Second, a well-formed, mass-produced, "writing lead" has been discovered on a western Massachusetts archaeological site with a dated context of 1778-1805 and then 1820 to 1876 [see photographs below].

We are trying to determine when these well-formed, mass-produced, "writing leads" might have been exported from England to the Americas and when they were in use in the Americas. Please let me know if you know of any archaeological or metal-detected sites that have uncovered these well-formed, mass-produced, "writing leads," as pictured

below. I can be contacted at frank.e.white@accenture.com or 973-301-1420. Thank you for your interest and collaboration in this exciting area.

Frank White



## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### ***Forgotten Bones: Uncovering a Slave Cemetery***

Millbrook Press in Minneapolis, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, has published a children's book, *Forgotten Bones: Uncovering a Slave Cemetery* by Lois M. Huey. It is designed for school libraries and is intended for children in grades 5 through 7. The book is a description of the discovery and rescue excavation in 2005 of burials in a slave cemetery near the Schuyler Flatts site, occupied first by Arant van Curler and then by members of the Schuyler family from 1672 to the early 20th century. It is believed the burials date from the late 18th century and were Schuyler family slaves. Remains of 14 skeletons were recovered by Hartgen Archeological Associates and were subsequently analyzed by Lisa Anderson of the New York State Museum. Gay Malin created facial reconstructions from the skulls. The DNA of

one woman indicates some of her ancestors included Mic-Mac Indians. Evidence of disease, injuries, and other physical characteristics of the bones are compared with the slave burials in the African Burial Ground in New York City and in a slave cemetery discovered in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 2003. These three pre-1800 slave cemeteries are the only ones known to have been excavated and studied in the North. The bones of the slaves at the Schuyler Flatts indicate those slaves were hard-worked but were generally quite healthy, in contrast to the slaves in the African Burial Ground in New York City, whose bones show evidence of poor health, beatings, and injuries.

The complete text of the 500-page report, *The History and Archeology, 1974-1994, of Crailo State Historic Site*, Rensselaer, New York by Lois M. Feister and Paul R. Huey is now available on-line at the New York State Library Web site. Go to the Web site at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/elecres.htm> and click on "Catalogue." Then on the next screen enter part of the title such as "History and Archeology, 1974-1994" as a phrase and click on Search. This brings up a screen with the catalogue entry. Click on the URL link. This brings up a link for the pdf file; then click on the title (top line). The next screen shows the text, but for reading click "Open Print Document." Crailo State Historic Site, located on the east side of the Hudson River opposite the city of Albany, contains evidence of late prehistoric and early 17th-century Indian occupation followed by Dutch occupation beginning with Domine Megapolensis in 1643.

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Massachusetts

Reported by: Linda M. Ziegenbein

### **Digging Northampton's History: the Parsons House Archaeology Project**

[Submitted by Linda Ziegenbein, University of Massachusetts-Amherst]

"Digging Northampton's History" was a community archaeology project conducted at the Parsons House in Northampton, Massachusetts, under the direction of Linda Ziegenbein. It was funded by a Mass Humanities Project Grant and targeted fundraising by Historic Northampton, Inc. The Parsons House was constructed in 1719 by Nathaniel Parsons, the grandson of Cornet Joseph Parsons, one of the founders of the city of Northampton in western Massachusetts. Like many historic homes, it has undergone significant alteration as the needs of its owners changed over its 300-year history. This has included the addition, alteration, and removal of doors, windows, and living spaces.

Over forty people made their home there, including one period in the late 18th century where as many as sixteen people, primarily three generations of women and children,

were living in the house together. It was decided to Historic Northampton upon the death of Anna Catherine Bliss, its last homeowner, in 1941. Historic Northampton, Inc. used it as exhibition space until recently when it has been used for storage. One of its ells continues to be a rented residence.

Recent inspection of the house revealed that the sill supporting the northern wall was disintegrating, causing the wall to sink and pull away from the house. Repair of the sill would require expansion of the basement and, therefore, excavation of soil below the house to a depth of eight feet. Since the house has a historic preservation restriction, archaeological investigation of the impacted area was required. Nancy Rexford, acting Director of Historic Northampton, Inc., approached Linda Ziegenbein about leading a project there. "Digging Northampton's History" was created as a way to involve the public in an archaeological project that centered on understanding the lives of women and children in Colonial New England.

Over three weeks, between May 19 and June 6, project archaeologists Mary Larkum, Elena Sesma, Jill Zuckerman, and Linda Ziegenbein excavated twenty-two 1x1-m units and five shovel test pits with the help of nine third- and fourth-grade classes from the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, Leeds Elementary School, and R.K. Finn Ryan Road Elementary School, students from North Star Center for Independent Learning, and forty volunteers from the general public. Instrumental to the success of the project was labor generously donated from members of the professional archaeological community, including Evan Taylor, Eric Johnson, Kerry Lynch, Maxine Oland, Peter Ames, and Barker Fariss. Progress on the project was recorded on the project's website ([www.diggingnorthamptonhistory.com](http://www.diggingnorthamptonhistory.com)), Facebook page, and Twitter handle. Over the course of three weeks, over four hundred people visited the site.

Test units were distributed randomly throughout the rear yard area of the house and beneath the removed floor of the kitchen inside of the house. Soil stratigraphy revealed a buried plowzone typical of this area in New England with artifacts dating from the late 18th through early 21st centuries. Within the rear yard area, there was evidence of significant alteration of the landscape and what came to be revealed as the foundation of a no-longer extant lean-to housing a summer kitchen along the northern wall of the house.

Artifact analysis is ongoing but preliminarily it appears as though the majority of the artifacts excavated relate to the mid-19th century occupation of the house. Surprisingly,

Artifact analysis is ongoing but preliminarily it appears as though the majority of the artifacts excavated relate to the mid-19th century occupation of the house. Surprisingly,



Figure 1. The archaeological process as drawn by Elena, a third-grade student at R.K. Finn Ryan Road Elementary School. She writes, "I learned that archaeology is the study of rocks, minerals and old stuff. I troweled and found lots of bricks. I cleaned lots of vases and glass. I also saw a cat."



Figure 2. Units Y37, Y38, and Y39, showing foundation stones of the summer kitchen.



Figure 3. Unit Y19, showing cow mandible, bottle base, and brick.



Figure 4. *Emily L., another student at R.K. Finn Ryan Road Elementary School, writes, “I learned how people used to live in the olden days, how they ate, how they dumped their food out, and what they played with. I had so much fun learning about the house and Jill was so amazing. My favorite part was digging. Thank you.”*

given the number of children who lived in the house, no material culture that can be directly attributed to them such as clay marbles or doll fragments was recovered. Most of the artifacts were related to domestic activities (i.e., sewing pins, ceramic sherds, bottle glass) or building or construction episodes (i.e., nails and bricks). A great number of faunal remains were recovered which will contribute to knowledge of dietary practice and preference. Chert flakes were recovered from deeper levels of the units, but were very few in number. Regardless, they were a cogent reminder of the Native peoples who have long called this area “home.”

Following completion of the final report, Linda Ziegenbein will visit the partners’ schools to update the students on the project and will present a public talk at Historic Northampton to present the findings. More information on the project can be found on the project website [www.diggingnorthamptonhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.diggingnorthamptonhistory.wordpress.com).

### Emily Dickinson Museum

In 2016 Archaeological Services of the University of Massachusetts will again offer a summer field school in historical archaeology at the Emily Dickinson Museum, home of the renowned poet in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Last May excavation focussed on areas of the property where structures have stood and which the museum is interested in reconstructing. These consisted of a conservatory built onto the house mid-nineteenth century for Emily and her sister by their father; and also a large barn with attached ells for car-

riages, worker housing, and animals. Test pits confirmed use of one part of the site for an early twentieth-century tennis court, revealing an iron artifact which proved to be a tennis court line marker made by the British company of William Whitely. The museum plans a historically appropriate orchard for that area.

The upcoming Field School may continue investigation in the conservatory location where eighteenth-century delftware, other ceramics, and numerous clay pipes were found, whose deposition is likely associated with inhabitants of a house on the site which predated the 1813 Dickinson dwelling. Excavation will also continue behind the house with the goal of locating evidence for a more exact location for the former barn.

