

# Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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## AN AMAZING 30 YEARS AT ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

by Barbara Magid

My first visit to Alexandria was in 1978. I was visiting my college friend Suzanne Corber and went along with her to interview Pam Cressey for a local newspaper. We visited the Courthouse Site on the 500 block of King Street and the old field lab in a firehouse across the street, now Columbia Firehouse restaurant. Two years later, when I was finishing up my master's degree at Cambridge University, I saw my current position advertised in the American Anthropological Association newsletter. A lab job in an urban setting – just what I was looking for. I wanted to come to Alexandria badly enough that I withdrew my name from some temporary positions in England and came home in time for an interview. Two months later (and 30 years ago) I began work at Alexandria Archaeology. Steve Shephard had arrived six months before me.

By 1980, the staff had moved out of the field lab and back to the Torpedo Factory, and from the 500 block to the Hayti site near the Safeway. The offices were bustling with people, but most of them left within my first few days, as some state-funded grants were just ending. The old

*See 30 Years, page 3*



Barbara at the Lyceum after her June 23 illustrated lecture titled "Reflections on Alexandria's Pottery Industry," sponsored by the Alexandria Historical Society.



Institute participants excavate the Shuter's Hill site.

## SHUTER'S HILL AND THE SUMMER INSTITUTE

The first session of the Alexandria Archaeology Institute was a great success. Participants came from as far away as Ohio and Indiana; others lived in the neighborhood and were able to walk to the excavation site. During mid-June, the all-female team excavated the Shuter's Hill Site on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The 2010 season has focused on

*See Institute, page 8*

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

## KATHY GETS AROUND

by Marya Fitzgerald

Little did we know—Kathy Scheibelhoffer (pictured at right assisting with the July 17 Family Dig Day), our longtime FOAA treasurer, is a world traveler.

Kathy has visited India, China, Peru, North Africa (Tunisia), Greece, Turkey, Mexico, Germany, Hungary, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, and Guatemala!

That may not actually be the full list of her travels, because as you talk with her, she remembers still more destinations. She went on many of these trips while working at her career in business administration at International Latex Corp. in Dover, DE, and at the Government Accounting Office and other agencies in D.C. She also worked in Human Resources (civilian workers) for the Marine Corps. She says that now her trips are within the U.S.

Growing up on a farm (“not near the water”) on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Kathy remembers doing typical kid’s chores with her sister: feeding the chickens and pigs, collecting eggs, etc. Her sister even now often accompanies Kathy on her trips.



As she traveled to new places, frequently visiting archaeological sites there, Kathy’s interest in art history and archaeology grew. Even before she took early retirement in 1998, she was volunteering for Alexandria Archaeology. In those first years she did a variety of volunteer jobs—digging, doing lab work, acting as a docent. She doesn’t recall how long she’s been on the FOAA board but thinks it’s more than 15 years. As far as we are concerned, she is irreplaceable! She has become the anchor of the FOAA board and certainly its most experienced and knowledgeable member.

Meanwhile, Kathy shares her expertise and passion for history as a volunteer with two other organizations, the Arlington Historical Museum (formerly the Hume School, on Ridge Road) and Fort Ward. We have no doubt those places find her contributions as indispensable as Alexandria Archaeology does. We are so grateful to Kathy for her hard work keeping FOAA’s “treasure” safe and sound.

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alexandria-VA/Alexandria-Archaeology-Museum/>



## Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News

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

### 2010-2011 FOAA Board of Directors

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



Martha Orling and Peggy Weiss, Alexandria Archaeology's "Bone Ladies"

## REMEMBERING PEGGY WEISS, OUR "BONE LADY"

It is with sadness that we note the passing of our volunteer Peggy Weiss. Peggy was one of Alexandria Archaeology's first volunteers, working from 1977 to 1999. Peggy was the lab's faunal analyst, known fondly as the "bone lady."

Peggy told us that her interest in bones was stimulated during a year spent in Denmark while her husband, Dan, a pathologist, was researching the history of leprosy. Upon their return, Peggy took courses in human osteology. Her knowledge of animal bones, however, came mostly from on-the-job training, working with retired archaeologist Richard Wheeler for the first 15 of her 22 years here. Peggy developed the faunal study collection using bones from the Courthouse dig and from butcher shops, Thanksgiving dinner, and the occasional road kill. She trained several volunteers including Sue Froede, Barbara Vauthier, and Martha Orling, who worked with her for ten years. Some of you will also remember Peggy's dog, Smoky, who came to work with her (and never chewed on the faunal collection).

According to family, Peggy passed comfortably in her sleep in her home in Austin, Texas, where she was living with her daughter Leah. Peggy died on May 2, just short of her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. Peggy's ashes will be scattered at the top of Ripshin Mountain in East Tennessee, close to her family home. She is survived by her three children, Lea, Peter and Harry.

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JOIN FOAA OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY!**

lab, in the unrenovated Torpedo Factory complex, was inherited from the early Smithsonian work on the urban renewal blocks. It was a bit primitive but had plenty of space to spread out large lab projects. There was no shelving, and collections boxes were stacked in one large room and under every available table. I carefully noted during my interview that the space was air-conditioned, but I had to get General Services to install heaters in the lab area when winter arrived. We shared the space with pigeons and mice, and the bathrooms were next door in the Art Center, but the place was great for the time.

Much to my chagrin, I soon learned we needed to move out. Our building was being converted to commercial office space. We quickly packed up and moved for a year and a half to office space above the Burke and Herbert bank on the 600 block of King Street, and then, in 1983, to our current space in the newly renovated art center. Pam and I had the pleasure of working with architects on the design of our new space, using built-ins and tables on wheels to make the smaller space more flexible. In 1984 construction was complete and an exhibit installed. We hired Joanna Moyar as our first Museum Educator. Ruth Reeder took her place about ten years later when Joanna moved to Pennsylvania.

