



ASM Ink

September 2002, Vol 28, No. 9

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.smcm.edu.asm

Winslow Site: Oh, yes, a palisade too



I don't know, Joe, what do you think it is?
Winslow site director Joe Dent, lab director Katherine Clermont (center) and volunteer Kathy Steuer seem perplexed by the line of holes. Rodents? Termites? Hailstones?

By Joe Dent

The possible presence of a palisade at the Winslow site has been a matter of debate between archeologists for a good number of years. It therefore became one of the major research questions for the recent ASM testing at that site.

Early excavators could go no further than to suggest that the Winslow site probably was palisaded, but definite proof remained elusive. We can now say with the assurance of direct evidence that the Winslow site was indeed palisaded.

A key to reaching that conclusion was the presence of enigmatic lines of buried river cobbles uncovered by the ASM in the 1959-1960 excavations at the site. At what was projected to be the eastern edge of the site a fairly lengthy arcing lines of river cobbles were encountered in a couple of locations. On the early field map, the longest continuous line of the cobbles ran for about 10.8 m (35 ft). Charlie Hall, with a little help from some friends, made relocating them his personal white whale. He did eventually find them and, after the ASM field session ended, with help from the American University field school a number of units were opened. We discovered that the long line of rocks abruptly stopped, but then gave way to a neatly aligned series of post molds.

By the end of June we were able to document a

Continued on Page 3

Barton site's preservation assured

Another bit of Maryland history has been saved from the ravages of the future. With the cooperation of the Barton family, the prehistoric Barton site in Allegany County has been purchased by the Archeology Conservancy for safekeeping. The sale, several years in the offing, was completed in late July.

The 35-acre site on the banks of the Potomac has been the location of two ASM field schools and of continuing digs by the Western Maryland Chapter and by Bob Wall, of Towson University.

The site is "in excellent condition," said Mark Michel, president of the Albuquerque-based Conservancy, noting that it contains three villages and "spans quite a long period."

The villages date from around 500 AD to about a century after contact, 1730.

Money for the purchase came from both the State of Maryland and from funds raised by the Conservancy.

The Conservancy already had purchased another Maryland site, Maddox Island near Salisbury, and is looking into acquiring others.

Upcoming events

September 14 - 15, Saturday and Sunday. Indian pow-wow at the Washington Mall near the site of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, which is now under construction.

September 14 - 15, Saturday and Sunday. 10th annual Native American Festival, Sailwinds Park, Cambridge. Noon to 7 Saturday, noon to 5 Sunday. Presented by the Nause Waiwash band of Indians. Contact Chief Sewell Fitzhugh, 410 - 376 - 3889.

September 21, Saturday. Pre-Columbian Society of Washington D.C.'s Ninth Annual Symposium: "Ancient Cities of Power and Splendor: New Light on Cahokia and the Southeast." 9 a.m., U.S. Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington. 202 - 483 - 8064.

October 5, Saturday. CAT workshop on historic ceramics. Frederick. See CAT corner elsewhere in this newsletter.

October 19, Saturday. ASM annual fall meeting, Ellicott City. See reservation form inside back cover.

Mid-September through late October. Pennsylvania Archeology month. Many programs.

www.quemahoning.com

November 9, Saturday. CAT workshop on lithic analysis and identification. Frederick. See CAT corner elsewhere in this newsletter.

November, 16, Saturday. CAT workshop on historic ceramics. Havre de Grace. See CAT corner.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Ongoing: The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County (410 -222 - 7441); the MAC Lab at Jefferson Patterson (410 - 586 - 8550).

Palisade turns up at Winslow site (cont.)

line of 12 continuous post molds that ran neatly off the end of the line of rocks. These post molds average a little over 9 cm (3.5 in) in diameter and were spaced about 30 cm (about 12 in.) apart. Cross-sectioning all 12 revealed good profiles of pointed posts driven into the ground. There is also a good chance that we encountered the palisade on the western edge of the site, although we did not realize it in the field. A short arching line of post molds was encountered in one western unit that is very similar in appearance to the palisade line on the east. We will want to confirm this by opening more units around these western post molds next year. For now, it is important to consider a few of the practical and cultural implications of our documentation of this palisade. Perhaps it would be best to start with the specifics and then move to a few general possible interpretations.

