



Old bones have Delaware guessing

By Ron MacArthur *Condensed from the (Delaware) Cape Gazette, Nov. 16, 2010*

It's taken almost four years to start, but work to remove Colonial-era skeletal remains is finally under way along River Road near Oak Orchard. Early indications are the bones are in an unmarked cemetery of European origins.

Sussex County engineer Mike Izzo said 11 sets of remains have been found so far. A team of archeologists has been working in a 5-foot-deep pit in the roadway for two weeks.

"We don't know the extent because we only have a small area opened up," Izzo said.

Although county officials say the remains appear to be European, they won't be definitively identified until Smithsonian Institution staff analyzes them.

It's possible the remains could be Nanticoke Indian or African-American. Dan Parsons, the county's historic planner, said it appears the bones date back to around 1750. "This cemetery was abandoned 250 years ago when there wouldn't have been marker stones."

Izzo said the crew is taking its time. "They have never encountered a section of unmarked graves this large before," he said.

The unmarked cemetery was discovered when crews found bones as they dug into the road as part of a sewer district expansion project. All sewer work was halted but is expected to resume way soon.

Cora Blume, an archeologist working for subcontractor John Milner Associates and serving as liaison for the Nanticoke tribe, said records show Waples ferry operated near the

location as early as 1677, with the family owning land in the area for more than 100 years.

What the Smithsonian study concludes will determine the county's next step, Izzo said, and future interment is a probability.



Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza wants to remind you that if you don't renew your ASM membership you won't be able to enjoy this newsletter or other society benefits. A renewal form is inside this issue.

Upcoming events

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

October 8, 2011: Annual meeting, Robinson Nature Center, Columbia.

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

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

A special volunteer opportunity

ASM is looking for someone who would like to handle publicity for the organization, someone to contact various media outlets to publicize ASM activities and events. Qualities desired are a pleasant personality, a knack for writing and a familiarity with computers and the Web. Sound interesting? Then contact ASM President Mechelle Kerns at mechkerns@hotmail.com and tell her of your interest.



ASM's chooses its new officers for 2010 – 12

Ballots were counted at the Fall Meeting at Oregon Ridge and new officers took control of ASM without further ado.

The new president, succeeding John Fiveash, is Mechelle Kerns, who also heads the Anne Arundel County chapter. The new vice president is Claude Bowen, who had been an at-large trustee. Taking over the secretarial duties is Suzanne Bucci, who also had been an at-large board member.

The almost-new treasurer is former vice president Jim Gibb, who had been handling both jobs for several months after the resignation of longtime treasurer Sean Sweeney. The only held-over officer is Belinda Urquiza.

The vote for at-large trustees was contested, as there were more candidates than positions. The six victorious candidates are out-going president John Fiveash, holdovers Tom Forhan and Jim Sorensen, former member Annetta Schott and newcomers Valerie Hall and Jaimie Wilder.

Contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

All terms last until the 2012 election.

Profiles in Maryland archeology

An interview with...Stephen Brighton

Stephen Brighton is a member of the University of Maryland anthropology department. He spoke at the Annual Meeting on his work in Texas, Baltimore County, where this interview was conducted.

Q. How did you get started in archeology?

A. I had a friend of the family, like an uncle, Ed Rutch, who was one of the well-known industrial archeologists of the 1970s. I grew up in New Jersey, excavated Patterson and the mill sites up there. I have been doing archeology with him since I was about 5 years old. I always grew up with an appreciation and interest for history and as a summer job from a kid on through high school it was always going out with him, hanging out or doing archeology. So, unfortunately, it's the only thing I know. I did my undergraduate in New Jersey, in anthropology, and worked for John Milner Associates (in New York City) on the African Burial Ground and the Five Points. That was my first big, paying job in the early 1990s. Then I went to graduate school at Boston University and got an MA and PhD in archeology, and then from there I came to Maryland as an assistant professor.

Q. Maryland was your first teaching job?

A. Yes, first offer, first job. I just finished writing my dissertation, was about to defend it, when I came down for the interview. So as I defended it I had to have everyone sign it really quick so I could fax the cover down to Maryland so they could start the contract.

Q. What do you think of the department?

A. It's fantastic. I've had a really good time. It's been busy, but the adjustment has been very smooth. The department, as well as the university itself, have gone out of their way to make sure I've had everything that I needed, that I was comfortable, that I wasn't overworked or taxed in any way. And that goes all the way down to both Mark Leone and Paul Shackel. As colleagues and archeologists they guided me through this research.

Q. Is Texas your first project down here?

A. It is. When I came down to Maryland I was working with Charles Orser still in Ireland, working in County Donegal. First County Sligo, then County Donegal. My first two years here I was working in Ireland. But my first interest in the Irish diaspora was always looking at an Irish-American identity. So I wanted to come back to that. And being in Maryland I was contacted by a member of this Ballykilcline genealogical society, who happens to live in Maryland. She is a descendant of the Texas Irish and said, "Would you want to do anything up there?" She showed me where it was. You can't really find it on a map. Google Earth now you can, if you write Texas, but it's more Cockeysville. The stars or planets or something were aligned, that I'm just coming out of Ireland, spent three years in

Ballykilcline excavating, to have a site where at least 25 percent of the residents are from Ballykilcline. And, in fact, the owner of the bar, Jim McDermott, the last owner, he's a McDermott from Strokestown (Ireland), there's still McDermotts out there. So the connections were just too much to ignore. So since 2007, I'd say, is when I started to generate a survey project, historical research. It's where I met John McGrain (winner of the 2010 ASM Marye Award) and Charlie Hall and to figure out if it was possible. It takes like a year - you know, if students are going to pay for this - to do a field school, to do a proper archeological investigation and to make sure there's some archeology to be done. I had to walk over the different houses, to see what's been built, what's been excavated before. A contract company came in the early '90s, did some sampling. So there's plenty to be done out there.

Q. Do you have any favorite or surprising finds from Texas?

A. I would say some that are more interesting than others, but to me they are all interesting. Last year was finding the Ed Doyle five-cent beer token. Beside it just being cool, one thing is that when the Baltimore Sun interviewed me we featured that as a connection to one of the original families. But



the calls that I received from descendants of the Doyle family that still live in Maryland, that was their great-grandfather, and that their grandmothers and even mother lived and grew up in Texas in the first half of the 20th Century. Some of the things that we excavated might have been their great-grandparents' or their parents'. The living memory that we've actually now sort of recovered, based on this one artifact is fantastic. And this year, I would say, the most sort of intimate artifacts which are really

interesting are the religious medals. We haven't found many, because not many people throw them away. They keep them and they pass them down to the next generation. So to find four religious medals - I would say that that's a reflection of the suddenness of the house fire, that things are left in the house and abandoned. It's the Connor family that lives there. At the time of the fire they're there 40 years, so it's several generations, at least two or three, that are living there. That to me was an intimate portrait of the first evidence of Catholicism in the area. You really just don't find too many religious icons or iconography in the archeological record, unless there's a dramatic event, like a fire. Having the priest come down from St. Joseph's and trying to decipher what the images are on the different medallions. Father Lanahan lived next door too in the row homes, so it probably didn't hurt to have your religious medallions around when the priest was there.

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

A. I think the future of Maryland archeology is, I guess to say, bright. There's a fantastic future in store, especially coming to conferences like this (the 2010 annual meeting), and so many people who are archeologists or avocational or just interested. And being at the University of Maryland and having an applied program, a lot of it is community-based. I think Maryland has some of the biggest programs out there that are community-based. It's that the certification program that the ASM has, and people, if they want to be archeologists, can go out and actually do archeology. To me - I was raised in New Jersey, did archeology in New Jersey and New York State, did my graduate work in Massachusetts, but I would say that Maryland is perhaps the most informed, in terms of their public, about archeology and have the most opportunity to work with archeologists. And what that does, I think, it opens up the entire gamut of the types of sites that could be done. In Prince George's County alone, I think they are still recording the potential for archeology of different races. Nowadays it's not being bulldozed to the extent that it used to be in other places. I think with groups like the Archeological Society and listening to all the different chapters and outreach, and having archeology days and archeology months, there's so much to be done in Maryland. The future, it looks good. Especially when there's isn't any money, to have people that go out and

have the public do volunteer work and have volunteers do the sites - I think that's where it's most important. I'd love to have volunteers at my site.

Q. How would they contact you?

A. Well, my email address and phone number for the department is on the website, the University of Maryland department website. At least my email (sbrighton@anth.umd.edu), which is easier to do because I'm never really in my office that much. I'm always teaching or researching. I'd love to have them come out with students. Or we also have this lab in the department where we're processing all these artifacts. Contact me and we can set up times to come and hang out and play.

Q. What about how physically archeology is performed in Maryland: Is it different than in other places where you've worked?

A. It's a different system a lot of times. Everyone has their little quirks. But I think - and I don't want to have anyone contacting me outside Maryland - but I think it's the easiest and most advanced system to work in. Coming from the outside, working in Ireland and coming in, or working from another state and coming in, it's been an interesting transition. I think that the work that people are doing and the way the state has things set up - I think from my little experience in doing it that it's very sophisticated. I think it's easy just to do some cross-comparison and kind of analysis. What I'm doing just in a small example in Texas is I'm drawing from a contract that the artifacts and the report and everything is housed at the MAC Lab. It's a very easy maneuver to actually incorporate their artifacts in with what I'm doing, especially with what we did this past summer. I'm just going on with the last lot number, ID number that the MAC Lab has for their artifacts, just start where they left off and we're going to marry those artifacts together. It's a very sort of painless way of doing it. The way that the state has things set up it's just ...

Q. This is from previous excavations at Texas?

A. Yes, this contract company, MAAR, they're defunct now. They're from Delaware, Wilmington. All their artifacts from in and around Texas, based on that road expansion, is all at the repository, at the MAC Lab. Looking at the artifacts, accessing artifacts, looking at reports, getting reports, marrying different projects together, very simple. I think it's great. I think it's a very good program that's down there. I'm excited about being a part of it.

Q. What advice would you have for someone going into archeology?

A. Don't do it - no, kidding. I tell people all the time, from ages 8 to 80, it doesn't matter. My son, who's 4 and a half now, he comes out to the site. Everytime he comes out we're always excavating, a toy always comes out no matter when he's around, or a coin. So he thinks it's all about finding toys. He loves it. But the idea of doing archeology, or being in archeology one way or another, is you really have to be passionate about it, because it's a thankless job, if you think about it, or even a hobby. It's not well-paid, the weather is horrible. Depending on when you're digging, it can either be 110 degrees out or it can be 40 degrees and raining. Or the ground is hard clay or you're standing knee-deep in mud and there's mosquitoes and everything under the sun. Landowners with shotguns. But at the end of the day, archeologists that I admire and people that volunteer or avocational, I consider everybody that does it archeologists. By the end of the day people do it because they want to. It's something about the tangible aspects of holding the past, being a part of that continuum from the past to the present, and even going forward into the future, that I find everyone who's at this conference, at the end of the day no one's doing it just because it's a job. Everyone does it because there's something inside that tells them to do it - there's a lot of adversity, there's a lot of obstacles trying to do archeology or setting things up for archeology. Basically you find the people that have that - I can't really describe it except to say it's a passion, for stuff. It's a particular personality.

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

February 15: Mechelle Kerns on the sheet midden discovered beneath the Legg's Dependence kitchen with artifacts covering 250 years.

April 19: TBA

June 21: TBA

September 20: TBA

November 15: TBA

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.

December 1: Silas Hurry of Historic St. Mary's City on "After the Digging Is Done: Archeological Discoveries in the Laboratory."

January 5: Belinda Urquiza will discuss her experiences on excavations in the southwestern United States.

February 2: Carol Cowherd on "Is there a Prehistoric Woodland Site in My Backyard?"

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

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.

January 20: Meeting at Needwood Mansion, Derwood. Joy Beasley, cultural resources manager at Monocacy National Battlefield on the "Archeology at the Best Farm and the L'Hermitage slave quarters."

February 17: Meeting at Needwood Mansion, Derwood. Noel Broadbent, research associate at the Smithsonian Institution, will talk on his archeology career and the new site he is working on in Washington.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 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>

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

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 Archeological 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>

December: No chapter meeting due to the holidays.

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.

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

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