

ASM Ink



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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Spring Symposium returns! April 17

There are a few new twists as ASM tries to reignite its group activities after being thrown off-balance by covid. The first offering to return is the Spring Symposium, with changes. For one thing, we Won't be gathering to see old friends, make new ones and swap tales: This year the Symposium will be virtual, offered on Zoom Saturday, April 17.

Another change is that it will last only half a day, from the 9 a.m. welcome until the fourth talks ends around noon.

But a lot of information is going to be packed into those four talks, some of which take us far outside our state boundaries.

The first talk, by Lisa Kraus and Jason Stellenhamer, is close to home. They tell the story of two wooden houses in Fells Point, Baltimore, 612 and 614 S. Wolfe Street, and 200 years of their history and their occupants. The houses represent a unique history of both African-American and white working-class history. Ship caulkers, tailors, laundresses, shopkeepers and oyster shuckers called the place home.

Next up, Rebecca Davis, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California at Santa Cruz, compares plantation landscapes in Haiti with those in the Chesapeake region. She will explain how both the enslaved and Euro-American inhabitants would have walked through and manipulated their "space," while creating a sense of "place."

Henry Miller, who last year received the J. C. Harrington medal from the Society for Historical Archaeology for lifetime contributions to the field, will be back to an ASM audience to talk about a variety of issues dealing with his favorite topic, St. Mary's City. The talk will include both new interpretations and a progress report on efforts to determine the origin and date of the only surviving interior furnishing from the Brick Chapel of the 1660s, a wooden tabernacle.

Finally, James M. Adovasio will take us across the Mason-Dixon Line to one of his favorite projects, the Meadowcroft rock shelter southwest of Pittsburgh. Excavation on the site's 11 strata began in 1973 and continued in bursts off and on until 2007.

Instructions for how to get the Symposium on Zoom are on the first page to the accompanying flier.

Inside

Signs of the historic 1634 fort that marked the beginning of Maryland has been located. Page 3

April is Archeology month: Keep calm and make those walls neater

April 17: Spring Symposium. 9-noon. Virtual.

Volunteer opportunities (non-covid)

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT participants and other ASM members:

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net. It is currently working on cataloging artifacts from the Levering Coffee House Site, Baltimore (a mostly late 18th/early 19th Century site).

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Montgomery County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island Fridays from 8 to 3. The lab will be open some weekdays at the Anne Arundel collection facility at 7409 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd. in Glen Burnie. For more information email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call 410 222 1318.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301 627 1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact 410 586 8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork to get started.

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

CAT corner: For information on the CAT program, contact chair Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

