



# THE DATUM POINT

Newsletter of the  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (NVC) OF THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

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

April 2015

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL

Here we are in April, already! "April Showers bring May Artifacts" right?! Well, we can only hope. People and sites are beginning to gear up. There are many things to do on all fronts. Volunteers should be checking their gear and make sure they have all the necessities: bug spray; water bottle(s); appropriate clothes; and good vibes. We hope to continue to share opportunities throughout the region, so keep your eyes and ears open.

Before we get out and about, there's always research to do. The modern archaeologist always, *always*, does research *before* putting trowel to dirt! In the olden times, many would find something and then research whatever they discovered. Today, we must start on paper and move to the great outdoors. As such, I thought it would be a great addition to our mental toolkit to get an in-depth tour of our local archives in Fairfax County.

So, this is one of our famous Field Trips - look for a map on page 2. See you there!

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS NOT AT THE JAMES LEE CENTER!

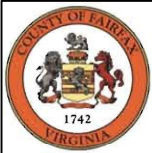
**Meet At the Historic Courtroom  
in Fairfax City –  
The Brick Courthouse at the  
corner of 123 and Main Street.**

**April 8th Meeting: 7:30 P.M.**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT HISTORIC RECORDS CENTER

We will meet in the Historic Courtroom ó around the front of the building. There will be no need to go through extra security. We will get a brief talk about the Historic Courthouse and the Court in Fairfax County before coming into the records room to talk about their collection.

They are in building #2 (see map page 2). There is a small parking lot right behind the building (where the handicap symbol is at the top by main street). Because you will be coming after hours, there should be enough parking for your group. Use the sidewalk to walk along the side of the building and enter through the courthouse doors. They will discuss the different record groups they have and show some of their collections. They will also be happy to assist people with particular research questions.



# Fairfax County Courthouse & Public Safety Center



## **RICHMOND'S JOURNEY**

From Jon Kukla

Pretty much forgotten amid last weekend's commemorative events was a by-product of the evacuation fire that continues to affect anyone attempting research about 17th, 18th, and antebellum Virginia -- the destruction huge quantities of the commonwealth's archives, as well as county records brought to Richmond for safe-keeping, with the burning of the General Court building.

For details about the loss of county records in 1865 (and on other occasions) check out this link on the LVA website:

[https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn30\\_loss\\_records.pdf](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn30_loss_records.pdf)

For an overview of the tragic loss of pre-1820s Virginia records, a 16-page inventory compiled by Conway Robinson in 1829 (ms at LVA) was published in the 2d edition of the \*Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia\* that the Library published in 1979.

## **DESTINY OF THE TATTERED FLAG IN 1865 FAUQUIER COUNTY**

The Fauquier County Sesquicentennial Committee will present a seminar and Camp Dance in Old Town Warrenton representing the bygone days of the Old Dominion. It is entitled the Destiny of the Tattered Flag in 1865 Fauquier County and will be held on Saturday, 25 April. The seminar venue is the Warrenton Visitor's Center at 33 N. Calhoun St.

located on the grounds of the Mosby House Museum. The seminar begins at 10:00 AM.

The keynote speaker will be Mr. Robert Trout a lifelong educator, historian, editor, nationally known author, re-enactor and preeminent scholar of Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart. The title of his talk will be - "The Confederate Cavalry: 1861 to 1865."

Local historians Mr. John Toler, Mr. Don Tharpe, and Mr. James Flanagan will provide lectures for the Speaker's Program. Displays onsite will be Kennedy's Historical Guns and Mr. Jimmie Eustace will provide his Civil War artifacts. Mr. David Goetz will give a town tour relating to Colonel John S. Mosby. General U. S. Grant and Mrs. R. E. Lee will talk about their lives in April 1865.

Following the Speaker's Program, the Shenandoah Valley Minstrels will present a music program followed by a Camp Dance at 6:00 PM. Dance Masters Mr. Tom and Mrs. Lesley Mack will instruct the dancers on the dance movements and lead the dancers through two sets. Following the social customs of the nineteenth century, punch and cookies will be served during the intermission.

For further information, please email [pauladrdr@aol.com](mailto:pauladrdr@aol.com) or call Committee Chair Paula Johnson at 540.41.7019.

