



Letters from Lost Towns

Winter 2013

NEWS & FUTURE EVENTS

Check out our research project on the War of 1812 events of October 27-31, 1814, at Tracey's Landing!

Our new website (to be updated regularly) details preliminary results of our ongoing archival and archaeological investigations:

www.losttownsproject.org/

TracysLndg/intro.html

The Lost Towns Project's Pig Point Excavation was featured in *The New York Times*!

Read the article, "A Maryland Hill's Prehistoric Secret," by Theo Emery (published October 14, 2013) at:

www.nytimes.com

The *Written in Bone* Exhibit at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum ends January 6, 2014!

This exhibit features the 2003 Leavy Neck excavations of the *Lost Towns Project*. For more information, visit:

anthropology.si.edu/

writteninbone/index.html

Year 5 at Pig Point

~ Al Luckenbach

With the advent of freezing temperatures, the fifth field season at the Pig Point Site has drawn to a close. As always, a number of important discoveries have been made at this significant site.

This year, a 10x12' sample of Adena Pit #3 was obtained, and an additional 5x5' sample of Pit #1 was excavated. A number of differences between the two pits are already apparent. Although both contain smashed tube pipes, Adena blades, and bones, the two centuries which separate the pits (roughly A.D. 100 for Pit #1 versus A.D. 300 for Pit #3) are apparent in the reduction in numbers of all these categories seen in the later pit. Pit #3 also contained noticeable differences in copper bead types and lithic debitage. Such results will allow a detailed reanalysis of the Delmarva Adena phenomenon which has not been available to archaeologists for over a half century.



*Profile of the Lower Block's Western Wall
(Scale in Feet)*

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The Lost Towns Project thanks our Partners and Supporters





An Exciting Find - A Kirk Spear Point!

The deepest artifacts were found over seven feet below the ground surface, and included a Kirk spear point and thumbnail scraper which would date to nearly 10,000 years ago. Pig Point's deeply stratified layers will eventually become a new baseline for Maryland archaeology given that we now have well over 900 projectile points, nearly 60,000 pottery sherds, and over 500,000 artifacts available for analysis from this excellent context.

So, over the long, cold winter the archaeology lab will be busy catching up with washing, labeling, and cataloging this year's finds – and trying to analyze what it all means. As always, volunteers are needed to assist with all these endeavors, and to help pray for Spring...

A Successful Field Season at Wilson Farm

~ Stephanie Sperling

In October, the *Lost Towns Project* finally wrapped up a large Phase I/II at the Henry Wilson Farm in Galesville, Maryland. This property was recently acquired by Anne Arundel County and is now known as "Hot Sox Field at Wilson Park," in honor of the freed slave, Henry Wilson, who purchased the property in the 1860s, and the Hot Sox Negro League baseball team, who played here throughout the mid-twentieth century.

We excavated shovel test pits (STPs) and conducted a Phase I-level survey across the entire property in order to get a broad sense of the archaeological resources of the park. Digging STPs is not the easiest or most glamorous job for archaeologists (especially when battling ticks, poison ivy, and thorns, like in some parts of the Wilson property forest), but it can give us a quick overview of what's going on beneath the ground surface across a large area. As a result of this STP survey, we were able to investigate two early twentieth century Wilson tenant house sites and discovered that the Wilson family site boundaries are much larger than first thought.

The Phase II took place around the Wilson house itself. Built in the 1870s, the Wilson house was occupied by several generations of the family for over 100 years. However, it has been uninhabited for several decades and is in an advanced state of disrepair. A local civic association has secured grant funding to stabilize the foundation, but this could cause damage to the archaeological resources surrounding the house. So we dug seven units and dozens of close-interval STPs around the house in order to see what we could discover about the Wilson family.



Excavating the Original Front Walkway of the Wilson House.

We made several interesting finds. First, we found the original brick walkway leading up to the front steps of the house.



