

Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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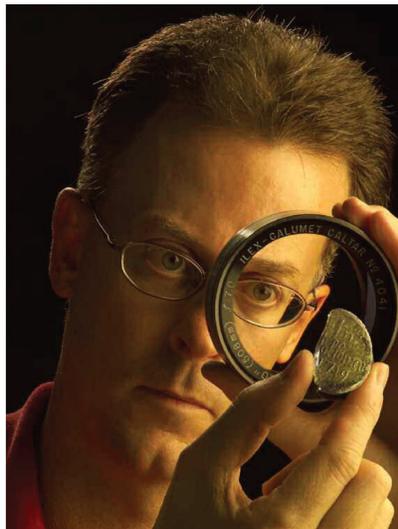
SUMMER/FALL 2011



1961 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALEXANDRIA 2011

"For those of us who value the past, Alexandria Archaeology has become the model on which to compare all other programs. With its innovative outreach programs, it truly puts the 'public' in public archaeology."

*Michael B. Barber, Ph.D.,
RPA, State Archaeologist*



Garrett Fesler

Museum Welcomes Garrett Fesler & Paul Nasca to Its Professional Staff

Our new City Archaeologist, Dr. Garrett Fesler, has worked for 24 years as an archaeologist in the Chesapeake region. He received his master's degree in American history at the College of William and Mary in 1991 and his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Virginia in 2004.

Garrett's expertise focuses on African American culture, plantations, and farmsteads, with an interest in topics such as gender, ethnicity, landscape, households, family development, and culture change.

He has actively contributed to several long-term research projects, including Jamestown Rediscovery, Jamestown 2007, and the Digital Archaeological Archive of

Comparative Slavery. Garrett taught courses in cultural resource management and African Diaspora archaeology as an adjunct in the Anthropology Department at the College of William and Mary from 2006 to 2010.

Paul Nasca joined the staff as Collections Manager at Alexandria Archaeology on July 9, 2011, bringing with him more than two decades of public archaeology experience. In those years, Paul worked with such museum organizations as the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Old Fort Niagara Association, and most recently, the George Washington Foundation (GWF). It was during his tenure with the GWF that Paul was responsible for supervising the large-scale excavations at Ferry Farm, the boyhood home of George Washington.

In addition to his expertise as a field archeologist, Paul is equally skilled in the area of laboratory methods, particularly artifact conservation. Paul has participated in research excavations in Virginia, New York, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, and the Dutch West Indies.

His primary research interests are Chesapeake archaeology, landscape studies, the archaeology of military sites, and the effects of military conflict on civilian populations.

See New Staff, page 9



Paul and a group of 4th graders from Maret School review recently excavated artifacts from the Shuter's Hill site.

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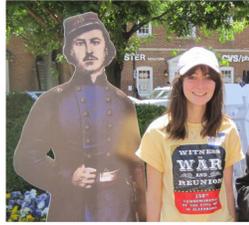
Calendar of Events, back cover

Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: FOAA in Focus...



Above: Margarete Holubar and Kathy Scheibelhoffer explain the Crimean Oven diorama to two re-enactors during the May 21 Civil War Sesquicentennial Kickoff event at Market Square. Right: Mary Jane Nugent and Andy Flora join Kathy at the FOAA booth. Above right: Rebecca Leshner with cut-out of Col. Ellsworth.

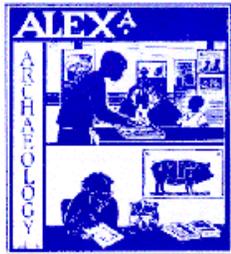
FOAA members, Commission members, and staff participated in the City's Civil War Sesquicentennial Kickoff event at Market Square on May 21. The event, sponsored by the Office of Historic Alexandria, was an enormous success and attracted thousands of visitors. FOAA's booth featured a diorama of a Crimean Oven based on evidence from an archaeological investigation conducted near Quaker Lane and



Duke Street. Also on display was the Death of Ellsworth "Peeps" diorama. Both are currently on exhibit in the Museum. Many thanks to high school intern Rebecca Leshner for designing the event program, helping construct the oven diorama, and helping at the FOAA booth.



