

# ASM Ink

June 2018, Vol. 45, No. 6

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



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

## Calverton field school rolls right along

The 2018 ASM field session at Calverton got off to a fast start for several reasons: There was no mass collection of oyster shells, eager volunteers turned out and, perhaps most important, the sod of the areas chosen for excavation were mechanically removed before the diggers arrived.

Principal Investigator Kirsti Uunila expressed pleasure with the way things were going and with the volunteer turnout, which, while being less than last year, was unequalled in enthusiasm. Forty-four people had pre-registered and 10 registered on

site (as of Tuesday). The volunteers included several talented and hard-working school children.

The two areas of exploration were, first, what is referred to as the Tawney Dependency, the site of an unlabeled building appearing on a 1682 plat of the area right next to a building labelled the Tawney house.

"There's so many artifacts coming out of here," said area chief Valerie Hall.

Second is an "enormous feature" (according to Kirsti) found last year but which doesn't appear on the 1682 plat, indicating it came into existence later. More information on it can't be determined until its edges are uncovered. Thanks to the removal of the sod by Calvert County workers and not having to worry about counting oyster shells, excavation began quickly.

Summing up the first half of the session, Kirsti said, "That pleases me a lot."

The session goes on until Sunday, June 3. The last day won't have to be spent backfilling, because of the Calvert County support. So there still is time for ASM members to come to the lovely waterside site and dig for pleasure and treasure.



*Photo by Tammy Boone*

Valerie Hall and Helen Boone look for more treasures in a screen serving the Tawney Dependency.

# Upcoming events

**May 25 - June 4:** Tyler Bastian Field Session, Calverton Site, Calvert County

**October 13:** ASM Annual meeting in Havre de Grace

**November 1-4:** Eastern States Archeological Federation annual meeting, Watertown, N.Y. [esaf-archeology.org](http://esaf-archeology.org)

# Volunteer opportunities

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

**ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab:** The lab in Crownsville has reopened after the mold problem was resolved. Contact Charlie Hall at [Charles.Hall@MHT](mailto:Charles.Hall@MHT) or Louise Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) for information. Currently the lab is dealing with artifacts uncovered in Fells Point in Baltimore.

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. 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 county sites. Weekdays only. Email [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.

Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in working on processing archaeological collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at [Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov) or 410-313-0423.

## CAT corner:

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

## Nominations sought for ASM offices

ASM is holding its election this year. Ballots will appear in the July newsletter and will be counted at the Annual Meeting in Havre de Grace October 13.

The offices are: president, vice president, secretary, membership secretary, treasurer and six at-large board members. If you'd like to be on the ballot, contact Myron Beckenstein at [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

# Trump strikes again at archeologists

By Dino Grandoni

*Condensed from the Washington Post, May 3, 2018*

The Bureau of Land Management blocked at least 14 of its staff archeologists and other specialists from attending a major scientific conference this year, at a time when archeological sites have become a flashpoint in the debate over public lands protection.

The archeologists and other BLM employees were scheduled to attend the annual meeting in Washington of the Society for American Archaeology, the largest organization of professional archeologists in the Western Hemisphere. But officials at BLM's headquarters in Washington only authorized the attendance of three archeologists, citing "the potential travel and other costs" of the trips.

"The decision was made after reviewing the conference topics and agenda, and we sent the people who could best represent the BLM," BLM spokeswoman Amber Cargile said. "We value our professional relationship with SAA and the important role our archeologists play in the bureau's multiple use mission."

The archeologists from BLM were to give a presentation at a symposium "Tough Issues in Land Management Archeology," which ultimately had to be cancelled due to the lack of participation of government scientists.

Now some archeological and environmental groups point to the decision as another example of the Trump Interior Department's effort to restrict researchers' communications with the public and fellow scientists. (BLM is part of Interior.)

"From what I understand, there doesn't seem to be a good reason to do this," said Paul Reed, a preservation archeologist with the nonprofit archeology organization Archaeology Southwest. "It's a lost opportunity."

"I certainly think this is a part of the overall political shift," Reed added.

The symposium was going to touch on several contentious issues, according to the event schedule, including the enforcement of the 1906 Antiquities Act under which President Barack Obama designated numerous new national monuments now under review by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The act, signed by Theodore Roosevelt, grants the president authority to set aside public land — including archeological sites — for natural, scientific or cultural protection. One of the justifications for the national monument designations was to protect culturally historic sites for Native Americans.

Only permitted researchers can legally dig for artifacts on BLM lands. The Utah monument areas, overseen in part by BLM, have both been raided by artifact looters.

But many conservatives, including many Utahns who want better access to the land for grazing and other commercial activity, saw the sprawling size of both designations as a case of classic federal overreach.

Late last year, President Trump officially moved to shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante by more than 1.1 million acres and more than 800,000 acres, respectively. "They don't know your land, and truly, they don't care for your land like you do," Trump said in Salt Lake City. "But from now on, that won't matter."

The head of the Society for American Archaeology expressed disappointment that BLM archeologists could not share their knowledge of the land with other researchers gathered in Washington.

The scientific society added that archeologists from federal land management agencies, including the BLM, have regularly attended and presented at SAA conferences since the government began hiring archeologists after the passage of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act.

"This entire incident reeks of scientific interference to advance the administration's energy-at-all-costs agenda," said Aaron Weiss, media director at the Center for Western Priorities.

The restriction on archeologists attending the conference this year did not span the entire Interior Department. The National Park Service, another division within Interior, gave the greenlight to all 25 of its archeologists who asked for permission to go to the SAA conference, NPS spokesman Jeremy Barnum said.

At other times, however, various Interior Department agencies reined in how government-funded science is publicized. Last year, officials at Interior headquarters directed the U.S. Geological Survey to delete a line from a news release discussing the role climate change played in raising Earth's oceans.

# Answers sought about Columbia cemetery find

By Ricardo Whitaker

*Condensed from the Guilford Gazette, May 10, 2018*

In the Columbia village of Kings Contrivance, there is a little-known cemetery behind an office park along Guilford Road. In the background you hear the roar of the automobiles from Route 32 where it intersects Broken Land Parkway. The lot where this resting place is located is otherwise peaceful and undisturbed. There is shade, making it more pleasant than many of your well-maintained, commercial establishments.

Not many residents in the area know that this cemetery exists. Most of the headstones are not marked and most of them are not carved. They are fieldstones, likely from the old Guilford Quarry, according to Julie Schablitsky, chief archeologist at the State Highway Administration.

Schablitsky is working with a small group of history-minded Howard County residents to learn more about this small cemetery, which dates back to the early 1800's.

According to Bessie Bordenave, a local historian, the land is located in what was Guilford before Columbia was founded. Bordenave is an African American, who has a keen interest in the black history of Guilford and the county's first black high school, the Harriett Tubman School.

Bordenave, a resident of Guilford, teamed with Wayne Davis, an environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a resident of Kings Contrivance, to learn more about the history of the site. They want to work towards preservation.

Schablitsky, Bordenave and Davis, along with Fred Dorsey, another county resident with deep roots here, are all working on a theory that slaves are buried at the site, with a few notable exceptions.

One of the more prominent headstones is at the grave of Eliza Marlow. According to the inscription, she was born June 28, 1802 and died in 1838. There is enough information on Marlow to know that she was white. Her son, George W. Marlow, according to Davis' research, owned land nearby the cemetery and the Guilford Quarry in 1871.

Davis found that Marlow was born Eliza Isaak, married John Carroll in 1821 and after his death married Benjamin Marlow in 1832. She had two children - George W (1833) and Sarah Ellen (1835) before she died in 1838.

The cemetery was discovered by chance recently, when Davis and his neighbor Jerry Uekermann were researching the history of the mill and quarries in Guilford. According to Davis, "Uekermann noticed the cemetery on old development plats. We decided to walk over and explore them."

Davis estimates 75 graves at the site, while Schablitsky says, "There could be up to 100 burials ." She said, "We don't know who these people are - possibly former slaves."

At SHA there is an entire division responsible for the preservation of historical artifacts, Native American ancestral lands and cemeteries related to SHA rights-of-way. Davis reached out to SHA and Schablitsky arranged for crews to tend to the cemetery while research continued.

According to Schablitsky, "Sometimes you have slaves buried next to [slave] owners."

The local team conducting research has learned quite a bit in researching the cemetery and those buried there, but according to Davis, there is more to discover.

He said, "We need to determine the origin of the cemetery, why this spot was chosen and who is buried there. Why is Eliza Marlow buried there and why is her gravestone more ornate than the others? Were any of the bodies disturbed during the construction of Route 32 or the nearby development? What nearby property did Eliza Marlow's son own more than 30 years after her death? We end up with more questions with every answer we find."

The cemetery land is presently owned by the Howard Research and Development Corporation, according to Davis.

# Fear of looting spurs big Pompeii finds

By the Associated Press, May 17, 2018

ROME — Worried about looters, archeologists excavating an unexplored part of Italy's volcanic ash-covered city of Pompeii have discovered a street of houses with intact balconies that was buried when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD.

Some of the balconies even had amphorae — the conical-shaped terra cotta vases that were used to hold wine and oil in ancient Roman times.

The culture ministry's Pompeii authority announced the discovery Thursday. It said the balconies were a "complete novelty" for this part of the buried city, which hasn't yet been fully excavated. A statement said the balconies will be restored and the area included in a tour open to the public.

Over the last week, the Archaeological Park of Pompeii has unveiled some recent discoveries at the site of Civita Giuliana outside the city walls stemming from its latest excavation. The excavation began last August after authorities discovered illegal tunnels surrounding the ancient community, creating an urgency to preserve whatever was left before more looters gained access, the Archaeological Park of Pompeii said on its website.

Along with a horse, whose skeletal remains were preserved intact, archeologists found four rooms and the horse stable, a tomb containing the remains of an adult man, a wooden bed and an entire street of grand houses with large balconies, which was revealed in photos Thursday.

The horse was described as an "extraordinary find," because for the first time in Pompeii, archeologists were able to completely reconstruct a horse using a plaster casting technique.

In the stable where it died, the horse lay on its side, its legs bent slightly at the knee, its jaw open and jutting into the ground. Like the roughly 2,000 people and countless animals in Pompeii, the horse probably died instantly when an enormous plume of

ash engulfed the ancient Roman city after one of the most cataclysmic volcano eruptions in history.

The horse is just under 5 feet tall, measured from its shoulders to the ground, but is believed to be an adult, according to the archeologists' summary of the discovery. Despite its height, the horse was probably large for that time period, according to the report.

To reconstruct the horse, archeologists used the same process invented by 19th-Century Italian archeologist Giuseppe Fiorelli, the first to realize that he could capture the last moments of the victims of Mount Vesuvius's monstrous eruption. Fiorelli identified cavities in the volcanic material that encased them, then filled the cavities with liquid plaster, thus creating a cast of the victims' last movements and expressions. The archeologists did the same thing to the horse, which, according to Italian press, joins a pig and a dog as the third animal to undergo the plaster casting technique for preservation.



©Dave Blazek



## Book review: A masterful look at digs and diggers

*A Little History of Archeology*, by Brian Fagan, Yale University Press, 2018, 277 pages, hardbound, \$25

Brian Fagan is a busy man, with more than a dozen books to his credit as well as teaching responsibilities at the University of California at Santa Barbara and archeological expeditions. His new book, modestly titled "A Little History of Archaeology," shows him to be a proficient researcher with a gift for synthesizing, a talent for writing and an abhorrence of jargon.

In fewer than 300 pages he manages to cover the complete history of archeology from the very beginnings to the future. He looks at work on every continent but Australia and does more than just list the famous practitioners and their discoveries but also some you probably have either never heard of or have forgotten. And he finds something unique or interesting to say about each of them.

Howard Carter, the discoverer of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries greatest finds, King Tut's tomb, was a stiff man who barely tolerated visitors. He learned excavation from Flinders Petrie, who had revised the way of digging in Egypt, and spent years low on success and funding. Another prominent between-wars archeologist, Mortimer Wheeler, took time out from his digging to fight with the British military in World War II, distinguishing himself in the battle of El Alamein.

From Africa he documents the Leakeys and their search for the earliest man but also Great Zimbabwe. In Asia he tells of the finding of *Pithecanthropus erectus* in Java to the buried warriors of Xian, China.

Professional archeology was a late and slow-growing profession. Only a few hundred people were engaged in it until shortly before World War II. Until then, early archeological methods were crude and sometimes destroyed as much as they saved in the quest for gold and artifacts. Only gradually did the importance of structures begin to play an important role.

"In those days, when archeology was in its infancy, many archeologists were as much opportunists as excavators. And yet some of them were giants in their field. It is on their broad shoulders that succeeding generations of professional archeologists have stood." 33

Much of modern American archeology owes credit to Alfred Kidder: "He made accuracy, careful observation and team research the basis of American archeology." 162 Another key role was played by the River Basin Survey along the Missouri, which began after World War II and extended archeology beyond the Southwest.

"Why is archeology important?" he asks and then answers: "It's the only way we have of studying changes in human societies over immensely long periods of time.... We add fascinating details to written history.... Above all, archaeology defines us human beings." 6

But archeology is changing. "Recently, we have moved beyond bones and can look at the once-living human being behind them. Thanks to cutting-edge medical technology, even skeletons can be made flesh-and-blood bodies from the tiniest of clues." 226 .... "Today's medical technology is helping archeologist write history in the kind of detail that was unimaginable even just a generation ago." 228

But even as he looks with promise toward the future, he knows the road ahead is lined with peril. "Tragically, archaeology's precious archives are vanishing before our very eyes. Archeological sites everywhere are under threat from deep ploughing, industrial development and looters." He also mentions the harm caused by tourists and terrorist groups. Somehow he neglects to mention the already occurring damage caused by climate change and rising sea levels.

And change. "Excavation is no longer fashionable, as remote sensing has slowly come to fulfil the archaeologist's dream of being able to see underground without digging."

Though he travels all over the planet, two prominent American site are omitted: Washington State's Kennewick Man and the 26-level Koster Site in Illinois. So are England's Sutton Hoo and northern Europe's bog bodies. I guess he had to keep sniping things out,

Pictures and maps would have been a nice addition the book. But even without them this book tells you more about the history of archeology than you can have expected to find in a book four times its size. And tells it better.

-- Myron Beckenstein

# Titanic discovery had top-secret element

By Erin Blakemore

*Condensed from the Washington Post, May 27, 2018*

Sure, you know that the supposedly unsinkable RMS Titanic sank. In 1912, an iceberg punctured the mighty ship's hull, and after years of speculation, the doomed ship was found in 1985.

The discovery was just the tip of a much more interesting iceberg, though. It turns out the deep-sea dive was a cover for a top-secret mission to find two Cold War submarines. That story is front and center at "Titanic: The Untold Story," which opens Wednesday at the National Geographic Museum in Washington. The exhibition sheds new light on the groundbreaking expedition that led to the ship's discovery.

Led by Robert Ballard, an oceanographer and underwater archeologist, the dive took place only because of an ambitious barter. Ballard had developed Argo, an unmanned deep-sea camera system that gave oceanographers unprecedented access to the ocean floor. He agreed to use the technology to search for the remains of the USS Scorpion and the USS Thresher, two Navy nuclear submarines that sank during the 1960s. In exchange, the Navy financed the Titanic mission.

Ballard succeeded in all three missions and the previously classified story anchors the exhibition. It includes artifacts such as the Alvin, the research sub that documented the wreckage of the Titanic, and memorabilia from the Scorpion's launch.

These intriguing reminders of a once top-secret mission stand alongside artifacts from the ill-fated ocean liner, including a rare deck chair, sheet music from the band that played as the vessel sank, and the only known set of boarding tickets that survived the disaster.

There's even the Heart of the Ocean necklace, the bauble that served as a plot point in the 1997 film "Titanic." Soon, tickets will be available for an insider tour and a chat with oceanographers, including Ballard, about how ocean research is changing science. The exhibition will stick around through January 6.

## Chapter News

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, <http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/>

## Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at [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 [www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter](http://www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter) or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com> or Twitter [@asmcentral](https://twitter.com/asmcentral)

## 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). Website [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com) and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

## 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 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](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768)

June 14: NOTE: this is the second Thursday of the month instead of the regular third Thursday meeting date. Annual picnic at Needwood Mansion from 6 to 9 p.m. An election for chapter officers will be conducted.

## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at [digfrederick.com](http://digfrederick.com) or call 301-378-0212. The chapter does not meet in July or August.

**June 9:** "Native American Fish Traps in the Potomac River, Brunswick, Maryland" is the title of a new book by Monocacy Chapter member, Don Peterson. He will discuss the two fish traps in the immediate vicinity of Brunswick in the Children's Program Room.

## 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>

## St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at [Cicoogan@smcm.edu](mailto:Cicoogan@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 [www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com](http://www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com) or try [uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com](mailto:uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com)

**June 11:** NOTE: Meeting starts at 6 with a potluck. Speaker: Alexandra Jones on her group, "Archeology in the Community."

## 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>

**June 22:** Ryan Cuba and Adam Mumma will appear in full regalia as soldier and Cherokee warrior at Fort Cumberland during the French & Indian War.



**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  
[seastrum@verizon.net](mailto:seastrum@verizon.net)

**Membership Secretary**

Rachael Holmes  
360-941-9844  
[rachael.m.holmes@gmail.com](mailto:rachael.m.holmes@gmail.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)

