

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Escape to the ordinary for 2022 field school

By Matt McKnight, MHT Chief Archeologist

The 2022 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology will be held at the Barwick's Ordinary Site (18CA261) near Denton on the Eastern Shore from 20 to 30 May, 2022.

The site went unrecorded in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties until 2020 when new technologies made it possible for the first time to see beneath the surface of a small field in Caroline County and visualize a substantially intact Colonial tavern hidden there.

The site consists of the remarkably intact remains of the mid to late 18th-Century tavern and home of James Barwick. Historic deeds relate that a "complex" consisting of a tobacco warehouse, storehouse, apple orchard, ferry landing and tavern/ordinary was situated at this location along the Choptank River. This complex served as the first county seat of Caroline County and James Barwick was employed as its caretaker.

Staff from the MHT Office of Archeology have been working at the site since 2019, carrying out both remote sensing survey and ground-truthing excavations. Most recently, the Washington College Department of Anthropology was invited to hold its annual five-week field school at the site in 2021. It is returning to the site for its 2022 field school, the first several days of which overlap with the ASM Field Session.

An extensive remote sensing survey was conducted on a residential lot where a property owner encountered Colonial artifacts while making landscape changes. While magnetic susceptibility and fluxgate gradiometry suggested prior human modification and subsurface deposits filled with metals, the "home run" didn't come until we applied ground penetrating radar. GPR revealed the presence of a square privy, a large rectangular cellar and other structural features suggestive of a substantial architectural complex.

The GPR data (as good as it was) was still insufficient to confirm our suspicions about this field. In the fall of 2020, with assistance from ASM volunteers, locals and Professor Julie Markin of Washington College, we opened up a handful of small units at Barwick's. The results have been incredible: a well-preserved, artifact rich, mid-late 18th Century site is present. A large cellar feature, a privy and several trash pits have been exposed. A prehistoric and possible Contact period component (one trade bead has been found) also appear to be present in some plowzone deposits. The principal investigator for this project will be Dr. Markin. She and her students will work alongside ASM members with MHT, Office of Archeology staff providing professional oversight for all volunteers.

To register online for the Field Session visit marylandarcheology.org and click the link for Field Session

Registration from the main page. As in years past, primitive camping will be offered for those interested in staying over. For details and to reserve your camping spot, contact Dr. Zac Singer at 410-697-9544 or Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov

For those requiring "posher" accommodation, there is a Best Western in Denton (410-479-8400) about a 7-

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Upcoming events

May 20-30: Tyler Bastian Field Session at the Barwick's Ordinary Site near Denton.

Nov. 4-6: ESAF annual meeting, Shippensburg, Pa.

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:

Not Maiden's Choice: MHT and the Western Maryland Chapter are going to be returning to a historic site in Washington County discovered in November while looking for something else. April 7-10. If interested contact mathew.mcknight@maryland.gov

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Zachary Singer at Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov It is currently working on the Maiden's Choice collection, which is a late 18th to early 19th Century dwelling in Washington County

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

Charles County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Esther Read at ReadE@charlescountymd.gov
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:

If you in need survey experience there will be opportunities at the Field Session. Contact Tom for details.

We're planning a workshop Saturday at Crownsville in June. Zac Singer will present the Lithics and Native American Ceramics workshops. Date TBD.

If your email address changes please remember to let Tom know. It's the only contact we have for many of you. For more information on the CAT program contact Tom McLaughlin at mclaugh01@verizon.net

Are you interested in holding an ASM office?

This is an election year for ASM and all offices are up for grabs: President, vice president, secretary, membership secretary, treasurer and six board of trustee seats. If you would like to fill one of these positions, send your name to myronbeck@verizon.net to be placed on the ballot.

Also, ASM will be selecting a person to win the William F. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. A nomination form will appear with next month's newsletter, so start thinking of whom you think deserves this award.

Virginia land returned 350 years later

By Gregory S. Schneider

Condensed from the Washington Post, April 2, 2022

The Rappahannock Tribe in Virginia has taken ownership of more than 460 acres of ancestral homeland along the river that bears its name, thanks to a groundbreaking partnership with donors, environmentalists and government agencies.

