

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

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Upcoming events

October 10 – 20: Fall field school. Including 17th Century historical site, Anne Arundel County.

October 18: ASM Annual Meeting, the Schmidt Center, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater. 9 a.m.

October 30 – November 2: ESAF meeting, Solomons Island, Maryland.

December 6: ASM board meeting. Site to be determined

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17th 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. Contact either one to participate. 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 offers opportunities for lab and field work. Lab is at Needwood Mansion in Derwood on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the first Tuesday evening of each month (except July and August). 301-563-7531 or contact heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org. CAT opportunity.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jasmine Gollup 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

Several CAT workshops are planned for the October field school. See website for details.

For more information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.

Would you like 2 weeks research at MAC Lab?

The MACLab at Jefferson Patterson is accepting applications from people who would like to spend two to five weeks at the lab researching a project of their choice. Students, academics and professionals (except for employees of the Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's College) are eligible to apply for the Gloria S. King fellowship.

A stipend of \$500 a week is provided. Applications must be received by January 15. To learn more about the application requirements contact Patricia Samford at patricia.samford@maryland.gov

Running out of time for auction donations

ASM uses its silent auction to get money for the analysis fund. The more money that is taken in, the more that can be done in the analysis part of our mission. This means getting good bids for the items we offer. And, more basically, it means getting a good supply of those items.

This year's auction will be held in co-ordination with the ESAF meeting in Solomons beginning October 30. It is a good chance to expand the circle of bidders and bring in a record amount of cash.

But so far it is looking as if that opportunity will be wasted. A look at the list of items already being offered - which accompanies this newsletter - is rather thin. It is not too late to change things and make a contribution. Do you have something you think will interest people? Can you talk to a business - a restaurant, theater, inn, etc. - about offering a gift certificate?

Valerie Hall, the auction coordinator, is waiting to hear from you. She can be reached at 301-814-8028 and valeriehall@gmail.com. She will be at ASM's Annual Meeting in Edgewater October 18 to accept donations, or bring them to the ESAF meeting by Friday morning, as long as she is expecting them. Or you can call her to make arrangements. Please make her happy.

ESAF coming to a state near you: Maryland

For the first time in 14 years the Eastern States Archaeology Federation is holding its annual conference in Maryland this year. Archeologists from up and down the East Coast, as well as Canada and the Midwest, will be coming at the end of this month for the meeting.

The conference runs from Thursday, October 30 through Sunday, November 2 at the Holiday Inn in Solomons.

Dozens of talks are planned, as well as a banquet featuring Henry Miller of St. Mary's City Saturday evening. There also will be two tours Thursday, a morning trip to the MAC Lab at Jefferson Patterson park and an afternoon excursion to Historic St. Mary's City. There is no cost for the JefPat visit and St. Mary's City is reducing its admission rate to \$5, for ESAF visitors.

"The sessions promise to be informative, cutting edge and entertaining," said Stephen Israel, co-ordination the event for ASM. "Add to the conference the attractive village of Solomons Island and its many attractions and seafood restaurants. Mike Madden, Dead Guy's Books will be in the bookroom offering an array of archeological books on American archeology."

ASM members are hosting a reception Friday evening at the Calvert Marine Museum, half a mile south of the Holiday Inn and a two minute drive. The museum has been renovated recently and contains new exhibits.

ASM members are assisting in the registration and other housekeeping details. Israel said there are still some openings for volunteers. Volunteers who work at least four hours get the meeting's \$40 registration fee waived. Stephen can be reached at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Nine sessions with 53 talks are scheduled for Friday and Saturday. The session chair is followed by the session title:

Mike Barber - Chesapeake Bay Archaeological Consortium: Recent Preservation Efforts on Virginia's Eastern Shore; Virginia Busby - Indigenous Landscapes of the Chesapeake; Elizabeth Comer - Catoctin Iron Furnace; Ian Burrow - Recent Landscape and Garden Archeology in New Jersey: Morven (Princeton) and White Hill (Bordentown); Stephanie Sperling - Pig Point on the Patuxent; Gabe Hrynick and Matthew Betts - East Coast Shell Middens; Ruth Troccoli - DC Archeology; Undetermined - War of 1812; Undetermined - Contributing Papers on Maryland Archeology.

