



# The Datum Point

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

Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)

March 2007

## March 14, 2007 Chapter Meeting

**Speaker** – Christopher I. Sperling (The Ottery Group)

Christopher Sperling received a B.A. in Anthropology in 1996 and an M.A. in American History in 2005. He received both degrees from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He has conducted fieldwork throughout the Mid-Atlantic States as well as in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Throughout his fourteen years in the field of archeology, Mr. Sperling participated in numerous field projects including all levels of terrestrial excavation as well as underwater mapping and remote sensing. Research interests focus primarily in the early Colonial history and history of slavery in Southern Maryland. Currently, he is an archaeologist and historian for the Ottery Group of Olney, Maryland.

## **Topic – Civil War History and Archeology of Gloucester Point, Virginia**

Recent archeological investigations at Gloucester Point, Virginia exposed the physical remains of broad patterns in America's past. Aspects of exploration, settlement, the creation and dissolution of a union manifest in subsurface ruins; the artifacts of daily life belie substantive social and cultural change. However, ongoing research into Gloucester's Civil War historical and archeological records reveal not only the rapid and unpredictable social upheaval of a nation turned on itself but also the personal stories of those who lived it. Once encased in earth and archival dust the experiences of soldiers and civilians, men and women, slave and free now offer a glimpse into the nature of conflict and occupation in Civil War Virginia.

## February's Meeting

February's meeting turned into a very nice dinner at Anthony's. Six or seven of us enjoyed meeting a new member, when the President received a call from the speaker that he (Dr. Stephen Potter) was caught in his driveway! We retreated to the lab and held a business meeting. The primary results of the meeting were: the discussion of February events (sent around via email, by Pres. O'Neill, to as many members as possible) and decision of reviving **The Silent Auction** to raise funds for various causes inside and outside the Chapter.

## From the President – Patrick O'Neill

Volunteerism rules in this issue of the Datum Point! See how members of the Northern Virginia Chapter went to Kittiewan Plantation and helped with a Phase I pedestrian survey, outnumbering the volunteers from other chapters!!!! See how many certification students came to classes given by volunteer Chapter members! Spring is upon us, so start planning your involvement in outdoor fun with the NVC for 2007!

## April's Meeting = Silent Auction

The Northern Virginia Chapter has taken up the challenge of the New River Valley Chapter and has pledged \$250 for VARC. We will hold a silent auction on our April meeting night [April 11]. All the proceeds of the auction will be donated to VARC; if that total is less than \$250, the Chapter will make up the difference.

*The auction will start at 7 PM [not the normal start of 7:30].*

Everyone is encouraged to donate items. All you old-timers will recall that the Chapter used to have these auctions as fund-raisers; much fun was had and money was raised.

## 13 Candidates Attend Certification Session

By Ann Wood, Certification Liaison

Thirteen certification candidates participated in a four-course certification workshop held at the Fairfax County archaeology labs on February 10, including two who traveled more than 150 miles one-way to get there.

Candidates completed Certification Overview and General Orientation, taught by Patrick O'Neill, and three courses taught by Mike Johnson -- Basic Lab Procedures, Lithic Analysis, and Native American Ceramics Analysis. Four students working in the lab under other programs sat in.

Of the 13 candidates, six joined the certification program prior to the revisions of October 2005, and seven were enrolled in the newer version. Seven described themselves as just starting the program and six as midway through or a little beyond.

Two copies of the CD "FAQ's and Facts" have been added to the reading shelf in the prehistoric lab, where they may be checked out. If you need help obtaining reading material, please contact Ann Wood [annpwood@comcast.net](mailto:annpwood@comcast.net).

We will be looking for spring opportunities.

## McCary Fluted Point Survey: End of an Era

Mike Barber, Virginia State Archaeologist  
Ed Bottoms, Member, ASV Board of Directors

Based on a recommendation made by the Archeological Society of Virginia Fluted Point Survey Committee, the ASV Executive Board voted unanimously to end the publication of the McCary Fluted Point Survey in the *Quarterly Bulletin*. This brings to an end an important chapter in ASV history as, soon after the Society was founded, Dr. Ben McCary initiated the survey of fluted points found in Virginia. It was in 1942 that the Virginia Relic Collector's Club became the Archeological Society of Virginia with the first publication of fluted points in 1946. In fact, it was so early in the understanding of the Paleoindian Period that Dr. Ben, at first, referred to all fluted points as Folsom. So it is with great regret, that after 71 years, it was recommended that the participation in the survey by the ASV be ended.