BE SURE TO VISIT THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK



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

2011-2012 FOAA Board of Directors

Marya Fitzgerald, president; Margarete Holubar, vice-president; Katie Wagenblass, treasurer; Jane Morris, secretary; Mary Jane Nugent, AAC representative; Joan Amico, Laura Heaton, Hoosey Hughes, Dave Cavanaugh, Liz Kelley, Kathy Scheibelhoffer, and Cat Sumner, members of the Board

Veterans Curation Program

The Veterans Curation Program (VCP) in Alexandria is part of a groundbreaking endeavor to employ and train Iraq and Afghanistan returnees in archaeological curation processing under the management of the Corps of Engineers and John Milner Associates, Inc. The VCP provides veterans with an opportunity to receive competitive pay while providing on-the-job vocational and technical training in a peer-to-peer veterans' environment. The VCP is committed to lowering the veteran unemployment rate, which is at 28.3% for male veterans between the ages of 18 through 24. Of the 83 veterans who have been through the program since 2009, 74% have been placed in a job or have chosen to continue in higher education. If interested in applying for a job or learning more about the program, please contact Beatrix Arendt at barendt@johnmilnerassociates.com. For more information please visit <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransCurationProject>

New Old Shoes

Valentine (Val) Povinelli, Journeyman Shoemaker of Colonial Williamsburg, recently mailed us copies of his drawings based on our collection

of 19th-century leather shoes. He visited the Alexandria Archaeology Museum a couple of times and created the illustrations with the goal of reproducing the shoes in his shop in Williamsburg. The shoes will be worn by the Colonial Williamsburg interpreters.



Included in the mailing was a piece of leather with an impression of a closing stamp that pressed

together the leather and covered a nail hole. Val designed a die stamp, pictured above, to match the imprint discovered on the sole of a shoe from AX 92, the north side of the 500 block of King Street, excavated in 1968-69 during urban renewal.

Thanks to Val, we have a better understanding of our shoe collection and can take pride in knowing our shoes have helped cobble the soles of many a Colonial interpreter.



Volunteers at Alexandria Archaeology have been a busy bunch these past four months, logging in more than 1,680 hours! They have been toiling in the field, excavating the Shuter's Hill site, poring over manuscripts, transcribing, illustrating artifacts from the City's collection, interviewing, instructing schoolchildren, and meeting and greeting visitors at the Museum and during special events. They have worked from the Civil War Sesquicentennial Kickoff at Market Square to the Sunday Waterfront Fun Days on the boardwalk behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

Excavation: Andrew Kim, Ekaterina Shakhova, Lisa Brutenbatch, Anne Hardy, Laura Brownsberger, Zoie Vil-lagomez, Andy Flora, Laura Heaton, Caitlin Bousquet, Katie Barca, John Fair, Cheryl Klopfenstein, Stephanie Layton-Kim, Maria Abarca, Jessica Ball, Jane Cerza, David Whitmire, Elizabeth Narrigan, Jared Prestenbach, Andrew Neff, Chris Outlaw, Shanna Roth, Meredith Delaware, Rebeka Goufe, Carolyn Haywood, Douglas Hirth, Doreen Jagodnik, Ashley Koen, Beth Krynicki, Gretchen Martin, Andrea Oaxaca, Kelly Skalsky, Julie Watko, Suzanne Schaubel.

Research: John Gentry, Carolyn Attar, Jill Grinsted, Anna Lynch, Janice Magnuson, Mary Jane Nugent, Elizabeth Drembus, Catherine Cartwright, Suzanne Schaubel, John Fuller.

Museum: Joan Amico, Marya Fitzgerald, Margarete Holubar, Anna Lynch, Catherine Cartwright, Alexandra Martinez.

Education: Marya Fitzgerald, Hoosey Hughes, Anna Lynch, Suzanne Schaubel.

Public Events: Margarete Holubar, Janice Magnuson, Mary Jane Nugent, Lauren McCracken, Anna Milligan, Becca Leshner, Cat Sumner, Rick Bromberg.

Illustration: Andy Flora, Jeane Stetson.

Administration: Jonathan Ross, Mark Barker.

Oral History: Joaille Araujo, Stacy Bowe, Kelley Kerrins, Laura Little, Molly Kerr, Elizabeth Kelley, Katie Wagen-blass, Sandy Hoch, Emily Hill.

Newsletter: Hoosey Hughes, Joan Amico, Marya Fitzgerald, Courtney Chapman, and Liz McDaniel

FOAA Membership: Joan Amico and Jeanne Springmann.

