

# Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Published by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology



Vol. XXVIII No. 1

WINTER - SPRING 2012

## Archaeology in Alexandria: Now in its 51<sup>st</sup> Year

PRAISE FROM  
MUSEUM VISITORS

*Of all the visitors who gave us a rating from "Excellent" to "Fair," we had 100% approval rating – 396 rated Alexandria Archaeology Museum "Good" to "Excellent"; 83.6% of those ratings were "Excellent." -- Jen Barker*

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ECO-CITY ALEXANDRIA

*Inaugural Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology*

## Society for Historical Archaeology Honors Alexandria Archaeology with Prestigious Award



*Councilmember Del Pepper and Mayor Euille with the Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology with Tom Fulton, Fran Bromberg, Seth Tinkham, Garrett Fesler, and James McCall*

On Friday, January 6, the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) honored the City of Alexandria and Alexandria Archaeology with an award recognizing the program for 50 years of public service and excellence. The Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology was presented to City leaders and staff at a banquet in Baltimore during SHA's annual conference.

*See Award, page 3*

## Fundraiser for the Gladwin Records a Great Success

*by Pamela Cressey*

The fundraiser to conserve the book of names of those who were buried at Freedmen's Cemetery and support the new memorial sponsored by the Alexandria Archaeological Commission and the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology was held October 27, 2011. The event was a great success. More than 75 people attended the event at the Principle Gallery. Donations and a silent auction raised more than \$5,145, which includes \$250 from FOAA. The arrival of the Virginia Library staff with the original record book, often referred to as "The Gladwin Records," was a highlight of the evening. Guests were able to see the book in its fragile condition and appreciate the fact that their donations would permit the document to be conserved and rebound for generations in the future and allow a future trip to Alexandria for exhibition at the Black History Museum. The exhibit will take place in conjunction with the opening of the Contrabands & Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, soon to break ground on the 1000 block of South Washington Street.



*The Gladwin Records on display at the Principle Gallery. The fragile ledger is a death and marriage register kept by the Reverend Albert Gladwin, superintendent of contrabands in Alexandria from 1863 to 1865.*

*See Gladwin, page 13*

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

## Honoring a Stellar Volunteer & Supporting Alexandria Archaeology



Anna Lynch with Pam Cressey and the John S. Glaser Award presented to Anna for her contributions to the appreciation and conservation of Alexandria Archaeology and its place in the continuity of the human experience.

FOAA Vice President Margarete Holubar presented Pam with an annual gift of \$2,000 and FOAA President Marya Fitzgerald awarded Anna Lynch the John S. Glaser Award for her outstanding efforts in education, research, and as a Saturday Museum docent.

Marya recounted the call received on a Tuesday morning announcing that 60 6th graders would be arriving at 10 AM for a series of Adventure Lessons. Anna was called at 9:20 AM with the news and was in the Museum and ready to teach within 40 minutes!

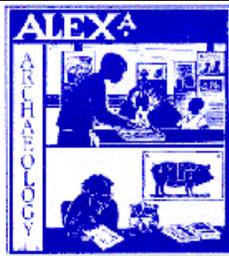
FOAA was presented with a very generous gift of \$1,800 from John Milner Associates, Inc. in recognition of Alexandria Archaeology's selection for the Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology

See related story on next page.



FOAA VP Margarete Holubar presents Pam with the FOAA Annual Gift, a check for \$2,000, as FOAA President Marya Fitzgerald looks on.

## BE SURE TO VISIT THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK



### Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News

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*Newsletter Production:* Joan Amico, Marya Fitzgerald, Hoosey Hughes, Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Ruth Reeder. *Contributors:* Kira Beam, Pam Cressey, Garrett Fesler, Paul Nasca, Marya Fitzgerald, Jen Hembree, Ruth Reeder. *Photos:* Stephanie Allen, Fran Bromberg, Rose McCarthy, Ruth Reeder, Paul Nasca. *Volunteer News* is published by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) with support from Alexandria Archaeology and the City of Alexandria.

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

FOAA  
P.O. Box 320721  
Alexandria, VA 22320

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

### 2011-2012 FOAA Board of Directors

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

*Award, continued from page 1*

## A Brief History of the Award

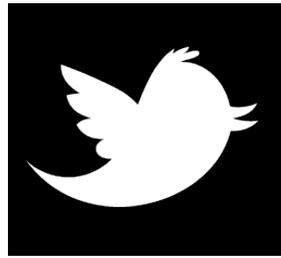
Established in 2011, this award is in recognition of Daniel G. Roberts, one of the pioneers in public archaeology, particularly within a cultural resource management framework. Roberts first recognized the enormous appeal of archaeology to the American public during his Beloit College field school in the summer of 1967 in northern Wisconsin, where he was introduced to the enthusiasm of site visitors at several First American sites under excavation. His recognition of the public's interest in archaeology grew with his first historical archaeology project, in 1971, at the National Park Service excavations at Franklin Court in Philadelphia. The Franklin Court project was one of the first in the nation to use an archaeological site as an open-air museum and was a landmark public archaeology project. His early commitment to archaeology for the public became cemented in the mid-1970s when he completed a graduate program at Idaho State University that focused on public archaeology and cultural resource management, one of the first such programs in the country.

Roberts went on to participate in and promote many initiatives to excavate urban archaeology on the East Coast. The importance of public archaeology was not lost on him as he began his professional career in historical archaeology at John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA). Endowed by Roberts's colleagues at John Milner Associates, Inc., the Society for Historical Archaeology established the Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology in recognition of Roberts's pioneering initiatives in public archaeology. The award is to be bestowed on an annual basis, providing a qualified candidate and funding are available; no more than one award will be made each year.

**SOCIETY for HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY 2012  
THE DANIEL G. ROBERTS AWARD for  
EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

*(Excerpts from Daniel G. Roberts' Prepared Comments:)*...I'd like to state that I am deeply moved by the establishment of this award. My involvement in archaeology for the public, I believe, is modest compared to that of many others, but I must say it is a great honor and a privilege to be so recognized. I'd like to convey my utmost thanks and appreciation to: my friends and colleagues and the Board of Directors at JMA who initiated the establishment of the award; the SHA Board of Directors and members of the Awards Committee who worked to see it through to fruition; and my many professional friends and colleagues in the Society from whom I learned so much over the years and throughout my career. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

And finally, I would like to extend my hearty congratulations to the inaugural recipient of this award. Alexandria Archaeology has long been a model for other city-sponsored public archaeology programs in the nation, and it has been doing state-of-the-art archaeology in the public arena almost for as long as I can remember. Congratulations to Pam Cressey, her staff, and the City of Alexandria for showing us the way in developing programs that are effective in reaching out to the public. I salute you for a "job well done."



## Museum Tweet-Ups

by Terilee Edwards-Hewitt

Recently I've had the chance to participate in two museum-related tweet-ups. What are tweet-ups? You may have heard of Twitter, which is a free, computer social networking service. Using Twitter people can post short "tweets" of 140 characters or less. This is also called "micro-blogging" – trying to get as much information out in as few words as possible. You can read the tweets of anyone who is on Twitter. Twitter is another way (like email and Facebook) that lets you communicate with friends, family & people who share similar interests. A great advantage of Twitter is you can follow organizations, people and businesses you are interested in. And some organizations have begun hosting "tweet-ups" to help get the word out about what they are doing.

In 2009 NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) was the first large organization to hold a formal "tweet-up," a gathering of people who followed NASA on Twitter. At that first tweet-up and during tweet-ups since then, NASA Twitter followers, who are chosen at random, get a chance to learn and see behind-the-scenes information and have the opportunity to meet the scientists involved with different projects. Most NASA tweet-ups include approximately 100 people. In the past two years, museums, historical sites and archaeological organizations have started to gain more of a presence on Twitter.

I was excited when the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) announced its first tweet-up in December 2011 and thrilled to be one of the twelve people picked. The focus of the tweet-up was the new exhibit, "Eternal Life in Ancient Egypt." During the presentations and afterward I tweeted about the event, so others could learn what I was learning. Tweet-up participants were also given a "behind the scenes" tour of the anthropology department at NMNH, including the CT scanner which has been used to scan human and animal mummies, 19th-century coffins and even space suits!

In January 2012 I participated in a tweet-up in New York City at the American Museum of Natural History about its new exhibit, "Beyond Planet Earth: The Future of Space Exploration." In addition to getting to see the new exhibit, tweet-up attendees were given a unique Planetarium show using the latest data from NASA.

The City of Alexandria is hosting its first tweet-up on January 29, 2012, at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, honoring President James Madison. During the event participants will get a chance to learn about history through the perspective of the 4th President of the United States, James Madison. Additionally, City of Alexandria leaders will discuss the City's use of social media (such as Facebook and Twitter).

Information about the tweet-up can be found at <http://alexandriava.gov/Tweetups>

# 2011 Volunteer Appreciation Party: 91 Volunteers = 4,917 Hours of Service

Sixty folks attended the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party held on November 12 in the Museum. James McCall, vice chair of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, served as master of ceremonies. Other dignitaries present included Mayor Euille, and councilmembers Alicia Hughes, Frank Fannon, and Del Pepper.

After acknowledging 50 years of archaeology in Alexandria, McCall thanked Pam for her lifelong commitment to the program, the first of its kind in the nation, and then introduced the FOAA Board of Directors.

Del Pepper presented **certificates of appreciation** to:

**Hoosey Hughes** (96½ hrs.), **Mary Jane Nugent** (97 hrs.), **Margarete Holubar** (101 hrs.), **Brianna Martin** (110 hrs.), **Cathy Reber** (126½ hrs.), **Laura Little** (132 hrs.), **Jill Grinsted** (145¾ hrs.), **Suzanne Schaubel** (147¾ hrs.), **Rebecca Schumann** (149¾ hrs.), **Andy Flora** (154¾ hrs.), **Diane Riker** (315 hrs.), **Marya Fitzgerald** (343½ hrs.), **Catherine Cartwright** (426¾ hrs.), **Anna Lynch** (609 hrs.), **Joan Amico** (623 hrs.).

Joan's hours earned her the **Volunteer of the Year Award**, for the ninth consecutive year.

The certificates, signed by the Mayor and City Manager, were awarded to volunteers who worked 100-plus hours from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011.

During that time period, FY11, 91 volunteers donated 4,917 hours of volunteer service. The cake celebrated 50 years of archaeology, and



Above: Councilwoman Del Pepper and Sheila Wexler; Councilwoman Alicia Hughes addresses the guests; the cake; FOAA VP Margarete Holubar, Pam Cressey and Jen Barker; Jen Barker prepares the buffet table; Joan Amico reacts to receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award from Pam Cressey and Del Pepper; Pam Cressey and Chuck Trozzo, chair, Alexandria Restoration Preservation Commission; Paul Nasca and Garrett Fesler;



227,330 volunteer hours, though our volunteer records date back only to 1979. Preparation for the party was a team effort and thanks are in order to Ellen Hamilton for designing the party e-vite;

James McCall for the wine, quesadilla, and cookies; Kathleen Pepper for the cheese poppers;

Andy Flora for the almond butter cake; Rose McCarthy for the chocolate chip raisin cookies; Mark Barker for ice;

Fran for selecting and purchasing the food;

Jennifer Barker for the festive centerpieces;

Garrett Fesler for the slide show;

Jim Edwards-Hewitt; Anna Lynch, Margarete Holubar, Paul Nasca, and Marya Fitzgerald with help setting and cleaning up.

And a special thanks to **Alexandria Archaeological Commission**

members: Seth Tinkham, Janice Magnuson, Tom Fulton, Katy Cannady, Ted Pulliam, Pete Petersen, and Mary Jane Nugent for their **generous donation of \$170** to defray the costs of the party.

**SUPPORT ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALEXANDRIA: JOIN FOAA OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

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# Archeology Technician Certification Program

by Ann Wood

About two dozen archaeology volunteers in Northern Virginia are currently in training to become certified archaeology technicians.

Open to interested volunteers, Virginia's Archeological Technician Certification Program is designed "to give individuals the opportunity to obtain recognition for formal, extended training in the techniques and goals of archaeology without having to participate in an academic degree program." The statewide certification program is sponsored by the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA), and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). Co-chairs are Carole Nash of COVA and Bruce Baker of ASV.

To earn a certificate, a candidate must complete 180 hours of hands-on experience in the field and laboratory, attend 11 formal lectures, receive specific field instruction on a number of topics, take part in a field school, read a list of required books and articles, and pass laboratory and written tests. The requirements include historic and prehistoric archaeology, field survey, excavation, laboratory processing, and site recording.

A variety of opportunities are provided to complete these requirements over a period of 2-3 years or longer. Candidates are assigned professional and avocational mentors and must keep a journal.

Those interested in finding out more about Virginia's certification program should go to the ASV website: <http://asv-archeology.org/> Under "Organization," go to "Certification." Instructions for enrollment are included. Participation requires membership in the ASV, which must be maintained in good standing.

New enrollees from Northern Virginia are invited to email Ann Wood, certification liaison for the Northern Virginia Chapter of ASV, at [annpwood@verizon.net](mailto:annpwood@verizon.net) to be notified of courses in the area.

## MEET THE TECHNICIAN

by Bill Cole

*Bill was employed by the City of Alexandria for many years and first became acquainted with Alexandria Archaeology through his work on information technology and the city budget. He received his Archeological Technician Certificate in 2011.*

After doing archaeology shovel bum work at Mt. Vernon for over a year, and really with no other intention than having an opportunity to satisfy my curiosity about archaeology, get some exercise and be outdoors, I found that I wanted to know more than I was going to learn by simply observing -- although that was a great start -- professionals do their work. I had no idea about the amount of paperwork that went into recording excavation work,

nor any idea about how that was used. And for a while, I didn't much care, as I had been a paperpusher for most of my working life and was happy to leave that aspect of my vocation behind.

But I found myself asking questions about why was this done, what was the purpose of that, how come we did it this way and not that way, how does this work change the stories that make a history, why is archaeology considered a scientific discipline and on it went? I guess after one too many of these questions my field supervisor at the time, Curt Breckenridge, suggested that I look into the Cert program. He was a great teacher and a very patient man ... so after thinking about it, I applied ... and I have been very glad I did.

The aim, as I understand it, of the Cert program, aside from producing Archeological Technicians, is to foster a wider understanding of the practice and application of archaeology. ... For me, it has certainly done that. I have a much better understanding of how the discipline works, and the why of many aspects of the work. I understand the link between history and archaeology more clearly and have lots more -- hopefully better informed -- questions to ask on that front. I have a better feeling about the governance of archaeology in Virginia: who is involved, how the parts interact, what the goals and objectives are and what the dilemmas and difficulties are. I have a better understanding and appreciation of how fieldwork connects to lab work connects to cataloging connects to analysis and to report writing.

I have also learned how generous professional archaeologists have been about welcoming their avocational charges into their world. It didn't have to be this way and often isn't in many professions. The professionals have been just terrific and a real inspiration to me. As have, too, many of the avocational friends that I have worked with and continue to work with. For me, the camaraderie of working in the field is a really vital part of the experience and one that I treasure .

Yes, some of the work is tedious and physically hard, but that is its nature; the tedious work is necessary for a solid,

defensible outcome (provenience is just about everything). Yes, there were days when a warm office seemed kinda preferable to slogging around in cold wet mud, as did air conditioning seem desperately desirable after the 100 degree\100 percent humidity experience. But, frankly, I wouldn't and won't trade those experiences.

I've learned that the business of archaeology is very transient, and so it is with regret that I find myself saying goodbye to the friends that you make on a site (pros and volunteers alike) when a contract ends. But it is also great to know that you'll likely meet again at a convention or maybe even at another site. But in the meantime the close-knittedness of the community means that you can often find out how life is going, who completed school (or not), where they landed their next gig, how the family is getting along; all the things that keep us connected with one another.

Now, we need a postgraduate program for the questions that all of this education has raised!



# ORAL HISTORY UPDATE: LIVING LEGENDS

Compiled by Jen Hembree, Oral History Coordinator

## Lucian Johnson

### SCHOOL MEMORIES

Mr. Lucian Johnson was interviewed as part of the *Freedmen's Cemetery Descendants* research project. A descendant of the Wanzer (Wanser) family, Mr. Johnson grew up at 1001 Quaker Lane (right outside the Theological Seminary) and reflected on his family home.



**WHEN DID THEY [YOUR PARENTS] COME TO THE ALEXANDRIA AREA?** My mother was born in that particular area [Seminary neighborhood]. My father came down from Orange County [and Madison County], Virginia...to work at the Episcopal high school of the Theological Seminary --which was the largest employer within the area at that time (before government jobs opened up). As I said, my father came down here, met my mother [and] then they moved back to Madison County and worked on the farm [in] a sharecropper-type [situation] for another family...They earned enough money...to come back and buy the home at 1001 Quaker Lane, which my mother had always remembered... \$2500 to purchase it --and it was a quite a spread. The original property extended almost down to Woods Lane. It was quite large. There [are] three houses on it now.

*[Some of the interview focused on school memories. Born in 1926, Mr. Johnson attended the Seminary School (for elementary education) and then Parker-Gray (for high school).]*

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE THAT SCHOOL HOUSE (THE SEMINARY SCHOOL)?** A three-room house, rectangle -- First, second, and third grade in one room; then, fourth and fifth in another, and sixth and seventh [in another]. They only had seven grades. (Then you had to go downtown.) Three teachers (the one in sixth and seventh was also the principal), and a substitute teacher, if needed. One of them came from the District, where she had actually been certified... The other two grew up in Alexandria...By this time, we were under the Alexandria school system, so we had the authorized courses up to basic math. We didn't get algebra 'till in high school. After seventh grade, we had to go downtown to Parker-Gray.

**DID YOU WALK TO PARKER-GRAY, OR DID THEY HAVE BUS SERVICE?** They had the bus service out there. They had the AB&W -- Alexandria, Barcroft & Washington [bus line]. The bus ride at that time in Alexandria was 10-cent[s] a ride. It was 1939. You'd go to Washington [D.C.] for twenty-five cents. (It went all the way to Washington.)

**WERE BLACKS ABLE TO RIDE ANYWHERE ON THE BUS? NO. YOU HAD TO RIDE IN THE BACK?** Right. The law. Strange enough, [once] you crossed the line in the District, you could go up front --

## Stephen Jarrett

### WATERFRONT MEMORIES

In 2011, Mr. Stephen Jarrett shared his memories of growing up along the Alexandria waterfront, where he lived at 513 S. Lee Street. As he vividly and in detail describes it:



**IT WAS VERY MUCH A NINETEENTH-CENTURY KIND OF CHILDHOOD...** In fact, the neighborhood from my earliest memories was very mixed in terms of class. On the end of the 600 block was Justice Hugo Black. In between our house and Justice Black's house, in the 300 block of Gibbon Street were poor black families that had no electricity. Those families had been there since at least the Federal Occupation during the Civil War, and maybe before. As a kid delivering the *Alexandria Gazette*, I learned about that odd, sweet, sickening smell of [inaudible] kerosene.

My whole growing-up was just entwined around that house [513 S. Lee]... Much of the time I lived on the third floor front --which meant I had a view of the Potomac River every morning. When I was a little boy, there was no marina in front of the playground, now Windmill Hill, on Lee Street. It was undeveloped except for a collection of houseboats that had been there since early in the twentieth century. They were known as arks...as in Noah's ark. The arks, they were anchored. They were anchored off of ... Well, it's straight --if you are in the middle of the 500 block of Lee Street, which is where 513 is, my house-- and you looked straight out, that's where they were. Not only were there the arks, but ... as you look over the Potomac to the left, to the north of the marina, was a large power plant. Throughout my childhood, the power plant was there...[It] had a huge coal pile, had three big smokestacks, and my mother painted it constantly. ...We are talking effectively about the very late 40s into the very early 60s. Throughout that time you could read the past along the waterfront in a way you cannot begin to now. Now, everything is manicured. Nothing was manicured then. Important shipyards were boatyards, or they had fallen into ruin, but the pilings were still there all up and down from where the locks [were]. There are some additions where there had been empty lots. For example, on the side on the southern side of Windmill Park, what's now Windmill Park--it didn't have a name then, you know. The Lee Street playground is what it was called. To the side, there was a small ESSO tank farm with two -- they seemed huge, big circular storage tanks, which made a marvelous sound when you threw a rock against them.

There was still a Ford plant. If you looked out over the playground there was the power plant and the coal pile on your left and then on your right was this big plant that was built out over the river. The plant itself was on concrete pilings.

Also, there was the train. The Wilkes Street Tunnel was in operation. There was a spur that came down and went north at the intersection of Union Street and what would be Wilkes Street, continued by the tunnel, and the spur went north and the spur went south. The spur that went south was for the power plant, and a lot of coal was delivered to the power plant. There was a spur that went to the north to the Ford plant. They would shunt cars onto that spur and move them later. If you were a kid, you could catch rides on the train. You could ride through the tunnel. You could hand on and then jump off 'cause they were going pretty slowly. On either side at the end of Union Street there were high banks and little boys in that neighborhood made forts in those banks. We'd tunnel in, and some of them were quite elaborate, and every so often the railroad would come along and fill them in and then we would have to dig them out again!



Ford Plant photo courtesy of [http://fordmotorhistory.com/factories/alexandria/photos\\_1.php](http://fordmotorhistory.com/factories/alexandria/photos_1.php)

## WANTED Your Memories of the Alexandria Waterfront

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

## WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

*From the Alexandria Archaeology Museum's Guest Book, October 1 to December 31, 2011: **Where do our visitors come from?** Forty-two of the United States and its Capital, one US Territory, and twenty other countries! Listed in order of appearance, unless a repeat location, states in bold *Italic*, countries in bold *Uppercase*. Compiled by Jen Barker*