During the 2016 UMass Summer Field School, students will learn the fundamentals of archaeological field and laboratory research, as well as the presentation of archaeological research to the public. In addition to excavation and artifact processing, the schedule will include discussions of readings, guest speakers, plus several field trips.

Through their research, students assist the museum in developing reconstructions of the historic landscape and the history of land use at the site from ancient times through the Twentieth Century, with an emphasis on the period of Emily Dickinson’s residence there. More generally, the Field School contributes to ongoing research on the history and anthropology of the Connecticut River Valley region as part of the University’s longstanding archaeological research program begun in the 1970s.

The 6-credit course running 4 weeks in early summer is offered through UMass Continuing and Professional Education and the UMass Department of Anthropology. It is open to all, aged 18 or over, for a maximum of 12 participants, although preference is given to ‘5-college’ students, anthropology majors, and upper class members. For further information see upcoming posts on the UMass Amherst Anthropology Department website: [www.umass.edu/anthro/fieldschool\\_files/maininfo.html](http://www.umass.edu/anthro/fieldschool_files/maininfo.html) or contact Field Director Dr. Elizabeth Harlow ([eharlow@umass.edu](mailto:eharlow@umass.edu)).

### Plymouth

[Submitted by Christa Beranek, Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston]

In 2015, a field school from the University of Massachusetts Boston, in partnership with Plimoth Plantation, undertook a third season of work in Plymouth as part of Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey. The project was just awarded a three-year Collaborative Research Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Our proposed work includes reanalysis of previously excavated collections and site survey and excavation leading up to the 400th anniversary of New England’s first permanent English settle-

ment in 1620, the founding of Plymouth Colony. The project is directed by David Landon, of the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research at UMass Boston, with the assistance of Christa Beranek, John Steinberg, and Brian Damiata.

The goal of our field research is to identify parts of the 17th-century palisade wall that encircled the fort and encompassed the original colonial Plymouth settlement, or to find some features of the 17th-century settlement itself. Since the 17th-century settlement is under the modern downtown this will be challenging, and we expect that areas of preservation will be discontinuous and may be small. In addition to providing specific information about the location of 17th-century features, we hope to answer questions about how the colonists used and altered the environment, the creation of the colonial landscape, and the interaction between colonists and Native people.

The 2015 season's work was focused on School Street at the eastern edge of Burial Hill in downtown Plymouth (Figure 1), with geophysical survey at two other potential sites. Significantly, this year we identified two areas where early deposits have been preserved on Burial Hill. One excavation unit contained intact deposits from Native American occupation of Burial Hill including Native ceramic, lithic flakes, and a few partial tools. We do not plan to carry out any more work in this area because Native sites are outside of the scope of the project at this time. The other early deposit was part of what seems to be an early colonial feature, a segment of a small pit or trench. Part of this feature continues beyond the edge of the 2015 excavation area; the other end was truncated by later construction or demolition. It contained very few artifacts, primarily Native ceramic sherds, but the disturbed material redeposited above and adjacent to the feature includes some 17th-century colonial artifacts including a marked smoking pipe. The pipe had an RB mark surrounding a dagger and a heart (Figure 2). The mark stands for Richard Berryman, whose pipes were made in Bristol, England, between 1619 and 1652. Pipes with the same mark were found in Ferryland, a 17th-century English colony in Newfoundland (see [www.colonyofavalon.ca](http://www.colonyofavalon.ca)), and another example may have been found in Plymouth during the 1972 excavations at the Allerton/Cushman Site.

The fort atop Burial Hill (formerly Fort Hill) was established during the first years of the Plymouth colony, and the village and palisade ran down the hill towards Plymouth Bay. The fort was used for the town's defense through the time of the King Phillip's War in the 1670s. Afterward, the hill became a burial ground with gravestones dating back to the 1680s. We have been working along the edges of the property to avoid disturbing any of the historic graves and monuments on Burial Hill, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. The location of the fort at the top of the hill and the path and nature of the palisade wall have only been estimated and their exact locations are unknown.



Figure 1. UMass Boston graduate students Katie Wagner and Joe Trebilcock drawing the profile of a unit where we located the edge of the cut for the 19th-century buildings along School Street (left, east) with preserved older deposits to the west.



Figure 2. The marked RB pipe bowl.

In the 18th and 19th centuries a series of buildings were situated along School Street. The buildings included houses, two schools, and several large stables and warehouses. These were removed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The construction and removal of these buildings cut deep into the hillside, removing any older deposits within the building footprints and in some cases for a significant distance behind the buildings. Identifying an area where older deposits remained was a significant milestone, and we plan to return to this area in 2016.

Two UMass Boston MA students also completed thesis projects during the 2014-2015 academic year, examining existing collections from the Plymouth area. Meredith Luze restudied the material from a Native site on the grounds of Plimoth Plantation and conducted in-depth interviews with members of the Plantation's Wampanoag Indigenous Program about their knowledge of the site, use of archaeological data in museum interpretation, and feelings about archaeology. Kellie Bowers analyzed artifacts that might have been part of colonist-Native interaction from three 17th-century colonial sites in Plymouth County (the Winslow, Allerton, and RM sites), including cut and shaped copper scrap and several other categories of goods that might have been exchanged.

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Luze, Meredith P., "Living the History: The Role of Archaeology in the Interpretation of the Wampanoag Homesite at Plimoth Plantation" (2015). UMass Boston Graduate Masters Theses. Paper 319. [http://scholarworks.umb.edu/masters\\_theses/319](http://scholarworks.umb.edu/masters_theses/319)

#### **Archaeological Site Evaluation of the John Friend Gristmill Site, Beverly**

[Submitted by Suzanne G. Cherau, PAL Senior Archaeologist]

John Daly, PAL Senior Industrial Historian, and Suzanne Cherau, PAL Senior Archaeologist, assisted by T. Arron Kotlensky, Industrial Archaeologist, conducted an archaeological site evaluation of the John Friend Gristmill Site (MHC #BEV.HA.5) in Beverly, Massachusetts. The site is located in the intertidal zone of the Bass River off Elliott Street adjacent to property formerly owned and occupied by the United Shoe Machine Company. The 2015 investigations consisted of archival research, including interviews with members of the Tide Mill Institute and the Beverly Historical Society regarding the history of the site and tide mill operations; and field investigations, including a walkover survey with close ground inspection and Total Station mapping and photography of structural remains visible at low tide in the adjacent tidal flats.



The origins of the John Friend Gristmill Site have been traced back to the mid-1600s, when John Friend petitioned the town of Salem to construct a gristmill and dam on the Bass River in what is now part of Beverly. The seventeenth-century tide mill and dam at Elliott Street may have been moved slightly to the south by subsequent owners, but it was kept active as a grain or gristmill by several different owners through the eighteenth and most of the nineteenth centuries. Prominent Beverly owners of the mill site in addition to John Friend were the Leaches, the Woodburys, and the Dodges. The Dodges were father and son millers who operated the tide mill for grain production from 1848 until it burned in 1885 and were responsible for upgrading it with a grain elevator, possibly the first of its kind in the state of Massachusetts. Meal, bran, and flour were produced at the mill for local consumption and for maritime export in the nineteenth century. The John Friend Gristmill Site is known locally and regionally as an important industrial, agricultural, and maritime landmark in Beverly, although its location was part of Salem until 1753.



The archaeological site evaluation focused on recording in situ structural features that were visible on the surface and/or required only minimal hand excavation to uncover in the intertidal area south of Elliott Street. These features encompass a roughly rectangular area that measures 175 feet (53 meters) by 100 feet (30.5 meters), or 17,500 square feet (1,626 square meters), approximately centered on the densest group of surviving timber piles immediately west of a modern culvert structure. Visible mapped features within the intertidal area south of the road embankment consist of dry-laid stone wall segments; surviving timber piles, sheet piling and timbers; the exposed shaft and coupling for the mill's turbine; and an incomplete bed (or lower) millstone. These remains are most likely associated with the final iteration of the mill and its active commercial use between the 1850s and 1890s under the Dodge family ownership and later non-milling owners. Intact site features associated with the nineteenth-century mill and the dam, and possibly earlier seventeenth- and eighteenth-century components, could be buried within the current Elliott Street embankment and under paved street surfaces.

The documentary and archaeological data collected during the 2015 site evaluation were sufficient to determine the integrity and significance of the John Friend Gristmill Site and its recommended eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and D, and possibly C. Its demonstrated period of significance is from the 1850s to the 1880s, under the Dodge family ownership, but could extend into the eighteenth century and even seventeenth century, if earlier buried components are present in the intertidal zone or within the adjacent street embankment and/or road right-of-way. The mill site's history and the archaeological features identified on the surface of the site together represent the industrial development of tidal power by local entrepreneurs for milling grain and thereby make a significant contribution to local economic trends that were otherwise unachievable, because the immediate area lacked suitable upland waterpower sites.

PAL staff John Daly and Suzanne Cherau will be presenting the results of the archaeological investigations at the annual Tide Mill Institute Conference on November 6 and 7, 2015 at the Cummings Center in Beverly, Massachusetts.

### **1645 Boston Latin School Master's House Found in Downtown Boston**

[Submitted by Joe Bagley, Boston City Archaeologist]

A team of volunteers at the City Archaeology Program led by the City Archaeologist surveyed the front yard of Old City Hall in Downtown Boston seeking additional information at the former site of Boston Latin School, the first public school in the United States. Several test trenches revealed complex urban cultural deposits spanning the entirety of Boston's 400 year history including the foundations of the 1645 Latin School's Schoolmaster's house, a nearby structure used for

legal offices in the early 19th century, and intact soils from a small portion of undeveloped land in downtown. Additional survey is planned for the spring of 2016. Five intact cowrie shells were recovered from 18th century deposits likely associated with two slaves owned by a former school master, Nathaniel Williams, from 1703-1734.

### **Privy of 1859 Industrial School for Girls Excavated**

[Submitted by Joe Bagley, Boston City Archaeologist]

Ahead of development of an extant Industrial School for Girls in Boston, a team of volunteers at the City Archaeology Program led by the City Archaeologist conducted a phase 1 and 2 survey of the former carriage house foundation behind the 1859-1943 school. The school was attended by poor girls aged 6-15, with an artifact assemblage recovered associated exclusively with these girls from between 1859 and c. 1880. An intact privy measuring 1.2x5 meters was found and excavated in its entirety as well as an extensive household trash deposit found nearby. The two deposits differed dramatically in material culture though they overlap in their depositional history. The trash deposit contained almost exclusively domestic ceramics and glass from kitchen and dining practices, whereas the privy contained almost exclusively personal items from the girls who attended the school, including thousands of beads, buttons, and toys. An extensive assemblage of sewing-related artifacts as well as a wide variety of dolls from c. 1860-1880 is providing a unique insight into these girls' lives. Artifact processing and report production are ongoing.

## **New Hampshire**

Reported by: Dennis Howe

### **Enfield Shaker Village**

[Submitted by David Starbuck, Plymouth State University]

Enfield was one of two Shaker Villages in New Hampshire, founded in 1793 to foster a communal life style that promoted equality between the sexes and races, celibacy, communal ownership of property, farming and craft industries. The 3,000-acre village overlooking Mascoma Lake was an idyllic setting for the community which once numbered as many as 300 inhabitants, occupying over 100 buildings. The largest Enfield residential building, the six-story Great Stone Dwelling (completed in 1841), was once the tallest domestic building north of Boston.

While excavations have been conducted at several other Shaker Villages, the first professional archaeology began in Enfield in the summer of 2015, conducted as a field school through the auspices of Plymouth State University. This research focused upon the remains of the 1818 Trustees' Office (located directly in front of the Great Stone Dwelling). It was here where the Shaker Trustees sold goods to the World's People; maintained a substantial kitchen where meals could be prepared; and operated work rooms where small manufactured items were produced for sale in the store.



*Excavating in front of the Great Stone Dwelling at Enfield Shaker Village.*

Field work in 2015 exposed the extensive remains of this building's foundations, together with an interior brick wall and Shaker artifacts lying on the cellar floor. It is anticipated that a broader range of sites will be examined in 2016, including the Shakers' mill system.

## **New York**

Reported by: Lois Huey

### **Crown Point**

[Submitted by Paul Huey]

In June 2015 Paul Huey and Chris Miller excavated at a site adjacent to Crown Point State Historic Site on private land, an area of sites threatened by relic hunters with metal detectors and by the potential for private development in the future. The excavation revealed the brick fragment remains apparently of a brick fireplace within a soldiers' hut of ca. 1759-1762. A hickory tree growing in the fireplace had thoroughly churned and disturbed any pattern in the brick. No hut walls were found, but the artifacts from the site include faunal remains, hand-wrought rose-head nails, a few pieces of window glass, bottle glass, two gunflints, and dozens of fragments of scratch-blue white salt-glazed stoneware saucers. Curiously, no other ceramics were found. An analysis of maps and drawings indicates the strong possibility the site was a part of the Rogers' Rangers camp of 1759 to 1760. The draft of a complete report on the project has been completed.

### **Lake George Battlefield Park**

[Submitted by David Starbuck, Plymouth State University]

Fort George was meant to halt French advances from Canada during the French and Indian War (1754-63). Positioned on high ground at the southern end of Lake George, the construction of this British fort by Colonel James Montrossor of The Royal Engineers began in the summer of 1759 on the orders of General Jeffery Amherst who commanded an 11,000-man army. If completed, it would have become the

largest British fort in North America. However, Amherst's army successfully took Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga) that summer, and only one enormous corner bastion was actually completed. This bastion contained a solitary barracks building, and other rooms were added and occupied even as British and Colonial armies came and went. The final destruction of Fort George came in 1780 at the hands of a raiding party from Canada.

The ruins of Fort George were visited by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and numerous others, until finally a substantial stabilization effort occurred in the 1920s. Now managed within the Lake George Battlefield Park by the State of New York, the scenic ruins of Fort George are an annual attraction for the thousands of summer visitors to Lake George. Still, until recently there was no awareness of what might have survived from the barracks or later construction, even though this had become known as the only British fort on Lake George to have spanned both major 18th-century wars.

This image began to change in the summer of 2001 when the State University of New York at Adirondack excavated a few pits in the entrance to the bastion, followed by much more extensive testing in the summer of 2015. Earlier digs directed by David Starbuck and SUNY Adirondack at other, contemporary British sites in Lake George and nearby Fort Edward had only revealed the charred remains of log walls from the short-term forts that dotted the British frontier in the 1750s. This did not prepare archaeologists for the substantial, well-mortared stone walls that were discovered in 2015 inside the bastion of Fort George, where British and Colonial soldiers had sheltered themselves for at least 22 years. What appear to be below-ground casemate rooms – probably for the storage of supplies and munitions – are surrounded by walls that are nearly five feet thick and at least six feet high.



*Excavating walls inside the bastion of Fort George.*

While tourist artifacts are abundant in the shallower soil layers, much collapsed building debris (quarried stones and mortar) lies underneath. Finally, at the very base of the stone walls, scattered atop the natural bedrock, lie soldiers' artifacts that include tin-glazed earthenware pottery sherds, buttons, butchered bones, musket balls and gunflints. The solitary lives of British and American soldiers on the northern frontier of Colonial America are becoming a little bit clearer, and we now know this is one of the few settings in northern New York where the British army built relatively permanent architecture.

## Maryland

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

### St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City is pleased to announce a new publication available for download from its web site. *Archaeological Excavations of the Print House Building, Slave Quarter Site (18ST1-14)* by Timothy B. Riordan and Silas D. Hurry with contributions by Katherine Cavallo and Sara Rivers Cofield (2015). This color illustrated publication is 149 pages with 86 figures and 32 tables. It details the archaeology and artifact analyses of this significant site in Maryland's first capital. Included are discussions of the architecture and an analysis of both the printing type recovered and the wide array of ceramics represented. The report is available for free download from: [www.hsmcdigshistory.org](http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org).

### Vienna

While clearing debris under the Nanticoke Memorial Bridge in Vienna on Maryland's Eastern Shore, State Highway Administration workers uncovered one of the oldest Maryland-built shipwrecks ever discovered, made in the 18th century. While removing debris in 30 feet of water, workers noticed pieces they suspected were ship timbers. When State Highway Association archaeologists arrived, they found an intact keel, frames and other pieces of the wreck on a construction barge.

The use of wooden pegs in the ship's construction indicates its age, the SHA said in a release. Details such as saw marks and carved symbols in the wood are still visible. By looking at growth rings in the timber archaeologists were able to determine it was cut from trees along the coast of the Chesapeake Bay, between the Potomac River and Annapolis. The vessel is likely a 45-foot merchant ship, built at a plantation or small shipyard as a precursor to Chesapeake Bay cargo-carrying pilot schooners and the Baltimore Clipper.

"The inadvertent discovery of this shipwreck is an amazing opportunity to study early maritime history. It reminds us how Marylanders used to move goods and people across the region. It's not every day we get to touch a shipwreck built more than 200 years ago," said Julie Schablitsky, SHA chief

archaeologist in a statement. Archaeologists are virtually reconstructing what the ship looked like before it sank. (Excerpted from *DelmarvaNow*, August 24, 2015)

### Statewide

The Artifacts of Outlander - The staff of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum (JPPM) are huge fans of the Outlander book series by Diana Gabaldon, and the new Outlander television series on Starz has inspired us. Outlander features a Scotland bristling under English political control in the 1740s. By that time, Maryland had been an English colony for 100 years, and within a few decades, Maryland would also struggle to overthrow English rule. Scotland and Maryland represented economic assets to England, and laws and taxation ensured that these regions relied on English goods. Colonial artifacts found by archaeologists in Maryland are therefore not so different than ones you might find in 1740s Scotland.

The MAC Lab is a State-owned facility serving as the primary repository for collections excavated in Maryland. Artifacts come to the MAC Lab from every part of the state, and many of the most impressive assemblages date to the 18th century. For this traveling exhibit, we have taken some of our favorite finds from colonial Maryland out of storage to show how they compare to the 18th-century Scotland depicted in Starz's Outlander. The display features horse tack, drinking glasses, firearms, clothing fasteners, wig hair curlers, and rare organic survivals such as 18th-century corks and leather. Period dramas often need to take creative license with sets and costumes in order to facilitate the filming process, and while these compromises can frustrate history buffs looking for a 100% realistic depiction of the past, Maryland's artifacts prove that much of the material in Outlander is spot-on. Those of us who immerse ourselves in the past for a living have good reason to celebrate this series as we study and care for the tangible remains of Maryland's colonial heritage.



The Artifacts of Outlander exhibit opened in the JPPM Visitor's Center on April 25th to coincide with the Celtic Festival, and over 200 people came to see it that day. Since then, the exhibit has been traveling to regional libraries in Maryland and getting the word out about the unique resources at JPPM and the MAC Lab. The exhibit can be viewed at the CNEHA reception on November 6th and at the St. Mary's County Library in Leonardtown through December. We are thankful to Starz for their support of this exhibit as we tap into public enthusiasm for the series to promote Maryland's archaeological collections.

### **University of Maryland, College Park**

Over the past several years, many archaeologists have begun to realize how well archaeology and oral history work together. Just as we do with written records, we can use these two sources of data to confirm understandings of the past, complicate them, or to fill in blank spots in one data type or the other. Oral history can help to interpret archaeological remains, while excavation and its products often spur recollections among community members. In our annual archaeological field school this summer, Archaeology in Annapolis offered an additional segment in oral history that proved immensely fruitful.

This summer, the University of Maryland excavated at two different sites. Stefan Woehlke and Tracy Jenkins, both doctoral students at the University of Maryland, directed the field school and Trish Markert, who recently completed her Master's work at Maryland, directed the oral history component. The first of these was a post-Emancipation black tenant farm on the campus of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland, where we had the additional help of Sarah Janesko, who is completing her University of Maryland Master's internship there. In 2014, U of M had documented the ruins of the pier-set timber frame farmhouse and ascertained the bounds of the site with an STP survey and preliminary test units. In June 2015, in addition to four new test units along the front and side of the house directed by Stefan Woehlke, Trish Markert created an oral history training program and led students in interviews with former residents of the SERC property. Some highlights of the interviews included information about the structure of community social networks through churches, employment, and family and about subsistence strategies in the rural farmland outside Annapolis in the mid-20th century. One of the interviewees offered specific information about the use of pits in the ground—not quite root cellars—to store food and about the extensive use of wood as a fuel source. Another interviewee knew who lived at the site we were excavating. Although no one we interviewed had actually lived at the cabin we were excavating, their personal knowledge of the area, its places, and its people provided both general context and cues for interpreting specific archaeological features.

Following the three weeks at SERC, the University of Mary-

land excavated for three weeks at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Easton, Maryland. Their work there is part of an ongoing community-based, interdisciplinary project to document and preserve black heritage in which there is a significant oral history component that has produced such research questions as the origins of the community, the network of black-owned businesses, and the relationship between free black people and Quakers. In addition, Tracy Jenkins has worked closely with members of Bethel's congregation to keep them informed about our discoveries and provide opportunities for them to offer avenues of inquiry and interpretation. He has attended worship several times, often bringing artifacts to pass around. Current and past members of the church often stopped by the site during the excavation and offered their reminiscences of the property. This is how we were able to identify toys from 20th-century contexts with the playground for a Head Start program run out of the church in past years, and how we learned that a building whose foundation appeared in a test unit was a parsonage. Many church members recalled the parsonage's destruction in the 1980s and from the ironstone and a belt buckle in the builder's trench we dated the house's construction to around 1860. On seeing the parsonage foundation, one older man recalled playing with the pastor's kids in the coal bins out back. Likewise, the remains of a chamber pot in the fill above a 1930s sewer pipe trench at another house on the property reminded another woman of her trips to her grandmother's house in Hampton, Virginia, where even in the 1970s there was no running water; instead they set aside a room with a chamber pot in it.

These and more are examples of the benefits of linking archaeology with oral history. Doing so helps to bridge the frequent gap between archaeological history and the community descendants whose own experiences can seem quite removed from the past we say belongs to them. Based on field observations and what we learned from the oral history interviews, materials from both SERC and Bethel Church are being curated and catalogued in the Archaeology in Annapolis laboratory at the University of Maryland Department of Anthropology in College Park. These data form the basis for ongoing research into African-American experiences.

### **Virginia**

Reported by: David A. Brown

#### **DIG! Kids, Dirt, & Discovery**

[Submitted by Meredith Poole, Department of Architectural and Archaeological Research, Colonial Williamsburg]

Colonial Williamsburg is engaging its visiting public this summer with a new program called "DIG! Kids, Dirt, & Discovery." Designed for children 5-16, this hands-on program focuses on the Archibald Blair Storehouse—an early 18th century brick cellar that has been dug twice previously. In each instance (1930 and 1946), it was the architecture that concerned excavators; after carefully drawing and photo-



*Kids participate in the ongoing excavations at the Archibald Blair Storehouse. Photo credit: Fred Blystone.*

graphing the cellar, both the fill and artifacts were tossed back.

This unstratified material offers a unique opportunity for public engagement. Each weekday, five sessions of twenty participants assist in the Blair storehouse cellar’s “re-re-excavation.” Following a brief introduction to the site’s history and an explanation of archaeological tools and methods, kids excavate (under an archaeologist’s supervision) for 20 minutes, screen, and then retreat to lab tables where finds are sorted and explored as sources of information about the property’s long and varied history. Each program lasts about 50 minutes.

In its first month, “DIG! Kids, Dirt, & Discovery” has enjoyed enormous popularity. As many as 500 children have been engaged each week, and there has been surprising appreciation and excitement over the smallest bits of evidence— ceramic fragments, nails, coal, bottle glass, oyster shells, brick bats, mortar, as well as tobacco pipe stems, the occasional button or marble, and more modern artifacts. A display case at Colonial Williamsburg’s Visitor Center will soon allow participants to share what they’ve learned about material culture with a wider audience.

This has been an unusual experiment. Proposed by Colonial Williamsburg’s new administration as a way to involve young guests, the idea of a hands-on excavation was met with skepticism and some resistance by Colonial Williamsburg’s archaeologists. It has required negotiation on both sides to create a workable and ethical program—and aspects will likely be tweaked throughout the summer. While enormously labor intensive, the resulting program is showing signs of positively affecting children’s impressions of archaeology.



