

# The Datum Point



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

June 2003

## From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

Has everyone had enough rain? This is getting ridiculous ... we've lost half our digging days this season! Drop your trowels and get to work on the ark.

Thanks to everyone who took part, the farewell for Joyce was great. She was really surprised to see some of the old-timers for the first time in a while. They are now in N.C.

Vicki Monken and I had a good time showing off archeology artifacts, giving away brochures, and talking about archeology to the senior citizens of Reston on May 28th. The Senior Leisure & Fitness Fair got very good attendance and we talked to at least 50 folks at our table. Anyone who would like to do this next year should contact me and I'll start a list.

George Monken and I went down to Kittiewan for the dedication of the ASV Library on Saturday, May 31. Any of you who haven't seen Kittiewan should try to get down there. It's on the north bank of the James River, next to Sherwood Forest, the estate of President John Tyler. The house dates from 1710/1720 and the current owner, William Cropper, has offered it to ASV for its home. The VARC project is ASV's way of affording the gift. In the meanwhile, the new ASV Library has been opened in a secondary building near the mansion. Included in the dedication were two donors' plaques: one for donors and one for *in memoriam* honorees. The library is a modest start to the research facility VARC is intended to be.

**Our next meeting will be at Clark House, in the Lincolnia section of the County at 7:30 pm. See you there.**

## June 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting - 7:30 pm

### Clark House

Located at **6332 Barcroft Mews Drive** in Falls Church, the Clark House may be reached by taking 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 (Harris Teeter is one of the stores). Turn left on the service road and proceed 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 will be 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 Lincolnia and Columbia Pike, you've gone too far).

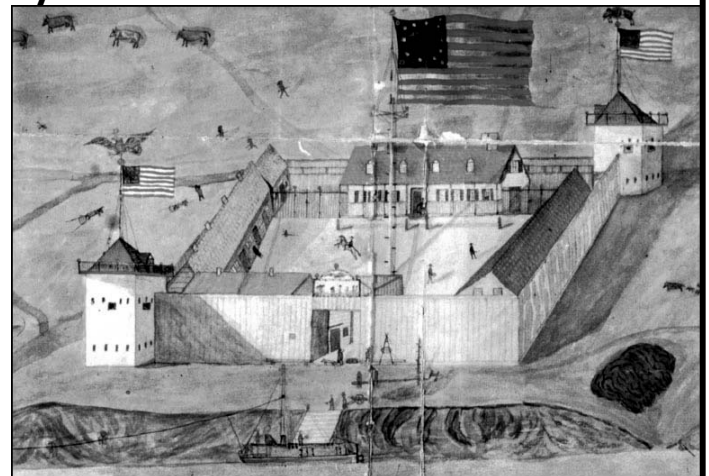
Patrick O'Neill is about to enter his 20<sup>th</sup> year in archaeology in August. He has a BS in Anthropology from Kansas State University and an MA in History from West Texas A&M University. Patrick currently works for Parsons, Inc., and has worked on local projects in Washington DC, Grist Mill Park near Mount Vernon, Fort Belvoir, and is currently writing a book on the Mount Vernon neighborhood.

His talk will be on John Jacob Astor's famous Fort Union Fur Trading Post on the Montana/North Dakota Border at the confluence of the Yellowstone and the Missouri Rivers. The National Park Service excavated the site and has now reconstructed the fort into its glorious splendor. Images of the excavations and a re-enactment of a fur trading rendezvous will also be presented.

## **June Talk**

### **FORT UNION FUR TRADING POST**

**By Patrick O'Neill**



## **"Lost" Document Found!**

**By C.K. Gailey**

Researchers working on the Battle of New Market, May 15, 1864, have had a serious problem. There has been no copy of the official report of Union casualties in the battle. The casualty reports for most Civil War battles were published a century ago in the Official Records, but it contains no report for New Market. The best anyone could do was a report in a New York newspaper which was generally known for accurate reporting but which was not official.

I got lucky. In delving through the files on New Market in the National Archives, I found reference to a report a Dr. Hayes made about the battle. Dr. Hayes turns out to have been Gen. Sigel's command surgeon. General Sigel was commander of Federal forces at the battle; this document was the official report of Union casualties. It is a wonderfully complete record, listing the dead, wounded, captured and missing by name and regiment. It gives details of many of the wounds received in the battle. It even bears annotations made after the summary was submitted, noting some soldiers who were reported killed but who were not dead.

Using this report, as well as other documents in the Archives and elsewhere, Patricia Gallagher and I were able to put together as complete a list of Union killed at the Battle of New Market as has ever been assembled. Copies of Dr. Hayes' report and our supplement have been placed at the New Market State Historical Park and other places likely to be searched by those interested in this battle.

## **Certification Notes**

**By George Monken**

This is going to be a busy summer for certification, or least the first part will be. On 7 and 14 June, thanks to Ann Wood, Mt Vernon is offering several Certification Course. Email Ann Wood at [AnnPWood@aol.com](mailto:AnnPWood@aol.com) for more details.

On 12 June at 7 Pm (just prior to the monthly meeting) Mike Johnson will provide insight on the Certification Lab practical. Doesn't matter where you are in the certification process, come and see what you can expect when you get ready to take the Lab Practical.

On 17 July (Thursday) at 7:30 in the Lab Mike Johnson will give "Introduction to Archaeological Resource Survey Skills" This is one of the 4 course 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.

## **Fairfax County Archeological Services**

**By Mike Johnson**

E-mail addresses - Some of the e-mail addresses I received last year have changed, which means the schedules have bounced back and I have had to delete names. Please send me your e-mail address at [michael.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:michael.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you think you may have been deleted or would like to have your address added to the list.

**Turtle Hill (44FX2636)** - Laura James, a senior from Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., has joined County Archeology for a summer internship. She will be supervising deep excavation testing of the site. Current plans are to begin with a bank cut profile in the gully on the eastern edge of the site and to complete the two 5x5-foot test pits currently open. That will be followed by additional test pits and/or a test trench.

Theoretically, since the site is on an alluvial fan jutting out into the South Branch floodplain, it is possible that various sedimentary outwash events may have buried ancient landforms. It is these that we hope to discover, because they may have remains from very early occupations. We will probably be working three days a week (including Saturday) in the field throughout June and July.

**David Site (44FX2634)** - The first C-14 dates from the site have been returned from BETA Analytic and, according to Paul, they couldn't be better. It seems that the elongated triangular points date to between A.D. 650 and A.D. 820, which is where they should have dated. Another date of ca. 1380 B.C. may be associated with the numerous soapstone bowl fragments recovered from the site. Several more carbon samples are being processed by BETA. They include residue from pottery, which should directly date the pottery types. All of the lab work is done. Paul and Berno are doing the analysis for the report.

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

# Join Alexandria Archaeology for Family Dig Days

Help Preserve Alexandria's Past!

## Alexandria Archaeology

By Ruth Reeder

**WHAT:** Join City archaeologists and trained volunteers for an exciting program for kids of all ages! Be part of the fascinating archaeological investigation and discover first hand, the hidden clues left behind by the people who lived and worked on this site hundreds of years ago by helping screen excavated soil.

Participants are encouraged to wear hats and/or sunblock on sunny days. Cold water will be available, but please bring your own container. Close-toed shoes are required; and though tools are supplied, participants may wish to bring their own gardening gloves.

**WHO:** Open to the general public. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a participating adult.

**WHEN:** Saturdays; June 14 & 28, September 6 & 20 - 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Behind the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

**COST:** \$5/person; registration is required.

**INFO:** Contact the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at (703) 838-4399 or email them at [archaeology@ci.alexandria.va.us](mailto:archaeology@ci.alexandria.va.us)

### Or contact

Ruth Reeder  
Museum Educator  
Alexandria Archaeology Museum  
[ruth.reeder@ci.alexandria.va.us](mailto:ruth.reeder@ci.alexandria.va.us)  
703/838-4399  
fax: 703/838-6491



## Historic Smithfield Plantation

### ASV/COVA/DHR Certification Opportunity

Historic Smithfield Plantation of Blacksburg, Virginia, the home of the Revolutionary War Patriot William Preston, will host the Preston Cemetery Survey July 7 – 11, 2003.

This field opportunity will focus on:

- Re-mapping boundaries of the Preston cemetery
- Grave shaft location investigation
- Moat entrenchment documentation
- Phase I Survey for a slave cemetery believed to adjoin the Preston cemetery.

Dr. Cliff Boyd (Radford University Archaeologist) and Tom Klatka (DHR Archaeologist) will serve as principal investigators. A maximum of five certification participants will be welcomed daily. Work schedule: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**No experience necessary.** Please wear proper field clothes. Participants will be treated to a free tour of the Plantation home on 7/10 or 7/11. Other days as can be arranged.

For more information please contact [Jhardison@fs.fed.us](mailto:Jhardison@fs.fed.us) or [lwedin@vt.edu](mailto:lwedin@vt.edu). Please visit <http://civic.bev.net/smithfield/> for information regarding Historic Smithfield and driving directions.

## NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Alexandria Museum Pam Cressey 703-838-4399 (info)

## NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_

(W): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$17) \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

NVC/Archeological Society of Virginia  
2739 West Ox Road  
Herndon, VA 20171-3807

*Chapter members are encouraged to join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia.*

**The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**

### **The Datum Point**

Northern Virginia Chapter  
Archeological Society of Virginia  
2739 West Ox Road  
Herndon, VA 20171-3807

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED