



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Conservancy gets 1812 Shore fort site

By Andy Stout

Condensed from American Archaeology, Winter 2010-11

The War of 1812 is sometimes referred to as America's second war of independence. Despite the importance of this conflict, some of the sites associated with it are largely forgotten. Old Fort Stokes, located in Easton Maryland, is one such site. Consisting of a series of earthworks with placements for large cannons, it has been noted in a few newspaper articles and in one local history book, but nothing more.

The fort was constructed to defend Easton and may be the only remaining earthen fort on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Though locals have discovered cannonballs at the site, one of which is now in the custody of the Talbot County Historical Society, no professional excavations have taken place.

The catalyst for the construction of the fort appears to have been a rumor that spread on March 28, 1813, that vessels from the British fleet were approaching Easton by way of the Tred Avon River.

It turned out that the rumors were false. But, unsettled by the possibility of such an attack, James Stokes, a local Methodist minister and owner of a shipbuilding firm, called together his employees and friends and erected breastworks for the defense of Easton along the river. These fortifications became known as Fort Stokes.

The fort was reportedly armed with six cannons. Historical accounts claim it contained one building, which was used as a garrison house and that, except for times when rumors of British attacks were circulating, it was sparsely manned. The fort was also reportedly used as a communications outpost during the war, and small boats were launched from it to report on the movement of the British fleet. When the British held nearby Sharp, Tilghman and Kent islands, local residents were told to send women, children, valuables and livestock to the fort for protection.

Old Fort Stokes (over the years it's become known as this) was purchased by Elm Street Development, a privately owned real estate firm, which donated the site to the conservancy.

If you haven't renewed your membership, this may be your last ASM Ink. And you will miss out on member rates at upcoming meetings.

Upcoming events

March 5: ASM board meeting, Howard County Central Library, 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

March 12: Annual Archeology Workshop, Crownsville.

March 17-20: Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference, Ocean City, Maryland.

March 30 – April 3: Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Sacramento, California.

April 9: ASM Spring Symposium, Stevenson University, Baltimore County.

June 10-20: Annual ASM Field Session, Barton Site, Allegany County.

October 8: ASM Annual Meeting, Robinson Nature Center, Columbia.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County is offering opportunities for lab and field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers have finished upgrading the ASM field school collection. They are working on the Rosenstock (Frederick County) material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall hall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jessie Grow at 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 Ed Chaney at echaney@mdp.state.md.us or 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. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

For details, updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.



Hopkins opens archeology museum

By Arthur Hirsch

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, Dec. 5, 2010

After generations tucked into a small room on the first floor of Gilman Hall, The Johns Hopkins University's archeological collection has emerged from seclusion.

Ancient sculptures, pottery, jewelry, weapons and tools from the Americas to the Middle East will now get their moment in a mix of sun and cool museum light that illuminates an expanded new display space after an \$85 million renovation and with a new, more dignified name: The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.

"Up until a few years ago we called ourselves a collection," said Betsy M. Bryan, director of the museum and professor of Egyptian art and archeology.

The collection — including roughly 8,000 objects, plus more than 2,000 on loan from the Eton College Myers Collection in England — spans thousands of years of history. The oldest artifacts mark the Egyptian Neolithic period of 4,000 B.C.E.; the most recent is a wooden comb from colonial Africa, perhaps only several centuries old.

Not so long ago the collection was housed in a room a fraction of the size of the new space. The door was kept open during visiting hours, but it wasn't very inviting, said Bryan. "... Even when it was open most people didn't pay much notice."

Today, visitors to Gilman's first floor will find a new indoor space where there was once a closed outdoor courtyard that has been enclosed with a skylight as part of a three-year renovation of the building. There, artifacts are displayed in a glass perimeter surrounding a room that will double as a classroom; it will be open to museum visitors for morning and early afternoon hours.

A stroll past the hallway displays reveals an array of masks used in Egyptian funeral rituals, glass bottles, ceramics with geometric designs, figures in black granite, slate palettes used to grind cosmetics, and greenish-blue figurines made from the earliest known synthetic material, faience.

Inside, one wall is covered with slabs of Roman marble dating to the 1st Century B.C.E. to the 4th or 5th Century C.E. The fragments of funeral monuments are inscribed in Latin. Below the wall display, three marble urns still contain the remains of the dead.

One glass case contains an Egyptian mummy, the remains of a woman, probably in her 40s, who died around 400 to 300 B.C.E.

The space puts the material in a new light literally and figuratively, said Sanchita Balachandran, the curator. Some artifacts have been reassembled from pieces found in different places during the renovations and others have been given a good cleaning.

"This new visibility has finally shown the university there is so much to be explored," she said. "Hopefully, this is the beginning of the collection being used to its fullest."

Book review: Becoming Ivor Noel Hume

A Passion for the Past, by Ivor Noel Hume, University of Virginia Press, 350 pages, \$30.

Ivor Noel Hume is best known as for his archeological work at Williamsburg, but his 350-page autobiography doesn't even get to archeology until page 137 or to Williamsburg until page 211. This hints at the interesting and varied life he led before archeology became his focus.

After growing up in Depression-era and then World War II England, he turned to the theater for a career. Not only does the famous archeologist not have a degree in the subject, but he never finished college. The best education for a digger, he still feels, is in the trenches, not the classroom.

I had always wondered if the "Noel" was a middle name or part of an unhyphenated hyphenated last name. That turns out to have been a good question, because the author spends some time telling how his name came about. Even the Ivor part, which is Welsh, though his ancestry is Scottish.

At his first exposure to archeology, at age 11 at Sutton Hoo, he decided that if his bucket-hauling "was what archaeology was all about it was slightly less exciting than watching apples grow." He credits flukes

with leading him to full-time digging and then to America. Out of work in his chosen profession, he did some archeology in London - treasure hunting, actually, in 1949 when he was 21. He searched the banks of the Thames for saleable artifacts washed up by the tide.

His first paid archeological job came the same year and with it the joys and problems of working on construction sites. He thinks one foreman may have tried to kill him, apparently for holding up work. (He also nearly died in a Bahamas underwater venture.) Excavating at this time had been greatly aided by the Luftwaffe, which produced acres of vacant lots in the history-rich city. But anything more recent than the Roman era was considered not worth bothering about by most archeologists then.

He married a fellow digger and he and Audrey went to Williamsburg in 1956 on a three-month visit that lasted 30 years. His association with Colonial Williamsburg was bittersweet. At first he found himself fighting to get archeology equal standing with a culture more interested in the town's architecture. He won that battle but later on things got bad again with a change in leadership and direction (he is so upset at one administrator that he always refers to him by title instead of name). One of his continuing disagreements was that he rarely had time to write his reports because he was constantly given new areas for his small staff to explore.

And the explorations led to remarkable finds: "Any excavator who does not thrill to the Eureka! moment lacks the humanity to reach out to the people of the past and to see beyond quantitative analyses and computer printouts. Plus," he adds helpfully, "the spectacular artifact if properly exploited, can lead to the funding of future work or publication."

The Eureka! Moment needn't be a major find. "My treasures have lacked the Midas glow," he writes, "and came in the shape of information, bits and pieces of knowledge that, when fitted together, helped weave missing threads into the tapestry of the past."

What does he think was his major accomplishment? In separate places he names two as his top choice, but neither deals with Williamsburg and both were very short-term associations. One was identifying a four-by-four-foot square floor fragment at Roanoke as being where the 1585 colony had tested America's resources (the findings leading to later exploration of the continent), because unlike his other work this "discovery really contributed something solid to the foundation of Anglo-American history."

The other was identifying and saving the only existing contemporary copy of William Strachey's account of the 1609 shipwreck of the *Sea Venture* en route to Jamestown.

He credits his approach to archeology, in part, to studying Sherlock Holmes and learning to look beyond an object's identity to the way it had been used, to hearing the story it has to tell.

The author sprinkles the text with interesting commentary and asides. Metal detectors are "unsportsmanlike." Poison ivy sap can be absorbed by shards which pass on its misery. Electronic devices are okay, but not a good substitute for human eyes and a trowel. Washing artifacts may be boring, but it is a wonderful teacher. The best way to have news stories about finds be accurate is to hand out a press release and not discuss anything not covered in it. Underwater archeology is a lot of fun.

And he waxes philosophical about biographical writing: "A life remembered is a thing of shreds and patches, of vivid but sometimes inaccurate recollections, of events of marginal importance firmly documented and others of great moment not documented at all. Of such stuff mine is made."

And he extrapolates: "For one whose job in life has been to reconstruct a much more remote past, this exercise has been sobering indeed. If, in our age of endless paper, it has been impossible to check facts about one's own life, with what accuracy, one wonders, can we hope to reconstruct events that happened two thousand or even only two hundred years ago?"

A reviewer, to show how much more he knows than the author about the subject, must point out some minutia as if the book is riddled with it. Alas, the only minutia I noticed, and that quite by accident, is that Sir Walter Raleigh's last name is spelled two different ways. Which spelling is the more common? One can't say because poor Sir Walter was overlooked by the indexer.

A skilled and accomplished writer, Ivor Noel Hume colorfully tells the story of a skilled and accomplished person, a godfather of historical archeology.

-- By Myron Beckenstein

Personalized pipes found in Jamestown

By Michael Felberbaum

Condensed from the Washington Post, January 1, 2011

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- Archeologists at Jamestown have unearthed a trove of tobacco pipes personalized for a who's who of early 17th Century colonial and British elites, underscoring the importance of tobacco to North America's first permanent English settlement.

The white clay pipes were crafted between 1608 and 1610 and bear the names of English politicians, social leaders, explorers, officers of the Virginia Company that financed the settlement and governors of the Virginia colony. Archeologists also found equipment used to make the pipes.

Researchers believe the pipes recovered from a well in James Fort were made to impress investors and the political elite with the financial viability of the settlement. They are likely the rejects that failed to survive the ceramic firing process in a kiln.

The find comprises more than 100 pipes or fragments. More than a dozen are stamped with diamond shapes and inscribed with the names or initials of luminaries including explorer Sir Walter Raleigh, who dispatched the colonists to the territory he named Virginia. He also is credited with popularizing tobacco in England and is said to have smoked a pipe just before being executed for treason in 1618.

Other names include Capt. Samuel Argall, a major Virginia Company investor and governor of Virginia; Sir Charles Howard, Lord High Admiral of England, and Earl of Southampton Henry Wriothesley, a Virginia Company official who was also William Shakespeare's major patron.

"It really brings the people back into the picture," said Bly Straube, senior archeological curator for the Jamestown Rediscovery Project. "We have a lot of artifacts that we can associate with types of people like gentleman or women or children, but to find things like the pipe that bears the name Sir Walter Raleigh, I mean, my goodness. ... It just makes it very tangible and real."

The discovery casts lights on the social, political and economic network behind the Jamestown venture that started in 1607, as well as the importance of tobacco to the settlement, said William Kelso, director of archeological research and interpretation at Historic Jamestowne.

After settlers arrived at Jamestown, tobacco quickly became the American colony's chief export. Among the immigrants Capt. Francis Nelson brought to Jamestown in 1608 was Robert Cotton, a tobacco pipe maker who likely fashioned the pipes found in the well.

In 1614, the first shipment of Virginia tobacco was sold in London. Jamestown's tobacco exports to Europe grew from 10 tons in 1619 to 750 tons in 1639.

"Tobacco, whose goodnesse mine own experience and triall induces me to be such, that no country under the Sunne, may, or doth affoord more pleasant, sweet and strong Tobacco, then I have tasted," Ralph Hamor, a secretary of the colony, wrote in 1614. "I doubt not, (we) will make and returne such Tobacco this yeere, that even England shall acknowledge the goodnesse thereof."

Tobacco's popularity created a large demand for pipes that were typically made in London using white clay from Dorset, along England's southern coast. Interested in the lucrative new industry, investors in the Virginia Company sought to add pipemaking to its trades and sought out adequate clay from the surrounding area.

Settlers, Kelso said, were under "tremendous pressure" to give investors the instant gratification they needed because "they put so much money into it," and didn't want to lose their lifeline to England. Colonists tried different trades such as silk making, glassmaking, lumber, sassafras and tar, with no financial success.

"The whole idea was to make money for investors and they enlisted all these specialists that would search Virginia for profitable resources that they could exploit," Straube said. "Tobacco was the quickest and easiest and most successful."

"Each new discovery has meaning beyond its own significance," she said of the new find. "It can make us look at the past in a different way, and that's kind of the exciting thing about these pipes."

