

The Datum Point



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

July 2003

From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

I hope everyone enjoyed Mike Johnson's presentation last month on the prehistory of Fairfax County – or, the Peopling of America. Thanks again, Mike, for coming through in the clutch. I am glad to be able to tell everyone that Patrick, Diane and Bridget were all OK. He'll give his presentation on Fort Union Fur Trading Post in September 2003.

We are at Clark House again this month. We will have a couple of official subjects to discuss: whether to have the August picnic on the Thursday meeting night, or on a weekend and, if so, which day. Those at the meeting will decide, so if you have an opinion, be there! We also have a proposal to apply some of the Dave Rubis Fund toward radiocarbon dating of the David site.

Those who worked with John Imlay will be pleased to read elsewhere in this DP about an award he just received. I was able to go and it was a real pleasure to see all the usual suspects gathered in his honor.

I found an article Edith Sprouse wrote about the very first Chapter meeting 40 years ago. Maybe some of you out there have some old records you can help me keep up a "40 years ago" column. Take a look in your attic! Also, I wonder if anyone can tell me who some of the people were, who were mentioned as being in the meeting. Or even others who were there and not mentioned.

See y'all at Clark House on the 10th.

July 10th Meeting - 7:30 pm Clark House

6332 Barcroft Mews Drive, Falls Church, take the Beltway Exit east on Little River Turnpike, 2 miles to a left on John Marr Drive. Make a right onto Columbia Pike. Go 1.8 miles and turn right onto the service road at Barcroft Plaza (has a Harris Teeter's). Turn left on the service road and go to the Barcroft Mews Townhomes adjacent to Barcroft Plaza. Clark House is on the left as you enter the Barcroft Mews Townhomes. The house is a three story yellow Victorian. Turn at the bus stop enclosure. By that time, you can see Clark House straight ahead. Overflow parking is in the strip mall next door. **Coming from Bailey's Crossroads:** West on Columbia Pike. Go through light at Braddock Road. Take the **FIRST** left (protected turn lane) and make an immediate left to townhouses. (If you pass the traffic lights at Linconia and Columbia Pike, you've gone too far).

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JULY 10th TALK:

Archaeology in Fairfax County: Past, Present and Future

By Dr. Elizabeth Crowell
Manager of the newly consolidated
Cultural Resource Protection Group

The Fairfax County Park Authority hired Dr. Elizabeth Crowell in February 2003 as Manager of the Cultural Resource Protection Group, mandated to consolidate the **County Archaeological Services** and **Cultural Resource Protection Group**. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce Liz to the Chapter and provide information about past experience. She will discuss the background of archaeology in the county and present information on her hopes for the future of the program.

Dr. Crowell has been working in archaeology in the Middle Atlantic Region for more than 26 years. From 1981-February 2003, she was employed as a Senior Archaeologist with Parsons (formerly Engineering-Science). She has been Principal Investigator for Phase I, II, and III archaeological studies of both prehistoric and historical sites in Virginia, DC and throughout the region. Liz has a BA in Anthropology from Rhode Island College, an MA in History/Historical Archaeology from the College of William and Mary and an MA and Ph.D. in Historical Archaeology from University of Pennsylvania.

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From Forty Years Ago

From the Hollin Hills Bulletin, June-July 1963

DIGGING UP VIRGINIA

by Edith Sprouse

Those who wonder what members of the newly formed Northern Virginia chapter of the Virginia Archeological Society are up to may be interested in knowing what went on at their May meeting. Or at least what I think went on. It is charitable to state that they are in the throes of organization, for in the absence of Col. Lufborrow, the pro tem chairman, nobody there seemed very sure what was happening. The meeting at the new headquarters building of the county library in Fairfax was delayed for half an hour waiting for the colonel. When it became apparent that he was not coming, all hands sprung to the problem of getting the projector in operating condition to show a film in color on an Indian dig, Dos Pueblos, near Santa Barbara, California.

This film showed the field techniques used, and was explained by an American University professor who had directed the dig. He is perforce nameless, since the meeting was so informal that no one introduced him. Pertinent items which emerged were:

1. Basic tools are shovel, trowel, and 1" paintbrush, in that order.
2. After being photographed and staked out in 10' grids, the site is excavated in layers 6" at a time. Objects are left in place until it is determined whether they form some sort of pattern, removing the dirt around them.
3. Entire area is brushed free of loose dirt with paintbrush, before next level is dug. The excavated soil is shaken through two screens, with the residue put into a labeled paper sack, for further study. Plain old dirt is removed to a pile outside the site area. The professor said the pile should be far enough away so that you won't have to dig immediately under it, which often happens. His wife, suave in beehive hairdo, heartily agreed.

Said professor and his class will begin in June digging on Saturdays at an Indian site north of Great

Falls – on the Virginia side – and will welcome members of the Archeological Society who would like to dig. Three small boys in the audience were delighted.

I asked at random two out of some 15 people there why they were there. A Mrs. Shaver came as a rank amateur, has a cottage above Sycamore Island upstream from Little Falls, had been told that Indian relics had been found on her island and was looking for instructions. A Col. Robinson confided that he'd always looked for arrowheads since he was a boy, and was rarin' to go.

The absent Col. Lufborrow, who was apparently the organizer, is said to be leaving shortly for Paris. When Pat Marshall called him for information she heard a very strange voice reply that the Colonel was not home. He had left for Paris. "When," asked Pat, "will he be back?" Voice morosely replied that he might never come back. Upon learning that she wanted information on the Archeological Society, voice abruptly became normal and confessed that he was the colonel and thought Pat was a crony of his.

All in all, it sounds like a rather fey group, in need of an organizer. But should be fun, once they get started. If you want to know more, you try the colonel.

John Imlay honored!!!!!!

By C.K. Gailey

The Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal was bestowed on John Imlay on June 28, 2003, by the Madison Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The award, so richly deserved, recognized John's many contributions over many years to historical archeological research projects at various battlefields, cemeteries and other historical sites. He was also honored for his guided tours of battlefields and his many lectures and presentations. John is, of course, well-known to the ASV as a long-time member and digger of note. The surprise presentation was made at the Madison Chapter 1093 meeting, which became something of a grand reunion of old friends. Attendees included Dr. Doug Owsley, Rich Richardson, Dr. Bill Hanna, Pete Petrone, Martha Williams, Dale Brown, Barbara Welsh and C.K. Gailey.

Go to <http://nvcasv.org> and see the chapter website!!!!!!

NOTICE!!!!!!

As of July 1st, Mike Johnson's group, known as **Fairfax County Archeological Services**, and Rich Sacchi's Group, known as the **Cultural Resource Protection Group**, were united as the new group under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Crowell and will now be formally known as the **Cultural Resource Protection Group**. This edition of the **DP** is the last time each group will present a separate column.

Fairfax County Archeological Services **By Mike Johnson**

Turtle Hill (44FX2636) - June was a good month for the Phase 2 assessment. We have completed the 10-foot interval shovel test sampling through the eastern 100 feet of the site. The comparison between the 20-foot interval and 10-foot interval samples is staggering.

The site's surface chronology has been significantly upgraded. Most recently the west 110 foot transect produced a hornfels Savannah River, Holmes variant point (ca. 1,800-2,500 B.C.) and a large Potomac Creek potsherd (A.D. 1,200-1,600). The total field recovery, water screening, and lab sorting of the samples from that transect also produced two very small soapstone tempered, Selden Island potsherds (ca. 900-1,200 B.C.). With the discovery of both Popes Creek (ca. 600 B.C. - A.D. 250) and Mockley pottery (ca. A.D. 1-800), the site has produced all but obvious Accokeek and Rappahannock types of pottery.

The 10-foot interval shovel test samples have hit one possible, charcoal-rich, pit feature, one possible post mold, and several intense fire cracked rock concentrations, similar to the one at the David site on Mason Neck. Once the 10-foot interval sampling is done the area around the possible pit feature will be exposed do determine if it is, in fact, a cultural feature. Laura James has re-opened the test excavation squares and the crew has begun work on a new bank cut for a soil profile at N100E10.

Currently the schedule is Tues. (9-3) in the lab, Wed. and Sat. (9-3) in the field. Because of the rain the

work is behind schedule and Laura is considering adding Thursdays as a field day.

