



The Datum Point

Newsletter of the
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Website – www.nvcasv.org

February 2007

February 14th, 2007 Chapter Meeting

Speaker – Dr. Stephen Potter (National Capitol Region, National Park Service)

Stephen Robert Potter received his A.B. degree in anthropology from the University of Missouri at Columbia where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has been involved in archaeological fieldwork in Alabama, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Dr. Potter's research interests include both the prehistoric and historic archaeology of the eastern United States, the southern Algonquian Indians, the formation and expansion of the 17th and 18th century frontiers, and the archaeology and history of the American Civil War.



Image from the map described by Captain John Smith
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3880.ct000377>

Topic - Aboriginal America and the Potomac Frontier, 1607 to 1676

In 1607, most of the Algonquian-speaking peoples of the Potomac River Valley were not only embroiled in their own alliances and squabbles, they were linked with other peoples through a complex web of trade, alliances, and warfare that stretched far beyond the banks of the Potomac. This tumultuous native political landscape affected the development of relations with the invading Europeans and the course of colonial and imperial powers in the region from the Great Lakes to the Virginia Capes. A combination of archaeological, ethnohistorical, and historical data provide the foundation for new perspectives on the critical sixty years preceding 1677.

COMING IN MARCH:

Chris Sperling (The Ottery Group) – Topic: Civil War

From the President – Patrick O'Neill

At this monthly meeting, I want to set up a steering committee for the 2009 ASV Conference to be sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter. All of our efforts will be needed to make that conference one of the best in recent ASV history. I am suggesting a theme centering on the 275th anniversary (1734-2009) of William Fairfax coming to the region to build Belvoir and manage the huge Northern Proprietary.

Read about all the volunteer opportunities in this issue!!!! I applaud our new Vice-president Ann Wood for putting together the ASV Certification Seminar on February 10th (read about it in this issue)! That is **THIS WEEKEND**, so contact her now if you want to attend!!! Our chapter can make a difference!

Also, coming up in late February or March on probably several weekends is a volunteer Phase I survey at Kittiewan plantation, not yet mentioned in the volunteer events in this issue as the dates are not yet set. Let me know if you would be able to come down for a day of shovel testing and see the new ASV homestead.

Honorarium for Richardson

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER DONATES TO WIB

The Chapter agreed to make a donation to the Smithsonian *Written in Bone* (WIB) Project in honor of past President and long time chapter member, Malcolm "Rich" Richardson. WIB is a project created to organize a scientific symposium, linked to the temporary exhibit "Written in Bone: Life and Death in Colonial Chesapeake." Rich was instrumental in WIB project as a volunteer with the Smithsonian. If you would like to make a donation, please designate, Smithsonian WIB/Richardson Fund and send to:

Vicki Simon
Smithsonian Institution
NMNH Dept. of Anthropology
PO Box 37102; MRC 112
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Ms. Simon can be reached at 202-633-1990

The Northern Virginia Chapter wishes to thank our friends in the Greater Richmond Chapter, who remembered our friend, Rich, in the January *The Plowzone*.

Northern Virginia Chapter Scholarship

The Chapter is honored to be the custodian of the **Julian Williams/Eleanor Mullen Field Study Scholarship**. Each year, one scholarship is awarded to help defray the cost of attending a field school. The scholarship is available to anyone who has been a member of the Chapter for a year or more. Applications will be accepted through April 1st.

The scholarship comes with only one requirement: the awardee must make a presentation to the Chapter about the field school dig. Contact the Chapter V.P. (**Ann Wood** - annpwood@comcast.net or 703-620-6098) for more details.

If no appropriate applications have been received from Chapter members, the Scholarship is opened to anyone that has been a member of the ASV (Archeological Society of Virginia) for at least one year or more, with a new deadline of May 15th.

