

Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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Summer 2009



Chief Powhatan at Werowocomoco. (Detail from John Smith's map of Virginia)

Werowocomoco & Cactus Hill Workshop for Public School Teachers!

Teachers, get a jump on the new SOLs addressing the importance of Werowocomoco and Cactus Hill at a FREE June 26 workshop. See page 12 for details.

HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY COME TOGETHER TO EXPAND FORT WARD'S MISSION

by Fran Bromberg

Archaeology in Alexandria began in 1961 with excavations at Fort Ward to create a reconstruction of the northwest bastion of the fortification as part of Fort Ward Park, where the Civil War continues to come alive for citizens and visitors. History and archaeology have come together again this year to foster an expanding mission for the preservation and interpretation of this important historical City property. All of us recognize the significance of Fort Ward Park and Museum as the City's premier site for revisiting the Civil War period, but few may know that the park also contains a small American Indian site as well as cemeteries, house foundations, and other buried resources of a once-thriving African American community.



1960s excavation of Fort Ward's northwest bastion. Photo courtesy of Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site.

Mission continued on page 11

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THE OLD DRUMSTICK

by Jim Smith, the "Yankee Drummer"

"...a stick in the mud...a find in the privy!"

Though some might say, "A drumstick is a drumstick," I beg to differ. I should warn everyone that my enthusiasm for this treasured drumstick from the City of Alexandria privy is boundless. At this moment a scene from the movie *City of Angels* flashes in my memory.



James Smith, artist and conservator with the "Yankee Drummer, Traditional American Rudimental Field Drumming & Old Drum Repository" in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Drumstick continued on page 7

Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: FOAA in Focus



Paranormal activity captured on film during FOAA's ghost tour

Tired of Feeling Like an Outsider?

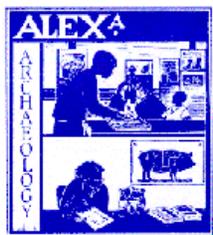
If you had been a member of FOAA on May 9, you could have been on our Footsteps to the Past Ghost Tour, hearing more than your history teacher ever told you. After 250 years, many spirits have wormed their way into our houses and taverns, just waiting for receptive souls to come around. If you were one of the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology, you'd get first dibs on notices of interesting events, like the upcoming visit to Carlyle House, where the never-ending story of a Colonial dress is featured.

FOAA members also get discounts on items at the Museum and at the new Museum Shop in the arcade. With the money you save, you could pay your dues -- and then some! Stop by the Museum and meet some of your fellow archaeological buffs. Let them tell you how much FOAA can offer. See below for membership details.

FOAA: Tax-Deductible Donations

We are often asked if contributions to the Alexandria Archaeology Museum are tax-deductible. The answer can be found in IRS Publication 526 (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p526.pdf). Page 3 lists qualified organizations, including nonprofit charitable organizations and "The United States or any state, the District of Columbia, ... a political subdivision of a state.... Note. To be deductible, your contribution to this type of organization must be made solely for public purposes." The City of Alexandria thus qualifies and your contributions to the Museum are tax-deductible. Monetary contributions made to the Museum are by check made payable to the City of Alexandria but are deposited in a donations account used specifically to support Alexandria Archaeology. Of course, contributions to FOAA, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, are deductible as well.

**SUPPORT ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALEXANDRIA ---
JOIN FOAA TODAY**



Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News

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FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization supporting archaeology in the City of Alexandria. Annual membership dues, running from July 1 to June 30, may be sent to:

FOAA
P.O. Box 320721
Alexandria, VA 22320

Individual - \$20 Family/Groups - \$25 Sponsor - \$50 Benefactor - \$100 Corporate - \$500

2009-2010 FOAA Board of Directors

Marya Fitzgerald and Margarete Holubar, co-presidents; Joan Amico, vice-president; Kathy Scheibelhoffer, treasurer; Catherine Sumner, secretary; Dave Cavanaugh, AAC representative; Laura Heaton, past president; Hoosey Hughes, newsletter

Fort Ward: Bastion and Refuge

by Dave Cavanaugh

With the secession of Virginia in April 1861, Union troops crossed into the commonwealth to protect Washington, D.C., from attack. Union soldiers secured Arlington Heights, the city of Alexandria, rail lines and crossroads, and eventually fanned out to the area of the Episcopal Seminary, three miles from Alexandria.

The Episcopal Seminary was located between Leesburg Pike and Little River Turnpike. Its recently completed Aspinwall Hall, with a distinctive cupola that could be seen for miles, offered an ideal location for Union camps. With bloody fighting only thirteen miles west at First Manassas, hired laborers hastily built the earthworks that would become Fort Ward.

The fort was named for Commander James Harmon Ward, the first naval officer killed in the Civil War. As the war progressed, the threat of rebel attack subsided, and gradually the population of soldiers stationed at the fort was replaced by freed slaves and soldiers too sick or wounded for active duty. Fort Ward never did see action.

At the end of the war, the refugee population created a humanitarian crisis in Washington, D.C., Alexandria, and other areas of the South. To assist in handling the influx of refugees, the Union Army and later the Freedmen's Bureau helped struggling displaced families. Former slaves from many places, including Loudoun, Fauquier, and Prince William counties, had been fleeing for safety to Union forts. Although the pickings were meager, they could often find shelter, jobs, food, and clothing available there. In November 1865, Fort Ward was dismantled as a military entity, and probably former slaves took refuge in and close by the bastions. The number of African Americans in nearby Alexandria County increased sharply from 1860 to 1870. The 1860 census counted 2801 African Americans; in 1870 the population had risen to 7310 and comprised 44% of the total population.

Just as former slaves were critical to winning the war, they were also a vital resource of labor for economic recovery and reconstruction. The Episcopal Seminary, which had prior to the war completed a major building program, was

now faced with economic challenges. It began restoring buildings and reopening facilities for students. The Seminary became a primary source for jobs for former slaves.

These African Americans made their livings in a variety of ways. The great majority worked as laborers, cooks, domestic servants, field hands, and laundresses. Wallace Wanzer was a blacksmith, Jem Jackson a driver, John Butler a whitewasher and painter, and Burney McKnit a domestic servant for the Cassius F. Lee family at Menokin.



Library of Congress, LOT 4161-H. Photo taken ca.1861 -1865

After Fort Ward had been dismantled and abandoned, former slaves settled into enclaves around the Seminary near Quaker Lane and Leesburg Pike, Howard (now the Inova Alexandria Hospital area), and the former fort. The denuded land (from over cutting) provided a place for families to live and, through their resourcefulness, to survive.

The 1870 U.S. Census and subsequent property transactions give evidence of where African Americans settled and where they worked. They formed tight-knit communities, started churches, and provided opportunities for their children. As early as the late 1870s, African Americans paid for property surveys and made installment payments on land, which they occupied and later took title to. In 1898, a "colored school" was built at the fort and continued operating to 1925. Afterward it became a church, and still later a private residence.

The African Americans living at the former Fort Ward did not alter the bastions and many features of the old fort. More importantly they contributed to the restoration and continued development of the Episcopal Seminary and high school and established the Oakland Baptist Church. Other families living near the church along King Street once lived where the T. C. Williams High School campus is located today. These historic contributions comprise an immense legacy to the City of Alexandria.

The 35-acre tract of Fort Ward Park is a historical park listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The information included in the article is part of ongoing historical research at Fort Ward and the nearby area. The author would welcome additional information regarding African Americans living at or near the Fort after the Civil War.

FOAA Volunteers Live Long & Prosper!!

Big Birthdays Celebrated at the Museum This Spring



Montie Kust reads her birthday card as her daughter, Kathleen, lights 87 candles, under Joan Amico's and Anna Lynch's watchful gaze. Below, John Alderton with his chocolate cake and 82 candles. Below left, Anna Lynch cuts into her cake in celebration of her 84 productive years.



**253 YEARS OF
COLLECTIVE
WISDOM!**

HATS OFF!!!! Volunteers Busy This Spring



Since March much has been accomplished by our volunteers. Joan Amico and Marya Fitzgerald have juggled their schedules to keep the Museum open and well managed. Suzanne Schaubel and Anna Lynch have been coming in on Saturdays to welcome visitors. Even though the Museum was closed on Easter, we had record attendance over Spring Break. The four women continue to multi-task, with Joan maintaining the FOAA database and copy-editing the newsletter; Marya editing for the newsletter as well, and assisting with Adventure Lessons; Suzanne, a newly returned volunteer, who in the past assisted with summer camp, developing a TimeTraveler's activity for our young visitors; and Anna continuing her African American research (see related article in this issue) and presenting the introductory component to each Lesson.

In the laboratory, the Lab Ladies, composed of Joan Amico, Marya Fitzgerald, Cynthia Ford, Sue Gagner, Sandra Humphrey, Montie Kust, Anna Lynch, Mary Jane Nugent, and Sara Revis, continue the lengthy task of cataloguing, crossmending, and bagging glass and ceramics excavated in the 1970s from the south side of the 300 and 400 blocks of King Street.

Research volunteers Dave Cavanaugh, Tom Fulton, and

Ted Pulliam continue their work on the waterfront and the Fort Ward area.

Andrew Flora and Neil Pelletier log in meticulous hours illustrating prehistoric artifacts (Andy) and hand-painted 18th- and 19th-century designs from the Museum's collection of punch bowls and saucers.

Are There Any More Nominees?

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission, comprised of Katy Cannady, Dave Cavanaugh, Jim Clark, Ann Davin, Lillie Finklea, Tom Fulton, Don Kent, Adron Krekler, Vince LaPointe, Janice Magnuson, Kathleen Pepper (chair), Pete Petersen, and Ted Pulliam, will be busy reviewing nominations for the Ben Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award, which goes to individuals or groups who have demonstrated high commitment to the archaeology of Alexandria. Contact archaeology@alexandriava.gov if you would like to submit a nomination, but hurry, as the deadline is June 9.

Thank You, Elizabeth Field!

The new FOAA board was voted into office at the March Annual Meeting and



Elizabeth and FOAA friends at Market Square getting into the spirit for the May 9 Ghost Tour.

includes Joan Amico (VP), Dave Cavanaugh (AAC Liaison), Marya Fitzgerald (Co-president), Laura Heaton (Past President), Margarete Holubar (Co-president), Hoosey Hughes (Newsletter), Kathy Scheibelhoffer (Treasurer), Cat Sumner (Secretary). The Board wishes to thank Elizabeth Field and Betty Ward of Footsteps to the Past for donating a free and exclusive Ghost Tour of Old Town to FOAA. In addition, in the spirit of generosity, Elizabeth donated her tour fee to FOAA.



Wally Owen, pictured at far right, addresses a group of cyclists during an Alexandria Heritage Trail Bike Tour of Civil War forts and batteries.

Fort Ward's Wally Owen Receives History Award

In early May, native Alexandrian and Assistant Director of Fort Ward, Wally Owen, was presented the Joseph L. Harsh Award by the Northern Virginia

Association for History in recognition of his significant contributions to history and historic preservation.

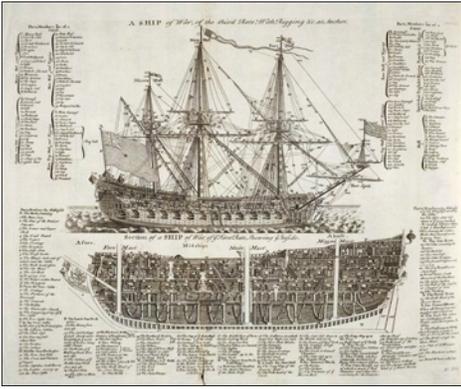


Illustration of "A Ship of War of the Third Rate" from Ephraim Chambers's 1728 Cyclopaedia, Vol. 2.

From Hardtack and Biscuits to 250-Pound Cakes

African Americans in the Baking Business in Nineteenth-Century Alexandria

by Anna Lynch

From the earliest times, the baking industry was of enormous importance to Alexandria and to African Americans employed in it. After 1745, when the House of Burgesses passed the Flour Inspection Act and wheat growing replaced tobacco in importance, the West India fleet of the Royal Navy was a major consumer of flour for hardtack and sea biscuits. With hundreds of men on the men-o-war, and each entitled to one pound of biscuits per day, this demand brought in 100,000 pounds sterling to our port city in the decades before the Revolution. Even after the Revolution, baking continued to be good business, providing bread and biscuits for sailors and land dwellers, and later, fancy confections for fancier tastes.

While researching Alexandria history, I have had the good fortune to meet two descendants of African American bakers who were active here in the mid-1800s. My first meeting was with Robert Carter Hayden, great-great-grandson of baker Robert Carter. This chance encounter at the Queen Street Library was fortuitous for both of us. Mr. Carter Hayden is a noted educator and historian who has published widely in Black History and Science. He was in town researching the background of his great-grandfather, who was the first African American pharmacist in Massachusetts. I was able to fill him in on some of his ancestors, notably Robert Carter, an Alexandria sea-biscuit baker who moved to New Bedford (Mass.) in the late 1840s. He had been told that his great-grandfather's parents were Robert Carter, a baker, and Sarah Taylor, both of Alexandria.

I was able to show Mr. Carter Hayden a physical description of Sarah Taylor Carter from the [Alexandria](#)

[County Free Negro Registers, 1797-1861](#). Sarah was about 25 years old on November 22, 1843, and was described as "a mulatto woman, 5 feet tall, with a scar on her nose caused by a cut."

I was able to discover her original manumission from Thomas Birch on a document from the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia dated November 4, 1829. It revealed that she was emancipated along with her grandmother Ailce and Ailce's daughters Fanny and Betsey and Fanny's son James and Betsey's son John Henry. Sarah's mother, Winny, a daughter of Ailce, was already deceased.

From the Alexandria and Arlington County [Minister Returns and Marriage Bonds](#), we know that Robert and Sarah Carter were married on January 25, 1834, by Isaac Robbins, minister, with Edward Evans as bondsman. Further records show that Robert Carter at 15 was bound to Peter Hewett in September 1823 to learn the trade of biscuit baker. Peter Hewett's bakery was at the corner of Union and King streets in 1834. That same year Robert Carter is described in the [Registry of Free Negroes](#) as "a bright mulatto man 5 feet 5 ¾ inches tall, with a scar on the left side of his face and another on the front of his left thigh."

Mr. Carter Hayden and I were able to make still more connections among these Alexandria bakers. He showed me a marriage certificate for Richard Carter and Sarah Armitage dated July 30, 1836, with James P. Coleman as bondsman. Later I found a second marriage for Richard H. Carter to one Susannah Dogan, on December 16, 1847. According to the [Virginia Minister Returns and Marriage Bonds](#), the bondsmen were Richard H. Carter and James E. Piper. Susannah (also referred to as Sarah Dogan) is described in the Registry of Free Negroes as 18 years old on July 29, 1847, and as "a bright mulatto 5 feet 5 inches tall with 2 very small moles on her left nostril, born free and daughter of Betsy Duval."

A most interesting coincidence is that a bondsman of Robert Carter and Richard Carter lived in the Coleman block of the Hayti neighborhood on S. Royal St. Edward Evans was a brickmaker turned baker, who in 1839 began a 40-year residency at that location. Betsy Duval lived there also, with a Govenor Dogan. Still another baker, Joseph Feirel, was manumitted by Robert Jamieson, whose bakery site on Lee Street we excavated. Feirel was also a teacher and a rebel who forged certificates of freedom for slaves of George Mason's grandson T. F. Mason. (Feirel served seven years in prison for his efforts.)

Cakes continued on page 6



POINTS OF INTEREST

FOAA Digs Pat O'Neill!

In late March, Patrick O'Neill presented a lively Java Jolt titled "The Battle of the White House," detailing how the British burned D.C. and held Alexandria hostage in the summer of 1814. Pat is a good and longtime friend of Alexandria Archaeology and past president of the Archeology Society of Virginia.



Pat O'Neill accepts a tote bag from FOAA vp Joan Amico in thanks for his illustrated Java Jolt.

Volunteer to Dig at Mount Vernon!

Volunteers are welcome to work at Mount Vernon through January 2010. Volunteers will be introduced to archaeological methods and techniques in the field and the laboratory. The project focuses on African American and plantation archaeology, landscape studies, material culture, museum studies, and public outreach. No previous archaeological experience is required. For more information, contact Curt Breckenridge 703.799.6303, cbreckenridge@mountvernon.org.

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My second chance meeting was with Mrs. Carolyn French, at the Local History Library, then located at Lloyd House (and now at the Queen Street Library). Mrs. French's mother was the late Dorothy Waring Howard, a pioneer in child care honored in 1994 by the Greater Washington Urban League for opening the first District nursery school for black children. At a meeting of the Friends of the Library, I was sharing my research on the Moses Hepburn properties; afterward Mrs. French introduced herself to me as a direct descendant of Moses Hepburn.



19th-century advertisement for the Jamieson Steam Bakery.

Moses, a successful Alexandria businessman, civic leader, and founder of Davis chapel, was the son of Quaker merchant William Hepburn and Esther, an African-American woman. Moses' half brother John Hepburn (a son of William Hepburn and a free African American woman named Doll Bell) was a nineteenth-century confectioner who brought cake baking for elite tastes to new heights.

In 1822 John Hepburn opened a store four doors down from Washington St., which he called the Elysium. In an advertisement in the Alexandria Herald of May 13, 1822, he informed the public that his confectionery would "be handsomely illuminated by 200 different lights" and decorated with ten superb portraits, taken from nature by a first-rate artist. He had private rooms for the ladies, "where they can be furnished with ice creams and other refreshments." In 1833 he advertised a Grand Union Cake weighing 250 pounds! It was made of the "rarest and most precious materials and decorated with a coat of arms of the 24 States of the Union." It was ready for "exhibition and excarnification" at 50 cents a pound. By now his store had been enlarged, and "to feast the eye as well as the appetite," he was going to display a "Representation of the South view of the City of Grand Cairo and the Pyramids."

In 1835, finding Alexandria too confining for his entrepreneurial and marketing ambitions, John Hepburn migrated to Haiti, where he opened a hotel and confectionery and moved in the upper circles of Haitian society. By 1852 he was entertaining consuls, counts, and barons and giving balls and concerts at his hotel, the Metropolitan. In 1849 Faustin-Elie Soulouque, who had proclaimed himself Emperor of Haiti, created a new peerage, giving John Hepburn the title Count of Lemonade. (Titles were created from the names of plantations previously owned by the French.) Sadly, Hepburn died in a fire at Port-au-Prince in 1875 when, after leading his children to safety, he returned to save some of his stock and was trapped in the flames.

As these stories illustrate, the baking business opened grand opportunities for freed African Americans in Alexandria. From producing hardtack sea biscuits to elegant treats for the well-to-do, African-American bakers shaped thriving family businesses and successful lives out of their own talents, hard work, and persistence, in the years before the Civil War.

Scholars: For more information about the documents and other resources supporting this article by Anna Lynch, please contact the Museum at 703.838.4399 or archaeology@alexandriava.

CITY HISTORIAN HONORED



T. Michael (Mike) Miller was honored for his many years of service to the City of Alexandria at a May 15 ceremony at the Lloyd House. Pictured above are, from left, Jean Federico, former director of the Office of Historic Alexandria; Audrey Davis, Assistant Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum; Mike Miller; Jim Mackay, director of The Lyceum; Pam Cressey, City Archaeologist; and Lance Mallamo, director of the Office of Historic Alexandria. Mike received a series of accolades, including a reproduction of an 18th-century punch bowl, inscribed around the base with all the names of groups and institutions he has enlightened with his historical research, and a certificate from the Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery for his "indispensable research" and "his tremendous ability and desire to uncover the past." Thank you, Mike -- you truly will be missed!

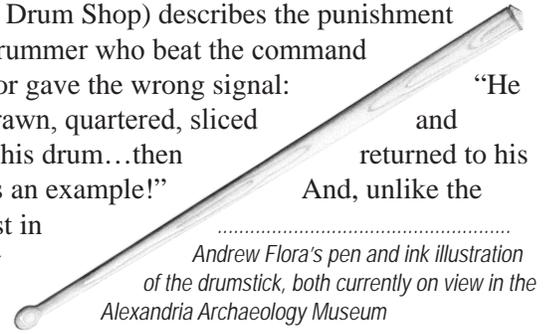
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Drumstick continued from page 1

In that movie, Meg Ryan (portraying a doctor) clearly had developed a romantic curiosity about Nicholas Cage's character, an angel. In this scene at the park with her dog and Nicholas, she asks pointblank: "So just who are you? Are you married? Are you homeless?" And finally in desperate frustration to his noncommittal answers, she asks, "Are you a DRUMMER?"

Here I defer to Mickey Hart, renowned drummer of the "Grateful Dead" and his book *Drumming at the Edge of Magic* --- wherein he gives perspective to all things within the Universe: "In the beginning, there was noise. And eventually the noise began to wrap around itself forming cycles. And the cycles begat rhythms, which are the foundations of all life as we know it." Rhythm is as basic as it gets. Military / field drummers might describe their trade as "organized rhythm."

As field drummers (upon the field of battle) they were charged with signaling / relaying the orders of the unit commander to troops within the chaos and clamor of engagement. In fact, one source (available at the General

Washington Drum Shop) describes the punishment for a field drummer who beat the command incorrectly or gave the wrong signal: "He was to be drawn, quartered, sliced and stuffed into his drum... then returned to his instructor as an example!" And, unlike the percussionist in a symphony orchestra, who must produce the softest roll upon the drum as though a "piece of tissue being ripped," the field drummer knows only three levels of dynamic: loud, Louder and LOUDEST!



.....
Andrew Flora's pen and ink illustration of the drumstick, both currently on view in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum

Years ago, military field drummers often were referred to as "sheepskin fiddlers" --- in deference to the sheepskin / calfskin and gut snares that formed the vibrating / tonal components of their instrument. Like the old violin with gut strings, stroked with horsehair bow, the drum needs an appropriate tool to awaken the sounds from within its bowels.

A drumstick of the proper weight and feel is treasured by all drummers... though sometimes elusive. Myself, I prefer heavy old sticks that may (or may not) be straight and exactly matched. For some reason most old military drumsticks tend to be no more than 16 to 17 inches in length, and seldom had any identifying marks or clear means of establishing a date of manufacture or use. And even many sticks in museums are suspect without some clear record of "provenance" (my new term for "provenance")... since there were no such clear markings. Thus, the importance of this wonderful old stick recovered from that old City of Alexandria privy and dated by its surroundings, including a loaded flintlock musket.

Of course this suggests a question: How and why did it get into the privy? Why was it not retrieved at the time when lost? Surely this is the meat of a future PhD thesis, but at the moment I am anxious to add that forgetting the historical "provenance" --- this drumstick just has a great feel! In either hand, right or left... it just feels "good." It feels like it is ready to go to work. And at 17.5 inches long with a distinctive "bell" turned on the butt (large diameter) end of the stick, it is unique. Also, it is unusual because of its incorporating a minor reversed taper on the butt end (at the grip), thereby pushing more of the mass forward to the bead or working end of the stick.

Remember: "A drumstick is a drumstick is a drumstick --- unless it has provenance!"

ORAL HISTORY UPDATE:

Fort Ward Memories

by Jen Hembree, Oral History Coordinator

Alexandria Legacies is currently interviewing former residents of the Fort Ward neighborhood, an African American community established there after the Civil War and prior to the Fort's formation as a historical and recreational park. Volunteers Adrienne Washington and Dave Cavanaugh have recently interviewed both Sergeant Lee Thomas Young and Mr. William Jackson as part of this project. Both of these transcripts are in progress by Alexandria Legacies transcriber volunteers.

Sgt. Young was previously interviewed by Patricia Knock in 1996 (excerpts below) about living at "the fort" during the 1950s, its landscape at that time, and his neighbors there.



A recent photograph of Sergeant Lee Thomas Young

His Fort Ward home, originally a church (and now gone), was adjacent to one of the family graveyards that are still there.

He was one of the last people moved from the Fort Ward area to new housing in order to make way for the park.

Interviewer: And the people here [at the Fort], some of them worked for the Seminary, I know.

Sgt. Young: Yes, most of them worked for the Seminary and the rest worked on the base.

Interviewer: At Belvoir?

Sgt. Young: At Fort Belvoir and different places.

Interviewer: So the military employed some...that would be in the 50s, that there were quite a few military people here?

Sgt. Young: Not a lot of military, but a lot of government people—people who worked for the government.

Interviewer: Did people have gardens?

Sgt. Young: Oh yes, I had a big garden...

Interviewer: ... So you never dug up any old good stuff when you were doing your garden?

Sgt. Young: I could have and didn't pay it no mind, I was so anxious to get the garden dug up. Being military and wasn't thinking about the Fort, you know, at that time, that much.

Interviewer: Well, that's an interesting question then. By the 1950s, people weren't really thinking about the fact that this had been a fort.

Sgt. Young: No, they wasn't—just trying to make a living.



ca. 1951 Alexandria Gazette staff. Left to right: Hildegarde Herfurth, reporter, City Hall, etc.; Eddie Crane, sports editor; Phil Warren, reporter, general and radio newscaster; Jack Tulloch (seated), managing editor; Dave Payne, reporter and radio newscaster; Ray Hatcher, city editor. Photo courtesy of Hildegarde Herfurth.

An Alexandria Journalist Reflects

by Jen Hembree

In April, I interviewed Hildegarde Herfurth, who grew up in Alexandria on Roth Street, off Duke Street. There, situated near the entrance to the Fruit Growers' Express Company property, her mother also established a small restaurant and general store, serving the "Blue Plate Special" for twenty-five cents to many of the Fruit Growers' Express employees.

Ms. Herfurth became a journalist after graduating in 1946 from college. She initially worked for the *Portsmouth Star*, then for five years at the *Alexandria Gazette*, covering City Hall and the police department, and later traveled the world as an international correspondent for the Red Cross and reporting on such major events as the Hungarian Revolution.

With the future of newspaper print in doubt, especially for many small local newspapers, as well as iconic newspapers such as the *Boston Globe*, we've asked Ms. Herfurth to comment on the importance of newspapers today. Her thoughts are summarized below.

Newspapers are the watchdog for the public...[in regard to] our elected -- or appointed -- officials.

Newspaper journalists are able to investigate and explain the advantages and the disadvantages [of the policies, etc., proposed by the elected or appointed officials].

Investigative reporting can right what was wrong, Herfurth reminds us, and asks who would have unearthed the Watergate scandal, for instance -- and there are countless other examples -- if not for the free press.

...Aside from the fact that there is no better joy than waking up to a fresh pot of coffee -- and a newspaper!

A Farewell to the Collections Team

by Barbara Magid

It is time to bid a fond farewell to the Collections Team. Sara Belkin, Laura Dawson, and Katie Reid have nearly completed the monumental task of inventorying our entire collection of 3,035 boxes in the Alexandria Archaeology Storage Facility. The team has been working in the storeroom on Payne Street since September. Because of their remote location, 1.5 miles from the Museum, they did not have much opportunity to interact with the rest of the staff and volunteers. All three are GWU students and first worked as interns in the fall. The project was so successful that all three were hired to continue the inventory through the spring and also to keep the Museum open on the occasional Sunday.

The project involved checking each box against a 1991 inventory, updating the location of the box and other information in a new database, and recording the catalogue numbers of the artifacts located in each box. This enables the location of individual artifacts to be tracked. The final task was to print new box labels with the updated inventory information and insert them in sleeves on the outside of the boxes.

The project is ending in May so that the team can go on to new things. Sara and Katie are receiving their undergraduate degrees in Anthropology from GWU and going on to graduate school. Sara will study at Boston University for a PhD in Archaeology. She will probably dig in Israel at a Middle Bronze Age site this summer, before moving to Boston. Katie will begin a graduate program in Museum Studies. She has been accepted into an excellent program in England, but is waiting to hear from other schools before making her selection. Laura will graduate in December with a master's degree in Museum Studies from GWU. This summer, she will intern for the National Park Service, in the collections division of Rock Creek Park.

We wish Sara, Katie, and Laura well in their future endeavors and thank them for all their great work with Alexandria Archaeology.

Continuing Adventures at the Museum

Hello, all! My name is Suzanne Schaubel and I am a returning volunteer at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. My relationship with the Museum and the fabulous folks who run it first began with a school internship in 1998. Since then, as I went from grad school in the UK to gainful employment in Virginia, I have participated in a few summer schools and digs as time allowed. This year, I am volunteering on Saturdays and am loving every minute of it! I have a growing pile of ideas for educational lessons and hands-on activities for visitors, which includes the recently completed History Scavenger Hunt for the Time Traveler's Program. I am excited about being back and look forward to whatever may come this summer. Hope to see you all at the Museum!



Zark's Kids' Corner

Come meet Zark!

Visit Alexandria Archaeology to meet our mascot, Zark! What is he? Is he a dinosaur?

New in the Museum!

Have fun with our new TimeTraveler's History Scavenger Hunt. Bring your parents and friends and search our Museum for artifacts that give you a glimpse into Alexandria's past. For more information on the TimeTraveler's Program, please go to www.timetravelers.org.

Fun Fact!

Did you know that scientists have discovered that "Hobbits" really existed? Bones of miniature humans were found in a cave on Flores, an island east of Bali. These humans measured approximately 3.3 feet tall and weighed around 25 pounds. That is the size of a 3-year-old child! They lived about 13,000 years ago and while they didn't look exactly like modern-day humans, they were definitely part of our family. For more information, you can check out National Geographic's website at www.nationalgeographic.com.

CHRISTOPHER SHEPHARD and the *NEXT* GENERATION of ARCHAEOLOGISTS

by His Daddy

Hearty congratulations are in order for Christopher Shephard! Having completed his Master's degree in Archaeology at the College of William and Mary last October, he is continuing his career most successfully by entering into the Ph.D. program at William and Mary.

Chris started his experience in archaeology at least eighteen years ago when he began volunteering with Alexandria Archaeology at the age of ten. The sites he helped excavate include the Lloyd House, the Coleman site, the Moore-McLean Sugar House site, the Quaker Burying Ground, Jones Point Native American site, and the Shuter's Hill site.

In 2002, Chris served as a site supervisor at Shuter's Hill with the George Washington Field Session in Historical and Public Archaeology.

Chris also started working as a contract archaeologist with Thunderbird Archaeology in 2002 and continued with this firm when it became a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., in 2004.

As a contract archaeologist, he worked on three sites in Alexandria: 206 N. Quaker Lane (a Union camp with a Crimean Oven), 1400 Janney's Lane (also a Union camp), and 1504 King St. (where a brick well shaft was uncovered as Chris was monitoring).

He is now working for Geo-Marine, Inc., on the King William County Reservoir Project. This is a project covering more than 3000 acres, which will continue for many years. The initial testing of the acreage has identified numerous mostly prehistoric-period sites.

Chris's area of research is Native American cultures of the Tidewater just before European contact. His Master's thesis was a study of palisaded sites, in particular the meaning of the palisades beyond defense (they also provided divisions between public and sacred areas). He is working closely with Dr. Martin Gallivan at William and Mary, collaborating on research into the Native American cultures of the Tidewater region.



*Christopher Shephard, age 5,
at the Alexandria Canal Tide
Lock Site.*

Since 2005 Chris has been married to Lauren Greenwell, a CPA working in Richmond. They live in a cozy new house in the quaint little town of West Point, Virginia, where the Pamunkey and Mattaponi rivers converge to form the York River. They find that small town life agrees with them very much. They enjoy sitting out on their front porch overlooking the Mattaponi and have become kayaking enthusiasts.

All of us here are very happy about Chris's pursuit of a career in archaeology. We are proud of how well he has done in getting experience in field work, directing field crews, writing reports, excelling in his academic studies and carrying on the tradition of these old Alexandria Archaeology staff archaeologists into the next generation.

!!!! Congratulations to Alexi Shephard !!!!

We want to send warm congratulations to Chris's sister, Alexandra Shephard, who has just been accepted to graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University. Alexi currently works for the Fairfax County Office on Children. As she pursues a Master's in Social Work, she has our proud support for going into a career dedicated to serving the needs of others. Way to go, Alexi!

A Good Word for Our Oral History Volunteers

We're especially proud of those volunteers who have recently completed interviews or transcripts: Jo Short, Dave Cavanaugh, Adrienne Washington, Laura Little, Susan McGrath, Karen Kimball, Steve Carfora, Elizabeth Drembus, Karen Harris. Oral History Project volunteers Bobbie Cook, Susan McGrath, and Jo Short have been busy recording and transcribing interviews with local residents, many of which have been posted at <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/oha-main/oha-legacieshome.html>

Join the Friends of Local History

The Friends of Local History invite you to attend the organization's annual meeting. This year Northern Virginia's first Reform congregation, Congregation Beth El, celebrates its 150th anniversary. Come learn about its evolution from the 1859 Old Town synagogue, its social and cultural contributions to Alexandria's history, and its growing archives collection.

Rose Dawson, Director of the Alexandria Library System, will bring us up-to-date on library activities and the current financial situation. And making its debut at the meeting will be a "sweet" surprise from Alexandria's 19th-century culinary past. A reception will follow.

Mission continued from page 1

During a series of public meetings over the past few months, Alexandria's citizens expressed a strong interest in seeing an expansion of the mission of Fort Ward to include a layered-history approach that interprets the full spectrum of activities associated with the park's past. This means that the Native American site and the lives of the African Americans who settled on this property after the Civil War, probably as early as the 1870s, will become integrated into the Fort Ward story. Descendants of many of the African American families still live in Alexandria today; some remember having to move for the creation of Fort Ward Park, and this too needs to be a part of the story that is told.

Alexandria Archaeology began studying the African American community in conjunction with excavations in the barracks area of the fort, conducted in 1991 to celebrate thirty years of archaeology in the City. With the help of volunteer Pat Knock, our files became filled with documents relating to the post-Civil War history of the neighborhood known as "The Fort." Deed research provided names of individuals and families who gained title to the land beginning in the 1880s—including the Jacksons, Shorts, Cravens, Millers, Javins, McNights, Ashbys, Terrells, and Johnsons. We learned that Burr and Harriett Shorts gave two acres of their ten-acre property to their daughter, Clara Adams, and her husband, Robert, in 1898. Aunt Clara, as she was known by many members of the community, was an educator and immediately deeded a quarter acre to the Falls Church District of Fairfax County for use as an African American school. The schoolhouse later served as an Episcopal church and then a residence.

The Fort Ward property contains not only the remnants of the lives of the past, but also sacred ground where the community members buried their loved ones. Access to the Oakland Baptist Cemetery is maintained through the park, and there are several gravestones nearby on park property that may be associated with the Episcopal congregation. The graves of Clara and Robert Adams are situated within what has served until recently as the primary maintenance yard for the City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities.

During an oral history interview on the site in March of this year, Sgt. Lee Thomas Young and his daughter, Judy, who lived in the schoolhouse/church turned residence into

the 1960s, stated that there were other burials within the maintenance yard. A careful examination of historical documents has also led to information on the location of the Jackson family cemetery and another possible family burial ground.

The Fort Ward project is just beginning. Working in cooperation with members of the community and with the Fort Ward staff, our goals are to identify the historical and archaeological resources within the park so that they can be protected and interpreted. A first step has been the preparation of an overlay map using the City's Geographical Information System to show where some of the known and potential sites are located: the American Indian site, the Civil War fort, battery, rifle trenches, barracks, officers' quarters, mess house, and possible privy location; gullies that could contain trash deposits from the various periods of occupation; houses, outbuildings, and wells that were part of the African American neighborhood; and particularly, burials and cemeteries that should be afforded the special protection and dignity they deserve.



Sgt. Young's home, which had previously served as both a church and a schoolhouse. Courtesy: Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site.

Many volunteers have already begun to contribute time and energy to help us with this challenging and intriguing task. Dave Cavanaugh and Tom Fulton have spent countless hours poring over historical documents that augment the research conducted in the 1990s.

Dave has also worked with Adrienne Washington (whose great-great aunt was Clara Adams) and staff member Jen Hembree to set up and conduct oral-history interviews with members of the descendant community so that memories of life at "The Fort" can be preserved. Adrienne has been kind enough to provide us with photographs of her family and friends that give us literal snapshots of the neighborhood; she has indicated that she plans to continue to work to delve into her family's history and share their story as it reflects on our City's past. Alexandria Archaeology has also hired Doug Appler, a PhD candidate from Cornell University, as a summer intern, who will help us bring together some of the historical research that has been collected over the years. And finally, City Council has set aside funds for an archaeological investigation on Fort Ward so that we can gain insight into the full range of past activities on the property and identify the locations that need to be protected and interpreted.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat., June 6 - Field Orientation 10 a.m.- noon. Required for all new field volunteers. Participants must be at least 16 years old. Free, but reservations required. Contact Alexandria Archaeology for details. 703.838.4399 or archaeology@alexandriava.gov

Sun., June 7 - Gadsby's Tavern Family Tour Day from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors on Family Tour Day will experience the historic tavern through our new Junior Docent tours! Junior Docents, volunteers from grades 2 through 5, will be stationed at each stop on the tour, including the tap room, bed chambers, ballroom, assembly room, and dining room, so visitors can tour at their own pace while their kids discover Alexandria's history from other kids! Sponsored by Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street. 703.838.4242. Fee \$4 adults and \$2 kids (11 to 17).

June 22-26 - Civil War Kids' Camp from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 8 to 12. Campers will be immersed in the lives of soldiers and civilians. \$250 fee includes snacks, kepi, equipment and craft supplies. Sponsored by Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. 703.838.4848.

Fri., June 26 - Special Workshop for Public School Teachers - "Cactus Hill & Werowocomoco: Everything You Ever Needed to Know," from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria. Sponsored by the Office of Historic Alexandria and Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS).

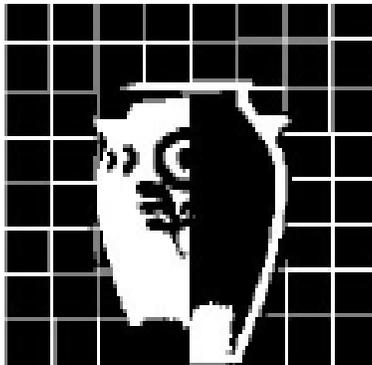
All Virginia public school teachers are encouraged to attend, as the new USI and Virginia Studies Standards of Learning now consider

the prehistoric sites of Cactus Hill and [Werowocomoco](#) essential knowledge for students. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for teachers to hear from archaeologists who have explored these sites and determined their importance. Fairfax County archaeologist Michael Johnson and Dr. Martin Gallivan will discuss the significance of these sites in context of the SOLs but will also explain why they are major discoveries for historians and archaeologists around the world.

The end-of-year workshop is an exciting and convenient way for all teachers to learn first-hand about these discoveries. All are welcome, but space is limited so 4th and 6th grade teachers will receive preference. Alexandria teachers will receive recertification points and should sign up on [ERO](#). Fairfax and Arlington teachers will receive certification of attendance and should RSVP to ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov.

Wed., August 19 - Lyceum Curator Camp from 9 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. for ages 11 to 14. Learn about museums from the inside out! Touch real artifacts, meet the people who make the museum work and create your very own exhibit. \$75 fee includes snacks, souvenirs, and your own exhibit catalog. Advance registration required. Campers should bring bagged lunch and wear closed-toed shoes. To register, download the application forms at www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703.838.4994. Sponsored by The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria

Sat., Sept. 12 - Art Activated at the Torpedo Factory Art Center from noon to 4 p.m. Visual art comes alive with demonstrations and interactivity! Enjoy hands-on family fun in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Free! 105 North Union Street. 703.838.4399



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

