

Alexandria Archaeology

V O L U N T E E R N E W S

Published by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology

Vol. XXIX No. 2

FALL 2013



44AX219 - A Late Nineteenth Century Slaughterhouse

By Becca Siegal and Garrett Fesler

Staff and volunteers at Alexandria Archaeology, in collaboration with URS Corporation archaeologists, recently completed excavations of a possible slaughterhouse that was in operation from the 1870s until perhaps the early 1890s. The site consists of a 22.6 ft. by 20.3 ft. brick cellar that was filled with brick rubble to a depth of 7 to 8 feet below grade. The building was uncovered and excavated in advance of the construction of a new building at Jefferson-Houston School located at Cameron and N. West streets. Documentary evidence indicates that a local butcher, Benjamin Baggett, built the slaughterhouse not long after the Civil War.



Given the amount of brick rubble inside the cellar, we believe the superstructure was built of brick. When the building was razed (probably after it was badly damaged by a fire) the walls collapsed into the cellar. After mechanically removing most of the brick rubble, archaeologists then documented the cellar—carefully mapping details in the walls and along the foundation—and excavated the floor. Perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the floor was a brick-lined well or sump in the northwest corner of the cellar, approximately 4 ft. in diameter and filled with more brick rubble. Archaeologists excavated the well/sump

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Summer Camp: A Recap

By Alex Karpa, with photos by Becca Siegal

Although the week of July 15 was one of scorching hot sun and some of the warmest temperatures this summer, it did not stop 17 campers, three city archaeologists and a generous staff of volunteers from excavating with Alexandria Archaeology at Fort Ward Park. The deed research conducted by volunteer Robert Colton led archaeologists to a particular location off the main drive of the park. This site is believed to have been the Javins family residence during the early 20th century. Over the past few years, Alexandria Archaeology has successfully excavated a handful of sites in the area, and this year we hoped for similar success in uncovering artifacts that would prove the presence of a family living on the lot following the Civil War. Thanks to the hard work of a diligent team, this year's summer camp has contributed a great number of new discoveries and added many items to Alexandria Archaeology's collection of Fort Ward artifacts.

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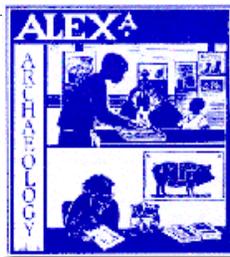
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FOAA president Liz Kelley with Ruth Reeder and Jeanne Springman at the Art Market in the Torpedo Factory on August 24th.

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Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News

ISSN 0894-2625
105 North Union Street, #327
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www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org

Newsletter Production: Marya Fitzgerald, Anna Lynch, Ruth Reeder, Becca Siegal. *Contributors:* Barbara Ballentine, Monica Bonilla, Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Garrett Fesler, Alex Karpa, Ben Kirby, Rose McCarthy, Bernard Means, Paul Nasca, Becca Siegal. *Photos* Paul Nasca, Becca Siegal. *Volunteer News* is published by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) with support from Alexandria Archaeology and the City of Alexandria.

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to a depth of approximately 5 feet. We were not able to completely excavate the well/sump due to safety concerns. A 5 by 5 ft. square brick "foundation" surrounded the top of the well/sump and probably supported a wooden



housing unit or cover over the feature.

We believe that the well/sump was used to drain the blood and other waste that was produced during the butchering process.

During the excavations, three large metal door panels were recovered along

with other large metal objects that probably had to do with the butchering process. The "doors" were each approximately 6 ft. tall and 3.5 ft. wide and appeared to have been attached to pulleys that made them retractable. It is possible that the doors were hung on a track system and were used to enclose an animal when it was put to death. Once the animal had been dispatched, the door would slide open to allow the workers to process the carcass. Also, all four interior walls of the cellar had regularly spaced iron fittings embedded in them; perhaps the fittings held shelves or hooks for temporarily storing carcasses. More research needs to be completed to better understand what the iron doors and other metal objects were used for.

Some of the smaller artifacts that were found in the cellar include animal bones, nails, oyster shell, parts of buckets or barrels, and a few fragments of glass and ceramic. Some of the animal bone fragments were sawed or cut during the butchering process; marks from a knife or saw can be seen on some of the fragments. The majority of the fragments appear to be pig bones, with a lesser number of cattle bones.

In addition to the sump/well, there were other interesting

features in the cellar. Next to the sump/well someone had stacked a pile of bricks. During excavation of the well/sump, archaeologists removed a



large piece of recessed wood that angled down into it. This could have functioned as a sluice, allowing the butchers to pour the waste down into it.

Archaeologists excavated several postholes in the cellar floor that may have served to support the floor above. There were at least two areas on the floor in the cellar which had 'ghost' images of possible floor joists. We believe the actual floor from the cellar was wood. All the pieces of wood on the floor of the cellar exhibited evidence of burning, a strong indication that fire was the cause of the building's demise.

One of the most curious aspects of the slaughterhouse cellar was its unusual brickwork. The interior walls formed a 22.6 ft. by 20.3 ft. rectangle, but the exterior sides of the walls were decidedly circular. Instead of a square hole, the builders had dug a 30.5 ft. by 28.9 ft. round hole for the cellar, and the masons followed the contours of the hole as they built the cellar walls. In places, the walls are as much as 3 ft. thick. Why did they build a square building inside a round hole and why make the walls so thick? Originally we had theorized that the curvilinear architecture was meant to help calm the animals as they were led to slaughter. We now believe that the shape of the building simply was an ingenious way to reduce the cost of brick. By rounding the corners, the builders were able to use nearly 50 percent fewer bricks than if they had built out a full rectangular cellar. (The oval foundations comprise 233 square feet, whereas rectangular foundations would have made up 422 square feet.)

As for the thickness of the walls, we theorize that they were intended to insulate and cool the cellar so as to keep the meat as fresh as possible before taking it to market. To that end, a slightly raised platform of packed clay was located on the west side of the cellar, which may have

been regularly filled with blocks of ice so as to create a refrigerated environment. The melting ice would have drained directly into the sump/well. When the brick cellar was dismantled, archaeologists noted that the brick courses were stepped inward so as to reduce the thickness of the base of the foundations, another method to save on materials at the deepest depth where the cooling effect from the walls was least needed.



Initially we hoped that the cellar could be preserved in place. However, in order to maximize the stability of the new school building, project engineers felt it was necessary to remove the entire cellar. Since the well/sump was deep enough to be preserved, its location will be marked in the landscaping plan and interpreted. The project team also has salvaged and set aside several pallets of brick from the cellar that will be incorporated into an interpretive display on the property.

URS archaeologists are in the process of preparing a final report on the slaughterhouse excavations. The project has opened up a window into the butchering industry in Alexandria in the nineteenth century. Research will continue on the site. One of Alexandria Archaeology's most dedicated interns, Rebecca Siegal, will present a paper on the findings from the slaughterhouse site at two upcoming conferences, the Archaeological Society of Virginia's annual meeting in October and the Mid Atlantic Archaeological Conference in March. If the schedule allows, Rebecca also plans to deliver a Java Jolt at Alexandria Archaeology.

Day one of camp began with a detailed history of The Fort. Krystyn Moon, associate professor of History and Director of American Studies at the University of Mary Washington, shared her research about this African American community, including the story of the families, the properties, and the local and national events that shaped this area. The campers took a short walk to visit the grave of William Javins, located on a property that was inherited by Florence Javins. By mid-day, campers broke into small groups assigned to 3x4 foot units around the site. After a brief discussion of archaeological methods and techniques, the five camper units broke the soil. Although day one brought most groups only through the first layer of their units, campers successfully excavated nails, glass, ceramic pieces, and even remnants of structural features. This was enough to confirm that our site was in fact the location of the Javins family residence.

Day two was dedicated to educating campers about the history of the area as a Civil War fort and a memorial commemorating the Union victory over the Confederate Army. Campers spent the morning touring the Fort Ward Museum, the Officer's Hut, and the re-constructed bastions, shelters, trenches and



ditches that formed the structure of the fort almost 150 years ago. Susan Cumbey, Director of Fort Ward Museum, explained to the group the layout of Fort Ward and its role during the Civil War as one of the larger forts constructed to defend Washington, D.C. During lunch, Alexandria Archaeology's Catherine Cartwright spoke with campers about the history of the Javins family's role in the Fort and as members of the Oakland Baptist Church. In the afternoon, campers returned to the dig site to continue unearthing artifacts that would provide evidence furthering our knowledge of the Javins family.

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Day three allowed campers to spend most of their time digging in their units, which was especially rewarding after having spent the past two days learning a great deal about the history of the Fort and the Javins family. Campers came upon features of what may have been the Javins's house and personal items, and evidence that the residence may have caught fire. Campers were able to recognize new layers, assist in taking elevations and creating profiles, and contribute their own ideas in identifying artifacts and determining what may have happened to the Javins residence. During the afternoon, we were visited by two descendants of the Javins family, who generously answered questions and provided staff and campers with a personal account of the Javins household.

Ms. Adrienne Terrell Washington and Ms. Frances Colbert Terrell discussed their memories of the area and commended the campers for the important work they were doing to further the understanding of the African American presence in Fort Ward Park.

Terilee Edwards-Hewitt followed with a presentation on how to conduct an oral history interview, emphasizing the value of this form of research.

On Day four, campers met in the lab at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum in order to clean, sort, and interpret the artifacts from the Javins site. Not only was this a nice break from the sun's heat, but it was a great opportunity for campers to see what happens in archaeology after site excavation. With the help of archaeologist Paul Nascia, campers were able to analyze and better understand their artifact assemblages from "The Fort," an African American Community.

Although the heat was a difficult obstacle throughout the week, by the time of Friday's Family Site Tour on



day five, campers were still energized, excited and proud of the work they had completed over the course of the dig. Campers spent the morning excavating new layers in their units, coming across even more artifacts to add to the Javins family collection. On the last day, families were invited to visit our site at Fort Ward so campers could share their findings, new knowledge, and experience. The Alexandria Archaeology staff was happy with the positive feedback from the campers, who thoroughly enjoyed both digging for artifacts and learning about the history of the Fort.

Check out some of our most significant finds from the week, below!

In the NW corner of the Javins site, our Blue Team came across a feature in the SE corner of their unit, composed of bricks, cinderblock, and stone. In addition, they discovered a great deal of painted ceramic, glass, nails and large pieces of metal embedded around the feature.

Just a few feet away, the Red Team came across many personal artifacts that may have belonged to the Javins family, including a gold plated ring and a bottle top that one of our archaeologists was able to date to the early 1900s.

In the second unit excavated at the other end of the site, the Red Team encountered a feature similar to that which was found by the Blue Team, along with an array of glass, ceramic, and metal pieces.



The Green Team's unit was located in the center of the site. Their hard work led to the discovery of a post hole in the SE corner of their unit, suggesting the presence of some type of fence or property boundary. In addition, they discovered a large, thin metal structure that took up the greater part of the

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SW corner of their unit, along with a coiled spring mechanism and a shot gun shell.

The Orange Team was proud to come across a large piece of a porcelain saucer that would have been treasured and valued by the Javins family during the early 20th century. In addition, they found a copper watch piece that may have belonged to Samuel Javins or one of his sons.

The Purple Team had the most success digging in their second unit on the SW corner of the site. In this unit they came across a mostly intact medicine bottle, the glass casing of a lamp fixture, and most interestingly, a line of metal links that may indicate the presence of a fence along the Javins property.

Because camp was filled with such enthusiasm and success, we encourage our campers to stay involved in the field of archaeology, whether through the City of Alexandria, at



our museum or through other outside programs.

To all of those who volunteered their time to educate our campers about Fort Ward and the Javins family, Alexandria Archaeology expresses its appreciation and gratitude.

Keeping 17 campers entertained while having them excavate for a week in extreme heat was no small task. This was achieved, in large part, by a stellar cast of Unit Buddies, composed of former campers, summer interns, and dedicated volunteers including Alex Karpa, Monica Bonilla, Ben Kirby, Anatoly Policastro, Julie Diewald, and Suzanne Schaubel. Each unit buddy worked with their assigned campers for the entire week, following them from the field, to the laboratory where they processed their finds, then back into the field for the last day, which included interpreting their units during a site tour for their families and friends.

As always, we thank intern Becca Siegal and staff archae-

ologists Garrett Fesler, Francine Bromberg and Paul Nasca for their helpful input and support. And of course, Ruth Reeder, our Museum Education Coordinator, for making this year's camp possible.

A unique component to this year's camp occurred when Evan Welch offered to produce a Summer Camp 2013 documentary film. He was on site the entire week, filming daily and recording each activity and every discovery. We anxiously await the viewing of the final product.



Campers, thank you for a great week, and we look forward to seeing your faces with us at camp next summer!



> Field Notes <

by Garrett Fesler and Becca Siegal

Excavations at Shuter's Hill are progressing nicely. We have a wonderful group of volunteers this year. Lots of folks attended the field orientation in June and a handful came for a mini orientation in August. Aside from one or two very hot days, the summer has been relatively mild, making conditions for digging quite pleasant and productive.



In June, we opened several new units on the south side of the excavation area. We are attempting to expose the full extent of a pit feature in this particular area. The subsurface feature is located approximately a dozen feet to the south of the south foundation of the 16 ft. square laundry, a building that dates to the last decade of the eighteenth century. The feature that interests us appears to be oriented parallel to the laundry, an

indication that it was created while the laundry still stood. Although the edges of the feature are faint and difficult to see, it appears to be 16 ft. long, the same length as the nearby laundry, and approximately half its width, roughly 8 ft. wide. So, for the next several weeks we will continue to tease out the dimensions of this curious feature. Once we have it entirely exposed, then we hope to



excavate it in full before the field season comes to a close in November.

In tandem with exposing the pit feature near the laundry, in the northwest corner of the excavation area we have reinitiated excavations in a 6 ft. by 6.5 ft. subfloor pit feature dubbed Feature 199. Situated under the floor of the house built by the Delaney family in the 1850s (after fire destroyed the original mansion house in the 1840s), we believe the residents of the house used the 4 ft. deep pit to temporarily store various goods and supplies.

The artifacts recovered from Feature 199 thus far date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, evidence that the storage pit was filled at about the same time that the house burned to the ground around 1905. The most interesting find to come out of Feature 199 this summer is a piece of slate with

the name 'Willis Petty' etched into the top right corner. We believe that this piece was from a child's school slateboard. Willis Petty scratched his name into his slateboard and somehow a piece of it ended up in Feature 199. Exactly how this came to be, we do not know; there is no evidence that Petty ever lived at Shuter's Hill.

But we do know a great deal about the checkered life of Willis Petty. Beginning in the early 1890s when he was in his early 20s, Mr. Petty repeatedly appeared in the local Alexandria Gazette newspaper. For example, on May 12, 1892, Petty was jailed for assaulting a man with a razor. A day later he was fined \$2.50 for "fast driving." On June 6, 1894, he was sent to jail "for cruel treatment" of his wife. In July 1897 Petty and a friend witnessed two men rob his house—taking only a loaf of bread and a tomato—and chased them down and forcibly brought them to jail. On December 27, 1898, Petty was sentenced to 30 days on a chain gang for cutting another man. On May 23, 1900, charges were dismissed against a man named Jack Gant who had beaten up Willis Petty. And on and on it goes.

In the summer of 1901 he went too far. While helping a woman look for her lost cow, Petty allegedly assaulted her near the Colross section of town, breaking her rib and badly bruising her. The woman was able to escape the attack, and shortly thereafter the authorities arrested Petty, finding him passed out in the hallway of his house. A day later when Petty was due to be arraigned, a crowd of several hundred people gathered around the courthouse threatening to lynch him. The police secreted Petty to Fairfax in order to protect him from the mob. Several months later Petty was released from custody when the alleged victim refused to testify against him. He continued to live in Alexandria and seems to have been scared straight, as he rarely appeared in the local newspaper thereafter.



You can do your own research on Willis Petty from the comfort of your home computer. The Library of Congress <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/issues/> and the Library of Virginia <http://virginiachronicle.com/> both have searchable on-line databases of the Alexandria Gazette. Search on "Willis Petty" as well as other variations of his name such as "Willis Pettit" to find out more about one of Alexandria's more notorious citizens.

Stay tuned for updates on work at Shuter's Hill. Between the volunteer days on Saturdays and the GWU Field School this fall on Fridays, we will be moving a lot of dirt over the next few months.

The Laboratory Program Flourishes

By Paul Nasca

This past July, I quietly celebrated my second anniversary as an archaeologist with Alexandria Archaeology. One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is the time that I spend in the lab teaching and working with volunteers, interns, fellow staff members, and the public – both young and old. It is a pleasure to bring the past to the present, and I am thrilled that the laboratory program is thriving. Evidence of this is can be found in the increasing number of new and returning volunteers, in the diversity of projects that the lab is working on, and in the amount of programming that has a laboratory component, such as our Summer Kids' Camp.



Kids' Camp was the highlight of my summer, especially the day that the campers spent in the lab. The whole crew of kids (17 in all!) diligently worked to process the hundreds of artifacts that they had excavated a few days before at the former site of the Javins house in Fort Ward Park. Working in teams, the students washed the artifacts from the particular test unit that they dug. After completing this step, each team and I examined the trays of cleaned artifacts to identify the objects and discuss how these fragments provided a glimpse into the past life of the Javins family and evidence of the dwelling that once stood on the site. Armed with this new knowledge, each team culminated their lab experience by carefully selecting a several key objects that they would use the following day to interpret the site to their parents and relatives. Despite a few spilled wash pans of water and lots of excited "show-and-tell," the campers did a spectacular job in the lab and in the field!

The campers were not the only ones working on Fort Ward artifacts over the summer. Intern **Ben Kirby** successfully completed his analysis and documentation of the collection of Fort Ward artifacts identified as needing conservation. Ben thoroughly detailed the condition of these objects with written descriptions, highly-detailed drawings, and digital photography. Ben's work, though time-consuming, is the necessary first-step in the conservation process.

Our dedicated team of laboratory volunteers has been working hard to process artifacts from a variety of sites. Early in the summer they completed all of the Stevens Site material – a rich assemblage of Pre-Contact, Civil War, and 19th to 20th-century artifacts. Most recently, however, the lab crew was out at the Stevens Site (yes, even lab volunteers do fieldwork!) performing some "salvage archaeology," following the excavation of several

trenches for the new wall footers (see photo below). The artifacts recovered in this effort will soon be the focus of laboratory work and will add to the growing understanding of life at this important Old Town site.

Excavations at the Slaughterhouse Site (Jefferson-Houston School) resulted in an assemblage of artifacts mostly recovered from the well/sump hole found at the bottom of the cellar. Volunteers persevered through this odorous assemblage of unidentified lumps of corroded iron, nails, wood fragments, and butchered animal bones. Museum intern and volunteer extraordinaire, **Rebecca Siegal**, is in the process of examining the artifacts from this site and is preparing a paper that will summarize her findings. She will present this research to public and professional audiences in the near future. So stay tuned!

Laboratory work on the artifacts recovered from Shuter's Hill is ongoing. Recently, the lab undertook an ambitious effort to condense several past seasons worth of excavated materials and to streamline the cataloging process. The lab volunteers and I were greatly assisted by the hard work of fellow archaeologist and staff member, **Terilee Hewitt-Edwards**. Terilee and I continue to work together to ensure that the extensive collection of Shuter's Hill artifacts are cataloged with a high level of accuracy.

All of the laboratory work could not be completed if it were not for the steadfast group of Alexandria Archaeology laboratory volunteers. A special thanks to all who have helped over the spring and summer: **Krisse Adames, Shan Allen, Mandy Ashton, Marianne Ballantyne, Felicia Birnbaum, Chrissy Boyd, Shirley Brott, Jenny Caniglia, Jamie Corrigan, Bridgette Degnan, Bucky Dow, Ameera Farooqi, Hannah Fitzmaurice, Peter Fitzmaurice, Sue Gagner, Thomas Geheren, Cara Giordano, Alicia Guillama, Anne Hardy, Philippa Harrap, Tommy Kester, Lilly Kleppertknoop, Heidi Krofft, Anna Lynch, Donna Martin, Courtney Mallon, Jessi McCarthy, Kara McElvaine, Elizabeth Narrigan, Becca Peixotto, Mary Ray, Shanna Roth, Suzanne Schaubel, Julia Simon, Cindy Slaton, Joyce Stevens, Whitney Stohr, and Sheila Wexler**. Thanks also to Alexandria Archaeology interns **Monica Bonilla, Alex Karpa, Ben Kirby, Kelsey Reed, and Rebecca Siegal**.

If you would like to join the team of laboratory volunteers or want to receive notices of future laboratory training sessions, please contact Paul Nasca at paul.nasca@alexandriava.gov. All are encouraged to stop in at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum to see the artifacts and laboratory work first-hand. Laboratory volunteer days are either Friday or Saturday each week. Call ahead for a schedule 703-746-4399.



Spring and Summer Interns

ALEX KARPA, summer intern

I'm Alex Karpa, an undergraduate student originally from the Philadelphia area. Currently I am in my senior year at the George Washington University, where I'm majoring in anthropology with a minor in fine arts and art history. After only a few months living amongst all that the D.C area has to offer, I became fascinated with museums and the educational and cultural prospects they bring to our community. I was very much drawn to explore the museum field at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, an institution dedicated to both research and public outreach. After completing my bachelor's, and with this experience in mind, I hope to pursue a career in either museum studies or arts administration. This summer I look forward to all of the knowledge and opportunity Alexandria Archaeology promises, especially by assisting with and participating in many of the educational programs provided by the museum. Over these three months, I am excited to conduct my own research, to learn more about the history of Alexandria, and to better understand the presence and function of museums in society.



BENJAMIN KIRBY, spring intern
I recently graduated from the College of William & Mary with a BA in anthropology and a BS in chemistry. This fall I will return to William & Mary to pursue a master's degree in historical archaeology. I have always been interested in chemistry,



and while at William & Mary I found a strong interest in archaeology. During my studies at the college I quickly learned that I was able to mix my two interests together in the form of archaeological science and conservation. While at the museum I helped with conservation work for artifacts from Fort Ward. From the collection of artifacts, I identified 60 candidates suitable for conservation work. For each of these artifacts I filled out a conservation status report. This report included, for each artifact: the overall condition; the relative priority of the artifact for conservation; a complete description of the state of the artifact; and a drawing. In addition to conservation, I helped with several excavations (notably Shuter's Hill and the Jefferson Houston School) as well as the archaeology summer camp. Although my internship has come to a close, I hope to continue my volunteer work at the museum as often as possible.

MONICA BONILLA, summer intern



I am currently a student at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. There I am a history major with a minor in Spanish. After taking a short introductory archaeology class offered by my school, my interest in the archaeological field was piqued. Participating in an internship here at Alexandria Archaeology provides me with the opportunity to explore all fields of the study. Already, for the short amount of time I have been here, I have gained a great deal of experience. While at the museum this summer I am mainly working with the oral history department on interviews and transcripts. I also helped with the week-long archaeology summer camp for 12-to-15 year-olds.

Guess the volunteer or staff member



Can you guess which volunteer or staff member is pictured here? (The volunteer/staff member is the one in front.)

Send guesses to rebecca.siegal@alexandriava.gov

A Hello and Goodbye

Well, all good things must come to an end. I was first employed by OHA in September 1978 after having been a volunteer at Archaeology and then a docent at GTM for a couple of years before that. My association with OHA has remained strong, whether as a volunteer or employee, ever since. I sometimes call myself an OHA groupie, or maybe I should say I am a camp follower. I have loved every minute of it. You are all great people and do outstanding things of which we can all be very proud. After I went to the National Trust, I was appointed to HARC by the City Council even though I lived in Fairfax County. I believe I was the first person to receive such an out-of-city appointment. Jean Federico pulled me back to OHA after I retired from AAM in 2001, and the rest is history, as they say.

All this rambling on leads up to telling you of my resignation from OHA effective July 5, 2013. I will probably come back as a volunteer in some way but am unsure at this time what it might be. My heart will always be here, and I will continue to follow your activities, participate to my fullest, and be very proud of this department that I have served for so long.

My best to you all,

Barbara B. Ballentine
Research Assistant
Office of Historic Alexandria



Anthropology Club Visit

On March 30th, 2013, members of Montgomery College's Anthropology Club visited the museum. Led by Professor Maria Sprehn, the club members had some great questions about public interpretation of archaeology as well as interesting questions on how we identify artifacts and what artifacts have been found in Alexandria, Virginia. The hands-on presentation was presented by Archaeology staff member Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, who also teaches at Montgomery College.



Civil War books donated

Thanks to W.W. Edwards for his donation of two books about the Civil War: *Memorabilia of the Civil War* by William C. Davis and *Warman's Civil War Weapons* by Graham Smith. Both books will be helpful as the museum continues to focus on the Civil War during its sesquicentennial. W.W. Edwards is a military history enthusiast who lives in Alexandria, Virginia. Look for the books in Alexandria Archaeology's library.

Potter's Art with BELL group

On August 7, two children and three adults from the Braille Enrichment for Literacy & Learning (BELL) came to the museum for a Potter's Art lesson. We decided to do this lesson because the salt glazed stoneware had enough detail that the participants were able to feel it and identify things by touch. Ruth Reeder, our Museum Educator, led the lesson. The participants sat on the floor in a circle so the artifacts could be passed around. One of the potters downstairs, Dana Lehrer Danz (Studio 19), lent clay so the participants could make their own kiln furniture. Everyone seemed to have a good time and really enjoyed the two hours they spent at the museum.



Hats off to FY2013 Volunteers!!

A huge thank you to the 114 volunteers who contributed a total of 8,234.75 hours in fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013).

Lab Volunteers – 1693 hours

Kirstine Adames, Shan Allen, Sayonara Aguilera, Marianne Ballantine, Felicia Birnbaum, Monica Bonilla, Shirley Brott, Deanne Canieso, Jennifer Caniglia, Nathan Clark, Ally Collender, Jaime Corrigan, Pamela Davis, Bridgette Degnan, Sam Desrochers, Joshua Dow, Ameera Farooqi, Hannah Fitzmaurice, Peter Fitzmaurice, Mary Furlong, Sue Gagner, Jordan Gass, Thomas Geheren, Cara Giordano, Katie Graff, Alicia Guillama, Ann Hardy, Philippa Harrap, DeAnn Hughes, Thomas Kester, Ben Kirby, Lily Kleppertknoop, Courtney Mallon, Donna Martin, Jessi McCarthy, Kara McElvaine, Chrissy Miller, Elizabeth Narrigan, Annette Neubert, Tory Paronish, Becca Peixotto, Kory Potzler, Shanna Roth, Suzanne Schaubel, Becca Siegal, Julia Simon, Cindy Slaton, Joyce Stevens, Paul Stevens, Whitney Stohr, Sheila Wexler, Christine Wingate

Excavation Volunteers – 646.25 hours

Maria Abarca, Katie Barca, Monica Bonilla, Shirley Brott, Jennifer Caniglia, Chris Ceglar, Ally Collender, Joshua Dow, Andy Flora, Stephanie Grimes, Philippa Harrap, Laura Heaton, Doreen Jagodnik, Alex Karpa, Ashley Koen, Ben Kirby, Lily Kleppertknoop, Sue Kovach-Shuman, Becca Merriman-Goldring, Tamara Mihalovic, Alyse Minter, Andrew Neff, Christine Nelson, Annette Neubert, Kory Potzler, Kelsey Reed, Laura Rios, Shanna Roth, Kelly Schindler, Suzanne Schaubel, Becca Siegal, Charles Simpson, Cindy Slaton, Kerry Taylor, Cheryl Winslow

Archival Volunteers – 2425 hours

Catherine Cartwright, Robert Colton, Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Jill Grinsted, Alex Karpa, Anna Lynch, Tamara Mihalovic, Mary Jane Nugent, Tim Panert, Kory Potzler, Ted Pulliam, Kelsey Reed, Becca Siegal, Rachael Vannatta

Education Volunteers – 493.75 hours

Robert Colton, Jim Edwards-Hewitt, Sue Gagner, Jill Grinsted, Peggy Harlow, Alex Karpa, Shaona Knight, Suzanne Schaubel, Cindy Slaton, Whitney Stohr, Rachael Vannatta, Emily Wolfteich, Karen Wykle

During FY13, from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, the following volunteers presented 47 Alexandria Archaeology Adventure Lessons to 846 students brought in \$1,641 for the museum:

Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Marya Fitzgerald, Philippa Harrap, Margarete Holubar, Hoosey Hughes, Anna Lynch, Becca Siegal

Museum Volunteers – 1367.5 hours

Joan Amico, Emily Barker, Claire Embrey, Marya Fitzgerald, Ben Kirby, Anna Lynch, Mary Ray, Becca Siegal

Oral History Volunteers – 274.5 hours

Monica Bonilla, Shirley Brott, Robert Colton, Jill Grinsted, Jennifer Hembree, Laura Little, Donna Martin, Barbara Murray, Maura Robinson, Christine Wingate

Newsletter Volunteers – 52.5 hours

Marya Fitzgerald and Hoosey Hughes

FOAA/AAC volunteers – 686.75 hours

Katy Cannady, Ann Davin, Marya Fitzgerald, Ellen Hamilton, Margarete Holubar, Jacob Hoogland, Elizabeth Kelley, Don Kent, Vince Lapointe, Janice Magnusson, Indy McCall, Kevin McCandlish, Mary Jane Nugent, Kathleen Pepper, Ted Pulliam, Ralph Rosenbaum, Becca Siegal, Seth Tinkham

Conservation Volunteers – 105.5 hours

Ben Kirby

Computer Programming Volunteers – 19.5 hours

Jeanne Springmann

Computer Work Volunteers – 309 hours

Elizabeth Field, Alex Karpa, Becca Siegal

Illustration Volunteers – 79.75 hours

Andy Flora and Neil Pelletier

Photography Volunteers – 81.75 hours

Kory Potzler and Becca Siegal

Congratulations to the following individuals with over 90 volunteer hours in FY2013:

Ted Pulliam - 91.5
Shirley Brott - 92.5
Laura Little - 96
Vince Lapointe - 104
Sam Desrochers - 107.25
Andrew Flora - 120.75
Philippa Harrap - 121.5
Jill Grinsted - 125.5
Kory Potzler - 167
Ben Kirby - 189.25
Marya Fitzgerald - 314.75
Kelsey Reed - 409.25
Catherine Cartwright - 436
Robert Colton - 658.75
Joan Amico - 707
Anna Lynch - 988

Congratulations to the Volunteer of the Year for FY2013:

Becca Siegal, with 1294.5 hours!!



ORAL HISTORY UPDATE

Hats Off to Oral History Volunteers...who have recently completed or are currently working on transcriptions, interviews and archiving or otherwise assisted with the program:

Laura Little, Monica Bonilla, Donise Stevens, Elaina Lill, Kathi Overton and Jen Hembree.

The Oral History Program has been busy! On April 27 Jen Hembree and Terilee Edwards-Hewitt conducted a workshop at Alexandria Archaeology for new oral history volunteers. Thanks to those who completed training and are now working on interviews and transcripts.

A big shout out goes to summer intern Monica Bonilla, who has done an amazing job working on several different aspects of oral history, including transcriptions, in addition to contacting people who were previously interviewed.

As part of "All Alexandria Reads" the City of Alexandria's Libraries book for May was *Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project*, a collection of oral histories of everyday American people. As part of this program, Terilee gave a presentation at the Barrett Branch Library on May 11, 2013, on "How to Conduct an Oral History Interview with a Family Member."

As part of Archaeology's Summer Camp, on Wednesday, July 17, after the campers, volunteers and staff heard two family members of Florence Javins, Ms. Adrienne Terrell Washington and Ms. Frances Colbert Terrell, discuss living at



"The Fort," Terilee gave a talk on why oral history is an important adjunct to archaeological work and how it is done. Archaeology campers had a chance to practice several different types of questions to get a sense of what it is like to do an interview.

Several new oral history interviews will be posted soon online. Keep your eyes on the Oral History Page at www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org

FOAA sponsors Java Jolt:

Fire Up the Lasers!

Creating 3D Digital Avatars of Archaeological Objects

A presentation and demonstration by Dr. Bernard K. Means, Director of the Virtual Curation Laboratory @ Virginia Commonwealth University; to be presented

October 19, 2013, at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

The Virtual Curation Laboratory was established at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in August 2011 through a partnership with Marine Corps Base Quantico, with



funding from the Department of Defense's Legacy Program. Working with a team of VCU undergraduate anthropology majors under the direction of Dr. Means, 3D digital models of hundreds of artifacts have been created, ranging from a million-year-old Acheulian handaxe once used by *Homo erectus* to German bomb fragments pulled from rubble in World War II London, England. Most of the digital models were created from prehistoric and historic sites located in the Mid-Atlantic region, including objects from Jamestown, Montpelier, Mount Vernon, George Washington's Ferry Farm, Poplar Forest, and many other heritage locations. These 3D digital models are created using lasers generated by the NextEngine Desktop 3D Scanner.

Dr. Means will discuss the efforts of the Virtual Curation Laboratory to digitally preserve the past, will share 3D digital models and plastic replicas generated by the models, and demonstrate that 3D scanning process using artifacts from the collections of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

More information about the Virtual Curation Laboratory can be found at: <http://vcuarchaeology3d.wordpress.com/>



Visiting Researcher



On Thursday, March 14, I spent the day at Alexandria Archaeology, examining the collections from late 18th and early 19th century earthenware production sites. These collections of waster sherds and kiln furniture from the Henry Piercy, Fisher, Wilkes Street, Plum, and Tildon Easton potteries provide valuable information on the technology, products, and scale of Alexandria pottery manufacturing in the

historic period. The products of these potters span a wide range of vessel forms and decorative techniques. I will be incorporating some of these materials into my dissertation project on the production, distribution, and consumption of lead-glazed coarse earthenware in the historic Chesapeake Bay region.

Coarse earthenware is one of the most frequently recovered historic artifacts on early domestic sites in North America. This ceramic filled important roles in food storage and preparation in the homes of colonial and post-colonial America, from the time of the first colony at Jamestown through the nineteenth century. Yet coarse earthenware found in the US largely was made using manufacturing methods and decorative techniques shared by potters across a wide geographical range and time period, thus sharing a general appearance. Visually, there is often no clear indicator of when a vessel was produced, or whether it was made in England, in Europe, or in North America. Given the lack of distinctive visual characteristics, I use elemental analysis in order to determine coarse earthenware origins based on underlying chemical variation in clay sources. I'm currently developing a collection of samples from earthenware kiln sites from the Chesapeake and adjacent colonies, as well as from production zones in England that likely produced earthenwares exported to the colonies. Through the elemental analysis of these sherds of known provenience, I define the elemental signatures of clays from particular sources, which can then be used to determine the origins of coarse earthenwares found on domestic sites of the Chesapeake.

The Alexandria Archaeology collections make an especially significant contribution to the ceramic history of the Chesapeake region.

Prior to the 19th century, the Chesapeake was largely rural, and earthenware production was often done part-time by craftsmen who practiced farming and other trades as well as pottery. Most of the known earthenware production sites in the Chesapeake were rural, small-scale operations, whose products likely served a limited market. Studying the collections of full-time urban potters like those in Alexandria makes it possible to compare the products and practices of urban potters with rural potters.

I look forward to sharing the results of my ongoing research with Alexandria Archaeology. For further information, I may be reached at lbloch@live.unc.edu.

Lindsay Bloch
Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology Department
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Site Reports Now Online

Rosemary McCarthy

1. Carpenter, James R. and Henry L. Lucas. 1990 Report of Preliminary Subsurface Exploration and Geotechnical Analysis: Proposed CNS Development, Alexandria, Virginia. ECS, Ltd., Chantilly, Virginia.
2. Goode, Charles and Peter Leach. 2013 Archaeological Evaluation for the Proposed Chapel of the Ages at the Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia. John Milner Associates, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia.
3. Mullen, John P. 2012 James Bland Development Property (Block 5), City of Alexandria, Virginia: Addendum to the November 2009 (Revised February 2010) Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase I Archaeological Investigation) and Research Management Plan. Thunderbird Archaeology, Gainesville, Virginia.
4. Mullen, John P. and William P. Barse. 2012 Archaeological Investigations within a Portion of Potomac Avenue and Associated East/West Roads and of Site 44AX0204, Potomac Yard Property, City of Alexandria, Virginia. Thunderbird Archaeology, Gainesville, Virginia.
5. Mullen, John P. and Curt Breckenridge. 2007 Archaeological Resource Management Plan for the Potomac Yard Property, Landbays E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M, City of Alexandria, Virginia. Thunderbird Archaeology, Gainesville, Virginia.
6. Mullen, John P. and Craig Rose. 2013 Old Town North Property: Results of Archaeological Monitoring. Thunderbird Archaeology, Gainesville, Virginia.
7. Sanders, Suzanne and Kathleen M. Child. 2013 Phase IB Archaeological Testing for the Proposed Braddock Metro Place Development, Alexandria, Virginia. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Frederick, Maryland. [Just site rpt]
8. Smith, Jeremy and David Carroll. 2013 James Bland Development Property (Block 3), City of Alexandria, Virginia: Phase II Archaeological Evaluation of Site 44AX0211. Thunderbird Archaeology, Gainesville, Virginia.

Featured Interview: Becca Siegal



August 16, 2013

Garrett Fesler interviews Becca Siegal

How did you first learn about Alexandria Archaeology?

I've had a lot of connections with Alexandria Archaeology. My mom is a journalist and had interviewed some of the staff and volunteers at Alexandria Archaeology for an article several years ago. Ruth lives across the street from me, so my parents have known about AA for many years. When I was in high school I was interested in volunteering, but someone said AA was not accepting new volunteers at the time. I didn't think about it again until I was working on my archaeological technician certification through the Archaeological Society of Virginia last year and needed to find a local place to do historical lab work. I came to one lab day, and loved it. Who else would spend an entire day washing a giant bag of iron nails and still come back day after day?

How did you become interested in archaeology?

Probably just through reading books and taking a few classes, and visiting archaeological digs at Fairfax, London Town, and Jefferson Patterson Park. In 2009 I did the field school at Port Tobacco, and in 2010 at Jefferson Patterson.

What is the most interesting site that you have worked on so far?

The most interesting site outside of Alexandria is Pig Point, a prehistoric site in Anne Arundel County, MD. I found several flakes and pieces of projectile points there. The most interesting site I've worked on here is the slaughterhouse site that I helped excavate this spring in Alexandria.

Is your main interest in prehistoric or historic archaeology?

At the beginning it was prehistoric. I really enjoyed working at Pig Point, and I had done a lot of work with Mike Johnson in the prehistoric lab in Fairfax. Since I've been at Alexandria Archaeology, my main interest has switched to historic archaeology. I still like prehistoric, but think I am more interested in historical archaeology.

What caused your interest to switch from prehistoric to historic?

Working on the slaughterhouse site was probably the main reason that my interests have switched to historical. Also, I liked working with all the historic ceramics in lab and

hearing Paul talk about the transition between the different ceramic types over time. I find some of the patterns on historic ceramics very interesting. Prehistoric ceramics may have some impressions on them, but it is hard to identify the exact time frame of the prehistoric ceramic.

You are probably the most dedicated volunteer that I have ever worked with. You often put in 40 volunteer hours in a week. What is the driving motivation to dedicate yourself so fully with Alexandria Archaeology?

I really enjoy working with all the awesome staff and volunteers at Alexandria Archaeology. The staff lets me do a wide variety of tasks. I don't have a job or classes at the moment, so am very happy that I am able to work with Alexandria Archaeology five days a week. I think I put in more time some weeks than any of the staff members. In less than a year volunteering here I contributed close to 1300 volunteer hours.

What have been some of the most interesting jobs that you have done here at Alexandria Archaeology?

Helping to excavate the slaughterhouse site was the most interesting. (Check out the article on page 1 about the slaughterhouse.) I am glad that the staff are helping me prepare for presenting papers at local archaeology conferences about the site. Some other tasks that I enjoyed doing are organizing the map collection (which we still have to finish), and getting to take pictures of everything. As Garrett says, I have become the official photographer for Alexandria Archaeology. More than likely, if you visit the museum or come to the field when I am around, I will be taking pictures of something.

What are some of the career goals that you are aiming for?

I'd like to find a full time paying job in archaeology or anthropology. I was thinking of going to grad school for forensic anthropology, but that is probably a few years away. I have also thought of going to Israel to try some archaeology there.

You have also been volunteering at the Smithsonian. Tell me a little more about that experience?

Well, it started by helping to dissect dolphins and whales, but there haven't been too many necropsies lately. So, the last few months it has just been boxing up bones and cleaning small mammal bones for displays or collections.

What's it like to dissect a dolphin?

See Interview, page 15

Interview, cont. from page 14

Sounds pretty gruesome!

It's very smelly! And we use lots of sharp objects to cut it up, including chopping the head off with an axe! I won't go into the details here.

I understand you are also involved with the Mineralogical Society of D.C. What's that all about?

We have monthly meetings where someone gives a presentation about geology. We go on field trips to collect rocks and minerals and have social events. I am the treasurer.

You just joined FOAA, right?

Yes, I'm the membership chair and also keep track of the volunteer hours in the database. I've only been to two meetings so far, so I'm just starting out, although I have contributed many hours dealing with FOAA stuff at the office.

Well it sounds like you are very busy with a variety of organizations. What do you like to do in your limited leisure time?

I do the dancing program at Gadsby's. I attend a lot of baseball games with my dad. I'm a huge Red Sox fan. We go to probably 8 or 10 games in Baltimore, and we also have a pack of tickets for the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, an independent team not affiliated with a major league club. I also enjoy hiking, collecting rocks and fossils, and reading.



Art Activated

Saturday, September 7
12 to 4 p.m., FREE Event

The visual arts come alive at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's 7th annual Art Activated, taking place during the Alexandria King Street Art Festival. During this free event, stop by the Museum for the Potter's Art and feed your inner creativity with this hands-on activity.

18th Annual Alexandria Arts Safari

Saturday, October 12, 2013
12 - 4pm, FREE Event

Don't miss the Torpedo Factory Art Center's 18th Annual Alexandria Arts Safari, a day of FREE hands-on arts and crafts activities for kids and families. Come to Potter's Art in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, where you'll learn to identify 19th-century Alexandria potters from the designs applied to salt-glazed stoneware pottery, and then create your own take-home drawings.