This action was not to be taken lightly. It was with much deliberation and discussion that the recommendation was made based on the 4 following points:

- 1) **Point Authenticity:** With the advent of the internet and the increased traffic in artifact sales, the prices for lithic artifacts have skyrocketed. Along with increased sales and profit margin, a concomitant increased production of stone tool fakes has proliferated. And, with the fluted points being the most expensive, fluted point fakes are ubiquitous. Coupled with chemical patination, such points are often impossible to differentiate from real points. In some cases, the inclusion of a point within the McCary survey has acted as a positive sanction increasing the value of a point which may not be of Paleoindian origin. Hence, the possibility of fakes entering the McCary Survey is a very real possibility.
- 2) **Provenience:** The provenience of the points is often indicated by the owner. As the precise location of a fluted point increases its value, vested interest can play a role in an owner's provenience designation. As such, many places of origin are suspect. Hence, the precise location of origin of some of the points remains in question.
- 3) **Adequate Database:** The McCary survey currently has more than one thousand points within the database. Statistically, 1000 points is adequate for most manipulations. It should also be pointed out that the thousand points, for the most part, were recorded during "simpler" times when Dr. Ben controlled for chicanery with first-hand knowledge and familiarity with the owner/collectors. Hence, the authenticity and provenience of the earlier compilation can be more heavily relied upon.
- 4) **Lack of Control by ASV:** The Archeological Society of Virginia has no control whatsoever over what is included within the survey. It has been

underscored over the last several years that the survey is not owned, controlled, or reviewed by the ASV. As such, points included have not been sanctioned by the Society. As was pointed out by the committee, much disagreement has arisen concerning the inclusion of some debatable points within the survey. In some cases, the inclusion of a point within the McCary survey has acted as a positive sanction increasing the value of a point which may not be of Paleoindian origin. Hence, some points may have been included in the survey which many may not have agreed were of the Paleoindian time period.

Again, with much regret, the ASV Executive Board has unanimously supported a motion that the publication of the McCary Fluted Point Survey not continue in the *Quarterly Bulletin*. This is not to say that the inclusion of articles on the Paleoindian time period or articles on fluted points will not continue, only that the McCary Fluted Point Survey will not. To that end, the Fluted Point Survey Committee was thanked for its good work and dissolved.

## Want to Learn More re: Civil War Ancestors?

### **Introduction to Civil War Genealogy**

American Civil War Center Conf. Rm.

490 Tredegar St.

Richmond, VA

information: 804-780-1865 ext. 16

**March 13, 2007**

**10:00 – 11:00am**

Join Library of Virginia senior research archivist Tom Crew for an introduction to Civil War genealogy sources. Mr. Crew will explore published, manuscript, microfilm and online sources including: military service records; unit histories; federal, state, and local government records; and personal papers. Space is limited to 40 participants. *Call the information number above to register.*

Also:

**March 23-24, 2007**

**In the Cause of Liberty: How the Civil War Redefined American ideals**

## Public Lectures

### **10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GUNSTON HALL LIBERTY LECTURES**

#### *America: A Nation of Immigrants*

From before the time of colonist George Mason to now, foreigners have poured through the nation's portals. This year's series will consider these diverse peoples and the level of their incorporation into American society.

All lectures will be on *Sunday afternoons in March at 3:00pm* in the Ann Mason Room at the Visitor's Center. Light refreshments will be served from 2:30 to 3:00.

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** – Making New Americans: From Frontier to Melting Pot and Beyond

Stephen G. Bragaw, Sweet Briar College

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** – Beyond Legal and Illegal: Immigration and Citizenship in the Progressive Era and Today

Noah Pickus, Duke University

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** – ‘No Irish Need Apply:’ The Role of Immigration, Religion, and Ethnicity from President Kennedy to Justice Kennedy

Barbara A. Perry, University of Louisville

*Free and open to the general public.* Registration recommended, not required. Teacher recertification & student attendance certificates are available.

For information, call 703/550-9220.

### **LOUDOUN COUNTY'S 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES – THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY**

The Thomas Balch Library is pleased to announce that it has received grant funding from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy to underwrite a series of five public programs to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the establishment of Loudoun County. Admission is free to these programs.

