



ASM Ink

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www.marylandarcheology.org

Draft proposal on Indian remains

A 10-person working group has been set up by the state to look into what to do with Indian remains now in the care of the Maryland Historical Trust. Five of the members were named by the Trust and five by the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs.

MHT archeologist Charlie Hall said "remarkable progress" has been made in reconciling the views of Native Americans and archeologists. Two public sessions were held in October to solicit views from the public. Additional public comments are welcomed in writing, the sooner the better.

The comments can be sent to either of the two staff members, Hall at chall@mdp.state.md.us or Keith Colston at kcolston@goci.state.md.us. Hall's mail address is: MHT, 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032; Colston's is MCIA, 301 W. Preston St., Suite 1500, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Talks so far have produced the following proposed statement of principles:

1. All remains will be placed in the ground in contact with the earth.
2. The remains will be returned to the earth on lands in each of the four cardinal directions. For each selected site, a legal agreement will be put in place that protects: (1) the sites for respectful repose and from desecration, destruction and misappropriation, (2) the Maryland Indian community's free expression of ceremony and their control of access for ceremonial purposes, and (3) the State's interest in the remains. The sites may be on federal, state or private land.
3. The remains will be placed in the ground in conditions that resemble those of the original interment, which were conducive to their long-term preservation.
4. There is no objection to preserving the possibility of retrieval for repatriation.
5. The designees of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs are firmly opposed to accessing the human remains once in the ground for the purpose of study and believe that their descendants will forever agree with them in this opposition. The designees of the Maryland Historical Trust believe that future advances in science may provide for significant discoveries including the possibility of obtaining information regarding cultural affiliation and cultural history of indigenous populations. In acknowledgement of these two perspectives, the Working Group agrees that the possibility of such access for study may be preserved provided that Maryland regulations are changed to give the Maryland Indian community and the archeological community equal voice in reviewing and approving any such study.

Upcoming events

January 6 - 9, 2010: Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting, Amelia Island Plantation, near Jacksonville, Florida.

April 14 - 18, 2010: Society for American Archeology annual meeting, St. Louis.

Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT program 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 james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

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

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7440.

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

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact 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 updates and information on other CAT activities check the ASM website.

A website is available to candidates and graduates: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDcat/>.

To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Members can choose to get emails or just use the website to send messages. Courtesy of CAT candidate Tom Forhan.

Indians gain custody after bone mismatch

By Tom McGhee, *Condensed from the Denver Post, October 22, 2009*

New DNA tests contradict findings by a University of Colorado forensic team that bones discovered in the Utah desert belonged to a wandering poet who disappeared in 1934.

The bleached bones were found tucked behind a saddle in a canyon-wall crevice near the Four Corners area. CU anthropology professor Dennis Van Gerven and a doctoral student exhumed the remains, photographed facial bones and superimposed them over pictures of Everett Ruess. They found that a match.

Ken Krauter, a CU biology professor, directed the extraction of DNA from a leg bone. Krauter concluded that it matched DNA taken from the children of Waldo Ruess, Everett's brother.

But Utah's state archeologist and others soon raised questions about the findings. The archeologist said Ruess' surviving dental records don't match the condition or characteristics of the teeth on a lower jaw bone that was found among the remains. The worn teeth also suggest a strictly American Indian diet.

The family contacted the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory and the lab performed an additional round of DNA analysis. The lab determined that the remains were not related to Ruess' closest living relatives. The CU researchers were unable to duplicate their original results, CU's Krauter said.

The family is returning the bones and artifacts found with them to the Navajo Nation archeologist for disposal.

Taking peak at Northern Chesapeake

It was a gray day, a chilly day, a rainy day, the perfect kind of day for being indoors in a warm, dry building and listening to a series of speakers tell about archeological progress in the Northern Chesapeake area as ASM held its annual Fall Meeting October 17.

About 70 people took advantage of the opportunity to attend the gathering, hosted this year by the Northern Chesapeake Chapter at the Maritime Museum in Havre de Grace.

The keynote speaker was Bill McIntyre, a past president of the chapter, who spoke about the history of the Concord Point Lighthouse keeper's house and the extensive renovation it underwent.

