

Future Events

November 5

**1:30 - 2:30, 2664 Riva Road
*Investigating All Hallows***

Historian Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito will describe research conducted on this early London Town parish community.

November 26

**11:30-12:30, Lost Towns Lab
*Pot Luck Lunch***

Join Lost Towns staff and volunteers for lunch, site updates, and gossip!

December 3

**1:00-2:00, Lost Towns Lab
*Oyster Dating Workshop***

Join Paul Mintz to talk about the upcoming oyster dating project.

December 7

**6:00 - 9:00, Montpelier Mansion
*Holiday Candlelight Tour***

Call Lisa Plumley for more information about this festive field trip to Prince Georges County!

December 17

**11:30-12:30, Saucy Salamander
*Lunch with the Lab Ladies***

Join Lost Towns staff and volunteers for lunch, site updates, and gossip!

January 14

**11:30-12:30, Lost Towns Lab
*Pizza Lunch Party***

Join Lost Towns staff and volunteers for lunch, site updates, and gossip!

February 4

**1:30 - 2:30, 2664 Riva Road
*Anne Arundel County Almshouse***

Archaeologist Lisa Plumley will discuss the ongoing archaeological and documentary investigations of this nineteenth through twentieth-century landscape.

Letters from Lost Towns

Ivor Noël Hume Visits London Town

Al Luckenbach

The patriarch of American historical archaeology, Ivor Noël Hume, recently paid a visit to London Town accompanied by his wife Carol, and Colonial Williamsburg photographer Dave Doody. Noel's visit was intended to include Historic London Town and Gardens as part of a series of articles being published in *Colonial Williamsburg Magazine* about significant historic sites that are open to the public.

Beginning in 1956, Noel directed the archaeology program at Colonial Williamsburg for over 30 years, and is now in active retirement. He is the author of numerous books on historical archaeology – both scientific and popular – including the “bible”, *A Guide to the Artifacts of Colonial America*. Other well known works include *Here Lies Virginia* and *Martin's Hundred*. His easy writing style and skill at evoking the excitement of archaeological discovery

have influenced generations working in the field. I remember receiving a copy of his *Historical Archaeology* for my eighteenth birthday. (I seem to recall it had been chipped onto a stone tablet).

Noel seemed impressed with everything he saw. He had high praise for the Rumney's Cellar exhibit (“a very successful solution...a real winner”), for the Richard Hill and Kitchen Gardens, and especially high praise for Lisa Plumley's education program (“brings these young hands in direct contact with the past”). His excitement for the Lord Mayor's Tenement and new London Town Museum was also evident. He is a real fan of London Town and the Lost Towns Project.

After photographing the site, the staff, and viewing the “goodies” from Rumney's Cellar, Noel had the opportunity to view the finds from the tobacco pipe kiln at Swan Cove. This seemed to put him over the top. In his upcoming article he will describe this Providence site as a “discovery of monumental importance to archaeologists on both sides of the Atlantic.” Kind of makes the heat, the cold, the mud and the ticks worth it, doesn't it?



A visit to London Town.

From left: Al Luckenbach, Carol Hume, Greg Stiverson, Ivor Noël Hume, Jason Moser

Unexpected Opportunities at the Shah Property

Jane Cox

In the spring of 2002 the Lost Towns Team will turn their focus on property adjacent to the London Town Park. Plans for new construction on the Shah property will provide the opportunity to investigate a significant component of the colonial town of London prior to its destruction. This project will be supported by an emergency grant of \$20,000 from the Maryland Historical Trust.

The property is located directly across colonial period Scott Street from our main excavation block. Scott Street was intensively occupied during London Town's heyday as evidenced by our discoveries at Rumney's Tavern and the Carpenters Shop.

We expect to see a similar intensive occupation on the Shah property. Documentary evidence indicates that the property once held the Black Residence, Pierpont's Tavern, and the 1684-1695 Anne Arundel County Courthouse. It also borders one of the main ferry crossings from the colonial period site.

At present, we expect to begin investigations on the property in March of 2002 and we will have only four weeks to complete our investigations. This will be an 'all-hands' event as our time will be limited and there is much to do! We expect to run field operations five to six days a week for the duration of the project and we look forward to any and all of the assistance we can muster from volunteers during this time. Drop us a line if you think you can help out in March. This will be an exciting project and will likely be the only opportunity we have to conduct archaeological investigations on this heavily occupied portion of the town.

Oyster Dating Workshop

On December 3rd in the Anne Arundel County Lost Towns Lab, Paul Mintz will discuss the methods with which the Project will study oyster shells from the 17th century settlement of Providence. Funded by a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust, the research project will attempt to document annual and irregular growth breaks evident on oyster shells. The process of how these breaks are identified, photographed, and recorded will be the subject of the workshop. Those attending the workshop will see firsthand the volunteer opportunities the research project has to offer. Please join us!



Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation Presents "Outstanding Volunteer" and "Special Contribution to Archaeology" Awards



Marj and Al sharing a moment

Will Mumford hosted the annual ACT awards ceremony on Friday, October 19 at the beautifully restored historic Portland Manor in Lothian, Maryland. Each year ACT presents several awards to individuals, families and organizations that make outstanding contributions to historic preservation in the county.

Marjorie Hegge received the "Anne Arundel County Trust Volunteer Award", awarded for over a decade of dedicated service to Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project*, both in the field and archaeology lab. Ms. Hegge is also a talented artist, and her sketches of historical artifacts have appeared in many project publications. The staff at *The Lost Towns Project* applauds Marj for all her great help and looks forward to another decade of working with Marj!

The Storck Family received the "Special Contribution to Archaeology Award" for their exceptional support and interest in the archaeological investigation of the Swan Cove Site, the earliest known tobacco pipe kiln in the Americas. This important project is

providing fascinating insights into the beginnings of American manufacturing and trade. The Storcks have been great about allowing a half a dozen strangers out to dig holes in their horse pasture once a week for the past eight months.

The 21st "Marjorie Murray Bridgman Award" was presented to Isabel Shipley Cunningham, historian and writer, for her outstanding contribution to our knowledge of Anne Arundel County history, along with many articles for the Anne Arundel County Historical Society's newsletter, *Anne Arundel History Notes*. Ms. Cunningham recently authored a two-volume work on the history of the Pasadena peninsula.

The 25th "Orlando Ridout Award" was presented to Portland Manor in recognition of the outstanding preservation efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Wulff. The recognition is given for significant contributions to preservation of the architectural heritage of Anne Arundel County.

The ceremony benefited from beautiful dry autumn weather and an excellent turnout. Al Luckenbach and Orlando Rideout IV presented awards and county executive Janet Owens addressed the assembled guests. -John Kille and Dave Gadsby



Al presents the award to the Storcks



Dedicated Herrington volunteer documents an STP.

Read Lois' narrative on page five!

Part of Herrington Finally Found

John Kille

As expected, *The Lost Towns Project* team of archaeologists, historians, and volunteers has risen to the challenge of tracking down the elusive 17th-century town of Herrington at present-day Town Point in southern Anne Arundel County. The excavation of almost 500 shovel test pit (STP) holes as part of a generous grant from the Maryland Historic Trust has involved a great deal of determination and stamina. However, it is a pleasure to report that several recent 17th-century finds are putting this lost town back on the map.

The discovery of several pieces of imported ceramics establishes a definitive 17th-century occupation for the town of Herrington on private property owned by the Crandell family, just below the cove at Town Point Marina. The presence of Rhenish stoneware from Germany and swirled slipware from North Italy means that the occupation could date as early as the 1650s. The archival research of historian Tony Lindauer indicates that this tract of land may have belonged to large landholders William Parker or Samuel Chew. Parker, who resided in Calvert County, is known to have

surveyed 200 acres of land in 1651 on the south side of Herring Creek. Chew, a prominent Quaker and one of the most distinguished figures in colonial Maryland, owned a lot and house in Herrington that he willed to his son William in 1676. Additional research and expanded testing is necessary to determine the true owner of this site. What we can say at this point is that the person who chose to build here selected wisely, as the site is in close proximity to a spring head, a roadway, and a large cove connected to Herring Bay.

