



# Virginia Archaeologist

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## COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

### President's Comments

With this inaugural newsletter report, I would like to accomplish two things: first, to say thank you to the previous COVA administration for their successes and second, to offer a few thoughts on the future of our organization as COVA reaches middle age (45 years old in 2020!).

To the Executive Board officers who have recently transitioned off (but continue on as active COVA members), thank you for your time and energy! Thanks to Liz Crowell for her extensive service to COVA as the President and recent Past President and to Jolene Smith who served as Secretary and has now assumed the important role of Web Editor. Dave Brown leaves on a high note with a fabulous 56-page final newsletter as he passes the reigns of Editor to Eric Proebsting to become our Vice President. I'd also like to extend our appreciation to Jack Gary, former President and now Past President. Under Jack's leadership, the organization experienced an increase in COVA membership and engagement and a renewed sense of purpose. Jack's dedication led to the publication of the COVA volume, *The Historical Archaeology of Virginia from Initial Settlement to the Present: Overview and New Directions*, while the prehistoric volume is currently approaching the final stages of preparation under the guidance of Bernard Means and Elizabeth Moore. Not content to let the historical volume rest on library shelves, the Executive Board compiled addresses of stakeholders and legislators to whom books were sent with a personalized note as a way to put Virginia's archaeology on forefront of decision makers' minds. During Jack's tenure, we saw the recognition and awareness of COVA grow as we were included as stakeholders in crafting DHR's new comprehensive plan, discussions about crafting a plan to guide the evolution of historic preservation through the Preservation Forum, and as a consulting party to the Dominion VA Power Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Transmission Line Project MOA. Thanks to all who have served COVA and if you are interested in joining the Executive Board in the future, please let me know!

In April, COVA hosted the SAA's Annual Council of Councils meeting. We organized an overview of COVA – past, present, and future – and asked other Councils to comment on their organization's goals, benefits of membership, and how each operates and accomplishes goals. We came away with a series of sparks for new ideas, but the point that each Council reiterated was that the energy and activation of an organization comes from strong and vibrant Committee work. To that end, the current Executive Board is interested in eliciting ways to active Committee leadership, membership, and productivity, starting with the implementation of break-out sessions during the spring meetings.

In case you need a little inspiration to join or revolutionize a Committee, here are some highlights of Committee accomplishments over the past few decades.

The Collections Management Committee publishes the COVA Collections Survey in **2012**.

To mark the Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in **2007**, Public Education Committee organized a session called "Virginia Archaeology and its Archaeologists" for the SHA and MAAC conferences.

In **2003**, the Public Education Committee developed the African American ARK kits for distribution from DHR.

In **1999**, the membership voted that the Public Education Committee research and establish a COVA web page. And the Public Outreach Committee established our Facebook page in **2012**.

In **1992**, The Hoffman Award Committee gave their first award, after receiving seven nominations, to Sandra Speiden.

And one additional note, these accomplishments and many more are archived in past newsletters so please consider the *Virginia Archaeologist* your repository for the important work we do. I look forward to seeing you at the fall ASV COVA meeting in Winchester on October 12<sup>th</sup>!

Eleanor Breen, President

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**The COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGISTS is organized to protect, preserve and disseminate information on Virginia's archaeological resources.**

# FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST



*Michael B. Barber, Ph.D., RPA (Submitted May, 2018)*

*State Archaeologist, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR)*

## **New Secretary of Natural Resources:**

Matt Strickler was appointed Secretary of Natural Resources. Matt has a scientific background with work at VIMS in oyster research as well as background in government management. He described himself as a reformed scientist. He has visited DHR on Kensington and spent some time at the Eyreville excavations on the Eastern Shore. He visits the Eastern Shore with some regularity and mentioned Governor Northam's home at Onanacock. He has expressed interest in solving the DSA Collection space situation as well as an interest in Underwater Archaeology.

## **NPS Betsy Grant (ala Kate Ridgway):**

The Betsy project will allow DHR to hire a conservator to focus on the re-treatment of the organic artifacts from the ship *Betsy* with the goal being to stabilize these objects and make them available for exhibition and research. Currently the organic materials, especially the wood, are covered in polyethylene glycol from a previous treatment which has bloomed on the surface causing the wood to be sticky, disfigured, and grow mold. *Betsy* is an important survival from the American Revolution and is frequently requested for exhibitions. About half of the ship and its contents survive and are in the collections at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. This project would greatly improve our ability to use this collection to teach about life aboard a vessel in the mid to late 1700s and about the final battle of the Revolution.



A barrel head with the initials "IY" after John Younghusband, the captain of the *Besty*.



A barrel head leaching PEG (polyethylene glycol) from the wood, causing wax to pool on its surface

## **Collections:**

Virginia's archaeological collections continue to support academic research by graduate students and professors. They also contribute regularly as loans to numerous short- and long-term exhibits at museums and other organizations, where artifacts interpret Virginia's past. Several other creative, more unusual uses have occurred in recent months.

One afternoon in February, staff of Henricus Historical Park paid DHR a visit. Lead Educators Stephanie Burr and Kenneth Horowitz brought several of their Virginia Indian Interpreters to view and examine Late Woodland artifacts in the Study Collection. Learning about production techniques for pottery, projectile points, bone implements, and shell beads allows them to represent more accurately the activities of the indigenous people in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, one of the Park's missions.

The spring meeting of the Small Finds Work Group convened at DHR to focus on The Material Culture of Furnishings. Five presenters discussed tacks, hinges, locks, drawer pulls, and other hardware that reveal details of the furniture used in historic houses. The fortunate preservation of a corner cupboard from the captain's cabin of *The Betsy*, which sank in 1781, meant we could also examine archaeologically rare wooden components of that piece. DHR's collections also provided abundant material, readily accessible, to compare with pieces brought from other collections by the speakers.



Rappahannock Survey Workshop



Rappahannock Survey Workshop

Later this spring, preceding field season, a training was provided for the Rappahannock Indigenous Cultural Landscape Survey, an NEH-funded research project led by Julia King and Scott Strickland. Two Virginia archaeologists, Chris Egghart and Keith Egloff, shared their expertise in local lithics and ceramics respectively with about a dozen people participating in this multi-year project. Familiarization with the artifacts common in the region where properties and private collections are to be surveyed was the goal of this daylong workshop illustrated with DHR collections.

Give your goals some thought and get in touch with ideas on how DHR collections could be of use.

**C14 Dates:**

DSA recently received C14 dates for Magnolia Site and Great Neck. Magnolia dates did not fit expectations and were Late Woodland in nature. Two dates were run for Great Neck with both falling between AD 200 – 450 which fits well with other dates in Middle Woodland I.

**Threatened Sites:**

Reports have been submitted for Greenhill Conservation (Botetourt County), Brooks cemetery assessment (Gloucester), VMRC exclusion areas (Virginia), Refined Eastern Shore evaluation (Accomack, Northampton), DHR publication graphics (LU), Eastern Shore site assessment protocols (LU), and Underwater Plan (Broadwater). Several proposals have been submitted for FY2018 – 2019 and a committee meeting is being set-up for June.

**Personnel:**

Mike Makin, W&M grad student, was hired for the summer and perhaps beyond. He will catalogue Werowocomoco (Ripley) collection, aid with artifact identifications for the public, and work with DHR archaeologists on public projects.



*Eyreville Site (44NH0507), Northampton County, Virginia; Yellow Dutch Brick Hearth.*



*Eyreville Site (44NH0507), Northampton County, Virginia: North Foundation Wall of 1682 Structure with Interior Extension into Basement.*

**Eyreville Spring Field School:**

Excavations took place at Eyreville once again between April 24 – May 5, 2018. The focus was on the 17<sup>th</sup>-century earthfast structure and a last quarter 17<sup>th</sup>-century brick foundation. In the earlier structure, posts were mapped and the overburden partially removed. The probable 1682 brick foundation was completely uncovered and was found to have later 8' addition. The original 18' by 24' building has a brick rubble filled full basement with a slate floor. The lowest level of the fill was free of brick fragments and contained 2 sherds of a Bartmann jug.

