



Letters from Lost Towns

Summer 2005

Future Events

September 10

**9:00am - 2:00pm, London
Town Public Dig Day**

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

Monday Lecture Series

Come to the Anne Arundel County Heritage Center to stay abreast of our most recent archaeological finds and research. See page 3 for details.

ASM Field School

September 16 - September 25

The *Lost Towns Project* will once again host the annual ASM field session. Sign up online at www.marylandarcheology.org.

New Lost Towns Gear

T-shirts & Hats... Available Now
Please contact John Kille or Erin Cullen for new *Lost Towns* paraphernalia. They can be reached at (410) 222-7441 or 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401.

2006 Calendar

The *Lost Towns Project* is now taking orders for the new 2006 *Preserve the Past* Calendar. See page 5 for details.

Rhode River Survey

~ Shawn Sharpe

This summer, the *Lost Towns Project* turned its attention to the north shore of the Rhode River. The survey work, funded by the Maryland Historical Trust, is designed to assess the condition of known archaeology sites in the area, and to identify new sites. The survey is meant to provide a planning tool for the State and the County, so they can better protect and manage archaeological resources. Over the past few months, the *Lost Towns* staff has walked over much of the northern shore of the Rhode River area, surveying the condition of known sites (there were 21!) and discovering 20 new ones, nearly doubling our site count in the area.

The majority of these sites (14) are prehistoric and limited Phase I testing suggests that most relate to seasonal occupations, where the major activity was harvesting oysters and exploiting the local envi-

ronment. Some of the sites have produced prehistoric ceramics and evidence of stone tool manufacture. The prehistoric sites discovered are from the Accokeek, Popes Creek and Selby Bay Phases (roughly 500 B.C. to A.D. 500). Even before a comprehensive analysis of our discoveries, it is clear that the survey has added significantly to our knowledge of the prehistory of Maryland and the Rhode River area specifically.

The historic sites are mainly 19th-century domestic sites, though at least one appears to date to the colonial period. Most of the historical artifacts are iron nails, and brick or daub. The few ceramics found include pearlware, a broken flowerpot, and possible Rhenish stoneware. The discovery and study of sites in this area will help in the preservation of archaeological sites throughout Maryland.

We are hoping that the community can help us out as well, so if you know the location of odd bits of ceramics or have had any other "old, broken things" turning up in gardens, lawns, etc. on the north shore of the Rhode River, please contact the *Lost Towns Project*.



Erin and Jessica digging an STP at Camp Letts.

A "Gun Emplacement" at Ben Oaks ?

~Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito

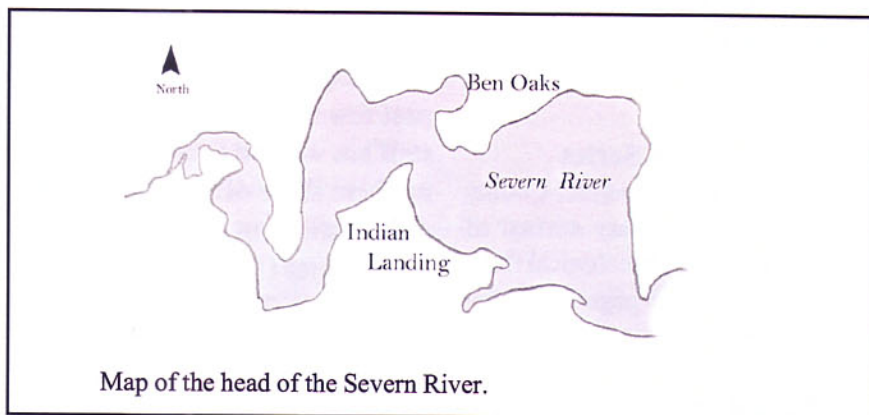
The subdivision of Ben Oaks is located off Benfield Road in Severna Park. Longtime resident and past community garden club president Jean Rude recently asked us to look into the history of a "gun spot" located within the subdivision. The property sits on a high bluff overlooking the river and is across from the Indian Landing Boat Club (which has its own long history). In May 2005 we visited the site, documented the semi-circular ironstone wall and dug six shovel test pits. The ironstone used in construction is naturally occurring in this region. The stones are dry-set in a vaguely L-shaped alignment. Some of the stones on the eastern and western edges have been removed and only subsurface stones remain. The artifacts recovered included earthenware and stoneware ceramics, machine cut nails, burned glass, and brick fragments all dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. However,

the history and past utility of the feature has been elusive.

Much research and speculation has surrounded this mysterious feature. In the 1950s, a professor at the USNA, Dr. Sturdy, suggested he had evidence that it was part of General Marquis de Lafayette's defense of the Severn River during the American Revolution. Unfortunately, Professor Sturdy's papers could not be located and we are working on substantiating the

Lafayette theory. Also in 1979, the Ben Oaks Federated Garden Club contracted with Heritage Research Associates of Annapolis, to conduct a detailed title search. They produced a report outlining the chain-of-title for the property from 1660 to 1953. The Ben Oaks subdivision was established in the 1950s.

Although no evidence has yet been found to substantiate the theory, Dr. Al still feels that it may be part of a defensive structure.



Map of the head of the Severn River.



The gun emplacement at Ben Oaks.

Research is ongoing to prove or disprove this theory. Mark Barron, a Ph.D. candidate at UM College Park has taken on this project and is collecting information on the American Revolution and the Severn River. Correspondence recorded in the *Archives of Maryland* produced by the Council of Safety during the American Revolution provides many instances of orders for protecting the head of the Severn River and the warehouses of Indian Landing. Our current theory is that the two sites are related. Perhaps, the Ben Oaks wall was built as part of a protective lookout for Indian Landing.

Like the New Format?

It's new and improved...
It's the *Lost Towns Project*...
It's in Technicolor...
(.....but its not cheap.)

Advertise in our next edition!

* **Business cards can be reproduced for a donation of \$200.**

* **Donate \$1000 and the entire issue can be dedicated to you, your loved ones, or your company!**

Monday Lectures

Lectures will be held at the Anne Arundel County Offices from 1 pm to 2 pm on the 2nd floor of Building 2664 in the Chesapeake Room. Please call Erin Cullen for directions at (410) 222-7441. We look forward to seeing you there!

September 26, 2005:

"I Feel Pretty": Jewelry in the Colonial Chesapeake

Lost Towns Research Associate Jeannette Agro reveals her recent research on personal adornment and jewelry in the 17th century, including a comparison of archaeological finds throughout Anne Arundel County and the Chesapeake.

October 31, 2005:

"I See Dead People"

Just in time for Halloween, Education Coordinator Erin Cullen will review the unexpected burials discovered by the *Lost Towns Project* over the past few years.

The New Faces of 2005

~ Erin Cullen

The *Lost Towns Project* would like to introduce you to our 2005 summer interns. You have probably seen some of them around, either in the lab or in the field, but now you will get the chance to learn more about them.

Lauren Duerling, soon-to-be a senior at UMBC, majoring in Ancient Studies, has worked with our lab staff, labeling artifacts from various sites throughout Anne Arundel County. She also completed the cataloging of artifacts from Chaney's Hills, otherwise known as the Riva site.

Stephanie Meredith, an upcoming senior at UMBC, majoring in Physical Anthropology, is conducting important faunal research with Cara Fama and Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito. Together, they will be conducting a comparative study of Rumney's Tavern and Freeman's Ordinary, analyzing the food ways at each site.

Lily Rubinstein, the *Lost Towns* first **Clark Intern** and an upcoming junior at UMBC, majoring in History, has been working with Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito on All Hallows Parish research. She transcribed birth, baptism, death and marriage records from the church, and entered them into the *Lost Towns* database with a goal of having a searchable digital record of the All Hallows Parish documents. Lily completed her internship on July 21st.

