

# The SCOOP

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



Please join the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources, Gunston Hall Plantation, and the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority in hosting an archaeological symposium on:

## *The Archaeology of Slavery in the Chesapeake Region*

**Saturday, April 19th 9:00 AM -4:00 PM**

**At Gunston Hall, Mason Neck, VA**

### **Elizabeth Crowell**

#### **Excavating Franklin and Armfield's Alexandria Slave Pen**

Dr. Elizabeth Crowell's presentation will discuss the history and archaeological investigations at the Alexandria Slave Pen



conducted from 1984-1987 at 1315 - 1317 Duke Street in Alexandria, Virginia. The project was conducted by archaeologists from

Engineering-Science, Inc. for Alexandria Archaeology prior to construction on the two properties. These properties were part of a slave training establishment founded on the property in 1828 and one of the later proprietors has recently gained infamy as the result of the film *Twelve Years a Slave*.

From 1983-2003, Dr. Crowell was Senior Archaeologist at Engineering-Science (later Parsons). Since 2003, Liz has served as Manager of the Cultural Resource Management and Protection

Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority. She holds a M.A. from the College of William and Mary and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She has directed and conducted archaeological and cultural resource studies throughout the Middle Atlantic Region.

### **Kelley Fanto Deetz**

#### **Cookin' for the Big House: Virginia's Enslaved Plantation Cooks and Their Kitchens**

Dr. Kelley Fanto Deetz's presentation will showcase the complex relationships between plantation mistresses and enslaved cooks by examining the historical and archaeological records of



plantation kitchens. The evidence sheds light onto the kitchen space as a unique stage for political, social, and cultural interactions.

Dr. Deetz specializes in African American history and archaeology and is an assistant professor of history at Roanoke College. She received her B.A. in Black Studies and History from The College of William and Mary, and earned both her Master's degree and Ph.D. in African Diaspora Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. A professional cook for over a decade, her dissertation focused on enslaved cooks working for Virginia plantations. She has also worked extensively in CRM both in Virginia and in California.

Deetz is currently working on her new book: *Bound to the Fire: Virginia's Enslaved Cooks, Racialized Labor, and Legacy*.

### Garrett Fesler

**“no book, no convenience, no furniture, no comfort in the house”: Archaeology at Site 44SK0531 at the Western Branch Reservoir in Suffolk, Virginia**

Archaeological site 44SK0531 is located along the Western Branch of the Nansemond River, in what is now northern Suffolk near the small crossroads community of Reids Ferry in an area commonly known as Southside Virginia. We believe that between 15 and 20 enslaved Africans occupied several crude cabins on a low terrace overlooking a bend in the river in the 1820s and 1830s.



While the findings from the site indicate fairly harsh living conditions, the situation was probably no better or no worse than other enslaved field hands in the region—a grinding level of poverty and austerity. And yet at this remote outpost archaeologists discovered

distinctive evidence of West African spirit practices, cultural customs embedded in the archaeological record by people that were several generations removed from the African continent, proof positive that cultural heritage often trumped the indignities of enslavement.

Dr. Garrett Fesler has been working as an archaeologist in Virginia and the Chesapeake region since arriving from California in 1986. Picking up a M.A. in history at the College of William and Mary (1991) and a Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Virginia (2004) along the way, currently Garrett is a city archaeologist with Alexandria Archaeology, and also a co-owner of the James River Institute for Archaeology.

### Tracy Harwood Jenkins

**Free Black Life on the Chesapeake: A Look at The Hill Community of Easton**

Tracy Harwood Jenkins is currently a Ph.D. student in the Anthropology Department at the University of Maryland. He received his B.A. in Anthropology and History from the College of William and Mary. Jenkins' areas of interest are African American historical archaeology, community-building, racial and ethnic boundaries, and early capitalism.



**Supporting Archaeology,  
History, and Preservation  
in Fairfax County**

## Julia King

**“. . . She would rather marry the negro under them circumstances, than to marry his Lordship with all his country”:** The History and Archaeology of Eleanor Butler and Saltwater Charles



Dr. Julia King is professor of anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland where she studies, teaches, and writes about Chesapeake history and archaeology. She is a past president of the Society for Historical Archaeology and spent eight years as an Expert Member on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In 2012 she received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that focuses on people, places, and archaeological sites in the Potomac River drainage occupied from circa 1500 to 1720 AD, including Charles and Eleanor Butler.

## Matthew Laird



**“The Devil’s Half-Acre”:** Searching for Lumpkin’s Slave Jail in Richmond, Virginia

Dr. Matthew R. Laird, Ph.D., RPA, is a Partner and Senior Researcher with the James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc. (JRIA), based in Williamsburg, Virginia. From 2005 to 2010, Dr. Laird and JRIA worked with Richmond City Council’s Slave Trail Commission and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to locate and excavate the site of Robert Lumpkin’s Slave Jail, perhaps the most notorious of the many slave-trading facilities which operated in Richmond’s Shockoe Bottom neighborhood during the

antebellum period. Dr. Laird will discuss the challenges of this complex urban archaeological investigation and its unexpected results, and will address the broader implications of this project as the city continues to grapple with this difficult aspect of its history.

## David Shonyo

**A Well-Travelled Mollusk: Possible Evidence for a Slave Activity Area at Gunston Hall Plantation**

David Shonyo's presentation will highlight the results of the 2013 excavation season at Gunston Hall, which focused on the grounds east of the house. Several unusual artifacts were recovered from this area, including a cowrie shell of a particular species that has never been recovered from an archeological site, although similar ones have been found at Mount Vernon and Ferry Farm. David Shonyo is the resident archaeologist at Gunston Hall Plantation.



## EXCAVATIONS at SALONA PARK

*Contributed by Chuck Goode of JMA  
(edited by John Mullen)*



**Location Map**

John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) recently conducted a Phase I archaeological investigation at Salona Park for the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority. The ±19.55-acre study area was located in the northern portion of the Salona property and was situated within three agricultural fields which are currently used as open meadows.

The purpose of the investigation was to determine the presence or absence of significant archaeological resources and to the extent possible, evaluate the significance of any deposits and/or features that might be discovered. The investigation included research on the history and prehistory of the project area, a shovel test and metal detection survey, and test unit excavation.

Salona is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR). It possesses state-level significance within the areas of social history, agriculture, architecture, and historical archaeology under Criteria A, B, C, and D, but derives its primary significance from the early Federal-period architecture of the brick main house and its setting, which includes numerous outbuildings surrounded by an agricultural landscape. The house and associated outbuildings have been recorded with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources as Site 44FX2728, while Camp Griffin, a large Union encampment in the area around Salona occupied during the fall and winter of 1861 and 1862, has been designated Site 44FX2762.



**Salona (Smoot's House) During the Civil War**

Source: Vermont Historic Society

<http://vermonthistory.org/virtual-vhs/photographs/houghton-civil-war-images>

The property is part of an easement granted to the Park Authority by the DuVal family. Clive DuVal served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1965 to 1971, when he was elected to the Virginia State Senate and where he served until his retirement in 1991. In 1971, the Duvals entered into an agreement with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to preserve the house at Salona, its outbuildings, and 7.7 acres of land surrounding the house. In 1973, the

property was listed in the NRHP and the VLR. In 1975, the Society of the United States Daughters of 1812 placed a plaque at Salona to commemorate James Madison's visit during his flight from Washington, D.C. in 1814. In 2005, an additional conservation easement of 41.5 acres was established for the Salona property that includes 10 acres which may be used for active recreation (e.g., athletic fields) and 28.5 acres for passive recreation (e.g., trails). Three acres were retained by the DuVal family.

The Park Authority has developed a draft Master Plan which addresses what uses, if any, should be supported on the property. In addition, a citizen task force has been created in order to provide feedback to the Park Authority regarding proposed uses. This task force requested that an archaeological survey be conducted to better inform the decision-making process.

The archeological investigation resulted in the identification of four clusters of artifacts. Three of the clusters were interpreted as field scatter representing refuse disposal and use of the agricultural fields north of the house. They have limited potential to provide meaningful information on Salona and are not individually significant; however all four artifact clusters are considered contributing resources to Site 44FX2728, Salona and its surrounding outbuildings.

In addition to being a contributing resource to Site 44FX2728, the fourth artifact cluster was also associated with Camp Griffin (Site 44FX2762), which was the encampment of soldiers of the Vermont Brigade established around Salona in the fall and winter of 1861-1862, under the overall command of General William Brooks. In general, Camp Griffin was a large cantonment of regiments. While the regimental camps

may have been set up following the standard military layout for camps, the regiments were likely dispersed strategically across the landscape. Thus Camp Griffin was more an "occupied area" than a camp with definable boundaries.



**Camp of the 5th Vermont at Camp Griffin**

Source: Vermont Historic Society

<http://vermonthistory.org/virtual-vhs/photographs/houghton-civil-war-images>

Excavations in this area produced seven pre-Contact Native American and 61 historic artifacts, including Civil War related artifacts: ammunition, a Vermont military button, and possibly an 1853 Liberty dime. The Vermont button is a large coat button. These state supplied buttons were produced between 1850 and the twentieth century. The word "VERMONT" lies above the state crest. Below the crest is a ribbon with the state motto, "Freedom & Unity," and beneath this are thirteen stars representing the original thirteen states.

Area relic hunters reported that decades ago they had permission from the DuVal family to search the property and report finding Civil War-related items in this location and in the vicinity. These items included hundreds of buttons from state-issued Vermont Regimental uniforms which they recovered by means of intensive metal detection and feature excavation.

These findings led them to conclude that this area was the location of a well-defined camp occupied by soldiers of the Second and/or Third Vermont Regiments whose worn gray state-issued uniforms were replaced by blue Federally-issued uniforms while at the camp. The other Vermont Regiments at the camp had been issued the blue Federal uniforms before they arrived in Virginia.

JMA interpreted the features that they uncovered as locations where the state-issued uniforms had been burned by the soldiers. The area was also directly east of a former agricultural building associated with the property and some of the artifacts recovered appear to be associated with this structure as well.

The current investigation showed that a remnant of this Civil War site survives today and has a moderate potential to contain diagnostic artifacts, localized activity areas, and subsurface features. JMA recommended that this artifact cluster be avoided by any future development at Salona Park – or additional work if impacts cannot be avoided.

## **FOFA NEEDS YOU!**

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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/>.

## **MEET THE 2014 FOFA BOARD**

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### President:

Sallie Lyons [lyonshare@cox.net](mailto:lyonshare@cox.net)

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Paul Antsen [Wazoo63@aol.com](mailto:Wazoo63@aol.com)

### Scoop Editor/Vice President:

John Mullen [jmullen@wetlandstudies.com](mailto:jmullen@wetlandstudies.com)

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Charlie Balch [CABalch@aol.com](mailto:CABalch@aol.com)

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[kholland@johnmilnerassociates.com](mailto:kholland@johnmilnerassociates.com)

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Earnie Porta [eporta@comcast.net](mailto:eporta@comcast.net)  
Justin Lowry [justinplowry@gmail.com](mailto:justinplowry@gmail.com)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**April 26, 2014** - Pohick Church Civil War Balloon Outpost Marker Dedication 10am-12pm

**SAVE THE DATE!** The Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART)  
**Open House – May 3, 2014 9:30am-2pm**  
*Details coming soon*

**May 17, 2014** - Slave Dwelling Project at Ben Lomond Historic Site



**FRIENDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Membership Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_ Renewing Member  
Annual Dues: Individual (\$15) \_\_\_ Family (\$20) \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title (Mr., Ms, etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone Cell Phone Email Address

\_\_\_ Check here if you prefer that your contact information NOT be published in a future directory of members.

**Please indicate skills or background that you would be willing to share with the Friends:**

\_\_\_ IT \_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_ Public Relations \_\_\_ Events Planning \_\_\_ Graphics \_\_\_ Photography  
\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_ Archaeology \_\_\_ Preservation \_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**What ideas would you suggest for the enhancement and support of Fairfax County's archaeology and other cultural resources programs?**

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**For Family memberships, please provide information for a second member (spouse, partner, or child):**  
(To provide information for more than two family members, please use multiple membership forms and attach them together.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title (Mr., Ms, etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone Cell Phone Email Address

**Please indicate skills and background that might be shared with the Friends:**

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\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_ Archaeology \_\_\_ Preservation \_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to FOFA, and mail to:

Charles Balch 2922 Oakton Ridge Circle, Oakton, VA 22124

[CBalch@aol.com](mailto:CBalch@aol.com)

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