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Claggett report: A different sort of site

By Joe Dent

Principal Investigator

Mornings at the 2007 ASM field school began with a stimulating one-half mile walk down a farm road and across a cornfield to the site of the Claggett Retreat excavations. Excavators then faced a clay-laden argillic soil that resisted shovels, dulled trowels and clogged our screens. After a hard day's labor, the morning pilgrimage was repeated uphill, albeit at a slower pace.

Nonetheless, stalwart ASM volunteers managed to excavate 15 2x2 meter units and two 1x10 meter trenches at Claggett Retreat. I'm told more than 2,000 volunteer hours were expended in the effort. This is the story of that more or less cheerful toil.

To begin, only the general location of the Claggett Retreat site was known to us before the field session. In early May, Maryland Historical Trust archeologists and I spent a day excavating shovel test pits in an effort to locate the site's exact boundaries. Ample amounts of Mason Island ceramics and lithic material were encountered slightly northwest of where we ultimately concentrated our excavations. We started at that location for the first couple of days and were recovering artifacts, but not in great quantity.

This brings us to the Calvin Swomley story. Swomley had located and excavated at Claggett Retreat in 1964. There, however, had been little contact with him since the late 1970s. In the heat of one lunch break, two ASM members, Antonella Bassani and Alex McPhail, decided this would not do. They quickly initiated a missing person search in nearby Buckeystown, determined that Swomley still lived in the area and showed up on his doorstep.

To make a long story short, Swomley was enlisted to visit the site. In a now-famous phone call from Antonella at the top of the hill to excavators in the field, we were graciously informed that we were digging in the wrong place. Swomley walked the field with us all, bringing along his original 1964 map of the 28 features he had investigated. By close of business that day, we shifted our excavations to the southeast about 100 yards. Hey, it's not a perfect science.

With renewed vigor we opened many more new units and the two long trenches noted above. The latter were efforts to locate any palisade that may have been present. What did we discover? A large buried water pipe that ran the length of one of the trenches. We also discovered that the site appears very different from either Winslow or Hughes, the last two prehistoric sites ASM has investigated. At this point I would have to argue it is more of a small, dispersed settlement than a more nucleated village like Winslow and Hughes.

In a low-tech attempt to understand Claggett Retreat's layout, each excavator was positioned late one

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Upcoming events

August 4 -5: Patuxent Encounters weekend at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

August 10-12: National Powwow of the Smithsonian. Verizon Center.

August 24-26: 33d annual Powwow, Baltimore Indian Center. Patterson Park. 410-675-3535.

October 13: Annual meeting of ASM. Millersville.

October 31-November 3: SEAC conference, Knoxville, Tennessee.

November 8-11: ESAF conference, Burlington, Vermont.

Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT program participants and other ASM members:

Montgomery County lab, field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently, the collection from the Rosenstock Site, a key Late Woodland Montgomery Complex area, is being upgraded. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall hall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7441.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. This year's public archeology program runs until July 8, with digging on Fridays and Saturdays and lab work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 or echaney@mdp.state.md.us

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide, Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

For updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

Attention poison ivy fans: It *is* getting worse

Condensed from the Wall Street Journal, June 27, 2007

Poison ivy seems to be growing faster and pumping out even more nasty, rash-inducing oils than it used to. Apparently, the plant thrives on the growing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

One yet-to-be published study (by the same federal researcher whose work also suggests climate change is making allergies worse) compared poison ivy grown in carbon dioxide levels present in the 1950s with poison ivy grown in CO₂ levels present now. The latter were 50-75 percent bigger, with higher levels of oil. And a Duke University study last year found that elevated CO₂ leads not only to more robust poison ivy, but also to a more potent and irritating form of urushiol, the rash-causing oil.

Port Tobacco offers chance for mixed dig

By James G. Gibb

Next year Charles County celebrates its 350th anniversary. A key to the celebration will be the archeological exploration of the 60-acre town site, Port Tobacco, which served as the county seat from the 17th Century until 1895.

An 1890s sketch map of the town — reproduced in Don Shomette's books on the lost towns of the Chesapeake — notes numerous buildings, their owners and functions. Avocational excavations examined some of these sites decades ago.

Now ASM is working with the county, the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco, the Town of Port Tobacco and local property owners to organize a close-interval shovel testing program of as much as 30 acres of the town site. Funds provided to ASM by the state through the non-capital grants program, administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, will partially underwrite the project.

Contingent on permission from several property owners, the project could begin as early as mid-August and continue into the autumn. ASM members, and particularly CAT candidates, will find this an excellent opportunity to develop skills, fulfill personal and program goals, and participate in what the organizers expect will be a multi-year project culminating in the development of an extensive museum.

This is exciting stuff! Participants can expect to work in the field and laboratory on weekends and some weekdays. The reconstructed courthouse offers modern facilities and the riverside location (long silted in) offers the prospect of finding prehistoric deposits as well as late 17th through late 19th Century artifacts, buildings and other features.

Preliminary work at one of three surviving early buildings has revealed deposits two to four feet deep with some artifacts clearly dating to the 18th Century.

Interested readers should look at Donald Shomette's *Lost Towns of the Chesapeake* and Jean Lee's *The Price of Nationhood: The American Revolution in Charles County*, a scholarly account of the town's Revolutionary War and post-Revolution developments.

For information on joining the dig, contact Jim Gibb at JamesGGibb@comcast.net or 443-482-9593.

Pre-Columbian cache returned to Peru

By Peter Whoriskey

Condensed from the Washington Post, June 14, 2007

MIAMI -- More than 400 pre-Columbian artifacts believed to have been taken from ancient graves in Peru were given back to that country here today in what was described by officials as the largest such recovery since the 1970s, when Peru and the United States agreed to import restrictions on the cultural artifacts.

The cache of artifacts, briefly on display here, was described by experts as "priceless." The pieces had been buried in Peruvian graves 1,000 years ago or more, experts said, with some items as old as 3,500 years.

"A quick glance to the pieces displayed will give you an idea of the importance of this recovery," said Jorge E. Roman Morey, consul general of Peru in Miami. "These pieces belong to humanity and not private individuals."

Portions of coastal Peru are so rich in ancient grave sites dug up by robbers that "from an airplane, it looks like the area has been bombed," the consul general said.

Detecting and prosecuting smugglers and dealers of the objects in the United States has proved difficult, however. Some of the items might easily be mistaken for tourist trinkets.

Ugo Bagnato, an elderly Italian man, was discovered keeping the items at a warehouse here in September 2005. He sold two pieces to an undercover agent. The price for each was \$2,000, agents said.

According to his attorney, Bagnato is an archeologist with no criminal record and had legitimately acquired the collection from a Venezuelan acquaintance who, in turn, had long ago acquired them through inheritance.

Rather than risking a jury trial, Bagnato pleaded guilty to one count of a five-count indictment. He was sentenced to time served -- or about 17 months, according to his attorney, Maria Elena Perez.

"They made him out to be some grave robber, but he's not," she said.

Nevertheless, officials here used the ceremony today to warn others from trading in Peruvian antiquities.

Where slaves, free people worked together

By Jazzmen Tynes and Julie Scharper

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, June 26, 2007

It might seem an unlikely place for an archeological project, just a short distance from Interstate 83 and a light rail stop. But it's where a team of archeologists working with the [Maryland State Highway Administration](#) is unearthing the remnants of a small plantation where slaves, free blacks and European immigrants once labored side by side, an arrangement historians say was more common in Maryland than in other slave states.

The archeologists are seeking to uncover how the diverse group lived and interacted on the plantation, a 20-acre site once known as the Marble Valley Farm.

"Typically, when people think about plantations, they think about huge mansions with hundreds of slaves," said Julie Schablitsky, an SHA archeologist who's leading the project. "We're trying to find out about the social and cultural complexities of this middle-class plantation, where the workers came from different backgrounds and nationalities."

This preliminary stage is set to end tomorrow, but the team plans to return this fall with officials from the [Maryland Historical Society](#) for more research. So far, bits of dishes, medicine bottles and clothing buttons have been found.

The property dates to 1736, when it was part of a 200-acre tract known as "The Forrest." A series of modest homes was built in the early 19th Century and the owners operated a marble quarry and lime kiln. During these years, as many as 19 slaves worked on the property, although that number dwindled to six by the 1830s. In the mid-1800s, about the time the property was named Marble Valley Farm, a mix of free and enslaved blacks and Irish and German immigrants worked there.

In the 1950s, a quarry company bought the property and leased a farmhouse to a family that named it Connemara in honor of their Irish heritage. The farmhouse was later razed. The State Highway Administration, which purchased the land in 1990, plans to build maintenance and construction offices on a portion of the site.

Because of Maryland's proximity to free states, slaveholders here tended to run small farms and keep fewer slaves, said Ira Berlin, a College Park history professor who has written several books about slavery.

The transformation of Marble Valley from a plantation that depended on slave labor to one worked by slaves, free blacks and immigrants mirrored changes in the role of slavery in this state.

"Maryland, particularly northern Maryland, was going from a slave society to a society in which slaves were just one type of labor," Berlin said.

By the mid-1800s, a growing number of Maryland slaves were escaping to freedom, causing slave owners to re-evaluate their dependence on slavery. Many struck bargains with those they enslaved, promising freedom for them and their families if they stayed and worked for a few years.

Their motivation was often based more in pragmatism than morality, Berlin said.

"They wanted to keep the game going as long as possible - they don't have any compunctions about that," he said. "But unlike the guys in South Carolina who think slavery is going to go on forever, they know the system is going to end soon."

In the last years of slavery, as many Maryland plantations employed a diverse mix of laborers, a complex relationship was forged between free and enslaved blacks and white wage laborers, said Dianne Swann-Wright, a curator at the Frederick Douglass Isaac Myers Maritime Museum in Fells Point. Immigrants, determined to advance economically and socially, often were hostile to blacks, she said.

"It was really during that time period that people stopped being considered by their ethnic group and were considered black or white," Swann-Wright said.

Owners tended to keep slaves longer on small farms, Swann-Wright said, although that did not mean that they treated them better than large plantation owners. "I think the thing to remember is that what held slavery in place was violence or the threat of violence," she said.

At the former Marble Valley Farm, archeologists have unearthed little evidence about the lives of slaves. When the team began digging almost two weeks ago, they had hoped to find a slave cemetery or slave quarters

that are rumored to be on the site.

Virginia maps out its Indian trail

By Brigid Schulte

Condensed from the Washington Post, June 23, 2007

Up a winding six miles of a narrow two-lane road just off Route 29 in Amherst County, the Monacan Nation lies tucked in a mountain hollow. It's not easy to find, this premiere destination along the new Virginia Indian Heritage Trail. And there's not a whole lot to see in the white vinyl-sided trailer that serves as the ancestral museum.

But in the remoteness of the location and the sparseness of the collection is the story of Virginia Indians that the trail is trying to tell.

The Monacan Indians were often referred to as a "lost" Virginia tribe. They say they were only able to survive as a nation hundreds of years after colonists thought they'd died out because they lived in the middle of nowhere. And now that the 400th anniversary of Jamestown has revived interest in Virginia Indian culture and Virginia Indians are desperate to let people know they're still around, they're finding that most have no idea who they are, where they are or how to find them.

Enter the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail guide, an 80-page book with photographs, a history of the eight state-recognized tribes, a calendar of events such as annual powwows and a list of 24 places in the state, including reservations and tribal centers, where the curious can learn more, or learn something.

"A lot of what's being read and written and exhibited about Virginia Indians suggests that their history stopped somewhere in the 1600s, that they're a people of the past," said David Bearinger of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, a state agency that provided much of the funding for the guidebook.

"So the hope is that a generation from now people will know something about the cultures of Indian people living in the state and that their history won't be seen as marginal, but as part of the mainstream."

Such a re-education, the tribes say, can only help six of the tribes, which are petitioning Congress to become federally recognized sovereign nations, such as the Navajo and Sioux. The bill passed the house last month and awaits action in the Senate.

To create the trail, researchers surveyed more than 100 museums and sites in the state and found only a handful they thought worth mentioning. Other displays used language that Virginia Indians found offensive. And some gift shops had stereotypical rubber tomahawks and feathered headdresses, which were worn by Western tribes on the Plains, hundreds of miles away.

The guidebook, said its editor, Karenne Wood, an anthropologist and a member of the Monacan Nation's Tribal Council, is the first step in what many Indians hope will transform views of them and the way Virginia history is taught and understood.

The Virginia Council on Indians, an advisory board to the governor and General Assembly, is planning a comprehensive Indian Heritage Program, funded with \$250,000 from the state. It will have an interactive Web site, genealogical data, extensive tribal histories, a K-12 curriculum and lesson plans, teacher training and grants for research and for tribes to update their collections and museum displays.

It is because of their painful history -- of reservation lands lost in the 18th Century, poverty in the 19th Century and systematic racism in the 20th Century -- that Virginia Indians have survived in scattered remote communities, largely unnoticed. In fact, it wasn't until after the civil rights movement of the 1960s that many began reconstituting themselves as tribes, relearning their traditions and reconstructing their identities.

