

# ASM Ink

January 2017, Vol. 44, No. 1

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## Think you had a busy year? Look at MHT's

By **Dennis C. Curry**  
Chief Archeologist

It seems like much of 2016 at the Trust was spent reorganizing and updating our space at Crownsville — offices were rearranged, re-painted and re-carpeted; a new, large conference room was constructed to accommodate MHT Board of Trustees meetings (as well as events such as the Workshop in Archeology), two smaller conference rooms were equipped with modern presentation hardware and mold remediation took place in a large portion of the archeology lab before it was re-built.

And the work will continue into 2017 — the library will be re-carpeted, reorganized and the shelving expanded; the archeology lab is being de-cluttered and reorganized, and the terrestrial and underwater archeological field equipment will be moved to a new storage space in the basement. But it's almost done!

Despite all this upheaval, we've still were busy with lots of archeology in 2016:

- The Annual Workshop in Archeology returned to Crownsville. Keynote speaker Henry Miller reviewed the past 50 years of archeology at Historic St. Mary's City. "The Artifacts of Outlander" exhibit was on display throughout the day and Sara Rivers Cofield presented a rollicking look at how the exhibit was created. Other topics included the Shawnee King Opessa's Town, worker populations at Catoctin Furnace, an overview of Maryland prehistory, the Mallows Bay ghost fleet and modern technological approaches to site recordation.
- Maryland Archeology Month focused on the "Fifty Years of Discovering and Sharing Our Past" at Historic St. Mary's City. A 40-page booklet included nine essays by Silas Hurry and Henry Miller that covered all aspects of the 50-year-old program and a poster illustrated four of the more notable sites excavated there.
- The Tyler Bastian Annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology took place at the River Farm site in Anne Arundel County and drew more than 100 volunteers and staff to contribute over 3,300 work hours during the 11-day session. County archeologists, MHT staff and volunteers returned to the site in August to further explore what appears to be a large circular structure constructed using a shallow wall trench; unfortunately, uphill erosion seems to have truncated the feature.
- The Tuesday Crownsville Lab volunteers, under the direction of Louise Akerson, spent much of the year cataloging artifacts recovered from the Late Woodland Mason Island II site (18MO13), investigated in the 1970s by Kit Franklin, then an American University student.
- Using MHT Board of Trustees funding, we were able to hire Justin Warrenfeltz for 10 weeks as an archeological intern. Justin assisted with the fieldwork at River Farm and Janes Island and analyzed oyster shell from the Willin site in Dorchester County.
- Work continues on the Archeological Synthesis Database which currently includes reports on 1,198 tested

*Continued on Page 7*

**Jim Sorensen, major Montgomery figure, dies. Page 3**

## Upcoming events

**January 4 – 8, 2017:** Society for Historical Archaeology conference. Fort Worth. [www.sha.org/conferences](http://www.sha.org/conferences)

**March 16 – 19:** Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Virginia Beach.

<http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/conferences.htm>

**March 25:** Annual Workshop in Archeology. Crownsville.

**April 8:** Spring Symposium, with silent auction. Crownsville.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab:** The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and is now cataloging Mason Island II (18MO13) material. Anyone interested (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall at [charles.hall@maryland.gov](mailto:charles.hall@maryland.gov)

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb [jamesggibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net) and Laura Cripps [lcripps@howardcc.edu](mailto:lcripps@howardcc.edu) under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

**The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center** seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at [jamesggibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net)

**Montgomery County** is accepting applications from for lab and field work volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or [Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org)

**The Anne Arundel County** Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only. Email Jasmine Gollup at [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org) or call the lab 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 [ed.chaney@maryland.gov](mailto:ed.chaney@maryland.gov) or 410 586 8554.

**The Archaeological Institute of America** provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up [www.archaeological.org/fieldwork](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork) to get started.

## CAT corner:

For the latest information on CAT activities see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at [burquiza@comcast.net](mailto:burquiza@comcast.net)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** To make sure they don't miss announcements and opportunities, all CAT candidates are asked to update their contact information by sending their current address, email and phone numbers to Belinda.