ORAL HISTORY UPDATE: LIVING LEGENDS

by Jen Hembree, Oral History Coordinator

This year Alexandria Legacies and Living Legends have joined forces in a collaborative effort to record oral histories of Living Legends nominees. [Living Legends](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 2007 that identifies, honors, and chronicles the living legends of Alexandria, VA. Honorees have included several Historic Alexandria volunteers and staff, along with other prominent members of the community. Below are excerpts from interviews with several of the 2011 Living Legends about their early Alexandria memories.

Henry Brooks



His life story began with childhood in the diverse neighborhoods of 1950s Manhattan, early achievement in engineering at the City College of New York, a finance degree at Columbia University, and experiences as a ROTC cadet and subsequently while serving in the US Army. After settling permanently in Alexandria during the 1970s,

Mr. Brooks's career included positions within the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), the Federal Energy Administration, and the Small Business Administration. There is scarcely a volunteer position that he has not undertaken, and his community service record is inspiring. Mr. Brooks has held leadership roles on the Sister City Committee, Virginia School Boards Association, the Bienvenidos and Healthy Families programs, the Campagna Center, Boy Scouts of America, and ROTC.

Flags

The first time [I came to Alexandria] was in the spring of [19]57 as a cadet in the ROTC and we did a visit of Fort Belvoir to the engineer research and development labs.... I remember going through here – we went down by bus. And it was really interesting going down Washington Street because it was mid-January 1957 and there was a flag on every flagpole on Washington Street, but it wasn't a U.S. flag. It was the stars and bars. It was the weekend of Robert E. Lee's birthday. We were amazed and speechless – we had never seen a flag flying from a flagpole that wasn't the United States flag at that time.

Old Town

When I...arrived [to look for housing], the houses on the 700 and 800 blocks of South Fairfax Street had dirt floors - in 1966 - I was looking for houses here. Mrs. Garber, who was a Delaney (Delaney Realty, up there on the corner of North Washington and Cameron streets), she'd take me to all these houses; and Old Town only extended as far as Wolfe Street in the southeast quadrant. Where you're standing right now was a mobile transport area. There was a big oil tank like that one behind you, right here....

Alexandria has come long way....When I came here the only place you could eat, get a decent meal, was in the District of Columbia. [Here] you had the Seaport Inn and you had the Snack Bar on lower King Street and everything else was abandoned....And that was the spring of 1966....There were so many abandoned buildings on King Street....When we came, they were doing urban renewal and they knocked down a lot of interesting places that in hindsight we should have kept, but they thought they were doing the right thing. So, we have a lot of mid-twentieth-century uninteresting buildings on King Street now, but that maybe 100 years from now, people will think are architecturally significant [chuckles].

Lynnwood Campbell, Jr.



Lynnwood Campbell was born in Alexandria in 1947. During his life, Lynnwood has accrued many civil rights "firsts": he was the first minority student in St. Mary's elementary school, the first black cashier at a local grocery store, and even the first black speaker at a national accounting conference.

An accountant by training, Mr. Campbell was born with an unquestionable devotion to community, which is evidenced by his tenure with the Urban League, the NAACP, the Human Rights Commission, and the Alexandria School Board. He successfully campaigned to increase early-childhood development in Alexandria schools and raised academic requirements for athletes – a debate that drew national attention!

Flags

What would you say are some of your fond memories of Alexandria?

The GW [George Washington's Birthday] parade. There used to be only one [parade]. No, there was a Christmas parade, there was always a big Christmas parade. King Street used to be decorated. They used to put the Confederate flags up, I didn't understand what they meant at the time, but they finally stopped doing that.

Alexandria School Experiences

I grew up on North Alfred Street. On one side of the street there was a city councilman, a white city councilman. There were white families, [there were] black families. On Princess Street, there were the white projects; on Oronoco Street, the families that were half black, half white. And so, I grew up in a mixed neighborhood. It was somewhat strange when you looked at television, blacks and whites would fight, and every day I'm playing with people who were black and white and ... (we all went to separate schools) at the time, I thought nothing of it.

When I was going to St. Joseph's -- that was the elementary school for the first and seventh grade ([it] initially went through the first to the eighth grade). When they decided to end the eighth grade for financial reasons, I asked a question, "Well, I guess that means we all go to St. Mary's?" No, it didn't. [Chuckling] The nuns called the priest, told the priest I was asking these questions about the white school on the south side of town. I had to talk to the priest and he said, "Why are you asking about St. Mary's?" I said, "Aren't they Catholics just like we are? Don't we all read the same stuff?" He said, "I don't know." That was unusual, because growing up in the Catholic school, you assume the priest knows everything about everything. That's the way it came across. That's the way it still comes across. So, the priest came to the house, and told my father that I was asking the questions about St. Mary's, and my father was very blunt. "Well, why the hell can't he go?"

The priest came back and he said, "They said you haven't filled out an application." So we filled out the application. Few days later he came back and said what the uniform was, what it cost, when school started.

We immediately tell other families at St. Joseph's... They were told, "School's full."

So, they accepted me and no one else. It was kind of strange. After the first week, I wanted to leave. I would walk down the hall, people would turn around and look at me like, "That's an alien." [Chuckling] The doors

were solid, but there was a little window in the classroom door. I would see kids jumping up trying to look in the window like I was the Sputnik. After a week they kind of stopped, but for a while, some sang songs like "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want to integrate." Yeah, and then they would say, song changed, "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want to integrate, except for Lynwood, he's o.k." [Chuckling]

First Job

One of the things that I did at my first job, other than my grandmother's, I was the first black cashier at a major grocery store. It was called the A&P. It was on Duke Street... We always went to the A&P. And I was in college, and my grandmother asked [of the manager] -- She said, "Black people spend a lot of money in here. Every Saturday, this place is full of black people, and you don't have anybody black working here. I want my grandson to have a job." And he just said, "Fill out the application." And he gave me a job and he said, "And I don't want any trouble." I go, "Yeah, okay." So, I was the first black cashier. Later, there was Betty Carter. Betty Carter was the fastest checker. Everybody in town knew it. My goal was to "out check" Betty. ... I did... I could ring the numbers without looking at the keyboard. I memorized the prices, so I would talk to the customers and ring up the groceries and sometimes they would say, "You're not looking." And I was like, "Let's check the tape." [Chuckling] So, in the summertime when I was not going to college, I went to all the other A&Ps to teach people how to be cashiers.

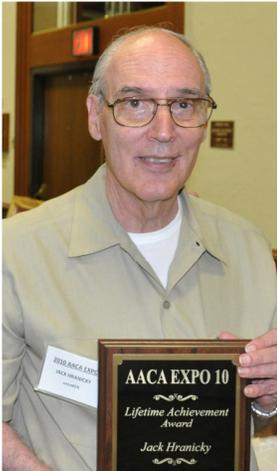
>>>>>>WANTED<<<<<<<<<

Your Memories of the Alexandria Waterfront

Did something from long ago or even recently change your life at the Alexandria waterfront? Love at first sight? Witness something shocking? Have an experience boating that you will never forget? Observe something of incredible beauty? Alexandria Legacies, the City of Alexandria's Oral History Program, seeks your memories of the Alexandria Waterfront and the Potomac River. If you would like to share your memories with us, please contact *Alexandria Legacies* volunteer Eleanor Criswell at: waterfrontmemories@drcriswell.com, or call Jen Hembree at Alexandria Archaeology, 703.746.4399, ext. 4731.



Jack Hranicky Gets to the Bipoint



Jack Hranicky with his 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Authentic Artifact Collectors Association

To kick off Virginia Archaeology Month, FOAA sponsored a Java Jolt in the Museum on Saturday, October 1. The featured speaker, former Alexandria Archaeological Commission Chair Jack Hranicky, discussed the generalized history of the worldwide bipoint technology. Included in his discussion was the discovery of the Cinmar bipoint that places Virginia in the Before Clovis era at a 25,000-year date. The Virginia Norfolk bipoint was shown and argued as being Solutrean. FOAA Vice President Margarete Holubar presented Jack with a FOAA tote bag and furnished the baked goods -- a homemade pound cake!

Interim Drainage Project Leads to Additional Archaeological Discoveries at Fort Ward Park

Archaeological work associated with the construction of an interim drainage system along the eastern boundary of Fort Ward Park has led to the discovery of another human burial location south of the Oakland Baptist Cemetery, in the area known as the Old Grave Yard. Previous investigations in 2010 found 16 burials in the Old Grave Yard, which was part of the African American community that flourished on the property after the Civil War. In addition, archaeologists identified the location of an animal burial, likely a dog, to the west of the known human burials.

The interim drainage system was designed by City engineers to prevent ponding and control runoff from places of higher elevation to the south of the cemeteries. Plans called for putting drainage pipes across an area where oral history accounts indicated that
*See **Drainage**, page 8*



Downspouts Rule!

Java Jolt Recap

While archaeologists usually explore underground history, urban archaeologists must be observant of all kinds of material culture—above and below ground. Fortunately, we have a guide to one of the signature features of the Alexandria streetscape.

Ever notice the fascinating iron downspouts that attach at the bottom of the spouts descending from the roofs of some of the finest Old Town homes? FOAA's September 3 Java Jolt featured Mark Michael Ludlow speaking on downspouts at the Athenaeum.

While some might think that only a very few people would even notice these historic survivors, more than 70 people came to hear about Mark's research for a master's thesis at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester in the U.K. The talk featured photos of the downspouts and maps depicting the spatial pattern of the downspout locations. (Prince Street is one of the focal points.) Mark also discussed the lack of functional purpose for the downspouts and their significance in denoting socioeconomic class.

He is currently completing his dissertation on migratory bird patterns as a factor in the human migration to the Caribbean Islands, at the University of Wales-Trinity Saint David, Wales, U.K. Mark is a Registered Professional Archaeologist and a resident of Alexandria. Many thanks to our good friends at the Athenaeum for cosponsoring this interesting Jolt.



Ted Pulliam's Historic Alexandria

Civil War Jolt

FOAA will sponsor a second Java Jolt on Saturday, October 29, at 10 a.m. in the Museum. Author, historian, and member of the Alexandria Archaeological

Commission Ted Pulliam will explore key events and people that make up the Alexandria story, with a special focus on the Civil War. Ted's lecture will be based on his new book, *Historic Alexandria: An Illustrated History*, which will be available for sale and signing following the lecture. The event is free and open to the public.

Kira Beam

Kira Andrea Beam is a second-year Museum Studies graduate student at The George Washington University. She is interested in archaeological and community museums and as an intern will be updating the Museum's prehistoric type collections and exhibits.

Kira comes to us from West Palm Beach, Florida, where she graduated in 2008 with a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Florida. Kira has archaeological training with the prehistoric shell mounds of the St. John's River, Florida, as well as several archaeological sites across the Caribbean. For two years Kira worked as a field archaeologist for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, dealing with all on-reservation archaeological surveys. This summer, when Kira was an intern with the repatriation department at the National Museum of the American Indian, she developed a GIS database to facilitate repatriation and communication with tribes. She is currently working at the National Archives and Records Administration as a museum technician in collections with the Presidential Materials Staff.

Stephanie Allen

Stephanie Lynn Allen is a second-year Museum Studies graduate student at The George Washington University. Her concentration areas are Collections Management and Material Culture, with a focus on archaeological and anthropological collections. She will be working as an intern on a variety of projects but will focus on analyzing the environmental conditions of the storage facilities and making condition assessments and conservation recommendations for the small finds and metal artifacts currently in storage.

Stephanie spent most of her life in Texas, growing up in Dallas and then attending college in San Antonio. She graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in Anthropology and Art History from Trinity University in 2010. Stephanie has a background in archaeology, working at the Lubbock Lake Landmark site in western Texas, excavating remains of paleoindian hearths. She also completed an archaeological program in Cork, Ireland, in the spring of 2009, where she received training in identifying human remains and ceramic materials. She has previous museum experience, working

The Interns' Turn



Seated from left to right: Stephanie Allen, Kira Beam, and Miranda Spurley.

at the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Dallas Historical Society, and the Heritage Farmstead Museum. This past summer she worked under a conservator at the National Museum of Natural History, where she participated in the installation of the traveling exhibits "Race: Are We So Different?" and "Against All Odds: Rescue of the Miners of Chile."

Miranda Spurley

Miranda J. Spurley is a first-year master's degree student of Studio Fine Arts and Decorative Arts History at George Mason University. She comes to us with a BFA, with a concentration in drawing and

painting and an AA in speech and communications. Through her internship with the Museum she hopes to gain valuable experience in object handling, conservation methods, and collections management.

Miranda is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. Being a painter since the age of four and always having an interest in art history, it was only natural that Miranda developed a strong interest in historic objects. She says, "Being a painter, I have always had a fascination for material things; the relationship between an artist's brush and canvas is an intimate relationship. I want to relate the art of painting to the art of creating everyday objects; to be able to discover and touch artifacts created by other crafters before me is intriguing!" Her exploration of her own family history and genealogy has led her to a discovery of West African roots, which eventually led her to the Museum. "To discover that the Museum has so much involvement in African American history and discovery has been a pleasant surprise."