*Meredith Poole helps children identify artifacts. Photo credit: Fred Blystone.*

### **Excavations at Monticello’s North Dependency**

[Submitted by Crystal Ptacek and Beatrix Arednt]

An unusually cold and snowy winter did not deter Monticello’s archaeologists in the quest to advance our knowledge of Jefferson’s mountaintop. From November through January, our intrepid crew of archaeological field assistants, led by Field Research Manager Crystal Ptacek, explored the North Dependency, the enclosed space under the north terrace whose construction was completed around 1809. The terrace and dependency below it connected the main house with the North Pavilion. Documents suggest that North Dependency was essentially a garage. Jefferson designed it to provide shelter both for visitors’ carriages and horses and for his own carriages. Prior to its completion, the closest space for horses and carriages available to Jefferson and his visitors was the



Figure 1: *Cross-trenches at the North Dependency in 1938.*

stable located on the far eastern end of Mulberry Row, a long walk from the main house. The North Dependency was a much more convenient spot.

Despite Jefferson's voluminous writings, the actual layout of the space under the North Dependency is uncertain. The stables that exist today are a reconstruction from 1940, designed by restoration architect Milton Grigg and based on the early-nineteenth century stables at John Hartwell Cocke's nearby Breemo Plantation. Grigg's use of Breemo as a model made sense, since Cocke employed many of the same skilled workers who built Monticello for Jefferson.

Grigg's restoration emphasized horse stalls. In contrast, two key Jefferson documents indicate he intended to use most of the space for carriages rather than for horses. In one of Jefferson's plans thought to date to 1802, he specified nine "cells," or bays, for his chariot, double Phaeton, single Phaeton, gigger, and sulky. Two additional bays were for "stranger's carriages," two for horses, and one for a store-room (see [http://www.masshist.org/thomasjeffersonpapers/doc?id=arch\\_N540&mode=lgImg](http://www.masshist.org/thomasjeffersonpapers/doc?id=arch_N540&mode=lgImg)). Jefferson suggested an alternative layout in the margin of his 1809 letter to local Charlottesville merchant James Leitch that included several stables, a saddle room, and a coach room (TJ to James Leitch, 24 June 1809).

There have been two previous excavation campaigns. Prior to the North Dependency reconstruction, Grigg dug cross trenches across the area in a zig-zag pattern (Figures 2 and 3). Like his contemporary digging architects at Colonial Williamsburg, he used cross trenches in hopes of maximizing his chances of finding brick walls (for more on cross trenching at Monticello, see: <http://www.monticello.org/site/blog-and-community/posts/archaeology-mulberry-row-%E2%80%93-little-history-part-1>). While a photograph shows the bags of artifacts Grigg's workmen found, those artifacts are now missing. Grigg located what he thought was the original sill



Figure 2: *Archaeologist with excavated quadrants in the North Dependency.*



Figure 3: *Artifacts found at the North Dependency-Stable excavations. (L-R): Cow's tooth, British stoneware vessel fragment, dark green bottle base fragment, bone utensil handle fragment; transfer printed pearlware, copper button, slate pencil.*

for the long-vanished frame north wall of the dependency. Forty years later, Monticello's Archaeology Department, under the leadership of Dr. William Kelso, sought to find evidence for a formal carriage turnaround in the yard north of the dependency. A conjectural plan drawn by Jefferson in the 1770s shows this feature ([http://www.masshist.org/thomasjeffersonpapers/doc?id=arch\\_N61&mode=lgImg](http://www.masshist.org/thomasjeffersonpapers/doc?id=arch_N61&mode=lgImg)). However, the lack of any archaeological evidence for it indicates it was never built.

This winter, archaeologists began by gridding the site into 5-foot excavation quadrants. They removed a layer of grey-

ish sediment with a mix of nineteenth- and twentieth-century artifacts. The working hypothesis is that this layer was largely the result of Grigg's excavations and restoration work. Below this layer, archaeologist discerned the outlines of Grigg's backfilled cross trenches and a set of concrete-filled postholes that he designed to support partitions between the restored horse stalls (Figure 2). The postholes and trenches cut through a thin layer of organic sediment containing early to mid-nineteenth-century artifacts, pressed into the underlying decomposing greenstone bedrock that was the floor of the dependency. Archaeologists suspect that this layer documents the use of the dependency during Jefferson's lifetime.

Because we found no evidence of postholes or builder's trenches, we determined that partitions within the Stable were framed on sills that simply rested on the ground surface. We took a vertical column sample of sediment every two and a half feet in each bay. Analysis of the types of chemical elements and the concentrations may reveal where horses were housed as opposed to carriages.

While we have not begun cataloguing the artifacts recovered, selected domestic artifacts, including small sherds of transfer-printed pearlware, mortar, slate, and cut nails as well as an American stoneware storage vessel sherd, green bottle glass, a copper button, animal bone, and a utensil fragment (Figure 3), raise the possibility that enslaved domestics accompanying Jefferson's visitors slept and ate in the dependency. A second but not mutually exclusive hypothesis is that the area became a midden associated with the main house when the dependency roof collapsed after Jefferson's death. Cataloging and analysis of the thousands of artifacts recovered in the excavations will begin in the coming months. As analysis of this work begins, we shifted fieldwork to the Stone Stable on Mulberry Row. The Stable will be the focus of the field school Monticello-UVA Field School, starting June 1. You can track our progress at the Mulberry Row Stable on Facebook!

Figure 1 (right): *Glass "Seed" Bead Recovered in Waterscreen.*

Figure 2 (below): *Panoramic View of Brick Feature (Facing Southeast).*

### Ongoing Excavations at 44FX0704, a mid-Eighteenth Century Site in Fairfax County.

[Submitted by Colchester Archaeological Research Team, Fairfax County Park Authority]

Beginning in January 2015 (with some long, weather-induced breaks), the Fairfax County Park Authority's, Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART) returned to Site 44FX0704, a mid-eighteenth century site located along the Occoquan River approximately one-quarter mile from the former location of the historic port town of Colchester. During an earlier significance evaluation in 2011-2012, CART recommended the site as significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources concurred with this recommendation.

Recognizing the significance of the site and destructive nature of archaeology, CART developed a detailed research design for additional investigation with the goal of better interpreting the site. The purpose of the current work is to expose and map features to better understand structural footprints and the broader intra-site historic landscape. Although no features have been excavated, and only limited feature sampling has been proposed if necessary to characterize form or function, CART waterscreens 100 percent of a seemingly intact destruction horizon through window mesh for maximum artifact recovery. This has resulted in the recovery of several tiny "seed" beads (Figure 1), straight pins, and carbonized seeds that may provide information regarding foodways and/or the native and domesticated historic floral community.



To date, the most striking, and unexpected, discovery of the current investigation has been a large, two arched, brick chimney base and brick wall (Figure 2). The suspected chimney base measures approximately 2.85 m (9.4 ft), exterior to exterior, and is bisected by a perpendicular wall creating two arches with peculiar angles. Square to this base, a brick wall continues approximately 2.07 m (6.8 ft) northeast before turning 90 degrees to the southeast. Southwest of the chimney base, no corresponding brick wall has been identified. Instead, at least one large intrusive feature has been exposed. It is currently unclear whether a wall existed.

Diagnostic artifacts recovered from this site have included white salt-glazed stoneware, English Brown stoneware, decorated tin-glazed earthenware, Staffordshire slipware, Buckley, and creamware, as well as an assortment of hand wrought nails. Functionally the assemblage strongly indicates a domestic occupation. However, the odd angle of the interior arches also allows for divergent interpretations such as some sort of small-scale, cottage industry. It is hoped that as a better picture of the size and construction of the structure is revealed, that the function will become more apparent.

To keep up to date with CART's activities or to volunteer, visit the blog at [www.CARTarchaeology.wordpress.com](http://www.CARTarchaeology.wordpress.com).

### **Joint Base Langley-Eustis**

[Submitted by Christopher McDaid, Archaeologist, Cultural Resource Manager]

It's been a busy year at the Fort Eustis portion of Joint Base Langley-Eustis. By the end of this Fiscal Year we will have conducted 12 archaeological site evaluations in seven different training areas of the installation. The sites were selected after discussion with the Training Division. The field work was conducted mostly by crews from Louis Berger and AECOM (formerly URS). The Fort Eustis team aided by two Christopher Newport University students tested a site that had been misidentified as a Confederate earthwork. This work will bring the number of sites evaluated for the NRHP to 33 out of the 232 sites on base. We are also working to develop a management plan that will provide a framework to address the issue of erosion on the installation. The plan will help us determine the appropriate course of action for the 40 or so archaeological sites we have that are subject to erosion.

