

CNEHA 2021

Annual Meetings and Conference

A Virtual Colloquy



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APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY ASSOCIATES, INC.

CNEHA 2021 Annual Meetings and Conference

A Virtual Colloquy

December 4

(All times given in Eastern Standard Time, Zoom links to follow)

Saturday Morning Sessions

- 8:25 - 8:30** Chair's Welcome
- 8:30 - 8:50** Will Williams: "Shared Bodies: Social Patterns in Rural East Jersey and the Formation of an African American Community."
- 8:50 - 9:10** Michael J. Gall and Teresa Bulger: "Preserving a Legacy: Documenting 1792 Encapsulated Bridge Remains in Princeton, New Jersey"
- 9:10 - 9:30** Olivia A. Williamson, Amy E. Broussard: "Mapping the Overlapping: Analyzing Graveshaft Orientation in Harrington Cemetery, Delaware"
- 9:30 - 9:50** Eric Proebsting: "Uncovering and Restoring the Carriage Circle and Oval Beds at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest"
- 9:50 - 10:10** Colleen Tamblyn: "The Five Ceramic F-Words: Form, From, Function, Fragility and Faience. Ceramic Analysis and Community Archaeology in Placentia, Newfoundland."
- 10:10 - 10:30** *Break*
- 10:30 - 10:50** Christa M. Beranek, John M. Steinberg, Stephen A. Mrozowski, and Dennis V. Piechota: "Identifying 16th- and 17th-century Indigenous Sites in Coastal Massachusetts"
- 10:50 - 11:10** Alden Grosh: "Huckleberry Hall: An 18th-century structure at risk "
- 11:10 - 11:30** James G. Gibb, Olivia A Williamson: "Variability in Shops and Raw Materials in Delmarva's Shell Button Industry, 1930-1990"
- 11:30 - 11:50** William A. Farley: "Video Game Archaeology: Reaching out to new communities through public pedagogy"
- 11:50 - 1:00** *Lunch*
- 12:15 - 12:45** A Virtual Hearth Cooking Demonstration with Historic St. Mary's City

Saturday Afternoon Sessions

- 1:00 - 1:20** David Givens, Michael Lavin, Sean Romo, Mary Anna Hartley: "To Preserve and Protect: A Geophysical Evaluation of Jamestown's 1901 Seawall"
- 1:20 - 1:40** Mary Anna Hartley, David Givens, Robert Chartrand, Anna Shackelford: "The Devil's in the Details: Untangling Jamestown's Churches"
- 1:40 - 2:00** Anna Shackelford, David Givens, Mary Anna Hartley, Sean Romo: "Red Bricks and Burned Earth: The 1639 Church and Bacon's Rebellion"
- 2:00 - 2:20** Peter Leach, Dan Welch, David Givens: "The application of High Frequency Ground-Penetrating Radar to *In Situ* Human Burial Characterization"
- 2:20 - 2:40** Sean Romo, David Givens, Janene Johnston: "Excavations at the Angela Site: First Africans, Enslavement, and Finds from 1619 to the Present"
- 2:40 - 3:00** *Break*
- 3:00 - 3:20** Michael Lavin, Leah Stricker: "A "Study" in the Reorganization of the Jamestown Collection"
- 3:20 - 3:40** Megan Postemski: "Mapping Landesque Capital: GIS and Agrarian Landscapes of Downeast Maine"
- 3:40 - 4:00** Haylee Backs: "The Contexts of Cremona"
- 4:00 - 4:20** E. Laanela: "Practicing Medicine at Sea: The Surgeon's Assemblage from Their Majesties' Ship *Saphire*"

Keynote Speaker

- 4:30 - 5:30** Travis Parno: "We have seated ourselves... within a pallizado": Unearthing St. Mary's Fort

Live Happy Hour

- 5:30** Phil Dunning: "we had fild our skins with flip", Jabez Fitch Jr., 1757

Paper Abstracts

The Contexts of Cremona

Haylee Backs
Vassar College

During the summer of 2021, 12 students worked under the supervision of Dr. Liza Gijanto on the Cremona excavation site, formerly the location of the Ashcom estate in the 17th century. Over the course of four weeks, the site was excavated for the purpose of locating features and artifacts that could indicate an outbuilding near what was previously determined to be the site of the original Ashcom manor. Using that information, we created a virtual exhibit to depict what an archaeological excavation is like. The exhibit goes through the contexts of the 2021 Cremona excavation and all the artifact types found during the field season. Utilizing GIS and Photogrammetry the exhibit is interactive and an innovative way to engage the public in archaeological work. Through this exhibit and others like it, audiences can gain a better understanding of what archaeologists find and how we learn about the past.

Identifying 16th and 17th-century Indigenous Sites in Coastal Massachusetts

Christa M. Beranek, John M. Steinberg, Stephen A. Mrozowski, and Dennis V. Piechota
Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston

Interpreting the long trajectory of Indigenous communities before, during, and after European colonial settlement hinges on the identification of 16th and 17th-century sites. Although a number of sites on Cape Cod are attributed to this period, few have high quality archaeological data, and the attributions rest on finding diagnostic European-manufactured objects. A robust program of AMS dating of occupation areas and shell middens deeply buried by windblown sand on Great Island in Wellfleet, Massachusetts (Cape Cod National Seashore) identified multiple occupations between AD 1500 and 1650. This paper discusses those deposits and examines other sites on Cape Cod attributed to this period. Notably the 16th and 17th-century deposits on Great Island lack diagnostic European artifacts. This suggests that intensive radiocarbon dating is necessary to separate Late Woodland from Contact period deposits and thus to interpret change over time in the period leading up to and including colonial settlement. The 16th through 18th-century Indigenous use of Great Island also has implications for interpreting the Great Island Tavern.

Video Game Archaeology: Reaching out to new communities through public pedagogy

William A. Farley
Southern Connecticut State University

In June of 2021 I started a YouTube channel called “Video Game Archaeology” – a series designed to present archaeological education to public audiences in a way that is free, easy to access, and (hopefully) well-produced. In part inspired by the emerging subdiscipline of “Archaeogaming” and in equal part inspired by a need for a new pandemic-hobby, Video Game Archaeology has a small but growing community of subscribers and features videos focused on methodological, ethical, and theoretical topics in video games told through the lens of digital games. In this talk I present my method for starting and supporting the channel and the value it has as a “radical” form of public pedagogy.

Preserving a Legacy: Documenting 1792 Encapsulated Bridge Remains in Princeton, New Jersey

Michael J. Gall, Teresa Bulger
Richard Grubb & Associates

The State Route 206 Stone Arch Bridge over Stony Brook in Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey, is the oldest continually functioning bridge in New Jersey. This triple-arch stone bridge was originally built in 1792 and was in desperate need of rehabilitation by 2016. Despite its continued use and occasional modifications, much of the original bridge’s fabric was preserved intact as a result of a widening project undertaken circa 1916. This presentation will describe the unexpected encounter of a nearly-complete 18th-century bridge ensconced within later additions. “Legacy structures,” infrastructure features obscured and often preserved by later additions or replacement structures like the Stone Arch Bridge have the potential to retain engineering and design information not otherwise available from historic plans and drawings. Exposed structural elements below bridge deck surface revealed a distinct engineering style in use in 18th-century England that was transferred to New Jersey, and perhaps elsewhere.

Variability in Shops and Raw Materials in Delmarva’s Shell Button Industry, 1930-1990

James G. Gibb, Olivia A Williamson
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

The Smithsonian Environmental Archaeology Laboratory explores the growth and decline of factory-scale shell-button making in portions of Delaware and Maryland. Discovery of two new sites provides a more comprehensive view of the short-lived industry and supports hypotheses concerning the scale of the activity and the shift in raw materials suggested by finds at two previously reported sites. Accumulating data suggests increasing use of species that yielded suitable material, but more challenging geometries that diminished productivity.

To Preserve and Protect: A Geophysical Evaluation of Jamestown's 1901 Seawall

David Givens, Michael Lavin, Sean Romo, Mary Anna Hartley
Jamestown Rediscovery

After more than a century of excavations, the Jamestown Rediscovery team continues to pursue the important and ground-breaking work of rediscovering our nation's shared history through archaeology. An enduring legacy of reconciling the material past with the historical records, the team now struggles in the context of climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal inundation. In 1901, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a concrete revetment on the western end of Jamestown Island to mitigate wind-born erosion. Completed in 1906, the now-iconic "Seawall" has protected the site for over a century. In 2020, the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeology team began a comprehensive geophysical evaluation of the historic structure as groundwork for planning efforts to repair and supplement the wall. This paper will present a history of the Seawall from conception to implementation, supplementation and repair over time, and the survey results, including the results of current excavations associated with the project.

Huckleberry Hall: An 18th-century structure at risk

Alden Grosh

Historic St. Mary's City

Located in Washington County, Maryland, Huckleberry Hall is an endangered property facing destruction from climate change and other environmental threats. The property includes a 1784 stone house, 18th century stone blacksmith shop, a frame bank barn, a mid-19th century brick secondary dwelling, and other agricultural outbuildings. Huckleberry Hall is an important historical resource as it is a rare surviving example of the Germanic influence on domestic architecture in the region, and there are still intact aspects to interior finishes that exhibit Georgian influences. Buildings like Huckleberry Hall provide valuable information about the early culture of Germanic and British traditions. The property is vulnerable to flooding and other environmental factors that contribute to its endangered condition. This presentation includes recommendations on potential preventative measures that could be taken to help protect the house.

The Devil's in the Details: Untangling Jamestown's Churches

Mary Anna Hartley, David Givens, Robert Chartrand, Anna Shackelford

Jamestown Rediscovery

Recent excavations inside the 1906 Memorial Church and historic Tower at Jamestown investigated the ruins of two historic churches: a timber-frame structure built in 1617, and a brick building from 1639. These structures were first excavated in the late 19th century by pioneering women archaeologists with Preservation Virginia. This project reexamined and expanded on previous findings using modern archaeological methods and cutting-edge technologies to provide a more complete interpretation of the site. The work was conducted ahead of the 400th anniversary of the first representative government in English North America, which met in the 1617 Church chancel. The excavations not only identified the exact location of that meeting, but they addressed specific questions that Victorian excavations did not answer regarding how the

1617 and 1639 Churches were constructed. The archaeological evidence points to a far more complex transition from one structure to another than previously interpreted.

Practicing Medicine at Sea: The Surgeon's Assemblage from Their Majesties' Ship *Saphire*

E. Laanela

The English naval frigate *Saphire* was lost in Newfoundland in 1696 and the wreck was partially excavated in the 1970s. The drug jars, ointment pots, bottles, clysters, and cupping glasses from the wreck form a vibrant assemblage of corresponding things gathered by the ship's surgeon, George Bussell, for the voyage to Newfoundland. These things were at once the toolkit of Bussell's medical practice, essential components of maintaining shipboard life, and commodities entangled in bureaucratic processes. This paper weaves threads of archaeological, documentary and historical evidence to explore the embodied experience of naval medicine as a critical maintenance activity that supported the stability of life on board. It examines the entangled experiences of the surgeons who treated the sick and injured at sea, and the mariners who literally put their lives in their hands, at a time when medicine was shifting from a specialized craft to a standardized profession.

A "Study" in the Reorganization of the Jamestown Collection

Michael Lavin, Leah Stricker

Jamestown Rediscovery

In 2015 Jamestown Rediscovery applied for and received a NEH Saving Cultural Heritage Collections grant for new HVAC equipment to maintain proper artifact storage conditions. As part of this grant, a full reassessment of the status of the collection was necessary. This revealed that with roughly three million artifacts, the initial organization of the collection was unwieldy and repetitive, leading to complete reorganization. This reassessment provided a critical look at how the collection supports traditional artifactual research, focusing on space, time, and form. Previously, artifacts were stored by context within a larger group of related deposits. The "study collection" cabinets housed duplicate anchor artifacts, obscuring to the evolution of Jamestown from a defensive encampment into a colonial capital. The old "study collection" is being reworked into a "reference collection," for understanding the breadth of Jamestown artifacts, change over time, and the guide to cataloging. Additionally, the collection supports visiting researchers.

The application of High Frequency Ground-Penetrating Radar to *In Situ* Human Burial Characterization

Peter Leach¹, Dan Welch¹, David Givens²

¹*Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc. [GSSI]*

²*Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation*

Ongoing collaboration between GSSI and the Jamestown Rediscovery team has fueled advancements in applying high-frequency (2.3GHz to 2.7GHz) GPR to in-situ resource characterization. Our novel approach generates high-resolution and non-invasive data in conjunction with archaeological efforts and provides enhanced mission planning for sensitive targets. This paper presents a case study involving a potentially high-status, in situ Euro-American burial located prominently beneath the 1617 Jamestown Church's chancel. Our goals were threefold: 1) develop methods for optimal collection of high-frequency GPR data inside excavation units; 2) assess GPR's efficacy for determining the presence/absence, depth, and orientation of the remains; and 3) confirm or refute the apodictic inability of GPR to image skeletal remains. Our successful field experiment refined and solidified our methodology, established the presence of the remains and revealed their orientation, and was the first documented 3D time-slice imaging of skeletal remains with GPR.

“We have seated ourselves... within a pallizado”: Unearthing St. Mary's Fort

Travis Parno

Historic St. Mary's City

In the spring of 1634, approximately 150 English colonists stepped foot on the shores of the St. Mary's River, inserting themselves into a complex world of indigenous politics and intercolonial jockeying. Having arrived, they began constructing a fort. Described in a single letter penned by colonial governor Leonard Calvert, St. Mary's Fort challenged historians and eluded archaeological discovery for generations. Recent archaeological excavations at Historic St. Mary's City have finally located this important site. St. Mary's Fort represents the earliest archaeological traces of colonial Maryland and its study will reveal new evidence of Native-colonial interactions during a period fraught with tense negotiation and conflict. This presentation will describe what is known about St. Mary's Fort from colonial records, how it was discovered using a combination of geophysical survey and traditional excavation, and what the future holds for collaborative research and interpretation at the site between Historic St. Mary's City and members of the indigenous community.

Mapping Landesque Capital: GIS and Agrarian Landscapes of Downeast Maine

Megan Postemski

St Mary's College of Maryland

As people colonize and cultivate landscapes, they create enduring landscape features, better known as landesque capital. In the Northeast US, examples of landesque capital that enhance agricultural production include stone walls, fields, roads, and anthropogenic soils. Integrating historical tax data with maps in GIS, this paper examines how Euroamericans transformed the Downeast Maine environment, creating farmsteads and landesque capital at the dawn of the 19th century. Mapping modern environmental data supports historical accounts describing the landscape as marginal for agriculture, but also reveals that coastal areas showed more agricultural promise than northern, interior lands of the study area. Despite environmental

differences, geospatial analysis of the tax data suggests households adopted largely similar farming strategies. The data likewise highlight how relatively large, productive farms were not necessarily confined to “prime” lands, which underscores how factors besides the environment (e.g., access to wealth, labor, tools) shaped agricultural outcomes in the frontier region.

Uncovering and Restoring the Carriage Circle and Oval Beds at Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest

Eric Proebsting

Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest

Over the past decade, a significant area of archaeological research at Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest has included efforts to reveal and restore the ornamental grounds of Jefferson’s retreat home and plantation. This paper highlights several key discoveries related to these investigations, with special attention to recent projects associated with the carriage circle and oval beds of flowers designed by Jefferson to frame the front of his octagonal retreat house. Much of the work to create these and other landscape features was undertaken and completed by enslaved African Americans who lived and labored at Poplar Forest in the early 19th century. Ongoing interpretive efforts are seeking to give voice to the lives of these individuals in creative and collaborative ways that provide new opportunities to experience the historic landscape.

