



THE DATUM POINT

August 2015

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL

Hello one and all! Here we are in August and that means **Picnic Time**. Check out the location and other information ó *See Ya There!*

We're edging closer to the Annual Meeting and we're the Host Chapter. Please keep your eyes and ears open to requests for you to help out. We'll be looking for all sorts of help to man tables, do various things at the Conference, and get other things done behind the scenes.

We've had some pretty good meetings thus far and the remaining topics are:

- September 9: Becca Siegel - A Late Nineteenth Century Slaughterhouse in Old Town Alexandria
- October ó no meeting because the annual meeting is two days later
- November 11: Mike Johnson - Smith Mountain Gap project
- December 9: Annual Party

Becca's talk is a great example of how much a volunteer can positively impact any program. She was scheduled to give us this talk last year, but got snowed out! The weather should be much more predictable in September. Mike's talk should pack the house. I'm betting on folks looking for themselves in many of his shots.

NO CHAPTER MEETING THIS MONTH!

CHAPTER PICNIC TIME!

It is time for the Chapter's Annual Picnic

Cox Farms: <http://www.coxfarms.com/>

Time: NOON

Date: Saturday August 15, 2015

**Location: 15621 Braddock Road,
Centreville, VA 20120 (Corner: Braddock
Road and Pleasant Valley Road).**



Dogs are welcome, but must be controlled/leashed.

NVC will bring:

- Meat
- Sodas & Water
- Paper plates, napkins, cups
- Ice

You should bring:

- A dish to share
- A smile
- A story or two

Please RSVP to patrickloneill@verizon.net with a head count. We'd like to get an idea of how many hotdogs, hamburgers, and chicken to bring.

OLD COLCHESTER

BY CART

The month of July has been a busy one for the CART field staff as we have been working hard to process all the water screen samples collected from Site 44FX0704 before colder weather sets in. It might seem silly to be thinking about winter in the heat of July, but we have a lot of water screening to do! Not much digging has been going on, but the few days CART had in the field provided tours and support for some very special people!

Mount Vernon District County Supervisor Gerald (Gerry) Hyland and his assistant toured the park with Park Authority Senior Archaeologist Christopher Sperling. Supervisor Hyland played an integral part in securing the lands and funding for the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. With his retirement from the Board of Supervisors on the horizon FOFA through CART wanted to share with him all the work he has made possible and the cultural resources his efforts have saved.



CART also had the pleasure to share and chat about our ongoing work with Associate Professor Dennis Pogue from the University of Maryland. Dr. Pogue is a member of the UMD School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation's faculty and has been

actively working and researching in the field of Historical Archaeology in this region for about 30 years. CART invited him to come take a look at the excavations above and around the brick foundation on Site 44FX0704 and to get his input of the shape and function of the large brickwork.

As you may recall there are details interesting to this foundation that has the CART staff somewhat baffled. In particular the "tear drop" detail of the foundation that may have served as an elevated oven or a chamber related to heating the building. What really has the team questioning the function of this is the lack of archaeological evidence normally observed with this activity.

The first round of the "Dig It" Camp, a kids' camp run through Huntley Meadows Park, joined the field staff for a day of digging and screening on Site 44FX0704. The kids assisted in exposing more of the brick foundation and searching for the eastern edge of Feature 76 (a storage pit). Some artifacts the children found in the screening process include historic ceramics, hand-wrought nails, olive green bottle glass, and clay smoking pipe fragments. All in all it was a great day in the field for everyone! Later in the week the campers joined CART's lab staff for an introduction to laboratory processing and artifact analysis.



Since we haven't been able to do much excavating the field crew has been in the lab helping the lab staff process some of the incoming samples. As you might have guessed more water-screening means more picking so staff and volunteers are busily

working to keep up. Since volunteer Emiko found the first tiny glass seed bead a few weeks ago, staff have found several more of different colors and sizes. Most are simple solid colored beads, but we did find one black glass bead with white striped decoration.