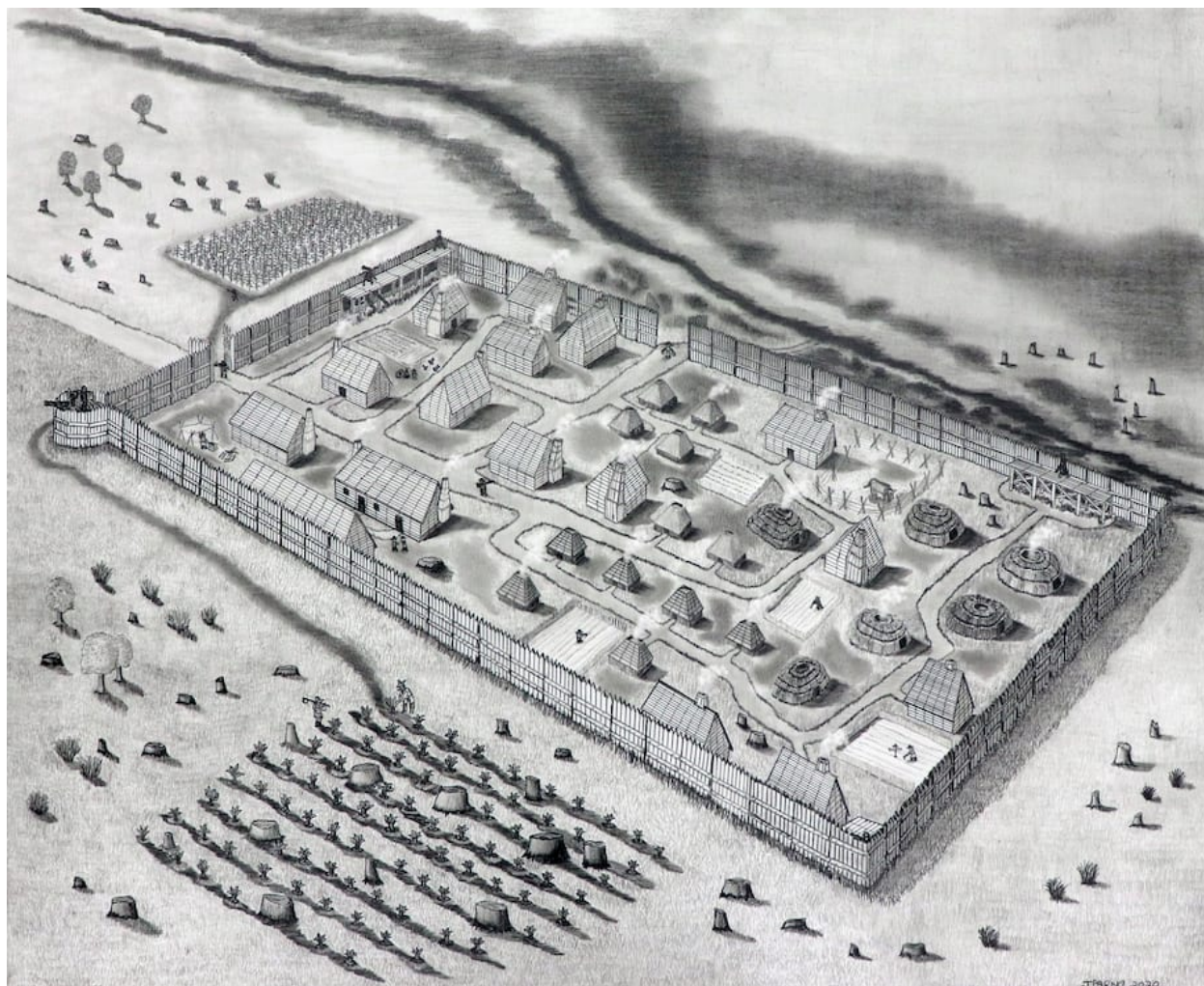
Mid-Potomac honors Heather Bouslog

At its 2020 virtual Holiday Party, Heather Bouslog, Montgomery County Parks archeologist, received the Mid-Potomac Chapter's "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award."

Since 2010 the chapter's board of directors annually selects a chapter member who has contributed above and beyond the call of duty to fostering chapter activities and public outreach.

During this past year, with strict Covid-19 restrictions, Heather kept chapter members and Parks archeology volunteers connected by arranging virtual lunch time weekly meetings to give updates, allow participants to chat with each other and share how they became interested in archeology.

In addition, Heather played a major role in organizing ASM's virtual Annual Meeting, sponsored by the Mid-Potomac Chapter, by suggesting its theme, "Celebrating Women in Maryland Archeology" and speakers, and in developing a presentation honoring nine women in Maryland archeology



1634 fort, state's earliest Colonial site, found

By Michael Ruane

Condensed from the Washington Post, March 22, 2021

Maryland archeologist Travis Parno was at a board game convention in Philadelphia, sitting at a table surrounded by thousands of other enthusiasts when he got a text message.

He was supposed to be on vacation, taking a break from his search for the legendary fort at St. Mary's, the first permanent English settlement in Maryland and one of the earliest in what would become the United States.

Back at St. Mary's, archeological geophysicist Tim Horsley had been scanning a site a half-mile from St. Mary's River with ground-penetrating radar that could detect the outlines of ancient buildings.

The text message interrupting Parno's vacation was from Horsley. It said: "I think we found it."

