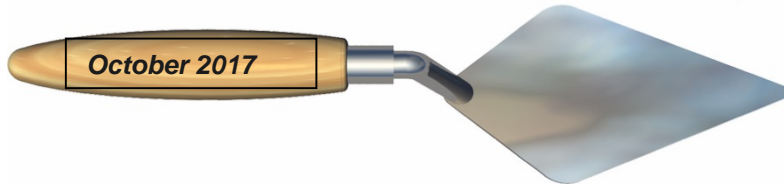


The SCOOP

A Newsletter of the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources **FOFA**



Inside:

1. 275th Birthday
2. A Lifetime Honor for Liz Crowell
3. Students at the MAAC

Come join FOFA at our November Membership Meeting:

Dr. Stephen R. Potter

Bison in the East: A Story of Pigs, People, and Pigeons

Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 9:30 AM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Frying Pan Park

2739 West Ox Rd, Herndon, VA

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/>

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FOFA will hold a brief meeting prior to the presentation in order to elect new officers to the Board. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided during the meeting.

Please join us on Saturday, November 18, 2017 for an updated presentation, *Bison in the East: A Story of Pigs, People, and Pigeons*, by Stephen R. Potter, Ph.D., Archaeologist Emeritus.

After living in small numbers east of the Mississippi River for hundreds of years, perhaps longer, bison populations began to flourish in the southeastern United States sometime in the middle of the sixteenth century A.D. The bison's reemergence east of the Mississippi River is probably due to the violent incursion through the Southeast of Hernando De Soto's private army of 600 people and their horses, war dogs, and pigs, during 1539 to 1543.

However, the principal critter which caused the subsequent cultural catastrophes and ecological changes may not be the most obvious one – the Spanish Black Pig. After discussing the demise of the key species (people) and two outbreak populations (bison and pigeons), Dr. Potter examines the role of eastern bison in the 18th-century Anglo-American exploration and settlement of the Great Valley and the lands beyond. He illustrates the life and times of the deer skin traders, long hunters, “meat getters”, market hunters, squatters and settlers, and the part they played in the destruction of the bison in the East.

Stephen R. Potter received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In July 2016, Stephen retired after 39 years of Federal Service; 36 years as the Regional Archeologist for the National Park Service, National Capital Region; two years Active Duty in the Army; and one year with the Smithsonian Institution.

Prior to his retirement, Dr. Potter received the John L. Cotter, Professional Achievement Award for Excellence in National Park Service Archeology and a Dedication Arrowhead from the Office of Ranger Services for his support and assistance in protecting cultural resources. Stephen's continuing research interests include both the prehistoric and historic archeology of the eastern United States, the 17th-century Chesapeake frontier, the southern Algonquian Indians, the cartographic history of colonial America, and the archeology and history of the American Civil War.

The author of numerous articles and chapters on a variety of topics, his books include *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley* and *Archeological Perspectives on the American Civil War* (co-editor and contributing author). In 2015-2016, he served as a Consultant to the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation for the special, temporary exhibit "Bartering for a Continent: How Anglo-Indian Trade Shaped America." A native of Fairfax County, Virginia, Stephen's ancestral roots in the Old Dominion go back to at least 1705.

2017 ASV ANNUAL MEETING at NATURAL BRIDGE, VIRGINIA

The Annual Meeting for the Archeological Society of Virginia will be October 26-29, 2017 at the Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center (<https://www.virginiaarcheology.org/6455-2/>).

The Archaeology and Collections Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority will be participating!

Friday morning, October 27, 2017

Megan Veness: *A Box and Some Rocks: Data Recovery of a Rural Domestic Complex*

Patriot Park North, located in the western side of Fairfax County, is a 67-acre park in which the Fairfax County Park Authority is planning to construct a baseball complex. Fairfax County Park Authority Archaeology and Collections Branch

(ACB) conducted a comprehensive Phase I and II survey in summer 2016, and began Phase III excavation in Fall 2016. An area in the northeastern section of project area contained artifacts from the late third quarter of the eighteenth century. A large feature, Feature 5, a 25 foot by 10-foot cellar, contained artifacts ranging from black glazed earthenware to green shell-edged pearlware and brass buttons. Other artifacts and features in the vicinity are suggestive of associated outbuildings. With further testing and continued analysis of the artifacts recovered, archaeologists can reconstruct the areas of use within the structure, and shed more light on the inhabitants of Fairfax County in the eighteenth century.

