

The Datum Point

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

June 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

We are hoping for some good digging in June after flooding caused some delays in the Clark's Bridge dig. Our heavy rains in May brought the Potomac River over the banks at Riverbend, flooding not only our access road, but also one of the two trenches. According to Paul Inashima, digging is back on track.

Reports returning from Kittiewan tell us that Patrick O'Neill's field school was very successful and a lot of fun. We look forward to hearing more. Certification classes are scheduled for two Saturday mornings, June 14 and 21, in a classroom near our labs at the James Lee Center. The offerings will include certification program overview, faunal analysis, and lithics analysis. A sign-up message will be sent out shortly.

At our June 11 chapter meeting, we plan to vote on a set of amendments to the bylaws for the Williams-Mullen Scholarship, which is awarded by our chapter. These changes would shorten membership requirements for an applicant, allow a written report in lieu of an oral report, and require repayment of scholarship funds if the agreement is not fulfilled. This serves as your notice: You will receive the changes and a summary by email; please read them and be prepared to vote. If you need a copy mailed to you, let me know.

I, for one, am ready for some warm weather digging!

JUNE SPEAKER: SALLY LYONS
JAMES LEE CENTER: 7:30PM

HISTORIC COLCHESTER

Sally Lyons will be speaking on the history and historic archaeology of the site of the town of Colchester. Chartered in 1753, Colchester was Fairfax County's southern tobacco port. It was located at the crossing of

the Occoquan of the Kings' Highway by the ferry owned by George Mason, and on the site of earlier historic and prehistoric occupations. Many acres of archaeological remains have survived in the current residential area and in the adjoining 144-acre McCue tract recently purchased by the Fairfax County Park Authority. The vastness and complexity of the site offers a laboratory for the study of the 18th century Virginia entrepreneurial middle class in a port town, for very early settlement in Fairfax County and for the evolution of a site through time.



From the online Rochambeau map collection, Library of Congress

Sally has long been active in promoting preservation and research in Colchester and is a member of the Fairfax County History Commission. She has an A.B. from Duke University in Art History and was a T.A. in Anthropology at the University of Maryland. While associated with Duke, she did excavations in Winchester, England, the capital of Saxon Wessex. This city-wide study of the archaeology of an urban complex with 3,000 years of occupation made her aware of the enormous potential of the Colchester site, which presents a similar quality of preservation of the archaeological record.

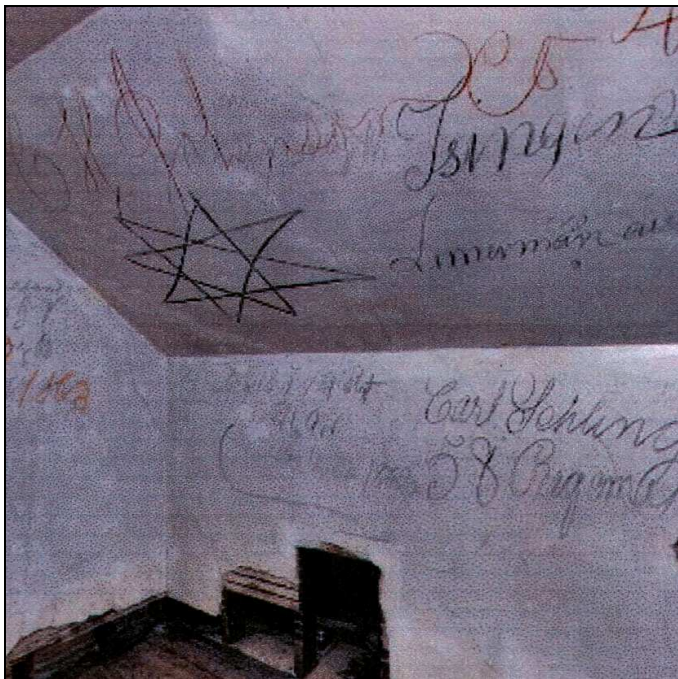
BLENHEIM CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

By Andrea J. Loewenwarter, Historic Resources Specialist, Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center

In late October 2008 the City of Fairfax will be pleased to open Blenheim Civil War Museum and Interpretive Center on Old Lee Highway. The brick farmhouse on 12 acres is an antebellum residence that was quickly utilized by Union soldiers at different times during the Civil War. The more than 120 identified soldiers from Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Michigan, and Wisconsin left their names, regiments, dates, hometowns, pictures and thoughts on three levels of the house.

Exhibits on the first floor will interpret the 4 generations of the Willcoxon family who owned the house and farm; the restoration/conservation process and family life interrupted by soldiers. The Interpretive Center will provide visitor information, in-depth interpretation of Fairfax Court House and the "Blenheim" Union soldiers during the Civil War; a program room and a gift shop.

On Sunday, June 8, the Office of Historic Resources will hold a Volunteer Open House for potential volunteers to learn about the various opportunities at Blenheim and our other historic sites. This will be held at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax 22030. Training will occur this summer.



For a truly **unique** look at Blenheim and the writing on the walls, please go to the following website!!!!!!

