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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Charlie Hall has gone into the sunset

If you have a problem or a question, don't try calling Charlie Hall at the Trust for help or an answer.He won't pick up the phone. Not because he has stopped being helpful but because he isn't there any more. As 2021 left, Charlie left with it.

He had been the State Terrestrial Archeologist for 20 years, a job that included dealing with ASM and all its problems. At field sessions he was the one that gave the site orientation to each arriving digger, screener or washer. Then he was constantly at the site to help deal with the problems and questions du jour. If he couldn't help, he'd direct you to the person who could. He couldn't give "I don't know" for an answer.

He also helped arrange Camp ASM for those who brought their tents and stayed at/near the site overnight. No matter how tired he was or how many times he'd already answered the question or how much he wished you wouldn't be interrupting him when he was in the middle of something, he'd answer with a smile.

Back in the office he arranged the annual Workshop in Archeology and also Archeology Month, including putting together its informative booklet each year.

In his spare time he'd deal with the other work of his office.

Charlie came to the Trust in 2001 after eight years with the archeology staff at the State Highway Administration. Before that he was with the South Carolina State Highway Administration.

Despite thousands of opportunities, he claims he has never lost a trowel and still has the standard Goldblatt trowel he started with in 1975 at his first field school.

If you look for him now, you'll probably find him re-introducing himself to his wife, Mary, and their kids. Or maybe even playing his banjo.

See Jamestown while it's still there

By Jeremy Cox

Condensed from the Bay Journal, December 2021

Jametown's story is over flowing with twists and turns. When experts talk about how climate chage is underining the site of America's first permanent English settlement, the top of their list of threats is usually sea-level rise. Water his risen in the lower Chesapeake Bay region by 1.5 feet in the past 100 years and is projected to rise another 3 feet by the end of this century.

Virtually all of Jamestown Island's 1,500 acres lie less that 3 feet above the current water line.

But the story behind the weakening of the property's seawall, bult in 1900 and itself an historic structure, was more complicated than that. Preservation Virginia, the nonprofit that has owned the Jamestown site since 1893, commissioned at engineering study of the seawall last spring and summer as part of an effort to save it. In October the results arrived – but not the ones the organization was expecting.

Photographs dating from around 1900 show the grassy lawn know as Smith's Field was then dry enough to be used for raising corn. As recently as the early 1990s, it was grassy and regularly mowed, said David Givens,

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Upcoming events

March 5: ASM board meeting. Probably via Zoom.

April 16: Spring Symposium.

NOTE: The annual Workshop in Archeology will now take place in the fall.

Volunteer opportunities (non-covid)

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT participants and other ASM members:
ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net It is currently working on cataloging artifacts form the Levering Coffee House Site, Baltimore (a mostly late 18th/early 19th Century site).
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
The Charles County chapter will process artifacts recovered from STP excavations at Dielman Inn in New Windsor (Carroll County). The lab will be at Burch House in Port Tobacco on Mondays November 1, 8 and 15. For more information, contact Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com.
The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island Fridays from 8 to 3. The lab will be open some weekdays at the Anne Arundel collection facility at 7409 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd. in Glen Burnie. For more information email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call 410 222 1318.
UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.
Montgomery County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org
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 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:

The Historic Overview CAT workshop will be presented in late February. Contact Tom McLaughlin at mclaugh01@verizon.net for details."

For information on the CAT program contact Tom McLaughlin mclaugh01@verizon.net

If you waited for 2022 to renew, your time is here

This is your first reminder of 2022 to renew your ASM membership for this year. With one easy check, at a rate which again has held steady against inflation (as it has for a while), you can support ASM in its goal of staying on top of all things archeological in Maryland as well as get the word on digs and meetings. And the members price on all activities. No sales tax, no miracle knives, just news you can trust. See the membership page on the ASM website (www.marylandarcheology.org) to begin the easy process.

Famed Kenyan anthropologist Leakey dies

By Alyssa Lukpat and Christine Chung

Condensed from the New York Times, January. 3, 2022

Richard Leakey, the Kenyan paleoanthropologist and fossil hunter whose discoveries of ancient human skulls and skeletons helped cement Africa's place as the cradle of humanity, died on Sunday in Kenya. He was 77.

President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya announced Leakey's death in a statement, but did not specify a cause.