Saturday morning, October 28, 2017

Christopher Sperling: *An Embankment, a Culvert, and a Corduroy Road: Archaeology of the Civil War at Lake Accotink Park.*

Present-day Lake Accotink Park in Fairfax County witnessed extensive activity during the American Civil War. Recent archaeological investigations in Lake Accotink Park revealed tangible aspects of this Civil War history. Road maintenance exposed a corduroy road. Separately, an original, dry lain, stone masonry culvert was failing to keep up with storm water loads intensified by a century and half of expanding impermeable surfaces. The culvert passed under the former embankment of the strategic Orange and Alexandria Railroad. Archaeological monitoring of the culvert removal resulted in detailed scale drawings of the structure as well as recovery of a limited number of artifacts. Collectively, the data generated by and materials recovered during these investigations offer excellent opportunities for interpreting the Civil War in Fairfax County to the interested public.

COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGISTS AT THE ASV ANNUAL MEETING

The Council of Virginia Archaeologists Public Education Forum will be held on Friday evening, (October 27th) and looks both interesting and relevant.

Examining Contemporary Notions of Race and Racism through Recent Archaeological and Historical Research in Western Virginia

One fundamental goal of modern historical archaeology is to expose connections between the past and the present that might be obscured in other avenues of history-making. There has been a disciplinary effort to investigate how artifacts provide not only evidence of where we have been, but how we got to where we are today. With heated debates about race, racism, and heritage occurring on the national stage, we find the pursuit of this goal to be more relevant than ever. This session will explore the role that archaeology can play in understanding race and racism in the development of western Virginia's history. Speakers will present on recent archaeological and historical research in the region, including plantation and institutional settings; the involvement of descendant communities; and how to apply knowledge of the past to the discourse of today.

Inaugural Meeting of the MOUNT VERNON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The inaugural meeting of the Mount Vernon Historical Society will be held **November 9 at 7 pm** at Supervisor Dan Storck's office. The special guest speaker will be Sean Thomas, the Director of Leadership programs at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

The Mount Vernon Historical Society facilitates and encourages identification, recognition, protection, research, and education for historic and archaeological sites. The group works to collect and preserve oral histories, invest in research into local history and make stories and history available to the public. This is done by working with local citizen's associations, schools and businesses. The group cooperates with and supports existing historic preservation institutions such as Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Woodlawn, Huntley, Gum Springs Museum, and Pohick Church. They select local historical topics for discussion and provide education opportunities to the public. The group's

goal is to energize and make the study of history and responsible archaeology interesting and fun!

Regarding the United States of America's Intention to Withdraw from UNESCO

Statement from the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), American Alliance of Museums (AAM), American Anthropological Association (AAA), American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD), Society for Classical Studies (SCS), U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield (USCBS), and U.S. National Committee of ICOMOS (US/ICOMOS)

On October 12, 2017, the United States announced its decision to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2018. A founding member of the Organization in 1945, the United States has benefited from UNESCO's guiding precepts and principles in its efforts to preserve humanity's shared heritage.

The United States was the first State to ratify UNESCO's 1972 World Heritage Convention. The 23 U.S. World Heritage sites reflect the universal values of our natural and cultural heritage. These sites include Philadelphia's Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed, the Statue of Liberty, which stands at the entrance to New York Harbor as an international symbol of freedom, and sites that reflect our country's multicultural past from the dwellings and ceremonial buildings of the Pueblo Indians, to the defensive architecture of San Juan, to Jefferson's plantation at Monticello. The United States' unique contribution was recognition that natural wonders from Glacier Bay to the volcanoes of Mauna Loa and Kilauea and from the redwood forests to the Smoky Mountains serve as a bridge among generations and peoples in America and around the world.

Provisions of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the 1954 Hague Convention

on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict serve to protect archaeological sites, historic structures, and repositories of cultural material from looting and destruction both during armed conflict and transfer through the international market. The 1970 Convention also facilitates loans of cultural objects from museums

The United States has long strived to protect heritage around the world. Through participation in UNESCO the United States has signaled the importance of international cooperation in education, science, cultural awareness and communication, all of which serve to strengthen ties among nations and societies. These messages stand at the heart of American democracy and underlie the activities of our organizations. Despite its regrettable decision, we call upon the United States to continue to work with UNESCO and the broader international community to promote appreciation of the outstanding value of our shared cultural heritage.

Statement Regarding the Withdrawal Of The United States From UNESCO

October 16, 2017. The undersigned organizations wish to express their concerns about the decision by the current U.S. administration to withdraw the United States from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Founded in 1945, UNESCO promotes education, women's rights and many other goals around the world, including the protection of cultural heritage. The foremost UNESCO program in the preservation of cultural resources is the World Heritage List, which is made up of sites identified for their historical, natural, cultural, or scientific significance. They are protected under international treaties. Questions involving history and culture have always been vulnerable to politicization. This is especially true in deeply divided and contested regions. While UNESCO is not perfect, either as a forum for discussing such matters, or in its cultural resources management policies, it remains the best environment and mechanism there is for transcending international boundaries in order to protect locations important

to our shared history and common humanity. Engagement, not withdrawal, is likelier to bring about beneficial change. We are disappointed with this decision, and hope that the U.S. will rejoin UNESCO as soon as possible. In the meantime, we support the work of UNESCO generally, and stand ready to work with it to improve the organization's ability to meet our common cultural heritage goals.

American Anthropological Association
American Cultural Resources Association
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Historical Archaeology

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 26-29, 2017 Archeological Society of Virginia Annual Conference. Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center

Saturday, November 9, 2017 Inaugural Meeting of the Mount Vernon Historical Society. 7 PM at Supervisor Dan Storck's office: Mount Vernon Governmental Center (2511 Parkers Lane).

Saturday, November 11, 2017 Fairfax County's 13th Annual History Conference from 8:15 am – 4:00 pm. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Information at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/event.htm>

FOFA NEEDS YOU!

FOFA is a 501c(3) non-profit organization that supports the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority. We seek to further promote the understanding and appreciation of Fairfax County's cultural resources through archaeology and historic preservation. Among our other activities, FOFA can now offer support in the acquisition of needed field equipment, artifact storage systems, and computer software.

We need you to becoming a supporting member! Please fill out the attached membership application, and especially let us know areas that

you can assist (i.e. website development and maintenance, fundraising, outreach, etc.).

Follow us on Facebook and on the internet at <http://fofaweb.org/>.

Hand-Wrought Nails in Early America

Reprinted from artiFACTS

Nails used today for building are clean-cut, uniform, and round in cross-section. This was not the case in Early America. From their earliest use through the 18th century, all nails were hand-wrought. Blacksmiths created wrought nails individually from a square iron stock rod. To make a nail, the blacksmith would heat the rod until it was red hot and malleable, then the process of shaping the nail could begin. The blacksmith hammered the heated rod on all four sides to make a point, and then cut it to the desired length. The head of the nail could be formed into any of a variety of different shapes depending on the nail's intended use and the time period in which it was produced. The resulting product tapered on all four sides, one of the defining characteristics of a wrought nail. In the late 1790s, machines were invented that cut nails from sheets of plate iron in a cookie cutter manner. Unlike wrought nails, machine-cut nails taper on only two sides while the other opposing sides remain a constant thickness, that of the iron sheet from which the nails were cut. The processes to extrude the wire nails common today were not developed until the end of the 19th century.

Knowing the different styles of wrought nails helps archaeologists identify the time period when certain nails were made, even if there is very little of the nail left. Likewise, the size of the nail, its head shape, and the shape of the tip can indicate the nail's intended use. For example, a farrier's nails would be different from nails used to join boards, which differ in form from flooring nails intended to be set flush with a countersink.

For more information about artifacts and current excavations around Fairfax County, see cartarchaeology.wordpress.com.



Examples of hand-wrought nails recovered from an archaeological site in Fairfax County.

THE 2016-2017 FOFA BOARD

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