On Monday, Historic St. Mary's City announced that Parno, director of research for the organization, and Horsley had indeed found the outlines of the palisaded fort that was erected in Southern Maryland by white settlers in 1634.

Horsley's scans had revealed the imprint of post holes that formed a large rectangle with a semicircular bastion at one corner. The scans also showed evidence of what appeared to be dwellings inside the fort, including several that may have been Native American.

Excavation later turned up evidence of the brick cellar of a guardhouse or storehouse, the trigger guard for a musket and a quartzite arrow head that was 4,500 years old.

Continued on next page

"This is our moment," Parno said. "This is the earliest Colonial archeological site in Maryland. This is it."

William M. Kelso, the archeologist who in 1994 discovered the lost fort at Jamestown, Va., said the discovery is "extremely significant because St. Mary's is sort of a sister colony ... [and] it's another page to the story, to chapter one."

Archeologists had been seeking the St. Mary's fort since the 1930s. The site today is in an empty meadow owned by Historic St. Mary's City and is about the size of a football field.

Much like the famous Jamestown fort, which marked the first permanent English settlement in what would become the United States, its exact location had been lost.

The original 150 colonists, including many English Catholics fleeing Protestant persecution back home, had arrived at St. Mary's on two ships, the Ark and the Dove, in late March 1634, Parno said.

The Maryland group included a Jesuit priest, Father Andrew White; the colony's first governor, Leonard Calvert, and Mathias de Sousa, an indentured servant of African and Portuguese descent who later served in the legislative assembly of freemen.

"I found a most convenient harbor, and pleasant country lying on each side of it," Calvert wrote to his business partner, Richard Lechford, on May 30, 1634.

"On the east side of it we have seated ourselves, within one half mile of the river," he wrote. They had erected "a pallizado of one hundred and twenty yards square" with four bastions equipped with small artillery pieces. The palisade was probably 12- to 14-feet high.

White reported: "Our towne we call St. Maries ... [It] abounds not alone with profit but also with pleasure."

But like Jamestown, the settlement at St. Mary's was later abandoned. The capital moved to Annapolis in the 1690s and the site was left undisturbed and ripe for archeology.

St. Mary's has produced stunning archeological finds in the past. It was Maryland's first capital and home to the first State House. In 1990, experts exhumed three lead-lined coffins containing the remains of Maryland colonial governor, Philip Calvert, who died in 1683, his first wife, Anne, and Calvert's 6-month-old son.

The search for the fort had continued through the 1980s and '90s with inconclusive results. Parno resumed the hunt in 2017 and his find was deemed conclusive in late 2019.

The plan had been to announce the discovery last year, but the coronavirus pandemic brought that to a halt. Last summer, though, using coronavirus safety protocols, Parno was able to return to the site and uncover the top of what may be the cellar of a building inside the fort.

White wrote that the colonists, "to avoid all occasion of dislike, and colour of wrong," purchased from the local Yaocomaco Indians the land for 30 miles around, paying with axes, hoes, cloth and hatchets.

The Yaocomaco Indians tolerated the newcomers, he wrote, because the Indians had enemies.

The archeology hinted that the fort may have been built around several existing native dwellings, Parno said.

The Yaocomaco people lived on both sides of the St. Mary's River. The arrangement was that they would be allowed to stay on the east side with the colonists until the Indians' crops there were harvested. Then they would move to the west side.

It's not clear if, for a time, the colonists and the Yaocomaco lived together in the fort, according to the Historic St. Mary's City website. "But it is likely that their residences were ... in relative proximity to one another."

And an Indian dwelling that had been vacated would have provided good shelter for weary colonists.

"You come off this ship after months, and you need a place to lay your head, and you want something that's covered and warm," Parno said.

After Horsley's scan found the fort's outline in 2018, Parno said he verified it with excavation in 2019. He found that there had been a three-foot deep trench where the colonists had stood the timbers for the palisade. Inside the trench, the wood had left telltale stains in the soil. "It was clear as day," Parno said.

But he had been surprised when the work revealed that the outline of the fort didn't match Calvert's 1634 description of it. Instead of the large square palisade with bastions at the four corners that Calvert described, the team found a smaller, rectangular fort with one bastion.

The discrepancy may be because Calvert was describing plans for the fort before it was completed, according to Historic St. Mary's.

Underwater expert George Bass dies at 88

By Alex Traub

Condensed from the New York Times, March 19, 2021

George F. Bass, often called the father of underwater archeology, scouring shipwrecks for revelatory artifacts and developing new techniques for exploring the ocean, died on March 2 in Bryan, Texas. He was 88.

Professor Bass was a graduate student in 1960 when he first donned a scuba tank and dived to the seabed of the Mediterranean. He went on to find bronze ingots more than 3,000 years old, wooden fragments that solved mysteries about shipbuilding from the time of the "Odyssey," and much more.

Excavation of shipwrecks could provide not only "the ultimate histories of watercraft," he later wrote, but also "the ultimate histories of virtually everything ever made by humans."

Bass led or co-directed archeological efforts around the world, including in the United States, but he focused on the coast of Turkey — for thousands of years a trade route for a succession of civilizations.

The oldest submerged shipwreck he excavated lay near the southern Turkish peninsula known as Uluburun. The wreck, mostly likely the remains of a royal vessel, could be dated to within a few years of 1,300 B.C., the end of the Bronze Age and the era of the Trojan War and King Tut. It carried an opulent cargo — items like hippopotamus ivory, a golden scarab bearing Queen Nefertiti's name (the only one ever found) and what is believed to be the oldest wooden writing tablet ever discovered.

Bass wrote that the Uluburun ship cast new light "on the histories of literacy, trade, ideas, metallurgy, metrology, art, music, religion and international relations, as well as for fields as diverse as Homeric studies and Egyptology."

The historical value of sunken treasure began to be recognized by the 20th Century, when Greeks diving for sponge encountered a shipwreck carrying, among other goods, a magnificent ancient Greek bronze statue. But sustained archeological work under the sea was not feasible until 1943, when the oceanographers Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Emil Gagnan invented the aqualung.

Early on, archeologists who sought to take advantage of the aqualung remained aboveground, relying on reports from hired divers, who lacked archeological expertise. Bass took a more hands-on approach. He became the first archeologist to do his own diving while supervising other divers.

With help from scientists he recruited for his teams, he engineered new methods for removing artifacts from the seabed and for spending long periods underwater. One crucial early insight was that objects that look like rocks may actually be the corroded remnants of metal goods. Bass X-rayed what he found interesting.

Deborah Carlson, the president of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, which Bass helped create and then ran for much of his life, ultimately in Texas, said he deserved to be considered the founder of the field.

"We will never run out of worthy sites," Bass wrote in "Beneath the Seven Seas" (2005), a book that chronicles his career. "Hundreds of ships have sunk in Aegean storms in a single day. We cannot calculate the number of wrecks in that one sea."

George Fletcher Bass was born on Dec. 9, 1932, in Columbia, S.C. His father, Robert, was an English professor and popular historian. After his father took a teaching position at the Naval Academy, George grew up in Annapolis. He later joined the military himself, based in postwar Korea.

Bass was less than fully prepared for his first dive. He had time for only six weeks of a 10-week diving course at a Philadelphia Y.M.C.A. And before joining the expedition and diving 100 feet into the Mediterranean, he had tried on a tank just once and gone no deeper than 10 feet — in a pool. Yet that first trip became the foundation for the rest of his career.

"You have to be young and ignorant and naïve to get anywhere," he reflected in a 2010 interview with the Penn Museum.

A few years later he and his colleagues J. Richard Steffy and Michael L. Katzev developed the Institute of Nautical Archaeology. It has excavated dozens of shipwrecks across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Bass perceived the greatest threat to his work as coming from treasure hunters hoping to treat artifacts as booty. He called them "destructive of our search for knowledge of the past."

