



See you on the 20th in Crownsville

Amelia Earhart? What does the world's most famous missing person have to do with archeology? Keep reading.

While having its feet firmly planted in a hole in the ground, this year's archeology workshop also is raising its sights with several sessions dealing with aviation archeology. The workshop takes place in Crownsville on Saturday, March 20, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and will feature the usual multiple-choice program, with several sessions taking place at the same time - which should either make it easy to find something you like for each of the four time blocks or difficult for you to decide which program to choose.

For landlubbers, Dennis Curry of the Maryland Historical Trust will look at the Late Woodland Montgomery Complex villages. Focusing primarily on the Rosenstock and Winslow sites, he will pay special attention to recent findings that have given new insight into aspects of the villages' layout.

Charlie Hall, also of the Trust, will talk about basic archeological lab procedures, from washing through curation. Combining a lecture and hands-on work, attendance at the session can be used to meet a CAT requirement.

CAT participants, both current and prospective, can learn about the program from director Chris Davenport in his talk, "The CAT Program: Scratch Below the Surface." See CAT Corner on Page 2 for more details.

For the snorkel and scuba crowd, there is "Mapping Shipwrecks: Hands-on Trilateration Practice." Volunteer divers from MAHS (the Maritime Archeological and Historical Society) will explain a technique useful at sites with very limited visibility.

Mixing underwater and terrestrial archeology, Joseph Balicki, Brian Corle and Charles Cheek, all of John Milner Associates, will offer a talk on excavations at a Cumberland shipyard dealing with the late 19th century.

Another session mixes underwater and aviation archeology. MAHS members David P. Howe and Thomas J. Berkey will talk about their work with a PBM Martin Mariner, which crashed into the Choptank River 60 years ago during a training flight.

Loyola College historian John R. Breihan, the co-author of the recent book, "Maryland Aloft," will talk about some of the architectural and industrial archeological remnants of our state's aviation industry.

Which brings us to Amelia Earhart. Contrary to speculation that she is alive and well and living in Baltimore, Thomas F. King will tell of his group's efforts to show that she crashed on the Pacific island of Nikumaroro on her heralded 1937 flight. TIGHAR was conducted searches for her on the uninhabited atoll.

Back on earth, George Logan and Kelly Mackall, of Jefferson Patterson, will offer a program geared to both kids and adults on Woodland potting and cordage techniques. This highly interactive session is definitely hands-on.

For the full schedule, see the insert inside this newsletter.

Upcoming events

March 12 - 14: Mid-Atlantic Archeological Conference annual meeting, Rehobeth Beach, Delaware.

March 18 - 20: Fourth National Forum on Preservation Practice, at Goucher College.

www.goucher.edu/culturalandscapeforum/

March 20: Annual archeology workshop. Crownsville.

April 17: ASM Spring Symposium, "The Way It Was: Reflections on Maryland Archeology." Crownsville.

April 23 - 5: 75th annual meeting of the Society of Pennsylvania Archeology, Clarion, Pa. 412-269-7959 or

valko@mbakercorp.com

April 30, May 1: Annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference, Frederick. www.preservationmaryland.org or 410-685-2886, Ext. 302.

May 7 - 17: Annual field school, at Swan Cove in Anne Arundel County.

October 16: Annual ASM meeting, hosted by Mid-Potomac Chapter.

November 4 - 7: Joint ESAF - Ontario Archeological Society meeting, Midland, Ontario.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Work will start with the Nolands Ferry collection. Nolands Ferry is a Late Woodland site excavated by ASM in 1978 under the leadership of Donald Peck. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson akerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall hall@dhcd.state.md.us.

Winslow Site lab work: The washing has to get done before anything else, so they can't promise there will be any cataloguing, but the more people who come in to wash the faster they will get to it. The archeology lab is in the basement of Hurst Hall at American University. For directions or questions, contact Kelsey Woodman at AUArchLab@hotmail.com

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7441. Mount Calvert lab work. Call 301-627-1286.

CAT Corner:

The next CAT workshop will be March 20 during the annual archeology workshop day at Crownsville. ALL CAT participants and mentors are strongly encouraged to attend the Chris Davenport session for the following reasons:

- 1) There will be a discussion of what the program is and is not.
- 2) Also a discussion of what is meant by the ethics statement.
- 3) CAT participants will get to meet the illusive CAT committee for the first time.
- 4) CAT participants will have a chance meet their potential mentors.
- 5) CAT participants will learn about opportunities to complete their various requirements.
- 6) There will be a Q&A session for both mentors and participants.

The session is intended for both current CAT members and those interested in joining the program.

NOTE: CAT candidates are encouraged to attend Charlie Hall's talk until Chris's starts.

Frederick City moves toward archeology input

The group trying to get Frederick more involved in archeology reports progress and says the city government is requesting a grant from the Maryland Historic Trust to fund a program.

Jack Lynch said that the city has proposed bringing archeological review into the planning and zoning process before development.

Beginning this year, the city intends to develop a program to help identify, evaluate and protect archeological sites in the city and to develop public education tools to help explain the significance of sites, he said. A professional archeologist (consulting) would be hired to:

- Develop context statements for prehistoric and historic periods, which will be components of the city's historic preservation plan.
- Obtain Trust inventory data for sites to deposit in the city's inventory files.
- Identify archeologically sensitive areas to consider in the development process. A map and report will be developed.
- Draft proposed revisions to the city's historic preservation and zoning code to better address archeological resources.

"It's only a proposal until some money is available," Lynch said, "but I'm very hopeful given our recent activity here that they [the Trust] will realize we need a boost to get the ball rolling and will support it."

Archeology on display on I-95 and in Annapolis

Two big archeology exhibits open March 1, one along I-95 in northern Maryland and the other at a legislative building in Annapolis.

The display at the Maryland House rest stop on northern I-95 will show winning ASM posters and a prehistoric hearth with reproduction pots, soapstone, wooden and gourd containers and a scattering of reproduction tools. In each corner around the hearth will be a few labeled artifacts (points, pottery sherds, soapstone bowl sherds and axes). The display will be offered at least through the end of April.

An exhibit on Maryland archeology, both terrestrial and underwater, is on display at the Maryland Senate Building in Annapolis until March 30. An earlier display greeted the opening of the Assembly in January. The exhibit was put up by the Council for Maryland Archeology Education Committee.

Committee chairman Tara Tetrault says, "The Education Committee was formed to provide a method for the public to understand the importance of archeological resources and their value as nonrenewable resources. To do this we provide the Representatives, students, teachers and the interested public with access to Maryland archeology through information and public events.

"We would like the public to understand that removing artifacts from their context destroys valuable information that aids archeologists in identifying sites and determining the meaning behind artifacts. Public exhibits and other projects provide ways for people to learn about archeology and help archeologists to protect cultural resources."

Next time you are driving along I-95 or in Annapolis, stop by and see the displays.

Looking for a few good candidates

The call is out for candidates for this year's ASM election. Now is your chance to take a more active role in ASM and lend your viewpoint to deciding how the organization is run. Do you like what ASM is doing, the direction it is taking? Or do you want to see things change? Contribute a bit of your time and help set policy.

The positions are president, vice president, secretary, membership secretary, treasurer and six members of the board. Duties include attending the board's four quarterly meetings each year, which are held on Saturdays and generally last about three hours.

There is an especially interest this year in candidates for secretary and membership secretary.

Get in touch with the committee now to let your interest be known, or if you know someone who is too shy to apply, turn him/her in. Call Myron Beckenstein at 410-381-9115 or email him at myronbeck@aol.com

FIELD SCHOOL: Look for the registration form for this year's session at Swan Cove in this newsletter.

Appeals court back Kennewick study

From the Tri-City (Washington) Herald, February 4, 2004

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Scientists can study the 9,300-year-old remains of the Kennewick Man, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld a decision last August by U.S. Magistrate Judge John Jelderks that the remains, which Northwest Indian tribes consider sacred, can be studied.

The tribes wanted the bones turned over to them for burial.

Kennewick Man has drawn scientific interest because it is one of the oldest skeletons found in North America, with characteristics unlike modern Indians. The nearly complete set of bones, found in 1996 on the north bank of the Columbia River, is housed at the Burke Museum at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The three-judge panel found that the remains do not fall under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and can be studied under the Archeological Resources Protection Act.

The decision was written by Judge Ronald M. Gould.

John Wright, the administrator of the grave repatriation act for the National Parks Service in Washington, D.C., said legal staff would review the ruling and decide what to do next.

Any possible appeal, he said, "depends on their recommendations after their review. They will determine what our options are."

The appeals panel remanded the case to the lower court.

C. Loring Brace, a professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan and one of the scientists seeking to study the remains, called the decision "wonderful news."

"I've got a pretty good idea of what it looks like from the first pictures I saw ... on Sept. 30, 1996," he said.

He said he will want his own set of measurements to run through a computer, but already is leaning heavily to prehistoric Japan.

"That's not as surprising as you might think," he said, noting that the Jomon Japanese moved south to Okinawa and Taiwan then spread to the northwest coast of the United States and as far south as the southern tip of South America.

The Army Corps of Engineers initially agreed with the tribes and seized the bones before they could be transported to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and ordered a halt to DNA testing.

Scientists seeking to study the bones went to court to get access but eventually the decision was made by former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, who ordered the bones returned to the tribes in September 2000.

But the appeals court wrote that the repatriation law "unambiguously requires that human remains bear some relationship to a presently existing tribe or people, or culture to be considered Native American."

Rob Roy Smith, a Seattle attorney in the firm that represented the Colville tribe in the appeal, called Wednesday's decision "a great injustice" and said the four tribes will have to decide whether to seek a rehearing or turn to Congress.

"The 9th Circuit turned the statute on its head," he said. "The law Congress passed gives tribes the right to prevent the study of remains. What the 9th Circuit seems to have done is to require the tribes to prove the remains are Native American before the statute applies."

He said the intent was to stop the study, not to place the burden of proof on the tribes. What the tribes wanted, he said, was not only the return of their ancestor but to protect the statute.

Interior Department scientists concluded the remains were unlike those of any known modern Indians but it did not rule out some distant biological connection.

The appeals court, however, said there must be a more recent link to justify returning the bones and preventing any scientific study.

The ruling said the remains date to a time before any recorded history and that that makes it impossible to establish any relationship with existing Indians.

Profiles in Maryland archeology

An interview with ... Chris Davenport

Chris Davenport is the new director the ASM's Certified Archeological Technician program. His day job is working for the archeological consulting firm R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, in Frederick.

Q. How did you get started in archeology?

A. I got started in middle school when a teacher of mine knew I had an interest and put me in touch with Lee Preston of UPAG. Lee took me under his wing - that was 1976 or 77. My first site was the Wallace site in Triadelphia Reservoir. From there Simpson Mill and I've been hooked ever since.

Q. You went to school in Howard County?

A. Yes, Clarksville Middle School at the time.

Q. What interesting projects have you worked on?

A. Wow. I have worked on a lot of interesting projects since Lee got me started. From then till - even till today I'm still working on interesting projects. I've worked from Maine to Oaxaca, Mexico, excavating Aztecs, Pleistocene excavations. I've pretty much covered the gamut. I've done colonial Chesapeake sites, I've done Civil War sites. I've run the gamut.

Q. Do you have a favorite site or discovery?

A. Probably my favorite discovery was some Pleistocene remains in Tennessee, some 12,000, 15,000 year-old animal remains.

Q. Why is that your favorite?

A. That's my specialty, zooarcheology, the study of animal remains. So to me it was really significant. Most people don't get excited about that stuff.

Q. What got you initially excited about it? Why did you concentrate of that?

A. You know, I did lithics for a while. I was really interested in Pennsylvania jaspers and that kind of stuff. Maryland really doesn't have any super lithic resources, like Pennsylvania or New York do, Ohio, other states. We have quartz and some local cherts but nothing really high grade. And I could never really keep all those ceramic types in my head, so I went on to studying the animal remains. So it was kind of by default. It's worked out really well.

Q. Let me get this straight - you can't remember 20 kinds of ceramics, but you can 5,000 types of ...

A. Well, you know, one femur - femurs all look alike, it's just different scale, so -. Ceramic types, you know, it gets a little hairy in there.

Q. How has archeology changed over your years in it?

A. I've seen a major change. In the late 70s, when I was starting out, it was more single-site driven, where you look at Site X for features or whatever. You're just going to describe this site. Probably in the 90s, it went we're going to look at five sites, compare five sites and see how they compare to one another, what's different between the artifact assemblages, what's different with the features, houses or whatever you're looking at - it was comparing them. Now it's gone even further, in my opinion. We have more of a regional scale - let's compare mid-Atlantic sites to, like, sites in New England. It's really expanded.

Q. Do you think this is a good change?

A. Oh, absolutely. I mean, to better understand our past, we can't just look at a single site - that's just going to tell you how two or three people lived. But those people lived in a larger community, so we do have to see how they interacted. Were they rich, were they poor, well-fed, poorly fed? These are critical questions that need to be addressed.



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Q. What do you think the future is for Maryland archeology?

A. I think it's just going to keep getting better. I think Maryland has got an excellent resource base of both professional and avocational archeologists. It's kind of a double-edged sword in that Maryland is a very popular state, it's very populated, it's constantly developing. Thus these sites are going to be encroached upon and will need to be examined. So I think the future is very bright.

Q. Does archeology in Maryland differ from archeology elsewhere where you have worked?

A. Oh, greatly. But part of that is location. For instance, a lot of the work that I did in Tennessee was on reservoirs and when the reservoirs drain, you can just walk along the surface and look at the artifacts and you can see the sites - they stick up out of the mud, the historic sites. The prehistoric sites you can always find on the bluff and there's no trees, no vegetation. You really can't do that here. The same in Mexico. During the dry season the sites are on the surface, you don't have to dig, just walk around and go, "Look, there's 45 ceramics, there must be a site here." So it's a little more challenging here in Maryland.

Q. What advice do you have for amateur archeologists?

A. Stick with it. It's great. It's a wonderful thing. It will get you involved, it will take you places that you can't imagine where you are going to end up. You are going to see things that, you know, you could be the first one on a discovery of something that has not been seen in 8,000 years.

Goucher may do digging in Annapolis

By Jason Song

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, February 8, 2004

The city of Annapolis and Goucher College are negotiating a deal that would allow the Towson school to do historic preservation fieldwork in the state capital, which city and college officials say would provide an ideal laboratory for budding archeologists.

Talks are in the preliminary stages, but Mayor Ellen O. Moyer has set up a volunteer group to help Goucher develop a curriculum.

Fred Mauk, the school's associate dean for graduate and professional studies, said, "We're very enthusiastic about the possibilities."

Moyer has made attracting educational programs to the city one of her top goals. Annapolis has a partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park, which holds a six-week archeological field study program in the city each year. Moyer and others hope the courses boost Annapolis' profile and aid preservation efforts in the capital, where construction projects often unearth human remains.

An amateur archeologist also recently found a rare coin that was minted before the Revolutionary War.

"I see this project as an opportunity to address some of the preservation needs of the city," Moyer wrote in a letter last month to potential committee members who would help design the program's curriculum.

The task force will hold its first meeting March 1 with city and Goucher officials. Aside from the volunteer group, Moyer said, the city would not contribute staff or money.

"It's basically an agreement to let them use our land," she said.

The college would also not need classroom space in Annapolis, Mauk said.

Goucher offers undergraduate and graduate courses in historic preservation. The school also has a noncredit certificate program that operates out of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington.

About 70 people enroll each year, Mauk said. Students receive a certificate after they have taken 10 courses, which last seven weeks each.

But students cannot easily do maritime preservation fieldwork in Washington, something that is readily available in Annapolis. "That's a hot topic that students are interested in," Mauk said.

Mauk said Goucher would continue its Washington classes even if an agreement is reached with Annapolis. However, the college needs to determine how much the Annapolis program would cost. Students pay \$535 a course for the certificate program, Mauk said.

Annapolis preservationists said they would welcome Goucher's presence.

"I can't imagine a better place to do preservation than here," said Gregory A. Stiverson, president of the Historic Annapolis Foundation.

Indians ponder Jamestown 2007 role

By Carol Morello

Condensed from the Washington Post, February 15, 2004

From the beginning, planners of the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement wanted the participation of Virginia's eight Native American tribes.

But things were shaky from the start -- the committee asked tribal leaders to join in preparations for the Jamestown 2007 "celebration." After the chiefs pointed out that Native Americans have no reason to celebrate the founding of the first permanent English settlement on their ancestral land, the year-long series of events was swiftly renamed a "commemoration."

Now, the degree of tribal participation is again in question over an issue that the planners say they can do little about but sympathize.

Several tribal chiefs say they may use the opportunity of the commemoration to boycott or stage alternative events if Congress does not soon pass a law approving federal recognition of the tribes, which would open the door to federal grants and give them legal standing to retrieve their ancestors' remains from museum shelves.

Six of the state's eight tribes have been seeking such recognition since 2000, holding bake sales and yard sales to pay for a lobbyist to press their case. But legislation has been blocked by opponents who fear it would allow casino gambling and the sale of cheap gasoline on tribal land.

For at least some of the chiefs, the commemoration that would give them the chance to present their story to a wide audience also sets a deadline.

"My feeling is, if we don't have it, I won't participate," said Kenneth Adams, chief of the Upper Mattaponi tribe, as he strolled through the well-tended cemetery where many of his ancestors are buried in King William County. "I feel it's a betrayal by the federal government. How can we have the federal government working with the Indians of Virginia on Jamestown 2007 and the federal government not recognizing us? It's hypocritical."

The seeming contradiction has its roots in a treaty that predates the nation, a legacy of state-sanctioned racism and the contemporary debate over gambling.

Approximately 3,000 to 4,000 Virginians trace their ancestry to Virginia's eight indigenous tribes. Among them were the tribes of the Powhatan Confederacy, who were present to meet the first English colonists who landed at Jamestown in 1607. Historians agree that without the tribes' assistance, the colonists likely would have starved.

Like many eastern tribes, Virginia's tribes signed a treaty with England before the United States came into being.

In Virginia, Native Americans also endured a unique form of discrimination that largely erased bureaucratic evidence of their existence. The Racial Integrity Act of 1924 required that state records list a person's race as either white or Negro. By the time the law was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court more than four decades later, it had excised all records of Indian heritage from state birth, marriage and death certificates.

Though generally recognized as the descendants of Virginia's indigenous tribes, they have not gained federal recognition like that granted to 562 tribes across the country. Such recognition is important not only to get a slice of federal dollars reserved for Indians but as a matter of principle, tribal leaders say. Last year, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History denied a request for the repatriation of their ancestors' remains because the tribes lack federal recognition.

Some lawmakers, most notably Republican U.S. Reps. Robert W. Goodlatte of Roanoke and Frank R. Wolf of McLean, fear that recognizing the tribes would lay the foundation for casino gambling. The tribes, whose members are mostly Baptists who do not condone even bingo, say they have no intention of opening gambling halls. But Wolf has said nothing would hold their descendants to that promise.

The tribes have hired Elizabeth T. Walker, a professional lobbyist, who said she hopes that bills introduced by U.S. Sen. George Allen (R-Va.) and U.S. Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D-Va.) may finally come to a vote this year. Virginia's two senators, much of its congressional delegation, the state General Assembly and Gov. Mark R. Warner (D) have all urged Congress to approve recognition of Virginia's tribes.

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It would help to have the support of committees associated with Jamestown, Walker said. But that is unlikely. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, which administers the living museum at the two sites, is a state agency and cannot take a political stand, said spokeswoman Debby Padgett. Planners of the 2007 events are similarly constrained.

"We're certainly aware of that issue," said Frank B. Atkinson, chairman of the federal Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission and vice chairman of the state Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee. "But we treat it as a federal policy issue, beyond the purview of the Jamestown 2007 planning process. It's not part of the commemoration planning at the state or federal level."

While Native American leaders all say it would be shameful for the nation if federal recognition is not granted by the 400th anniversary date, some argue that the tribes should participate anyway.

"I would hate to be sitting on a platform in 2007 and have the tribes not have federal recognition," said Stephen R. Adkins, chief of the Chickahominy tribe and a member of the federal commission planning commemoration events.

"Having said that, folks I've talked to recognize Jamestown 2007 is a vehicle we can use to showcase our culture. It gives us the opportunity to show the world who we are. We're the people who were here with the first European contact. Our life was forever altered after that."

But for others, four years of inaction have aroused suspicion.

"We feel that 400 years is too long to wait," said Kenneth Branham, chief of the Monacan Indian Nation. "Most of the Indian tribes in Virginia say yes, we'll work on the committees. But if at the end of 2004 we are not federally recognized, we'll sit down and discuss if we will participate in 2007. We don't have the resources and the money to pump into this when the politicians of this country are playing a game with our lives."

Archeology Month update:

Thanks to financial help from the State Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, John Milner Associates, the Council for Maryland Archeology and members like you, most of Archeology Month has been salvaged. (Fifteen ASM members answered the call and donated a total of \$780.) One casualty has been the annual poster contest and funding is still needed for other purposes.

Book review: **When a body meets a body**

"Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers," by Mary Roach, W. W. Norton & Company, 303 pgs., \$24.

The title is likely to put off nearly everyone (one can only imagine how short the print-run was on this book) but it has chapters that may be of interest to archeologists and for readers looking for a different sort of subject matter.

The author provides information and anecdotes in a personal, humorous style that brings a light tone to a potentially grisly topic. Yet, she never reduces her humor to the flippant or crude. With a sympathetic voice, Roach tells the engrossing tale of what our bodies have done for us when we no longer have need of them and how they have made history in their quiet, sundered way.

Archeologists interested in forensic science will want to try the chapters on "Crimes of Anatomy" (a brief history of body snatching and grave robbing), "Life After Death" (studies of human decay in sun and shade, clothed and unclothed, above ground and below, etc.), "Beyond the Black Box" (how the bodies of passengers can help tell the story of a plane's crash) and "Holy Cadaver" (experiments to prove the position of Jesus on the cross and the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin).

Other topics include plastic surgery practice, crash test dummies, bullet and bomb research, medicinal cannibalism and the variety of options now available in addition to the still common coffin burial.

In general, the descriptions are not too graphic but details are discussed at length in a few instances. The squeamish or faint-of-heart may wish to close their eyes when reading those sections. Other than the title page illustration, there are no pictures in the text.

-- Reviewed by Karen Ackermann

George Washington brewed here

By Delia M. Rios

Condensed from Newhouse News Service, February 6, 2004

MOUNT VERNON, Va. -- Down on your knees, where centuries of excavated dirt are color-coded, the exposed stones -- some 150 of them, smooth and tan and as large as 2 1/2 feet across -- look like so many rocks. That is, unless you are archeologist Esther White and see through George Washington's eyes.

Then you see an investment. The uncut stones -- running 30 feet along a south wall, another 30 feet along a west wall -- look as they did when they were hauled out of the Potomac River at Great Falls, more than 20 miles upstream from his Mount Vernon home. You see what Washington, at age 65, saw in 1797: the ideal foundation for a grand new venture.

Two centuries later to the year, the discovery of a 5-foot piece of the foundation convinced historians at Mount Vernon, where White is director of archeology, that there was something here to learn. A \$1.2 million pledge from the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States -- including the estimated \$900,000 needed to rebuild something that Washington would recognize -- made the ongoing excavation and restoration possible.

But the single animating discovery at this site is Washington himself. All the painstaking work to peel back the layers of time yields not only a blueprint of the drainage systems, furnaces and stills of the 75-by-30-foot distillery, but a more complete understanding of the man behind it.

"Meticulous," White says of Washington.

"Very detail-oriented," agrees Dennis Pogue, Mount Vernon's associate director for preservation.

This was a man who, while leading the Continental Army against the greatest power on Earth and then as president of the fragile new country, still demanded weekly reports from Mount Vernon -- down to the "precise status of all the farm animals," reported W.W. Abbot, an editor of Washington's papers. A man who once pursued a fox into the evening, long after the hounds gave up the hunt.

He was a man of great inventiveness, a visionary in farming who invented a 16-sided treading barn for separating grain from chaff and who gave up tobacco (too corrosive on the soil) in favor of wheat.

But in 1797, Washington had a pressing concern. He needed a new revenue stream, as Pogue put it. His Scottish farm manager, James Anderson, persuaded him to try distilling.

Happily for Washington, Americans had given up their pre-Revolution rum for whiskey. Rum depended on sugar from the British-controlled West Indies, but there was plenty of American grain. Thousands of distilleries sprang up in the postwar years, most operating one or two stills. Washington had five.

Naturally, he fretted the details. He worried to Anderson about "idlers" who "could not be restrained from visiting the Distillery, nor probably from tempting the Distiller, nay more robbing the Still."

Two surviving ledgers -- testaments to his preoccupation with order -- note that he sold 11,000 gallons to 57 customers in 1799, including merchants who placed orders in the hundreds of gallons.

