



# Letters from Lost Towns

Summer 2006

## New Discoveries at Cheney's Hill

~ John Kille

With the impending completion of the River Creek Subdivision, the *Lost Towns Project* has recently returned in force to continue exploration of the circa 1658 home that once belonged to one of Anne Arundel County's most distinguished families. The project's excavations are currently centered on the Cheney/Chaney Homestead, which once stood on a high remote area that is now part of a residential subdivision development project along Riva Road, southwest of

Annapolis.

The opportunity to uncover areas surrounding the homestead's post-in-ground "footprint," which was thought to be roughly 20 x 26-feet, has revealed the structure was actually larger.



*Three dimensional render of Cheney's House:  
Inside, by the fireplace*

Project archaeologists and volunteers are finding additional posthole features or stains in the soil, which suggest this earthfast dwelling had additions to each side of the "lobby entrance, central chimney" layout previously

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### Future Events

#### **Final 2006 Public Dig Day!**

**Sept. 9, 2006**

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

*Lost Towns* archaeologists invite the public to help screen soil to find artifacts, tour the site, and attend workshops.

Call London Town at (410) 222-1919 to reserve your spot!

#### **Monday Lecture Series**

Come to the Anne Arundel County Heritage Center to learn about our most recent research and archaeological finds as well as research conducted in related fields. Lectures are held from 1-2 pm in the Chesapeake Room on the 2nd floor of Building 2664. Please call Erin Cullen for directions at (410) 222-7441. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Upcoming Lectures:**

**September 25** - Lauren Schiszik  
"Incised Ceramics of the Early Copper Age in Vésztő, Hungary"

**October 23** - Al Luckenbach  
"Projectile Point Styles"

**November 27** - Jenna Solomon  
"Bird Control and Historic Buildings"

**December** - No Lecture, Enjoy the holidays!

### **We Still Need Your Help!!**

The Lost Towns Lab is shaping up nicely, but we are still missing key equipment, such as furniture, computers, shelving and supplies.

Any level of financial support is greatly appreciated, and your donations are tax-deductible

Donations can be sent to:

Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc.  
PO Box 1573  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Thank you for your continuing support!**

# The Search for the 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Home of Samuel Chew Sr.

~ John Kille



The *Lost Towns Project* has embarked on a search for the 17th-century home of Samuel Chew Sr., one of six documented lot owners in the 17<sup>th</sup>-century town of Herrington, near present day Town Point. The Chew investigation will involve targeted historical and cartographic research and limited archaeological testing. Findings will be written up in a report that will be presented to the membership of the Deale Area Historical Society and the general public.

Samuel Chew Sr. was a planter and merchant who also served in the highest levels of legislative, provincial, and local government. He also was recognized as an important leader of the Herring Creek Quakers, and his home was used for regular meetings.

This effort has been launched with a generous mini-grant provided by Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town, and South County and matching support from the Ned Crandell Family of Town Point, Maryland.

Ned Crandell, owner of Town Point Marina, received the Archaeological Preservation award from the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. and last year received an ACT historical marker designating the discovery of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century town of Herrington on his property. Several generations of Crandell have lived near the site of Herrington and the area where the search for the home of Samuel Chew Sr. will take place.



*Mr. Crandell, center, is flanked by John and Al after receiving the Archaeological Preservation award from the ACT.*

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defined.

The Cheney site is particularly important, as it is one of the earliest frontier occupations in Maryland, located many miles from protected settlements organized during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. According to Dr. Al, the new discoveries at the homestead site are significant as they underscore the complexities of the historic landscape in which the Cheney's lived and worked. He points out that in addition to the homestead, a second earthfast building, also lying on the Cheney parcel, has yet to be excavated, while the exist-

ence of trash pits and possible fence lines, sheds, and outbuilding also need further delineation and study.

The fact that the Cheney/Chaney property has so far remained undisturbed in the face of encroaching development provides a unique opportunity to study a little known period in Maryland history. In addition to documenting the layout and design of associated buildings, the project continues to recover a large collection of artifacts from the site, such as broken pieces of imported European ceramics,

buckles and ornamental metalwork, and gun flint and lead shot used for hunting. When processed and analyzed, these household items will tell us a great deal about 17<sup>th</sup>-century lifestyles, particularly as they relate to this increasingly complex home site.

Volunteers are encouraged to come out and join the regular *Lost Towns* field crew that has been working at the Cheney's Hill site this summer. It is without a doubt one of the most promising and fascinating cultural landscapes we have had the pleasure of excavating!