Registration for the conference is \$40 in advance (by September 30) or \$50 at the registration desk. Those who pre-register are eligible for a discount for the Saturday evening banquet as well as for rooms at the Holiday Inn.

Up-to-date program information can be found at <http://esaf-archeology.org/meetings.htm>

Second field session only weeks away

ASM members get a second chance this month for a field experience. For 10 days, beginning October 10, a Field School and lab will be conducted at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, near Annapolis.

Rather than the usual field session, the field school will emphasize teaching and improving archeological skills rather than moving dirt. But dirt will be moved. Interesting dirt, from a variety of sites.

A plantation house site that seems to date between the 1650s and 1680 will be the principal excavation area, the work focusing primarily on investigation of features exposed last summer. A large field below the nearby Java ruin (1820s-20th Century) will be the second focus, with team members leading a magnetometry survey followed by shovel testing in search of additional aboriginal and historic era sites.

A small team will experiment with magnetometry on several aboriginal and historic-era oyster shell middens to determine if this technology reveals anything of midden structure that will aid in the excavation and interpretation of shell middens.

Test excavations east of the Java ruin will serve as a backup project if circumstances limit our ability to pursue any of the three main projects.

All laboratory work will occur at the Sellman House, a mid-19th-Century farmhouse with 18th-Century components and terraced garden, located at the entrance to the SERC campus. The lab includes a kitchen, toilet and shower.

Skill development will include: labwork and some basic artifact conservation practices; feature excavation and documentation, including water-screening and flotation; magnetometry survey; shovel testing, and instrument mapping

ASM's Annual Meeting at which we elect officers, approve the annual budget and generally catch up on the activities of member chapters will be held on the morning of October 18 on the SERC campus. Fieldwork will not occur during the meeting, but will begin immediately afterward.

Four CAT workshops are planned during the session. They are open to all members or field school participants. On the first Saturday, October 11, a preservation law workshop will begin at 4 p.m., after digging ends for the day. An ethics workshop will be held two days later, on Monday, October 13, at the same time. Each session is two hours long.

Following the Annual Meeting, on Saturday, October 18, Jim Gibb will present a Native American overview at 1 p.m. The next morning, Sunday, October 19, he will give a historic era overview at 9 a.m. These sessions run three hours.

The Archaeology Laboratory at SERC joins 17 other labs at the Edgewater facility researching coastal ecosystems. Environmental archeology adds an exciting component in that it brings a much deeper time depth to environmental research and greater accuracy in dating changes to the Chesapeake ecosystems, specifically those in which human communities were involved.

These include erosion and sedimentation, and the introduction of alien plant and animal species and extirpation of indigenous species. The SERC setup also more easily integrates layperson involvement in research (citizen science). Several of its citizen scientists have published or presented results at professional conferences and have become members of ASM.

Apart from rich archeological resources SERC is in a beautiful rural setting. There is waterfront and easy access for canoes and kayaks. Miles of well-kept trails crisscross campus. An opportunity exists to join a canoe excursion of the area Saturday, June 11, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., for \$18.

To reach the site, get to MD 2 south, head east on MD 214 (Central Avenue) to MD 468 (Muddy Creek Road), head south for about a mile, then turn left onto Contees Wharf Road. Signs then will direct you.

Governor candidate talks of archeology

As in the past, ASM asked gubernatorial candidates for their views on issues of specific interest to our members. After asking for the questionnaire, the office of Larry Hogan (R) failed to reply to several requests for their response.

In proclaiming April Maryland Archeology Month this year, the State of Maryland said in explaining this designation:

"Whereas Maryland's many remarkable archeological discoveries at such sites as Zekiah Fort, the U.S.S. Scorpion, St. Mary's City, Piscataway Park, Fort Frederick, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and the colonial capital of Annapolis are of national and international significance; and

"Whereas archeological sites and artifacts provide a tangible link to at least 12,000 years of human occupation in Maryland, deepen our understanding of the state's diverse history and culture, and reveal otherwise unavailable information about the origins of our communities and traditions; and

"Whereas the protection, study and interpretation of these unique and irreplaceable links to the past provide educational, scientific and economic benefits for all citizens ..."

