



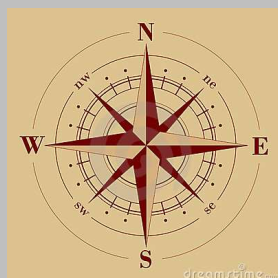
THE ASV

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
VIRGINIA

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THE MISSION OF
THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF
VIRGINIA IS TO
PROMOTE THE
ARCHEOLOGY AND
ANTHROPOLOGY
OF VIRGINIA AND
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REGIONS.



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PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL – PATRICK O'NEILL

Summer is here in full swing, and I hope that you are reading the ASV Newsletter from a project location! Several ASV chapters have expressed interest in conducting their own archaeological projects. As a result of this interest, the ASV is going to create training modules for chapters



to use as guides for planning, executing, and reporting projects, so that Chapters can follow the correct and required procedures and policies. Dr. Carole Nash is organizing this effort and hopes to be able to present them to the Chapter Presidents and ASV Board in late summer or early fall for review.

The VARC (Virginia Archaeological Resource Center) is in the final stages of completion, with some lab work already planned by Dr. Randy Turner. I made a pitch to the professional archaeologists in COVA to come and utilize the ASV facility with their own research and analysis, and it is the hope of the ASV that some will take us up on that offer. The same offer extends to all ASV Chapters and members.

The Annual Meeting will be held at Berry Hill Resort and Conference Center in South Boston from October 27-29, 2023. The call for papers will go out soon, and I hope you will consider presenting a paper or encourage someone else. Lodging, dining, and nearby attractions will be posted on the website, as well. **SAVE THE DATE!!** This is an in-person meeting!

The ASV is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the discovery and preservation of Virginia historical sites and artifacts, with scholarships, outreach and education programs, and more. If you would like to support the ASV in their

efforts, please consider giving the ASV a financial donation along with your personal time. Cut and paste this link: <https://virginiaarcheology.org/donate-to-the-archeological-society-of-virginia/>. Thank you for your consideration. ☀

FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST – Elizabeth Moore

Some of you have heard that this year DHR received support from the Governor and the General Assembly to create a Tribal Outreach Program and hire a Tribal Outreach Coordinator. The person filling that position is Jess Hendrix, and you will have many opportunities to meet him, including at the annual meetings this fall. This position was created for several reasons; one of those is that DHR has points of interface and consultation with the federally and state recognized tribes in almost all that we do. In order to facilitate and streamline communication, having a primary point of contact will make it easier and more efficient for DHR to reach out to the tribes and for the tribes to find the right person at DHR to fit their needs. DHR is committed to increasing tribal engagement and ensuring that tribal voices are heard and represented in all our programs.



Virginia has seven federally recognized and four state recognized tribes. They are the Mattaponi (<https://www.mattaponination.com/>), Pamunkey (www.pamunkey.org), Chickahominy (www.chickahominytribe.org), Eastern Chickahominy (www.cied.org), Rappahannock (www.rappahannocktribe.org), Upper Mattaponi (www.umattribe.org), Nansemond (www.nansemond.gov), Monacan (www.monacannation.com), Cheroenhaka Nottoway (www.cheroenhaka-nottoway.org), Nottoway (www.nottowayindians.org), and Patawomeck (www.patawomeckindiantribeofvirginia.org). Many of these websites have information on the tribes today, event schedules, and tribal histories.

When most people think about DHR's work with the tribes, they think of NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. NAGPRA was enacted in 1990 to "address the rights of lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations to Native American cultural items, including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony" (<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1335/index.htm>). NAGPRA applies to all federal agencies (except the Smithsonian; it has its own law, PL 101-185 as amended by PL 104-278), federal lands, and any institution or State or local government agency that receives Federal funds. Each of these organizations is required to submit an inventory of holdings of tribal cultural items and repatriate those objects if requested when a tribal cultural affiliation is established. This is but a brief summary, there are more compliance requirements and nuances in the definition of every term used above in the act. At DHR, Joanna Green coordinates with staff, submits our inventories, and ensures that we are in compliance with the law.

Most people don't realize that DHR staff interact with tribal members in many other ways – to help identify archaeological reports, data, and collections that may be culturally sensitive and require limited access, to accept or manage easements, to view and discuss the dispensation of ancestral remains, to visit the collections to conduct research, to identify and record resources of tribal historic significance, and to apply for preservation grant funding. This work and the relationships that have developed over the years will continue to

grow as the tribes expand their capacity and tribal members learn of the resources at DHR that they can access and the ways that they can become involved in what we do to help them meet their goals.

If you are interested in learning more about Virginia's tribes, here are some places and events where you can learn more:

- * Mattaponi Indian Tribe & Reservation, 1314 Mattaponi Reservation Circle, West Point, VA. **June 17** Mattaponi 25th Annual Powwow, grounds open at 10 AM.
- * 31st Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe "Green Corn Dance" Powwow, to be held at the tribal grounds, Cattashowrock Town, Route 742 South/Cheroenhaka Road, 27345 Aquia Path, Courtland, VA. July 1. 10-sunset.
- * Patawomeck Museum and Tribal Center, 638 Kings Highway, Fredericksburg, VA. **July 4**, grand opening of new exhibits at the tribal center. Check the website for event times.
- * Annual Nansemond Indian Pow Wow, 1001 Pembroke Lane, Suffolk, VA, **August 20-21**. Hours are Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5.
- * 71st Annual Chickahominy Pow-Wow, **September 23-24**. Check the website for updates on times performers.
- * Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia Powwow. In 2022, the powwow was held in September, check the website for information on a 2023 event.
- * Rappahannock Tribal Center, 5036 Indian Neck Road, Indian Neck, VA. Use an online form on the website to request a visit.
- * Pamunkey Indian Museum and Cultural Center, 175 Lay Landing Road, King William, VA. Summer hours for the museum are Thursday-Sunday, 10:00-4:00. You can find up to date information on museum hours on the museum's Facebook page.
- * Monacan Indian Nation, the 30th Annual Powwow was held June 3rd and 4th, 2023. Check the tribe's website for information on the 2024 powwow.
- * Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, the 34th Annual Pow Wow was held at the Tribal Grounds on 13476 King William Road, King William, VA on May 27-28, 2023. Check the tribe's website for information on the 2024 pow wow.

One of the best parts about my job is having the opportunity to develop friendships and working relationships with people from cultures and communities different from mine. It has changed the way that I look at the past and the present. I hope many of you can visit some of the powwows, museums, or tribal centers listed above and have the opportunity to speak with tribal members. The Native American tribes in Virginia are vibrant and active communities and when they open their celebrations in a public event it is an experience not to miss. ☀

THE KITTIEWAN BRIEF – Martha Williams

This issue's Kittiewan Brief will be briefer than usual, as things have been mostly (but not entirely) quiet here in Charles City County.

For one, Patrick and Diane O'Neill have been heading up an effort to investigate the area around the twentieth century barn on our property. According to long-standing tradition, when the barn was constructed, some human remains were either disturbed and/or unearthed. Now your ASV President is revisiting this issue. However, the archaeological work here is far from finished as of this writing. If you wish to help and possibly earn some certification credits, here's a way to do both. Just watch for emailed messages from Patrick or contact him directly at patrickloneill@verizon.net.

And speaking of archaeology, at least one transect of approximately 20 shovel tests still needs to be completed in Timber Tract 5. Contact erturner48@cox.net if you wish to get in on the fun!

The VARC committee also has been working overtime to turn the barn into a proper archaeology lab and exhibit center (which will be named in honor of Sandra and William Spieden—a formal naming celebration and meeting of the ASV Board may be held in January 2024 for this purpose). Meantime, Bill Bjork, Carl Fischer, and other members of the VARC team have been laboring intensively to clear out the upstairs portions of the barn, while Randy Turner and Stephanie Jacobs are in the process of planning an exhibit on The Process of Archaeology (“what archaeology is [and is not]”). That exhibit will complement the material that's already on display in the Kittiewan Visitors' Center.