Jessica Vroblesky and Joshua Eurard were our two high school interns this year. They washed, labelled and rebagged artifacts in the lab, and have gained valuable field work experience. Both Jessica and Josh plan on continuing in the field of history and archaeology when they enter college.

Mark Barron is a second year Ph.D. student at the University of Maryland College Park. Mark is the first **Boisseau Intern** at the *Lost Towns Project* and was featured in the Spring 2005 newsletter. He'll be staying on through 2005 (and maybe beyond.)

We would like to thank all of our interns for their hard work and dedication to the *Lost Towns Project*. We hope that they learned a lot

while working with us, and that they'll come back and visit us every once in a while.

In our next newsletter, we'll check in with interns from the past and see what they have been up to since completing their internships!



Interns Jessica Vroblesky and Stephanie Meredith.

Success!!!!

~John Kille

The *Lost Towns Project* exceeded all expectations at the recent Whole Foods Market Community Day at the Annapolis Harbour Place Shopping Center.

I am pleased to report that our staff and volunteers raised a total of \$7,200, which shattered the previous Community Day fundraising record by over \$1,000! This financial support will provide an incredible boost to our public education program, which serves thousands of visiting school children and families at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland.

Whole Foods Market did an outstanding job supervising the entire process, making us feel welcome, comfortable, and useful. Our team's creativity and hard work carried the day, ensuring the success of many promotional activities carried out at the store. We are grateful to Homestead Gardens for generously providing free herb seedlings, potting soil and pots for shoppers to take home.

We are very proud to be associated with Whole Foods Market, and will continue to spread the word about its commitment to serving our local community. Our entire crew would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who helped with this important event, and the many supporters who came to the store to shop on this day!



Sherri Marsh and Cara Fama at Whole Foods Day.



Marj Hegge and Tony Lindauer at Whole Foods Day.

2006 *Preserve the Past* Calendar

The *Lost Towns Project* is now taking advanced orders for its professionally printed 2006 calendar. This year's full color edition will showcase rare archaeological finds and fascinating perspectives on historic preservation. Available for a donation of just \$11.95 or more, all proceeds will support the *Project's* many activities related to discovering and preserving our shared history.



It is the perfect holiday stocking stuffer, and three calendars will be sent for a donation of \$30.00 or more!

Please send check or money order to:

**Anne Arundel County Trust
for Preservation
P.O. Box 1573
Annapolis, MD 21404**

"Previews" from the 2006 *Preserve the Past* Calendar.

3D Animation of the Swan Cove Pipe Kiln

~John Rouse

The *Lost Towns Project* has given me a unique internship opportunity. I am a senior at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County majoring in Fine Arts with a degree in 3D Computer Animation. At the *Lost Towns Project*, I use the same animation software as Dreamworks and Pixar, two of the biggest animation studios in the nation.

I am currently recreating the Swan Cove Pipe Kiln in a 3D environment for use in animations and movies for the upcoming London Town Visitor Center. To begin this project I quickly learned the mechanics of how the pipe kiln works.



3D cross-section of conjectural clay tobacco pipe kiln.



Reconstructed pipe kiln at Historic London Town and Gardens.

A lot of the work looks very puzzling to anyone who sees the process of putting a 3D scene together. A group of wire frames vaguely represent an object, yet they have no mass to them. Once all the steps are done, however, it is a fully fleshed out, colored, textured physical object. If done correctly, the results can look very realistic.

In an industry like animation where artists animate cartoon characters being silly, make title logos zoom across the screen, or flood a city with a tsunami, it is always an enjoyable and refreshing experience to work on something fixed in real history rather than fantasy.

Mystery Artifact – Name that Profile...

This issue's mystery artifact comes from the plow zone behind the Rumney / West Tavern in London Town.

The object is a small cuff link or button with a brass back and an iron shank, which has now rusted away. On the obverse, one sees a glass bezel, which has been engraved on the back with the profile of an individual whose hairstyle is reminiscent of George Washington's on the U.S. quarter dollar. On either side of the bust is an initial. The consensus opinion is that the initials are "TC" although "FC" and "PC" are backed by vocal minority views. The profile and two initials have then been covered in gold gilt.

The clouded glass makes photography particularly difficult, but assumedly this represents some well-known individual.



Cuff link or button with bust and initials on either side.

Here is your chance to best the patriarch of historical archaeology and author of *A Guide to Colonial Artifacts of America*, Ivor Noel Hume, who has had his crack at the mystery. **Guess the name, prove you are right, and win your very own *Lost Towns* tee shirt!**

Willow Glen Farm

~ Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito

You may have heard me say that in the 18th century, all roads led to London Town. Over the years, the *Lost Towns Project* has been compiling research on property owners that had land or business in London Town. Many London Town residents owned a lot or two in town for their warehouses, stores, or taverns yet lived on nearby tobacco plantations in the area. One such owner was William Burgess. He is considered the founder of London Town, as a portion of his 1200-acre tract of *Scorton & Burge* was used for the town. He eventually owned thousands of acres of land in Anne Arundel County.

One of his tracts was *Burgess Choice* patented in 1666 for 400 acres and located near the head of the South River on Governor's Bridge Road near Davidsonville. The 1798 Federal Tax lists Ann Chapman as the owner of 220 acres consisting of parts of *Iiams*

Purchase and *Burgess Choice*.

Recently, Don Riddle (the owner of Homestead Gardens) contacted our office about the potential demolition of a now derelict building called Willow Glen, and we offered to investigate the building prior to its demise. Research revealed the old house is located on part of the *Burgess Choice* property once owned by Ann Chapman. Over the past several weeks, members of the *Lost Towns* team have



Willow Glen

undertaken historic, architectural and archaeological investigations.

Historic documentation has provided possible evidence for the structure's construction date. Chapman married Joseph Harwood in 1802 and died in 1804. Construction of Willow Glen likely dates to this period. The house underwent several alterations in the 1820-1840 period resulting in its present configuration. Architectural Historian Sherri Marsh and a team of volunteers have taken measured drawings as well as photographs to document the house.

Mr. Riddle has offered to assist in salvaging important architectural elements prior to the structure's demolition later this summer. The *Lost Towns* archaeology team also conducted limited testing on the property. Willow Glen will soon no longer be on the landscape, but at least our activities will offer a permanent record of what once stood on this land.

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 always available.

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

The lab (located at 2666 Riva Road, 2nd floor) is open Monday through Friday from 9 am - 4 pm. Call (410) 222-7328 for more information.

Tax-deductable 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.

Letters from Lost Towns is published three to four times a year 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 Cullen, Office of Environmental and Cultural Programs, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6402, Annapolis, MD 21401 or call (410) 222-7441. The *Lost Towns Project* is supported by Anne Arundel County government, in cooperation with the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. and the London Town Foundation, Inc.

Newsletter edited by Lauren Franz

Who makes up the Lost Towns Project?

- Al Luckenbach.....Director/County Archaeologist**
Jane Cox.....Assistant County Archaeologist
John Kille.....Assistant Director, Operations/Grant Administration
Cara Fama.....Lab Director
Donna Ware.....Architectural Historian
Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist
Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Equipment Manager
Sherri Marsh..... Architectural Historian
Erin Cullen.....Archaeologist/Education and Volunteer Coordinator
Lauren Franz.....Archaeologist/Intern Coordinator/ Newsletter Editor
Shawn Sharpe.....Field Director/ Conservation Specialist
Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito.....Historian/ Archaeologist
Jeannette Agro.....Research Associate
John Rouse.....3-D Specialist

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