

Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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SPRING-SUMMER 2012

Archaeology in Alexandria: Celebrating 51 Years!

PRAISE FROM
MUSEUM VISITORS

*"There is a wonderful spirit of discovery and harmony with people and with history." Donald & Farrow Simon
3/14/12*

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Alexandria Archaeologist digging Shovel Test Pits (STPs) at 30-foot intervals. 3-foot x 3-foot Test Unit (TU). The area of pedestaled soil is a feature containing burnt brick, nails, and other historic architectural debris. Trowel points north.

Update on Fort Ward Park Archaeological Project

Alexandria Archaeology Searches for Traces of "The Fort" African American Community

by Ben Russell, Project Supervisor

On March 21, 2012, Alexandria Archaeology began an intensive archaeological survey of Fort Ward Park. A team of five archaeologists began investigating remaining traces of a community of African Americans that lived at and around the remnants of the fort after the Civil War. The last residents left "The Fort" when the City of Alexandria created the park in 1964. The archaeological crew is first focusing their efforts on excavating shovel-test holes throughout the park at 30-ft. intervals. (The crew will not excavate test holes inside most of the Civil War fort itself, except for small areas where houses were built after the Civil War.) It is expected that as many as 800 of these small test holes will be dug. As of April 21 (exactly one month in the field) the crew had excavated approximately 550 test holes, and covered about two thirds of the park property. Artifacts were recovered from roughly 80

See *Fort Ward*, page 10

Museum Welcomes Lab Volunteers

by Paul Nasca

After a hiatus of more than a year, Alexandria Archaeology is happy to have an active laboratory volunteer program up and running again.

On March 3, the program kicked off with a 2-hour volunteer orientation taught by Paul Nasca, Alexandria's new archaeologist/collections manager. The first hour focused on the many steps necessary in processing artifacts in the lab, from washing, identification, bagging, cataloging, numbering, and ultimately, data entry in a computer database and storage.



Paul Nasca presents a Laboratory Orientation to new and returning lab volunteers.

See *Lab*, page 12

Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: FOAA in Focus...

Year in Review

Retiring President Marya Fitzgerald: 2011 Was Another 'Productive' Year

by Marya Fitzgerald

2011 was another productive year for FOAA. Hoosey Hughes and Marya Fitzgerald continued to produce the quarterly *Volunteer News*, with the inestimable help of Joan Amico and Ruth Reeder.

Joan also kept busy maintaining the FOAA membership and mailing list database. In addition, she managed the Museum three days a week, with Anna Lynch taking Saturdays and Marya Fitzgerald Wednesdays. As needed, Anna, Marya, and Hoosey, at upper right, taught the **Adventure Lessons** to school, Scout, family, and senior groups.

At the 2011 Annual FOAA Meeting in March, the board celebrated the 25th anniversary of Alexandria Archaeology. New member Liz Kelley



volunteered to transfer retiring treasurer Kathy Scheibelhoffer's handwritten accounting to Quick Book Pro. Jane Morris agreed to become secretary, replacing Cat Sumner, who was moving out of area.

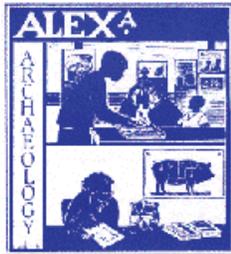
April brought two FOAA-sponsored walking tours of Ivy Hill Cemetery.

The cemetery holds the remains of many of Alexandria's Civil War dead, whose stories were vividly presented by the two knowledgeable guides, Tara Knox and Lucy Burke Goddin. The tours were well-attended. Pictured at left are Dave, Ruth, and Joan at Ivy Hill.



On April 20, 2011, the FOAA Board met with the AAC in their annual combined meeting, this year in a lovely room off the garden of the Athenaeum. There, the FOAA budget and the annual report were discussed, and questions answered.

BE SURE TO VISIT ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY ON FACEBOOK



Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News

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2012-2013 FOAA Board of Directors

Liz Kelly, president; Margarete Holubar, vice-president; Katie Wagenblass, treasurer; Laura Heaton, secretary; Mary Jane Nugent, AAC representative; Marya Fitzgerald, past president; Joan Amico, membership; James McCall, development; Hoosey Hughes, newsletter; Kathy Scheibelhoffer, past treasurer

FOAA's Civil War Sesquicentennial participation kicked off on May 21 with an information booth at the City's Market Square. The Museum staff and several FOAA volunteers educated the public on archaeology in Alexandria.

June was FOAA's lucky month. Liz Kelley enlisted the expertise and enthusiasm of her friend Katie Wagenblaus, who became FOAA's newest treasurer. As we were to discover, Katie herself is a treasure!



In June, Margarete and Marya helped with **Dig Day registration at Shuter's Hill**.

July was equally serendipitous; on July 9 FOAA and the Museum staff welcomed our long-anticipated new archaeologists—Garrett Fesler and Paul Nasca. We affirmed their welcome with a **boat party down on the wharf** on July 20. More mundanely, during July FOAA purchased 5,000 "I Dig" stickers, those perennially favorite souvenirs for children who visit the Museum.

In September, we began an extraordinary string of FOAA-sponsored Java Jolts, starting with Mark Michael Ludlow's presentation on the history and significance of downspouts in Alexandria's architecture, given at the Athenaeum. This Jolt was extremely well-attended.

October 1 opened Archaeology Month with a Java Jolt presentation on "Bi-points before Clovis," by Jack Hranicky, a topic of high interest since the Museum is proud owner of a 13,000-year-old Clovis point.



On Oct. 22 Marya, Margarete, and Mary Jane Nugent, pictured at right, assisted with **Archaeology Day at Shuter's Hill**.

October 27 brought a special fund-raiser for the conservation of the Gladwin Records, held at the Principle Gallery. The astonishing amount of \$5,145 was donated for the Records' preservation.

At another Java Jolt on October 29, our own FOAA member and researcher Ted Pulliam presented some of his findings on Historic Alexandria, made while he was writing his wonderful book of the same name. (We have copies of Ted's book for sale at the Museum. Also, see pages 8-10 for Ted's story on Del Ray history.)



On November 12 the grand, traditional **Volunteer Party** was held to honor and recognize all the volunteers, with food, music, and service by the Museum staff and their friends and spouses. **FOAA presented Anna Lynch with the John S. Glaser Award** for selfless and devoted

volunteering, and Alexandria Archaeology with a \$2000 annual gift. Marya and Margarete, pictured below, presented Anna with the Award.

For the ninth consecutive year, Joan Amico received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Alexandria Archaeology.

November 26 brought a different kind of party—an ornament-making one. Hoosey, Margarete, Anna, and Marya mixed, rolled, and cut out dough ornaments for the **annual Christmas Ornament-Making Workshop** in December. Marya and Ruth baked them at home.

On December 3 Margarete and pooch "Nellie," along with other volunteers, supervised the **Workshop**, which as usual was very popular—and not just among the children!



Suddenly it was 2012 and January 6, a memorable date when John Milner Associates announced at the Society for Historical Archaeology meeting that AA and the City were the recipients of the first **Daniel G. Roberts Award**—for "Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology."