Our team is now surveying and testing a large and scenic parcel of private property to the south overlooking a marshy area that was once a prominent cove during the 17th-century. This small inlet, which is referred to on period maps as "The Cove" and "Back Cove," lies in between the larger cove to the north and a steep shoreline known as "The Cliffs" to the south. The decision to explore here is based on the possibility that this smaller cove could have also served as a shipping destination, and the high, flat area above it would be an attractive spot to build a home. While the site has yet to produce 17th-century diagnostics, we have found clear evidence of 18th- and 19th-century occupations in a pasture that is home to several prize-winning thoroughbred horses. Our important discoveries of diagnostic ceramics such as scratch blue and white salt glaze stoneware, and cream and white wares, were revealed, if not fully appreciated, alongside a captive audience of curious four-legged onlookers. This work is also turning up brick, oyster shell, animal bone, teeth, and, of course, iron horseshoes.

We are continuing to document later occupations in the immediate area, including a late 19th-century windmill that operated on a point overlooking Herring Bay, as well as a small store and post office that served the local community. A period coastal survey map shows the exact location of the mill that once stood on eroded property now lying underwater. Two photographs also exist of this impressive wooden mill that was apparently wind powered. Incredibly, the mill's grinding stones are now on display at the Town Point Marina, thanks to Captain Ed Crandell and his son Ned, who rescued them many years ago when the tide retreated several hundred feet following a "blowout" storm. Another surprising find came from local resident Marjorie Johnson, who

What's going on in the Lost Towns Lab?

The lab has been engaged in a number of activities this fall. The most pressing of these is the ongoing processing and analysis of the artifacts from Swan Cove. Most of the washing for this site is finished as fieldwork wraps up for the season, but we are engaged cataloging and analyzing the attributes of the pipes, muffles, and other artifacts recovered from Drue's tobacco pipe site. Volunteers with artifact and database experience are always appreciated for such an endeavor.

We are also engaged in constant struggle with our ever growing collection of artifacts. As we await the construction of the new lab facilities, our collection continues to expand rapidly, so frequent reorganizations of the space in the Lab are becoming *de rigueur*.

Shawn continues with his conservation efforts, but he is now situated in the back room with a dust-reducing, noise muffling workstation. The results of his work are more quite striking, and he works his magic for a fraction of the cost of an outside conservator.

You can expect some new faces in the lab in the near future. Paul Mintz, a longtime staffer, plans to spend a good chunk of time this winter working on his oyster shell dating project in the lab. We have also hired Sara Andrews, an intern at UMBC, for a short term cataloging contract. We expect her to be here at least through January.

For those interested in seeing the lab or in volunteering to do some lab work, please call Dave at (410) 222-7328 at least a day before you plan to come.

-Dave Gadsby

produced a beautifully decorated antique ceramic plate advertising the Leitch store. Her cherished heirloom is the only material evidence of the store found to date.

Opportunities are still available for volunteers to assist in the search for historic Herrington. Please contact Lisa Plumley at 410-222-7441 if you are interested in joining us.



Herrington in a Nutshell

Thousands and thousands of STPs, okay hundreds (it just seems like thousands) have been dug in the last few months in the elusive search for Herrington (note: for the unwashed masses, STP does not refer to oil, but Shovel Test Pit!) Old maps and charts show the name spread across a couple of inches of space, which amounts to several miles in reality. Unfortunately there is no dot to indicate the precise location. Was that done on purpose? Was it perhaps like Camelot – bathed in myth and legend, minus a King Arthur, Guinevere, Merlin or Sir Lancelot?

I had grown up within sight of Herrington and had never heard of it until recently. While growing up, I spent many hours crabbing and swimming practically right on top of Town Point. It never occurred to me to ask where “the town” was. When I grew up and moved away, all was pushed into the back recesses of my mind. Then something called “The Lost Towns Project” came along, flushed with the successes of London Town and Providence, and decided to set its sights on finding Herrington.

Enter a merry band of archeologists hi-hoing through the fields. But in keeping with the Camelot theme, make that knights, not clad in suits of armor, but t-shirts and baseball caps. And the knightesses dressed in the ever-practical shorts and jeans (Have you ever tried to wield a shovel in one of those long flowing gowns and those pointy hats?). They carried with them not swords and shields, but screens and shovels. I, rather like the poor beggar in the woods, asked if I could be considered worthy enough to follow also on this grand adventure and render what assistance I could. “Come on down!” they said, almost too eagerly I thought later. I was deliriously happy to be included in this tightly knit group, who at any moment I was sure was going to uncover a city of gold beneath the rolling hills of former tobacco farms.