We have also started working on labeling artifacts. This is a time consuming, but very important, process which allows us to permanently affix provenience to our artifacts to make sure we always know where they came from. We've recently started using a new method of labeling where we print tiny tags, (in 4 point font!), on special acid free paper and use an acrylic glue to attach them to the each artifact. This helps reduce some of the problems with traditional labelling methods where people had to write legibly with quill pens on uneven and very tiny surfaces.

On July 18th CART staff represented the CRMPB at the Annual DC Day of Archaeology Festival hosted by Archaeology in the Community, a non-profit dedicated to providing educational opportunities and workshops in archaeology for children. Though it was a hot, humid, and rainy day this did not deter the crowds of families from attending the event and talking to archaeologists from over 20 organizations in the DC area. We met a lot of really smart kids who got the opportunity to handle real artifacts and learn more about Native American stone tool production, Euro-American artifacts, and the archaeological process.



If you are interested in helping out you can register for lab or field volunteer slots at <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/>.

Sign up for an orientation at:

<https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/recruiter/index.php?recruiterID=1380&class=OppDetails&oppGuid=8CB92190-11B6-490A-A694-054718E5EC99>.

We add new dates for orientations, field, and lab work on a regular basis, so check back frequently.

DC PROJECTS

By Ruth Tricoli , DCHPO

The DC HPO is running a field project this summer, The Yarrow Mamout Archaeology Project. Located at **3324 Dent Pl., NW**, in upper Georgetown, we are working on the lot formerly owned by Yarrow Mamout (died 1823), who lived there for 20 years after gaining his freedom from slavery. Well-known and respected, he sat for two famous artists. One portrait is in the Georgetown Public Library, and the second, by Charles Wilson Peale, is at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The documentary record has only brief glimpses of his life on Dent Place, and through archaeology we hope to learn much more about his life there. If you have experience excavating or would like to help screen we can use your help. If you are interested in visiting, please come for a fence talk. We offer the talks every day we are on site at 10:15am and 1:45pm, weather permitting.

This week we will work Thursday, Friday and Sat., Aug 6-8, from 9am-3pm (or so). There is street parking but it is tough b/c of the proximity to Georgetown U. - be careful if you come by car, or make sure you park at a metered space! Drop me an email if you'd like to volunteer.

Please come visit!!! Cheers- Ruth Tricoli

For more information on the Yarrow Mamout Project please visit:

www.yarrowmamoutarchaeology.weebly.com
<https://www.facebook.com/YarrowMamoutArchaeology>

WAMU's Rebecca Sherir did a piece on her Metro Connection show.

http://wamu.org/programs/metro_connection/15/07/24/who_was_yarrow_mamout_dc_archaeologists_uncover_tale_of_prominent_former_slave

The *Georgetown Current* covered the project, too.

<http://www.currentnewspapers.com/admin/uploadfiles/GT%2007-22-2015.pdf>

The *Washington Post* also ran a story on the project:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/what-lies-beneath-searching-for-the-bones-of-yarrow-mamout-a-turn-of-the-19th-century-georgetown-celebrity/2015/07/23/22517f0e-2fe8-11e5-8f36-18d1d501920d_story.html?hpid=z13

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REMAKING VIRGINIA

"Remaking Virginia: Transformation Through Emancipation" is now open in our lobby and main gallery. Learn how the process of emancipation unfolded in Virginia, and the aftermath.

Even as the Civil War was still being fought, the status of almost a half-million African Americans in Virginia began to change. No longer were they someone else's property—they were free. They anticipated the promise of change from their former status as slaves: the promises of education, political participation, and full citizenship. Yet, in their struggle to achieve these goals, freedmen and freedwomen faced the hostility of their former masters and the society that had long benefitted from their labor. Union troops and U.S. government officials reconstructing the Southern states were often indifferent.