1. Do you share in this appraisal of the value of archeological investigation and preservation to our state?

Anthony Brown (D): Yes. I am immensely proud of Maryland's historical, cultural and archeological legacy, and as governor I will work to preserve it. In order to fully understand that legacy, we must pursue archeological investigation. We can't understand, preserve or interpret our history without first knowing where those precious resources are located. We will support a robust program for archeological research, identification, protection and preservation.

2. For the past several years, the Maryland Historical Trust has been operating under severely curtailed budgets. By when do you hope to restore full funding so it can continue with its work, bearing in mind that continued building and development can mean the disappearance of valuable sites we wouldn't even know are there. Once impacted, the site and its messages are lost forever.

Brown: I will work with the Archeological Society of Maryland and our partners in the General Assembly to ensure that the Society can effectively investigate and preserve Maryland's heritage at potential and verified archeological sites. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides a strong basis for archeological protection and Maryland has always been a leader in protecting archeological resources through the State Highway Administration's work.

Over the last several years we have made tough decisions to bring Maryland through the recession while at the same time protecting our priorities. At this time, we cannot commit to increased funding, but as our budget outlook improves, we will work to ensure the Maryland Historical Trust and the Society each have the resources they need to carry out their critical missions of preserving Maryland's history.

3. Among the impacts of climate change in Maryland will be erosion and the loss of land as sea levels rise. Are you willing to add funds to the Trust's budget so it can locate sites and gather information before the sites disappear?

Brown: Climate change is real and we understand the threats of extreme weather and sea-level rise to Maryland. Not only are we committed to taking action to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change, we accept the responsibility to mitigate climate change. This responsibility includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions by promoting renewable energy, committing to sustainable growth and encouraging greater energy efficiency.

We recognize that climate change impacts our archeological heritage. That is why we have supported the Maryland Historical Trust's work to identify the archeological and cultural resources most vulnerable to sea-level rise. Maryland has been a national leader in this effort, but we can do more.

At this time, we cannot commit to increased funding, but as our budget outlook improves, we will work to ensure the Maryland Historical Trust and the Society each have the resources they need to carry out their critical missions of preserving Maryland's history.

Annual meeting to be held on October 18

As usual ASM will hold its annual meeting this fall, but there will be some changes in format.

First off, it will not be a free-standing event but will take place within the Fall Field School at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center near Annapolis. One needn't be taking part in the Field School to attend the meeting; in fact, the hope is that many nondiggers will come.

There will be a business meeting, as usual, but instead of a variety of talks afterward, there will be just one, giving attendees a chance to sit in on a CAT workshop, an overview of Native American archeology. Or they can spend some time in the field or the lab. (See Field School article on Page 4 for details on the dig.)

The business meeting will feature reports on the state of ASM and its individual chapters. ASM also will award its highest honor, the William B. Marye Award, to someone for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology.

Finally, election ballots will be tabulated and the winners announced. Those who haven't mailed in their ballots are urged to bring them to the meeting so they can be counted. The new officers will take their positions immediately. People are on their own for lunch.

Valerie Hall will be at the meeting to receive items people are donating for the Silent Auction to be held two weeks later during the ESAF meeting in Solomons.

Doors open at 8, the meeting begins at 9.

To reach the meeting site, get to MD 2 south, head east on MD 214 (Central Avenue) to MD 468 (Muddy Creek Road), head south for about a mile, then turn left onto Contees Wharf Road. Signs then will direct you.

When hops at college meant something else

Condensed from the Associated Press, August 31, 2014

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — College students have always had a taste for beer, and archeologists have uncovered new evidence at the College of William and Mary to prove it.

The remains of what is likely an 18th Century on-campus brewery were discovered just outside of the nation's oldest college building when campus officials were looking to widen a sidewalk.

School officials say the discovery near the Wren Building will allow them to tell a broader story about campus life in the Colonial era that involved the interaction of slaves, Native Americans, faculty and students.

"This is exactly what we want," said Susan Kern, executive director of the college's historic campus. "It's a marvelous find."

Records have long indicated that the college had slaves who sold the school hops that the slaves had grown on a nearby plantation. It wasn't always clear, however, exactly where that brewing was taking place after the initial campus building burned down in 1705. Based upon debris found at the site, officials believe the brewery they've found only existed until the Revolutionary War.

The Wren Building was built sometime between 1695 and 1700. After it was gutted by fire, it was rebuilt in 1716 and debris from its construction was placed in a large pit near the building site. Sometime after that — likely in the 1720s — archeologists believe, the school built a small brewery right next to that trash pit. It would've provided beer for the few dozen students and faculty.

The brewery site itself isn't large, with the brick outlines measuring 18 feet by 20 feet. A small addition measuring 18 feet by eight feet was added later. The building's remains were found only about a foot underneath the surface in a heavily trafficked area of campus near Colonial Williamsburg.

"Hops are flowers, essentially, and they should have pollen," said Andy Edwards, lead archeologist on the dig. "If they're around, we should get their signature and that'll help with the case."

"Beer was beer. It was small beer, which is likely what they're brewing. Small beer just means it were second or third brew and less alcoholic, like an ale today," he said.

Genomics fills in Dorset culture blanks

Compiled from newspaper accounts, August 29, 2014

Seven hundred years ago, the Dorset people disappeared from the Arctic. The last of the Paleo-Eskimos, the Dorset had dominated eastern Canada and Greenland for centuries, hunting seal and walrus through holes in the ice and practicing shamanistic rituals with ornate carvings and masks.

Then, they promptly ceased to exist. Archeologists have scoured troves of Arctic artifacts, searching for clues to the Dorset's sudden extinction. Did they assimilate when the Thule, ancestors of the modern Inuit, advanced from the Bering Strait with dog sleds, harpoons and large skin boats? Or did they die out, victims of either an unfortunate epidemic or a violent prehistoric genocide?

Now, scientists have begun to chip away at this and other mysteries of the New World Arctic. In a paper published Thursday in the journal *Science*, researchers analyzed 169 ancient DNA samples to study the origins and migration patterns of early Arctic cultures. The results point to a single, genetically distinct Paleo-Eskimo population that thrived in isolation for more than 4,000 years, only to vanish in a matter of decades.

The peopling of the new world remains highly controversial. A paper published in 2012 suggested that the Americas were populated in three distinct migrations of people from Siberia. But a newly published book on the 9,000-year-old skeleton known as the Kennewick Man suggests that people came and went from Asia along the northern Pacific coast almost continuously for thousands of years.

The new paper in *Science* argues that the Dorset people must represent a fourth migration pulse.

The research shows that the ancestors of the Dorsets came from Siberia, starting about 6,000 years ago, migrating in watercraft across the Bering Strait. They kept moving to the east in pursuit of the big game that thrived in the Arctic after the end of the Ice Age. They certainly weren't going to migrate south, because those regions already were inhabited by Native Americans.

"By using genetics and genomics, they were able to answer questions that archeologists have been trying to solve for decades," said Todd R. Disotell, a professor of anthropology at New York University, who was not involved in the research. "Tiny fragments of teeth and hair are now yielding more data than we ever imagined."

Archeologists traditionally rely on ancient artifacts, like spearheads and potsherds, or linguistics to track population shifts. When ancient cultures start using modern tools or altering their languages, researchers consider such changes cultural and even biological turning points, representing an inevitable period of intermarriage and assimilation.

There are many revelations in this new study. Anthropologists who studied artifacts in the Arctic had previously identified two distinct paleo-Eskimo groups, the Pre-Dorset/Saqqaaq and, later in the archeological record, the Dorsets. But the genetic research shows that they're the same people. Their artifacts look different because of cultural innovations, not because new people showed up from far away with new tools, materials and customs, the study suggests.

