

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

2018 Field Session – a 1604 coin, Matt's fally, etc

By Kirsti Uunila

Principal Investigator

The 2018 ASM Annual Field Session returned for a second season to Calverton, 18CV22, on the shore of Battle Creek in Calvert County. Don and Jean McDougall again graciously hosted the session on their property to allow the search to continue for what remains of the 17th Century town of Calverton, also known as Battle Town and Calvert Towne, which served as the first seat of county government.

During last year's field session, four features were found and mapped. This year the efforts focused on sampling the large cellar feature exposed then and exploring the area that we called the Taney dependency that we believe to include a portion of the house or an outbuilding connected with the Tawny [sic] house identified on Robert Jones 1682 plat of the town.

The Calvert County Highway Maintenance Division brought a small excavator with a smooth bucket to the site and carefully scraped back the grass mat over two 10 x 10-meter areas that had been staked out. That allowed excavation to begin in short order. Since the plowzone had been extensively sampled last year, including counting and weighing oyster shell, this year only complete oyster valves were retained.

The Taney dependency area produced numerous artifacts from the 17th and early 18th centuries, including a large wine-bottle fragment bearing a broken seal with the initial 'M.' Michael Taney's, perhaps? By the end of the session, several small features had also been excavated in the dependency, including an apparent line of postholes.

The most notable artifact found was on the edge of one of the postholes. It is a James I silver shilling with a mint mark indicating it was made in 1604. Since the town was not established until 60 years after that, the coin had had a long journey and was likely to have been a treasured object. Its placement in a posthole that may have held a doorpost suggests a deliberate act, possibly to bring good fortune.



In the area where a large feature had been partially exposed last year, more units were opened to try to find edges of what we were interpreting as a cellar. Three 1 x 1-meter squares were opened in each of three 2 x 2-meter units to sample the large feature. The results were not at all uniform and suggest that what appeared to be a single large feature may in fact have been the result of

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Election time: Look for your ASM ballot in the mail

An election is being held by ASM this year for all officers and members of the board of trustees. One of the officer spots is contested: Information on the candidates appears on the back of the ballot. All positions an opportunity for a write-in vote. Ballots should be mailed to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park MD 20782, marked ASM. Or bring them to the Annual Meeting in Havre de Grace October 13.

Upcoming events

October 13: ASM Annual meeting in Havre de Grace

November 1-4: Eastern States Archeological Federation annual meeting, Watertown, N.Y. esaf-archeology.org

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at Charles.Hall@MHT or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net for information. Currently the lab is dealing with artifacts uncovered in Fells Point in Baltimore.

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 Century site in **Edgewater** in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. There will be magnetometer training.

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 Bouslag 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. Weekdays only. Email 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 Ed Chaney at ed.chaney@maryland.gov 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.

Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group/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:

Two Thursday evening workshops (6 to 9) are scheduled, one for July, one for August. Both will be given by Zachary Singer and Amelia Chisholm at the Anne Arundel County's Archaeology Lab at Historic London Town and Gardens, 839 Londontown Road, Edgewater.

July 26 the subject will be lithic technology. Reserve a spot by clicking <http://signup.com/go/rWLEToP> On August 23 they will talk about Native American ceramics identification. Reserve for this workshop at <http://signup.com/go/RquVUWf> For additional information or questions on these workshops, email Zac Singer at Volunteers@losttownsproject.org

For other CAT information see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at burquiza@comcast.net

The program is looking for a **new director**, contact Belinda or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net

Grisly Manassas find: Civil War 'limb pit'

By Michael Ruane

Condensed from the Washington Post, June 20, 2018

The bullet probably hit the Union soldier as he was fleeing. It may have struck his cartridge box first, which sent it tumbling through the muscle of his right buttock, broke his right leg and buried itself sideways in his thigh bone just below the hip.

His buddies probably carried him as they retreated before the storm of Rebel gun and cannon fire. At the field hospital, the harried surgeons probably took a look at him and moved on to those less seriously wounded.

After he died, he was laid in a shallow pit with a dead comrade and the sawed-off arms and legs of as many as 11 more soldiers cut down at the Civil War's Second Battle of Bull Run, in August 1862.

On Wednesday the National Park Service is scheduled to announce that archeologists have found the "limb pit" where the two soldiers and the amputated arms and legs were buried. The discovery, on the battlefield just north of Manassas, Va., is extraordinary, experts said. Nothing like it has been found before.

"As an archeologist . . . it's exciting," said Brandon S. Bies, who brought the bone out of the pit. "As a human being, lifting the leg of an American soldier and holding the bone with the bullet that killed him, it's an emotional experience."

Scientifically, it's "one in a million," he said. "But for that soldier, it wasn't a good one in a million. It was the end of his life."

The two soldiers — referred to as Burial 1, with the embedded bullet, and Burial 2 — were placed side by side in the pit. The severed limbs were carefully arranged next to them, like broken tree branches. There were nine severed legs and two arms in all.

Burial 1 probably went in first, because Burial 2 was partially on top of him. The hole was about a foot deep, and over the years farm plows had carried off the skull of one man and part of the skull of the other.