As for the immediate site, only one line of palisade post molds was detected. This indicates no rebuilding and probably points to a rather limited period of occupation. Any untreated post in the ground would not likely last a decade, and most other similar sites do exhibit rebuilding of village palisades. Excavation of the nearby Hughes site, for example, revealed evidence of initial palisade construction and then three subsequent episodes of reconstruction. The nature of the post molds at Winslow is also interesting. Each pointed post appears to have been driven into the ground. We could find no evidence that these posts were set in a trench or placed in individually excavated post holes. The fact that the posts were driven probably says something about how tall the palisade might have been. I doubt that it was very tall, not much more (and perhaps less) than the height of an average person of that era. It would have been almost impossible to transmit enough force through a longer post, not to mention the fact that it would have been difficult to hit the top of the post that extended much above a person's shoulders. In the same sense, elevation of the parties driving the post into the ground thus allowing taller posts would be counteracted by flexing of the posts and ineffective transmittal of downward forces.

Spacing of the posts also is interesting. They were not set close together, and this probably indicates the finished palisade was wattled with smaller horizontal branches interwoven between the vertical framing posts. It is interesting to note that John White's

famous drawing of the palisaded village of Pomeiooc, made circa 1585 in what is today coastal North Carolina, shows a good deal of space between each post, and some of the posts even seem to retain short branches. Many have speculated that White employed artistic license in drawing the posts that way to allow the viewer a better perspective of the inside of the village. Perhaps, however, this is the way the palisade actually was constructed and White chose instead not to depict the wattle in his illustration to give the viewer that look into the village.

Finally, many archaeologists traditionally have argued that palisades should be interpreted as direct evidence of tensions expressed through warfare. This taken-for-granted perhaps needs some reevaluation. How effective would a short wattled palisade of highly combustible material be as a defensive feature against attack and siege? Add to this the fact that one of the most important resources these people would want to protect, their crops, were located outside that palisade. I would like us to begin to reconsider these palisades in some cases as more benign group statements, perhaps simply setting a clear boundary between the village and the wider natural and cultural world. They certainly represent some of the first public works projects and that says something about the changing nature of society. Maybe the palisade also served a more practical function of keeping four-legged pests from entering the village.

I must admit that at least one further question about this palisade continues to haunt me. What are those lines of rocks? They seem obviously related to the palisade, but I could find no surviving evidence of post molds around them. Suggestions are always welcome, answers are better.

MAAC call for papers

The Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference's 33d annual meeting will be held in Virginia Beach next March 13 through 16. Information can be had at: dpogue@mountvernon.org or 703 - 799 - 8625.

Individuals or groups wanting to make a presentation or offer a display have to submit paper, poster and/or symposium abstracts to the program chair, Dennis Pogue, by November 15. Papers, including question time, should last no longer than 20 minutes.

Hopes, charges swirl over PG gravesite

By Stephanie Desmon, *Excerpted from The Sun, August 10*

FORT WASHINGTON - Since the 1820s, five members of one of Prince George's County's wealthiest families of the time have been buried here in a field with an expansive view of the Potomac River, now on the edge of what is an ever-busier road.

Until June, that is, when a man who wants to turn 23 acres, including the Lyles Family Cemetery, into an exclusive housing development persuaded a judge to let him move the graves, clearing the land of what could have been a spooky amenity.

The graves of Dennis Magruder Lyles and his four young children were moved by developer Leo Bruso within hours of the judge's decision, dug up with a backhoe and reburied at a nearby church beside other family members. But the debate over the waterfront parcel - which may or may not be considered historic, which may or may not contain the graves of the Lyles' slaves, which may or may not be the remnants of an Indian settlement first documented by Capt. John Smith in 1608 - is still churning.