### **THE VIRGINIA INDIAN FESTIVAL**

The Annual Virginia Indian Festival Riverbend Park 8700 Potomac Hills Street Great Falls, Virginia 22066

The event is on September 12, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tribes participating will include Rappahannock Tribe, Chickahominy Tribe, Monacan Nation, Mattaponi Tribe, Pamunkey Tribe and Upper Mattaponi Tribe. The Rappahannock Dancers and Drummers will perform throughout the day.

Hands on events include: Dugout canoe building, atlatl and bow and arrow shooting, stone tool making, storytelling, brain tanning, making

Datum Point

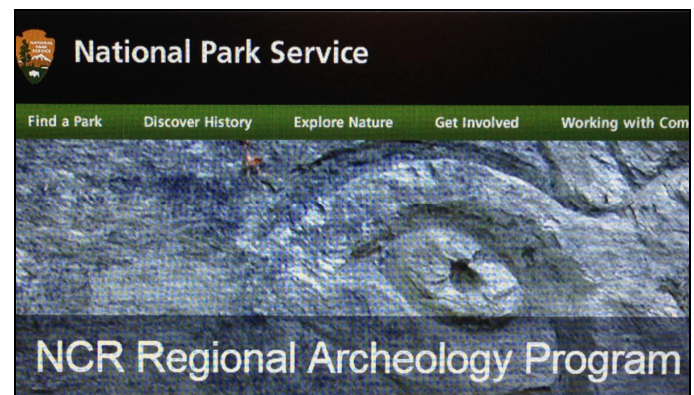
buckskin clothing Vendors selling handmade American Indian pottery, jewelry and other crafts.

Volunteers are needed to assist with teaching atlatl and bow shooting, at the longhouse - interpretation of daily life and skills in Late Woodland Period, dugout canoe instruction and demonstration and other duties as needed, which may include assistance at the ticket booths at the gates.

### **REGIONAL ARCHEOLOGY PROGRAM WEB SITE LAUNCH**

**From Stephen Potter**

WASHINGTON: The Regional Archeology Program of the National Capital Region is pleased to announce the launch of a new web site -- [www.nps.gov/rap](http://www.nps.gov/rap).



The site highlights archeology around Washington, D.C. and is geared towards the general public, kids, teachers and the historic preservation professional. As the National Park Service approaches the commemoration of its first century of service and stewardship, in 2016, the website is one tool to share the program's connection to the National Park Service mission and to the public which it serves.

Information about past and present archeology projects at national parks around the nation's capital is presented through "virtual exhibits," multimedia presentations, and popular reports. Teachers as well as children and their parents will find information about archeology, fun things to do, and how to get involved. Professionals will find technical reports (available through on-line requests), reference



materials, links to key laws and policies, and important contact information.

Regional Archeologist, Dr. Stephen Potter notes, "It is exciting to launch a comprehensive web site for National Park Service archeology here in the National Capital Region. We hope that both the public and professionals in the field will find something of interest. To maintain that interest and induce folks to return to the site, we will continue to update and expand it."

Two recent publications – one for the public and one for professionals – are [Bold, Rocky, & Picturesque: The Archeology and History of Rock Creek Park](#), by John Bedell, Stuart Fiedel, and Charles LeeDecker, published by Eastern National in 2013; and [Archeological Investigation of the L'Hermitage Slave Village](#), by Katherine Birmingham (Joy Beasley, editor), published in 2014 as Occasional Report No. 20 in the Occasional Report Series of the Regional Archeology Program.

### **OLD COLCHESTER** **By CART**

The winter months are finally coming to an end as CART heads back out into the field for the first time in nearly a month. The team started the spring field season by testing a small area, referred to as Question Mark by CART members, in the center of Old Colchester Park and Preserve.

The area has a reputation for housing a number of ground bees' nests so CART took advantage of the cooler weather before the bees decided to emerge for the spring. Testing of the area only yielded two quartz flakes. Luckily, no ground bees were found!

CART now continues the ongoing excavations at the Cemetery Site. The crew is working diligently to find the corner of the structure found during earlier testing of the site. CART has uncovered hand wrought nails, tin glazed earthenware, and contained glass, all of which would have been materials goods used by the residents of the structure.