The Manor House at Kittiewan has also received its share of attention. First and foremost, both porches have been painted and stained—the final steps in refurbishing and updating the exterior of the structure. On the inside, the numerous and diverse works of “art” have been cleared from all the closets. They are now stored in the Wade-Colbourn House, after having been identified, photographed, re-numbered, and re-catalogued (working with an earlier catalogue created by the Policastro family).

Finally, sometime in June, a workday will be scheduled to deal with the old (19th – early 20th century) parts of the shed on the property. Again, we need all the help we can get for this project. Just let Kevinmccurley@hotmail.com know if you can assist. ☀

ASV BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE – Stephanie Jacobs

The ASV Board of Directors met on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the new VARC archaeology lab at Kittiewan.

The Board heard an update on continuing arrangements for the Annual meeting which is planned for October 26 – 29, 2023. The field trip will be to the Longwood Institute of Archaeology. Dr. Brian Bates is continuing to work with the Annual Meeting Committee on arrangement.

ASV Treasurer Dr. Lisa Jordan reported on the first outside independent audit that the ASV finances have undergone. The ASV of course



passed its audit with flying colors. No irregularities or issues were found. In fact our accounting procedures are similar to many other small non-profits.

Finally, the Board received reports from 10 ASV chapters. Chapter activities are in full swing with talks at monthly meetings, lab nights, and various field activities. One of the highlights of the chapter reports was the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Nansemond Chapter. Happy Anniversary to the Nansemond Chapter! ☀

Janice Biller receiving 2022 Avocational Archaeologist of the Year award at April Board of Directors meeting.



ASV NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDDATE – Mike Barber

The 2023 Nominating Committee is made up of Bill Bjork, Wayne Edwards, and Mike Barber (Chair). For 2023, elections will be held for two openings on the Board for Member-at-Large. These terms will run from 2024 through 2025 and will be voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting in October 2023. The Committee met on May 17, 2023, at DHR and decided that, on the side of transparency, nominations should be broadly announced in the ASV Spring Newsletter. Anyone seeking one of these Board positions needs to send on a brief bio of qualifications and reasons for seeking the position to Mike Barber at archaeova@gmail.com by July 15, 2023. Thank you for your interest. ☀

ASV-COVA-VDHR CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT- Carole Nash and Bruce Baker

As of May 26, 2023, the Certification Program has 149 students enrolled. This is an increase of 12 students since the beginning of the year.

Field opportunities for the January-April quarter include the following:

- * Fairfield Foundation continued its offering of field days (excavation requirement) with the on-going project at King William Courthouse.
- * Thunderbird Quarry test excavations with Mike Johnson.
- * Kittiewan/VARC stabilization survey with Patrick O'Neill.

Laura Galke continues to welcome Certification students in the DHR lab at Headquarters and provide rich experiences with the backlog collections. The Fairfield Foundation and Mountain Valley Archaeology have regular lab opportunities that include Certification students. We are in discussions with Historic Sandusky about continuing lab opportunities on assemblages from that site, guided by Randy Lichtenberger and Jessica Ganzert.



ASV Certification Graduates Yvonne French (left), Nancy Rubin (second from right), Laura Wedin (right) and Certification Student Cindy Shelton (second from left) at the Swan Tavern Site, Charlottesville, March 2023.

Certification graduates Yvonne French, Laura Wedin, and Nancy Rubin assisted Rivanna Archaeological Services at the Swan Tavern Site in downtown Charlottesville for three days in late March.

Three courses were offered on successive Wednesdays in January 2023 via Zoom by Carole Nash: Certification Program Overview; Archaeology as Anthropology; and Archaeological Laws and Ethics. Attendance ranged from 20-35 students. ☀

THE VRK9 PROJECT, USING CADAVER DOGS TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE BURIAL LOCATIONS AT HISTORIC KITTIEWAN - Kevin C. McCurley, Chair, Historic Kittiewan Committee/Vice-President, Archeological Society of Virginia

Way back in the murky mists of a time long ago and far away (the fabulous 80's), I spent many sun-drenched or at times, windswept and snowy days roaming the cornfields, meadows, and forests of rural sections of Central Maryland with my trusted canine companions "Susie" (a wild and crazy German Short-haired Pointer), and "Lefty Rose" (an amazing and devoted Hungarian Vizsla). We were in search of pheasant, grouse, and quail to supplement the diet of an impoverished and often hungry horticulturist. During this time, I developed a great and abiding appreciation and admiration of canine olfactory abilities. Both of my dogs never ceased to amaze me with their uncanny ability to detect scent from long distances, unfailingly locking "on point" to indicate hidden quarry, often hundreds of feet away. Thanks to those hyper- accurate and sensitive snouts, we always had a bounty of game in the freezer, due mostly in part to the dogs' astounding sniffing abilities (that often compensated for my inconsistent shooting accuracy).

According to the AKC Canine Health Foundation, "All dogs have an amazing ability to detect scent. To begin with, dogs have from 125 to 300 million olfactory sensory cells compared to five to 10 million for humans. What's more, the area of the canine brain devoted to assimilating scent — housing the olfactory bulb complex — is four times larger than in humans." The canine nose has been utilized in a variety of useful applications, including the detection of illegal drugs at border checkpoints and airports, the preliminary detection of early-stage cancers in humans, and in the recovery of human remains after death tragically resulting from natural disasters or criminal activity.

One of the more recent applications of the canine's advanced scenting ability is through fieldwork using "cadaver dogs" to detect and locate the presence of human remains on known historic and archaeological sites. This unique and non-destructive, non-invasive method of detecting the presence of human remains (or residual chemical compounds where those remains once lay below ground) is increasing in popularity. When coupled with follow-up verification using other techniques and proven technology such as GPR, this relatively new method of locating possible human burials has been soundly proven to be a viable and powerful "arrow in the quiver" of archaeological investigation.

A properly trained cadaver dog can be an asset to the historic/ prehistoric burial investigator, as well as to forensic teams in locating bodies, scattered remains, or residual material generally exhibit a high level of accuracy (often greater than 90%) in these searches. These dogs have established themselves prominently in the law enforcement community.

A cadaver dog typically undergoes rigorous training, ranging from 18 months to two years in duration. Cadaver dogs are also known as "Human Remains Detection Dogs" (HRDD), forensic search dogs, and decomposition dogs. For the purposes of archaeological investigation and site surveys, multiple trials, tests, and field activity have confirmed the use of Human Remains Detection Dogs to be a valuable and accurate means of locating "lost" burials (i.e., the presence of historic or prehistoric human remains). Centuries-old burials have been positively located (and later confirmed) at sites throughout the U.S. and globally.

The incredibly complex chemistry related to the decomposition and presence of buried or hidden human remains is still an area of intensive study and scrutiny. Hydrocarbons, aldehydes, ketones, nitrogen-heavy compounds, sulfides, and organic acids are all released throughout the decomposition process, and apparently, many of these compounds and associated forensic material can remain stable and detectable in the soil for centuries.

Properly trained cadaver dogs are able to easily distinguish the presence of human remains as opposed to animal remains (that they typically ignore during their survey sweeps). These dogs have established themselves prominently in the law enforcement community, and are gaining in popularity in archaeological circles.



While cadaver dogs were originally used by law enforcement to recover more recent human remains, the viable date range of buried remains that can be scented and located by well trained dogs has been pushed back by centuries. At Kittiewan, one of our most famous and well-marked burials, The Elizabeth Hollingshorst grave site, was positively confirmed during our second survey by one of the canines of VRK9, a Virginia Beach based nonprofit organization. The Hollingshorst grave dates to 1728. More astoundingly, an article from the *“Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory”*, published in the Fall of 2018, outlines a project where several mass burials dating to Iron Age Europe were located by a team of recovery dogs and confirmed through excavation!

