

Archeological Society of Virginia Massanutten Chapter

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October 2008



POINTS



ASV Annual Meeting

Submitted by Laura Roder

This year's annual meeting will be held at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, Virginia. As always, there will be plenty of exciting presentations and a group banquet on Saturday night, Oct. 11. The deadline to reserve a room at The Quality Inn Dutch Inn at the group rate of \$45.00 per night has passed. To see if they have other rooms available, call them at 276-647-3721.

Registration details and the registration form are posted on the ASV website at <http://www.asv-archeology.org>. As more details become available, they will be added to the website. In addition, the MCASV newsletter will keep you informed!

Poplar Forest: Lynchburg's Hidden Treasure, Part 1 of 2

Submitted by Carole Persinger

Recently my family and I had the pleasure of visiting a fairly unknown piece of Virginia's past. Located just southwest of Lynchburg in Bedford County is a treasure worth seeing. I have lived in the Shenandoah Valley for most of my life and yet was unaware of this important part of history. It is clearly one more glimpse of Thomas Jefferson's brilliance and ability to think beyond just imagination.

Driving down the dirt lane, which is original in part, one can easily understand this appropriately named plantation, Poplar Forest. Surrounded on each side are huge, bulky trees with delicate tulip shaped leaves that shade the inviting lane. These are Tulip Poplars and they can be found on different parts of the property. As you approach the house, you imagine the carriage circle, lined with Paper Mulberry trees that once would have surrounded a bed of roses. The sweet aroma

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Fort Warwick

Submitted by Glenn Huffman

18th Century Fort Found in Pocahontas Co. W.Va.

Archeological research has documented the location of Fort Warwick, constructed in 1774, near what is now Green Bank in Pocahontas Co., W.Va. Preliminary digging began in 2006 and immediately post molds, lead musket balls, and French and local flint were found. Other items of interest since discovered are a piece from a trade musket, a powder cup made from deer antler, and a portion of a wine bottle. In further searches the excavators hope to find remains of the exterior walls, and of chimney foundations and trash pits. Besides digging, geophysical surveys are also being made.

The date of the fort's construction comes from pension applications of some Virginia Militiamen who were trying to document their military service. There seems to have been two militia companies that built the fort, a local one and one from the Staunton, Va., area. After the fort's construction, most of the two militia companies left to fight in the Battle of Point Pleasant. Records show that the fort was garrisoned from 1776 to 1782 after which it was abandoned.

A grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council is providing funding. The grant is already funding digs at Arbuckle's Fort in western Greenbrier Co.

Source: Inter-Mountain, Elkins, W.Va., August 16, 2008.

Websites of the Month

Submitted by Carole Nash

Pamplin Clay Tobacco Pipes

While many of us can easily identify the white clay smoking pipes of the colonial period in archaeological collections, we are not as well-versed in the red clay Pamplin Tobacco Pipes that were manufactured right here in Virginia! The small town of Pamplin in Appamattox County was the center of a major 19th/20th century smoking pipe manufacturing concern that developed out of a mid-18th century cottage industry. Fortunately, the typology of pipes, developed by experts Henry and Jean Hamilton, is now available on-line.

<http://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/minigalleries/pamplinpipes/pamplinpipes.shtml>

The factory site of the Pamplin Smoking Pipe and Manufacturing Company is listed on the National Register. In July 2008, the site was purchased by The Archaeological Conservancy and is now protected.

Ice Age Discoveries

In anticipation of our November meeting, here is the new web page for the videos, "Ice Age Discoveries," the two-part series produced by Prince William County Schools and paid for, in part, by the Archeological Society of Virginia:

<http://iceage.pwnet.org/index.php>

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 will be starting up again in September 2008 from 9:00—4:00 each work day. The dates are September 26 & 27, October 24 & 25, and November 14 & 15. Both prehistoric and historic artifact processing is needed, in addition to cataloguing, data entry, documentary research, and outreach activities. Space is limited to 20 participants each day, so please contact Chief Curator Dee DeRoche at dee.deroche@dhr.virginia.gov or (804) 367-2323 x134 for an application if you are interested. Assistance is also needed with various lab projects on other weekdays. Contact Dee for details.

Chippokes Plantation State Park Field School **New******

DHR will be sponsoring this field school October 27 - November 1, 2008 in Surry County on the bank of the James River. A series of test units will be excavated to study the Early and Middle Woodland occupations of this site. Camping will be available on site. Tours will be offered at the site on November 1. Contact Dee DeRoche (804-367-2323) or Mike Barber (540-857-6341) for more information.

MCASV October 2008 Meeting Agenda

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| I. Call to Order | VI. Newsletter Editor's Report |
| II. Welcome to Guests | VII. Certification Program Report |
| III. Program:
David Puckett, Frontier Culture
Museum of Virginia, will talk about
the farmsteads and how they have
been recreated, as well as new ex-
hibits that are in the works (African
American and Native American). | VIII. Morris Pottery Kiln |
| IV. Secretary's Report | IX. New Business |
| V. Treasurer's Report | X. Announcements |
| | XI. Adjournment |

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 1, 2008 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Program: David Puckett, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia, will talk about the farmsteads and how they have been recreated, as well as new exhibits that are in the works (African American and Native American).
- Oct. 9-12, 2008 ASV Annual Meeting
Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, VA
- Nov. 5, 2008 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Program: "Ice Age Discoveries", New Archeology DVD
- Dec. 3, 2008 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Program: TBA

Poplar Forest: Lynchburg's Hidden Treasure, Part 1 of 2

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would welcome you as you reached the front steps. Once there, you have to stop and gaze at this magnificent house Thomas Jefferson considered to be his retreat home where he could read and garden in solitude. During his stays at Poplar Forest, he wrote Notes On The State Of Virginia. This was the only full-length book written and published by Thomas Jefferson during his lifetime.

In 1773, Thomas Jefferson's wife, Martha, inherited a 4,819-acre plantation from her father. It was already named Poplar Forest after the trees that grew copiously in the area. The size of the plantation was comparable to Jefferson's other home, Monticello, situated approximately 90 miles to the north.

During the American Revolution, in 1781, Jefferson and his family stayed at Poplar Forest for a few months after the British neared Monticello. However, it was not until 1806, that Jefferson began the construction of the main house. It would not be completed until 1812 and two years later wings on either side of the house would be in place. Like Monticello, it was a design based on Andrea Palladio's neo-classical architecture of the 16th century.

The one story octagonal design created both the symmetry and light environment that Jefferson desired in both homes he built. The house consisted of four rooms surrounding a central square dining room. The twenty foot ceilings and the skylight offered natural light to the spacious dining room. Many large windows were used around the perimeter. Three-sash floor to ceiling windows were used in the back room that would have housed Jefferson's study or library. They could be opened and used as doors leading into the garden. Due to the octagonal design, Jefferson could stand anywhere in the house and see out a window.

Outside the house, nearly 5 acres were landscaped according to Jefferson's specific design. Slaves were paid to dig a sunken lawn behind the house. The dirt was then piled symmetrically on either side of the house to conceal the two octagonal privies from sight of the house.

To Be Continued in Next Month's Issue...

Massanutten Chapter of the
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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.

