



## Think warm, think field school

Some ASM members have been mumbling about having prehistoric sites for field schools for the last few years. This year they will get their chance to shut up or show up, and bring prehistorians and bi's along with them, as the 2004 annual session moves to a post-contact site. Indeed, one from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century.

The location is the Anne Arundel Lost Towns Project site at Swan Cove (18AN934), a site that already has produced some fine artifacts and questions and which promises even more.

The session has been tentatively set for May 7 - 17, slightly earlier than in recent years. Final details on the dig, the speakers program and accommodations will be provided in future newsletters and on the web.

Anne Arundel County archeologist Al Luckenbach will serve as principal investigator and his Lost Towns staff will assist in supervision and education of field session participants.

Swan Cove is one of only eight known sites that were part of the 1649 settlement of Providence, which has been a major subject of investigation and excavation by the Lost Towns Project. The Swan Cove site was discovered by Bob Ogle and property owner Bill Storck during landscape grading in the late 1970s and was brought to Luckenbach's attention in 1991.

The Lost Towns Project conducted preliminary investigations in 1992 and returned in 1998. Extensive excavation began in the fall of 2000 and nearly 70 5-x-5 ft. units have been completed.

Located on the banks of a cove off Mill Creek, the Swan Cove Site was occupied by planter and tobacco-pipemaker Emanuel Drue from perhaps the 1650s until his death in 1669. The pipes and kiln debris recovered from intact features at Swan Cove characterize a 17th-century industry that has yet to be studied in the New World.

Last fall, the Lost Towns people recreated a Drue kiln and succeeded in getting it to operate.

Luckenbach proposes three research goals for the 2004 field session:

- searching for the original tobacco pipe kiln and further investigating the industrial workspace.
- continued investigation of the domestic areas associated with Drue's property.
- investigation of the post-Drue portion of the site (ca. 1700 Merriday occupations).

A field lab probably will be housed in a nearby barn. Presentations and lectures will be provided during the week.

Note: Site information excerpted from *Tobacco-Pipe Manufacturing in Early Maryland: The Swan Cove Site (ca. 1660-1669)* by Al Luckenbach and C. Jane Cox, in "The Clay Tobacco-Pipe In Anne Arundel County, Maryland (1650-1730)," edited by Al Luckenbach, C. Jane Cox and John Kille, 2002, Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project, Annapolis, Maryland. Read it at: <http://www.geocities.com/londontown.geo/research.html>  
Digging in Anne Arundel County is covered extensively in the ASM-sponsored publication, "Historical Archeology in Maryland," available from the Society by mail or at meetings.

## Upcoming events

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

**March 20:** Annual archeology workshop. Crownsville. Details next month.

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

**April 30, May 1:** Annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference, Frederick. [www.preservationmaryland.org](http://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 [rakerson@comcast.net](mailto:rakerson@comcast.net) or Charlie Hall [hall@dhcd.state.md.us](mailto: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](mailto:AUArchLab@hotmail.com)

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. Call 410-222-7441.

Mount Calvert lab work. Call 301-627-1286.

## Election time is coming up for ASM

Elections will be held later this year for officers to lead ASM for two years, beginning in October. Do you like what ASM is doing, the direction it is taking? Or do you want to see things change? Would you like to throw the rascals out or support our intrepid leaders by adding your voice to theirs?

Now is your chance to do something. Let the nomination committee know of your interest and get a spot on the ballot. No primaries or caucuses are necessary, there are no imposed decisions from smoke-filled rooms, no graft is required. No family dynasties are eligible, but nepotism is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

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

**Note:** There is an especially interest this year in candidates for 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](mailto:myronbeck@aol.com)

**CAT Corner:** Nothing on tap at the moment. Check out the Volunteer opportunities above.

# Gretchen Seielstad dies in Missouri

By Julie King, *MAC Lab Director*

Maryland's archeological community suffered a great loss with the passing on December 22 of Gretchen Seielstad at age 86. Hers was a familiar face on the Maryland archeology scene as she volunteered her field and laboratory skills at many, many sites.