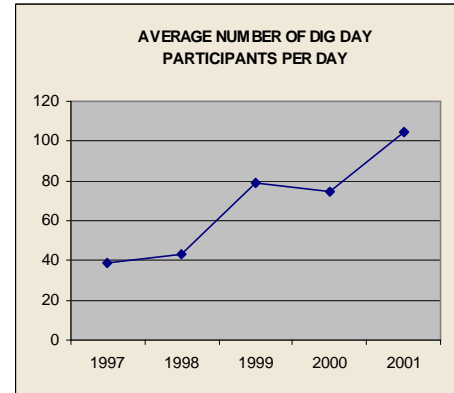
Days of high temperatures and oppressive humidity were made worse by the ever-growing pile of flat brown paper bags. The bold NCM (hey, unwashed masses, this means No Cultural Material) on each of the bags seemed to mock us with our superior knowledge and modern finding techniques. As the holes were refilled with dirt, I sometimes thought I could hear a faint “nyah, nyah, nyah-nyah-nyah!” coming out of the ground. As we trudged across yet another barren field toward the next orange flag, “At least we know where it isn’t!” was muttered by several of the hearty, though sometimes discouraged, band.

Week after week we labored, an oyster shell here, a piece of glass there. Even a prehistoric point, but nothing that shouted (or even whispered) Herrington. Then one enchanted day, a couple of pottery shards dating to the town period showed up in a screen. A tiny, but very tantalizing piece of evidence (Not exactly the Holy Grail, but at that point, it was close enough).

Herrington has teased us and has slowly drawn me into its web of mystery. Maybe it never existed. Was it just a cruel joke? I can hear the shipboard grumbling now. “Some idiot back in London wants us to build a town over yonder. What are they, nuts?” “But gov’ner, lets humor ‘em and draw up a town plan.” Anther piped in “Good idea, let’s put it on our maps now, we’ll use that great big tree on that hill as a starting point.” As they dip into the next day’s ration of grog, “Those government types who have never set foot on anything but cobblestones in London, tryin’ to tell us where and how to build a town in this God-forsaken place”, much derisive laughter follows.

But whatever Herrington was or wasn’t – a town, a bunch of people who decided they really didn’t like living close to each other, or whatever, the search for it has become, for me, almost an obsession. Perhaps Herrington, when we finally find more substantive evidence, will provide more questions than answers. If, as the saying goes, the thrill is in the hunt, not the catch, we are having a thrill a minute. We know it’s there. It’s only a matter of time - and, oh yeah, money!!!

Lois Nutwell, August 30, 2001



“Public Dig Days” a Continued Success

Lisa Plumley

The Lost Towns Project successfully concluded another season of “Saturday Public Dig Days” at London Town! Since we began the program officially in 1997, the average number of participants has more than doubled (see graph above). The total number of attendants this year hit an all-time high of 627, which nearly equals the totals of the first two years combined. The popularity of this “real” hands-on program has escalated beyond any previous year. Every Saturday a group of scouts, college students, or campers is scheduled to participate in the program, especially with the omission of an October dig day due to unpredictable weather that time of year. The monthly event regularly draws participants from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. We even see people coming from as far away as New York, Washington state, and England!

We have also established a dedicated corps of regulars – those individuals and families that attend every Dig Day with as much enthusiasm, playfulness, and charm as their first day. They assist the “first-timers” with screening and ply them with information about the town and project. We truly appreciate their dedication and helpfulness in sometimes chaotic, frenzied moments.

This year most of the soil screened on Public Dig Days came from plowed soil lying around the Rumney-West Tavern “digloo”. It yielded a significant number of artifacts belonging to the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. A high number of the

Volunteer Spotlight: Kay Spruell

Our earliest records of Kay's participation in the project date to 1990, back when it was just Al and a handful of dedicated volunteers. While the project has changed, Kay has not. She still contributes irreplaceable hours, insight, and enthusiasm to the project as she did in the early days; she now just offers it to a larger number of staff and volunteers! Kay works both in the field and the lab. In the field she screens plowzone and digs postholes and strata. She has probably worked on every Lost Towns Project site. In the lab, she takes on quite a task: fine sorting. Armed with bug-goggles, Kay goes through water-screened artifacts with sharp-pointed instruments, separating bone, brick, ceramics, glass, beads, charcoal, seeds, and any other artifacts she comes across. She claims to enjoy this task, and thank goodness because it drives many people crazy!

