

The Datum Point

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



Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

April 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

This year is a very special year for archaeology in Fairfax County, because it was 30 years ago that the county embarked on a formal archaeology program to identify, examine and record sites ahead of construction.

To celebrate this milestone, a symposium and reunion of professionals and volunteers is planned for October, according to Liz Crowell, head of Fairfax archaeology as manager of the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section (CRMPS) of the Fairfax County Park Authority. Aimee Wells, our intern, has compiled a history of Fairfax County archaeology. She notes that while some archaeology was conducted informally in the county prior to 1978, the formal program began that year with the hiring of Mike Johnson as county archaeologist. Over the years, more than 3,000 historic and prehistoric sites have been surveyed and recorded, and a number of these excavated in detail.

Volunteers have played a major role in this, logging thousands of hours in field work and laboratory processing of artifacts. A number of volunteers have completed training to become certified archaeological technicians in a program now run by the Archeological Society of Virginia but developed in Fairfax County.

Stay tuned for further announcements from Liz, including ways our chapter can support the celebration of this 30-year anniversary in October. For now, spring is here. Let's get out and dig! Ann Wood

MARCH SPEAKER: DR. STEPHEN R. POTTER

Regional Archeologist, National Capital Region NPS

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 conflict 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, ethno historical, and historical data provide the foundation for new perspectives on the critical sixty years following the establishment of Jamestown.



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

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.

WILLIAMS/MULLEN SCHOLARSHIP-

Opportunity for chapter members - This a reminder to chapter members that the Williams/Mullen Scholarship Fund is available to chapter members for field school work. The deadline for submitting an application is April 1st. 2008. For more information and an application form contact Pat Fuller at pmfuller@juno.com or call her. Tel. 703-207-0440. Both the Kittiewan and Alexandria field schools would apply, as well as other opportunities listed in this issue.

SMITHSONIAN ARTICLE BY FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST JOHN RUTHERFORD

John Rutherford has authored an article on the use of historic aerial photography in cultural resource management entitled "Photography Changes Land Use and Planning". The article is published on the website click! Photography Changes Everything a publication of the Smithsonian Photography Initiative which is an ongoing project to explore how photographic images shape our lives. click! invited experts in their fields to explore the ways photography has changed a broad spectrum of disciplines-from anthropology to astrophysics, from media to medicine, from philosophy to sports. John was invited to submit an article after the publisher saw an article about our use of historic aerial photography in the Washington Post. The article can be found at <http://click.si.edu/Story.aspx?story=158>.



Image from article

Maddy McCoy – Local Researcher

By CK Gailey

Maddy, Chapter member who works at the Virginia Room, is featured on the front page of the 28 Feb issue of the Fairfax Co. Times newspaper. There's a picture of her at the grave of Sarah Ellen Runner (1854-1892), a member of the Gibson family, a prominent black family Datum Point

in Fairfax County. Maddy is assembling a Slavery Inventory Database for Fairfax Co. As a "trained researcher and certified historic preservationist," Maddy has put her considerable genealogical skills to bear on the project, with funding from the Fairfax County History Commission. Maddy said the backbone of her research is input from African-American families who live or have lived in the County. An important tool in gathering this information is a "Family History Questionnaire." The project started when "Brian Conley turned McCoy on to the controversy surrounding Fairfax's Guinea Road cemetery" and it being threatened by a VDOT project to widen the intersection of Little River Turnpike and Guinea Road. Maddy's project grew out of her research into the identities of the individuals buried in the cemetery.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat., May 10 from 10 a.m. to noon
Oral History Orientation
Alexandria Archaeology Museum
Required for all new oral history volunteers
Free, but reservations required.

Sat., May 31 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Family Dig Day
GW Masonic Nat. Memorial
Help archaeologist screen for artifacts at the Shuter's Hill archaeological site
\$5/person. Reservations required.

Sat., June 7 from 10 a.m. to noon
Field Orientation
GW Masonic Nat. Memorial
Required for all new filed volunteers.
Free, but reservations required.

Sat., June 14 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Family Dig Day
GW Masonic Nat. Memorial
Help archaeologist screen for artifacts at the Shuter's Hill archaeological site
\$5/person. Reservations required.

Sat., July 12 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Family Dig Day
GW Masonic Nat. Memorial
Help archaeologist screen for artifacts at the Shuter's Hill archaeological site
\$5/person. Reservations required.

Summer Camp 2008
GW Masonic Nat. Memorial
Session I: July 21 - 25
Session II: July 28-August 1
Day camp for 12 to 15 year olds
\$300/session

Sat., August 16 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Family Dig Day
GW Masonic Nat. Memorial
Help archaeologist screen for artifacts at the Shuter's Hill
archaeological site
\$5/person. Reservations required.

LEGISLATIVE PETITIONS DATABASE

The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce the completion of the Legislative Petitions Database. Over 25,000 petitions were entered into the database between 2001 and 2007 and are available to search through the Library of Virginia's website at <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gov/petitions/>.

Petitions to the General Assembly were the primary catalyst for legislation in the Commonwealth from 1776 until 1865. Public improvements, military claims, divorce, manumission of slaves, division of counties, incorporation of towns, religious freedom, and taxation were just some of the concerns expressed in these petitions. The petitions often contain hundreds of signatures and are a useful tool in genealogical research. Frequently, the petitions contain supplementary support documents useful in research, including maps, wills, naturalizations, deeds, resolutions, affidavits, judgments, and other items.

The database lists the name of the primary petitioner(s), locality, date of presentation, description, reel number, box number, and folder number. In addition, each petition has been assigned one or more topics for indexing purposes. The petitions have been assigned with the following topics: Agriculture/Livestock/Farming; Appropriations/Salary Increases; Banks & Banking; Bridges; Canals; Charters/Incorporations; Churches/Religious Issues; Citizenship/Naturalizations; Commerce; Constitutional Conventions; Courts/Judicial System; Division of County/New County; Divorce; Elections; Ferries/Packets; Fishing/Oyster Industry; Free Negroes; Indians; Land/Real Estate; Manufacturers/Manufacturing Companies; Militia/Public Guard; Mining/Mining Companies; Miscellaneous; Name Changes; Navigation/Navigation Companies; Organizations; Paper Money; Pardons/Release from Fines, Judgments, etc; Private Relief/Compensation; Prohibition/Temperance;

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Railroads/Railroad Companies; Revenue/Taxation; Roads/Turnpike Companies; Schools/Universities; Slaves/Slavery; Tobacco Inspection/Industry; Towns; War Claims/Pensions; and Wills/Administrations.

The Legislative Petitions Database is a finding aid to the petition collection. You have to view the petitions on microfilm, but often times a docketing on a petition will indicate whether the petitioner succeeded or failed. If enactment of a law was the object of the petition (which was usually the case, whether to obtain a divorce, move the courthouse to some other person's property, create a new county, increase a veteran's pension), then the quickest way to ascertain the outcome is to search the annual publications of the laws of each session.

Brent Tarter
The Library of Virginia
brent.tarter@lva.virginia.gov

Please visit the Library of Virginia's Web site at <http://www.lva.virginia.gov>

RIVERBEND AREA

We are now below the organic A horizon in both trenches. In the upper or Trench 1, we are about 2.25 feet below the surface. In the lower or Trench 2, we are at 1.25 feet depth.

The intact deposits in both begin with Late Woodland triangular points just below the A horizon. The small triangular point from Trench 1 is very late and probably proto-historic. It is associated within a stone fire ring and considerable charcoal. The soils within the ring were darkened and continued below than the level of the surrounding "floor." This is interpreted as "staining" from the burnt wood rather than an excavated shallow fire pit due to the softer, but similar soil texture to the surrounding soils. The "floor" around the ring is associated with small knapping debris and a few small tools.

This occupation is separated by several levels from deeper Late Archaic occupations indicated by a stemmed slate point (likely circa 1700 B.C.) and a Brewertown-like quartz corner-notched point (c. 3500 B.C.). These are associated by level with low quantities of small lithic debris. While the low lithic count may indicate ephemeral or short-term hunting camps, the narrowness of the trench window precludes ruling out the possibility of somewhat more stable single component occupations. That is, evidence of hearths and occupation activities

associated with the points might occur beyond the 3-foot width and 10-foot length of the trench.

In Trench 1, a number of Late Archaic points were recovered from the A horizon. These are interpreted as having been transported from an upslope location by erosional sheet wash. The amount of pebbles and small cobbles in this horizon seem "unnatural" given the topographic location of the trench. Scattered fire-cracked rock occurs in both the A and underlying B soil horizons indicating a displaced rock hearth/hearths. A half-grooved greenstone axe was also recovered from within the A horizon.

To date, no ceramics or evidence of structures (post molds) have been detected. Pebbles, small cobbles, and fragments of the native Upper Pelitic Schist continue to occur within the lower levels although at less frequency. Their relative quantity, sizes, and shapes along with the soils should help us better understand and interpret the various land formation processes. Dr. Daniel Hayes will be conducting the geomorphological study of the site. His insights will allow us to determine the relative stability of past land surfaces and to assess the potential for pre-Late Archaic occupations below the levels currently exposed in the trenches.

1883 BRISTOW STATION ARTICLE

NEWSPAPER issue of Saturday, NOVEMBER 10, 1883

BENEATH THE CEDARS LIE MANY HEROES OF THE TENTH ALABAMA

The following considerate letter from a Christian gentleman of Virginia is gladly given place in these columns:

MANASSES, PRINCE WILLIAM CO., VIRGINIA
Oct. 27, 1883

To Editor:

"Dear Sir,

Near Bristoe Station on the Virginia Midland Railroad, there are about one hundred graves of the Tenth Alabama Regiment. They are in a grove of small cedars which have come up since the men were buried. The old cedars were cut to make head boards. I felt impressed with the thought that perhaps some parents or friends heart has wondered where their loved were lying, and concluded if it would be of any consolation, I would take the trouble to get as many names as I could and send them to you for publication. The following is the list I

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obtained. Many of the boards are gone and some had no name while others had been worn too indistinct to read:

Allen, R.A.

Adams, W.P., Co. A., 1861

Barr, T.A., Died August 23, 1861; aged 22 years, 5 months and 12 days

Booxar, J.O.

Coleman, S.L.

Cravys, J.W.

Davis, Cyrus

Dunlap, R.G.

Dickinson, W.H. Born February 1, 1841; died August 10, 1861

Gardner, L.S. Died October 12, 1861

Haines, S.H., Co. E.

King, B.F., Co. G.

King, W.W.

These two are brothers and were buried at the same. Beneath the inscription are the initials "A.F.H." On W.W. King's board is "By A.F.H."

Leatherwood, J.E., Company D., died September 8, 1861. This is on a brown stone and well executed.

Martin, J.F.

Manters, J.F., died September 9, 1861, aged 21 years, 4 months and 12 days.

Nunnely, W.D. This is on stone.

O'Neal, J.T.

Plexco, J.L.

Ponder, M.

Patterson, J.M.

Pike, H.W., died October 17, 1861, aged 24.

Pike, W.H.H., died September 20, 1861, aged 20 years and two months and no days. These are side by side.

Prichett, F.D., Co. E., died September 19, 1861, aged 22 years, 2 months and 15 days. This is on brown stone, perhaps the best stone in the cemetery.

Sprinkle, C., Co. H. This is remarkably plain.

Sims, J.F., Co. D., died September 20, 1861.

Tuck, C.

Vaugh or Vaughn, J.M.

Watking, D.F., Co. G.

Weaver, J.W.

Ward, W.M., Co. D., died October 3, 1861.

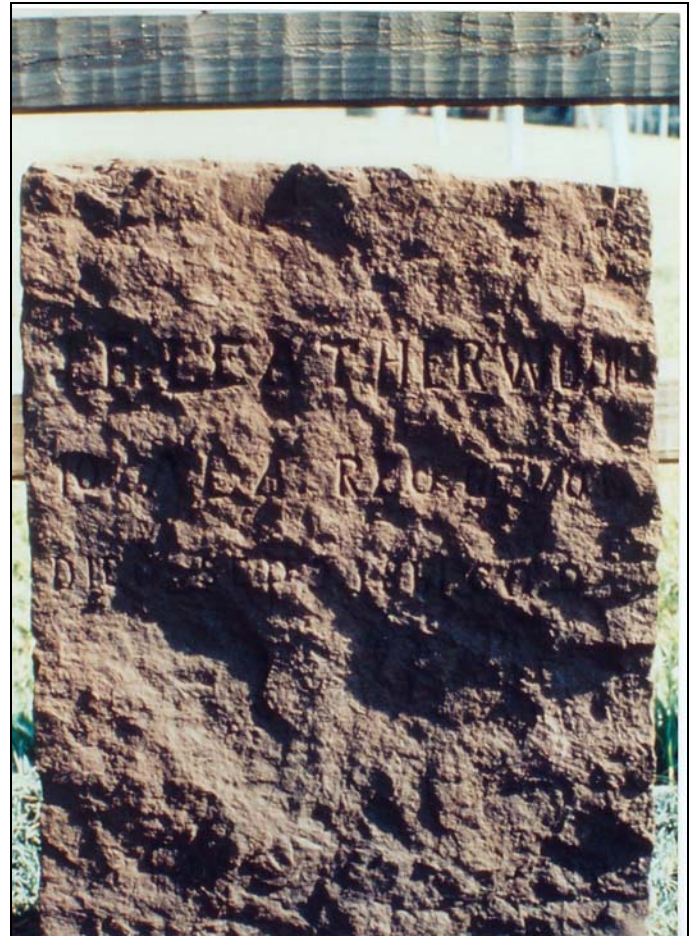
Perhaps it would be well to have them removed to Manassas cemetery as that is about to be fenced in. Should you publish this, I wish you would send me a copy of your paper. Any information I can give I will do so. I am the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at this place. Address: Rev. W.T. Schooley, Manassas, Prince William Co. Va."

Something of the history of the regiment to which these dead heroes belonged will be interesting reading in this connection. This history is a most glorious one, showing, as it does, a career of sacrifice and bravery rarely equaled in the annals of warfare. The Tenth Alabama was organized in Montgomery on the fourth of July 1861 and in July went to Virginia. In that state all of its struggles were located and in that state where so many of its members lie buried, it earned its glorious record.

At Winchester, Va., it was brigaded with the Ninth and Eleventh Alabama, Nineteenth Mississippi and Thirty-eighth Virginia, under Gen. E. Kirby Smith and went first under fire at Drainsville where the regiment lost 21 killed and 64 wounded. In the campaign on the Peninsula, it became under the guns of Yorktown and was vigorously shelled. Then it fought at Williamsburg and lost eight-five killed and wounded. At Seven Pines, being held in reserve, the command suffered but little, but in the battle of Gaines' Mill and Frazier's Farm, it was badly cut up, losing over two hundred killed and wounded.

At the second battle of Manassas, the regiment lost about thirty men and at Harper's Ferry it sustained another loss, about one half the regiment of two hundred being killed or wounded. The winter of 1862-63 was passed without serious casualty, but afterwards at Salem, when sustaining the shock of Gen. Sedgwick's corps, there was a loss of 120 out of a regiment of 400 men. Again at Gettysburg the men were mowed down by fifties.

There was hot fighting next year for the gallant Tenth at the Wilderness and at Spotsylvania, the respective losses being 50 and 60 killed and wounded. After this followed the second fight at Cold Harbor with its record of 20 killed and wounded. The month of June and August 1864 saw the regiment at Petersburg, at Hatcher's Run, at High Bridge, where the losses were 20 and 30 men. The retreat and surrender at Appomattox closes the history of this brave body of men. There were ten officers and 208 men present. One thousand four hundred and twenty-nine names had been at different times placed on the rolls. Of these, 300 fell in battle, 180 died of disease and 249 were discharged or transferred. Such is the history of the regiment; that noble band which has its representatives yet among the living, and yet other representatives lying hidden beneath the sod of the Old Dominion.



JE Leatherwood stone, thought to have come from 10th Alabama Cemetery on the Rollins Farm, Bristow Virginia

SPAIN DIG YIELDS ANCIENT EUROPEAN

A jawbone and teeth found in Spain are from one of the oldest known humans in Europe, scientists say.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/2/hi/science/nature/7313005.stm>

EXCAVATION STARTS AT STONEHENGE

The first dig inside the ring at Stonehenge in more than four decades hopes finally to resolve its mysteries.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7322134.stm>

THIS JUST MIGHT WORK!!!!

To keep deer flies at bay, go to this link!!!!

<http://www.gardensalive.com/product.asp?pn=1165&bhcd2=1207104136>

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Loudoun Co. Archaeologist	Mike Clem	michael.clem@loudoun.gov 703-737-8862
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)
Pr. William Co. Archaeologist	Justin Patton	jspatton@pwcgov.org 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