

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

2d field session finds 1662 Jesuit chapel

By Jim Gibb

Principal investigator

Fodi et crevi, Eureka!

This cosmopolitan Greco-Latin phrase, coined by Father Brian Sanderfoot for the ASM field session at St. Francis Xavier cemetery, captures the spirit of the 11 days spent in search of a 1662 Jesuit Chapel: I dug, I sifted and hot-damn I found it!

And there is a bonus: *crevi* means sifting both physically and in the sense of assessing information, elegantly capturing the nature of archeological inquiry.

The slogan is apt as ASM members and St. Francis Xavier parishioners found the last critical pieces of information to establish the site of the long-lost chapel (1662-1704), confirming the presence of a dwelling occupied by the Jesuit fathers and lay brothers, and uncovering strong circumstantial evidence of a connection between the Jesuits and local Native American groups. Scott Lawrence and Valerie M. J. Hall oversaw the work in the north and south loci, respectively.

Scott and I have worked with Father Sanderfoot and the parish since 2010, searching for the chapel in the cemetery, which has remained in use since 1662.

Excavators at ASM's second field session of the year completed 25 five-foot units and exposed several bona fide post holes with molds - some replacing others -- and a pair of intersecting shell-filled pits. The post holes are at the northern end of the site where prior work demonstrated clusters of handwrought nails, window glass and clay floor tiles. All of the tiles are fragments—and small ones at that—but the few larger pieces indicate that they are about one-inch thick and at least five inches on a side.

Preliminary assessment of the data suggests that the chapel was dismantled and the materials cannibalized for use elsewhere, perhaps even stockpiled for the construction of the "new" 1731 St. Francis Xavier Church, the foyer of which is paved with brick-like tiles.

Prior work at the south locus revealed what appeared to be a pavement of oyster shell and cobbles, and recovered 17th-Century ceramic sherds and Native American artifacts. Valerie and her team exposed more of the pavement, as well as several graveshafts, and excavated—at the eleventh hour, of course—two intersecting pits filled with oyster shell and burned daub, or mud, a sign of a wattle and daub chimney.

The pits also yielded Native American pottery and tobacco pipe bowls, European pottery and pipes and bird, mammal and fish bone. Elsewhere excavators recovered three small triangular projectile points, one of crystal quartz having pronounced serrations, a characteristic of Contact-period points.

A copper alloy swastika from the south locus spawned many a discussion and a number of e-mails transmitted

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Upcoming events

August 1: Joy Beasley of the National Park Service will present a noon program at the Museum of Frederick County History, 24 East Church Street, Frederick. Her topic is "Archeology in Frederick County" and will probably focus on the work at the slave village at the Monocacy Battlefield.

September 7: All-day conference on the preclassical Mayan Culture. The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington. For details and registration, see www.pcswdc.org

October 17-19: Three-day conference focused on the Ice Age colonization of the Americas. Santa Fe. <http://www.paleoamericanodyssey.com>

October 31 - November 3: Eastern States Archeological Federation meeting. South Portland, Maine.

November 9: ASM Annual Meeting, Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park, Derwood.

October 30 - November 2, 2014: ESAF meeting, Solomons Island, Maryland.

Volunteer opportunities

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

The **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center** seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Archeological field and lab work are conducted during the week and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesgibb@verizon.net

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

ASM field session collection: Volunteers have turned their attention to material from Chapel Point and Heaters Island. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jasmine Gollup at 410-222-1318.

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

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at echaney@mdp.state.md.us or 410-586-8554.

The Maryland Historical Society is urgently looking for volunteers to help rehouse all its archeological material which was damaged when a steam pipe burst last winter. The work is being done at the MHS's Baltimore office, 201 W. Monument Street, weekdays between 8:30 and 4, and is a good way for CAT candidates to get their lab hours in. Non-CAT candidates also are welcome. Volunteers will have to commit to at least 40 hours of work over the course of the project. Contact collections manager Kate Gallagher at kgallagher@mdhs.org anytime or midweek at 410-685-3750, extension 342.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide, Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

For information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.

ASM news:

-- Up to you to make the ASM auction a success

This year's Annual Meeting will take place November 9 at the Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm in Derwood. One popular attraction of the past few meetings has been a silent auction, through which significant money has been raised for ASM coffers and members have walked away with some nice purchases.