The demise of the Dorsets coincided with the arrival of the Thule people, the ancestors of today's Inuit. The Thule had larger boats and technology that could be used to hunt whales, and they had an almost militaristic social organization, said anthropologist William Fitzhugh, director of the Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and a co-author of the new report.

"The Dorset people had no bows and arrows. They were, in a sense, sitting ducks," he said. "They either were pushed out in the fringes of the Arctic area where they could not survive economically, or else they were annihilated in some way."

Radiocarbon dating of human remains can be inexact. The Paleo-Eskimos subsisted on seafood, and the Arctic is packed with ancient carbon that is absorbed by marine life and may confound efforts to date cultural changes.

But genomic analysis offers a far more direct link to the past. "With genetics, you're looking at the ancient people themselves, not their refuse, so to speak," Disotell said.

To learn more about the Paleo-Eskimos and their sudden disappearance from the historical record,

researchers collected DNA fragments from ancient human remains across Greenland, Canada and Siberia.

Their results suggest that the Paleo-Eskimos remained genetically isolated for thousands of years, and that the Dorset culture did not vanish through assimilation. Modern Inuits, then, are descendants of the Thule and not directly related to the Paleo-Eskimos.

"This is surprising, because every time people meet each other we find evidence of sex between the people," said Eske Willerslev, an evolutionary biologist at the Center for GeoGenetics at the University of Copenhagen and an author of the study. "But here we have a unique situation, where even though we know they must have been in touch with their neighbors, they chose to live in isolation."

If it was not assimilation, what happened to the Dorset? The study suggests that Paleo-Eskimos arrived in the New World in a single migration, rather than in waves, as previously thought. Analysis of mitochondrial DNA, which allows researchers to pinpoint matrilineal ancestry, suggests rampant inbreeding among the isolated Dorset people, a factor that may have weakened their population and ultimately contributed to their demise.

"Certainly they survived for almost 5,000 years, so they weren't completely destroyed by inbreeding," Willerslev said. "But it causes a number of medical problems, and I wouldn't be surprised if that had an effect on them."

Another possibility, Disotell explained, is that the Dorset braved generations of harsh tundra conditions only to succumb to the effects of climate change. In the Arctic, even minor shifts in temperature can devastate marine life, cutting off vital food sources. The archeological record, in fact, suggests that several such events had nearly wiped out the Paleo-Eskimos before.

"When you're dealing with sea ice, just a few degrees can be transformative," Disotell said. "Three bad winters in a row where you can't hunt seals, and you're in trouble."

Although the study effectively ruled out the theory that Dorset DNA lives on in the modern Inuit, the mystery of the last Paleo-Eskimos remains unsolved. For Willerslev and his team, the next step will be to examine even more ancient human remains, in search of clues.

"We're trying to get our hands on more ancient human skeletons on both sides of the Bering Strait," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if we find evidence of a new migration that we weren't aware of."

The current data, however, tells a fascinating story unto itself. An ancient culture managed to survive in one of the most extreme environments on Earth, an uninterrupted bloodline that spanned thousands of years, only to disappear without a trace.

"This might be a good lesson for us today," Disotell said. "Long-term stability still means you can disappear. After 4,300 years, bam, you're gone in decades."

The fullest look yet at Kennewick Man

By Joel Achenbach

Condensed from the Washington Post, August 26, 2014

The mysterious Kennewick Man, who died 9,000 years ago in the Columbia River Valley, was a seal hunter who rambled with a projectile point lodged in his hip, five broken ribs that never healed properly, two small dents in his skull and a bum shoulder from the repetitive stress of throwing spears.

He came from somewhere far away, far up the Pacific Northwest coast, possibly Alaska or the Aleutian Islands. He might even have come to North America all the way from Asia.

That's the argument of the editors of a new, 688-page, peer-reviewed book, "Kennewick Man: The Scientific Investigation of an Ancient American Skeleton," that will be published this fall by Texas A&M University Press.

Scientists have told their story of Kennewick Man before in lectures and interviews, but the new book represents the most detailed account of research that came about only after scientists sued for access to the bones. The scientists were allowed to study the bones for 16 days in 2005 and 2006.

