



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Annual Meeting looks at state projects

People from across the state filled a room at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center to hear a series of speakers tell about recent excavations across the state at the 2010 Annual Meeting Oct. 16.

Keynote speaker Stephen Brighton, of the University of Maryland's anthropology department, talked about a site only a few miles away from the meeting place, the all-but-forgotten-and-vanished village of Texas.

Founded by and for Irish immigrants in 1852, it housed people working in the local marble and limestone quarries. The marble was used for such projects as Baltimore's Washington Monument and the bottom part of the Washington Monument in Washington, as well as for the stoops of many Baltimore row houses.

The Irish were sent over as part of an "assisted immigration" campaign, Brighton said. The landowners in Ireland found it cheaper to send them to America as ballast, on ships that had brought over goods to Europe, than to support them on the land in their home country. They docked in New York and headed straight to Baltimore County and the quarries.

One of the most prolific state sites in recent years has been the prehistoric one at Pig Point where work is being carried out by the Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. Stephanie Taleff Sperling said the location attracted Native Americans from the Archaic to the Late Woodland. Some 58 units dug in 2009-2010 produced over 160,000 artifacts and thousands of postholes - "a Rorschach test of postholes," she said.

There was also a midden so thick that roots went around it rather than through it. The artifacts included highly decorated shards.

Two recent projects carried out by the Anne Arundel chapter of ASM were Legg's Dependence and the Robinson House. Both were initiated by calls from property owners. When the volunteers got to the Dependence in Queen Anne's County, the oldest portion of which was begun in 1760, they found a mound of artifact-filled dirt left by remodelers and quickly added more finds of their own.

Chapter President Mechelle Kerns said the Robinson House in Severna Park, in contrast, contained

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Don't look now, but it's time to renew

As the end of the year nears, the time has come to renew your membership in ASM. It's easy, it's fast, it's cheap and it is so much for your money. Don't make Belinda anxious by delaying. Fill out the renewal form inside and send it in today.

Upcoming events

November 6: Seminar, "Longhouses to Lighthouses, Chesapeake Lifestyles. Featuring several archeological talks. Glen Burnie. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fee. For information: 410 437 8665.

December 4: ASM board meeting, Howard County Library, Savage. 10 to 1.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County is offering opportunities for lab and field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

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

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

A CAT Weekend is coming up November 13. See details below.

For details, updates and information on other CAT activities check the ASM website.

CAT workshops coming in mid-November

It's called the CAT weekend, but five seminars are being squeezed into only one of the weekend days to leave Sunday free for your other activities. The date is Saturday, Nov. 13. The place is the Agricultural History Park in Derwood, Montgomery County. The program starts at 9 and lasts until about 5.

The seminars to be offered at Native American ceramics identification, archeological ethics, archeology and the law, archeological report writing and "oysters: what do they tell us."

Some sessions will run concurrently, so choices will have to be made.

There is a lunch period, but lunch will not be provided. If you don't bring your own there are restaurants nearby.

A voluntary \$5 contribution is requested to cover expenses. Non-CAT candidates are welcome, if there is room.

To register or for information, contact CAT chairman Alex McPhail at amcphail@worldbank.org or call him at 202-413-7584.

Annual Meeting surveys state projects

Continued from Page One

few artifacts. Built around 1740-1760, it had been a residence, then a tavern, then a residence again as the building changed shape.

Don Housley, president of the Mid-Potomac Chapter, told about the log cabin in North Bethesda that has mistakenly been called Uncle Tom's Cabin. Though Josiah Henson, who was an inspiration for Harriett Beecher Stowe's book of the same name, did live on what was then the Riley plantation, he had left the area for Canada years before the remaining cabin was built around 1850.

Some 2,490 period artifacts have been uncovered and the county plans to turn the site into a museum documenting the slavery era.

The final speaker, Anne Hayward, brought the audience back to the site of two recent ASM field schools, Port Tobacco in Charles County. Lately work there has centered on the Burch House, which had fallen into disuse and was empty for about 30 years before the archeologists arrived.

Nine units were excavated in the extensively restored building. The top layer was rich in artifacts, but the count disappeared until after layer three. Some five feet of sediment filled the basement between 1840 and 1979 and the researchers hope to date the sediment episodes.

John McGrain wins Mayre Award

The 2010 winner of the William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology isn't an archeologist, but his work has influenced archeology in the state for four decades.

John McGrain's official position was Baltimore County historian and he viewed his mandate broadly. He retired three years ago but continued his interest and contact with the public. He is "still very active in helping with the next wave of archeologists in Baltimore County," said a speaker at the fall meeting where McGrain was honored.

"Many industrial archeological sites have been recorded in the official state archeological site files only due to John's efforts," said one archeologist, who added, "John has been very helpful and friendly to me over the last several years as I have carried out various archeological projects in Baltimore County."

Another said, "John always found time to answer our research questions and share any and all information he had with us, making our job easier every time. All the while he was writing prolifically."

He has lectured and published extensively on mill sites, manufacturing villages and place names. His expertise included not just



Baltimore County, but also Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. Much of his unpublished work is available online from the Maryland State Archives.

One of McGrain's special interests is mills. "John forged many streams and bushwhacked through hill and valley searching for mill sites," said one archeologist who accompanied him on occasion.

Religious groups apologize to Indians

By Lori Van Ingen

Condensed from the Lancaster (Pa.) Sunday News, Oct. 10, 2010

Mennonites, Amish, Quakers, Presbyterians and government officials all laid down the stones of their misdeeds against Native Americans for the last 300 years. They publicly acknowledged and apologized for the wrongs at a service Saturday morning at a crowded First Presbyterian Church in downtown Lancaster.

Their statements were formally received by a wide cross-section of local and regional Native Americans.

"We acknowledge that the Quaker community did not always live up to [William] Penn's vision," said Jodi Good, of Lancaster Friends Meeting. "Treaty obligations were not always enforced, fraud was at times perpetrated, squatters were increasingly tolerated. ... We further acknowledge that from Colonial times to the present, all European Americans have benefited in material ways from the unjust expropriation of native lands."

"In 1756," Good continued, "most Quakers chose to leave the government of Pennsylvania to others, rather than compromise our commitment to nonviolence. What from our perspective was a principled act of conscience, from your perspective was a breach of the long-held trust between us. ... Quakers chose nonviolence and Native Americans paid the price."

By 1763, the Conestoga Indians were starving and naked as European immigrants contributed to the ecological collapse of wildlife and its habitat, said Brinton Rutherford, resource staffer for the Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

Later that same year, a mob of armed men known as the Paxton Boys attacked the Conestoga Indian settlement, killing six, said Brenda Green, a historical researcher with the Mennonite Historical Society. They returned 13 days later and finished the job, murdering and mutilating 14 Conestoga adults and children held in protective custody at a local jail.

The murders then went unpunished and claims on the land by the Seneca tribe were denied.

Even after this litany of misdeeds perpetrated by white men was read, Native Americans testified to more modern atrocities and how it has affected their people.

"To deal with the Indian problem," one Native American said, children were forcibly taken from their homes and sent to boarding schools, beginning in 1879, where the children were abused and forbidden to speak their tribal languages.

The boarding schools continued operating throughout the early 20th Century and the pain continues in the hearts of native elders, who are scared to pass on their traditions to native youths, the Native American said.

"Our hearts are desiring to hear the truth so our nation can be totally healed," said J.R. Boyd, also known as Chief Goodheart, of the Dakota/Lakota Indians in Montana. "Every one of the 791 treaties were broken or violated in some form. When I go home, I still deal with 100-year-old grudges."

But now is the time for forgiveness and healing, Lenape elder Uhma Ruth Py said. "It's time to look forward, not back."

The Rev. Jane DeFord, Presbytery of Donegal moderator, said the Presbyterians of today "mourn for the acts done by our sisters and brothers in faith. We ask that our native brothers and sisters forgive the wrongs done to them so long ago. ... We repent, we turn away from the way taken then, a way of hate and fear and betrayal to a new way of love and peace, of healing and reconciliation."

Curtis Zunigha, of the Delaware tribe, said he was authorized to accept the words of apology spoken Saturday, but he was not authorized to return forgiveness. "I will go back and share your sentiments and your words and ask if they want to accept forgiveness," Zunigha said.

Chief Goodheart told those attending, "Today, I forgive you. I forgive you for murdering my people. I forgive you for raiding my people. I forgive you for the pain and suffering I still deal with for breaking the spirit of our children."

Book review: Through a strange, familiar land

A Voyage Long and Strange, Tony Horwitz, Henry Holt and Company, 445 pages, \$27.50

Tony Horwitz has a good idea for books. Once, he travelled around the Pacific, recounting the voyages of Captain James Cook and the people and civilizations he met and what those places are like now (if you haven't been to Tahiti, forget it, you won't like what it has become).

Now he has embarked on a journey around North America, following the paths of the early explorers and settlers and seeing what has happened to those areas.

His journey doesn't begin with the Pilgrims and Plymouth Rock, it ends there. It begins with two trips to Vinland, the Vikings' voyage there around the year 1000 and his own automobile trip up the west coast of Newfoundland a thousand years later.

Jumping seamlessly from recounting grisly mayhem to his own travel anecdotes, he goes on to shadow Columbus and the Spanish conquistadores as they wreak havoc through the Caribbean and the American south and southwest. He recounts their path of bloodthirsty jihad followed by miraculous acts of survival.

Sometimes the historic path he is following is little more than guesswork, since no one is quite sure where these people roamed, stopped or fought (usually massacred) almost 500 years ago. Sometimes today's locals have no idea of what history they may be living on; sometimes too many places claim to be the same historic location.

His path and his findings are forever being helped by archeology and archeologists, by findings that have uncovered or failed to uncover evidence supporting history or myth.

The first significant settlement in today's United State wasn't the Pilgrims, it wasn't even the English at Jamestown. And it wasn't even the Spanish at St. Augustine. It was a French settlement near St. Augustine.

Almost 300 pages into the book, the English come into the picture, not at Jamestown but at Roanoke, the Lost Colony. He visits, explores, speculates and then does get to Jamestown. And from Jamestown to Plymouth.

His travels are an adventure in themselves, usually not against life-threatening objects (though he did reject advice and attempt to cross the fast-moving Mississippi in a canoe while tracking DeSoto), but against unmarked back roads and with the dozens of knowledgeable and/or clueless people he runs into and who lead him down one road or another. Like the ancients he is trailing, he sometimes is inclined to give up on a trail, and sometimes he does.

But you are glad he doesn't give up the quest. His result is a colorfully written compilation of old facts, new facts, facts-turned-into-myths and myths-turned-into-facts. It is America as you probably never have imagined it before and a look at modern places and people you probably will never see.

Myron Beckenstein



Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the Severna Park Branch of the County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

November 6: Conrad Bladely on "30 years of Archeology: London, England to Laurel to Linthicum and Celebrations in the Archeological Record - Wassail Bowls and Bonfires."

Central

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

Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the first Wednesday (September-May) at Historic LaPlata Train Station. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489.

November 3: Julie King, of St. Mary's College, will speak about her search for Fort Zekiah.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or call 301-8405848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768 Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

November 18: Meeting at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center in Derwood from 6 to 10 p.m. Jeff Geyer will offer a workshop on Lithics Identification. Bring your own dinner or \$5 for pizza and salad.

December 14: Annual Holiday Party and the Year in Review (also known as "Archaeologists Gone Wild, part 2") at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center in Derwood from 6-9:30 p.m.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Ann Persson at 410-272-3425 or aspst20@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

November 10: Henry Ward: "Native American Soapstone Technology in Cecil County," Perryville Town Hall.

December 6: Jay Custer: "Delaware's Island Field Site, Reflections and New Interpretations," Harford Glen Dining Hall.

January 12: Jerry Warner: "The 2010 Field School at St. Mary's City, Maryland," I-95 Maryland House Meeting Room.

February 9: Jim Gibb: "Moving the 19th Century Cole Family Cemetery at Aberdeen, Maryland," Historical Society of Harford County.

March 9: Allen Shapiro: "Excavations at *Ramat Rahel*, Jerusalem, Israel," Harford Jewish Community Center.

April 8: Julia King: "Analysis of 17th and 18th Century Burials in St. Mary's and Charles Counties," Harford Community College.

May 15: Member and Guest Picnic, and Tour of the Exhibit: "Prehistoric Culture of the Northern Chesapeake," Liriodendron Mansion.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback restaurant in Ellicott City at 6 p.m. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

November 8: Jaimie Wilder, "Before Howard Community College : The History and Research of the Bassler Farmhouse."

Jan. 10: (Snow Date Jan. 17) Jim Gibb, "Two African American Households in Port Tobacco, 1846-1900."

March 14: Anne Hayward, "Textiles in the Tidewater: How Textiles of the Colonial Chesapeake Are Represented in the Archival Record Versus the Archaeological Record."

May 9: Lee Preston, "Made in China : Silk, Porcelain and Terra Cotta Soldiers."

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>

November date TBA: Field trip to tour the new location of the Allegany County Museum.

December: No chapter meeting due to the holidays.

Did you remember to renew your membership?

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

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

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