Application: <http://www.nvcasv.org/scholform.html>

Bylaws: <http://www.nvcasv.org/scholarship.html>

General Information

IMMIGRANT SERVANTS DATABASE

The Immigrant Servants Database is a project designed to help Americans trace the European origins of their colonial ancestors. Historians estimate that more than 75% of the colonists who settled south of New England financed their voyages to the New World as indentured servants, convict servants, and redemptioners. This project aims to identify immigrants described by these terms in American and European sources from 1607 through 1820.

<http://www.immigrantservants.com/>

U. OF PITTSBURGH TO DIGITIZE DARLINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY (*Something for our past editor*)

The Darlington library comprises material, such as books, manuscripts, maps, atlases, broadsides, and photographs, and the collection focuses primarily on early American history, especially as it pertains to Western Pennsylvania and the Ohio Valley. The Darlington collection holds eleven of the thirteen Indian treaties printed by Benjamin Franklin at his shop in Philadelphia between 1736 and 1762.

<http://www.library.pitt.edu/libraries/darlington/darlington.html>

MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY POLICIES 1796-1865

January's speaker, Kerri Berile, mentioned this Mary Washington College resource. The Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia was incorporated December 22, 1794; policies began to be written in March 1796. The complete collection of policies of the Society from 1796 to 1867 (31,138 policies) are now in the possession of the Library of Virginia. These policies are available to researchers on 23 reels of microfilm, Accession number 30177. The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission created a paper index for these policies. In 1993, the Center for Historic Preservation at The University of Mary Washington, completed computerizing this index.

<http://departments.umw.edu/hipr/www/masfp3.htm>

FLORA OF VIRGINIA PROJECT

The Flora of Virginia Project initiated to prepare and publish a comprehensive manual of Virginia's 3700+ native and naturalized plant taxa, from oaks to cattails, ferns to pines, kudzu to coneflowers. Designed as a book with an accompanying web site, this Flora will serve the urgent needs of scientists, students, and citizens

interested in plants and their habitats in Virginia. Access to this information provides a deeper understanding of Virginia's plants and ecosystems, and increases our ability and desire to conserve the Commonwealth's plants and environments they inhabit.

(<http://www.state.va.us/dcr/dnh/vaflora.htm>)

PROBING THE PAST: VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND PROBATE INVENTORIES, 1740-1810

The Center for History and New Media (CHNM) introduces a new website: Probing the Past: Virginia and Maryland Probate Inventories, 1740-1810. What was daily like life in the 18th century? For slaves? For slaveowners? What objects did people use everyday for work, eating, or play? Probing the Past presents 325 probate inventories that were recorded between 1740 and 1810 in selected Virginia and Maryland counties. Resources include digitized copies and transcriptions of the inventories, keyword, and advanced searches, browsing by decade and county, two in-depth interviews with scholars on how to analyze probate inventories and three lesson plans.

(<http://chnm.gmu.edu/probateinventory>)

SCIENTIST EXHUMED BONES TO PAINT PORTRAIT OF COLONIAL LIFE

(Virginia-Pilot

Jan. 30, 2007)

Dr. Douglas Owsley was down in Smithfield, Va. to exhume the remains of Col. Joseph Bridger. Bridger was a Royalist and founder of the old church.

(<http://content.hamptonroads.com/story.cfm?story=118449&ran=11165>)

EAGLE'S NEST GETS HIGHWAY MARKER

(Free-Lance Star

Jan. 31, 2007)

Home to William Fitzhugh and his wife, Sarah Tucker Fitzhugh, the Eagle's Nest was a 17th-century plantation, one of Virginia's first mansions. William Fitzhugh I, was in his 20s when he arrived from England in 1673. He married Sarah Tucker and raised several children at Eagle's Nest. The marker stands near a marker for St. Paul's church.

Location of Eagle's Nest:

2.2 miles north from King George Courthouse on State Route 3, then 2.4 miles north on State Route 609, then 1.8 miles east on Route #218, .8 of a mile north on private road.