An Open House Archaeology Day was held on April 28 and two public presentations made the following week, one in Northampton County and one in Accomack County. They focused on an Introduction to Eyreville (Clem) and

Initial Eastern Shore Settlement (15,000 BC – AD 1700). (Barber). Volunteers numbered ca. 30 individuals per day with help from Virginia Museum of Natural History, Jamestown Rediscovery, Fairfax County, and a PIT project through USDA-Forest Service.



*Eyreville Site (44NH0507),  
Northampton County, Virginia:  
Examples of Domestic Pipes  
Recovered from Area of 1636  
Structure.*



*Magnolia Site (44SK0156), Suffolk, Virginia:  
Excavated Pit Feature*

## Archeological Society of Virginia Report, February 2018

### Carole Nash, ASV President

The Archeological Society of Virginia reports a **membership of ~600**, in addition to **100 institutional members**. We encourage **all COVA members** to join the ASV, which publishes the Quarterly Bulletin, a quarterly newsletter, holds a well-attended annual meeting, and provides many opportunities for public engagement. You may join/renew on our web page ([www.virginiaarcheology.org](http://www.virginiaarcheology.org)). Currently, there are **17 ASV chapters** around the state, and many have monthly meetings. Our headquarters, Kittiewan, welcomes visitors and researchers alike.

We would like to remind COVA members of the upcoming Annual Meeting, which will be held on **October 12-14, Hampton Inn/Winchester North, 1204 Berryville Ave, Winchester**. The call for papers, with a hard deadline of August 31, is being circulated. Please see Dave Brown, program co-chair, if you have ideas for sessions. The call for papers for the student competition (hard deadline of September 8) is also being circulated. This year, in addition to the regular awards of best undergraduate and graduate papers in prehistoric archaeology, historic archaeology, and collections-based research, the awards will include "Best Student Poster." Student presenters will again be fully sponsored (registration/banquet/ASV membership) through the Student Scholarship Fund. You can donate to this via the ASV web page (<https://www.virginiaarcheology.org/>). Stephanie Jacobs, program co-chair, oversees the student competition, so please contact her with questions. The COVA Education Session will be held on Friday, October 12. We are working on several options for field trips this year, and a 'choose your own adventure' afternoon on October 13 is in the planning stages.

In the same vein of ASV support for student research, we are pleased to announce that Josue Nieves of the College of William and Mary has been awarded a Speiden Scholarship to support his doctoral research at the Camden Site. **We will have a second call for the Speiden Scholarships this fall**, as we have gained funds in the account with the return of the market. If you know of any graduate students who are doing research on topics in Virginia Archaeology, please let them know about this scholarship. This year, we are able to award two \$2500 scholarships. The **Archeological Technician Certification Program** is healthy, and students look forward to upcoming opportunities with COVA members (for details, see the Certification Committee report).

Thane Harpole, ASV *Quarterly Bulletin* editor, needs articles and is glad to talk with you about publication. The QB is indexed by EBSCO. We have a new special publication available: *The Henrico Parish Glebe, Varina, Virginia: 44HE229, A Multidisciplinary Case Study* by Clarence Geier and Martha McCartney, which can be purchased through Amazon.com for \$18.00. We are glad to talk with COVA members about ideas they have for monographs or other special publications. Elizabeth Moore chairs the Outreach Committee which oversees publications.

# COMMITTEE LIST

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
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Ellen Chapman, Steve Thompson, Carole Nash

**BUDGET** - Derek Wheeler, Chair, [dwheeler@monticello.org](mailto:dwheeler@monticello.org)

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David Brown, Bernard Means, Crystal Ptacek, Matt Reeves, Jolene Smith, David Givens, Karen McIlvoy

# Committee Reports

## Certification Committee Report, May 2018

### Submitted by Carole Nash

As of May 12, 2018, the Certification Program has 70 students enrolled, including five new students who have joined since the first of the year. This number reflects the removal of 67 students from the rolls for non-payment of ASV dues for multiple years (no renewal since 2012, for example). One of the requirements of the Certification Program is the maintenance of ASV membership, which also affirms that the student will abide by the ASV Code of Ethics. All were notified several times of this requirement and were given multiple opportunities to renew. While the loss of 67 students from the rolls is not a happy announcement, we feel that the new number reflects the students who are active in the program and making progress toward its completion.

We would like to thank the following for offering field and lab-based Certification activities in the first quarter of 2018:

- \*Fairfield Foundation (led by David Brown and Thane Harpole), variety of field and lab activities.
- \*Mike Johnson: on-going field work at Chapman's Mill and laboratory work.
- \*Eleanor Breen, City of Alexandria: certification courses in historic ceramics.
- \*Elizabeth Moore, Virginia Museum of Natural History: on-going lab activities.
- \*Carole Nash, field and laboratory work at James Madison University, Old Rag Mitigation.
- \*Dee DeRoche, Virginia Department of Historic Resources: on-going lab activities.
- \*Mike Barber, Mike Madden, and Mike Clem, VDHR and USFS: Field school at Eyreville.

In May there was an ASV Field School underway at Kittiewan and Monticello hosted several Certification graduates and current students. The annual VDHR lab school is planned for early August.

We ask that any COVA members who can offer field and lab opportunities during the next few months contact me ([nashcl@jmu.edu](mailto:nashcl@jmu.edu)) so we can set these up. We appreciate your support.

## COVA Ethics Committee

Chair: Randy Lichtenberger

Members, Bea Arendt, Clarence Geier, E. Randolph Turner, III

Mission from the COVA Bylaws: Section 3. The **ethics committee** shall review the COVA Ethics Statement and recommend appropriate revisions. The committee may advise the executive board upon request in the case of alleged ethics violations by members.

Article IV of the COVA Bylaws states "Archaeology is a profession, and the privilege of professional practice requires professional morality and responsibility, as well as professional competence, on the part of each practitioner." It is the Ethics Committee's goal that all COVA members are familiar with our statement of ethics and that they abide by them to the fullest. In the event that a complaint is submitted to the Executive Board against one of our members for a breach of ethics, the committee shall follow COVA's published Grievance Procedures (<http://cova-inc.org/about/grievanceProcedures.html>) to investigate the accusation and make a recommendation to the COVA Executive Board to resolve the matter. We are very pleased that since the last revision of the Grievance Procedures in 2007, the committee has examined only a single complaint. That complaint was brought by non-members and determined to be without merit. Our mission has resulted in the committee being less active than others in the organization, but we stand ready to respond if called upon, knowing that our ethics guidelines protect the professional reputations of all of our members. We are always open to adding new members and invite you to join us if you have an interest in serving.

## Collections Committee

The Collection Committee met during the breakout session to review membership, mission statement and our goals. Current active members are Beatrix Arendt (Chair), Dee DeRoche, Elizabeth Moore, Bernard Means, Kerry Schamel Gonzalez, Lori Lee, David Brown, Elizabeth Johnson, Jennifer Ogborne, Eleanor Breen, and Esther White. New members are Jack Hranicky and Leah Strickler.

We reviewed the mission statement and goals as state on the website. Two changes were proposed including enhancing the mission statement to read “COVA collections management committee was established to encourage and promote ongoing archaeological collection management practices across Virginia”.

The goals were also condensed from four to three and will read:

- Sponsor collection management workshops
- Establish a comprehensive database inventory of archaeological collections across the state that would be available to all archaeologists
- Encourage sound collection management practices by evaluating collection management facilities across the state including reviewing the DHR’s Collection Management Standards

We discussed ways to encourage and promote the use of the Culture Embossed/Impressed/In Stone websites. DHR will include data entry as part of the August Lab Day. They will also video Jolene as she shows how to enter and extract data from the site. This video then can be used in other promotional materials and featured on the COVA website and Facebook page. We also plan to set up a table at the October ASV meetings featuring the websites and showing how easy it is to enter data. It was proposed we also have business cards made featuring the web addresses to be handed out.

We plan to continue to add to the “Survey of Archaeological Repositories in Virginia” by updating contact information, whether repositories are accepting collections, and adding all data to an interactive map available on the COVA website.

Our goal is to move forward with promoting the Collection Committee’s agenda through multiple outlets and working directly with the Public Outreach committee to aid those efforts.

## Legislative Affairs Committee Report

The Legislative Affairs Committee has four members:

- Christopher Parr (Chair)
- Ellen Chapman
- Steve Thompson
- Carole Nash

We monitor legislative activity at the federal, state, and local levels for any initiatives that may impact archaeology, historic preservation, or cultural resources in Virginia. When a member identifies a potential issue, the committee will investigate it further to assess how the proposed law or change to a regulation could potentially impact the COVA Membership. If the issue is valid, then we will report it to the COVA Membership, who may then instruct the Executive Board to take action.

Predictably, this committee is more active when the state legislature is in session, but we remain vigilant year-round. Our members have tried in recent years to pay more attention to local government activities – for instance, we continue to monitor how the City of Richmond will interpret its slaveholding past as it plans for development within Shockoe Bottom. In light of the federal government’s recent recognition of six Virginia-based tribes, we have also advised the Executive Board to consider tasking an existing committee – or even establishing a new one – to advise COVA on ways to engage with these tribal governments as well as instruct the membership on Virginian Indian relations.

We are always seeking new members, so please do not hesitate to reach out ([christopherjparr@gmail.com](mailto:christopherjparr@gmail.com)). Moreover, if you hear of any activity – particularly at the local level – please pass that information along.

## Public Outreach Committee

The Public Outreach Committee had an enjoyable breakout session, which has provided us with useful direction as we prepare our next steps as a committee. At the beginning of 2018, our members included David Brown, Bernard Means, Crystal Ptacek, Matt Reeves, and Jolene Smith as well as Eric Proebsting and Lauren McMillan, co-chairs. We are also glad to welcome aboard two new members, David Givens and Karen McIlvoy, who joined during the Spring COVA meeting! In addition, we went through our committee's mission and accomplishments since its inception in 2012. We also discussed our current projects and future goals, including the big picture question of where we'd like to see COVA by 2020 and how we can be part of reaching that vision.

The general takeaways were that we are proud of the success our social media presence has had in helping us get the word out about Virginia Archaeology. The photo competition was a success last summer, and we hope to build on that success this summer with a follow-up competition. We are interested in adding to our online presence, and one of our members has begun exploring the potential for a new COVA Instagram account to reach additional online audiences. There is also the desire to work toward launching a new COVA blog in the future to better share stories included in the COVA newsletter. This will be accomplished over the next year by various members of the public outreach committee who have expressed interest in working together to develop and coordinate the new blog.

Perhaps the most important topic discussed in the need for creating a mission statement for our committee. Between now and our next meeting in the fall, we will be working toward this task via e-mail and it will be great to get everyone's input during this process. After we have a clearly defined mission, we can revisit the idea of whether or committee name should to change to better express our role, or if our name can simply remain the same with a renewed purpose and vision.

### **The Second Annual COVA Photo Competition**

#### ***Summer 2018***

The Public Outreach Committee is happy to announce COVA's second annual Archaeological Photo Contest! The format and rules are the same as last year, and you can visit [http://cova-inc.org/News/CoVA\\_Photo\\_Contest\\_Guidelines\\_2018.pdf](http://cova-inc.org/News/CoVA_Photo_Contest_Guidelines_2018.pdf) for full details. As a reminder, you must be a member in good standing to submit photos, but voting is open to everyone. There are seven different categories and you are welcome to enter one photo for each. The deadline for submissions is August 26th and online voting will start in September. Winning images will be displayed on CoVA's website and our social media sites. Remember, the grand prize winner is eligible to be entered into the Society for Historical Archaeology's annual photo contest as the official CoVA entry. Last year's CoVA winner won the People's Choice award during the SHA conference in New Orleans, receiving international attention! As a reminder, please send your entries to [Lauren.K.McMillan@gmail.com](mailto:Lauren.K.McMillan@gmail.com). We are very excited about this year's contest, and cannot wait to see what you submit!

# CURRENT RESEARCH

## Alexandria Veteran's Curation Program (VCP)

**Kevin Bradley, Shaun Williams, and Marcus Gilmore**

The Veteran's Curation Program (VCP) was created to process at-risk archaeological collections belonging to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Many of these collections require rehabilitation in order to meet federal standards, and the VCP employs veterans as laboratory technicians to perform this work. This includes cleaning, re-housing, photographing, and cataloging, providing veterans a valuable bridging experience from active duty into the public sector. New South Associates (NSA), a women-owned small business Georgia Corporation, has managed the VCP for the past three years.

There are three flagship laboratories restoring USACE collections: Augusta, Georgia; St. Louis, Missouri; and Alexandria, Virginia. Veterans are hired at each of these labs for five-month sessions where, in addition to rehabilitating the archaeological collections, they acquire vocational training and technological skills to improve access to the mainstream job market. Currently, the Alexandria VCP employs 17 veterans as laboratory technicians. Technicians are supervised by 5 full-time laboratory managers, consisting of registered professional archaeologists (RPAs) and former technicians with formal preservation experience and education. Managers facilitate the technicians' preservation training, professional growth and development, and oversee the curation process.

The Alexandria VCP lab is currently responsible for 63 USACE collections. 23 of those collections consist of only archival material, 11 are solely archaeological material, and 29 collections contain both components. The majority of the collections originated from within the Huntington, West Virginia and the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USACE districts and represents both the prehistoric and historic periods.

This unique program addresses one of the most pressing issues in the archaeological field today. While simultaneously providing a much needed service to the country's veteran population, it also aims to help mitigate the curation crisis that threatens excavated material culture across the nation. USACE collections arrive at the Alexandria facility in differing stages of preservation. Most collections were excavated from sites decades ago. Not only have curatorial and repository standards evolved over time, but packaging material and the archival record associated with the excavations often experience levels of decay and degradation. Through the VCP, USACE has made a concerted effort to identify the collections in their care that require immediate intervention, rehabilitate their packaging and the associated documentary record, and consolidate the collections into repositories that currently meet federal standards.

As veterans are integral to the preservation process, two technicians have shared their daily experience at the VCP below:

*What does a normal day at the VCP consist of? Well, technicians wouldn't call anything normal here at the VCP! The lab opens at 7 a.m. The first task is the sacred making of the first pot of coffee! After opening up the lab, technicians may be assigned to work with artifacts, archives, or photography.*

*Processing artifacts consists of sorting, data entry, and permanently tagging artifact bags. The sorting process is a crucial first step in processing the collection. Technicians sort the artifacts into the correct material classes and artifact descriptions. If this part is done incorrectly, it will compromise the accuracy of the data entry and retagging of the collection. When the sorting is complete the collection is peer reviewed by another lab technician and then by a manager before data entry can occur. Each artifact or group of artifacts from the collection is entered into a Microsoft Excel spread sheet. This is the longest part of the process because only one technician at a time may perform this task. Once this step is complete we get the collection ready for permanent retagging. This is the final step before a manager performs an overall review of the collection prior to it being returned to USACE.*

*The smallest area of the lab is also the most technical and intriguing section. Technicians are trained by David Knoerlin of Forensic Digital Imaging (FDI) on how produce museum-quality artifact photos. He works one-on-one with each lab technician until they are proficient with the software and camera systems used in the lab. Technicians photograph a representative sample of artifacts from each collection that will be delivered to USACE and digitally curated.*

Shaun Williams, Summer 2018

*A day in processing archives begins with getting the assigned box of materials. These various records are important to put together and help tell the story of the artifacts that were excavated. Technicians begin the process by taking inventory of the boxes' contents, ensuring that the exact order of the records is recorded. After this inventory, archival quality folders are labeled with predefined categories of information and the appropriate records are sorted into these folders. Rehabilitation of the records is then performed, this includes: cleaning records, smoothing folded items, mending documents with archival tape, and removing non-archival tape and metal contaminates. The next step for the technician will be to input the information gathered about each record into a Microsoft Access database.*

*Once, the information has been entered into the database, the technicians begin to scan each item, adding the digital copy to its corresponding database entry. Special care is taken to use the correct equipment for each record and to take care not to damage the records. The technicians have a variety of scanning equipment to handle not just documents, but various forms of photographic records and oversized items (such as maps). Once all the scanning is complete, a final report is generated to describe the process that was followed in preserving these records. At all steps of this process a manager is available to help and answer the questions technicians may have. Not only is this valuable to researchers, it helps the technicians learn a bit of the story behind the artifacts they are processing.*

Marcus Gilmore, Summer 2018

Technicians are currently working with collections in various stages of the rehabilitation process.

The Summer 2018 cohort has been busy processing the artifacts from a 35-box collection excavated from a prehistoric site in western Pennsylvania in the 1980s. The assemblage is predominately made up of decorated and undecorated ceramic sherds and lithic debitage and tools – all of which the technicians are trained to accurately identify. Based on analysis conducted by the original investigators, the material culture was reasonably associated with a seasonally inhabited Monongahela village site.

This session is also in the midst of photographing artifacts from two sites within the Huntington, West Virginia, district. Both are large, predominately prehistoric sites. With artifact counts of roughly 315,000 and 50,000, technicians will photograph hundreds of representative artifacts, including projectile points, lithic tools, and decorated ceramic sherds.

By the time the current technicians graduate in September of this year, they will have prevented the loss of irreplaceable data and material culture, preserving the integrity of several USACE collections. At the same time technicians will have gained the skills and experience needed to better position themselves for success in civilian life. Whether they choose to continue in the archaeological field or not, the Alexandria VCP will graduate 18 professionals who have an appreciation for the significance of preserving our cultural heritage.



Photos Courtesy of the Veteran's Curation Program

## Archaeology at the Robert Carter House, Williamsburg, Virginia

**Mark Kostro**  
Senior Staff Archaeologist

**July 1, 2018**

The Robert Carter House, situated on a two-acre lot on Williamsburg's Palace Green next door to the Governor's Palace, is one of the largest and most prominently sited domestic properties in Williamsburg. Recent dendrochronology has revealed that the house was built in 1727 by Robert "King" Carter, one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in Virginia – a generation earlier than previously believed. The house, however, is actually named after "King" Carter's grandson, Robert Carter III, who purchased the house in 1761. Robert Carter III and his wife lived in the house with their expanding family until 1772 when they moved to Nomini Hall on Virginia's Northern Neck. The Carter's Williamsburg townhouse was subsequently rented to several tenants through the end of the eighteenth century until it was sold to Robert Saunders in 1801.

In addition to being among the largest homes in Williamsburg, the house is also notable for its unconventional floor plan. At a time when the best rooms in most gentry houses in town were oriented toward the front of the house, the best rooms at the Robert Carter House are at the back. The house also has more windows facing to the rear than it has facing front. The likely reason has to do with the unique way in which the two-acre property was organized. Landscape clues, including a series of terraces or 'falls' behind the house suggest the



existence of a formal pleasure garden directly behind the house rather than the typical cluster of service buildings and servants' quarters that characterized most Williamsburg back lots. The Carter House terraces are comparable to those observed at nearby plantations such as Carter's Grove and Kingsmill. Revolutionary War period maps also show the area behind the house as undeveloped space, and cross-trenching of the property in 1931 further confirmed the absence of masonry foundations for outbuildings, but left open the possibility that earthfast outbuildings may have predated the garden.

In summer 2017, the garden was the focus of the annual College of William & Mary / Colonial Williamsburg archaeological field school with the goal of locating archaeological evidence of the garden's form and structure. Working within the middle terrace, the student excavators led by College of William & Mary Teaching Assistants Alexis Ohman and Josue Nieves identified evidence that a 6-foot wide marl and crushed oyster shell path had previously extended out from the back of the house and divided the garden into north and south halves. The 2016 team also identified a series of narrow trenches cut into the clay subsoil that paralleled the marl path – two to its north, and one to its south. Hypothesized to be planting beds, soil samples from each the trenches were taken and currently await micro and macobotanical analysis and may help to determine what varieties of plants were cultivated in the garden. As before, no evidence of any masonry foundations was encountered, nor were any postholes for earthfast buildings. Not surprisingly, given the lack of evidence for outbuildings, precious few eighteenth-century artifacts were recovered within any of the seven 2 x 2-meter test units excavated in 2017.

In summer 2018, with multiple lines of evidence (architectural, landscape, archaeological) pointing to the back portion of the house as an ornamental garden, we turned our attention to the northern boundary of the property where a large brick outbuilding still stands, and the archaeological remnants of others were recorded in the 1950s.

Constructed in the eighteenth century, the surviving building's function has never been convincingly determined. For a fresh perspective, we targeted a trash dump in an adjacent ravine that separated the Carter property from the Governor's Palace for excavation. The investigation of the ravine was led by William & Mary Teaching Assistants Chandler Fitzsimons and Olanrewaju Lasisi, and at the time of this writing, their students were in the process of uncovering a large dump of discarded oyster shell preserved under a 10-inch thick layer of nineteenth century household refuse. The hope is that the oyster shell represents the upper layer of eighteenth century trash midden that will provide new evidence on the function and use of the adjacent outbuilding during the Carter's occupation of the site.

## . Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

### Timothy J. Roberts

#### *On the Move*

CRA's growing Virginia office is excited to announce their new location at 1503 Santa Rosa Rd, RM 127, Henrico, VA 23229-5186. We welcome the new lab space and additional opportunities to continue expanding our services. In addition, **Kay Simpson** retired from full time employment and transferred the Directorship of the Virginia office to **Timothy J. Roberts**. Kay continues to serve CRA as a Principal Investigator Emeritus and remains professionally active as the Board Representative of Society of American Archaeology to the Register of Professional Archaeologist. After 26 years serving clients in Virginia and over 40 years total in private and government archaeology, Kay is looking forward to diving into her genealogy research and sleeping in late.

The Virginia office has several new staff. **Timothy J. Roberts** (MA University of Wisconsin-Madison/BA Florida State University) came to CRA after five years with the National Park Service's Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC). He has worked professionally in archaeology for 16 years, leading and participating in projects in the upper Midwest, Texas, and throughout the southeastern United States, and internationally in Hungary and Western Siberia. His particular interests include historic archaeology, industrial archaeology, the archaeology of African American heritage, and public archaeology.

**Nicholas Arnhold** (MA University of Kansas/ BA University of West Chester of PA) joined CRA in 2018 as a Principal Investigator. He has worked professionally in archaeology for six years, participating in archaeological projects for public agencies and private outfits in the Middle Atlantic, Southeast, Midwest, Plains, and Great Basin. His interests include human-environmental interaction, landscape use, anticipated mobility, organization of technology, and public archaeology. **Robert Clarke** (MA American Public University/ BA JMU) joined the office in 2017 as Staff Archaeologist. Mr. Clarke has worked as a professional archaeologist in 13 states throughout the Southeast, Northeast and Midwest United States and has over 30 years of field experience in Mid-Atlantic archaeology. Lab Director **Sarah Ellis** (MA Museum Studies, Johns Hopkins University/ BA Anthropology, JMU) transferred from CRA's West Virginia office and completed her Masters this spring. Previously she worked for SEAC and for JMU.

**Laura Purvis** is an architectural and art historian (MA Architectural History with a Certificate in Historic Preservation University of Virginia/BA Art History College of William and Mary). Her professional and academic background includes a wide range of projects from documenting rocket test facilities at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, to documentation projects throughout Virginia and within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. In addition, Laura specializes in community and oral history projects. Her previous research focused on enslaved Virginians' built legacy from the nineteenth century and the subsequent communities that developed throughout the twentieth century.

## DAACS

### Elizabeth Bollwerk

In July the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS) was awarded a \$315,000 NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant to identify, catalog, digitize and make accessible collections from four of most significant 17<sup>th</sup>-century archaeological sites at Flowerdeew Hundred, a thousand-acre plantation on the south side of the James River in Virginia. The grant, entitled *The Origins of a Slave Society: Digitizing Flowerdeew Hundred* will provide scholars, students, descendant communities and the general public access to Flowerdeew data and collections via the DAACS website ([www.daacs.org](http://www.daacs.org)). The grant also funds internships for students at the University of Virginia from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in archaeology, anthropology and museum careers (Figure 1).

The *Origins* project focuses on four of the earliest sites at Flowerdeew, PG64, PG65, PG64/65, and PG92, whose collections are critical to helping archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, and descendant communities make sense of the multi-cultural dynamics of 17<sup>th</sup>-century North America. The occupations of the four sites included in the grant span the period between George Yeardley's (the first owner of Flowerdeew) and Andrew Peirse's purchase of the first 25 enslaved Africans in British North America in 1619 and the emergence by 1700 of a Virginia plantation labor force comprised almost entirely of enslaved Africans and their descendants, cultivating tobacco for Atlantic markets. The Enclosed Compound Site (PG65), excavated by Dr. Norman Barka with the College of William and Mary in the early 1970s, is Yeardley's fortified compound at the edge of the James River. The fort contains the remains of at least three English structures (Figure 2). PG65 also contains the remains of a palisaded village occupied by Algonquian-speaking Weanock Indians before and possibly into Yeardley's occupation. The second site, located just up river, is the Stone Foundation Site (PG64), where archaeologists found the foundation walls of a large dwelling comprised of imported stone, and an adjacent palisaded redoubt. The area between the Stone Foundation and the Enclosed Compound is the third site (PG64/65), which was excavated by Barka and Dr. James Deetz of the University of California, Berkeley. It contains the remains of a windmill constructed by Yeardley, a large cellar containing thousands of early-17<sup>th</sup> century artifacts, and numerous other features from both the early English and Weanock occupations.

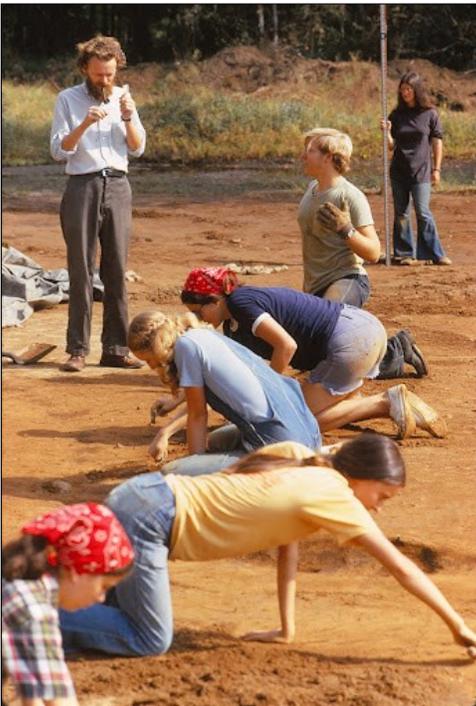


Figure 2. Field school students excavating at PG65 under the watchful eye of Dr. Norman Barka.

By 1640, the Flowerdeew tract had passed from the Peirse family into the hands of a wealthy merchant and plantation owner, William Barker, and his son. Occupation of PG64 and PG65 may have extended into the early years of Barker ownership. The fourth site in the grant, PG92, is likely the plantation of Elizabeth Limbrey, one of Barker's granddaughters, which dates to the mid-to-late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Excavated by Dr. Ann Markell, then a graduate student supervised by Deetz, the Limbrey/Barker site contains the remains of a timber-frame house built atop a large cellar and numerous artifact-rich pits.

Nearly 80,000 square feet were excavated at these four sites. These excavations produced 104,000 artifacts and 13,100 faunal elements that provide tantalizing glimpses into Native American, African, and European lives throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Native American and Colonoware ceramics, locally-made tobacco pipes, animal and shell remains, expensive Chinese porcelain wine cups, Delft drug jars, wine and case bottle fragments, glass trade beads, and coins are among the thousands of artifacts that were once used by Native, European, and African inhabitants of Flowerdeew.

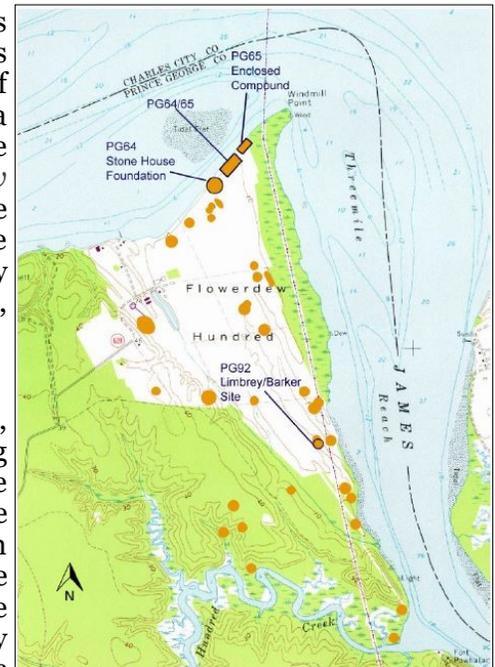


Figure 1. Map of identified archaeological sites at Flowerdeew Hundred with the four grant sites highlighted.

DAACS, in collaboration with the UVA Special Collections Library and the Environmental Archaeology Department at the Florida Museum of Natural History, will make the Flowerdeew artifact and context data and images accessible to

the public on the web via the DAACS website. Site guides will help teachers, students, and scholars navigate the data for use in classrooms, research, and interpretive exhibits. These data will also serve as a finding aid facilitating access to the collections. Inclusion of these four Flowerdew sites in DAACS expands their research and interpretive potential by making them directly comparable to over 2 million artifacts from over 80 sites of slavery located across North America and the Caribbean that have been entered into the database.

Work on the grant will begin in October of 2018. We will provide updates to the COVA membership as the work continues. To learn more or to share any information you might have on these sites, please get in touch with either Elizabeth Bollwerk ([ebollwerk@monticello.org](mailto:ebollwerk@monticello.org)) or Jillian Galle ([jgalle@monticello.org](mailto:jgalle@monticello.org)).

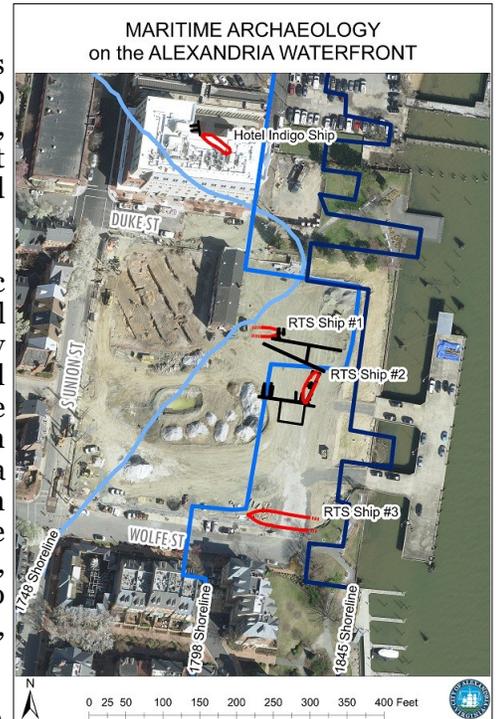
## Archaeology in the City: Update from Alexandria Archaeology

### Eleanor Breen

The focus of the Alexandria Archaeology program over the past three years has been the implementation of the Archaeological Protection Code as it pertains to development along the city’s historic waterfront. Passed by City Council in 1989, the code requires developers to hire archaeological consultants to conduct investigations prior to construction on land with the potential to contain buried sites of historical significance.

What archaeology related to these development projects along the Potomac River continues to reveal is an extensive and well-preserved maritime cultural landscape; by that we mean a culturally modified physical environment heavily influenced by the maritime traditions of this significant port city. Along the tidal interface at sites like 44AX229 (now a hotel on South Union Street) and the current development of Robinson Landing (one block south of the hotel on South Union Street), Alexandria’s early residents created land through a complex system of wharves, piers, earth and stone fill, and derelict ships to reach the deeper channel of the river. On the original shoreline and on newly made land, merchants, laborers, free blacks, and enslaved people built houses, outbuildings, privies, business, warehouses and other structures related to maritime activity from the mid-eighteenth through the early nineteenth century, as documented and excavated by Thunderbird Archeology.

One piece of this larger maritime cultural landscape, a ship built of wood from New England from timbers felled sometime after 1741, is currently undergoing conservation at Texas A&M University’s Conservation Research Laboratory. The conservation treatment (submersion in polyethylene glycol followed by freeze drying) will take approximately five years. Also from 44AX229, archaeologists uncovered the remains of John Carlyle’s wood frame warehouse, currently



*Map overlay showing original shoreline, shoreline extensions in 1798 and 1845, and location of four ships discovered since 2015 (Alexandria Archaeology).*



*Crowd gathers around the 3D printed model of the AX229 ship on loan from the Navy (Alexandria Archaeology).*

undergoing conservation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab. The trustees of Alexandria directed Carlyle, a town founder and prominent merchant, to build this warehouse in 1755 – it is the earliest structure excavated in the city and represents the first public works project. The conservation of the ship and warehouse are funded through city allocations, fundraising efforts of the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology, and outside grants. The National Park Service recently announced the award of a \$97,117 grant to Alexandria Archaeology for the conservation of the AX229 merchant ship through its Maritime Heritage Grant program in partnership with the Maritime Administration. This is the second conservation grant awarded to the project. In February, the City received a \$4,000 grant from the Virginia Association of Museums after the ship won second place in the Top 10 Endangered Artifacts Competition.

In March, exciting discoveries along the waterfront continued as archaeologists

uncovered three additional ships used as part of the land-making process at the Robinson Landing development site. Alexandria Archaeology hosted a public outreach event in April and invited the public to a “ship viewing” – and the public came, in droves. During the five-hour event, we welcomed over 3,200 residents and visitors to the site with sidewalk talks and an array of pop-up exhibits including a 3D printed model of the AX229 ship on loan from the Navy’s History and Heritage Command branch. During excavations of that ship, the Navy documented the feature using photogrammetry and used that to print the model. To learn more about current projects in Alexandria, visit [alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://alexandriaarchaeology.org). Follow us on Facebook @ArchaeologyAlexandriaVA and on Instagram @AlexandriaArchaeology.



*Public viewing of the most recently discovered ship, at the foot of Wolfe Street (Hancock Photography).*

## Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello

**Crystal Ptacek and Beatrix Arendt**



*Figure 1. Archaeologists Sarah Corkett and Allison Mueller shovel testing the east side of the survey area in front of the main house.*

Monticello’s Department of Archaeology worked through the winter and spring conducting Phase I survey, holding public programs, cataloguing artifacts from the past season’s field work, and getting ready for the 2018 field school. The field crew spent the winter months surveying two previously untested areas on Monticello mountain. The STP survey covered the area immediately surrounding the main house and a region by the Visitors’ Center near the location of one of Jefferson’s brick kilns. Near the main house (Figure 1), we found thick deposits of C-horizon sourced fill, evidence of the massive landscape modifications required to level the mountaintop in the late eighteenth century. We also recovered loads of burned brick and clay, which may point to a previously undocumented site where bricks were fired for the first Monticello. Shovel tests near the Visitors’ Center (Figure 2) confirmed the presence of a brick kiln. We found (surprise!) an abundance of brick bats and fragments but also several rows of complete bricks from the kiln itself. While we still have more of that survey area to complete, we have established the northern boundary of the kiln site and look forward to further defining the kiln’s extent next winter.

The lab staff hosted several public programs over the past few months, including “Let’s Go Explore the Past Through Archaeology” in February as part of Black History month celebrations. We welcomed children and their parents to the archaeology lab for a behind the scenes tour and learned how the enslaved community lived at Monticello (Figure 3). We also hosted “Conversation with an Archaeologist,” an opportunity for adult learners to learn and ask questions about archaeology at Monticello. We discussed recent finds at the South Pavilion, how we locate archaeological sites across the entire Monticello plantation, and featured artifacts from nineteenth-century field quarter sites located on the Monticello and Tufton quarter farms. Also new this summer is our first Public Archaeology Intern in partnership with University of Virginia’s Institute for Public History. Jared Gingrich is a rising fourth year at UVA and will serve as the department’s liaison for all summer archaeology programs. In addition to leading the archaeology day of Monticello’s summer camp, plantation walking tours, and overseeing social media related to these programs, he will develop a new program featuring the department’s work with environmental data.

One highlight this spring was the Department’s first Descendant Archaeology Workshop (Figure 5). Twelve descendants of enslaved families, including the Hemings, Grangers, and Gillettes, who lived and worked at Monticello, helped us shovel and screen dirt from Site 6, an early nineteenth century quarter site for



*Figure 2. Archaeologists Sarah Corkett, Allison Mueller, and Craig Kelley found part of the brick kiln along with tons (almost literally) of bricks.*

enslaved field laborers. Descendants washed artifacts found at Site 6 and spent some time seeing the study collection. We also welcomed participants from the Archeological Society of Virginia's archaeological technician certification program. Seven ASV members helped excavate plowzone from Site 6 to fulfill requirements of their certification program.

We're now getting ready for our 2018 field school, which will be held at Site 6. Based on artifact distributions, we've identified at least two houses on the site. This summer, we'll be filling in more of our stratified random sample and sampling a feature we found two years ago, which we suspect is a subfloor pit.



*Figure 3. Archaeological Analyst Beth Sawyer showing workshop participants our shovel test pit survey.*



*Figure 4. Archaeological Analyst Katleyn Coughlan discussing artifacts found during the South Pavilion excavations.*



*Figure 5. Staff and descendants had a great time at our first Descendant Archaeology Workshop.*

## James Madison's Montpelier

**Terry P. Brock**  
Senior Research Archaeologist

### *Summary of Excavations at the Stone Rubble Site*



In the latter half of the 2017 field season, the Montpelier Archaeology Department revisited an area of the property initially explored in 2014. The intent of the excavations was to identify the location of tree plantings dating to the 1820s and to ascertain the viability of replanting the tree grove mentioned in visitor accounts dating to that period. Excavations in 2014 had exposed a large archaeological feature and trash deposit, in addition to intact features, and the 2017 excavations were focused on gaining a better understanding of this site while looking for tree plantings. Results of the excavation indicate that no tree features are visible within this trash deposit, and that the majority of tree plantings appear further north. Additionally, the trash deposit was identified as having been deposited from the 1770s–1790s, and are covering an early circular feature, possibly a well.

### **18th Century Trash Deposit and Well**

2014 excavations had exposed a large archaeological feature spanning nearly 50 ft in diameter, and largely defined by large deposit of quartz and greenstone boulders. Test excavations indicated that the area included multiple layers of refuse deposition, including an entire layer of faunal material, a layer of refuse including window glass, ceramics, and bottle glass, and multiple deposits of brick and mortar. A portion of a circular brick feature was also exposed.

2017 excavations revisited this site to identify tree plantings in the area and to ascertain the potential for replanting. The northern half of the area was re-exposed. Tree planting holes or root stains were not visible in the area of the feature, either due to them having not been planted in this specific area, or due to the difficulty of identifying these features mixed within the stone rubble and trash deposits.



