



# THE DATUM POINT

December 2018

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

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



## FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

**PATRICK O'NEILL**

Christmas party this month, so no speaker! Meeting starts at 6:30pm. Business meeting first with elections, then food and festivities!

The election slate is as follows, however, nominations can be made from the floor before the vote:

Patrick O'Neill ó President  
Yvonne French ó Vice President  
Barbara Leven ó Treasurer  
Nancy Ehlke ó Recording Secretary  
John Kelsey ó Corresponding Secretary  
Chris Havlicek ó Webmaster  
Ann Wood ó Certification Liaison  
Patrick O'Neill ó Datum Point Editor

**Time to renew your membership for  
2019!!!!!!!!!! See the end of the  
Datum Point for the Application!!!!**

**Do it at the party!!!!!!!!!!**

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY AND ELECTIONS THIS MONTH!!! DECEMBER 12TH STARTING AT 6:30P.M.**

**BRING A ENTRÉE,  
SALAD, OR DESSERT  
AND YOURSELF!!!!!!**

NVC CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Don't be a mean one,  
Mr. Grinch!**

at the James Lee Center in  
the URBANITES Room!

Starts at 6:30 pm  
on December 12th

Bring something  
yummy to share!

## CHAPTER TRIP TO SALUBRIA

Article by Jackie Cuyler

Photos by Bill McGovern

On Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 15 Chapter members toured Salubria, one of the remaining structures linked to Fort Germanna, settled in 1714 by Lt. Gov. Spotswood and indentured German immigrant families. Salubria is thought to be the oldest brick home in Culpeper County, built sometime in the mid 1750s by Reverend John Thompson, an Anglican rector who married Gov. Spotswood's widow, Butler Brayne Spotswood, in 1742.



Leta Scherquist, a descendant of families who have lived in and cared for the mansion for centuries, provided us with an outstanding tour of the house and grounds. After a rainy summer we were treated to a beautiful, dry, early fall day and most of us chose to stay for a picnic lunch. Salubria, which has no plumbing or electricity, has been conserved but not restored, allowing us a look into 18<sup>th</sup> century construction techniques. Never modernized and last occupied in 1938, the home was donated in 2000 by the Grayson family to the Germanna Foundation.

The house is built of local brick laid in Flemish bond with 18" wide walls. Two tall chimneys at each end of the hip roof vent the ten corner fireplaces. The two story interior of the house is typical Georgian center hall plan with two rooms on each side of a wide hallway. The full basement is lined with oversized brick pavers. The interior molding is considered to be some of the finest and best preserved in our region. From the third floor we had a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a guide for early travelers heading west.



Salubria is located a half mile southeast of the village of York, now known as Stevensburg, which was well established by the mid 1700s. Travelers camped in the area and lodging was available at Zimmerman's Tavern, where it is believed that Thomas Jefferson stayed on his way to Inauguration. One could also lodge at Miss Betty Wales's Tavern or Salubria. Stevensburg in its day was located at a major intersection, that of present day Germanna Highway (Route 3) and York Road. In colonial days there were two taverns, two stores, a post office, blacksmith shop, tannery and Masonic Hall.





In 2011 the earthquake centered in Mineral, Virginia, caused much damage to Salubria, including twisted chimneys, roof damage from chimney fall, and multiple stress cracks on both interior and exterior walls. Over the summer of 2012 the Germanna Foundation, with the help of generous donors and grant funding, repaired the damage, restored the chimneys and replaced the cedar roof.



The location of original outbuildings is unknown, although future projects include an archaeological survey of the 20 acre parcel and soil analysis in the terraced garden, which is unusual in that the four terraces run east to west and not parallel to the house. Stay tuned! And thank you Leta!



## **CART**

### **Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team**

On the dry days of November work began at the northern property of Old Colchester Park and Preserve. Expanding upon previous excavations that located a small portion of a stone foundation, the field team is hoping to determine the dimensions and functions of the corresponding structure.

Additionally, the crew is in search of other building foundations and landscape features that can shed light on the past uses of the property. Only a few artifacts have been recovered thus far including highly corroded cut or wrought nails, creamware, pearlware and various colors of glass fragments. Hopefully the dry weather holds for more weeks, so that excavation can continue.



Lab staff is finishing the cataloging of any artifacts recovered from flotation that are above a quarter inch in size from the park on the west side of the county. Later, the staff will catalog the items from flotation that are smaller. For now, they continue to focus on the identification and cataloging of small artifacts from the wet window screen waterscreen samples.

The majority of the fragments of identifiable artifacts recovered include creamwares, handpainted and plain pearlwares, stonewares, white ball clay tobacco pipes, container glass fragments, glass beads, lead shot, wound head straight pins, and faunal bone. Over 2000 fish scales were recovered from one layer of a feature!

The lab is also processing artifacts from Old Colchester Park and Preserve as well as cataloging a few of the artifacts found in 1/4ö screen from the recent excavation units.

Please join us in the field or lab, for questions about volunteering in the field, email CART staff in the field at [cart.volunteers@live.com](mailto:cart.volunteers@live.com). Volunteer days in the field are Thursdays through Saturdays, weather permitting. Volunteer days in the lab are Wednesdays through Fridays. Keep an eye on our blog: [cartarchaeology.wordpress.com](http://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com) for information on local events and recent finds by CART.

## 2018 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET">PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET</a> 703-244-6275
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<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	<a href="mailto:annpwood@gmail.com">annpwood@gmail.com</a>

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

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<b>Chapmans Mill</b>	Maggie Lovitt	<a href="mailto:chapmanmill@gmail.com">chapmanmill@gmail.com</a> 540-253-5888
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### NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**Return to:**

**Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV**

**9518 Liberty Tree Lane**

**Vienna VA 22182**

**Chapter members must join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at [www.virginiaarcheology.org/](http://www.virginiaarcheology.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!!!!**