This is the man emerging at the excavation site and the man Mount Vernon's caretakers want Americans to know. Next summer's dig is even open to volunteers from the general public (e-mail inquiries to kchristensen@mountvernon.org).

Mount Vernon's archeologists and historians, working from soil evidence, pinpointed the location of Washington's stills and determined how water flowed. Digitized renderings of hand-drawn maps enable them to see layers of the dig at will.

A prototype still modeled from one in the Smithsonian's collection -- replicated down to the rivet markings -- allowed distillers to make Washington's whiskey from that old recipe (60 percent rye, 35 percent corn, 5 percent malted barley).

Washington's distillery ledgers and farm reports fill in gaps, including the number of board feet of timber used in construction. They reveal the names of the slaves who worked as distillers: Hanson, Peter, Nat, Daniel, James and Timothy. Among the 20,000 artifacts aiding the effort are still remnants and iron bands once wrapped around Washington's whiskey barrels.

This winter, an architect finally can begin work.

The distillery's doors, three miles south of Mount Vernon, are expected to open sometime in 2006.

Delaware archeology Ron Thomas dies

Condensed from the Delaware News Journal, Jan. 21, 2004

Ronald A. Thomas, a prominent Delaware archeologist [who frequently attended ASM sessions], died in Christiana, Delaware, Jan. 19 at age 63.

Before starting his own consulting business in 1976, he was with the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and served from 1965-1976 as the first State Archeologist, during which time he established a statewide research program, developed an archeological compliance process for the State of Delaware and designed and operated the Island Field Archeological Museum and Research Center, which was built around a Native American burial ground.

Previously, he was an instructor at the University of Pittsburgh and was an assistant adjunct professor at the University of Delaware, department of anthropology.

Mr. Thomas was very active in the Archeological Society of Delaware and served as its newsletter editor for many years. He was a charter member of the Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference, past president of the Delaware Academy of Science and was currently chairman of the state Unmarked Human Burials Committee.

Mr. Thomas was widely published on the prehistoric and historic archeology of the Middle Atlantic area and acquired a national reputation for his contributions in the field.

He was an avid supporter of public involvement in archeology and throughout his career, sought to foster understanding and cooperation between the professional community and the many groups interested in preservation and archeology.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9 in the Chesapeake Room, Heritage Center, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis. Contact Karen Ackermann at karenlta@juno.com

March 17: Elizabeth Ragan will present "Celtic: More Than Just a Basketball Game."

April 21: Jim Gibb on "Measuring Maryland."

May 19: Jim Gibb on "Cellaring wine."

Sept 15: Carol Ebright on lithics.

Nov 17: Richard Hughes on Benjamin Banneker.

Central

Phone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

Mid-Potomac

Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call them, 301-948-5053.

Mid Shore

The Mid Shore Group meets at 7:30 on the fourth Friday of the month at the SunTrust Bank on Goldsboro Street in Easton, from January through September. However, the April meeting is held at the Talbot County Historical Society Auditorium. Contact Bill Cep at 410-822-5027 or email ccep@crosslink.net

Monocacy

The Monocacy chapter meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or email hurst_joy@hotmail.com. Website: www.digfrederick.org

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net

March 11: Jay Mackley on kayaking the length of the Susquehanna River. Perryville Community Center at 7 p.m.

April 8: Chapter workshop at Harford Glen covering Garrett Island ceramics study (Bill McIntyre and Annetta Schott), review of recent book about clay pipe manufacturing (author Paul Jung) and industrial and labor sites in northeast Maryland (Bob Chidester).

May 23: Annual picnic. Broad Creek.

Southern

Meetings the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the MAC Lab meeting room. Call 410-586-8584 or katesilas@chesapeake.net for information.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Most are preceded by dinner at 6 at the Tiber River Café in Ellicott City. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or maurice_preston@hcpss.org

March 8: Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30. After 7:30 business meeting, a talk on Spain, Portugal and Morocco, by Cherry Koontz.

April 12: Native American Tools and Technology: The Americas to Howard County, Lee Preston.

May 10: Erin Piechowiak on skeletons found in Annapolis.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

March 26: Bone Tool Making, by Roy Brown.

April 23: "Run of the Mill: History and Archeology of Maryland Mills," by Jim Gibb.

May28: Barton Site Briefing, by Bob Wall.

FRANK AND ERNEST BOB THAVES



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

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