



THE DATUM POINT

July 2018

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

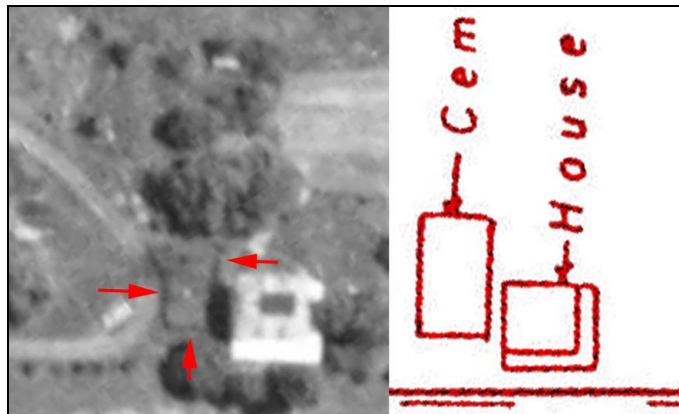


FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT PATRICK O'NEILL

The ASV Board Meeting is on July 21st in Martinsville. If you have anything you want me to bring to the Board, please let me know! We only meet four times a year, and it is important for them to know what we are thinking in the trenches, literally!

We are still working on the summer picnic for August, let you know when we know what the location and date is. Start thinking about what you want to bring to share for food!

I potentially have a cemetery project for us to work on, the Ankers cemetery on the NOVA Loudoun Campus (see below). The shrubs around a rectangular cemetery can be seen on a 1962 aerial (red arrows on aerial) and 1967 plat map. Still working on what we can do, and I have permission from VDHR to look for grave shafts.



Chapter Talk 7:30pm Weds July 11, 2018

CONTINUED EXCAVATIONS ALONG THE ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT

By John Mullen



The City of Alexandria is one of the more compelling history destinations in the country, due in no small part to the City's decision to integrate historic preservation into the revitalization and development. Embedded within the city's zoning ordinance, the Archeological Protection Act protects and preserves the city's cultural resources often above and beyond what would be required at the state and federal levels (much to the dismay of some developers). All development projects, all building permits and other code enforcement permits which involve ground disturbance within the City, must first take into account the effects of

Join Chapter members at Anthony's Restaurant at 6 pm before the meeting! Located at 3000 Annandale Rd, Falls Church, VA 22042 - (703) 532-0100

their projects on potential historic resources and take appropriate preservation actions if necessary.



After decades of planning and delays from numerous lawsuits, the City moved forward with the redevelopment of its waterfront, beginning with the Hotel Indigo and the Robinson Landing site, both located on historic Point Lumley. The waterfront originally consisted of high bluffs overlooking the Potomac, stretching northwards from this Point along a shallow crescent-shaped bay. By 1798, the tidal flats along the Potomac River had been infilled and the new shoreline was dominated by wharves and warehouses.



Archeological excavations at both the Hotel Indigo site and the Robinson Landing site revealed evidence of how the owners and residents of this city block reclaimed the tidal flats and created new land. We located several bulkhead wharf remnants, consisting of stacked and interlocked long timbers, across the sites and in other areas found what appears to be crib wharf construction: a square framework of timbers filled with stone or soil. Given the proximity to the river and an early shipyard, we have also located several ships that were integrated into the wharf architecture. Point Lumley was the location of numerous industries, warehouses and residences during the late 18th and 19th centuries, including blacksmiths, carpenters, coopers, iron foundries, and commission merchants.

John P. Mullen currently serves as the Principal Archeologist and Assistant Manager at Thunderbird Archeology (which is the Archeology Department of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.) and has over 25 years of archeological research experience in Virginia and the Middle Atlantic region.



Mr. Mullen received his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He earned his M.A. in Anthropology from the Catholic University of America, where he was afforded the opportunity to experience and learn a multi-disciplinary environmental approach to archeological research, by working extensively in the field and in the classroom with Dr. William M. Gardner. His thesis research was an examination of the prehistoric settlements along the Piscataway River Drainage in Maryland.

However, Mullen has spent most of his career working on the several of the largest and most complicated urban archeological sites in the City of Richmond, such the Virginia State Penitentiary, Tredegar Iron Works and the Richmond Floodwall, and over the last 20 years within the City of Alexandria, on excavations on:

1. the Orange & Alexandria Railroad yard (located at the intersection of Duke and Henry Streets), which became the operational headquarters of the U.S. Military Railroads during the Civil War;
2. the Lorien Hotel and Spa (on King Street), which was once the backyard of the Virginia House tavern and contained evidence of Alexandria's early water systems. A brick-lined well containing a bored-log pipe (used to pump the well water out), several wooden barrel cisterns (to collect or hold water), and several wooden box conduits (used to convey water);
3. the Bush Hill plantation home, owned by contemporaries of George Washington and later was the residence of Adolph Hitler's former counselor of foreign affairs (Ernst "Putzi" Hanfstaengl), who was kept under house arrest during WWII by the State Department.
4. And the Hotel Indigo site, which resulted in the discovery of the oldest structural remains found to date in Alexandria: the 1755 public warehouse on Point Lumley and the remnant of a colonial-era ship that had been used as the framework to create new land.

The City of Alexandria recently awarded John the 2016 Brenman Award for **Outstanding Professional Archaeologist** for his "high standards of archaeological investigation and historical study at the Hotel Indigo site, for providing new insights into the founding and development of Alexandria's 18th-century waterfront, and for his exceptional commitment to communicating these incredible discoveries to multiple audiences".

Thunderbird Archeology will soon complete Phase III archeological mitigation at Robinson Landing, which is the property immediately south of the Hotel Indigo Site. The site contained Alexandria's first shipyard (Thomas Fleming's, ca. 1749), the

Pioneer's Mill (1854), Southern Iron Works (ca. 1937), and finally was occupied by the Robinson Terminal Warehouse Corporation

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Individual (\$15) _____

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Family (\$17) _____

Return to:

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Vienna VA 22182

Chapter members must join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at www.virginiaarcheology.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!!!!