We are hosting Mr. Josue Nieves, a graduate student from the William and Mary's Anthropology Department, and Mr. Scott Merrifield, an undergraduate from the Christopher Newport University History Department, as interns for the summer. Scott is performing a variety of tasks, excavating shovel test pits, monitoring archaeological site conditions, architectural survey, artifact analysis, and artifact washing. Josue is re-analyzing artifacts from our 13 seventeenth-century sites. The sites were evaluated for significance by different investigators over a period from 1989 to 2009, so the methodologies and terminologies used by various inves-

tigators are not consistent. Josue's analysis will resolve this difficulty.

We also partnered with the US Army Training and Doctrine Command's Office of Military History to use several of the Civil War Earthworks on the installation as part of a Staff Ride that focused on the 1862 Battle of Yorktown. The Staff Ride is an Army tradition in which soldiers visit historic military locations and discuss various aspects of military history and how the lessons of the past can influence the current military.

### **Virginia Archaeology's Contribution to the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown**

[Submitted by Tom Davidson]

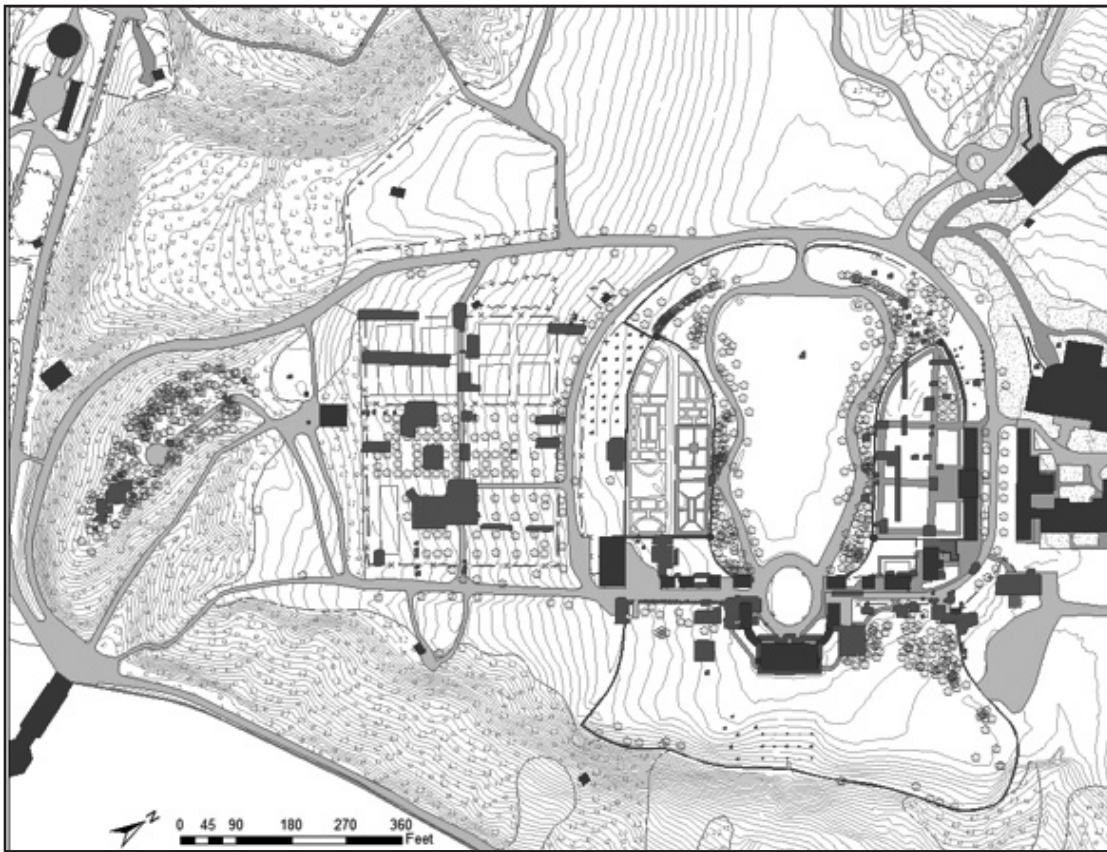
In late 2016 the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation will be opening new permanent galleries at Yorktown that will tell the story of the American Revolution in 22,000 sq. ft. of newly-built exhibit space. The gallery story line will cover the whole Revolution, not just the Revolution in Virginia, but there will be a lot of artifacts from Virginia archaeological sites in the exhibit. Many of the artifacts from the Betsy shipwreck at Yorktown that are now on display at the Victory Center will be appearing again in newly-designed exhibits. There also will be substantial archaeologically-based exhibits on the colonial-era plantation south featuring Virginia artifacts. In all, about 20% of the artifacts that will be displayed in the new Yorktown galleries will be archaeological artifacts, and they will be drawn overwhelmingly from the collections of the DHR, which is working closely with the Foundation on this project.

### **Mount Vernon Archaeology Update (Spring 2015)**

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

This past winter we began a digitization project to organize our archaeological projects (past and present) into a searchable GIS base map. The end product will enable us to synthesize the data we have collected in addition to providing us with a powerful analytical tool for long-term excavation planning and research design. What is more, we will have the ability to run feature queries and establish temporal relationships for our excavations across the historic core of the estate.

To complete this objective, we relied on digitized composite plans done for different projects in years past, and reviewed the field records and plan drawings to ensure that all features were captured in the updated base map. The context records were assigned to each feature as well as a posit field to enable searching. We are working towards creating overall master contexts to assign to features that share temporal relationships which will better show the phases of Mount Vernon's occupation in the map.



Left: Mount Vernon's excavations, 1986-Present.

Below: Trench 18 and brick feature.

Currently 11 of our projects are in the GIS database, including: the Bathroom Project (44FX762/2/4), Spinning House (44FX762/4), Laundry Yard (44FX762/11), Carpenter's Shop (44FX762/13), Kitchen (44FX762/14), Dung Repository (44FX762/15), South Grove Projects – Holly Hole, Midden, and South Lane Fenceline Project (44FX762/17), Mansion Drain (44FX762/49), HVAC (44FX762/50), and the Vineyard Enclosure (44FX763/4). In addition to the major projects, many of our small projects were also integrated into the GIS base map.

Beginning in January 2015, Mount Vernon archaeologists have worked to support the installation of the estate-wide WiFi system. Field work involved a close monitoring of hand-dug trenches on the grounds and mitigating the impact of trenches in the archaeologically sensitive historic core. As the installation draws to a close, 4,158 feet (32 separate trenches) have been dug, and these have all been monitored and digitally mapped by archaeologists.

Though the trenching impacted archaeologically sensitive areas in the site's historic core, most of the digging did not reach a depth to disturb archaeological features. A few of the trenches yielded artifacts which were collected and stored in our secure lab facility. One of the trenches in the south wilderness area (Trench 18) revealed a previously unknown brick foundation or drain (photo 762\_26\_DSC\_0341). The methods of monitoring and recording were a big success and serve as a model we will use for future estate infrastructure projects.





Figure 1. *Students excavating around the standing duplex slave quarter at Sherwood Forest.*

**University of Mary Washington at Sherwood Forest Plantation (44ST615)**

[Submitted by Dr. Lauren McMillan, University of Mary Washington]

The Department of Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington in conjunction with and support from the Walton Group, has initiated a new research field project at Sherwood Forest Plantation in Stafford County, Virginia. Our annual archaeological field school was held on the 1200-acre late-Antebellum plantation from May 18 to June 19, 2015, and a small crew and I will continue investigating the property until late-July focusing on the standing ca. 1845 brick kitchen/quarter and wooden duplex quarter in the historic curtilage (Figure 1).

