



Letters from Lost Towns

Winter 2005

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Show Your Support for Archaeology by Shopping at Whole Foods Market on Saturday, May 28th!

~John Kille

Future Events

May 14, July 9 and
September 10
9:00 - 2:00, London Town
Public Dig Days

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

Monday Lecture Serious

Come to the Anne Arundel County Offices to learn about Archaeology with the staff of the *Lost Towns Project*. See page 2 for details.

Women in Colonial America

Dr. Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito will be discussing women in colonial america on June 16 and 23. (see page 2 for details)

ASM Field School

The *Lost Towns Project* will once again be helping ASM with their annual field session this year. (see page 4 for more details)

**WHOLE
FOODS[®]**
M A R K E T
Annapolis

The *Lost Towns Project* is extremely honored to have been chosen to participate in the Whole Foods Market Community Day program which will provide much needed funding for our historical archaeology and public education programs. Whole Foods Market is the world's leading retailer of natural and organic foods and is located in the Annapolis Harbour Center.

On **Saturday, May 28th**, project staff and volunteers will be at the Annapolis Whole Foods Market store from 10:00 am-6:00 pm to take part in hands-on educational activities and games, as well as help with creative organic food demonstrations. In return, the *Lost Towns Project* will receive 5% of sales for the day. The donation will support our annual "Dig Day" season and

organized education program.

The *Lost Towns Project* will be in the store throughout the day, helping store chefs to prepare brunch featuring enticing colonial recipes made with native, organic foods accompanied by live music. Staff and volunteers will also conduct food demonstrations ideal for celebrating the Memorial Day holiday.

An information table will be set up outside the store where the new Rumney-West Tavern interactive 3D exhibit from colonial London Town will be on display. From 10am-2pm, we will have free pots, seeds, and soil available for customers to make their own colonial garden. From 2-6pm, kids and families can participate in a simulated dig for "artifacts" that can be redeemed for store product prizes. Customers can also enter a sweepstakes for additional prizes.

Please come to Whole Foods Market to shop for the Memorial Day holiday, and enjoy the planned festivities, free food, and fun! The store is located at 2504 Solomons Island Road (Route 2) in the Harbour Center in Annapolis.

New Lost Towns Lab at London Town

~Cara Fama

While we thought it was never going to end, winter has been good to the *Lost Towns Project* archaeology lab by giving lots of time to work on a variety of research projects, artifact analysis, and even a little conservation. In addition to this, the winter was mild enough that it just could not slow the construction of our new lab in the new visitor's center at Historic London Town and Gardens.

As many of you know, the visitor's center was slated to be finished in August 2005, and much to our pleasant surprise, it looks like the contractor will be finishing ahead of schedule. What does this mean? It is likely that the *Lost Towns Project* Archaeology Lab will be moving to its new home somewhere around July (knock on wood), which means more room and better resources for everyone.

The new lab has become an exciting reality for us as we watch it rise bit-by-bit at London Town. It is my hope that between the added space and resources and the windows with a beautiful river view, the lab will be a more desirable place to volunteer. The *Lost Towns Project* is so very grateful to our volunteers, who have helped to keep this engine running despite crowded, uncomfortable and inconvenient working conditions. I know that many of you share our excitement for new lab facility – a long-time dream come true.

They Are Back!

It has been a year or so but the *Lost Towns Project* has decided to bring back the Monday Afternoon Talks. For those who are new volunteers, these talks are given by the *Lost Towns* staff to any and everyone that would like to come and learn. They will be given once a month beginning on the twenty-third of May. These presentations represent the different interests of the individuals of the *Lost Towns Project*.

Lectures will be held at the Anne Arundel County Offices on the second 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.

May 23, 2005 – John Kille will discuss the design and creation of an interactive animated computer exhibit to be installed in the new museum facility under construction at Historic London Town and Gardens.

June 27, 2005 – Interested in historic weaponry? If so come and listen to Shawn Sharpe as he discusses arms from the 17th and 18th centuries.

July 25, 2005 – Things are changing for the *Lost Towns*, specifically the laboratory. Cara Fama talks about the new and exciting location of the lab and what this means for the *Lost Towns Project* and its volunteers.

Women in Colonial America

Dr. Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito of the *Lost Towns Project* will discuss women in colonial America concentrating on Anne Arundel County, with examples from Annapolis and London Town. Lectures will be held at Anne Arundel Community College on June 16th and June 23rd from 7:00pm to 9:00pm as part of their Women's Institute which offers a wide variety of programs and activities designed to inform, enrich, and empower women, both personally and professionally. Contact Dr. Shirley Parry, Director of AACC's Women Institute at 410-777-2807 or womensinstitute@aacc.edu.

Our New Lab Needs Your Help!

~John Kille



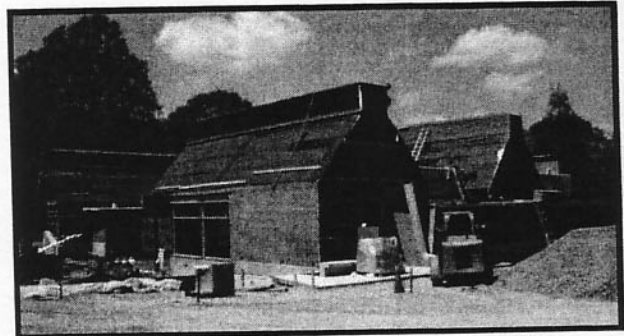
Staff in Front of Our New Lab

As many of you know, we have faced great challenges in the past, notably an across-the-board county budget cut two years ago that reduced the project's operating expenses and our staff by fifty percent. The fact of the matter is that while our funding level has been significantly scaled back, our staff and volunteers have redoubled their efforts to maintain quality programming and hands-on activities for our local community.

We are now in the midst of wrapping up another successful season of hands-on activities for visiting school children, preparing for new dig day events which begin on May 14th, and hosting the Archaeological Society of Mary-

land field school in September for the second year in a row. However, perhaps the most exciting news to report involves the new state-of-the-art archaeology laboratory facility that is under construction at Historic London Town, and will be completed later this summer.

The Save America's Treasures Program is currently reviewing a proposal we have submitted requesting grant funds to purchase conservation equipment for the lab. At the same time, assistance is needed to actually furnish the lab with basic equipment to make this a functional, livable space for our volunteers and staff. Needed are work tables, chairs, computers equipment, file cabinets, and lamps that are necessary to process and treat artifacts recovered from our many excavations around the county.



Lab and Visitor Center under construction

Lab Sponsorship Program

We are appealing to our membership to consider sponsoring one or several items on the following list of items for our new lab facility. A contribution can be made on behalf of an individual, a family, and also in memory of a departed love one or friend. The sponsorship of items at suggested funding levels will be recognized on a special engraved wall plaque that will be prominently displayed in the lab, as a lasting reminder of this act of generosity. Please look over this list of specific items and see how you can help with this effort.

Categories of Gift Giving

_____ \$1,000-Conservation Cabinet, Map File Cabinet, File Cabinets (2 needed), Desktop PCs (3 needed), Storage Shelving, Slide Scanner, or Computer Software

_____ \$500-Work Tables (4 needed), Magnifying Lamp, Work Lamps, Printer/Copier/Scanner

_____ \$250-Conservation Tools, Digital Scale, Chairs (8 needed)

_____ \$100-Storage Cart, Dessication Chambers, Bulletin Board

Any contribution made outside of these suggested levels will be gratefully accepted. Checks should be made payable to *Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation* and mailed to P.O. Box 1573, Annapolis, Maryland 21404. Also, since ACT is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, your gift will be tax deductible. Thank you!

New Faces at the Lost Towns

There are a few new faces around the *Lost Towns* Offices this year. One is Jeannette Agro. She was an intern with the Project over the fall and has since been hired on part-time to help Mechelle to improve the archival data base as well as play with the kiddies at *London Town* on Wednesdays. Jeanette just graduated UMBC with her bachelors of the Arts in Ancient Studies and Cultural Anthropology.

John Rouse, a new animator for Lost Towns, is assisting with 3D reconstructions of the past. Currently in his junior year at UMBC, John is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Computer/Fine Arts. He brings a wealth of experience to the project, including extensive experience working with Maya modeling software and advanced Photoshop graphics. The Impact Program, a partnership between the Maryland Higher Education Commission and Anne Arundel County, has generously funded John's position. His primary focus is creating a 3D reconstruction of Emanuel Drue's 17th Century pipe kiln, which is based on the discoveries of the Lost Towns Project at the Swan Cove site in present-day St. Margarets.

The project is pleased to announce the selection of Mark Barron, a doctoral student at the University of Maryland College Park, as the first Rob Boisseau intern. Mark is enrolled in the American Studies program and is assisting one of the *Lost Towns* historians, Mechelle Kern, with targeted archival research at the Maryland State Archives. Originally from Georgia, Mark has an extensive background in historic preservation, having taught history at Kennesaw State University, served as an architectural historian at the Georgia Department of Transportation, conducted research at the Center for Public history, and worked as an architectural surveyor for the City of Douglasville, Georgia.