Cactus Hill (44SX202) - Lab continues on Tues. evenings (6-9 pm). The Tues. evening crew is almost done with square 8A.

Bazuin (44LD5) - Marion Dana continues to supervise the inventory of this large excavation (paid for by the Fairfax County Water Authority in the late 1970s) done on a large multi-component site on Lowes Island. Lab work is on Tues. (9-3) but as she trains volunteers they can come in any time to work on it. It is an interesting prehistoric site with lots of variety to help those wishing to learn or get certification hours.

The Mt. Air artifact analysis and report is close to being finished. Jan Sutton has been crunching numbers and analyzing the results for the past month. It seems that the materials are a secondary deposition and not the result of an in situ event. This is within keeping with our ice pit theory but we were hoping that the feature was the cellar of the original earlier house at Mt. Air. The stratigraphy is very clear with at least two temporal periods occurring - each with additional soil changes within the zones. The earliest layer, appropriately appearing at the bottom, is from the 1750s while the upper two stratigraphic layers date to the 1790s.

When the rains let up contractors will be able to start the restoration/preservation of the Mt. Air ruins and complete filling the cellar hole. This is a major project for the park and is the beginning phase in opening the grounds to the public. Archaeology is next and we are currently looking for crew.

It's been a month of General Management Plans and park surveys and studies. John, after returning from the beach, set work on Popes Head Park where the mill race for Hope Mill was found. This is an expansive 90 acre new Park Authority acquisition and there is likely more cultural resources lurking on the remaining portions not surveyed. We also spent time looking at lands surrounding Wapels Mill which was likely built on top of one of the four Fox Mills. Unfortunately, only the Mill race remains of either Mill but the Park Authority has taken an interest in this 30 acre tract of land. A very nice spot for a park.

We have just received the Huntley archaeology report from Louis Berger and Associates authored by John Bedell and Charlie LeeDecker. The results and conclusions of the study will help with the current restoration efforts already underway.

CERTIFICATION LECTURE:

By George Monken

Attention: The Certification lecture on "Introduction to Archaeological Resource Survey Skills" has been changed from 17 July to August 17 (Thursday) at 7:30 in the Lab. Mike Johnson will give "Introduction to Archaeological Resource Survey Skills." This is one of the 4 courses required in the Field Survey area of the Certification Program. Mike will show how you can find yourself on a map out in the field, the various types of surveys and how to look for archaeological sites.

HUNTINGTON PLANTATION

FROM OUT OF THE PAST

By Edith Moore Sprouse

Once there was a plantation called Huntington instead of a subdivision called Barrington. Once, it was owned by a brother of the last Earl of Barrymore. Edward Barry had come from Ireland to Virginia about 1720. Both Barry and his land are joined in the name of this twentieth century community, and somewhere under its soil his bones rest in the family graveyard.

Barry was not the original owner of the tract, however. There were earlier patents, but Capt. Francis Awbrey had been granted 420 acres between the middle and north run of Pohick Creek in 1717. He became an Inspector of Tobacco at the Pohick warehouse and a member of the vestry of Truro Parish. This tract was only a small portion of his 5500 acres in the present Fairfax County. After his death in 1741 Edward Barry purchased from the land from Awbrey's heirs. [1]

This was not Barry's first purchase of land. In August, 1724 he bought 75 acres on the north side of the Occoquan from William Purler for 1400 lbs. of tobacco. In July, 1732 he acquired 108 acres on the south run of Pohick from Thomas Owsley; this parcel comprises the present Barrington. Although in this deed he was described as a yeoman Edward was in the same year elected to the first vestry of the newly formed Truro Parish, after the inhabitants were directed to select twelve of "the most able and discreet persons in the said parish." At the first meeting of the vestry he was chosen as Clerk of that body. and served until 1739. Between 1737 and 1744 he also served as one of the Churchwardens.[2] In 1742 he was chosen as one of the Gentlemen Justices when Fairfax County was formed.

Edward was married to Mary Stone in 1728. Their daughter Anne was born August 19,1830, her sister Mary on January 19,1733 and Elizabeth on October 9,1735. There were two other girls, Sarah and Margaret, who were noted as being very young in 1754. They were named in the division of Barry's estate, which occurred after the deaths of his daughter Elizabeth and his sons John and Edward, Jr. [3]

Edward Barry wrote his will on March 5, 1747 and left his wife two slaves and the lands bought from Owsley and from William Godfrey. After her death they were to go to Edward, Jr. According to one source Edward Barry, Sr. died on March 22, but in July a man of that name was buying 450 acres above Goose Creek. What is certain that his will was presented for probate in May, 1748. [4]

His widow Mary waited three years before marrying another Irishman named Edward. Edward Washington was no newcomer to the neighborhood. His ancestor had settled in Westmoreland County by 1675, and this Edward had lived in Prince William County before 1737. When the vestrymen of Truro Parish met in October, 1738 to determine the amount to be levied upon the residents of the Parish, they noted that 300 lbs. of tobacco were owed to Edward Washington, the Deputy Sheriff. In April, 1739 Washington was listed as Sheriff. Ten years later he was appointed as Inspector of Tobacco at the warehouse on Occoquan Creek; in 1753 he was designated as one of the Trustees of the new town of Colchester. [5]

When Washington married the widow Barry in 1751, he may have had had a six year old son by a first wife. There was no family connection with the Washingtons of Mount Vernon, although it was later said by one of George Washington's cousins that, "Edward Washington lived a few miles from Colchester when I first went there to live in 1786. My Uncle Lawrence and I believed him to be a relative from his strong resemblance to the Family." [6]

In 1751 and 1753 the county court appointed him as guardian to Mary Barry's three youngest children. By 1760 he was moderately prosperous, owning 400 acres, leasing another 200, and had 9 slaves. When in 1765 Truro Parish was being divided, Edward was an unsuccessful candidate for the vestry; he then cast his vote for George Washington to fill that office. Little more is known of this second master of Huntington than an anecdote referred to in a 19th century article. "During an entertainment of the neighbors given at Washington's house, in an excess of Republican hatred of everything noble and monarchical reminding them of the ancient rule," the framed coat-of-arms of the Barry family was destroyed by the guests. His wife Mary died on May 29,1778 and Edward Washington wrote his will in June, 1791 and died March 31,1792, leaving his entire estate to his son Edward, Jr. [7]

During the Revolution Edward Washington, Jr. was paid L10 by Fairfax County for his help in recruiting troops in order to meet Virginia's quota. From 1779 to 1785 he was a member of the Vestry for Truro Parish. In the latter year he guarded some criminals who were being sent to Richmond for their trials. He rented the Sandy Point fishery on the Belvoir property in 1787. That year he served as Captain of a militia company of Light Infantry and subsequently was recommended as Captain of Militia for the entire 2nd District of Fairfax County. [8]

Edward was married to Elizabeth Hough Sanford, of Westmoreland County. They raised seven children at Huntington before her death on November 21,1811. The *Alexandria Gazette* reported in its issue of June 8, 1813, "Died at his residence in Fairfax County on Sunday the 16th, Mr.

Edward Washington, in his 62nd year, after a most severe illness. He has left behind seven children to bewail their loss, while he triumphs in his blest estate.” [9]

In October his household and kitchen furniture, livestock and other personal property were sold at auction. That is the last glimpse we have of Edward Washington, Jr. until 1827, when this advertisement appeared in the Gazette on January 16th:

Huntington, generally known throughout Fairfax County as the residence of the late Edward Washington, Esq., lying within four miles of Occoquan Mills, nine miles from the courthouse and fourteen miles from Alexandria, for sale. 504 acres with a large dwelling house, barn, stables, quarters, apple and peach orchards. The vicinity of the woodland to Occoquan beach where there is always a ready sale for cord wood, renders the farm valuable. This will be sold at auction on the 3rd Monday in January. Apply to Elizabeth Jones, residing on the premises or to William Lawrence in Washington.

The auction produced no purchasers, for on August 7th another ad appeared, stating that by a deed of Mrs. Elizabeth Jones dated Jan.20, 1825 would be sold a tract conveyed to her by Presley Foley, deceased, and is best known as the former residence of Mr. Edward Washington, deceased. In 1828 Huntington was purchased by Isaac Hutton, an Englishman living in the District of Columbia.

Hutton married Rebecca E. Smith of Alexandria on December 16,1823. He became an American citizen on October 28,1840. The new owners in their turn raised five children at Huntington. At the time of her husband's death on May 15,1858, Rebecca was 52 years of age, 14 years younger than her husband. The 1860 Census for Fairfax County showed that oldest son Thomas, age 27, was born in Fairfax County. Her daughters Rebecca and Ann Louisa had been born in Alexandria in 1838 and 1840. Ann Louisa became the wife of Henry C. Nevitt. In 1890 Ann Louisa's siblings turned over the interest in the then 312 acres of Huntington to her. [10] In the early 1960's I visited Mr. Benjamin Nevitt, the great-grandson of Isaac Hutton, who was then living at Huntington. He told me of the Civil War, when the farm was isolated by Union picket lines, and a slave named Tom Bushrod supplied the Nevitt women with food. [11] On the Huntington property was the "Big Spring," well known for its good water and inexhaustible supply. He said there is a family cemetery, and that the deed for his neighbor's property mentions a right-of-way access to the graveyard.

On this first visit his sister, a Mrs. Morse, was living with him. She made haste to tell me that they were descended from the Calvert family of Maryland and other prominent families. When I returned in 1965 his sister was dead and Mr. Nevitt was living alone except for a Negro caretaker. The farm had been sold to Cafritz, a real estate developer, but that he had life tenancy. I visited him again in 1967; he was then 89 years of age. That day he told me that he had been a vestryman at Pohick Church for fifty years, the longest term of service in the history of the

parish. For the past year, however, he had been too feeble to go to church.

Benjamin Nevitt was moved to a nursing home in Manassas and died about 1971. His land, now the Barrington community, was not subdivided for many years. I have always been thankful that I knew this gentleman and had the opportunity to photograph his ancient home while it was still standing.

NOTES

1. Beth Mitchell, *Beginning at a White Oak*, (Fairfax, Virginia: Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1977), p.115-6.
2. Stafford County Deeds J:137; Prince William County Deeds A:334; *Minutes of the Vestry: Truro Parish Virginia 1732-1785*, (Lorton, Virginia: Pohick Church, 1974), p.11,31.
3. Chester A. Liddle, Jr., *Families of Pohick Church: Truro Parish, Fairfax County, Virginia*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press, Inc., 1991), p. 27; Fairfax County Wills C:774.
4. Fairfax Herald April 17,1890; Fairfax Wills A:227; Fairfax Deeds E:256
5. Charles W. Stetson, *Washington and His Neighbors*, (Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie, Incorporated, 1956), p.190; Vestry Minutes, p.21,31
6. Stetson states that Edward Washington, Jr. was born in 1745, which would have predated his marriage to Mary Barry. His obituary, however, places his birth as 1752.
7. Fairfax County Court Order Book Sept.24,1751, Oct.11,1732; Beth Mitchell and Donald Sweig, *Fairfax County, Virginia in 1760* (Fairfax, Virginia: Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1987), p.22; *The Papers of George Washington: Colonial Series* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1990, 7:362, 384; Fairfax Herald, July 17,1890; Fairfax Wills F:160
8. Court Order Book June 16,1783, Jan.19,1785, Apr.5,1787, June,1790, July,1793; *Vestry Minutes*, p.147.
9. Stetson, p. 190. The 1784 marriage date is dubious if her age given in her Nov.13, 1811 obituary is correct. If she was 34 in 1811, as stated, she could not have been married in 1784; Their children are named in Edward's will (Fairfax Wills, K:106): Edward Sanford, Elizabeth Catharine, George William, John, Joseph Hough, Margaret Sanford and Mary Ann.
10. T. Michael Miller, *Alexandria and Alexandria County, Virginia Ministers Returns and Marriage Bonds, 1801-1852*, (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1987), p.22; Fairfax County Circuit Superior Court Order Book, 1839:52; Alexandria Gazette May 20,1858; the Hutton-Nevitt marriage is indicated in Fairfax Deeds D8:350; the 1890 deed is in N5:274
11. Benjamin F. Nevitt, *Uncle Tom Bushrod*, Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia Yearbook (1956), 5:13

