



Letters from Lost Towns

Summer 2013

Pig Point Pipes Proliferate

~ Al Luckenbach

One of the many intriguing aspects of the Pig Point site is the large number of recovered Native-American tobacco smoking pipes.



Decorated Woodland Pipe Fragments from the Lower Block

North of the road, in the Adena ritual area, small fragments of what were once large tube pipes made of Ohio pipestone are being found in large numbers. It is ironic that the first two fragments of such pipes – found south of the road – were met with such great excitement. These were analyzed by the University of Illinois and proved to come from the Fuert Hill Quarry in Ohio (see Luckenbach 2011 - <http://www.losttownsproject.org/Luckenbach2.pdf>). Since that time nearly 170 more fragments of these Adena-style pipes have come from the northern areas of the site.

South of the road, in the Lower and Upper Blocks, an unusually high number of ceramic pipes have been found in Middle and Late Woodland

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

NEWS & FUTURE EVENTS

We now have a Traveling Archaeology Exhibit!

For further information and to reserve the next showing, email: volunteers@losttownsproject.org

International Archaeology Day is on October 19, 2013!

The *Lost Towns Project* will be planning something special for Archaeology Day, so stay tuned! Check for updates by visiting our website at:

www.losttownsproject.org

Eastern States Federation Archaeological Conference Oct. 31- Nov. 3, 2013

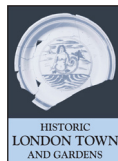
South Portland, Maine

The Eastern States Archeological Federation is an organization of state archeological societies representing much of the Eastern United States and Canada.

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

www.esaf-archeology.org

The Lost Towns Project Thanks our Partners and Supporters





Trumpet and Elbow Pipe Forms from Pig Point

contexts (ca. 400 B.C. to A.D. 1600). These include a number of highly decorated examples for which no good analogies have been found. What is immediately apparent is the great diversity of shapes and decorative styles involved. Practically no two pipes are alike.

Just like the great ceramic diversity being seen at Pig Point, these pipes are trying to tell us something. They indicate that this site was a gathering place for groups from a wide geographic area, each possessing their own idiosyncratic pipe styles. Pig Point was clearly a special place, where different groups would gather to feast, trade, and conduct their mysterious rituals.

Anne Arundel County's Curtis Creek Iron Furnace

~ John Kille

The *Lost Towns Project* recently embarked on a project designed to assess, preserve, and interpret the Curtis Creek Iron Furnace (c. 1759) through research, advanced mapping, and limited field work. This undertaking was directed by Dr. Julie Schablitsky, who heads the Cultural Resources Section at the MD State Highway Administration. The agency owns the property upon which this imposing 30-foot tall stone and brick furnace once stood on the southern shore of present-day Furnace Creek in Glen Burnie.

The Curtis Creek Iron Furnace produced high quality pig iron, as well as large castings such as cannon, shot, and shells. Recognized as one of the earliest industries in Anne Arundel, the local iron works is also gaining recognition for its role in the production of armaments during the War of 1812.

The site chosen for the Curtis Creek furnace was advantageous, since it ensured access to local iron ore deposits, wood from surrounding forests necessary for charcoal kilns, a constant source of water power from a one-mile mill race fed by nearby Saw Mill Creek, and water transportation for exporting iron production. A blast furnace, the Curtis Creek ironworks produced pig iron by smelting iron ore combined with charcoal, an oyster flux, and super heated air.



Abandoned Curtis Creek Iron Furnace, circa 1911.

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The Wilson Farmstead and the Hot Sox Ballfield Project gets off the Bench!!

~ Jane Cox



The Wilson House

After nearly 20 years of dreaming-- and three intense years identifying more than 100 heirs of Henry Wilson to clear the title -- ownership of the historic Wilson Farmstead and the Hot Sox Ballfield officially transferred to the County earlier this year, making it the newest addition to the County's Recreation and Parks system.

The house, built ca. 1870 by freed slave Henry Wilson, came to form the core of a burgeoning African-American community in Galesville which flourished after the Civil War. The

Wilson Family converted a portion of the land to a sandlot baseball field for the local Galesville Hot Sox, a feeder team to the Negro Leagues of the 1920s. The site continues to be used today as an important community gathering place, with baseball still bringing the community together. The property is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for these reasons.

Over 2 years ago, in anticipation of the pending acquisition, ACT, *Lost Towns*, and the County Cultural Resources Division reached out to the community, to County representatives, and to other stakeholders (including descendants of Henry Wilson) to assist in formulating a "Concept Plan" for how the site might be used and developed, while ensuring appropriate stewardship of its cultural and natural resources. The resulting document will guide the County's planning and programming in the coming years.