The Future is looking up for Fort Smallwood Park

~ Caitlin Merritt



*The Concession Stand (c. 1932),
photographed in 1984
(Photo courtesy AACo Government).*

Armistead, in response to the foreseen imperialist threats by Spain during the Spanish-American War (1898). Fort Smallwood and Fort Howard, located across the Patapsco, provided the first line of defense against potential attacks.

In 1927, the U.S. War Dept. decided that coastal defenses along the Patapsco were unnecessary. The Olmstead Brothers, prominent landscape architects of the early twentieth century, recommended that the Baltimore City Park Plan include Fort Smallwood. In July of 1927, the City of Baltimore acquired the property for use as a park.

Fort Smallwood Park opened to visitors in 1929. By 1931, the park had a fishing pier, concession stands, numerous bath houses, locker rooms, and changing stalls. A bandstand, additional concession stands, pavilions, benches, and gazebos were in place by 1937. Several of the military buildings were converted for park uses. The park became a popular destination for fishing, swimming, picnicking and other recreational activities, and was part of the larger national trend, of recreation and leisure. Its popularity peaked following World War II but had declined by the early 1980s.



*The Historic Concession Stand's
Condition in 2013*

Fort Smallwood Park, located in northern Anne Arundel County, exhibits physical reminders of both its recreational and military past and is listed on the County's Inventory of Historic Resources and is National Register eligible. The site is located at the confluence of the Patapsco River and Rock Creek and provides views of North Point peninsula, southwestern Baltimore County, as well as Sparrows Point.

In 1896, the U.S. Government purchased the property to create a new military installation. Named after Major General William Smallwood, a Revolutionary War veteran and fourth governor of Maryland (1785-1788), it was activated, along with Forts Carroll, Howard, and



*Fort Smallwood in the 1940s
(Photo courtesy of AACo Government).*

In 2006, Baltimore City leased the park property back to Anne Arundel County. Unfortunately, the majority of the buildings and structures that once defined Fort Smallwood and Fort Smallwood Park, have been lost. Only a few original buildings survive from its time as a military fort: the Barracks and Hartshorne Battery. Several historic park-era structures survive, in various conditions, out of the several dozen that were constructed in the 1930s and 1940s. The County's Cultural Resources Division and the Department of Recreation and Parks are working together to preserve what is left of the park's historical integrity, while reinvesting in its recreational uses for future generations to enjoy.



Second, we determined the Wilsons used oyster shells to build walkways around the side of the house where poorly drained soils created a mucky ground surface. And finally, we discovered the original brick-lined well from ca. 1870 underneath a deep trash pit filled with coal, slag, and hundreds of artifacts that spanned a century of Wilson family occupation. Bricks from the upper two feet of this well were robbed out and used to line the pit that contained kitchen trash like beautiful sherds of pottery, utensils, table glass, and animal bones, but also contained



The Original Brick-lined Well (c. 1870).

dozens of buttons, part of a floral-decorated brooch, and three projectile points. It seems likely that these points were collected by members of the Wilson family as they worked in the agricultural fields surrounding Galesville, proving that people have always been interested in the Native American past of this area!



Excavation Unit exposing a Shell Walkway by the Wilson House.

These findings by the *Lost Towns Project* will help Anne Arundel County planners and members of the local community as they move forward with their plans for developing the Hot Sox Field at Wilson Park.

On Maryland Day, March 23, 2014, with support from *Four Rivers*, we will display many of the Wilson artifacts and discuss our findings at the Galesville Community Center. Why don't you stop by and join us!

Lost Towns Project writes another Chapter of London Town History!

~ Jasmine Gollup

Last spring, the *Lost Towns Project*, together with its volunteers and interns, had the opportunity to excavate a wonderful 18th-century site only a few hundred feet east of London Town. The Ferguson site (18AN1519) contains Lots 90 and 91 of the original town of London. The site was occupied by William Peele as early as 1718 until March 15, 1748/49, when he sold it for the price of 40 pounds and ten shillings to Alexander Ferguson. A tailor by trade, Ferguson consolidated the two lots with the intention of expanding his clothier business. Ferguson and his wife, Elizabeth, inhabited the site for a period of at least twenty years, until Ferguson's death in 1770. Records suggest that Ferguson operated a tailor shop and an ordinary.

