



Letters from Lost Towns

Winter 2004

Future Events

March 12-14

Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference

www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org

Takes place this year in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center (right on the boardwalk).

May 15

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

Lost Towns archaeologists invite the public to help screen soil looking for artifacts, take tours, and attend workshops.

July 10

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

September 11

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

Get your Lost Towns Calendar!



Get yours now, while supplies last. Contact John Kille with your order. See page 3 for details.
(410)222-7441

The Burial at Leavy Neck

Jane Cox

August's exciting discovery of a burial at the Leavy Neck site has kept the *Lost Towns Project* busy! After Erin's initial discovery of the skull, it was re-buried while we took stock of the situation. We realized that even with all of the *Lost Towns* talent, we would need a specialist to get as much insight from this unique burial as possible. We were delighted when Dr. Doug Owsley with the Smithsonian Institute took an interest in our Providence burial. We also wanted to ensure that this amazing story was well-documented and arranged with the PBS show "History Detectives" to highlight the discovery at Leavy Neck in an upcoming episode.

While plans were being made for the excavation of the burial, the team continued to excavate other parts of the cellarhole. Two additional quarter sections have been removed and as of this writing, we are happy to report that no additional burials have been uncovered. These excavations have more tightly dated the deposit that lies over the burial to the mid-1660s. Artifacts such as En-

glish Delft, North Devon Sgraffitto, and occasional wine and case bottle fragments were mixed in with dense animal bone and fireplace ash. Along with pipes and a coin dated 1664, the artifact assemblage clearly suggested that the cellar was filled soon after the body was buried.

After a long week of careful excavation, the "History Detectives" and



Depiction of a ship (left) New Port Isle of Wight 1664 (right)

Dr. Owsley from the Smithsonian descended on the Leavy Neck site to document the exciting removal of the body. As we excavated, we were amazed to find a large fragment of a North Devon milk pan pressed on top of the individual's ribcage. At first we speculated that this might be a grave good, but the nature of its deposition, along with other broken and randomly deposited artifacts in the grave shaft, (including a tobacco pipe bowl under the spine) made us look to a more practical rea-



Skeleton as found during excavation with a broken milk pan on the rib cage.

New 2004 Calendar Showcases Archaeology in Anne Arundel County

John Kille



July



September

The *Lost Towns Project* is pleased to announce the arrival of a limited edition 2004 calendar devoted to Anne Arundel County's earliest history. This professionally printed, full-color calendar features captivating images, including outstanding 17th- and 18th-century ceramics and glass, and digital reconstructions of artifacts and buildings. Each month of this unique calendar also contains important dates in Maryland history.

The 2004 calendar includes views of London Town's Rumney-West tavern; clay tobacco pipes made by the County's earliest artisan (above right); a decorated plate belonging to the first commander of the Providence Settlement; an aerial view of the Talbott family site in Galesville; an emotional reburial of a slave child discovered during the excavation of the William Brown Carpenter Shop (right); impressive prehistoric Adena spear points; and a digital reconstruction of the ca. 1649 Robert Burle house.

The archaeology calendar is sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit. The proceeds will support the *Lost Town Project's* many activities related to discovering and preserving our shared history. The calendar is available for a donation of only \$11.95, and it makes the perfect gift for any occasion. Orders of three or more calendars will be discounted at only



April

\$10 each. Calendars may be purchased at the *Lost Towns Project* office at 2664 Riva Road on the 4th Floor or a check can be sent to:

The Lost Towns Archaeology Project
P.O. Box 1573
Annapolis, MD 21404



And the Award Goes To. . . .

Thomas Thurston: **Maryland Friend**

Forrest R. Flanders

The first generations of our early American society are commonly presented as people of greater work ethic, piety, and moral conviction. This romanticized vision is slightly askew, for it neglects to account for the more human qualities and reactions to the adversities of life, in seventeenth century America. Thomas Thurston, of Anne Arundel County, was greatly representative of this duality, between religious conviction and the more human responses to the complexity of life.

Thomas Thurston arrived in Maryland in 1658, under the direction of George Fox, to lead the nascent Quaker communities in Severn (Providence), Patuxent, and Kent. As one of Gloucestershire, England's first "Speakers of Truth", his arrival was highly anticipated by the Maryland Friends. Adversity Plagued Thurston's early years in America. Arriving first in New England aboard the good ship Speedwell, in 1654, the provincial government proved incredibly intolerant of his religious views and subsequently forced his return to England. In Virginia, and later Maryland, his encounters with the provincial governments fared little better; however, in Maryland the source of his plight was not his religious outlook.

The Oath of Fidelity was a most important pledge within the provinces, from which the government would, amongst other things, procure militias. Thurston's refusal to take the oath, accompanied by his tireless work to convince others to refuse, on the grounds that they "would not be a servant to any man", created great tensions between the Maryland Friends and the Court Magistrates. The conflict eventually led Thurston to return to England in order to gain financial support from Fox. In

The annual Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. awards were held in October at Hancock's Resolution in Northern Anne Arundel County. On a blustery day, the historic preservation community gathered to honor several supporters of the *Lost Towns Project*.

This year's Special Contributions in Archaeology Award was given to the Willson Family. Jimmy and Julie Willson began the process for building their new home in Galesville Maryland in 2001, during which an 18th century archaeological site was discovered. The Willson's worked closely with Anne Arundel County and revised their building plans ensure that the 18th century homesite of the Talbott Family was preserved. The Willson's also enthusiastically supported the research and excavation of this site, which adds an important chapter to Anne Arundel County's colonial history.

The mother and son team of Sarah Sandefur and James Simpson have contributed countless hours to both Londontown and to Anne Arundel County's *Lost Town's Archaeology Project*. Sarah and James have been volunteering at London Town for more than 6 years—longer than many of the archaeology team has been around!

Sarah volunteers as an education docent for London Town and is one of the stalwart volunteers who tirelessly works with visiting schoolchildren, teaching them about the archaeology and history of Londontown. It's amazing that she can find the time considering she also works as a school nurse in Prince George's County, and is a Lt. Colonel in the United States Reserves.

James attends nearly every Saturday Dig Day and can always be found hard at work digging and carrying buckets. James was a reliable volunteer while he was still in middle school and he is currently pursuing a degree at Anne Arundel Community College.

This past year, in addition to Sarah's time spent with school groups and London Town, both Sarah and James assisted the *Lost Towns Project* during the deep freeze excavations at the Shah property. Their enthusiasm and commitment makes them worthy of this year's Volunteer Award.



Sarah and James (left) accepting their award for countless hours of volunteer work.



Jimmy and his son (right) accepting the award for thier special contribution to Archaeology.

1663, he returned to Maryland accompanied by his wife, two daughters, and several servants and in doing so had secured land rights in Anne Arundel, including the property named the Tanyard (18AN825). Thurston's return was marked with turmoil; although, the source of his tribulation was not the Provincial Courts.

A schism had grown in the Quaker community over the controversial teachings of John Parrot, to which Thurston adhered. The Maryland Friends were deeply dissatisfied with his new beliefs "not only for his wickedness, but also his opposition...and the disturbance that he brought upon us in our meetings". The rift between Thurston and the group he had labored to establish had risen to such heights by 1672 that George Fox traveled to America to speak with Thurston about his "vagabond ways". In the presence of Fox, Thurston did renounce his practices; yet, by 1676 Thurston had become so disenfranchised with the community that he signed his property over to his daughters and departed from Maryland.

In 1683, a letter from the Maryland Friends to George Fox reveals "Another evil instrument is Thomas Thurston, who is come again into this province, a very wrong spirited man, who has made it some of his work to abuse and belye Friends". Upon Thurston's return and until his death in 1692, the rift would continue to grow. The divergence was not only his with the Maryland Friends, but also from his religious conviction. In 1688, Thurston was elected to the Lower House of the Colonial Assembly, and in 1692, just before his death, became a Colonel in the militia.

Thomas Thurston's participation in the groups and positions he once so vehemently condemned as "Woolsey fellows" having led them "to nothing but papist rules" exemplifies the duality between religious conviction and the more human responses to the complexities of life, in 17th century America.

Recent Grant Awards:

John Kille

Crucial Support from Preservation Maryland for London Town 3D Project

The *Lost Towns Project* is extremely grateful to Preservation Maryland for a generous grant award of \$5,000 to complete a digital reconstruction of the interior of Rumney's Tavern. The work will be the centerpiece of a touch screen activated computer kiosk exhibit within the new museum facility to be built at Historic London Town and Gardens. Animator Carl Gehrman is carrying out the reconstruction of the tavern's 18th-century furnishings and architectural elements in the tavern's. This project is being directed by John Kille, who is also providing archaeological data and historical interpretation for the multi-media educational presentation.

Maryland Humanities Council Funding Brings Dr. Allan Peacey to London Town

Many thanks to the Maryland Humanities Council for a mini-grant award of \$1,200 that enabled English clay tobacco pipe scholar, Dr. Allan Peacey, to spend two weeks at Historic London Town and Gardens assisting Tony Lindauer with the reconstruction of a pipe kiln. Dr. Peacey, the author of "The Development of the Clay Tobacco Pipe Kiln in the British Isles," also presented a very well received evening lecture at the London Town visitor's center on the excavation of 17th-century English pipe kilns he has supervised over the last decade.

It's a Boy!

All of us at the *Lost Towns Project* are delighted to announce that after nine long months Mechelle Kerns gave birth to a bouncing baby boy on December 7th at 10:00 p.m. His name, Benjamin Francesco Nocerito, is a mouthful for anyone, let alone a baby who is only a few weeks old, but knowing his mom and dad I think I'm safe in saying that he is up to the task. His weighs in at eight pounds thirteen ounces and is 21 ¾ inches long. With his dark hair and blue eyes, he is already a little heartbreaker. See for yourself! Mechelle and little Benjamin are both happy and healthy after their stay in the hospital and are both currently at home resting. We are sad to say, however, that Mechelle will no longer be with us at the *Lost Towns Project*. She has decided to be a full time mom for a while. The Project will miss her dearly but can't wait to see the little guy in person.



