

Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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Kids, Do you know your Alexandria history? Come to the Museum and find out! Test your knowledge with the History Scavenger Hunt! It's a TimeTraveler passport program that qualifies for the patch pictured above.

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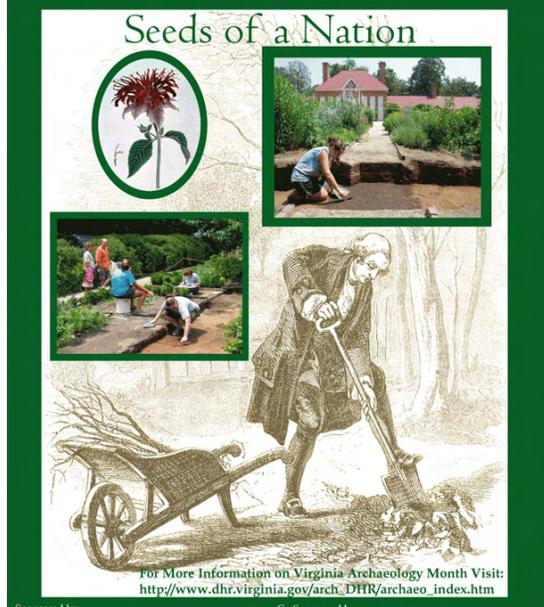
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ASV President O'Neill

In the summer newsletter, we unfortunately stated that our Java Jolt speaker, Patrick O'Neill, was past president of ASV. We know that's just not so and wish him well as he **continues** to govern through 2010.

CELEBRATE VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH WITH ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

Virginia Archaeology Month October 2009



Sponsored by: Co-Sponsored by:



Civil War era watermelon seeds from the Lee Street Site exhibit.

October is Virginia Archaeology Month and this year's theme, "Seeds of a Nation," focuses on colonial gardens, ethnobotanical evidence from excavations, and plants used by Virginia Indians. Our good neighbor, Mount Vernon Archaeology, is this year's sponsor. For a complete list of Archaeology Month events held throughout the Commonwealth, visit the VA Dept. of Historic Resources website at

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/arch_NET/arch_NET3.htm.

Participate closer to home by joining special events at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Look for details on page 12.

Left: 2009 Virginia Archaeology Month poster.

FORT WARD'S PAST "RE-DISCOVERED" BY SUMMER INTERNS

by Gaby Faundez and Laura Buchanan

Soon after the Civil War broke out in 1861, the Union army hastily built Fort Ward as part of Washington D.C.'s defensive network. Though the fort never saw military action during the war, its construction transformed the way the landscape would be used and understood by future inhabitants.

By the end of 1870 an African American family was living near the remains of the fort and the area developed into a community that would continue on for nearly a century.

Over time, a number of volunteers at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum have taken on the task of reconstructing the history of the African American community at Fort Ward after



1894 Hopkins map with outline of Fort Ward African American community.

Fort Ward continued on page 3

...Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: FOAA in Focus...

FOAA Beneficiary of C.A.R. Donation

As 2007-2008 president of the Virginia branch of Children of the American Revolution, Sarah Borgatti chose to raise funds for Friends of Alexandria Archaeology for their conservation efforts.

Funds were raised by selling T-shirts, by holding raffles, and by soliciting individual donations. The majority of this money will go toward conserving a water pump that was found in a nineteenth-century well. (The pump would have provided water to city residents who did not have access to private wells.) In all, C.A.R. was able to donate \$6,237, enough funds for conserving the pump, with the money left going toward conserving smaller artifacts as well.

Donation continued on page 4



Barbara Magid gratefully receiving the \$6,237 donation from Sarah Borgatti

It's THAT Time Again!!

Well, FOAA's big day has come and gone. July 1 sneaked by as everyone in the City was gearing up for Independence Day (and I hope you all did that, too). And no, I'm not talking about Canada Day. That's a separate but equally exciting celebration for our northern neighbors.

No, for FOAA members July 1 is the beginning of a new fiscal year, a chance to renew your support for another twelve months. I know, fiscal years are the pits, and each group seems to take pride in selecting dates that are totally *sui generis*. So that's why you're getting this reminder. See masthead (below) for details about FOAA dues. Remember that if you paid dues after March 31, 2009, you do not have to renew until July 1, 2010.

**SUPPORT ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALEXANDRIA
JOIN FOAA TODAY! SEE DETAILS BELOW**



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

Comparing and Contrasting: Native American History and Archaeology in the Mid-Hudson Valley, NY, and Alexandria, VA

by Terilee Edwards-Hewitt

“Before Hudson: 8,000 years of Native American History and Culture” was the name of a conference discussing Native American archaeology in New Paltz, New York. The conference was held May 1 and 2, 2009, and coincided with the opening of a new exhibit about the archaeology of the Native American history of New Paltz. FOAA’s Terilee Edwards-Hewitt attended the conference, and even though New Paltz is located in the mid-Hudson Valley of New York, she found a number of similarities to the archaeology and history here in Alexandria, Virginia.

