



# Letters from Lost Towns

Winter 2012

## Adena Tube Pipes from Pig Point

~ Al Luckenbach

### News & Future Events

#### Society for Historical Archaeology 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.

There will also be a free public archaeology event on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at For McHenry. The event is entitled "Gallantly 'Streaming': 21st-Century Public Archaeology in Maryland.

#### Middle Atlantic 2012 Archaeological Conference

March 22-25, 2012

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Stay tuned for our 2012 Dig Days...

One of the remarkable series of finds from Pig Point has been a number of artifacts usually associated with the Adena / Hopewell Cultures from the Ohio River Valley.

These have included a copper Adena bead, a Hopewell Point made from Flint Ridge chalcedony, and two fragments of stone Adena tube pipes. Other artifacts which are more ambiguous but possibly related include Atlantic Ocean marginella beads, a prismatic blade fragment, drilled canine teeth, and Maryland fossil shark's teeth, all of which turn up in Ohio.

Through the kindness of Dr. Tom Emerson and Dr. Sarah Wisseman of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey, we now know the source of the material used to make the stone tube pipes found at Pig Point. They have been studying the chemical composition of pipe stone quarries from the Midwest, ranging from Minnesota to Missouri to Ohio. It turns out our two pipes were quarried at the Feurt Hill quarries in the Scioto Valley just north of Portsmouth, Ohio.



*Examples of Adena tube pipes.  
(Found on the Rhode River in the 1950's)*

Since this is "ground zero" for the Adena / Hopewell, this result is not much of a surprise, but it is nice to know exactly where they started on their 400 mile journey to Anne Arundel County roughly two thousand years ago.

## A Call for Donations!

These tough economic times have proven particularly difficult for the *Lost Towns Project*. Reductions in County support, together with the drying up of State and Federal grant funding sources, have meant that we are increasingly reliant on donations from our friends and supporters. Please consider a tax deductible donation to the project as part of your year-end giving. **We need your help!**

### 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 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:

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Ronald and Melissa Chew  
The Colegrove Family  
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Elizabeth Williams

## **Student**

David Brown  
Alexandra Cook

Please renew your  
Membership today using the  
enclosed envelope, or online  
via Paypal. Thank you!!

## A Third Season at Pig Point

~ Al Luckenbach

As we near the end of a third field season at the Pig Point Site, it's clearly time to ponder our new discoveries.

Excavations this year took place in five separate "blocks" which included 12 5x5' units in the upper area of the site, 14 units in the lower area, and four downhill near William and Lisa Brown's front door. This totals another 30 units completed at this important site. Since the average depth is something on the order of

6 feet, this alone is an amazing accomplishment, and a testament to our staff, volunteers, and interns.

This year's Upper Block proved to be a remarkable area in several ways. For starters it allowed us a unique view of a 30 foot profile running east-west across this section of the site. The upper midden has less organic preservation than in the Lower Block, but the various strata are still intact, resulting in numerous wigwam and hearth features as well as wonderful moments in

*continued on page 5*

# A Fresh Look at Patuxent River Prehistoric Sites

~ Stephanie Sperling

The *Lost Towns Project* was recently awarded a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to re-examine prehistoric sites and collections from the Patuxent River drainage. This study will shed new light on the shifting settlement patterns that took place in the middle and upper Patuxent throughout thousands of years of prehistory. The Patuxent was a major thoroughfare in prehistoric Maryland, used heavily for trade, transport, and habitation by Native Americans before contact with Europeans.



*A scenic view of the Patuxent River.*

Nearly 200 prehistoric sites have been recorded in the Anne Arundel County portion of the Patuxent drainage, including base camps, temporary camps, and resource procurement sites. Some of these sites are still relatively undisturbed and we will excavate a few of them next year. In the mean-

time, we will revisit eight existing artifact collections and our intern Stacy Poulos will build a GIS database using the assemblage data. This will allow us to visualize how use of the river changed through time by creating maps that depict the locations of diagnostic artifacts, like projectile points or ceramics.

This study will complement and provide context to our ongoing research at Pig Point, which was a major base camp along the shores of Jug Bay. From this point northward, the river transforms from a tidal marshland to a faster

flowing, narrow waterway as it approaches the geological fall line. This transitional section of the river provided Native Americans with a bounty of resources, and this study will help us understand how the shifting environment was utilized through time.