Ever since our acquisition of the Kittiewan property was facilitated (and even before), stories and rumors have circulated of the presence of lost family burial grounds, slave cemeteries, and a possible Civil War period military mass burial of USCT troops on our property. The only *confirmed* burial locations prior to the canine investigations were the Harrison/Rickman cemetery and the Elizabeth Hollingshorst “tomb”. The only extant stone grave marker known to date (ledger stone) belongs to the latter burial. Prior to the investigation by the dogs, the stories regarding locations of several reported burials on the Kittiewan property were generally unproven with minimal or no firm documentation (with the obvious exceptions of the Harrison/Rickman walled cemetery and the Hollingshorst “Tomb”).

William “Bill” Cropper, who bequeathed the Kittiewan property to the ASV in the 1990’s passed down most of this oral tradition as it was relayed to him. Some of that information was compiled by ASV member Harry Jaeger (and others) in recent years into a single page sheet of purported Kittiewan burials. This scant information would later be used as a general guideline in directing the cadaver dogs activity.

Additional clues to possible grave locations can be found throughout the property at various locations in the form of “botanical” clues. Non -native or ornamental “indicator plants” such as Adam’s Needle Yucca, Vinca, Narcissus and, in one location, Oregon Grape Holly, possibly mark the locations of “forgotten” cemeteries. Several sites scattered across the Kittiewan property where these plants are present are also where the cadaver dogs indicated the probability of human remains or associated residual compounds from burials.

Recently, investigations at Historic Kittiewan took place in the Fall of 2022, with the help of a Virginia Beach based non-profit organization called Virginia Recovery Canines (VRK9). They aided us in our search for possible “lost” burial grounds on two separate visits. During the visits, the first on Sunday, October 8th, 2022, and the second on December 11, 2022, VRK9 volunteers, under the guidance of Ms. Angie Martindale, utilized VRK9’s willing and able canine assets, Addie and Mallie, to “sweep” selected locations in search of historic and prehistoric human remains. Both dogs are highly trained and experienced. Addie is a purebred German Shepherd, Mallie is a Belgian Malinois. Prior to the first visit, several sites were probed at intervals (based on the recommendation of the handlers) to “aerate” the ground and better facilitate accurate scenting.

Once given the command to search, the dogs worked quickly and methodically to sweep a specified area under the guidance of their handlers before indicating the presence of possible remains. They would often work around the bases of trees and over areas of freshly cut vegetation, frequently looking upward into the branches of trees before indicating a “hit”. The general terms “hard hit” and “soft hit”, indicate the type of behavior the dogs display when identifying remains. A solid, positive identification of “remains” – a “hard hit”, is indicated by an unsolicited, steady, “sit/stay” response. Less decisive actions on the part of the canine (“soft hits”) are typified by enhanced focus on a location and repeated passes over a small area, but without a solid “sit/stay”. Solid hits were rewarded by several moments of “play time”, retrieving a favorite toy (humans on site were given the same option). Food-based rewards for the canines have been deemed inappropriate as part of the dogs’ training protocol in light of the somber and serious nature of their usual work for non-historic remains recovery.

Possible burials (or at least the presence of human remains or associated residual chemical compounds) were confirmed by both dogs independently of one another at multiple locations across the property. As recommended by the handlers, pin flags were placed only after positive hits by the dogs, thus eliminating any visual cues that might bias the dogs activity. The dogs were observed to cover a large area in sweeping patterns with very little redundancy or overlap, efficiently covering the search areas with very few gaps in their search patterns.

Currently, as many as 10 sites have been indicated as having probable burials or the presence of residual compounds indicating the presence of former or current burials of some sort. Additional visits by the kind folks at VRK9 will be scheduled as we build our partnership with VRK9 and expand our focus to previously un-surveyed areas of the property. Several key identified sites- especially the potential military burial sites and slave cemetery should be further investigated employing supplemental technology such as ground penetrating radar. Special focus for the third visit should be placed on areas previously identified with “soft hits”, such as an area that may be a lost slave cemetery we now call the Pokeweed Field site.



Reporting of our ongoing work will be updated as new information is gathered. The primary intent of this project is to both create an accurate database of all known and newly discovered sites that may be burial locations on Historic Kittiewan property, as well as to enhance our historic landscape site management

capabilities. It is our hope and intent that our efforts and the information we gather will also serve to increase respect for the dead laid to rest on our property, and will aid in the strengthening of ties to the local descendant community, should we be able to confirm the burials of enslaved people within the boundaries of our property.

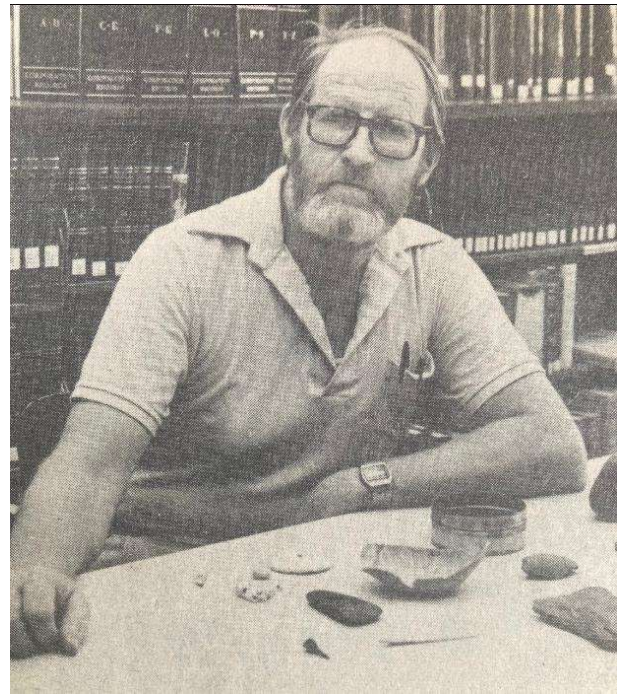
As primary indicators of established settlement sites, these burials may give us a better understanding of our historic landscape. Through this work, we also hope to gain a better understanding of the settlement patterns that make our site unique and important in a greater regional context. Lastly, we wish to offer our sincere thanks to the kind generosity of the folks at Virginia Recovery Canines, and their canine superstars Addie and Mallie. ☀

IN REMEMBRANCE, GRAHAM SIMMERMAN – Submitted by J. T. Moldenhauer

Past ASV President (1981-82), Graham Simmerman, passed away on May 14, 2023 at the age of 94. His wife of 63 years, Martha “Jennie” Simmerman, preceded his passing on March 11, 2019. They are survived by three sons Graham Jr., Walt, and Don, as well as six granddaughters.

Graham was professor of drafting and design for 30 years at New River Community College. Also, he was an Army Veteran of the Korean War, a missionary for the Central United Methodist Church, a Gideon Society member, and a scout/leader for 80 years.

In talking with Graham in March of this year, he informed me he was his given name because he was a great- grandchild of David Graham of Wythe County who was the 19th century iron Furnace baron of southwestern Virginia, once owning 19 iron blast furnaces. Graham and his son Graham, Jr. partially excavated one of these, the Max Iron Furnace at the Scouts Camp Powhatan in Pulaski County. This must have had a big impact on Graham Jr, because he grew up to become a Va. state geologist working for DEQ. The other son, Walt, became a Methodist minister so family dinners must have had interesting conversations about fossils and saints.



1981 photograph of Graham Simmerman with Trigg artifacts.