<http://www.worldvr.com/fullscreen/blenheimfull.html>

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY TOUR

By Pat Fuller

The NVC tour and business meeting went very well. We had a respectable turnout about 12 or so. The new library is a lovely facility and the Virginia room has the whole second floor. Thanks to Suzanne Levy head of the Virginia Room for conducting the tour.

The NVC voted in favor of buying the books on ceramics (\$350) that Liz requested and two \$50 donations to VARC (Virginia Archaeological Resource Centre at Kittewan on behalf of Rick Koestline and Edgar Hon. CK will draw up letters to VARC for Ann to sign to sign. The chapter also voted \$200 from the Scholarship Fund Field School donation for Patrick O'Neill and the Kittiwon Field School.

Netherlands Visitors!

Folks at the lab on May 20 were tickled to see some old friends and a newcomer from the Netherlands. Berno Tops and his wife Ruth dropped by and introduced their daughter Tamar, a delightful young lady who is approaching two. Berno dug with us for a few years while Ruth was on assignment at the World Bank. Now he is doing most Roman era archaeology in the Netherlands. They were here visiting old friends and heading for a vacation on the Outer Banks.



Berno Tops, with wife Ruth and baby Tamar



Crew at the lab and the newcomer!

Ed Hon – 1931-2008

The following obituary was received from Richard Chinn, Ed Hon's brother-in-law, and was the actually obituary written by Ed for his own epitaph in October 2003.



Ed Hon at the Hartwell Site in 1990

Edgar Rodman Hon (b. September 28, 1931), a retired Federal government employee, died of (what), (date), at (place). He had been a resident of McLean, Virginia, since 1975. Born in Washington, D.C., Mr. Hon grew up on Hyattsville and Bladensburg, Maryland, attending public schools there. He attended the University of Maryland, College Park, and the Columbia Technical Institute, formerly in Washington, D.C.

On completion of Surveyor training at the Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Mr. Hon was assigned to a topographic engineer company attached to the 8th U.S. Army in Korea. In 1953-1954 he performed field survey, cartographic, and photo-interpretation duties to up-date a band of maps taking in the newly-created Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas at the time of the truce in 1953.

On discharge, Mr. Hon joined the Graduate School, Georgetown University, Washington, preparing cartographic products of transportation studies. In 1963 he was employed by the Federal government and performed field surveys and cartographic supervision for the National Map Division, U.S. Geological Survey,

Department of the Interior, Reston. He retired as a Cartographer in 1984.

A writer, Mr. Hon contributed short fiction to Storyteller Magazine and interpretive historical articles to a society in Arkansas. Other contributions were to a historical society in Fairfax County, and to the Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library.

Mr. Hon was a member of the Archeological Society of Virginia; the Scott County, Arkansas, Historical and Genealogical Society; the Columbia County, Pennsylvania, Historical and Genealogical Society; and the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia.

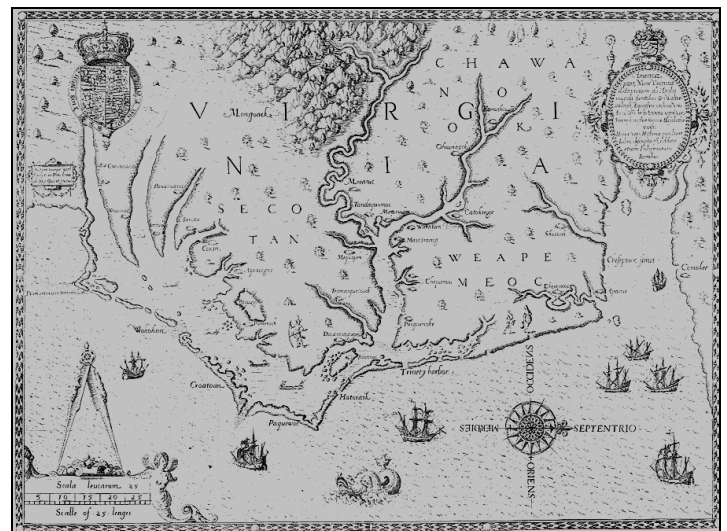
Mr. Hon leaves a sister, Janet L. Chinn, Annapolis, MD, and a cousin, Patricia Kirk, Dallas, Pennsylvania.

First ("Lost") Colony, North Carolina

New round of archaeological investigations: Last week, First Colony Foundation (FCF) teamed up with scholars and the Time Team America to excavate the grounds. The teams discovered several artifacts "both prehistoric and historic," said Eric Klingelhofer. Two small sherds of English Essex black ware was found on the third day. According to Nick Lucchetti, the Essex black-ware is unlike any artifact from previous excavations and seems to be connected with domestic use.

<http://obsentinel.womacknewspapers.com/articles/2008/05/21/features/feats2251.txt>

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1590 map of the Roanoke Colony area

MERRYBROOK: LAURA RATCLIFFE HOME **NEEDS FUNDS AND FRIENDS**

Merrybrook lies among one of the most heavily trafficked and developed areas in the Washington, D.C. area. The current owners have made it their mission to see that this simple and elegant home near Frying Pan Park in Herndon -- one of the last antebellum homes in the area -- receives the same recognition and long-term protection as Mosby's Rock. A gala is planned for this Sunday, June 1, in Leesburg, to help provide that. Go to: www.loudountimes.com/news/2008/may/27/home/

HISTORIC RAILROAD BRIDGE REOPENS: **THE PINEY BRANCH BRIDGE**

The Piney Branch Bridge located along the W&OD Trail in Vienna and damaged by floodwaters last year, was recently reopened. The original bridge was built in the 1850 as part of the W&OD Railroad. Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority rebuilt the damaged bridge using modern engineering combined with the original stones used 150 years ago. Dominion Virginia Power donated the funds to repair the bridge. Go to: www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=315417&paper=73&cat=104

KITTIEWAN FIELD SCHOOL

by Patrick O'Neill

We had so much fun, dug a lot, laughed a lot, and got cold, hot, wet and tired! The Northern Virginia Chapter, along with many other chapters, performed wonderfully and made this effort at Kittiewan a great experience! Just look at these photos!



John Kelsey screening for artifacts!



Leigh Watlington probing for headstones!



Mary Green toughing it out!



Janet Martin at an STP!



Diane Schug-O'Neill digging with Cynthia Hanson

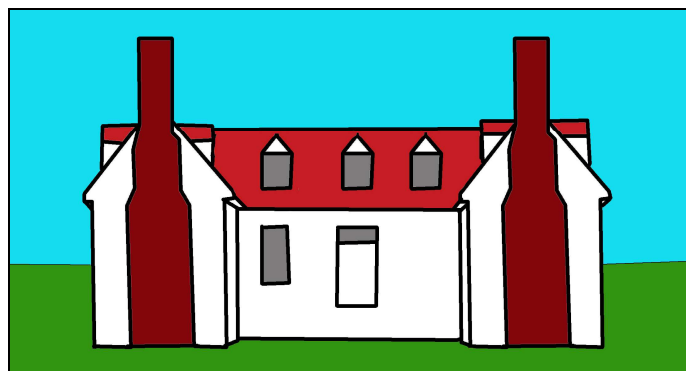


Teaching surveying with a transit to John Kelsey, while Nash Riggan and Jackie Cuyler look on!

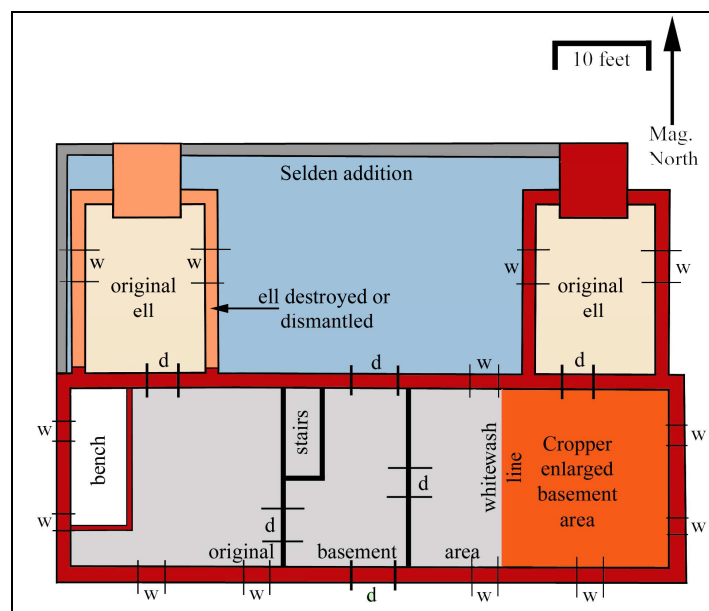


Me? I dug under the floor boards! But, I found this old foundation keyed into the main cellar wall!

The information from Field School proved a second original wing was present (now destroyed) and the house was probably built between 1770 and 1790. We also found out the basement was enlarged in the 1980s! Artifacts included a large marble, a South Carolina Civil War military button, and a glass salt.



Kittiewan in 1770s with two rear wings



Kittiewan original 1770s and Civil War floor plan



Glass salt

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Ann Wood	annpwood@comcast.net 703-620-6098
Vice President	Patricia Fuller	pmfuller@juno.com
Treasurer	C.K. Gailey	treas@nvcasv.org
Corresponding Sec.	Maggie Johnson	stillmaggie@cox.net 703-455-6902
Recording Sec.	Felicia Glapion	glapfk11@yahoo.com
Editor	Patrick O'Neill	patrickloneill@verizon.net 703-244-6275

Fairfax County Archaeologists (FCPA)

Chapter Sponsors call 703-534-3881

Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
Mike Johnson	michael.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov
Bob Wharton	robert.wharton@fairfaxcounty.gov

Other Public Archaeological Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon	Esther White	ewhite@mountvernon.org
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
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@pwcegov.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

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