

February 2002

## Future Events

**March 4**

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

*London Town Via the Port of Annapolis*

Historian Mechelle Kerns will update us with research she conducted from both sides of the ocean.

**March 12**

**8:15, St. John's College**

*Anne Arundel County's First Artist:*

*Emanuel Drue and His Tobacco Pipes*

Part of the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation's lecture series, Dr. Al Luckenbach will discuss the discoveries at the Swan Cove site. Reservations.

**April 8**

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

**Experimental Archaeology:**

**Making Tobacco Pipes**

Tony Lindauer will describe his research stemming from the Swan Cove excavations.

**April 13**

**9:00 - 2:00, London Town**

**Public Dig Day**

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

**April 13**

**9:00-4:00, Crownsville**

**Archaeological Society of Maryland's Spring Symposium: Education**

This year's ASM Spring Symposium's topic will focus on archaeological education programs, including a question and answer period.

**May 6**

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

**Discovering Anne Arundel County's Scenic Roads**

Architectural historian Sherri Marsh will describe her work documenting early transportation networks in our county.

**May 18**

**9:00 - 2:00, London Town**

**Public Dig Day**

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

# Letters from Lost Towns

## Dabbling in Clay: Investigating Drue's Medium

*Jane Cox*

As most followers of *Lost Towns* are aware, in 2000 we identified the first terra cotta tobacco pipe kiln yet found in the Chesapeake, and the earliest so far discovered in the New World. Although the kiln foundation itself has not yet been located, *Lost Towns* staff has recovered hundreds of pipe wasters, as well as the actual raw clays Drue was using in the production of his pipes. The *Lost Town's* discovery is of tremendous importance. Ivor Noel Hume has called it "one of the great discoveries of American historical archaeology."

With the discovery of terra cotta tobacco pipe fragments tied to a well-documented kiln site, it is now possible to take the analysis of these materials to a new level. Indeed, the findings from the Drue site indicate that new methods of categorizing these objects are necessary. The Maryland Historical Trust has awarded the project a grant to assist in conducting research to develop these methods. Currently, archaeologists rely heavily on visual inspection of terra cotta pipes to type them. At the Drue site, however, different colored clays were used to manufacture two primary shapes of pipe, and the clays ranged from red, orange, and pink to white. The fired white pipe waster, found anywhere else, would be mistakenly identified as European in origin. Fortunately, intact features excavated at the Swan Cove Site have produced large quantities of Drue's unfired clays. Thus we are capable of analyzing not only Drue's products but also his raw source materials as well.

Compositional analysis presents the best method for characterizing terra cotta pipes that are visually indistinct. We have

discussed the use of scanning electron microscopy, x-ray florescence, and other techniques available at the Patuxent Naval Air Station. A preliminary meeting and discussions with scientists working at PAX have indicated the feasibility of such analyses, as well as the willingness of the NAS to enthusiastically participate in the project. Although the exact numbers of



### Dig Days are Back!

**April 13**

**May 18th**

**June 8th**

**July 13th**

**August 10th**

**September 14th**

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

**Call Lisa Plumley for more  
information and  
group reservations.**

***Please join us!***

**Please note that plans to  
excavate the private  
property adjacent to  
London Town in March have  
been postponed. Permits  
required are still being  
negotiated. Stay tuned to  
future newsletters  
for updates!**



*This band of white clay was found during an expedition on the Severn River, north of Round Bay*

samples that can be run is unknown, over a period of nearly a month, perhaps a hundred are possible. This part of the project will be contracted out to PAX scientists. A number of obvious avenues for comparative, compositional analysis exist. They include:

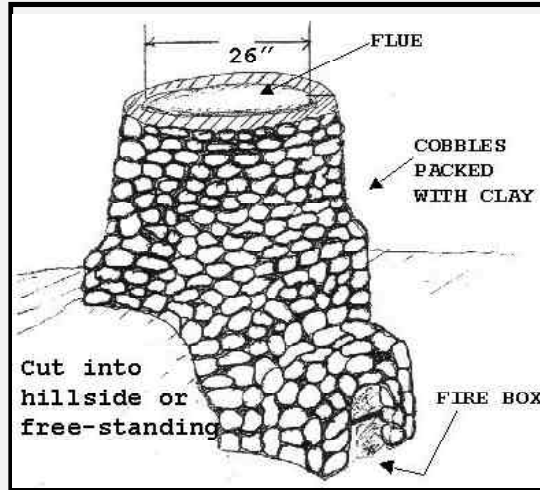
1. Drue's pipes versus his raw clays
2. Raw clays versus the clays recovered from our surveys of the Severn & Magothy
3. Drue's white products with European white pipes – can they be distinguished?
4. Products recovered in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties against the results from Swan Cove

Where Drue was acquiring his clays remains a mystery, but the sources are probably less than a day's travel from Providence. Part of this grant proposes a series of exploratory surveys involving the State's Underwater Archaeology Program. Jane Cox will be coordinating trips with Steve Bilicki from the MHT to explore possible clay locations. Presumably, Drue was using sources originating from the cliffs along either the Severn or Magothy Rivers, which he could access by water. If you are interested in participating in this slightly different field expedition, please give Jane Cox a call.

We also need to fire Drue's raw clays at various temperatures and compare the results to the assemblage of Drue products. Which are the products of gray clays, pink clays, green clays, etc. recovered from Swan Cove features? What colors they turn after firing may well determine the temperatures that Drue could achieve with his kiln. Tony Lindauer has been dutifully researching the nuisances of kilns and our plans right now include purchasing a kiln for testing. He and John Kille have also been researching constructing a kiln to better approximate the kiln Drue actually used in the 1660s. Anyone

## How to Make a Pipe Kiln

The Swan Cove site, like most sites we explore, does not share its secrets easily. We know Drue owned a pair of pipe molds, yet little more is known of Drue's production methods. The only other clue to the Drue family occupation is the refuse they left behind. In the time we have been at Swan Cove, we have recovered parts of the kiln and the fragments of the equipment used in the process of pipe production. Like a forensic anthropologist, we are trying to use the remains of the pipe kiln to recreate the process Drue used to make his pipes.



The kiln was likely constructed of cobbles and clay and built into an earthen bank as an updraft kiln. There would be a firebox at the base, which would be accessed by a stoking channel. This consists of a shelf where the wood is loaded, allowing the ash to fall into the channel below which also provides airflow for the fire. A crude earthenware container known as a muffle would be placed within the kiln to protect the pipes from the direct heat from the firebox below and help arrange and support the pipes during firing. A chimney flue pulls the heat up round the muffle and pipes, and allows the gases to escape.

The temperature that Drue used is currently a mystery, yet may have reached 1400 degrees. The experimental archaeology being conducted on Anne Arundel County's clays will allow us to explore the possible variations in temperatures and firing times. This will bring us closer to understanding the first pipe production industry in the New World.

*-Tony Lindauer*

interested in getting involved with the kiln construction and pipe firing should get in touch with Tony Lindauer or John Kille.

Recreating Drue's firing process will lend insight into his pipe production and operations. The chemical analysis will provide a significant contribution to our understanding of the origins of raw materials in the Chesapeake region. This fascinating project will be a unique foray into experimental archaeology, so stay tuned for more developments!



*Sample of red and white swirled clay similar to that used by Drue*

## What's going on in the Lost Towns Lab?

The lab is a happening place these days! Field work at the *Lost Towns Project* has slowed a bit for the winter months. As a result, it seems that many of our volunteers are taking the opportunity to come in and get an idea about what is involved in working at the *Lost Towns* lab. We're also experiencing a surge in new volunteers who have heard about us from a new public access advertisement or seen articles about us in the local press. It has been surprising to see the lab crowded with willing workers on so many days each week! Logged volunteer hours have jumped from 71 in December to a whopping 175 in January - a 146% increase! This new interest in volunteerism is challenging the lab staff's ability to keep up. Dirty artifacts are disappearing off of the washing shelves almost as soon as they arrive in the lab. Volunteers, staff, and interns have had to devote entire days to rebagging the large number of artifacts that have been washed. This is great news! The lab staff appreciates the hard work that volunteers do for us.

Internships are a terrific way for the *Project* to get some work done and fulfill our mission of educating people about archaeology and Anne Arundel County history. The lab also has two new interns this semester, Shelly Cook and David Steckenrider. Shelly, an Ancient Studies student at UMBC, is returning for her second internship with the *Lost Towns Project*. She has been working with Sarah on the cataloging of artifacts from Homewood's Lot and helping out with the analysis of materials from Swan Cove.

David Steckenrider (you can call him "Steckenrider") also joins us from UMBC. He is a member of the fledgling anthropology program there. David has been learning the ropes around the lab and helping out with tasks as needed.

Occasionally, our internships turn into jobs. Sarah Andrews completed her internship in November and began working part-time for the *Project*. Al just extended Sarah's contract for another six months. She is wrapping up her very thorough catalog of the Homewood's Lot and will be moving on to bigger and better things. Sarah will be finishing school this semester, but hopefully she'll stick around for a little while after she graduates.

Continued progress with the work of cataloging and analyzing finds from Swan Cove and London Town has occupied much of the Lab's resources over the past several months. Dave has also been engaged with the analysis of finds from the Herrington survey.

Shawn is wrapping up an analysis of mended ceramics from Burle's Town Land that he hopes to turn into a paper, and Carolyn is working on a catalog of artifacts from the structure built for the black residents of the Anne Arundel County Almshouse at London Town. The dormitory stood from the 1830s until the 1910s. Since this is not the time period that we are used to dealing with, we're enjoying seeing some new artifact types and styles. Of particular interest is the assemblage of buttons from the area surrounding the structure.

It's a great time to check out what's going on in the lab. With all the new faces around, there's an opportunity to make new friends, too. If you'd like to come volunteer, please give Dave a call in the lab at (410) 222-7328.

-Dave Gadsby



*Etching of mathematician  
Edward Hatton*

## London Town and London: How Did They Find Each Other?

*Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito*

During my search for information on London Town, I have come across many interesting primary documents. One source that has proven very helpful is tradesman directories for the city of London. They contain all types of information that undoubtedly proved helpful to foreign and native merchants alike.

Trade could be a lucrative business during the eighteenth century. To become a merchant in the eighteenth century required more education than most occupations. Merchants had to be literate with letters and numbers in order to conduct correspondence and tabulation. In the early years of the eighteenth century, London mathematician Edward Hatton compiled a book of skills and knowledge requisite for merchants and those involved in trade. His work titled *The Merchants Magazine: or Trades Man's Treasury* contained information on: "The Port of Letters to and from foreign countries; and the days when mails are sent to, and

due from those countries. An account of the commodities produced by all Countries: Their chief towns of trade and bigness of the country compared to England.”

Hatton provided charts and tables for the merchant as well as a dictionary of foreign words and objects to make the complexities of international trade simpler. One interesting component of Hatton’s book, and others like it, are his descriptions of the colonies. It is doubtful that many Britains knew much about the colony of Maryland, as it was rarely documented as a place of trade. When it was, the information was incomplete. Hatton’s description of the British Colonies in America was as follows:

The middle part [of the Americas] produces these excellent commodities, viz. Cotton-wool, Sugar, Tobacco, Furs, Indigo, Ginger, Cloves, Mace, Nutmegs, Rosin Turpentine, Copper, Tar, Deal-boards, Gold, Silver, Pearls, Coca-nuts, Cocheneal, Honey, Balm, Amber, Hides, Tallow, Salt, Medicinal Drugs, Logwood. Chief towns of trade are Boston and London in New England, New York; Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; Oxford in Maryland; James Town and Wiccomoco in Virginia; Charles Town in the Carolina...This part of the world, called America is about 90 times as big as England.

The only Maryland town mentioned in Hatton’s description is Oxford, on the Eastern Shore. Surprisingly, the Port of Annapolis, the capital and administrative center of the colony was not mentioned.

As late as 1721, other accounts of Maryland describe it as a wilderness with no towns and few people. Geographer John Senex described Maryland in the following way:

Maryland has Virginia in the South, Pennsylvania on the North, unknown countries in the West and the Atlantic on the East....It was before reckoned part of Virginia... The country is divided into 10 shires [counties]. There are no Towns for want of a number of merchants, tho in 1708 the inhabitants were computed at 30,000. The tobacco here, of which ‘tis thought the county produces as much as Virginia, is that called Oronoko, stronger than that of Virginia, and preferred to it in the East and North Parts of Europe...

Senex went on to mention all of the natural resources (such as wood) that were plentiful in Maryland. He also commented on the

condition of Annapolis in 1721. “Annapolis, in the county Arundel, is a Port-Town, and the Seat of Government and Assembly, which was transferr’d hither from St. Mary’s... It consist about forty houses, seven or eighth of which are fit for Inns, and has two Markets a week.” However, he stated that St. Mary’s was also the capital, although the seat of government was removed to Annapolis in 1694. His information on Maryland was outdated and

confusing. It is clear that this sixth edition did not include contemporary information. By 1721, Maryland had many towns, London Town among them.

These are just samplings of the vast and interesting primary documents I have discovered in my research adventures. There are many more awaiting discovery!

## Volunteer Spotlight: Ward Brockett



This month’s volunteer spotlight shines on Ward Brockett. Ward has volunteered his time to the *Lost Towns Project* for almost two years, though he’ll be the first to tell you he’s rarely around during the winter, annually spending a few months in Florida with his wife. During the warmer months, the Brocketts make their home in Severna Park. Ward’s location has made him a font of knowledge to our staff whose primary concerns outside of historic preservation include ideal kayaking spots and accessing the B&A trail.

Ward contributes most of his time at Swan Cove and London Town. At “the cove,” Ward can be seen at the screens or in a unit, telling jokes only slightly less ribald than Bernie’s and sharing stories of his earlier days as an attorney. At London Town, Ward is one of the brave few to venture out when the masses of school children descend on the site on Wednesdays.

While invaluable in excavation, Ward is always eager to help the project on any of its construction projects. He has been helping Russ Steele with the lumber for the Mayor’s Tenement House reconstruction. He also assisted with the preliminary dismantling last summer of a greenhouse in the gardens that will one day provide shelter for the excavations of a large cellar near Rumney’s Tavern. During the difficulties encountered with the electrical logistics of some of the power tools, Ward shared this gem of wisdom that I will carry with me for the rest of my days: “If you ever fall over a cliff, make sure you grab hold of an extension cord or garden hose, because God knows, they’re always wrapped around something...”

So, if you’re ever at one of the sites, keep an eye out for the man with blue eyes, a sarcastic tongue, and an attractive daughter from California. Also, if you find yourself at one of our volunteer parties, keep an eye out for the man concealing under his jacket a water gun with enough pressure to put our water-screen pump to shame.

-Paul Mintz



Dave Gadsby standing beside the Swan Cove poster displayed at the SHA conference

on the *Lost Towns Project*, its staff, and volunteers. Some of you may have already seen portions of both of these papers presented at the various Monday Volunteer Workshops.

Another presenter this year was Dave Gadsby, *Lost Town's* Lab Director. Instead of a paper Dave (with a great deal of assistance from our own

vaunted Jane Cox and Al Luckenbach) created a poster entitled "Tobacco Pipe Manufacturing at the Swan Cove Site" for display in the conference poster session. The poster was divided into four panels with each panel dealing with a particular aspect of the subject. The first panel provides a basic introduction to the site; the second provides a biography about Emmanuel Drue, the pipe maker; the third provides information about the pipe products that were produced at the kiln; and the final panel discusses the materials in the kiln used to fire tobacco pipes also known as "kiln furniture."

While the display was not a formally presented paper, it required at least as much work, and contained more 'hard' information than many of the papers that I attended while at the conference. While Dave, Jane, and Al were the driving forces behind the poster's creation, we should also briefly acknowledge the other members of the staff who helped - in many ways - to complete the poster. Indeed, although it was mostly Dave's blood, sweat, and tears which went into its creation, the poster really represents the culmination of thousands of hours of work by every volunteer, intern or staff member who has worked either at the Swan Cove site or in the lab washing the artifacts from the site.

In any event, both the poster and the conference were a great success, and drew lots of positive feedback from many conference attendees. If you'd like to see the poster and see what a difference team contributions can make, or if you just want to learn more about the site, then come see it. Beginning on February 15, 2002 the poster will be on display at the Archaeology Lab at 2666 Riva Road.

## Musings about Mobile

Jason Moser

About three weeks ago the annual meetings of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) were held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile, Alabama. Each year's SHA conference has a different theme; this year the theme was *Colonial Origins*. Each year the meetings are held in a different city; between one and two thousand individuals attend. They are mostly archaeologists and anthropologists but also include historians, museum specialists and a variety of other individuals interested in the field of historic archaeology and historic preservation. The conference is an opportunity for everyone in the field to come together to share and exchange ideas about their work and their research.

Attendees of the meetings typically exchange their ideas in three ways; they present papers, they create displays such as posters or brochures; or they just have informal discussions (many of which occur in the bar!). This year both Mechelle and Lisa presented formal papers in sessions. Lisa's paper was entitled "*This place is indeed an abode of misery...*": *Rediscovering the Anne Arundel County Almshouse, 1828-1965*. Mechelle's paper was entitled *A Colonial Community: The "lost town" of London Town and All Hallows Parish*. Both Lisa and Mechelle gave great presentations that reflected well



The Lost Towns Project staff would like to take a moment to say goodbye to three friends and colleagues- Rosemarie Callage, Kay Spruell, and Paul Mintz. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with you. We will miss you!

### 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

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 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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