Graham’s venture into archeology was much like the ASV’s as he started out as an Indian artifact/relic collector who was encouraged by Howard MacCord to start the local New River chapter of our Society. Graham took the lead and headed the New River Chapter as president twenty plus years. Most importantly, he was joined in this effort by his wife Jennie who helped form a very rare husband and wife spousal archeology team. With the exception of the Bruce/Kathleen Baker team of Amelia, Virginia, there have been few others to compare in the ASV’s history.

Graham and Jennie became lifetime ASV members, never missing an annual meeting. They had a wide interest in history and worked together to help survey the Lovely Mount Tavern site on the Valley pike, they excavated a portion of the Mary Ingles Draper cabin on the New River and helped Joe Benthall excavate the Shannon Site in Blacksburg. They both helped volunteer at the Wilderness Road, New River Historical Society and Radford City’s Glencoe Museums. At the Glencoe Museum they helped set up the prehistoric artifact display section

and used some of the ASV's Buzzard Rock site art renditions. This display included artifacts from the Trigg site which was the biggest site they ever helped on and located in their hometown of Radford.

The Trigg Site had been known since the 1940's at least, but was purchased by Radford City in the early seventies to become the future Dave Bisset Public Park. Located on the south bank of the New River at Connelly Run, the Trigg site is as too big to ignore, so the city contracted with archeologist William (Bill) Buchanan Jr. to be the PI and excavate, hopefully within a year of the October 1974 begin date. Graham and Jennie became the primary volunteer assistants, providing New River chapter ASV volunteers, using their basement to store and process artifacts, and even letting Mr. Buchanan live in their home. This site excavation went on for over three years and produced tons of information including a palisaded village dating to around AD 1635, walls that were expanded three times, European and Native trade goods from as far as Holland and Georgia, and 314 burials that went to the Smithsonian, indicating a powerful pandemic or smallpox outbreak. From the beginning of excavation, there was a ten year period of constant struggle over site control, but the monumental 477 page Trigg report was completed by Mr. Buchanan in 1984.

The entire remains of the site were excavated by Mr. Buchanan being a rare example of a complete Indian village being salvaged along the eastern coast. The site was going to be completely graded away and the New River had already eroded around 25% of the northern end of the site. During the period following the excavation, Graham had become president in 1981 of the ASV which was perfect timing. The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the City of Radford had been locked in a heated lawsuit over ownership of the artifacts. During this time parts of the collection had been located in five to six locations - Simmerman's basement, Radford University, Yorktown, Richmond, Radford Circuit Courthouse, the Virginia Fine Arts Museum, the old Radford City fire department where a fire in October 1983 destroyed 25% of the assemblage, and the Smithsonian Museum. Graham helped broker a deal between the Commonwealth and Radford City that helped settle the issue. He was appointed chair of a committee and travelled to Yorktown and Richmond to help select a sample of the artifacts that would come back to Radford for permanent display at the city's Glencoe Museum. Both sides agreed, with the state retaining ownership of the majority.

Graham, and his wife Jennie, were great longtime supporters of the ASV, and they will both be missed. ☀

CHAPTER UPDATES

Maritime Heritage Chapter – Bruce Terrell

The Maritime Heritage Chapter has accepted the donation of time and services of Brian Abbot of Abbot Underwater Acoustics, of Michigan, to use his technically-advanced sector-scanning sonar to map historic shipwrecks and several locations in Tidewater, Virginia. This promises to offer an unprecedented look at historic watercraft remains from the Colonial and 19th century eras.

Coordinated for MHC by chapter president, Bill Waldrop, the sonar sensor will be deployed from his boat, assisted by volunteers from the chapter for eight days between June 3 – 10. Targets include wrecks on the James River; the Revolutionary War-era Virginia State Navy shipyard wrecks on the Chickahominy River; and several Civil War vessels scuttled by Confederate forces retreating up the Pamunkey River in 1862 ahead of General George McClellan's forces, as well as other ships lost at sites on the Pamunkey River. This unprecedented look at Virginia's maritime heritage using hi-definition sonar donated by Mr. Abbot, could provide new details on little-documented ships present at critical moments in Virginia and national historical events. ☀

Nansemond Chapter – Teresa Preston

The ASV Nansemond Chapter met on Saturday, June 10th, 2023 to have their annual picnic and toured the American Revolution Museum located at 200 Water Street, Yorktown VA. Our group truly enjoyed the dynamic gallery exhibits, numerous films, & the outdoor living history exhibits depicting the Revolutionary War and 18th century American history. Built in 2013, this privately owned museum carefully includes all sides, all cultures in telling the history behind the founding of America. ☀

Left to right: Maurigite and Preston Cross, Jean and Byron Carmean, Tabatha Packer & Donnie Sadler, Wayne Edwards, Alice Roberts, Teresa Preston, Dan Hohman, & Rebecca Winslow. Photo by Mary Edwards.



COMING OF (AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL) AGE IN THE SPRING OF '78: AN EXAMPLE OF HOW PUBLIC OUTREACH CAN FORGE A LIFETIME APPRECIATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGY – David E. Rotenizer

Since retirement from active archaeology, Ted Reinhart captured a phrase which deserves repetition:

“When people get to a certain age, when their life is mostly behind them and their future is short, they often think about and assess the path their life has followed” [1].

For me, the Spring of 1978 deserves a chapter in the narrative of my life journey. I came of age in the 1970s in a rural middle-class neighborhood outside the small college town of Blacksburg, Virginia, though the final years found me with a struggling single Mom supporting three children. Being outdoors was always an escape, both physically and mentally. Built into my love of the outdoors, was an even stronger bond for history, local history in particular. Based on fact or fantasy, I always found a way to connect the outdoors and with the past. As I walked through those woods, fields, hills, and abandoned remnants of the past, I always put the present into a context of the past. It was a blessing to have had public school teachers who appreciated my interest in the past and found ways to accommodate my beginnings at Gilbert Linkous Elementary School. I think these teachers understood my need for escape and adventure – or at least some form of personal inspiration.

In reflection, there were a number of touch points which connected real life aspects of the area's past with a connection to the classroom. In the late 1960s, an archaeological project took place outside Blacksburg when a golf course was constructed along the North Fork of the Roanoke River – a Late Woodland Native American village site [2]. By the time I had entered elementary school, the myth and knowledge of the site had become community lore and a present-day community connection to the past.

Another touch point was the Virginia history textbook I used in the 4th Grade, whereas an entire chapter focused on the Draper's Meadow settlement at Blacksburg with details from the French & Indian War period including the Mary Draper Ingles story [3]. Between the textbook and classroom reference to the golf course finds, local archaeology and local history compounded themselves into a formative youthful appreciation toward social science studies.

Growing up the 1970s, the local and regional newspaper played an important role in our daily life, aside from television and often the AM radio. If you think about it, the newspaper back then was like the social media of today. Its where you saw and learned what was going on with events, activities, and overall community news. Cable, internet, cell phones, wifi, digital this and that were then just concepts within the realm of science fiction – who would have known the shape of things to come? Against this framework of information infrastructure, I learned about local archaeology, as well as regional, state, and national-level accounts. Such included updates and developments of the 1974 fieldwork at the Trigg Site in Radford [4], the 1975 Bicentennial-funded investigations at Historic Smithfield in Blacksburg [5], and salvage fieldwork of the 18th century site of Fort Chiswell in Wythe County [6] among others.

Borrowing a term, the 1970s was literally “‘The Golden Age’ of Virginia Archaeology,” as “Platoons of archaeologists have, during a boom of unprecedented scale and intensity that began about 1970, dusted off bits and pieces of the things that Virginia’s earlier generations tore down threw way.” [7].

Against this backdrop as a perfect storm of connectivity for things of a heritage nature - past, present, and future – The United States Bicentennial Commemoration occurred. Coming of age in the 1970s with a passion of interest for the past, I grew up at the appropriate time. Call it Serendipity? In the mid-1970s American society was inundated by the spirit of the past and an appreciation for heritage [8].

A Visit to the Artmobile

However, it was the week of April 3-6 in the Spring of 1978 which seems to have pulled together and planted all these seeds of curiosity for what would grow into a lifetime passion and interest in the subject of archaeology. I was a high school senior in the waning count down moments toward graduation. Perhaps being a band student, my home room assignment was the band room with Mr. David Mills. I had heard over the morning announcements that a traveling exhibit artmobile was parked and available for visitation in the school driver’s education parking lot. On Tuesday, April 4 just after 9 a.m. I used a school pass to visit the artmobile.

While some of the details of the experience have been lost to time, a fading memory and misplaced journal, but the visit to the artmobile was a part of a life-changing memorable series of events framed around serendipity. I was awe struck by the experience. Seeing all of the remarkable archaeological specimens from around the world, right here in my school parking lot, was transformative. Within this context, and also viewing artifacts recovered from Colonial Virginia was an icing on the cake. I do recall hanging around the artmobile for an extended period of time. I did not want to leave. I went back to the band room and told Mr. Mills, I had found my calling.

I had missed this at the time, but on Page 7 of the Tuesday, March 28, 1978 edition Blacksburg-Christiansburg News-Messenger, less than a week’s notice before event, the following appeared:

“‘Art And Archaeology’ is Theme of Artmobile Visit.

Art and the Archaeologist, an exhibition of which is aboard a Virginia Museum Artmobile, will be in Blacksburg April 3-6. The artmobile visit is sponsored by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association.

There is no charge for admission to the exhibition. The artmobile will be located at Blacksburg High School on Monday, April 3 and Tuesday, April 4. The exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. – 12 noon on Monday, and from 9 a.m. – 12 noon on Tuesday.

The artmobile will be moved to the VPI & SU campus, near library, on Wednesday. The public may view the exhibit from 9 a.m. – 12 noon and from 1-5 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.

Art and the Archaeologist contains some 35 decorative, household and religious objects from ancient civilizations which grew up around the Mediterranean Sea including Egypt, Minoa, Mycenae, Mesopotamia and Greece. According to W. Rasmussen, the Virginia Museum's coordinator of education services, items exhibited are arranged in order of their archeological discovery rather than order of their date of creation. The majority of objects in the exhibition came from Egypt [9].

Also included in the artmobile exhibition is a special group of objects discovered recently at Kingsmill on the James River. Kingsmill was an early Colonial settlement in Virginia. Objects from the Kingsmill site include wine glasses, metalwork and delftware.

The Blacksburg Regional Art Association hopes to recapture some of the excitement of archaeological discovery and to help tie the objects to a particular site. To connect the objects with the site where they were discovered helps create a heightened sense of reality of the ancient peoples who created them."

A week later, on April 11 my personal journey into Virginia archaeology took another step In conjunction with the traveling artmobile, an accompanying public lecture was made in the community. Bill Kelso was scheduled to discuss Virginia archaeology [10].

I had missed this at the time, but on Page 7 of the Tuesday, April 4, 1978 edition Blacksburg-Christiansburg News-Messenger, less just more than weeks' notice before event, the following appeared:

"Archaeologist Speaks at Tech

William M. Kelso, commissioner for the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology in Williamsburg, will deliver a lecture on theories and techniques of archaeology April 11 at 8:00 p.m., at Owens Hall Arts Gallery, VPI & SU.

His lecture, sponsored by Blacksburg Art Association, will be presented in connection with a visit by a Virginia Museum Artmobile containing the exhibition, "Art and the Archaeologist."

Kelso, a native of Chicago, holds a B.A. degree from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, an M.A. from the College of William and Mary, and a Ph.D. degree from Emory University in Atlanta.

Before joining the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology in 1976, he served as historical archaeologist for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. He also has been a contract archaeologist for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and a staff archaeologist for the Georgia Historical Commission in Atlanta.

Kelso has served as director and advisor for excavations at Stratford Hall in Westmoreland County, the South Henry Street salvage project in Williamsburg and the James Moore Birthplace archaeological project in Montross.

He has written and presented numerous papers on archaeological projects with which he has been involved, and has served as an advisor to the faculties of the College of William and Mary and the University of Virginia.

NOTES TAKEN DURING LECTURE [11]

ARCHAEOLOGY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- "Four years ago, there were only three archaeologists in Virginia, now there are 10."

- *“The pay is not very good, but if you enjoy what you are doing then it will be worth not garnering the best pay.”*

ARCHAEOLOGY:

- *“The difference between someone who collects antiques [artifacts] and a[n] archaeologist is that the archaeologist record what was dug and where it was dug and what events caused it to end up in that spot.”*
- *“An archaeologist has to peel back time with a shovel carefully and has to record right at the point it was dug up and where.”*
- *“One of the main emphasis’ of the Research Center is to try and find sites and preserve them. Current projects include Kingsmill, north of Jamestown [12], Underwater work on shipwrecks of Yorktown [13], and Carters Grove [14].”*

MATERIAL CULTURE:

- *“Change was made sometimes on big coins was by breaking into small pieces 1/4, 1/2 etc.”*
- *“At Kingsmill a well was excavated and [at] the bottom was a collection of 24 iron hoes.”*
- *“Roach-ware – Archaeologist[s’] slang for a type of 18th century clay ware.”*

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY:

- *“Cornwallis sank 24-30 ships off Yorktown in order to repel an amphibious attack.” There is an excellent collection of ship artifacts being excavated. The center hopes to put the remains of a ship on display by 1981.”*

AFTER THE LECTURE:

The fact I recorded these observations at a relatively young age reflects the hunger and excitement I held for archaeology and Virginia history. Upon conclusion of the presentation, I hung around afterward joining last in the procession of folks in line to speak with Dr. Kelso. They were older and appeared of a professional class I was the youngest in attendance. Finally, it was my turn to talk with the speaker. This was a huge deal for me – speaking to a real archaeologist who had just given an amazing slide illustrated presentation of current projects around Virginia. I thanked him for the talk and sharing so many interesting things. But most importantly, I asked, “During your presentation you mentioned that people can actually volunteer to assist with the fieldwork. I want to do this, how and when can I do that?” It was at this time he repeated from his presentation, there would be a volunteer outreach opportunity coming up in a few months during Memorial Day Weekend at the Governor’s Land Project. “Yes, I will do this,” I replied.” I rambled on with Dr. Kelso a while longer, he gave me his business card and asked that I contact his office to get more details on volunteer weekend. The office was called and I was put in contact with the Alain Outlaw, the project director.

It was 45 years ago this past Memorial Day Weekend [2023] I experienced my first archaeological project - the Drummond Site at the Governor's Land Historic District between May 27-29 in 1978. I was a high school student, a senior, who skipped bachelorette graduation ceremonies to make my first solo drive across the State of Virginia, in my little yellow band-aid wrapped \$100 Opel Ascona car to reach this special destiny

with the colonial past. The previous Fall, I played on the high school football team, we were the AA State Champions – yet we were always the Cinderella team, never being expected to win any game we played. I think the lessons learned from the football championship experience embedded a spirit of can-do attitude to pursue against all odds has stuck with much of my life. For me, skipping the special graduation ceremony and traveling from one side of the state to another to pursue a lifelong passion quest was a bold and daring move.

PERSONAL JOURNAL [15]

The Day Before [Friday, May 26, 1978]

“I finally made it here after a long hard ride. I left Blacksburg around 1:30 and painfully made my way here. It seemed like years driving in that little cramped car. I hit Richmond just as the 5-o'clock traffic let out and from Richmond to Williamsburg it was pure hell with cars bumper to bumper. I got here in due time about 6:45 and discovered I had left my tent stakes at home.”