The property was recently acquired by James and Nancy Wooddell who generously invited and encouraged our staff to "tear up their yard" prior to planned construction on the property. About 2 months were spent excavating on this picturesque bluff overlooking the South River, completing 71 STP's and 4 5x5' units. We found over 13,000 artifacts, primarily from the 18th century to the present including a variety of refined earthenwares, English and Rhenish stonewares, porcelain, cut nails, bottle glass, animal bone, and a ton of brick and oyster shell! Some cool finds included porcelain and copper alloy buttons, a nickel, and a wooden toothbrush head.



A Wooden Toothbrush Head discovered during Excavation.



Although the artifact assemblage was quite interesting, the most fascinating part of the Ferguson excavation was the features. Unit 1 contained large quantities of construction rubble (brick and mortar) and nails, as well as 18th century glass and ceramics. Extending over 4.5 feet deep, we're not entirely sure how to interpret this feature. Down the hill, staff uncovered the remnants of a brick foundation in Units 3 and 4. Coincidentally, the placement of this foundation seems to match up perfectly to an 18th-century painting of the area of a customs house along the banks of the South River.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers and interns who helped at the Ferguson site. Special thanks to James and Nancy Wooddell for their interest in and dedication to preserving local history.



A Brick Foundation by the River.

ACT Awards Again A Great Success

~John Kille



ACT Awards 2013 at Twin Oaks.

A good time was had by all who attended the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation Annual Awards ceremony held on October 9th at Historic Twin Oaks in Linthicum. ACT Chair Donna M. Ware hosted this much-anticipated event which honored several individuals for their extraordinary efforts to preserve the historical, archaeological, and cultural resources of Anne Arundel County.

This year, the 38th Annual Orlando Ridout Prize was given to Michael Baldwin of Baldwin Homes, Inc., for the rehabilitation of Twin Oaks, an impressive home built in 1857 by William Linthicum. Mr. Baldwin restored this dwelling's original fire places, improved its structural stability, and maintained interior/exterior details from Twin Oak's original construction, proving that historic preservation is possible in conjunction with modern-day development.



Michael Baldwin with Orlando Ridout and Donna Ware.



Skip Booth receives his Award.

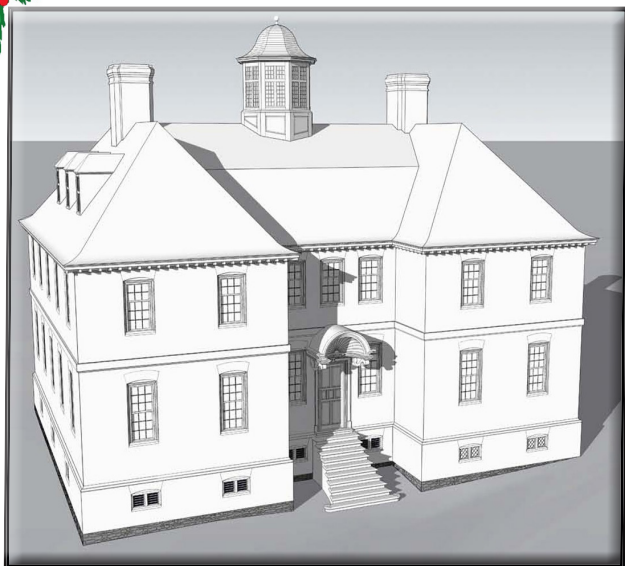
Oscar "Skip" Booth received the 33rd Annual Marjorie Murray Bridgman Award for his decades of work on behalf of local preservation. Skip is well known as the former President of the Ann Arrundell County Historical Society and current Vice President, and the Director of the Kuethe Historical and Genealogical Research Center. He is also an active member of the Annapolis History Consortium, as well as a board director for the Linthicum Shipley Improvement Association and Performing Arts Association of Linthicum.

The Special Contribution in Archaeology Award went to James and Nancy Wooddell, the owners of a 1 ½ acre property located just 400 feet from Historic London Town Park, where the *Lost Towns Project* has carried out excavations over the past 20 years. The Wooddell's, who share a keen interest in history, allowed the project to dig on their property, which made it possible to identify the house site of Alexander Ferguson, a tailor, a merchant, and an ordinary keeper in the 1700s, the "Old Ferry Landing," and a 19th century waterfront structure.



Jane Cox and Donna Ware present the Wooddells with LTP Hats!

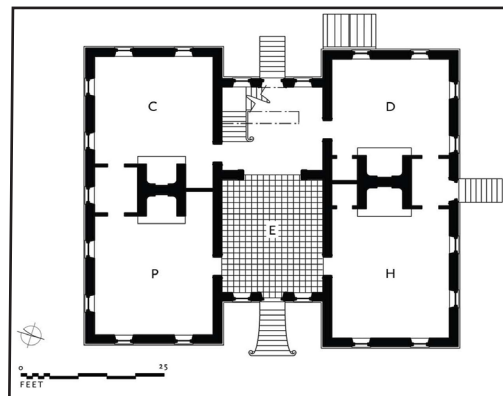
Each of these individuals deserves another round of applause for their support and work on behalf of our County's historic and archaeological resources!



The Chew House Rises Up from the Ashes

~ Al Luckenbach

Unveiled for the first time is this detailed architectural reconstruction of the Samuel Chew Mansion (c. late 1690s) Fairhaven, which burned in a 1772 fire. This digital model was created with state-of-the-art software and directed by Dr. Cary Carson, the former chief architectural historian at *Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF)*, and Dr. Al Luckenbach. Also assisting with this effort was Willie Graham, another highly regarded architectural historian at *CWF*, and Trey Tyler, founder of *RenderSphere* of Richmond, VA.



Floor Plan derived from Excavations by the Lost Towns Project.

Several years of archaeological excavations carried out by the *Lost Towns Project* served as the basis for this detailed rendering. As you can clearly see, the Chew residence in southern Anne Arundel County was simply astounding... It is one thing to describe the building as the largest brick building in the entire Chesapeake from the late 17th century, but to actually see what the structure looked like is amazing to say the least.

Popular *Written in Bone* Exhibit begins Twilight Hours

~ Anastasia Poulos

Only a few weeks are left to enjoy the long-running and well-received exhibit, *Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th-Century Chesapeake*, which opened on February 7, 2009 at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C. The exhibit's curators, Dr. Douglas Owsley and Kari Bruwelheide, both forensic anthropologists of the Smithsonian's Anthropology Department, envisioned and brought to life a powerful demonstration of how the analysis of bones and artifacts can solve historical mysteries. Highlighted in the exhibit is the Leavy Neck burial of a young man dating to circa 1660s, which was discovered in a storage cellar by the *Lost Towns Project* during our excavations at Providence in 2003.

This clandestine burial does lend itself to mystery, but Dr. Owsley's and Kari Bruwelheide's analysis of the *Lost Towns Project's* discovery allows for some answers. Artifacts date the burial to past the middle of the 17th-century. The skeleton is that of a 15-16 year old boy, who showed signs of undertaking hard labor during his lifespan, perhaps indicating a life as an indentured servant. A careful study of the skeleton's features made the reconstruction of the Leavy Neck boy possible. This reconstruction stands today for a few weeks more in the halls of the Natural History Museum, alongside artifacts from our Leavy Neck excavations. Analysis of the skeleton and the mystery surrounding this boy's death is further discussed in the exhibit.....Go see *Written in Bone* to find out more before it is too late!



Reconstruction of the Leavy Neck Boy in the Smithsonian Exhibit



Thank you to those who donated to our Replica Skeleton Fund!
- Paul Kabis, Marj Hegge, Barry Gay, Penny Goldstein, Paul Dwiggins, & Dr. Al -



The *Lost Towns Project* was in dire need of adding a replica human skeleton to its comparative collection. When it comes to human and faunal remains in archaeological contexts, a three-dimensional comparative element is vital for identification. Thank you so much for donating and making this acquisition possible!

We would also like to thank ALL of our beloved VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS, and DONORS for their generous time and support! With your assistance and through teamwork, as this very newsletter demonstrates, we continue to unveil historic and prehistoric secrets of Anne Arundel County's fascinating past together!

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and supporters!

Thank you to the following for joining or renewing their *Lost Towns Project* membership:

<u>Benefactor</u>	James Parker	Penny Goldstein	Kathy Gramp
Christine Cataldo	Mollie Ridout	Edward & Caral Grunwald	David & Diane Rey
James Cheevers	Jean Russo	Alex Lavish	
Ronald & Melissa Chew	Carole Sanner	Bradley & Mary McKittrick	<u>Individual</u>
The Colegrove Family	Herbert Sappington	Willard Mumford	Louise Akerson
Barbara Cooper	Gordon & Susanne Smith	Jared Pomfrey	Nancy Bauer
Donald & Keren Dement	William Storey	Ken Riggleman	Penny Chalkley
Stephen & Carolyn Derby	John & Barbara Wing	Dale & Janet Schwab	Jeannette Christman
Peter & Betty Edmondo	Robert & Norma Worden	David Sedlak	Letty Cyrus
Karen Hedrick	Caroline Wugofski	Susan Wetherill	Elizabeth Gay
Marjorie Hegge			Maxine Grabill
James & Sherry Hubbard	<u>Special Contributor</u>	<u>Family</u>	Diane Haberstich
Paul Kabis	Patricia Barland	John & Cynthia Bennoit	Phillip Hazen
Byron Lee	Maureen Bennett	William & Betty Doty	Ann Jensen
James Lighthizer	Skip Booth	Ralph Eshelman	Michael Parker
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Vicki McCorkle	Betty DeKeyser	John & Barbara Filigenzi	Dale Rains
Susan Morris	Harry Foster	Michael & Jo Ann Gidos	Christine Simmons
William Murray	Mary Kay Ganning	Patrick & Colleen Gleason	Jeff Tomitz
Thomas O'Connor			

The *Lost Towns Project* Team

Al Luckenbach - Director/ County Archaeologist	Shawn Sharpe - Field Director/ Conservation Specialist
C. Jane Cox - Assistant Director/ Cultural Resources Planner	Jasmine Gollup - Lab Director/ Education & Volunteer Coordinator
John Kille - Assistant Director	Carolyn Gryczkowski - Lab Specialist
Darian Beverungen - Historic Preservation Planner	Mandy Melton - Archaeologist
Anastasia Poulos - GIS and Cultural Resources Specialist/ Newsletter Editor/ Webmaster	Chase Hammond - Archaeologist
Caitlin Merritt - Assistant Historic Preservation Planner	Tim Peterson - Archaeologist
Stephanie Sperling - Research Archaeologist/ Internship Coordinator	

Please Help the Lost Towns Project - Our Success is Due to You!

The holiday season is upon us, and *Lost Towns Project* archaeologists have reluctantly closed up excavations across the county in advance of winter winds and the portent of snowfall. Last year has been exciting and rewarding in many ways. Discoveries at the prehistoric Pig Point site in Lothian continue to amaze and intrigue, while important and productive archaeological investigations were carried out at the Curtis Creek Iron Furnace in Glen Burnie, the Ferguson Site near Historic London Town, and the Wilson Farm House in Galesville.

Without a doubt, this success is directly tied to our many dedicated supporters and volunteers who have partnered with us in carrying out these ambitious endeavors. Our sustaining membership program provides vital assistance in the field, lab, and public outreach. The project is already gearing up for another productive season, and I hope you will renew your membership. 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.

Many thanks for your generosity and friendship-
John E. Kille
ACT Treasurer

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



of Anne Arundel County

Office of Planning and Zoning
2664 Riva Road, MS 6402
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410)222-7440
www.losttownsproject.org