Besides a splendid plaque and the great honor, the award, pictured at left, with Councilwoman Del Pepper, Mayor Euille, and AAC members and staff, carried an \$1800 prize for Alexandria Archaeology.

January 28 followed with another amazing Java Jolt, this one on "America's Historic Kilns," presented by Brenda Hornsby-Heindl.

February 20 brought a kind of reunion for stalwart FOAA members, our friends and family, to join with Museum staff to march in the **Annual George Washington's Birthday Parade**. Afterward all of us marchers ate together, happily devouring the delicious pizzas donated by Bugsy's and the sweet-treat cherry cobbler donated by The Creamery. We even put candles on the cobbler to celebrate volunteer Montie Kust's upcoming 90th birthday. A great time was had by all!

On February 25 our new archaeologist Paul Nasca gave his inaugural Java Jolt. His topic, "Lincoln's War at Washington's Boyhood Home," was well received by the many attendees. FOAA contributed goodies to sweeten the occasion, as always.

On March 10, 2012 FOAA held its **Annual Meeting** to elect the new board, and followed that with the necessary meeting to elect the new slate of officers. Jane Morris, who did such a good job as Secretary, moved out of town, and thanks to Laura Heaton the vacancy was quickly filled! Dave Cavanaugh's retirement from the board left the group maleless, but the addition of James McCall has corrected that imbalance. Thank you, Jane, Dave, Laura, and James.

Meet the Members of the 2012 FOAA Board of Directors

President: Liz Kelly

Elizabeth Kelley (Liz) is originally from Massachusetts but has called Alexandria her home for the past nine years. She has a Master's in Community Planning with an emphasis on historic preservation. She studied archaeology and history at the University of Edinburgh, and enjoyed being an archaeological technician before joining the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where she currently works helping to house survivors after disasters. Liz enjoys working with the great people at Friends of Alexandria Archaeology.

Vice President: Margarete Holubar

We've all heard the familiar question "What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?"...Happily volunteering would be the answer of this retiree from Long Island, who after spending a lifetime in nursing, found her dream volunteer career in Alexandria Archaeology! As a young woman I had hoped to major in art history, but an unexpected scholarship in nursing changed the course of my life, ending my fledgling art career before it began! You could almost say that I've now come full circle, having returned to my initial choice of studies, history. Few of us are given a second chance, and although this is not to be considered a career change, since my life has had few regrets, it's now one that I continue to enthusiastically welcome. I am grateful for the opportunity of being on the FOAA board.

Secretary: Laura Heaton

Laura Heaton is a FOAA board member and past president. She has a long-standing interest in archaeology, germinated in her youngest years. She remembers when her mother brought home a Time-Life book on Dr. Louis Leakey's work in East Africa. She was eight years old. After taking a long look at that book, she was hooked on the idea of "old" things that needed to be dug up and examined. During her undergraduate years, she contemplated academic work in anthropology/archaeology, but conversations with various faculty and staff in that area convinced her that it was not a wise choice of profession at that time, given her desire to work in the field.

After almost two decades of work in the accounting/social science fields, Laura eventually moved to Alexandria, Virginia, in late 1997, taking a job at the Census Bureau, doing demographic and mathematical modeling of populations highly affected by



From left to right: Margarete Holubar, Marya Fitzgerald, James McCall, Alison "Hoosey" Hughes, Laura Heaton, Joan Amico, Kathy Scheibhoffer. On stairs: Mary Jane Nugent, Ruth Reeder, Liz Kelley, and Katie Wagenblass

HIV and AIDS. She discovered Alexandria Archaeology in 1998. She has been a volunteer since then, doing archival research on descendants of those buried in the Freedmen's Cemetery and excavation at Shuter's Hill. She remains an avid excavation volunteer and looks forward to every dig season. And, so many years after picking up that Time-Life book, she gladly reports that she finally made it to the site of Leakey's work in Tanzania in January 2012!

AAC Rep: Mary Jane Nugent

Mary Jane received her BA in history from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, MO, 1958. She completed 30 hours toward a Master of Urban Affairs at Va-Tech-Dulles Graduate School, 1977-80.

She moved to the DC area in 1958 when her husband came to work as an attorney in the Department of Justice.

Her volunteer activities included serving on her church's parish Council, serving on the board of her children's school PTA (President 1973-74). She was appointed by city council to the Alexandria School Board (ASB Vice Chair 1983-85) in 1980, for 6 years.

She served on Virginia School Boards Association Board of Directors, Chair of Membership & Public Relations Committee, ASB representative on Metropolitan Area Boards of Education. She became active in the League of Women Voters, becoming President of the Alexandria LWV, 1974-76. In 1976 she began working as the Manager of Government Affairs for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. She was the Administrative Assistant to Beverly Beidler, city council member. She served as Administrative Assistant to G.G. Wilson Design Collaborative, with an architectural firm.

In 1981 she became the legislative aide for 15 years to State Delegate Bernard S. Cohen, who represented Alexandria in Richmond. In 1996 she became an assistant registrar in the Alexandria Voter Registration Office.

She served on the Senior Services Board of Alexandria from 2003-06.

In 1986 she began to volunteer in the Archaeology lab & Museum, was a founding member and first Secretary of the Board of FOAA. She was a volunteer at the Smithsonian Behind the Scenes program in the American Indian Program from 1994-98. In 2009 she was appointed to the Alexandria Archaeological Commission.

Treasurer: Katie Wagenblass

A resident of Alexandria, Katie has over seven years of D.C. non-profit development and administration experience. In her spare time she enjoys volunteering for FOAA, taking art classes at the Torpedo Art Factory, and exploring Alexandria with her husband and two cats. Along with her mother, she is the coauthor of the book *Russian Enamel Designs*.

Membership: Joan Amico

As everyone has already guessed, I was born near Boston 80 years ago. Went to Simmons College and became a librarian. Married and moved here to Arlington, where I had three kids. Having always been interested in archaeology, I seized the chance to volunteer at the Smithsonian and twice was able to dig for a couple of weeks at a bison-butcher site in Colorado. Next I was divorced and moved to New York, where I became a copyeditor at Morrow/Hearst. When I retired, I decided to come back here, where my kids are. When I was here before, I had read about Alexandria's excavations of the privies, so I came over and volunteered for whatever was now going on. I've done some excavation at Shuter's Hill and also lab work, and when our old friend Grace left, I slipped into her seat, where I still sit three days a week. (And, remember, when you hear I've been Volunteer of the Year for nine years, it's just about the hours.)

Development: James McCall

The Board's newest member, James chairs FOAA's Development Committee and is Vice Chair of the AAC. He is also the AAC representative to the Waterfront Committee, and chaired AAC's Waterfront History Plan Committee. He was recently elected to the board of the Historic Alexandria Foundation. A consultant and writer, his past professional positions include: Defense Fellow and Special Advisor, Strategy and Planning, Dept of Defense; Executive Director, Eisenhower Institute; Co-Director, George H. W. Bush Oral History Project, Bush Foundation. He holds advanced degrees in history, economics, and strategic studies, and studied in Germany, the UK, and the US. He has lived in Old Town, Alexandria, since 1995 and is currently restoring a 1805 townhouse supervised by his watchful yellow lab, Angus.

