

August 1999

Future Events

August 9

**1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road
Technical Toys**

Assistant county archaeologist Jane Cox will discuss the use of high-tech equipment on sites.

August 21

**9:00-2:00, London Town
London Town Public Dig Day**

Individuals and families are welcome to help screen soil from the London Town excavations. Also offered are tours of London and archaeology workshops.

August 23

**1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road
Dating Sites From Artifacts**

Archaeologist Lisa Plumley will discuss the methodology of using artifacts to date soils.

September 13

**1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road
Creating Vessels from Sherds**

Lab director April Beisaw will discuss the process and significance of cross-mending.

September 18

**9:00-2:00, 2664 Riva Road
London Town Public Dig Day**

Individuals and families are welcome to help screen soil from the London Town excavations. Also offered are tours of London and archaeology workshops.

Letters from Lost Towns

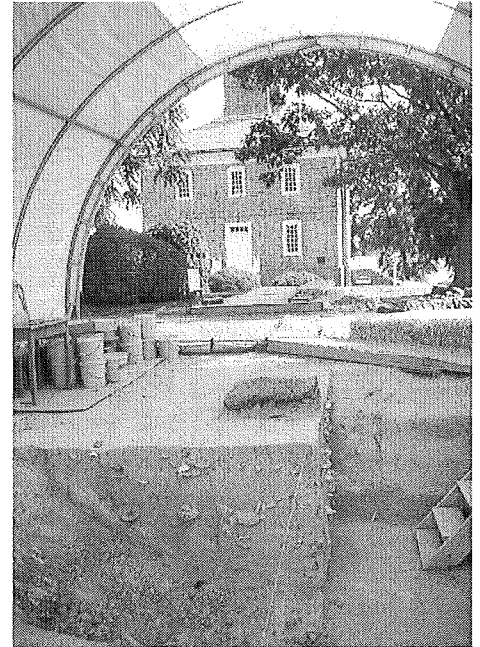
Excavations at London Town

London Town Staff

Summer has arrived at London Town Park: gardens are growing, birds are singing, and archaeologists are attacking projects with renewed vigor. Starting new projects and continuing old ones, volunteers and archaeologists are busy investigating a number of London Town's archaeological resources.

Feature Excavation at the Carpenters' Shop

Since 1995, The Lost Towns Project has documented several hundred historic features within excavations at London Town's "Carpenter's Shop." These features are physical evidence of events and activities that modified the landscape since its founding in 1683. These features represent a wide range of activities; so far we have identified a large cellar, numerous postholes, postmolds, borrow pits, trenches, and a number of features as yet unidentified. This spring archaeologists and volunteers began excavating posthole features at the site of the Carpenter's Shop and Rumney's Tavern. These excavations carefully document the characteristics and contents of each feature and enable comparisons to other similar features. Analysis of this data will help us to understand better, how these architectural features relate to one another. Specifically, these excavations will help us ascertain the chronological sequence of occupations within the Carpenter's Shop more precisely than plowzone excavations have hitherto



*View of the William Brown House
Through Rumney's "Digloo"*

provided. These excavations also will provide information about the construction techniques used in the dwellings of London Town's inhabitants. Feature excavations will continue throughout the summer and into the fall. If you would like more information regarding the excavation of features at the Carpenter's shop please feel free to contact Jason Moser at (410) 222-7441, or by e-mail at jdmarch1@aol.com.

Rumney's Cellar Progress

Slowly but surely, work at Rumney's Tavern continues. We paused excavations of the third quarter of the cellar in order to confirm our hypothesis regarding the filling sequences and dates through careful laboratory analysis. Through mending nearly

complete delft vessels and processing of bone and other artifacts, new information has come to light that provides a unique insight into the seasonal activity around the tavern.

Initially, it was clear that the cellar-hole was filled between 1710 and 1735, with primary deposits occurring in the 1720s, coinciding with Rumney's loss of his tavern through bankruptcy. Al Luckenbach has recently refined these dates to right around 1725, based upon a comparison of key decorative motifs, firmly dated at the *Vauxhall* pottery site near London. Similarities to the cellar delft vessels may indicate that Rumney delft was obtained from this potter.

Faunal evidence suggests that the cellar was filled during the winter months. April Beisaw and intern Kate Levendosky discovered relatively few animals present in the cellar, suggesting a smaller time frame for deposition. Evidence from other colonial era sites situated near the water revealed that the odor of rotting carcasses during the warmer months motivated colonists to dump bones into nearby water. Proximity of the cellar to the South River might account for the low count of animal bones in the cellar. The decomposition patterns and lack of rodent activity such as burrowing or gnawing of bones also indicates a rapid covering of trash layers.

Continued analysis will include the sorting and processing of carefully water-screened samples, conducted by the eagle-eyed Kay Spruell. The last quarter of the cellar will provide a final opportunity to confirm the filling sequence and of course, to produce the final ceramic sherds, which may complete the many reconstructed vessels.

London Town Woods

In March of 1998, Maryland Historical Trust awarded Lost Towns a grant to investigate three sites in the woods along the southern perimeter of London

Town Park. Since that time, volunteers and staff excavated a number of units at each site. Land deeds dating from the formation and early town period are absent, leading the staff to think the area was not occupied until the mid-to-late eighteenth century. Excavations conducted this past winter validated this notion. Investigations in the woods near the entrance of the park revealed concentrations of both domestic and architectural artifacts dating to the nineteenth century. In addition, a possible posthole surfaced, indicating the possible site of a structure or fenceline. Concentrations of eighteenth-century artifacts also were found in the woods across from the gardens. Two features were found at this site, one of which could be a posthole.

Investigations continue this summer, concentrating mainly on the area near the main gate. More intensive block excavations revealed additional features and more complex stratigraphy. Data from this research can also provide clues about the changes in land use from urban to farm, as well as changes in the layout of the town.



Gretel Brown, washing in the lab

What's going on in the Lost Town's lab?

Volunteers and interns are busy washing and labeling artifacts from both the Riva Road site and the London Town sites.

April has been working with Kate on an analysis of the animal bone from Rumney's Tavern Cellar. They have identified the remains of pig, cow, sheep, turtle, and various fish and bird species.

Carolyn is inventorying the Carpenter's Shop artifacts. Some interesting finds include parts of scissors, a knife, a slate pencil fragment, and a wide variety of buttons.

Shawn is spending much of his time conserving wine bottles from Rumney's Tavern Cellar and metal artifacts from the Burle site. Careful cleaning and chemical treatments are helping to restore these artifacts to their original appearance and preserve them for years to come.

Ben is inventorying the artifacts from the Riva Road site. A smoker's companion and a large quantity of tobacco pipes are just part of the collection from this site.

Also in progress is the mending of the ceramics from Rumney's Tavern Cellar. Over 100 separate vessels, including plates, bowls, dishes, mugs, and cups, have been identified and some are displayed in the lab.

Education Program in Full Swing

Even during the summer months, the archaeology education program at London Town is hopping with camps, families, and teacher training. Last semester brought a whopping 1000 students to the site to screen for artifacts, tour around the grounds, and learn about stratigraphy and eighteenth-century trash disposal. The fall semester promises to be as busy, with nearly all the hands-on archaeology days already filled. Though sometimes requiring patience, it is always a rewarding experience. Many thanks to those who help with the kids!

The younger kids aren't the only ones to benefit from Lost Town's educational programs. The project offers workshops twice a month, focusing on a wide variety of archaeology-related topics. Please call Lisa for a complete schedule of topics and dates.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Bernie Rosenberg and Alex Lavish

As the fiscal year drew to a close at the end of June, numbers for volunteers' hours were tallied up. Two archaeology volunteers, Bernie Rosenberg and Alex Lavish, earned impressive totals. Bernie accrued over 330 hours for the fiscal year, while Alex totaled 295. The numbers are inspiring, yes, but more important are the good attitudes and dependability we rely on. Although these men have distinctively different personalities, both are hard working and fun-loving. Bernie seems to have an endless supply of both clean and dirty jokes, while Alex has an endless supply of anti-poison ivy pills! We thank them for their time, dedication, and anecdotes, all of which we love to see and hear when we come to work in the morning!

Colonial Brickmaking: Excavations at the Whitehall Brickyard

Dr. Jim Gibb

A dull red glow in the twilight, the pungent smell of smoke mixed with steam, these are the sights and smells of a brick clamp, or temporary kiln. These were the sights and smells on a tract in Whitehall, near the present Chesapeake Bay Bridge, in the 1760s.

During Annapolis's Golden Age (1740s-early 1770s), Governor Horatio Sharpe built his mansion at Whitehall, several miles north of town. He needed bricks. Lots of bricks. So did other elite members of Maryland society as they built elegant townhouses in the capital. Sharpe turned his particular need—several hundred thousand bricks—into a commercial operation. He established his brickyard on Whitehall Road near his mansion house site, just above Meredith Creek, a tributary of Whitehall Creek. Here Sharpe found plenty of clay to make bricks, firewood to fuel the kilns, and a waterway to transport the bricks to his building site and to clients in Annapolis. And here lie the remains of that brickyard more than 200 years later.

Historians and archaeologists know little about Colonial brickmaking, particularly brickmaking on an industrial scale. (Most bricks were made on individual building sites by itinerant brickmakers or general contractors.) Few Colonial Period commercial brickyards existed in the Chesapeake region and none of those had been investigated archaeologically. That changed in the summer of 1998 when the Ridout/Brown family notified Dr. Al Luckenbach that they planned to build a new house on their property...property once owned by Governor Sharpe and long suspected by the family to have been the site of his brickyard.

Staff and volunteers of The Lost Towns Project descended upon the Ridout/Brown lot that summer and, over the next several months, amid red brick dust, green walnuts, and many dozens of chocolate donuts provided by Lanny Ridout, uncovered portions of six brick clamps.

A brick clamp is a temporary kiln, built of the very bricks that are to be fired. Once fired, the cooled clamp is disassembled, the bricks sorted by quality, and shipped to the building site.

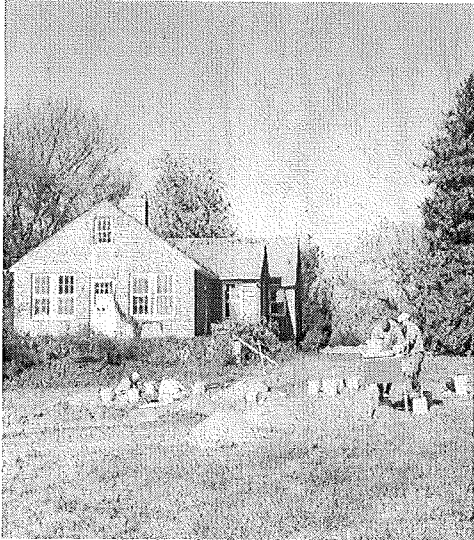
The field crew exposed enough of three clamps to estimate their shapes and sizes: All are rectangular and measure 16.5 to 20-ft on a side. Each consisted of alternating deposits of brick rubble and charcoal representing benches on which the 'green,' or unfired, bricks were piled and channels into which the brickmakers placed cordwood for fuel. Sharpe's brickmaker controlled the flow of air into the clamps by partially plugging the channel openings with brickbats and clay.

Most of Sharpe's bricks were common red bricks. Molded bricks, however, were recovered from one of his clamps. These bricks, with their curved surfaces, served as moldings on brick buildings. Examples appear on the William Brown House and brick mansions throughout Annapolis, Anne Arundel, and surrounding counties.

Analysis of the brickyard data has just begun. We should learn a good deal more from the Sharpe brickyard, not just about brickmaking, but about the identities of Sharpe's customers.



Sharpe's brick clamp



Beyond the Park: Excavations at Larrimore Point

Lisa E. Plumley

Archaeologists working at London Town are given a luxury not all archaeologists receive: time. Time allows for careful excavation, planning, opportunities for education, and the chance to explore preservation options. There is, however, another world out there in the field of archaeology. Termed *salvage archaeology*, it is the excavation before construction occurs to retrieve data before it is lost. An essential element of archaeology, it also plays an important role in the study of London Town's layout and inhabitants.

During September and October of 1998, archaeologists conducted salvage excavations on a site that was once part of the original 100 acres of London Town. Located off Widow's Mite Road on Larrimore Point, archaeologists learned that the new owners of the property planned to raze the existing house and replace it with a larger building and pool. Archaeologists already surveyed the adjoining property and found enormous potential for both prehistoric and historic data recovery. After receiving permission from the new owners, The Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project archaeologists and

volunteers began to research the history of Larrimore Point.

Armed only with the results of the survey on the neighboring property and the knowledge that bulldozers were coming at any time, archaeologists started digging a series of shovel test pits in the east lawn. A large prehistoric shell midden with pottery dating to the Late Woodland Period (800-1250 AD) was discovered. Punched through the discarded shell, however, was an ironstone foundation of a chimney and hearth, along with at least one posthole. Artifacts recovered in association with these features dated to the eighteenth century.

Not yet hearing the whir of bulldozers, inquiries began to rise about a few bricks peering out of the ground next to the driveway running through the west lawn. The bricks were part of the foundation of a subterranean structure, currently interpreted as a buttery or dairy. Filled with trash from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries, the cellar was a virtual treasure chest of pipe fragments, wine bottles, beads, straight pins, furniture tacks, buttons, and tin-glazed earthenware made in Holland, Italy, Portugal, and France. These artifacts laid with architectural debris: plaster, nails, and brick. Once the fill was removed, stains and nail fragments in the clay floor of the 10x10-foot structure were documented: evidence of a wooden floor, storage shelf, or door. It is not known where the main house that belongs to this seventeenth-century outbuilding lies, and many questions regarding this outbuilding still remain unanswered.

The construction equipment eventually came to the site, tearing down the modern brick structure. In its vigor, the bulldozers also consumed an artifact-laden pit. This seventeenth-century feature was a victim of the salvage archaeology technique. However, in the two months we had to investigate the archaeology of this lot, we uncovered remnants of the lives of people from at least five different centuries. If we did

not have the opportunity to investigate this area before the bulldozers devoured the land, we would have lost valuable information not only about the Native Americans before European contact, but also about London Town.

Thank you to those who have been with The Lost Towns Project through the years...

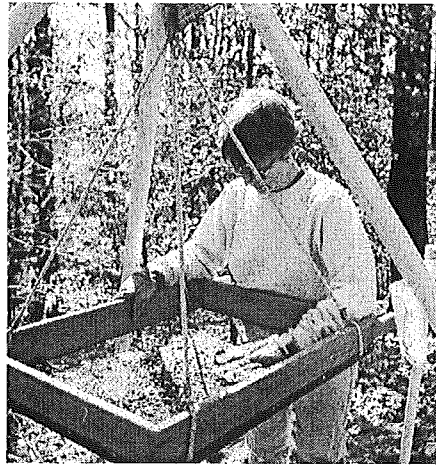
Mary Rose Barron	1996
Gretel Brown	1996
Carol Carman	1995
Noreen DeDeyn	1995
Warren Groomes	1998
Bob Guilford	1995
Howard Hayes	1998
Marj Hegge	1990
Joan Klick	1997
Alex Lavish	1997
Michelle Lohin	1998
Alice McNamara	1996
Mac Millhone	1996
Susan Morris	1998
Will Mumford	1990
Becky Paape	1996
Bob Rice	1997
Bill Rigoli	1993
Russel Robinson	1997
Pat Rodie	1998
Bernie Rosenberg	1997
Sarah Saudefier	1997
James Simpson	1997
Kay Spruell	1990
Kristen Sweedler	1998
Betty Williams	1993
Erin Wingfield	1998