"Kennewick Man could not have been a longtime resident of the area where he was found, but instead lived most of his adult life somewhere along the Northwest and North Pacific coast where marine mammals were readily available," the concluding chapter of the book states.

Co-editor Richard Jantz, emeritus professor of anthropology at the University of Tennessee, said, "One of the things we always tend to do is underestimate the mobility of early people."

His co-editor, Douglas Owsley, a forensic anthropologist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, agrees with that assessment of Kennewick Man: "He was a long-distance traveler."

The book, which includes contributions from more than five dozen authors, researchers and photographers, describes many kinds of research on the skeleton, which was discovered in 1996. The chemical analysis of the molecular isotopes in the bones and the clues they provide to Kennewick Man's origin are likely to be among the most heavily debated findings.

The analysis suggests that Kennewick Man lived off a diet of seals and other large marine mammals and drank glacier-melt water. His wide-set body is akin to what is generally seen in cold-adapted human populations..

The origin of Kennewick Man is relevant to the future disposition of his bones. Native American tribes have claimed him as one of their ancestors and have sought to rebury the remains in keeping with their customs. The scientists argued that there is no evidence linking him to any of today's tribes.

They say that Kennewick Man's skull, which is large and narrow with a projecting face, doesn't look like the skulls of later Native Americans.

The dimensions of Kennewick Man's skull most closely match those of Polynesians, specifically the inhabitants of the Chatham Islands, near New Zealand, the scientists say.

He wasn't himself a Polynesian, however. Rather, according to the scientists, Kennewick Man and today's Polynesians, as well as the prehistoric Jomon people and contemporary Ainu people of northern Japan, have a common ancestry among a coastal Asian population.

These were hunters of marine creatures and could have followed the edge of the ice around the northern rim of the Pacific Ocean, harvesting seals and using primitive watercraft to travel long distances, Owsley said.

Gail Celmer, a regional archeologist with the Army Corps of Engineers, said the corps will review the book and "see if there's anything in there that changes how we're curating the remains."

Two teenagers sneaking into a boat race originally saw the bones and notified authorities. The local coroner asked for assistance from a forensic anthropologist, James Chatters, who at first thought, based on the shape of the skull, that he was looking at the remains of an early pioneer. But tests on the spear point indicated that these were prehistoric remains.

Chatters excavated more than 300 bones, making Kennewick Man one of the most complete skeletons from that era.

Three of the papers list Chatters as an author, but he does not sign on to the view that Kennewick Man came from somewhere far away. "If he's an eater of seals, he's in the wrong position," Chatters said. He said Kennewick Man is more than 100 miles from the nearest seal.

He also believes the spear point in his hip comes from somewhere not too far away.

"It's a serrated edge, leaf-shaped point, of a style known as a Cascade point," Chatters said.

Genetic testing on Kennewick Man is being conducted in Denmark and those results are eagerly awaited and could alter the scientific narrative yet again.

Chatters said he probably lived in a band of 20 to 40 people. And he surely was a strong man, able to endure pain from myriad injuries and the challenges of life as a hunter, Chatters said. His survival from a serious injury — the embedded spear point in hip — seems to suggest something.

"He was injured severely enough when he was young that somebody took very good care of him," Chatters said.

Owsley said he appeared to be about 40, but further testing, if permitted, would help pin that down. He argues that scientists should have further access to the skeleton, which for now is held in the Burke Museum at the University of Washington.

Serpent Mound loses its Fort Ancient tag

By Geoffrey Sea

Condensed from Indian Country, Today Media Network.com, August 7, 2014

Serpent Mound in rural Adams County, Ohio, is one of the premier Native Americana earthworks in the hemisphere. Its pristine flowing form was enhanced by major reconstruction in the 1880s. That reconstruction now appears to have been the second time in its long life that Serpent Mound has shed some of its skin.

Estimates of the age of the earthwork are now radically revised as the result of a new radiocarbon analysis, suggesting that the mound is about 1,400 years older than conventionally thought. The new date of construction is estimated at about 321 BCE, one year after the death of Aristotle in Greece.