Regardless, the amount and depth of intact strata, high density and quantity of artifacts, and the presence of intact mid–18th century features below these strata mean replanting trees in this feature would be heavily destructive to a very important 18th century archaeology site, and require considerable resources outside the scope of this project. Excavation goals shifted at this point to gain a better understanding of the depositional episodes, gain a tighter time frame of the deposits, examine the shape of the large trash deposit feature, and to understand the brick feature in order to inform future archaeologists of the potential research questions that could be addressed with these data. The search for tree plantings moved northward, outside of the area of this trash feature, and will continue during the 2018 field season.

### **Depositional Chronology**

Multiple layers of deposits make up the fill of the trash deposit. The top layer is comprised of large stones, and has been interpreted as destruction layers relating to the transition from the 18th century plantation landscape to the Retirement Period, likely during the first two decades of the 19th century. Due to the size of the trash deposit, multiple depositional layers underlie the large stone deposits, and relate to many decades of refuse and architectural materials being disposed in this area. Different areas of the site reveal different types of deposition: in some cases, architectural rubble and bricks compose the majority of the strata; in others domestic refuse including high quantities of bone, bottle glass, and ceramics are mixed with nails and window glass - of particular note were stacks of window panes that were tossed into the heap and shattered in place. Another strat was composed of largely red clay and brick rubble, and appeared to undercut much of the trash deposit.

Underneath all of this is an intact surface and a possible well feature, indicating that these layers of fill were placed on top of an active surface. Learning more about the trash deposit itself, and the types of artifacts located within it, can provide an idea as to when that surface was in use, and when the area went from an active area to an area used for trash disposal.

## The Trash Deposit



*Ceramics found in the Trash deposit include manganese powdered tin glazed earthenware and green scalloped edged pearlware.*

Only a portion of the trash deposit was excavated, and still thousands of artifacts were removed and are currently being analyzed. Ceramics, bone, bottle, window, and table glass, and nails made up the vast majority of the assemblage. The artifacts were relatively large in size, compared to the objects found in the South Yard, indicating that these were objects that were intentionally disposed of in this area.

The artifacts collected from the trash deposit are currently being cataloged by the archaeology staff, but field observations suggest that nail types were almost exclusively wrought nails, suggesting an 18th century deposit, and many of the ceramics are predominately late 18th century types (this includes clouded earthen wares, green scallop-rimmed pearlware, staffordshire slipware, tin glaze earthenware, and three separate colonoware vessels). Additionally, there was a distinct lack of transfer printed earthenwares, which are incredibly common across the property on our 19th century sites, particularly those sites dating to the 1810s–1840s. This means that this trash deposit was likely in active use between the 1770s to the late 1790s, and possibly into the first decade of the 19th century. It does not, however, reflect the Retirement Period landscape.

One of the most interesting and exciting ceramic finds were three different vessels of colonoware, which we never find on 19th century sites. Colonoware is typically associated with African and African American potters, and to have three vessels strongly suggests that there was a potter located in Orange County, and also that this deposit is from the 18th century.

Another exciting find was multiple panes of window glass that had been stacked on top of each other and thrown away. These will be painstakingly re-assembled so that the architecture and historic preservation department can have accurate dimensions of windows likely associated with 18th century structures on the landscape!



*Broken window panes found stacked on top of each other in trash deposit.*

## The Well (?)



*Circular brick feature identified below trash deposit.*

The trash deposit covers the circular brick feature entirely, meaning that the feature pre-dates the the trash deposits, and is likely one of the earliest features on the property, perhaps associated with the original main house or even put in place just before or during the main house's construction in the 1760s.

The feature itself is circular, and constructed out of compass bricks. Excavations were not conducted inside the feature, only around the west exterior. These excavations were brief, since it appears that there is no additional course of brick below the exposed layer.

Initial interpretations of the brick feature are that it is a well. However, without further investigation, this is only a hypothesis: one would expect a well to have multiple brick courses associated with it, whereas this feature appears to only have one course. Further investigation inside feature is necessary in order to fully understand its function.

## Conclusion

Excavations conducted in this southern portion of the grove area have uncovered a component of the Montpelier landscape that archaeologists have been curious about for a long time: where are the trash deposits associated with the 18th century landscape at Montpelier? The area examined during the season of 2017 gives us a great deal of new information about the 18th century landscape, and how it was organized by James Madison, Sr.. The artifacts uncovered should provide us with even more information about the lives of the Madisons and the enslaved community, and give us an excellent comparative data set to contrast with Dolley's Midden, the 19th century trash deposit identified on the opposite end of the house.

As far as the 18th century landscape is concerned, the location of the trash deposit makes sense. Because this landscape used brick landscape walls for the approach to the main house, this area was actually outside of public view. It was also behind a row of outbuildings, indicating that this was very much an area that was unused by the Madisons

or the enslaved community. This of course changes dramatically when James and Dolley Madison take over the operation of the main house and transition to the Georgian landscape.

### Virginia Museum of Natural History

#### Elizabeth Moore, Curator of Archaeology

##### *In the Lab*



Figure 1. A sample of the fish remains from the Great Neck site.

Research with the fauna from the Great Neck site continues in the lab this summer. While all of the faunal remains recovered using ¼-inch mesh were analyzed and reported previously, we are still sorting and identifying samples from wet screening and flotation of several of the shell laden pit features. These features yielded gallons of small shell and bone fragments. Several ASV chapters and VMNH volunteers have assisted with sorting some of these samples resulting in large quantities of specimens to identify. These samples are rich in fish remains. Some elements, particularly the head elements, can be readily identified. Some, like the vertebra, vertebral spines, and ribs are not as diagnostic. We estimate that there are approximately 50,000 small fish vertebra in just one of the larger pit features (Figure 1). Because many of these vertebrae are not morphologically distinct, we have been developing PCR primers and procedures for identifying some of these bones. Using modern fish

purchased from fishmongers in the region, we now have a series of primers for selected marine fishes and are getting positive results when testing some of the smaller (2-3 mm diameter) vertebra (Figure 2). We plan on adding additional primers as we acquire more fish throughout the season.

Moving inland, we recently worked in the fish collections at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science in Raleigh identifying freshwater fishes from the Thomas Harrison House, from excavations led by Dr. Carole Nash (Figure 3). The VMNH zooarchaeology reference collection contains several hundred specimens but we are just beginning to add fishes to the collection. Anyone interested in seeing which taxa are represented in the reference collection can access a list at [www.vmnharchoeology.org](http://www.vmnharchoeology.org).

This spring has been particularly active with requests from local police and sheriff departments. Several calls for rapid consultation resulted in the identification of several deer. We are always pleased to assist local law enforcement, especially when it turns out that there are no human remains involved (Figure 4).

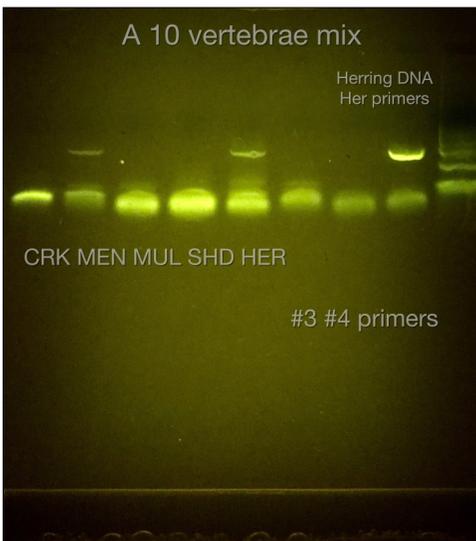


Figure 2. Testing herring primers – the bar to the right shows the primer, the two bars on the left indicate two samples that contained herring.



Figure 3. Identifying a river redhorse parasphenoid.



Figure 4. Just some deer bones.