## Richard Hughes retires from MHT

For 35 years anyone doing ASM business with MHT probably has dealt with Richard Hughes. After holding numerous jobs dealing directly with archeology, including 17 as chief of archeology, he became administrator of the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. In 2008 he was named winner of ASM's William B. Marye Award for his outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. He retired at the end of 2016.

# Montgomery native son Jim Sorensen dies

By Heather Bouslog

After a long battle against cancer, Jim Sorensen, a key figure in Montgomery County archeology and a longtime ASM activist, died November 18 at age 72 in Silver Spring.

Dr. James D. Sorensen directed the Maryland-National Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Montgomery Parks' Archaeology Program for 21 years. Hired in 1988 by Mike Dwyer, M-NCPPC's first historian, Jim became the first career archeologist to work for the commission. His work involved surveying, identifying and registering sites to keep up with the park's and county's growing development. Projects ranged from rockshelters and prehistoric quarries to French and Indian War taverns and Civil War sites.

As park archeologist Jim not only supervised the many required duties but was an inspiring force to his staff and the many volunteers with whom he shared his enthusiasm for the region's past. Sorensen leaves a legacy of preserving and interpreting numerous archeological sites within the county, with his crowning glory being the Dowden's Ordinary Special Park in Clarksburg.

Born February 7, 1944, Sorensen was destined for a life entwined with the history and archeology of his native Montgomery County. Jim could date his family's beginnings in this country back to his ancestor Colonel Ninian Beall, a Scot and a colorful character standing at 6' 7" with "fierce red hair," who, at age 27, entered Maryland in 1652 as an indentured servant and soon rose to become a member of the Maryland House of Burgesses and commander in chief of Maryland Forces. Much as Beall fought to protect the county's frontier, Jim Sorensen fought to protect Montgomery County's rich cultural past.

Jim and his three sisters grew up on the Beall family farm in Hillandale, where Jim got his first taste of archeology as he hunted for "arrowheads" in the woods and along the creek beds. His mother, Lucretia Ione Beall Sorensen, was an avid reader and would recount stories of the Indians and of his family which was among Montgomery County's first families.

Jim attended St. Charles College in Catonsville, where he received a high school and college

education, graduating in 1964. Jim pursued the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, spending two years at the Philosophy House on Paca Street and an additional three years at the School of Theology at Roland Park.

During his years at St. Charles and St. Mary's, the Catholic Church was in a sea of change. For



Jim, this sea change cemented his commitment to understanding how cultures are shaped by historical events.

Jim taught Latin to students in the Washington D.C. public schools before following his interests in languages at American University in the Department of Anthropology. While pursuing his Masters of Arts degree in linguistics, he was offered a chance to earn some money by the Potomac River Archaeology Survey Project directed by Charles McNett and June Evans. Jim worked on many sites within Montgomery County and nearby Northern Virginia.

His work at the Shawnee-Minisink Site in eastern Pennsylvania prompted him to pursue his doctorate in anthropology. Working with the American University Consortium he studied and worked under many prominent archeologists including William Gardner from Catholic University and Mark Leone from the University of Maryland.

**Continued on next page**

**Continued from Page 3**

His work included directing an excavation at Reynolds Tavern for Archaeology in Annapolis and excavating at the Fairfield Plantation (Jackson Shrine) in Guinea Station, Virginia.

Jim's archaeological work turned back home for the subject of his dissertation -- the Riggs Plantation in Montgomery County. Soon after, he was hired to become M-NCPPC's first archeologist for Montgomery Parks.

During this tenure, Jim partnered with Montgomery College professors Eugenia Robinson and Mary Gallagher in educating students in archeology. The partnership produced several archeological reports and an Archaeological Resource Management Plan for Montgomery County. Jim partnered with the Volunteers in Archeology program for high school students sponsored by Robert Hines at Richard Montgomery High School.

Jim volunteered for the Montgomery County Historical Society Library and was a founding

member of the Montgomery County Civil War Roundtable. He was a member of ASM and served on the Board of Trustees for many years until ill health forced his retirement. He was a vital member of ASM's Mid-Potomac Chapter offering chapter members opportunities to excavate and work in the archeology labs for Montgomery Parks.

In 2011, Jim was awarded ASM's William B. Marye Award for his contributions to Maryland Archaeology.