Signs and other interpretive material have been made obsolete virtually overnight, along with ideas about the indigenous culture responsible for the astounding artwork. A paper by an eight-member team led by archeologist William Romain has been published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* with a free-access summary available on Romain's website.

The new data alters thinking about three things: the culture responsible for the mound, the native groups that are direct descendants of those builders and the purpose and iconography of the work.

Dispatching other theories about Serpent Mound's origin, Romain's summary concludes: "Both the consensus of opinion and radiocarbon evidence suggest an Adena construction."

Traditionally, Serpent Mound was attributed to the Adena Culture or Civilization, based on an adjacent conical Adena burial mound and the similarity of style of the effigy with many other Adena earthworks of the Ohio Valley. Just 30 miles southeast of Serpent Mound were the Portsmouth Works with only a few surviving remnants, interpreted by the pioneering archaeoastronomer Stansbury Hagar as representing the effigy of a rattlesnake 50 times larger than Serpent Mound.

However, an investigation in the 1990s found two charcoal samples in Serpent Mound that dated to the later time of about 1070 CE. Site managers then attributed construction to the Late Woodland "Fort Ancient Culture" (500 to 1200 CE), even though the "Culture" has been disassociated from the Fort Ancient earthwork in Warren County, Ohio, and is not known to have built large earthworks.

"Fort Ancient Culture" is neither a fort, nor ancient, nor a culture. Yet it has been identified as the author of Serpent Mound, except in those circles where the mound has been attributed to giants or space aliens or giant space aliens.

The "Fort Ancient" designation has been problematic, because as an unreal entity the so-called culture has no clear descendants. Adena, on the contrary, is strongly identified from archeology, genetics and historical linguistics as Algonquian, its descendants being the Anishinaabeg, the Miami-Illinois, the Shawnee, the Kickapoo, the Meskwaki and the Asakiwaki.

The new investigation by Romain and others found much older charcoal samples in less-damaged sections of the mound. The investigators conjecture that the mound was originally built between 381 BCE and 44 BCE, with a mean date of 321 BCE. They explain the more recent charcoal found in the 1990s as likely the results of a "repair" effort by Indians around 1070 CE.

Late Woodland Period graves at the site suggest the earthwork continued to serve a mortuary function and that this was the principal nature of the site, directing spirits of the dead from burial mounds and subsurface graves northward, not a place to conduct large ceremonial gatherings as has been suggested by tourism/promotion interests.

That the new data adds a very sophisticated earthwork to the corpus of the Adena, whom some had considered "primitive," lends new weight to reconsideration of the nondistinction between "Adena" and "Hopewell" and the need for a general revision of the naming conventions for prehistoric cultures of the Ohio Valley. A simplified revised chronology would see the Adena Civilization leading straight to the historic Central Algonquian tribes in the heartland of the Ohio Valley.

What is certain is that ancient Ohioans were not only building extremely sophisticated geometric works that rivaled or surpassed those of contemporary classical Greece, but they were also repairing or renovation them over millennia.

Richard III's bones tell of a diet fit for a king

By Nancy Szokan

Condensed from the Washington Post, August 26, 2014

Richard III, the English monarch memorably depicted by Shakespeare as a "poisonous bunch-back'd toad" who murdered children to clear his way to the throne, has a new attribute to add to his reputation: a heavy-drinking glutton.

He consumed the equivalent of a bottle of wine a day, plus enough beer to total about three liters of alcohol, according to analysis of his remains published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. And his diet wasn't just heavy in the normal variety of meat, fish and fowl typical of the nobility in 15th-Century England: He feasted on a rich array of "luxury foods" including swan, egret and heron.

Researchers from the British Geological Survey and the University of Leicester have been studying Richard's skeleton since 2012, when his remains were identified beneath a parking lot in Leicester. The new study looks at a femur, a rib and a tooth — bones that develop and renew themselves at different times of life — to evaluate how his diet changed once he became king.

"We know he was banqueting a lot more, there was a lot of wine indicated at those banquets and tying all that together with the bone chemistry, it looks like this feasting had quite an impact on his body in the last few years of his life," geochemist Angela Lamb, lead author of the study, said. "Richard's diet when he was king was far richer than that of other equivalent high-status individuals in the late medieval period."

