



## EDITORIAL

For some unknown reason I have offered to revive the COVA Newsletter, also known as the 'Virginia Archeologist.' A letter was sent out to the membership in March requesting news of their work for this edition. These solicited items have been ordered alphabetically by the organization's name or the individual's last name.

We would like to publish two editions of the newsletter each year, one in the spring and the other in the fall. To do so, we must rely upon the membership to send news about their projects, publications, meetings, new staff, status changes, field schools, or any local, state, or federal legislative processes of interest to the readership. Members wishing to contribute small articles or beginning a column for discussion are encouraged to do so. The following deadlines are suggested for submissions to the "Virginia Archeologist":

October 1 for the November (Fall) issue & April 1 for the May (Spring) issue

Contributions should be mailed to:

J. Mark Wittkofski, P.O. Box 3254, Charlottesville, VA 22903

Guidelines are as follow:

- Research contributions should be limited to a single specific subject, such as a site investigation, project investigation, or a thematic research topic.
- Contributions should be typed, double-spaced, in paragraph format. Each entry should be brief, preferably less than 2 double-spaced pages in length. Each contribution should contain as much of the following information as possible.
- Name and address of project directors and funding/administrative agencies.
- Concise statement of the research problems being investigated including:
  - Goals and purposes for conducting the research
  - Geographic location of the research
  - Temporal period covered by the research
  - Types of material culture remains being investigated
- Concise statement of the major results of the research including:
  - Citation of manuscript and published reports completed
  - Information as to the current and projected location of new artifact collections created from the research.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

*A reprint, for your reading enjoyment. With minor edits and formatting changes, I present to you a substitute newsletter to make up (partly) for the lack of newsletters over the last short while. I hope you enjoy reading up on what was new (and how we got it to you) way back, over 30 years ago. I hope you like it...*

*Dr. David Brown, Editor (2016)*

**The COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGISTS is organized to protect, preserve and disseminate information on Virginia's archaeological resources.**

# CURRENT RESEARCH

## Division of Historic Landmarks

E. Randolph Turner reports that the Survey and Planning Section initiated in 1984 a major survey of Dinwiddie County and adjacent areas. Under the direction of Keith T. Egloff, particular emphasis has been placed on establishing the role of the noted Williamson site in local Paleo-Indian settlement patterns and to locate stratified deposits to help eliminate problems in the interpretation of local prehistoric chronologies. Results to date indicate that the region has one of the highest Paleo-Indian site densities yet identified in Virginia.

An intensive reconnaissance survey of the 1400 acre Camden National Historical Landmark in Caroline County was recently completed by Mary Ellen N. Hodges of the Survey staff. Of special interest was the field documentation of a late seventeenth century Indian village in which a dispersed pattern of individual house units could be discerned. The site is especially significant for its potential contributions to Colono-ware research in the Tidewater region as well as to more general acculturation studies. In addition, the survey should provide a great deal of controlled survey collection data that might be useful in similar large survey projects.

J. Mark Wittkofski has been appointed to direct a two-year survey in the Albemarle County region of the western piedmont. The survey will be coordinated with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Office space and students from the University have been offered by the Department of Anthropology. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate those portions of the County which are not immediately threatened by development and are not included in the County's Comprehensive Plan for planned development, but which contain characteristics likely for development over the next 20 years. A summary report of the archaeological resources in the County will be written at the conclusion of the project.

Alain C. Outlaw of the Research Section has continued preparing for the publication of an illustrated catalogue of artifacts and features discovered at the Drummond site (ca. 1648 - 1820) on the 'Governor's Land' tract near Jamestown in James City County. The excavation and research project has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities since 1976. Also directed by Outlaw in 1984 was the cataloguing of existing archaeological collections and the search for sites at Mount Vernon in Fairfax County. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association funded this work and will continue to support testing of sites in selected areas and full excavation of the blacksmith shop which was in operation during George Washington's lifetime.

The Research Section's underwater work in the York River at Yorktown has revealed important information about site 44YO88, the British ship sunk during the Battle of Yorktown. Under the direction of John D. Broadwater and Robert Adams, the project has benefited from financial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, State and Local grants, corporate and private donations, plus an enormous amount of volunteered time and effort. New data are constantly being retrieved from the wreck, particularly detailing shipboard life and ship construction. As well, the site is a testing ground for new techniques in underwater excavation.

Work was resumed by the Research Section in 1984 and will continue in 1985 on the excavations of the gardens at Bacon's Castle, Virginia's oldest standing house, in Surry County. Sponsored by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, with funds from the Garden Club of Virginia, the excavations under the joint supervision of Deborah L. Davenport and Nicholas Lucchetti are revealing evidence of seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century gardening activities.