Back in the Field Again....

Spring has sprung and the *Lost Towns* team is again getting dirty at multiple sites.

We have returned to Chaney's Hills to excavate two intact features in advance of subdivision construction. Hope still exists, however, that the Chaney family will purchase an easement and protect the location of the two main structures.

A survey of the northern shore of the Rhode River basin is now underway. Funded with the generous support of the Maryland Historical Trust in a grant made to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation.

Finally, Wednesday school groups are in full swing at London Town, and excavations have begun at the location of a possible sawpit adjacent to the Carpenter's Shop.

Volunteers are welcome, so come out and join the expeditions.

Maryland Archaeology

Once again, the members of the *Lost Towns Project* have nearly taken over the Maryland Archeology Journal. Al Luckenbach, David Gadsby, Erin Cullen, and Lauren Franz have all contributed to the journal that will be coming out this year. Contact Dennis Curry at the Maryland Historical Trust to receive a copy or go to the Archeological Society of Maryland website, www.marylandarcheology.org, to find out when this jour-

Archaeology Society of Maryland Field School

Once again the ASM Field Session is going to be held at the Providence site of Swan Cove. The crew of the *Lost Towns Project* will be there to help out and supervise the week long event. There is only one change, the Field Session will be held from September 16 to September 25. Hopefully it won't be as humid this year as it was last year! Please contact ASM through their website for more information.

(www.marylandarcheology.org)

nal is going to be available.

The Building Sequence at Homewood's Lot, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

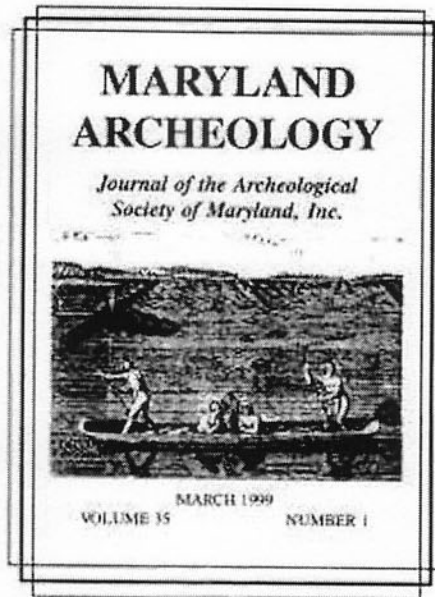
Homewood's Lot (18AN871), located off Whitehall Creek near the Chesapeake Bay in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, is a site that has been continuously occupied from about 1650 to the present day. Homewood's Lot is one of eight known sites associated with the Puritan town called Providence, the first European settlement in the county. Between 1999 and 2002 a series of archaeological salvage excavations were conducted at this location in Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project*. These excavations resulted in the discovery of a number of structures including two dating from the 1650's and 1660's and two built in the early 18th century. The latter show evidence of abandonment and demolition about 1770.

Emphasis is placed on the determination of the construction sequence of these structures through analyses of the artifactual contents recovered from associated features. The 18th century component includes an impressive Georgian brick mansion as well as a highly unusual, and early, kitchen/wash house and associated will and drain system.

A London Town Burial: A Study in Past and Present Customs

During the fall of 2002, archaeologists excavating colonial features at

Historic London Town (18AN48) in Edgewater, Maryland, discovered a burial shaft containing the remains of a six-year-old child. Dating to the first half of the eighteenth century, the interment appears to have been placed between the floor joists of a structure that once stood adjacent to a main thoroughfare of the town. Research conducted by archaeologists for



Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project* indicates that the burial of a child under the floorboards of a home, and frequently beneath the sleeping space, was a common practice in both western Africa and the Caribbean, the latter of which was a major trading partner with London Town. Data from these and other international excavations have led archaeologists to conclude that the child was a slave. This paper discusses the discovery of this burial and its connections to African traditions, as well as the steps taken to appropriately identify and honor the child after

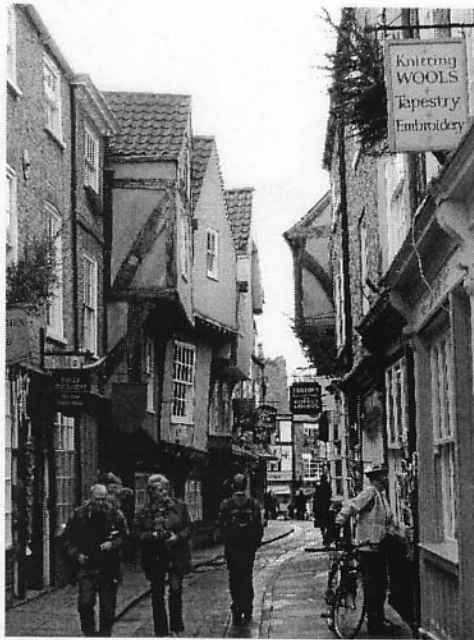
excavations ceased.

Native American Stone Celts from Colonial Contexts in the Seventeenth Century Settlement of Providence, Maryland.

Archaeologists often discover Native American artifacts while excavating historic period European sites. Given the human propensity to occupy favorable geographic locations, it should not be surprising that both indigenous people and the seventeenth century Europeans frequently occupied the same spots. Determinants like the distance to potable water, level, well-drained living surface, and access to various resources, would all operate in a fashion for either population.

In recent years the recovery of celts from colonial features at Homewood's Lot (18AN871), and the Merriday period cellar at the Swan Cove Site (18AN934), has prompted archaeologists at the *Lost Towns Project* to consider the question more seriously. Did such objects serve some purpose other than colonial curios? Their relatively regular appearance on these Providence sites, and the absence of other objects like gorgets or bannerstones, began to suggest the possibility that settlers were actually obtaining axes from Native American sources – and perhaps using them.

To read these articles as well as others see the publications page on the Maryland Archeology website (www.marylandarcheology.org).



One of the narrow street of England

Lost Towns Project Goes Abroad!

~Jane Cox

Just when winter was closing in on us here in the States, several of the *Lost Towns* Team (past and present) went to the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in York, England. Jane Cox, Shawn Sharpe, Sherri Marsh, Mechelle Kerns, and Dave Gadsby headed over to England in early January to represent the *Lost Towns Project* at this annual conference. This conference is where colleagues gather to discuss the latest developments in the field of historical and underwater archaeology. (www.sha.org)

Three days of papers, and numerous tours of the delightful City of York kept us all entertained. Jane presented a paper summarizing research she, Al, and Shawn had been working on; a comparative study of 17th century tobacco-pipes in the colonial Chesapeake (...Imagine

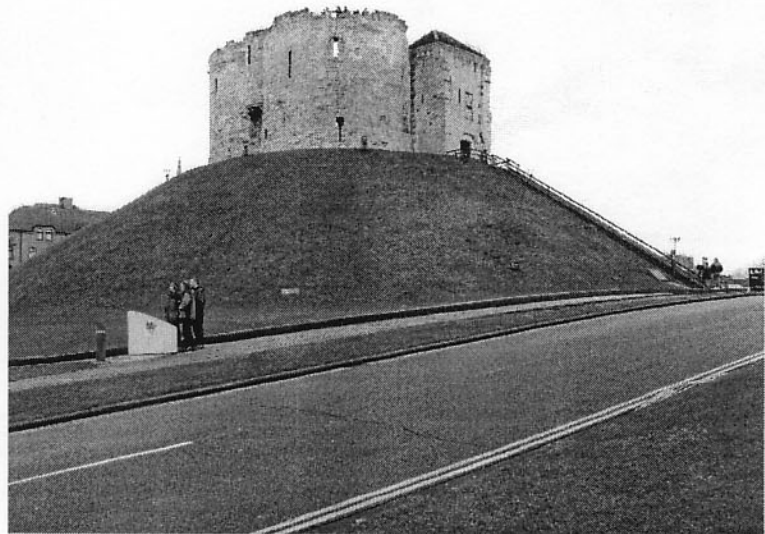
that). This research was part of a cooperative study funded by the NEH. (For more information, see www.pastportal.com/compcolculture/index.htm). Mechelle presented a paper on the Rumney's Cellar and its relationship to other comparable tavern collections in the Mid-Atlantic region. Dave reunited with his old *Lost Towns* friends in the bars though intellectually, it appears he had moved on. Dave presented a paper on some of the new research he has undertaken since leaving us for graduate school! Shawn was a student of the social scene and was quick to find the best and oldest bars in this quaint town, while Sherri, who had been to York a time or two before, was quick to show us the way around this medieval fortified town!

The sight seeing in York was spec-



The gang at a local pub in York, England

tacular, with Viking and Roman ruins enclosed by a nearly intact medieval city wall. In fact, more than a few noted that some of the buildings we were in were older than many of our archaeology sites here in Anne Arundel County! The 17th and 18th century buildings throughout town were beautiful and inspiring backdrops that made the conference a wonderful educational experience..... Now if we could have just gotten some decent food..... (no more mushy peas!!)



Cliffords Tower in York, England

2005 Mid-Atlantic Archaeology Conference

~Carolyn Gryczkowski and Lauren Franz

In Mid-March, local archaeologists converged on Rehoboth Beach, Delaware for the 35th Annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC). Erin Cullen, Cara Fama, Lauren Franz, Carolyn Gryczkowski, and Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito went as representatives of the *Lost Towns Project*.

The conference began Thursday with some local tours. Many brave souls traveled through freezing cold winds to the conservation facility located at Cape Henlopen State Park to view the hull of the DeBraak. The DeBraak capsized off the coast of Lewes, Delaware in 1798. She was known as a great treasure ship and was rumored to have sank because her decks were laden with gold. The ship was located off Cape Henlopen in 1984, excavators bringing up part of the hull and many other artifacts including around 600 gold and silver coins. This shipwreck provides important insight into life in the British Navy.

After viewing the hull the group traversed the sand dunes to see various archaeology sites that appear and disappear in the ever-changing dunes. In addition to the moving sand, archaeologists also have to contend with the problem of looting of the sites as evidenced by the person out scanning the dunes with his metal detector.

Current research in prehistory of the Mid-Atlantic region, curation and conservation of collections, ceramics, environmental site formation, general historic archaeology, and military sites. The session on curation provided some very timely information as the *Lost Towns*

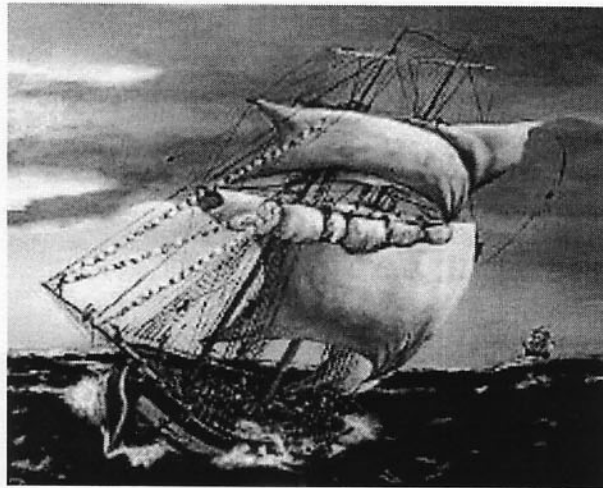


Photo from Delaware online news journal

Project prepares to move into the new lab at London Town. Almost every project must contend with the common problems of too many artifacts, too little space, too little funding and too few staff.

Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito presented a paper on Rumney's Tavern that compared it to rural and urban taverns. The preponderance of ceramic artifacts over tobacco pipe indicated that Rumney's was a rural tavern providing accommodation for travelers as well as serving the political and social functions that were the primary focus of urban taverns.

Representatives of various Native American tribes met with several archaeologists Friday evening for a

round table discussion to promote communication and cooperation between these groups. While many positive experiences were related, there is a need for greater knowledge and understanding of Native American cultures in all levels of our society as well as increased involvement of Native Americans in archaeological projects that impact their lands and history.

Steve Bilicki opened the underwater session with a brief overview and description of the various instruments used in underwater surveys: side-scan sonar, magnetometers, and sub-bottom profilers. Topics discussed in this session included: the search for the USS Alligator (the first US submarine), the recovery and identification of mammoth and mastodon bones in coastal New Jersey. The conservation of cannon, cannon balls, and other iron objects recovered from the Queen Anne's Revenge shipwreck, and Lewes Delaware beach finds.

These and all the other sessions at the MAACs gave great insight to what is going on around the Mid-Atlantic region, giving conference attendees many opportunities to exchange ideas and catch up on the latest projects. Next year the MAAC conference will be in Virginia Beach, Virginia in March of 2006. Hope to see you there.

Who makes up the Lost Towns Project?

Al Luckenbach.....Director/County Archaeologist

Jane Cox.....Assistant County Archaeologist

Cara Fama.....Lab Director

John Kille.....Assistant Director,

Operations/Grant Administration

Donna Ware.....Architectural Historian

Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist

Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Equipment

Manager

Sherri Marsh..... Architectural Historian

Erin Cullen.....Archaeologist/Volunteer

and Education Coordinator

Lauren Franz.....Archaeologist/Intern

Coordinator/Newsletter Editor

Shawn Sharpe.....Field Director/Conservation

Specialist

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 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.

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 always 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.

Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

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