The property on which Sherwood Forest Plantation is located was first patented in 1667 by Joseph Ball and was passed down through his family for several generations. In the middle of the 18th century, Mary Ball Washington owned 400 acres of the original land grant. The property was eventually inherited by the Downman family in the late-18th century, and Jane Downman acquired the land upon her marriage to Henry Fitzhugh in 1837. The newlyweds began construction of their large brick mansion on top of a ridge overlooking miles of flat farmland leading to the northern banks of the Rappahannock River around 1840. In the midst of the Civil War, Sherwood Forest was occupied by Union troops who used the big house and the surrounding outbuildings as a field hospital in 1862-1863. After the war, the Fitzhughs incurred massive amounts of debt and were forced to sell the property. Sherwood Forest passed through many hands since the late-19th century until it was acquired by the current owners, the Walton Group (Stanton 2007).



Figure 2. *Civil War New York regimental button.*

Located just outside of Fredericksburg’s city limits, the plantation was home to not only the Fitzhughs and other white owners in the 19th and early-20th centuries, but also a large enslaved workforce, Postbellum employees, and later tenants. These are the people on whom this study is centered. While there is a substantial Civil War component to the site (Figure 2), our main focus is to understand the lives of the people who occupied and worked in the domestic sphere of Sherwood Forest Plantation. We have found yard and garden features just outside the backdoor of the kitchen that appear to date to the Antebellum period (Figure 3). We have also found a large and diverse amount of tablewares, both glass and ceramic, and several different types of buttons around the duplex, indicating a wide and varied access to consumer goods throughout the site’s occupation.

Our secondary goal on this project was to document changes in the landscape around the historic plantation core. Above ground features, such as rows of trees, fence lines, and boxwood hedges, indicate fairly substantial changes in the cultural environment sometime after the Fitzhugh ownership, perhaps related to the placement of a late-19th-century family cemetery several hundred feet north of the standing wooden slave quarter. One of the more surprising archaeo-



Figure 3. *Yard features near the kitchen/laundry quarter.*

logical finds is evidence of massive earthmoving episodes in the early-20th century likely related to renovations to the duplex, as indicated by both our 10 ft. interval shovel test survey in the approximately 100 x 50 ft. study area, and by a number of our test units.

There are still many questions to be answered about the landscape and lives of the people who lived in these two buildings. Next on the agenda is to expand our area around the yard and garden features near the kitchen, explore a possible Civil War midden located in the middle of our study area, investigate evidence of a potential sandstone walkway or driveway leading to the cemetery, and shovel testing the area between the kitchen and big house. With three more weeks left in the field, several weeks' worth of lab work, and a technical report to go, I hope to have a more detailed update in a few months.

**References:**

Stanton, Gary

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Report to the Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA.

**Ontario**

Reported by: Eva MacDonald

**A Schooner in Toronto Harbour**

[Submitted by Thanos Webb and David Robertson]

Beginning in March of 2015, Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI) returned to the mid-nineteenth-century site of the Grand Trunk Railway's Queen's Wharf Station, located on the former front of Toronto's harbor to carry out. Previous investigations on the site, carried out in 2011 (see 2012 Winter News) had revealed a portion of the Grand Trunk's engine house, cribbing related to the channelization of Garrison Creek through the station yard, the landward portion of the Queen's Wharf and various elements related to landmaking operations. The 2015 excavations were located on a block of land to the immediate south of the 2011 excavation area, and straddled the 1850s-1870s shore walls established by the Grand Trunk. The main objectives of the 2015 work were to record the remains of the shore walls, structures related to the engineering of the creek, and the offshore portion of Queen's Wharf. This section of the Queen's Wharf was originally constructed in the early 1830s and defined the harbour entrance. Its width was then almost doubled in the 1850s.



Figure 1: *Exposure of the schooner remains adjacent to the 1830s Queen's Wharf*



Figure 2: *View of the starboard side of the schooner at the bow.*

By early May, most of the objectives of the project had been met. But, in keeping with the truism that the most significant find always turns up during the last days few days of any archaeological excavation, the remains of the hull of a double-masted schooner were found on the east side of the Queen’s Wharf (Figures 1 and 2). While not without precedent on the waterfront, it still represented an unexpected find.

The vessel is by no means complete, but the anaerobic environment of her final resting place has resulted in the preservation of a substantial portion of her oak hull. She lay with her bow pointing to the south. Her 50-foot (15 m) long keel terminated with a gracefully curved stempost in the bow, which was found lying on its side. Her sternpost was recovered as well, but it too was detached from the vessel. Only the garboard strake (the first run of planking that is fastened to the keel) and a small portion of the hull near the bow are preserved. On the portside, 31 feet (9.5 m) of the hull, starting at the stempost (bow) and ending aft of amidships includes: eight strakes of outboard planking (2 inches thick) ending at the turn of the bilge; approximately 11 intact double frames including floors and first futtocks, and original ceiling planking along with planking representing later repair work. One uncommon construction feature of the vessel is the presence of a lower and upper keel. The frames and garboard strake are both fastened to the upper keel and the larger, lower keel is fastened to the upper keel with 3 foot (1 m) spikes that first pass through the keelson, floors and upper keel before being embedded deep into the lower keel. Most of the vessel is built from white oak (*Quercus alba*).

Preliminary research suggests that the vessel was initially a centreboard schooner that was converted to a full keel sailing vessel. A centreboard is a wooden plate on a pivot that is retractable within a watertight housing called a trunk. The trunk is built over a slot in the keel or in the hull bottom next to the keel (Amer 2014). In the case of the Queen’s Wharf schooner, preliminary analysis suggests her “upper” keel is slotted. To confirm this hypothesis would require dismantling her hull in order to inspect the keel but other evidence, in the form of a white pine (*Pinus strobus*) sister keelson “patch” corroborates the centerboard theory. Centreboards increase lateral resistance and therefore reduce leeway when tacking or sailing off the wind (Steffy 1994: 269). Retractable centreboard vessels were popular by the 1820s on the Great Lakes (Amer 2014; Karamanski 2000) as they were able to sail the open waters safely, but nevertheless still had very shallow drafts—an important consideration for service in harbours, such as Toronto’s, where berths were not deep.

The identity of the ship is not yet known. Nor is it clear exactly how she arrived at her resting place beside the wharf, or why much of her structure was deliberately demolished. These questions, along with others related to her design and construction will be subjects of on-going research. Current evidence, in the form of a coin deliberately placed in the aft mast step, suggests that she was built in the late 1820s. The



Figure 3: *The U.S. Coronet Head penny recovered from the aft mast step*

coin is a United States Coronet Head one-cent piece of a type generally minted between 1816 and 1839 (Figure 3). While the date has been worn off due to the weight and friction of the mast over time, specific elements of the design identify it as having been minted in 1828. Other artifacts recovered from her bilge are consistent with this dating. If she was not built on Lake Ontario, she could only have entered the lake after the completion of the Second Welland Canal in 1848.

It would seem that the useful service of the vessel had ended by the late 1870s when the shallow waters in which she lay were cut off from the lake by a crib wall shore wall and the area was filled in over the course of the next few decades. It is possible that she ended her life as a barge, for bulk cargo



Figure 4: *Lifting the ship remains for transfer to Fort York National Historic Site.*

such as grain or coal, pulled in a line by a steamer. Such a change certainly would have required removal of her centre-board.

In early June, the remains of the ship were lifted by crane (Figure 4) and transported to the Fort York National Historic Site, where they will be placed underneath the Gardiner Expressway near the entrance to the Visitors' Centre in the former lakeshore zone. It will be an important part of the landscape and programming at Fort York for years to come, and continued study of the remains will undoubtedly yield answers to some of our questions while at the same time presenting new mysteries to be solved.

Amer, C.

2014 "Smaller Vessels Are of No Less Consequence": The Browns Bay Vessel. In *Coffins of the Brave: Lake Shipwrecks of the War of 1812*, edited by K.J. Crisman, pp. 219-235. Texas A&M University Press, College Station. Karamanski, T.J.

2000 *Schooner Passage: Sailing Ships and the Lake Michigan Frontier*. Wayne State University Press, Detroit.

## Atlantic Canada

Reported by: Amanda Crompton

### Shubie Park Public Archaeology Program 2015

[Submitted by Laura de Boer, Industrial Heritage Nova Scotia]

The last weekend of September 2015 marked the second annual Public Archaeology Dig at Shubie Park in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The program, run by Industrial Heritage Nova Scotia (<http://www.industrialheritagens.ca/>) in partnership with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, allowed members of the public to join an archaeology dig free of charge.

