



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

November 2014

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

I wanted to use a new picture of Gunston Hall Plantation for this newsletter; so, I drove out there. In walking up to the house, it reminded me of something I did over 20 years ago. I had heard the house was being renovated, but did not realize it was going on now.

In the 1990s, I was editor of the ASV Quarterly Bulletin, and I ran a picture of Mt Vernon on the cover. It was being renovated with scaffolding on the house. I was trying to say "all historic structures" have to be maintained. But the membership nearly lynched me because of that picture. I'll try again here "its historic preservation, and Gunston does date back to 1755. The up-keep work will not distract from the Chapter tour on November 15, 2014. It is all history and archaeology.



Gunston Hall (Renovation in Progress)

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No November Meeting at James Lee Center

**November Meeting is
Gunston Hall Tour
Saturday, 10A.M.
November 15, 2014**



Dave Shonyo Standing in an Excavation Square

Meet at Gunston Hall Visitor Center at 10 a.m. Tour by Dave Shonyo, Principal Archeologist, will focus on 15 years of archaeology on the 18th century landscape including the historic core around mansion, Mason family burying ground and "Newtown" site. Following the "walkabout," you may tour the mansion (free admission). No documents have survived describing the Gunston Hall landscape during Mason's lifetime prompting archeological investigations. **Please email ipease@cox.net by Wed., November 12th, if you plan to come to get a projected count. Address is 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton, VA 22079.**

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Going into the house, I discovered all the furniture had been removed. I had no problem with this and found one room that was probably the same when the Masons moved in. The floor was bare and the sun was shining through a window onto the floor. I thought this streak of sunlight had occurred hundreds of times, but maybe, it was symbolic of the õlightö of history that would help form this country.



Interior Room (Furniture in Storage)

Well, to the point of my visit. I met with Dave Shonyo, chief archaeologist, and he showed me around the 550 acre site, including an area that they were excavating. I visited the family cemetery and learned the Mason monument was originally ordered by him, but it got lost. The current one was constructed in 1960 like the one covering his wife.

Dave Shonyo will conduct the tour of the plantation. Of course, the whole chapter is invited. We will meet at the Visitors Center at 10:00 am. Bring a lunch, as there is not an eating facility. Remember, there is NO chapter meeting in November; it's our tour.

When I was leaving, I visited the bookshop. I never know what I might find in these õplaces of antiquities.ö I found a First Day cover for sale which was issued by the post office having a stamp honoring George Mason. I was told they had bought several hundred in 1981 when it was issued. The one I bought was the last one. Yes, I collect stamps.



First Day Cover for the Mason Stamp in 1981

DECEMBER ELECTIONS

Nominees for Chapter officers:

President – Jack Hranicky
Diane Schug-O'Neill
Vice President – Chris Havichek
Treasurer – Isabella Pease
Recording Secretary – Nancy Ehлке
Corresponding Secretary – Maggie Johnson
Datum Point Editor – Patrick O'Neill
Web Master – Diane Schug-O'Neill
Certification Program Liaison – Ann Wood

OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

October had great weather (including a few rain days) which produced fabulous loose soil for CART to dig through in the final MTUs testing the center section of the park. Few diagnostic artifacts have been recovered including refined earthenware ceramics, quartz debitage and one small quartz point (see image).

CART member Kayla Marciniszyn presented a great paper at the ASV conference in Richmond. The Sunday session was well attended, as many learned of the mysterious black stain excavated by CART in 2013 in downtown Colchester. Connecting with other archaeologists at the conference, CART is planning to test some coal

recovered within the feature which could reveal the coal's origin.



Possible Palmer point variant

Combining CART archaeology information with modern technology CART created a Web Map for the public on the internet. This Web Map highlights the cultural history of the park and has many links within the text to other archaeology information and history websites. CART can add to this map with new discoveries or historical information found in the future work at the park. You can access the Web Map on our blog: www.cartarchaeology.wordpress.com in the post on 17 October 2014, or check out <http://bit.ly/1w2AA6J>.

The CART lab is truly in the home stretch of entering data from the entire big prehistoric site including the more recent work in the flood plain that surrounds the site along the Occoquan River. The site is indeed much larger than originally thought. The diagnostic artifacts, unfortunately, are small in both quantity and size. However, we have discovered enough that once we run queries on all of the diagnostics together, they will give us a good idea of the site's active dates.

Once the main descriptive information is entered into the computer, further analysis will be done on flakes. While not considered temporally diagnostic, we are interested in what information the flakes can tell us about what was happening on the Old Colchester Park & Preserve thousands of years ago.

CART will be working at Ash Grove, located in Tysons, for the next few weeks. If you would like

to volunteer with the excavation of the smoke house please email cart.volunteers@live.com.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR 1783 AND 1785 LIST OF INHABITANTS

By Don Wilson

Lists dated 1783 and 1785 exist for Amherst County and are transcribed in *_Heads of Families at the First Census ... Virginia_* (Washington: GPO, 1908; reprinted many times). The book is available digitally at <https://archive.org/details/headsoffamiliesa00nort>

A complete list of the counties included there: (see p. 10) **Albemarle** 1785, **Amelia** 1782 1785, **Amherst** 1783 1785, **Charlotte** 1782, **Chesterfield** 1783, **Cumberland** 1782 1784, **Essex** 1783, **Fairfax** 1782 1785, **Fluvanna** 1782, **Frederick** 1782, **Gloucester** 1783 1784, **Greensville** 1783, **Halifax** 1782 1785, **Hampshire** 1782 1784, **Hanover** 1782, **Harrison** 1785, **Isle of Wight** 1782, **Lancaster** 1783 1785, **Mecklenburg** 1782, **Middlesex** 1783, **Monongalia** 1782, **Nansemond** 1783 1784 and 1785 [sic, latter two are for different parts of the county], **New Kent** 1782 1785, **Norfolk** 1785, **Northumberland** 1782 1784, **Orange** 1782 1785, **Pittsylvania** 1782 1785, **Powhatan** 1783, **Prince Edward** 1783 1785, **Princess Anne** 1783 1785, **Richmond** 1783, **Rockingham** 1784, **Shenandoah** 1783 1785, **Stafford** 1785, **Surry** 1782 1784, **Sussex** 1782, **Warwick** 1782 1784, **Williamsburg** 1782. The original lists in 1908 were at the Virginia State Library.

The list from Greenbrier County 1783-86 is not a census but a personal property tax list. Don't know why it was included. Fauquier 1785 and Botetourt 1785 have been discussed earlier.

Donald L. Wilson, Virginiana Librarian
The Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center
for Genealogy and Local History (RELIC)
Prince William Public Library System
Bull Run Regional Library
8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA 20109-2892
703-792-4540
www.pwcgov.org/library/RELIC

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 rce2@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)

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Name: _____

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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

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