## Betty Williams, A Volunteer with Longevity

~ Pat Melville



*Betty Williams washing artifacts in the lab.*

Betty Williams has reached a milestone in her life – 20 years as a volunteer with the *Lost Towns Project*, an effort duly recognized recently at the annual London Town volunteer appreciation event. As one of the Monday ladies she faithfully comes to the *Lost Towns* lab to wash artifacts. She has continued the Monday tradition because until 1996 that was the only day the lab was open. Betty's volunteer efforts in archaeology began almost 40 years ago through association with the Archeological Society of Maryland. Betty also volunteered at the state archaeology lab.

After retirement, Betty began regular volunteering with the *Lost Towns Project* in 1991. At first she worked both in the field and lab. Field work consisted of screening for artifacts at the Burle's Town Land and Swan Cove sites, both parts of the Providence settlement.

There are many factors contributing to Betty's longevity as an archaeology volunteer. She feels a sense of accomplishment and contribution – washing and preliminary sorting adds clarity to the next steps of working with the artifacts. She knows the thrill of opening a bag of artifacts and wondering what surprises might be present. Another important factor for Betty is the camaraderie among the staff and other volunteers that is so conducive to a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere in which to work.

Sometime next year Betty will be leaving the lab after she moves to Silver Spring. Her dedication, hard work, and warm personality will be missed. Her contributions will live on forever.

## The American Foursquare

~ Darian Schwab

In a previous Letters from *Lost Towns* newsletter, I wrote about a commonly seen type of architecture in Anne Arundel County, the vernacular “I-house”. Another type of house that was historically popular, and like the “I-house”, is often under valued for its historical significance, is the “American Foursquare”. The foursquare is a vernacular derivative of the “Prairie” style, which is synonymous in the architectural world with Frank Lloyd Wright. It was most popular from about 1900 to the 1930s, and was contrastingly simple in design and ornamentation to popular styles that preceded it in the mid-to-late 1800s.

The two most predominate features of a foursquare are its box-like form and pyramidal hipped roof with one or more dormer windows. Many have either an open or enclosed full-width front porch, while some may only have a small portico surrounding the entrance door. The exterior cladding can also vary. Typically, foursquares are of frame construction with weatherboard (wood) or shingle siding; however, many have since been re-sided in vinyl or another type of synthetic (with the original weatherboard hopefully preserved underneath), or are of brick construction. Another material that was popularly used in building construction during that era is rusticated concrete block, also known as “rock-faced” concrete block or pillow block. Sometimes, entire houses would be constructed out of this material, but it was more commonly used for house and porch foundations. While perhaps not as frequently seen, there are surviving examples of rusticated concrete block buildings, including foursquares, in Anne Arundel County.



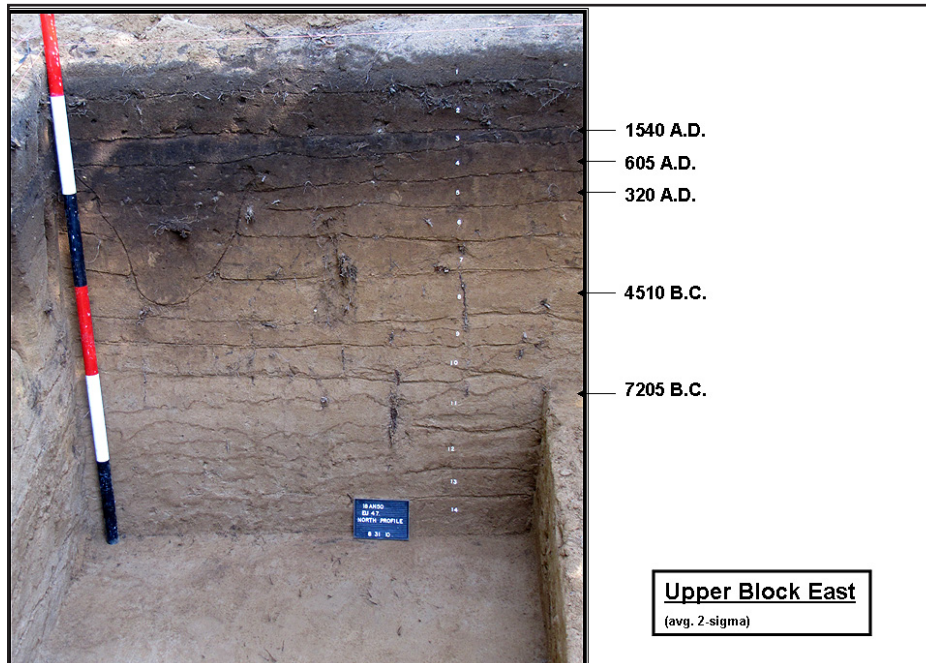
*A Classic American Foursquare.*

The interior plan of a foursquare home is standard and typically has four square rooms on the first floor and four on the second. This plan was practical and allowed for each space to be fully utilized, which was especially important for homes on small city lots. Interior elements are comparable to those found in Craftsman style bungalows. For example, window and door surrounds are of simple woodwork, and built-in cabinetry is often seen in the living and dining rooms.

While foursquares were built in both rural and urban environments, in this county, one will find them in greater numbers in suburban communities such as Gambrills, Millersville, Odenton, Linthicum Heights, and Brooklyn Park, to name a few. Perhaps it is not a coincidence that they were a preferred house type in these railroad communities. Like many of the bungalows of that era, they were available as mail-order “kit homes” through catalogues such as Sears, Roebuck, & Co., and would be shipped via train to their destination. It is not always easy to tell if a house is in

*continued on page 5*

continued from page 2



not only lithics and ceramics but unusually well preserved floral and faunal remains as well. The previously recovered important finds in the lower area have included Adena and Hopewell artifacts along with Archaic Period triangular points and an excellent series of C-14 dates extending back 8500 years. Perhaps the most important new finds this year have included some amazing ceramic tobacco pipes and the discovery that copper processing was occurring in the Late Archaic Period some 4,000-5,000 years ago.

*Upper Block East Carbon 14 Dates.*

time like “pot breaks” where major sections of ceramic pots are found where they were dropped hundreds of years ago. Perhaps the most important discovery this year in the upper section was the existence of hearths with charcoal deep in the column. In previous years no charcoal could be found that dated before 320 A.D. This year hearths were found in Stratum 8 (4510 B.C.) and Stratum 11 (7205 B.C.) which provided the oldest carbon date yet from Pig Point.

In most portions lower block area, the impressively thick Woodland Period midden continues to appear, and it continues to produce the best preserved remains at the site. With the dark midden covering about the last 3500 years, this area has demonstrated the existence of mussel processing pits, ceramic manufacture, and an extensive artifact assemblage including

All in all our third year was highly successful. We learn new things from Pig Point all the time, and plan for this to continue over the winter in the lab, and next year in the field. The opportunities for volunteers to contribute are many and varied, so come join us!



*Large Quartz Core, Hammerstone, and Flakes.*

continued from page 4

fact a kit home from outside appearances alone. There are, however, possible clues on the interior as well as some other ways that might help one ascertain whether or not they own a kit home. For example, stamped lumber is a good indication. The best places to look for this are on exposed joists and beams in the basement and attic. One can also try to match the design and/or dimensions of his or her home with that of one from the Sears Modern Homes catalogue or another mail-order catalogue company. To learn more about the history of

Sears homes specifically, go to [www.searsarchives.com](http://www.searsarchives.com).

Today a foursquare might not appeal to the modern American family, but it was once perhaps the most popular type of home preferred among the working and middle classes. Unfortunately, many people don't give these houses much merit for possessing architectural significance, but they should because like their archetype, the Prairie style house, they are a distinct representative of American architecture.

# Archaeology is Sew Cool!

~ Jessie Grow

How often do we think about where the items we use everyday come from? Or how many people had a hand in making those items before they arrived at our local store for purchase? This fall, I applied for a Four Rivers mini-grant to fund the development and installation of an exhibit that will explore colonial era sewing and textile related items in our vast artifact collection. And wouldn't you know, I got it! The exhibit will weave a story of how clothing and sewing related goods and trades came to exist in Anne Arundel County between the years of 1675 and 1812.

