2015 CNEHA Conference – Session, Paper and Poster Abstracts

Fredericksburg, Virginia

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**Session Abstracts (organized sessions only)**

**More than the Civil War: The Archaeology and History of Fredericksburg**

Session co-chairs: D. Brad Hatch and Kerry S. Gonzalez (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group)

Located along the falls of the Rappahannock River, the area around Fredericksburg has attracted people for millennia. During the historic period, fertile soils, abundant natural resources, and access to the navigable portions of the river led to the increasing settlement and significance of the area as a center of regional politics, culture, and commerce. Although occupied by Europeans decades earlier, the town itself was not officially founded until 1728. Current interpretations of the area’s history often focus on its role as a major strategic point during the Civil War. However, the story of Fredericksburg is defined by much more than the years between 1861 and 1865. This session seeks to illuminate that history through archaeology, focusing on several excavations and research projects that have taken place in and around the city. Topics addressed here include domestic life, industry, mourning, slavery, and, of course, the Civil War.

**Sea Level Rise, Catastrophic Storm Surge, and Historic Resources: Site Loss and Data Recovery**

Session chair: Michael B. Barber (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)

*Chesapeake Bay Archaeological Consortium* was organized in order to address the challenges faced on Virginia’s shorelines with regard to sea level rise, catastrophic storm surge, tidal action, and associated erosion of archaeological resources. Current estimates indicate that a full 10% of Virginia’s recorded archaeological resources are threatened by sea level rise with many located on the Commonwealth’s portion of Delmarva, Western Shore, and bay and barrier islands. Site losses include farmsteads, barrel wells, watermen sites, cemeteries, and military fortifications to name a few. This session will document some of the successes with regard to data recovery while evaluating future threats and current losses.

**Beyond the Classroom: Engaging Students and Others in Public Archaeology**

Session chair: Elizabeth A. Moore (Virginia Museum of Natural History)

Public archaeology that truly engages the public is more than just letting people watch us as we excavate in the field, having a glass viewing window on our laboratories, or placing specimens on display with a neat label describing what they are. Public archaeology tells stories about the past, allows people to participate in the interpretation of the past, and provides a way for each of our visitors to connect with the past in a personal way. How do we teach the next generation of archaeologists about public archaeology? How do we encourage students to be creative and effective communicators of their passion for the past? Have you worked with an archaeology, public history, or museum studies class where students learn about and/or develop exhibit or educational materials for the public? Share some of your challenges and successes in a ten minute presentation with ample time for discussion and questions following all presentations. Participants are encouraged to bring copies of educational materials to share.
Conflict in the American Experience  
Session co-chairs: David G. Orr (Delaware City, DE) and Clarence R. Geier (James Madison University)

Unfortunately, the conduct of battle has been intimately tied to the developing history of European settlement in, and occupation of North America. Conflict with Native Americans, competition between European states for rights to colonial wealth, the revolt of the English colonies that established the foundation of the United States, conflict with England in and Spain as the fledgling united colonies expanded west, and ultimately the dynamics of the Civil War era as the young nation struggled with itself to remain united; all have served to shape the American experience. The historical-archaeological study of periods of American conflict, of the nature and impact of particular battles, the quality of life for individuals and communities caught up in the violence and turmoil of war, are all issues that are increasingly visible in the historical research and scholarship of our nation. This session seeks to introduce some recent military-focused studies associated with the Northeast and northern Middle Atlantic Regions. Periods addressed include the American Revolution, the American Civil War, and even the mobilization of troops in preparation for WWI.

Markings: Writing on Objects  
Session co-chairs: Michael J. Emmons (University of Delaware) and David G. Orr (Delaware City, DE)

Humans mark their world in countless ways. Whether etched onto pottery, gravestones, buildings, or landscapes, the markings people leave behind offer us the ability to “read” historic objects—sometimes literally, as with inscriptions or graffiti, but also in the archaeological sense, as when carved images or symbols shed light on space, movement, and meaning. Historic markings and inscriptions represent and communicate a broad range of personal and cultural messages. Depending on the type, markings can demonstrate temporal consciousness, signify rebellion and deviance, convey instruction or direction, indicate inclusion or belonging, express religious belief or superstition, assert possession or ownership, commemorate or honor, display artistic talent, or simply express an innate human need to leave a permanent mark. The investigation of markings and inscriptions has almost universal significance and applicability—across space, time, and academic discipline. This panel examines a wide array of marking types to shed new light on the value and interpretive potential of historic inscriptions.

Materiality, Networks and Exchange in the Colonial Potomac Valley  
Session co-chairs: Barbara J. Heath (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) and Julia A. King (St. Mary’s College of Maryland)

Objects and cultural spaces not only reflect the social world; they help to constitute, maintain and alter it. Through the study of materiality, participants in this session focus on social, political and economic networks within and between communities in the 17th- and 18th-century Potomac Valley. Participants carefully reconstruct connections between the producers, distributors and users of artifacts, buildings, and landscapes, through close examination of archival and archaeological sources, to explore the interplay between the material and the social, to
reconstruct networks of exchange, and to understand the nature and complexity of relationships that underpinned colonial structures.

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**Paper and Poster Abstracts** *(organized alphabetically by authors’ last name; session titles in italics)*

**Ambriz, Ana Vega** (see Lu Ann De Cunzo)

**Anderson, Andrea** (see Lu Ann De Cunzo)

**Balicki, Joseph F.** (JMA, a CCRG Company), “Metal Detector Investigations on the Fall 1863 Bivouacs of the 2nd Corps, 3rd Division, 2nd Brigade, Culpeper County, Virginia.” *Conflict in the American Experience.*

After the Federal Army aborted the Mine Run Campaign, the 2nd Corps, 3rd Division, 2nd Brigade was ordered to return to their campgrounds at Milton’s Mill, near Brandy Station, Virginia. These camps were front-line short-term bivouacs of troops on active campaign. The material culture these soldiers possessed differs from troops in permanent camps, rear-echelon camps, and winter quarters. The artifact assemblage found in a front-line camp reflects one activity: warfare. In such situations, ammunition, weapons, sustenance, and a means of carrying these items are essential for increasing one’s chances of survival. Left behind the lines were many of the items that made camp life tolerable, and most of the trappings of the social spheres in which the soldiers interacted in the civilian world. The field methodologies developed and employed to investigate these bivouac sites demonstrate that shovel testing will not find these types of sites and only metal detection will provide quantitative and meaningful information.


Beginning in 1917, and continuing to the present, Marine Base Quantico has been one of the Marines’ primary East Coast training facilities. Section 110 investigations in the 2000s examined a variety of archaeological sites associated with the initial years of occupation and instruction at the Base. Investigations tested the location of the base’s incinerator and extensively mapped World War I training trenches. The extensive refuse deposits associated with the incinerator document the material culture of the Marines. The trenches tell the story of instruction in a system of warfare, which quickly became obsolete.

**Barber, Michael B.** (Virginia Department of Historic Resources), “The Uppards Cemetery, Tangier Island, Accomack County, Virginia: Background to Excavation Efforts.” *Sea Level Rise, Catastrophic Storm Surge, and Historic Resources: Site Loss and Data Recovery.*

In November 2012, Ms. Carole Moore, Tangier Island activist, notified the media that the Pruitt Cemetery found in the defunct island community of Cannan at the northern end of Tangier Island was eroding into the bay. Now referred to as the “Uppards,” the graveyard loss was particularly
evident in the articulated human skeleton and coffin exposed on the beach. With the support of Virginia’s SHPO and Secretary of Natural Resources, Department of Historic Resources sent out two archaeologists to assess the damage and develop a strategy to deal with data (and skeletal) recovery. While removing the original individual, three more grave shafts were exposed and a team was eventually sent to record and recover as many individuals as possible. This paper documents the logistics involved while setting the stage for more detailed papers to follow.


In the summer of 2013, a team of historians and archaeologists from Dovetail Cultural Resource Group had the fortune to explore a section of the Fredericksburg riverfront. For historical residents—and the Native groups who came before them—the Rappahannock River was a vital part of everyday life, providing a navigable waterway, food supply, and recreational venue. But the same river that brought such joy also proved to be a bane, as repeated flooding often caused heartache. Combined with revolutions in transportation technology and devastations brought on by war, city residents turned their back on the waterway and its shores in the twentieth century. What was once a bustling part of town was converted into a sea of parking lots. Historic homes were demolished; the streetscape, abandoned. The expedient exodus, though, resulted in an astoundingly rich archaeological record—one that highlighted hundreds of years of occupation in this part of town.


Urban archaeology is undertaken in many US and Canada cities because of federal, state, or provincial mandates. New York City also has municipal mandates requiring archaeology. The Department of City Planning and the Landmarks Preservation Commission oversee the protection of the city’s archaeological resources. In 1980, a City Archaeology Program housed within the Landmarks Preservation Commission was established. The City Archaeologist evaluates the work of CRM firms and many high profile CRM excavations take place. From 1980-1990, the city archaeologist with her grant funded staff and volunteer corps also undertook archaeological excavations on Native American and European American sites on city-owned properties. As the economic climate changed, early innovative programs for public outreach involving tours, exhibits, and public participation on excavations on city-owned property were eliminated. Developers challenged the permitting-process. Legal implementations were improved. Today, municipal laws regarding archaeology on projects requiring discretionary permits are still intact.

Located in southeastern North Carolina, Wilmington was one of the most active trans-Atlantic ports during the nineteenth century in the Southeast, and second only Charleston as the most heavily fortified port. Throughout the Civil War, the brisk trade of blockade-runners made Wilmington a vital port to supply Confederate troops in Virginia and North Carolina. This study summarizes the landscapes and archaeology of the four primary forts of the Cape Fear Region—Fort Johnson, Fort Caswell, Fort Fisher, and Fort Anderson—that protected Wilmington. Today three of these forts are presented as public historic sites, where recovered archaeological data has helped to restore many period elements, which for many visitors comprise sacred landscapes of memory of regional importance. Patterns of investigations as well as the progressive natural and cultural processes that have affected these sites over the past 150 years will also be discussed.

**Beaman, Thomas E., Jr. (see Vincent H. Melomo)**

**Berry, Bailey** (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center), “Parizek Brothers Shell Button Cutting Station.” *The Archaeology of Farmsteads and Rural Industries.*

My research records the tasks and methods of everyday production at the Parizek Shell Button cutting station in Central Delaware. In addition, it explores connections to the economy and development of surrounding towns and to the broader national industry. Data were collected through an investigation of the site, research through historical records, and interviews conducted with individuals who have knowledge of the button cutting industry. Data specific to the Parizek Brothers Shell Button Cutting Station also builds on a general understanding of the experience of workers in the shell button industry as well as the narrative of the industry as a whole and its affect on communities in rural Delaware.

**Birmingham, Kate** (National Capital Parks – East) and Mary Furlong Minkoff, “The Urban Archaeology Corps: A New Approach to Youth Engagement in the National Park Service.” *Beyond the Classroom: Engaging Students and Others in Public Archaeology.*

Four years ago, the National Park Service and partner organization Groundwork Anacostia/DC created the Urban Archeology Corps, a summer youth employment program geared towards educating students about cultural resources, history, and archeology. The youth assist their host park with compliance needs in order to gain archeological experience, and are encouraged to Find Their Park in the approach to the National Park Service Centennial. The program uses archeology as a vehicle for young people to learn about National Parks and their surrounding communities, the diverse histories and resources that make these places special, public service, and their own potential.

**Bloch, Lindsay** (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and Brenda Hornsby Heindl (Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts), “In One Kiln: Technologically Revising Research on Earthenware and Stoneware Production in Virginia.” *Technical Analyses and Material Culture Studies.*

Stonewares and earthenwares are typically defined as discrete ceramic types, requiring different clays, kilns, and methods to produce. It has been suggested that for historic potters, stoneware technology was an improvement over that of coarse earthenware. However, potters in Virginia often produced both kinds of wares simultaneously and on many production sites there are wares
that fall on a technological spectrum between low-fired lead-glazed coarse earthenwares, and high-fired salt- or alkaline-glazed stonewares. These findings complicate existing narratives about the production of this pottery. This study considers the technical choices of potters, using experimental archaeology to test kiln requirements, and the use of a single kiln to produce both wares. Elemental analysis of earthenware and stoneware kiln products from historic production sites across Virginia provides quantitative data on the clay bodies used. The results offer insight into historical pottery traditions, positioning these earthenwares and stonewares as congruent parts of manufacturing strategies.

Bowman, Rebecca (Virginia Commonwealth University), “Skeletal Analysis of Human Remains from the Eastern Shore.” Sea Level Rise, Catastrophic Storm Surge, and Historic Resources: Site Loss and Data Recovery.

As an intern at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources I was tasked with taking inventory, photographing, and creating biological profiles for five sets of human remains excavated from an eroding cemetery on Tangier Island. This work helped to illuminate the lives of these individuals and the community of Canaan as a whole. I took this experience across the ocean to a mortuary archaeology field school in Drawsko, Poland, in the process learning how the same biological anthropology skill set can be used to learn from human remains around the world.

Bradley, Kevin C. (see Meagan A. Ratini)


Before the American Revolutionary War profoundly impacted the lives of colonial Americans, another revolution of sorts was taking place. This one occurred in the realm of the daily lives of the majority of colonists – free and enslaved, poor and wealthy. In this rapidly developing bifurcated system of trade, elite plantation owners like George Washington continued to purchase the necessities and luxuries of life through the consignment system while his neighbors, yeoman planters, laborers and tradesmen, and enslaved individuals, increasingly frequented local stores. Vestiges of these economic systems are preserved in the documentary and archaeological records. This paper explores issues of access to and movement of consumer goods in mid-18th century northern Virginia as a reflection of inter- and intra-plantation social and economic networks through a case study of one prosaic item of material culture, straight pins.

Calhoun, Emily and Kerry S. Gonzalez (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group), “‘Plant Your Turnips the 25th of July, Wet or Dry. Harvest Them the 25th of October, Drunk or Sober’: The Turnip in Eighteenth-Century Delaware.” The Archaeology of Farmsteads and Rural Industries.

It started with basic high school math in an attempt to deduce the size of a turnip patch at an eighteenth-century archaeological site in Delaware, excavated by Dovetail in 2012. As part of the data recovery conducted for Delaware Department of Transportation, knowing the location of certain landscape features was necessary to aid with the creation of historic renderings of the farmstead. What is seemingly an insignificant portion of a rural farm, the turnip patch, proved
both necessary and surprisingly intriguing. Extensive archival research conducted on the parcel revealed an interesting economical trend in rural Delaware. The account book of Ebenezer Rothwell, a local blacksmith, showed he was accepting payment in turnips. This barter, and others recorded in the Rothwell’s book, exposed the local informal economy in a place of New Castle County that was anchored, in part, by the Blacksmith’s shop.


This paper examines Alexandria Archaeology’s foray into broadcasting archaeological excavations and findings through videos and social media. When excavations began at a well discovered by chance in the basement of a private residence, city archaeologists took a social media approach to reach and educate the public about a site otherwise be inaccessible to them. Video updates of the excavation posted online allowed followers to witness the process of archaeological discovery and interpretation, thereby meeting Alexandria Archaeology’s mission of engaging the public. The decision to venture into social media outreach was made with little forethought; as such the results fell short of the initial vision. The experience still demonstrates the nearly unlimited possibilities for bringing Alexandria’s archaeological past to a wider audience. Public archaeology has an ethical duty to provide greater transparency and access to the archaeological process and social media serves as an effective way to fulfill this obligation.


Between 1753 and 1813, British troops and ‘Foreign Protestant’ settlers constructed upwards of fifteen fortifications to defend the coastal town of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia and its outlying communities. These defences were primarily blockhouses and palisades, with a smaller number being forts and gun batteries. Except for a circular earthwork on Lunenburg’s ‘Blockhouse Hill,’ none of these defences are visible on the surface today, and they have received only cursory historical study. Research since 2012 by Saint Mary’s University Department of Anthropology, in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Community College’s Applied Geomatics Research Group, has aimed to address this gap in our understanding of Lunenburg's early history. Through archival research, GIS analysis, geophysical survey, and LiDAR interpretation, a preliminary glimpse of Lunenburg’s defended landscape has emerged, one that has pointed to avenues for future archaeological survey and excavation. This paper will summarize what we know about the Lunenburg defences from historical sources and recent archaeological reconnaissance, and make some preliminary statements about their wider military and colonial context.

Catts, Wade P. (JMA, a CCRG Company), “‘I am Sorry to Inform You of the Unhappy Explosion . . . ‘: Searching for the Continental Powder Works at French Creek, Chester County.” Conflict in the American Experience.
At a time when America’s industrial might was far in the future, the Continental Powder Works and gun factory at French Creek were crucial wartime operations in the early years of the American Revolution. Established in 1776, the powder-stamping mill exploded in March of 1777 (sabotage perhaps?). The entire industrial complex was put to the torch by Crown Forces on September 22, 1777 and never rebuilt or reoccupied. Funded by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), East Pikeland Township is searching for the archaeological remains of the site. The results of recent archaeological investigations, including outstanding geophysics, have identified several of the foundations and the raceway associated with this complex, and a new trail system commemorates the story of this important early industrial complex.

Catts, Wade (see Juliette Gerhardt)


In 1985, funds from the National Parks Service Resource Protection Planning Process (RP3) were employed by the Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center to create an archaeological resources survey of the Richmond metropolitan area, comprised of the city of Richmond, Henrico County, and northern sections of Chesterfield County. The survey divided the region into cultural resources zones and described their level of sensitivity, type of archaeological resources likely, and the extent to which they were threatened by development. This project employs Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis to compare the predictions of this substantial survey project with the subsequent thirty years of development activity, urban planning initiatives, and archaeological research in the city and surrounding counties.


The popular imagination of New England has been long captured by tales of the Pilgrims of Plimouth Plantation and Puritan piety. These tales often overlook the fact that the first Europeans maintain a presence on the shores of New England were fishermen from the West Country of England, expanding from their traditional fishing grounds of Newfoundland. One of their destinations was Smuttynose Island, one of the Isles of Shoals archipelago located on Maine-New Hampshire border. Occupied with varying intensity from the second quarter of the seventeenth century to the early twentieth century, Smuttynose Island and the rest of the Shoals are surrounded by myths and legends. This paper combines the results of the analysis of the seventeenth-century material culture with a reevaluation of the historical record to construct a more nuanced image of life on the fishing periphery of early colonial New England.

Codling, Stephanie (see Matthew Craig)

Colloquially known as “Garbology”, modern human refuse has interested archaeologists for over forty years (Reid et al. 1974). Examining discard patterns of extant populations is valuable when reflecting on the divide between what is documented in historical and material records, and the invisible (but powerful) situational forces impacting them. A current case study of modern refuse in the Bronx indicates a shadow market involving the illicit sale of cigarettes and tax evasion, challenging assertions that higher costs serve as impediments to undesirable behavior, and underscores the possibility that similar evidence from a traditional archaeological context could easily be misinterpreted. Known instances of historical and ancient markets involving taboo or restricted materials are discussed, highlighting the point that de facto and de jure constraints surrounding the chaîne opératoire of certain materials likely played an integral role in their meaning, use, and value, and yet may be undetectable when viewed through an archaeological lens today.


Archaeologists first excavated the North Yard at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello during the 1980s to test for a carriage turnaround and to better understand the use of the yard space during Jefferson’s residence. Since then, the North Yard has remained largely unexplored. Last winter, the Department of Archaeology returned to this area to excavate the North Dependency Stables and its immediate yard space in preparation for new utility lines. This paper presents the results of these excavations by discussing stratigraphy, ware-type frequencies, and mean ceramic dates. While we have not yet synthesized this data with previous archaeology, our preliminary findings from the 2014-2015 excavations point not only to the limited use of this yard space but the effect of Jefferson’s landscaping endeavors on the Mountaintop.


The Philadelphia Lazaretto, located on the Delaware River in Essington Pennsylvania, is the oldest surviving Lazaretto in North America. Construction of the grand Georgian building began in 1799, in response to the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793. Vessels entering the port of Philadelphia were required to stop at the Lazaretto for inspection. Sick passengers and crews were then quarantined as part of an early public health initiative. Monmouth University recent began what is envisioned as a long-term archaeological investigation of the site. Although testing is ongoing archaeological fieldwork is providing new information about the physical layout of the Lazaretto complex and has identified interesting early 19th-century artifact deposits with the potential to provide new information about the lives of the individuals who stayed and worked at the site.

De Cunzo, Lu Ann, Rebecca Wilson, Andrea Anderson, Kelsey Timmons, and Ana Vega Ambriz (University of Delaware), “Water Above ‘The Rocks’: Archaeology at Holy Trinity (Old
Swedes) Church, Wilmington, Delaware.” *Intersections of Architecture and Archaeology in the Northeast.*

In 1638, Sweden established a colony in North America at ‘The Rocks’ on what they named the Christina River, now Wilmington, Delaware. ‘The Rocks’ marked a bit of fast land in the network of marshes lining the river. The Swedes selected a spot on the bluff of highlands above Fort Christina, the settlement on the river, for their burial ground. Descendants built Holy Trinity Lutheran Church there in 1699; the church and cemetery remain in use today. Rainwaters threaten the church’s structural integrity, and installation of underground storm management systems are under consideration. The project prompted the first archaeological excavations at the church, undertaken for the Old Swedes Foundation and Holy Trinity Parish by student archaeologists at the University of Delaware. Our paper reports on this community engagement project and our discoveries about the church, Swedish settlers, and their Lenape predecessors.

**Devine, Christine** (see Elizabeth Sawyer)

**Douma, Michael** (Georgetown University), “Categorizing Historic Inscriptions in the Shenandoah Valley.” *Markings: Writing on Objects.*

Rock inscriptions at historic sites in the Shenandoah Valley provide clues to the development of the region, to its settlement and to changes in society. Perhaps nowhere else in the United States is there such a combination of age of European settlement, clear traditions of inscription, and preserved surfaces (especially limestone cave walls) with legible writing. This presentation aims to describe the inscriptions found on the walls of Virginia’s Grand Caverns, and will present a general theory for how we might identify and organize historical inscriptions more broadly. To interpret historic inscriptions, we must recognize that writing style and substance follows tradition; that writing is a folkway when it passes from the elite to the masses; and that the shape of inscribed letters, their messages, content, and clarity can tell us much about the people of a past age. An inscription is akin to a written document, but in many ways it is more like a material culture artifact: it has physicality, texture, place.


This paper discusses the ongoing archaeological survey of the African-American Cemetery at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. Ultimately, this project was designed to bring about a better understanding of this space on the plantation landscape and to honor those unknown who call this spot their final resting place. Through the use of this space, it is believed that a portion of Mount Vernon’s enslaved population was able to culturally resist their imposed social position through the reinforcement of their human identities, as expressed in communal gatherings and the practice of funerary rites. This project seeks to rediscover the locations of these long-forgotten burial plots, and by extension reveal the organization, layout, demographic make-up, and boundaries of the site. With this information, we can begin to study the ways in which this spot of land was transformed by Mount Vernon’s enslaved population into a sacred place endowed with exclusive and nuanced meaning.
Druckenbrod, Daniel (see Eric Proebsting)


This paper explores practices of “marking” buildings in colonial America—and calls for new approaches and methodologies that incorporate markings and inscriptions as primary evidence for interpretation. Markings on buildings—whether datestones, graffiti, builders’ signatures, inscriptions, or symbols—are underutilized as historical evidence, and their presence can significantly enhance or challenge our understanding of people, things, and historical processes. Using case studies in eighteenth-century Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey, this presentation suggests a few ways that markings can be powerful tools for historical analysis. Through a close examination of markings on the Mercer Brown House in Calvert, Maryland (c. 1746); Old Swedes Church in Wilmington, Delaware (c. 1699); and the Abel and Mary Nicholson House in Salem, New Jersey (c. 1722), this presentation will suggest that inscriptions, graffiti, and markings can, and should, be further utilized in material culture studies, vernacular architecture analysis, and historical scholarship in general.


Archaeological theories come and go, but the choices we make when we interpret archaeological data often are a byproduct of forces beyond our immediate control. The technological influences that currently have the greatest impact on archaeological interpretation are the Internet and social media. Twenty years ago archaeological excavation and concurrent interpretation was a methodical process that allowed time for deliberation. Now days a finding in the field can be tweeted to the world within seconds, allowing little time for reflection or contemplation. As a result, we now compete for clicks, both amongst ourselves, and with the onslaught of information pouring forth into the world from the arts and sciences. I examine the impact of this new interpretive terrain by considering how we interpret nineteenth-century African Diasporic spirit caches in the Chesapeake region. In our desire to commandeer the attention of the interwebs, are we making mountains out of molehills?

Fowler, Jonathan (see Henry Cary)

Fraser, Allison (see Henry Cary)


Wigs were a crucial component of gentry male attire in the mid eighteenth century, and while the social dimensions of these pricey accessories are well understood by modern scholars, their daily
maintenance is less so. Archaeologists recovered over 200 clay wig hair curlers from Washington’s mid-18th century home in Fredericksburg, Virginia: a high number for a domestic site. These curlers reflected wig hair maintenance for as many as four Washington brothers. The spatial distribution of curlers revealed discrete activity areas, both within the main house and outdoors, where enslaved men engaged in wig maintenance. Using X-ray fluorescence and infrared spectroscopy, elemental analysis of historical residues documented preserved hair powder in two inexpensive varieties. The Washingtons’ social and economic aspirations were supported by careful attention to this crucial accessory of gentry attire. The intensity of wig hair curling at this site indicates fastidious care and high maintenance wigs.

Gall, Michael J. (RGA, Inc.) and Richard F. Veit (Monmouth University), “‘A School for Mothers’: Institutional Archaeology at a 19th-Century New Jersey Female Seminary.” Intersections of Architecture and Archaeology in the Northeast.

The archaeology of academic institutions provides a unique opportunity to examine gender construction, women’s education and identity creation. Documentary, institutional, gender, and landscape archaeologies were all employed in the examination of a 19th-century seminary in Burlington City, Burlington County, New Jersey. Originally operating as a Quaker female seminary between 1829 and 1836, the school was later purchased by Bishop George Washington Doane in 1837 and reconstituted as an Episcopalian secondary school for girls known as St. Mary’s Hall. It continues to operate today, though as a co-educational institution, as Doane Academy. Archaeology at St. Mary’s Hall/Doane Academy sheds important light on 19th-century academic curricula, institutional goals, female agency, and the ways students negotiated the discipline of boarding school life as they strove to create their own identities.


Thomas Jefferson’s attraction to the naturalistic landscapes of 18th century English formal gardens became manifest in his designs for his primary residences. The gardens and landscape designers from which Jefferson drew inspiration attempted to create features reminiscent of an idealized natural environment. One such element that featured prominently in Jefferson’s landscapes was the clump, a dense planting of trees used for various effects in formal landscapes. Archaeological research conducted by Poplar Forest’s Department of Archaeology and Landscapes has discovered and restored two of the clumps planted in 1812 in the grounds surrounding his retreat house. Analysis of the archaeological evidence, including the recovery of phytoliths, has shown the rigid structure used to create an element that was intended to mimic nature. The archaeological research associated with this project provides valuable insight into understanding the process by which 19th-century American landscape designers laid out their formal grounds.

Gary, Jack (see Eric Proebsting)

Geier, Clarence R. (James Madison University) and Joseph W.A. Whitehorne, “Fisher’s Hill.” Conflict in the American Experience.
Culminating in the dramatic September 21, 1864 battle that bears its' name, Fisher's Hill which serves as the doorway into the lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia from the south, played a critical role in the Confederate defense of the agriculturally rich valley. Since 20++, six historical archaeology projects conducted for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Program have been conducted by researchers from James Madison University. While a number of military histories have been written concerning the events of the Battle of Fisher's Hill, the historical archaeology projects have jointly produced an understanding of the natural and cultural landscapes that not only shaped the flow of that battle but which made this landform essential to larger Confederate strategies and which contributed to its recognition as the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy". This paper reviews the key terrain and cultural features that made the area of strategic importance to the Confederacy.

Geier, Clarence R. (see James Schreufer)

Gerhardt, Juliette and Wade Catts (JMA, a CCRG Company), “Up Against the Wall, You Pane in the Glass! Written in Stone and Glass, Messages From the Past From Two Pennsylvania Sites.” Markings: Writing on Objects.

While archeologists were working on the data recovery investigations for the new American Revolution Center in Philadelphia, several fragments of etched window pane were found in a privy behind the house of Mary and Benjamin Humphreys that stood during the late eighteenth century on Carter’s Alley near the corner of Chestnut and Third Streets. The fine cursive writing records a possible verse and is signed by the graffiti artist. Forty miles away in rural Chester County, carved inscriptions on the stone walls of the Jacob Zook House were recorded during an archeological investigation at that site. On parts of the south, west, and north facades of the house’s c1829 limestone addition, at least twenty-nine sets of names and/or initials are cut into the soft stone. These markings on stone and glass are like messages in a bottle from the past. What do they add to the historical and archeological record about the people who wrote them? These finds will be presented and discussed in this paper.


The Anthropocene epoch, garnering the interest of geologists and environmental scientists for the past decade, has now entered the archaeological lexicon. As in other disciplines, questions remain about what Anthropocene means and when it began, as well as how it differs from the Holocene. This presentation explores some of these issues and offers a ground-up approach by which conventional approaches in archaeology might be adapted to a reassessment of the human experience and the role of humanity in this newly defined geological epoch.

Gilbert, Kiley A. (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center), “Spatial Context and Farm Types of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850-1880.” The Archaeology of Farmsteads and Rural Industries.

Between 1850 and 1880, the First Election District of Anne Arundel County, Maryland hosted a variety of farm types and farm sizes. K-means cluster analysis of agricultural census data
identified farm types over this forty-year period. The findings serve as a basis for understanding the archaeology of two farms on the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center campus and assessing the effects of late 19th-century land management strategies on local ecosystems.

Glusing, Brian (see Kay Simpson)


Phase III excavations of the Fall Hill site (44SP0642) conducted by Dovetail in June 2014 revealed evidence of a late-eighteenth-century tenant farmstead on the outskirts of Fredericksburg. The tenant status of the site occupants, the McCoy family, was gleaned from historical records related to the site, providing the opportunity to interpret the material culture recovered during the excavation in the context of eighteenth-century tenancy. How did the archaeological remains at this site relate to other contemporary sites in the region? Were there material manifestations of tenancy that could be recognized? Comparing the landscape, faunal remains, and ceramics from Fall Hill to other eighteenth-century sites in the Chesapeake revealed that pinpointing tenant sites based solely upon archaeological remains is a difficult task. However, highlighting specific archaeological remains and patterns with the known tenant status of the occupants allowed for a more nuanced interpretation of the lives of the McCoy family.

Gonzalez, Kerry S. (see Emily Calhoun)


The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center located in Edgewater, MD is a 2,650 acre campus consisting mostly of eroded farmland. This paper focuses on the complex erosional processes occurring at a historic farmstead located on campus, Sellman's Connection (18AN1431: 1729-1917) by looking at key excavation units along with soil borings that identify the source of eroded material and its final resting place.

Greene, Ron (see Mathew Kirk)

Guercin, Richard (see Michael J. Madden)


After the 1645-1646 rebellion in Maryland, led by Richard Ingle and supported by the ancient planters from Virginia’s Potomac shore, several defeated rebels fled to the Appamattucks region of Virginia, in present day Westmoreland County. Here, these newly minted Virginians formed a community with strong ties that would control politics and society in the county for generations.
How did this community maintain and reproduce itself in the face of high mortality rates, a large influx of European immigrants, and the changing society that defined the late-seventeenth-century Chesapeake region? Using archaeological and historical data from the Nomini Plantation site, occupied from 1647-1722 and representing three successive households, we explore the persistence of this community and the strategies used by the occupants of this site to maintain power. Focusing specifically on kinship and trade connections we reveal how the former rebel community was able to dominate the economy and political philosophy of Westmoreland.

Hatch, D. Brad (see Kerry S. Gonzalez)


About 1640, John Mottrom settled a tract of land on the Coan River, south of the Potomac, which he acquired from the Chicacoan werowance Machywap. Mottrom’s property became the headquarters of the English settlement of Chicacoan, a place from which Ingle’s Rebellion was plotted in the 1640s; the location of the county court by the 1650s; and home to a diverse group that included Mottrom’s kin and heirs, his indentured and enslaved laborers and others. Intensive research at the site has just begun. Here I review archival and material evidence of the social, economic and political networks that grew up around Mottrom’s property and helped define the Chicacoan community.


More than half-a-century of archaeological investigations in the City of Williamsburg and James City County, Virginia have contributed to a remarkable, perhaps unparalleled picture of colonial and post-colonial life in Virginia. Until recently, this extensive body of work has traditionally focused on civilian, domestic landscapes; military components, particularly those dating to the Civil War (i.e., Union Army occupation of Williamsburg), have often been investigated and interpreted as discrete sites or components apart from and/or intrusive upon other occupations. As recent investigations or reinterpretation of previously recovered data suggest, however, it was often the case that Civil War military occupation of civilian sites and resources involved co-opting certain elements of the surroundings to best serve alternative military and/or strategic purposes; enough for subtle and not-so-subtle indications to have become a part of the archaeological record. This paper will explore the archaeology, and the implications, of Union Army and/or Confederate Army occupations at three sites: the Shield’s Tavern parcel in the Historic Area of Colonial Williamsburg, initially explored in the 1930s and re-investigated in the mid-1980s; and more recently, the Brafferton Yard in the Historic Campus at the College of William and Mary (2012), and at the Kingsmill residential development (2014), just southeast of the City.

Fredericksburg’s own Central Rappahannock Regional Library (CRRL) was scheduled to undergo parking lot renovations in 1991, which inevitably triggered an archaeological assessment of the property. The excavation unearthed approximately 890 artifacts and an outbuilding associated with an early nineteenth-century occupation. The artifacts were collected, the report was written, and the project was nearly forgotten. CRRL employees recently stumbled upon the artifacts associated with this project, which were in storage for over a decade. Since its rediscovery, the predominately nineteenth-century collection has undergone additional analytical study. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software was used to explore the history of this space. Geoprocessing tools were implemented to help visualize the data collected from the 1991 excavation. This paper discusses both the domestic and scholastic activities that have occurred on the property and will also address the previous interpersonal relationship between the former Ross House (Union House) and the Fredericksburg community.

Hornsby, Brenda (see Lindsay Bloch)


The paper will revisit the archaeology conducted by James Deetz in the 1970s at an early-nineteenth-century African-American community in Massachusetts called Parting Ways. This article examines the architecture and several large earthenware jars uncovered at Parting Ways to reconsider those finds in the context of topics currently relevant to African diaspora archaeology, including racialization and community formation. Reinterpretations of the architecture and earthenware jars move away from a focus on Africanisms and instead explore the role the material culture played in some of the strategies which the residents at Parting Ways employed to establish themselves as free members of the community following the end of slavery, as well as some of the struggles they faced in doing so.

Janesko, Sarah (University of Maryland, College Park), “Remembering the Tenant Farmers: A Comparison of Two Late 19th-century Tenant Farm Dwellings in Maryland.” The Archaeology of African Americans from the Chesapeake to New England.

This paper compares two late nineteenth-to early twentieth-century African American tenant farm sites located on the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) campus in Edgewater, Maryland. I used historical population and agricultural census data to provide context for initial field findings, and used these contextualized findings to formulate questions about changing social and agricultural practices after emancipation.

Janowitz, Meta (see Richard Veit)

Historical and archaeological investigations were conducted at Fort Loudon, a French and Indian War period fort (1756-1763) constructed by George Washington in 2002-2003. Although most of the site has been destroyed by development, excavations in the yard of a downtown Winchester residential lot yielded intact deposits dating to the mid 18th century fort. Research questions on fort construction, material culture, subsistence, refuse disposal practices, social stratification and interaction with local civilians are addressed. Since the archaeological excavations were conducted the site has received public recognition including a Virginia Highway Marker, placement on the National Register of Historic Places and public interpretation at two prominent locations in Winchester.

Jones, Alexandra (Archaeology in the Community), “Bringing Archaeology to the People One Festival at a Time.” Beyond the Classroom: Engaging Students and Others in Public Archaeology.

Archaeology programs conducted daily by archaeologists make a difference in how citizens perceive their cultural heritage and science. Through educational programs and outreach, archaeologists are inspiring new generations to explore the many fields of archaeological study. Education programs, which introduce students of all ages to archaeology through an informal education model, tend to capture the attention and the interest of the students. In addition to building interest and supporting engagement, hands-on approaches have been shown to increase achievement with youth in science in particular boosting information acquisition and retention. Five years ago Archaeology in the Community (AITC) decided to host its first Day of Archaeology Festival. The idea came as a way to support “Day of Archaeology,” project by highlighting archaeology in the District of Colombia, Maryland and Virginia. Each year for one day AITC brings archaeology organizations together for a fun day of archaeology, music and family activities. Each organization features different projects that it is working on along with interactive activities for youth and adults. This presentation will discuss how a small science festival is changing the way archaeologists inform the public.

Kaktins, Mara (The George Washington Foundation) and Matt Oleson (University of Pennsylvania), “A Name Among the Nameless – Incised Ceramics From the First Philadelphia Almshouse.” Markings: Writing on Objects.

Between 1732 and 1767, some of society’s least documented citizens filed through the doors of the First Philadelphia Almshouse. Some were so destitute they arrived naked, having sold their clothes for a meal or a drink to forget their plight. Not surprisingly, personal possessions were scarce in an institution that was commonly viewed as a last resort for a desperate population, and the archaeological assemblage reflects this. Inmates shared and communally used the property owned by the Almshouse. Individuality was discouraged in an environment where residents were assumed to be morally corrupt and in need of rehabilitation. However, glimpses of personality- and perhaps rebellion- can be seen on initialed redwares that were incised, post-
firing, by inmates seeking in some way to claim as their own vessels that were intended for use by hundreds of people.


The Kitchen Path at Monticello served as an important roadway for those living and working adjacent to Thomas Jefferson’s home. The path connected Mulberry Row to the main house. While the path is over 80 feet in length, this massive stone and brick feature is absent from Jefferson’s documents and was only identified archaeologically. The roadway was initially discovered in 1981. Since then, three excavations occurred at various locations along the roadway. This paper will discuss the path’s construction, use, maintenance, and disappearance from the mountaintop by comparing results of these three recent excavations to better understand the path as an important feature on the landscape to the enslaved African Americans living and working at Monticello.


This paper examines the colonial settlements Native people visited in the 17th- and early 18th-century lower Potomac River valley in an effort to identify patterns in those visits. A rich documentary record and a newly available archaeological database provide a rich source of information about the Native people making these visits, whose plantations they visited, when those visits occurred, and what took place during these visits. Anglo-Native interactions were a much more common experience during this period than traditionally reported, and this analysis aims to show how those interactions played out in one setting: the colonial settlement.


In 2014, the Baxtertown Zion Pilgrim church was listed on the National Register. Founded in 1848 in a rural hamlet near Fishkill, New York, the church served as a focal point for a community of freed black families and Wappinger Indians. The church and community were active in the Underground Railroad movement assisting escaping slaves towards freedom. The church community slowly declined over the years and eventually the building was abandoned and collapsed. Grass-roots efforts to memorialize the site with signage and listing on the National Register were stymied by the fact that no structure remained. Volunteer archeological field studies led by professional archeologists produced a wealth of data that provided the impetus for the site to be listed under Criterion D. Our paper explores the recent efforts to recognize the site’s historical importance, the documentary history of the church organization, and the archeological data that provides insights into the lives of church members.

Gold mining in nineteenth-century Virginia differs from the more-often studied coal-mining towns of Appalachia and the precious-metal extraction sites and towns of the American West in significant respects. Yet, while the gold-mining industry of the Southeast may have been a small footnote in the production of wealth, it was an important seedbed in which American miners learned the methods and developed the equipment that produced the wealth of the Western mines. Studies of the precious-metal mines of the Southeastern Piedmont, therefore, address a sizable gap in historical and archaeological data on mining and potentially provide critical information on the evolution of precious-metal mining in the United States. This paper addresses these issues through an analysis of the historical and archaeological data on central Virginia gold mines, and the results of fieldwork at the circa 1834-1894 Eagle Mine complex (44ST0095) in Stafford County, Virginia.

Krawitz, Robin (see Craig Lukezic)


Much study and scholarship has been presented on urban stoneware industries in Mid-Atlantic cities such as Baltimore, Alexandria, and Richmond. However, small-scale production in towns has often been lost to history. Archaeological excavations and documentary research allowed one such local story to come to light - the Marshall-Bell Kiln Site in Fredericksburg, Virginia. More than fifteen thousand waster fragments were recovered from the site, representing two successive potters who operated the kiln in the 1830s. This paper examines the evidence to discuss stoneware production in Fredericksburg, begin to answer questions as to why the business was short-lived, and look at how this local production fit within the broader context of the regional stoneware market.


Soldiers carved thousands of tobacco pipes from locally available materials over the course of the American Civil War. Markings indicating a place and an event dominate among the textual aspects of the objects. Fredericksburg, Virginia is the single most commonplace name found on these pipes. This project is an effort to understand the proliferation of location markings on pipes, and what unspoken connections we can make between the maker, the event, and the place. Using over 150 identified examples; the author considers issues of memory, communication with distant loved ones, and group identity that lie just below the surface of a seemingly inane object, the carved tobacco pipe.

Richard “the Duke” Stockton was a prominent and intriguing figure in New Jersey’s social and political landscape during the late Colonial and early Federal periods. As a Princeton socialite and the son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, he enjoyed a privileged life with a high degree of flexibility in decision-making. Richard rebelled against patriarchal presets, and at times, resorted to unscrupulous methods to maintain his family’s reputation. Reinforced by documentary archaeology, the objects he chose to furnish his home with reflect a desire for elevated status, communicate allegiance with an elite social group, and assert the role of the individual as an active agent. Artifact assemblages from 1987-1990 excavations at Morven were revisited and formally interpreted to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of identity construction and maintenance among the Delaware Valley’s elite, aspects of which are further revealed through the consideration of agency theory and comparative site analysis.

Lowe, David (see Julia Steele)

Lowery, Darrin “Historic Archaeological Deposits in the Nearshore Coastal Zone.” Sea Level Rise, Catastrophic Storm Surge, and Historic Resources: Site Loss and Data Recovery.

Shoreline erosion and late Holocene sea level rise have greatly affected our understanding of the past. A combination of natural, biological, and geochemical processes regularly impact archaeological sites situated in the near shore coastal zone. The presentation will focus on how these processes have impacted some historic archaeological sites situated at the interface between land and water.

Lukezic, Craig (Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs) and Robin Krawitz (Delaware State University), “Kidnapped: The Experience of Slavery and Freedom of Aaron Cooper in Delaware.” The Archaeology of African Americans from the Chesapeake to New England.

The story of Aaron Cooper can be told through the documents, court records, and archaeology. In 1811, before the era of the Underground Railroad, Cooper, a free African American, was kidnapped by a slave trader and sold as a slave in Natchez, Mississippi. Through community action in the legal process, Cooper eventually regained his freedom and returned to Delaware. This paper endeavors to summarize the research from historians and archaeologists in order to recreate the world of Aaron Cooper.

MacDonald, Candace (see Henry Cary)


Starting in 1910 and continuing throughout the 1940s the United States army and navy embarked on a program to combat the threat of world war and invasion aimed at our shores. The German military machine under both the Kaiser (WW1) and the Nazi regime (WW2) had both targeted the Atlantic coast of America and its shipping under the terms of “total war”. Any ship was considered fair game as were the coastal communities, ports, cities, and installations supplying
aid to Germanys declared enemies or quite simply our friends and future allies. To combat this threat the US military started large construction projects fortifying the coast, barrier islands, shoals and other points of land of the Chesapeake Bay (as well as the rest of the Atlantic Coast). Since the end of WW2 the majority of these sites have been dismantled, buried in sand or just ignored and forgotten. The remains of these structures are something that archaeologists are having to come to terms with as our coast line becomes increasing disturbed by storm, sea level rise and other phenomena and, as the public turns to us to define what these structures are, what the history is associated with them and what was their purpose along these lonely beaches and islands.

Mandzy, Adrian (Morehead State University), “‘The saddest affair I have witnessed in the War’: A Battlefield Study of The Battle of the Crater, 30 July 1864.” The Archaeology of Military Sites from Nova Scotia to North Carolina.

In March 2015, faculty and students from Morehead State University’s History program, along with members of the Battlefield Restoration and Archeological Volunteer Organization (BRAVO), conducted a survey of The Crater Battlefield. Fought on 30 July 1864, during the Siege of Petersburg, the Battle of the Crater, according to the National Park Service, is one of the most important events of the Civil War. The participation of African-American troops in the battle and the subsequent execution of black prisoners highlights the racial animosities that were the underpinning causes of this conflict. The goal of this project is to document the level of integrity of any archaeological resources connected with this field of conflict and to examine how far the Union troops advance beyond the mouth of the Crater.

Marquis, Melanie (see David Muraca)

Masur, Laura E. (Boston University), “‘The best place to buy New England rum’: Archaeology at William Sanford’s Farmstead-Tavern in Hawley, Massachusetts.” The Archaeology of Farmsteads and Rural Industries.

In 1798, William Sanford purchased a tract of land adjacent to the Congregational meetinghouse in Hawley, a hill town in western Massachusetts. Remembered as “the millionaire of Hawley,” Sanford established a small household and tavern, which he expanded to accommodate his growing business and family. At the initiative of the Sons and Daughters of Hawley, archaeologists, students, teachers, and community members have excavated at the tavern between 2011 and 2014. Historical research suggests that William Sanford’s residence functioned not only as a raucous tavern, but also as a store, farm, smithy, and court of law during the first half of the nineteenth century. Archaeological evidence demonstrates close connections with the local economy through trade in red earthenware vessels. Patterns of alcohol consumption, however, differ from heavily trafficked urban taverns and may relate to the early effects of the temperance movement in rural New England.

The 2015 University of Mary Washington archaeological field school, in conjunction with and support from the Walton International Group, investigated the historic core of Sherwood Forest Plantation, a late antebellum property owned by the Fitzhugh family. Located just outside of Fredericksburg's city limits, the plantation was home to not only the Fitzhughs, but also a large enslaved workforce and served as a field hospital to Union troops in 1862-1863. During the eight-week project, students and staff focused on the area around the standing ca. 1845 slave quarter duplex and brick kitchen/quarter located within the historic curtilage. The research goals of this project were to document the lives of the African American people who lived and worked on the plantation before and after emancipation, investigate surviving landscape features associated with the construction of these two buildings, and to explore the Civil War components of the site.

McMillan, Lauren K. (see D. Brad Hatch)


Fort Caswell has stood for nearly two centuries as a silent sentinel, a quiet but haunting reminder of the briefly divided past. While much of the original 1826-1837 brick and mortar fort are still standing on privately owned property, key architectural features of the fort, and its unwritten history, lie hidden beneath the sand. Since its construction, the site has seen several phases of modification, abandonment, and reuse. The first archaeological research on this “Third System” fort was conducted by the 2013 and 2015 William Peace University Archaeological Field Schools. This presentation will summarize the goals of the research; provide an overview of the findings. While findings from all periods of the fort history will be discussed, specific attention will be given to the recovery of features that dated to the fort’s original construction and use, and to the American Civil War.

Minkoff, Mary Furlong (see Kate Birmingham)

Mintz, John J. (see Thomas E. Beaman, Jr.)


Archaeologists have traditionally engaged the public through narrowly defining “Public Archaeology” as providing programs for children and/or talking to the public about what they do. As archaeologists, it is important to expand this focus and identify stakeholders, collaborate, and engage the public throughout a project. Remaining flexible during the process is essential since individuals have varying opinions and agendas. The Archaeology Program of The M-NCPCC Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation works within a unique diverse environment incorporating both students and community members in an effort to preserve the county’s history. Through archaeological case studies, examples of engaging the public will be presented along with failures and successes.

Over the past five years, the archaeology program at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) has partnered with the Piedmont Governor’s School for Math, Science, and Technology to involve junior and senior students into research projects. The cohorts of junior students each year have worked on research projects designed and led by Dr. Elizabeth Moore, VMNH Curator of Archaeology. Over the course of the academic year the students prepare a literature review, gather original data, analyze that data, and present their results in a public forum. Senior students are required to design and complete an independent research project as a requirement for graduation and each year at least one senior chooses an archaeology topic. In these projects high school students not only conduct research but also learn how to convey their findings to a general audience. Over the past academic year, Dr. Moore worked with Dr. Bernard Means and the students of the VCU class, Visualizing and Exhibiting Archaeology, to develop exhibit content for a new VMNH exhibit. This presentation will discuss some of the projects used to engage both high school and college students, how those projects can be adapted for use in other schools and communities, and the challenges of working with students of different levels and experiences.


Over the years, The George Washington Foundation archaeologists have recovered several ceramic fragments of an exceedingly rare English figurine form that decorative arts experts have in the past identified as a “monk.” After extensive study, we suggest that this figurine is instead a representation of an eighteenth-century ornamental garden hermit—a peculiarly English phenomenon meant to evoke melancholy thoughts and reflect mourning. That Mary Washington chose one of these figurines to adorn her mantle is very telling and helps illuminate her own fascination with memento mori. Cast in this light, the hermit sherds correspond with a growing body of mourning artifacts associated with her life.


In the Chesapeake Bay region, sea level rise (SLR) poses a significant threat to heritage resources. While models of land subsidence and erosion in the region add complexity to this discussion, archaeologists face the immediate challenge of determining areas most vulnerable to shoreline loss. Using case studies from Northampton and Accomack counties, Virginia, this presentation encourages researchers to employ multiple lines of evidence to investigate rates of shoreline loss and triage locations for archaeological survey. A comparison of the NOAA Digital Coast projected SLR model, USGS and VIMS geospatial data on severity of erosion,
dated archaeological sites recorded with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and mid-19th century maps from the U.S. Coast Survey demonstrates that the careful analysis and integration of disparate data sources can produce a reliable model for field survey confirmed through ground-truthing.

**Ogborne, Jennifer** (see Eric Proebsting)

**Oleson, Matt** (see Mara Kaktins)


Roman Pompeii has deservedly held the reputation of the most “marked” site in the ancient world. Its walls are covered with graffiti and painting: electoral notices, religious views, erotic asides, sports announcements, commercial advertisements, educational texts, political statements, and most significantly, personal expressions. Its archaeological deposition was sudden and catastrophic. The site formative processes were eloquent in capturing and preserving ephemera. Several languages were used in accomplishing this and images, such as a Roman Merchant Sea Vessel, called the “Europa”, for example were archaeologically contextualized. Some of the inhabitants of Pompeii were not recorded in any other manner. Similarly, American examples follow this categorization and this session will introduce some of the ways this can be seen. Interpretation depends on the context of this material, a powerful and articulate source of human history. It is precisely the intimacy of these messages that elevate the “marked” Roman World of the urban culture of Pompeii and make it fascinating and powerful. This talk will be illustrated with the author’s own research compiled from almost a half century of Pompeian explorations.

**Paltekian, Sarah** (see Henry Cary)

**Parker, Scott** (Little Antietam Creek, Inc.), “German Culture and English Styles: A View from South Central Pennsylvania.” *Intersections of Architecture and Archaeology in the Northeast.*

Johannes and Catrin Steiner immigrated to Pennsylvania from Germany in the early 1720s. They were German Baptist Dunkers. In 1744 they acquired a 200-acre piece of property on Antietam Creek in what was then western Pennsylvania. According to the Federal Direct Tax the Stoners (Steiner in German) were living in a two story stone house by 1798. Archaeology indicates that this dwelling was of an "entry kitchen" style (a style almost exclusively German) and dated to the 1760s, possibly earlier. Near the excavations of this dwelling is a standing house of Georgian design that was built probably around 1800. Traditional thought is that the move from "entry kitchen" to Georgian was a way the Germans assimilated into British society. Cynthia Falk's thesis, however says that the transition was a way of incorporating British society into German culture. This paper will explore this through archaeological excavations at the Stoner Farm.
Proebsting, Eric and Jennifer Ogborne, Jack Gary (Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest) and Daniel Druckenbrod (Rider University), “Preliminary Results of the Poplar Forest Parkway Survey.” Poster Session.

This poster presents the preliminary findings for an archaeological survey and evaluation of a 1.7 mile proposed entrance parkway at Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest. The parkway traverses approximately 600 acres of undeveloped land that once composed a section of Jefferson’s original Bedford County plantation. In addition to identifying archaeological sites for avoidance, the research design for this survey has incorporated larger research themes related to exploring the plantation’s layout, road systems, and associated outbuildings. In addition, the survey has examined the current forest composition and past episodes of field clearing and soil erosion. The application of multiple methods, including close interval shovel tests, unit excavation, GPS data collection, ArcGIS and Surfer mapping, radiocarbon dating, and dendrochronology have not only located new archaeological sites, including a previously unknown antebellum slave quarter, but have also provided the basis for new public interpretations of the broader landscape of Poplar Forest.

Ptacek, Crystal (see Katelyn M. Coughlan)


Carter's alley was a minor passage cut into a late 17th-century Philadelphia city block. As the city evolved, so too did Carter's Alley. Initially designed as a dead-end alley set in a primarily residential neighborhood, the lane was later opened up to Third Street, creating a narrow thoroughfare and allowing increased access to the commercial entities developing along it. By the 19th century, it was renamed Carter's Street (and, later, Ionic Street) and served as the back entrance to the famed Jayne Building, a precursor to the skyscraper, as well as other industrial complexes built on the block. In 2014, JMA excavated the western half of Carter's Alley as part of the Museum of the American Revolution site. This presentation will trace the development of Carter's Alley as a microcosm of urban transformation from early domestic spaces to later commercial ones.


Coastal archaeological sites are threatened by erosion every day. The circa 1900s cemetery in the Uppards area of Tangier Island is an example of how erosion can affect archaeology and the challenges it can create for a conservator. Salt water, wave action, high tide and thoughts about reburial combine to create a long-term conservation project with the ethical considerations that always accompany human burials.

Sadler, Donald (Stantec), “Archaeology at the Fredericksburg Courthouse Site.” More than the Civil War: The Archaeology and History of Fredericksburg.
Constructed in the early nineteenth century, a previously unrecorded tenant house once stood in the 700 block of Princess Anne Street in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This structure was likely unremarkable for its time and all that remained was a brick and stone cellar. However, archaeological investigations conducted by Cultural Resources, Inc (now Stantec) recovered a wealth of Civil War-era artifacts preserved within these structural remains. These items indicate the house bore witness to the aftermath of one of the worst military defeats suffered by the Union army during the Civil War; the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. The recovered material suggests that following the battle retreating Union soldiers may have taken shelter in the house. Ongoing analysis further indicates that the structure was demolished within a few years of the battle, the open cellar possibly serving as a convenient dumping ground for military-related debris remaining following the Union retreat. Within this same lot were the remains of earlier structures and privies which provide insight into the rich history of Antebellum town life in Fredericksburg.


The African Americans who experienced institutional enslavement played a critical role in the Fredericksburg’s history from its 18th-century founding to its Civil War era turmoil. Only recently have historians, archaeologists, and architectural historians brought scholarly and more public attention to bear on the people who comprised over a third of the city’s population as well as its main labor force. Surprisingly little archaeological work on slave-related sites and structures has occurred. This paper relies on a combination of architectural and documentary evidence to visualize slavery’s built environment in Fredericksburg as well as the demographic and cultural parameters that framed slaves’ lives. A series of contextual predictions for slave-related sites and households are advanced that hopefully archaeologists will test with future excavations. Such efforts would allow us to better characterize Fredericksburg’s bonded African Americans as active consumers, agents of change, and members of their own vibrant community.


Constructed in the 1770s, the Weaver’s Cottage at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello was used for multiple functions during his lifetime. The stone structure served as housing for free and enslaved workers and eventually became the center of the plantation’s textile manufacture. After Jefferson’s death, the Levy family purchased Monticello in 1836 and the Weaver’s Cottage continued to be used for housing. Exact details of who lived there or for how long remain largely unknown. Recent excavations in front of Weaver’s Cottage and the area west of the structure provide archaeologists with the opportunity to analyze the depositional history of spaces near this building. Analysis of artifacts, features, and stratigraphy offers insights into how the configuration and function of the Weaver’s Cottage changed during the ownership of both the Jefferson and Levy families.
Schruefer, James (James Madison University) and Clarence R. Geier (James Madison University), “Cultural Landscapes and Agricultural Diversity on Lands Within the October 19, 1864, Battle of Cedar Creek.” Conflict in the American Experience.

The Battle of Cedar Creek, fought on October 19, 1864, resulted in a dramatic victory for the Union Army of the Shenandoah commanded by General Philip Sheridan. From that point through the end of the war, the rich agricultural landscapes of the Shenandoah Valley would be held for the Union. Since 1993, researchers from James Madison University have been conducting historical-archaeological studies on lands across this expansive military landscape. While all of these studies have had some interest in contributing to the interpretation of that battle, a theoretical strategy has been used in all of them that recognizes the critical importance of the natural and cultural landscapes existing at the time of the battle to shaping the military action taking place. As a result of this research, a unique model has been produced which reveals the diverse array of farms and mills that defined the middle 19th century agricultural community over which much of the battle was fought. This paper provides a summary description of that cultural landscape, the research used to generate it, and identifies key features that proved militarily significant.

Shiman, Philip (see Julia Steele)


The ill-fated escape effort of John Wilkes Booth ended at the Garrett Farmstead, now part of Fort A.P. Hill. The former house site is now situated in the median of a divided highway and is the subject of many unauthorized roadside visits each year. Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. tested the house site, recorded the former Garrett family cemetery, and identified a mid-nineteenth-century outbuilding that may represent the barn where Booth was cornered and shot. These studies evaluated the integrity and determined the cultural significance of the Garrett Farm site as an archaeological site, particularly as it represents the last of the many historic properties that make up Booth’s escape route. The studies also provided AP Hill with interpretive materials for public exhibition in April 2015 on the 150th anniversary of the capture of John Wilkes Booth.


This poster and live demonstration will showcase a portable, interactive digital history exhibit developed in 2015. Using freely available software and an affordable Android tablet, the author created a custom application to be the centerpiece of an interactive digital compass exhibit that can be modified for any Department of Historic Resources educational event. For demonstration purposes, Fredericksburg archaeology will be highlighted. Visitors stand on a floor graphic of a compass rose, oriented in the correct direction on the ground. Holding a tablet, as the visitor rotates, a video slideshow for one of seven different archaeological sites around the city appears. When the video is finished, the compass displays again, allowing the user to rotate and select
another site. Code and instructions for customizing this application are provided free for use to other individuals or organizations under a Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0).


