

Future Events

December 9
1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road
Excavations on the Willson Site

Staff Archaeologist Shawn Sharpe will describe research centered around the Willson Site (c. 1700-1750), including excavations and artifacts.

December 13
5:00-9:00 pm, Sotterly Plantation
Candlelight Tour

Our 3rd annual candlelight house tour, staff and volunteers will visit the Sotterley Plantaion, an early 18th-century house and plantation. The house will be dressed for the holidays, complete with caroling and cookies! There will be a \$10 admission fee. Please call Lisa to RSVP by November 22nd.

January 13
1:30-2:30, Riva Road
Good Times during the Past Times

Jordan Swank will discuss the eighteenth and nineteenth-century leisure activities, such as music, games, and other sources of merriment, of early Maryland's populations.

February 10
1:30-2:30, 2664 Riva Road
A Tale of Two Houses: the Eighteenth Century at Homewood's Lot

Lab Director David Gadsby will trace the eighteenth-century history of Homewood's Lot through its colorful assemblage of people, artifacts, and buildings.

Letters from Lost Towns

New Discoveries: The Willson Site's Early 18th-Century Cellar

Jane Cox

Lost Towns excavations have finally wound down at the Willson site, and Mr. Willson is moving forward with plans to build his family home adjacent to the colonial homesite of John and Elizabeth Talbott. The final few days of excavation at the Willson site proved to be quite exciting as we excavated the last ½ of an earthen cellar. Not only were the artifacts interesting, but the cellar construction itself also turned out to be somewhat unexpected.

The oblong pit reached a depth of more than 4 feet and was 11 feet long by 7 feet wide, oriented in a southwest to northeast direction. At the northeastern side was an unexpected feature—what we identified as earthen steps leading out of the cellar hole. Though roughly dug out from the clay earth, each step had recognizable measurements - 7½ inches on the tread and almost 8 inches on the rise. The pit was likely underneath an earthfast structure and appears to have been filled circa 1720. Diagnostic artifacts such as English and Rhenish Brown stonewares and pipe stems with bores measuring 5/64ths to



Pipkin found in the Willson cellar

6/64ths indicate that the cellar and building were likely constructed circa 1700, about the same time the third generation Talbott's - John and Elizabeth - marry.

While the stairs of this cellar were carefully documented, the artifact-rich soils continued to be removed by staff and volunteers. A special thanks goes out to Lois Nutwell and Don Stubbs for carefully working through the last ½ of the cellar! Three primary artifact classes seemed to emerge from the ashy soil: an unbelievable amount of large and intact faunal materials, numerous and varied ceramic and glass vessels, and a unique assortment of personal items.

The faunal collection recovered from this tightly dated feature included a full range of animal bone. Its recovery from ashy soils indicates that these faunal remnants were part of the Talbott's regular diet and were

discarded along with the ash from the kitchen fireplace. Bones ranged from large domestic and wild mammals - such as cows, pigs, and deer - to smaller animals - such as chicken, fish, turtles, and eggshell. A large portion of a horse skull and associated horse bones were also recovered from the same context. cursory evaluation indicates that the horse was quite old at death, but its



Stirrup discovered in the Willson cellar

location alongside bones that were obviously butchered raises the question as to the ultimate demise of the Talbott's horse. Numerous pieces of horse tack were also recovered including bits, a stirrup and buckles.

Ceramics from the cellar included several interesting delftware motifs, including a polka-dotted bowl and several examples of polychrome delft. Also present were Rhenish Brown and Rhenish Blue & Grey stonewares, English Brown stoneware, and ubiquitous redwares. One lead-glazed redware 'pipkin' (a colonial saucepot of sorts) has been almost completely reconstructed. Numerous olive green onion bottles and a few case bottles are currently being reconstructed in the lab

Several unique personal items have also been recovered from the Willson site. Most interesting is an intact top to a bed warmer. This one-foot wide brass top has a punched dot pattern of a large star enhanced by small floral stamps repeated between each star point. Other personal items include buckles, cuff links, and a tinned straight pin.

The artifacts all suggest a very early eighteenth century occupation— perhaps from circa 1700 until the 1720s or 1730s. As analysis and cataloging continue, we will be able to better define the cellar's period of use by considering vessel forms, pipe stem dates and makers' marks. Cataloging is nearly done thanks to the hard work of Shawn Sharpe and intern Lauren Franz.



Interns from left: Brad Nolan, Alex Aston and Lauren Franz

A Bumper-Crop of Lost Towns Interns

Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito

This fall we have three interns. Here is a little introduction to each of them:

Lauren Franz, a senior from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is from Mars, Pennsylvania. Her internship is a little different than most. She is working eight forty-hour weeks in order to earn twelve credits towards her degree in Anthropology. Lauren works in lab helping with artifacts from the Willson site, as well as the field. She is dividing her time this semester between the *Lost Towns Project* and the Maryland State Underwater Archaeology Program. Lauren has been working with Steve Bilicki on surveys of underwater sites near Assateague Island, Fort Horn, and Bodkin Creek. She is an Advanced Scuba Diver and has worked on terrestrial sites in the Allegheny National Forest and in Central American country of Belize. She is a busy and capable young woman who has proven to be an asset to our team.

Alex Aston is a freshman at Howard County Community College. He graduated from the Carver Center for Arts and Technology in Towson, Maryland in 2002. Alex is a well-traveled young man. He lived and attended school in Zimbabwe, Africa and spent many summers in Greece. He is a history major and is very interested in classical archaeology. He works with us two days a week helping in the lab and field. He is also transcribing All Hallows Parish records. Alex is articulate and enthusiastic young man who

helps keep our conversations cerebral and animated.

Brad Nolan is a senior at Southern High School in Harwood, Maryland. He is a participant in the school's Professional Internship Program and works with us in both the field and the lab fifteen hours a week. He is an Honors student in Physics, History, Economics, and Office Systems Management. He also participates in varsity sports and this year he runs

cross-county and both indoor and outdoor track. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as well as the Future Business Leader of America. He is a diligent worker with a full schedule and we are glad to have him.

We are very lucky to have such a great group of interns this fall. Please welcome them to our team!



Dig Days are Back!

April 5th
May 10th
June 14th
July 12th
August 9th
September 6th

Dig Days are held at London Town from 9:00 - 2:00. Call Erin Piechowiak for more information and group reservations.

Please join us!


**Please join us for our third annual
 Holiday Candlelight Tour
 of a Historic Home**
this year at the
Sotterley Plantation
 circa 1717
Friday, December 13th
 Admission will be \$10.
 Please contact Lisa at (410) 222-7441
 by November 22nd for more
 information and to RSVP.



ACT Awards Honors Two Lost Towns Contributors

Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito and John Kille

On October, 30, 2002, the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation held its awards ceremony at Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59 in Crownsville. This annual event is held to recognize significant contributions to architectural and historical preservation in the county. A constant drizzle of rain could not dampen the spirits of those who attended, and many deserving stewards of our county's heritage were honored with plaques and accolades.

Congratulations to Lois Nutwell and Ned Crandell, who received awards for their exceptional support to the Lost Towns Project. Lois Nutwell received the Anne Arundel County Trust Volunteer Award for her dedicated work in the field. Ned Crandell received the Special Contribution to Archaeology Award for his assistance with the search for the 17th-century town of Herrington. Both Lois and Ned are lifelong South County residents with family ties that extend back many generations.

Lois Nutwell first started volunteering at our weekend dig days at London Town in 1997. She eventually moved to assisting us during the week at such sites as the Herrington and Willson sites in South County and the



Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge, host to this year's ACT awards, as well as award recipient

Almshouse excavations at London Town. She also helped construct an exhibit on the Willson excavations for the 350th Anniversary of Galesville. Lois is also an active volunteer with the Archeological Society of Maryland and recently stepped down as newsletter editor to work on her own book highlighting the history of South County.

Ned Crandell is the owner of Town Point Marina, located on Herring Bay. He and his father, Captain Ed Crandell, are expert watermen with an avid interest in the history of the people and environment of the Chesapeake Bay. Ned provided invaluable assistance and resources to *The Lost Towns Project* during Phase I investigations funded by the Maryland Historical Trust. Ned's support led to the discovery of the 17th-century tobacco port settlement of Herrington.

