

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Eyewitness to three-day archeology

By Don Housley

Mid-Potomac Chapter

It all started — Montgomery County Parks' involvement with the PBS TV show *Time Team America* — when Jack Marshall, a Park's archeology volunteer, wore an "Archaeology Pit Crew" T-shirt while helping to set up for an art show.

Because of the T-shirt, he met Noel Broadbent, a Smithsonian research fellow who was serving as the principal investigator for a War of 1812 site in Washington, D.C. He needed experienced volunteers and Jack offered the services of the Mid-Potomac Chapter.

With the War of 1812 project winding down in the fall of 2011, I invited Noel to visit Montgomery County Park's premier cultural resource site in North Bethesda, the Josiah Henson Park, formerly known as the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" site.

Noel's new project consisted of serving as a consultant for Oregon Public Broadcasting's second season of *Time Team America* (TTA). The show's objective is to help move along archeological research on a site by gathering a team of professional archeologists with a wide range of experiences, "the Talent," and offering the use of a variety of expensive geophysical equipment, including ground penetrating radar, magnetometry, resistance and conductivity of soil to electrical current.

They then descend on the site for only three days of investigation and filming. From nearly 100 hours of film, a one-hour show emerges detailing the history of the site along with an explanation of the archeological techniques they have chosen to use and a summary of their findings. In short, TTA is an archeological reality TV show.

After touring the site and hearing the compelling story of Josiah Henson's slave experiences on the property from the 1790s to 1830, his eventual escape to Canada from Kentucky and publication of an autobiography in 1849 that helped inspire Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Noel encouraged the Parks Department to apply for one of 2014's four episode sites. The Parks did and by the spring of 2012, the Henson site was selected with filming slated for the second week of August.

TTA was to further the archeological work that had started in 2006 and carried on since 2009 by the Mid-Potomac Chapter. One of the primary goals has been to find evidence of Henson-era outbuildings and artifacts. The existing frame house (c.1800-1815) on the property belonged to Henson's master, Isaac Riley.

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Mark your calendars: Another field school coming this fall

ASM has decided to offer a second field school this year, this time at 1650-1600 plantation site in Anne Arundel County. The session will run from October 10 to 20. The site is on the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center property near Edgewater. More details next month.

Upcoming events

September 6: ASM board meeting, Miller Branch, Howard County Library. 10 a.m. All are welcome.

September 20: Pre-Columbian Society annual symposium, "Land Without Borders: Cultural Interaction between the Pre-Hispanic Southwest and Mesoamerica." The U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center in Washington. 9 - 5:30. For details and registration, see the Pre-Columbian Society website www.pcswdc.org or contact Rosemary Lyon at 301/320-4391.

October 10 - 20: Fall field school. Seventeenth Century historical site, Anne Arundel County.

October 18: ASM Annual Meeting, the Schmidt Center, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater.

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

Volunteer opportunities

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

AUGUST SPECIAL: ASM Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 until 3 to process the collection from the Patterson Park (Baltimore City) project. Historic artifacts from the War of 1812 through the Civil War (and later) will be washed, labeled and cataloged. To reserve a seat contact Greg Katz at gkatz@louisberger.com

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17th Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps 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

Montgomery County offers opportunities for lab and field work. Lab is at Needwood Mansion in Derwood on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the first Tuesday evening of each month (except July and August). 301-563-7531 or contact heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org. CAT opportunity.

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 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

Several CAT workshops are planned for the Annual Meeting, October 18, in Edgewater. Details TBA. For more information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.

Unfinished business

Don't look now but there is only one more month left of summer. It's time to put on those things you put off because there was "plenty of time" the last time you thought of it.

First there is the matter of ASM's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award. Each year it is presented to someone for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology.

Do you know someone who should be honored? The person doesn't have to be an ASM member or even an archeologist or a resident of Maryland, just someone whose efforts have significantly affected archeology in our state.

The deadline for nominations is September 8, but we've already talked about putting things off, haven't we. The nomination form is on the ASM website.

There also is the matter of donations for the silent auction to be held this year in conjunction with the ESAF meeting at Solomons. Do you have something that will interest other members or can you convince a business to donate an object, a meal or a mini-vacation? Sure you can. Contact Valerie Hall at SilentAuction@marylandarcheology.org

Thanks for Patterson Park help

By Gregory Katz

The Louis Berger Group

Spring is a great time to be in Patterson Park in Baltimore. Moms and dads push strollers, dogs are out for their daily walks and flowers are bursting into bloom. And for a few weeks this past March and April, around the iconic pagoda, archeologists were busy looking for evidence of the War of 1812, shoveling and screening and talking to all passersby about the archeology and history of the park.

"We Dig Hampstead Hill" signs were planted next to the excavations, referencing the name of the area in the early 1800s. Baltimore Heritage and the Louis Berger Group ran the excavations, which were funded by the National Park Service, the Maryland Historical Trust and other donors.

The fieldwork began with a weeklong geophysical investigation by the illustrious Timothy Horsley. His investigation focused on locating evidence of the fortifications that once ran through the park, which served to help defend the eastern approaches to Baltimore in 1814. His survey was highly successful. It was followed by four weeks of excavation.

The fieldwork was planned as a public archeology endeavor and the public was immersed in all aspects of the dig. Volunteers excavated, screened, worked survey instruments and helped with school group tours. (More than 700 Baltimore City students toured the site and learned about archeology through hands-on experience.) In all, the project had the assistance of 92 volunteers, including 25 ASM members.

The assistance of the ASM volunteers was invaluable. A day of fieldwork did not go by without ASM volunteers helping out, bringing their infectious enthusiasm as well as top-notch experience and skills. CAT candidates even helped with the geophysical survey in the snow. To all of the volunteers, the project team sends out a hearty "thank you!"

The excavations at Patterson Park, including 24 test units, found the 1814 fortification line, which was traced across a substantial portion of the park. In addition, they found the remains of a building which functioned for a time as the field headquarters for the eastern defenses of Baltimore.

Important artifact finds include a gunflint and a musket ball, both associated with the 1814 defensive line, and numerous military artifacts from a Civil War encampment at the site.

The archeological work is being used to help preserve, protect and interpret the site, and public talks about the site are being planned for the Fall as part of the bicentennial celebration of the Battle of Baltimore. Artifacts from the site will eventually be on display in Baltimore. ASM volunteers have opportunities to work with the artifacts at the MHT lab in Crownsville. See the Volunteer Opportunities box on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Eyewitness to three-day archeology

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Coordinated by Parks archeologists Heather Bouslog and Cassandra Michaud, dozens of Park employees and volunteers contributed time and energy to the show by providing background material, maps and photographs; filling in recently completed excavation units; clearing away underbrush for the geophysical testing; expanding the site's grid to include most of the property and that of three adjoining neighbor properties; locating local experts; informing the neighborhood of the TV filming; gathering together all the necessary equipment, and even delivering firewood to the site for a cooking demonstration.

What follows reflects my personal experiences and responsibilities during the filming and does not intend to chronicle all of the show's activities.

Monday, the first full day of filming on the site, began early with the arrival of "the Talent" and the support crews. The first film shot showed Parks volunteers and the crew from local universities pulling out equipment — buckets, screens, trowels — from the basement of the house and marching over to a 10' x 10' excavation unit that contained an interesting quartz feature.

Without any warning the sound man wired me up with a microphone and Chelsea Rose, the show's lead archeologist, started asking me questions about a historic quartz scatter that Mid-Potomac had earlier uncovered and what it might indicate — a foundation, wall fall or trash area — and about the nature of the artifacts found nearby. Chelsea explained that she wanted to open more units to see if the quartz scatter continued.

At the end of the brief interview, the assistant director said to me, "Next time don't look at the camera, look at the person who's asking the questions just like you are having a normal conversation." There was no next time for me. I'd blown my chance to play a real archeologist on TV. However, five seconds of that interview did make the show's final cut with me saying, "It could have been a wall."

Later that first day, I was assigned to do the excavation paperwork for Allan Maca, one of the show's archeologists. He had speculated that a sloping area behind the modern detached garage would be a good place to look for a trash pit and, based on old photographs, evidence of an early 20th Century farm road that also may have existed at Henson's time.

After clearing the area of undergrowth, stringing excavation units and surface collecting, the digging began. Not content with using shovels and trowels, the day ended with Allan calling for pick axes or hoes to speed up the digging. Neither was in the arsenal of tools on the site, but someone made a trip to the nearest Home Depot that night.

Tuesday started with a rain shower and extensive cloud cover that postponed for a day a helicopter flyover to film the extent of the original Riley property. For me, work continued behind the garage. The arsenal of tools now included several long-handled pick axes. Allan broke one handle against a nearby tree trunk, making a more suitable size for working in the unit. Before long, evidence of a trash area showed up, including glass bottles, ceramics and parts of a clay Pamplin tobacco pipe bowl.

Meanwhile, the film crew conducted a number of interviews, including with James Henson, a direct descendant of Josiah Henson.

Finally, some film action came our way when the assistant director asked us to look through the numerous artifact bags and "just pull out the most interesting ones. We'll be back in half an hour with the film crew to have Allan and ceramics expert Patricia Samford talk about the findings." (Allan was also reminded to put his shirt on over this tank top for the filming.)

Most of the artifacts came from the late 19th and early 20th Centuries but Patricia identified one piece of blue-transfer print whiteware that might have come from a pre-Civil War washbasin. Though the artifacts were going back in time, they were still several decades short of the Henson-era.

From early afternoon on, smoke from a small cooking fire filled the air. Michael Twitty, noted African-American food expert, prepared "the Talent" an end-of-day meal to provide a venue for discussing the day's activities and findings.

As “the Talent” sat down to roast chicken and stewed vegetables, the volunteer work crew gathered close by to listen in but out of camera range and enjoyed their end-of-day snack — popsicles. “The Talent” might not have been so happy with their meal if they had been served what Riley typically gave his slaves — salted herring and corn meal.

Sunny skies returned for the last day of filming allowing the helicopter flyover. As it was sighted, the assistant director and others immediately started yelling at us “to stop looking up and get back to work.” I sneaked under some tree cover to snap a few pictures that barely showed the helicopter through the tree limbs.

As Meg Watters, the show's geophysical director, continued to interpret the latest findings, Allan was pulled off the garage site to investigate a “hot spot” on the neighbor's property. That left only me and one other person to work on the garage trash area. By lunchtime I was told I would be needed to do paperwork at the log cabin kitchen site.

Whether planned for dramatic effect or not, the last several hours of filming centered on the log cabin's kitchen floor. For the longest time, many in the community had come to think of the attached log cabin as “Uncle Tom's Cabin” being used by Josiah Henson. But dendrochronology had showed that the cabin dated from 1850-1851, some 20 years after Henson had escaped to Canada.

The purpose in investigating the cabin's dirt floor was to see if it were possible that the “out kitchen,” mentioned by Henson in his autobiography, may have once stood where the log cabin sits today. All morning Parks staff worked to remove the wooden floor installed during the 1938 Riley house renovation. With the clock running down, four archeologists were assigned to four small units made by the intersection of a support beam and a piece of ductwork in the center of the cabin floor.

Because of the limited space in the cabin, I was assigned to do the field paperwork for all four units. Opening measurements, Munsell soil colors and types of artifacts and features were being yelled at me from four different units. To move the process along, screeners from other parts of the site were called in and placed outside the cabin's back window as filled buckets went out and empty ones came in.

Feeling the pressure to find evidence of multiple old dirt floors, one archeologist troweled a fairly shallow one-foot-by-one-foot square and discovered what he determined to be three different floors each separated by a layer of charcoal. The initial interpretation, which still needs to be confirmed, was that the third dirt floor may have dated from an earlier kitchen, possibly in the Henson-era.

With dimming sunlight and constant shouts from the director that “we need to wrap-up,” the digging stopped in the kitchen and in other areas. “The Talent” then gathered in the cabin for their final discussion and wrap up of the three days.

And then it was all over — no group photograph or even a group hug. The university students had already drifted away and then one by one “the Talent” left to return to their hotel. Although left with lots of artifacts — nearly 6,000 collected in three days, about the same number that had been collected in three years — and paperwork to process and more excavation units to complete, my overall impression was that the three days were worth it.

For the Parks, the advantages of the free geophysical testing and publicity were obvious. For me, being a part of a TV production that brought together such a diverse group of people with wide ranging expertise to enhance Henson's 19th Century story using 21st Century techniques was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's hard to imagine what Isaac Riley and Josiah Henson would think about these three hectic days of August of 2012.

Mid-Potomac continues to work on the site.

The episode is scheduled for showing Tuesday, August 19 at 8 p.m. on local PBS stations. Or you can get a peek for looking at Time-Team America online www.pbs.org/time-team/home (and see how many ASM members you can spot helping out).

<p>ASM election ballots are heading your way. Be sure to vote.</p>
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SHA finds telltale artifacts in PG

By Richard Ervin

Condensed from SHA newsletter CRaB, Summer 2014

The State Highway Administration and our consultant RK&K conducted an interesting data recovery investigation at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Floodplain A Site (18PR1024), a small but intact late Middle Woodland period (A.D. 50-A.D. 950) site located along Paint Branch.

Due to modern agricultural practices, the 25-by-35-foot site was preserved under several feet of sediment deposited during the repeated flooding of Paint Branch. Investigations recorded cultural features, stone debitage, stone tools (including at least a dozen corner-notched and pentagonal points and bifacial knives) and ceramics.

More specifically, site 18PR1024 is interpreted to be a short-term Selby Bay phase (A.D. 100-A.D. 600) procurement camp that served as a workstation for manufacturing and repairing stone tools, producing replacements on local quartz and quartzite, and preparing food using heated rocks used for boiling water. The site was briefly occupied several times over a short duration.

The artifact assemblage is small, represents a limited number of stone tool manufacture and repair episodes and shows little modern or later prehistoric disturbance. Late Archaic (3750 B.C.-1250 B.C.) and Early Woodland (1250 B.C.- A.D. 50) use of the site may have been limited to the loss of points during hunting activities, although it can't be ruled out that some lithic reduction occurred prior to the Selby Bay occupation.

Ten recorded cultural features include stone reduction stations, two hearth-like features with concentrations of fire-cracked rock, and possible boiling stone dumps. The two hearths suggest the site was re-visited at least twice during the late Middle Woodland. Activities at the site included finishing tools from imported stone tool blanks, refurbishing damaged tools and producing damaged tool replacements from locally available quartz and quartzite raw material.

The imported material, mostly jasper, was mainly composed of late-stage waste flakes representing the last steps of tool manufacture, and the repair and resharpening of existing but damaged tools. The amount of repair and resharpening suggests that the occupation occurred shortly before trips to replenish stone supplies.

Although a strong preference for non-local jaspers sourced to quarries in Pennsylvania and Virginia reflects participation in long-distance trade networks during the period of site occupation, local quartz and quartzite cobbles were also used in tool manufacture. Quartz and quartzite bifacial tools, tool blanks, scrapers and utilized flakes were all recovered from the site.

Floral analysis suggests that both terrestrial and riverine resources were exploited during site occupation. Carbonized hickory nut and chestnut shell fragments, raspberry/blackberry, and edible grass seeds were all recovered. Blackberry and raspberry are typically available in summer, but Native Americans preserved the fruit for year-round use. A few degraded shell fragments were also recovered, but poor preservation prohibited identification of species or whether the shellfish were collected from a freshwater or tidal environment.

Analysis of residue remaining on tool edges revealed traces of bear and American eel on projectile points, and arrowhead root residue was identified on ceramic sherds. Bear was typically hunted during the fall and early winter, and American eel runs occur in the fall. Archeological evidence thus suggests the site was only occupied on several occasions during early fall seasons.

This site, which was investigated in preparation for the development of an ICC stream mitigation project, provided significant information that helps to clarify a fascinating and complex portion of regional prehistory.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND **MINUTES OF THE 50TH ANNUAL FALL MEETING, NOVEMBER 9,** **2013**

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Archeological society of Maryland, Inc. was hosted by the Mid-Potomac Chapter and held at the Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park, in Derwood, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Heather Bouslog and Don Housley.

The president, Claude Bowen, started the business meeting at 9:10 a.m.

President's Report by Claude Bowen. Profits from today's Silent Auction of ASM will be given to the Analysis Fund. Heather Bouslog was able to get permission for ASM to conduct the silent auction on the premises. The venue was offered for free.

The 2013 field sessions of the Biggs Ford and the 1662 Jesuit Chapter House were successful. We are hopeful to return to the Biggs Ford site for the field session next year.

For the April 2014 Maryland Archaeology Month, the Piscataway are to lead in the use and vision on the landscape.

The 2011 ASM grant closed with the state non-capital grant. We are now on our own resources. We need to save money while looking for grant resources. ASM needs to seek advocacy from the Governor's office and the State legislature. We need to find new ways to package our agenda; the chapters may need to become involved to get funds restored.

Essex Community College has started the first college chapter. They will petition ASM for admittance in 2014.

William B. Marye Award was given to Maureen Kavanaugh for her many years of dedication and working with the Society as a member of the MGS and the MHT and as a professional.

Jim Gibb is trying to get a new ASM chapter in St. Mary's County.

N.A. Place of Repose Commission. After five years of meetings, most of the burials have been returned. The Piscataway wants their ancestors buried at Accokeek where they came from. Because this is a federal government park, this will be handled separately.

The ESAF meeting will be in Solomon's in 2014 and ASM is next year's sponsor. The meeting will run from October 31 to November 2. Sessions are being put together: including Pig Point and Clovis and Beyond. The banquet speaker will be Dr. Henry Miller from Historic St. Mary's City.

The Treasurer's Report by Jim Gibb. The proposed budget is similar to last year's budget. \$36,600 in the checking account. \$26,000 in the savings account. \$5,687.00 for the CAT Program. The proposed revenue in 2014 is \$17,000. Total expenditures \$26,000 with a loss of \$9,000. \$5,000 allotted for the ASM journals in 2014. \$5,000 planned for field session for 2014. We need to watch our money. We have no grant money for 2014. We are committed to raise money and we need to find a new source of income. For instance, T-shirt sales at the St Francis site were 100% profit.

Membership (November 2013). 7 renewals, 11 new members, 13 college members, 283 total members with emails.

Remember to add an extra \$6 for journals being sent to those members without email. We are still getting 15 or so emailed newsletters returned as undeliverable. Emails need to be reaffirmed as being in present use.

Continued on next page

Laboratory. Regarding the Chapel Point artifacts, we are working on the light fraction. Lab is held every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Louise Akerson.

The Archaeology Conservancy has purchased two Maryland sites, the Barton Site and the Rosenstock Site. Members of ASM should each consider membership since it is supporting Maryland archeology.

Chapter Reports

Western Chapter. 47 members. The Barton site was open from June to October. Because level 13 was filled with artifacts we were unable to go down to level 20. We will return in the spring. The chapter 2013 field trip was to Mt. Savage in Allegany County.

Mid-Potomac. 59 members. We are planning to have a cataloging, soil and site formation workshops. Our largest turnout was when we showed the DVD "Jane," a story about cannibalism at Jamestown.

Monocacy. 17 members. Annual dues are \$5 to maintain the group's web site. We had a good year with several interesting speakers. A highlight was Vince Schiffert of the Tuscarora Indian Nation last March. Vince gave a complete Tuscarora Nation history in his presentation. Monocacy Chapter was proud to host the annual field session at Biggs Ford in Frederick County. George Evans of the chapter made many of the local arrangements. The chapter has additionally had a donation of \$40 for a permanently loaned power point projector. The chapter participated in Public Outreach Day at Jefferson Patterson Park and Rockville Day.

Northern Chesapeake. The chapter participated in the hemophilia camp. Six library talks. Four slate classes at Oregon Ridge. Turkey house lectures. Museum displays. With donations we finally achieved 501C3 status.

Charles County. 35 members. We meet at the La Plata police station. We participated in Jefferson Patterson Day. Charles County was invited to volunteer with SHA at their Benedict, Maryland, field investigation. See website.

Central Maryland. Busy field season at Pine Valley Park, Manchester. Participated with Northern Chesapeake Chapter on an archeological survey of a Deer Creek Site in Harford County, Maryland. We plan to have a website in 2014.

New Business

Spring Symposium. Laura Cripps reported that a site for the spring symposium is being sought as well as a backup.

Allison Pulley is resigning as ASM archivist.

Dennis Curry is retiring from editing the ASM Journal. Volunteers are needed. It was remembered that there used to be a committee overseeing editing and printing the journal.

Alexandra Jones announced there are volunteer opportunities with Archaeology in the Community, dig day in Patterson Park looking for the foot print of fortification of the Civil War fort. www.ajones@archaeologyincommunity.com

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Israel, for

Belinda Urquiza, Secretary, ASM, Inc.

Oil boom is archeology boom too

Condensed from the Associated Press, June 11, 2014

TIOGA, N.D. — Drilling crews are eager to plunge their equipment into the ground. Road builders are ready to start highway projects and construction workers need to dig.

But across the hyperactive oil fields of North Dakota, these and other groups have to wait for another team of specialists known for slow, meticulous study: archeologists.

They are the experts who must survey the land before a single spade of dirt can be turned, a requirement that has produced a rare jobs bonanza in a field that forces many highly educated professionals to hop from project to project around the world and still struggle to make a living.

Without the oil boom, a lot of young archeologists might "never get the experience," said Tim Dodson, who endured a long job search before finding work overseas and later coming to North Dakota.

The positions also come with a constant tension: The archeologists are trained to find evidence of the past, but the companies that pay them would prefer not to turn up anything that gets in the way of profits. Archeological surveys are intended to protect any historical treasures that might lie buried atop the region's oil and natural gas deposits. Although not required on all oil projects, they are a mandate for most federal drilling permits.

The work involves inspecting a site for any artifacts or evidence of past human habitation and cataloging the effort. When something of value does emerge, oil companies often choose to go around the site or move their project slightly. At the frenetic pace that drives many drilling projects, there is little patience to wait for — or willingness to pay for — a full excavation.

Long before the oil boom, previous digs uncovered a nearly complete duck-billed dinosaur fossil with skin, bones and tendons preserved in sandstone. Other excavations have focused on old trading posts, military forts and battlefields, according to the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

With more archeologists working in the oil fields, the number of historic sites in North Dakota jumped from 846 in 2009 to nearly 2,260 in 2013, the state's Historic Preservation Office said. Those sites include forgotten settler cemeteries with graves marked in foreign languages, abandoned homesteader farms and stone circles put in place by American Indians thousands of years ago.

"A lot of that wouldn't be happening without the boom," said Richard Rothaus, an archeologist who heads Trefoil Cultural and Environmental Heritage, a Minnesota-based firm that offers "cultural resource management," an umbrella term for this kind of archeological work.

While the oil boom is the engine behind the speedy growth, the archeological work is not focused entirely on drilling sites. Much of it targets building projects designed to support the oil business, such as road, bridge and airport improvements. The Bismarck office of Metcalf Archaeological Consultants has roughly doubled in size every year for the past three years, according to Damita Engel, regional director of operations at the firm, which is based in Golden, Colorado.

Three years ago, they had 10 to 12 employees. Now they have 53.

"And we're still hiring," Engel said.

The added jobs have helped scores of archeologists such as Dodson, 30. After getting his master's degree, he moved back in with his parents in St. Louis and worked as a bartender and bouncer while searching for a position in his specialty. After seven months, he finally landed one in the United Arab Emirates, which led to jobs in Virginia and Colorado.

That's a common path for archeologists. Most jobs are short lived and are limited by either budget or scope. The profession is nomadic for many starting out, requiring frequent moves over long distances. The pay is low, the benefits few.

Unlike his previous positions, the oil-patch jobs were with larger companies for higher salaries.

Book review: Prehistory for middle schoolers

Buried Beneath Us: Discovering the Ancient Cities of the Americas, by Anthony Aveni, Roaring Book Press, 90 pages, \$19.

It's easy to get the wrong impression of what this book is about. Start with the title. "Buried Beneath Us" does more than hint of archeology. Then the subtitle, "Discovering the Ancient Cities of the Americas," can make one think the book is about a multitude of sites. The cover drawing is of a thriving Cahokia with a modern St. Louis in the background.

Cahokia turns out to be the only U.S. site included in the book. In fact, only four sites are explored, the others being Mexico City, Copan in the Yucatan and Cuzco in Peru.

But the book should be judged against what it tries to do and on this score it comes out fine. Intended as an introduction for middle schoolers to the pre-Columbian world, it does a good job of delving into the history of the four cities, how they developed and what happened to them. Archeology and its contributions play a continuing part in the narration but are not a focus.

The book also looks at the life people lived in these cities and the lessons all of this should have for people today:

"The many people who have inhabited our planet before us left a lasting impression on the world, and we can benefit from their knowledge. If we look closely enough, we can discover where they succeeded and why they failed. That's the lesson of history."

Also, "When future historians examine our culture, what will they think? When archeologists of the future dig up the remains of our cities, what will they find?... And what will they make of us?"

Helpfully, a pronunciation glossary is at the back of the book and glossaried words are highlighted in the text. Unhelpfully, the text gives no indication of why those words are highlighted.

For 10-to-14-year-olds wanting to learn something about some major cities of ancient America and to get something to think about concerning that world and ours, "Buried Beneath Us" would be a good choice.

-- Myron Beckenstein

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>

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 at 7 p.m. 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>

Tuesday, August 19: An open invitation: Join us for the Washington, D.C. area debut of PBS' *Time Team America* episode "The Search for Josiah Henson" at the Hollywood East Cafe, 11160 Veirs Mill Road, Wheaton, in Westfield Wheaton Mall for the 8 p.m. airing. Come early if you wish for dinner and drinks. For more information or to RSVP contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net

September 18: David Cohen, Montgomery Parks Park Police volunteer, will discuss his investigation of the site of a 1957 airplane crash in Clarksburg, the last registered and most contemporary archeology site in Montgomery County.

October 16: Dorothy Krass, chapter member, will talk of her visit to Mayan archeological sites in Honduras.

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.

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>

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown. For information contact Scott Lawrence at graveconcerns@md.metrocast.net

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ellicott City Colored School. Labs are held the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. For chapter information contact Dave Cavey at 410-747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

September 8: Lee Preston on Native American hunting techniques from Alberta to Howard County.

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>

September 26: James M. Hoey, local historian, will speak on how the Mason-Dixon Line, the once-disputed border between Pennsylvania and Maryland, was surveyed from 1763 to 1768.

October 24: Dennis Curry, chief archeologist with the MHT, will present "The Piscataway Indian Fort on Heater's Island."

November: Field Trip TBA

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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 Robin Martin 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

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