At T-minus 14 months to American Alliance of Museums (AAM) accreditation, the AAM team has been moving forward on a lot of fronts. First, our 100% collections and archive inventories are nearing completion. This process will assist us as we move forward in prioritizing collections care activities.

In an effort to transition into the new ReDiscovery database system, we have held three training sessions on the database. We will be entering accessions data as well as library and archive data into this database, with a goal of eventually moving to the artifact level.

An exciting feature is the way it can link archival material and museum collections items held at various park locations with archaeological accessions. Finally, we continue to advocate for a collections space. James Lee Center's collections storage is over capacity, and still growing. A priority for this office is coming up with both short-term and long-term solutions to this problem.

The Fairfax County Park Authority is currently preparing for spring and summer activities and events. CART plans to participate in a number of these events as part of our public outreach and increase public awareness of the cultural resources available in Fairfax County.

Some of these events include, but are not limited to, Eagle Fest at Mason Neck State Park (April 25), Pirate Fest at Lake Fairfax (May 2), and CART's own Open House (date TBD) sponsored by the Friends of Fairfax Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FOFA).

If any ASV Certificate Candidates need outreach hours, these are wonderful opportunities. For more information or to volunteer for some of these events please email us at [cart.volunteers@live.com](mailto:cart.volunteers@live.com). Also check our blog: [cartarchaeology.wordpress.com](http://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com), for more information about Fairfax County events.



## LATE NIGHT in the Virginia Room

Friday, April 10, 5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

**An evening of classes or Night Owl research on your own**

**Research Your Civil War Ancestor.** 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

William Page Johnson, author of *Brothers and Cousins*

**More Resources for Your Civil War Ancestor in the Virginia Room and Beyond.** Virginia Room Librarian, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Drop-In Sessions:**

**Genealogy Help Desk** 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. David Whitman, genealogist

**Civil War and other veterans in Fairfax County cemeteries.**

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Mary Lipsey, author & researcher

**Civil War materials in the Rare Book Room** Tours on the half hour.

Researchers must register and must arrive before 6:00 p.m.

Virginia Room staff will be available to assist you.

“Sign up for an event”

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) or (703) 293-6227 x6

Light refreshments provided by Friends of the Virginia Room.



City of Fairfax Regional Library, Virginia Room, 10360 North Street, Fairfax VA



Fairfax County Public Library  
12000 Government Center Pkwy.  
Suite 324  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)



A Fairfax County, Va.,  
publication

Reasonable accommodations will be made  
upon request. Call 703-324-8380 or TTY  
703- 324-8365.

*The Friends of Historic Huntley Invite You to*

# **Emancipation Comes to Huntley!**

**Saturday, April 18, 2015**

**1 pm to 4 pm**

**Historic Huntley 6918 Harrison Lane  
Alexandria VA 22306**

## **Ongoing Activities**

Tours of 1825 House and  
Site of Civil War Union Encampment "Camp Michigan"

Information Tables and Displays  
Alexandria Black History Museum, Freedman's Cemetery  
Historic Woodlawn Methodist Church & others

❖ Light Refreshments ❖



## **Char McCargo Bah Special Presentation at 2 pm**

**Professional Genealogist/Independent Historian/Writer**  
on locating the life histories of enslaved  
African-Americans using Huntley as an example

Suggested Donation \$5 ❖ Children 10 and under FREE

Parking at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church

[www.historichuntley.org](http://www.historichuntley.org) 703-768-2525

## 2015 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Diane Schug-O'Neill	<a href="mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com">schugoneill@gmail.com</a> 703-249-9593
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Isabella Martinez	<a href="mailto:ipease@cox.net">ipease@cox.net</a>
<b>Corresponding Sec.</b>	Maggie Johnson	<a href="mailto:stillmaggie@cox.net">stillmaggie@cox.net</a>
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<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	<a href="mailto:annpwood@verizon.net">annpwood@verizon.net</a>

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia

<b>Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov">elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> 703-534-3881
<b>Mount Vernon</b>	Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:ebreen@mountvernon.org">ebreen@mountvernon.org</a>
<b>Gunston Hall</b>	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Francine Bromberg	<a href="mailto:Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov">Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399

### NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$17) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:**

Isabella Martinez, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

8304 Graceway Drive

Lorton, VA 22079

**Chapter members must join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at [asv-archeology.org](http://asv-archeology.org)**

**The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at the James Lee Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**