A memorial service will be held on January 8 at 1 p.m., at the Open Door Metropolitan Community Church, 15817 Barnesville Road, Boyds, MD 20841.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Open Door Metropolitan Church (memo: Jim Sorensen) - mail to Open Door MC, attn: Rev. Miller, or to ASM, Mid-Potomac Chapter (memo: Jim Sorensen) - mail to Paul Bollwerk, Mid-Potomac Treasurer, 9506 Kingsley Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814.

*(A longer tribute to Dr. Sorensen will appear in the ASM publication, Maryland Archeology.)*

## ISIS damage found to be worse than feared

**By Kareem Fahim and Mustafa Salim**

*Condensed from the Washington Post, November 16, 2016*

NIMRUD, Iraq - The palace of Ashurnasirpal II, an Assyrian king, had survived for three millennia before the Islamic State militants arrived and sacked the place with glee.

They smashed the statues of winged creatures that had stood sentry at a gate, leaving them in a broken heap — a wing here, a foot there. They pulled down stone relief panels that once lined the palace walls, ripping them so crudely in places that the panels splintered, leaving a tantalizing but painful reminder of what was.

And the militants bulldozed Nimrud's ziggurat, the mud-brick base of a once-soaring ancient temple, reducing it to a nondescript pile of dirt.

The bracing scale of the devastation in Nimrud has become fully apparent only in recent days, after Iraqi soldiers advancing on the northern city of Mosul recaptured the ancient site from Islamic State militants who took control of the area more than two years ago.

That the site was brutalized came as no surprise: The Islamic State had released a video last year showing jihadists smashing panels with sledgehammers, scooping up stones with bulldozers and rigging the site with explosive barrels that they detonated and filmed from multiple angles, as if they were teenagers memorializing their mastery of some cruel, extreme sport.

But as Iraqi forces have clawed back territory in Nimrud and other places — discovering mass graves and terrorized residents — the Islamic State occupation has been revealed, time and again, to be even more harrowing than it looked from afar.

Although antiquities experts have not yet visited Nimrud, they have seen pictures shared by soldiers and journalists. "The destruction was worse than we thought," said Qais Hussein, the general director of the antiquities department at Iraq's Ministry of Culture. He said that the leveling of the ziggurat came as a shock because satellite images seemed to show that the structure was still untouched.

Nimrud, the second capital of the kingdom of Assyria, was a UNESCO heritage site and was considered one of the most important archeological finds in the world. When its destruction was revealed last year, it was

seen as an alarming escalation of the Islamic State's violent campaign against the region's heritage as well as the legacy of its ancient civilizations, which the jihadists view as idolatrous.

For archeologists and antiquities experts who have spent careers researching the region's cultural treasures, the jihadist assault on heritage has only added to a spreading sense of despair. Over the past five years, war and political conflict in Syria, Egypt and other countries has led to widespread looting of archeological sites, often with little attention or concern from state authorities.

Iraqi scholars have been grappling with loss for more than a decade, since the looting of Iraq's national museum and other archeological sites after the U.S.-led invasion of the country in 2003.

Amid the despair, there were small graces. Many of Nimrud's statues and sculptures are on display in museums overseas, including in New York. And the site's greatest treasures — ivories and gold artifacts — were safely stored in the vaults of the Central Bank in Baghdad, according to Abdulameer al-Hamdani, an Iraqi archeologist.

Most of the site had never been excavated, he said, stirring hope that there was still more waiting to be revealed, under layers of destruction.

## Harford dig exposes Revolutionary war site

By Julie Schablitsky

*Condensed from The CRaB, the SHA cultural resources bulletin, Winter, 2016*

The Town of Bush sprung up along the "Post Road" (MD 7) as a stage coach stop between Baltimore and Philadelphia. Although it is known for being a small settlement with mills and a tannery, Bush was also the location of two of French commander Rochambeau's encampments during the Revolutionary Period.

In anticipation of an intersection improvement project at MD 7 and MD 136, SHA archeologists carried out an excavation at the Bush Tavern, one of the last colonial vestiges of the town. Although it now serves as a doctor's office, the building was constructed during the 1760s. Dendrochronology of the timbers showed that the timber used to construct the building was felled during the winter of 1761-1762.

Although modifications were made to the tavern over the years, the original building pre-dates the Revolutionary War. George Washington recorded in his journal that he dined in "Hartford Town" (Bush) on July 17 and September 9 and 10, 1795.

During the archeological excavation, scientists found stone features immediately behind the Bush tavern that represent additions or stand-alone buildings, a cellar and a well. By the late 19th Century these structures were abandoned and the features buried. It was possible to determine when these site components were constructed and demolished by dating the artifacts (broken dishes, buttons, etc.) below and outside of these stone structures.

Twentieth Century photographs show a frame building behind the tavern but it appears to have been a late 19th Century construction. This two-story building was likely constructed soon after the earlier buildings were razed. During the early years, the Webster, Maulsby and McGaw families owned the property, but sometimes it was leased out to other families to run as a tavern.

Henry and Ann Ozman, for example, leased the Bush Tavern for years before they purchased it in 1865. We know they operated the tavern since the 1850s, because Henry Ozman was twice accused of selling liquor on Sunday. Not only did Henry help run the tavern with his wife, Ann, but he also worked as a schooner captain.

In addition to the Ozmans, an African-American family, the Nortons, lived here in 1860. Two of the young men, Harry and Nathan, were enumerated as sailors in the U.S. Federal Census while David was a servant. It is possible the additions or buildings that archeologists found behind the tavern once served as residence for these workers.

Archeologists are spending the winter processing the artifact collection and continuing their research into the history of Bush. In the spring, a report will be published and an interpretive sign will be installed at the Bush Tavern.

# Students learn by experimental archeology

By Susan Svrluga

*Condensed from the Washington Post, October 3, 2016*

Erin Bloodgood showed up for class lugging a bulging black garbage bag. "Is that the skin?" her professor asked. She nodded and pulled out the hide of a deer shot recently on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

"Okay, so here we go," Bill Schindler said, leaning close to it. "Obviously the fat and meat we want to get out," he said, as blood dripped from the skin. "All that membrane has to come off, because we have to get the brain solution from this side all the way through."

He was teaching her how to treat a hide in the way her prehistoric ancestors had done, to produce leather soft and strong enough to use as clothing. Nearby — but not so close that the deer fur might fly into the vat — other Washington College students were helping to brew beer.

A prehistoric and experimental archeologist who specializes in primitive technologies and food, Schindler immerses himself and his students in ancient practices for an intense, visceral lesson in human history.

His underlying message is simple: Live it.

For a generation increasingly detached from the physical world by technology — where a tap on a screen can generate almost anything — Schindler wants to jar them back to the concrete. Instead of glazed eyes in lectures, he sees surprise, confusion, excitement, disgust, curiosity, wonder. They forget their phones.

Last year, Schindler almost literally lived it, as he co-starred in a National Geographic TV series, "The Great Human Race," which aimed to re-create our past from 2.5 million years ago until 5,000 years ago.

Schindler was more than a little hesitant to do TV, but ultimately was drawn to the rare opportunity to immerse himself in what he studies. In an odd way, it was a natural extension. For years now, he has been guided by an idea he calls "soul authorship": creating something from beginning to end with total engagement in the process. His family eats little that they don't make themselves. Their house is full of things fermenting, cheeses ripening, wild plants and mushrooms he foraged, wheat he milled, meat he hunted.

Experimental archeology "gives you insight that you simply cannot get just from looking at the archeological record," said Briana Pobiner, a paleoanthropologist at the National Museum of Natural History.

One day, he asked a group of students to separate the yolks from the whites from some eggs. When he came back later, nothing had happened. None of them knew how to crack an egg. How could he expect them to understand the relationship between people and the environment, health and sustainability issues, he wondered, if they don't even know the most basic thing about how to eat an egg?

When another group visited the home of an expert one evening and sat by the hearth listening to him spin tales about primitive tools, the students didn't want to leave. Schindler thought it was the expert, a charismatic speaker. No, they told him: It was the fire. They had never been next to a real fire before.

Schindler thought about all the time he had spent talking about how humans' lives changed after fire was invented. Now he tries to teach those lessons at the moment when they're smelling the smoke, feeling all the heat and intensity and brilliance and wonder of the flames on a cold, dark night and — when they're completely engaged in the moment — have them consider the impact of a single spark 2 million years ago.

"They remember it in a completely different way," he said.

He hopes his students feel, hear and taste what they're learning.

Cameron Watson, a pre-med student from D.C., was grinding corn for tortillas and talking about his classes. "Bio, I know what to expect," he said. "Psych is just psych. And macro is just, like, a bunch of graphs all the time. This is by far the most exciting class. I learned a lot more about the real world from this."

Outside, hours later, Bloodgood was still scraping the deerskin, sometimes pausing to push her glasses back up with her arm rather than touching the frames with her rubber gloves. "I have never done anything like this in my entire life," she said, a New Jersey native who spends much of her time GIS mapping. "I'm so focused on new technology — we're so far removed from the things we use."

She'll probably never again use the skills she gained here, like gathering weeds to twist into rope. What she got was more lasting. "I learned about being a human."



## PG County, JPPM looking for some workers

The Prince George's portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is looking for two archeologists for part-time jobs within the M-NCPPC's Archaeology Program. Details are available at:

Crew Chief: [http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mncppc/job\\_bulletin.cfm?JobID=1607097](http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mncppc/job_bulletin.cfm?JobID=1607097)

Field Tech: [http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mncppc/job\\_bulletin.cfm?JobID=1605830](http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mncppc/job_bulletin.cfm?JobID=1605830)

Also, the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum is seeking a [Public Services Assistant](#) to work at its Leonardtown facility. This part-time, weekend contractual position will assist in the Visitor Center and Show Barn Museum Shop. Responsibilities include greeting and assisting visitors, responding to telephone inquiries and cashier duties in the gift shop. Click the link above or see

[https://www.jobaps.com/MD/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=16&R2=001374&R3=0035&utm\\_source=Job+Post+2016-1221+Public+Services+Assistant&utm\\_campaign=job-post-public-services-assistant-jppm-2016-1221&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.jobaps.com/MD/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=16&R2=001374&R3=0035&utm_source=Job+Post+2016-1221+Public+Services+Assistant&utm_campaign=job-post-public-services-assistant-jppm-2016-1221&utm_medium=email)

## Think you had a busy year? Look at MHT's

**Continued from Page 1**

sites and at least 620 individual projects. The database is at <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/Synthesis/>.

- Dennis Curry presented a talk entitled "[Not] The Last of the Piscataways: The 17<sup>th</sup> Century Indian Fort on Heater's Island" as part of the Historic St. Mary's City Historic Lecture Series.
- Dennis also assisted with the Trust's emergency response to the July flash flood in historic Ellicott City.
- Troy Nowak and Matt McKnight continued field survey at Janes Island State Park in Somerset County in April and July, this time with the assistance of Charlie Hall, Justin Warrenfeltz and volunteer Bill Utley. The ongoing work includes survey of both terrestrial and submerged lands. It is supported by funding from the National Park Service and by in-kind support from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- Susan Langley was elected again to the national Advisory Council for Underwater Archaeology; she served a term previously (2007-2011). She also presented a paper on the analysis and differentiation of flint and chert in ballast piles at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference in Washington D.C.
- Susan represented MHT on the government team (MHT, DNR, NOAA and Charles County) to develop the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Draft Management Plan and the Draft Regulations for the proposed National Marine Sanctuary at Mallows Bay. These documents are now under review by NOAA. It is anticipated these will be posted in the Federal Register for public comment early in 2017.
- Susan is working to develop a maritime archeology component for the ASM's Certified Archeological Technician program. To test interest levels, Susan offered an "Introduction to Ship Architecture" class. Two sections of this class held at MHT and a hands-on visit to the sloop-of-war *Constellation* in Baltimore were very well-attended. Some of the courses Troy is developing for the Nautical Archaeology Society program would also fit into the CAT program
- Susan and Troy both provided a number of presentations and lectures throughout the State. As might be expected, many of these related to Mallows Bay, but Troy made a presentation to the Sons of the American Revolution about the Battles of Kedge's Strait that garnered rave reviews. Susan provided the ASM/Cresthull Memorial Lecture at Harford Community College, speaking about the Monterrey wreck that appears to be a Baltimore-built vessel, possibly a privateer, and she spoke about the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program at the ASM Annual Meeting at Catoctin Furnace. She was also the Sea Grant speaker at the University of Rhode Island's Department of Oceanography, discussing Mallows Bay in light of a ship graveyard recently documented in New England.
- Beth Cole, Dixie Henry and Troy Nowak reviewed over 3,500 federal- and state-assisted projects for their effects on terrestrial and underwater archeological sites. They also read and commented on more than 45 Phase I, II and III archeological project reports.

Archeology was also thriving at Jefferson Patterson's Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory:

- The MAC Lab was awarded the 2016 Daniel G. Roberts award for the lab's contributions to public historical archeology. This award is sponsored by the Society for Historical Archaeology.
- The Gloria S. King Research Fellowship funded two scholars. Zachary Singer (University of Connecticut) spent three weeks at the lab in August, studying lithic tools from two sites with Paleoindian components: Noland's Ferry and Higgins. The other award went to Mia Carey, a doctoral student at the University of Florida, to perform ceramic analysis in connection with the Yarrow Mamout site in Georgetown.
- Becky Morehouse reports that 45 new collections were accessioned into the lab in 2016, including several small collections from SHA-sponsored projects and a collection from Serenity's Surprise, a mid-17<sup>th</sup>- to early 18<sup>th</sup>-Century domestic site and possible trading post in Charles County.
- Updates and new sections continue to be added to the *Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland* website. In 2016, updates were made to the projectile points page. Work also focused on updating and adding new sections to the Colonial and post-Colonial ceramics pages: the North Devon coarseware, North Devon Sgraffito, Border Ware, and Chinese and Japanese porcelain pages were updated and new pages were created for English porcelain, European hard paste porcelain and bone china. <http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/index.htm>.
- The lab held two two-day workshops in April and June. The workshops, taught by Sara Rivers Cofield, Nichole Doub and Patricia Samford, focused on artifact identification and field conservation strategies for archeologists and were open to any practicing professionals and graduate students in the field of archeology. Each workshop reached capacity registration of 20 participants.
- JPPM continues to work with Huntingtown High School's Archaeology Club, under the supervision of Tricia Samford and Rachelle Green, to analyze and write up features from the Federal Reserve Site (18BC27) in Baltimore that was excavated in 1980.
- The lab provided tours to 551 people and conducted outreach and activities in local schools.
- The Public Archaeology Program, directed by Ed Chaney, had 165 participants who contributed 602 hours to the excavation of the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Smith's St. Leonard site. Work focused on a quarters for enslaved workers and also on a laundry. Analysis of plant remains from a kitchen cellar identified bayberries, which were typically processed to make wax. Interestingly, wax and candlemaking supplies were listed in a probate inventory made for the site's owner around the time the cellar was filled in.
- Nichole Doub reports that lab staff conserved artifacts from clients throughout the United States, including five Revolutionary War cannon that were installed at the soon-to-be opened Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. The lab has also completed a number of objects from Catoctin Furnace — two early 19<sup>th</sup>-Century cast iron stoves, an ore cart and a number of other mining-related iron objects; two rifles from the Second Battle of Bull Run, as well as several bayonets and a wagon wheel; and a number of unusual objects from the I-95 project in Philadelphia: a felt top hat, a firefighter's hat, early rubber boots, a miniature wooden coffin believed to be Victorian mourning object used to hold hair; and architectural ironwork.
- "The Artifacts of Outlander" traveling exhibit (based on the popular book series and the Starz Channel miniseries) continues to travel around Maryland and is booked well into 2017. The exhibit won an Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History. An online exhibit based on the traveling exhibit was launched in early December at <http://www.jefpat.org/outlander/index.html>.

In addition to the Trust's regular archeology programs (workshop, field session, etc.), there are a few things to keep an eye out for in 2017. At the Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference in Virginia Beach, Jen Sparenberg will be chairing a session on archeology and hazard mitigation, and Charlie Hall and Matt McKnight will be presenting papers in a session on Biggs Ford.

The online map-based version of the Trust's cultural resource information system (Medusa) and the MAC Lab's searchable database of its collections (funded through a grant from the Maryland State Highway Administration) will both premiere early in 2017. In the meantime, let us know what the Trust can do for you.



# Taking a new look at 1894 Jamestown dig

By Mark St. John Erickson

*Condensed from the Washington Post, December 23, 2016*

JAMESTOWN, Va. (AP) — When the first archeological excavations began at Jamestown in 1894, the study of the past through digging was not merely new but still being born.

Just 15 years had passed since 108 amateur enthusiasts founded America's first archeological group in Boston, and — in far-off Egypt — many early efforts are looked back on today as only a few steps removed from grave robbing.

But led by a lady founder of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities — which had only recently acquired the land where the nation's first permanent English settlement was planted — these pioneers decided early on to avoid “making any hurtful change” to the site they had vowed to safeguard.

They proceeded carefully as they probed for the foundations of Jamestown's old churches, then mapped and recorded their findings with unusual attention for the period, one of their successors noted in 1958.

They also appear to have treated the human remains they encountered with the reverence you'd expect from people who considered the ancient site nothing short of sacred.

But if Mary Jeffrey Galt charted a course that was notably progressive for the time, it was still primitive by 2016 standards. Just how primitive will soon be learned by the archeologists of Jamestown Rediscovery, who have returned to dig for clues to the lost church where America's first elected representative assembly met in 1619.

“For the people who've been working at Jamestown a long time, it's a real privilege to be digging here because we think we can look at this site with much more informed eyes than they had in the early 1900s,” archeologist Mary Anna Hartley said.

“What we hope to do is get below what they did and see if they left anything behind for us to look at.” Probing deep beneath the surface, the archeologists must navigate their way through a jumble of evidence left by not only the 1617 church but also the other sanctuaries that rose up on the same spot in 1639-40 and 1906.

Then there are the wrinkles posed by still earlier deposits of trash discarded by the first English settlers starting not long after they arrived in 1607.

“We're beginning to find artifacts from the early fort period,” Jamestown Discovery director William M. Kelso said. “For nearly 10 years before the 1617 church was erected here, this was part of James Fort.”

Still, since they began work in 1994, the archeologists have become experts at deciphering the puzzles left by not only 400 years of occupation but also the massive disturbance of the Civil War, when much of the early fort was buried under a Confederate earthwork.

“We know very little about the 1617 church,” Kelso says, describing plans for a 400th anniversary exhibit commemorating the historic 1619 assembly. “So any new evidence we can find about how it looked is crucial.”

Already, Hartley has exposed parts of both the 1639-40 church and the 1617 foundation underneath.

“You can tell that this was a very poorly constructed church,” she said, pointing to noticeable irregularities in a 1617 wall. “This is not very good masonry work.”

Ancient bricks, mortar and plaster aren't the only targets here, however. Somewhere beneath the surface of the chancel lie the remains of a burial unearthed by the early APVA digs, and — if it can be found again, Kelso said — it could hold the key to solving one of Jamestown's most enduring mysteries.

Eight years after his timely relief expedition saved a colony nearly wiped out by the 1609-10 Starving Time, Gov. Sir Thomas West — Lord Delaware — died while sailing back to Virginia from England.

The fate of his remains was unknown until fairly recently, when historian Martha McCartney discovered a court record revealing he had been brought to Jamestown instead of being buried at sea.

West's unusually high status may explain the unidentified bits of “silver tinsel” that the APVA, now Preservation Virginia, found inside a chancel burial in the early 1900s, Kelso said.

And with the 2013 discovery of a silver-spangled fabric tassel inside the grave of a high-ranking settler buried in the nearby 1608 church, there's every reason to believe that a clue found more than a century ago could lead to the remains of a historic figure, such as Gov. Sir George Yeardley if not West.

## Silent auction coming up at the April 8 Symposium

An ASM Silent Auction to Benefit the Analysis Fund will be held at the Spring Symposium April 8.

This is our annual opportunity to do some fundraising and have some fun. Individual members as well as chapters should consider what they can donate to the auction. In addition, we suggest contacting businesses and requesting them to donate goods or services for this event. Forms are with this newsletter.

Think about what you can donate and whom you can contact for additional donations. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to help, contact Elaine Hall at [SilentAuction@marylandarcheology.org](mailto:SilentAuction@marylandarcheology.org).

## Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has a chapter at the Community College of Baltimore County, led by Nina Brown, and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham.

### Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at [http://JamesGGibb@verizon.net](mailto:JamesGGibb@verizon.net)

### Central Chapter

For information contact [centralchapterasm@yahoo.com](mailto:centralchapterasm@yahoo.com) or [stephenisrael2701@comcast.net](mailto:stephenisrael2701@comcast.net) or 410-945-5514. Or on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter](http://www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter) or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com/>

### Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at [ccasm2010@gmail.com](mailto:ccasm2010@gmail.com). Chapter website is [charlescoasm.org](http://charlescoasm.org) and its blog is [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com)

**January 12:** A Jim Gibb workshop, "Bones for Beginners."

**February 9:** Josiah Henson Property, by Julie King and Rebecca Webster.

**March 9:** Kate Dinnel on "Elusive Artifacts-Archaeological Textiles & Native Plants."

**April 13:** Esther Doyle Read on tbd

**May 11:** tbd

### Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org) or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768)

**January 19:** Heather Bouslog, Montgomery County Parks archeologist, will speak on understanding Oakley Cabin landscapes.

**February 16:** Carole Fontenrose, chapter member, will speak on the archeology of the City of London, part II.

**March 16:** Bob Hines, chapter members and sponsor of Volunteers in Archaeology, will speak on the last year's excavation at the Riggs House in Brookeville.

## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at [digfrederick.com](http://digfrederick.com) or call 301-378-0212.

**January 11:** Ralph Koziarski with AECOM, Germantown, Maryland will present "Late Woodland Affluence on the Monocacy," with a focus on Biggs-Ford.

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are usually 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 Dan Coates at 410-273-9619 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

**January 11:** Dianne Klair and Dave Peters on the history and archeological preparations of the Burns Property. Havre de Grace City Hall.

**February 8:** Edgar Hardesty on "Encounters Between Israel and the Philistines Based on Geography and Archeology." Harford Jewish Center, Havre de Grace.

**Thursday March 9:** TBA. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

**Friday, April 7:** Becca Peixotto will talk about "The Discovery of Fossil Man in South Africa." Harford Community College, Bel Air.

**May/June.** Annual Picnic Meeting, at an historic site in Harford or Cecil County.

## St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown or at St. Mary's College. For information contact Chris Coogan at [Ccoogan@smcm.edu](mailto:Ccoogan@smcm.edu)

## Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, [www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358) or try [UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com](mailto:UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com) or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

## 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. Email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

## Frank and Ernest

by Thaves



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

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink; the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10 percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Rachael Holmes at 875 Boyd Street, Floor 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd.,

Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

**Submissions.** Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782, 301-864-5289 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

**President**

Don Housley  
301-424-8526  
[donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net)

**Vice President**

Valerie Hall  
301-814-8028  
[valeriehall@gmail.com](mailto:valeriehall@gmail.com)

**Secretary**

Barbara Israel  
410-945-5514  
[barbaraisrael@comcast.net](mailto:barbaraisrael@comcast.net)

**Treasurer**

Larry Seastrum  
410-740-2613  
[seastrim@verizon.net](mailto:seastrim@verizon.net)

**Membership Secretary**

Rachael Holmes  
360-941-9844  
[leahcar@hotmail.com](mailto:leahcar@hotmail.com)

**At-Large Trustees**

Claude Bowen  
301-953-1947  
[claud.bowen@comcast.net](mailto:claud.bowen@comcast.net)

Lynne Bulhack  
301-460-5356  
[lbulhack@aol.com](mailto:lbulhack@aol.com)

Katharine Fernstrom  
410-243-2757  
[kfernstrom@towson.edu](mailto:kfernstrom@towson.edu)

Elaine Hall  
240-426-1298  
[Elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com](mailto:Elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com)

Annetta Schott  
443-949-4122  
[annettaschott@gmail.com](mailto:annettaschott@gmail.com)

Belinda Urquiza  
410-535-2586  
[burquiza@comcast.net](mailto:burquiza@comcast.net)