Other ACT awardees included Major General John W. Huston who received the *Special Service Award* for his involvement in the St. John's College History Lecture Series;



ACT award recipients Ned Crandell and Lois Nutwell

Marion E. Warren who received the *Outstanding Public Service Award* for his lifetime contribution to historic preservation through his photography of Anne Arundel County; Roger B. White who received the *22nd Marjorie Murray Bridgman Award* for his involvement in the preservation of Odenton; and Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59, which received the *25th Orlando Ridout Award* for significant contributions to architectural preservation in Anne Arundel County.

A Steadfast Friend: Ned Crandell

Those of you who have been following our search for the 17th-century tobacco port settlement of Herrington on Herring Bay may already be familiar with the important documentary and archaeological discoveries that took place. While recently published articles and reports properly document the research, methodology, and techniques surrounding our excavations, they do not reflect the immense contributions of a certain individual who was as responsible for finding Herrington as any archaeologist or historian on our team. Of course, I am referring to Ned Crandell, the owner of both Town Point Marina and a significant parcel of property that was tested during our Phase I investigation. Ned was suitably honored with a Special Contribution to Archaeology Award at this year's ACT awards ceremony. It was nice to see him finally receive credit for his steadfast support of our archaeological excavations in South County.

Ned is one of the most humble and genuine people you will ever meet. When we first approached him to seek his approval for our investigation, we were amazed that his level of interest in the project matched our own! Not only did Ned throw his own support behind us, but he also rallied his neighbors to allow us to test their properties as well. We also were pleasantly surprised to learn that Ned, his wife Betty, and his father Captain Ed Crandell, are all extremely knowledgeable about the local history of the area. They provided firsthand accounts of the presence of a local graveyard, a windmill, general store and post office, and family farmhouse that perished in a fire.

Ned's generosity covered every aspect of our weekly visits to Town Point over many months. In addition to allowing us to dig several hundred shovel test holes on his property with numbered flags dotting his landscape, he also permitted us to drive our equipment trucks across his fields and park our cars at his marina. Ned even gave us wash and rest room facilities at his marina, lent us tools and equipment, and provided cold drinks to the crew on hot summer days!

Thank you, Ned, for your friendship and shared interest in the important history of Town Point. We could not have found the town without you. -John Kille



Sarah trapped between the desk and buckets of artifacts, with only her coffee and redwares to comfort her - yet she still smiles...

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 Erin 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!

Lab Space Limited, Protest Planned

Sarah Andrews

Is anarchy about to break out in the archaeology lab? Nearly every day, dedicated volunteers, interns and staff members squeeze themselves around the table to engage in lively political debates while washing, labeling and cataloging a never-ending supply of artifacts. Floor and shelf space dwindle, as bags, boxes and buckets of artifacts seem to multiply overnight. Carolyn periodically disappears behind the wall of boxes that has repeatedly sprung up around her desk. Tripping incidents are on the increase, according to a staff member who asked not to be named.

Rumors of relief are frequently heard, but remain unsubstantiated. Reportedly, a new lab is being built right above our heads. Early accounts claimed that this new lab would be spacious and beautiful. Staff and volunteers cautiously rejoiced. A happy parade was tentatively planned. Alas, caution was called for, and parade plans were premature. The latest scuttlebutt has the lab moving into a smaller space with no windows. An unscientific survey of laboratory staff and volunteers shows that 100 percent of respondents believe that kind of move is a bad idea. A sit-in and possible hunger strike are reportedly being planned to protest the detrimental impact such a smaller space would have on the emotional and physical well-being of the staff. Or maybe Dave was only joking. New information indicates that perhaps an additional room may be granted to the haggard troops, no doubt because of their threats of revolt.

In other news, productive work continues to happen in the lab. When she can get to her desk, Carolyn can be found happily analyzing small ceramic sherds from Londontown. She can frequently be heard muttering, "Yesterday this looked like pearlware, but today it looks like creamware." Across the room, Sarah is just as happily analyzing redwares from Swan Cove and Homewood's Lot. This mostly involves sorting sherds into mysterious piles that can all be rearranged into new

mysterious piles the following day. In lab work, as in life, little is certain.

Lauren the all-purpose intern and local news celebrity is certainly mastering the art of cataloging as she tirelessly works her way through box after box of artifacts from the Willson excavation. She is guided and assisted by the noble Shawn, who is otherwise busy cleaning and conserving metal and glass artifacts.

Our fearless leader, Dave, has recently begun graduate studies, and has become something of a rare sight in the lab. Dave's recent lab activities have included creating a new and improved database for the artifact catalogs, and pounding out a presentation on Homewood's Lot. He also tends to trip over stray buckets of artifacts from time to time.

If you'd like to join the protest, provide cookies for the hunger strike, or if you just want to do some volunteer work, we'd love to have you. Call (410) 222-7328, and we'll save a bag of artifacts for you.

The Lost Towns Project's sweatshirts, polo shirts, T-shirts and baseball caps are now available!

Decorated with the Lost Town's logo, sweatshirts are navy, polo shirts are cornflower blue, T-shirts are khaki, and hats are tan with blue bills. They are available for a donation of \$25 or more for the sweatshirts and polo shirts and \$15 or more for the T-shirts and hats. Checks should be made out to ACT, Inc. All proceeds go to the Lost Town's Internship Program.





Erin "cleaning" the floor of the eighteenth-century cellar

Homewood's Lot 2002: A Retrospective

Dave Gadsby

The harvest has come and gone. The days are shorter, the nights longer and colder, and Homewood's Lot excavations have been put to rest for the time being. We've had a successful, if bewildering season there. We began the season uncertain of the fate of our extraordinary site. It seemed in early spring that the new property owner would be situating a substantial new waterfront house atop much of the eighteenth-century portion of the site. At times we thought we

would be asked to leave with only a few days notice. We excavated furiously but carefully to gather as much information from the ground as possible before the bulldozers came. I remember one particularly sickening afternoon, when we had spent a long, beautiful, early summer day excavating in the cellar of the largest of the eighteenth-century buildings there. We left knowing that construction activities would obliterate our beloved site within the next two weeks.

However, as loyal Homewood's fans already know, nothing there ever happens as expected. In the nick of time, and without even a whit of coercion from the *Lost Towns* Crew, the property owners sensibly changed their minds about the siting of their house, placing it on the other side of the lawn and out of harm's way. *Lost Towns* crew became free to work at the site for the rest of the summer, pursuing our particular research goals rather than chasing the outline of the house. Besides re-locating and excavating the large eighteenth-century manor house, we located the remains of a well filled with mid-eighteenth-century debris. Also uncovered during these late-summer excavations were an eighteenth-century brick-lined storage cellar and the remains of a seventeenth-century yellow-brick hearth and midden. Needless to say, these excavations have yielded vast quantities of unspeakably neat material culture. Want to check it out? Come into the lab; there is plenty of hands on experience with these artifacts available for the willing volunteer.



17th-century living surface depicting an in situ brick that broke a gravel-tempered North Devon bowl

Conservation Helps Date Homewood's Feature

Among the artifacts found in the well at Homewood's Lot were three badly corroded copper coins. While coins in this condition have a negligible monetary value nowadays, their date can prove valuable to archaeologists. Unfortunately, only one of these coins was intact enough to provide any information. This coin bore the profile of King George III (reigned in England from 1760 until 1820 – the second longest reign in England's history) on one side and a "crowned harp" with date of 1766 on the other. The date is archaeologically important because it tells us that everything found in the well above the coin was deposited after 1766 (a concept that archaeologists call *TPQ*, or *terminus post quem*, meaning "date after which").

Besides confirming the date of the well's fill, this particular halfpenny also has an interesting history. According to Ivor Noel Hume in *A Guide To Artifacts of Colonial America* (1969), there was a shortage of coins in Ireland in the mid-eighteenth century, which gave rise to a large number of "unofficial" halfpennies and farthings in circulation. In 1766, the London Mint took steps to correct this with the production of the very coin that found its home in the Homewood's eighteenth-century well for over 225 years.

-Shawn Sharpe



Irish coin, depicting a "crowned harp" and the date of 1766

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
Lisa Plumley.....Field Director
Donna Ware.....Architectural Historian

Sarah Andrews.....Lab Specialist
Carl Gehrman.....3-D Specialist
Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist/Curator
Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito.....Historian/Archaeologist
Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Archaeologist
Sherri Marsh.....Assistant Architectural Historian
Erin Piechowiak.....Archaeologist/ Volunteer and Education Coordinator
Shawn Sharpe.....Archaeologist/Conservation Specialist
Jordan Swank.....Archaeologist/Lab Specialist

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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