"It is relatively simple to find and salvage antiques or antiquities," he said. "It is what happens to those antiques or antiquities later that makes their recovery part of archeology."

Charles County keeps busy during pandemic

By Carol Cowherd

Since Charles County switched to Zoom meetings in September, we have had presentations by archeologists Jim Gibb, Stephanie Sperling, Amelia Chisholm, Laura Masur, Craig Lukezcic, Dennis Curry and Esther Read and will have presentations from Aaron Levinthal and Julia King in the coming months.

In the past these speakers would have traveled 50-100 miles to come to LaPlata to talk with us. Now they are just a "screen" away. Interestingly the number of attendees for the virtual meetings is about the same as for the in-person meetings, i.e. 12-20 attendees. This turns out to be a good number to allow interactions with the speaker and with each other before and after the talk.

Our ability to participate in hands-on archeological activities has been limited. All our hands-on activities involve volunteering, mostly for projects in Charles County led by County Archeologist Esther Read.

In September Charles County started Phase 3 of the covid reopening plan, and Esther Read received approval to restart activities with CCASM volunteers -- wearing masks and socially distancing. On several Mondays until December up to six volunteers in groups of two were spread out over two buildings in Port Tobacco as well as on the picnic tables outside to work in the "Lab."

Whenever possible we were in the field rather than in the lab on Mondays -- again with masks. And outside it is a little easier to socially distance.

For four days in the fall volunteers worked on the "So As Not to Forget" Project to document the Alexandria United Methodist Church Cemetery. This church was established by a group of freedmen after the Civil War and continues to be a place of worship for descendants of these first families as well as others. We were able to flag the marked and unmarked graves. Jim Gibb using his transit recorded the flag locations.

Other field days included looking for an 18th Century grave site at Rich Hill, helping Maryland Historical Trust (Matt, Zac and Charlie) do a geophysical survey at Maxwell Hall, and starting to document the Bowling house ruins near Maxwell Hall Park.

Although we did not find a gravesite at Rich Hill, we were able to use the two new CCASM rocker sifter screens. Two CCASM members made the screens based on one designed by Dan Coates. The screens are lighter than the regular screens and easier for shorter people to carry into the field.

Three of our CCASM members are also helping the Anne Arundel County Archeology Lab by washing and labeling artifacts that Robert Ogle collected in Charles County many years ago. The artifacts are being processed at their homes -- extreme social distancing.

As part of promoting archeology in the county CCASM provides two special awards of \$50 each at the Charles County Public Schools History, Industry, Technology and Science Expo. One award is for a History Day project and the other for a Science Fair Project. This year the Expo was virtual.

We document our activities on our blog ccarchsoc.blogspot.com. So if you would like to see photos and maybe obtain a little more information about what we did, check out the blog.



Chapter News

Check with your local chapter to see what activities will take place.

Central Chapter

All Meetings will be held on Zoom the third Tuesday of the Month. For more information and to be added to the Zoom list contact: Katharine Fernstrom at kwfappraising@gmail.com

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May). The next few will be virtual. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com for Zoom access information. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

Mid-Potomac

Until further notice, all Mid-Potomac Chapter Meetings will be by Zoom starting at 7 p.m., the talk at 7:30, the third Thursday of the month. Contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.org Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

April 15: Ralph Buglass, chapter member, will speak on the book he wrote in conjunction with Peerless Rockville, *Rockville, Images of America*.

May 20: Lew Toulmin, chapter member, will speak on the recent and upcoming excavations at the medieval Lindisfarne island site off the northeast coast of England.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410- 273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Cicoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meetings the second Saturday or Sunday of the month, virtual or at the Heritage Program Office, 9944 Route 108, Ellicott City, unless otherwise noted. www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or call Kelly Palich, 410 313 0423.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink, the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10-percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Ethan Bean, 765-716-5282 or beans32@comcast.net for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace MD 20178-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

Submissions: Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 3126 Gracefield Rd., Apt 106, Silver Spring, MD. 20905 or 240-867-3662 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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