

February 2000

Future Events

February 7

10:00-11:00, 2664 Riva Road
Early Development of Annapolis
Tony Lindauer

March 6

10:00-11:00, 2664 Riva Road
*A Look at Rumney's Through
Laws and Court Judgements*
Paul Mintz

April 3

10:00-11:00, 2664 Riva Road
*Making Sense of the Stains:
A London Town Update*
Lisa Plumley

April 4

10:00-11:00, London Town
*London Town: Overseas
Research Update*
Mechelle Kerns

April 8

9:00-2:00, London Town
Public Dig Day
The public is invited to help screen soil, take tours, and attend workshops.

April 17

10:00-11:00, 2664 Riva Road
*Three Centuries of Living:
Material Culture from the
Homewood's Lot*
David Gadsby

May 8

10:00-11:00, 2664 Riva Road
*Tracking English Voyages to
Maryland Through the Historic
Record*
John Wing

Letters from Lost Towns

Archaeology at London Town Designated a "Save America's Treasures" Official Project

Jane Cox

In December 1999, London Town received official designation as a "Save America's Treasures" Project. Save America's Treasures, a private sector initiative administered through the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is a national effort focused on protecting America's threatened cultural treasures. The Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Archaeology Project, in coordination with London Town Foundation, submitted an application to the program, highlighting the unique archaeological rediscovery program and public outreach initiatives at London Town. London Town Archaeology is one of only 18 projects designated in Maryland and one of 430 designated nationally. Our local archaeology program is increasingly being recognized in a national level. Designation gives the archaeological program at London Town national recognition and will open up opportunities for, additional funding and assistance from the National Trust.

The Lost Towns Project also submitted an application for funding an interpretive program at the London Town archaeological site through the Save America's Treasures program. This proposal to the Getty Preservation Planning Fund requested funding to develop a self-guided audio tour of the town, including 6-8 kiosks placed at key

locations throughout the site. These audio-visual kiosks were intended to guide visitors through London Town, describing the town plan, its architecture, residents and activities.

Also proposed was development of an introductory program for London Town guests to be housed in the visitor's center. This brief interactive overview was intended to acclimate visitors to the historic site and prepare them for experiencing colonial London Town. Unfortunately, funding for this project was not awarded, but we continue to search for opportunities to make this public programming a reality and assuring that visitors experience the archaeology of London Town to its fullest. Any ideas on how to raise the required \$4500 would be greatly appreciated!

Please visit the Save America's Treasures web site for additional information about this wonderful program!

<http://www.saveamericastreasures.org>

Y2K Dig Day Dates!

April 8

May 20

June 17

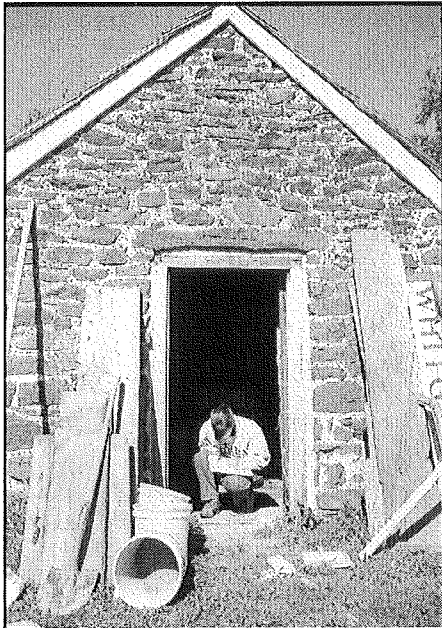
July 15

August 19

September 16

**Dig Days are held at
London Town from
9:00 – 2:00.**

Please join us!



Lisa documenting Hancock's dairy

Looking Forward: Hancock's Resolution

Jason Moser

With all of the nasty winter weather we've been receiving lately, some of you might want to know about some of our upcoming fieldwork. This spring, fieldwork will commence at Hancock's Resolution. This will be the third time that the staff of *The Lost Towns Project* has worked on this site. For those who have never been there, here is a little background information. The property known as Hancock's Resolution was a 400-acre plantation along the Patapsco River, in what today is called Bayside Beach. The plantation house, a fieldstone farmhouse, was built in the late eighteenth century and was occupied until 1962. In 1963, Historic Annapolis, Inc. purchased the property. The house and surrounding homelot have been the focus of numerous archaeological investigations over the past two decades. Upcoming fieldwork is funded by a grant from the Maryland Historic Trust, and conducted in cooperation with The Friends of Hancock's Resolution, Inc., a non-profit

organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of Hancock's Resolution, and the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation. Work at Hancock's falls into three phases. The first phase includes the gathering of historic, cartographic, environmental and cultural data about the project area, as well as interviews with local residents. Much of this information will be incorporated into ArcView, a Geographic Information Systems, which will facilitate analysis of variables that may have influenced the development of the plantation. The second consists of a survey and study of archival resources such as agricultural census data, probate information, tax records, and a farm journal recently discovered by the Friends of Hancock's Resolution. The third and final phase consists of a shovel test survey of twelve acres of property acquired by Anne Arundel County in 1998, which lies adjacent to the house lot. This survey is designed to identify possible outbuildings, slave quarters, tenancies or any other structures related to plantation operations. Fieldwork is expected to last approximately two weeks and begin in March.

Chesapeake Life Magazine Writes Up Lost Towns

John Kille

Yes, that is, in fact, our very own Jane Cox featured prominently on page 94 of the January/February edition of *Chesapeake Life* magazine!

The half page closeup photo of Jane excavating Rumney's tavern cellar is part of a four page article by John Kille and Jim Gibb on the project's digital animation efforts. "Animating History at Colonial London Town" explores the innovative computer work of Jason Moser, Bette Lawhon, Mike Rinker, and

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

The past several months in the lab have been very busy. Staff, interns, and volunteers are tackling various projects - from processing artifacts fresh from the field to cataloging and analyzing materials from older excavations.

Volunteers and staff are spending a great deal of time working with the large number of artifacts from the Homewood site. Every bag contains important artifacts that will help in the eventual analysis of the site.

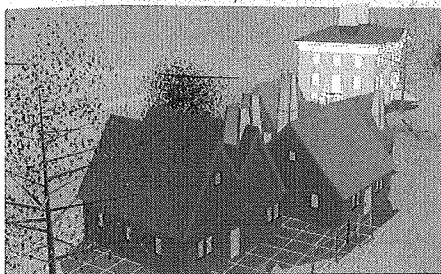
We also have been processing artifacts from the final quarter of the Rumney's cellar. We hope to find the remainder of some vessels already identified. This may help us determine how and why the cellar filled. So far, Carolyn has pieced together most of a Rhenish stoneware chamber pot. Hopefully the rest of the pot is in one of the layers that has yet to be excavated. Carolyn also has been cataloging artifacts from postholes excavated at London.

Shawn is conserving metal and glass artifacts from our broad variety of sites. In his spare time, he has been working on the analysis of the Burle site in Providence.

Rose Marie has been working on her pipe stem analysis of Chaney's Hills and processing artifacts.

Dave is orienting himself to his new environs and working on a catalog for the Chaney's Hills site.

We need to accomplish a great deal in the coming months and welcome anyone who wishes to donate their time to work on some really exciting artifacts! Please call the lab at (410) 222-7328.



3-D Computer animation of Scott Street

former staffer Tracy Corder, and discusses how their creations are an integral part of the project's public education program. This article was a great opportunity to call attention to the painstaking work of these animators and the enormous potential digital animation holds for enhancing historical interpretation at London Town.

In addition to Jane, the spread also features stunning half-page photos of a digital recreation of a period scene at Rumney's Tavern based on pieces of pottery and glass excavated from a cellar deposit and a digital recreation of buildings along historic Scott Street, including the William Brown house. Of course, no story on London Town archaeology could be complete without a photo or two of exquisite English delft pottery! It is a pleasure to report that our trademark delft mermaid plate and berry bowl are both depicted, as well as an elegant crystal trumpet wine glass.

Last, but certainly not least, the magazine article includes a crew shot taken at the "Edmondo" site in front of a period cellar excavation. On that particular day, we were fortunate to have the able assistance of volunteers Bob Guilford, Bernie Rosenberg, and Al Lavish. Keep up the good work, crew!



Saving Treasures After They Come Out of the Ground

While excavating our various sites, we uncover many glass and iron artifacts. Glass that is found is chiefly fragments of wine bottles and windows, but smaller medicine bottles and finely made tablewares like wine glasses also are discovered. We also have an impressive array of iron artifacts; anything from knives to kettles or sickles. Unfortunately, items made from these materials tend to decompose and fall apart far more easily than most of the other artifacts we recover. Additionally, removing them from the ground where they have laid for hundreds of years only hastens their decay. In an effort to preserve these delicate artifacts, we've taken to conserving them.

Glass is conserved by injecting plastic into the decomposing crevasses and air pockets within the glass. The process also leaves the surface encased with this plastic. This lends the glass better strength and also protects it from the effects of oxygen, which is one of the greatest contributors to its decay.

The first step in the conservation of our iron is to remove the excess rust which has accumulated around the artifact. Frequently, the iron is so rusty it is nearly impossible to guess the identity of the item until the rust is carefully removed. Once the artifact has been satisfactorily cleaned, it is coated with a rust inhibitor to prevent further decay. Before and after photographs need to be taken to document any treatment.