Excavations on Riva Road: Unearthing 17th-Century Cheney Family Structures

John Kille

Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Archaeology Project has discovered two circa 1658 structures that once stood on Cheney Hills, property owned by Richard Cheney (or Chaney), ancestor to one of southern Anne Arundel County's most prominent families. The discovery follows several months of research and field work involving the excavation of over 50 five x five-foot units and an extensive search through early documents at the Maryland State Archives. The Cheney Hills site is located several miles south of Annapolis on private property slated for residential development.



Marj Hegge, screening at Riva Road

The recent discovery is historically significant due to the early time period involved and the geographic location of the Cheney structure. The archival records show that Richard Cheney purchased 100 acres in 1658, less than nine years after the Providence Settlement was established and just 24 years after the founding of the Maryland Colony. The artifacts recovered from the site are consistent with this early time period, spanning three decades from about 1660-1690.

The two structures found at Cheney Hills appear to have made up the homelot of Richard Cheney. Although neither building has been exposed in its entirety, both were built on wooden posts set into the ground. Archaeological evidence clearly points to the frequent repair of these rotted or termite-eaten posts. Each building had a fireplace and chimney. A wide range of domestic and architectural artifacts also have been found around the structures, including pieces of imported pottery and glass vessels, utensils, and tobacco pipes, as well as brick, iron nails, and window glass.

Perhaps the greatest mystery of the site is why Cheney would have built his home high on a hill, basically in what would have been a relatively isolated rural area. Unlike all previously discovered 17th-century sites in the county (which were located near lower,

more level lands along the rivers and streams to grow tobacco), this site appears to have been defensively located. We know that Indian raids were a problem in this area as late as the 1680s.

The excavation of Cheney Hills is important for what it can tell us about one of the oldest families that settled Anne Arundel County. It also has enormous potential for scholars interested in 17th-century settlement patterns. Like the on-going excavations at the 17th-century town sites of Providence and London Town, the Cheney Hills property represents an important piece of the historical puzzle we are attempting to reconstruct.

Ridout and Moss Internships Awarded

The newly-established Ridout Internship has been awarded to Paul Mintz. Paul is studying 18th-century tavern and ferry laws. He also works in the field and lab. He and April ran a workshop for school children with the help of Kate Levendosky, another intern who is working in the lab analyzing bones excavated from Rumney's Tavern.

This year's Moss Internship has been awarded to two students, Bette Lawhon and Michael Rinker. Bette and Michael are working on the three-dimensional imaging of Scott Street at London Town. Both geniuses on the computer, their work continues Tracy Corder's projects.

All three interns are students at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

How Do I Get Involved?

Field days are usually Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Days do vary depending on the weather. Call Lisa Plumley at (410) 222-7441 for more information.

The lab is open Monday through Friday from 9:00–4:00. Call the lab phone for more information at (410) 222-7441.

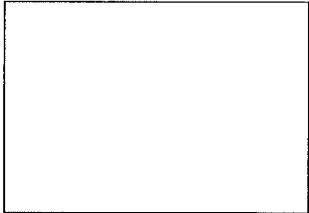


The Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project Needs A Logo!

Anyone with an imagination is invited to participate in the Lost Towns Logo Contest! The logo needs to be simple, yet distinctive, representing The Lost Towns Project's excavations in Anne Arundel County. You can include artifacts, the county crest, or abstract forms—just be creative! One suggestion is to use both Town Neck's Lloyd Plate and London's Mermaid Plate. The deadline for the contest is October 31, 1999 (or until we find one we like...) Have fun!



The Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project
 Planning and Code Enforcement
 2664 Riva Road
 Annapolis, MD 21401



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Subscriber Name
 Number Street Address
 City, State Postal Code
 Country