A second Havre de Grace project involved the Cedar Hill Cemetery, which accepted its first body in 1832. It's story was told by Adam Rybczynski. Current president Ann Persson told of the chapter's search for traces of the early American Susquehanna canal in Cecil County.

Two speakers told of work going on in neighboring states. David Clarke, a Delaware Department of Transportation archeologist, described the excavation at the prehistoric Frederica site and the work to be done concerning the major reworking of Route 301 from the Maryland border eastward.

From Pennsylvania, Don Robinson and Roger Wilson spoke of the restoration of several unique Welsh cottages built and used by slate workers at Coulsontown.

Dan Coates wins the Marye Award

ASM's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award, was presented to Dan Coates at the Fall Meeting. Here is what Tyler Bastian had to say in presenting the award.

The 2009 recipient of the William B. Marye Award has made particularly outstanding and lasting contributions to several areas of Maryland archeology: logistics, public outreach and aboriginal technology.

He has extensively explored the processes by which Native Americans accumulated raw materials and then turned these materials into tools. His workshops on soapstone carving, bone and antler toolmaking, and hafting have enhanced our understanding of aboriginal tool kits.

He has been tireless in sharing his insights with a wide range of archeological and public audiences. Since retiring as a full-time member of the Maryland National Guard, he has averaged 90 days each year with displays, specimens and ASM publications at regional events or local festivals in northeastern Maryland and adjacent states.

He has organized and participated in many field projects and he expanded his chapter's focus from Harford County to the Northern Chesapeake region. Among his special projects were rescuing the Bald Friar petroglyphs from obscure and unprotected storage and the design, fabrication and installation of several archeological exhibits.

By himself, and with the support of the ASM chapter he led for a decade, he has done more to promote Maryland archeology than most any other individual or organization.

He has built, adapted, jury-rigged and delivered a wide range of field and laboratory equipment, such as tents, water tanks, showers and screen systems. His innovative solutions to difficult problems have earned him the title, "Master of Logistics."

He has often driven long distances to help set up equipment or deliver supplies for events which he personally could not attend due to schedule conflicts. As an early graduate of ASM's Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) program he organized or supported many of the events and activities used to meet graduation requirements. His logistical support of ASM and other entities has advanced Maryland archeological research by allowing all of us to do what we do better.

His personal commitment to the success of his chapter, ASM and cooperative projects with the Maryland Historical Trust has fostered the bond between avocational and professional archeologists. A devotion to furthering the vision, goals and success of ASM and the advancement of Maryland archeology have earned Dan Coates the William B. Marye Award for 2009.

Site looters usually avoid prison

By Mike Stark

Condensed from AP story, Oct 11, 2009

SALT LAKE CITY — Stepping into the afternoon sun last month, Jeanne Redd and her daughter Jericca walked away from a federal courthouse with probation papers — not prison time — for their role in the theft and illegal trafficking of Indian artifacts.

History says the punishment for the Redds, who pleaded guilty to several felonies, was fairly typical. Despite high-profile arrests and indictments, most people convicted of illegally digging up, collecting and cashing in on artifacts in the United States don't go to prison.

And for those that do, most are in for a year or less, according to a 10-year analysis of prosecutions under a 1979 law meant to punish those that foul the country's cultural resources.

In Jeanne Redd's case, prosecutors had sought at least 18 months in prison. She's among 26 people charged after a two-year federal sting operation that included hundreds of transactions between an undercover agent and buyers and sellers from Utah, New Mexico and Colorado.

At sentencing, U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups gave her three years probation and a \$2,000 fine for seven felony counts of plundering artifacts from tribal and federal lands. She and her daughter,

who got two years of probation, had already surrendered a collection of more than 800 artifacts ranging from exquisite pottery and decorative pendants to human remains.

The sentences didn't surprise Robert Palmer, an archeologist and former academic who analyzed Archaeological Resources Protection Act prosecutions from 1996 to 2005.

His analysis, published in an obscure law journal in 2007, found that of the 83 people found guilty, 20 went to prison and 13 of those received sentences of a year or less. Palmer also found that while prosecutors were successful in the cases they took on, they turned away about a third of the cases they got, mostly because of weak evidence or a lack of clear criminal intent.

Those refusals — along with a lack of manpower and other priorities for investigators — are part of the reason why "we are witnessing the wholesale stripping and selling off for scrap our collective American heritage," said Palmer, who now works at Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa.