The acquisition, announced Friday by the tribe and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, returns a section of Rappahannock River frontage known as Fones Cliffs to the tribe, which was driven away by English settlers more than 350 years ago and pushed almost to extinction by white supremacists during the 20th Century.

The tribe has pledged to care for the extraordinarily rich natural environment of the site, which had been slated for commercial development just a few years ago. Fones Cliffs is a major East Coast nesting place for bald eagles, considered sacred in Rappahannock culture.

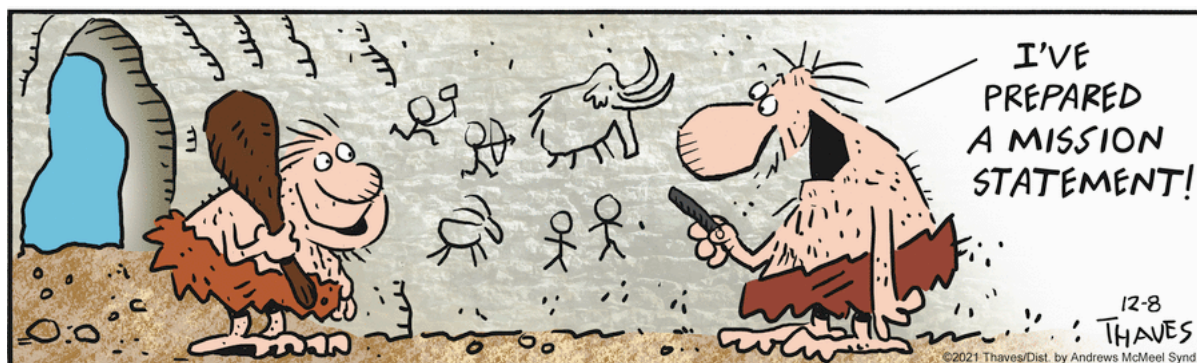
Three Rappahannock towns were mapped in the area by the English explorer John Smith, who survived an ambush by the tribe at Fones Cliffs in 1608. In recent years, researchers and archeologists from St. Mary's College in Maryland have worked with the tribe to document ancestral territory going back thousands of years, including settlements and hunting grounds on both sides of the river and religious artifacts at the cliffs.

Environmentalists hailed the deal, which does not cover the entire length of Fones Cliffs, as a major new approach in preservation by returning land to its native stewards. The "landback" movement has gained momentum in the western United States, including with the 2020 acquisition of nearly 1,200 ancestral acres by the Esselen Tribe in Northern California, but there have been only modest efforts up until now in the east.

The tribe has a small community center nearby but otherwise no territory of its own. Federally recognized in 2018, the Rappahannock now number about 300 but once dominated the fertile land along this stretch of river.

The earliest English settlers, preoccupied with the Powhatan Indians to the south, along the James and York rivers, initially respected Rappahannock territory. But starting in the 1640s, settlers drove the native population away and secured their land for plantations.

The tribe plans to develop a system of trails and kiosks so visitors can appreciate the land and its history, Richardson said. And it will build a small replica village of the 16th Century to demonstrate and preserve Rappahannock traditions.



George Washington really slept here

Condensed from the Hidden City Daily, April 21, 2022

When archeologists began excavating at Philadelphia's 6th and Market Streets in 2007, they weren't certain they would even find any remnants of the 1767 house where George and Martha Washington famously once lived. It was likely, they believed, that any substantial physical evidence of the President's House had been obliterated by development in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Instead, they found astonishing discoveries - foundations that revealed not just the layout of the house, including a bow-windowed presidential office to be echoed later in the White House, but also an underground connection between the kitchen to the main house, along with root cellars, remnants of food, and household objects.

These excavations illuminated the division between freedom and enslavement with evidence not found in the historic record and deepened our understanding of the lives of nine individuals enslaved by the Washingtons.

"Archeology offers an opportunity where the textbooks and history books fail," says Alexandra Jones, an assistant professor at Goucher College who also serves as executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Archaeology in the Community.

Through the eyes of an archeologist, the most mundane objects transform into a physical record that explains something about life at any given point in time. As Jones says, "[Archeologists] are doing the work of putting everyday people back into the story."

