ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

86th ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

Drury Plaza Hotel Richmond
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Welcome from ASV President

Dear ASV Members and Guests attending the
86th Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia:

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Meeting of the ASV!

Having an opportunity for the ASV membership to meet with colleagues and friends is essential to the continued success of the organization. Exploring the diversity of history, bringing to light the forgotten, the underrepresented, all of those humans who came before us, is what makes our time doing archaeology and research so rewarding. Sharing that knowledge with others is just as fulfilling, and needed, to help others understand the meaning and context of history. Listen to the presentations, ask questions, talk with others, then take this knowledge back and share it with your chapter, your community, your friends. Write an article! Each of us can be a disciple of history in many ways! Again, welcome to the 2026 Annual Meeting of the ASV!

Enjoy,

Patrick O'Neill
ASV President

Colonel Howard MacCord Chapter - Richmond Area

Based in the Richmond area, we don’t just talk about archeology—we get our hands dirty. From local field work and lab days, our members are always busy. Whether we’re excited by a new find or leveling up through the ASV certification program, there’s never a dull moment.

2026 has been busy! From summer lab and site days, an experimental archeology event at Kittiewan, a tour of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture and a fun chapter picnic!

Drop us an email today at asvmaccord@virginiaarcheology.org to request your Chapter Membership Form and join the ranks!

Note From the Chapter President:

I would like to extend a BIG thank you to all of the MacCord Chapter members that helped organize and plan the 2026 Annual Meeting. We couldn't have done it without your hard work!

Archeological Society of Virginia Officers

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Vice-President: David Givens (Historic Triangle)

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Book Room: Shenandoah
Meeting Rooms: Rappahannock and Chickahominy
Poster Session Room: Shenandoah

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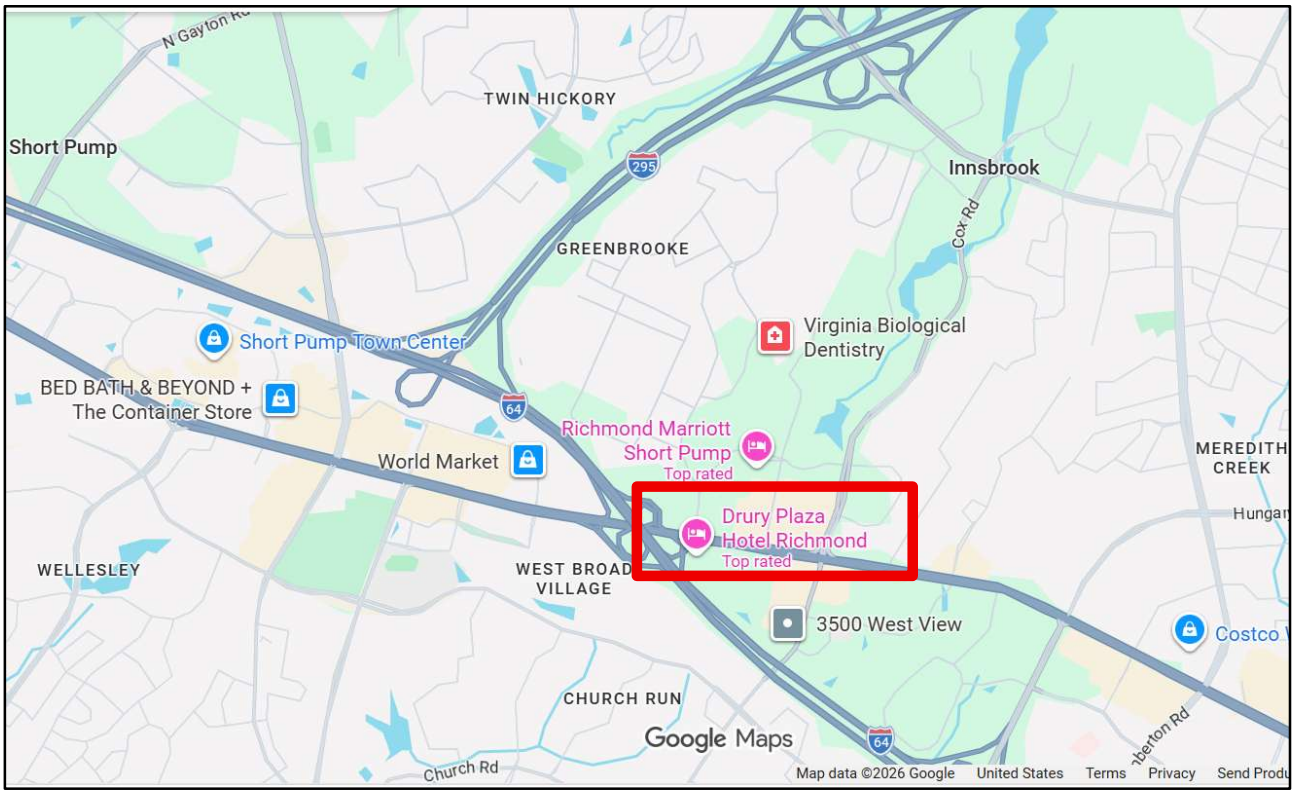

ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA:
86th ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

Drury Plaza Hotel Richmond
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Friday Morning, September 25, 2026

Room: **Rappahannock**
8:00 – 8:10 **ASV President Patrick O'Neill**
Welcome

Room:	**Chickahominy**
Session 1:	**Archeology Near and Beyond the Blue Ridge: Part I – Native American Time Periods and Landscapes**
Moderators:	***Michael B. Barber***

8:10 – 8:30 Michael B. Barber, Ph.D. (Research Fellow, Longwood Institute of Archaeology)
Seven Events Which Changed the Trajectory of Indigenous Culture in Virginia: A Punctuated Equilibria Approach

8:30 – 8:50 Michael J. Madden, (GWJeff Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison)
The Paleo Indian Occupation of Western Virginia, Blue Ridge and Beyond…

8:50 – 9:10 Martha Mihich, (GWJeff National Forests Assistant Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison)
Beyond the Blue Ridge: Counting the Archaic

9:10 – 9:30 Rae Krosky, (GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist)
Predictive Modeling on the George Washington Jefferson National Forests

9:30 – 9:50 David Kleppinger, (USFS Archaeologist)
Phase I Survey and Lithic Analysis from the Proposed Belfast Trailhead Parking Lot

9:50 – 10:00 **BREAK**

Room:	**Rappahannock**
Session 2:	*The Archaeology of Enslaved and Free Virginians*
Moderators:	***Patrick O'Neill***

8:10 – 8:30 Sara Thiam* (University of Maryland-College Park)
Winner of the 2026 Sandra Speiden Scholarhsip
The Carnelian Ring: Restoring African Identity on an American Plantation

8:30 – 8:50 Michele L. Brumfield (COVA)
Between the Lines: Investigating the Possible Archaeological Footprint of a Freedom Seeker Village at Gloucester Point, Virginia

8:50 – 9:10 Patrick O'Neill (Northern Virginia Chapter)
A Success Story: Researching An Enslaved Person in Fauquier and Prince William County

9:10 – 9:30 Patrick O'Neill (Northern Virginia Chapter)
Relocating A Historic Black Burying Ground on Bull Run Mountain

9:30 – 10:00 BREAK

Room:	**Chickahominy**
Session 3:	*Archeology Near and Beyond the Blue Ridge: Part II – Native American Artifacts and Ecofacts*
Moderator:	***Martha Mihich***

10:00 – 10:20 Taava Johnson, (GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist)
Virginia Rock Art: Analyzing Research Methods

10:20 – 10:40 Carole C. Nash, (James Madison University)
Native American Ceramics from the Northern and Central Virginia Blue Ridge

10:40 – 11:00 Victoria Ferguson, (Monacan Indian Nation Citizen)
Connecting the Monacan Indian Nation to Their Ceramic Technology: Moving the Past to the Present for the Future

11:00 – 11:20 Dr. Hayden Bassett, Dr. Madeleine Gunter-Bassett, Aidan Lawrence, and Madison Ross, (Virginia Museum of Natural History) and Dr. Michael B. Barber (Longwood Institute of Archaeology)
Modeling Late Woodland Settlement Using Stream Characteristics (Dan River Drainage, Virginia)

11:20 – 11:40 Elizabeth Moore, (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)
Hunting, Trapping, Fishing, and Trading: Revisiting the Graham-White Site

Room:	**Rappahannock**
Session 4:	***The Archaeology of Virginia's First Peoples***
Moderator:	**Adam Kingery**

10:00 – 10:20 Michael Hornum (Goodwin & Associates)
Site 44GS0241: Early Archaic Activity at Mystery Ridge

10:20 – 10:40 Evan Cabral* (College of William and Mary)
Winner of the 2026 Sandra Speiden Scholarship
Oyster Harvesting and Seasonality on the James River in the Early/Middle Woodland Period

10:40 – 11:00 Taft Kiser (Archeological Society of Virginia)
"Running Deer" to "Stars," and Other Ideas

11:00 – 11:20 Adam Kingery* (College of William and Mary)
Tempering Difference: Understanding the History of Indigenous Landscapes on the Chickahominy River

11:30 – 12:30 LUNCH

*student presenter

Friday Afternoon, September 25, 2026

Room:	**Rappahannock**
Session 5:	***Maritime Heritage at 250***
Moderator:	***Robert Hayes***

12:30 – 12:50 Michael Nusbaum (Maritime Heritage Chapter)
Cribs and Hulks: The James River Water Obstacles at Drewry's Bluff

12:50 – 1:10 John D. Broadwater (Maritime Heritage Chapter)
The Schooner *Esk:* Still on the Move after 138 years

1:10 – 1:30 P. Brendan Burke (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)
Mysteries from the Deep and the Shallow; Updates from VDHR's Underwater Archaeology Program

1:30 – 2:00 Jennifer L. Jones (1776 Gunboat *Philadelphia* Preservation Project, National Museum of American History)
Preserving the Gunboat *Philadelphia*

2:00 – 2:20 Alyssa Carpenter (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)
A Comparative Analysis of the Savannah Cannon Cluster Site (9CH1552) to Surviving 18th–19th Century Cannons in the Northeastern United States

2:20 – 2:40 Jillian Schuler (North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources)
Using Artifact Patterning to Contextualize a Salvaged Assemblage Dated to the Battle of Yorktown, 1781

2:40 – 3:00 Robert Hayes (Maritime Heritage Chapter)
The American Revolution and the Origin of Military Medals: "The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus opened to all…"

3:00 – 3:30 Comments and Questions

Room:	**Chickahominy**
Session 6:	**Archeology Near and Beyond the Blue Ridge: Part III – Historic Period Sites**
Moderator:	***Richard Guercin***

12:20 – 12:40 Kelsey Mills, (GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist)
Life and Death: Homesteading in Appalachian

12:40 – 1:00 Lauren Murphy, (GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist)
Locating An African-American Cemetery on Federal Land: Why it Matters

1:00 – 1:20 Jenna Hallinger, (GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist)
Recreating through History: Land Use and Archaeology in the George Washington & Jefferson National Forest

1:20 – 1:40 Richard J. Guercin, (GWJeff National Forest Archaeologist)
Marked in Slate: A Vernacular Headstone Tradition in Southwestern Amherst County

1:40 – 2:00 Lily C. Haywood, (GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist)
Paved Paradise, Put Up a Parking Lot: Finding White Top Folk Festival

*student presenter

Room: **Shenandoah Room (Bookroom)**
Session 7: ***Poster Session***
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

1. Claire Pugliese, Historic Triangle Chapter
   Industrial Archaeology Sites in New York State and Beyond
2. Daniel Cantu, Headwaters ASV Chapter/ U. S. Forest Service
   Them's the Breaks - A Lithic Analysis of the Material Culture at the Fairwood Livery site
3. Brandon Cofer, Headwaters Chapter / U. S. Forest Service
   The Clinch River Drainage: Findings from a USFS Survey of the Clinch Ranger District, Scott County, Virginia
4. Kay Hansbrough, Headwaters Chapter/US Forest Service/Appalachian Conservation Corps
   Houseplant or House Plants? Ornamental Plants of Southwest Virginia's Historic Sites
1. Nancy Rubin, Fairfield Foundation
   Unearthing the Past: "Discovering Experimental Archaeology on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation through Threatened Site 44KW0017"
2. Connor DeWall*, Archeological Society of Virginia
   Save Section 106: Riverview, Endview & Lee Hall Case Study (Newport News)
3. Kurt Fredrickson, Northern Virginia Chapter
   Reconstructing disturbed sites through spatial analysis methods
4. Kurt Fredrickson, Northern Virginia Chapter
   An experimental replication study of lithic reduction strategies of jasper sourced from the Flint Run Paleo-Indian Complex, Virginia

Room: **Chickahominy**
Session 8*: Addressing Virginia Requirements for Environmental Justice Engagement and Indigenous Consultation - Similarities and Differences*
Moderator: Chris French
Time: 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Victoria Ferguson (Monacan Indian Nation Citizen)
Tribal Consultation in Virginia - A Developing Requirement

Renada Harris, Brown Grove Preservation Group
The Brown Grove Rural Historic Residential Community Experience

Council of Virginia Archaeologists Membership Meeting (Eric Schweickart, President)
Room: Rappahannock
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 (-ish)

*student presenter

ST,

The best discoveries aren't always buried beneath the ground. For instance, my greatest find was the moment I met you.

Thank you for sharing this new adventure with me.

I can't wait to see what we'll uncover together.

Love,

ZT

Friday Evening, September 25, 2026

Council of Virginia Archaeologists – Public Education Forum
(ASV Members are encouraged to attend)

Kingsmill: New Discoveries and New Threats

The Kingsmill archaeological project explored a series of archaeological sites on and around the 18th-century Kingsmill plantation beginning in 1972 and continuing for most of the rest of the decade. The results of these excavations not only provided a wealth of information about the people who lived in this part of Virginia over the last millennia, they have served as a foundational touchstone for the field of archaeology. Three generations of Virginia archaeologists have grown up with a world defined by the Kingsmill excavations. Lessons about slavery, landscape design, and the material culture of 18th-century plantations invariably include (and often start) with a discussion of Kingsmill. It is as essential to our understanding of the colonial Chesapeake as Teotihuacan is to the Aztec empire, or Troy to the Trojan Wars. Since some of the remaining undisturbed deposits at Kingsmill have recently come under threat of further development, we wanted to highlight some of the new discoveries recently made on the Kingsmill collection, based on the work conducted utilizing the Skiffes Creek grant project funding, to emphasize how the work conducted in the 70s is still revealing new information to this day. We will also discuss the nature of the current threats to the Kingsmill site and what steps have been taken to try and protect this historic location.

7:00pm - Rappahannock Room

Nick Luccketti - **Opening Remarks**

Serena Soterakopoulos – **Cataloging Kingsmill: The Skiffes Creek Grant Project**

Chelsea Blake – **Conserving Kingsmill: The Skiffes Creek Grant Project**

Dave Brown – **Current Threats to Kingsmill**

Discussion

8:30 – 10:30 COVA Reception

Saturday Morning, September 26, 2026

Room:	**Rappahannock**
Session 9:	***New Research from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation***
Moderator:	**Erin S. Schwartz**

8:00 – 8:20 Adam Macbeth (The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
Trial by Fire: Renewed Investigations into Brickwork at an 18th Century Cabinet Maker's Property

8:20 – 8:40 Alexander Michnick and Eric Schweickart (The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
Filling in the Gaps: Mortar Analysis from the Peter Scott Site in Williamsburg, Virginia

8:40 – 9:00 Atticus Woodruff (The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
Archaeology of Archaeology: "Jimmy Knight" Trenches as a Resource for Excavation

9:00 – 9:20 Erin S. Schwartz and Eric Schweickart (The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
A New Take on an Old Field School: Restructuring the William and Mary Field School at Colonial Williamsburg

9:20 – 9:40 Evan Bell and Aaron Lovejoy (The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
Beyond a Shadow of a Redoubt: Updates on Remote Sensing the Civil War Earthworks of the Virginia Peninsula

9:40 – 10:00 BREAK

Room:	**Chickahominy**
Session 10:	**A Look at Archaeological Methodology in Virginia**
Moderator:	David Brown

8:00 – 8:20 Jack Zobrist and Lucas Zinn (Archeological Society of Virginia)
The Importance of Proactive Community Engagement

8:20 – 8:40 David Givens (Terra Search Geo)
Not Your Father's GPR: The Use of Multi-Channel Array on Archaeology Sites

8:40 – 9:00 Taylor Gantzert (Hurt & Proffitt / Historic Sandusky)
Sustainable Flotation Method to Investigate Sites of Enslavement in the Virginia Piedmont

9:00 – 9:20 Kylie McCoy* (College of William and Mary)
Multi-instrumental analysis of earthenware pottery: studying phyllosilicates and firing temperature to improve rehydroxylation dating by infrared spectroscopy

9:20 – 9:40 John Henshaw (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)
Bayesian Simulations and Virginia's Chronological History: Evaluating a Statistical Approach to Radiocarbon Dating

9:40 – 10:00 David A. Brown, Thane H. Harpole, Tim Horsley, Middle Peninsula Chapter
What You Didn't Know to Wish for: Unexpected Discoveries from a 65-acre GPR and Magnetometer Survey of Fairfield Plantation

10:00 – 10:15 BREAK

*student presenter

Room:	**Chickahominy**
Session 11:	***The Archaeology of Historic Germanna***
Moderator:	Kelly Arford-Horne

10:15 – 10:35 Kelly Arford-Horne (Historic Germanna)
Why Connection Matters: Engaging with Artifacts at Historic Germanna

10:35 – 10:55 Kieran Blair (VCU and Historic Germanna)
"Toss a Coin to Your Butcher" – Bone Biographies at the Historic Germanna Archaeological Sites

10:55 – 11:15 Anna Cumberledge (Historic Germanna)
Siegen Forest: Inclusive Archaeology of the Old Mill Complex

11:15 – 11:35 Katherine Lawrence (Historic Germanna)
Understanding Timelines and Activities Within the Subfloor Pit of the Gordon House Workyard

11:35 – 11:55 Nasrin Alizada (VCU and Historic Germanna)
Foodways at the Gordon Farm: Zooarchaeological Insights from Feature 150 at Historic Germanna

11:55 – 12:15 BREAK

Room:	**Rappahannock**
Session 12:	***The Archaeology of the 18th and 19th Centuries in Virginia***
Moderator:	***Liz Crowell***

10:00 – 10:20 Mike Clem (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)
Rochambeau's Elusive Camps

10:20 – 10:40 Will Moffett*, (Episcopal School of Jacksonville)
Archaeological Insights into the Montpelier Blacksmith Shop: A Student Perspective

10:40 – 11:00 Heather Little (The William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research; W&MCAR)
Something Ordinary: Reframing an Eighteenth-Century Site at Gloucester Point, Virginia

11:00 – 11:20 Sarah Robinson (Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest)
Saving Soles: The Effect of Depositional Environment on the Preservation of Organic Shoe Materials

11:20 – 11:40 Jessica Gantzert (Hurt & Proffitt/Historic Sandusky)
The Colonial Jailhouse(s) at Cabellsville

11:40 – 12:15 BREAK

*student presenter

James / Roanoke / New Rivers Headwaters Chapter: Archeological Society of Virginia (AKA Headwaters Chapter)

The Headwaters Chapter is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge of the past through scientifically-based research and data collection. Implemented through paper presentations, artifact analysis, field work, publication, and public outreach, the Chapter's goal is to study both Native American and historic sites for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth.

The Headwaters Chapter meets on the second Tuesday every other month at the Salem Museum and Historical Society at 801 East Main Street, Salem, Virginia. The interested public is encouraged to attend in addition to ASV and Museum members.

Recent events have included the Totera Town Exhibit and Symposium, presentations on the study of Monacan pottery traditions, re-enactors portraying historic figures, study of a Native American site on the Eastern Shore, and an historic poor house in western Virginia. More to come……..

In Partnership with:

Salem Museum and Historical Society **Virginia Museum of Natural History**

USDA Forest Service **Longwood Institute of Archaeology**

Check out the ASV Chapter Posters!!

Saturday Morning 9:00 am – 1 pm Shenandoah Room

Posters detailing the last year of activities of the ASV's wonderful vibrant chapters are on display.

ASV Annual Membership Meeting

(ASV Members Only)

(Patrick O'Neill, President)

12:15 – 1:15pm

Rappahannock Room

Join Us in Studying Virginia's Maritime Heritage

Maritime Heritage Chapter
Archeological Society of Virginia

GET INVOLVED!

Ever see shipwrecks on TV and wish you could see them in real life? How about putting your hands on historical artifacts you've only ever read about in textbooks? Want to volunteer to help us out and learn some of Virginia's history? Come join our group where you can have the chance to do all of this and have fun at the same time!

Visit our website ***https://maritimeheritageva.org*** *OR*

scan the QR code

Saturday Afternoon, September 26, 2026

Certification Workshop:
Archaeological Laws and Ethics

This workshop will be open to all conference attendees as it will include a discussion of the issues surrounding the proposed changes to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Location: Chickahominy Room

Field Trip (separate registration)

Kingsmill/VDHR Lab, Tour 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Ave, Richmond, VA 23221

This field trip is an opportunity to visit the Virginia Department of Historic Resources conservation lab and collections space to see the recently conserved and cataloged artifacts from the Kingsmill excavations. Thanks to Skiffes Creek grant funding, artifacts from BIPOC associated Kingsmill sites which had been excavated in the 1970s but never fully processed were rehoused, cataloged, and conserved, providing new insight into these important sites.

The tour is limited to 25 individuals, to reserve your place contact email cova.archaeology@gmail.com and ask to be added to the registration list for the DHR Kingsmill Field Trip.

Saturday Evening, September 26, 2026

Banquet – Ballroom (Rappahannock and Chickahominy)

5:00 – 6:00 – Cash Bar Reception
6:00 – 9:00 – Banquet, Certification Graduation, & Awards

Banquet Speaker:

Matthew Reeves, Ph.D. – Director of Archaeology, James Madison's Montpelier

Matthew Reeves is the Director of Archaeology at James Madison's Montpelier in Orange, Virginia. His specialty is sites of the African Diaspora including plantation and freedman period sites, and Civil War. In his 25 years at Montpelier, Reeves has developed a strong public archaeology program known for its citizen science approach to research. At the heart of this program is community-based research with a heavy focus on investing in descendant communities in the research and interpretation process and governance of cultural institutions. He has also led the archaeological discipline in devising new ways to engage metal detector hobbyists in archaeological survey through his department's work locating the living and work sites of the enslaved community across the 2650-acre Montpelier property. These new site discoveries hold the future for Montpelier continuing to tell the story of the enslaved community. Matt has had a career-long interest in using graphical data analysis (Exploratory Data Analysis) and geographic information systems (GIS) in the management and public dissemination of archaeological site data.

Structural Parity, Descendant Engagement, & Community Archaeology at a Presidential Plantation Site

In 2022, Montpelier achieved structural parity with the Montpelier Descendants Committee (MDC) and in the same year started making plans for the design of a memorial at the Montpelier Burial Ground of the Enslaved (a site containing over 250 burials of the enslaved). These two events were not unrelated and led to an active working relationship between the Montpelier Archaeology Department and the MDC. This achievement in 2022 was the culmination of 20 years of descendant engagement and culture change at a presidential house site. This paper will explore how our two organizations have partnered through the entire archaeological process at one of the most sacred sites on the property and how this working relationship has changed the trajectory of our department.

Sunday Morning, September 27, 2026

10:00am – 12:00pm ASV Board Meeting
Location TBD

Archeological Society of Virginia
2026 Annual Meeting Abstracts

Individual Abstracts

What You Didn't Know to Wish for: Unexpected Discoveries from a 65-acre GPR and Magnetometer Survey of Fairfield Plantation

David A. Brown, Thane H. Harpole, Tim Horsley, Middle Peninsula Chapter

Twenty-six years ago the Fairfield Foundation launched an ambitious preservation, research and public archaeology program at the site of Fairfield Plantation. As we look towards the next quarter century, it is time to rethink how we interpret the landscape. In the spring of 2026, we collaborated with Horsley Archaeological Prospection, LLC on a 65-acre ground penetrating radar and magnetometer survey, one of the largest ever attempted on a colonial plantation site. The preliminary results redefine how we interpret the property. Many of the questions we hoped the survey would answer remain frustratingly (but predictably) uncertain. And yet the study found evidence of ditches, fencelines, roadbeds and potential buildings that eluded prior survey and testing, proving there is much about this landscape we do not understand. This paper will share what we found, and what we didn't find, with the hopes that you might help us set the course for excavation in the decades to come.

Between the Lines: Investigating the Possible Archaeological Footprint of a Freedom Seeker Village at Gloucester Point, Virginia

Michele L. Brumfield, Council of Virginia Archaeologists

Historical records document two freedom seeker (contraband) villages at Gloucester Point, Virginia, during the Civil War. Although their locations remain unknown, this paper explores whether archaeological evidence from Site 44GL0354 may represent one of them. Archaeological investigations have advanced our understanding of the site's eighteenth-century occupations. Recent research has expanded our knowledge of Gloucester Point's Civil War military landscape, but the freedom seeker communities have received little archaeological attention, despite appearing in the accounts of those who served at Gloucester Point. These sources include soldiers' letters, letters from the provost marshal to his parents, and a contemporary sketch of one of the villages. Guided by this documentary record, this paper examines several Civil War-period features at Gloucester Point, comparing them with historical accounts and archaeological examples to evaluate whether they represent the remains of one of those villages.

Oyster Harvesting and Seasonality on the James River in the Early/Middle Woodland Period

Evan Cabral, College of William and Mary*
2026 Sandra Speiden Scholarship Winner

Oyster shell middens represent distinct cultural features frequently found throughout Virginia's waterways and coastlines that often contain invaluable information regarding subsistence strategies, resource management, and settlement patterns. This presentation will highlight a current project with the goal of investigating oyster shell harvesting and consumption at two Early/Middle Woodland I period archaeological sites with oyster shell deposits on Joint Base Langley-Eustis (Sites 44NN0001 and 44NN0090) along the James River as part of a Master's thesis at the College of William and Mary and with funding from the Spieden Scholarship. This presentation will primarily outline the scope of the project including the research questions, goals, and methodologies while also introducing some initial results of oyster analysis from this summer.

Poster: Them's the Breaks - A Lithic Analysis of the Material Culture at the Fairwood Livery site

Daniel Cantu, Headwaters ASV Chapter/ Forest Service

Across human history mankind has always found ways to make the most out of whatever resource they had at their disposal. From plant fibers we weaved baskets and textiles, and from stones we created the very first tools that eventually lead to the technology we have now. The Blue Ridge was no different, and across Virginia there are plenty of examples of native groups throughout the Paleoindian and Archaic periods turning quartz, quartzite, jasper, chalcedony, and chert into tools and weapons of all kinds. This poster aims to analyze the material culture of one site in particular, the Fairwood Livery Horse Camp (44GY18), a large middle archaic Guilford culture base camp and reduction station where almost 90% of the lithic material is comprised of Mt. Roger's Rhyolite, and seeks to better understand the context as to why that specific material might have been preferred over other potential lithic sources in the area that could have been seen as a higher quality material.

Rochambeau's Elusive Camps

Mike Clem, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

In the spring of this year, I was alerted to the possibility that some metal detectorists had possibly found artifacts related to Revolutionary War era French Expeditionary Force, led by Comte de Rochambeau. Following the victory at Yorktown, the French army remained in the general

vicinity of the battle for the winter. By early summer of 1782 they began their return march northward to New York. Rochambeau sent a team of engineers ahead to set up camps at regular intervals and the army followed. These elusive camps, while much written and speculated about, have not been documented until now. The findings at the camp I viewed began a search for other such camps, and by utilizing the French engineers' maps, we have been able to locate others. We are just beginning to investigate a second camp. This one appears to be relatively intact due to its remoteness and protected environment. This paper will detail the search and our findings to date.

Poster: The Clinch River Drainage: Findings from a USFS Survey of the Clinch Ranger District, Scott County, Virginia

Brandon Cofer, Headwaters Chapter / United States Forest Service

Despite being rich in pre-contact and historic sites, the uplands of southwestern Virginia are often overlooked in current archaeological research. During a Section 106 survey of the Clinch Ranger District on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in mid-2026, a large concentration of both pre-contact and historic sites were discovered in the area. These discoveries lend to an increasingly greater understanding of how in an albeit harsh landscape not always suited for living, the Clinch River and the mountains of Southwest Virginia managed to provide for all those who called it home and endured its many challenges. This poster will provide a visual guide to those sites as well as to the likely factors for concentrated occupancy in the area. The significance of the area will be demonstrated through contemporary resource analysis, site maps, photographs, and data tables.

Poster: Save Section 106: Riverview, Endview & Lee Hall Case Study (Newport News)

Connor DeWall, Archeological Society of Virginia*

Development projects at Riverview, Endview, & Lee Hall provide insight into the limitations of Municipal archaeology and the potential for a future where Section 106 management standards facilitate a mutually beneficial coexistence between Sustainable Development and Historical Preservation.

Poster: Reconstructing disturbed sites through spatial analysis methods

Kurt Fredrickson, Northern Virginia Chapter

The Jasper Ridge project in the Flint Run Complex, south of Front Royal, was designed to both test the potential for a Paleo- and Early Archaic indigenous occupation of the newly discovered Jasper Ridge site (44WR506), and to demonstrate potential activity areas within the Jasper

Ridger site. The initial plans were to test only the main site using an initial 20-foot interval with 1-foot square STP samples (1/400 sample) to assess the sites potential chronology, function, integrity and size. That was to be followed by a 10-foot interval (1/100) infill STP sample to identify potential internal horizontal integrity. Jasper Ridge is the highest elevation within the Flint Run complex and is both heavily plowed and deflated. However, due to unforeseen circumstances the 1/100 sample had to be deferred. To maintain crew integrity and continuity, efforts were diverted to completing recovery of perc test spoil piles and a 1/400 (20-foot interval) on the entire eight-acre project area. That discovered the property contained part of the Flint Run Quarry (44WR4); a poorly identified other site (44WR455) and a possible part of a fourth site. The poster will present the results of the 1/400 sample. Jasper Ridge has produced significant new contributions to Catholic University's decade long research at the "Flint Run Paleoindian Complex" which was mostly in the 1970s and early 1980s. Thunderbird (44WR11) and Fifty (44WR50) were the two other noteworthy sites researched by Bil Gardner's Catholic University teams. More than 100,000 artifacts, each one analyzed more that three times, form the database for the distributions presented in this poster.

Poster: An experimental replication study of lithic reduction strategies of jasper sourced from the Flint Run Paleo-Indian Complex, Virginia

Kurt Fredrickson, Northern Virginia Chapter

In this study experimental replication of jasper biface Clovis point and flake core pathways were used to create and then comparatively analyze attributes of artifacts recovered from identified Clovis assemblages from the Thunderbird and Gault sites. This curated collection of experimental artifacts was compared to measurements taken from the Thunderbird collection at the Smithsonian, and from artifacts from ongoing excavations within the Flint Run Palco-Indian complex. The overarching goal of the study was to create a reference collection that could assist in the analysis of the 70,000 lithic artifacts recovered from excavations of Jasper Ridge (44WR506), a hilltop occupations site within the complex. Artifacts recovered include flakes, bifaces, projectile points, flake cores, unifacial tools, blade like flakes, and blade core rejuvenation tabs. The study focused on identifying traits differentiating hard hammer stone, soft hammer stone, and antler percussors in hopes statistical analysis of the experimental collection can shed light on local tool technology pathways. A great deal of research has been devoted to lithic analysis by researchers over the decades and this study incorporated and compared previous methods.

The Colonial Jailhouse(s) at Cabellsville

Jessica Gantzert, Hurt & Proffitt/Historic Sandusky

Cabellsville was the county seat of Amherst County from 1761 until 1810 when the county was split into Nelson County and modern Amherst County. County seats were generally built in the center of the county so they could be easily accessed by residents. They mainly featured a large courthouse, with multiple additional structures such as lawyers' offices, taverns, inns, and jailhouses being built as needed to support the population influx with monthly court days. This paper focuses on the 2019 excavation of the jailhouse structure and the issues encountered throughout the research period due to the nature of jailhouses, both in the physical record and in the written record.

Sustainable Flotation Method to Investigate Sites of Enslavement in the Virginia Piedmont

Taylor Gantzert, Hurt & Proffitt / Historic Sandusky

Historical archaeology continually shapes our understanding of the post-colonization past through examinations of both the written and physical records. While early efforts within the field focused largely on white land-owning men, efforts over more recent decades also seek to better understand the lives of enslaved individuals who were often excluded from the written record. In-depth understanding of the lives of enslaved people requires the use of a variety of archaeological approaches and methods that often necessitate a great investment in environmental resources, equipment, and labor to help maximize the recovery of material culture. Flotation is a prominent example that allows the capture of artifacts that would otherwise be lost during other screening processes. However, flotation can be expensive, time-consuming, and constrained by site limitations. The high resource cost can construct a barrier toward a more complete understanding of enslaved people that perpetuates exclusionary narratives. This project seeks to address this barrier by implementing equipment and practices that help reduce the costs of environmental resources, equipment, and labor.

Not Your Father's GPR: The Use of Multi-Channel Array on Archaeology Sites

David Givens, TerraSearch Geophysical

Recently, TerraSearch Geophysical has increasingly relied on multi-channel array GPR to survey historic sites for preservation, interpretation, and delineation. This paper presents the results of a few of those surveys and discusses the benefits and caveats we have encountered, including a perspective on the transition from single- to multi-channel geophysical methods.

Poster: Houseplant or House Plants? Ornamental Plants of Southwest Virginia's Historic Sites

Kay Hansbrough, Headwaters Chapter/US Forest Service/Appalachian Conservation Corps

Historic sites across southwest Virginia often contain ornamental plants. When found in conjunction with historic features and artifacts, these plants are obvious signs of historic habitation, such as periwinkle within a cemetery or yucca around a homestead. However, the presence of these ornamentals often indicates a historic site even when no artifacts or features remain. This poster discusses common ornamental plants found at historic sites west of the Blue Ridge, the types of historic sites each ornamental is often associated with, and how to identify these plants in the field.

Bayesian Simulations and Virginia's Chronological History: Evaluating a Statistical Approach to Radiocarbon Dating

John Henshaw, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Recent decades have seen an explosion of analytical tools for evaluating chronological data in archaeological contexts. These developments build on the interdisciplinary nature of archaeology by drawing on statistics and data science to improve our understanding of deep time and chronological relationships in the past. In recent years, I have joined the cacophony of voices advocating for the dire need to improve our radiocarbon databases and prioritize robust absolute dating and statistical techniques in archaeological research. However, advocacy for the importance of radiocarbon dating often lacks specificity as to how much additional data are needed. This paper first explores the results of Bayesian modelling and associated improvements to regional chronologies and then utilizes simulation modelling to quantify the point of diminishing returns for site- and regional-level datasets within Virginia to propose a framework for chronological research strategies.

Site 44GS0241: Early Archaic Activity at Mystery Ridge

Michael Hornum, Goodwin & Associates

Site 44GS0241 had repeated occupations from the Early Archaic through Late Woodland periods. However, the greatest amount of site integrity was associated with Early Archaic activities. An Early Archaic possible shallow cooking pit was identified, associated with buried deposits extending over 1,000 years of Early Archaic occupations. While no specific lithic reduction episodes were discernable, reduction primarily focused on local to semi-local Roanoke Region, Knox, and Chepultepec cherts. Distinctions in material use suggest that formal tool production and expedient use of flakes as tools was selective, with Copper Ridge chert being

more desirable for tools than in general reduction activities, gray/Conococheague chert less so, and ferruginous quartzite not at all. Little core reduction was evident, and it appears likely that cores mainly were reduced elsewhere and partially finished objects were brought to the site as earlier stage bifaces for further reduction. Residue analysis from Early Archaic tools indicated the use of Mustelidae (e.g., otter, badger, or mink), Hystricognathi (porcupine, beaver), and Ursidae (bear) during the Early Archaic period. A comparison of the Early Archaic component at Site 44GS0241 with that at Site 44WS0121, also situated in a saddle setting is contextualizes Site 44GS0241 in the Early Archaic settlement system. While Site 44WS0121 yielded a range of tools, as well as hammer and anvil stones, suggestive of a base camp maintenance area, Site 44GS0241, with its fire-cracked rock feature, and manos and metates in addition to its points/knives, scrapers, and flake tools, appears to have had an even greater variety of activities, and represents an actual base camp.

Tempering Difference: Theorizing Boundary in the Middle to Late Woodland Tidewater

Adam Kingery, College of William and Mary*

Oysters do not grow in freshwater. Yet, the freshwater Chickahominy River, the home of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe and the Chickahominy Indian Tribe- Eastern Division, has multiple Indigenous sites with oyster shell deposits. These shells points towards Indigenous communities' sustained knowledge of, movement through, and interaction with different aspects of their environment. However, only a few kilometers upstream, contemporary sites with only local freshwater mussel deposits, or both mussel and oyster deposits, suggest that neighboring communities interacted with their mutually shared landscape, and with each other, in radically different ways. And importantly, while all these communities spanned the Middle to Late Woodland periods, where dating is possible, oysters have only been associated with the Middle Woodland period. Understanding the simultaneous divergence and overlap of oyster and mussel practices, and how they changed from the Middle to Late Woodland period, can highlight the significance and history of an Indigenous landscape along the Chickahominy River and the broader Indigenous tidewater.

"Running Deer" to "Stars," and Other Ideas

Taft Kiser, Independent Researcher

Clay-stemmed American pipes have such a baffling range of variation that in 1988 Mathew Emerson documented 192 different bowl forms. Ceramics in America 2006 published Al Luckenbach and the author on a new approach – defining characteristics tying pipes to specific workshops. For example, the "Pettit" site 44JC0008 was judged after 1690 – a date repeated in literature for more than half a century. The author's recent re-evaluation found pipes copying the style of a maker working in the 1640s and 1650s, pulling 44JC0008 decades earlier. This paper

presents a broad framework of ideas on Algonquian and Sioux pipes morphing into the three basic bowl shapes of 1650s Virginia: the European "belly bowl," the Algonquian "elbow," and the "James River" bowl. This paper also discusses the findings of experimental work with decorative stamps and the workings of a rouletting wheel.

Something Ordinary: Reframing an Eighteenth-Century Site at Gloucester Point, Virginia
Heather Little, The William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research (W&MCAR)

Between January and May of 2026, the William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research (W&MCAR) conducted salvage operations at Site 44GL0177 on the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) campus in Gloucester Point, Virginia. This fieldwork preceded the planned demolition of the 1990s Chesapeake Bay Hall (CBH); the archaeology focused on previously untested areas within the building's footprint. Previous Phase I–III archaeological investigations of the site revealed a complex landscape of often interwoven and overlapping late seventeenth- through nineteenth-century domestic features and eighteenth- and nineteenth-century military features. The 2026 salvage operations gave an even clearer view of the complicated ways in which these features interact with one another and yielded unexpected data that challenges previous interpretations. This paper provides a brief overview of previous work at Site 44GL0177 and discusses how these preliminary salvage findings— when paired with past archaeological data and related scholarship—could reframe an eighteenth-century architectural complex from a private domestic space to a commercial site, potentially an ordinary or tavern and its associated outbuildings that served people traveling by ferry across the York River.

Multi-instrumental analysis of earthenware pottery: studying phyllosilicates and firing temperature to improve rehydroxylation dating by infrared spectroscopy
Kylie McCoy, College of William & Mary*

Dating ancient pottery can illuminate information on past societies, their trade routes, their lifestyles, and their technologies. Radiocarbon dating is commonly used in archeological dating, but it is limited for pottery unless organic material is present or associated context is available. A recent dating method, rehydroxylation (RHX), has been developed to track the reabsorption of hydroxyls, which are water-like chemical groups, into the clay after firing. This method assumes that the pottery had no hydroxyls after firing, which is not always true for earthenware that was fired at low temperatures and for short durations. Low-temperature firing may leave original hydroxyl groups behind, so later RHX measurements may count both original and reabsorbed hydroxyls, making the object appear older than it actually is. To address this age overestimation, we first made standard samples from clay local to where our archeological samples were found and fired them at a range of known temperatures (500-1000°C). We then used X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) to compare clay composition of the standards with the ancient samples. The results were consistent with smectite–illite clays, supporting that

our standard samples were compositionally comparable with our ancient ones. We then used single-sided nuclear magnetic resonance (SS-NMR) to track changes in water held in ceramic pores, which can reflect firing temperature and structural changes. Combined with the results from XRD, SS-NMR indicated that as firing temperature increased, the structure of the clay became more amorphous and the pore structures within the clay changed. These trends were used to estimate the firing temperature of the ancient sherds. Finally, we used Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy to track the hydroxyl group concentrations within our standard samples to estimate the remaining hydroxyl groups at certain firing temperatures. These combined results suggest that integrating NMR with FT-IR, XRD, and XRF can help estimate ceramic firing temperature, which may help reduce age overestimation in RHX dating when applied to low-temperature-fired pottery in Virginia.

Archaeological Insights into the Montpelier Blacksmith Shop: A Student Perspective

Will Moffett, Episcopal School of Jacksonville*

Archaeological excavations at Montpelier's blacksmith shop provide a tangible sense of the scale of its operations and the daily lives of those on the plantation. The enslaved-operated shop was a vital, expanding source of income for the Madison family throughout the Revolutionary War era and beyond. Historical records detail the considerable scale of the operation, which produced or repaired approximately 800 items per year between 1776 and 1783, nearly doubling to 1500 items per year by 1800 to supply over 200 customers. The shop manufactured and repaired critical plantation items, including plows and hoes, while also supplying components for weapons and military equipment for the Continental Army.

This paper draws on artifacts I excavated and analyzed as a high school student participating in Montpelier's archaeological program. These artifacts include the shop's byproducts such as slag, wrought nails, and iron hardware, alongside domestic items including ceramic shards and pig bone fragments. Analyzed alongside the adjacent enslaved burial ground and its upcoming memorial, these findings contribute to a broader, more holistic understanding of enslaved industrial labor in early America.

A Success Story: Researching An Enslaved Person in Fauquier and Prince William County

Patrick ONeill, Northern Virginia Chapter, ASV President

Alfred Robinson was born enslaved in southern Fauquier County and was hired out as a slave north of Warrenton by 1860. As a free man after the Civil War, he moved his family to the Bull Run Mountains in Prince William County by 1879. There, his family lived, thrived, and died, buried on the mountain. The VOF (Virginia Outdoors Foundation), through volunteer research

and a grant from the NPS, helped write Alfred's history and created a Descendants Day from Alfred Robinson's descendants and others from the mountain. Oral histories, family artifacts, and archeological foundations and features, give heart to the legacy of this family.

Relocating A Historic Black Burying Ground on Bull Run Mountain
Patrick O'Neill, Northern Virginia Chapter, ASV President

Detailed WPA records from 1936 mention an old burying ground for African Americans along an old road next to Bull Run Mountain. Utilizing several historic aerial photographs, the potential location of the cemetery is now thought to be known. Evidence will be presented for locating the cemetery as well as provide a proposal for ground truthing this site type using pedestrian survey, canine survey, GPR, and forensic testing.

Poster: Industrial Archaeology Sites in New York State and Beyond
Claire Pugliese, Historic Triangle Chapter and Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady/ Auringer Seelye Chapter

Introduction to Industrial Archaeology was first introduced online in the Fall of 2025 through the Community Archaeology Program at SUNY Schenectady County Community College. In keeping with the Society for Industrial Archaeology definition, this branch of archaeology focuses on the study of the remaining physical evidence of our industrial and technological past and with the appreciation and preservation of those remains. Since this topic is not widely offered, the course attracted professional and avocational archaeologists from New York to California. This poster illustrates student presentations, which focus on their chosen historic sites, representing a variety of conditions. These include abandoned ruins, sites under renovation or preservation, a National Register of Historic Places site and those repurposed for modern use in their community. Industries explored were bottling, cement, lumber, a water pump house, a silver mine and a paper mill with a spotlight on Window Factory Lofts as an example of a repurposed industrial site.

Saving Soles: The Effect of Depositional Environment on the Preservation of Organic Shoe Materials
Sarah Robinson, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

Artifacts relating to leather footwear have been uncovered during excavations at three contemporary 19th and 20th century sites at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest. Because organic materials are rarely well-preserved in archaeological settings, these finds give valuable insight into the processes that help to preserve organic footwear fragments in soil. Despite the three sites

being located close to each other, the depositional environment of each area greatly affected the preservation of these artifacts. This paper will compare the conditional factors of the three sites and how each correlates to the preservation of the artifacts found. Understanding what factors lead to increased preservation of organic materials may provide archaeologists with better insight into the processes of decay and stabilization of these artifacts in the future.

The Life & Times of William C. Thornton, Proprietor of the Texas House Hotel (44Ca106), at the Seat of Justice in Virginia's Blue Ridge Plateau

David E. Rotenizer and William T. Buchanan, Jr., Blue Ridge Institute & Museum (BRIM) - Archives

During 1998 construction activities around the historic Carroll County Courthouse in Hillsville, Virginia, a partially preserved privy was archaeologically investigated. Current analysis suggests the privy contents were deposited 1890-1910. Archival and records research led to the realization the feature was related to the former Texas House Hotel operated by William C. Thornton.

The hotel, with associated dry goods and transport service, emerged during the mid-nineteenth century amidst a national copper and raw metals rush which nearly doubled the county's population. The hotel was situated along main street in the county seat near the courthouse, but adjacent to a new courthouse completed in 1874. The hotel featured fine dining, saloon license, easy access to courthouse, a livery stable, and access to a public well. The small staff included African Americans, before and following the Civil War.

On March 14, 1912, the Texas House was a witness to a courtroom and courthouse grounds shooting which resulted in the death of the circuit court judge, county sheriff, Commonwealth's Attorney, a witness, and a juror, with seven others being wounded. The hotel functioned as field hospital following the shooting spree providing accommodation for the wounded. With the county now lacking a functional government, the governor dispatched the Felts-Baldwin Detective Agency to pursue the culprits, while state militia and posse groups protected the community. The hotel functioned as a headquarters. A New York Times front page photograph featured the courthouse with a side glimpse of the hotel. This, along with news reels and other print media of the day, brought local drama to the national sensation stage. The human interest of subsequent manhunt in the mountains for the killers at large kept the inks wet for a day over a month until the sinking of the RMS Titanic on April 15.

Within just over a year, on June 5, 1913, William C. Thornton died at the age of 87. The hotel closed and sat largely vacant until sold in the 1920s but destroyed during the Hillsville Fire of January 1931.

Based on current information, this presentation reviews the public life and family of William Clark Thornton (1825-1913) as context for archaeological and historic interpretation.

Poster Unearthing the Past: "Discovering Experimental Archaeology on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation through Threatened Site 44KW0017"

Nancy Rubin, Fairfield Foundation

From 1974 to 1976, Errett Callahan, an experimental archaeologist, collaborated with the Pamunkey community to explore and replicate traditional Pamunkey/Powhatan life-ways through flint knapping. Their work centered on understanding ancestral toolmaking practices using various knapping techniques on local and non-local lithic materials of the Coastal Plain region. This collaboration became an important part of preserving the tribe's historical traditions. In 2025, excavations took place ahead of a house installation at Site 44KW0017 and archaeologists recovered lithic material from the 1970s flint knapping in addition to substantial evidence of much earlier Pamunkey occupations in the Archaic and Woodland periods. This poster will document the archaeological analysis of the excavated lithics, documenting the types of lithic material and forms connected with the 1970s collaboration.

The Carnelian Ring: Restoring African Identity on an American Plantation

Sara Thiam, University of Maryland-College Park*
2026 Sandra Speiden Scholarship Winner

In 2019, a carnelian ring was excavated from the South Yard kitchen on James Madison's Montpelier plantation in Orange County, Virginia. To date, this is the first and only carnelian ring found in the United States. This carnelian ring is also one of few globally that has been found intact post-excavation. The carnelian ring is comparable to a style of red carnelian rings traditionally worn by ethnic groups in the western Sahel region of Africa which consists of present day Mali, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, Algeria, and Niger. The precious stone can further be associated with historic mining deposits and manufacturing sites across the Sahara. The carnelian ring is a unique cultural belonging that exists as a key component in the reconstruction of a formerly enslaved woman's sovereign identity. The carnelian ring is an object of witness. The carnelian ring made the Atlantic crossing on the hand of an African woman kidnapped and displaced during the MAAFA, the great historical tragedy also known as the Middle Passage. (Ani 1993). The carnelian ring carries the voice of ancestral memory. It echoes the freedom and sense of liberation, the African woman in captivity clung to across the Atlantic and throughout her time at Montpelier. My research applies an African-centered archaeological view, offering a description of the significance, cultural context, use, and gendered value of the carnelian ring. My paper explores the depth of African meanings, African memory, and African

identity on an American plantation. Conceptual resources this paper will highlight are West African origins of carnelian, African women's cultural knowledge systems as adornment, and the reconstructed identity of the African woman who owned the carnelian ring.

The Importance of Proactive Community Engagement

Jack Zobrist, Lucas Zinn, Archeological Society of Virginia

Archaeology has traditionally emphasized sharing archaeological discoveries with local communities through interpretation, education and public programming. While these efforts are valuable and have seen an increase in interest from the community, community engagement can also function as a productive avenue for archaeological research in itself. Proactive community engagement through various platforms, in this case Facebook, can produce material culture and historical evidence that archaeologists would otherwise never encounter. Beyond providing new information, this proactive engagement strengthens community trust and interest in our work. The community is able to see their stories taken seriously and being heard by professionals and have the satisfaction of their artifacts being used to uncover more about the local community. At a time when cultural heritage increasingly faces political and social challenges, fostering meaningful community relationships has become more important than ever.

Session Abstracts

Archaeology Near and Beyond the Blue Ridge Session

Off times, the archaeology near and beyond the Blue Ridge is seen as a stepchild of Virginia archaeology with numerous studies focused on the Coastal Plain. While there are many reasons for this including population density, numerous impacts and CRM projects, and Richmond seen as Virginia's center of the universe, much of the credit goes to the renown publicist Captain John Smith who chronicled the Powhatan Chiefdom in print in 1610. Studies of his map and diary have been cited extensively with the exclusion of the rest of the state. If the truth be known, western Virginia has the most complex Native American history with the influences of numerous cultures including the Eastern Siouan, northern Iroquois, midwestern Fort Ancient, Southern Mississippian, and Cherokee plus the indigenous population. Wholesale migration, trade in salt, Mississippian temple mounds, upland burial cairns, diffusion of ideas, and inter-tribal warfare, all contributed to the complexity of western Virginia. Coupled with the unique peopling by European cultures into the mountains of the west adds to the significant and unique data to be mined. Organized by members of the ASV Headwaters Chapter, these papers are presented in the hopes of elevating the study of western Virginia cultures, both Native American and historic, to their true level of significance.

Archeology Near and Beyond the Blue Ridge: Part I – Native American Time Periods and Landscapes

Determining what shaped the Native American responses to life in the New World and how archaeologists bring order to a diverse set of cultural traits defines this session. Focusing on western Virginia, papers examine the assemblage of traits which characterize different periods, suggest how to find sites associated with these occupations, and use a case study to isolate time and utilization systems of an upland site.

Seven Events Which Changed the Trajectory of Indigenous Culture in Virginia: A Punctuated Equilibria Approach

Barber, Michael B., Ph.D., Research Fellow, Longwood Institute of Archaeology

The human occupation of what is now Virginia began at least 17,000 years ago. Anything but static, indigenous cultures evolved through time into the 21st Century, with change usually gradual but sometimes rapid, the causal elements based on environmental and/cultural factors. Utilizing the culturally adapted tenets of punctuated equilibria, the events were: the peopling of the New World, the end of the Pleistocene, the invention of fired clay ceramics, the utilization of the bow and arrow, the adoption of maize horticulture, the arrival of Europeans, and the Federal recognition of Tribal Nations.

The Paleo Indian Occupation of Western Virginia, Blue Ridge and Beyond…

Michael J. Madden, GWJeff Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison

This presentation will discuss Paleo Indian sites of Western and Southwest Virginia. Concentrating on known sites and what information we have been able to glean from the artifacts and site type

we are hoping for a better understanding about the lifeways of these ancient inhabitants beyond the Blue Ridge.

Beyond the Blue Ridge: Counting the Archaic
Martha Mihich, GWJeff National Forests Assistant Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison

Over 2000 Archaic era sites have been recorded on the Blue Ridge. The majority of these sites are small, temporary camps represented by a few lithic artifacts. While individually, these sites do not hold much information, together they show a picture of an important time period. This presentation will attempt to provide an overview of these sites.

Predictive Modeling on the George Washington Jefferson National Forests
Rae Krosky, GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist

Historically, the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest Archaeology Department has utilized prediction models to estimate the likelihood of archaeological sites in any given location. However, the usage of such models has declined due to inaccurate predictions, overconfidence in their results, and the difficulty of model development. Work in Appalachia, an area shaped by significant environmental and cultural change over time, presents additional challenges. As a result, the current working model relies primarily on expert opinion. New machine learning models (MLM), such as Maximum Entropy (MaxEnt), can address several of these limitations by enabling the creation of more statistically robust models. MaxEnt does not require true absents, which are nearly impossible to guarantee in archaeology, and creates more conservative likelihood predictions. Using the Arnold Valley Quad sheet as a sample area, quarter-mile squares were identified as either present (sites ≥ 1) or absent (sites = 0). Variables such as elevation, distance from water, and stream order were collected for both categories and compared for statistical significance. Statistically significant variables will be used to generate a MaxEnt model in ArchGIS, which will then be refined and tested using a random sample of quad sheets.

Phase I Survey and Lithic Analysis from the Proposed Belfast Trailhead Parking Lot
David Kleppinger, USFS Archaeologist

In the early spring of 2024, USFS archaeologists performed an intensive Phase I survey of a proposed parking lot at the Belfast Trail. This proposed parking lot is located across from the Belfast Trailhead which leads to the Devil's Marbleyard in Rockbridge County, Virginia in the Glenwood-Pedler Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. The site is in newly acquired forest land which was previously used as agricultural farmland for over a century, creating a deep plowzone. During this survey, STPs were dug in intervals of 25ft which in total uncovered an assemblage of 636 artifacts. This presentation will go over the artifact assemblage that was discovered, what tools and diagnostics were found, and what possible questions could be answered from this disturbed site with further research.

Archeology Near and Beyond the Blue Ridge: Part II – Native American Artifacts and Ecofacts
Both artifact assemblages and the resource base resource near and beyond the Blue Ridge are unique within a statewide context. Understanding the practical and symbolic nature of artifacts

underscores the physical and mental dimensions of a society. Here, ceramics provide a plastic template for understanding the past. Likewise, ecofacts outline the society's interaction with the local environments, provides insights into cultural choices and values, and overall and seasonal shifts in diet.

Virginia Rock Art: Analyzing Research Methods
Taava Johnson, GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist

Virginia rock art and glyphs are limited in quantity, with few pre-contact sites. Yet, the art is diverse. Red ochre pictographs, cupules, petroglyphs, and glyph caves are all examples of what can be found across the state. There has been research done on these sites which reveal some information about the people who made it, however there is room for further research to be conducted based upon the methods used by other states and regions. These methods include consulting indigenous leaders and discussing oral history, understanding and looking at viewsheds, and comparative analysis. Further indigenous rock art research in Virginia should aim to interpret the site utilizing methods which center indigenous collaboration and perspectives, attempt to gain a further understanding of reasons for its creation, and what the art can tell us about who was viewing it. By understanding what research has already told us about the rock art in Virginia and combining that previous research with these other methods may offer more comprehensive interpretations.

Native American Ceramics from the Northern and Central Virginia Blue Ridge
Carole C. Nash, Professor, James Madison University

Low-fired earthenwares characteristic of Eastern Woodland Native American ceramic vessels are unexpected in mountainous settings due to archaeological assumptions about their lowland manufacture and lack of durability that would make their movement into the uplands untenable. However, Middle and Late Woodland ceramics are identified for high elevation Blue Ridge sites. This paper describes the patterns emerging from an analysis of the site locations and ceramic types, furthering our understanding of longer-term, resource-focused settlements in the Blue Ridge that were contemporary to (and probably associated with) sister sites in the lowlands.

Connecting the Monacan Indian Nation to Their Ceramic Technology: Moving the Past to the Present for the Future
Victoria Ferguson, Monacan Indian Nation Citizen

Ceramic technology was one of the three major components necessary to be considered an Eastern Woodland Indian in Virginia. While survival practices of natural resource utilization have remained within the Monacan Nation having survived through centuries of erasure, ceramic technology did not. Tribes like the Monacan Nation of Virginia, have collaborated with other tribal nations to relearn Indigenous technologies once practiced in their towns during the Woodland phase until early colonization. Extensive research of archaeological digs made it possible to work through the process of recreating ceramics once common in village and town sites. Studying shape, clay paste, temper, and firing processes have been an important step toward the tribe's ability to

recreate pottery and provide current tribal citizens with the foundation necessary to take the past processes into the future.

Modeling Late Woodland Settlement Using Stream Characteristics (Dan River Drainage)
Hayden Basset, Madeleine Bunter-Bassett, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Michael B. Barber, Longwood Institute of Archaeology and Aiden Lawrence, and Madison Ross, Virginia Museum of Natural History

Late Woodland (ca. AD 900-1600) settlement patterns in Southeastern United States have traditionally been interpreted though an agricultural lens. However, sites across inland southern Virginia contain substantial evidence of freshwater resource use, including fish and mollusk remains, bone fishhooks, net-impressed ceramics, and stone fish weirs. This study uses GIS to examine whether physical stream characteristics predict Late Woodland site locations in the Dan River drainage. Analysis of 179 sites reveals a statistically significant preference for 5^{th}-7^{th} order streams and confluence settings, with avoidance of headwater streams. These preferred stream orders share low gradient and habitats suited to mass-capture fishing technologies. Faunal data from a case study site, Koehler (44HR0006), indicates that fish and mollusks were a major dietary component. Together, these finds suggest that riverine resources played a larger role in Late Woodland settlement decisions than current models acknowledge.

Hunting, Trapping, Fishing, and Trading: Revisiting the Graham-White Site
Elizabeth Moore, State Archaeologist, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Located on a terrace above the Roanoke River, the Graham-White site contains evidence of two major periods of occupation: one prior to and one post-contact with Europeans creating settlements and colonies on the coast. Salvage excavations in 1990-1991 led by Tom Klatka, then at DHR, identified 111 features, most of which could be assigned to occupation period. Several of the features from each component contained significant faunal assemblages. Clear differences in faunal exploitation can be observed between the two occupations. These differences will be described and interpreted in the broader framework of the growth of the deer skin trade and tribal responses to a rapidly growing complex economic system, revisiting and updating previous interpretations of these data.

Archeology Near and Beyond the Blue Ridge: Part III – Historic Period Sites
As the Europeans moved west, the wilds of the Blue Ridge and beyond became the setting for, not only major occupations in the lowlands, but those of lesser economic means settling into the higher, less productive uplands. Archaeological remains of these settlements litter the higher elevations not only in the form of dwellings and outbuildings but associated family cemeteries as well. In addition, larger cemeteries speak to religious beliefs, regional burial patterns, and ethnicity. Interpreted through physical remains, historic records, and gravestone icons, these burial sites provide more than cursory footnotes but a counterpoint to the other remains of the living. Finally, large federal agencies are faced with the challenge of managing these resources for the benefit of the American people, balancing land use and historic values.

Life and Death: Homesteading in Appalachia
Kelsey Mills, GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist

Evidence of hardscrabble homesteading is littered across the Appalachian mountains, often leaving behind remnants of houses, farming structures, and family cemeteries. The life of the homesteaders revolved around the land on which they lived, farmed, died, and were interred. In the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in western Virginia, many such homesteads existed prior to the land being acquired by the federal government; most of these properties are undocumented and have fallen into disrepair. Small family cemeteries, when associated with homesteads, can provide researchers with context for the residents of homesteads and provide a glimpse into the daily life of those making their way in rural, mountainous areas. The structures and material culture remaining can tell us how people made their lives in the mountains and provide descendants with information on their family history. This paper provides a link between a homestead and cemetery on the National Forest while contextualizing these recent finds with similar known archaeological sites.

Locating An African-American Cemetery on Federal Land: Why it Matters
Lauren Murphy, GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist

An African-American cemetery with 132 identifiable graves located on the Clinch Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century was rediscovered through field archaeology and reveals a community that was absent from the broader historical record. This study outlines how its presence was identified and why its significance to the past matters today.

Recreating through History: Land Use and Archaeology in the George Washington & Jefferson National Forest
Jenna Hallenger, GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist

The overlap between outdoor recreation and archaeological sites in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest creates a unique relationship that is common among many public lands. With both dispersed and developed outdoor recreation, there are unique opportunities for visitors concurrent with unique dangers to archaeological sites. The land is open to use by many different parties, allowing for destruction in several different ways. By looking at examples of dispersed and developed recreation and their interaction with sites throughout the National Forest, we are able to determine risk alongside educational opportunity.

Marked in Slate: A Vernacular Headstone Tradition in Southwestern Amherst County
Richard J. Guercin, GWJeff National Forest Archaeologist

Located on a ridge 1.5 miles south of Snowden, Va in Amherst County, is a small family cemetery. Of interest are the vernacular headstones made of local slate. These stones are decorated with motifs including chamfering, angular lines, dots, and floral patterns. This paper will discuss the origins of the materials, factors for selecting vernacular stones over mass produced catalog stones, and whether the cemetery is an isolated instance or part of a wider

cultural pattern in the Pedlar River Region of southwest Amherst County.

Paved Paradise, Put Up a Parking Lot: Finding White Top Folk Festival
Lily C. Haywood, GWJeff National Forests Archaeologist

From 1931 to 1939, the White Top Folk Festival drew visitors from all across the country, but by the time the Jefferson National Forest acquired it in 1971, the infrastructure created to support the festival had deteriorated severely. Phase I survey completed by the archaeology department of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, in combination with scholarly sources and cross-referencing acquisition records from forest archives, has helped relocate the sites of lost buildings, but some remain lost. Most of what we know about Whitetop Mountain and the subsequent festival is contained by memory, but recollection is an unreliable source in archaeology, whether it is incorrect or entirely lost. Sites that are considered "too modern" but still fall under the NRHP criteria should not be written off solely due to age so as to not lose any information for the future.

Maritime Heritage at 250

"Cribs and Hulks: The James River Water Obstacles at Drewry's Bluff"

Michael Nusbaum. Maritime Heritage Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia.

Shortly after midnight on 11 May 1862, the *CSS Virginia* was set ablaze and subsequently exploded, marking a decisive shift in naval power in the lower Chesapeake to Union forces and exposing the James River approach to Richmond. In anticipation of this threat, Confederate authorities had already begun, in March 1862, to construct a layered defensive system integrating topography, heavy artillery, and engineered riverine obstructions. The focal point of this system was Drewry's Bluff, a commanding elevation approximately ninety feet above a constricted bend in the James River, where Fort Darling's artillery dominated the channel below. This natural advantage was augmented by a complex array of artificial barriers, including scuttled vessels, timber cribs filled with stone, driven piles, and chain obstructions. These features were designed to constrict navigation and compel Union vessels to maneuver slowly within a confined channel while subjected to concentrated plunging fire from elevated batteries. This study examines the conception, emplacement, and progressive modification of these water obstacles, as well as their postwar removal and the ongoing archaeological efforts to identify surviving elements of this defensive network.

The Schooner *Esk:* Still on the Move after 138 years

John D. Broadwater. Maritime Heritage Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia.

The schooner *Esk* ran aground on Paramore Island in 1888 and was declared a total loss. Over the years *Esk'*s hull repeatedly appeared and disappeared, while moving erratically south along the coast. Nearly intact 30 years ago, *Esk*'s remaining hull, the bow, has finally succumbed to the forces of the sea, and very little remains. Two surveys of the *Esk* in November 2017 were the first projects conducted by the ASV's Maritime Heritage Chapter. Since then, the schooner's hull has been inspected and tracked, resulting in a report of *Esk*'s incredible journey down the coast of Paramore Island.

Mysteries from the Deep and the Shallow; Updates from VDHR's Underwater Archaeology Program

P. Brendan Burke. Underwater Archaeology Program, Division of State Archaeology, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

During the past year, the Underwater Archaeology Program at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources has undertaken shoreline survey, ordnance documentation, battlefield survey, and documentation of several new archaeological sites. This presentation includes highlights from those projects as well as a peek into an upcoming exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, guest curated by the State Underwater Archaeologist.

Preserving the Gunboat *Philadelphia*

Jennifer L. Jones. 1776 Gunboat *Philadelphia* Preservation Project, Division of Military and Society, National Museum of American History

The gunboat *Philadelphia* is the oldest surviving American vessel and the only one to be raised fully intact in the United States. Built during the summer of 1776, it sank during the Battle of Valcour Island in October of that same year. The gunboat remained submerged in Lake Champlain until 1935 when it was salvaged. In 1961 it was bequeathed to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History where it has been on display for the public since the museum's opening. A multiyear project to clean and stabilize the gunboat has been under way at the museum to help preserve it for another 250 years.

A Comparative Analysis of the Savannah Cannon Cluster Site (9CH1552) to Surviving 18th–19th Century Cannons in the Northeastern United States

Alyssa Carpenter. Underwater Archaeology Program, Division of State Archaeology, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

While dredging the Savannah River in 2021, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) uncovered a cluster of iron artifacts near Old Fort Jackson, Georgia. Twenty cannon, 14 cannon shot, a fragment of a ship's bell, eight anchor fragments, and an anchor ring were recovered. Seventeen loaded and physically intact cannons were sent for conservation at Texas A&M University's Conservation Research Lab (CRL). Following conservation treatment, the cannon were grouped into four distinct styles based on their physical characteristics. The majority, 14, referred to as "short guns," fell into two unique styles and exhibited several uncommon features that complicated efforts to determine their manufacturer. These guns featured a rare combination of two raised vent platforms positioned 180 degrees apart on the breech, suggesting the cannon could experience an increased work span with the ability to be rapidly reoriented. This presentation focuses on the physical analysis of these "short guns," by comparing them to surviving 18th- and 19th- century cannons from across the Northeastern United States. Through this comparative approach, the study explores their possible manufacturing origins, intended use, and placement within the broader historical context of colonial and Revolutionary War-era artillery production.

Using Artifact Patterning to Contextualize a Salvaged Assemblage Dated to the Battle of Yorktown, 1781

Jillian Schuler. Underwater Archaeology Branch, Office of State Archaeology, North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Before General Charles Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in 1781, he scuttled a portion of his shipping fleet along the Yorktown riverbank to defend the town from a Franco-American amphibious attack. An environment rife with maritime material culture, the river has been subject to formal and informal salvage, including a joint effort in the 1930s by the Mariners' Museum and the National Park Service that produced a significant artifact assemblage with minimal archaeological context. This paper presents an attempt at contextualizing the salvaged assemblage through a system of artifact patterning. The artifact pattern considers potential archaeological distinctions between British merchant and naval vessels during the second half of the eighteenth century.

The American Revolution and the Origin of Military Medals: "The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus opened to all…"

Robert Hayes. Maritime Heritage Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia

Over the last 250 years the evolution of military medals for U.S. fighting forces has followed a unique and diverse path similar to our nation. Establishment of military medals and awards has been influenced by politics, historical era, conflict, branch of service, and, of course, the need to recognize and validate courage, honor, achievement and fidelity. From the Badge of Military Merit, the Fidelity Medallion, the *Comitia Americana,* and The Society of the Cincinnati Eagle, to the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart and service branch Crosses, take a brief walk through history as we trace the origin and establishment of various military medals and awards, a topic that you probably did not cover in your U.S. History class.

New Research from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Trial by Fire: Renewed Investigations into Brickwork at an 18th Century Cabinet Maker's Property

Adam Macbeth, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The 1950's excavations of the Peter Scott site in Williamsburg, Virginia revealed the chimney base of what appeared to be a detached kitchen south of the 18th century house that Scott, a notable cabinetmaker, rented for much of his life. Complicating this interpretation, however, was a novel brick complex accompanying the chimney base that was interpreted as a furnace. In 2025, Colonial Williamsburg archaeologists returned to the site to better understand the usage of the buildings and landscape by Peter Scott. The new project quickly identified a need to reexamine the previously excavated chimney and "furnace." Utilizing new research questions, sampling strategies, and photogrammetry, a new potential interpretation for this complex was uncovered.

