



# Letters from Lost Towns

Winter 2008

## Another Burle Plan at Cheney's Hills?

~ Al Luckenbach

The *Lost Towns* crew returned to Cheney's Hills late last fall for two important reasons. The first had to do with not falling prey to the abundant deer hunters in the vicinity of the Chew House; the second was to answer the nagging question about the principal Cheney/Chaney structure – had we found it all?

The short answer was no, we had not. Searching for posthole stains with 5' by 5' test squares is notoriously difficult. Doing so in a heavily wooded environment is exponentially more so. So with the recent discovery of one, perhaps two, more large structural posts on the southern facade, the length of Richard Cheney's home now stands at least 62' (and perhaps 70') with a width of roughly an English "perch" (16.5').

Obviously, we are no longer willing to assert that the building is done growing, but there is an interesting observation about these new dimensions. They met the 62' by 18' of Robert Burle's home in Providence, (long considered to be an anomalously long and narrow structure), and then perhaps exceed it.

Were there more of these long, narrow structures being built at the earliest stages of European occupation in the county? Maybe. For example, "Building B", which was built in the early 1660s at the Homewood's Lot, seems to be of similar size and shape, although a specific footprint has not been delineated. Several buildings with similar dimensions have been found

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### News & Future Events

**Now Announcing 2008 Public Dig Days! May 10, July 12, and September 6, 2008**

**9 a.m. - 2 p.m., London Town**

Lost Towns archaeologists invite the public to help screen soil and find artifacts, take tours, and attend workshops. Call London Town at 410 - 222-1919 to reserve your spot.

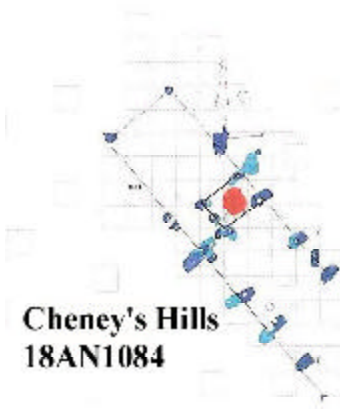
### Monday Lecture Series

The Monday Lecture Series is on a winter hiatus.

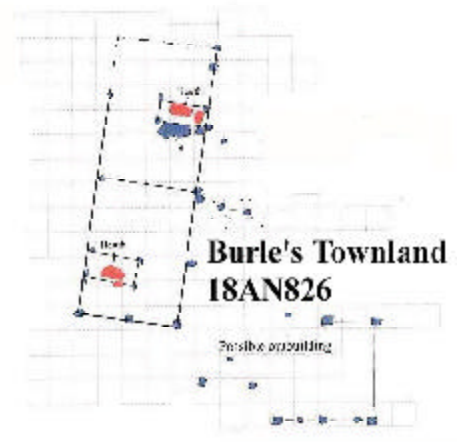
**Join us for a Ceramics Identification Workshop! March 15, 2008**

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Lost Towns Lab at London Town**

Come learn about prehistoric and historic ceramics: the basic diagnostic types, how to identify them, and what they can tell us about the past. Call the lab at 410-222-1318 to reserve your spot.



Cheney's Hills  
18AN1084



Burle's Townland  
18AN826

### The Lost Towns Project Thanks our Partners and Supporters



## Thank You to the Following New ACT/*Lost Towns* Members!

<b>Special Contributor</b>	Caroline Wugofski	Herbert Moreland	Michael Quinlan
Marvin Anderson		Susan and Peter Savage	Kay Spruell
Ward Brockett	<b>Family</b>	Jeffrey and Christine	
Betty DeKeyser	The Beer Family	Savich	<b>Student</b>
Captain Byron Lee	Maria Berken and		David Brown
Bradley McKittrick	Family	<b>Individual</b>	Sally Gordon
Camilla McRory	Michael and Jo Ann	Nancy Briani	Cynthia Olsen
and Bob Buglass	Gidos	Jeannette Christman	Christina Simmons
Paul and Lisa Mintz	The Grow Family	Betty Doty	
Gordon Smith	Julie McCollough	Elizabeth C. Gay	
Mrs. Carmichael Tilghman	The McElfish Family	Alex Lavish	

*If you haven't already, please consider becoming a sustaining member, or give the gift of membership to a friend or loved one. See the attached form for details.*

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at Virginia localities such as Jamestown and Jordan's Journey, but these are generally earlier than our mid 17<sup>th</sup>-century sites.

The "why" behind these long, narrow buildings seems to lie in both style and function. The simplest explanation for such a footprint is that it allows light into every room from two sides, which is not achievable in a structure wide enough to be two rooms deep.

