



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

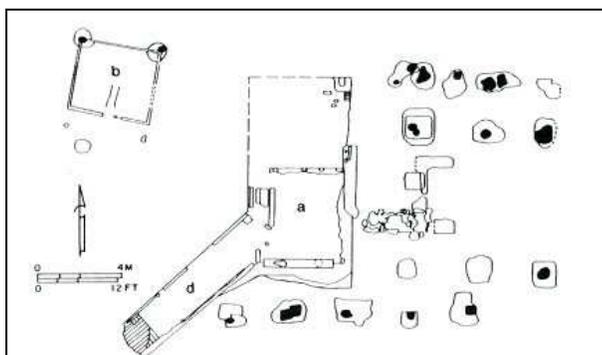
August 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

If you haven't already done so, please flag the dates of October 9-11 to learn a lot about the network of archaeology in Virginia by attending the annual meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia in Fredericksburg. The meeting will feature reports on archaeology from around the state, and a Saturday night speaker and banquet where this year's certification graduates will also be recognized. We expect to honor several from Northern Virginia.

Our chapter has a special role this year. As the host chapter, we will be welcoming archaeologists and volunteers from around the state and helping to help staff the meeting. The current president of the ASV is our own chapter member Patrick O'Neill. Other meeting highlights are expected to include a field trip and certification courses, so please send your registration form in promptly when you receive it, and try to stay over at least for Saturday night.

A special archaeology license plate for Virginia is also expected to be considered at the meeting, if Maggie Johnson can get a reasonable show of support. If you would be willing to purchase such a plate for your car in the latter part of next year, Maggie needs you to email her NOW at either arch-plate@cox.net or stillmaggie@cox.net. Without your commitments, this nifty idea will stall, and we don't want that!



Plan view of the c. 1680s-1730s earthfast structure with cellar and passageway excavated by John Milner & Associates, Inc. From McCarthy, Snyder, and Roulette 1991.

AUGUST 12TH PRESENTATION

ADDISON PLANTATION (18PR175)

BY DR. REBECCA MOREHOUSE



Oxon Hill Manor, historically known as Addison Plantation, is located along the Potomac River just outside of the District of Columbia's border with Maryland. John Addison began acquiring property in the area in 1685 and he was living there by 1689 (see image lower left). John's son built a two-story Georgian-style manor house in 1710-1711 on the site. The Addison house burned in 1895.

Dr. Morehouse is the Curator of State Collections for the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in St. Leonard, Maryland. As curator of the Addison Plantation collection, she will give an overview of the various projects that took place at the site and focus on the more artifact rich features. She will also bring along some of the artifacts for NVC members to see up close and personal.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

By Mike Johnson

Cardinal Glen (44FX3379) - We will resume field work on the site on Saturday (8/15) and continue on Saturday (8/15). This will involve careful excavation of the 10x10-foot block adjacent to the stream bank cut that is threatening the site. Our goal is to identify prehistoric features and assess the stratigraphy.

Gault 2009 - As of this date we have 18 people signed up for various amounts of time for the two-week field session at the end of October with several more people still interested in signing up. We should be averaging about 15-20 crew members each day. That includes 10-12 of our crew supplemented by people from other parts of the country and the Gault staff. It is building up to be a truly memorable field experience.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION HOSTS FREEDMEN'S CEMETERY TOUR ON AUGUST 15. CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST TO SHARE FINDINGS OF INVESTIGATIONS OF HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY.

By Pamela Cressey

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission is offering a special tour and discussion of historic Freedmen's Cemetery on Saturday, August 15. At 10:30 a.m., City Archaeologist Pamela Cressey will lead a tour of Freedmen's located at 1001 South Washington Street. She will share findings of the archaeological investigation and current plans for the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial.

After a tour of the cemetery site, participants are invited to meet at Perk Up coffee shop at 829 South Washington Street for discussion of archaeological and historical research and the experiences of freedmen in Alexandria during the Civil War. Reservations are not required. For more information, please call 703.838.4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Freedmen's Cemetery was established in 1864 after thousands of African Americans fled slavery and came to Union-occupied Alexandria seeking freedom. Without adequate shelter, food and medical care, they died at an alarming rate. The military authority overseeing Alexandria ordered that a cemetery be established, and over the next five years, approximately 1,800 people were buried there before the federal government abandoned the cemetery. Over time the cemetery was forgotten, and in

1955, a gas station was built on the site, destroying countless graves; construction of the adjacent Beltway and George Washington Parkway also impacted the site.