"There's so little known about the Virginia Indians, because the Indians themselves have only gotten interested in their own heritage in the last 20 years or so," said Douglas Cooper, director of the Bedford City-County Museum, who has consulted with Monacan Indians to set up the exhibit. The museum has one of the most complete exhibits about Virginia Indian history, not just in prehistoric and first-contact periods, but up to the present day.

Time running out for nominating for the Marye Award

The William B. Marye Award is the highest honor the Archeological Society of Maryland bestows. Each year a committee meets to consider candidates nominated by ASM members for their outstanding contribution to Maryland archeology. Nominees do not have to be members of ASM or even Marylanders, but their contribution has to have influenced Maryland archeology.

Any ASM member can nominate someone. Nominations do not carry over from one year to the next; if you feel someone has been overlooked in the past, nominate that person again. Submissions must be received by August 21. See the nomination form inside this newsletter.

Book review: Who was everybody in old Virginia

Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary. Martha W. McCartney. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore. 833 pages. \$50 available from www.genealogical.com.

Martha McCartney, a former long-time historian with the then-Virginia Research Center for Archaeology, has amassed a treasure trove of biographical data on the original settlers of Virginia during its first quarter century. Personages include the socially prominent (Lord and Lady Delaware), the famous (Captain John Smith), the common man (planters, tradesmen, servants, maids and so forth) and perhaps the less-than-desirable (such as Thomas Cornish, newly arrived from Bridewell Prison, and a fair number of "vagrants").

In all, more than 5,000 immigrants (and a handful of native Indians) are documented. Information on individuals includes their place of origin, the date of their arrival in Virginia, the names of spouses and children, the name of the ship they sailed on, their occupation and position in the colony, various incidental details and their date and circumstances of death (the list of settlers lost to Indian attacks is startlingly extensive).

Furthermore, an introductory chapter entitled "Where They Were" describes the 78 earliest settlements — extending from the falls of the James River to the Eastern Shore — placing the tracts on the landscape, providing a capsule history for each, and linking them to the various "ancient planters."

Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers will appeal to many audiences. Archeologists will find that it nicely complements the Jamestown-related and other colonial-era excavation reports generated over the last two decades, adding the stories of real people to the archeological mix. Historians and genealogists will find it an essential reference volume. And the casual reader will be taken back in time, quick to realize that the first Virginians, much like society today, were uniquely human, foibles and all.

-- Dennis Curry

Book review: A look at a unique 1607 contact site

Fort St. George, Archaeological Investigation of the 1607-1608 Popham Colony, by Jeffrey Phipps Brain, Maine State Museum, 220 pages, \$29.95.

In a way all sites are unique, but Fort St. George is truly unique, there isn't another site like it, anywhere.

For 10 years archeologist Jeffrey Brain dug at Fort St. George, the ill-fated 1607 sister colony of Jamestown. Now he has published a book detailing his finds and the reconstructed history of the colony that time forgot.

What makes Fort St. George unique is that it is a time-capsule of 1607. There are other early English settlement sites - there is Jamestown, which also was founded in 1607. But Jamestown, while not thriving, survived and its original implements and buildings were modified or replaced over the years. What archeologists at these sites find tells us a lot but it doesn't tell us about 1607 and the initial contact. Because the Popham colonists returned to England after 15 months, the remains of Fort St. George do that.

The book tells the history of the contact period in that area and the history of the excavations and it is loaded with pictures of the artifacts recovered.

Anyone wanting to know what 1607 was like will want to have this book. It is available only through the Maine State Museum Store., 83 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333. There is a \$4.95 postage/handling charge, but no sales tax for out-of-state orders. -- Myron Beckenstein

When Geo. Washington told a lie

By Philip Kennicott

Condensed from the Washington Post, July 4, 2007

PHILADELPHIA -- Archeologist Jed Levin keeps a hand-held click counter at the ready, even while answering a busy cellphone and addressing the curious crowds that have gathered at the site he is excavating. Since March, when he began digging for historical remains in a small, square pit in this city's historic district, the onlookers have come in steadily increasing numbers. On a good day, his little clicker registers some 4,000 to 5,000 visitors.

Given how little there is to see, those are impressive numbers -- and a striking lesson about how history is told in this country. The site Levin is excavating once contained a structure many consider the first real White House, the presidential mansion where George Washington and John Adams lived while Philadelphia served as the capital of the United States in the 1790s. Plans to build a memorial marker over the site have kindled a broader interest not just in the house but in the people, including slaves, who lived there.

Levin points to a faint white remnant of a bay window that Washington added to the house. He draws attention to little flags that mark the foundation walls of the original structure, the one built in the 18th Century, demolished and built over in the 19th, and unearthed in the 21st. And he tells the crowds about Hercules, the cook and slave who fled from Washington's possession during a move back to Mount Vernon, and Ona Judge, Martha's personal servant who escaped in 1796.

The site has become a phenomenon -- tracked with a live Web cam-- in a city where history is the basic coin of the tourist trade. It sits on National Park Service land, next to a new pavilion that houses the Liberty Bell. The entryway to that pavilion was built over the site where Washington ordered an addition to the house -- to create quarters for his slaves and servants.

"As you enter the heaven of liberty you literally have to cross the hell of slavery," says Michael Coard, founding member of the Avenging the Ancestors Coalition, a group formed to lobby for proper treatment of the historical and memorialization issues in what he calls the "first White House."

And then, among other things, they discovered "the tunnel." Levin, the archeologist, points out a muddy patch to the crowd, but it requires imagination to see it. Most likely it was a passageway used by servants and slaves to move about without being seen. This wasn't just a matter of hiding slaves and servants from view, but also part of standard practice in the 18th-Century operation of a household.

"People jumped to the conclusion that Washington was hiding slaves," says Levin. "But he couldn't." He couldn't because they cooked his meals, cleaned his stables, tended his carriage and managed just about every mundane detail of life. But he wasn't advertising their extended presence in Philadelphia either. Pennsylvania had a law that required slaves to be freed after six months of residence. So Washington, who would free his slaves in his will, was forced to shuttle his slaves back and forth between Philadelphia and Mount Vernon to evade the residency clause -- which he hoped in vain could be done without his slaves realizing the reason.

"I wish to have it accomplished under pretext that may deceive both them and the public," he wrote to his secretary, an act that author and Washington biographer Henry Wiencek called "perhaps the only documented incident of George Washington's telling a lie." Perhaps even more disturbing than Washington's lie was his very vigorous pursuit of slaves who escaped his service. When Ona Judge, a slave who tended primarily to Martha Washington, carefully planned and successfully executed an escape to New Hampshire, Washington was furious and attempted to use his prestige to pressure a federal official to help recapture her.

"Everything about this was illegal," wrote Wiencek in "An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America."

GIs getting tips on Iraq archeological sites

By the Associated Press, June 18, 2007

WASHINGTON - The Defense Department is sending another deck of playing cards to troops in Iraq — this time showing some of the country's most precious archeological sites instead of the most-wanted former regime officials.

Some 40,000 new decks of playing cards will be sent to troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan as part of an awareness program so troops can help preserve the heritage of those countries, said Laurie Rush, archeologist at Fort Drum in New York.

It is aimed at making troops aware they should not pick up and take home artifacts and to avoid causing damage to historic sites, such as an incident after the 2003 invasion of Iraq when U.S. troops built a helicopter pad on the ruins of Babylon and filled their sandbags with archeological fragments from the ancient city.

Each card in the deck shows an artifact or site or gives a tip on how to help preserve antiquities.

"Drive around, not over, archeological sites," says the five of clubs.

"This site has survived 17 centuries. Will it and others survive you?" asks the seven of clubs, which pictures Ctesiphon Arch in Iraq.

The majority of cards are about Iraq, but some shows sites in Afghanistan: the king of diamonds shows Buddha statuary at Hadda.

In another program, U.S. pilots have received training in recognizing and identifying ruins, cemeteries and other sites so they do not accidentally bomb them.

In another, soldiers are simulating incidents such as practicing what they would do if they were taking hostile fire from an archeological ruin.

"Obviously we have to put our soldiers' safety first," Rush said, but they would consider whether there might be a way to return fire without harming the site.

The military sent a 55-card deck to troops Iraq in 2003 with pictures and information about the most-wanted former senior government officials, distributing them to thousands of U.S. troops in the field to help them recognize and find the officials.

The Archaeological Institute of America reported on the current program in the July-August issue of its magazine.

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afternoon at the location of one of Swomley's 28 features. ASM President John Fiveash photographed this in a wonderful panoramic shot.

It appeared to me that known features were focused in three or four clusters that possibly could represent house sites scattered across the site. This would be consistent with a dispersed community. Artifact densities are substantial, but less than at many other village sites. It stands to reason that three to five families would leave behind less debris than a whole nucleated village.

In the same sense, features and postmolds are sparse. Some may find this disheartening, but I now see Claggett Retreat as a new and very interesting type of site, a unique artifact of the earliest phase of the introduction of agriculture and more settled life in the region. And a kind of site that has not yet been investigated.

One of the features we located, full of bone and charcoal and hopefully seeds, holds much analytical promise. With the donation of Swomley's artifact collection (did I mention that!), we also now have a very significant artifact assemblage to study. Work continues with the fruits of your labors toward that end.

Finally, I must make mention of the weather. Aside from a light mist of rain for a portion of the first day, skies remained clear and sunny throughout the entire field session. This is all contrary to some statements made previously in regard to my unique ability to attract rainfall in enormous quantities during the course of previous ASM field sessions. I stand redeemed.

Shorter Clovis period raises questions

By Elizabeth Wolf

Condensed from American Archaeology, Summer, 2007

For nearly 50 years, the Clovis people, identified by their unique stone projectile points, have been considered the first humans to occupy the Americas. It was thought that they lived from about 13,600 to 13,000 years ago. The "Clovis-first" model, which has faced growing skepticism in recent years, holds that these prehistoric hunters crossed the Bering land bridge from Siberia to Alaska, traveled through an ice-free corridor into North America, then migrated into South America over the course of 600 to 1,000 years.

But new research revising the Clovis period from a maximum of 450 years (13,250 to 12,800 years ago) to a minimum of 200 years (13,125 to 12,925 years ago) suggests humans already occupied the Americas when the Clovis arrived.

"The Clovis date record was lacking in accuracy," explained Michael Waters, director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M University. He and radiocarbon dating specialist Thomas Stafford Jr. re-dated material from various Clovis sites in North and South American using precise accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) technology to obtain more accurate dates. "Many of the dates from these sites were run in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, when the radiocarbon method yielded dates with large standard deviations of plus or minus 180 to 250 years," Waters said. "Now the precisions are phenomenal."

The scientists said the revised Clovis period was too short a time to have adapted to a virgin continent and migrated thousands of miles to the southern tip of South America, where evidence of very early human occupation has been found. Further, the revised Clovis dates overlap those of other New World sites not associated with Clovis. The existence of coeval sites implies the Clovis people were not the first humans to inhabit the Americas, said the researchers, who published their findings in *Science* magazine.

Despite the conflicting evidence, the long acceptance of the Clovis-First theory may have prevented recognition of earlier human occupation at some sites, Stafford said.

The revised dates call for a new model of the peopling of the Americas, according to the researchers.

"My view is there were multiple immigrations from multiple geographic areas in Eastern Europe, western Asia and Asia over the last 20,000 or more years, similar to the populating of the New World post-1492," said Stafford. A more coherent and comprehensive model, Waters added, would take into account the genetic data and empirical archeological evidence, along with geological conditions allowing or preventing migration.

Holy Carter, not since King Tut

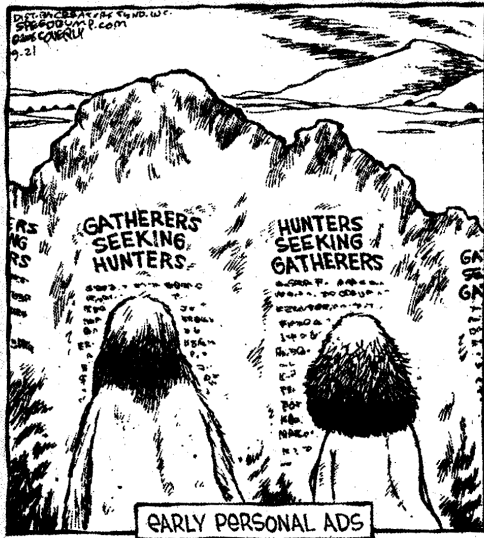
From the Baltimore Sun, June 28, 2007

A single tooth and some DNA clues appear to have solved the mystery of the lost mummy of Hatshepsut, one of the great queens of ancient Egypt, who reigned in the 15th Century B.C.

Archeologists who conducted the research said this was the first mummy of an Egyptian ruler to be found and "positively identified" since King Tutankhamun's tomb was opened in 1922.

Dr. Zahi Hawass, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo, said the

mummy was found in 1903 in an undecorated tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

SPEED BUMP BY DAVE COVERLY

A newer, bigger lab for Anne Arundel

By Susan Gvozdas

Condensed from the *Baltimore Sun*, June 27, 2007

Anne Arundel County's bright, airy new archeology lab - part of the new \$5.1 million visitors center complex at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater - is a vast improvement for the volunteers, unpaid college interns and 10-person staff who work to preserve the county's past.

The lab, which opened a couple of weeks ago, replaces a small, windowless office in the county's office complex in Annapolis. "It's hard to keep volunteers cheerful under those circumstances," said Al Luckenbach, the county archeologist.

The new lab has 1,800 square feet on the first floor - more than double the space of the old office - and 3,500 more in the basement, which in a few years will house an exhibit, classroom and several offices, said Donna Ware, executive director of Historic London Town and Gardens. An unfinished sub-basement eventually will be used for storage.

The rest of the building, a former wastewater sewage plant, has been turned into the two-story visitors center, with rooms for showing exhibits, film viewing and schoolchildren's visits. It opened in September.

The old office is about the same size as the lab's new conservation room. The conservation room has a fume hood, which allows technicians to use chemicals such as acetone to clean glass in the lab. Without a fume hood in the old lab, technicians had to take glass artifacts to a state lab in Crownsville, said Erin Cullen, director of the lab. The conservation room also has enough space for technicians to process photos of the artifacts.

In a partnership with the county library, the new lab already has stocked several shelves in the research area with books about Colonial history and art. The public will be allowed to use the new library by appointment.

The county's early Colonial presence and Native American sites make it a hotbed of history. To handle the enormous task of locating artifacts - many of which are fragments that can fit easily on the tip of one's finger - the county hosts school groups on Wednesdays during the school year to sift dirt through screens. At least three times a year, the county holds Saturday dig days for families.

Archeologists assign groups 5-foot-by-5-foot dig sections. All artifacts are bagged and then cleaned by volunteers. Then researchers carefully document artifacts from each section so they can learn as much as they can about how the site originally looked, Luckenbach said. An abundance of bricks in one section can indicate the presence of a fireplace. Glass in another section can indicate the presence of windows. All of this information is being used to reconstruct the original buildings.

In digging through the dirt layers under where Rumney's Tavern once stood, Luckenbach has found the bones

of fish, pigs and other animals that would have been disposed of beneath the floorboards of the tavern. The smell of rotting carcasses would not have offended Colonial customers, who also would have been accustomed to the stench of the tavern's chamber pots emptied just outside the windows, Luckenbach said.

Still, the evidence of an intact perfume vial found in the tavern indicates otherwise.

Anne Tiffany and Betty Williams come in on Mondays to clean artifacts. Tiffany, 74, became involved with the lab about eight months ago when she went out on a dig.

Williams, 80, however, has been going out on digs since the 1970s and has been working with the archeology lab since 1992. Although her health prevented her from going on a dig this year, she likes to come in to the lab and clean the artifacts. "Nice and messy and wet," Williams said. "I don't mind that at all."

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The Chapter meets five times a year in February, April, June, September, and November at the All Hallows Parish Brick Church at the Parish Hall near London Town, at 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

Final 2007 Dig Day at London Town: September 15.

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com. Chapter website: www.digfrederick.bravehost.com.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at katesilas@chesapeake.net or 410-586-8538.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Some months, potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

September 10: The Vaughan Brown Memorial Native American Study Center Lecture. Michael Johnson, the Fairfax County archeologist, will speak on "Lee Road 2 (44FX2553): A Possible Clovis/Hornfels Association."

November 12: Lee Preston, "Prufrockian Archeology Lab, Please Do Ask What Is It When You Make Your Visit: A Hands-On Analysis of Artifacts, Documents and Images."

January 14: Dr. L.J. Cripps, University of Durham/University of Leicester, "Cornish Iron Age (800 BC-43 AD): A Cultural Backwater?"

March 10: Rebecca Morehouse, collections manager, MAC Lab, "Life Beyond the Field: Artifact Curation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab."

Monday May 12: Howard Wellman, lead conservator, MAC Lab, "Archeological Conservation and Artifact Handling in the Field."

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM, Inc members receive the monthly newsletter ASM Ink, the biannual journal MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net.

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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