Everyone this is Benjamin, isn't he adorable!

Lost Towns Project to Nominate Providence Sites to National Register.

David Gadsby

Recent excavations in Providence have been a part of our effort to nominate several sites in the lower Broadneck to the National Register of Historic Places. These sites, all of which have undergone some archaeological investigation by Lost Towns, are being included in a Multiple Property Submission (MPS). MPS is a way to nominate several sites under one blanket document, called a historic context. The document serves as a way to situate the Providence sites into a historic framework that explains the importance of Providence in Maryland history. It includes sections on early Maryland politics, agriculture, religion, transportation, architecture and community planning. The MPS document also establishes a typology of archaeological sites that could be found as a part of the Providence settlement, and establishes criteria for their eligibility for the National Register.

Appended to the MPS document are the individual site forms. These forms give specific information about the sites to be nominated. They describe the sites environmental setting, immediate historical context, and include archaeological results from the site. A statement of significance, establishing the eligibility of the site for the National Register is also included. Most archaeological sites are considered eligible if they have the potential to yield new information about the past.

The sites to be nominated include Homewood's Lot, Swan Cove, Burle's Town Land, the Tanyard, Leavy Neck, Town Neck and Broad Neck.



Replica of Emanuel Drue's 17th Century Pipe Kiln

Experimental Archaeology Resurrects Emanuel Drue's Pipe Kiln

Tony Lindauer

In 1661 two brothers moved from South County to their new home on the Severn River. Hugh and Emanuel Drue bought and lived upon what is known to us today as the Swan Cove site. Emanuel was a pipe maker and the archaeological discoveries related to his trade supplied the data for some 'experimental archeology' (For more info, see our November 2000 newsletter.) By recreating the kiln and attempting pipe-making with the old techniques, archae-

ologists are able to better understand the industrial activity of pipe-making. Therefore, we set out to reconstruct Drue's pipe kiln and reproduce his pipes using the artifacts of his trade found at the Swan Cove site as a guide.

We began by looking at all the artifacts found in connection with the pipe kiln and the pipe-making process. So what does a 17th-century pipe kiln look like? Unfortunately, the kiln at Swan Cove has yet to be discovered, though the artifacts clearly indicate there was one there. We began by researching 17th and 18th century pipe kilns and tried to find correlations between their materials and those artifacts found at Swan Cove. While brick kilns were ubiquitous, the only building material found at Swan Cove were heavily-glazed cobblestones—and no bricks!. So we began searching for evidence of a 17th-century kiln made from cobblestones. The only example we could find was a late-Roman pottery kiln style which is still in use in Crete today. Lacking of other historic antecedents, this style became the model for the reconstruction of Drue's kiln.

The next part of this puzzle was to

determine how the internal structure of the kiln worked. Referring to Allan Peacey's research in England, we began making sense of the Swan Cove artifacts relating to the internal working of the kiln, (such as the flue, the firing chamber, and the internal support system for the pipes). Items required for firing a pipe kiln, such as muffles, cross-props, and loaves entered our vocabulary. The final step in this experiment was to research and make the tools needed to recreate Drue's unique pipes. From pipe molds and wires, to decorative stamps, recreating Drue's pipes has brought us a better understanding of Drue's trade. But where to build the kiln and who will pay for it? London Town Foundation came to the rescue and has incorporated this unique colonial industry into the Park's reconstructed village. In the next newsletter, I'll report on the construction process and the results of the first firing of Drue's pipes in 330 years!



Al, Tony and Allan Peacey after first

Who makes up the Lost Towns Project?

Al Luckenbach.....Director/County

Archaeologist

Jane Cox.....Assistant County Archaeologist

David Gadsby.....Lab Director

John Kille.....Assistant Director,

Operations/Grant Administration

Donna Ware.....Architectural Historian

Carl Gehrman.....3-D Specialist

Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist/

Curator

Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Archaeologist

Sherri Marsh.....Assistant Architectural

Historian

Erin Piechowiak.....Archaeologist/Volunteer

and Education Coordinator

Lauren Franz.....Archaeologist/Intern

Coordinator

Shawn Sharpe.....Archaeologist/

Conservation Specialist

Letters from Lost Towns is published in May, September, and January 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 Erin Piechowiak, Office of Environmental and Cultural Programs, 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.



Office of Environmental and
Cultural Programs
2664 Riva Road, MS 6402
Annapolis MD, 21401
(410)222-7441

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Digging, Screening, Cleaning or Whatever

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 projects. Call

Erin at (410)222-7441 for

information. The lab is open

Monday through Friday from 9:00-

4:00. Call the lab phone,

(410)222-7328, for information.

The lab is located on the 2nd floor of

2666 Riva Road in the Heritage

Government Center.

Tax-deductible donations can be

made to the Anne Arundel County

Trust for Preservation (ACT), P.O.

Box 1573, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Please note "*Lost Towns Project*" in

any correspondence.