One other interesting point about the Cheney/Chaney home is the evidence of repair. The initial lobby entrance/central chimney plan of 1658 (28' by 16.5') shows repairs on almost every post, while the building's extensions to the north and south show no such evidence. Thus, it appears that the building did begin at the size originally hypothesized, but over the lifespan of the building additions more than doubled the size of the original house. The house grew to its now impressive length before its abandonment sometime in the late 1680s.

As always, more excavations are clearly required – and volunteers will be needed this spring.

## 2007 ACT Awards

~ Lauren Schiszik

The 2007 Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation Awards were held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater. This annual event is held to recognize significant contributions to architectural and historical preservation in the county. Over 80 people attended this year's ceremony.

David Turner was the recipient of the Volunteer Award in recognition of his outstanding services assisting both the excavations of the *Lost Towns Project*, as well as his contributions to the reconstruction efforts at Historic London Town and Gardens. His dedication and skill in both archaeology and woodworking are greatly appreciated.

The London Town Foundation received the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Orlando Ridout Prize, which recognizes outstanding efforts in the preservation of architectural heritage of Anne Arundel County, for the reconstruction of the Lord Mayor's Tenement at London Town. This reconstruction of a circa 1700 structure is based on archaeological excavations by the *Lost Towns Project* and the reconstruction itself was carried out by restoration carpenter Russ Steele and the many woodworking volunteers at London Town.

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*Orlando Ridout presents the Ridout Prize for the reconstruction of Lord Mayor's Tenement to a number of the people who made it possible.*

# Update on the Samuel Chew Family Site

~John E. Kille

When warmer weather signals the approach of spring, the *Project* will again resume full-scale excavations at the home site of the Samuel Chew family in Fairhaven. Incredibly, since March of 2007, *Lost Towns Project* archaeologists and volunteers have excavated close to 30 deep 5' by 5' units at this historically important site overlooking Herring Bay.

As reported in the Fall 2007 edition of *Letters from Lost Towns*, excavations revealed that the Chew brick mansion measures an enormous 66' by 66' or 4,356 square feet. In the process of defining its foundation, the project also found two unusual brick-lined conduits emanating from corners of the building. This advanced underground drainage system once connected to roof gutters and is further evidence of the forethought and effort that went into the construction of this substantial mansion.

The recovery of thousands of period artifacts, including domestic and architectural debris, has kept our staff and volunteers busy and happy at the *Lost Towns Project* archaeology laboratory at Historic London

Town and Gardens. Some of the more exciting artifacts recently recovered include two olive-green glass wine bottle seals marked "S. Chew"



*A glass wine bottle seal belonging to Samuel Chew.*

and another seal that may be associated with Caleb Chew, the son of Samuel Chew II.

Another exciting discovery is a 1772 newspaper article from the *Maryland Gazette* that State Archivist Ed Papenfuse found in the collections of the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis. This fascinating newspaper article provides a first-hand account of a devastating fire at the "large and elegant" Chew home, even describing furniture being car-

ried out of the house.

The *Project* was pleased to have a number of visitors to the site. Dr. Julie King of St. Mary's College of Maryland and her husband, master mason Raymond Canetti inspected the site, as did Cary and Barbara Carson and Willie Graham of Colonial Williamsburg, and staff from the Maryland Historical Trust and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

This February, Al Luckenbach will present a paper on the Chew Site at the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference in Ocean City, MD. He will discuss the *Project's* findings, including the building's architectural significance and context within the Chesapeake.

A brief summary of the Chew excavations is posted on the main menu of the *Lost Towns Project* website, [www.losttowns.com](http://www.losttowns.com). Our award-winning volunteer Lois Nutwell presented these findings to the Deale Area Historical Society in early December. Updates will be forthcoming as our work continues. Please consider joining us in the field and lab as we make these exciting discoveries.

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The Special Contribution to Archaeology Award was presented to Betsy Kirkpatrick-Howat for her instrumental role in the preservation and scholarly study of the Java plantation, which has been inhabited by Native Americans for thousands of years and has been inhabited by European settlers since 1652. Ms. Kirkpatrick-Howat has supported historical and archaeological research conducted at the centuries-old farm site over the last several years. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Marjorie Murray

Bridgman Award, given annually in memory of one of the founders of the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, was awarded to Donna Hole, former Chief of Historic Preservation for the City of Annapolis. This award was given in recognition of her many important contributions towards furthering historic preservation in our capital city.

Congratulations to the recipients, and thanks to everyone who made this event a success!



*ACT Chairman Will Mumford greets the attendees of the ceremony.*



# Historic Structures Survey

~ Jane Cox

The Cultural Resources Division of Anne Arundel County's Department of Planning and Zoning undertook efforts to refresh and update our listing of Historic Properties this past fall. This is the official inventory of buildings, sites, and landscapes that we protect under Article 17 of the County Code. The properties listed are historic, and are significant to Anne Arundel County's past. Our current database has nearly 1,000 properties listed, yet it has been many years since the quality of that list has been reviewed and evaluated.