David K. Hazzard directed the Research Section's rescue archaeology efforts at the "Enchanted Castle", the early eighteenth-century home of Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood in Orange County. Limited excavation uncovered a mansion 35 feet wide and 88 feet long. The width may have extended to 45 feet if indications of a gallery on the river side and a colonnade on the land approach prove valid. Apparently attached to the mansion by hyphens were two

flanking outbuildings, one of which measured 20 by 36 feet. In turn additional buildings were appended to the latter to form a courtyard approximately 50 by 160 feet. Efforts are underway to designate the property a National Historic Landmark.

## **Flowerdew Hundred Foundation**

*Submitted by Charles Hodges*

Three separate but complementary archaeological programs are planned for the 1985 field season at Flowerdew Hundred Plantation located near Hopewell. In addition to these endeavors, the Flowerdew Hundred Museum, under the direction of Thomas Young, will be expanding its archaeological exhibits and interpretive programs this summer. Last spring the Flowerdew Hundred Foundation staff began its first in-house excavation project which will continue in earnest this year. The archaeological project is directed by Charles Hodges, Staff Archaeologist, and Taft Kiser, Archaeological Technician, who have been assisted by a small but loyal group of volunteers. The site under investigation, known as 44PG82, is one of four previously unexcavated early settlement sites dated ca. 1620-1650 which are located in a zigzag pattern across the James River floodplain to the south and some distance from the large and important "Yeardley/Piersey Complex" on the river embankment. The peculiar spatial distribution of these four relatively landlocked sites, together with the extensive river complex, suggests a variation of an Ulster-like planned community. Site 44PG82 is believed to be the domestic loci of a tenant or brief series of tenants. Thus, the selection of 44PG82 for excavation represents a new chapter in the comprehensive study of early English settlement of the plantation.

Previous to excavation, surface collections at 44PG82 yielded a Binford mean pipestem date of 1623, and a mean ceramic date of 1630. The initial field season was devoted primarily to exploratory purposes including plowzone testing, determining site boundaries, and locating subsurface features. A protective greenhouse was erected this winter over the two most important features discovered thus far. The first is currently under excavation and comprises a 14 by 14 foot fill stain with a 5 by 6 foot bulkhead-like appendage attached. A host of possible identifications, this feature may prove to be a covered cellar or a pit house. The second feature is a probable well, approximately 5 feet wide, and is curiously hexagonal in plan. Other features located include a rich refuse pit, evidence of extensive fencing, a probable daub-making pit, and the possible footings for a post and wattle chimney associated with a structure which lies to the south of the present excavation. Beyond obvious research goals, the excavation of 44PG82 has been an important tool for volunteers and the visiting public. The site will be open to the public May 1 - November 31, 1985.

In addition to continuing research at 44PG82, the Flowerdew Hundred Foundation will again host this summer two archaeological and educational programs conducted in association with Dr. James Deetz and the University of California, Berkley. The University Research Expeditions Program, held June 2-29, 1985, will bring avocational archaeologists from diverse backgrounds to the plantation for the opportunity to participate in several ongoing archaeological excavations being conducted by UC Berkley. A Summer Institute in Historical Archaeology will be held July 7 - August 10, 1985. This program, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is designed for high school and college level social science teachers who wish to incorporate an archaeological perspective into their teaching. The educators will assist in archaeological investigation and analysis as well as participate in a series of seminars on early American life conducted by a number of visiting scholars.

## **James Madison University**

*Submitted by Dr. Clarence R. Geier*

The following are brief summations of field work currently undertaken by the James Madison University Archeological Research Center (JMUARC).

1. Archeological mitigation and analysis of archeological remains at the Addington (44VB9) and Sherwood's Forest (44VB92) sites in Virginia Beach is currently being completed. The project is contracted from the Virginia Department

of Highways and Transportation. Project Directors are Dr. Clarence R. Geier and Dr. Donna J. Seifert, with Tom Whyte of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville serving as the Senior Field Director. The analysis phase is currently underway with the final report of findings being anticipated by late October 1985. Excavations revealed the remains of multiple periods of site residence ranging from the early Middle Woodland into the Late Woodland. The site remains will contribute significant insight into the sequence of Woodland settlement in the Tidewater area south of the Chesapeake. Questions concerning the nature, persistence, and change in material culture, demography, and settlement/ subsistence occurring over the Woodland will be addressed. Studies on faunal debris as it relates to economic strategies and local environment conditions will be presented, as will studies on fabric and ceramic technologies implemented by the various site residents.

2. Studies on the archeological remains of two sites on the Appomattox River in Chesterfield and Prince George counties have been completed. These studies were advanced Phase II or pre-mitigation evaluations of two sites threatened by planned highway construction. Both studies were funded by the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation and had Dr. Clarence R. Geier as Principal Investigator. Mr. Max White, of the JMUARC, served as Field Director for work at the Cameron Site (44PG123) and Mr. Jim Cromwell served as Senior Site Director at the Smith Site (44CF133).

The Cameron Site was found to contain the remains of a series of lithic procurement stations of uncertain age. Isolated areas of preserved cultural floor were found to contain tested quartzite cobbles and large decortication and processual flakes as primary remains. Cores were found, but biface fragments were scarce. Diagnostic artifacts needed to place the remains in time were absent altogether. Sites of this type were found to occur along a small stream which passed from the Cameron Site locale north to the Valley of the Appomattox River.

The Smith Site was found to contain prehistoric and historic components. The prehistoric debris had been badly disturbed by historic activities. They were found to include the remains of a Late Archaic primary reduction center and a possibly associated base camp. Middle and Late Woodland activity areas were also observed. Preserved remains of a U.S. Cavalry observation post were identified and archeologically recovered. These were believed associated with Federal troops locally stationed at Bermuda Hundred during the Civil War.

Reports of findings pertinent to these two studies are available at the VDHT, the JMUARC, and the VRCA. Titles are as follow: "Pre-Mitigation Investigations at the Cameron Site, 44PG123, Prince George County, Virginia", by David Max White, 1985 and "Pre-Mitigation Investigations at the Smith Site, 44CF133, Chesterfield County, Virginia" by James R. Cromwell, Jr. and Clarence R. Geier, 1985.

3. Mitigation studies are now underway at the site of the Henrico Glebe (44HE229) on the James River east of Richmond. The project is supported by the VDHT, with Dr. Clarence R. Geier as Principal Investigator. Mr. Max White is serving as Field Director. Site studies carried out in 1983 showed an area of planned bridge construction to lie near the remains of the Henrico Glebe which was established in the middle of the seventeenth century. Recent changes in construction plans resulted in the area housing the site to be impacted. Work at the site began in December of 1984 and is currently underway. At this time, the original seventeenth-century structure, one associated building, and a second set of eighteenth-century structures have been identified. Field work is still underway.

4. Funded under a contract with Prince William County, a program of Phase I survey is to be undertaken in April along sections of Bull Run, Broad Run, and Quantico creeks in Prince William County. The purpose of this study is to generate a preliminary understanding of prehistoric settlement and site placement along those streams. Project Principal Investigator is Dr. Clarence R. Geier, with Mr. Robert McIver and Mr. James Cromwell serving as Project Field Directors.

## Jefferson National Forest

*Submitted by Michael B. Barber*

The Jefferson National Forest continues its mandated responsibility for impact survey on agency lands. The primary focus of cultural resource management rests with the advanced survey of construction projects, timber sales, exchanges, and other land disturbing activities. This inventory work remains Forest-wide including all areas of USFS management from the environs of Natural Bridge and into Kentucky and West Virginia.

Additional inventory has been carried out on Potts and Big Stone Mountains in Giles County in the Mountain Lake area. More than 20 sites have been recorded in upland terrain varying in elevation from approximately 2500 feet to almost 4000 feet above sea level. Diagnostic artifacts and lithic assemblages suggest a diversity of temporal occupation beginning in Early Archaic times and continuing through Late Woodland. Obviously an extension of the lower elevation prehistoric activities, these upland sites add to the understanding of overall settlement patterning. In the summer of 1985, the Radford University/Jefferson National Forest Field School will conduct Phase II evaluations on five of the sites.

In the spring of 1984, Phase II testing began on 44WY40 (Horse Heaven Road Site) in Wythe County, Virginia. Located in the Erwin Formation of the Blue Ridge Province, the site consisted of a single component Savannah River quartzite reduction station. Preliminary analysis suggested that base and transient camp activities were absent with the occupation geared almost solely towards the exploitation of the high grade quartzite found in the area. Artifact and flake size analysis pointed to the production of complete Savannah River broadspears as well as preforms. Very few other formal tools have been recovered with minimal other activities carried out using unmodified flakes. Few exhausted tools were recovered and rhyolite, a material extensively utilized in the valleys by the Savannah River peoples, was almost totally absent at 44WY40. The Horse Heaven Road Site offers an opportunity to test reduction station models proposed for the Middle Atlantic Region and complete analysis may point to alterations in the intuitively derived modeling. In conjunction with the Phase II evaluation of several sites in the Mountain Lake area, the RU/JNF Field School will also test the quartzite quarry associated with 44WY40. Although only minimal work has thus far been carried out at the outcrop, the artifacts recovered indicate a level of activity not expected at a quarry site. Again, the models may be in need of realignment in the light of new data.