Where Bruso had hoped to lay the foundation by the end of the year for the 23 high-end homes he will call "Florida on the Potomac," instead there is no progress. The development is wrapped in legal squabbles that promise to push the project at least into next year - squabbles with the state's attorney's office over whether the graves were rightfully moved from where they had been for nearly 200 years, and with neighbors over whether the property should be protected by the county as a historic site because of artifacts that could still lie beneath.

Dawn Davit lives just down the river from where Bruso's development is proposed - and has become, during the past year, the developer's main adversary. The president of the Potomac Valley Citizens Association, she has long been concerned about what might be built on that riverside property.

She wanted that cemetery - with the markings on its raised tabletop grave markers still legible - protected. So, originally, did the county's Historic Preservation Commission. A letter in June 2001 from the commission chairman spoke of the cemetery property's "historic significance" and recommended that it stay put.

But he changed his position in an October letter, after reviewing more documents, saying the land was "incorrectly" considered historic.

Davit, above all, says she wants to know for sure what else is below the surface before anything more is done to alter the land - if there are more Indian artifacts like those found in the late 1980s, if there are more graves, as documented over the years.

"Do the archaeological study, do the ground-penetrating radar," Davit said. "Let's find out before you let this man [Bruso] go in. It is a treasure trove of information there not to be totally ignored."

Old county maps show a second cemetery on the property, and Davit suspects, without any real evidence, that the plot contains the graves of the Lyles family's slaves. "There had to be deaths in the slave community," she said. "I don't think you have to be a rocket scientist to say, indeed, that is where these people were buried."

But a letter to Bruso from a mapping official with the U.S. Geological Survey recommended removing the second cemetery from local maps, quoting a county official who said they are mislabeled. What was believed to be a grave marker turned out to be a concrete post used as a gate support, the letter said.

In the 1980s, Marriott Corp. planned to build a retirement community on the site, which has been known as Tent Landing because, some believe, Lyles' farm was called the Tent Landing Plantation. In its plans was a wrought-iron fence that would have enclosed the family cemetery where it stood, blocking it off from the rest of the property. In the course of its site preparation, Marriott did preliminary archaeological work on a small section and found thousands of pieces of pottery believed to date to the Piscataway-Conoy Indians who inhabited the land until settlers came, said David A. Turner, a local historian. The rest hasn't been examined.

"There are 12,000 years of Native American history that's on that land dating back before the birth of Christ," said Fort Washington resident Jay Winter Nightwolf, a Native American activist and radio show host. "It's of historical value, just [like] Jamestown and Plymouth Rock, and this is fact."

The property, not far from the District of Columbia line, was one of about 500 on the county's inventory of historic resources - one notch below the designation of historic site, which requires greater attention to preservation.

In December, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to delete the Tent Landing property from the inventory - effectively ending its special status. It was determined that the 23 acres weren't Tent Landing, which is located about a quarter-mile north, said HPC historian Susan G. Pearl. And, Pearl said, because the commission's jurisdiction is only above ground - historic homes, old barns - they couldn't consider anything they couldn't see.

"There are definitely prehistoric archaeological remains there - not necessarily burials, but there were artifacts and evidence of some kind of settlement," Pearl said. "There's no question."

"If left alone," neighbor James A. Garrett said of the developer, "he'll destroy history forever."

Slave's body found at Virginia site

By David Cho

Excerpted from the Washington Post, August 7

A worker digging with a shovel at a new home construction site in southern Fairfax County has uncovered the skeletal remains of an 18th-century African American woman who archaeologists believe was a slave belonging to George Mason or one of his descendants.

Historians at Gunston Hall, Mason's plantation home south of Fort Belvoir, said yesterday there is little doubt that the remains discovered a half-mile from the manor are those of a Mason family slave, marking the first time such a grave has been found on what had been Mason's vast land holdings.

The discovery has sent ripples of excitement through Gunston Hall, whose library contains volumes of information about Mason, the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, but almost no information about the slaves he owned. County archaeologist Mike Johnson said there are probably more graves and artifacts at the wooded site on Mason Neck peninsula, land that was once part of the large estate.

But it's unclear whether archaeologists will be allowed to search for other graves because the land is privately owned and is not considered a graveyard by the county because only one burial site has been found.

The discovery was made July 25 by workers laying the foundation for an 8,000-square-foot home for car dealer Michael Jennings and his wife. Jennings, 38, who owns a Toyota dealership in Springfield, called the find "pretty neat" but said

he would have to think about whether to allow archaeologists to go digging on his land.

If another grave were to be found, the site would qualify as a graveyard under county code and would be subject to numerous regulations, said Fairfax Supervisor Gerald W. Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), who represents the area.

Mason is best known as the drafter of the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights, which contained many of the principles later incorporated by Thomas Jefferson into the Declaration of Independence. Although he owned as many as 90 slaves in the years leading up to his death, he staunchly opposed the slave trade and refused to sign the Constitution in part because it did not abolish the practice.

Jennings said he breathed a sigh of relief when he found out the bones were more than 100 years old.

Archeologist Johnson said the remains are being sent to the Smithsonian Institution for further study.

Borchardt and others at Gunston Hall are eager to see those results and to conduct their own examination. "It's our mission to tell people about the contributions George Mason made," she said. "But it's also important for us to find out the history of those who lived, worked and died on this property."

For his part, Jennings said he'd like the bones back so he can bury them again, next to his home, with a proper headstone.

Monitor's turret raised from seabed

From wire reports

RICHMOND, Va. - More human remains were found inside the gun turret of the USS Monitor, raising the number of sailors found inside the Civil War artifact from one to possibly three.

The discovery came two days after a salvage operation run by the Navy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration raised the 120-ton turret from the wreckage site off Cape Hatteras, N.C. on August 5.

On Saturday, August 3, divers were able to remove much of a human skeleton found inside the turret.

In the latest discovery, another victim was found near the first skeleton, while other human remains were uncovered about 15 feet away in another section of the 20-foot-wide cylinder.

"We know for certain we have at least two, and we have a few remains that may well be a third," said chief scientist John Broadwater of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary in Newport News.

Sixteen Monitor sailors died when the Union ironclad sank in a storm on Dec. 31, 1862, and landed upside down in 240 feet of water. The storm may have led sailors to take cover in the turret, which also was the only way out of the warship. There may be still more remains inside the turret, Broadwater said.

The remains will be taken to the Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii for analysis. If they can be identified, they will be returned to the sailors' families. If not, the Navy will bury them.

Archeologists also found a well-preserved U.S. Navy overcoat button and a pocketknife in a fragment that appeared to be a pants pocket. They also discovered an empty leather boot in a nearby section of the turret.

Rusty, covered with barnacles and still sporting the dents inflicted by Confederate shells during its only battle 140 years ago, the Monitor's massive iron turret was lifted from the sea shortly before sunset August 5.

It was greeted with waves of exultant cheers from more than 100 Navy divers who had worked six weeks to salvage the massive Civil War relic.

Broadwater, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration official who had worked for years to save the vessel, rapped on the turret and found it solid, despite the years submerged. "The damage appears to be minimal," he said.

The final effort to raise the turret began before dawn as sailors, frustrated by two days of fickle winds and currents, decided to take their chances with less-than-perfect conditions.

The first step was rigging a massive sling and shackles to the lifting device -- the spider and claw -- that would cradle the turret during its 220-foot journey to the surface.

"You're fighting me all the way," diver Keith Nelson muttered through the Navy communication system as he struggled against an unrelenting current to attach one of 100-pound shackles in the lifting frame.

"It's like having six invisible people pushing against you," explained diver Steve Janek.

Once the lines were secured, the turret was gently lifted just a few feet off the bottom and positioned on a nearby pallet that was designed to keep its contents -- a sediment-filled time capsule of the Monitor's final minutes -- from spilling out during the ascent.

Linkages:

For information on other archeological programs/groups in this area, check out:

Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC. Programs and a newsletter. 3106 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20010 or www.pcswdc.org

Lost Towns Project. Ongoing search for colonial sites in Anne Arundel County. Lisa Plumley, Office of Planning and Zoning, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 or call 410 - 222 - 7441.

Chapter notes

Another season of chapter meetings begins this month. Here are the programs for the year, as submitted by the various chapters. If something another chapter is presenting looks good, check it out.

Anne Arundel

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30 -9:00 PM in the Chesapeake Room, Heritage Center, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis

September 18: Charlie Hall will present Prehistoric Sites of the Piedmont. The chapter will also elect a new president at this meeting.

October 16: Julie Earnstein will present Looking at the Land: An Historical Archaeology of Land and Landscapes in Historic Prince George's County.

November. James G. Gibb will speak on a topic to be announced on a date to be announced.

Central

Central Chapter will have no formal monthly meetings this fall or winter.

Instead, two to three lab sessions will be scheduled to process and inventory the artifacts from the Morris Meadows Rockshelter. Beginning in the late fall, Central Chapter will resume surveying the Patapsco watershed for rockshelter and terrace archeological sites.

Monocacy

Monocacy Archaeological Society meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. The first meeting is September 18. Anyone interested can contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or e-mail hurst_joy@hotmail.com. There is no list of speakers yet.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, usually at Harford Glen, but not always. Check the date for actual location. Meetings start at 7 with the program beginning around 7:40.

September 12: Kate Dinnell, "Collections, Curation and the Avocational Archeologist," at Harford Glen.

October 10: Bill Mc Intyre, "The History and Archeology of the Concord Point Light Keeper's House and Property," at Havre de Grace Middle School.

November 16: Bob Wal, "Prehistoric Ceramic Workshop," Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. This Saturday meeting, 9 - 1, will double as a CAT program.

December 12: Virginia Busby on the Chicone Site. Harford Glen. Covered dish dinner and awards meeting.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. For information contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or lp Preston@mail.howard.k12.md.us

September 9. Vaughan Brown Memorial Wine/Cheese Dessert Reception 6:30-8:00. No charge for members (\$8 for guests). The Vaughan Brown Memorial Native American Center Lecture will follow at 8. Wayne Clark will speak on "Native American Culture History of the Patuxent Drainage."

October 14. Dinner in E.C (meet at Mt. Ida at 6 pm. Meeting at 7:30 followed by speaker Lee Preston at 8 pm, "Ethnography Then and Now: A video Analysis of Selected Cultures and Ethnographer.s"

November 11. Pot Luck Supper at Mt. Ida at 6:30 followed by a membership Show and Tell Session at 8. Members with artifacts, video, slides etc. to share should contact Lee Preston ahead of time.

December 9 dinner in E.C. at 6 (meet at Mt. Ida) followed by UPAG Meeting at 7:30. Dixie Henry speaks at 8 on, "Archeology and the Oneida Indians."

Western Maryland

Programs are at 7:30 PM, the fourth Friday of the month at the LaVale Public Library unless otherwise advised. For more information, contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter Email- wmdasm@yahoo.com
Chapter Web site - www.geocities.com/wmdasm

September 27 - Introduction to the new State Terrestrial Archeologist - Charles Hall about plans for archeology in Maryland. He also will update on the findings from the ASM field session at Winslow.

October 25 - History, Methods and Findings of Excavations at the Cactus Hill Site - Michael Johnson. Fairfax County (Virginia) archeologist.

November 22 - Archeologists and American Indians Working Together - Dixie Henry, of the Trust.

December - Holiday Break- No Meeting

January 24 - Dessert Social/ Show and Tell. Bring something to share: dessert, a friend, a curiosity.

February 28 - Results of Barton 2002 - Roy Brown

March 28 - Cresaptown Site: A New Look at the Data - Dana Kollmann

April 25 - Maryland Archeology - Joe Dent

May 23 - Barton update and field session briefing 2003 - Bob Wall

CAT corner

The Western Maryland and Northern Chesapeake chapters have taken the initiative in providing the classes needed for participants in ASM's Certified Archeological Technician program. Here is what is coming up in the next few months.

October 5, 10 am - 5 pm - Historic Ceramics - Varna Boyd. Frederick Library

November 9, 10 am - 5 pm - Lithics Analysis and Identification - Carol Ebright. Frederick Library.

30 students max at each. Bring your own bag lunch - limited time for lunch. Light refreshments will be provided.

Registration deadline for CAT candidates: Ceramics - Sept. 15, Lithics - Oct.15. After the deadline, remaining seats to be open to Western Maryland and Monocacy chapter members.

November 16, 9 am - 1 pm - Prehistoric Ceramic Workshop - Bob Wall. Havre de Grace Maritime Museum.

Fall meeting form. The tentative program for this years meeting, October 19 in Ellicott City, appeared in the August newsletter. You will save money and save a place for yourself at the lunchtime presentation if you preregister. **Detach** and send this section to **Jean Singleton**, 6225 Beechwood Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21046. **Make check payable to UPAG; must be received by October 12.**

Name: _____

Number in party _____

Phone _____

\$ 5 ASM member, \$ 7 nonmember. The at-the-door charge will be \$7 for all.

PLUS

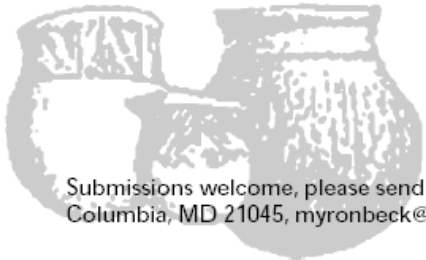
Lunch and a program of 19th century music, dance and living history at the Patapsco Female Institute. **\$12** includes sandwich, potato salad or chips, lemonade or tea, dessert, and transportation to the site. **\$6** if you bring your own lunch.

Rain or shine. Limited seating, first come first served

. Circle for each person one sandwich and either **potato salad** or **chips**: **Ham and Swiss, Smoked Tuna, Smoked Turkey, Shrimp Salad (\$3.00 additional)**

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide non-profit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM, Inc. members receive the monthly newsletter ASM, INC., the biannual MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM, Inc., events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Standard active annual membership rates are \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families. Please contact Dan Coates for publication sales at ASM, Northern Chesapeake Chapter, P.O. Box 553, Fallston, MD 21047-0553 or (410) 273-9619, e-mail: dcoates716@aol.com. For additional information, and membership categories, please contact Phyllis Sachs at P.O. Box 65001, Baltimore, MD 21209, (410) 664-9060, e-mail psachs4921@aol.com.



Submissions welcome, please send to Myron Beckenstein, 9256 Feathered Head, Columbia, MD 21045, myronbeck@aol.com, (410) 381-91115.

President
Nancy Geasey
(301) 293-2708

Vice-President
Vanna Boyd
(202) 966-9714

Membership
Secretary
Phyllis Sachs
(410) 664-9060

Secretary
Alison Pooley
(410) 747-1973

Treasurer
Sean Sweeney
(410) 669-8715

At-Large-Trustees

Louise Akerson
(410) 995-0159

Toni Ahrens
(410) 744-4968

Susan Buonocore
(410) 997-0233

Paul Inashima

Jim Sorensen
(301) 434-8316

Paul Thibault
(301) 948-6488

Archeological Society of Maryland
ASM Ink
P.O. Box 65001
Baltimore, MD 21209-5001

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 7050

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED