



Letters from Lost Towns

Summer 2011

A Return to Rumney's Tavern, London Town

~ Al Luckenbach

News & Future Events

**A Symposium to Discuss
Improving the Practice of
Archeology in Maryland
Hosted by the Council for
Maryland Archeology
October 7, 2011**

UMD, Marie Mount Hall
This free symposium is offered to Maryland archaeologists. Check out the program and registration at www.cfma-md.org

**Archeological Society of
Maryland Annual Meeting
October 8, 2011**

**6692 Cedar Lane
Columbia, MD**
The day-long meeting will feature lectures and a silent auction. Visit www.marylandarcheology.org to learn more!

**Society for Historical
Archeology 2012 Conference
January 4-8, 2012**

Baltimore, Maryland
SHA is marking the bicentennial of the War of 1812 by holding their conference in Baltimore! Jane Cox is presenting a paper, and there will be many other interesting sessions and tours.

After a hiatus of more than a decade, the *Lost Towns Project* has resumed excavations at Rumney's Tavern in Historic London Town. The Rumney/ West Tavern was the site of one of the more spectacular finds ever made at the park – an earthen cellar, once under the floorboards of the building, which had been filled with trash around 1725. Excavations in the mid-1990s produced an amazing array of tavern trash including the remains of meals and hundreds of bottles and ceramic vessels like the famous “mermaid plate” which is now the park's logo. Reports on these finds can be found on the *Lost Towns* website on the Publications page.

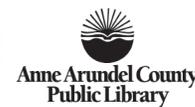
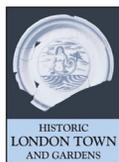
Excavations have resumed because of a cooperative grant obtained by the London Town Foundation and the *Lost Towns Project* from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. The grant will allow us to finalize the archaeological floor plan of the circa 1708 colonial structure in anticipation of its reconstruction. Funds are also included for Architectural Historian Willie Graham from Colonial Williamsburg to produce the necessary architectural drawings. The project has involved the removal of the white “digloo” tent which stood over the open cellar for many years, as well as

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Tree stumps and pink flagging tape show the locations of some of the postholes of the Rumney/ West Tavern.

The *Lost Towns Project* Thanks our Partners and Supporters



A Warm Thank You to all of our Members

At the *Lost Towns Project*, we are very lucky to have supporters that value the discovery and preservation of the past. Our sustaining membership program helps us continue our many worthwhile educational activities within our local community. Please renew your Sustaining Membership today! You can conveniently make your contribution in the enclosed envelope or online via Paypal, a secure payment portal, at our website at www.lost-townsproject.org/support.html. We greatly appreciate the support of the following individuals who have joined or renewed their memberships:

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William and Lisa Brown
Betty Browning
Ronald and Melissa Chew
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Clark
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David Brown
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temporarily filling in the cellar hole.

A principal goal of these excavations is to “ground truth” the locations of the structural posts which once supported the tavern – making sure, for instance, that they form right angles at understandable intervals. The first figure shows this process underway. At the moment, the earthfast building appears to be roughly 36 x 24 feet.

As an enticement to come out and help with the dig, I’ll conclude with a picture of a button found by staff member Erin Cullen at Rumney’s Tavern several weeks ago. The pewter USA button was used by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and is probably the most interesting button ever found on the park.

We are currently spending Wednesdays and Thursdays at the tavern site, so join us in this exciting period of discovery.



Continental Army button.

Another Exciting Field Season at Pig Point

~ Stephanie Taleff Sperling

After starting back at Pig Point in early March, we have had several amazing finds that make us optimistic this will be another tremendous field season. Thus far, we've opened 16 new units across the site and we've found thousands of artifacts that help fill out our knowledge of the Native people who lived along the Patuxent River long ago.

More overlapping Woodland period post holes have been found in Upper Block units, along with Townsend and Mockley pot breaks and a Middle Woodland period stone hearth. Remarkably, we found ancient hearths deeply buried in the Upper Block that still contained enough charcoal to send off for radiocarbon dates. Stratum 8 produced a date of 4510 B.C., or about 6,460 years ago while a Stratum 11 date came in at 7205 B.C., roughly 9,150 years old!

Three beautiful Indian pipe fragments were found in the Lower Block units back in May. The first was found in a large historic post hole, so we can't tell what prehistoric time period it came from, but it was highly fired and was decorated with small incised circles. The second likely dates to the Late Woodland time period, and is highly decorated with geometric squares, rectangles, and several horizontal lines. The third, a plain tube pipe, likely dates to the Middle Woodland and was tempered with shell.

In related news, the 2010 technical report for Pig



Al and Jessie carefully remove several large sherds of a Late Woodland pot break.

Point is finished and is up on our website. After analyzing the artifacts and excavation data from the 2009 and 2010 seasons, we are now able to definitively say that we have nearly continuous occupation at the site for about 10,000 years! This alone makes the site unique in Maryland, but every scrape of the trowel reveals something new and exciting.

We've also received some great press about the site in several newspapers this summer, which you can find links to on our blog.

Make time to volunteer at this amazing site and help us uncover more of Maryland's long forgotten past.



These highly decorated Indian pipes are some dramatic finds made this season. The pipe with the geometric shapes and lines (left) dates to the Late Woodland period, while the prehistoric pipe with incised circles on the bowl was found in a colonial context.

Discoveries about the Batchelor's Choice Servant's Quarter

~ Lauren Schiszik

The last edition of the newsletter featured an introduction to Batchelor's Choice, an historic plantation with an architecturally significant main house and servant's quarter that I recently researched for a National Register nomination. A mini-grant from the Four Rivers Heritage Area funded the inclusion of the servant's quarter in the nomination. This servant's quarter is historically significant as it is one of only two extant post-bellum quarters in Anne Arundel County, and one of less than a dozen slave/servant's quarters. As such, this was a unique opportunity to explore an extraordinary part of post-bellum African American heritage in our county.

The servant's quarter is a one-and-a-half story frame house that is one room deep and measures 24 x 16 ft. This quarter is architecturally very similar to slave quarters in the County in size, layout, and materials. However, according to a descendant of the Hall family interviewed in 1976, it was constructed in the 1870s for an African American servant.

George McDaniel, an architectural historian who conducted a survey of slave quarters in southern Maryland in the 1970s, found that they were "typically small, plain, freestanding dwellings, one story in height, with a gable roof and a chimney exterior to one gable end... The floor plan typically consisted of one room down and a loft above."¹

The architectural commonalities between antebellum and post-bellum quarters offer tangible evidence for the challenging transition from slavery to freedom. While some post-emancipation African American tenant houses might be more substantial in size or materials, this particular servant's quarter is the same as slave quarters in the vicinity, including one located across the street from Batchelor's Choice that was originally part of the plantation. Buildings of this size were typical for the majority of people, both free and enslaved, living in Anne Arundel County through the mid-1800s.

This servant's quarter plays an important role in our understanding about the social and architectural changes after emancipation. Although the size of the building is the

¹ McDaniel, George. *Hearth and Home: Preserving a People's Culture*. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1982), 47.



The servant's quarter at Batchelor's Choice.



The slave quarters at Grassland prior to restoration in 1994.



The slave quarter at Cedar Park.

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Lost Towns Intern Dives Right into the Discipline

~ Jessie Grow

They say that archaeology is a bug that's pretty easy to catch, and this is true for our recent intern, Sarah Mattes. A Maryland native, Sarah is a 2005 graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she majored in Anthropology and Sociology. After graduation, Sarah spent several years in marketing and social research before realizing that she wanted to do research that is more personally fulfilling and has more of an impact on her community. She thought back to her time spent in the archaeology lab at St. Mary's, where she was happiest doing research. She decided to make a career change, and quickly took full advantage of the numerous opportunities available to her in Maryland! She joined the Archeology Society of Maryland (ASM) and enrolled in their Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) program. She has volunteered at numerous sites across the state and has volunteered and completed two internships with us!

In her time with us, Sarah completed our general field/lab intern-

ship, and a lab-intensive internship. Her lab project was cataloging the ceramic vessels from Rumney's Tavern at London Town. She enthusiastically jumped headfirst into this project and along with doing an excellent job cataloging,



Sarah Mattes holds the mended Mermaid plate.

also discovered many new mends to vessels that were reconstructed more than a decade ago! Her most notable mends were those made to the iconic Mermaid plate that London Town uses for their logo. We

joke that her work is going to cost London Town a lot of money now that they have to update the logo!

However, the folks at London Town didn't take her discoveries too hard – in fact, they hired her to do historical research this summer! She investigated tavern keepers in Maryland to serve as a comparative tool for London Town and other sites across the state. She collected as much data as possible about the tavern keepers, transcribed their inventories, and wrote up some biographies. This work will be invaluable for London Town, and other historians and archaeologists.

So where does she hope this will all lead? Sarah hopes to one day teach or do research in the academic world, or possibly do research part time while also working in the field. She's researching graduate schools, and we are certain that she will succeed no matter where she goes. We wish her all the best, and we already miss having her around!

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same as slave quarters, records show that the number of people living in a building this size decreased substantially after emancipation at Batchelor's Choice. The 1860 Slave Census for the Hall family accounts for 101 slaves living in five slave quarters, indicating that each quarter – presumably of similar size as the servant's quarter – housed twenty slaves. The 1880 Federal Census shows that James Hall, a 21-year-old mulatto servant, lived alone in the house assessed immediately after the main house at Batchelor's Choice. It is likely that James Hall lived in the servant's quarter, and was probably related to the white Halls given his last name and classification as a mulatto. The decrease from 20 people per quarter to just a single inhabitant marks a significant change in living conditions, at least for James Hall.

The transition from slavery to freedom was a slow,

difficult process, and the architecture shows that the built environment of freedom was no different than that of slavery, though the conditions within them may have been more humane. African Americans constructed the plantations, including their quarters. It seems that the continuation of the typical slave quarter building plan in postbellum servant's quarters could be due to the fact that it was what the freed slaves were used to, and it wasn't until later after emancipation that African Americans had access to money, materials, and architectural plans that allowed for more substantial, higher-style homes.

The Batchelor's Choice servant's quarter offers important insights into the past, and we were so pleased to have the opportunity to study it along with the main house. If you know of any slave/servant's quarters in the county, we'd love to hear from you!

Spring and Summer Interns

~ Lauren Schiszik

Summer is a great time of year, when fresh produce and interns are in abundance! Most of our interns this summer completed the introductory archaeology internship, but a few did other projects. Stephanie Martin, a returning intern, completed a project in the lab examining points and stone tools from Pig Point. Bill Johnston and Yasmine Doumi completed internships in historic preservation. Bill assisted us with researching and documenting buildings associated with the historic WB&A railroad in Millersville and Gambrills, while Yasmine assisted us with research about tobacco barns in the County, starting a GIS survey of tobacco barns, and researching policies and preservation incentives. Helen Sieracki conducted interviews with community members, researched deeds, and transcribed census data for Bacontown, an historic African American historic district. Her work enables us to better understand the formation and historical context of the community, and its relationship with other historic African American enclaves in the county. Earlier this spring, we hosted five interns, all of whom focused on archaeology. Sarah, Christina, and Christa did lab-intensive internships, while Jen and Keith did the general field/lab internship. Here's a snapshot of our interns:

Spring Interns

Christa Alejandre

UMD alumnae
Art History and Music
(Performance)

Jennifer Allen

UMD, Graduate Student
Applied Anthropology

Keith Evans

UMBC, Senior
Ancient Studies

Sarah Mattes

Second internship
St. Mary's College of
Maryland alumnae
Anthropology and Sociology

Christina Ross

UMBC, Senior
Ancient Studies and
Modern Languages and
Linguistics

Summer Interns

Stephanie Baldwin

Towson University,
Senior
Anthropology, concentration in Archaeology

Mary Beth Cole

UMBC, Senior
Cultural Anthropology
and Biological Sciences

Patrick Collins

UMBC, Junior
Ancient Studies

Jason Cox

Pitzer College, Junior
History

Yasmine Doumi

UMD alumnae
Architecture

Suzanne Duvall

AACC, Freshman



Interns on a field trip to Monocacy Battlefield (top row, l to r): Lauren and Jessie, Stephanie Martin, Stephanie Baldwin, Alex Zerphy (bottom row, l to r): Madelyn Santa, Suzanne Duvall.

Undecided

Jillian Drutz

George Washington
University, Junior
Archaeology &
Anthropology

Rachelle Epstein

UMBC, Junior
Interdisciplinary Studies
- Bio-Cultural Hominid
Anthropology

Elizabeth Fuhr

James Madison
University, Senior
International Affairs

Bill Johnston

UMD, Junior
Independent Studies - Historic Preservation

Stephanie Martin

Second internship
Bryn Mawr College,
Senior
Classical and Near
Eastern
Archaeology

Madelyn Santa

Second internship

South River High School,
Senior

Helen Sieracki

Ursinus College, Senior
History

Sarah Woodling

AACC
AA in Transfer Studies

Alex Zerphy

Home-schooled and
AACC



Stephanie Baldwin (standing) and Stephanie Martin excavate a unit at Pig Point.

Sea Level Rise Research Gets a Boost

~ Lauren Schiszik

We have been awarded a grant from Preservation Maryland to investigate three archaeological sites that face imminent destruction due to sea level rise. We've been researching this topic for close to two years now, thanks to a grant that Anne Arundel County received from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This past year, the project has focused on county-wide policy responses and planning.

However, we discovered in the first year of the project that archaeological sites in Anne Arundel County will be the cultural resource most impacted by sea level rise, and sites are already being lost. We couldn't

waste any time trying to mitigate important sites before they are gone, especially prehistoric sites located on the water. With this grant from Preservation Maryland, we have already excavated one prehis-

toric site located in Cumberstone, and will investigate two more sites before the winter.

Sea level rise will increase the frequency and severity of storms. While Anne Arundel County was largely spared by Hurricane Irene, some historic structures were damaged in the storm. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Maryland Historic Trust offer assistance for damaged historic resources, as well as disaster preparedness information specifically for historic resources. Click on the links for earthquake or hurricane damage on the main page of MHT's website to learn more. The address is <http://mht.maryland.gov>.



This intact prehistoric shell midden is threatened by rising waters, and we investigated it through the grant.

Goodbyes and Hellos

~ Lauren Schiszik

We've had an eventful few months here at *Lost Towns*. Matt Bowling, our Assistant Cultural Resources Planner was offered the newly-created position as the Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Gaithersburg. While we were very sad to lose him, we wish him the best, and know that he is doing an excellent job there!

We are also very happy to announce a new addition to the *Lost Towns* family. On August 10, 2011, Stephanie Sperling and her husband Chris welcomed their first child, Samuel Joseph Sperling. As both Steph and Chris are archaeologists, we were a little surprised that he wasn't born with a trowel in his hand, but we're sure he'll pick one up soon. (Erin gave him a plush archaeological site complete with tools as a baby gift.) Congratulations, Steph and Chris, and a big welcome to Sam!



Steph excavated almost up to her due date!

Lost Towns Project Staff

Al Luckenbach - Director/ County Archaeologist

John Kille - Assistant Director

C. Jane Cox - Assistant Director/ Cultural Resources Planner

Darian Schwab - Historic Preservation Planner

Shawn Sharpe - Field Director/ Conservation Specialist

Jessie Grow - Lab Director/ Education & Volunteer Coordinator/ Archaeologist

Stephanie Sperling - Research Archaeologist

Erin Cullen - Archaeologist

Steve Tourville - Archaeologist/ Lab Specialist

Part Time

Lauren Schiszik - Archaeologist/ Intern Coordinator/ Asst. Cultural Resource Planner

Carolyn Gryczkowski - Lab Specialist

Tony Lindauer - Researcher



We found this artifact at London Town. It's made of a copper alloy and features a tamp at one end, and a hinge in the middle. The other end is broken off.

We know what it is - do you?

Call the lab at 410-222-1318 to give us your best guess!

The mystery artifact featured in the last edition of *Letters from Lost Towns* was the internal mechanism of a coffee grinder! In the late 1600s and early 1700s, coffee was drunk by the British elite. This is one more clue that the Samuel Chew family were wealthy and fashionable, and had superior access to goods from around the world.

Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

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