

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Wayne Clark gets Marye Award at meeting

Scads of people hopped into their cars and drove to northern Frederick County, within a whisper of the Pennsylvania border, to attend ASM's Annual Meeting October 22. They were rewarded by a windy chill outside and lots of insight inside.

The meeting took place at Catoctin Furnace and many of the 11 presentations focused on aspects of the historic site, from the African-American workers who are buried there to the technological toolkit used to get a better understanding of the workshop. To add flesh to the discussion, a tour was taken of several of the still-standing buildings and of the cemetery. To add bone, two anthropologists from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History brought along skeletons and odds and ends for analysis.

Other talks included State Underwater Archeologist Susan Langley speaking about the area of wet investigation and Jocelyn Lee, another Smithsonian representative talking about relict streams. Jim Gibb might be considered a Smithsonian archeologist, since that is one of the hats he wears, and he told the more than 100 people in the audience about his work on the Smithsonian property near Edgewater.

The meeting also announced the winner of ASM's highest prize, the William B. Marye Award, and the winners of this year's election.

In presenting the Marye Award to Wayne Clark, outgoing ASM President Claude Bowen outlined some of his achievements:

"Our recipient was active in the negotiations with Mrs. Jefferson Patterson pursuant to giving her property, Point Farm, to the State of Maryland as a park and museum, preserving the many archeological sites on the property. He also worked with the Maryland General Assembly to find the funds for the design and creation of the now world-renowned MAAC lab. He became the founding director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum and served in that capacity from 1983 to 1995. From 1995 to 2006 he was the founding chief of the MHT Office of Museum Services."

He noted that Clark will have a new book coming out soon, "Algonquian Cultures of the Delaware and Susquehanna River Drainages."

In the election results, Don Housley took over as president of the Society, Valerie Hall remained vice president and Barbara Israel remained secretary. New to their positions are Treasurer Larry Seastum, and Membership Secretary Rachael Holmes.

The board of trustees will consist of ex-President Bowen, Lynne Bulhack, Katharine Fernstrom, Elaine Hall, Annetta Schott and Belinda Urquiza.

In other news, it was announced that ASM membership has grown over the last year.

Don't look now, but it's renewal time. Form inside

Upcoming events

November 4: Celebrate with the Lost Towns folks at "Partying through Time: Happy Hour Archeology Workshop." 6-8 p.m. Pre-registration required. \$10 for Lost Towns members; \$20 for others.

<http://www.losttownsproject.org/public-events/>

December 3: ASM board meeting, Heritage House, Ellicott City. 10 a.m. All members welcome.

January 4 - 8, 2017: Society for Historical Archaeology conference. Fort Worth. www.sha.org/conferences

March 16 - 19: Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Virginia Beach.

<http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/conferences.htm>

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 or Charlie Hall at 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 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 is accepting applications from for lab and field work volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or 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 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 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.

CAT corner:

A Projectile Point Identification and Lithic Analysis workshop will be offered Saturday, November 19, by Charlie Hall. The session will be held from 10 to noon at the MHT headquarters in Crownsville. A photo ID will be needed to enter the building, the People's Resource Center. RSVP required by November 16 at burquiza@comcast.net or 410 535 2586.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make sure they don't miss announcements and opportunities, all CAT candidates are asked to update their contact information by sending their current address, email and phone numbers to Belinda Urquiza at burquiza@comcast.net For the latest information on CAT activities see the ASM website or contact her.

Lead-coffin baby identified as Calvert son

By Michael E. Ruane

Condensed from the Washington Post, October 17, 2016

The surviving pieces of the baby's skull are paper thin in places. There are holes in the cranium. And the infant has the classic "rosary bead" rib deformities of the ancient childhood disease rickets.

Some of the bones with the tiny skeleton on the Smithsonian lab table also show evidence of anemia. And the infant probably had scurvy, from a lack of vitamin C.

Much is known about the 6-month-old who died in Maryland 300 years ago and was buried in a small lead-covered coffin. Yet there is no record of the child's death — or birth. No one knew for certain who the infant was. No one knew if the baby was a boy or girl.

Now, almost 26 years after the coffin was unearthed in St. Mary's County, experts at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History have learned that the baby was a boy — and the offspring of an important colonial governor of Maryland, Philip Calvert.

The development, the latest in the long-running archeological project at St. Mary's City, came about through new genetic testing done at Harvard Medical School at the request of the Smithsonian.

"We continue to get new insights," said Henry M. Miller, director of research for Historic St. Mary's City. "There's still materials that haven't been analyzed . . . [and] new methods that come up."

The baby, whose full name still is not known, is one of hundreds of early Marylanders buried in a large field where the old city once stood, according to the Smithsonian and the Historic St. Mary's City project.

The Maryland colony was established at St. Mary's in 1634 and the field was its cemetery almost from the beginning, said Silas Hurry, the project's curator of collections.

In this case, DNA from an ear bone of the baby was matched to DNA from a shin bone of Calvert. His remains and those of his first wife, Anne, also in lead-covered coffins, were exhumed amid great fanfare, along with the baby's, in the early 1990s from the site of a long-vanished Jesuit chapel.

Recently, Douglas Owsley, a Smithsonian physical anthropologist who has been studying the Chesapeake region's early colonists, asked Harvard geneticist David Reich to examine the DNA of the Calverts and the anonymous baby.

Reich was able to get DNA from the bones of Philip Calvert and the baby, but not from Anne. She was probably not the baby's mother anyhow: Indications were that she had died before the infant was born.

Reich said in a telephone interview that, after testing, he was able to tell that "the male adult and the child have a father-son relationship."

The Calverts were buried in expensive wooden coffins encased in sheets of lead that were shipped from England in the late 1670s.

After Anne died in 1678 or 1679, Philip Calvert married a young local woman named Jane Sewell. Miller said he thinks that the infant may have been their son. Evidence suggests that the baby was probably born around November 1682, he said. Two months later, in January 1683, Calvert died, leaving Jane with "a big house . . . and a sick child," he said.

The baby died about three months after his father, in the spring of 1683, judging by the pine and oak pollen in the coffin.

The chapel was dismantled around 1710 and its site became a farm field with hundreds of unmarked graves of the old capital's citizens.

"Some of them actually form lines, as though there's rows in the cemetery," Miller said. "We suspect there's maybe [400] to 500 people buried here."

Many of the graves were spotted using ground-penetrating radar.

Research showed that about 70 people had the honor of being buried under the chapel's stone floor, including the three in the lead-shrouded coffins. None of the others has been exhumed, Miller said.

The occupants, for the time being, will remain at the Smithsonian, where the experts hope to learn even more about the lives they led so long ago.

Characters in archeology: Vernon Lamme

By Sarah Laskow

Condensed from Atlas Obscura, October 19, 2016

Vernon Lamme didn't quite seem the type to be an archeologist. He was neither a swashbuckling, world-traveling Indiana Jones nor a meticulous, dust-covered scholar. His territory was Florida.

In 1935 the governor appointed him state archeologist, the first in Florida and one of the first in the country. But if the position paid off, it was because Lamme made sure of it.

"He was known among archeologists as being a shady, charlatan type character. He was a real showman. I look upon him like a P.T. Barnum," says Jeffrey M. Mitchem, an archeologist who's researched and written about Lamme's life and career. "But maybe not as smart as that."

Lamme was born in Kansas, in 1892. When he was 20, his family moved to Florida, to stake a homesteading claim on Merritt Island, a long strip of land next to what's now Cape Canaveral. It was a rough set up: most of the houses were simple shacks, with hand pumps in the back, and there were no roads, schools, tools or unemployment checks, he wrote later. There was, occasionally, "excellent wine made from grapefruit juice."

In his 20s, Lamme started working in newspapers. In 1931, he began working for the state government as a "verifier in the Enrolling Room," where he made sure bills passed by the state senate were in the right form when they went to the governor for a signature.

By 1935, he had become legislative secretary to the senator who had originally lured him to the capital. It was from this position that he launched himself as state archeologist. He wrote the bill that created the position and, after it passed, convinced the governor to appoint him to the office, though he had no training and little experience as an archeologist.

In the southeastern states at the time, though, that wouldn't have been so unusual. There was little professional archeological work being done in Florida and enthusiastic amateurs could finagle their way into digs or make their own contributions. In the mid-1930s, though, the state was about to experience a small boom in archeological work, funded by the federal government.

As part of the New Deal, the Civil Works Administration was launching large archeology projects in "states with mild climates and large numbers of unemployed workers," as historian Edwin Lyon puts it. Whatever artifacts were found would be split between the state and federal governments.

"Because he was called the state archeologist, he was supposedly involved in all these projects," says Mitchem. "Some of the other people involved in these projects, who were competent, trained people couldn't stand him."

The problems began quickly. The digs that Lamme was overseeing kept shoddy records. At the site of one educational project, Lamme "bought moon-shine whiskey and lemons and succeeded in getting the crowd drunk," reported J. Clarence Simpson, an employee of the Florida Geological Survey and an actual archeologist.

"Lamme was good friends with a major collector in Miami," says Mitchem. "Apparently he was letting this guy take some of the cream of the crop stuff that they were finding."

After six months, these transgressions lost Lamme his position. But in 1937 he convinced a new governor to reinstate him, only to resign a few months later to begin a different government job, as a citrus fruit inspector. In 1939, he started working with Marine Studios, a SeaWorld-like park that focused on dolphins.

At the Marineland site, he started excavating mounds built by Native Americans and in 1940, in connection with this work, he got himself reappointed as state archeologist yet again.

At Marineland, Lamme's love of a good story, his interest in archeology and his need to make a buck finally came together. "Ever the showman, he convinced the owners of Marine Studios to make him and the excavations part of the attraction itself," writes Mitchem. "This indeed proved popular."

After America entered World War II, Lamme found a better government job, as a fraud investigator, and after the war, he went back to writing. He never stopped thinking about archeology, though: In his book, *Florida Lore Not Found in the History Books!*, written later in his life, he's still trying to advance a pet theory, that Florida was once occupied by the Maya people.

Here' a howdy-do: Roman coin found buried in Japan

By Nicholas Bakalar

Condensed from the New York Times, September 4, 2016

Archeologists have found ancient Roman coins buried in the ruins of a 12th-Century castle in Okinawa, and no one knows how they got there.

Hiroki Miyagi, an archeologist at Okinawa University who helped analyze the find, said that there was no evidence that there was trade between the Ryukyu Kingdom and the West. But, he added, "We know from documents and pottery shards that there was extensive trade with China and Southeast Asia from the 14th to the 19th Century."

The coins, he suggested, arrived in Okinawa via China. "There is a possibility that Chinese traders got the coins from Muslim traders," Miyagi said.

The Japan Times reports that an X-ray analysis has found that the coins depict a soldier holding a spear and a portrait of Constantine the Great, a 4th-Century Roman emperor.

Finding lost sites by using a helicopter

By the Associated Press

Condensed from the Washington Post, October 17, 2016

The helicopter door opens, and Robert Bewley leans out hundreds of feet above the Hisban Roman ruins outside Amman, Jordan. Feet on the struts, the Oxford University archeologist begins snapping photos as the chopper circles the ancient stones.

Sheep flock far below amid marble columns from 1,700 years ago. After a few minutes, Bewley squawks directions into a radio headset, and the helicopter flies toward another site sitting on a cliff above a major highway.

"To discover sites if we were just out on the ground would be really difficult," Bewley said. "In an hour's flying, we can record between 10 and 20 sites, and once they're recorded through digital photography, that's a record that will last forever."

Bewley and David Kennedy aim to discover and preserve archeology through a growing archive of sites across the Middle East and North Africa with 91,000 images.

The pair has uncovered sites thousands of years old and also revealed mysterious man-made rock structures, while also identifying new construction destroying and threatening sites across the kingdom.

Refugees fleeing wars in the Palestinian territories, Iraq and Syria have worsened the situation, Kennedy said. "I could see the archeology was disappearing and one of the things that's been quite shocking since then is to see that the process is accelerating," he said. "It's now at an almost catastrophic level."

Their photographs show the northern city of Jerash slowly enveloping Roman ruins there. Other photos show site after site bulldozed, roads cut through Nabatean temples and Roman forts, and a Neolithic cemetery ransacked by looters. A palace some 1,200 years old that was visible one year ago was razed to make way for an olive orchard.

Destruction of antiquities is clear from the air, but so are enormous man-made rock structures in Jordan's basalt desert. Their 4,000- to 9,000-year-old weathered stones blended into the rocky landscape for millennia.

The database can be found at www.apaame.org. Kennedy and Bewley aim to expand the scope of images — and to keep flying.

Want your newsletter in the mail? Pay up

ASM switched to distributing this newsletter electronically a while back. But not all members have email. Others may prefer to receive a paper copy. We are striving to satisfy these members, but it takes money to print and mail these copies and one of the main reasons for going online was to cut expenses. So, members wanting paper copies have to add \$10 to their membership fees. If you haven't done so, send a check to Membership Secretary Rachael Holmes (her address is on the back page).

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 <http://JamesGGibb@verizon.net>

Central Chapter

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

November 18: Lisa Kraus and Jason Shellenhamer will update Herring Run Archaeology. NHSM at 7:30.

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 or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

November 10: Eastern Woodland Indian Cultures of Maryland, Julie Hall, JPPM

December 8: Artifacts of Religion and Magic, Sara Rivers Cofield

January 12, 2017: tbd

February 9: Josiah Henson Property, by Julie King and Rebecca Webster

March 9: Kate Dinnel on "Elusive Artifacts-Archaeological Textiles & Native Plants."

April 13: Esther Doyle Read on tbd

May 11: 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 or 301-563-7530 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>

November 17: Stacy Poulos, Anne Arundel archeologist, will give a presentation of the effect of coastal flooding on archeological sites in Maryland.

Friday, December 16: Chapter Holiday Party at the Agricultural History Activity Center in Derwood, 6 to 10.

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 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 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

November 9: Dan Coates and Bill McIntyre on Interpreting and Cataloging Personal Collections. Harford Community College.

Friday December 9 or 16: Annual Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen.

January 11: TBA. Havre de Grace City Hall.

February 8: Edgar Hardesty on "Encounters Between Israel and the Philistines Based on Geography and Archeology." Harford Jewish Center, Havre de Grace.

Thursday March 9: TBA. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

Friday, April 7: Becca Peixotto will talk about "The Discovery of Fossil Man in South Africa." Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May/June. Annual Picnic Meeting, at an historic site in Harford or Cecil County.

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

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 or try UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

November 14: Claude Bowen will speak on Opportunities, Issues, and Threats to Maryland Archaeology in 2017

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 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

November 19, 1:00 PM: A field trip to historic Ridgedal Farm at Springfield, W.V., location of a French & Indian War era fort and Indian mound.

December: No chapter meeting due to the holiday.



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 21223 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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