Like the people who lived in Alexandria before contact, the Munsee band of Lenape people who lived in New Paltz spoke an Algonquian dialect. Archaeological evidence of their life in New Paltz has been excavated over the past 10 years. A Clovis point was found near the Wallkill River, which runs through the town of New Paltz. Similarly the majority of prehistoric stone tools in Alexandria have also been found near sources of water. Other artifacts found in New Paltz during archaeological field schools and other excavations include many types of stone tools and arrowheads from 8,000 years ago to the fifteenth century, as well as pottery, postholes, and fire-cracked rock (similar to the fire-cracked rock Alexandria Archaeology identified at Jones Point in 2001).

An interesting archaeological find was Zark’s distant cousin! Excavations revealed a purposeful dog burial that dates to the fourteenth century (more than 600 years ago). Like Zark, this dog was someone’s pet and had stones carefully laid across the burial site.

In contrast to the Native American history of Alexandria, there are many historical documents available regarding the contact and treaties between the Munsee people and the Dutch, the French Huguenots, and later the English settlers. A few members of the Munsee band were still living and farming in the New Paltz area at the time of the American Revolution.

The exhibit, “Before Hudson: 8,000 years of Native American History and Culture,” will be on display until December 20, 2009, at the DuBois Fort Visitor Center, on historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, New York.

Fort Ward continued from page 1

the war. Their goal over the past 20 years has been to preserve this unique part of Alexandria’s history.

This summer a group of interns and volunteers researched the community through oral histories, genealogy, wills and deeds, maps, photographs, and a lot of help from former Fort Ward residents and their descendants. Our objective is to create a walking tour that not only remembers Fort Ward’s use during the Civil War, but also celebrates the African American community that thrived there post-bellum.

Doug Appler, a PhD candidate at Cornell University, was hired to develop a cultural resources inventory associated with the community at Fort Ward, including the cemetery and burial sites, which will be used to direct future archaeological investigations.

Gaby Faundez, a history major and senior at Marymount University in Arlington, worked with the oral histories of the relatives and descendants of many of the inhabitants of Fort Ward. From interviews with individuals such as Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, Charles McKnight, Elizabeth Douglas, Dorothy Hall Smith and Barbara Ashby Gordon, she was able to compile information about family connections among the members of the community as well as stories about everyday life at Fort Ward.

William and Mary senior Laura Buchanan compiled previous research and information from deeds and wills into a chain of title document. Through studying maps and making several visits to Fort Ward, she began to piece together an understanding of the community’s changing relationship with the landscape over time. For example, the property lines of Cassius McKnight’s parcel of land were drawn in the shape of the Fort’s rear bastion.

Barbara Ballentine compiled a timeline of Fort Ward’s history from research by Dave Cavanaugh and Tom Fulton. She also added to the walking tour that Gaby and Laura had started. Future visitors to Fort Ward Park will see not only its historical significance during the Civil War, but also the importance of lives and memories that were made there for many decades.

The story of the African American community at Fort Ward gives an alternate view of Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era in Alexandria. Working together with the community’s descendants and Fort Ward Park, Alexandria Archaeology is excited to interpret and preserve the Fort’s vibrant history and landscape.



Above: Barbara, Sarah, her brother and mother. Left: FOAA VP Joan Amico presents an "I Dig" T-shirt to Sarah.

Donation continued from page 2

Sarah chose this as her state project because for several years she was an archaeology volunteer at Shuter's Hill and Freedmen's Cemetery. She was excited about having a unique way to give



back to FOAA. About Sarah's organization: Founded in 1895, the Children of the American Revolution is the oldest patriotic youth organization in the United States. Membership is open to anyone under the age of 21 who is descended from someone who fought or gave aid in the American Revolution. C.A.R. aims to raise funds for historical preservation, to train leaders and good citizens, and to increase knowledge about the history of the United States.



HATS OFF!!!!

It's been a busy summer, with volunteers working on many projects and with record Museum attendance.

Anna Lynch joins the **Museum docent team** of Joan Amico and Marya Fitzgerald, and is kept busy greeting the Saturday visitors. Joan continues to maintain the FOAA database, which includes updating the Museum mailing list and logging in volunteer hours. She is relieved of her Museum duties on Wednesdays by Marya Fitzgerald. Another helper is found in Elizabeth Field, who always seems to be available in a time of need.

Steve and Fran continue their **excavation of Shuter's Hill** and have had ample help from Mamie Belle, Lois Berkowitz, Erin Carrington, Lisa Castellanos, Mike Cianciosi, Matt Cipriani, Brad Cooper, Kevin Cranedi, Toni Davidson, Natasha Davis, Katie DeCecco, Mary Dundon, Danielle Dunn, John Fair, Lorin Ferris, Andrew H. Flora, Laura Goodman, Laura Heaton, DeAnn Hughes, Amanda Itzko, Colleen Johnson, Amanda Johnson, Ashley Koen, Nate Lowrey, Butch Mahaney, Megan O'Connell, Chris Outlaw, Amanda Page, Laura Rios, Shanna Roth, Carol Rudolph, Suzanne Schaubel, Anne Starkweather, and Maria Trapp.

Jen Hembree's **Oral History Project** has been expanded with help from Katie Baker, Bobbie Cook, Susan McGrath, Jo Short, Paula Tarnapol Whitacre, and Logan Wiley. **Alexandria Legacies** volunteers who have contributed time to the program this summer include Susan McGrath, Katie Baker, Laura Little, Alice Reid, Dave Cavanaugh, Karen Harris, and Logan Wiley.

Summer Interns Doug Appler, Laura Buchanan, Gaby Faundez, and Kelsey Ryan did a bit of everything (see page 10).

The **Friday Lab Ladies** have made progress processing ceramics and glass from the southside of the 400 block of King Street. These artifacts were excavated from several privies on the "Holiday Inn Site" in the early 1970s. The artifacts date from ca. 1780-1820s, and many of them were probably discarded after the fire of 1827 spread through Old Town. The Ladies include Joan Amico, Cynthia Ford, Sue Gagner, Sandra Humphrey, Montie Kust, Anna Lynch, Mary Jane Nugent, and Sarah Revis.

Research: A great deal of research has been conducted by an energetic team of students and interns on two key topics: Fort Ward Park and the Waterfront. Laura Buchanan (William & Mary) and Gaby Faundez (Marymount) worked all summer to organize materials previously collected by Patricia I. Knock in the 1990s about the African Americans who lived in the Fort Ward area for nearly 100 years. They transcribed an interview with Mr. Sargent Young and his daughters, who lived in an old schoolhouse/church, and also excerpted information from several other oral histories of people familiar with the African American community (post-Civil War to the 1960s). In addition, Gaby and Laura developed and wrote portions of a heritage walking tour for visitors at Fort Ward Historic Site and Park. Dave Cavanaugh and Tom Fulton have continued their research into the African Americans living at the area once known as "The Fort," the early real estate development called Eagle Crest and the City's acquisition of the land prior to the 100th anniversary of the Civil War.

Doug Appler (Ph.D. Candidate at Cornell University), a 2008 intern, is working as a staff person for three months to **inventory the cultural resources within Fort Ward** and develop a draft management plan for preservation and interpretation purposes. His work builds on the foundation created by Fran Bromberg's **GIS project of historic overlay maps** relating to African American homes and burial grounds.

Kelsey Ryan (Ohio State) has compiled more than 100 pages of firsthand accounts of the Alexandria waterfront from the 17th century into the early 20th century. She is also relating the accounts by decade to historic photographs and the *Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News* series **Discovering the Decades** (now on-line). Former (Diane Riker) and current (Ted Pulliam) Archaeological Commission members continue to research and write about the Alexandria waterfront's historic places. Both have past and new publications in the Alexandria Historical Society's *The Alexandria Chronicle* based on this research. Ted's recent piece about the British sailing into Alexandria in 1755 and Diane's soon-to-be-published article on the names "Alexandria" and "Belhaven" are both groundbreaking in terms of research and analysis.

Many thanks to Barbara Ballentine for helping to supervise the students this summer and increase accessibility to the public through developing website materials and writings for both of these projects.

Publications: Elaine Tamanini has begun formatting Alexandria Archaeology publications so that they will be ready to post on our website or print if needed. (Some publications were never formatted properly, and others lost their formatting in the recent conversion from Word Perfect to Word.) She has spent hours poring over Word textbooks so that she will be familiar enough with Word to properly format all publications according to the Alexandria Archaeology Publications Style Guide. It is a tedious task, but Elaine is doing it! She hopes to work her way to more engaging projects.

Illustration: Neil Pelletier continues to produce watercolor renderings from the Museum's collection of ceramics.

FOAA: Kathy Scheibelhoffer divides her time between managing the FOAA books and registering folks in at the Family Dig Days.

Education: Much enlightened help came from Anna Lynch, Marya Fitzgerald, Hoosey Hughes, and Laura Buchanan during the many Adventure Lessons presented over the summer.

Of note: From July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009, 102 volunteers contributed 4,855 hours! 29,570 people visited the Alexandria Archaeology Museum or participated in one of our off-site events, such as the Family Dig Days.

Donation: FOAA member and author Bob Madison donated a number of his *Walking with Washington* books to FOAA for resale, netting us \$240. Thank you, Bob!

An Archival Link

From Crackers to Piracy

by Anna Lynch

Research at the Local History Special Collections at the Barrett Library led to a handwritten manuscript by Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, born in 1802 and daughter of prominent merchant and Captain George Slacum of Alexandria. She recounts the memoirs of her childhood and the stories she remembers from her grandmother.



Detail of 1793 newspaper ad for a packet schooner, Chestertown, MD

Summer intern Kelsey Ryan (see page 10) and I are transcribing and extrapolating those parts of the manuscript dealing with Alexandria, its people, and the artifacts she described in their homes. We hope to find similarities between those artifacts and the ones Archaeology has excavated and is still excavating on Shuter's Hill and elsewhere.

One of Mary Louisa Slacum's vivid stories relates to the Jamieson Bakery on Lee Street, site of Alexandria Archaeology's 1999 excavation. According to Mary Louisa, the bakery was a place where her brother William liked to hang out as a boy. After his death in 1839 she recalls with affection the adventuresome young man. Born in 1799, William loved to travel on merchant ships to exotic places, which he was able to do as a young man employed by the merchant firm of Herbert and Adams.

William reenacted the following adventure for his sister, who recorded it in her memoirs:

William, his friend Gilpin Jr., and the ship's captain, Nelson, all from Alexandria, were on board the brig *Juno*, sailing near the Florida Keys, when they were accosted by a swift pirate ship with booming guns and black flag. Young William descended the ship's companionway holding on to his pistol, hearing a mixture of "foreign oaths, curses, and yells of triumph" along with the supplicating voice of the captain.

Then a voice in English rose above the rest, issuing the command to "make swift work with the old man." The next moment young Gilpin Jr.'s voice was heard shouting:

"Why, halloo! Jack Lee, is it possible that it is you, old fellow? Lee, you're not going to harm old Capt. Nelson, are you?"

"No, I ain't if the Cap's a friend of yourn."

Pirates continued on page 7

Page Five

Alexandria Archaeology Institute: A Learning Opportunity for Adults

Join City Archaeologists for a unique opportunity excavating the Shuter's Hill Site! Gain hands-on experience in site-excavation methods and record-keeping. Learn how to use a transit, process and catalog artifacts in the laboratory, and interpret the finds. The excavation site focuses on a late-18th-century plantation laundry and a mid-19th-century house. It is located behind the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and accessible by Metro. Illustrated lectures, presented at the Memorial, explain the history of the site and the development of the City of Alexandria. The field hours (approx. 15 hrs.) and laboratory hours (approx. 5 hrs.) may be counted toward the Virginia Archaeological Technician Certification Program requirements (see <http://asv-archeology.org/Org/OrgCertification.html>)

Participants must be at least 18 years old. Registration fee includes morning coffee each day, an opening reception on the steps of the Memorial on Thursday evening, three box lunches, and a closing reception in the Museum Sunday evening. Contact Alexandria Archaeology for details.

Session I: June 10 – 13, 2010

Session II: October 21 – 24, 2010

\$475/session from 9 AM to 4 PM daily

Mount Vernon Wants Volunteers

Mount Vernon Archaeology is seeking volunteers to help excavate plowzone at a late-18th-century site on George Washington's plantation. The site was discovered during a Phase I survey this winter and is being excavated in advance of a construction project.

The survey identified three concentrations of domestic artifacts across a large area and is not documented in the plantation records. MVA is sampling plowzone through the excavation of multiple 5 x 5 foot units across the site.

Digging will be Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 4:00 through December 31. Volunteers should commit to at least half a day each visit. ASV certification students can receive survey hours for their work.

Interested volunteers should contact Esther White at ewhite@mountvernon.org for more information and to schedule their initial visit. Volunteers must be over 16 years old.



Barbara Magid shows pottery

"Dish Camp" at Eastfield Village

Archaeologist Barbara Magid was once again a speaker at the Eastfield Village Ceramics

Workshop, fondly known as "Dish Camp." This year's session was titled "OUT OF THE WOODS: A Staffordshire Family of Potters & Its Influence on 18th- and 19th-century British Pottery," and focused on the work of the family of Enoch Wood. In the last few years new documents about the family business have come to light, as well as several waster dumps in the pottery town of

Burslem. These include a 1795-1805 deposit that appears to relate to the factory of Wood & Caldwell, and an 1831-1835 deposit excavated by television's "Time Team," relating to Enoch Wood & Sons.



