

The Datum Point



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

April 2004

From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

Many thanks to Daniel Koski-Karell for his intriguing presentation to our March meeting; it was exciting to hear the first rumblings of what promises to be an alternative theory of the Peopling of the Americas.

The Chapter received very nice letters from Gunston Hall and from Historic Fairfax City, thanking us for our donations in memory of Edith Sprouse and Pat Gallagher. The donated funds were quite respectable, but little enough when measured against their contributions to our understanding of local history.

It's getting to be time to be thinking of moving the lab back to James Lee. Those who helped move out know what hard work it was. Going back won't be any easier. The big effort will be packing up all the books and other library materials. All help will be gratefully accepted. Call the lab or just start showing up. The schedule has us moving into the brand-new James Lee Center at the end of May or early June.

April 8th Meeting - 7:30 pm Clark House

Located at **6332 Barcroft Mews Drive** in 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 (by a Harris Teeters). Turn left on the service road and proceed to the Barcroft Mews Townhomes adjacent to the plaza. Clark House is a three story yellow house on the left as you enter the town homes. **Turn at the bus stop enclosure.** Overflow parking in the Plaza.

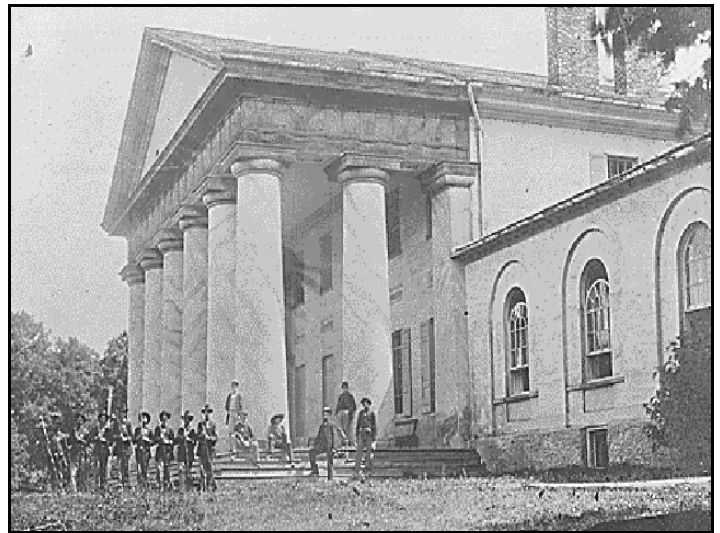
Coming from Bailey's Crossroads: West on Columbia Pike. Go through light at Braddock Road. Take the **FIRST** left (protected turn lane) and make an immediate left to townhouses.

Visit the Chapter Website at
WWW.NVCASV.ORG!!!

April Talk

Archaeological Investigations at the Arlington House

By Patrick L. O'Neill



Patrick O'Neill has a BS in Anthropology from Kansas State University and an MA in History from West Texas A&M University. He has been doing archaeology for over 20 years in as many states for almost as many CRM firms. Currently, Patrick is employed as a Principal Investigator for the Louis Berger Group in Washington, DC.

Berger conducted field investigations for the National Park Service at the Arlington House (44AR17) in November and December 2003. The mansion and two dependencies/slave quarters were constructed by George Washington's step-grandson George Washington Parke Custis between 1804 and 1817. Robert E. Lee married Custis' only surviving child, but only lived in the house a few years prior to the Civil War. The Army assumed control in the 1860s and the NPS in the 1920s. The investigations recovered information on pre-construction land surfaces under the dependencies, original floor levels, courtyard landscaping events, and a dry well used as part of a dairy located inside the south wing of the main house.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY'S JAVA JOLT PRESENTATION

DR. STEPHEN POTTER PRESENTS **THE POTTER PAPERS:** **EXPLORING ALEXANDRIA'S PAST**

- **WHAT:** Join National Park Service Regional Archeologist Dr. Stephen Potter as he discusses a variety of sites and topics, including Cloud's Mill, Potter's Hill, the Civil War, and railroads, using family documents, images, and artifacts relating to the history of the Alexandria area.
- **WHO:** This lecture is open to the general public.
- **WHEN:** Saturday, April 24; 10 a.m. to noon
- **WHERE:** Alexandria Archaeology Museum
105 N. Union Street, Studio #327
(Torpedo Factory Art Center)
- **COST:** FREE, but reservations are required.
- **INFO:** For more information or to reserve a space, call 703.838.4399.