"People might see these as insignificant but over time, you're removing context, you're removing significance, you're removing the lens of the future to look back at the past," he said.

On average, 840 looting cases are reported each year across federal land managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, according to Todd Swain, the Park Service's lone investigator on cultural crimes.

There are certainly more cases that are either never discovered or never reported, he said.

Of the cases reported, only about 14 percent ever get solved. Roughly 94 percent of violators walk away with misdemeanor tickets, said Swain, who examined records from 1996 to 2005.

Some of those are minor cases worthy only of a misdemeanor citation but "a bunch" could probably be pursued as felony cases — those that result in damage of \$500 or more — if there were the time and resources to conduct a lengthier investigation, Swain said.

"ARPA investigations can be as complex as murder cases," Swain said in his 2007 analysis which, like Palmer's, appeared in the Yearbook of Cultural Property Law.

Often those cases require archeological expertise, weeks or months of investigation and prosecutors with the time and inclination to take on the cases with a portion of federal law they're not always familiar with.

A park service program to train federal prosecutors lasted for 12 years before it was discontinued in 2003. Swain said most of those who were trained have either left the office or taken on other assignments. The program resumed last month and Swain is hoping it's going to continue.

Despite a push in recent decades to get tougher on artifact looters, there are no significant signs that prosecutions or punishments are having any major effect on looting, especially those that steal for commercial purposes.

"The numbers should be going down," said Swain. "That's definitely not the case."

Drink, smoke and be buried

By Meredith Somers

Condensed from the Maryland Independent, September 25, 2009

What started out as a typical archeology study to fulfill Calvert permitting requirements turned into a unique opportunity to apply modern-day theories to a 400-year-old story.

"Have you ever heard the phrase 'You are what you eat?' You are what you eat, drink and smoke," said Julia King, an associate professor of anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

King's study, "Alcohol, Tobacco, and Excessive Animal Protein: The Question of an Adequate Diet in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake," was published in *Historical Archaeology* five months ago.

"We knew colonists were dying early from their environment and disease, but we now know cultural factors were part of health problems," King said.

How did the professor and her team arrive at this conclusion? With the help of 19 skeletons.

Rick Bailey's family had big plans for a plot of residential land near Solomons in the mid-1980s. The land once had been home to a 100-acre plantation and would soon be the site of townhouses.

King signed on to help with the archeological study, expecting the usual artifacts would be found:

pipes, bottles, animal bones. Then came a startling discovery.

"We found outlines of graves along the edge of the dig site. We were not really happy," King said. "Digging up graves is very complicated business. You have to keep in mind these are human remains that need to be treated with respect. These circumstances are beyond their control."

By the time the last of the bones were exhumed, King's crew was left with a provocative snapshot of Colonial Chesapeake history. "The bodies were buried haphazardly, and normally cemeteries are not like that," King said. "There may have been two households. We don't know, but we can hypothesize."

King believes that at least one burial site is the final resting place for a middle-income family whose patriarch owned the plantation.

"I wonder if what we see here ... is she is being denied because many people had folk fears?" King said. "Women who just had children were considered vulnerable; some even could be bewitched."

Jinxes and spells aside, King's recent publication deals with the diet and health of the Chesapeake colonists. King and bioanthropologist Doug Ubelaker also published a book about the cemetery in 1996. King found that the men were suffering just as much from bone loss as their female counterparts; and both genders were exhibiting osteoporosis much younger than today's sufferers.

King instructed Thao Phung — a student assistant working on her senior project at the time — to look into the menu for these colonists and what she found was that while these colonists had ample amounts of nutritious meats and vegetables at their disposal, their excessive consumption of alcohol and use of tobacco prevented their bodies from absorbing those nutrients.

Compared to today's standards, the alcohol consumption of colonists — young and old — would put most people under the table. Though drunkenness was frowned upon, alcohol was often safer than water and used for medicinal purposes.

"Although this collection was excavated almost 20 years ago, I think it's important to note that we are still learning new things about the 1600s from these materials," King wrote in a recent e-mail.

King meanwhile, is hoping to see if her model on diet and culture withstands future discoveries.

"If someone finds another cemetery with this kind of bone loss, I expect the model will hold up," King said. "If it doesn't, that just creates new questions."

