



Letters from Lost Towns

Fall 2007

The Significance of the Chew Discovery

~ Al Luckenbach

News & Future Events

Our new lab is Open!

We invite you to visit our beautiful new state-of-the-art lab, located at London Town and Gardens, 839 Londontown Rd, Edgewater MD, 21037. Call our lab at 410-222-1318!

Monday Lecture Series

The Monday Lecture Series is temporarily on hiatus.

Interested in Learning more about Archaeology? Attend one of the Annual Conferences listed here:

January 9 - 13, 2008

Society for Historical Archaeology

Albuquerque, New Mexico
www.sha.org

February 28 - March 2, 2008
Middle Atlantic

Archaeological Conference

Ocean City, Maryland
www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org

Continued on page 2

Fishing my cell phone from my pants pocket while driving is always a challenge. This time it was definitely worth it. On the other end was a very excited John Kille. He and Shawn Sharpe had been continuing the months-long search for the home of Samuel Chew.

“We have delft! And Rhenish! And a suspicious stone wall! And it’s in the right place!”

“Sounds like you found it,” I replied – and they had.

In terms of fascinating discoveries, the *Lost Towns Project* has been most fortunate over the years. The lost town of Providence, the immense Whitehall brickyard, the ceramics at Rumney’s Tavern in London Town, and the tobacco pipe kiln at Swan Cove all stand out, but now there is another to join the list – the Chew Site.

Why so important? In a word – architecture. As the slow, dry, dusty excavations continued over the summer, we grew more and more amazed at what we were finding. Simply the embellishments were shocking. Four types of molded bricks, three types of quarried and polished stone (including marble), molded plaster, polychrome delft tiles, and the list keeps growing. But the biggest shock by far was the building’s size. The basic footprint measures 66’ x 66’ and apparently contains a full cellar. We know from a small 1730 sketch that it was two stories tall. That’s over 11,500 square feet of floor space.

Context? That’s bigger than familiar historic mansions like Tulip Hill, Chase-Lloyd, or Mount Clare. It’s bigger than St. Peter’s, the Governor’s Mansion in St. Mary’s, or even the Governor’s Palace at Williamsburg. The main rivals are Berkeley’s home at Greenspring in Virginia – but that was built in many stages – and Rosewell in Virginia, which had a smaller footprint, but was a full three stories. Chew had clearly built one of the great mansions of the Chesapeake, but its existence was virtually forgotten since its destruction in 1772.

Excavations are slowly proceeding. There is much we don’t know. We could definitely use help – both physical and financial – from our volunteers and supporters. Let’s return Samuel Chew’s house to the prominent place it once held – a true landmark of early colonial architecture.



A piece of polychrome delft tile found at the Chew site.

The Lost Towns Project Thanks our Partners and Supporters



The History of the Chew Site

~ John Kille

This highly important archaeological site is situated on private property originally owned by Samuel Chew, a member of Lord Baltimore's inner circle and a founder of the circa 1660 town of Herrington. This year's targeted excavations of the building's stone foundation uncovered a footprint of roughly 66' x 66' feet.

The Chew mansion also occupied one of the highest spots in South County, providing a vantage point that was plainly visible from the Chesapeake Bay. The building is one of two separate Chew homes that appear as landing marks on navigational maps made by Walter Hoxton (c. 1730) and later Anthony Smith (1776). While modern-day trees now block a view of the water from these positions, mariners approaching Herring Bay in the 1700s undoubtedly had an unobstructed view of both buildings, as settlers cleared expansive areas of forest for plantations and fuel.

The recovery of fragments of Rhenish stoneware, Delftware, creamware, and pearlware, from the

site, along with an absence of 17th-century North Devon Sgraffito, suggests that the building's occupation falls between circa 1700 and the late-18th century. Land and probate records document that five genera-



A detail from the Smith map of 1776 depicts the Chew mansion.

tions of Samuel Chew retained ownership of the property. Further, the inventories, wills, and land records associated with Samuel I through V provide dramatic evidence of increasingly lavish household property, furnishings, land, and slave holdings.

Samuel Chew and his descendants not only amassed great wealth and influence, they also helped to establish a foothold for an active Quaker enclave in the area called Herring Creek Hundred. Surviving records document that Chew and his wife Anne Ayres held weekly and monthly Quaker meetings at their home. In addition, his son Samuel II married the daughter of Quaker missionary Thomas Thurston and donated land to construct a Quaker meetinghouse.

Ongoing excavations at the site continue to yield an intriguing array of artifacts. As Al mentions, high-end building materials include polished marble tiles, as well as delftware fireplace tiles with hand painted floral designs. Several large paving

stones were also found amongst several feet of brick and mortar rubble within the cellar of the building, suggesting that they were used to line the floor.

Personal artifacts also reflect the wealth of the Chew family, including a fragment of an English Borderware candlestick (only the second candlestick ever recovered by the Project), a crystal wine glass stem with a twisted white pattern, a glass wine bottle seal, and a brass stamp with the initials "G.H.", used to seal wax on letters or official documents. Presumably this belonged to the

Harrisons or Hollands who were neighbors.

The importance of the Chew house is underscored by recent visits by Cary Carson and Willie Graham, renowned architectural historians with Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. According to Carson, the brick mansion is one of the earliest examples of gentrified builders experimenting with new plans that incorporated two room-deep homes. It is notable for both the fashion and conspicuous consumption that began to emerge in the late 17th century.

These excavations undoubtedly represent one of the more ambitious research projects undertaken by the *Lost Towns Project*. The project is grateful for the support of the Four Rivers Heritage Area for providing a mini-grant to begin the search for the Samuel Chew mansion. Much more archaeological work remains to be done before this fascinating site can be fully appreciated and understood.

Continued from page 1

Late February, 2008
Small Museum Association
Ocean City, Maryland
www.smallmuseum.org

March 26 - 30, 2008
Society for American Archaeology
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
www.saa.org

Unexpected Discoveries at the “Java” Mansion Site

~ Jane Cox

For those stalwart volunteers braving the heat of summer, the payoff at the Java site has been worth the long hot hours! Volunteers and interns have helped us discover evidence for an earlier occupation of the knoll, likely an historic site associated with the Sparrow family’s 17th c. occupation.

While the present day ruins of the Java Mansion, built ca. 1747, are impressive, the archaeological story tells of domestic occupation that *pre-dates* the mansion by more than 60 years! Though we are digging only 100 feet away from the mansion, we are finding late 17th and early 18th century ceramics, glass, and buttons in numerous excavation units, which correlate with Thomas Sparrow’s ownership and habitation of the land. Only a few days before press time, we discovered a brick chimney base! Though we have not yet found the rest of the building footprint, we have found copious rocks, brick and wrought nails, which are evidence of the rest of the structure. We have also found ample burned materials (charcoal, animal bone and nails,) adjacent to a larger oyster midden feature filled with 17th and early 18th century artifacts.

Archival documents clearly state that there was “a Mansion House” on the property by 1712, and other documents strongly suggest that a brick building was constructed in the last quarter of the 17th century somewhere on the property. So is this the Sparrow’s “Mansion House”? Stay tuned in the coming months as we analyze our field results and take a closer look at the artifacts recovered!

We have also had the support of the next-door neighbors at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) over this long hot summer. The pilot outreach program brought their program participants, staff and volunteers to assist with the excavations and tour the site several times this summer, thus broadening SERC’s outreach topics and offering a greater understanding of the amazing archaeological resources on the Rhode River.

This work is supported by a Maryland Historical Trust grant, for which we have completed our required work. However, the site is so interesting that we hope to return in coming years as funding allows. We will be investigating a prehistoric site at Camp Lett’s this fall as a part of this State-funded grant—so check your emails, and join in the fun!



Volunteers from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) joined us at Java!

Come Visit Our New Lab!!!

Close your eyes and imagine: you sit in a reclining chair, enjoying breathtaking views of the South River, gazing out into beautifully manicured gardens...



...No you’re not on vacation, you’re volunteering at Anne Arundel County’s new Archaeology Lab! We welcome you to come by and visit us at Historic London Town and Gardens at 839 Londontown Rd, Edgewater MD, 21037.

Welcome to the Newest Ladies of *Lost Towns*

~ Lauren Schiszik

It has been a whirlwind of changes around here, and we would like to introduce you to the new faces at the *Lost Towns Project*.

In May, *Lost Towns* lab director Kelly Cooper decided to return to the contract world. We wish her the best in her endeavors. Erin Cullen, who was most recently our education and volunteer coordinator, became our lab director. As you may remember, Erin started out here as a lab specialist, so she is back to her old stomping grounds. But that left us without an education/volunteer coordinator!

Fortuitously, Jessica Grow, a volunteer with *Lost Towns* starting when she was twelve, graduated with a Masters in Applied Anthropology at the University of Maryland in May. She comes to us with a BA in Anthropology from Mercyhurst College, her MA in Applied Anthropology with a Certificate in Historic Preservation,

and a passion for and experience in Public Archaeology. Who better to be our education and volunteer coordinator? Jessie has experience in



*What?!? Charlie's Angels are on staff at the LTP?
(l-r) Darian Schwab, Stephanie Sperling, and Jessie Grow.*

prehistoric and historic archaeology in Pennsylvania and Maryland. She has worked with both Archaeology in Annapolis and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and also has some experience in CRM. In her spare time, Jessie is a potter. Jessie has big plans for our education and volunteer programs, so stay tuned!

Darian Schwab, our new Historic Preservation Planner, joined us in June. She has a BA in History from Mary Baldwin College and received

her Masters in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland this May. Her Masters Thesis, entitled "Sacred Places: A Preservation Crusade", examined several historic Baltimore churches and community efforts to preserve them. Darian studied abroad twice in England, most recently in a program that studied the architecture and community of public houses. We are sure that

Darian's time in the pubs of England was purely academic (wink wink). She has eleven years of experience as a competitive Irish Step Dancer.

Stephanie Sperling, our newest archaeologist, joined us in August. She has nearly eight years of experience in Middle Atlantic archaeology, both historic and prehistoric. She joins us from Thunderbird Archaeology, where she has been a field supervisor for several years. She will be directing our excavations at a prehistoric site at Camp Lett's this fall. Her field experience includes work at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, working at the contact period site of St. Inigo's. Since then, most of her historic projects have been 19th century rural homesteads in the Piedmont. She is excited to be returning to colonial archaeology. Steph is currently a student in the Applied Anthropology Masters Program at the University of Maryland. She and her husband (also an archaeologist) are avid home brewers, and they have a dog fittingly named Adena.

Mystery Artifact



As soon as we found this artifact at Java, we got terribly excited. The problem: we're not quite sure what it is! It is brass, approx. 2 inches long, slightly curved, and depicts the profile of a man wearing a helmet. There are three holes in the object, presumably to mount it onto wood. A guess buzzing around the office is that it is probably from a firearm stock. A similar artifact was previously found near the Burle site. Based on the motif, it is presumed to date to the 17th century. We are currently conducting research to learn more about this artifact. If you have any insights, please call our lab at (410)-222-1318.

Preserving Goshen: Architectural Discoveries at an Historic House

~ Jenna Solomon

The house named “Goshen” stands on a wooded hill overlooking the post-war suburb of Cape St. Claire. Many residents of the community hardly even knew it existed until just a few months ago. It is one of the last remaining memories from the days when the entire Broadneck Peninsula was farmland and was the home for only a few families. Now, Cape St. Claire is a community of over 2,200 homes and Goshen stands quietly overlooking, while time has passed it by.

A small but tenacious group of Cape St. Claire

ing for these concerned citizens to carry out their long-term vision of restoring the building and using it as a local history museum and community center. The documentation assures that no matter what happens in the building’s future, there is an extensive record of its existence. The measured drawings, photographs and written history of the building will also provide an extensive, minutely detailed document which is crucial for any restoration project.

On June 21st and 22nd, a large group of community members, *Lost Towns Project* staff and interns, hiked up the long, treacherous driveway to the old farmhouse. We started the day with a brief but thorough lesson on how to do “Measured Drawings”. Then we split into groups and scattered all over the house and grounds to measure and record every last detail of the house. The house has had a couple additions to the original structure, and no in-depth architectural study had previously been conducted.

The oldest portion of the house is an extended I-house. An I-house has a center hallway with rooms off of either side of the hallway. Based on the architectural evidence that we found during our reconnaissance, we determined that the oldest portion of the house was built c. 1790. Archival evidence suggests that the house was built by Richard Pettibone Gardner.

During our exploration of the the house, we found some very interesting architectural artifacts, as well as some unique clues to the evolution of the building. While almost all of

Continued on page 7



The group gathers on Goshen’s porch and lawn.

residents are trying to breathe new life into this tired, but beautiful, old farmhouse. Even better, they have enlisted the help of the *Lost Towns Project* to do so. All within the last year, this determined group of residents have saved this house from demolition, formed a not-for-profit group (the Goshen Farm Preservation Society, www.goshenfarm.org), and received aid in architectural documentation from the *Lost Towns Project*. The *Lost Towns Project* received an Emergency Grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to perform a “blitzkrieg” documentation of the building through measured drawings and photographs. The property currently sits vacant, wait-

Historic Cemeteries in Anne Arundel County

~ Jane Cox

Anne Arundel County has a long tradition of requiring the preservation of historic cemeteries in place, and the 2005 passage of revised development rules has codified this under Article 17 of the County Code. In order to better evaluate development projects regarding their potential impact to cemeteries — we needed a list of the cemeteries!

Tina Simmons with the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society has spent many years logging cemetery locations in the County and recording the stones, inscriptions and “residents”. The Anne Arundel Genealogical Society published her compiled list in 1997, which included information on hundreds of cemeteries—from those associated with historic churches, to small family plots near historic houses (or near their former locations), and even reported grave markers, stones, and unmarked sites. Tina’s groundwork has been a valuable tool over the years.

Intern Christie Richardson took on a formidable task this summer. She was able to digitally add the locations of all known cemeteries into the County’s geographic information system (GIS), utilizing the published list of cemeteries and its associated key found on a paper map. Christie, who interned with the *Lost Towns Project* last summer as an archaeology student, created the GIS layer of cemetery data for our review purposes; verifying locations, adding notes, and individually locating and adding more than 400 individual cemeteries into the system.

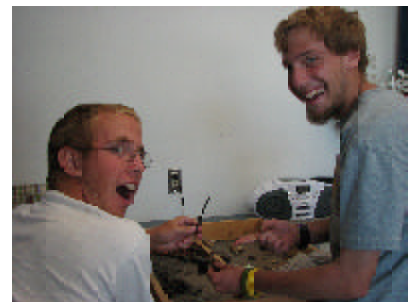
We now have all of these cemetery locations (or as close as we could determine) in our system to ensure that graves are not inadvertently destroyed by development. There are certainly cemeteries that remain unmarked or that we don’t have on our list. If you know of a cemetery or family plot, give us a ring and we can easily check if we have it on our inventory or not! Christie (who has become fond of coming into the office muttering “I see dead people”) will return to Dickinson College this Fall to continue her studies in Archaeology.

Thanks to Our Summer Interns!!

~ Lauren Schiszik

Our Internship Program was established in honor of Rob Boisseau, a dedicated volunteer, by his family and friends. This program continues to reward outstanding college interns who are chosen to participate in our program. We are pleased to honor Rob in this way, and to offer our interns compensation for their tireless efforts.

We had eleven interns this summer. Most were field interns, but we also had a lab intern, a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) intern, and a 3D graphic design intern. They were an amazing force this summer, processing



Matt (l) and Mike (r) wash artifacts in the lab.

and cataloguing artifacts, excavating units and features, digitally

creating 3D 18th century trading vessels, digitally mapping cemeteries, and assisting us with our public outreach. Our interns came from several schools, namely UMBC, Salisbury University, Goucher College, Towson University, Dickinson College, and University of Delaware. The majority of the interns are majoring in Ancient Studies, but the other majors represented are Computer Studies, History, Historic Preservation, and Sociology. Our interns logged in over 1500 hours this summer, and they did a fantastic job! Our interns this summer were: Stuart Biggs, Matt Foley, Sally Gordon, Liza Krohn, Jessica Lester, Mike McCleary, Christie Richardson, Victor Torres, Steve Tourville, Maria Valverde, and Tim Wang. A big THANK YOU to all of them!



Summer interns (l-r) Matt Foley, Liza Krohn, Sally Gordon, Maria Valverde, with Erin Cullen at our new lab!

Obsidian: Is it or isn't it?

~ Al Luckenbach

Excavations by the *Lost Towns Project* at the Java site on the Kirkpatrick-Howat property this year have centered on the imposing brick ruin of a 1747 mansion and on the surprising discovery of a late 17th century house site nearby, but it had been recognized from the start that an even earlier occupation once existed on the hill. Throughout the dig, sifters at the screens had been recovering an occasional biface fragment, rhyolite flake, fire cracked rock, and even some suspicious mica that indicated a Native American presence hundreds if not thousands of years earlier.

One flake in particular gave reason for pause since the initial report from the field was “maybe obsidian?”

After I examined it, the jury remained out. It clearly was a flake



The artifact in question.

made of an opaque black glass-like substance, and most definitely was not black chert. It wasn't classic obsidian either, in that the edges were

not translucent. It was time to turn to the experts.

Dennis Curry from the Maryland Historical Trust suggested contacting Charles Bello and Carolyn Dillian in New Jersey who are documenting the rare occurrence of obsidian on the East Coast. This was done, and the flake was duly mailed off for their appraisal.

Their initial report? One thinks it's obsidian – one doesn't. At least they didn't both tell us we were crazy... So it won't be until sometime this fall, when the flake will be chemically analyzed, that we

will know whether this is the first documented case of obsidian in Maryland.

continued from page 5

the original windows were lost to vandals, many of the original interior doors were still in place. A few even had very interesting, early box locks still attached. We also found that the roof rafters are chiseled with Roman Numerals. These were placed there by the original carpenters, who would construct the roof trusses on the ground. Each truss was made to measure. In order not to mix up the custom-made trusses, they were then numbered and transported up to the roof for reassembly.

Our most unusual find was an addition that was placed on the house in the mid 19th century. According to oral history, an abandoned slave cabin was moved, in its entirety, next to the original building in order to create an addition. That is quite an uncommon practice, and so we doubted that this bit of local legend was true. However, when we opened up a piece of the wall to look inside, we found that there were indeed two buildings attached together. While we can not confirm that the “addition” building was originally a slave cabin, we did find evidence that the building was at some point a free-standing building. There were remnants of nails and nail holes that showed where exterior weatherboarding had been before it was removed to become part of the extra-thick interior wall. We were all absolutely stunned! We are hoping that some further investigations will help bring light to Goshen's mysteries.

Who makes up the *Lost Towns Project*?

Al Luckenbach.....Director/County Archaeologist
Jane Cox.....Cultural Resources Planner
John Kille.....Assistant Director
Erin Cullen.....Lab Director
Darian Schwab.....Historic Preservation Planner
Jenna Solomon.....Assistant Historic Preservation Planner
Shawn Sharpe.....Field Director/Conservation Specialist
Jessie Grow.....Archaeologist/Education and Volunteer Coordinator
Lauren Schiszik.....Archaeologist/Intern Coordinator/Newsletter Editor
Stephanie Sperling.....Archaeologist
Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Equipment Manager
Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist

Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

Become a Sustaining Member of the *Lost Towns Project!*

We are sorry to inform our readers that we can no longer provide a complimentary newsletter. If you have enjoyed our newsletter, we hope that you will consider becoming a member so you can continue to receive our newsletter, as well as other great benefits! Your tax-deductible contribution supports our public outreach and education programs, such as our Public Dig Days, our high-quality newsletter publication, and last but not least, helps us fulfill our mission to discover, interpret, and educate citizens and students about the history of Anne Arundel County. We greatly appreciate your support!

Member Benefits:

- 3 newsletters per year
- 20% off *Lost Towns* gear and publications
- Free admission to our lecture series
- Invitations to special events and trips

Levels of Membership:

- \$50 or more Special Contributor
- \$10 Student (send copy of valid student i.d.)
- \$30 Family
- \$20 Individual
- Yes! I want to Volunteer!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax-deductible.

**Send this form and checks payable to "ACT/ Lost Towns Membership" to:
Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT) / P.O. Box 1573 / Annapolis, MD 21404**

Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

Office of Planning and Zoning
2664 Riva Road, MS 6401
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410)222-7440