



# THE DATUM POINT

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

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

June 2014

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

**June 11<sup>th</sup> presentation, 7:30 p.m.**

**HISTORIC WESTON**

**Anne Van Ryzin, NVC Member**

This President's Message starts out with our ASV President's message, which is:

"Dear ASV Members,

Below please find a brief announcement of the upcoming ASV event at Kittiewan. Please share this with chapter members, friends, family, and others who may be interested in learning more about archaeology, the Civil War at Kittiewan, and the history of Kittiewan. A dedicated group of volunteers have worked many hours organizing this event and getting the property ready for what we hope will be a lot of visitors.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Moore, ASV President

On Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15, Kittiewan Plantation, a historic property in Charles City, Virginia, will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Union Army's crossing of the James River. This event will feature military and period reenactors, period music, Civil War and archeological exhibits, and self-guided tours of the historic manor house and grounds. Further information about the event is available at [www.kittiewanplantation.org](http://www.kittiewanplantation.org) or on *Kittiewan's Facebook page.*"



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Weston, in Fauquier County goes back to a Robert King" Carter land grant. The house is early 19th Century, with antecedents into the 18th Century. There is an unusually complete set of outbuildings, including one of the very few slave quarters that you can see in this part of the country. For more information: <http://www.historicweston.org/>.

## Cont'd from page 1

One ought to pay attention to their life years as you might forget what you did in yesteryear. This is especially true when you are in your 70s. I forgot that in 1975 I published a paper arguing that humans had been in the Western Hemisphere for 25,000 years. Also, I first argued, for me, blade technology in the New World. Of course, I have not changed my mind. This publication was discovered as I am in the process of turning my library over to the Museum of Natural History.

OK, let's all go the Kittiewan...

## Kittiewan, Home of the ASV

<http://asv-archeology.org/Org/OrgKittiewan.html>

<http://www.kittiewanplantation.org/>



In a little-traveled corner of Charles City County, on the James River about two miles southeast of the courthouse, lies the Weyanoke Peninsula. Historically one of the earliest settled regions of the county, by the mid-nineteenth century, the peninsula hosted four major plantations: North Bend, Upper and Lower Weyanoke, and **Kittiewan**, a modest dwelling built by Dr. William Rickman in the late eighteenth century.

When war erupted in 1861, Kittiewan was a working plantation owned by Dr. William A. Selden, who also maintained a neighborhood school on the property. The outbreak of conflict prompted two former students at the school to enlist in local defense units like the Charles City Troop. Otherwise, Kittiewan and its neighbors remained on the fringes of major military operations like McClellan's 1862 Peninsular Campaign.

That relative calm changed abruptly in May, 1864, when Union armies began their final

assault on Richmond. Bypassing the capital, Grant's forces swung east toward Charles City County with the intent of bridging the James River and moving on to Petersburg. The Weyanoke Peninsula became the site of that pontoon bridge.



Kittiewan today preserves traces of that important military maneuver, in the form of gun pits and a well-defined trench that crosses the property. The Archeological Society of Virginia invites you to join in observing the sesquicentennial of this historic event at Kittiewan.



### Sesquicentennial Civil War Observance

#### KITTIEWAN PLANTATION

June 14, 2014: 10 AM – 5 PM

June 15, 2014: 1 PM – 5 PM

#### Featured Activities

- Historic House Tour
- Self-guided Tour of Civil War features
- Period Music Performances
- Re-enactment Units
- Exhibit on Civil War Medical Practices
- Archeological Society of Virginia Exhibits
- Civil War Exhibit
- Reminiscences of a Civil War Veteran: John Edmond Graves



John Edmond Graves

Suggested donation: \$5 per car

# IT IS DONE!



“TO ANNOY OR DESTROY THE ENEMY” Patrick L. O’Neill

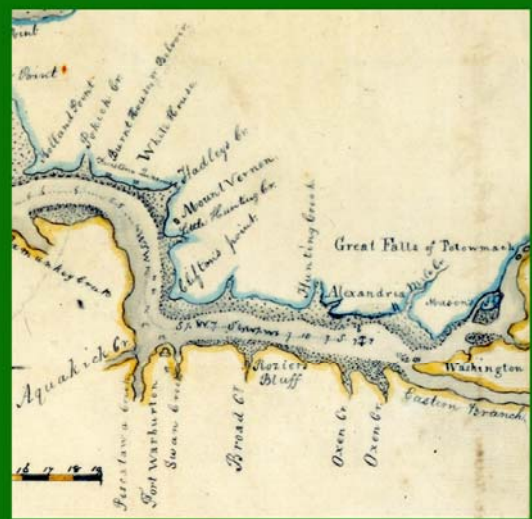
## “TO ANNOY OR DESTROY THE ENEMY”

### The Battle of the White House after the Burning of Washington

“To annoy or destroy the enemy” - The Battle of the White House after the burning of Washington is the result 12 years of intense research. The book covers seven British warships, called the Potomac Squadron, as they ascended the Potomac to participate in the attack on Washington in August 1814. Brigadier General John Pratt Hungerford's 2,500 Virginia militia fought beside the crew of the frigate Essex and the famous Captain David Porter, to “annoy or destroy” the warships and bring the seat of war to the Potomac River. For five days, these brave citizen soldiers fought against seasoned British seamen and marines at batteries erected on the bluffs at White House Landing. The battle included the first use of a torpedo on the Potomac, built by Robert Fulton.

Inside, the reader will discover more stories on American and British naval heroes, the brave militias from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, and 65 slaves that escaped to the Potomac Squadron, all told for the first time in such intimate detail. Their effort was America's first response to the attack on the nation's capital. Find a newly discovered twist to the events leading to the penning of the Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key.

Author Patrick L. O'Neill is a professional historian and archaeologist and currently conducts research in the Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C. area, living in Burke, Virginia. His historical projects include finding Confederate graves at Bristoe Station, an overseer's house at George Washington's Union Farm near Mount Vernon, a well in the basement of Arlington House, the truncated 1785 foundation of Virginia's State Capitol, and Fort Union Fur Trading Post in North Dakota. He was President of the Archeological Society of Virginia, and has been involved with their home at Kittiewan Plantation in Charles City County, Virginia for over eight years.



by  
Patrick L. O'Neill

After 12 years, my book on the Battle of the White House during the War of 1812 is finally done, and at the printers as you read this! Hard copies will be available soon! I am also having the book come out as an E book, to read on Nook, Kindle, etc. which is a new experience for me! I wanted to thank the NVC for all of their support over the years!

Patrick O'Neill

## 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 <a href="mailto:rce2@cox.net">rce2@cox.net</a>
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](mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
703-534-3881

### Other 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	Francine Bromberg	<a href="mailto:Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov">Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399 (information)

## NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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**Return to:**

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

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Archeological Society of Virginia  
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