Leakey's parents, Louis and Mary Leakey, were towering figures in paleontology, but Leakey was determined to avoid his parents' field. He found work as a safari guide, but he eventually succumbed to fossil fever. He might have changed his mind on a 1967 flight, when he looked down over the rocky shores of Lake Turkana in Kenya and had a feeling the area could yield a trove of fossils.

The fossils that Leakey and his "Hominid Gang" found there would change the world's understanding of human evolution.

One of his most celebrated finds came in 1984 when he helped unearth "Turkana Boy," a 1.6-million-year-old skeleton of a young male Homo erectus. The other was a skull called "1470," found in 1972, that extended the world's knowledge of the Homo erectus species several million years deeper into the past.

He wasn't just important for exploring new ground and finding fossils, said Prof. John Hawks, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but also for "creating an entire scientific, interdisciplinary infrastructure that enabled discoveries." He starred in a 1981 BBC show, "The Making of Mankind," which was also the title of one of his many books.

Leakey parlayed his fossil hunter fame into a political career. Among his roles were Kenya's head of public service, the director of the National Museums of Kenya and the chairman of the board for the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenyatta said in his statement.

"He had equally impactful careers in so many different areas," Martin said, adding that Leakey "has probably been responsible for producing close to half of the world's evidence for human evolution."

Leakey was also a passionate conservationist with a fiery personality. In 1989, he drew international attention when he took a stand against the ivory trade by helping to burn the country's stockpile of 12 tons of ivory. The process was repeated in 2016.

His discoveries were almost as remarkable as his ability to evade death. He fractured his skull as a boy, almost died after receiving a kidney transplant from his brother Philip in 1979, lost both legs in a 1993 plane crash and was once treated for skin cancer.

Richard Erskine Frere Leakey was born in Nairobi on Dec. 19, 1944, the second of Louis and Mary's three sons. "I would never describe it as a close family," he once said. Anthropology always took precedence over a conventional family life, he recalled.

Though he was determined not to be an anthropologist, the field found him anyway. Obviously heir to what has been called Leakey's Luck, he found fossil after fossil as a child, including the jaw of an extinct pig, he said in an interview with Stony Brook University.

"I was angry to this day that they took the bone away from me because it was too important for a 4-year-old to be digging up," he said.

After he decided to pursue fossil hunting, he first sought a degree in anthropology in London but ran out of money before starting and returned to Kenya to learn the subject firsthand. He had, of course, already had more experience in the field than most graduate anthropologists. He had never been to a university, he liked to say, except to lecture.

He is survived by his wife, Meave Leakey, herself a renowned paleoanthropologist, and three daughters.

Toward the end of his life, Leakey dreamed of building a museum of humankind, to be called Ngaren, in the Rift Valley of Kenya.

Leakey said in a 2019 statement announcing its opening, scheduled for 2024. "As we peer back through the fossil record, through layer upon layer of long extinct species, many of which thrived far longer than the human species is ever likely to do, we are reminded of our mortality as a species."

See Jamestown while it's still there

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director of archeology for Preservation Viriginia. Givens recalled playing touch football there with his colleagues during lunch breaks.

But heavier rainfall, sometimes surpassing 4 inches a day, are inceasingly causing water to pool in the field. The inundation kills off the grass. Left unprotected the bare soil is prone to blow away once the ground dries out, lowering the elevation and making the ground more prone to flood again, Givens said.

About seven of the 22 acres owned by Preservation Virginia have turned into wetlands, the archeologist said. He blames much of that loss on precipitation.

Like much of the Chesepeake Bay region, Jamestown is experiencing more rainfall. In James City County, which includes the settlement site, average annual precipitation amounts have been increasing by roughly half an inch per decade since 1895, according to the National. Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The National Park Service released a climate change vulnerability report in 2019 that covered Jamestown Island. Of 59 historic structures or archeological sites catalogued on the island in 1995, two had already been lost to erosion and rising seas, it stated. Another 24 had been damaged by the same forces.

By 2065, the report estimated, only two archeological sites will be entirely above water. By 2100, projections show, much of the 1,500-acre island will be underwater.

The new assessment used ground-penetrating radar to reveal that the groundwater beneath Smith's Field is putting pressure on the seawall from its land side, Givens said. For that, he added, there is no immediate answer.