**Florida:** Orlando, Ft. Myers, Tampa, Tallahassee, Miami x3, no city x3, Navarre, Kissimmee, Tampa Bay x2, Hollywood, Melbourne • **VENEZUELA** • **NICARAGUA** • **GERMANY** x6 • **Virginia:** New Market, Fairfax County, Reston x4, local(ly) x3, Virginia x2, Burke x4, Roanoke, Sterling x2, Arlington x12, Alexandria (either Old Town or Fairfax County) x54, Lorton x2, Dumfries x2, Manassas x2, Falls Church x3, Richmond x4, Fredericksburg x3, Staunton, Winchester, McLean x3, Fairfax x5, Callao, Mt. Vernon, Woodbridge x3, Springfield x3, Gainesville x2, Wytheville, Landsdowne, Manassas Park, Culpeper, Eastern Shore, Herndon, Bristow x3, Annandale x2, Front Royal x3, Charlottesville, Centreville, Orange, Williamsburg, Lynchburg, Harrisonburg, Blacksburg, Berkeley, Doswell, Stafford, Oakton • **Colorado:** Denver, Colorado Springs x2, Longmont. • **Pennsylvania:** Philadelphia x2, Scranton, Hershey x2, Butler, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Reading x2, Washington Crossing, Millville • **Ohio:** Akron x2, Mentor, Columbus, Cincinnati, Terrysburg • **New York:** New York City x4, Saratoga Springs, Rego Park, Ithaca, Long Island • **NEW ZEALAND:** Auckland • **Michigan:** Temperance, Kalamazoo x2, Portage, Muskegon, Livonia x2 • **Washington, D.C.** x19 • **Maryland:** x20, Bethesda x5, Gaithersburg x6, Brandywine, Easton, Baltimore x3, Silver Spring x3, Chesapeake Beach, Centreville, Frederick, Lanham, Rockville x3, Fort Washington, Andrews AFB, Hancock, Annapolis x3, Upper Marlboro, Columbia, Adamstown • **CANADA:** Red Deer, Alberta; New Brunswick, Montréal, Manitoba; Hamilton, Ontario • **Washington:** Woodway x2, Puyallup, Walla Walla, Seattle, Kelso • **Arizona:** Sun Lakes, Chandler, Scottsdale, Green Valley, Seattle, Sierra Vista, Tempe, Tucson, Mesa • **Texas:** x3, Austin, Sugar Land, San Antonio x3, Dallas, Killeen • **North Carolina:** Asheville, no city x2, Thomasville, Charlotte, no city, Stokesdale, Chapel Hill, Washington, Chapel Hill • **West Virginia:** Martinsburg, Charleston, Dallas, Wheeling • **Kansas City** – no state listed • **RUSSIA:** St. Petersburg, no city • **California:** San Diego x3, Davis, Pasadena, Tehachapi, San Francisco x3, Oceanside, Dale City, Los Angeles x2, Orange City, Sacramento x2, Foster City, Modesto, Santa Cruz • **Puerto Rico:** x3, San Juan • **Tennessee:** no city x3, Crossville, Johnson City • **Alaska:** Chugiak, Anchorage • **UNITED KINGDOM:** Uckfield • **PERU** • **Utah:** St. George, Ogden • **Wisconsin:** Madison, Shawano, Mount Horeb, Sister Bay • **New Mexico:** Tijeras • **SOUTH KOREA** x2 • **Iowa:** Boone, Des Moines, • **Oregon:** Ashland, Portland • **ENGLAND:** London x2, Cranleigh, Surrey, Colchester, Essex • **Delaware** • **Georgia:** Atlanta x2, • **PHILIPPINES** x3 • **ARMENIA** x3 • **Massachusetts:** Needham, Falmouth, Boston x3, Arlington, Amesbury • **Missouri:** St. Louis, Kansas City • **South Carolina:** Barnwell • **Maine** x2 • **Montana:** Havre • **Arkansas:** Cabot • **New Jersey:** Lebanon Twp., Old Bridge, Pt. Pleasant, Bridgewater, Cape May, Glen Ridge, West Windsor, Newton, Marlton, Ocean City, Maplewood • **Hawaii** • **New Hampshire:** Portsmouth • **Connecticut:** no city, Suffield • **AUSTRALIA:** x3, Melbourne • **Louisiana:** Prairieville, Leesville • **SWEDEN** x2 • **North Dakota:** Fargo • **Indiana:** Indianapolis, East Chicago • **Kentucky:** Lexington • **Mississippi:** Gautier, Pass Christian • **Minnesota:** Chanhassen • **Alabama:** Dadeville, McCalla • **Illinois:** Chicago x2 • **ITALY:** Rome x2, Reggio Calabria • **ISRAEL:** Tel Aviv, no city • **SWITZERLAND** • **THAILAND** • **LATVIJA:** Kuldiga • **CHINA** x2 • **TIBET** • **INDONESIA** x2 • **Oklahoma:** Tulsa.

# Claire's Story



by Claire Henline  
(with Marya Fitzgerald)

My great-great-great grandfather Solomon G. Cannon was 18 years old when he enlisted as a private in the 11th NJ Regiment during the Civil War. He was a first-generation American, his father, Michael, having come over from Ireland not much more than two decades prior to Solomon's birth. Solomon's older brother, William, also served in the Civil War.



Solomon's pension card. Far left: Claire in 1995 with Fran reviewing field maps of the Shuter's Hill excavation site. Left, Claire's cousin David at the 11th NJ Regiment monument at Gettysburg where the regiment saw action as part of Sickles' III Corps.

After encampment near Fort Ellsworth, the 11th NJ Regiment saw action at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. Near the Peach Orchard on the Gettysburg Battlefield, the regiment saw action on the 2nd day of battle as part of Sickles' III Corps. It was here that Sickles famously disobeyed Meade's orders and moved his Corps up too far from the Union line, exposing them to Longstreet's Division. The casualties were horrific and rendered the entire Corps useless for the 3rd day of battle.

At some point post-Gettysburg and while back in Virginia, Solomon was captured and ended up in Andersonville. He survived the prison and was mustered out in May/June 1865 from York Army Hospital.

When he returned home, he married and had children. I don't think he really ever reintegrated well. His wife died young and her mother ended up raising the kids. She did not think highly of Solomon, who had the nickname "Dote." (If you look it up, it means someone kind of crazy.) I think the war messed him up a bit. With all we know now about PTSD, and all that he witnessed before he was even 20 years old, I think it too much for him to return to anything normal.

The last years of his life were spent at the Home for Disabled Soldiers and Sailors in Kearny, NJ. My great-grandmother (his granddaughter) recalled visiting him there as a little girl.

Because his mother-in-law raised the kids, there was a somewhat negative picture of Solomon as a ne'er-do-well painted for subsequent generations. Uncovering his intense combat record and knowing he was a POW at Andersonville really changed that image.

I was largely unaware of Solomon's Civil War service until just a few years ago. And I only learned recently, while perusing the regimental history, that the regiment was camped at Ft. Ellsworth.

Solomon's history marks the second time I have excavated at an archaeological site where I unknowingly had an ancestral link. The other link occurred as I started my master's degree project at Shiloh Battlefield. I was in the middle of research when my great-uncle provided me family documents relating to an ancestor's service in the 8th Illinois Regiment of Grant's Army of the Tennessee. That regiment was bivouacked for a month at Shiloh and saw action there. I was able to go to a spot on that battlefield holding the letters in my hand that the ancestor had written while camped there.

Above: Solomon is seated on the right. His brother, William, standing behind him, is minus a left arm, having lost it during the war. He was a sharpshooter.