Stephen Apisa at the lathe

Barbara and Don Carpentier (director of Eastfield Village) discovered that many of the painted and dipped (or annular) pearlware sherds found at Alexandria sites match the Burslem wasters and were presumably made by the firm of Wood & Caldwell. In addition, some of the dark-blue transfer-printed plates and commemorative wares found in Alexandria were manufactured by Enoch Wood & Sons, a significant importer of wares to the American market. The archaeological evidence for importation of these wares to Alexandria was the topic of Barbara's paper.

Other speakers included Don Carpentier on the wasters from the Burslem digs; Miranda Goodby of the Potteries Museum in Stoke-on-Trent, speaking on information from newly discovered Wood family papers; Jonathan Rickard, author of *Mocha and Related Dipped Wares*, on the comparison of wasters to extant examples of dipped wares, including pieces stamped "Wood & Caldwell"; Louise Richardson from Strawberry Banke Museum, on evidence in Portsmouth, NH, of wares produced by the Woods; and Ted Gallagher on *American Views* on transfer-printed wares.

Don Carpentier, who re-created the process for manufacturing dipped and mocha wares, and his apprentice, Stephen Apisa, provided fascinating demonstrations of period techniques, including jiggering, jollying, lathe turning and decorating, press molding, and sprig molding.

Eastfield continued on page 11

Like Archaeology License Plates?

by Maggie Johnson

The Northern Virginia Chapter (NVC) of the Archaeological Society of Virginia (ASV) is leading the effort to get an archaeology special-interest license plate in Virginia. Del. David Marsden (Burke) has agreed to propose a bill to the Virginia General Assembly authorizing the DMV to issue the plates. This project is supported by the ASV Board and the Council of Virginia Archaeologists. The NVC would like to receive the names of those interested in getting the archaeology license plate when it is available 9 to 12 months from now.

If you want the plate(s) when they're available, e-mail your name, address, and number of plates wanted to Maggie Johnson at arch-plate@cox.net, or if you prefer, to her home e-mail, stillmaggie@cox.net. She will send information as to image selection, the process of getting the license plates, and advice regarding how interested people can support the process of getting the bill through the General Assembly.

If you want to help with the design process, e-mail Maggie at arch-plate@cox.net or stillmaggie@cox.net. Design suggestions will be presented at the ASV annual meeting this October.

A decision will be made on the important issue of how the plate will spell "arch(a)eology"—with or without the "a"! The favorite plate will become part of the application package that is sent to the DMV.

Career Day at Hammond Middle School

On June 15 Hammond Middle School in Alexandria held its Career Day. Terilee Edwards-Hewitt spoke to five classes about careers in archaeology. Using some of Alexandria Archaeology's hands-on educational materials and photographs of techniques, she demonstrated how archaeology combines history, science, art, and math in an interesting and challenging career.

Like other presenters, Terilee was stationed in a classroom and groups of students came to her. Students were interested in learning where archaeologists work and how they know how old an artifact is and what it is. In addition they wanted to know if there were dinosaurs in Virginia and how much money archaeologists earn.

Each student had a sheet with questions that they needed to fill out to report on each career presentation they attended. In a later class period students discussed what they learned with their teacher and other students.

Pirates continued from page 5

Gilpin replied, "Well, he certainly is, and a very good man."

"Oh—good men, I don't believe in nothing good—except you, Gilpin."

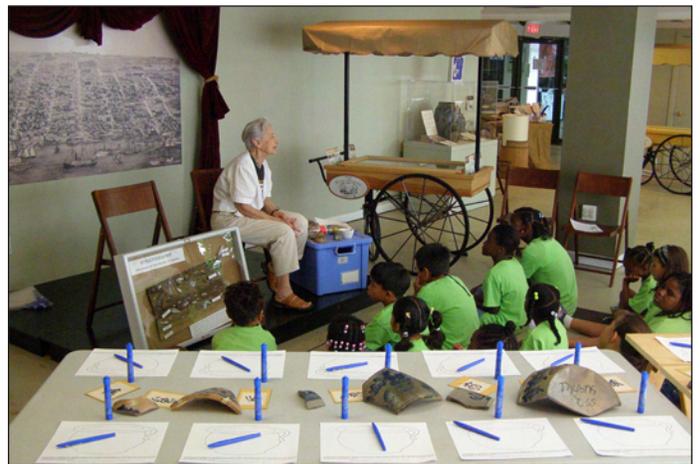
"Jack, there is a lad from our old town on board: young Will Slacum."

"What, a son of the old cap?"

At that moment young William put away the pistols, came on deck, and Jack the pirate said, "Why, is this the little shaver as I ha' seen in Jamieson's cracker bakery?"

It turned out that Jack Lee was the captain of the pirates! He, as a young apprentice at the Jamieson bakery, had been in a fight with a man twice his size and was badly beaten before Gilpin Jr. intervened and rescued him. As a result, Jack was threatened with dismissal from his apprenticeship at Jamieson's; so he ran away, and now here he was, a pirate! So in the spirit of friendship, pirate Jack ordered old Captain Nelson unloosed from his bonds. The pirates gave fruits and foreign luxuries to Gilpin and his friends and boasted of their deeds on the high seas. When dusk came they disembarked the *Juno*, and William, Nelson, and Gilpin sailed unharmed to Havana.