### *In the Field*

Elizabeth Moore and Ray Vodden participated in the Eyreville excavations in May. Of particular interest for us are the faunal remains, which were numerous and surprisingly intact (Figure 5). One of the cellars contained a substantial volume of bones of domesticated fauna (pig and cow), many of which were nearly complete. Some of those bones have been brought to the VMNH lab for cleaning and consolidation to prevent further deterioration and to facilitate analysis. Much of Ray's work this summer for archaeology will be spent preparing these specimens. Some preliminary sorting of wet screened material at the site yielded large quantities of shell pieces and small bones (Figures 6 and 7); once those samples are processed at DHR we will begin examining those remains for more information on resource exploitation over time.



*Figure 5. Intact pig skull awaiting cleaning, consolidation, and analysis. The teeth in this skull are worn nearly completely to the gum line. We will examine bone fusion to determine if this individual was older when killed or if it was younger and the tooth wear was caused or exacerbated by sandy soils.*



*Figure 6. Preliminary sorting of wet screened samples while in the field at Eyreville.*



*Figure 7. Don't be distracted by the beads, pins, and decorated pipes - there are some great bones in these samples too.*



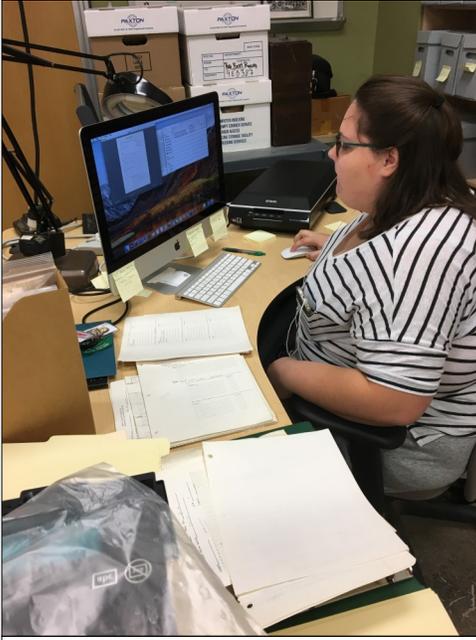
*Figure 8. As anthropologists, it is important to gather data from many sources. In this case, we were conducting participant observation on pork cooking techniques.*

### *In the Collections*

VMNH interns and volunteers are working on several large projects this summer. Intern Katie Hylton (UVA-Wise) is using her archives training and experience with the archaeology collections document files (Figure 9). For her internship, she is organizing and scanning primary documents associated with our collections including field notes, field forms, maps, photos, slides, etc. The original documents are regularly stored in fire-proof cabinets with the museum's Registrar; scanning the documents will allow offsite backup of these critical files and will allow researchers to access the data without having to handle the original paperwork. Katie will be producing a finding aid for this archive that will be available on the museum ([www.vmnh.net](http://www.vmnh.net)) and the lab websites.

Over the past year, the archaeology lab has been fortunate to partner with the southwest Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists. Members of the chapter volunteer in the lab one day a week and are helping curate several hundred boxes of artifacts received from Catholic University (CUA). Initial work has focused on cleaning and rehousing artifacts, eliminating the many film canisters, French fry bags, iced tea jars, and miscellaneous other jars, boxes, and bags that had been used to

store some of these collections (Figure 10). They are also assisting with a major reorganization of all of the archaeology collections this summer, necessary to absorb recently received collections from American University (Figure 11).



*Figure 9. VMNH intern Katie Hylton scanning documents from 1970s-era excavations in Warren County.*



*Figure 10. Collections requiring re-housing present several challenges. With these samples, replacing the jars is easy enough but trying to remove the masking tape and salvage the original labels is more challenging.*



*Figure 11. Volunteers have helped move the entire archaeology collection this summer to make room for more artifacts.*

## Virtual Curation Laboratory

### Bernard K. Means, Virginia Commonwealth University

While I've been busy scanning Ice Age Megafauna, a mummy sarcophagus, and objects from North India so far this year, the lab has not neglected Virginia archaeology. There are three Virginia archaeology/heritage projects on which we have worked or are working, two of which are continuations of projects that started last year. One of these projects involves 3-D scanning objects from the *Story of Virginia* exhibit at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture (formerly the Virginia Historical Society) to create a touch tour for blind or visually impaired visitors. Some of the objects involved are archaeological, including a groundstone axe and charred maize cob. These objects will also be freely available for anyone to download later this summer on our Sketchfab site (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab>).

The second major project, which continues until 2019, is with Virginia Humanities (formerly the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities). This project involves 3D scanning African American items from pre-Emancipation contexts associated with Virginia and making them available online in anticipation of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 of the first enslaved Africans that arrived at Jamestown. You can find objects from Oak Hill Plantation, via a collection analyzed by Dr. Elizabeth Moore at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/oak-hill-plantation>), Mariners Museum (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/mariners-museum>), Chippokes Plantation (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/chippokes-plantation>), Gunston Hall (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/gunston-hall>), Fairfax County (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/fairfax-county-park-authority>), James Madison's Montpelier (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/james-madisons-montpelier>), George Washington's Mount Vernon (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/george-washingtons-mount-vernon>), George Washington's Ferry Farm (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/george-washingtons-ferry-farm>), and Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/thomas-jeffersons-poplar-forest>). Most of these objects are freely downloadable. Throughout the remainder of the year, I will be returning to some of these locations again to 3D scan more items.

The last major project we have worked on so far this year is 3D scanning material associated with the Revolutionary War-era Betsy Shipwreck. This effort conducted for John Broadwater focused on 3D scanning of fragments of a cabinet and a window associated with the Captain's quarters (<https://sketchfab.com/virtualcurationlab/collections/betsy-shipwreck>).



Figure 1. 3D scanning the Libby Prison window



Figure 2. 3D scanning Colonoware from Fairfax County



Figure 3. Then VCU student Alison Cooley 3D scans part of the Betsy Shipwreck cabin

# Attend CoVA's Meetings!

The **Fall** meeting will be held in Winchester on October 12th. Please mark your calendars and check [cova-inc.org](http://cova-inc.org) for information on the details.



## CALENDAR

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| October 12, 2018     | <b>COVA FALL MEETING—Winchester, VA</b><br><a href="http://cova-inc.org">cova-inc.org</a>   |
| February, 2019       | <b>COVA WINTER MEETING—TBA, VA</b><br><a href="http://cova-inc.org">cova-inc.org</a>  |
| May, 2019            | <b>COVA SPRING MEETING—TBD, VA</b><br><a href="http://cova-inc.org">cova-inc.org</a>  |
| October 19-21, 2018  | <b>CNEHA ANNUAL MEETING— Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada</b><br><a href="http://Cneha.org">Cneha.org</a>   |
| November 14-17, 2018 | <b>SEAC ANNUAL MEETING—Augusta, GA</b><br><a href="http://southeasternarchaeology.org">southeasternarchaeology.org</a>                            |
| November 14-18, 2018 | <b>AAA ANNUAL MEETING— San Jose, CA</b><br><a href="http://www.americananthro.org/AttendEvents/">http://www.americananthro.org/AttendEvents/</a>  |
| January 9-12, 2019   | <b>SHA ANNUAL MEETING—St. Charles, MO</b><br><a href="http://sha.org">sha.org</a>   |
| March 21-24, 2019    | <b>MAAC ANNUAL MEETING— Ocean City, MD</b><br><a href="http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/">http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/</a> |
| April 10-14, 2019    | <b>SAA ANNUAL MEETING— Albuquerque, NM</b><br><a href="http://saa.org">saa.org</a>  |

Virginia Archaeologist is published twice a year in the spring and fall. The success of this publication depends on contributions from Virginia's archaeological community. Deadline for submissions for the Fall issue is November 15 and the Spring issue is May 30. Please send news items, announcements, publications/book reviews or current research to: [eric@poplarforest.org](mailto:eric@poplarforest.org)

Thank You