A retired school teacher, Kay divides her time among many other interests. She is an artist and grandmother, plays dominoes every Monday afternoon, holds at least 12 part-time jobs depending on the month, and volunteers at other archaeology sites (gasp!) and charitable organizations. Her time is full of worthwhile endeavors, and we value the time she shares with us. Her thoughtfulness and experience in the field and lab help us immeasurably, and her humor and heart often help us make it through the day. Thank you, Kay!



early eighteenth-century ceramics was tin-glazed earthenware, which is the same ceramic as the "mermaid" plate, London Town's logo.

In addition, a high percent of artifacts recovered from these excavations dated to the almshouse period of the site. Examples of interesting finds include flute and harmonica pieces, a broach, multiple burned buttons, and clay pigeon, or skeet. These artifacts represent activities of both the poor and those visiting the site during the time the site functioned as an almshouse. The burned buttons may have been the result of clothes being burned because of infestations or epidemics recorded at the turn of the century. This year's dig days, therefore, have not only been successful because of the numbers of participants, but also because of the informative and interesting data collected!

Dig Days are held from April through September from 9 AM to 2 PM at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater, an approximately eight mile drive from downtown Annapolis. Individuals and families are invited to screen plowed soil excavated from the grounds of London Town, which is county park run by the London Town Foundation. London Town was a tobacco-port town established in 1683, housed the county's poor from 1825-1965, and became a museum in 1969. Attendees

also take tours providing context about the history of London Town and information about archaeological methodology. These are held throughout the day. Two workshops also are offered, one on laboratory procedures and the other displaying and describing artifacts commonly found on the site. Lastly, a video entitled "Unearthing the Past" is shown in the visitor's center. This video provides a good background to the project and its role within Anne Arundel County and the Chesapeake. House and garden tours also are available for a fee. Next year's dig day dates are as follows: April 13th, May 18th, **June 8th**, July 13th, August 10th, and September 14th. Groups should make reservations by calling Lisa at (410) 222-7441. *Please join us!*

Eugene Chaney Foundation Grant Awarded

Jane Cox

An unexpected but pleasant surprise arrived in the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation's mailbox in early October. The Eugene Chaney Foundation sent a check for \$5,000 to support the Moss Fund, the archaeological arm of the A.C.T. Inc. This

money was welcome and needed at a time when our supplies were running low. While grants often support specific equipment for projects, items needed to operate on a day-to-day basis are often tough to acquire.

This generous support from the Chaney Foundation will be used to update a few of our computers, including a new computer for the Lost Towns Laboratory. Operating previously with two rather old and slow machines, the lab now has the equipment needed to really crunch numbers, making the analysis of our sites more efficient. The grant also purchased another new computer and provided resources for upgrading ailing computers. The grant will also take care of replacing smaller items like graph paper, shovels, trowels, pencils, and sharpies for the field.

Special thanks to the Eugene Chaney Foundation for their continued support and encouragement! We couldn't do it without support like this.

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. Field, lab, and archival opportunities are available.

Field days vary depending on the weather and particular project. Call Lisa at (410) 222-7441 for information.

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

Those interested in archival research opportunities should contact Mechelle at (410) 222-7441.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT), P.O. Box 1573, Annapolis, MD, 21404. Please note "*Lost Towns Project*" in any correspondence.

Thank you for your interest and support!

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
Donna Ware.....Architectural Historian

Rosemarie Callage.....Lab Technician/Education Assistant
Carl Gehrman.....3-D Specialist

Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist/Curator
Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito.....Historian/Archaeologist
Bette Lawhon.....3-D Specialist

Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Equipment Coordinator
Sherri Marsh.....Assistant Architectural Historian
Paul Mintz.....Archaeology Technician/Research Historian
Lisa Plumley.....Archaeologist/Volunteer-Education Coordinator
Shawn Sharpe.....Archaeologist/Lab Assistant

Letters from Lost Towns is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November by Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project*. Contributors consist of *Lost Towns* staff and volunteers. To be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact Lisa Plumley, Planning and Zoning, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, MD, 21401 or call (410) 222-7441. Anne Arundel County'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.



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