

Archeological Society of Virginia Massanutten Chapter

Volume 31, Issue 2

February 2010



POINTS



The Passing of Eleanor Parslow

Eleanor F. Parslow

Eleanor Flint Parslow, 76, of Parnassus, died Saturday morning, Jan. 23, 2010, at 10:25 at Augusta Medical Center of Alzheimer's. She was born Oct. 13, 1933, in Staten Island, N.Y., as the only child of the late Charles and Janet Flint. She was a graduate of both Syracuse University in New York and James Madison College in Virginia. After receiving her Master's degree in library science, she was the school librarian at Churchville Elementary. She also worked at Grand Caverns in Grottoes and J.R. Copper before opening her own business. She was the former secretary of the Archeological Society of Virginia and member of Shenandoah Valley Railroad Club, Fort Harrison, and various spinning and weaving clubs. She retired after closing SpinThrift in the Dayton Farmers Market.



(Photo by Mike Wilke during SCAD 2003)

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Barent and Linda Parslow of Staunton; a daughter, Margaret Morris of Harrisburg, Pa.; five grandchildren, David Parslow and Margaret Swisher, Deanna Escobar and Elizabeth and Blake Morris; and two great-grandchildren, Kirk and Madeline Swisher. She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Fancher Parslow, and son, Benjamin Charles Parslow.

The body will be cremated and a graveside service will be held at Oak Hill Cemetery, Parnassus, Va., at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are requested for the Alzheimer's Association, 1160 Pepsi Place, Suite 306, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.mcmullenfh.com. McMullen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

(From Newsleader.com 25JAN2010)

Inside this issue:

<i>The Passing of Eleanor Parslow</i>	1
<i>2010 State and Chapter Dues</i>	2
<i>February Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Certification Program Opportunities</i>	3
<i>MCASV February Meeting Agenda</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4
<i>Evidence from Alaska Changes Megafauna Extinction Date</i>	4

2010 State and Chapter Dues

Submitted by Tom Mizell

As 2010 has quickly arrived, we are gently reminded that "Dues for ASV are now due." Please check your records and start the New Year with a smile and show of support for both ASV and your local chapter. Annual Membership Renewal Dues are due January 31, 2010. Prompt remittance ensures that members continue to receive the Quarterly Bulletin and Newsletter. Other benefits include major discounts on all Society publications and participation in Society supervised archeological activities in the field.

There is a **Membership Renewal Form** that is included in the most recent ASV mailing and available on the ASV and MCASV website. The form has typically been available on the ASV website as well. You may submit the form with payment directly to Patrick O'Neill, ASV Secretary/Membership. Mr. O'Neill's address is provided at the end of this article. A second option is for you to submit both the Massanutten Chapter and State dues to me. I will be glad to forward the State dues to Mr. O'Neill for you. If you opt for this alternative please provide the completed **Membership Renewal Form** and the funds to me at your earliest convenience. I will have a stock of the forms available soon. Attached with the minutes is the **New MCASV Chapter Membership Application**. Please fill out and bring to the next meeting or when you pay dues.

Chapter Dues are \$5.00 and **State dues** vary as shown below:

Regular Membership Dues	\$25.00
Senior (65 and older)	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00
Life	\$350.00
Sustaining	\$50.00
Additional family members	\$2.00 (please provide their names)

For those opting to submit directly to Mr. O'Neill (ASV Secretary/Membership) his mailing address follows:

Patrick O'Neill
9902 Rand Drive
Burke, VA 22015
E-mail: patrickloneill@verizon.net

The Massanutten Chapter ASV appreciates your attention to this matter and we look forward to your participation in the life of our Chapter in 2010!

February Birthdays

Robert Frye February 4

Please complete the MCASV Membership Application and submit to the MCASV Treasurer, so we have your birthdates for the newsletter.



Certification Program Opportunities

Submitted by Carole Nash

The following is information on upcoming certification opportunities:

Historic and Prehistoric Lab Work: Artifact processing and analysis from several 19th century historic home sites and prehistoric base camps. M, W, F schedule -- set your time! Contact Carole (432-6864 or nashcl@jmu.edu) for parking information and directions to her new JMU lab space.

****2010 Field School and Volunteer Opportunities****

There are a number of opportunities available throughout the state for Certification members and Chapter volunteers. Check out the MCASV website at www.mcasv.org for a full listing of the programs, their websites, and contact information.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Volunteer Program

Volunteer days can be arranged during the week for anyone interested. Prehistoric and historic artifact processing, cataloguing, data entry, documentary research, and outreach activities are some examples of what work is available. Please contact Chief Curator Dee DeRoche at dee.deroche@dhr.virginia.gov or (804) 367-2323 x134 for an application and to set up day(s) to volunteer if you are interested.

Announcement

Under the Archaeological Laws & Ethics section in many versions of the Certification Program Blue Books, the article, "End of Millennium Report on Time Crime," (Robert Hicks) is no longer available on the ASV web page. Contact Carole Nash for the Word version, or go to this link for a similar article (from Robert, "Time Crime: Anti-Looting Efforts in Virginia"): <http://crm.cr.nps.gov/archive/24-02/24-02-1.pdf>

MCASV February 3, 2010 Meeting Agenda

The MCASV monthly meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgewater Town Hall.

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| I. Call to Order | V. Treasurer's Report |
| II. Welcome to Guests | VI. Newsletter Editor's Report |
| III. Program: Dr. Thomas Hester, Mass-anutten Chapter ASV "An Introduction to Hawaii's Accessible Archeological Sites" | VII. New Business |
| IV. Secretary's Report | VIII. Certification Program Report |
| | IX. Morris Pottery Kiln |
| | X. Announcements |
| | XI. Adjournment |

Upcoming Events

Feb 3, 2010	Dr. Thomas Hester, Massanutten Chapter ASV "An Introduction to Hawaii's Accessible Archeological Sites"
March 3, 2010	Mr. Michael Pulice, Virginia Department of Historic Resources "A Primer for the Identification of Log Buildings"
April 7, 2010	TBA
May 5, 2010	TBA
June 2, 2010	TBA

Evidence from Alaska Changes Megafauna Extinction Date

Submitted by Laura Roder

In the December 15, 2009 edition of Science Daily, the article "Mammoths Hung on Longer? Late-surviving megafauna exposed by ancient DNA in frozen soil" offers an interesting review of DNA evidence discovered in central Alaska. Current radiocarbon dating of "macrofossil" evidence such as bones and teeth suggests an extinction date of mammoths and ancient American horses that falls between 13,000 and 15,000 years ago. However, the DNA plucked from the frozen soil in Alaska dates at least one population of woolly mammoths and ancient American horses to between 7,600 and 10,500 years ago.

The ability to analyze miniscule amounts of DNA buried and preserved deep in the frozen sediment gives scientists and archaeologists a better idea of just how long certain megafauna populations existed. While it's possible that the majority of megafauna populations died out thousands of years earlier, this latent DNA suggests that certain populations may have held on longer before finally succumbing to their inevitable fate. The fact that at least a few of these populations lived thousands of years longer than the others indicates that there was not a mass extinction event of megafauna but, rather, a slower decline in population over time.

In this particular instance, the frozen, undisturbed permafrost served as the perfect location for recovering ancient DNA. The independent dating of adjacent plant and mineral materials, using radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence methods, proved that the DNA in question had not been compromised. For future studies, it is possible to take DNA samples dating back 400,000 years. Studying the DNA of current populations will also prove valuable, particularly for elusive or unknown species.

To read more about this study, you can access the article at the following link:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/12/091214151946.htm>

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We're on the web
www.mcasv.org

We Need Your Help in Contributing Articles!

Your article could be here!

Please help by contributing articles each month.

The deadline for any information to be included in the newsletter will be the TWENTIETH of each month. Please have articles sent to Laura and Jeff by this time.

Your article could be here! Please email the Newsletter Editors at roderla@aol.com (Laura Roder) and atlatlist@comcast.net (Jeff Good) if you are submitting an article to the MCASV Newsletter.