Red Bricks and Burned Earth: The 1639 Church and Bacon’s Rebellion

Anna Shackelford, David Givens, Mary Anna Hartley, Sean Romo

Jamestown Rediscovery

The excavations inside the Memorial Church at Jamestown uncovered portions of both the 1617 and 1639 Churches. That work has recently been augmented by excavations outside the two structures, in order to clear up lingering questions about the arrangement and history of the churches. These new excavations have discovered additional portions of the 1639 Brick Church, and provided information on how the building and surrounding landscape changed through time. Carbon and fire-reddened earth west of the 17th-century Church Tower appear to date from Bacon’s Rebellion (1676), and provide key clues for what the 1639 Church looked like, and when and how the Church Tower was built, solving a longstanding mystery at Jamestown.

Excavations at the Angela Site: First Africans, Enslavement, and Finds from 1619 to the Present

Sean Romo, David Givens, Janene Johnston

Jamestown Rediscovery

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation partnered with the National Park Service on a three-year project at the Angela Site. This site was the location where Angela, an enslaved African

brought to Virginia in 1619, lived and worked. The goal of the project was to uncover the landscape Angela interacted with in urban Jamestown. In the course of excavation evidence of multiple occupations spanning 400 years was discovered. These occupations related to urban Jamestown (1600s), the Ambler Plantation (1700s and 1800s), and early archaeological excavations (1930s-1940s). During all time periods, the Angela Site had profound connections to African-American history, through evidence of enslavement, the Civil War, and the actions of early excavators, most of whom were African-American members of the Civilian Conservation Corps. This paper will present the results of the recent excavations and these connections to American and African-American history.

The Five Ceramic F-Words: Form, From, Function, Fragility and Faïence. Ceramic Analysis and Community Archaeology in Placentia, Newfoundland.

Colleen Tamblyn

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Archaeologists can use ceramic as a proxy to determine trade, provisioning, and wealth in the colonies of North America. The analysis of historic documents and archaeological contexts opens a direct window back in time to how ceramic was used in the day-to-day life of European colonists. However, when ceramic analysis was coupled with community outreach in Placentia, Newfoundland, it was quickly discovered that while people were interested in the topic, the technical vocabulary did not always result in a symbiotic interaction. So often, community outreach facilitates the terms of the archaeologist - rather than the public they are supposed to serve. 'The Five Ceramic F-Words' seek to simplify and allow for transparency in how this analysis is completed by breaking the study down to a checklist of components: form, from, function, fragility, and faïence. The result was an uptick in visitors and a greater engagement by the community.

Shared Bodies: Social Patterns in Rural East Jersey and the Formation of an African American Community.

Will Williams

Montclair State University

Using early 19th-century membership records from the Church of Paramus, this study proposes that systems of indirect enslavement used by Dutch descended families in Bergen County, New Jersey, fulfilled their domestic, farm, and possibly construction labor requirements. The investigation includes families from multiple townships who attended the same church; data shows several enslaved African Americans were also attendees of the white-run church. Analysis of the slave's connection to multiple enslavers and an investigation of the white enslavers' social and business networks reveals a complex system of shared, rented, or group ownership of enslaved African Americans. This hypothesis and data are framed against more conventional historical documentary sources such as tax records, wills, and case and statute texts.

Mapping the Overlapping: Analyzing Graveshaft Orientation in Harrington Cemetery, Delaware

Olivia A. Williamson, Amy E. Broussard
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Excavation around a mid-nineteenth century family cemetery revealed a much more complex series of graveshafts than assumed from the surface. In this presentation we analyze the orientation and distribution of approximately ninety unmarked graveshafts found in a cultivated field surrounding the extant cemetery.