NAME OF SOLDIER	Solomon G. Cannon			
NAME OF WIFE	Wife,			
NAME OF REPROBATE	Wife,			
SERVICE	11th NJ Regt			
DATE OF PLANS	CLASS	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	DATE FROM WHICH PAID
1865	Private	20918	138273	
	Wife,			
	Wife,			

Claire was an intern who dug at Shuter's Hill in 1995-96. The first major artifacts she found were two uniform buttons.  
--Marya Fitzgerald

## Fired-up over Kiln Furniture

by Paul Nasca

Attendees at January's Java Jolt were treated to a fascinating and informative lecture by historic ceramics scholar and functional potter Brenda Hornsby-Heindl titled "America's Historic Kilns." Heindl's presentation summarized her ongoing research of pre-1850 American salt-glaze and alkaline-glaze stoneware kilns and kiln furniture. To date, Brenda --



*Sagger and kiln furniture fused to top of jug fragment from Swann/Milburn pottery waster pile. Donated to Museum by Leith Smith.*

pictured above with kiln flooring from our collection -- has examined the archaeological artifacts from over a dozen pottery and kiln sites between New York and North Carolina, including many from Alexandria, Virginia: Piercy Pottery (1792-1809), Reynold's Pottery (1807-1809), Plum Pottery (1813-1821), Tilden Easton (1841-1843) and Wilkes Street Pottery (1813-1876).

By taking this comparative approach, Brenda presented a fresh perspective on the various types of kiln furniture employed by historic potters and demonstrated

how these objects provide clues as to the kinds of vessels in production, the methods of stacking a kiln, and kiln design. Broadening her discussion, she theorized that regional variations in kiln furniture may be linked to cultural influences from Old World German and English potting traditions on America's antebellum ceramic industry. Providing deeper insight into her subject, Brenda drew upon her knowledge as a potter experimenting with traditional methods of ceramic production at her North Carolina studio, Liberty Stoneware. She continues to share her scholarly findings through her studio blog at <http://libertystoneware.blogspot.com>.

In appreciation of her presentation, FOAA vice president Margarete Holubar presented Brenda with a complimentary "I Dig Alexandria Archaeology" T-shirt.

FOAA will sponsor another Java Jolt with Paul Nasca on Saturday, February 25. See page 14 for details.

## Archaeology Symposium

### Mason Neck Underground: From Prehistory to the Early Republic

On January 28 Fran Bromberg and Garrett Fesler attended an archaeology symposium co-sponsored by Gunston Hall Plantation and the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology & Cultural Resources (FOFA).



"Mason Neck Underground: From Prehistory to the Early Republic" included an update of the excavations at Gunston Hall with Dave Shonyo; the Mason Neck prehistoric sites that have been identified and studied by Mike Johnson; and Chris Sperling's update on the Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART). The wealth of information presented gave a broader perspective and appreciation of the archaeology of the region and generated interest in organizing a FOAA-sponsored field trip to the Colchester site, a colonial port town on the Mason Neck side of the Occoquan River. Stay tuned for details!

**Friends of Fairfax Archaeology's  
Civil War Archaeology Symposium  
Saturday, March 31, from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm  
James Lee Community Center,  
2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, Virginia**

FREE and no registration necessary! Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Arrive promptly, as seating (250 seats) is first come, first served.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Stephen R. Potter, NPS Regional Archaeologist. "Antietam and the Archaeology of Tactics"**

Dr. Liz Crowell, Fairfax County Park Authority **"Fortifying, Fighting, and Foraging: The American Civil War in Fairfax County, Virginia,"** which she co-authored with Joe Balicki.

Dr. Bernard K. Means, of VCU's Virtual Curation Unit, will be presenting the hi-tech magic of 3D imagery as it relates to Civil War artifacts.

Wally Owen, Fort Ward Museum, **"Archaeology of the Crimean Oven in Alexandria"**

Kerri Holland, **"4th Month, No Money...No Rations... No Pants, No Patriotism: Metal Detector Investigations at the Blenheim Estate in Fairfax City"**

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## Part One of Two

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

by Anatoly PolICASTRO

A night at the museum, it wasn't. Instead, I spent three intensive months, an average of 14 hours per week, or 168 hours total, doing volunteer research for the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. As a 15-year-old tenth grader, I was honored to receive this assignment and gave it my best efforts. I never imagined what adventure would ensue and what excellent research experience I would gain.

Ruth Reeder, Education Coordinator of the Museum, assigned me three questions to research regarding the Civil War period. These had to do with the Crimean Oven remains discovered in 2003-2004 in Alexandria.

The ovens were the subterranean heating systems passing through winter field-tent hospitals of the time, resulting in many fewer casualties due to the radiant warmth. Simply put, a firebox/oven was on one side of the exterior of the tent, its hot air traveling at a slight incline through an underground trough covered over with sheet metal, the hot air exiting on the far end of the tent, outside, through a chimney of some sort.

The questions were these: 1) Why was this Civil War heating system referred to as a "Crimean Oven"? 2) What was the configuration of the aboveground firebox, since none of them has ever been discovered intact? 3) What kind of chimney was used on the other end of the system?

**Week 1** – Thoroughly briefing myself on the professional archaeologists' reports, I begin to research online. I encounter the comments of Walt Whitman, who while attending the Civil War wounded, describes the Culpeper field hospital's heating system in a letter to his mother in 1864. When I contact some folks there, they seem to have not heard of this.

While examining the life of Dr. Daniel McRuer, the Civil War army surgeon credited with bringing the Crimean Oven to Alexandria, I research Union General George McClellan, the Commander of the Army of the Potomac, under whom McRuer served. Gen. McClellan had served as an American observer in the Crimean War (Oct. 1853 – Feb. 1856). Perhaps this could be the connection with Crimea; maybe he saw the heating systems there and shared the idea in the U.S.?

Another familiar name pops up--Florence Nightingale. Her many sanitary reforms during the Crimean War resulted in the British Army in Crimea suggesting well-ventilated, permanent tent hospitals, to be heated by open fires or stoves,

Week 2 – My reading about Poolesville in 1861 reveals their notched-log hospital boasted a boiler system whereby hot water was piped through underground trenches. Not exactly a Crimean Oven, which functioned on the underground heated-air principle.

I find writings on Virginia camps which mention many tents and huts filled with fireplaces and chimneys of Virginia mud. Another book suggests that the first months of the Civil War were so rough for the sick and wounded that the US Army's Medical Department studied experiences in the Second Seminole War in Florida (1835-1842), along with the military medical models of the English in the Crimean War, to improve the situation.



*The Crimean Oven model currently on display in the Museum.*

I review again my notes from the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Dr. Charles Tripler, Surgeon and Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, made in November 1861 the most detailed description of how to build a modified Crimean Oven. He wrote as though everyone would be familiar with the concept and simply needed the specs. The plan was put into operation by Surgeon McRuer, who spread the knowledge to various camps. Alexandria historian Wally Owen's excellent interpretive drawing is the closest idea we have as to how McRuer's device may have appeared. No one has yet found a drawing or photo of a Crimean Oven from the time.

To try to find out whether another oven had been located in any other Civil War winter camps, I contact nearly two dozen museums, park rangers, preservationists, archaeologists, and historians. Most respond saying that they have never excavated a Crimean Oven in their vicinity. Everyone concurs that the name was derived from the Crimean War. Some of the professionals comment that they believe these finds to be fairly rare. Other historians and Civil War college professors are honest enough to say that they have never even heard of a Crimean Oven.

I turn my attention to the history of radiant heating. Maybe here will be some clues. I come across the Roman hypocaust system, which I have seen in Roman bathhouses in Israel. This system consists of a raised floor, heated by hot air underneath—although no trough for the air, no flue at the other side—so not a Crimean Oven, and not helpful for our purposes. However, I spot a reference to the "Chinese method," where the fire is built in a pit inside or outside a tent. The account mentions the flue running under the floor and the hot air being released through an improvised chimney in the rear. So perhaps the Chinese method of heating tents and huts is the same system as a Crimean Oven.

Another reference suggests that during the Gold Rush of the 1840-50s, Chinese immigrants used this underground

heating system. It later came to be known as the “California Plan.”

What really gets me excited is the first reference I locate in regard to a Civil War radiant-heating plan. In the fall and winter months of 1864, a 500-tent field hospital was constructed at Winchester, Virginia, and all of the tents employed this heating method. Surely someone there must know this...

**Week 3** – While searching for information about the 1864 500-tent field hospital in Winchester, Virginia, I correspond with Ms. Sally Coates, the Executive Director of the Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau. She says that Shawnee Springs was the site of Sheridan’s 500-tent field hospital and that the indentations made by those tents still exist, though hidden or overgrown at this time. From what I can determine, no one has excavated the site, though someone made a trench, an oven, and a chimney to show to the public for a Civil War commemoration in 2004.

During Sherman’s March of 1864, hospitals at Knoxville, Tennessee, report that at both the Asylum Hospital and the Holstein Hospital, tents are heated by underground flues, at the former, stretching under the center of sixteen tents in a row, at the latter under enough tents to accommodate 600 sick. The mortality rate decreases by 40% with this heating innovation. Still no link to the Crimean War and any heating system found there.

**Weeks 4-5** – The name of Clara Barton surfaces this week; however, her only connection with heating is that after the Battle of Fredericksburg (December 1862), when men were freezing to death, Clara’s helpers tear down chimneys, heating the bricks to keep the men from dying.

In writings about Constantinople and the Allied Armies during the Crimean War, British writers note that the Turkish bath helps to keep the troops clean. These kinds of references establish the link between the Allied Armies of the Crimean War and their visits to a Turkish bath, similar to a Roman bath but heated from beneath by hot air pumped from ovens.

Interestingly, there were several Turkish baths built in the British Isles in the late 1850s, and even in London in July 1860. The first Turkish baths came to America in October 1863, when one was opened by Dr. Charles H. Shepard in Brooklyn Heights, New York. So a similar technology was

being used both inside and outside the theater of war. **Week 6** – In a report from Surgeon Charles S. Tripler, Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, to Brigade Surgeon Prince of Graham’s Brigade, I discover that the Crimean pit, proposed by Brigade Surgeon McRuer, received approval from General Heintzelman and other officers. Dr. Tripler instructs Dr. McRuer to visit every army division and construct one of his furnaces for a model.

Some soldiers embrace the idea, while others somehow obtain portable stoves to place inside their tents. By December of 1861, Tripler suggests that the men build winter camp log structures of about three feet high, to be roofed with their tents. This would raise the hut floor off of the ground, while still allowing for any type of heating system, whether a Crimean trough down the center, or a stove or fireplace off to the side, in order to keep the tent warm, dry, and well-ventilated.

I wonder whether any of Dr. McRuer’s models have been found at sites where the Army of the Potomac’s divisions camped during the fall and winter of 1861. There might be more Crimean Ovens remains in other sites than originally imagined.

In Union correspondence, there is a letter on January 4, 1864, from Headquarters District of Central Missouri, Jefferson City, to Col. James McFerran. In it, E.B. Brown, Brigadier-General of Volunteers, writes that he agrees with the colonel that the troops need to remain in buildings during

the current cold weather. As soon as the weather eases, they will be moved to cantonments at Warrensburg where furnaces may be built via a trench through the tent and covered with flat stones and earth, along with a flat chimney out the end. If the camps are located on hillsides, then fireplaces may be made by building into the earthen slope. The general estimates that the men could be made comfortable within two days of moving camp, and that if there were mutinous conduct in the men, it would be due to the colonel’s own unmilitary sentiment! The exchange tells me that this technology still seems to be new in certain areas as late as 1864.

.....  
The conclusion to Anatoly’s research will run in the next issue of *Volunteer News*. To learn more about Alexandria’s Crimean Ovens attend Wally Owen’s presentation at the Friends of Fairfax Archaeology’s Civil War Archaeology Symposium on Saturday, March 31. The symposium is free and open to the public. See page 9 for details.



General Samuel P. Heintzelman by Mathew Brady. Library of Congress, LC-BH831-926 (P&P)



Conserved Civil War cavalry boot excavated from the Old Town Village site.

## Give 'Er the Boot!

by Kira Beam, a George Washington University Museum Studies M.A. student who just completed an internship with us.

Who wouldn't be interested in conserving a Civil War-era boot?

As a curatorial intern at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum this fall, I was lucky enough to be a part of this exciting conservation project. While I was assisting in the location of objects in the collection for the creation

of temporary exhibition displays, the Civil War-era boot came to our attention. Sometimes in museums objects are on display for many years and are exposed to adverse conditions that are less than ideal. This was the case with the boot, which over time had started to slump within the exhibition case. The curator, Paul Nasca, decided that this required our immediate attention.

The boot is made of leather and was found in a privy during one of the Museum's excavations. The boot survived all these decades, due to the constantly wet environment of the privy, where it was disposed of during the Civil War. When leather has gone from a wet to a dry state, changes such as shrinking, hardening, and cracking are dangers. These were the challenges we had to consider when we decided to remove the boot for conservation.

After careful consideration of the condition of the boot and its two separate leather pieces we determined that creating an interior support was the key priority. The leather was rather hard and had developed natural fold creases near the foot. Instead of trying to reverse these folds or open up the boot, we decided that the best course of action was to make sculpted structural inserts out of archival materials. This would provide the interior support for the leather so further slumping could not occur, but would maintain the current contours of the artifact. We created inserts out of archival foam which were then wrapped in unbuffered tissue paper. We then joined the two seams of the boot together with a strip of Mylar®, so the boot would be held together in a visually unobtrusive way.

This was a really fun and educational experience for me as an intern. In one afternoon I was able to make a positive contribution to the condition of one of the Museum's exhibition artifacts, as well as gain collections management skills by working with the Museum Curator Paul and the Research Assistant Rosemary McCarthy. It is a great feeling to know that now everyone can come to learn about the Civil War and view the "old-but-improved" boot.

The conserved boot is currently on display in the Museum.

## Intern Ana Tkabladze

Ana Tkabladze is a sophomore at University of Mary Washington studying Classical Archaeology and Museum Studies. As an intern she will be working on finding Civil War images located or associated with City of Alexandria and attributing proper sources and citations to them. These photos will later be placed on the Alexandria Archaeology website for the community's and researchers' use.



Ana moved to United States at the age of 11, from the country of Georgia. Coming from a family of artists, she has always had an interest in ancient art and a special spot in her heart for museums. These childhood influences played an important part in her career goals.

Since entering the university, Ana has tried to be active in the fields of Archaeology and Museum Studies. Last winter, she interned at Caton Merchant Family Art Gallery in the City of Manassas.

Throughout the summer of 2011, she participated in a field school for the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University in Georgia. While there, she surveyed farmland in order to locate archaeological sites for later excavations.

This winter, she participated in two internships, one of which was with Alexandria Archaeology and the other at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, where she digitized old manuscripts and field books.

During the upcoming summer, Ana plans to study abroad in Italy, as well as to participate in an excavation there. It is her lifelong dream to become a professor of archaeology and lead archaeological expeditions of her own.

- **WHAT DO VISITORS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT US?**
- 
- • Excellent!!!
- • I am definitely coming back once I'm working again! Lots of Luck!
- • Great visit for kids; good interactive stuff for kids – 4 stars; we like the activities –
- • Great place to visit!
- • Guide was very helpful
- • Anna (Lynch) is very knowledgeable!!
- • I liked the "Drummer Boys" Exhibit; most informative accounts of Civil War drummer boys!
- • Would be great to get involved if we lived closer!
- • A large collection of points
- • Who knew there is so much being unearthed here? I didn't!
- • Thank you for a lovely exhibition
- • Good explanation & demonstration of practical archeology; fun being an archaeologist

*Gladwin,*

Another memorable feature of the event was the attendance of descendants of those buried at the cemetery and recorded in the Gladwin Record from 1864 to 1869. Copies of the pages containing their ancestors' recorded death were made available to family members.



*Vince LaPointe, Chair of the Archaeological Commission, with descendant Frances Johnson Terrell and her husband, Calvin Terrell.*

Genealogist Char McCargo Bah's research identified many descendants, some of whom still live in Alexandria and the Metro Area.

Special thanks go to the Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) Chair, Vince La Pointe, for organizing the event and bringing food, as well as to AAC members James McCall and Kathleen

Pepper for their drink and food donations, and to former AAC member Adron Krekeler for creating three challenge grants which raised \$1,500!



*Fran Bromberg, Audrey Davis, and Helen Wirka*

The names in the record book will be featured prominently in the Contrabands & Freedmen Cemetery Memorial. Each name—with age

and both date and place of death—will appear on large bronze tablets in the interpretive plaza. They will be written in the same chronological order as appears in the Gladwin Record. Each grave of the more than 500 graves discovered through archaeological investigation will have a separate marker.



The Museum recently was gifted with an electric tea kettle from volunteer Sheila Wexler. Here, this luxury item, is being presented by Sheila to Fran Bromberg at left. The kettle has warmed the hearts and hands of our steadfast Museum volunteers who have weathered many a cold winter afternoon huddled over cups of piping hot tea. Thank you, Sheila.

The kettle complements the Keurig coffee machine donated last year by Andy Flora.



## Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp 2012

Session I: July 16-20

Session II: July 23-27

9 AM to 3:30 PM

\$400/session

Scholarships available

For 12 to 15 year olds

Help Alexandria's City archaeologists excavate a real archaeological site! Learn professional excavating, recording, and artifact processing methods. Uncover Alexandria's buried past while protecting the City's valuable historic resources.

Choose from one- or two-week-long sessions

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