As I walk down Union Street, past the old cracker bakery where years ago I troweled and screened shards, buttons, bottles, and coins, I think back to the time when Jack Lee, Gilpin, and Will Slacum hung out there! Some of these artifacts are on display in the Museum as part of the Lee Street Site exhibit.



Potter's Art on the Waterfront

Anna Lynch presents the Potter's Art Adventure Lesson to a group of Campagna Kids in the Historic Alexandria Museum Shop. The hands-on activity dovetails with the Campagna Center's summer enrichment program focusing on activities that align with the State of Virginia Standards of Learning. Once back in school these second graders will recognize the very same salt-glaze stoneware pottery in their social studies text book, *Alexandria Is...*

ORAL HISTORY UPDATE:

"Alexandria Legacies" by Jen Hembree, Oral History Coordinator

Alexandria Legacies, the City's Oral History Program, has spent the last year celebrating Del Ray's Centennial, as well as the history of Fort Ward – the African American community that grew up around the Fort prior to its formation as a park. Below are reflections on both communities, excerpted from interviews conducted recently, as well as in the early years of the program. Memories...

Fort Ward Memories

Dorothy Hall Smith and Barbara Gordon grew up in what is now known as the Fort Ward area of Alexandria. The women describe their neighbors, at a time when Braddock Road needed to have tar put down each year, when Barbara walked to her aunt's house to get milk from the cow, when no one thought it necessary to keep their doors locked. They were interviewed in 1994.



Unnamed family relatives of Dorothy Smith and Barbara Gordon pictured at the Fort.

Barbara Gordon (*remembering Alexandria during the month of August*):

"But my greatest thrill was in the summer, when they tarred the road—Braddock Road was tarred. When they tarred the road, the sun would make it so hot that when you walked, you'd leave your shoeprint in the road. Well, in evenings, when the moon came up, we would go to the road and dig down, deep, deep, deep, and pull up fresh tar. We used to put that in our mouths and chew it. Just for something to do.

"My Aunt Ella married John Peters, and they had an apple orchard, a cherry orchard, and they raised cattle, and they raised hogs, and that was a lot of fun. Every morning I would have to go down the road to Aunt Ella's, to get fresh milk from the cow, and bring it back."

Dorothy Hall Smith (*Describing their grandfather's house at the Fort*)

"To the right there are steps, going upstairs. You go in

about three or four steps, and to your left is a huge sitting room. .. It's open to the hall...where the children were not allowed, in this sitting room. [In there are] a sofa, old furniture, I think like an old phonograph. Old pieces. You couldn't even walk in there... There was a huge back porch, the length of the house—the width of the house. Screened. But it was huge. I know there was a big, huge tub, where you took your bath on Saturday nights, in the tin tub, on the back porch. And in the dining room there was a pot-bellied stove.

"Being paid, particularly, the housekeeper, at night -- the house was well-kept -- floors, carpets, and everything.

"Oh, the floors was slick as glass.

"The house was well taken care of, and it looked as something special in the neighborhood. It stood out, what I'm

trying to say. The house stood out. It was really, I would say, an upper-class home for blacks, at that time. Because I still remember it, at my age now. But what stood out so, the way the—Barbara refers to it as the parlor—the way those rooms stood out, the furniture, and the way it was furnished—..."

Del Ray Back in the Day

Maria P. "Pat" McArtor is a fourth-generation Alexandrian who grew up on Del Ray Avenue in the home her parents purchased in 1922. Her father worked at the Fruit Growers Express. During her recent interview, Pat recalled her home life, her education – including attending St. Mary's Academy – as well as the churches, businesses, and theaters in the neighborhood and broader Del Ray area.

Cows in the Neighborhood

Mrs. McArtor: "I'm a fourth-generation native of Alexandria and Daddy and his family lived on Wilkes

Street. And in 1916 they decided to move to Del Ray on Del Ray Avenue, which was then Peyton Avenue. So when my mother and father got married in 1922, he wanted to live on the same street they did. So we moved to Del Ray Avenue, which was then Peyton Avenue, and so my whole childhood, until I got married, was raised right there on that same street and the house is still there.... Well, right now it's 109 East Del Ray Avenue, but it used to be 114 West Peyton Avenue, but it's the same place....



Jen Hembree conducts an orientation for new oral history volunteers.

“What’s so funny about that house, of course now it’s built up on the little streets next to it, but when I was a child [in the 1930s], cows grazed on the right hand. [laughs] They [the cows] belonged to a Mrs. Smith who lived in the next block. She had a big barn and everything, so she used to walk the cows up Del Ray Avenue past the lot next to my house.... She did have them on a leash....Because, of course, there weren’t very many cars in those days so the avenue was very sparsely populated. And, in fact, on the very street, on Mount Vernon and Del Ray Avenue, Doctor Yates lived and then there was a great big space and eventually Mr. Glassman built those two houses there. And on the other side of my house was vacant, so that’s where the cows were. [laughs]”

Senate Beer and the Ice Man

Mrs. McArtor: “...Across the street from me lived the Pettis who owned the shoe shop and also there was a beer distributor, the Senate Beer place was right there too and the boys used to lift all the beer cases and it was amazing.

“So anyway, as a child we didn’t have refrigerators, we had iceboxes so the ice man came by and we used to go out on the truck and get the ice. [laughs] ... (It [our icebox] was just a plain square icebox. I guess it would be about five foot high and in the bottom where you put the ice to make it cool. We always had it on the back porch.... And before they came, we would always put a little square, a cardboard card in the front window saying whether we wanted five pounds, ten pounds, or fifteen pounds of ice.”



by Suzanne Schaubel

Upcoming Events!

National Museum Day is Saturday September 26. Celebrate with us and visit the museum for our **Historical Scavenger Hunt** between 1 and 4pm. Bring your TimeTravelers passport and your stamps!



Featured Artifact

Found in “the Pit,” the probable root cellar associated with the 1850s brick house on Shuter’s Hill, by volunteers Tam Mihailovic and Laura Buchanan (see page 10), this ceramic pig may have been an ornamental handle for a serving dish or bowl. A golf ball was also found in the same unit, possibly dating to the early 1900s when a golf course covered the hillside.

Shuter’s Hill

We’ve had a great season at Shuter’s Hill and our Family Dig Days have been a blast! We are filled up for the rest of this year, but put us on your calendar for next season and we hope to see you then!



Dig Dayer Zoey Miller with the artifacts she retrieved from her screen.

Family Dig Day

On August 15, after a history presentation by Ruth and a site tour by Fran, kids and their parents assisted the archaeologists by sifting through an amazing 12 buckets of dirt! Excited participants were then able to show off their favorite artifacts. Disappointed at not being able to keep her finds, Zoey Miller (pictured) holds up a piece of purple transfer print ceramic, one of many artifacts found that day, which will be sent to the laboratory for processing.

October Is Archaeology Month!

Open House will be on October 3 and 31, between 1 and 4 p.m. Stop by to see our exhibits and artifacts on display. And make sure to visit on **Halloween Day** for treats and a new **History Scavenger Hunt**, created just for the occasion!

***Visit the Museum & meet our mascot, Zark. What is he?!**

SUMMER INTERNS REFLECT

A Virginia Summer

by Laura Buchanan

There is nothing like a good, hot, muggy Virginia summer, and the past few months have been no exception. As a native of Clifton and a senior at the College of William and Mary, Virginia is my home through and through. It has been my pleasure to work as a summer intern at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

This summer I have been helping Ruth with education, working with Steve and Fran at Shuter's Hill, and conducting research on Fort Ward with Pam and two other interns, Gaby and Doug. It has been a wonderful opportunity both to work with everyone here at the Museum and to get valuable experience in a variety of projects. I can't tell you which I enjoyed more: putting together the puzzle pieces of a chain of title at Fort Ward, watching kids' excitement as they screened soil on a Family Dig Day, or just sharing stories with everyone at lunch.

Life always seems to put you in the right places if you let it. As I head back to William and Mary to finish my majors in history and anthropology, it will be good to know I have some experience under my belt as I fill out applications for teaching programs and start to think about grad school. Thank you all for a wonderful summer!



helped me appreciate my field much more than I ever thought I could.

Although my main interest is European and Medieval history, I have a deep appreciation for American history as well. Colonial life in America is one of my favorite topics. For this reason, I was drawn to Old Town Alexandria as a good starting place for my career.

As a volunteer at the Museum, I have been working on the Fort Ward project, focusing on the African American community that moved into that area right after the Civil War. My job so far has been to transcribe oral histories and obtain information from them that could help us uncover details of life in this little-known community. With the information the project is gathering, we hope to reveal the stories of the Fort Ward community as part of the history of Alexandria.

Transcribing Memoirs

by Kelsey Ryan

I'm currently a senior at the Ohio State University, working toward my undergraduate degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

During my internship at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, I have been working with Anna Lynch on transcribing the memoirs of Mary Louisa Slacum Benham. Our goal has been to identify any information pertinent to the culture and history of Old Town Alexandria in Mrs. Benham's memoirs. Additionally, I'm working on compiling travelers' accounts of Alexandria for future inclusion on the Museum's website.

I have enjoyed this unique opportunity and am glad to be a part of the Alexandria Archaeology team.



Fort Ward Gets Help

by Doug Appler

I'm a graduate student in historic-preservation planning and returned for a second summer of work with Alexandria Archaeology. This year I have been helping to develop a Cultural Resources Stewardship Inventory for Fort Ward Park.

Come mid-September I will be heading back up to Ithaca, NY, to continue my studies.



From World History to Oral History

by Gaby Faundez

Born in Santiago, Chile, I moved at age 13 to the United States with my family. The change was huge, but I quickly became adjusted to the environment of Virginia and have felt very much at home here. As a little girl I had been interested in history, and thanks to my grandfather's telling me

many stories of the past, my interest grew over time.

In 2006, I graduated from South Lakes High School and went on to Marymount University, where I am currently majoring in history. The professors there have become some of the most important people in my life, since they have

Egyptian Archaeologists Visit Alexandria Archaeology Museum

On the morning of July 29, the Museum was privileged to receive a visit from a group of distinguished Egyptian archaeologists. Traveling under the auspices of a State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program, they were accompanied by Ms. Sabrina Holly, a program officer for Meridian International. The goal of these archaeologists was to examine various aspects of U.S. archaeology, historic-objects conservation, Egyptian and antiquities collections, youth programs in archaeology, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

On their visit our staff – Pam Cressey, Barbara Magid, Steve Shephard, Fran Bromberg, and Ruth Reeder – gave an overview of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum and discussed our efforts to preserve local cultural heritage. Our staff emphasized the educational programs of the Museum, including Adventure Lessons and school outreach, and our special efforts to interest youth in the preservation of our cultural heritage. The Egyptian archaeologists asked many penetrating questions and made interesting comments about our facilities, showing pleasure in and curiosity about Alexandria Archaeology. They themselves represented the cream of their country's archaeologists.

The distinguished visitors were:

- **Ahmed Kadry Mohammed Abdelrehim**, Director of Middle Cairo Monuments
- **Yaser Mahmoud Hussein Abou Zid**, Inspector, Supreme Council of Antiquities, Cairo
- **Barakat Eid Ahmed Eid**, Inspector, Supreme Council of Antiquities, Abydos
- **Ahmed Rashad Mohamed Amer**, First Archeologist, Museum Sector
- **Essam Mokhtar Abdelazim Hussein**, Inspector, Supreme Council of Antiquities, Saqqara
- **Adel Abdelsamie Ahmed Kelany**, Supervisor, Ancient Quarries and Mines Office, Supreme Council of Antiquities, Aswan
- **Mohamed Kobecy Kasim Mohamed**, Director, Bab El Shaaia, Middle Cairo Inspectorate
- **Salah El Masikh Ahmed Mohamed**, Inspector, Supreme Council of Antiquities, Sohag, Luxor
- **Ms. Rania Ahmed Monir Mohamed Nour-El-Den**, Inspector, Supreme Council of Antiquities, Manesterly Palace
- **Ms. Rania Galal Darwish Suliman**, Administrative and Research Assistant, Office of the Secretary General, Supreme Council of Antiquities

Eastfield continued from page 6

Eastfield Village, established in 1971, is located east of Albany near the Massachusetts border. Eastfield consists of 28 buildings from the period 1790-1840, rescued from around the area. Workshops at the village focus on the building trades and decorative arts of this period and include such topics as tinsmithing, plastering, and period lighting.

This year, Barbara and four other participants stayed at the 1793 Briggs Tavern, sleeping on rope bedsteads and relying on candlelight and an 18th-century outhouse. The antique-filled tavern is lacking electricity and plumbing, but this year, quite incongruously, had WiFi and cell-phone coverage. Workshops, which include lectures, demonstrations, and show-and-tell, are held in a meetinghouse built in Schenectady, NY, in 1836. Other buildings include a store, a doctor's office, and the workshops of a woodworker, blacksmith, tinsmith, printer, and shoemaker.

GO GREEN!

Join FOAA and support archaeology in Alexandria. For membership information see page two.

Already a member? Then please renew your membership today and consider receiving the quarterly newsletter, *Volunteer News*, electronically -- it will be in full color, and you will help us save paper and postage. Contact Ruth Reeder at ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov to be added to the newsletter email list. Or...join the FOAA list serve to receive the newsletter notices of upcoming events electronically. To join FOAA and/or the FOAA list serve, go to: www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org Click on "Participate in Alexandria Archaeology by becoming a Friend or Volunteer"

Toaster Oven Needed

The Alexandria Archaeology staff would greatly appreciate a new or used -- but in good condition --toaster oven. The appliance would help with food preparation, and the donor would be praised every day at lunchtime and at least once in this very newsletter.