This is an exciting opportunity to showcase artifacts from our collection including thimbles, straight pins, bone pin cases, buttons, scissors, beads, and bale seals, among others. To be included are artifacts from *Lost Towns*-excavated sites, such as London Town, Burle, Wilson, Java, Chew and many more. The exhibit will begin with the shipping industry, which brought fabric as a raw material to the colonies, and milliner's shops, which sold the fabric. It will also showcase the obviously important jobs of the tailor and seamstresses. The exhibit will be supplemented by historical vignettes extracted from probate inventories, wills, newspaper advertisements, and paintings to discuss the rich sewing traditions of our local history.

The exhibit will highlight actual people who lived at our sites and carried out these jobs. Tailor Alexander Ferguson of London Town will be mentioned, along with his wife, Elizabeth- who was a "stay-maker"; (Stays are the boning or ribs that made up the framework for women's corsets). The exhibit will also



*An example of elaborate textile decoration.*

*Detail of Lady of the Fitzwilliam Family, attributed to John Betts. Reproduced from the Treasure Houses of Britain (Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 1985).*

tell the story of other oft-forgotten people, like slaves, servants and children, who had a hand in sewing and making clothes in colonial Anne Arundel County.

This exhibit will encourage people to think about where the goods they consume come from. Seeing these tiny artifacts, left behind hundreds of years ago, will also offer a voice from the past on what was a common

everyday activity. Perhaps the straight pins we've found at London Town could have actually been used by Alex or Liz Ferguson?

Thanks to the Four Rivers Heritage Area and the Historical Annapolis Foundation, the exhibit will be open to the public for Maryland Day in March at the Historic Annapolis Museum. Come out and see it when it's all done!



*Some of the artifacts to be featured in the new exhibit.*

*Top: book and aigis, a rivet and straight pins*

*Middle: thimbles and a carved bone pin case*

*Bottom: scissors*

# Preservation Maryland Provides Grant for Archaeological SWAT Team

~ Stephanie Sperling

*Lost Towns Project* archaeologists have been studying the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion on archaeological sites in Anne Arundel County for two years under grants from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We were recently awarded a grant from Preservation Maryland to conduct emergency salvage excavations on imminently endangered sites. To that end, we organized an archaeological “SWAT team” that investigated three shell middens in the Rhode and West Rivers that were actively eroding away.

Two of the shell middens were located on the Camp Letts peninsula and we found that they were nearly or completely eroded. These sites are relatively exposed to the open waters of the Rhode River and have been impacted by strong wave action. The third midden, located on a small inlet off the West River, is in a more protected location and was still intact. We discovered several large Mockley pottery

sherds, rhyolite Selby Bay projectile points, hickory nuts, animal bones, and fire-cracked rock from this midden. But perhaps the most striking find was a sandstone bowl fragment that is extremely rare in this part of Maryland.



SLR SWAT team at 18AN1284 (Camp Letts).

Regrettably, sea level rise cannot be combated solely with policy and planning documents; rather, the most viable response to the impending destruction of archaeological sites by Mother Nature is data recovery. As ecological threats to cultural heritage are gaining recognition by local officials and the public, we hope this project will raise awareness and educate others

about effective and practical responses to sea level rise. This project demonstrates that with advanced planning and proactive response, data held by important archaeological sites can be professionally recovered in a relatively inexpensive way.

## Farewells and Best Wishes!

~ Erin Cullen



We’ve had an eventful few months here at *Lost Towns*. Steve Tourville, one of our field archaeologists and conservationists, left us in the beginning of October to pursue his new career as an electrician. While we were very sad to lose him, we wish him the best, and know that he is very excited to be off on a new adventure!



We have also lost our wonderful intern coordinator, Lauren Schiszik, who is now working in Baltimore as a City Planner II. She has a one year contract working in the Historical and Architectural Preservation Division, Baltimore City Department of Planning. Lauren is thrilled to be working to protect the heritage in her hometown.

## 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  
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

### Part Time

- Carolyn Gryczkowski** - Lab Specialist
- Tony Lindauer** - Researcher



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE *LOST TOWNS PROJECT!*

The mystery artifact featured in the last edition of *Letters from Lost Towns* was a clarinet key! We had many good guesses...thank you to everyone who tried to identify this mystery artifact.

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Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

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