They will be held at the Balch Library  
208 W. Market Street

All @ 2pm on Sunday Afternoons  
April 15<sup>th</sup>                      May 6<sup>th</sup>  
June 17<sup>th</sup>                      September 16<sup>th</sup>  
October 21<sup>st</sup>

Each lecturer will address the situation on the Virginia frontier in 1757 when Loudoun County was formed. At the time of its establishment the jurisdiction stood on the western border of the British Empire and faced the threat of French and Native American forces who raided west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and drove English-speaking settlers back toward the sea. In fact, Loudoun County is named for John Campbell, the fourth Earl of Loudoun, who served as commander-in-chief of British armed forces in North America when the county was created.

The programs will be video-recorded and subsequently published by Loudoun Historical Society and Friends of The Thomas Balch Library, Inc. as a memento of the County's 250th anniversary and the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the English in Virginia.

For more information, call: 703-737-7195.

### **RELIC PROGRAMS (Prince William County)**

Wednesday, **March 14<sup>th</sup>**, 11 a.m.

A Library on Your Desktop. Finding your family in online books.

Thursday, **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 11 a.m.

Family Search Indexing: A New Vision for Online Genealogy, presented by Julie Gideon of the Centreville Family History Center.

### **RELIC STAFF TEMPORARILY RELOCATED**

The Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for Genealogy and Local History (RELIC), Prince William Public Library System will be *closed from Monday, March 26 through Sunday, June 10* for heating and air conditioning work. During April and May 2007 the RELIC staff will be stationed at the Chinn Park Regional Library along with a limited portion of their collection devoted to Prince William County history and genealogy.

### **ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** – Virginia and the China Trade

(The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street @ 8:30pm)

David Taylor

Virginia's link to the Far East goes back to the mid-1700s, when Europeans and colonists looked to China with great hopes of economic and cultural enrichment. This talk is based on *Ginseng, the Divine Root*, which traces the history of the trade from the colonial era to the present.

### **ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** – CIVIL WAR DISCOVERIES: Forts of

Arlington (For Kids)

3:30 – 4:30pm

Location: Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St.,  
Arlington, VA 22207

Twenty forts were built in Arlington by the Union Army during the Civil War. This program presented by the Arlington County Conservation & Interpretation Section will discuss how and why the forts were built and then participants will build model forts. For more information call 703-243-4342.

**\$3 fee** due at the park on the day of the program.

**Registration required**, register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747. Program #632605A

### **PRINCE WILLIAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** – Bristow Battlefield, Then and Now

Speaker: Jim Burgess (Civil War Historian and member of the Prince William Historical Commission)

Location: Union Church, Brentsville

2:00 – 3:00pm call 703-754-8191 for information

## Ruth Sparacio

The Washington Post reported the death of Ruth Sparacio on Feb. 13, 2007. Anyone who has tried to do genealogical or real property research in Virginia knows the names of Ruth and Sam Sparacio. Husband and wife, the pair published hundreds of books in which they abstracted early deeds and wills. The Fairfax archeology library has their volumes for Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Stafford County. Their published abstracts allowed researchers to cover more than one county from one location. This is especially useful in cases where the periods being researched include the beginning of one county made up from another. In Fairfax County research, having Loudoun County records available is crucial for the northwest portion of the county, which was part of Loudoun County. The Sparacios have left a legacy which will last for a very long time.

## U.S. Forest Service – Map Price Increase

On February 28, 2007, the Forest Service (FS) increased prices for the Agency’s Forest and Grassland Visitor Maps. The last price increase was in May 2000. A recent financial analysis indicated that map prices must be raised to cover increasing costs.

Costs	Paper Version	Plastic Version
Previously	\$6.00	\$7.00
As of March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2007	\$12.00	\$14.00

## Kittiewan Plantation Phase I Pedestrian Survey

Several members of the Northern Virginia Chapter traveled to Charles City County and helped with a pedestrian survey on a 40 acre tract on the Kittiewan Plantation. Cedars along a historic fence line were found as well as relocating a possible cemetery were items of interest found during the survey. More work will be done on the property, so stay tuned for the dates. There is still some acreage to walk over before the shovel testing can begin.



Leigh Watlington – Certification student



Cedar tree with lateral branches from old fence line



Left to right: Bruce Baker (2006 ASV Volunteer of the Year), Patrick O’Neill, Charlie Manson, CK Gailey, Leigh Watlington, and Charlie Schug

[Photos taken by Diane Schug-O’Neill]

## From *The Gunston Grapevine*

by Dave Shonyo (Gunston Hall Archaeologist)

### **MORE GRAVEYARD MYSTERIES: WHO ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE?**

Along with some answers, one often gets even more questions. That is the norm in archaeological research. And it is very much the situation with regard to the Mason family burying ground. ("Family burying ground" is what George Mason called the cemetery in his notations in the family Bible.)