I first met Gretchen in 1985 at the King's Reach Site at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Dennis Pogue was in charge of that project and volunteers -- including Gretchen, who showed up like clockwork -- were critical to the work. When I came to work permanently at JPPM in 1987, Gretchen continued her weekly routine and took on tasks from the most exciting to the most mundane.

As everyone knows, it's over the screen that most archeology news and gossip gets exchanged. Since Gretchen volunteered on a host of other sites (she did her volunteer work the way most of us go to our full-time job), we'd soon hear tales of the latest findings from this or that site as well as who was working where and the latest chapter plans. Gretchen was our bud and our confidant, and entertained our musings on the world with patience and good humor.

Jim Gibb has memories of some of those other sites: "Gretchen was one of the merry band that helped me excavate the 17<sup>th</sup> century Patuxent Point site in 1989/90 and she worked with Patterson Park and The Lost Souls Project, as well as the research and public education staffs of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland, and Jug Bay Environmental Center in Anne Arundel County."

I have a few especially warm memories of our dear friend. I remember nominating Gretchen for the State of Maryland's Volunteer of the Year Award. Can you think of anyone more deserving? I worked hard on Gretchen's nomination, especially since this was a gubernatorial award. I wanted everything to be perfect so that then-Governor William Donald Schaefer would see immediately how deserving Gretchen was of recognition.

I was thrilled when the governor very wisely chose her and I couldn't wait for Gretchen to find out. When the governor's office contacted her to give her the great news, however, Gretchen, who was generally unimpressed with Maryland politics at the time, shared her disdain for the current



political scene. Further, she wasn't sure if she would be able to attend the ceremony.

All was not lost however. After hearing of Gretchen's dissatisfaction, the governor's office made it its mission to talk with her and to address her concerns. And I think even Gretchen was impressed with their effort and sincerity on her behalf. And Gretchen and I had a blast at the dinner and ceremony!

This past year, Gretchen and I had started corresponding again. She loved to send pictures of her beloved great-granddaughter, Arcada, as well as some of Arcada's artwork. The artwork was immediately displayed on the JPPM community bulletin board. In her letters, Gretchen talked about her amazement at Arcada's curiosity -- hmm, I wonder where Arcada got it? Gretchen seemed in great spirits and remembered her Maryland friends with fondness.

Gretchen was a native of Michigan, where she graduated from Albion College. She was a social worker for the state before she retired and an archeologist in retirement. She is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth Seielstad and Virginia Nancy Seielstad Dove, both of Missouri, and one son, David Nelson Seielstad, of Hawaii. Gretchen is also survived by two granddaughters, Nerissa Elizabeth Seielstad of Missouri (who joined Gretchen on several ASM digs) and Donatella Reggio of Izmir, Turkey, and one great-granddaughter, Arcada Elizabeth Seielstad, as well as two sisters.

# Odd Lost Towns burial stirs interest

*(Editor's note: Last summer a human burial was found as Lost Towns archeologists worked on the Providence site of Leavy Neck on Anne Arundel's Broadneck peninsula. Here is an update on that find.)*

**By Jane Cox**

*Condensed from the Lost Towns newsletter, Winter 2004*

August's exciting discovery of a burial at the Leavy Neck site has kept the Lost Towns Project busy! After Erin Piechowiak's initial discovery of the skull, it was reburied while we took stock of the situation. We realized that even with all of the Lost Towns talent, we would need a specialist to get as much insight from this unique burial as possible. We were delighted when Dr. Doug Owsley with the Smithsonian Institution took an interest.

We also wanted to ensure that this amazing story was well-documented and arranged with the PBS show "History Detectives" to highlight the discovery at Leavy Neck in an upcoming episode.

While plans were being made for the excavation of the burial, the team continued to excavate other parts of the cellarhole. Two additional quarter sections have been removed and as of this writing we are happy to report that no additional burials have been uncovered.

These excavations have more tightly dated the deposit that lies over the burial to the mid-1660s. Artifacts such as English Delft, North Devon Sgraffitto and occasional wine and case bottle fragments were mixed in with dense animal bone and fireplace ash. Along with pipes and a coin dated 1664, the artifact assemblage clearly suggested that the cellar was filled soon after the body was buried.