## Digging Digloo II

~Al Luckenbach

Everyone who knows London Town is familiar with the white “Digloo” over the Rumney/West Tavern’s cellar. For nearly a decade now, it has served as the primary archaeological visual in the historic area, visited by thousands of school children.

Less well known is its low-rent neighbor – the far less grand structure known, appropriately, as “Digloo II,” previously the location of a large and impressive cypress tree. The secret behind this tree’s vigor was the fact that it was growing directly over a colonial cellar.

**This past year,** the *Lost Towns* team began excavating the first quarter of this feature, working around lumber stored for renovations of the Brown House and a large pile of supplies for Tony Lindauer’s pipe kiln.

The finds made so far exemplify two kinds of cellar “fills” encountered by archaeologists. The Rumney/West deposit is one type, where trash was discarded in the cellar while the building above was still in active use. The other type of cellar fill contains the remains of the building that once stood over it – indicating that the cellar was still open and performing its original function at the time of the building’s demise.

The latter is the case with Digloo II, where an astounding mass of preserved wood has been discovered in the lower layers of the fill. At the moment, the nature of this structure is not clearly understood.

One theory, espoused by Willie Graham of Colonial Williamsburg, is that it once served as the sawpit for the Carpenter’s Shop. Even the dating of this feature will not be exactly known until the layers under the wood have been excavated, and diagnostic artifacts retrieved.

The site is open most Wednesdays. Stop by and visit as the discoveries continue.



Shawn excavating the pit in the Digloo



Volunteer Lois Nutwell, in silhouette, prepares to attack an oyster midden at Beverly-Triton Park.

## Lost Towns Goes Prehistoric

~ Shawn Sharpe

The *Lost Towns Project* is having a busy field season in 2006. Besides the ever-present London Town, we have been excavating sites at Hancock’s Resolution and in the Rhode River.

Hancock’s Resolution is a County park in Pasadena (open Sundays) highlighting a restored 1785 farmhouse. As the County plans to build a Visitor’s Center for the Park, the *Lost Towns Project* conducted excavations to mitigate archaeological disturbance that the construction may cause. Numerous quartz, rhyolite, and jasper flakes were recovered, as well as an ironstone knife and a number of Accokeek pottery sherds, signifying an Early Woodland period site, approximately 2,500 - 2,800 years old.

We have also begun the second phase of the Rhode River

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# New Earthfast Structure at London Town

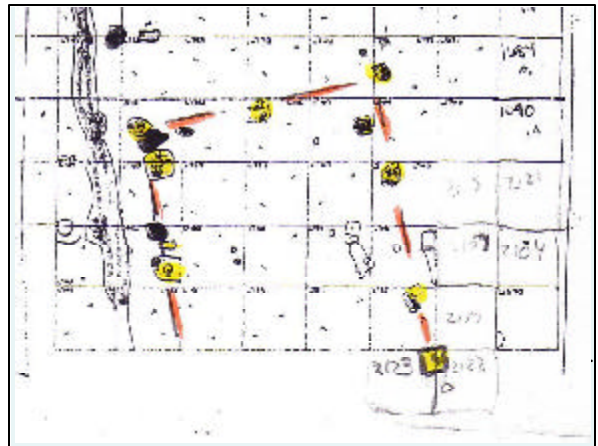
~ Al Luckenbach

Last winter, while writing a short synopsis of the archaeological excavations at the Lord Mayor's Tenement, I noticed a concentration of ceramics and other artifacts located just east of the kitchen garden on Macklefish Street. Since this concentration appeared to have little to do with trash disposal patterns discovered at the tenement, I hypothesized that another structure may have once stood in this area. A few postholes had previously been delineated in this area, which lent support to such a contention.

This summer, the *Lost Towns* crew - in particular its motivated

team of interns - opened a number of test units in the area to further test this possibility. As this site plan indicates, the hypothesis ultimately proved to be true.

The unknown building was apparently built around the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and was about 20' wide and at least 24' in length. Unfortunately, it appears that a portion of the building may extend under the current gravel road, and was de-



This site map shows the current footprint of the 18<sup>th</sup> century building that is southeast of Lord Mayor's.

stroyed during the road construction. Despite this damage, it is always nice to add the remains of another colonial structure to London Town's historic area.

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## Regional Field Schools visit the *Lost Towns Project*

~ Jane Cox

This summer, the *Lost Towns* team had plenty of company out at our sites. The Washington College Field School, under the direction of Dr. John Seidel, joined us here on the western shore with more than a dozen students for several days. The St. Mary's Field School, under the direction of Dr. Henry Miller, also visited London Town.

The Washington College group spent four days here in Anne Arundel County. Students spent Day 1 conducting a shovel test pit survey on the Seznec property, near the Leavy Neck Site. Mrs. Seznec had long been collecting 18<sup>th</sup> century artifacts alongside an adjacent field and this opportunity allowed for a more in-depth look at the site. Ongoing sod operation has dramatically impacted the site and few artifacts were recovered; however, students gained valuable experience in conducting a shovel test pit survey. The *Lost Towns* team also demonstrated the use of the Cesium Magnetometer.

The Washington College group then spent two

days working alongside the *Lost Towns* team at Swan Cove, where everyone had the opportunity to excavate two complex, stratified features. The following week, the group returned for a brief visit to the London Town site, where they toured the new lab and museum space, the reconstructed tenement building, and the ongoing archaeological investigations.

St. Mary's students were treated to a similar tour of London Town. Al and Cara showed off our new lab and museum, as well as the reconstruction work based upon years of archaeological experience. Their schedule did not allow for a "hands-on" experience, but we hope to see some of them come back to volunteer someday.

We hope that the students from both Washington College and St. Mary's College gained valuable experience and perspective on the exciting range of archaeological research ongoing in Maryland.

## Lauren's New Adventure

~ Erin Cullen



Lauren Franz (l) and Lauren Schiszik (r)

As many of you may know, our wonderful Lauren Franz is leaving the *Lost Towns Project* after three years to pursue her career in Museum Studies. She will be attending graduate school this fall at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia. The program that Lauren is studying will last for 18 months and she will be going to school full-time (yikes!). While Lauren is in school she will have the opportunity to intern at one of the many wonderful museums in Philadelphia. We will miss Lauren a great deal, but hopefully she will come back to visit us when she is not too busy studying. And, if you're ever in Philly, you should give her a ring!

The replacement for the archaeologist/intern coordinator position at the *Lost Towns Project* is also named Lauren. (This should make it all easy for you to remember.) Lauren Schiszik is a graduate from Earlham College in Indiana, where she received her B.A. this year in Sociology/Anthropology with a minor in Museum Studies. Lauren has participated in archaeological excavations at Historic St. Mary's City and with the Körös Regional Archaeological Project, where she helped excavate an Early Copper Age habitation site in Hungary. She also has some experience in museum curation and education.

The *Lost Towns Project* would like to send out a fond fair well to Lauren Franz and a warm and happy welcome to Lauren Schiszik!

## Mystery/Interesting Artifact

~ Caralyn R. Fama

### What is it?

This iron artifact was found at the Swan Cove site (18AN934), in the upper strata of Feature 25. The lower strata of Feature 25 have produced artifacts that are largely associated with the Emmanuel Drue occupation dates at Swan Cove (1660s – 1670s) while the upper strata are interpreted as representing a post-Drue occupation time period (1690s-1700s) due to the lack of Drue-style pipes.

This artifact is approximately 2.5 inches long by 1.5 inches high, and appears to have been a spring-like mechanism. There is tooling along the portion of the artifact that suggests a handle, as well as tooling along the flat part of the spring on the side that the



'handle' is attached to. It all seems very familiar to us here in the lab – right on the edge of our tongues, but still out of reach. We are leaving it up to you to tell us: What Is It?

# Summer 2006 Interns

~ Lauren Franz & Lauren Schiszik

The *Lost Towns Project* is very lucky this summer to have so many people that are interested in the Project, not the least of which are our eleven interns! Our wealth of interns have a broad range of interests and experiences, and we are so glad to have them all here. They have been great assets in the field, lab, and even Archives. So if you see a new face around the field or lab it probably belongs to one of our enthusiastic interns.

Of course, we are always on the lookout for new blood! If you know anyone who is interested in interning this coming Fall, Winter or Spring, please encourage them to contact Lauren Schiszik at lauren.schiszik@gmail.com or at (410)-222-7441.

The wonderful interns that we hosted this summer are listed as follows:

## **Mary Amrhein**

UMBC, pursuing a B.A. in Ancient Studies

**Interests/Goals:** Mary plans to pursue a career in Archaeology.

## **Claire Bowan**

Goucher College, pursuing a B.A. in Historic Preservation

**Interests/Goals:** Claire plans to pursue a career in Historic Preservation.

## **Jessica Breitschwerdt**

Salisbury University, pursuing a B.A. in History and Secondary Education, minor in Social Studies.

**Interests/Goals:** Jess plans on being a History teacher after graduating, and her long term

goals include working for the Park Service or in a museum.

## **Adam Miller**

St. Mary's College of Maryland, pursuing a B.A. in Anthropology with a focus in Archaeology.

**Interests/Goals:** Adam is interested in Chinese archaeology, and plans to go into Cultural Resource Management upon graduation.

## **Skylar Neil**

UMBC, B.A. in Ancient Studies

**Interests/Goals:** This fall, Skylar will pursue an M.A. in Historical Archaeology at Tufts University.



*Ashley trowels a unit at London Town as Lauren Franz supervises*

## **Ashley Norman**

AACC, plans to pursue a B.A. in Anthropology, with a focus in Cultural Anthropology.

**Interests/Goals:** Ashley plans to study abroad in Africa, and is particularly interested in non-industrial societies.

## **Alexandra Overton**

Washington College, pursuing a B.A. in History

**Interests/Goals:** Alex is conducting research for *Lost Towns*



*A few of the interns in the lab (l-r): Christie, Adam, Skylar, and Jess*

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# The Raven Site - Not quite Underwater Archaeology, but...

~ Lauren Schiszik

Recently, the *Lost Towns* gang was invited by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to do a surface collection of a historic site in the Tridelphia Reservoir in Howard County. The reservoir has been drained while the Brighton Dam undergoes repair work, and this site - usually submerged - is currently exposed. Howard County was a part of Anne Arundel County in the 18th century.

The site is the earliest known historic site in Howard County. The site was identified by State Archaeologist Wayne Clark a few years ago, and he be-

lieves it was a Ranger Station for Anne Arundel County. Archival research has revealed that the site was owned by Thomas Hutchcraft, and was known as Hutchcraft's Fortune. He owned the land from 1732 - 1768, at which point he sold the land. It does not appear that this site was occupied much beyond this time. Our artifact collection efforts were

set back by the torrential rains in late June - which put the site underwater yet again - but we're currently examining the artifacts, and will soon have a clearer insight on this homestead in what was formerly the wilderness of Anne Arundel County.



*The staff and interns collecting artifacts at the Raven Site*

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on West Minster near present day St. Margaret's.

## **Rodney Parker**

Salisbury University, pursuing a B.A. in History and a minor in Business Administration

**Interests/Goals:** Rodney plans to go into Cultural Resource Management after graduation.

## **Dan Reynolds**

Arundel High School

**Interests/Goals:** Historic Architecture and Preservation, with a focus in 18<sup>th</sup>-century architecture

## **Christie Richardson**

Dickinson College, pursuing a B.A. in Archaeology and Classics

with a minor in Art History

**Interests/Goals:** Christie is interested in Greek Archaeology, specifically the Mycenaean culture, and plans to attend graduate school for Greek Archaeology.

## **Priscilla Yoon**

Wellesley College, pursuing a B.A. in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology as well as Economics

**Interests/Goals:** Priscilla is interested in Near Eastern Archaeology, and this fall she is studying abroad in Egypt at the American University of Cairo.

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survey involving the excavation of two prehistoric sites. One of these sites, located in Beverly-Triton Park, yielded quartz flakes, oyster shell, and Rappahannock pottery dating from ca. 1,250 AD to 1,650 AD. The other site investigated is further inland on the Camp Letts peninsula. Along with quartz flakes, oysters, and the odd deer bone, both Townsend pottery (ca. 1,250-1,600 AD) and Potomac pottery (ca. 1,000-1,600 AD) were recovered. Both sites seem to be seasonal camps set up for oyster harvesting; a common occurrence in the County's Late Woodland period (ca. 800-1,600 AD).

## 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 the lab phone, (410)222-7328 for more information.

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.

*Letters from Lost Towns* is published three 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 Resources, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6402, 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.

Newsletter edited by  
Lauren Schiszik

## Who makes up the Lost Towns Project?

**Al Luckenbach.....Director/County Archaeologist**

**Jane Cox.....Assistant County Archaeologist**

**John Kille.....Assistant Director**

**Cara Fama.....Lab Director**

**Donna Ware.....Architectural Historian**

**Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist**

**Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Equipment Manager**

**Jenna Solomon.....Architectural Historian**

**Erin Cullen.....Archaeologist/Education and Volunteer Coordinator**

**Lauren Schiszik.....Archaeologist/Intern Coordinator/Newsletter Editor**

**Shawn Sharpe.....Field Director/Conservation Specialist**

Lost Towns Project



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