My first night there was akin to sleeping in a gigantic uncomfortable sleeping bag. I had forgotten to load tent stakes and pegs. My options were limited, as at this time in my life I could not even contemplate renting a motel room. I had to work extra shifts at the Longhorn Steakhouse as cook and dishwasher in advance of trip to have gas and basic spending money. The weight of being worn out by the long drive, the anxiety of not having tent parts, and excitement from pursuing my archaeological adventure helped to put me into a deep sleep. Though it was a long night, morning came quick. A new chapter in my life was opening and I knew it.

The First Day [Saturday, May 27, 1978]

“Woke up this morning and rushed myself in order to get ready to go to work. I went to the parking lot and waited. While waiting I met the Brockett Family whose son came to work also and he is 16 years old. After a little wait about eight people had gathered around Alan Outlaw’s VARC pick up and we chatted. The sky was overcast. We formed a little convoy drove down the road away which was surrounded by fields and scattered trees and turned onto a little dirt road surrounded by barley and went a few hundred feet and turned onto a small road which led to the site within a middle of the barley. The site was a big area with ditches containing brick foundations. There were wheelbarrows and shovels and all types of tools around the area. I was briefed with everyone else on the site’s history and we were then started working on squares 10 ft x 10 ft. we dug out the plow zone and sifted the soil which yielded pipe stems, pieces of pottery, bottles, silverware, candle stick holders, arrowheads, and countless other artifacts. The people there were extremely nice and there were about five great looking college girls. I learned a whole lot by asking questions about every little detail which happened. The sky was overcast most of the day. During lunch we all went under a big canvas tent and sat down and ate and everyone laughed and told stories and stuff. After lunch we went back to work finding more artifacts. Then the rain hit and we all made for the canvas and stood huddled together while the rain continued. Then it finally stopped and we went back to work. The sun came out and dried up things a little bit. We continued to find remains. One girl found an arrowhead. Soon it was time to leave and the Brocketts asked me to stay with them for the night. We had a delicious meal and good table conversation.”

In review these many years later, there were a number of details I had overlooked recording. Two aspects of the fieldwork which fascinated me were: 1). The concept of “rodent runs” which are shallow curving and linear dark stains in the soil which are often found under house sites where rodents lived and traveled. And, 2). Large gasoline powered screens were used to process the loose sandy soil. We were removing the plow zone and screening in rapid fashion, which for a colonial site of this nature was unbelievable for the type and range of artifacts being recovered. Due to the soil being sandy, it immediately slipped through the screen while the artifacts seemed to jump out with each emptied full shovel.

Learning of my plight with the tent, the kind Brockett Family invited me to stay at their home in Newport News about 30-45 minutes away. The world is full of good people. We had breakfast next morning and headed back to the site to join the field crew.

During the day, one of the archaeology staff members, Dennis Hartzell, learned of my situation and informed me that he had a spare bedroom at his house in Williamsburg and that I could carpool with him. Fantastic. After work the next day I followed Dennis to his house. He informed me that once every few months, all of the archaeologists working in the region would gather for comradery and to catch up on what everyone was doing. This evening was a gathering time, in addition to the fact a number had volunteered to assist with the ongoing fieldwork during the day. I regret not keeping more journal notes, so the names of those archaeologists who I met have been lost to time. There were only a few women. It may have been a dozen in total. We ate at a Chinese restaurant along Jamestown Road in Williamsburg. Being a kid of limited financial means, it was a special occasion to partake in this Asian cuisine. So much I had to ask those around me what I should order. The consensus was Moo goo gai pan. From this point on, anytime I ordered off menu for the next forty years, it was this dish. There was lots of laughter and engaged conversation during the meal. Following the meal, the group converged on Dennis' house. It was a fun evening listening to stories, tales, and lore of fieldwork and most things archaeology. It was here I learned most archaeologists had an appreciation for beer – something of a unifier. I was impressed by the comradery within the archaeology community.

In the excitement of the times, I neglected, or have since misplaced, my journal entries for the next two days of the adventure covering Sunday and Monday (May 28 -29). However, I do recall some details. We continued fieldwork on Saturday, until a rain ended the day. Those who chose to do so, had the option to assist with project lab work. I eagerly jumped on the opportunity. This was yet another cool factor which opened before my eyes. On the campus of the College of Williams & Mary, an archaeological lab was operated by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology in the basement of the Wren Building. I remember it being a somewhat dark and tight quarters, but my oh my what treasures it held. The space was akin to a museum of colonial Virginia archaeology with sights to behold at every corner and nook and cranny. Aside from the typical artifact processing areas for washing and drying racks, there was on-going conservation lab underway – I recall a sword undergoing some form of electrolysis or other means of stabilization. There were ceramics being matched for cross-mending.

Aside from a brief overview tour of the facility, I spent my time washing artifacts. As I recall, those staff working the lab, and field, were Deborah Davenport, Merry Outlaw, and Bly Straube. Some of the fieldworkers who participated were part of an underwater archaeology team working in the York River off Yorktown. This is where I met John Broadwater future State Underwater Archaeologist. Due to rain, the last day of 3-day opportunity on Monday, June 30, had fieldwork canceled but the opportunity to work in the lab made available. I took advantage of the situation to spend yet more time in the lab. Late that afternoon, I did head back to Blacksburg as the next day was a school and I was still a high school student not yet graduated – which would take place later in the week. Being at the Memorial Day project did cause me to miss my high school baccalaureate – but I did not mind.

Upon returning home, I did write a summary of the recent experience [16].

“Governor’s Land Excavations

The way the governor’s land is taking place is that a few years ago the Center for Research did some research on Lord Dunmore’s land and discovered from old maps and texts that one his dwellings was located near Jamestown. A team was sent out to survey in the Fall and pinpointed the site. Permission was gained to use the land and site was funded by a special antiquity [historic preservation] organization. The team gridded off the site into squares 10 feet x 10 feet and sifted the top plow zone and stopped and used trowels for the next task of

hitting the prime area. They excavated a dairy, a well, and pinpointed where the remains of where old post holes had once been located. The well showed up some fine specimens including a leather shoe which was perfectly [preserved and also discovered was [were] animal bones, bottle pieces, pottery bits and twigs and limbs. From the limbs they hope to find out which kind of trees were growing at that specific time. Around the house remains was discovered a series of apparent drainage ditches. On one end of the house are pieces of bone, ash, glass, and pottery. This is thought to be the remains of where the people threw out their garbage. Discovered in the dairy cellar was a cannon barrel. They are now presently sifting the plow zone for possible new additions with the house. The house is comprised of two [components]. Actually, one was built later on in the 18th century while the first one was built in the 17th century. The plow zone is nothing more than soil which over the years has been plowed over and over causing the soil to be filled with pieces of brock, glass, pottery, nails, etc.”

The Governors Land Excavations proved an important project in several capacities. First, it was one of a number of seventeenth-century projects being excavated in Virginia during the 1970s laying a strong foundation toward better understanding the era. The Drummond Site, one of the sites investigated, where I had volunteered had served as a field school site to the Archeological Society of Virginia, sponsored by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology during both the 1977 and 1978 Memorial Day weekends [17].

While today Virginia is served by a full agency, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, in the 1970s it was a different story. Since 1966, the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission (VHLC) had been at the helm, with a fully funded archaeology unit taking hold in 1976 as the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology (VRCA). When the VRCA was activated, state funded archaeological activities through the Virginia State Library begun 1963 ceased. The VHLC was based in Richmond and the VRCA in Williamsburg at the Wren Kitchen. From 1977-1979, the VRCA supported six Regional Preservation Offices (RPOs) [18].