Most of the archeological excavations in recent years have taken place in the vicinity of the old fort. But records of digs conducted in the 1930s and 1950s suggest that Smith's Field likely contains important artifacts as well, Givens said. Among them: human remains, buried building foundations and the remnants of a brick furnace dating from the 1600s, which probably supplied material for the church tower and the original statehouse.

Much of that history is already inaccessible to archeologists because of the rising groundwater, Givens said.

"There are going to be parts of that island that are going to be unreachable, and we will lose access to those archeological sites," said Marcy Rockman, a climate consultant. "They will still be there, but our ability to study them will be effectively impossible."

13-year-old English girl finds a bronze ax

By Jenny Gross

Condensed from the New York Times, December 3, 2021

LONDON — In the United States, when metal detectors hit it big, it's usually by finding familiar riches: lost engagement rings, expensive jewelry or coins of untold value. In Britain, the biggest successes often involve discoveries of treasures from ancient eras — like the 3,000-year-old ax that a teenager unearthed in eastern England in September.

The 13-year-old, Milly Hardwick, said that she, her father and her grandfather had been out in a field with metal detectors for several hours on a Sunday in Royston, England, and had not found a single item. Then, just after a lunch of sandwiches and cookies, they tried a different part of the field, where an organized dig was taking place. After about 20 minutes of searching, Milly said she heard the high-pitched beeping noise — "a lovely-sounding signal" — that indicates a possible find.

Her father rushed over and started digging. About 10 minutes later, he pulled out an item that resembled part of an ax, he said.

"I was just shocked," Milly said. "We were just laughing our heads off."

Milly, her father and her grandfather started dancing out of excitement, she said. They kept digging and found a hoard of other artifacts, including socketed ax heads, winged ax heads, cake ingots and blade fragments made of bronze. Milly's findings were reported last month by The Searcher, a magazine about metal detecting.

Lorna Dupré, the chair of the Cambridgeshire County Council's environment committee, said the council confirmed that 200 items, believed to be from the Bronze Age, were found. Milly and her father and grandfather found about 65 items in one hoard. Archeologists later found a second hoard eight feet away.

The Bronze Age in Britain lasted from 2,300 B.C. to 800 B.C., during a period referred to as prehistoric England, before there were written records, according to English Heritage, a charity that manages historic monuments, buildings and places. (The circular earthwork of Stonehenge, for comparison, was built around 3,000 B.C., and its central stone settings were created around 2,500 B.C.) Around the start of the Bronze Age, the first metal weapons and jewelry began to arrive in Britain, and people were buried with these items in individual graves.

Amanda Rose, a spokeswoman for Peterborough City Council, said that little is known about what was happening around Royston during the Bronze Age but that the area was fairly well settled at the time. "It's good farmland with water, and Bronze Age settlements, usually farmsteads or small clusters of round houses, are fairly frequent," she said.

Bronze axes, she said, are "common enough that you would expect to find one, but rare enough to be excited when you do." She added, "What's unique about this one is the number of finds in one place, making it a hoard."

She said that if a coroner declares that the Royston find meets the government definition of "treasure" — objects made of at least 10 percent gold or silver that are at least 300 years old — then a committee will set the value of the items. (When treasure is found, the finder does not own it, and it is illegal to try to sell it, according to government guidelines.)

Dupré said that if a museum wanted to acquire the objects, then the finder and the landowners could claim a reward. "This is of course a very exciting discovery, but we are unable to say anything further until investigations have concluded," she said in a statement. Milly said that she would wait to see whether she would win any reward before making plans about how to spend it.

Over the last two decades, museums around Britain have acquired more than 5,000 artifacts that were found by members of the public, including Bronze Age axes, Iron Age cauldrons and Roman coin hoards.

Last year, the British government expanded its definition of treasure. The growing popularity of metal detecting as a hobby meant that more historical objects were being found, including some of archeological significance that did not meet the previous "treasure" definition, which had been in place since the 1990s. In 2019, some 1,311 pieces went through the process in which a committee determines whether an item should be considered treasure, the highest number on record. In 1997, 79 pieces were found.

A handful of hobbyists have found extraordinary artifacts. In 2014, a man with a metal detector found a hoard of gold and silver in Scotland that was more than 1,100 years old, a trove that experts called one of the most significant archaeological finds in Britain of this century. A spokesman for National Museums Scotland said the organization paid almost 2 million British pounds, or $2.6 million, for the items at a museum close to where they were found.

Since her discovery, Milly has gone out on most Sundays with her grandfather and father in search of more items. She says that when she grows up, she wants to be an archeologist.

Confessions of a British archeologist

By Anonymous

Condensed from some place or other

I ended up in archeology as a result of a long-held romantic notion of making great discoveries and solving mysteries. As a kid I always had my head buried in books, lost in the realms of the great ancient civilizations of the world. I never had fantastical expectations of archeology, though. I didn't think that I would travel the world and be a globe-trotting treasure hunter. And you certainly don't get to travel in archeology unless you are somehow affluent, have magical powers to secure funding or know the right people in all the right places.

None of the above apply to me, so I have been confined to archeology in England and Northern Ireland. Don't get me wrong, archeology here is infinitely fascinating but let's be honest, it's not as grand and visually awe-inspiring as, say, the pyramids or Pompeii. Over here, at its most stellar, it can be just two different colored soils side by side, but to the trained eye that tells us a great deal about what was going on thousands of years ago.

You need to be a little eccentric to be an archeologist. A penchant for Indiana Jones hats and other strange headwear will help you to fit in well. When you see a colleague salivate over a piece of flint or another jump for joy over a tiny lump of fired clay -- the only piece of pottery that has come out of a ton of soil -- you start to understand what archaology is really about. But if it is gold, job security or good pay that you are after, you should probably look elsewhere as there is a serious shortage of the above.

You don't become an archeologist to become wealthy. You do it because you are passionate about the yet unknown, those gaps in the history books.

Above all the job requires patience and dedication, because seeing a site through from start to finish is a long, slow process -- sometimes taking decades to complete.

First you have to go through all the red tape and paperwork pre-excavation, securing funding, approval, a license for starters. Then you have the pre-excavation ground work: geophysical and topographical surveys, desktop research, health and safety assessments and other prep work. Next comes the laborious process of physically excavating the site by hand.

We use tools much like those you see road workers using. Long-tailed shovels, spades, wheelbarrows and mattocks are our usual companions. If your back has never experienced any wear and tear, it certainly would after digging a ditch with a mattock and spade. There is a strange joy to be found in striking bedrock with a mattock: that bolt of pain that shoots up your arms and into your skull.

It gives you toned and sinewy arms, if you like that kind of thing. There is no doubt that practical physical work can strengthen your body but in archeology, where it can be repetitive actions, day in, day out, with the cold and damp seeping into your limbs, it can have the reverse effect, too.

I have yet to meet an archeologist who does not suffer from an ongoing physical health issue. It is usually the knees, shoulders and back that are first to go. If you start young, by the time you are in your mid-40s you will hopefully have younger minions to delegate all the hard labor to as you will find you are just too decrepit to do it yourself.

The weather is a cruel dictator, determining whether your life is going to be nice and easy or really, really tough. We all know what the weather is like in the UK and archeologists don't just pack up and hibernate during the winter months. Depending on who you work for and how remote your site is, there is no guarantee of shelter. Pressure on funding and time limits often mean you have to keep going no matter what.

Recording is possibly the most important aspect of fieldwork. Once you finish up and leave a site there is no going back to just check a few details you might have missed or take a few extra measurements here and there.

So your site records become a source of great anxiety and also your most treasured possession when you are out in the field. You invariably end up carrying them around like a baby and taking it home in the evenings, sharing a bottle of wine with it (unlike a baby).

One thing I never expected when I set out in this profession is that being a woman would be an issue. Some days you go to work dreading the heckling you know you are going to receive when you get there, pre-emptively hardening your defensive shell. It is unfortunate but it does happen, mostly on building sites where you could

be the only archeologist, and female, double-whammy, working alongside, and giving direction to, male construction workers, architects and digger drivers.

Individually, they have always been wonderful, respectful gentlemen. Sadly, get three or more together and they bizarrely turn into misogynists. Patronizing comments like "look guys, a woman working, take a picture" and "you can't work here, you'll have to go get your nails done" are hard to ignore. But you have to stay calm and professional, while working twice as hard to earn their respect than if you were a man.

Equally, metal detectorists can be the stuff of nightmares when on a dig. Those acting as treasure hunters, operating without a license, digging under the cover of night, are not likely to be keeping detailed records. Once an object is removed from a site, it loses its context and its informative value is decreased to almost nil, depending on the artefact. When someone walks onto site uninvited with a bag of artifacts your heart just sinks and you have to bite your tongue.

Difficulties aside, I love the camaraderie of excavations. Working together helps to keep morale up, especially on those really tough days, when there is soil in your sandwiches, it feels like it has rained inside your waterproof and you know you only have a few hours left to save as much as you can before someone comes and bulldozes the site, erasing it permanently.

Sadly we have to accept that this will happen. As humans we will continue to build and replace. But at least through archeology some record of what once was, remains. And I like to think some other kid in the future will be able to get lost in the records of our civilization, and wonder.

Early Arctic peoples had ironworking ability

By Bruce Bower

Condensed from Science News, January 3, 2022

Hunter-gatherers who lived more than 2,000 years ago near the top of the world appear to have run ironworking operations as advanced as those of farming societies far to the south.

Excavations in what's now northeastern Sweden uncovered ancient furnaces and fire pits that hunter-gatherers used for metalworking. A mobile lifestyle did not prevent hardy groups based in or near the Arctic Circle from organizing large-scale efforts to produce iron and craft metal objects, say archeologist Carina Bennerhag of Luleå University of Technology in Sweden and colleagues.

In fact, hunter-gatherers who moved for part of the year across cold, forested regions dotted with lakes and swampy patches apparently exchanged resources and knowledge related to metallurgy, the extraction of metals from ores, the researchers report in the December *Antiquity*.

Ancient hunter-gatherers at two Swedish sites "probably manufactured more iron and steel, and were more socially organized and sedentary than we previously thought," says coauthor Kristina Söderholm.

Groups must have settled down for substantial amounts of time at locations near crucial resources, such as ores for prospecting, wood needed to make charcoal and clay and stone required for building furnaces and fire pits used in iron production, the scientists say.

Chapter News: Check with your local chapter to see what and how activities will take place.

Central Chapter

All Meetings will be held on Zoom the third Tuesday of every second month. For more information and to be added to the Zoom list contact: Katharine Fernstrom at kwfappraising@gmail.com

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September–May). The next few will be virtual. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com for Zoom access information. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook @ccasm2010

Mid-Potomac

Until further notice, all meetings will be by Zoom (unless Montgomery County regulations change) starting at 7 p.m., the talk at 7:30, the third Thursday of the month. For up-to-date information, including links to Zoom meetings, check Chapter website at www.asmmidpotomac.org or contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526.

January 20: Matt Virta, cultural resource program manager/archeologist, National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Highway, will speak on the Arlington House Archaeology Project and the discovery in the slave quarters.

February 17: Beth Bollwerk, archeologist at Monticello, will give a talk on the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery and the Flowerdew Hundred Plantation (Virginia) legacy artifact collection.

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 or call 301-378-0212. **NOTE**: Because the library is closed for meetings, the chapter will not meet until further notice.

Northern Chesapeake

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 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Clcoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meetings the second Saturday or Sunday of the month, virtual or at the Heritage Program Office, 9944 Route 108, Ellicott City, unless otherwise noted. www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or call Kelly Palich, 410 313 0423.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 211 S. Lee Street in Cumberland, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm

January 28: Annual Show & Tell Program, members are invited to bring in their latest acquisitions: an artifact, geofact fossil, an article or book, a report on an interesting site they have visited.

February 25: Roy Brown will report on the October excavation in search of Capt. Shelby's French & Indian era fort at the Maiden's Choice site near Clear Spring in Washington County.

March 25: The Bucket List Adventurers, Darlene and David Frederick, will share some of the interesting sites they visited on their five- month, 20,000-mile tour of the American west in 2021.

April 22: .Robert Wall will give a presentation on the Susquehannock occupation in the western Maryland region during the 1600s.

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 Ethan Bean, 765-716-5282 or beans32@comcast.net 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 20178-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

Submissions: Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 3126 Gracefield Rd., Apt 106, Silver Spring, MD. 20905 or 240-867-3662 or myronbeck@verizon.net