

Archeological Society of Virginia Massanutten Chapter

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POINTS



CONNECTIONS: The Topping Family and Long Island Native Americans - Part I

Submitted by George Lott

Grace Leland Pounding was 96 years of age when she died about 40 years ago. She was my grandmother on my mother's side of the family and had grown up in Bridgehampton, Long Island. In those days she was Grace Topping. What I remember most about her was her vivid memory of that childhood and Topping family history.

She described the Topping family as some of the earliest settlers of Long Island, especially Southampton; as whale hunting captains lost at sea; as wealthy farmers and landowners in colonial times; and as soldiers in several wars. At the time, the most verifiable of this information came from my mother who had childhood memories of her grandfather visiting the family while they lived in Philadelphia. Albert Topping was a Civil War veteran who had served on a union gunboat as a "powder monkey". As a result of that experience, he had lost most of his hearing and used a horn to participate in family discussions around the breakfast table. He was an accomplished weaver and his loom was eventually placed in a museum on Long Island.

It was not until my mother's funeral that I discovered the existence of a Topping family genealogy written in the 1980's. Through it, I discovered that Thomas Topping was the patriarch of our clan and that he had left England for the Connecticut colony in 1636. By 1649 he had moved to Southampton, Long Island, where his original house stands to this day on South Main Street. True to my grandmother's memory, I discovered that members of the Topping family had served in most of the major conflicts of this nation, starting with the Dutch conflict over ownership of Long Island. At least six family members served in the American Revolution, including one who died as a prisoner of

Continued on Page 4

Inside this issue:

<i>CONNECTIONS: The Topping Family and Long Island Native Americans</i>	1, 4
<i>2009 State and Chapter</i>	2
<i>January & February Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Certification Program Opportunities</i>	3
<i>MCASV February Meeting Agenda</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

2009 State and Chapter Dues

Submitted by Tom Mizell

As 2009 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 were due **January 31, 2009**. 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. The form has typically been available on the ASV website as well. You may submit the **form with payment** directly to William A. Thompson, Jr. Treasurer ASV. Mr. Thompson'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. Thompson 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 Chapter Membership Application. Please fill out and bring to the next meeting or when you pay dues.

Chapter Dues are \$5.00 (Don't forget to fill out the attached MCASV Chapter Membership Application).

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. Thompson (ASV Treasurer) his mailing address follows:

Treasurer, ASV
536 Summit Ridge Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23322

The Massanutten Chapter ASV appreciates your attention to this matter and we look forward to your participation in the life of our Chapter in 2009!

January & February Birthdays

January 7 Paul Adams

February 4 Robert Frye

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.

****2008 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 web-sites, and contact information.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Volunteer Program

The DHR Fall Field School has ended for the Fall 2008 season, but 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.

Tree Hill Farm Field School *NEW & UPDATED*

Join DHR in the site testing and excavation of a Contact Period site in Henrico County, Virginia between March 2 and 13, 2009. Features, site boundaries, and a more precise chronology will be sought. Applications for participation are due March 1. Contact Carole Nash or the Editors for an application form.

MCASV February 4, 2009 Meeting Agenda

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

I. Call to Order

II. Welcome to Guests

III. Program: Carole Nash, James Madison University, Integrated Science and Technology Geographic Science Program, "Indigenous Science: 15,000 Years of Stone Tool Manufacture in the Valley".

IV. Secretary's Report

V. Treasurer's Report

VI. Newsletter Editor's Report

VII. New Business

VIII. Certification Program Report

IX. Morris Pottery Kiln

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 4, 2009 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m
Program: Carole Nash, James Madison University, Integrated
Science and Technology Geographic Science Program,
"Indigenous Science: 15,000 Years of Stone Tool Manufacture in
the Valley".
- Mar. 4, 2009 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Program: TBA
- Apr. 1, 2009 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Program: TBA

CONNECTIONS: The Topping Family and Long Island Native Americans - Part I (continued)

Continued from Page 1

war. There were seven Toppings who saw service during the war of 1812 and at least 60 family members who severed the union during the Civil War, a number of which were killed in major engagements.

As far as wealth, fame, and prosperity are concerned, the Topping family had more than its fair share amongst the first families to settle Long Island. Several were sea captains during the heyday of the whaling industry and amassed fortunes. Daniel Reid Topping, a 20th century descendent, once owned the New York Yankee baseball team and holds the record for most Topping wives at six, including ice skating legend Sonja Henie. Not to be outdone, Henry Junkins Topping (known as Bob Topping) married for his 4th wife Lana Turner the actress.

Until my recent reading of "The Algonquian Peoples of Long Island From Earliest Times to 1700" by Dr. John A. Strong, I knew little about my family and its dealings with Native Americans and how that figured into their acquisition of wealth, property, and prestige. To quote from the book's jacket, "The first five chapters draw upon the fields of archaeology and anthropology to reconstruct an account of Algonquian cultural evolution....". "The last six chapters concern the first decades of interaction between the Algonquian communities and the settlements established by the Dutch and the English."

It's the last six chapters that peaked my interest, although the book in general is a good read and received excellent reviews on its publication in 1997. Helen Rountree from Old Dominion University called it "An engaging and necessary 'read' for anyone interested in the aboriginal folk of Long Island and their descendants." Dr. Herbert Kraft, then Director of the Seton Hall University Museum, praised Dr. Strong for his "masterful job of collating and integrating accurate historical data with the latest archaeological evidence" and added in a final note "The book is highly recommended."

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

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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.

