



The ASM field session WILL take place

After scrambling to find a site for a spring field session this year, when two promising possibilities suddenly fell through, ASM was able to come up with a site that should please both members and principal investigator Joe Dent. Dates are almost spring, June 23 to July 3.

This year's field school will is not only back to prehistory but back to a site that ASM and the American University archeologist worked on in the 1990s, the Potomac valley Hughes Site (18MO1). Hughes is located about a mile away from another place familiar to ASM members, the Winslow Site, where Dent led digs in 2002-2003. Both sites are within the McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area off River Road outside of Potomac in Montgomery County.

"The location like Winslow is similarly spectacular and the road in promises to be more drivable (even in the rain)," Dent says, daring to bring up mention of the weather that plagued the 2003 dig.

"If you liked Winslow you will probably love Hughes -- it's similar, yet larger and more prolific in terms of artifacts, postmolds and pits," Dent says.

Both are large Late Woodland villages dating to around 1400AD. But Hughes represents a different cultural group, the Luray or Keyser complex. Ceramics at Hughes are tempered with crushed river mussel shell and in many ways represent the epitome of prehistoric wares in this region, Dent says.

Hughes was discovered to have had four palisade lines around the village and the footprint of that village is generally much larger than Winslow.

Dent says they decided to return to Hughes because "in all of our discoveries at the site during the 1990s we simply failed to isolate a clear and unequivocal house pattern. Other Keyser sites have also as of yet failed to yield a house pattern. And archeology would very much like to know the style of housing attributable to these people.

"We suspect it was quite different than the small wigwams discovered at Winslow and that these differences represent very important changes that were taking place after AD 1300 (Winslow) but before European contact. In that regard, Hughes is an important piece of the puzzle where we are still missing some key pieces."

To find out more about what has been discovered at Hughes, check out the Jefferson Patterson website: www.jefpat.org/NEHWeb/Assets/Documents/FindingAids/18MO1-%20Hughes%20Finding%20Aid.htm

College Park finally gets PhD program in anthropology. Page 4

Upcoming events

May 6-7: Annual primitive technology weekend at Oregon Ridge in Baltimore County.

May 18-19: Maryland's annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference, Annapolis. Some archeology related sessions. Fee. Contact Kristen Harbeson at 410-685-2886, x302 or kharbeson@preservationmaryland.org

June 3: ASM board meeting in Crownsville. All are welcome.

June 17-25: Barton site field school.

June 23-July 3: Annual ASM field school, Hughes Site, Montgomery County.

October 14: ASM Annual Meeting. Oregon Ridge in Baltimore County.

Volunteer opportunities

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

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

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently, the collection from the Rosenstock Site, a key Late Woodland Montgomery Complex area, is being upgraded. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson rakerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall hall@dhcd.state.md.us.

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

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. This year's public archeology program runs from May 23 to July 8, with digging on Fridays and Saturdays and lab work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 or echaney@mdp.state.md.us

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

An instrument survey workshop is set for Saturday, May 6. The goal is to continue collecting field data begun in April 2005 for the making of a site topographic map of the potential Civil War encampment site in the Bentley Springs area of Baltimore County. There is a limit of 10 participants, and preregistration is required. Contact Stephen Israel at 410 945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

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

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at revin@sha.state.md.us

Time for send in nominations for new ASM officers

This is an even-numbered year so it means it is time for ASM elections, a chance for you to have more input in what ASM is doing and what direction it is going. All offices are up for grabs, as usual. Carol Ebright has served two terms as president, so a new leader has to be chosen. Do you want to run or have someone you want to nominate? Send the name to nominating committee chairman Myron Beckenstein at 6817

Pineway, University Park, Maryland 20782 or myronbeck@aol.com

Deadline for nominations is May 28, so act now.

Also, don't forget to let us know if you have a candidate for Teacher of the Year. Contact Annetta Schott at annettaschott@comcast.net for information. Deadline is July 31.

Archeology moving from state to local levels

By J. Rodney Little

Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Programs, Maryland Historical Trust

As I reviewed the 2006 Archeology Month booklet I was struck by the number and range of opportunities there are to get involved in Maryland archeology. Through local, state and federal programs, universities and colleges, avocationalists can participate in a variety of activities in the field, lab, library and classroom. This growth in programs can be attributed in part to the recent establishment of preservation programs at the county and municipal levels.