Enfield was one of two Shaker Villages in New Hampshire, founded in 1793 to foster a communal life style that promoted equality between the sexes and races, celibacy, communal ownership of property, farming and craft industries. The 3,000-acre village overlooking Mascoma Lake was an idyllic setting for the community that once numbered as many as 300 inhabitants, occupying over 100 buildings. The largest Enfield residential building, the six-story Great Stone Dwelling (completed in 1841), was once the tallest domestic building north of Boston. While excavations have been conducted at several other Shaker Villages, the first professional archaeology began in Enfield in the summer of 2015, conducted through the auspices of Plymouth State University. This research is focusing upon the remains of the 1818 Trustees’ Office (located directly in front of the Great Stone Dwelling). It was here where the Shaker Trustees conducted their business dealings with the outside world, and field work in 2015 has exposed the extensive remains of this building’s foundations, together with Shaker artifacts lying on the cellar floor.

**Steele, Julia** (National Park Service), Philip Shiman (The Petersburg Project), and David Lowe (National Park Service), “The Siege Landscape: Through Fire and Ice at Petersburg.” *Conflict in the American Experience.*

The built environment of landscapes swept by war is subjected to brutal treatment. As cover for one side in the conflict it becomes a target for the other side, or may be destroyed before it can become either. Building materials are dismantled and used for cover in other forms. Bridges and roads are made impassable. Other structures make it through unscathed and are used as headquarters or hospitals before returning to civilian use. Shelter from enemy fire and shelter from the elements both have to be adapted to the terrain and to weather conditions that vary through the seasons. In a siege landscape, like Petersburg, Virginia, unique military structures arise on the field as the result of the exigencies of combat or are constructed by military engineers and leave their own signature on the landscape and in the archeological record. This paper will look at battlefield structures and how they fare through nine months of war and a century and a half of peace.

**Stephens, William** (see Sarah A. Grady)

**Strickland, Scott M.** (St. Mary’s College of Maryland), “Native Land Transfers Along the English Frontier of the Potomac Valley.” *Materiality, Networks and Exchange in the Colonial Potomac Valley.*

Land as an object to be bought and sold was an unfamiliar concept to Native Americans. The dynamics of this concept evolved throughout the colonial period, especially among Maryland's Piscataway. In the years 1700 and 1701, "John Accatamacca", the Piscataway "emperor," appears in the Prince George's County land records. The emperor appears to sell two parcels of land located within the ancestral homeland of the Piscataway, between Mattawoman and
Piscataway Creeks. Close examination of these land records and others like it, the location of the tracts, and the relationships of the grantees to the Piscataway reveal tantalizing insights into Native and European encounters at a time when English colonization spread further north and west within the Potomac River valley.


Founded in 1684, Charles Town served as the county seat of Prince George’s County, Maryland, from 1696 to 1721. Like a typical colonial seat of government, it included private dwellings, storehouses, ordinaries, and the obligatory church, courthouse, and jail. Starting in 1998, and continuing in 2009-2010, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission excavated a possible ordinary and associated quarter at Charles Town, now the Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park. Along with structural postholes and molds, several large pit features were uncovered. Feature 71, first identified in 1998, was a borrow pit later filled with trash. Nearly 28,000 artifacts were recovered from the feature, including kitchen and food remains, clothing items, architectural debris, and several interesting small find items. This poster will present the results of the feature analysis and the connection to James Stoddert, a Scottish merchant who likely owned the associated structures.

**Timmons, Kelsey** (see Lu Ann De Cunzo)

**Veit, Richard** (Monmouth University) and Meta Janowitz (AECOM), “Getting the Lead Out: Steps Towards an Inventory and Interpretation of Window Leads From Colonial New Jersey.” *Markings: Writing on Objects.*

Window leads or cames are an intriguing artifact category that, to date, has seen only limited study. Like coins, tokens, bottle seals, and marked ceramic and pewter vessels, they bear the names or initials of their manufacturers and sometimes dates of production. Most common on 17th- and 18th-century sites they provide information about architectural styles, trade networks, and often provide a site’s terminus post quem. This paper, building from an exceptionally large assemblage of window leads recovered from the Hardenbrook/Duyckinck/Letson Property, at Raritan Landing in New Jersey, and other local sites makes a first step towards compiling an inventory of window leads from New Jersey and better understanding their use.

**Veit, Richard F.** (see Michael J. Gall)


During the American Revolution, on August 29, 1779, at Newtown, New York, Loyalist soldiers and Native American warriors defended their homeland from an invading force of Continental troops. In July 1863, the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, endured one of the most famous battles fought on American soil. In November 1863, with the opening of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery and Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, Gettysburg was transformed from a
battlefield into a heritage landscape. Sixteen years later in 1879, Newtown Battlefield was likewise transformed in a large ceremony from a battlefield into a heritage landscape with Civil War General William T. Sherman as the keynote speaker. Far from just being solemn places of reflection on past heroism, this paper argues that military sites such as Newtown and Gettysburg constantly reflect how we choose to express our remembrances of violence past.


Taverns in colonial North America have been the focus of recent studies on daily life, particularly sociability. Drawing on these studies, and the anthropological concept of feasting, I examine the influence of taverns within frontier resource-extraction communities. As a case study, I take the fishing station on the Isles of Shoals, off the coast of Maine and New Hampshire. Through a comparative examination of ceramic assemblages, I place the Isles of Shoals and its tavern at the center of a continuum with rural sites on one end, typified by Pemaquid, Maine, and cosmopolitan city-centers on the other, such as Port Royal, Jamaica. Against a backdrop of trade networks, exchanges, relationships and microeconomics, I argue that the Shoals’ fishermen leveraged their position in the international cod-fishing trade to negotiate social capital within the tavern; such taverns served as media for social economic transaction and fundamental locales to local political economies.

Whitehorne, Joseph W.A. (see Clarence R. Geier)


This study examines the recovered 3,184 faunal remains from a mid- to late-18th century household site excavated in 2011 on the Eastern Pequot reservation in North Stonington, Connecticut. The results of this zooarchaeological study indicate the residents’ use of European-introduced practices and resources with traditional subsistence practices. The site yielded an assortment of faunal remains from domesticated and wild species. By tying the archaeological record to historic primary documents, this research shows how in the mid- to late-18th century, residents relied on European-introduced domesticated animals (particularly cows, pigs, and sheep), off-reservation employment, their connections to the coast (for saltwater fish), and local trade for English goods. As a result of colonialism’s impacts, the residents decided to engage with animal husbandry practices and the colonial economy.

Wilson Green, Joanna (Virginia Department of Historic Resources), “You Will Know Them by Their Hardware: Analysis of Funerary Objects Recovered from Uppards Cemetery, Tangier Island.” Sea Level Rise, Catastrophic Storm Surge, and Historic Resources: Site Loss and Data Recovery.

Over several days in December, 2012 and April, 2013, archaeologists from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources recovered a series of late 19th-early 20th century burials from the long-abandoned community of Canaan at the northern tip of Tangier Island, an area known as
the Uppards. The cemetery was heavily damaged by storm surge-related erosion, resulting in the exposure of human remains. Storm and tidal action also resulted in displacement of headstones from their intended graves, rendering identification of the interred individuals difficult if not impossible. In the absence of markers, we turned to analysis of the remains themselves as well as the items with which they were buried in order to understand this population. In spite of considerable erosion, a variety of coffin hardware as well as personal items were recovered from relatively intact contexts, and a quantity of hardware was recovered from the beach. This paper focuses upon the results of material analysis as well as the inferences that may be made about those interred at Uppards and the community from which they came.

**Wilson, Rebecca** (see Lu Ann De Cunzo)

**Yamin, Rebecca** (JMA, a CCRG Company), “Living the American Revolution – A Privy, A Diary, and a Museum in Philadelphia.” *Technical Analyses and Material Culture Studies.*

In 1789 Benjamin Humphreys and a neighbor closed the old privy and built a new one. The old one was filled with dishes the Humphreys had been using during the Revolutionary War, but it was also filled with bottles and slipwares that probably came from a neighborhood tavern. Using the discarded artifacts in combination with a diary kept by Christopher Marshall, a member of the Revolutionary Committee of Safety, who lived near the Humphreys, this paper will portray life a few blocks from where the Declaration of Independence was signed. The site, which was excavated by John Milner Associates last summer, is the future site of the Museum of the American Revolution and some of the finds from the Humphreys privy will be displayed very close to where they were found.