

May 2000

Future Events

May 8

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

John Wing

May 20

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

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

June 5

1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road
Underwater Archaeology

Susan Langley

June 17

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

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

July 10

1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road
The Importance of Conservation
Shawn Sharpe

July 15

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

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

August 7

1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road
Maryland History: An Overview
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.

Letters from Lost Towns

The Rediscovery of Homewood's Lot

Al Luckenbach

The Lost Towns Project team and its dedicated volunteers have spent part of last fall and this spring excavating at a site that was once part of the 1649 Town of Providence, the first European settlement in the county.

The site was initially located during studies required as part of a proposed minor subdivision. It represents the seventh homelot location found from the Providence settlement's town lands. The first, the Broadneck Site discovered in 1990, also was located during archaeological subdivision review by the county's Department of Planning and Code Enforcement.

Originally patented as "Homewood's Lot", the site is situated on Whitehall Creek on the lower Broadneck Peninsula, south of Route 50. Portions of three or four generations of structures have already been uncovered, including a ca. 1650 sill-on-the-ground building, a ca. 1670 wooden earthfast structure, and a ca. 1740 brick house that was once the home of John Hesselius, a famous 18th-century portrait painter. These structures were built by various members of the Homewood family who were part of the original group of Virginia Puritans that came to Anne Arundel County in the mid-17th century.

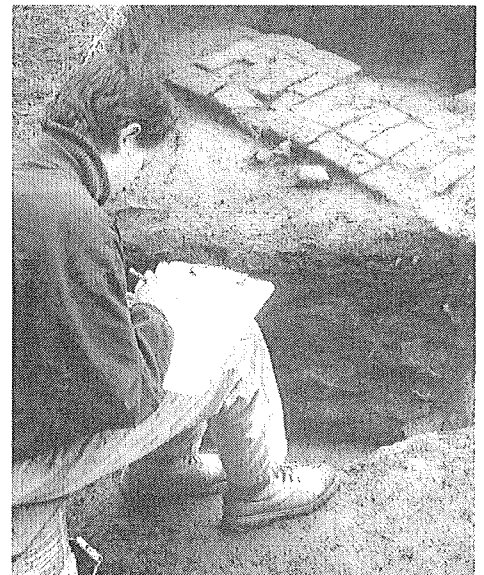
The original ca. 1650 structure is remarkably reminiscent of the Broadneck Site, which was also an early sill-on-the-ground building.

The least understood structure appears to be a long, narrow earthfast building that was built with an unusual amount

of Dutch building materials. These include a pantile roof, a yellow brick hearth, and glazed floor tiles, all of which had been imported from Holland. Similar materials have been recovered at the homes of Providence citizens Robert Burle (Burle's Town Land) and Ralph Williams (Town Neck), whose house sites also have been tested by the Lost Towns Project. This use of Dutch building materials is highly unusual south of the Hudson River Valley and probably indicates a special relationship between the Puritan Protestants who settled at Providence and the Protestant county of Holland.

The final construction on the site probably dates from the 1740s and appears to be a 35x40-foot brick structure built by Charles Homewood. It had a partial brick-lined cellar with a plastered floor, which was filled with destruction debris dating to around 1780.

In addition to structural evidence, archaeologists have recovered thousands of artifacts like broken



ceramics and bottles, as well as numerous animal bones and oyster shell. Standouts include a 1661 lead window came, wine bottle seals, "running dear" terra cotta pipes, and a portion of a Rhenish stoneware seal dated 1632. Particularly important is the faunal materials recovered from a small cellar filled between circa 1660 and 1665. The large amount of fish bones present in this feature may be indicative of an early reliance on non-domesticated food sources.

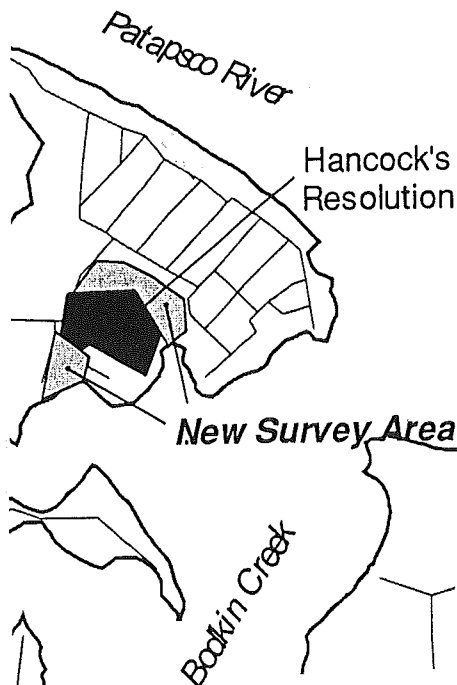
Like our excavations elsewhere, these sites tell us a unique story about what life was like in our county's past, how people lived, and what they ate 350 years ago. Their excavation allows us to preserve information about our heritage that would otherwise be lost.

Hancock's Resolution: An Update

Jason Moser

In the last newsletter we announced that *The Lost Towns Project* was beginning fieldwork at Hancock's Resolution (18AN169) in Pasadena, Maryland. The project is sponsored through a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust, and consists of three phases: archaeology, background research, and community interviews. Since the last newsletter, *The Project* has completed fieldwork on one of the two parcels and are about to begin fieldwork on the second.

The building at Hancock's Resolution is one of only three 18th-century stone houses still standing within Anne Arundel County, Maryland. In addition to its rarity as a stone building, the original one-room floor plan of the building (before an addition was added) is the only remaining example in the county. The one-room floor plan was common prior to the American Revolution, with perhaps as many as



half of the houses of this period built with this layout.

Another important aspect of Hancock's Resolution is the pristine condition of the house. The "historic fabric" of the house is relatively unmodified. The house was occupied as late as the 1960s by descendents of the original Hancock's family, and even at that time the house possessed neither electricity nor running water. This fact alone sets Hancock's Resolution apart from many of the historic homes in Anne Arundel County, by providing a window into the past and allowing us to see into the lives of its 18th and 19th century inhabitants.

The archaeology and historic research program at Hancock's Resolution is designed to broaden our understanding and interpretation of the property as an 18th and 19th century plantation by locating outbuildings set away from the main house. At one time the Hancocks owned much of the peninsula between the Patapsco River and Bodkin Creek. The extensive acreage of the property tract probably necessitated the division of the farm into smaller more manageable units of production. These units were then either leased to tenant farmers or farmed using slave labor. Essentially, archaeologists of *The*

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

It is digging season again! That means the lab has been busy trying to stay ahead of the large number of artifacts coming in from Lost Towns excavations. Visitors will notice the shelves of artifacts to be washed are full and have spilled over into buckets on the floor. As always, we are grateful to our dedicated corps of volunteers who spend many hours washing and labeling the artifacts.

Various ongoing projects have kept the lab staff busy as well. Carolyn has divided her time between the cataloging of Rumney's tavern artifacts and London Town plowzone. She also spends much of her time aiding volunteers.

Shawn has been working on continuing the analysis of artifacts from the 1649 Burle site in Providence, as well as conservation of glass and metal artifacts. We are currently constructing a display in one of the lab's exhibit cases to show off the products of Shawn's efforts.

Since submitting her paper on the pipe stem analysis at Chaney's Hills to Maryland Archeology, Rose Marie has been cataloging the remainder of the site and spending much of her time in the field.

Dave spent time completing the Chaney's Hills Catalog, which is in its final stages as this goes to press. He also has been working on Hancock's and a number of other small projects.

Interested in volunteering in the lab? Call Dave at 410-222-7328, or drop by the office at 2666 Riva Road.

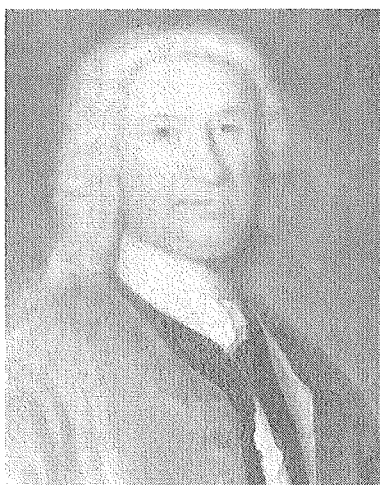
Lost Towns Project are attempting to reconstruct the patterns of land use by locating the structures and outbuildings associated with such a large farm. Analysis of the artifacts recovered from the first parcel surveyed by the Project is ongoing, and we hope to have a summary of preliminary findings by the next issue of the newsletter. A preliminary review of the artifacts collected thus far has recovered brick, coal, oyster shell, glass, and 17th, 18th, and 19th-century ceramics. Perhaps the most interesting of these finds are a number of kaolin and terra cotta pipe fragments that date to the 17th century. These fragments, recovered from three shovel test pits with olive green bottle glass, suggest that an early 17th-century site was located near to the current Hancock house. Over the next several weeks we will investigate the nature and extent of this 17th-century site, as well as complete the analysis on the remaining areas of the property to reconstruct the cultural landscape of this 18th century farm.

Recent Historical Research: The Portraiture of London Town

Mechelle Kerns

London Town: we try hard to figure out how it looked. Now I am working on what the people looked like too! My search started when writing the Dr. Richard Hill book. First located were portraits of Mary (b. 1725), Harriet (b. 1729), Henry (b. 1733), Rachel (b. 1735) and Margaret (b. 1737), Hill: all born in London Town. These were painted in Philadelphia when the Hill children were young adults. Then last spring, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilson of Harwood, we were able to locate the portrait of Hannah Williams West, the wife of Stephen West, Jr.

Recently, I have made additional wonderful discoveries. The Maryland History Society has a reference collection of 18th-century Maryland paintings. This collection contains the faces of some of London Town's elite. There is a wonderful representation of Margaret Strachan Harwood (b.1747) painted by non-other than Charles Wilson Peale. Also in the collection are Margaret Dundas Dick, the wife of London Town merchant James Dick, and their children Mary Dick McCollough (b. 1732, Edinburgh) and Jean Dick Stewart (b. 1742, London Town). Their husbands, Scottish merchants David McCollough and Anthony Stewart, also are found in this 1920s catalog. John and Gustavus Hesselius painted the Dick-McCollough-Stewart family. I also discovered the portrait of Elizabeth Chapman Brodgen (b. 1721), the daughter of another London Town merchant, as well as her husband Rev. William Brodgen. Many of these paintings are in private hands, owned by direct descendents. The latest of these works dates from the 1720-30s and will therefore be hard to locate. However, one was exhibited by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 1933. Our Margaret Strachan once graced the halls of one of the world's most famous art galleries. I hope that the owners and location of these wonderful paintings will come to light.



Stephen West, Sr.



Mary Hill Lamar, from Letters of Dr. Richard Hill and His Children

Our *piece de la resistance* is a portrait of Stephen West, Sr., recently located in Annapolis. This portrait was lovingly restored and hangs in its original frame. In this Gustavus Hesselius work, London Town's tavernkeeper (he was the second owner of "Rumney's Tavern") and ferryman still looks out on the world with a peaceful dignity. London Town lives on in these faces from our past.

ACT Won: Beck and Rosenberg

John Kille

Congratulations to Lost Towns Project volunteers Joan Beck and Bernie Rosenberg, who have been selected to receive the Volunteer Award from the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. (ACT). The Volunteer Award singles out individuals who have furthered the cause of historic preservation within the county through dedication and outstanding performance. Joan provides invaluable assistance with the processing of artifacts at the Riva Road lab. Bernie provides stellar support, as well as wit, in the field and lab. Both will be touted and receive framed certificates at the annual ACT awards ceremony that will be held later this spring.

Archaeology Review in Anne Arundel County's Planning and Code Enforcement

Jane Cox

The Lost Towns Project has a unique and professionally enviable arrangement wherein archaeologists and historians have the opportunity to discover, research, and explore archaeological sites throughout Anne Arundel County. As many of you may know, we are not affiliated with the traditional research institution, a university, but rather our organization is based out of the County Planning and Zoning Department.

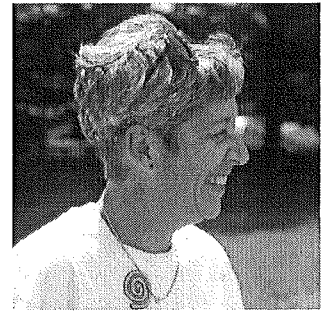
It is our activity within the local government-planning department that

initiated the Lost Towns Project. Anne Arundel County is one of only two counties in Maryland that conducts the review and requires protection of archaeological sites on private lands. (The other local jurisdiction conducting archaeological review is Calvert County.) The historic and archaeological review conducted in Anne Arundel County is based upon Article 26, Title 3-109 of the Anne Arundel County Subdivision Regulations. This states:

“Existing features that will add value to residential development or natural or man-made assets of the county, including trees, watercourses, falls, beaches, vistas, historic spots, historic or architecturally significant buildings, or similar irreplaceable assets, shall be preserved, insofar as possible, through harmonious and careful design of a subdivision.”

Our office reviews all subdivision applications and evaluates if the project will impact a known archaeological site or if the property has a high potential for containing archaeological resources. Our office can require a Phase One survey to evaluate if there are resources on the property. If there are known resources, then the site must be evaluated for significance and protected or documented appropriately. This happens perhaps a dozen times per year.

Lost Towns Project research serves an important role in the preservation planning process in Anne Arundel County. Much of the research and fact-finding conducted by the Lost Towns Project serves to support and guide preservation decisions within the county system. In recent years, some of the most significant sites in Anne Arundel County have been discovered because of this review process. Chaney's Hills site (18AN1084), the 17th century site on Riva Road, was discovered as a result of the survey our office required for the CJV Property. Our recent work at Homewood's Lot, the most recent Providence discovery (18AN871), was



**Volunteer Spotlight:
Susan Morris**

Some find it hard to believe, but Sue has only been volunteering with *Lost Towns* less than two years! As soon as she began, she became an integral part of the team. Steadily volunteering one day a week in the field and attending the Monday workshops, she somehow finds the time to work almost-full time, although she claims she retired. She rarely takes time off for good behavior, but only because she is traveling to places like England and Guam! She also is an annual Sheep and Wool Festival participant, apparent in her digging paraphernalia and coffee mugs. We appreciate her continued support, conversation, and good humor, (as well as supplies...) and look forward to many more hours in her company.

also a result of a County Code requirement.

While most often, our office requires that the developer or owner retain a professional archaeologist to conduct required research, there are occasions when sufficient information cannot be extracted from a site within the code requirements, or it is under imminent threat. It is only on these special circumstances when the Lost Towns Archaeology Team gets involved. This program has resulted in Anne Arundel County having protected or discovered more sites than any other county in the state. Currently, we have registered nearly 1200 sites with the Maryland Historical Trust.

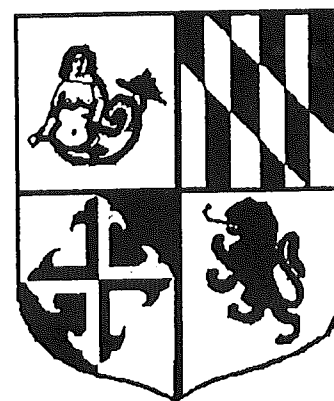
How do I get involved?

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.

Anne Arundel County's



Lost Towns Project

Logo For The Lost Towns Project!

Lisa Plumley

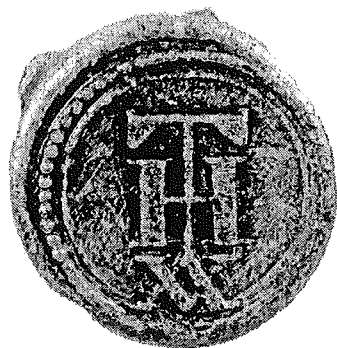
Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project has finally adopted a logo! Long-awaited and anticipated, the logo has a four main segments.

If the mermaid looks familiar, it should! London Town currently uses it for their logo. London Town is one of the Project's key sites, it being the host to Lost Town's excavations and education programs for the past five years. It was pictured on four plates recovered from the Rumney's Tavern Cellar.

The lion comes from a plate discovered at the Broadneck site. This site was originally part of Providence, the earliest Anne Arundel County settlement. Lost Towns has excavated several components of Providence. The lion is part of the Llyod family crest, and is similar to the Scottish Rampart Lion.

The diagonal lines and cross come from the Anne Arundel County Seal. The seal comes from variations of the Calvert and Crossland family arms.

We believe the logo illustrates elements of Anne Arundel archaeology, as well as its commitment to education. You will start to see it around soon!



Linking History and Archaeology:
A Glass Bottle Seal from Homewood's Lot

Glass bottle seals are occasionally recovered from tidewater colonial sites. These glass disks were adhered to glass liquor, water, and oil bottles prior to the 19th century. Aside from being visually appealing these objects can provide valuable information to archaeologists. They serve to stress the fact that glass in the 17th and 18th centuries was not the disposable item that it is today. One way to protect such valuable commodities is to mark it with a name or initials. Finding the initials of a site's occupant can help to link the archaeological and historical evidence about a site. For instance, sealed bottles seem to have served as an informal gift item for well – to – do gentlemen of the 17th and 18th centuries. Seals could also serve to name the merchant of a bottle, thus providing insights into trade and consumption patterns on the site. Occasionally, bottle seals are dated. The bottle seal above bears the initials "TH" and a double X mark. The TH refers to one of three Thomas Homewoods who lived on the Homewood's Lot between 1650 and the mid-17th-century. Its presence on the site verified that we were indeed at Homewood's Lot and guided further historical research. The context from which it was recovered, an 18th century brick cellar, suggests strongly that it belonged to the third Thomas Homewood, who died in 1739. A Chancery Court record from 1750 describes: "...she saith that she was acquainted with a certain Thomas Homewood...that he was an honest man as to his dealings, but loved drink and keeping low company...".

-Dave Gadsby

Lost Towns Project
Pulls in Key Grants

John Kille

The Lost Towns Project was recently awarded two important grants from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Eugene Chaney Foundation. The project will receive \$30,000 from MHT to conduct a systematic survey near Town Point in Southern Anne Arundel County to identify archaeological sites related to the formation, development,

and abandonment of the legislated town of Herrington (1683).

Another award of \$10,000 from the Eugene Chaney Foundation will provide operating expenses and involve the production of a video with digital reconstruction and animation of the 17th –century homestead of Richard Chaney. The reconstruction will be based on the project's extensive excavations at the Riva Road site and outstanding archival research carried out by Tony Lindauer. Jason Moser will head up the effort with the help of computer specialist and professional artist Bette Lawhon.

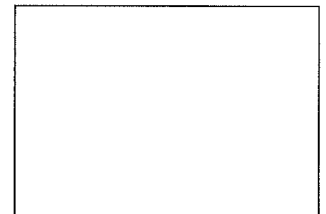
Who Makes up the Lost Towns Project?

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

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
Planning and Code Enforcement
2664 Riva Road
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