Our staff grew in 1989 when the Preservation Ordinance passed and we hired another archaeologist, Don Creveling, to help with site review. That position is now held by Fran Bromberg. The amount of construction in the City has increased tremendously, and we seem to be drowning in site plans, but the review process is aided by really cool historic map layers that Virginia Tech created for the GIS computer program.

We also have great support staff. I've always dealt with a lot of the financial issues and facilities maintenance, and I'm pleased to say that our wonderful secretary, Jennifer Barker, knows more about some of the issues and paperwork than I do, so I will be leaving things in good hands. We also have some great very-part-time staff, including Terilee Edwards-Hewitt and Elizabeth Field who are working with me on collections-related projects such as data entry and document imaging. Terilee taught Field School lab days one year in my absence.

When we moved in 1981, most of the collections went to remote storage. I applied for and eventually obtained grant funding from the National Science Foundation and the Institute for Museum Services to create an

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30 Years, continued from page 3

appropriate storage space with climate control and compactor shelving in 1991. As part of this project, we inventoried the collection and conducted a conservation survey and treatment project. Two years ago I worked with GWU interns to re-inventory the collection, using a new software catalogue program developed with the City's IT staff.

Lots of other changes have to do with computer technology. At my interview I was told I'd be responsible for computer applications, but at the time that meant overseeing grant-funded personnel using SPSS on the George Washington University mainframe. Little did I know what was ahead.

I got the first computer in Historic Alexandria in 1985, to transfer the artifact catalogue to the desktop environment. That computer cost \$6,000 and had a green screen and 640KB of storage space, but I loved it from the start. That's a good thing, because by virtue of having the first computer I became IT Coordinator for the Office of Historic Alexandria. This year, I've been working with OHA and the IT department on implementation of VoIP telephones, PastPerfect cataloguing software for use by the other museums, the purchase of Point of Sale software, and a Document Imaging project.

Over the years the Archaeology artifact catalogues moved from Minark to Paradox to an application developed in Access. With the new program, the artifact catalogue is linked to the box inventory, accession records, loan records, and artifact photographs.

The late Tom Witte, past president of FOAA, got us started on a website when the City first worked with George Mason University on a prototype. In 1996, as the City was starting its own website, I formed a committee to develop a large presence for Historic Alexandria. In the next few months the City's Web Team will post a new version of our website – our third complete rewrite. We will post a lot more historical information, and, for Archaeology, we'll post a bibliography

with links to site reports so that the so-called “grey literature” will see the light of day.

I'm going to really miss the artifacts in our wonderful collection. I've learned so much about them over the years, from looking at so many thousands of artifacts. In 1980, I couldn't tell the vessel form for most of the smaller sherds, but eventually I figured out where the

decoration would be and found other clues so that I could tell a cup from a saucer from a plate for many of the tiniest pieces. And I put my innate spatial aptitude to good use, for crossmending.

I focused a lot of my work on ceramics, because even the smallest fragments provide the archaeologist with great information. The pipes and buttons and metal objects and so forth are so varied that, while fascinating, they can be hard to identify and date.

Over the years I became intrigued with the locally-made earthenware and stoneware, and I wrote several articles on the subject for the *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts*, *Ceramics in America*, and local Antiques Show catalogues. I also love the ceramics that commemorate American history, such as our George Washington mourning pitcher and Harrison campaign jug, so I wrote an article on those as well.

Even more than the artifacts themselves, I'll miss the wonderful volunteers who work with me every Friday to wash, mark, crossmend, and catalogue the artifacts from our current site and from our back collections.

I've worked with a lot of wonderful people over the years, and I remain close friends with some of the volunteers who worked here in the 1980s. Joan Amico, Cynthia Ford, Sue Gagner, Sandra Humphrey, Montie Kust, Anna Lynch, Mary Jane Nugent, and Sara Revis have all worked with me for many years. Sara actually started before me, in 1977. Some will continue to work with Alexandria Archaeology in other capacities when the Friday lab sessions end. And I plan to keep in touch.



Barbara Magid, Alexandria Archaeology's Crossmender-in-Chief, with sherds from the 400 block of King Street, current location of Hotel Monaco



# SUMMER INTERNS TACKLE TECH TASKS & MORE

## BECKY SCHUMANN

Hi, my name is Becky Schumann. I am a rising fourth year at the University of Virginia, where I major in anthropology focusing in archaeology. My background is primarily in prehistoric archaeology, although I hope to gain further experience in historic archaeology. Last summer I participated in UVA's Archaeological Field School, in which I dug at Monasukapanough in Albemarle County and conducted shovel testing at Morven Farms in Charlottesville.

During my internship with Alexandria Archaeology I have primarily been working with Rose McCarthy and Fran Bromberg editing a GIS map, so that it more accurately reflects the locations of the City's archaeological sites. Additionally, I have been perusing the site files and summarizing different reports and comments on each site in an Excel spreadsheet.



Becky Schumann and Rose McCarthy

I have truly enjoyed this opportunity to learn about Alexandria's history and archaeological sites and to work with the wonderful people at Alexandria Archaeology.

## CATHY REBER

My name is Cathy Reber, and I am a senior at the College of William and Mary. I am majoring in art history and I have a particular interest in the history of architecture. My main assignment this summer has been to help with the Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Project. I have been compiling a database based on research of the individuals recorded in the Gladwin burial records from early 1864 to January of 1869, conducted by Mary Jane Nugent, Margarete Holubar, and Anna Lynch. The information will be incorporated into the name wall, a focal point of the

Freedmen's Memorial, slated to be completed by the end of next year.

Mary Jane and I compared photocopies of the records with a newer, typed version and made

corrections to the spelling and ages. I took the data and entered it into spreadsheets, separating the individuals by their date and location of death. For more information on the Memorial, click on the "What's New" link at <http://www3.alexandriava.gov/freedmens/winners.php>



Anna Lynch, Cathy Reber, and Mary Jane Nugent

## ERIN SPANGLER

Hi, I am Erin Spangler, a born and raised Alexandrian. I am currently a senior at West Potomac High School, and I decided to intern at the Museum through a new program at my school called SHOUT. During this program, seniors are excused from the last two weeks of school (June 3-16 for me) as long as they complete 50 hours of community service. I chose the Alexandria Archaeology Museum because I have always enjoyed my history courses at school and knew that archaeology is something I might want to study in college.



Erin Spangler

As editor-in-chief of my school's yearbook, I have become very familiar with the art of graphic design and the Adobe InDesign program. Thus, most of my short time here has been devoted to using my skills with this program to beautify and organize publications coming out of the Museum. So far, I have used InDesign to create posters, a template for this newsletter, and a layout for the City of Alexandria Historical Scavenger Hunt.

My time as an intern has been short, yet sweet. I am graduating as a valedictorian and Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship winner on June 20, 2010. I plan to attend McGill University in Montreal come fall, where I hope to pursue history, journalism, and maybe even graphic design. Even though I have been an intern for only two weeks, I hope to continue my involvement with Alexandria Archaeology in the future.

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## DENISE deJACQUANT

I'm from New York and am currently a senior at St. John's University, pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology and history. My volunteer work for Alexandria Archaeology is focused on the excavation at Shuter's Hill and helping with the Adventure Lessons. I hope my volunteer work will help me understand the different aspects of archaeology more in-depth, because I would like to pursue this as a career, and to help others realize their passion for this field, as well.



*Denise deJaquant with a young girl from the Ukraine who participated in the Potter's Art Lesson on July 14 with the Children of Chernobyl.*

My interest in archaeology and anthropology was ignited early in my life because of my family's long and rich history in France. The interest to find out more about my family history left me with the passion for understanding how different people lived and the clues that they left behind. The knowledge I've gained during my time here is immense and I hope to have helped the Alexandria Archaeology Museum as much as they have helped me.

Outside of my volunteer work at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, I have also participated in various events in New York and at my school. As a volunteer for the Breast Cancer Society, I have attended the annual walks for the past five years. I have also performed in plays and musicals since high school and love to use my talents to bring joy to others. I like to paint and bake in my spare time. I use my skills in art to create cakes with my sister for special family occasions. I have a great passion for bringing happiness to others and use my talents to promote happiness as often as possible.

## TESS EVANS

My name is Tess Evans, and I am 19 years of age. I attend the University of North Alabama and have just completed my first year. I was offered the opportunity to work with oral-history transcribing at Alexandria Archaeology in early June, and happily accepted. This chance gave me insight into early Alexandria, plus let me jump into the shoes of past and present residents.

A few of my interviews taught me about other cultures, such as a woman from Ethiopia who came to Alexandria to start a new life, and also a good old boy who had amazing fun playing baseball behind the George Washington

Masonic Memorial. Listening to oral history makes me reflect on my own story and how everyone should listen to anyone with something to say. After all, history consists of stories.

The people here at Archaeology were a blast to work with, and from the minute I stepped in here, I felt like one of the group. My thanks goes out to the staff, and a special thanks to Jennifer Hembree for showing me the ropes of the art of transcribing. I have been blessed this summer and enjoyed a wonderful internship.

I will continue my studies and will be majoring in history. The rest of my story awaits me.



## SAMER MASTERSON

My name is Samer Masterson, and I attend McLean High School. I am 16 years old, and I will be a junior this September. Last year I co-founded the Robotics Club and competed in a Botball tournament. I was pleased to come in seventh place out of more than 50 entries. I play the guitar and piano and would like to specialize in computer science or audio engineering in college.



*"BB" Ballentine and Sam Masterson*

I am also a member of the Model United Nations, where I represented Cuba and South Korea and discussed many topics, including nuclear proliferation and global warming.

Last summer I volunteered at Mount Verno Archaeology, where I was part of a dig in the garden and helped collect information which was used to locate the original plan for the garden. Presently I am working with Barbara Ballentine on a project compiling the origins of the street names in Alexandria. I love working with all the passionate people at Alexandria Archaeology, and I am glad to have the opportunity to be here.



**CHRIS MORLEY**

My name is Christopher Morley. I'm originally from Wisconsin. After I graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire last December, I moved to Alexandria. I received my BA in history. During my college career, Russian/Eastern European history was my main area of interest.

This summer I have an internship with the Alexandria

Archaeology Museum, doing research at the National Archives. I'm looking for written evidence of African-Americans at Civil War forts in the Northern Virginia/Washington, D.C. , area. This type of work is quite rewarding. It's very exciting to be working with original documents, something which I had never done before. After this internship is over, I hope to have gained valuable information about my research subject, as well as contributing to the history of Alexandria and the D.C. area.

The work that I'm doing right now is important because it's time that we chronicle everyone's history, not just the history that we grew up learning from textbooks.

**NEIL VAZ**

My name is Neil Vaz. I am from Orlando, Florida, and am getting my master's in African history at Howard University. I eventually would like to get my Ph.D. in African history. I am working as an intern for the summer under the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is a Partnership-in-Scholarship grant that funds collaborative work between universities and African American historic sites. I have been researching the African American presence at Fort Ward Park and compiling text and images for a series of interpretive signs highlighting this little-known chapter of the park's history.

I have been working alongside this wonderful African American community/family that has endured the strife of urban development, which resulted in relocation. Acquiring the land on the former Union fort after the Civil War, a group of families were optimistic about their newfound freedom. At The Fort they built homes, a church, and a school, and prospered through self-sufficiency. Their motto of faith, family, and education resonates through the history their descendants recount. The fascinating thing about it all is the communal relationship and moral code that was followed and still resonates today.

I would like to thank the members of the community -- Fran Terrell, Adrienne Washington, Joyce Sanchez, and Elizabeth Douglas -- for their time sharing their memories and making this a delightful experience for me. Not only have I learned a lot, but I am also inspired by these people and their ability to flourish while subjected to adverse conditions imposed on them. The interpretive signs are very important to us all because they will teach a lesson of perseverance.

**BRIANNA MARTIN**

My name is Brianna Martin and I am from Millburn, New Jersey. I am currently a rising sophomore at Princeton University and I plan to major in archaeology and pursue a certificate in Near Eastern studies. Since I was young, I've also been passionate about history, whether it is 19th-century American or Ancient Mesopotamian.



*Brianna Martin and Neil Vaz*

I'm so glad to have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in so many aspects of my chosen field, including historical research, fieldwork and education.

I feel very fortunate to be working in such a historic location with such a

knowledgeable and dedicated group of people. Currently, I'm working under Neil Vaz in the project to create interpretive signs that document the rich history of the African American community at Fort Ward. I look forward to interning with Alexandria Archaeology for the remainder of my summer.

**Institute**, continued from page 1

the investigation of some of the earliest historical contexts discovered on the site to date. During previous seasons, archaeological work had uncovered evidence of a plantation laundry, including the stone foundations of the building and brick paving of an outdoor work area. The laundry could have been built as early as 1781 by John Mills, who constructed the first known historical residence on the site, but it was definitely present by 1797, when Ludwell Lee, the subsequent plantation owner, included the structure in a fire insurance policy.

Institute participants excavated levels in the outdoor work area associated with the laundry occupation. These soil layers contained pins and buttons that relate to laundry and sewing activities, sherds of broken ceramics and other artifacts of daily life, along with numerous fragments of animal bones that can be analyzed to gain an understanding of aspects of the diet and nutrition of the site's occupants.



Summer Institute participants with their new T-shirts .

MANY THANKS...to Shanna Thomas, one of our first Alexandria Archaeology Institute participants! Shanna just donated 72 pairs of work gloves (arrayed for photo, above) from her grandmother's store in Missouri to preserve the hands of future students and volunteers.

The deposits are of particular significance because they provide insight into the lives of the enslaved African Americans who lived and worked in the laundry. This type of information is particularly lacking in the documentary record, and archaeological work helps to fill in some of the gaps in historical accounts and to aid in telling a more complete story of the past. In addition, one of the units excavated during the Institute included a mystery pit that contained pockets of some of the earliest historical artifacts found on the site; more work is definitely needed before we can venture a guess as to the function of this unusual feature.

Openings are still available for Session II, which runs from October 21 -24. The cost is \$475, and participants will continue to excavate the Shuter's Hill site.

For an application, images from Session I, and additional information see: <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/archaeology/ar-programs-institute2010.html>.



**...And Sew They Did**

Thanks to an impromptu Alexandria Archaeology sewing bee, Institute participants were offered modified "I Dig Alexandria Archaeology" souvenir T-shirts. (See photo at left.)

Pictured above are volunteers Carolyn Holloway, Montie Kust, Margarete Holubar, Erin Spangler, and Anna Lynch, who spent an afternoon feminizing the necklines. Not pictured is Donna Seifert, who helped as well.

The shirts were presented to the Institute participants at a closing reception hosted by the Alexandria Archaeological Commission at the Principle Gallery on King Street.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ANNA!  
FAREWELL, JEFF !**



On April 27 staff and volunteers gathered to celebrate Anna Lynch's 85 years of wisdom and knowledge. Her birthday cake was shared with Jeff Barnett who completed his

American University Graduate Gateway Internship with us. FOAA VP Joan Amico presented Jeff with a canvas tote bag in appreciation of his excellent work on the Alexandria's Defenses of Washington Bike Trail.

## RIDE ROLLS SMOOTHLY, THANKS TO APD



APD Officer Carl Wortham escorts 60 bicyclists from the Carlyle House, headed for Mount Welby at Oxon Hill Park in Maryland. Below, Ruth Reeder heads out of Old Town followed by the pack.



On Saturday, June 5, Alexandria Archaeology hosted, along with Oxon Cove Park, Fort Washington Park, Carlyle House, the Alexandria Police, the Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club, and BikeWalk Alexandria, a Star-Spangled Banner Heritage Trail Ride for National Trails Day.

Thanks to the City of Alexandria, NPS, FOAA, volunteers, re-enactors, and 100-plus riders whose combined efforts resulted in such a fun and safe event for all!

For additional photos, visit the following links:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1069290149#!/album.php?aid=178985&id=134587522548;>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alexandria-VA/Alexandria-Archaeology-Museum/134587522548#!/album.php?aid=179024&id=134587522548;>

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1069290149#!/album.php?aid=176189&id=134587522548&op=12>

## WALKING WITH PAM

by Hal Hardaway



Pam, above, at Gadsby's Tavern and, at right, on Union Street.



The Washington Map Society held its annual dinner at Gadsby's Tavern on Saturday, May 22. Leading off the evening, and the highlight of the event, was a briefing and walking tour by Dr. Pamela Cressey. Starting with George Washington's 1748 survey of Alexandria's crescent-shaped bay, Pam explained the evolution of Alexandria and the 18th-century landfill resulting in the "straightline" waterfront of today. Following the initial presentation and orientation, she led attendees on a "hands-on" walking tour from Gadsby's to the site of the original bluffs on Fairfax Street. Map society members were fascinated with the nexus of archaeology/history and cartography. Many said it shed new light on historic Alexandria, and they will return for further exploration.

On Saturday, July 17, Pam gave a walking tour, "The Hidden History of Union Street," to 70 people who braved the heat and humidity. What a great chance to learn about the history beneath our feet! If you are interested in learning more about Alexandria's waterfront history, please visit <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/oha-main/waterfront/oha-waterfront-home.html>

## Montie Kust Nominated

On behalf of FOAA, Marya Fitzgerald and Joan Amico nominated Montie Kust for the Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award. Montie received the award at the City's Earth Day celebration on April 24 and was featured, above the fold, on the front page of the April 29 issue of the *Alexandria Gazette Packet*. <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2010/042810/Alexandria.pdf>

# ORAL HISTORY UPDATE:

## FLOODS AND PICK-UP FOOTBALL

by Jen Hembree, Oral History Coordinator

### JEAN FLING, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, REMEMBERS WHEN THE FLOODS CAME

Jean Fling moved to Alexandria in 1940 at the age of 10. During her interview with Alexandria Legacies volunteer Paula Whitacre, Jean recalls working at the Shirley-Duke Deli on Duke Street in the 1950s and 1960s, her efforts that led to creation of the area behind her house as a park (Tarleton Park) and how she contributed to passage of Virginia's Dam Safety Bill in the mid-1970s.

#### The Floods and Dam Safety Bill

Interviewer: So, 1972 and 1975 – this whole area flooded?

Jean Fling: The first time, Lake Barcroft, it had been raining and raining and raining. Lake Barcroft opened up their dikes because their patios were getting wet. A wall of water came down and hit the railroad here [behind Mrs. Fling's and her neighbors' houses] and it couldn't get through so it hit us and came back. Then it gave us a second wave. Water was up to the second step of my basement. Knocked the doors off, picked up the freezer and laid it on top of my washing machine. Anyway, it stopped right here. Mine was the last house. That was the first flood.

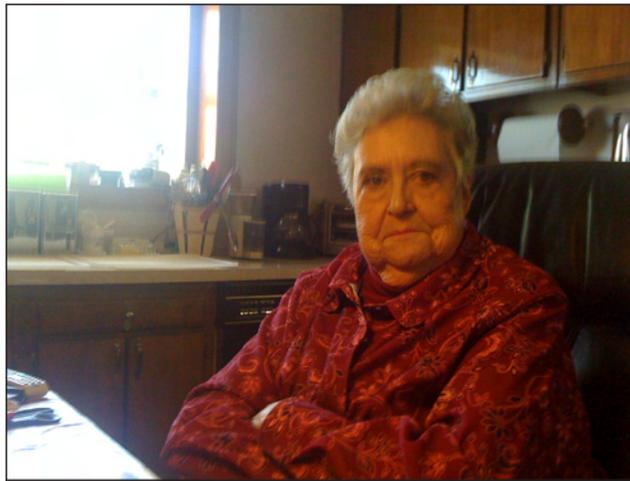
... We're where Holmes Run and Cameron Run come together, comes down together at the corner.

It happened again a couple of years later. Lake Barcroft had gone and gotten a loan to repair their dike. They had bolted it closed. Well, the second time it broke, and the wall of water came down. Then, it went all the way back there where all the trucks are, back into the warehouses

[Wheeler Avenue]. That whole area – it picked up trucks and put them in the creek. It was just terrible.... The second time, it was the same – up to here....

[At the time] I was working for Jim Thompson as a volunteer in one of his campaigns. He was the Majority Leader for the House. His associate came and asked me what was going on [with the flooding], and I told him. We had pictures. He went back and told Jim... and the next thing I knew, we got a call to come to Richmond to appear before the committee that brought up a dam bill, where it would be monitored and watched during these heavy rains. [At that time] in the state of Virginia, anybody could build a dam with no regulation....

It [the bill] passed. And then the Corps of Engineers came in... and worked for about two and a half years, completely changed all the railroad "underthings" so they're huge now. I don't worry about it anymore.



*Jean Fling*

*(Photo Credit: Paula Whitacre)*

Interviewer: So the Dam Safety Act – the legacy is actually from your basement, in a way.

Jean Fling: Yes. If it hadn't been that I knew Jim [Thompson] so well, it probably wouldn't have come to pass.

### RALPH MILLS REMEMBERS POTOMAC YARDS

Ralph Mills was interviewed last year by volunteer Gillian Chen. A George Washington High School alum, Ralph grew up in the Rosemont neighborhood. His memories include those of his father's work at Southern Railroad and Potomac Yard, as well as the Hammonds, who lived next door and owned the Mutual Ice Company. As a kid, he played "pick-up" (football) with his neighbors, calling themselves the "Rosemont Eagles."

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Ralph Mills: ...Up behind the train station was an A&P grocery store. I was here [looking at map] --and in 1939 we moved right over here -- my mother, brother and I [West Cedar Street]. Now, sometime in the late [19]30s



**Ralph Mills**

(Photo Credit: Gillian Chen)

they changed the name of Commonwealth [Avenue]. It was Washington then, Washington Avenue, and they changed it to Commonwealth and there was... a streetcar track along Commonwealth Avenue.

Interviewer: I just wanted to get a feel for the area that they said was Rosemont, which they were saying was, basically, Commonwealth and King Street and, I think, Russell Road.

Ralph Mills: Primarily, more Russell Road. ...In this area was East Rosemont. This was basically Rosemont up to here. And as a kid, we used to come up here to Walnut Street during the winter time and sleigh ride down the hill; and Walnut Street and King Street was blocked off. It was pretty steep, and we would go up there and down the hill, all the way down to Russell Road.

Interviewer: Did you play any sports?

Ralph Mills: What we call[ed] "pick-up." On Saturday mornings, a bunch of us would get together. We called ourselves "The Rosemont Eagles," and we'd get together about nine-, ten-o'clock and play 'til noon when the boy who owned the football had to go home! That was one of the things -- and everybody played. When we played football, it didn't make any difference if we had 12 men on each side -- we all played.

In baseball, we played a lot of what we called "two-up." We had two batters --and if the batter hit the ball out in the field and the fielder caught it, he would take the batter's

place. They'd switch places. But we played in such a way that all the kids played and it was none of this organized stuff like you have today. You always hear about mum's taking kids to soccer [today]. We didn't have it. You see, dads were all working. This was back in the early 1940s, primarily. Everybody --even my mum--people were working six days a week then....

Now, one of the dads went before the RF&P and got permission for us to use the field here on Linden[?] Street. We cleaned it up, cut down the grass and that's where we played baseball and football...but the game was always over at noon on Saturday because there was only one football.

...When we went to high school we started having dances. Dances were always held in the gymnasium and if we [or] someone was lucky, their parents may take a couple to the school for dancing. For me, I walked.

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## **Fall Oral History Training Scheduled**

The Fall Oral History Training Session for new volunteers will be held Saturday, September 18, from 10am-12noon at the Archaeology Museum. Seating is limited. An RSVP is required. Contact: Jen Hembree via email at [jen\\_hembree@hotmail.com](mailto:jen_hembree@hotmail.com), or at (703) 746-4399.

## **Huzzah for Oral History Volunteers**

who have recently completed interviews or transcripts, or have assisted with updating our website and archives: Gillian Chen, Tess Evans, Christopher Gagne, Jennifer Landy, Laura Little, and Paula Whitacre.

## **Save Space on Your Calendar for**

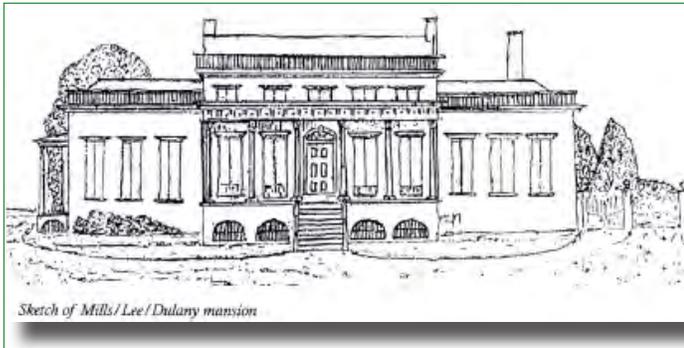
... a recently scheduled Cemetery Preservation & Restoration Seminar, Saturday, October 23 & Sunday, October 24, 2010. Robert Mosko will offer a presentation on cemetery and monument preservation; on-site field study and assessment of Frying Pan Park Meeting House Cemetery. Aimee Wells, Fairfax County Park Authority archaeologist will present "Stones Speak in Historic Cemeteries"; learn what types of information can be found in historic cemeteries. Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., will offer a presentation, "A Tour of the Frying Pan Meeting House." No fee, but registration required. Register at Frying Pan Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, VA 20171. 703-437-9101. [http://www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org/downloads/FCCPA\\_October-seminar.pdf](http://www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org/downloads/FCCPA_October-seminar.pdf)

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### SHUTER'S HILL EXCAVATION CHEERED BY DULANY DESCENDANTS

by Dick Lundgren

The ongoing archeological excavation at Shuter's Hill is full of fascination for the descendants of former owners Benjamin Tasker Dulany and his wife, Elizabeth French. Benjamin and Elizabeth purchased in 1799 what is essentially the hill at the head of King Street where the George Washington Masonic Memorial now resides. At the time of their purchase, the property included the original Shuter's Hill



mansion, along with a complement of other buildings, which were constructed for a variety of purposes. The mansion was originally constructed by John Mills in 1781 and was owned by Ludwell Lee from 1786 to 1799.

The complex of buildings, along with the site's unsurpassed setting, most likely rivaled in magnificence the homes of George Washington at Mount Vernon, George Mason at Gunston Hall and George Washington Parke Custis at Arlington.

Unfortunately, the Shuter's Hill property over the years suffered a series of setbacks that precluded the survival of its original, and its later, buildings. In 1842, the mansion burned and was apparently replaced by a cottage for Dulany family members still resident at the site.

Then, at the beginning of the Civil War when Alexandria was occupied by the Union army, the property was seized by the Federal Government for the construction of Forts

Ellsworth and Dahlgren as part of the general fortification of the Capital City. The brick mansion and grounds were confiscated and occupied by Union troops, radically changing the topography and uses of Shuter's Hill.



*Dick Lundgren is an in-law in the Dulany family and is conducting research into the life, times and family of Benjamin Tasker Dulany.*

At the conclusion of the Civil War, the Dulany family was able to reclaim ownership of the property, unlike the family of Robert E. Lee, which was never able to reclaim Arlington, now the site of Arlington National Cemetery.

At some point in time after the end of the war, the Dulanys constructed a third house on the property, which, along with an earlier laundry building and a 19<sup>th</sup>-century outbuilding, is now the focus of the extensive and valuable archaeological work being carried out at the site under the able direction of Fran Bromberg and Steve Shephard of Alexandria Archaeology. It is certainly hoped that this work will continue into the future until such time as the location not only of all the outbuildings, but of the original mansion and the family cemetery have been located and documented.

In addition to the historical, architectural, and archaeological significance of Shuter's Hill, there remain further aspects of this property that hold particular interest, and these are sociological. The excavation of the laundry building, and similar future work in finding the garden building, and possibly other such functional structures, sheds light on the life of the slaves who lived and worked at Shuter's Hill. Already, the archaeological team is reaching preliminary conclusions about the daily routine and the living arrangements that were part of life for an early-19<sup>th</sup>-century slave in Alexandria as it played out specifically at Shuter's Hill. Further study of this element of the property's history promises a much greater understanding of this neglected phase of the past.

A final part of the story of Shuter's Hill, and one that holds much interest for the present-day Dulany family, is the genealogical record of the descendants of Benjamin and Elizabeth. Twelve children were born to the family after their marriage in 1772, and several at 601 Duke Street, the first Alexandria home of the Dulanys, built in approximately 1783. As these children approached adulthood, a number of them were presumably still living at Shuter's Hill after its 1799 purchase as a summer home for the family.

From their prominent vantage point high atop Shuter's Hill, it was difficult for them not to recognize a similar property on another hill directly across the Potomac from Alexandria. This property was Mount Welby, now the Oxon Hill Children's Farm, and then the home of Dr. Samuel and Mary Welby deButts. Thankfully, this wonderful property remains preserved and in the hands of the National Park Service, and to this day the view across the river from Shuter's Hill to Mount Welby remains much as it did in the early decades of the nineteenth century.

The result of this visual proximity was that all three of the deButts children of Mount Welby married into the Shuter's Hill Dulany family. And further, a number of their descendants began marrying their own Dulany and deButts cousins, while also marrying members of the Carter family of Virginia. As a result, the genealogical chart representing

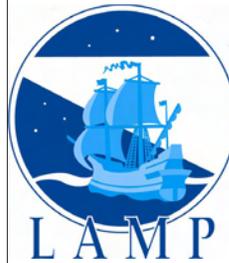


Artist: St. Meemin. Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery. Dr. Samuel deButts, and his wife, Mary Welby, owned the Mount Welby property from 1805 to 1843.

*Samuel Debutts was born in Ireland in 1756 and began his career as a doctor in England, where he met and married his wife, Mary Welby, in 1785. Samuel's practice was difficult, unprofitable, and kept the couple apart for weeks. Like hundreds of thousands of other European families, they decided to immigrate to the United States in search of a better life. Twenty years later, Samuel signed a deed for a 206-acre land that is known today as Oxon Hill Farm. He, however, named the new family home Mount Welby, in honor of his wife's family, and spent the rest of his days there. Samuel's grandchildren sold the property in 1843.*

the dozens of intermarriages among members of these three families has become highly complex.

Most of the Dulany and deButts descendants eventually left Alexandria, with some following Duke Street and the Little River Turnpike out to farms in Fauquier and Loudoun counties. Many of these farms happily still exist, with names such as Welbourne, Crednal, Pelham, Glen Welby, Oakwood, Avenel, Kinloch, Grafton, Oakley, Corotoman, and even another Mount Welby. The exemplary work now being carried out at Shuter's Hill under the direction of Alexandria Archaeology promises to shed great light on several important aspects of life in post-revolutionary Alexandria. Certainly, the many descendants of Benjamin Tasker and Elizabeth French Dulany wholeheartedly support this effort and look forward to the day when a more complete story of life at Shuter's Hill can be told.



## UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Institute of Maritime History (IMH) and the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) propose to conduct a

Phase I archaeological reconnaissance of the river bottoms and shorelines of Washington, D.C., under the direction of the City Archaeologist. The work would be done in collaboration with American University and other organizations, and in coordination with the Naval History and Heritage Command and the Metropolitan Police Department.

Participating volunteers will be required to sign a written agreement not to disturb sites or to disclose site locations to anyone except the City Archaeologist or designee. Volunteers will drive the boats, watch the sidescan sonar, learn how to run a search, and perhaps probe the bottom if we find something wrecked in shallow water. Probably no diving. If folks want to dive they need to be certified. On a falling tide after a good rain the Potomac might not be too bad upriver from Key Bridge, but we will not dive in or below the Anacostia unless we have full hard-hat hazmat gear. IMH does not have that kind of gear (about \$20K per diver), and hazmat diving takes special training well beyond your typical scuba diving curriculum.

Site locations and assessments will be reported only to the appropriate government officials in whose jurisdiction the sites lie, in whatever format their offices require. To prevent unauthorized disturbance, sites will not be disclosed to anyone else without permission from those offices. Reconnaissance will take approximately eight days.

Tentative dates are November 1 through 7, 2010. The exact schedule for fieldwork will depend in part on weather and ancillary work. Due to prior commitments to the Maryland Historical Trust, the IMH boats and volunteers must return to Tall Timbers, MD, by November 19 to service the U-1105 Historic Shipwreck Preserve.

For more information contact David Howe at [david.howe@maritimehistory.org](mailto:david.howe@maritimehistory.org)

SENATE OF VIRGINIA  
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 198

*Commending the City of Alexandria's Archaeological Protection Code on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.*

Patrons-- Ticer and Saslaw; Delegates: Ebbin, Englin and Herring

Agreed to by the Senate, February 25, 2010  
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 5, 2010  
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WHEREAS, in 2009, the City of Alexandria celebrated the 20th anniversary of the nation's first municipal archaeological protection code; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Archaeological Protection Code (the Code) began in the mid-1980s, when members of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission discussed the need for a public-private partnership to save archaeological information that was being lost to development; and

WHEREAS, development attorneys, the City Attorney's Office, and the Chamber of Commerce worked together to create a relationship among the city archaeologist, consulting cultural resource management firms, and applicants to the development process; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed the Archaeological Protection Code in an effort to discover, study, and preserve the past at a time of rapid growth and development; and

WHEREAS, most documentary studies and excavations are done by professional archaeology companies, which results in the preservation of artifacts and important documentation about the city's past; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the Code, the City of Alexandria has received more than 100 reports from private cultural resource management firms and developers have donated tens of thousands of artifacts to the city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has been able to learn more about its history, including evidence of American Indian sites at Stonegate in the West End, early wharf businesses, Civil War encampments, and a slave jail; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Alexandria, the Archaeological Commission, several city departments, and developers, working with information from the Code and in conjunction with federal and state regulations, have cooperated also to create and enhance open space that preserves the past; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the city to preserve its historic and architectural past serve as a boon to the local economy, attracting tourists, residents, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, a national leader in historic and architectural preservation, the City of Alexandria established the third American historic district in 1946 and the nation's first municipal archaeological protection code in 1989; the city continues to be a leader in the use of geographic information systems, geomorphological testing, and the protection of historic sites; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the City of Alexandria's Archaeological Protection Code on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mayor William D. Euille as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the City of Alexandria's pioneering efforts in developing a municipal archaeological code.

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Thanks to Alexandria Archaeological Commission member Seth Tinkham for initiating the request and to Senator Ticer and her aide, Ms. Peggy Papp, for sponsoring the resolution.



## EDMONSON SISTERS RETURN TO ALEXANDRIA

The likeness of two brave, determined sisters now graces 1701 Duke Street, at the new Edmonson Plaza. The City, in partnership with Carr Properties, dedicated "The Edmonson Sisters" last month. The statue and plaza are named for Emily and Mary Edmonson, who

were imprisoned at the Bruin Slave Jail, which stood on this location in the 1840s. Abolitionists, including Harriet Beecher Stowe, launched a fundraising campaign and bought the girls' freedom. Sculptor Erik Blome created a 10-foot-high bronze statue of the sisters to commemorate their lives and others who were enslaved at this site. The statue was installed on May 22.

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission honored the project's archaeological consultant, the Louis Berger Group, Inc., with a 2009 Ben Brenman Award for its revealing study of the Bruin Slave Jail site, featured on page five of the Winter 2009 issue of *Volunteer News*. <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/archaeology/pdfs/ARNews2009Winter.pdf>



Pictured at left are Blome's assistants, Dawit and Misginia (last names withheld for their safety), both from Eritrea and new African Americans with legal work visas. They were placed

with Blome through the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Working on the metal finish of the statue was their first job in the United States. Hard workers, they traveled through 14 countries on their way to the USA and walked out of Eritrea, moving only by night, to Sudan. They had been hospital workers in Eritrea, but left after being jailed more than once for opposing the views of their government.

# A TOWN OCCUPIED

## “JOHNNY BULL” REVISITS ALEXANDRIA



Political cartoon engraved by William Charles, 1814

On August 29, 1814, the town of Alexandria had little choice but to surrender to the British naval force. To spare the town, Alexandrians paid a ransom of tobacco, flour, cotton, and sugar to the invaders.

On Saturday, August 28, 2010, from noon to 4 p.m., learn more about this controversial and sometimes overlooked event in the history of Alexandria and the United States at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street. To commemorate the anniversary of this infamous day in our nation’s history, the Carlyle House will re-create the occupation of Alexandria by His Royal Majesty’s naval forces. Interpreters attired as British Tars, Royal Marines, and Alexandria civilians will entertain your questions about life during the war.

Parked out front of the museum, visitors and families can explore the Schooner Ship *Lion*, a scale replica of a War of 1812 Privateer Ship. Sailors will demonstrate rigging and signal flags, and discuss life on the sea.

## WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY?

*Anna Lynch spent the morning of May 5 with author Mary Burton. Mary was researching for a novel she is writing and requested information on female slaves working in Alexandria bakeries during the 1850s. Of course, Anna, our star researcher, was able to produce a list of just such women.*

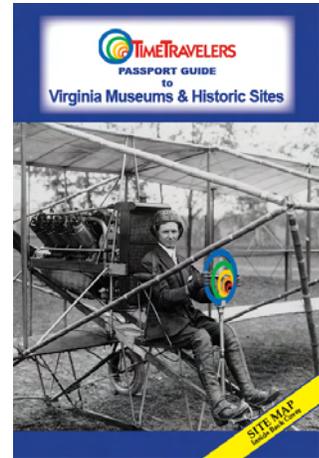
*T.C. Williams High School interns Phuonghi and Lauren have been busy updating a Scavenger History Hunt of Old Town, created in 2005 as an Eagle Scout Project by Russ Leggett. The Hunt is now online just in time for summer visitors.*

# Zark's Kids' Corner

by Suzanne Schaubel

## THE VIRGINIA TimeTravelers PROGRAM

Virginia has a wealth of historic and cultural resources, which have drawn visitors from around the world. Virginia’s museums cover history from pre-Colonial times through the modern era, telling the stories of major events and people who left their mark.



With the historic homes of eight Presidents and many more famous Americans, world-class art museums, Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields, milestones from the Civil Rights movement, hands-on science and children’s museums, state parks, zoos and botanical gardens – Virginia has something for everyone!

The Virginia TimeTravelers Program harnesses the historic and cultural resources of Virginia’s museums and historic sites to make learning fun for children and their families. It is a true public/private partnership that showcases Virginia’s rich history and culture.

The new long-term souvenir passport book is available for \$6 at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Buy yours today and embark on a TimeTravelers adventure!



## JULY FAMILY DIG DAY, BIG SUCCESS

Twenty people, young and old, participated in the first Family Dig Day of the season on July 17 at the Shuter’s Hill excavation site.

FOAA Treasurer Kathy Scheibelhoffer, pictured at left in hat, checked in the participating families and assisted at the screens in identifying artifacts. The artifacts were bagged and sent down to the laboratory for processing.