In a city as old and densely populated as Philadelphia, the sheer volume of archeology that could exist in any given location presents an enormous opportunity. Continuous habitation and development from the 17th Century onward mean areas like Old City, Society Hill, and the waterfront could all offer major insight into 17th, 18th, 19th and even 20th century life. Given its size and prominence during the industrial age, Philadelphia, once known as the "workshop of the world," also has a wealth of industrial archeology.

The Digging I-95 project that excavated pits along I-95 and the Delaware River waterfront is a



great example of public archeology. The dig took place in coordination with a major construction project for the Girard Avenue Interchange, and excavations started in 2007.

To the archeologists' surprise, the project uncovered artifacts spanning thousands of years - projectile points, coins, fine china, soldiers' buttons, patriotic emblems and children's playthings - that provide a dense, multifaceted history of an area under heavy continuous use. Exhibitions at local museums and site-specific pop-ups can still be viewed digitally at www.diggingi95.com.

As a complement to historic preservation, archeology, as the example of the President's House excavation makes clear, offers an opportunity to take a more holistic view of the past. While the built environment tends to reflect prevailing power structures, artifacts that lie beneath the ground present a fuller and more accurate view of what people from a wider range of races, classes, and backgrounds were experiencing.

Philadelphia, a city where Black people occupied nearly every echelon of society from its earliest history, offers an enormous opportunity to learn more about the layers and nuances of how African American communities lived, worked and interacted with the predominantly white power structures of the past.

"Within the context of Black Lives Matter," says Maria Franklin, a professor of anthropology at the University of Texas, "my colleague Joe Joseph

and I met to talk about what we could do to address racism in archeology."

Franklin and Joseph formed a 12-person task force to evaluate how different State Historic Preservation Offices were handling Black cultural resources, which led to a survey and support from the Society of Black Archaeologists, the Society for American Archaeology, the Society for Historical Archaeology and the American Cultural Resources Association.

In a 300-plus-year-old city, such encounters are not uncommon. Doug Mooney, chair of the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum (PAF) says the first recorded instance where development dug up human remains occurred in 1743. Surveying historic newspapers and recording such instances, along with tracking incidents over the past few decades, PAF has counted 87 "discovered" burial grounds since then. PAF now hosts a public database of historic burial grounds in the city that includes more than 200 locations.

PAF developed the database to give property owners, developers, or city officials a heads-up before embarking on a development project. But, despite PAF's encouraging some city agencies use the database as an optional resource.

Fortunately, when it comes to the public, proving the value of archeology doesn't seem to be a challenge. Hundreds of thousands of visitors flocked to Independence Mall to observe the President's House excavation, astounding National Park Service officials. Archeologists were less surprised.

Escape to the ordinary for 2022 field school

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For those requiring "posher" accommodation, there is a Best Western in Denton (410-479-8400) about a 7-minute drive from the site; it has rooms for around \$100 a night. A wider array of options is available about 30 minutes away in Easton.

This year we hope to see a return of the Annual Spencer O. Geasey Memorial Lecture mid-week during the Field Session and plans are under way for several Washington College students to present their research on the Barwick's Ordinary site. Details are currently being worked out.

As the lecture will be held at an indoor venue we will also be watching COVID numbers closely to determine if holding the lecture is feasible.

The annual "feast" will be held outdoors at the site on the evening of the second Saturday, May 28. Bring a camp chair and enjoy the usual "backyard BBQ" faire with your fellow volunteers and Field Session staff.

We hope to see you at Barwick's.

Chapter news

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

May 17: TBD

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](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

Mid-Potomac

Until further notice, all meetings will be by Zoom starting at 7p.m., with the presentation at 7:30. For up-to-date information, including links to Zoom meetings, check our Chapter website at www.asmmidpotomac.org or contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526.

May 16 (note day change to Monday): Lew Toulmin, chapter member and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, will speak on: "Montpelier Expedition: Digging into the Mysterious 'Burn Site' and into Eleven Generations of Black History."

Monocacy

Meetings are at 7 p.m. Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick. For more information, visit the chapter's web page monocacyarcheology@gmail.com or call 301-378-0212.

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>

Sunday May 15: Annual picnic. At the Upper Bay Museum at the North East Community Park.

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

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://tinyurl.com/wmdasm>

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink, the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10-percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary 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. 20904 or 240-867-3662 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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