Local historians later discovered evidence of the cemetery through burial records and historical newspaper accounts, and when planning for the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge began, a citizen group, Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery, urged the City to research and preserve the site. The City acquired the property in 2007, demolished the buildings and rededicated the site as a cemetery. Archaeological investigations were completed last year and confirm the existence of hundreds of graves. The City is now in the planning process to create the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial on the site.

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN VIRGINIA

In close cooperation with the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA), DHR has completed an update and revision of the *Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Virginia*. After careful review by both parties, the avocational community, and the public, the *Guidelines* were approved by COVA and DHR and have been adopted as DHR's official guidelines. While many of the guidelines remain unchanged, a number of important changes will be noted with regard to reporting, surveying battlefields and underwater resources, and the testing of deeply buried sediments, to name a few revisions. As the guiding premise for revision was the appropriate consideration of the archaeological resource base, it is hoped that the guidelines prove adequate for the task. All the same, the revised guidelines are designed to be flexible, so changes can be made as needed and warranted. Suggested changes to the *Guidelines* should be made to DHR State Archaeologist Mike Barber (Mike.Barber@dhr.virginia.gov).

Guidelines are posted here: http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/Guidelines_For_Conducting_Archaeological_Survey_in_VA_June2009.pdf

NEIGHBORING COUNTY EVENTS

Civil War battlefield tours scheduled: In commemoration of the 147th Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Run and the Battle of Thoroughfare Gap, the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division and The Turn the Mill Around Campaign are co-

sponsoring tours of the two historic Civil War battlefields in Prince William and Fauquier counties. Several tours will be offered throughout the day of each battlefield on Saturday, August 29. For more information, call 703-365-7895 or contact rorrison@pwcgov.org.
<http://www.pwcgov.org/docLibrary/PDF/10236.pdf>

Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Loudoun County)
New park planned. During a recent Board of Supervisors' meeting it was announced that the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is poised to take over ownership of the historic Mt. Zion Baptist Church east of Gilbert's Corner from the county along with the 88-acre Mosby Run and several other surrounding parcels, to form an 150-acre regional park on Loudoun's southern boundary, of which the church will be the central focus.
<http://www.leesburg2day.com/articles/2009/07/23/news/fp105park072309.txt>

COME BRUSH UP ON YOUR HISTORY

By Nelson D. Lankford, Director of Publications and Scholarship and Virginius Dabney Editor of the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography

Beginning in September, the Virginia Historical Society will offer three exciting new classes on a wide range of topics, from the ancient ruins of Mesoamerica, to Virginians in World War I, to Richmond's architectural history. I invite you to sign up for these classes as soon as you can. I expect them to fill up quickly.

Unlocking the Secret Code of the Maya

By Walter Witschey

September 17 - Time: 5:30-7:00 pm

Have you ever wanted to be an armchair Indiana Jones, discovering lost cities in the jungle? Explore the ancient ruins of Mesoamerica with Walter Witschey, Maya archaeologist, professor of anthropology at Longwood University, and director emeritus of the Science Museum of Virginia. In this class, Dr. Witschey will share his ongoing research from numerous visits to Mesoamerica and with modern remote-sense data. He will also present new findings in deciphering the ancient Maya script that, until now, has hidden from us the life and times of the Maya kings and dynasties.
\$25/VHS members; \$30/nonmembers

Over There! Virginians Fight the War to End All Wars, 1917-18

By Brig. Gen. John W. Mountcastle

Sept. 24, October 1, 8, & 15 - Time: 5:30-7:00 pm

In the spring of 1917, actions taken by Germany forced the United States into the brutal war in Europe. President Woodrow Wilson and many military leaders with strong ties to the Old Dominion launched extraordinary efforts to end the Great War before France and Britain were overcome. The experiences of the many thousands of Virginians who went "Over There" to fight and the tremendous impact that the World War had on life in Virginia will shape our discussions in this lecture series, which will be taught by Brig. Gen. John W. Mountcastle (USA, Ret.). \$110/VHS members; \$125/nonmembers

A Concise History of Richmond's Architecture

By Robert P. Winthrop

October 29, November 5, 12, & 19 - Time: 5:30-7pm

When Jefferson designed a great Roman-style temple as the Capitol of Virginia in the late eighteenth century, he began a tradition of distinguished architecture in Richmond. The hamlet on the falls of the James grew into a city with a taste for architecture. Great and sometimes eccentric buildings dominate its modern landscape. These include an Egyptian-style medical school, a Moorish-style auditorium, and a Gothic city hall, as well as many distinguished churches, schools, train stations, and hotels. This class by architectural historian Robert P. Winthrop will discuss these buildings and relate them to the history of Richmond and to national architectural trends. The class is intended for those who would like a concise overview of Richmond's architectural history and covers such topics as Jeffersonian classicism, Victorian exuberance, eclecticism and early modernism, and residential architecture in Richmond's neighborhoods. \$110/VHS members; \$125/nonmembers

SAA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

JULY 2009 From David Lindsey

Congress and the President spent much of July in debate over the major public policy issue facing the nation, health care reform. Most other matters took a back seat. However, progress was made on filling open positions at the Department of the Interior, as the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a confirmation hearing for Jonathan B. Jarvis, President Obama's nominee for Director of the National Park Service.