Finding history in a cemetery

By Meredith Somers

Condensed from the Maryland Independent, September 25, 2009

For many Southern Maryland historians, graveyards aren't just places where brave youngsters go to make dares or the final resting place for a life's journey. As two history buffs and a group of volunteers will tell, cemeteries are where many stories begin.

Scott Lawrence's passion to reconstruct headstones ignited with a chance discovery of a few pieces of tombstone. The then-11-year-old Lawrence had been wandering the fields near his childhood home in St. Mary's County when he happened upon the shards.

A defense contractor from 9 to 5, Lawrence has turned his interest in cemeteries into an alternative source of income — Grave Concerns. More importantly, he offers a second chance to gravestones that otherwise would remain broken, buried or worse, forgotten.

Lawrence's most broad and time-consuming effort thus far is his mission to restore the headstones from St. Nicholas Church at Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Since 2003, Lawrence has been making regular visits to the site, where he resurrects, repairs and resets headstones buried there.

Built at the end of the 18th Century, the Catholic church served as a place of worship and burial until World War II, when the Navy took over the surrounding area to include in the new Navy base.

"Family members were allowed to move those [ancestors]," said Kyle Rambo, conservation director at the base. "The headstones were all laid down and the Navy put topsoil on them."

Lawrence's grandfather told him that not only was there a graveyard there at one time, but some of their family's ancestors were buried there. His interest piqued, Lawrence wrote to the station's commanding officer in 2002, requesting permission to put shovel to dirt. He was promptly denied.

"We went through hoops to make sure [Lawrence] was qualified," Rambo said.

Rambo said there was also the concern for maintenance of the graveyard once the stones were raised, since it was going to be more expensive for landscapers to maneuver around the pieces rather than a blanket mowing of the lawn, and the Navy did not care for any added expense to taxpayers.

Lawrence stuck with his plan, and within the year he had the permission and permits to start work on the forgotten cemetery. Among them was a permit required by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and the aid of a qualified archeologist — James Gibb of Gibb Archaeological Consulting.

Lawrence said he compiled a list of area archeologists to help direct the project, and Gibb was the only one who responded to his proposal. Lawrence also worked out an agreement with the local Knights of Columbus to manage the trimming around the re-erected headstones.

Lawrence began bringing the pieces to mend in his work shed in the backyard of his house.

Lawrence has documented 210 marked graves and replaced about 170 of them. With the help of neighboring parishes, Lawrence learned there were at least 700 people buried in the graveyard who could be named and dated. He estimates there were 1,000 burials at the church cemetery, but many are unmarked.

The oldest grave he's uncovered is that of a Revolutionary War soldier who died in 1803. Lawrence expects there are older graves considering the age of the church. "I had no clue what I was going to find," Lawrence said. "I knew there were veterans buried out there. It was thrilling. Something about working on this dig for a long time. These people are gone but not forgotten."

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meeting five times a year in February, April, June, September and November, the chapter has a new meeting location: Severna Park Branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

Nov. 3: Speaker 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 7:30 on the second Tuesday (September-May) at the Port Tobacco Court House. Contact President Paula Martino at paulamartino@hotmail.com or 301-752-2852.

Nov. 10: Ed Chaney talking on "Ye dwelling house wherein the plaintiff's grandfather lived:" Excavations on an early 18th Century plantation.

Dec. 8: Jim Gibb will look at "Port Tobacco 2009: Four New Questions for Each New Answer."

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com

Nov. 19: Cindy Pfanstiehl, anthropology professor at Montgomery College-Rockville, on the Miles House in Little Bennett Regional Park.

Dec. 17: Holiday party

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 p.m. 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>

Nov. 11: Dan Coates on "Ice House Display Visit" at Liriodendron Mansion.

Dec. 7: Bob Wheelersburg on "Washington Boro, Pennsylvania" at Harford Glen.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the courthouse in

Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

Nov. 9: Lee Preston, "Extreme Mammals: From Mole Rats to Bipedes, Let's Look at the 200 Million Year History of Mammals and Their Uniqueness."

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: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

Nov. 7: Field trip to Fort Ligonier, a French & Indian War era fortification in west central Pennsylvania.

December: No meeting scheduled due to the holidays.

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

ASM. Inc members receive the monthly newsletter ASM Ink, the biannual journal MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net.

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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