U.S. settles funds dispute with Navajos

By Sari Horwitz

Condensed from the Washington Post, September 25, 2014

In the largest settlement with a single American Indian tribe, the Obama administration will pay the Navajo Nation \$554 million to settle claims that the U.S. government has mismanaged funds and natural resources on the Navajo reservation for decades.

The settlement, to be signed in Window Rock, Ariz., on Friday, resolves a long-standing dispute between the Navajo Nation and the U.S. government, some claims dating back more than 50 years.

The sprawling Navajo reservation, located in parts of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, is the largest and most populous Indian reservation, with 14 million acres of trust lands, which are leased for farming, grazing and oil, gas and other mineral extraction. The land is also leased for businesses, rights-of-way, easements and housing.

Under the agreement, the Navajo Nation will dismiss its current lawsuit and forgo further litigation against the U.S. government for its historic management and accounting of Navajo funds and resources held in trust by the government.

Members of the Navajo Nation Council said that the agreement doesn't affect the tribe's existing or potential claims regarding water rights and health issues arising from uranium mining.

The administration has negotiated settlements resulting in a total of \$2.61 billion paid to 80 tribes since 2010 for tribal trust accounting and trust management claims. The Interior Department manages almost 56 million acres of trust lands for federally recognized tribes and more than 100,000 leases on those lands. The department also manages about 2,500 tribal trust accounts for more than 250 tribes.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Severna Park Branch Library, 45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

Central Maryland

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

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 Sarah Grady at sarahgrady11@gmail.com or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

October 9: Julia King on The 2014 Archaeological Season at Zekiah Fort."

November 13: Rico Newman on the Maryland Indian heritage trail.

December 11: Patricia Samford on "Tabletop Excavation -- Get a chance to be an archaeologist and excavate a site (without getting your hands dirty)."

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

October 16: Dorothy Krass will talk of her visit to Mayan archeological sites in Honduras.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

October 8: Joy Beasley, National Park Service, "L'Hermitage Slave Village Archeology Study - Final Report and Next Steps."

November 12: Varna Boyd, URS Corporation, "Jackson Homestead: A Rural African-American Domestic Site in Rural Montgomery County."

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

October 8: Diane Klair on the structures surviving the British burning of Havre de Grace on May 3, 1813. At the Havre de Grace City Hall.

November 19: Dan Coates will conduct a historic ceramic typology workshop at Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Room E132.

December 12: Friday. Jay Custer on Late Woodland points in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. At the IOOF Hall in Aberdeen.

January 14: Jerri Jones on Susquehanna geology. At the Havre de Grace City Hall.

February 11: Stephen Israel and Wes Hermann will report on the Smithson Site. At the Historical Society of Harford County in Bel Air.

March 11: TBD

April 24: Friday. Doug Owsley on the Smithsonian will deliver the Cresthull Memorial Lecture, on Written in Bone. Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Room E132.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown. For information contact Scott Lawrence at graveconcerns@md.metrocast.net

October 21: Paul Mullins on "The Politics of Race and Shopping: An Archeology of Consumer Culture and the Color Line. October."

November 17: Liza Gijanto will talk on "Excavations at Cremona."

December 15: Scott Strickland on 3-D modeling of a 17th Century collection.

January 19: Mary Mansius will discuss the Cumberland site in Calvert County.

February 16: Jim Gibb will brief on ethics in archeology.

March 16: Julie King, subject TBD.

April 20: Scott Lawrence will talk on recovery and restoration at St. Nicholas Church cemetery.

May 18: Patricia Samford offers a presentation on King's Reach.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ellicott City Colored School. Labs are held the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. For chapter information contact Dave Cavey at 410-747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

October 13: Chapter member Jaimie Wilder will talk on "Don't Throw in the Trowel: Experiences from a Year in the Field."

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>

October 24: Dennis Curry, chief archeologist with the MHT, will present "The Piscataway Indian Fort on Heater's Island."

November: Field Trip TBA

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% discount on items sold by the Society.

Contact Membership Secretary Robin Martin 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

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

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