



Letters from Lost Towns

Summer 2014

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Calling all Interns!

Get invaluable field & lab experience this Summer with the *Lost Towns Project* through an academic internship!

To apply, email a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to losttownsintern@gmail.com. For more information, visit:

[www.losttownsproject.org/
internship.htm](http://www.losttownsproject.org/internship.htm)

Read the Geological Summary of Pig Point!

Don Mullis and James Marine of Tetra Tech, Inc., recently completed an illuminating study on the geomorphology of this fascinating site. Read it at:

[www.losttownsproject.org/
Geological_Summary_Pig_Point -
Final.pdf](http://www.losttownsproject.org/Geological_Summary_Pig_Point_Final.pdf)

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

Sponsored by the *Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission* and *Star Spangled Banner 200, Inc.*

[www.losttownsproject.org/
TracysLndg/intro.html](http://www.losttownsproject.org/TracysLndg/intro.html)

We're Making Tracks:

A Multi-Year Study of Generals Highway Builds Steam

~ C. Jane Cox

General's Highway (Rt 178) ambles along the old railroad bed from the Annapolis Mall up to Route 97. This road was in use well before the railroad came through, and today follows roughly the same track as one of the earliest roads in the County. Thousands live along the road, or drive by everyday, yet few know about the history that is evident along this important transportation corridor.

Nearly a *hundred* known historic buildings, archaeological sites and cemeteries are recorded within the project area, which together offer a snapshot of human occupation in this area from prehistory to the present. A wealth of exciting resources line this road to Annapolis, such as Native American villages, early colonial houses, 18th-century plantations, taverns, Revolutionary & Civil War sites, as well as 19th-century homes, businesses, and schools.



Detail of a Historic Map (1783) showing Rochambeau's March on Generals Highway during the Revolutionary War

Funded by a "Transportation Enhancement Program" (TEP) grant, Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division, in partnership with the State Highway Administration, has launched an exciting project to explore many of these sites over the next three years. Designed to identify, locate, record, assess, study and share with the public the range of archaeological and cultural

continued on page 4

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



The Lost Towns Project thanks our Partners and Supporters!



The Pig Point Site Complex

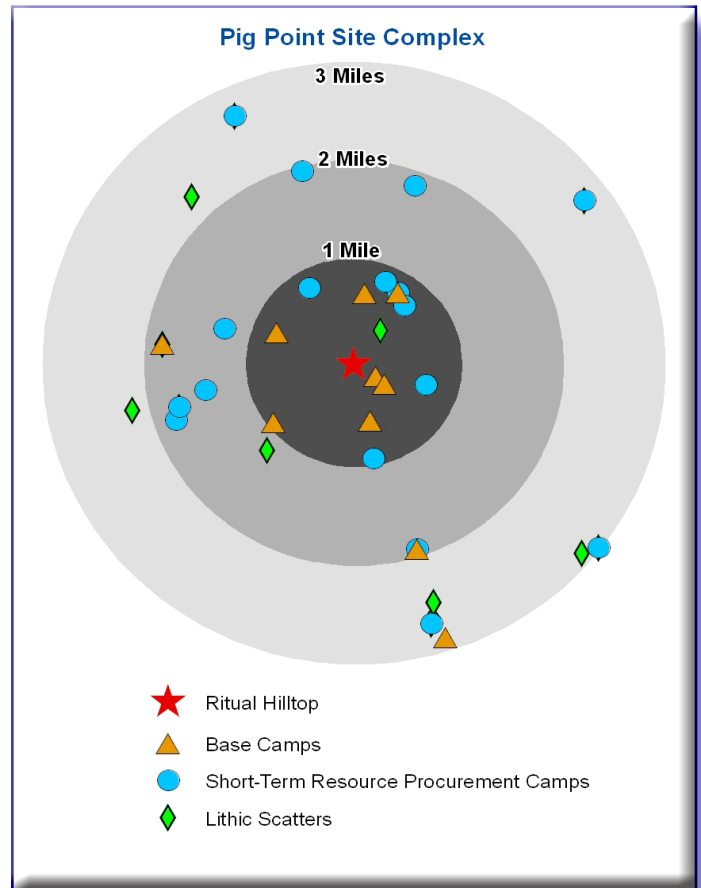
~ Dr. Al Luckenbach

So, what's next for Pig Point?

As many of you know, during the first three years of excavations at the site (18AN50), emphasis was placed on the deep stratigraphy (up to seven feet on continuous deposits) spanning at least 10,000 years of history and prehistory in an area lying south of Wrighton Road. At that time, Pig Point was already considered to be among the most important prehistoric excavations ever to occur in Maryland. However, over the last two years of fieldwork, the discovery of extensive Delmarva Adena ritual behavior on an adjacent property across the road to the north changes our interpretation of the site completely – and increases its archaeological significance by orders of magnitude. The whole locale is seen now as representing a sacred place for Native Americans lasting perhaps over millennia.

Future investigations are contemplated in order to place this ritual hilltop setting in the context of an expanded site complex. The Maryland archaeological site files indicate that no less than 14 recorded sites exist within a one mile radius of the sacred bluff – all seemingly occupied at the same time. In other words, all these sites were within a ten minute walk (or canoe trip) for the prehistoric populations. Given the dramatically changed perspective that occurred just by our crossing the road, it is clear that we need to know much more about how the entire system worked – in an expanded area we are now calling the Pig Point Site Complex.

So the preliminary plan for 2014 fieldwork includes not only further excavation in the Delmarva Adena pits, but expanding into the Dorr Village Site immediately to the north.



Dorr was clearly a large, intensely occupied, contemporaneous village directly associated with the activities on the sacred bluff. **Volunteers are invited to join us as we attempt to add this important segment to our understanding of the entire Pig Point complex!**

The Lost Towns Project investigates the War of 1812

~ Anastasia Poulos



Looking for Evidence of War of 1812 Skirmishing at Town Point

With the support of the *Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission* and *Star Spangled Banner 200, Inc.*, the *Lost Towns Project* is searching for signs of the War of 1812 in Anne Arundel County!

During the War of 1812, Anne Arundel County was surrounded by conflict, suffering major losses during the British Blockade in the Chesapeake and the attacks on Bladensburg, Washington, D.C., and Fort McHenry. Not only were Anne Arundel County militia called to defend the Nation's Capitol and Baltimore, but they were also compelled to defend their own homes and livelihoods as the British walked through their backyards and laid scourge to their property. Today, the inhabitants' sense of impending danger from the British presence in the Chesapeake from 1813-1814 can be felt keenly in historic letters, diaries, and newspaper accounts from the County, particularly in the area of Shady Side, Traceys Landing, and West River, which endured a British attack on October 27- 31st, 1814.

The Building Archaeology of “Belvoir”

~ Darian Beverungen



Historic Belvoir (AA-183)

Belvoir, meaning “beautiful view” in French, sits nestled on a hilltop surrounded by vast trees and sweeping landscapes. When first settled in the 18th-century, a clear vista overlooking the Severn River could be seen from the main house. Today, some modern intrusions exist nearby and the view shed to the water has been obscured by the trees that surround the house; however, much of the landscape on the remaining associated acres of land is untouched, and it is easy to imagine the Colonial landscape at Belvoir. This National Register listed property has rich historic associations, including John Ross, who served as first clerk of the Provincial Council from 1729-1764 and acquired the original tract

of land called “Bear Ridge” that Belvoir sits on. Ross is also the great-grandfather of the author of “The Star-Spangled Banner”, Francis Scott Key, who visited family at Belvoir while attending St. John’s College in Annapolis. In addition, Belvoir was one of the camp sites for General Rochambeau’s French troops on their march to Yorktown, VA in 1781 during the American Revolution.

The architectural evolution of the main building at Belvoir is most intriguing. At first glance, one would see merely three distinct building campaigns; however, upon further evaluation, six principal campaigns, spanning the course of three centuries, become apparent. Discovering the architectural evolution of a building, “building archaeology,” is like solving a mystery or putting pieces of a puzzle together. In examining a structure, there are various architectural elements, both exterior and interior, that an architectural historian looks at in determining a building’s evolution. Such elements include, but are not limited to brick bonding patterns; window placement; building materials; chimney size and placement; interior molding profiles of fireplace mantels and door and window surrounds; flooring; and interior wall thicknesses. These elements can offer clues into possible dates of construction as well as the building’s progression.



The Stone & Brick Wing of Belvoir

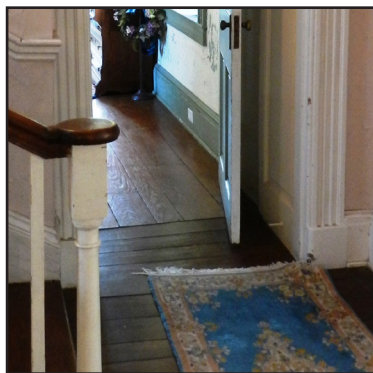
The oldest portion of Belvoir is the stone and brick, one-and-one-half story, gambrel-roofed rear wing that extends off the main block of the house, forming a T-plan. This portion is believed to have been built c.1736 by John Ross when he purchased the Bear Ridge tract of land. The second and third campaigns (dating to the latter part of the 1700s or dating to 1750-1800) include adding the first floor of the brick main block of the house. An obvious question then might be how can you tell that the first floor was built in two phases? One way is to look at the brick bonding pattern on the first floor (see figure). Notice a difference? The bonding pattern on the left is English bond (alternating courses of stretchers and headers), while the bonding on the right is Flemish bond (alternating stretchers and headers in the same course). Both patterns were common in the 18th-century. The fourth campaign added the second floor onto the main block, which is also comprised of Flemish bond. The last two campaigns consisted of adding and then enlarging the three-story, gambrel-roof kitchen addition on the north end of the house in the early-and-mid 20th century.



Brick Bonding Pattern on the First Floor

The second and third campaigns (dating to the latter part of the 1700s or dating to 1750-1800) include adding the first floor of the brick main block of the house. An obvious question then might be how can you tell that the first floor was built in two phases? One way is to look at the brick bonding pattern on the first floor (see figure). Notice a difference? The bonding pattern on the left is English bond (alternating courses of stretchers and headers), while the bonding on the right is Flemish bond (alternating stretchers and headers in the same course). Both patterns were common in the 18th-century. The fourth campaign added the second floor onto the main block, which is also comprised of Flemish bond. The last two campaigns consisted of adding and then enlarging the three-story, gambrel-roof kitchen addition on the north end of the house in the early-and-mid 20th century.

continued on next page



Floorboard Layouts



Profile of the Fireplace Mantel

On the interior, there is visible evidence of alterations from different time periods. For example, notice the difference in the floorboard direction between the main entry hall and the study (see figure to left)? When the flooring is running in opposite directions, as it is here, this is a sign that adjacent rooms were built at different times. While the main block of the house was built in the 18th-century, it is clear that the house was updated in the 19th-century. The fireplace mantels and much of the window & door surrounds date to the Greek Revival architectural period (1830 to 1860). The fluted door & window casings with corner bullseye blocks are typical of the Greek Revival style. While these are just some examples that offer insight into the architectural history of the building, Belvoir is full of architectural discoveries which make it all the more unique and significant.



Window Molding

So the next time you are in a historic home, or perhaps even your own, see if you can spot any of these details. If you can, you're on your way to becoming an architectural super sleuth!



Lost Towns/SHA Excavations at Belvoir, May 2014

continued from page 1

resources within a one-mile buffer of General's Highway, a team of professional archaeologists, architectural historians and archivists will conduct this work.

This study will enhance local knowledge of the significant historic resources that exist along the 8-mile transportation corridor and will assist the State and the County in responsible stewardship of those resources, should there be future plans for road modifications, changes, or conversion of the railroad right-of way into a trail (no improvements are under consideration at this time). The entire historic corridor is an important resource that deserves further study to ensure that it is appropriately managed, protected and made accessible to the public for the benefit of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Below is a brief list of sites and broad themes of history we hope

to explore as the project develops. In April, the Lost Towns Team and County contractors began field investigations at **Belvoir**, also known as "Scott's Plantation" (see 'Scots-House' on the *Rochambeau Map on first page*), and fieldwork will be ongoing through June. This site is the potential location of one of Rochambeau's Encampments, where 5,000 French Troops camped during the Revolutionary War, as they charged south to help the colonists win their freedom. Our gracious host, the **Rockbridge Academy**, current owner and steward of this historic property, is affording us the opportunity to explore the 18th-century plantation and its formal terraced gardens, and to look for any evidence of a 17th-century site.

Some of the themes, research topics, and sites we hope to explore during the project include the history of the railroad system,

military use of the corridor, 20th-century vacation communities, the corridor's 18th-century history, and the prehistory of along this road. Many fascinating sites are already documented within the study area and, if possible, we hope to conduct further research on some of the following sites: **Belvoir, Brooksby's Point, Rising Sun Inn, Bunker Hill, Iglehart, Baldwin Crossroads, and Crownsville Hospital**. Investigations will include an intensive GIS cartographic study that will allow us to chart the numerous changes in road alignment through time.

The Ritual Killing of Pig Point Gorgets

~Amanda Melton

Recent analysis of the Pig Point Site artifacts have revealed elements of a previously unknown ritual pertaining to polished ground slate items known as 'gorgets.' Typically, gorgets throughout North America are found fully intact and with little to no signs of wear. At Pig Point however, all but one have been broken -- deliberately.

Not only are these objects broken but almost all of the recovered fragments have heavy modification present on their surfaces. These modifications range from sanding, scraping, and gouging to repeatedly incised symbols. The presence of a bird representation may also be present beneath a series of woven incised lines.



A closer look at these unusual modifications revealed that they were performed after the object had been broken. Furthermore, upon the discovery of a mend between two of the fragments, it became even more apparent that these gorgets were undergoing an intensive ritual, during which the properties of the original gorget were being erased.

What was the purpose behind the ritual 'killing' of the gorgets? Was the act performed following the death of a revered individual? Was this just one ritual in the midst of a larger ceremony? Or does it perhaps represent the evolution of the gorget's purpose in prehistory? We may never know -- but future excavations and regional comparisons may help us gleam some light on this fascinating discovery.



Maryland Day Event Highlighted Wilson Excavations

~Stephanie Sperling

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Four Rivers Heritage Area**, *Lost Towns Project* archaeologists and volunteers developed a Maryland Day event that highlighted our recent excavations at Hot Sox Field in Wilson Park of Galesville. The event, held at the Galesville Community Center, was called, "Archaeology in the Backyard", and dozens of artifacts and display boards told the story of the rich archaeological resources found on the Henry Wilson farmstead. Archaeologists also talked to visitors about sites and artifacts they found over the years. One Galesville couple donated a large collection of artifacts found on their waterfront property related to a late nineteenth and early twentieth century boarding house that once stood there. The popular *Travelling Archaeology Exhibit* made an appearance and volunteer **Barry Gay** debuted his original painting, "**Henry and Kitty Wilson Outside their Galesville Home in 1875**" (see figure). This painting was based on historic photo-

graphs and also featured the original brick well and front walkway found during our excavations. Thanks to **Four Rivers** and all who made this outreach event such a success!



Remembering Skip Booth

~ John Kille



Skip receiving his ACT Award in October

It is with a great deal of sadness that I report that our good friend and colleague Oscar “Skip” Booth has passed away. Last October, Skip received the 33rd Annual Marjorie Murray Bridgman Award at the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation’s annual awards ceremony at historic Twin Oaks in Linthicum.

How appropriate it was that he received his prestigious honor on a beautiful fall day, surrounded by his many friends and colleagues, and at the place he called home. One of Skip’s many endearing qualities was his modesty. When informed that he was chosen to receive his award, his initial reaction was disbelief. It was clear that he never expected anything in return for decades of research, writing, and volunteer work for many, many organizations.

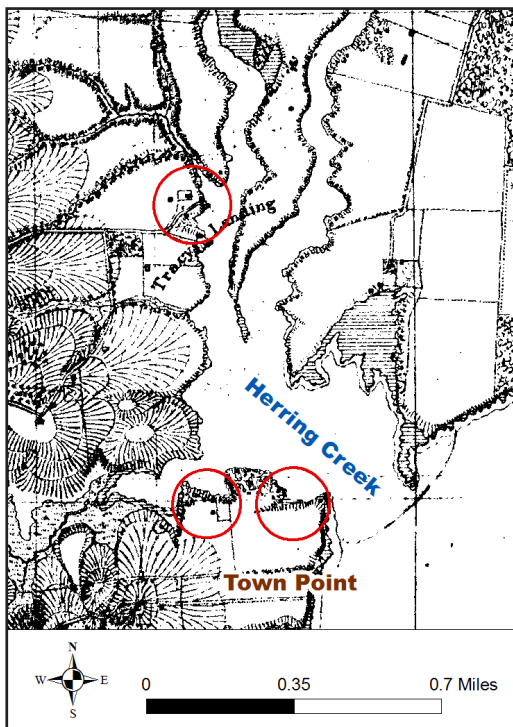
However, Skip clearly enjoyed the awards ceremony, and not surprisingly, his acceptance speech had an outward focus. Rather than dwelling on his own public service, he instead regaled the crowd effortlessly with his extensive knowledge of Linthicum’s and North County’s past. Never missing an opportunity to advocate on behalf of local history, Skip finished his talk with an impassioned plea to support and engage in historic preservation.

We can all learn a great deal from Skip’s example. Notably, finding meaningful and constructive ways to channel and share our passion for local history, for the benefit of others.



Skip exploring the Curtis Creek Furnace Site with the Lost Towns Project

continued from page 2



1846 USGS Coastal Survey Map Showing Locations of the Skirmishing in October 1814

In June of 1814, a farmer near Pig Point wrote in his diary [MSA SC 210-1-3], “The British are off H[erring] Bay and have taken a number of Bay Craft, the owners moving Tob[acco] from Traceys and the Militia collected in force....I am fearful it will bring the War [sic] in our District [sic]. In that case, I will move to Frederick or that may, to be some distance off, and wait till Peace, a change of Air I think would be of service to me at this season of the year.” By July, he wrote, “The news of this post is the British are up the Bay again, much alarm about Traceys of Herr[in]g Bay particularly for the Tob[acco] Warehouse.”

On October 1814, a fleet carrying 250 British soldiers moved into the mouth of Herring Creek, which was protected by Lt. Scrivener and a few other militiamen at Town Point. Scrivener and his men attempted to repel the British with their single cannon, but the enemy responded with great force, pelting the area with cannon fire and destroying several houses and outbuildings. The British then proceeded up Herring Creek to Tracey’s Landing and destroyed the Tobacco Warehouse.

After in-depth historic and cartographic research, the *Lost Towns Project* has picked several sites in the Traceys Creek and Herring Bay area to investigate for evidence of this War of 1812 skirmish. Evidence from historic maps, deeds, plats, diaries, and other primary sources have paved our path to these potential sites. Preliminary investigation includes metal detector survey and shovel test pits. Working closely with local historians and private property owners, we are hot on the trail of the British! Stay tuned in upcoming newsletters, facebook posts, and updates on our website, <http://www.losttownsproject.org/TracysLndg/intro.html>, to learn more about the results of these excavations!

Mystery Artifact!!!!

Today's mystery object will test who has been paying attention.....

This object is a polished limestone sphere, slightly over a half inch in diameter, found at Pig Point.



What is it?

Email us or post on our facebook page, if you think you know what this is!

Thank you to all our wonderful Volunteers and Supporters!

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

Benefactor

Michael Baldwin
Christine Cataldo
James Cheevers
Ronald & Melissa Chew
The Colegrove Family
Stephen & Carolyn Derby
Peter Edmondo
James & Sherry Hubbard
Paul Kabis
James Lighthizer
Patricia Melville
Susan Morris
James & Susan Morrison
James Parker
Charlotte Powers
Mollie Ridout
Carole Sanner

Herbert Sappington
Eric See
William Storey
Laird Towle
David Turner
John & Barbara Wing
Robert & Norma Worden
Caroline Wugofski

Special Contributor

Mark & Maureen Bennett
Skip Booth
Vincent & Nancy Briani
Michael Calabrese
Betty DeKeyser
Harry & Liliane Foster
Mary Kay Ganning

Penny Goldstein
Edward & Caral Grunwald
Philip & Ruth Hazen
John & Frances Koontz
Alex Lavish
Marie Lerch
Willard Mumford
Diana Edwards Murnaghan
Keith Schiszik
Lauren Schiszik
Dale & Janet Schwab
David Sedlak
Wayne Walker

Family

John & Cynthia Bennoit
Wayne Clark

Ralph Eshelman
Brad & Linda Ferrier
John & Barbara Filigenzi
Gregory & Juliet Page
Kathy Gramp Smith
Elizabeth Williams

Individual

Nancy Bauer
Penny Chalkley
Letty Cyrus
Elizabeth Gay
Maxine Grabill
Marion Kay
Michael Parker
Michael Quinlan
Mark Schatz
Jeff Tomitz

The Lost Towns Project

Al Luckenbach - County Archaeologist
John Kille - Historian & Grants Specialist
Darian Beverungen - County Historic Preservation Planner
Caitlin Merritt - Historic Preservation Specialist
Anastasia Poulos - GIS & Cultural Resources Specialist
Stephanie Sperling - Research Archaeologist & Education Specialist

C. Jane Cox - County Cultural Resources Planner
Shawn Sharpe - Field & Conservation Specialist
Jasmine Gollup - Material Culture, Lab, & Education Specialist
Carolyn Gryczkowski - Lab Specialist
Mandy Melton - Research Archaeologist
Tim Peterson - Research Archaeologist

We have a new addition to the *Project* - please welcome research archaeologist, **Brett Arnold!**



Thank you for Supporting the *Lost Towns Project* !



Warm summer days are finally here! I am pleased to report that the *Lost Towns Project* is taking full advantage of the opportunity to dig at several important sites in Anne Arundel County. In fact, this field season is so busy and productive that fieldwork is running five days a week, with split crews sometimes deployed to three different sites on any given day. The list of sites is impressive, including **Belvoir** in Crownsville, **Hancock's Resolution**, **Gibson Island**, **Tracy's Landing**, **Town Point** on Herring Bay, and prehistoric sites such as **Pig Point** and the **Dorr** site near Jug Bay.

We are very grateful to have the assistance of experienced volunteers, as well as the continued generosity of our sustaining members. Simply put, it would be impossible to carry this ambitious schedule without your help. If you have not already, please consider renewing your sustaining membership, using either the enclosed envelope or through visiting our website, www.losttownsproject.org. Also, donations are always deeply appreciated and will be dedicated to our ongoing research and educational and public outreach programs. Any donation, big or small, monetary or material, is a great help! For example, the lab is in constant need of the following: paper towels, tissues, hand soap, black sharpies, card stock paper, HP95 TriColor Ink, HP98 Black Ink, & plastic baggies (gallon-, quart-, & sandwich-sized, non-slider).

Again, thanks for your friendship and support of our shared history!

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

