



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

January 2014

Chapter meets at the James Lee Center, 2855 Annandale Rd, Falls Church, 2nd Weds. of each month

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

As we start 2014, the Chapter can look forward to another great year of archaeological-oriented activities. In addition to our annual chapter picnic and holiday party, we have several tours planned. And, we have a full complement of Chapter speakers for the coming year will be held. Another event coming up is the 150th Civil War ceremony at Kittiewan Plantation on June 14 and 15, 2014. Hopefully, we can make a big chapter attendance. Kittiewan is the ASV's home site, and here is a chance to visit it. Some do not realize that the historic site has a prehistory.



Kittiewan's Native American Display

There will be more opportunities for helping on excavations, namely Colchester, and plenty of laboratory work. Last year, the ASV Certification Committee Co-Chairpersons Dr. Carole Nash, ASV Vice- President, and Bruce Baker (contd pg 2)

January 8th Meeting

RECENT EXCAVATIONS AND FINDINGS AT COLCHESTER

By Megan Veness



Contd from pg 1

presented Certificates of Achievement to Walt Maginnis, Middle Peninsula Chapter, and Donald R. Williams, our Northern Virginia Chapter, for completing the ASV Certification Program. Think about signing up for certification; it is a great experience in archaeology.

Don't forget your dues, as they become due in January. These monies help support all the Chapter activities. And, **don't forget your state dues**; you can pay both at the Chapter meeting. And, don't forget, we give away archaeology scholarships! planning a study, then apply. I am planning to schedule an excavation at Arkfeld in March; more information to come. I'm planning ten days in the field, naturally, Chapter members will be invited to help with the excavation and laboratory processing.

One final topic, we are going to give a new look to our webpage this year. Remember, the site contains back issues of our Newsletter. Ready or not, here we go for 2014.

PUERTO RICO TRIP & WAR OF 1812 RESEARCH

By Patrick O'Neill

Diane and I recently went on a family vacation to Puerto Rico, and I wanted to share a couple of items with the chapter. We got to see some wonderful examples of hand molded bricks in several places!



The earliest sections of Fort San Juan are a mixture of stone masonry and bricks, some are exposed and show the characteristics of hand made products. The bricks were generally thinner and wider than those seen in colonial Virginia, and more inconsistencies in shape and size, probably a result of a lack of regulations for that industry.



The most important thing I found, was a pyramid of pre-Napoleonic wars 13 inch mortar shells at Fort San Juan, which will greatly help my War of 1812 research at the Battle of the White House.



American Revolution-era mortar shells have a neck where the wood fuse was hammered into the hollow shell. Not sure why the neck was necessary, but they were manufactured for over 30 years.



Mortar shells with the neck contained long thin loops used to lift the shell into the mortar. Extremely thin, these loops do not often survive and are many times over looked for shell identification.



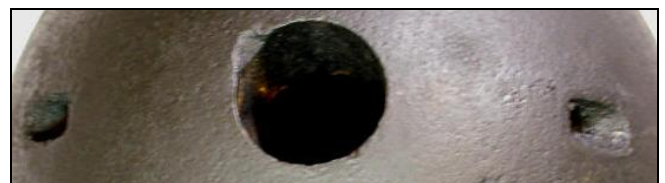
This necked shell above was fired from the *Saratoga* during the War of 1812. On the mortar shells from the Napoleonic wars, including the War

of 1812 in America, the fuse hole opening was flush with the exterior of the shell (see below), yet some necked shells, like from the *Saratoga* were carried over from earlier periods. The tong loop was shorter resembling a folded nail.



from Fort McHenry

By the American Civil War, the fuse holes were still flush with the exterior of the shell, but tong loops were replaced with tong divots.



This information is published first, here, in the Datum Point, to give recognition to our efforts!

OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

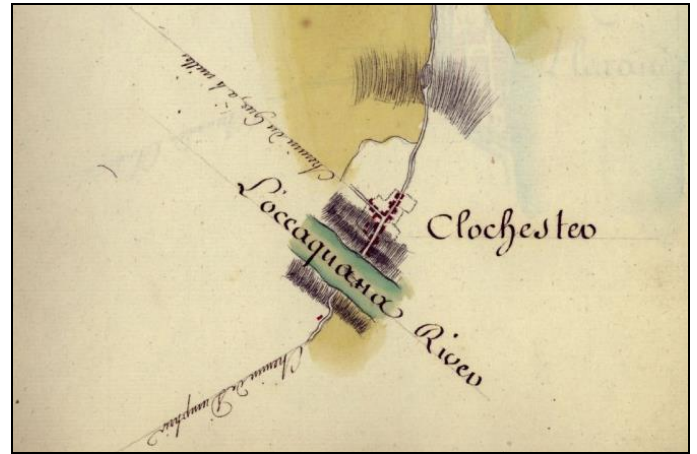
Happy New Year!! Hope everyone had a great holiday season. Holiday schedules gave everyone at CART the opportunity for a break, but now we are back. CART is continuing excavations at the Enyedi Property. Some test units have curious stratigraphy and stone concentrations, so we have expanded on these interesting units and are trying to figure out what it all means for Colchester history. Enyedi Property is located just to the east of the Colchester Town plat, and interesting artifacts recovered included English Brown stoneware with the William III excise stamp (used 1689-1792), and an old whiskey bottle from Rochester, NY.

The large stone concentrations are located near Furnace Road and could be associated with structures mapped on the Rochambeau Map of Colchester from 1782. We are expanding on the stone concentrations to figure if they form a building foundation, are evidence of roofing slate, or are an early road bed for Furnace Road.



A few snow and rain days have led to lab days. With help from our volunteers and interns, we finished washing artifacts from our Flood Plain Datum Point

Survey and work on the survey near the Occoquan River and continue to catalog them. The 1/16th inch water screening for the flood plain area was finished before the holidays.



Picking the water screen fraction recovered from the area we refer to as the Kite Property has been completed and all artifacts are cataloged. The information will be given to Marion to add to the extensive view of Colchester that she is creating. The information is fed to GIS via the Artifact Material Analysis System and database we created to track our projects and catalog our artifacts.

Marion and Chris presented the complex work of GIS and 3D modeling of archaeological data to the Acting Director of the FCPA, Cindy Messinger. She was very impressed with the efforts of the entire team in the creation of "Virtual Colchester." This GIS project is entirely data-driven, down to the choice of various tree shapes, based on carbon samples recovered from eighteenth century context.

Marion created "Virtual Colchester" as a three-dimensional representation of the Town of Colchester. CART hopes to expand this to include all the various occupations identified on the park from prehistoric hunter-gatherers through the twentieth century. "Virtual Colchester" is mentioned prominently in the Fairfax county year end review

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/annualreport/> in the natural resources section. Click at the top of

the webpage on resource management and you can read about ðVirtual Colchester Platform Becoming a Realityö. Please email CART.volunteers@live.com for field volunteer opportunities. Look forward to seeing you by the backdirt pile!!



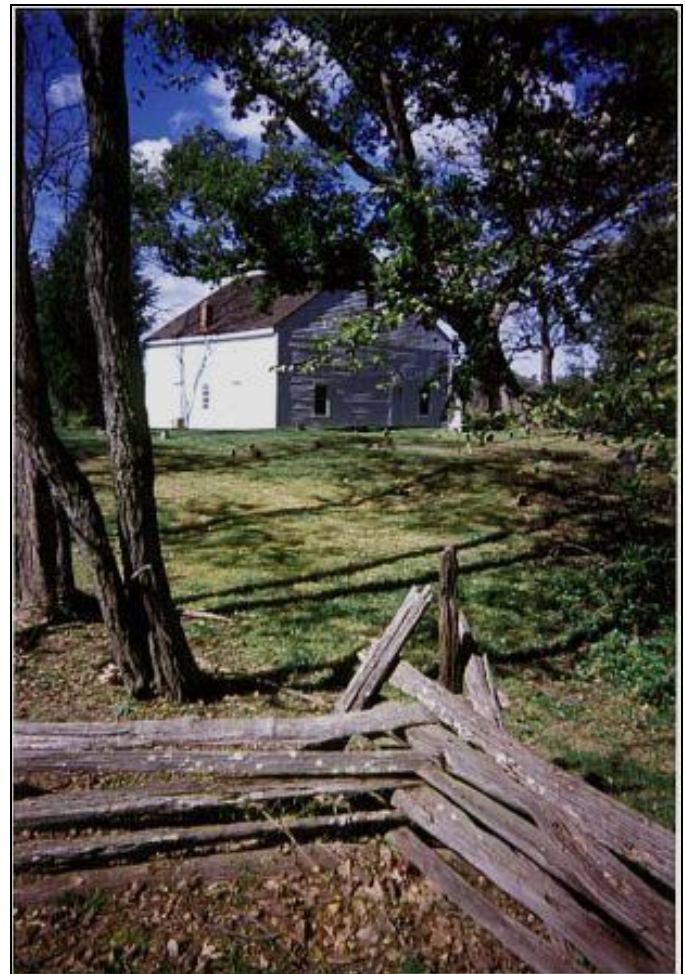
FRYING PAN FARM PARK MEETING HOUSE **MARKER DEDICATION**

Thousands of cars pass by the old white building each day without fanfare. Not too many people realize that the **Frying Pan Meeting House**, once a Baptist Church, is a significant historic structure and played an important role in the Herndon community for more than 200 years. A new interpretive sign dedicated in the spring of 2013 tells its story.

öSince the days of George Washington, the simple white structure here has been serving the needs of the community,ö said Bill Bouie, chairman of the Park Authority Board. The building came into Park Authority possession in 1984 when the last trustee of Frying Pan Baptist Church deeded the building adjacent to an old cemetery and its original two-acre plot to the agency. In the late 1700s the house was used for church services, burials, and prayer meetings. By 1840, the congregation consisted of 33 white members and 29 black members, many of whom are buried on the property.

Civil War battles took place nearby and both sides used the Meeting House as a hospital at various

times. For the 100 or so visitors who attended the dedication ceremony, it was an opportunity to discover a bit of history nearby.



NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Jack Hranicky	hranickyj@archeology.org
Vice-President	Chris Havlicek	christo829@juno.com
Treasurer	Isabella Pease	ipease@cox.net
Corresponding Sec.	Maggie Johnson	stillmaggie@cox.net 703-455-6902
Recording Sec.	Nancy Ehlke	703-978-6724 ree2@cox.net
Editor	Patrick O'Neill	patrickloneill@verizon.net 703-249-9593
Webmaster	Diane Schug-O'Neill	schugoneill@gmail.com
Certification Liaison	Ann Wood	annpwood@verizon.net

Fairfax County Archaeology (FCPA)

Dr. Elizabeth Crowell elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-534-3881

Other 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	Francine Bromberg	Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

[] Please send *Datum Point* via e-mail

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

New _____

Renewal _____

Return to:

**Isabella Pease, Treasurer, NVC/ASV
8304 Graceway Drive
Lorton, VA 22079**

THE DATUM POINT

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Help NVC-ASV Save Postage and be GREEN!
Have the Datum Point emailed to you!**