

# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



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

## 2017 ASM Field Session: Calverton uncovered

By Kirsti Uunila

*Principal Investigator*

The 2017 ASM Annual Field Session was held at 18CV22, a multi-component site on the shore of Battle Creek in Calvert County. Don and Jean McDougall graciously hosted the session on their property to accommodate a search for what might remain of the 17th Century town of Calverton, also known as Battle Town and Calvert Towne, the first seat of county government.

Early in May, Charles Hall, Matt McKnight and Troy Nowak of the Maryland Historical Trust with assistance of John Fiveash of ASM and myself of Calvert County Planning conducted a magnetic susceptibility survey over the property once the grid had been established.

We took readings from nearly 800 points on the grid. Matt McKnight then processed the data into maps which he compared to a 1682 plat of the town projected on a modern aerial. The result was a useful map that guided the excavation strategy for the field session.

The town plat, featured on the back of the 2017 field session T-shirt, shows several public buildings including a courthouse, prison and chapel, along with dwellings and outbuildings. Most of the buildings are labeled. Four dwellings are labeled with the names Tawny, Berry, Banks and Cosden. Two small unlabeled buildings appear near one another on the plat and seem to be dwellings, as indicated by chimneys.

At least parts of four buildings on the 1682 plat seem to be on the McDougall property: the Berry house,

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*Photo courtesy of Troy Nowak*

## Upcoming events

**June 28 – July 1:** Lost Towns returning to River Farms, site of the 2016 ASM field school. Registration required; a maximum of 20 people a day. Anyone who has attended a Lost Towns Project volunteer orientation can participate for free, otherwise the program costs \$20 a day. [www.losttownsproject.org](http://www.losttownsproject.org) or [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org)

**August 16 – 19:** Lost Towns excavation at Skipworth's Addition, a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Quaker homestead in Galesville. Same cost and contact information as above.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

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

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

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

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

**The Anne Arundel County** Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only. Email Jasmine Gollup at [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org) or call the lab at 410 222 1318.

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

**Jefferson Patterson Park** invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at [ed.chaney@maryland.gov](mailto:ed.chaney@maryland.gov) or 410 586 8554.

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

## CAT corner:

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

## Lost Towns has 2 summer volunteer opportunities

Lost Towns Project is holding a field session at Skipworth's Addition August 16-19. No experience is required to participate in this dig at a 17th Century Quaker homestead in Galesville. Registration is required. Anyone who has attended a Lost Towns Project volunteer orientation can participate for free, otherwise the program costs \$20/day. On Saturday, Aug. 19 from 3-6 p.m. a special volunteer appreciation party will be held on site. For more information, contact Lost Towns Project at [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org)

Actually, Lost Towns will be excavating at Skipworth's Addition every Friday from June 16 through the end of August. This opportunity is only available to volunteers with the Lost Towns Project. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, follow this link to the volunteer application: <http://www.losttownsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Volunteer-Application.pdf> or email [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org)

## 6 Virginia tribes hoping for recognition

By Michael E. Miller

*Condensed from the Washington Post, May 26, 2017*

In the summer of 1619, two dozen white men met inside a church in Jamestown, Va., the first legislative assembly in America, although the colonists might not have survived long enough to hold it if it weren't for assistance from Native Americans.

Four centuries later, the descendants of those Indians are demanding that legislators return the favor by finally granting them federal recognition.

"The nation owes a debt of gratitude to the native peoples, who provided the environment that helped sustain the settlers," said Stephen Adkins, chief of the Chickahominy, one of six Virginia tribes seeking recognition.

Last week, the U.S. House voted in favor of the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017, which would formally acknowledge the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Monacan and Nansemond tribes.

But the legislation needs approval from the Senate, which has twice blocked recognition.

"We are inching closer and closer," said Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), who with Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

The legislation would enable the tribes to join the 567 recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in receiving federal money for housing, education and health care. It would also allow the tribes to claim artifacts, religious objects and ancestors' remains kept in museums. But it wouldn't allow gambling casinos.

"It's a matter of pride," said Adkins, whose tribe has about 850 members. "We want to be acknowledged as the sovereign people we are."

The six tribes were part of the Powhatan Nation, a confederation of eastern Virginia tribes that met the first permanent English settlers in America at Jamestown in 1607.

"We helped sustain these folks when they couldn't cope with the harsh conditions of the winters, the hot summers and did not understand the growing seasons and hunting and fishing — much to our peril, because our land was lost, our language was trashed and our ranks were decimated," he said. "We had the artillery, even though it was primitive — bows and arrows and clubs — to eradicate these folks if that had been the will of the Indian leaders."

In 1677, the tribes signed a peace treaty with the English government. After the American Revolution, however, the United States did not recognize the treaty. And unlike other tribes, who fought the settlers and eventually secured treaties, the Virginia tribes were never recognized.

"In an ironic way, the Virginia tribes became peaceful too soon," Kaine said. "They shouldn't be penalized for making their peace with European settlers of the United States sooner than others did."

Virginia recognized the tribes in the early 1980s. Around the same time, some of the tribes began applying for federal recognition from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. But that process required records that many tribes didn't have.

"A lot of our records were destroyed," Adkins said, "and those that weren't were altered by Walter Plecker."

Walter A. Plecker an avowed white supremacist ran the state's Bureau of Vital Statistics from 1912 until his retirement in 1946. Plecker pushed the Virginia legislature to pass the Racial Integrity Act of 1924, which criminalized interracial marriage and required that every birth in the state be recorded by race with the only options being "White" and "Colored."

"We do feel like there has been some slight forward movement," Kaine said, noting that his bill breezed through the Senate's Committee on Indian Affairs on the same day its sister bill passed in the House. Some of those most staunchly opposed to recognizing the six tribes are no longer in the Senate, Kaine added.

Another positive sign came two years ago when another Powhatan tribe, the Pamunkey, became the first in Virginia to be federally recognized after a lengthy on-again, off-again administrative process.

# Mankind takes a giant step backwards

By Carl Zimmer

*Condensed from the New York Times, June 7, 2017*

Fossils discovered in Morocco are the oldest known remains of *Homo sapiens*, scientists reported Wednesday.

Dating back roughly 300,000 years, the bones open a new window on our origins. The fossils also show that early *Homo sapiens* had faces much like our own, although their brains differed in fundamental ways.

Until now, the oldest fossils of our species, found in Ethiopia, dated back just 195,000 years. The new fossils suggest our species evolved across Africa.

"We did not evolve from a single cradle of mankind somewhere in East Africa," said Phillipp Gunz, a paleoanthropologist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, and a co-author of two new studies on the fossils, published in the journal *Nature*.

Today, the closest living relatives to *Homo sapiens* are chimpanzees and bonobos, with whom we share a common ancestor that lived over six million years ago. After the lineages split, our ancient relatives evolved into many different species, known as hominins. For millions of years, hominins remained very ape-like. They were short, had small brains and could fashion only crude stone tools.

In 1961, miners in Morocco dug up a few pieces of a skull at a site called Jebel Irhoud. Later digs revealed a few more bones, along with flint blades. Researchers estimated the remains to be 40,000 years old. In the 1980s, however, paleoanthropologist Jean-Jacques Hublin took a closer look at one jawbone.

The teeth bore some resemblance to those of living humans, but the shape seemed strangely primitive. "It did not make sense," Hublin, now at the Max Planck Institute, recalled in an interview.

Since 2004, Hublin and his colleagues have been working through layers of rocks on a desert hillside at Jebel Irhoud. They've found a wealth of fossils, including skull bones from five individuals who all died around the same time.

Just as important, the scientists discovered flint blades in the same layer as the skulls. The people of Jebel Irhoud most likely made them for many purposes, putting some on wooden handles to fashion spears. Many of the flint blades showed signs of having been burned. The people at Jebel Irhoud probably lit fires to cook food, heating discarded blades buried in the ground below.

This accident of history made it possible to use the flints as clocks. Hublin and his colleagues used a method called thermoluminescence to calculate how much time had passed since the blades were burned. They estimated that the blades were roughly 300,000 years old. The skulls, which were discovered in the same rock layer, must have been the same age.

Despite the age of the teeth and jaws, anatomical details showed they nevertheless belonged to *Homo sapiens*, not to another hominin lineage such as the Neanderthals.

Resetting the clock on mankind's debut would be achievement enough. But the new research is also notable for the discovery of several early humans rather than just one, as so often happens, said Marta Mirazon Lahr, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Cambridge who was not involved in the new study.

"We have no other place like it, so it's a fabulous finding," she said.

The people of Jebel Irhoud were certainly sophisticated. They could make fires and craft complex weapons, such as wooden handled spears, needed to kill gazelle and other animals that grazed the savanna that covered the Sahara 300,000 years ago.

The flint is interesting for another reason: Researchers traced its origin to another site about 20 miles south of Jebel Irhoud. Early *Homo sapiens*, then, knew how to search out and to use resources spread over long distances.

Similar flint blades of about the same age have been found at other sites across Africa and scientists have long wondered who made them. The fossils at Jebel Irhoud raise the possibility that they were made by early *Homo sapiens*.

And if that's true, Gunz and his colleagues argue, then our species may have been evolving as a network of groups spread across the continent.

# Hunley discovery work goes on

By Jeffrey Collins

*Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, June 11, 2017*

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — For years, two scientists have been painstakingly cleaning a century and a half of sand, sediment and corrosion from the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship.

They drain the 75,000-gallon tank of water and chemicals three times a week for several hours at the Confederate sub's home in North Charleston, and then go to work in full protective gear, bent around nooks and crannies, gingerly chipping the crud off the H.L. Hunley, all for moments like this, when they can show the world something new.

The most recent discovery, made public last week, involves how the sub moved through the water.

Hidden underneath the rock-hard stuff scientists call "concretion" was a sophisticated set of gears and teeth on the crank in the water tube that ran the length of the 40-foot sub. These gears enabled the crew rotating the crank to propel the sub faster by moving water more quickly through the tube, conservator and collections manager Johanna Rivera-Diaz said.

The biggest surprise for Rivera-Diaz? Discovering that some of the men wrapped the crank handle in thin metal tubes covered with cloth to try to prevent blisters.

"You get really concentrated on a specific area working every day. I was finishing the crank system. One day, when I was through, I just stepped back and 'Wow, this looks amazing,' " she said.

The Hunley sank a Union blockade ship in November 1864 by ramming it with a torpedo attached to a spar. A half-century would pass before another sub sank a ship in the World War I era.

The Hunley itself sank to the bottom during its attack, killing all eight men aboard. Some guess the crew was too close to the torpedo and were knocked unconscious when it exploded, or perhaps



miscalculated how long their oxygen would last. Scientists hope to resolve the mystery by cleaning the entire interior of the sub over the next several years.

It took one year to remove all the crud from its hull, and nearly two more to clean out the much smaller crew compartment, Rivera-Diaz said.

"It's tough physically to do this every day. You are wearing special suits and using chemicals with high pH levels," she said.

The sub itself is only 4 feet in diameter. Eight schoolchildren can barely cram themselves into a replica nearby at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center.

Up next for Rivera-Diaz is cleaning the conning tower. Scientists have determined that it had a lock, but don't know why. The submarine was too cramped for the men to move around.

The Hunley was raised from the bottom of the ocean in 2000. Scientists have spent 17 years trying to get it looking as close to possible as it appeared on its mission.

The eight crew members were buried in an elaborate ceremony at a Confederate cemetery in Charleston in 2004. They were the sub's commander, Lt. George Dixon of Alabama; James Wicks, a North Carolina native living in Florida; Frank Collins of Virginia; Joseph Ridgaway of Maryland; and four foreign-born men about whom less is known. One is still only known as "Miller."



# 2017 ASM Field Session: Calverton uncovered

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which has partially eroded away; a possible dependency to the Tawny house, and the two unlabeled buildings. Each of these showed as "hot spots" on the remote sensing data which also showed two other areas that may represent post-1682 structures.

Over the course of the field session, we did at least some testing in each of those areas. Test units were opened to investigate the two unidentified buildings on the plat, a possible post-1682 structure, and the Tawny dependency. Owing to thick vegetation that prevented the placement of test units, volunteers excavated STPs in the area near the Berry house.

In most of the areas tested, with the exception of the Tawny and Berry houses, there was memorably abundant oyster shell, some of which may have been associated with a Late Woodland occupation. There was not a large concentration of 17th and 18th-Century artifacts, but there were enough diagnostic finds to conclude that at least a portion of the town has survived three centuries of plowing.

Period artifacts included imported pottery, Mulberry pipe bowls, a marked pipe stem with a 'WK' cartouche and a smoker's companion. Handmade brick fragments, wrought nails and the ubiquitous oyster shell made up the bulk of the assemblage.

Four features were found and mapped. One was a probable hearth consisting of burned, compact earth in the area believed to be the Tawny dependency. While there was not a lot of brick in the unit, it is possible that it was related to the dependency; hearths in this period were often vented with stick and mud chimneys.

Another feature was a large, trash-filled pit, possibly a cellar or even an animal wallow. Its entire extent was not revealed though three 2m x 2m units were opened to chase it. A third feature was a linear shell-filled pit that had fragments of brick and wrought nails near the bottom. Finally, on the last full day, a feature was exposed that seemed, upon probing with a soil sampler, to be hollow. It may be a well or something else with a void in it.

While the terrestrial archeologists and volunteers labored on land, Troy Nowak and Susan Langley of the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program slowly plied the waters off the shore, charting the historic shoreline and conducting magnetometry and side-scan studies, and took volunteers aboard with them. Steve Lenik of St. Mary's College of Maryland and Isaac Shearns of Baltimore brought St. Mary's drone to Calverton to create detailed imaging of the site and some of the features.

More detailed reports will follow in ASM publications as the analyses continue. At this point we may confidently state that at least part of the historic town still possesses integrity underground on the McDougall property. Many thanks are due to the McDougalls and to the more than 50 people who took part in the field session. We hope that you found your labor and experience rewarding and enjoyed the effort to uncover Calverton.

## Chapter notes

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

## Anne Arundel

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

## Central Chapter

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

**Sunday, July 9:** Central Chapter is co-partnering with NHSM Nature Connection Archaeology Program. 1-4.

## Charles County

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

**September 14:** Jim Gibb will speak on "Bones for Beginners II."

**October 12:** Silas Hurry will discuss "A History of Archeology in Maryland's First Capital."

**November 9:** Jacob Moschler. TBD

## Mid-Potomac

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

## 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.

## 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 St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown or at St. Mary's College. 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 try [UParchaeologygroup@gmail.com](mailto:UParchaeologygroup@gmail.com) or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

## Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

**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)

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