

Archeological Society of Virginia

Massanutten Chapter

Volume 36, Issue 2

Celebrating 36 Years!

February 2015



POINTS



February Meeting at Lucy Simms Center

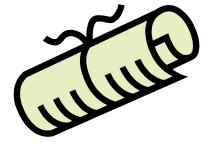
Submitted by Carole Nash

Dr. Lynn Rainville, Sweet Briar College faculty member and author of "Hidden Histories: African American Cemeteries of Central Virginia" (University of Virginia Press 2014) will speak at Lucy Simms Center, Harrisonburg, on Saturday, February 7 at 2 p.m. Her talk, "The Importance of Historic African-American Burial Grounds," will be followed by an author's signing of her book. The talk will focus on above-ground funerary remains in African American cemeteries in Virginia to provide an overview of mortuary and funerary practices between 1800 and the present. Dr. Rainville will discuss how she combines historical, anthropological, and archaeological perspectives, in analyzing documents—such as wills, obituaries, and letters—as well as gravestones and graveside offerings. Rainville's findings shed light on family genealogies, the rise and fall of segregation, and attitudes toward religion and death.

Chapter members are asked to arrive at 1:30 to help out. We also need contributions of snacks (cookies, etc.) and will want to bring small plates, napkins, cups. I'll get the coffee, tea, and other drinks.

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The archaeology staff at Mount Vernon is offering two on-going opportunities for students looking for laboratory and field survey hours.

1. Historic Laboratory Hours (Labeling Artifacts)

Mount Vernon, in partnership with Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, is lending a hand to the City of Fredericksburg to process ceramics excavated from the Marshall-Bell Kiln Site, dating to the early 1830s and excavated in 2006/7. Specifically, there will be lots of labeling to do. This crucial piece of the lab work puzzle will enable identification and analysis of the ceramic fragments including vessel form, function, decoration, manufacturing techniques, and clay sourcing. We can't move sherds around a table until they are officially embedded with their context information! While you're busy marking, you will also learn a lot about the ceramics.

Application: You will be registered as a Mount Vernon volunteer on your first day.

Where: Archaeology Lab, George Washington's Mount Vernon (directions will be provided when you make arrangements with Eleanor)

When: Wednesdays through 2/25/15, 8am to 4pm.

Certification Requirements: This project will count for historic lab work hours.

II. African American Cemetery Survey

Archaeologists at Mount Vernon are currently conducting a survey of the African American cemetery (44FX116) located near George Washington's new tomb. Archaeologically speaking, the best way to commemorate the lives of the individuals who lived and labored at Mount Vernon, free and enslaved, is by thoroughly documenting the sacred area known as the African American Cemetery. The primary goal of this two-year archaeological project is to create a map that shows exactly where individuals are interred on the ridge by George Washington's tomb. Over 50 anomalies, or buried soil disturbances, were found in a limited geophysical study of the cemetery in 1985. However, these anomalies were never "ground-truthed." In other words, no subsequent digging occurred to determine if the disturbances were in fact burials or tree planting holes, modern utilities, or features associated with Native American activities. In fact, archaeology done in the past 20 years to mitigate effects of activities such as erecting a new fence, planting trees, fixing the memorial archway, and attending to drainage issues has indicated an additional 8 possible grave shafts not found in the 1985 survey. The tops of the grave shafts in these instances appear just below the surface, and this is where excavations will cease. No individual remains will be excavated. Our sampling strategy will consist of randomly selected 5 x 5 foot units. There is also a large Native American component to the site. There will also be a public interpretation component.

For either of these opportunities:

Contact: Eleanor Breen, Deputy Director for Archaeology, George Washington's Mount Vernon, ebreen@mountvernon.org, 703.799.6831

2015 State and Chapter Dues

Submitted by Tom Mizell

As 2015 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, 2015**. 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 website. You may submit the **form with payment** directly to Carl Fischer, ASV Treasurer. Mr. Fischer’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. Fischer 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 at meetings. The **MCASV Chapter Membership Application** will also be available at the meetings.

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

Regular Membership Dues	\$35.00
Senior (65 and older)	\$25.00
Student	\$15.00
Life	\$450.00
Sustaining	\$65.00
Additional family members	\$3.00 (please provide their names)

You may take care of this on-line through PayPal:

<http://www.asv-archeology.org/Org/OrgMembers.html>

For those opting to submit directly to Mr. Fischer (ASV Treasurer) his mailing address follows:

ASV Treasurer
Carl Fischer
1685 Sweet Hall Road
West Point, VA 23181

Email: flyfischn@aol.com
804-843-9194

The Massanutten Chapter ASV appreciates your attention to this matter and we look forward to your participation in the life of our Chapter in 2015!

Upcoming Events

- Feb 7 *SATURDAY* 2pm, Lucy Simms Center in Harrisonburg
Dr. Lynn Rainville, Sweet Briar College faculty member and author of "Hidden Histories: African American Cemeteries of Central Virginia" (University of Virginia Press 2014) "The Importance of Historic African-American Burial Grounds."
- Mar 4 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
- Apr 1 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
- May 6 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
- June 3 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
- July TBA MCASV Picnic at Wayne & Linda Waggy's
- Aug 5 Randy Lichtenberger, Director of Cultural Resources, Hurt and Proffitt (Lynchburg) "Archaeology of the Cabellsville Project in Nelson County, Virginia"
- Sept 2 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
- Oct 7 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
- Nov 4 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
- Dec 5 *SATURDAY* 5pm - 9:30pm
Annual MCASV Christmas Dinner and Silent Auction. Please bring a dish to share and items for the Silent Auction!

February Birthdays

- February 4 Robert Frye
February 4 Georgianne Catlett



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

Submissions encouraged!
Deadline for the next issue is February 20th. Please contact us with any comments, articles, tips, or concerns.

Publisher: Jeff Good

atlatlist@comcast.net

Editor: Glenn Huffman

glensen@hotmail.com