With the help of these procedures, our bottles and scissors, wine glasses and forks, will last in good condition for a few more centuries! -Shawn Sharpe

The Day Nick News and MPT Came To Town

John Kille

In case you weren't tuned in to the Nickelodeon cable channel in October, you may have missed the segment devoted to the Lost Towns Project public education program.

To get a full rundown, just ask any area school kid, who is bound to tell you that the airing of this program was a much-anticipated event. Several children from the Key School deftly fielded questions posed by the show's producer Kara Corso, who had set up an interview station in the Rumney Tavern "digloo". Providing "background color" for the kids was Lost Towns

Project director Al Luckenbach, who did a great job explaining the fascinating archaeology and historical research being carried out by the Lost Towns Project staff and volunteers.

It just so happened that on the day the Nick News crew arrived to film at historic London Town Park, so did Maryland Public Television! They came to film portions of the Anne Arundel County 350th anniversary program. Anyone present during the filming of both programs would have thought London Town Park had been converted into a Hollywood studio lot. Not surprisingly, the kids, as well as London Town Foundation director Greg Stiverson and Al Luckenbach, ended up being prominently featured in the documentary.

This nationwide and statewide media attention tells us that we're doing a few things right. In fact, Nick News and MPT chose to do programs on The Lost

Towns Project largely on the basis of the innovative and popular educational activities it carries out with the London Town Foundation at the park.

Those of you who missed the Nick News show shouldn't despair, as the program will be rebroadcast on a regular basis over the next two years. As for the MPT program, it is now on sale at the London Town Foundation gift store.

The Art of Data Management

Paul Mintz

While having your dog eat your homework was par for the course in elementary school, not having your evidence or having sloppy citations are big no-no's for archaeologists and historians venturing off to conferences. Through the thousands of hours logged in at the Maryland State Archives by Mechelle Kerns, Tony Lindauer, and especially by our many determined volunteers, it's not hard to imagine all of the data accruing back at our Riva Road offices.

To keep track of all this information, the staff at the Lost Towns Project has developed multiple databases to help organize, search through, and present our research. While our file cabinets continue to house many of the Project's most important documents, more and more of our data can be found and accessed through our computers. It's no small wonder I had a troubled night's rest on Y2K-eve, but my fears were put to rest by the melodious hum of our computers' internal fans and hard drives, both spinning to life the next work day.

Whether Anne Arundel Court Judgements, acts of the General Assembly, land records, or probate records, each of our data sets has found a home in one of our databases designed to organize that data in the best possible

manner. Like a fine wine, be it the Cabernet Sauvignon that Project Director Al Luckenbach favors, or the cheap stuff at 7-Eleven I depend on, each type of record has different properties and different purposes. While David Macklefish's name might be important in one, his property's metes and bounds might be important to another, or his property passed down to his heirs in the next. Each database is designed with the record's pertinent facts in mind.

Another database the team has established is for another sort of data altogether – visual data. For those who cannot always make it to the

archaeological sites, the Lost Towns Project depends heavily on slides to bring the sites to the public. Our slide database is designed to help streamline the selection of slides for our many presentations and conferences.

Finally, our Riva Lab uses a database to total artifact counts, percentages, standard deviations, etc., in order to better understand the artifact compositions of the site. While everything a database does can be done by hand, these programs save dozens of hours – hours better spent at *Adam's Ribs* – and helps keep the Project's information literally at our fingertips.

Gretel Brown Memorial Book Fund

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Gretel Brown Memorial Book Fund. We are using this money to acquire reference books for the Lost Towns Lab. Titles purchased include:

- ◆ *Dutch Arts and Culture in Colonial America 1609-1776*. Proceedings of the Symposium, August 2-3, 1986
- ◆ *The Jacobites and Their Drinking Glasses*. By Geoffrey B. Seddon
- ◆ *Wallace Collection, Catalogue of Ceramics/Pottery, Maiolica, Faience, Stoneware*. By A. V. B. Norman
- ◆ *Eighteenth-century Ceramics, Products for a Civilized Society*. By Sarah Richards
- ◆ *Delftware Tiles*. By Hans van Lemmen
- ◆ *English Slip-Decorated Earthenware at Williamsburg*. By Leslie B. Grigsby
- ◆ *Commoners, Tribute and Chief: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley*. By Stephen R. Potter
- ◆ *Skulls and Bones: A Guide to the Skeletal Structures and Behavior of North American Mammals*. By Glen Searfoss
- ◆ *George Washington's Chinaware*. By Susan Gray Detweiler
- ◆ *English Drinking Glasses*. By L. M. Bickerton
- ◆ *The Coins of Colonial America, World Trade Coins of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*. By Joseph R. Lasser, Gail G. Greve, William E. Pittman, John A. Caramia, Jr.

Several other titles are on order. These include several papers on the care and conservation of artifacts, as well as volumes on *Border Wares*, *The Wheat Pattern*, and a *Descriptive and Visual Dictionary of Objects Based on the Parks Canada Classification System*. These books and papers will be invaluable aids in the identification and analysis of the artifacts that come into the lab. We invite all to use these wonderful new resources. We also welcome any contributions towards the fund. Donations can be made to the Anne Arundel County Trust For Preservation, P.O. Box 1573, Annapolis, MD, 21404. Please specify "Gretel Brown Book Fund".



Volunteer Spotlight: Steve Hans

Steve Hans digs archaeology, but he also likes mining for London Town history. For many months Steve has worked with Paul and me on an archival research project. We are studying the Anne Arundel County Court Judgement Records and the colonial laws of Maryland looking at legislation that influenced the daily life of Maryland colonist. One aspect of this study focuses on ferryboats. Steve wanted to know how the ferryboats of London Town looked and what it took to operate such a venture. Now we are fishing for the facts!

Steve has researched the laws that affected ferryboat operation. Using the archives of Maryland and other legislative sources, he compiled a list of laws that show the evolution of regulations, fares, and ferryboat sizes. Recently, we traveled to the Library of Congress in Washington to collect information on ferryboat construction. We used the collections of the Prints and Photographs Division to see how ferryboats were depicted in 18th century genre painting and 19th century photographs. It seems that the adage of "the more things change, the more they stay the same" applies to ferryboats. We found, particularly in rural areas, that this style of boat changed very little in 200 years. Soon we hope to compile an image of the past that represents this important part of London Town history. Steve's hours of research and hard work helps us better understand life in London Town.

Mechelle Kerns

Chaney's Hills Site: We're Smokin' Now!

Thanks to all the volunteers, interns and staff-- we're hot on the trail to dating the tobacco pipe fragments from the Chaney's Hills site.

There are generally three ways of dating the 1,473 clay tobacco pipe fragments: bore diameter, makers' marks, and bowl form. Based on observations that stem bores decrease between the period of 1620 to 1800, all of the fragments containing bores have been measured using the blunt end of drill bits. We have discovered that over 50% (or 409) of pipe bores measured 6/64th of an inch. According to Harrington's observation, this information corresponds to the time period of 1680-1710. Couple this information with statistical analysis of the bore means, the suggested dates fall between 1680-1693, depending on the formula used.

Seven pipe fragments recovered contain makers' marks. Makers' marks are often in the form of initials, but may also be a signature type of decoration. Three of the fragments are marked with the initials "LE", dating 1661-1688. One spur (small, narrow heel) contains an "A" and "H". A stem decorated the an X and dot pattern is possibly the work of James Fox. Similar pipes were recovered from the Chalkley Site (1677-1685). One stem is decorated in a spiral-fluted manner. These distinguishing characteristics allow us to trace the dates the makers worked, and therefore when the pipe was made.

Bowl forms are associated with certain time periods as well. Three nearly complete bowls and two heel areas suggest the "export" style because they do not contain any type of heel. The remaining varieties of heel fragments are now being investigated, as well as comparative collections regarding clay tobacco pipes.

How Do I Get Involved?

Field days are usually Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Days 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 7328.

Making the Past Come Alive

John Kille

Hats off to Lost Towns computer specialist Bette Lawhon for her digital reconstruction of historic ca. 1702 Cedar Park. This makes up part of a new exhibit at the London Town visitor's center. The generosity of the Cultural Arts Foundation made it possible for Bette to create her animated model of the oldest and best of three surviving examples of earthfast architecture on the east coast. Bette's animation illustrates how art, archaeology, and computer technology can be used to enhance historical interpretation. The exhibit also discusses and depicts the Lost Towns Project's ongoing digital reconstruction of historic Scott Street.

Rumney once held a huge bash

Then threw out a great deal of trash

Which lay in the ground

Until it was found

Upon receiving a grant of some cash!

-Contributed by Cirila Hans

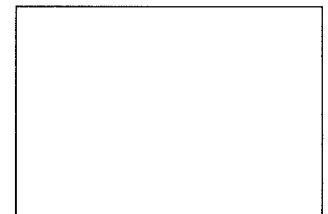
Who Makes up the Lost Towns Project?

- Al Luckenbach.....Director/County Archaeologist
- Jane Cox.....Assistant County Archaeologist/Assistant Director, Technology
- 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

Letters from Lost Towns is published by Anne Arundel's Lost Towns Project. Published quarterly in February, May, August, and November, contributors consist of Lost Towns staff and volunteers. Lisa Plumley is editor. To be added to or deleted from the mailing list, please contact Lisa Plumley, PACE, P.O. Box 6675, Annapolis, MD, 21401. Anne Arundel's Lost Towns Project is supported by the Anne Arundel County government, in cooperation with the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. and the London Town Foundation, Inc. Donations can be made to the Anne Arundel County Trust For Preservation (ACT), P.O. Box 1573, Annapolis, MD, 21404.

The Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project
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