The identities of the soldiers are not known, and their fates were probably a mystery for their families. But scientific tests and circumstantial evidence show they were probably Northerners. The bullet in the leg of Burial 1 was fired from an imported British Enfield rifle musket then commonly used by Confederates, said Bies, now the superintendent of the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The Burial 1 soldier, who was probably in his 20s, stood about 5 feet 7 inches tall. No clothing was found with him. The man in Burial 2 was laid to rest in his Union coat — its four eagle-imprinted buttons were found in the pit with him. He was probably in his 30s, and about 5-foot-5.

He had been wounded by one large ball that smashed his upper right arm, a smaller one that hit him in the groin and a smaller one that struck near his right shin. Several of the rounds were found near him.

The Park Service believes the men may have been hit during a doomed Union attack on Aug. 30 against Confederate forces hunkered down in an unfinished railroad cut at the top of a ridge.

"It's so rare that you have a discovery like this," said Smithsonian anthropologist Kari Bruwelheide. "You have a burial feature that speaks in so many ways to the events of a battle, but also to the . . . people participating in treating the wounded."

The cost in lives and limbs was high.

The Second Battle of Bull Run was at that point the largest battle ever in the Western Hemisphere, Bies said, and involved almost 125,000 combatants. It was fought Aug. 28 through 30, 1862, over much of the same ground as the First Battle of Bull Run a year before. And the successful Confederate attack near the end "was the largest massed infantry assault on either side of the entire American Civil War," Bies said.

"It was devastating," he said. "The Union forces, they didn't stand a chance."

Roughly 1,700 Union soldiers and 1,200 Confederates were killed and combined more than 14,000 wounded. Amputation of a broken arm or leg was a common remedy, and surgeons worked with saws and knives.

Smithsonian anthropologist Douglas Owsley said the surgeon would stand on the wounded man's right side. If a leg was being removed, the uninjured leg would be tied to the operating table. The soldier would be put to

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sleep with chloroform or ether. Medical aides might hold the soldier's hands.

"It starts out with scalpels, and it's going to ultimately progress to the bone saw," Owsley said. "A good surgeon can do this in about 10 minutes or less."

The result, after almost any combat, was the refuse of amputated arms, legs and feet. In one field hospital after Second Bull Run, doctors dropped limbs out a window into a grisly pile.

"It was an awful sight, and one that I have never forgotten," a Union soldier remembered, according to John J. Hennessy, author of a book about the battle. "It had the appearance of a human slaughterhouse."

For the man with the fractured leg and the embedded bullet, nothing could be done.

"That surgeon is triaging and he's seeing who he can help and who he can't," Owsley said. "And he literally is going to say this man's got such a high-up injury that the only way he can deal with it is to take . . . the thigh completely off, and he just can't do it."

When the Union army fled, thousands of wounded men were left on the battlefield. One of them was John S. Slater, an 18-year-old Union corporal from the 13th New York regiment who was hit in the throat and side during the attack on the railroad cut. Days later, he managed to stagger to a field hospital outside the house of the "Widow Dogan," he recalled years later. That was probably the Lucinda Dogan house that stands today.

There, in the shade of some trees, "the surgeons were at work at their bloody but merciful trade," he recalled. He watched as doctors, using a door for an operating table, amputated the right arm of a Union soldier whose elbow had been smashed by an artillery shell.

He had declined anesthesia, Slater recalled, and after the severed arm was placed in a "ghastly heap of shattered limbs," he asked to see it one more time to bid it farewell.

"He placed it . . . to his lips, kissed it, and saw it no more," Slater wrote.

Evidence of the pit was discovered in 2014 during excavation for a utility line but was not fully examined until 2015, the Park Service said.

Initially, tiny bone fragments from the utility digging were taken to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, where they were found to be human. The Smithsonian's Bruwelheide assembled pieces of what turned out to be a left thigh bone and noticed that it had been cut, as if in an amputation.

Further excavation was recommended and the pit was subsequently located.

Additional research might reveal the two soldiers' names. But identifying the owners of the severed limbs could be easier, because many surgeons kept records of whose arms or legs they were cutting off, the Smithsonian said.

Bies said that many of the men whose limbs were cut off may well have survived the war.

An experienced Civil War archeologist, Bies was assigned to legislative and congressional affairs for the Park Service at its National Capital Region headquarters in mid-October 2015 when he got a call about some sort of a discovery on the Manassas battlefield.

Bies used a metal detector to check for artifacts. "You didn't want to accidentally nick something," he said. As he did, he got a hit near the broken leg that he suspected might be a bullet.

The team excavated around the broken leg. "It wasn't until it broke loose from the dirt and was lifted into the air that you could tell that the bullet was embedded in the bone," he said. "We never expected that. Never."

The two soldiers will be the first burials in the new section of Arlington National Cemetery when it opens this summer. Their coffins will be built with wood from a downed tree taken from the battlefield.

The Park Service said it is still deciding what to do with the limbs.



Though rain only interrupted one day's work, several days started by bucket brigades bailing out overnight rain.