The Shubenacadie Canal was conceived in the early nineteenth century as a method of moving vessels and cargo easily between Halifax and the Minas Basin and Bay of Fundy, a trip that was otherwise lengthy and treacherous as it required sailing around Cape Sable. Initial canal construction began in 1826 but halted in 1831 due to bankruptcy, resuming in 1854, and as a result the system was not completed until 1861. The canal functioned as a commercial waterway only until 1870, after which competition with the province's railway network rendered the canal essentially obsolete.

The feature excavated for the public program is thought to be a cottage or more likely a bunkhouse at the south end of the canal worker's camp, occupied by members of the crew of Irish and Scottish labourers and stonemasons only between 1826 and 1831, when the "deep cut" portion of the Canal between Lake Micmac and Lake Charles was being completed. The camp originally included at least eleven structures as indicated on an 1826 map, although it is possible that three of these features were tents while the remaining structures

may have been bunkhouses. Almost all of these buildings, however, are now found on private land and may have been impacted by construction of a row of modern houses along the neighbouring Locks Road.

Thanks to a historic newspaper article recounting a lightning strike in the camp, a little is known about the construction style of one of the bunkhouses found on the north end of the camp. A log or sleeper supported the rafters or roof joists, while the upright posts supporting the walls and roof were of oak. A thin board partition was found adjacent to a row of bunk beds arranged like a barracks, with triple-spaced bunks. It appears that the roof was peaked, covered in planks and then shingled with wooden shakes or slabs.

Prior to the public archaeology event, members of the public were encouraged to sign up in advance for the event and to choose either a morning or afternoon group to join on either Saturday or Sunday. The purpose of dividing the day in this manner was to allow as many people as possible to join the experience while working within the limits of a small site and only four qualified archaeologists to supervise the dig. The morning shift ran 9am to 12pm, while the afternoon shift ran 1pm to 4pm.

It is notable that the volunteers came from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and age groups, including university students, retirees who were interested in history, and parents with young children and even toddlers. For the most part, the act of digging was enough to hold the attention of even the youngest children, even when glass bottle fragments were all that was recovered from a unit. One young girl, perhaps about five or six years old, very proudly discussed the bone collection she had assembled at home, and when a large bone fragment was recovered, we enlisted her help to show it around to all the other diggers, to her great excitement. Another participant, a young boy about three years old, was so dedicated to the excavation that his parents frequently commented they had never seen him so focused on any activity before.

Other participants were park visitors who had not known that a dig was underway, or in some cases had heard about the dig on CBC radio, and when invited they were very happy to join the dig for anywhere from a half-hour to several hours.

In all, we have every reason to believe that this was a very positive experience for all those involved. In fact, almost all participants expressed an interest in participating a second time, should the dig be undertaken again in the future. Two participants at the 2015 dig, pre-teen sisters interested in archaeology and paleontology, had also joined us in 2014. In total, the dig saw 37 volunteer excavators join the dig over the two-day event.

The small scale of the site and short span of time for the dig were conducive to the goals of this project, which was



Figure 1. *Participants learn to excavate in units spanning the width of the bunkhouse foundation.*  
*Photo credit: Vanessa Smith.*

aimed at increasing awareness of our industrial past, in this case the history of the Shubenacadie Canal and the workers who made it happen. The dig was also completed on a shoestring budget, thanks to the efforts of volunteer professionals (Courtney Glen, Andrea Richardson, and Vanessa Smith as well as the author) and the loan of equipment from Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc. (Sara Beanlands) and Davis MacIntyre & Associates Ltd. The only significant cost (aside from pizza for the professional archaeologist team!) was the landscape fabric used to line the units at the end of the dig.

With public participation and interest very high, Industrial Heritage Nova Scotia intends to continue to hold an annual public dig at Shubie Park with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission's support. The park is host to nearly two dozen separate archaeological features relating to the canal, many of which have not yet been the subject of a significant archaeological investigation.

### **Excavations at "The Alexander" on Lower Water Street, Halifax, 2015**

[Submitted by Laura de Boer, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Ltd.]

In August of 2015, mechanical excavation began on a long-awaited construction project in downtown Halifax. Predominantly consisting of terraced gravel parking lots for the past half-century, the half-block located south of Alexander Keith's historic Nova Scotia Brewery is now being converted into a large mixed-use development known as The Alexander.

The fact that most of the property has not been built upon since the mid-twentieth century was an early indication that it would hold intact archaeological resources. A historic background study showed not only that the area had been open for so many decades, but also that dense rows of houses had once lined all three streets that form the boundaries of the study area.

With this in mind, archaeologists at Davis MacIntyre & Associates compiled a detailed overlay of all known phases of building construction, resulting in a predictive model of intact archaeological features. Eight test trenches were proposed based on the model, and the team monitored mechanical excavation of each of these units, recording and backfilling whenever signs of intact features were encountered.

The model and testing proved to be a reasonably effective, though not fool-proof, method of predicting intact features. The two key failings of the model are typical of problems relating to urban sites in Halifax: the absence of detailed, accurate mapping city-wide prior to the 1870s, and the tendency of some map-makers after that date to omit small buildings such as privies. Nevertheless, the model aided in mitigating the archaeological material in a manner that did not significantly impede the progress of the construction project (which remained ahead of schedule throughout the mitigation). The mechanical soil removal was able to proceed in areas that had been previously "cleared" through testing and monitoring, while the archaeological team mitigated the identified resources or remained on-call for those features that were encountered in the field but not shown on the predictive model.

Artifact processing (with the exception of early conservation and stabilization) has not yet begun, and interpretation of the site's various features is ongoing, even as the team awaits access to a final known archaeological feature against the site's edge that needs to be shored up before mitigation can safely take place. What is clear is that the archaeological resources span the nineteenth century and may represent some remnants of Halifax's eighteenth century waterfront activity as well.

Along Lower Water Street, which represents the approximate line of Halifax's original 1749 beach, three separate but possibly inter-related features were encountered. Separation of the features was due to disturbance by later features including late-nineteenth century buildings and nineteenth and twentieth century service lines, so it is unclear whether or not the features were completely disconnected originally. All three features incorporate layered wood floors with deposits of coal, birch bark, and scrap wood in varying concentrations, lying on floor joists almost directly over bedrock or hardpan, with at least one area of concentrated slag and burned material. Artifacts recovered include four coins (two of which have been dated to the 1820s and 1830s), buttons, a wooden spool for thread, multiple pieces of fabric, barrel

staves and ends, a copper-alloy pocket watch, a file, and remarkably few nails. Fragments of Staffordshire slipware and tin-glazed earthenware were also encountered, though currently it is speculated that this may represent disturbance from an earlier, now destroyed feature. Further mapping, analysis, and research is pending, but findings tentatively point to a series of inter-related small-scale industries along the waterfront, possibly including a small forge and a carpentry shop.

Uphill from this waterfront complex, the foundations of buildings along Bishop Street were identified, including most notably a Victorian home with a later concrete floor. Under this floor, the team encountered the remnants of what may have been a brick platform for a furnace, and under this, a buried barrel filled with half-bricks and some animal bone. The barrel was dug into sterile soil, presumably to provide a drain in a waterlogged basement. The clay content of the soil was enough to neatly preserve the six wooden pieces that made up the barrel's bottom, where three holes were drilled to allow water to drain.

Two intact privies were also encountered, both having been capped with scrap wood after their last usage. The privies were made with four wood sides cut to match the undulations in the shallow bedrock below, resulting in an unusually soupy and smelly artifact recovery process compared to other urban privies. Nevertheless, the excavation proved well worth the effort, yielding an as-yet undetermined number of artifacts (currently stored in dozens of large bags awaiting processing) including several dozen brass sewing pins in the privy behind the house of 1870s dressmaker Miss Louisa Barrett.

To readers with archaeological experience it will be clear that this site is still in the earliest stages of interpretation, with some fieldwork still to come before artifact washing, mending, cataloguing, mapping, follow-up research, and reporting help us to refine our understanding of this broad slice of Halifax's history. In the meantime, we hope you have enjoyed this glimpse into our current research.



Figure 2. One of the features along Lower Water Street with its wooden floor partially removed to show floor joists over bedrock, and a stone wall along the south side against sterile soil.

Photo credit: Laura de Boer / Davis MacIntyre & Associates Ltd.