During the summer of 2005, a survey was done within the walled area of the burying ground. The survey employed ground penetrating radar (GPR) and other geophysical remote sensing techniques in an effort determine whether there are burials other than those represented by grave markers. The work was done by a team led by geophysicist Dr. Bill Hanna, assisted by the Gunston Hall Archaeology Department.

A surprising total of 22 burials were found. That figure does not include the George and Ann Mason burials or those of any infants. (It is known that there are at least three of the latter - including the twin sons who died within a day of their birth and who were the first occupants of the burying ground.) Only one of the burials detected is directly associated with a grave marker. Of particular interest is the presence of a rare and expensive cast iron coffin. A follow-up survey was undertaken in the summer of 2006, again under the direction of Dr. Hanna. The purpose was to explore the possibility that there might be additional burials located */outside/* the wall.

Louis Hertle said that, in 1913, "the cemetery was surrounded in part by a wire fence in very poor condition & partly down." Then, in 1922, with "the cemetery fence getting daily in worse shape I decided something permanent must be done & arranged for a brick wall. *The old fence covered a much larger piece than the brick wall as planned...*". The construction of the wall was funded with donations made by descendants of George and Ann Mason. Lucy R. Mason headed the fund raising drive. In September 1921 she wrote, "Yesterday I was at Gunston Hall and saw the graveyard there. I had a most ashamed and guilty feeling as I looked at the neglected graves and the broken down wire fence on its rotting posts. The realization that many visitors to that historic spot see the state of things and know that the descendants of George Mason could remedy it if they chose was quite mortifying to me... It is estimated that it will cost between \$1200 and \$1500 to build a strong, permanent brick wall around that part of the Gunston graveyard which contains the graves. *The present fence encloses a larger area, but there are no graves in most of the enclosed space, and it is the plan to build the wall around the several graves collected in one end of the original graveyard.*" (All italics added.) Thus, it appears that the wall was built to enclose only the grave markers visible in the early 1920's.

The wire fence mentioned by Louis Hertle and Lucy Mason obviously could not have dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, whoever put it there seems to have known (or thought) that the burying ground extended beyond the area now occupied by the

stone markers. And that person was correct. The 2006 remote sensing survey of the ground outside the wall indicated the presence an additional 30 suspected graves, plus a large number of possible burials. When Dr. Hanna uses the phrase "suspected graves," he is being a good scientist. What he means is that he did not actually view the physical burials. However, all of the instruments that he used returned signals that are characteristic of graves, so we can be pretty confident that is exactly what is there. In the case of the "possible burials," the signals had some - but not all - of the characteristics of graves.

The distribution of the newly-found burials indicates that the walled area is at or near the southeastern corner of the burying ground. Most of the graves are orientated in the traditional east-west direction. However, four of the graves in scattered locations are orientated at an oblique angle to the others. The oblique angle is approximately the same in each case. This is precisely the situation found inside the walled area. The why some graves are at an odd angle is not known. However, it is sometimes assumed that the long axis of the mansion is east-west. (John Mason seems to do this in his *Recollections*.) The oblique graves are more-or-less aligned with the long axis of the mansion, so perhaps this was used as a reference point when the grave shafts were dug.

A brass plaque placed on the cemetery wall shortly after its construction lists by name 16 occupants of the family burying ground. There are markers or monuments corresponding to eight of these individuals. The other eight known burials are not represented by markers. So, we have the names for 16 of the 52 (or more) burials in the Mason family burying ground. Who are the rest and why are they forgotten? The listing of names on the bronze plaque ends with the words, "...others in unmarked graves." How was the presence of apparently unknown persons in unmarked graves known in the 1920's? And, why are the graves unmarked?

It should be mentioned that the burying ground may have been even larger than the survey suggests. On the west side, graves were found right up to the edge of a wooded area. A photo taken in 1926 shows the area to be free of trees, a much further distance to the west than today. It is entirely possible that there are additional burials in this area.

The simplest answer to the question of the identity of the unknown burials would simply be that they belong to Mason descendants whose final resting place has been forgotten. That seems like quite a few people from the same family tree to loose track of, but it could happen. There are other possibilities. Most of the graves are in one of two clusters. This suggests the possibility of internments of burials originally made at another Mason family property. This could happen if property was sold or the burying grounds were to be disturbed by construction. Another possibility is that after the Masons ceased to occupy Gunston Hall, other people used the family burying ground as a general cemetery. These could have been slaves, which would be consistent with the lack of grave markers.

The presence of markers only in one corner of the burying ground is yet another puzzle. Other markers could have been removed for some reason. This happened in the old Mason family burying ground at Newtown. When the early Mason biographer, Kate Mason Rowland, visited Gunston in the early 1890's she found that a tenant had removed the markers from the old burying ground and was plowing the land. (One marker for Jeremiah Bronaugh was salvaged and now stands in the Pohick churchyard.) It is also possible that the markers were made of wood, or even that there never were any markers. This might indicate burials of slaves or of other people who could not afford stone markers. (It would also be typical of military field burials, but there is no reason to believe that there would be any of these.)

On the other hand, there apparently was no marker for George Mason's grave until an obelisk was placed there around the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The aforementioned Kate Mason Rowland, writing in an 1892 issue of *The Home Maker* magazine, commented, "A few hundred yards from "Gunston Hall," on the south-western side of the house is the family grave-yard. Here lie the remains of several generations of the Mason family, *many of them in unmarked mounds...* By an unaccountable, and it would seem inexcusable neglect on the part of his sons, for they were all left with ample estates, *no stone covers Col. Mason's own grave*". (Italics added.) Indeed, a photo accompanying the article shows part of the rather overgrown burying ground. The Ann Mason monument is very visible, but no grave marker of any kind can be seen next to it. This statement suggests that it was not all that unusual to leave graves unmarked.

The monument currently covering George Mason's grave was erected in the early 1960's. It more or less duplicates in size and style the Ann Mason monument. But, how old is the latter. Kate Mason Rowland wrote, in the above article, "The largest and handsomest tombstone in this little enclosure is that raised by George Mason over the grave of his beloved wife." Many people today do not think that it dates to Mason's time. The monument is clearly there in the photo published in 1892. Who, then, if not George Mason, would have erected a monument to Ann Mason and left the grave of her famous husband unmarked?

While preparing for the 2006 survey, Dr. Hanna reanalyzed his 2005 data using a computer program that was more powerful than the one initially used. A surprising result was that the previously-located iron coffin appeared to lie inside a brick vault. Moreover, the vault seems to be large enough to accommodate two coffins (although only one is iron). Physically probing with a metal rod and a soil-coring tool indeed revealed the presence of a subsurface brick structure. It has an arched roof, ranging from 16 inches underground in the center to 23 inches at the sides, and is 4.5 to 5 feet wide. Even more surprisingly, a second, nearly identical vault was found just outside, and partially under, the northeast corner of the wall. This vault also appears to contain a cast iron coffin. The arched roof ranges from 23 to 33 inches below the surface.

It is not known who might be buried in the vaults. Cast iron

coffins were manufactured between the late 1840's to the late 1860's, so the burials would obviously have taken place during that period. Such coffins cost fifty or more times as much as a wooden coffin, indicating that the occupants of the vaults were probably people of some wealth. Also, the similarities between the two sets of vaults and coffins suggest that the burials may have been made within a relatively short period of each other.

There are no plans to excavate in the cemetery area. However, if some of the graves were unearthened, what would be found? The few cast iron coffins that have been unearthened elsewhere have shown the body can remain preserved intact in these. Often, however, the glass face plate on these coffins is cracked by the pressure of the overlying soil, and water seeps in causing a certain amount of decomposition. The body is, nevertheless, generally identifiable. Burials in wooden coffins are another story. The soil in this area is acidic enough in this region to cause the complete decomposition of organic materials after about 100 years. All that would be left of the body and wooden coffin would be a thin layer of carbonaceous material in the outline of the remains. These are called "shadow burials." In addition, there would be inorganic objects, such as coffin hardware, buttons and personal ornaments. These might make it possible to determine such things as the sex and socioeconomic status of the individual. A name could be put to such burials only if some personalized object were present.

### **Board of Supervisors Approves Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Archaeology in Historic Overlay Districts**

The Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Archaeology in Historic Overlay Districts was passed by the Board of Supervisors on October 23, 2006. Liz Crowell of the Cultural Resource staff, along with Cindy Chambers, Linda Blank, and Lorrie Kirst of the Department of Planning and Zoning presented the amendment to the Board of Supervisors and addressed questions. Eleven speakers representing local historical groups came out in support of the amendment. The team has been working on this initiative for the past two years.

The Zoning Ordinance contains requirements for the submission of an application for a rezoning, development plan, special exception, special permit or variance in. The submission requirements apply to all applications, including projects in and contiguous to Historic Overlay Districts. If the area has archaeological potential, then a Phase I archaeological study must be done at the time of submittal. Since this allows for any archaeological resources to be identified early in the process, development can be designed to avoid significant archaeological resources.

## Board of Supervisors Approves Expanded Centreville Historic Overlay District

On February 26, the Board of Supervisors approved the expansion of the Centreville Historic Overlay District. The purpose of Historic Overlay Districts in Fairfax County is for the identification, preservation and protection of areas, structures and places that have special historical, cultural, architectural, or archaeological significance.

The study of the Centreville historic area revealed significant Civil War earthworks and fortifications on parcels within the proposed expansion area. In recognition of the significant archaeological resources identified in the study area, staff recommended revising the district boundaries. The district boundaries were revised to include archaeological resources and structures. The revision allowed for the protection of archaeological features and added a new use limitation that requires any new improvements to be designed to be sensitive to archaeological resources and to recognize their significance within the District. Further, any new improvements must be designed to be sensitive to the historical character of the area.

## The Falling Creek Iron Works - Tour

The Falling Creek Iron Works open house will be held at Falling Creek **March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Falling Creek Park is east and south of the intersection of US Rt. 1 and Falling Creek, just south of Chippenham Parkway (Rt. 150). The set-ups and exhibits will be just off Rt. 1 (first turn left or east after crossing Falling Creek heading south). *Signage, tents, people wearing period clothes, etc. will be at the road.* The **tours** will be done roughly at **30 minute intervals** and will be on the park property at Falling Creek about 200 yards away from the tents. The talking part of the tour lasts about 20 minutes and had time for questions afterward. **Best time to come is low tide**, when more timbers are exposed. Low tide is at 4:34PM so 2 hours prior will have maximum exposure right on through to the end of the day.

## The 2007 Virginia Forum – April 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

A two-day conference devoted to all aspects and time periods of Virginia history, will be held **at the Library of Virginia** (800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219) Friday, April 13, and Saturday, April 14, 2007.

The program for the Forum and on-line registration and hotel information are available on the Library of Virginia's Web site at <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/vaforum/index.htm>

The Virginia Forum brings together historians, teachers, writers, museum curators, historic site interpreters, librarians, and other engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history to share their knowledge, research, and experiences. The first Virginia Forum took place in April 2006 at

Shenandoah University in Winchester. Organizers hope that the Forum will become an annual event and that it will be hosted by different universities and historical organizations around the state in future years.

## Tour of the Education Center at Mount Vernon

The George Mason History Alumni is sponsoring a tour -open to all - of the new Education Center at Mount Vernon on **Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**. In connection with the tour, Professor of History Emeritus, Peter Henriques, author of the new book, *Realistic Visionary: A Portrait of George Washington*, will give an introductory lecture in the Robert Smith Auditorium on GW's remarkable leadership and then lead a Q and A session on him. Following the Q & A, people will tour Mount Vernon at their own pace. The cost, including entry to Mount Vernon, is \$15.00.

Anyone interested in obtaining tickets and more information, please e-mail Peter Henriques at [prhmeh@aol.com](mailto:prhmeh@aol.com).

## Historic Vienna Inc.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Antiques Appraisal  
12:00 – 4:30pm (131 Church Street, NE, Vienna Va.)  
**Limit 3 items – extremely popular event.**  
\$7.50 / item for HVI members; \$10 / item for non-HVI members. Please phone 703-938-5187 to make an appointment, all appraisal times are filled on a first come, first served basis.

## Grist Mill on Dogue Creek



This past February was the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington's birth, so I thought this photograph of early 1930s archaeology at his Grist Mill on Dogue Creek would be appropriate. The mill was built by Washington in the 1750s and disassembled by Quakers in the 1850s, with stones incorporated into structures on surrounding farms. Excavated for the bicentennial of his birth, the foundation was relocated under a couple of outbuildings.

Patrick O'Neill

## NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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## Fairfax County Archaeologists (FCPA)

**Chapter Sponsors**      **call 703-534-3881**  
Elizabeth Crowell      [elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Mike Johnson      Richard Sacchi  
Bob Wharton      John Rutherford

## Public Archaeological Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon	Esther White	<a href="mailto:ewhite@mountvernon.org">ewhite@mountvernon.org</a>
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	7030838-4399 (information)
Pr. William County	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