Fitzhugh descendant, Mayo Stuntz and wife, Mary, read the marker at Va. Route 3 and Dahlgren Road (State Route 206).

The text of the marker: Four miles north is Eagle's Nest, the seat of the Fitzhugh and Grymes families, and the core of a 17th-century plantation. Lawyer and planter William Fitzhugh I (1651-1701), born in Bedford, England, immigrated to Virginia by 1674 and acquired vast land holdings in the commonwealth including Eagle's Nest. He also represented Stafford County in the House of Burgesses. William Fitzhugh II inherited the property after his father's death. The present house there was damaged by fire in the late 18th century and was extensively repaired and subsequently enlarged. On the grounds are an early garden and a family cemetery.

Certification & Volunteer Opportunities

FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHEOLOGY LAB

The Lab schedule: Tuesdays 9am – whenever and Saturday 9am – 3:30pm.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM SESSION – FEBRUARY 10TH

Mike Johnson and Ann Wood organized a session for certification candidates on either Saturday, Feb. 10th Saturday, from **10am – 2pm** at the Fairfax County Archaeology offices (2855 Annandale Rd. Falls Church, VA 22042)

Mike Johnson will teach:

Lithic Analysis

Native American Ceramic Analysis

Other possible topics:

Program Overview/General Orientation

Introduction to Site Organization

Intro. to Archaeological Research Survey

RSVP to Ann Wood; if you were missed – please contact her (annpwood@comcast.net 703-620-6098). A donation of \$5 will be requested to cover lunch. As

always, non-candidates are welcome to attend (past students, for a refresher or future students, to see if they wish to join the Certification Program).

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HISTORIC RESOURCES (VDHR)

The VDHR started a new volunteer program in 2007. Are you passionate about the past? Help preserve its record by volunteering to work with DHR's Archaeological Collections. We need willing workers for a variety of tasks, which may include the following:

- Artifact processing and analysis
- Cataloguing and data entry
- Enhancing environment & accessibility of collections
- Documentary research
- Outreach activities (exhibits, presentations)

The Volunteer Program will run from January – May on the 2nd and 4th Fridays and Saturdays each month, from 9am – 4pm. This is also an opportunity to fulfill ASV Certification Program hours for the lab requirement.

Participants must be at least 16 years old and be able to work at least six hours per month. **Contact Dee De Roche** (dee.deroche@thr.virginia.gov or 804-367-2323 x134)

W&L ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORY

ASV certification students are welcome to work with W&L students and staff in the Anthropology Laboratory, located off West Denny Circle, just off Route 60, in Lexington Virginia. We are currently concentrating on historical period artifacts, both from 19th-century local kiln sites and from the Longdale Iron Mining Community [c. 1870-1914] in Alleghany County. Volunteer hours are from 10-2, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the months of February and March. Space and resources are limited; volunteers are asked to call at least one full day in advance to reserve a spot [**Laura Galke**: 540-458-8574 or Galkel@wlu.edu].

JMU ARTIFACT COLLECTIONS

ASV certification students are invited to James Madison University, to work with artifact collections from the Gathright Dam project (Bath County, 1976-1980). We are focused on meeting the Secretary of the Interior's curation standards for these collections, which include artifacts from a variety of now-inundated historic and prehistoric sites. Work will include reviewing reports, re-bagging and re-boxing artifacts, data entry, and

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confirming artifact identifications. This is a great way to learn basic artifact typologies. Work dates: Saturday, February 10, 17, and 24. Contact **Carole Nash** for directions (nashcl@jmu.edu or 540-432-6864).

Conferences & Symposia

MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONF.

The MAAC meeting will be in Virginia Beach, **March 15-18**. Papers and sessions will cover a wide variety of topics in prehistoric and historic archaeology.

To learn more, go to:

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

AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY & MATERIAL CULTURE

We are All Well explores the history of medicine and health care in America from 1750 – 1850 on **March 8th**. Presentations, costumed interpretations and tabletop exhibits examine treatment of common illnesses and epidemic diseases, remedies and medicines from the apothecary and garden, training of physicians and midwives, pregnancy and childbirth, medical instruments and other associated material culture.

Advanced registration required by February 28th – **special rate for Volunteers: \$45** (vs. \$65). Just let them know you volunteer with Liz Crowell's bunch at the Park Authority.

To RSVP and find out exactly when/where, contact: Museum Collections 703-631-1429 (ph); 703-631-8319 (fax); resources@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Kittiewan Tours & Volunteering

The Kittiewan plantation is going to be open to the public, beginning this Spring. Scheduled opening dates are below and the hours of operation are 10:00AM – 5:00 PM.

Proposed Admission Fees:

Adults	\$7
Seniors & Students	\$5
Children 6-16	\$3
Children under 6	Free

If you can help with staffing the museum and visitor center on these days, please contact **Harry Jaeger** (804-273-9291 or snafu.manor@verizon.net). Overnight

accommodations for out-of-town volunteers may be available; understand that space is limited. Your volunteer hours and visible support may prove an important part of future grant applications.



Kittiewan back when...



Kittiewan today

Scheduled Tour Days:

March	24 th & 25 th
April	7 th , 8 th , 21 st , 22 nd , 28 th & 29 th Including Garden Week
May	5 th , 6 th , 19 th & 20 th
June	2 nd , 3 rd , 16 th , 17 th & 30 th
July	1 st – 4 th , 14 th , 15 th , 28 th & 29 th Including the 4 th of July
August	4 th , 5 th , 18 th – 29 th
September	1 st – 3 rd , 24 th & 25 th Including Labor Day
December	15 th & 16 th “Christmas at Kittiewan”

Have you paid your ASV dues?

Each year your membership to the State Society is due in January. With your paid membership you get four issues of *The Quarterly Bulletin* as well as *The ASV Newsletter* and notices about archaeological events and publications.

Active / annual	\$25.00
Senior (65+ years)	\$20.00
Life (single payment)	\$350.00
Family member	\$2.00 (for any category)

Checks should be made out to: Archeological Society of Virginia.

Send to:

ASV Secretary/Membership
William A. Thompson, Jr.
536 Summit Ridge Dr.
Chesapeake, VA 23322

(Contact: 757-482-1696 or twarchitects@livenet.net)

VARC Challenge

The New River Valley Chapter challenges other ASV chapters to match their donation to VARC of \$250. The Northern Virginia Chapter will vote on this at the February meeting.

It is important to note that the VARC (Virginia Archeological Resource Center) fund is the source of funding for the Kittiewan plantation, the new ASV headquarters and museum.

ASV Marketing Committee

The ASV marketing committee will be responsible for making a concentrated effort at getting ASV publications out to more people. Each Chapter of the ASV will provide a point of contact to the Committee. If you are interested in getting involved and have marketing ideas to share, please let your Chapter president know who you are.

The Committee is interested in contacting Editors of Chapter newsletters. So, Editors – please contact the chair, Sara Bell (Sara.Bell@dom.com or nsbell@cfw.com).



There are 13 Chapters in the Archeological Society of Virginia and, hopefully, one more on the way - soon!

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	patrickoneill@erols.com 703-244-6275 (cell)
Vice President	Ann Wood	annpwood@comcast.net
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Fairfax County Archaeologists (FCPA)

Chapter Sponsors **call 703-534-3881**

Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
Mike Johnson	Richard Sacchi
Bob Wharton	John Rutherford

Public Archaeological Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon	Esther White	ewhite@mountvernon.org
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	7030838-4399 (information)
Pr. William County Archaeologist	Justin Patton	703-792-5729

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

2855 Annandale Rd.

Falls Church, VA 22042

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

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the James Lee Center at the above address.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

The Datum Point

Northern Virginia Chapter
Archeological Society of Virginia
2855 Annandale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED