

# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



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

## Charlie Hall wins 2021 Marye Award

*The 2021 Marye Award, ASM's highest honor, was presented to Charlie Hall of the Maryland Historical Trust at the Annual Meeting. Both the meeting and the presentation were virtual because of covid. The award is given for outstanding contribution to Maryland archeology.*

*The announcement was made by the head of the nomination committee, Maureen Kavanagh, in a keep-them-guessing-until-the-last-minute fashion. Here is what she said:*

This year's recipient has been a fixture in Maryland archaeology for 20 years both as a working anthropologist/archeologist and as a mentor to the many avocational archeologists fortunate enough to come



within his orbit.

The nominee has helped the Archeological Society of Maryland maintain the close working relationship it has with the Maryland Historical Trust, continuing the warm relationship with the State of Maryland that was instituted by Tyler Bastian more than 50 years ago.

He attends most meetings of the Board of Trustees and provides wise guidance to the organization. The nominee has helped ASM to align itself to the standards and principals used by professional archeologists in the State of Maryland and the United States. He has also assisted ASM in understanding the many federal, state, and local laws and ordinances affecting archeological research in Maryland.

The nominee is the grant monitor on all of MHT's grants to ASM, and works proactively with ASM to ensure compliance with regulations and programmatic requirements. He does this in a firm but collegial manner.

The nominee has taken an active role in making the ASM Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) program a regional model. From its inception, the nominee worked on the design of curriculum. He has developed and presented courses in a variety of subjects including law and regulations, an overview of Maryland prehistory and others.

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## Back to normal in 2022? You must rejoin to find out

With Halloween safely behind us and Thanksgiving looming and Christmas still too far away to worry about, how about bridging the gap by thinking of ASM? Same low rates. Same schedule activities hoped for. Same assortment of chapters to help you think locally too. Learn of more benefits and renew by looking up Membership on the ASM website, [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org) You'll be amazed at the low rates for all this,

## Upcoming events

**November 5:** ESAF annual meeting. Virtual. For information on the program and for Zoom link, call up <https://esaf-archeology.org/annual-meeting.html#top>

**December 4:** ASM board meeting. All welcome.

## 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](mailto:charles.hall@maryland.gov) or Louise Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) It is currently working on cataloging artifacts from 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork) to get started.

## CAT corner:

If you have signed up for the CAT program and have not received an email from Tom McLaughlin contact him at [mclaugh01@verizon.net](mailto:mclaugh01@verizon.net)

# Study discounts using skull to determine race

By Sabrina Imbler

*Condensed from the New York Times, October 24, 2021*

Racial reckonings were happening everywhere in the summer of 2020 after George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis by the police. The time felt right, two forensic anthropologists reasoned, to reignite a conversation about the role of race in their own field, where specialists help solve crimes by analyzing skeletons to determine who those people were and how they died.

Elizabeth DiGangi of Binghamton University and Jonathan Bethard of the University of South Florida published a letter in *The Journal of Forensic Science* that questioned the longstanding practice of estimating ancestry, or a person's geographic origin, as a proxy for estimating race.

The assessment of race has been a part of forensic anthropology since the field's inception a century ago. The earliest scholars were White men who studied human skulls to support racist beliefs. Ales Hrdlicka, a physical anthropologist who joined the Smithsonian Institution in 1903, was a eugenicist who looted human remains for his collections and sought to classify humans into races based on certain appearances and traits.

In the 1990s, as more scientists debunked the myth of biological race — the notion that the humans species is divided into three distinct races — anthropologists grew sharply divided over the issue.

In 1992, Norman Sauer, an anthropologist at Michigan State University, suggested dropping the term "race" and replacing it with "ancestry." The term became universal. But some researchers contend that little changed about the practice.

Shanna Williams, now a forensic anthropologist at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville, grew suspicious of the idea and the way ancestry was often assigned. She saw skulls designated as "Hispanic," a term that refers to a language group and has no biological meaning.

She considered how the field might try, and fail, to sort her own skull. "My mom is White and my dad is Black," she said. "Do I fit that mold? Am I perfectly one thing or the other?"

The body of a skeleton can provide a person's age or height. But the question of ancestry is reserved for the skull — specifically, features of face and skull bones, known as morphoscopic traits.

One trait, called the post-bregmatic depression, is a small indentation on top of some people's heads. For a long time, forensic anthropologists assumed that if the skull was indented, the person may be Black.

But the science was flawed. In 2003, Joe Hefner, a forensic anthropologist at Michigan State University, examined more than 700 skulls. He found that the depression was present in only 40 percent of people with African ancestry and is actually more common in many other populations.

Of the 17 morphoscopic traits typically used to estimate ancestry, only five have been studied for whether they are heritable, making it unclear why the unstudied traits would correspond with specific populations.

## Of mouse and man

By Randall Beach

*Condensed from Connecticut Magazine, November 2021*

Nick Bellantoni, who was Connecticut's state archeologist from 1987 to 2014, confesses at the beginning of his new book that when he was called upon to be the first to enter the Moseley family tomb in East Haddam, something spooked him so badly that he let out a cry of terror.

"With the lamp balanced on my shoulder, I surveyed the tomb's somber interior," Bellantoni writes in "And So the Tomb remained." "Before me lay a scrambled mass of fragmented wooden coffins and commingled human skeletal remains littering the floor."

When Bellantoni's lamp illuminated a human skull, "the skeletal face peering at me," he crouched down to hold the skull in his hands. "My extended fingers were within two inches of the cranial vault when it started to move, to sway!" he wrote. "The skull began to roll slowly side-to-side ... "

As Bellantoni muttered to himself, "I've never seen that before," "a mouse sprang out of the skull! I sucked in air and with a professional and scientific demeanor cried, 'EEEEEEWOW!!!' "

# 19th-Century tannery found at Union Mills

By Madison Bateman

*Condensed from the Carroll County Times, Oct 27, 2021*

An original wooden tanning vat wall was discovered at the Union Mills Homestead site on Monday as a result of an archaeological investigation of the 19th-Century Shriver Tannery. Directed by archeologist Elizabeth Anderson Comer, the project followed a ground-penetrating radar investigation earlier this year.

After a three-day dig, Comer's team found what they believe is the edge of a wooden vat, lined with clay and filled in with demolition materials. Although they didn't get to the bottom of the vat, field director Rob Wanner said their discovery reveals a lot of information about the site.

The archeological work was part of an ongoing investigation to assess historical resources at the Union Mills Homestead, with a focus on the tannery, one of the early industries at the Union Mills industrial complex when it began in 1797. The Shriver family operated a tannery at Union Mills from 1797 through the mid-1890s.

According to a report earlier this year by Comer, products from the tannery were used by travelers and for drive belts for the site's grist mill. In the 1820s and 1830s the tannery grew into a larger enterprise.

Tanneries in the 19th Century were some of the most important industries in the area, yet there are few remaining.

"All of this is very exciting," Sam Riley, project coordinator, said. "There was a long-time belief there may be remnants of the tannery and the [ground-penetrating radar] suggested it, but now we have confirmation."

The project was funded under a grant from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, a Maryland Heritage Area certified by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

## Book review: Jay Custer's concise look at Delmarva

*Delaware Prehistoric Archaeology, by Jay F. Custer, University of Delaware Press, 179 pages plus references and index, 1984, available second-hand*

A month or more ago, my longtime friend from ASM, Annetta Schott, asked if I would be interested in some books that she was deaccessioning from her archeological collection. The books were first editions by Jay F. Custer of the University of Delaware, a prominent mid-Atlantic prehistorian. One of the books was "Delaware Prehistoric Archaeology."

What I had known about Delmarva archeology was a confused jumble of facts and half-facts about the prehistoric cultures of the Delmarva Peninsula. Reading this book helped me understand that my problem was not entirely senility.

The book is a synthesis for lumpers and a great learning tool for developing a structured understanding of human occupation of Delaware (really most of the Delmarva) since the Pleistocene through the early contact period with Europeans. This book paints the past with a broader brush than most syntheses.

Custer uses only three periods in his narrative, the Paleo-Indian (including what we are used to calling the Early Archaic), the Woodland I period, which begins with the period known to us as the Middle Archaic and continues through the Middle Woodland period and thirdly, the Woodland II period, that began around AD 1000, the traditional start of the Late Woodland Period. The book ends with contact and then the Refugee Period, reminding us of the injustices that followed contact.

The book seems to emphasize the continuities of human subsistence by noting sites that show human activity on the same site over long periods. Differences in the archeological record are not overlooked.

Changes in quarrying and transport of stone over time, the creation of new tool kits, how changes to large settlements and smaller procurement sites reflect environmental developments over long periods and much more create a working picture of the Delmarva's rich past. The picture the author paints of the Adena culture on the Delmarva is particularly fascinating.

This book is very readable (and short, only 179 pages of text) and its purpose seems to be to provide a structure upon which the reader can build a more richly detailed picture by reading splitter syntheses such as Joe Dent's "Chesapeake Prehistory" or Custer's "Prehistoric Cultures of Eastern Pennsylvania."

**-Claude Bowen**

# One of oldest Black church foundations located

By Johnny Diaz

*Condensed from the New York Times, October 7, 2021*

Archeologists believe they have uncovered the original brick foundation of one of the nation's oldest historically Black churches, known as the First Baptist Church.

The church, at Colonial Williamsburg, was formed in 1776 by free and enslaved Black people who met in secret in defiance of laws that forbade the congregation of African Americans.

"The early history of our congregation, beginning with enslaved and free Blacks gathering outdoors in secret in 1776, has always been a part of who we are as a community," the Rev. Reginald F. Davis, the pastor of the First Baptist Church, said in a statement Thursday.

He added that "to see the actual bricks of that original foundation and the outline of the place our ancestors worshiped brings that history to life and makes that piece of our identity tangible."

Jack Gary, the director of archeology at Colonial Williamsburg, who is overseeing the excavation, said "the resilience of that group and the fact they remain today is really an American story."

Since September 2020, archeologists have been digging at the site of the church's original structure near the intersection of Nassau and Francis Streets, looking for burials and seek to better understand the experiences of the church's early congregants.

In addition to the original structure, archeologists have discovered at least 25 human burials at the site.

# Covid hits some archeology groups hard

By Kaitlyn Rieper

*Condensed from Baylor University Media*

WACO, Texas - A new study, led by Baylor University researcher Julie Hoggarth, associate professor of anthropology, evaluates the major impacts of the covid-19 pandemic on professional archeologists, particularly women and those early in their career.

The study, published in the journal *Heritage*, sought to quantify the impacts of the virus in the varied professional fields of archeology. The team included researchers from the U.S., U.K. and Belize.

The 570 responders represented a variety of archeological areas, including cultural resource management, academia, museums and government agencies. All populations reported effects on workload due to the pandemic, with increases in workload commonly being linked to the switch to digital platforms. Research opportunities were identified as being negatively affected as archeologists struggled to travel for fieldwork. Archeologists who teach reported an increase in the amount of time for teaching-related activities.

"The results largely confirmed what we had been hearing anecdotally among archeologists, especially mothers who were struggling to keep their careers going while also trying to work remotely. However, the scale of the impacts did surprise us, Hoggarth said.

Of the respondents, women and early-career archeologists were most affected by job and economic losses.

"Those data really drove the point home that pre-existing structural inequalities were exacerbated by the pandemic."

"We somewhat expected to find that women's personal responsibilities had been increased, but we had no idea to what extent," Hoggarth said.

The researchers offered mitigation strategies for employers, publishers, professional organizations and funding organizations that could lessen the long-term impacts of the pandemic in the future. Some of these suggestions are simple — such as acknowledging caregiving activities on professional academic resumes and developing personalized promotion guidelines based on individuals' impacts.

Other suggestions focus on trying to fix the structural inequalities in the field— such as increasing diversity on decision-making boards or roles — that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, Hoggarth said.



# Charlie Hall wins 2021 Marye Award

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The nominee has played a major role each year in helping ASM pull together field session experiences that pose interesting research problems and he helps find principal investigators, plan for the safety of participants as well as other administrative matters, and ensure that the sessions provide a learning experience for neophytes and seasoned excavators alike. Every year he opts for the total outdoor experience, anchoring a camping contingent for the extra hardy.

The nominee is also the lead in putting together Maryland's Archaeology Month each year. His work involves bringing a broad range of stakeholders together to determine a theme for the year that will inform the subject of a poster and magnet as well as a booklet of essays by persons having expertise in the chosen subject. The nominee works with ASM and other stakeholders to ensure sufficient resources, both in kind and cash, are available to complete the work in time for April.

The nominee has assisted ASM in refining its role in Maryland archeology through the years as the number of archeological organizations (both public and private) in the state has proliferated. His role in brokering new relationships with other organizations both governmental and private has helped ASM expand its reach and raise its profile in the larger archeological community.

At a time when many avocational archeological groups in the United States and Canada have become destabilized or inactive, the nominee has been a reliable and earnest supporter of the Archeological Society of Maryland and has contributed in no small way to its present stability and success.

This year's William B. Marye Award is presented to Charlie Hall for his outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology.

## 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](mailto:kwfappraising@gmail.com)

**Nov 16:** Cheryl Fogle-Hatch, "Designing an Accessible Archeological Exhibit."

## 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](mailto:ccasm2010@gmail.com) for Zoom access information. Website [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com) and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

**November 11:** The Leedstown Bead Cache: An Archeological Mystery, by Julia King (Meeting at Port Tobacco Courthouse)

**December 9:** Some recent work at Historic St. Mary's City, by Travis Parno (Meeting via Zoom)

## 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](http://www.asmmidpotomac.org) or contact Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526.

**November 18:** Harry Iceland, a Smithsonian Institution researcher and chapter member, will speak on topic "The First Americans."

**Friday, December 17** (Zoom or in-person still to be decided): Holiday Party. NOTE DAY CHANGE

**January 20, 2022:** 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](http://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](mailto: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 [Ccoogan@smcm.edu](mailto:Ccoogan@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](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358) or [www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com](http://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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

No meetings during November and December due to the holidays. Our next meeting will be on January 28, our annual Show & Tell.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

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