The last few years have seen the beginnings of growth of legislative protection for archeological sites at the local level. While state and federal protections are important, most planning and zoning decisions and therefore development plans are within the purview of local government.

State and federal protections for historic and archeological sites apply only to "undertakings:" i.e., projects sponsored, assisted, permitted or licensed by a state or federal agency. Under Maryland's constitution, and for that matter in almost all states, the regulation of private property is vested in local government, not the state.

Back in the 1990s there was an important, but fairly quiet development that started this ball rolling here. Article 66B of the Maryland Code defines the powers that may be exercised by local governments over planning and zoning decisions. Revisions at that time provided -- for the first time -- explicit statutory language that allows local governments to protect archeological sites. This change was pushed primarily by local historic district commissions which usually are associated only with historic buildings. Some of the more enlightened local commissioners and professional staff of the Maryland Historical Trust saw the need and worked diligently to change the law.

Although there was no immediate response, over the last couple of years there has been a slow but consistent growth in protective legislation. Anne Arundel County and Annapolis have been addressing archeological concerns on the local level for years. Recently, Prince George's County and Frederick City have hired archeologists to review projects for impacts to archeological sites. The presence of archeologists at the local level not only offers site protection but increased volunteer and educational opportunities as well. There are active volunteer programs in Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

University programs are also on the upswing. In addition to the traditional field schools and courses offered through St. Mary's College, Washington College, University of Maryland College Park and Towson University, both Washington College and College Park have lab volunteer programs. Salisbury University and Towson University have growing programs. Harford Community College and Montgomery College are combining their course offerings with hands-on field opportunities. Many of these colleges are combining forces with local ASM chapters to get involved in archeology in their local communities.

The Maryland Historical Trust supports these activities through grants, assistance in developing local ordinances, technical expertise, volunteer field and lab opportunities and public outreach. Over the next few years, we plan to assist the counties and local governments that are beginning archeological protection programs by helping them draft legislation that "works" alongside the federal and state processes,

I encourage you to take a look at these programs, find out what's going on in your corner of the state and get involved, whether it is hands-on or working in your communities in promoting preservation.

College Park to offer PhD in anthropology

By Mark Leone

Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland, College Park

Final academic approval has been given to the proposal for a PhD in anthropology at the University of Maryland College Park by the University Senate. March 13 was a great day for Maryland anthropology and archeology. Many of us had waited for this, hoped for it, planned for it and lobbied hard for it for many years.

The archeological community in Maryland deserves a great deal of credit for helping to support this new program through its support for IMPART, the state program to offer grants for museum, preservation and archeological research and training.

Many of Maryland's archeologists have long felt that in addition to the successful Masters of Applied Anthropology program that has existed at College Park for 18 years, it was time to add a doctoral program. Now we have approval and we hope to open the program in the fall term of 2007.

Final approval of the doctoral program must still come for the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland and from the Maryland Higher Education Commission. These approvals are anticipated.

The next year will be spent planning the announcement of the doctoral program and recruiting applicants. There will be limited fellowship support. The program will focus on applied anthropology which we see as the use of applications of all forms of anthropological knowledge. Specific to the audience of this newsletter is our increasingly visible strength in historical archeology both in the U.S. and, now with Stephen Brighton added to the faculty, in Ireland.

Doctoral students will be welcome in historical archeology. We will regard the uses of historical archeology as the subject of applied research. Applicants will be taken from students and professionals who are interested in the uses and applications of knowledge derived from historical archeology and its contexts. Prehistorians who are interested in the public uses of their knowledge are welcome.

The program anticipates accepting three or four students annually, which means that we will rarely take more than one archeologist a year. A broad archeological curriculum has been approved which focuses on archeological theory, CRM management and operation, public uses for archeology, and the substance of North American archeology.

The faculty in anthropology recognizes the generous input from and patience of Maryland professional and avocational archeologists in your longstanding commitment to this department.

Profiles in Maryland archeology

An interview with ... Andy Stout

Andy Stout was no stranger to Maryland Archeology when he took up his post as eastern regional director of the Archeological Conservancy in 2004. In this job, he looks for sites the Conservancy can buy to ensure their preservation.

Q. How did you get started in archeology?

A. Well, that probably goes back to the guy who used to keep the garden next to my house when I was growing up. He came across a jasper projectile point one day and I thought it was the neatest thing and got my interest sparked. Once I got out of high school I pursued it in university and then ended up in archeology, doing CRM (Cultural Resources Management).

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I grew up in little town in south central Pennsylvania called Greencastle, which is mostly famous as the spot on which the first Northern soldier was shot on Northern soil during the Civil War.

Q. Did you go looking for artifacts of that?

A. No, no, not too much. I just had an interest.

Q. You majored in archeology or anthropology in college?

A. I did. I went to Shippensburg University, just up the road from Greencastle, and studied sociology with a minor in anthropology and ended up taking every anthropology course that the university offered. They had an

archeologist there and I started doing lithic analysis. I learned how to do that, which I thought was real neat, and then I took that as a skill with me to CRM and did field work and lab work throughout the mid-Atlantic and Puerto Rico. I did that for about five years and then kind of got a little burned out on the field work and ended up working for the presidential materials staff of the National Archives administration, where I sort of parlayed my lab skills into a museum technician position. I was responsible for all the presidential gifts received by President Clinton and current President Bush. I had to oversee the movement of over 70,000 gifts. I couriered gifts to Little Rock and all kinds of stuff. I would go to the White House and pick up gifts and take gifts to the First Family. And then I got out of that because, well, 911 had happened and the administration had changed and the gifts changed dramatically with the administration. And so it wasn't quite as interesting to me as it had been when I got there when Clinton was there. So I got out of it and got a free ride to American University to get my master's degree in public anthropology. While at school I was the public information officer for the (2003) World Archeological Congress when it met at Catholic University and I interned with Frank McManamon, who's the chief of the archeology parlayed program at the National Park Service while in graduate school. I got the graduate degree, I got out and got a job with the City of Frederick doing a photographic survey of the entire city, where I had to take a photograph of every standing structure in the city of Frederick. From there I went to the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that saves endangered structures. I worked with the city on the development of its archeological code and then ended up here as the eastern regional director of the Archeological Conservancy and moved the office to Frederick.



Q. And how long have you been in this position?

A. About 16 months now.

Q. Do you find it fulfilling?

A. It's the best job I've ever had in my life and I've had a lot of jobs. The Conservancy is a great organization. All the people there are just top-notch. They really care about what they do. The work's fulfilling. I feel like I am doing important work for archeology but also for the nation as a whole because once these significant archeological sites are gone, they are gone forever. And so the sites that I am able to preserve, it's part of my legacy, my contribution to archeology.

Q. Do you have a quota, a certain number of sites that you have to come up with?

A. They like me to try to get four sites a year.

Q. Do they approve all four?

A. I go out and find the sites, do all the background research, work with state archeologists, contact the land owners and try to hammer out a deal for acquisition. I take those to the board of directors of the Conservancy, let them know of any possible issues with the sites, and they vote up or down if they want to approve it to become an archeological research preserve. So once I have their approval, then we go through with the acquisition of the site, whether it's a donation or whether we are purchasing it outright.

Q. How many sites have you been able to preserve?

A. I've negotiated for the preservation of about eight sites already, in 15 months. Now, you know, the acquisition of an archeological site is a process, it's not an event. It doesn't just sort of happen overnight. And sometimes it can take as long as -- well, the Conservancy has worked on sites for 25 years before acquiring them. At the beginning of negotiations we'll work out an agreement that the owner will agree to donate the site

or sell us the site. From that time until the closing actually occurs and it becomes a piece of Conservancy property can take as long as a year or two. So I have eight projects currently that I'm acquiring. One of those is a complete done deal, Ft. Littleton, a French and Indian War fort in Pennsylvania that had never been excavated, which was exciting. I am currently trying to raise \$200,000 towards the acquisition of Kippax Plantation in Hopewell, Va, which is a contact period site where John and Jane Rolfe, the son and granddaughter of Pocahontas lived and are reportedly buried. I just got a signed agreement for the Lamoka Lake site in New York, which is the first site where the term "Archaic" was ever used in American archeology -- the Lamoka culture, which Ritchie identified as an Archaic culture. So that's a very exciting site, because it's significant in archeology for what it represents as well as for the material culture that is found there.

Q. Are any of the eight sites in Maryland?

A. We have three sites in Maryland. We have the Maddox Island site, which is on the bay, a middle- to late woodland shell midden site; there's of course the Barton site, which everybody knows about in Maryland, and we are in the process of acquiring the Bealle Hill site and there was an article on that in American Archeology (the Conservancy's magazine), and that's a multi-component site, predominantly archaic with a historic component and that is being given to us by a developer.

Q. Where is that one?

A. It's in P.G. County.

Q. Has archeology changed a lot since you started studying it in school?

A. That's an interesting question. I think it has. I think the technology is always changing in archeology. And that's a big thing at the Conservancy and why we do this. We never allow the complete excavation of an archeological site because we know that 50 years from now they are going to have a lot better technology than we can even imagine, as we have much better technology today than our predecessors did. So I think it has changed and I think it will continue to change. I think in the future there's going to be a lot more non-invasive field work, ground-penetrating radar and things like that. Hopefully they will become more of a staple.

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

A. I hope it's bright. It seems bright. All the folks I work with here -- I've been in the state of Maryland for 10 years now, living in Frederick, and everyone's just a joy to work with, for the most part. They are hard-working folks and the Conservancy has been successful here, so I think there's going to be more opportunities for us to save sites. We have a lot of great scholars with good research agendas who are doing good work, so I think the future's bright.

Q. Is archeology in Maryland different from archeology elsewhere?

A. It's interesting, because with this job my territory is Maine to North Carolina, so I travel around and I get to see the way everybody does everything and in each state it is a little different. I mean I can't really put my finger on it necessarily, I think it is just cultural differences between regions. Virginia folks do things a little bit differently than we do here in Maryland. The same can be said for Pennsylvania and New York.

Q. Is there anything we should be doing that we're not doing?

A. No, I think that across the board archeologists need to do more to reach out to younger people, get them involved. And certainly as a representative of the Conservancy I would say that we all need to think about conservation archeology as we go out and do testing and field work and remember that these are finite resources that can't be replaced.

FRANK AND ERNEST BOB THAVES



Central surveys two Carroll County farms

By Stephen Israel

President, Central Chapter

Central Chapter is completing reports on two farms in Carroll County that it surveyed in 2004 and 2005.

George Horvath of Sykesville was interested in searching for James Moore's 40-acre patented 1753 tract called Indian Town. Horvath believed 18th and 19th Century deeds and maps indicate that Indian Town was in the vicinity of the Clarke farm north of Sykesville on Middle Run.

The surfaces of the floodplains, terraces, knolls and bluffs on the 191-acre farm were walked and five prehistoric find spots located. These find spots contained a scattering of side-notch, corner-notch and contracting-stem bifaces made from rhyolite, quartz and chert associated with the Archaic period. No historical period artifacts were found.

Four test units in the floodplain failed to find prehistoric materials, most likely because of construction of new homes, slope erosion and flooding. In the 1950s, two small Archaic sites were surface-collected by Nelson Dorsey on the adjacent farm to the west. Today, there is a housing development where Dorsey collected.

In 2005, Peggy Dean contacted the Maryland Historical Trust about locating a historical log structure on her 140-acre family farm. Deed and map research identified a ca. 1800- 1837 log structure belonging to John Hildebride. The Trust contacted Central Chapter.

Our surface reconnaissance -- including examination of numerous spring heads and spring-fed streams -- did not identify 18th or 19th Century historical trash. A historical farm dump was found in an eroded gully, but the ceramic plates, cups, glass bottles and metal implements date from 1900 to 1950. No prehistoric lithic diagnostics or debris have been identified on the farm's numerous low knolls and ridges adjacent to the spring-fed streams.

Old ship found buried beneath Florida sand

By Melissa Nelson

Condensed from the Associated Press, March 23, 2006

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- Navy construction crews have unearthed a rare Spanish ship buried for centuries under sand on Pensacola's Naval Air Station, archeologist confirmed Thursday. The vessel could date to the mid-1500s, when the first Spanish settlement in what is now the United States was founded here.

But the exposed portion looks more like ships from a later period because of its iron bolts, said Elizabeth Benchley, director of the Archaeology Institute at the University of West Florida.

"There are Spanish shipwrecks in Pensacola Bay," Benchley said. "We have worked on two -- one from 1559 and another from 1705. But no one has found one buried on land. This was quite a surprise to everybody."

Construction crews came upon the ship this month while rebuilding the base's swim rescue school, destroyed during Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

The exposed keel of the ship juts upward from the sandy bottom of the pit and gives some guess of the vessel's form. Archeologists estimated the rest of the ship is buried by about 75 feet of sand. During initial work to determine the ship's origin, archeologists found ceramic tiles, ropes and pieces of olive jars.

The settlement was founded in 1559; its exact location is a mystery. The Spanish did not return until more than a century later in 1698 at Presidio Santa Maria de Galve, now the naval station.

The Navy plans to enclose the uncovered portion of the ship, mark the site and move construction over to accommodate archeological work, officials said.

"We don't have plans to excavate the entire ship," Benchley said. "It's going to be very expensive because it's so deeply buried and we would have to have grant money," she said.

Monocacy battlefield to get visitor center

From news and other reports

FREDERICK -- The "battle that saved Washington" lasted just one day, but it took 60 years for Congress to fund a permanent visitors center for the Civil War site.

The National Park Service and elected officials broke ground March 24 for the structure at the Monocacy National Battlefield, 1,647 acres bisected by Interstate 270 and surrounded by commercial and residential development. The barn-shaped building, slated to open next spring, will offer information about the clash on July 19, 1864, that marked the Confederacy's last campaign to carry the war into the North.

Archeology conducted under the direction of Joy Beasley, the National Park Service cultural resources manager at the battlefield, found two Civil War concentrations at the chosen site and explored and reported them before okaying the area for the building. Some ASM members helped in the work.

Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes said the groundbreaking near the Monocacy River "sets the stage for people from all over the country and indeed all over the world to see firsthand one of the small but pivotal battle sites of the Civil War."

Exhibits at the \$3.5 million center will focus on phases of the battle that occurred when 6,000 federal troops led by Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace engaged about 15,000 Confederate troops intent on capturing Washington, about 40 miles away. The Confederates were led by Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early.

The battle bought a 24-hour delay of the Confederate advance at a cost of 1,436 combined casualties. The Union dead numbered 123, with 603 wounded. The Confederates suffered as many as 275 dead, with 435 wounded.

Congress authorized the national park in 1934 but it took another 32 years before any funds were appropriated for land acquisition. "Acquiring funding for the land was a battle itself," Sarbanes said, even though it was listed as one of 25 sites in danger of being lost to development.

Sarbanes said he and Democrat Sen. Barbara Mikulski called it the second Battle of the Monocacy. "Just imagine what would have happened if the land was not set aside? All you have to do is to look in the opposite direction," he said.

Beasley said two-step compliance archeological investigations were conducted at the 5.2-acre visitor center site in 2003.

First, 86 shovel test pits were dug, with 84 being sterile. Then metal detectors were run over 22 percent of the area. This led to the recovery of 1,423 artifacts and the discovery of two unrecorded archeological sites.

18FR30-1 contained a relatively sparse concentration (89 artifacts) of dropped pistol and carbine bullets (carbines represented include Sharps and Burnside; pistol bullets include Bartholow, Colt and Colt pattern rounds) and horseshoes and other horse hardware. Beasley called this likely evidence of a short-term Civil War cavalry encampment similar to those identified elsewhere on the Best Farm.

The second site, 18FR30-2, was much denser with 314 artifacts. Concentrations consisted mainly of .65 caliber roundballs and .31 caliber buckshot ("buck-n-ball"), melted lead and annealed fully machine-cut nails.

The concentration also included dropped Merrill and Smith carbine rounds, Minie balls, artillery shell fragments, case shot, percussion caps, and a variety of accoutrements. Most of the .65 caliber roundballs (84%) were dropped (unfired) and many had visible seams or sprues that would have rendered them unusable, Beasley said.

"The presence of a large number of technically flawed and dropped roundballs, along with melted lead, are likely evidence of field-casting of ammunition," she said. "As smooth-bore weapons were used with the greatest frequency during the earliest years of the Civil War, this site is likely evidence of a short-term early War encampment; perhaps prior to or during the Antietam Campaign of 1862."

The park opened to the public in 1991, with exhibits housed in a temporary visitor center in the Gambrill Mill, a 160-year-old building in the river's 100-year flood plain.

When completed, the visitor center will follow a number of tracks and not focus solely on the 1864 battle. The interpretive concentration will include what happened before, during and after the battle, providing a fuller context to show the importance of the battle to the larger Civil War.

Book review: Archeology run amok

The Master Plan: Himmler's Scholars and the Holocaust, by Heather Pringle, Hyperion, 463 pages, \$25

How we see the past is not necessarily how the past really was. We can't even agree on what is happening now, so how can we be so certain on what happened back then. Even with the best of intentions, our view of the past is filtered through our outlook and the amount of information that is available to us. Do we have written histories of the times? Are they unbiased and do they reflect more than one viewpoint, do they offer a complete picture? Do we only have artifacts to go by? Do they give a complete picture or just a picture built on what we have managed to find? And are we interpreting what we find correctly, or are we seeing things through our preconceived notions, ignorance, carelessness or willful distortion?

Willful distortion is what Heather Pringle's "The Master Plan" is about.

When the Nazis took power in Germany, they had racial ideas that were linchpins of their doctrine of power, a positive idea in the supremacy of the Aryan race and a negative idea in the inferiority of the Jewish race. That there were no such races didn't matter to them, they set out to prove that there were and were able to enlist in the pursuit scientists and scholars, including archeologists.

The office created to do this was the Ahnenerbe (meaning "something inherited from our forefathers"), a part of Heinrich Himmler's infamous SS. The Ahnenerbe's job was to find evidence of a major German role in the past accomplishments of mankind.

But, Pringle writes, it really "was in the business of mythmaking. Its prominent researchers devoted themselves to distorting the truth and churning out carefully tailored evidence to support the racial ideas of Adolf Hitler. Some scholars twisted their findings consciously; others warped them without thought, unaware that their political views drastically shaped their research. But all proved adept at this manipulation, and for this reason, Himmler prized the institute."

Earlier scholars had not come up with any evidence of a race of tall, blond Germanics who had brought civilization to the rest of the world. And it was known that the first cities, the first writing, the first agriculture all had taken place in the Near East and Asia. This "posed a problem for ardent Nazis," Pringle writes and her book details the effort to overcome the problem. Expeditions were sent to various places in Europe, Asia, the Near East and Iceland to uncover signs of an early Germanic people who spread enlightenment.

In addition to building up, the Ahnenerbe engaged in tearing down. Were homosexuals thought to be undesirable? Find a historical basis for it. Himmler's people decided that some 2,000-year-old bodies found in Dutch bogs had been people executed because they were gay, picking on one of many unproven theories.

"Himmler had transformed a simple piece of archaeological speculation into a hard, murderous fact. He had cloaked his own hatred of others under the respectable mantle of science ... In Himmler's hands, the distant past had become a lethal weapon against the living," she writes.

Dr. Herman Wirth, the first leader of the office, was a historic linguist who had no problem warping information: "Science, he believed, served a higher matter than objectivity or truth. 'The time is now past,' he

once explained to a German audience, 'when science believed its task was to search for the truth as it is. Now the task of science is to proceed with its prophecy, to awaken. Like the morning dawn, it will light a new day.'

"Wirth's research had long ago abandoned reality and solid ground," Pringle writes describing an archeological trip he led to Sweden. "It was soaring in a dense, impenetrable fog, no longer containing even the slightest fraction of science."

From falsifying history, the Ahnenerbe went on to concentration camp work and executions, all in the name of promoting science. It wasn't only archeologists, but they played their part in the bureau's disgraceful history.

Pringle, a Canadian writer, expands on a story that was little known and was coming out piece by piece. The book is easy to read and extensively documented (of its 463 pages, 138 are notes and bibliography).

"We like to think today that science is immutable, the gold standard of human knowledge, but as the history of the Ahnenerbe has shown us, it can be bent and warped to catastrophic ends. We cannot afford to forget this lesson," she concludes.

Dental drilling found in 9,000-year-old teeth

By Seth Borenstein

Condensed from an Associated Press story, April 7, 2006

Scientists have proven what patients in dentists' chairs have often thought: Drilling teeth is downright prehistoric.

Dentists drilled nearly perfect tiny holes in the teeth of live patients between 7,500 and 9,000 years ago, according to carbon-dating of skulls unearthed in a Pakistan graveyard.

That means dentistry is at least 4,000 years older than first thought -- and far older than the useful invention of anesthesia. The discovery of the dental work was described yesterday in the journal *Nature*.

This was no mere tooth tinkering. The 11 drilled teeth found in the remote graveyard were hard-to-reach molars. And in at least one instance, the ancient dentist managed to drill a hole in the inside back end of a tooth, boring out toward the front of the mouth.

The holes went as deep as one-seventh of an inch (3.5 millimeters).

"The holes were so perfect, so nice," said study co-author David Frayer, an anthropology professor at the University of Kansas. "I showed the pictures to my dentist and he thought they were amazing holes."

How it was done is painful just to think about.

Flint drill heads were found on site, so researchers believe a small bow was used to drive the drill tips into patients' teeth. Lead author Roberto Macchiarelli, an anthropology professor at the University of Poitiers, France, and colleagues

simulated the technique and drilled through human (but no longer attached) teeth in less than a minute.

"Definitely it had to be painful for the patient," Macchiarelli said.

Researchers were impressed by how advanced the society was in Baluchistan -- the area where Osama bin Laden is rumored to be hiding. Evidence suggests the drilling occurred on ordinary men and women -- not slaves or royalty.

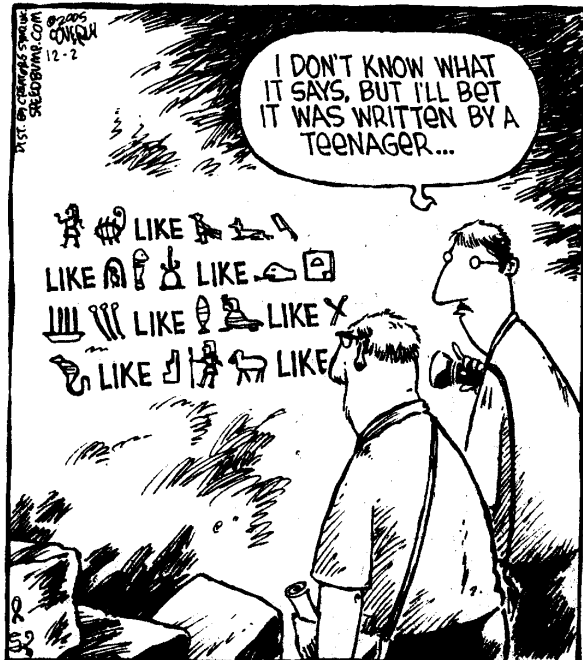
The dentistry, which probably evolved from intricate ornamental bead drilling also practiced in the area, went on for about 1,500 years until about 5500 B.C., Macchiarelli said. After that there were no signs of drilling.

Macchiarelli and Frayer said the drilling was likely done to reduce the pain of cavities.

Macchiarelli pointed to one unfortunate patient who had a tooth drilled twice. Another patient had three teeth drilled. Four drilled teeth showed signs of cavities. No sign of fillings were found, but there could have been an asphalt-like substance inside, he said.

But Dr. Richard Glenner, a Chicago dentist and author of dental history books, wouldn't bite on the idea that this was good dentistry.

The drilling could have been decorative or to release "evil spirits" rather than fighting tooth decay, he said, adding: "Why did they do it? No one will ever know."

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Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The Chapter meets five times a year in February, April, June, September, and November at the All Hallows Parish Brick Church at the Parish Hall near London Town, at 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AAChapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

June 13: Cara Roviello Fama, the Lost Towns lab director, will talk about her wine bottle research.

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

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. Contact Bill Cep at 410-822-5027 or ccep@crosslink.net

Monocacy

The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com Chapter website: www.digfrederick.bravehost.com

Northern Chesapeake

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

May 21: ASNC annual picnic.

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at katesilas@chesapeake.net or 410-586-8538.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or roseannlee@earthlink.com

May 8: Jim Gibb on "Stalking Early Colonial Tidewater Sites."

Western Maryland

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

May 26: Plans for the Barton field session, by Bob Wall.

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

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.

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