Photo Kirsti Uunila, coin photo Rebecca Morehouse

2018 Field Session – a 1604 coin, Matt's fally, etc

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and suggest that what appeared to be a single large feature may in fact have been the result of feature. The results were not at all uniform and suggest that what appeared to be a single large feature may in fact have been the result of multiple smaller deposits

One of the sample units was quite productive and much deeper than the other two. Like the others, it was excavated in 10 cm levels and at 30 cm it was still going deeper. Getting to the bottom of it will have to wait. Among the artifacts found in it were numerous brick and ceramic fragments, and a fragment of what may have been a flute made of bone.

At the end of the 2017 field session, a feature that seemed to be hollow was found with no time left to investigate it. This year, Matt McKnight took it on himself to re-expose it and sample it. He discovered it to be a groundhog burrow. He named the feature Matt's Fally—the spelling is on account of the fact that he fell onto it last year when taking a core sample that must have been aimed directly into the hole.

Troy Nowak and Susan Langley of the Maryland Maritime Archeology Program also returned this year. They took volunteers out to work on the MMAP skiff and slowly plied the waters off the shore, charting the historic shoreline and conducting magnetometry and side-scan studies. Troy also presented two of the lunchtime lectures for the volunteers as well giving as the Spencer Geasey Memorial Lecture one evening.

Other lunchtime speakers were Patricia Samford, director of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab), who gave a presentation on subfloor pits, which helped us all think about the large cellar feature; Silas Hurry, of Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC), who presented and discussed examples of 17th and early 18th-Century ceramics from the HSMC collection, and Roy Brown, who demonstrated primitive skills and shared items from his collection of tools and other objects, most of his own making.

Alex Glass Volack, an archeobotanist, brought her skills to the site and conducted flotation during several days of the session. Her analysis will continue, thanks to the MAC Lab allowing her to finish processing the more than 140 liters of soil that we transported there.

More detailed reports will follow in ASM publications as the analyses continue. Many thanks are due to the McDougalls and to the many volunteers who took part in the field session. We hope that you found your labor and experience rewarding and enjoyed the effort to uncover and understand Calverton.

Tidewater Weekend offers ways to view St. Mary's City

Discover Maryland's first capital, St. Mary's City, through archeology July 21 and 22. The 31st annual Tidewater Archaeology Weekend at Historic St. Mary's City will again be digging at the Leonard Calvert site, home of Maryland's first governor and first statehouse for the colony.

In addition to the field opportunities, it will be opening a new archeological laboratories to allow visitors a peek at the artifacts from this National Historic Landmark. The St. John's Site Museum and the newly installed lead coffin exhibit at the brick chapel will also be featured.

Attendance requires standard site admission. For more details and to read more about Historic St. Mary's City, visit the web site at www.HSMCDigsHistory.org.

Pre-Columbians to look at the peopling of the Americas

The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. is broadening its focus for its annual symposium September 15. Instead of concentrating on Meso-America it will look on the Americas as a whole and at everything that has transpired since man first came to the New World. Entitled "Peopling of the Americas: Recent Research and Perspectives," its slate of speakers includes James Adovasio, Jon Erlandson and David J. Meltzer.

The symposium will be at the Metro-convenient Naval Memorial and Heritage Center on Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington from 9 to 5:45. Early registration of members is \$90, \$120 for nonmembers. (It costs only \$20 to become a member.) Student admission is \$25. Complete information and registration is available at www.pcswdc.org

A major hunt set for Lost Colony of Roanoke

By Andrew Lawler

Condensed from Science, June 6, 2018

A nonprofit North Carolina foundation is gearing up for a series of new digs in search of the Lost Colony of Roanoke. In September, archeologists will re-excavate parts of a metalurgy workshop, seeking clues to its size and precise design. In October, the foundation and National Park Service archeologists will excavate along nearby bluffs that are rapidly eroding. They are applying new dating methods to sand around a post hole near the shoreline. And after a century of work, they know which areas to rule out.

But geologists think the settlement has vanished. Recent studies suggest that shifting currents and rising waters inundated the site in the past couple of centuries, says geologist J. P. Walsh of the University of North Carolina in nearby Wanchese. He estimates the island's north end has lost about 750 meters in the past four centuries and that strong currents and hurricanes buried any artifacts.

But Guy Prentice, an NPS archeologist, said, "If you look at the maps from the 1700s, the island's geography has not changed much. ... I just don't buy that a couple of thousand yards are gone."

All the scientists, however, concur that today's rising seas are swiftly wearing away Roanoke's northern end. They feel an urgency to locate the town "before coastal erosion removes all traces."

Chapter News

Most chapters are now in summer hibernation. In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, <http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/>

Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Central Chapter

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com> or Twitter [@asmcentral](https://twitter.com/asmcentral)

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

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. The chapter does not meet in July or August. If Frederick County schools close early or are closed all day because of inclement weather, the presentation will be rescheduled.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are usually 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 Dan Coates at 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

Wednesday September 12. Preparations for the Saturday October 13 ASNC hosting of the ASM Annual Meeting.

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 Ccoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or try uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com

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 Rachael Holmes at 875 Boyd Street, Floor 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 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 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

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