After a long week of careful excavation, the "History Detectives" and Dr. Owsley from the Smithsonian descended on the Leavy Neck site to document the exciting removal of the body. As we excavated, we were amazed to find a large fragment of a North Devon milk pan pressed on top of the individual's ribcage.

At first we speculated that this might be a grave good, but the nature of its deposition, along with other broken and randomly deposited artifacts in the grave shaft (including a tobacco pipe bowl under the spine), made us look to a more practical reason for it being there.

In removing the skeleton, it became even more apparent that the body had been forced into the hole, as the left knee was pressed against the subsoil walls with enough force to displace the patella. The arms were awkwardly placed and the shoulders were folded inward as if the body just didn't quite fit.

Dr. Owsley made an initial assessment of the skeleton while it was still in the ground. The slope of the cranium suggested that the body was a male. He also put forward that the individual was of European descent, based on nose and facial structure, and 16 to 18 years old. Based upon this initial review, he estimated the individual to be approximately 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet tall.

The skeleton was brought to the lab where it was cleaned and prepared for transfer to the Smithsonian.

Why was this body pressed into a hole that was too small with no burial shroud or coffin? Some speculated that the body was one of the prisoners from the 1655 Battle of the Severn, a Catholic murdered in cold blood.

More likely however is the possibility that this was simply an indentured servant who worked for the Neal family. When he passed away - whether due to foul play, accident or disease - there was little pomp and circumstance involved in this expedient internment. Was the milk pan used to press the body into the graveshaft because the person burying it didn't want to touch a diseased body? Was it purely coincidence that the milk pan fell onto the body? Was the family hiding the death of their servant from authorities?

Several things will become clear after the body is analyzed by the Smithsonian. Dr. Owsley will undertake bone core isotope analysis which will tell us whether this young man had recently come from Europe, where his diet would have relied heavily on barley and wheat. If he was born in the colony or had spent most of his formidable growth years in the New World, the isotope analysis will suggest a diet more reliant upon corn.

Detailed study may also give an indication as to the individual's morphology, health issues and possibly even his cause of death.

The Leavy Neck skeleton tells an important story not found in the archives and suggests that the individual led a short life, full of hard labor and toil in the burgeoning settlement of Providence.

After the Smithsonian completes its analysis, the skeleton may be incorporated into a planned exhibit on mortuary practices in the early Chesapeake. Ultimately, the property owners plan to reinter the body in his original resting place.

## Two staffers leave jobs at the MAC Lab

By Ed Chaney, *JPPM Director of Research*

The Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory at Jefferson Patterson recently saw two of its standout archeologists leave for new opportunities in Virginia.

Laura Galke had been the Southern Maryland Assistant Regional Archeologist since 1997. She ran the MAC Lab's Archeology Range, where she oversaw artifact cleaning, packaging and analysis and also wrote or edited a number of reports on excavations conducted by JPPM. Perhaps more importantly, she managed the artifact databases that are currently a primary focus of the MAC Lab's staff. The millions of artifacts stored at the lab are of little use if no one knows what is there or where to find things. Laura played a key role in creating the databases that allow us to track over 2 million artifacts.

Laura's husband, Bernard Means, joined the

MAC Lab in 2003 as the new Federal Curator. He was responsible for managing the federally owned collections that constitute a large percentage of the lab's artifact holdings. In his short time, he did a superb job of organizing the collections and worked well with federal cultural resource managers to ensure that curation obligations were being met.

Laura has taken the position of staff archeologist/instructor at Washington and Lee University, where her duties will include running the archeology lab. Bernard will be taking time off to finish his dissertation. Both will be sorely missed by their friends in Maryland archeology. JPPM has begun efforts to hire replacements for them, but no time frame for this has yet been established. The current budget restraints will keep Laura's position vacant at least until the new fiscal year begins in July.

## Tools, etc. found in Jamestown well

*Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, January 6, 2004*

JAMESTOWN, Va. (AP) -- Artifacts found in the remains of a 17th-century well in historic Jamestown, including farm tools and a pewter flagon, provide glimpses into the early life of the pioneering settlement and its struggles for survival, archeologists said yesterday.

The well, built as early as 1617, is likely the oldest of two dozen wells discovered at the first permanent English settlement in North America. Since the well was found in the summer of 2002 it has yielded a trove of artifacts ranging from drinking vessels probably dropped by accident to armor, the archeologists said.