The Hot Sox Ballfield

This community outreach effort stimulated the local West River Improvement Association to stabilize the heavily compromised house so it can be saved for future rehabilitation. With \$100,000 in support from the African American Heritage Preservation Fund, WRIA is currently engaging architects and engineers to undertake the emergency stabilization of the house.

On a related note, the *Lost Towns* team received a grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority to conduct archaeological investigations on the entire site. This summer, our team of archaeologists, volunteers and interns have braved the woods, poison ivy and mosquitoes to conduct shovel test pit survey over the entire parcel. The project will also test around the main house in advance of potential ground disturbance associated with foundation stabilization.

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Councilman Jerry Walker (Dist. 7) and his Son enjoy Public Archaeology at the Wilson House.

On May 19th, the County announced the new park acquisition, with community members and VIPs present, including ball players from the early years- now in their 80s. *Lost Towns* archaeologists and volunteers were there sharing the potential archaeological heritage of the site with visitors. Speaker Mike Busch threw out the first pitch for the regular Sunday games, which have been going on since the 1920s, a legacy that will continue under County ownership. The effort to preserve and celebrate this amazing part of the African-American experience in South County has just begun, and continued private-public partnerships will allow the community to realize the dream of preserving Wilson Farmstead and the Hot Sox Field.

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A water wheel positioned next to the furnace powered a mechanized bellows which pumped blasts of air through pipes to achieve an intense heat during the smelting process. A ramp leading up to the rear of the furnace would have been used to feed iron ore and charcoal into an opening located toward the top of the structure. Several other water wheels were also in use at the site, and at least one would have powered machinery for a later foundry.

A remarkable first hand account from the *Baltimore Sun* on September 16, 1890 describes Curtis Creek Furnace's involvement in the War of 1812.

Reminiscences of a Venerable Woman

Miss Sarah A. Randle (...)At the beginning of the war of 1812 Captain Abner Linthicum's company of the county militia, of which her father was a member, was called out, and was often in service (...) sometimes at Fort Madison, opposite Annapolis, sometimes at Etna Furnace, Curtis Creek, where cannon were cast before and during the war. The uniform of this company was gray, with dark blue facings...

Ms. Randle's recollection of cannons cast and troops stationed at Curtis Creek is all the more intriguing given that the furnace appeared on maps that would have been available to the British Admiralty.

Assessing this complex was challenging due to an overgrowth of trees and brush, decades of trash dumping and looting, dredged soil spread over much



The LTP and SHA Surveyors mapped many ruins discovered along the shore.

of the site during the construction of nearby Route 10, and mounds of slag debris. Despite these obstacles, *Lost Towns* made much progress documenting the physical layout of the furnace, foundry, and a number of later buildings and wharves near the water. Precise mapping tools such as Lidar and Total Station, helped us identify areas where the natural landscape had been altered.

This ambitious project provided us with an outstanding opportunity to examine both the rich history and the intriguing cultural landscape of the Curtis Creek Iron Furnace.

Traveling Archaeological Exhibit Debuts!

~Stephanie Sperling



Opening Panel of the Exhibit.



Stephanie Sperling with Barry Gay and Lisa Weston.

The *Lost Towns Project* was awarded a mini-grant from the Four Rivers Heritage Area to develop a Traveling Archaeological Exhibit, bringing the experience of archaeology to people without the dirt. This staffed exhibit debuted at the Annapolis Arts and Crafts Festival during the weekend of June 8 and 9 and was a big success!

Four display panels that welcomed visitors to the exhibit, explained the archaeological process, introduced the *Lost Towns Project* and the public archaeology program in Anne Arundel County, and highlighted the Leavy Neck site, excavated in 2003. An artifact table with dozens of modern, historic, and prehistoric artifacts was available for visitors to touch and hold. Artifacts were displayed by stratigraphy and each rested on an image of that object that also contained a brief interpretive sentence. This allowed people to pick up and discover artifacts for themselves. Finally, volunteer Barry Gay created a take-home ceramic mending activity for children based on a sherd of beautiful Chinese porcelain found on the Chew site.

We could not have done this without help from countless volunteers and interns! Extra special thanks goes to volunteers Barry Gay and Lisa Weston for helping Stephanie Sperling staff the Festival. The exhibit has already traveled to the Edgewater Library for a children's event and we hope to share it with more people in the Heritage Area in the near future! Contact us if you have a suggestion for our next showing!



Children using the artifact table at the Edgewater Library.

A Nostalgic Look at Summers Past in Anne Arundel

~ Anastasia Poulos



Beverly Beach in the 1940s (Courtesy of Anne Arundel County Government).



Swimmers on the Pier at Mago Vista Beach (Courtesy of Ann Arrundell County Historical Society).

In the late 19th century and early 20th century, the shorelines of Anne Arundel County would beckon to vacationers in the summer. With the advancement of transportation options, from the train to the automobile to the steamboat, city-dwellers were able to flee the crowded and hot streets of Baltimore and D.C. with greater ease, which resulted in a burgeoning recreation business in the County. Various summer activities included swimming, diving, and water-skiing sports, picnicking, boating, and fishing, such as could be found at Beverly-Triton Beach on the Rhode River. Numerous beach resorts and summer residential communities sprang up along the waterways at favorite beach get-away spots, some of which had pavilions, dance halls, beach cottages, as well as casino

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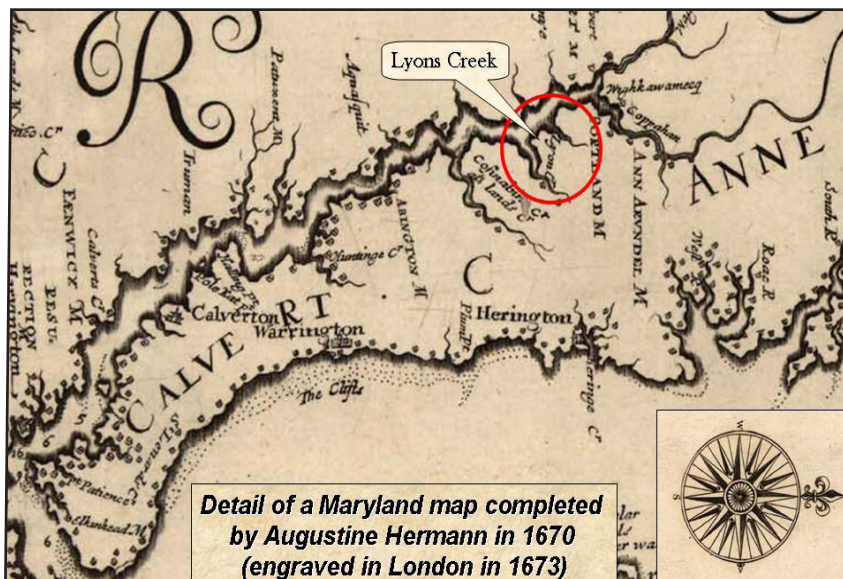
The Naming of Lyons Creek

~ Pat Melville, Volunteer

Maryland records seldom indicate how and when bodies of water, especially the smaller and less important ones, received their names. One of the exceptions concerns Lyons Creek (as found in the Land Office (Patent Record), MSA S11, Liber 13, pp. 93-95, as well as Liber 13, pp. 125, 131-132 and Liber 14, pp. 416-420). Lyons Creek is a branch of the Patuxent River that forms the boundary between Anne Arundel and Calvert counties. After immigrating into Maryland from Virginia in 1653, Henry Cox obtained the patent for a tract of land containing this creek of the Patuxent River sometime before 1673.

In a 1671 petition to Lord Baltimore, Cox requested a resurvey of his land. As proof, he presented men who could testify about the original survey. Accompanying the petition was the deposition of John Hambleton, who was present at the survey of the 300 acre tract. This unpatented tract bordered on the Patuxent River and a creek. According to Hambleton, the surveyor then asked Cox for the name of the creek. Cox replied that it should be called Lyons Creek, since “he had served his time in Lyons Creek in Virginia. And to this day from that time the deponent saith that

the said creek hath gone by the name of Lyons Creek. And that the said parcell of land lyeth on the southeast side of Lyons Creek and that William Parrot’s land lyeth on the northwest side of the said Creek.” The results of this survey can be seen in the historic Hermann map of 1670. The petition was viewed favorably and the boundary lines would be based on the testimony of inhabitants. By July 10, 1671, the land would be officially known by all as Lyons Creek.



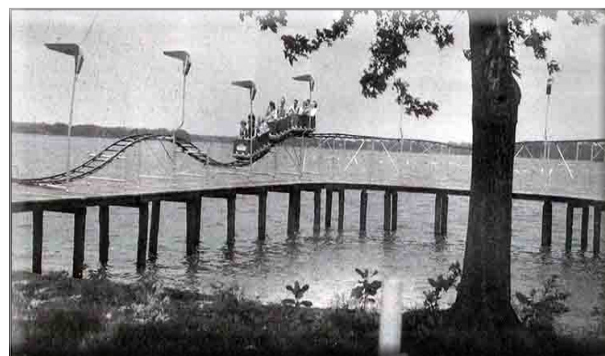
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halls with slot-machines. Additionally, amusement park rides became a favorite past-time, such as at Mago Vista Beach on the Magothy River, where the roller coaster, known as the Little Dipper, and the miniature train, the Toonerville Trolley, would thrill vacationers as they were raced over the water on tracks. Other popular resorts included Bay Ridge, known as “the Queen Resort of the Chesapeake,” or Gibson Island, “the Newport of the South.”

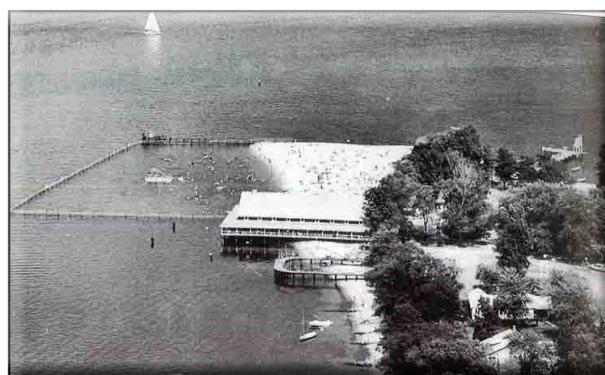


Friends posing on Beverly Beach in the 1940s (Courtesy of AACo Government).

With the construction of the Bay Bridge in 1952, much of Anne Arundel’s resort business was pulled away by the Atlantic Ocean. Business also suffered with the end of legalized slot machines in 1968 (see L. Lutz, *Chesapeake’s Western Shore, Vintage Vacationland*, Arcadia Publishing, 2009). While the resorts of yesteryear do not bear the same form, many have sprung into year-round residential communities as suburban living became more popular. The memories, however, live on in historic photos of summer adventures in Anne Arundel County.



The Little Dipper at Mago Vista Beach (Courtesy of Ann Arrundell County Historical Society).



An Aerial View of Mago Vista Beach and the Toonerville Trolley and Little Dipper tracks (Courtesy of Ann Arrundell County Historical Society).

Thank you to all of our friends at the Anne Arundel County Public Library System (AACPLS)!



Did you know that the London Town Heritage Research Collection housed at our Archaeology Lab at Historic London Town and Gardens is open to the public?

Sponsored by the AACPLS, it covers many areas involving the history and material culture of Anne Arundel County and Maryland. Browse the titles by going to www.aacpl.net with "London Town" typed in the search engine, or view our list of library books online at www.losttownsproject.org/library.html.

Many thanks to the following individuals who recently joined or renewed their *Lost Towns Project* membership:

Benefactor

Karen Ackermann
William and Lisa Brown
Christine Cataldo
Ronald and Melissa Chew
The Colegrove Family
Barbara Cooper
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Carolyn Gryczkowski - Lab Specialist

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**Please Renew Your *Lost Towns Project*
Sustaining Membership Today!**



A new, exciting season of field work is now taking place! We hope that you will consider renewing your annual Lost Towns Project sustaining membership right away. This membership program is extremely important as it supports the project's ongoing research and many worthwhile educational activities within our local community. Thank you to all who have recently joined or renewed their Lost Towns Project memberships!

If you haven't renewed your membership in the last year, please take a moment right now to either send in a fully tax-deductible gift using the enclosed envelope, or through our website: www.losttownsproject.org.

Also, please consider the *Lost Towns Project* in your legacy planning. Each year, thousands of people designate in their wills that a portion of their assets be used for the benefit and support of charitable organizations. These gifts enable supporters to make significant contributions and leave lasting legacies that may not have been possible during their lifetime. In addition to the personal satisfaction of making a philanthropic bequest, there is a definite estate-tax benefit, as a charitable estate-tax deduction can be made for the full value of your gift. For more information on establishing a will or legacy dedicated to the *Lost Towns Project*, please contact ACT Treasurer John Kille at 410-222-7440.

The *Lost Towns Project* thanks you for your continued support and friendship!

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

Please make out your donation checks to "ACT/ *Lost Towns Membership*"
Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation
P.O. Box 1573
Annapolis, MD 21404

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

Lost Towns Project



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