

August 2000

## Future Events

**August 7**

1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road  
*Maryland History*

Dr. Greg Stiverson

**August 19**

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

The public is invited to help screen soil, take tours, and attend workshops.

**September 11**

1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road  
*Historic Ceramics*

Lisa Plumley

**September 16**

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

The public is invited to help screen soil, take tours, and attend workshops.

**September 18**

9:00-2:00, 2664 Riva Road  
*Getting to Know the  
Maryland State Archives:  
Lecture, Tour, and Research*

Call Mechelle Kerns for details.

**October 9**

1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road  
*Native Americans of Prehistoric  
Anne Arundel County*

Paul Mintz

**November 13**

1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road  
*A Plantation in Suburbia:  
Hancocks Resolution*

Jason Moser

**December 11**

1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road  
*18AN1058: An Early Republic  
Site at London Town*

Jane Cox

# Letters from Lost Towns

## DelFTWARE Motifs and the Dating of Rumney's Tavern

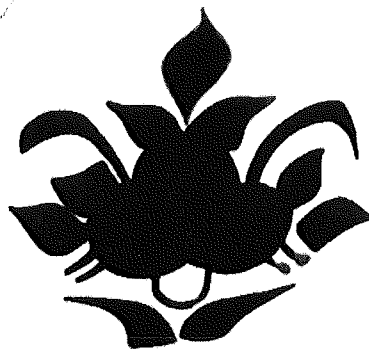
*Al Luckenbach and John Kille*

There is no question that the decorated English delft earthenware recovered from the Rumney-West tavern represents some of the more visually appealing artifacts found so far at London Town. However, in addition to inherent aesthetic qualities, these elaborate motifs provide an important tool for dating the trash deposit and identifying the manufacturing time frame of the vessels excavated from the tavern cellar. We recently completed a comprehensive analysis of several different motifs for a paper submitted to the American Ceramics Circle (ACC) for publication. This analysis and submission follows prior delftware research that Al conducted at ceramics museums in England with generous ACC support.

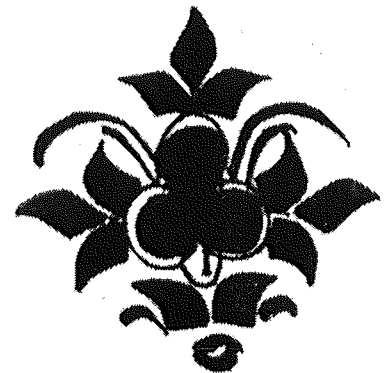
Based on a comparison of design motifs, the best attribution for the

source of an overwhelming majority of this assemblage appears to be the Vauxhall (Lambeth) Pottery on Thames. Founded in 1683 by John de Wilde, the pottery was carried on by the Chilwell family of potters, who were active into the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. A number of vessel sherds excavated from the Rumney-West tavern display design motifs that are virtually identical to decorated sherds recovered from the 1977/81 Vauxhall excavations. These decorated vessels include plates with banded borders and bowls featuring berry and hatched floral scroll motifs.

A subjective part of our analysis was evident while assessing the individual motifs. Some examples found were identical or nearly identical to the isolated motifs (and perhaps even by the same hand), others were classified as only similar, while others demonstrated what could be termed a vague similarity. Eventually, two basic categories were utilized: one consisting of identical or nearly identical analogies (See Figure) and a second category for similar analogies. Analogies that were only vaguely similar were excluded.



**Berry Plate  
Rumney-West Tavern**



**Lipski-Plate 330 (1724)  
"Near Identical"**

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

We have been fortunate in recent months to have a number of interns in the lab. Our interns came from area high schools, undergraduate colleges and graduate schools. They are a great addition to our usual cadre of volunteers. We try to expose interns to as many steps in the laboratory process as time allows. Two interns, Michelle Ward and Ann Peel, went through a detailed analysis of the 18th-century ceramics from Homewood's Lot.

In addition, Carolyn has been working hard to update and complete the minimum vessel counts from Rumney's tavern. She has added several new vessels to our inventory and amended many of the old ones.

Shawn continues to conserve some of the fragile artifacts from our sites.

Rosemarie continues her work on clay tobacco pipes found on various sites in Anne Arundel County. She hopes to compose a comprehensive catalog and paper discussing these highly diagnostic and information-bearing artifacts.

The big announcement is Dave Gadsby is now the official Lab Director of our lab on Riva Road. Congratulations, Dave!

Thanks, as always, to our volunteers. The quality of their work is always excellent. Without it, we would accomplish only a fraction of what we currently do.

Ultimately, we examined eight design motifs, found on six plates and five bowls, excavated from the tavern cellar. The design motifs from these vessels were isolated into the following seven categories: *Berry, Butterfly, Dotted Circle, Pendant, Sunflower, Hatched Floral Scroll, Barber Band, and Three-Band Border*. The motifs were then compared with documented 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century delft vessels with similar motifs. Photographs of dated examples are found in several authoritative reference works. Primary among these is Lipski and Archer's *Dated English Delftware*, but others, including Austin's *British Delft at Williamsburg*, Britton's *London Delftware*, and Ray's *English Delftware Pottery in the Robert Hall Warren Collection* were also used.

The total of all 92 motifs used in this study produced a mean date of 1723.8. An analysis of the 37 very similar or near identical motifs provided an average date of 1721.4. The 55 motifs classified as only similar produced an average date of 1725.5.

The average date of 1724 for the total delftware assemblage recovered from the cellar deposit has great explanatory potential, since this date can relate the principal onset of trash deposition in the cellar to a known change in ownership. According to archival records, the transfer of the property from Edward Rumney to Stephen West, Sr. occurred one year prior to this date. In a 1711 land deed, Edward Rumney mortgaged his property and household goods to another London Town resident, Charles Carroll, to pay off his debts. Another land deed records Carroll selling the tavern property to West in 1723. While the archival record also shows West may have operated another London Town ordinary at the same time Rumney operated his tavern, the location of this earlier establishment has not been documented and remains a mystery.

The motifs found at the Rumney-West tavern indicate not only the chronological placement of the deposit, but are also highly suggestive that the

time span involved in the deposit's creation was quite short. The limited time span indicated is supported by other lines of evidence, including bottle and tobacco pipe forms, faunal remains, charcoal, and pollen analyses. In combination, they indicate a relatively secure date around the year 1724 - a date which documentary evidence strongly supports. It appears quite likely that the transfer of ownership between Edward Rumney and Stephen West, Sr. in 1723 somehow provided the impetus for the rich trash deposit uncovered.

### An Ode to the Hans

Paul Mintz

To Ciria and Steve Hans,  
Two we very much esteem,  
Their wit, laughs, and heart,  
Made them part of the team.

Ciria always kept close,  
An extra sweatshirt,  
For those school kids who  
got cold,  
Whilst playing in dirt.

In the lab she did label,  
For label she must  
While enduring the trials  
Of Shawn's iron dust.

Steve was always off reading,  
About ferries that float,  
In the Maryland State Archives,  
Where you'd freeze with no coat.

The Hans we will miss,  
When they move to the West,  
Though never will we forget,  
Those parts we love best.





Norrine DeDeyn, center, with Betty Williams, left, and Kay Spruell, right.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Norrine DeDeyn

If you visit the lab on any given Monday, you will find it crowded with volunteers. They will be working diligently, smiling, laughing and joking as they do. One of the smiling faces likely to greet you is Norrine De Deyn.

Norrine is an active lady. Between keeping up with her husband, Emmett, and her daughter Judy's exploits, she still manages to garden and work at the Senior Citizen's Guild at Saint John's College. Not only that, but she manages to rope other folks into coming to the lab with her on Mondays!

Norrine's activity of choice in the lab is washing artifacts. While she started volunteering in 1995, she is still always curious about the artifacts she finds. In fact, she will often approach a staff member with an interesting or unfamiliar object and ask, "Whatsit?"

It is always a great pleasure to have Norrine around the lab. Her good humor and hard work make a tough Monday easier to endure. She is always eager to promote activities that band staff and volunteers together, and doesn't miss the Monday afternoon workshops -- and not just because there are usually treats involved! Thank you Norrine, and we hope you stick with *Lost Towns* for a long time to come.

## The Lost Papers of Al Luckenbach Project

Paul Mintz

Once again, I have found myself doing a considerable amount of excavation off of Riva Road—in our office to be precise. While struggling to keep abreast of the ever-growing infestation of unlabeled slides haunting our little corner of building 2664 in the Heritage complex, I have recently been awarded the opportunity to aid Mechelle Kerns in searching through and re-discovering certain “lost” documents on Dr. Luckenbach’s somewhat-less-than visible desk and to return said documents to their right and lawful home, or as the Oxford English Dictionary would have it named, filing.

One sweat (-less) day under the harsh, umm, air conditioning vents high above Al's Office, I stumbled upon a couple of documents written nearly ten years before Al began working for Anne Arundel County, and coincidentally, just a few months after I was born. I first found a reference to an archaeological survey of the lawn in front of the William Brown House completed in 1978 by Archaeological Services, Inc. ASI found no significant archaeological resources at the site and no basis for further excavation. I later uncovered a document recently given to Al that Madeline over at London Town had found in the Publik House. The document was the reply of the London Town Publik House Commissioners to ASI, stating that they “cannot accept your statement that there is no basis for further archeological investigation at the site, and wonder if it might not be imprudent for you to state this opinion so categorically.” After roughly 500 five foot square excavation units, or nearly 12,500 square feet of excavation, one excavated cellar and one to go, trash pits, and post-hole

outlines of four to five buildings, and keeping in mind that hindsight is, after all, 20/20, I find myself agreeing with the London Town Commissioners...

## Heraldry in London Town

Mechelle Kerns

Does your family have a heraldic crest or shield? Many families with Old World roots can trace their family name to a coat of arms. Dating from the medieval period, each element of the crest has a symbolic meaning or honorary significance. Originally used to distinguish knights and their supporters in battle, the heraldic sign can denote everything from royalty to illegitimacy. Each shield is historically linked with a geographic location, usually the ancestral home of the family.

Ongoing research on the residents of London Town has turned up some interesting heraldic information. The Peele (or Peel) Family shield can be found in All Hallows Church graveyard. The Peele brothers moved



*Stewart Family Crest, from a bookplate. These arms are associated with the House of Brute. The quartering is an assemblage of different families, a display of lineage and alliance.*

to London Town by 1716. Merchants Samuel and William (brothers), accompanied by their nephew Robert (a shipwright from New England), lived in London Town and owned many lots. When Samuel died in 1733 and Robert in 1773, they were buried in the same grave at All Hollows. The grave bears the Peele family shield. This crest is associated with Chester and Devonshire England. Other heraldic information has been located for the James Dick and Anthony Stewart families and others are sure to follow. Now I am working on the tough part, getting to the bottom of all that symbolism! More next time.

For more Information:

Brooke-Little, J. P. An Heraldic Alphabet. New York: Robson Books, 1998.

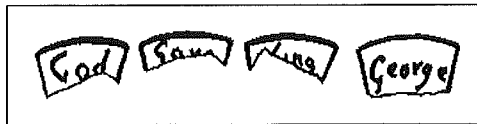
Burke, Sir John Bernard. The General Armory. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969.

Newman, Harry Wright. Heraldic Marylandiana. Washington DC: H. W. Newman, 1968.

Woodcock, Thomas. The Oxford Guide to Heraldry. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990.



**Peele Family Crest**, described as: "Argent a bend between mullets sable." Argent: Heraldic term for silver or white, Bend: The fourth Honorable Ordinary; a diagonal stripe drawn across the shield from the dexter chief to the sinister base, Mullet: A figure resembling a star with straight limbs, usually of five points in England, Sable: Heraldic term for black.



*Drawing of text trailed on clear glass decanter, found in cellar*

## Rumney's Cellar Complete, Yields Last Secrets

*Al Luckenbach*

Under the supervision of Assistant County Archaeologist Jane Cox, the last of the prolific trash layers under the Rumney/West Tavern have recently been removed. After excavations over a period of four years, the feature yielded an impressive collection of domestic trash. *The Lost Towns Project* team, with the help of London Town Foundation, Inc., will set up an exhibit under the existing tent. Describing the excavations, the exhibit will feature an 11-foot picture of the deposit's profile and describe the soil layers and discarded trash.

The last items recovered were probably discarded in the early 1720s, quite possibly as some response to the transfer of ownership between Edward Rumney and Stephen West. They include pharmaceutical bottles, delft chamber pots, a wonderful stemmed wine glass, and the usual remains of meals.

Perhaps the most evocative, however, is a broken stopper for a wine decanter. Not content to speak to us of the up-scale nature of this tavern on Scott Street, the stopper presented an overt message from London Town's past: *God Save King George*. The George in question is undoubtedly George the First, who assumed the throne in 1714. Ivor Noel Hume, a notable historical archaeologist and prominent material culture researcher, has found wine glass fragments with similar phrasing in Colonial Williamsburg.

## Maryland Public Television to Include *Lost Towns Project* in Series

*Lisa Plumley*

You might want to start collecting autographs of *Lost Towns* staff, interns, and volunteers – they may soon be stars! Maryland Public Television produces a show titled, *Maryland State of Mind*. We will be featured in the show that describes different facets of the University of Maryland System.

MPT originally came to *The Lost Towns Project* because of their interest in the high number of University of Maryland Baltimore County interns we have supported over the last four years. Seven of the project's 22 UMBC interns (comprising approximately half of the total number of interns) were hired after the conclusion of their internships. Five of these students currently work on a full or part-time basis with the project. These staffers include: Mechelle Kerns, Paul Mintz, Rosemarie Callage, Bette Lawhon, and Mike Rinker. Because of these impressive numbers, MPT decided to dedicate a part of one of their shows to *The Lost Towns Project's* Internship Program.