These archaeological experiences in the Spring of 1978 changed my personal life and would help guide my professional career in ways direct and not so direct. The lecture by Bill Kelso, and timing at this stage of my life was inspirational and helped direct me in last minute application for attending college that Fall. I was accepted into Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina where I had a music scholarship in performance with bass trombone, along with wrestling scholarship – and get this, I was assigned to an athletic dormitory. My anticipated major was to be music, with a minor in archaeology. This was the glidepath. A few years later, in the late summer of 1980, I was offered a temporary field crew position by Alain Outlaw, but in a heartbreaking decision I had to decline as I had just prior signed the dotted line to enter Fort Benning, Georgia to begin combat infantry training. In the mid-1980s, the Archeological Society of Virginia held a field school at the Governor’s Land. As the president of the New River Valley Chapter, I led a group of a half dozen volunteers to participate. This was my last touch point with the project area.

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2023 LIST OF VIRGINIA'S MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES ANNOUNCED - Nine individual locations and two thematic nominations facing substantial threats were named to this year's list. From Preservation Virginia media release and more detailed information by Doug Sanford on Dwellings of the Enslaved.

RICHMOND, Va. (May 9, 2023) – Each May, during National Historic Preservation Month, Preservation Virginia releases a list of historic places across the Commonwealth facing imminent or sustained threats. The list, which has brought attention to 170 sites in Virginia, encourages individuals, organizations, and local and state governments to advocate for their preservation and find solutions that will save these unique locations for future generations. The program has a track record of success. Only 10% of the sites listed so far were lost to demolition or neglect.

This year's program reflects some of the most pressing issues affecting historic places in Virginia and the nations, including threats from inequality, climate change and flooding, large-scale industrial development, lack of stewardship, and changes in urban planning to accommodate increased housing needs. Partnerships on local, state, and federal levels to find adaptive, collaborative solutions for preserving unique historic sites for the benefit of Virginia communities.

“Historic places are at the forefront of debates about the environment, affordable housing, and smart growth,” said Elizabeth S. Kostelny, Preservation Virginia CEO. “We need to work together to address these issues while preserving locations that still have so much to teach us about our collection past and our present. Once a historic place is demolished, it's gone forever.”

In no particular order, Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places for 2023 are:

* African American Watermen Sites of the Chesapeake Bay, Regional Listing

- * Chapman Beverly Mill, Prince William County
- * Dwellings of the Enslaved, Statewide
- * Last Headquarters of the Virginia Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Hampton
- * The Town of Potomac Historic District, Alexandria
- * Willa Cather Birthplace, Frederick County
- * Historic High Schools in Virginia Cities, including Maury High School in Norfolk, the Moore Street School in Richmond, Thirteen Acres School in Richmond, and the Peabody-Williams School in Petersburg
- * Bristoe Station Battlefield

Dwellings of the Enslaved, Statewide

Dwellings of the enslaved embody the history of slavery and its legacies of racism, suffering and oppression. They represent domestic spaces that sustained families and African American cultural heritage. Once widespread, few examples survive today due to weather, deferred maintenance, insensitive development, and the lack of funding for repairs and maintenance. Appropriately preserving and interpreting slave dwellings, with input and collaboration from descendant communities, could help us learn more about the lives of enslaved individuals and provide a meaningful place for more comprehensive education on broader topics related to the difficult history of race and slavery.

For more information, please contact Dr. Douglas Sanford, dsanford@umw.edu, 540-604-3034.

About Preservation Virginia

Preservation Virginia is a private, nonprofit organization seeking to inspire and engage the public in fostering, supporting, and sustaining Virginia's historic places through leadership in advocacy, education, revitalization, and stewardship.

BACKGROUND – Doug Sanford

On May 9th Preservation Virginia announced its 2023 listing of the State's most endangered historic places (<https://preservationvirginia.org/our-work/most-endangered-historic-places/>).

Nominated by the Virginia Slave Housing Project (<https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/special-projects/virginia-slave-housing>), the state-wide listing for "Dwellings of the Enslaved" recognizes the diverse range of threats to surviving examples of domestic housing associated with unfree African Americans (see the full nomination). These buildings represent cultural resources critical for understanding the history of race-based slavery in Virginia and for interpreting descendant communities' heritage. In addition, the same cabins and quarters have significant archaeological components that when excavated and analyzed, allow for more complete and nuanced interpretations of enslaved people's daily lives, resistance to oppression, and their sense of identity.

Begun in 2007, the Virginia Slave Housing Project is co-directed by Douglas W. Sanford, former professor of historic preservation at the University of Mary Washington, and by Dennis J. Pogue, recently retired from the

graduate historic preservation program at the University of Maryland, College Park. A major goal of the Project has been to compile comparative data on slave housing from archaeological sites, historic documents (such as fire insurance policies), previous architectural research, and especially, surviving dwellings of the enslaved in rural and urban settings across the State. To date, the Project has documented 120 standing buildings in the field.

Another primary objective centers on promoting the preservation and interpretation of these buildings. Based on our experience over the last 15 years, we realize that the physical survival of slave-related buildings does not equate with preservation. Proactive means of maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation are needed. We hope that Preservation Virginia's listing for "Dwellings of the Enslaved" will encourage local citizens and community organizations to consider steps for identifying, documenting, and preserving the cabins, quarters, and kitchens that formerly housed enslaved Blacks. We encourage interested people to contact either Doug Sanford (dsanford@umw.edu) or Dennis Pogue (denjp1952@gmail.com).

PROJECT NOMINATION

Appropriately preserving and interpreting slave dwellings, with input and collaboration from descendant communities, not only helps to honor enslaved African Americans, but can contribute to restorative justice, while providing meaningful places for educating the public on the broader topics related to the difficult history of race and slavery. In these times of public attacks on conveying more inclusive versions of America's and Virginia's history, retaining the material manifestations of slavery and Black cultural history becomes a more vital preservation mission.

While individual dwellings for enslaved African Americans have been nominated before to Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places List, the 2023 nomination seeks a more comprehensive approach due to the large-scale nature of threats, and the diminishing status of these dwellings in general.

Dwellings for the enslaved, in many cases built by enslaved carpenters and masons, are critical and complex cultural sites that embody the history of slavery and its legacies of racism and divisive politics in the post-bellum world and today. Once a widespread form of American vernacular architecture throughout Virginia's rural and urban communities, few examples of housing for the enslaved survive as compared to the thousands of cabins and quarters that formerly existed in Virginia's counties, towns and cities. There are no standing examples from the 17th century and only a handful from the 18th century have survived. Those surviving from the 19th century largely date to the late antebellum era (ca. 1830-1860).



Log cabin (with weatherboard siding, Dunlora, Albemarle County, Virginia.

Dwellings for the enslaved are tangible places that not only embody suffering, trauma, oppression and survival, they also represent domestic spaces that helped sustain families, communities and African American cultural

heritage. They can also reveal negotiation and power struggles between the enslaved and enslavers, and the enduring Black resistance that grew from oppression.

After the Civil War, quarters for enslaved children, women, and men often became housing for free African Americans, at times working for their former enslavers as sharecroppers. As such, many quarters have even deeper Black histories and mark regional, family and personal histories that deserve to be respected and told.

While written documents can provide information about the lives of enslaved African Americans, few were written by or from the perspective of the enslaved themselves, so they rarely provide unfiltered insight into the lives of these people. Studying buildings associated with the enslaved, as well as the material evidence recovered through archaeology, can provide a more holistic understanding of these peoples' lives, and insight into individuals who were not included, and in some cases purposefully excluded, from the written record.

Threats

Dwellings of enslaved people face a variety of threats, ranging from long-term deterioration and neglect to development pressures. From the research conducted by the [Virginia Slave Housing Project](#), it has been determined that the physical survival of these buildings does not guarantee or equate to preservation, but that stabilization, repair and ongoing maintenance is crucial. Many standing cabins and quarters in poor condition will likely not last another ten years.