U.S. to sign UN treaty on Indians

By Krissah Thompson

Condensed from the Washington Post, Dec. 16, 2010

President Obama said Thursday that the United States will sign a United Nations non-binding declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, a move that advocates called another step in improving Washington's relationship with Native Americans.

Obama announced the decision during the second White House Tribal Conference, where he said he is "working hard to live up to" the name that was given to him by the Crow Nation: "One Who Helps People Throughout the Land."

The United States is the last major country to sign on to the U.N. declaration, which was endorsed by 145 countries in 2007. A handful of countries, including the United States, voted against it because of the parts of the provision that say indigenous peoples "have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used and acquired."

That language does not override national law, and Canada and New Zealand, which also initially opposed the declaration, said in recent months that they would support it.

Obama has told Native American leaders that he wants to improve the "nation-to-nation" relationship between the United States and the tribes and repair broken promises. There are more than 560 Indian tribes in the United States. Many had representatives at the White House conference and applauded Obama's announcement.

In a meeting with Obama Wednesday, the tribal leaders talked about what they see as slow progress on several promises made by the administration. Their concerns include the dire economic straits facing many tribes and continued U.S. encroachment on tribal sovereignty.

Participants emerged convinced that the administration is attuned to their concerns, although some expressed frustration at the pace of change.

Obama is proud of the steps he has taken to address the issues raised by Native Americans, White House spokesman Shin Inouye said, but Indian leaders have mixed assessments of the work. Many praised the White House focus on Indian country, but others said some problems remain entrenched.

Seneca Nation President Robert Porter complained of continued interference with tribal sovereignty, such as a federal law passed this year restricting mail-order tobacco sales. That law damaged one of his tribe's principal economic engines and cost 2,000 jobs.

"We were very enthused from [Obama's] promises, because they were rooted in a notion of partnership that we hadn't heard from a president before," said Porter, whose tribe lives in Upstate New York. "But what we've seen is a much more timid approach to the handling of Indian affairs from his administration. A considerable amount of time has been spent cleaning up old messes, but they are not really moving forward on issues that could change the lives of Indian people."

Some of those "old messes" include the resolution of a class-action lawsuit in which Native Americans accused the federal government of mismanaging their land trusts. The government settled the case with a \$3.4 billion compensation fund. That action followed a \$760 million case the administration settled in October with Indian farmers and agreements with four tribes to settle long-standing disputes over water rights.

"Last year was stellar," said Jacqueline Johnson Pata of the National Congress of American Indians. "We've had the support and the engagement of being able to have true dialogue with the administration."

Still, Neyooxet Greymorning, a professor of Native American studies at the University of Montana, said he worries that the dialogue about building an equitable relationship with tribes over the long term is lip service. Over the years, federal acts passed to favor tribal water rights and other issues of sovereignty have been ignored by local and state governments, Greymorning said.

Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a former U.S. senator from Colorado who has lobbied on Native American issues, said that the Obama administration had shown "sensitivity" to tribal leaders but that "change is going to cost money."

Archeologists returning to Iraq

By Steven Lee Myers

Condensed from the New York Times, January 2, 2011

JIMIJA, Iraq — For the first time since the American invasion in 2003, after years of neglect and violence, archeologists and preservationists have once again begun working to protect and even restore parts of Babylon and other ancient ruins of Mesopotamia. And there are new sites being excavated for the first time, mostly in secret to avoid attracting the attention of [looters, who remain a scourge here](#).

The World Monuments Fund, working with Iraq's State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, has drafted a [conservation plan](#) to combat any further deterioration of Babylon's mud-brick ruins and reverse some of the effects of time and Saddam Hussein's propagandistic and archeologically specious re-creations.

In November, the State Department announced a new \$2 million grant to begin work to preserve the site's most impressive surviving ruins. They include the foundation of the Ishtar Gate, built in the sixth century B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar.

The objective is to prepare the site and other ruins — from Ur in the south to Nimrud in the north — for what officials hope will someday be a flood of scientists, scholars and tourists that could contribute to Iraq's economic revival almost as much as oil.

The Babylon project "is one of the great projects we have, and it is the first," Qais Hussein Rashid, the director of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, said in an interview in Baghdad. "We want to have it as a model for all the other sites."

The task at hand is daunting, though, and the threats to the site abundant. In the case of some of the Hussein-era reconstructions, they are irreversible. The American invasion and the carnage that followed brought archeological and preservation work to a halt across the country, leaving ruins to wither or, in the case of looting, much worse.