A pewter flagon, which dates to before 1620 and bears the initials P, R and E, may have belonged to Richard and Elizabeth Pierce, who arrived at Jamestown aboard the ship Neptune in 1618, the archeologists said.

The couple lived on an outlying plantation during a massacre in 1622 when Powhatan Indians killed nearly 350 settlers. They may have lost the drinking vessel in the well when surviving colonists were told to return to Jamestown for protection.

"We know that after the attack they are listed as living in a different area than they were before the attack," said Bly Straube, an archeologist and curator of the Jamestown Rediscovery archeology project.

Three feet below the surface, excavators found a rare breastplate that was modified by attachment of an iron square on the underarm area, an alteration that provides a nonslip rest for the butt of a gun. Also found were two helmets, a neckpiece and several other iron plates used to protect the upper thighs and hips.

Deeper in the well, archeologists uncovered an assortment of agricultural tools. These included an iron piece for a spade that could date to 1618 and hoes of the kind used to till Jamestown's fields after demand for tobacco transformed the colony's struggling economy in 1614.

Also discovered were a German stoneware jug dating to about 1618 and an iron fireplace shovel. A distinctive brass ornament on the shovel links it to a fireplace tong, found earlier at the site of a plantation called Martin's Hundred, that dates to 1620 or earlier.

One possible reason for the pileup of objects could be a shake-up after the Virginia Company, which established the colony in 1607, lost its charter. When Virginia became a royal colony in 1624, new leadership may have led to changes that forced people to shed goods quickly, Straube said.

The well appears to have been filled in 1624.





## You're not in Kansas anymore

Not when you are seeing a sight like this. But you're not in England either, you're in Nebraska. A close look will reveal that this isn't Stonehenge but Carhenge.

-- Photo by Carol Ebight

## NAGPRA repatriation is going slowly

By Dennis O'Brien

*Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, January 12, 2004*

WASHINGTON - In cavernous storage rooms closed to tourists at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History lie the bones of about 14,700 Native Americans. Despite hopes that they would be quickly returned to tribal lands, most are likely to stay where they are for a long time.

Laws passed in 1989 and 1990 require the Smithsonian and other museums to inventory their collections of Native American remains and return them when possible. The National Park Service is charged with overseeing the process.

Less than a fifth of the Smithsonian's original collection of 18,000 remains has been returned; 90,000 sets of remains in the nation's other museums lack sufficient documentation to ensure their return anytime soon.

Repatriating remains can take years because of scientific uncertainty about their origins, the work involved in identifying them and traditions observed by many of the 770 federally recognized tribes.

"When these laws were passed, people pushing them thought it was going to take five years to return what was collected, but they had no idea what they were asking. It's an incredibly complex task," said Thomas Killion, an anthropology professor at Wayne State University who used to head the Smithsonian repatriation office.

The Smithsonian - which has the largest single collection of bones by far - spends \$1 million a year and has 15 anthropologists and researchers poring over the bones in an effort to return them to the descendants.

But it isn't enough to ensure quick returns.

"I think the process is going to take a very long time," said William Billeck, head of the Smithsonian's repatriation office.

The bones at the Smithsonian and other museums were unearthed over the years by archeologists, private collectors, government expeditions, construction workers and farmers. During the 1800s, for example, Army physicians were under orders to ship east for study any Native American skulls they found.

In Maryland, 131 sets of remains stored at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in St. Leonard are exempt from the federal return law because they can't be traced to any federally recognized tribe, said Richard B. Hughes, chief of the state Office of Archeology.

Many tribal officials say they understand why repatriation takes so long. But they're still angry that the bones were dug up and stored in the first place. "They should have just been left where they were. It's very dehumanizing," said Francis Morris, the Pawnee tribe's repatriation coordinator.

Museums receiving federal funds must repatriate remains identifiable by tribe. But once that happens, they're not required to report actual returns to the National Park Service. "It's very difficult to quantify how the process is going," said Paula Molloy, who supervises the park service program.

The 380 museums, historical societies and federal agencies covered by the repatriation law have 27,312 sets of remains available for repatriation. But 90,833 more remain unidentified because of poor documentation.

Confirming the tribal affiliation of a set of bones is a painstaking process.

First, researchers inspect any written records accompanying the remains - often notes from archeologists or Army officers, Billeck said. If those are too vague, scientists turn to old maps, letters and colonial records.

"The remains can be straightforward, or next to impossible to identify," he said. "There's no way of knowing what you have until you get into working with it."

The Smithsonian gets two or three formal repatriation requests from tribes annually, and each takes two to three years to complete, said Billeck.

But the Smithsonian can move quickly on high-profile requests. Consider the case of Ishi, a California native known as the last "wild Indian," who died in 1916. When a researcher discovered Ishi's brain at the Smithsonian in 1999, the story attracted national press, and politicians demanded its return to California soil.

It took only a month for the Smithsonian to recommend that Ishi's brain be returned, Killion said. But negotiations with the California tribes that had jurisdiction over his burial site, north of Sacramento near Mount Lassen, took more than a year. Such haste is a rarity.

"For the most part, there's no one with a lot of political clout pushing things along," said Russel Thornton, a UCLA anthropologist and former chairman of a Smithsonian committee that reviews tribal claims.

Some tribal leaders credit the Smithsonian with working closely with them. "I'd say they handled things extremely well," said Julie Olds, cultural preservation officer of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. Her tribe had a set of remains returned in November, about 18 months after filing a request.

Experts also say the slow pace is not the Smithsonian's fault. Many Native groups don't want the remains. Others have to plan ceremonies and burials.

"It takes time and money to do this. You have to have burial grounds and air fare and shipping costs," said Morris.

The deeply spiritual Navajo, the largest tribe in the United States, traditionally avoid contact with the dead and don't want their remains back. Nor do the Zuni, another Southwestern tribe, who believe remains are desecrated once they've been dug up.

There also are disputes among tribes over which should get remains.

Some remains are so old that researchers say they can't be matched to a particular tribe and shouldn't be returned because they're of such great interest to science.

The fate of Kennewick Man, a 9,000-year-old skeleton found in Washington, has been tied up in the courts since it was discovered in 1996. Tribes want the skeleton reburied, while scientists want it for research.

"Kennewick is one of 15 or so sets of remains that date back 8,000 years or so and hopefully can tell us something about the earliest Americans," said Richard Jantz of the University of Tennessee, one of eight scientists suing for access to the skeleton.

Billeck said the Smithsonian has remains that date back as far as 6,000 years. Although it's difficult to link bones that are more than 1,000 years old, there's no specific cutoff point for remains to be eligible for repatriation. "It's decided on a case-by-case basis," Billeck said.

Some researchers argue that wholesale repatriation is a mistake. "The risk is that a source of scientific inquiry is going to be lost," said Christopher Ruff, an anatomy professor at the Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Ruff used the Harvard University Peabody Museum's Pecos Collection, a set of 2,000 remains unearthed in New Mexico beginning in 1915, in studies that compared their skeletons with modern cadavers. Eventually, he was able to show that exercise and an active life stem the effects of osteoporosis. The collection was later returned to the Pueblo tribes and reburied.

"If what you have is, literally, cemetery remains that were somebody's great-grandfather, they should be returned," Ruff said. "But if they're an ancient people that can't be traced to anyone, they should be treated with respect but allowed to be studied."

Morris countered that it's important that Native American remains be returned, no matter how old they are.

# Siberian dig may be link to early Americans

By Dennis O'Brien

*Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, January 2, 2004*

Russian archeologists have discovered the remains of the world's oldest known arctic settlement -- a Siberian riverfront site that they say could help determine when humans first arrived in the Americas.

The 30,000-year-old site -- twice as old as any previous arctic dig -- includes a rhinoceros bone shaped into a spear that shows a "striking resemblance" to spear points found by archeologists in Clovis, N.M.

The findings by the Russia Academy of Sciences may prompt a re-examination of popular theories about when humans first came to the Americas. Expert opinions vary, but most think the immigrants first crossed the Bering Strait land bridge about 15,000 years ago.

"We'll have to come up with a whole new way of looking at things," said Michael L. Kunz, an archeologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks, Alaska, who reviewed the study.

The Russian team's findings show the Americas may have been settled much earlier than previously thought -- possibly 25,000 years ago -- by the same tribal groups that inhabited their Yana River site.

"In theory, the Yana people may have crossed over the land bridge," the researchers wrote. Their findings were published today in *Science*.

Human migration to the Americas remains one of archeology's biggest mysteries. Until now, the oldest place in the Bering region with evidence of human habitation was Broken Mammoth, a 14,000-year-old site in central Alaska.

"It pushes back, by 10,000 years or more, evidence of human habitation of an arctic region in that part of the world," said William W. Fitzhugh, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Arctic Studies Center.

Fitzhugh, who has traveled to the Yana River site, said the area was never covered with the glaciers that swept over much of North America during the last ice age, making it a better candidate for an archeological dig. The stone tools and bones unearthed there were preserved in tundra soils, rather than being swept away by glaciers that melted 10,000 years ago.

In two years of field work, the Russian researchers collected hundreds of pieces of stone -- quartz, slate and granite -- along with hundreds of bones and bone fragments near the Yana River.

"Presumably, Siberian hunters brought the technology of foreshafts with them when they entered the New World," the researchers wrote in their study.

The researchers acknowledged that any direct connection is tenuous between their site and the Clovis site, the earliest universally accepted culture in the Americas, dating to about 13,000 years ago. Some experts expressed skepticism about the findings and particularly at any links with Clovis.

"They seem to be searching around for a connection to Clovis, and I think that's a shot in the dark," said James Adovasio, an archeologist at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa.

The Yana River site, about 1,300 miles from the Bering Strait, is too far from the Americas to be considered in the debate about North American settlement, said C. Loring Brace, a University of Michigan archeologist. "I don't see that it tells us anything specific about the peopling of the New World," he said.

But arctic archeologists say there is no way to determine how far early settlers may have migrated to reach North America.

The settling of the Americas remains one of archeology's most intriguing mysteries. Some archeologists think it occurred long before the Clovis people and may have involved multiple entry points.

An archeological site in Meadowcroft, Pa., shows evidence of human habitation 16,000 years ago, although some archeologists contest that dating. Evidence showing settlers in Monte Verde, Chile, 15,000 years ago is also controversial. Some studies indicate that people arrived as early as 19,000 years ago -- by boat from Europe.

But traditionalists have scoffed at those theories.

"A lot of it is guesswork more than anything else," Brace said.

Analyzing the shapes and characteristics of 1,800 skulls in a 2001 study, Brace concluded that the first humans to arrive in North America were aborigines from Japan who crossed the Bering Land Bridge 15,000 years ago. His findings were published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.



## NMAI collection moved to Maryland

*From American Indian magazine, Winter issue*

The first item George Heye cataloged in his collection in 1904 was a ceramic bowl from Tularosa Canyon in western New Mexico. The black-on-white geometric designs were handcrafted around A.D. 1000 - 1100, when the Anasazi and Mogollon peoples first made contact with each other. Today, after four years of careful packing and moving, this rare bowl, which is among 607,089 objects in the National Museum of the American Indian's (NMAI) archeological collection, is now in its new home at the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Md.

The NMAI's archeological collection includes materials from all of the United States, as well as all Canadian provinces and territories except Yukon Territory. The collection encompasses all countries of the Western Hemisphere, including Greenland. The largest collection is from Mexico, with 45,743 items. The most numerous category of objects in the collection is chipped stone tools, such as "lithics," including arrowpoints, spearpoints, scrapers, drills, knives and fragments, numbering at least 213,126.

Some of the most delicate materials in the move were prehistoric textiles, dating back to A.D. 600 - 1000, that were collected from the Andes region of Peru and adorned with black, turquoise and orange feathers. Museum conservationists developed groundbreaking methods to pack, move and house the materials.

"New mounts now allow for the textiles to be viewed on both sides without being handled," says Pat Nietfeld, NMAI collections manager. "By our various space-saving efforts in shelving this collection, it has taken up 39 fewer shelving banks than were originally assigned to archeology." The space that was saved will make room for the NMAI's growing contemporary art collection.

## New discoveries at Jefferson's home

*From the Hampton Roads Daily Press, December 22, 2003*

CHARLOTTESVILLE (AP) — Excavators have found thousands of artifacts while shoring up a 200-year-old wall along the north terrace of Monticello.

The discovery of the items might help researchers learn the extent of Thomas Jefferson's activities in leveling the mountaintop to build his mansion on level ground.

"We will draw conclusions about the original shape of the mountaintop and study the artifacts to get good information about the ceramics and different periods of construction," said Sara Bon-Harper, Monticello's archeological research manager.

The dig didn't start out as research; work on the wall started in November when it began to bow from soil pressure and poor drainage, Bon-Harper said.

Bon-Harper and a crew of about eight professional excavators are digging a trench along the wall about 5 feet deep, 5 feet wide and eventually 125 feet long. So far, the trench is about 40 feet long.

After all the dirt is removed, a mason will install a retaining wall and drain to relieve soil pressure. Among the artifacts discovered are building materials such as bricks, mortar, nails and window glass. Those items, she noted, will help Monticello archeologists determine how the wall was originally constructed.

"A couple of items we were pretty jazzed about finding, including a set of keys that may well have been used for the doors for the north pavilion," Bon-Harper said. The excavation also will provide researchers with information about whether trees, shrubs or flowers were planted along the wall as once planned by Jefferson.

An 1825 watercolor of Monticello shows trees lining the West Lawn side of the north dependencies.

Archeologists also have discovered dishes, drinking glasses and animal bones. Jefferson's servants would often sweep trash out the door or throw it out the nearest window, Bon-Harper said. "Refuse disposal was not at all what it is now," she said.

Among the more modern discoveries made along the terrace are 20<sup>th</sup> Century coins, Monticello spokesman Wayne Mogielnicki said.

"After people go to the terrace to see the University of Virginia," he said, "we think as they are taking out their cameras they drop change from their pockets."

FRANK AND ERNEST BOB THAVES



## Annetta Schott wins ASNC award

The Archeology Society of the Northern Chesapeake has presented its annual Paul Cresthull Award for dedication to archeology to Annetta Schott. The award is named after an early ASM member who was active in archeology in the northern Chesapeake area. Annetta made news earlier this year by becoming the first person to complete ASM's Certified Archeological Technician program.

Since Annetta first came to a dig at Swan Harbor about five years ago, according to the chapter newsletter, she "has participated in every subsequent dig at Swan Harbor, as well as every annual Swan Feast display. During fieldwork on Garrett Island over the last three years, (she) had put in more labor than anyone except the supervisor and boatsman.

"Other chapter excavations ... include the Cresap House kitchen and the kitchen of the Concord Point Light Keeper's House. (She) also ranks among the top three in total hours spent in chapter lab work." In addition, Annetta, who in her spare time is the group's recording secretary, was cited for taking part in most of the chapter's local outreach programs.

"If anyone has exhibited the spirit of Paul Cresthull in his interest an dedication to archeology and his tireless energy in sharing it with others, it has been our 2003 recipient of this highest recognition of achievement," the newsletter said.

## 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

**February 18:** Susan Langley will present "Spinning Straw into Gold: Handspun Yarn Production."

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

**April 21:** Jim Gibb

**May 19:** Jim Gibb revisits.

### Central

Phone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 or [ssisrael@abs.net](mailto:ssisrael@abs.net), for information.

### Mid-Potomac

Contact [james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hurst_joy@hotmail.com). Website: [www.digfrederick.org](http://www.digfrederick.org)

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

**February 12:** Don Robinson, co-author of "The River and the Ridge," will speak about Delta and Cardiff's Welsh immigrants and the Peach Bottom slate industry, and demonstrate slate splitting. Rockfield Manor in Bel Air at 7 p.m.

**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 continuation of lithics study (Dan Coates).

**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](mailto: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@clc.hcpss.org](mailto:maurice_preston@clc.hcpss.org)

**February 9:** Ireland, Joe and Marilyn Lauffer.

**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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: [www.geocities.com/wmdasm](http://www.geocities.com/wmdasm)

**February 27:** Brian Corle on "Latest Discoveries and Controversies at Canal Place."

**March 26:** A hands-on program to be announced.

*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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