2004 Germanna Historical Legacy Lecture Series

The 2004 Germanna Historical Legacy Lecture Series on Thursday nights in April (April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29), at 7 to 8:30 in Rm 114 of the Locust Grove Campus of Germanna Community College, there will be a series of free lectures sponsored by the Germanna History Club.

The lectures will be:

- **April 1:** Prof. Rob Sherwood: a virtual tour of the 15 most important historic sites at and in the vicinity of the Locust Grove Campus.
- **April 8:** Dr. Douglas Sanford: the archeological survey and excavation between 1986 and 1992 at the site of Governor Spotswood's "Enchanted Castle" site.
- **April 15:** Dr. Rich Gossweiler: entrenchments at Germanna Ford and their role in the Civil War campaigns of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Mine Run and the Wilderness.
- **April 22:** Thomas Faircloth: the history and accomplishments of the two German immigrant colonies at Germanna.
- **April 29:** Donald Tharpe: the first Germanna colony into what is now southern Fauquier County and his archeological survey at the Tillman Weaver House (1721).
- **Saturday, April 17:** a walking tour of the 15 most important historic sites around Locust Grove Campus.

Proposed Dog Park at Fort Ethan Allen **By Mary Green**

I want to let you know about a big sore point in Arlington Historic Preservation circles. A dog park in the middle of the Civil War Fort Ethan Allen. On Tuesday night there was a public forum of the Fort Ethan Allen Canine Area Relocation Task Force at the Lubber Run Community Center. There are some members of the Task Force who are pushing to keep the dog park at its present location in Fort Ethan Allen. However, I think that is clearly a minority sentiment within the Task Force. There are several alternative sites under consideration I think will make good locations for the dog park, but I expect that there will be complaints about every alternative.

Public sentiment should be that the status quo is the least acceptable alternative. Each person had two minutes to speak. There were over 100 people there and 43 signed up to speak. I talked about how we needed to take care of our Civil War heritage and move the dog park to another location. The Task Force had identified 19 sites and requested comments. Two minutes each. This is the "Arlington Way." Next the Task Force will make a recommendation to the County Board. This discussion has been going on for a couple of years. The County is actually in violation of its own rules by having a dog park in a historic area.

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION SECTION

In recognition of **National Volunteer Week**, the Fairfax County Park Authority is sponsoring a fun event at Lake Accotink Park on Saturday, April 17, from 9:30 to 12:30. Many activities, including enjoying the amenities of the Park before they open for the season, are planned for Park Authority volunteers and their families. Keep an eye out for this; there will probably be an RSVP.

Master plans for Union Mills and Ox Hill Battlefield started this month. A public task force was formed in order to involve professionals and knowledgeable citizens with forming concepts for the development of the parks. This is the first attempt to expand the GMP process to more than one park with the same historic theme. Perhaps this is the beginning of regional GMPs for the Park Authority. Draft plans for Woodglenn Lake Park and Nottoway Park were completed.

LAND BAY A - CRPS has begun the final push to recover data from this unplowed prehistoric site. The first phase involves re-doing the shovel test pattern, because the first attempt by the consultant overlooked data (fire cracked

rocks, most pottery, and exotic raw materials) critical to locating habitation and processing areas on the site.

The first re-do of a transect, last year, led to discovery of a stone platform hearth, quartz crystal component (possibly Clovis) and an extremely rare, jasper, Jacks Reef Pentagonal component. The first re-testing this year located a second area producing green metavolcanic flakes, which are a very rare lithic stone type in Northern Virginia.

Once done with the shovel testing, CRPS will intensively recover any potentially significant cultural areas within the site. This is a very significant upland site that was not adequately assessed and dealt with during Phase II and III work paid for by the developer last year. The developer has informed CRPS he plans to begin construction in June. As a result, we will need as much volunteer help as possible. Our plans are to work Monday through Friday and whenever possible on Saturdays.

LAUREL HILL GOLF COURSE DATA RECOVERY - CRPS is currently monitoring construction on the new Laurel Hill Golf Course on the old Lorton Prison site. To date we have found one new historic site, verified one previously recorded prehistoric site, and found eleven new prehistoric sites. Associated points from the prehistoric sites have included Palmer (Early Archaic), probable Savannah River (Late Archaic) and Calvert (Late Archaic). The historic site consists of an unidentified brick patio-like feature. Monitoring depends on when areas are stripped of vegetation and have been rained upon sufficiently to expose artifacts.

NOTTOWAY RIVER PALEOAMERICAN SURVEY -

We have completed most of the auger testing on our first test area. The testing was first designed to reconstruct the geology of the Nottoway River floodplain in the study area. Although some knowledge has been gained, conclusions await more detailed soil analysis of the soil samples recovered from selective tests. We have located three buried prehistoric site in the process and will be test excavating two of them soon after the soil analysis has been written up.

MAACs - On Friday March 12, 2004, archaeologists from the **Cultural Resource Protection Section** of the Fairfax County Park Authority participated in a symposium at the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) entitled "Archaeology in Fairfax County Virginia: Recent Contributions" organized and chaired by Liz Crowell. Participants in the symposium included permanent employees Liz Crowell, Mike Johnson, John Rutherford and Richard Sacchi; exempt employees, Jan Sutton and Berno Tops; former exempt employees, Nancy Anthony and Paul Inashima; former intern, Laura James; and

archaeological consultants representing Thunderbird Archaeological Associates, John Milner and Associates, Parsons, and Hayes and Monaghan. Papers presented in the symposium reported on prehistoric and historical archaeological projects that have been conducted in Fairfax County both on parkland and done as part of development review. The symposium was well-received. Liz Crowell is incoming Recording Secretary for MAAC and serves as the Chairman of the Awards Committee. This year she served as one of the judges in the student paper competition.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

Five Archaeological Technicians -Temporary Full Time
4-5 Weeks Duration (Target start date: June 1, 2004)
\$13.00-15.00/Hourly (DOQ)
Application Deadline: April 30, 2004

Position Overview: Alexandria Archaeology is seeking five Interns/Archaeological Technicians to aid in the excavation of Freedmen's Cemetery, the burial place for at least 1800 free African Americans during and immediately after the Civil War. The goals will be to identify burial locations and provide specifications to insure that graves are not disturbed during development of a park on the site. No burials will be excavated. Archaeological Technicians will work under the supervision of City Archaeologists.

Duties include: Monitoring backhoe excavation during removal of fill materials, shoveling and troweling to identify locations of grave shafts and previously disturbed areas, clearing brush, hand excavation of archaeological units, and recording archaeological discoveries. Work involves considerable physical activity.

While not restricted to the following, some of the minimum requirements for this job include completion of certification classes, at least two months of supervised field and/or laboratory training, as a student in an archaeological field school, or as a volunteer with a professional archaeological organization. Applicant must be in good physical condition and able to work outdoors.

**APPLICATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED TO WWW.CI.ALEXANDRIA.VA.US OR APPLICATION AND RESUME SENT TO:
ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
ATTENTION: FRANCINE BROMBERG
105 N. UNION STREET, SUITE 327
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314
Inquiries: archaeology@ci.alexandria.va.us**

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Archaeological Educational Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon Esther White ewhite@mountvernon.org
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
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2739 West Ox Road
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED