



# Letters from Lost Towns

Fall 2012

## A Sacred Place Revealed

~ Al Luckenbach

### News & Future Events

**“Globalization, immigration, transformation”**

**SHA Conference**

**January 9-12, 2013**

Leicester, Great Britain

Formed in 1967, the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) is the largest scholarly group concerned with the archaeology of the modern world (A.D. 1400-present).

For more information about the conference, please visit:

[http://www.sha.org/meetings/annual\\_meetings.cfm](http://www.sha.org/meetings/annual_meetings.cfm)

**The Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference**

**March 7-10, 2013**

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Stephanie and Stacey will be presenting a paper about their Patuxent River prehistory study.

For more information about the conference, please visit the MAAC website at:

<http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/>

Through the first three field seasons of archaeological investigation, it became apparent that Pig Point was a special place. Obviously, it had always represented a favorable place to camp – seven feet of continuous soil deposits representing over 10,000 years of human occupation more than proved that point - but there had been repeated clues discovered that something else was at work at this site.



*“Killed” Adena spear points*

Pottery from the Early and Middle Woodland Periods, especially the time around 400 B.C. to A.D. 600, was often fancier and more highly decorated at Pig Point than those excavated elsewhere. Other artifacts like intentionally “killed” (broken) decorative stone gorgets and spear points, beads made of shells, bones, and teeth, and features like a dog burial spoke of ritual behavior occurring at the site. In one area house patterns indicated that “wigwams” had occupied the same spot for at least 2000 years – an astounding length of time. In another, the remains of an enormous post, erected around 350 B.C. evoked talk among the staff of totem poles.

And then there were the subtle artifactual clues to an even greater mystery. Two fragments of stone tube pipes made of pipestone from Ohio, a copper bead, and small projectile points in the “Adena” and “Hopewell” styles made of Flint Ridge chert – also from Ohio – suggested an unexpected connection with the Midwestern mound building cultures.

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**~ Support The Lost Towns Project this Holiday Season~**  
*See the back page for how!*

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





*Excavation of pit 1 at Pig Point*

It wasn't until the fourth field season that the reason behind these clues became apparent. When permission was obtained to do test excavations on the next property to the north, further uphill, the real significance of Pig Point became clear.

Around the time of the Roman Empire, this prominent bluff overlooking the Patuxent River had undoubtedly been one of the most sacred places to the Native American populations residing in what is now Anne Arundel County. A number of large pits had been dug and then filled with ash, ritualistically "killed" Adena spear points and stone tube pipes, copper beads, and the selected bones of ancestors

(or enemies?) which had also been smashed almost beyond recognition. The fact that the dispersed bone fragments are almost entirely from long bones and skulls only increases the mystery.

These large pits - roughly 25'x20' and five feet deep - were repeatedly dug into for these unusual, and previously undocumented, rituals. Preliminary indication from Carbon-14 dating indicates that these pits were utilized for as long as six or seven hundred years (ca 150 B.C. - A.D. 600). So for over half a millennia, Pig Point was apparently a major focal point for local prehistoric populations - a place to gather, feast, and trade.

These previously unreported finds are amazing developments, perhaps the most significant discoveries ever made by the project - and a chance to uncover a type of ritual behavior never before seen by science. Arrangements have been made with the Smithsonian to study the fragmentary remains which will eventually be returned to their original resting place in cooperation with local Native Americans.

As always, the project wishes to thank its many dedicated volunteers and supporters without whom these remarkable discoveries could not have been made.



*Paint cup fragment*



*Stone tube pipe fragment*



*Six fused copper beads*

## ‘Tis the Season for Gingerbread

~ Darian Beverungen



*Indian Range, AACo. slide collection*

For this winter edition of the newsletter, I wanted to write about something festive for the holiday season, so I decided on gingerbread. No, not the kind that you eat, but the decorative wooden trim that one might see on Victorian era homes. “Gingerbread” consists of the delicately carved or sawn scrollwork that is mainly seen on rooflines or porches. While this architectural detail is generally associated with house styles such as Queen Anne and Folk Victorian, its precedence began with the earlier Gothic Revival style of the mid-19th century. A defining

feature that is often seen on homes of this style is the vergeboard or bargeboard (the technical terms for gingerbread) that decorates gable eaves. This detail became most popular with “Carpenter Gothic” homes designed by renowned architect, Andrew Jackson Downing. The historic “Indian Range” property, which is listed on the National Register, and is located in Davidsonville, Maryland, exemplifies Carpenter Gothic architecture reminiscent of Downing.

By the late-19th century, gingerbread decoration became more elaborate on homes, which typifies the trend in architecture of the time to be more fanciful and a bit eccentric in design and detail. Thus, one might find an array of gingerbread that might include decorative spindles and posts, as well as delicately carved lacelike spandrels on porches, in addition to the vergeboard under the eaves. It is not surprising that this architectural type, due to its charm and fairytale qualities has become the inspiration for the gingerbread houses that children and adults alike enjoy creating during the holiday season.



*Middle Ridge Farm, AACo. slide collection*

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*Queen Anne Cottage, Ridgeley, Maryland*

For your amusement, the following is a gingerbread recipe of the era, taken from a book that was published in 1860 called, *Practical American Cookery and Domestic Economy*, compiled by Elizabeth M. Hall.

Happy Holidays!

### Gingerbread

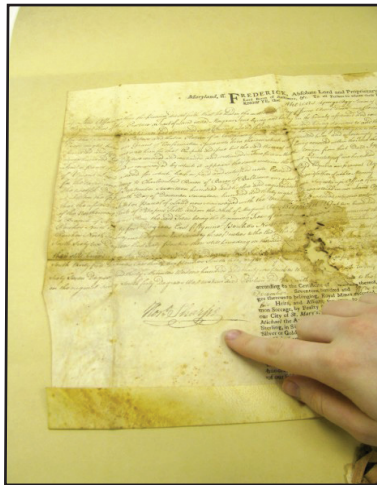
Mix together three and a half pounds of flour; three quarters of a pound of sugar, one pint of molasses, a quarter of a pound of ginger, and some ground orange peel.

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## Archival Acquisition Adventures

~ Pat Melville, Volunteer

Archaeological and archival organizations document history through the acquisition of materials; one with physical objects and the other with recorded information. Each can be considered separately. Often, the findings from archaeological digs as well as historical records in archives and historical societies complement one another to develop a more complete account of some facet of our history.



*Land Patent from Jan. 7, 1754  
from the Maryland State Archives.  
~photo by: Diane M. Rey*

Sometimes the stories behind the acquisition of artifacts and records can be just as interesting as the ultimate preservation of history.

This article will concentrate on a few tales about record transfers from courthouses to the Maryland State Archives, where I worked for over thirty years.

As one might expect, damp courthouse basements were not unusual. Contemporary flooding was another matter. After inventorying and packing over 1,700 cu. ft. of court papers in a windowless basement for several weeks, we were looking forward to the completion of the project. The boxes of files were temporarily stacked in hallways and storage rooms one of which contained about 400 cardboard boxes. Above the room was a holding area for juveniles. Just

after we quit work on a Thursday one of the juveniles tore out the plumbing in the bathroom. The water flowed into the storage room and poured into the hallway where more boxes were stacked. The water was shut off, but the records were allowed to sit in water overnight. It took several days to complete the cleanup, drying, reboxing, and reinventorying. Fortunately, the boxes in the small room were so tightly packed that the containers in the middle were unaffected.

During one summer of inventorying and packing records, we were stacking the boxes against a wall in a hallway, inadvertently covering a vent for the air conditioning system. This incident shut down the air conditioning in one of the courtrooms for quite a while. The judge was somewhat unhappy about the incident.

Even a small transfer of records could become eventful. One day two archives interns and I were moving books from a courthouse during a rain storm. Old courthouses, of course, seldom have covered loading docks. We wanted to use the handicap ramp, but that meant the records would get wet. We did devise a way to load the records while keeping them mostly dry. The maintenance department provided a

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# The *Lost Towns Project* Loses a Good Friend

~ John E. Kille



The *Lost Towns Project* was saddened to learn that Ned Crandell of Town Point passed away. Ned was one of the finest persons and most loyal friends the project has ever known.

Our crew worked closely with him over many years during archaeological excavations to discover the lost 17th-century town of Herrington. Always willing to share his extensive knowledge of local history, Ned helped us eventually find this very early and important tobacco port.

Ned also provided key support for another project to find the impressive c.1695 brick mansion of the Samuel Chew family in Fairhaven. It was a proud moment when we were able to give him a personal tour of the site after its discovery.

*At presenting the 2002 ACT award to Ned Crandell*

In 2002 Ned received a Special Contribution to Archaeology Award from the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation for his efforts and contributions. He has honored those who settled South County and left a lasting legacy for future generations as well.

Ned will be missed by all of us at the *Lost Towns Archaeology Project*. Our condolences go out to his entire family.

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## New London Town Exhibit Honored by Four Rivers Heritage Area

~ John E. Kille

In case you haven't heard, the Four Rivers Heritage Area recently bestowed the Heritage Tourism Product Award upon the new permanent museum exhibit at Historic London Town. The ceremony was held in a large room filled to capacity at the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center in Annapolis,

providing an opportunity for much fanfare and celebration. It was nice to be recognized by our peers for all of the work that went into designing and fabricating these expansive displays. Give some thought to visiting the exhibits if you haven't already -- it's definitely worth the trip.



*London Town exhibit*



*Explore Rumney's Tavern*

# Jessie's European Adventure

~ Barry Gay, Volunteer

At the young age of thirteen Jessie Grow knew archaeology was the career path she wanted to pursue after volunteering with the *Lost Towns Project*. Upon High School graduation, Jessie attended Mercyhurst College and obtained a degree in Anthropology. She then went on to Graduate school and earned her Master's degree in Applied Anthropology, before coming to work for the *Lost Towns Project*.

Jessie was responsible for maintaining daily laboratory operations and management of all volunteers, both in the lab or the field. Her dedicated volunteers have become the vital success of the *Lost Towns Project*. Every Wednesday Jessie would also work closely with school groups who visited London Town to learn about Archaeology and early American History.



Jessie and Patrick at the Tower of London

Jessie married Patrick St. John in September this year in Baltimore and they had a quiet and down-to-earth honeymoon in Vermont. Jessie's life starts a new chapter as she joins her husband Patrick on a three-year government tour of duty to Cheltenham, England; just two hours west of London.

We will never forget Jessie's cheerful disposition, kindness and work ethic, which will be greatly missed. We wish her and Patrick our very best on their new European adventure... England will never be the same!!!

If you would like to follow "Patrick and Jessie's Excellent Adventure", you can log onto Jessie's new blog at <http://patrickandjessie.wordpress.com/>.

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Maryland State Archives

flatbed cart and the office staff found large, white plastic cloths. So down the hall and outside we went with white shrouded loads of books, causing stares and comments from passersby. It looked like we were removing a body.

The acquisition of archival records sure can be adventuresome!

## Lost Towns Project

- Al Luckenbach** - Director/  
County Archaeologist
- John Kille** - Assistant Director
- C. Jane Cox** - Assistant Director/  
Cultural Resources Planner
- Darian Beverungen** - Historic Preservation  
Planner
- Shawn Sharpe** - Field Director/  
Conservation Specialist
- Erin Cullen** - Lab Director/ Education  
& Volunteer Coordinator/ Newsletter  
Editor/Webmaster
- Stephanie Sperling** - Research  
Archaeologist/ Internship Coordinator
- Anastasia Poulos** - Assistant Historic  
Preservation Planner
- Carolyn Gryczkowski** - Lab Specialist
- Tony Lindauer** - Researcher

# 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 many worthwhile educational activities within the 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.losttownsproject.org/support.html](http://www.losttownsproject.org/support.html). We greatly appreciate the support of the following individuals who have joined or renewed their memberships:

## **Benefactor**

Karen Ackermann  
William and Lisa Brown  
Bette Browning  
Edward Burgee  
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Maryl Harshey  
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Jane Miller  
Lois Nutwell  
Michael Quinlan  
Ken Riggelman  
Bernard Rosenberg  
Ethel Stephan

## **Student**

Elliot Anderkin  
David Brown

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## *Lost Towns Holiday Wish List*

Also, please consider making a monetary contribution that would help the project meet one or more of the following four needs. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next newsletter! Just check box for item you select, clip form, and mail back in self addressed envelope.

1. Help Us Date Pig Point

\_\_\_ One C-14 Test-\$600

2. Outfit a Lost Towns Field Toolbox

\_\_\_ New Toolbox and Set of Tools-\$300

3. Keep the Project Publishing

\_\_\_ Printer Ink Cartridges-\$100

4. Supplies for Lab

\_\_\_ Pens, Pencils, Paper, Etc.-\$50

~Please make all checks payable to Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT)~

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## *Lost Towns Project Holiday Appeal*

As we approach the holidays, the *Lost Towns Project* has much to be thankful for, most especially the dedication and generosity of our many friends and supporters. In reflecting upon the past season in the field and lab, it is very apparent that our success is due in large part to people like you.

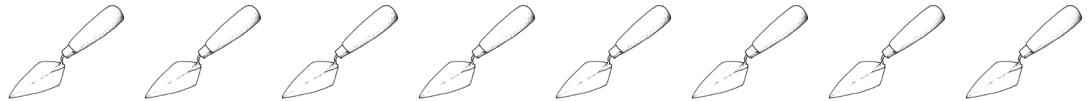
Chances are you've seen the newspaper headlines and read the stories about amazing new discoveries Dr. Al and the crew have made at the prehistoric Pig Point site in Lothian. Or perhaps you've paid a visit to the new awarding winning museum exhibit at Historic London Town in Edgewater, which showcases and interprets the project's many important finds.

It's because of you that we have been able to carry out this good work—cutting edge scientific inquiry and meaningful public outreach programs that enrich our local community. Your support is absolutely crucial in these difficult economic times, as the *Lost Towns Project* relies upon the generosity of private individuals for the activities it sponsors.

I hope you'll take a moment now and send your fully tax-deductible contribution to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation on behalf of the *Lost Towns Project*. A convenient self addressed envelope is provided for you to renew your sustaining membership and make a generous contribution.

Thank you for partnering in the search for local history and for your continued friendship!

John E. Kille  
ACT Treasurer



Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

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