Past President: Marya Fitzgerald

Born Marya Dusheck, Oakland, CA, November 3, 1938. Mother died of complications of the flu March 3, 1942. Brought up by committee -- father, both grandmothers, aunt, godmother, and stepmother. Two younger sisters. Graduated from George Washington High School in San Francisco, 1956. Graduated *summa cum laude* in Greek from U.C. Berkeley, 1960.

Married to Pinchos Andreen for 29 years. Three children: Noah (1960), Carl (1964), and Wendy (1965), all older than I am, now. Grandson Cory, now 28! Secondary level English teacher for Fairfax Public Schools 1969 to 1998; certified by Virginia in Greek, German, English, and Gifted and Talented Education.

Married to Donald Fitzgerald, former Naval Aviator and human extraordinaire, August 14, 1994. Widowed February 21, 2001.

Joined Alexandria Archaeology as a volunteer in November 2003; FOAA prez from 2006-2012.

Favorite activities: reading, thinking, writing (especially haiku); volunteering at the AA Museum, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the Smithsonian; cats and more cats; listening to music, embroidering, cooking, gardening, walking. Pet peeve: people who take up two parking places.

Past Treasurer: Kathy Scheibelhoffer

I grew up on a farm on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. After high school I moved to Dover, Delaware. While working, I went to Delaware State College. Then, in 1969, I moved to Northern Virginia and worked for the General Accounting Office.

After a few years I quit and got an MBA from George Washington University. I went back to work for the Feds, this time in the human resources area. I retired in March 1998. I became more interested in history, especially archaeology. I think Alexandria Archaeology was my first volunteer work (except helping at events where I live). At the Museum I was in the first group of docents to work in the lab.

Over the years I've done a variety of things including digging, lab work, and been a long-term member of the FOAA Board (no longer Treasurer). I like to attend lectures and classes. I also like to visit different places in the US and other countries.

Newsletter: Alison "Hoosey" Hughes

Recently retired (2008) FCPS History & Social Sciences teacher Alison "Hoosey" Hughes came to the Museum in response to a "Volunteers Needed" posting online. To her delight, she found that, in spite of her middle school teaching - acquired gruffness, she **COULD** teach "Adventure Lessons" to very young children **WITHOUT** making them cry.

Further, she found that, while her 1960s-era editing skills were technologically obsolete, she could, sort of, "master" Adobe InDesign sufficiently to be of service to this newsletter. She loves FOAA and the Museum, InDesign, not so much.

More about Mary Jane...

On March 26, at the 32nd Annual Salute to Women Awards, sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women, our very own Mary Jane was awarded The Marian Van Landingham Legislation and Public Policy Award. The award recognizes a woman who has made a significant contribution to the status of women through advocating for issues of importance to women. A group of Mary Jane's friends from her book club of 20 years nominated her, and Marian herself delivered the introduction and presented the award! It was a great and well-deserved moment for Mary Jane.

Mary Jane first started volunteering with Alexandria Archaeology 25 years ago. Her long interest in archaeology and artifacts brought her to us—and to the Smithsonian—where she has excelled in identifying and cataloguing artifacts in the laboratory. Always interested in the meaning of objects and the wider research questions, Mary Jane also has the perfect temperament and skills to work carefully and in an organized manner—mainstays of archaeological laboratory work. For all these years, Mary Jane enriched our lives on Fridays when the laboratory was operating and became a permanent member of the "Lab Ladies," the Friday group that processed artifacts and shared lunch.

In more recent years, Mary Jane has expanded her contributions to the city's archaeology. She has studied the history of African American soldiers at L'Ouverture Hospital in Alexandria during the Civil War. Her careful and consistent work has resulted in a complete chronology of 118 USCT soldiers' deaths, burial at Freedmen's Cemetery and reburial at Alexandria National Cemetery in 1864 and 1865. Her research on these men will be incorporated into the text of bronze tablets commemorating the soon-to-be constructed Contrabands' and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial in the 1000 block of South Washington Street. Moreover, she has spent many hours typing these men's historical documentation into templates for use on the new city web pages for the memorial. Her attention to detail and dedication are unmatched....

ORAL HISTORY UPDATE: MEMORIES OF DEL RAY

Compiled by Jen Hembree, Oral History Coordinator

Ed Gaillott

Ed Gaillott was raised in a "Sears and Roebuck" house, built by his father, on Stewart Avenue.



OUR SEARS & ROEBUCK HOUSE

Ed Gaillott: I was born in the house [116 Stewart Avenue in Del Ray], and it was called a Sears and Roebuck house by mail... Each piece of wood was numbered. Each two by four was numbered. He [Ed Gaillott's father] changed some things. Of course, he was a pattern maker in the Navy Yard, so he changed the wooden porch to an all-cement porch. And he added a window here and there. He had the pillars in the middle of the porch there. So, it was a real big house, I thought, until I visited back here a couple years ago. It's kind of small now, but it was big when I was a kid! And that's where I was raised.

He built it pretty soon, 1926. By 1931-32, it was all completed inside. Some rooms were not completed all the way. Actually, it was a five-bedroom house upstairs. He made it into two large bedrooms and two small bedrooms, which the building was supposed to be. He enlarged two of the rooms. He raised all the family there. I slept with my brother. My sisters had private rooms.

Norman Grimm

Norman Grimm was born in 1931 and lived on East Howell Avenue.

MIGHTY MIDGET KITCHENS

Norman Grimm: But right on this corner here, you have the Mighty Midget Kitchens....Mighty Midget Kitchens were just a little old aluminum shack (still one down on Number One High[way], right there on Route 1)...and two women ran it. ... It wasn't big enough to turn around in...they were all compact units you bought. They'd come and set it on the ground. And you had your water and [unintelligible] for the workers...and then you had hotdogs, hamburgers, ice cream, sandwiches, and everythin' and they sold 'em out the window...

Now over to your left... That was a barber shop. That was Cecil Koffman's Barber Shop. Where the Mount Vernon Deli is, was Barney O'Duar's Delicatessen. My wife and I moved to an apartment over here, later on. And of course—you didn't make enough money—so I had to charge my food over at Barney's. He wrote it on a card. He kept one behind his ear and he wrote all your stuff on a bag and added it up before you got the bag and

that went with you. And he would put it on a card and then, when I got paid, I'd come pay him first....He lived around the corner. The first person [who] owned that delicatessen was a man named Goldberg... and then he sold it to Barney because Barney worked for him.

Gladys "Dani" Lail

Gladys "Dani" Lail, born in 1911, grew up in the Hume Springs area of the neighborhood. Pictured at right in 1982.



LITTLE HOUSE OUT BACK

Dani Lail: We did on our place [had an outhouse] and everybody else except the real late houses that came in there. But all of Hume's property except for the house where [the] Jacksons lived in (I'm not certain who built that house), they had "back houses." Nobody thought anything of it. You used a "slop jar" in the house at night and carried it out the next morning. And you didn't even pay any attention to the neighbors when they carried them out because that was the thing you did.

Buddy Smallwood

Buddy Smallwood was born in 1945 and grew up on East Windsor Street.

PENNY SNACKS AT THE FIVE & TEN CENTS STORE

Buddy Smallwood: There was a drugstore, a five and ten cents store. Of course, the big five and ten cents store was across the street from Mount Vernon Elementary School. Every kid went there in the morning...bought penny snacks.

I remember the old [school] building—and, boy, it was an old building and it had the school bell...I don't remember if it rang or not, but I remember that it had it ...The ceilings were all very high. The library was in the basement, the school library, at that time. But actually they had two libraries at that time. The library was in the basement and I went in there once [unclear].... I mean, we were all little, but it seemed like that ceiling was low even then to us.... I still remember a book I checked out, it was called *Indian Myths* and it had the legends of Big Foot. I remember my teacher—now, let's see it was Herlich in the fourth grade. I think I was only in one class, one year in the old building -- that was the fourth grade, yes. The rest of the time I was in the new building. The first grade and so forth, I was in the new building. The older classes were in the "Annex Building," as we called it.

We had a kick ball—it was a great big ball field. We had plenty

of sports. In the summertime, they had the “Rec Hall.” They finally bought a building, thank God, at the other end of that and turned it into the Rec Hall, but before that they just had this gigantic green box and some young college kid would have the key to it... That’s where all the balls and bats of every kind were. And he structured ball games and things like that. But otherwise it was wide open. You had nice basketball courts. You used to play a lot of basketball. You played a lot of sports all the time.

William and Loretta Spittle

Married couple William and Loretta Spittle both attended the Mount Vernon Elementary School in the 1940s and early 1950s.

MOUNT VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

William Spittle: The school that I attended—Mount Vernon Elementary School—was located on Mount Vernon Avenue and it’s still there to this day, but I went through grades one through three at the old school... In those days, all the kids in my neighborhood from Raymond Avenue walked to school and walked home, no matter what the weather was. I left my house on Raymond Avenue, walked down to Dewitt—made a left on Dewitt—went up one block to Randolph, made a right on Randolph, walked towards Mount Vernon Avenue, and almost at Mount Vernon Avenue I made a left into the Sanitary—at that time it was called a Sanitary—Hoots Store’s parking lot, and I walked diagonally across the parking lot to the sidewalk at Mount Vernon Avenue and I walked up Mount Vernon Avenue to the next block which would’ve been Mount Ida and Mount Vernon where the cop was patrolling that corner, stopping traffic to let us get across the street to the school, and we’d go across the street to the school house.

...She [the school principal] proceeds to tell me that I now have been assigned to the patrol unit. The patrol unit was where a kid wore a white cross belt tight thing with a badge on it; it said you were a patrol man and you were stationed on certain corners there along Mount Vernon Avenue to help other kids across the street and watch for cars before you made your decision about letting kids cross the street, and so I was assigned to the patrol and, just my luck, I got the furthest location that all the patrols had and actually it was down at Raymond and Mount [Vernon] where I walked to school from. So I was always the last kid on the patrol outfit in the mornings that got into the classrooms, because I had about—let’s see, one, two, three, four, about six blocks to go to get back—or at least five blocks to go to get back to the school house.

...AND TREATS AT THOMPSON’S DELI

Loretta Spittle: Thompson’s Deli was famous, because they sold Hershey ice cream, and you’d get a little pint of Hershey ice cream and they’d cut it in half for you and you could eat it right out of the container... But the little establishments on Mount Vernon Avenue did mean a lot to me, because after school I would always be with girlfriends... On the way home sometimes you’d stop at Hamilton’s. That was a little soda shop there--we could get a Coke. And the Cokes were in the little metal container with the paper insert there. And the Scott Shoppe [a dress shop], you always walked by and looked in the window.

Gloria Gardner

Gloria Gardner has lived in the same house on Luray Avenue since 1926.

PLAYING IN “THE WOODS”

Gloria Gardner: And, of course, we played outdoors. Over where Glendale Avenue is and all those places, that was what we called “woods”—even down this side of Luray Avenue. Those houses weren’t built until just before the war, or just after the war. But I’m pointing over my shoulder—the 200 block of Luray Avenue are the houses I’m talking about—they’re all-brick houses. But behind that was what we just called “the woods.” And there was a little stream about this wide (I’m showing my fingers about two inches apart) that ran down there. And there was this big old tree—I have no idea what kind of tree—which was referred to by the kids as “the big tree.” Now the boys climbed the tree, but they didn’t allow the girls. After a couple of years, they nailed boards like in steps and let us go up, you know, as long as they were there and in control. But we went over there and played at that big tree or got water out of there and made mud pies and everything.

Maria “Pat” McArtor

Maria “Pat” McArtor is a fourth-generation Alexandrian. Her family moved to Del Ray in 1916, moved to 109 East Del Ray Avenue (formerly known as 114 West Peyton Avenue).



Photo: Barbara Murray

DEL RAY AVENUE COWS

Pat McArtor: When I was a child, cows grazed on the right hand [side of my street]. They 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. When the cows came by I was about 12 years old, about in the ’30s.

I remember ten cents [to go to the Palm movie theater]. And then to go in later years, we paid twenty-eight cents. I didn’t realize it was as small as it is until I grew up, but we thought it was huge. It was two sections; I guess it was about ten seats on either side. And some of our friends, you know, ran the machine upstairs.

Can’t get enough Del Ray? A special feature by Ted Pulliam, “History of Del Ray,” follows on the next page.



Hats Off to Oral History Volunteers...who are currently working on transcriptions, interviews and/or our website: Rob Colton, Shannon Dina, Katelyn Gately, Laura Little, and Jared Weimer.

A History of Del Ray

Del Ray: Main Street, Streetcars, and Gamblers

By Ted Pulliam

What has now become one of the most desirable places to live in Northern Virginia, the area within Alexandria known as Del Ray, was not only one of the earliest commuter suburbs close to Alexandria but also a separate town with a Main Street that was typical of small-town America. In addition, Del Ray was the scene of a notorious gambling facility -- the horse-race track and betting location known officially as the "Alexandria Gentlemen's Driving Club."

The story of Del Ray begins in 1894, about 40 years after the end of the Civil War. What is now Del Ray was then outside of the boundaries of the city of Alexandria, in what was then called Alexandria County and now is called Arlington County.

What would become Del Ray was then mainly farmland. Along its eastern edge was the Washington-Alexandria Turnpike, now Highway 1. Stretching across this farmland were the tracks of a railroad, the old Alexandria, Loudoun, and Hampshire line, which ran in a northwesterly direction from the turnpike over the farmland and eventually to Leesburg and beyond.

In that year, 1894, plans were being made to build a streetcar line that would run from Washington, through Alexandria, and on to George Washington's Mount Vernon. The part of the line running between Washington and Alexandria would cross Four Mile Run just beyond today's Cora Kelley School, at what now is the end of Commonwealth Avenue. From there it would proceed down the middle of what would become Commonwealth Avenue to King Street and then on south.

1894 was in the horse and buggy days before automobiles. Two developers from Cincinnati, Ohio, Charles E. Wood and William Harmon, realized that next to this planned streetcar line would be a perfect place for families to build their homes. From homes there, fathers, mothers, and their children could board the streetcar and ride easily into D.C. for work, shopping, or entertainment.

Thus Wood and Harmon bought this farmland property and in 1894 laid out two subdivisions, St. Elmo to the north and Del Ray to the south. Between the two subdivisions was the horse-race track called the "Alexandria Gentlemen's Driving Club," about which more is to follow.

St. Elmo was named after the patron saint of sailors and was the smaller of the two subdivisions. It had 491 long, narrow lots. The lots were 25 feet in front, along the street, and extended back away from the street 105 feet. St. Elmo was bordered on the east by the Washington-Alexandria Turnpike (Highway 1) and on the north by what now are Glebe Road and Ashby Street. Its western border was the old Alexandria, Loudoun, and Hampshire Railroad, whose route is clearly visible today. The tracks now have been removed, and it has transformed into a linear park where a person can walk along the old roadbed, starting at Highway 1 just behind the Del Ray Animal Hospital on Mount Ida Avenue and proceeding in a northwesterly direction all the way to Commonwealth Ave.



The second subdivision, Del Ray, was the larger subdivision. It contained 1,160 lots of the same long, narrow size and stretched from what would become Commonwealth Avenue to Highway 1 and from Bellefonte Avenue to Mount Ida Avenue.

By 1905, eleven years after the subdivisions opened, Wood, Harmon & Company had sold 62% of the lots in both subdivisions. The average price of a lot was \$143.

Race Track

While the subdivisions were selling lots and building houses, the Alexandria Gentlemen's Driving Club, better known as the St. Asaph Track, was constructing its horse-race track between the two subdivisions. When finished, its grandstand held 5,000 spectators and accommodated 40 bookmakers. Its three quarters of a mile oval track stretched from close to Highway 1 along Mount Ida Avenue almost to Mount Vernon Avenue, with stables for horses located on both sides of Mount Vernon Avenue.

When construction was completed in late 1894, it quickly became tremendously popular. This popularity continued despite the fact that the *Alexandria Gazette* reported such shameful activities at the track as fastening lead shoes to the horses to make them run slower. In 1897, however, Virginia outlawed betting on horse races. This action made races at the track no longer profitable, and they ceased.

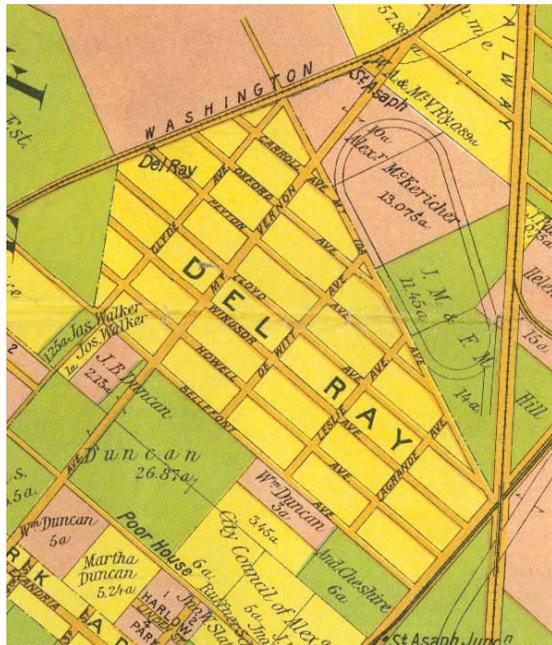


Photo of the "poolroom" at the old St. Asaph's Race Track and map of Del Ray, with outline of track in upper right.

However, the most popular part of the St. Asaph operation always had been betting on races that took place out of state, at such places as the track in Saratoga, New York. That aspect of the operation continued. The out-of-state bets were placed in part of the grandstand called the "poolroom." At St. Asaph's a poolroom was not a place for playing billiards but a place for placing bets.

To make the betting at least arguably legal, a private telegraph line ran from the St. Asaph Track poolroom to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, where horse-race betting was legal. Bets were recorded and money collected at the St. Asaph poolroom. They then were transferred over the telegraph wire to a group in Harpers Ferry called the West Virginia Athletic Association. The Athletic Association then placed the bets and later reported the results. Thus, the poolroom operators claimed that the bets actually were placed legally in West Virginia.

The poolroom probably looked something like the betting room in the movie of a few years ago with Paul Newman and Robert Redford called *The Sting*. At St. Asaph, as in the movie, an operator sitting at a telegraph "ticker" passed racing information to men called runners. The runners then walked quickly across the room and passed the information to slickly dressed men standing on a stage beside long blackboards. Onto the blackboards that bettors could easily see, the men wrote the names of racing entries, betting odds, and race results. After learning whether his horse had won or lost, a bettor could walk to another part of the grandstand and buy a drink (to celebrate or drown his sorrows) at the Hiawatha Pleasure and Social Club. It was a very efficient operation.

Citizens of St. Elmo and Del Ray and elsewhere in the county disliked the crowds attracted by the poolroom and feared it also attracted crime, and thus they complained loudly about such an immoral, illegal, and distasteful operation. In 1902, the county managed to elect a crusading Commonwealth Attorney named Crandall Mackey. Mackey aimed to shut the poolroom down.

He continually pressed charges against the poolroom operators. Yet, either the Alexandria police (Alexandria claimed police jurisdiction over the poolroom) refused to serve Mackey's warrants, or the city court dismissed the charges he brought. In 1904, the poolroom was said to be making \$150,000 a year profit, so it easily could afford some \$12,000 a year in alleged graft to local Alexandria officials.

Finally, in January 1905, an independent-minded Commonwealth Attorney in Alexandria named S. G. Brent bypassed the mayor of Alexandria and drew up warrants against the poolroom. Then, on his own, he ordered the Alexandria police quietly to raid it.

The poolroom received no warning, and the raid resulted in the arrest of all poolroom employees. In the ensuing court case, the manager of the poolroom's telegraph operation was convicted for illegal betting, fined \$200, and sentenced to six months in jail.

The poolroom had closed when all its employees were arrested. After the one conviction, it never reopened.

Incorporation

In 1906, the citizens of St. Elmo and Del Ray were free of the blight of the race track, and things were looking up. That same year, the railroad switching facility of Potomac Yard opened across Highway 1, bringing with it new residents for St. Elmo and Del Ray. The streetcar line down Commonwealth Avenue was extremely successful, running 30 electric trains a day, carrying 1,743,734 passengers a year.

Still, not many subdivision lots actually had buildings on them, and the citizens of St. Elmo and Del Ray thought they could obtain better municipal services and attract more people if they were incorporated.

Thus, in January 1908 the 500 citizens of the two subdivisions applied to the Virginia legislature for incorporation. The legislature was sympathetic, and on March 13, 1908, the subdivisions were officially incorporated as the town of Potomac.

Over the next several years, electric lighting was installed, sewer and water service was improved, and Mount Vernon Avenue was paved. In 1921 and 1922, the old race track property was divided into lots and developed as two subdivisions within the town of Potomac.



101 East Del Ray Avenue, reportedly one of the earliest houses built in Del Ray, frontage of 25 feet along the street

However, the town of Potomac did not remain independent for long. On midnight, January 1, 1930, it was annexed by Alexandria and thus became part of the city and soon became known as Del Ray. It contained then, and to a large extent still contains, a rich mixture of different housing styles, including pre-cut homes from Sears and Roebuck Company, one-story and one-and-a-half story bungalows, and four-square dwellings with large front porches.

Mount Vernon Avenue in the 1940s

It might be interesting to take a brief look at some places on Mount Vernon Avenue, Del Ray's traditional Main Street, as they are today and then look at them as they were in the 1940s, shortly after Del Ray was annexed by Alexandria. It also might be interesting to see something about how it was to be a kid in Del Ray some 60 years ago.

To start with, on Mt. Vernon Avenue one block south (toward Old Town) from the Mount Vernon Community School is the long building that has the Caboose Café on one end and Cheesetique on the other. In the 1940s there was a similar building there with one odd difference -- in the basement was a bowling alley called the Del Ray Recreation Center. There, pins were set by hand by local boys who were paid 4 cents a game for their work. Above the bowling alley, on the street-level floor of the building, were the Del Ray Restaurant, the Monticello Beauty Shop, a Firestone tire store, a radio shop, the College Barber Shop, and a couple of other stores. Above these commercial shops were apartments, where condos are now. One freezing December morning in 1945 at the early hour of 2:20 a.m., the building caught on fire. Quickly the rising flames forced the thirteen families who lived in the apartments on the upper floor to flee. As described in the *Alexandria Gazette*, men, women, and children made "a mad dash into the [icy] streets . . . many still in their nightgowns and pajamas."

Despite the "tireless efforts" of regular and volunteer firemen and all the fire engines available in the city, the fire completely gutted the building. It made all thirteen families homeless. The bowling alley and the stores on the ground floor were completely destroyed. All that remained of the building, according to the *Gazette*, was "a black yawning gap, filled with water and surrounded by tottering red brick walls on which hung thousands of icicles."

Despite the disaster, the building soon was rebuilt in the same style as the one destroyed by the fire and looking much like it. It is this building that is there today.

Just across the Avenue from there, the building that now is occupied by Yoga in Daily Life was in the 1940s a movie theater called The Palm. Kids in the neighborhood used to go there on Saturday afternoons to see westerns and to catch the latest episode of a serial to learn whether the hero or the heroine had narrowly escaped this time.

An afternoon at the movies at the Palm cost eleven cents, including one cent tax. Once the Palm showed on screen the real, live birth of a baby, and several people in the audience fainted.

Where today St. Elmo's coffee pub is located was in the 1940s a children's clothing store. Two doors down, the Dairy Godmother's Ice Cream store was a woman's dress store called The Scott Shoppe. Further down the Avenue, the building where Mancini's is now was a Safeway grocery store.



The Mighty Midget Kitchen in Leesburg, Virginia. The same sign company made the Mighty Midget sign on Mount Vernon Avenue.

One odd building in the late 1940s stood on the corner at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Mason avenues (where a Hyundai parking lot is now). It was called the Mighty Midget, and it was a tiny metal building about the size of three telephone booths standing side by side. It actually was made from the fuselage of a World War II bomber.

The one person who could fit inside would serve passers-by through its small window. Out the window would pass such things as hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips, ice cream sandwiches, candy bars, and cold drinks. Kids walking down the Avenue to school at George Washington would get a cupcake or candy bar as they passed in the morning and a cold drink coming back in the afternoon.

Up to Date

Later, Del Ray became run-down, as did most other parts of Alexandria. Whereas the renovation of Old Town began in the mid-1960s, renovation of Del Ray began much later, in the 1990s.

Probably Del Ray began to look like it does today with the establishment of St. Elmo's Coffee Pub in 1996. From that time, more and more attractive shops and restaurants have come to Del Ray, until today it is one of the most sought-after living areas in Northern Virginia.

Fort Ward, continued from page 1

percent of the test holes.



Michael O'Donnell, performs targeted metal detecting.

Aerial photos, deed research, and oral history accounts are helping guide the archaeologists as they explore different portions of the park. At locations with heavy concentrations of artifacts the archaeological crew is excavating square test units so as to gather additional information. Excavations so far have focused on the western and northern portion of the park including, a Civil War battery, a picnic area, and the southwestern corner of the park adjacent to St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Middle School.



Another TU reveals part of a leather boot or shoe near a Civil War-era rifle trench.

The most common type of artifact recovered so far is glass from bottles and from glass containers, as well as a sizeable number of ceramic sherds.

Concentrations of these

materials usually indicate the locations of households. Archaeologists also have been finding substantial amounts of architectural debris—brick, nails, and window glass—that help to pinpoint the exact locations of the houses that once stood on the property.

Analysis of these artifacts will help inform us about the daily lives of those who settled at The Fort after the Civil War. Approximately 125 of the artifacts recovered so far pertain to the Civil War, such as Minié balls, bullets, lead shot, military equipment, clothing fasteners, and one uniform button. A small number of stone tools and pieces of chipped stone indicate that Indians periodically camped on the property prior to European settlement of the area.

The City of Alexandria is sponsoring the archaeological investigation with special funding. Six interpretive signs from a National Trust for Historic Preservation will be erected throughout the park this summer. Learn more about the history of "The Fort" at the June 2 community event scheduled at the park from 1 to 4 p.m. See back page for details.

At press time the project was on schedule to be complete by the end of June 2012. The field crew schedule is 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday. Visitors are encouraged to drop by any time during a work-day to visit with the crew and ask questions.



POINTS OF INTEREST



Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia Visits the Gault Site in Texas

The Gault site, located approximately 23 miles northwest of Georgetown, Texas, has been known to professionals since 1929. In that year J.E. Pearce, the first archaeologist in Texas, worked for six weeks on Henry Gault's farm looking at a large Archaic burnt-rock midden.

Over the next 62 years the site was extensively looted and collected; it even spent time as a pay-to-dig site. Because of this attention, professional archaeologists had written the site off as destroyed.

In 1991 a collector found incised stones associated with a **Clovis point**, and a brief test excavation revealed extensive intact paleoindian strata below the now-mixed Archaic levels. An ownership change in 1998, and the find of a mammoth mandible and associated Clovis artifacts, made possible and encouraged further professional excavation.

The Gault Project excavated the site from 1999-2002, recovering more than 1.2 million artifacts, faunal and environmental samples and startling paleoindian features such as a stone pavement. Subsequent negotiations with the landowners led to the purchase of the site and its donation to the Archaeological Conservancy.

Since 2007 the Gault School of Archaeological Research (GSAR), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has administered and maintained the site as well as conducted further research there.

The Gault site is a protected Texas State Archeological Landmark.



Since serious professional excavation began in the 1990s, it has become clear that Gault is one of the oldest and richest prehistoric sites in North America. The site has an extensive Clovis component. In fact, more Clovis artifacts have been recovered from Gault than from any other site. Even more exciting is the fact that a significant pre-Clovis component is emerging underneath the Clovis level, separated by an intervening sterile level. The OTC (Older Than Clovis) level has been

dated back at least 15,000 years before present. Analysis of the artifacts from this level is ongoing. Early results suggest that some artifacts may represent precursor technology to Clovis, while others appear to be unique.

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia has been participating actively in the Gault excavations since 2008. Volunteers from the Chapter and from throughout Virginia, as groups and individuals, have traveled to Texas to help with the work. Their reward has been the opportunity to participate in a rigorously conducted excavation of one of the country's premiere prehistoric sites and learn from an outstanding professional staff, led by Dr. Mike Collins. For more information on Gault, see the GSAR website at <http://www.gaultschool.org/Home.aspx>.

From the City of Alexandria Archaeological Collection: Selected by Rose McCarthy

Enslaved on a Plantation: The Life of an African American Washerwoman

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial stands on what was known from the late 18th century as Shuter's Hill.

American Indians first traversed the site more than 5,000 years ago. Then, from the 1780s until the 1840s, the Mills, Lee, and Dulany families successively operated a plantation here. At the onset of the Civil War, Union troops built two forts on the hill and occupied the plantation house.

The City of Alexandria has excavated the property since 1995. Work has uncovered the laundry outbuilding, dating to the late 18th/



Thimble, straight pins and buttons, late 18th/early 19th century.

early 19th century. Finds include buttons, thimbles, needles, pins, and scissors—associated with laundry activities—and thousands of unmatched ceramics for food storage and serving, plant and animal remains, and pipe fragments. These finds document that enslaved African Americans lived and worked in the structure.

The plantation owners relied on slaves to sew, mend, and clean their clothes. A 19th-century account describes doing laundry as a "Herculean task." Washerwomen carried at least 50 gallons of water, weighing about

Washerwoman, continued from page 11



Late 18th/early 19th century bale seal excavated from Shuter's Hill, George Washington Masonic National Memorial

400 pounds, to wash, rinse, and boil just one load of clothes.

According to historical documents, "Esther" may have been one of these women. She was enslaved to Benjamin Dulany. Esther received her freedom shortly before her death when Hannah, her sister, bought her and her three children for \$1,000.

The story of Esther provides a glimpse into the hard work

and perseverance that led to freedom for many enslaved African Americans, whose relatives often spent years saving to purchase family members in order to free them.

Lab, continued from page 1

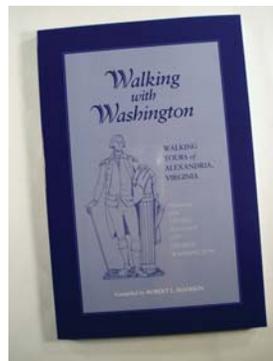
The second hour of the course was spent discussing and handling many different types of artifacts, such as ceramics, glass, metals, organics, and pre-contact stone tools and pottery. A total of 26 people attended the training. Many were familiar faces, but the majority of the group were new volunteers to the program. We are thrilled to have them!

In April, the fledgling laboratory program took off with gusto. Volunteers quickly learned the new procedures and made short work of the backlog of artifacts from the previous field seasons. This cleared the way to begin processing artifacts from the ongoing archaeological survey at Fort Ward Park. The survey is producing a quantity of material for the lab to process. Much of the artifact evidence is from the last 50 years of park activity. But there is also clear evidence of the park's earlier occupations, including pre-contact peoples, the Civil War era, and "The Fort" African-American community.

Huzzah to Bob Madison!

In April the Alexandria Historical Society awarded local historian Robert L. Madison the 2012 Special Alexandria History Award. Bob, Alexandria Archaeology's 1998 Volunteer of the Year, authored *Walking with Washington: Walking Tours of Alexandria, Virginia, Featuring over 100 Sites Associated with George Washington*. (The book, available in the Museum, sells for \$12 and all proceeds benefit FOAA.)

Way to go, Bob--you've certainly earned this honor!



Museum Lab Back in Business!!



Laboratory volunteer work

is once again a constant at Alexandria Archaeology. A special thanks to all those who have already joined the team: Marianne Ballantyne, Katie Burca, Shannon Dina, Christina Edwards, Andy Flora, Susan Gagner, Katelyn Gately, Thomas Geheren (lower right), Philippa Harrap, Wendy Joines, Tommy Kester, Ashley Koen, Anna Lynch, Veronica Mason, Jessica McCarthy (above center), Elizabeth Narrigan, Andrew Neff, Mary Jane Nugent (at left), Becca Peixotto, Ashlee Prevette, Shanna Roth, Dave Sachs, Suzanne Schaubel, Becky Schumann, Julia Simon, Cindy Slaton, Jared Weimer, Sheila Wexler, Tamara Zakout.

If you would like to join the team of laboratory volunteers or would like to receive notices of future laboratory training sessions, please contact Paul Nasca, at paul.nasca@alexandriava.gov. All are encouraged to stop in at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum to see the processing of artifacts recovered from the ongoing project at Fort Ward Park. Laboratory volunteer days are Thursdays, Fridays, and most Saturdays.

The Crimean Oven: On the Trail of a Civil War Mystery

by Anatoly PolICASTRO

The first part of this article appeared on pages 10 and 11 of the Winter-Spring 2012 issue of the *Volunteer News*. <http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/1%20MB%20ArchaeologyWinter2012Newsletter.pdf>

Weeks 7-8 – At last, this may be a major find! In the National Archives, I find a sketch of “Winter Quarters 1862/1863 at Bull Run at Wolf Run Shoals” by the American Civil War artist William Henry Jackson. The picture contains what looks to be a Crimean Oven. Though it is inside the hut/tent, not outside, all of the components are there. The curved top is sideways to what our Museum model shows; in other words, not lengthwise. When I check in with my experts, they sadly tell me if the oven is not outside of a tent, with an underground flue that exits in a chimney on the other end, it’s not a Crimean Oven.

I reexamine our original documents from the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, to see if I’m missing anything. Tripler’s plan is said to be a “modification” of the Crimean Oven. I’m beginning to conclude that each camp built its heating systems according to its own abilities, available materials, and skilled manpower. This accounts for differences found in the fire pits, the lining of the trenches, and the barrel or stovepipe chimneys.

A Virginia excavation conducted by the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) at the Gloucester Point Garrison in the summer of 1994 catches my attention. A Civil War Union winter camp of 1862-1865 included Sibley tents, where soldiers enjoyed California Furnaces. Although these look similar to the Crimean Oven, the heat originates in a tent stove or fireplace located in the center of the tent. The system utilizes a subterranean, brick-lined trench to heat more of the interior before exiting through an exterior chimney. Close, so close.

As I read further about the history of radiant heating, an article refers to the American Civil War and the Crimean Oven. Here, it is referred to as the California Plan. I dig deeper and discover that every design element is exactly the same, from sheet-metal issued by the Quartermaster Department, to a chimney either made from stacked barrels or some other quickly-built device.

The term “California Plan” originates from the Gold Rush of the 1840s, when Chinese immigrants were thought to bring the underground heating system from China. Anyone who later served in the Civil War would be able to share knowledge of the California Plan heating system. It’s possible that by now I have searched every photograph and sketch of the Civil War in the Library of Congress and the National Archives II located in College Park, MD. I have looked at every possible category, imagining that one day

I will see a Crimean Oven in the background of a photo posed for another purpose. Instead, my eyes take in many a pipe chimney, many a barrel chimney, and many a tent, but no Crimean Oven.

Week 9 – I return to books and discover that, in the Crimean War, the Russian rifle pits of 1854 were often called “ovens” or “wasps’ nests,” prompting me to ask if our Crimean Ovens refer to the trench warfare of that time, and hence the trench-like heating system? A long shot.

Week 10 – An interesting woman surfaces in my studies at the Library of Congress: Mary Seacole from Jamaica. She and her husband were in California during the ’49 Gold Rush; then she turned up in London, whence she later resolved to head to Crimea as a nurse. Miss Nightingale did not accept her, and Mrs. Seacole went on to Balaclava to establish a boarding house for the British troops, similar to a hotel that had been run by her mother in Kingston. All conjecture, but perhaps she had seen some California heating furnaces and shared this knowledge with the soldiers in Crimea?

Week 11 – In *The Language of the Civil War*, John D. Wright describes a California Plan just like our own Crimean Oven—a 2-1/2-foot-deep fire pit on one side, connected to a trench covered with iron plates, the smoke exiting through a chimney outside the other end of the tent. Perhaps the terms are interchangeable?

John Billings, in *Hardtack and Coffee: The Unwritten Story of Army Life*, also describes the California Plan of heating hospital tents by the Army of the Potomac. Same thing: fire pit outside, trench covered with iron plates through the middle of the tent, chimney built of barrels out the other side. So our Crimean Oven is part of a California Plan, but not a California Furnace, which experts concur was a heat source inside the tent.

Week 12 – Over a school break, my family visits the Winchester site of Sheridan’s 500-tent Field Hospital at Shawnee Springs. We look for the replica of a Crimean Oven that was built in 2004 for a Civil War reenactment, but there’s not much left of it in the field.

New sites such as these are our hope for cracking the code of the Crimean Oven’s secrets. With more research, and more excavating, the mystery of its origins and dissemination may become clearer.

**Dig Day
Reservation
from
Alexandria,
Egypt!**



FOAA Joins the 280th GW Birthday Parade

On February 20, more than 20 volunteers, staff, Commission and FOAA Board members and their friends and families, including Angus the dog, marched in honor of George Washington's 280th birthday. The weather was cold but sunny, the crowds welcoming, and the pizza and cherry cobbler feast awaiting the marchers back at the Museum was the best ever.

This was our 17th year marching. And perhaps is as good a time as any to reflect on past parades and the volunteers who have shaped our performance in this traditional event through their commitment and unique expertise, from former "Rockette" Montie Kust, who coaxed us into high-kicking our way through Old Town, to Tom Witte, former FOAA president and retired military man, who barked out in cadence and drilled us into formation.

(Right: After Tom's untimely passing in 2005 we soldiered on in his honor, but were sadly leaderless and continue to mourn his loss.)



We have marched through snow, rain, and sun with dogs, horses, and children of all ages, and

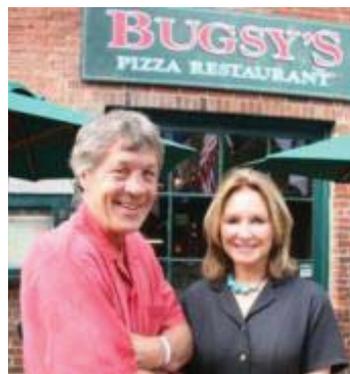
occasionally even walked away with prizes. In our division, Community & Fraternal Organizations, we placed first in 1996 and 2000, and second in 1995. These awards were earned, without question, thanks to Montie Kust's and Tom Witte's tireless efforts to transform a bunch of booted individuals banging trowels and buckets into an award-winning marching machine.

Past performances include a living tableau of archaeologists on a Smoot Lumber's flatbed truck, high kicking à-la-Rockette, marching like soldiers, and being accompanied by the NPS Mounted Park Police and some very classy antique vehicles. But



mostly it was for the fun and camaraderie of participating in a City-sponsored event honoring our first president and enjoying the company of good friends and colleagues.

Many thanks to this year's team marchers:



A hearty "Huzzah!" and "Thank You!" to Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant (owners Bryan and Lindy Watson, above) for the three large pizzas, to The Creamery for the mouth-watering cherry cobbler, and for their steadfast support of Alexandria Archaeology.

Joan Amico, Marjorie and Parker Gray, Rosie Hillock, Jenny Bollinger, Marya Fitzgerald, Noah Andreen, James McCall & four-footed Angus, Bill Connery, Ted Pulliam, Montie Kust, Pam Cressey, Fran Bromberg, Jen Barker, Paul Nasca, Heidi Krofft, Garrett and Ella Fesler, Ruth Reeder, Robert Colton, Jim Edwards-Hewitt, and Liz Kelley.

Once we were back in the Museum, the cherry cobbler was adorned with candles and set alight to celebrate Montie Kust's upcoming 90th birthday. She is pictured above with her official birthday cake, enjoyed by staff and volunteers on her March 27 birth date.

Huzzah to a beautiful woman and wonderful friend who has loved participating in the parade for almost two decades.



Summer Specials

Sam DesRochers is a first-year graduate student in Museum Studies at The George Washington University. Her concentrations within her degree are Collections Management and Classics, with a focus on the law and ethics of art and archaeological collections. As a summer intern, she will assist in preparing AAM accreditation in regards to collection

stewardship and will conduct an assessment and rehousing project in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum's storage facilities.

Sam came to Alexandria from Madison, Wisconsin, where she received a B.A. in Art History with minors in Archaeology and Classics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her undergraduate studies focused on Imperial Rome and its provincial entertainment architecture. Sam developed a background in archaeological registration by working as a Field and Research Assistant on the Troy Archaeological Project in Turkey during the summers of 2010 and 2011. There she aided the Post-Bronze-Age Team in completing architectural field drawings and registrar projects, including processing, inventorying, and photographing the excavation's small finds.

Sam has museum collections management experience from working as a Curatorial Assistant for the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Anthropology department, as a collections intern at the Pulaski Area Historical Society in Pulaski, Wisconsin, and National Numismatic Collection at the National Museum of American History, and as an archival assistant at the Chazen Museum of Art in Madison, Wisconsin.

When not working in museums or the field, Sam enjoys spending her free time baking, playing golf, and cheering on her favorite football team, the Green Bay Packers.



Stephanie Allen, a former intern at Alexandria Archaeology (see page 7 of the Summer/Fall 2011 *Volunteer News*, <http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/ARNews2011Summer.pdf>), has been hired as a part-time Museum Technician for a short time period. Stephanie has recently graduated from the George Washington University with an MA in Museum Studies with a concentration in Collections Management and Material Culture. She works concurrently at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History as a contractor for the Division of Mammals. In her position

at the Smithsonian, she is creating an Integrated Pest Management program, helping the museum protect the collections from being infested by bugs and other unwanted pests. She is also managing a team of six contractors in a project to visually inspect more than 10,000 cabinets of museum specimens, ensuring their proper care and preservation. At Alexandria Archaeology, Stephanie will be doing a variety of activities helping to get the Museum ready for accreditation in June, including rehousing collection objects and cleaning exhibits (as well as anything else that needs doing). She is very excited to be back helping at Alexandria Archaeology!



Zark's Kids'Korner

Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp 2012

Session I: July 16-20

Session II: July 23-27

9 AM to 3:30 PM

\$400/session

For 12- to 15-year-olds

Help Alexandria's City archaeologists excavate a real archaeological site!

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