After meeting with our staff and UMBC's Chairperson of the Ancient Studies Department, Dr. Marilyn Goldberg, MPT began to film. The crew filmed for three days, taping interviews with interns, staff, and volunteers. They also filmed artifacts, and excavations and shot footage of our 3-D images of Scott Street, Chaney's Hills, and artifacts.

The final spot will run for six minutes – a short-sounding but long segment in the television world. It is set to air at the end of September.



*Marj Hegge and Ray Landrum's version of the American classic – London Town Gothic*

## London Town Recognizes Lost Towns Volunteers

*Lisa Plumley*

Congratulations to the volunteers that received awards from London Town! On July 11<sup>th</sup>, London Town hosted a luncheon recognizing all volunteers, especially those volunteers who donated large numbers of hours with the organization. Also recognized as the Volunteer of the Year was D.L. Smith, who often worked with Lost Towns and the school children for Wednesdays' archaeology programs.

The Lost Town Project's archaeology volunteer hours comprised an impressive third of the total hours contributed to London Town's volunteer program. These folks consisted of field, lab, and archival volunteers. The following volunteers logged big hours:

*Over 200 hours:*  
Joan Beck  
Sue Morris  
Bernie Rosenberg

*Over 150 hours:*  
Bob Bomback  
Cirla Hans  
Jim Hooper  
Betty Williams

*Over 100 hours:*  
Noreen DeDeyn  
Steve Hans  
Marj Hegge  
Joan Klick  
Ray Landrum  
Kay Spruell  
Bill Storey

*Over 50 Hours:*  
Nancy Bumpass  
Bob Guilford  
Michelin Mann  
Mac Millhone  
Norm Soldat  
David Toucher

Thank you to all volunteers who contribute not only hours, but also

### *How do I get involved?*

Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project is a team of professional archaeologists and historians, assisted by volunteers and interns. There are field, lab, and archival opportunities available.

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

The lab is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 through 4:00. Call the lab phone for more information at (410) 222-7328. The lab is located at 2666 Riva Road in the Heritage County Government Center.

energy, enthusiasm, and patience to London Town and the Lost Towns Project. Neither organization would be able to exist without your help and support. Always feel free to give us criticisms and/or compliments about our programs. We love suggestions regarding lectures, workshops, field trips, and everyday activities. Again, thank you!

### **Keeping Up with the New Crop of Summer Interns: A Road Map**

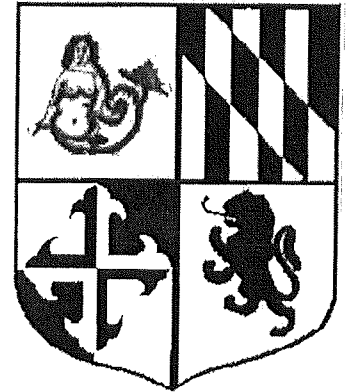
*With the summer comes a new gaggle of fresh, eager faces. Here is a list of their names, where they attend school, and their projects. Be sure to stop by and say hello!*

Elizabeth Berkin	Old Mill High School	Field and Lab
Julia Braun	South River High School	Field and Lab
Rachel Coffman	South River High School	Field and Lab
Alice Elkin	Broadneck High School	Field and Lab
Caroline Jeffra	Gunston Day School	Field and Lab
Toni Loschiavo	University of Maryland Baltimore County	All Hallows Cemetery Project
Ann Peel	Parsons Univesity, New York City	Lab, Ceramics Project
Cory Sez nec	Johns Hopkins University	Field, Archival Work, Slide Database
Michele Ward	Parsons University, New York City	Lab, Ceramics Project

### ***Who Makes up the Lost Towns Project?***

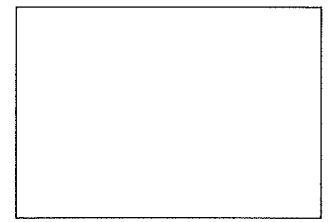
Al Luckenbach.....Director/County Archaeologist  
 Jane Cox.....Assistant County Archaeologist/Assistant Director, Technology  
 David Gadsby.....Lab Director  
 John Kille.....Assistant Director, Operations/Grant Administration  
 Jason Moser.....Assistant Director, Field/3-D Coordinator

Rose Marie Callage.....Lab Technician/Education Assistant  
 Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist/Curator  
 Mechelle Kerns.....Historian/Archaeologist  
 Bette Lawhon.....3-D Specialist  
 Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Equipment Coordinator  
 Sherri Marsh.....Architectural Historian  
 Paul Mintz.....Archaeology Technician/Research Historian  
 Lisa Plumley.....Archaeologist/Volunteer-Education Coordinator  
 Mike Rinker.....3-D Specialist  
 Shawn Sharpe.....Archaeologist/Lab Assistant



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The Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project  
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