The process all begins with you - you have to donate items to tempt other members. Things connected with archeology are nice (as long as they were legally obtained), including handcrafted items and replica noted as such. Books are always popular.

But non-archeology items also are wanted. Can you get a local business to offer free restaurant meals or lodging or movie or theater tickets? Or you could make the purchase and donate the item.

Figure out what you can donate and then send the donation form - with this newsletter and also on the ASM website - to Valerie L. Hall at the address on the form. For questions, contact her at Valerie.Hall@gmail.com. The deadline for donations is October 15. But don't put it off - you know what happens when you do that.

-- Who's your candidate for the Marye Award?

Another feature of the Annual Meeting is the presentation of the William B. Marye Award. Each year ASM presents its highest honor to someone for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. This year is the 30th year the presentation will be made. Candidates need not be members of ASM, Marylanders or even archeologists. They just have to have left a significant mark on this state's program.

Nominations are not carried over from year to year. If your candidate hasn't won in the past, try again. A list of previous winners is with the nomination form.

Committee chairman Roy Brown asks that the nominations be as specific as possible in detailing your choice's accomplishments. Just saying "contributed much" isn't much help. Deadline for nominations is September 8.

Probable 17th Century ship found in St. Mary's

The remains of what might be the first 17th Century tobacco ship discovered in Maryland waters has been found in the St. Mary's River, Historic St. Mary's City announced in late July.

Ten feet beneath the surface, Scott Tucker of the University of Southampton and a crew of volunteer divers found a heavy concentration of stones in an oval-shaped area that was over 50 feet long which they identified as ballast, the stones possibly coming from England's North Devon coast.

The archeologists said they were not surprised to find that no timbers or ship architecture were uncovered, given the harsh environment of the small test areas, but the few artifacts that were recovered include part of a North Devon Sgraffito jug. Tucker said, "The decoration is distinctive and dates it to 1650-1700."

A shaped wooden fragment, possibly a piece of a ship's bilge pump, was also recovered. Discovery of this well-preserved piece gives hope that portions of the hull survive elsewhere under the ballast. Since few artifacts were found and the remains are close to what was the 17th-Century shoreline, researchers suspect the ship was abandoned rather than wrecked. Cargo and items of value would have been removed.

"While a wreck filled with goods would be more exciting, there is still much we can learn from the remains of this ancient abandoned vessel," said HSMC's Director of Research Henry Miller.

"The findings strongly suggest that this is indeed a 17th-Century ship. Given its likely English origin and size, it was probably a tobacco ship that carried settlers and goods to Maryland and tobacco back to Europe. Such vessels were the vital link for the early Chesapeake economy. While thousands of vessels engaged in the Tobacco Trade during the colonial era, this is the first 17th-Century one to be identified by archeologists."

DNA links ancient bones to moderns

By Randy Boswell

Condensed from the Vancouver Sun, July 6, 2013

A groundbreaking genetic study led by a team of U.S. and Canadian anthropologists has traced a direct DNA link between the 5,500-year-old remains of an aboriginal woman found on a British Columbia island, a second set of ancient female bones from a nearby 2,500-year-old site and -- most stunningly -- a living Tsimshian woman from the Metlakatla First Nation, located close to both of the prehistoric burials along the North Coast near Prince Rupert.

The findings are the first of their kind to be generated using powerful new techniques to analyze the complete mitochondrial genome of the individuals studied, reconstructing a millennia-spanning line of maternal descent and providing remarkable new evidence of a people's enduring occupation of a specific geographical area.

The scientific achievement is also seen to have significant implications for First Nations' land claims and treaty rights, giving aboriginal groups a powerful new tool for demonstrating deep-rooted links between the present and hyper-distant past.

"Having a DNA link showing direct maternal ancestry dating back at least 5,000 years is huge as far as helping the Metlakatla prove that this territory was theirs over the millennia," said First Nations archeologist Barbara Petzelt, a co-author of the study who also served as the chief liaison between scientists -- including one of this country's top physical anthropologists, Jerome Cybulski of the Canadian Museum of Civilization -- and the Metlakatla community.

"I believe this is really a unique collaboration," added Joycelynn Mitchell, a Metlakatla treaty official and researcher, and also a co-author of the study. "It's very exciting to be able to have scientific proof that corroborates what our ancestors have been telling us for generations. It's very amazing how fast technology is moving to be able to prove this kind of link with our past."

The study, published this week in the U.S.-based Public Library of Science journal PLOS ONE, also identified what appears to be an "extinct" genetic line represented by two other sets of remains from Alaska and British Columbia that date from 10,300 and 6,000 years ago.

In a third set of findings, three current, unidentified residents of West Coast aboriginal communities were all found to share an ancestral connection with an ancient individual whose 5,000-year-old remains were unearthed from Dodge Island, near Prince Rupert.

"This is the beginning of the golden era for ancient DNA research because we can do so much now that we couldn't do a few years ago because of advances in sequencing technologies," study co-leader Ripan Malhi, an anthropologist and professor of genomic biology at the University of Illinois, said in a research summary. "We're just starting to get an idea of the mitogenomic diversity in the Americas, in the living individuals as well as the ancient individuals."

Malhi told Postmedia News it was "pretty surprising" when the research team established a clear genetic link between the 5,500-year-old female and the 2,500-year-old individual.

That surprise led to elation when the team found that the directly related prehistoric individuals had "the exact same mitogenome of a living Tsimshian person" -- a discovery that was "especially surprising," said Malhi, "since it's a rare lineage. In my mind, I expect that lots of these rare lineages would have gone extinct after European contact and colonization because of the high mortality that was associated with contact."



15th Century Spanish fort found in NC

By John Noble Wilford

Condensed from the New York Times, July 22, 2013

In the Appalachian foothills of western North Carolina, archeologists have discovered remains of a 16th Century fort, the earliest one built by Europeans deep in the interior of what is now the United States. The fort is a reminder of a neglected period in colonial history, when Spain's expansive ambitions ran high and wide, as yet unmatched by England.

If the Spanish had succeeded, Robin A. Beck Jr., a University of Michigan archeologist on the discovery team, suggested, "Everything south of the Mason-Dixon line might have become part of Latin America." But they failed.

Researchers had known from Spanish documents about the two expeditions led by Juan Pardo from the Atlantic coast from 1566 to 1568. A vast interior seemed open for the taking. This was almost 20 years before the failure of the English at Sir Walter Raleigh's "lost colony" near the North Carolina coast or their later successes in Virginia at Jamestown in 1607 and at Plymouth Rock in 1620 — the "beginnings" emphasized in the standard colonial history taught in American schools.

One of Pardo's first acts of possession, in early 1567, was building Fort San Juan in an Indian town almost 300 miles in the interior, near what is known today as the Great Smoky Mountains. It was the first and largest of six forts the expedition erected on a trail blazed through North and South Carolina and across the mountains into eastern Tennessee. At times Pardo was following in the footsteps of Hernando de Soto in the 1540s.

Pardo's orders were to establish an overland road to the silver mines in Mexico, on the mistaken assumption that the Appalachians were the same mountain chain that ran through central Mexico. No one then had a sure handle on the near and far of New World geography. Even the written records of the de Soto expedition beyond the Mississippi River did not seem to clarify matters; they did not come with maps.

After years of searching, archeologists led by Beck, Christopher B. Rodning of Tulane University and David G. Moore of Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C., came upon what they described in interviews as clear evidence of the fort's defensive moat and other telling remains of Fort San Juan.

The discovery in late June was made five miles north of Morganton, N.C., at a site long assumed to be the location of an Indian settlement known as Joara, where military artifacts and burned remains of Spanish-built huts were also found.

While excavating a ceremonial Indian mound at the site, the archeologists encountered different colored soil beneath the surface. Part of the fort's defensive moat had been cut through the southern side of the mound. Beck said that further excavations and magnetometer subsurface readings showed that the moat appeared to extend more than 70 to 100 feet and measured nearly 12 feet wide and 6 feet deep, in a configuration "typical of European moats going back to the Romans."

Other remote sensing surveys showed subsurface anomalies suggesting burned timbers of the palisades and an irregularity that may well be ruins of the "strong house" inside, where tools, weapons and lead shot were stored. Investigating these artifacts is on the agenda for next summer's excavations, Beck said.

Chester B. DePratter, an archeologist at the University of South Carolina who is an authority on Spanish exploration in the Southeastern United States, happened to be at the Joara site as an independent observer when the discovery was made.

"I am certain that they have found the long lost Fort San Juan," DePratter said last week. "The coming years, as the moat and blockhouse inside are excavated, will be quite exciting."

The discovery was significant, he added, because it emphasized the Spanish advance deep into the interior by 1566, long before "the English built a fort as far inland as Fort San Juan, much less as far west as the French Broad River near Knoxville" — which was "well into the 17th Century."

None of the other Pardo forts have been found. Spanish records report that about 18 months after Fort San Juan's construction, Indians in the region rebelled and put the torch to them all, killing all but one of the

Continued on next page

soldiers in the garrisons. Pardo, who had returned to his base at Santa Elena on the coast at present-day Parris Island, S.C., lived to return home to Spain.

The provocation for the Indian uprising is not clear, though Beck noted that "food and sex were probably two of the main reasons" for destroying the Spanish settlements.

Although the soldiers prospected for gold around Fort San Juan, they never found any. Yet Beck noted that much later settlers scooped up nuggets near local rivers, setting off a gold rush before the 49ers of California. Had the people of Joara given Pardo's soldiers time to discover gold, Beck speculated, Spain would probably have flooded the area with settlers "and everything changes and nearly everybody in the southeastern part of the country might be speaking Spanish today."

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via smart phones to scholars throughout the region, inquiring into what this object might mean. Suggestions of Nazis (I hate those guys) were quickly rejected, if for no other reasons than the vine-and-leaf pattern extending down each arm of the piece and the thin sheet from which it was stamped.

ASM President Claude Bowen may have nailed the identification with some Internet research. The swastika—a symbol spanning the world over thousands of years before fascists perverted it—was used on the vestments of pre-Reformation English Catholic priests.

St. Francis Xavier owes its existence to Catholic families on the Newtowne Neck peninsula who, in the 1660s, provided the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, land, materials and labor with which to build a chapel and cemetery. Maryland's colonial government imposed restrictions on the public practice of the Catholic faith, hence the forced closure and dismantlement of the chapel in 1704.

In 1731, with liberalization of the law, the parish built the current church. In 1789, the Jesuits built a manor house behind the new church and it was from this building they managed an extensive farm until they conveyed control of the church and cemetery to the Archdiocese of Washington in the 1960s and sold the remaining 790 acres of farmland to the State of Maryland in 2009.

Findings during the week sparked many evening discussions at Camp Sanderfoot, the makeshift campground between rectory and church. Other entertainments included lectures by Henry Miller, Valerie and Julie King; communal cooking and eating; a crab cake feast provided by Fr. Sanderfoot; a tour of the manor house, and pizza-and-movie night (also funded by our host). Leslie Howard, in the guise of 1930s fictional British archaeologist Pimpernel Smith, provided the on-screen entertainment.

On July 7, Scott and I joined 375 parishioners in a farewell barbeque marking the transfer of Fr. Sanderfoot to the parish of St. Francis de Sales in the District of Columbia. The Newtowne Neck parish, inspired by the pastor—and a little, we like to think, by the field session crew—will now focus on restoring the manor house, a project for which it already has raised about \$250,000.

We will complete the archeology report by the end of August and, at that point, discuss the prospects of future work at the chapel site with the incoming pastor.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Severna Park Branch Library, 45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

September 10: TBA

November 12: Julie Schablitsky will speak on the War of 1812 Caulk's Battlefield.

Central Maryland

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. Contact chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

September 19: Garrett Peck, journalist and local historian, will speak about his new book "The Smithsonian Castle and the Seneca Quarry."

October 17: The DVD "Jane: Starvation, Cannibalism, and Endurance at Jamestown," which details the archeological and forensics techniques used to uncover an incident of cannibalism during Jamestown colony.

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 or call 301-378-0212.

September 11: Troy Nowak, assistant state underwater archeologist, will present a program, "Underwater Archeology of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake." NOTE: Related programs will be presented on September 10 and 12. Contact the chapter for details.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Ellicott City Colored School. Potluck suppers are held at 5:45 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 5:30 p.m. Contact Dave Cavey at 410 747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net The group has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try 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. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

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ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink; the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

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

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