### **Howard A. MacCord, Sr.**

Following retirement from active (paid) archeological work, MacCord is working towards the compilation of a two-part publication on Virginia Prehistory. One part will be a popular, well-illustrated pamphlet geared to the school-age audience. The second is to be a more technical, in-depth culture history, based on actual field data garnered over the years. In connection with the latter, MacCord is continuing to monitor field work done throughout Virginia and in neighboring states. He also is working to publish now-unpublished field work done by him and by others under his guidance. From time to time, regional and thematic synopses will be prepared. Several already completed are: "The Intermontane Culture", which covers Late Woodland cultures of southwestern Virginia, from Bristol northeastward to the Gathright Dam area; "Piedmont Virginia", a paper presented to the VRCA Piedmont Symposium; "The Montgomery Focus" a paper on the Piedmont Potomac area drafted by R.G. Slattery and R.D. Woodward; "The Lewis Creek Mound Culture", detailing data on 13 earth-stone burial mounds in the Staunton area; and a time-depth study of stratigraphy at the site of Patawomecke in Stafford County, typical of the Potomac Creek Focus. To elucidate now-unknown areas, surveys and studies are being done along the Meherrin River from west of Lawrenceville to the river's mouth at Winton, North Carolina. This work is intended to define the culture history of the Meherrin Indians, about whom little is known, either historically or archeologically. The help and cooperation of other archeologists, both professional and nonprofessional, are sought and full credit will be given for all such help rendered. An important help would be the furnishing of survey and excavation reports, not otherwise in print. These will contribute to making the end-products more complete and error-free.

## University of Virginia

*Submitted by Mark Catlin*

The Archaeology Laboratory of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia is conducting an archaeological survey focusing on areas of rapid development within Albemarle County. Nine separate growth areas from the western, central, and eastern portions of the County are being investigated. The project is under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey L. Hantman and Mr. Mark Catlin. Funding is through the Survey and Planning Subgrant Program of the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks.

The purpose of the survey is to inventory prehistoric and historic sites located in areas where the threat of destruction is the greatest. In addition, a predictive model of site location is being tested. Topography, soil productivity, and distance to drainage are some of the environmental variables included in the model. If supported, the model will provide a valuable tool for guiding future survey work in the Central Virginia Piedmont. Also, data from a sample of surveyed sites will be used in an attempt to refine chronological schemes currently employed in the Central Virginia Piedmont and to indicate variability in regional settlement arrangements and intrasite patterning.

Based on the field results, a planning document will be prepared showing where current archaeological resources exist as well as defining for the entire County, where areas of high, medium, or low probability of containing archaeological resources are located. Artifact collections generated by the survey are being processed and will be stored in the Archaeology Laboratory of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia.

## Virginia Commonwealth University

*Submitted by L. Daniel Mouer*

L. Daniel Mouer received a grant from the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks to conduct a regional survey of Richmond and two surrounding metropolitan counties. The product of the grant will be an inventory and RP3 planning guides to resources in the rapidly growing Richmond Metro area. The core of the project is a series of predictive models developed from control areas surveyed over the past seven years by the Highway Department and by VCU. Field crews under the direction of Dr. William C. Johnson are providing test data for the models and are conducting additional surveys in areas of known or predicted high-priority study unit sites. Survey areas include a tract of piedmont uplands, Curles Neck Farm, Malvern Hill Farm and Bermuda Hundred.

Site studies have included completion of a map of visible portions of Sir Thomas Dale's 1613 two-mile long Bermuda Hundred palisade fortification; recording of a dozen kilns and associated structures from the Sweeny and Norwich potteries (ca. 1790 - 1860); and surface mapping and controlled collection of Richard Randolph's Curles Plantation (ca. 1690 - 1770). On the latter site, a total of seven distinct house sites dating to the first half of the 18th century have been located, in addition to the ca. 10-acre house and outbuilding complex.

Virginia Commonwealth University archaeologists Mouer and Johnson helped local citizens to prevent destruction of an important Civil War fort known locally as Battery Stephens. Bulldozers were literally headed toward the site when local history buffs contacted professional archaeologists and the news media. The site was threatened by construction of a water tower by Chesterfield County authorities. As a result of coordinated action by citizens and archaeologists, the county agreed to move their water tower and preserve the fort, which had played an important role in the defense of Richmond.

Initial analysis of materials recovered from VCU's 1984 excavations and surveys at Bermuda Hundred have been completed. Excavations on waterfront lots of the 1691 port town have provided evidence useful for the reconstruction of the town lots and market square. Sites in the town include a store operated by Francis Eppes and his son between ca. 1670 - 1700, a tavern operated by Richard Eppes in the mid-18th century, a store and dwellings of John and Daniel Hylton (2nd - 3rd quarter 18th century), a store and dwelling of Archibald Batte, a free black merchant (1st half of the

19th century), and various public facilities associated with the waterfront and market square. Elsewhere on the Bermuda Hundred tract, surveys have located remnants of the Appomattox Indian settlement (abandoned 1611), Dale's trench and palisade fortification (1613), John Eppes' Bermuda Hundred plantation seat (2nd quarter 18th century), Dr. Richard Eppes' Bermuda Hundred plantation seat (mid-19th century), and David Meade Randolph's Presquile plantation seat (probably built by Richard Randolph II, ca. 1760).

Douglas McLearn continues as the Field Director for the Henrico Project. During the past year, McLearn and crews have excavated half a dozen campsites along the Chickahominy swamp in northern Henrico County with primarily Savannah River through Late Woodland components. In addition, a Late Woodland hamlet site was excavated. The effort continues to work out a prehistoric chronology for central Virginia. Several new radiocarbon dates will be used with VCU's collections from more than 400 area sites to prepare a detailed chronology later this year.

Considerable assistance in this effort has come from Fred Gleach's work on point and pottery typologies. Bill Johnson's recently completed tests of an extensive site in eastern Henrico County containing Marcey Creek through protohistoric Gaston ceramics in a deep unplowed aeolean deposit should provide a valuable contribution to this effort.

During the past year, the VCU Archeological Research Center has become extensively computerized. Three microcomputers and a terminal to the University's mainframe are in continual use in the laboratory. The key elements in the microcomputer system are a new 512K MacIntosh and an Epson Geneva PX-8 battery operated field computer. Fred Gleach has completed upgrading the lab's 50,000 record artifact attribute data base, and historic/prehistoric diagnostic inventories to a hierarchical array system under SAS on the University's AMDAHL computer. Field inventories and records prepared on the Epson can now be uploaded to the data base and SASGRAPH distribution maps can be downloaded to the MacIntosh. Piece plotted diagnostics can be recorded in the field on videotape, entered into the MacIntosh via a MAGIC video digitizer, enhanced and label led under MACPAINT or MACDRAW, and stored with the artifact data under Microsoft's FILE program.

The Virginia Commonwealth University Archeological Research Center staff has reached an all-time high, with three professional archaeologists, five B.A. -level archaeologists, a conservator-curator, a dozen crew members and clerical/data entry staff.

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COVA Membership Dues are Now Payable and Still Only \$ 5.00 . Please send your checks to:  
Dr. William Anderson  
4414 Park Avenue Richmond, VA 23221

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### **"VIRGINIA WILDLIFE MAGAZINE ENCOURAGES THE COLLECTING OF INDIAN ARTIFACTS"**

In the March 1985 edition of Virginia Wildlife appears an article which may well set professional archeology back a number of years. The article written by an amateur (?) archeologist is titled "Fragments of History" 46 (3): 25-28. One of the more disturbing things in the article (at least to this writer) in addition to encouraging people to become artifact collectors, is that the article was published by a State agency and never once mentions that there exists another State agency which is responsible for Virginia's archeological heritage.

The Virginia Wildlife magazine is a monthly publication of the Education Division of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Box 11104, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. Although they have a disclaimer in the front of the magazine that "observations, conclusions, and opinions expressed in Virginia Wildlife are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the members or staff of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries" they still are responsible as editors for presenting an accurate article and must be held responsible for having accepted this "story."

In reading the article we are told that "archaeology is the high-sounding name for a hobby. . . (and). . . is ideal for the loner who wants to escape noise and people, or as group recreation for friends and families...call it artifact collecting, 'arrowheading', or more formally archaeology. . . Experienced artifact collectors know the wisdom of waiting for healthy downpours before searching; rain washes other hidden objects free of dirt and field debris and sometimes helps bring hidden treasures to the surface." These statements at first might not seem worth getting upset about, but when a State agency whose slogan is "Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Related Natural Resources" endorses the above to its readership, then I feel certain that we are likely to see a new surge in the collecting of artifacts from Virginia Indian sites.

The article is filled with inaccuracies and as such is misleading the public. As professional archeologists we are obligated to express our opinions to the Editor of the magazine. Furthermore, we should ask that an article be published by a professional archeologist, which would discuss the advantages of site preservation and how the public can play an important role in helping to protect our endangered cultural heritage.

J.M.W.