Another threat stems from continued residential and commercial development, which often leads to the willful destruction of these historic buildings and the related loss of their rural, agricultural landscapes. Former quarters also have been put to incompatible and insensitive alternative uses, leading to the extensive alteration of their interiors and the wholesale replacement of doors, windows, and roofs. Insensitive renovations that convert the former housing of enslaved people to modern guest houses often result in the near complete loss of period materials and finishes.

Solutions

Dwellings for the enslaved are threatened cultural resources that need careful documentation, repair and preservation. Many are owned privately by conscientious individuals, but they do not have sufficient funds to maintain them, let alone carry out more complex forms of preservation.

While experts and organizations including Jobi Hill and the [Saving Slave Houses Project](#), Joseph McGill and the [Slave Dwelling Project](#) and the [Virginia Slave](#)

[Housing Project](#) have worked tirelessly to record, preserve and interpret slave houses, more educational and financial resources are needed to help private individuals and nonprofits preserve these buildings, as well as other historic sites of historically marginalized and underrepresented communities.



Double duplex quarter, Oak Hill Plantation, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

Appropriately preserving and interpreting slave dwellings, with input and collaboration from [descendant communities](#), could help honor enslaved African Americans, their major resistance efforts and their unending strength and spirit. Preservation of these buildings can contribute to restorative justice, while also providing a meaningful place for more truthfully educating the public on broader topics related to the difficult history of race and slavery, especially since there continues to be no consensus or uniform recommendations on the educational curriculum around slavery, and how it affected people in the past, and how it continues to negatively impact people of color in Virginia and the nation today. For more information see [Program](#) sponsored by Historic Richmond.

Preservation Efforts of Historic Sites of Virginia's Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

The Virginia General Assembly has recently made commendable and long overdue efforts to raise awareness, record and fund African American historic places in Virginia. In 2000, the General Assembly passed the [African American Cemetery & Graves Fund](#) to provide grants to support the maintenance and care of cemeteries established on or before December 31, 1947. The General Assembly also recently established the [Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund \(BIPOC\)](#) to financially support Virginia's historically underserved and underrepresented communities, and the cultural and historical sites associated with them.

Earlier this year, [House Bill 1968](#) directs the Department of Historic Resources to install signs at historic sites listed in Victor Hugo Green's [The Negro Motorist Green Book](#). Written during the Jim Crow era, the Negro Motorist Green Book was a list of hotels, service stations, businesses, parks and houses where African Americans could safely stop while travelling. The Green Book was essential for the survival of thousands of Black Americans in an era of segregation, cemented into the American legal system through Jim Crow laws. Similar legislation to record, investigate, protect and fund dwellings for the enslaved would be a substantial step towards the preservation of these important buildings that have the capacity to teach history and culture, and to lay the groundwork for social change.

Contacts

For more information please contact Dr. Douglas Sanford, dsanford@umw.edu, (540) 604-3034. . ☀

NEW PUBLICATION – Stephen Israel

Historic St. Mary's City Commission is delighted to announce the availability of a digital copy of the *Salvage Archaeology Of A Dwelling On The John Hicks Leasehold*, in St. Mary's City, Maryland, a 3rd and 4th decade of the 18th Century. Captain John Hicks was a ship captain, merchant, and planter. A rich assemblage of early 18th century artifacts, two brick chimney foundations, a filled in cellar, and many refuse pit features were found. This was the first archaeological investigation sponsored by Historic St. Mary's City, and the earliest comprehensive study of a plantation from this period in Maryland. Now available on the new HSMC web site.

The John Hicks Leasehold was excavated by Contract Archaeology, Inc. in 1969, for the Historic St. Mary's City Commission. High School student Silas Hurry and Archaeologist Stephen Israel were members of the field crew. <https://www.hsmcdigshistory.org/reports-studies/> . ☀





**Eastern States Archaeological Federation
90th Annual Meeting
October 26-29, 2023
Ocean City, Maryland**



Conference Details

Location

Holiday Inn Oceanfront (410) 524-1600
6600 Ocean Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

Room Rates

\$69.00 Wed & Thurs + tax per night.
\$84.00 Fri & Sat + tax per night.

Thursday Tour (9 AM TO 5 PM)



Zwaanendael Museum

His Majesty's Sloop Debraak
1798 Shipwreck exhibit.
Admission \$10 per person.



Nanticoke Indian Museum

Admission \$3 per person.

Deadlines

Abstract Submissions, Registration Fees, and
Membership Dues for Presenters Due:
AUGUST 25, 2023

**Registration for Non-Presenters
OCTOBER 20, 2023**

Conference Fees (in US Dollars)

Registration: \$45
Student Registration \$20

Saturday Banquet

(Italian Buffet w/ vegetarian options):
\$55 per person

Banquet Speaker

Dr. Julia King

Registration & Abstract Submission Forms:

www.esaf-archaeology.org/annual-meeting.html

Register by Paypal or by check with mail-in
registration form.

Call for Papers

Abstracts (<150 words) are invited for papers and posters on topics related to the Archaeology of Eastern North America to be presented at the 90th Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation.

Proposals for organized thematic sessions are welcome. Individual papers will be placed in general sessions. Posters will be centralized with a designated presentation session.

Primary authors must be members of ESAF. One paper per primary author. There is no limit on the number of co-authorships. Primary author and presenter must register for the meeting by August 25, 2023.

Student participation scholarships are available. Student authors may complete for The Student Paper Prize. See the ESAF website for rules and application.

Format

The Annual Meeting will be a hybrid format allowing both in-person and remote presentation and attendance over Zoom. Remote presentations will be pre-recorded. See the ESAF website for format and submission. In-person papers will be presented live.

**Submit Thematic Session Proposals and
Questions about Abstracts to**

Stephen Israel, Program Chair
(ssisrael40@gmail.com)

For General Inquiries, Please Contact

Zac Singer, ESAF President
(Zachary.Singer@Maryland.Gov)

Editor's Note: The Eastern States Archaeological Federation 90th Annual Meeting will occur on the same weekend as that for the ASV's 2023 Annual Meeting in South Boston for which additional information and a call for papers will be forwarded to the ASV membership in the near future.

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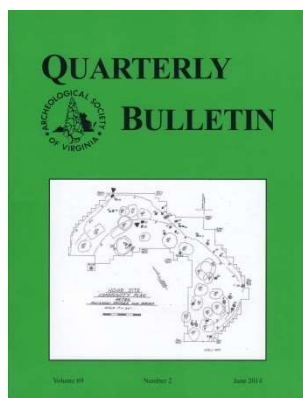
UPCOMING EVENTS

Historic Kittiewan Open House – Second Saturday of Each Month April Thru November, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

ASV Annual Meeting, South Boston - October 26-29.

Check out the ASV website at:

<https://www.virginiaarcheology.org/>



ASV QUARTERLY BULLETIN

AVAILABLE DIGITALLY – The ASV's Quarterly Bulletin is now available digitally. If you would prefer to receive it as a PDF instead of a paper copy, contact Patrick O'Neill at patrickloneill@verizon.net. This follows the ASV's newsletter which has been offered digitally for several years now.



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Virginia.ASV

SAVE THE ASV MONEY AND GET YOUR QUARTERLY BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!

For every Newsletter and Quarterly Bulletin you receive though email, you save the ASV \$7.99 in printing and mailing costs. Over the course of a year, that adds up to \$31.96 that can go directly toward ASV programming. Go green and fill the ASV coffers with green!

Check our website when renewing your dues if you would like to go digital.

The ASV recently established an account with AmazonSmile through which Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases. The purchases must be made through smile.amazon.com with Archeological Society of Virginia chosen as the applicable charity.



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