What challenges did African Americans face in their struggle to achieve what they believed freedom would bring them? What obstacles blocked their efforts to gain citizenship? How successful

were African Americans during Reconstruction in claiming their objectives? Did the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution significantly aid them in their struggles? The Library of Virginia's exhibition *Remaking Virginia: Transformation through Emancipation* offers a look at the changing world Virginians faced during Reconstruction.

Remaking Virginia: Transformation through Emancipation Monday, July 06, 2015-Saturday, March 26, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Place: Lobby and Exhibition Hall, Free

To register and pay online, go to <http://www.nvcasv.org/2015asv.html>

2015 Annual ASV Meeting

October 16-18

Best Western Battlefield Inn, 10820
Balls Ford Road, Manassas, VA 20109



Phone: To get \$85/night use the code: **ASV75**
703-361-8000 The hotel has non-smoking, smoking, and pet friendly
800-780-7234 rooms.

Conference Attendee – Standard	\$35.00/ea.	Enter number:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Banquet Attendee	\$35.00/ea.	Enter number:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Attendee – must present valid ID	\$25.00/ea.	Enter number:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name (as it will appear on badge)

Chapter Affiliation

School Name

Guest Name Attending Banquet ☐

Mail to the ASV

Treasurer:

Carl Fischer
1685 Sweet Hall Rd.
West Point, VA 23181

Make Check Payable to:
Archeological Society of
Virginia

Contact:
flyfischn@aol.com

Attending Conference ☐

Total Amount:\$ _____
enclosed with form

The ASV is offering a special shirt order connected to the 2015 Annual Meeting



ASV Long Sleeve Denim Shirts PreORDER

\$30 each

ASV Logo Embroidered on the left pocket paid for and picked up at the ASV Annual Meeting in October

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	QUANTITY	DARK or LIGHT	Men's or Women's	SIZE M: XS- 6XL W: XS- 4XL	Will you be at the meeting? Y or N



Your order will be emailed to be tallied and ordered. A printout will be at the October Meeting. You will be able to pick up your order then and there.

Cindy Schroer (Massanutten Chapter) is organizing this. She'll either have your order at the meeting or will get it to you. **Money will be collected at the meeting in Manassas.**

Please send email request to PreOrder to Diane Schug-O'Neill (Northern Virginia Chapter): schugoneill@gmail.com. Simply listing the information above in an email is fine. You will receive an email acknowledging your order.

If you fill this paper out, please mail it to:
Diane Schug-O'Neill, 9902 Rand Dr., Burke VA 22015



OCTOBER 10, 2015

“The Return of Martha Washington’s Will: A Centennial Celebration”

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, Fairfax Historic Courthouse

October 2015 marks the *100th Anniversary* of the return of Martha Washington’s Will to the Fairfax Circuit Court, after its removal from the courthouse during the Civil War!

As part of the City of Fairfax Fall Festival, the Clerk of Court, John T. Frey, cordially invites you to attend a special presentation, held in the Historic Courthouse, featuring Fairfax Circuit Court Archivists Katrina Krempasky and Heather Bollinger. The Archivists will share the exciting (and somewhat unbelievable) history of the removal of the Will, its travels, and how, with the help of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax reacquired this important court document in October 1915.

**See historic Fairfax
County court
documents!**

**Showroom open
10 am to 3 pm**

ON DISPLAY:

- Original pages from George and Martha Washington’s Wills
- Documents related to the return of both original Wills

**Free and fun
for all ages!**

**Archivists’
Presentation in
Historic Courtroom,
1-2 pm**

FAIRFAX HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

4000 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

**Historic courthouse
showroom and building
open 10 am to 3 pm!**

2015 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia

Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-534-3881
Mount Vernon	Eleanor Breen	ebreen@mountvernon.org
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Francine Bromberg	Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399
Chapmans Mill	Francis Allshouse	chapmanmill@gmail.com 540-253-5888

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

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!