The World Monuments Fund has been carrying out what amounts to archeological triage since it began its conservation plan in 2009. It has created computer scans to provide precise records of the damage to the ruins and identified the most [pernicious threats](#), starting with erosion caused by salty groundwater. "What we've got to do is create a stable environment," said Jeff Allen, who oversees the Fund's work, at the site in November. "Right now it's on the fast road to falling apart."

The wicking of groundwater into mud bricks, compounded by a modern concrete walkway and the excavations conducted by the German archeologist Robert Koldewey more than a century ago, have already eaten away some of the 2,500-year-old brick reliefs at the Ishtar Gate's base.

"They took care of Ishtar Gate only from the inside, because you had visiting leaders and dignitaries who would come," said Mahmoud Bendakir, an architect who is working with the fund, referring to the site's caretakers during the Hussein era. "The outside is a disaster."

The grant from the United States will pay for repairs to channel the water away from the gate's foundation, which stands several yards beneath the surrounding area. Similar repairs are planned for two of Babylon's temples, Ninmakh and Nabu-sha-Khare, the most complete sets of ruins, though they too suffer from erosion and harmful restorations with modern bricks.

"It's difficult to say which is doing more," Allen said, "but the two together are nearly toxic for the preservation of monuments."

The American reconstruction team has refurbished a modern museum on the site, as well as a model of the Ishtar Gate that for decades served as a visitors' entrance. Inside the museum is one of the site's most valuable relics: a glazed brick relief of a lion, one of 120 that once lined the processional way into the city.

Allen said the preservation of Babylon would require collaboration among competing constituencies that is extremely rare amid Iraq's political instability.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the Severna Park Branch of the County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

February 15: Mechelle Kerns on the sheet midden discovered beneath the Legg's Dependence kitchen with artifacts covering 250 years.

April 19: TBA

June 21: TBA

September 20: TBA

November 15: TBA

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. Contact chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the first Wednesday (September-May) at Historic LaPlata Train Station. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489.

February 2: Carol Cowherd on "Is there a Prehistoric Woodland Site in My Backyard?"

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or call 301-8405848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768 Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

February 17: Meeting at Needwood Mansion, Derwood. Noel Broadbent, research associate at the Smithsonian Institution, will talk on his archeology career and the new site he is working on in Washington.

March 17: Meeting at Needwood. Phil Hill, cultural resource management archeologist, on rockshelters in Montgomery County. (Check our facebook page or website calendar for any change in this meeting's date.)

April 21: Meeting at Needwood. Chapter members Mike Robinson and Bob Hines will debate Maryland's secession from the Union--a Civil War Sesquicentennial program.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

February 9: Chad Baker, of the Maryland School for the Deaf, will discuss the history of the Hessian Barracks, their renovation plans and the college of artifacts now stored on campus. Rescheduled from January.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Ann Persson at 410-272-3425 or aspst20@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

February 9: Jim Gibb: "Moving the 19th Century Cole Family Cemetery at Aberdeen, Maryland," Historical Society of Harford County.

March 9: Allen Shapiro: "Excavations at Ramat Rahel, Jerusalem, Israel," Harford Jewish Community Center.

April 8: Julia King: "Analysis of 17th and 18th Century Burials in St. Mary's and Charles Counties," Harford Community College.

May 15: Member and guest picnic, and tour of the exhibit: "Prehistoric Culture of the Northern Chesapeake," Liriodendron Mansion.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback restaurant in Ellicott City at 6 p.m. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

March 14: Anne Hayward, "Textiles in the Tidewater: How Textiles of the Colonial Chesapeake Are Represented in the Archival Record Versus the Archeological Record."

May 9: Lee Preston, "Made in China: Silk, Porcelain and Terra Cotta Soldiers."

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. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

February 25: Francis Zumbrun, old photos and narrative from his recently published book *A History of Green Ridge State Forest*.

March 25: Susan Haydel, of Potomac State College in West Virginia, on the native people of coastal Alaska and British Columbia.

April 22: Steve Israel, US Army Corps of Engineers archeologist, retired, on Rockdale Road Rockshelter.

June 3: Bob Wall, Towson University, "The Barton Site 2010-2011," a report on the findings of last year's field session and a discussion of what he plans to investigate this year.

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