Interns Gabi Harris (l) and Sally Gordon (r), preserving our past!

This survey project allows us to review the level of documentation that we have on a number of buildings, observe the building or site's current condition and status, and update our files. Sadly, many of the properties listed on our inventory no longer survive. If we determine that they are no longer standing, they become archaeology sites.

Anne Arundel County Site Survey forms provide the backbone of our preservation efforts, and this review and survey of listed properties will ensure that we use the most

up-to-date information when we make development decisions here in the Cultural Resources Division.

Two interns worked with a select list of properties that are on our protected list of buildings. Gabriela Harris, a master's student in Historic Preservation at University of Maryland, College Park and Sally Gordon, a student in Goucher's Historic Preservation Program (who completed an archaeology internship with us this past summer), reviewed site survey forms for accuracy and currency. Their internships involved site visits to record, evaluate, and photograph the buildings, as well as documentary research to verify who lived or worked there, and when. They also developed a detailed narrative description of each structure. Using this data, they completed revised site survey forms, summarized their research, and documented why these buildings are important to Anne Arundel County's history.

Would you like to learn more about our Historic Structures Inventory? Or would you like to record and document a building? If so, give Darian Schwab a call at 410-222-7440.

## Mystery Artifact

~ Erin Cullen

Throughout history children have had toys to keep them entertained and amused. During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the term "toy" meant not only a plaything but also a trifle, a small article of little intrinsic value (Hume: 1969). These small articles gave great joy to children during colonial times and what a shame it must have been when children lost their

toys. This is most likely what happened at the Java plantation during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Now, a child's loss is the *Lost Towns Project's* new mystery artifact.

While excavating just outside of the footprint of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century

structure, the *Lost Towns* crew discovered a beautifully cast lead toy that resembles a boy. For something so small, there is an amazing

level of detail. Looking closely at this toy you can see the carefully cast hair, eyes, mouth and nose. The boy might have been painted at one time but any trace of paint has worn off. The lower arms and feet are also missing, which leads us to believe that he



might have once been attached to a stand of some sort. If anyone out there has even seen a toy like this or might know any more information about it, please let us know. We would love to hear from you.

# Exciting New Finds at Java

~ Stephanie T. Sperling

After two years of admiring our idyllic surroundings above ground at the Java Site, overlooking the lush green floodplain and the Rhode River, this past fall all eyes were focused on what we were finding below the ground surface.

Only about 100 feet from the mansion ruins, we uncovered a brick hearth just a few inches below the ground surface, measuring 12' wide by 5' long. It was quite a surprise! After more digging, we found two post holes that flank the hearth, making the measurement of the gable end of the building about



*Staff and volunteers screen soil from the hearth.*

16' wide. This was a typical measurement for a structure built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We also recovered a 1671 dated window lead, suggesting that at long last we discovered the location of the first historic occupation in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Thomas Sparrow! Window leads are a rare and wonderful tool for dating the building. Glaziers were required by law to put the year of the window's manufacture, as well as the maker's initials somewhere on the lead caming that held the diamond-shaped panes together as a window. It is rare to find a small piece of lead came with the date on it, although the *Lost Towns Project* has been lucky enough to find many of these at different sites over the years.



*Jane finishes up an excavation unit just outside of the massive hearth.*

Could this be the remains of the "timber house" Thomas Sparrow referred to in his 1675 will? In this document, he told his heirs to complete the "building now begun upon my now dwelling plantation," but he also references a timber house existing on the land to be occupied by his sister, Elizabeth. While the hearth and post holes we found this past autumn may or may not be the remains of this dwelling, what seems certain is that we are closing in on the original Sparrow family occupation of the land. Only more digging will help unravel the secrets of this mysterious building. We hope to be back out there in the

spring, and we're always looking for volunteers to join us in admiring the view above and below the ground!

# Intern Update!

~ Lauren Schiszik

Our Internship Program was established in memory of our dedicated volunteer Rob Boisseau, by his family and friends. This program compensates college interns who are chosen to participate in our program. Other internships have been established in honor of Orlando Ridout IV and the late Dick Reed. This winter, we are hosting five outstanding interns. Our line-up includes a couple of old-timers, as well as some fresh faces.

Two interns from this past summer have returned to conduct conservation internships. Steven Tourville and Maria Valverde, both students at the UMBC, are learning archaeological conservation under the tutelage of Shawn Sharpe. They are conserving glass, bone, and metal artifacts. We are pleased to have them back with us!

Two interns are conducting our popular field/lab internship track. Christine Kujath from Towson University, and Michelle Kessler from UMBC, are great additions to the crew.

January Ruck is completing the Historic Preservation Master's Program at the University of Maryland, College Park. Along with learning the field and lab basics, she will be analyzing one of our sites in her master's thesis on cultural landscapes. We can't wait to see the final product!

If you know any students who are interested in an internship in archaeology, conservation, or historic preservation, please have them contact Lauren Schiszik at [losttownsintern@gmail.com](mailto:losttownsintern@gmail.com) or at 410-222-7440.



## Slave Quarter or Tenant House? An Examination of Vernacular Housing in Anne Arundel County

~ Jenna Solomon

Imagine living in a small house made of logs and mud with no insulation and a dirt floor. All there is to warm the space is a fireplace with a chimney also made of wood and mud. The light inside comes from one or two small windows that lack glass and are covered by shutters. The only other source of light is through the opened door. There is one room downstairs for all family activities and only unheated attic space accessed by a ladder for sleeping. This is what most slaves in Maryland called home.

While this may not surprise many readers, what may be surprising is that this was also the living accommodations of many white and black tenant farming families from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well. This similarity poses a problem when trying to determine if houses that meet this description may be former slave quarters or tenant houses built either before and after the Civil War. Many post-Civil War tenant houses were built in the same manner as antebellum housing. Additionally, it was not uncommon for emancipated slaves to remain on the same land that they had farmed as slaves. They became tenant farmers for their former masters, and lived in the same houses that they lived in when they were slaves.



*Two structures conjectured to be slave cabins in southern Anne Arundel County. One was moved and connected to the other in order to create a larger house. While actually covered in wooden weatherboard, the houses were sheathed in asphalt paper with a brick pattern in order to make them look like they were built with better materials than they really were.*

It is only in the last few decades that historians have begun to look at the architecture of slavery. While we know much about the ways that the plantation owners lived, little is known about how their slaves or tenant farmers lived. Most former slave quarters are no longer standing, so it has become imperative to find the buildings that may be former slave quarters in order to study and preserve them. Unfortunately, a further hinderance in our ability to study how most slaves lived is the fact that only the structures that were well-built have survived to the present day. These houses probably only survive because they were altered to allow people to live in them over the past 150 years. The examples of more typical slave and tenant housing probably have not survived, because a house which is no longer suitable for habitation or alternative use is not one that will be preserved. While these buildings may appear to be mere shacks, their significance lies far beyond their appearance. Hopefully in the future we can make it a priority to study those slave and tenant houses that are still standing before they are lost forever.

If you know of a structure in Anne Arundel County that may be a former slave or tenant house, or you would like more information, please contact Jenna Solomon at 410-222-7440. For more information on the architecture of slave and tenant houses in Maryland, read *Hearth and Home: Preserving a People's Culture* by George W. McDaniel.

# Anne Arundel County Public Library Heritage Collection is Now Open at the *Lost Towns* Archaeology Lab!

~ John E. Kille

A new heritage library collection sponsored by Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) is now open to the public at the Anne Arundel County Archaeology Lab at Historic London Town and Gardens. This collaborative program is a truly outstanding resource for those interested in learning more about our shared local history.

This still-expanding special reference collection encompasses over 360 specialized books devoted to the history and material culture of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, with an emphasis on works related to our county's earliest history. These volumes are available for on-site public use and



scholarly research at the lab facility. The heritage library also provides

The heritage library is available by appointment only. The Archaeology Lab in which the collection is housed is generally open to the public Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please call the lab at 410-222-1318 if you have any questions concerning this collection or would like to make an appointment. You can peruse the collection on the county library website at [www.aacpl.org](http://www.aacpl.org) by entering "Londontown" in the online Library Catalog search engine, which will provide the titles of all of the volumes currently in the collection.

public web access to JSTOR, a digitized collection of scholarly journal articles.

We hope you will use this great resource!

## *Lost Towns Project* Presenting at the MAAC Conference

This year, the *Lost Towns Project* will be well-represented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, held in Ocean City, Maryland from February 28 - March 2, 2008. We hope you will consider attending. You can check out the website at [www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org](http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org).

Stephanie Sperling is the chair of a session titled "Current Research: Early Colonial Archaeology of the Mid-Atlantic". The *Lost Towns Project* will present in this session. Here's a list of the presenters from *Lost Towns* and the titles of their papers:

- Al Luckenbach** - The "Large and Elegant Mansion House of Samuel Chew"
- C. Jane Cox** - An Hypothesis Concerning Sub-floor "Storage" Features in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries: Storage or Trashpit?
- Stephanie Taleff Sperling** - Searching for Sparrow's Rest: Two Years of Excavations at the Java Site (18AN339)
- Lauren Schiszik** - "Flight on the Wings of Vanity": Colonial Quaker Material Culture of West River, Maryland

## Who makes up the *Lost Towns Project*?

- Al Luckenbach.....Director/County Archaeologist**
- John Kille.....Assistant Director**
- Jane Cox.....Cultural Resources Planner**
- 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
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**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

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