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Swan Cove: The 2005 field school report

By Mechelle L. Kerns-Nocerito
Lost Towns Project

This year's Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology was held at Swan Cove (18AN 934) in Anne Arundel County from September 16 to 25 hosted by Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project. Swan Cove is one of eight known sites that were part of the 17th Century settlement of Providence. The site represents two periods of occupation that of Emanuel Drue (ca. 1650-1669) and Henry Merriday (to ca. 1721). Excavations focused upon two large pit features, one from each period and continued plowzone excavation.

We had an excellent turnout with 61 registered participants. The LostTowns staff and ASM participants were divided into three groups, one for each feature complex and a third group working in the field lab.

Part of the crew, headed by Shawn Sharpe, worked on the western side of the site within the Drue complex of features (features 25, 47 and 51). This area dates to the Drue occupation and this year's finds were markedly more domestic in nature than the past field session at Swan Cove. Many pipes as well as abundant North Devon Sgraffito and a spoon were discovered. However, this year's excavation did not reveal as much kiln furniture and muffle fragments as associated with the southern section of the site, the probable site of Drue's pipe manufacturing and kiln activities.

The most interesting pipe-related industrial items were two pieces of brass wire used to make bores in the pipes. One was found still lodged in place in a white Drue pipe stem. Shawn had help from many ASMers with a team that included Georgia Nasios, Mike Perrino, Lillian Hall, Alex

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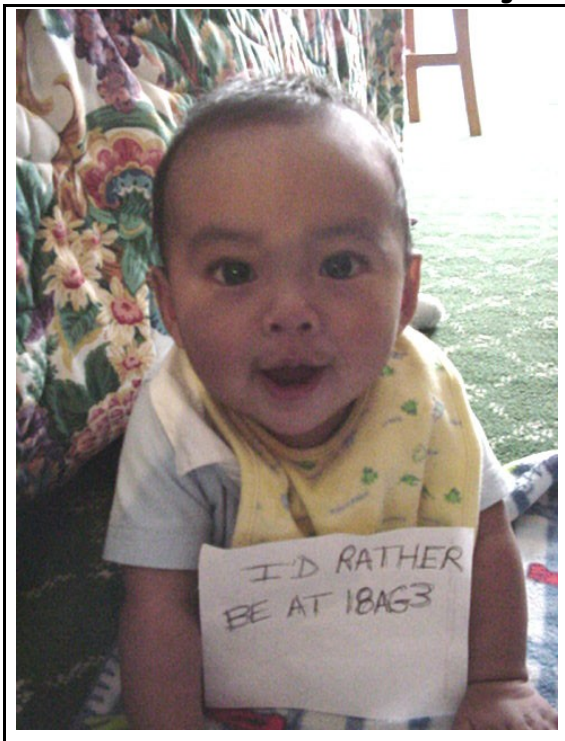


It's ASM membership renewal time. See insert with this newsletter.

Upcoming events

December 3: ASM board meeting, Crownsville. 10 a.m. All are welcome.

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. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 410-586-8501.

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 archaeology.

CAT corner

For updates and for information on CAT activities check the ASM website or contact your mentor.

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 rervin@sha.state.md.us

The names they left behind

By Karl Blankenship

Condensed from The Bay Journal, July-August 2005

Chesapeake Bay stems from an Algonquian word meaning "great shellfish bay" and the rivers that feed the Chesapeake were just as important to the Native Americans who lived along their shorelines.

Stephen A. Runkle, with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, recently compiled a report listing the meanings of Native American names for more than 300 waterbodies and places in the region. They include:

- *Potomac:* from Powhatan for "something brought," a reference to the tribute brought by other tribes to the powerful chief "Potomecke" of the region.
- *Nanticoke:* from Delaware for "tidewater people," a closely related tribe living along the river.
- *Chemung:* from the Seneca word "a horn" or "antler," also a chief's "headgear."
- *Antietam:* from Piscataway for "swift water."
- *Mattawoman:* from Piscataway for "where one goes pleasantly."
- *Choptank:* from the Choptank, meaning, "It flows back strongly," a reference to tidal changes.
- *Monocacy:* from Delaware for "A stream with several large bends."
- *Susquehanna*: Delaware for "the long reach river," "muddy river" or "winding river."
- *Juniata:* from Seneca for "a projecting rock" or "standing stone," a reference to a geologic formation near Huntingdon, PA, where several Native American trails intersected.
- *Wicomico:* from Piscataway for "pleasant dwelling or village."

Runkle's full document, "Native American Waterbody and Place Names Within the Susquehanna River Basin and Surrounding Subbasins," is available on the SRBC's web site, www.srbc.net/nativeamerican.htm

The petroglyphs and a 1916 visitor.

Bald Friar petroglyph going to JefPat

By John Fritze

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, October 26, 2005

Prehistoric stone carvings described by scientists as a window into an ancient people who once roamed Maryland have been piled in a quiet corner of Baltimore's Druid Hill Park for more than 60 years - all but forgotten, despite their significance.

Transported from the Susquehanna Valley in the 1920s, the carvings, which may date to 2000 B.C., were placed in one of the city's largest parks - out of sight - in the 1940s and have been virtually ignored ever since.

But now, ownership of the artifacts, known as the Bald Friar Petroglyphs, will be transferred from the Baltimore parks department to the Maryland Historical Trust, which hopes to move them to a museum for further study.

The stone carvings, older than those of the Aztecs, include concentric circles and fish-like designs that are so old archeologists are unsure of their meaning or their makers.

"They're very evocative. They reach out in a way that stone tools and broken pots can't about the humanness of these prehistoric inhabitants," said Charles L. Hall, Maryland's terrestrial archeologist. "It's that artistic expression that really strikes a chord."

The story of their arrival in Baltimore begins in 1926 with the building of the Conowingo Dam, which flooded the lower Susquehanna Valley, where the carvings were located. Preservationists, unable to save the large rocks intact, used dynamite to blast them into smaller pieces that could be carried away.

Many carvings were destroyed in the process, but some wound up with the Maryland Academy of Sciences, then on North Charles Street. The organization's office moved in the 1940s and the rocks were too large to fit into the new space. They were placed at Druid Hill Park until a better location could be found.

That better spot was never identified.

"They had been here for such a long time there really wasn't anyone around who knew they were still here," said Fran Spero, director of park conservation and community outreach for the city. She said she was alerted to the carvings by a phone call from a curious park visitor about two years ago.

Spero said the department reached out to archeologists and eventually connected with Hall. The carvings, which scientists fear could be damaged if discovered, will be moved to the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in Calvert County.

There, the carvings will be preserved, kept secure and made available to other institutions on loan, said Julia King, director of the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory, which is on the museum site. King said

scientists will also work to ensure the public has access to the artifacts. **Continued on next page**

"We will get everything under one roof, out of the weather," she said.

Chris S. Cropper, a spokesman for the Maryland Academy of Sciences, said the academy, an independent science group founded in 1797, never forgot about the carvings, he said, and deliberately kept them in the park where they could sit undisturbed.

Wayne Clark, an archeologist with the Maryland Historical Trust, said he believes some etchings were used as educational guides by tribal leaders during coming-of-age ceremonies.

Others appear to be fish, which Clark said are probably symbolic of creation myths in which fish acted as communicators between the underworld and societies of the time. The carvings cannot be dated more exactly, scientists said, because they do not contain carbon.

Clark said he believes they were crafted between 1,000 B.C. and 2,000 B.C. because Native Americans were harvesting fish at falls along the river at that time.

Hall said he is less certain of the meaning of the carvings. They could have been used to mark territory, he said. One carving appears to represent a serpent, which often signified danger. He believes the carvings were probably crafted long before more modern tribes migrated to the area.

"It's not like the stick figures of humans or animals. They're not easily made into images that we can relate to," Hall said. "We know they're old, but we don't know exactly how old."

From the Trust

Hoping to return Friar to native area

On October 26, 2005, the City of Baltimore Board of Estimates agreed to "irrevocably quitclaim all interest" in the Bald Friar Petroglyphs to the Maryland Historical Trust. The Trust is now awaiting a favorable similar action on the part of the Maryland Science Center (the Maryland Academy of Sciences' descendant organization). Once that is done, the Trust plans to field a crew of conservators and archeologists who will prepare the 15 stones currently in Druid Hill Park for transportation to the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory at Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum in Calvert County, where they will be cleaned, conserved and inventoried in detail. The petroglyphs, which have been in a state of neglect and increasing danger of vandalism, finally will be secure.

After ensuring the safety of the petroglyphs, the next goal is to find appropriate partner organizations to display them through long-term loan agreements. The geographic focus of this effort will be the northern Chesapeake area, near their point of origin. The Trust hopes to assist with identifying funding sources, if needed, and to help develop interpretative and outreach materials to accompany the displays. The Trust also will serve as a central point of contact for inventory and locational tracking of the petroglyphs for those wishing to access them for research and study, and will be able to provide for their long-term preservation.

It is our hope that by taking these steps we will complete the monumental efforts of the Maryland Academy of Sciences in 1926 to save the stones from inundation and make them accessible to the people of Maryland.

Ill wind Ophelia uncovers Blackbeard ship artifacts

Condensed from the Washington Post, October 22, 2005

Researchers excavating the site of the pirate Blackbeard's wrecked ship got an unexpected assist from Hurricane Ophelia, which unearthed an apothecary mortar from the remains of the Queen Anne's Revenge.

The item was among several items revealed among the wreckage when the storm churned up the North Carolina coastline last month, said Chris Southerly, project archeologist for the Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck Project. Two cannons, an anchor and other debris were also exposed when Ophelia scoured sand to the south and southwest of the main ballast pile.

Project workers believe that is the stern of the vessel, where the officers' quarters would have been and where divers are most likely to find Blackbeard's personal items, Southerly said.

The storm's help wasn't all beneficial. It also appeared to have damaged the bronze or copper alloy pestle, stripping off bits of a thin corrosive layer that had protected its surface as it lay on the ocean floor.

Profile in Maryland archeology

An interview with … Susan Langley

Susan Langley heads the Maryland Historical Trust's underwater archeology department, but sometimes shows up at terrestrial sites too.

Q. How did you get involved, interested, in archeology?

A. I always have been interested. My mother was big into history and so was my dad. The first thing I remember that got me into archeology in general and underwater specifically was the cover of a National Geographic from about 1961 or '2. It was of a diver coming out of a cenote. I didn't know then, obviously, but he was holding up a pot and had a light strapped to his arm and there was silt swirling out of the pot on this black background. And that sticks in my memory. Then they took us to Arizona and New Mexico, when I was about 9, and we had an uncle whose property was on a site and the university was out there excavating and they would let you go out and collect pottery they didn't want and things like that, go into cliff dwellings; that was the first little hook.

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. Canada. I grew up in Sarnia, Ontario, which is a border town with Port Huron, Michigan, right at the tip of Lake Huron. In high school I was always interested in archeology and our guidance counselors -- never trust them -- said, "Oh, no, you don't want to do that. You'll never get a job in archeology. You'll end up at best in the lab all the time." So, I thought I will go into fine art history and at least I'll work in a museum and I'll get to handle the stuff. When I got to university, I had a tutorial assistant, first year Anthropology 100, who said, "Who told you that? Of course you'll get in the field." I did a flip and did fine art history as a minor and anthropology as a major, with a specialty in archeology.

Q. When did you decide that underwater instead of terrestrial was your favorite?

A. Well, I'd been interested in it since being hooked by Geographic and all those other things you see on television. Of course we did not have the Discovery Channel and all that other stuff back then. I had asked about it when I was an undergrad and another tutorial assistant pooh-poohed it. He was like, "Oh, no, everything will be buried." Of course, this was a person who knew nothing about it. I was kind of disappointed. The last year I was an undergrad we had to do field school and we were doing it at Fort Malden, which is south of Windsor (Ontario), right across from Detroit; a major War of 1812 battle, right on the / ..

water and in the fort. We were doing it for Parks Canada, which is the Canadian national parks service and I said, "Haven't you done any work out here on these naval battles?" and they said, "No, but the underwater unit of Parks Canada did some work down the road at a shipyard." At the end of the program, fortunately, one of the guys who was teaching it remembered me, called me up and said, "They need an extra diver out in Red Bay, Labrador. Do you want a job?" I said, "Sure." I turned down another job.

Q. What was it like?

A. It was interesting. It was a 1565 Basque whaling vessel. It was Red Bay, Labrador, which has since come to much more fame then when I was there. I was there for the second and third years -- it went for eight

years. The ship was fully loaded with whale oil and was ready to leave when it was taken down in a storm. It was in about 60 feet of water, relatively clear, very cold, of course. We had to dry-suit dive. We had icebergs lodging up again the island that we were working behind. We learned a lot, and there was a terrestrial excavation going on on shore by Memorial University of the whaling station with the rendering vats and things like that and the cemetery. It was an interesting project, it was a lot of fun, learned a lot, and it gave me sort of a foot in the door to other things.

Q. Is there better preservation in cold water?

A. Yes, Best preservation is cold, fresh, deep water; more anaerobic situations too if something is buried. But fresh water more so than salt because there's less corrosion and the deeper and colder it is, things do tend to preserve better; less bacteria live there and the faster something gets buried anywhere the better it preserves. I think the coolest thing I found on that site – and there was a lot of cool stuff. I found a shoe, with the laces still in it, a little wooden heel. And that really humanizes the site. You start to speculate about, Who wore this? Was he important? Would I have liked him? Was it somebody I would have a beer with or would I have not cared for him at all? Does he still have family alive? Do they know they had an ancestor who died here? Not necessarily died, but lost a shoe anyway. It really adds a human dimension to a site that was largely architectural features of the ship and barrel after barrel after barrel of whale oil.

Q. When did you come to Maryland?

A. Just over 11 years ago. I was living in Alberta at time. I had just finished up my doctorate, which I had done three years, took four off and finished three. In the intervening period I had gone to Thailand for two years and taught underwater archeology for UNESCO. I came back to finish off my doctorate and this job opened up. I wasn't going to apply for it because it I thought, "Even if you get an interview, they never are going to hire a foreigner, it's too much trouble." But a friend of mine said, "You've got to apply. How often does something exactly in your field come up?" Very few of my friends are either still in the discipline, or if they are, they're not in the field they started in. So I said, "Okay, I'll apply." I went down for the interview and my then-husband said, "So how do you think you did?" and I said, "It went really well, but I am sure I won't come in any better than second because it's just too much of a hassle to try to hire me." Which was true, in fact -- I did come in second. But the person who was offered the job turned it down, so I got it by default. Which is a bonus, really, because then nobody can say, "They only hired you because you are a woman," because they had offered it to a man, and "they hired a foreigner," well they offered it to an American first. So it's one of those times being second paid off.

Q. What interesting sites have you worked on in your career?

A. In general, or specifically here?

Q. Whatever.

A. Well, the Basque ship was fascinating. It was a huge project, it was extremely well funded, one of the last really well-funded projects, that went on for a long period. It was deep enough to be challenging, but not deep enough to be hideously dangerous. It was clear, good visibility. So that was a very nice site. When I worked in Thailand we had two different sites. One was a ship that had been in dry dock. It was in mangrove swamp when it was abandoned, and we had more or less coffered it off. The other project was a 19th Century -- so not very old -- merchant vessel that was absolutely loaded with ceramics. Fort Malden wasn't an underwater site, but it was a fascinating historical site, that's where I learned a lot about historic ceramics, which is an interest of mine. Those are particularly nice sites. I worked in Fiji for a month, but the sites were dreadful. It was just a nice place to dive, a nice place to be stuck for a month. In Maryland, the German U-boat, the U-1105, in the Potomac, is a particularly interesting site. The visibility is so low. I know there's a lot of sites out there we haven't found yet. It's very difficult to work on them, so we end up doing a lot more inventory and remote sensing than we do full-scale excavation. We have to find the money to do that – not just do the excavation, but also to pay for the conservation. The golden age of being able to do very large sites to the extent people would like was pretty much the '60s and maybe the '70s, unless you have a Mary Rose or a LaBelle or something that still evokes a lot of history like any of the Civil War sites – the Hunley, the Alabama. But even the Navy has said, "You know, we've done Hunley, Alabama and Monitor, three Civil War shipwreck sites." It's going to be a frosty Friday before we get a lot of money out of the Legacy program again to do shipwrecks. Actually, it's not impossible. I was talking to them and they are interested in other sorts of

projects. I think the era of doing grand-scale shipwrecks, unless you have something extremely significant, is over, probably more survey these days. I did have one other project I worked on, that apparently (I've now been told) I'm the world authority on. It's Project Habakkuk, and it was a World War II vessel prototype. It was a plan to build aircraft carriers out of ice. And that's up in the Alberta Rockies.

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

A. Everything cycles. When I first came here we were recovering from a bit of a depression, a recession or whatever you want to call it. And everybody was concerned, but things picked up and they'll pick up again. We also have to move with the times and try to tie our projects to things that are meaningful to other agencies if we are going to continue to get funding. I've had very good luck with the National Park Service the last few years. But when you do work for them you're tied to usually a specific park unit. Like working with the Navy you're tied to a specific project or specific ship. I'm trying to find a way to do more baywide projects, so I can go where I need to do research. We need to be looking more toward emergency response and I am not saying that just because of Katrina. This is something I have been involved in for a few years with the Coast Guard, with the EPA; looking at contingency planning. For example, even before Isabel, when we had the oil spill down on the Patuxent, we had just had a three-day training, right before that, so everybody was prepped to deal with it. We have to do a major survey of the sites we already have and say how many of these have eroded, how many are still there, how many are threatened, how many are truly important? We have to prioritize them, because if there is an oil spill or a hurricane, which sites will I absolutely not let them drive a D9 Cat through to put in a berm or deploy booms to suck up oil and things, and which ones can we, if we had to, allow to let go. Which ones are we cherishing as significant that have eroded or have a Wal-Mart sitting on them now? I'm looking for some fairly significant funding and, if I can, tie it in. I've been talking to the Navy. They said, if they happen to have a mission where somebody needs training in something or they had a specific project they would like to see us make cooperative proposals -- not necessarily that we are going to go out and find their shipwrecks, but we can offer their salvage or research units an opportunity to come out and learn sidescan or if we can tie it to something they want to do anyway. If I can tie it to homeland security, they're interested in knowing what's in the vicinity of some of their areas of sensitivity. So I think we are going to have to look at a lot of heavy-duty partnerships and we're going to have to very much try to integrate with projects that have more than one benefit. For the underwater program particularly what I am going to be looking for is working on what we call our Area Contingency Plan. Maryland is considered to be in the forefront of this but I think we are woefully lacking, so that means everybody else is in much worse shape, because they keep calling me in as a good example and although I know what we need to do but at the moment I don't have the money to do it, the wherewithal. But we are going to try to undertake, in partnership with universities, volunteers, anyone we can get, consulting firms, a major survey of all our riverine sites, whether they're in the water or on the water, find out what's still there, what's gone now, and then prioritize them. That's going to be a multi-year project obviously. That's probably where we are going to have to go. So things will turn around again but we just have to be a little bit creative and a little bit intelligent about where we look for money and with whom and how we partner to make things of maximum benefit to the maximum number of people and partners.

Lost and found: But whose skull?

By Peter Carlson

Condensed from the Washington Post, October 20, 2005

The mystery of the missing skull began around Christmas of 2003, when Bill Fecke, then manager of Washington's Congressional Cemetery, got a phone call from a man who wouldn't identify himself.

As Fecke tells the story, the caller said he possessed a bizarre collection, owned by a man who'd recently died, of 40 skulls, including that of William Wirt -- U.S. attorney general from 1817 to 1829, the presidential candidate of the Anti-Masonic Party in 1832 and a prosecutor in Aaron Burr's treason trial -- who was buried in Congressional Cemetery in 1834.

"He said, 'What do you know about a grave robbery in your cemetery 18 years ago?' " Fecke recalls. "He said, 'Would you be interested in getting William Wirt's head back?' The man called a couple times but never produced the skull. Fecke checked Wirt's tomb, an underground crypt topped with a grand marble column.

"I confirmed that somebody had broken into it," Fecke says. **Continued on next page**

The grave had been closed by placing a heavy slab of granite over the entrance. Lifting the granite would require many strong backs, so Fecke could not get inside to see whether Wirt's head was missing.

About a month later, in January 2004, Fecke got a call from council member Jim Graham.

"Are you missing William Wirt's head?" Graham remembers asking.

Graham told Fecke that he had the skull in his office, in an old metal box painted with gold block letters reading "Hon. Wm. Wirt." Graham said he got the skull from someone who preferred to remain anonymous. The mystery man had asked Graham to call the cemetery to determine whether it was really Wirt's head.

Fecke said he didn't know but hoped to find out soon. He promised to call Graham back.

Months went by. Impatient, Graham called the cemetery several times.

"It sort of fell through the cracks," says Patrick Crowley, a member of the cemetery board. Despite its name, the cemetery is a private entity run by a board of volunteers. "We didn't get to it for a year."

Finally, this May, a cemetery "task force" entered the tomb. The tomb was so chaotic they could not tell which casket belonged to Wirt, and therefore could not determine whether his head was missing.

"We didn't really take inventory because we're not anthropologists," says Crowley. "We said, 'Let's get Owsley.' "

When Smithsonian anthropologist Douglas Owsley agreed to take a look at the mysterious skull, Crowley went to Graham's office to pick it up. But Graham wasn't there, and in his absence one of his staffers refused to hand it over. So it sat in the red box on a shelf for several more weeks until Crowley finally picked it up.

This week, still incensed that he might be perceived as a wacko skull collector, Graham revealed who gave him the relic: Allan Stypeck, owner of Second Story Books, a local used-book emporium.

Stypeck says he found the skull while appraising the collection of Robert L. White, a cleaning supplies salesman from Catonsville, Md., who died in October 2003 who collected various things.

"I opened the box," he recalls, "and I saw a skull."

When Stypeck learned that Wirt was buried in Congressional Cemetery, he says, he asked his friend Graham for advice on how to return it, and Graham said, "Bring it over and I'll call them."

Meanwhile, the skull has been resting since July in the Owsley's lair at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. On Tuesday, Owsley sat at a table in front of the tin box. He opened the container, revealing a bright purple cloth. He pulled it back and picked up a brown skull with a big hole on the left side.

The skull came from a white male, he said. The hole was made after his death.

Cemetery records show that eight people were buried in the tomb, Owsley said. Five were women: Wirt's wife, three daughters and a granddaughter. The men: Wirt, who died at 62, his son-in-law, Adm. Louis Goldsborough, who died at 72, and Goldsborough's son, a Marine lieutenant also named Louis Goldsborough, who died of tuberculosis during the Civil War at 24.

Yesterday afternoon, Owsley crawled around Wirt's tomb on his hands and knees, pushing bits of bones and rotted wood into a dustpan. With the help of anthropologist Laurie Burgess and others from the Smithsonian, Owsley had managed to identify each of the bodies in the crypt.

The admiral was up on the top shelf, his head still in place.

The lieutenant was on the middle shelf, 15 buttons from his Marine uniform tarnished but identifiable. Most of his skull was missing, but a piece of the jaw was still there. So the skull in the tin box was definitely not his. Wirt's coffin had rotted. His bones had been scattered on the floor. The skull was missing.

Owsley opened the tin box and picked up the skull. It had the same brown color as Wirt's bones. And the dried plant roots stuck in the skull, near the back of the mouth, looked like the roots clinging to Wirt's leg bones. Owsley looked for neck vertebrae to see if they fit into the skull but they, too, were missing.

He returned to the tomb to look again, crawling on the floor, sweeping up rotted wood, looking for Wirt's vertebrae. He didn't find them. But he did find, tucked beneath the old metal ladder leading down into the chamber, the bones of a newborn baby.

No infant is listed in the cemetery records for the tomb. Owsley suspects that the baby was placed there more recently, perhaps sometime after the grave robbers broke into the crypt.

"My best professional judgment," Owsley concluded, "is that the skull matches the skeleton."

Swan Cove: The 2005 field school report

Continued from Page 1

Boyne and Vivian Eicke, who all spent many hours helping excavate and document these features.

Jane Cox oversaw the excavation of feature 18, a cellar from the Merriday occupation. We took advantage of all the great ASM help to re-open the feature that had been back-filled after half the feature was removed in 2002. Belinda Urquiza, Alex McPhil, Ella Bassani, John Newton and Maxine Grabill took turns "in the hole" removing the five feet of fill dirt. That exercise took two whole days, but it was well worth it.

The Merriday cellar was nicknamed "surf and turf" by Maxine as strat after strat produced oyster shells mixed in with animal jaws bones and teeth, portions of long bones (non-human) and tiny fish bones, all sticking out the of the dark loamy soil. Ceramics, a fork, a spoon, a set of dividers and part of an iron kettle made up the domestic cellar fill.

One major accomplishment was finding additional postholes relating to the Merriday cellar. This helped document the footprint of the structure. The plow zone of six units was removed to expose four additional postholes that revealed the location of the fireplace and two new structural support posts. These appear to indicate an 18 x 30? foot building with a central chimney.

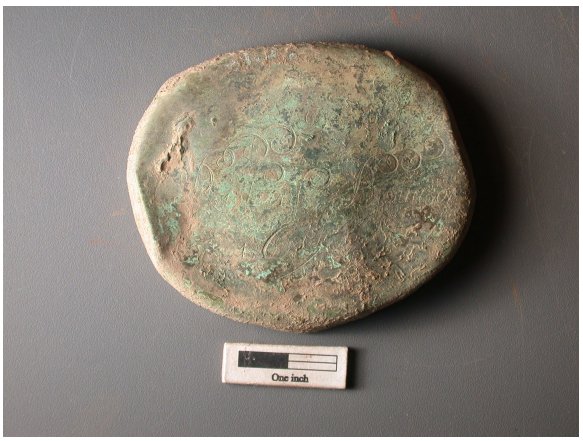
Feature 51 revealed the most exciting find of the session: an oval shaped tobacco tin, engraved with the name "Richard Bennison 1673." Made from a copper alloy this artifact added another character to the Emanuel Drue story, his neighbor Bennison. Lost Towns historian Tony Lindauer is researching the connection between these two men. Another wonderful find was a brass "seal top" spoon. Its maker's mark is being scrutinized by the Lost Towns lab.

There were several prehistoric finds, including a small gorget fragment. Points (including a "Fishtail" type) and debitage were found among the domestic fill in feature 18. Low-fired red earthenware, usually associated with Native Americans, also was found in feature 18.

Many ASM members enrolled in the CAT program excavated and helped with the field lab to accrue hours toward their certificates. Charles Hall and Dennis Curry from MHT were practically men of leisure (not really) as the Lost Towns staff took control of the field session, leaving them to screen, socialize and ponder artifacts, although Dennis did recover the Bennison "tin." Other members of the MHT staff (past and present) on hand included Susan Langley, Maureen Kavanagh, Steve Bilicki, Wayne Clark and the session's namesake, Tyler Bastian.

The lunchtime lectures were provided again this year. A number of talks were conducted under the cover of shade to provide a reprieve from the sun. Julia King gave a well-received nighttime lecture at London Town on the National Endowment for the Humanities 17th Century comparative culture project.

A pair of dividers from feature 18.



The Bennison tobacco tin from feature 51.

Iraqi looting heads FBI most-wanted list

By The Associated Press

Condensed from the Washington Post, November 16, 2005

The FBI's newest most-wanted list includes a Cezanne, a Leonardo and a couple of van Goghs.

The bureau unveiled its top 10 art crimes list yesterday to call attention to a problem that Interpol ranks third among property crimes worldwide and costs an estimated $6 billion a year.

Heading the list are 7,000 to 10,000 Iraqi antiquities that were stolen from the Iraq National Museum and archeological sites after the U.S. invasion in 2003.

Iraq site looting still going on

By Guy Gugliotta

Condensed from the Washington Post, November 8, 2005

More than 2 1/2 years after looters sacked Iraq's National Museum in Baghdad, Iraqi authorities and police forces throughout the world are still searching for thousands of stolen items.

U.S. military sources say forces in Iraq have no systematic way of investigating the missing objects, and in the ongoing insurgency neither U.S. nor Iraqi forces can justify using scarce manpower to guard sites in the countryside, where widespread looting has continued unchecked since the March 2003 U.S. invasion.

Law enforcement organizations worldwide are chasing the lost items, but said there is no systematic coordination and they are relying on a shifting set of ad hoc partnerships to bring the thieves to account.

Marine Col. Matthew Bogdanos, charged with recovering the museum treasures in the six months after the fall of Saddam Hussein, eventually counted about 14,000 lost items, of which about 5,500 have been recovered.

Perhaps not surprisingly, only a few high-quality looted pieces have reappeared since the end of 2003. Yet paradoxically, although lower-end artifacts occasionally are placed for auction on the Internet, there has been no serious upsurge in public sales of Iraqi antiquities, either in the United States or Europe.

Experts attribute the absence of a market to a combination of factors, none of them verifiable. Tough laws in Britain and the United States may have scared off known dealers, some say, or smugglers may simply have stashed their prizes in warehouses until they think it is safe.

Most sources agree, however, that the most famous pieces are too hot ever to be handled again in public. Without sophisticated police work, help from the art world and patience, the only people who will ever see them are the millionaires who buy them on the black market and lock them away.

Two months before the 2003 invasion, a small group of experts warned Pentagon officials about the possibility of looting once the shooting stopped. It had happened in the chaos after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, and U.S. forces could expect the same this time, they said. And so it proved.

Outside the capital, looting of known archeological sites has proceeded unimpeded and there is no end in sight as long as overburdened U.S. and Iraqi security forces remain preoccupied with battling insurgents.

Since Bogdanos departed Iraq, U.S. forces no longer have a systematic way to search for artifacts, and the effort has devolved upon an assortment of organizations, including the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, Interpol, the FBI and experts at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute. "There is no coordination," Bogdanos said. "It's based on personal relationships, and when it works, it's a surprise."

But there is little evidence that anyone in the United States or Europe is taking advantage. In fact, whatever market there was for Iraqi antiquities appears to be drying up.

Britain's draconian 2003 Iraq Sanctions Order has put the burden of proof on a dealer to show that an artifact is not stolen. Neil Brodie, of Cambridge University, credits the new British law with the collapse of the London market. "I thought it would go right to New York," he said, "but it hasn't happened."

That is because "people here at the high end understand that this is illegal," said New York lawyer William Pearlstein. "We have a very heavily policed antiquities market and the message has gotten through."

Stony Brook University archeologist Elizabeth Stone, however, has been leading an effort to compare "before and after" satellite photographs of well-known sites in southern Iraq and has found holes "denser than Swiss cheese."

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The next chapter meeting will be in February. Details to be announced by new leader, Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito. For information on this chapter, contact AAChapASM@hotmail.com

Central

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

Mid-Potomac

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 the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or hurst_joy@hotmail.com . Chapter website: www.digfrederick.bravehost.com

Northern Chesapeake

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

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

December: No meeting.

January 9: To be announced.

February 13: Robert Wall on "The Barton Site."

March 13: Cherry Koontz on "Two Weeks Around the Horn."

April 10: Charlie and Helen Koontz on "Egypt: Pyramids, Temples and Sculptures."

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

December: Holiday Break

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@aol.com

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