Filling in the Gaps: Mortar Analysis from the Peter Scott Site in Williamsburg, Virginia

Alexander Michnick, Eric Schweickart, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

This paper seeks to demonstrate the methods and results of a recent and ongoing mortar analysis conducted from samples collected at an 18th century tenement house lot occupied by cabinetmaker Peter Scott in Williamsburg, Virginia. During archaeological efforts by Colonial Williamsburg archaeologists in the 1950s, Ivor Noel Hume observed varied mortar compositions within masonry features located on the site of Scott's occupation. This study evaluates this observation, focusing on mortar sampled from a kitchen and possible kiln complex dating to Peter Scott's occupation of the lot (1733-1775). From sampling this complex, we hope to elucidate construction events within the site through mortar analysis. Further, this study aims to present strategies for mortar analysis while identifying challenges that were encountered. This study may further prove insightful to other Virginia sites containing brick masonry features in exploring architectural methods and materials.

Archaeology of Archaeology: "Jimmy Knight" Trenches as a Resource for Excavation

Atticus Woodruff, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Digging at Colonial Williamsburg often means encountering previous archaeological excavations. The most common is the "Jimmy Knight" trench: a diagonal trench dug in order to find architectural features during the 1930s through 1950s. Although modern archaeological techniques have developed to focus more heavily on stratigraphy and artifact analysis, re-digging Jimmy Knight trenches are often a useful way to survey a unit. By excavating Jimmy Knight trenches, archaeologists of today are able to see both a preview of immediate stratigraphy and a sample of artifacts that may be encountered. Archaeology of archaeology ties us into a lineage of investigations at Colonial Williamsburg that will continue to expand, knowing the future holds more questions and new techniques.

A New Take on an Old Field School: Restructuring the William and Mary Field School at Colonial Williamsburg

Erin S. Schwartz, Eric Schweickart, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

For over 40 years, the students from the College of William and Mary have had the opportunity to help excavate archaeological sites alongside staff of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation every summer. The structure and syllabus of the field school have changed significantly over the years as the field of archaeology and the needs of the Foundation have grown and evolved. In the months leading up to this year's field school, the CWF Department of Archaeology decided to re-examine the class and re-structure it to better prepare students for careers in archaeology. In this presentation, we discuss the history of field schools at Colonial Williamsburg, how we re-structured the class this year, and the lessons we learned through the process.

Beyond a Shadow of a Redoubt: Updates on Remote Sensing the Civil War Earthworks of the Virginia Peninsula

Evan Bell, Aaron Lovejoy, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The Williamsburg Line was a linear array of fortifications constructed from 1861 to 1862, under direction of Confederate engineers, to stall an anticipated Union advance on Richmond up the Virginia Peninsula. After 160 years, much of the battlefield had been lost to land development. While some of these earthen fortifications have been documented archaeologically or preserved in local or national parks, others are highly disturbed and visible only ephemerally in the landscape. Through the application of LiDAR and high-resolution 3D modeling, we can examine the redoubts and fortifications thought to be permanently lost from the landscape. This paper recontextualizes these sites using LiDAR and raster visualization techniques, ultimately producing the most complete map of the Williamsburg defensive line to date, including the fortifications built on and around Jamestown Island, which were built to defend Richmond and the James River.

The Archaeology of Historic Germanna

Why Connection Matters: Engaging with Artifacts at Historic Germanna

Kelly Arford-Horne, Historic Germanna

In our modern world, information is available within a fraction of a second with the touch of a finger. As archaeologists, we investigate, document, and share knowledge about history– we collect and disperse information. However, archaeology offers something more: a tangible connection to the people who came before us. At Historic Germanna, we have been observing and experimenting with the ways in which objects have the potential to inspire a sense of shared humanity. The archaeology program has used 3D copies of artifacts for educational programming and exhibits, reached out to people through social media updates and skits, and created traditional exhibits with panels and artifacts. This summer, we tried something new and had the interns, staff, and VCU field school students pick an artifact from our collection and show and/or tell their personal connection to that artifact. What have we learned through observing students, staff, and other visitors interacting with these various displays? The answer is clear. Rather than simply seeking facts or "information", visitors are seeking the experience of connecting with history and the people who lived in the past.

"Toss a Coin to Your Butcher" – Bone Biographies at the Historic Germanna Archaeological Sites

Kieran Blair, VCU and Historic Germanna

Through a closer examination of actions taken by past individuals through faunal remains at the Gordon Farm site at Historic Germanna (Locust Grove, VA), this research intends to emphasize the interpretive potential of butchery marks and highlight a new line of evidence for future research endeavors. "Bone biographies" translate butchery marks from physical remains into intangible principles and connections. Examining the physical manifestation of regularity, precision, and efficiency emphasizes the role of domestic labor in nineteenth-century rural Germanna.

Siegen Forest: Inclusive Archaeology of the Old Mill Complex

Anna Cumberledge, Historic Germanna

Historic Germanna is known for being the location of Fort Germanna and the Enchanted Castle, but the organization is the steward of multiple other sites as well. One of those sites is the 170-acre Siegen Forest, which contains the remains of an 18th-19th century mill complex along the Rapidan River. The mill itself dates back to Alexander Spotswood ca 1714 and its operations are first mentioned in documents in 1739. By ca 1760 the Urquhart family was residing on the complex that consisted of the mill, two houses for the family, and housing for the enslaved. The presence of enslaved people at the mill complex was documented from the beginning by Spotswood and continued with the Urquhart family up until the mill burned down during the Civil War. The lives and contributions of those enslaved individuals enhance the rich tapestry of history that has been woven around this site. With a portion of the funding received through the BIPOC grant, Historic Germanna was able to initiate excavations at the mill complex as we searched for the associated housing for the enslaved. This paper addresses the history of the mill complex and what we were able to discover during this year's excavations.

Understanding Timelines and Activities Within the Subfloor Pit of the Gordon House Workyard

Katherine Lawrence, Historic Germanna

Excavations in the area of the Gordon House (ca. 1797) revealed a clay subfloor pit. The surrounding area is understood as a workyard once used by enslaved people according to historical and archaeological evidence. Now that excavations of this feature are complete, a detailed analysis is necessary to understand the timeline of its use. By gaining a deeper comprehension of this timeline, evidence can suggest certain activities taking place over a period of time. Archaeological investigations in this area also present the opportunity for better understanding the lives of those enslaved on the Gordon plantation and how their daily lives changed over time. This paper will analyze the soil stratigraphy of the subfloor pit in combination with artifact data to gain a sense of activities and timelines present within the Gordon House workyard.

Foodways at the Gordon Farm: Zooarchaeological Insights from Feature 150 at Historic Germanna

Nasrin Alizada, VCU and Historic Germanna

Historic Germanna, in Orange County, Virginia, was occupied continuously from the early eighteenth through early twentieth century by a succession of groups whose lives were deeply entangled; the Indigenous Manahoac, German settlers at Fort Germanna, the Spotswood household and the enslaved people who lived and labored on the property under Spotswood, and finally, the Gordon family, who themselves also enslaved dozens of people. Feature 150 contains the largest faunal assemblage yet recovered from the site, and stratigraphic evidence and associated artifacts place its deposition within the Gordon Farm occupation. Because documentary sources reveal so little about daily life at the Gordon household and the Germanna property at large, particularly for those held in bondage, animal remains offer a rare and direct line of evidence. This paper considers what the assemblage suggests about how animals were raised, hunted, butchered, distributed, and consumed, and what those patterns imply about status, labor, autonomy, and access to the surrounding landscape. Situating Feature 150 alongside faunal material from earlier occupations, this paper further asks how these practices shifted over time, and establishes a comparative baseline for future zooarchaeological work at Germanna.

Addressing Virginia Requirements for Environmental Justice Engagement and Indigenous Consultation - Similarities and Differences

This panel will address recent developments in Virginia Laws regarding Environmental Justice and Tribal Consultation requirements as part of several state regulatory programs. This introduction to the panel will discuss the highlight the Virginia Environmental Justice Act, current efforts to address cumulative impacts to Environmental Justice communities, and recent legislation requiring tribal consultation under a variety of state regulatory programs. Perspectives will be shared from both Environmental Justice and indigenous community members regarding recent developments in state laws and proposed agency guidance required by the Virginia General Assembly.

Similarities and differences between some EJ and tribal communities will be discussed. The panel discussion will include audience engagement as the panel will eventually focus on ways the archaeological and historical preservation communities can work towards proactively identifying opportunities to engage both EJ and tribal communities proactively

Tribal Consultation in Virginia - A Developing Requirement

Victoria Ferguson, Monacan Indian Nation Citizen

In 2024, Virginia House Bill 1157 passed in the General Assembly and was signed into law. The law requires several state agencies to establish formal consultation policies with federally recognized Tribal Nations regarding permits and reviews that may impact environmental, cultural, or historic resources. This process is still developing and tribal communities and state agencies are adapting to these requirements. This discussion will focus on key elements of successful best practices for tribal consultation. We will also note various perspectives unique to indigenous communities that should be considered in the early stages of consultation.

The Brown Grove Rural Historic Residential Community Experience

Renada Harris, Brown Grove Preservation Group

The Brown Grove Rural Historic District is a historically African American community located south of the Town of Ashland, Virginia. This historic African American community was founded during the Reconstruction Era and has maintained it's sense of place despite deliberate attempts to concentrate industrial development in it's borders. Recently recognized by the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), this community has been negatively impacted by the construction of I-95 and encroachment from a locality municipal airport, a construction debris landfill, several industrials facilities, and a recently developed large-scale distribution center. The community hosts a central place of worship and several archeological sites.