Legislation

H.R. 1612- Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2009
Sponsor- Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ) Status- passed by the
House Natural Resources Committee

June 10; pending before two other House committees. This legislation would expand the mission of the existing Public Lands Corps, allowing for improved maintenance and restoration of public lands and the resources contained in them. The bill would provide the Departments of Interior, Agriculture and Commerce with more financial resources to recruit personnel, in particular at-risk youth, to train and carry out rehabilitation programs on federal lands. The legislation would update and expand the types of projects that would qualify for funding to specifically include cultural, historic and archaeological resources. In addition, authorized projects would include those dealing with biological diversity and climate change. The Senate version of the bill, S. 1442, is pending before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2996- Interior and Environment Appropriations for FY2010, Sponsor- Rep. Dicks (D-WA) Status- passed the full House June 26. The bill would fund the Department of Interior, the EPA and related agencies for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009. Most of the major federal historic preservation programs are funded in this bill. The following is a breakdown of some of the preservation line items, with the difference from FY09 spending in parentheses:

- BLM cultural resources--\$15.6 million (down \$135 thousand)
- NPS cultural programs--\$24.5 million (up \$1.8 million)
- NPS Heritage Partnerships--\$17.8 million (up \$2.1 million)
- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) SHPO--\$46.5 million (up \$4 million)
- HPF THPO--\$8.0 million (up \$1 million)
- HPF Save America's Treasures--\$30.0 million (up \$10 million)
- Preserve America--\$6.17 million (up \$6.17 million)
- USFS Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness- \$292.5 million (up \$14.9 million)
- Advisory Council Historic Preservation--\$5.9 million (up \$410 thousand)

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the legislation on June 25. It contains the following provisions:

- BLM cultural resources--\$16.6 million
- NPS cultural programs--\$26.0 million
- NPS Heritage Partnerships--\$17.7 million
- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) SHPO--\$46.5 million
- HPF THPO--\$8.0 million
- HPF Save America's Treasures--\$20.0 million
- Preserve America--\$3.17 million

USFS Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness- \$290.1 million
Advisory Council Historic Preservation--\$5.9 million

The next step will be for the full Senate to pass its version. Then the two bills will have to be reconciled before a final bill can be sent to the President for signature. Congressional leaders have indicated their intent to enact all appropriations bills under regular order in September.

S. 409--Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2009, Sponsor- Sen. McCain (R-AZ). Status- pending before Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee This legislation, also known as the Apache Leap bill, would direct the Department of Agriculture to convey certain lands on the Tonto National Forest to the Resolution Copper Mining Company in exchange for a parcel of environmentally sensitive land elsewhere in Arizona. The lands to be conveyed contain a number of archaeological sites.

On June 17, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests held a hearing on the bill. During the hearing, the Department of Agriculture witness expressed the administration's concerns with the bill. SAA submitted written testimony in opposition to the legislation, as it does not ensure adequate protection for the cultural resources that would be affected by the land transfer and subsequent mining activity. You can read the SAA testimony at <http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/GovernmentAffairs/tabid/115/Default.aspx>

At this point, the outlook for the bill is unclear. Any further action will have to wait until the fall. A House companion measure, H.R. 2509, is pending before the House Natural Resources Committee.

On July 28, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a confirmation hearing for a number of President Obama's nominees to the Departments of Interior and Energy. One of the nominees was Jonathan B. Jarvis, who was tapped to become Director of the National Park Service. During the hearing, Mr. Jarvis was asked a number of questions by committee members, most of which focused on land use and access policies in specific national parks. The next step is a vote on the nomination by the committee, then a vote in the full Senate. These votes will likely take place in September. You can read Mr. Jarvis' testimony at http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=acf70541-c1db-dd29-a7e7-407d69e3dd08

2009 NVC PICNIC!

Nearly 30 members and friends enjoyed our chapter picnic on a perfect day at our Cox Farms picnic site. Mike Johnson and Bill Brickhill served as grillmeisters. Paul Inashima made sure that CD Cox's fresh blackberry pies were widely shared. Jim and Ronnie Anthony enjoyed exploring the pond, and a good time had by all!



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Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)

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 should join our parent organization,
the Archeological Society of Virginia.
asv-archeology.org*

**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!!!!

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

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