Alexandria Archaeology welcomes these three dynamic interns. Paul Nasca is supervising them as they work on many facets of collection management, public outreach, and exhibit design. Each brings a wealth of museum experience and creative energy. We invite you to come and meet these talented young professionals. They will be with us through early December.

burials could be present and in the area to the south of the previous excavations in the Old Grave Yard. The City hired The Ottery Group to conduct archaeological work along the alignment of the entire length of the drainage system to ensure that burials would not be disturbed. Pipe alignments were to be reconfigured to circumvent graves if any were found. The archaeologists also scraped the area to the south of the Old Grave Yard in an attempt to discern this cemetery's southern boundary. Both the human burial and animal burial were found in this scraped area. The human burial is the southernmost grave discovered to date in the Old Grave Yard area.

The human burial was discovered as the area was being scraped when a piece of buried wood was found about half a foot below the current ground surface. The shape of the wood suggested that it was the foot end of a hexagonal coffin. The length of the wood ran roughly east/west, following the traditional orientation of Christian burials. In addition, the wood was in the alignment of a row of burials found to the north in the Old Grave Yard. Given the shape, location, and orientation of this buried wood, archaeologists interpreted it as a burial.

Upon further scraping and examination, however, it became clear that only a part of a single sheet of wood was present. It is painful to report that previous grading activities removed most of the burial. The upper portions of the coffin box were gone, as was about half of the base. All that was seen was a flat area of decayed wood that would have formed the bottom of the coffin near the foot end. These findings mean that damage to the burial occurred sometime in the past.

How and when could this damage have occurred? Given the amount of wood that remained, it was clear that grading, rather than erosion, had taken place. A comparison of topography on City maps from 1962 and 2004 indicates that about 1 to 1.5 feet of soil was removed from this area sometime in the last 50 years. The coffin would have had to be placed in a very shallow grave with only about a foot of soil over the burial, for the bottom was found only about half a foot below the current surface, partially under the edge of the road to the former maintenance yard for the park. Graves are generally dug deeper than two feet, and it is unusual that grading of 1.5 feet of soil would remove all but the base of a coffin. The 16 burials identified last year in the Old Grave Yard just north of this location appear to have been placed in deeper shafts. No coffin wood was discovered at such shallow depths in these graves.

Examination of aerial photographs from 1927 to 1995 provides additional insight into when the grading could have occurred. The aerials show that the burial location remained wooded from the 1920s until at least 1980, and the road into the maintenance yard did not extend into this area. By 1995, the trees had been removed and the road had been constructed, thereby indicating that the damage likely occurred as a result of tree removal and grading for the road sometime between 1980 and 1995. Additional research into records of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will be completed to try to pin down the exact date of this construction work.

Still, the shallow depth of the discovery presented an enigma to the archaeological interpretation. One possible explanation is that the burial dates to earlier than those in the Old Grave Yard. The fact that the coffin had a hexagonal, rather than rectangular, shape is in keeping with this possibility. Although use of the hexagonal shape persists into the twentieth century, it is more common prior to about 1870 when mass production of rectangular coffins begins.

The upper portion of the probable dog burial had also been graded away. The dog burial was discovered to the west of the human burial, just outside of the heavily wooded area. Structures and several roads or driveways leading to them appear in the vicinity of the burial on aerials from 1937 and 1949, and a small shed is shown nearby on the 1962 City Engineer's plan. While it is likely that grading between 1980 and 1995 for the current configuration of the road resulted in the removal of part of this burial, it is also possible that grading and disturbance could have occurred earlier when the nearby structures were demolished. Owners of the property where the burial is located included prominent members of the African American community: Harriet and Burr Shorts in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, followed by Harriet's daughter, Amanda Clarke, until 1930; then Wallace and Cynthia Smith until 1937, and Alfred Collins until 1963 with the creation of Fort Ward Park. The dog was probably a pet belonging to one of these families.

City engineers surveyed the burial locations and recorded them on a map so that their locations will remain known to ensure their protection and allow for public interpretation in the future. Archaeological work will continue at Fort Ward in the coming year. City Council has appropriated funds for research and production of a full history report and for additional archaeological survey work and delineation of graves and boundaries for the known cemeteries.

From the City of Alexandria Archaeology Collections: Civil War Soldier Life



Minié balls were found at the site of a Civil War Union encampment and hospital in Alexandria's West End. Archaeologists identified it as the New York militia camp of autumn of 1861, potentially that of the 38th New York infantry regiment.

In 1849, French military officer Claude Minié developed the Minié ball—probably the most common artifact of the Civil War. These balls were used in the rifle-musket, a highly accurate 56-inch-long shoulder arm. Excavations



also revealed a brick Crimean oven, which probably would have heated the camp hospital tents. It was preserved, making it one of

only two features of its kind ever discovered. (The other oven was also recovered in Alexandria.)

The knapsack hardware belongs to a standard-issue canvas pack used between 1853 and 1872. It would have included buckles, hooks, studs, and triangular fittings. Enlisted men found the knapsacks of limited use, often discarding them, preferring to store items in blanket rolls.



The looped horn insignia was the symbol for Civil War Union Army infantry and was intended to be worn on the hat issued with the full dress uniform. Soldiers often removed the horns from their dress hats and

put them on their forager hats, known as kepis.

The U.S. plate, which matches one dug at Fort Ward Historical Park in 2010–2011,



Eagle plate illustration by Jeane Stetson

would have attached to the cover of a leather ammunition box worn at a soldier's waist. The box's strap, which was slung over the shoulder and across the chest, would have borne a decorative eagle plate, too. Soldiers often removed these accoutrements, as the shiny brass plates provided targets for enemy sharpshooters.



The Seventh Annual Fairfax County History Conference The Civil War Comes to Fairfax County!

Saturday, November 12, from 8:30 AM to 4 PM

Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center
3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia

Keynote Speaker: Stephen Potter

Archaeologist, National Park Service

"No Maneuvering & Very Little Tactics":

Archaeology & the Battle of Brawner Farm

\$20/person, advance registration required.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov

New Staff, from page 1

Paul is on the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) and holds degrees in anthropology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and the College of William and Mary.

"I am looking forward to working with the professional staff, volunteers and the public at Alexandria Archaeology," says Paul. "It is a privilege to join such a successful organization charged with preserving the City's buried past and bringing that past to life for its citizens and visitors. This is a significant opportunity for me, and I look forward to serving the Alexandria community for years to come." Paul also enjoys working with students and volunteers, as well as interacting with the public.

When not doing archaeology, Paul enjoys visiting family in western New York, perfecting his telemark snow skiing ability and pursuing his passion for bird-watching.



Northern Virginia Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia

By John Kelsey

Let me introduce myself. I am president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASV. Because my wife and I live close to Alexandria, I am also a member of FOAA. The Chapter is an active group of over 100 members who live mostly in Northern Virginia and who participate in archaeology throughout the state, with occasional forays to such exotic locations as Maryland, Texas, and Pennsylvania. The ASV is chartered, among other purposes, to “collaborate with other organizations and agencies that serve the same purposes as those of this society,” which include research and study, education, and conservation. For some time, I’ve been struck that members of FOAA and the Northern Virginia Chapter share the same goals and interests, and may even be next-door neighbors, but that there’s all too little interaction between the two organizations.

Recently, two of us met with Pam Cressey and members of her staff to talk about bringing the groups closer together. Not surprisingly, Pam was enthusiastic about this and had concrete ideas for how to move forward. At the most basic level, we agreed that there should be better information sharing about each other’s activities. In that spirit, I want to devote the rest of this column to a brief summary of what’s going on in the Chapter and Fairfax County archaeology, in hopes that those of you who are interested or curious about our activities will come and learn more. Ongoing or recent activities in which Chapter members have participated include the following:

- Members have done field and lab work at historic Colchester, a colonial-era tobacco port at the mouth of the Occoquan River in southern Fairfax County. A large part of the town site was recently acquired by Fairfax County, and a two-year archaeological project is under way to document the historic site and explore a large, adjacent prehistoric site along the river.
- Field and lab work is ongoing at Westbrook, a large, multi-component prehistoric site near I-66 in Fairfax County. The property is scheduled for development in the future. A commercial firm

had previously done an archaeological survey, but our current work suggests a much richer site, with multiple occupations from Early Archaic through Woodland.

- Members of the Chapter have helped survey and unearth portions of a house foundation near Hanover Courthouse in Hanover County, north of Richmond. The foundation is on a property known to have been in the Clay family at the time of Henry Clay’s birth, and the objective of the work is to attempt to date the foundation to the period and match it to depictions of the Henry Clay birthplace prior to its burning down in 1870.
- In coordination with the Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Archaeologist, members of the chapter have conducted auger testing at Pig Point on the Patuxent River, a known prehistoric site, to determine whether it might also have a paleoindian component.
- Earlier in the year, Chapter members went on field trips to St. Mary’s City, Maryland, and to the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter prehistoric site in southwestern Pennsylvania.
- The Chapter has monthly meetings at the James Lee Center in Falls Church. The next Chapter meeting is on October 12, when our speaker will be John Haynes, archaeologist at the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, who will be speaking on “Of Iron and Irony: The Battle of the Potomac and a Soldier’s Life at Quantico.” On November 9, Dr. Dave Clark of Catholic University, a member of the original Meadowcroft team, will present a talk on forensics.

As an additional note, the Huntley Historic Site near Huntley Meadows Park in eastern Fairfax County has been undergoing restoration and rehabilitation. The project received County and federal funding and is being overseen by the County Cultural Resources Management and Protection Office. The work is nearly complete. The Federal-period villa, built in 1825 for Thomson Francis Mason, grandson of George Mason IV, will reopen this spring.

If you’d like to learn more about any of these activities, please get in touch with me at jkelsey@cox.net or 703-922-8107.

An Evening of Archaeology, Art, and a Silent Auction

On October 27 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. FOAA, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, and Principle Gallery, 208 King Street, cordially invite you to an evening of Art and Archaeology: a Silent Art Auction, Reception, and lively conversation to benefit the restoration of the Book of Records for Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery at the Library of Virginia*.

This volume contains priceless biographical information from the death and marriage records of African Americans who fled slavery by crossing into Union-occupied Alexandria during the Civil War and Reconstruction. This record—transcribed by Wesley E. Pippinger—is the primary source of information about the more than 1700 people buried at what is now the Contrabands & Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial site. This has led to the discovery of more than 500 graves through archaeological investigation and identification of many of their descendants through the genealogical work of Char Bah.

Construction of the Memorial will soon start and will feature large bronze tablets with names and Book of Records information about each individual buried there. The Memorial is a sacred site intended to honor those who died and all who endured hardship and sacrifice while seeking their freedom in Alexandria.

In order to conserve this volume, it must be disbound, treated page by page and rebound in leather and marbled paper to replicate the original binding. For more information, see <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/involved/adopt-info.asp?id=14> and page 15 of the Library's magazine *Broadside* <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/broadside/2011-Summer.pdf>

Requested minimum donation is \$10 to pay for the conservation of this fragile book. Please write checks to **The Friends of Alexandria Archaeology**, which is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, and send to FOAA, P. O. Box 320721, Alexandria, VA 22320. Checks will also be accepted at the event. RSVP to AlexandriaArchaeologyBenefit@gmail.com or to 703.746.4399.

**Funds raised beyond the estimated conservation cost of \$1535 will be designated for the Contrabands & Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial and archaeological programming.*



During the month of October, celebrate 2011 Virginia Archaeology Month with Alexandria Archaeology! This year's theme, *Between the Battles: Life of a Civil War Soldier*, commemorates the Civil War's Sesquicentennial. All the events listed below are free of charge and open to the public.

Civil War Sundays - Sundays in October from 1 to 5 PM Alexandria Archaeology Museum

Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays, featuring an original May 26, 1861, edition of the *New-York Tribune* detailing Colonel Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria; a Peeps diorama illustrating Ellsworth's death; a TimeTravelers Passport exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy; a diorama of a heating system constructed in Alexandria to warm Civil War hospital tents during the winter of 1861; a cocked and loaded Wickham musket discarded in a privy during the 1860s; and an exhibit on the Lee Street Site during the Civil War.

Arts Safari - Saturday October 8, from 12 to 4 PM Alexandria Archaeology Museum

The Torpedo Factory Art Center hosts its annual Alexandria Arts Safari, a festival of hands-on arts and crafts activities for kids and their families. The Potter's Art activity presented in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum is designed for kids of all ages! Learn to identify 19th-century Alexandria potters from the designs applied to salt-glazed stoneware pottery and create your own take-home drawing.

Archaeology Day at Shuter's Hill - Saturday, October 22, from 1:30 to 3 PM

Shuter's Hill Excavation Site
Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Mount Vernon Archaeology will offer site tours and hands-on activities at Shuter's Hill, once home to an 18th-century plantation and a later estate occupied by Union troops during the Civil War.

TimeTravelers Passport Program – Drop by the Museum with your TimeTravelers Passport for an Alexandria Archaeology sticker. Don't have a passport? Pick one up at the Museum, just \$6 each!

